

CURVES IN LORENTZ-MINKOWSKI PLANE WITH PRESCRIBED CURVATURE

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- 1 Motivation and Introduction
- 2 Curves with curvature depending on pseudodistance to a timelike geodesic
- 3 Curves with curvature depending on pseudodistance to a lightlike geodesic
- 4 Curves whose curvature depends on Lorentzian pseudodistance from the origin

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Can a plane curve be determined if its curvature is given in terms of its position on the Euclidean plane?

$$\kappa = \kappa(x, y), \quad \frac{x'(t)y''(t) - y'(t)x''(t)}{(x'(t)^2 + y'(t)^2)^{3/2}} = \kappa(x(t), y(t))$$

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- ① $\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(y)$. Castro I., Castro-Infantes I., *Plane curves with curvature depending on distance to a line*, Diff. Geom. Appl., 2016, 44, 77–97.
- ② $\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2})$. Castro I., Castro-Infantes I., *Castro-Infantes, J.*, *New plane curves with curvature depending on distance from the origin*, Mediterr. J. Math., 2017, 14, 108:1–19.

Curves with prescribed curvature

Theorem $\kappa(y)$

Prescribe $\kappa = \kappa(y)$ continuous. The problem of determining a curve $\gamma(s) = (x(s), y(s))$ - s arc length- with curvature $\kappa(y)$ is solvable by:

- 1 $\int \kappa(y) dy = \mathcal{K}(y)$, *geometric linear momentum*.
 - 2 $s = s(y) = \int \frac{dy}{\sqrt{1 - (\mathcal{K}(y))^2}} \dashrightarrow y = y(s) \dashrightarrow \kappa = \kappa(s)$.
 - 3 $x(s) = -(\int \mathcal{K}(y(s)) ds)$.
- γ is uniquely determined, up to translations in the x -direction, by $\mathcal{K}(y)$

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Theorem $\kappa(r)$

Prescribe $\kappa = \kappa(r)$ such that $r\kappa(r)$ continuous. The problem of determining a curve $\gamma(s) = r(s) e^{i\theta(s)}$ with curvature $\kappa(r)$ is solvable by:

- 1 $\int r\kappa(r) dr = \mathcal{K}(r)$, *geometric angular momentum*.
 - 2 $s = s(r) = \int \frac{rdr}{\sqrt{r^2 - (\mathcal{K}(r))^2}} \dashrightarrow r = r(s) \dashrightarrow \kappa = \kappa(s)$.
 - 3 $\theta(s) = \int \frac{\mathcal{K}(r(s))}{r(s)^2} ds$.
- γ is uniquely determined, up to rotations, by $\mathcal{K}(r)$

Singer's Problem on the Euclidean plane: Euler elastic curves

Elastica under *tension* $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$: $2\ddot{\kappa} + \kappa^3 - \sigma\kappa = 0$

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elastica under tension $\sigma = -4\lambda c$

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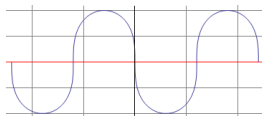
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• $c > -1$, wavelike:

$$\kappa(s) = k_0 \operatorname{cn}\left(\frac{k_0 s}{2p}, p\right)$$

$$p^2 = \frac{1-c}{2}, s \in \mathbb{R}$$



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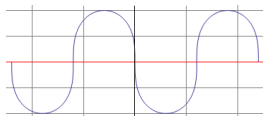
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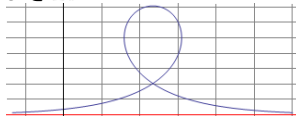
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• $c = -1$, *borderline*:

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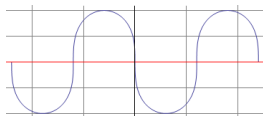
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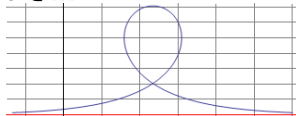
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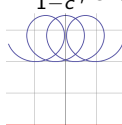
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• $c < -1$, *orbitlike*:

$$\kappa(s) = k_0 \operatorname{dn}\left(\frac{k_0 s}{2}, p\right)$$

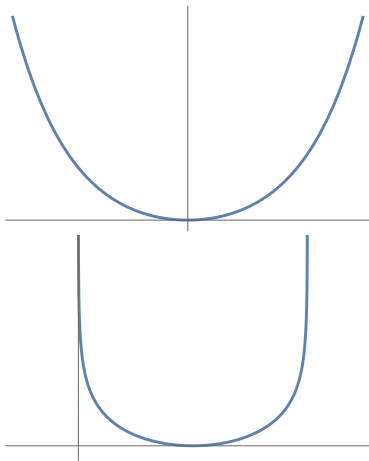
$$p^2 = \frac{2}{1-c}, s \in \mathbb{R}$$



Singer's Problem on the Euclidean plane

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

The **grim-reaper** $y = -\log \sin x$, $0 < x < \pi$ is the only plane curve (up to translations in the x -direction) with curvature $\kappa(y) = e^{-y}$ and geometric linear momentum $\mathcal{K}(y) = -e^{-y}$.

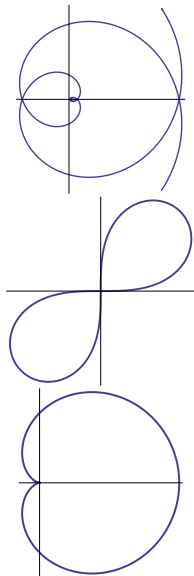


Singer's Problem on the Euclidean plane

The **Norwich spiral** is the only (non circular) plane curve, up to rotations, with curvature $\kappa(r) = 1/r$ and geometric angular momentum $\mathcal{K}(r) = r$.

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 is $\kappa(r) = r$.

The **cardioid** $r = \frac{9}{8\lambda^2}(1 + \cos\theta)$, is the only plane curve (up to rotations) with radial primitive curvature $\mathcal{K}(r) = \frac{2\lambda}{3}r\sqrt{r}$ and curvature is $\kappa(r) = \lambda/\sqrt{r}$.



The Lorentz-Minkowski plane

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A point $\gamma(t)$ is called a lightlike point if $\gamma'(t)$ is a lightlike vector.

