equilibrium



Stable



$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 U}{\mathrm{d} x^2} > 0$$



Unstable



$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 U}{\mathrm{d}r^2} < 0$$



Neutral

$$F = \frac{\mathrm{d}U}{\mathrm{d}r} = 0$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 U}{\mathrm{d} r^2} = 0$$