

No quartic curve supports  
3-body figure-eight solution  
under homogeneous potential

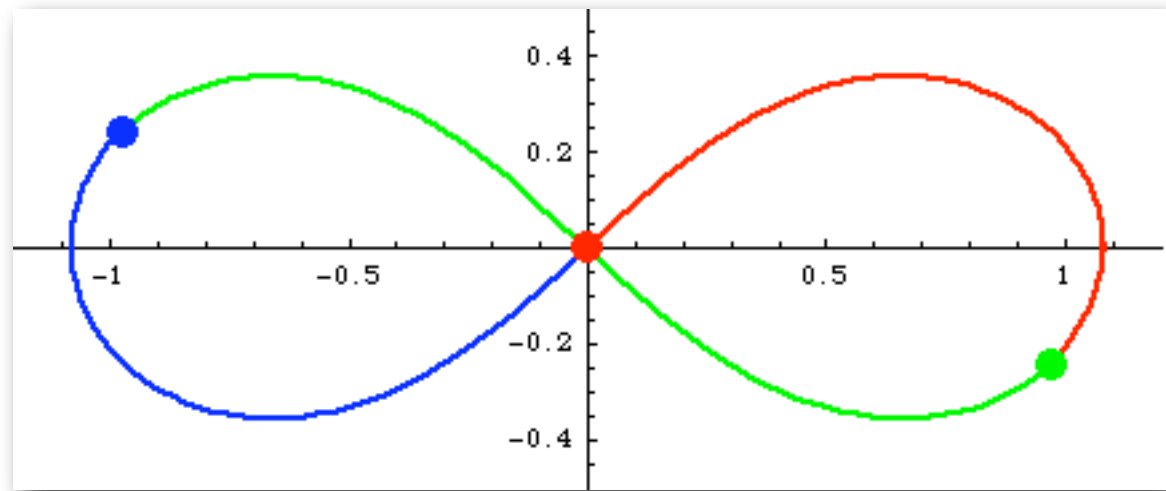
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Hamsys-2008, July 9  
CIMAT, Guanajuato

# Three body figure-eight solution

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- C. Moore (1993) found numerically
- A. Chenciner and R. Montgomery (2000) proved the existence



# Three body figure-eight solution

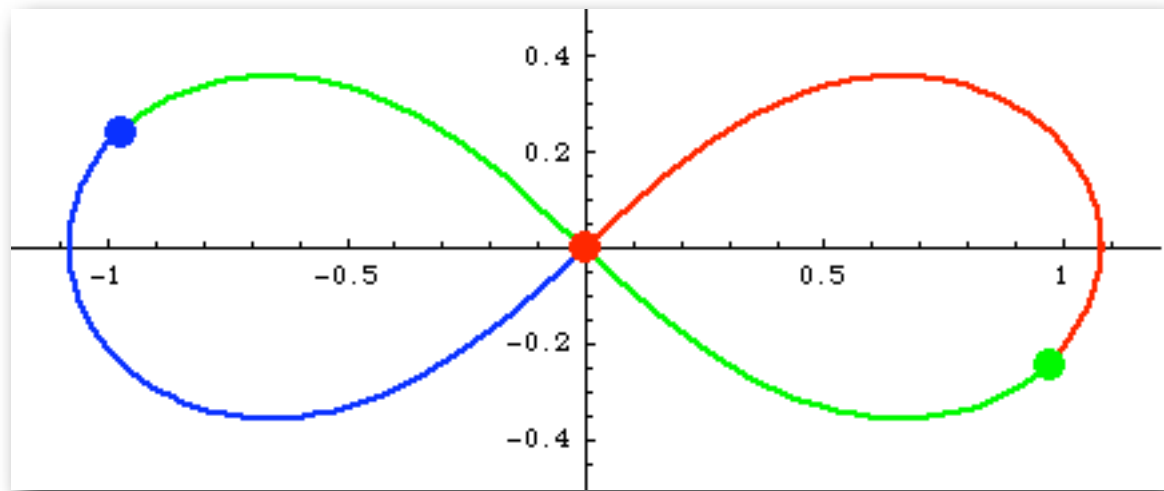
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$$i = 1, 2, 3, m_i = 1$$

$$\ddot{q}_k = \sum_{j \neq k} \frac{q_j - q_k}{|q_j - q_k|^3},$$

$$\begin{cases} q_1(t) = q(t), \\ q_2(t) = q(t + T/3), \\ q_3(t) = q(t + 2T/3), \end{cases}$$

$$\sum_i q_i = 0, \sum_i q_i \times \dot{q}_i = 0$$

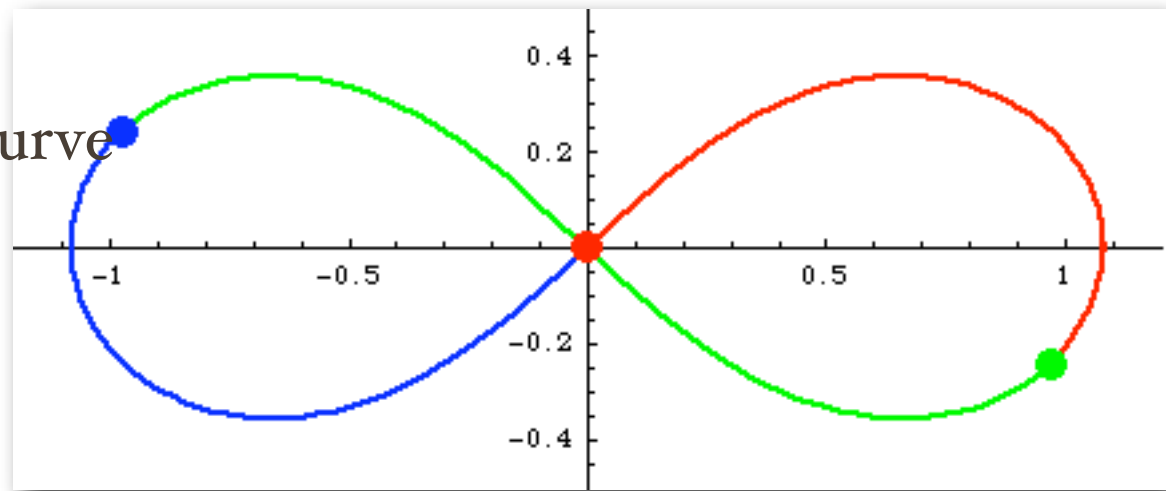


# Three body figure-eight solution

- C. Simó (2001) : Tried to fit the orbit by order 4, 6, 8 curve, numerically.

$$f(x, y) = \sum_{k=1}^m \sum_{j=0}^k c_{2(k-j)} x^{2(k-j)} y^{2j} = 0$$

He conclude that the curve is not order 4,6,8.



