



## On Geometry of the Midlocus Associated to a Smooth Curve in Plane and Space

Azeb Alghanemi<sup>a</sup>, Peter Giblin<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of mathematics, Faculty of Sciences, King Abdulaziz University, P.O. Box 80203, Jeddah 21589, Saudi Arabia

<sup>b</sup>Department of Mathematical Sciences, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 7ZL U.K

**Abstract.** The singularities of the midpoint map associated to a smooth plane curve, which is a map from the plane to the plane, are classified. The midlocus associated to a regular space curve is introduced. The geometric conditions for the midlocus of a space curve to have a crosscap or an  $S_1^\pm$  singularities are investigated. A more general map, the  $\lambda$ -point map, associated to a space curve is introduced and many known surface singularities are realized as a special cases of this construction.

### 1. Introduction

The midlocus of a plane curve had been introduced by Brady under the name “smoothed local symmetry” (cf. [2]). In [6] the second author and Brassett give the condition for the midlocus of a plane curve to be a regular curve. Also, they study the behaviour of the midpoint map. In [8] the second author and Warder present a method to create the boundary plane curve using the information provided by the midlocus and the radius function. This method is summarized in creating a system of ordinary differential equations using the midlocus and the radius function — the solution of this system is the symmetry set of the boundary curve and in this case the boundary curve is created as the envelope of circles centred on the symmetry set. For more details on envelope we refer reader to [3–7]. This method had been generalized to the higher dimensions by the first author [1].

This paper is divided into seven main sections, the first section deals with the introduction and the second section will be dedicated to the classification of the midpoint map as a map from the plane to the plane, in §2 we will give the geometric conditions for the midpoint map to have cusp, fold, lips, beaks and swallow-tails singularities. The third section provides some examples illustrating our result in §2. In §4, we will prove that the midlocus associated to a smooth regular space curve is a surface and we give the geometric conditions for this surface to have a crosscap and an  $S_1^\pm$  singularity. In §5, we will give some examples to illustrate the results in §4. In §6 we study the singularity of the  $\lambda$ -point map which is more general than the midpoint map. Also, through §6 the special values of  $\lambda$  are introduced and the singularity of the  $\lambda$ -point map associated the special values of  $\lambda$  will be investigated. Last section is the appendix, and in this section we give a geometric interpretation of the coefficients occur in our results in §6.

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*Email addresses:* aalghanemi@kau.edu.sa (Azeb Alghanemi), pjgiblin@liv.ac.uk (Peter Giblin)

## 2. Singularity of the midpoint map associated to a plane curve as a map from $\mathbb{R}^2$ to $\mathbb{R}^2$

In this section we investigate the singularity of the midpoint map of a plane curve as a map from  $\mathbb{R}^2$  to  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Recall that the midpoint map of a smooth plane curve  $\gamma$  is defined by  $m : I \subset \mathbb{R} \times J \subset \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $m(t_1, t_2) = \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_1(t_1) + \gamma_2(t_2))$ , where  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are two smooth parts of  $\gamma$  parametrized by  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  respectively.

Before the discussion of the singularities of the midpoint map, we review some basic concepts related to the singularity of a smooth map from the plane into the plane. The map germ  $(\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^2, 0)$  with corank one singularity (a map germ  $f : (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^m, 0)$  has a corank one singularity at  $p$  if the rank of the Jacobian matrix of  $f$  at  $p$  is equal to  $\min(n, m) - 1$ ) and  $\mathcal{A}_e$ -codimension  $\leq 6$  had been classified up to  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalence by J. Rieger [14] using the technique of complete transversal and finite determinacy [18]. The main purpose of this section is to give the geometric conditions for the midpoint map of a plane curve to have fold, cusp, beaks, lips and swallowtail singularities. The normal forms of these singularities are  $(x, y^2)$ ,  $(x, xy + y^3)$ ,  $(x, y^3 - x^2y)$ ,  $(x, y^3 + x^2y)$  and  $(x, y^4 + xy)$  respectively.

The second author and S. Janeczko found the conditions for the midpoint map to have cusp, beaks, lips and swallowtail singularities. The conditions they found are related to the centre symmetry set (CSS) and the inflexion points of the boundary curve [10]. In our results we give more precise conditions related to the geometry of the boundary curve.

**Definition 2.1.** Two map-germs  $f_i : (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^p, 0)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent if there exist germs of  $C^\infty$ -diffeomorphisms  $\vartheta$  and  $\varphi$  such that  $\varphi \circ f_1 = f_2 \circ \vartheta$  holds, where  $\vartheta : (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^n, 0)$  and  $\varphi : (\mathbb{R}^p, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^p, 0)$ .

To give the geometric conditions for the midpoint map to have the mentioned singularities we use the criteria in [16, 19]. Since the map  $m : (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^2, 0)$  has a corank one singularity when  $T_1(0) = \pm T_2(0)$ , there exists a neighbourhood  $U$  of 0, and non-vanishing vector field  $\eta$  such that  $dm_p(\eta) = 0$  for all  $p \in S(m) \cap U$ , where  $S(m)$  is the singular set of  $m$ . The vector field  $\eta$  is called the null vector field. The discriminant function which plays a central role in the criteria which we are going to use is defined by

$$\Lambda(t_1, t_2) = \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial m}{\partial t_1} & \frac{\partial m}{\partial t_2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The expression  $\eta\Lambda$  is the directional derivative of  $\Lambda$  by  $\eta$ . For more detail on the discriminant function and the null vector field we refer reader to [12, 16]. Now we state the criteria.

**Criteria 2.2.** [16, 19] For a map germ  $f : (U \subset \mathbb{R}^2, p) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^2, 0)$ , the following hold.

1.  $f$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to fold if and only if  $\eta\Lambda(p) \neq 0$ .
2.  $f$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to cusp if and only if  $p$  is non-degenerate,  $\eta\Lambda(p) = 0$  and  $\eta\eta\Lambda(p) \neq 0$ .
3.  $f$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to lips if and only if  $p$  is of corank one,  $d\Lambda(p) = 0$  and  $\Lambda$  has a Morse type critical point of index 0 or 2 at  $p$ , namely  $\det(\text{Hess}\Lambda(p)) > 0$ .
4.  $f$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to beaks if and only if  $p$  is of corank one  $d\Lambda(p) = 0$  and  $\Lambda$  has a Morse type critical point of index 1 at  $p$ , namely  $\det(\text{Hess}\Lambda(p)) < 0$  and  $\eta\eta\Lambda(p) \neq 0$ .
5.  $f$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to swallowtail if and only if  $d\Lambda(p) \neq 0$ ,  $\eta\Lambda(p) = \eta\eta\Lambda(p) = 0$  and  $\eta\eta\eta\Lambda(p) \neq 0$ .

**Remark 2.3.** It is easy to observe that  $\eta\eta\Lambda(p) \neq 0$  is automatically satisfied in part 3 of Criteria 2.2 and this is because of the inequality  $\det(\text{Hess}\Lambda(p)) > 0$  and the symmetry of  $\text{Hess}\Lambda$ .

From the definition of the midpoint map  $m$  associated to a smooth plane curve  $\gamma$  it is easy to check that the midpoint map is singular at  $m(t_1, t_2)$  if and only if  $\gamma$  has parallel tangents at  $\gamma(t_1)$  and  $\gamma(t_2)$ . Let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be two segments of  $\gamma$  around  $\gamma(t_1)$  and  $\gamma(t_2)$  respectively. We parameterize  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  by their arc-lengths  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  respectively such that  $t_1 = t_2 = 0$  in the new coordinates. The unit tangents of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are denoted by  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  respectively. We state the main theorem of this section.

