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# ADVENTURES WITH TRIANGLES IN BILLIARDS

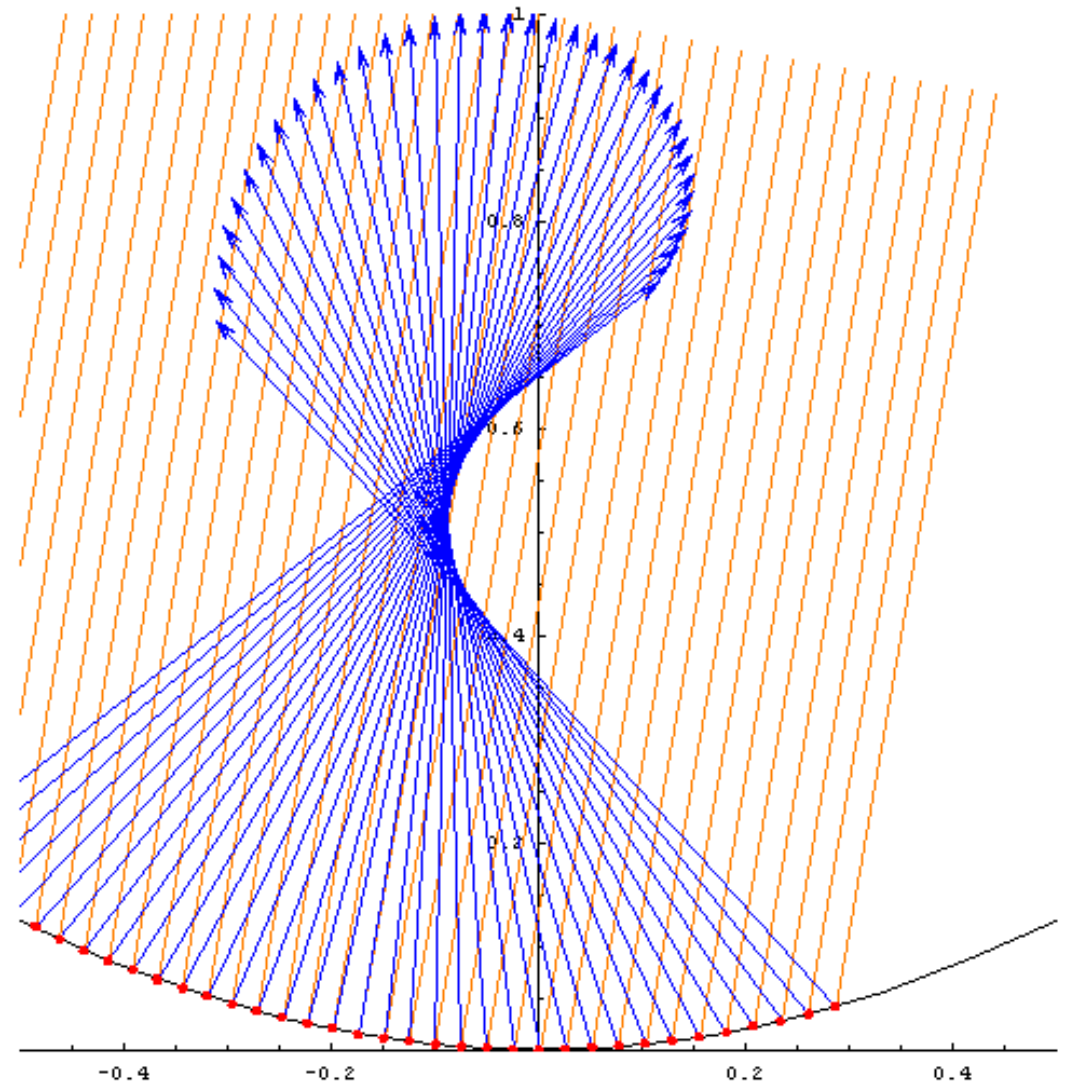
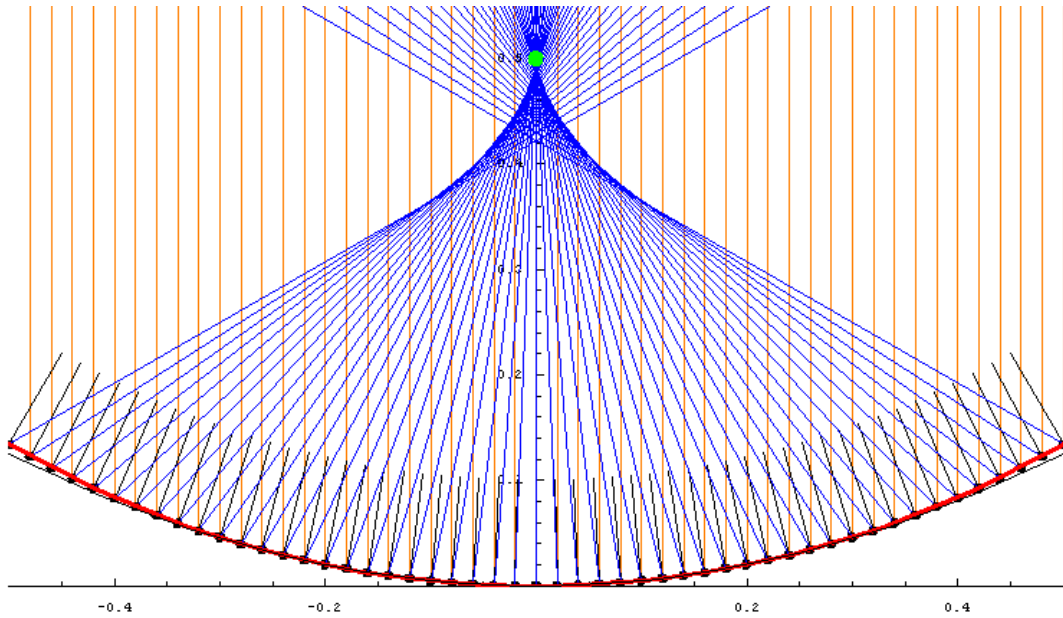
DAN S. REZNIK

RONALDO GARCIA

JAIR KOILLER

IMPA, RIO DE JANEIRO, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

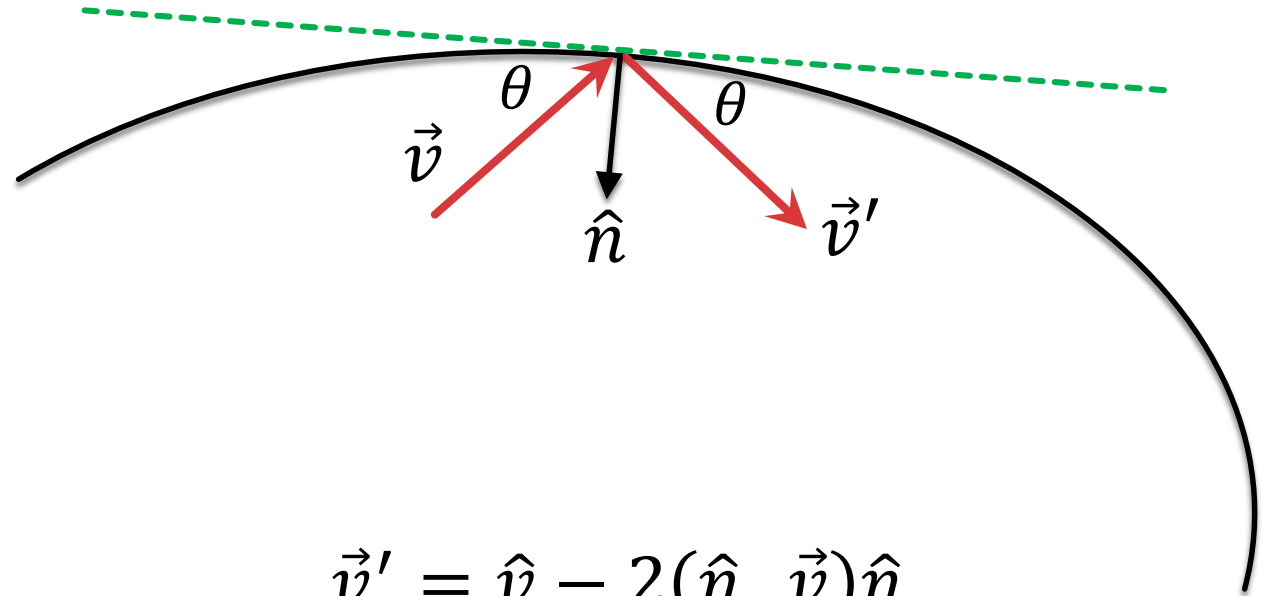
# RAY TRACING CURVED MIRRORS 2006



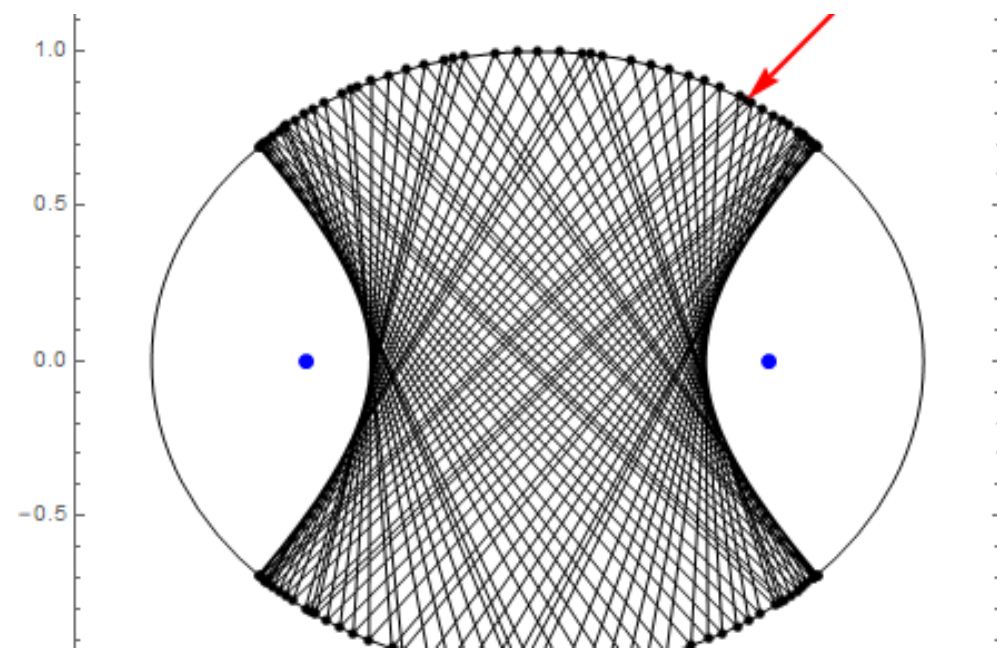
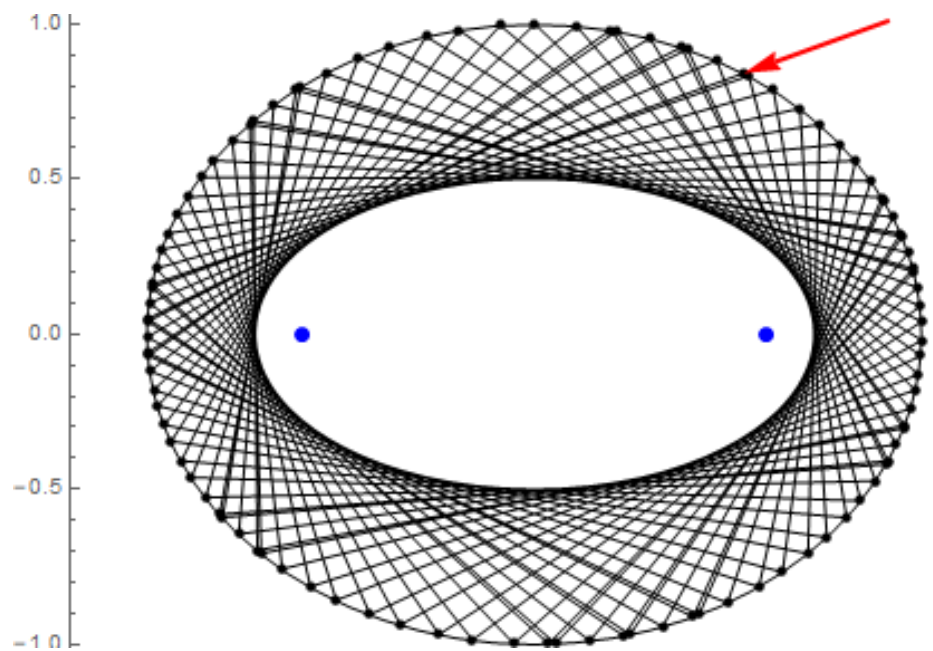


# POOL TABLE / JEU DE BILLIARDS

# ELASTIC COLLISION

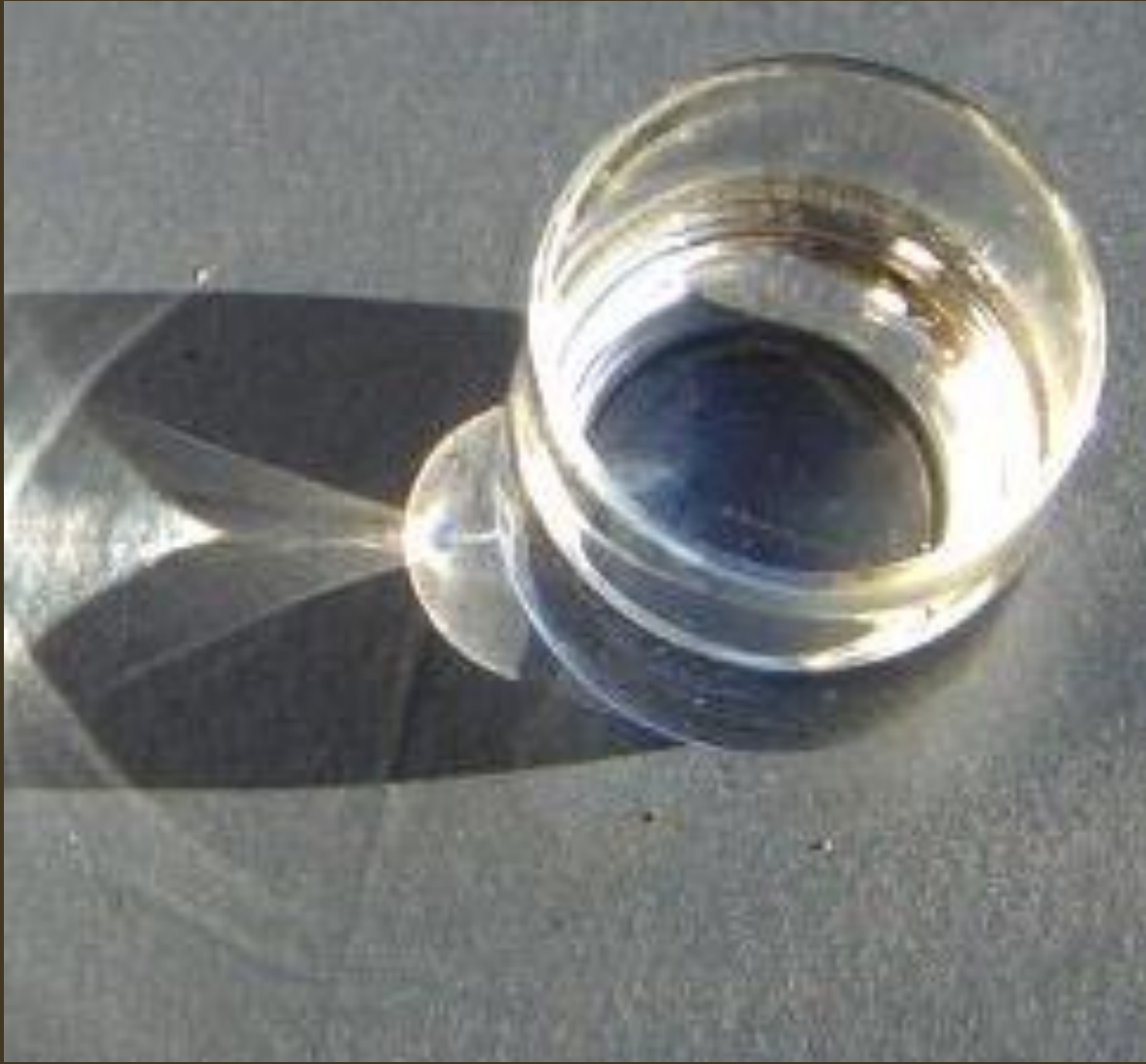


$$\vec{v}' = \vec{v} - 2(\hat{n} \cdot \vec{v})\hat{n}$$

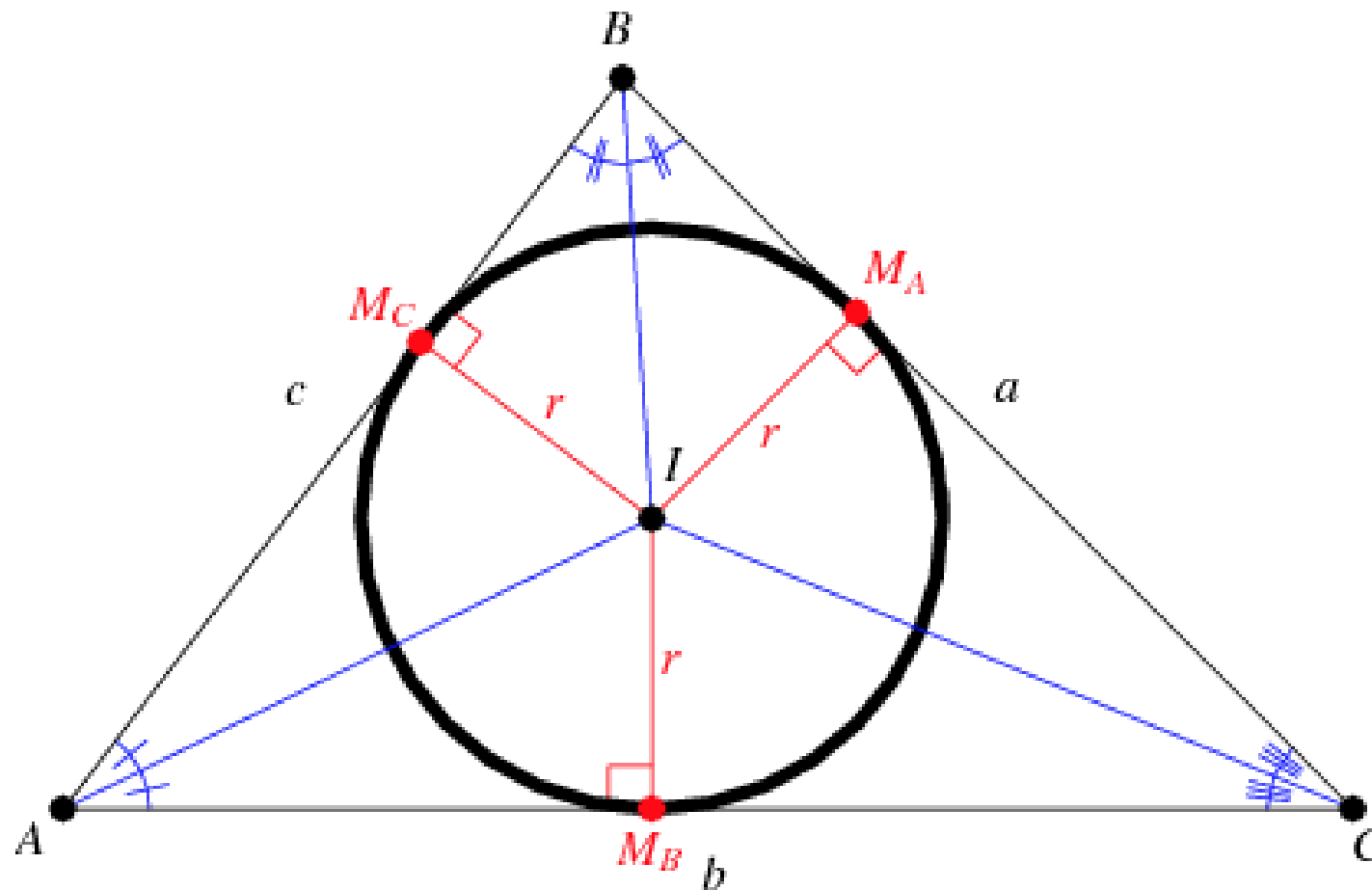


# CAUSTICS

## VIDEO



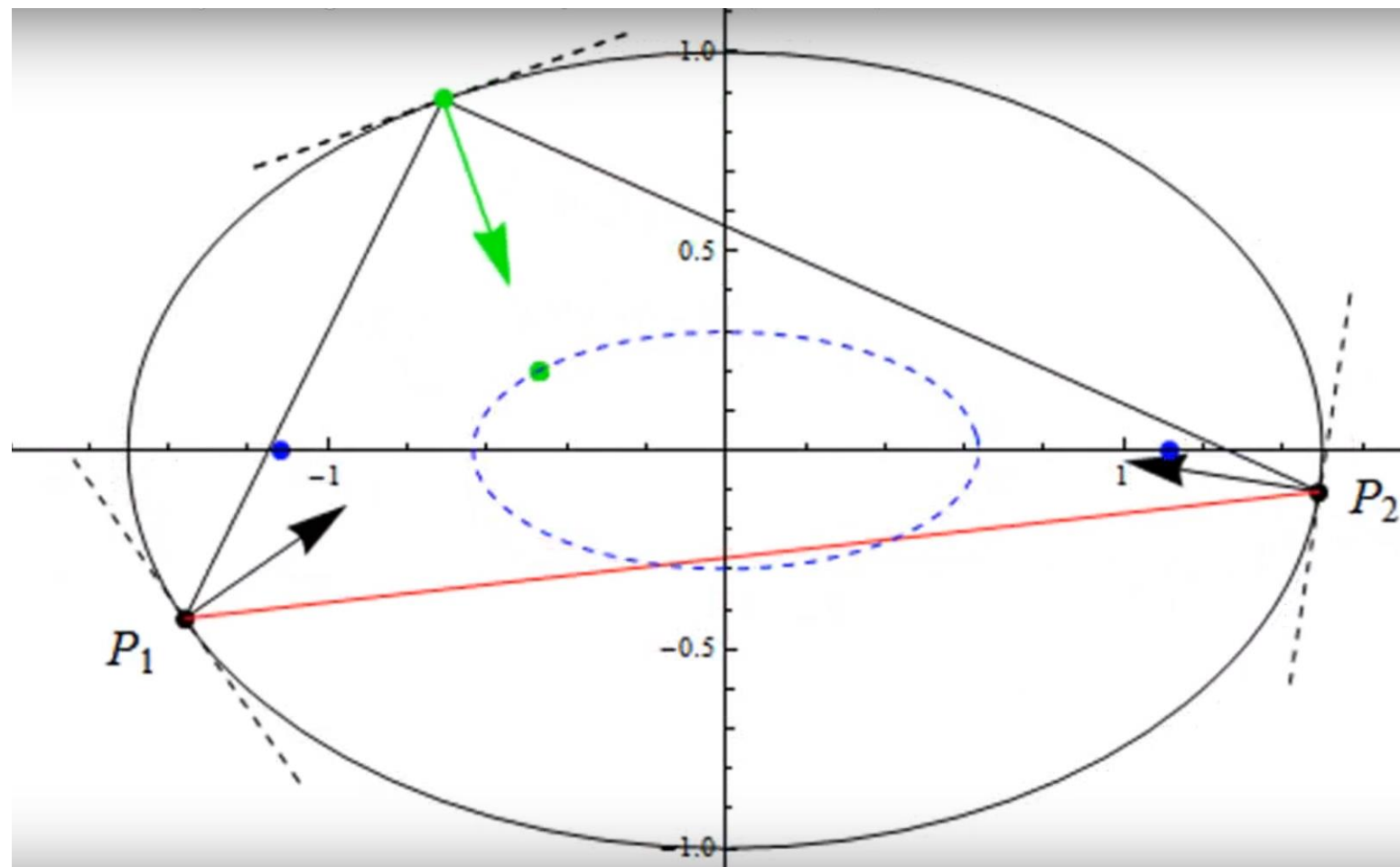
# INCENTER



# TRIANGULAR ORBITS (2011)

[VIDEO 1](#)

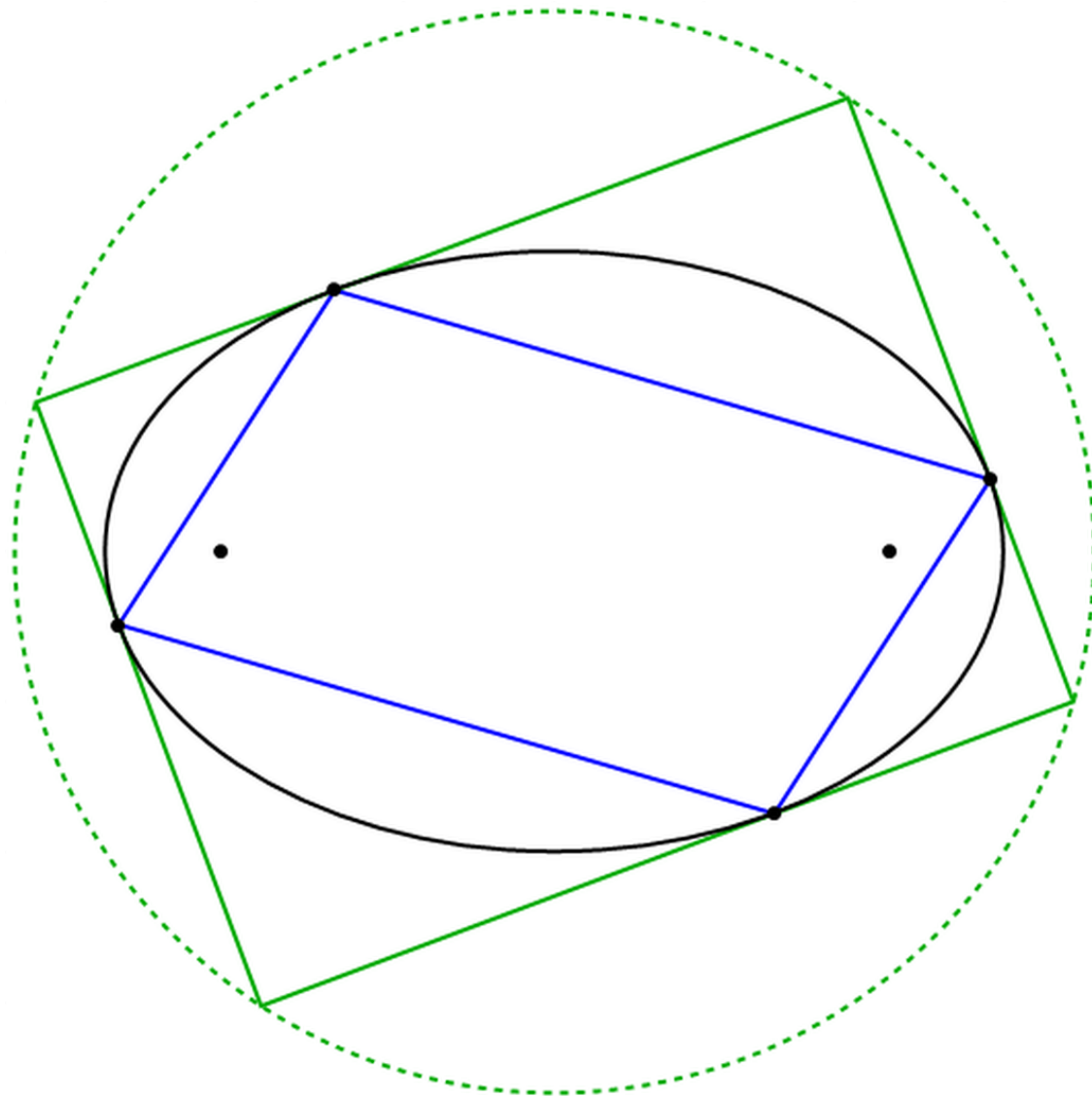
[VIDEO 2](#)

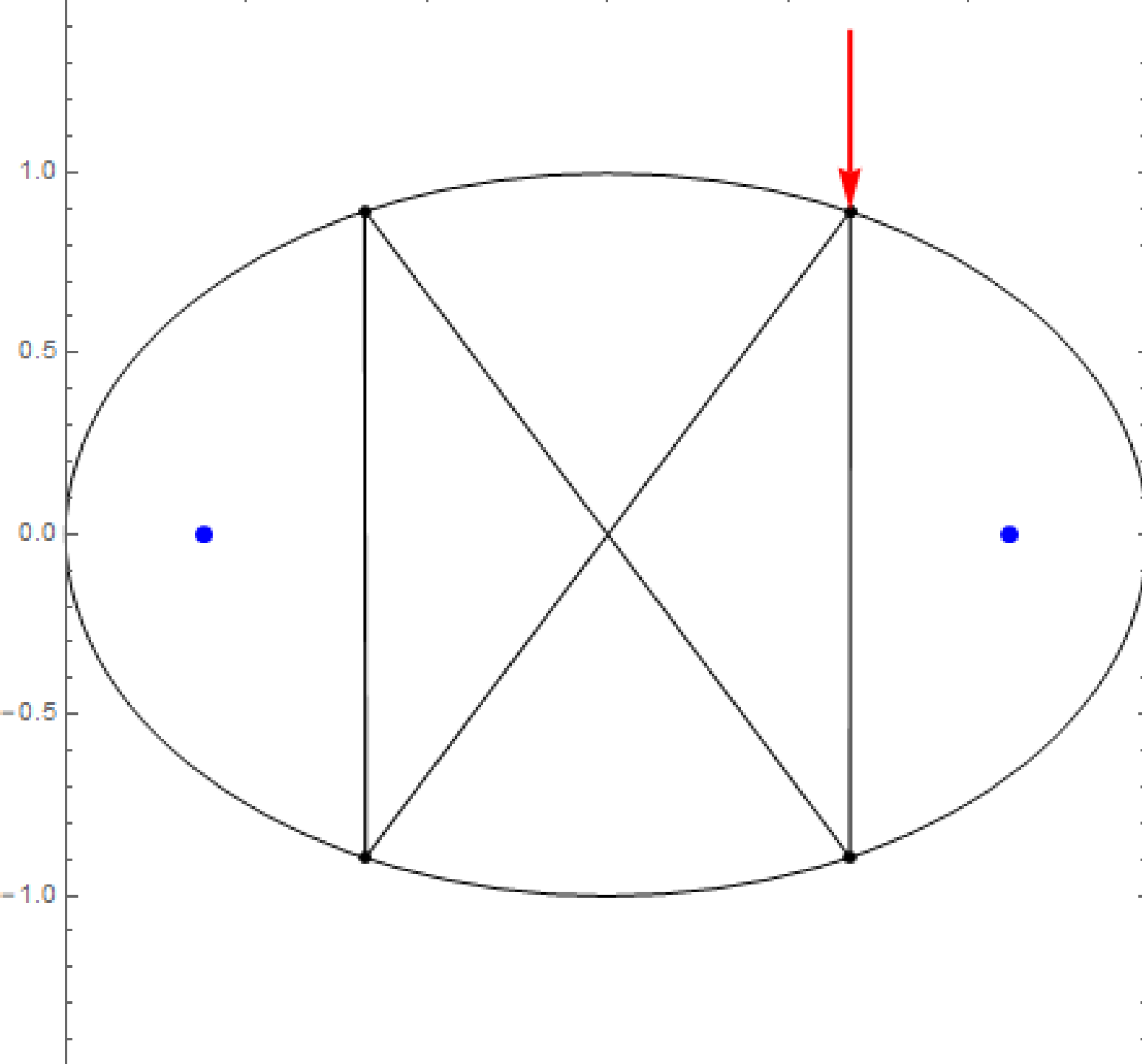






MONGE'S  
ORTHOPTIC  
CIRCLE  
[VIDEO](#)





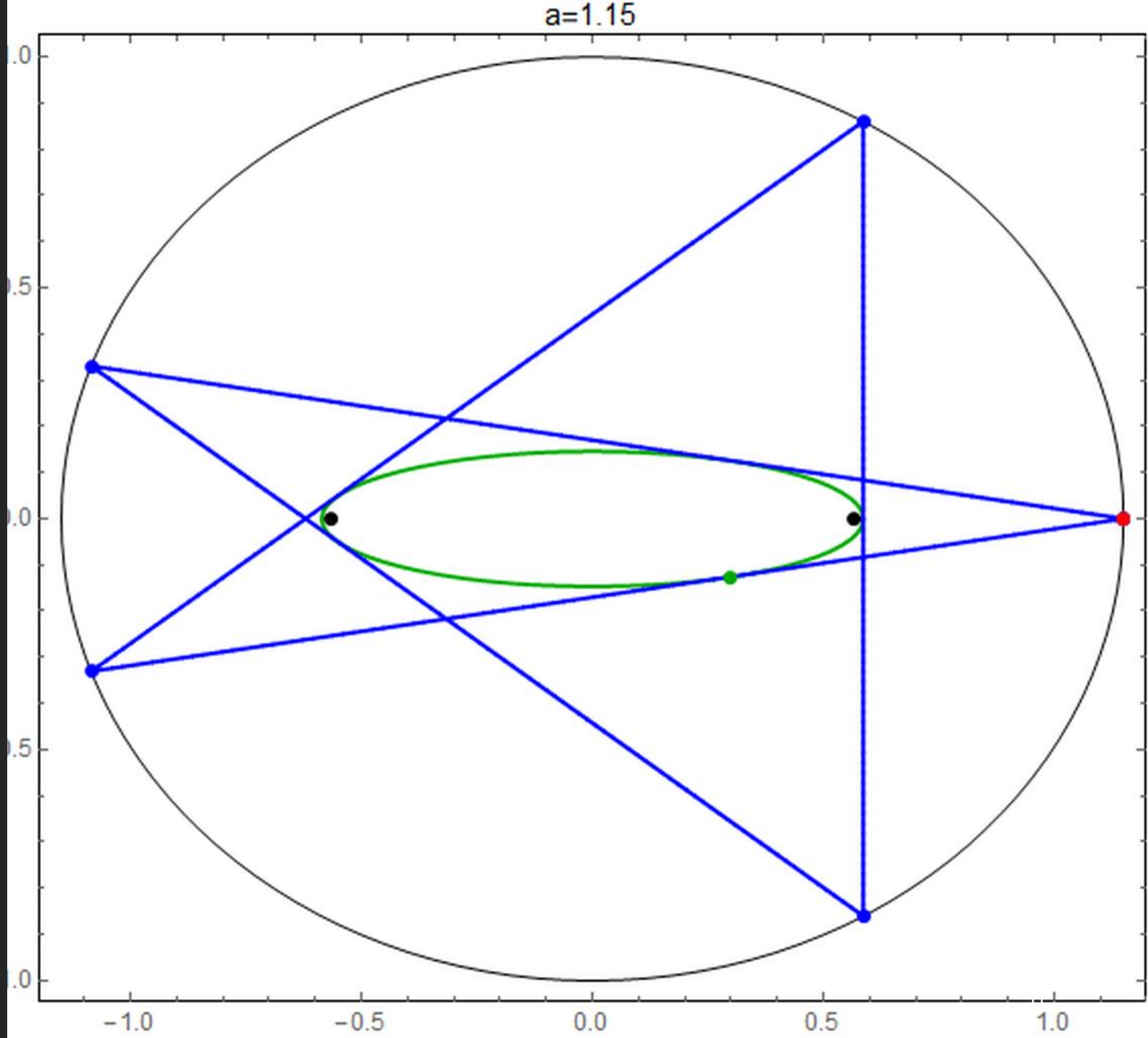
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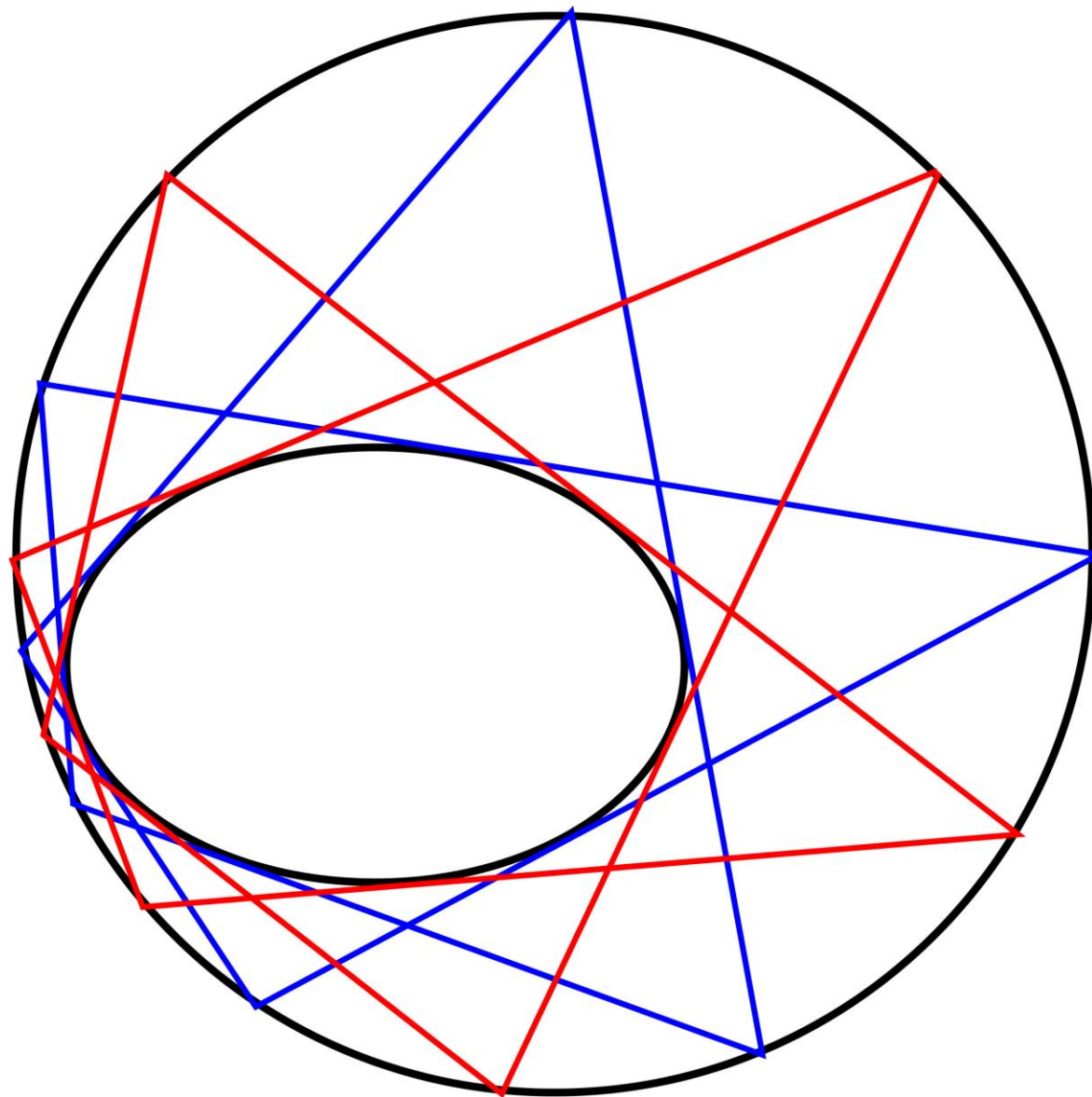
**N=4 SELF-  
INTERSECTING**  
[VIDEO](#)

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# SELF- INTERSECTING PENTAGRAM

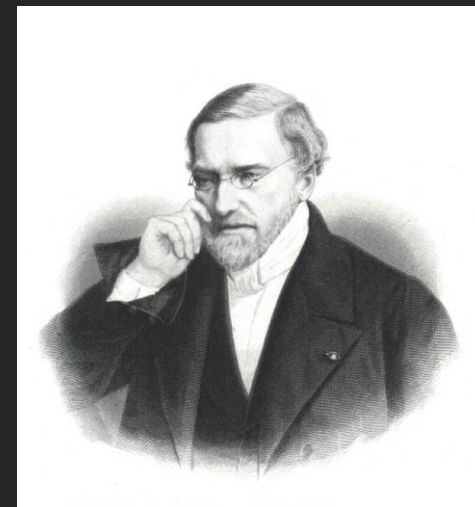
[VIDEO](#)  
[APPLET](#)