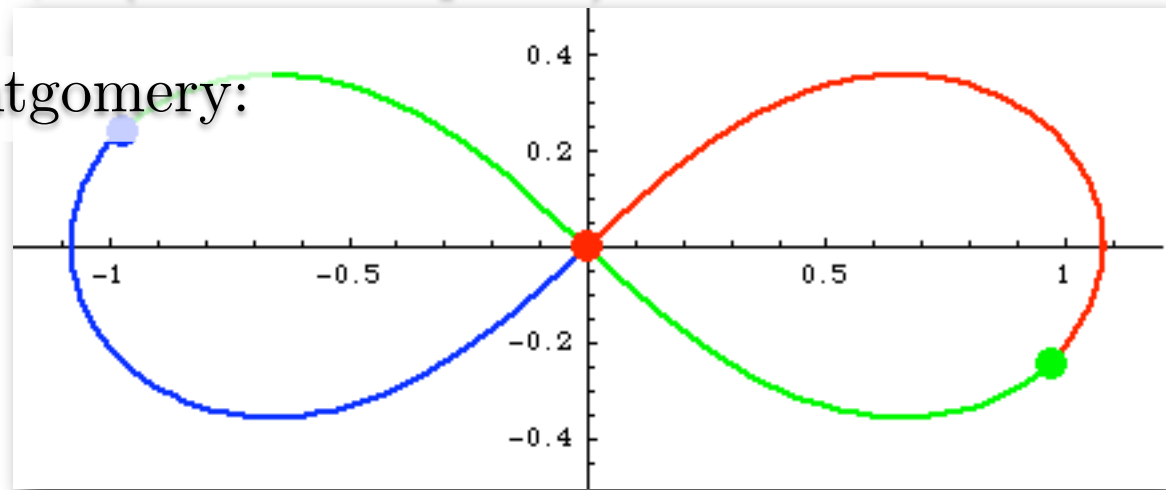
“Even with  $m = 2$  (order 4) one cannot distinguish the eight from  $f(x, y) = 0$  without magnification.”

# A few is known about the shape of the figure-eight solution

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- A. Chenciner and R. Montgomery:  
The shape is star. Namely  $r = r(\theta)$ .
- C. Simó:  
The curve is not order 4, 6, 8. (Numerical proof)
- T. Fujiwara and R. Montgomery:  
Each lobe is convex.

I want to know  
more about the shape.



# Three body figure-eight solution on the Lemniscate

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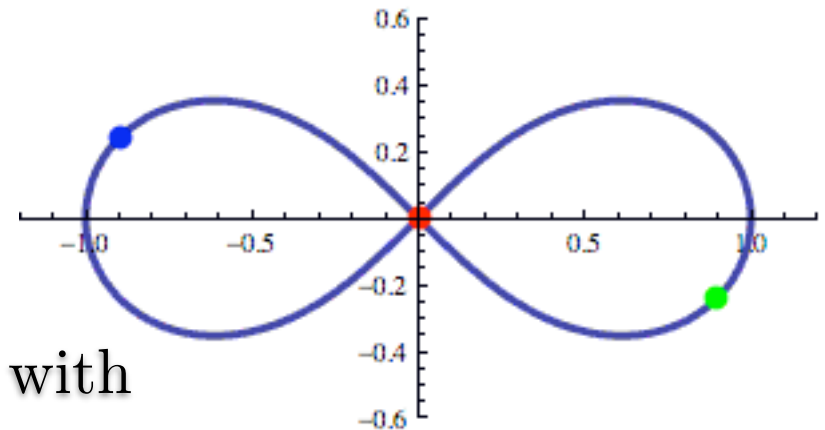
- T. Fujiwara, H. Fukuda, H. Ozaki (2003)

$$(x^2 + y^2)^2 = x^2 - y^2$$

The motion satisfies  $\ddot{q}_i = -\frac{\partial}{\partial q_i} U$  with

$$U = \sum_{i < j} \left( \frac{1}{2} \ln r_{ij} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{24} r_{ij}^2 \right),$$

an inhomogeneous potential.





# The shape of figure-eight orbit

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is NOT order 4, 6, 8      for  $U = -\sum \frac{1}{r_{ij}}$

IS order 4 (Lemniscate)      for  $U = \sum \frac{1}{2} \ln r_{ij} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{24} r_{ij}^2$

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My question is;

Is there any figure-eight solution under the homogeneous potential  $U = \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum r_{ij}^\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \neq 0$  or  $U = \sum \log r_{ij}$ , whose orbit is order 4 curve?

$$H = K + U, \quad \ddot{q}_i = -\frac{\partial U}{\partial q_i}. \quad \alpha = -1 \text{ for the Newton potential.}$$

# The shape of figure-eight orbit

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---

is NOT order 4, 6, 8      for  $U = -\sum \frac{1}{r_{ij}}$

IS order 4 (Lemniscate)      for  $U = \sum \frac{1}{2} \ln r_{ij} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{24} r_{ij}^2$

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**In other words;**

Can quartic curve (order 4 curve) support the  
figure-eight solution under the potential  $\frac{1}{\alpha} \sum r_{ij}^\alpha$

or  $\sum \log r_{ij}$ ?



