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<th>Title</th>
<th>On discrete Sato-like theory with some specializations for finite fields (Recent Trends in Integrable Systems)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Bialecki, Mariusz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
<td>数理解析研究所講究録 (2009), 1650: 154-161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Date</td>
<td>2009-05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URL</td>
<td><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2433/140768">http://hdl.handle.net/2433/140768</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Departmental Bulletin Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textversion</td>
<td>publisher</td>
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<td>Kyoto University</td>
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On discrete Sato-like theory
with some specializations for finite fields

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August 2007

Abstract

The construction presented in the article: leads to a discrete Sato-like theory in a simple
form valid for any field, indicate a possibility of estimation the number of multisoliton solu-
tions among all solutions of the dKP equation and gives (for special cases) an multisolitonic
evolution" according to dKP equation starting from a given "initial" state - a potentially
useful for application to natural phenomena.

PACS 2003: 02.30.Ik, 02.10.De, 05.45.Yv

Keywords: integrable systems over finite fields: N-soliton solution; integrable cellular au-
tomata; discrete KP equation.

1 Introduction

Discrete integrable systems \cite{4} attract attention of many researchers. Such a name is usually
related to soliton equations with discrete independent variables (typically $\mathbb{Z}^n$ or its subsets) and
continuous dependent variables (usually $\mathbb{C}$ or $\mathbb{R}$). An interesting subclass of such systems is those
with discrete dependent variables, called ultradiscrete systems or integrable cellular automata.
There are two systematic approaches to this subject: one based on so called limiting procedure
\cite{10, 6, 8} and second using algebro-geometric approach over finite fields \cite{3, 1, 2}.

Integrable systems may be described in many different ways and one of the most elegant is
the Sato theory \cite{7, 11}. While ultradiscrete systems obtained through limiting procedure fit this
scheme very nicely (see \cite{8}) the finite fields version needs some adjustment. In other words,
desired formulation of the Sato theory should make no use of a notion of continuous sets and its
limits (like Miwa transformation).

The idea of description of integrable cellular automata with values over a finite field was a
motivation for work presented in this article. General way of such construction is outlined in

\textsuperscript{*Position, \textsuperscript{1} is thanks to Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers of Japan Society for the Promotion
of Science; \textsuperscript{2} is permanent address. email: bialecki@igf.edu.pl}
Section 2. Then, following [9] and using linearity of the construction Section 3 shows how to obtain multisoliton solutions. Section 4 contain considerations related to special properties of a finite field valued solutions. We finish with some remarks in Section 5.

2 Elements of discrete Sato theory

For a function \( w : \mathbb{Z}^3 \ni (x, y, z) \mapsto w(x, y, z) \in F_q \) we require to satisfy a linear problem in a form of an \( n \)th order difference equation

\[
(T_x^n + \alpha_{n-1}T_x^{n-1} + \ldots + \alpha_1T_x + \beta)w = 0
\]  

and a following dispersion relation

\[
a(T_x - 1)w = b(T_y - 1)w = c(T_z - 1)w
\]

with arbitrary fixed different nonzero constants \( a, b, c \in F_q \). Here, by \( T_xw = w_x \) we denote a shift in the variable \( x \): \( T_xw(x, y, z) = w(x+1, y, z) \). Similarly for \( y \) and \( z \).

For \( n \) arbitrary independent solutions \( w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_n \) to the linear problem (1) define the function \( \tau \) by the following determinant

\[
\tau := \begin{vmatrix}
    w_1 & w_{1,x} & \ldots & w_{1,(n-1)x} \\
    w_2 & w_{2,x} & \ldots & w_{2,(n-1)x} \\
    \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
    w_n & w_{n,x} & \ldots & w_{n,(n-1)x}
\end{vmatrix}
\]

where \( w_{k,mx} := T_x^mw_k \). By the Cramer's formulas for \( \beta \) we get

\[
\beta = T_x\tau/\tau.
\]

