

Dynamics of Digits: Calculating Pi with Galperin Billiards

Nate Harshman, Physics Department
American University, Washington, DC, USA

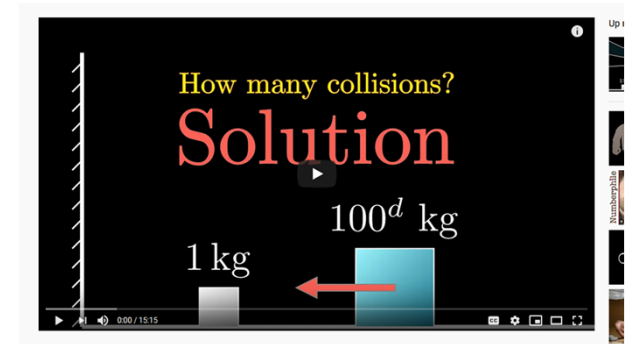
IF YOU WATCH THREE VIDEOS ABOUT GALPERIN'S BILLIARDS...

YouTube channel: 3Blue1Brown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEfHFsfGXjs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsYwFizhncE>

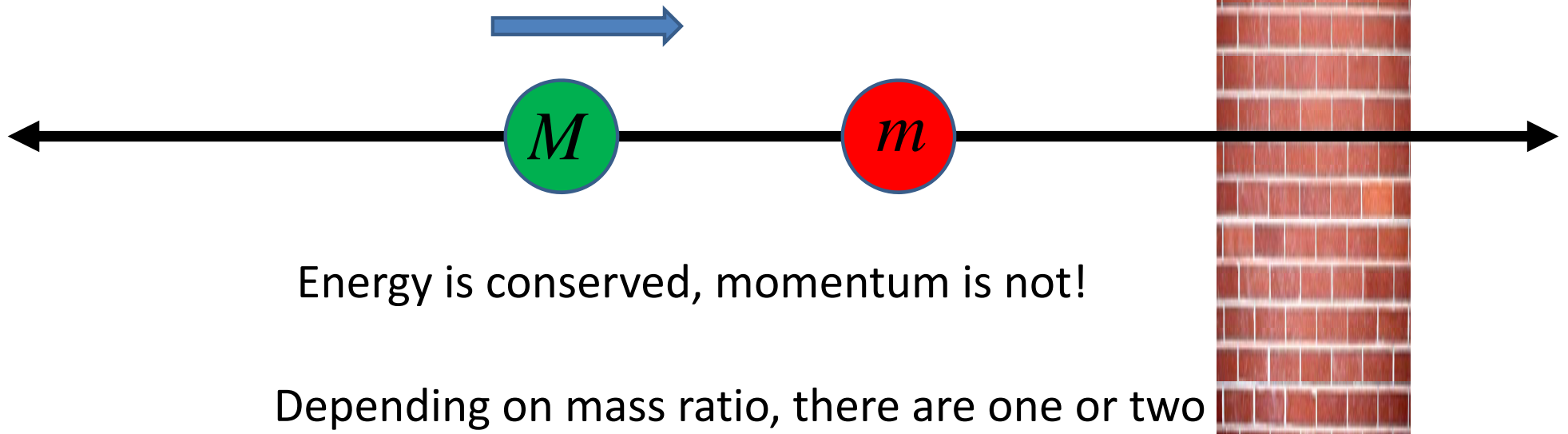
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brU5yLm9DZM>



If you watch a fourth video...

Galperin Billiards

Elastic three body problem, one mass infinite



Energy is conserved, momentum is not!