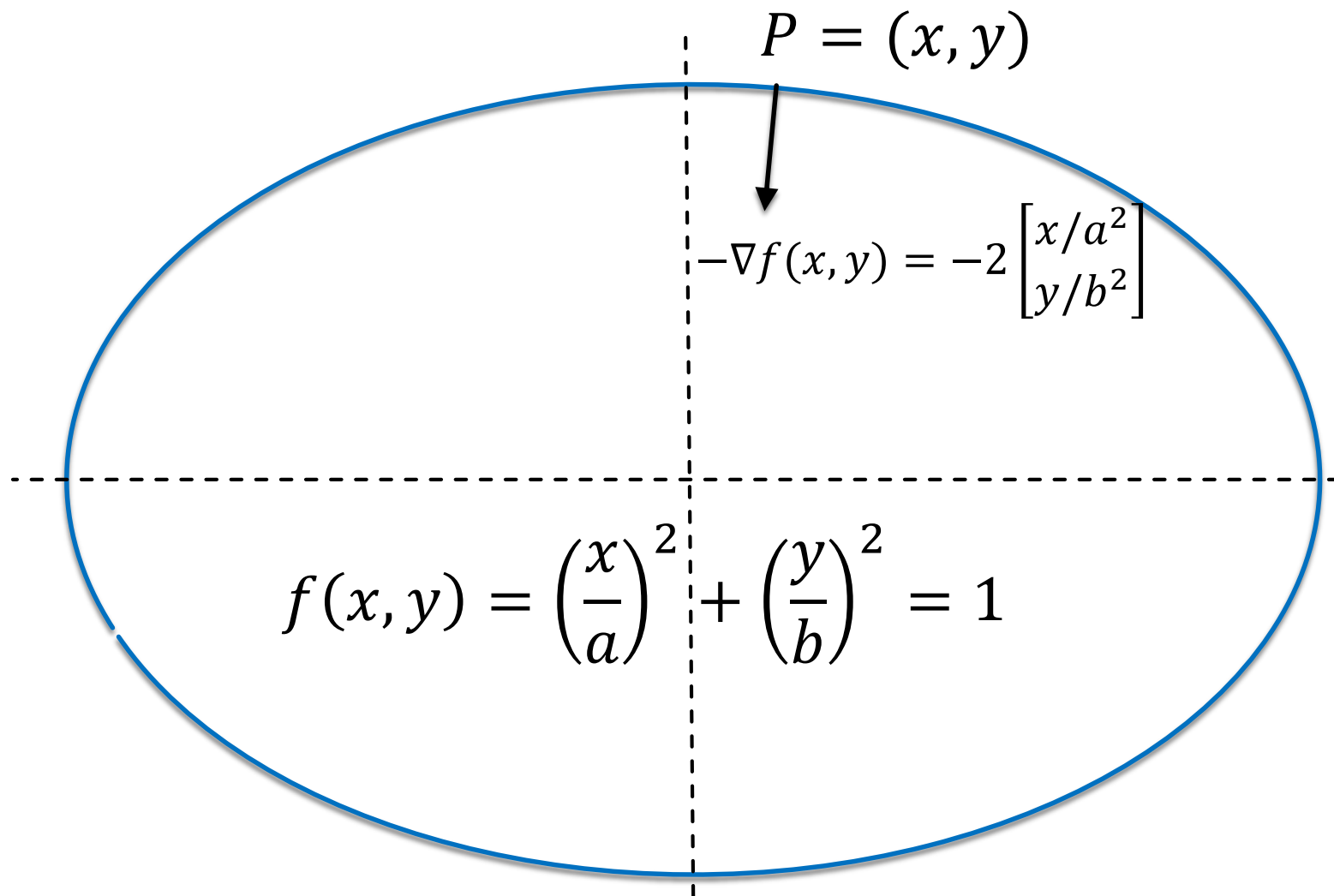
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## PONCELET “PORISM”



Jean-Victor Poncelet  
1788–1867

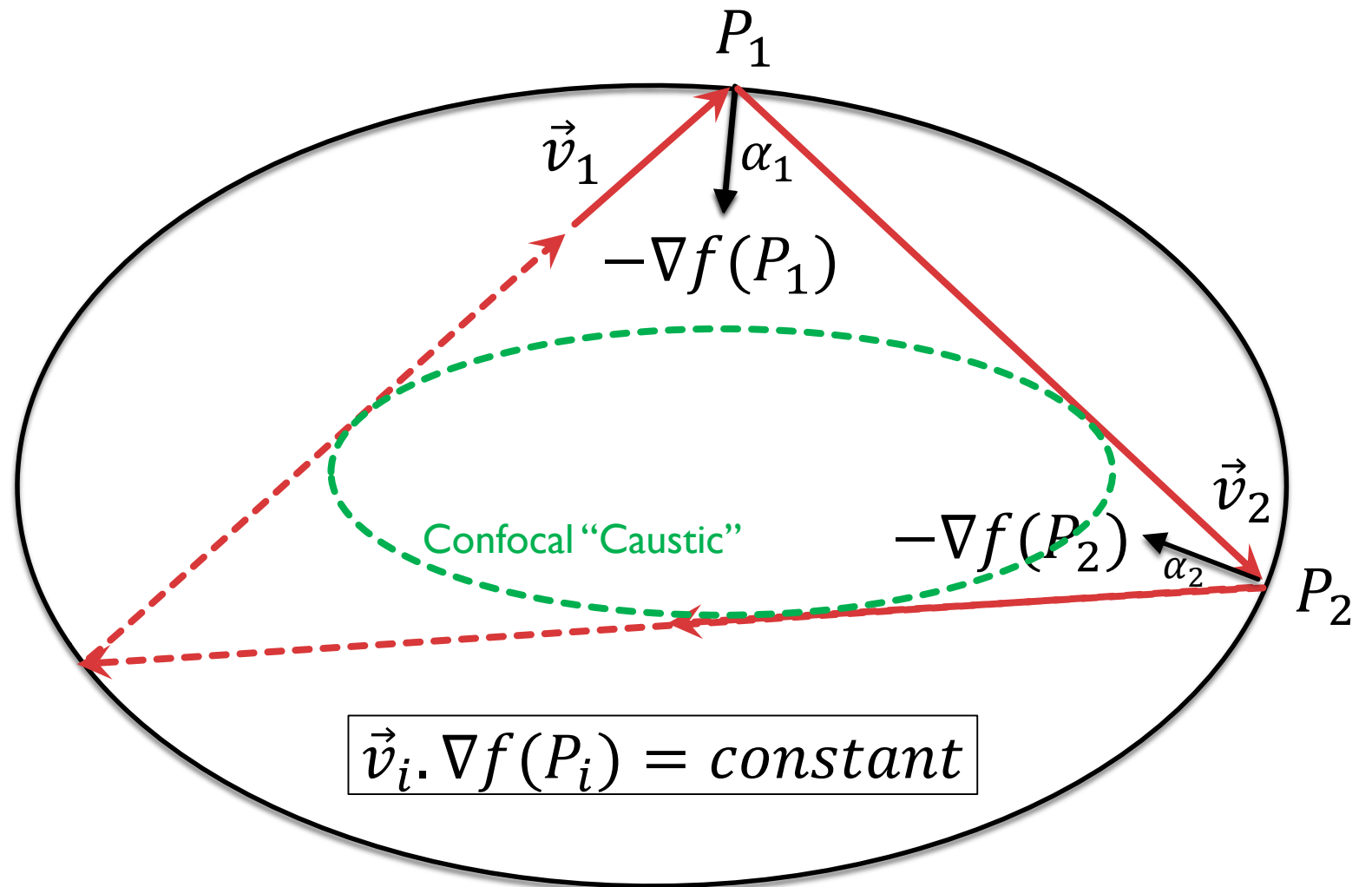
# ELLIPSE





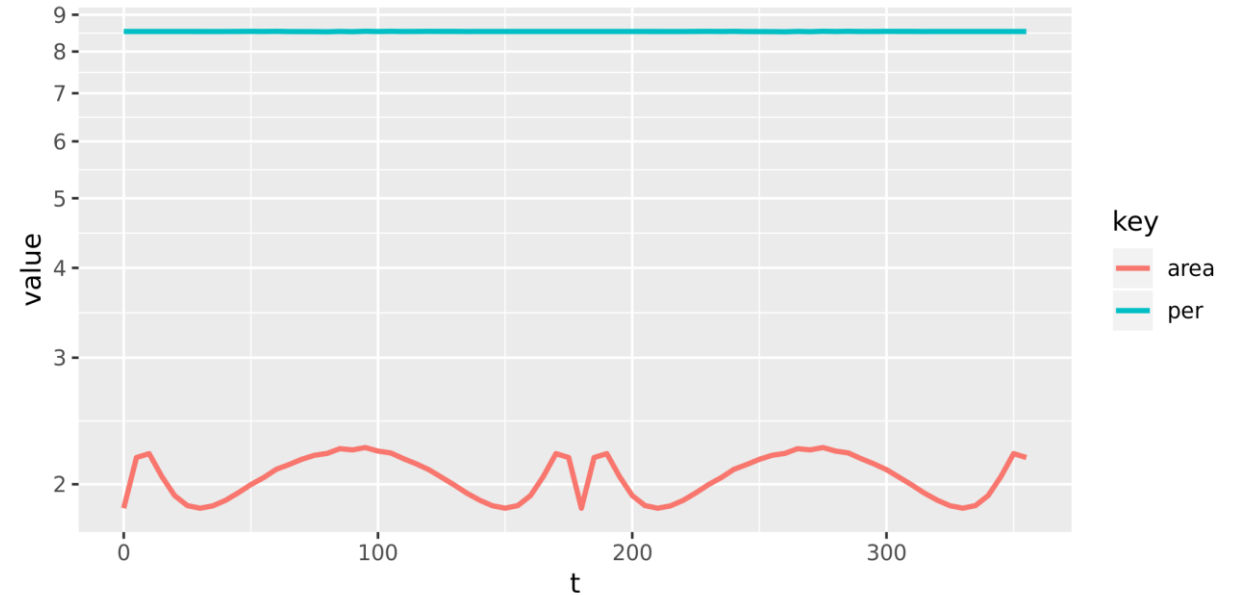
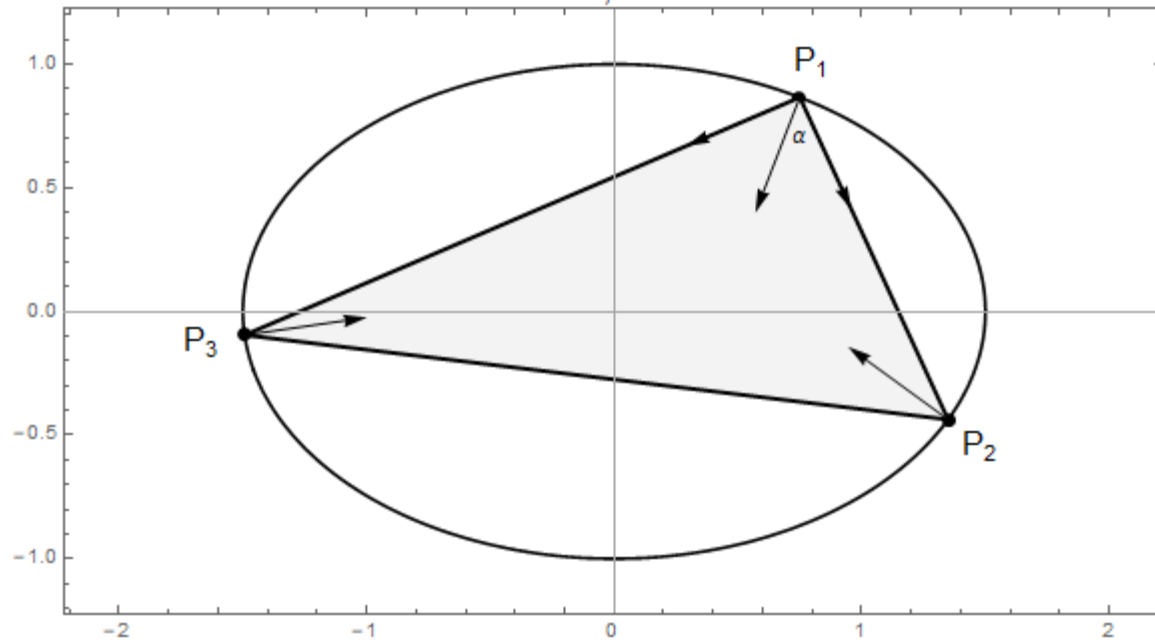
Ferdinand Joachimsthal  
1818-1861

# CONSERVATION OF MOMENTUM



# PERIMETER IS MAXIMAL & CONSTANT [INTEGRABLE HAMILTONIAN]

$a=1.50; x=0.75$



# OUTLINE

- Loci of Triangular Centers
- Mittenpunkt is Stationary
- Two Constants of Motion
- Experimental Setup
- Conclusion
- Videos / Questions

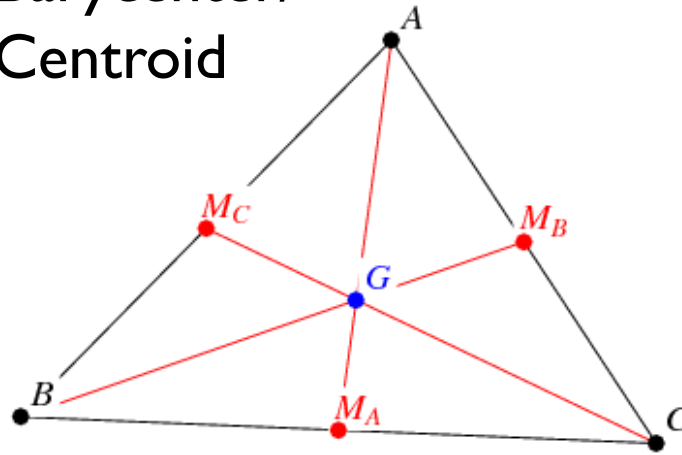


ELLIPTIC  
LOCI

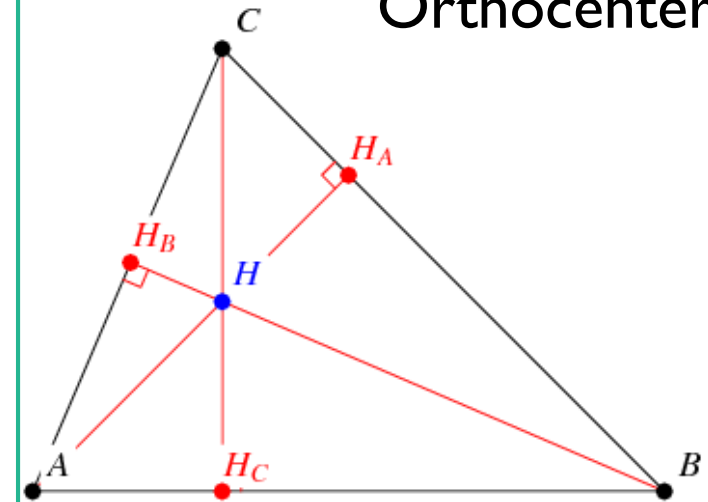
OF TRIANGULAR  
CENTERS

# MAJOR TRIANGULAR CENTERS

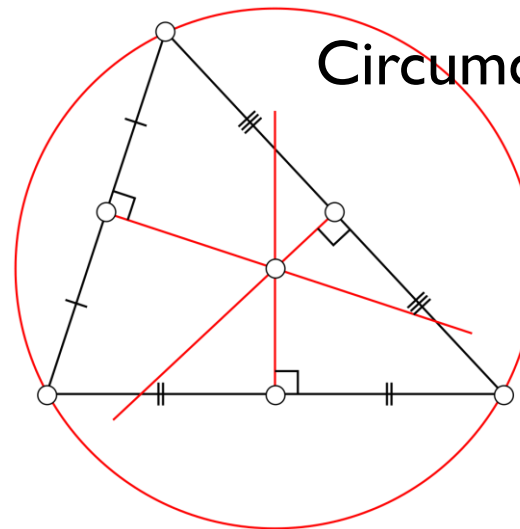
Barycenter/  
Centroid



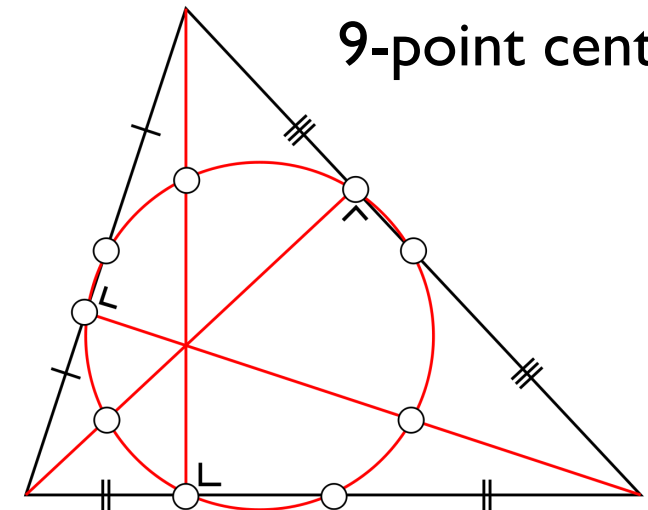
Orthocenter



Circumcenter



9-point center



# ON THE INCENTERS OF TRIANGULAR ORBITS IN ELLIPTIC BILLIARD

by Olga ROMASKEVICH \*)

ABSTRACT. We consider 3-periodic orbits in an elliptic billiard. Numerical experiments conducted by Dan Reznik have shown that the locus of the centers of inscribed circles of the corresponding triangles is an ellipse. We prove this fact by the complexification of the problem coupled with the complex law of reflection.

LOCUS OF **INCENTER** IS ELLIPTIC, 2013  
PROF. OLGA ROMASKEVICH,  
UNIVERSITÉ DE RENNES, FRANCE  
[PDF](#)

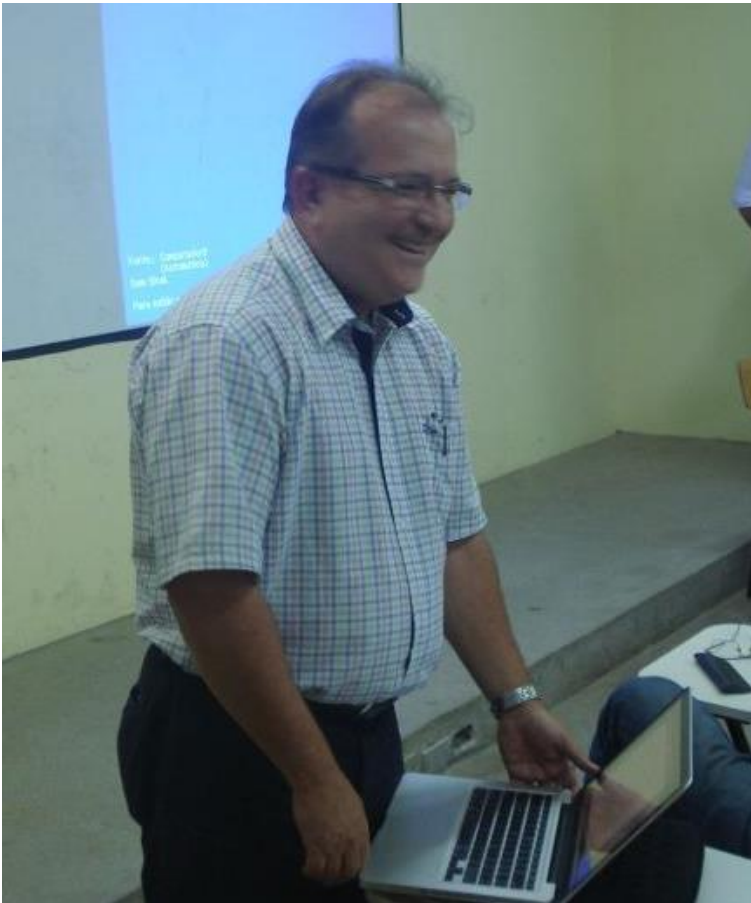


# CENTERS OF INSCRIBED CIRCLES IN TRIANGULAR ORBITS OF AN ELLIPTIC BILLIARD

RONALDO A. GARCIA\*

ABSTRACT. The locus of centers of inscribed circles in triangles, the 3-periodic orbits of an elliptic billiard, is also an ellipse. In this work we obtain the canonical equation of this ellipse, complementing the previous results obtained by O. Romaskevich in [7].

LOCUS OF **CIRCUMCENTER** IS ELLIPTIC, 2016 (I)  
PROF. RONALDO GARCIA  
UNIVERSIDADE DE GOIÁS, BRAZIL  
[PDF](#)



# On the circumcenters of triangular orbits in elliptic billiard

Corentin FIEROBE, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Unité de Mathématiques Pures et Appliquées, UMR CNRS 5669, 46, allée d'Italie, 69364 Lyon Cedex 07, France ; *e-mail* : [corentin.fierobe@ens-lyon.fr](mailto:corentin.fierobe@ens-lyon.fr)

## Abstract

On an elliptic billiard, we study the set of the circumcenters of all triangular orbits and we show that this is an ellipse. This article follows [17], which proves the same result with the incenters, and [5], which among others introduces the theory of complex reflection in the complex projective plane. The result we present was found at the same time by Ronaldo Garcia in an article to appear in American Mathematical Monthly (no preprint available). His proof uses completely different methods of real differential calculus.

LOCUS OF **CIRCUMCENTER** IS ELLIPTIC, 2019 (II)  
CORENTIN FIEROBE,  
ENS-LYON, FRANCE  
[PDF](#)



## Centers of mass of Poncelet polygons, 200 years after

Richard Schwartz\*    Serge Tabachnikov†

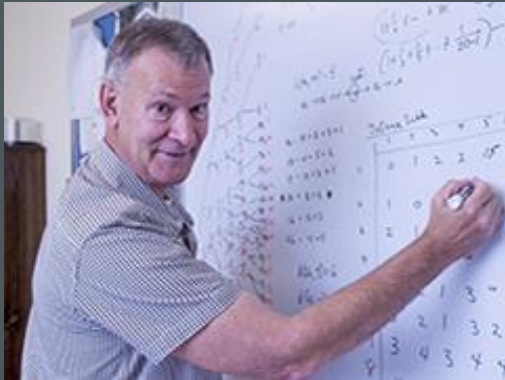
### 1 A letter from Saratov

During his last trip to Moscow, the second author of this article came into possession of a remarkable mathematical letter. The custodian of the letter, a Russian businessman X who wished to remain anonymous, presented the letter to Tabachnikov at the end of his lecture on configuration theorems in projective geometry [11] (like many successful contemporary Russian entrepreneurs, Mr. X has a degree in mathematics).



LOCUS OF **BARYCENTER** (FOR ALL  $N$ ) IS ELLIPTIC, 2016  
PROFS. RICHARD SCHWARTZ (BROWN) & SERGEI TABACHNIKOV (PENN STATE)

[PDF](#)

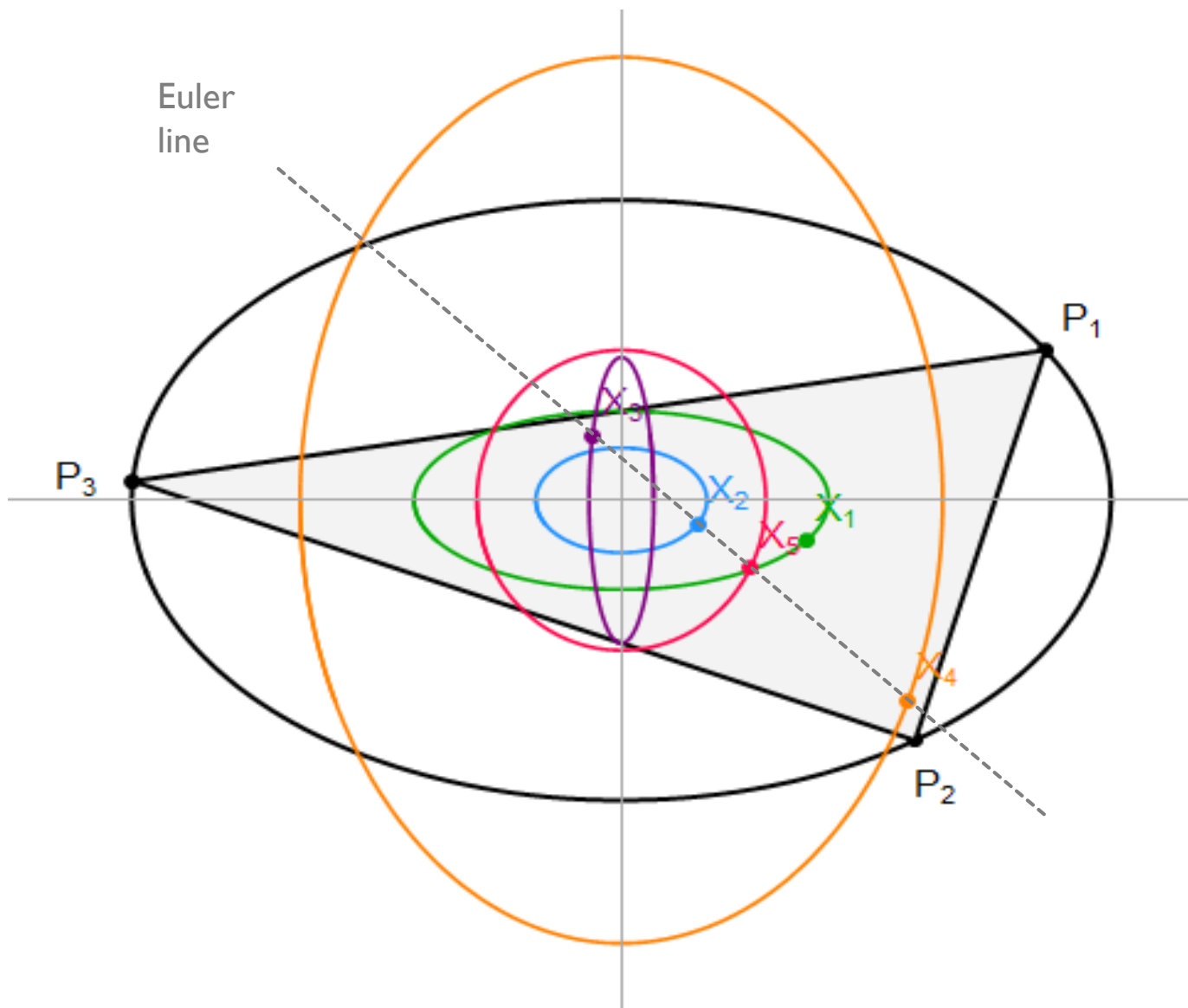


# KIMBERLING'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TRIANGULAR CENTERS ([ETC](#))



This is **PART 1: Introduction and Centers X(1) - X(1000)**

<a href="#">PART 1:</a>	Introduction and Centers X(1) - X(1000)
<a href="#">PART 2:</a>	Centers X(1001) - X(3000)
<a href="#">PART 3:</a>	Centers X(3001) - X(5000)
<a href="#">PART 4:</a>	Centers X(5001) - X(7000)
<a href="#">PART 5:</a>	Centers X(7001) - X(10000)
<a href="#">PART 6:</a>	Centers X(10001) - X(12000)
<a href="#">PART 7:</a>	Centers X(12001) - X(14000)
<a href="#">PART 8:</a>	Centers X(14001) - X(16000)
<a href="#">PART 9:</a>	Centers X(16001) - X(18000)
<a href="#">PART 10:</a>	Centers X(18001) - X(20000)
<a href="#">PART 11:</a>	Centers X(20001) - X(22000)
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<a href="#">PART 13:</a>	Centers X(24001) - X(26000)
<a href="#">PART 14:</a>	Centers X(26001) - X(28000)
<a href="#">PART 15:</a>	Centers X(28001) - X(30000)
<a href="#">PART 16:</a>	Centers X(30001) - X(32000)
<a href="#">PART 17:</a>	Centers X(32001) - X(34000)
<a href="#">PART 18:</a>	Centers X(34001) - X(36000)
<a href="#">PART 19:</a>	Centers X(36001) - X(38000)
<a href="#">PART 20:</a>	Centers X(38001) - X(40000)



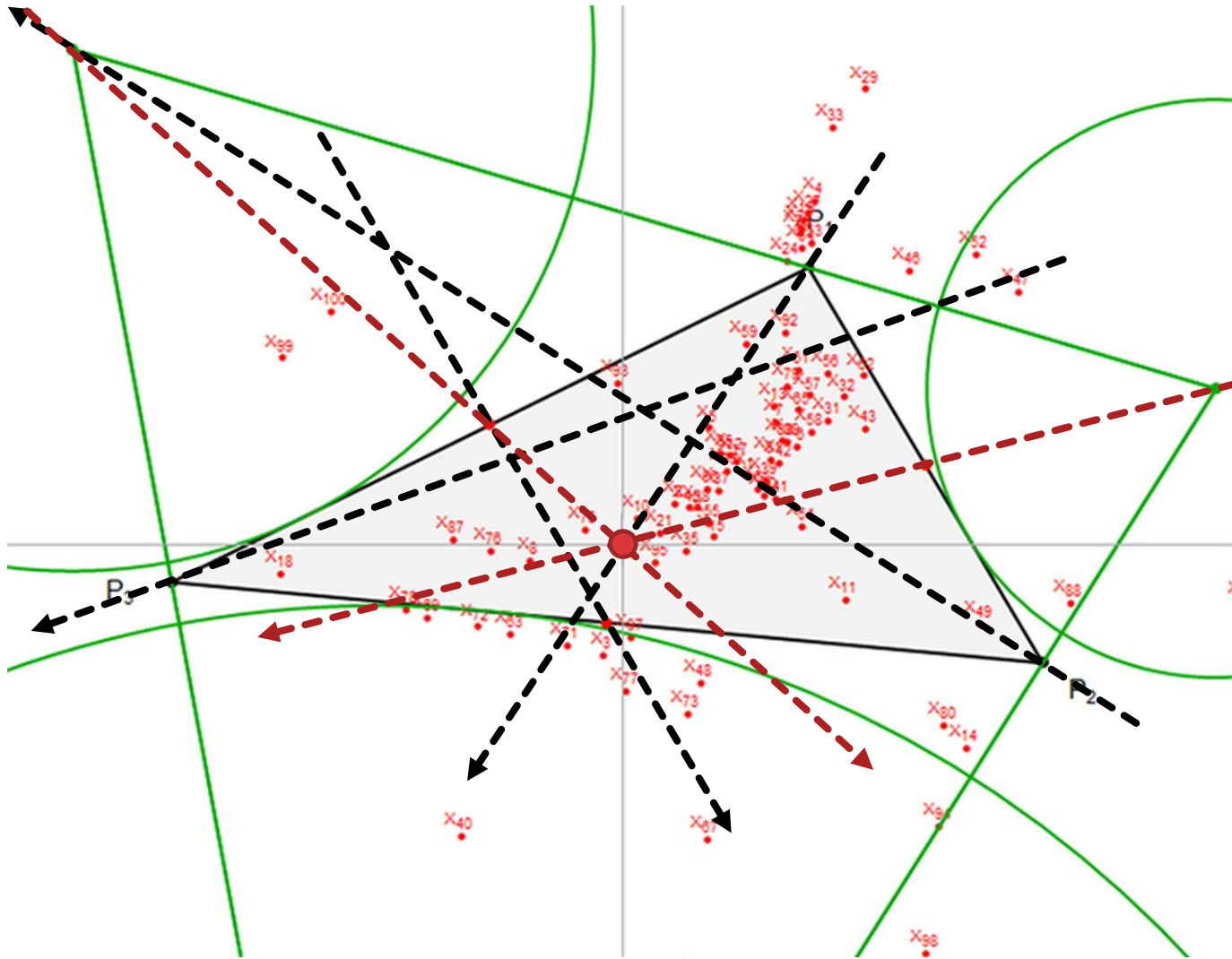
# ELLIPTIC LOCI

[VIDEO](#)



MITTENPUNKT

STATIONARITY



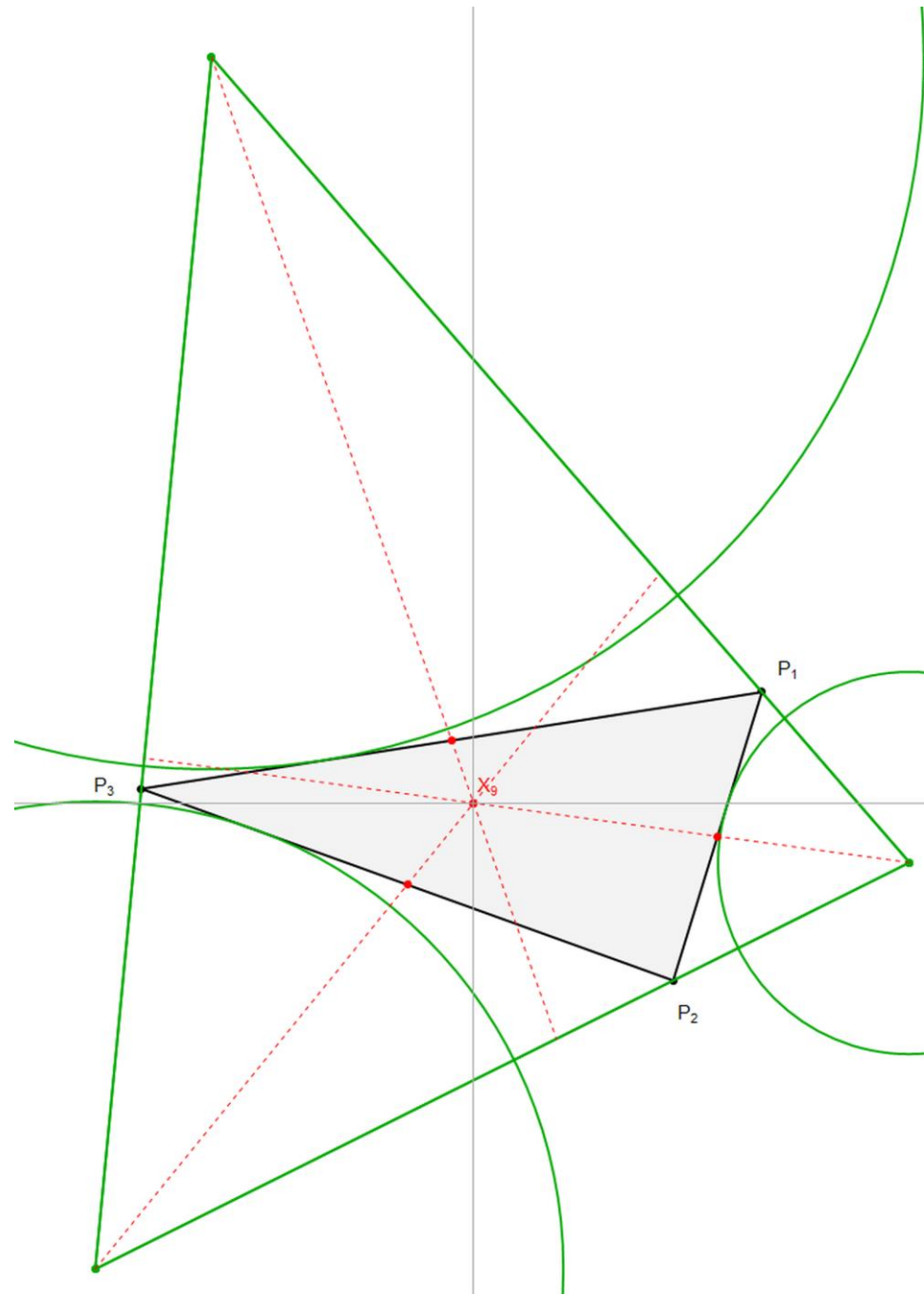
# HUNTING FOR A FIXED POINT



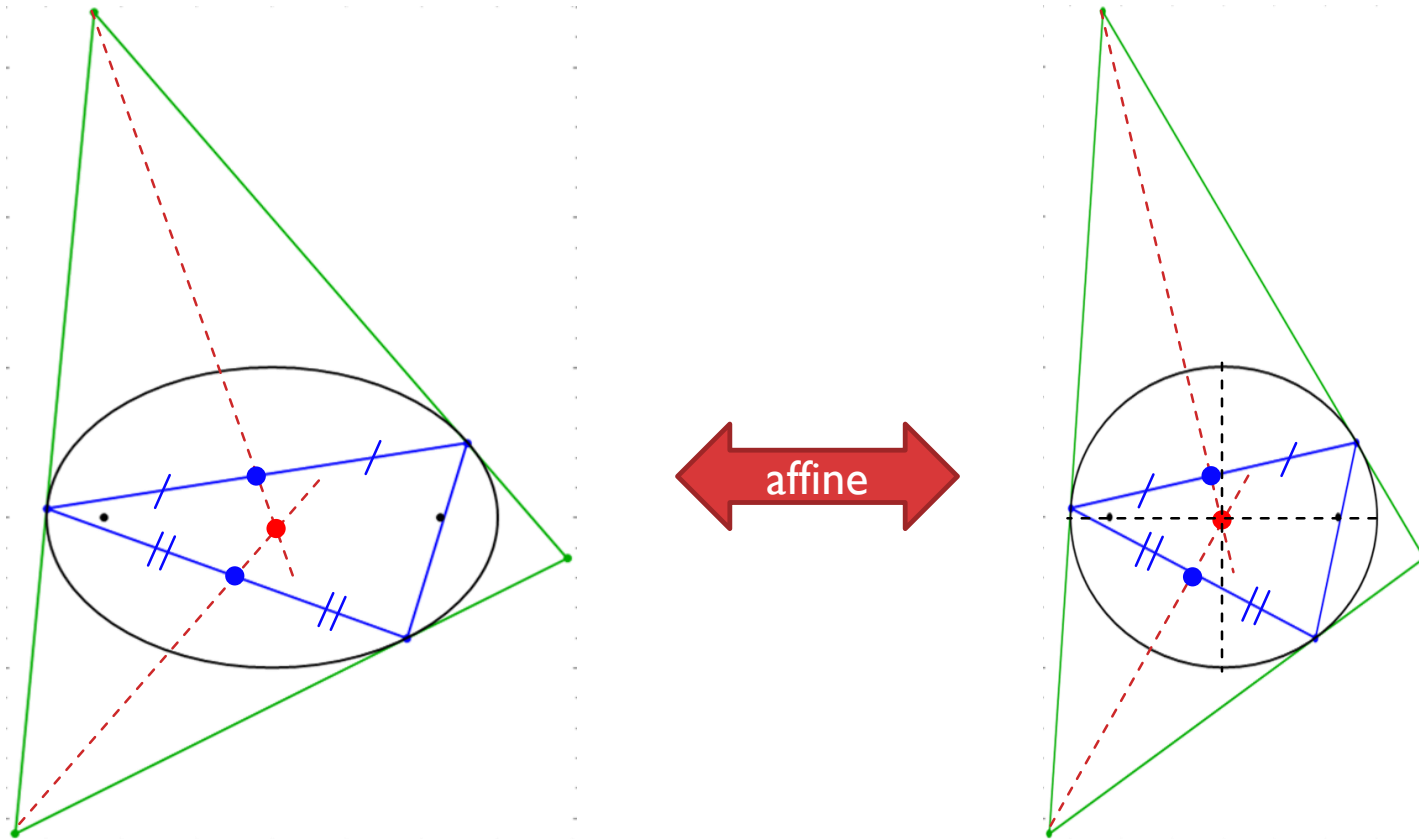
Christian Heinrich von Nagel  
(1803–1882)