# The shape of figure-eight orbit

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is NOT order 4, 6, 8      for  $U = -\sum \frac{1}{r_{ij}}$

IS order 4 (Lemniscate)      for  $U = \sum \frac{1}{2} \ln r_{ij} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{24} r_{ij}^2$

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The answer is;

Quartic curve (order 4 curve) cannot support the figure-eight solution under the potential  $\frac{1}{\alpha} \sum r_{ij}^\alpha$  or  $\sum \log r_{ij}$ .

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is not order 4      for  $U = \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum r_{ij}^\alpha$  or  $\sum \log r_{ij}$

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# We will show this in two steps

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is not order 4 for  $U = \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum r_{ij}^\alpha$  or  $\sum \log r_{ij}$

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Quartic



“Lemniscate”



**X**  
for

homogeneous U

1. The order 4 curve that can support a figure-eight solution is the **lemniscate**  $(x^2 + y^2)^2 = x^2 - y^2$  and  $x \rightarrow \lambda x, y \rightarrow \mu y$ .
2. The **lemniscate**  $(x^2 + y^2)^2 = x^2 - y^2$  and  $x \rightarrow \lambda x, y \rightarrow \mu y$  cannot support the figure-eight solution under the potential  $\frac{1}{\alpha} \sum r_{ij}^\alpha, \alpha \neq 0$  or  $\log \sum r_{ij}$ .

# The first step

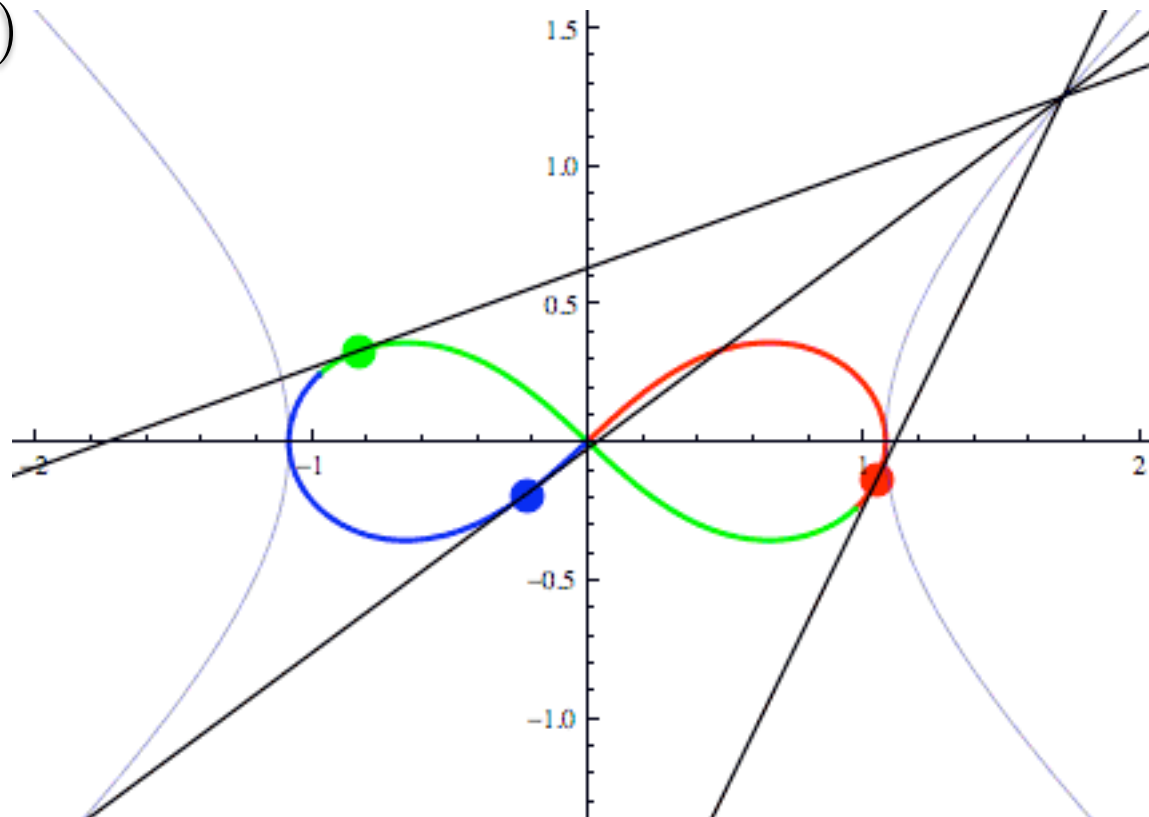
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Quartic curve that can support figure-eight  
solution is only the lemniscate  
and its scale variant