**Theorem 2.4.** Let  $m$  be the midpoint map of a smooth plane curve. Suppose that the tangents to the two boundary segments are parallel, i.e.  $T_1(0) = \pm T_2(0)$ . Then at  $(0, 0)$

1.  $m$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to fold if and only if  $\kappa_1(0) \neq \mp \kappa_2(0)$ .
2.  $m$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to cusp if and only if  $\kappa_1(0) = \mp \kappa_2(0) \neq 0$  and  $\kappa'_1(0) \neq \kappa'_2(0)$ .
3.  $m$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to lips if and only if  $\kappa_1(0) = \kappa_2(0) = 0$  and  $\kappa'_1(0)\kappa'_2(0) < 0$ .
4.  $m$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to beaks if and only if  $\kappa_1(0) = \kappa_2(0) = 0$ ,  $\kappa'_1(0)\kappa'_2(0) > 0$  and  $\kappa'_1(0) \neq \kappa'_2(0)$ .
5.  $m$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to swallowtail if and only if  $\kappa_1(0) = \mp \kappa_2(0) \neq 0$ ,  $\kappa'_1(0) = \kappa'_2(0)$  and  $\kappa''_1(0) \neq \mp \kappa''_2(0)$ .

*Proof.* From definition we have  $m(s_1, s_2) = \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_1(s_1) + \gamma_2(s_2))$ , where  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  are the arc-length of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  respectively. This map is singular at  $(0, 0)$  if and only if  $T_1(0) = \pm T_2(0)$  see [6]. Now we will use Criteria 2.2 to prove this theorem. Let  $T_1(0) = -T_2(0)$ , we choose  $\eta$  such that  $dm_{(0,0)}(\eta) = 0$ , thus we take  $\eta = \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1} + \frac{\partial}{\partial s_2}$ . Calculations show that  $\Lambda(s_1, s_2) = -T_1(s_1) \cdot N_2(s_2)$ . For the purpose of calculations we omit  $s_1$  and  $s_2$ , hence  $\Lambda = -T_1 \cdot N_2$ . Parts 1 and 2 in Theorem 2.4 were proved by the second author in [6], but here we present a new version of their proof using the Criteria 2.2. Calculations show that

$$\Lambda_s = -\kappa_1 N_1 \cdot N_2, \quad \Lambda_t = \kappa_2 T_1 \cdot T_2,$$

$$\eta\Lambda = (\kappa_2 - \kappa_1)T_1 \cdot T_2, \quad \eta\eta\Lambda = (\kappa'_2 - \kappa'_1)T_1 \cdot T_2 + (\kappa_2 - \kappa_1)^2 T_1 \cdot N_2,$$

$$\eta\eta\eta\Lambda = [(\kappa''_2 - \kappa''_1) - (\kappa_2 - \kappa_1)^3]T_1 \cdot T_2 + 3(\kappa_2 - \kappa_1)(\kappa'_2 - \kappa'_1)T_1 \cdot N_2$$

and

$$\text{Hess}\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} -\kappa'_1 N_1 \cdot N_2 + \kappa_2^2 T_1 \cdot N_2 & \kappa_1 \kappa_2 N_1 \cdot T_2 \\ \kappa_1 \kappa_2 N_1 \cdot T_2 & \kappa'_2 T_1 \cdot T_2 + \kappa_2^2 T_1 \cdot N_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

At  $(0, 0)$  we have  $\Lambda_s(0, 0) = \kappa_1(0)$ ,  $\Lambda_t(0, 0) = -\kappa_2(0)$ ,  $\eta\Lambda(0, 0) = \kappa_1(0) - \kappa_2(0)$ ,  $\eta\eta\Lambda(0, 0) = \kappa'_1(0) - \kappa'_2(0)$ ,  $\eta\eta\eta\Lambda(0, 0) = \kappa''_1(0) - \kappa''_2(0) + (\kappa_2(0) - \kappa_1(0))^3$  and  $\det(\text{Hess}\Lambda(0, 0)) = -\kappa'_1(0)\kappa'_2(0)$ . Thus applying the Criteria 2.2 the results hold. Similarly, we prove the results when  $T_1(0) = T_2(0)$ , and in this case we choose  $\eta = \frac{\partial}{\partial s_1} - \frac{\partial}{\partial s_2}$ .  $\square$

In [9] the second author and Graham Reeve study the  $\lambda$ -equidistant associated to a smooth plane curve  $\gamma$ , which is the set of all points of the form  $(1 - \lambda)p + \lambda q$  for fixed  $\lambda$  and parallel tangents at  $p$  and  $q$ .

### 3. Examples

In this section we give examples of the last three parts of theorem 2.4. To do so it is easier to work locally by considering two segments of curve as the following.

- (1) We choose  $\gamma_1(t_1) = (t_1, 3t_1^3 + t_1^4)$  and  $\gamma_2(t_2) = (t_2, 1 - 2t_2^3 + t_2^4)$ . Direct calculations show that  $T_1(0) = T_2(0)$ ,  $\kappa_1(0) = \kappa_2(0) = 0$ ,  $\kappa'_1(0) = 18$  and  $\kappa'_2(0) = -12$ . Therefore,  $m$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to lips (see Figure 1).
- (2) For beaks we choose  $\gamma_1(t_1) = (t_1, -2t_1^3 + t_1^4)$  and  $\gamma_2(t_2) = (t_2, 1 - 3t_2^3 + t_2^4)$ . In this case we have  $T_1(0) = T_2(0)$ ,  $\kappa_1(0) = \kappa_2(0) = 0$ ,  $\kappa'_1(0) = -12$  and  $\kappa'_2(0) = -18$ . Therefore,  $m$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to beaks (see Figure 2).
- (3) For swallowtail we take  $\gamma_1(t_1) = (t_1, 2t_1^2 + 3t_1^3 + 4t_1^4)$  and  $\gamma_2(t_2) = (t_2, 1 - 2t_2^2 - 3t_2^3 + t_2^4)$ . We have  $T_1(0) = T_2(0)$ ,  $\kappa_1(0) = 4$ ,  $\kappa_2(0) = -4$ ,  $\kappa'_1(0) = \kappa'_2(0) = -18$ ,  $\kappa''_1(0) = -168$  and  $\kappa''_2(0) = 216$ . Therefore,  $m$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to swallowtail.

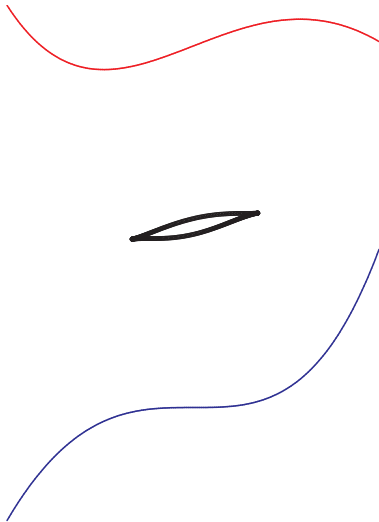


Figure 1: An example of a perturbed midpoint in the case of a lips singularity



Figure 2: An example of a perturbed midpoint in the case of a beaks singularity

#### 4. Singularity of the midlocus map associated to a space curve as a map from $\mathbb{R}^2$ to $\mathbb{R}^3$

In this section we define the midlocus associated to a smooth space curve  $\gamma$  to be the image of the midpoint map where we use all pairs of point of  $\gamma$ . Also, the geometric conditions for the midlocus of a space curve to have a crosscap and an  $S_1^\pm$  singularity will be investigated.

