

# Kashiwara–Vergne solutions degree by degree

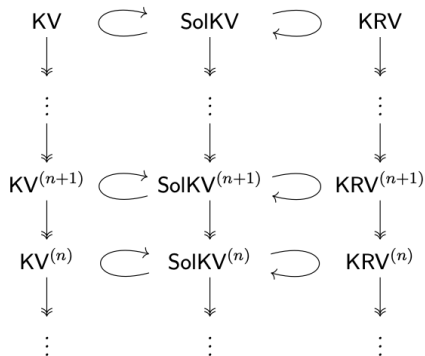
**Guillaume Laplante-Anfossi, j/w Zsuzsanna Dancso,  
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The University of Melbourne

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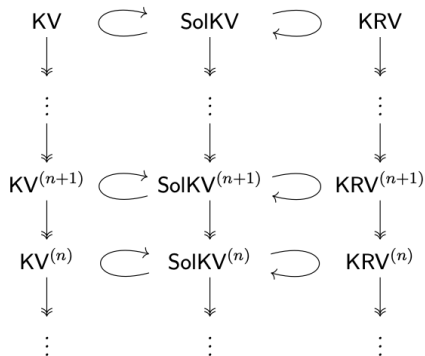
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$$\text{bch}(x, y) = x + y + \frac{1}{2}[x, y] + \frac{1}{12}[x, [x, y]] + \dots$$

and  $[x, y] = xy - yx$ .

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Originally stated in the context of convolutions on Lie groups (Kashiwara–Vergne, '78), solved by Alekseev–Meinrenken ('06), reformulated by Alekseev–Torossian ('12).

## Tangential automorphisms

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There is a natural trace map  $\text{tr} : A \rightarrow \text{cyc}$ .

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## Definition

A *tangential derivation* of  $\mathbb{L}$  is a Lie derivation  $u : \mathbb{L} \rightarrow \mathbb{L}$  for which  $u(x) = [x, u_1]$  and  $u(y) = [y, u_2]$  for some  $u_1, u_2 \in \mathbb{L}$ .

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Tangential derivations form a Lie algebra, which integrates to the group  $\text{TAut}$  of *tangential automorphisms* of  $\mathbb{L}$ .

## Non-commutative Jacobian

Each element  $a \in A$  has a unique decomposition of the form

$$a = a_0 + \partial_x(a)x + \partial_y(a)y$$

for some  $a_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\partial_x(a), \partial_y(a) \in A$ .

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The non-commutative *divergence* map  $j : \mathfrak{tder} \rightarrow \text{cyc}$  is the linear map defined on a tangential derivation  $u = (u_1, u_2)$  by

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It integrates to the *non-commutative Jacobian*  $J : \text{TAut} \rightarrow \text{cyc}$ .



# Kashiwara–Vergne solutions

## Definition

A *Kashiwara–Vergne solution*, or KV solution for short, is a pair

$$(F, r) \in \text{TAut} \times z^2\mathbb{C}[[z]]$$

satisfying the two equations

$$F(e^x e^y) = e^{x+y} \tag{SolKV1}$$

$$J(F) = \text{tr}(r(x + y) - r(x) - r(y)). \tag{SolKV2}$$

We denote the set of KV solutions by  $\text{SolKV}$ .

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The tangential automorphism  $F$  uniquely determines the power series  $r$ , and the assignment  $F \mapsto r$  is called the *Duflo map*.

## Everything up to degree $n$

We denote by  $\mathbb{L}_{\leq n} := \mathbb{L}/\mathbb{L}_{\geq n+1}$  the quotient of the Lie algebra  $\mathbb{L}$  by the ideal of elements of degree greater than  $n$ . We define the degree  $n$  quotients of  $A$  and  $\text{cyc}$  by

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The degree  $n$  quotient of the group of *tangential automorphisms* is

$$\text{TAut}_{\leq n} := \text{TAut}(\mathbb{L}_{\leq n}).$$

Note that there is a natural surjective group homomorphism

$$\pi_n : \text{TAut} \rightarrow \text{TAut}_{\leq n}.$$

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## KV solutions up to degree $n$

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A *KV-solution up to degree  $n$*  is a pair

$$(F, r) \in \text{TAut}_{\leq n} \times z^2\mathbb{C}[[z]]/z^{n+1}$$

satisfying the two equations

$$F(e^x e^y) = e^{x+y} \quad \text{in } \mathbb{L}_{\leq n} \quad (1)$$

$$J(F) = \text{tr}(r(x+y) - r(x) - r(y)) \quad \text{in } \text{cyc}_{\leq n}. \quad (2)$$

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- Does every KV-solution up to degree  $n$  extend to a full KV-solution?

