

# On a problem of David A. Singer about prescribing curvature for curves

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(ILDEFONSO CASTRO-INFANTES AND JESÚS CASTRO-INFANTES)



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Fondo Europeo de  
Desarrollo Regional

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Plane curves with curvature depending on distance to a line
  - New plane curves
  - Uniqueness results
- 3 Plane curves with curvature depending on distance from a point
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- 4 Spherical curves with curvature depending on their position
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- 5 Curves in Lorentz-Minkowski plane  $\mathbb{L}^2$ 
  - Curves in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  with curvature depending on Lorentzian pseudodistance to a spacelike or timelike geodesic
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# Fundamental Theorem for plane curves

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Prescribe  $\kappa = \kappa(s)$  (continuous):

$$\theta(s) = \int \kappa(s) ds, \quad x(s) = \int \cos \theta(s) ds, \quad y(s) = \int \sin \theta(s) ds$$

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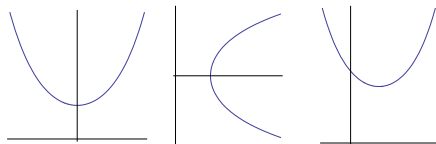
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## Example (Catenary)

$$\kappa(s) = \frac{1}{1+s^2} \Rightarrow \theta(s) = \arctan s$$

$$x(s) = \log \left( s + \sqrt{s^2 + 1} \right), \quad y(s) = \sqrt{1 + s^2} \leftrightarrow y = \cosh x, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$



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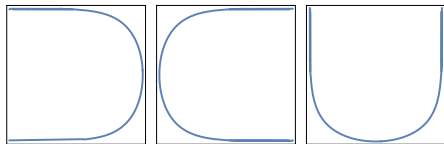
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## Example (Grim reaper)

$$\kappa(s) = \operatorname{sech} s \Rightarrow \theta(s) = 2 \arctan e^s$$

$$x(s) = -\log \cosh s, \quad y(s) = 2 \arctan e^s \leftrightarrow x = \log \sin y, \quad 0 < y < \pi$$



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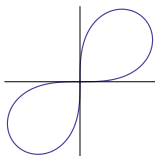
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Bernoulli lemniscate:  $r^2 = 3 \sin 2\theta$



# Euler's elastic curves

**Elastica** under *tension*  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ :

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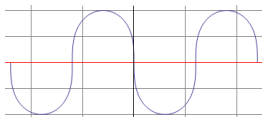
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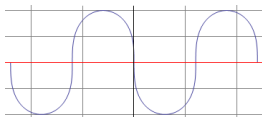
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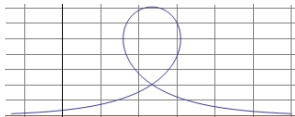
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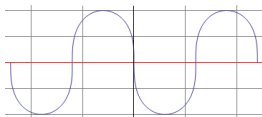
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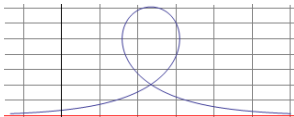
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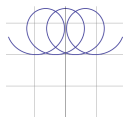
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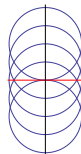
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## Example (Circles)

$$\kappa \equiv \kappa_0 > 0, \quad \mathcal{K}(y) = \kappa_0 y + c$$

$$s = \int \frac{dy}{\sqrt{1 - (\kappa_0 y + c)^2}} = \frac{\arcsin(\kappa_0 y + c)}{\kappa_0}$$

$$y(s) = \frac{\sin(\kappa_0 s) - c}{\kappa_0}, \quad x(s) = \frac{\cos(\kappa_0 s)}{\kappa_0}$$



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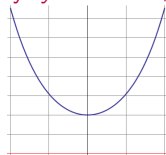
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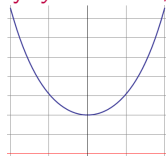
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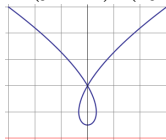
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$$9x^2 = (y - 2)^2(2y - 1)$$



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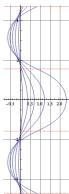
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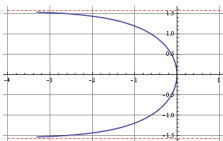
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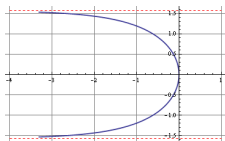
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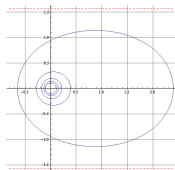
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$$\begin{aligned}y(s) &= \operatorname{arccosh} \left( \operatorname{nd}(\sqrt{1 + \lambda^2} s, \rho) \right) \\ \kappa(s) &= \lambda \operatorname{nd}(\sqrt{1 + \lambda^2} s, \rho), \\ \rho^2 &= 1 / (1 + \lambda^2), \quad s \in \mathbb{R} \\ x(s) &= -\arctan \left( \frac{\lambda(1 + \operatorname{cn}(\sqrt{1 + \lambda^2} s, \rho))}{\operatorname{cn}(\sqrt{1 + \lambda^2} s, \rho) - \lambda^2} \right)\end{aligned}$$

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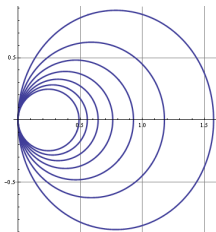
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$$x(s) = -\arctan \left( \frac{\lambda(1 + \operatorname{cn}(\sqrt{1 + \lambda^2} s, \rho))}{\operatorname{cn}(\sqrt{1 + \lambda^2} s, \rho) - \lambda^2} \right)$$



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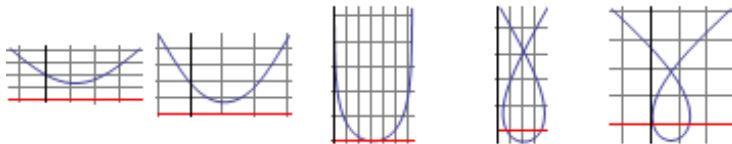
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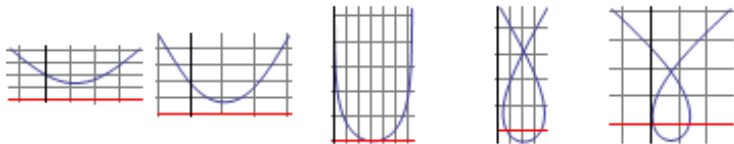
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- $c = 0$ :  $\mathcal{K}(y) = -e^{-y}$  Grim-reaper  $y = -\log \cos x, \quad -\pi/2 < x < \pi/2$

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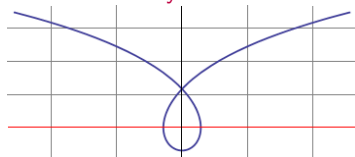
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Alysoid



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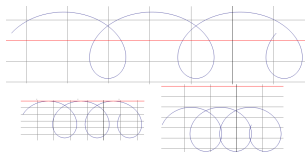
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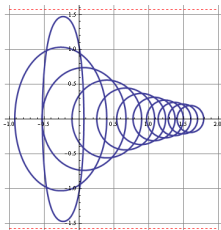
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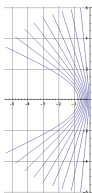
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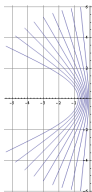
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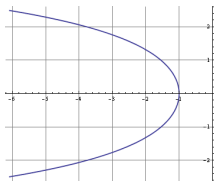
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$$x = -\cosh y, \quad y \in \mathbb{R}$$



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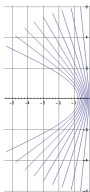
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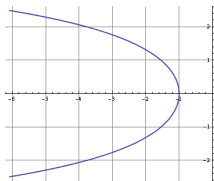
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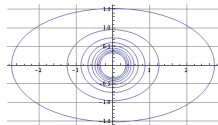
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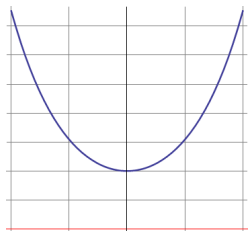




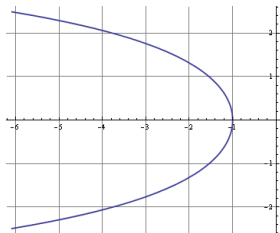
# Uniqueness results

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The **catenary**  $y = \cosh x$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  
is the only plane curve (up to  $x$ -translations)  
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(and curvature  $\kappa(y) = 1/y^2$ ).