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Classical Existence Theorem

It is possible to obtain a parametrization by arc-length of a curve γ in terms of integrals of its curvature $\kappa = \kappa(s)$. Concretely, any spacelike curve $\alpha(s)$ in \mathbb{L}^2 can be represented (up to isometries) by

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

and any timelike curve $\beta(s)$ can be represented (up to isometries) by

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

Singer's Problem on Lorentz-Minkowski plane

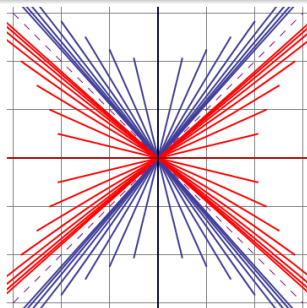
Geodesics

The spacelike geodesics are written as:

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

while the timelike geodesics can be written as:

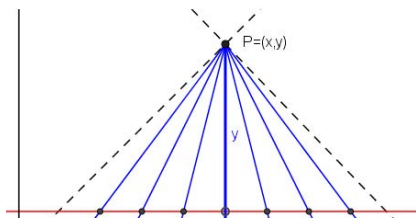
$$\beta_{\phi_0}(s) = (\cosh \phi_0 s, \sinh \phi_0 s), \quad s \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \phi_0 \in \mathbb{R}.$$



Lorentzian Pseudodistance

We define the *Lorentzian pseudodistance* by

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



Spacelike geodesics in \mathbb{L}^2 passing through P and with a point P' in x -axis.

Then:

$$0 < \delta(P, P')^2 = \left(1 - \frac{1}{m^2}\right) y^2 = \frac{y^2}{\cosh^2 \varphi_0} \leq y^2$$

► Equality holds if and only if vertical geodesic.

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

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We focus on spacelike and timelike curves, since the curvature κ is in general not well defined on lightlike points, and because lightlike curves in \mathbb{L}^2 are segments parallel to the straight lines determining the light cone.

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- 1 Pseudodistance to a fixed spacelike geodesic: $\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(x)$.
- 2 Pseudodistance to a fixed timelike geodesic: $\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(y)$.
- 3 Pseudodistance to a fixed lightlike geodesic: $\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(v)$,
 $v = y - x$
- 4 Pseudodistance to a fixed point: $\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(\rho)$,
 $\rho = \sqrt{|-x^2 + y^2|}$.

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Duality between spacelike and timelike curves

If $\gamma = (x, y)$ is a spacelike (resp. timelike) curve with $\kappa = \kappa(y)$, then $\hat{\gamma} = (y, x)$ is a timelike (resp. spacelike) curve with $\kappa = \kappa(x)$.

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Curvature depending on distance to a timelike geodesic

Theorem

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

Then the problem of determining locally a spacelike or timelike curve $(x(s), y(s))$ with **geometric linear momentum** $\mathcal{K}(y)$

(and curvature $\kappa(y)$ satisfying $d\mathcal{K} = \kappa(y)dy$),

is solvable by quadratures by ($\epsilon = 1$ spacelike, $\epsilon = -1$ timelike)

① $\int \kappa(y) dy = \mathcal{K}(y).$

② $s = s(y) = \int \frac{dy}{\sqrt{\mathcal{K}(y)^2 + \epsilon}},$

where $\mathcal{K}(y)^2 + \epsilon > 0$, $\dashrightarrow y = y(s) \dashrightarrow \kappa(s).$

③ $x(s) = \int \mathcal{K}(y(s)) ds.$

► Such a curve is uniquely determined by $\mathcal{K}(y)$ up to a translation in the x -direction (and a translation of the arc parameter s).

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

Example: geodesics

Geodesics: $\kappa \equiv 0$

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

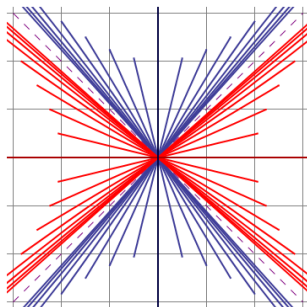
$$x(s) = c s \text{ and } y(s) = \sqrt{c^2 + \epsilon} s, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$\epsilon = 1$: $K \equiv c := \sinh \phi_0 \rightarrow$ spacelike geodesics α_{ϕ_0} .

$c = 0 = \phi_0$ corresponds to the y -axis.

$\epsilon = -1$: $K \equiv c := \cosh \phi_0 \rightarrow$ timelike geodesics β_{ϕ_0} .

$c = 1 \Leftrightarrow \phi_0 = 0$ corresponds to the x -axis.



Example: circles

Circles: $\kappa \equiv k_0 > 0$

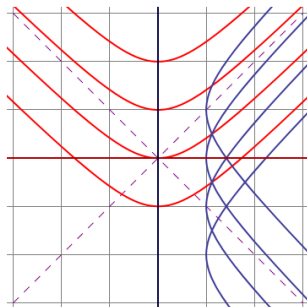
• $\mathcal{K}(y) = k_0 y + c, c \in \mathbb{R}. \quad s = \int \frac{dy}{\sqrt{(k_0 y + c)^2 + \epsilon}}$.

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

$x(s) = \cosh(k_0 s) / k_0$ and $y(s) = (\sinh(k_0 s) - c) / k_0$.

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

$x(s) = \sinh(k_0 s) / k_0$ and $y(s) = (\cosh(k_0 s) - c) / k_0$.



They correspond respectively to spacelike and timelike pseudocircles in \mathbb{L}^2 of radius $1/k_0$.

Elasticae on \mathbb{L}^2 : $\kappa(y) = 2ay + b$ with $a \neq 0$, $b \in \mathbb{R}$.

Definition

A spacelike or timelike curve γ is said to be an *elastica under tension* σ if it satisfies the differential equation $2\ddot{\kappa} - \kappa^3 - \sigma\kappa = 0$, for some value of $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$.

The *energy* $E \in \mathbb{R}$ of an elastica is: $E := \dot{\kappa}^2 - \frac{1}{4}\kappa^4 - \frac{\sigma}{2}\kappa^2$.

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Proposition

Let γ be a spacelike or timelike curve in \mathbb{L}^2 .

- If the curvature of γ is given by $\kappa(y) = 2ay + b$, $a \neq 0$, $b \in \mathbb{R}$, with geometric linear momentum $\mathcal{K}(y) = ay^2 + by + c$, $a \neq 0$, $b, c \in \mathbb{R}$:

Then γ is an elastica under tension $\sigma = 4ac - b^2$ and energy $E = 4\epsilon a^2 + \sigma^2/4$ (where $\epsilon = 1$ if γ is spacelike and $\epsilon = -1$ if γ is timelike).

