On Lopsided Systems †

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In this work, we study the Liapunov quantities, the problem of the center, and the local limit cycles of the lopsided systems $\dot{x}=y, \ \dot{y}=-x+p_k(x,y)$, when k=5,7 and when k is odd. In general, the Liapunov quantities are derived from the focal values η_{2k+2} , but when k=5, we show that they are derived from the focal values η_{4k+2} . Moreover, when k=5, the origin is a center if and only if the system is time-reversible and if it is not, no more than five local limit cycles can bifurcate out of the origin. When k=7, we show that the origin is a center if and only if the system is time-reversible and if it is not, no more than seven local limit cycles can bifurcate out of the origin under certain conditions. In general, when k is odd, we conjecture that the origin is a center if and only if the system is time-reversible.

1. Introduction

The part of Hilbert's 16^{th} -problem [8] that relates to the number of limit cycles of two-dimensional autonomous systems of the form

$$\dot{x} = P(x, y), \qquad \dot{y} = Q(x, y), \tag{1}$$

where $\cdot = \frac{d}{dt}$, P and Q are polynomials in x and y, remains one of the outstanding unsolved problems in the theory of non-linear ordinary differential

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equations. The maximum possible number of *limit cycles* (isolated closed orbits) which can be bifurcate out of the origin of (1) is the question of interest in this part of Hilbert's 16^{th} -problem. In the local study of these systems, we find the problem of a center is closely related to the problem of limit cycles. This problem consists in finding all necessary and sufficient conditions that bears on the coefficients of P and Q, in order that all orbits in a neighborhood of the origin be periodic. Now when the origin is a center for the linearised systems of (1) we can choose co-ordinates in which (1) is of the form

$$\dot{x} = \lambda x + y + p(x, y), \qquad \dot{y} = -x + \lambda y + q(x, y). \tag{2}$$

We write $p(x,y) = p_2(x,y) + \cdots + p_n(x,y)$, $q(x,y) = q_2(x,y) + \cdots + q_n(x,y)$, where p_k and q_k are homogeneous polynomials of degree k. The linear part of (2) is in canonical form and the stability of the origin is determined by the sign of λ . If $\lambda = 0$ the origin is a centre for the linearised system and is said to be a *fine focus* (or a *weak focus*) of the non-linear system.

The Kukles system is the origin of the lopsided systems; in [9] Kukles has examined the conditions under which the origin is a centre for the differential system of the form

$$\dot{x} = y$$
, $\dot{y} = -x + a_1 x^2 + a_2 x y + a_3 y^2 + a_4 x^3 + a_5 x^2 y + a_6 x y^2 + a_7 y^3$. (3)

It was thought that the conditions given in [9] were necessary and sufficient conditions, but Xiaofan and Dongming [20] describe an example which was not covered by them and in which the computations suggest that the origin was a center, then Christopher and Lloyd [7] prove that the origin of the example suggested by Xiaofan and Dongming is indeed a centre. By transforming (3) to a system of Liénard type, Cherkas [6] also noted that the Kukles conditions were incomplete and he discussed some aspects of the problem. In [18] the author analyzes the center conditions given by Kukles and Cherkas. In [7] it was shown that for the class of systems (3) under the condition $a_7 = 0$, at most five limit cycles bifurcate from the origin. The Kukles conditions are complete under this restriction and a study of those centre conditions was developed in [16]. In [12], it was shown that, for the systems of type (3) under the condition $a_2 = 0$, at most six limit cycles bifurcate from the origin. Later, in [13], Lloyd and Pearson found another condition for a centre not covered by the preceding ones and they conjecture that there are no others conditions for a centre.

This work is a continuation of Kukles System and the systems of type (2), where $p(x,y) = p_n(x,y)$ and $q(x,y) = q_n(x,y)$. The systems of type (2),

where $p(x,y) = p_n(x,y)$ and $q(x,y) = q_n(x,y)$ has been thoroughly studied by many researchers. In particular, we should highlight the works of Bautin [2] when n = 2, and the works of Lunkevich and Sibirskii [14] when n = 3, for the fact that they characterize all the centers. Some conditions of a center are given in [4] and [5] when n = 4 and n = 5, respectively.

For the systems of type (2), Poincaré introduced an important technique which is developed by Liapunov [10] in order to determine whether the origin is a center. It consists in looking for a formal power series of x and y of the form $V(x,y) = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} V_k(x,y)$, where $V_2(x,y) = \frac{1}{2}(x^2 + y^2)$, so that

$$\dot{V} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \eta_{2k} (x^2 + y^2)^k,$$

where the coefficients η_{2k} are the focal values and they are polynomials in λ and the coefficients in p and q. It is known that the origin is stable or unstable according to whether the first non-zero focal value is negative or positive, and that the origin is a centre if all the focal values are zero. What we really need are the so-called Liapunov quantities $L(0), L(1), \ldots$; these are the non-zero expressions obtained by calculating each η_{2k} under the condition $\eta_2 = \eta_4 = \cdots = \eta_{2k-2} = 0$. Then the origin is a center if all the Liapunov quantities are zero. The origin of (2) is said to be a fine focus of order k if $\eta_2 = \eta_4 = \cdots = \eta_{2k} = 0$, but $\eta_{2k+2} \neq 0$. In general L(k) is derived from η_{2k+2} , but it may happen that a reduced focal value is necessarily zero, in which case it does not contribute a Liapunov quantity, as we shall show for a lopsided quintic systems in the next section.

Remark. The origin of the system (2) is a fine focus of order k if $L(0) = L(1) = \cdots = L(k-1) = 0$, but $L(k) \neq 0$.

A reversible system [17] is a planar differential system $\dot{X} = f(X), X \in \mathbb{R}^2$, for which there exists a diffeomorphism $R : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}^2$ such that R^2 is the identity and f(R(X)) = -R(f(X)). We say that system $\dot{X} = f(X)$ is time-reversible if after a rotation

$$\begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \eta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix},$$

the system becomes invariant by the transformation of the form $(X,t) \mapsto (R(X), -t)$. The time-reversible systems are characterized for the existence of at least a straight line through the origin, which is a symmetry axis of

the phase portrait. This line has the slope $\tan(\frac{\alpha}{2})$, then after a rotation of the angle $\frac{\alpha}{2}$ the system is reversible with respect to the diffeomorphism R(x,y)=(x,-y). Note that a vector field (p(x,y),q(x,y)) is reversible with respect to the map R if and only if p(x,-y)=-p(x,y) and q(x,-y)=q(x,y); if the system of type (2) is reversible then the origin is a centre (the symmetry principle, see [15, p. 135]). A general study on reversible vector fields can be found in [18], [19] and [21].