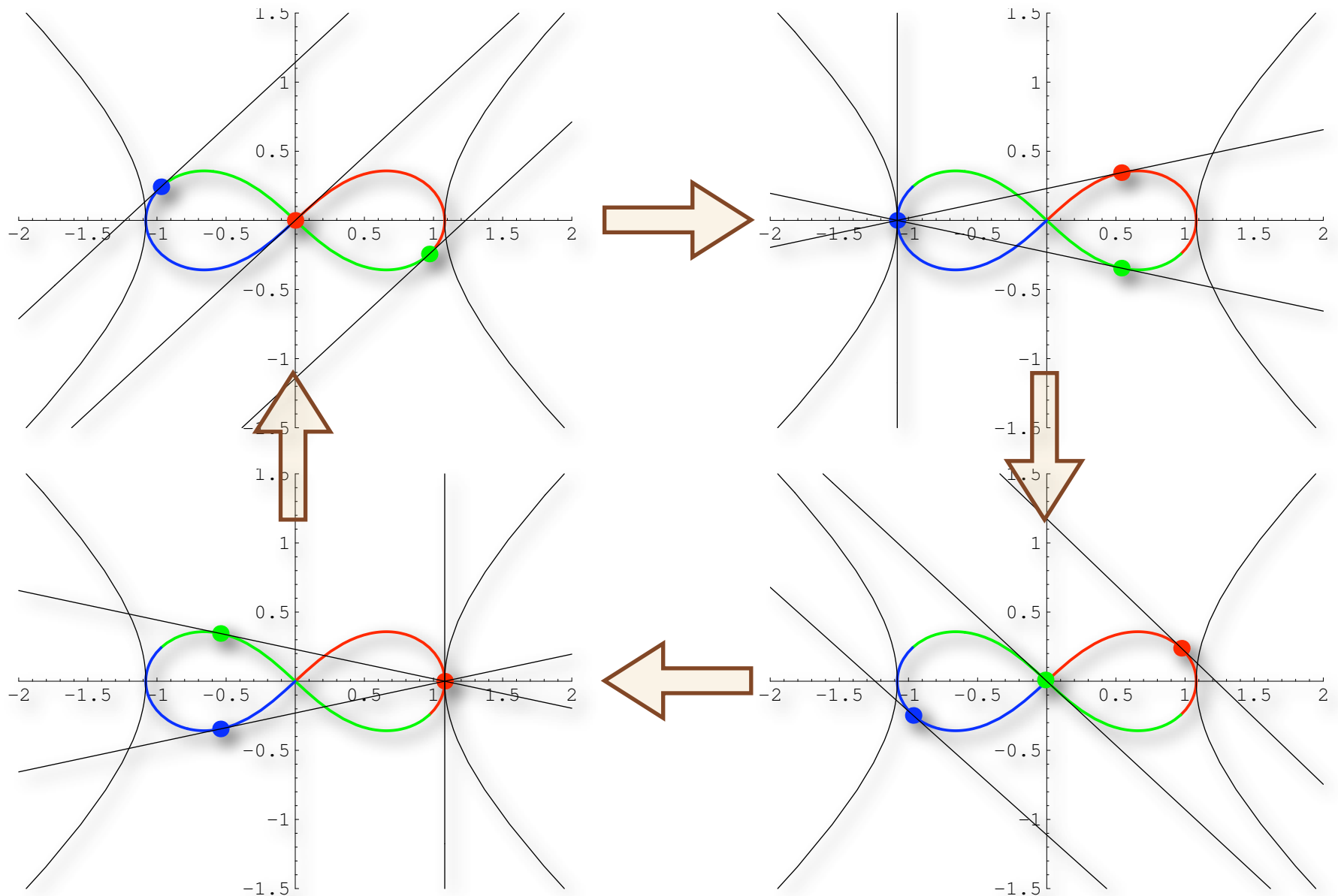
# Three tangents theorem

For three-body motion, if  $\sum_{i=1,2,3} p_i = 0$  and

$\sum_{i=1,2,3} q_i \times p_i = 0$ , then three tangent lines meet at a point for each instant. (Fujiwara, Fukuda and Ozaki 2003)



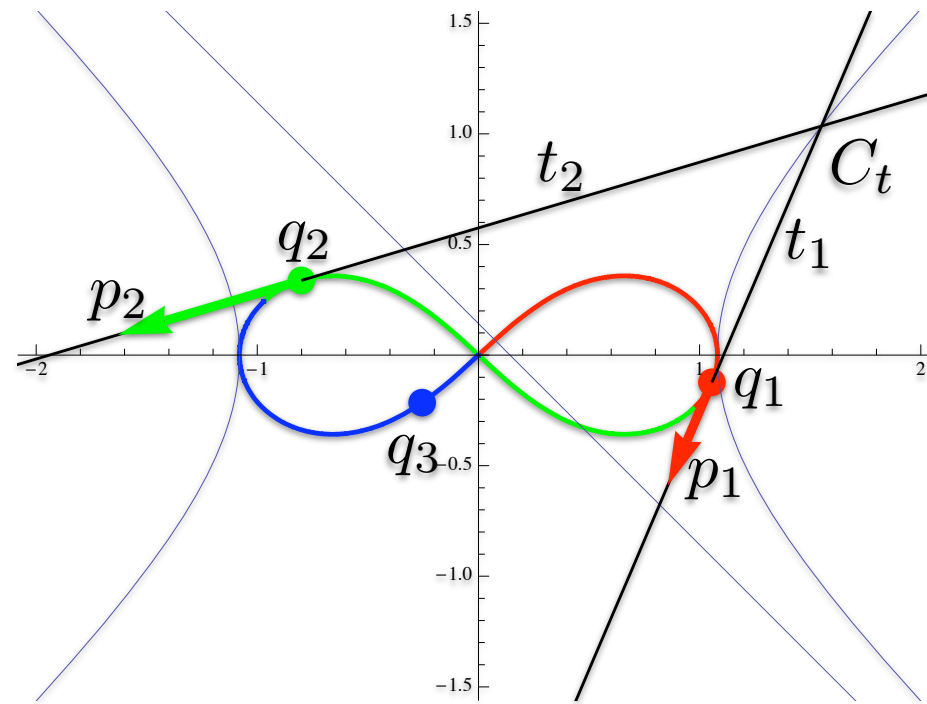
# Euler & Isosceles Config.





# Proof

If two tangents  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  meet at a point  $C_t$ , then  
 $\sum p_i = 0$  and  $\sum q_i \times p_i = 0 \Rightarrow \sum (q_i - C_t) \times p_i = 0$   
and  $(q_1 - C_t) \times p_1 = 0$ ,  $(q_2 - C_t) \times p_2 = 0$ .

