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**Geometric Interpretation of Curvatures  
in the 2-dimensional Special Kawaguchi Spaces**

Geometryczna interpretacja krzywizny  
w specjalnych 2-wymiarowych przestrzeniach Kawaguchiego

Геометрическая интерпретация кривизны  
в специальных 2-мерных пространствах Кавыгучи

**Introduction.** We will consider the following bilinear and quadratic forms in  $R^2$ :

$$\langle z, y \rangle = x^1 y^1 + x^2 y^2,$$

$$(z, y) = x^1 y^2 - x^2 y^1,$$

$$p(z) = \langle z, Pz \rangle$$

where  $P$  is a fixed symmetric and nonsingular matrix.

By  $G_p$  we denote the subgroup of  $GL_2$  defined as follows:

$$G_p = \{A \in GL_2 : p(AX) = (\det A)p(x), \text{ for } x \in R^2\}. \quad (1)$$

In this paper we will consider the group of affine transformations of  $R^2$ :

$$z \mapsto Az + a, \quad A \in G_p, \quad (2)$$

and the plane curves with the arc length defined by the formula:

$$ds = \begin{cases} \frac{(x, \dot{x})}{p(x)} dt & \text{if } p(x) \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } p(x) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

In the centroaffine case and:

$$d\theta = \begin{cases} \frac{(\dot{x}, \ddot{x})}{p(\dot{x})} dt & \text{if } p(\dot{x}) \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } p(\dot{x}) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

in the general case.

The pair  $(R^2, d\theta)$  is the 2-dimensional special Kawaguchi space [1], [2].

In this paper we shall give the geometric interpretation of the curvature of a plane curve. Moreover, we shall find Frenet's formulas [1], [2] and curves with a constant curvature.

**2. The centroaffine curvature.** We note that for arbitrary  $x, y \in R^2$  we have:

$$\langle x, y \rangle = (x, Jy), \quad (5)$$

where  $J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . In this paragraph we will consider centroaffine transformations and curves  $t \mapsto x(t)$  such that  $p(x) \neq 0$ .

By  $s$  we denote the natural parameter of  $x$ . Then we have:

$$\frac{(x, x')}{\langle x, Px \rangle} = 1.$$

Making use of (5) in the above condition we can rewrite it in the form:

$$(x, x' - JPx) = 0.$$

Hence

$$x' = \kappa x + JPx. \quad (6)$$

We will call the function  $\kappa$  a centroaffine curvature of a curve  $x$ .

**Lemma 1.** *The centroaffine curvature  $\kappa$  of a curve  $x : s \mapsto x(s)$  is given by the formula:*

$$\kappa(s) = \frac{(p \circ x)'(s)}{2(p \circ x)(s)}. \quad (7)$$

**Proof.** Let  $\Delta = \det P$ . It is easy to verify that:

$$JPJPx = -\Delta x. \quad (8)$$

The conditions (5) and (6) imply:

$$\kappa = \frac{(x', JPx)}{p(x)}. \quad (9)$$

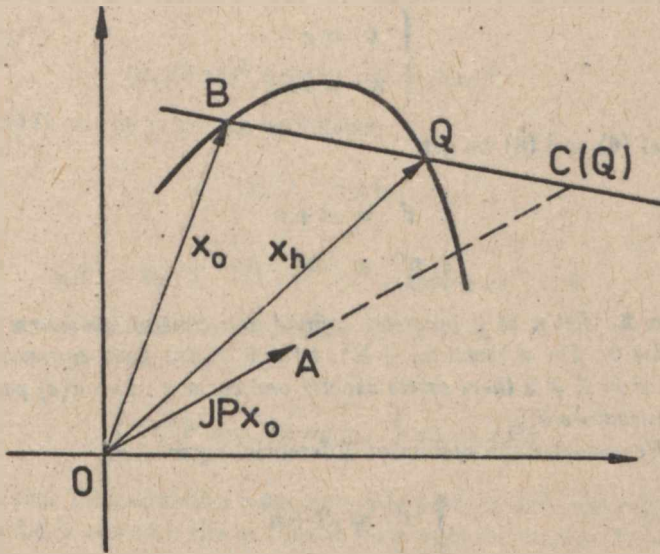
Making use of (6), (8) and (9) we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} (p \circ x)' &= (x, JPx)' = (x', JPx) + (x, JPx') = \\ &= (x', JPx) + (x, \kappa JPx + JPJx) = \\ &= (x', JPx) + \kappa(x, JPx). \end{aligned}$$

Hence due to (6) we get (7).

