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WORKSHOP
IN COSMOLOGY,
GRAVITATION AND PARTICLE
PHYSICS

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Prague, Czech Republic

More on Stable Ghosts

Alexander Vikman

13.10.2023



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Institute of Physics
of the Czech
Academy of Sciences

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Ghosts without Runaway InstabilitiesCédric Deffayet,^{1,2,*} Shinji Mukohyama,^{3,4,†} and Alexander Vikman^{5,‡}¹*AR&C, Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris, UMR 7095, CNRS, Sorbonne Université, 98^{bis} boulevard Arago, 75014 Paris, France*²*IHES, Le Bois-Marie, 35 route de Chartres, F-91440 Bures-sur-Yvette, France*³*Center for Gravitational Physics, Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University, 606-8502 Kyoto, Japan*⁴*Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (WPI), The University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Chiba 277-8583, Japan*⁵*CEICO—Central European Institute for Cosmology and Fundamental Physics, FZU—Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Na Slovance 1999/2, 18221 Prague 8, Czech Republic* (Received 26 August 2021; accepted 24 December 2021; published 24 January 2022)

We present a simple class of mechanical models where a canonical degree of freedom interacts with another one with a negative kinetic term, i.e., with a ghost. We prove analytically that the classical motion of the system is completely stable for all initial conditions, notwithstanding that the conserved Hamiltonian is unbounded from below and above. This is fully supported by numerical computations. Systems with negative kinetic terms often appear in modern cosmology, quantum gravity, and high energy physics and are usually deemed as unstable. Our result demonstrates that for mechanical systems this common lore can be too naive and that living with ghosts can be stable.

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Global and local stability for ghosts coupled to positive energy degrees of freedom

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Ghosts

are dynamical degrees of freedom
with negative mass -
i.e. kinetic energy unbounded from below

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- Is it possible to screen gravity?
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- Can gravitons be massive? (Boulware–Deser ghost, 1972, dRGT etc.)





Giuseppe Ludovico De la Grange Tournier



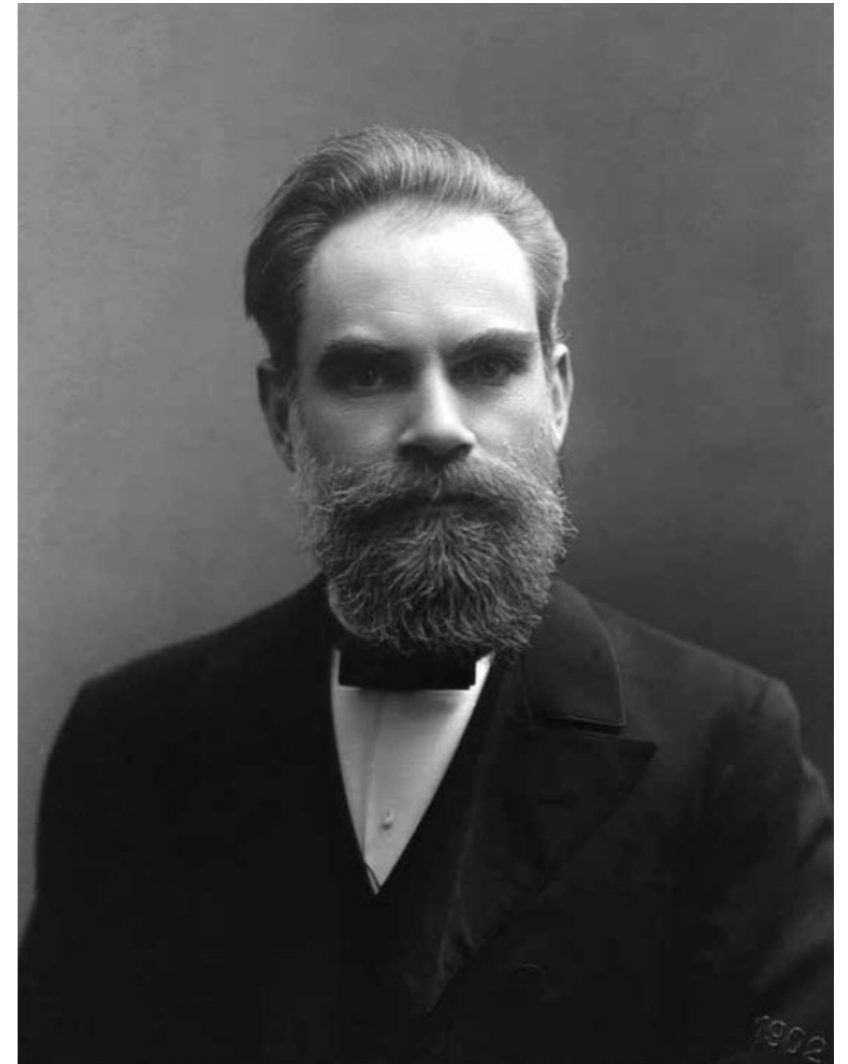
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Lagrange Stability

**the motion is finite -
is bounded in phase space -
“Global Stability”**



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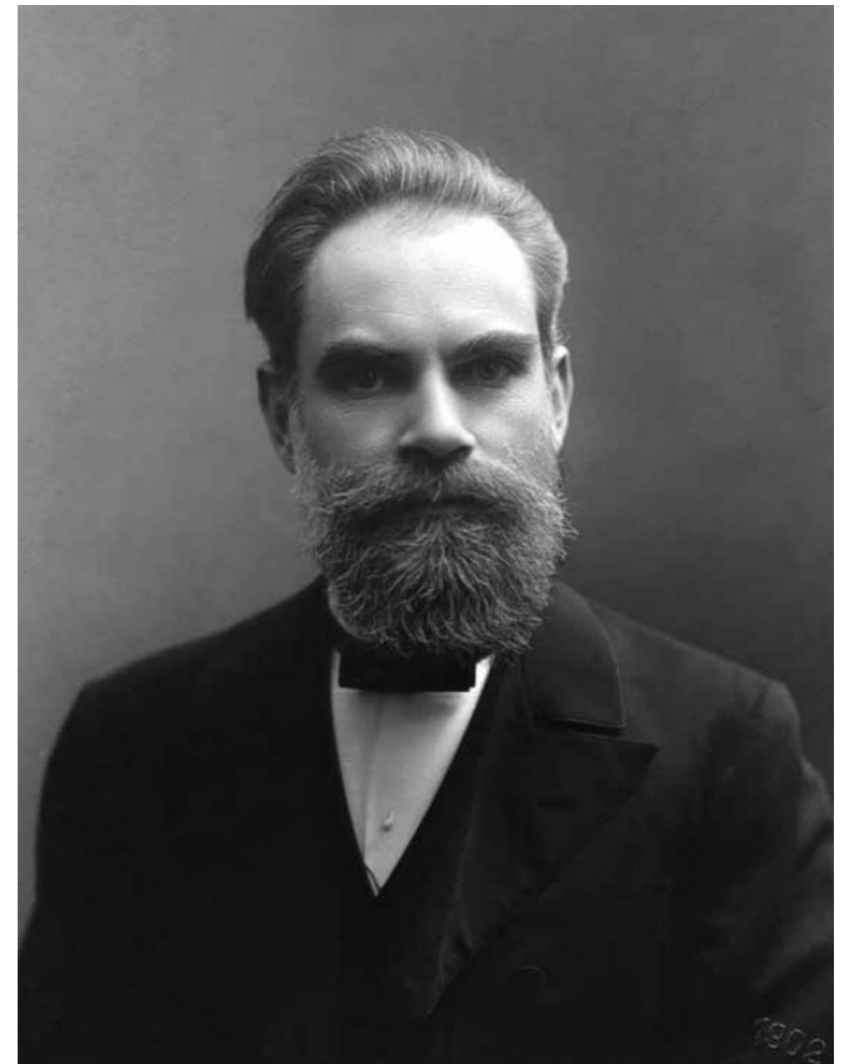


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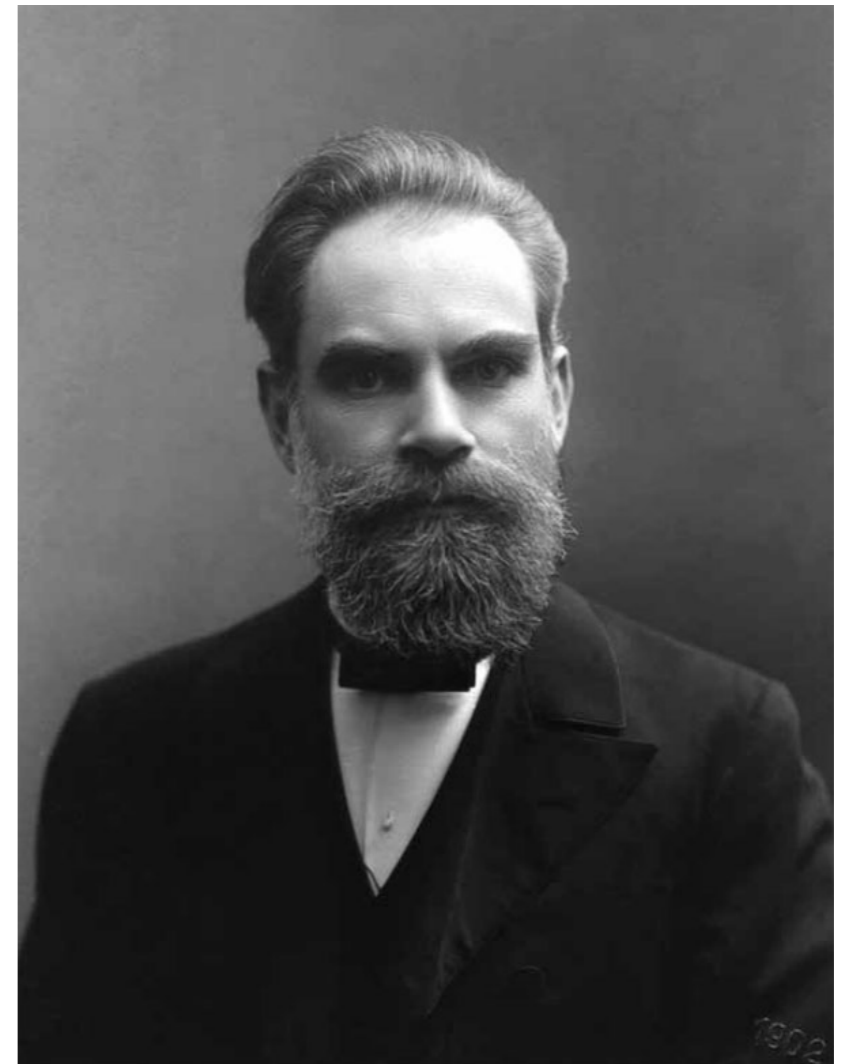
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Lyapunov Stability

means that solutions starting
"close enough"
(within a distance δ from each other)
remain "close enough" forever
(within a distance ϵ from it).

Ostrogradsky Theorem

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modern version for poor people

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$$\frac{1}{M^2 p^2 - p^4}$$

propagator

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MÉMOIRE

SUR

LES ÉQUATIONS DIFFÉRENTIELLES

RELATIVES AU PROBLÈME DES ISOPÉRIMÈTRES.

PAR

M. OSTROGRADSKY.

La le 17 (29) novembre 1848.

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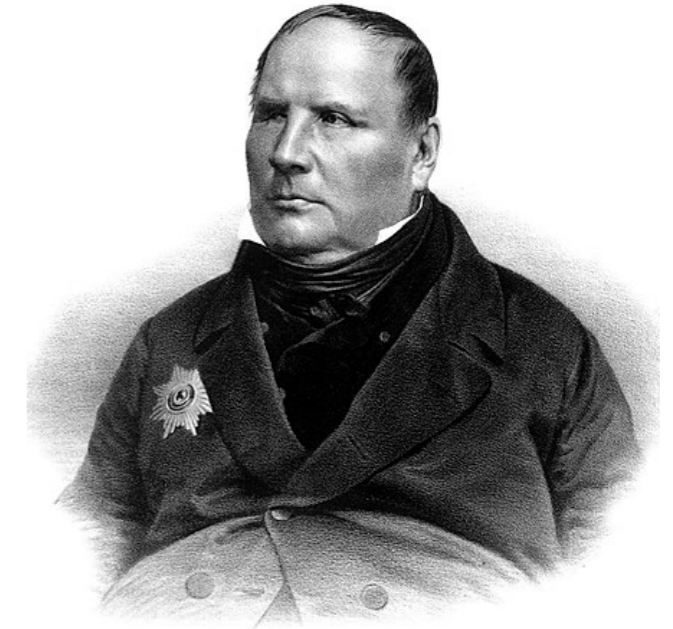
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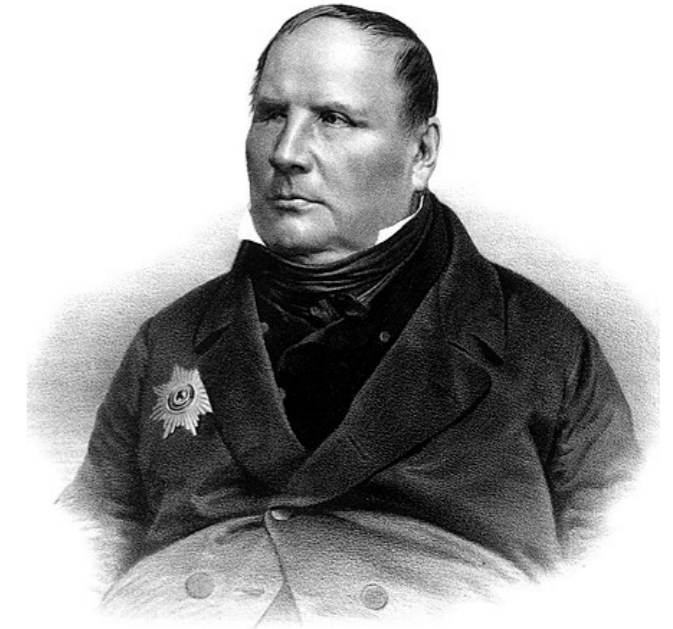
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Hamiltonian linear in P_1 - unbounded from above and from below!



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e.g. action for cosmological perturbations

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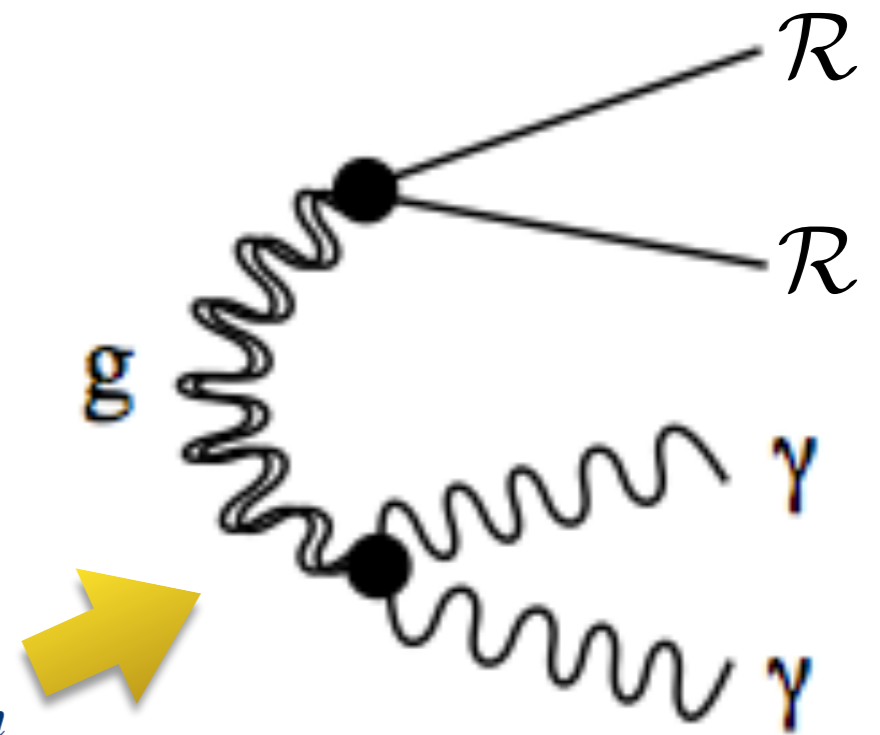
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$$\Gamma_{0 \rightarrow 2\gamma 2\phi} \sim \frac{\Lambda^8}{M_{\text{Pl}}^4}$$

Cline, Jeon, Moore, (2003)