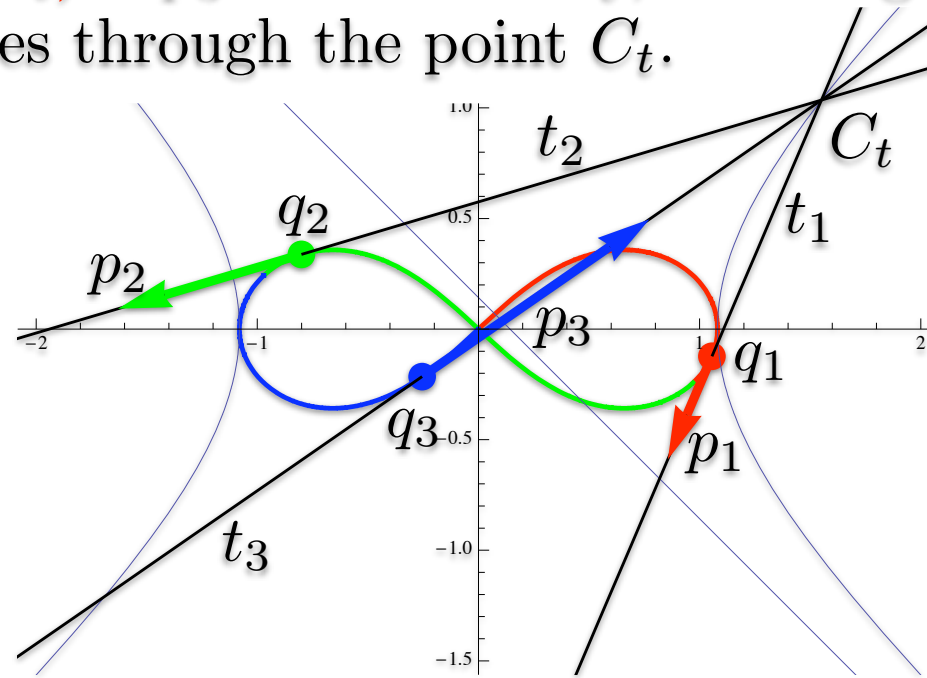




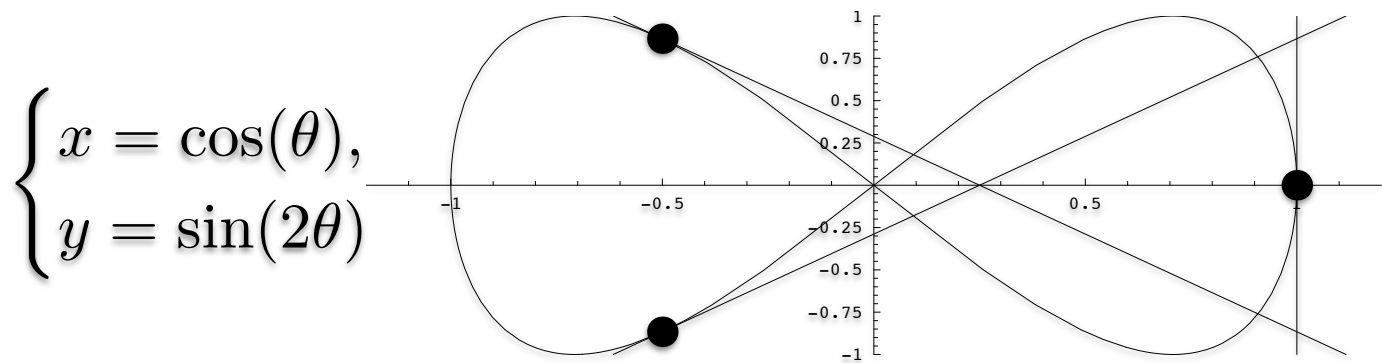
# Proof

If two tangents  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  meet at a point  $C_t$ , then  $\sum p_i = 0$  and  $\sum q_i \times p_i = 0 \Rightarrow \sum (q_i - C_t) \times p_i = 0$  and  $(q_1 - C_t) \times p_1 = 0$ ,  $(q_2 - C_t) \times p_2 = 0$ .

$\therefore (q_3 - C_t) \times p_3 = 0$ . Namely, the tangent line  $t_3$  also passes through the point  $C_t$ .



# 3 tangent theorem gives a criterion for the shape

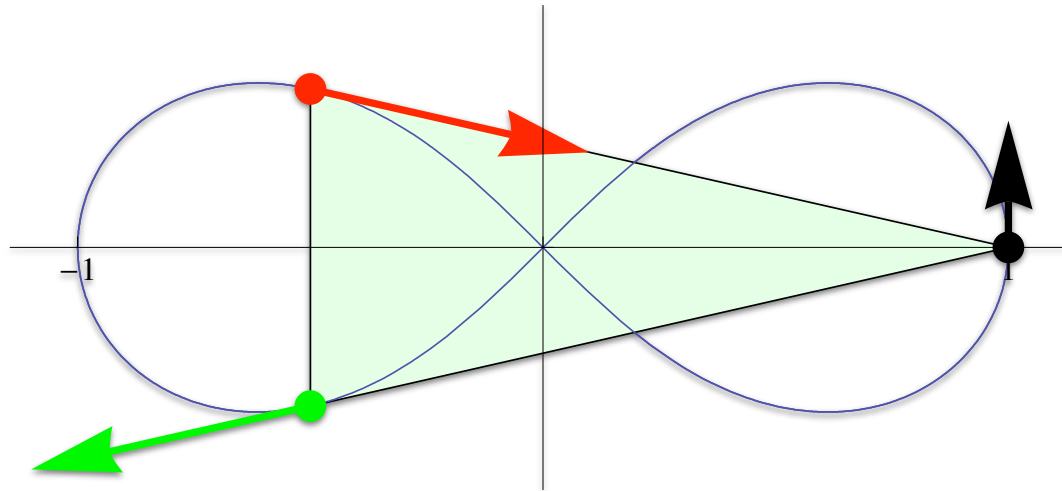


Three tangent lines for this curve at the isosceles configuration do not meet at a point.