Depending on mass ratio, there are one or two more conserved quantities

Galperin Billiards



$$M = 10^0 m$$

number of collisions

$$\Pi = 3$$



$$M = 10^2 m$$

number of collisions

$$\Pi = 31$$



$$M = 10^4 m$$

number of collisions

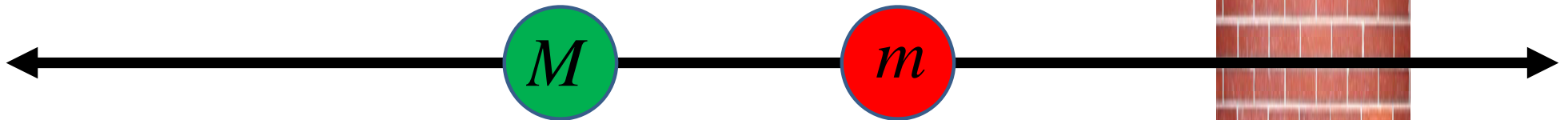
$$\Pi = 314$$



Galperin Billiards

$$\Pi = \text{int}[\pi / \beta]$$

$$\cot \beta = \sqrt{M / m} = \text{base}^{\text{digits}}$$



$$M \gg m \Rightarrow \beta \approx \sqrt{\frac{m}{M}} \ll \pi$$

$$\Pi \approx \text{int}[\pi \sqrt{M / m}]$$

Galperin Billiards

$$\cot \beta = 10^0$$



$$M = 10^0 m$$



$$\cot \beta = 10^1$$



$$M = 10^2 m$$



$$\cot \beta = 10^2$$



$$M = 10^4 m$$



$$\Pi = 31 = \text{int}(10^1 \pi)$$

$$\Pi = 3 = \text{int}(10^0 \pi)$$

$$\Pi = 314 = \text{int}(10^2 \pi)$$

Galperin Billiards

$$\cot \beta = 3^0$$



$$M = 3^0 m$$

number of collisions

$$\Pi = 3 = 10_3$$

$$\cot \beta = 3^1$$



$$M = 3^2 m$$

number of collisions

$$\Pi = 9 = 100_3$$

$$\pi = 10.0102110_3$$

$$\cot \beta = 3^2$$



$$M = 3^4 m$$

number of collisions

$$\Pi = 28 = 1001_3$$

Advertisement for a Long Paper

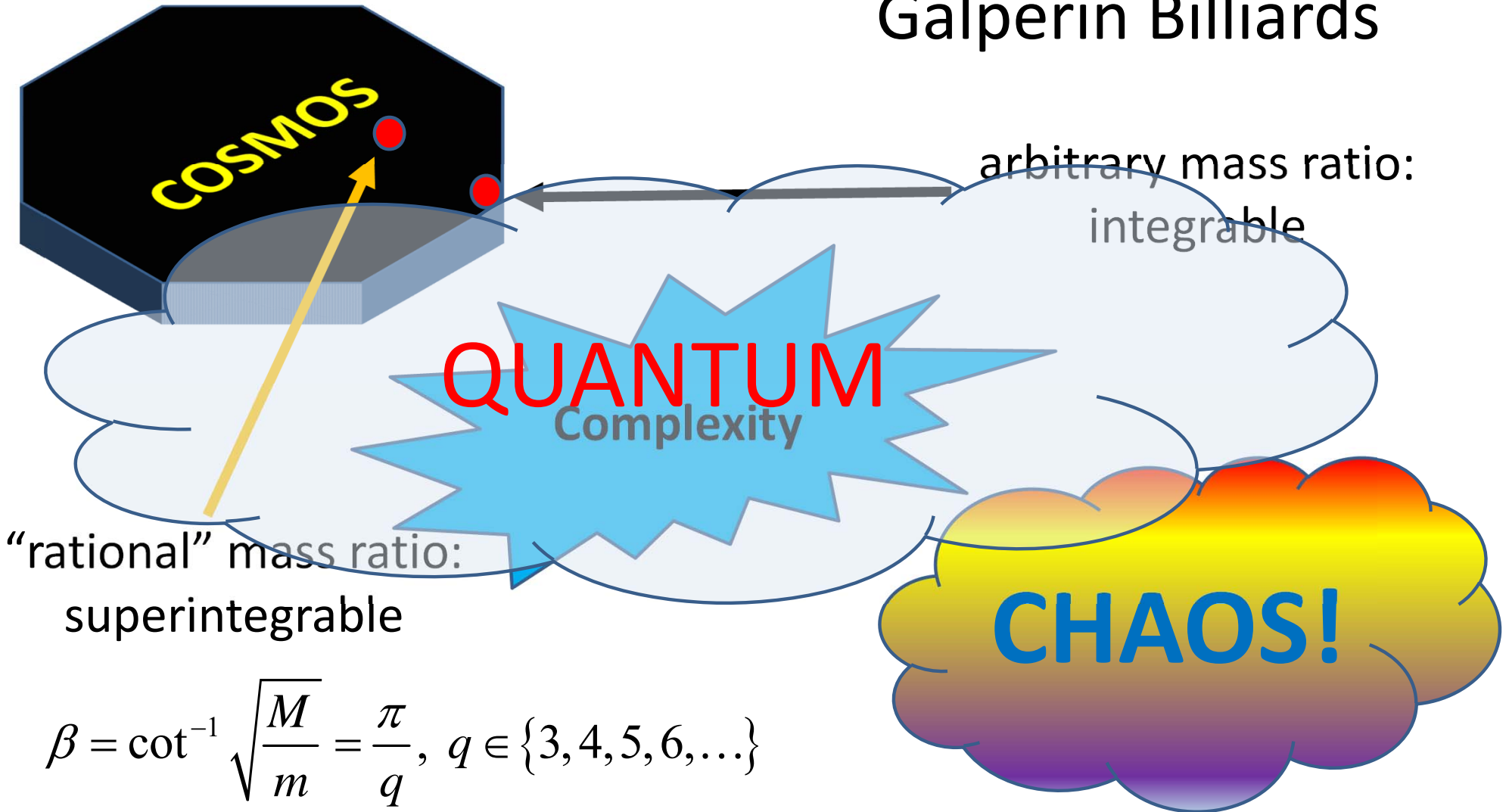
X. M. Aretxabaleta, M. Gonchenko, N. L. Harshman, S. G. Jackson, M. Olshanii, G. E. Astrakharchik, “The dynamics of digits: Calculating pi with Galperin's billiards”, *Mathematics* 8, 509 (2020); arXiv:1712.06698.