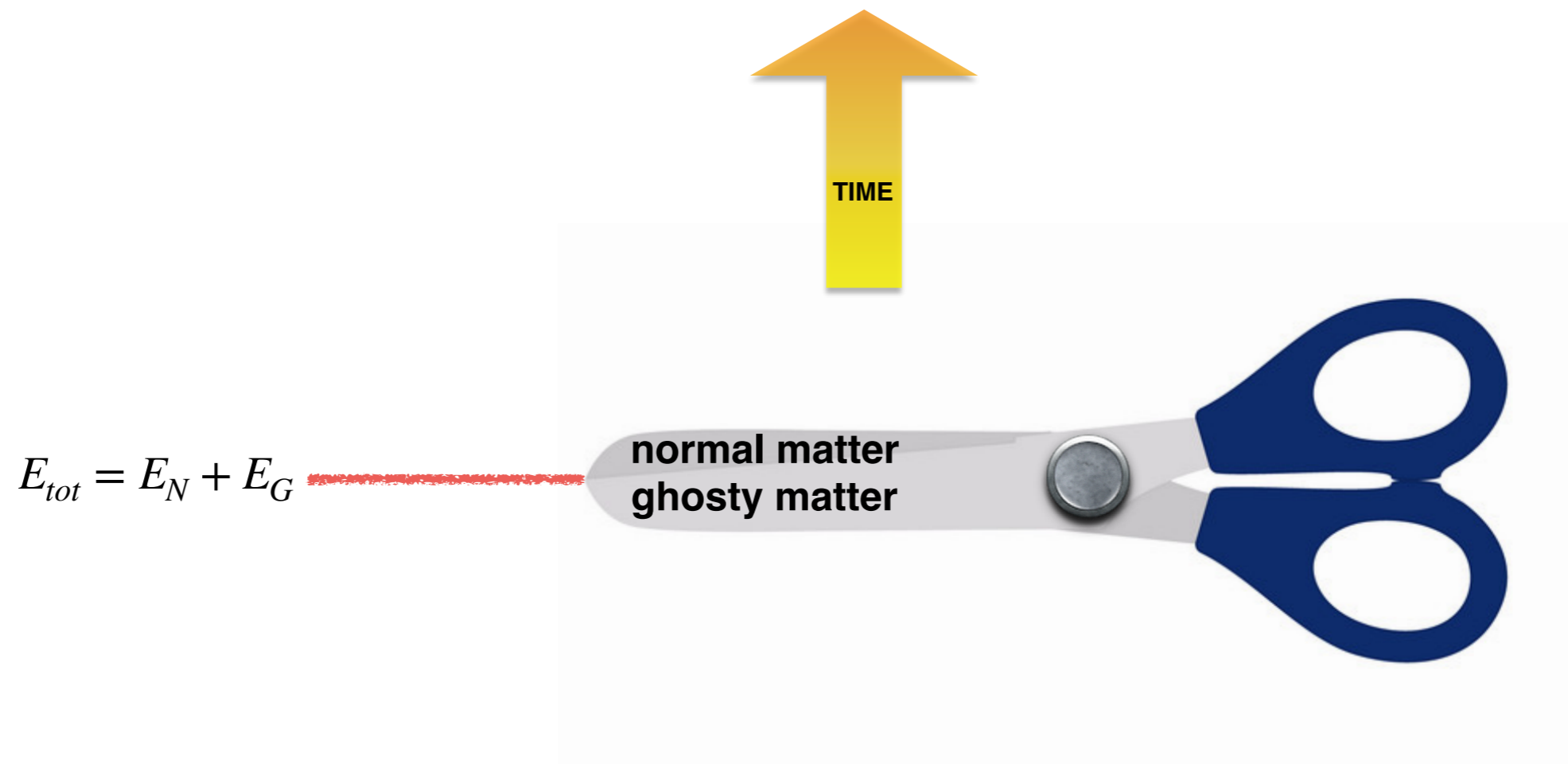
Instability

$$E_{tot} = E_N + E_G$$

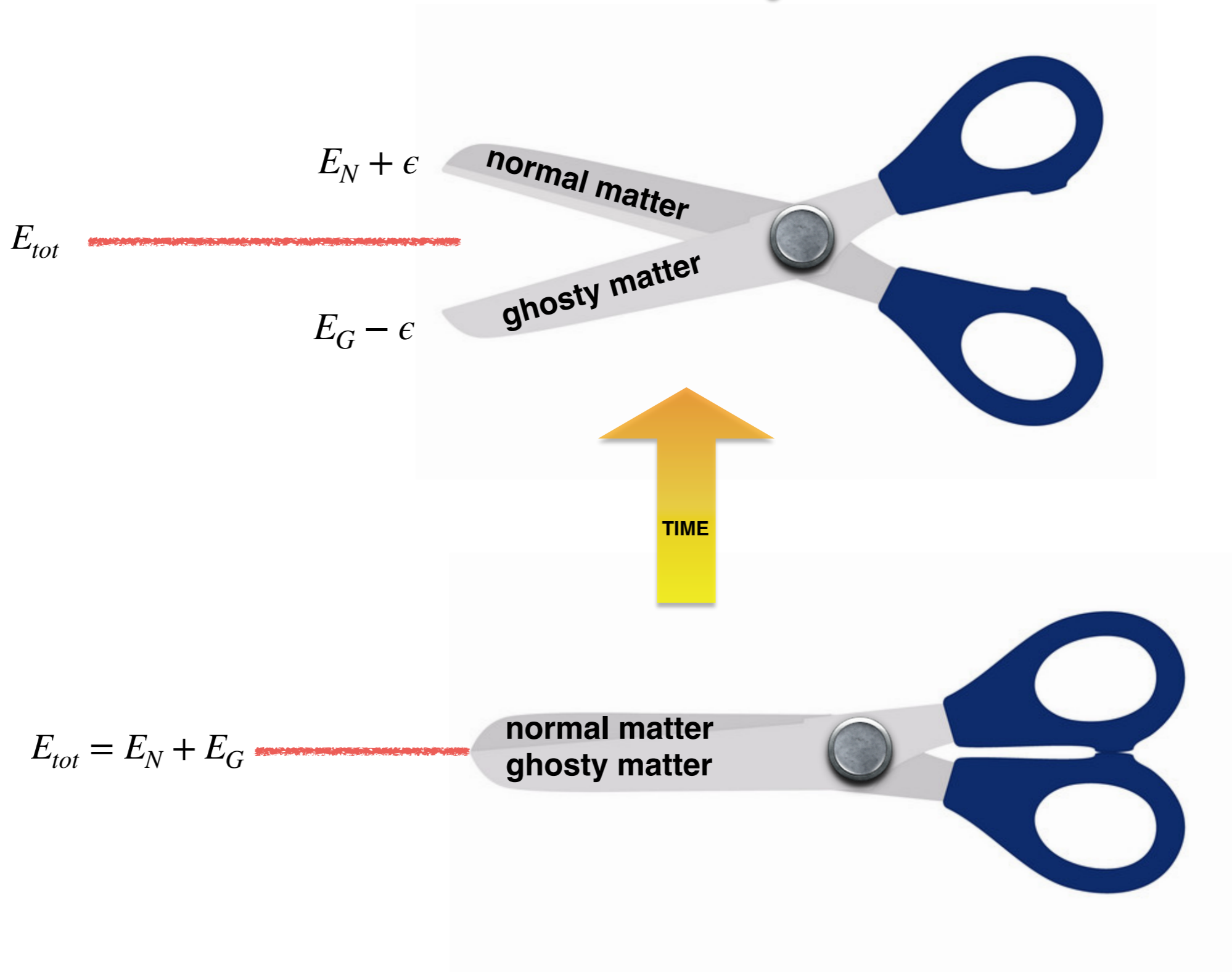
A pair of scissors with blue handles and a silver blade. A red line points from the equation to the tip of the blade.

normal matter
ghosty matter

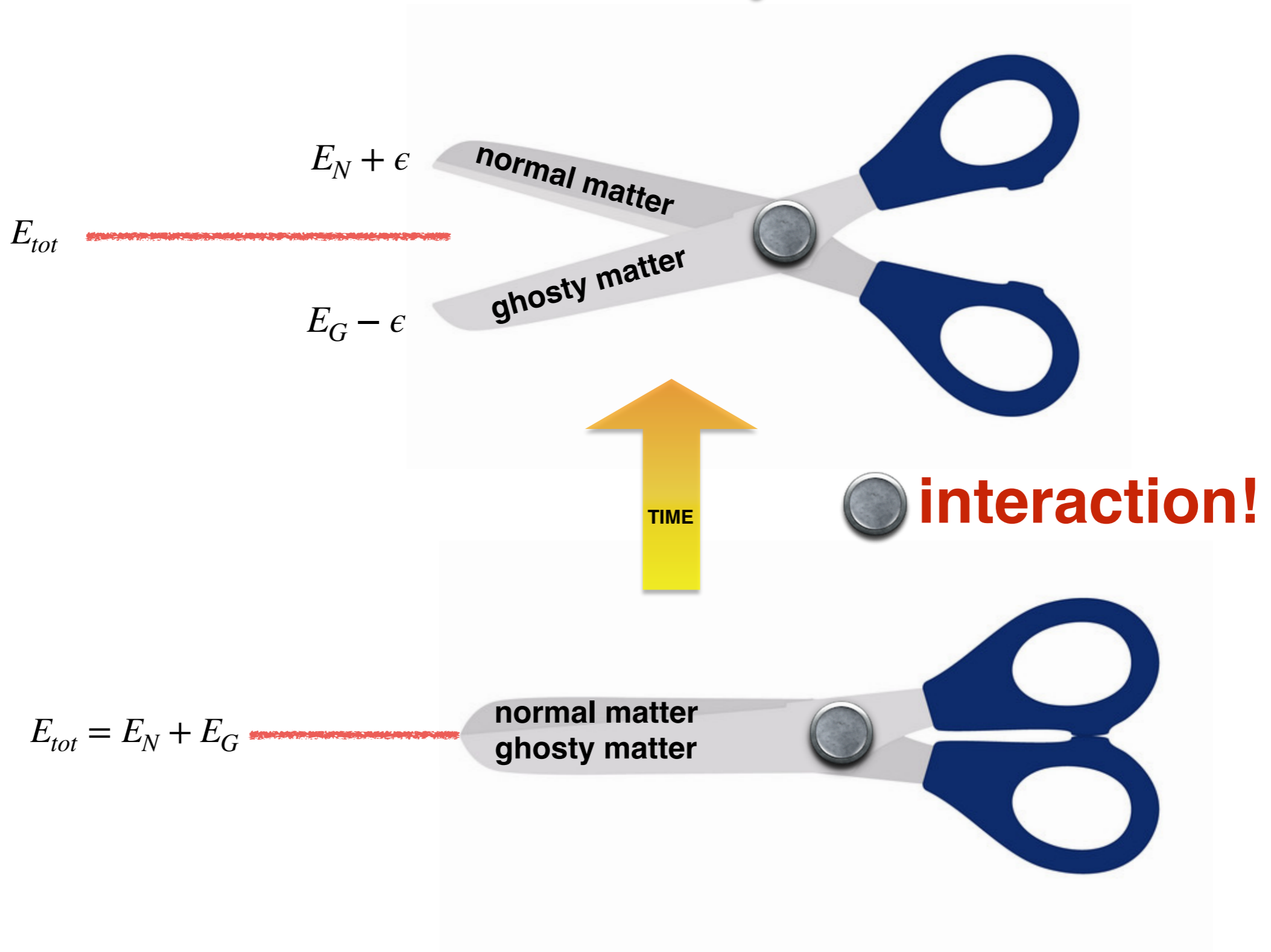
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How Unstable?

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⊖ $\left(\frac{p^2}{2} + \frac{\omega^2 q^2}{2} \right)$

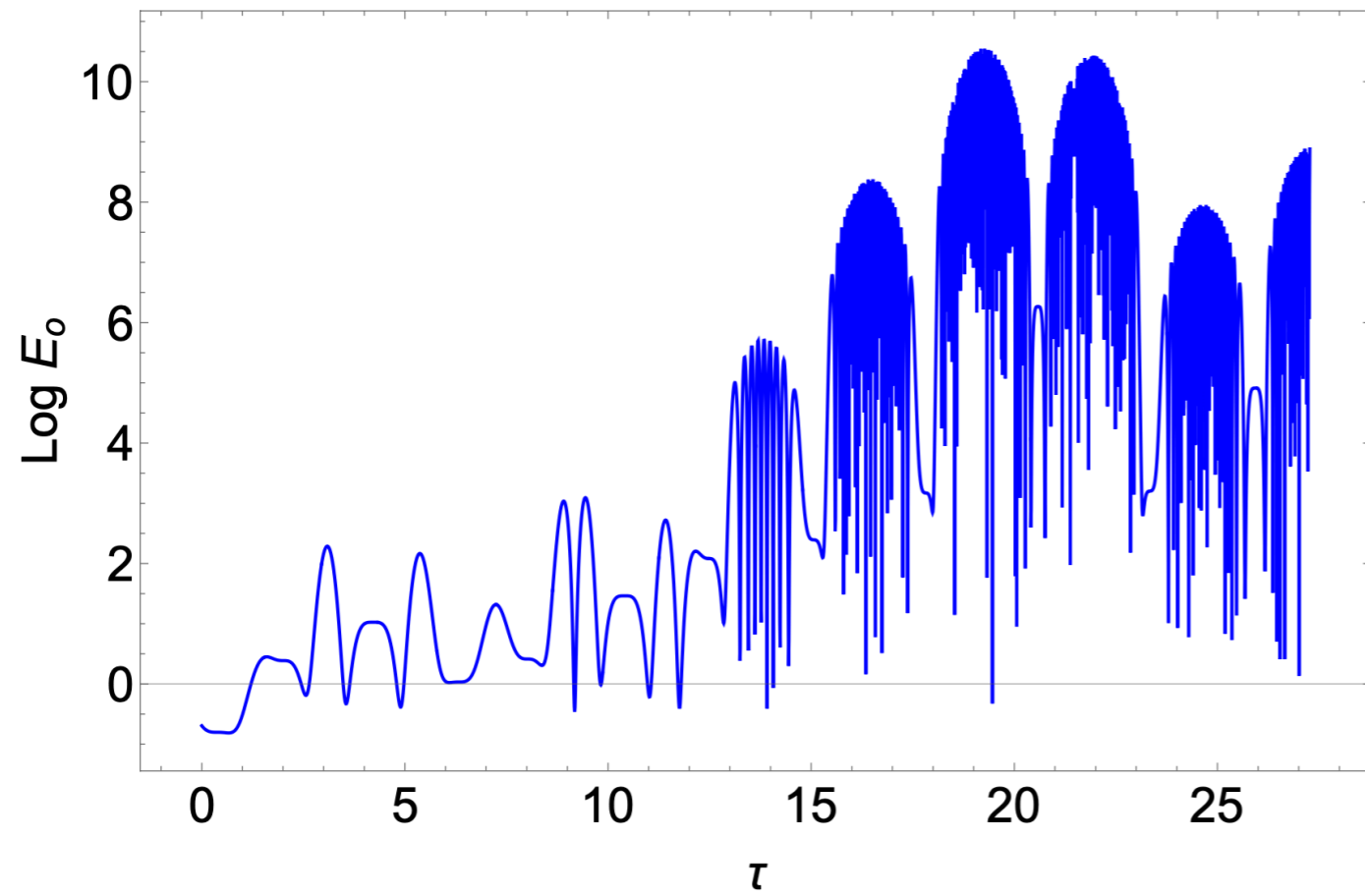


Figure 2: The growth of the logarithm of the energy of the observer is depicted for $\lambda = 4$, $\omega = 2.3$ and vacuum initial data (8) and (9).

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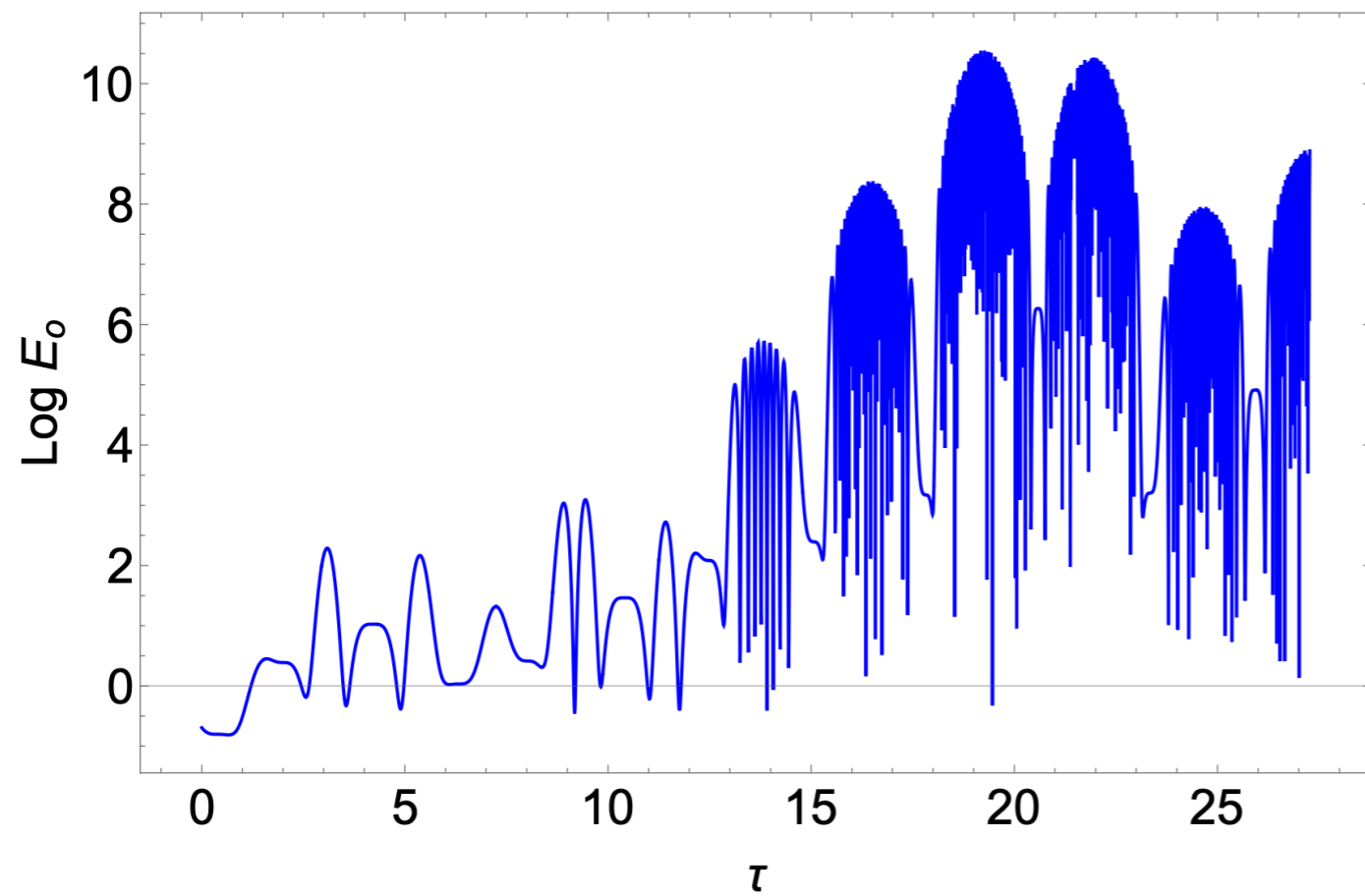


