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# On Rigid Origami II: Quadrilateral Creased Papers

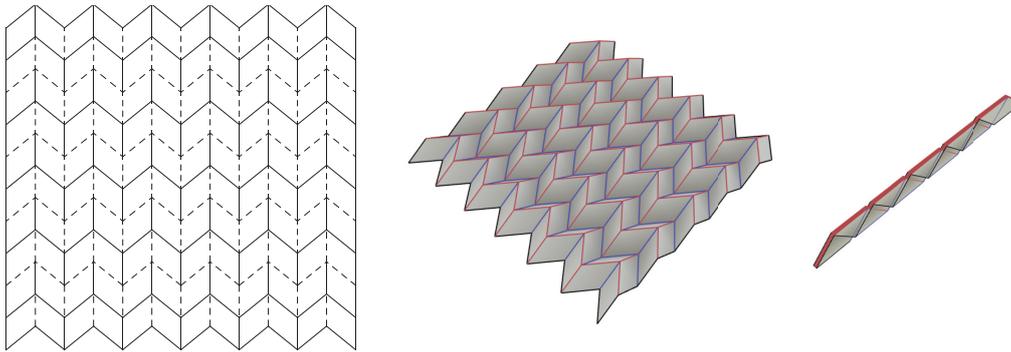
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Miura-ori is well-known for its capability of flatly folding a sheet of paper through a tessellated crease pattern made of repeating parallelograms. Many potential applications have been based on the Miura-ori and its primary variations. Here we are considering how to generalize the Miura-ori: what is the collection of rigid-foldable creased papers with a similar quadrilateral crease pattern as the Miura-ori? This paper reports some progress. We find some new variations of Miura-ori with less symmetry than the known rigid-foldable quadrilateral meshes. They are not necessarily developable or flat-foldable, and still only have single degree of freedom in their rigid folding motion. This article presents a classification of the new variations we discovered and explains the methods in detail.

## 1. Introduction

The most broadly studied rigid origami tessellation is the Miura-ori [1] introduced by Prof. Kyoto Miura as an efficient packing method for large membranes in space, as shown in figure 1. It has a periodical crease pattern, where each unit cell consists of a degree-4 vertex connecting four parallelograms. Miura-ori can be folded where all deformation is concentrated on the rotation of perfectly rigid panels around creases. This property is called the *rigid-foldability*. The *rigid folding motion* starts from the planar state to the flat-folded state where, globally, there is an in-plane shrinkage deformation. Up to now there has been many successful applications inspired by the rigid-foldability of Miura-ori and its primary variations, such as a lithium-ion battery that can also be largely folded, bended and twisted [2]; a flat-foldable corrugated vault used as transformable architecture that connects two existing buildings [3]; a compliant mechanism used for energy absorption and impact force distribution [4], etc. Encouraged by these applications, we are motivated to explore more rigid-foldable variations of the Miura-ori with similar crease

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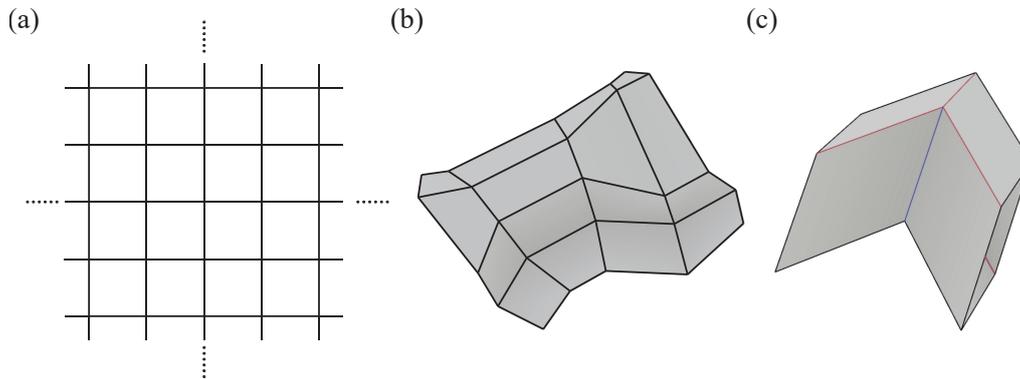
**Figure 1.** We show the crease pattern, an intermediate rigidly folded state, and the flat-folded state of a Miura-ori. Near each vertex, there are three mountain folds (coloured red or solid lines) and one valley fold (coloured blue or dashed lines), or vice versa. The rigid folding motion of a Miura-ori is an in-plane shrinkage deformation, which is plotted by an open source software called Freeform Origami [5].

patterns consisting of quadrilaterals. Hence here we raise a question: What is the collection of rigid-foldable creased papers with a similar quadrilateral crease pattern as the Miura-ori? This article makes some progress on classifying such rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers by introducing new tools on the study of rigid-foldability. We believe that this theoretical progress will cast light on more engineering applications where transformable piecewise-rigid structures are needed.

There are a number of previous results concerning rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers. The majority of them focus on a *developable* (can be folded planar) and *flat-foldable* (can be folded flat) quadrilateral creased paper, which is an important subset of the quadrilateral creased papers considered here. Tachi [5] first described the sufficient and necessary condition for a developable and flat-foldable quadrilateral creased paper to be rigid-foldable, and some other papers followed with further examples and design methods [6,7]. If we go out of this subset, [3] introduced a specific type of non-developable and flat-foldable quadrilateral creased paper, while [8–10] introduced some developable and non-flat-foldable quadrilateral creased papers. Here our target is to provide a full description of rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers, without any restriction on the developability or flat-foldability.

In the first paper of this series [11], we presented more details for all necessary definitions used in the current paper, and we mentioned an interesting topic called *generic rigid-foldability*: given a crease pattern  $C$ , whether (almost) all possible creased papers with crease pattern isomorphic to  $C$  are rigid-foldable. The crease pattern of the Miura-ori turns out to be generically rigid, since there exists a first-order rigid quadrilateral creased paper. What we have done in this paper is exactly to find the non-generic quadrilateral creased papers that are rigid-foldable, which is challenging due to the complicated compatibility conditions over the whole creased paper.

To find variations of Miura-ori without strong symmetry, our method is to apply the result in [12], where a nearly complete classification of rigid-foldable  $3 \times 3$  quadrilateral mesh (or called Kokotsakis quadrilateral) is presented, and the constraints on sector angles are given symbolically. Since a large quadrilateral mesh is rigid-foldable if and only if its restriction on each  $3 \times 3$  mesh is rigid-foldable, by considering proper stitching of these Kokotsakis quadrilaterals it would be possible to find all analytical variations of a large rigid-foldable quadrilateral mesh. Although our generalization is still incomplete, this stitching method is shown effective and has enabled new analytical design of rigid-foldable quadrilateral meshes. Further, this stitching method has the potential of being applied to other crease patterns or origami structures with each inner vertex degree-4 but each inner panel not quadrilateral, such as the Kagome pattern, origami stacked metamaterials consisting of several layers [13], origami ring structures [14], etc.



**Figure 2.** (a) shows a  $m \times n$  ( $m, n$  are positive integers) planar quadrilateral mesh, and our object of study is a creased paper with a crease pattern isomorphic to (a). A quadrilateral creased paper is not necessarily developable or flat-foldable, and in (b) a non-developable and non-flat-foldable quadrilateral creased paper is shown. (c) is an example of a “ring” structure mentioned in Remark 2, plotted by Freeform Origami [5]. The mountain and valley creases are coloured red and blue. Such system will not be discussed in this article.

From the next section we will start to discuss the collection of rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers. In order to present further results some preliminaries are needed.

