Dressing the Dressing Chain

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Abstract. The dressing chain is derived by applying Darboux transformations to the spectral problem of the Korteweg–de Vries (KdV) equation. It is also an auto-Bäcklund transformation for the modified KdV equation. We show that by applying Darboux transformations to the spectral problem of the dressing chain one obtains the lattice KdV equation as the dressing chain of the dressing chain and, that the lattice KdV equation also arises as an auto-Bäcklund transformation for a modified dressing chain. In analogy to the results obtained for the dressing chain (Veselov and Shabat proved complete integrability for odd dimensional periodic reductions), we study the (0, n)-periodic reduction of the lattice KdV equation, which is a two-valued correspondence. We provide explicit formulas for its branches and establish complete integrability for odd n.

Key words: discrete dressing chain; lattice KdV; Darboux transformations; Liouville integrability

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1 Introduction

The dressing chain [23, 25, 30] appeared in the application of Darboux transformations to the Schödinger (Sturm-Liouville) equation, which is the spectral problem for the Korteweg-de Vries (KdV) equation. A detailed study concerning the integrability properties as well as solutions of the model were presented in [30]. In particular, the authors proved that the dressing chain with a periodic constraint in odd dimensions is completely integrable in the sense of Liouville-Arnold.

The dressing chain can also be obtained as an auto-Bäcklund transformation of the modified KdV (mKdV) equation via the celebrated Miura transformation between KdV and mKdV [19], and a symmetry of mKdV. The two ways of deriving the dressing chain are not unrelated, as the Miura transformation itself can be derived from factorisation of the Schrödinger equation [7].

Both the Darboux and Bäcklund approach can be seen as a discretisation process, and the two methods have been applied to other equations. In particular, in the discrete setting, Spiridonov and Zhedanov [26] considered a tri-diagonal discrete Schrödinger equation, for which discrete Darboux transformations gave rise to two equivalent systems: the discrete time Toda lattice and a system they called the discrete dressing chain [26, equations (5.30) and (5.31)]. As the discrete Schrödinger equation considered in [26] is the spectral problem for the Toda lattice [17] one could refer to these systems as dressing chains of the Toda lattice. Starting from the Volterra equation and using two discrete Miura transformations, Levi and Yamilov obtained an integrable lattice equation which they regard as a direct analogue of the dressing chain [16, equation (31)], cf. [9]. In our context, we would refer to that equation as an auto-Bäcklund transformation for a modified Volterra equation. In general, for a given integrable equation, one can ask the following questions, see Fig. 1:

- 1. Is there a Miura or, more generally, a Bäcklund transformation to a modified equation which has a symmetry? This then gives rise to an auto-Bäcklund transformation of the modified equation, which discretises the equation.
- 2. Is there an associated spectral problem, whose factorisation yields a dressing chain?
- 3. Does the Bäcklund transformation (1) arise in the factorisation of the spectral problem (2)?
- 4. Does the auto-Bäcklund transformation for the modified equation coincide with the dressing chain of the equation?
- 5. Can the original equation be recovered by appropriate continuum limits?
- 6. Is the auto-Bäcklund transformation/dressing chain integrable?

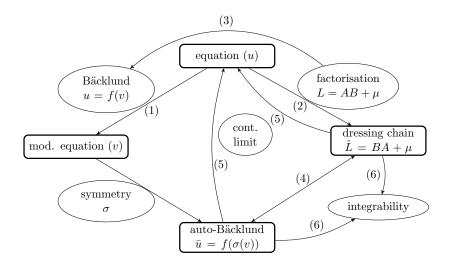


Figure 1. Darboux and Bäcklund transformations.

In this paper, our starting point is the dressing chain. We factorise its discrete spectral problem, which itself is an exact discretisation, cf. [32], of the (continuous) Schrödinger equation. It turns out that the *discrete* dressing chain (of the dressing chain) coincides with the (non-autonomous) lattice Korteweg–de Vries (lKdV) equation. By studying a related Lax representation we identify a Bäcklund transformation to a modified dressing chain which admits a symmetry. The derived auto-Bäcklund transformation is again given by the lKdV equation.

In analogy to the continuous case, cf. [30], we study the (0,n)-periodic reduction¹ of the (discrete) dressing chain of the dressing chain (a.k.a. the lKdV equation), which is a two-valued correspondence (i.e., multi-valued map). We provide explicit formulas for its two branches, and establish linear growth of multi-valuedness. Moreover, we prove (in odd dimensions) that the map is Liouville integrable with respect to a quadratic Poisson structure of Lotka–Volterra type.

2 Background

We clarify Fig. 1 by succinctly providing some details for the KdV equation. We hope it also makes clear to the reader that how the dressing chain is related to the KdV equation is completely analogous to how the lattice KdV equation is related to the dressing chain.

The KdV equation $u_t = u_{xxx} - 6uu_x$ arises as the compatibility condition, $L_t = [L, M]$, for the system of linear equations $L\phi = \lambda\phi$, $\phi_t = M\phi$ where L is the Schrödinger operator

¹The (n,0)-periodic reduction gives rise to the same maps, up to a minus sign.