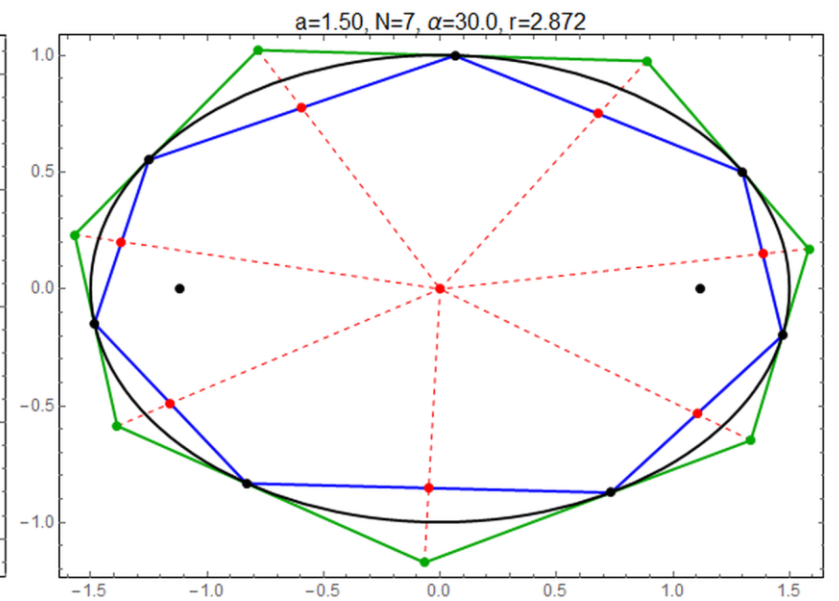
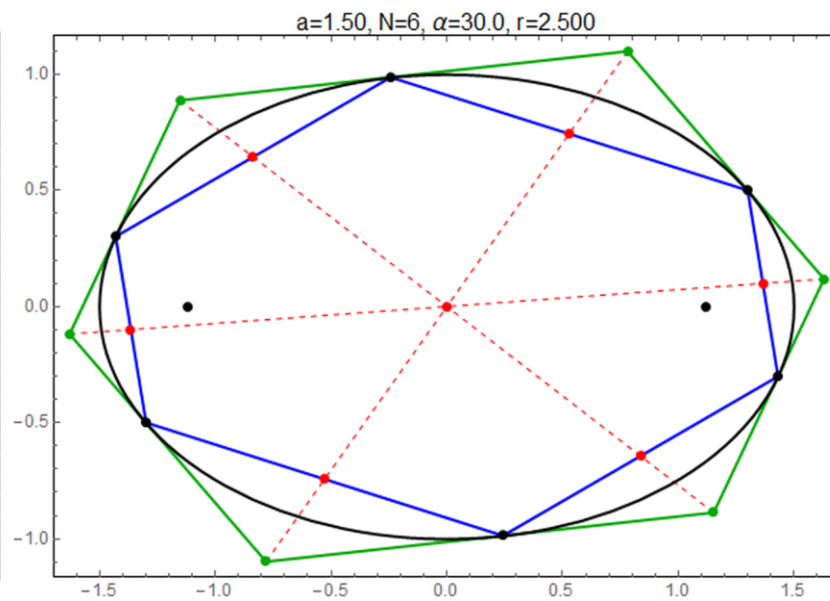
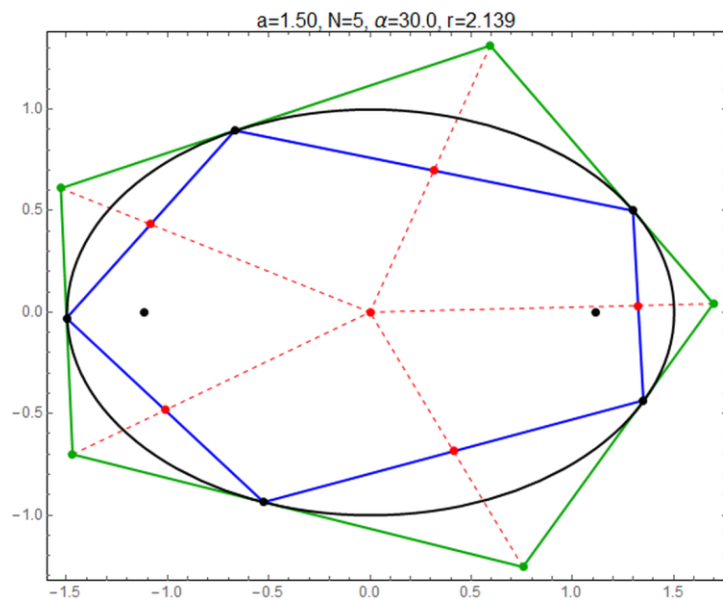


# THE MITTENPUNKT VIDEO



# PROOF SKETCH (PROF. OLGA ROMASKEVICH)



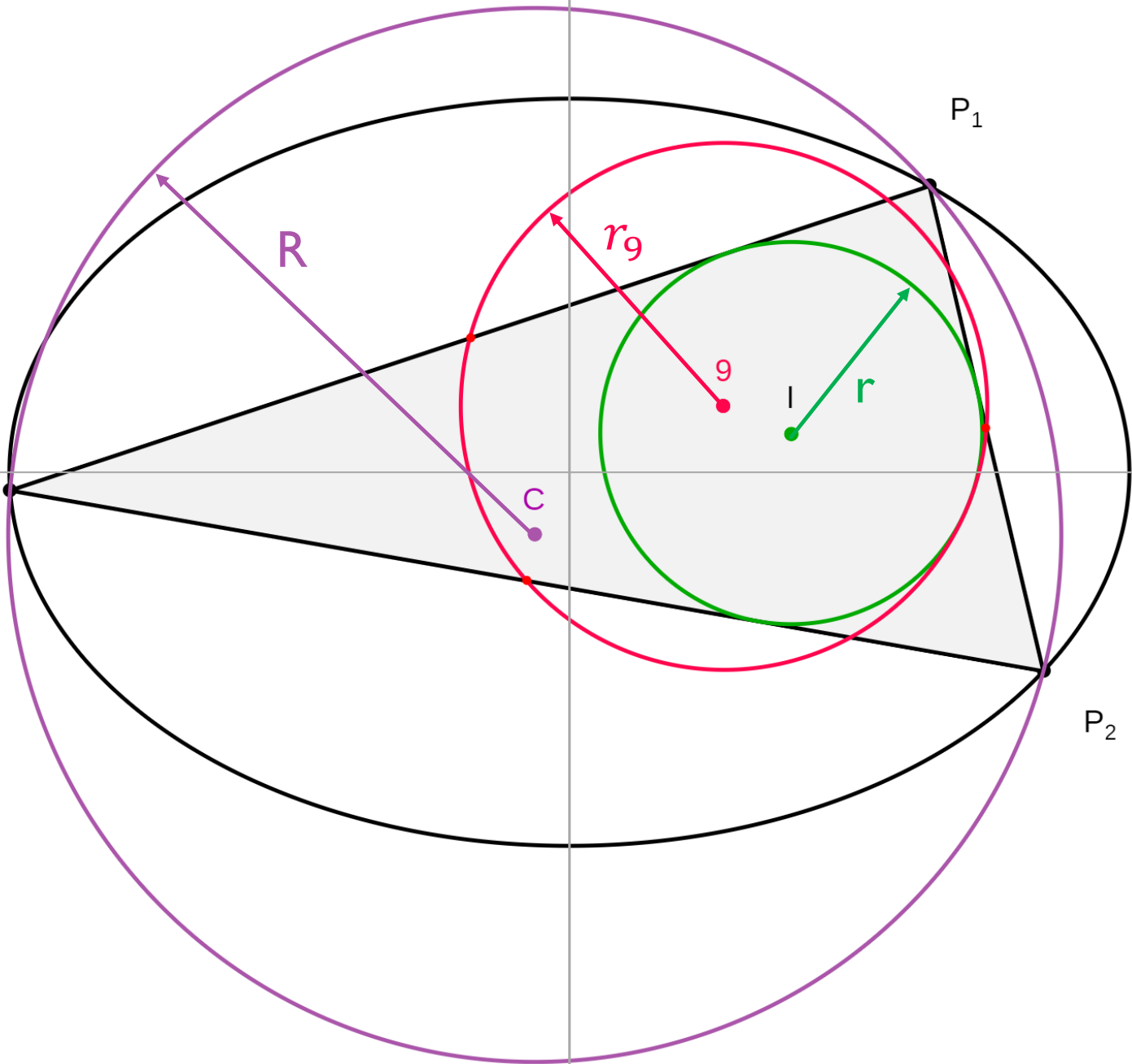


# GENERALIZE MITTENPUNKT FOR $N > 3$

# CONSTANTS OF MOTION

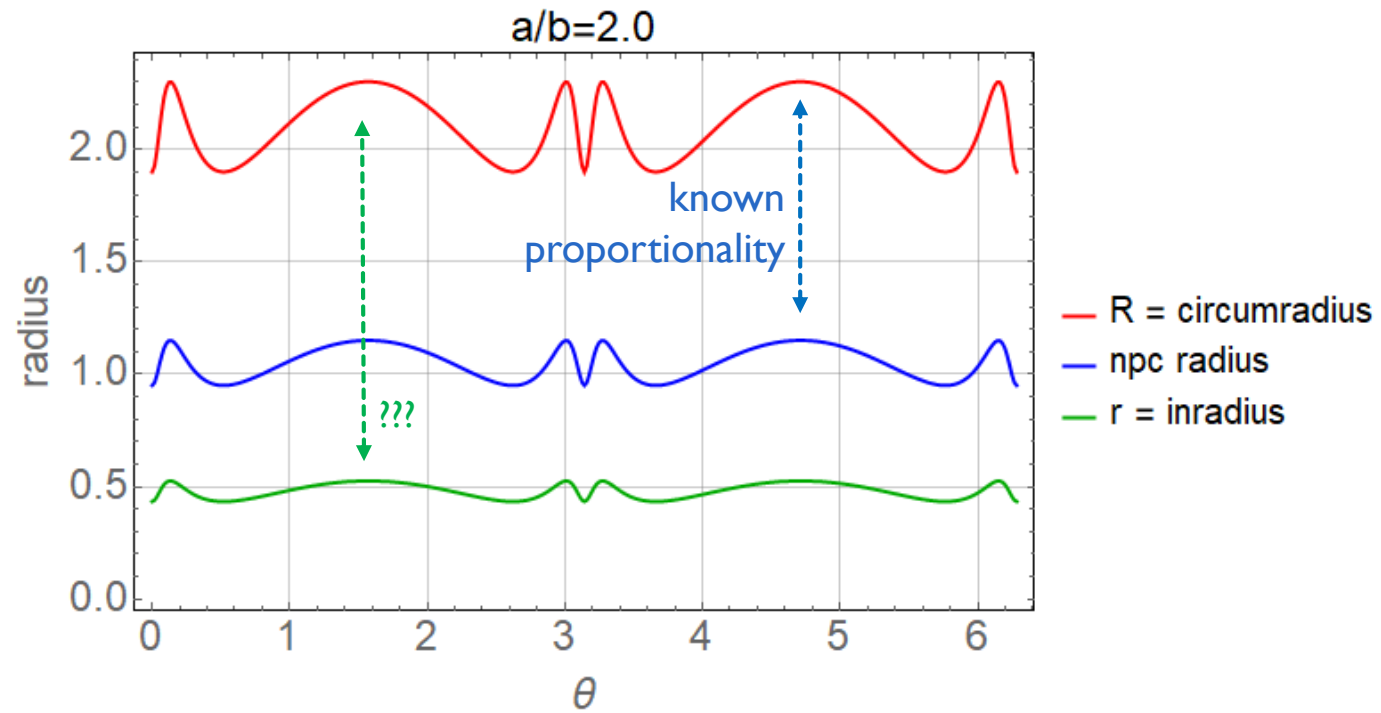
\* COSINE SUM

\* COSINE PRODUCT



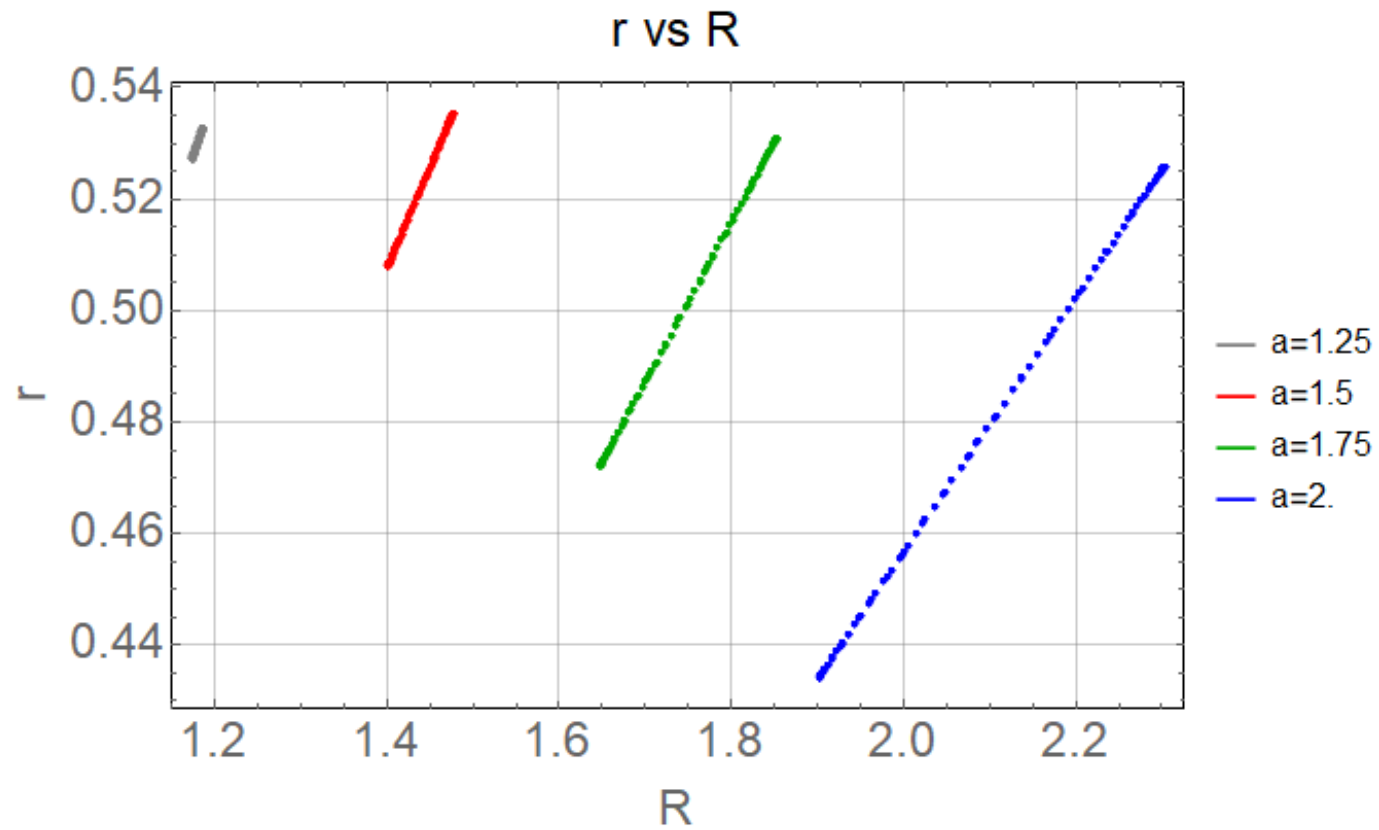
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# THREE LITTLE CIRCLES



# COMPARING RADII

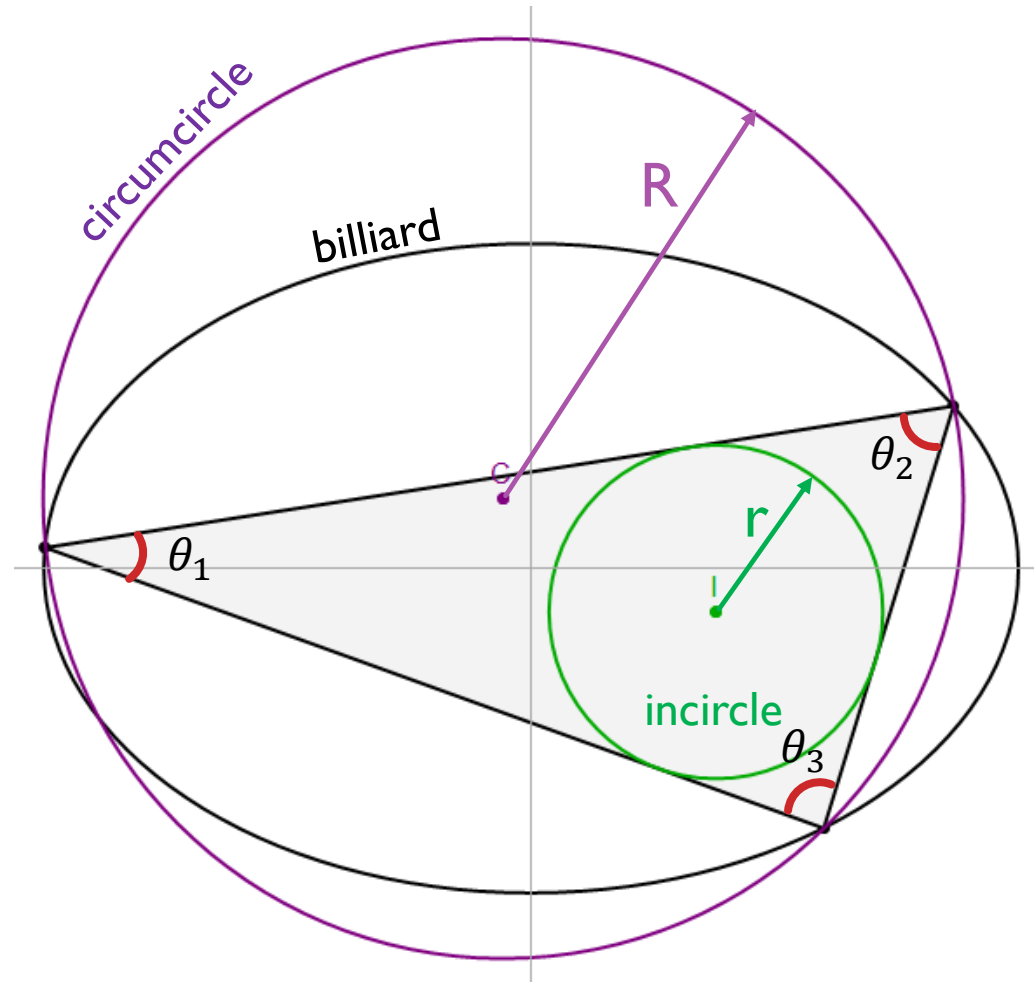


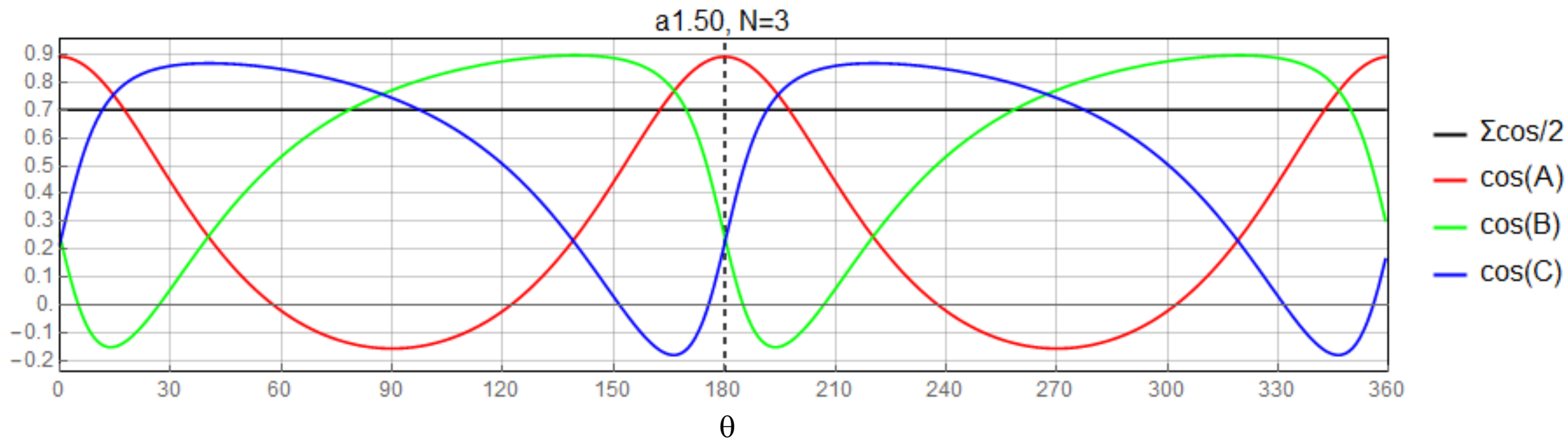


# SCATTER IN RADIUS VS. CIRCUMRADIUS

# WONDER IDENTITY

$$\frac{r}{R} = \sum_{i=1}^3 \theta_i$$





SUM OF COSINES = CONSTANT



MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

$$\frac{r}{R} = \sum_{i=1}^3 \theta_i$$

From: <Dan> To: <Sergei>

Dear Sergei, the  $r/R$  and sum of cosines is constant over all orbits!

From: <Sergei> To: <Dan>

Dear Dan, sorry to disappoint you: this identity holds in every triangle (without relation to billiards)

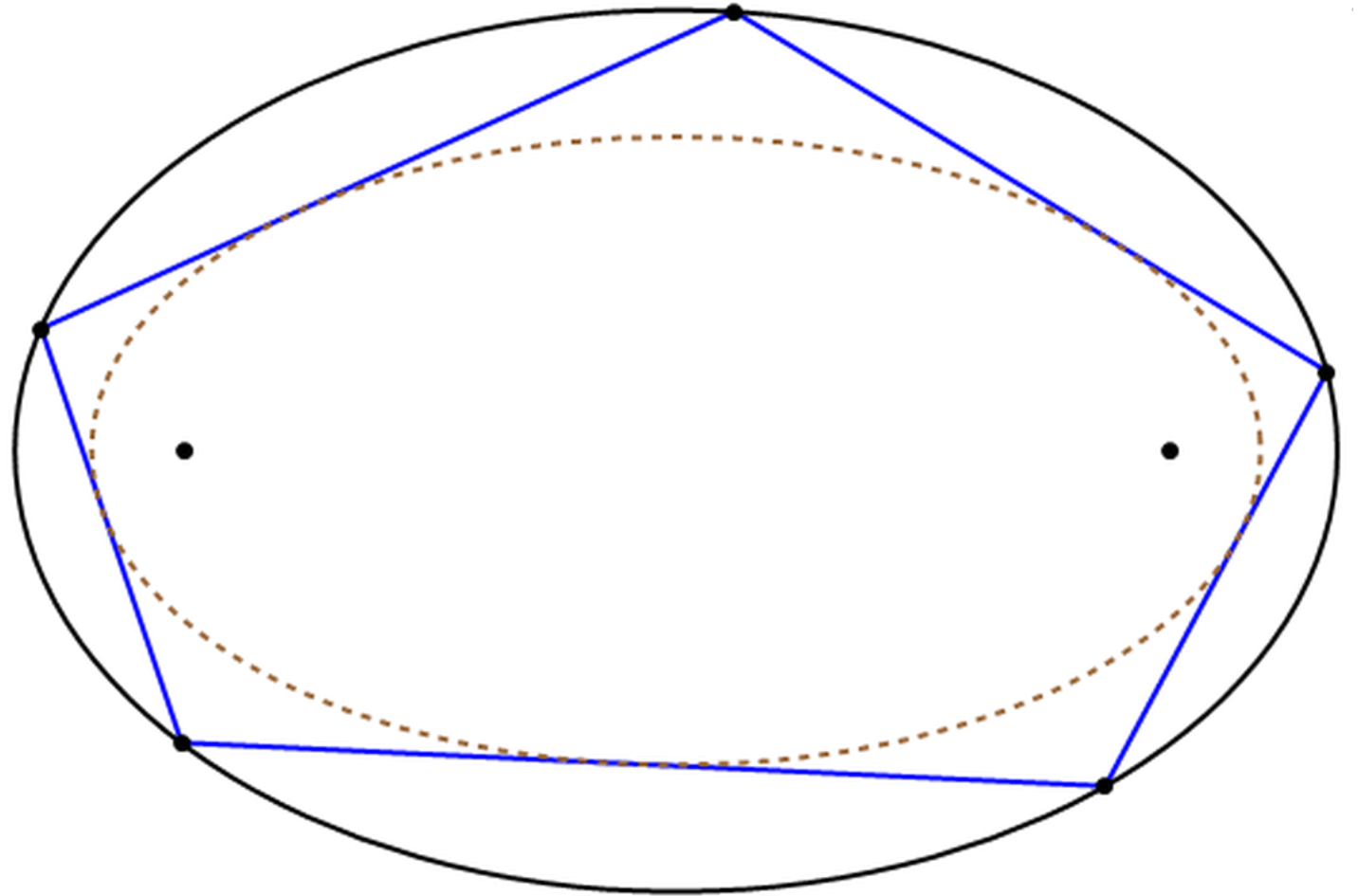
From: <Dan> To: <Sergei>

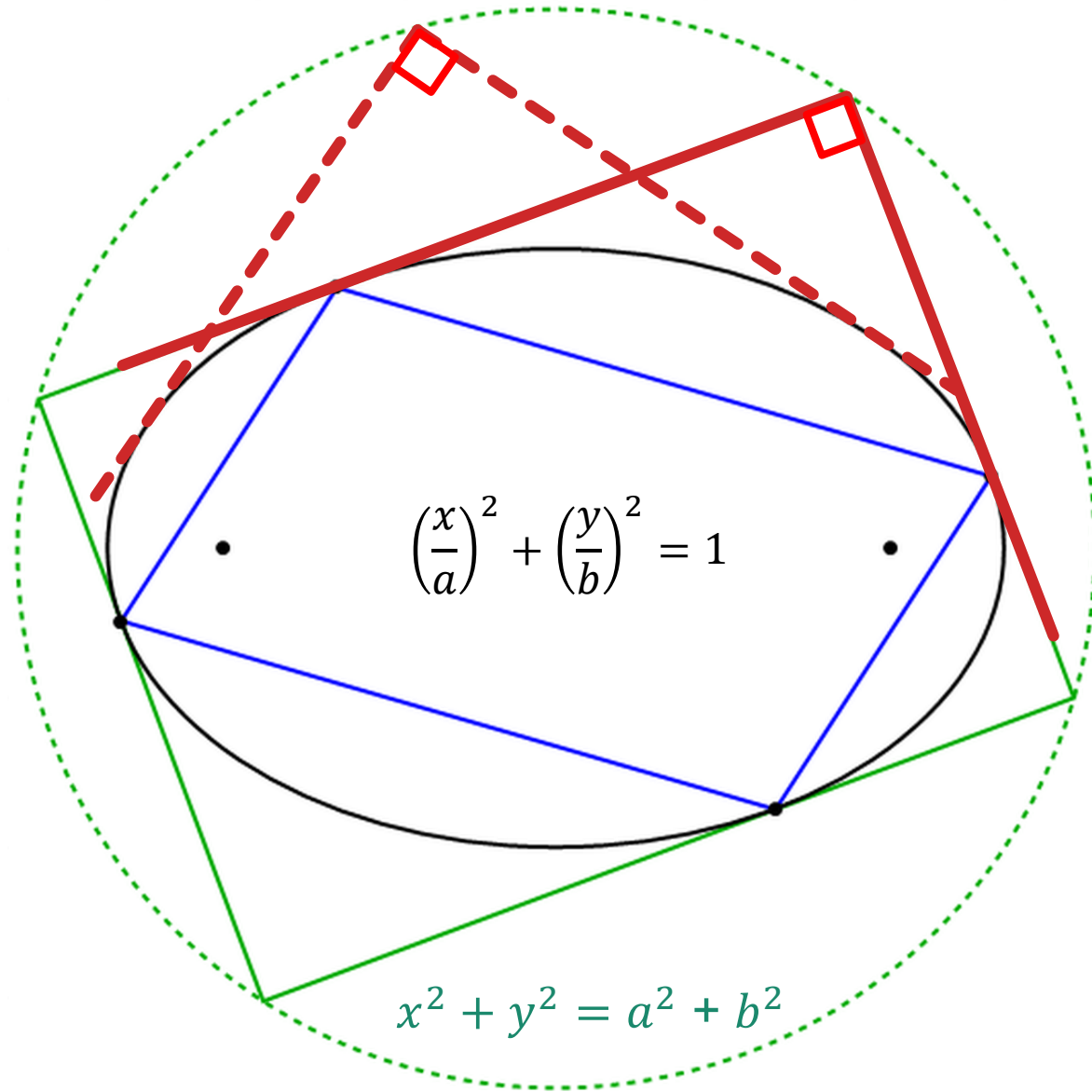
Dear Sergei, we were aware of the identity. But they are both staying constant over all orbits!

From: <Sergei> To: <Dan>

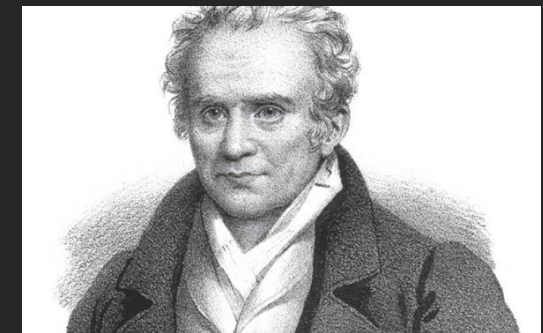
Oh, I see: the claim is that for a triangular orbit the sum of cosines is an integral. **This is new to me.**

# WHAT ABOUT $N > 3$ ?

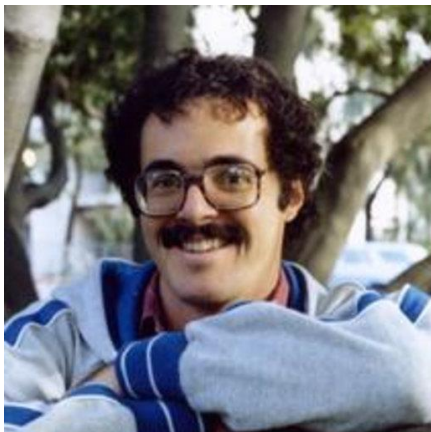




N=4:  
 MONGE'S  
 ORTHOPTIC  
 CIRCLE  
[VIDEO](#)



Gaspard Monge  
 (1746–1818)



## CONVERSATION WITH JAIR MAY 29, 2019.

### N=3: Triangle

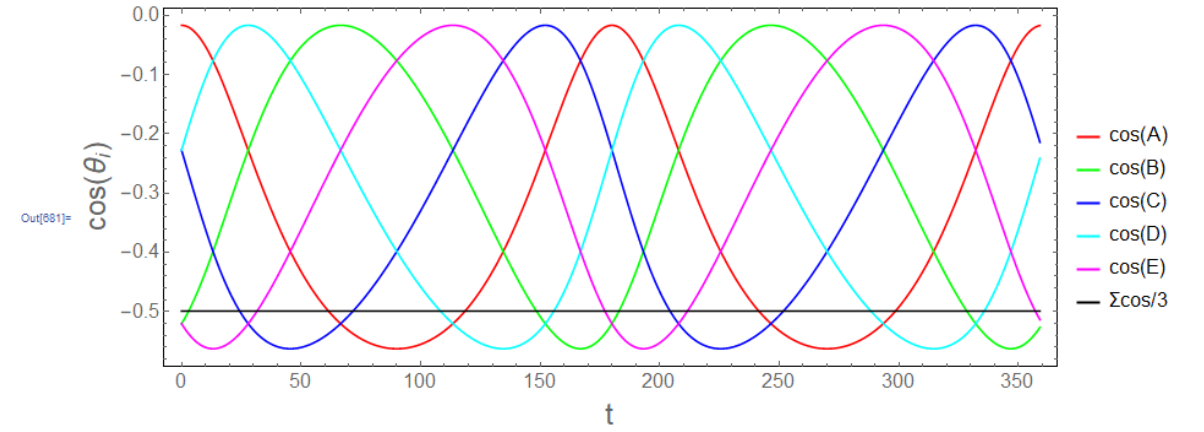
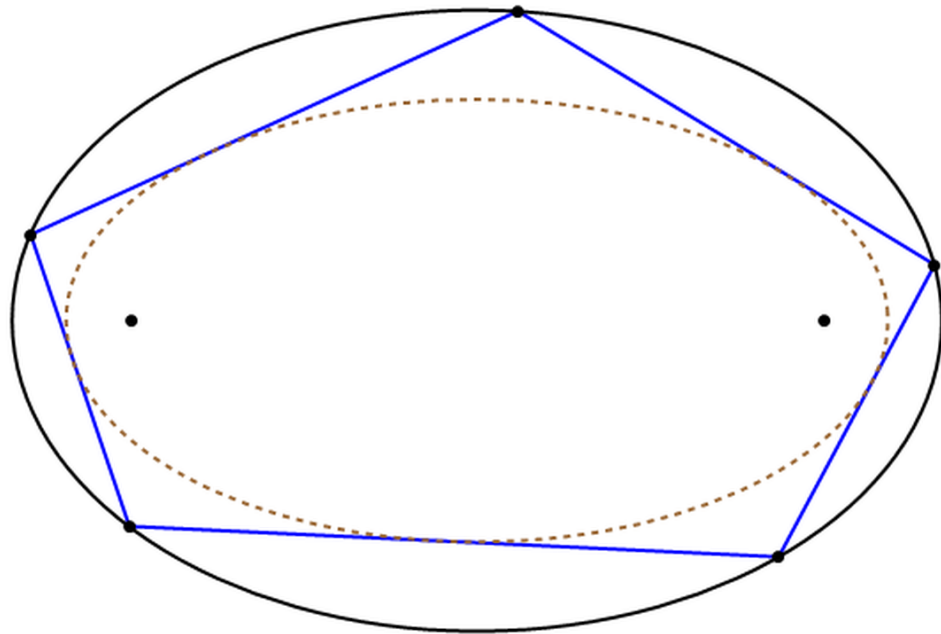
- $r/R = \text{constant}$
- $r/R = 1 + \cos A + \cos B + \cos C$

### N=4: Parallelogram

- Consecutive angles supplementary:  
 $\cos A = -\cos B, \quad \cos C = -\cos D$
- So:  $\cos A + \cos B + \cos C + \cos D = 0$

### N=5: Pentagon

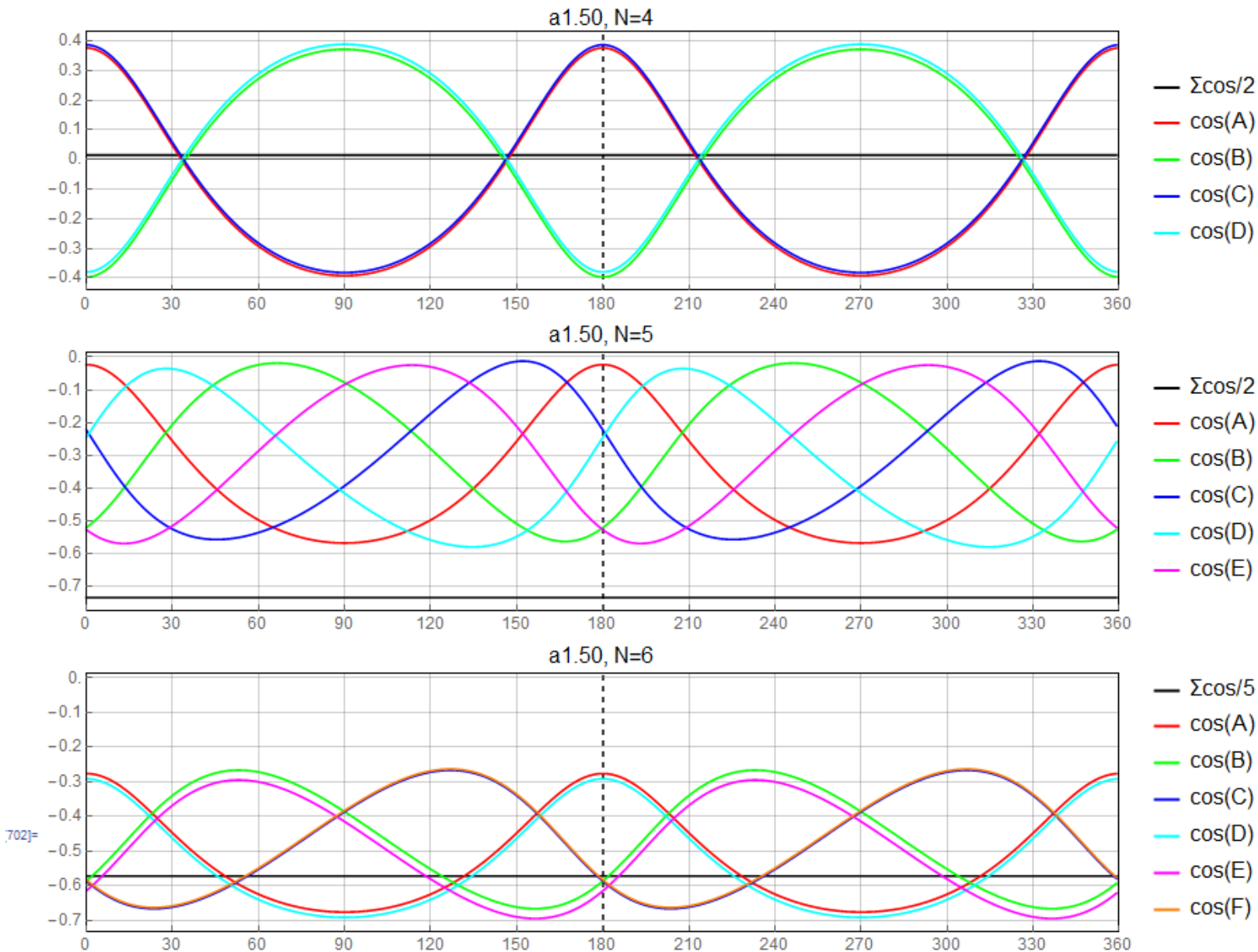
- Dan: Could it work?
- Jair: Try it!!!