## 2. Preliminaries

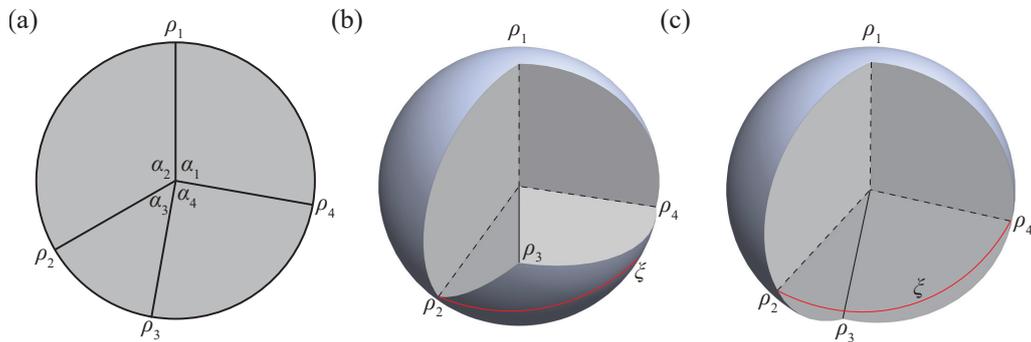
### (a) Quadrilateral and degree-4 single creased paper

We first present some definitions related to a quadrilateral creased paper.

**Definition 1.** A graph is *isomorphic* to another graph if they have the same number of vertices which are also connected in the same way. The detailed definition of a *creased paper* is provided in [11], roughly speaking, it is a polygonal mesh in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  that allows contact of different parts but does not allow self-intersection. A *quadrilateral* creased paper is a creased paper with a crease pattern isomorphic to the  $m \times n$  ( $m, n$  are positive integers) planar quadrilateral mesh shown in figure 2(a). A vertex or crease is called *inner* if it is not on the boundary of a creased paper, otherwise *outer*. A panel (face of a creased paper) is called *inner* if none of its vertices is on the boundary of a creased paper, otherwise *outer*.

**Remark 1.** When talking about isomorphism we do not consider the correspondence of mountain-valley assignment, since for a general quadrilateral mesh the mountain-valley assignment is not applicable to distinguish different branches of rigid folding motion, which will be explained at the end of this section. Further, a creased paper is neither necessarily developable or flat-foldable. A *developable* creased paper has a *planar* rigidly folded state where all the folding angles are zero. A *flat-foldable* creased paper has a *flat* rigidly folded state where all the folding angles are  $\pm\pi$ .

**Remark 2.** Apart from the creased paper mentioned in Definition 1, there might be other creased papers with a crease pattern isomorphic to other quadrilateral meshes. An example is shown in figure 2(c). In this “ring” structure the rigid-foldability condition is more complicated than the quadrilateral creased paper studied here. When generalizing the stacking [13] or cylindrical [14] structures that are widely used for meta-materials, the analysis of such “ring” structure is indeed necessary. It would be discussed in a future article in this series.



**Figure 3.** (a) A degree-4 single-vertex creased paper. We label the sector angles counterclockwise. (b) and (c) show two non-trivial rigidly folded states with the outside edges of the single-vertex creased paper drawn on a sphere as arcs of great circles, assuming the panel corresponding to  $\alpha_1$  is fixed when changing the magnitude of  $\rho_1$ . The mountain and valley creases are shown in solid and dashed lines. Generically, for a  $\rho_1$  there are two sets of folding angles  $\rho_2, \rho_3, \rho_4$ , where the panels corresponding to  $\alpha_3$  and  $\alpha_4$  are symmetric to  $\xi$ .

In order to study the rigid-foldability of a quadrilateral creased paper, we first need to clarify the relation among the folding angles around its each single-vertex. The restriction of a creased paper on a degree-4 vertex and its adjacent panels is called a degree-4 *single-vertex creased paper*. As shown in figure 3, a single-vertex creased paper has four sector angles  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4$  and four folding angles  $\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3, \rho_4$ . We provide a complete result for the relation among the folding angles of a degree-4 single-vertex creased paper in Section S1 of the supplementary material, where all the relations are expressed in terms of  $\tan \frac{\rho_i}{2}$  in a compact form. Note that the sector angles are assumed in  $0 < \alpha_i < \pi$ . This is reasonable because if a sector angle equals to  $\pi$  (without loss of generality, suppose  $\alpha_1 = \pi$ ), then  $\alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 \geq \pi$ ;

- (1) if  $\alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 = \pi$ ,  $\rho_1 = \rho_4$ ;  $\rho_2 = \rho_3 = 0$ .
- (2) otherwise,  $\rho_2, \rho_3 = \{a, b\}$  or  $\{-a, -b\}$ , where  $a, b$  are non-zero constants.

both of which can be regarded as folding along a crease. Additionally, if a sector angle is greater than  $\pi$  (without loss of generality, suppose  $\alpha_1 > \pi$ ), there is no essential difference if substituting  $\alpha_1$  with  $2\pi - \alpha_1$ , which means for a set of sector angles  $0 < \alpha_i < \pi$ , switching  $\alpha_i$  to  $2\pi - \alpha_i$  will only result in greater possibility of self-intersection of panels.

### (b) Rigid-foldability of a quadrilateral creased paper

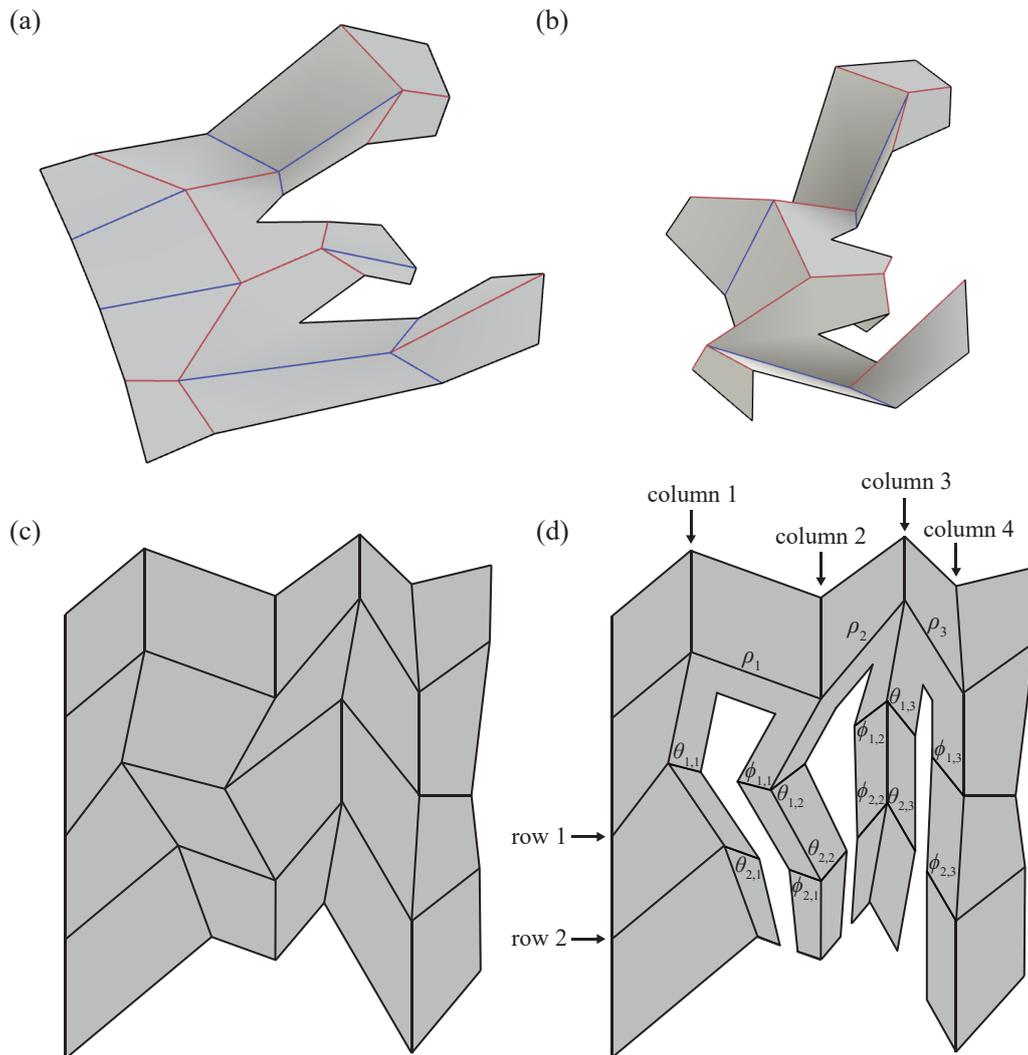
Here we will introduce the condition (also called the loop condition [5]) for a quadrilateral creased paper to be rigid-foldable. We start with a special case, where each inner vertex is degree-4, but there is no cycle in the interior of the crease pattern.

