Dynamical Systems Tools Applied to Transfer Orbits in Spacecraft Mission Design

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Reference Problem, RTBP



Hamiltonian:

$$H(x, y, z, p_z, p_y, p_z) = \frac{1}{2}(p_x^2 + p_y^2 + p_z^2) - xp_y + yp_x - \frac{1 - \mu}{r_1} - \frac{\mu}{r_2},$$

with

$$r_1 = \sqrt{(x - \mu)^2 + y^2 + z^2}, r_2 = \sqrt{(x - \mu + 1)^2 + y^2 + z^2}.$$
Jacobi first integral:

$$C = -2H + \mu(1 - \mu).$$

The RTBP in synodical coordinates

$$egin{array}{rcl} X''-2Y'&=&\Omega_X,\ Y''+2X'&=&\Omega_Y,\ Z''&=&\Omega_Z, \end{array}$$

where,

$$\Omega = \frac{1}{2}(X^2 + Y^2) + \frac{1 - \mu}{R_1} + \frac{\mu}{R_2} + \frac{1}{2}\mu(1 - \mu).$$
$$R_2^2 = (X + 1 - \mu)^2 + Y^2 + Z^2, \quad R_1^2 = (X - \mu)^2 + Y^2 + Z^2.$$

Jacobi constant:

$$C = 2\Omega(X, Y, Z) - (X'^2 + Y'^2 + Z'^2).$$

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Libration Points in the RTBP



X coordinates of $L_{1,2}$ are,

$$X_i = -1 \pm \left(\frac{\mu}{3}\right)^{1/3} - \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{\mu}{3}\right)^{2/3} + O(\mu), \quad i = 1, 2.$$

In the Earth–Sun system,

 $d(L_{1,2}, \text{Earth}) \approx 1.5 \cdot 10^6 \text{ km}, \quad d(\text{Sun}, \text{Earth}) \approx 150 \cdot 10^6 \text{ km}.$

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Properties of Libration Point Orbits

- They are easy and inexpensive to reach from Earth.
- They provide good observation sites of the Sun.
- For missions with heat sensitive instruments, orbits around the L₂ point of the Sun–Earth system provide a constant geometry for observation with half of the entire celestial sphere available at all times, since the Sun, Earth and Moon are always behind the spacecraft.
- The communications system design is simple and cheap, since the libration orbits around the L₁ and L₂ points of the Sun–Earth system always remain close to the Earth, at a distance of roughly 1.5 million km with a near-constant communications geometry.

Properties of Libration Point Orbits

- The L₂ environment of the Sun–Earth system is highly favourable for non-cryogenic missions requiring great thermal stability, suitable for highly precise visible light telescopes.
- The libration orbits around the L₂ point of the Earth–Moon system, can be used to establish a permanent communications link between the Earth and the hidden part of the Moon.
- The libration point orbits can provide ballistic planetary captures, such as for the one used by the Hiten mission.

Properties of Libration Point Orbits

- The libration point orbits provide Earth transfer and return trajectories, such as the one used for the Genesis mission.
- The libration point orbits provide interplanetary transport which can be exploited in the Jovian and Saturn systems to design a low energy cost mission to tour several of their moons (Petit Grand Tour mission).
- Recent work has shown that formation flight with a rigid shape is possible about libration point orbits.





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Poincaré map representation 0.06 0.04 0.02 > -0.02 -0.04 -0.06 -0.86 -0.85 -0.84 -0.83 -0.82 z х 0.06 0.04 0.02 0 -0.02 -0.04 -0.06 $2^{0.03}_{0.015}$ $0^{-0.015}_{0.03}_{-0.03}$ $-0.85^{-0.84}_{-0.845}$ $-0.835^{-0.825}_{-0.855}$ $-0.845^{-0.845}_{-0.845}$ $-0.845^{-0.845}_{-0.855}$ 0.045

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Poincaré map representation of LPO Map of Orbital Classes Near Libration Points



Computation of the Lissajous trajectories (2D tori) and halo orbits (1D tori or periodic orbits) with their invariant manifolds. The RTBP equations of motion can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{x} - 2\dot{y} - (1 + 2c_2)x &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \sum_{n \ge 3} c_n \rho^n P_n\left(\frac{x}{\rho}\right), \\ \ddot{y} + 2\dot{x} + (c_2 - 1)y &= \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \sum_{n \ge 3} c_n \rho^n P_n\left(\frac{x}{\rho}\right), \\ \ddot{z} + c_2 z &= \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \sum_{n \ge 3} c_n \rho^n P_n\left(\frac{x}{\rho}\right), \end{aligned}$$