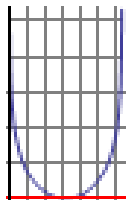


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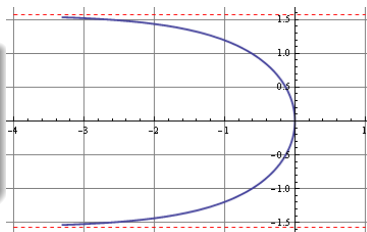


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The **grim-reaper**  $y = -\log \sin x$ ,  $0 < x < \pi$ ,  
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The **grim-reaper**  $x = \log \cos y$ ,  $y \in (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$ ,  
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- 1 Motivation
- 2 Plane curves with curvature depending on distance to a line
  - New plane curves
  - Uniqueness results
- 3 Plane curves with curvature depending on distance from a point
  - New plane curves
  - Uniqueness results
- 4 Spherical curves with curvature depending on their position
  - New spherical curves
  - Uniqueness results
- 5 Curves in Lorentz-Minkowski plane  $\mathbb{L}^2$ 
  - Curves in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  with curvature depending on Lorentzian pseudodistance to a spacelike or timelike geodesic
  - Curves in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  with curvature depending on Lorentzian pseudodistance to a lightlike geodesic
  - Curves in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  whose curvature depends on Lorentzian pseudodistance from the origin

# Curves with curvature depending on distance from a point

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V.M. Vassilev, ...

[I. Castro, I. Castro-Infantes and J. Castro-Infantes: *New plane curves with curvature depending on distance from the origin*. *Mediterr. J. Math.* **14** (2017), 108:1–19.]

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**Theorem**  $\kappa = \kappa(r)$

Prescribe  $\kappa = \kappa(r)$  such that  $r\kappa(r)$  continuous.

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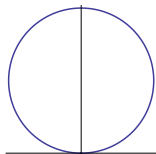
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## Example (Circles)

$$\kappa \equiv k_0 > 0, \quad \mathcal{K}(r) = k_0 r^2 / 2 + c$$

$$s = \int \frac{r dr}{\sqrt{r^2 - (k_0 r^2 / 2 + c)^2}} \stackrel{(c=0)}{=} (2/k_0) \arcsin(k_0 r / 2)$$

$$r(s) = (2/k_0) \sin(k_0 s / 2), \quad \theta(s) = k_0 s / 2$$



Plane curves such that  $\kappa(r) = 1/r$

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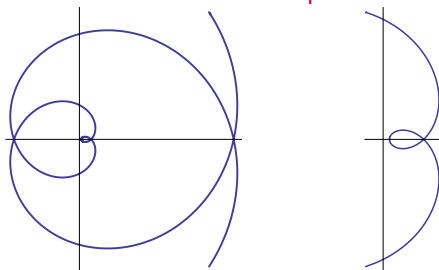
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Sturm or Norwich spiral



Plane curves such that  $\kappa(r) = \lambda r^{n-1}$  ( $\lambda > 0, n \neq -1, 0$ )

$$\mathcal{K}(r) = \frac{\lambda}{n+1} r^{n+1}$$

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$$d\theta = \frac{\frac{\lambda}{n+1} r^{n-1}}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\lambda}{n+1}\right)^2 r^{2n}}} dr$$

*Sinusoidal spirals*  $r^n = \frac{n+1}{\lambda} \sin(n\theta)$

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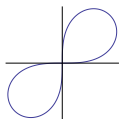
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$$d\theta = \frac{\frac{\lambda}{n+1} r^{n-1}}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{\lambda}{n+1}\right)^2 r^{2n}}} dr \quad \text{Sinusoidal spirals } r^n = \frac{n+1}{\lambda} \sin(n\theta)$$

- $n = 2$ : *Bernoulli lemniscate*  $r^2 = \frac{3}{\lambda} \sin 2\theta$



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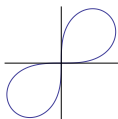
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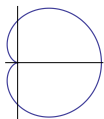
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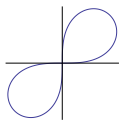
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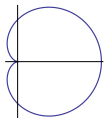
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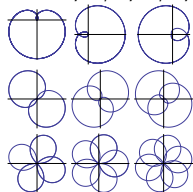
- $n \in \mathbb{Q}$ :

*Algebraic curves*

$n = 1/3, 1/4, 1/6$

$n = 2/3, 2/5, 2/7$

$n = 4/3, 5/4, 6/5$

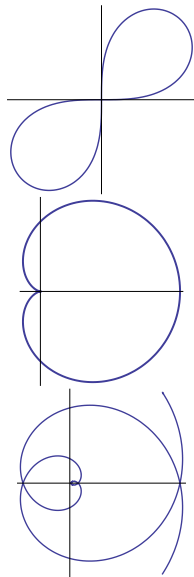


# Uniqueness results for plane curves

The **Bernoulli lemniscate**  $r^2 = 3 \sin 2\theta$  is the only plane curve (up to rotations) with geometric angular momentum  $\mathcal{K}(r) = r^3/3$  (and curvature  $\kappa(r) = r$ ).

The **cardioid**  $r = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \cos \theta)$  is the only plane curve (up to rotations) with geometric angular momentum  $\mathcal{K}(r) = r\sqrt{r}$  (and curvature  $\kappa(r) = \frac{3}{2\sqrt{r}}$ ).

The **Norwich spiral** is the only (non circular) plane curve (up to rotations) with curvature  $\kappa(r) = 1/r$ .





Plane curves such that  $\kappa(r) = \frac{\lambda}{r^3} + 3\mu r$  ( $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}, \mu > 0$ )

$$\mathcal{K}(r) = \mu r^3 - \lambda/r$$

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$$d\theta = \frac{\mu r^4 - \lambda}{r\sqrt{r^4 - (\mu r^4 - \lambda)^2}} dr$$

•  $1 + 4\lambda\mu > 0$  :

$$\exists a, b \neq 0 / \mu = \frac{1}{2b^2}, \lambda = \frac{a^4 - b^4}{2b^2}$$

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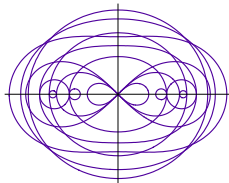
[Mladenov, Hadzhilazova, Djondjorov and Vassilev, 2011]

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*Cassini ovals*  $r^4 - 2a^2r^2 \cos 2\theta + a^4 = b^4$



$$a \in \{1, 2, 3\}, b \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

Plane curves such that  $\kappa(r) = 2\lambda + \mu/r$  ( $\lambda = 1, \mu \neq 0$ )

$$\mathcal{K}(r) = r^2 + \mu r, \mu < 1$$

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- $\mu \in (-1, 1)$ :  $\mu = \cos \gamma, 0 < \gamma < \pi$   
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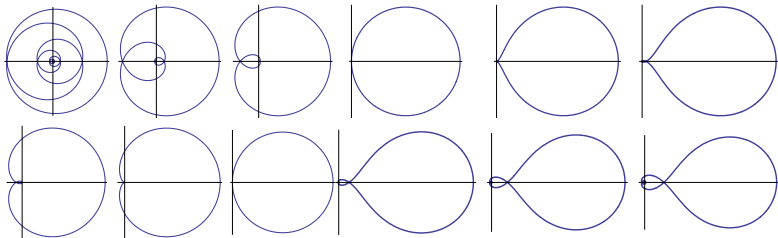
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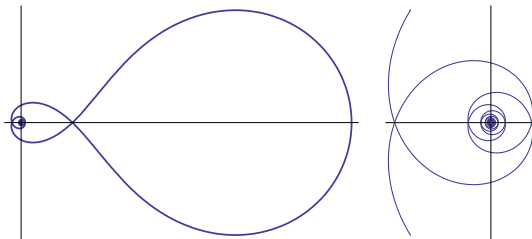
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- $\mu = -1$ :

*Inverse Norwich spiral*

$$r(s) = \cos s + 1, \theta(s) = s - \tan \frac{s}{2}$$



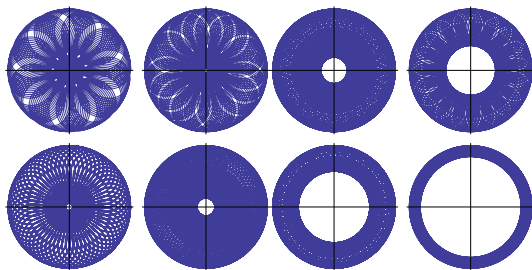
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- $\mu < -1$ :  $\mu = -\cosh \delta, \delta > 0$   
 $(s_\delta \equiv \sinh \delta, c_\delta \equiv \cosh \delta, t_\delta \equiv \tanh \delta)$

$$r_\delta(s) = \cos s + c_\delta, \theta_\delta(s) = s - \frac{2}{t_\delta} \arctan \left( \frac{s_\delta}{1+c_\delta} \tan \frac{s}{2} \right)$$



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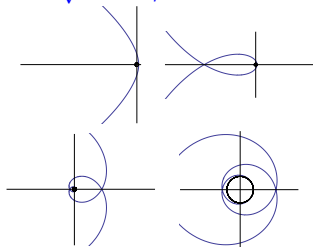
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$$\kappa_\beta(s) = \frac{\sin \beta \cos \beta}{\sqrt{1 + \cos^4 \beta s^2}}, \beta \in (0, \pi/2)$$