**Definition 2.** In graph theory, a *forest* is a disjoint union of trees. A *tree* is an undirected graph in which any two vertices are connected by exactly one path.

**Proposition 1.** (theorem 8 in [11]) If a creased paper satisfies (figure 4(a) and 4(b)):

- (1) The interior of crease pattern is a forest.
- (2) The restriction of a rigidly folded state on each single creased paper is rigid-foldable.

then this rigidly folded state is generically rigid-foldable. Especially, if the creased paper described above is also developable, the planar folded state is rigid-foldable.



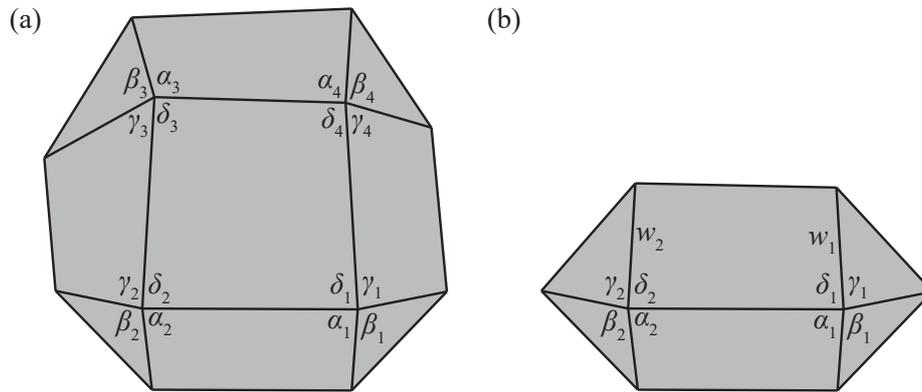
**Figure 4.** (a) An example of the creased paper described in proposition 1. (b) shows a rigidly folded state of (a), where some panels clash and the rigid folding motion halts. The mountain and valley creases are coloured red and blue. (a) and (b) are plotted by Freeform Origami [5]. Given a quadrilateral creased paper in (c), (d) demonstrates its corresponding decoupled creased paper, where we “cut” inner creases connecting adjacent columns to make the interior of crease pattern have no cycle.  $\rho_j$  are the folding angles of the top row.

Regardless of the details on genericity, it is reasonable that the decoupled crease pattern mentioned in proposition 1 can generate rigid-foldability. In the next proposition we will show that the rigid-foldability of the creased paper above is closely related to the rigid-foldability of a quadrilateral creased paper.

**Proposition 2.** Consider a quadrilateral creased paper (figure 4(c)). If and only if

- (1) the corresponding decoupled creased paper (figure 4(d)) is rigid-foldable.
- (2) for all  $i, j$ , the following equation is satisfied simultaneously in a closed interval

$$\theta_{i,j} \equiv \phi_{i,j} \quad (2.1)$$



**Figure 5.** (a) A Kokotsakis quadrilateral. We label these sector angles as  $\alpha_j, \beta_j, \gamma_j, \delta_j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq 4$ ). (b) A linear unit that will be introduced in Section 5(c). It is half of a Kokotsakis quadrilateral and the tangent of half of the folding angles satisfies  $w_1 = cw_2$ ,  $c$  is a constant. If two linear units have the same  $c$ , they could be stitched together and form a rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral.

then the quadrilateral creased paper is rigid-foldable. Figure 4(d) defines the folding angles  $\theta_{i,j}$  and  $\phi_{i,j}$ .

*Proof.* As it is straightforward to move between the quadrilateral creased paper and the tree structure by cutting or gluing, the sufficiency and necessity are natural.  $\square$

From the analysis above, the rigid folding motion of a quadrilateral creased paper is the same as the decoupled creased paper once proposition 2 is satisfied. Based on the information in Section S1 of the supplementary material, the rigid folding motion of a degree-4 single-vertex creased paper can generically be parametrized by a single variable, hence the rigid folding motion of a quadrilateral creased paper can also generically be parametrized by a single variable. We can calculate the *degree of freedom* algebraically from the dimension of the tangent space of a given configuration. For a quadrilateral creased paper, the degree of freedom is generically 1, but might be greater than 1 at some special points in the configuration space, such as the planar and flat rigidly folded states.

A quadrilateral creased paper may have a number of branches of rigid folding motion. For a developable quadrilateral creased paper, we can distinguish different branches of rigid folding motion by different mountain-valley assignments. This is because, for each branch of every degree-4 single-vertex creased paper, the sign of every folding angle remains the same when the rigid folding motion moves away from planar. Each inner vertex should be incident to three mountain creases and one valley crease, or three valley creases and one mountain crease. However, the mountain-valley assignment for different branches of rigid folding motions of a non-developable quadrilateral creased paper does not satisfy the rule above. For example, in a non-developable degree-4 single-vertex creased paper there might be four mountain creases or two mountain and two valley creases (figure 6).

In next section we will start constructing more general rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers, which is done by "stitching" together rigid-foldable  $3 \times 3$  quadrilateral meshes.

### 3. Stitching rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals

**Definition 3.** A *Kokotsakis quadrilateral* is a polyhedral surface in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , which consists of one centre quadrilateral (the base); four side quadrilaterals, one attached to each side of this centre quadrilateral; and four corner quadrilaterals placed between each two outer consecutive side quadrilaterals (figure 5(a)).

From proposition 2, the next corollary is natural.

**Corollary 1.** A quadrilateral creased paper is rigid-foldable if and only if the restriction of a rigidly folded state on each Kokotsakis quadrilateral is rigid-foldable.

Now we explain the process of “stitching”.

**Definition 4.** For a Kokotsakis quadrilateral  $Q_1$ , another Kokotsakis quadrilateral  $Q_2$  can *stitch* with  $Q_1$  in the longitudinal or transverse direction if  $Q_2$  can share two vertices with  $Q_1$  in the longitudinal or transverse direction.

We provide a nearly complete result on the classification of all rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals [12] in Section S2 of the supplementary material. Each type here is described by a system of equations (most of them are trigonometric, some are exponential or elliptic) on its sector angles. The number of equations  $m$  is less than 16, therefore this system of equation can possibly be solved numerically with  $16 - m$  random input sector angles. However, there are three concerns. First, there might be no solution for sector angles in the real field. Second, even if there is a solution in the real field, the rigid folding motion may locates in the complexified configuration space, hence the Kokotsakis quadrilateral will still be rigid in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Third, even if there is a solution in the real field and there is a rigid folding motion in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , the panels may constantly self-intersect, which makes the rigid folding motion not valid.

Then, given any quadrilateral creased paper, we can interpret it by stitching together rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals, either from the same or different types. In other words, if all possible stitching of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals could be found, we will get the complete description of a rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased paper. In order to grasp the “non-trivial” generalization of the Miura-ori, two restrictions for our object of study are listed below.

