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Discrete Differential Geometry of Curves

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1

outline of my talk

what is DDG?

plane curve

continuous

discrete

deformation of plane curve

continuous

semi-discrete

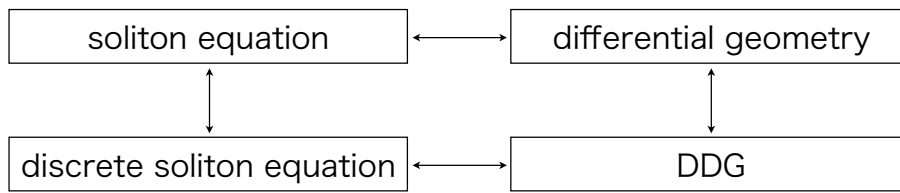
discrete

explicit formula

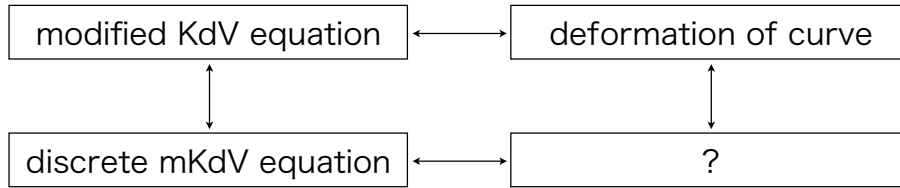
deformation of space curve

2

what is DDG?



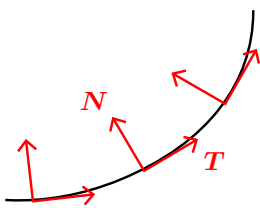
an example



3

plane curve

continuous



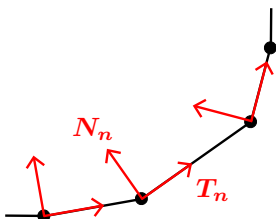
$$|\gamma'| = 1$$

$$T := \gamma' = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\phi := (T, N) \in \text{SO}(2)$$

$$\phi' = \phi \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\theta' \\ \theta' & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

discrete



$$a_n := |\gamma_{n+1} - \gamma_n|$$

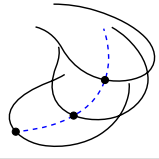
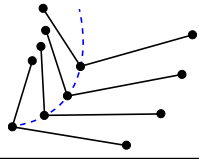
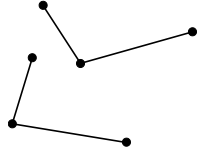
$$T_n := \frac{\gamma_{n+1} - \gamma_n}{a_n} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \sigma_n \\ \sin \sigma_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\phi_n := (T_n, N_n) \in \text{SO}(2)$$

$$\phi_{n+1} = \phi_n \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\sigma_{n+1} - \sigma_n) & -\sin(\sigma_{n+1} - \sigma_n) \\ \sin(\sigma_{n+1} - \sigma_n) & \cos(\sigma_{n+1} - \sigma_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

4

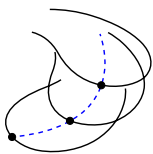
deformation of plane curve

system	curve	deformation	visual image
continuous	continuous	continuous	
semi-discrete	discrete	continuous	
discrete	discrete	discrete	

we are interested in isoperimetric deformation
 isoperimetric = arc length (segment length) preserving

5

deformation of plane curve (continuous)



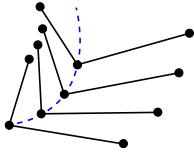
$\gamma = \gamma(x, t)$ an isoperimetric deformation
 of a unit speed curve $\gamma(x, 0)$
 that is, $\left| \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \gamma \right| = 1$ for all t

- we write $' = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ and $\dot{} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$
- decompose $\dot{\gamma}$ in the form $\dot{\gamma} = fT + gN$
 then, we have $\begin{cases} f' = \theta'g & \text{(isoperimetric condition)} \\ \dot{\theta} = g' + \theta'f & \text{(compatibility condition)} \end{cases}$
 where $\theta = \arg T$
- when we determine the deformation by $(f, g) = \left(\frac{1}{2} (\theta')^2, \theta'' \right)$,
 the angle θ obeys the potential modified KdV equation
 $\dot{\theta} = \theta''' + \frac{1}{2} (\theta')^3$ and hence the curvature $\kappa := \theta'$ obeys
 the modified KdV equation $\dot{\kappa} = \kappa''' + \frac{3}{2} \kappa^2 \kappa'$