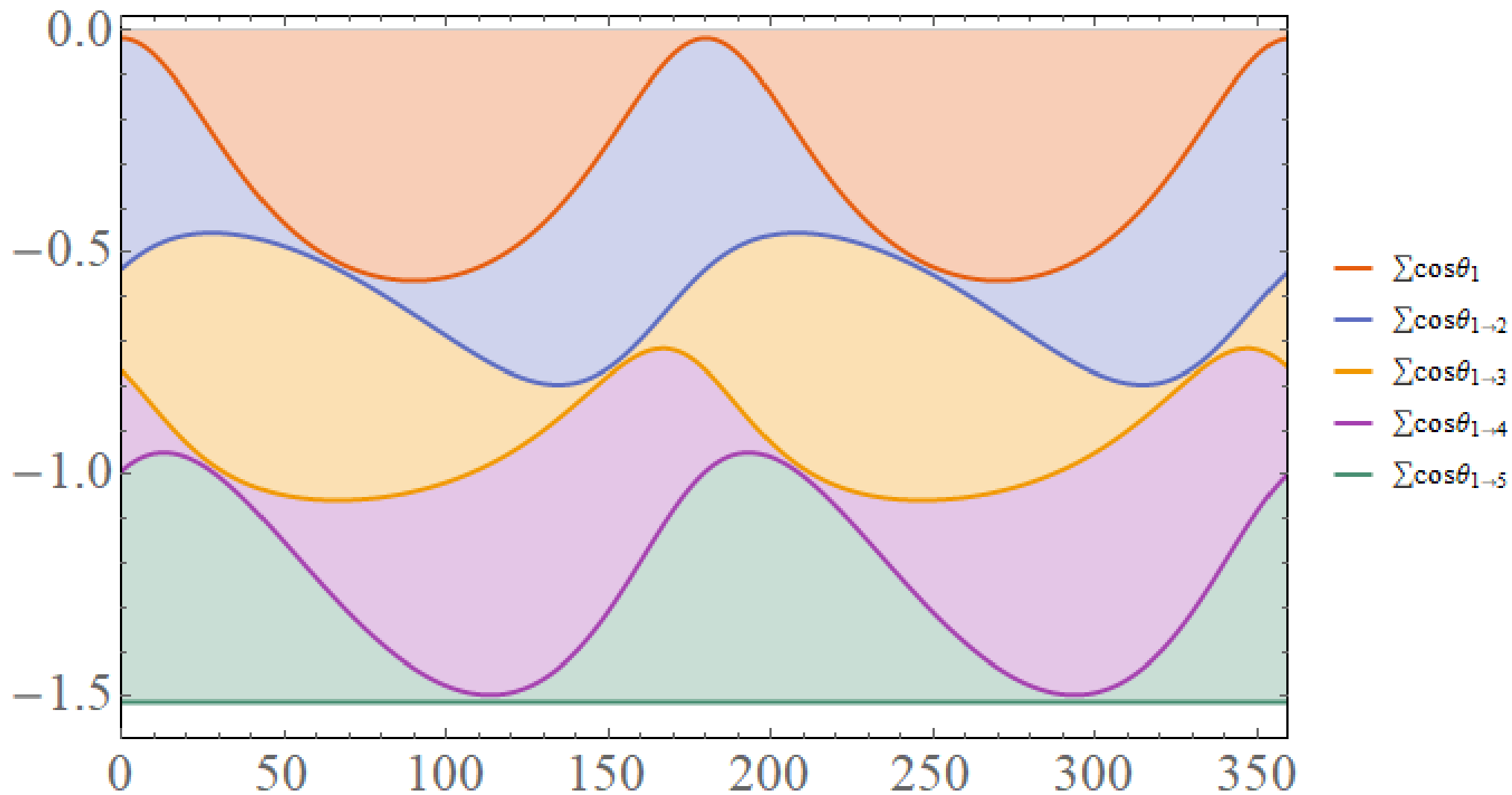
**N=5 WORKS!!!**

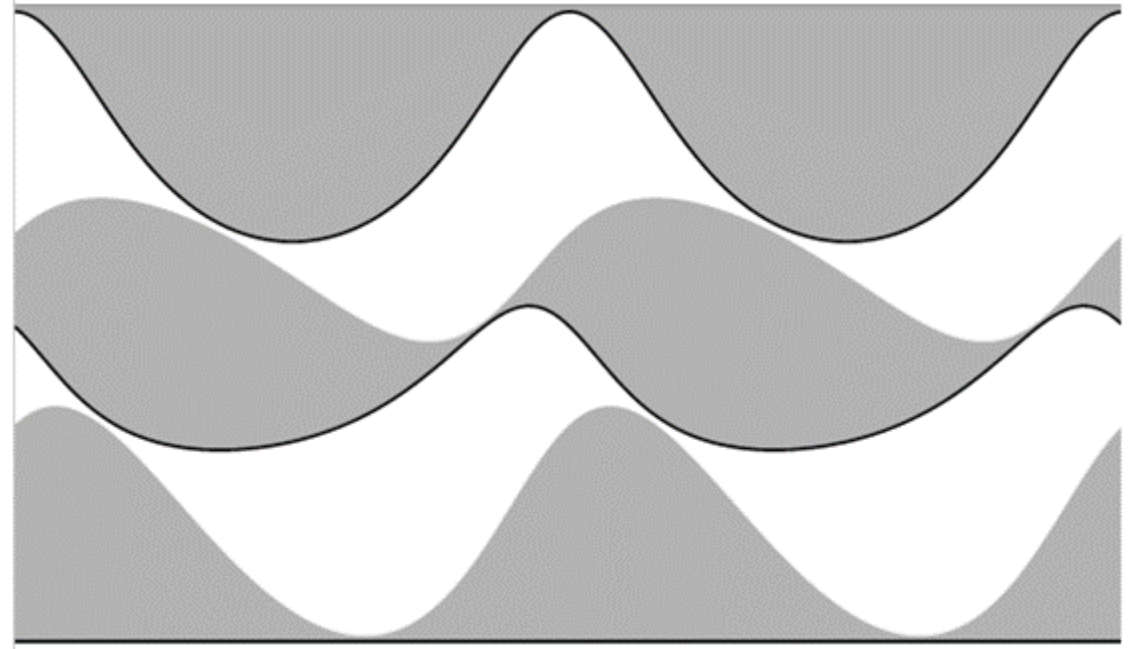


**N=3~100 ALSO  
CONSERVES  
 $\sum \cos \theta_i$**



# $\sum \cos(\theta_i)$ stacked: $a=1.50$ , $N=5$





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JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2019

■ From: <Sergei>, To: <Dan>

Dear Dan: Richard and I **have a proof**  
that the sum of cosines is constant.  
Best, Sergei

■ From: <Dan>, To: <Sergei>

Wizardry!



# SKETCH OF PROOF (TABACHNIKOV ET AL.)

Joachimsthal

$$\blacksquare \cos \alpha = -\frac{\nabla f \cdot \hat{v}}{|\nabla f|} = \frac{c}{|\nabla f|} \quad ; \quad \cos(2\alpha) = 2(\cos \alpha)^2 - 1$$

$$\blacksquare \sum \cos(2\alpha_i) = 2c \sum \frac{1}{|\nabla f(P_i)|^2} - N$$

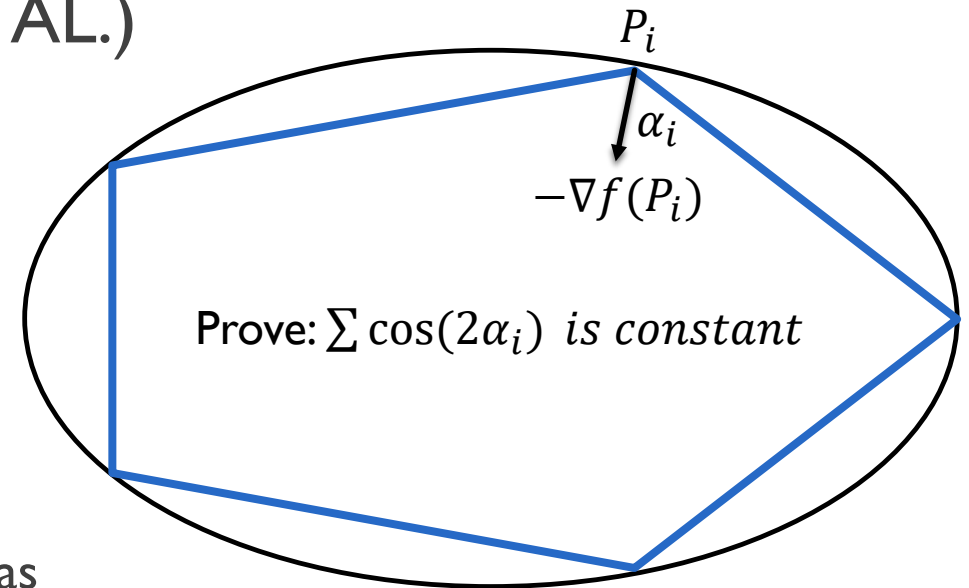
$\blacksquare$  Complexify and analyze the poles of  $\sum \frac{1}{|\nabla f(P_i)|^2}$  over orbit as function on elliptic curve covering the conic

$\blacksquare$  Show complex poles of  $\sum \frac{1}{|\nabla f(P_i)|^2}$  cancel each other



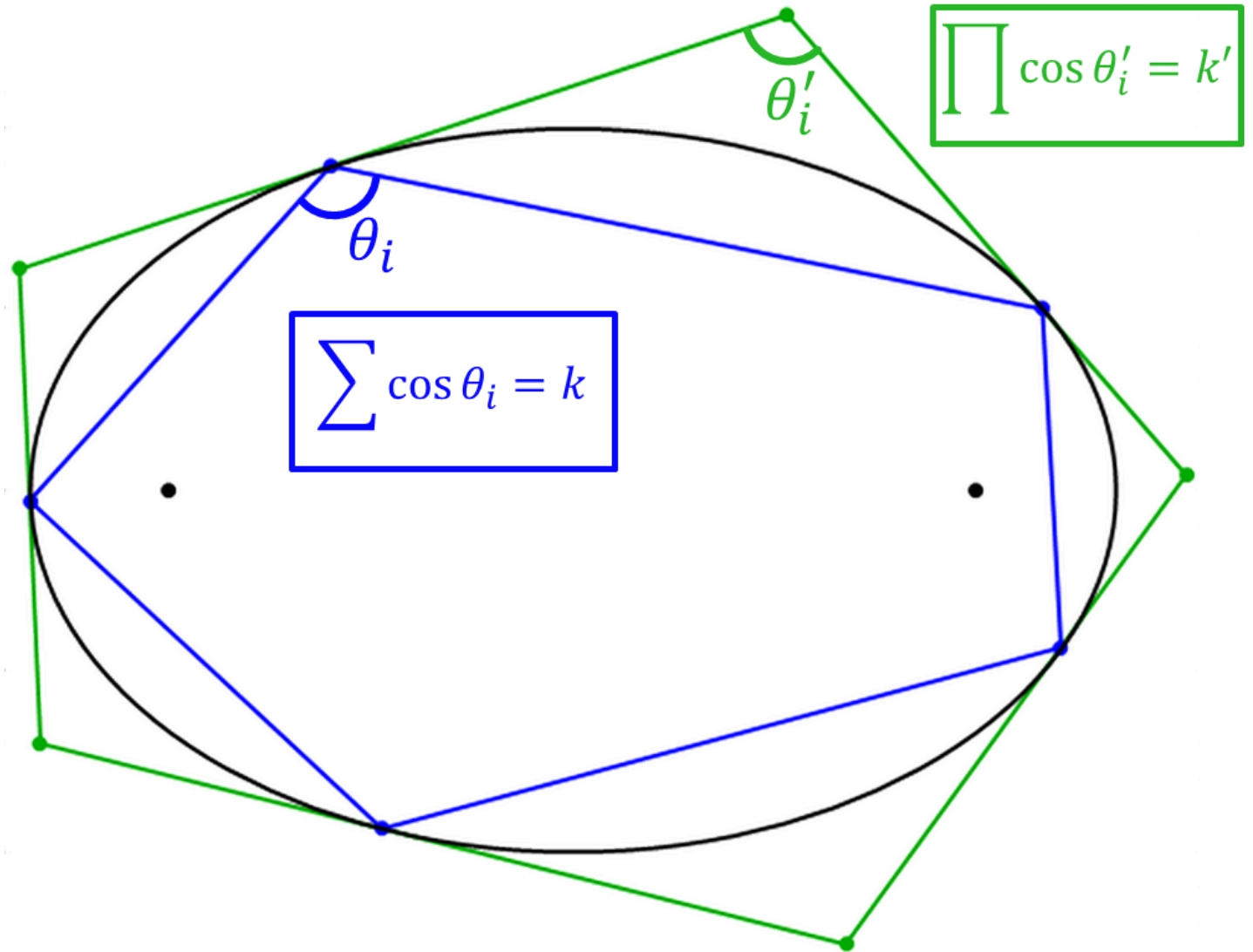
$\blacksquare$  So one has a meromorphic function without poles, hence a constant.

$\blacksquare$  In fact, there are  $\frac{n-1}{2}$  conserved quantities.



JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2019

TANGENT  
POLYGON  
CONSERVES  
\*PRODUCT\* OF  
COSINES



COMPUTATIONAL  
SETUP

NUMERICAL  
PLAYGROUND

# EXPERIMENTAL PLAYGROUND

[LINK](#)

$\theta$

viewport

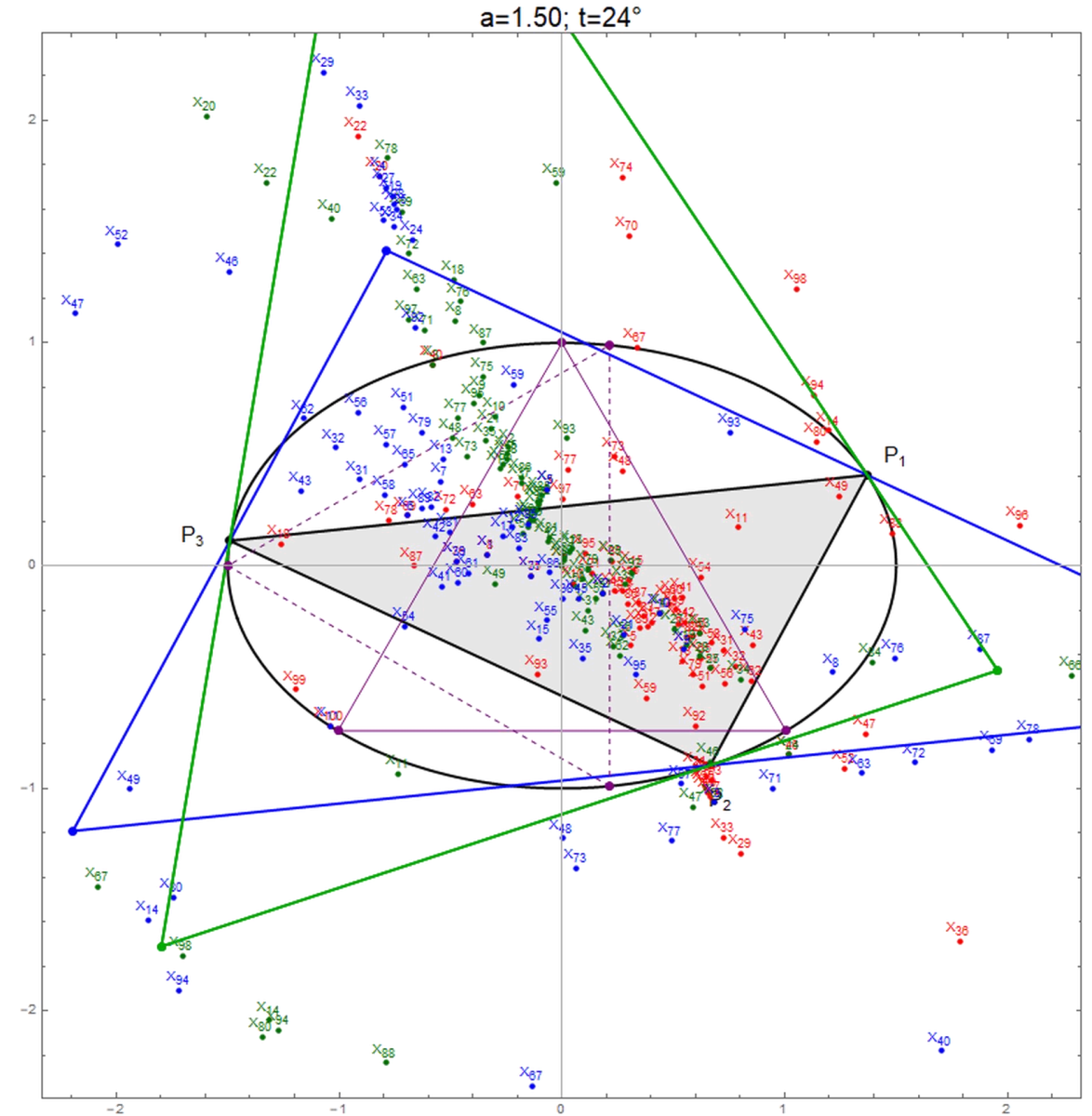
image size     experiment

basic	points	lines	circles
billiard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	basic <input type="checkbox"/>	notables <input type="checkbox"/>	incircle <input type="checkbox"/>
orbit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	notables <input type="checkbox"/>	feuerbach <input type="checkbox"/>	circumcircle <input type="checkbox"/>
normals <input type="checkbox"/>	exnotables <input type="checkbox"/>	exnotable <input type="checkbox"/>	nine point <input type="checkbox"/>
loci <input type="checkbox"/>	bevan $X_{40}$ <input type="checkbox"/>	mitten-gergonne <input type="checkbox"/>	excircles <input type="checkbox"/>
caustic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	$X_{88}$ <input type="checkbox"/>	mitten- $X_{142}$ <input type="checkbox"/>	cosine <input type="checkbox"/>
incenter $X_1$ <input type="checkbox"/>	anti-feuer $X_{100}$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	darboux-gergonne <input type="checkbox"/>	
baricenter $X_2$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	focus of Yff parabola $X_{101}$ <input type="checkbox"/>	incenter <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>conics</b>
circumcenter $X_3$ <input type="checkbox"/>	tabachnikov $X_{142}$ <input type="checkbox"/>	darboux <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feuerbach hyperbola <input type="checkbox"/>
orthocenter $X_4$ <input type="checkbox"/>	darboux $X_{144}$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	x88-antifeuerbach <input type="checkbox"/>	$X_{100}$ hyperbola <input type="checkbox"/>
nine-point center $X_5$ <input type="checkbox"/>	excentral mitten $X_{168}$ <input type="checkbox"/>	feuer-antifeuer <input type="checkbox"/>	Steiner Circumell <input type="checkbox"/>
symmedian point $X_6$ <input type="checkbox"/>	steiner $X_{190}$ <input type="checkbox"/>	mittenfeet <input type="checkbox"/>	Steiner Inellipse <input type="checkbox"/>
gergonne $X_7$ <input type="checkbox"/>			Incenter Circumell <input type="checkbox"/>
nagel $X_8$ <input type="checkbox"/>			isogonal axis <input type="checkbox"/>
mittenpunkt $X_9$ <input type="checkbox"/>			isotomic axis <input type="checkbox"/>
feuerbach $X_{11}$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<b>anticompl</b>			
tri <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
incirc $X_8$ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
nine point <input type="checkbox"/>			
circumb $X_7$ <input type="checkbox"/>			
contact <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>triads</b>			
medians <input type="checkbox"/>			
intouch <input type="checkbox"/>			
extouch <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
exfeuer <input type="checkbox"/>			

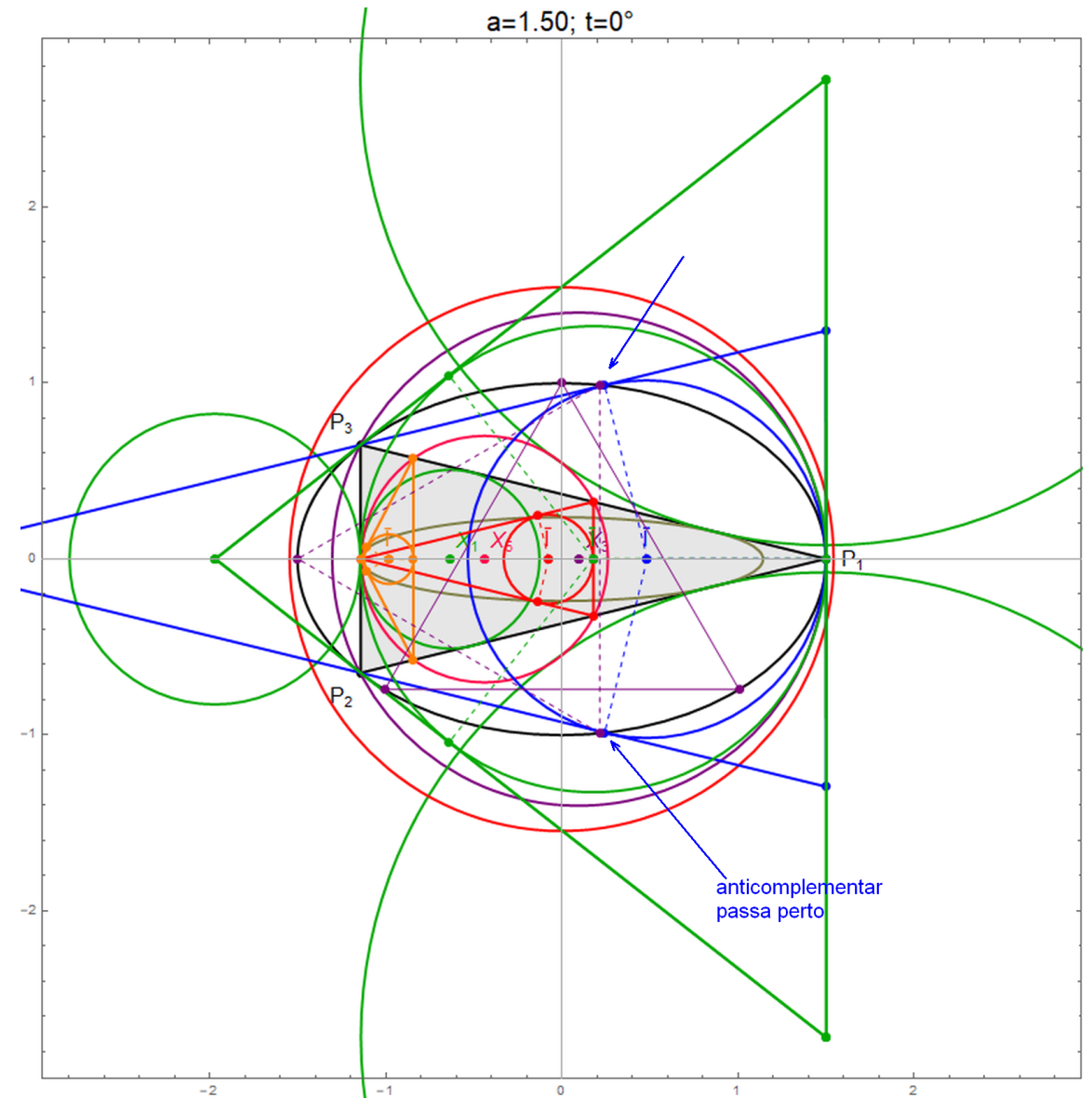


# HUNTING I

(C) 2019 DAN S. REZNIK



# HUNTING 2



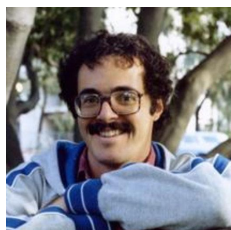
ETC

R



YouTube

mathworld  
the web's most extensive mathematics resource



R Studio

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

github:pages



Prof Ronaldo Garcia

eu estarei em casa ate as 10h15 8:42 AM ✓

ontem dei um break 8:42 AM ✓

vamos la. Vou enviar por pedacos. P1=(x1,y1) na elipse (a,b)

8:44 AM

$$-(2*(2*\sqrt{3}b^2*x1-y1*a^2+3*b^2*y1))*a^2*m^3+(2*(2*y1*a^2*\sqrt{3}+a^2*x1-3*x1*b^2))b^2*m^2-(2*(2*\sqrt{3}b^2*x1+3*y1*a^2-b^2*y1))*a^2*m+(2*(2*y1*a^2*\sqrt{3}-3*a^2*x1+x1*b^2))*b^2=0$$
 (m= inclinacao da reta tangente passando por (x1,y1).

8:44 AM

$$P3=\left(\frac{(2*a^2*m^2*y1+2*x1*(a^2+b^2)m-2*y1*a^2)*\sqrt{3}+x1(a^2-3*b^2)m^2+4*y1*m*a^2+3*a^2*x1-x1*b^2}{(2*a^2-2*b^2)*m*\sqrt{3}+(a^2+3*b^2)*m^2+3*a^2+b^2}, \frac{((2*b^2*m^2*x1-2*y1(a^2+b^2)m-2*x1*b^2)*\sqrt{3}-y1(a^2-3*b^2)*m^2+4*b^2*m*x1-3*y1*a^2+b^2*y1)}{(2*a^2-2*b^2)*m*\sqrt{3}+(a^2+3*b^2)*m^2+3*a^2+b^2}\right)$$

8:45 AM

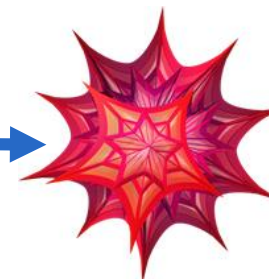
$$P2=\left(\frac{m*(m*x1-2*y1)*a^2-x1*b^2}{(a^2*m^2+b^2)}, \frac{(-2*m*x1+y1)*b^2-a^2*m^2*y1}{(a^2*m^2+b^2)}\right)$$

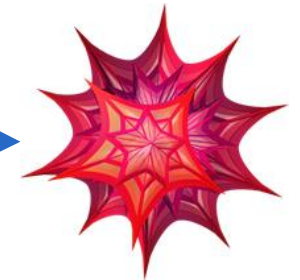
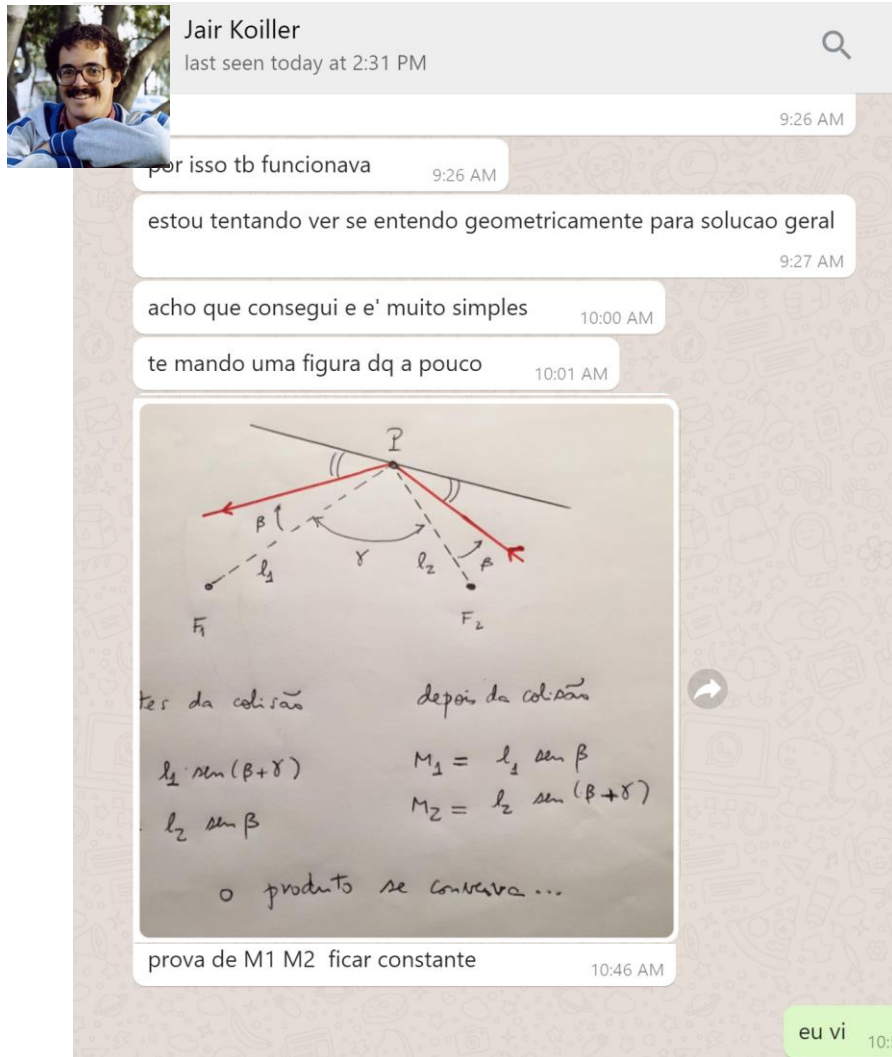
8:46 AM

se nao tiver errado, resolvendo a raiz cubica (variavel m) o triangulo (P1,P2,P3) e equilatero.

8:46 AM

sensacional 8:47 AM ✓

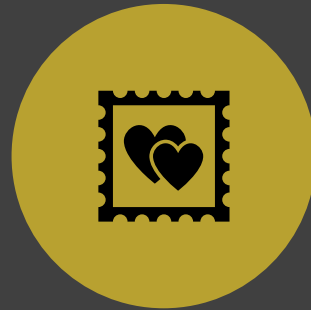




# MY LEARNING PROCESS



CURIOSITY



EXPERIMENTATION



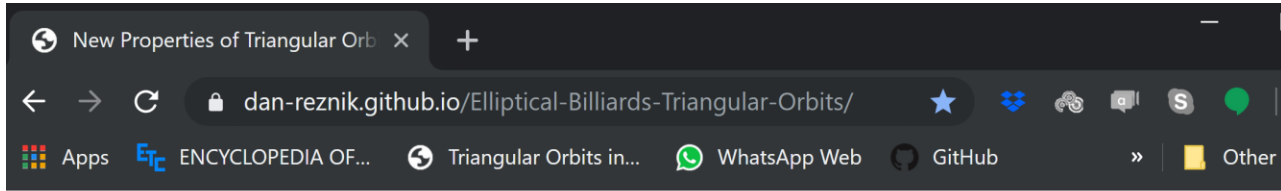
LEARNING



(RE)DISCOVERING

## MAIN RESULTS & QUESTIONS

- Invariants for  $\forall N$ 
  - “Mittelpunkt” stationary at billiard center
  - Integrals of motion:
    - $\sum \cos \theta_i = k$
    - $\prod \cos \theta_i' = k'$
- Open questions:
  - Elliptic vs non-elliptic loci?
  - Non-euclidean invariants?



## 1 Introduction

2 Results

3 Conclusion

4 Media by the Authors

5 Glossary of Terms

6 Appendices

References

# New Properties of Triangular Orbits in Elliptic Billiards

Dan Reznik, Ronaldo Garcia, Jair Koiller

Last update: 2019-07-17 14:51:37

## Downloads

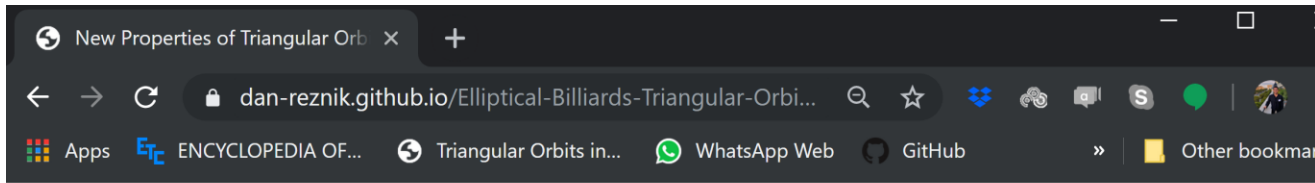
- [PDF](#)
- LaTeX: [tex](#), [figures](#), [bib](#), [media bib](#), [csl](#)
- RMarkdown: [create html](#), [create pdf](#), [common child](#)

## 1 Introduction

I'm going to assume that you love beautiful things and are curious to learn about them. The only things you will need on this journey are common sense and simple human curiosity. (Lockhart [2009](#))

OUR WEBPAGE:  
[BIT.LY/2JISAQI](https://bit.ly/2JISAQI)





- 1 Introduction
- 2 Results
- 3 Conclusion
- 4 Media by the Authors
  - 4.1 Videos
  - 4.2 Images
  - 4.3 Applets
  - 4.4 Code
- 5 Glossary of Terms
- 6 Appendices
- References

## 4 Media by the Authors

### 4.1 Videos

Videos below have been organized in a single [playlist](#).

#### Original (2011) Videos

1. "Periodic trajectories in elliptic billiards", 2011. [video1](#), [video2](#), [video3](#)
2. "Locus of incenter is elliptic for family of triangular orbits in elliptic billiard", 2011. [video](#)
3. "Locus of the incircle touchpoints is a higher-order curve", 2011. [video](#)

#### Loci of Triangular Centers

1. "Triangular Orbits in an Elliptic Billiards and its Derived Triangles, 2019. [video](#)
2. "Elliptic Billiards and Triangular Orbits: Locus of  $X(i)$ ,  $i=1,2,3,4$ ", 2019. [video](#)
3. "Locus of several triangular centers is elliptic", 2019. [video](#)
4. "Locus of the Mittenpunkt is the center of the elliptic billiard", 2019. [video1](#) and [video2](#)
5. "Locus of ex-Feuerbach points is non-elliptic", 2019. [video](#)
6. "Triangular Orbits in Elliptic Billiards: Elliptic Locus of the Bevan Point  $X(40)$ , Similar to Billiard", 2019. [video](#)

#### Feuerbach Point Phenomena

1. "Locus of Feuerbach point and the three extouch points is the internal caustic to the orbits", 2019. [video1](#) and [video2](#)
2. "Locus of the anticomplement of the Feuerbach point is the billiard itself", 2019. [video1](#), [video2](#)
3. "Elliptic Billiards: Feuerbach point and derivatives sweep billiard and caustic", 2019. [video1](#), [video2](#)

MEDIA GALLERY  
[LINK](#)

# THANKING MATHEMATICIANS



Prof. Olga Romaskevich



Prof. Igor Minevich



Prof. Richard Schwartz



Corentin Fierobe



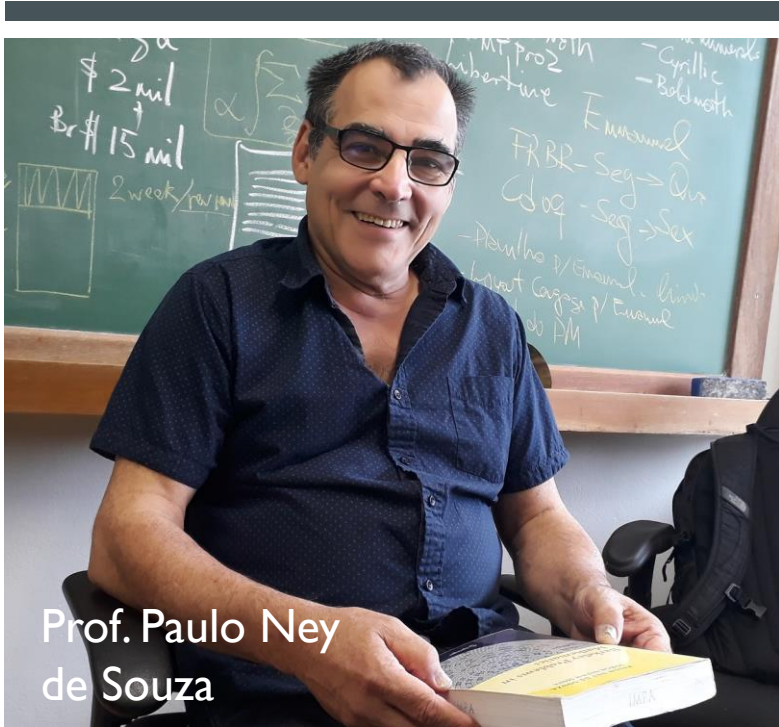
Prof. Arseniy Akopyan



Prof. Sergei Tabachnikov

# THANKING CO- AUTHORS / MENTORS





Prof. Paulo Ney  
de Souza



Prof. Jorge P.  
Zubelli

THANKING FRIENDS AT IMPA



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Dan: [dreznik@gmail.com](mailto:dreznik@gmail.com)

