Periodic orbits in the planar restricted photo-gravitational problem when the smaller primary is an oblate spheroid

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Abstract

**Background/Objectives:** This study deals with the stationary solutions of the planar circular restricted three-body problem when the more massive primary is a source of radiation and the smaller primary is an oblate spheroid with its equatorial plane coincident with the plane of motion. The objective is to study the location of the Lagrangian points and to find the values of critical mass. Also, to study the periodic orbits around the Lagrangian points. **Methods:** A new mean motion expression by including the secular perturbation due to oblateness utilized by1,2 is used in the present studies. The characteristic roots are obtained by linearizing the equation of the motion around the Lagrangian points. **Findings:** The critical mass parameter $\mu_{\text{crit}}(3,4)$, which decreases radiation force, whereas it increases with oblateness when we consider the value of new mean motion. Through special choice of initial conditions, retrograde elliptical periodic orbits exist for the case $\mu = \mu_{\text{crit}}$, whose eccentricity increases with oblateness and decreases with radiation force for non-zero oblateness, although there is slight variation in $L_2$ location.

**Keywords:** Restricted three body problem; Lagrangian points; Eccentricity; Oblateness; Critical mass; Radiation force; Mean motion.

1 Introduction

The three-body problem, in general, is about the study of three massive bodies ($m_1$, $m_2$, $m_3$) in space which affect one another by their gravitational forces. In the restricted three-body problem, one of these three bodies is considered to be very small and that it has a very less mass which does not affect the motion of the other two bodies called primaries with masses $m_1$ and $m_2$, but it is affected by their mutual forces. The circular restricted three-body problem (CR3BP) studies the motion of a body with a negligible mass under the influence of two bigger bodies, called the primaries, which revolve around their center of mass in 'n' circular orbit. To make the problem more applicable to real cases, perturbations are also included. Here, time (t) is the independent variable on which the other variables depend. When the restricted three-body problem is solved, it has been observed that there are 5 points on the plane of the primaries where the gravitational forces of the primaries nullify each other and there is no gravitational
pull for any object which is placed in these points. These points are called ‘Lagrangian Points’, ‘Libration Points’ or ‘Equilibrium Points’ (L1 to L5). Among these 5 points, three are collinear (L1, L2, L3) which lie in the line connecting the two primaries. The other two (L4 and L5) form equilateral triangles with the two primaries above and below the line connecting the primaries.

Since the Sun — the source of radiation — is almost spherical, and some of the planets like Saturn and Jupiter whose equatorial and polar radii are approximately 60400, 54600 and 71400, 67000 km, respectively, and sufficiently oblate, hence a modification is considered that the smaller primary (planet) is an oblate spheroid. The more massive primary, the Sun, is a source of radiation. It is considered that the equatorial plane of the smaller primary is coincident with the plane of motion and only the planar case has been studied.

In this paper, case considered when the gravitation prevails. As the solar radiation pressure force $F_p$ changes with the distance by the same law as the gravitational attraction force $F_g$ and acts opposite to it. Thus, the Sun's resultant force acting on the particle is

$$F = F_g - F_p = F_g \left(1 - \frac{F_p}{F_g}\right) = qF_g,$$

where $q = 1 - \frac{F_p}{F_g}$ is the mass reduction factor constant for a given particle. It can be expressed in terms of particle radius $(a)$, density $(\delta)$, and the solar radiation pressure efficiency factor $k$ (in CGS units) as

$$q = 1 - \left(3.6 \times 10^{-5}k\right)$$

Many of the celestial bodies do not have an exact sphere shape. Instead, they have an oblate spheroid shape. An oblate spheroid is obtained by rotating an ellipse about its minor axis i.e., the equatorial radius becomes longer than the polar radius. This oblateness of the planets render a change to the mean motion of orbit of the primaries, because of the variation of gravitation. The effect of oblateness is quantified by the term $J_2$, which varies for each planet. Oblateness $(A_z) = \frac{(A_E^2 - A_P^2)}{SR^2}$; $AE$, $AP$ being the equatorial and polar radii of the smaller primary, while $R$ is the distance between the primaries.