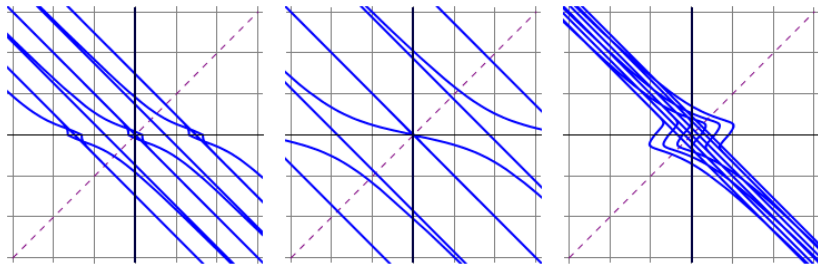
Spacelike elasticae $\equiv \kappa(y) = 2y$ and $\epsilon = 1$.

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

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

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

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

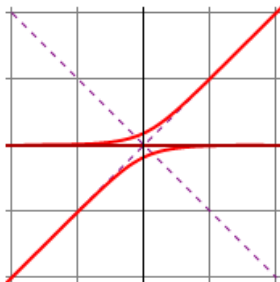
Timelike elasticae $\equiv \kappa(y) = 2y$ and $\epsilon = -1$.

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

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

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

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

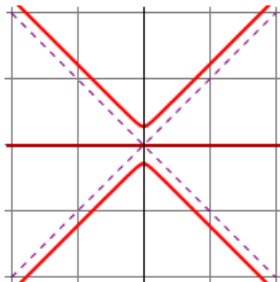


- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 - 1$ ($c = -1$).

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

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

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



Timelike elasticae $\equiv \kappa(y) = 2y$ and $\epsilon = -1$.

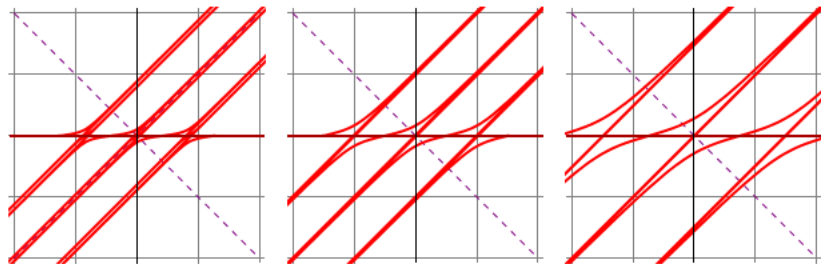
- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 + \cosh^2 \delta$, $\delta > 0$, ($c > 1$).

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

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

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

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



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

Timelike elasticae $\equiv \kappa(y) = 2y$ and $\epsilon = -1$.

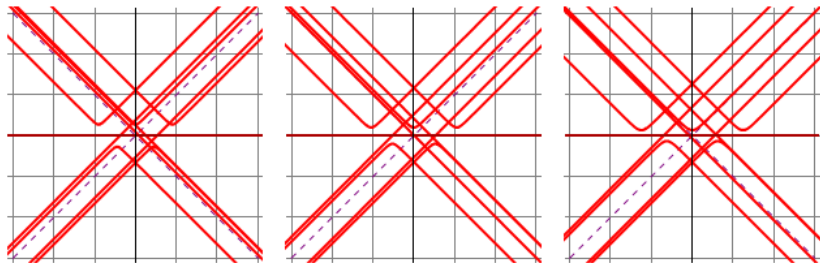
- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 + \sin \psi$, $|\psi| < \pi/2$, ($|c| < 1$).

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

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

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

$$\kappa_\psi(s) = 2\sqrt{1 - s_\psi} \operatorname{nc}(\sqrt{2}s, k_\psi).$$



Timelike elastic curves $\beta_\psi = (x_\psi, y_\psi)$ ($\psi = -\pi/4, 0, \pi/6$).

Timelike elasticae $\equiv \kappa(y) = 2y$ and $\epsilon = -1$.

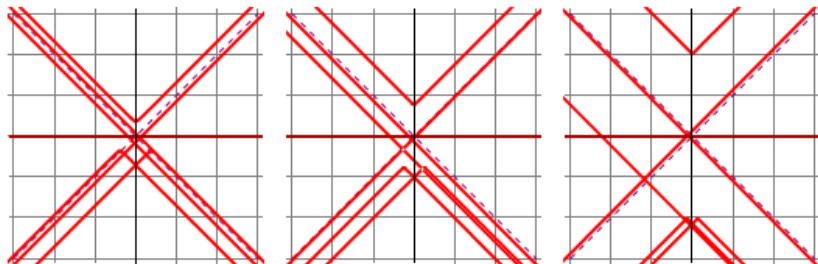
- $\mathcal{K}(y) = y^2 - \cosh^2 \tau$, $\tau > 0$, ($c < -1$).

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

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

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

$$\kappa_\tau(s) = 2\sqrt{1+c_\tau^2} \operatorname{dc}(\sqrt{1+c_\tau^2} s, k_\tau).$$



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

Curves with $\kappa(y) = \lambda/y^2$, $\lambda > 0 \rightarrow \lambda = 1$

- $\mathcal{K}(y) = -1/y$. Lorentzian catenaries

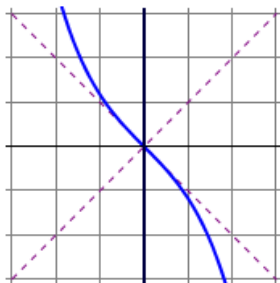
$\epsilon = 1$. Spacelike case:

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

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

$$\kappa(s) = \frac{1}{s^2 - 1}, s > 1.$$

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



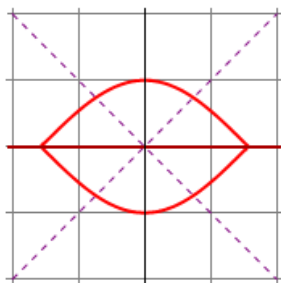
$\epsilon = -1$. Timelike case:

$$x(s) = \mp \arcsin s, |s| < 1.$$

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

$$\kappa(s) = \frac{1}{1 - s^2}, |s| < 1.$$

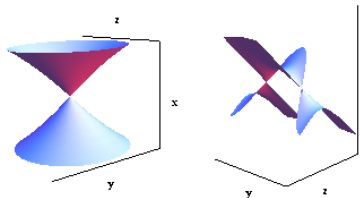
$$y = \pm \cos x, |x| < \pi/2.$$



Curves with $\kappa(y) = \lambda/y^2$, $\lambda > 0 \rightarrow \lambda = 1$

Lorentzian catenaries.