6

79

deformation of plane curve (semi-discrete)



$\gamma_n = \gamma_n(t)$ an isoperimetric deformation
of a discrete curve $\gamma_n(0)$

that is, $\frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\gamma_{n+1} - \gamma_n| = 0$

- decompose $\dot{\gamma}_n$ in the form $\dot{\gamma}_n = f_n T_n + g_n N_n$

where $T_n := \frac{\gamma_{n+1} - \gamma_n}{|\gamma_{n+1} - \gamma_n|} = \frac{\gamma_{n+1} - \gamma_n}{a_n}$ and $N_n := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} T_n$

- then, we have

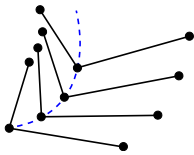
$$\begin{cases} f_{n+1} \cos \kappa_{n+1} - f_n = g_{n+1} \sin \kappa_{n+1} \\ \dot{\kappa}_n = \frac{f_{n+1} \sin \kappa_{n+1} + g_{n+1} \cos \kappa_{n+1} - g_n}{a_n} - \frac{f_n \sin \kappa_n + g_n \cos \kappa_n - g_{n-1}}{a_{n-1}} \end{cases}$$

where $\kappa_n := \angle(T_n, T_{n-1})$

- when a_n is constant, we determine the deformation by

$(f_n, g_n) = \left(1, -\tan \frac{\kappa_n}{2}\right)$ so that κ_n obeys the semi-discrete
modified KdV equation $\dot{\kappa}_n = \frac{1}{a} \left(\tan \frac{\kappa_{n+1}}{2} - \tan \frac{\kappa_{n-1}}{2} \right)$

deformation of plane curve (semi-discrete)



$\gamma_n = \gamma_n(t)$ the isoperimetric deformation
of a discrete curve $\gamma_n(0)$

defined by $\dot{\gamma}_n = T_n - \tan \frac{\kappa_n}{2} N_n$

- $\kappa_n = \angle(T_n, T_{n-1})$ varies according to the semi-discrete mKdV

equation $\dot{\kappa}_n = \frac{1}{a} \left(\tan \frac{\kappa_{n+1}}{2} - \tan \frac{\kappa_{n-1}}{2} \right)$

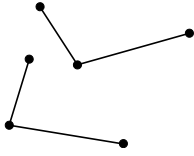
- the semi-discrete potential mKdV equation

$$\dot{\theta}_n = \frac{2}{a} \tan \frac{\theta_{n+1} - \theta_{n-1}}{4}$$

where $\kappa_n = \frac{\theta_{n+1} - \theta_{n-1}}{2}$

- therefore $\arg T_n = \frac{\theta_{n+1} + \theta_n}{2}$

deformation of plane curve (discrete)



γ_n^m an isoperimetric deformation
of a discrete curve γ_n^0

that is, $|\gamma_{n+1}^{m+1} - \gamma_n^{m+1}| = |\gamma_{n+1}^m - \gamma_n^m| =: a_n$

- we also impose the equidistant condition on γ_n^m , which means that $|\gamma_{n+1}^{m+1} - \gamma_{n+1}^m| = |\gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_n^m| =: b_m$
- decompose $\frac{\gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_n^m}{b_m}$ in the form

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_n^m}{b_m} &= f_n^m T_n^m + g_n^m N_n^m \\ &= \cos w_n^m T_n^m + \sin w_n^m N_n^m = \begin{pmatrix} \cos w_n^m & -\sin w_n^m \\ \sin w_n^m & \cos w_n^m \end{pmatrix} T_n^m \end{aligned}$$

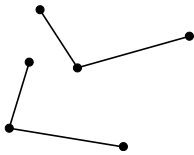
then, we have

$$\begin{cases} a_n \sin \frac{\kappa_{n+1}^m + w_{n+1}^m + w_n^m}{2} = b_m \sin \frac{\kappa_{n+1}^m + w_{n+1}^m - w_n^m}{2} \\ \kappa_n^{m+1} - \kappa_{n+1}^m = w_{n+1}^m - w_n^m \end{cases}$$

where $\kappa_n^m := \angle(T_n^m, T_{n-1}^m)$

9

deformation of plane curve (discrete)



