

# Lagrange Points: Equilibrium Points in Restricted 3-Body Problem

Ross book,  
section 2.5

Murray & Dermott  
section 3.6

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In the rotating frame, we seek equilibrium points (points where there is no motion)

In general,  $\dot{x} = f(x)$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

Equil. points are those points  $\bar{x}$  where  $\dot{\bar{x}} = \vec{0}$

means we look for  $\bar{x}$  s.t.  $f(\bar{x}) = \vec{0}$

For the CR3BP, the eqs in first order form:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \dot{x} = v_x & \dot{v}_x = 2v_y - \bar{U}_x \\ \dot{y} = v_y & \dot{v}_y = -2v_x - \bar{U}_y \\ \dot{z} = v_z & \dot{v}_z = -\bar{U}_z \end{array} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{notation} \\ \bar{U}_{q_i} \equiv \frac{\partial \bar{U}}{\partial q_i} \end{array} \right.$$

Equil. will have  $\dot{x} = \dot{y} = \dot{z} = \dot{v}_x = \dot{v}_y = \dot{v}_z = 0$

$$\Rightarrow v_x = v_y = v_z = 0$$

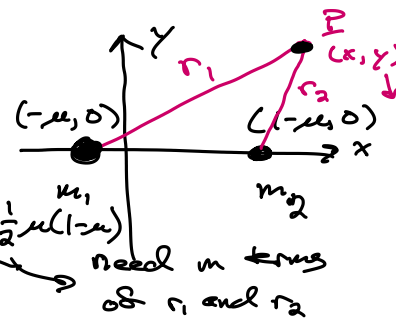
$\bar{U}_x = \bar{U}_y = \bar{U}_z = 0$   
In other words, a  
"critical point" of  $\bar{U}(x,y,z)$

when  $z \neq 0$ , there are no critical points

consider  $z=0$ ,  $\bar{U}_x = \bar{U}_y = 0$  | in the plane of  $m_1$  &  $m_2$

Restrict for now to  $y \neq 0$

We'll use  $r_1, r_2$



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

need  $m$  terms of  $r_1$  and  $r_2$

$$\bar{U}(r_1, r_2)$$

$$r_1^2 = (x + \mu)^2 + y^2, \quad r_2^2 = (x - (1-\mu))^2 + y^2$$

$$\text{Claim: } x^2 + y^2 = (1-\mu)r_1^2 + \mu r_2^2 - \mu(1-\mu)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & (1-\mu)r_1^2 + \mu r_2^2 \\ &= (1-\mu)\{(x + \mu)^2 + y^2\} + \mu\{(x - (1-\mu))^2 + y^2\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (x+\mu)^2 + y^2 - \mu(x^2 + 2\mu x + \mu^2 + y^2) \\
 & + \mu(x^2 - 2(1-\mu)x + (1-\mu)^2 + y^2) \\
 & = x^2 + 2\mu x + \mu^2 + y^2 - 2\mu x - \mu^3 - 2\mu x + 2\mu^2 x \\
 & \quad + \mu(1-\mu)^2 \\
 & = x^2 + y^2 + \mu^2 + \mu(1-2\mu+\mu^2) - \mu^3 \\
 & = x^2 + y^2 + \mu^2 + \mu - 2\mu^2 + \mu^3 - \mu^3 \\
 & = x^2 + y^2 + \mu - \mu^2 = x^2 + y^2 + \mu(1-\mu)
 \end{aligned}$$

$E = \frac{1}{2}v^2 + \bar{U}$

$$\boxed{\bar{U}(r_1, r_2) = -\frac{(1-\mu)}{r_1} - \frac{\mu}{r_2} - \frac{1}{2}(1-\mu)r_1^2 - \frac{1}{2}\mu r_2^2}$$

$= -1 - \frac{1}{2}$   
 $= -\frac{3}{2}$

$$\bar{U}_x = \bar{U}_{r_1} \frac{\partial r_1}{\partial x} + \bar{U}_{r_2} \frac{\partial r_2}{\partial x} = \bar{U}_{r_1} \left( \frac{x+\mu}{r_1} \right) + \bar{U}_{r_2} \left( \frac{x-(1-\mu)}{r_2} \right) = 0$$