In (5) the authors study the periodic orbits numerically for fixed values of the mass parameter and oblateness coefficient of the smaller primary and by changing the radiation pressure and the energy constant. However, the value of oblateness coefficient was taken from (3). In (6) in the frame work of the perturbed photo-gravitational restricted three-body problem, the first order exterior resonant orbits and the first, third and fifth order interior resonant periodic orders were analysed. The location, eccentricity and periodic of the first order exterior and interior resonant orbits are investigated in the unperturbed and perturbed cases for a specific value of Jacobi constant. In (7) a version of the relativistic restricted three-body problem which includes the effects of oblateness of the secondary and radiation of the primary was considered to determine the positions and analyse the stability of the triangular points. In (6) interior resonance periodic orbits around the Sun in the Sun-Jupiter photogravitational restricted three-body problem by including the oblateness of Jupiter was studied using the method of Poincaré surface of section. In (9) a passive micron size particle in the field of radiating binary stellar system in the framework of circular restricted three body problem influenced from radial radiation pressure and Poynting-Robertson drag (PR drag) on the equilibrium points and their stability in the binary stellar systems RW-Monocerotis and Krüger-60 was studied. In (10) the motion in the vicinity of triangular equilibrium points of the circular restricted three-body problem of a passively gravitating dust particle in the gravitational field for the binaries system (Kruger 60 and Achird) is investigated. The two bodies of the binary are both oblate radiating stars possessing P-R drag.

We have calculated the value of the critical mass parameter, $\mu_{cr}$. It is found to decrease with radiation force of the more massive primary and increase with oblateness of the smaller primary.

## 2 Equation of Motion

Following the terminology and notation of (11) and the unit of mass is considered equivalent to the sum of the primary masses, the unit of length is equivalent to their separation and the unit of time is such that the Gaussian constant of gravitation is unity. Similar to as in (5,6), the equation of motion in the dimensionless barycentric-synodic coordinate system $(x, y)$ are

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 2ny - \frac{d\Omega}{dy},$$

(1)

$$y + 2nx = \frac{d\Omega}{dy},$$

where the force function equation is given by,

$$\Omega = \frac{n^2}{2} \left[ \left( 1 - \mu \right) r_1^2 + \mu r_2^2 \right] + \left( \frac{q(1-\mu)}{r_1} + \frac{\mu}{r_2} + \frac{\mu A_z}{2r_2^3} \right),$$

(2)

where $r_1$ and $r_2$ are the magnitudes of the position of the spacecraft or satellite from the massive and smaller primary, respectively; $q$ is the mass reduction factor of the massive primary and $A_z$ is the oblateness coefficient of the smaller primary. The magnitudes of the position of the satellite or spacecraft are given as
\[ r_1^2 = (x - \mu)^2 + y^2, \quad r_2^2 = (x + 1 - \mu)^2 + y^2 \] (3)
The Jacobian integral of Equations (1) and (2) is
\[ x^2 + y^2 = 2\Omega - c; \quad (4) \]
\( C \) is the Jacobian constant.
The curves of zero-velocity are given by
\[ 2\Omega (x, y) = c; \]
The curves are symmetric with respect to the x-axis, since \( \Omega (x, y) = \Omega (x, \pm y) \).
The singularities of the manifold of the states of motion are located at those points of the curves of zero-velocity, where
\[ \frac{d\Omega}{dt} = 0 = \frac{d\varpi}{dy}, \]
i.e.,
\[ n^2 x - \frac{g(1 - \mu)(x - \mu)}{r_1^2} - \frac{\mu(x + 1 - \mu)}{r_2^2} - \frac{3\mu A_2 (x + 1 - \mu)}{2r_2^2} = 0, \quad (5) \]
\[ y \left( n^2 - \frac{g(1 - \mu)}{r_1^2} - \frac{\mu}{r_2^2} - \frac{3A_2 \mu}{2r_2^2} \right) = 0 \] (6)

2.1 Mean Motion

In this study, we have derived mean motion expression including the secular perturbation effects. From \(^{12,13}\) for planar motion (inclination \( i = 0 \)).

\[ \frac{dM}{dr} = n \left( 1 + \frac{3J_2}{2a(1-e^2)^{3/2}} \right), \quad \frac{dw}{d\sigma} = n \left( \frac{3J_2}{a^2(1-e^2)^{3/2}} \right), \quad \frac{d\Omega}{d\tau} = n \left( \frac{-3J_2}{2a^2(1-e^2)^2} \right) \]

