A new recursion operator for the Viallet equation

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Abstract

We present a new recursion and Hamiltonian operators for the Viallet equation. This new recursion operator and the recursion operator found in [1] satisfy the elliptic curve equation associated with the Viallet equation.

1 Introduction

It is well known that integrable equations possess infinitely many generalised symmetries. These symmetries can be generated by so-called recursion operators [2, 3], which map a symmetry to a new symmetry. For example, the famous Korteweg-de Vries (KdV) equation

\[ u_t = u_{xxx} + 6uu_x \]

possesses a recursion operator

\[ \mathcal{R} = D_x^2 + 4u + 2u_x D_x^{-1} , \]

where \( D_x^{-1} \) stands for the right inverse of total derivative \( D_x \). This is a second order pseudo-differential operator which action is defined on elements of the space \( \text{Im} D_x \). The infinite hierarchy of symmetries of the KdV equation is generated by

\[ u_{tj} = \mathcal{R}^j(u_x), \quad j = 0, 1, 2, \ldots . \]

Majority of the known recursion operators [4] are weakly nonlocal [5] (Some exceptional ones can be found in [6] and were further studied in [7]), that is, their nonlocal terms are a finite sum of terms of the form \( KD_x^{-1} \delta u \rho \), where \( K \) is a generalised symmetry and \( \delta u \rho \) is the variational derivative of a conserved density \( \rho \) of the equation. For the KdV equation, any weakly nonlocal recursion operator is a polynomial of \( \mathcal{R} \) with constant coefficients. However, this is not true for elliptic models such as the Krichever-Novikov equation and the Landau-Lifshitz equation.

In [8], Demskoi and Sokolov showed that the commutative ring of all weakly nonlocal recursion operators for elliptic models is isomorphic to the coordinate ring of the elliptic curve. For example, the Krichever-Novikov equation

\[ u_t = u_{xxx} - \frac{3}{2} u_x^2 + \frac{P(u)}{u_x} , \]

where \( P(u) \) is an arbitrary quartic polynomial of dependent variable \( u \), possesses one weakly nonlocal recursion operator \( \mathcal{R}_1 \) of order 4 and another one \( \mathcal{R}_2 \) of order 6. These two operators are related by the algebraic equation corresponding the elliptic curve associated with the Krichever-Novikov equation:

\[ \mathcal{R}_2^2 = \mathcal{R}_1^3 - \phi \mathcal{R}_1 - \theta, \quad (1) \]
where $\phi$ and $\theta$ are proportional to two modular invariants of a quartic polynomial $P(u)$.

In this letter, we first present a new recursion operator valid for both the Viallet equation and Yamilov’s discretisation of the Krichever-Novikov equation. We state that the new recursion operator and the operator proposed in [1, 9] satisfy to the algebraic equation similar to (1).

Yamilov’s discretisation of the Krichever-Novikov equation. We state that the new recursion operator proposed in [11] is obtained from the Viallet equation by a simple specialisation of parameters.

In fact, all of the ABS equations can be obtained from the Viallet equation by a simple specialisation of parameters.

With affine linear equation (2), following [12], we associate a bi-quadratic polynomial $h$ (the discriminant of $Q$) defined by

$$h(u_{0,0}, u_{1,0}) = Q \partial_{u_{0,1}} \partial_{u_{1,1}} Q - \partial_{u_{0,1}} Q \partial_{u_{1,1}} Q$$

and a quartic polynomial $f$ of $u_{0,0}$ given by

$$f(u_{0,0}) = (\partial_{u_{1,0}} h)^2 - 2h \partial_{u_{1,0}}^2 h.$$

Affine-linear equation (2) is covariant with respect to the Möbius transformations

$$u_{n,m} \mapsto \frac{\alpha u_{n,m} + \beta}{\gamma u_{n,m} + \delta}, \quad \alpha \delta - \beta \gamma \neq 0.$$  

Classical modular invariants $g_2, g_3 \in \mathbb{C}$ are defined as (see [12], [13]):

$$g_2 = \frac{1}{48} \left(2ff'^{IV} - 2f'f'' + (f'')^2\right),$$  

$$g_3 = \frac{1}{3456} \left(12f''f'^{IV} - 9(f')^2f'^{IV} - 6f(f'')^2 + 6f'f''f''' - 2(f'')^3\right).$$

2 The Viallet equation

In this section, we give necessary definitions and a short account of relevant results on our recent study of the symmetries, conservation laws and recursion operator for the Viallet equation.