Now we give the geometric interpretation of the centroaffine curvature  $\kappa$  in an arbitrary parametrisation.

Let  $z_0 = z(t_0)$ ,  $z_h = z(t_0 + h)$ . We denote by  $A, B, Q$  the ends of the vectors  $JPz_0, z_0, z_h$ , respectively. Further, let  $C(Q)$  denote the points of intersection of straight lines  $BQ$  and  $OA$ .



We prove that:

$$\kappa(t_0) = \lim_{P \rightarrow B} \frac{*_{\text{area}} \Delta AOB}{*_{\text{area}} \Delta BOC(P)}, \tag{10}$$

where  $*_{\text{area}} \Delta PQR = \frac{1}{2}(\overline{QP}, \overline{QR})$ .

The curvature  $\kappa$  in an arbitrary parametrisation is given by the formula:

$$\kappa(t) = \frac{(\dot{z}, JPz)}{(z, \dot{z})}. \tag{11}$$

We have:

$$z_0 + \lambda(z_h - z_0) = \mu JPz_0$$

for some  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$ . Hence:

$$\mu = \frac{(z_h - z_0, z_0)}{(z_h - z_0, JPz_0)}.$$

Using Taylor's expansion we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{*_{\text{area}} \Delta AOB}{*_{\text{area}} \Delta BOC(P)} &= \frac{(JPz_0, z_0)}{(z_0, \mu JPz_0)} = \\ &= \frac{(JPz_0, z_0)}{(z_0, JPz_0)} \frac{(\dot{z}_0, JPz_0)h + \dots}{(\dot{z}_0, z_0)h + \dots} \rightarrow \frac{(\dot{z}_0, JPz_0)}{(z_0, \dot{z}_0)} = \kappa(t_0). \end{aligned}$$

We denote by  $Z$  the point of intersection (if it exists) of the tangent to  $x$  at the point  $B$  and the straight line  $OA$ . It is easy to see that:

$$\overrightarrow{OZ} = -\frac{1}{\kappa}JPz_0. \quad (12)$$

**3. The counterpart of Frenet's formulas.** Let

$$\begin{cases} t = z \\ n = JPz. \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

Making use of (6) and (8) we get:

$$\begin{cases} t' = \kappa t + n \\ n' = -\Delta t + \kappa n. \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

**Theorem 2.** Let  $\kappa$  be a function defined and continuous in an open interval which contains 0. For a given  $x_0 \in R^2$ ,  $t_0 \neq 0$  and a fixed symmetric matrix  $P$  such that  $\det P = \Delta \neq 0$  there exists exactly one curve  $x: s \mapsto x(s)$  passing through  $x_0$  with the curvature  $\kappa$ .

**Proof.** We consider the system of differential equations:

$$\begin{cases} t' = \kappa t + n \\ n' = -\Delta t + \kappa n \end{cases}$$

with the initial condition  $n_0 = JPt_0$ ,  $(t_0, n_0) \neq 0$ .

Making use of (8) and (14) we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} (n - JPt)' &= -\Delta t + \kappa n - \kappa JPt - JPN = \\ &= (JP - \kappa I)JPt + (\kappa I - JP)n = \\ &= (\kappa I - JP)(n - JPt). \end{aligned}$$

The above differential equation and the initial condition imply  $n = JPt$ . Moreover  $(t, n) \neq 0$  follows from the differential equation  $(t, n)' = 2\kappa(t, n)$  and the initial condition.

The curve:

$$x(s) = t(s) - n(0) + z_0 \quad (15)$$

has required properties.