# THANK YOU

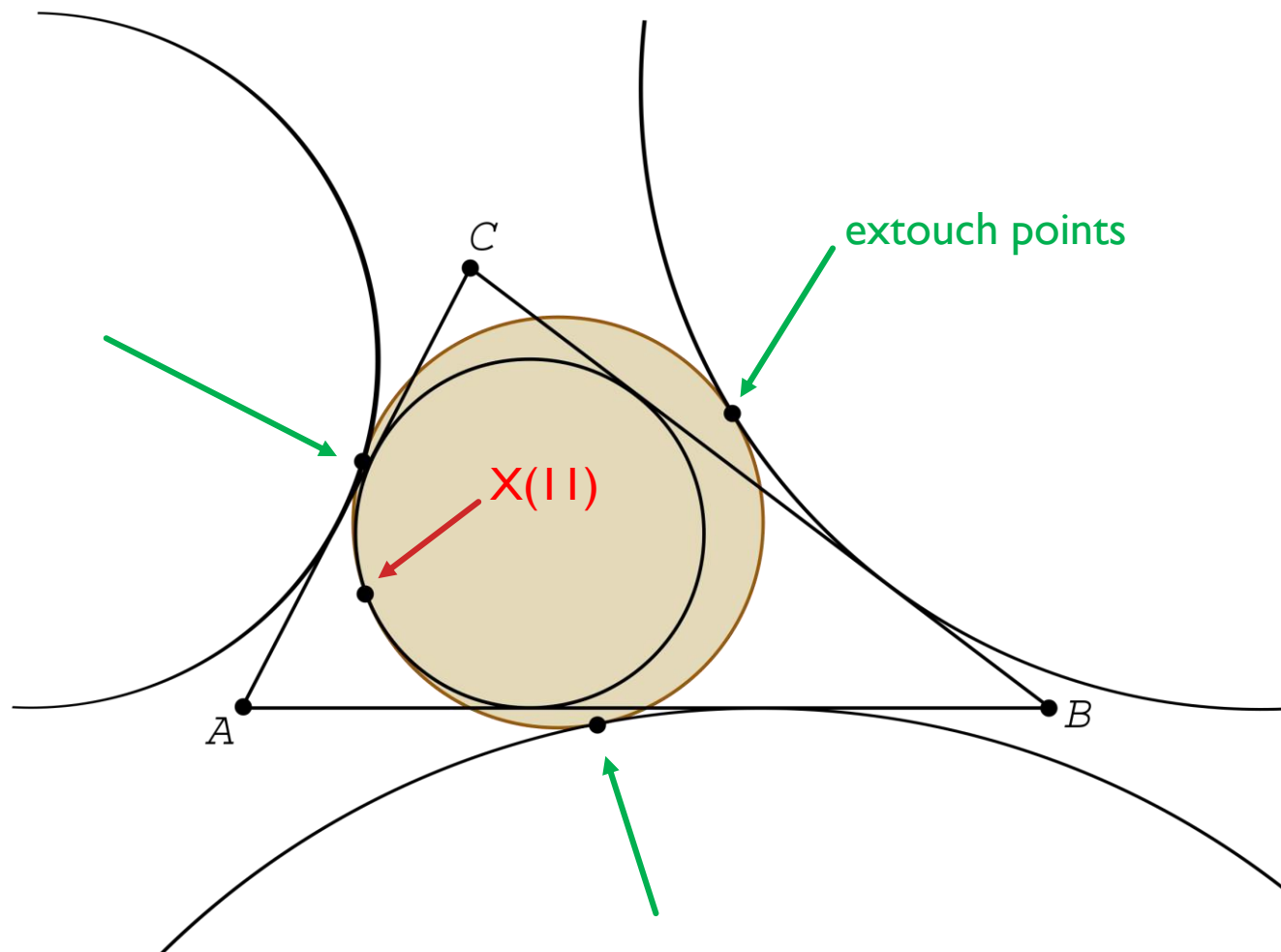
# APPENDIX

FEUERBACH  
PHENOMENA

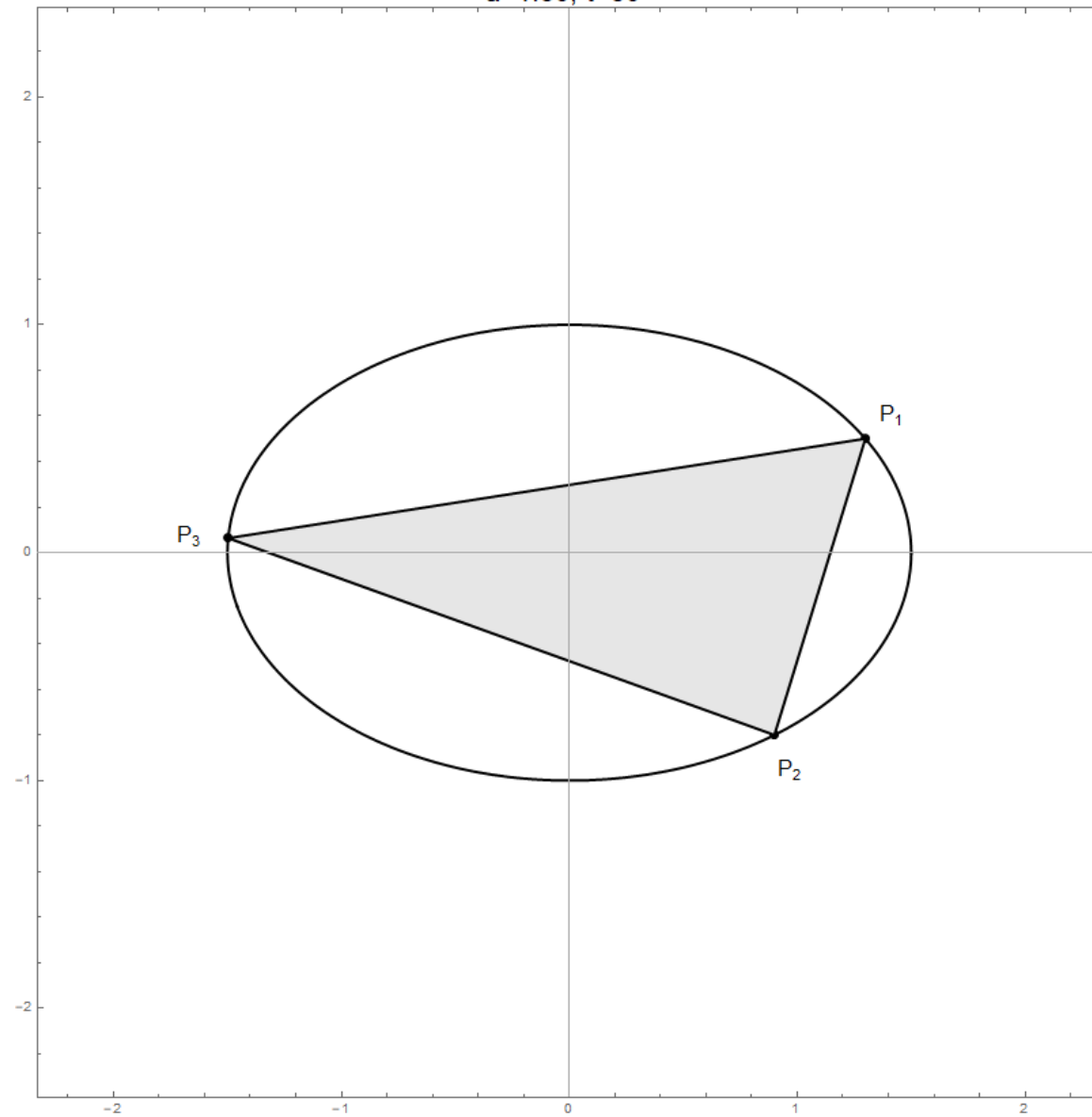


Karl Wilhelm Feuerbach  
1800-1834

# FEUERBACH'S THEOREM

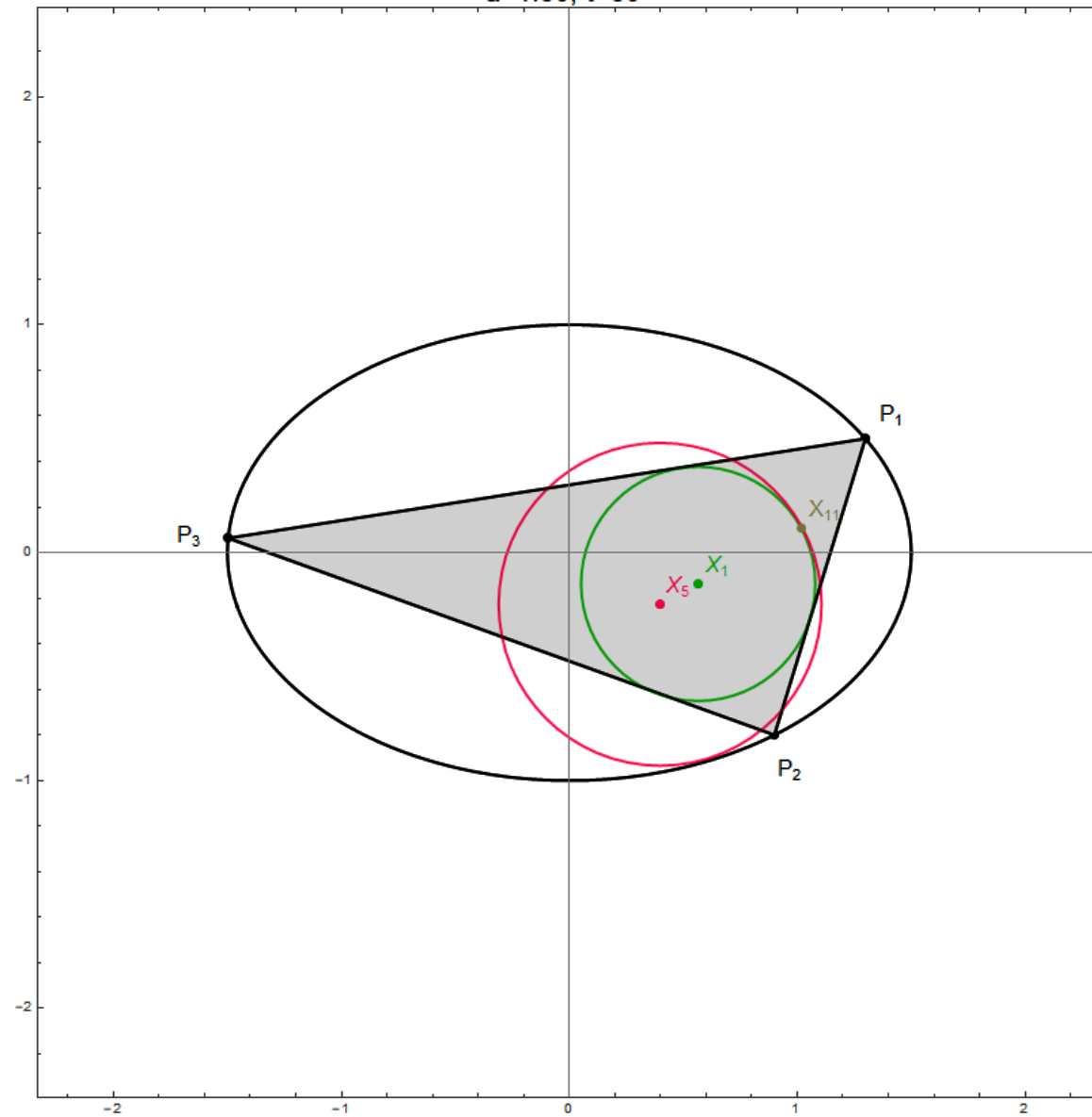


$a=1.50; t=30^\circ$

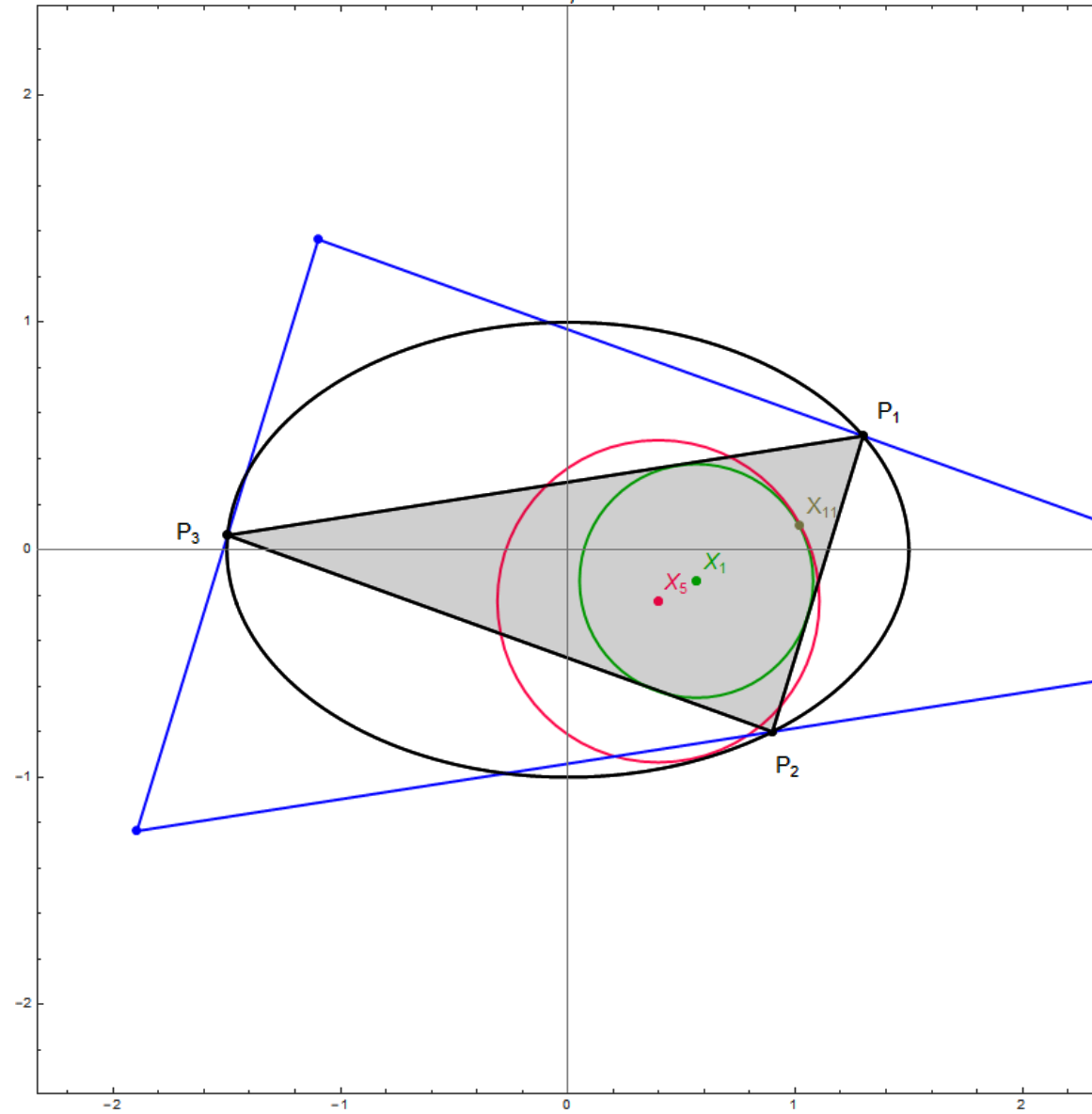




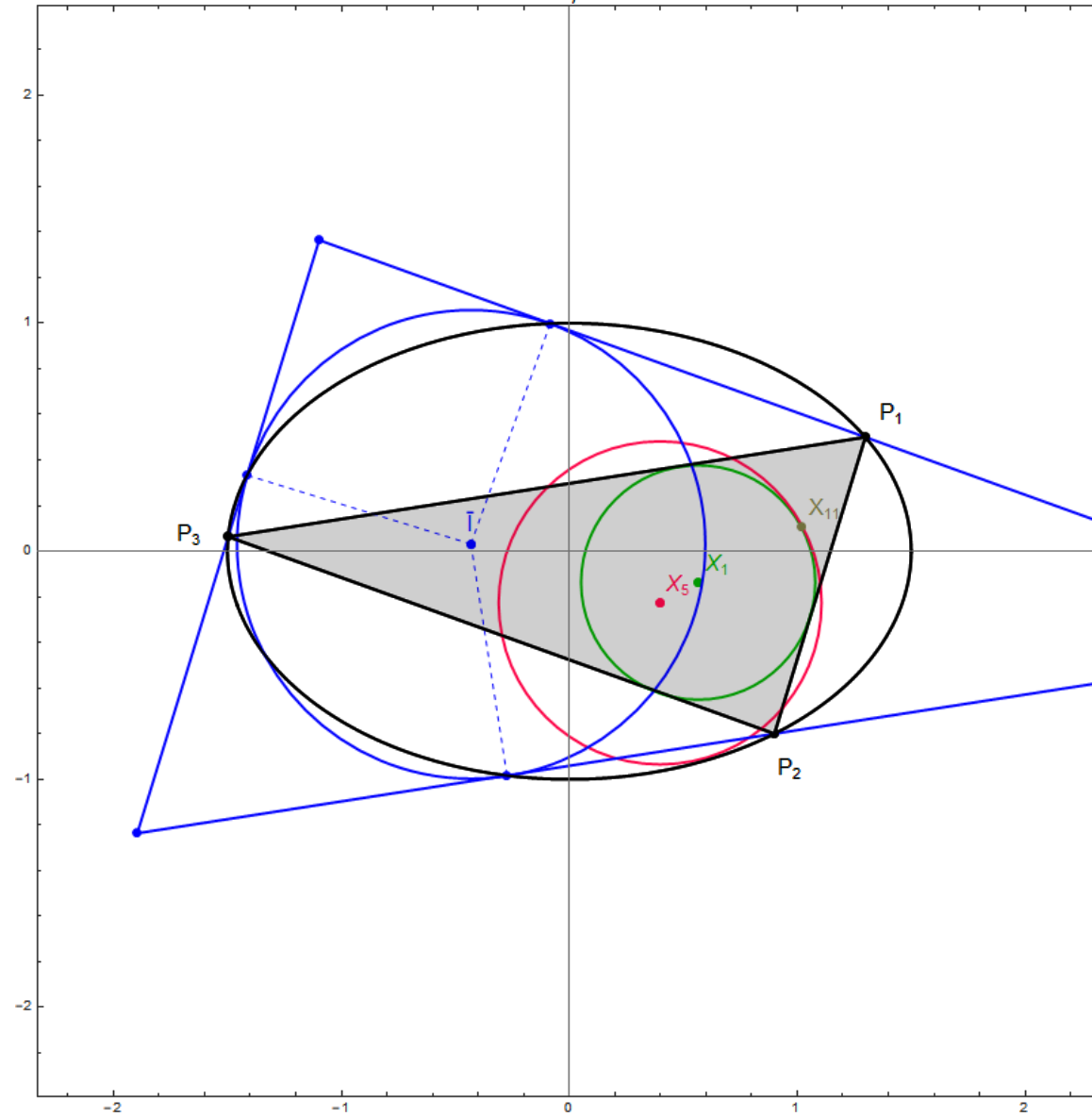
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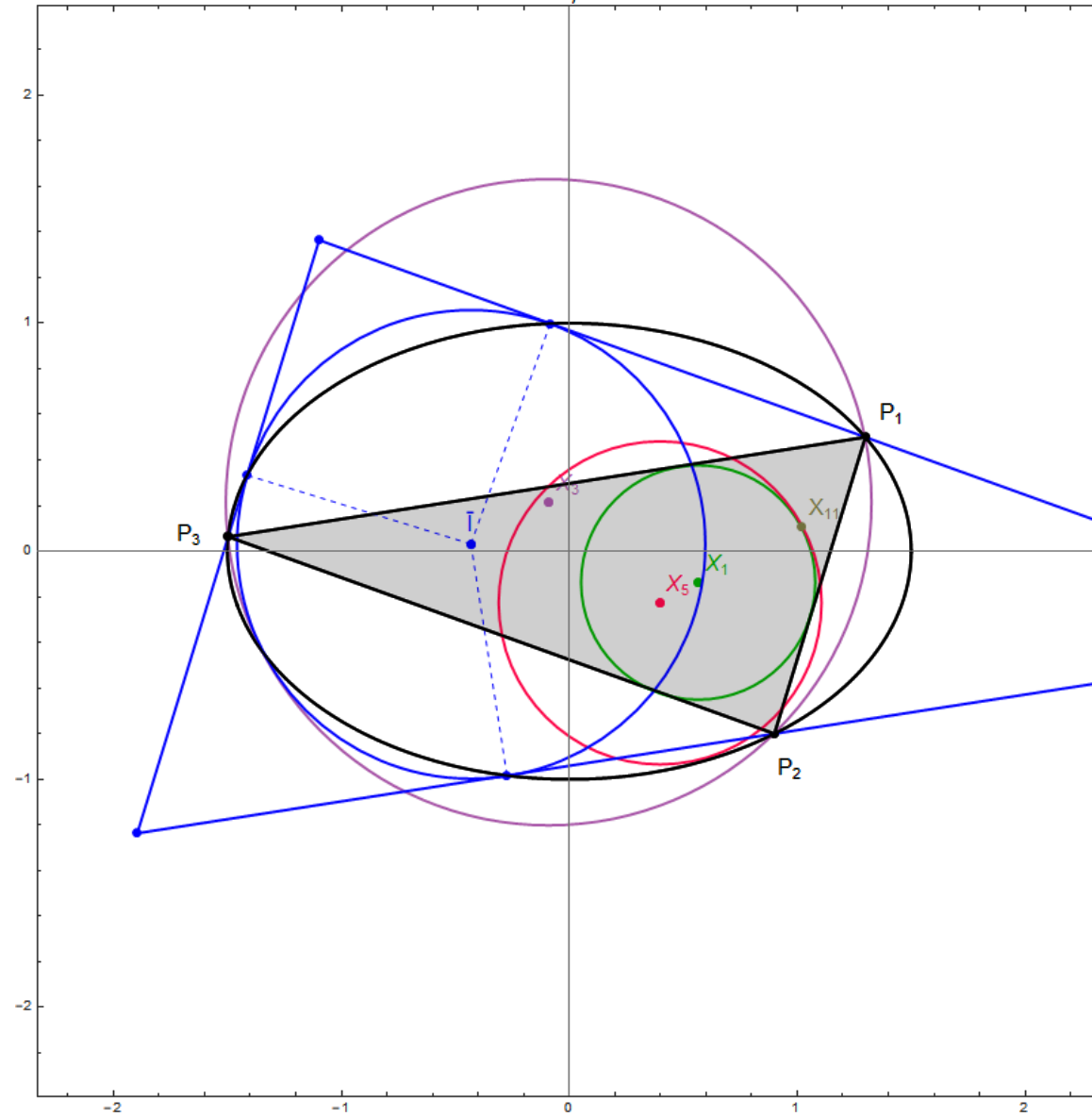
$a=1.50; t=30^\circ$



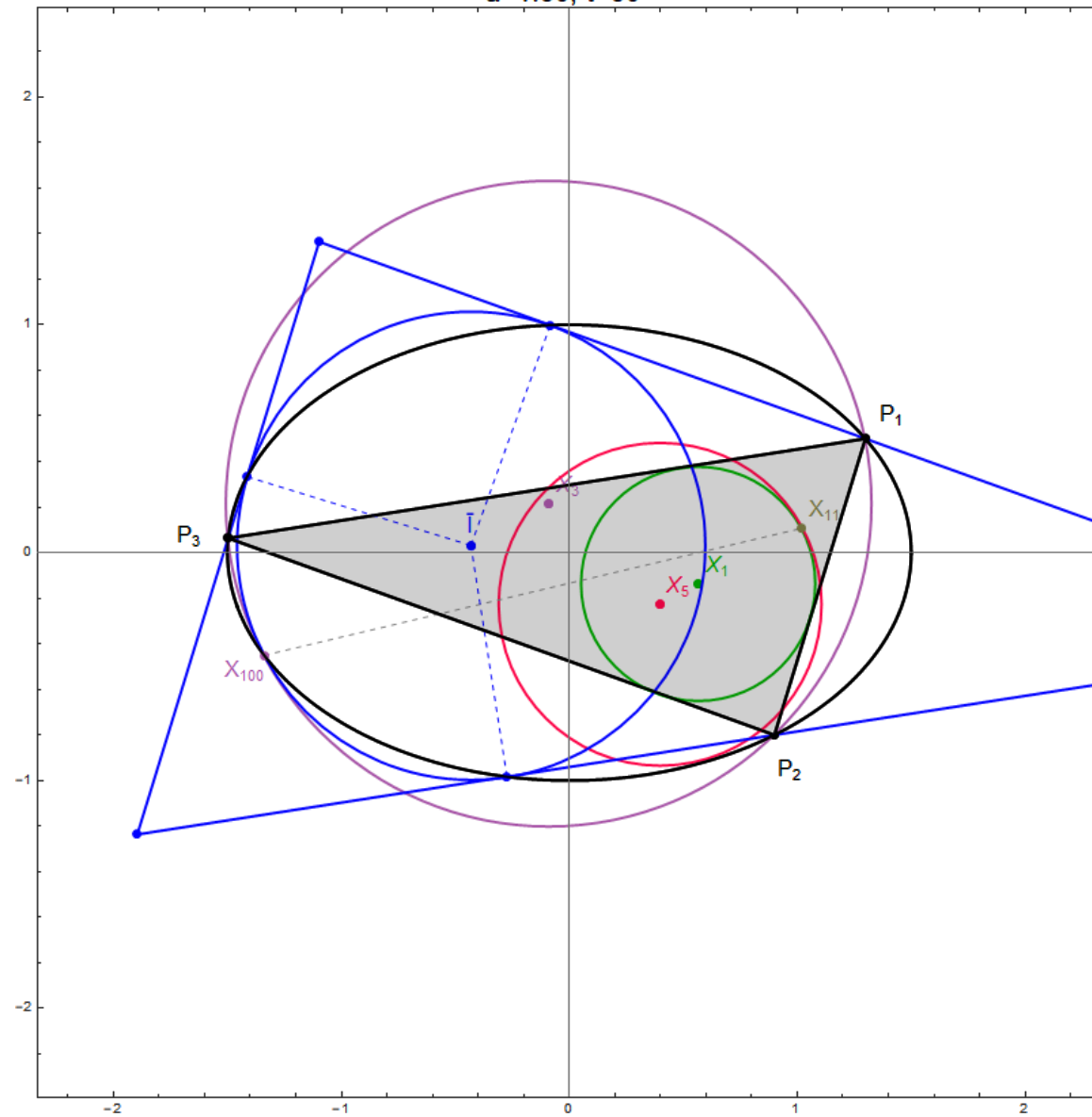
$a=1.50; t=30^\circ$



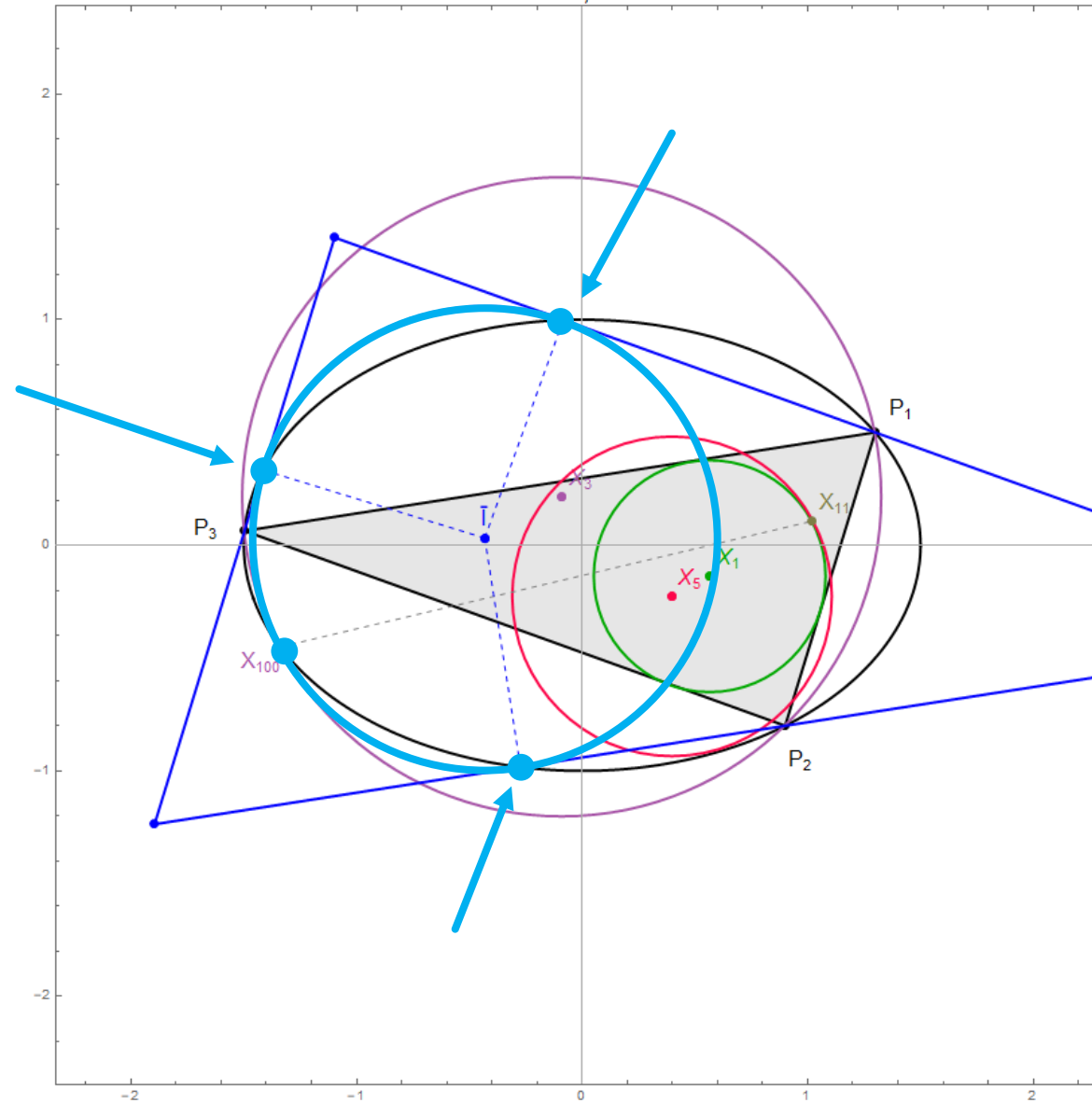
$a=1.50; t=30^\circ$



$a=1.50; t=30^\circ$

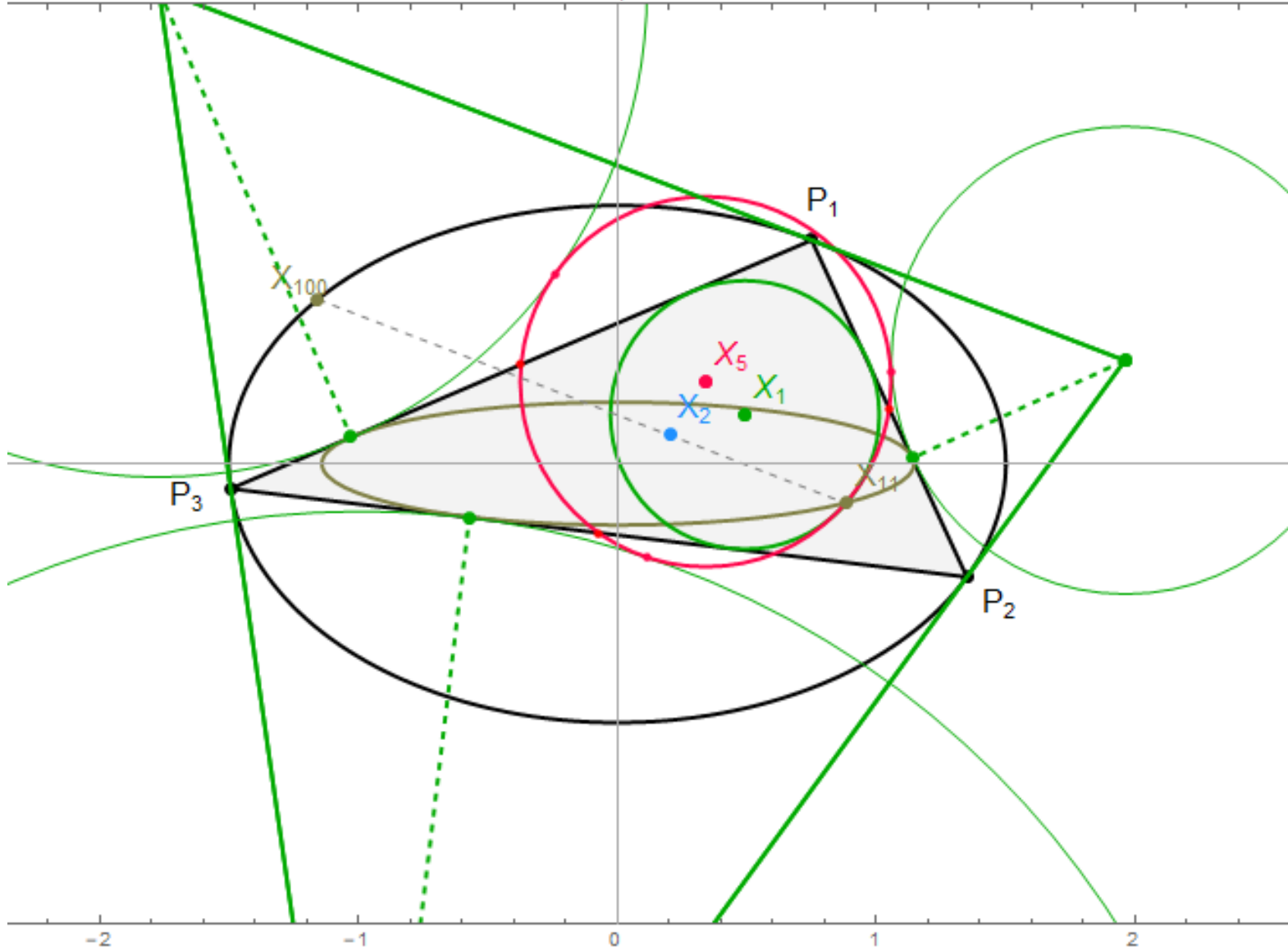


$a=1.50; t=30^\circ$



Prof. Igor Minevich  
Boston College

$a=1.50; t=60^\circ$



1) FEUERBACH POINT SWEEPS  
BILLIARD

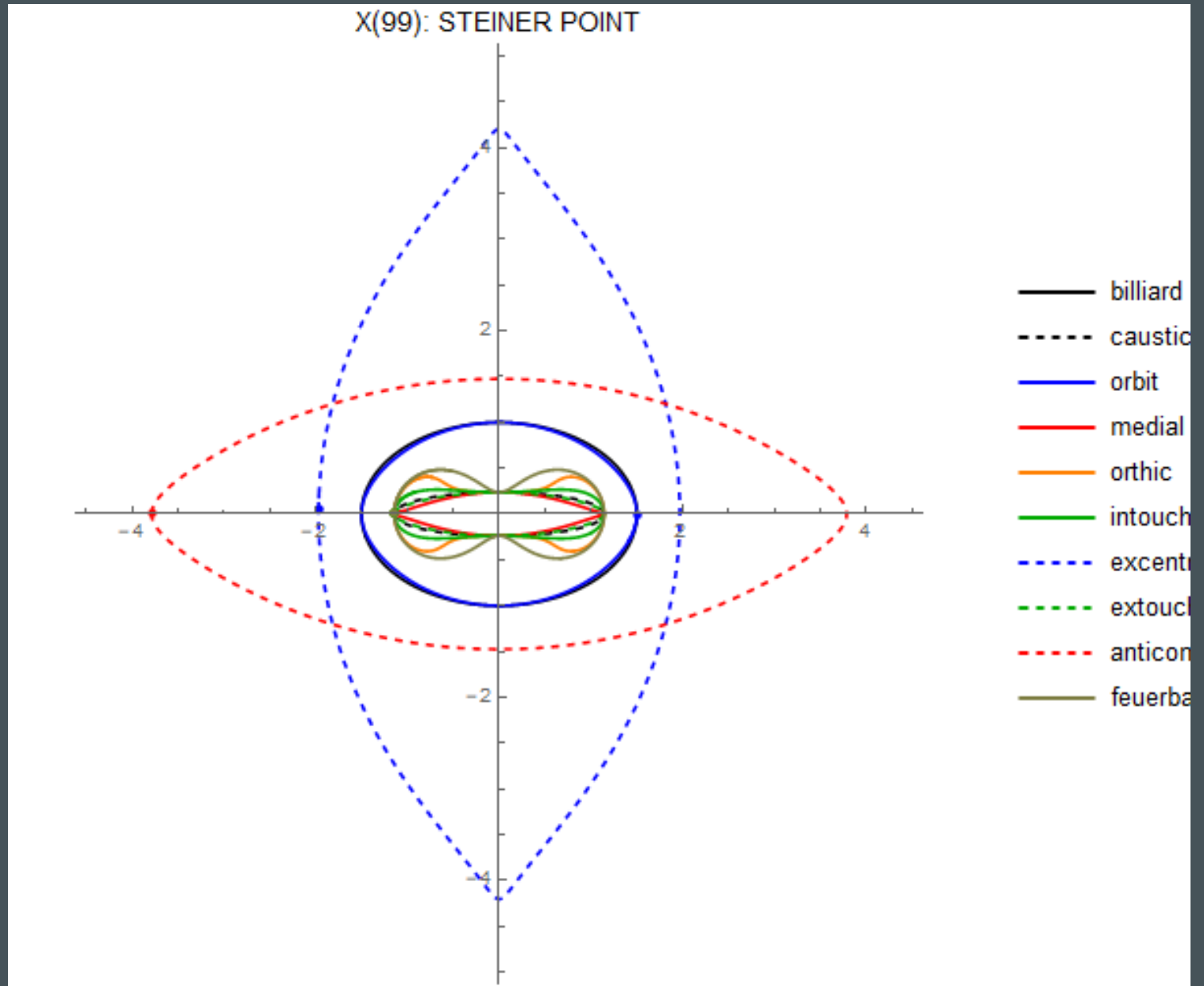
2) ANTICOMPLEMENT OF FEUERBACH  
SWEEPS BILLIARD

3) EXTOUCHPOINTS SWEEP BILLIARD  
(IN REVERSE!)

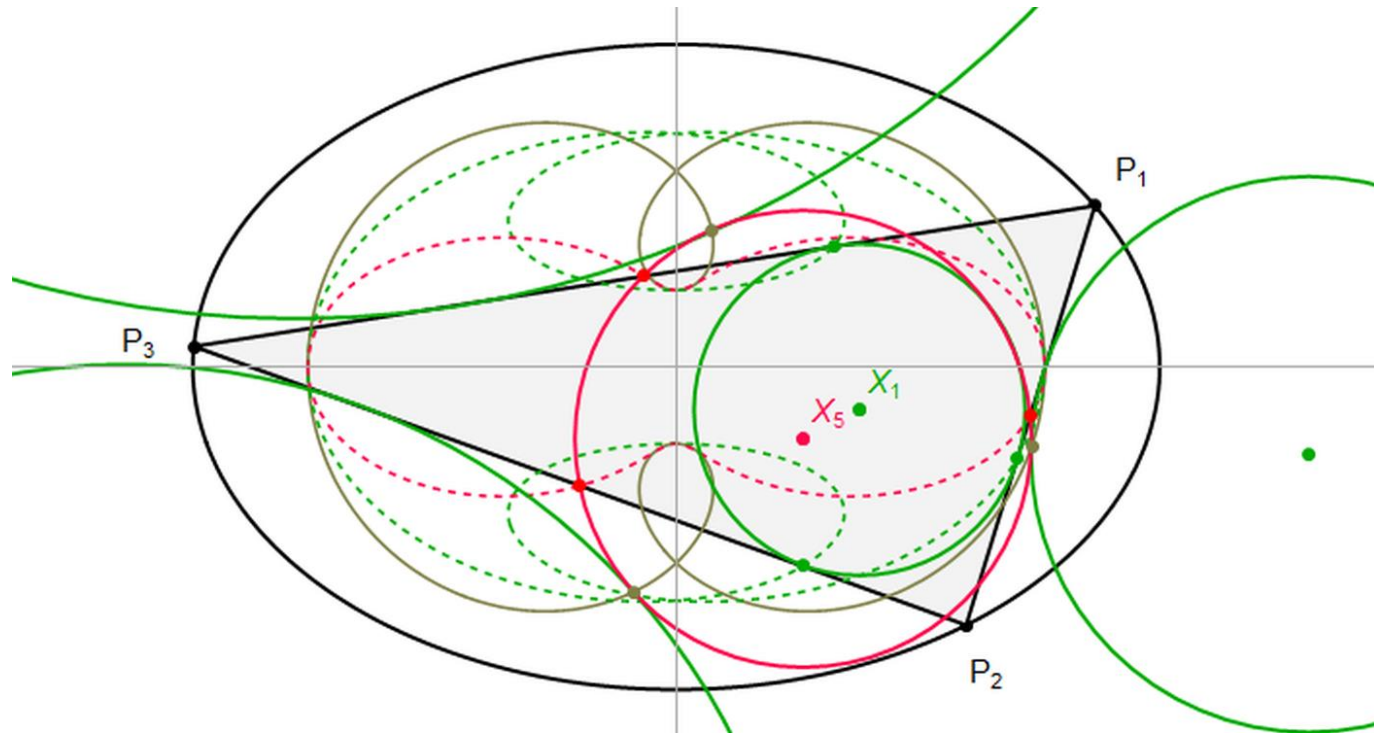
[VIDEO](#)

IN GENERAL  
LOCI ARE NON-  
ELLIPTIC

GALLERY W/ 700  
LOCI







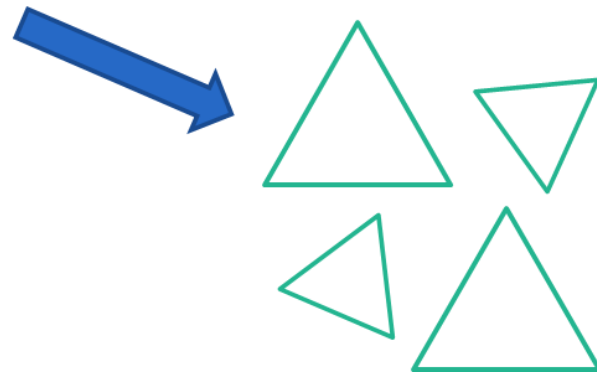
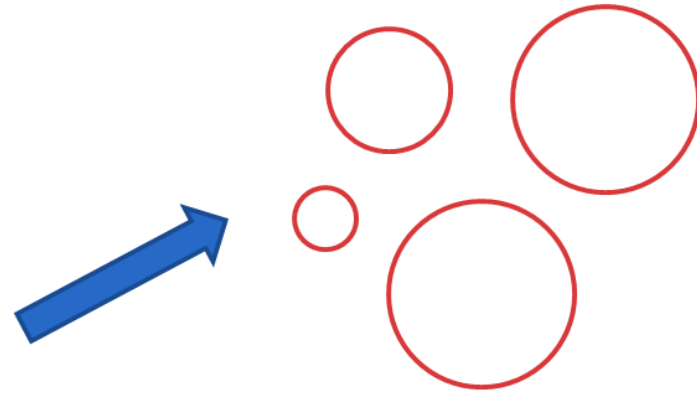
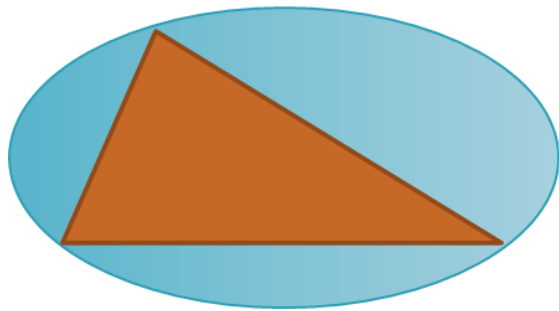
## NON-ELLIPTIC LOCI:

- 1) MEDIAN
- 2) INTOUCH
- 3) FEUERBACH TRIANGLE

[VIDEO](#)

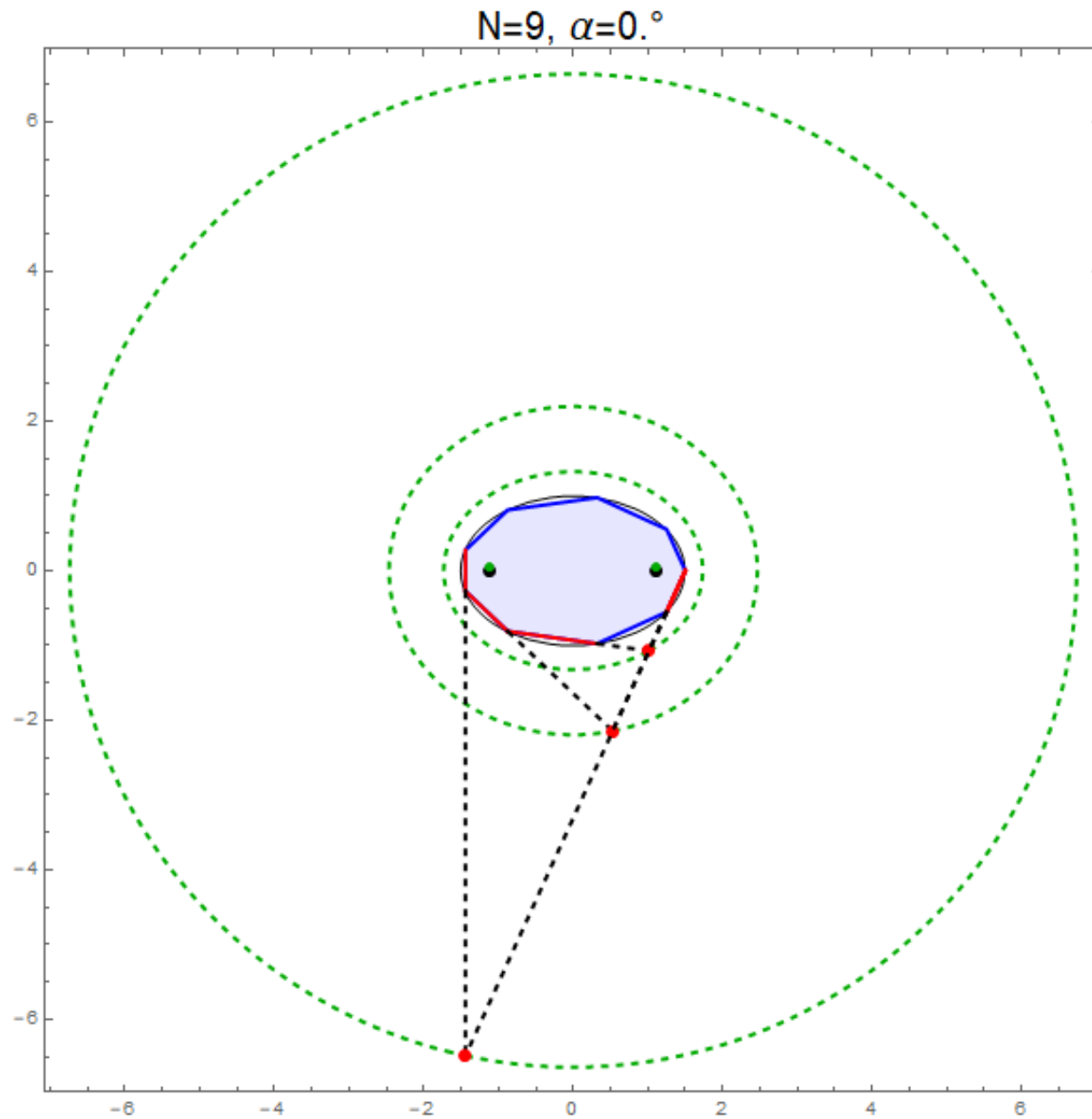
# APPENDIX

## STATIONARY CIRCLES



---

CAN YOU GET  
A CIRCLE FROM  
AN ELLIPSE?