**Proposition 4.1.** *Let  $\gamma : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be a smooth space curve embedded in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  (where  $I$  is an open interval or a circle), and let  $p_1 = \gamma(t_1)$  and  $p_2 = \gamma(t_2)$  be two distinct points of the curve. Then there is a sphere or plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  tangent to  $\gamma$  at these two points (a bitangent sphere or plane). There are infinitely many such spheres if and only if there is a plane containing both  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  and perpendicular to the tangent lines at those points.*

*Proof.* The centres of spheres tangent to  $\gamma$  at  $p_1$  all lie on the plane  $\pi_1$  through  $p_1$  perpendicular to the tangent vector  $\gamma'(t_1)$  there; similarly there is a plane  $\pi_2$  perpendicular to  $\gamma'(t_2)$  at  $p_2$ . The remaining condition, that one sphere should be tangent at both points requires the centre to lie on the perpendicular bisector plane  $\pi_{12}$  of the chord joining  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ . We require the condition that these three planes meet in a single point, which will then be the centre of the unique bitangent sphere. The three normals to the planes are the two tangents to  $\gamma$  at  $p_1, p_2$  and the chord between these two points; the three planes meet in a single point, if and only if the two tangents and the chord are not coplanar.

It remains to examine the case where this fails. Suppose first that the tangent lines at  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are parallel but distinct, so that  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are also parallel. If  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  are distinct then the unique plane containing the tangent lines at  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  is a bitangent plane and there are no bitangent spheres. If  $\pi_1 = \pi_2$  then there are infinitely many bitangent spheres with centres on the intersection of  $\pi_1 = \pi_2$  with  $\pi_{12}$ .

If the tangent lines at  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  coincide then any plane through the common tangent line is a bitangent plane, and there are no bitangent spheres.

Finally if the tangent lines at  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are coplanar with the chord joining these two points, but the tangent lines are not parallel, then the plane containing them is a bitangent plane and there are no bitangent spheres.  $\square$

Proposition 4.1 motivates the following definition of the midlocus associated to a smooth space curve.

**Definition 4.2.** When constructing the midlocus of a space curve  $\gamma$  we use all the pairs of points  $p_1, p_2$ : the midlocus  $M$  is the image of the midpoint map  $m : I \times J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ , where  $I$  and  $J$  are open intervals of real numbers, if we consider two disjoint curves  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2$ , or  $I = J = S^1$  if we consider a single closed curve  $\gamma$ . In this case call  $M$  the midpoint surface.

Note that  $M$  is a compact closed surface  $M$  with boundary on the generating space curves, and that it will in general have singularities. Note also that the construction of  $M$ , unlike that of the midlocus of a plane curve, is *affinely invariant*.

**Remark 4.3.** When  $p_2 \rightarrow p_1$  in the Proposition 4.1 the bitangent sphere, if there is one, will in the limit have (at least) 4-point contact with  $\gamma$  at  $p_1$  and hence will be the unique sphere of curvature with centre

$$\gamma(t_1) + \frac{1}{\kappa(t_1)}N(t_1) - \frac{\kappa'(t_1)}{\kappa^2(t_1)\tau(t_1)}B(t_1),$$

provided  $\kappa(t_1)$  and  $\tau(t_1)$  are nonzero. (See[4, §2.34].)

The simple singularities of map germs  $(\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^3, 0)$  have been classified by Mond [13]. As an application of Mond’s classification we give the geometric conditions for the midlocus surface to have a crosscap singularity ( resp.  $S_1^\pm$  singularity) with normal form  $(x, xy, y^2)$  (resp.  $(x, y^2, y(x^2 \pm y^2))$ ). We present the criteria for a surface in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  to have such singularities and for more details we refer reader to [15]. If a map germ  $f : (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^3, 0)$  has a corank one singularity at 0, then there exist two independent vector fields  $\xi$  and  $\eta$  near the origin satisfying  $df_0(\eta_0) = 0$  and  $\xi_0, \eta_0 \in T_0\mathbb{R}^2$ . The function which plays a central role for the criteria is defined by  $\varphi : (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\varphi = \det(\xi f, \eta f, \eta \eta f) = (\xi f \wedge \eta f) \cdot \eta \eta f$ , where  $\zeta f$  is the directional derivative of  $f$  by  $\zeta$ .

**Criteria 4.4.** [15] Let  $f : (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^3, 0)$  be a map germ and 0 a corank one singular point. Then

1.  $f$  at 0 is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to the crosscap if and only if  $\xi\varphi(0) \neq 0$ .
2.  $f$  at 0 is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $S_1^-$  if and only if  $\varphi$  has a critical point at 0, and  $\det(\text{Hess}\varphi(0)) > 0$ .
3.  $f$  at 0 is  $\mathcal{A}$  equivalent to  $S_1^+$  if and only if  $\varphi$  has a critical point at 0 and  $\det(\text{Hess}\varphi(0)) < 0$  and the vectors  $\xi f(0)$  and  $\eta \eta f(0)$  are linearly independent.

Through the rest of this article the curvature and torsion of the curve  $\gamma_i$  are denoted by  $\kappa_i$  and  $\tau_i$  respectively. Moreover, the Serret- Frenet frame of  $\gamma_i$  is denoted by  $\{T_i, N_i, B_i\}$ , where  $T_i, N_i$  and  $B_i$  are the unit tangent, the unit principle normal and the unit binormal respectively.

**Lemma 4.5.** Let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be two regular space curves. If  $T_1 = \pm T_2$ , then  $N_1 \cdot B_2 = \mp N_2 \cdot B_1$  and  $N_1 \cdot N_2 = \pm B_1 \cdot B_2$ , where  $\{T_i, N_i, B_i\}$  is the Serret - Frenet frame of  $\gamma_i, i = 1, 2$ .

*Proof.* The proof of this Lemma is obvious.  $\square$

Before we state and prove the main results of this section, which are related to the singularities of the midlocus of a space curve, we state the essential lemma.

**Lemma 4.6.** Let  $M$  be the midlocus associated to a smooth space curve  $\gamma$  with non-vanishing curvature.

1. The midlocus is smooth at  $M(t_1, t_2)$  if and only if the tangents of  $\gamma$  at  $\gamma(t_1)$  and  $\gamma(t_2)$  are not parallel.
2. The midlocus is parametrized by a corank one singularity at  $M(t_1, t_2)$  if and only if the tangents of  $\gamma$  at  $\gamma(t_1)$  and  $\gamma(t_2)$  are parallel.

*Proof.* The proof of this lemma is obvious.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.7.** Let  $M$  be the midlocus associated to a smooth space curve  $\gamma$  with non-vanishing curvature. If  $\gamma$  has parallel tangents at  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ , then the midlocus has a crosscap singularity at the mid-point of the the chord joining  $\gamma(t_1)$  and  $\gamma(t_2)$  if and only if  $N(t_1) \cdot B(t_2) \neq 0$ . That means  $\gamma$  does not have parallel Serret - Frenet frames at  $\gamma(t_1)$  and  $\gamma(t_2)$ .