Therefore, this curve cannot support

$$\sum_{i=1,2,3} q_i \times p_i = 0 \text{ motion.}$$

# Isosceles configuration

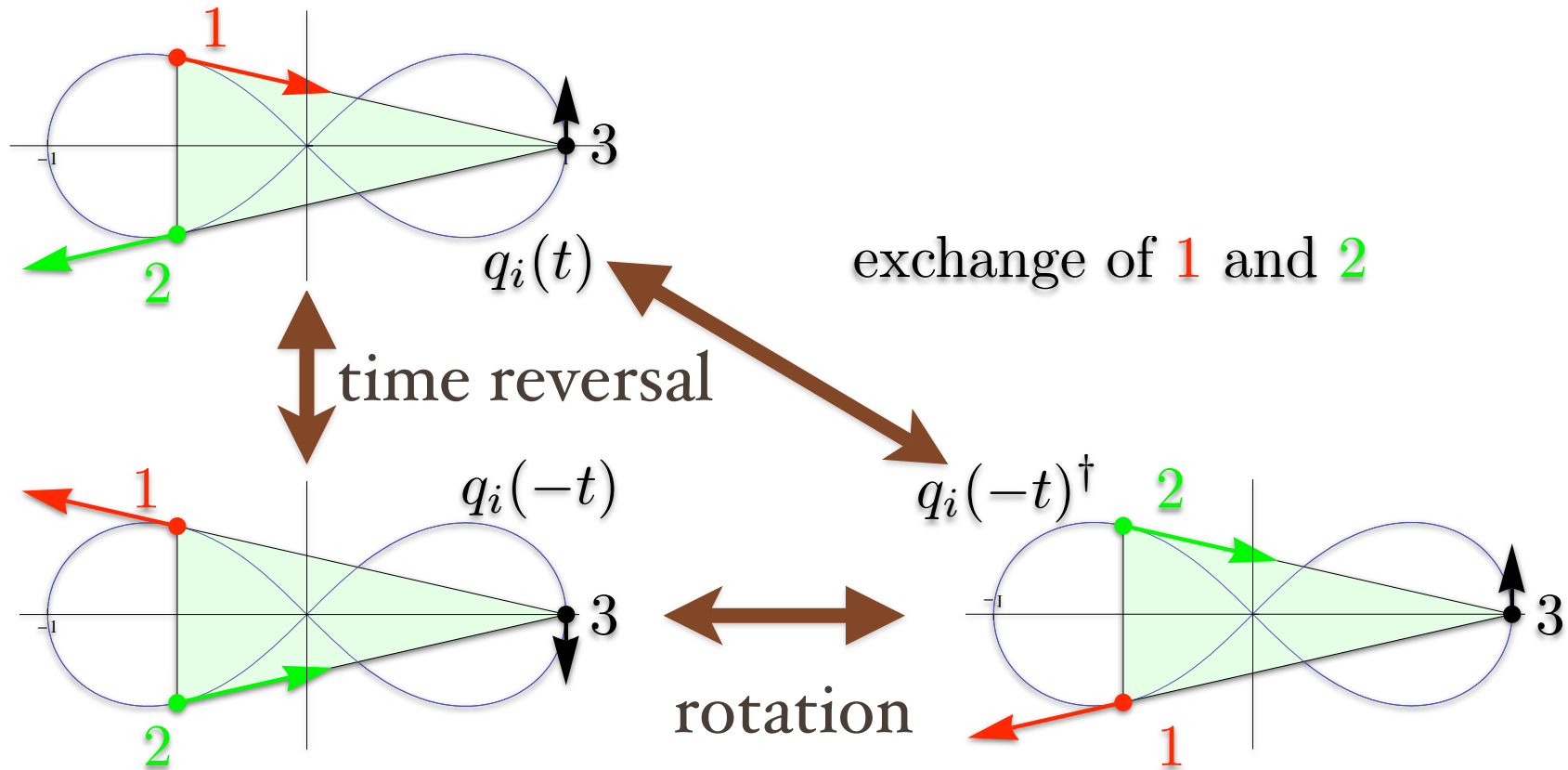


$$q_1(0) = (-1/2, y_0), q_2(0) = (-1/2, -y_0), q_3(0) = (1, 0).$$

$$p_1(0) = \left( \frac{3v}{2y_0}, -v \right), p_2(0) = \left( -\frac{3v}{2y_0}, -v \right), p_3(0) = (0, 2v)$$

Two parameters  $y_0$  and  $v$ .

# We assume the invariance under time reversal, rotation and exchange of bodies



$\therefore q_2(t) = q_1(-t)^\dagger$  and  $q_3(t) = q_3(-t)^\dagger$ , where  $(x, y)^\dagger = (x, -y)$ .  
 $q_3$  is determined by  $q_3(t) = -\left(q_1(t) + q_2(t)\right) = -\left(q_1(t) + q_1(-t)^\dagger\right)$ .

# Power series of the orbit

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$$q_1(t) = \left(-\frac{1}{2}, y_0\right) + \left(\frac{3v}{2y_0}, -v\right)t + \left(\alpha_x, \alpha_y\right)\frac{t^2}{2} + \left(\beta_x, \beta_y\right)\frac{t^3}{6} + O(t^4)$$

↓

$$\downarrow q_2(t) = q_1(-t)^\dagger, \quad q_3(t) = -(q_1(t) + q_1(-t)^\dagger)$$

↓

$$q_2(t) = \left(-\frac{1}{2}, -y_0\right) + \left(-\frac{3v}{2y_0}, -v\right)t + \left(\alpha_x, -\alpha_y\right)\frac{t^2}{2} + \left(-\beta_x, \beta_y\right)\frac{t^3}{6} + O(t^4)$$

$$q_3(t) = (1, 0) + (0, 2v)t + (-2\alpha_x, 0)\frac{t^2}{2} + (0, -2\beta_y)\frac{t^3}{6} + O(t^4)$$

We actually need this form and vanishing angular momentum.

