

# Scattering and Metric Lines

*Richard Montgomery*  
*UC Santa Cruz (\*)*

in `Geometry, Mechanics and Dynamics'  
organized by

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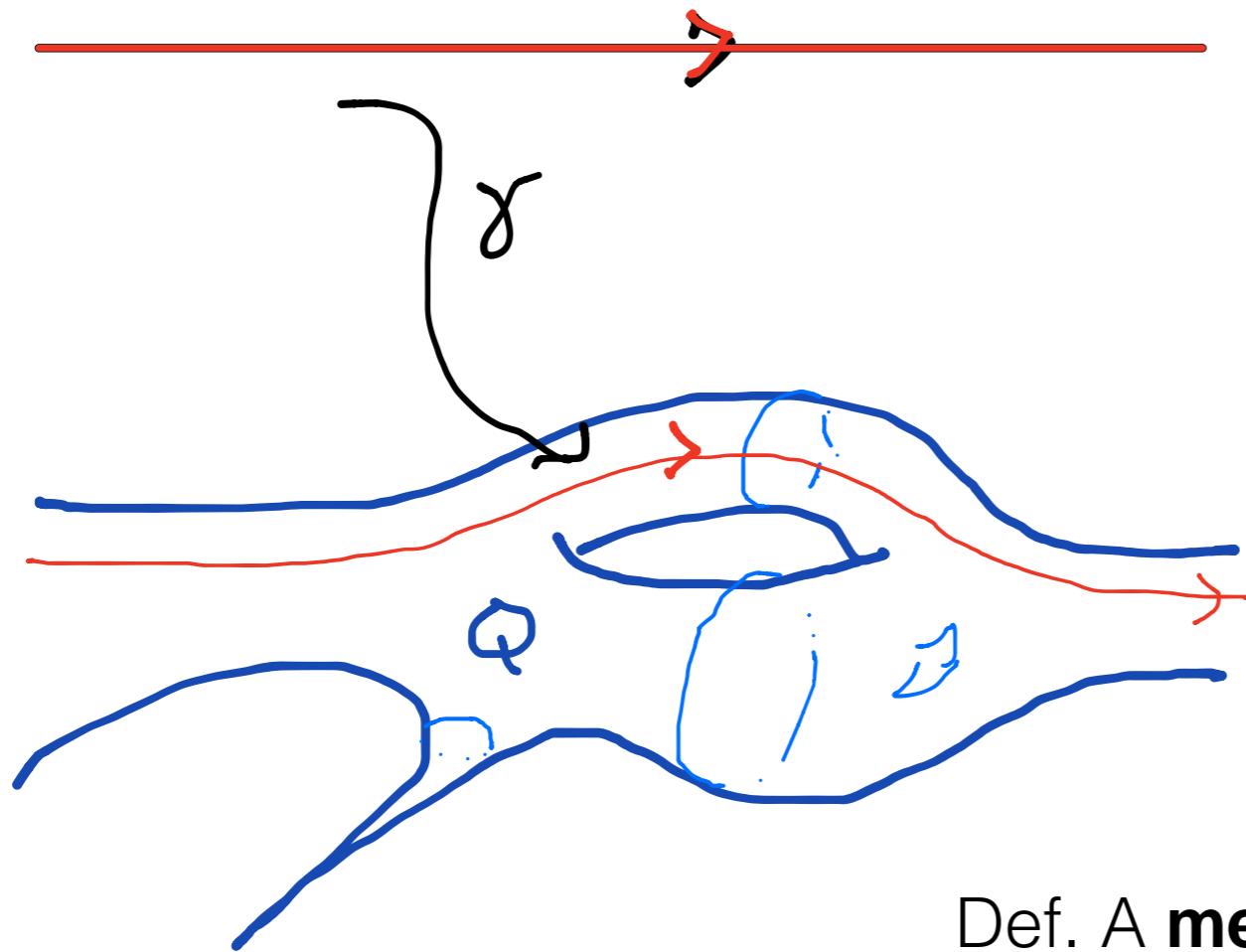
Luis García-Naranjo

Tudor Ratiu

Nicola Sansonetto

via Zoom, June 2, 2020

*(\*) : am retiring, July 1, 2020:  
- keep me in mind for post  
C-virus longish term invites in 2021  
or 2022*



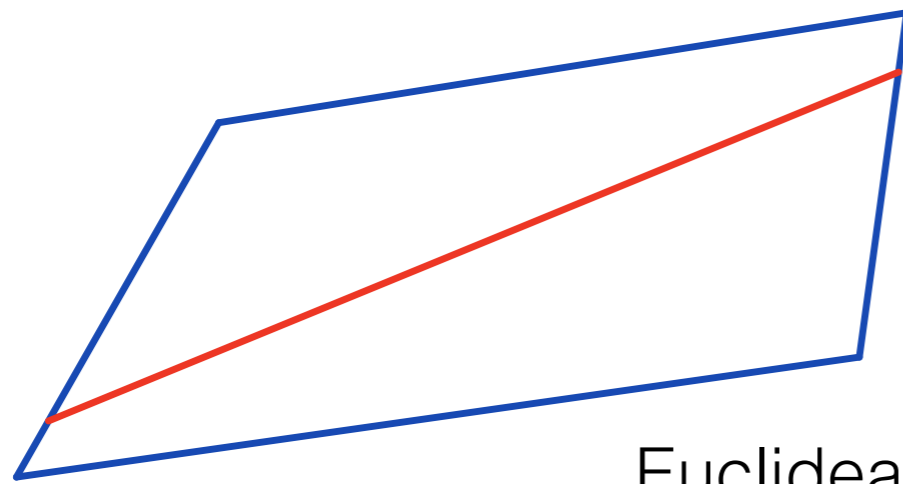
Def. A **metric line** in a metric space  $(Q, d)$  is an isometric image of the real line:

$$\gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow Q, d(\gamma(t), \gamma(s)) = |t - s|, (\forall t, s \in \mathbb{R})$$

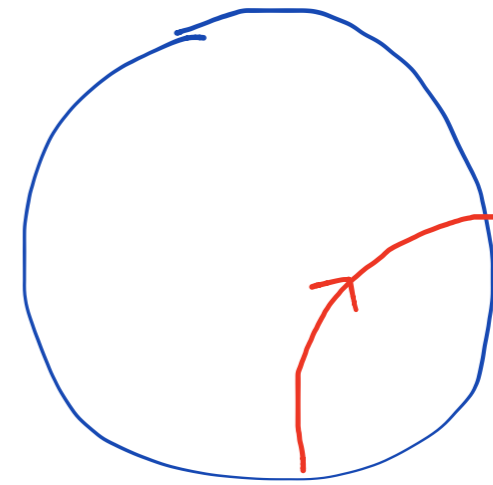
**equivalently: a globally minimizing geodesic.**

Def. A **metric ray** : isometric image of the closed half-line  $[0, \infty)$ :

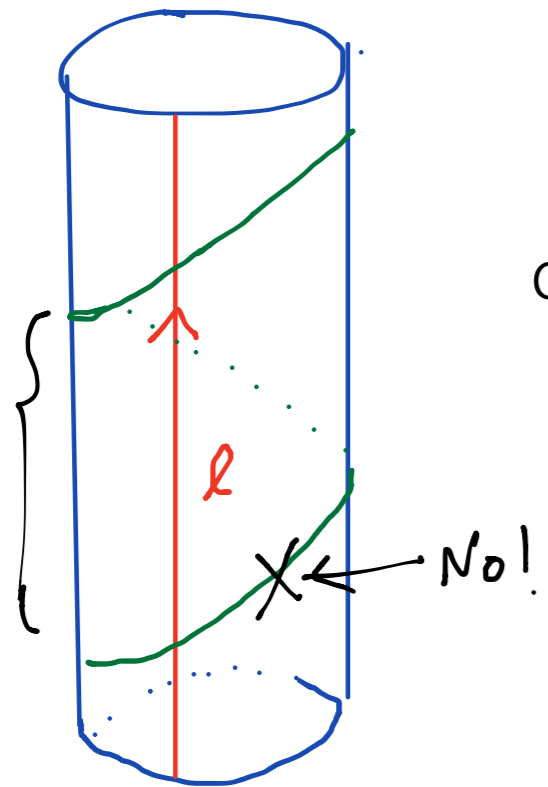
Def. A **minimizing geodesic** : isometric image of a compact interval  $[a, b]$ .



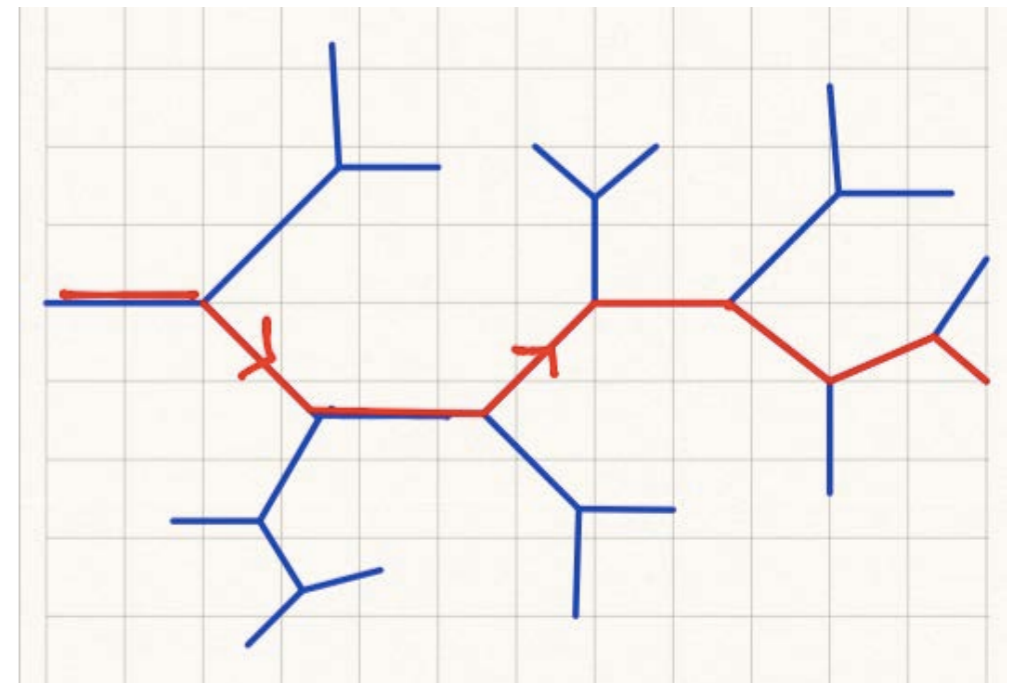
Euclidean space



Hyperbolic plane



cylinder



metric tree

1. **What are the metric lines for the N-body problem?**

*using the Jacobi-Maupertuis metric formulation of dynamics  
to measure distances*

2. **What are the metric lines for homogeneous subRiemannian geometries?**

*commonality: like those of Riemannian geometries,  
the geodesics of these geometries are generated by Hamiltonian flows*

3. **Scattering in the N-body problem: how do asymptotic  
(Euclidean) rays  
at  $t = -\infty$  get mapped to asymptotic lines at  $t = +\infty$ ?**

Why care? ...