Using the relationship, \( ndt = (1 - e \cos E) \, dE \), in the above equation and averaging over one revolution,

\[ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} dM_e = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left( 1 + \frac{3J_2}{2a(1-e^2)^{3/2}} \right) (1 - e \cos E) \, dE, \]
\[ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\omega_e = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left( \frac{3J_2}{a^2(1-e^2)^{3/2}} \right) (1 - e \cos E) \, dE, \]
\[ \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\Omega_e = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left( \frac{-3J_2}{2a^2(1-e^2)^2} \right) (1 - e \cos E) \, dE \]

We get
\[ n = 1 + \frac{3J_2}{2a(1-e^2)^{3/2}}, \]
\[ \Delta \omega = \frac{3J_2}{a^2(1-e^2)^{3/2}}, \]
\[ \Delta \Omega = -\frac{3J_2}{2a^2(1-e^2)^2} \]
The mean motion including the precession effect due to oblateness is calculated as:
\[ \bar{n} = n + \Delta \omega + \Delta \Omega = 1 + \frac{3J_2 a^2}{2a^2[(1-e^2)Re]} \left( 1 + \sqrt{1-e^2} \right) \]

Since our study is based on CR3BP, substituting the value of eccentricity (e) = 0 in the above equation, or, \( n = 1 + \frac{3J_2 K^2}{a^2 Re^2} \) where, \( \frac{K^2}{a^2 Re^2} = K \)
In dimensionless unit
\[ n = 1 + 3A_2, \]
or \( n^2 = 1 + 6A_2 \) (taking only first-order terms in \( A_2 \)). (7)

3 Equilibrium points location

When we take \( y = 0 \), equation (5) determines the location of the collinear points \( L_1(x_1, 0), L_2(x_2, 0), L_3(x_3, 0) \) where
\[ x_1 = \mu - 1 - \xi, \quad x_2 = \mu - 1 + \xi, \quad x_3 = \mu + \xi \]
\( \xi, \xi_2, \xi_3 \) satisfying the seventh-degree polynomials:
\[ ((12A + 2)\xi^7 + (-12A - 2)\mu + 36A + 6)\xi_5 + ((-24A - 4)\mu + 36A + 6)\xi_5^5 + ((-2q - 12A - 4)\mu - 2q + 12A + 2)\xi^4 - 4\mu \xi^3 \]
\[ + (-3A - 2)\mu \xi^2 - 6\mu \xi - 3A \mu / (2\xi^6 + 4\xi^5 + 2\xi^4) = 0 \]
\[ ((12A + 2)\alpha^7 + (-2A - 4)\alpha^5 + (12A - 2)\alpha^4 + 4\alpha^4 + (-3A - 2)\alpha^2 + 6\alpha - 3A)\mu + (12A + 2)\mu \]
\[ + (12A + 2)\alpha^7 + (-36A - 6)\alpha^5 + (36A + 6)\alpha^3 + (2q - 12A - 2)\alpha^4) / (2\alpha^6 - 4\alpha^5 + 2\alpha^4) = 0 \]
4 Stability of the libration points

Replacing \( x = a + \xi, y = b + \eta \) in the equations of motion (1) for studying the motion near any of the equilibrium points \( L(a, b) \), we get the first variational equations as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\xi'' - 2n\eta' &= \Omega_{xx}(a, b)\xi + \Omega_{xy}(a, b)\eta, \\
\eta'' + 2n\xi' &= \Omega_{yx}(a, b)\xi + \Omega_{yy}(a, b)\eta
\end{align*}
\]

The Characteristic equation of Equations (9) is

\[
\lambda^4 + (4n^2 - \Omega_{xx} - \Omega_{yy})\lambda^2 + \Omega_{xx}\Omega_{yy} - \Omega_{xy}^2 = 0
\]

4.1 Stability of the collinear points

At the collinear points, we get

\[
\begin{align*}
\Omega_{xx} &= n^2 + \frac{2\mu(1-\mu)}{r_1^2} + \frac{2\mu}{r_2^2} + \frac{6\mu a}{r_2^2} > 0, \\
\Omega_{xy} &= 0, \\
\Omega_{yx} &= n^2 - \frac{2\mu(1-\mu)}{r_1^2} - \frac{\mu}{r_2^2} - \frac{3\mu a}{r_2^2}.
\end{align*}
\]

With some calculation, it can be proved that \( \Omega_{yy} < 0 \) at \( L_{1,2,3} \). Consequently,

\[
\Omega_{xx}\Omega_{yy} - \Omega_{xy}^2 < 0
\]

