

---

# Contents

Preface	xi
Introduction	xiii
What is discrete differential geometry	xiii
Integrability	xv
From discrete to smooth	xvii
Structure of this book	xxi
How to read this book	xxii
Acknowledgements	xxiii
Chapter 1. Classical Differential Geometry	1
1.1. Conjugate nets	2
1.1.1. Notion of conjugate nets	2
1.1.2. Alternative analytic description of conjugate nets	3
1.1.3. Transformations of conjugate nets	4
1.1.4. Classical formulation of F-transformation	5
1.2. Koenigs and Moutard nets	7
1.2.1. Notion of Koenigs and Moutard nets	7
1.2.2. Transformations of Koenigs and Moutard nets	9
1.2.3. Classical formulation of the Moutard transformation	10
1.3. Asymptotic nets	11
1.4. Orthogonal nets	12
1.4.1. Notion of orthogonal nets	12
1.4.2. Analytic description of orthogonal nets	14
1.4.3. Spinor frames of orthogonal nets	15
1.4.4. Curvatures of surfaces and curvature line parametrized surfaces	16

---

1.4.5.	Ribaucour transformations of orthogonal nets	17
1.5.	Principally parametrized sphere congruences	19
1.6.	Surfaces with constant negative Gaussian curvature	20
1.7.	Isothermic surfaces	22
1.8.	Surfaces with constant mean curvature	26
1.9.	Bibliographical notes	28
Chapter 2.	Discretization Principles. Multidimensional Nets	31
2.1.	Discrete conjugate nets (Q-nets)	32
2.1.1.	Notion and consistency of Q-nets	32
2.1.2.	Transformations of Q-nets	38
2.1.3.	Alternative analytic description of Q-nets	40
2.1.4.	Continuous limit	42
2.2.	Discrete line congruences	43
2.3.	Discrete Koenigs and Moutard nets	47
2.3.1.	Notion of dual quadrilaterals	47
2.3.2.	Notion of discrete Koenigs nets	49
2.3.3.	Geometric characterization of two-dimensional discrete Koenigs nets	54
2.3.4.	Geometric characterization of three-dimensional discrete Koenigs nets	56
2.3.5.	Function $\nu$ and Christoffel duality	58
2.3.6.	Moutard representative of a discrete Koenigs net	60
2.3.7.	Continuous limit	60
2.3.8.	Notion and consistency of T-nets	61
2.3.9.	Transformations of T-nets	63
2.3.10.	Discrete M-nets	65
2.4.	Discrete asymptotic nets	66
2.4.1.	Notion and consistency of discrete asymptotic nets	66
2.4.2.	Discrete Lelievre representation	70
2.4.3.	Transformations of discrete A-nets	72
2.5.	Exercises	73
2.6.	Bibliographical notes	82
Chapter 3.	Discretization Principles. Nets in Quadrics	87
3.1.	Circular nets	88
3.1.1.	Notion and consistency of circular nets	88
3.1.2.	Transformations of circular nets	92
3.1.3.	Analytic description of circular nets	93
3.1.4.	Möbius-geometric description of circular nets	96

---

3.2.	Q-nets in quadrics	99
3.3.	Discrete line congruences in quadrics	101
3.4.	Conical nets	103
3.5.	Principal contact element nets	106
3.6.	Q-congruences of spheres	110
3.7.	Ribaucour congruences of spheres	113
3.8.	Discrete curvature line parametrization in Lie, Möbius and Laguerre geometries	115
3.9.	Discrete asymptotic nets in Plücker line geometry	118
3.10.	Exercises	120
3.11.	Bibliographical notes	123
Chapter 4. Special Classes of Discrete Surfaces		127
4.1.	Discrete Moutard nets in quadrics	127
4.2.	Discrete K-nets	130
4.2.1.	Notion of a discrete K-net	130
4.2.2.	Bäcklund transformation	133
4.2.3.	Hirota equation	133
4.2.4.	Discrete zero curvature representation	139
4.2.5.	Discrete K-surfaces	139
4.2.6.	Discrete sine-Gordon equation	142
4.3.	Discrete isothermic nets	145
4.3.1.	Notion of a discrete isothermic net	145
4.3.2.	Cross-ratio characterization of discrete isothermic nets	147
4.3.3.	Darboux transformation of discrete isothermic nets	151
4.3.4.	Metric of a discrete isothermic net	152
4.3.5.	Moutard representatives of discrete isothermic nets	155
4.3.6.	Christoffel duality for discrete isothermic nets	156
4.3.7.	3D consistency and zero curvature representation	158
4.3.8.	Continuous limit	160
4.4.	S-isothermic nets	161
4.5.	Discrete surfaces with constant curvature	170
4.5.1.	Parallel discrete surfaces and line congruences	170
4.5.2.	Polygons with parallel edges and mixed area	170
4.5.3.	Curvatures of a polyhedral surface with a parallel Gauss map	173
4.5.4.	Q-nets with constant curvature	175
4.5.5.	Curvature of principal contact element nets	177

