

Transit trajectories of ballistic capture near libration points for low-energy transfers.

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Motivation for designing low-energy transfer



Motivation for designing low-energy transfer



"InterPlanetary Superhighway", Dynamical systems, the three-body problem and space mission design (Koon W. S., Lo M. W., Marsden J. E., Ross S. D. - 2022)

The circular restricted three-body problem (CR3BP)



Massive bodies: $m_3 \ll m_1 + m_2$, $m_2 \ll m_1$, m_1, m_2 they move along Keplerian (circular) orbits relative to the barycenter;

Movement of body m_3 :

• in a inertial (XYZ, cartesian) system:

$$\frac{d^2\mathbf{r}}{dt^2} = -(1-\mu)\frac{\mathbf{r}_{13}}{r_{13}^3} - \mu\frac{\mathbf{r}_{23}}{r_{23}^3};$$

• in a rotating (xyz, synodic) system:

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{x} - 2\dot{y} = U_x, \\ \ddot{y} + 2\dot{x} = U_y, \\ \ddot{z} = U_z, \end{cases} \quad U = \frac{x^2 + y^2}{2} + \frac{1 - \mu}{r_1} + \frac{\mu}{r_2};$$

Let
$$\mu_1 + \mu_2 = 1$$
, $l = 1$, $\mu = \frac{m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \le 0.5$,
Then $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_1 + \mu_2}{l^3}} = 1$, $\theta = \omega t$.

Jacobi integral: $C_J = 2U(\mathbf{r}) - \mathbf{v}^2$.

CR3BP: Libration points and Jacobi integral



Libration points are stationary solutions of differential equations in the **rotating** system:

 $\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \dot{\mathbf{v}} = \mathbf{0}$



The effective potential in the plane containing the orbit

CR3BP: Δv_{min}

Jacobi integral: $C_J(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}) = 2U(\mathbf{r}) - \mathbf{v}^2$.

$$\Delta C_J(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}) = C_J(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v} + \Delta \mathbf{v}) - C_J(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v}) = -\Delta \mathbf{v}^T \Delta \mathbf{v} - 2\mathbf{v}^T \Delta \mathbf{v}$$
$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{v} || \Delta \mathbf{v}_{\min},$$

$$\Delta C_J \left(\mathbf{r}_{L1}, \mathbf{v}_{L1} \right) \leq C_J \left(\mathbf{r} + \Delta \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{v} + \Delta \mathbf{v} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta \mathbf{v}_{\min} = \Delta \mathbf{v}_{1\min} + \Delta \mathbf{v}_{2\min},$$

$$\Delta \mathbf{v}_{1\min} = \sqrt{\left[2U\left(\mathbf{r}_{0}\right) - C_{J}\left(\mathbf{r}_{0}, \mathbf{v}_{0}\right)\right] - \left[2U\left(\mathbf{r}_{L1}\right) - C_{J}\left(\mathbf{r}_{L1}, \mathbf{v}_{L1}\right)\right]},$$

$$\Delta \mathbf{v}_{2\min} = \sqrt{\left[2U\left(\mathbf{r}_{0}\right) - C_{J}\left(\mathbf{r}_{k}, \mathbf{v}_{k}\right)\right] - \left[2U\left(\mathbf{r}_{L1}\right) - C_{J}\left(\mathbf{r}_{L1}, \mathbf{v}_{L1}\right)\right]},$$



The effective potential in the plane containing the orbit

CR3BP: Linear analysis of dynamics near the libration points

By **linearizing** the CR3BP equations of motion in the **vicinity of collinear libration points**, the following system can be obtained: $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \ddot{x} - 2\dot{y} \\ \ddot{y} + 2\dot{x} \\ \ddot{z} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{xx} & U_{xy} & U_{xz} \\ U_{xy} & U_{yy} & U_{yz} \\ U_{xz} & U_{yz} & U_{zz} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \implies \begin{pmatrix} \dot{\mathbf{r}} \\ \dot{\mathbf{v}} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{A} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{v} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 2c_2 + 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - c_2 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -c_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The **eigenvalues** of the matrix **A**:

C.C. Conley, Low energy transit orbits in the restricted three-body problems, SIAM Journal on App. Math., Vol. 16, No. 4 (1968)

CR3BP: Linear analysis of dynamics near the libration points

By **linearizing** the CR3BP equations of motion in the **vicinity of collinear libration points**, the following system can be obtained:

