Orthogonal ring patterns, discrete surfaces and integrable systems

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based on joint works with T. Hoffmann, T. Rörig, N. Smeenk, N. Schmitt, S. Heller



Orthogonal circle patterns



- Circle patterns (with the combinatorics of the square grid) [Schramm '97]
- Convergence to conformal maps
- Circle patterns as discrete complex analysis
- Discrete Riemann mapping theorem [Thurston]
- Integrable equations

Orthogonal circle patterns in a plane and discrete Hirota equation

unknowns:

radii r

closure condition:

(integrable) Hirota equation



$$\frac{(r-ir_1)(r-ir_2)(r-ir_3)(r-ir_4)}{(r+ir_1)(r+ir_2)(r+ir_3)(r+ir_4)} = 1$$

Orthogonal ring patterns



Outline

- A generalization of orthogonal circle patterns (away from conformal limit)
- Orthogonal ring patterns in a sphere and hyperbolic space
- Relation to discrete minimal and cmc surfaces
- Integrable discretizations of $\Delta u \pm \sinh u = 0$

Orthogonally intersecting rings



- A ring is a pair of concentric circles, inner and outer circle radii: r and R
- ▶ Combinatorics \mathbb{Z}^2 , inner and outer circles $c_{m,n}$ and $C_{m,n}$
- Orthogonality of rings at neighboring vertices: the outer circle *C_i* intersects the inner circle *c_i* orthogonally
- ▶ $c_{m,n}, c_{m+1,n+1}$ and $C_{m+1,n}, C_{m,n+1}$ pass through one point

Orthogonally intersecting rings



- $R_i^2 + r_j^2 = R_j^2 + r_i^2 \Rightarrow R_i^2 r_i^2 = R_j^2 r_j^2$
- ρ -radii: $R_i = \cosh(\rho_i), r_i = \sinh(\rho_i)$
- Orthogonal rings have the same area

Two families of touching rings



The rings of an orthogonal ring pattern partition into two diagonal families of touching rings.

Theorem [B., Hoffmann, Rörig '19] Orthogonal ring patterns correspond to solutions of

$$2\pi = \sum_{j:(ij)\in E} 2 \arctan(e^{
ho_i -
ho_j}).$$

for ρ -radii.

- Equation for logarithmic radii \(\rho = \log R\) of orthogonal circle patterns
- One parameter family of orthogonal ring patterns \mathcal{R}^{δ} with radii $r_i^{\delta} = \sinh(\rho_i + \delta), R_i^{\delta} = \cosh(\rho_i + \delta)$
- Equivalent to integrable Hirota equation

Relation to orthogonal circle patterns



 δ -family of a ring pattern.

For $\delta \to +\infty$ one obtains an orthogonal circle pattern C with logarithmic radii ρ_i ,

 $\delta \to -\infty$ gives the dual circle pattern C^* with log radii $-\rho_i$.

Doyle spirals deformation



 $\rho_{m,n} = mx - ny, x + iy \in \mathbb{C}$, Schramm ['97]

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z^a ring patterns



Ring patterns between z^2 and $\log z$ circle patterns; $\rho_{m,n}$ solves a discrete Painlevé equation, B. ['99], Agafonov, B. ['00], B., Its ['16]

Variational principle



[B., Hoffmann, Rörig '19]

▶ Neumann boundary conditions: angles Φ_i on the boundary

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Orthogonal ring patterns in a sphere and hyperbolic plane



[B., Hoffmann, Smeenk '23]

- not related by a stereographic projection
- equations essentially different from the euclidean case

Orthogonal ring patterns in a sphere and hyperbolic plane



[B., Hoffmann, Smeenk '23]

- Relation to integrable systems
- Relation to discrete (s-isothermic) cmc surfaces

Concentric rings with spherical (hyperbolic) radii R_i , r_i . Spherical (hyperbolic) Pythagoras' Theorem

spherical:
$$\cos(R_j)\cos(r_k) = \cos(r_j)\cos(R_k)$$
,
hyperbolic: $\cosh(R_j)\cosh(r_k) = \cosh(r_j)\cosh(R_k)$

implies for all rings, q < 1:

spherical: $q \cos(r) = \cos(R)$, hyperbolic: $\cosh(r) = q \cosh(R)$.

• Parametrization in elliptic functions with modulus $q \leq 1$.

Spherical orthogonal ring patterns. Parametrization in elliptic functions

Concentric rings with spherical radii R_i , r_i .

$$q\cos(r) = \cos(R),$$

$$\cos r = -\sin(\rho, q), \sin r = \operatorname{cn}(\rho, q), \sin R = \operatorname{dn}(\rho, q).$$

• one to one correspondence $(R, r) \Leftrightarrow \rho \in [-2K, 2K]$

Theorem

 $\rho \in (-2K, 0]$ are radii of orthogonal spherical ring pattern with $R < \frac{\pi}{2}$ if and only if they satisfy

$$\sum_{k:(jk)\in E} g(\rho_j - \rho_k) - g(\rho_j + \rho_k) = 2\pi,$$

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where the sum is over the neighboring rings.