- Review of previous results
 - Billiard coordinates and unfolded trajectories
- Symmetry and Dynamics
 - Pseudo angular momentum and exact results
 - Integrability and superintegrability
 - Effective Calogero interaction
- Digitization and error
 - Irrational bases



Personal
Motivation

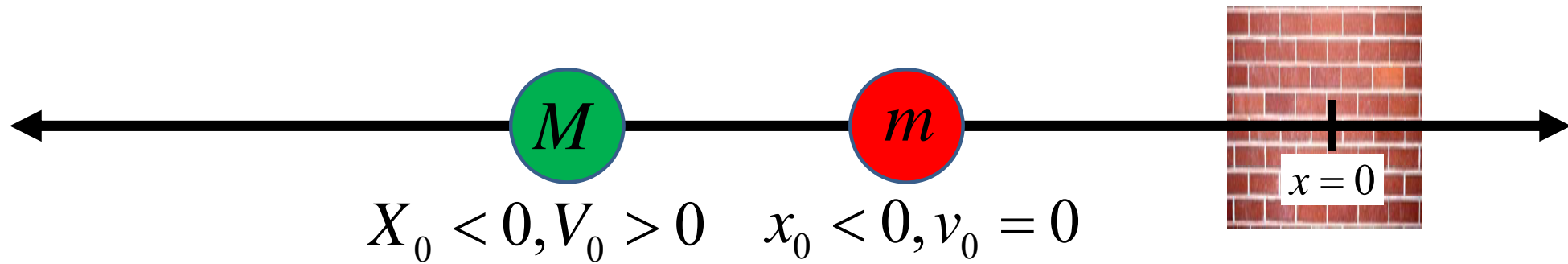
Galperin Billiards



$$\beta = \cot^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{M}{m}} = \frac{\pi}{q}, \quad q \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, \dots\}$$

