# Maekawa and Kawasaki Revisited and Extended 

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## What is a flat origami?

- An origami model whose finished result can be pressed in a book without crumpling or adding new creases.
- Implies that all creases are straight lines.
- All creases are either mountains

- Examples:


Traditional flapping bird (crane)


Jun Maekawa's Devil

## Flat vertex folds

- Looking at a single vertex in a flat origami crease pattern.
- The vertex is in the paper's interior (not on the boundary of the paper).
- Maekawa's Theorem: The difference between the number of mountain and valley creases in a flat vertex fold is always two. ( $|\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{V}|=2$ )



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The monorail rotates $180^{\circ}$ at each M and $-180^{\circ}$ at each $V$.

$$
\begin{array}{cc}
\text { Thus } & 180 \mathrm{M}-180 \mathrm{~V}=360 \\
& \text { or } \mathrm{M}-\mathrm{V}=2
\end{array}
$$

## Flat vertex folds

- Kawasaki's Theorem: A collection of creases meeting at a vertex are flatfoldable if and only if the sum of the alternate angles around the vertex is $\pi$.

Proof of $\Rightarrow$ : Walk around the vertex, starting at a crease on the flat-folded object.


So... $\quad \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{1}-\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{2}+\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{3}-\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{4}+\ldots-\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{2 \mathrm{n}}=0$
add to this $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{1}+\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{2}+\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{3}+\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{4}+\ldots+\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{2 n}=2 \pi$
and you get $2 \alpha_{1}+2 \alpha_{3}+\ldots+2 \alpha_{2 n-1}=2 \pi$
that is, $\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{3}+\ldots+\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{2 n-1}=\Pi$

## History of these Theorems

- Kawasaki \& Maekawa discovered these in the early 1980s. Reference: Top Origami by Kasahara \& Takahama, 1985 (Japanese version of Origami for the Connoisseur).
- Justin discovered both of these in the 1980s as well. Reference: British Origami Magazine, 1986.


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- Other people, like Huffman (1976) and Husimi (1979) discovered the degree 4 case (only) of Kawasaki.


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- Also, it's not clear if Kawasaki originally saw the sufficiency direction of his Theorem, although Justin clearly did.
- Other people, like Huffman (1976) and Husimi (1979) discovered the degree 4 case (only) of Kawasaki.
- However, in a 1977 paper, Stewart A. Robertson (Univ. of Southampton, UK) discovered and proved the full necessary direction of Kawasaki, and more!


# Isometric folding of Riemannian manifolds 

S. A. Robertson<br>Department of Mathematics, University of Southampton

(Communicated by A. Jeffrey)
(MS received 28 March 1977. Read 31 October 1977)

## Synopsis

When a sheet of paper is crumpled in the hands and then crushed flat against a desk-top, the pattern of creases so formed is governed by certain simple rules. These rules generalize to theorems on folding Riemannian manifolds isometrically into one another. The most interesting results apply to the case in which domain and codomain have the same dimension. The main technique of proof combines the notion of volume with Hopf's concept of the degree of a map.

The ideas in this paper are abstracted from a study of the following familiar actions. Suppose that a plane sheet of paper is crumpled gently in the hands, and then is crushed flat against a desk top. The effect is to criss-cross the sheet with a pattern of creases, which persist even when the sheet is unfolded and smoothed out again to its original planar form. At first sight, the pattern may seem random and chaotic. However, a closer inspection will lead to the following observations.

First of all, the creases appear to be composed of straight line segments. Secondly, if $p$ is the end-point of such a segment, then the total number of crease-segments that end at $p$ is even. (In fact, this number is usually four.) Thirdly, the sum of alternate angles between creases at each such point $p$ is equal to $\pi$.

This physical process can be modelled mathematically as follows. Let us replace both the sheet of paper and the desk-top by the Euclidean plane $R^{2}$, equipped with its standard flat Riemannian tensorfield. We model the crumpling and crushing process by a map $f: R^{2} \rightarrow R^{2}$ that sends each piecewise-straight path in $R^{2}$ to a piecewise-straight path of the same length.