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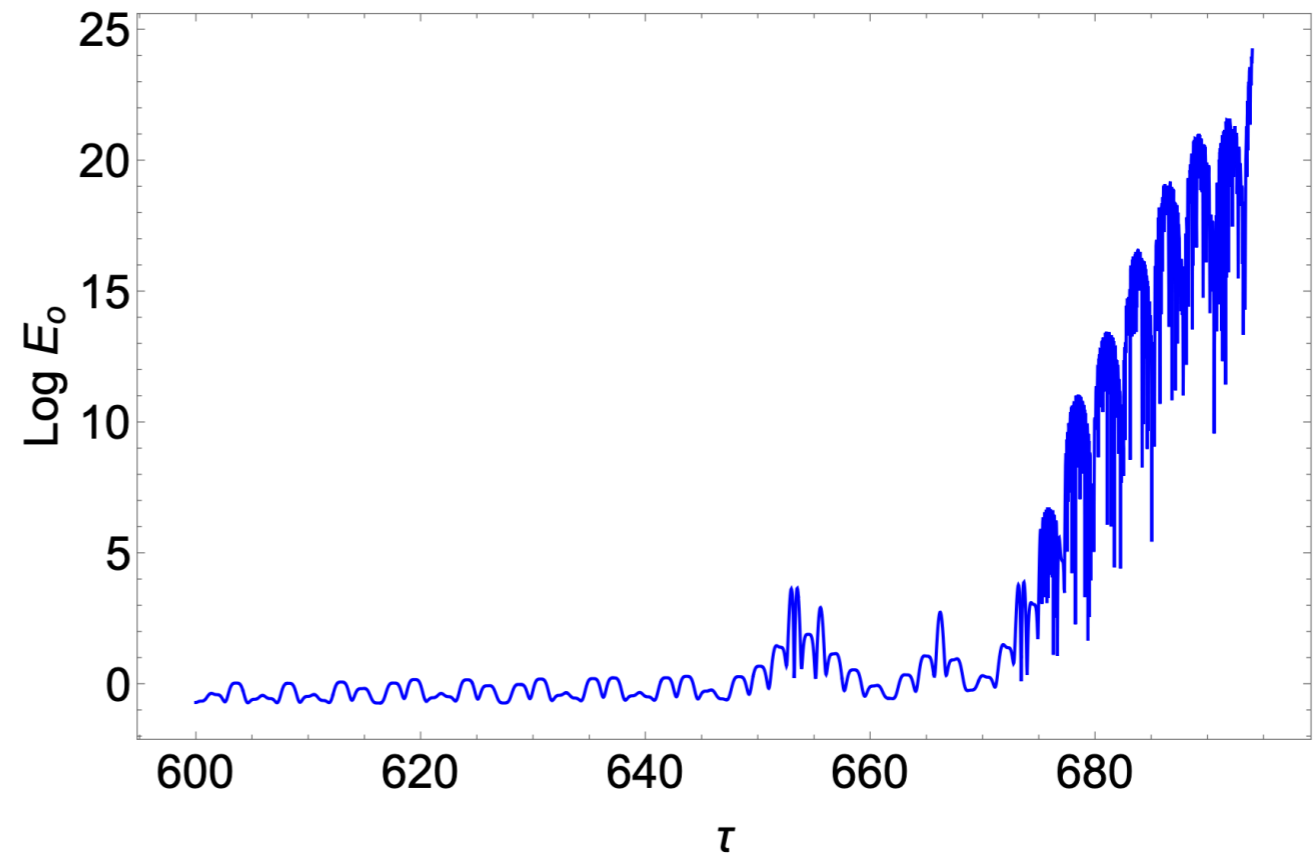


Figure 3: The growth of the logarithm of the energy of the observer is depicted for $\lambda = 2.35$, $\omega = 2.3$ and vacuum initial data (8) and (9). Here we see that the instability arises only much later after around a 100 of the periods of oscillation for the observer.

Our Stable PRL Model

Hamiltonian

$$H = \frac{1}{2}(p_x^2 + x^2) - \frac{1}{2}(p_y^2 + y^2) + V_I(x, y)$$

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Interaction Potential

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Coupling Constant

Interaction is bounded $0 < V_I(x, y) \lambda^{-1} \leq 1$

Potential

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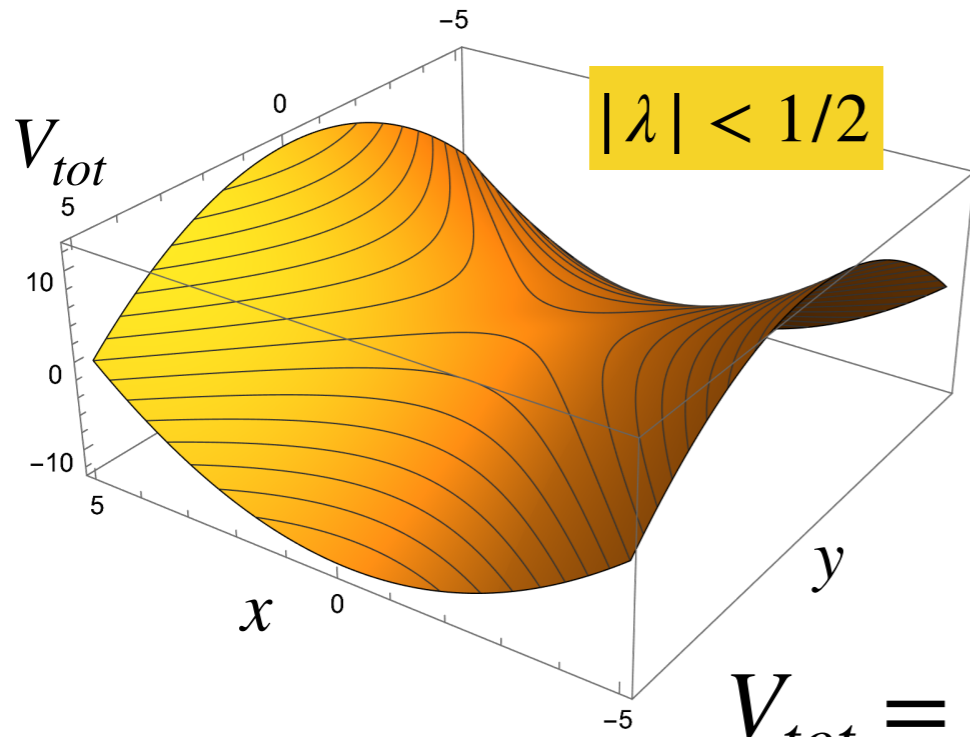
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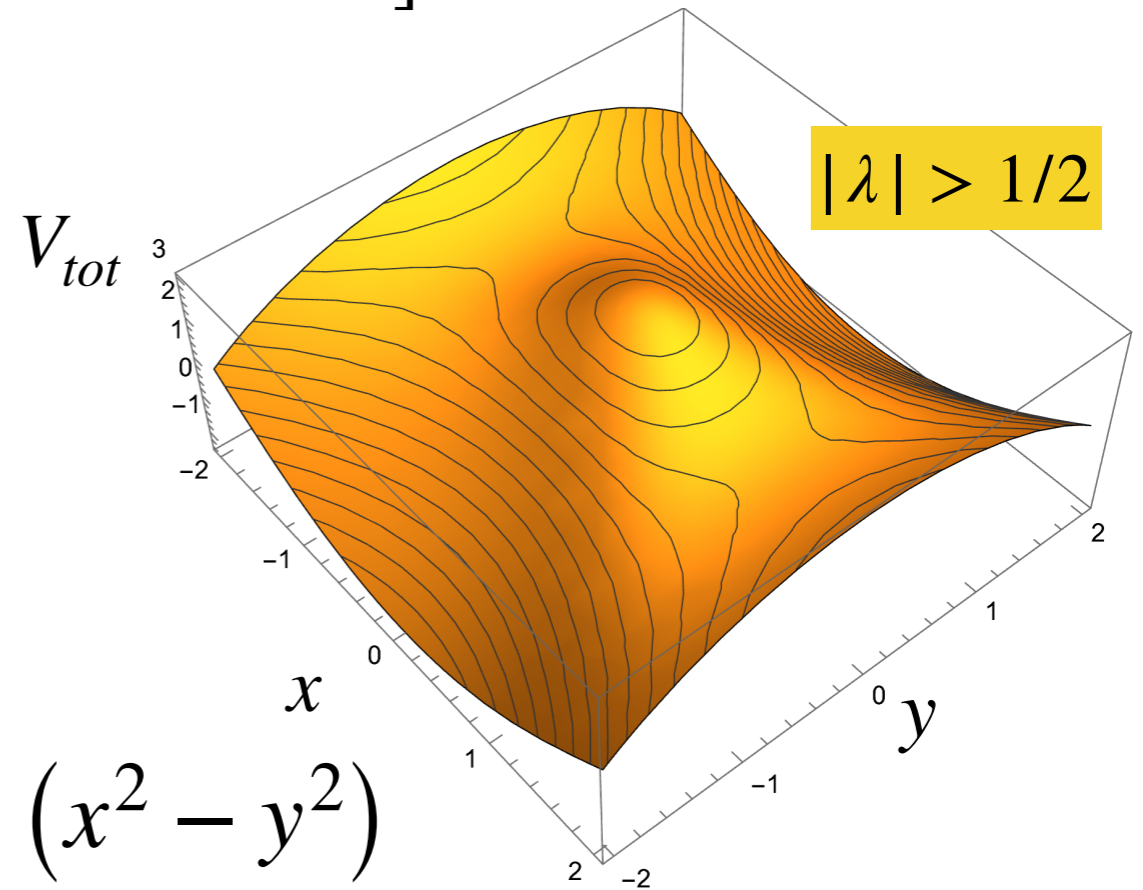
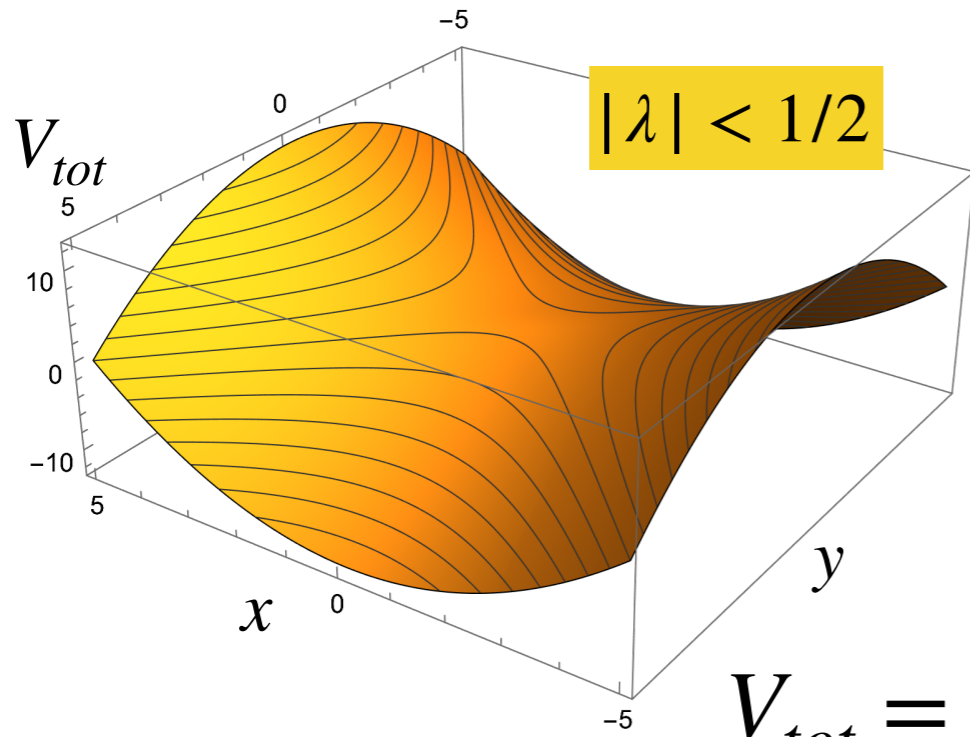
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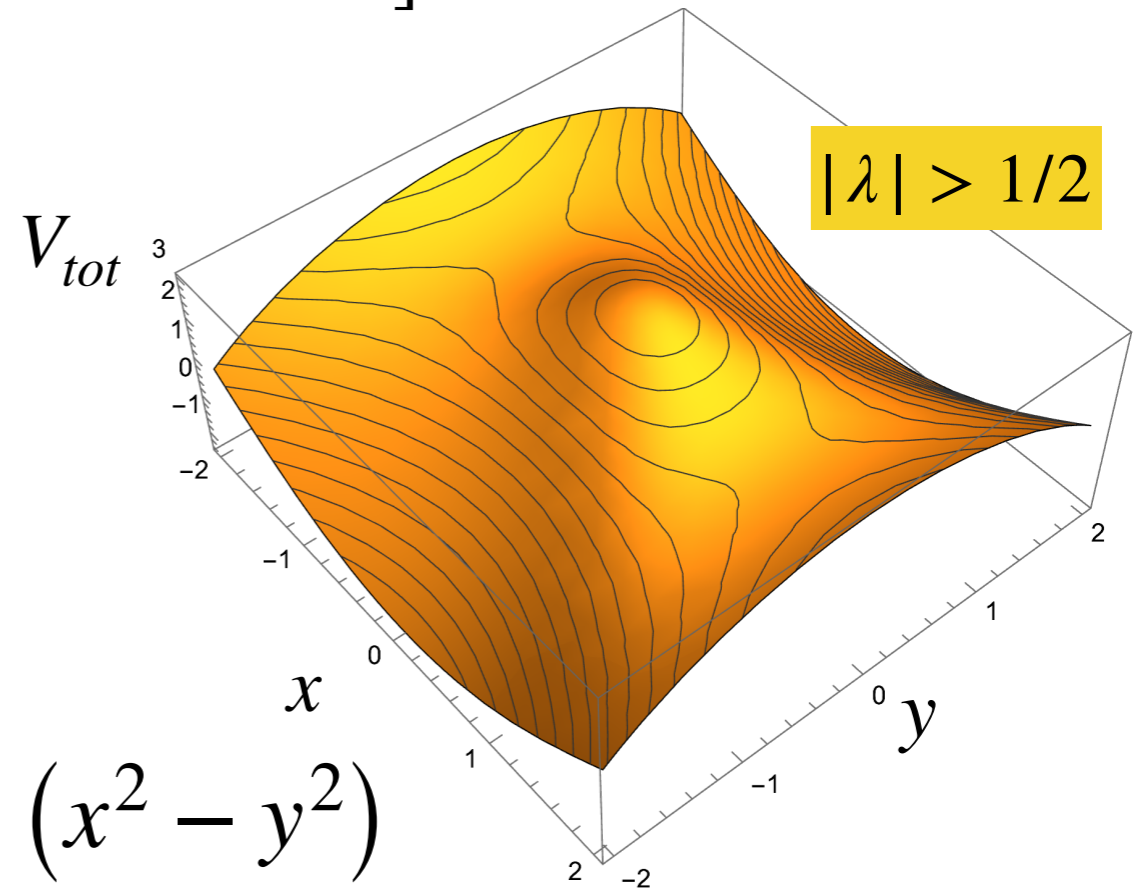
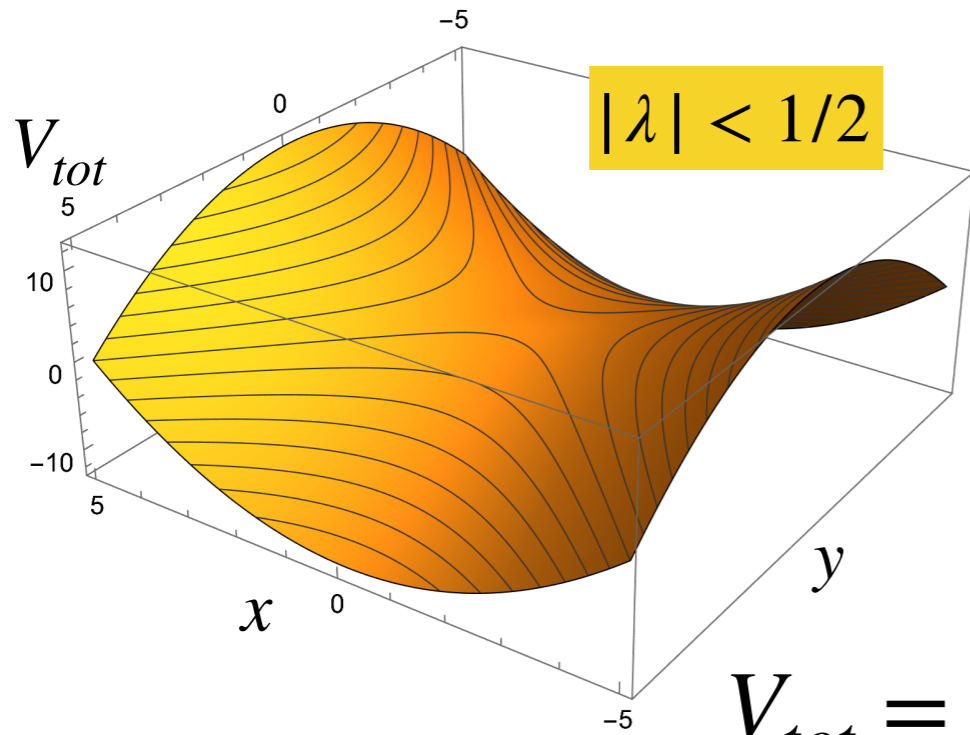
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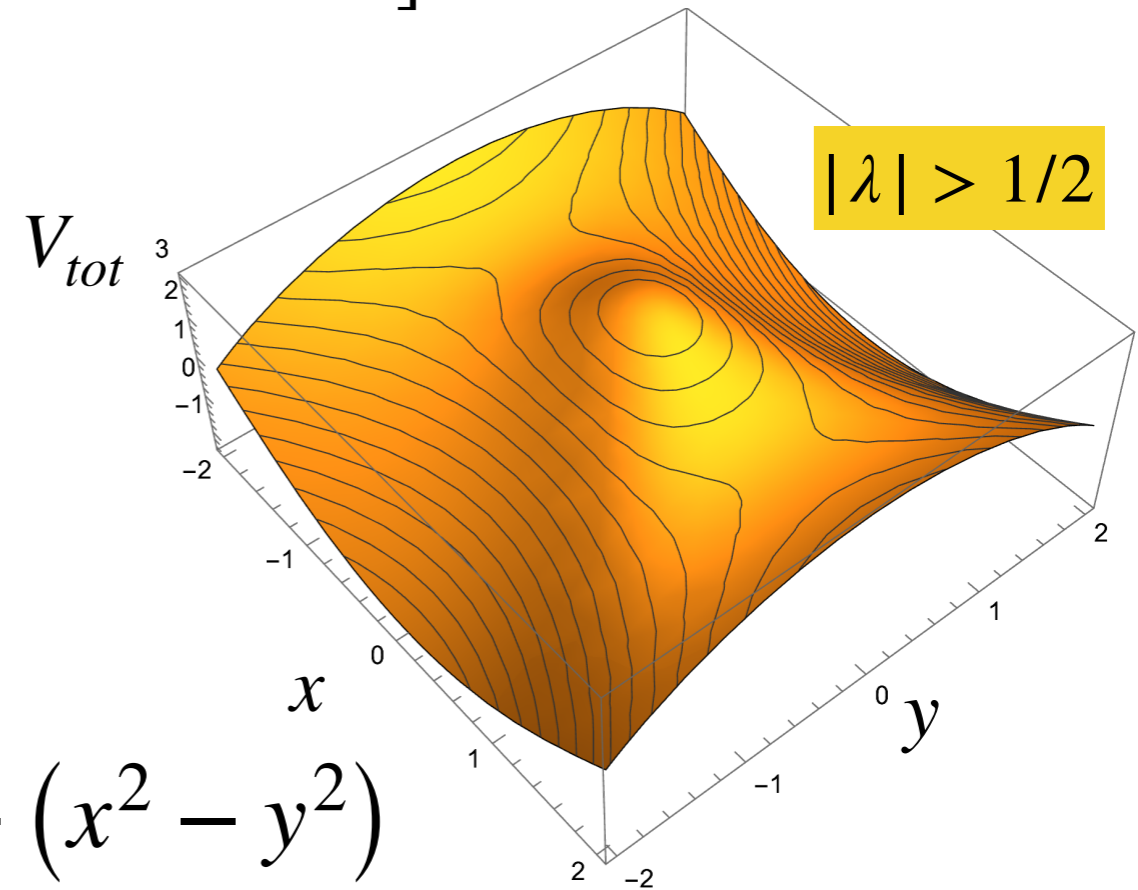
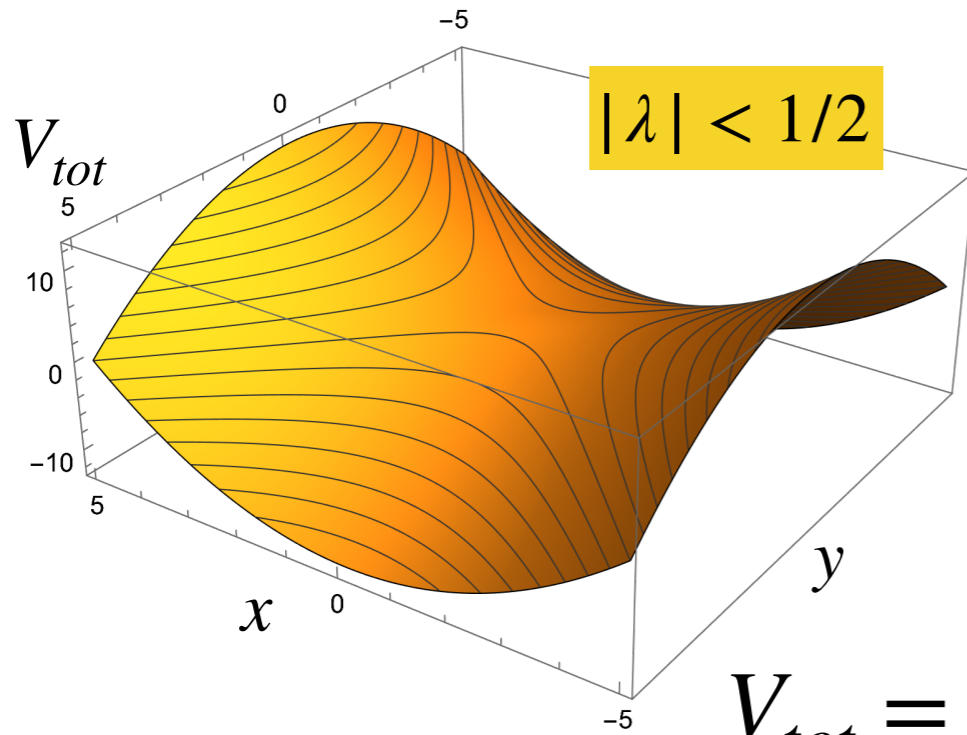


