## The Drinfel'd polynomial of a tridiagonal pair

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We introduce a polynomial invariant for tridiagonal pairs called the Drinfel'd polynomial. We discuss how this polynomial generalizes the classical Drinfel'd polynomial associated with the loop algebra for sl2 or quantum sl2. We compute the roots of the Drinfel'd polynomial for the case in which the associated tridiagonal pair is a Leonard pair. We discuss how all this relates to the combinatorics of distance-regular graphs. This is joint work with Tatsuro Ito.