

1075-70-100

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Minimizing Orbits in the Equal Mass 3-Body Problem as Seen on the Shape Sphere. Preliminary report.

Using variational techniques, we will examine the family of comet orbits for the 3-body problem. First we find the minimizing orbit of the curves which start collinear and end isosceles and then we consider how moving the angle of rotation leads to a family of orbits on the shape sphere. For this talk we will examine the topology of the orbits on the sphere. (Received August 24, 2011)