More generally, consider two $C^{\infty}$ Riemannian manifolds $M$ and $N$, of dimensions $m$ and $n$ respectively. Then a map $f: M \rightarrow N$ is said to be an isometric

Corollary 3. If $f \in \mathscr{F}(M, N)$ and $\operatorname{deg} f=0$, then $V_{+}=V_{-}=\frac{1}{2} V \geqq V_{f}$.
Corollary 4. If $f \in \mathscr{F}(M, N)$ and $f$ is not surjective, then $\operatorname{deg} f=0$
Corollary 5. If $f \in \mathscr{F}(M, M)$, then $\operatorname{deg} f=0$ or $\operatorname{deg} f= \pm 1$ according as $\Sigma(f) \neq \varnothing$ or $\Sigma(\varnothing)=\varnothing$.

Proof. We can assume without loss of generality that $V=1$. Hence $V_{+}=\alpha$, where $0 \leqq \alpha \leqq 1$ and $V_{-}=1-\alpha$. Let $\operatorname{deg} f=\kappa$. Then

$$
\Sigma(f) \neq \varnothing \Leftrightarrow 0<\alpha<1 \Leftrightarrow-1<\kappa V_{f}<1 \Leftrightarrow-1<\kappa<1 \Leftrightarrow \kappa=0
$$

and

$$
\begin{aligned}
\Sigma(f)=\varnothing & \Leftrightarrow 0=\alpha \quad \text { or } \quad 1=\alpha \quad \text { and } \quad V_{f}=1 \\
& \Leftrightarrow \kappa=2 \alpha-1=-1 \quad \text { or } 1 .
\end{aligned}
$$

Corollary 6. Let $f \in \mathscr{F}(M, N)$. Then for all $x \in M, \quad f_{x}: S(x, \mu(x)) \rightarrow$ $S(f(x), \mu(x))$ has degree 0 if $x \in \sum(f)$ and had degree $\pm 1$ otherwise.

Proof. This is essentially a special case of Corollary 5, although $S(x, \mu(x))$ and $S(f(x), \mu(x))$ are distinct manifolds.

> 3. Surfaces

The results of $\S 2$ take a particularly simple form in case $M$ is a surface $(q=2)$. Putting Corollary 2 of $\S 1$ together with Theorem 4 and its corollaries, we obtain the following theorem for isometric folding of surfaces.

Theorem 5. Let $f \in \mathscr{F}(M, N)$, where both $M$ and $N$ are smooth Riemannian 2-manifolds. Then for each $x \in \Sigma(f)$, the singularities of $f$ near $x$ form the images of an even number $2 r$ of geodesic rays emanating from $x$, making alternate angles
where

$$
\alpha_{1}, \beta_{1}, \ldots, \alpha_{r} \beta_{r}
$$

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{r} \alpha_{i}=\sum_{i=1}^{r} \beta_{i}=\pi
$$

We call the number $r$ the order of the singularity $x$.
The set of singularities $\sum(f)$ of an isometric folding of a smooth Riemannian surface $M$ into another $N$ is therefore a graph on $M$, satisfying the angle conditions of Theorem 5. Moreover, in case $M$ is compact and both $M$ and $N$ are oriented, the set $\sum(f)$ must partition $M$ in accordance with the area conditions of Theorem 4. Note that, by Theorem 5 , every vertex of the graph $\Sigma(f)$ has even valency. Of course $\sum(f)$ need not be connected, and may have components homeomorphic to a circle and having no vertices.
Figure 5 shows the positive (shaded) and negative (unshaded) 2 -strata into which a double torus $S$ could be partitioned by the singularities of an isometric folding $f$ of $S$ into itself. The image of $f$ in this example is a 'quarter' of $S$, homeomorphic to a cylinder $S^{1} \times I$.

