

Research question

This is a mathematical problem from space orbital mechanics. The following equation

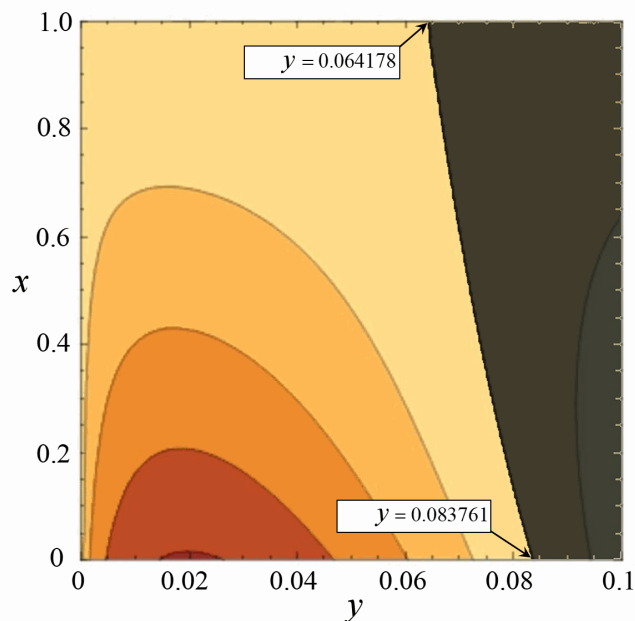
$$\Delta v_{bi} = \left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{1+xy}} - 1 \right) + \sqrt{y} \left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{1+x}} - 1 \right) + \sqrt{2xy} \left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{1+1/x}} - \sqrt{\frac{1}{1+1/(xy)}} \right) - (1 - \sqrt{y}) \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{y}}{\sqrt{(1+y)/2}} - 1 \right)$$

is the normalized difference between the transition effort of a so-called bi-elliptic transfer between an inner and an outer circular orbit with radius a_\bullet and a_\square , respectively, via an interim orbit with radius r_\times (first three terms) and a direct Hohmann transfer (last term). Here

$$y \equiv a_\bullet / a_\square \leq 1$$

$$x \equiv a_\square / r_\times \leq 1$$

A contour plot of the function delivers the shown figure, where the bright part indicates where the bi-elliptic transfer is more efficient. Of practical importance is the borderline to the dark area where $\Delta v_{bi} = 0$.



As can be verified by insertion, for $x = 1$, $\Delta v_{bi} = 0$ delivers $y = 0$. However, it turns out that for the limit $x \rightarrow 1$ the end-border-point is $y \approx 0.0641778$ and hard to determine more precisely. So, the **problem statement reads:**

For the limit $x \rightarrow 1$, what is the y to at least 10 decimal places that satisfies

$$\Delta v_{bi}(x \rightarrow 1, y) = 0$$

Possibly show that no such limit $y > 0$ exists.