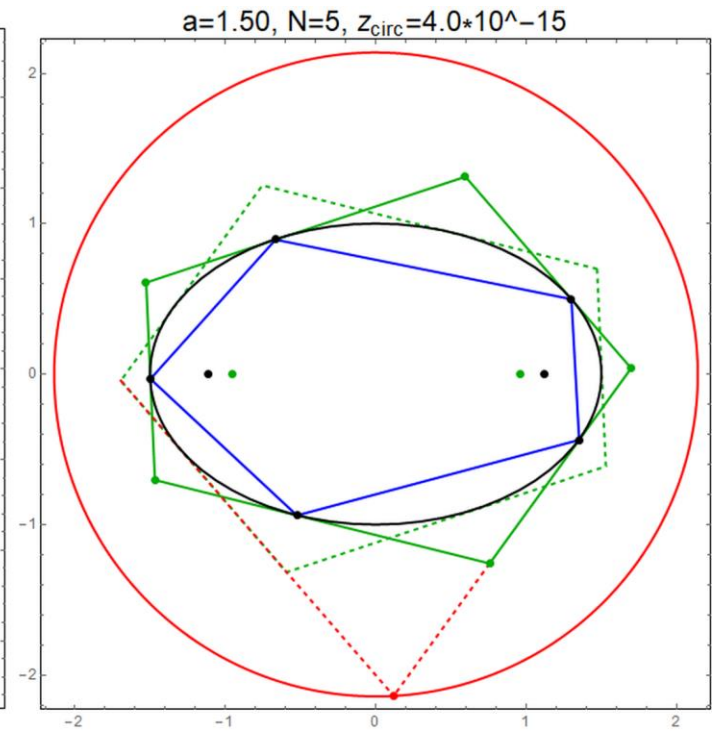
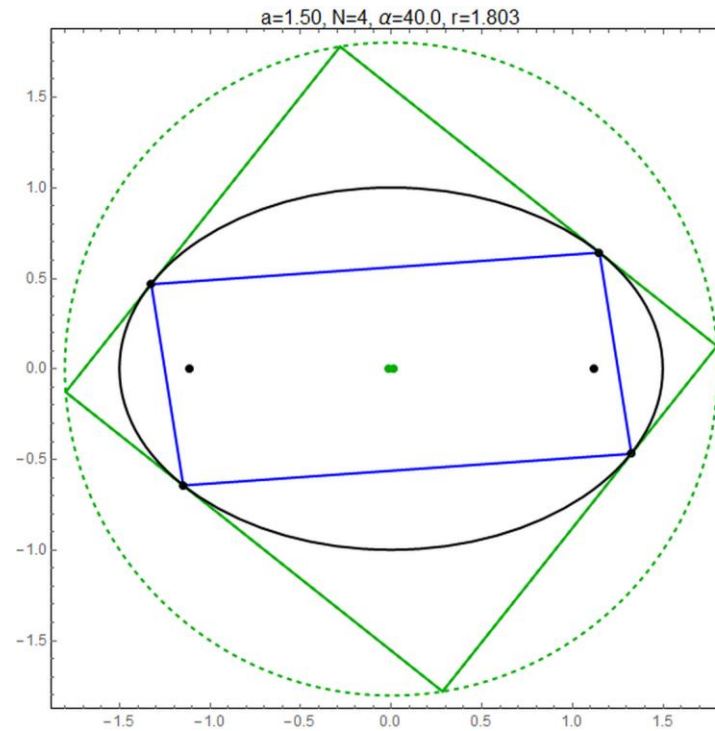
**Jean-Gaston Darboux**  
1842-1917

**PONCELET-  
DARBOUX GRID**  
[VIDEO](#)

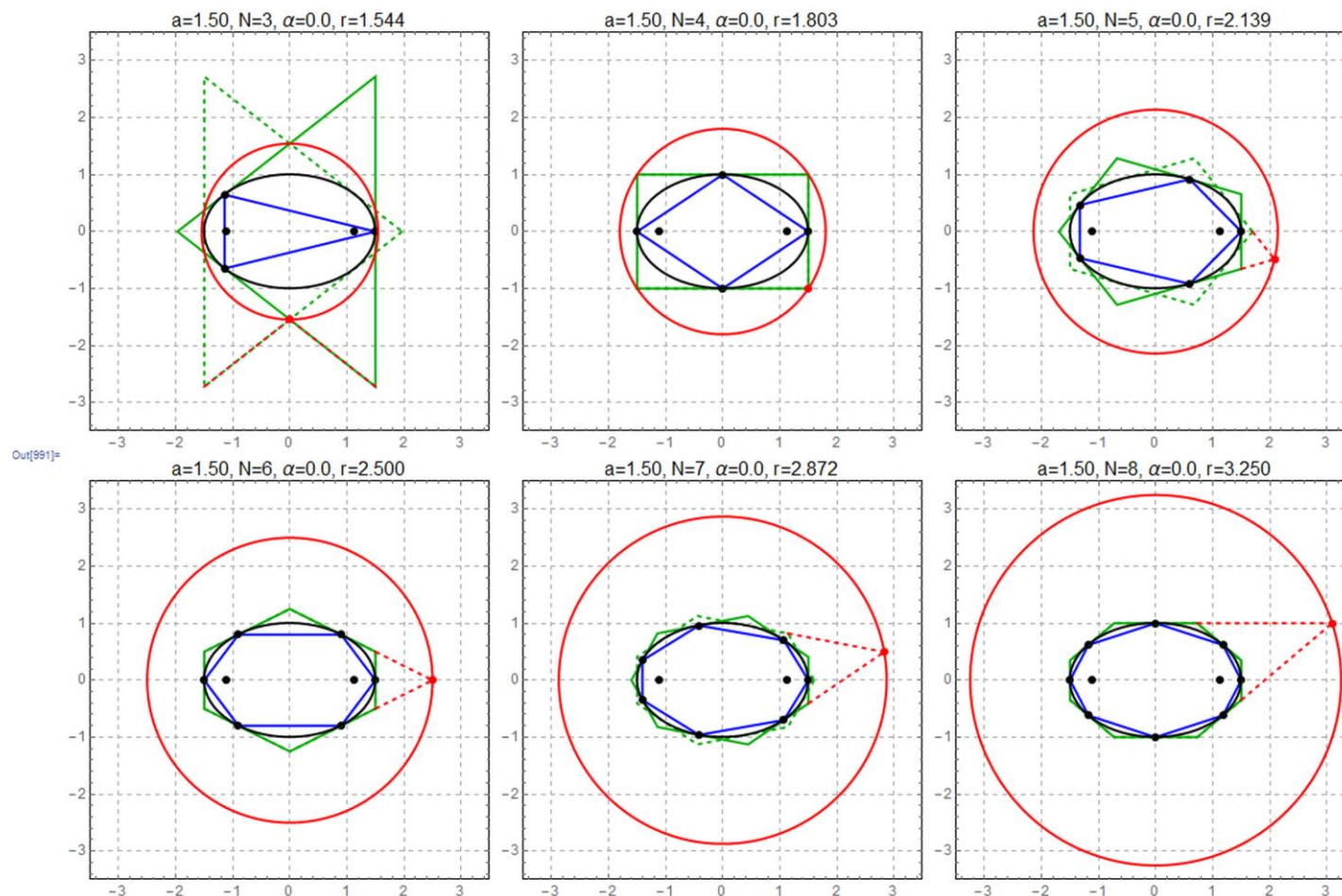


Jean-Gaston Darboux  
1842-1917

# MONGE-DARBOUX CIRCLES: A COMMON RULE [VIDEO](#)

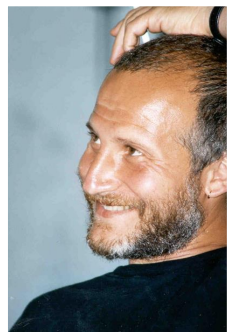
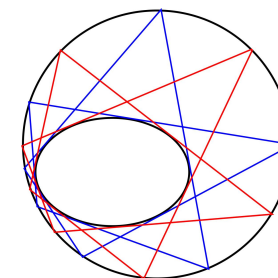


# STATIONARY CIRCLES FOR ALL! [VIDEO](#)





This is a very nice fact. I did not know it before. Theorems of this type can be seen by analyzing a projective Poncelet picture. --Arseniy Akopyan, July 13, 2019



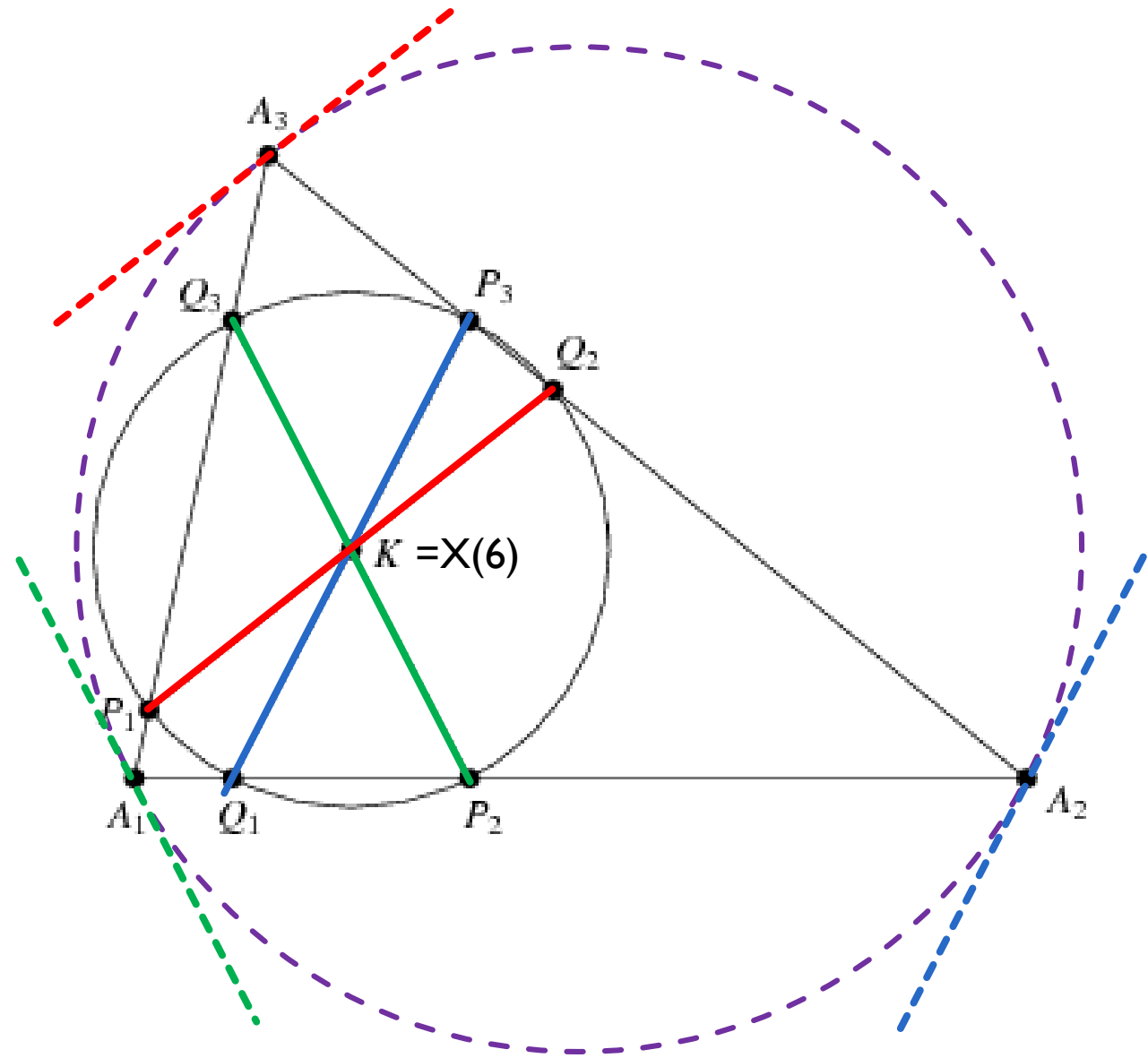
I didn't know this fact, and I don't know whether it's new. **However, here is an easy proof.** --Sergei, July 13, 2019



This new phenomenon doesn't seem to follow from the Poncelet Grid [...] I don't really see how to prove this circle result right away. --Richard, July 16, 2019

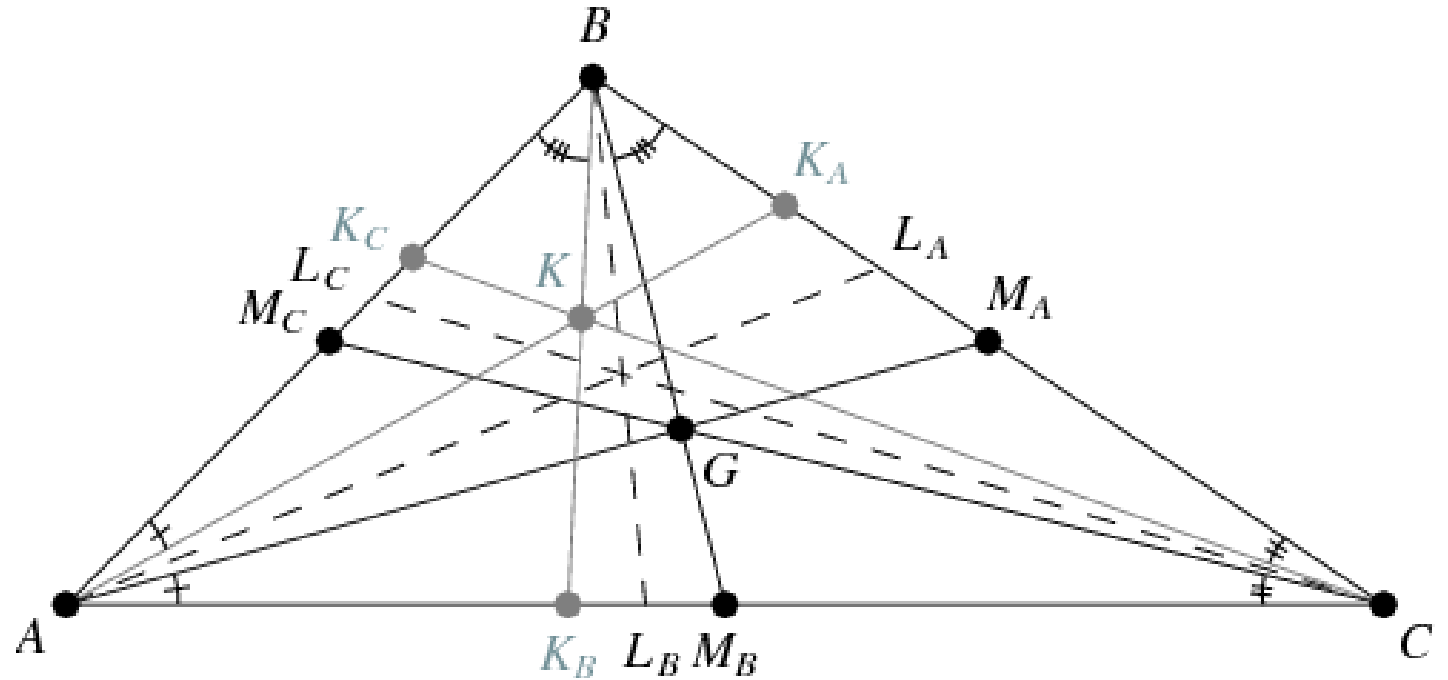
# MEET THE COSINE CIRCLE

[LINK](#)

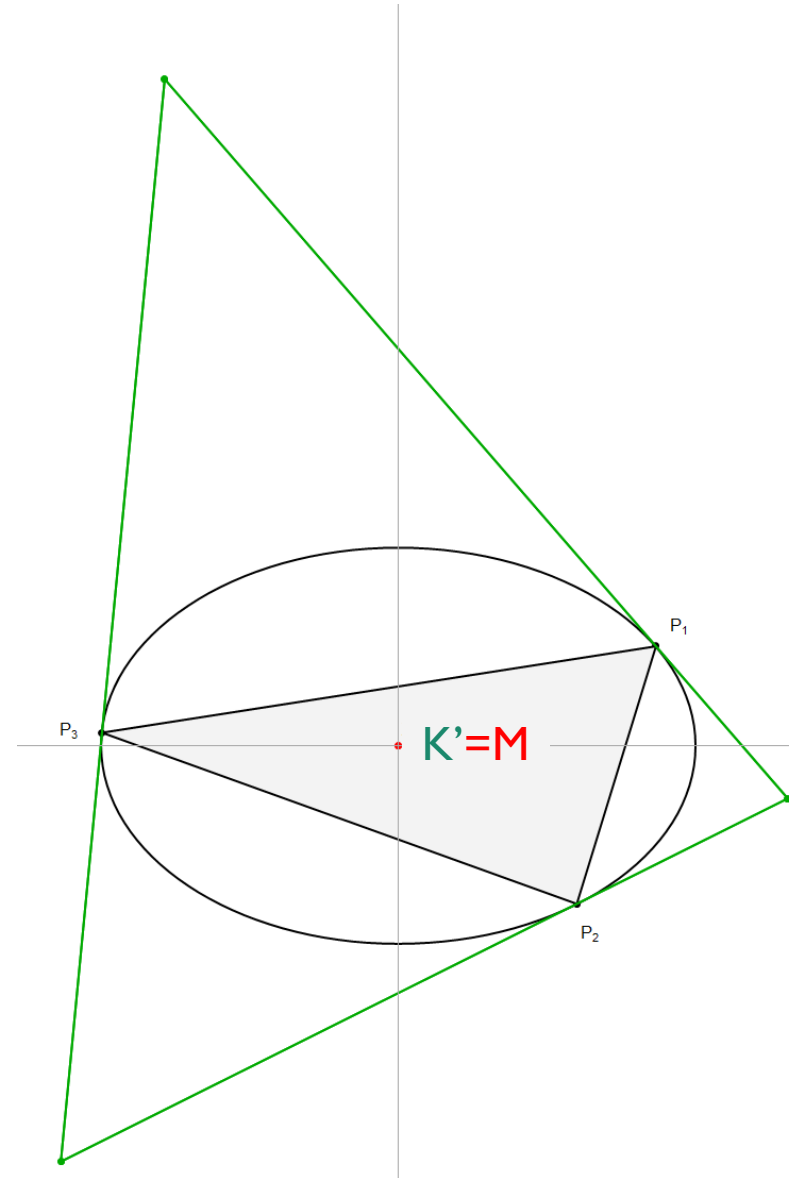




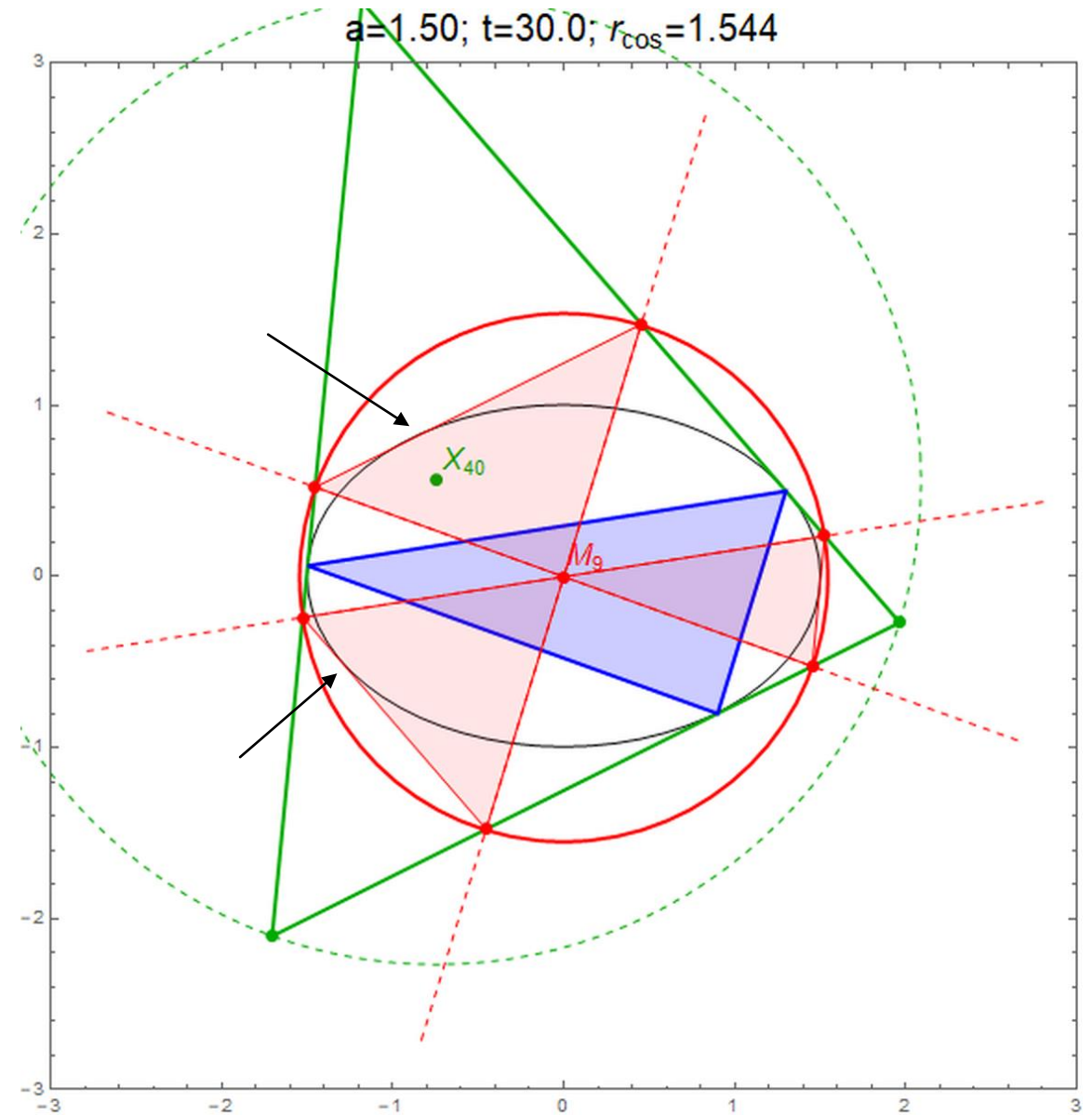
# SYMMEDIAN POINT X(6)



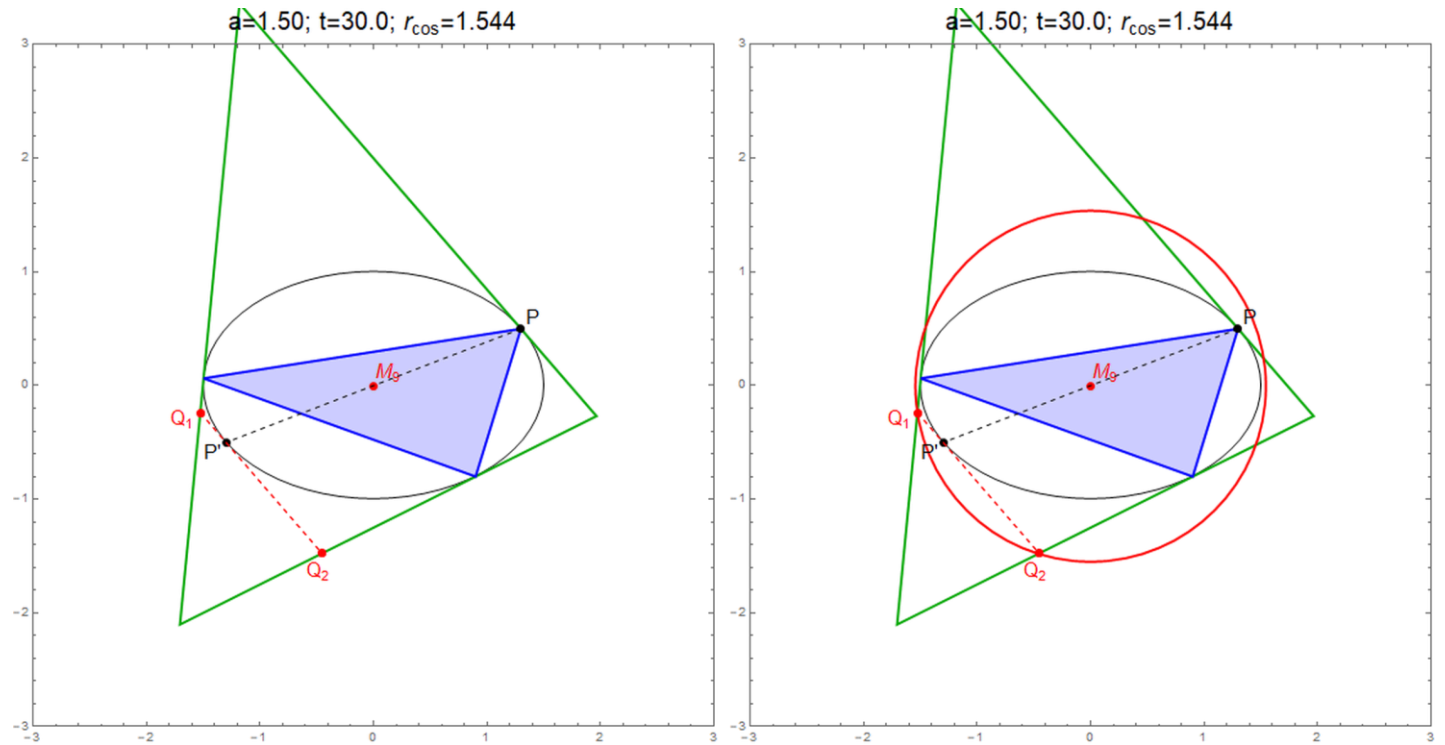
SYMM OF  
EXCENTRAL =  
MITTEN OF  
REFERENCE



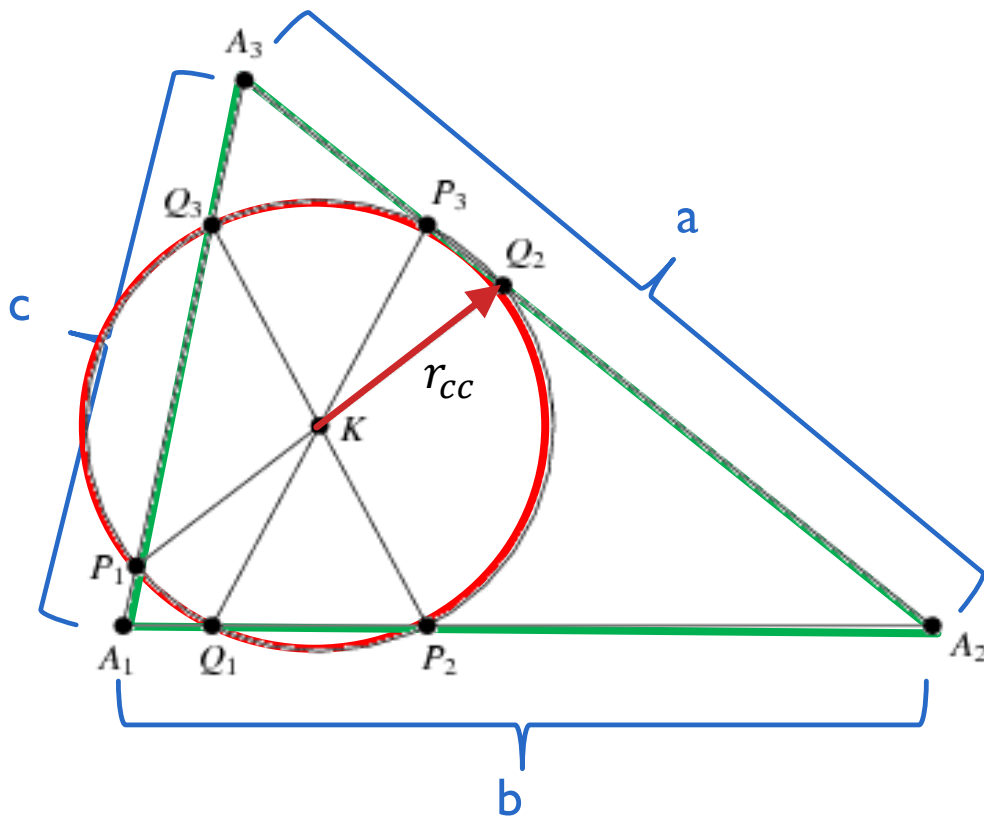
# COSINE CIRCLE CONSTRUCTION



# Simpler Cosine Circle Construction



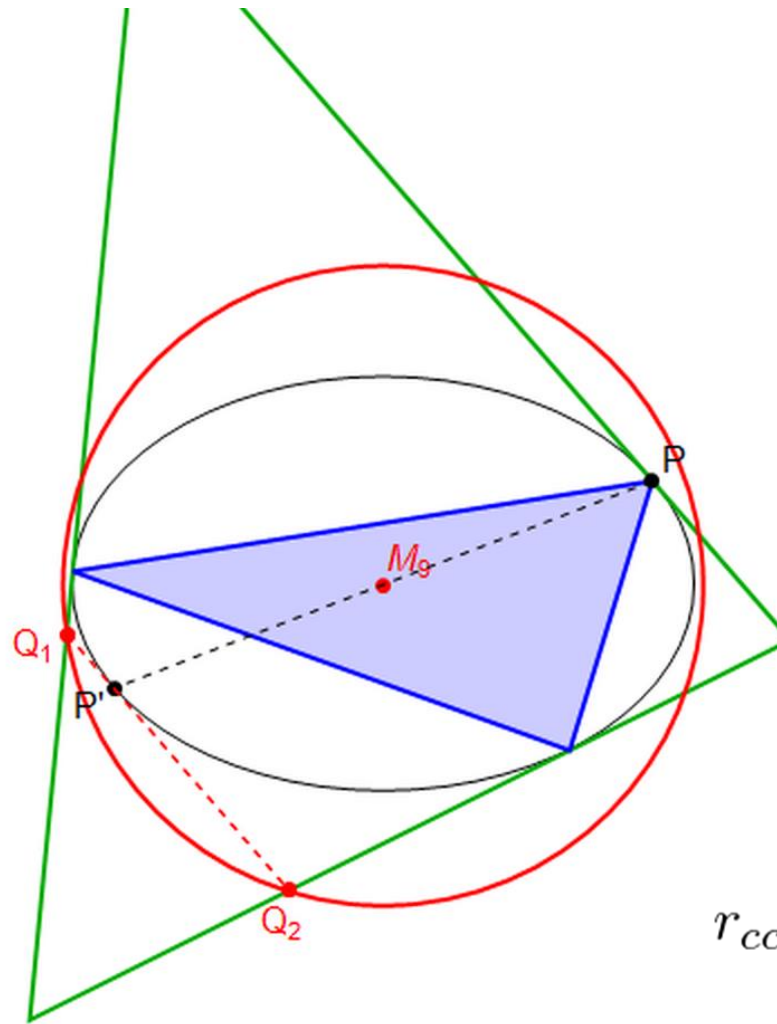
# RADIUS OF COSINE CIRCLE IS NON-LINEAR ON SIDES



$$r_{cc} = \frac{a b c}{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}$$

RADIUS REMAINS  
CONSTANT FOR  
ALL ORBITS!

[VIDEO 1](#)  
[VIDEO 2](#)



$$r_{cc} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \sqrt{2\delta + a^2 + 1}$$
$$\delta = \sqrt{a^4 - a^2 + 1}$$

# APPENDIX

## CONSERVATION EQUATIONS

## The caustic $\lambda_2 = \kappa$

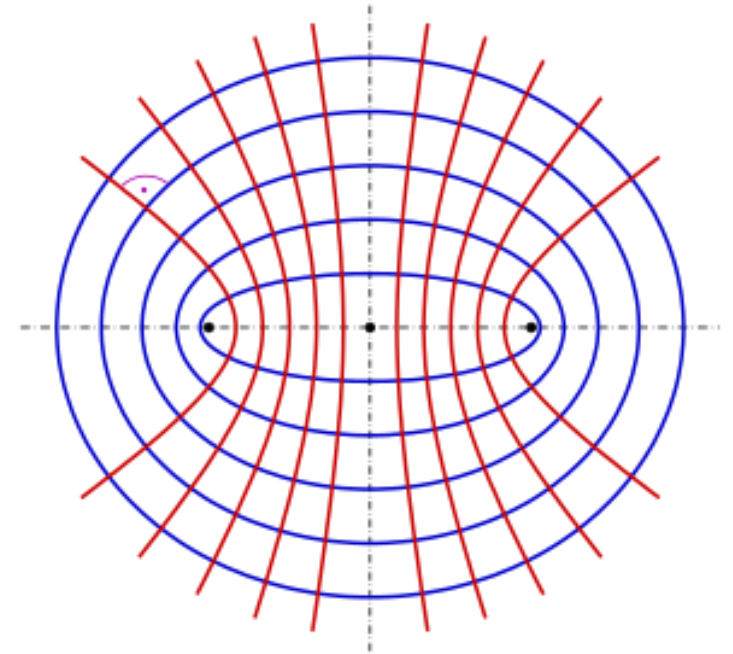
Jacobi showed in 1838 that the Hamiltonian system for the geodesics in a triaxial ellipsoid can be explicitly integrated. Later, in his *Vorlesungen*, he used confocal quadrics coordinates in  $n + 1$  dimensions. For  $n = 2$  one has

$$\frac{x^2}{a - \lambda} + \frac{y^2}{b - \lambda} + \frac{z^2}{c - \lambda} = 1, \quad a > \lambda_1 \geq b \geq \lambda_2 \geq c \geq \lambda_3$$

fixing  $\lambda_3 = 0$ . The method is now called Hamilton-Jacobi's and paved the way for the theory of integrable hamiltonian systems. One verifies first that the kinetic energy kind of separates in variables  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$ . Then the generalized velocities  $\dot{\lambda}_1, \dot{\lambda}_2$  can be integrated by quadratures.

The elliptic billiard then results from making the smaller axis  $c \rightarrow 0$ . One obtains a double faced elliptical region, parametrized by confocal conics given by  $\lambda_1 = \text{const}$  (hyperbolae) and  $\lambda_2 = \text{const}$  (ellipses). The foci are at  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = b$ , so  $x = \sqrt{a - b}, y = 0$ . The billiard is the outer ellipse  $\lambda_2 = 0$ .

When one successfully applies the HJ method, a generating function for a suitable canonical transformation is produced, so that besides the value of the energy, additional  $n - 1$  integrals of motion pop out. In the elliptical billiard one recognizes the second integral as the product  $M = M_1 M_2$  of the angular momenta with respect to the foci.





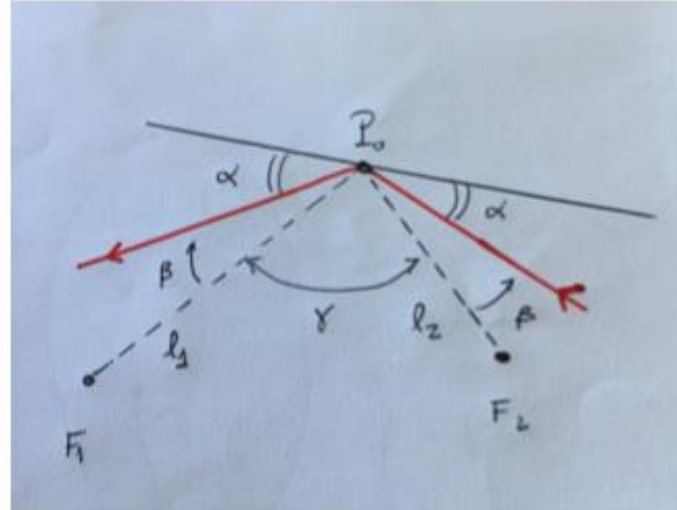
There are two regimes according to the sign of  $M$ .

$M = 0$  corresponds to the trajectories passing through the foci. Consider for instance the regime  $M > 0$ . Defining  $\kappa = b - M/2h$  (see below), a closer look at the generating function shows that  $0 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \kappa < b$ . This means that the projection of the trajectories in phase space to the configuration space are confined to the annular region between the ellipses corresponding to  $\lambda_2 = 0$ , and  $\lambda_2 = \kappa$ . Thus the inner ellipse

$$\frac{x^2}{a - \kappa} + \frac{y^2}{b - \kappa} = 1$$

is a caustic curve for the projections of the (Lagrangian) torus corresponding to fixing the values of  $h$  and  $M$ .