Plane curves such that  $\kappa(r) = \lambda / \sqrt{r^2 - 1}$  ( $\lambda > 0$ )

$$\mathcal{K}(r) = \lambda \sqrt{r^2 - 1}$$

- $0 < \lambda < 1$  :  $\lambda = \sin \alpha$  ,  $\alpha \in (0, \pi/2)$   
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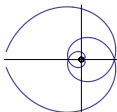
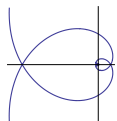
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*Anti-clothoid*

$$r(s) = \sqrt{1 + 2s}, \theta(s) = \sqrt{2s} - \arctan \sqrt{2s}$$

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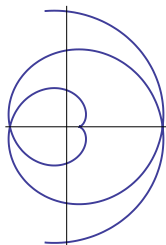
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*Anti-clothoid*

$$r(s) = \sqrt{1 + 2s}, \theta(s) = \sqrt{2s} - \arctan \sqrt{2s}$$

$$\kappa(s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2s}}, s > 0$$



Plane curves such that  $\kappa(r) = \lambda / \sqrt{r^2 - 1}$  ( $\lambda > 0$ )

$$\mathcal{K}(r) = \lambda \sqrt{r^2 - 1}$$

- $\lambda > 1$ :  $\lambda = \cosh \tau$ ,  $\tau > 0$   
( $s_\tau \equiv \sinh \tau$ ,  $c_\tau \equiv \cosh \tau$ ,  $t_\tau \equiv \tanh \tau$ )

$$\mathcal{K}(r) = \cosh \tau \sqrt{r^2 - 1}$$

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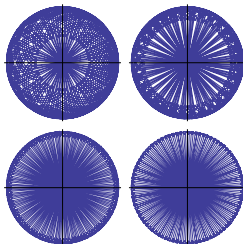
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- 1 Motivation
- 2 Plane curves with curvature depending on distance to a line
  - New plane curves
  - Uniqueness results
- 3 Plane curves with curvature depending on distance from a point
  - New plane curves
  - Uniqueness results
- 4 Spherical curves with curvature depending on their position
  - New spherical curves
  - Uniqueness results
- 5 Curves in Lorentz-Minkowski plane  $\mathbb{L}^2$ 
  - Curves in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  with curvature depending on Lorentzian pseudodistance to a spacelike or timelike geodesic
  - Curves in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  with curvature depending on Lorentzian pseudodistance to a lightlike geodesic
  - Curves in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  whose curvature depends on Lorentzian pseudodistance from the origin



# *Spherical* version of Singer's Problem

# Spherical version of Singer's Problem

*Can a spherical curve be determined  
if its (geodesic) curvature is given in terms of its position?*

$$\begin{vmatrix} x(s) & y(s) & z(s) \\ \dot{x}(s) & \dot{y}(s) & \dot{z}(s) \\ \ddot{x}(s) & \ddot{y}(s) & \ddot{z}(s) \end{vmatrix} = \kappa(x(s), y(s), z(s))$$

$$x(s)^2 + y(s)^2 + z(s)^2 = 1, \quad \dot{x}(s)^2 + \dot{y}(s)^2 + \dot{z}(s)^2 = 1$$

# Spherical version of Singer's Problem

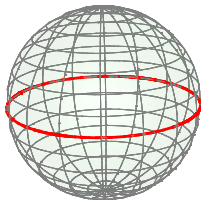
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[I. Castro, I. Castro-Infantes and J. Castro-Infantes. *Spherical curves whose curvature depends on distance to a great circle*. Preprint.]

$$\kappa(x, y, z) = \kappa(z), \quad z = \sin \varphi, \quad \varphi \text{ latitude}$$



Spherical curves whose curvature depends  
on distance to a geodesic (or from a point)

# Spherical curves whose curvature depends on distance to a geodesic (or from a point)

## Theorem

*Prescribe  $\kappa = \kappa(z)$  continuous.*

*The problem of determining a spherical curve*

*$\xi(s) = (x(s), y(s), z(s))$  - $s$  arc parameter- whose curvature is  $\kappa(z)$ ,  
( $z$  representing the signed distance to the great circle  $z=0$ ),  
is solvable by 3 quadratures:*

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①  $\int \kappa(z) dz = \mathcal{K}(z)$ , *spherical angular momentum*

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①  $\int \kappa(z) dz = \mathcal{K}(z)$ , *spherical angular momentum*

②  $s = s(z) = \int \frac{dz}{\sqrt{1 - z^2 - \mathcal{K}(z)^2}} \rightarrow z = z(s) \rightarrow \kappa = \kappa(s)$

# Spherical curves whose curvature depends on distance to a geodesic (or from a point)

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The problem of determining a spherical curve

$\xi(s) = (x(s), y(s), z(s))$  -  $s$  arc parameter- whose curvature is  $\kappa(z)$ , ( $z$  representing the signed distance to the great circle  $z=0$ ), is solvable by 3 quadratures:

①  $\int \kappa(z) dz = \mathcal{K}(z)$ , *spherical angular momentum*

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# Spherical curves whose curvature depends on distance to a geodesic (or from a point)

## Theorem

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►  $\xi$  is uniquely determined (up to rotations around the  $z$ -axis) by  $\mathcal{K}(z)$

# Examples

## Example (Great circles)

$$\kappa \equiv 0: \int \kappa(z) dz = c,$$

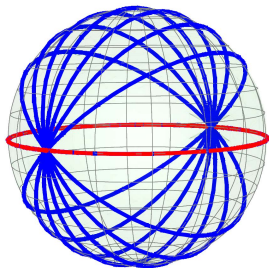
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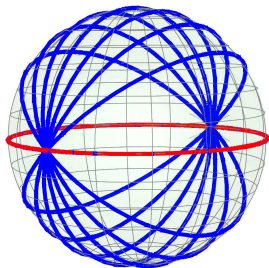
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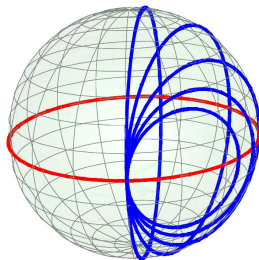
$$\kappa \equiv k_0 \geq 0: \int \kappa(z) dz = k_0 z + c$$

$$z(s) =$$

$$\frac{1}{1+k_0^2} \left( \sqrt{1-c^2+k_0^2} \sin(\sqrt{1+k_0^2} s) - c k_0 \right),$$

$$|c| < \sqrt{1+k_0^2}.$$

$$c = 0: \mathbb{S}^2 \cap \{y = \frac{k_0}{\sqrt{1+k_0^2}} z\}, \quad \mathcal{K}(z) = k_0 z$$



# Spherical elasticae: characterization and generalization

Elasticae under tension  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ :

critical points of  $\mathcal{F}_\sigma(\xi) := \int_\xi (\kappa^2 + \sigma) ds$  ( $\sigma = 0$  free elasticae)

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(ii) Conversely,  $\xi$  critical point of

$$\mathcal{F}_\sigma^\lambda(\xi) := \int_\xi ((\kappa + \lambda)^2 + \sigma) ds, \quad \lambda, \sigma \in \mathbb{R}$$

$\Rightarrow \exists a \neq 0, b \in \mathbb{R}: \kappa(z) = 2az + b$

## Spherical *borderline* elastic curves.

- $a > 1/2$ ,  $b = 0$ ,  $c = 1$ :  $\kappa(z) = 2az$ ,  $a > 0$ ,  $\mathcal{K}(z) = az^2 + 1$

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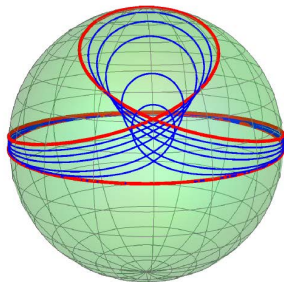
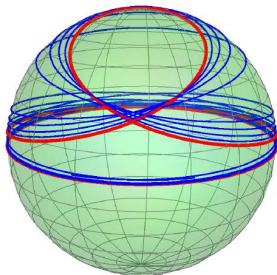
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# Seiffert's spherical elastic *spirals*

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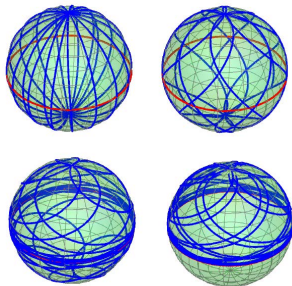
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# New spherical curves I:

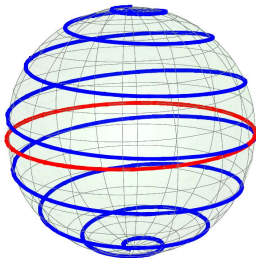
$$\kappa(z) = \frac{z}{\sqrt{a-z^2}}, \quad 0 < a = \sin^2 \alpha < 1 \quad (0 < \alpha < \pi/2)$$

$$\mathcal{K}(z) = -\sqrt{\sin^2 \alpha - z^2}$$

$$\varphi(s) = \arcsin(\cos \alpha s)$$

$$\kappa(s) = \frac{c_\alpha s}{\sqrt{s_\alpha^2 - c_\alpha^2 s^2}}, \quad |s| < \tan \alpha$$

$$\lambda(s) = \frac{1}{c_\alpha} \arctan \left( \frac{c_\alpha s}{\sqrt{s_\alpha^2 - c_\alpha^2 s^2}} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \arctan \left( \frac{c_\alpha s + s_\alpha^2}{c_\alpha \sqrt{s_\alpha^2 - c_\alpha^2 s^2}} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \arctan \left( \frac{c_\alpha s - s_\alpha^2}{c_\alpha \sqrt{s_\alpha^2 - c_\alpha^2 s^2}} \right)$$