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The set of singularities $\Gamma(f)$ of an isometric foldir


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\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{3}=\beta_{1}+\beta_{2}+\beta_{3}=\pi
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Figure 4. A singularity of order 3.

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- This implies that $f$ is continuous, but not necessarily differentiable. Let $\Sigma(f)$ be the set of all singularities of $f$. (This is the crease pattern.)


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- This implies that $f$ is continuous, but not necessarily differentiable. Let $\Sigma(f)$ be the set of all singularities of $f$. (This is the crease pattern.)
- Robertson then proves that $\Sigma(f)$ forms an n -dimensional cell-complex, which is the union of strata that are $\mathrm{n}-1, \mathrm{n}-2, \mathrm{n}-3, \ldots, 3,2,1$-dimensional. (The n -dim cells are also strata, but they're not part of $\Sigma(f)$.) Also, the number of such strata is finite.


## So what does Robertson prove?

- Each of the strata of $\Sigma(f)$ is isometrically immersed in $f(M)$ as a geodesic submanifold of $M$.
- Thus for almost all $y \in f(M)$ we have $f^{-1}(y)=\left\{x_{1}, \ldots, x_{v}\right\}$ where each $x_{i} \in M-\Sigma(f)$.


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- For each n-dimensional stratum S of $f(M)$, call S positive or negative depending on whether $f$ is orientation-preserving or not on S .
- If $\lambda$ points of $f^{-1}(y)$ are positive and $\mu$ are negative, then we have that $\operatorname{deg} f=\lambda-\mu$.
(The degree of a map is, intuitively, the number of times $f$ wraps $M$ around $f(M)$.)


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- Now, still working with an n-manifold $M$, we define:
$V=$ the $n$-dimensional volume of $M$.
$V_{+}=$the n -volume of the positive n -dim strata.
$V_{-}=$the n -volume of the negative n -dim strata.
$V_{f}=$ the n-volume of $f(M)$.

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Proof: Since $k V_{f}$ counts the volume of $V_{f}$, summing all the (signed) layers in $f(M)$, we have

$$
k V_{f}=V_{+}-V_{-}
$$

which gives the desired result.

## So what?

- Take a vertex in a flat origami crease pattern, and draw a circle of radius 1 around it (rescaling your c.p. if necessary).


The boundary of your circle is the 1-manifold $S_{1}$, and it folds isometrically into $S_{1}$.

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- The 1 -volumes $V_{+}$will be the angles $\alpha_{i}$ for $i$ odd, and $V_{-}$for $i$ even.
- Also, $\operatorname{deg} f=0$ here, so $V_{+}=V_{-}+k V_{f}$ becomes

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\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{3}+\cdots \alpha_{2 n-1}=\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{4}+\cdots+\alpha_{2 n}
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- Corollary to Robertson: If $f$ is an isometric folding (in any dimension) that is not surjective (onto), then $\operatorname{deg} f=0$.


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- Corollary to Robertson: If $f$ is an isometric folding (in any dimension) that is not surjective (onto), then $\operatorname{deg} f=0$.
- Proof: If $f$ is not surjective, then $f(M)$ has boundary in the range. For any point $y \in f(M)$ near such boundary, the preimage $f^{-1}(y)$ will contain an even number of points, half positive and half negative. Thus

$$
\operatorname{deg} f=\lambda-\mu=0
$$

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- Corollary 2 to Robertson: If $f: M \rightarrow M$ is an isometric folding, then $\operatorname{deg} f=0$ iff $\Sigma(f) \neq \emptyset$ and $\operatorname{deg} f= \pm 1$ iff $\Sigma(f)=\emptyset$.


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If $\Sigma(f) \neq \emptyset$ then $f$ is not surjective, so $\operatorname{deg} f=0$ by Corollary 1 .
And if $\operatorname{deg} f=0$ then

$$
V_{+}-V_{-}=k V_{f}=0 \Rightarrow V_{+}=V_{-}=\frac{1}{2} V \geq V_{f}
$$

so $f$ is surjective.