## Joachimsthal: $M_1 M_2$ is conserved



Before the collision:

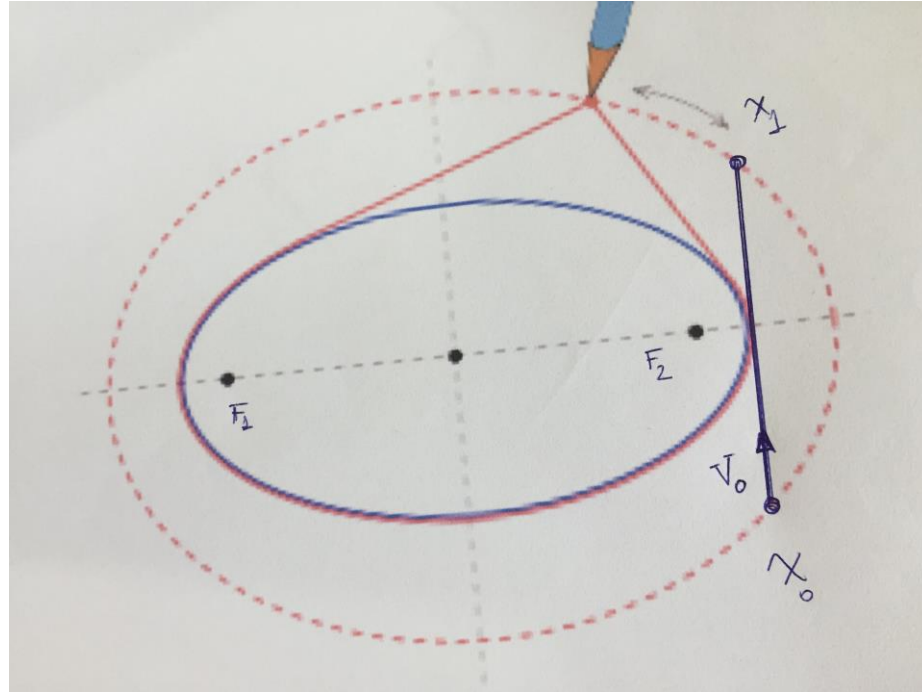
$$M_1 = l_1 \sin(\pi - \gamma - \beta) = l_1 \sin(\gamma + \beta) , M_2 = l_2 \sin \beta .$$

After the collision:

$$M_2 = l_2 \sin(\pi - \gamma - \beta) = l_2 \sin(\gamma + \beta) , M_1 = l_1 \sin \beta .$$

$$\frac{x^2}{a - \kappa} + \frac{y^2}{b - \kappa} = 1$$

$$F_i = (\pm\sqrt{a - b}, 0)$$



**To prove these relationships, just get the coordinates of  $X_0$**

$$c = v\sqrt{\kappa/ab} .$$

$$M = M_1M_2 = v^2(b - \kappa)$$

The “stroboscopic” integral  $(-AX, V) = c$

Let  $A = \text{diag}(1/a, 1/b)$ ,  $a \geq b > 0$ , so the ellipse is given by

$$(AX, X) = 1, \text{ i.e. } x^2/a + y^2/b = 1 .$$

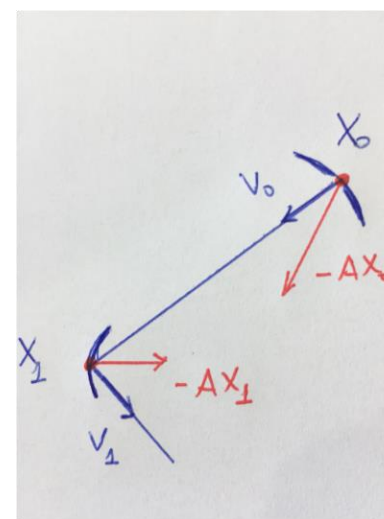
Take two consecutive bounces in the elliptical billiard

$$X_i = (x_i, y_i), i = 0, 1.$$

The respective outgoing unit vectors are

$$V_o = \frac{X_1 - X_o}{|X_1 - X_o|}, V_1 = V_o - 2\alpha \hat{N}_1$$

$$\hat{N}_1 = \frac{AX_1}{|AX_1|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x_1^2/a^2 + y_1^2/b^2}} (x_1/a, y_1/b), \quad \alpha = (V_o, \hat{N}_1)$$



$$(AX_o, V_o) \stackrel{?}{=} (AX_1, V_1)$$

The left hand side is

$$c_o = (AX_o, V_o) = d (x_o(x_1 - x_o)/a, y_o(y_1 - y_o)/b) = d(x_o x_1/a + y_o y_1/b - 1)$$

where

$$d = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(x_1 - x_o)^2 + (y_1 - y_o)^2}}.$$

Let us compute the right hand side, given by

$$c_1 = (x_1/a, y_1/b) \cdot (V_o - 2\alpha \hat{N}_1).$$

A quick calculation yields

$$c_1/d = [x_1(x_1 - x_o)/a + y_1(y_1 - y_o)/b] - 2[x_1(x_1 - x_o)/a + y_1(y_1 - y_o)/b]$$

Taking into account that  $x_o^2/a + y_o^2/b = x_1^2/a + y_1^2/b = 1$ ,

we observe that the multiplicative factor 2 makes the +1 to become -1 and the product  $x_o x_1 - y_o y_1$  to change sign.

$$c = (1 - X_o AX_1)/|X_1 - X_o|$$

# OVERFLOW

SLIDES NOT  
USED



Gaspard  
**Monge**  
1746–1818



Jean-Victor  
**Poncelet**  
1788–1867



Karl Wilhelm  
**Feuerbach**  
1800–1834



Christian Heinrich  
**von Nagel**  
1803–1882



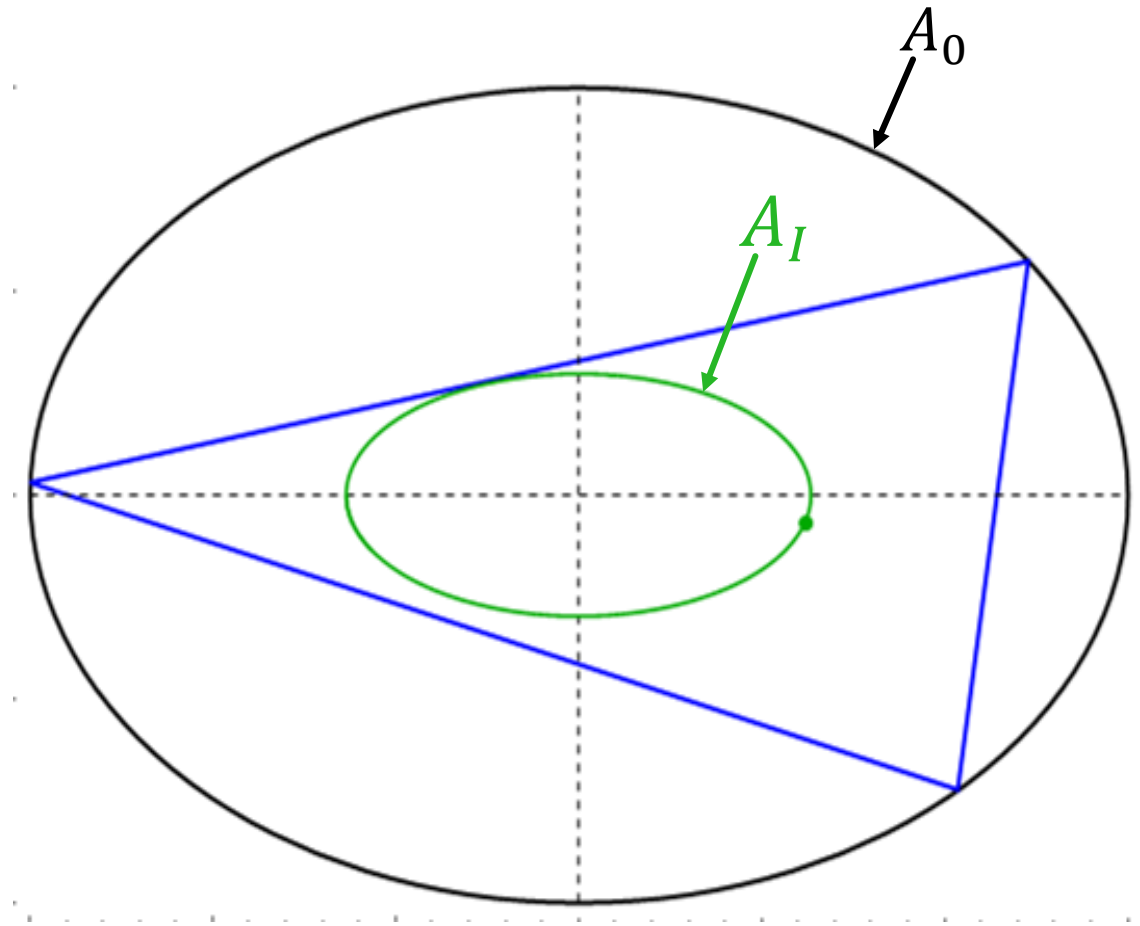
Ferdinand  
**Joachimsthal**  
1818–1861



Jean-Gaston  
**Darboux**  
1842–1917

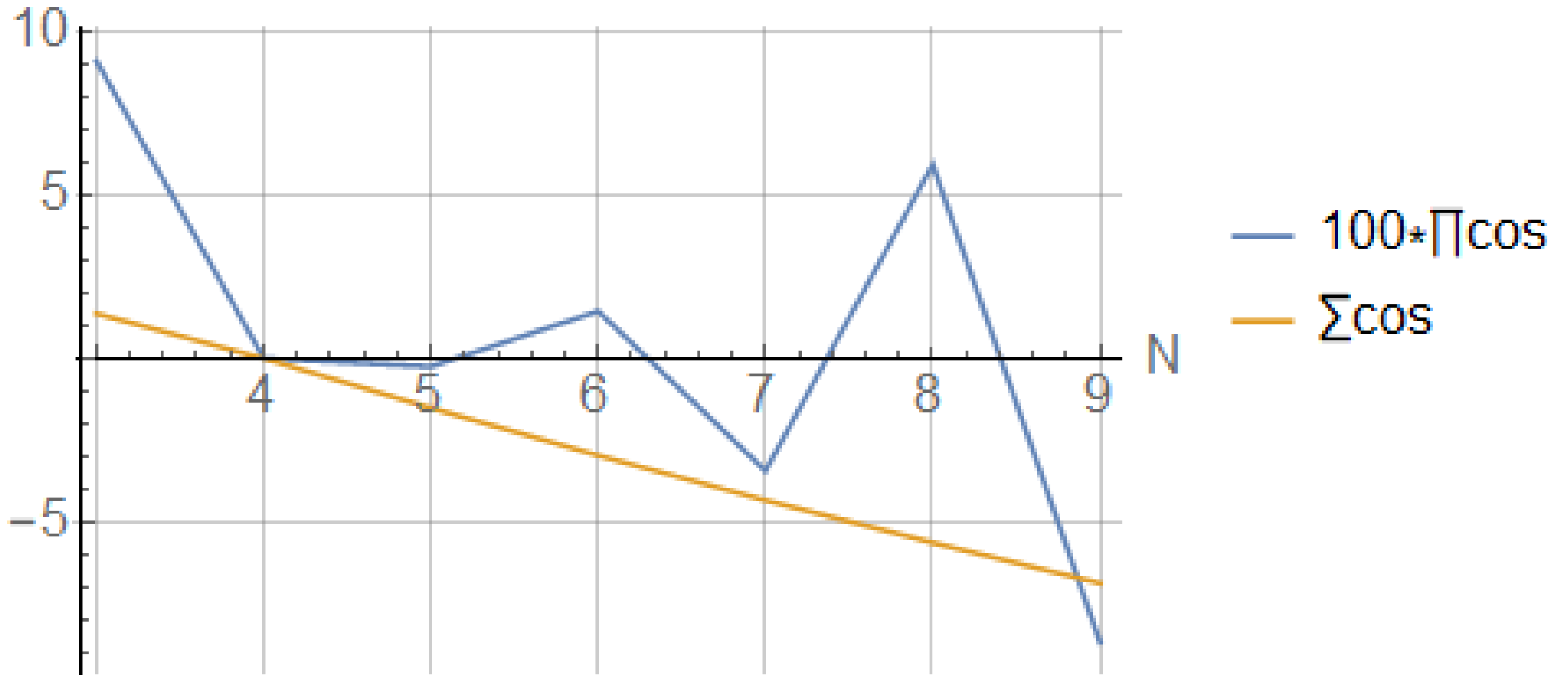
# PROOF OF $\frac{r}{R}$ CONSTANCY

- Incenter locus is elliptic [Prof. Romaskevich]
- Area ratio:  $\frac{A_I}{A_0} = \frac{r}{2R}$  [Prof. Garcia]
- Both are stationary  $\Rightarrow r/R$  constant.

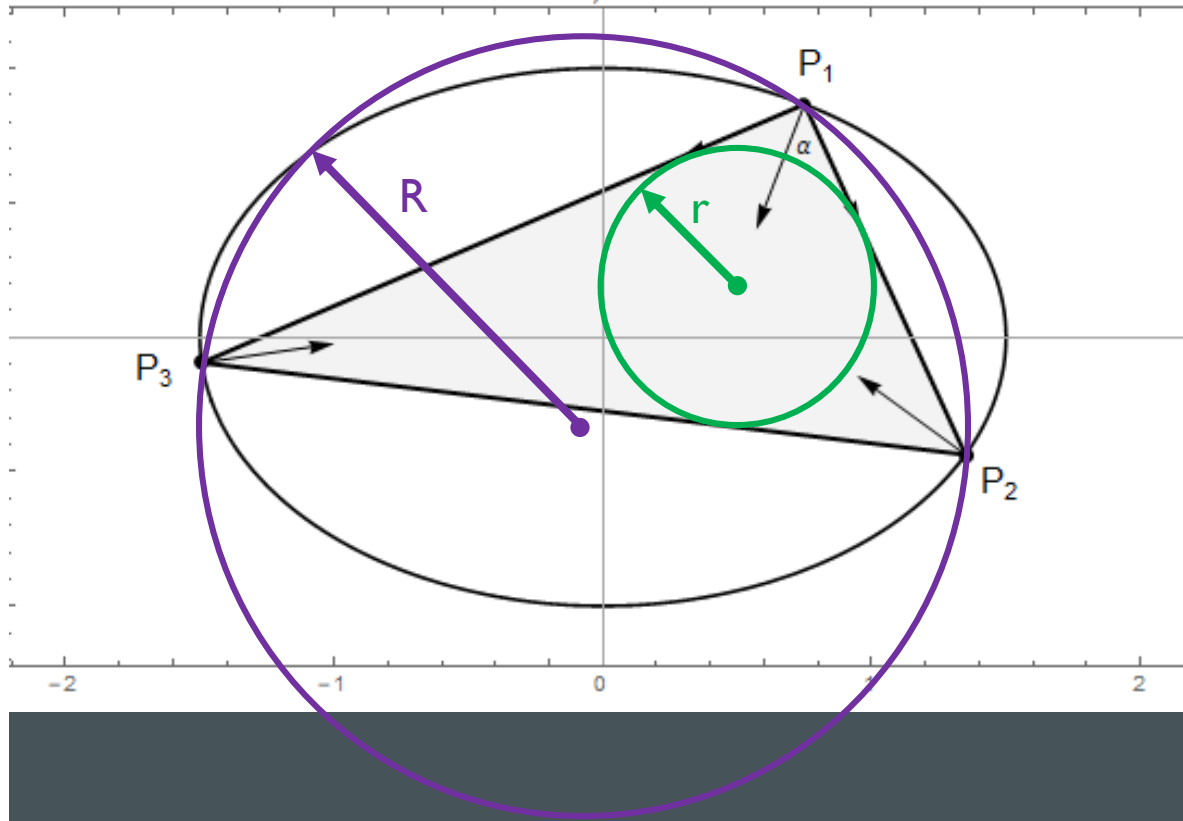




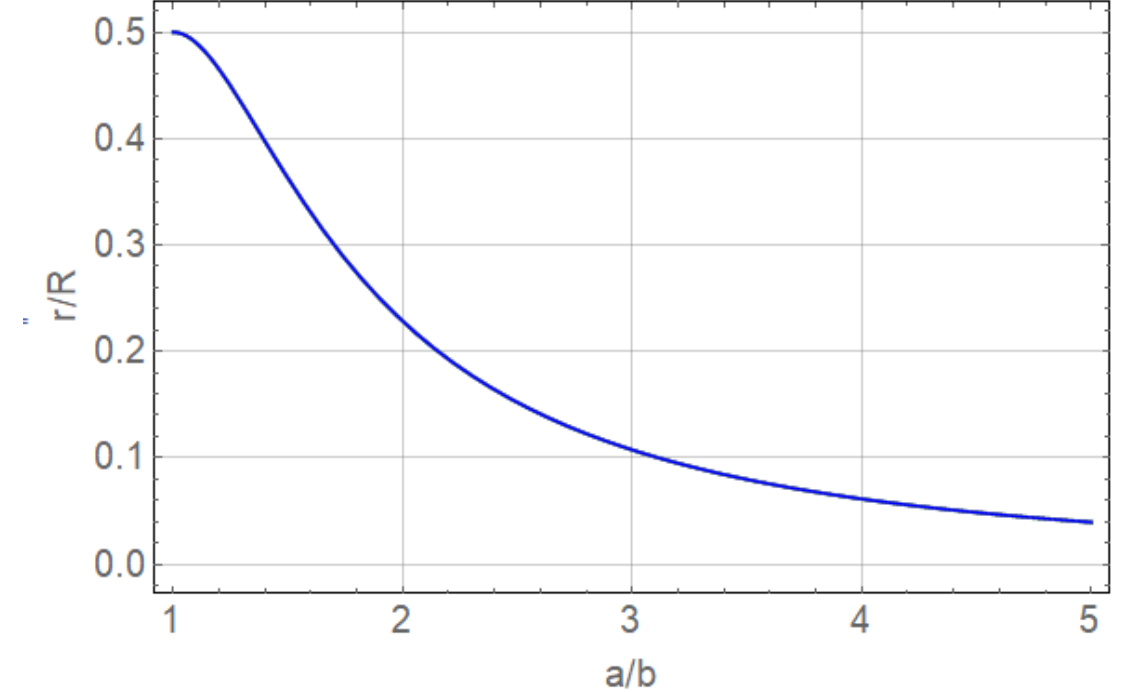
# $\Sigma \cos$ and $\prod \cos$ vs $N$



$a=1.50; x=0.75$



$r/R$  vs  $a/b$

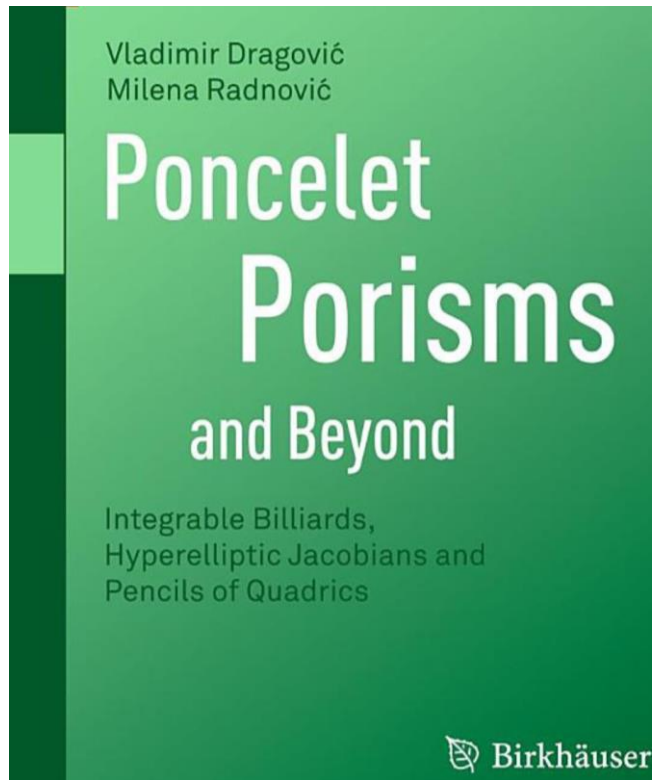


# CONSTANT INRADIUS/CIRCUMRADIUS



“Nature uses only the longest threads to weave her patterns, so each small piece of her fabric reveals the organization of the entire tapestry.”

– Richard P. Feynman

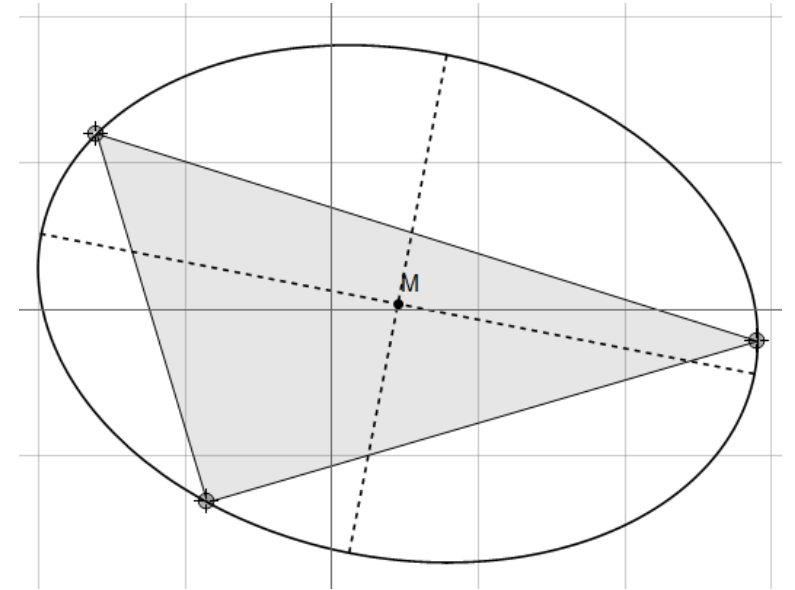
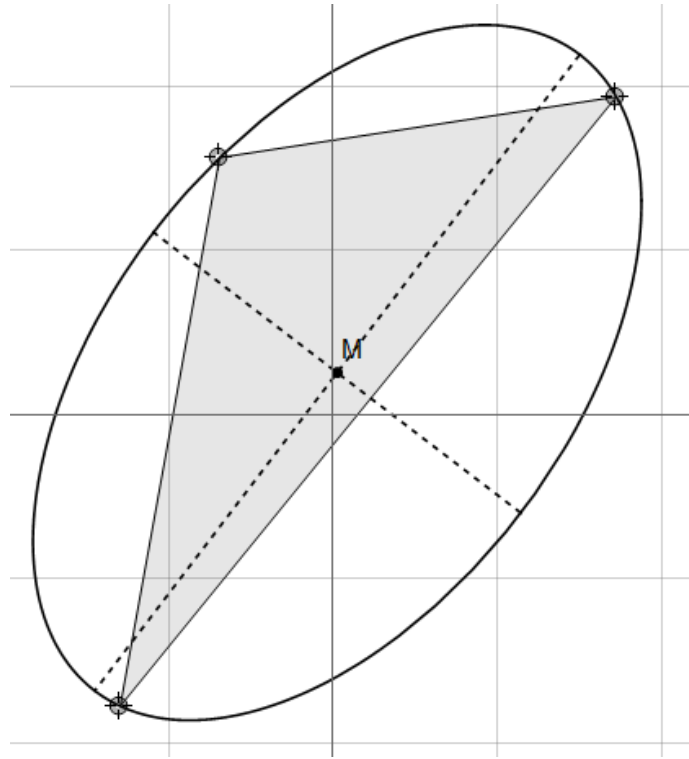
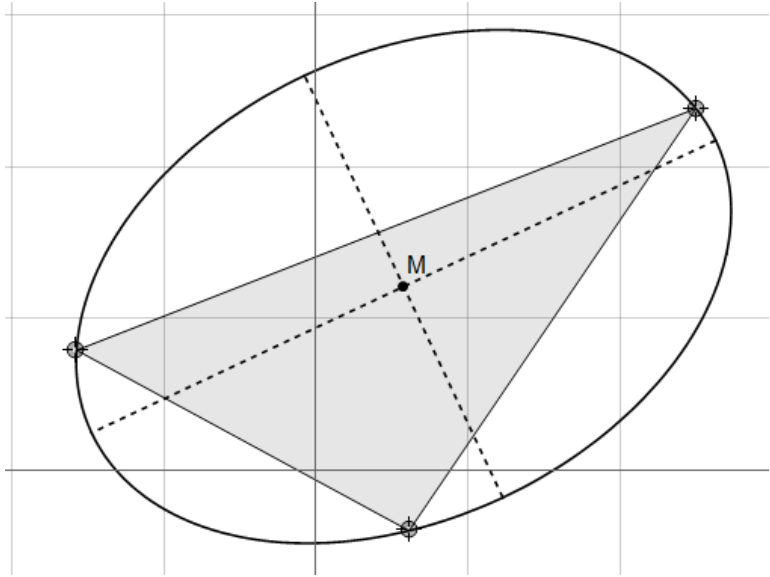


## Chapter 3

### Hyperelliptic Curves and Their Jacobians



**Exercise 3.7.** Let  $f$  be a meromorphic non-constant function on a compact Riemann surface. Prove that, for each  $z \in \mathbf{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ , the set  $f^{-1}(z)$  is not empty.

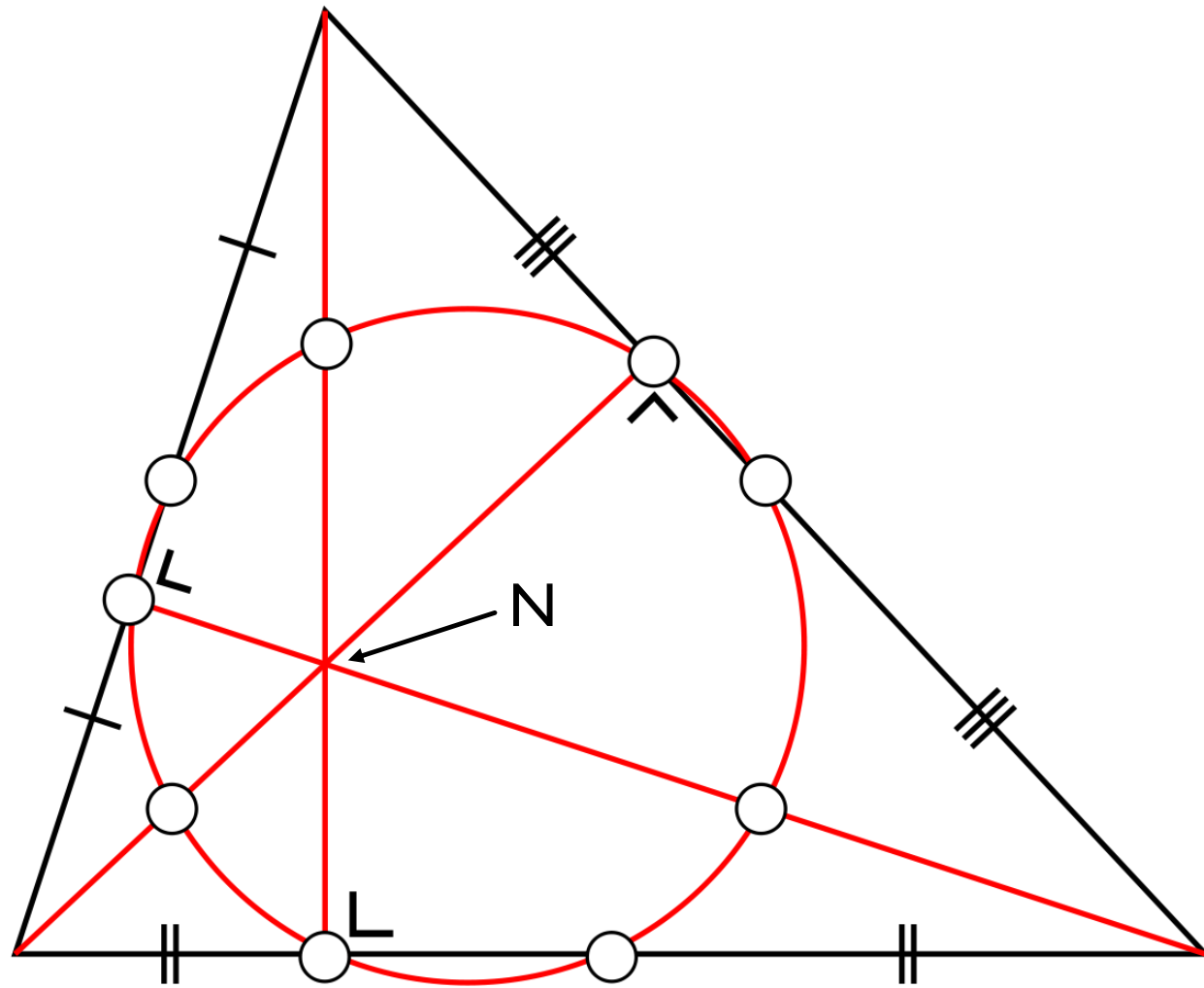


# CIRCUMBILLIARDS

[VIDEO](#) AND [APPLET](#)

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# NINE-POINT CIRCLE X(5)



## Integral of Motion

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A function of the coordinates which is constant along a trajectory in **phase space**. The number of **degrees of freedom** of a **dynamical system** such as the **Duffing differential equation** can be decreased by one if an integral of motion can be found. In general, it is very difficult to discover integrals of motion.

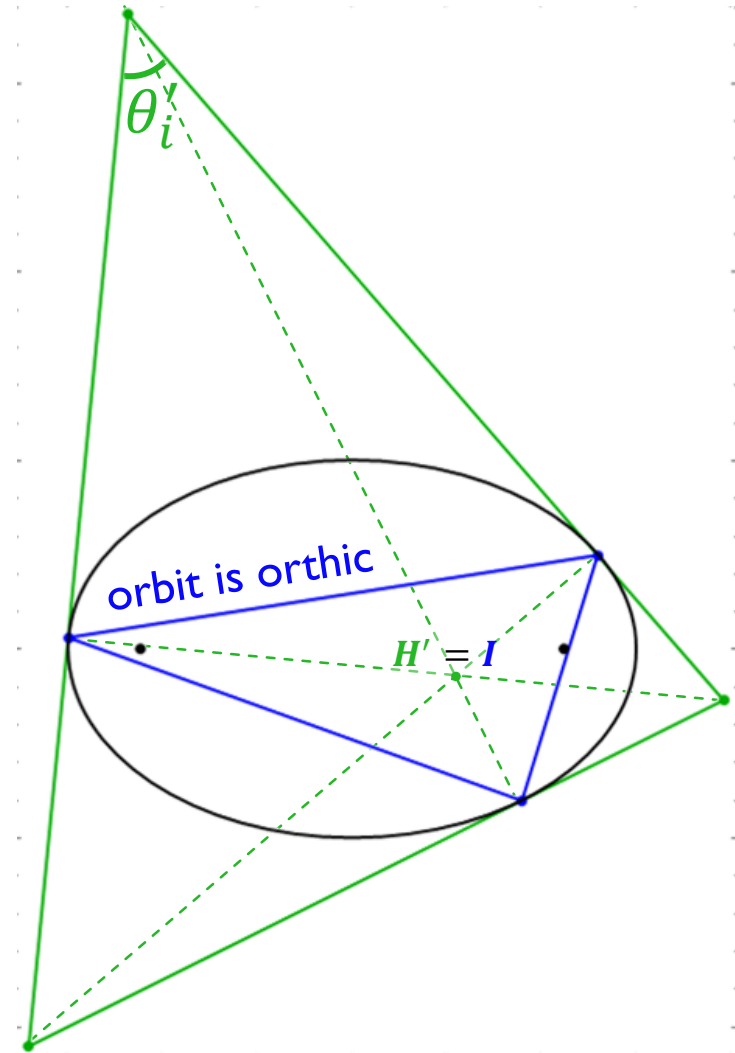
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### CITE THIS AS:

Weisstein, Eric W. "Integral of Motion." From *MathWorld*--A Wolfram Web Resource.  
<http://mathworld.wolfram.com/IntegralofMotion.html>

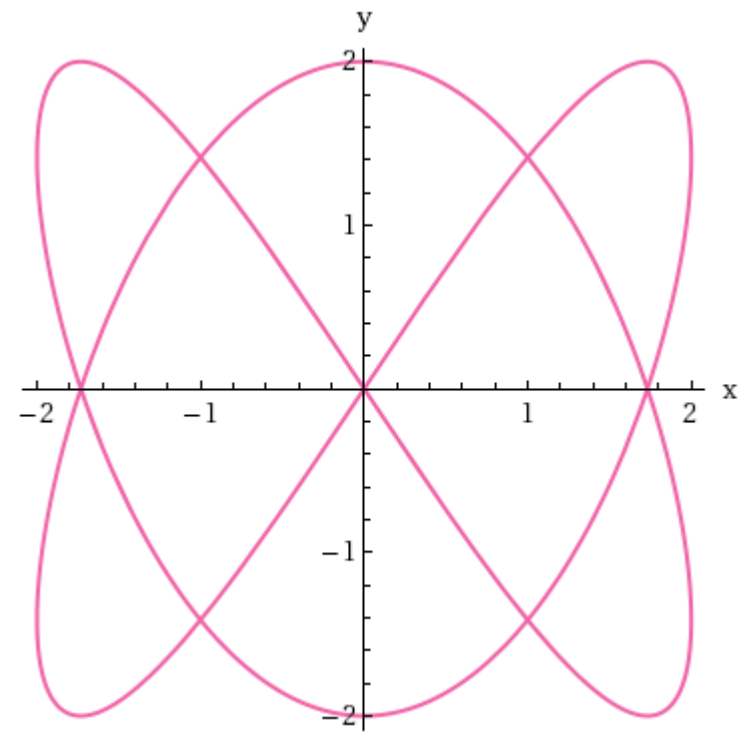
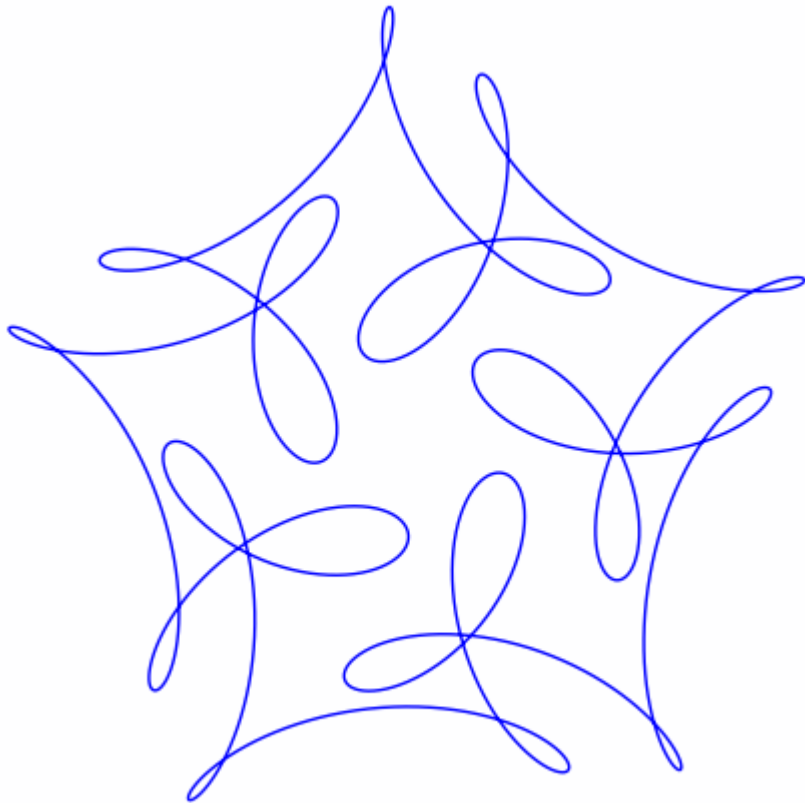
## WONDER FORMULA II:

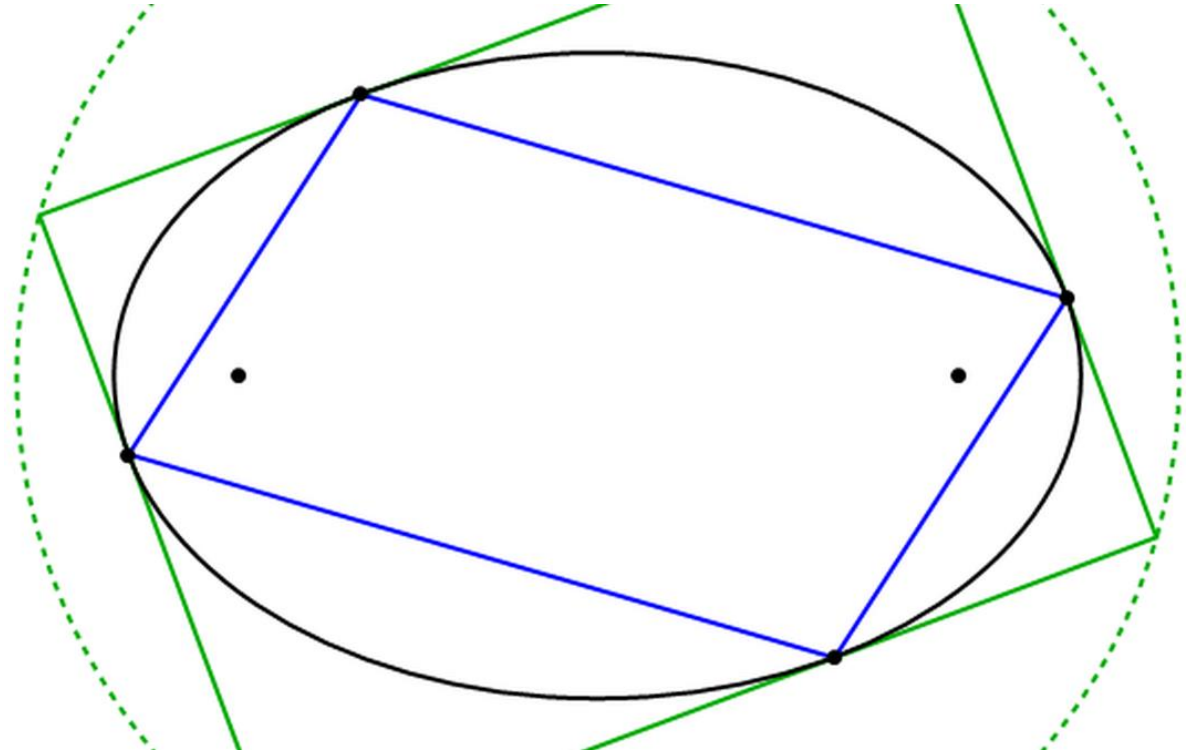
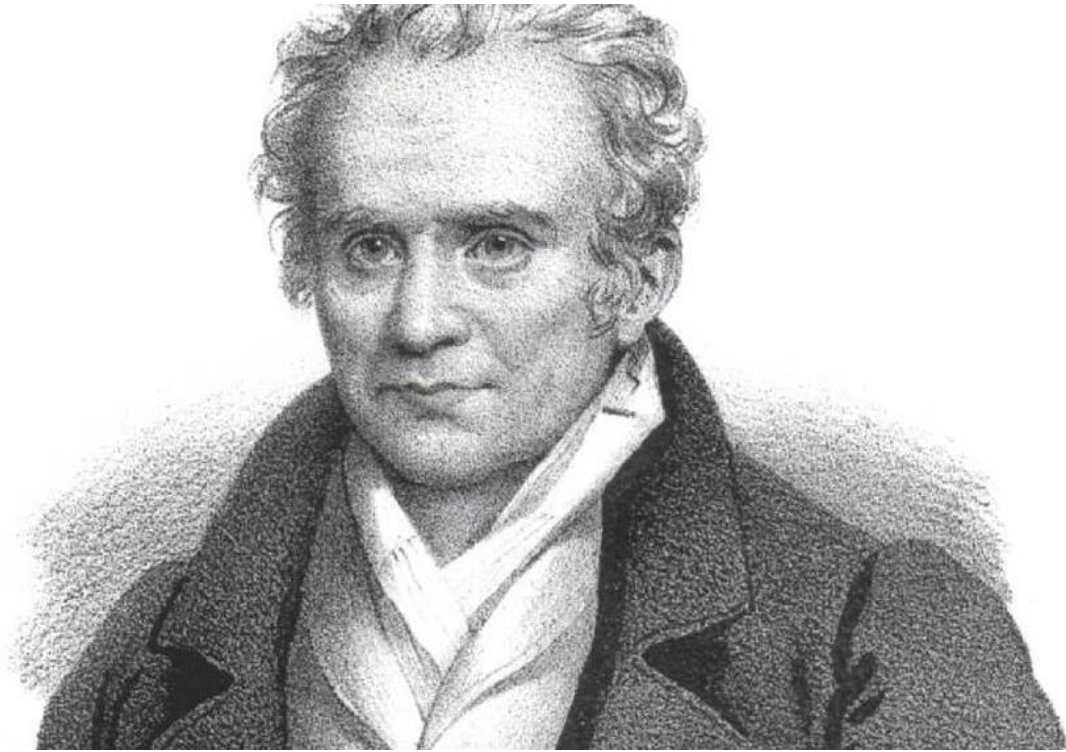
$$|\cos \theta'_1 \cos \theta'_2 \cos \theta'_3| = \frac{r_H}{4R_H} \quad \text{orthic}$$