## New spherical curves II:

$$\kappa(z) = \frac{az}{\sqrt{1-az^2}}, \quad a = \cosh^2 \delta > 1, \quad (\delta > 0)$$

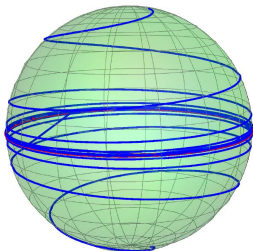
$$\mathcal{K}(z) = -\sqrt{1 - \cosh^2 \delta z^2}$$

$$\varphi(s) = \arcsin(e^{\sinh \delta s})$$

$$\kappa(s) = \frac{\cosh^2 \delta e^{\sinh \delta s}}{\sqrt{1 - \cosh^2 \delta e^{2 \sinh \delta s}}}, \quad s < -\log \cosh \delta / \sinh \delta$$

$$\lambda(s) =$$

$$-\frac{1}{\sinh \delta} \operatorname{arctanh} \left( \sqrt{1 - \cosh^2 \delta e^{2 \sinh \delta s}} \right) + \arctan \left( \frac{\sqrt{1 - \cosh^2 \delta e^{2 \sinh \delta s}}}{\sinh \delta} \right)$$



## New spherical curves III:

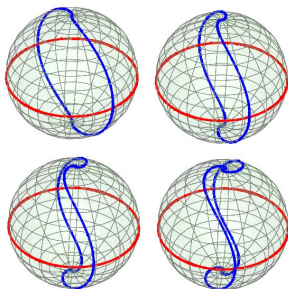
$$\kappa(z) = \frac{p(1-2z^2)}{\sqrt{1-z^2}} = \frac{p \cos 2\varphi}{\cos \varphi} = \kappa(\varphi), \quad 0 < p < 1$$

$$\mathcal{K}(z) = pz\sqrt{1-z^2} = \frac{p}{2} \sin 2\varphi = \mathcal{K}(\varphi)$$

$$\varphi(s) = \operatorname{am}(s, p)$$

$$\kappa(s) = p(2 \operatorname{cn}(s, p) - 1 / \operatorname{cn}(s, p))$$

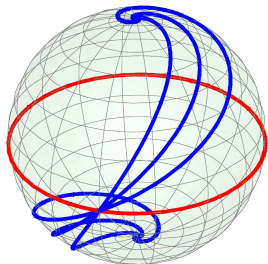
$$\lambda(s) = -\frac{p}{2p'} \log \left( \frac{\operatorname{dn}(s, p) + p'}{\operatorname{dn}(s, p) - p'} \right), \quad p' = \sqrt{1-p^2}$$



# Uniqueness results on classical spherical curves

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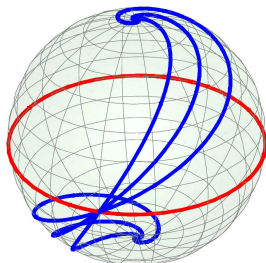
Loxodromes





# Uniqueness results on classical spherical curves

## Loxodromes



The loxodromes,  $d\lambda = \cot \alpha \frac{d\varphi}{\cos \varphi}$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, \pi/2)$ , are the only spherical curves (up to rotations around z-axis) with spherical angular momentum

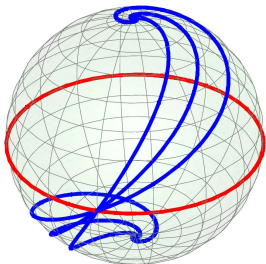
$$\mathcal{K}(\varphi) = -\cos \alpha \cos \varphi$$

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## Loxodromes



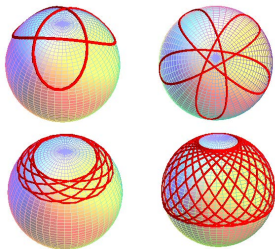
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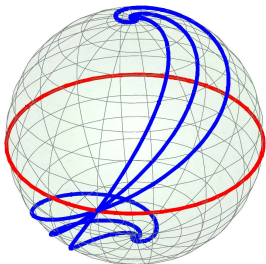
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## Spherical catenaries



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## Loxodromes



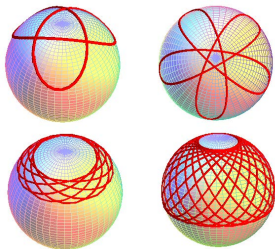
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## Spherical catenaries



The spherical catenaries,  $\sin \varphi \cos^2 \varphi \frac{d\theta}{ds} = a$ ,  $a < 1/2$ , are the only spherical curves (up to rotations around z-axis) with spherical angular momentum

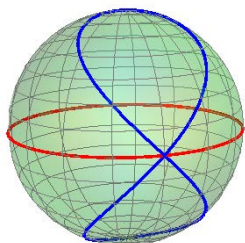
$$\mathcal{K}(\varphi) = -a / \sin \varphi$$

(and curvature  $\kappa(z) = a / \sin^2 \varphi$ ).

$$\kappa(s) = \frac{2a}{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4a^2} \sin 2s}$$

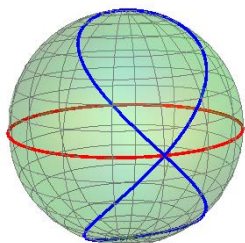
# Uniqueness results on classical spherical curves

Viviani's curve



# Uniqueness results on classical spherical curves

## Viviani's curve



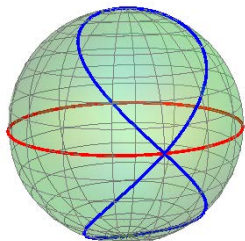
Viviani's curve,  $\lambda = \varphi$ , is the only spherical curve (up to rotations around z-axis)

with spherical angular momentum  $\mathcal{K}(z) = \frac{z^2-1}{\sqrt{2-z^2}}$

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# Uniqueness results on classical spherical curves

## Viviani's curve

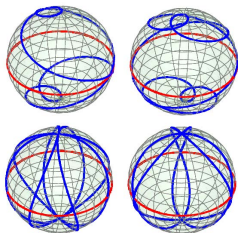


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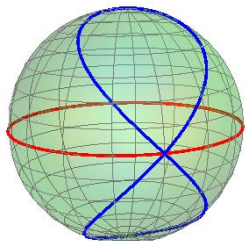
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## Archimedean spherical spirals



# Uniqueness results on classical spherical curves

## Viviani's curve

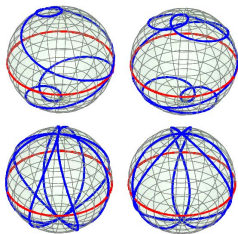


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## Archimedean spherical spirals



Archimedean spherical spirals,  $\varphi = n\lambda$ ,  $n > 0$ , are the only spherical curves (up to rotations around z-axis)

with spherical angular momentum

$$\mathcal{K}(z) = \frac{z^2-1}{\sqrt{1+n^2-z^2}}$$

(and curvature  $\kappa(z) = \frac{z(2n^2+1-z^2)}{(n^2+1-z^2)^{3/2}}$ ).

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Plane curves with curvature depending on distance to a line
  - New plane curves
  - Uniqueness results
- 3 Plane curves with curvature depending on distance from a point
  - New plane curves
  - Uniqueness results
- 4 Spherical curves with curvature depending on their position
  - New spherical curves
  - Uniqueness results
- 5 Curves in Lorentz-Minkowski plane  $\mathbb{L}^2$ 
  - Curves in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  with curvature depending on Lorentzian pseudodistance to a spacelike or timelike geodesic
  - Curves in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  with curvature depending on Lorentzian pseudodistance to a lightlike geodesic
  - Curves in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  whose curvature depends on Lorentzian pseudodistance from the origin



# Curves in Lorentz-Minkowski plane

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# Curves in Lorentz-Minkowski plane

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## Theorem

Prescribe  $\kappa = \kappa(s)$ :

Any *spacelike* curve  $\alpha(s)$  in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  can be represented (up to isometries) by

$$\alpha(s) = \left( \int \sinh \varphi(s) ds, \int \cosh \varphi(s) ds \right) \text{ with } \varphi(s) = \int \kappa(s) ds.$$

Any *timelike* curve  $\beta(s)$  in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  can be represented (up to isometries) by

$$\beta(s) = \left( \int \cosh \phi(s) ds, \int \sinh \phi(s) ds \right) \text{ with } \phi(s) = \int \kappa(s) ds.$$

# Curves in Lorentz-Minkowski plane

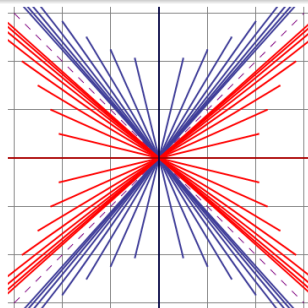
## Geodesics

The *spacelike* geodesics can be written as:

$$\alpha_{\phi_0}(s) = (\sinh \phi_0 s, \cosh \phi_0 s), \quad s \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \phi_0 \in \mathbb{R},$$

and the *timelike* geodesics can be written as:

$$\beta_{\phi_0}(s) = (\cosh \phi_0 s, \sinh \phi_0 s), \quad s \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \phi_0 \in \mathbb{R}.$$



