

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 m_1 and smaller celestial body m_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*.

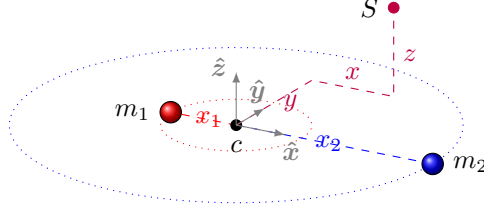


Figure 1: Geometry. The purple satellite is located by $\mathbf{r} = x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\hat{\mathbf{y}} + z\hat{\mathbf{z}}$, and the spheres are the celestial bodies. Note that \mathbf{r} is not constrained to the xy plane, but m_1 and m_2 definitionally are. The bodies are always along the x axis, as the c frame rotates with them

Because $\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ points from c to m_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 $\boldsymbol{\omega} = \Omega\hat{\mathbf{z}}$

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

$$x_1 m_1 = x_2 m_2$$

or

$$\frac{x_1}{m_2} = \frac{x_2}{m_1}$$

We can use this to find that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x_1}{x_1 + x_2} &= \frac{x_1/m_2}{x_1/m_2 + x_2/m_2} \\ &= \frac{x_2/m_1}{x_2/m_1 + x_2/m_2} \\ &= \frac{1/m_1}{1/m_1 + 1/m_2} \\ &= \frac{m_2}{m_2 + m_1} \end{aligned}$$

Defining $r_{12} = x_1 + x_2$ as the distance between the two celestial bodies, and $M = m_1 + m_2$ as their total mass, we get that

$$\boxed{\frac{x_1}{r_{12}} = \frac{m_2}{M}}$$

and similarly

$$\boxed{\frac{x_2}{r_{12}} = \frac{m_1}{M}}$$

Which can be rewritten as

$$\boxed{\frac{x_1}{m_2} = \frac{x_2}{m_1} = \frac{r_{12}}{M}}$$

Kinematics

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

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

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 $\boldsymbol{\omega}^{cf}$ denotes the angular velocity of c in f . For this case, $\boldsymbol{\omega}^{cf} = \Omega \hat{\mathbf{z}}$. We can find Ω

For the satellite's position in the CR3BP frame $\mathbf{r} = x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\hat{\mathbf{y}} + z\hat{\mathbf{z}}$, we will find the inertial acceleration to generate equations of motion.

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathbf{r}} &= \frac{d^c \mathbf{r}}{dt} + \boldsymbol{\omega}^{cf} \times \mathbf{r} \\ &= \frac{d^c}{dt} (x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\hat{\mathbf{y}} + z\hat{\mathbf{z}}) + (\Omega \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times (x\hat{\mathbf{x}} + y\hat{\mathbf{y}} + z\hat{\mathbf{z}})) \\ &= (\dot{x}\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \dot{y}\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \dot{z}\hat{\mathbf{z}}) + (\Omega x\hat{\mathbf{y}} - \Omega y\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \\ &= (\dot{x} - \Omega y)\hat{\mathbf{x}} + (\dot{y} + \Omega x)\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \dot{z}\hat{\mathbf{z}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{\mathbf{r}} &= \dot{\dot{\mathbf{r}}} \\ &= \frac{d^c}{dt} ((\dot{x} - \Omega y)\hat{\mathbf{x}} + (\dot{y} + \Omega x)\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \dot{z}\hat{\mathbf{z}}) \\ &\quad + \Omega \hat{\mathbf{z}} \times ((\dot{x} - \Omega y)\hat{\mathbf{x}} + (\dot{y} + \Omega x)\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \dot{z}\hat{\mathbf{z}}) \\ &= (\ddot{x} - \Omega \dot{y})\hat{\mathbf{x}} + (\ddot{y} + \Omega \dot{x})\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \ddot{z}\hat{\mathbf{z}} \\ &\quad + ((\Omega \dot{x} - \Omega^2 y)\hat{\mathbf{y}} - (\Omega \dot{y} + \Omega^2 x)\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \\ &= (\ddot{x} - 2\Omega \dot{y} - \Omega^2 x)\hat{\mathbf{x}} + (\ddot{y} + 2\Omega \dot{x} - \Omega^2 y)\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \ddot{z}\hat{\mathbf{z}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\ddot{\mathbf{r}} = (\ddot{x} - 2\Omega \dot{y} - \Omega^2 x)\hat{\mathbf{x}} + (\ddot{y} + 2\Omega \dot{x} - \Omega^2 y)\hat{\mathbf{y}} + \ddot{z}\hat{\mathbf{z}}}$$