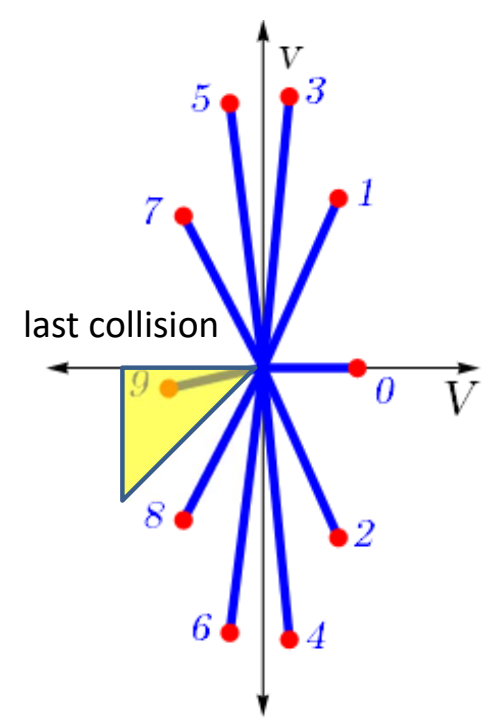
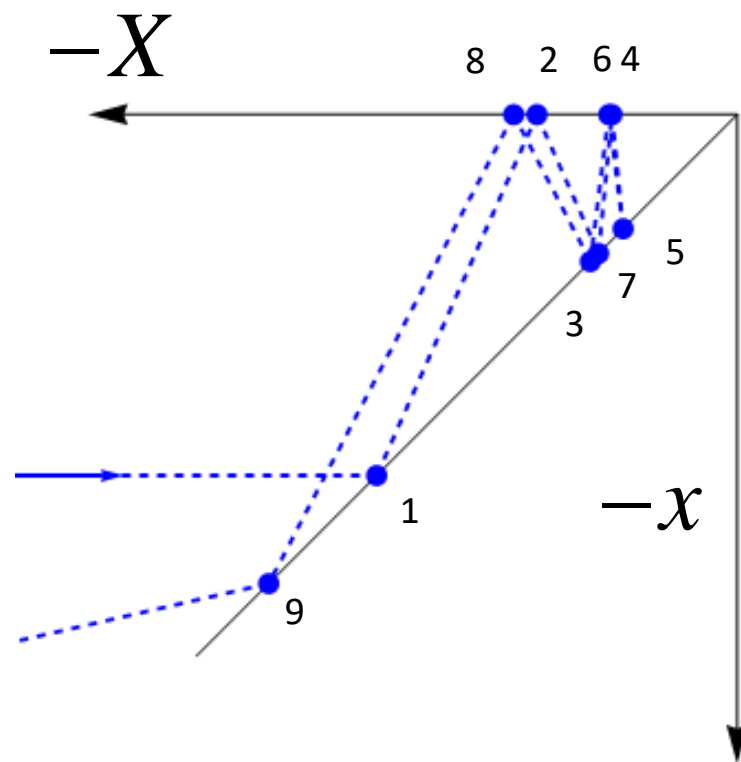
Top four superintegrable systems

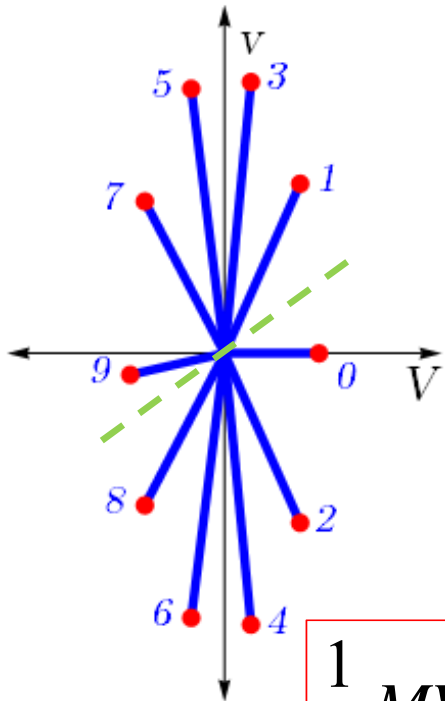
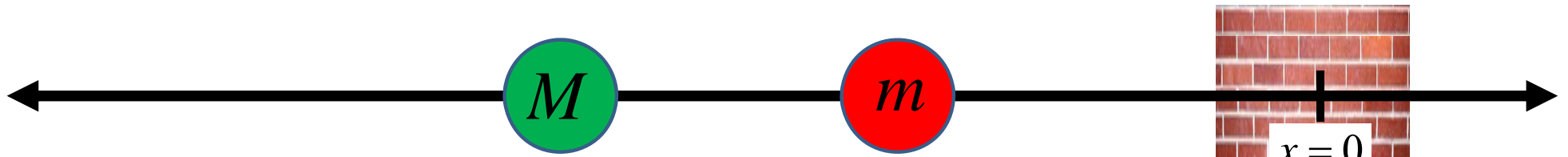
- 1) Kepler two-body problem
- 2) Particle in an isotropic harmonic trap in two or more dimensions
- 3) Non-interacting particles in free space or harmonic traps
- 4) Calogero-Sutherland-Moser Models