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{x} - 2\dot{y} - (2c_2 + 1)x = 0, \\ \ddot{y} + 2\dot{x} - (1 - c_2)y = 0, \\ \ddot{z} + c_2 z = 0. \end{cases}$$

Its solution has the form:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = \alpha e^{st} + \beta e^{-st} + A_x \cos(\omega_p t + \phi_p), \\ y(t) = k_1 \alpha e^{st} - k_1 \beta e^{-st} - k_2 A_x \sin(\omega_p t + \phi_p), \\ z(t) = A_z \cos(\omega_v t + \phi_v). \end{cases}$$

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \pm s = \pm \sqrt{\frac{c_2 - 2 + \sqrt{c_2(9c_2 - 8)}}{2}}, \quad k_1 = \frac{s^2 - 1 - 2c_2}{2s}, \\ \lambda_{3,4} = \pm \omega_p i = \pm \sqrt{\frac{c_2 - 2 - \sqrt{c_2(9c_2 - 8)}}{2}}, \quad k_2 = \frac{\omega_p^2 + 1 + 2c_2}{2\omega_p}, \\ \lambda_{5,6} = \pm \omega_v i = \pm \sqrt{c_2}, \quad \alpha, \beta, A_x, A_z, \phi_p, \phi_v - const. \end{cases}$$

Transit trajectories in the case:

C.C. Conley, Low energy transit orbits in the restricted three-body problems, SIAM Journal on App. Math., Vol. 16, No. 4 (1968)

 $\alpha\beta < 0$

CR3BP: Linear analysis of dynamics near the libration points

Stable and unstable manifolds:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}_{Li}^{s}(0) \\ \mathbf{v}_{Li}^{s}(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}_{Li} \\ \mathbf{v}_{Li} \end{pmatrix} \pm \varepsilon \mathbf{u}_{Li}^{s},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}_{Li}^{u}(0) \\ \mathbf{v}_{Li}^{u}(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}_{Li} \\ \mathbf{v}_{Li} \end{pmatrix} \pm \varepsilon \mathbf{u}_{Li}^{u},$$

where ε is small (~1.e-6), $\mathbf{u}_{Li}^{s}, \mathbf{u}_{Li}^{u}$ - eigenvectors associated $\lambda_{1,2} = \pm s$. with

The trajectories of a stable manifold tend to Li at $t \rightarrow \infty$, the trajectories of an unstable manifold tend to Li at $t \rightarrow -\infty$



CR3BP: Low-energy transit trajectories



Stable manifold L1 (solid line) and L2 (dotted line) in a rotating barycentric coordinate system (The trajectories of a stable manifold tend to L1 at t $\rightarrow \infty$, the trajectories of an unstable manifold tend to L1 at t $\rightarrow \infty$)

The elliptic restricted three-body problem (ER3BP)

Equations of motion in a rotating (synodic) system:

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{x} - 2\dot{y} = \frac{1}{1 + e\cos\upsilon}U_x \\ \ddot{y} + 2\dot{x} = \frac{1}{1 + e\cos\upsilon}U_y \\ \ddot{z} = \frac{1}{1 + e\cos\upsilon}U_z \end{cases}$$

where
$$U = \frac{x^2 + y^2}{2} + \frac{1 - \mu}{r_1} + \frac{\mu}{r_2}$$
,

e, v – the eccentricity and true anomaly of the orbit of the smaller of the massive bodies.

Obviously, the system has no stationary solutions.

The Jacobi integral is also missing, but a similar integral expression can be written

$$\frac{v^{2}(t)}{2}-U(t)=\frac{v^{2}(t_{0})}{2}-U(t_{0})-\int_{\upsilon(t_{0})}^{\upsilon(t)}\frac{\partial U}{\partial \upsilon}d\upsilon.$$

Considering a sufficiently small time interval, the current value of the Jacobi constant can be written using the Jacobi constant from CR3BP

$$C_J^* = C_J (1 + e \cos \upsilon).$$

ER3BP: linear analysis of dynamics near the libration points

Transformation to rotating–pulsating coordinates:

$$\begin{cases} x'' - 2y' = \tilde{U}_x \\ y'' + 2x' = \tilde{U}_y \\ z'' = \tilde{U}_z \end{cases}$$
 where $\tilde{U} = \frac{1}{1 + e \cos \upsilon} \left(\frac{x^2 + y^2 - ez^2 \cos \upsilon}{2} + \frac{1 - \mu}{r_1} + \frac{\mu}{r_2} \right),$
 $e, \upsilon - \text{the eccentricity and true anomaly of the orbit of the smaller of the massive bodies.}$