In this work, we study lopsided systems of the form

$$\dot{x} = \lambda x + y, \qquad \dot{y} = -x + \lambda y + q_k(x, y), \tag{4}$$

where $q_k(x, y)$ is homogeneous polynomial of degree k. For k = 5 and $q_5(x, y) = a_1x^5 + a_2x^4y + a_3x^3y^2 + a_4x^2y^3 + a_5xy^4 + a_6y^5$, we refer to the system (4) as a lopsided quintic for which we have the following results

THEOREM 1. For a lopsided quintic system, the Liapunov quantities L(k) is derived from the focal values η_{4k+2} in each cases.

THEOREM 2. For a lopsided quintic system, we have: (i) The origin is a centre if and only if the system is time-reversible. (ii) If the system is not time-reversible, we have at most five local limit cycles which bifurcate out of the origin.

For k = 7 and $q_7(x, y) = a_1x^7 + a_2x^6y + a_3x^5y^2 + a_4x^4y^3 + a_5x^3y^4 + a_6x^2y^5 + a_7xy^6 + a_8y^7$, doing the following change of variables

$$a_{1} = \frac{b_{1} + b_{2} + b_{3} + b_{4}}{64}, \qquad a_{5} = \frac{3b_{1} - 5b_{2} - 5b_{3} + 35b_{4}}{64},$$

$$a_{2} = \frac{b_{5} + 3b_{6} + 5b_{7} + 7b_{8}}{64}, \qquad a_{6} = \frac{3b_{5} + b_{6} - 9b_{7} + 21b_{8}}{64},$$

$$a_{3} = \frac{3b_{1} - b_{2} - 9b_{3} - 21b_{4}}{64}, \qquad a_{7} = \frac{b_{1} - 3b_{2} + 5b_{3} - 7b_{4}}{64},$$

$$a_{4} = \frac{3b_{5} + 5b_{6} - 5b_{7} - 35b_{8}}{64}, \qquad a_{8} = \frac{b_{5} - b_{6} + b_{7} - b_{8}}{64},$$

in order to simplify the computations. We have the following results

THEOREM 3. For a lopsided system of degree seven, suppose that $b_6 = b_3 = 0$, we have: (i) The origin is a centre if and only if the system is time-reversible. (ii) If the system is not time-reversible, then no more than seven local limit cycles can bifurcate out of the origin.

In general, when k is odd, one conjecture the following

Conjecture. When k is odd, the origin of system (4) is a centre if and only if the system is time-reversible.

2. The construction of a focal values

We now describe the procedure for determining the focal values η_{2k} and the Liapunov quantities L(k) (see [15]) and write $V(x,y) = V_2(x,y) + V_3(x,y) + \cdots + V_k(x,y) + \cdots$, $(V_2(x,y) = \frac{1}{2}(x^2 + y^2))$, where V_k is a homogeneous polynomials of degree k; let for $k \geq 2$

$$V_k = \sum_{i=0}^{k-i} V_{k-i,i} x^{k-i} y^i;$$

for convenience, we say that $V_{i,j}$ is an even or odd coefficient according to whether i is even or odd. Now $\dot{V} = \frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt}$, the function V in a neighbourhood of the origin is such that its rate of change along orbits is of the form $\dot{V} = \eta_2 r^2 + \eta_4 r^4 + \dots + \eta_{2k} r^{2k} + \dots$, where $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$. Let D_k denote the terms of degree k in \dot{V} , by direct substitution in the system (2), we get $D_k = y(V_k)_x - x(V_k)_y + R_k(x,y)$, where $R_k(x,y) = (V_{k-1})_x p_2 + (V_{k-1})_y q_2 + \dots + x p_{k-1} + y q_{k-1}$ and the subscripts x and y denotes partial differentiation with respect to x and y respectively. The idea is to choose the coefficients $V_{i,j}$ and the quantities η_k so that $D_k = 0$ if k is odd and $D_k = \eta_k(x^2 + y^2)^{k/2}$ if k is even

Suppose first that k is odd, k = 2m + 1, the requirement $D_k = 0$ is equivalent to solving a set of 2m + 2 unknowns $V_{i,j}$ with i + j < k and the coefficients arising in the original differential equations. These 2m + 2 equations divide into two sets of m + 1 linear equations, one set determining the odd coefficients of V_k and the other determining the even coefficients.

When k is even, k = 2m, the condition $D_k = \eta_{2m}(x^2 + y^2)^m$ gives as 2m+1 linear equations for η_{2m} and the 2m+1 coefficients of V_k . These equations divide into two sets: m+1 equations for η_{2m} and m odd coefficients of V_k , and m equations for the m+1 even coefficients. To obtain unique values for the even coefficients of V_k , we introduce conditions $V_{m,m} = 0$ if m is even and $V_{m+1,m-1} + V_{m-1,m+1} = 0$ if m is odd. Then the even coefficients of V_k are uniquely determined (for details see [11]).

3. The main results

We now consider the lopsided quintic system

$$\dot{x} = \lambda x + y, \qquad \dot{y} = -x + \lambda y + q_5(x, y), \tag{5}$$

where $q_5(x,y) = a_1x^5 + a_2x^4y + a_3x^3y^2 + a_4x^2y^3 + a_5xy^4 + a_6y^5$. For a lopsided quartic system it was shown in [1] that L(k) is derived from η_{6k+2} in each case.