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Define the *Lorentzian pseudodistance* by

$$\delta : \mathbb{L}^2 \times \mathbb{L}^2 \rightarrow [0, +\infty), \quad \delta(P, Q) = \sqrt{|g(\vec{PQ}, \vec{PQ})|}$$

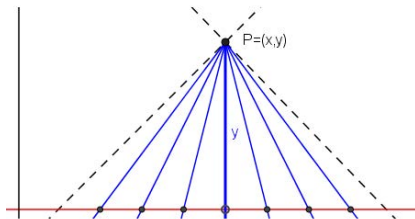


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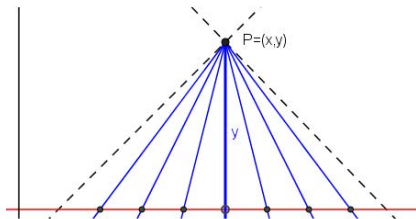
$P = (x, y) \in \mathbb{L}^2$ ,  $y \neq 0$ ; spacelike geodesics  $\alpha_m$  with slope  $m = \coth \varphi_0$ ,  $|m| > 1$ ;  $P' = (x - y/m, 0)$

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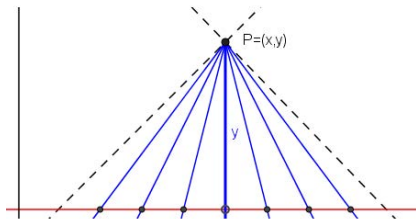
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$|y|$ : maximum Lorentzian pseudodistance through spacelike geodesics from  $P = (x, y)$ ,  $y \neq 0$ , to the x-axis.

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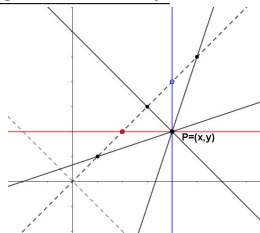
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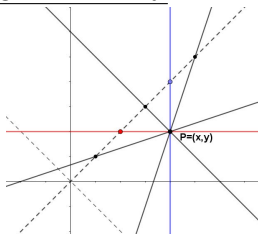
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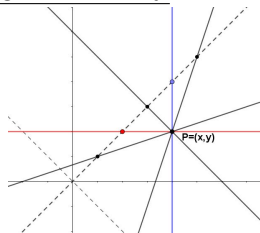
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$|y-x|$ : Lorentzian pseudodistance from  $P = (x, y) \in \mathbb{L}^2$ ,  $x \neq y$ ,  
to the lightlike geodesic  $x = y$  through the **horizontal timelike geodesic**  
or the **vertical spacelike geodesic**.

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Determine those (spacelike and timelike) curves  $\gamma = (x, y)$  in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  whose curvature  $\kappa$  depends on some given function  $\kappa = \kappa(x, y)$



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$$\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(y)$$

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Prescribe  $\kappa = \kappa(y)$  continuous.

Then the problem of determining a spacelike or timelike curve  $(x(s), y(s))$  - $s$  arc length- is solvable by three quadratures ( $\epsilon = 1$  spacelike,  $\epsilon = -1$  timelike):

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- $\mathcal{K}(y)$  will distinguish geometrically the curves inside a same family by their relative position with respect to the  $x$ -axis.

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- $\mathcal{K}(y) = c \in \mathbb{R}$ .  $s = \int \frac{dy}{\sqrt{c^2 + \epsilon}} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{c^2 + \epsilon}}$ ,  $c^2 + \epsilon > 0$ .  
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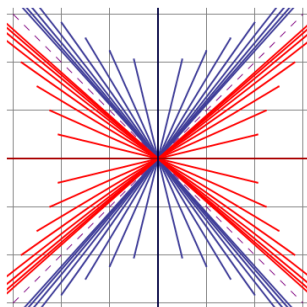
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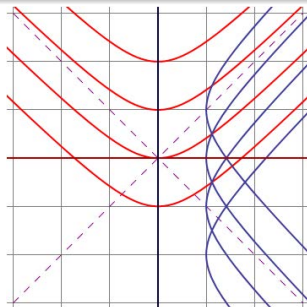
•  $\mathcal{K}(y) = k_0 y + c, c \in \mathbb{R}.$   $s = \int \frac{dy}{\sqrt{(k_0 y + c)^2 + \epsilon}}.$

$\epsilon = 1:$   $s = \operatorname{arcsinh}(k_0 y + c) / k_0.$

$x(s) = \cosh(k_0 s) / k_0, y(s) = (\sinh(k_0 s) - c) / k_0, s \in \mathbb{R}.$

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Spacelike and timelike pseudocircles in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  of radius  $1/k_0$ .

## Definition

$\gamma$ , spacelike or timelike curve in  $\mathbb{L}^2$ , *elastica under tension*  $\sigma$  if  
 $2\ddot{\kappa} - \kappa^3 - \sigma\kappa = 0$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ . *Energy*  $E := \dot{\kappa}^2 - \frac{1}{4}\kappa^4 - \frac{\sigma}{2}\kappa^2$ .

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## Proposition

$\gamma$  spacelike or timelike curve in  $\mathbb{L}^2$

- (i) If  $\kappa(y) = 2ay + b$ ,  $a \neq 0$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $\mathcal{K}(y) = ay^2 + by + c$ ,  $a \neq 0$ ,  $b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\gamma$  elastica under tension  $\sigma = 4ac - b^2$  and energy  $E = 4\epsilon a^2 + \sigma^2/4$  (where  $\epsilon = 1$  if  $\gamma$  is spacelike and  $\epsilon = -1$  if  $\gamma$  is timelike).

## Definition

$\gamma$ , spacelike or timelike curve in  $\mathbb{L}^2$ , *elastica under tension*  $\sigma$  if  $2\ddot{\kappa} - \kappa^3 - \sigma\kappa = 0$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ . Energy  $E := \dot{\kappa}^2 - \frac{1}{4}\kappa^4 - \frac{\sigma}{2}\kappa^2$ .

$$\kappa(y) = 2ay + b, \quad a \neq 0, \quad b \in \mathbb{R}$$

## Proposition

$\gamma$  spacelike or timelike curve in  $\mathbb{L}^2$

- (i) If  $\kappa(y) = 2ay + b$ ,  $a \neq 0$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $\mathcal{K}(y) = ay^2 + by + c$ ,  $a \neq 0$ ,  $b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\gamma$  elastica under tension  $\sigma = 4ac - b^2$  and energy  $E = 4\epsilon a^2 + \sigma^2/4$  (where  $\epsilon = 1$  if  $\gamma$  is spacelike and  $\epsilon = -1$  if  $\gamma$  is timelike).
- (ii) If  $\gamma$  elastica under tension  $\sigma$  and energy  $E$ , with  $E \neq \sigma^2/4$ , then  $\kappa(y) = 2ay + b$ ,  $a \neq 0$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Spacelike elasticae:  $\kappa(y) = 2y, \epsilon = 1$

- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 + c, c = \sinh \eta \in \mathbb{R}$

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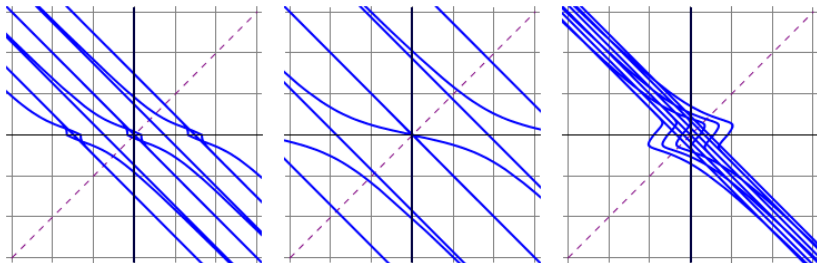
- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 + c, c = \sinh \eta \in \mathbb{R}$  ( $s_\eta = \sinh \eta$  and  $c_\eta = \cosh \eta$ )

$$x_\eta(s) = (s_\eta + c_\eta)s + \sqrt{c_\eta} \left( \operatorname{cn}(\sqrt{c_\eta} s, k_\eta) \left( k_\eta^2 \operatorname{sd}(\sqrt{c_\eta} s, k_\eta) - \operatorname{ds}(\sqrt{c_\eta} s, k_\eta) \right) - 2E(\sqrt{c_\eta} s, k_\eta) \right)$$

$$y_\eta(s) = \sqrt{c_\eta} \operatorname{cs}(\sqrt{c_\eta} s, k_\eta) \operatorname{nd}(\sqrt{c_\eta} s, k_\eta), \quad k_\eta^2 = \frac{1 - \tanh \eta}{2}$$

$$s \in (2mK(k_\eta)/\sqrt{c_\eta}, 2(m+1)K(k_\eta)/\sqrt{c_\eta}), \quad m \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$\kappa_\eta(s) = 2\sqrt{c_\eta} \operatorname{cs}(\sqrt{c_\eta} s, k_\eta) \operatorname{nd}(\sqrt{c_\eta} s, k_\eta).$$



Spacelike elastic curves  $\alpha_\eta = (x_\eta, y_\eta)$ , ( $\eta = 0, 1.5, -1.5$ ).