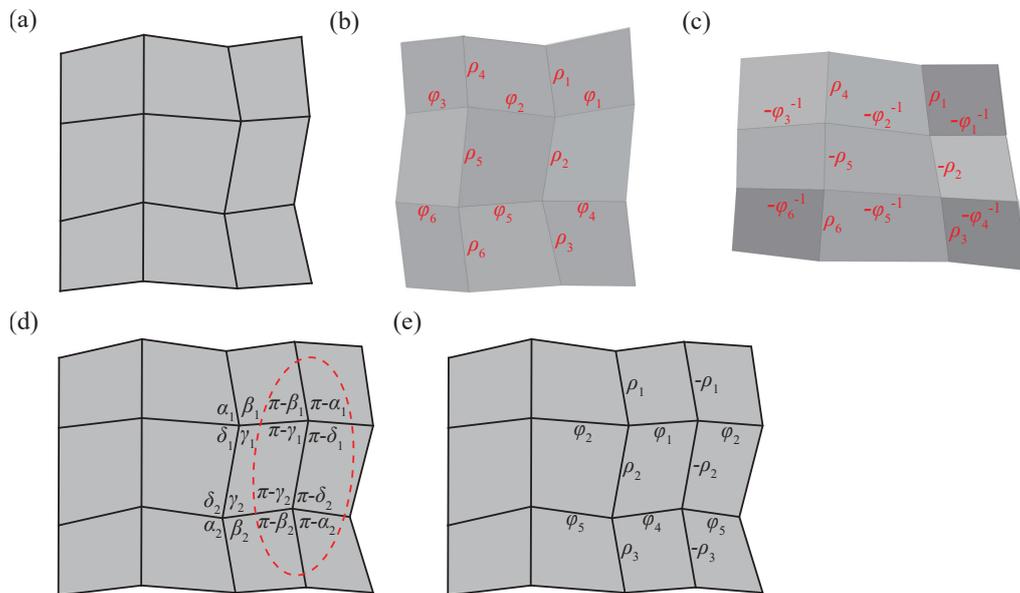
- (1) There is at least one non-trivial rigid folding motion.

**Definition 5.** Following the terminology introduced in [12], A rigid folding motion of a creased paper is called *trivial* if a folding angle remains constant during this rigid folding motion. A *trivial* rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral only has trivial rigid folding motion.

We think this requirement is reasonable because when designing a creased paper, a crease that does not participate in the folding seems redundant. If a large quadrilateral creased paper contains a trivial rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral, any rigid folding motion of this large quadrilateral creased paper will be trivial, therefore the trivial rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals will not be considered (Type 7 in Section S2 of the supplementary material).

- (2) The sector angles can be solved quadrilateral by quadrilateral, i.e. the design of the entire quadrilateral creased paper never requires the solution of equations where variables are sector angles from more than one Kokotsakis quadrilateral.

We raise this requirement mainly because even if a quadrilateral creased paper is designed from possible stitchings, generically the number of total constraints will be much more than the number of variables as the size increases. A compromise is making the design process to be as follows. Start from a Kokotsakis quadrilateral. Set its sector angles as known variables and solve the sector angles of the neighbouring Kokotsakis quadrilaterals, quadrilateral by quadrilateral. Continue doing this until all the sector angles are solved. Two advantages of this requirement are:



**Figure 6.** Here we show examples for switching a strip and adding a parallel strip. (a) shows a rigid-foldable and developable quadrilateral creased paper, (b) is a rigidly folded state of (a). We use  $\{\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3, \rho_4, \rho_5, \rho_6, \phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_5, \phi_6\}$  to represent the tangent of half of the folding angles on these labelled inner creases. In (c), the sector angles on panels of the middle row are replaced by their complements to  $\pi$ , and after switching a strip  $\{\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3, \rho_4, \rho_5, \rho_6\} \rightarrow \{\rho_1, -\rho_2, \rho_3, \rho_4, -\rho_5, \rho_6\}$ ,  $\{\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_5, \phi_6\} \rightarrow \{-\phi_1^{-1}, -\phi_2^{-1}, -\phi_3^{-1}, -\phi_4^{-1}, -\phi_5^{-1}, -\phi_6^{-1}\}$ . Generally, switching a strip will make a developable creased paper non-developable. (d) shows how a parallel strip is added, which is demonstrated with a dashed cycle. In (e), the magnitude of new folding angles are illustrated.

- (a) each step completed by the above process will result in a rigid-foldable creased paper.
- (b) when adding a new Kokotsakis quadrilateral, we don't need to adjust the solved part because there is enough design freedom.

In the next sections, we will demonstrate several methods to construct a large rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased paper satisfying the two additional requirements above. We understand that this method will not be comprehensive, i.e. there might be rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers whose sector angles can only be solved as a whole, but it is unlikely practicable to find such cases.

#### 4. Two operations that preserve the rigid-foldability

Before presenting the catalogue, we provide two operations that preserve the rigid-foldability of a quadrilateral creased paper, named as "switching a strip" and "adding a parallel strip".

##### (a) Switching a strip

**Definition 6.** *Switching a strip* means to replace all the sector angles on a column or a row of panels by their complements to  $\pi$ , which is extended from the definition of switching a boundary strip in [12] (figure 6(a-c)).

**Theorem 1.** Switching a strip preserves the rigid-foldability of a quadrilateral creased paper.

*Proof.* First consider switching a transverse strip. In figure 6, (a) shows a rigid-foldable and developable quadrilateral creased paper, (b) is a rigidly folded state of (a). We choose the middle row of panels to be switched, the sector angles are replaced by their complements to  $\pi$ . The tangent of half of folding angles on the labelled inner creases are denoted by  $\{\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3, \rho_4, \rho_5, \rho_6, \phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_5, \phi_6\}$ . Following Lemma 4.5 in [12], after switching this strip  $\{\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_3, \rho_4, \rho_5, \rho_6\} \rightarrow \{\rho_1, -\rho_2, \rho_3, \rho_4, -\rho_5, \rho_6\}$ ,  $\{\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4, \phi_5, \phi_6\} \rightarrow \{-\phi_1^{-1}, -\phi_2^{-1}, -\phi_3^{-1}, -\phi_4^{-1}, -\phi_5^{-1}, -\phi_6^{-1}\}$ , which is shown in figure 6(c). For a  $m \times n$  quadrilateral mesh, the related folding angles on this strip are changed in the same way. Therefore from proposition 2, switching a strip preserves the rigid-foldability of a quadrilateral creased paper. The proof for switching a longitudinal strip is similar.  $\square$

Note that when switching a strip, the crease lengths might need to be adjusted.

### (b) Adding a parallel strip

Given a quadrilateral creased paper, it is always possible to add another row or column of vertices with new inner creases parallel to its adjacent row or column, as shown in figure 6(a) and 6(d). After adding a parallel strip, the new folding angles are shown in figure 6(e), therefore from proposition 2, adding a parallel strip also preserves the rigid-foldability of a quadrilateral creased paper.

## 5. Several types of large rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers

In this section we will list several types of rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers following the two restrictions mentioned in Section 3. For all these types, switching some strips and adding some parallel strips leave the type unchanged. The justification for this categorization is provided in Section 7. All the information on the names of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals and the relation among sector angles of each type is provided in Section S2 of the supplementary material.

### (a) Orthodiagonal

This type is stitched from orthodiagonal Kokotsakis quadrilaterals (figure 7(a)). The independent input sector angles are  $\alpha_j$  ( $0 \leq j \leq n$ ) and  $\beta_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq 2m - 1$ ). The other sector angles  $\gamma_{ij}$  can be solved one by one as follows.

(1) In the first row,

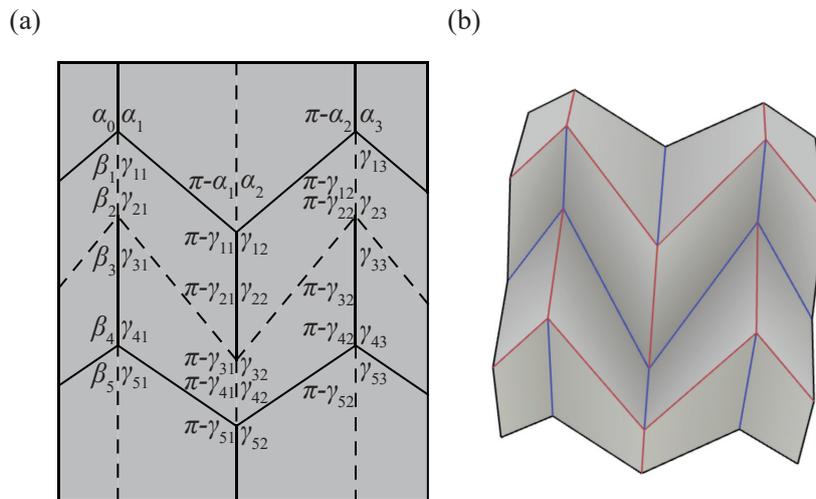
$$\begin{aligned} \cos \alpha_0 \cos \gamma_{11} &= \cos \alpha_1 \cos \beta_1 \\ \cos \alpha_{j-1} \cos \gamma_{1,j} &= \cos \alpha_j \cos \gamma_{1,j-1}, \quad 2 \leq j \leq n \end{aligned} \quad (5.1)$$