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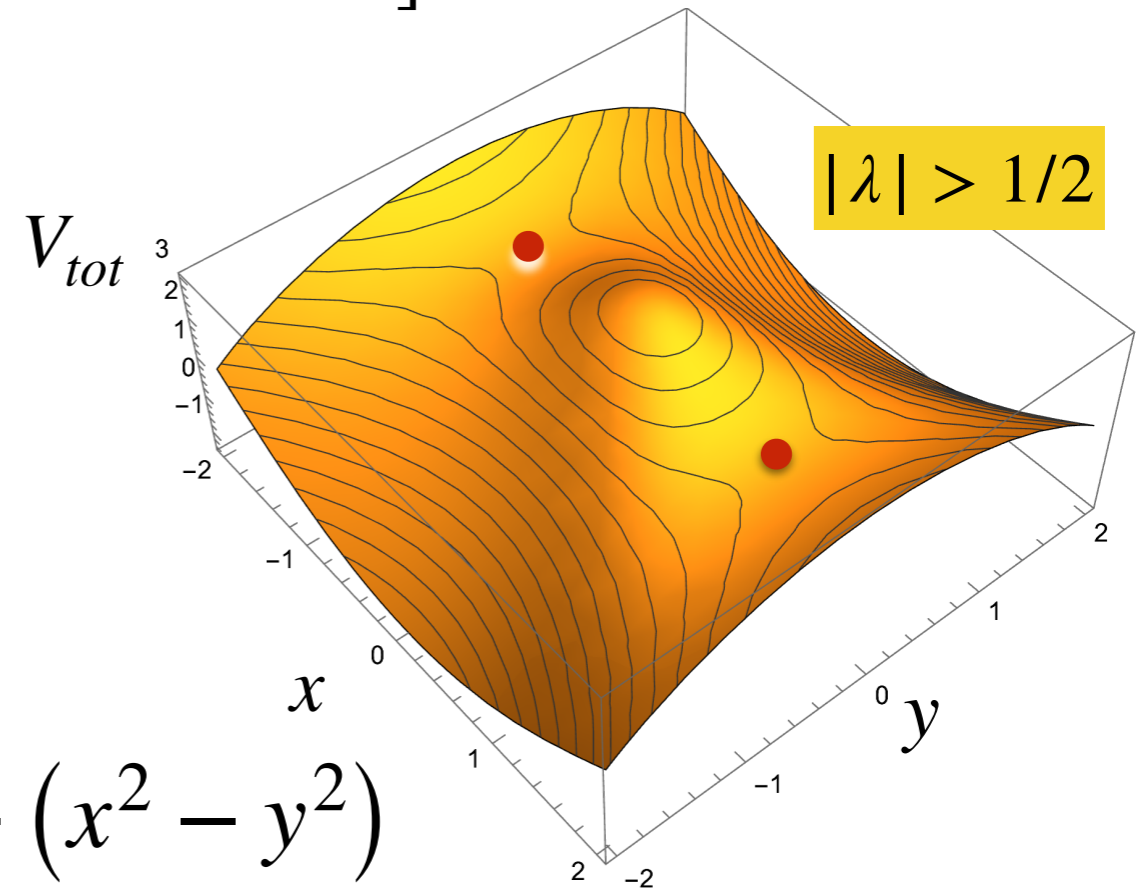
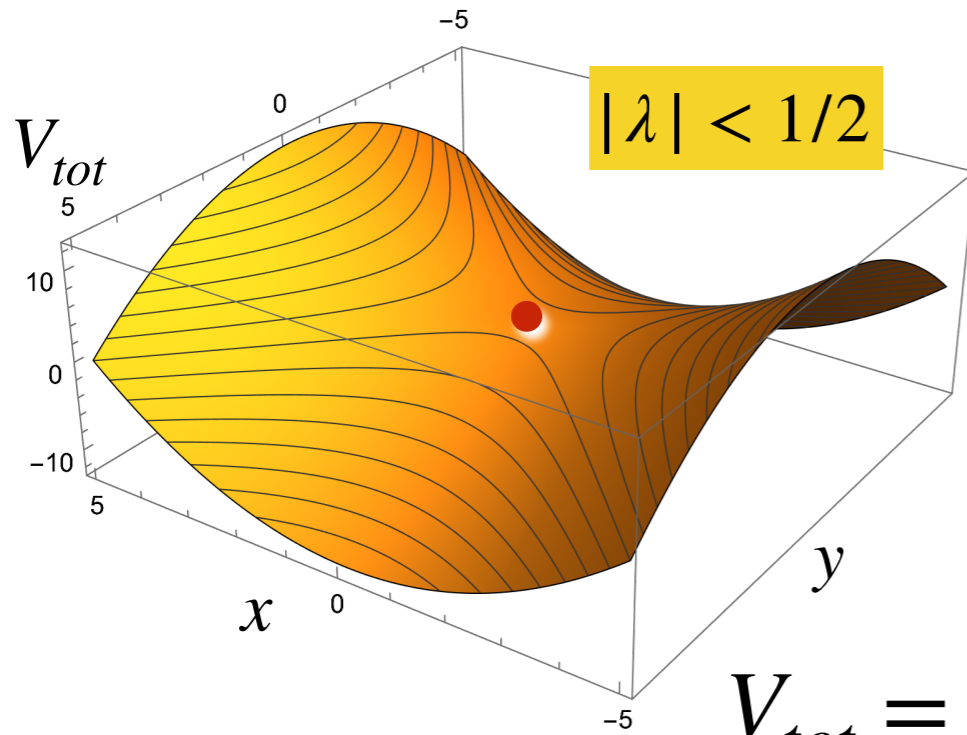
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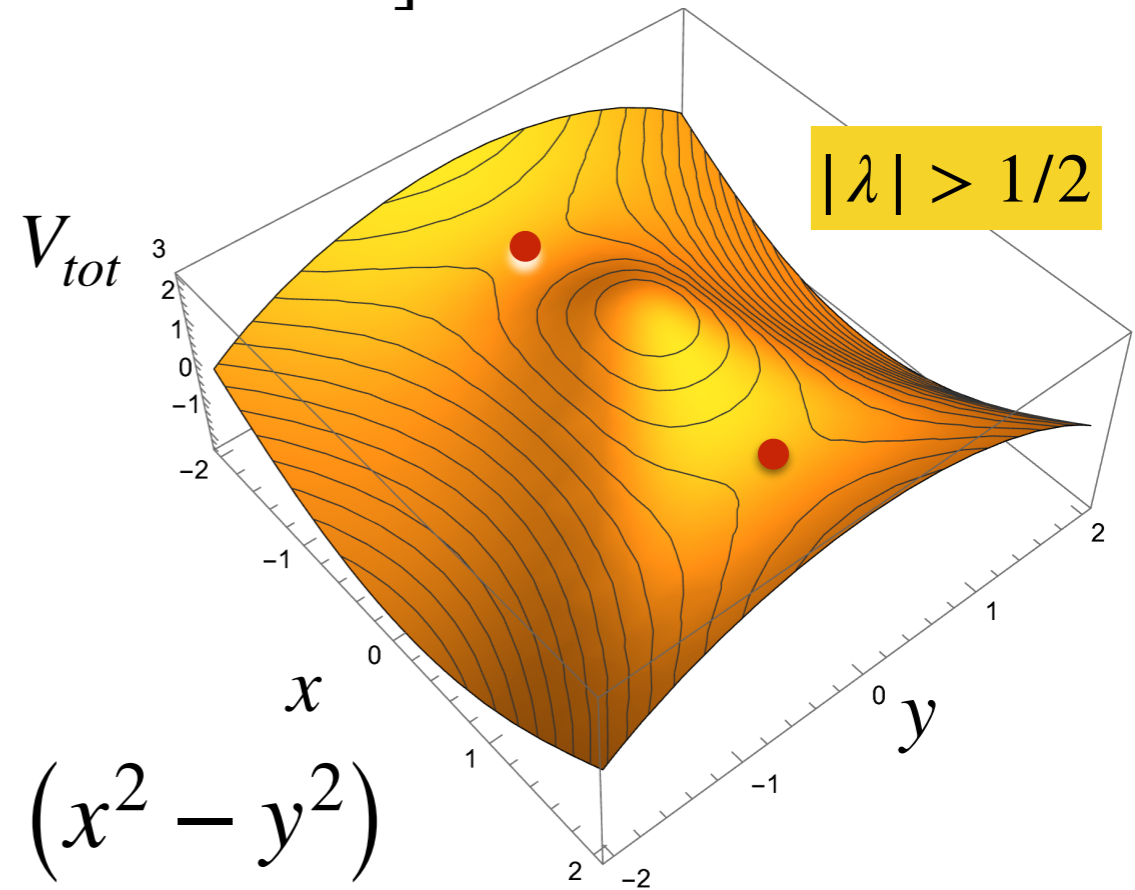
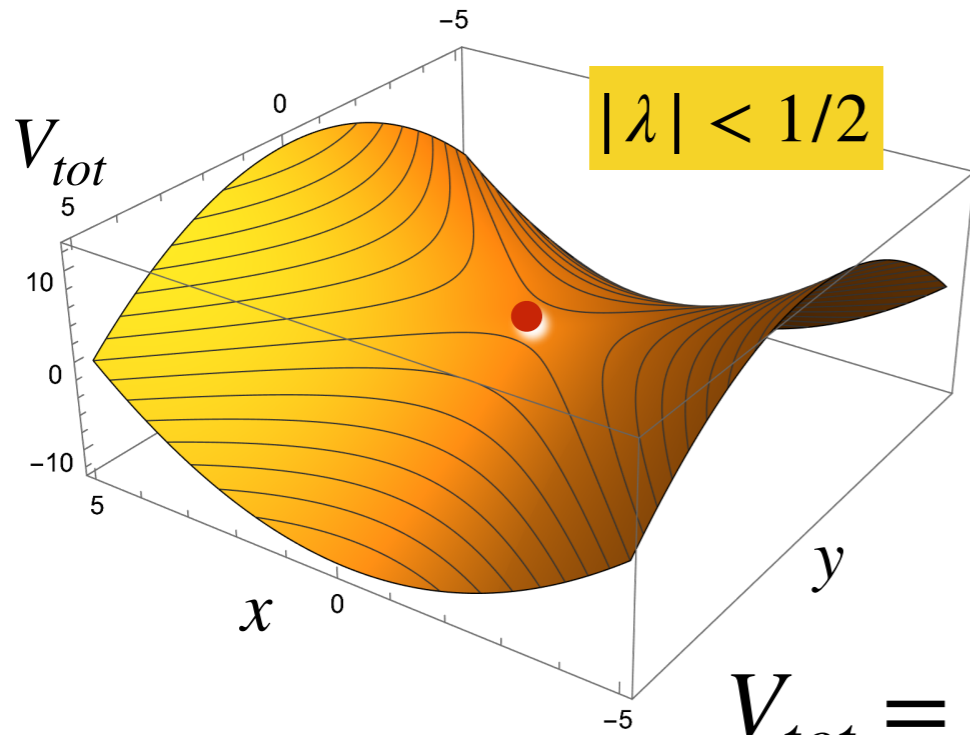
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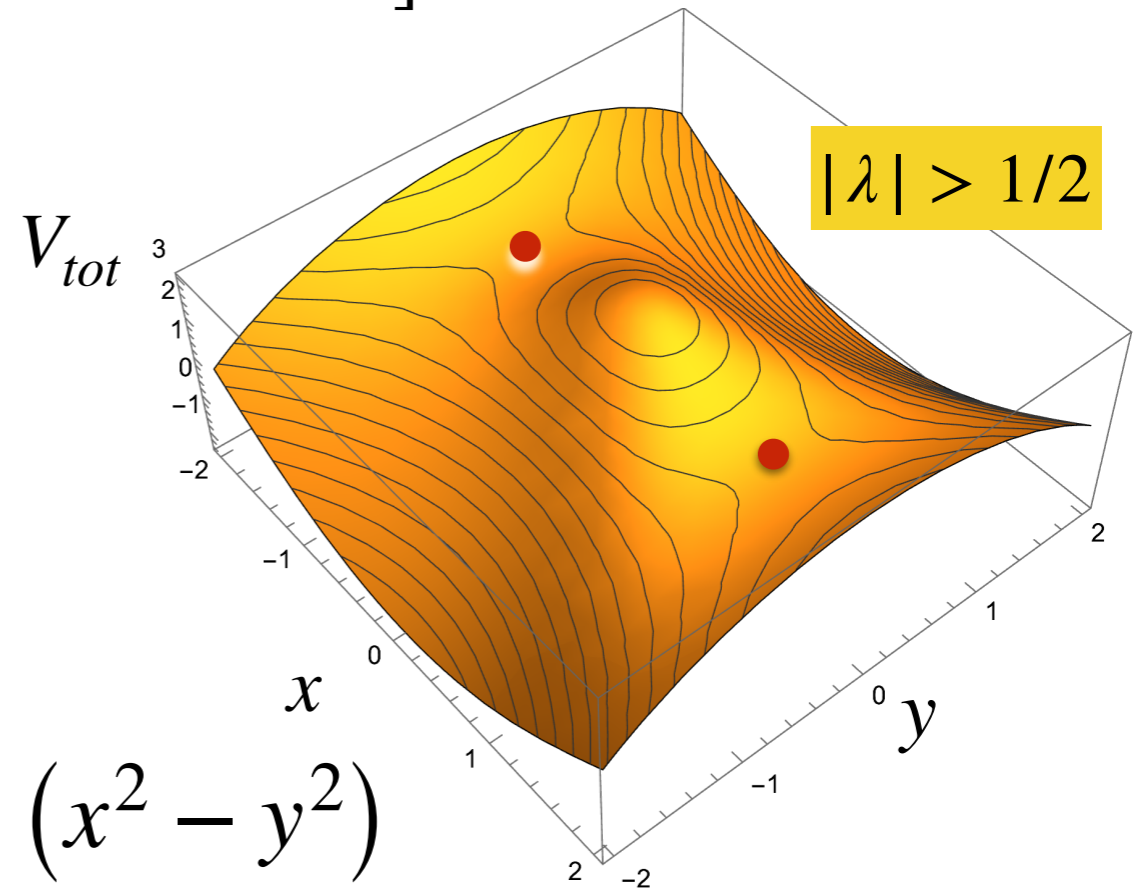
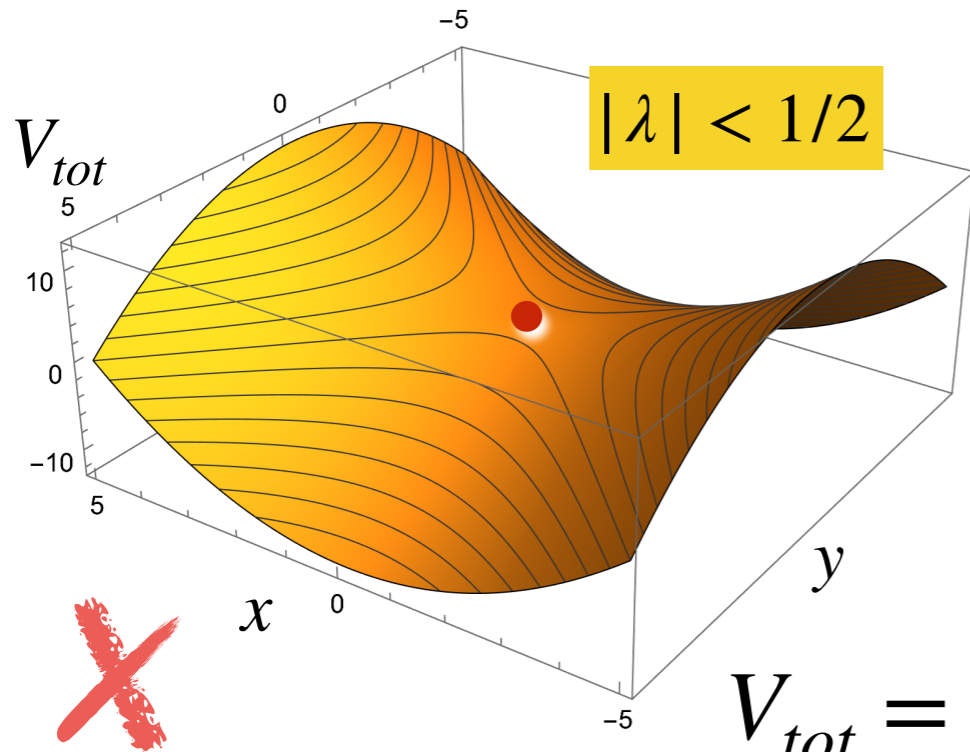
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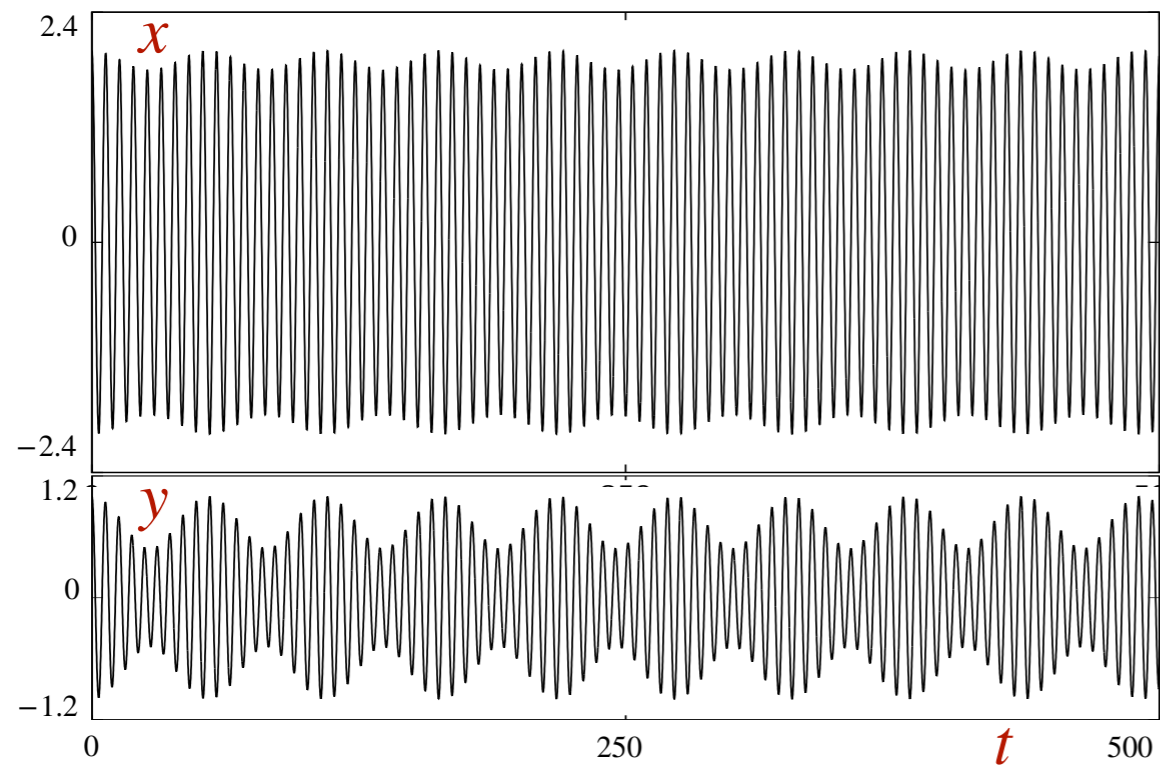
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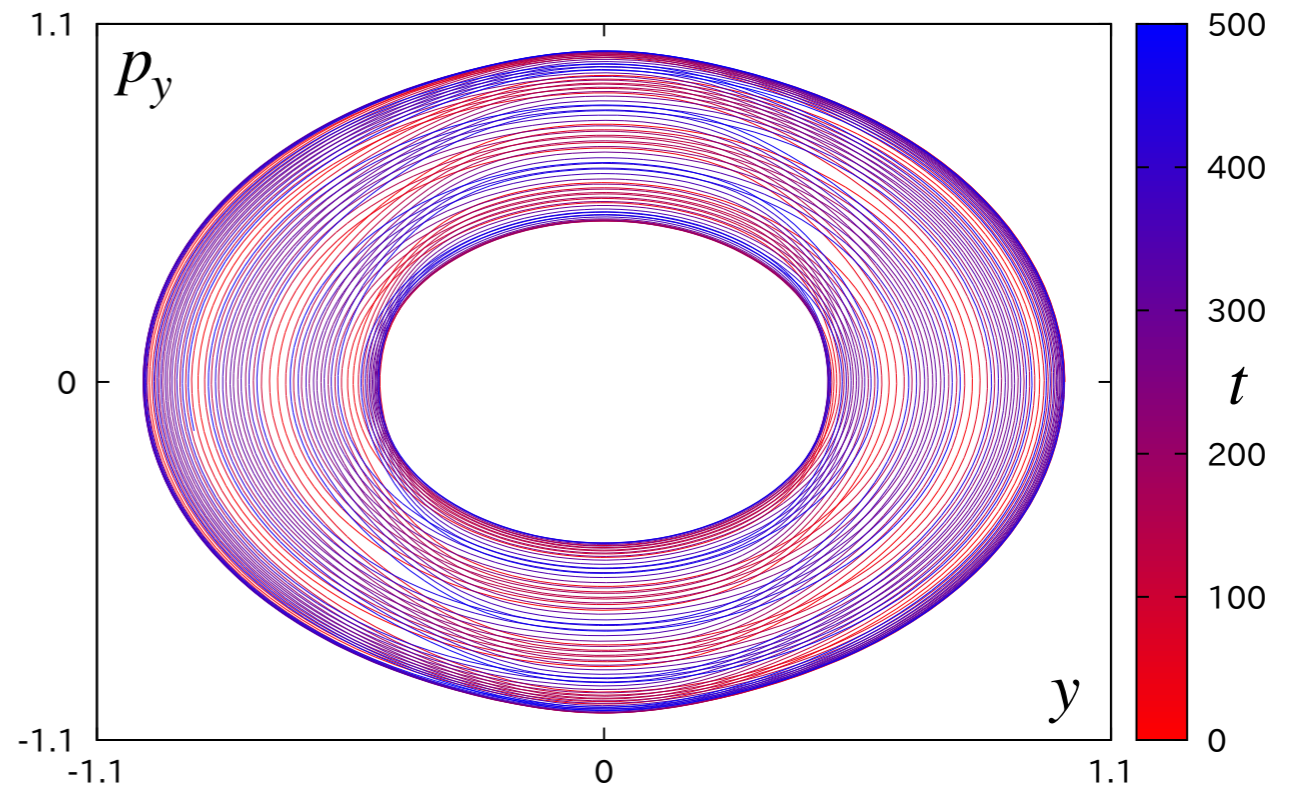
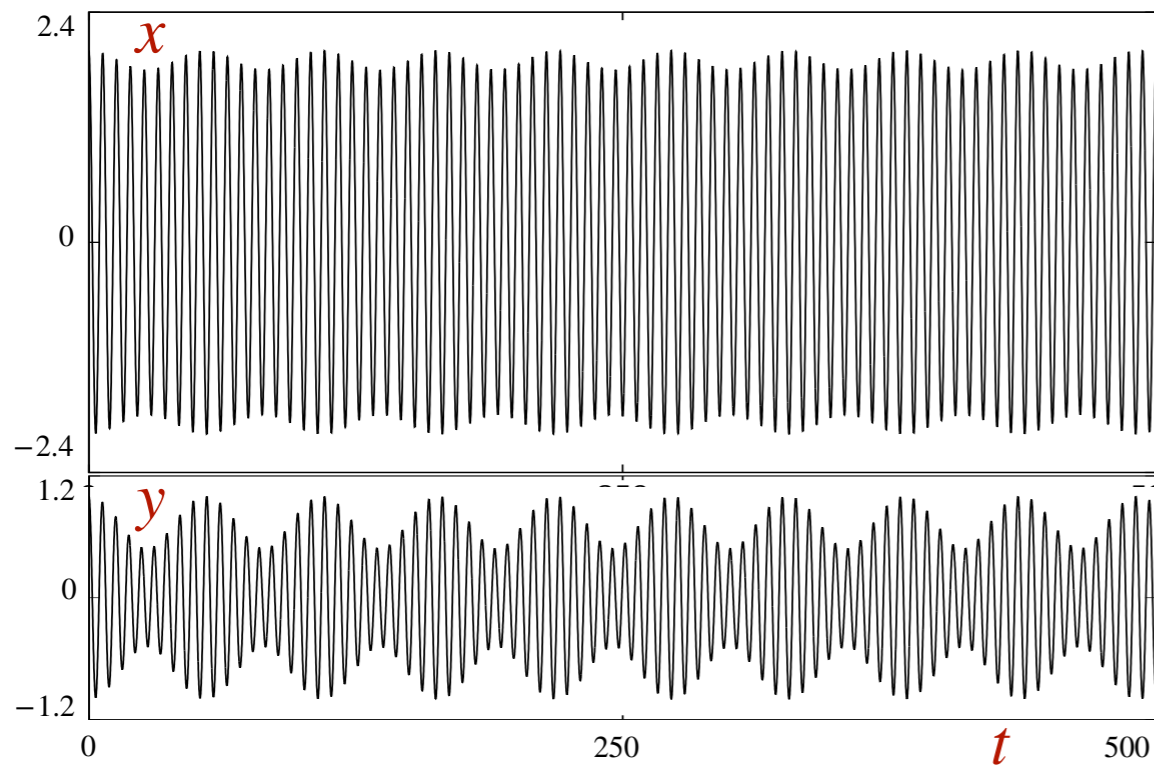
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Numerical Solutions