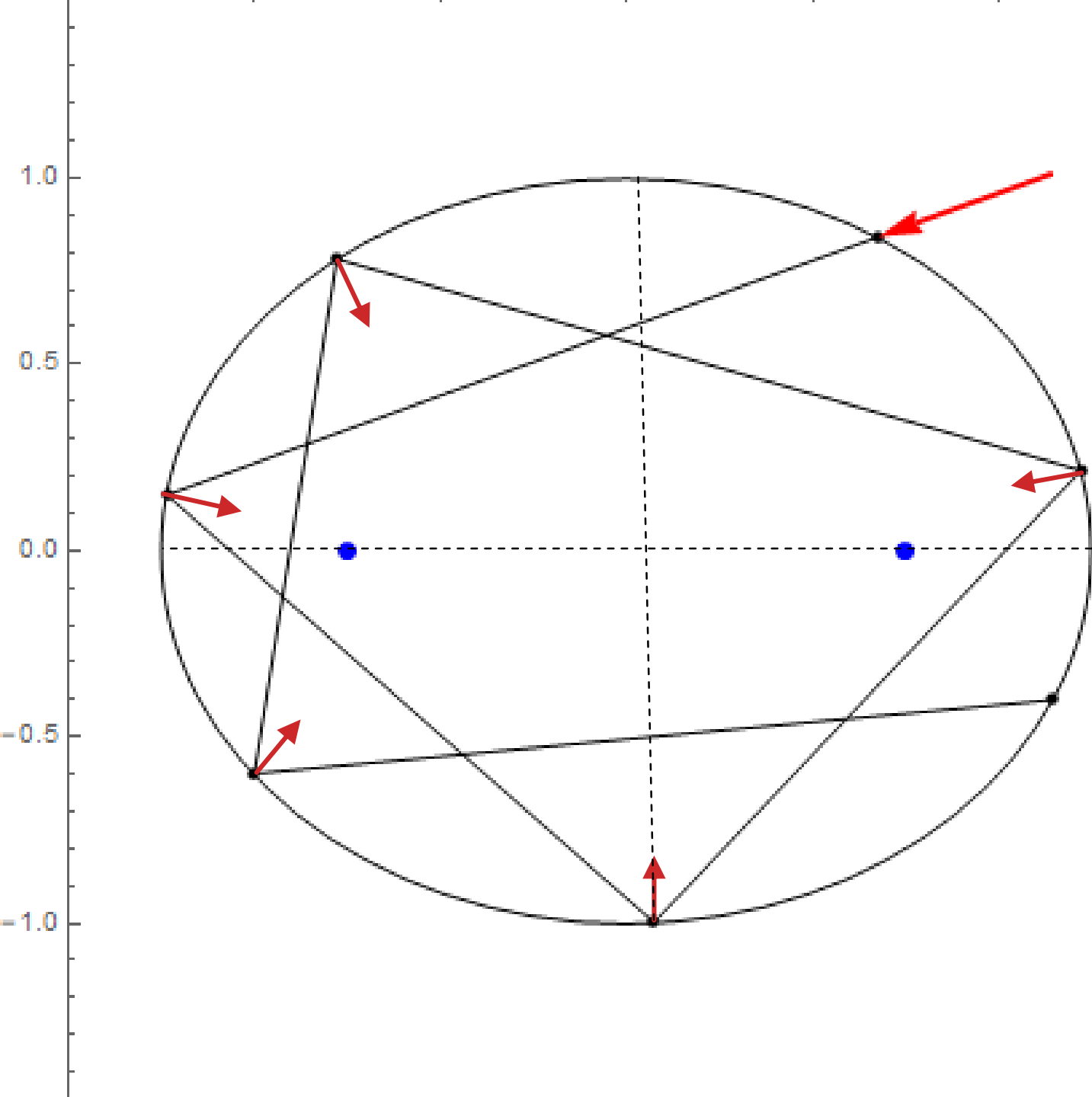


# LOCUS / LOCI



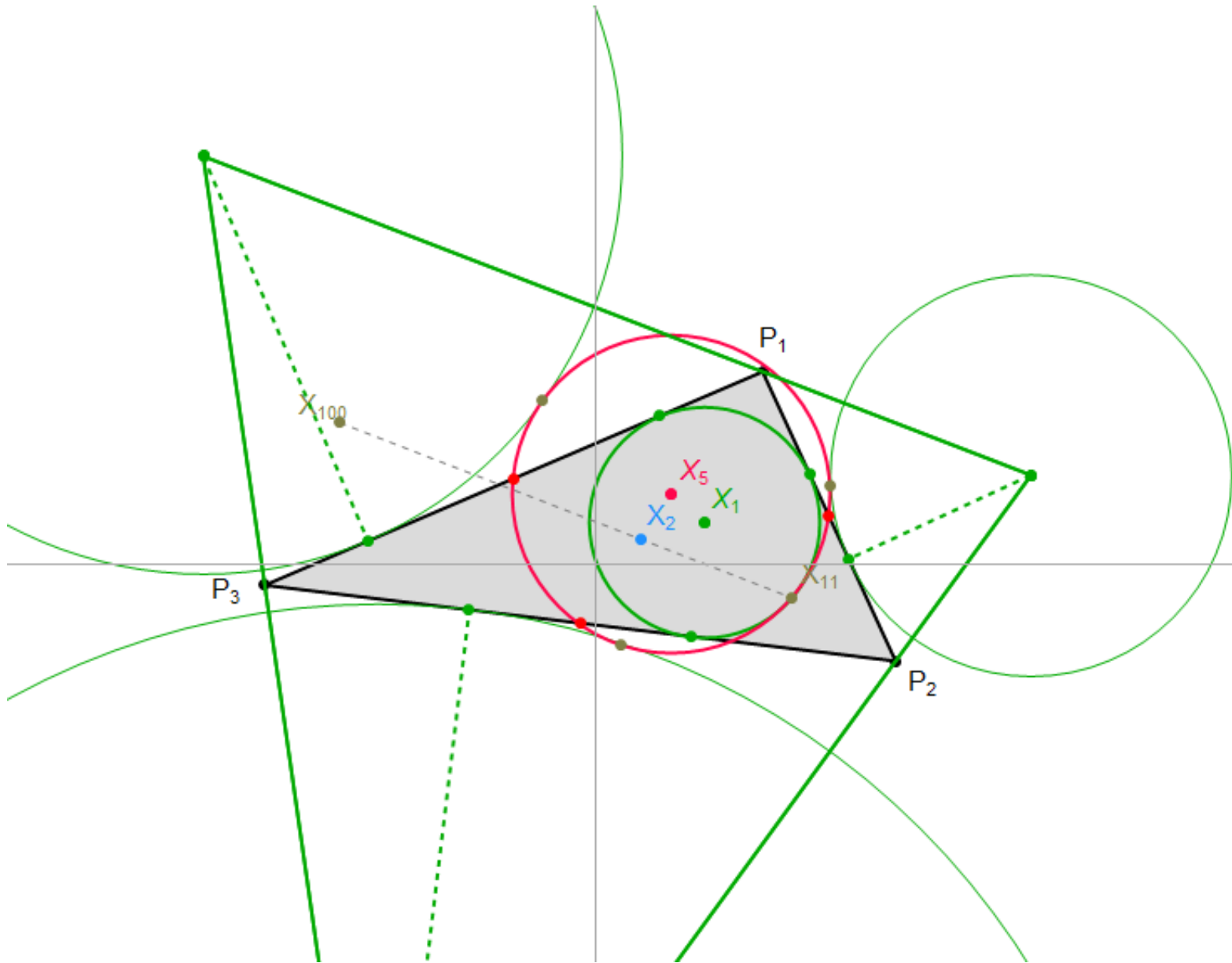


BRAZILIAN HOMAGE TO GASPARD! [VIDEO](#)



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# ELASTIC TRAJECTORY ELLIPTIC BILLIARD APPLET



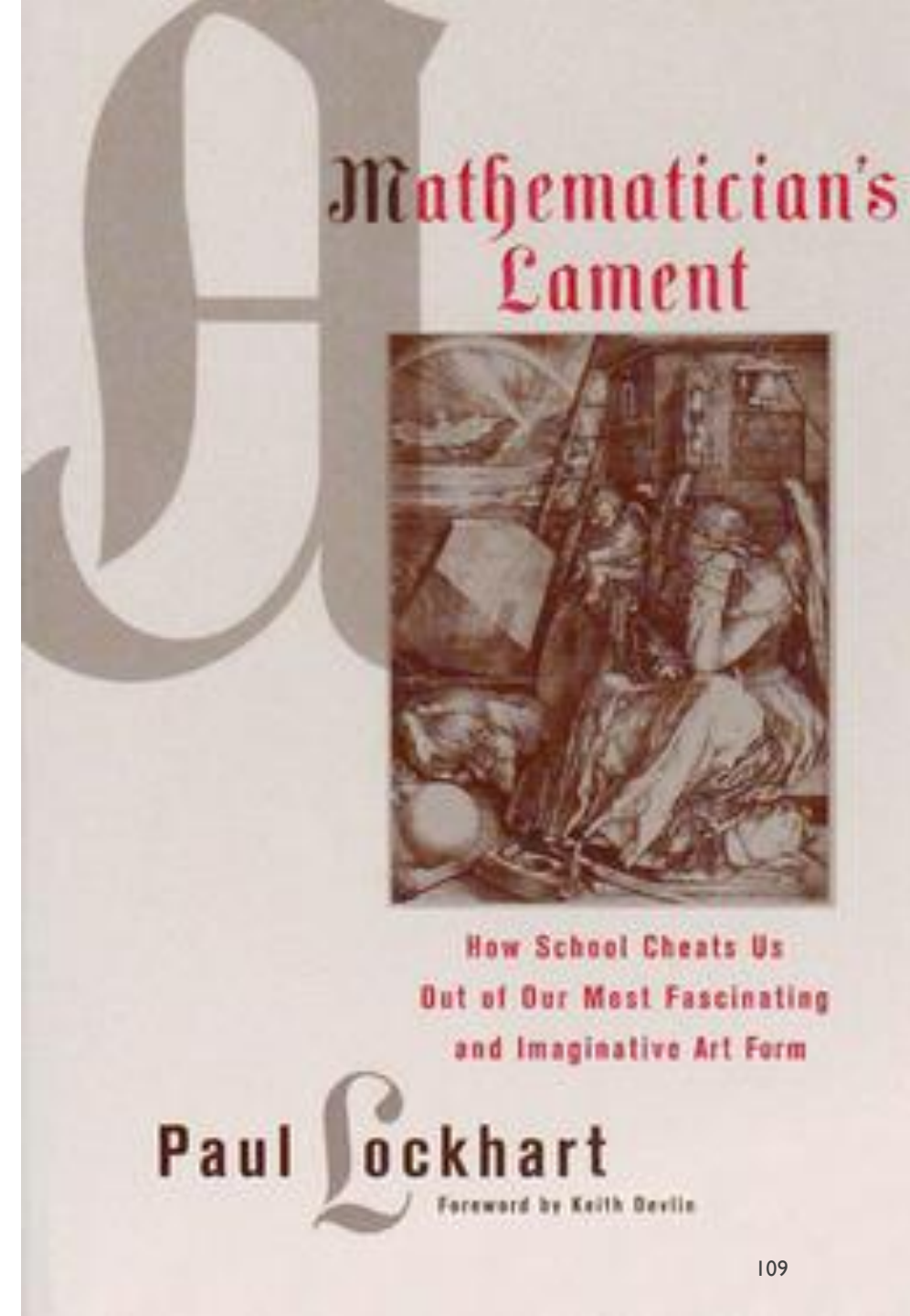
## EXCENTRAL OBJECTS:

- 1) EXCENTRAL TRIANGLE
- 2) EXCIRCLES
- 3) EXTOUNCHPOINTS

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## PAUL LOCKHART:

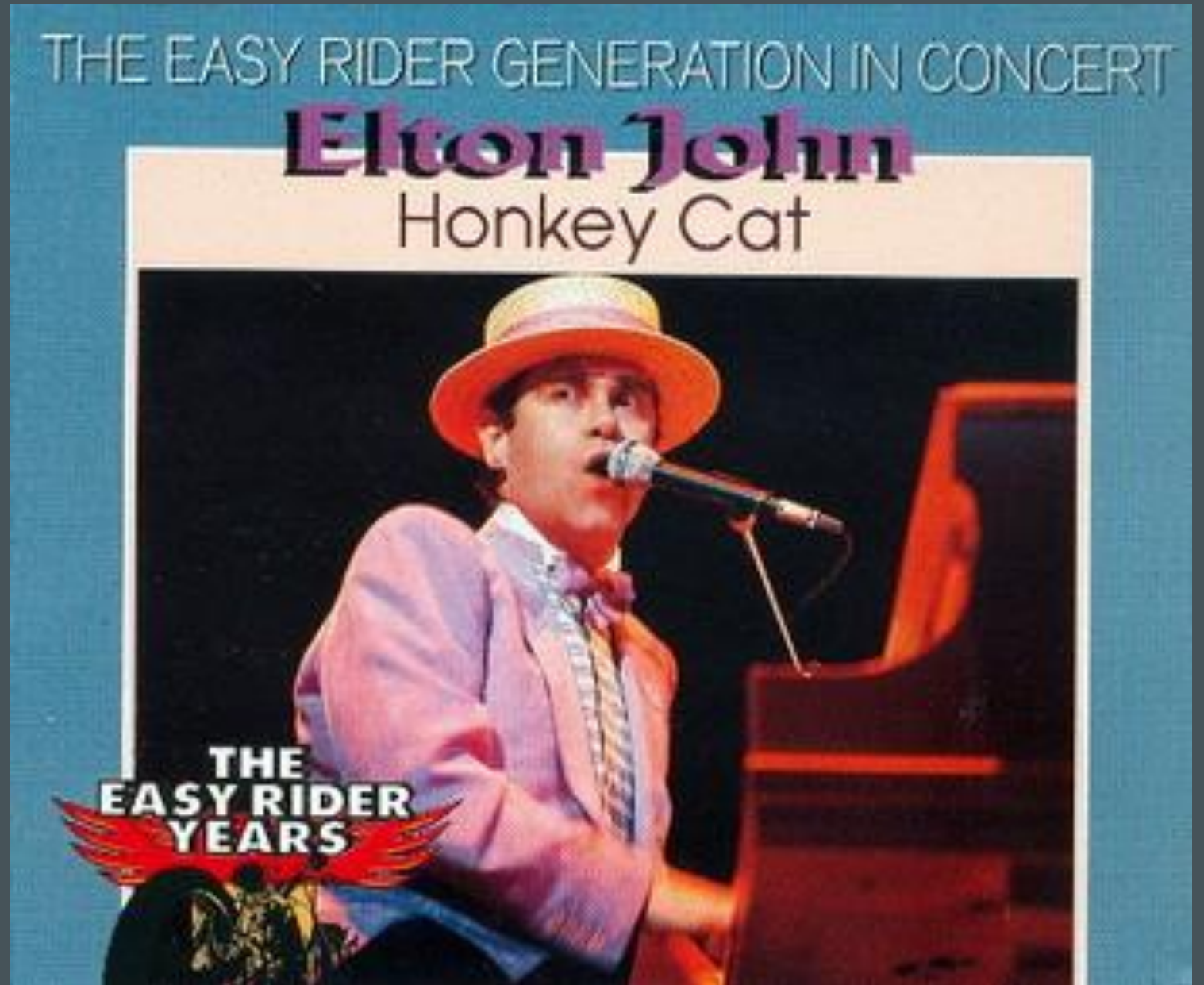
- Mathematics is about removing obstacles to our intuition and keeping simple things simple.
- **Math is not about following directions, it's about making new directions.**



TRYING TO FIND  
GOLD IN A  
SILVER MINE

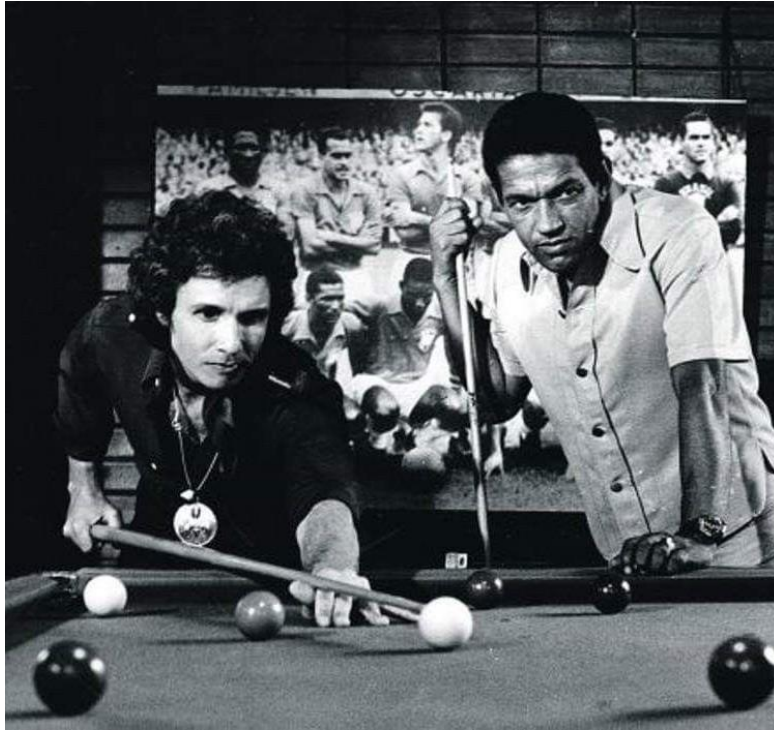


TRYING TO  
DRINK WHISKEY  
FROM A BOTTLE  
OF WINE





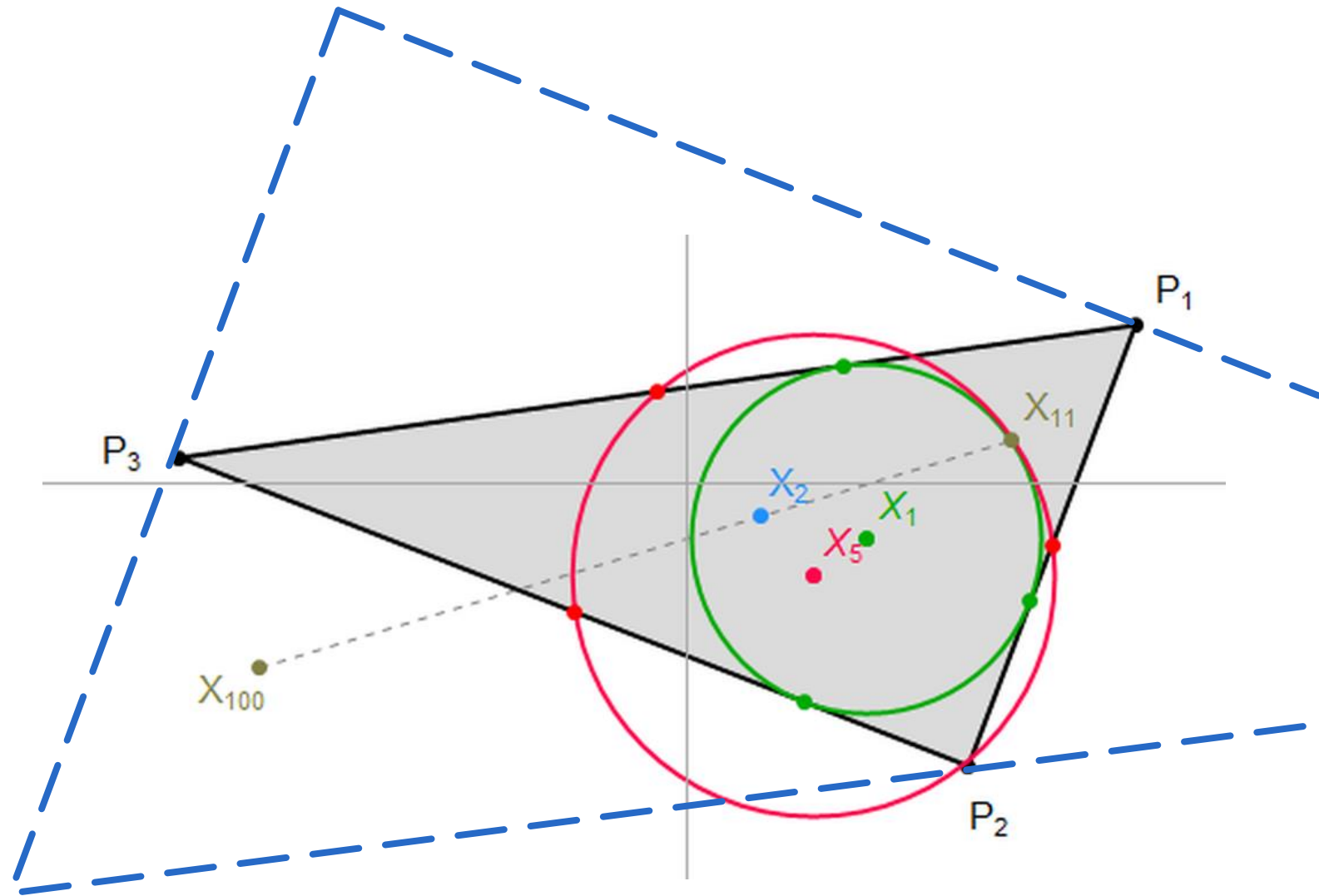
# SPIROGRAPH

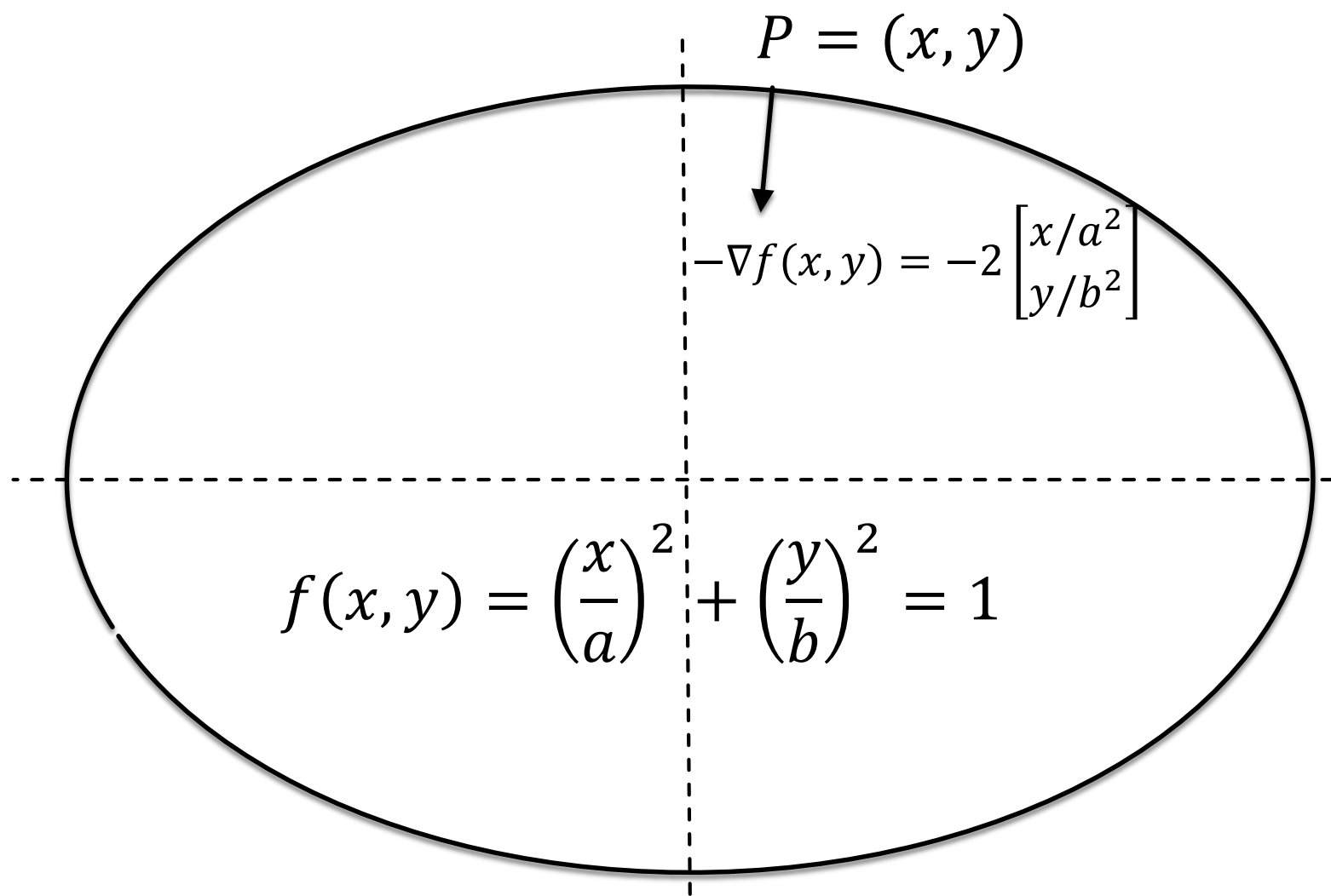


# GARRINCHA E BILHARES: JÁ COMBINOU COM OS RUSSOS?



# X(100): ANTICOMPLEMENT OF FEUERBACH

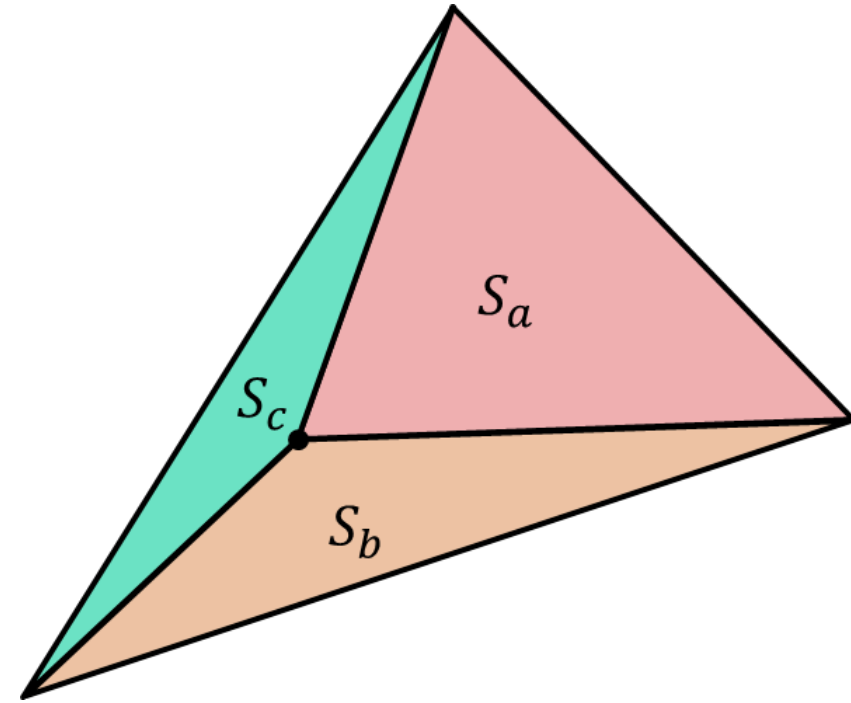
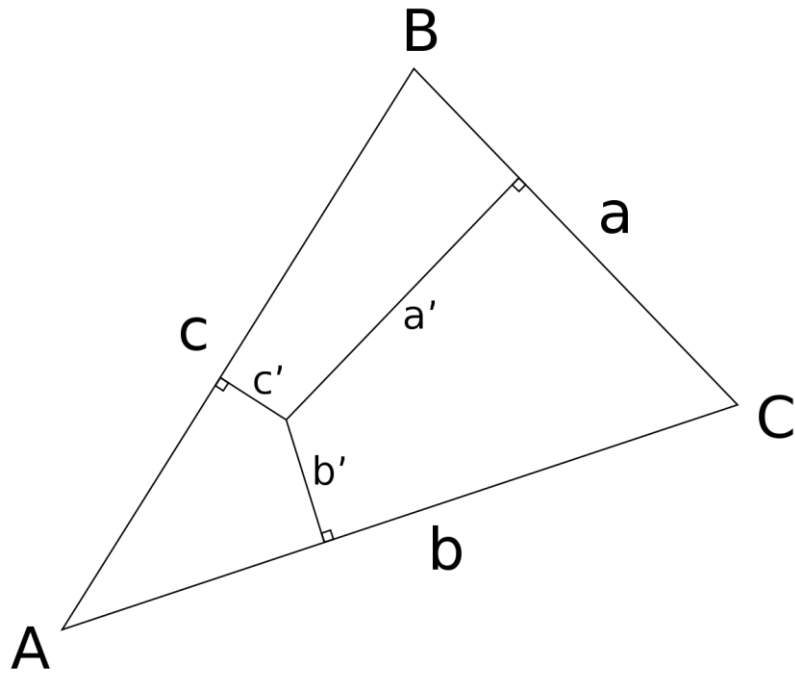




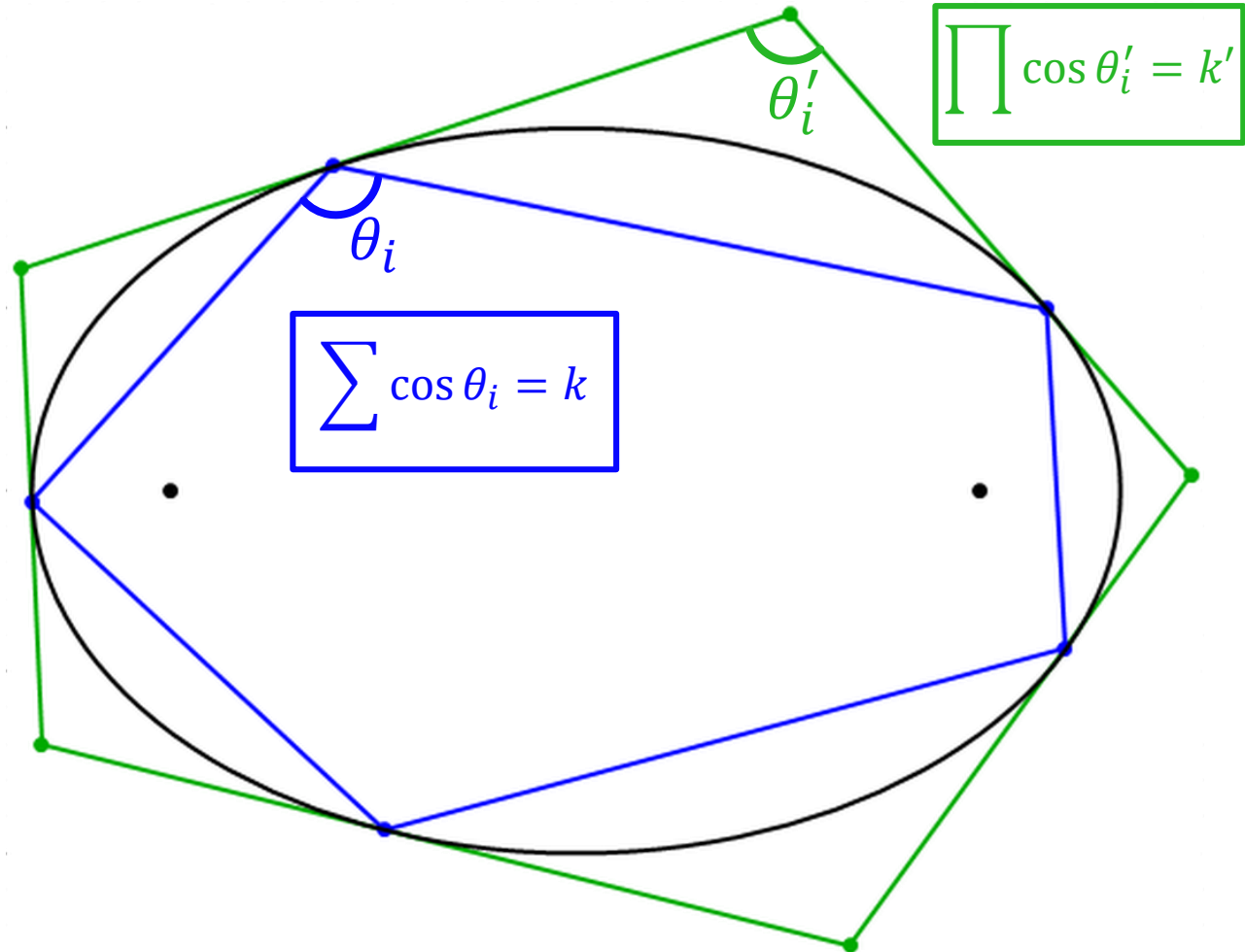
$$P = (x, y)$$

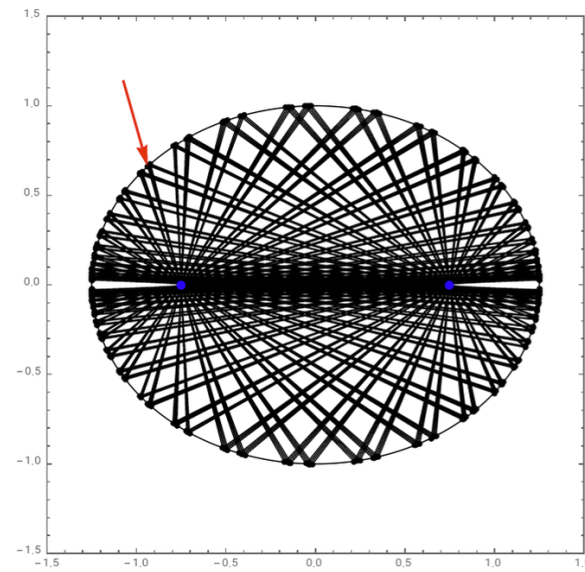
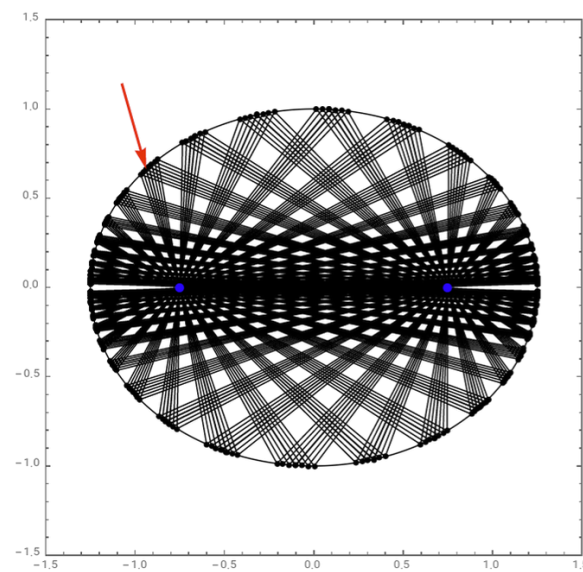
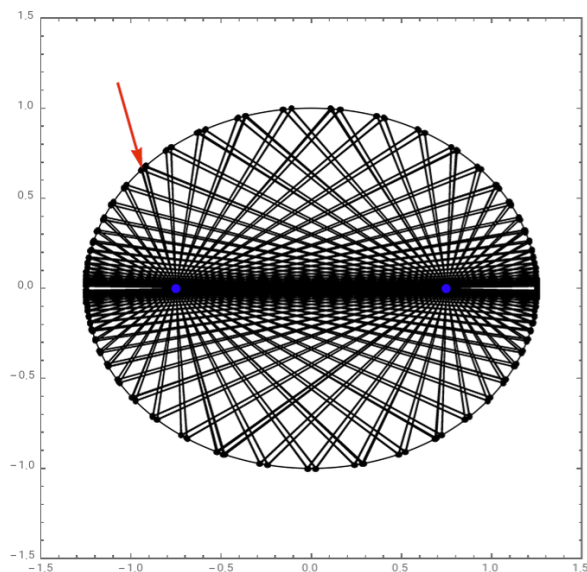
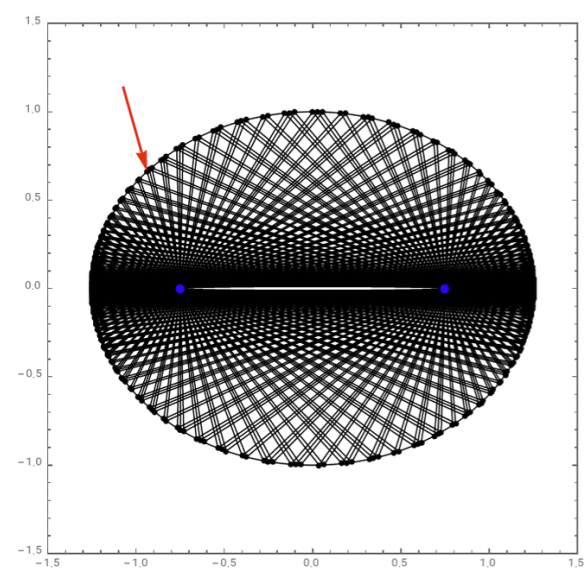
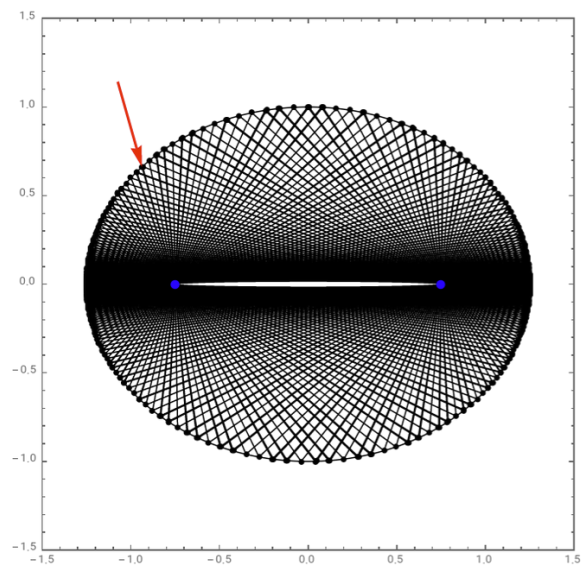
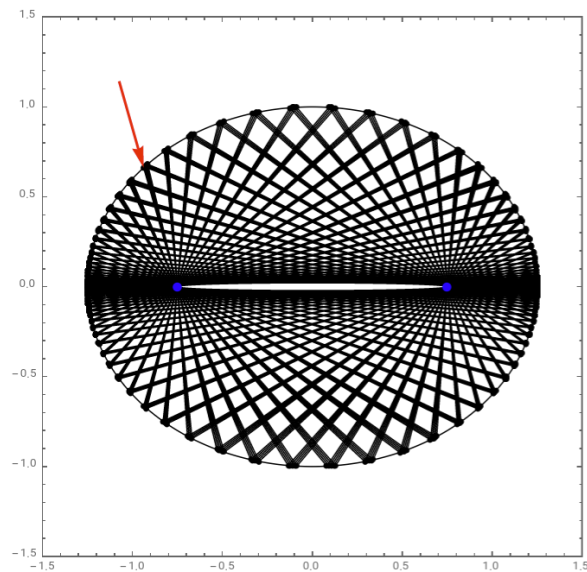
$$-\nabla f(x, y) = -2 \begin{bmatrix} x/a^2 \\ y/b^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$f(x, y) = \left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{b}\right)^2 = 1$$



# TRILINEAR VS BARYCENTRIC COORDINATES





# A Property of Parallelograms Inscribed in Ellipses

Alain Connes and Don Zagier

**1. INTRODUCTION.** The following surprising property of ellipses was observed by the physicist Jean-Marc Richard, in connection with a problem from ballistics [2, p. 843].

**Theorem 1.** Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be an ellipse and  $f(d, d')$  the function of two diameters given by the perimeter of the parallelogram with vertices  $d \cap \mathcal{E}$  and  $d' \cap \mathcal{E}$  (Figure 1). Then

$$f(d) := \sup_{d'} f(d, d')$$

is constant (independent of  $d$ ).

In other words, the maximal perimeter of a parallelogram inscribed in a given ellipse can be realized by a parallelogram with one vertex at any prescribed point of the ellipse.