 $L = -D^2 + u$, $M = 4D^3 - 3(uD + Du)$, and λ is a spectral parameter. One can check that if v satisfies the mKdV equation $v_t = v_{xxx} - 6(v^2 + \alpha)v_x$, then u given by the Miura transformation

$$u = v_x + v^2 + \alpha \tag{2.1}$$

satisfies the KdV equation. As the mKdV equation is invariant under $v \rightarrow -v$ another Miura transformation is given by

$$\bar{u} = -v_x + v^2 + \alpha. \tag{2.2}$$

Combining the two equations (2.1) and (2.2) yields an auto-Bäcklund transformation for the mKdV equation,

$$(\bar{v}+v)_x = v^2 - \bar{v}^2 + \alpha - \bar{\alpha},$$

which coincides with the dressing chain [30]. A related chain, which is an auto-Bäcklund transformation for the potential KdV equation, was already written down by Wahlquist and Estabrook [31], who used Bianchi's permutability theorem to show that it generates hierarchies of solutions due to a nonlinear superposition principle. More general auto-Bäcklund transformations (and their interpretation as differential-difference equations) were given in [14, 15]. Auto-Bäcklund transformations for differential-difference equations are lattice equations, and some examples were presented in [10, 16].

Darboux transformations for differential and difference equations (also known as dressing transformations) are maps of the functions and the coefficients that preserve the form of the equations [5]. They can be obtained by factorisation of operators, cf. [3, 7, 12, 21, 22], and they provide an effective way to construct exact solutions of a wide range of integrable equations (see, e.g., the monograph [18]).

Recall that the Schrödinger operator L can be decomposed as

$$L = -(D+v)(D-v) + \alpha,$$

subject to the constraint (2.1). Darboux [5] showed that under the transformation

$$\phi \mapsto \dot{\phi} = (D - v)\phi, \tag{2.3}$$

and $L \mapsto \widetilde{L}$, where (interchanging the two factors in the decomposition)

$$\widetilde{L} = -(D-v)(D+v) + \alpha$$

the form of the Schödinger equation is unchanged: $\widetilde{L}\phi = \lambda \phi$. The \sim operation characterises a Darboux transformation for the Schrödinger equation L, if \widetilde{L} is still a Schrödinger operator, i.e., $\widetilde{L} = -D^2 + \widetilde{u}$ with $\widetilde{u} = -v_x + v^2 + \alpha$, cf. equation (2.2). Iterated Darboux transformations result in the dependency of the functions u and ϕ on shifts in the \sim direction, and α becomes a lattice parameter. Eliminating u, \widetilde{u} in the above decompositions yields the dressing chain

$$(\tilde{v}+v)_x = v^2 - \tilde{v}^2 + \alpha - \tilde{\alpha}.$$
(2.4)

Denoting $v = v_i$, $\tilde{v} = v_{i+1}$, etc., and adding a periodic constraint, i.e., $v_{i+n} = v_i$ and $\alpha_{i+n} = \alpha_i$, one gets the finite dimensional systems of ordinary differential equations

$$(v_{i+1} + v_i)_x = v_i^2 - v_{i+1}^2 + \alpha_i - \alpha_{i+1}, \qquad 1 \le i \le n,$$
(2.5)

which was shown to be completely integrable for odd n [30].

3 Dressing the dressing chain

By eliminating the x-derivatives in the Schrödinger equation $L\phi = \lambda\phi$, using equation (2.3), one obtains the discrete Schrödinger equation

$$K\phi = \lambda\phi, \qquad K = -T^2 + hT + \alpha$$
(3.1)

where

$$h = -v - \widetilde{v},\tag{3.2}$$

and $T: z \to \tilde{z}$ represents a shift operator. The discrete Schrödinger operator K is the dual, with respect to (2.3), to the continuous operator L, cf. [24]. We note that the compatibility condition $K_x = [N, K]$, with N = T + v, provides a Lax representation for the dressing chain (2.4).

The operator K can be decomposed as, cf. [32],

$$K = -(T+f)(T-g) - \beta.$$

Here β does not depend on the ~ direction (as α does) but will depend on another discrete direction introduced below. In order that such a decomposition holds, one needs

$$h = \tilde{g} - f \tag{3.3}$$

and

$$fg = \alpha + \beta. \tag{3.4}$$

Eliminating f leads to $(h - \tilde{g})g + \alpha + \beta = 0$. This can be solved by posing $g = \tilde{\psi}\psi^{-1}$, where ψ is a special solution of (3.1) with $\lambda = -\beta$. Now that f and g are well defined, we can apply the usual tactics (interchanging the two factors in the decomposition) to generate a Darboux transformation for (3.1). With

$$\phi = G\phi, \qquad G = T - g, \tag{3.5}$$

and

$$\widehat{K} = -(T-g)(T+f) - \beta$$

we have $\widehat{K}\widehat{\phi} = \lambda\widehat{\phi}$. Letting $\widehat{K} = -T^2 + \widehat{h}T + \alpha$ imposes another constraint

$$\widehat{h} = g - \widetilde{f},\tag{3.6}$$

which together with (3.3) and (3.4) yields the non-autonomous lattice KdV equation (lKdV)

$$\widetilde{f} - \widehat{f} = \frac{\alpha + \beta}{f} - \frac{\widetilde{\alpha} + \widehat{\beta}}{\widehat{\widetilde{f}}}, \qquad (3.7)$$

or, in terms of g,

$$g - \hat{\widetilde{g}} = \frac{\widetilde{\alpha} + \beta}{\widetilde{g}} - \frac{\alpha + \widehat{\beta}}{\widehat{g}}.$$
(3.8)

Shifts in the $\widehat{}$ direction correspond to a second discrete direction, created by iterated Darboux transformations, and the parameter β varies in this direction. The linear system of equations (3.1) and (3.5) provides a Lax representation for the lKdV equation, $\widehat{K}G = \widetilde{G}K$.