The Viallet equation is a difference equation on $\mathbb{Z}^2$ given by

$$Q := a_1 u_{0,0} u_{1,0} u_{0,1} u_{1,1} + a_2 (u_{0,0} u_{1,0} u_{0,1} + u_{1,0} u_{0,1} u_{1,1} + u_{0,1} u_{1,1} u_{0,0} + u_{1,1} u_{0,0} u_{1,0}) + a_3 (u_{0,0} u_{1,0} + u_{0,1} u_{1,1}) + a_4 (u_{1,0} u_{0,1} + u_{0,0} u_{1,1}) + a_5 (u_{0,0} u_{1,0} + u_{1,0} u_{1,1}) + a_6 (u_{0,0} + u_{1,0} + u_{0,1} + u_{1,1}) + a_7 = 0,$$

where $a_i$ are arbitrary complex parameters such that the polynomial $Q$ is irreducible. Here the dependent variable $u$ is a complex-valued function of independent variables $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$. We have two commuting shift maps $S$ and $T$ defined as

$$S : u \mapsto u_{1,0} = u(n + 1, m),$$

$$T : u \mapsto u_{0,1} = u(n, m + 1),$$

$$S^p T^q : u \mapsto u_{p,q} = u(n + p, m + q).$$

For uniformity of the notation, it is convenient to denote the “unshifted” function $u$ as $u_{0,0}$.

Equation (2) was identified by Viallet with the vanishing of its algebraic entropy [10]. By a point fractional-linear transformation, it can be reduced to Adler’s equation, also referred as the Q4 equation in the ABS classification [11]. In fact, all of the ABS equations can be obtained from the Viallet equation by a simple specialisation of parameters.

With affine linear equation (2), following [12], we associate a bi-quadratic polynomial $h$ (the discriminant of $Q$) defined by

$$h(u_{0,0}, u_{1,0}) = Q \partial_{u_{0,1}} \partial_{u_{1,1}} Q - \partial_{u_{0,1}} Q \partial_{u_{1,1}} Q$$

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$$g_3 = \frac{1}{3456} \left(12f''f'^{IV} - 9(f')^2f'^{IV} - 6f(f'')^2 + 6f'f''f''' - 2(f'')^3\right).$$
Thus with a difference equation defined by an affine-linear polynomial $Q$ one can associate a plane algebraic curve
\begin{equation}
y^2 = 4x^3 - g_2 x - g_3
\end{equation}
in the Weierstrass form. If the modular discriminant of the curve is non-zero $g_3^2 - 27g_2^3 \neq 0$ then the curve (6) is elliptic [13].

Following [12] we introduce the relative invariants $I_2, I_3 \in \mathbb{C}$:
\begin{align}
I_2 &= \frac{1}{6} \left( h \partial_{u_{1,0}}^2 \partial_{u_{1,0}} h - (\partial_u h)(\partial_{u_{1,0}} \partial_{u_{1,0}} h) - (\partial_{u_{1,0}} h)(\partial^2 h)(\partial_{u_{1,0}} h) + (\partial^2 h)(\partial_{u_{1,0}} h) \right) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{12} (\partial_u \partial_{u_{1,0}} h)^2, \\
I_3 &= \frac{1}{4} \det \begin{pmatrix}
\partial_{u_{1,0}} h & \partial_{u_{1,0}} \partial_u h & \partial^2 h \\
\partial^2 h & \partial_{u_{1,0}} \partial_u h & \partial_{u_{1,0}} \partial_{u_{1,0}} h \\
\partial_{u_{1,0}} \partial_{u_{1,0}} h & \partial_{u_{1,0}} \partial_{u_{1,0}} h & \partial^2 h
\end{pmatrix},
\end{align}

We note that the relative and modular invariants are not independent.