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- Proof: Assume $V=1$. Let $V_{+}=a$ where $0 \leq a \leq 1$ and $V_{-}=1-a$ Let $\operatorname{deg} f=k$.

On the other hand,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\Sigma(f)=\emptyset & \Leftrightarrow(a=0 \text { or } a=1) \text { and } V_{f}=1 \\
& \Leftrightarrow k=V_{+}-V_{-}=2 a-1= \pm 1
\end{aligned}
$$

## So Robertson proved the $\Rightarrow$ direction of Kawasaki's Theorem

- Take a vertex in a flat origami crease pattern, and draw a circle of radius 1 around it (rescaling your c.p. if necessary).


The boundary of your circle is the 1-manifold $S_{1}$, and it folds isometrically into $S_{1}$.

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## What does Robertson's Theorem say about other dimensions?

- Suppose we "fold" a chunk of 3D space. Our "crease lines" are parts of planes, and "folding" means reflecting space through those planes.



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- Suppose we "fold" a chunk of 3D space. Our "crease lines" are parts of planes, and "folding" means reflecting space through those planes.

- Take one vertex in such a crease pattern and draw a sphere of radius 1 around it. Where the planes intersect this sphere will create a crease pattern on the 2-manifold $S_{2}$.


## What does Robertson's Theorem say about other dimensions?

- Suppose we "fold" a chunk of 3D space. Our "crease lines" are parts of planes, and "folding" means reflecting space through those planes.
- If our original 3D vertex "folds flat" then our crease pattern on $S_{2}$ is an isometric folding $f: S_{2} \rightarrow S_{2}$.
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- So 2-color these regions, and let $B_{1}, \ldots, B_{k}$ be the black region areas and $W_{1}, \ldots, W_{k}$ be the white. Then

$$
\sum B_{i}=\sum W_{i}=2 \pi
$$

## Generalizing ... can cause problems

- Kawasaki's Theorem (sufficiency part) does not generalize to larger crease patterns.



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Determining if a given crease pattern is flat-foldable is NP-hard (Bern \& Hayes, 1996)

## Generalizing ... can be cool

- Justin's Theorem: Given any flat origami model, let R be a simple, closed, vertex-avoiding curve drawn on the crease pattern that crosses creases $\mathrm{c}_{1}, \mathrm{c}_{2}$, $\mathrm{c}_{3}, \ldots, \mathrm{c}_{2 n}$, in order. Let $\alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \ldots, \alpha_{2 n}$ be the angles between these crease lines (determined consistently), and let $M$ and $V$ be the number of mountain and valley creases among $\mathrm{c}_{1}, \ldots, \mathrm{c}_{2 n}$. Then

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\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{3}+\cdots+\alpha_{2 n-1}=\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{4}+\cdots+\alpha_{2 n}=\frac{M-V}{2} \pi \quad \bmod 2 \pi
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$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { and valley creases among } \mathrm{c}_{1}, \ldots, \mathrm{c}_{2 \mathrm{n}} \text {. Then } \\
& \alpha_{1}+\alpha_{3}+\cdots+\alpha_{2 n-1}=\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{4}+\cdots+\alpha_{2 n}=\frac{M-V}{2} \pi \bmod 2 \pi
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- Example: The Flapping Bird



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$$

- Example: The Flapping Bird Here $\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{3}+\cdots+\alpha_{9}=\pi$ so Justin says that

$$
\frac{M-V}{2}=1 \quad \bmod 2
$$

Checking, we see that $M=8$ and $V=2$, so $M-V=6$ which works!


## Proving Justin's Theorem

- Look at what happens to our closed curve after we fold the paper.



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- Look at what happens to our closed curve after we fold the paper.

- Following the image of the closed curve on our folded paper, it will turn around some number of of times.

So the turning of our image path $=0 \bmod 2 \pi$.