X_0, V_0, x_0, v_0, t_0
 X_1, V_1, x_1, v_1, t_1
 \vdots
 $X_{\Pi}, V_{\Pi}, x_{\Pi}, v_{\Pi}, t_{\Pi}$

$$M / m = 9$$





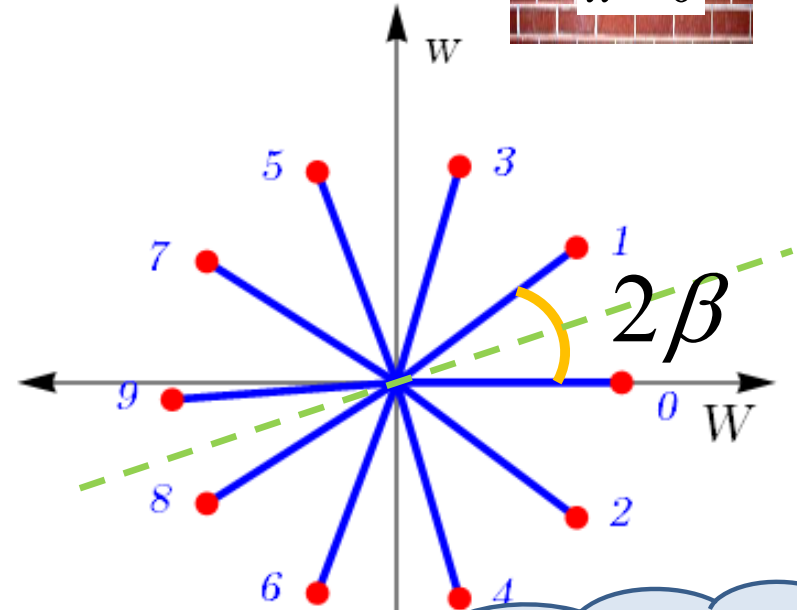
$$Y = \sqrt{M} X$$

$$y = \sqrt{m} x$$

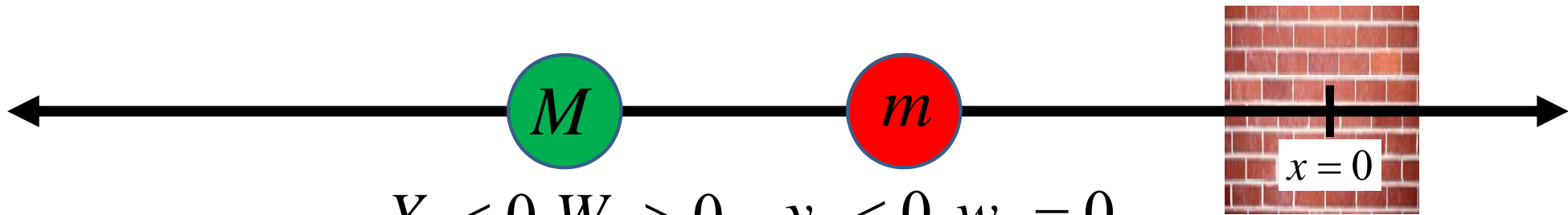
$$W = \sqrt{M} V$$

$$w = \sqrt{m} v$$

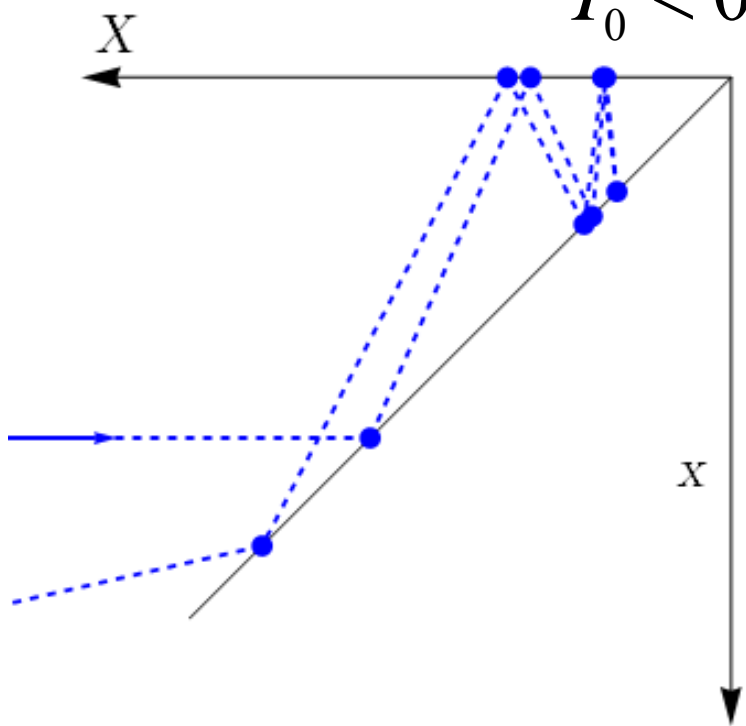
$$\frac{1}{2} M V^2 + \frac{1}{2} m v^2 = T = \frac{1}{2} (W^2 + w^2)$$