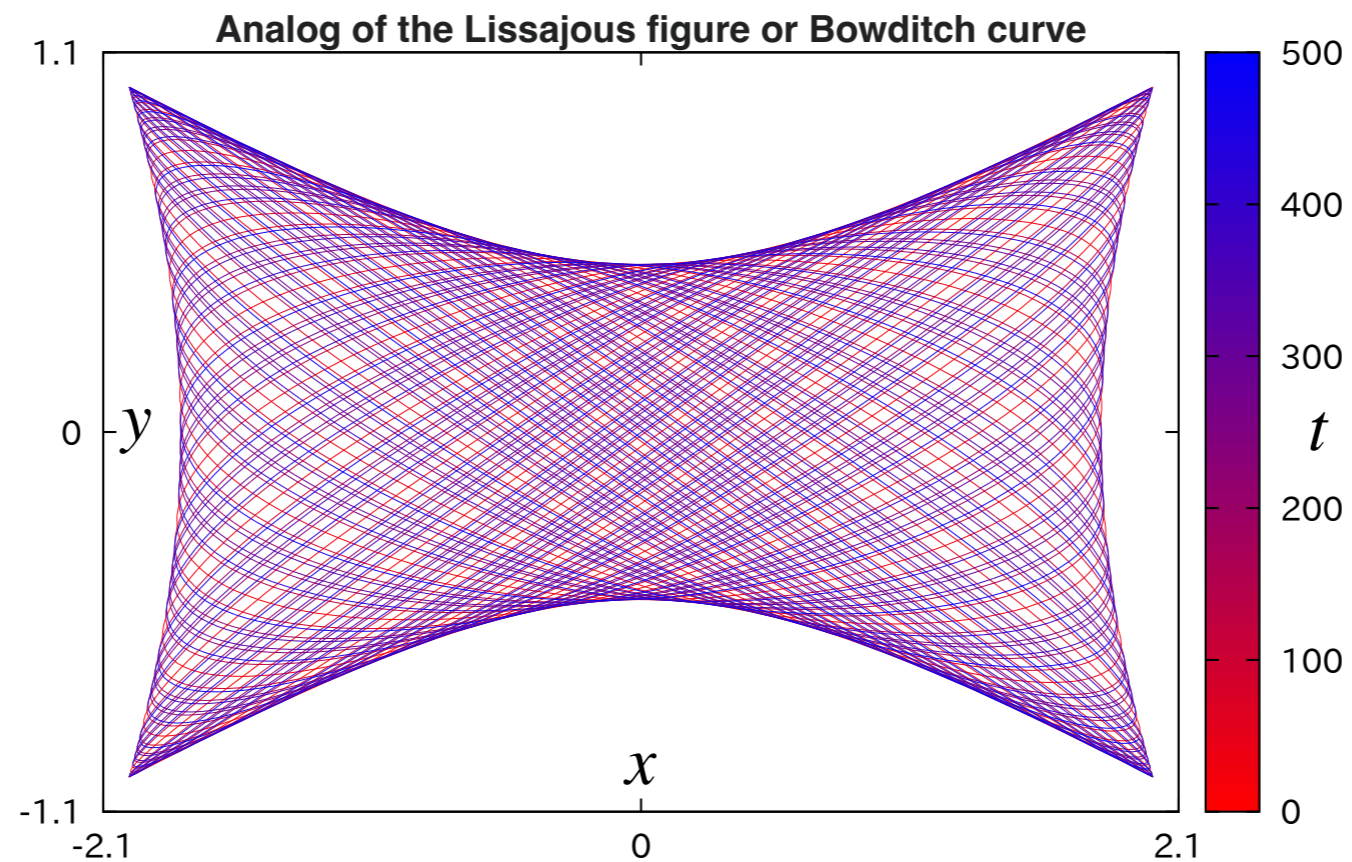
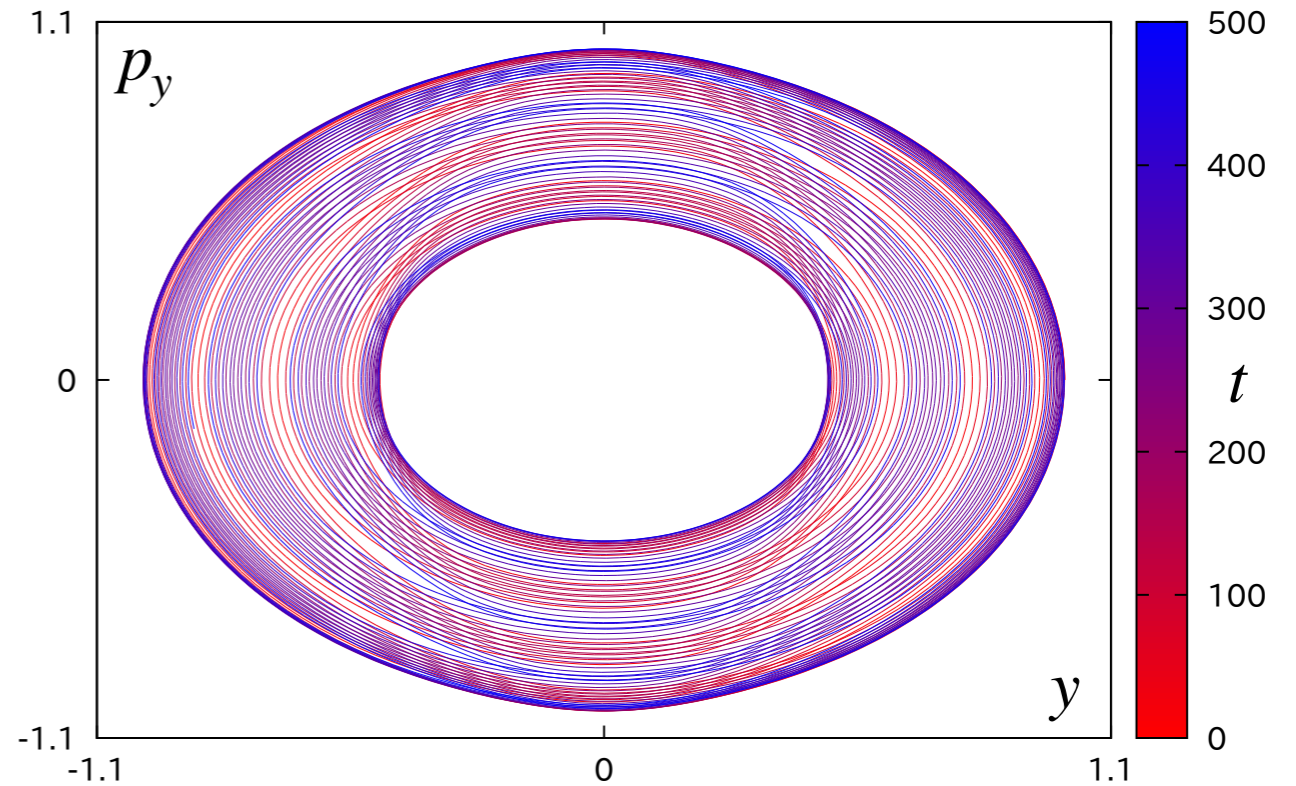
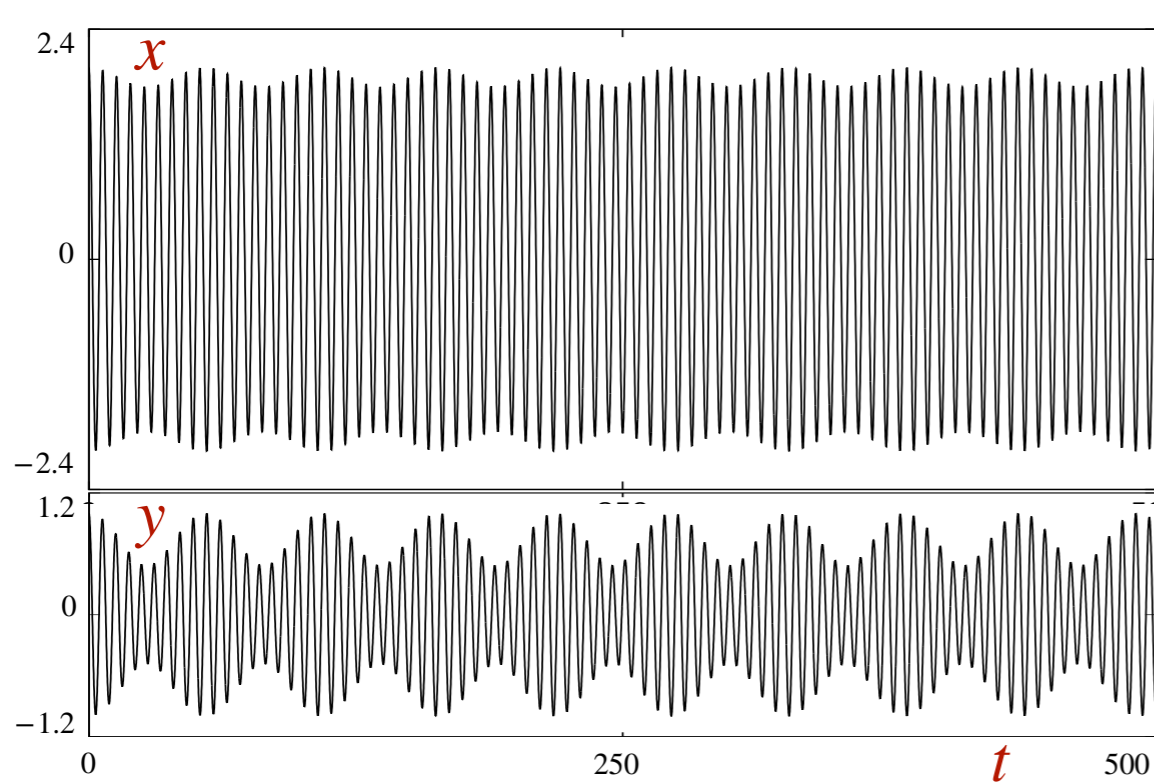
Numerical Solutions