Eigenvalues at $L_{1,2}$ (RTBP/Hill)

The eigenvalues of the linear part of the flow at $L_{1,2}$ are



so, the second order terms of the Hamiltonian in normal (diagonal) form are

$$H_2 = \lambda x \rho_x + \frac{\omega}{2} \left(y^2 + \rho_y^2 \right) + \frac{\nu}{2} \left(z^2 + \rho_z^2 \right),$$

and the equilibrium points $L_{1,2}$ behave as a

saddle \times centre \times centre

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$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x(t) = \alpha_1 e^{\lambda_0 t} + \alpha_2 e^{-\lambda_0 t} + \alpha_3 \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi_1), \\ y(t) = \bar{k}_2 \alpha_1 e^{\lambda_0 t} - \bar{k}_2 \alpha_2 e^{-\lambda_0 t} + \bar{k}_1 \alpha_3 \sin(\omega_0 t + \phi_1), \\ z(t) = \alpha_4 \cos(\nu_0 t + \phi_2). \end{array} \right\}$$

•
$$\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 0$$
 gives linear Lissajous.

•
$$\alpha_1 = 0, \alpha_2 \neq 0$$
 defines Stable Manifold.

• $\alpha_2 = 0, \alpha_1 \neq 0$ defines Unstable Manifold.

The goal of our LP is to construct high order expansions with similar properties.

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$$egin{aligned} x(t) &= \sum egin{smallmatrix} e^{(i-j) heta_3} \left[x^{pq}_{ijkm} \cos(p\, heta_1+q\, heta_2) + \ ar{x}^{pq}_{ijkm} \sin(p\, heta_1+q\, heta_2)
ight] lpha_1^i lpha_2^j lpha_3^k lpha_4^m \end{aligned}$$

$$y(t) = \sum e^{(i-j)\theta_3} \left[y_{ijkm}^{pq} \cos(p\theta_1 + q\theta_2) + \bar{y}_{ijkm}^{pq} \sin(p\theta_1 + q\theta_2) \right] \alpha_1^i \alpha_2^j \alpha_3^k \alpha_4^m$$

$$z(t) = \sum e^{(i-j)\theta_3} \left[z_{ijkm}^{pq} \cos(p\theta_1 + q\theta_2) + \bar{z}_{ijkm}^{pq} \sin(p\theta_1 + q\theta_2) \right] \alpha_1^i \alpha_2^j \alpha_3^k \alpha_4^m$$

where $\theta_1 = \omega t + \phi_1$, $\theta_2 = \nu t + \phi_2$, $\theta_3 = \lambda t$ and,

$$\begin{split} \omega &= \sum \omega_{ijkm} \alpha_1^i \alpha_2^j \alpha_3^k \alpha_4^m, \quad \nu = \sum \nu_{ijkm} \alpha_1^i \alpha_2^j \alpha_3^k \alpha_4^m, \\ \lambda &= \sum \lambda_{ijkm} \alpha_1^i \alpha_2^j \alpha_3^k \alpha_4^m, \quad \text{and} \quad \text{and}$$

Facts to save computer storage and CPU time. Considering a series truncated at order (N_1, N_2) .

- We consider always terms with i, j, k, m > 0 and p > 0.
- ► Always $i + j \le N_1$, $k + m \le N_2$ (and $i + j + k + m \le N_2$ for a type I series).
- Always $p \le k$ and $p \equiv k \pmod{2}$.
- Always |q| ≤ m and q ≡ m (mod 2) and in case that p = 0, only terms with q ≥ 0 must be kept.
- Coefficients x^{pq}_{ijkm}, x^{pq}_{ijkm}, y^{pq}_{ijkm} and y^{pq}_{ijkm} are zero when m is odd.
- Coefficients z_{ijkm}^{pq} and \bar{z}_{ijkm}^{pq} are zero when *m* is even.

For any i, j, k, m, p, q we have,

 $\begin{aligned} x_{ijkm}^{pq} &= x_{jikm}^{pq} & \bar{x}_{ijkm}^{pq} &= -\bar{x}_{jikm}^{pq} \\ y_{ijkm}^{pq} &= -y_{jikm}^{pq} & \bar{y}_{ijkm}^{pq} &= \bar{y}_{jikm}^{pq} \\ z_{ijkm}^{pq} &= z_{jikm}^{pq} & \bar{z}_{ijkm}^{pq} &= -\bar{z}_{jikm}^{pq} \end{aligned}$

and in particular, $\bar{x}_{iikm}^{pq} = y_{iikm}^{pq} = \bar{z}_{iikm}^{pq} = 0$

Terms of the frequency series can be different from zero only when i = j besides k and m are even.