1. **What are the metric lines for the N-body problem?**

-> *use the Jacobi-Maupertuis metric formulation of its dynamics*

*report on work of E Maderna and A Venturelli*

*thanks A Albouy, V Barutello, H Sanchez, Maderna, Venturelli*

2. **What are the metric lines for homogeneous subRiemannian geometries?**

*commonality: like those of Riemannian geometries,*

*the geodesics of these geometries are generated by Hamiltonian flows*

with A Ardentov, G Bor, E Le Donne, Y Sachkov

*report on work of A. Anzaldo-Meneses<sup>a)</sup> and F. Monroy-Perez; A Doddoli*

3. **Scattering in the N-body problem: how do asymptotic**

**(Euclidean) lines**

**at  $t = -\infty$  get mapped to asymptotic lines at  $t = +\infty$ ?**

with Nathan Duignan, Rick Moeckel and Guowei Yu

*thanks A Knauf, J Fejoz, T Seara, A Delshams, M Zworski, R Mazzeo*

## Warm-up: Kepler problem = 2-body problem

$$\ddot{q} = -\frac{q}{|q|^3}$$

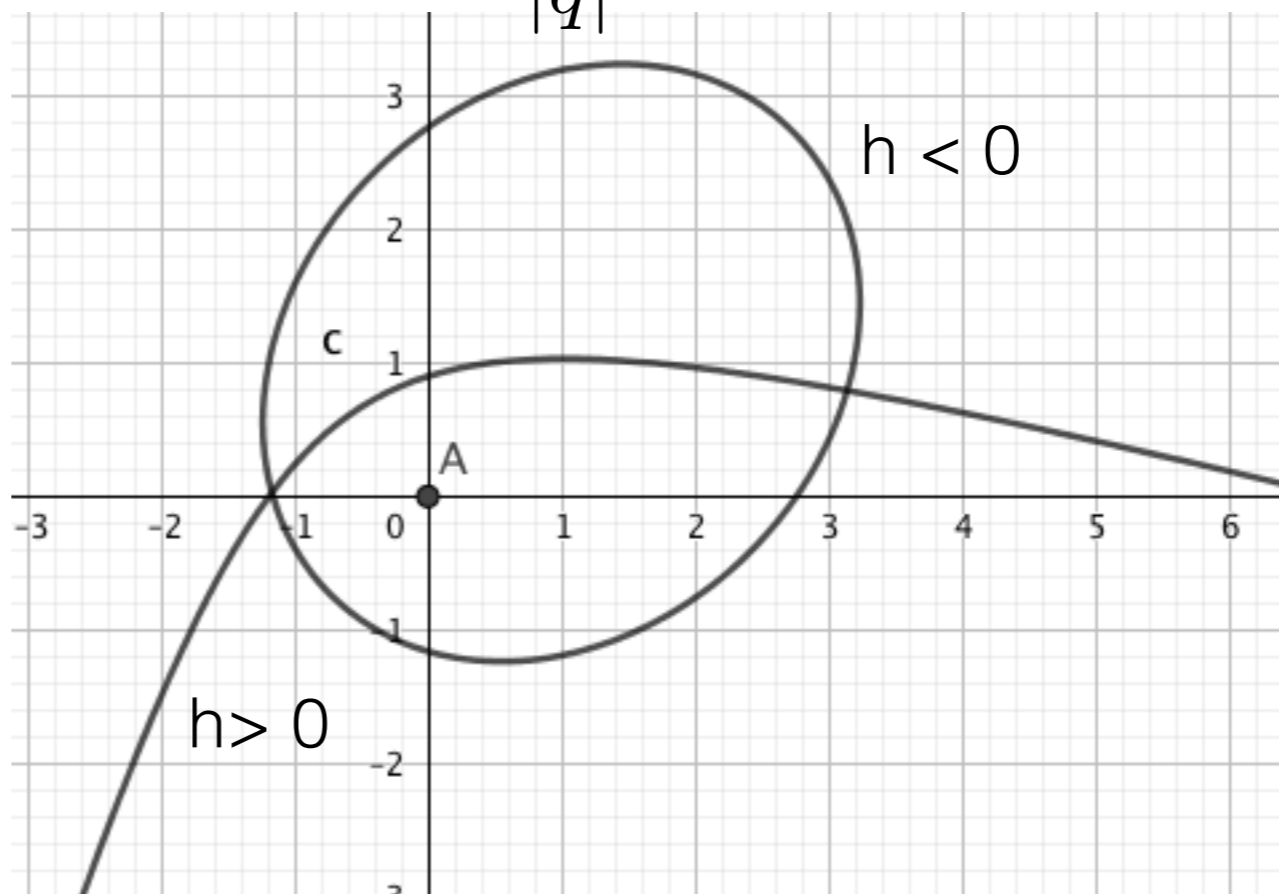
$$E(q, \dot{q}) = \frac{1}{2}|\dot{q}|^2 - \frac{1}{|q|} \\ = h$$

Jac.-Maup. metric:

$$ds_h^2 = 2\left(h + \frac{1}{|q|}\right)|dq|^2$$

on domain  $\Omega_h = \{q \in \mathbb{R}^2 : h + \frac{1}{|q|} \geq 0\} = \text{'Hill region'}$

geodesics  
= solutions having  
energy  $h$ , up to  
a reparam.  
= Kepler conics



## Metric properties.

$\Omega_h$  is a complete metric space.

Riem., except at the Hill boundary  $\partial\Omega_h$   
and collision  $q=0$ . Solutions are metric geodesics

**up until they hit the Hill boundary or collision (hit the `Sun`)**  
beyond which instant they cannot be continued as geodesics.

The conformal factor vanishes at the Hill boundary and is infinite at collision



$$ds_h^2 = 2\left(h + \frac{1}{|q|}\right)|dq|^2$$

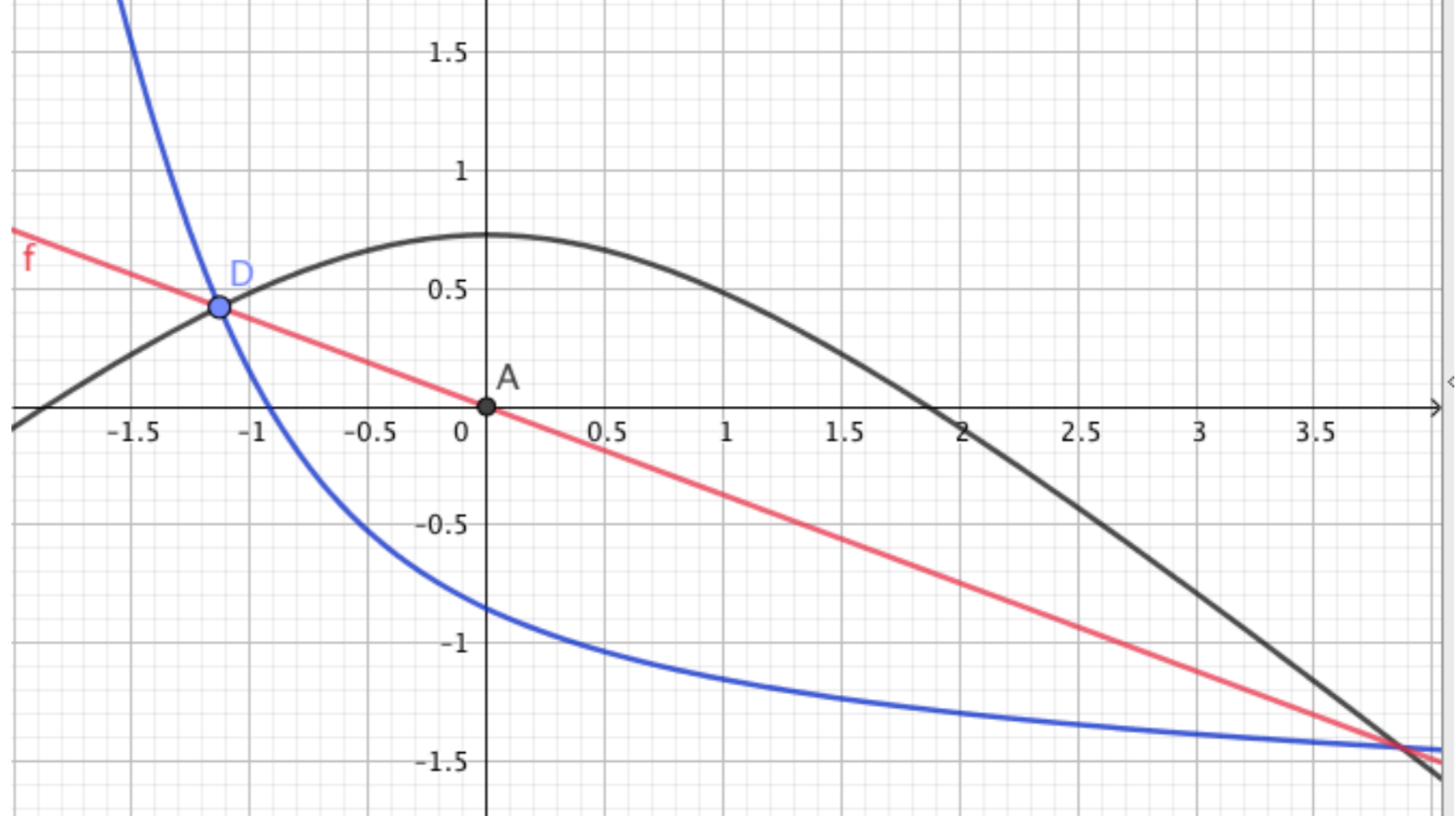
**$h < 0$ .**  $\Omega_h = B(2a)$

$h = -1/2a$ . No metric lines!