Now we have $\dot{V} = (x + (V_3)_x + (V_4)_x + \dots)(\lambda x + y) + (y + (V_3)_y + (V_4)_y + \dots)(-x + \lambda y + q_5)$, so $\dot{V} = \lambda r^2 + o(r^2)$ as $r \to 0$ where $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$, we have also $\dot{V} = \eta_2 r^2 + o(r^2)$ as $r \to 0$. Then $L(0) = \eta_2 = \lambda$, we set $\lambda = 0$ to compute more focal values. Now

$$\dot{V} = (x + (V_3)_x + (V_4)_x + \dots)(y) + (y + (V_3)_y + (V_4)_y + \dots)(-x + q_5)
= (y(V_3)_x - x(V_3)_y) + (y(V_4)_x - x(V_4)_y + (y(V_5)_x - x(V_5)_y)
+ (y(V_6)_x - x(V_6)_y + yq_5) + (y(V_7)_x - x(V_7)_y + (V_3)_yq_5)
+ \dots + (y(V_k)_x - x(V_k)_y + (V_{k-4})_yq_5).$$

Let D_k denote terms of degree k in \dot{V} , then $D_k = y(V_k)_x - x(V_k)_y + (V_{k-4})_y q_5$. The condition $D_3 = 0$ gives two sets of equations $3V_{3,0} - 2V_{1,2} = 0$, $V_{1,2} = 0$; $2V_{2,1} - 3V_{0,3} = 0$, $-V_{2,1} = 0$; from theses two sets it follows that $V_3 = 0$.

Now $D_4 = \eta_4(x^2 + y^2)^2$ gives two sets of equations $4V_{4,0} - 2V_{2,2} = 0$, $2V_{2,2} - 4V_{0,4} = 0$; $-\eta_4 - V_{3,1} = 0$, $-2\eta_4 + 3V_{3,1} - 3V_{1,3} = 0$, $-\eta_4 + V_{1,3} = 0$; from these two sets with the condition $V_{2,2} = 0$, we get $V_4 = 0$ and $\eta_4 = 0$, so η_4 does not contribute L(1).

From $D_5=0$, we get two sets of equations $5V_{5,0}-2V_{3,0}=0$, $3V_{3,2}-4V_{1,4}=0$, $V_{1,4}=0$; $-V_{4,1}=0$, $4V_{4,1}-3V_{2,3}=0$, $2V_{2,3}-5V_{0,5}=0$; so we get $V_5=0$. Now $D_6=\eta_6(x^2+y^2)^3$ gives two sets of equations $6V_{6,0}-2V_{4,2}+a_1=0$, $4V_{4,2}-4V_{2,4}+a_3=0$, $2V_{2,4}-6V_{0,6}+a_5=0$; $-\eta_6-V_{5,1}=0$, $-3\eta_6+5V_{5,1}-3V_{3,3}+a_2=0$, $-3\eta_6+3V_{3,3}-5V_{1,5}+a_4=0$, $-\eta_6+V_{1,5}+a_6=0$. From the second set one can get $\eta_6=\frac{1}{16}(5a_6+a_2+a_4)$, so $L(1)=5a_6+a_2+a_4$; from these two sets of equations with the condition $V_{4,2}+V_{2,4}=0$, and after some calculations we get

$$V_6 = \frac{-1}{6} \left(\frac{a_3}{4} + a_1 \right) x^6 - \frac{1}{16} \left(a_2 + a_4 + 5a_6 \right) x^5 y - \frac{1}{8} a_3 x^4 y^2 + \frac{1}{6} \left(a_2 - a_4 - 5a_6 \right) x^3 y^3 + \frac{1}{8} a_3 x^2 y^4 + \frac{1}{16} \left(a_2 + a_4 - 11a_6 \right) x y^5 + \frac{1}{6} \left(\frac{a_3}{4} + a_5 \right) y^6.$$

By similar calculations, and by using MapleV Release 4, we obtain

$$\begin{split} V_7 &= V_8 = V_9 = 0 \,, & V_{10} \neq 0 \,, & V_{11} = V_{12} = V_{13} = 0 \,, & V_{14} \neq 0 \,, \\ V_{15} &= V_{16} = V_{17} = 0 \,, & V_{18} \neq 0 \,, & V_{19} = V_{20} = V_{21} = 0 \,, & V_{22} \neq 0 \,, \\ V_{23} &= V_{24} = V_{25} = 0 \,, & V_{26} \neq 0 \,, \\ \eta_8 &= \eta_{12} = \eta_{16} = \eta_{20} = \eta_{24} = 0 \,, & 0 \notin \{ \, \eta_{10} \,, \, \eta_{14} \,, \, \eta_{18} \,, \, \eta_{22} \,, \, \eta_{26} \, \} \,. \end{split}$$

So far we have the following

LEMMA 1. For a lopsided quintic system, the Liapunov quantities $L(k) = \eta_{4k+2} \mod \langle \eta_2, \eta_6, \dots, \eta_{4k-2} \rangle$ (the ideal generated by $\eta_2, \eta_6, \dots, \eta_{4k-2}$) are for $k = 0, 1, \dots, 6$:

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L(0) = \lambda;
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- $L(1) = 5a_6 + a_2 + a_4 \text{ modulo } \langle \lambda \rangle;$
- $L(2) = \eta_{10} \text{ modulo } \langle \lambda, 5a_6 + a_2 + a_4 \rangle;$
- $L(3) = \eta_{14} \text{ modulo } \langle \lambda, 5a_6 + a_2 + a_4, \eta_{10} \rangle;$
- $L(4) = \eta_{18} \text{ modulo } \langle \lambda, 5a_6 + a_2 + a_4, \eta_{10}, \eta_{14} \rangle;$
- $L(5) = \eta_{22} \text{ modulo } \langle \lambda, 5a_6 + a_2 + a_4, \eta_{10}, \eta_{14}, \eta_{18} \rangle;$
- $L(6) = \eta_{26} \mod (\lambda, 5a_6 + a_2 + a_4, \eta_{10}, \eta_{14}, \eta_{18}, \eta_{22}).$

For the expressions of η_{10} , η_{14} , η_{18} , η_{22} and η_{26} see the Appendix.

Remark. (1) The focal values η_{4i+2} for $i \geq 2$ are of the form $a_6P_{i1} + a_4P_{i2} + a_2P_{i3}$, where P_{i1}, P_{i2} and P_{i3} are polynomials in a_1, a_3 and a_5 , and for i = 1 we have $P_{11} = 5$ and $P_{12} = P_{13} = 1$.