Kobayashi introduced, by studying maximal rotation surfaces in \mathbb{L}^3 , (up to dilations) 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 $x^2 - z^2 = \cos^2 y$.



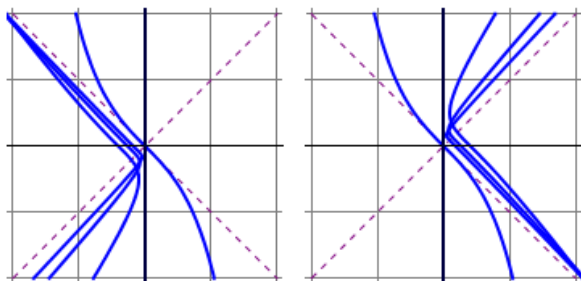
The generatrix curves of both catenoids may be referred as **Lorentzian catenaries** and coincide with the curves described before.

- 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 $\mathcal{K}(x) = -1/x$.

Curves with $\kappa(y) = \lambda/y^2$, $\lambda > 0 \rightarrow \lambda = 1$

- $\mathcal{K}(y) = c - 1/y$. $\epsilon = 1$, Spacelike case:

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



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

Curves with $\kappa(y) = \lambda/y^2$, $\lambda > 0 \rightarrow \lambda = 1$

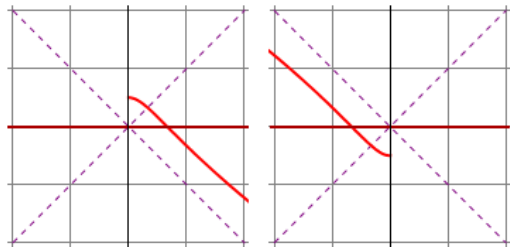
- $\mathcal{K}(y) = c - 1/y$. $\epsilon = -1$, Timelike case:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Curves with $\kappa(y) = \lambda e^y$, $\lambda > 0 \rightarrow \lambda = 1$

- $\mathcal{K}(y) = e^y$. Lorentzian grim-reapers.

$\epsilon = 1$. Spacelike case:

$$x(s) =$$

$$-\log \tanh(-s/2), s < 0.$$

$$y(s) = \log(-\operatorname{csch} s), s < 0.$$

$$\kappa(s) = -\operatorname{csch} s, s < 0.$$

$\epsilon = -1$. Timelike case:

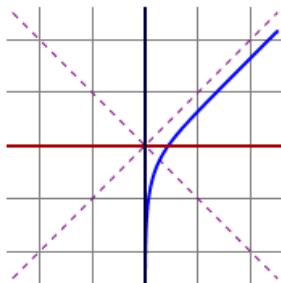
$$x(s) =$$

$$\log(\sec s + \tan s), |s| < \pi/2.$$

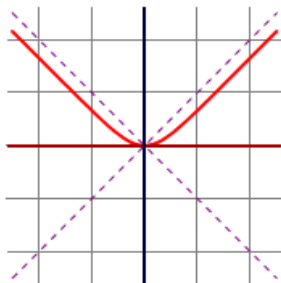
$$y(s) = \log \sec s, |s| < \pi/2..$$

$$\kappa(s) = \sec s, |s| < \pi/2.$$

$$y = \log(\sinh x), x > 0.$$



$$y = \log(\cosh x), x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

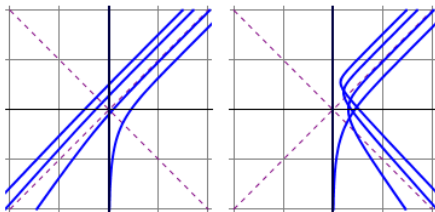


Curves with $\kappa(y) = \lambda e^y$, $\lambda > 0$

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

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 ($\epsilon = -1$):

• $\mathcal{K}(y) = e^y + 1$:

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

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

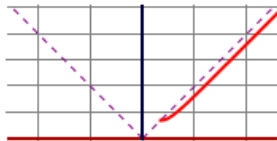
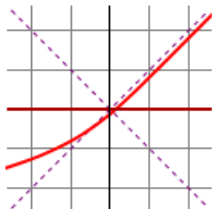
$$x = \frac{\log(2(\sqrt{P(e^y)} + e^y + c)) - c \log(2e^{-y}(\sqrt{c^2-1}\sqrt{P(e^y)} + ce^y + c^2 - 1))}{\sqrt{c^2-1}}$$

• $\mathcal{K}(y) = e^y - 1$:

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

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

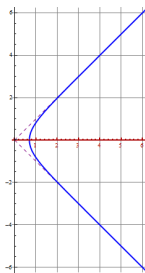
$$x = \log(2(\sqrt{P(e^y)} + e^y + c)) + \frac{c}{\sqrt{1-c^2}} \arcsin(c + (c^2 - 1)e^{-y}).$$



Other curves in \mathbb{L}^2

- $\mathcal{K}(y) = -\coth y$. $x(s) = \mp\sqrt{s^2 - 1}$, $y(s) = \pm \operatorname{arccosh} s$, $s > 1$.
 $\kappa(s) = \frac{1}{s^2 - 1}$. Lorentzian catenary of 1st kind: $x = -\sinh y$, $y \in \mathbb{R}$.
- $\mathcal{K}(y) = \tan y$. $x(s) = \mp\sqrt{1 - s^2}$, $y(s) = \pm \arcsin s$, $|s| < 1$.
 $\kappa(s) = \frac{1}{1 - s^2}$. Lorentzian catenary of 2nd kind $x = \pm \cos y$, $|y| < \pi/2$.
- $\mathcal{K}(y) = \cosh y$. $x(s) = -\log(\sinh(-s))$, $y(s) = 2 \operatorname{arctanh} e^s$, $s < 0$.
 $\kappa(s) = -\operatorname{csch} s$. Lorentzian grim-reaper $y = \log(\sinh x)$, $x > 0$.