**$h > 0$ ,** ( or  $h = 0$ ).  $\Omega_h = \mathbb{R}^2$  still **no metric lines.**

many **metric rays**: all the Kepler hyperbolas (or parabolas)  
up to aphelion (closest approach to `sun`)

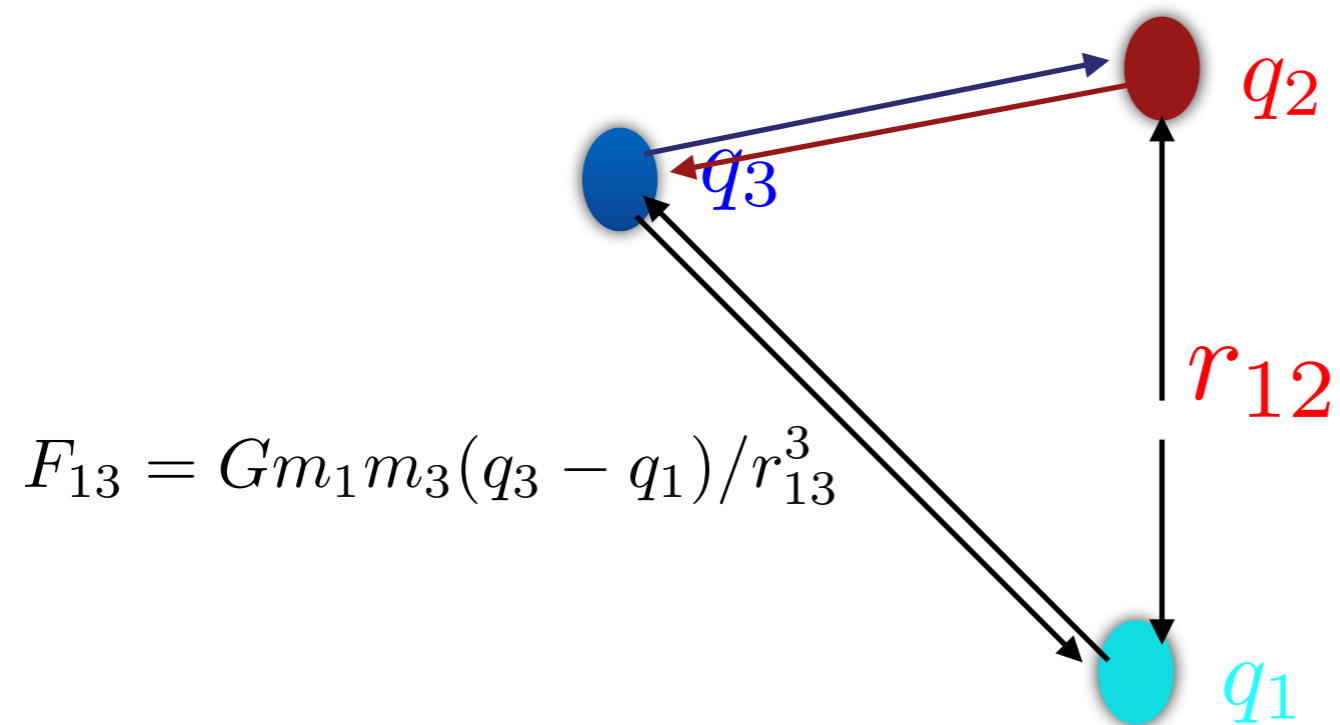
¿ Why .. ?



cut point/ reflection argument



N-bodies,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ .



N=3 or greater: **Conjecture: there are no metric lines**  
for the JM metric  
(which depends on energy  $h$ ).

*What's known?* JM metric depends on energy  $h$  :

**$h = 0$ :** [da Luz-Maderna ] **No metric lines.** Many **metric rays**  
“On the free time minimizers of the Newtonian N-body problem”

**$h > 0$ :** [Maderna-Venturelli] Many metric **rays**.  
any **lines?** -open.

**$h < 0$ :**  $N = 3$ , ang. mom zero: no **metric rays**, so no **metric lines** (\*).  
*conjecture : no metric rays if  $h < 0$*

(\*) *proof: ‘Infinitely many syzygies, II’ implies cut points along any sol’n)*



Set-up and eqns.

$$q = (q_1, \dots, q_N) \in \mathbb{E} := \mathbb{R}^{Nd} \qquad q_a \in \mathbb{R}^d, a = 1, \dots, N$$

Conserved energy

$$\begin{aligned} E(q, \dot{q}) &= \frac{1}{2} \langle \dot{q}, \dot{q} \rangle_m - G \sum \frac{m_a m_b}{r_{ab}} \\ &= h. \\ &= K(\dot{q}) - U(q) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$2K(\dot{q}) = \langle \dot{q}, \dot{q} \rangle_m = \sum m_i \|\dot{q}_i\|^2 =$$

and

$$U(q) = G \sum \frac{m_a m_b}{r_{ab}}$$

Newton's eqns:  $\Longleftrightarrow \ddot{q} = \nabla_m U(q)$

where  $\langle \nabla_m U(q), w \rangle_m = dU(q)(w)$

Solutions for fixed  $E = h$  are reparam's of geodesics for the JM -metric:

$$ds_h^2 = 2(h + U(q))|dq|_m^2 \quad \text{on} \quad \Omega_h = \{q : h + U(q) \geq 0\}$$

$\Omega_h$  is a complete metric space.

Riemannian **except** at the Hill boundary  $h + U(q) = 0$   
and at the collision locus  $h + U(q) = +\infty$

Solutions to Newton at energy  $h$  are metric geodesics  
**up until they hit the Hill boundary**  
or **the collision locus**  
beyond which instant they cannot be continued  
as geodesics.

$$h \geq 0 \implies \Omega_h = \mathbb{R}^{Nd}$$

Dynamical implications of positive energy.

$$I(q) = \|q\|_m^2$$

$$h \geq 0 \implies \Omega_h = \mathbb{R}^{Nd}$$

A solution is ***bounded*** iff  $I(q(t))$  is bounded.

$$\dot{I} = 2\langle q, \dot{q} \rangle_m$$

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{I} &= 2\langle \dot{q}, \dot{q} \rangle_m + 2\langle q, \ddot{q} \rangle_m \\ &= 4K - 2U(q) \\ &= 4h + 2U(q) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $U > 0$  :  $h \geq 0 \implies \ddot{I} > 0$  along a solution.

$h \geq 0$  and defined for  $t \in [0, \infty) \implies$  unbounded

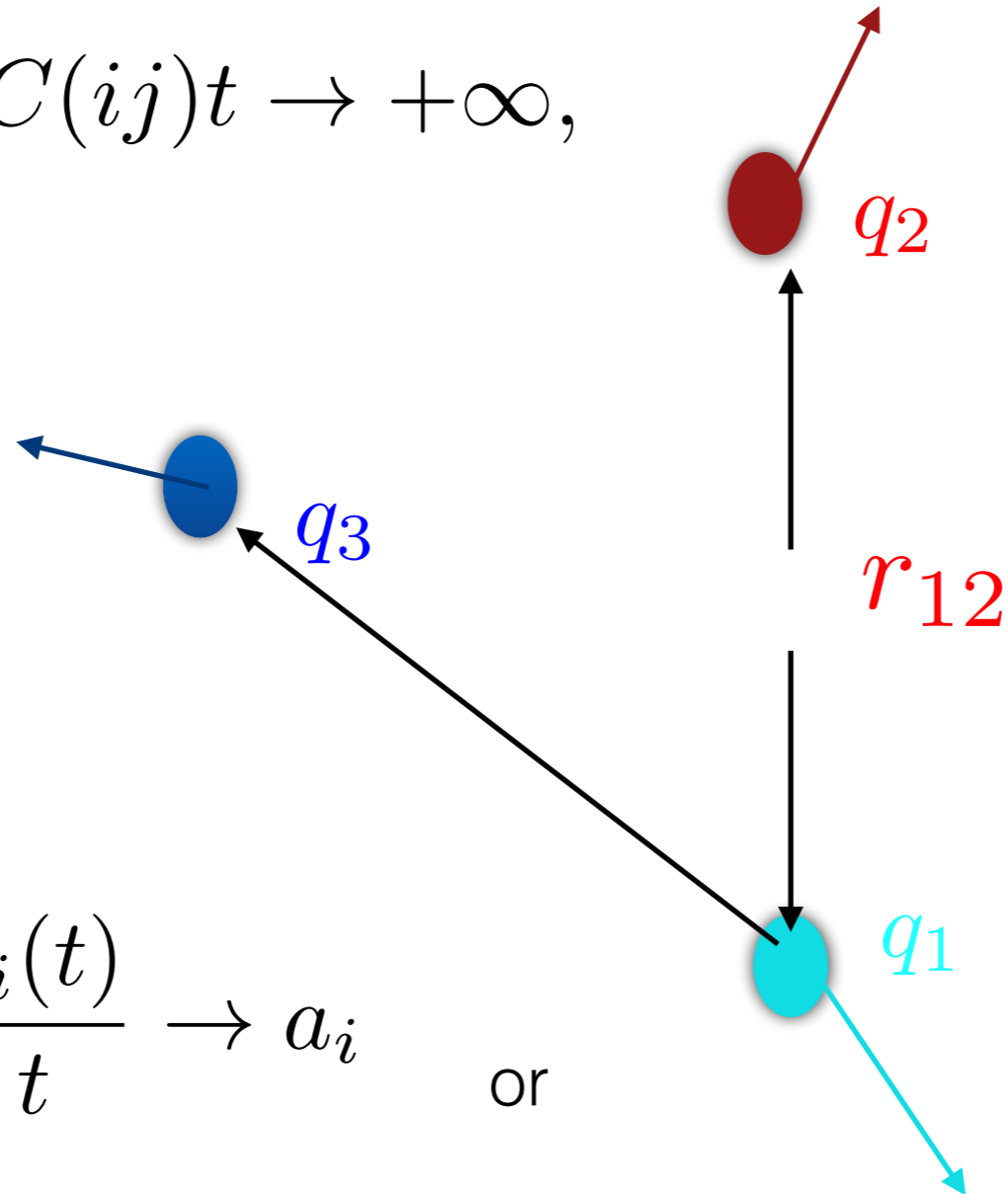
( periodic  $\implies$  bounded  $\implies h < 0$  )

Def a solution is **hyperbolic** iff

$$r_{ij}(t) \sim C(ij)t \rightarrow +\infty,$$

equivalently:  $\frac{q_i(t)}{t} \rightarrow a_i$  or

$$\dot{q}_i(t) \rightarrow a_i \neq 0$$



$$a_i \neq a_j, i \neq j$$

Note: then  $h = K(a) > 0$ .