γ_n^0 a discrete curve

b_m a sequence of positive numbers

γ_n^m the isoperimetric & equidistant deformation of γ_n^0

defined by $\frac{\gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_n^m}{b_m} = \cos w_n^m T_n^m + \sin w_n^m N_n^m$

and $a_n \sin \frac{\kappa_{n+1}^m + w_{n+1}^m + w_n^m}{2} = b_m \sin \frac{\kappa_{n+1}^m + w_{n+1}^m - w_n^m}{2}$

- the angle $w_n^m = \angle(\gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_n^m, \gamma_{n+1}^m - \gamma_n^m)$ obeys the discrete mKdV equation

$$w_{n+1}^{m+1} - w_n^m = 2 \arctan \left(\frac{b_{m+1} + a_n}{b_{m+1} - a_n} \tan \frac{w_n^{m+1}}{2} \right) - 2 \arctan \left(\frac{b_m + a_{n+1}}{b_m - a_{n+1}} \tan \frac{w_{n+1}^m}{2} \right)$$

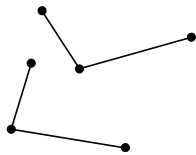
- the compatibility condition $\kappa_n^{m+1} - \kappa_{n+1}^m = w_{n+1}^m - w_n^m$ implies

$$\kappa_n^m = \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m - \theta_n^m}{2}, \quad w_n^m = \frac{\theta_n^{m+1} - \theta_{n+1}^m}{2} \quad \text{for some } \theta_n^m$$

10

81

deformation of plane curve (discrete)



γ_n^0 a discrete curve

b_m a sequence of positive numbers

γ_n^m the isoperimetric & equidistant deformation of γ_n^0

defined by $\frac{\gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_n^m}{b_m} = \cos w_n^m T_n^m + \sin w_n^m N_n^m$

and $a_n \sin \frac{\kappa_{n+1}^m + w_{n+1}^m + w_n^m}{2} = b_m \sin \frac{\kappa_{n+1}^m + w_{n+1}^m - w_n^m}{2}$

• $\kappa_n^m = \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m - \theta_{n-1}^m}{2}, \quad w_n^m = \frac{\theta_n^{m+1} - \theta_{n+1}^m}{2}$ for some θ_n^m

• the isoperimetric & equidistant condition becomes the discrete potential modified KdV equation

$$\tan \frac{\theta_{n+1}^{m+1} - \theta_n^m}{4} = \frac{b_m + a_n}{b_m - a_n} \tan \frac{\theta_n^{m+1} - \theta_{n+1}^m}{4}$$

• $\arg T_n^m = \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m + \theta_n^m}{2}$

deformation of plane curve

summary: we derive isoperimetric deformations which are governed by the potential modified KdV equations

continuous	semi-discrete	discrete
$\vec{\text{blue arrow}} = \frac{(\theta')^2}{2} T + \theta'' N$	$ \vec{\text{blue arrow}} = \frac{1}{ \cos(\triangle) }$	

potential modified KdV equations

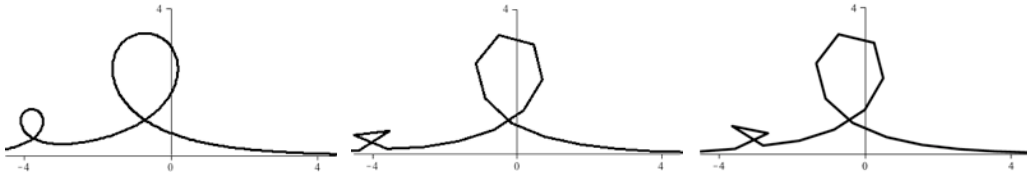
$$\dot{\theta} = \theta''' + \frac{1}{2} (\theta')^3, \quad \arg T = \theta$$

$$\dot{\theta}_n = \frac{2}{a} \tan \frac{\theta_{n+1} - \theta_{n-1}}{4}, \quad \arg T_n = \frac{\theta_{n+1} + \theta_n}{2}$$

$$\tan \frac{\theta_{n+1}^{m+1} - \theta_n^m}{4} = \frac{b_m + a_n}{b_m - a_n} \tan \frac{\theta_n^{m+1} - \theta_{n+1}^m}{4}, \quad \arg T_n^m = \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m + \theta_n^m}{2}$$

deformation of plane curve

animation



procedure for making an animation

- ① construct a solution θ to the potential mKdV equation
- ② integrate $\gamma' = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \end{pmatrix}$ to obtain the deformation γ explicitly
- ③ plot γ

13

explicit formula (continuous)

