

$$\vec{\varepsilon} = \hat{r} + \vec{L} \times \vec{v} = \text{const},$$

where  $\vec{L}$  is a constant vector parallel to the angular momentum. Let us write this, using the requirements of the problem, in terms of complex numbers:

$$\varepsilon = e^{i\psi} + z = e^{i\phi} + 2zi.$$

If we eliminate from here  $z$ , we obtain

$$\varepsilon - e^{i\psi} = (\varepsilon - e^{i\phi}) / 2i$$

so that

$$\varepsilon = \left( e^{i\psi} - \frac{e^{i\phi}}{2i} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2i} \right)^{-1} = e^{i\psi} \left( 1 - \frac{e^{i\varphi}}{2} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2i} \right)^{-1},$$

where  $\varphi = \phi - \psi$ . Here  $\psi$  can be always chosen so that RHS is real and the modulus of RHS is minimized with  $\varphi = 0$ . So minimal  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left( \frac{4}{5} \right)^{1/2} = 1/\sqrt{5}$ .