Numerical Solutions



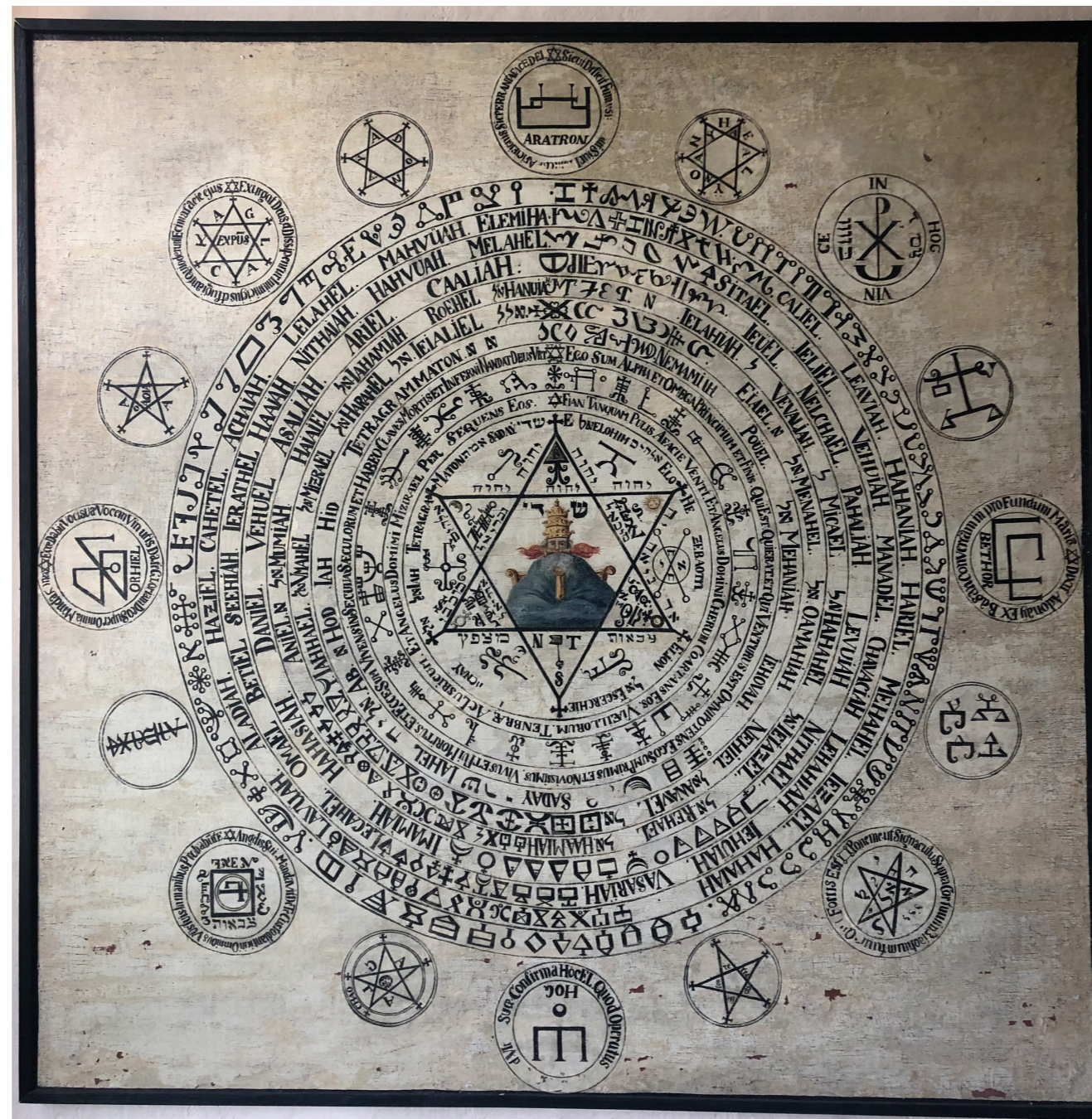
Numerical Solutions



Why is it stable?

Why is it stable?

What is the black magic?



First Integral and the Power of Imagination

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$$C = K^2 + (p_x^2 + x^2) - (x^2 - y^2 - 1) V_I(x, y)$$

generator for hyperbolic rotations $K = p_y x + p_x y$

$$\frac{dC}{dt} = 0$$

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One can obtain our system via complex canonical

transformation $y = i\tilde{y}$, and $p_y = -i\tilde{p}_y$

(so that $[y, p_y] = [\tilde{y}, \tilde{p}_y] = 1$ etc.)

from a ghost-free integrable system introduced by

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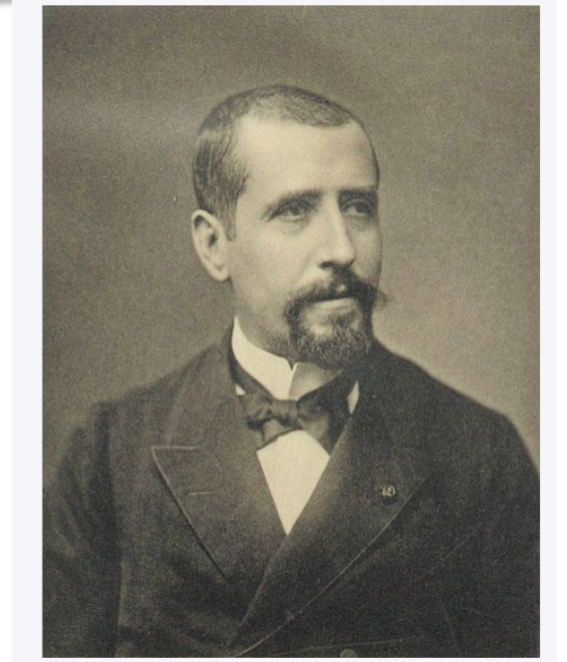
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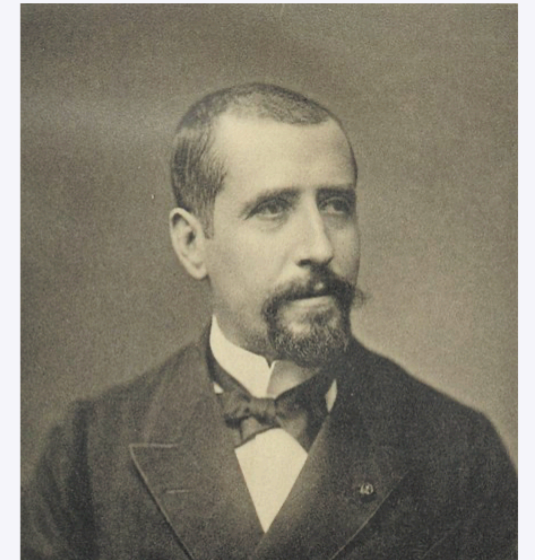
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FAS MIF FRS FRSE

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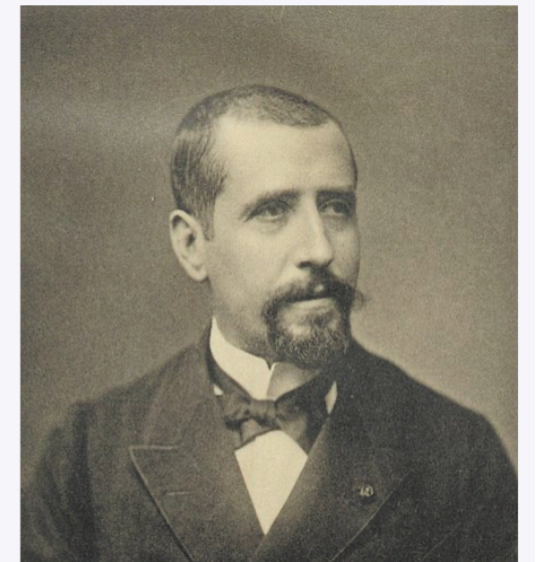
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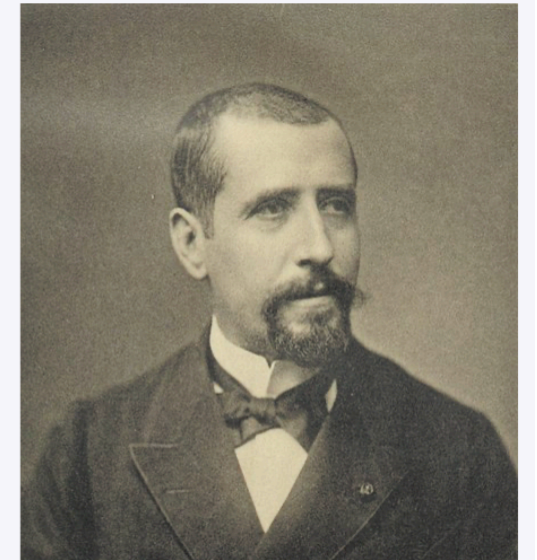
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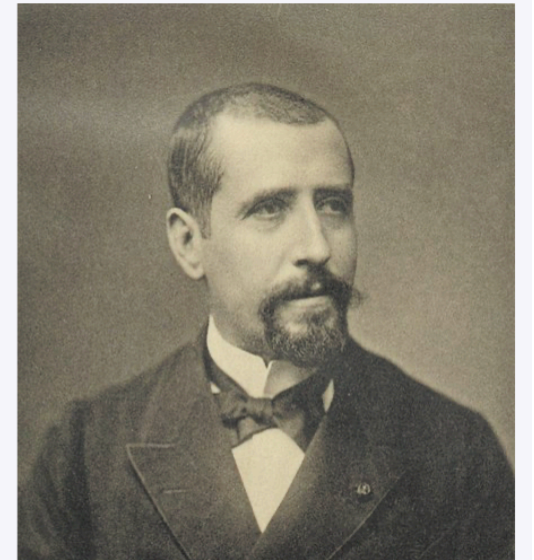
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from a ghost-free integrable system introduced by