**Thm: [Chazy, 1920s]:** any hyperbolic solution  $q(t)$  satisfies

$$q(t) = at + (\nabla_m U(a)) \log t + c + f(t) \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty$$

with  $f(t) = O(\log(t)/t)$ , and  $f(t) = g(1/t, \log(t))$ ,  $g$  analytic in its two variables.

and  $a \in \mathbb{R}^{Nd} \setminus \{ \text{collisions} \}$

**Think of  $a$  as an asymptotic position at infinity.**

**Question: Given  $a, q_0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^{Nd}$  with  $a$  not a collision configuration.**

Does there exist a hyperbolic solution connecting  $q_0$  at time 0 to  $a$  at time  $\infty$ ?

**Thm [ Maderna-Venturelli; 2019]. YES.** Moreover this solution is a metric ray for the JM metric with energy  $h = K(a) = (1/2) |a|^2$ .

Method of proof: Weak KAM, a la Fathi  
for  
 $H(q, dS(q)) = h$

so: calculus of variations + some PDE

Metric input: Buseman, Buseman functions as  
solutions to the (weak) Hamilton-Jacobi eqns  
some Gromov ideas re the boundary at infinity



change gears

subRiemannian geometry

## 2. SubRiemannian geometry

$$X = \sum X^\mu(q) \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} \qquad Y = \sum Y^\mu(q) \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu}$$

smooth vector fields on an n-dim. manifold Q.

**Def.** A path  $q(t)$  in Q is “horizontal” if  $\dot{q} = u_1(t)X(q(t)) + u_2(t)Y(q(t))$

**sR Geodesic problem:** find the *shortest* horizontal path  $q(t)$  joining  $q_0$  to  $q_1$ .

where 
$$\ell(q(\cdot)) = \int \sqrt{u_1(t)^2 + u_2(t)^2} dt$$

Such a path, if it exists, is a **sR geodesic**.

## [Chow-Rashevskii]

If  $X, Y, [X, Y], [X, [X, Y]], \dots$  eventually span  $TQ$  and if  $Q$  is connected then any two points are joined by a horiz. curve and the corresponding distance function:

$$d(q_0, q_1) = \inf \{ \ell(q(\cdot)) : q(t) \text{ horizontal } q \text{ joins } q_0 \text{ to } q_1 \}$$

gives  $Q$  the same topology as the manifold topology.

and sR **geodesics** exist, at least locally

**Geodesics:** (most) are generated by

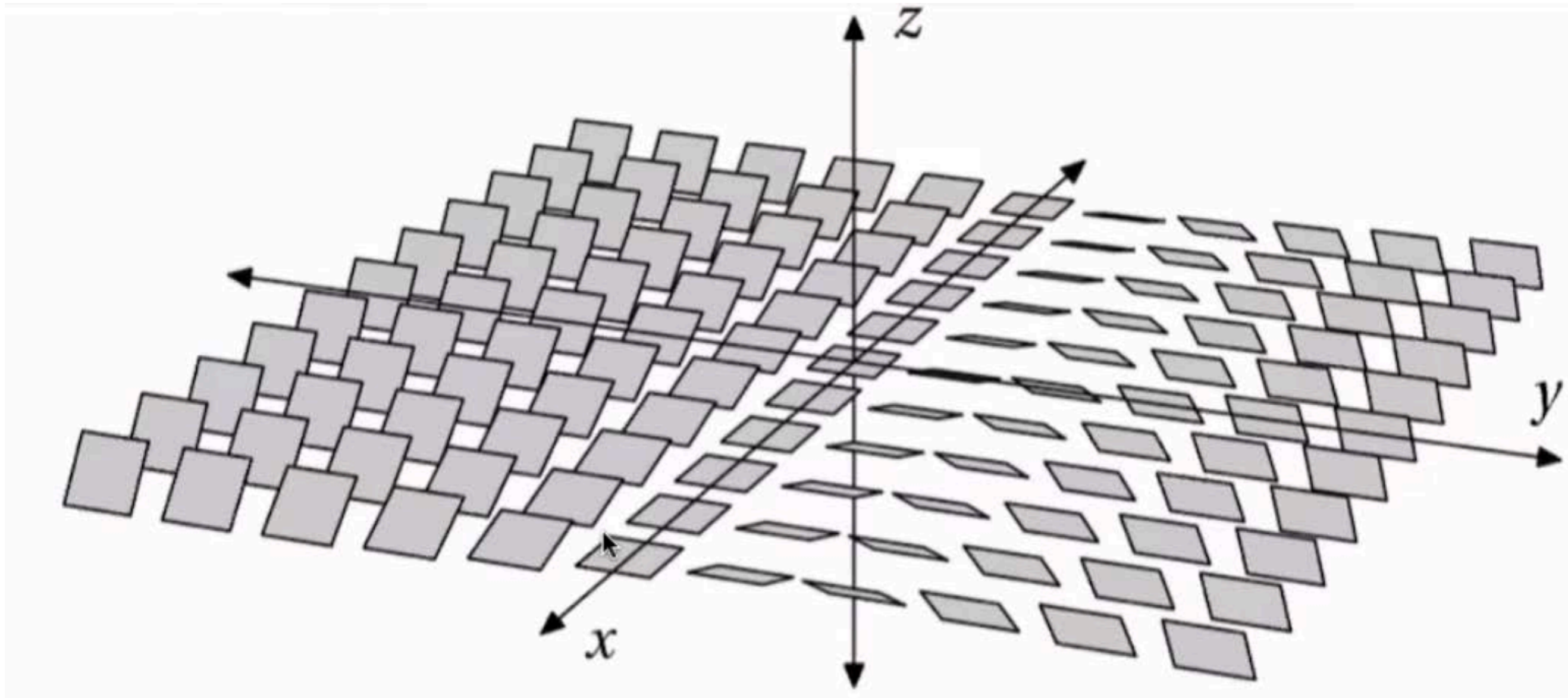
$$H = \frac{1}{2}(P_1^2 + P_2^2) \quad : T^*Q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$P_1 = P_X = \sum p_\mu X^\mu(q) \qquad P_2 = P_Y = \sum p_\mu Y^\mu(q)$$

**Example:**  $Q = \mathbb{R}^3$

$$X = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + A_1(x, y) \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$

$$Y = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + A_2(x, y) \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$$



( $A_1(x, y) = 0$ ,  $A_2(x, y) = x$  : standard contact distribution.)



Then

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \{ (p_x + A_1(x, y)p_z)^2 + (p_x + A_2(x, y)p_z)^2 \}$$

no z's



so  $\dot{p}_z = 0$

View the const. parameter  $p_z$  as electric **charge**

Then H is the Hamiltonian of a particle of mass 1 and this charge moving in the xy plane under the influence of the magnetic field  $B(x, y)$  where

$$B(x, y) = \frac{\partial A_2}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_1}{\partial y}$$

$$\{P_1, P_2\} = -B(x, y)p_z$$

## Eqns of motion:

1) For plane curve part:

$$c(t) = (x(t), y(t)) = \pi(x(t), y(t), z(t)); \pi : Q = \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\kappa(s) = \lambda B(x(s), y(s))$$

$s$  = arc length

$\lambda = p_z$  = ``charge''

$\kappa(s)$  = plane curvature of  $c(s)$

2)  $z(t)$  determined from  $c(t)$  by horizontality

(by being tangent to distribution  $D = \text{span}(X, Y)$ ):

$$z(s) = z(0) + \int_{c([0, s])} A_1(x, y) dx + A_2(x, y) dy$$

(call  $(x(s), y(s), z(s))$  = ``horizontal lift'' of  $c(s) = (x(s), y(s))$ .)

## Observe:

Straight lines in the plane are solutions (with charge 0),  
for **any**  $B(x,y)$