(2) From the second row,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\tan \beta_{2i-1}}{\tan \beta_{2i}} &= \frac{\tan \gamma_{2i-1,j}}{\tan \gamma_{2i,j}}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m - 1, \quad 1 \leq j \leq n \\ \cos \beta_{2i} \cos \gamma_{2i+1,1} &= \cos \beta_{2i+1} \cos \gamma_{2i,1}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m - 1 \\ \cos \gamma_{2i,j-1} \cos \gamma_{2i+1,j} &= \cos \gamma_{2i,j} \cos \gamma_{2i+1,j-1}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m - 1, \quad 2 \leq j \leq n \end{aligned} \quad (5.2)$$

Typical geometric features of this type are:

- (1) Each column or row of inner creases are co-planar.
- (2) Each plane formed by a column of inner creases is orthogonal to each plane formed by a row of inner creases. Hence the name ‘‘orthodiagonal’’.



**Figure 7.** An example of the developable case of the orthodiagonal type mentioned in Remark 3. (a) shows the relation among the sector angles, the mountain and valley creases are shown in solid and dashed lines. (b) is a rigidly folded state of (a). Each column or row of inner creases are co-planar, and each plane formed by a column of inner creases is orthogonal to each plane formed by a row of inner creases. (b) is plotted by Freeform Origami [5], where the mountain and valley creases are coloured red and blue.

**Remark 3.** If  $\beta_1 = \pi - \alpha_0$  and  $\beta_{2i+1} = \pi - \beta_{2i}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m - 1$ ), this quadrilateral creased paper will also be developable. If  $\beta_1 = \alpha_0$  and  $\beta_{2i+1} = \beta_{2i}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq m - 1$ ), this quadrilateral creased paper will also be flat-foldable.

### (b) Isogonal

This type is the union of flat-foldable quadrilateral creased paper described in [5] and its variation from switching some strips. Typical geometric features of this type are:

- (1) If at each inner vertex the sum of opposite sector angles equals to  $\pi$ , this isogonal type is flat-foldable. Otherwise it is not flat-foldable.
- (2) The absolute value of folding angles on a row or column of inner creases are equal.

This type is named isogonal because at every inner vertex opposite sector angles can be equal after switching some strips. Note that the property of “a rigidly folded state can guarantee a rigid folding motion” described in [5] is special for the isogonal type because here the existence of a rigidly folded state is equivalent to equation (2.1). For other types the rigid-foldability condition on sector angles is more complicated, which prevents similar conclusions.

### (c) Forward linear repeating

Before presenting how to construct this type, we introduce *linear units* (figure 5(b)) and the *stitching* of linear units. Full information of linear units is provided in Type 4 of Section S2 of the supplementary material, and different types of linear units are labelled as 4.1(a), 4.1(b), 4.2(a), 4.2(b), 4.3(a), 4.3(b), 4.4(a), 4.4(b) and 4.5. *Stitching* a linear unit with another linear unit means these two linear units form a Kokotsakis quadrilateral. They do not share vertices, but the folding angles on the matching creases must be the same. Linear unit 1 can stitch with linear unit

2 if  $\delta_1 + \delta_2 + \delta_3 + \delta_4 = 2\pi$  and corresponding linear coefficients  $c_1 = c_2$ . If two linear units are stitched in this way, we say they are stitched along the *linear direction*.

This type of rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased paper is formed by stitching a row of linear units along the linear direction, and repeating this row orthogonal to the linear direction, which is why it is named "forward linear repeating". To allow repeating, apart from requiring  $\delta_1 + \delta_2 + \delta_3 + \delta_4 = 2\pi$ , we should also set  $\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 + \gamma_4 = 2\pi$  (figure 5(a)). If using linear unit 4.1,  $\kappa_1$  and  $\kappa_2$  should either both be  $\sin \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \sin \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$  or both be  $\cos \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \cos \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$ . With the restriction above, the rest of the sector angles can be solved numerically. Some example creased papers are shown in figure 8.

An important notice is there might be "degeneration" (which is discussed in Section 8) in the solutions. These degenerations can be found both analytically and numerically, and we provide this information in Table 1. Although it will not prevent solutions, the relationships among sector angles will be more special. In order not to make redundant classification, we will not split this type into smaller classes.

	4.2(a)	4.2(b)	4.3(a)	4.3(b)	4.4(a)	4.4(b)
4.2(a)	②	②	③	③	①	①
4.2(b)		②	①	①	①	①

**Table 1.** This table shows when the stitching of linear units degenerates. ① means the Kokotsakis quadrilateral formed by two linear units will degenerate to a Kokotsakis quadrilateral in the parallel repeating type (figure 8(a)). ② means it will degenerate to a Kokotsakis quadrilateral in the orthodiagonal type (Section 5(a)). ③ means both ① and ② are possible.

### (d) Inverse linear repeating

This type is formed by stitching a row of linear units 4.1 and 4.3 orthogonal to the linear direction, and repeating this row along the linear direction, which is why it is named as "inverse linear repeating". To allow repeating, apart from requiring  $\delta_1 + \delta_2 + \delta_3 + \delta_4 = 2\pi$ , we should also set  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 = 2\pi$  (figure 5(a)). If using linear unit 4.1,  $\kappa_1$  and  $\kappa_2$  should either both be  $\sin \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \sin \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$  or both be  $\cos \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \cos \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$ . An example is shown in figure 9(a) and 9(b).