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$$g(x) = \arctan \frac{(1+q) \operatorname{sn} \frac{x}{2}}{\operatorname{cn} \frac{x}{2} \operatorname{dn} \frac{x}{2}}.$$

Theorem

Orthogonal ring pattern with $R < \frac{\pi}{2}$ are critical points of the functional

$$\mathcal{S}_{sph}(
ho) := \sum_{(jk)} \left(\mathcal{F}(
ho_j -
ho_k) - \mathcal{F}(
ho_j +
ho_k)
ight) - 2\pi \sum_j \Phi_j
ho_j,$$

where the first sum is over all pairs of neighboring rings.

$$F(x) = \int_0^x \arctan \frac{(1+q) \operatorname{sn} \frac{u}{2}}{\operatorname{cn} \frac{u}{2} \operatorname{dn} \frac{u}{2}} du.$$

Orthogonal circle pattern $q \rightarrow 1$, $\rho \rightarrow \log \tan \frac{R}{2}$.



q = 0.95 q = 0.98 q = 0.9999Theorem (Away from conformal limit) For any rigid orthogonal circle pattern and small ϵ there exists an orthogonal ring pattern with $q = 1 - \epsilon$.

Hyperbolic orthogonal ring patterns. Parametrization in elliptic functions

Concentric rings with hyperbolic radii R_j , r_j .

$$\cosh(r) = q \cosh(R),$$

$$\cosh r = -\frac{1}{q \sin(\rho, q)}, \ \tanh R = \operatorname{dn}(\rho, q), \ \sinh r = \frac{\operatorname{cn}(\rho, q)}{\sin(\rho, q)}.$$

• one to one correspondence $(R, r) \Leftrightarrow \rho \in [-2K, 0]$

Theorem

 $\rho \in (-2K, 0]$ are radii of orthogonal hyperbolic ring pattern if and only if they satisfy

$$\sum_{k:(jk)\in E} g(\rho_j - \rho_k) + g(\rho_j + \rho_k) = -2\pi,$$

where the sum is over the neighboring rings. They are critical points of the functional

$$\mathcal{S}_{hyp}(
ho) := \sum_{(jk)} \left(\mathcal{F}(
ho_j -
ho_k) + \mathcal{F}(
ho_j +
ho_k) \right) + 2\pi \sum_j
ho_j.$$

Theorem The functional $S_{hyp}(\rho)$ is convex:

$$egin{aligned} D^2 \mathcal{S}_{hyp} &= rac{1}{2} \sum_{(jk)} (\mathrm{dn}(
ho_j -
ho_k) + q \operatorname{cn}(
ho_j -
ho_k)) (d
ho_j - d
ho_k)^2 + \ (\mathrm{dn}(
ho_j +
ho_k) + q \operatorname{cn}(
ho_j +
ho_k)) (d
ho_j + d
ho_k)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem

For any choice of the boundary radii or angles (Dirichlet and Neumann boundary conditions) there exists a unique orthogonal hyperbolic ring pattern.













3D Consistency







3D Consistency







3D Consistency



Classification of 2D integrable equations

Theorem [Adler,B.,Suris '09] Up to Möbius transformations $(PSL_2(\mathbb{C}))^8$, any 3D-consistent system with multi-affine *Q*'s (and with nondegenerate biquadratics) is one of the following list ($\alpha = \alpha^{(i)}, \beta = \alpha^{(j)},$ $\operatorname{sn}(\alpha) = \operatorname{sn}(\alpha; k)$):

$$\alpha(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j)(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_{ij}) - \beta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i)(\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_{ij}) = \delta\alpha\beta(\beta - \alpha) \quad (Q1)$$

$$\alpha(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j)(\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_{ij}) - \beta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i)(\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_{ij}) + \alpha\beta(\alpha - \beta)(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{x}_j + \mathbf{x}_{ij}) = \alpha\beta(\alpha - \beta)(\alpha^2 - \alpha\beta + \beta^2)$$
(Q2)

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$$\left(\alpha - \frac{1}{\beta}\right)(xx_i + x_jx_{ij}) - \left(\beta - \frac{1}{\alpha}\right)(xx_j + x_ix_{ij}) - \left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta} - \frac{\beta}{\alpha}\right)(xx_j + x_ix_j) = \frac{\delta}{4}\left(\alpha - \frac{1}{\alpha}\right)\left(\beta - \frac{1}{\beta}\right)\left(\frac{\alpha}{\beta} - \frac{\beta}{\alpha}\right), \quad (Q3)$$

$$sn(\alpha) sn(\beta) sn(\alpha - \beta)(k^2 x x_i x_j x_{ij} + 1) + sn(\alpha)(x x_i + x_j x_{ij}) - sn(\beta)(x x_j + x_i x_{ij}) - sn(\alpha - \beta)(x x_{ij} + x_i x_j) = 0.$$
 (Q4)

$$sn(\alpha) sn(\beta) sn(\alpha - \beta)(k^2 x x_i x_j x_{ij} + 1) + sn(\alpha)(x x_i + x_j x_{ij}) - sn(\beta)(x x_j + x_i x_{ij}) - sn(\alpha - \beta)(x x_{ij} + x_i x_j) = 0.$$

