

Waldemar Cieślak, Józef Wołowik

## $g$ -CHORDAL CURVES

**Abstract.** In this paper we introduce a notion of  $g$ -chordal curves which are a natural generalization of equichordal, equireciprocal and equipower curves. A Crofton-type integral formula and estimations of the area and the length of  $g$ -chordal curve are given. Moreover, a 1-parameter family of ovals with exactly four vertices in the class generated by the function  $g(x) = x^m$  is constructed. A remark on the equichordal problem ends the paper.

### 1. Introduction

Let  $C$  be a plane closed simple regular curve and let  $g : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a strictly monotonic function of the class  $C^1$ . Let  $\|AB\|$  denote the distance between points  $A, B$  in the euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

**DEFINITION 1.1.** A point  $P$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  is called a  $g$ -chordal point of  $C$  if it has the following property: if a chord of  $C$  passes through  $P$  and joins points  $P_1, P_2$  of  $C$  then

$$(1.1) \quad g(\|PP_1\|) + g(\|PP_2\|) = c$$

and the sum does not depend on the choice of a chord. The curve  $C$  will be called a  $g$ -chordal curve.

In this paper we will consider all  $g$ -chordal curves with  $g$ -chordal point at the origin  $O$ .

We denote by  $K$  the class of all plane simple closed curves given in a polar form

$$(1.2) \quad t \rightarrow r(t)e^{it} \quad \text{for } t \in [0, 2\pi],$$

where a function  $r : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the following conditions:

$$(1.3) \quad \begin{cases} r \in C^1 \\ r(t) > 0 \\ r(t + 2\pi) = r(t) \end{cases}$$

for  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

We associate with each function  $r : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  a function  $r_\pi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by the formula

$$(1.4) \quad r_\pi(t) = r(t + \pi) \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

A strictly monotonic function  $g : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the class  $C^1$  determines a subclass  $K_g$  of the class  $K$  by the following way: a curve of the form (1.2) belongs to  $K_g$  if and only if the function  $r$  satisfies the following condition

$$(1.5) \quad g \circ r + g \circ r_\pi = \text{const}$$

where  $\circ$  denotes the composition of functions. A curve belonging to the class  $K_g$  is a  $g$ -chordal curve.

The class  $K_g$  generated by the function  $g(u) = u$  contains all equichordal curves, see [6]. The class  $K_g$  generated by the function  $g(u) = \frac{1}{u}$  contains all equireciprocal curves, see [4]. The class  $K_g$  generated by the function  $g(u) = \ln u$  contains all equipower curves, see [15], [16], [7], [8], [9].

In this paper we will assume that a function  $g$  is a strictly increasing function.

The considerations in the fourth section are connected with ovals. We recall that a plane simple closed curve with a positive curvature will be called an oval, see [11], [14].

## 2. Crofton-type integral formula

We consider two curves  $C_n$ ,  $t \rightarrow r_n(t) e^{it}$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ , ( $n = 1, 2$ ) belonging to a class  $K_g$  and satisfying the condition

$$(2.1) \quad g \circ r_n + g \circ r_{n,\pi} = c_n.$$

We assume that  $C_1$  is curve lying in the region bounded by  $C_2$ . Then  $r_1(t) < r_2(t)$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ . The function  $g$  is strictly increasing so  $g(r_1(t)) < g(r_2(t))$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ . This inequality implies immediately that  $c_1 < c_2$ . We denote by  $C_1 C_2$  a region bounded by  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ . We consider a mapping  $G : [0, 1] \times [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow C_1 C_2$  given by the formula

$$(2.2) \quad G(s, t) = g^{-1}(sg(r_2(t)) + (1-s)g(r_1(t)))e^{it}.$$

For each fixed  $s \in [0, 1]$  a curve  $t \rightarrow G(s, t)$  is a  $g$ -chordal one. Indeed, let

$$(2.3) \quad r(s, t) = g^{-1}(sg(r_2(t)) + (1-s)g(r_1(t))).$$

Making use of (2.1) we get

$$g(r(s, t)) + g(r(s, t + \pi)) = sc_2 + (1 - s)c_1$$

for a fixed  $s \in [0, 1]$  and for all  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ .

We note that  $s = 0$  determines  $C_1$  and  $s = 1$  determines  $C_2$ .

Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . We denote by  $\|x\|$  the distance between  $x$  and the origin 0.

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Let  $C_1, C_2 \in K_g$  where  $g$  is a positive-valued function. If  $C_1$  lies in a region bounded by  $C_2$  and the condition (2.1) holds then we have*

$$(2.4) \quad \iint_{C_1 C_2} \frac{g'(\|x\|)}{\|x\|} dx = \pi(c_2 - c_1).$$

**Proof.** Let

$$(2.5) \quad E = \{(s, t) : 0 < s < 1, 0 < t < 2\pi\}.$$

We denote by  $G_E$  a restriction of the function  $G$  to the set  $E$ . The function  $G_E$  maps bijectively  $E$  onto interior of the region  $C_1 C_2$  with deleted a line segment on  $x$ -axis.

We determine the jacobian  $JG_E(s, t)$  of the function  $G_E$  at the point  $(s, t)$ . By (2.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial G_E}{\partial s}(s, t) &= \frac{g(r_2(t)) - g(r_1(t))}{g'(r(s, t))} e^{it}, \\ \frac{\partial G_E}{\partial t}(s, t) &= \frac{sg'(r_2(t))r_2'(t) + (1-s)g'(r_1(t))r_1'(t)}{g'(r(s, t))} e^{it} + r(s, t)ie^{it} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$(2.6) \quad JG_E = (g \circ r_2 - g \circ r_1) \frac{r}{g' \circ r}.$$

We note that  $JG_E(s, t) > 0$  for  $(s, t) \in E$  and  $G_E$  is a diffeomorphism. For  $x \in G(E)$  we have  $x = r(s, t)e^{it}$  for some  $(s, t) \in E$ . Using the classical theorem on diffeomorphism we get

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{C_1 C_2} \frac{g'(\|x\|)}{\|x\|} dx &= \iint_{G(E)} \frac{g'(\|x\|)}{\|x\|} dx \\ &= \int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} (g(r_2(t)) - g(r_1(t))) dt ds \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \int_0^{2\pi} (g(r_2(t)) - g(r_1(t))) dt \\
&= \int_0^{\pi} (g(r_2(t)) - g(r_1(t))) dt + \int_0^{\pi} (g(r_2(t+\pi)) - g(r_1(t+\pi))) dt \\
&= \int_0^{\pi} [(g(r_2(t)) + g(r_{2,\pi}(t))) - (g(r_1(t)) + g(r_{1,\pi}(t)))] dt = \pi(c_2 - c_1). \blacksquare
\end{aligned}$$

The formula (2.4) belongs to Crofton-type formulas. The original Crofton formulas can be found in [9].

**REMARK 2.1.** For the function  $g(u) = u^2$  we have

$$\pi(c_2 - c_1) = \iint_{C_1 C_2} 2dx = 2 \text{ area } C_1 C_2$$

but this result can be derived immediately by definition.

### 3. Estimations of the area and the length of a $g$ -chordal curve

We assume that a function  $g : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the following conditions:

$$(3.1) \quad g'(u) > 0, \quad \text{for all } u \in (0, +\infty),$$

$$(3.2) \quad g''(u) < 0, \quad \text{for all } u \in (0, +\infty).$$

Let  $C$ ,  $t \rightarrow r(t)e^{it}$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  be a  $g$ -chordal curve and

$$(3.3) \quad g(r(t)) + g(r(t+\pi)) = c.$$

In the sequel we will assume that the function  $r$  is  $2\pi$ -periodic and  $r \in C^2$ . We introduce the following functions

$$(3.4) \quad \alpha(u) = g^{-1}(c - g(u)),$$

$$(3.5) \quad \varphi(u) = u^2 + [\alpha(u)]^2,$$

$$(3.6) \quad h(u) = \frac{u}{g'(u)}$$

for  $u \in (0, +\infty)$ .

