

Theorem.

Consider any zero angular momentum solution to the standard attracive (1/r potential) Newton's equations for d+1 bodies in d-dimensional. Suppose that along this solution the inter-body distances satisfy the bound

$$r_{ab} \le c \tag{1}$$

Then, within every time interval of size $\frac{1}{\pi}(\frac{c^3}{GM})^{1/2}$, this solution has a degeneration instant.

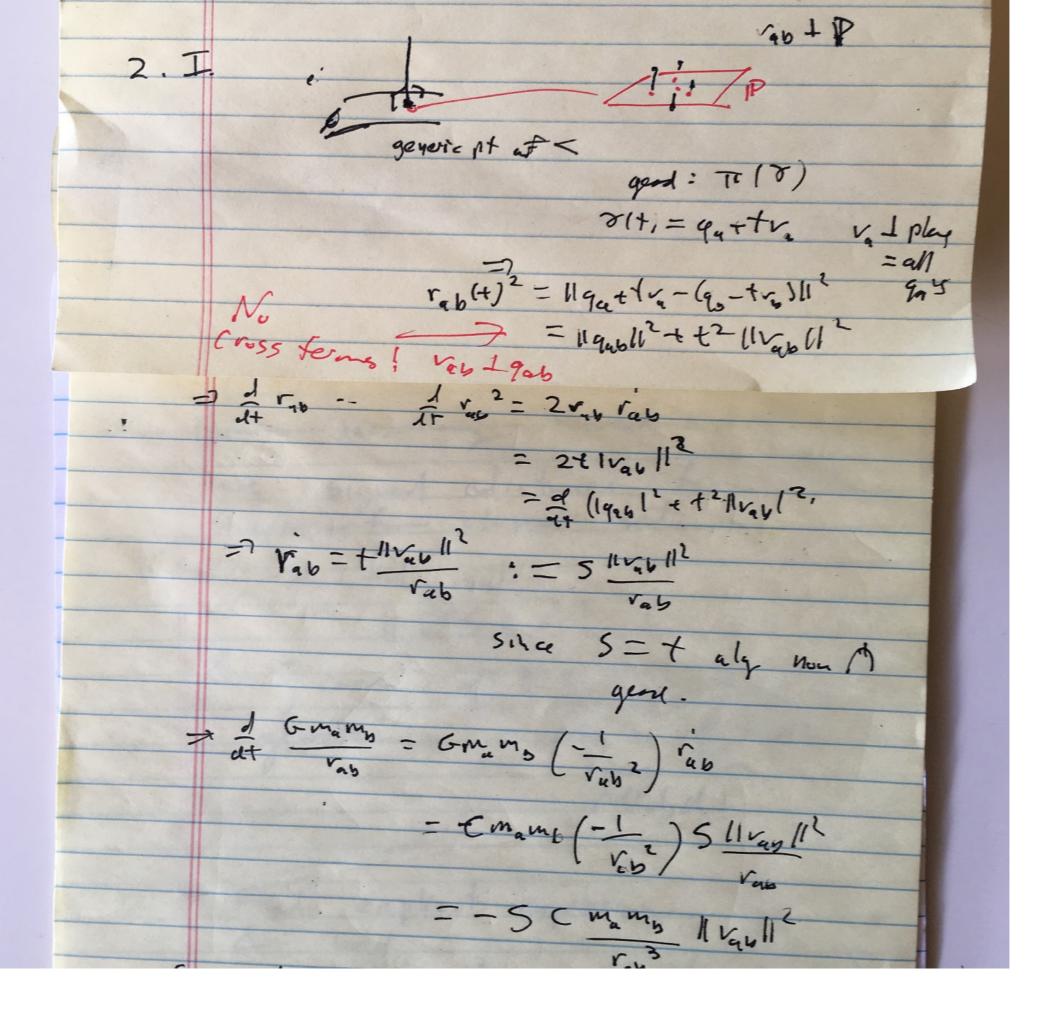
Deriving the needed eqn. for S. $\sigma(t) = \pi(q(t)); \pi: M(d,d) \to Sh(d,d+1)$ sol'n to Newton's egns shape curve $\nabla_{\dot{\sigma}}\dot{\sigma} = -\nabla\bar{V}(\sigma)$ having zero ang. mom. (J=0) $\dot{S} = \langle \nabla S, \dot{\sigma} \rangle$ simple form of eq requires J = 0 along q(t) $\ddot{S} = \langle \nabla S, \ddot{\sigma} \rangle + \langle \nabla_v \nabla S, v \rangle$ standard computation in Riem. geom. $\ddot{S} = \langle \nabla S(q), -\nabla V(q) \rangle + II_S(v, v)$ = I + II2nd f.f. of level sets of S = equidistants froma solves Newt. deg. locus PROP. I = -S g, g > 0, and $g > \omega^2, \omega = GM/(\delta^3), M = \Sigma m_a$, assuming bound $r_{ab}(t) \leq \delta$ **Pf I:** Hamilton-Jacobi or `weak KAM' + $\|\nabla S\| = 1$

+ property of 2-body potential f(r) = -1/r

PROP. II = -S h, h > 0.

Pf II: curv. shape space ≥ 0 ,

+ \(\sum_{\text{is tot. good.}}\) is tot. good. + `Sign & The Meaning of Curvature.'



"Sturm comparison" with

$$\ddot{S} = -S\omega^2$$

S has a zero in any interval of time of size

$$\pi/\omega$$

implying theorem. For all d, N, with N = d+1

Dynamical content of theorem:

the collinear states form a global Poincare section for the negative energy zero-angular momentum
3- body problem

Open Problems. For d=3, N=4.

¿Is `bounded' necessary? In other words: ¿Is it true that every negative energy, zero angular momentum solution to the four-body problem either ends in a singularity (eg triple collision) or oscillates forever about the coplanar locus?

¿Is angular momentum zero even necessary? In other words: ¿Is it possible that every bounded solution to the four-body problem oscillates forever about the coplanar locus?

¿Is there a `good' symbolic dynamics, copying the planar 3 body case, where there are 3 symbols representing the three types of generic collinearity?

For N=4, d= 3 there are 7 symbols, representing 7 generic ways a tetrahedron can degenerate to a quadrilateral