Applying \( T_y \) to the linear problem (1) we get

\[
T_y(T_x^n + \alpha_{n-1}T_x^{n-1} + \ldots + \alpha_1T_x + \beta)w = (T_x^n + \alpha_{n-1,y}T_x^{n-1} + \ldots + \alpha_{1,y}T_x + \beta,y)T_yw = 0,
\]

where \( T_x \) and \( T_y \) commute and \( \alpha_{k,y}, \beta_y \) - shifted \( \alpha_k, \beta \). But \( T_yw \) can be calculated from the dispersion relation (2), so

\[
(T_x^n + \alpha_{n-1,y}T_x^{n-1} + \ldots + \alpha_{1,y}T_x + \beta,y)(T_x + \gamma(y))w = 0 \text{ where } \gamma(y) = \frac{b-a}{a}.
\]

The last equation could be also factorized as

\[
(T_x + C(y))(T_x^n + \alpha_{n-1}T_x^{n-1} + \ldots + \alpha_1T_x + \beta)w = 0
\]

and we can compare coefficients in these two cases. In particular, for the lowest order we get

\[
C(y) = \gamma(y)\frac{\beta_y}{\beta}.
\]

Similarly, one can do the same with variable \( z \) and obtain completely analogous formulas with \( y \) replaced by \( z \).
Now, considering a condition of commutation $T_y T_z f = T_z T_y f$ we get

$$T_y T_z f = (T_z + C^{(z)} (T_z + C^{(y)}) f$$

and a similar formula for $T_z T_y$. Comparing them we arrive at the following consistency condition

$$C^{(z)} + C^{(y)} = C^{(y)} + C^{(z)}.$$  

In terms of $\tau$ the consistency condition takes a form

$$(\tau_{yz} \tau_x) (b-a) \tau_{xy} \tau_z - (c-a) \tau_{xz} \tau_y = 0.$$  

This means that the following expression is independent on $x$:

$$\delta(y, z) := \frac{(a-b) \tau_{xy} \tau_z + (c-a) \tau_{xz} \tau_y}{\tau_{yz} \tau_x}.$$  

A change of variables defined by

$$\tau \rightarrow - \left( \frac{\delta(y, z)}{b-c} \right)^{yz} \tau$$

makes the consistency condition into the $dKP$ equation:

$$(a-b) \tau_{xy} \tau_z + (b-c) \tau_{yz} \tau_x + (c-a) \tau_{xz} \tau_y = 0.$$  

For $n = 2$, having two arbitrary independent solutions $w_1$ and $w_2$ to the linear problem (1) by the Cramers formulas we get

$$\alpha = \left| \begin{array}{cc} w_1 & w_{1,xx} \\ w_2 & w_{2,xx} \end{array} \right| / \tau \quad \text{and} \quad \beta = \left| \begin{array}{cc} w_{1,x} & w_{1,xx} \\ w_{2,x} & w_{2,xx} \end{array} \right| / \tau,$$

where the function $\tau$ stands for determinant (2) of $2 \times 2$ matrix. Obviously relation (2) holds. From comparison of coefficients, in addition to the relation (2) we get

$$\alpha_y + \gamma^{(y)} = \alpha_z + C^{(y)},$$

$$\beta_y + \gamma^{(y)} \alpha_y = \beta_z + C^{(y)} \alpha,$$

and analogous set for $z$ instead of $y$. After substitution of $C^{(y)}$ and $C^{(z)}$, we can eliminate $\alpha_y$ and $\alpha_z$ from the above equations. Then we arrive at two linear equations for $\alpha$ and $\alpha_z$ containing $\beta$s. So we have an algebraic equation for $\alpha$ in terms of $\beta$, shifted $\beta$s and constants. It follows $\tau$-function is regarded as a basic object in this construction.

Summarizing: solutions of the linear difference equation (1) satisfying the (linear) dispersion relation (2) give rise to the $\tau$-function being a solution of the $dKP$ equation (3). Let us point out, all considerations in this section remain valid for arbitrary field.
3 Multisoliton solutions over a finite field

Now, following [9], we make use of the linearity underlying this construction. For any $\lambda$, the following function $w(\lambda)$ solves the dispersion relation (2)

$$w(\lambda) = \left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{a}\right)^{x} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{b}\right)^{y} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{c}\right)^{z}$$

Linearity of the linear problem (1) and of the dispersion relation (2) provide that functions

$$w_{i} = \sum_{j} a_{i}^{j} w(\lambda_{j})$$

give rise to the solution $\tau$ of the dKP equation. Solutions obtained in this way (however, so far in case of C) are called *multisoliton solutions*.