In the light of Fig. 1, equation (3.7), or (3.8), is the dressing chain of the dressing chain. In analogy to the continuous case, we will consider a periodic reduction in the $\hat{}$ direction, i.e., $f_{i+n} = f_i$ and $\beta_{i+n} = \beta_i$, and we take $\tilde{\alpha} = \alpha$ to be a constant. The finite dimensional system of difference equations we will study is

$$\widetilde{f}_i - f_{i+1} = \frac{\alpha + \beta_i}{f_i} - \frac{\alpha + \beta_{i+1}}{\widetilde{f}_{i+1}}, \qquad 1 \le i \le n.$$
(3.9)

As we make explicitly in Section 5, it gives rise to a two-valued correspondence.

It would also be justified to refer to the above system (3.7) as the discrete dressing chain, since its continuum limit coincides with (2.4). Using equations (3.3) and (3.6), one can express $f = \hat{\tilde{w}} - w, g = \hat{w} - \tilde{w}$. Substituting them into (3.4) gives the lattice potential KdV equation $(\hat{\tilde{w}} - w)(\hat{w} - \tilde{w}) = \alpha + \beta$, whose continuum limit with respect to the $\hat{}$ direction is [11, 20]

$$(\widetilde{w} + w)_x = (\widetilde{w} - w)^2 + \alpha. \tag{3.10}$$

From (3.2), (3.3) and the above expressions for f and g, one obtains $v = w - \tilde{w}$ which relates the *potential dressing chain* (3.10) to the dressing chain (2.4). We will refer to the (0, n)-reduction of the lKdV equation (3.9) as the *n*-dimensional discrete dressing chain.

4 The modified dressing chain

One next wonders if the discrete dressing chain (3.7) (or (3.8)) is the auto-Bäcklund transformation of a modified dressing chain. This is indeed the case. The Lax equation $G_x = \hat{N}G - GN$ gives rise to the system $g(\hat{v}-v) - g_x = \tilde{v} - \hat{v} - g + \tilde{g} = 0$, which together with $(h =) - v - \tilde{v} = \tilde{g} - f$ yields

$$v = \frac{1}{2} \left(f - g - \frac{g_x}{g} \right), \qquad \widetilde{v} = \frac{1}{2} \left(f + g + \frac{g_x}{g} \right) - \widetilde{g}$$

$$\tag{4.1}$$

(as well as $\hat{v} = \frac{1}{2} \left(f - g + \frac{g_x}{g} \right)$). The system (4.1) provides a Bäcklund transformation, cf. [11, Definition 2.1.1] between the dressing chain (2.4) and the following equation

$$\widetilde{g} + \frac{\widetilde{\alpha} + \beta}{\widetilde{g}} - \frac{\widetilde{g}_x}{\widetilde{g}} = g + \frac{\alpha + \beta}{g} + \frac{g_x}{g},\tag{4.2}$$

which we will refer to as the modified dressing chain. The modified dressing chain (4.2) admits the symmetry

$$\sigma(g, \tilde{g}, x) = (\tilde{g}, g, -x).$$

Applying this symmetry to the right hand sides of (4.1) and transforming the left hand sides by $(v, \tilde{v}) \rightarrow (\tilde{v}, \bar{v})$, we obtain another Bäcklund transformation

$$\widetilde{v} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\widetilde{f} - \widetilde{g} + \frac{\widetilde{g}_x}{\widetilde{g}} \right), \qquad \overline{v} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\widetilde{f} + \widetilde{g} - \frac{\widetilde{g}_x}{\widetilde{g}} \right) - g.$$

Combining the two Bäcklund transformations $(\bar{v} + \tilde{v} = v + \tilde{v})$ we obtain $\tilde{f} - g = \bar{f} - \bar{\tilde{g}}$, which shows that the lKdV equation is an auto-Bäcklund transformation for the modified dressing chain (4.2).

5 Explicit formulas for the *n*-dimensional discrete dressing chain, and linear growth of multivaluedness

In this section we consider the (0, n)-reduction of the lattice KdV equation, which is a twovalued correspondence. We give explicit formulas for both branches (M, N), and prove that MNM = N. The latter implies that the *l*-th iteration of the correspondence is 2*l*-valued, cf. [29, Section 6.2].