(2) If $a_2 = a_4 = a_6 = 0$ then all the Liapunov quantities are zero, so the origin is a center for the system (5).

Now we shall show that $V_k = 0$ for $k \not\equiv 2 \mod 4$ and $\eta_k = 0$ for $k \not\equiv 2 \mod 4$. That is we consider the following

LEMMA 2. For the system (5) we have

- (i) $V_k = 0$ if $k \equiv 3 \mod 4$;
- (ii) $V_k = 0$ if $k \equiv 4 \mod 4$, $\eta_k = 0$ if $k \equiv 4 \mod 4$;
- (iii) $V_k = 0$ if $k \equiv 5 \mod 4$.

Proof. Note that $D_k = y(V_k)_x - x(V_k)_y + (V_{k-4})_y q_5, \ k \ge 6.$

(i) We have $V_3 = V_7 = 0$, let k = 4l + 3, l = 1, 2, ..., now $D_{4l+3} = y(V_{4l+3})_x - x(V_{4l+3})_y + (V_{4l-1})_y q_5$. For l = 1 we have $V_7 = 0$. Suppose that the result is true for l so that $V_{4l+3} = 0$, we show that it holds also for l + 1. Now $D_{4l+7} = 0$ gives two sets of equations

from these two sets we get $V_{1,4l+6} = V_{3,4l+4} = \cdots = V_{4l+7,0} = 0$ and $V_{4l+6,1} = V_{4l+4,3} = \cdots = V_{0,4l+7} = 0$. Hence $V_{4l+7} = 0$, therefore $V_k = 0$ if $k \equiv 3 \mod 4$.

(ii) We have $V_4 = V_8 = 0$, let k = 4l + 4, l = 1, 2, ... For l = 1 we have $V_8 = 0$ and the corresponding focal value $\eta_8 = 0$. Suppose that the result is true for l, i.e., $V_{4l+4} = 0$, and we have to show that it is still true for l + 1. Since $D_{4l+8} = \eta_{4l+8}(x^2 + y^2)^{\frac{4l+8}{2}}$, we have the following two sets of equations

$$(4l+8)V_{4l+8,0} - 2V_{4l+6,2} = 0$$

$$(4l+6)V_{4l+6,2} - 4V_{4l+4,4} = 0$$

$$\vdots$$

$$4V_{4,4l+4} - (4l+6)V_{2,4l+6} = 0$$

$$2V_{2,4l+6} - (4l+8)V_{0,4l+8} = 0$$

$$-\eta_{4l+8} - V_{4l+7,1} = 0$$

$$- \binom{2l+4}{1}\eta_{4l+8} + (4l+7)V_{4l+7,1} - 3V_{4l+5,3} = 0$$

$$- \binom{2l+4}{2}\eta_{4l+8} + (4l+5)V_{4l+5,3} - 5V_{4l+3,5} = 0$$

$$\vdots$$

$$- \binom{2l+4}{2l+3}\eta_{4l+8} + 3V_{3,4l+5} - (4l+7)V_{1,4l+7} = 0$$

$$-\eta_{4l+8} + V_{1,4l+7} = 0$$

the first set with condition $V_{4l+2,4l+2} = 0$ gives $V_{4l+8,0} = V_{4l+6,2} = \cdots$ = $V_{0,4l+8} = 0$, and the second set gives $\eta_{4l+8} = V_{4l+7,1} = \cdots = V_{1,4l+7} = 0$, hence $V_{4l+8} = 0$. Therefore $V_k = 0$ if $k \equiv 4 \mod 4$ and $\eta_k = 0$ if $k \equiv 4 \mod 4$

(iii) When k = 4l + 5, $l = 1, 2, ..., D_{4l+5} = y(V_{4l+5})_x - x(V_{4l+5})_y + (V_{4l+1})q_5$. When $l = 1, V_9 = 0$. Assuming that the result is true for l, that is $V_{4l+5} = 0$, we shall show that the result is also true for l + 1. Now $D_{4l+9} = 0$ gives two sets of equation

from these two sets we get $V_{1,4l+8}=V_{3,4l+6}=\cdots=V_{4l+9,0}=0$ and $V_{4l+8,1}=V_{4l+6,3}=\cdots=V_{0,4l+9}=0$, then $V_{4l+9}=0$. Therefore $V_k=0$ if $k\equiv 5\mod 4$.

The above lemma shows that, for a lopsided quintic system, there are some focal values which are identically null; in this case these focal values do not contribute a Liapunov quantities.

Proof of Theorem 1. Follows immediately from Lemma 2 and from the fact that the Liapunov quantities L(k) are the non-zero expressions obtained by calculating each non-zero η_{2k+2} .

Remark. The origin of a lopsided quintic system (5) is a fine focus of order k if $\eta_2 = \eta_6 = \cdots = \eta_{4k-2} = 0$, but $\eta_{4k+2} \neq 0$, so the Liapunov quantities $L(0), L(1), \ldots$ are the non-zero expressions obtained by calculating each η_{4k-2} under the conditions $\eta_2 = \eta_6 = \cdots = \eta_{4k-6} = 0$.

When the origin is a fine focus of order k, no more than k limit cycles can bifurcate from the origin under the perturbation of the system (see [3]), these limit cycles are so-called *small-amplitude limit cycles*. But it is not necessarily true that this maximum number is attained, especially when fewer than k Liapunov quantities are derived from $\eta_2, \ldots, \eta_{2k+2}$, in which case it may be that less than k limit cycles bifurcate out of a fine focus of order k. However for a lopsided quintic system this cannot occur because we can find k Liapunov quantities from $\eta_2, \ldots, \eta_{4k+2}$.

Now for a lopsided quintic system, we assume that, for $k \leq 6$, L(k) are those described in Lemma 1.

Proof of Theorem 2. (A) First the origin is a centre by the symmetry principle, when the system is time-reversible. Second when the origin is a centre, we have to show that the system is time-reversible.