Their horizontal lifts are always metric lines

since  $\pi : Q = \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$

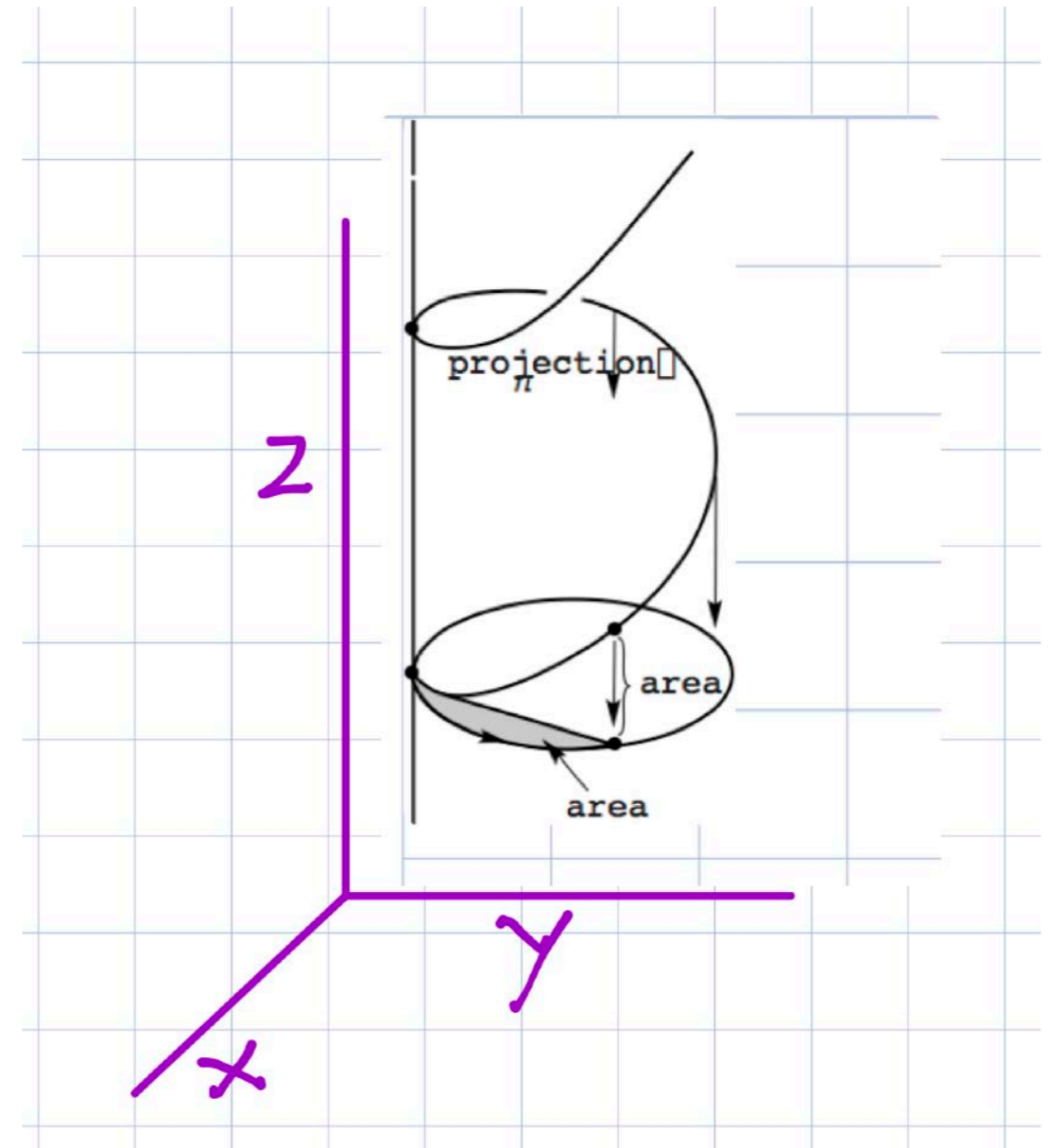
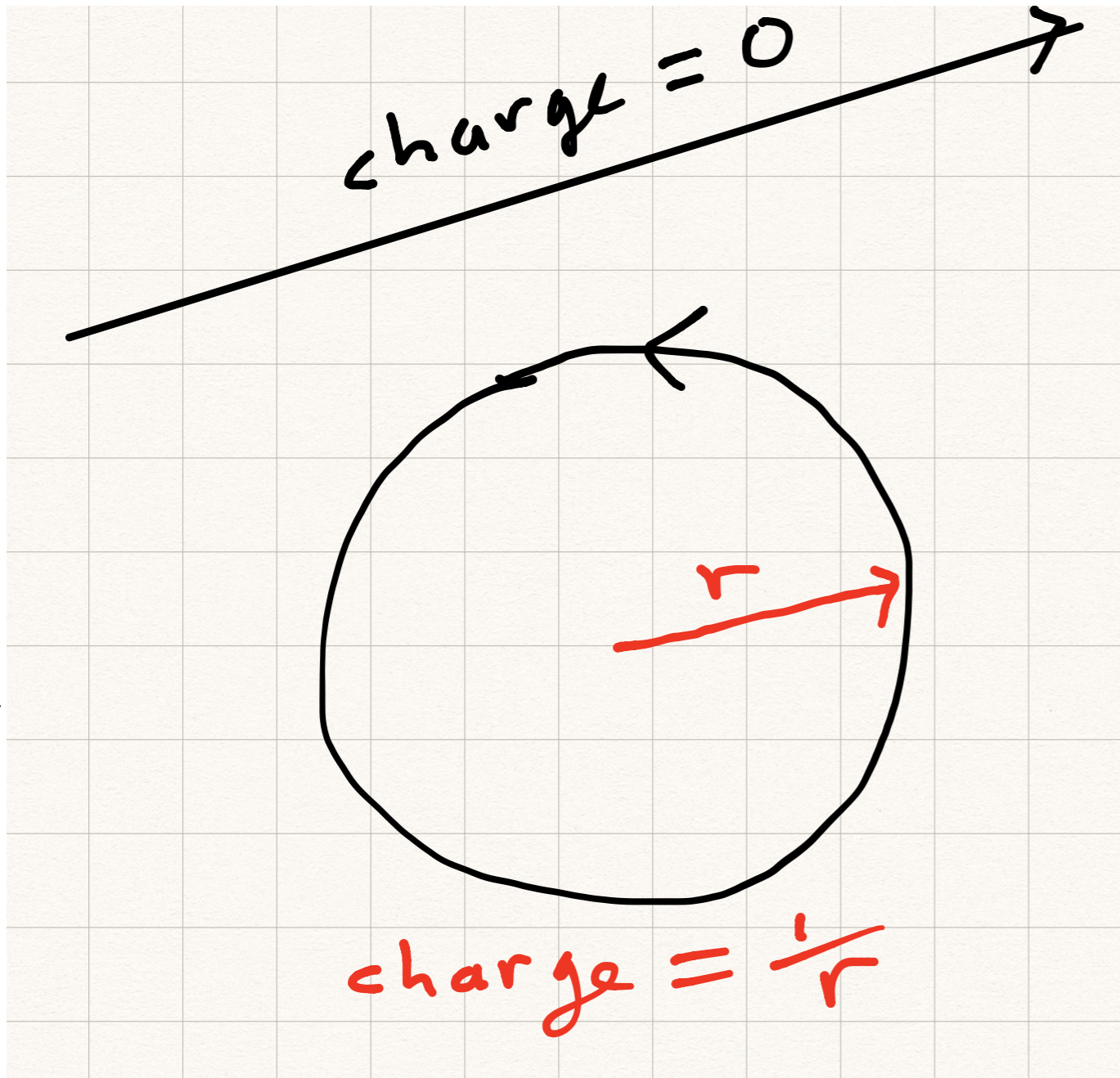
satisfies  $\ell(\gamma) = \ell_{\mathbb{R}^2}(\pi \circ \gamma)$

for any horizontal curve  $\gamma$

**Question [LeDonne]: are there any other metric lines besides those whose projections are straight lines ?**

Case  $B(x,y) = 1$ . "Heisenberg group"

Eqns for projected geod.:  $\kappa = \lambda$



Theorem. **No:** The only metric lines for the Heisenberg group are those projecting onto Euclidean lines in the plane.



`Martinet case':  $B(x,y) = x$ .

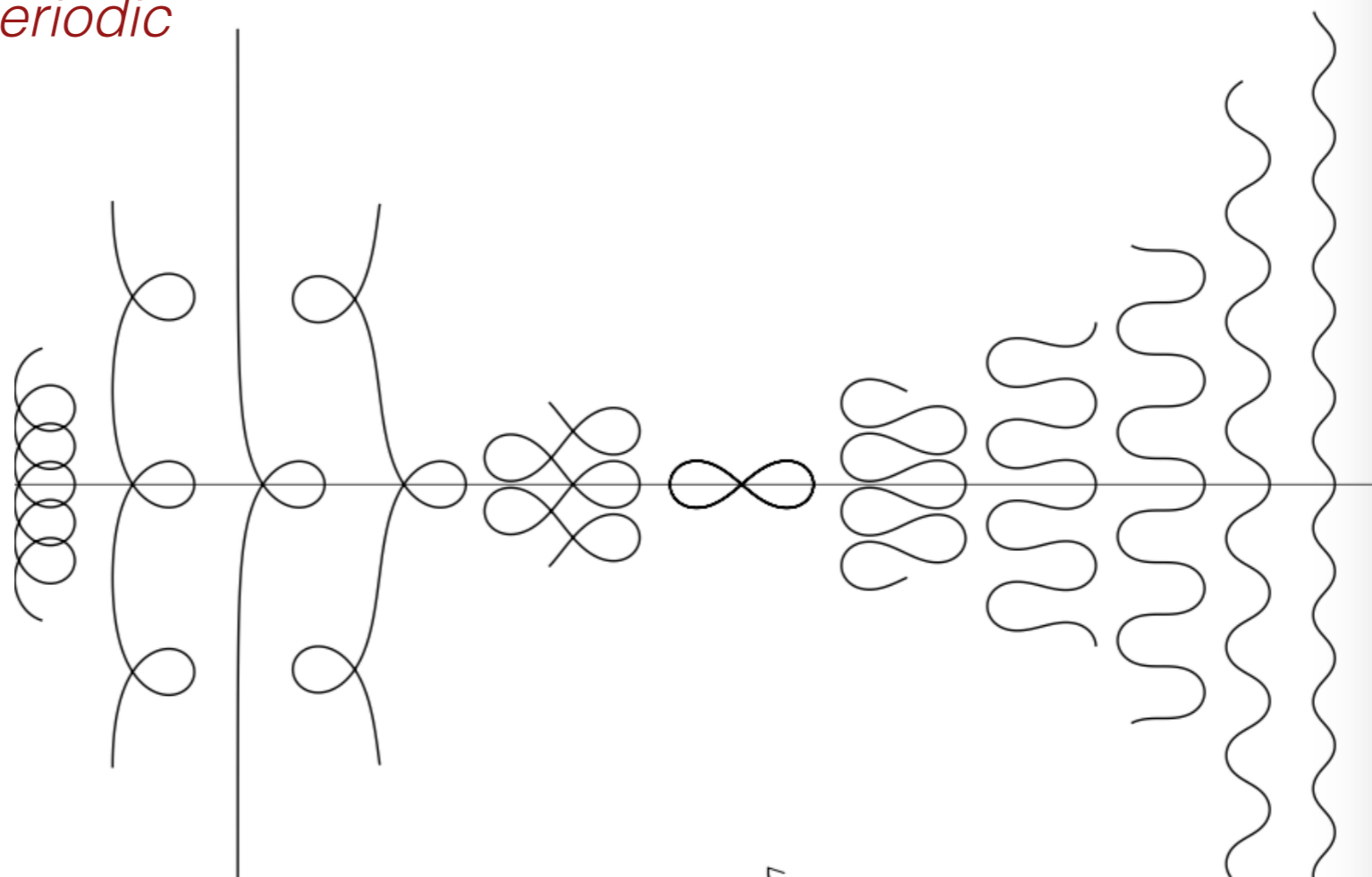
Geod eqns:  $\kappa = \lambda x$

Theorem. **[Ardenov-Sachkov] Yes.**

The Euler kinks correspond to the other metric lines.