Timelike elasticae:  $\kappa(y) = 2y, \epsilon = -1$

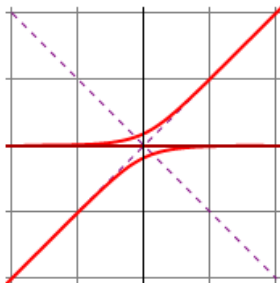
# Timelike elasticae: $\kappa(y) = 2y, \epsilon = -1$

- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 + 1$  ( $c = 1$ ).

$$x_1(s) = s - \sqrt{2} \coth(\sqrt{2}s),$$

$$y_1(s) = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sinh(\sqrt{2}s)}, \quad s \neq 0.$$

$$\kappa_1(s) = -\frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\sinh(\sqrt{2}s)}.$$

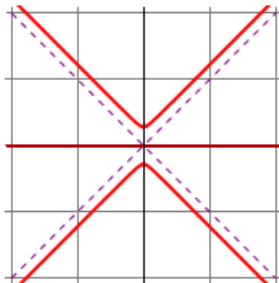


- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 - 1$  ( $c = -1$ ).

$$x_{-1}(s) = \sqrt{2} \tan(\sqrt{2}s) - s,$$

$$y_{-1}(s) = \pm \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\cos(\sqrt{2}s)}, \quad |s| < \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{2}}.$$

$$\kappa_{-1}(s) = \frac{\mp 2\sqrt{2}}{\cos(\sqrt{2}s)}.$$



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- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 + \cosh^2 \delta, \delta > 0 (c > 1)$

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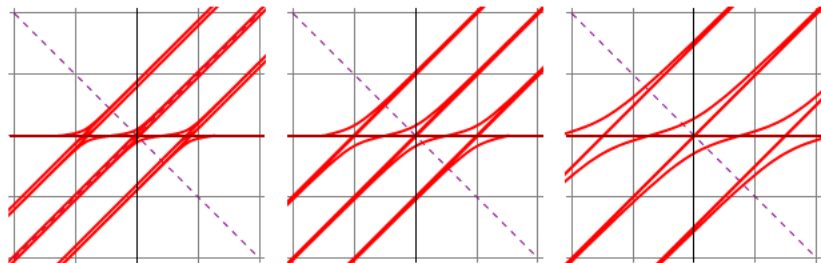
- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 + \cosh^2 \delta, \delta > 0 (c > 1)$

$$x_\delta(s) = c_\delta^2 s + \sqrt{c_\delta^2 + 1} \left( \operatorname{dn}(\sqrt{c_\delta^2 + 1} s, k_\delta) \operatorname{tn}(\sqrt{c_\delta^2 + 1} s, k_\delta) - E(\sqrt{c_\delta^2 + 1} s, k_\delta) \right),$$

$$y_\delta(s) = s_\delta \operatorname{tn}(\sqrt{c_\delta^2 + 1} s, k_\delta), \quad k_\delta^2 = \frac{2}{1 + \cosh^2 \delta},$$

$$s \in \left( (2m-1)K(k_\delta) / \sqrt{c_\delta^2 + 1}, (2m+1)K(k_\delta) / \sqrt{c_\delta^2 + 1} \right), \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

$$\kappa_\delta(s) = 2s_\delta \operatorname{tn}(\sqrt{c_\delta^2 + 1} s, k_\delta).$$



Timelike elastic curves  $\beta_\delta = (x_\delta, y_\delta)$  ( $\delta = 0,5, 1, 1,5$ ).

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- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 + \sin \psi, |\psi| < \pi/2$  ( $|c| < 1$ )

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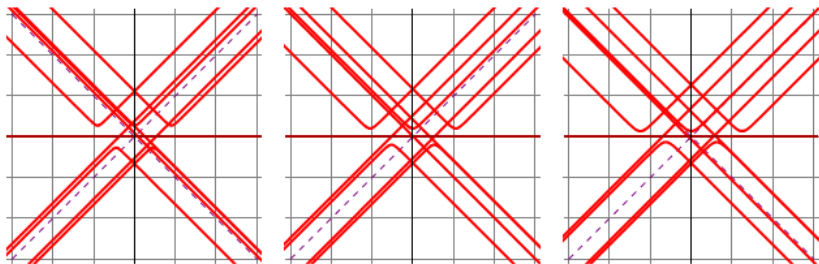
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$$x_\psi(s) = s + \sqrt{2} \left( \operatorname{dn}(\sqrt{2}s, k_\psi) \operatorname{tn}(\sqrt{2}s, k_\psi) - E(\sqrt{2}s, k_\psi) \right),$$

$$y_\psi(s) = \sqrt{1 - s_\psi} \operatorname{nc}(\sqrt{2}s, k_\psi), \quad k_\psi^2 = \frac{1 + \sin \psi}{2},$$

$$s \in \left( (2m-1)K(k_\psi)/\sqrt{2}, (2m+1)K(k_\psi)/\sqrt{2} \right), \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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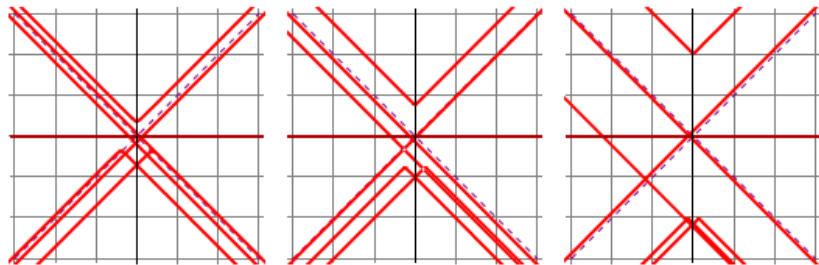
- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 - \cosh^2 \tau, \tau > 0, (c < -1)$

$$x_\tau(s) = -s + \sqrt{1+c_\tau^2} \left( \operatorname{dn}(\sqrt{1+c_\tau^2} s, k_\tau) \operatorname{tn}(\sqrt{1+c_\tau^2} s, k_\tau) - E(\sqrt{1+c_\tau^2} s, k_\tau) \right),$$

$$y_\tau(s) = \sqrt{1+c_\tau^2} \operatorname{dc}(\sqrt{1+c_\tau^2} s, k_\tau), \quad k_\tau^2 = \frac{\sinh^2 \tau}{1+\cosh^2 \tau},$$

$$s \in \left( (2m-1)K(k_\tau)/\sqrt{1+c_\tau^2}, (2m+1)K(k_\tau)/\sqrt{1+c_\tau^2} \right), \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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Timelike elastic curves  $\beta_\tau = (x_\tau, y_\tau), (\tau = 1, 2, 3)$ .



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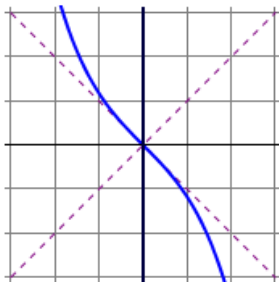
$\epsilon = 1$ . Spacelike case:

$$x(s) = \mp \operatorname{arccosh} s, s > 1.$$

$$y(s) = \pm \sqrt{s^2 - 1}, |s| > 1.$$

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$$y = -\sinh x, x \in \mathbb{R}.$$



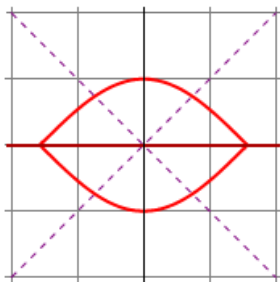
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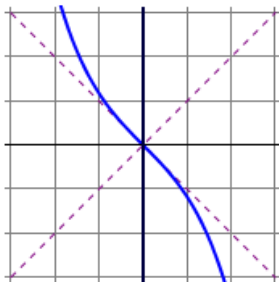
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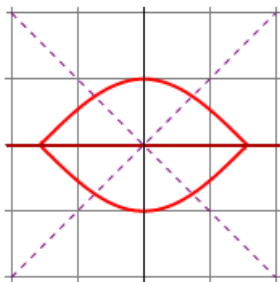
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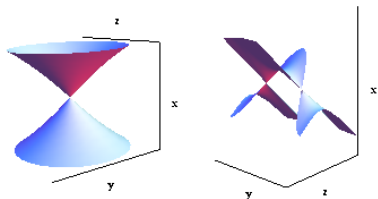
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“Lorentzian catenaries”

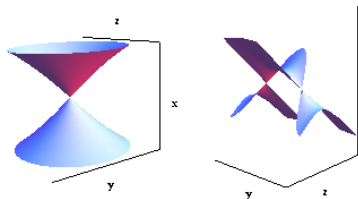
# Lorentzian catenaries.