By linearizing the ER3BP equations of motion in the vicinity of collinear libration points, the following system can be obtained:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \ddot{x} - 2\dot{y} \\ \ddot{y} + 2\dot{x} \\ \ddot{z} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{1 + e\cos\upsilon} \begin{pmatrix} 2c_2 + 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - c_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -c_2 - e\cos\upsilon \end{pmatrix}$$

In this case, the eigenvalues are not constant and are periodic functions of the true anomaly:

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \pm s(\upsilon), \quad \lambda_{3,4} = \pm \omega_p(\upsilon)i, \quad \lambda_{5,6} = \pm \omega_v(\upsilon)i.$$

Szebehely V. Theory of orbits, Academic press, New York and London, 1967; Farquhar R.W. The control and use of libration-point satellites, 1970.

ER3BP: Libration points and Jacobi integral



Fitzgerald J., Ross S. D. Geometry of transit orbits in the periodically-perturbed restricted three-body problem // Advances in Space Research, 2022, Vol. 70, № 1, pp. 144-156.



Luk 'Yanov L.G. Energy conservation in the restricted elliptical three-body problem // Astronomy reports, 2005, Vol. 49, pp. 1018-1027

ER3BP: linear dynamics near the libration points

Since the rotating coordinate system has a local circular velocity, taking into account the orientation of the axes, the velocity of the libration point in the rotating coordinate system can be determined as follows:

$$v_x^{Li} = x_{Li} \sqrt{\frac{\mu_E + \mu_M}{p}} e \sin \upsilon,$$

$$v_y^{Li} = x_{Li} \sqrt{\frac{\mu_E + \mu_M}{p}} \left(1 + e \cos \upsilon - \sqrt{1 + e \cos \upsilon}\right),$$

where e, p, v – eccentricity, semi-latus rectum and true anomaly of the Moon's orbit.



ER3BP: linear dynamics near the libration points

In the instantaneous CR3BP, libration points have a velocity by which the type of motion can be determined within the framework of a linear model from the following equations:



ER3BP: linear dynamics near the libration points



The restricted four-body problem (R4BP)

$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}} = -\frac{\mu_E \mathbf{r}}{\left|\mathbf{r}\right|^3} + \mu_S \left(\frac{\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_S}{\left|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_S\right|} + \frac{\mathbf{r}_S}{\left|\mathbf{r}_S\right|}\right) + \mu_M \left(\frac{\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_M}{\left|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_M\right|} + \frac{\mathbf{r}_M}{\left|\mathbf{r}_M\right|}\right),$$

where μ_E , μ_S , μ_M - gravitational parameters of the Earth, the Sun and the Moon, \mathbf{r}_S , \mathbf{r}_M - geocentric position vectors of the Sun and the Moon, respectively. The position and velocity vectors of the Sun and the Moon are calculated using ephemeris software JPL DE405.

The instantaneous synodic coordinate system related to the current position and velocity of the Moon in the inertial geocentric coordinate system J2000 as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}_{J\,2000}(t) \\ \mathbf{v}_{J\,2000}(t) \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{M}(t) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{r}(t) \\ \mathbf{v}(t) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{M} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{e}_{x} & \mathbf{e}_{y} & \mathbf{e}_{z} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \dot{\mathbf{\vartheta}}\mathbf{e}_{y} & -\dot{\mathbf{\vartheta}}\mathbf{e}_{x} & 0 & \mathbf{e}_{x} & \mathbf{e}_{x} & \mathbf{e}_{x} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} |\mathbf{r}_{M}| & 0 \\ 0 & |\mathbf{v}_{M}| \end{pmatrix},$$
$$\mathbf{e}_{x} = \frac{\mathbf{r}_{M}}{|\mathbf{r}_{M}|}, \quad \mathbf{e}_{z} = \frac{\mathbf{r}_{M} \times \mathbf{v}_{M}}{|\mathbf{r}_{M} \times \mathbf{v}_{M}|}, \quad \mathbf{e}_{y} = \mathbf{e}_{z} \times \mathbf{e}_{x}, \quad \dot{\mathbf{\vartheta}} = \frac{|\mathbf{r}_{M} \times \mathbf{v}_{M}|}{|\mathbf{r}_{M}|^{2}}.$$

Case Earth – Moon 1: Transit trajectory of long-term capture



Dependence of selenocentric Keplerian energy on the trajectory of temporary capture.