Consider a number of summands in the formula (4). For known period (in each variable) of a solution in a fixed field $F_{q}$ the number of possible parameters $\lambda_{i}$ is bounded, since there exist a bound for a degree of extension field $E$ containing these $\lambda_{i}$. (In fact periodicity is related to the field, a period $T = q^{l} - 1$.) Due to this property one can list all possible $\lambda_{i}$ and hence to fix a multisoliton solution means to fix the coefficients $a_{i}^{j}$.

There is ambiguity in this notation: many different $w_{i}$ will give the same $\tau$-function. (This leads to the notion of a Grassmannian.) To remove it we will use the following form ("representation") for functions $w_{i}$ building $\tau$ as a determinant of $N \times N$ matrix:

$$w_{1} := c_{0}w(\lambda_{1}) + \sum_{j > N} a_{1}^{j}w(\lambda_{j}),$$

$$w_{i} := w(\lambda_{i}) + \sum_{j > N} a_{i}^{j}w(\lambda_{j}), \quad i = 2, 3, \ldots, N.$$ 

for a chosen order of the parameters $\lambda_{i}$. (Reordering if necessary.)

The natural question arises: how many free parameters do we need to fix a solution? Notice $\lambda_{i} \in \{-a, -b, -c\}$ does not contribute to the sum, since the corresponding term is zero. So the total number of $\lambda$ is $\Lambda = |E| - 3$. There are two possibilities $E = F_{q}$ and $E \supsetneq F_{q}$ but in these two cases the answer is the same

$$1 + ((q - 3) - N)N \quad \text{for} \quad N = 1, 2, \ldots, N.$$ 

In the second case parameters are counted as over $F_{q}$. For such a combination of parameters from $E$ (being an extension of degree $k$ of $F_{q}$) we need to fix only one coefficient $a_{i}^{j} \in E$ (the remaining are fixed by $F_{q}$-rationality) and to fix that one coefficient we need $k$ equations over $F_{q}$ or equivalently $k$ parameters from $F_{q}$.

4 Evolution of multisoliton solutions over a finite field

If $\tau$ is a solution of the dKP equation (3), we may think $\tau(x, y, t)$ gives "an evolution" in the variable $t = z$ consistent with the dKP equation. Consider the following problem Assume: $\tau$ is periodic in all three variables with known common period $T$ and values of $\tau(x, y, 0) \in F_{q}$ are
given for all $x$ and $y$. Can we evolve these "initial values" with agreement to the dKP equation? Unfortunately these question is not properly stated. In fact a proper solution of initial value problem (see [5]) requires more then we can present here. However, we could solve it, if we restrict ourselves to the \textbf{multisoliton} solutions. The rest of this section will give partial answer to the above problem. Although it will not solve the problem completely, a proposed restricted solution is very simple and gives a starting point for potential applications.

Since

$$
\tau := \begin{vmatrix}
 w_1 & w_1, x & \ldots & w_1, (n-1)x \\
 w_2 & w_2, x & \ldots & w_2, (n-1)x \\
 \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
 w_n & w_n, x & \ldots & w_n, (n-1)x 
\end{vmatrix},
$$

and

$$
T_x^k w_i = \sum_{j=1}^\Lambda a_i^j \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_j}{a}\right)^k w(\lambda_j),
$$

then we have

$$
\tau = \sum_{i_1 < i_2 < \ldots < i_N = 1}^\Lambda c_N(i_1, \ldots, i_N)w(\lambda_{i_1})w(\lambda_{i_2})\ldots w(\lambda_{i_N}),
$$

where $c_N(i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_N)$ some coefficients built of $a_i^j$ and constants; they are not algebraically independent.

To fix a $\tau$ from "initial data" (for any chosen $N$) we perform two steps:

- from array of $\tau(x, y, 0)$ to $c_N(i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_N)$
  - just solve linear equations obtained for different choices $x$ and $y$; sometimes the number of initial data may be to small (that is why we are in not general case),

- from $c_N(i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_N)$ to $a_i^j$
  - we need to know a structure of $c_N(i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_N)$.