Kobayashi introduced in 1993, studying maximal rotation surfaces in  $\mathbb{L}^3$ , the catenoid of the first kind with equation  $y^2 + z^2 - \sinh^2 x = 0$  and the catenoid of the second kind with equation  $x^2 - z^2 = \cos^2 y$ .



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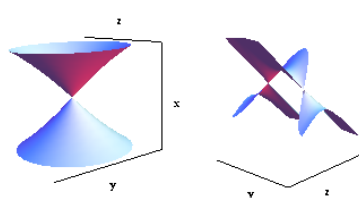
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- 1 The Lorentzian catenary of the first kind  $y = -\sinh x$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , is the only *spacelike* curve (up to translations in the  $x$ -direction) with geometric linear momentum  $\mathcal{K}(y) = -1/y$ .
- 2 The Lorentzian catenary of the second kind  $x = \pm \cos y$ ,  $|y| < \pi/2$ , is the only *spacelike* curve (up to translations in the  $y$ -direction) with geometric linear momentum  $\mathcal{K}(x) = -1/x$ .

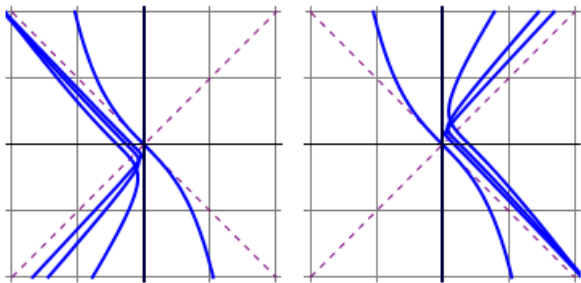
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$$x = \frac{1}{c^2+1} \left( c\sqrt{(c^2+1)y^2 - 2cy + 1} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{c^2+1}} \operatorname{arcsinh}((c^2+1)y - c) \right).$$



Curves with  $\mathcal{K}(y) = c - 1/y$ ;  $c \leq 0$  (left) and  $c \geq 0$  (right).



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- $\mathcal{K}(y) = c - 1/y, c \neq 0.$

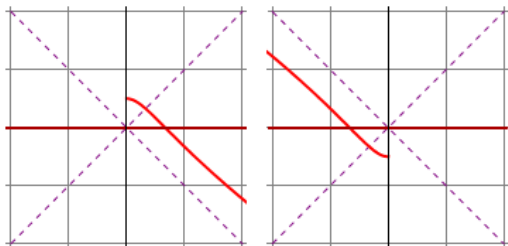
- $\cdot \mathcal{K}(y) = 1 - 1/y:$

$$x = \frac{(2-y)\sqrt{1-2y}}{3}, y < 1/2.$$

$\epsilon = -1$ , Timelike case:

- $\cdot \mathcal{K}(y) = -1 - 1/y:$

$$x = -\frac{(2+y)\sqrt{1+2y}}{3}, y > -1/2.$$



- $\cdot \mathcal{K}(y) = c - 1/y, |c| > 1:$

$$x = \frac{1}{c^2-1} \left( c\sqrt{(c^2-1)y^2 - 2cy + 1} + \frac{\log\left(2(\sqrt{c^2-1}\sqrt{(c^2-1)y^2 - 2cy + 1} + (c^2-1)y - c)\right)}{\sqrt{c^2-1}} \right).$$

- $\cdot \mathcal{K}(y) = c - 1/y, |c| < 1:$

$$x = \frac{1}{c^2-1} \left( c\sqrt{(c^2-1)y^2 - 2cy + 1} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-c^2}} \arcsin\left(\frac{(c^2-1)y - c}{\sqrt{c^2-1}}\right) \right).$$

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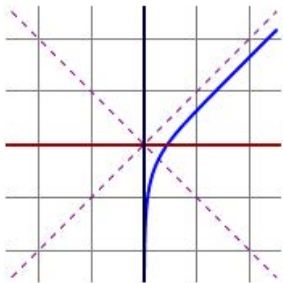
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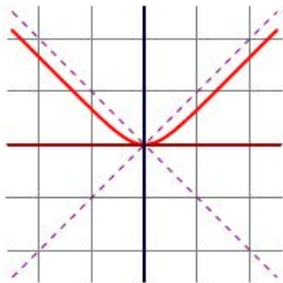
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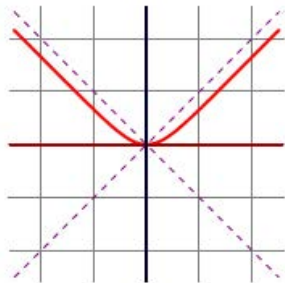
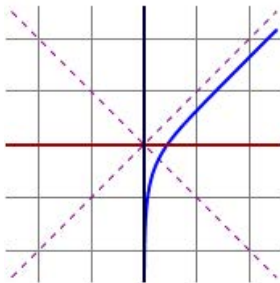
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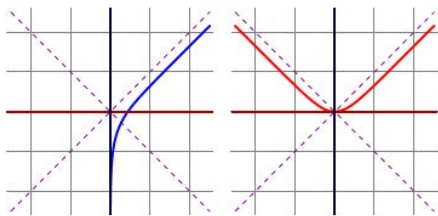
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“Lorentzian grim-reapers”

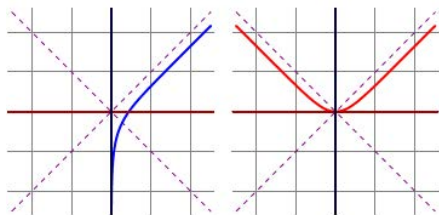
# Lorentzian grim-reapers



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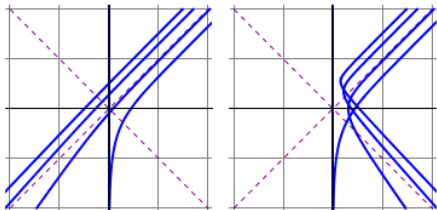
- 1 The Lorentzian grim-reaper  $y = \log(\sinh x)$ ,  $x > 0$ , is the only *spacelike* curve (up to  $x$ -translations) in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  with geometric linear momentum  $\mathcal{K}(y) = e^y$ .
- 2 The Lorentzian grim-reaper  $y = \log(\cosh x)$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , is the only *timelike* curve (up to  $x$ -translations) in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  with geometric linear momentum  $\mathcal{K}(y) = e^y$ .

$$\kappa(y) = e^y$$

- $\mathcal{K}(y) = e^y + c, c \neq 0.$

Spacelike case ( $\epsilon = 1$ ):

$$x = \operatorname{arcsinh}(e^y + c) - \frac{c}{\sqrt{c^2+1}} \operatorname{arcsinh}(c + (c^2 + 1)e^{-y}).$$



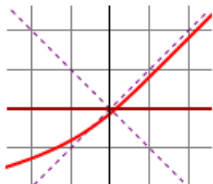
Timelike case ( $\epsilon = -1$ ):

- $\mathcal{K}(y) = e^y + 1:$

$$x = 2 \log(\sqrt{e^y} + \sqrt{e^y + 2}) - \sqrt{1 + 2e^{-y}}.$$

- $\mathcal{K}(y) = e^y + c, |c| > 1:$

$$x = \frac{\log(2(\sqrt{P(e^y)} + e^y + c)) - c \log(2e^{-y}(\sqrt{c^2-1}\sqrt{P(e^y)} + ce^y + c^2 - 1))}{\sqrt{c^2-1}}$$

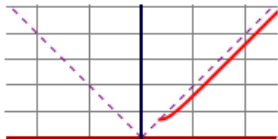


- $\mathcal{K}(y) = e^y - 1:$

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- $\mathcal{K}(y) = e^y + c, |c| < 1:$

$$x = \log(2(\sqrt{P(e^y)} + e^y + c)) + \frac{c}{\sqrt{1-c^2}} \arcsin(c + (c^2 - 1)e^{-y}).$$



$$\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(v), \quad v := y - x$$



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## Theorem

Prescribe  $\kappa = \kappa(v)$  continuous.

Then the problem of determining a spacelike or timelike curve

$$\left( \frac{u(s)-v(s)}{2}, \frac{u(s)+v(s)}{2} \right)$$

-s arc length- is solvable by three quadratures

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$$\textcircled{1} \int \kappa(v) dv = \frac{-\epsilon}{\mathcal{K}(v)}, \text{ geometric linear momentum.}$$

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- 3  $u(s) = \int \mathcal{K}(v(s)) ds$ .

► Such a curve is uniquely determined by  $\mathcal{K}(v)$  up to a  $u$ -translation.

•  $\mathcal{K}(v)$  will distinguish geometrically the curves inside a same family by their relative position with respect to the  $u$ -axis.

# Examples: constant curvature

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(lines passing through the origin with slope  $m = \frac{\epsilon+c^2}{\epsilon-c^2}$ ).

$\epsilon = 1 \Rightarrow |m| > 1$  spacelike geodesics,  $\epsilon = -1 \Rightarrow |m| < 1$  timelike geodesics.