*Proof.* To prove this theorem we use Criteria 4.4. Let  $T(t_1) = -T(t_2)$  and consider two pieces  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  of  $\gamma$  around  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ . We parameterize  $\gamma_1$  by its arc-length  $s$  and  $\gamma_2$  by its arc-length  $t$  such that  $t_1 = 0$  and  $t_2 = 0$  in the new coordinates. The midlocus associated to  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  is defined by  $M = \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2)$ . By our assumption we have  $T_1(0) = -T_2(0)$  and in this case  $M$  is singular at  $(0, 0)$ . Since  $dM_0(\eta_0) = 0$  we choose  $\eta = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$  and  $\xi = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ . We define the function  $\varphi = \det(\xi M, \eta M, \eta \eta M)$ . Direct calculations show that  $\xi M = \frac{1}{2}(T_1 - T_2)$ ,  $\eta M = \frac{1}{2}(T_1 + T_2)$  and  $\eta \eta M = \frac{1}{2}(\kappa_1 N_1 + \kappa_2 N_2)$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi &= \det(\xi M, \eta M, \eta \eta M) \\ &= (\xi M \wedge \eta M) \cdot \eta \eta M \\ &= \frac{1}{4}(\kappa_2 T_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_1 T_2 \cdot B_1). \end{aligned}$$

$M$  has a crosscap singularity at  $(0, 0)$  if and only if  $\xi \varphi \neq 0$ .  $\xi \varphi = \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t}$  and direct calculations show that

$$\xi \varphi = \frac{1}{4}(\kappa_1 \kappa_2 N_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_1' T_2 \cdot B_1 + \kappa_1 \tau_1 T_2 \cdot N_1) - \frac{1}{4}(\kappa_2' T_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_2 \tau_2 T_1 \cdot N_2 - \kappa_1 \kappa_2 N_2 \cdot B_1).$$

At  $s = 0$  and  $t = 0$  we have  $T_1 = -T_2$  thus

$$\xi \varphi|_{(0,0)} = \frac{\kappa_1 \kappa_2}{4}(N_1 \cdot B_2 + N_2 \cdot B_1)$$

and from Lemma 4.5 we have  $N_1 \cdot B_2 = N_2 \cdot B_1$ . Therefore,  $\xi \varphi|_{(0,0)} \neq 0$  if and only if  $N_1 \cdot B_2 \neq 0$ . Similarly, we prove the results when  $T(t_1) = T(t_2)$ , in this case we choose  $\eta = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ , and  $\xi = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ .  $\square$

**Remark 4.8.** From the Theorem 4.7 and its proof it can be easily shown that if the space curve  $\gamma$  has a parallel tangents at  $\gamma(t_1)$  and  $\gamma(t_2)$  and  $\gamma$  has zero curvature at  $\gamma(t_1)$  or at  $\gamma(t_2)$ , then the midlocus does not have a crosscap singularity.

Now assume that  $\gamma$  has non-vanishing curvature and the midlocus does not have a crosscap singularity. In this case we have  $N(t_1) \cdot B(t_2) = 0$ . We will give the geometric conditions for the midlocus to have  $S_1^\pm$  singularities and to do so we are going to use Criteria 4.4. Before starting our aim in the rest of this section we state the following elementary lemma.

**Lemma 4.9.** Let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be two regular space curves. Suffix 1 or 2 refers to the curve  $\gamma_1$  or  $\gamma_2$  respectively.

1. If  $T_1 = -T_2$  and  $N_1 \cdot B_2 = 0$ , then one and only one of the following is true  
 (a)  $N_1 = -N_2$  and  $B_1 = B_2$ . (b)  $N_1 = N_2$  and  $B_1 = -B_2$ .
2. If  $T_1 = T_2$  and  $N_1 \cdot B_2 = 0$ , then one and only one of the following is true  
 (c)  $N_1 = N_2$  and  $B_1 = B_2$ . (d)  $N_1 = -N_2$  and  $B_1 = -B_2$ .

Now we state the main theorem of the rest of this section.

**Theorem 4.10.** Let  $M$  be the midlocus associated to a smooth space curve  $\gamma$  with curvature  $\kappa$  and torsion  $\tau$ . Suppose that  $\gamma$  has parallel tangents at  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  and  $N(t_1) \cdot B(t_2) = 0$ .

1. If  $T_1 = -T_2$ , then  $M$  has an  $S_1^+$  singularity if and only if

$$\tau_1 \tau_2 (\kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2) B_1 \cdot B_2 + \kappa_1 \kappa_2 (\tau_1^2 + \tau_2^2) > 0.$$

2. If  $T_1 = T_2$ , then  $M$  has an  $S_1^+$  singularity if and only if

$$\tau_1 \tau_2 (\kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2) B_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_1 \kappa_2 (\tau_1^2 + \tau_2^2) < 0.$$

3. If  $T_1 = -T_2$ , then  $M$  has an  $S_1^-$  singularity if and only if

$$\tau_1 \tau_2 (\kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2) B_1 \cdot B_2 + \kappa_1 \kappa_2 (\tau_1^2 + \tau_2^2) < 0.$$

4. If  $T_1 = T_2$ , then  $M$  has an  $S_1^-$  singularity if and only if

$$\tau_1\tau_2(\kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2)B_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_1\kappa_2(\tau_1^2 + \tau_2^2) > 0.$$

*Proof.* We will follow the same procedure of the proof of Theorem 4.7. Let  $T_1 = -T_2$ , then we have  $\varphi = \frac{1}{4}(\kappa_2T_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_1T_2 \cdot B_1)$ . Direct calculations show that

$$\varphi_s = \frac{1}{4}(\kappa_1\kappa_2N_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_1'T_2 \cdot B_1 + \kappa_1\tau_1T_2 \cdot N_1),$$

and

$$\varphi_t = \frac{1}{4}(\kappa_2'T_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_2\tau_2T_1 \cdot N_2 - \kappa_1\kappa_2N_2 \cdot B_1).$$

Now at  $(0, 0)$  we have  $T_1 = -T_2$  and  $N_1 \cdot B_2 = N_2 \cdot B_1 = 0$ . Thus  $\varphi$  has a critical point at  $(0, 0)$ . Also, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{ss} = \frac{1}{4} \{ & \kappa_2\kappa_1'N_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_2\kappa_1^2T_1 \cdot B_2 + \kappa_2\kappa_1\tau_1B_1 \cdot B_2 \\ & - \kappa_1''T_2 \cdot B_1 + 2\kappa_1'\tau_1T_2 \cdot N_1 + \kappa_1\tau_1'T_2 \cdot N_1 \\ & - \kappa_1^2\tau_1T_1 \cdot T_2 + \kappa_1\tau_1^2T_2 \cdot B_1 \}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\varphi_{ts} = \frac{1}{4} \{ \kappa_1\kappa_2'N_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_1\kappa_2\tau_2N_1 \cdot N_2 - \kappa_2\kappa_1'N_2 \cdot B_1 + \kappa_1\kappa_2\tau_1N_1 \cdot N_2 \},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{tt} = \frac{1}{4} \{ & \kappa_2''T_1 \cdot B_2 - 2\kappa_2'\tau_2T_1 \cdot N_2 - \kappa_2\tau_2'T_1 \cdot N_2 \\ & + \kappa_2^2\tau_2T_1 \cdot T_2 - \kappa_2\tau_2^2T_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_1\kappa_2'N_2 \cdot B_1 \\ & + \kappa_1\kappa_2^2T_2 \cdot B_1 - \kappa_1\kappa_2\tau_2B_1 \cdot B_2 \}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $Z_1' = \frac{dZ_1}{ds}$  and  $Z_2' = \frac{dZ_2}{dt}$ . Now at  $s = 0, t = 0$  we have  $T_1 = -T_2$  and  $B_1 \cdot N_2 = B_2 \cdot N_1 = 0$ , thus we have  $\varphi_{ss} = \frac{\kappa_1\tau_1}{4}(\kappa_2B_1 \cdot B_2 - \kappa_1T_1 \cdot T_2)$ ,  $\varphi_{ts} = \frac{\kappa_1\kappa_2}{4}(\tau_1 - \tau_2)N_1 \cdot N_2$  and  $\varphi_{tt} = \frac{\kappa_2\tau_2}{4}(\kappa_2T_1 \cdot T_2 - \kappa_1B_1 \cdot B_2)$ . Therefore,  $\varphi_{ss} = \frac{\kappa_1\tau_1}{4}(\kappa_2B_1 \cdot B_2 + \kappa_1)$ , and  $\varphi_{tt} = \frac{-\kappa_2\tau_2}{4}(\kappa_2 + \kappa_1B_1 \cdot B_2)$ . The necessary and sufficient condition for the midlocus to have an  $S_1^+$  singularity is  $\varphi_{ss}\varphi_{tt} - \varphi_{ts}^2 < 0$  if and only if