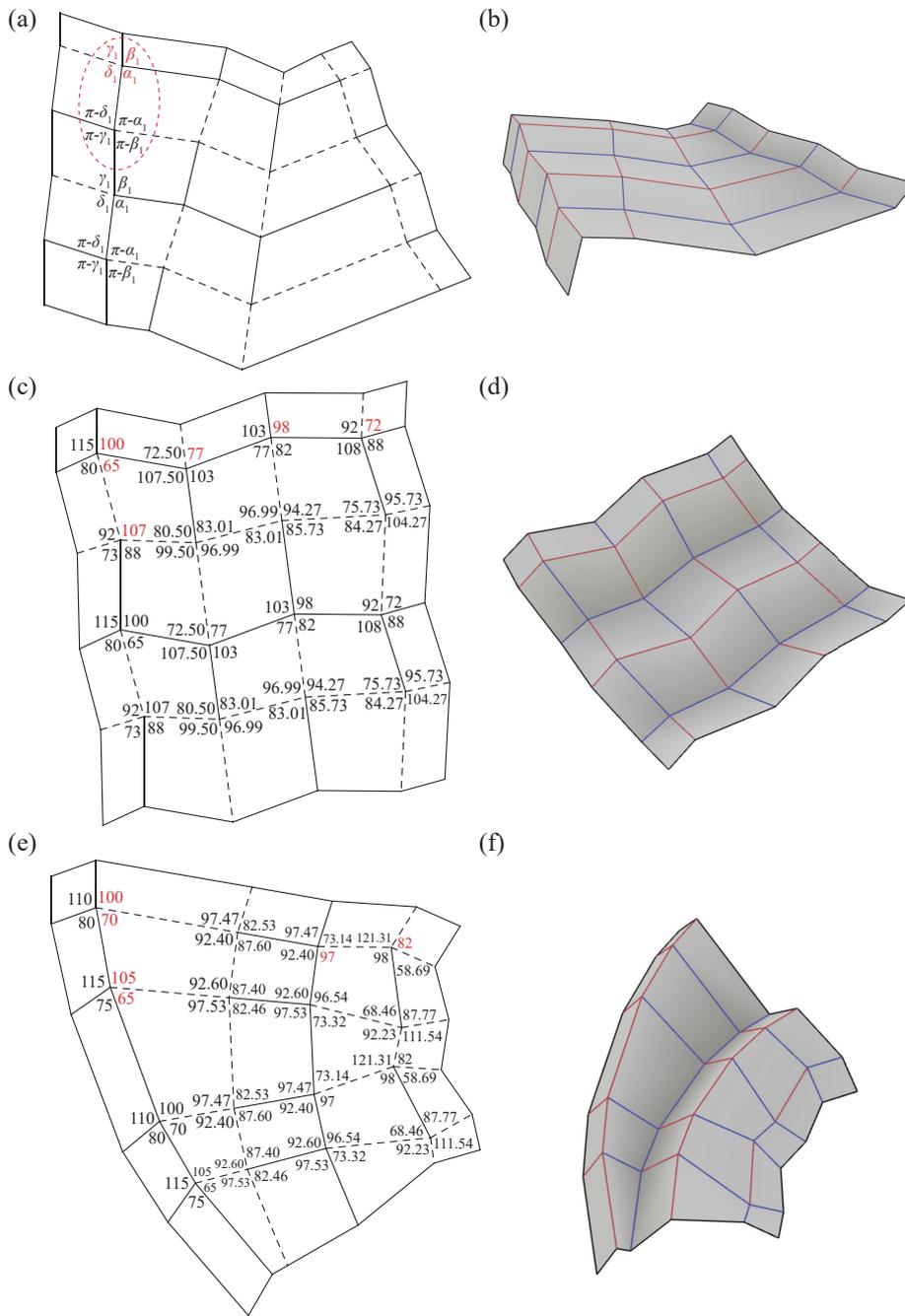
### (e) Conic repeating

This type is formed by stitching a row of type 2.2 of the rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals, and repeating this row in the longitudinal direction. To allow repeating, apart from requiring  $\delta_1 + \delta_2 + \delta_3 + \delta_4 = 2\pi$ , we should also set  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 = 2\pi$  (figure 5(a)). An example is shown in figure 9(c) and 9(d).

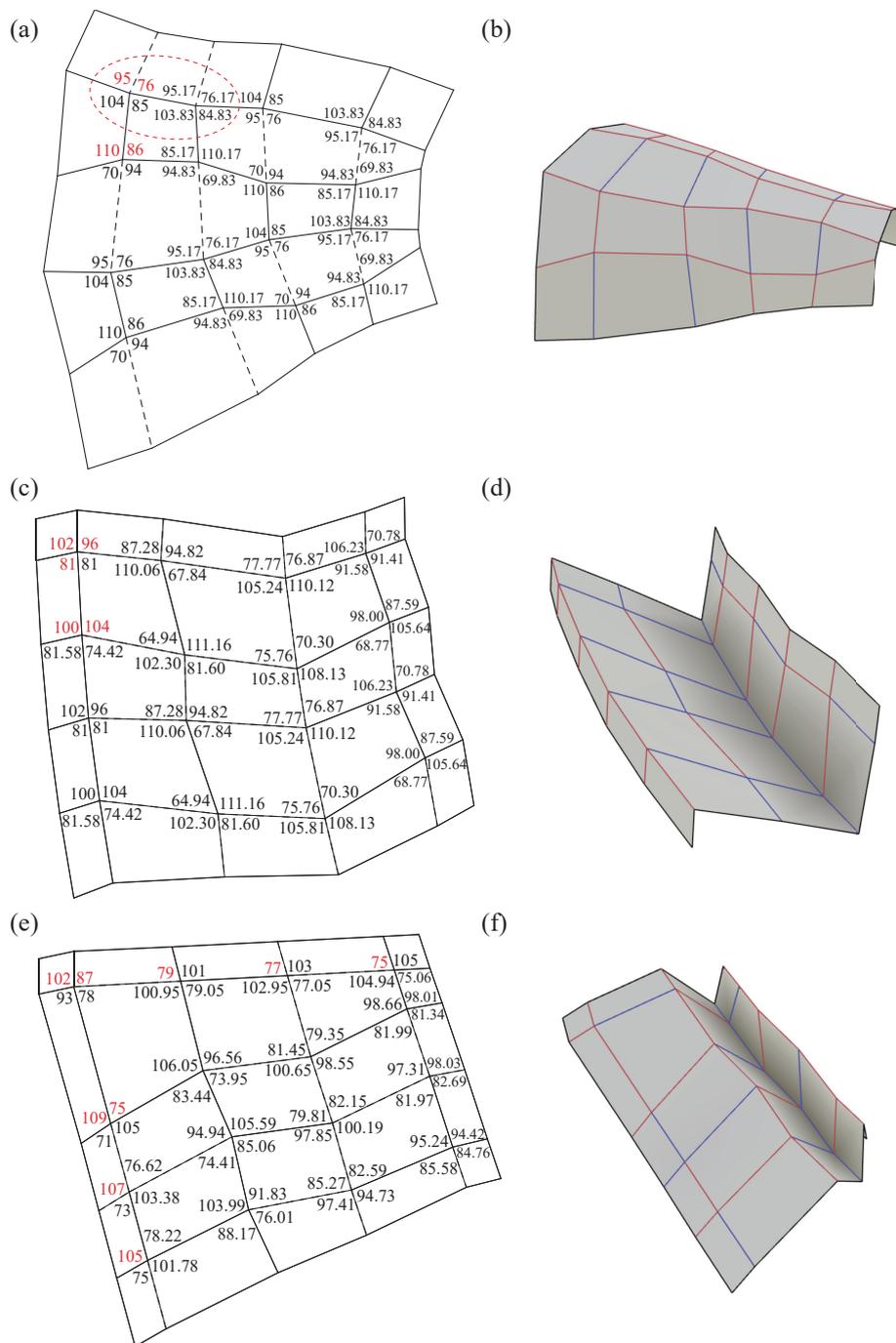
### (f) Hybrid

This type is constructed by the following steps. An example is shown in figure 9(e) and 9(f). For the linear compounds type of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral, if it is stitched from two linear units labelled 4.m and 4.n ( $1 \leq m \leq 5, 1 \leq n \leq 5$ , either (a) or (b)), we label it as m-n.

- (1) Choose the first Kokotsakis quadrilateral from types 1-1, 5.1, 5.2, 6.2, 6.3, 6.7 or 6.8.
- (2) In both the row and column incident to the first Kokotsakis quadrilateral, choose types 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, or 1-4 to stitch with the first Kokotsakis quadrilateral.
- (3) Fill the rest of the creased paper with type 1-1.



**Figure 8.** Examples of the forward linear repeating. All the sector angles are labelled in degrees. The independent input sector angles are coloured red in (a), (c) and (e). Other sector angles are solved numerically. The mountain and valley creases are shown in solid and dashed lines. (a) is formed by stitching “parallel linear units”, one of which is illustrated with a dashed cycle. We name this type as “parallel repeating”. This is a typical special rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased paper, and some other stitchings of linear units will degenerate to this case. (b) is a rigidly folded state of (a). (c) is formed by 4.1(b)–4.2(b)–4.2(b)–4.1(b). (d) is a rigidly folded state of (c). (e) is formed by 4.1(b)–4.3(b)–4.4(b)–4.1(b). (f) is a rigidly folded state of (e). (b), (d) and (f) are plotted by Freeform Origami [5], where the mountain and valley creases are coloured red and blue.



**Figure 9.** Examples of the inverse linear repeating, conic repeating and hybrid type. All the sector angles are labelled in degrees. The independent input sector angles are coloured red. Other sector angles are solved numerically. The mountain and valley creases are shown in solid and dashed lines. (a) is an example of the inverse linear repeating. Here a linear unit 4.1(b) is illustrated with a dashed cycle to show the difference of linear direction in the forward and inverse linear repeating. (b) is a rigidly folded state of (a). (c) is an example of the conic repeating. (d) is a rigidly folded state of (c). (e) is an example of the hybrid type. The first Kokotsakis quadrilateral is of type 6.1, its adjacent row and column are formed by stitching of type 1-2, the rest part is filled with type 1-1. (f) is a rigidly folded state of (e). (b), (d) and (f) are plotted by Freeform Origami [5], where the mountain and valley creases are coloured red and blue.