## Main result

Theorem (Dancso–Halacheva–L.-A.–Robertson, '23)

*The truncation maps  $\text{SolKV}^{(n+1)} \rightarrow \text{SolKV}^{(n)}$  are surjections, and  $\text{SolKV}$  admits a tower decomposition*

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- degree by degree calculations of KV solutions always succeed,
- one could use symmetric KV solutions to simplify the computation of a class of Drinfel'd associators (Alekseev–Enriquez–Torossian '10),

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- degree by degree calculations of KV solutions always succeed,
- one could use symmetric KV solutions to simplify the computation of a class of Drinfel'd associators (Alekseev–Enriquez–Torossian '10),
- one could compute certain knot invariants degree by degree (Bar-Natan–Dancso '17).

In fact Alekseev–Torossian ('12) conjecture that all KV solutions arise from associators (verified up to degree 16).

## Proof strategy

Idea: study KV solutions via their symmetries governed by

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where  $\text{bch}(x, y)$  denotes the Baker–Campbell–Hausdorff series.

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### Definition

The *graded Kashiwara–Vergne group* KRV consists of pairs  $(F, r) \in \text{TAut} \times z^2\mathbb{C}[[z]]$  satisfying the equations

$$F(e^{x+y}) = e^{x+y}; \quad (\text{KRV1})$$

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As shown by Alekseev–Torossian, both KV and KRV act freely and transitively on the left/right of SolKV by left/right multiplication by the inverse.

## Proof strategy (continued)

### Proposition

*The elements of  $KRV^{(n)}$  form a subgroup of  $\text{TAut}_{\leq n}$ . Moreover,  $KRV^{(n)}$  acts freely and transitively on  $\text{SolKV}^{(n)}$  by left product with the inverse.*



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*The group  $\mathrm{KRV}^{(n)}$  is a unipotent affine algebraic group.*

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which is easy to prove.

## Proof strategy (continued)

The proof of this last lemma uses crucially the following result, which builds on the topological interpretation of KV solutions as homomorphic expansions of welded foams (knotted surfaces in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ ) by Bar-Natan–Dancso.

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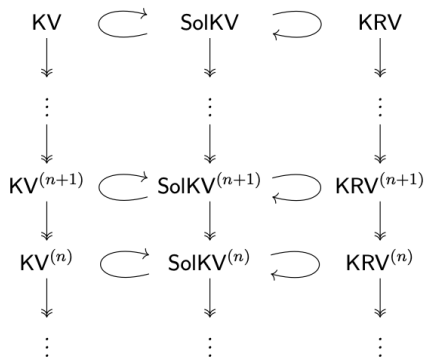
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The up-to-degree- $n$  version of this theorem allows one to show that  $\text{KRV}^{(n)}$  is an algebraic matrix group, which is moreover unipotent.

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## Kashiwara–Vergne Lie algebra

### Definition

The *graded Kashiwara–Vergne Lie algebra* consists of pairs  $(u, r) \in \mathfrak{tdet} \times \mathbb{C}[[z]]$  satisfying the equations

$$u(x + y) = 0 \tag{krv1}$$

$$j(u) = \mathrm{tr}(r(x + y) - r(x) - r(y)) . \tag{krv2}$$

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### Theorem

*There is an isomorphism of Lie algebras  $\mathrm{gr}(\mathrm{KRV}) \cong \mathfrak{krv}$ .*

Here, the bracket on  $\mathrm{gr}(\mathrm{KRV})$  is induced by the group commutator, which respects the degree filtration.

## Kashiwara–Vergne Lie algebra (continued)

In fact, this compatibility holds at the level of tangential automorphisms. The *degree filtration* on  $\mathrm{TAut}$  is given by

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*For any  $m, n \geq 1$ , we have that*

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There is an analogous result for the Grothendieck–Teichmüller group (Drinfel'd, '90).