*These are the full list of projected geodesics.  
They are the Euler elastica aligned  
to have y-axis ( $x = 0$ ) as directrix.*

*All but the kink are periodic  
in the x direction*

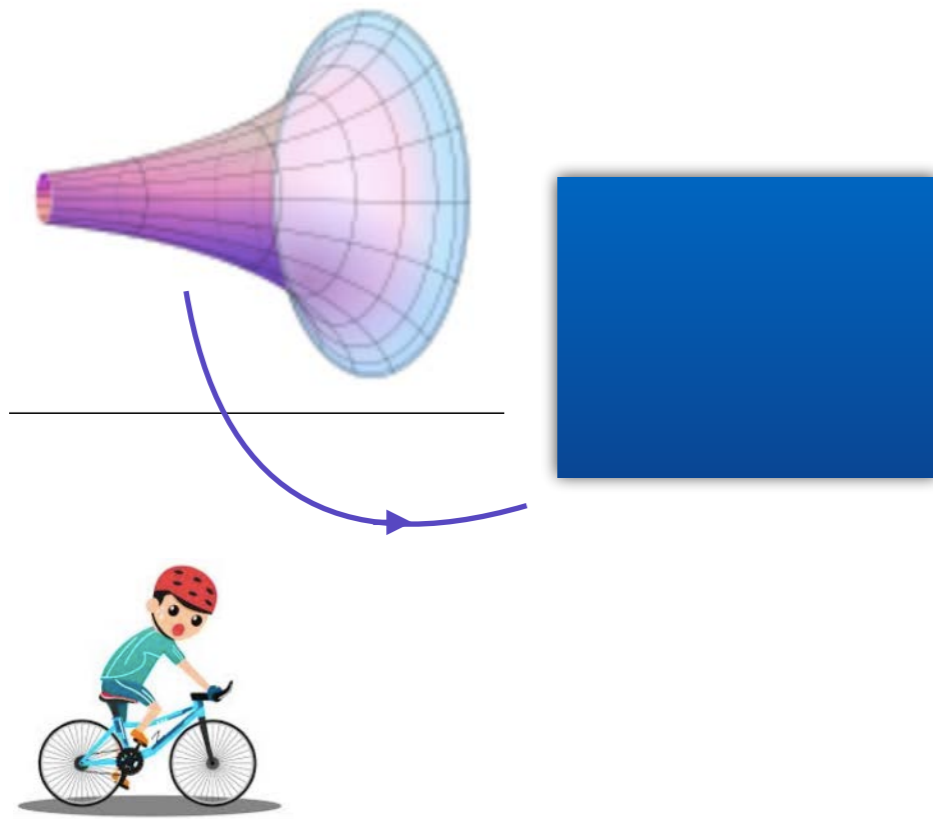




Elastica also arise as the projections of the geodesics for:



rolling a ball (sphere) on the plane  
**[Jurdjevic-Zimmerman,..]**



rolling a hyperbolic plane on the Euc. plane  
**[Jurdjevic-Zimmerman,..]**

bicycling

**[Ardentov-Bor-LeDonne-M., Sachkov ]**

and two Carnot groups:

Engel:  $(2,3,4)$

**[Ardentov-Sachkov]**

`Cartan':  $(2,3,5)$

**[Moiseev-Sachkov]**

For all of these:  $Q = \mathbb{R}^2 \times G$

$$X = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \xi_1(x, y) \qquad Y = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \xi_2(x, y)$$

$$\xi_1, \xi_2 : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$$

so  $\pi : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$

satisfies  $\ell(\gamma) = \ell_{\mathbb{R}^2}(\pi \circ \gamma)$  for any horizontal curve  $\gamma$

**In all these** , only Euclidean lines and Euler kinks correspond to metric lines.

(For the rolling ball not all kinks that arise as projections correspond to metric lines upstairs)



**Why** do the kinks give the only additional lines?

**a) exclude all the other Elastica**

**b) verify kinks are metric lines**

a) **Prop. [Hakavuouri-LeDonne]** : any curve which is the horizontal lift of a planar curve periodic in one direction, **cannot** be a metric line unless the planar curve is a Euclidean line

`periodic in x direction' : means  $(x(s), y(s))$  satisfies  
 $x(s + L) = x(s), y(s + L) = a + y(s)$

**All non-kink elastica are periodic in the direction orthogonal to their directrix, ie. in the x direction for the Martinet case**

Pf of **Prop.** : metric blow-downs .

b): By hand [`optimal synthesis'] sorting out ***all***  
*cut and conjugate points*  
in all case

except **bicycling**, where we have a simple conceptual proof  
inspired by `bicycling mathematics':

by Ardentov, Bor, LeD, M-, Sachkov

Why?

a) excluding all the other Elastica

b) verifying the kinks

a) **Prop. [Hakavuouri-LeDonne]** A plane curve which is *periodic in one direction* cannot be the projection of a metric line unless that plane curve is a line

$c(s) = (x(s), y(s))$  is *periodic in x* means that  
there is a constant  $L > 0$  [the x-period] such that  
 $x(s + L) = x(s), y(s + L) = a + y(s)$

**All elastica except the kink are periodic in the direction orthogonal to their directrix.**

Pf of **prop.** : metric blow-downs. The blow-down of a periodic in-one-direction curve is a line NOT parameterized by arc length...

b): by hand [‘optimal synthesis’]

in all case **except** bicycling where the proof is simple and inspired by ‘bicycling mathematics’:

Ardentov, Bor, LeD, M-, Sachkov

# Geodesics and metric for the simplest jet spaces

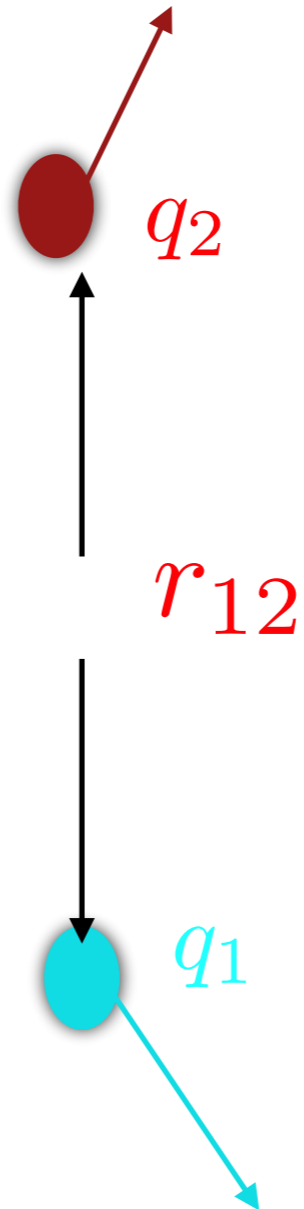
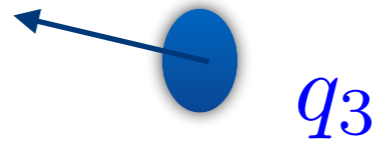
- A. Anzaldo-Meneses-Felipe Monroy Perez, 2005;
- B. Doddoli, 2019-2020

change gears

Scattering in the N body problem

Def a solution is **hyperbolic** iff

$$r_{ij}(t) \sim C(ij)t \rightarrow +\infty,$$



equivalently:  $\frac{q_i(t)}{t} \rightarrow a_i$  or

$$\dot{q}_i(t) \rightarrow a_i \neq 0$$

$$a_i \neq a_j, i \neq j$$

Think of  $\mathbf{a} = (\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_N)$  as initial “positions” at infinity.

**Question:** Can we join a given  $\mathbf{a}$  for  $t = -\infty$  to a given  $\mathbf{b}$  for  $t = +\infty$  by a collision-free hyperbolic solution?

Necessary conditions:

$K(\mathbf{a}) = K(\mathbf{b})$  [conservation of energy],

$P(\mathbf{a}) = P(\mathbf{b})$  [conserv. of Lin. Momentum]

$$K(a) = \frac{1}{2} \sum m_i |a_i|^2$$

$$P(a) = \sum m_i a_i$$

and  $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}$  collision-free.

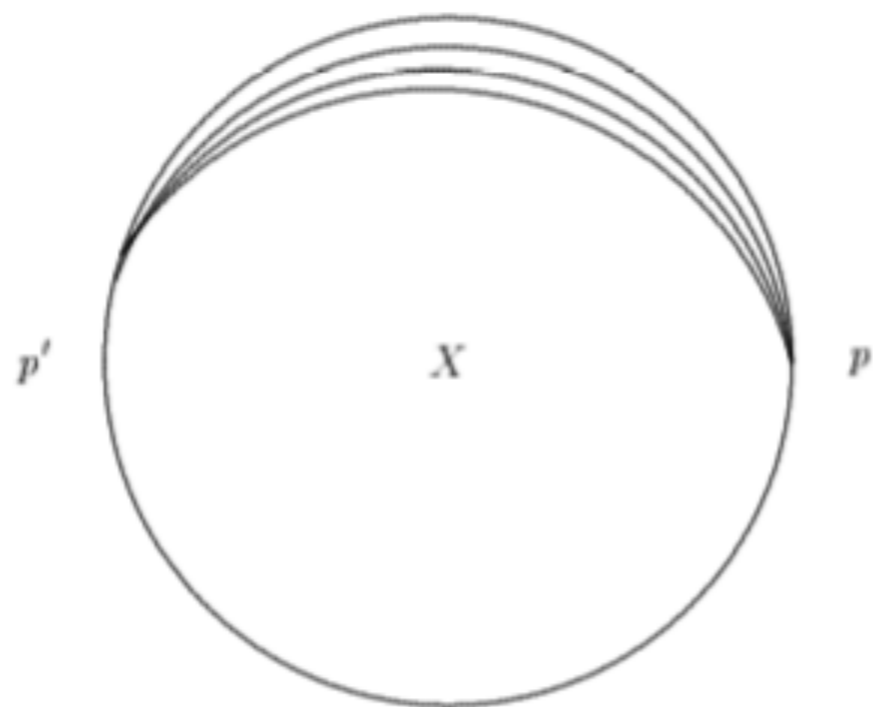
**Kepler case (N=2) : Yes!** as long as  $\mathbf{a} \neq \pm \mathbf{b}$ .