In the finite reduction (3.9), without loss of generality, we set $\alpha = 0$ since it can be absorbed into the parameters β_j . Having fixed $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and taking $i \in \mathcal{I} = \{1, 2, ..., n\}$ subject to the periodic boundary conditions $f_{n+i} = f_i$, $\beta_{n+i} = \beta_i$ for all $i \in \mathcal{I}$, the system of equations (3.9) reads

$$E_{1}: \quad \tilde{f}_{1} + \frac{\beta_{2}}{\tilde{f}_{2}} = f_{2} + \frac{\beta_{1}}{f_{1}},$$

$$E_{2}: \quad \tilde{f}_{2} + \frac{\beta_{3}}{\tilde{f}_{3}} = f_{3} + \frac{\beta_{2}}{f_{2}},$$

$$\vdots$$

$$E_{n}: \quad \tilde{f}_{n} + \frac{\beta_{1}}{\tilde{f}_{1}} = f_{1} + \frac{\beta_{n}}{f_{n}}.$$
(5.1)

These equations define a two-valued correspondence on \mathbb{R}^n . One solution of the system (5.1) is given by

$$\widetilde{f}_i = \frac{\beta_i}{f_i}, \qquad i \in \mathcal{I}$$
(5.2)

(which is $\widetilde{f}_i = g_i$, cf. (3.4)). This defines a map

$$N: (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n) \mapsto \left(\frac{\beta_1}{f_1}, \frac{\beta_2}{f_2}, \dots, \frac{\beta_n}{f_n}\right)$$

which is an involution. The other solution of the system (5.1) gives rise to a more intriguing map on \mathbb{R}^n , which will be denoted by M. We next provide explicit formulas for M and for its inverse.

Remark 5.1. Consider the finite version of system (3.9) defined by choosing $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and restricting $i \in \mathcal{I}$ subject to the open boundary condition $f_{n+1} = \beta_{n+1} = 0$. The resulting system then takes the form

$$\widetilde{f}_i + \frac{\beta_{i+1}}{\widetilde{f}_{i+1}} = f_{i+1} + \frac{\beta_i}{f_i}, \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1, \quad \text{and} \quad \widetilde{f}_n = \frac{\beta_n}{f_n},$$

whose unique solution is given by the involution (5.2).

In order to describe the nontrivial solution of (5.1) we introduce some notation. With $1 < n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $k \in \mathcal{I}$ we consider \mathbb{R}^k with coordinates f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_k . We fix the parameters $\beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_n$, and define functions $F_k \colon \mathbb{R}^k \to \mathbb{R}$ by $F_1(f_1) = 1$ and

$$F_k = F_k(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k) = f_1 f_2^2 f_3^2 \cdots f_{k-1}^2 f_k, \qquad k > 1.$$
(5.3)

We also define a function $G: \mathbb{R}^{2n} \to \mathbb{R}$ by

$$G = G(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n)$$

= $\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left(\prod_{j=1}^i \beta_j \cdot F_{n-i}(f_{i+1}, f_{i+2}, \dots, f_n) \right)$
= $F_n(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n) + \beta_1 F_{n-1}(f_2, f_3, \dots, f_n) + \dots + \beta_1 \beta_2 \cdots \beta_{n-1}.$ (5.4)

For n = 3 the function G reads

$$G = f_1 f_2^2 f_3 + \beta_1 f_2 f_3 + \beta_1 \beta_2$$

We will make use of the following cyclic permutation $\tau: \mathcal{I} \to \mathcal{I}$

$$\tau_i = \begin{cases} i+1, & \text{if } i < n, \\ 1, & \text{if } i = n, \end{cases}$$

and of the involution $\sigma\colon \mathcal{I}\to \mathcal{I}$ defined by

$$\sigma_i = n + 1 - i.$$

Simply stated, the permutation τ is a shift modulo n, and σ is to reverse the elements of \mathcal{I} . By some abuse of notation we will write, for any function H depending on the variables f_1 , f_2, \ldots, f_n and the parameters $\beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_n$,

$$\tau H(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n) = H(f_{\tau_1}, f_{\tau_2}, \dots, f_{\tau_n}, \beta_{\tau_1}, \beta_{\tau_2}, \dots, \beta_{\tau_n})$$

= $H(f_2, f_3, \dots, f_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \dots, \beta_1),$

and similarly

$$\sigma H(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n) = H(f_{\sigma_1}, f_{\sigma_2}, \dots, f_{\sigma_n}, \beta_{\sigma_1}, \beta_{\sigma_2}, \dots, \beta_{\sigma_n})$$
$$= H(f_n, f_{n-1}, \dots, f_1, \beta_n, \beta_{n-1}, \dots, \beta_1).$$

For example, for n = 3 we have

$$\tau G = f_1 f_2 f_3^2 + \beta_2 f_1 f_3 + \beta_2 \beta_3, \qquad \sigma G = f_1 f_2^2 f_3 + \beta_3 f_1 f_2 + \beta_2 \beta_3.$$

A useful property of the above-defined functions is that, for any n, the expression

$$f_1 f_n G - \beta_1 \tau G = f_1^2 f_2^2 \cdots f_n^2 - \beta_1 \beta_2 \cdots \beta_n$$
(5.5)

is invariant under τ and σ . The following formula, which can be easily proved, is also useful. For any function H depending on $f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_n, \beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_n$, we have $\tau \sigma \tau H = \sigma H$, which implies, for all i,

$$\sigma \tau^i H = \tau^{n-i} \sigma H. \tag{5.6}$$

We now define functions

$$M_i = f_{i-1} \frac{\tau^{i-1}G}{\tau^i G},$$
(5.7)

where the indices are considered modulo n and in the set \mathcal{I} , in particular

$$M_1 = f_n \frac{G}{\tau G}.$$

Lemma 5.2. The map $M: (f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_n) \mapsto (M_1, M_2, \ldots, M_n)$, where M_i is defined by (5.7), is a solution of the system (5.1).