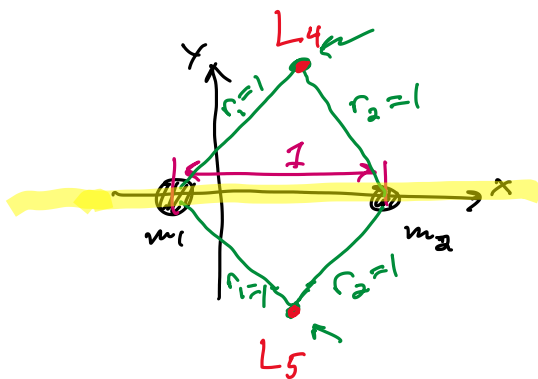
$$\bar{U}_y = \bar{U}_{r_1} \frac{\partial r_1}{\partial y} + \bar{U}_{r_2} \frac{\partial r_2}{\partial y} = \bar{U}_{r_1} \left( \frac{y}{r_1} \right) + \bar{U}_{r_2} \left( \frac{y}{r_2} \right) = 0$$

$$\bar{U}_x = \bar{U}_y = 0 \text{ is equiv. to } \bar{U}_{r_1} = \bar{U}_{r_2} = 0$$

So, we want to solve the following sys. of eqs

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 = \bar{U}_{r_1} &= -\cancel{(1-\mu)} + \frac{\cancel{(1-\mu)}}{r_1^2} & 0 &= -r_1 + \frac{1}{r_1^2} \\
 & & \Rightarrow r_1 &= 1 \\
 0 = \bar{U}_{r_2} &= -\mu + \frac{\mu}{r_2^2} & \text{Similarly} & \\
 & & r_2 &= 1
 \end{aligned}$$

So there is a critical point at  $r_1 = r_2 = 1$



There are 2 locations satisfying  $r_1=1$  and  $r_2=1$  in the  $xy$  plane

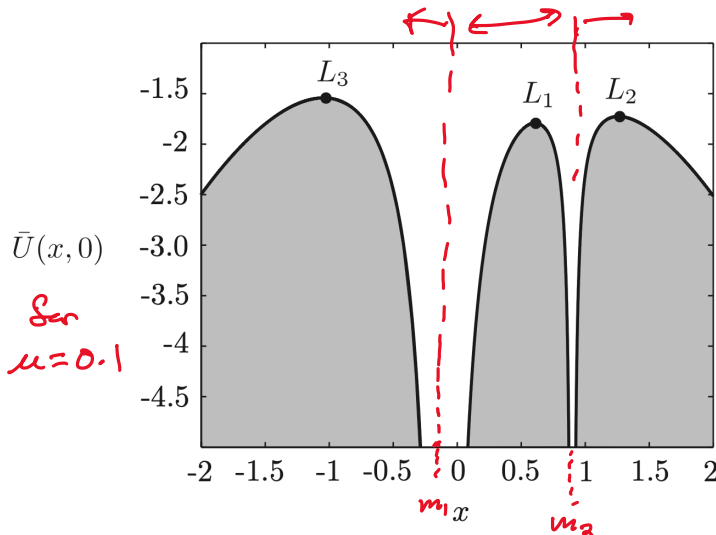
These are the "equilateral points" They form an equilateral triangle (i.e., "triangular points")

These are the  $L_4$  and  $L_5$  Lagrange points

Collinear points. Now consider  $y=0$  (the x-axis)

Look at critical points of  $\bar{U}$  along the x-axis

$$\bar{U}(x, 0) = -\frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{1-\mu}{|x+\mu|} - \frac{\mu}{|x-(1-\mu)|} - \frac{1}{2}\mu(1-\mu)$$

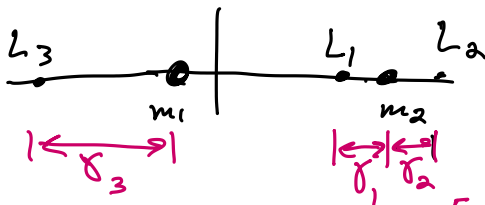


To find the equilibria,

$$\frac{\partial \bar{U}(x, 0)}{\partial x} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  this gives a quintic (5th order) polynomial for the location

Consider the equil. between  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  ( $L_1$ )



The distance of  $L_1$  from  $m_2$  is  $\delta_1$ , which is the real root of the following polynomial

$$\delta_1^5 - (3-\mu)\delta_1^4 + (3-2\mu)\delta_1^3 - \mu\delta_1^2 + 2\mu\delta_1 - \mu = 0$$

for  $\mu = 0.1$ ,  $\delta_1 = 0.29096$

An approximation is  $\delta_1 = r_n \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}r_n - \frac{1}{9}r_n^2 + \dots\right)$