- Master 2D integrable equation. All others as appropriate limits
- Parametrization in elliptic functions
- Geometric interpretation long standing problem

Spherical and hyperbolic orthogonal ring pattern equation as a (Laplace equation for) Q4 equation

Equation for the ρ-radii of the spherical and hyperbolic orthogonal ring patterns is a special case of the Q4 integrable equation on the square grid.

$$\frac{\sin\frac{1}{2}(\rho + \rho_1 + iK')}{\sin\frac{1}{2}(\rho - \rho_1 + iK')} \frac{\sin\frac{1}{2}(\rho + \rho_2 + iK')}{\sin\frac{1}{2}(\rho - \rho_2 + iK')} \times \frac{\sin\frac{1}{2}(\rho + \rho_3 + iK')}{\sin\frac{1}{2}(\rho - \rho_3 + iK')} \frac{\sin\frac{1}{2}(\rho + \rho_4 + iK')}{\sin\frac{1}{2}(\rho - \rho_4 + iK')} = 1.$$

Koebe polyhedra and orthogonal circle patterns

Minimal surface case



- \blacktriangleright Orthogonal circle pattern \leftrightarrow Koebe polyheder with its dual
- Circumscribed polyhedron with touching edges (and quadrilateral faces)

[Koebe, Andreev, Thurston,...]

Koebe polyhedra and orthogonal circle patterns

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Construction method for discrete minimal surfaces

continuous minimal surface ↓ image of curvature lines under Gauss-map ↓ cell decomposition of (a branched cover of) the sphere ↓ Koebe polyhedron (variational principle) ↓ discrete minimal surface (Christoffel dual)

Geometry from combinatorics of curvature lines

[B., Hoffmann, Springborn, Annals '06]

Koebe polyhedra and minimal surfaces



Bobenko, Newjoto, Techter, Koebe polyhedra and minimal surfaces, Movie, 2018

Which surfaces ?

cmc

 $\Delta u + e^u - |Q(z)|^2 e^{-u} = 0,$ sinh-Gordon equation on a Riemann surface, Q(z)holo quadratic differential

- ► N-noids → punctured spheres
- ► periodic reflection surfaces → fundamental polygons
- DPW-method based on Iwasawa loop group factorization
- works numerically, proof of existence problematic



[B., Heller, Schmitt '21] Changing mean curvature, movie

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Changing mean curvature, movie

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Discrete (s-isothermic) cmc surfaces

q = 0.98291015625, most of the rings are negatively oriented



[B., Hoffmann, Smeenk '23] Spherical ring pattern \Rightarrow Gauss map \Rightarrow discrete cmc surface

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Discrete (s-isothermic) cmc surfaces

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s-isothermic

[B., Pinkall '99], [B., Suris '07], [Hoffmann]

minimal

[B., Springborn, Hoffmann '06]

cmc

[Hoffmann '10], [B., Hoffmann '16], [Tellier, Hauswirth, Douthe, Baverel '18]



s-isothermic

[B., Pinkall '99], [B., Suris '07], [Hoffmann]

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cmc

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Discrete cmc surfaces



[B., Hoffmann, Smeenk '23]

Gauss maps. Orthogonal ring (circle) patterns





minimal

cmc

[B., Hoffmann, Smeenk '23]

Convergence

 C^{∞} convergence known for minimal surfaces (circle patterns) [B., Hoffmann, Springborn '06]



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Convergence

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Discrete minimal surfaces in space forms. Outline

minimal S^3

- isometric to cmc in R³
- $\Delta u + \sinh u = 0$
- Lawson correspondence
- Discrete Lawson correspondence? Known for slightly different class [B., Romon '17]

Smooth minimal compact surface in S^3



[B., Heller, Schmitt '21] Spherical orthogonal ring patterns described by integrable Q4 equation with a variational principle

Discrete minimal surfaces in space forms. Outline

minimal AdS₃

- isometric to cmc in R^{2,1}
- $\Delta u \sinh u = 0$
- Lawson correspondence?
- Discrete Lawson correspondence?

Smooth minimal trinoid in AdS₃

[B., Heller, Schmitt '21] Hyperbolic orthogonal ring patterns described by integrable Q4equation with convex variational principle

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Integrable discretization



Integrable discretization