**THEOREM 3.1.** Under assumptions (3.1), (3.2) and (3.3) the area of the region bounded by a  $g$ -chordal curve  $C$  satisfies the inequality

$$(3.7) \quad \text{area } C \geq \pi \left[ g^{-1} \left( \frac{c}{2} \right) \right]^2.$$

**Proof.** It follows from (3.1) and (3.2) that  $h$  is a strictly increasing function.

We have  $\alpha'(u) = \frac{-g'(u)}{g'(\alpha(u))}$  and  $\varphi'(u) = 2g'(u)(h(u) - h(\alpha(u)))$ .

Let  $\varphi'(\tilde{u}) = 0$ . Then we have  $h(\tilde{u}) - h(\alpha(\tilde{u})) = 0$  and  $\tilde{u} = \alpha(\tilde{u})$ . Hence we get immediately  $\tilde{u} = g^{-1}\left(\frac{c}{2}\right)$ . Since we have  $\alpha(\tilde{u}) = \tilde{u}$ ,  $\alpha'(\tilde{u}) = -1$  and  $\varphi''(\tilde{u}) = 4g'(\tilde{u})h'(\tilde{u}) > 0$  so  $\varphi$  attains the unique minimum at the point  $\tilde{u}$ .

We have  $\varphi(\tilde{u}) = 2\tilde{u}^2 = 2\left[g^{-1}\left(\frac{c}{2}\right)\right]^2$  and

$$\varphi(u) \geq 2\left[g^{-1}\left(\frac{c}{2}\right)\right]^2 \quad \text{for arbitrary } u \in (0, +\infty).$$

Thus we have

$$2 \text{ area } C = \int_0^{2\pi} [r(t)]^2 dt = \int_0^{\pi} \varphi(r(t)) dt \geq 2\pi \left[g^{-1}\left(\frac{c}{2}\right)\right]^2. \blacksquare$$

**REMARK 3.1.** Condition (3.2) in Theorem 3.1 can be replaced by a condition  $g''(u) \leq 0$  for  $u \in (0, +\infty)$ .

**THEOREM 3.2.** Let  $C \in K_g$ ,  $t \rightarrow z(t) = r(t)e^{it}$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  and the radius vector  $z(t)$  and the tangent vector  $z'(t)$  to  $C$  at  $z(t)$  are not collinear. Under assumptions (3.1), (3.2) and (3.3) the length  $L$  of a  $g$ -chordal curve  $C$  satisfies the inequality

$$(3.8) \quad L \geq 2\pi g^{-1}\left(\frac{c}{2}\right).$$

**Proof.** We denote by  $\beta(t)$  an oriented angle between the radius vector  $z(t)$  of  $C$  and the tangent vector  $z'(t)$  to  $C$  at  $z(t)$ . We note that

$$(3.9) \quad \cot \beta = \frac{r'}{r}.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{[r(t)]^2 + [r'(t)]^2} dt \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{r(t)}{\sin \beta(t)} dt \geq \int_0^{2\pi} r(t) dt = \int_0^{\pi} [r(t) + r(t+\pi)] dt \\ &= \int_0^{\pi} [r(t) + g^{-1}(c - g(r(t)))] dt = \int_0^{\pi} [r(t) + \alpha(r(t))] dt. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\psi(u) = u + \alpha(u)$ . If  $\psi'(u_o) = 0$  then with respect to the condition (3.2) we get  $u_o = g^{-1}\left(\frac{c}{2}\right)$ . We have  $\psi''(u_o) = \frac{-2g''(u_o)}{g'(u_o)} > 0$ , so  $\psi$  attains the unique minimum at  $u_o$  and  $\psi(u_o) = 2u_o = 2g^{-1}\left(\frac{c}{2}\right)$ . Hence we obtain

$$L \geq \int_0^{\pi} \psi(r(t)) dt \geq 2\pi g^{-1}\left(\frac{c}{2}\right). \blacksquare$$

#### 4. One-parameter family of ovals with exactly four vertices in the class $K(m)$

Let  $m \geq 1$ . We denote by  $K(m)$  the class  $K_g$  where  $g(u) = u^m$  for  $u \in (0, +\infty)$ . We prove some general theorems on ovals.