- ① construct a solution θ to the potential mKdV equation
 - write $\theta = \frac{2}{\sqrt{-1}} \log \frac{\tau}{\tau^*}$, where τ^* is the complex conjugate of τ
 - potential mKdV equation

$$(D_x^3 + D_t) \tau \cdot \tau^* = 0, \quad D_x^2 \tau \cdot \tau^* = 0$$

- N -soliton solution

$$\tau = \det \left(f_{j-1}^i \right)_{i,j=1,\dots,N}, \quad f_j^i = \alpha_i p_i^j \exp(p_i x - 4p_i^3 t) + \begin{bmatrix} p_i \leftrightarrow -p_i \\ \alpha_i \leftrightarrow \beta_i \end{bmatrix}$$

- ② integrate $\gamma' = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \end{pmatrix}$ to obtain the curve γ explicitly

- explicit formula

$$\gamma = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \Big|_{y=0} \begin{pmatrix} -\Re \log \tau \\ \Im \log \tau \end{pmatrix}$$

- y -dependence

$$D_x D_y \tau \cdot \tau = -2 (\tau^*)^2$$

- revisit the N -soliton solution

$$\tau = \exp(-yx) \det \left(f_{j-1}^i \right), \quad f_j^i = \alpha_i p_i^j \exp \left(\frac{y}{p_i} + p_i x - 4p_i^3 t \right) + \begin{bmatrix} p_i \leftrightarrow -p_i \\ \alpha_i \leftrightarrow \beta_i \end{bmatrix}$$

14

83

explicit formula

- explicit formula of the isoperimetric deformation

$$\gamma = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \Big|_{y=0} \begin{pmatrix} -\Re \log \tau \\ \Im \log \tau \end{pmatrix}$$

- N -soliton solution

continuous

$$\tau = \tau(x, t) = \exp(-yx) \det \left(f_{j-1}^i \right)_{i, j=1, \dots, N}$$

$$f_j^i = \alpha_i p_i^j \exp \left(\frac{y}{p_i} + p_i x - 4 p_i^3 t \right) + \left[\begin{matrix} p_i \leftrightarrow -p_i \\ \alpha_i \leftrightarrow \beta_i \end{matrix} \right]$$

semi-discrete

$$\tau = \tau_n(t) = \exp(-yt - yan) \det \left(f_{j-1}^i \right)_{i, j=1, \dots, N}$$

$$f_j^i = \frac{\alpha_i p_i^j}{(1 - ap_i)^n} \exp \left(\frac{y}{p_i} + \frac{p_i}{1 - a^2 p_i^2} t \right) + \left[\begin{matrix} p_i \leftrightarrow -p_i \\ \alpha_i \leftrightarrow \beta_i \end{matrix} \right]$$

discrete

$$\tau = \tau_n^m = \exp \left(-y \sum_k^{n-1} a_k - y \sum_k^{m-1} b_k \right) \det \left(f_{j-1}^i \right)_{i, j=1, \dots, N}$$

$$f_j^i = \alpha_i p_i^j \exp \frac{y}{p_i} \prod_k^{n-1} \frac{1}{1 - a_k p_i} \prod_{k'}^{m-1} \frac{1}{1 - b_{k'} p_i} + \left[\begin{matrix} p_i \leftrightarrow -p_i \\ \alpha_i \leftrightarrow \beta_i \end{matrix} \right]$$

15

explicit formula

- bilinear structure

continuous

$$(D_x^3 + D_t) \tau \cdot \tau^* = 0$$

$$D_x^2 \tau \cdot \tau^* = 0$$

$$D_x D_y \tau \cdot \tau = -2 (\tau^*)^2$$

semi-discrete

$$D_t \tau_n^* \cdot \tau_n = \frac{1}{2a} (\tau_{n+1}^* \tau_{n-1} - \tau_{n-1}^* \tau_{n+1})$$

$$\tau_n^* \tau_n = \frac{1}{2} (\tau_{n+1}^* \tau_{n-1} + \tau_{n-1}^* \tau_{n+1})$$

$$D_t D_y \tau_n \cdot \tau_n = -2 \tau_{n+1}^* \tau_{n-1}^*$$

$$D_y \tau_{n+1} \cdot \tau_n = -a \tau_{n+1}^* \tau_n^*$$

discrete

$$b_m \tau_n^{*m+1} \tau_{n+1}^m - a_n \tau_{n+1}^{*m} \tau_n^{m+1} + (a_n - b_m) \tau_{n+1}^{*m+1} \tau_n^m = 0 \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$D_y \tau_{n+1}^m \cdot \tau_n^m = -a_n \tau_{n+1}^{*m} \tau_n^{*m}$$

$$D_y \tau_n^{m+1} \cdot \tau_n^m = -b_m \tau_n^{*m+1} \tau_n^{*m}$$

16

84

discrete pot. mKdV eq. (reduction of the Hirowa-Miwa eq.)