$$-\kappa_1\kappa_2\{\tau_1\tau_2(\kappa_2B_1 \cdot B_2 + \kappa_1)(\kappa_2 + \kappa_1B_1 \cdot B_2) + \kappa_1\kappa_2(\tau_1 - \tau_2)^2\} < 0$$

if and only if

$$\kappa_1\kappa_2\{\tau_1\tau_2(\kappa_2B_1 \cdot B_2 + \kappa_1)(\kappa_2 + \kappa_1B_1 \cdot B_2) + \kappa_1\kappa_2(\tau_1 - \tau_2)^2\} > 0.$$

Also, the condition for the midlocus to have an  $S_1^-$  singularity is  $\varphi_{ss}\varphi_{tt} - \varphi_{ts}^2 > 0$  if and only if

$$\kappa_1\kappa_2\{\tau_1\tau_2(\kappa_2B_1 \cdot B_2 + \kappa_1)(\kappa_2 + \kappa_1B_1 \cdot B_2) + \kappa_1\kappa_2(\tau_1 - \tau_2)^2\} < 0.$$

Similarly we prove the results when  $T_1 = T_2$  and in this case  $\eta = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$  and  $\xi = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ . Thus  $\varphi = \frac{1}{4}(\kappa_1T_2 \cdot B_1 - \kappa_2T_1 \cdot B_2)$ . Therefore, by the same procedure of the first case we prove the results.  $\square$

Now we present examples to illustrate our results in section 4.

### 5. Examples

- (1) Let  $\gamma(t) = (\cos t, \sin t, \sin 2t)$ . (We can for example change the third coordinate to  $\sin 2t + a \cos t + b \sin t$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  (an affine transformation of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ) without affecting the results.) Then it is easy to show that parallel tangents occur exactly for  $(t_1, t_2) = (\pm\frac{1}{4}\pi, \mp\frac{3}{4}\pi)$ , and that the binormals at these four points are parallel to:

$$t = \pm\frac{1}{4}\pi : (\mp 2\sqrt{2}, -2\sqrt{2}, 1); \quad t = \pm\frac{3}{4}\pi : (\pm 2\sqrt{2}, 2\sqrt{2}, 1).$$

Hence the binormals at the parallel tangent pairs are not parallel and using Theorem 4.7  $M$  will have a crosscap singularity at each point. The midpoint surface  $M$  is shown in Figure 3.

- (2) In order to give examples of the non-crosscap cases it is easier to work locally, that is consider two segments of curve, say

$$\gamma_1(t) = (x, y, z) = (t, t^2, t^3); \quad \gamma_2(u) = (x, y, z) = (au, bu^2, 1 + cu^3),$$

for  $t, u$  close to 0. These curves have parallel tangent lines  $y = z = 0$  and parallel osculating planes  $z = 0$ . The binormals, curvature and torsion at the basepoints  $t = 0, u = 0$  are:

$$B_1 = (0, 0, 1), \quad \kappa_1 = 2, \quad \tau_1 = 3; \quad B_2 = (0, 0, \text{sign}(ab)), \quad \kappa_2 = \frac{2|b|}{a^2}, \quad \tau_2 = \frac{3c}{ab}.$$

Therefore, If we take  $\gamma_1(t) = (t, t^2, t^3)$  and  $\gamma_2(u) = (2u, -u^2, \frac{-1}{9}u^3 + 1)$ , then the associated midpoint of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  has an  $S_1^+$  singularity at  $(0, 0)$ . If we take  $\gamma_1(t) = (t, t^2, t^3)$  and  $\gamma_2(u) = (\frac{1}{2}u, u^2, \frac{1}{2}u^3 + 1)$ , then the associated midpoint of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  has an  $S_1^-$  singularity at  $(0, 0)$  see Figure 4.

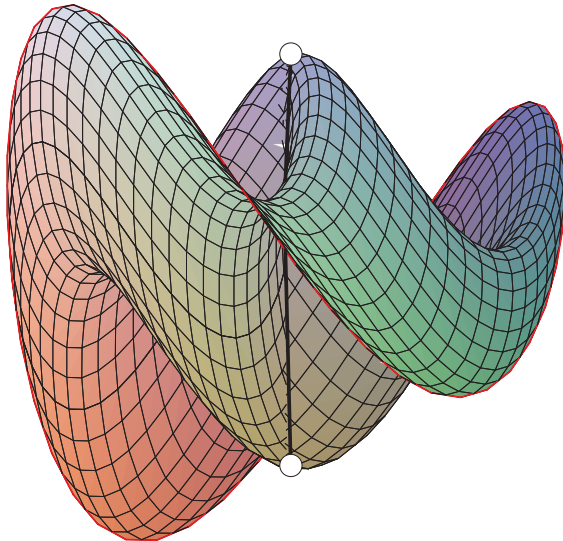


Figure 3: The midpoint surface for the curve in Example (1) which has two crosscaps, when  $t \in (0, 2\pi)$ . Two crosscaps marked by a white circle.

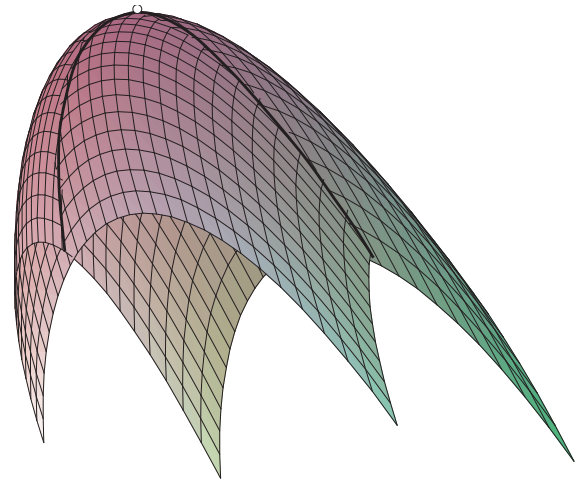


Figure 4: The midpoint surface for the curves in Example (2) which has an  $S_1^-$  singularity. The self-intersection curve is emphasized by a dark line.