- $\mathcal{K}(y) = \sinh y$.
 $x(s) = \log(2 \csc s)$,
 $y(s) = \log(\tan(s/2))$.
 $\kappa(s) = \csc s$, $|s| < \pi$



- 1 Motivation and Introduction
- 2 Curves with curvature depending on pseudodistance to a timelike geodesic
- 3 Curves with curvature depending on pseudodistance to a lightlike geodesic
- 4 Curves whose curvature depends on Lorentzian pseudodistance from the origin

Curvature depending on distance to a lightlike geodesic

Theorem

Prescribe $\kappa = \kappa(v)$ continuous. Then the problem of determining locally a spacelike or timelike curve

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

with geometric linear momentum $\mathcal{K}(v)$

(and curvature $\kappa(v)$ satisfying $-\epsilon d(1/\mathcal{K}) = \kappa(v)dv$)

is solvable by quadratures by $\epsilon = 1$ spacelike, $\epsilon = -1$ timelike.

$$\textcircled{1} \int \kappa(v) dv = \frac{-\epsilon}{\mathcal{K}(v)},$$

$$\textcircled{2} s = s(v) = \epsilon \int \mathcal{K}(v) dv, \quad \dashrightarrow v = v(s), \quad \dashrightarrow \kappa(s)$$

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

► Such a curve is uniquely determined by $\mathcal{K}(v)$ up to a translation in the u -direction (and a translation of the arc parameter s).

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

Examples: constant curvature

Geodesics: $\kappa \equiv 0$

- $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\epsilon/c$, $c \neq 0$. $u(s) = -\epsilon s/c$, $v(s) = -cs$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$,

(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.

Examples: constant curvature

Geodesics: $\kappa \equiv 0$

- $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\epsilon/c$, $c \neq 0$. $u(s) = -\epsilon s/c$, $v(s) = -cs$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$,

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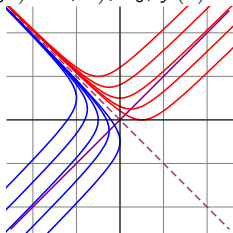
$\epsilon = 1 \Rightarrow |m| > 1$ spacelike geodesics, $\epsilon = -1 \Rightarrow |m| < 1$ timelike geodesics.

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 $1/k_0$.)

Curves with $\kappa(v) = av + b$, $a \neq 0$, $b \in \mathbb{R} \rightarrow a = b = 1$

Elastica under tension σ equation: $2\ddot{\kappa} - \kappa^3 - \sigma\kappa = 0$, with $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$.

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

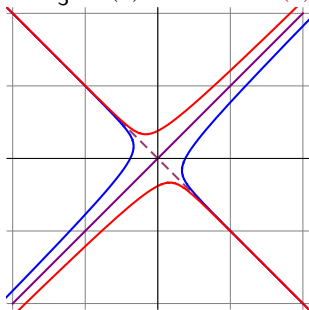
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• $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\frac{\epsilon}{v^2+c}$, $c \in \mathbb{R}$. ($\epsilon = 1$ spacelike, $\epsilon = -1$ timelike)

① $c = 0$: $u(s) = -\epsilon \frac{s^3}{3}$, $v(s) = 1/s$, $\kappa(s) = 2/s$, $s \neq 0$.



Spacelike (blue) and timelike (red) elastic curve with $\sigma = E = 0$.

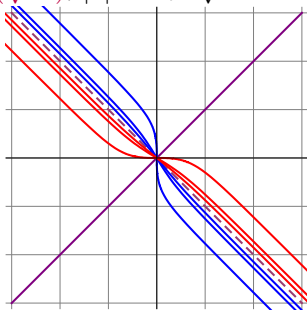
Curves with $\kappa(v) = av + b$, $a \neq 0$, $b \in \mathbb{R} \rightarrow a = b = 1$

Elastica under tension σ equation: $2\ddot{\kappa} - \kappa^3 - \sigma\kappa = 0$, with $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$.

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

• $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\frac{\epsilon}{v^2+c}$, $c \in \mathbb{R}$. ($\epsilon = 1$ spacelike, $\epsilon = -1$ timelike)

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 in \mathbb{L}^2 with $\sigma = 4c > 0$ and $E = 4c^2$, $c = 1, 2, 3$.

Curves with $\kappa(v) = av + b$, $a \neq 0$, $b \in \mathbb{R} \rightarrow a = b = 1$

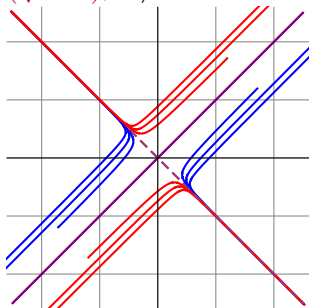
Elastica under tension σ equation: $2\ddot{\kappa} - \kappa^3 - \sigma\kappa = 0$, with $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}$.

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

• $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\frac{\epsilon}{v^2+c}$, $c \in \mathbb{R}$. ($\epsilon = 1$ spacelike, $\epsilon = -1$ timelike)

⑧ $c < 0$ $u(s) = \frac{\epsilon}{c} \left(-\frac{s}{2} + \frac{\sinh(2\sqrt{-c}s)}{4\sqrt{-c}} \right)$, $v(s) = \sqrt{-c} \coth(\sqrt{-c}s)$.

$\kappa(s) = 2\sqrt{-c} \coth(\sqrt{-c}s)$, $s \neq 0$.



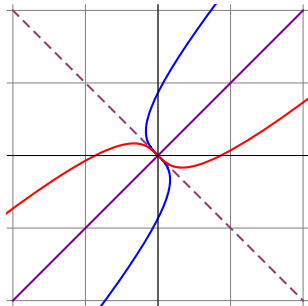
Spacelike (blue) and timelike (red) elastic curves in \mathbb{L}^2 with $\sigma = 4c < 0$ and $E = 4c^2$, $c = -1, -2, -3$.

Curves with $\kappa(v) = a/v^2$, $a \neq 0 \rightarrow a = 1$

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

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

We arrive at the graphs $u = \epsilon v^3/3$, $v > 0$ for $\epsilon = \pm 1$.