With $\lambda = 5a_6 + a_2 + a_4 = 0$, we have L(0) = L(1) = 0. We suppose that

$$a_2 = -5a_6 - a_4. (6)$$

We substitute (6) in $\eta_{10} = 0$, when $14a_6 + a_4 \neq 0$ we get

$$a_3 = -(14a_6 + a_4)^{-1}(7a_1a_4 + 2a_5a_6 - a_5a_4 + 50a_1a_6). (7)$$

If $14a_6 + a_4 = 0$, knowing $a_4 = -14a_6$ and (6) we have $\eta_{10} = -\frac{1}{16}a_6(a_5 - 3a_1)$, the vanishing of η_{10} gives two conditions $a_6 = 0$ or $a_5 = 3a_1$. If $a_6 = 0$ we have $a_4 = a_2 = 0$, and we get that the system is invariant by the change of variables $(x, y, t) \mapsto (-x, y, -t)$ and this ensures that the system is time-reversible. If $a_5 = 3a_1$ with $a_6 \neq 0$, knowing $a_4 = -14a_6$ and (6) we have

$$\eta_{14} = a_6(560a_1^2 + 192a_6^2 + 9a_3^2 + 136a_3a_1),$$

 $\eta_{18} = a_6(80112a_3a_1^2 + 250944a_1^3 + 280832a_6^2a_1 + 9420a_1a_3^2 + 405a_3^3 + 32320a_6^2a_3).$

For the vanishing of η_{14} and η_{18} , we compute the resultant of η_{14} with η_{18} rapport to a_6 which is

$$\Re(\eta_{14}, \eta_{18}, a_6) = (1665a_3 + 13316a_1)^2 (8a_1 + a_3)^4.$$

If $a_3 = -8a_1$ we have $\eta_{14} = a_6(a_1^2 + 4a_6^2)$, since $a_6 \neq 0$ it is impossible η_{14} to be zero. If $a_3 = -\frac{13316}{1665}a_1$ we have $\eta_{14} = a_6(51317a_1^2 + 205350a_6^2)$, and it is not possible for η_{14} to be zero for the same reason. So if $14a_6 + a_4 = 0$ the only possibility for the origin to be a centre is $a_6 = a_4 = a_2 = 0$ which gives the system time-reversible.

If $14a_6 + a_4 \neq 0$, knowing a_2 from (6) and a_3 from (7), for the vanishing of $\eta_{14}, \eta_{18}, \eta_{22}$ and η_{26} we compute $\Re(\eta_{14}, \eta_{18}, a_1)$, $\Re(\eta_{14}, \eta_{22}, a_1)$ and $\Re(\eta_{14}, \eta_{26}, a_1)$ which are the resultants of η_{18} , η_{22} and η_{26} with η_{14} rapport to a_1 respectively. We obtain

$$\Re(\eta_{14}, \eta_{18}, a_1) = (a_4 + 10a_6)(a_4 + 2a_6)(a_4^2 - 20a_6a_4 + 100a_6^2 + 16a_5^2)^2\psi_1(a_4, a_5, a_6),$$

$$\Re(\eta_{14}, \eta_{22}, a_1) = (a_4^2 - 20a_6a_4 + 100a_6^2 + 16a_5^2)^2\psi_2(a_4, a_5, a_6),$$

$$\Re(\eta_{14}, \eta_{26}, a_1) = (a_4^2 - 20a_6a_4 + 100a_6^2 + 16a_5^2)^2\psi_3(a_4, a_5, a_6),$$

where ψ_1, ψ_2 and ψ_3 are polynomials in a_4, a_5 and a_6 .

If $a_4 + 10a_6 = 0$, after the substitution of $a_4 = -10a_6$ we obtain $\eta_{14} = a_6(a_5 - 5a_1)^2$. For $\eta_{14} = 0$ we have two cases $a_6 = 0$ and $a_5 = 5a_1$. If $a_6 = 0$ we get $a_4 = 0$ which is not possible because we have $14a_6 + a_4 \neq 0$. If $a_5 = 5a_1$ with $a_6 \neq 0$ we obtain $\eta_{22} = a_6(a_6^2 + a_1^2)^2$, which is impossible because the origin is centre and $\eta_{22} \neq 0$. Now if $a_4 + 2a_6 = 0$, we substitute $a_4 = -2a_6$ in η_{14} , we get $\eta_{14} = a_6(a_5 + 3a_1)(7a_5 - 27a_1)$. If $a_6 = 0$ we have $a_4 = 0$ and it is impossible because $14a_6 + a_4 \neq 0$. If $a_5 + 3a_1 = 0$ with $a_6 \neq 0$ we change $a_5 = -3a_1$ in η_{22} and we obtain $\eta_{22} = a_6(a_6^2 + a_1^2)^2$, so it is not possible because the origin is a centre and $\eta_{22} \neq 0$. Next if $7a_5 - 27a_1 = 0$ with $a_5 = -\frac{27}{7}a_1$ we have $\eta_{22} = a_6(1152480a_6^4 + 78302980a_1^2a_6^2 + 23426337a_1^4)$ and it is not possible to vanish η_{22} since $a_6 \neq 0$.

If $a_4^2 - 20a_6a_4 + 100a_6^2 + 16a_5^2 = (10a_6 - a_4)^2 + 16a_5^2 = 0$, this implies $a_5 = 0$ and $a_4 = 10a_6$, so we have $\eta_{14} = a_6(16a_6^2 + a_1^2)$ which is not possible to vanish it since $14a_6 + a_4 \neq 0$. Finally, in order to vanish the last term of $\Re(\eta_{14}, \eta_{18}, a_1)$, that is $\psi_1(a_4, a_5, a_6)$, we do the changes $a_4 = c a_6$ and $a_5 = d a_6$, where $c, d \in R$ and $a_6 \neq 0$.

