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AN APPLICATION OF WAZEWSKI'S PRINCIPLE TO AN EXISTENCE PROBLEM IN CELESTIAL MECHANICS

In 1979, R. Broucke published a numerical proof of existence for a symmetrical periodic solution of the planar isosceles three-body problem. Broucke's solution turned out to be very important in Astronomy as an example of stable periodic orbit in the equal-mass Newtonian three-body problem (only two other such orbits are known). An analytical proof, which uses the calculus of variations, was given by Shibayama in 2011. We provide a constructive, topological proof of existence of Broucke solutions with a strong dynamical systems flavor.

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