$$c = \sum_i q_i \times p_i = \left( 3v\alpha_x - y_0\beta_x + \frac{3v\alpha_y}{2y_0} - \frac{3\beta_y}{2} \right) t^2 + O(t^3)$$

$$\therefore c = \sum q_i \times p_i = 0$$

⇓

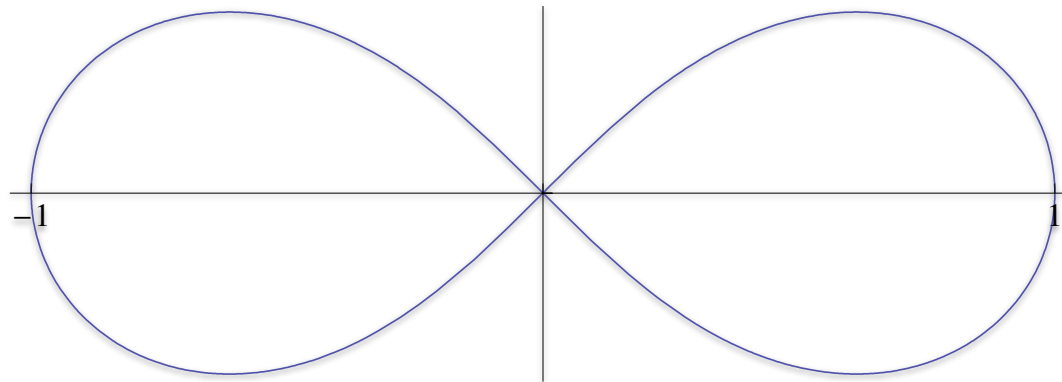
$$3v\alpha_x - y_0\beta_x + \frac{3v\alpha_y}{2y_0} - \frac{3\beta_y}{2} = 0.$$



# Quartic curves

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$$P(x^2, y^2) = x^4 + ax^2y^2 + by^4 - x^2 + y^2 = 0$$



$$P(x_i(t)^2, y_i(t)^2) = Q_i(t) = 0, \text{ then}$$

$$Q_i(0) = \frac{dQ_i}{dt}(0) = \frac{d^2Q_i}{dt^2}(0) = \dots = \frac{d^n Q_i}{dt^n}(0) = 0$$

$$Q_i(t) = P(x_i(t)^2, y_i(t)^2) \Rightarrow Q_1(t) = Q_2(t)$$

$$Q_1(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{16} \left( -3 + 16y_0^2 + 4ay_0^2 + 16by_0^4 \right) = 0.$$

$$\frac{dQ_1}{dt}(0) = 0 \Rightarrow -\frac{v}{4y_0} \left( -3 + 8y_0^2 + 8ay_0^2 + 16by_0^4 \right) = 0.$$

⇓

$$\therefore a = 2$$

$$b = \frac{3(1 - 8y_0^2)}{16y_0^4}$$

$$P = x^4 + 2x^2y^2 + by^4 - x^2 + y^2 = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2 Q_3}{dt^2} = 0, \quad Q_3 = P(x_3(t)^2, y_3(t)^2)$$

⇓

$$2(6v^2 - \alpha_x) = 0$$

$$\therefore \alpha_x = 6v^2$$

$$\frac{d^2 Q_1}{dt^2}(0) = 0 \Rightarrow 2v^2(3 + 6y_0^2 - 8y_0^4) + y_0\alpha_y(1 - 4y_0^2) = 0,$$

$$\frac{d^3 Q_1}{dt^3}(0) = 0 \Rightarrow 3v^2(5 - 16y_0^4) + 2y_0\alpha_y(1 - 4y_0^2) = 0$$

⇓

$$\therefore 3(1 - 8y_0^2) = 16y_0^4$$

Since  $b = \frac{3(1 - 8y_0^2)}{16y_0^4}$ , we get  $b = 1$ .

Thus,  $P(x^2, y^2) = x^4 + 2x^2y^2 + 1y^4 - x^2 + y^2 = 0$ .

Therefore, quartic orbit that can support figure-eight solution is only the lemniscate,

$$(x^2 + y^2)^2 = x^2 - y^2$$

and  $x \rightarrow \lambda x, y \rightarrow \mu y$ .

Actually, FFO found a figure-eight solution on the lemniscate. The motion is governed by a inhomogeneous potential.

# The second step



“Lemniscate” cannot support the figure-eight solution under homogeneous potential

# Motion under homogeneous potential

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Now, we assume the equation of motion,

$$\frac{d^2 q_i(t)}{dt^2} = \sum_j (q_j - q_i) |q_j - q_i|^{2\gamma}, \quad \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$$

$\gamma = -3/2$  for the Newton force

Then, we will show that the orbit  $q_i = (x_i, y_i)$  cannot satisfy  $(x^2 + \mu^2 y^2)^2 = x^2 - \mu^2 y^2$ , even if we tune  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$  and the initial parameters  $y_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $v \in \mathbb{R}$



# Power series of the orbit

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$$x_1(t) = -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3vt}{2y_0} + \frac{3}{4} \left(y_0^2 + \frac{9}{4}\right)^\gamma t^2 - \frac{v}{8y_0} \left(2^{2\gamma+2} (y_0^2)^\gamma + \frac{2 \left(y_0^2 + \frac{9}{4}\right)^\gamma (24\gamma y_0^2 + 4y_0^2 + 18\gamma + 9)}{4y_0^2 + 9}\right) t^3 + \dots$$

$$y_1(t) = y_0 - vt - \left(2^{2\gamma} y_0 (y_0^2)^\gamma + \frac{1}{2} y_0 \left(y_0^2 + \frac{9}{4}\right)^\gamma\right) t^2 + \frac{v \left(y_0^2 + \frac{9}{4}\right)^\gamma ((8\gamma + 4)y_0^2 + 6\gamma + 9) t^3}{2(4y_0^2 + 9)} + \dots$$