# Kashiwara–Vergne towers

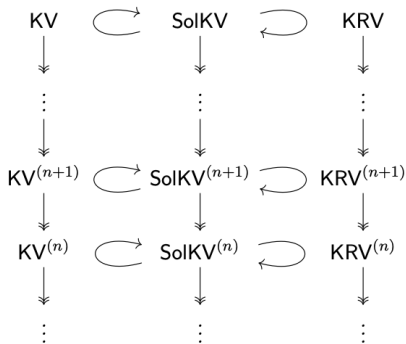
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# Kashiwara–Vergne towers

...via the following structural result.

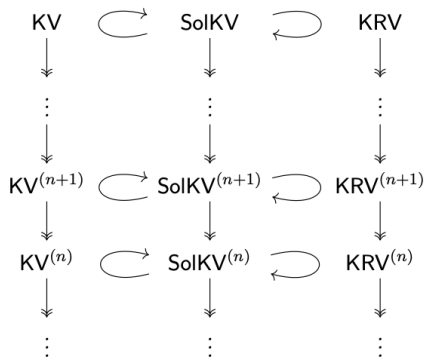
## Theorem

Any  $F^{(n)} \in \text{SolKV}^{(n)}$  induces an isomorphism  $\Psi_{F^{(n)}} : \text{KV}^{(n)} \xrightarrow{\cong} \text{KRV}^{(n)}$ , and the vertical arrows in the following commutative diagram are surjective.



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## Higher genus KV solutions

Let  $\mathbb{L}$  denote the free Lie algebra  $L$  on  $2g + n$  generators  $x_i, y_i, z_j$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq g$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq n$ . Define its *tangential automorphisms*  
 $\text{TAut}(\mathbb{L}) := \{(F, f_1, \dots, f_n) \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{L}) \times \mathbb{L}^{\oplus n} \mid F(z_j) = e^{-f_j} z_j e^{f_j}\}$ .

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### Definition

An *KV solution of type  $(g, n + 1)$*  is an  $F \in \text{TAut}(\mathbb{L})$  such that

$$F\left(\sum_{i=1}^g [x_i, y_i] + \sum_{i=1}^n z_j\right) = \log(\Pi_{i=1}^g [e^{x_i}, e^{y_i}] \Pi_{j=1}^n e^{z_j}), \text{ and}$$

$$j(F) = \sum_{i=1}^g |h(x_i) + h(y_i)| + \sum_{j=1}^n |r_j(z_j)| - |r(\log(\Pi_{i=1}^g [e^{x_i}, e^{y_i}] \Pi_{j=1}^n e^{z_j}))|,$$

where  $h(s) := \log((e^s - 1)/s)$ ,  $j$  is the divergence map and  $r$  is the Duflo function. The set of such solutions is denoted  $\text{SolKV}^{(g, n+1)}$ .

## Higher genus KV solutions (continued)

These higher genus KV solutions have their symmetry groups  $KV^{(g,n+1)}$  and  $KRV^{(g,n+1)}$ . We have  $\text{SolKV} = \text{SolKV}^{(0,3)}$ ,  $KV = KV^{(0,3)}$  and  $KRV = KRV^{(0,3)}$ .

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**Theorem (Alekseev–Kawazumi–Kuno–Naef, '20)**

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Moreover, gluing and contraction of surfaces induce operations

- $\text{tder}^{(g_1, n_1+1)} \times \text{tder}^{(g_2, n_2+1)} \rightarrow \text{tder}^{(g_1+g_2, n_1+n_2+1)}$ , and
- $\text{tder}^{(g, n+1)} \rightarrow \text{tder}^{(g+1, n)}$

which integrate to operations on tangential automorphisms.

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Theorem (Dancso–Halacheva–L.-A.–Robertson)

*The set of genus zero KV solutions  $\{\text{SolKV}^{(0,n+1)}\}_{n \geq 1}$ , as well as their symmetry groups  $\{\text{KV}^{(0,n+1)}\}_{n \geq 1}$  and  $\{\text{KRV}^{(0,n+1)}\}_{n \geq 1}$ , form colored operads in groups.*

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Since the Grothendieck–Teichmüller group  $GT$  embeds into  $KV = KV^{(0,3)}$ , one could expect an action on the tower  $\{\text{SolKV}^{(g,n+1)}\}_{g,n+1 \geq 0}$  of higher genus KV solutions. This is the subject of ongoing work.

## Conclusion

*Thank you for your attention!*