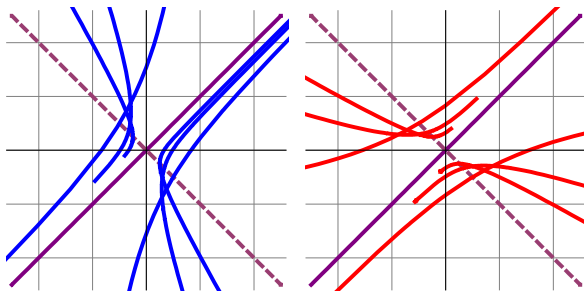
Spacelike (blue) and timelike (red) curve in \mathbb{L}^2 with $\mathcal{K}(v) = \epsilon v$, $\epsilon = \pm 1$.

Curves with $\kappa(v) = a/v^2$, $a \neq 0 \rightarrow a = 1$

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

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

for $v > 1/c$ if $c > 0$ and for $v < 1/c$ 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).

Curves with $\kappa(v) = a e^v$, $a \neq 0 \rightarrow a = 1$

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

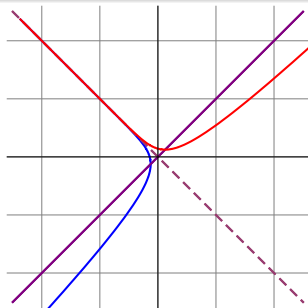
Curves with $\kappa(v) = a e^v$, $a \neq 0 \rightarrow a = 1$

- $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\frac{\epsilon}{e^v + c}$, $c \in \mathbb{R}$. ($\epsilon = 1$ spacelike, $\epsilon = -1$ timelike)
- $c = 0$: $u(s) = -\epsilon s^2/2$, $v(s) = -\log s$, $\kappa(s) = 1/s$, $s > 0$.

Lorentzian grim-reapers

The curves are the graph of $u = -\epsilon e^{-2v}/2$, $v \in \mathbb{R}$.

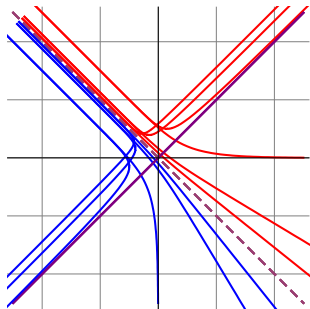
They satisfy the translating-type soliton equation $\kappa = g((1, 1), N)$.



Spacelike (blue) and timelike (red) curves with $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\frac{\epsilon}{e^v}$.

Curves with $\kappa(v) = a e^v$, $a \neq 0 \rightarrow a = 1$

- $\mathcal{K}(v) = -\frac{\epsilon}{e^v + c}$, $c \in \mathbb{R}$. ($\epsilon = 1$ spacelike, $\epsilon = -1$ timelike)
- ② $c \neq 0$: $u(s) = -\frac{\epsilon}{c} \left(s + \frac{1}{c e^{cs}} \right)$, $v(s) = \log \frac{c}{e^{cs} - 1}$, $s > 0$.
 $\kappa(s) = \frac{c}{e^{cs} - 1}$, $s > 0$.



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

- 1 Motivation and Introduction
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Curvature depending on pseudodistance from the origin

We study $\gamma = (x, y)$ with $\kappa = \kappa(\rho)$, where ρ is the *Lorentzian pseudodistance from the origin*:

$$\rho := \sqrt{|g(\gamma, \gamma)|} = \sqrt{|-x^2 + y^2|} \geq 0.$$

We use what we can call *pseudopolar coordinates* (ρ, ν) , $\rho \geq 0$, $\nu \in \mathbb{R}$ being the *orthochrone angle*.

Since $g(\gamma, \gamma) = -x^2 + y^2 = \pm\rho^2$, we distinguish:

$$\gamma^+ \equiv \begin{cases} x = \rho \sinh \nu, y = \rho \cosh \nu, & \text{if } -x^2 + y^2 \geq 0, y \geq 0 \\ x = -\rho \sinh \nu, y = -\rho \cosh \nu, & \text{if } -x^2 + y^2 \geq 0, y \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\gamma^- \equiv \begin{cases} x = \rho \cosh \nu, y = \rho \sinh \nu, & \text{if } -x^2 + y^2 \leq 0, y \geq 0 \\ x = -\rho \cosh \nu, y = -\rho \sinh \nu, & \text{if } -x^2 + y^2 \leq 0, y \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

In fact, it will be enough obviously to consider the first and third cases, since the map $(x, y) \rightarrow (-x, -y)$ is an isometry of \mathbb{L}^2 .

Curvature depending on pseudodistance from the origin

Theorem

Prescribe $\kappa = \kappa(\rho)$ such that $\rho \kappa(\rho)$ is continuous.

Then the problem of determining locally a spacelike or timelike curve

$$\gamma_{\epsilon}^{\pm}(s) = (\pm \rho_{\epsilon}^{\pm}(s) \sinh v_{\epsilon}^{\pm}(s), \pm \rho_{\epsilon}^{\pm}(s) \cosh v_{\epsilon}^{\pm}(s)),$$

with **geometric angular momentum** $\mathcal{K}(\rho)$ (and curvature $\kappa(\rho)$) satisfying $d\mathcal{K} = \rho \kappa(\rho) d\rho$ is solvable by ($\epsilon = 1$ spacelike, $\epsilon = -1$ timelike)

① $\int \rho \kappa(\rho) d\rho = \mathcal{K}(\rho).$

② $s = s(\rho) = \int \frac{\rho d\rho}{\sqrt{\mathcal{K}(\rho)^2 \pm \epsilon \rho^2}},$ where $\mathcal{K}(\rho)^2 \pm \epsilon \rho^2 > 0 \dashrightarrow$
 $\rho = \rho_{\epsilon}^{\pm}(s) > 0. \dashrightarrow \kappa(s)$

③ $v_{\epsilon}^{\pm}(s) = \int \frac{\mathcal{K}(\rho_{\epsilon}^{\pm}(s))}{\rho_{\epsilon}^{\pm}(s)^2} ds,$ where $\rho_{\epsilon}^{\pm}(s) > 0.$

► Such a curve is uniquely determined by $\mathcal{K}(\rho)$ up to a ν -orthochrone Lorentz transformation (and a translation of the arc parameter s).