## Proving Justin's Theorem

- Let's keep better track of the total turning of the image curve by picking a better curve to begin with.


We approach each crease line perpendicular to it. If we make our curve cross each crease line while tangent to it (at an inflection point), then after it is folded we will have a $180^{\circ}$ turn.

What's more, if we do this right then we can have each $M$ crease turn $180^{\circ}$ and each $V$ crease turn -180 ${ }^{\circ}$

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$$
\begin{gathered}
=90^{\circ}-90^{\circ}+0-90^{\circ}+90^{\circ}+6 \cdot 180^{\circ} \\
=3 \cdot 2 \pi
\end{gathered}
$$

## Proving Justin's Theorem

- Changing some of the mountains and valleys:



Here the total turning of the image curve is

$$
\begin{aligned}
& =\alpha_{1}-\alpha_{2}+\cdots-\alpha_{6}+M \pi-V \pi \\
& =0+4 \cdot \pi-2 \cdot \pi=2 \pi \equiv 0 \quad \bmod 2 \pi
\end{aligned}
$$

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- Finally, the proof is that we have:

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$$

to get

$$
2 \alpha_{1}+2 \alpha_{3}+2 \alpha_{5}+\cdots+2 \alpha_{2 n-1}=(M-V) \pi \quad \bmod 2 \pi
$$

or

$$
\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{3}+\alpha_{5}+\cdots+\alpha_{2 n-1}=\frac{(M-V) \pi}{2} \quad \bmod 2 \pi
$$

Ditto for the other angles.

## Another way to prove Justin?

- Use the Gauss-Bonnet Theorem!

Let $M$ be a compact 2-D manifold (i.e., surface) with boundary $\partial M$. Let $K$ be the Gaussian curvature of $M$ and $k_{g}$ the geodesic curvature of $\dot{\partial} M$. Then

$$
\iint_{M} K d A+\int_{\partial M} k_{g} d s=2 \pi \chi(M)
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where $\chi(M)$ is the Euler characteristic of $M$.

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For origami, we have $K=0$ because the paper is flat!

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\iint_{M} K d A+\int_{\partial M} k_{g} d s=2 \pi \chi(M)
$$

where $\chi(M)$ is the Euler characteristic of $M$.
For origami, we have $K=0$ because the paper is flat!

Let's let $M$ be the region of paper inside our curve, after the paper is folded!
(That is, $M$ is homeomorphic to a disc (a disc folded up).)
Then $\chi(M)=1$.

## Another way to prove Justin?

- Use the Gauss-Bonnet Theorem!

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Now, $k_{g}$ measures the curvature of $\partial M$ at each point along the curve.
Between two creases $l_{i}$ and $l_{i+1}$ we have $k_{g}=\alpha_{i}$ or $k_{g}=-\alpha_{i}$.
At every mountain crease we have $k_{g}=-\pi$.
At every valley crease we have $k_{g}=\pi$.

## A weird idea l've been having...

- Origami tessellations have become more popular over the past 5 years.


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This is a lie!

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- Let $M$ be a sphere with a given radius. If $f: M \rightarrow M$ were an isometric folding whose crease pattern was a tessellation, then it would be a surjection, and would have $\operatorname{deg} f= \pm 1$. Robertson's Corollary 2 then tells us that $\Sigma(f)=\emptyset$, so this is impossible.


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- So what if $f$ mapped to a sphere with a smaller radius? Impossible! You can't take a spherical polygon and put it onto a sphere with different radius and still have the sides be geodesics, and this would apply to any polygon of the crease pattern.


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Now you're talking crazy. Any such crease pattern that would still qualify as an origami tessellation would have to tile the sphere. If the hemisphere could successfully fold, then so should the whole sphere!

Note: This is not a rigorous argument! Perhaps the boundary of the hemisphere could absorb what's going wrong?

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Gauss-Bonnet, anyone?

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- What about origami tessellations on hyperbolic paper? Tom conjectures: No. But who knows?

Thank you! thull@wnec.edu