### (g) Tiling

This type is presented in [10]. It is developable and has 3 independent input sector angles  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ . Setting  $\delta = 2\pi - \alpha - \beta - \gamma$ , at each vertex, the sector angles are  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$  or  $\pi - \alpha, \pi - \beta, \pi - \gamma, \pi - \delta$ . We can interpret this type as a combinatorial special solution of the stitching of type 2.2 of the rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals, which is not formed by repeating.

## 6. Number of branches of rigid folding motion

In this section we provide a list of the number of branches of rigid folding motion for the different types listed above.

Type	Number of branches for a $m \times n$ mesh
Miura-ori	only upper bound known [15]
Orthodiagonal	1
Isogonal	1
Forward linear repeating	from 1 to $2n$
Inverse linear repeating	1
Conic repeating	1
Hybrid	1
Tiling	from 2 to $2^m + 2^n - 2$ [10]

**Table 2.** Number of branches of rigid folding motion for each type of rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased paper presented. For forward linear repeating, linear units 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 only have one branch, but 4.4 and 4.5 have two branches. The overall number is counted by multiplying the number of branches of each column.

Generally, a rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased paper with more symmetry will have a greater number of branches. For example, the number for the tiling type and Miura-ori could increase exponentially. However, for other types presented in this article, the number increases linearly or stays at 1.

## 7. Justification for the possible types presented

In this section we will describe some of the underlying mathematical structure that leads to the different types presented in Section 5.

In Section S1 of the supplementary material, a degree-4 single-vertex creased paper is classified as follows, based on different types of the configuration space.

**Definition 7.** Consider the following equation

$$\alpha \pm \beta \pm \gamma \pm \delta = 0 \pmod{2\pi} \tag{7.1}$$

A degree-4 single-vertex creased paper is said to be

- (1) an *isogram*, if  $\alpha = \gamma, \beta = \delta$ , and an *antiisogram*, if  $\alpha + \gamma = \pi, \beta + \delta = \pi$ .
- (2) a *deltoid*, if  $\alpha = \beta, \delta = \gamma$  or  $\alpha = \gamma, \beta = \delta$ , and an *antideltoid*, if  $\alpha + \beta = \pi, \delta + \gamma = \pi$  or  $\alpha + \gamma = \pi, \beta + \delta = \pi$ .
- (3) of *conic* type, if equation (7.1) has exactly one solution;
- (4) of *elliptic* type, if equation (7.1) has no solution;

When stitching different types of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals, vertices that are shared between the quadrilaterals must be of the same type. Note that if two Kokotsakis

quadrilaterals cannot stitch with each other, switching a strip cannot make them stitchable since it does not change the type of a vertex, at most switching from deltoid to antideltoid, or isogram to antiisogram. We also need to check whether other relations among the existing sector angles are compatible with the new Kokotsakis quadrilateral we plan to stitch.

Type 1.1 can only stitch with itself, forming one type of rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased paper, called *orthodiagonal* (Section 5(a)). The geometric properties mentioned can be examined directly. We have considered possible rotation of Kokotsakis quadrilaterals, but it does not increase the variation.

For other types of Kokotsakis quadrilaterals a proposition is provided for further discussion.

- Proposition 3.**
- (1) For any type of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral, if the 8 sector angles around two adjacent vertices are given and compatible with the constraints on sector angles, there is enough design freedom to solve the other 8 sector angles.
  - (2) Only for types 4, 5, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.7, 6.8 and 6.9, if the given 12 sector angles around three vertices are compatible with the constraints on sector angles, then if the unsolved vertex is an (anti)isogram, there is enough design freedom to solve the other 4 sector angles.
  - (3) For type 6.6, if the given 12 sector angles around three vertices are compatible with the constraints on sector angles, then if the unsolved vertex is elliptic, there is enough design freedom to solve the other 4 sector angles.
  - (4) For other types, even if the given 12 sector angles around three vertices are compatible with the constraints on sector angles. Generically there is no solution for the other 4 sector angles.

*Proof.* The equations of rigid-foldability condition on sector angles in each type of 1.2 and 2–6 are independent. If the 8 sector angles around two adjacent vertices are given without contradiction to the constraints on sector angles, the number of remaining equations is no more than 8, and we say there is enough design freedom for the other 8 sector angles. If 12 sector angles are given around three vertices which are compatible with the constraints on sector angles, only for the cases mentioned in (2) and (3) the number of remaining equations is 4, otherwise it is greater than 4. In this sense, we say generically there is no solution for the other 4 sector angles.  $\square$

For type 1-1 (the labelling is explained in Section 5(f)), stitching with itself forms one type of large rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased paper, called *isogonal* (Section 5(b)). Other stitching possibilities of type 1-1 are included in the discussions on type 4.

For other types, proposition 3 only provides an estimate. However, this estimate has been verified numerically. Apart from the cases given in proposition 3(2) and 3(3), we have not found it to be possible to obtain a large quadrilateral creased paper just by solving equations quadrilateral by quadrilateral. Therefore our next step is to apply symmetry to construct special solution. Note that from Section 4, many other variations based on these special solutions can be obtained by switching some strips and adding some parallel strips.

### (a) Method 1

This method is to stitch compatible categories of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals in one row by solving equations quadrilateral by quadrilateral, and repeating this row in the longitudinal direction to obtain a large quadrilateral creased paper, which makes the creased paper rowwise-periodical. From proposition 3 it is possible to solve a row, and when constructing special solutions in the longitudinal direction, we should consider that each time when solving 8 sector angles based on 8 known sector angles, the number of additional constraints to allow such special solutions plus the number of original constraints should not exceed 8. The reason for only using repeating here will be explained in Section 7(c).

Consider generating the row of Kokotsakis quadrilaterals for repeating in the longitudinal direction. Apart from the initial quadrilateral, each time we add a quadrilateral and solve 8 sector

angles based on 8 known sector angles. Therefore it is necessary to analyse if the 8 sector angles around two adjacent vertices are given, which type of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral is still rigid-foldable after repeating in the longitudinal direction. Note that those rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals might be able to rotate when stitching. To make it clear, here we describe the placement of a Kokotsakis quadrilateral as “regular” if it is aligned with the description in Section S2 of the supplementary material, or “rotated” if the placement is orthogonal. For regular position, an extra condition  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 = 2\pi$ , must be added to allow repetition because the sum of sector angles on each inner panel should be  $2\pi$ . For rotated position, the extra condition becomes  $\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 + \gamma_4 = 2\pi$ .

**Proposition 4.** The following statements describe, for each type of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral, whether it is possible to solve 8 sector angles numerically based on 8 known sector angles of adjacent two vertices such that after repeating the new Kokotsakis quadrilateral is still rigid-foldable.

- (1) For types 2.1 and 2.2, it is possible to obtain another rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral by repeating.
- (2) For type 1-1, at each vertex there is a coefficient  $\kappa$ , which can be chosen from  $\sin \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \sin \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$  or  $\cos \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \cos \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$ . If the number of each choice is 0, 2 or 4, for either the regular or rotated position it is possible to obtain another rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral by repeating, otherwise not.
- (3) For type 4 (excluding 1-1), for the rotated position it is possible to obtain another rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral by repeating. When there is a linear unit 4.1,  $\kappa_1$  and  $\kappa_2$  should be both  $\sin \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \sin \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$  or both  $\cos \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \cos \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$ .
- (4) For type 1-3, for the regular position it is possible to obtain another rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral by repeating. When there is a linear unit 4.1,  $\kappa_1$  and  $\kappa_2$  should be both  $\sin \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \sin \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$  or both  $\cos \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \cos \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$ .
- (5) For type 6.1, for either the regular or rotated position, it is possible to obtain another rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral by repeating.
- (6) For types 6.4 and 6.5, for the rotated position it is possible to obtain another rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral by repeating.
- (7) For other types or placements generically it is not possible to obtain another rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral by repeating.

*Proof.* Statements (1), (5) and (6) can be verified directly.