**General case: ??.**

**Thm. [Duignan, Moeckel, M-, Yu]**

Yes, **provided**  $\mathbf{b}$  lies in a small open punctured nbhd of  $\mathbf{a}$ .





p. 80. Geometric Scattering Theory -Melrose.

Fig. 11. Geodesic of a scattering metric.

`Spherical ' change of var's :

$$r^2 = I(q) = \|q\|_m^2$$

$$\rho = 1/r$$

$$dt = r d\tau$$

$$s \in \mathbb{S} \cong S^{Nd-1}$$

$$\mathbf{q} = r\mathbf{s}$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{q}} = v\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{w} \perp \mathbf{s}$$

ENERGY:  $\frac{1}{2}v^2 + \frac{1}{2}\|w\|^2 - \rho U(s) = h.$

Newton's  
eqns

$\Longleftrightarrow$

$$\rho' = -v\rho$$

$$s' = w$$

$$v' = |w|^2 - \rho U(s)$$

$$w' = \rho \tilde{\nabla} U(s) - vw - |w|^2 s$$

**Spatial Infinity :**  $\Longleftrightarrow \rho = 0$

, an invariant submanifold

Flow at infinity. Set  $\rho = 0$ .

$$s' = w$$

$$w' = -vw - \|w\|^2 s$$

$$v' = \|w\|^2$$

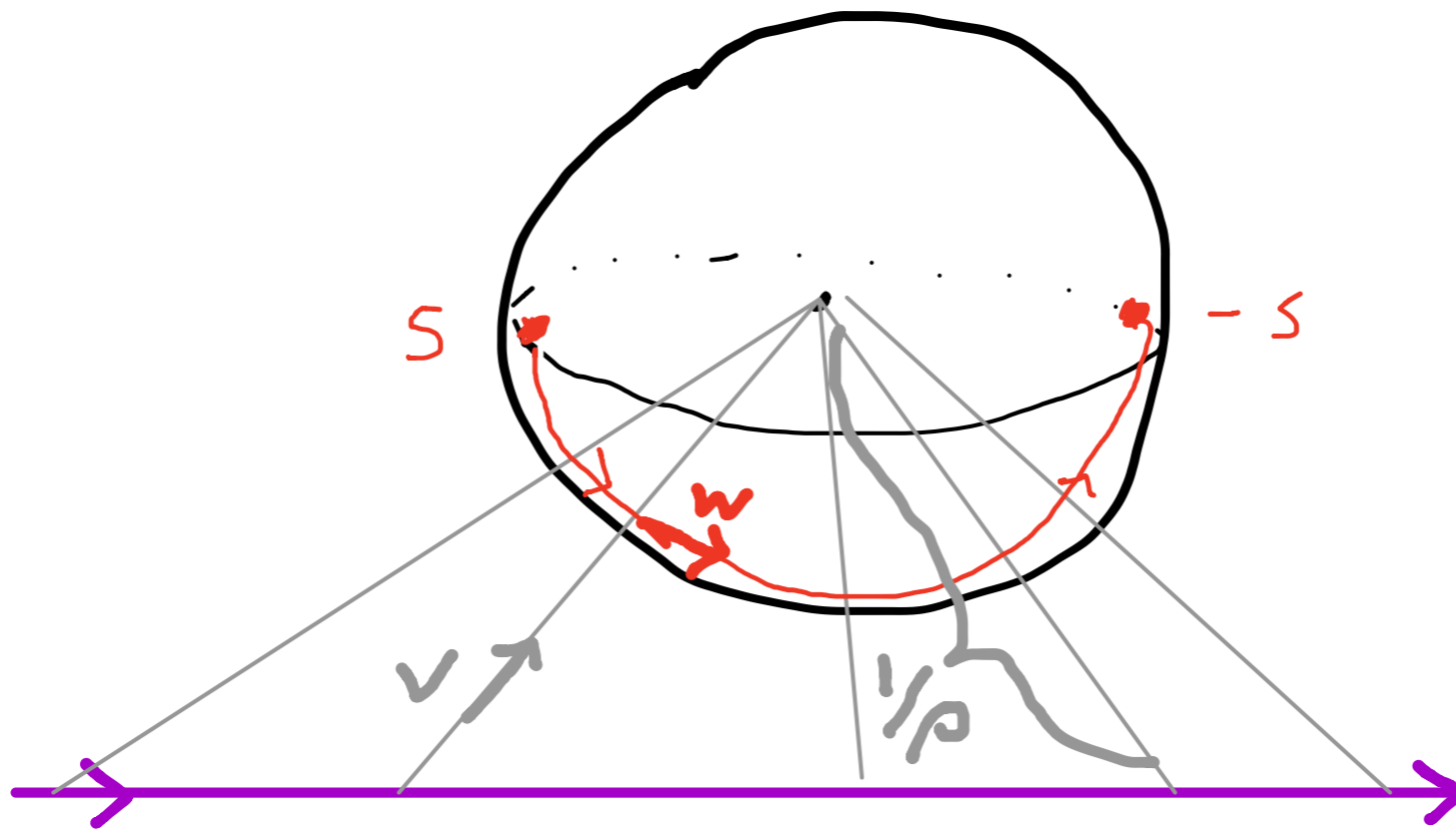
$$s \in \mathbb{S} \cong S^{dN-1}$$

$$v \in \mathbb{R}, v \neq 0$$

Energy at infinity:  $\frac{1}{2}v^2 + \frac{1}{2}\|w\|^2 = h.$

**Flow** at infinity is **independent** of  $U$ .

Set  $U = 0$  to understand the dynamics at infinity.  
Flow = reparam. of free motion! :



$s$ ,  $-s$  become equilibria! ; flow is gradient like between them...

## Equilibria!

Only at infinity.

Given by:

$$(\rho, s, v, w) = (0, s, v, 0)$$

$$s \in \mathbb{S} \cong S^{dN-1}$$

$$v \in \mathbb{R}, v \neq 0$$

Energy of an equilibrium:

$$h = \frac{1}{2}v^2 \quad \text{so} \quad v = \pm\sqrt{2h}$$

$$\text{Equilibria} = \Sigma_- \cup \Sigma_+$$

- branch:  $v < 0$  . Incoming. LINEARLY UNSTABLE mfd of fixed points.
- + branch:  $v > 0$  . Outgoing: LINEARLY STABLE mfd of fixed points

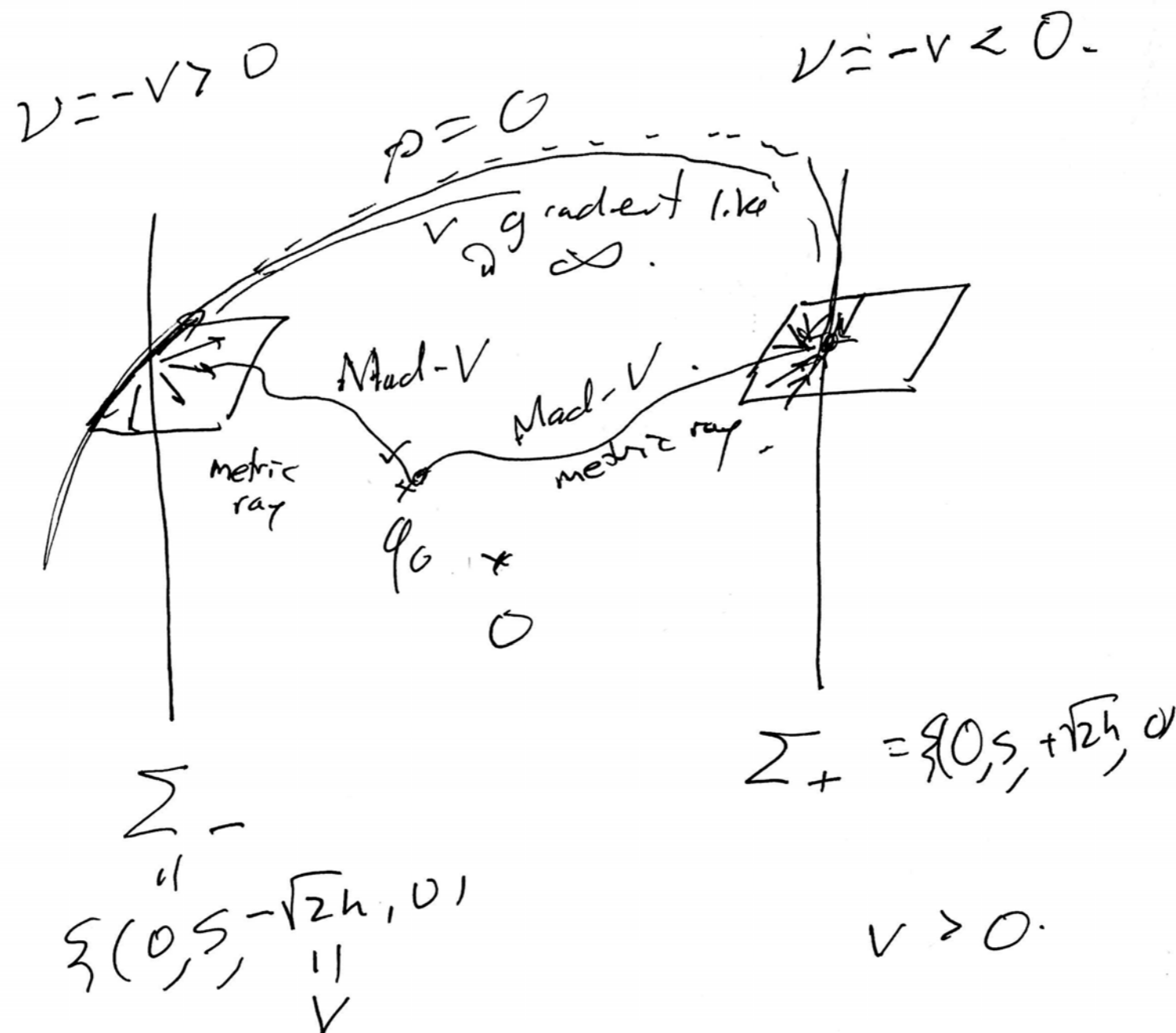
eigenvalues: 0 in the  $s$  and  $v$  directions, ie along **Equilibria**  
- $v$  in the  $w$ -direction.