Darboux in 1901



Jean-Gaston Darboux
FAS MIF FRS FRSE



Joseph Liouville
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First Integral and the Power of Imagination

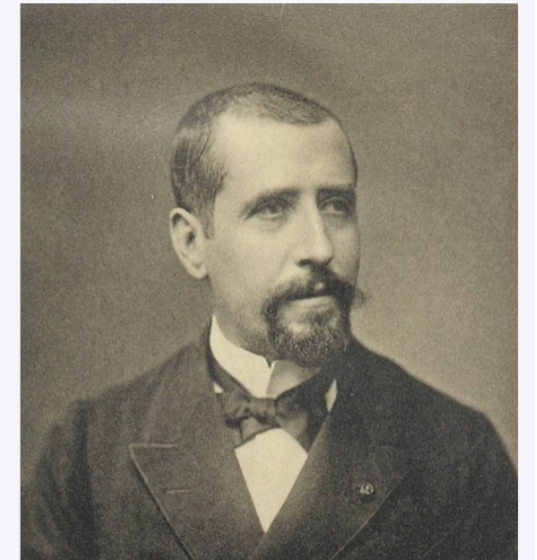
$$C = K^2 + (p_x^2 + x^2) - (x^2 - y^2 - 1) V_I(x, y)$$

generator for hyperbolic rotations $K = p_y x + p_x y$

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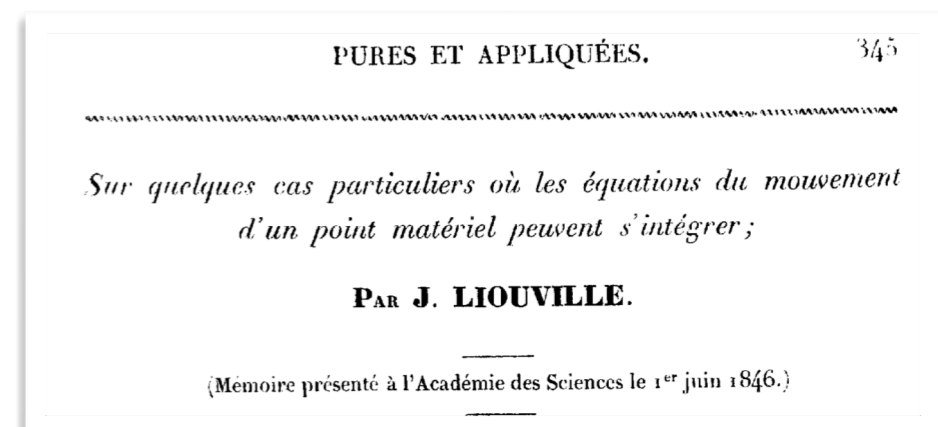
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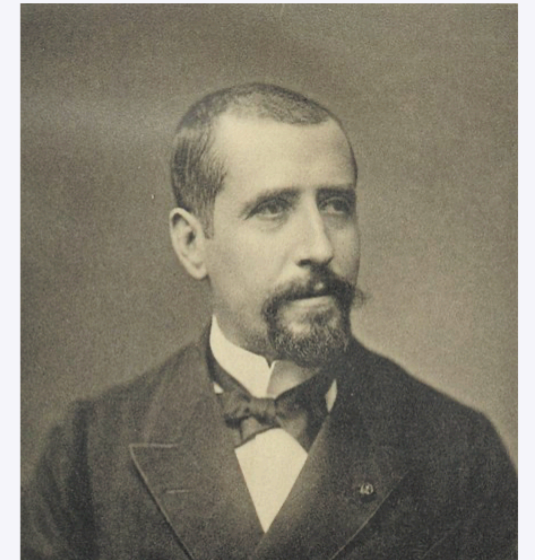
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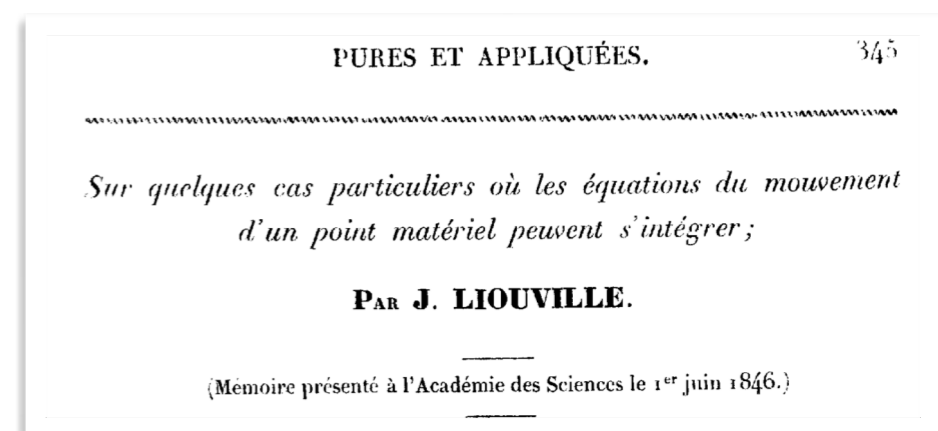
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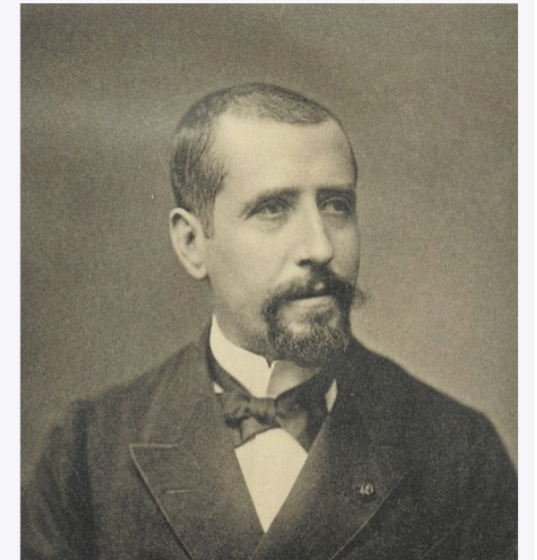
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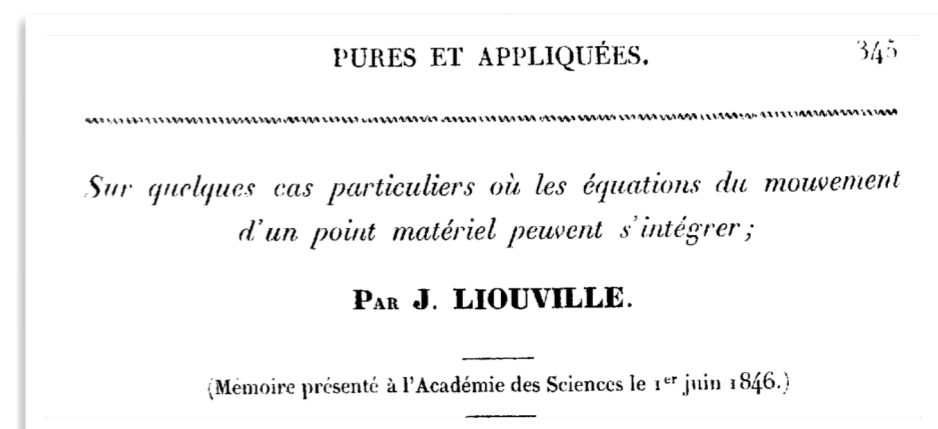
Is there any symmetry behind this conserved quantity C ?



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Another First Integral: \mathcal{E}

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for all times $\Sigma - |\lambda| \leq \mathcal{E} \leq \Sigma + |\lambda|$

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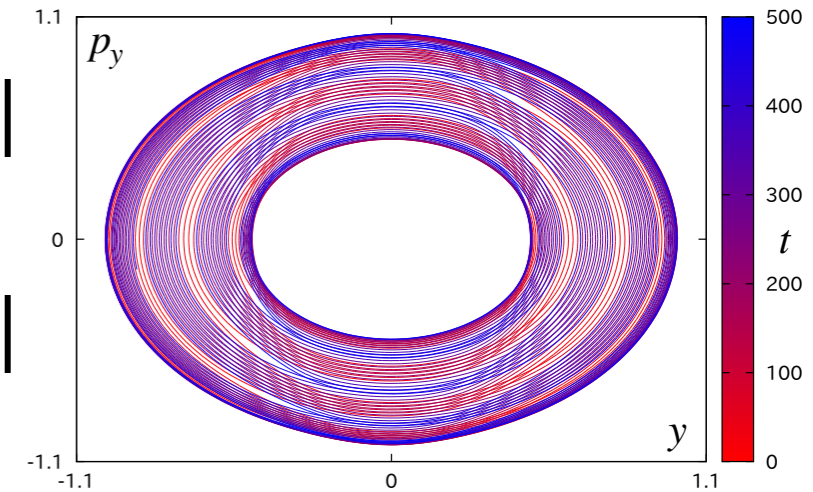
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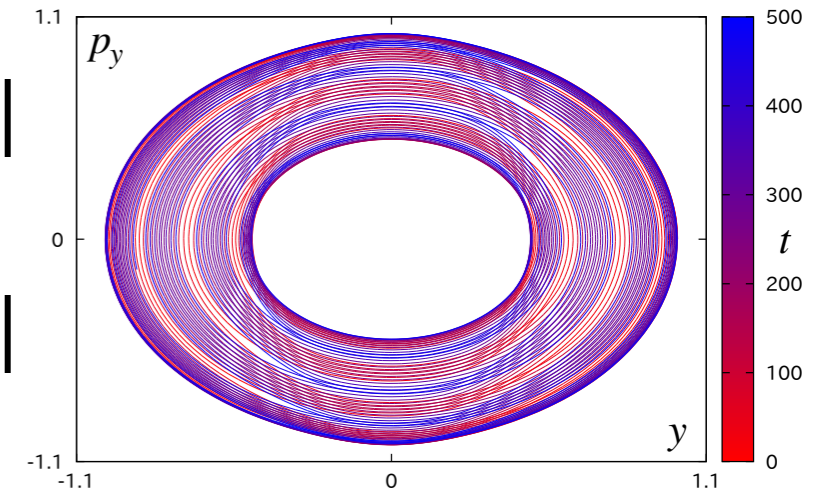
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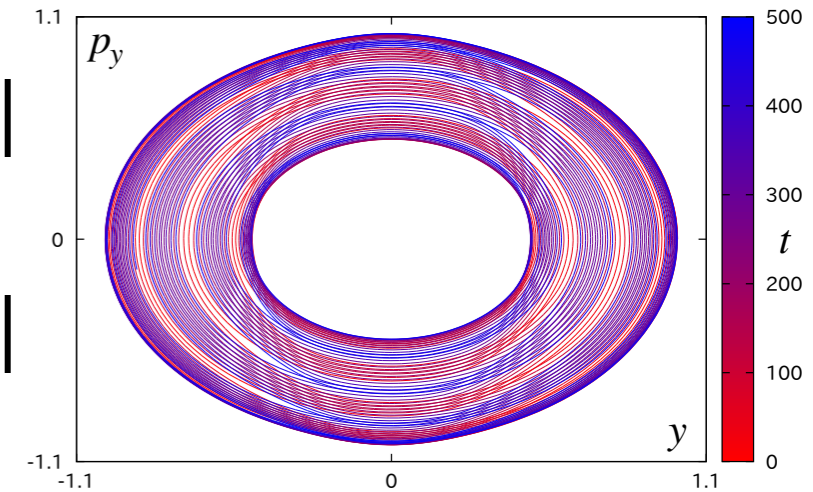
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**System always evolves in a finite region
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Lyapunov Stability

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Aleksandr Mikhailovich Lyapunov

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Doctoral dissertation, Kharkov U. 1892

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\mathcal{E} is a Lyapunov function

so that the system is stable at the origin for $|\lambda| < 1/2$

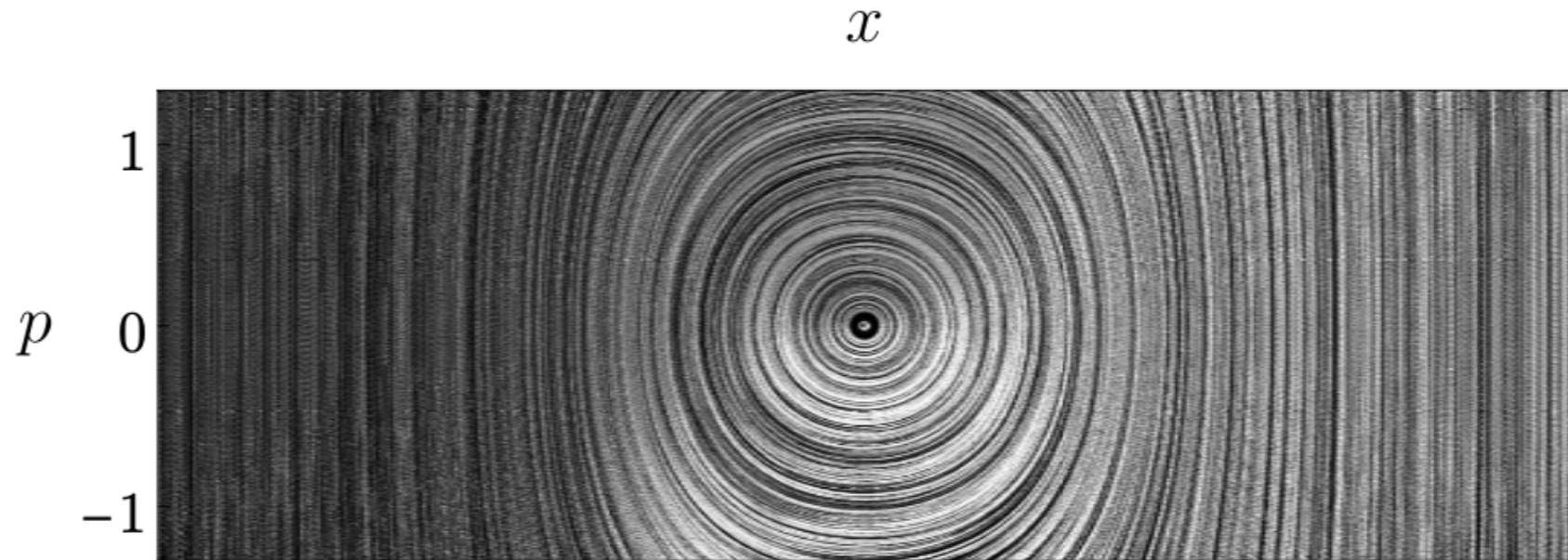


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Does “imagination” matter for stability?