Linsdtedt Poincaré Procedures. Halo

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}(t) &= \alpha_1 \mathbf{e}^{\lambda_0 t} + \alpha_2 \mathbf{e}^{-\lambda_0 t} + \alpha_3 \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi) \\ \mathbf{y}(t) &= \bar{k}_2 \alpha_1 \mathbf{e}^{\lambda_0 t} - \bar{k}_2 \alpha_2 \mathbf{e}^{-\lambda_0 t} + \bar{k}_1 \alpha_3 \sin(\omega_0 t + \phi) \\ \mathbf{z}(t) &= \alpha_4 \cos(\omega_0 t + \phi) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{x} - 2\dot{y} - (1 + 2c_2) x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \sum_{n \ge 3} c_n \rho^n P_n\left(\frac{x}{\rho}\right), \\ \ddot{y} + 2\dot{x} + (c_2 - 1) y = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \sum_{n \ge 3} c_n \rho^n P_n\left(\frac{x}{\rho}\right), \\ \ddot{z} + c_2 z = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \sum_{n \ge 3} c_n \rho^n P_n\left(\frac{x}{\rho}\right) + \Delta z, \end{cases}$$

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Linsdtedt Poincaré Procedures. Halo

$$egin{aligned} x(t) &= \sum e^{(i-j) heta_3} \left[x^p_{ijkm} \cos(p heta_1) + \ ar{x}^p_{ijkm} \sin(p heta_1)
ight] lpha_1^i lpha_2^j lpha_3^k lpha_4^m \end{aligned}$$

$$y(t) = \sum e^{(i-j)\theta_3} \left[y^{p}_{ijkm} \cos(p\theta_1) + \bar{y}^{p}_{ijkm} \sin(p\theta_1) \right] \alpha_1^{i} \alpha_2^{j} \alpha_3^{k} \alpha_4^{m}$$

$$z(t) = \sum e^{(i-j)\theta_3} \left[z_{ijkm}^{p} \cos(p\theta_1) + \overline{z}_{ijkm}^{p} \sin(p\theta_1) \right] \alpha_1^{i} \alpha_2^{j} \alpha_3^{k} \alpha_4^{m}$$

where $\theta_1 = \omega t + \phi_1$, $\theta_2 = \lambda t$ and,

$$\omega = \sum \omega_{ijkm} \alpha_1^i \alpha_2^j \alpha_3^k \alpha_4^m,$$

$$\lambda = \sum \lambda_{ijkm} \alpha_1^i \alpha_2^j \alpha_3^k \alpha_4^m, \quad \Delta = \sum d_{ijkm} \alpha_1^i \alpha_2^j \alpha_3^k \alpha_4^m = \mathbf{0}.$$

Computational Time

order	15	17	19	21	23	25
Lissajous (secs)	1.71	4.91	12.9	32.2	75.3	167.7
halo (secs)	0.79	2.05	4.95	11.2	23.9	48.9

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CPU time in seconds for Type I expansions under a Pentium IV 3.40GHz with 2GB RAM. Implemented in Fortran and using GNU compiler (g77 -O).

Tests on the Expansions



The 10^{-6} test. Columns order 9,15. Rows min and max agreement for all phases.

Tests on the Expansions



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Tests on the Expansions



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Transfer Applications of Invariant Manifolds

- Impulsive direct transfers from Earth to LPO
 - Transfers to L₁ or L₂ in the Sun-Earth system
 - Transfers to L₁ or L₂ in the Earth-Moon system
- Low Thrust transfers to LPO
- Transfers inside L₁ the (or L₂) regime
 - Changing the size (amplitudes) of the orbit (impulsive, heteroclinic, low thrust)
 - Changing phases of stacks of satellites (impusive, homoclinic, heteroclinic, low thrust)
 - Eclipse Avoidance
- Transfers from L₁ to L₂ regime (or viceversa)
- Transfers from Earth-Moon to Sun-Earth LPO
- Other Low Energy Transfers (to the Moon, between Jovian Moons,...)
- Station Keeping

Transfer to Libration Point Orbits

Using orbits of the Stable Manifold and tending asimptotically to a Halo orbit.



