Canonical embeddings of pairs of arcs

by

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I'll discuss recent joint work with A. Eremenko. We showed that for given four points in the Riemann sphere and a given isotopy class of two disjoint arcs connecting these points in two pairs, there exists a unique configuration with the property that each arc is a hyperbolic geodesic segment in the complement of the other arc. The configuration can explicitly be described with elliptic functions.