... in the  $\rho$  direction..?

Push in to ``bulk'' — the real N-body phase space  
by turning on  $\rho > 0$ .

$\Sigma_{\pm}$  are **normally hyperbolic** !

Generalized eigenvector  
corresponding to  $\delta\rho$

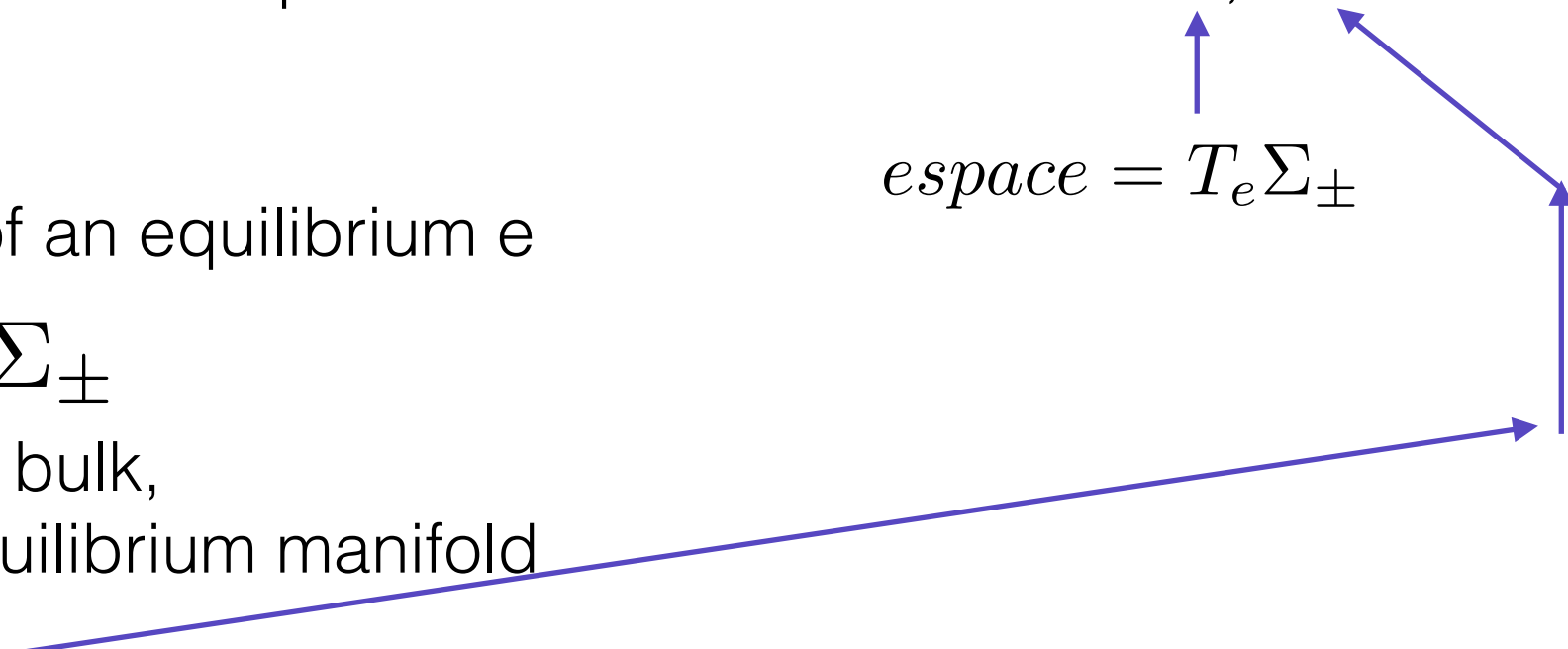


## Summarizing :

### Linearization at an equilibrium $e$ :

$$e = (\rho, s, v, w) = (0, s, v, 0)$$

Spectrum of linearization at  $e$ :  $0, -v$

$$espace = T_e \Sigma_{\pm}$$


Un/stable manifold of an equilibrium  $e$

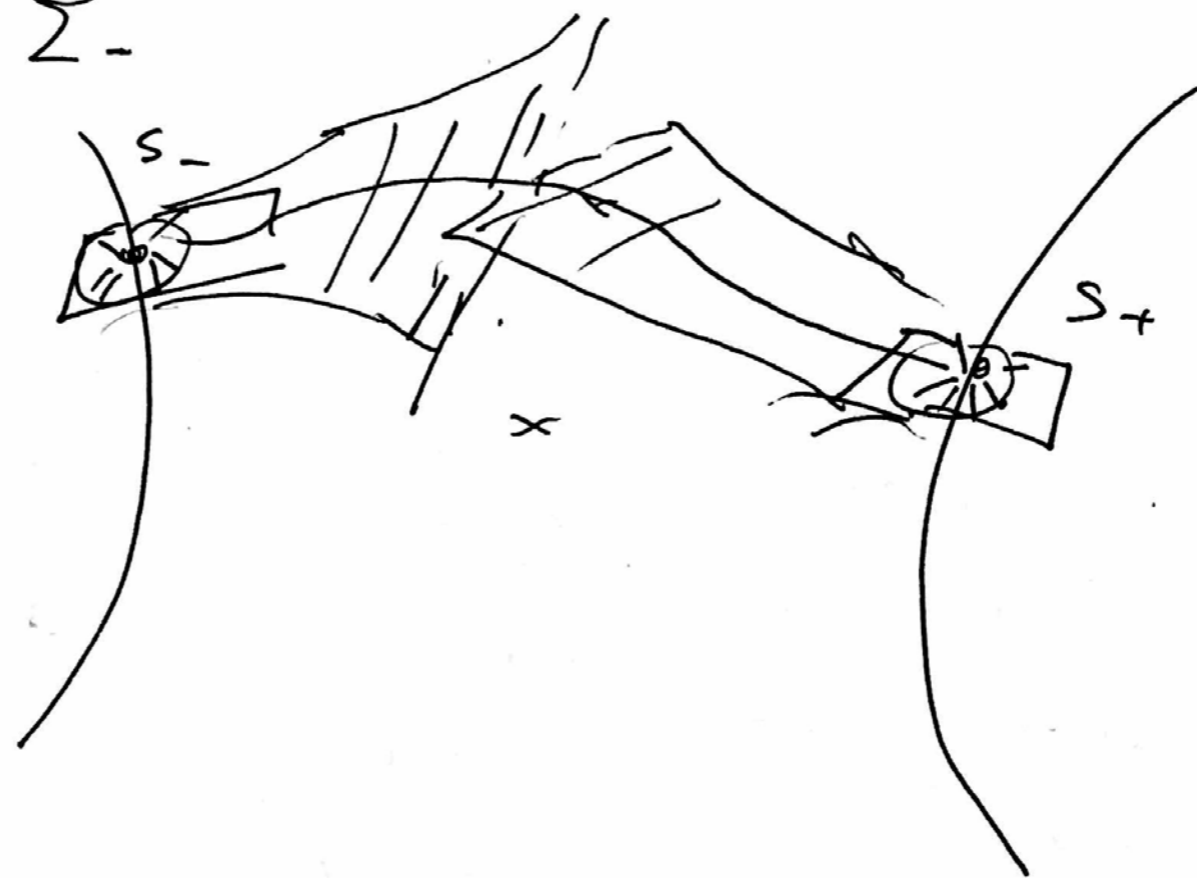
$$W_{\mp}(e), e \in \Sigma_{\pm}$$

is Lagrangian in the bulk,  
transverse to the equilibrium manifold

its tangent space at  $e$  is the nonzero  
generalized eigenspace for  $-v$  at  $e$ ,

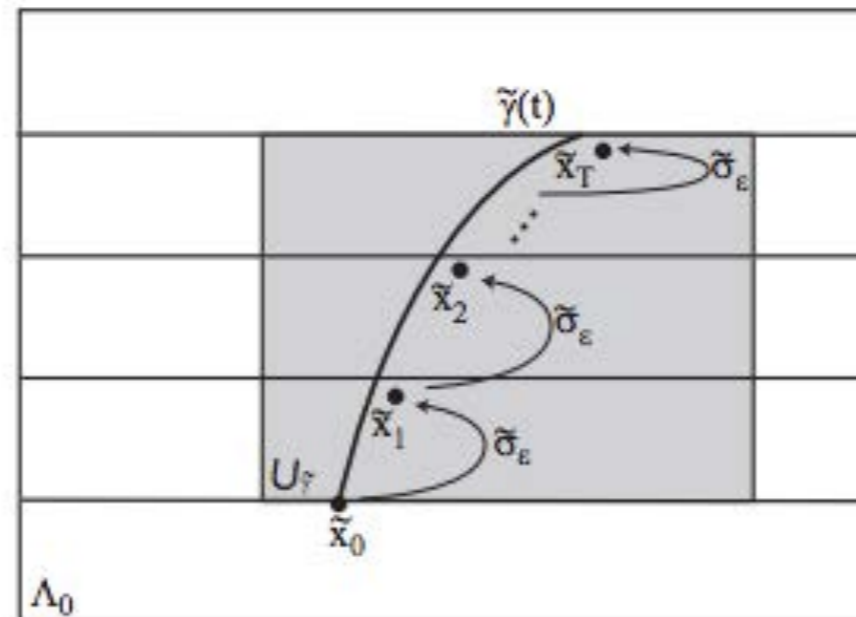
$$\dim(W_{\mp}(e)) = \dim(\Sigma_{\pm}) = dN = \quad \text{half dim of phase space.}$$

Normally hyperbolic  
 "b-Lag" submanifolds  
 of equilibria.



$$s_- \xrightarrow{\gamma} s_+$$

$$\Leftrightarrow W_u(s_-, -v_0) \cap W_s(s_+, +v_0) \neq \emptyset$$



**FIGURE 1.** A scattering path and a nearby orbit of the scattering map.

A. Delshams, Tere Seara, R de la Llave, M Gidea, ....

**Our scattering map is the same as their `scattering map' !  
*except* that their stable/unstable intersections  
 are (1) typically homoclinic  
 and (2) they have a center manifold with a slow dynamics  
 in place of our manifold of equilibria**

**Fini !**