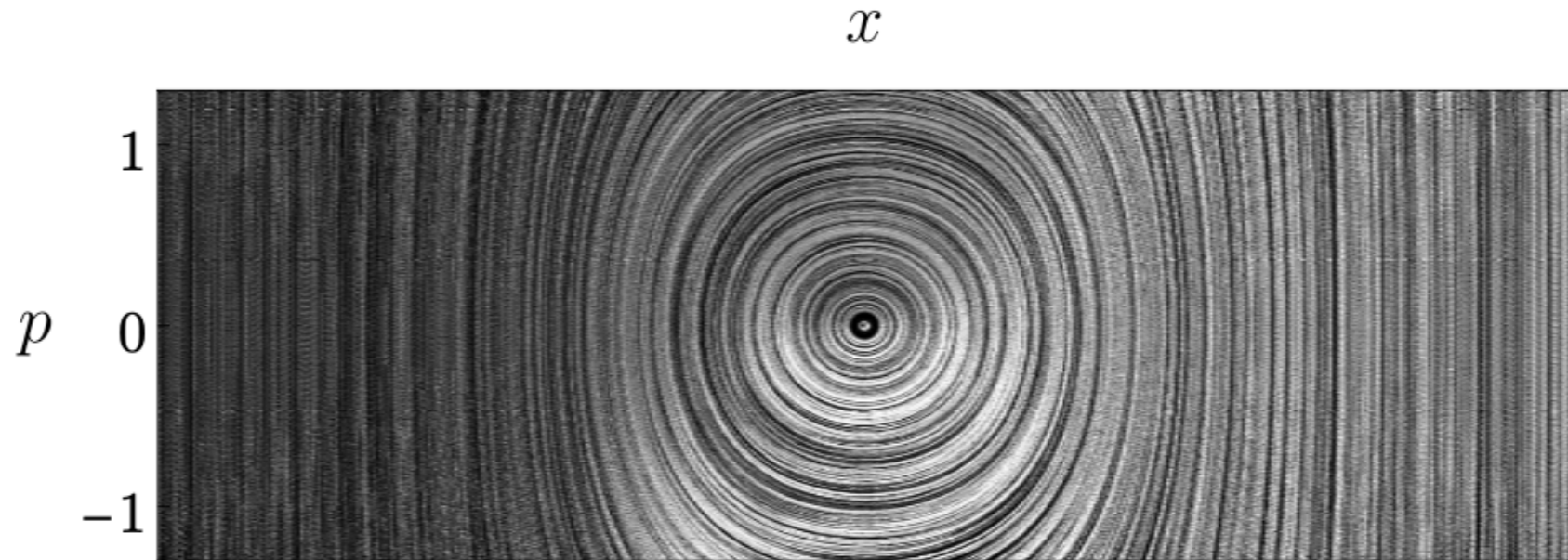
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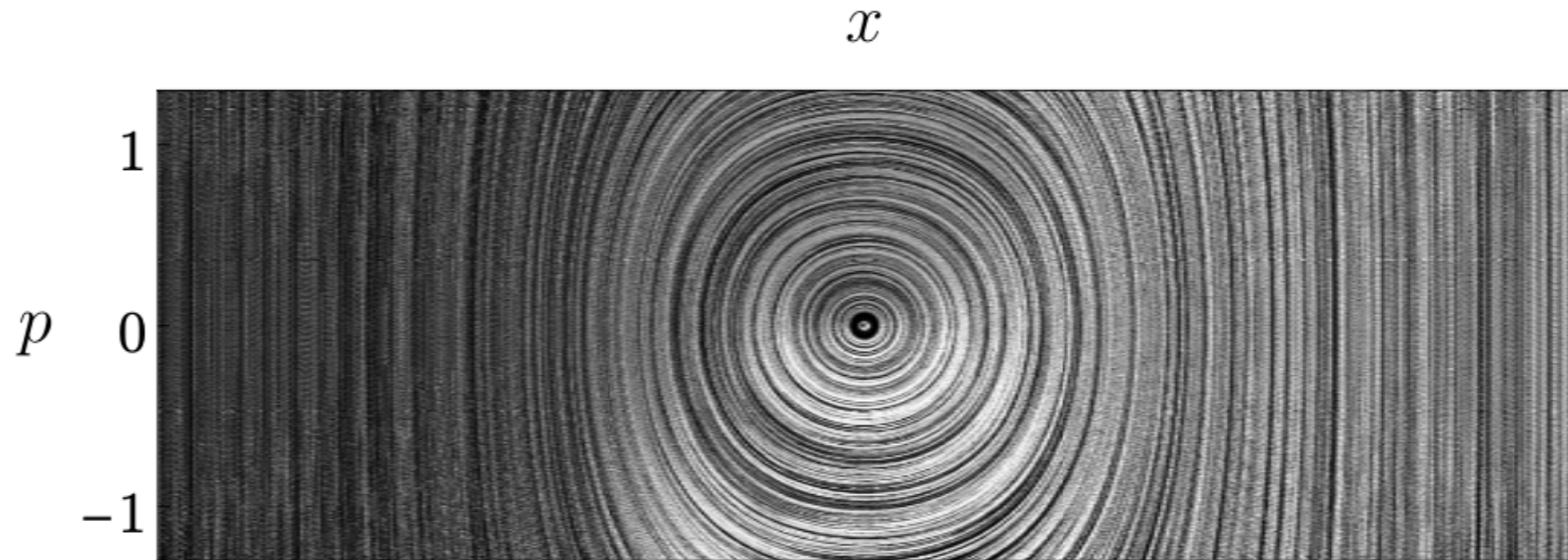
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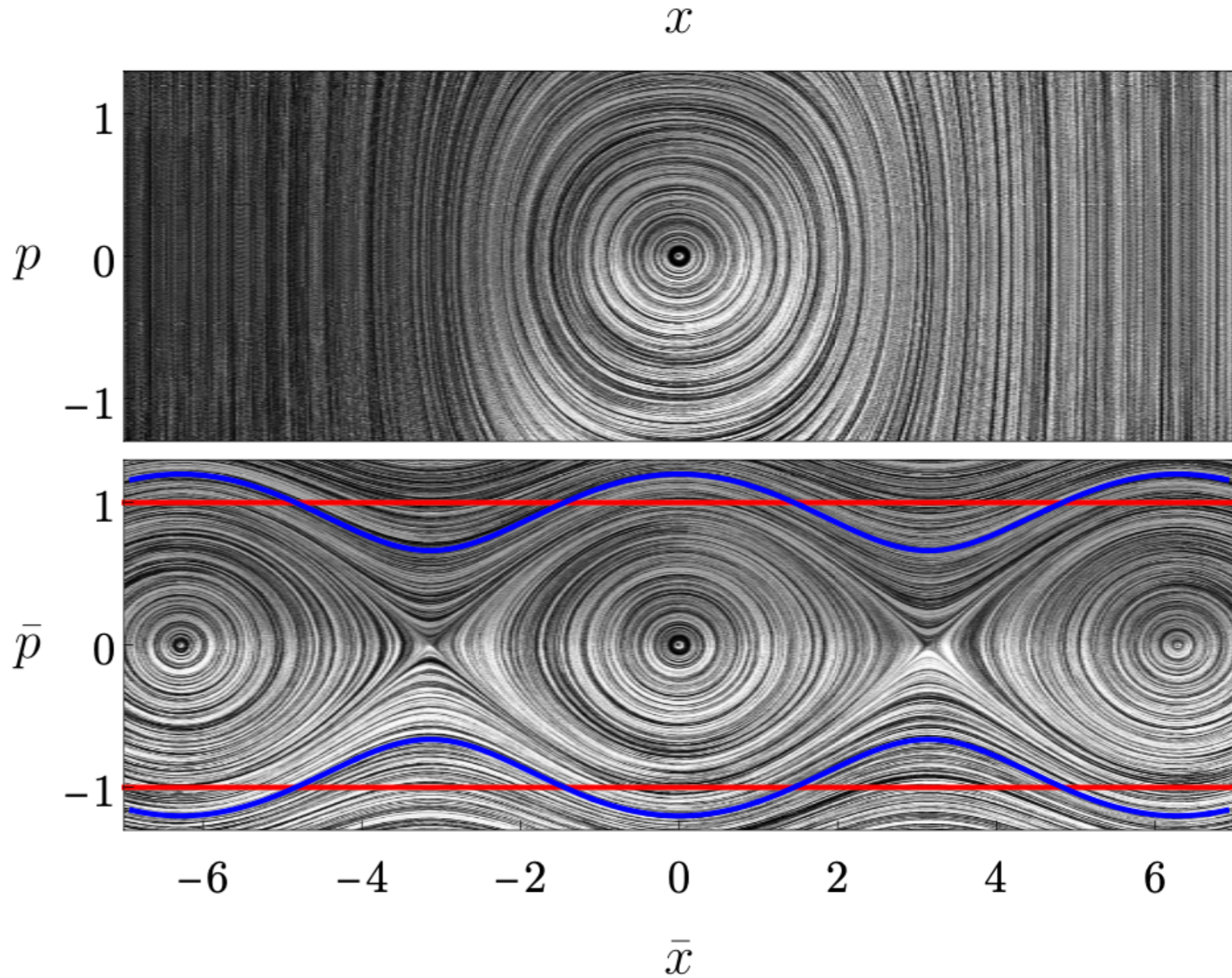
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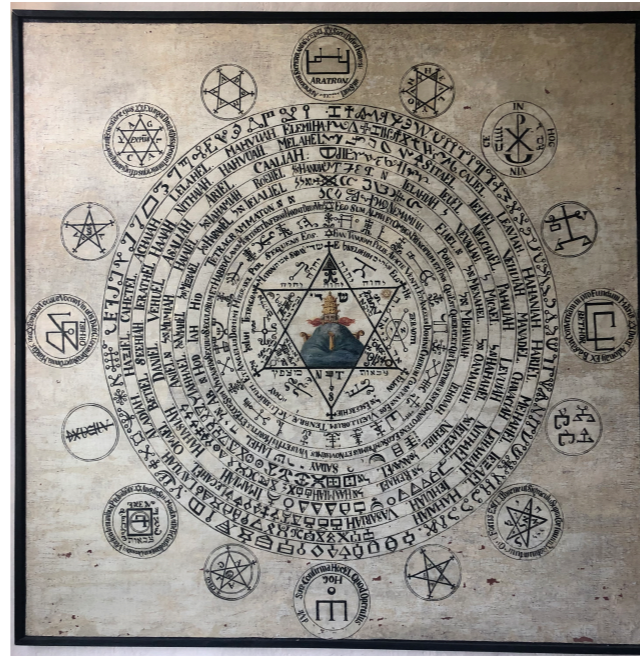
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Condition for stability:

- $c > 0$
- $f(u)$ and $g(v)$ are bounded from below
- $f(u) \geq F_0 |u|^\zeta > 0$
 $g(v) \geq G_0 |v|^\eta > 0$
with $\zeta > 2$ and $\eta > 2$

What is the black magic?



What is the black magic?



Another first Integral

What is the black magic?



Another first Integral

$$J_{LV} = \left(xp_y + yp_x \right)^2 + \frac{c}{2} \left(p_x^2 + p_y^2 \right) + \mathcal{U}$$

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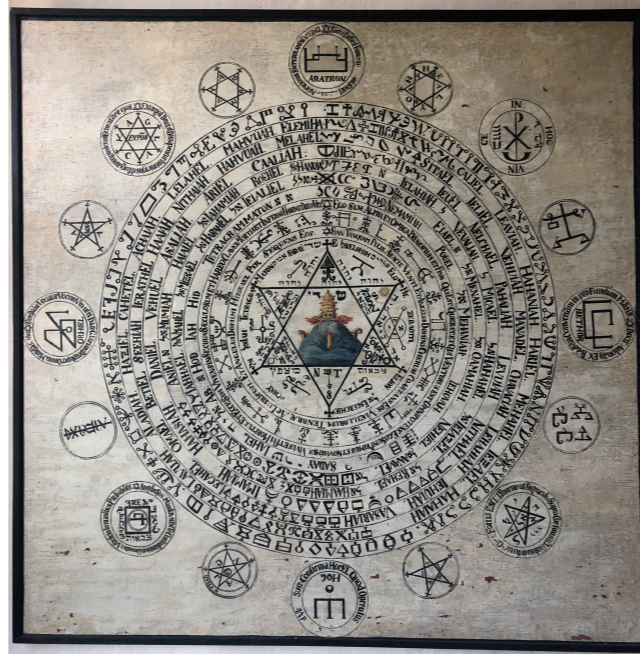
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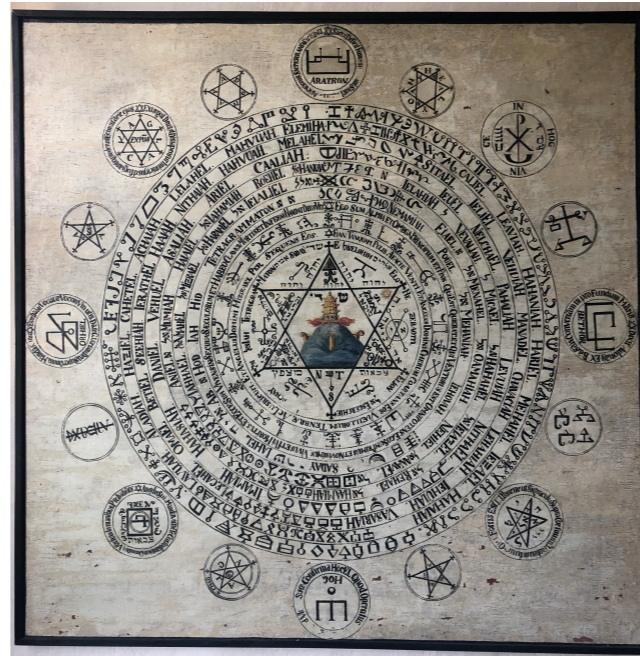
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“Positive Definite Kinetic Energy”

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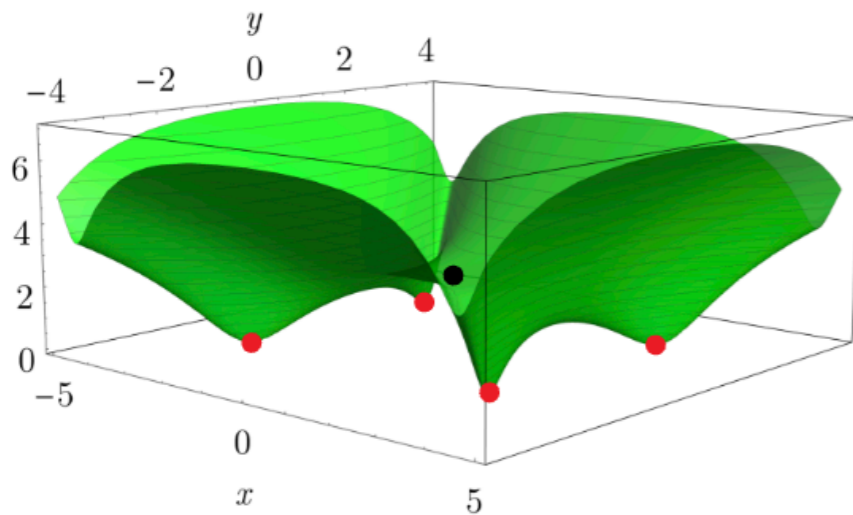
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Stable ghost with Polynomial Interaction

$$V_{LV}^{(4)}(x, y) = \frac{\omega_x^2}{2}x^2 - \frac{\omega_y^2}{2}y^2 + \frac{1}{\tilde{c}} \left(\frac{\omega_x^2}{2} - \frac{\omega_y^2}{2} \right) (x^2 - y^2)^2 + c \mathcal{C}_4(x^4 - y^4) + \mathcal{C}_4(x^2 - y^2)^3$$

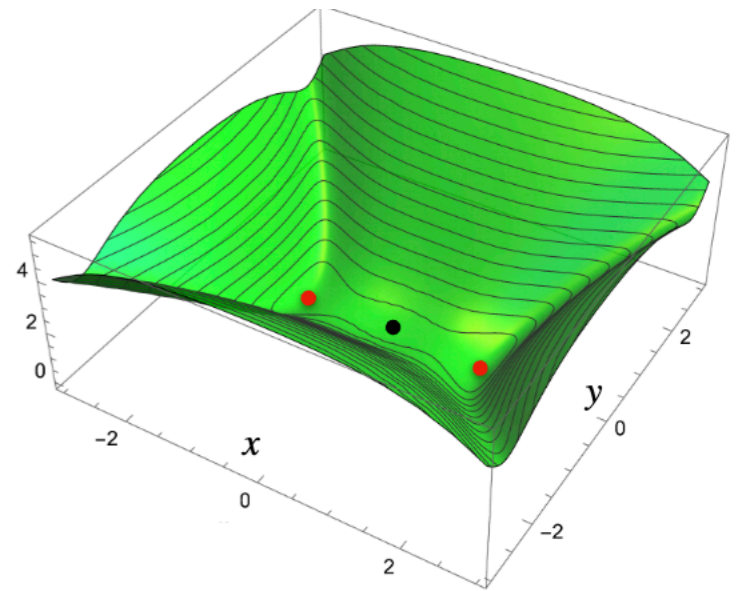
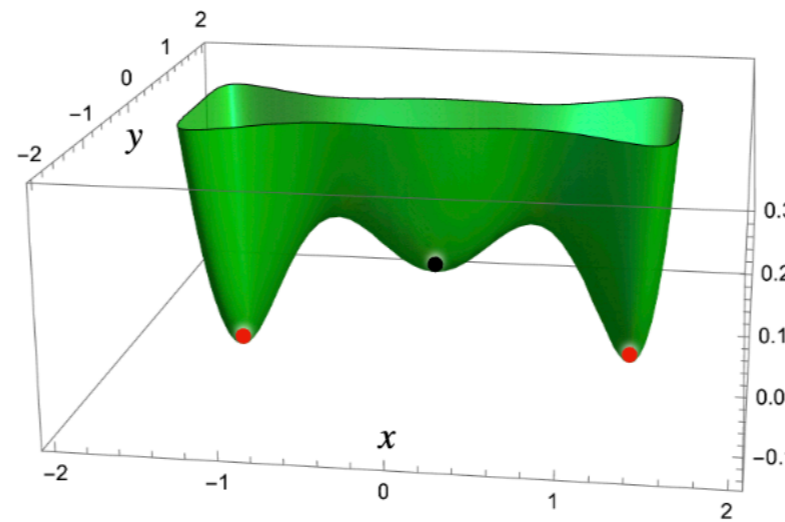
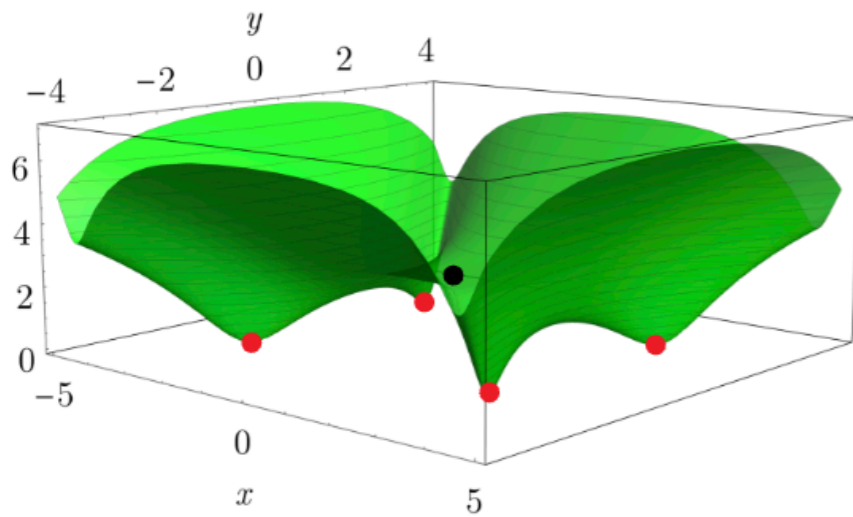
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Kolmogorov–Arnold–Moser (KAM) theorem



Small structural changes
do not jeopardise
the stability and finiteness
of motion

**Why have not we seen
such systems so far in nature?**



Thanks a lot for attention!