Proof. By definition (5.7), we have $M_i = \tau M_{i-1}$ for all *i* and a similar property holds for the equations in (5.1) (each equation is obtained by applying τ to the previous one). Hence, it is enough to show that the functions M_i satisfy the equation E_1 . Taking $\tilde{f}_1 = M_1$ and $\tilde{f}_2 = M_2$, we have to verify

$$M_1 + \frac{\beta_2}{M_2} = f_2 + \frac{\beta_1}{f_1} \iff f_n \frac{G}{\tau G} + \frac{\beta_2}{f_1} \frac{\tau^2 G}{\tau G} = f_2 + \frac{\beta_1}{f_1}$$
$$\iff f_1 f_n G + \beta_2 \tau^2 G = (f_1 f_2 + \beta_1) \tau G$$
$$\iff f_1 f_n G - \beta_1 \tau G = \tau (f_1 f_n G - \beta_1 \tau G)$$

or equivalently that $f_1 f_n G - \beta_1 \tau G$ is fixed under τ , which holds due to (5.5).

The maps M and N satisfy the following relation.

Lemma 5.3. The map N is a reversing symmetry of M.

Proof. The statement entails

$$MN = NM^{-1}.$$

Applying the involution σ to all indices in system (5.1), and interchanging $f_i \leftrightarrow \tilde{f}_i$ one observes that

$$E_j(f_i, \widetilde{f}_i) = E_{n-j}(\widetilde{f}_{\sigma_i}, f_{\sigma_i}),$$

for $1 \leq j < n$ and $E_n(f_i, \tilde{f}_i) = E_n(\tilde{f}_{\sigma_i}, f_{\sigma_i})$. If we write the nontrivial solution as $\tilde{f}_j = M_j(f_i)$, then we also have $f_{\sigma_j} = M_j(\tilde{f}_{\sigma_i})$, and applying σ to the *j* index (which just enumerates the functions), one has

$$f_j = M_{\sigma_j}(\widetilde{f}_{\sigma_i}) = M_j^{-1}(\widetilde{f}_i).$$

Thus the inverse map is

$$M^{-1} = \sigma M \sigma_{\rm s}$$

which as a function of the f_i has components

$$M_j^{-1} = \sigma \left(f_{\sigma_j - 1} \frac{\tau^{\sigma_j - 1} G}{\tau^{\sigma_j} G} \right) = f_{j+1} \frac{\sigma \tau^{n-j} G}{\sigma \tau^{n-j+1} G} = f_{j+1} \frac{\tau^j \sigma G}{\tau^{j-1} \sigma G}.$$

The latter formula is obtained using (5.6). It follows immediately that $M_{j+1}^{-1} = \tau M_j^{-1}$. Therefore it is enough to show that $(MN)_1 = (NM^{-1})_1$, that is

$$\frac{\beta_n G\left(\frac{\beta_1}{f_1}, \dots, \frac{\beta_n}{f_n}\right)}{f_n \tau G\left(\frac{\beta_1}{f_1}, \dots, \frac{\beta_n}{f_n}\right)} = \frac{\beta_1 \sigma G(f_1, \dots, f_n)}{f_2 \tau \sigma G(f_1, \dots, f_n)}.$$
(5.8)

Using the formulas (5.3) and (5.4), one has

$$G\left(\frac{\beta_{1}}{f_{1}},\dots,\frac{\beta_{n}}{f_{n}}\right) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left(\prod_{j=1}^{i} \beta_{j}\right) F_{n-i}\left(\frac{\beta_{i+1}}{f_{i+1}},\dots,\frac{\beta_{n}}{f_{n}}\right) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left(\prod_{j=1}^{i} \beta_{j}\right) \frac{F_{n-i}(\beta_{i+1},\dots,\beta_{n})}{F_{n-i}(f_{i+1},\dots,f_{n})}$$
$$= \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{n-1} \beta_{j}}{F_{n}(f_{1},\dots,f_{n})} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left(\prod_{j=i+2}^{n} \beta_{j}\right) F_{i+1}(f_{1},\dots,f_{i+1}),$$

and similarly

$$\tau G\left(\frac{\beta_1}{f_1}, \dots, \frac{\beta_n}{f_n}\right) = \frac{\prod_{j=1}^{n-1} \beta_{j+1}}{F_n(f_2, \dots, f_n, f_1)} \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left(\prod_{j=i+2}^n \beta_{j+1}\right) F_{i+1}(f_2, \dots, f_{i+2})$$

$$\tau \sigma G(f_1, \dots, f_n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left(\prod_{j=1}^i \beta_{n+2-j}\right) F_{n-i}(f_{i+2}, f_{i+1}, \dots, f_2),$$

and

$$\sigma G(f_1, \dots, f_n) = \tau \sigma \tau G(f_1, \dots, f_n) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \left(\prod_{j=1}^i \beta_{n+1-j} \right) F_{n-i}(f_{i+1}, f_i, \dots, f_1).$$

Combining all these leads to (5.8).