If $a_6 = 0$ we have $\psi_1(a_4, a_5, a_6) = a_5^2 a_4^9$. We substitute $a_6 = a_5 = 0$ in η_{14} and we get $\eta_{14} = a_4(18a_1^2 + a_4^2)$, and it is impossible to vanish η_{14} because

we have $14a_6 + a_4 \neq 0$. If $a_6 \neq 0$ after the change mentioned previously, we compute $\Re(\psi_1, \psi_2, d)$ and $\Re(\psi_1, \psi_3, d)$ which are

$$\Re(\psi_1, \psi_2, d) = a_6^{80} (c+10)^{12} \delta_1(c) ,$$

$$\Re(\psi_1, \psi_3, d) = a_6^{112} (c+10)^{12} (c+8)^2 \delta_2(c) ,$$

where δ_1 and δ_2 are polynomials in the variable c and they have not common roots. Since $a_6 \neq 0$, $a_4 + 10a_6 \neq 0$ and the polynomials δ_1 and δ_2 have not common roots, so the only possibility is c = -8, in this case we put $a_4 = -8a_6$ in ψ_1 and we obtain $\psi_1 = a_6^9 a_5^2$. We have $\psi_1 = 0$ implies $a_5 = 0$, so we put $a_4 = -8a_6$ and $a_5 = 0$ in η_{14} , we get $\eta_{14} = a_1^2 a_6$, the vanishing of η_{14} yelds $a_1 = 0$. Now we have $\eta_{22} = a_6^5$ and it is impossible to be zero since we have $a_6 \neq 0$.

(B) In the above proof (A), it is clear that the system is not time-reversible when we have $\eta_2 = \eta_6 = \eta_{10} = \eta_{14} = \eta_{18} = 0$ and $\eta_{22} \neq 0$. Since we have L(k) is derived from η_{4k+2} , we have L(0) = L(1) = L(2) = L(3) = L(4) = 0 and $L(5) \neq 0$, so the order of the origin is five, then we have at most five local limit cycles which bifurcate out of the origin.

The Liapunov quantities L(k) for the lopsided system of degree seven are available in the following e-mail address: salih@@math.unice.fr.

Proof of Theorem 3. (A) If the system is reversibe, by the symmetry principle, the origin is a center. Now we suppose that the origin is a center, we have to show that the system is time-reversible. In order to have a fine focus, we put $L(0) = \lambda = 0$, so the first Liapunov quantities L(1) is $\frac{b_5}{128}$. Knowing $b_5 = 0$ from L(1) = 0 we compute the second Liapunov quantities L(2) which is $\frac{b_3b_6-b_1b_6-b_2b_7+b_4b_7-b_3b_8}{16384}$. Since we have $b_6 = b_3 = 0$, the vanshing of L(2) implies $b_7 = 0$ or $b_4 = b_2$.

- (a) If $b_7 = 0$, we have the third Liapunov quantities $L(3) = \frac{b_2 b_8 (52b_1 9b_2)}{33554432}$. L(3) = 0 gives $b_2 = 0$ or $b_8 = 0$ or $b_2 = \frac{52}{9}b_1$.
- (a.1) If $b_2 = 0$ the fourth Liapunov quantities $L(4) = -\frac{b_8 b_1^3}{67108864}$, so L(4) = 0 implies $b_1 = 0$ or $b_8 = 0$.
- (a.1.1) If $b_1 = 0$ with $b_8 \neq 0$, in this case we have L(5) = L(6) = 0 and $L(7) = 1491b_8(b_4^2 + b_8^2)^3$, so it is impossible to vanish L(7) which is a contradiction because we have a center for the origin.
- (a.1.2) If $b_8 = 0$ with $b_1 \neq 0$, we have L(5) = L(6) = L(7) = 0 and we get that the system is time-reversible.

- (a.2) If $b_8 = 0$ the computation gives L(5) = L(6) = L(7) = 0 and we obtain another particular case of a time-reversible system.
- (a.3) If $b_2 = \frac{52}{9}b_1$ with $b_1 \neq 0$ and $b_8 \neq 0$, we have $L(4) = -7b_1b_8(10859b_1^2 + 1755b_4^2 + 1755b_8^2)$ and in this case it is not possible to vanish L(4) which is a contradiction.
- (b) If $b_2 = b_4$ we compute the fourth Liapunov quantities which is $L(3) = 30b_1^2b_7 10b_1b_4b_7 + 18b_4^2b_7 + 52b_1b_4b_8 9b_4^2b_8 + 3b_7^2b_8$.
- (b.1) If $52b_1b_4 9b_4^2 + 3b_7^2 \neq 0$ the vanishing of L(3) gives $b_8 = \frac{2b_7(5b_1b_4 15b_1^2 9b_4^2)}{52b_1b_4 9b_4^2 + 3b_7^2}$.
- (b.1.1) If $b_7 = 0$ we have $b_8 = 0$ which is the case (a.2).
- (b.1.2) If $b_7 \neq 0$, we suppose that $b_7 = 1$ and after we compute L(4), L(5) and L(6), for the vanshing of L(4), L(5) and L(6) we calcul $\Re(L(4), L(5), b_1)$ and $\Re(L(4), L(6), b_1)$ which are the resultants of the polynomials L(5), L(6) with L(4) rapport to b_1 respectively, obtaining the following polynomials

$$\Re(L(4), L(5), b_1) = b_4^4 (45 - 10b_4^2 + 7737b_4^4)^{12} P_1(b_4),$$

$$\Re(L(4), L(6), b_1) = b_4 (45 - 10b_4^2 + 7737b_4^4)^{15} P_2(b_4),$$

where $P_1(b_4)$ and $P_2(b_4)$ are polynomials of b_4 and of degree 44 and 58 respectively. Moreover, they have no common roots. So the only possibility is $b_4 = 0$ which gives another particular case of a time-reversible system.

- (b.2) If $52b_1b_4 9b_4^2 + 3b_7^2 = 0$ and $b_4 \neq 0$ we change $b_1 = \frac{9b_4^2 2 3b_7^2}{52b_4}$ in L(3) which gives $L(3) = \frac{3b_7(7737b_4^4 10b_4^2b_7^2 + 45b_7^4)}{b_4^2}$. Since $b_4 \neq 0$, knowing $b_7 = 0$ from L(3) = 0 we compute L(4) which is $L(4) = -7b_4b_8(208337b_4^2 + 175760b_8^2)$, so L(4) = 0 implies $b_8 = 0$ and is the case (a.2) of a time-reversible system.
- (b.3) If $52b_1b_4 9b_4^2 + 3b_7^2 = 0$ and $b_4 = 0$ we have $b_7 = 0$, so L(3) = 0. The computation gives $L(4) = -b_8b_1^3$ and $L(5) = b_8b_1^2(14825b_1^2 + 4002b_8^2)$. Both cases $b_1 = 0$ and $b_8 = 0$ gives that the system is time-reversible by the symmetry conditions.
- (B) In the above (a.1.1), the system is not time-reversible when we have L(0) = L(1) = L(2) = L(3) = L(4) = L(5) = L(6) = 0 and $L(7) = 1491b_8(b_4^2 + b_8^2)^3 \neq 0$, so the order of the origin is seven then no more than seven local limit cycles can bifurcate out of the origin.