$$r_n = \left(\frac{\mu}{3}\right)^{1/3}$$

$$\delta_2 = r_n \left(1 + \frac{1}{3}r_n - \frac{1}{9}r_n^2 + \dots\right)$$

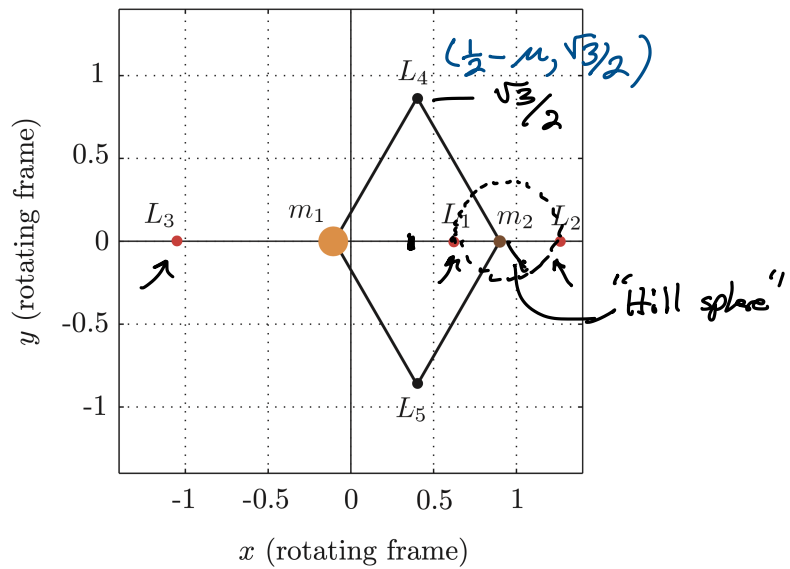
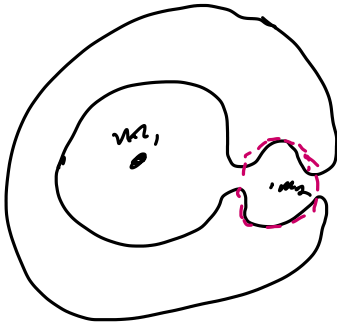
"Hill radius" ; for  $\mu = 0.1$ ,  $r_n = 0.322$

$$\delta_2 = 0.3597$$

for  $\mu = 0.1$ 

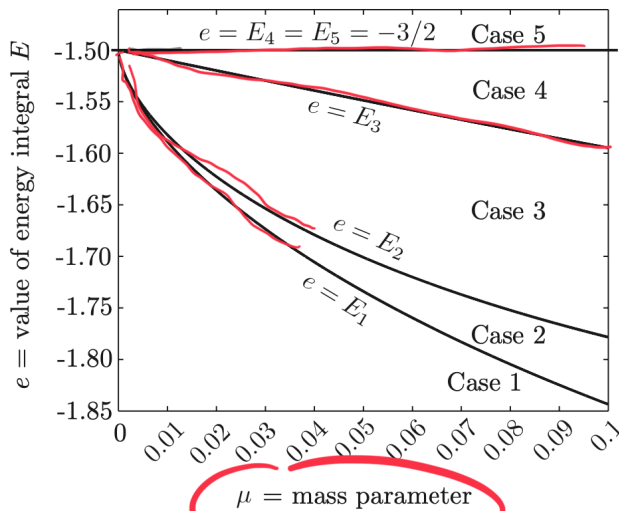
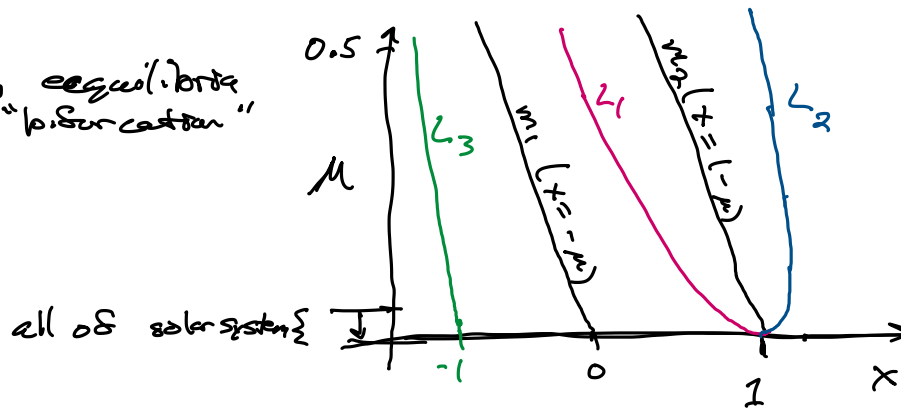
$$x_{L_1} = (1-\mu) - \gamma_1$$

$$x_{L_2} = (1-\mu) + \gamma_2$$



$r_{H1} \propto \mu^{2/5}$ ,  $r_H \propto \mu^{1/3}$ , related "sphere of influence"

Showing equilibria as a "bifurcation" diagram



Energy values

$$E = \frac{1}{2}(\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 + \dot{z}^2) + \bar{U}(x, y, z)$$

of Lagrange points