

The Three Stooges Meet the Conic Sections

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Expansion of the Solution to Question 4(a)

Estimating y_1' and y_2' in equation (4) yields

$$2m(x_0')^2 \left(\frac{2hr^2s}{r^2 - d^2} - 2y_0' \right) + x_0' \left(\frac{2hr^2s}{r^2 - d^2} - 2y_0' \right)^2 = 2mr^2s^2 \left(\frac{2hr^2s}{r^2 - d^2} - 2y_0' \right) + x_0' \left(\frac{2hr^2s}{r^2 - d^2} \right)^2,$$

implying that

$$\begin{aligned} & 2m(x_0')^2 (r^2 - d^2) (2hr^2s - 2y_0'(r^2 - d^2)) + x_0' (2hr^2s - 2y_0'(r^2 - d^2))^2 \\ &= 2mr^2s^2 (r^2 - d^2) (2hr^2s - 2y_0'(r^2 - d^2)) + x_0' (2hr^2s)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Letting $R = r^2$, we obtain the following:

$$\begin{aligned} & 2m(x_0')^2 (R - d^2) (2hRs - 2y_0'R + 2y_0'd^2) + x_0' (2hRs - 2y_0'R + 2y_0'd^2)^2 \\ &= 2mRs^2 (R - d^2) (2hRs - 2y_0'R + 2y_0'd^2) + 4x_0'h^2R^2s^2 \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} & 2mRs^2 (R - d^2) (2hRs - 2y_0'R + 2y_0'd^2) - 2m(x_0')^2 (R - d^2) (2hRs - 2y_0'R + 2y_0'd^2) \\ &+ 4x_0'h^2R^2s^2 - x_0' (2hRs - 2y_0'R + 2y_0'd^2)^2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} & 2m(R - d^2) (2hRs - 2y_0'R + 2y_0'd^2) (Rs^2 - (x_0')^2) \\ &+ x_0' \left[(2hRs - (2hRs - 2y_0'R + 2y_0'd^2)) \times (2hRs + (2hRs - 2y_0'R + 2y_0'd^2)) \right] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

or

$$2m(R - d^2) (2hRs - 2y_0'R + 2y_0'd^2) (Rs^2 - (x_0')^2) + x_0' \left[(2y_0'R - 2y_0'd^2) (4hRs - 2y_0'R + 2y_0'd^2) \right] = 0$$

or

$$2m(R-d^2)(2hRs-2y'_0R+2y'_0d^2)\left(Rs^2-(x'_0)^2\right)+2x'_0y'_0(R-d^2)\times 2(2hRs-y'_0R+y'_0d^2)=0$$

or

$$m(2hRs-2y'_0R+2y'_0d^2)\left(Rs^2-(x'_0)^2\right)+2x'_0y'_0(2hRs-y'_0R+y'_0d^2)=0 \text{ if } R-d^2 \neq 0$$

or

$$mhs^3R^2-mh(x'_0)^2sR-my'_0s^2R^2+m(x'_0)^2y'_0R+my'_0d^2s^2R-m(x'_0)^2y'_0d^2+2hx'_0y'_0sR-x'_0(y'_0)^2R+x'_0(y'_0)^2d^2=0$$

or

$$R^2(mhs^3-my'_0s^2)+R\left(-mh(x'_0)^2s+m(x'_0)^2y'_0+my'_0d^2s^2+2hx'_0y'_0s-x'_0(y'_0)^2\right)+\left(x'_0(y'_0)^2d^2-m(x'_0)^2y'_0d^2\right)=0$$

or

$$R^2\left[ms^2(hs-y'_0)\right]+R\left[m(x'_0)^2(y'_0-hs)+y'_0s(md^2s+hx'_0)+x'_0y'_0(hs-y'_0)\right]+\left[x'_0y'_0d^2(y'_0-mx'_0)\right]=0$$

or

$$R^2\left[ms^2(hs-y'_0)\right]+R\left[(hs-y'_0)\left(x'_0y'_0-m(x'_0)^2\right)+y'_0s(md^2s+hx'_0)\right]+\left[x'_0y'_0d^2(y'_0-mx'_0)\right]=0.$$