As a corollary of Lemma 5.3, using the fact that N is an involution, it follows that MN and NM are involutions, and hence M can be written as a composition of two involutions, M = (MN)N = N(NM). Furthermore, Lemma 5.3 implies the relations: MNM = NNN and MNN = NNM. These relations are also satisfied by the branches of the quotient-difference (n, 0)-correspondence. In [29, Section 6.2] it is proved that the *l*-th iteration of such a correspondence is 2l-valued.

6 Complete integrability of the odd-dimensional discrete dressing chain

In this section we show that the correspondence (M, N) is Liouville integrable with respect to a quadratic Poisson structure which is of Lotka–Volterra type. Our main result is the following theorem.

Theorem 6.1. For odd n, the correspondence defined by (5.1) is Liouville integrable.

Before proving the theorem, we introduce the relevant Poisson structures and provide some of their basic properties.

6.1 Lotka–Volterra Poisson structures

Lotka–Volterra Poisson structures are homogeneous quadratic, and they are defined on \mathbb{R}^n by the formulas

$$\{x_i, x_j\}_a = A_{i,j} x_i x_j, \qquad i, j \in \mathcal{I}, \tag{6.1}$$

where A is a constant skew-symmetric matrix.

The rank of this Poisson structure is equal, at a generic point, to the rank of the constant matrix A. Each null-vector of the matrix A is associated to a Casimir of the corresponding Poisson bracket. If $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2, \ldots, v_n)$ is such that $\mathbf{v}A = 0$, then the function $\prod_{i=1}^{n} x_i^{v_i}$ is a Casimir of the Poisson bracket. Two linearly independent null-vectors correspond to two functionally independent Casimirs (for a proof see [13, Example 8.14]).

In what follows we consider the Lotka–Volterra structures (6.1) where A is the $n \times n$ skewsymmetric matrix with its upper triangular part defined by

$$A_{i,j} = (-1)^{j-i+1}, \qquad 1 \le i < j \le n.$$
(6.2)

The rank of the matrix A is n when n is even and n-1 when n is odd with the null-vector $\mathbf{v} = (1, 1, ..., 1)$; a Casimir of the corresponding Poisson structure is the function $x_1x_2 \cdots x_n$. With $H = x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n$, the Hamiltonian vector field $\{\cdot, H\}_q$ defines a system of differential equations which, up to a simple change of variables, is isomorphic to the Bogoyavlenskij lattice [1, 2, 4, 28].

A simpler Poisson structure is the constant Poisson structure defined by the brackets

$$\{x_i, x_j\}_c = B_{i,j}, \tag{6.3}$$

where B is a constant $n \times n$ skew-symmetric matrix. After some tedious but straightforward calculations (see [6, Proposition 3]), one proves that the Poisson structures (6.1) and (6.3) are compatible if and only if

$$\begin{cases} B_{i,j} = 0 & \text{for all } |j-i| > 1, \text{ when } n \text{ is even,} \\ B_{i,j} = 0 & \text{for all } 1 < |j-i| < n-1, \text{ when } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

$$(6.4)$$

For *n* odd, let $\{\cdot, \cdot\}_{\mathbf{b}} = \{\cdot, \cdot\}_q + \{\cdot, \cdot\}_c$ denote the sum of the brackets defined by (6.1), (6.2) and (6.3), (6.4) where the subscript **b** is the vector $\mathbf{b} = (b_{1,2}, b_{2,3}, \ldots, b_{n-1,n}, b_{1,n})$, i.e., the nonzero elements of the matrix *B*. With $H = x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n$, the Hamiltonian vector field $\{\cdot, H\}_{\mathbf{b}}$ defines a system of differential equations which can be transformed to the dressing chain (2.5). The Poisson structure $\{\cdot, \cdot\}_{\mathbf{b}}$ is of rank n - 1 but with a more complicated Casimir than the product $x_1 x_2 \cdots x_n$ (see [6, 8] for an explicit construction of this Casimir).

6.2 Complete integrability

We start by showing that the maps M and N, defined in Section 5, preserve the Poisson structure $\{\cdot, \cdot\}_{\mathbf{b}} = \{\cdot, \cdot\}_q + \{\cdot, \cdot\}_c$ with $\mathbf{b} = (-\beta_2, -\beta_3, \ldots, -\beta_n, \beta_1)$. To this end we define two additional maps $\phi, \psi \colon \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$,

$$\phi(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n) = (f_1 + g_2, f_2 + g_3, \dots, f_n + g_1),$$

$$\psi(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n) = (f_2 + g_1, f_3 + g_2, \dots, f_1 + g_n).$$