### 6. $\lambda$ -point map

In this section we study the  $\lambda$ -point map associated to space curves which is more general than the midpoint map. Our main task in this section is to study the singularity of this map and to recognize the



special values of  $\lambda$ . The  $\lambda$ -point map associated to two regular space curves  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  (or one curve) is a map from  $\mathbb{R}^2$  to  $\mathbb{R}^3$  defined by

$$M(t_1, t_2) = (1 - \lambda)\gamma_1(t_1) + \lambda\gamma_2(t_2). \tag{1}$$

In [17] the author classifies the local singularities of the envelope of this 2-parameter family of chords, calling it the chord set. Away from  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  themselves this is the ruled surface consisting of lines joining points  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  for which the tangents at  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  and the chord are coplanar. This contrasts with our investigation which studies the locus of points at a fixed ratio along the chords. It is obvious for the reader to recognize that the image of the  $\lambda$ -point map is  $\gamma_1$  when  $\lambda = 0$  and  $\gamma_2$  when  $\lambda = 1$ . In our case we assume that  $\lambda \neq 0, 1$  and this will be taken in the rest of this section. Without loss of generality we may assume that  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are parametrized by their arc-lengths  $s$  and  $t$  respectively. It is clear that  $M$  is singular at  $M(s_0, t_0)$  if and only if  $T_1(s_0)$  and  $T_2(t_0)$  are parallel. By similar calculations to those in section 4 we have the following result.

**Theorem 6.1.** *Let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be two regular space curves with non-vanishing curvatures such that  $T_1(s_0) = \pm T_2(t_0)$ . The  $\lambda$ -point map given by equation (1) is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to crosscap if and only if the osculating planes of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  at  $\gamma_1(s_0)$  and  $\gamma_2(t_0)$  are not parallel.*

This theorem tells us that when the osculating planes are not parallel then all values of  $\lambda (\neq 0, 1)$  give the same map up to  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalence.

In the following we study the case when  $T_1(0) = -T_2(0)$  and the osculating planes are parallel; the case  $T_1(0) = T_2(0)$  is similar. If  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  have non-vanishing curvatures and torsion, then by a similar method used in Theorem 4.10, the determinant of the Hessian of the function  $\varphi$  at  $(0, 0)$  is given by

$$\rho = -\left(\frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda}\right)^2 \kappa_1 \kappa_2 \left\{ \tau_1 \tau_2 \left( \kappa_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 \left(\frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda}\right)^2 \right) B_1 \cdot B_2 + \kappa_1 \kappa_2 \left( \tau_1^2 + \tau_2^2 \left(\frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda}\right)^2 \right) \right\}. \tag{2}$$

Using criteria 4.4, the  $\lambda$ -point map is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $S_1^\pm$  if and only if  $\rho \neq 0$ . The interesting question rises now when  $\rho = 0$  is, which type of singularity can occur? It is obvious from equation (2) that  $\rho = 0$  if and only if

$$\left(\frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda}\right)^2 = -\delta \frac{\kappa_1 \tau_1}{\kappa_2 \tau_2}, \tag{3}$$

where  $\delta$  is the sign of  $(B_1 \cdot B_2)$ .

**Definition 6.2.** *The values of  $\lambda$  given by equation (3) will be called special values of  $\lambda$  when the osculating planes are parallel.*

From Lemma (4.9), when the osculating planes are parallel,  $B_1 = \pm B_2$ . Therefore, the existence of the special values of  $\lambda$  depends on the signs of  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$ . The following remark gives the situation when the special values of  $\lambda$  exist.

**Remark 6.3.** *Let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be two regular space curves with non-vanishing curvatures and torsions. Let  $T_1(0) = -T_2(0)$  and  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  have parallel osculating planes at  $\gamma_1(0)$  and  $\gamma_2(0)$ .*

1. *If  $B_1(0) = B_2(0)$ , then the special values of  $\lambda$  exist if and only if  $\tau_1(0)$  and  $\tau_2(0)$  have opposite signs.*
2. *If  $B_1(0) = -B_2(0)$ , then the special values of  $\lambda$  exist if and only if  $\tau_1(0)$  and  $\tau_2(0)$  have the same sign.*

Now we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 6.4.** *Let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be two regular space curves with non-vanishing curvatures and torsions ( at  $s_0 = 0$ , and  $t_0 = 0$ ). If  $T_1(0) = -T_2(0)$  and the two curves have parallel osculating planes at  $\gamma_1(0)$  and  $\gamma_2(0)$ , then away from the special values of  $\lambda$  the  $\lambda$ -point map at  $M(0, 0)$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $S_1^\pm$ .*

This theorem tells us that the type of singularity of the  $\lambda$ -point map, when  $T_1(0) = -T_2(0)$  and the two curves have parallel osculating planes at  $\gamma_1(0)$  and  $\gamma_2(0)$ , is always  $S_1^\pm$  at all values of  $\lambda$  except at values of  $\lambda$  satisfying equation (3). For this reason we call the values of  $\lambda$  satisfy equation (3), the special values of  $\lambda$ . In the rest of this section our task is to classify the type of singularity of the  $\lambda$ -point map when  $\lambda$  reaches its special values. Now we use the results of Mond ([13]) to classify the type of singularity of the  $\lambda$ -point map at the special values of  $\lambda$ . Consider two curves  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ . By an affine transformation we may assume that  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  have the form

$$\gamma_1(t) = (t, a_2^2 t^2 + a_3 t^3 + a_4 t^4 + \dots, b_3^2 t^3 + b_4 t^4 + b_5 t^5 + \dots) \tag{4}$$

$$\gamma_2(u) = (p - u, q + c_2^2 u^2 + c_3 u^3 + v_4 u^4 + \dots, r - d_3^2 u^3 + d_4 u^4 + d_5 u^5 + \dots). \tag{5}$$

Direct calculations show that  $T_1(0) = -T_2(0)$ ,  $B_1(0) = -B_2(0)$ . For the purpose of calculation we may assume that  $b_3 > 0$ ,  $d_3 > 0$ , and  $d_3 \neq b_3$ . In this case the special values of  $\lambda$  are given by  $\lambda = \frac{d_3}{d_3 \pm b_3}$ . In the following we study the case when  $\lambda = \frac{d_3}{d_3 + b_3}$ . By appropriate variable changes in the source and suitable coordinates changes in the target, we find the following proposition.

**Proposition 6.5.** *Assume that  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are as in equations (4) and (5). If  $\lambda = \frac{d_3}{d_3 + b_3}$ , then the 5-jet of the  $\lambda$ -point map is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to*

$$j^5 M = (x, y^2, a_{21} x^2 y + a_{13} x y^3 + a_{31} x^3 y + a_{41} x^4 y + a_{23} x^2 y^3 + a_{05} y^5). \tag{6}$$

In the appendix we will give a geometric interpretation of the coefficients of the third component of  $j^5 M$  in terms of curvatures and torsions of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ . Now we state the following theorem which was proved by Mond ([13]).

**Theorem 6.6.** [13] *A map germ  $\Omega : (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^3, 0)$  with  $j^2 \Omega = (x, y^2, 0)$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to a germ of the form  $(x, y^2, yF(x, y^2))$ , for smooth  $F(x, y^2)$ .*

The following corollary gives the normal form of the  $\lambda$ -point map at the special values of  $\lambda$ .

**Corollary 6.7.** *Let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be two regular space curves with non-vanishing curvatures and torsions. Let  $T_1(0) = -T_2(0)$  and  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  have parallel osculating planes at  $\gamma_1(0)$  and  $\gamma_2(0)$ . The  $\lambda$ -point map at the special values of  $\lambda$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to a germ of the form  $(x, y^2, yF(x, y^2))$ , for smooth  $F(x, y^2)$ .*

*Proof.* From equation (6), the second jet of the  $\lambda$ -point map is given by  $j^2 M = (x, y^2, 0)$ . Therefore, using Theorem (6.6) the result holds.  $\square$

The coefficient  $a_{21}$  plays a central role in the type of classification of the  $\lambda$ -point map. We use equation (6) to give the normal form of the  $\lambda$ -point map. Precisely, we give the condition for this map to be  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $B_2^\pm$ ,  $C_3^\pm$ ,  $F_4$ , and  $C_4^\pm$  with normal forms  $(x, y^2, x^2 y \pm y^5)$ ,  $(x, y^2, x y^3 \pm x^3 y)$ ,  $(x, y^2, x^3 y + y^5)$ , and  $(x, y^2, x y^3 \pm x^4 y)$  respectively. Recall that  $C_3^\pm$  is 4-determined, and the others are 5-determined and for more details in this subject we refer the reader to ([11, 13]).