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

Curves with $\kappa \equiv 2k_0 > 0$

Constant curvature: pseudocircles

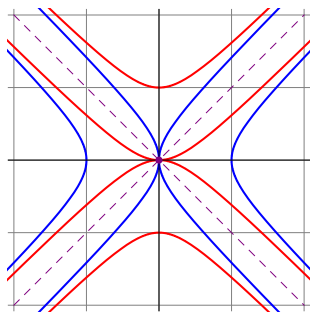
$$\mathcal{K}(\rho) = k_0\rho^2 + c, \quad c \in \mathbb{R}. \quad s = \int \rho \, d\rho / \sqrt{(k_0\rho^2 + c)^2 \pm \rho^2}.$$

- $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = k_0\rho^2.$

$$\rho^+(s) = \frac{\sinh(k_0s)}{k_0}, \quad v^+(s) = k_0s.$$

$$\rho^-(s) = \frac{\cosh(k_0s)}{k_0}, \quad v^-(s) = k_0s.$$

Pseudocircles of radius $1/2k_0$.



Spacelike (blue) and timelike (red) pseudocircle with $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \rho^2/2$
($\kappa \equiv 1$) in \mathbb{L}^2 .

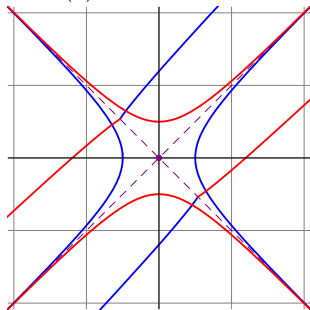
Norwich spiral: $\kappa(\rho) = \frac{1}{\rho}$

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

$$\rho^+(t) = \frac{c}{2} (\sinh(\sqrt{2}t) - 1), \text{ and}$$

$$\nu^+(t) = t + \log \left(\frac{\sinh(\frac{\sqrt{2}t - \operatorname{arcsinh} 1}{2})}{\cosh(\frac{\sqrt{2}t + \operatorname{arcsinh} 1}{2})} \right), \quad t > \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \operatorname{arcsinh} 1.$$

$$\rho^-(t) = \frac{c}{2}(1 - t^2), \text{ and } \nu^-(t) = t + 2 \operatorname{arctanh} t, \quad |t| < 1.$$



Lorentzian Norwich spiral.

Curves with $\kappa(\rho) = 2\lambda + \mu/\rho$, $\lambda, \mu \neq 0 \rightarrow \lambda = 1$

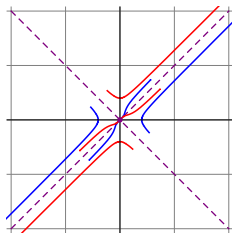
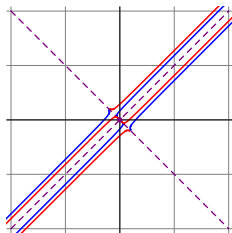
- $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \rho^2 + \mu\rho$, $(\mu = \sinh \eta, \eta \in \mathbb{R})$

$$\rho_{\eta}^{+}(s) = \sinh s - \sinh \eta, \quad v_{\eta}^{+}(s) = s + \tanh \eta \log \left(\frac{\sinh(\frac{s-\eta}{2})}{\cosh(\frac{s+\eta}{2})} \right), \quad s > \eta.$$

- $\mu = \pm 1$.

$$\rho_1^{-}(s) = \cosh s - 1 \text{ and } v_1^{-}(s) = s - \coth(s/2), \quad s \neq 0 \text{ (left)}$$

$$\rho_{-1}^{-}(s) = \cosh s + 1 \text{ and } v_{-1}^{-}(s) = s - \tanh(s/2), \quad s \in \mathbb{R} \text{ (right)}$$



Curves with $\kappa(\rho) = 2\lambda + \mu/\rho$, $\lambda, \mu \neq 0 \rightarrow \lambda = 1$

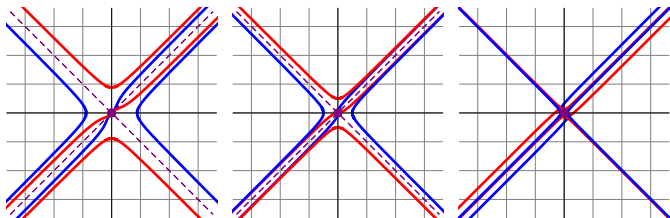
- $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \rho^2 + \mu\rho$, $(\mu = \sinh \eta, \eta \in \mathbb{R})$

$$\rho_{\eta}^{+}(s) = \sinh s - \sinh \eta, \quad v_{\eta}^{+}(s) = s + \tanh \eta \log \left(\frac{\sinh(\frac{s-\eta}{2})}{\cosh(\frac{s+\eta}{2})} \right), \quad s > \eta.$$

- $|\mu| < 1$. $\mu = \cos \alpha$, with $0 < \alpha < \pi$.

$$\rho_{\alpha}^{-}(s) = \cosh s - \cos \alpha,$$

$$v_{\alpha}^{-}(s) = s + 2 \cot \alpha \arctan(\cot(\alpha/2) \tanh(s/2)), \quad s \in \mathbb{R}.$$



Curves with $\kappa(\rho) = 2\lambda + \mu/\rho$, $\lambda, \mu \neq 0 \rightarrow \lambda = 1$

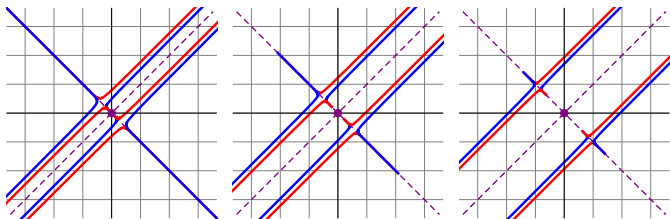
- $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \rho^2 + \mu\rho$, $(\mu = \sinh \eta, \eta \in \mathbb{R})$

$$\rho_{\eta}^{+}(s) = \sinh s - \sinh \eta, \quad v_{\eta}^{+}(s) = s + \tanh \eta \log \left(\frac{\sinh(\frac{s-\eta}{2})}{\cosh(\frac{s+\eta}{2})} \right), \quad s > \eta.$$

- $\mu > 1$. $\mu = \cosh \delta, \delta > 0$.

$$\rho_{\delta}^{-}(s) = \cosh s - \cosh \delta,$$

$$v_{\delta}^{-}(s) = s + \coth \delta \log \left(\frac{\sinh(\frac{s-\delta}{2})}{\sinh(\frac{s+\delta}{2})} \right), \quad |s| > \delta.$$