Statements (2), (3) and (4): For type 4, repeating in either the regular or rotated position preserves the linear relations among the tangent of half of the folding angles. For linear unit 4.1, if  $\kappa_1$  and  $\kappa_2$  are both  $\sin \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \sin \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$  or both  $\cos \frac{\alpha-\beta}{2} / \cos \frac{\alpha+\beta}{2}$ , the linear coefficient  $c$  remains the same after repeating in either the regular position or the rotated position, otherwise only the sign of  $c$  is changed. For linear unit 4.3,  $c$  remains the same after repeating in either the regular position or the rotated position. For linear units 4.2–4.5,  $c$  remain the same after repeating in the rotated position, while in the regular position change its value. Since when two linear units stitch with each other the linear coefficient must be the same, the proposition holds.

Statement (7): For all the other types or placements, either the additional constraints to allow repeating contradict with the original constraints on sector angles, or the number of additional constraints to allow repeating plus the number of original constraints on sector angles is greater than 8. In this sense we say generically these types or placements are not suitable for repeating.  $\square$

The possible types that can be used to stitch with other types also determine the first Kokotsakis quadrilateral in this row. However, our numerical studies have lead to the following restrictive observations about the selection of types.

**Observation 1.** Only non-real numerical solutions are found for types 2.1, 5.3, and 6.9.

**Observation 2.** The only numerical solution found for type 6.1 degenerates to a Kokotsakis quadrilateral in the “parallel repeating” type shown in figure 8(a).

**Observation 3.** Types 6.4 and 6.5 have numerical solutions, but are rigid in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

Then considering the compatibility among all the types and placements, the possible stitchings for method 1 are listed as follows. The row of Kokotsakis quadrilaterals to be repeated can be constructed by the following ways.

- (1) *Forward Linear Repeating*: Stitch among the linear units of type 4 in the rotated position (Section 4(c)).
- (2) *Inverse Linear Repeating*: Stitch among type 1-3 in the regular position (Section 4(d)).

Just from the type of vertices in 1-3, we can choose types 1-3, 5.1, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5 as the first Kokotsakis quadrilateral. However, from Observation 3, 6.4 and 6.5 are not suitable. More careful examination on types 5.1 and 6.3 shows that the additional requirements to allow repeating contradicts with the rigid-foldability condition on sector angles.

- (3) *Conic Repeating*: Stitch among type 2.2. (Section 4(e))

Apart from linear units, from Observations 1–3 the only remaining type is 2.2. What we then need to consider is choosing the first Kokotsakis quadrilateral in this row, which can be types 2.2, 5-5, and 6.8. Choosing 5-5 will become a special case of 3.2. More careful examination on type 6.8 shows that the additional requirements to allow repeating contradicts with the rigid-foldability condition on sector angles.

## (b) Method 2

This method is to construct a row and a column of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals, then consider the stitching of solvable cases mentioned in proposition 3(2) and 3(3) to obtain a large quadrilateral creased paper. It is necessary to make sure that “solving one vertex based on three vertices” can proceed in both longitudinal and transverse directions, which excludes type 6.6. Considering solving an (anti)isogram, the possible stitchings are presented in Section 4(f), called the *hybrid* type. From Observations 1 and 3, types 5.3, 6.4, 6.5 and 6.9 are excluded when choosing the first Kokotsakis quadrilateral.

## (c) Other special solutions

It is natural to consider whether other operations are possible after constructing a row of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals. For instance, the new rows can be generated by substituting some sector angles by their complements to  $\pi$ , or switching the position of some sector angles. From our observation, generically such operations

- (1) do not result in another rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilateral.
- (2) need two or more extra conditions for ensuring the sector angles on each inner panel to be  $2\pi$ , where the total number of constraints exceeds 8.

Therefore only repeating is considered in method 1. We do, however, admit that repeating is only an elementary special solution, and possibly these operations could be applied in some non-generic cases.

Further, there are some more special solutions which are more dependent on symmetry. [10] provided the *tiling type* in (Section 4(g)). However, it is unclear to us how to use “tiling” to generate a large quadrilateral creased paper from a solved row of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals. Some insights on finding more types of rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers are provided in Section 8.

## 8. Discussion

### (a) Comment on further solutions

Here we point out some considerations for further exploration of large rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers.

- (1) Although for a large quadrilateral creased paper, generically the number of constraints for rigid-foldability is much greater than the number of sector angles, it may be still possible to solve this system as a whole and find some special solutions.
- (2) Following the idea of solving the sector angles quadrilateral by quadrilateral, in Section 7 we move forward only by comparing the number of constraints and variables. However, this is not strict for non-linear systems. By studying the rigid-foldability conditions more carefully there may be further special solutions. Then it might be possible to go beyond the known types and find more general rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers.

### (b) Comment on the numerical results

For the types mentioned above, only the orthodiagonal, isogonal, parallel repeating, and tiling do not require solving complicated equations, while other types need some input sector angles and solve the rest of the sector angles numerically. We will comment on these numerical solutions here.

- (1) When making examples we used *fsolve* in MATLAB with random input sector angles and initial values for solution. The numerical solutions can be sensitive to the input sector angles and initial values. Given a set of input sector angles there might be no solution, or only complex solutions, as mentioned in Observation 1. Sometimes an exact numerical solution can be obtained only after trying many different input sector angles and initial values. Changing the position of input sector angles will also affect the numerical result.
- (2) Most of equations in the rigid-foldability condition are trigonometric, but some are exponential or elliptic. Trigonometric equations can be transformed into polynomial equations with the following relations:

$$\cos \alpha = \frac{1 - \tan^2 \frac{\alpha}{2}}{1 + \tan^2 \frac{\alpha}{2}}, \quad \sin \alpha = \frac{2 \tan \frac{\alpha}{2}}{1 + \tan^2 \frac{\alpha}{2}} \quad (8.1)$$

which has the advantage that the numerical solution of a system of polynomial equations has been well studied. It would be possible to apply more advanced numerical methods here for better results.

- (3) In Observation 3, we mentioned that types 6.4 and 6.5 can be solved, but are rigid in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . This is because the rigid-foldability constraints on sector angles are derived in the complexified configuration space, where the real folding angles may be isolated.

Another phenomenon in the numerical solution is called *degeneration*, which can be divided into two types.

- (a) An (anti)deltoid or (anti)isogram may degenerate to a cross (two pairs of collinear creases). A conic vertex may degenerate to an (anti)deltoid or (anti)isogram. An elliptic vertex may degenerate to a conic vertex. Further degeneration is also possible.
- (b) There might be unexpected relations among the sector angles, such as in figure 8(e) and 8(f), some inner creases in different linear units are parallel; and in figure 9(a) and 9(b) when solving new sector angles in a row some values recur.

Apart from a vertex becoming a cross, such degenerations are acceptable.

### (c) Choice of crease lengths and possible self-intersection

After finding all the sector angles of a large quadrilateral creased paper, the length of inner creases in a row and a column is adjustable. When plotting the creased paper based on a set of known sector angles, the length of inner creases should be adjusted to avoid intersection of inner creases at some points other than vertices.

Further, even if the creased paper is successfully constructed, there might be self-intersection in the rigid folding motion. Apart from simulation, efficient methods to predict self-intersection are still unknown. We provide a discussion in [11].

### (d) Perturbation Method

If consider finding rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased paper numerically, a possible method is applying perturbation to Miura-ori (in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ) and examining the error step by step. If the series converges, the limit would be a new solution. This numeric method might help us to find new variations that cannot be explained by the analytical solutions mentioned in this article. However, the algorithm must be carefully designed to ensure convergence and be capable of finding new solutions.

## 9. Conclusion

Based on a nearly complete classification of rigid-foldable Kokotsakis quadrilaterals from Ivan Izmetiev, this paper describes several new variations of large rigid-foldable quadrilateral creased papers, without any restriction on the developability or flat-foldability. The rigid folding motions of these new variations are more irregular but still have single degree of freedom.

**Data Accessibility.** This article has a supplementary material.

**Authors' Contributions.** ZH developed the theories described here, and took the primary role in writing the paper. SDG provided advice on, and made contributions to, the development of the project; and helped to write the paper. All authors gave final approval for publication.

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