**Case 1**  $a_{21} \neq 0$

If  $a_{21} \neq 0$ , then after suitable coordinates change in the target  $j^5 M$  can be transformed to  $j^5 M = (x, y^2, a_{21} x^2 y + a_{13} x y^3 + a_{05} y^5)$ . Therefore,  $j^5 M$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $B_2^\pm$  if and only if  $4a_{05} a_{21} - a_{13}^2 \neq 0$ .

**Case 2**  $a_{21} = 0$

In this case the fourth jet of the  $\lambda$ -point map is given by  $j^4 M = (x, y^2, a_{13} x y^3 + a_{31} x^3 y)$ . Therefore,  $j^4 M$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $C_3^\pm$  if and only if  $a_{13} \neq 0$  and  $a_{31} \neq 0$ . Thus  $M$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $C_3^\pm$  if and only if  $a_{13} \neq 0$  and  $a_{31} \neq 0$ . Now assume that  $a_{13} = 0$ , then the fifth jet of  $M$  is given by  $j^5 M = (x, y^2, a_{31} x^3 y + a_{41} x^4 y + a_{23} x^2 y^3 + a_{05} y^5)$ .

If  $a_{31} \neq 0$ , then  $j^5M$  can be transformed to  $j^5M = (x, y^2, a_{31}x^3y + a_{23}x^2y^3 + a_{05}y^5)$ . Therefore,  $j^5M$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $F_4$  if and only if  $a_{05} \neq 0$ . Now assume that  $a_{31} = 0$ . If  $a_{13} \neq 0$ , then  $j^5M$  can be transformed to  $j^5M = (x, y^2, a_{13}xy^3 + a_{41}x^4y + a_{05}y^5)$ . Therefore,  $j^5M$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $C_4^\pm$  if and only if  $a_{41} \neq 0$ . We summarize this discussion in the following theorem.

**Theorem 6.8.** *Let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be two regular space curves with non-vanishing curvatures and torsions (necessarily at  $t_0 = 0$ , and  $u_0 = 0$ ). If  $T_1(0) = -T_2(0)$  and the two curves have parallel osculating planes at  $\gamma_1(0)$  and  $\gamma_2(0)$ . At the special values of  $\lambda$ , we have the following.*

1. If  $a_{21} \neq 0$ , then  $M$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $B_2^\pm$  if and only if  $4a_{05}a_{21} - a_{13}^2 \neq 0$ .
2. If  $a_{21} = 0$ , then  $M$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $C_3^\pm$  if and only if  $a_{13} \neq 0$  and  $a_{31} \neq 0$ .
3. If  $a_{21} = a_{13} = 0$ , then  $M$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $F_4$  if and only if  $a_{31} \neq 0$  and  $a_{05} \neq 0$ .
4. If  $a_{21} = a_{31} = 0$ , then  $M$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $C_4^\pm$  if and only if  $a_{13} \neq 0$  and  $a_{41} \neq 0$ .

In the appendix we give the geometric interpretations of the coefficients  $a_{ij}$  in terms of the curvatures and torsions of  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$ . In the previous we discuss the possible singularities of the  $\lambda$ -point map when  $\tau_1(0) \neq 0$  and  $\tau_2(0) \neq 0$ . The interesting question now is that what is the type of singularity does the  $\lambda$ -point map may have when  $\tau_1(0) = 0$  or  $\tau_2(0) = 0$  or  $\tau_1(0) = \tau_2(0) = 0$ ?

**Proposition 6.9.** *Let  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  be two regular space curves with non-vanishing curvatures such that  $T_1(s_0) = \pm T_2(t_0)$  and  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  have parallel osculating planes at  $\gamma_1(0)$  and  $\gamma_2(0)$ . If  $\tau_1(0) = 0$  or  $\tau_2(0) = 0$ , but not both zero, then the  $\lambda$ -point map is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $S_1^+$ .*

*Proof.* The proof of this proposition comes directly from equation (2) and Criteria (4.4).

□

The following table is a summary of our results when the torsions are not both zero.

Type of singularity	Osculating planes are parallel	Special values	$a_{21}$	$a_{13}$	$a_{31}$	$\tau_1, \tau_2$	$a_{41}$	$a_{05}$	$4a_{21}a_{05} - a_{13}^2$
Crosscap	No	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
$S_1^\pm$	Yes	No	—	—	—	Not both zero	—	—	—
$B_2^\pm$	Yes	Yes	$\neq 0$	—	—	—	—	—	$\neq 0$
$C_3^\pm$	Yes	Yes	$= 0$	$\neq 0$	$\neq 0$	—	—	—	—
$C_4^\pm$	Yes	Yes	$= 0$	$\neq 0$	$= 0$	—	$\neq 0$	—	—
$F_4$	Yes	Yes	$= 0$	$= 0$	$\neq 0$	—	—	$\neq 0$	—

Table 1: This table is the summary of the classifications of  $\lambda$ -point map. The dash — means this term is not involved.

**Remark 6.10.** *If  $\tau_1(0) = \tau_2(0) = 0$  that means  $b_3 = d_3 = 0$  in equations (4) and (5). In this case there is another special values of  $\lambda$ . If  $\frac{1-\lambda}{\lambda} \neq \frac{\kappa_1}{\kappa_2}$ , then by appropriate variable changes in the source and suitable coordinates changes in the target, it can be shown that the fifth jet of the  $\lambda$ -point map is given by*

$$j^5M = (x, y^2, A_{13}xy^3 + A_{31}x^3y + A_{41}x^4y + A_{23}x^2y^3 + A_{05}y^5). \tag{7}$$

From this equation it is clear that the  $B_2^\pm$  singularity is not possible for  $\lambda$ -point map when both torsions are zero, whereas the  $C_3^\pm, C_4^\pm$  and  $F_4$  singularities are possible.

**Example 6.11.** Consider the two curves  $\gamma_1(t) = (t, 4t^2 + 3t^3 - 2t^4 - 5t^5 + 2t^6, 4t^4 - 8t^5 - 2t^6 + 6t^7)$  and  $\gamma_2(u) = (3 - u, 2 + 9u^2 - 6u^3 - 7u^4 + 3u^5 + 12u^6 + 4u^7, 1 + 6u^4 + u^5 - u^6 + 5u^7)$ . The associated  $\lambda$ -point map to these curves  $M(t, u) = (1 - \lambda)\gamma_1(t) + \lambda\gamma_2(u)$  at  $M(0, 0)$  is  $\mathcal{A}$ -equivalent to  $C_3^+$  when  $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$  and to  $C_3^-$  when  $\lambda = \frac{1}{3}$ .