**Proposition 1.** There is a syzygy among $I_2, I_3, g_2$ and $g_3$, namely
\begin{equation}
I_2^3 = 4I_2^3 - g_2 I_2 - g_3.
\end{equation}

**Proof:** The statement of this proposition can be verified by a direct computation. \hfill ■

The Viallet equation (2) is invariant under the involution
\begin{equation}
 u_{1,0} \Leftrightarrow u_{0,1}, \quad a_3 \Leftrightarrow a_5.
\end{equation}
This property enables us to study symmetries, recursion operators and conservation laws only for the one direction of the lattice and to recover the complementary set for the other direction. We denote $\mathcal{F}_s$ the field of rational functions of variables $\{u_{n,0} \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. It is a difference field with automorphism $S$.

**Definition 1.** Assume $K \in \mathcal{F}_s$ depends on a finite set of variables $\{u_{n,0} \mid n_1 \leq n \leq n_2\}$ with $\partial_{u_{1,0}} K \neq 0$ and $\partial_{u_{n_2,0}} K \neq 0$. We say $K$ is a symmetry of equation (2) of order $(n_1, n_2)$ if
\begin{equation}
 D_Q(K) = 0 \quad \text{for all solutions of} \quad Q = 0.
\end{equation}
Here $D_Q$ is the Fréchet derivative of $Q$ defined as
\begin{equation}
 D_Q = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial u_{1,1}} S T + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial u_{0,1}} T + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial u_{1,0}} S + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial u_{0,0}}.
\end{equation}
Equation (2) possesses a generalised symmetry of order $(-1, 1)$ [14]:
\begin{equation}
 K^{(1)} = \frac{h}{u_{1,0} - u_{-1,0}} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_{u_{1,0}} h.
\end{equation}
The corresponding generalised symmetry for equation (2) in $T$ direction is
\begin{equation}
 \frac{\hat{h}}{u_{0,1} - u_{0,-1}} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_{u_{0,1}} \hat{h}.
\end{equation}
with the polynomial \( \hat{h} = Q \partial_{u_{1,0}} \partial_{u_{1,1}} Q - \partial_{u_{1,0}} Q \partial_{u_{1,1}} Q \). It is related with \((13)\) by the involution \((11)\).

Often we shall use notation \( K \) e.g. \( H \) the symplectic operator corresponding to the elliptic curve associated with the Viallet equation. It is a product of the new equation (2). The new recursion operator and the recursion operator (16) satisfy to the algebraic equation

\[
R = S - S^{-1} \circ H.
\]

In this section, we present new weakly nonlocal recursion and Hamiltonian operators for the Viallet operator. The nonlocal part of the operator \( R \) is a sum of a difference operator with coefficients in \( F_F \).\( R \) maps symmetries to the variational derivatives of conserved densities \[(1)\].\( R \) is a product of the new Hamiltonian operator \( H \) and the symplectic operator \( I \), where

\[
H = h h_{-1} w_1^2 S - S^{-1} h_{-1} h h_1 w_1^2 + 2 K^{(1)} (S - 1)^{-1} S \circ K^{(2)}.
\]

For instance, \( R(K^{(1)}) \) gives rise of the symmetry of order \((-3,3)\) for equation (2) \[(1)\] as follows:

\[
K^{(3)} = R(K^{(1)}) = h h_{-1} w_1^2 \left( K^{(1)}_2 w_1^2 + K^{(1)}_2 w_1^2 \right) + (w_1 + w_{-1}) K^{(1)} K^{(2)}.
\]

In our recent work \[(1)\] \[(9)\], we proved that infinitely many generalised symmetries \( K^{(n)} \), \( \text{ord} K^{(n)} = (-n,n) \) of the Viallet equation (2) can be generated by a recursion operator \( R \)

\[
K^{(2n-1)} = R^{n-1}(K^{(1)}), \quad K^{(2n)} = R^{n-1}(K^{(2)}), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.
\]