$$b_m \tau_n^{m+1}(s+1) \tau_{n+1}^m(s) - a_n \tau_{n+1}^m(s+1) \tau_n^{m+1}(s) = -(a_n - b_m) \tau_{n+1}^{m+1}(s+1) \tau_n^m(s)$$

$$\text{impose } \tau_n^m(s+1) = \text{const.} \times \tau_n^{*m}(s)$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} b_m \tau_n^{*m+1} \tau_{n+1}^m - a_n \tau_{n+1}^{*m} \tau_n^{m+1} = -(a_n - b_m) \tau_{n+1}^{*m+1} \tau_n^m \\ b_m \tau_n^{m+1} \tau_{n+1}^{*m} - a_n \tau_{n+1}^m \tau_n^{*m+1} = -(a_n - b_m) \tau_{n+1}^{m+1} \tau_n^{*m} \end{cases}$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} b_m \exp\left(\sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m}{2}\right) - a_n \exp\left(\sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_n^{m+1}}{2}\right) = -(a_n - b_m) \frac{\tau_{n+1}^{*m+1} \tau_n^m}{\tau_n^{*m+1} \tau_{n+1}^m} \\ b_m \exp\left(\sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_n^{m+1}}{2}\right) - a_n \exp\left(\sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m}{2}\right) = -(a_n - b_m) \frac{\tau_{n+1}^{m+1} \tau_n^{*m}}{\tau_n^{m+1} \tau_{n+1}^{*m}} \end{cases}$$

$$\therefore \frac{b_m \exp\left(\sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m}{2}\right) - a_n \exp\left(\sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_n^{m+1}}{2}\right)}{b_m \exp\left(\sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_n^{m+1}}{2}\right) - a_n \exp\left(\sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m}{2}\right)} = \exp\left(\sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_n^m}{2} - \sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_{n+1}^{m+1}}{2}\right)$$

$$\therefore a_n \sin \frac{\theta_{n+1}^{m+1} - \theta_n^m + \theta_{n+1}^m - \theta_{n+1}^m}{4} = b_m \sin \frac{\theta_{n+1}^{m+1} - \theta_n^m - \theta_{n+1}^m + \theta_{n+1}^m}{4}$$

$$\therefore \tan \frac{\theta_{n+1}^{m+1} - \theta_n^m}{4} = \frac{b_m + a_n}{b_m - a_n} \tan \frac{\theta_n^{m+1} - \theta_{n+1}^m}{4}$$

17

proof of the explicit formula (discrete)

$$\bullet \gamma_n^m = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \Big|_{y=0} \begin{pmatrix} -\Re \log \tau_n^m \\ \Im \log \tau_n^m \end{pmatrix} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \Big|_{y=0} \begin{pmatrix} \log(\tau_n^m \tau_n^{*m}) \\ \sqrt{-1} \log(\tau_n^m / \tau_n^{*m}) \end{pmatrix} =: \begin{pmatrix} X_n^m \\ Y_n^m \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet X_{n+1}^m - X_n^m &= -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\log(\tau_{n+1}^m \tau_{n+1}^{*m}) - \log(\tau_n^m \tau_n^{*m}) \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\log \frac{\tau_{n+1}^m}{\tau_n^m} + \log \frac{\tau_{n+1}^{*m}}{\tau_n^{*m}} \right) \\ &= \frac{a_n}{2} \left(\frac{\tau_{n+1}^{*m} \tau_n^m}{\tau_{n+1}^m \tau_n^{*m}} + \frac{\tau_{n+1}^m \tau_n^m}{\tau_{n+1}^{*m} \tau_n^{*m}} \right) \quad \because D_y \tau_{n+1}^m \cdot \tau_n^m = -a_n \tau_{n+1}^{*m} \tau_n^{*m} \\ &= \frac{a_n}{2} \left(\exp\left(-\sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m + \theta_n^m}{2}\right) + \exp\left(\sqrt{-1} \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m + \theta_n^m}{2}\right) \right) \\ &= a_n \cos \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m + \theta_n^m}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$Y_{n+1}^m - Y_n^m = a_n \sin \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m + \theta_n^m}{2}$$

