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Origami Math

Butterfly. (graded draft)

The butterfly is one of the oldest recorded origami folds on record. There is a long history of butterfly folds in Japanese culture most associated with weddings.

Traditionally there is a ocho (male) and mecho (female) pattern (Figure 1) which are similar but

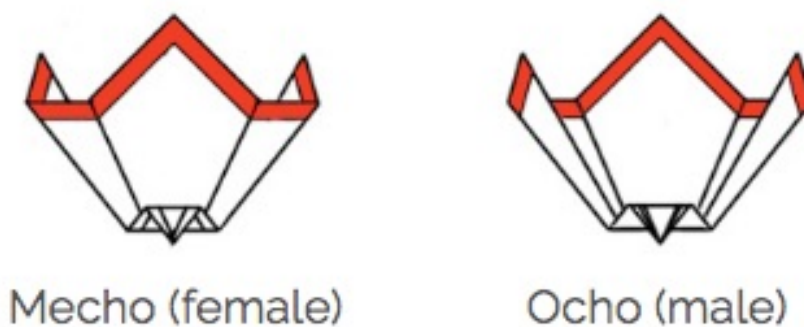


Figure 1: Kayaragusa's Mecho and Ocho patterns.

distinct. Some historians believe these folds were first created as a decorative top for a lid to sake bottles to be used during the celebrations (Mac 2014). This is recorded in old wood blocks of celebration such as shown below in Figure 2.

Although there is evidence of the butterfly pattern use in wedding ceremonies, the directions of these fold did not seem to be written down. This is consistent with many origami patterns that were handed down verbally from mother to daughter.

The earliest known directions for the butterfly are from the 1800's and are quite similar to these older versions. The mecho differs from the ocho fold

with the reversal of the two folds. More specifically, the outer most fold is a mountain fold pushing the outer edge behind the body of the butterfly as opposed to in front like the ocho pattern (Figure 1).

References

Origami Re-
source Center (2019). Mecho from Kayaragusa. Retrieved from: <https://www.origami-resource-center.com/mecho-from-Kayaragusa.html>
Mac (2014, Dec. 29). Origami-the beginning of folding paper. Retrieved from: <http://macanko.com/origami-poczatki-zaginania-papieru/>