$\tan \beta = \sqrt{m / M}$



$$Y_0 < 0, W_0 > 0 \quad y_0 < 0, w_0 = 0$$

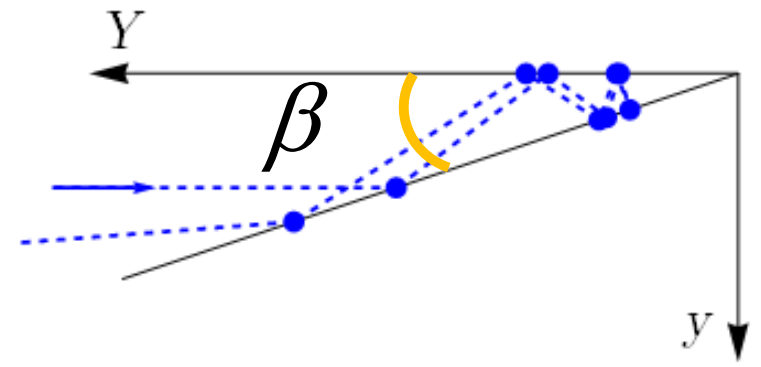


$$Y = \sqrt{M} X$$

$$y = \sqrt{m} y$$

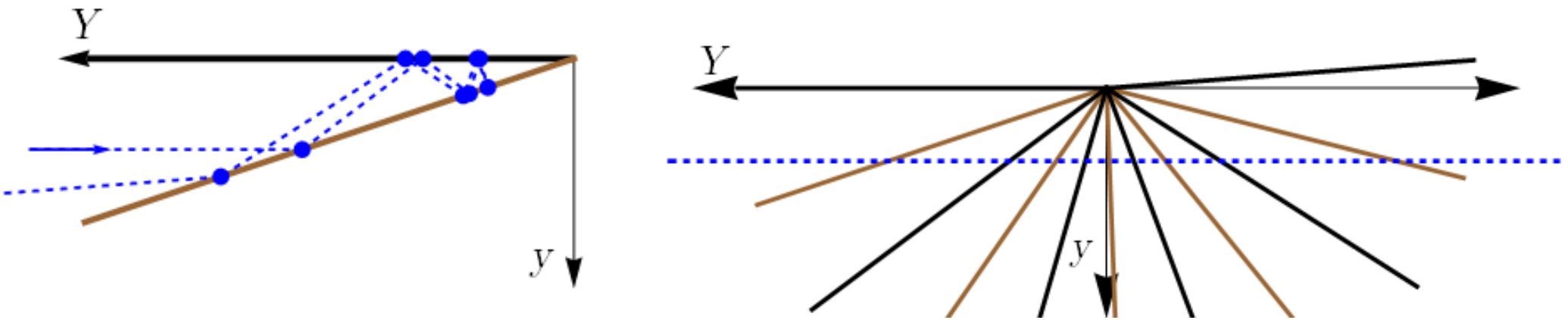
$$W = \sqrt{M} V$$

$$w = \sqrt{m} v$$



$\tan \beta = \sqrt{m / M}$

Unfolding the trajectory



$$L^2 = (Yw - yW)^2$$

$$L^2 = mM (x_0 V_0)^2$$

Two degrees of freedom + Two Integrals of Motion = Integrable*

General
invariants

$$T = \frac{1}{2}(W^2 + w^2)$$
$$= \frac{1}{2}mv^2 + \frac{1}{2}MV^2$$

$$L^2 = (Yw - yW)^2$$
$$= mM(Xv - xV)^2$$

Initial values

$$T = \frac{1}{2}MV_0^2$$

$$L^2 = mM(x_0V_0)^2$$

Algebra!
Pow! Pow!
Exact Results!