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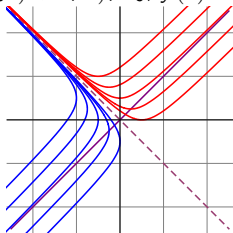
$\epsilon = 1 \Rightarrow |m| > 1$  spacelike geodesics,  $\epsilon = -1 \Rightarrow |m| < 1$  timelike geodesics.

## Circles: $\kappa \equiv k_0 > 0$

- $\mathcal{K}(v) = \frac{-\epsilon}{c+k_0v}, c \in \mathbb{R}$ .  $u(s) = -\epsilon e^{k_0s}/k_0, v(s) = (e^{-k_0s} - c)/k_0$ .

$\epsilon = 1 \Rightarrow x(s) = (-\cosh(k_0s) + c/2)/k_0, y(s) = -(\sinh(k_0s) + c/2)/k_0$ .

$\epsilon = -1 \Rightarrow x(s) = (\sinh(k_0s) + c/2)/k_0, y(s) = (\cosh(k_0s) - c/2)/k_0$ .



Spacelike and timelike pseudocircles in  $\mathbb{L}^2$  of radius  $1/k_0$ .



$$\kappa(v) = 2v$$

$\sigma$ -elastica:  $2\dot{\kappa} - \kappa^3 - \sigma\kappa = 0$ ,  $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Energy  $E \in \mathbb{R}$ :  $E = \dot{\kappa}^2 - \frac{1}{4}\kappa^4 - \frac{\sigma}{2}\kappa^2$ .

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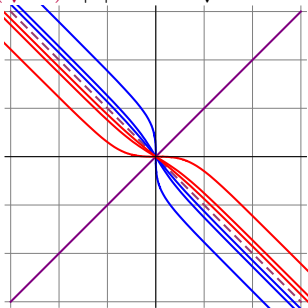
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②  $c > 0$ :  $u(s) = -\frac{\epsilon}{c} \left( \frac{s}{2} + \frac{\sin(2\sqrt{c}s)}{4\sqrt{c}} \right)$ ,  $v(s) = -\sqrt{c} \tan(\sqrt{c}s)$ .  
 $\kappa(s) = -2\sqrt{c} \tan(\sqrt{c}s)$ ,  $|s| < \pi/2\sqrt{c}$ .



Spacelike (blue) and timelike (red) elastic curves  
 with  $\sigma = 4c > 0$  and  $E = 4c^2$  ( $c = 1, 2, 3$ )

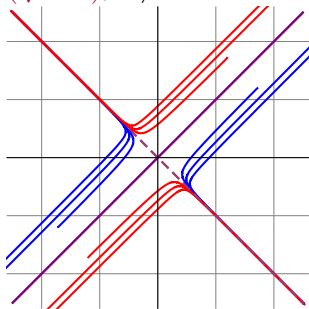
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•  $c < 0$ :  $u(s) = \frac{\epsilon}{c} \left( -\frac{s}{2} + \frac{\sinh(2\sqrt{-c}s)}{4\sqrt{-c}} \right)$ ,  $v(s) = \sqrt{-c} \coth(\sqrt{-c}s)$ .  
 $\kappa(s) = 2\sqrt{-c} \coth(\sqrt{-c}s)$ ,  $s \neq 0$ .



Spacelike (blue) and timelike (red) elastic curves  
 with  $\sigma = 4c < 0$  and  $E = 4c^2$  ( $c = -1, -2, -3$ )

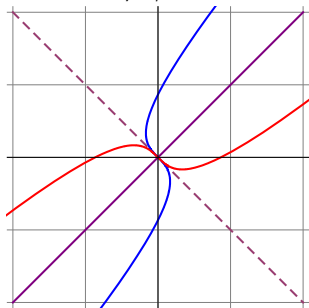
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- $\mathcal{K}(v) = \epsilon v$  ( $\epsilon = 1$  spacelike,  $\epsilon = -1$  timelike)

$$u(s) = 2\epsilon\sqrt{2}s\sqrt{s}/3, \quad v(s) = \sqrt{2}s, \quad \kappa(s) = \frac{1}{2s}, \quad s > 0.$$

Graphs  $u = \epsilon v^3/3$ ,  $v > 0$  for  $\epsilon = \pm 1$ .

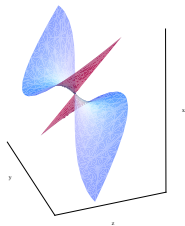


Spacelike (blue) and timelike (red) curve in  $\mathbb{L}^2$   
with  $\mathcal{K}(v) = \epsilon v$ ,  $\epsilon = \pm 1$ .

# Generatrix of Enneper's surface of second kind

Kobayashi, 1993: Enneper's surface of second kind.

Rotation surface with lightlike axis  $(1, 0, 1)$  and generatrix curve  $x = \lambda(-t + t^3/3)$ ,  $z = \lambda(t + t^3/3)$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ , at the  $xz$ -plane.

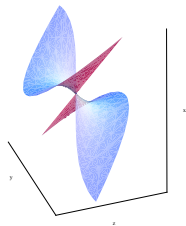




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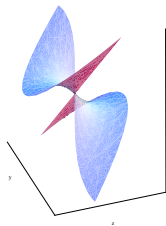


The generatrix curve of Enneper's surface for  $\lambda = 1/2$  coincide with the graph  $u = v^3/3$ ,  $v > 0$ .

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The generatrix curve of the Enneper's surface of second kind,  $u = v^3/3$ ,  $v > 0$ , is the only *spacelike* curve (up to dilations and  $u$ -translations) with geometric linear momentum  $\mathcal{K}(v) = v$  (and curvature  $\kappa(v) = 1/v^2$ )

$$\kappa(v) = 1/v^2$$

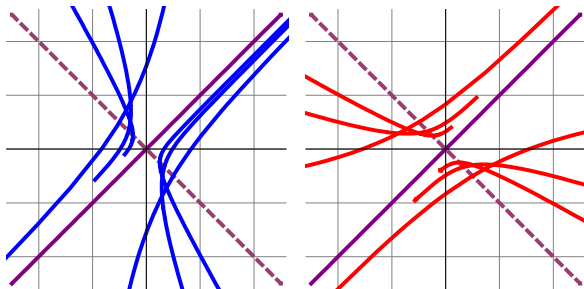
- $\mathcal{K}(v) = \frac{-\epsilon v}{c v - 1}$ ,  $c \neq 0$  ( $\epsilon = 1$  spacelike,  $\epsilon = -1$  timelike)

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- $\mathcal{K}(v) = \frac{-\epsilon v}{c v - 1}$ ,  $c \neq 0$  ( $\epsilon = 1$  spacelike,  $\epsilon = -1$  timelike)

$$u = u(v) = \frac{\epsilon}{c^3} \left( c v - 1 - \frac{1}{c v - 1} + 2 \log(c v - 1) \right),$$

$v > 1/c$  if  $c > 0$ ,  $v < 1/c$  if  $c < 0$ .



Spacelike curves with  $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\frac{v}{c v - 1}$  (left) and  
timelike curves with  $\mathcal{K}(v) = \frac{v}{c v - 1}$  (right).

$$\kappa(v) = e^v$$

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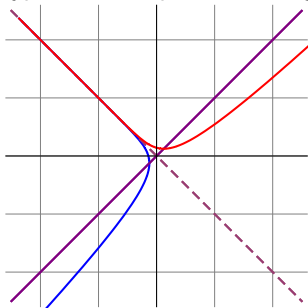
- $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\frac{\epsilon}{e^v + c}$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  ( $\epsilon = 1$  spacelike,  $\epsilon = -1$  timelike)

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- ①  $c = 0$ :  $u(s) = -\epsilon s^2/2$ ,  $v(s) = -\log s$ ,  $\kappa(s) = 1/s$ ,  $s > 0$ .

Graph  $u = -\epsilon e^{-2v}/2$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Translating-type soliton equation:  $\kappa = g((1, 1), N)$ .

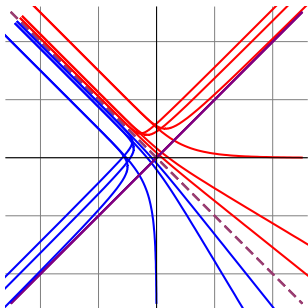


Spacelike (blue) and timelike (red)  
**Lorentzian grim-reapers**,  $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\frac{\epsilon}{e^v}$

$$\kappa(v) = e^v$$

- $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\frac{\epsilon}{e^v + c}$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{R}$  ( $\epsilon = 1$  spacelike,  $\epsilon = -1$  timelike)

②  $c \neq 0$ :  $u(s) = -\frac{\epsilon}{c} \left( s + \frac{1}{c e^{cs}} \right)$ ,  $v(s) = \log \frac{c}{e^{cs} - 1}$ ,  
 $\kappa(s) = \frac{c}{e^{cs} - 1}$ ,  $s > 0$



Spacelike curves (blue) and timelike curves (red)  
with  $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\frac{\epsilon}{e^v + c}$ ,  $c \neq 0$



# References

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I. Castro, I. Castro-Infantes and J. Castro-Infantes: *Curves in Lorentz-Minkowski plane with curvature depending on their position*. Preprint 2018. arXiv:1806.09187 [math.DG].

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Thank you very much  
for your attention!