We can note that the roots \( \lambda_i(i = 1, 2, 3, 4) \) of the Characteristic Equation (10) are

\[
\begin{align*}
\lambda_{1,2} &= \pm \left( -\beta_1 + \left( \beta_1^2 + \beta_2^2 \right)^{1/2} \right)^{1/2} = \pm \lambda, \\
\lambda_{3,4} &= \pm \left( -\beta_1 - \left( \beta_1^2 + \beta_2^2 \right)^{1/2} \right)^{1/2} = \pm is,
\end{align*}
\]

where

\[
\begin{align*}
\beta_1 &= 2n^2 - (\Omega_{xx} + \Omega_{yy})/2, \\
\beta_2^2 &= -\Omega_{xx}\Omega_{yy} > 0.
\end{align*}
\]

The General solution of Equations (9) can be written as

\[
\xi = \sum_{i=1}^{4} a_i e^{\alpha_i t}, \quad \eta = \sum_{i=1}^{4} \gamma_i e^{\alpha_i t},
\]

And

\[
(\lambda^2 - \Omega_{xx}) a_i = (2n\lambda_i + \Omega_{yy})\gamma_i.
\]

It is noted that \( \lambda_{1,2} \) are real and \( \lambda_{3,4} \) are pure imaginary. Hence, in general case the collinear equilibria are unstable. However, according to (4), we can choose the initial conditions \( (\xi_0, \eta_0) \) such that \( \alpha_{1,2} = 0 \) and then Equations (11) represent an ellipse whose eccentricity is given by

\[
\sqrt{1 - \beta_1^{-2}}
\]

respectively, where

\[
\beta_1 = \left( s^2 + \Omega_{xx} \right)/2ns
\]

Considering a theoretical problem. Where, \( \mu = 0.1, 0.2, 0.3; e = 0.01 \) and \( A_2 \) (oblateness) = 0.001.

Properties and nature of \( L_1 \).
We can see that, eccentricity increases with oblateness and slightly increases with radiation pressure. And orbit is elliptical.

Properties and nature of \( L_2 \).
We can see that, eccentricity increases with oblateness and eccentricity decreases with radiation force. And orbit is elliptical.
Table 1. Location of $L_1$ and eccentricity of conditional periodic orbits around $L_1$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$\mu$</th>
<th>$\varepsilon$</th>
<th>$A_2$</th>
<th>$\xi$</th>
<th>$x_1$</th>
<th>Eccentricity (e)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0</td>
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Table 2. Location of $L_2$ and eccentricity of conditional periodic orbits around $L_2$.

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<th>$\mu$</th>
<th>$\varepsilon$</th>
<th>$A_2$</th>
<th>$\xi$</th>
<th>$x_2$</th>
<th>Eccentricity (e)</th>
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<tbody>
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Table 3. Location of $L_3$ and eccentricity of conditional periodic orbits around $L_3$.

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<tr>
<th>$\mu$</th>
<th>$\varepsilon$</th>
<th>$A_2$</th>
<th>$\xi$</th>
<th>$x_3$</th>
<th>Eccentricity (e)</th>
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Properties and nature of $L_3$.
We see that, eccentricity increases with oblateness, and eccentricity increases slightly with radiation force. And orbit is elliptical.

Considering some real examples from our solar system

Properties and Nature of $L_1$.

Properties and nature of $L_2$.

Properties and nature of $L_3$.
Periodic orbits around the Sun in Sun-Jupiter system for $L_1$ is generated by MATLAB for the mass ratio of $\mu = 0.00095333$ and solar radiation pressure $q = 1$ and 0.99, as shown in Figure 1 & Figure 2.

Periodic orbits around the Sun in Sun-Jupiter system for $L_2$ is generated by MATLAB for the mass ratio of $\mu = 0.00095333$ and solar radiation pressure $q = 1$ and 0.99, as shown in Figure 3 & Figure 4.

Periodic orbits around the Sun in Sun-Jupiter system for $L_3$ is generated by MATLAB for the mass ratio of $\mu = 0.00095333$ and solar radiation pressure $q = 1$ and 0.99, as shown in Figure 5 & Figure 6.
### Table 4. Location of L₁ and eccentricity of conditional periodic orbits around L₁ for Sun-planet systems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>( \mu )</th>
<th>( A_2 )</th>
<th>( \varepsilon )</th>
<th>( x_1 )</th>
<th>Eccentricity(e)</th>
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<td>3.2127*10⁻⁷</td>
<td>5211.14188981*10⁻¹⁶</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun-Jupiter</td>
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<td>211.71783905*10⁻¹²</td>
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<td>0.99645211</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sun-Uranus</td>
<td>4.36431*10⁻⁵</td>
<td>6713.99789137*10⁻¹⁶</td>
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### Table 5. Location of L₂ and eccentricity of conditional periodic orbits around L₂ for Sun-planet systems.