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Manifolds provide cheap transfers to LPO.

Transfer to Libration Point Orbits



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Low thrust transfer to L₁ Halo Sun-Earth



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Starting from LEO, we use a low-thurst engine.

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And the trajectory spirals about the Earth.



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 We switch off thrust when we meet the stable manifold.



The manifold provides the transfer to the Halo.



The manifold provides the transfer to the Halo.



The manifold provides the transfer to the Halo.



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The manifold provides the transfer to the Halo.



We take initial conditions in the stable manifold

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We integrate backwards and propagate the manifold



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We integrate backwards and propagate the manifold

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After a given t_{coast} we integrate with thrust.

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Computations using the DS Approach



Reaching a altitude 1000km above the Earth we stop the integration. And we compute the orbital elements of the departure orbit.

Computations using the DS Approach

Explorations:

- ▶ Let us consider the Sun–Earth+Moon (L₁ and L₂).
- We are interested in departure orbits with:
 - Low eccentricity.
 - Low inclination.
- Fixed Parameters:
 - Reference altitude: 1000km.
 - Intitial conditions on local stable manifold: $\alpha_2 = 10^{-3}$.

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- Parameters to be changed and analized:
 - Phase in the Halo orbit $\rightarrow \phi$
 - Coasting time in the stable manifold \rightarrow *t_{coast}*
 - Thrust magnitude $\rightarrow F_T$
 - Halo orbit amplitude $\rightarrow \alpha_4$

Some Results and Regions with Low Eccentricity

Studies changing α_4 and F_T



Some Results and Regions with Low Ecc.

Some examples of interesting transfers



Some Results and Regions with Low Ecc.

Some examples of interesting transfers





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Some Results and Regions with Low Ecc.

Results for SEL2 are similar





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Influence of the parameters

Influence of the Halo Amplitude and of the Thrust Magnitude

Inclination



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Influence of the parameters

Influence of the Halo Amplitude and of the Thrust Magnitude

Total transfer time



Influence of the parameters

Influence of the Halo Amplitude and of the Thrust Magnitude

Time of thrust arc



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Studies in a Realistic Model

Main Perturbations taken into account:

- Gravitational Harmonics (coeffs. from EGM96 model)
- Atmospheric Drag (density model MSISE90)
- Solar Radiation Pressure (ct. Solar Rad coeff. 1AU)
- Other grav. perturbations (Moon, Planets ... JPL eph)



Low thrust transfer to Liss L₁ Sun-Earth



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Transfers to Earth-Moon Lissajous LPO





Low thrust transfer to Halo L₂ Earth-Moon



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(A particular transfer between Lissajous orbits)



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Effective Phases

Considering the angular variables of the torus,

$$\Phi = \omega t + \phi, \quad \Psi = \nu t + \psi, \quad (\text{mod } 2\pi).$$

The exclusion zone appears as,

$$y^2 + z^2 < R^2$$

Using linear equations:

$$ar{k}^2 A_x^2 \sin^2 \Phi + A_z^2 \cos^2 \Psi = R^2$$



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	ω	ν	ν/ω	usual <i>R</i> (km)	angle from Earth
L ₁	2.086	2.015	0.966	90000	\simeq 3.5 deg radius
L ₂	2.057	1.985	0.965	14000	\simeq 0.54 deg radius



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Essentially, manoeuvres are seen as jumps of the straight trajectory in the EPP. They look as horizontal or vertical displacements, depending on whether in-plane or out-of-plane manoeuvres are applied. These type of manoeuvres have symmetrical properties too and this makes their planning very easy.



First row, example of one-sided cycle. Trajectory around L_1 with A = 250000 km, R = 90000 km (*xy*-maneuvers). Second row, example of two-sided cycle. Trajectory about L_2 with with A = 55000 km, R=14000 km. (*z*-maneuvers).



Mission Trajectory







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Sun-Earth problem. (left) Hyperbolic manifolds associated with the Lyapunov orbits around L₁ and L₂, C=3.00085. (right) Poincaré section cuts of L₁ and L₂ manifolds (both at the third cut) C=3.00089.



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Some examples of homoclinic and heteroclinic connections of the planar RTBP. (Left, Sun-Earth. Right, Earth-Mooon).



Families of heteroclinic connections. Left Sun-Earth and right Earth-Moon cases.

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 L_1 - L_2 heteroclinic connections: (left) between a Lissajous orbit around L_2 and a quasi-halo orbit around L_1 . (right) between two Lissajous orbits.