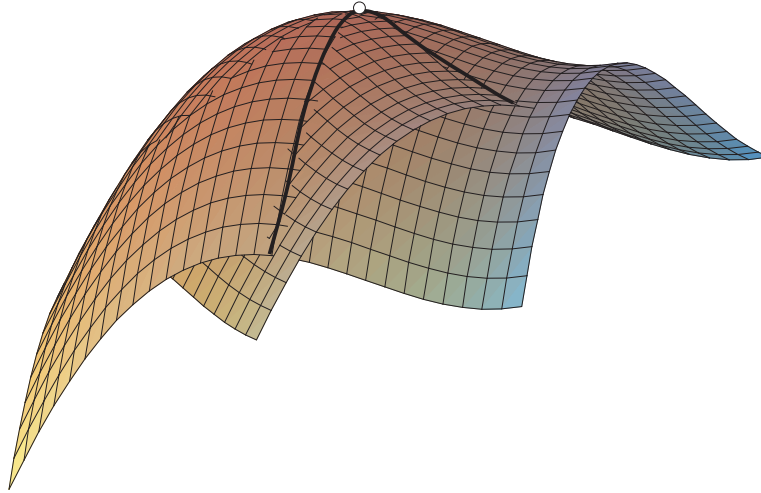


Figure 5: The  $\lambda$ -point map in example 6.11 when  $\lambda = \frac{1}{3}$ . The self-intersection curve is emphasized by a dark line.

### 7. Appendix

In this appendix we express the coefficients of the 5-jet of the  $\lambda$ -point map appear in Theorem (6.8) in terms of the curvatures, torsions and their derivatives. Calculations show that the Taylor expansion of the curvature and torsion of  $\gamma_1$  in terms of the arc-length are given by.

$$\begin{cases} \kappa_1(s) = 2a_2^2 + 6a_3s_1 - \frac{3(4a_2^8 - 3b_3^4 - 2a_2^2a_4)}{a_2^2} s_1^2 - \frac{27a_3b_3^4 - 36a_2^2b_3^2b_4 - 20a_2^4a_5 - 76a_2^8a_3}{a_2^4} s_1^3 + \dots \\ \tau_1(s) = \frac{3b_3^2}{a_2^2} + \frac{6(2a_2^2b_4 - 3a_3b_3^2)}{a_2^4} s + \frac{3(10a_2^4b_5 - 18b_4a_3a_2^2 - 18a_4b_3^2a_2^2 + 27a_2^2b_3^2 - 9b_3^6)}{a_2^6} s^2 + \dots \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

Also, Taylor expansion of the curvature and torsion of  $\gamma_2$  in terms of the arc-length are given by.

$$\begin{cases} \kappa_2(s_2) = 2c_2^2 + 6c_3s_2 + \frac{3(4c_2^2c_4 + 3d_3^4 - 4c_2^8)}{c_2^2} s_2^2 - \frac{(76c_2^8c_3 - 20c_2^4c_5 + 36c_2^2d_3^2d_4 + 27c_3d_3^4)}{c_2^4} s_2^3 + \dots \\ \tau_2(s_2) = \frac{3d_3^2}{c_2^2} - \frac{6(2c_2^2d_4 + 3c_3d_3^2)}{c_2^4} s_2 - \frac{3(18c_2^2c_4d_3^2 - 18c_2^2c_3d_4 + 10c_2^4d_5 + 9d_3^6 - 27c_2^2d_3^2)}{c_2^6} s_2^2 + \dots \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

Using equation (8) we have the following expressions for the coefficients  $a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, b_3, b_4$  and  $b_5$ . All values are calculated at  $s_1 = 0$

$$\begin{cases} a_2^2 = \frac{\kappa_1}{2}, \quad a_3 = \frac{\kappa_1'}{6}, \quad a_4 = \frac{\kappa_1'' - \kappa_1\tau_1^2 + 3\kappa_1^3}{24}, \quad a_5 = \frac{\kappa_1'''' + 19\kappa_1^2\kappa_1' - 3\kappa_1\tau_1\tau_1' - 3\kappa_1'\tau_1^2}{120} \\ b_3^2 = \frac{\kappa_1\tau_1}{6}, \quad b_4 = \frac{\kappa_1\tau_1' + 2\kappa_1'\tau_1}{24}, \quad b_5 = \frac{\kappa_1\tau_1'' + 3\kappa_1'\tau_1' + 3\kappa_1''\tau_1 + 9\kappa_1^3\tau_1 - \kappa_1\tau_1^3}{120} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Also, from equation (9) at  $s_2 = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{cases} c_2^2 = \frac{\kappa_2}{2}, & c_3 = \frac{\kappa_2'}{6}, & c_4 = \frac{\kappa_2'' - \kappa_2 \tau_2' + 3\kappa_2^3}{24}, & c_5 = \frac{\kappa_2''' + 19\kappa_2^2 \kappa_2'}{120} - \frac{\kappa_2^2 \tau_2 \tau_2' + \kappa_2' \tau_2^2}{80}. \\ d_3^2 = \frac{\kappa_2 \tau_2}{6}, & d_4 = \frac{-\kappa_2^2 \tau_2' - 4\kappa_2' \tau_2}{48}, & d_5 = \frac{\kappa_2 \tau_2^3 - \kappa_2 \tau_2'' - 3\kappa_2'' \tau_2 - 9\kappa_2^3 \tau_2}{120} - \frac{\kappa_2 \kappa_2' \tau_2'}{80}. \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

In calculating  $j^5 M$  we use the Maple, and the coefficients of  $j^5 M$  are given by

$$\begin{cases} a_{21} = -3 \frac{(d_3+b_3)d_3(a_2^2 d_3 - c_2^2 b_3)}{a_2^2 d_3 + c_2^2 b_3}. \\ a_{13} = -\frac{d_3(-4b_4 d_3^2 c_2^2 + 4a_2^2 d_4 b_3^2 + 3d_3 b_3^3 c_3 + 3d_3^3 b_3 a_3)}{b_3^2(a_2^2 d_3 + c_2^2 b_3)}. \\ a_{31} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{(d_3+b_3)^2 d_3(-9a_2^2 c_3 c_2^2 b_3^2 + 27b_3 a_2^4 c_3 d_3 + 27b_3 a_3 c_2^4 d_3 + 8a_2^6 d_4 - 9a_3 d_3^2 c_2^2 a_2^2 - 8b_4 c_2^6)}{(a_2^2 d_3 + c_2^2 b_3)^3}. \\ a_{05} = \frac{d_3(d_5 b_3^4 a_2^2 d_3 + d_5 b_3^5 c_2^2 + b_5 d_3^5 a_2^2 + b_5 d_3^4 c_2^2 b_3 - 2d_4 b_3^5 c_3 - 2d_4 b_3^3 a_3 d_3^2 - 2b_4 d_3^3 c_3 b_3^2 - 2b_4 d_3^5 a_3)}{b_3^4(d_3+b_3)(a_2^2 d_3 + c_2^2 b_3)}. \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

Calculations show that the coefficient  $a_{41}$  is a long equation, but when  $a_{21} = 0$ , then  $a_{41}$  can be simplified to

$$\begin{cases} a_{41} = \frac{1}{64} \frac{(c_2^2 + a_2^2)^3}{a_2^{10} c_2^{10}} [27 a_2^{10} c_3^2 d_3^2 + 48 a_2^{10} d_3^2 c_4 c_2^2 \\ + 20 a_2^{10} d_5 c_2^4 + 162 c_3 a_3 d_3^2 c_2^4 a_2^6 \\ - 72 a_2^4 b_4 c_3 c_2^8 - 48 a_2^4 a_4 d_3^2 c_2^8 \\ + 135 a_2^2 a_3^2 d_3^2 c_2^8 + 20 a_2^2 b_5 c_2^{12} \\ - 72 b_4 c_2^{12} a_3]. \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

Using equations (10) and (11),  $a_{21}, a_{13}, a_{31}, a_{41}$  and  $a_{05}$  can be expressed in terms of  $\kappa_1, \kappa_2, \tau_1, \tau_2$  and their derivatives.

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