$$x_2(t) = -\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3vt}{2y_0} + \frac{3}{4} \left(y_0^2 + \frac{9}{4}\right)^\gamma t^2 + \frac{v}{8y_0} \left(2^{2\gamma+2} (y_0^2)^\gamma + \frac{2 \left(y_0^2 + \frac{9}{4}\right)^\gamma (24\gamma y_0^2 + 4y_0^2 + 18\gamma + 9)}{4y_0^2 + 9}\right) t^3 + \dots$$

$$y_2(t) = -y_0 - vt + \left(2^{2\gamma} y_0 (y_0^2)^\gamma + \frac{1}{2} y_0 \left(y_0^2 + \frac{9}{4}\right)^\gamma\right) t^2 + \frac{v \left(y_0^2 + \frac{9}{4}\right)^\gamma ((8\gamma + 4)y_0^2 + 6\gamma + 9) t^3}{2(4y_0^2 + 9)} + \dots$$

$$x_3(t) = 1 - \frac{3}{2} \left(y_0^2 + \frac{9}{4}\right)^\gamma t^2 + 0 \times t^3 + \dots$$

$$y_3(t) = 2vt - \frac{v \left(y_0^2 + \frac{9}{4}\right)^\gamma ((8\gamma + 4)y_0^2 + 6\gamma + 9) t^3}{4y_0^2 + 9} + \dots$$

Here, I write the series to  $t^3$ , but actually, we calculated to the order  $t^6$  using Mathematica.

# Power series of the condition

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$$\left(x_i(t)^2 + \mu^2 y_i(t)^2\right)^2 - x_i(t)^2 + \mu^2 y_i(t)^2 = \sum_{i,n} c_{in} t^n = 0$$

$$\text{with } \mu^2 = (2\sqrt{3} - 3)/(4y_0^2)$$



$$c_{in} = 0 \text{ for } i = 1, 2, 3 \text{ and } n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Conditions for the parameters  $y_0, v, \gamma$ .

$$c_{i0} = c_{i1} = 0$$

$$c_{12} = \frac{3}{2y_0^2} \left( \sqrt{3}v^2 - 2^{2\gamma}(2 - \sqrt{3})y_0^{2(\gamma+1)} \right) = 0,$$

$$c_{32} = \frac{3\sqrt{3}(2 - \sqrt{3})v^2}{y_0^2} - 3 \left( y_0^2 + \frac{9}{4} \right)^\gamma = 0$$

Therefore,

$$v^2 = \frac{2 - \sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}} 2^{2\gamma} y_0^{2(\gamma+1)},$$

$$\left( \frac{9}{4} + y_0^2 \right)^\gamma = \left( 2 - \sqrt{3} \right)^2 (2y_0)^{2\gamma}.$$

$$c_{14} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \gamma = \frac{32y_0^2 (4y_0^2 + 9)}{16 (6 - \sqrt{3}) y_0^4 + 216y_0^2 - 27\sqrt{3}}.$$

Finally, we get two equations for  $y_0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}c_{34} = 0 \Leftrightarrow f(y_0) &= 1024 \left( -59 + 34\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^{10} - 768 \left( -1205 + 696\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^8 \\ &\quad - 384 \left( -11115 + 6418\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^6 - 864 \left( -6249 + 3608\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^4 \\ &\quad - 972 \left( -1971 + 1138\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^2 - 2187 \left( -97 + 56\sqrt{3} \right) \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}c_{16} = 0 \Leftrightarrow g(y_0) &= 262144 \left( -136946 + 79063\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^{18} + 589824 \left( -271018 + 156463\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^{16} \\ &\quad - 393216 \left( -20856 + 12083\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^{14} - 1769472 \left( -709799 + 409818\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^{12} \\ &\quad - 497664 \left( -5651186 + 3262795\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^{10} - 5598720 \left( -448730 + 259083\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^8 \\ &\quad - 20155392 \left( -45337 + 26176\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^6 - 7558272 \left( -17492 + 10097\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^4 \\ &\quad - 6377292 \left( -1106 + 639\sqrt{3} \right) y_0^2 - 14348907 \left( -26 + 15\sqrt{3} \right) \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

The two equations  $f(y_0) = 0$  and  $g(y_0) = 0$  must have common solution  $y_0$ . But ...

But the resultant  $R(f(y_0), g(y_0))$  has value

$$\begin{aligned}
 R(f(y_0), g(y_0)) &= \left( 4817931 \right. \\
 &\quad 8710830100 \ 6358074282 \\
 &\quad 4414372772 \ 4765214133 \\
 &\quad 2713750858 \ 6702543977 \\
 &\quad 9622670249 \ 7878148916 \\
 &\quad 8041772964 \ 5052428288 \\
 &\quad -2781634 \\
 &\quad 2627070531 \ 9594515840 \\
 &\quad 0325073497 \ 5148633067 \\
 &\quad 4256800645 \ 1267502319 \\
 &\quad 3201035465 \ 3986355344 \\
 &\quad \left. 7685710908 \ 1311150080\sqrt{3} \right)^2 \\
 &= \left( -6.0347161337844731247 \times 10^{51} \right)^2 \\
 &\neq 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, there is no solution for  $f(y_0) = 0$  and  $g(y_0) = 0$ .



Therefore, there is no figure-eight solution whose orbit is  $(x^2 + \mu^2 y^2)^2 = x^2 - \mu^2 y^2$  and satisfy the equation of motion

$$\frac{d^2 q_i(t)}{dt^2} = \sum_j (q_j - q_i) |q_j - q_i|^{2\gamma}, \text{ with } \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$$

# Conclusion

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Quartic



“Lemniscate”



for

homogeneous U

1. Quartic curve that can support figure-eight is only the lemniscate  $(x^2 + y^2)^2 = x^2 - y^2$  and  $x \rightarrow \lambda x, y \rightarrow \mu y$ .
2. The lemniscate and its scale variant cannot support the figure-eight under the homogeneous potential  $\frac{1}{\alpha} \sum r_{ij}^\alpha$  or  $\sum \ln r_{ij}$ .
3. Therefore, no quartic curve support figure-eight solution the homogeneous potential.

## Thank you!