**THEOREM 4.1.** *Let a curve  $C$ ,  $t \rightarrow \rho(t) e^{it}$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  be an oval. If  $m \geq 1$  and*

$$(4.1) \quad m \geq \max_{[0, 2\pi]} \left( \frac{\rho'}{\rho} \right)^2$$

*then a curve  $C_m$ ,  $t \rightarrow \rho(t)^{\frac{1}{m}} e^{it}$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  is an oval.*

**Proof.**  $C$  is an oval so its curvature is a positive-valued function and then

$$(4.2) \quad \kappa = 2(\rho')^2 + \rho^2 - \rho\rho' > 0.$$

Let us fix a number  $m > 1$  and let

$$(4.3) \quad r = \rho^{\frac{1}{m}}.$$

Differentiating  $r$  we obtain

$$(4.4) \quad r' = \frac{r}{m} \frac{\rho'}{\rho}$$

and

$$(4.5) \quad r'' = \frac{r}{m\rho^2} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{m} - 1 \right) (\rho')^2 + \rho\rho'' \right].$$

Let

$$(4.6) \quad k = 2(r')^2 + r^2 - rr''.$$

Making use of (4.2)-(4.5) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{m^2\rho^2}{r^2}k &= \frac{m^2\rho^2}{r^2} \left\{ 2\frac{r^2}{m^2} \left( \frac{\rho'}{\rho} \right)^2 + r^2 - \frac{r^2}{m\rho^2} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{m} - 1 \right) (\rho')^2 + \rho\rho'' \right] \right\} \\ &= m\kappa + \frac{m-1}{\rho^2} \left( m - \left( \frac{\rho'}{\rho} \right)^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

If  $m$  satisfies the condition (4.1) then  $k > 0$ .

Using Theorem 4.1 we prove the following theorem

**THEOREM 4.2.** *In each class  $K(m)$  there exists a 1-parameter family of ovals with exactly four vertices.*

**Proof.** Case  $m = 1$ .

A curve  $C_a$ ,  $t \rightarrow (2 + a \cos t) e^{it}$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  and a fixed  $a \in (0, 1)$  belongs to  $K(1)$ . Let  $k$  denotes the curvature of  $C_a$  and

$$q(t) = \sqrt{(2 + a \cos t)^2 + a^2 \sin^2 t}.$$

For  $a \in (0, 1)$  we have

$$q(t)^3 k(t) = 2(a^2 + 3a \cos t + 2) \geq 2(a^2 - 3a + 2) = 2(1 - a)(2 - a) > 0$$

so  $C_a$  is an oval.

The equality

$$q(t)^5 k'(t) = 6a^2(2 \cos t + a) \sin t$$

implies immediately that  $C_a$  has exactly four vertices.

Case  $m > 1$ .

Let us fix  $m > 1$  and  $a \in (0, 1)$ . Let

$$(4.7) \quad r(t) = (2 + a \cos t)^{\frac{1}{m}}.$$

We note that a curve  $C_m$ ,  $t \rightarrow r(t) e^{it}$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  belongs to  $K(m)$ . Using Theorem 4.1 we can show that  $C_m$  is an oval.

For the oval  $C_a$ ,  $t \rightarrow \rho(t) e^{it}$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$  where  $\rho(t) = 2 + a \cos t$  we have

$$\left( \frac{\rho'(t)}{\rho(t)} \right)^2 = a^2 \frac{\sin^2 t}{(2 + a \cos t)^2}.$$

It is easy to verify that

$$a^2 \frac{\sin^2 t}{(2 + a \cos t)^2} \leq \frac{a^2}{4 - a^2} < \frac{1}{3},$$

so the inequality (4.1) is satisfied for  $m \geq 1$ . It means that  $C_m$  is an oval.

