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*Asymptotic analysis of differential-difference equations.* Preliminary report.

We analyze differential-difference equations of the form  $g_{n+1}(x) = \Phi[x, n, g_n(x), g'_n(x)]$ , where  $\Phi$  is a given function. We use a discrete version of the ray method to obtain asymptotic approximations of  $g_n(x)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . We illustrate our method with several examples including special functions, orthogonal polynomials and nested derivatives. We show the accuracy of our results with numerical experiments. (Received September 05, 2006)