APPENDIX

The focal values η_{10} , η_{14} , η_{18} , η_{22} and η_{26} are of the following forms:

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\eta_{10} = a_6(61a_5 - 3a_3 - 95a_1) + a_4(15a_5 + 3a_3 - 13a_1) + a_2(13a_5 + a_1 + 5a_3),
\eta_{14} = a_6(6490a_2a_4 - 1016a_3^2 - 24380a_1^2 - 5043a_4^2 + 4293a_2^2 + 4724a_5^2 - 1303a_2a_6
            -67407a_4a_6 - 17120a_3a_1 - 848a_3a_5 - 34040a_1a_5 - 176705a_6^2) + a_4(1332a_5^2)
            -6296a_1a_5 + 665a_2^2 + 1401a_2a_4 - 88a_3^2 - 5212a_1^2 + 480a_3a_5 - 3664a_1a_3 + 251a_4^2
           +a_2(932a_5^2+72a_3^2-2828a_1^2-2368a_1a_3+848a_3a_5-3032a_1a_5-421a_2^2)
\eta_{18} = a_6(1368031a_1a_2^2 + 647766a_3a_2^2 - 2266941a_1a_4^2 - 798715a_1a_3^2 - 1534750a_3a_1^2)
            -156825a_5a_3^2 - 81988625a_5a_6^2 - 20876950a_3a_6^2 - 282915a_5^3 - 10030a_3^3 + 4611525a_1a_6^2
            -3445435a_1a_5^2 - 4052465a_1a_2a_6 - 5443150a_2a_3a_6 - 454610a_3a_5^2 - 4075525a_1^2a_5
            -5968807a_5a_4^2 - 2411346a_3a_4^2 - 14434500a_3a_4a_6 - 5905275a_1a_4a_6 - 40930405a_4a_5a_6
           +972621a_{2}^{2}a_{5}a_{6}-13780795a_{2}a_{5}a_{6}-4018125a_{1}^{3}-1371430a_{1}a_{2}a_{4}-3511640a_{1}a_{3}a_{5}
           -2184426a_2a_4a_5 - 839360a_2a_3a_4) + a_4(60997a_1a_2^2 + 420459a_2^2a_5 - 331337a_1a_3^2)
           -736880a_1^2a_3 - 69945a_5^3 - 219299a_5a_4^2 - 188397a_1a_4^2 - 78308a_3a_4^2 - 882437a_1a_5^2
           -127636a_3a_5^2 - 1286855a_1^2a_5 - 75375a_3^2a_5 + 158113a_2a_4a_5 - 1117275a_1^3
           +242068a_2^2a_3-141741a_1a_2a_4+134034a_2a_3a_4-17936a_3^3-1087900a_1a_3a_5
           + a_2 (78327a_2^2a_5 - 65625a_3^2a_5 - 72795a_5^3 - 124139a_1a_2^2 + 12686a_3a_2^2 - 21386a_3^3 + 124139a_1a_2^2 + 12686a_3a_2^2 - 21386a_3^2 + 124139a_1a_2^2 + 12686a_3^2 + 124136a_1a_2^2 + 12686a_3^2 + 124166a_3^2 + 12666a_3^2 + 126666a_3^2 + 12666a_3^2 + 126666a_3^2 + 126666a_3^2 + 126666a_3^2 + 126666a_3^2 + 126666a_3^2 + 126
            -1368605a_1^2a_5 - 403667a_1a_3^2 - 104206a_3a_5^2 + 647766a_2a_3a_6 - 1182525a_1^3
            -1058080a_1a_3a_5 - 1034090a_1^2a_3 - 704027a_1a_5^2,
\eta_{22} = a_6(18365025280a_1^3a_3 - 229652191920a_3a_5a_6^2 + 367415040a_3^2a_5^2 + 14954928960a_1^2a_5^2
           +\,343126337a_4^4+644392962866a_4^2a_6^2+50543927274a_4^3a_6+3000453114445a_4a_6^3
            -495804061320a_5^2a_6^2 - 29266290400a_3^2a_6^2 + 210883952a_3^4 + 207774673400a_1^2a_6^2
            - 11539712800a_1^4 - 803864096a_5^4 - 39636377600a_3^2a_4a_6 + 54928890280a_1^2a_4a_6
           -51553494178a_2a_4^2a_6+692215808a_3^3a_5-42192981400a_1^2a_2a_6745985280a_3a_5^3
           +\,4020073456a_{1}a_{2}^{2}a_{5}+9269588648a_{1}^{2}a_{2}^{2}-45093552450a_{2}^{2}a_{4}a_{6}-183469856a_{2}^{2}a_{3}^{2}
           -3937648344a_2^2a_5^2-6891973242a_2^2a_4^2-2869515516a_2^3a_4-8938261628a_2a_4^3\\
           +26715614436a_2a_4a_6^2+953236592a_1a_2^2a_3-1577147792a_2^2a_3a_5+4795803337725a_6^4\\
           -151407450392a_2a_5^2a_6 - 30016606976a_2a_3^2a_6 - 4651858568a_1^2a_4^2 - 59785062408a_4^2a_5^2
           -10953900944a_3^2a_4^2 -307010757592a_4a_5^2a_6 +639750967760a_1a_5a_6^2
           +297573354320a_1a_3a_6^2 -124613041424a_2a_3a_5a_6 -13627892752a_1a_2a_5a_6
           -18127553520a_1^2a_2a_4 - 25251198224a_1a_2a_3a_6 - 43369822112a_2a_3a_4a_5
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-22049322912a_1a_2a_3a_4 - 25438955168a_1a_2a_4a_5 - 50088734960a_2a_4a_5^2
                -11175315200a_2a_3^2a_4 - 479696091a_3a_4^2a_5 + 13580240640a_1^2a_3^2 + 14042528640a_1^3a_5 + 14042640a_1^3a_5 + 14044640a_1^3a_5 + 1404640a_1^3a_5 + 14044640a_1^3a_5 + 1404640a_1^3a_5 + 1404640
                +1799962624a_1a_3^3+4293665152a_1a_5^3-603963824a_1a_3a_4^2+3085241488a_1a_4^2a_5
                -204625874320a_3a_4a_5a_6+183482955632a_1a_4a_5a_6+92214965104a_1a_3a_4a_6\\
                +28761265920a_1^2a_3a_5+6446897664a_1a_3a_5^2+5090899072a_1a_3^2a_5)+a_4(82565504a_1a_5^3)