Here the recursion operator \( R \) is a second order pseudo-difference operator of the form

\[
R = h h_{-1} w_1^2 S^2 + h h_{-1} w_1^2 w_1^2 S^2 + 2 K^{(2)} \left( \frac{1}{h} S + S^{-1} \frac{1}{h} \right) - w_1^2 h h_{-1} w_1^2 + \frac{2}{h_{-1}} \left( K^{(1)} K^{(2)}_1 + K^{(2)} K^{(1)}_1 \right) + 2 K^{(1)} (S - 1)^{-1} \circ \left( \frac{K^{(1)}_1}{h_{-1}} - \frac{K^{(2)}_1}{h} \right) + 2 K^{(2)} (S - 1)^{-1} \circ \left( \frac{K^{(1)}_1}{h_{-1}} - \frac{K^{(1)}_1}{h} \right).
\]

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In this notations a generalised symmetries of the Viallet equation of order \((-2,2)\) can be written as \[(14)\] \[(15)\] \[(16)\] \[(17)\]:

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\]
Theorem 1. A weakly nonlocal pseudo-difference operator

\[ \hat{R} = \frac{A}{h_2} S^3 + \frac{B}{h_1} S^2 + \left( \frac{K^{(2)}_1}{h} + \frac{2K^{(1)}_1 K^{(3)}_1}{h} - \frac{A}{h_1} \right) S + \frac{2}{h_1} \left( \frac{K^{(2)}_1 K^{(3)}_1 + K^{(1)}_1 K^{(3)}_1}{h} \right) \]

where

\[ w \]

\[ - \frac{B}{h} - \frac{B^{-1}}{h^{-1}} + \left( \frac{K^{(2)}_1}{h_1} + \frac{2K^{(1)}_1 K^{(3)}_1}{h_1} - \frac{A_2}{h_2} \right) S^{-1} + \frac{B^{-1}}{h_2} S^{-2} + \frac{A_2}{h_3} S^{-3} \]

\[ + 2 \left( K^{(1)}_1 (S - 1)^{-1} \circ K^{(3)}_1 \right) - 2 \left( K^{(3)}_1 (S - 1)^{-1} \circ K^{(1)}_1 \right) \]

\[ + 2 \left( K^{(2)}_1 (S - 1)^{-1} \circ K^{(2)}_1 \right) \]

where \( w_i \) is defined by (14); \( h \) is the discriminant of \( Q \) given by (3), \( K^{(j)} \), \( j = 1, 2, 3 \) are symmetries of equation (2) given by (15), (17) and (17), and

\[ A = h_1 h_2^{1/2} \]

\[ B = 2h_1 w_1 \left( h^{-1} w_1 (K^{(1)}_1 w_1) - 2w_1 \partial \partial u_0 + \frac{1}{4} \partial \partial u_1 \partial \partial u_1 + K^{(1)}_1 K^{(2)}_1 \right) \]

is a recursion operator for equation (2).

In the proof that \( R \) (16) is a recursion operator of equation (2), cf. Theorem 1 in [9], the key observation was that there exists a constant \( \mu \)

\[ \mu = (a_4 - a_3)(a_3 a_1 a_7 - a_3 a_5^2 - 2a_7 a_9^2 + 4a_5 a_2 a_9 - 2a_4 a_9^2 + a_4 a_1 a_7 - a_4 a_5^2) \]

such that the operator \( \hat{R} - \mu \) can be represented in the factorised form

\[ \hat{R} - \mu = \mathcal{M} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial Q}{\partial u_1} S + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial u_0} \right) \]

where \( \mathcal{M} \) is a weakly non-local pseudo-difference operator, explicitly given in Lemma 2 in [9]. In the case of the operator \( \hat{R} \) (20) one can check that for

\[ \hat{\mu} = I + \frac{1}{2} \mu \left( a_1 a_7 + a_3^2 + a_4^2 + a_5^2 - 4a_2 a_6 \right) \]

the operator \( \hat{R} - \hat{\mu} \) also can be represented in the factorised form

\[ \hat{R} - \hat{\mu} = \mathcal{M} \cdot \left( \frac{\partial Q}{\partial u_1} S + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial u_0} \right) \]

with a certain weakly non-local pseudo-difference operator \( \mathcal{M} \) (the explicit form of \( \mathcal{M} \) is rather long and we omit it in this short paper). The rest of the proof of this theorem is not different from the proof of Theorem 1 in [9] which states that \( \hat{R} \) is a recursion operator for the Viallet equation.

