

$\theta = \pi/3$ and our analysis gives the allowed region described by: $3ab - a - b - 1 \geq 0$. To ascertain which θ is the physical one, we insist that the time duration between collisions are all positive. The formulas for the time ratios here are:

$$t_{2j}/t_{2j-1} = -\cos((j - 1/2)\theta)/\cos((j + 1/2)\theta) \text{ and} \quad (100)$$

$$t_{2j+1}/t_{2j} = -\sin(j\theta)/\sin((j + 1)\theta). \quad (101)$$

These must be nonnegative for $j \leq n - 1$, which requirement holds only for $(n - 1)\pi/n \leq \theta \leq \pi$. The only suitable θ from Eq. (98) is $(2n - 1)\pi/(2n + 1)$ and so the allowed region for $(31)^n$ is given by $ab \cot^2((2n - 1)\pi/(2(2n + 1))) - a - b - 1 \geq 0$. That is, it lies to the right of the right branch of the hyperbola given by:

$$ab \cot^2\left(\frac{(2n - 1)\pi}{2(2n + 1)}\right) - a - b - 1 = 0. \quad (102)$$