Now we prove that  $C_m$  has exactly four vertices. The curvature  $k$  of  $C_m$  is given by the formula

$$(4.8) \quad k(t) = \frac{2(r'(t))^2 + (r(t))^2 - r(t)r''(t)}{\left( \sqrt{[r(t)]^2 + [r'(t)]^2} \right)^3}.$$

Let

$$(4.9) \quad \omega(t) = \frac{-a}{m} \frac{\sin t}{2 + a \cos t}$$

and

$$(4.10) \quad \xi(t) = 2 \frac{a^2 + a \cos t - 2}{(2 + a \cos t)^2}.$$

We have

$$(4.11) \quad \omega'(t) = \frac{-a}{m} \frac{2 \cos t + a}{(2 + a \cos t)^2},$$

$$(4.12) \quad \omega'' = \omega \xi$$

and

$$(4.13) \quad r' = \omega r.$$

We note that the formula (4.8) can be rewritten in the form

$$(4.14) \quad kr = \frac{\omega^2 + 1 - \omega'}{(\sqrt{1 + \omega^2})^3}.$$

Differentiating (4.14) we get

$$(4.15) \quad (k'r + kr')(\sqrt{1 + \omega^2})^5 = (2\omega\omega' - \omega'')(1 + \omega^2) - 3(\omega^2 + 1 - \omega')\omega\omega'.$$

Using (4.12) and (4.13) we rewrite (4.15) in the form

$$(4.16) \quad (k' + k\omega)r(\sqrt{1 + \omega^2})^5 = \omega\{(2\omega' - \xi)(1 + \omega^2) - 3\omega'(\omega^2 + 1 - \omega')\}.$$

With respect to (4.14) we have

$$k'r(\sqrt{1 + \omega^2})^5 = \omega\{3(\omega')^2 - (1 + \omega^2)(\xi + \omega^2 + 1)\}.$$

The equality  $\omega(t) = 0$  is satisfied in the interval  $[0, 2\pi]$  for  $t = 0$  and  $t = \pi$  only. Thus it is necessary to show that the function

$$(4.17) \quad P = 3(\omega')^2 - (1 + \omega^2)(\xi + \omega^2 + 1)$$

has exactly two zeros in the interval  $[0, 2\pi]$ .

Substituting (4.9), (4.10) and (4.11) into (4.17) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} P(t) = & \frac{3a^2(a + 2\cos t)^2}{m^2(2 + a\cos t)^4} \\ & - \frac{m^2(2 + a\cos t)^2 + a^2\sin^2 t}{m^2(2 + a\cos t)^2} \left[ \frac{2(a^2 + a\cos t - 2)}{(2 + a\cos t)^2} \right. \\ & \left. - \frac{m^2(2 + a\cos t)^2 + a^2\sin^2 t}{m^2(2 + a\cos t)^2} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we have

$$\begin{aligned} m^2(2 + a\cos t)^4 P(t) = & a^4(m^2 - 1)^2 \cos^4 t + 6a^3m^2(m^2 - 1) \cos^3 t \\ & + 2a^2[(m^2 - 1)(6m^2 + a^2 - m^2a^2) + 4m^4 + 6] \cos^2 t \\ & + 4a(12m^4 + 2m^2a^2 - 2m^4a^2 + 3a^2) \cos t \\ & + (4m^2 + a^2)(8m^2 + a^2 - 2m^2a^2) + 3a^4. \end{aligned}$$

We consider the polynomial

$$\begin{aligned} (4.18) \quad B(x) = & a^4(M - 1)^2 x^4 + 6a^3M(M - 1) x^3 \\ & + 2a^2[(M - 1)(6M + a^2 - Ma^2) + 4M^2 + 6] x^2 \\ & + 4a(12M^2 + 2Ma^2 - 2M^2a^2 + 3a^2) x \\ & + (4M + a^2)(8M + a^2 - 2Ma^2) + 3a^4, \end{aligned}$$



where

$$(4.19) \quad M = m^2.$$

We show that the polynomial  $B$  has exactly one root in the interval  $[-1, 1]$ . Since  $a \in (0, 1)$  and  $M = m^2 \geq 4$ , so all coefficients of  $B$  are positive.