Proposition 2. The recursion operator \( \hat{R} \) can be written as the product \( \hat{R} = \hat{H} \circ \mathcal{I} \) of the Hamiltonian operator \( \hat{H} \) and the symplectic operator \( \mathcal{I} \) given by (17), where

\[ \hat{H} = A S^2 - S^{-2} A + B S - S^{-1} B + K^{(2)}_1 (S - 1)^{-1} (S + 1) \circ K^{(2)}_1 \]

\[ + 2 K^{(1)}_1 (S - 1)^{-1} S \circ K^{(3)}_1 + 2 K^{(3)}_1 (S - 1)^{-1} \circ K^{(1)}_1 \]

and \( A \) and \( B \) are defined in (21) and (22).
Computing the product $\hat{\mathcal{H}} \circ I$ one can directly verify that the result coincides with $\hat{\mathcal{R}}$ (20). Operator $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$ is obviously skew-symmetric. The proof of the Jacobi identity for the Poisson bracket corresponding to $\hat{\mathcal{H}}$ is similar to one for the operator $\mathcal{H}$ (Proposition 2 in [9]).

The central result of this paper is formulated in the following Theorem.

**Theorem 2.** (i) The recursion operators $\mathfrak{R}$ (16) and $\hat{\mathfrak{R}}$ (20) satisfy the algebraic equation

$$
(2\mathfrak{R} - I_3)^2 = 4(\mathfrak{R} + I_2)^3 - g_2(\mathfrak{R} + I_2) - g_3,
$$

where $I_2, I_3, g_2$ and $g_3$ are the relative and modular invariants (8), (9), (4) and (7).

(ii) Operators $\mathfrak{R}$ and $\hat{\mathfrak{R}}$ commute.

Every pseudo-difference operator can be uniquely represented by its formal Laurent series and there is a unique formal series corresponding to a formal inverse of the operator [1]. For example operator $\mathfrak{R}$ can be represented by

$$
\mathfrak{R}_L = h h_{-1} w^2 w_1^2 S^2 + \frac{2}{h} K^{(1)} K^{(2)} S + \cdots,
$$

and its formal inverse by

$$
\mathfrak{R}^{-1}_L = \frac{1}{h_{-2} h_{-3} w_{-2} w_{-1}^2} S^{-2} - \frac{2 K^{(1)} K^{(2)}}{h_{-2}^2 h_{-3} h_{-4} w_{-2}^2 w_{-1}^2 w_{-3}^2} S^{-3} + \cdots.
$$

It follows from Theorem 1, that equation (2) has the first order formal recursion operator

$$
\hat{\mathfrak{R}} = \mathfrak{R}_L \circ \mathfrak{R}^{-1}_L = h_{-1} w^2 S + \cdots.
$$

Logarithmic residue $\rho_0 = \text{res} \log \mathfrak{R} = \log(h_{-1} w^2)$ and $\rho_k = \text{res} \hat{\mathfrak{R}}^k$, $k = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$ are densities of canonical conservation laws for the difference equation (2) (see Theorem 4 in [1]).

In [1] we claimed that we can compute a square root of the recursion operator $\mathfrak{R}$ (16), although for a general second order formal series a square root may not exist.

**Proposition 3.** There exist first order formal series $R = h_{-1} w^2 S + r_0 + r_1 S^{-1} + \cdots$ and $\hat{R} = h_{-1} w^2 S + \hat{r}_0 + \hat{r}_1 S^{-1} + \cdots$ with coefficients $r_k, \hat{r}_k \in \mathcal{F}_s$ such that $\mathfrak{R}_L = R^2$ and $\hat{\mathfrak{R}}_L = \hat{R}^3$.