Curves with $\kappa(\rho) = 2\lambda + \mu/\rho$, $\lambda, \mu \neq 0 \rightarrow \lambda = 1$

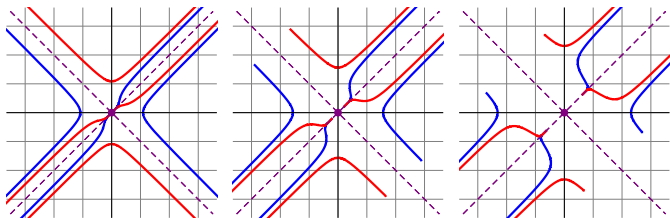
- $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \rho^2 + \mu\rho$, $(\mu = \sinh \eta, \eta \in \mathbb{R})$

$$\rho_{\eta}^{+}(s) = \sinh s - \sinh \eta, \quad v_{\eta}^{+}(s) = s + \tanh \eta \log \left(\frac{\sinh(\frac{s-\eta}{2})}{\cosh(\frac{s+\eta}{2})} \right), \quad s > \eta.$$

- $\mu < -1$. $\mu = -\cosh \tau, \tau > 0$.

$$\rho_{\tau}^{-}(s) = \cosh s + \cosh \tau,$$

$$v_{\tau}^{-}(s) = s + \coth \tau \log \left(\frac{\cosh(\frac{s-\tau}{2})}{\cosh(\frac{s+\tau}{2})} \right), \quad s \in \mathbb{R}.$$



Sinusoidal spirals: $\kappa(\rho) = \lambda \rho^{n-1}$, $\lambda > 0$, $n \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 0\}$.

- $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \frac{\lambda}{n+1} \rho^{n+1} \begin{cases} \lambda \rho_+^n = (n+1) \sinh(n\nu_+), & n \neq 0, n \neq -1, \\ \lambda \rho_-^n = (n+1) \cosh(n\nu_-), & n \neq 0, n \neq -1, \end{cases}$

Sinusoidal spirals: $\kappa(\rho) = \lambda \rho^{n-1}$, $\lambda > 0$, $n \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 0\}$.

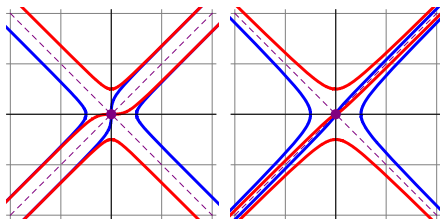
- $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \frac{\lambda}{n+1} \rho^{n+1} \begin{cases} \lambda \rho_+^n = (n+1) \sinh(nv_+), & n \neq 0, n \neq -1, \\ \lambda \rho_-^n = (n+1) \cosh(nv_-), & n \neq 0, n \neq -1, \end{cases}$

① $n = 2$: the *Lorentzian Bernoulli pseudolemniscate*

$$\rho_+^2 = \sinh 2v_+, \quad \rho_-^2 = \cosh 2v_- \quad \text{with } \mathcal{K}(\rho) = \rho^3.$$

② $n = 1/2$: the *Lorentzian pseudocardiod*

$$\sqrt{\rho_+} = \sinh(v_+/2), \quad \sqrt{\rho_-} = \cosh(v_-/2) \quad \text{with } \mathcal{K}(\rho) = \rho^{3/2}.$$



Sinusoidal spirals with $n = 2$ (left) and $n = 1/2$ (right).

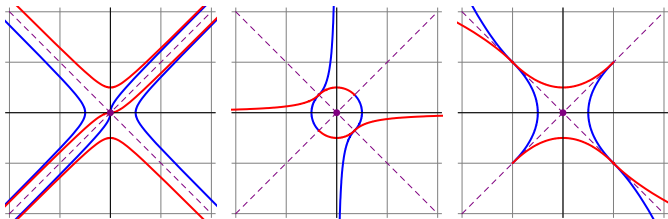
Sinusoidal spirals: $\kappa(\rho) = \lambda \rho^{n-1}$, $\lambda > 0$, $n \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 0\}$.

- $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \frac{\lambda}{n+1} \rho^{n+1} \begin{cases} \lambda \rho_+^n = (n+1) \sinh(nv_+), & n \neq 0, n \neq -1, \\ \lambda \rho_-^n = (n+1) \cosh(nv_-), & n \neq 0, n \neq -1, \end{cases}$

- ③ $n = 1$: the pseudocircles $\rho_+ = \sinh v_+$, $\rho_- = \cosh v_-$ with $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \rho^2$.

- ④ $n = -2$: the Lorentzian equilateral pseudohyperbolas $\rho_+^2 = -1/\sinh 2v_+$, $\rho_-^2 = 1/\cosh 2v_-$ with $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = 1/\rho$.

- ⑤ $n = -1/2$: the Lorentzian pseudoparabolas $\sqrt{\rho_+} = -1/\sinh(v_+/2)$, $\sqrt{\rho_-} = 1/\cosh(v_-/2)$ with $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \sqrt{\rho}$.

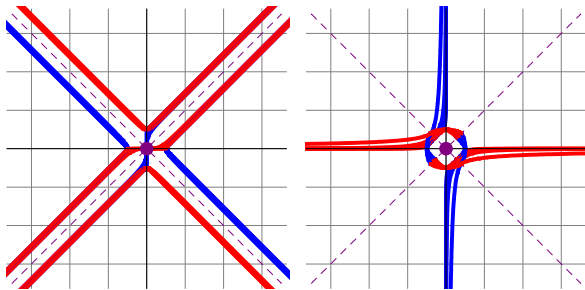


Sinusoidal spirals: $n = 1$ (left), $n = -2$ (center), $n = -1/2$ (right).

Sinusoidal spirals: $\kappa(\rho) = \lambda \rho^{n-1}$, $\lambda > 0$, $n \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 0\}$.

- $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \frac{\lambda}{n+1} \rho^{n+1} \begin{cases} \lambda \rho_+^n = (n+1) \sinh(nv_+), & n \neq 0, n \neq -1, \\ \lambda \rho_-^n = (n+1) \cosh(nv_-), & n \neq 0, n \neq -1, \end{cases}$

6 Some general examples of $\mathcal{K}(\rho) = \frac{\lambda}{n+1} \rho^{n+1}$



Sinusoidal spirals: $n \geq 5/2$ (left) and $n \leq -3/2$ (right), $n \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Thanks for your attention!