Sometimes there is a third integral of motion...

Superintegrable mass ratios

$$\beta = \cot \sqrt{\frac{M}{m}} = \frac{\pi}{q}, \quad q \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, \dots\}$$

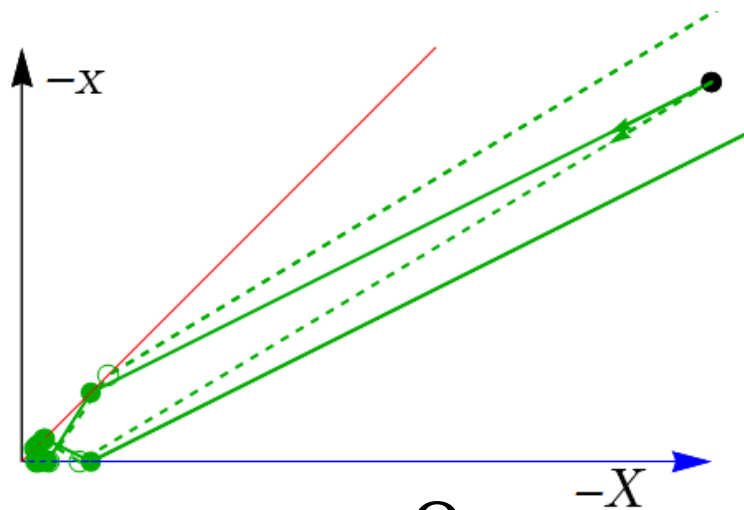
$$q = 3 \quad \frac{m}{M} = 3 \quad \Rightarrow \quad J = V^3 - 9Vv^2$$

$$q = 4 \quad \frac{m}{M} = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad J = V^4 - 6V^2v^2 + v^4$$

$$q = 5 \quad \frac{m}{M} = 5 - 2\sqrt{5} \quad \Rightarrow \quad J = V^5 - 10(5 - 2\sqrt{5})V^3v^2 + 25(9 - 4\sqrt{5})Vv^4$$

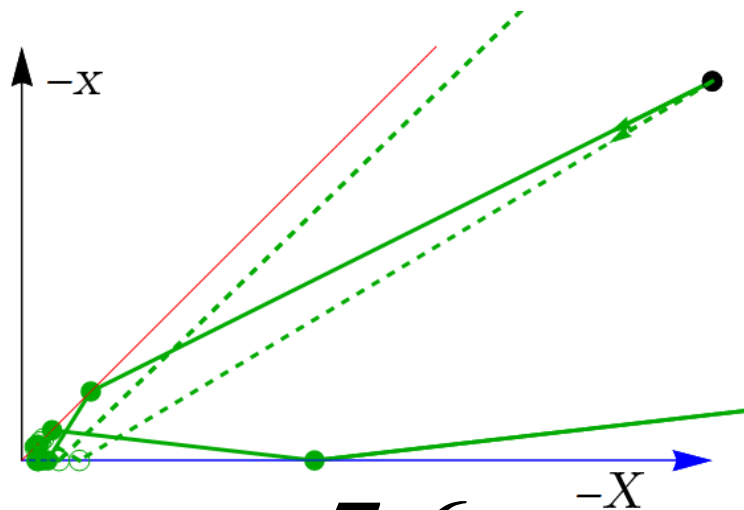
$$q = 6 \quad \frac{m}{M} = \frac{1}{3} \quad \Rightarrow \quad J = V^6 - 5V^4v^2 + \frac{5}{3}V^2v^4 - \frac{1}{27}v^6$$

Consider more general initial conditions...



$q = 8$

single cover under unfolding



$q = 7.6$

multiple cover under unfolding

Also, zero time delay for superintegrable case...

Thanks!

- CSAAPT Organizers
- Collaborators
- AU colleagues
- Democracy

X. M. Aretxabaleta, M. Gonchenko, N. L. Harshman, S. G. Jackson, M. Olshanii, G. E. Astrakharchik, “The dynamics of digits: Calculating pi with Galperin's billiards”, *Mathematics* 8, 509 (2020).