

The circular restricted three body problem (CR3BP) is a special case of the three body problem. In the CR3BP (much like in Keplerian 2-body dynamics), we neglect the mass of satellite S , while treating the larger celestial body B_1 and smaller celestial body B_2 as point masses. Crucially, these bodies must orbit one another in circular orbits. In other words, they both orbit about their inertially fixed barycenter c at *constant velocity and distance*.

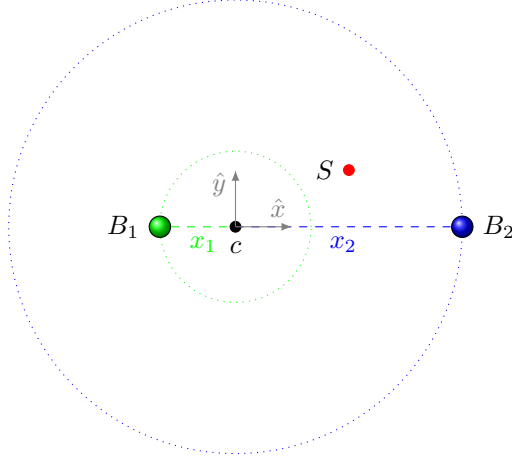


Figure 1: Geometry. S is the satellite, B are the celestial bodies. \hat{z} implied out of page. The bodies are always along the x axis, as the c frame rotates with them

Because \hat{x} points from c to B_2 , which is not inertially stationary, the xyz frame is rotating. Specifically, it is rotating positively about z . Because the celestial bodies are in a circular orbit, their rates of rotation about c are constant. This means that the xyz frame rotates at a constant rate of $\bar{\omega} = \Omega \hat{z}$

We can also find a relationship between x_1 , x_2 , r_{12} , m_1 , and m_2 . Because c is the barycenter,

$$x_1 m_1 = x_2 m_2$$

Kinematics

The transport theorem states that the inertial (fixed f frame) derivative of a vector u (expressed in the rotating c frame) is

$$\frac{d^f \bar{u}}{dt} = \frac{d^c \bar{u}}{dt} + \bar{\omega}^{cf} \times \bar{u}$$

Where $\frac{d^f}{dt}$ denotes the derivative in the coordinates of the fixed frame f , and $\frac{d^c}{dt}$ denotes derivative in the coordinates of the rotating frame c , and $\bar{\omega}^{cf}$ denotes the angular velocity of c in f . For this case, $\bar{\omega}^{cf} = \Omega \hat{z}$.

For a position vector \bar{r} , we will find the velocity $\bar{v} = \dot{\bar{r}}$ and acceleration $\bar{a} = \ddot{\bar{r}}$. Note that dot notation implies inertial.

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{v} &= \dot{\bar{r}} \\ &= \frac{d^c \bar{r}}{dt} + \bar{\omega}^{cf} \times \bar{r} \\ &= \bar{v}^c + (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{r})\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{a} &= \dot{\bar{v}} \\ &= \frac{d^c}{dt} (\bar{v}^c + (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{r})) + \bar{\omega}^{cf} \times (\bar{v}^c + (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{r})) \\ &= \frac{d^c}{dt} (\bar{v}^c + (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{r})) + \Omega \hat{z} \times (\bar{v}^c + (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{r})) \\ &= \bar{a}^c + (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{v}^c) + \Omega \hat{z} \times (\bar{v}^c + (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{r})) \\ &= \bar{a}^c + (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{v}^c) + (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{v}^c) + \Omega \hat{z} \times (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{r}) \\ &= \bar{a}^c + 2 (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{v}^c) - \Omega^2 \bar{r}\end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\bar{v} = \bar{v}^c + (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{r})}$$

$$\boxed{\bar{a} = \bar{a}^c + 2 (\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{v}^c)}$$

Now we will solve for Ω . Note that, because c is the center of mass of B_1 and B_2 ,

$$\begin{aligned}F_{\text{on}2} &= -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{r_{12}^2} \hat{x} \\ \cancel{m_2} \bar{a}_2^f &= -\frac{Gm_1 \cancel{m_2}}{r_{12}^2} \hat{x} \\ \left(\bar{\cancel{a}}^0 + 2 \left(\Omega \hat{z} \times \bar{\cancel{r}}^0 \right) - \Omega^2 \bar{r} \right) &= \frac{Gm_1}{r_{12}^2} \\ -\Omega^2 x_2 \hat{x} &= -\frac{Gm_1}{r_{12}^2} \hat{x} \\ \Omega^2 x_2 &= \frac{Gm_1}{r_{12}^2} \\ \Omega &= \sqrt{\frac{Gm_1}{x_2 r_{12}^2}}\end{aligned}$$