**4. Curves with constant centroaffine curvature.** The solution of the equation (6)  $x' = \kappa x + JPx$ , ( $\kappa(s) = k = \text{const}$ ) which passes through a point  $x_0 \in R^2$ ,  $p(x_0) \neq 0$  is of the form:

$$x(s) = e^{ks} \exp(sJP)x_0. \quad (16)$$

We find curves with  $\kappa \equiv 0$ . Let  $P = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{pmatrix}$  and  $x_0 = \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix}$ .

1°  $\Delta = \det P > 0$ . Let  $\delta = \sqrt{\Delta}$ . Due to (8) we have:

$$\exp(\theta JP)x = \cos \delta \theta x + \frac{1}{\delta} \sin \delta \theta JPx.$$

Hence we have:

$$(x, JPx_0)^2 + \Delta(x_0, x)^2 = p(x_0)^2. \tag{17}$$

The equation (17) can be rewritten as follows:

$$p(x) = p(x_0) \tag{18}$$

or

$$aX^2 + 2bXY + cY^2 - (ap^2 + 2bpq + cq^2) = 0 \tag{19}$$

This equation represents an ellipse with the center at 0.

2°  $\Delta < 0$ . Let  $\sigma = \sqrt{-\Delta}$ . We have:

$$\exp(\theta JP)x = \operatorname{ch} \sigma \theta x + \frac{1}{\sigma} \operatorname{sh} \sigma \theta JPx$$

Hence we get (18). This equation represents a hyperbola with the center at  $O$ .

**Example.** Let's consider the quadratic form  $p(x) = \langle x, x \rangle$ . It is easy to see that:

$$G_p = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ -b & a \end{pmatrix} : a^2 + b^2 > 0 \right\}.$$

The arc length of a curve  $t \mapsto x(t)$  is given by the formula

$$ds = \frac{(x, \dot{x})}{\langle x, x \rangle} dt.$$

The circles with the center at  $O$  are curves with the centroaffine curvature  $\kappa \equiv 0$ .

The equation (19) has the form:

$$X^2 + Y^2 = p^2 + q^2.$$

We note that the vector  $JPx_0$  is parallel to the tangent at  $x_0$ .

**5. The general case.** In the general case for the natural parameter  $\theta$  we have:

$$\frac{(x', x'')}{p(x')} = 1$$

Hence

$$x'' = \lambda x' + JPx'; \tag{20}$$

the function  $\lambda$  will be called a curvature. Consider the indicatrix of tangents of the curve  $x$  [3]. We denote by  $\hat{s}$  and  $\kappa$  the centroaffine arc length and centroaffine curvature of the indicatrix respectively. Using (20) we obtain:

$$\frac{d\hat{s}}{ds} = \frac{\left(x', \frac{d}{ds}x'\right)}{(x', JPx')} = \frac{(x', \lambda x' + JPx')}{(x', JPx')} = 1$$

Thus  $d\hat{s} = ds$ . Moreover, we have:

$$\kappa = \frac{\left(\frac{d}{ds}x', JPx'\right)}{(x', JPx')} = \frac{(\lambda x' + JPx', JPx')}{(x', JPx')} = \lambda$$

It means that the curvature of a curve coincides with the centroaffine curvature of its indicatrix.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Ide, S., *On the theory of curves in an n-dimensional space with metrics*  $s = \int (A_i x^{n_i} + B)^{1/p} dt$ , *Tensor* (N.S.), 3 (1952), 89-98.
- [2] Watanabe, S., *On special Kawaguchi spaces*, *Tensor* (N.S.), 7 (1957), 130-136.
- [3] Širokow, P.A., Širokow, A.P., *Affine Differential Geometry*, (Russian) Moscow 1959.

#### STRESZCZENIE

W pracy tej podajemy geometryczną interpretację krzywizny krzywych płaskich w specjalnych 2-wymiarowych przestrzeniach Kawaguchiego. Ponadto podajemy reper Freneta i znajdujemy krzywe o stałej krzywiznie.

#### РЕЗЮМЕ

В данной работе представлена геометрическая интерпретация кривизны плоских кривых в специальных 2-мерных пространствах Каважуки. Найдено также репер Френета и кривые с постоянной кривизной.