**Proof:** The existence of the square root of $\mathfrak{R}$ (16) and a cubic root of $\hat{\mathfrak{R}}$ (20) follow from Theorem 2 and the following obvious Lemma:

**Lemma 1.** Let $\mathcal{A}$ and $\mathcal{B}$ be two commuting formal series and $\text{ord} \mathcal{A}^k > \text{ord} \mathcal{B}$ for an integer $k > 0$. Then the $k$-th root $\mathcal{C} = (\mathcal{A}^k + \mathcal{B})^{\frac{k}{2}}$ is given by the formal series $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{A} + \sum_{j>0} C(\frac{1}{j}, j) \mathcal{B}^j \mathcal{A}^{1-jk}$, where

$$
C(\frac{1}{j}, j) = \frac{1}{j!} \prod_{i=1}^{j} (\frac{1}{i} - i + 1)
$$

are generalised binomial coefficients.

Indeed, after re-arranging equation (21) as

$$
\mathfrak{R} = \frac{1}{4} (2\mathfrak{R} - I_3)^2(\mathfrak{R} + I_2)^{-2} - I_2 + \frac{g_2}{4} (\mathfrak{R} + I_2)^{-1} + \frac{g_3}{4} (\mathfrak{R} + I_2)^{-2}
$$

we can apply Lemma 1 with

$$
k = 2, \quad A = \frac{1}{2} (2\mathfrak{R}_L - I_3) (\mathfrak{R}_L + I_2)^{-1}, \quad B = -I_2 + \frac{g_2}{4} (\mathfrak{R}_L + I_2)^{-1} + \frac{g_3}{4} (\mathfrak{R}_L + I_2)^{-2}.
$$

We have $\text{ord} \mathcal{A} = 1$, $\text{ord} \mathcal{B} \leq 0$ and $[\mathfrak{R}, \hat{\mathfrak{R}}] = 0$ implies $[\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}] = 0$. Then $R = \mathcal{C}$ is a first order formal recursion operator with coefficients in $\mathcal{F}_s$, such that $\mathfrak{R}_L = R^2$. In a similar way one can find $\hat{R}$, such that

$$
\hat{\mathfrak{R}}_L = \hat{R}^3.
$$
4 Yamilov’s discretisation of the Krichever-Novikov equation

As pointed in [9], the operator $R$ (16) is a recursion operator of differential-difference equation $u_t = K^{(1)}$, which can be identified as Yamilov’s discretization of the Krichever-Novikov equation (YdKN) [17], cf. equation (V4) when $\nu = 0$ in [18]. Indeed

$$u_t = K^{(1)} = \frac{R(u_{1,0}, u, u_{-1,0})}{u_{1,0} - u_{-1,0}}, \quad (25)$$

where

$$R(u_{1,0}, u, u_{-1,0}) = (b_1 u^2 + 2b_2 u + b_3)u_{1,0}u_{-1,0} + (b_2 u^2 + b_4 u + b_5)(u_{1,0} + u_{-1,0}) + b_3 u^2 + 2b_5 u + b_6.$$ and

$$b_1 = a_1 a_3 - a_2^2; \quad b_2 = \frac{1}{2}(a_2 a_3 + a_1 a_6 - a_2 a_5 - a_2 a_4); \quad b_3 = a_2 a_6 - a_4 a_5;$$

$$b_4 = \frac{1}{2}(a_3^2 + a_1 a_7 - a_3^2 - a_2^2); \quad b_5 = \frac{1}{2}(a_3 a_6 + a_2 a_7 - a_4 a_6 - a_5 a_6); \quad b_6 = a_3 a_7 - a_6^2.$$

It is straightforward to check that

$$h(u, u_{1,0}) = R(u_{1,0}, u, u_{1,0}). \quad (26)$$

Using (25), (26) we can express $R$ (16), $H$ (18) and $I$ (19) in terms of the polynomial $R(u_{1,0}, u, u_{-1,0})$. In [9] it has been shown that $H$, $I$ and $R$ are Hamiltonian, symplectic and recursion operators for the YdKN equation respectively. By direct computation, we can show that

$$L_{K^{(1)}} H = 0,$$

where $L_{K^{(1)}}$ is the Lie derivative in the direction of the vector field $K^{(1)}$ (for a detail definition of the Lie derivative see [9]). Thus $H$ is a Hamiltonian operator for equation (25) and $R$ is a recursion operator of YdKN (25). The mentioned above canonical conserved densities $\rho_k, \ k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$ are densities of local conservation laws of the YdKN equation.

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