We have

$$\begin{aligned} B'(x) = & 4a^4 (M-1)^2 x^3 + 18a^3 M (M-1) x^2 \\ & + 4a^2 [(M-1)(6M+a^2-Ma^2) + 4M^2 + 6] x \\ & + 4a (12M^2 + 2Ma^2 - 2M^2a^2 + 3a^2) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} B''(x) = & 12a^4 (M-1)^2 x^2 + 36a^3 M (M-1) x \\ & + 4a^2 [(M-1)(6M+a^2-Ma^2) + 4M^2 + 6] \end{aligned}$$

$B''$  attains its minimum at the point

$$x_o = \frac{-3M}{2a(M-1)} < -1.$$

We note that

$$\frac{B''(-1)}{4a^2} = M^2(2a^2-9a+10) - M(4a^2-9a+6) + 2a^2+6 > 3M^2-6M+6 > 0.$$

The conditions  $x_o < -1$  and  $B''(-1) > 0$  imply that  $B''(x) > 0$  for all  $x \in (-1, 1)$ . Moreover, we note that

$$B'(-1) = (5a^2 - 20a + 24)M^2 + a(12 - 5a)M - 6a(2 - a) > 4M^2 - 12 > 0$$

for  $M \geq 4$ ,  $B'$  is a strictly increasing function in  $[-1, 1]$  and  $B'(-1) > 0$ , so  $B'(x) > 0$  for  $x \in [-1, 1]$ . Thus the polynomial  $B$  is a strictly increasing function in the interval  $(-1, 1)$ . It follows from the four vertex theorem that the function  $P$  has at least two zeros in  $(-1, 1)$ , so  $B$  must have at least one root. Thus  $B$  has exactly one root in  $(-1, 1)$  since it is a strictly increasing function.

With respect to the results of [2] Theorem 4.2 is not true in an arbitrary class  $K_g$ . For this reason we can formulate the following question:

*Determine the family  $G_4$  of all strictly monotonic functions  $g : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the class  $C^1$  such that if  $g \in G_4$  then the class  $K_g$  contains a 1-parameter family of ovals with exactly four vertices.*

## 5. Remark on the equichordal problem

The well-known equichordal problem was formulated by Fujiwara [5] in 1916 and independently by Blaschke, Rothe and Weitzenböck [1] in 1917. A literature connected to the equichordal problem is given in e.g. [3]. Gardner

reminded a natural extension of the equichordal problem, see [6], Conjecture 3. We can extend the equichordal problem in the following form:

*Determine the family  $G$  of all strictly monotonic functions  $g : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of the class  $C^1$  for which there exists an oval with two  $g$ -chordal points.*

The function  $g(u) = \frac{1}{u}$  belongs to  $G$ , see [4]. In the case of the equichordal problem the function  $g(u) = u$  does not belong to  $G$ , see [8].

Let us fix  $g \in G$ . We will assume that a chordal point of a  $g$ -chordal curve  $C$  coincides with the origin 0 and that  $C$  is given in the form  $t \rightarrow r(t)e^{it}$  for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ . We consider the existence of a  $g$ -chordal curve with two  $g$ -chordal points. We recall that for  $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  the ellipses are equireciprocal with two equireciprocal points [4].

**THEOREM 5.1.** *Let  $C$  be a  $g$ -chordal curve of the class  $C^2$  with two  $g$ -chordal points  $F_1, F_2$ . We assume that  $g(x) = x^\alpha$  for  $\alpha \neq 0$  or  $g \in C^2$  and  $g^*(x) = x \frac{g''(x)}{g'(x)} > 0$ . The chord of  $C$  passing through  $F_1, F_2$  with ends at points  $A$  and  $B$  is orthogonal to the tangent lines to  $C$  at  $A$  and at  $B$ .*

**Proof.** We assume that the straight line passing through  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  coincides with the  $x$ -axe and  $F_1$  coincides with the origin. Moreover, we assume that

1. the oriented angle between the  $x$ -axe and the tangent line to  $C$  at  $A$  is equal  $\alpha_0$ ,
2. the oriented angle between the  $x$ -axe and the tangent line to  $C$  at  $B$  is equal  $\alpha_1$ .