From the definition of $\tau$ as a determinant we get

$$
\tau = \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Perm}(N)} \sum_{j_1, j_2, \ldots, j_N = 1}^\Lambda \text{sgn}(\sigma) a_{\sigma(1)}^{j_1} a_{\sigma(2)}^{j_2} \ldots a_{\sigma(N)}^{j_N}
\times \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{j_2}}{a}\right) \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{j_3}}{a}\right)^2 \ldots \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{j_N}}{a}\right)^{N-1}
\times w(\lambda_{j_1})w(\lambda_{j_2})\ldots w(\lambda_{j_N})
$$

Notice: only all different $j_1, j_2, \ldots, j_N$ contribute to the sum, hence after some rearrangements, we arrive at

$$
\tau = \left( \sum_{l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N = 1}^\Lambda \right) a_1^{l_1} a_2^{l_2} \ldots a_N^{l_N} w(\lambda_{l_1})w(\lambda_{l_2})\ldots w(\lambda_{l_N})
\times \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Perm}(N)} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{l_{\sigma(2)}}}{a}\right) \ldots \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_{l_{\sigma(N)}}}{a}\right)^{N-1}
$$
(the prime in the summation above means all \( l_1, \ldots, l_N \) are different).

Now we would like to change

\[
\left( \sum_{l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N} \right) = \sum_{\text{set}\{l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N\}} \sum_{\text{\text{Perm}\{l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N\}}}
\]

Define an antisymmetric object \( p_N(l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N) \) by

\[
p_N(l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N) := \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Perm}(N)} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \left( 1 + \frac{\lambda_{l_{\sigma(2)}}}{a} \right) \ldots \left( 1 + \frac{\lambda_{l_{\sigma(N)}}}{a} \right)^{N-1}.
\]

So we have

\[
\tau = \sum_{l_1 < l_2 < \ldots < l_N = 1}^\Lambda w(\lambda_{l_1}) w(\lambda_{l_2}) \ldots w(\lambda_{l_N}) \times \sum_{\mu \in \text{Perm}(N)} a_1^{l_{\mu_1}} a_2^{l_{\mu_2}} \ldots a_N^{l_{\mu_N}} p_N(l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N).
\]

Since \( p_N \) is antisymmetric, it changes the sign under transposition of arguments:

\[
\tau = \sum_{l_1 < l_2 < \ldots < l_N = 1}^\Lambda w(\lambda_{l_1}) w(\lambda_{l_2}) \ldots w(\lambda_{l_N}) \times \sum_{\mu \in \text{Perm}(N)} a_1^{l_{\mu_1}} a_2^{l_{\mu_2}} \ldots a_N^{l_{\mu_N}} p_N(l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N).
\]

Finally, coefficients \( c_N(l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N) \) are of the form

\[
c_N(l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N) = p_N(l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N) \sum_{\mu \in \text{Perm}(N)} \text{sgn}(\mu) a_1^{l_{\mu_1}} a_2^{l_{\mu_2}} \ldots a_N^{l_{\mu_N}}
\]

Summarizing: the coefficients \( a_i^x \) can be found from \( c_N(l_1, l_2, \ldots, l_N) \) according to the following formulas

\[
c_0 = \frac{c_N(1, 2, \ldots, N)}{p_N(1, 2, \ldots, N)}
\]

\[
a_k^x = (-1)^{N-k} \frac{c_N(1, \ldots, k-1, k+1, \ldots, N, x)}{p_N(1, \ldots, k-1, k+1, \ldots, N, x)}
\]

for \( k = 1, 2, \ldots, N \) and \( x = N + 1, \ldots, \Lambda \).
5 Conclusions and prospects

We have presented a couple of ideas for developing a theory of integrable systems over finite fields. Although any such a field can be algebraically extended, for fixed field of rationality of solutions or for fixed period in presented construction there is a natural limit for the degree of extension, hence the number of free parameters is finite. An example of estimation according this kind of reasoning is the formula (5). Notice that (for any $N$) the number given by (5) is smaller of the number of free "initial data" $(q^l - 1)^2$, and it makes solving the problem of evolution considered in Section 4 possible.

A counting of number of free parameters to be fixed for the general solutions (which require solving initial value problem) and for multisoliton solutions will give the answer to the following new question. How big is the set of multisoliton solutions with comparison to the set of all solutions? An answer to the question require further research, which we believe bring us to the new topics in the theory of integrable systems.

Acknowledgements

The author during the research presented in the article was partially supported by Grant-in-Aid of the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Foreign Researchers (ID No. P 05050) and by Polish Ministry of Science and Information Society Technologies (Grant no. 1 P03B 01728).

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