Dependence of the distance to the Moon on the trajectory of temporary capture.

Formed by a stable and unstable L1 manifold of the Earth – Moon system with a moment of passing L1 03.08.2026 15:05:50 (JD 2461256.12905)

Ivanyukhin A.V., Ivashkin V.V., Petukhov V.G., Sung Wook Yoon. Designing Low-energy low-thrust flight to the Moon on a temporary capture trajectory // Cosmic Research, Vol. 61, No. 5 (2023) 380-393

Case Earth – Moon 1: Transit trajectory of long-term capture



Ivanyukhin A.V., Ivashkin V.V., Petukhov V.G., Sung Wook Yoon. Designing Low-energy low-thrust flight to the Moon on a temporary capture trajectory // Cosmic Research, Vol. 61, No. 5 (2023) 380-393

Case Earth – Moon 2: Departure transit trajectory of temporary capture



Formed by a stable and unstable L2 manifold of the Earth – Moon system with a moment of passing L2 10.05.2026 11:34:16. The velocity of spacecraft when crossing the SOI of the Earth: 1.3 km/s.

Ivanyukhin A.V., Ivashkin V.V., Petukhov V.G., Sung Wook Yoon. Designing Low-energy low-thrust flight to the Moon on a temporary capture trajectory // Cosmic Research, Vol. 61, No. 5 (2023) 380-393²⁰

Case Sun-Earth: Transit trajectories



Case Sun-Mars: Transit trajectories



Case Sun-Jupiter: Transit trajectories



Case Sun-Earth: Departure transit trajectory from Earth





Case Sun-Jupiter: Approach transit trajectory





Case Sun-Mars: Approach transit trajectory



Case Earth-Moon 1: GTO and reduction of transfer duration



Ivanyukhin A.V., Ivashkin V.V., Petukhov V.G., Sung Wook Yoon. Low-Energy Lunar Transfer Design Using High- And Low-Thrust on Ballistic Capture Trajectories // International Astronautical Congress 2023, IAC-23.C1.9.7

70

50

6 6 2 1

51.6/0/0

10 871 / 56 371

51.6 / 0 / 180

40

t, day.

60

km

deg

km

deg

Case Earth-Moon 1: GTO and reduction of transfer duration



Ivanyukhin A.V., Ivashkin V.V., Petukhov V.G., Sung Wook Yoon. Low-Energy Lunar Transfer Design Using High-And Low-Thrust on Ballistic Capture Trajectories // International Astronautical Congress 2023, IAC-23.C1.9.7

Case Sun-Jupiter: Flight near the Earth (LEO – Earth L2)



Case Sun-Jupiter: Heliocentric segment





Conclusions / Pro et Contra

The proposed approach makes it possible to abandon the zero-sphere of influence model in the analysis of interplanetary missions and design a trajectory using the ephemeris four-bodies problem, to obtain a continuous trajectory in all segments (planetocentric and heliocentric) and appropriate optimal control.

The presented approach has been tested on examples of calculating low-energy transfers to Moon, Jupiter and Martian moons. Has shown its effectiveness. The results obtained are compared with solutions within the framework of the zero-sphere of influence model corresponding to the "classical" schemes of interplanetary flight. As a result, savings of 15-25% of propellant mass are shown when using a low-energy transfer.

- Ivanyukhin A.V., Ivashkin V.V., Petukhov V.G., Sung Wook Yoon. Designing Low-energy low-thrust flight to the Moon on a temporary capture trajectory // Cosmic Research, Vol. 61, No. 5 (2023) 380-393
- Ivanyukhin A.V., Ivashkin V.V., Petukhov V.G., Sung Wook Yoon. Low-Energy Lunar Transfer Design Using High-And Low-Thrust on Ballistic Capture Trajectories // Proceedings of the International Astronautical Congress, Paper IAC-23.C1.9.7, IAF Astrodynamics Symposium, 2024, Vol. 2, pp. 896-905.
- Sung Wook Yoon, Petukhov V.G., Ivanyukhin A.V., An approach for end-to-end optimization of low-thrust interplanetary trajectories using collinear libration points // Acta Astronautica, 2024, V. 221, pp. 12-25

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Thanks for your attention

