

218(3) : Transition from Focal Conical Section to Hypocycloidal Spiral

In order to define this transition consider the class of focal conical sections with:

$$e < 0, \quad - (1)$$

for example:

$$e = -1. \quad - (2)$$

Then:

$$r = \frac{d}{1 - \cos(x\theta)} \quad - (3)$$

In the limit:

$$x\theta \ll 1 \quad - (4)$$

$$\cos(x\theta) = 1 - \frac{x^2 \theta^2}{2} + \dots \quad - (5)$$

so

$$r = \frac{2d}{x^2 \theta^2} \quad - (6)$$

which is a hypocycloidal spiral of type:

$$r = \frac{r_0}{\theta^2} \quad - (7)$$

Now apply the Lagrange equation:

$$\frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} \left(\frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{1}{r} = - \frac{mr^2}{L_1^2} F(r) \quad - (8)$$

to eq. (7). From eqs. (7) and (8):

$$F(r) = - \frac{L_1^2}{mr^2} \left(\frac{2}{r_0} + \frac{1}{r} \right) \quad - (9)$$

2) which is of the type:

$$F(r) = -x^2 \frac{mMg}{r^2} - (1-x^2) \frac{L^2}{m r^3} \quad - (10)$$

if: $x < 1, x \neq 0. \quad - (11)$

Compare eqs. (9) and (10):

$$x^2 mMg = \frac{2L_1^2}{m r_0} \quad - (12)$$

and $(1-x^2) \frac{L^2}{m^2} = \frac{L_1^2}{m^2} \quad - (13)$

i.e.

$$\boxed{L_1^2 = (1-x^2)L^2 = \frac{1}{2}x^2 m^2 Mg r_0} \quad - (14)$$

Graphical Work

Investigate systematically the class of frontal conical sections with:

$$e < 0. \quad - (15)$$

PS: In eq (15): $r_0 = \frac{2d}{x^2} = \frac{2L^2}{x^2 mMg}$

so $L_1^2 = L^2 \quad - (16)$

This result is self evident if $x \rightarrow 0$