                +\,939443520a_2^2a_3^2+366048986a_2^3a_4+283330525a_2^4-236989555a_2a_4^3+156242746a_2^2a_4^2
                -3598154744a_4^2a_5^2 - 730655920a_3^2a_4^2 - 2083280a_3^4 - 1305374584a_1^2a_4^2 - 5249595680a_1^4 - 3249595680a_2^4 - 3249596680a_2^4 - 3249596680a_2^4 - 3249566660a_2^4 - 324956660a_2^4 - 324956660a_2^4 - 32495660a_2^4 - 3249660a_2^4 - 3249560a_2^4 - 3249660a_2^4 - 3249660a_2^4 - 3249660a_2^4 - 3249660a_2^4 - 3249660a_2^4 - 324960a_2^4 - 32460a_2^4 - 32
                -281377824a_5^4 - 40757248a_1^3a_3 + 591080256a_1^2a_5^2 - 78058752a_3^3a_5
                -1978103432a_1^2a_2a_4 + 859328256a_1^2a_3^2 + 2128280104a_1^2a_2^2 + 1220339368a_2^2a_5^2
                +2096839536a_1a_2^2a_5+1041265008a_1a_2^2a_3+2439999088a_2^2a_3a_5-61794503a_4^4
                -\,3320323080a_2a_5^2a_4-459155312a_2a_3^2a_4-3112823888a_3a_4^2a_5-1414781840a_1a_4^2a_5
                -1131466576a_1a_3a_4^2 - 1324717184a_1^3a_5 - 343726848a_3^2a_5^2 - 131394304a_1a_3^3
                -524678400a_3a_5^3 - 2397631152a_2a_3a_4a_5 - 3075959792a_1a_2a_4a_5
                -2642359984a_1a_2a_3a_4+1321310976a_1^2a_3a_5-747591168a_1a_3a_5^2-752934784a_1a_3^2a_5)
                +\,a_{2}(1563924176a_{2}^{2}a_{3}a_{5}+763676984a_{1}^{2}a_{2}^{2}-37472592a_{3}^{4}+508014080a_{2}^{2}a_{3}^{2}
                +\ 1240789688a_2^2a_5^2 - 10569385120a_1^4 - 153042848a_5^4 - 458829568a_3a_5^3
                -2821853632a_1^2a_5^2-196518912a_3^3a_5+1190313680a_1a_2^2a_3+1886015440a_1a_2^2a_5
                -2503069440a_1^2a_3^2 + 233938921a_2^4 - 8527134336a_1^3a_5 - 446551808a_3^2a_5^2
                -723067904a_1a_3^3 - 7291479552a_1^3a_3 - 299255936a_1a_5^3 - 5839216384a_1^2a_3a_5
                -2179015680a_1a_3a_5^2-2452349312a_1a_3^2a_5,
\eta_{26} = a_6(330066419200a_3^5 + 7333942231560a_5^5 + 67820798325000a_1^5 + 58279519566240a_1^2a_3^3
                +197072391042800a_1^3a_3^2+5809865036640a_3^3a_5^2+42996674880040a_1a_5^4
                +12150099552080a_3^2a_5^3+14779209528440a_3a_5^4+6709637090240a_1a_3^4
                +1890474416320a_5a_3^4+116603419747920a_1^2a_5^3+293563779675600a_1^3a_5^2
                +92700118782880a_1a_3a_5^3+35317104663680a_1a_5a_3^3+81147959257680a_1a_3^2a_5^2
                +\ 213578571949680a_1^2a_5a_3^2+485118933034400a_5a_3a_1^3+267141060931920a_1^2a_3a_5^2
                +282315650827000a_3a_1^4+322579640761000a_1^4a_5-130522020749255a_5^3a_4^2
                -8387828245524a_2^2a_3^3 + 56014253028768a_3a_4^4 - 49549361352443a_5^3a_2^2
                -28060886366153a_1a_2^4 + 95854010972159a_1a_4^4 - 7817615541820a_3a_2^4
                -10086080674055a_5a_2^4 - 11381230521984a_4^2a_3^3 + 133069714030937a_5a_4^4
                +6500845961055a_2^2a_1^3 + 133465709269875a_4^2a_1^3 - 14830798208168a_4a_3a_2^3
                -67641038288284a_2^2a_3a_4^2 - 257720854414668a_2a_4a_3a_5^2 - 27251007122988a_2a_4a_3^3
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-70516829898821a_5a_4^2a_3^2 - 153546931763512a_4^2a_3a_5^2 - 28276671949808a_2a_3a_4^3
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+ a_4(120061175360a_3^5 + 1911973192920a_5^5 + 1558131351000a_1^5 + 14436455920320a_1^2a_3^3
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+\ 4228103267298a_2^2a_3a_1^2-2416094627003a_5a_2^2a_3^2+479726420311a_1a_2a_4^3
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+\,1731877036680a_5^5 - 47232284379000a_1^5 + 10269337354080a_1^2a_3^3 + 21841273872880a_1^3a_3^2 + 21841273872880a_1^3a_2^3 + 21841273872880a_1^3 + 21841273872880a_1^3 + 21841273876860a_1^3 + 21841273860a_1^3 + 218412760a_1^3 + 21841260a_1^3 + 2184160a_1^3 + 218416
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\phantom{a}+23939881405693a_2^2a_1^3+4349883335368a_2^2a_3a_5^2+7665519051203a_1a_2^2a_5^2
+22039194611561a_2^2a_1^2a_5+14337209801884a_1a_2^2a_3a_5+20546899565244a_2^2a_3a_1^2
+4830698633877a_5a_2^2a_3^2+6719813849475a_1a_2^2a_3^2).
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