$$\text{thus, } T_n^m := \frac{\gamma_{n+1}^m - \gamma_n^m}{a_n} \text{ satisfies } |T_n^m| = 1, \quad \arg T_n^m = \frac{\theta_{n+1}^m + \theta_n^m}{2}$$

$$\text{similarly, } S_n^m := \frac{\gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_n^m}{b_m} \text{ satisfies } |S_n^m| = 1, \quad \arg S_n^m = \frac{\theta_n^{m+1} + \theta_n^m}{2}$$

$$\text{consequently, } w_n^m := \angle(\gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_n^m, \gamma_{n+1}^m - \gamma_n^m) = \frac{\theta_n^{m+1} - \theta_{n+1}^m}{2}$$

18

85

other equations

plane curve

- modified KdV equation (centroaffine geometry)
- KdV equation (equicentroaffine geometry)
- Burgers equation (similarity geometry)
- Sawada-Kotera equation (equiaffine geometry)
-

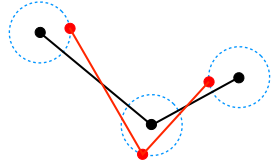
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○		
○	○	○
○		○
○		

space curve

- modified KdV equation (euclidean geometry)
-

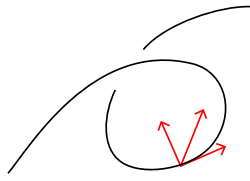
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other equations (discrete KdV equation)

discrete mKdV	discrete KdV
$\frac{w_{n+1}^{m+1}}{2} - \frac{w_n^m}{2}$ $= \arctan \left(\frac{b_{m+1} + a_n}{b_{m+1} - a_n} \tan \frac{w_n^{m+1}}{2} \right)$ $- \arctan \left(\frac{b_m + a_{n+1}}{b_m - a_{n+1}} \tan \frac{w_{n+1}^m}{2} \right)$	$\left(\frac{1}{b_{m+1}} - \frac{1}{a_{n+1}} \right) \frac{1}{v_{n+1}^{m+1}} - \left(\frac{1}{b_m} - \frac{1}{a_n} \right) \frac{1}{v_n^m}$ $= \left(\frac{1}{b_{m+1}} + \frac{1}{a_n} \right) v_n^{m+1} - \left(\frac{1}{b_m} + \frac{1}{a_{n+1}} \right) v_{n+1}^m$
euclidean geometry	equicentroaffine geometry
deformation preserves lengths $a_n = \gamma_{n+1}^m - \gamma_n^m , b_m = \gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_n^m $	deformation preserves areas $a_n = \det(\gamma_{n+1}^m, \gamma_n^m), b_m = \det(\gamma_n^{m+1}, \gamma_n^m)$
	
$w_n^m = \angle(\gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_n^m, \gamma_{n+1}^m - \gamma_n^m)$	$v_n^m = \frac{\det(\gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_{n+1}^m, \gamma_n^m)}{\det(\gamma_n^{m+1} - \gamma_{n+1}^m, \gamma_{n+1}^m)}$

space curve

continuous



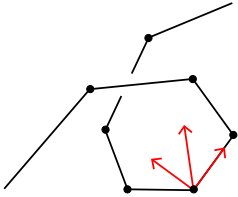
$$|\gamma'| = 1$$

$$T := \gamma', \quad N := \frac{T'}{|T'|}, \quad B := T \times N$$

$$\phi := (T, N, B) \in \text{SO}(3)$$

$$\phi' = \phi \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\kappa & 0 \\ \kappa & 0 & -\lambda \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \kappa := |T'|, \quad \lambda := -\langle N, B' \rangle$$

discrete



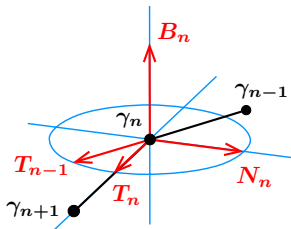
$$a_n := |\gamma_{n+1} - \gamma_n|$$

$$T_n := \frac{\gamma_{n+1} - \gamma_n}{a_n}$$

$$N_n := \frac{\Delta T_n - \langle \Delta T_n, T_n \rangle T_n}{|\Delta T_n - \langle \Delta T_n, T_n \rangle T_n|}, \quad \Delta T_n := \frac{T_n - T_{n-1}}{a_n + a_{n-1}}$$