Lemma 6.2. For n odd, the maps M, N, ϕ and ψ are Poisson maps as follows

- $$\begin{split} 1) \ \phi \colon (\mathbb{R}^n, \{\cdot, \cdot\}_q) &\to (\mathbb{R}^n, \{\cdot, \cdot\}_{\mathbf{b}}); \\ 2) \ \psi \colon (\mathbb{R}^n, \{\cdot, \cdot\}_q) \to (\mathbb{R}^n, \{\cdot, \cdot\}_{\mathbf{b}}); \end{split}$$
- $3) \ M \colon (\mathbb{R}^n, \{\cdot, \cdot\}_q) \to (\mathbb{R}^n, \{\cdot, \cdot\}_q);$
- 4) $N \colon (\mathbb{R}^n, \{\cdot, \cdot\}_q) \to (\mathbb{R}^n, \{\cdot, \cdot\}_q).$

Proof. The proof of items (1), (2) and (4) follows from straightforward computations. For example, for any i = 1, 2, ..., n

$$\{f_i, f_{i+1}\}_{\mathbf{b}} \circ \phi = (f_i + g_{i+1})(f_{i+1} + g_{i+2}) - \beta_{i+1} = f_i f_{i+1} + f_i g_{i+2} + g_{i+1} g_{i+2}$$

= $\{f_i + g_{i+1}, f_{i+1} + g_{i+2}\}_q,$
 $\{f_i, f_{i+1}\}_{\mathbf{b}} \circ \psi = (f_{i+1} + g_i)(f_{i+2} + g_{i+1}) - \beta_{i+1} = f_{i+1} f_{i+2} + g_i f_{i+2} + g_i g_{i+1}$
= $\{f_{i+1} + g_i, f_{i+2} + g_{i+1}\}_q,$

where the indices are considered modulo n and in the set \mathcal{I} . Item (3) follows from items (1) and (2) combined with

$$\phi \circ M = \psi$$
 and $\phi \circ N = \psi$,

which are a consequence of (5.1).

Remark 6.3. The involution N preserves any Poisson structure of Lotka–Volterra form. It follows that item (4), of the previous proposition, is (trivially) true for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. However, this is not the case for items (1) - (3) as for even n the equations in the previous proof do not hold for i = n. Note, for even n the bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}_{\mathbf{b}}$ is not Poisson, see condition (6.4).

To derive sufficiently many independent invariants for the map (5.7), we employ a matrix version of the Lax representation. Let $\widetilde{\Phi_i} = \mathcal{V}_i \Phi_i$, $\widehat{\Phi_i} = \Phi_{i+1} = \mathcal{G}_i \Phi_i$, where

$$\mathcal{V}_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\lambda & \widetilde{g}_i - f_i \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \mathcal{G}_i = \begin{pmatrix} -g_i & 1 \\ -\lambda & -f_i \end{pmatrix}$$

and $\Phi = (\phi, \tilde{\phi})^T$. The compatibility condition is now written (modulo the periodic condition n + j = j) as $\mathcal{V}_{i+1}\mathcal{G}_i = \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_i \mathcal{V}_i$. Then one has

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{G}}_n\widetilde{\mathcal{G}}_{n-1}\cdots\widetilde{\mathcal{G}}_1=\mathcal{V}_1\mathcal{G}_n\mathcal{G}_{n-1}\cdots\mathcal{G}_1\mathcal{V}_1^{-1},$$

which implies that the (monodromy) matrix $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{G}_n \mathcal{G}_{n-1} \cdots \mathcal{G}_1$ is isospectral. The eigenvalues of \mathcal{L} (and therefore its trace) are invariants of our map (5.7).

Using a decomposition of the Lax matrix \mathcal{G}_i similar to the one used in [6, 30] (explained in a more general manner in [27]), we are able to calculate the trace of \mathcal{L} and provide a succinct formula for the invariants. Furthermore, using the results of [30] we show that these invariants are in involution with respect to the Poisson bracket (6.1) with matrix (6.2) and therefore complete the proof of Theorem 6.1.

Proposition 6.4. Let $r = \frac{n-1}{2} \in \mathbb{N}$. There exist functions I_0, I_1, \ldots, I_r , which are polynomials of the variables

$$x_1 = -(g_2 + f_1), \quad x_2 = -(g_3 + f_2), \quad \dots, \quad x_n = -(g_1 + f_n)$$

of degree deg $(I_i) = 2i + 1$, such that tr $(\mathcal{L}) = \sum_{i=0}^r I_i \lambda^i$. With

$$D_i = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_{i+1}}, \qquad D = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} D_i,$$

where $x_{n+1} = x_1$ is understood, we have

$$I_0 = \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} (1 - \beta_i D_i) \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}} x_j, \qquad I_j = \frac{(-1)^j}{j!} D^j I_0.$$

Furthermore, these functions are in involution with respect to the Poisson bracket $\{\cdot,\cdot\}_a$.