Let us consider the computation of heteroclinic orbits from the L₂ region to the torus of Lindstedt amplitudes $\alpha_3 = 0.042$, $\alpha_4 = 0.13$ (200 × 10³ km both in *Y* and *Z* amplitudes) about L₁ in the Hill's problem.



 $Y\dot{Y}$ and $YZ\dot{Y}$ Poincaré sections at X = 0 of the corresponding manifolds. (No turn (central) and one turn (right) about the primary).



Third encounters, YZ and ZZ projections.



Third encounters, $Y\dot{Y}$ projection.



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YZ, *YZ* \dot{Y} and *YZ* \dot{Z} projections of the heteroclinic points at the Poincaré section *X* = 0.

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Heteroclinic families obtained

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Other examples of Heteroclinic orbits





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 (Y, \dot{Y}) Poincaré section for out-of-plane amplitudes 0.00, 0.050 and 0.1 in the energy level CJ=4.26460693



 (Y, \dot{Y}) Poincaré section for out-of-plane amplitudes 0.13, 0.16 and 0.1799 in energy level CJ=4.26460693



(Y,Z,Y) projection at in the Poincaré section of the S^2 sphere of heteroclinic orbits for CJ=4.26460693



Evolution of the LP in-plane and out-of-plane phases in the S^2 sphere of connections giving transit and non transit orbits.

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The Earth-Moon Gateway Station



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New Issues...

- The Sun-Earth and the Earth-Moon orbits are not coplanar
- The problem is not autonomous
- Scaling is different in Sun-Earth and in Earth-Moon

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- The Earth-Moon part is strongly perturbed
- There are resonances between frequencies
- Need to compute real solutions for complete ephemeris

Sun-Earth and Earth-Moon reference frames



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Poincaré Section $X = -1 + \mu$, Sun-Earth



Poincaré Section $X = -1 + \mu$, Sun-Earth



Sections and Earth-Moon angular variables



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Sections and Earth-Moon angular variables









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Sections and Earth-Moon angular variables



Image: A matrix

Ex. of connection with 4 possible maneuvres



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Ex. of connection with 2 possible maneuvres



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Refinement to JPL coordinates

- 1. The problem is no longer autonomous. The epoch at which the problems are coupled has to be chosen.
- 2. Apply multiple shooting to the SE and EM legs separately.
- The position coordinates in the coupling point change
 → fix the initial point in the SE leg to be equal to the
 final point of the EM side.
- Trajectories in JPL coordinates with a Δv in the coupling point are obtained. (Δv is of the same order as in the uncoupled RTBPs).

From RTBP to JPL with a Δv

Red: RTBP, Green: JPL



$$A_x^{SE} = 10^5, \; A_z^{SE} = 3.2\; 10^5, \; A_x^{EM} = 6500, \; A_z^{EM} = 2\; 10^4 (km), \; \alpha = 50^\circ, \; \beta = 40^\circ$$

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From RTBP to JPL with a Δv

Red: RTBP, Green: JPL



$$A_x^{SE} = 2.44 \ 10^5, \ A_z^{SE} = 7.5 \ 10^4, \ A_x^{EM} = 5250, \ A_z^{EM} = 1.6 \ 10^4 (\textit{km}), \ \alpha = 15^\circ, \ \beta = 105^\circ$$

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Refinement to zero cost transfer trajectories

- Goal: reduce the Δv in the coupling point.
- New multiple shooting equations:



with $\Delta^{j} = (0, 0, 0, \Delta v_{j})^{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{6}$ and $\|\Delta v_{j}\| < \|\Delta v_{j-1}\| \quad \forall j \geq 1$

 Zero cost connecting trajectories which keep the characteristics of the original trajectory in the RTBPs.



 $A_{\chi}^{SE}=2.13\;10^{5},\;A_{Z}^{SE}=7.5\;10^{4},\;A_{\chi}^{EM}=2950,\;A_{Z}^{EM}=9000\;(\textit{km}),\;\alpha=60^{\circ},\;\beta=45^{\circ}$

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2 Zero cost connecting trajectories which are significantly different from the original seed in RTBP coordinates.



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3 No zero cost transfer obtained. The manoeuvre is always reduced to less than 100 m/s.

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3 No zero cost transfer obtained. The manoeuvre is always reduced to less than 100 m/s.

Remark:

 Best behaviour in the refinement: SE Lissajous with big A_x amplitudes (2 10⁵ km) and small A_z amplitudes (less than 10⁵ km).

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