$$B_n := T_n \times N_n$$

$$\phi_n := (T_n, N_n, B_n) \in \text{SO}(3)$$



remark $B_n = \frac{T_{n-1} \times T_n}{|T_{n-1} \times T_n|}, \quad N_n = B_n \times T_n$

point $N_n \in \text{span}\{T_n, T_{n-1}\}$

21

space curve

continuous

$$\phi' = \phi \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\kappa & 0 \\ \kappa & 0 & -\lambda \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \kappa = |T'|, \quad \lambda = -\langle N, B' \rangle$$

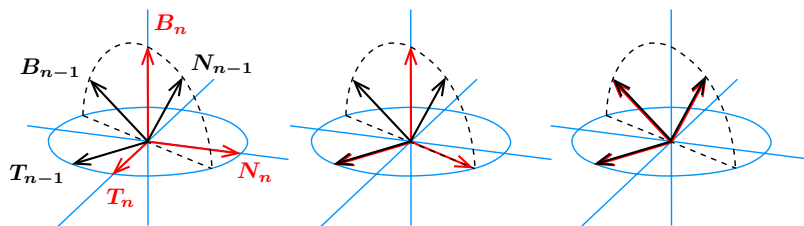
discrete

$$\phi_{n-1} = \phi_n \begin{pmatrix} \cos \kappa_n & \sin \kappa_n & 0 \\ -\sin \kappa_n & \cos \kappa_n & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \lambda_n & -\sin \lambda_n \\ 0 & \sin \lambda_n & \cos \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$$

where κ_n ($0 < \kappa_n < \pi$) and λ_n ($0 \leq \lambda_n < 2\pi$) are defined by

$$\langle T_n, T_{n-1} \rangle = \cos \kappa_n, \quad \langle B_n, B_{n-1} \rangle = \cos \lambda_n, \quad \langle B_n, N_{n-1} \rangle = \sin \lambda_n$$

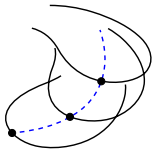
proof



22

87

deformation of space curve



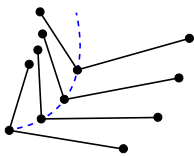
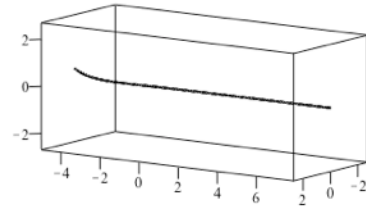
$\gamma = \gamma(x, t)$ space curves of constant torsion λ

$$\dot{\gamma} = \left(\frac{\kappa^2}{2} - 3\lambda^2 \right) T + \kappa' N - 2\lambda\kappa B$$

then, the curvature κ obeys the mKdV equation

$$\dot{\kappa} = \kappa''' + \frac{3}{2}\kappa^2\kappa'$$

we can construct explicit formulas of the deformation γ



$\gamma = \gamma_n(t)$ discrete space curves

assume that both $\lambda = \angle(B_n, B_{n-1})$ and $a = |\gamma_{n+1} - \gamma_n|$ are constant

$$\dot{\gamma}_n = \cos \lambda T_n - \cos \lambda \tan \frac{\kappa_n}{2} N_n + \sin \lambda \tan \frac{\kappa_n}{2} B_n$$

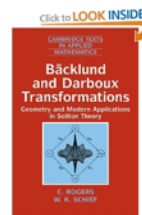
then, the angle $\kappa_n = \angle(T_n, T_{n-1})$ obeys the semi-discrete mKdV

$$\text{equation } \dot{\kappa}_n = \frac{1}{a} \left(\tan \frac{\kappa_{n+1}}{2} - \tan \frac{\kappa_{n-1}}{2} \right)$$

references (DDG of curves)

continuous

- Inoguchi (in Japanese)
- Rogers-Schief



semi-discrete

- Inoguchi-Kajiwara-M-Ohta, Explicit solutions to the semi-discrete modified KdV equation and motion of discrete plane curves, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 45 (2012), 045206 (16pp)

discrete

- Hoffmann, COE Lecture Note 18 (2009)
- Inoguchi-Kajiwara-M-Ohta, Motion and Bäcklund transformations of discrete plane curves, to appear in Kyushu J. Math.