Proof. We decompose the matrix \mathcal{G}_i as follows

$$\mathcal{G}_i = \mathcal{A}_i^i - (\lambda + \beta_i)\mathcal{K}_i$$

where

$$\mathcal{K} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \mathcal{A}_j^i = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ f_i \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} g_j & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

This structure simplifies the computations. For example we can immediately verify the following properties

$$\mathcal{K}^2 = \mathbf{0}, \qquad \mathcal{A}^i_j \mathcal{A}^k_l = -(g_j + f_k) \mathcal{A}^i_l, \qquad \mathcal{A}^i_j \mathcal{K} \mathcal{A}^k_l = \mathcal{A}^i_l, \qquad \mathcal{K} \mathcal{A}^i_j \mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}.$$

The monodromy matrix is, with $y_i = -(\lambda + \beta_i)$, in the form

$$\mathcal{L} = \left(\mathcal{A}_n^n + y_n \mathcal{K}\right) \left(\mathcal{A}_{n-1}^{n-1} + y_{n-1} \mathcal{K}\right) \cdots \left(\mathcal{A}_1^1 + y_1 \mathcal{K}\right)$$

= $\mathcal{A}_n^n \mathcal{A}_{n-1}^{n-1} \cdots \mathcal{A}_1^1 + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} y_i \mathcal{A}_n^n \mathcal{A}_{n-1}^{n-1} \cdots \mathcal{A}_{i+1}^{i+1} \mathcal{K} \mathcal{A}_{i-1}^{i-1} \cdots \mathcal{A}_1^1 + \sum_{i,j \in \mathcal{I}} \cdots$
= $x_n x_{n-1} \cdots x_2 \mathcal{A}_1^n + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} y_i x_n x_{n-1} \cdots x_{i+2} x_{i-1} \cdots x_1 \mathcal{A}_1^n + \sum_{i,j \in \mathcal{I}} \cdots$

and its trace

$$\operatorname{tr}(\mathcal{L}) = \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} x_i + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \frac{y_i}{x_{i+1} x_i} \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}} x_j + \sum_{i > j+1 \in \mathcal{I}} \frac{y_i}{x_{i+1} x_i} \frac{y_j}{x_{j+1} x_j} \prod_{k \in \mathcal{I}} x_j + \cdots$$
$$= \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} (1 + y_i D_i) \prod_{j \in \mathcal{I}} x_i = \sum_{i=0}^k I_i \lambda^i.$$

Substituting $\lambda = 0$ yields the expression for I_0 , i.e.,

$$I_0 = (1 - \beta_1 D_1)(1 - \beta_2 D_2) \cdots (1 - \beta_n D_n) \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} x_i,$$
(6.5)

while

$$I_1 = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}} (1 - \beta_1 D_1) (1 - \beta_2 D_2) \cdots (-D_j) \cdots (1 - \beta_n D_n) \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} x_i,$$

$$I_2 = \sum_{j < k \in \mathcal{I}} (1 - \beta_1 D_1) (1 - \beta_2 D_2) \cdots (-D_j) \cdots (-D_k) \cdots (1 - \beta_n D_n) \prod_{i \in \mathcal{I}} x_i,$$

$$\vdots$$

Applying D to I_0 gives a sum of similar products where the *j*-th term $(1 - \beta_j D_j)$ is replaced by D_j , which is equal to $-I_1$. Similarly, applying this operator k times yields $(-1)^k I_k k!$ times, namely once for each permutation of k indices. This proves the first part of the proposition.

To prove the second part of the proposition, we first note that the invariants I_i (as functions of x_i), as obtained from the trace of \mathcal{L} , coincide with the invariants that Veselov and Shabat provided for the continuous dressing chain [30]. In that paper, using the Lenard-Magri scheme, they proved that the invariants I_i are in involution with respect to the Poisson bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}_{\mathbf{b}} =$ $\{\cdot, \cdot\}_q + \{\cdot, \cdot\}_c$. Therefore, in order to prove that the invariants I_i (considered as functions of f_i) are in involution with respect to $\{\cdot, \cdot\}_q$, it suffices to show that the map

 $\mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n, \qquad (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n) \mapsto (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$

is a Poisson map between $(\mathbb{R}^n, \{\cdot, \cdot\}_q)$ and $(\mathbb{R}^n, \{\cdot, \cdot\}_b)$. This is precisely item (1) of Lemma 6.2.

Remark 6.5. The expression for I_0 (6.5) in terms of f_i , g_i , and β_i is quite cumbersome, e.g., for n = 3,

$$I_0 = -f_1 f_2 f_3 - f_1 f_2 g_1 - f_1 f_3 g_3 - f_1 g_1 g_3 - f_2 f_3 g_2 - f_2 g_1 g_2 - f_3 g_2 g_3 - g_1 g_2 g_3 + \beta_1 f_2 + \beta_3 f_1 + \beta_1 g_3 + \beta_2 f_3 + \beta_2 g_1 + \beta_3 g_2.$$

However, when imposing the relation $f_i g_i = \beta_i$, the expression simplifies drastically, and we have $I_0 = -(f_1 f_2 f_3 + g_1 g_2 g_3)$. The fact that a similar expression can be obtained for any n can be seen from

$$\mathcal{L}|_{\lambda=0} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \begin{pmatrix} -g_i & 1\\ 0 & -f_i \end{pmatrix} = (-1)^n \begin{pmatrix} \prod_{i=1}^{n} g_i & -\sum_{i=1}^{n} \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} f_i \prod_{k=i+1}^{n} g_i \\ 0 & \prod_{i=1}^{n} f_i \end{pmatrix}.$$

Remark 6.6. For *n* even the map *M* is anti-volume preserving and for odd *n* it is volume preserving. The map *N* is measure preserving when *n* is even and anti-measure preserving when *n* is odd. The density of the measure is $\prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{f_i}$.

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