Let  $|AB| = m$ ,  $|OA| = r(0) = r_0$ ,  $|OB| = r(\pi) = m - r_0$ .

We have  $g \circ r + g \circ r_\pi = c$ . Differentiating we obtain

$$r'g' \circ r + r'_\pi g' \circ r_\pi = 0$$

or

$$rg' \circ r \cot \alpha + r_\pi g' \circ r_\pi \cot \alpha_\pi = 0.$$

For  $t = 0$  we have

$$(5.1) \quad r_0 g'(r_0) \cot \alpha_0 + (m - r_0) g'(m - r_0) \cot \alpha_1 = 0.$$

Let  $|F_2 A| = r_1$ ,  $|BF_2| = m - r_1$ .

Of course, we have

$$(5.2) \quad r_1 g'(r_1) \cot \alpha_0 + (m - r_1) g'(m - r_1) \cot \alpha_1 = 0.$$

We note that if  $\alpha_0 = \frac{\pi}{2}$  then  $\alpha_1 = \frac{\pi}{2}$ . We assume that  $\alpha_0 \neq \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

The relations (5.1) and (5.2) imply

$$\frac{r_0 g'(r_0)}{r_1 g'(r_1)} = \frac{(m - r_0) g'(m - r_0)}{(m - r_1) g'(m - r_1)}$$

or

$$(5.3) \quad \frac{r_0 g'(r_0)}{(m-r_0)g'(m-r_0)} = \frac{r_1 g'(r_1)}{(m-r_1)g'(m-r_1)}.$$

Let us consider a function  $a : (0, m) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by the formula

$$a(x) = \frac{xg'(x)}{(m-x)g'(m-x)}.$$

We note that the relation (5.3) can be rewritten in the form

$$(5.4) \quad a(r_0) = a(r_1)$$

and

$$a\left(\frac{m}{2}\right) = 1.$$

We have

the nominator of  $a'(x)$

$$\begin{aligned} &= [g'(x) + xg''(x)](m-x)g'(m-x) \\ &\quad - xg'(x)[-g'(m-x) - (m-x)g''(m-x)] \\ &= (m-x)g'(x)g'(m-x) + x(m-x)g'(m-x)g''(x) \\ &\quad + xg'(x)g'(m-x) + x(m-x)g'(x)g''(m-x) \\ &= g'(x)g'(m-x)[m + (m-x)g^*(x) + xg^*(m-x)]. \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that

1. if  $g^* > 0$  then the function  $a$  is increasing,
2. if  $g(x) = x^\alpha$ , ( $\alpha \neq 0$ ) then  $g^*(x) = \alpha - 1$ ,

and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{the nominator of } a'(x) &= g'(x)g'(m-x)[m + (m-x)(\alpha-1) + x(\alpha-1)] \\ &= g'(x)g'(m-x)m\alpha \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

In both cases the function  $a$  is bijective. The equation (5.4) implies that  $r_0 = r_1$ . We have  $r_0 = |0A| < |F_2A| = r_1$ . The contradiction ends the proof. ■

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W. Cieślak

POLITECHNIKA LUBELSKA

KATEDRA MATEMATYKI I GEOMETRII INŻYNIERSKIEJ

Nadbystrzycka 40

20-618 LUBLIN, POLAND

J. Wołowik

WYŻSZA SZKOŁA EKONOMICZNA W STAŁOWEJ WOLI

KATEDRA MATEMATYKI I EKONOMETRII

1 Sierpnia 26

37-450 STAŁOWA WOLA, POLAND

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