

Year: 2014

Vol.: 84

Fasc.: 3-4

Title: The Finsler geometry of the rotating Kepler problem

Author(s): Kai Cieliebak, Urs Frauenfelder and Otto van Koert

We investigate the Cartan and Finsler geometry of the rotating Kepler problem, a limit case of the restricted three body problem that arises if the mass of the one of the primaries goes to zero. We show that the Hamiltonian for the rotating Kepler problem can be regarded as the Legendre transform of a certain family of Finsler metrics on the two-sphere. For very negative energy levels, these Finsler metrics are close to the round metric, and the associated flag curvature is hence positive. On the other hand, we show that the flag curvature can become negative once the energy level becomes sufficiently high.

Address:

Kai Cieliebak
Mathematisches Institut
Zimmer L1 – 2009
Universität Augsburg
Universitätsstrasse 14
86159 Augsburg
Germany

Address:

Urs Frauenfelder
Department of Mathematics and
Research Institute of Mathematics
Seoul National University
Building 27, room 403
San 56-1, Sillim-dong
Gwanak-gu, Seoul
South Korea

Address:

Otto van Koert
Department of Mathematics and
Research Institute of Mathematics
Seoul National University
Building 27, room 402
San 56-1, Sillim-dong
Gwanak-gu, Seoul
Postal code 151-747
South Korea