

Complete Hyper-elliptic Integrals of the First Kind and the Chebyshev Property*

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Abstract This paper is devoted to study the following complete hyper-elliptic integral of the first kind

$$J(h) = \oint_{\Gamma_h} \frac{\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x + \alpha_2 x^2 + \alpha_3 x^3}{y} dx,$$

where $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$, Γ_h is an oval contained in the level set $\{H(x, y) = h, h \in (-\frac{5}{36}, 0)\}$ and $H(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}y^2 - \frac{1}{4}x^4 + \frac{1}{9}x^9$. We show that the 3-dimensional real vector spaces of these integrals are Chebyshev for $\alpha_0 = 0$ and Chebyshev with accuracy one for $\alpha_i = 0$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$).

Keywords Complete hyper-elliptic integral of the first kind, Chebyshev, ECT-system.

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1. Introduction and main results

In 1990, Arnold [1] proposed ten problems among which the 7th problem is on the number of zeros of Abelian integrals, which can be stated in the following way: consider the Abelian integral

$$I(h) = \oint_{\Gamma_h} P(x, y)dy + Q(x, y)dx, \quad h \in \mathbb{J},$$

where Γ_h is a family of closed curves of a real polynomial $H(x, y) = h$, $P(x, y)$, $Q(x, y)$ and $H(x, y)$ are polynomials satisfying $\max\{\deg P, \deg Q\} = n$ and $\deg\{H\} = m + 1$, \mathbb{J} is an open interval. How large can the number of isolated zeros of the function $I(h)$ in the open interval \mathbb{J} ? And for the complete hyper-elliptic integral of the first kind

$$J(h) = \oint_{\Gamma_h} \frac{\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x + \cdots + \alpha_{g-1} x^{g-1}}{y} dx, \quad H(x, y) = y^2 + U(x),$$

where $\deg U = 2g + 1 > 4$, α_i ($i = 1, 2, \dots, g - 1$) are real parameters. Is the g -dimensional family of $J(h)$ a Chebyshev family in the open interval? Where

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Chebyshev family means that the number of the isolated zeros of $J(h)$ is smaller than $g - 1$.

It is known to all that the first part of the 7th problem is so-called the weakened 16th Hilbert problem compare to Hilbert in [13]. On the theme there have been many excellent works, see [2–6, 10, 11, 14–18, 20, 21, 23–28] and the references therein.

However, there are few works on the second part of the 7th problem, especially for $g > 2$. Gavrilov and Iliev [8] obtained that the g -dimensional real vector space of $J(h)$ is not Chebyshev for any $g > 1$, and when $g = 2$ and $\deg U = 5$ there exist exceptional families of ovals $\{\Gamma_h\}$ of $y^2 + U(x) = h$ such that every Abelian integral of the form

$$J(h) = \oint_{\Gamma_h} \frac{\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x}{y} dx, \quad \alpha_0^2 + \alpha_1^2 \neq 0$$

has at most one isolated zero for h in an open interval \mathbb{I} . Wang, Wang and Xiao [22] studied the Chebyshev property of the above $J(h)$ for three classes of degenerate families of ovals Γ_h in [8]. It is shown that the three classes of complete hyper-elliptic integrals are Chebyshev, and the exact bounds on the number of zeros of these Abelian integrals are one.

In this paper, motivated by the above results, especially by [1, 8, 22], we investigate the following hyper-elliptic Hamilton system

$$\dot{x} = y, \quad \dot{y} = -x^3(x^5 - 1), \quad (1.1)$$

whose Hamiltonian is

$$H(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}y^2 - \frac{1}{4}x^4 + \frac{1}{9}x^9 := \frac{1}{2}y^2 + U(x). \quad (1.2)$$

The oval $H(x, y) = -\frac{5}{36}$ corresponds to the center $C(1, 0)$, the oval $H(x, y) = 0$ corresponds to the homoclinic through the nilpotent saddle point $O(0, 0)$, see Figure 1. It intersects the positive x -axis at point $(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt[5]{72}, 0)$. The corresponding complete hyper-elliptic integral of the first kind is

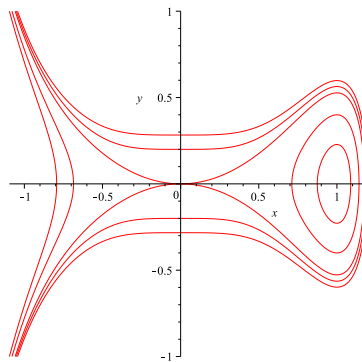


Figure 1. The level curves of $H(x, y) = h$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{J}(h) &= \oint_{\Gamma_h} \frac{\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x + \alpha_2 x^2 + \alpha_3 x^3}{y} dx \\ &:= \alpha_0 \mathcal{J}_0(h) + \alpha_1 \mathcal{J}_1(h) + \alpha_2 \mathcal{J}_2(h) + \alpha_3 \mathcal{J}_3(h), \end{aligned}$$