---

4.5.6.	Circular minimal nets and nets with constant mean curvature	178
4.6.	Exercises	179
4.7.	Bibliographical notes	183
Chapter 5.	Approximation	187
5.1.	Discrete hyperbolic systems	187
5.2.	Approximation in discrete hyperbolic systems	190
5.3.	Convergence of Q-nets	196
5.4.	Convergence of discrete Moutard nets	197
5.5.	Convergence of discrete asymptotic nets	199
5.6.	Convergence of circular nets	200
5.7.	Convergence of discrete K-surfaces	205
5.8.	Exercises	206
5.9.	Bibliographical notes	207
Chapter 6.	Consistency as Integrability	209
6.1.	Continuous integrable systems	210
6.2.	Discrete integrable systems	213
6.3.	Discrete 2D integrable systems on graphs	215
6.4.	Discrete Laplace type equations	217
6.5.	Quad-graphs	218
6.6.	Three-dimensional consistency	220
6.7.	From 3D consistency to zero curvature representations and Bäcklund transformations	222
6.8.	Geometry of boundary value problems for integrable 2D equations	227
6.8.1.	Initial value problem	228
6.8.2.	Extension to a multidimensional lattice	231
6.9.	3D consistent equations with noncommutative fields	235
6.10.	Classification of discrete integrable 2D systems with fields on vertices. I	239
6.11.	Proof of the classification theorem	242
6.11.1.	3D consistent systems, biquadratics and tetrahedron property	242
6.11.2.	Analysis: descending from multiaffine $Q$ to quartic $r$	245
6.11.3.	Synthesis: ascending from quartic $r$ to biquadratic $h$	247

---

6.11.4. Synthesis: ascending from biquadratics $h^{ij}$ to multiaffine $Q$	249
6.11.5. Putting equations $Q = 0$ on the cube	251
6.12. Classification of discrete integrable 2D systems with fields on vertices. II	252
6.13. Integrable discrete Laplace type equations	256
6.14. Fields on edges: Yang-Baxter maps	261
6.15. Classification of Yang-Baxter maps	266
6.16. Discrete integrable 3D systems	272
6.16.1. Fields on 2-faces.	272
6.16.2. Fields on vertices.	276
6.17. Exercises	279
6.18. Bibliographical notes	286
Chapter 7. Discrete Complex Analysis. Linear Theory	291
7.1. Basic notions of discrete linear complex analysis	291
7.2. Moutard transformation for discrete Cauchy-Riemann equations	294
7.3. Integrable discrete Cauchy-Riemann equations	297
7.4. Discrete exponential functions	300
7.5. Discrete logarithmic function	302
7.6. Exercises	307
7.7. Bibliographical notes	308
Chapter 8. Discrete Complex Analysis. Integrable Circle Patterns	311
8.1. Circle patterns	311
8.2. Integrable cross-ratio and Hirota systems	313
8.3. Integrable circle patterns	316
8.4. $z^a$ and $\log z$ circle patterns	319
8.5. Linearization	324
8.6. Exercises	326
8.7. Bibliographical notes	327
Chapter 9. Foundations	331
9.1. Projective geometry	331
9.2. Lie geometry	335
9.2.1. Objects of Lie geometry	335
9.2.2. Projective model of Lie geometry	336
9.2.3. Lie sphere transformations	339

---

9.2.4.	Planar families of spheres; Dupin cyclides	340
9.3.	Möbius geometry	341
9.3.1.	Objects of Möbius geometry	341
9.3.2.	Projective model of Möbius geometry	344
9.3.3.	Möbius transformations	348
9.4.	Laguerre geometry	350
9.5.	Plücker line geometry	353
9.6.	Incidence theorems	357
9.6.1.	Menelaus' and Ceva's theorems	357
9.6.2.	Generalized Menelaus' theorem	360
9.6.3.	Desargues' theorem	361
9.6.4.	Quadrangular sets	362
9.6.5.	Carnot's and Pascal's theorems	364
9.6.6.	Brianchon's theorem	366
9.6.7.	Miquel's theorem	367
Appendix.	Solutions of Selected Exercises	369
A.1.	Solutions of exercises to Chapter 2	369
A.2.	Solutions of exercises to Chapter 3	376
A.3.	Solutions of exercises to Chapter 4	377
A.4.	Solutions of exercises to Chapter 6	381
Bibliography		385
Notation		399
Index		401