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<th>System</th>
<th>( \mu )</th>
<th>( A_2 )</th>
<th>( \varepsilon )</th>
<th>( x_2 )</th>
<th>Eccentricity(e)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sun-Mars</td>
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<td>Sun-Saturn</td>
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### Table 6. Location of L₃ and eccentricity of conditional periodic orbits around L₃ for Sun-planet systems.

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<tr>
<th>System</th>
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<th>( x_3 )</th>
<th>Eccentricity(e)</th>
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<td>0.86602540</td>
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https://www.indjst.org/
Fig 1. Periodic orbit around the Sun in Sun-Jupiter system for (L₁) where, semi-major axis = 0.0011881893731 and semi-major axis = 1x10⁻⁴

Fig 2. Periodic orbit around the Sun in Sun-Jupiter system for (L₁) where, semi-major axis = 0.0011881893731 and semi-major axis = 1x10⁻⁴

4.2 Stability of the triangular points

At the triangular points L₄ and L₅, we have

Ωₓₓ = f,

Ωₓᵧ = ±y[f(x - μ) + g(x + 1 - μ)],

Ωᵧᵧ = y²(f + g) > 0,

where

f = \frac{3\mu(1 - \mu)}{r₁²},

\frac{3(1 - \mu)n²}{r₁²} > 0,

and

g = 3\mu(1 + \frac{5}{2}A₂) > 0

The characteristics Equation (10) becomes

Λ² + (4n² - fr₁² - gr₂²)Λ + y²fg = 0

(12)

with Λ = Λ²,

Λ₁,₂ = \frac{1}{2}\left(3\mu A₂ - n² \pm \left(n² - 3\mu A₂ \right)² - 36\mu (1 - \mu) n² (1 + \frac{5}{2}A₂) \times (1 - \frac{1}{4})\right)\frac{1}{2}

We observe that the roots
\[ l_1 = L_1, \quad l_2 = L_1, \quad l_3 = L_2, \quad l_4 = L_2 \] (13)

are functions of \( \mu, q \) and \( A_2 \) and their nature depends upon the nature of the discriminant (D).

\[ D = (n^2 - 3\mu A_2)^2 - 36\mu(1 - \mu)n^5(1 + \frac{2}{3}A_2)\left(1 - \frac{3}{4}\right), \]

And three cases can be discussed as,

When D is positive, we note that \( L_1, L_2 \) are negative and roots (13), written as

\[ \lambda_{1,2} = \pm i(-A_1)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \pm i\lambda_4, \quad \lambda_{3,4} = \pm i(-A_2)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \pm i\lambda_5, \]

Shows the triangular points to be linearly stable.

The solution of Equation (9) in this case can be easily seen to consist of short- and long-period terms with angular frequencies \( s_3 \) and \( s_4 \) respectively. As in (5,8,9), the short-or-long-period terms can be eliminated from the solution with proper selection of initial conditions. In both cases, the motion is along a retrograde ellipse whose eccentricity and the orientation of the major axis are independent of the initial conditions.

When D is negative, the real parts of two of the four roots equation (13) are positive and equal and, hence the equilibria are unstable. However, with suitable selection of initial conditions, periodic motion can be achieved in the linear sense which
Fig 5. Periodic orbit around the Sun in Sun-Jupiter system for \((L_3)\) where, semi-major axis = \(2.00000208265 \times 10^{-4}\) and semi-major axis = \(1\times10^{-4}\)

Fig 6. Periodic orbit around the Sun in Sun-Jupiter system for \((L_3)\) where, semi-major axis = \(2.00000209358 \times 10^{-4}\) and semi-major axis = \(1\times10^{-4}\) approaches the equilibrium point asymptotically.

5 Critical Mass

The discriminant of the quadratic Equation (12) is zero when

\[
\left( \frac{-279A_2 \varepsilon^2}{2} + \varepsilon^2 + 27A_2 \varepsilon + \frac{53A_2}{2} + 27 \right) \mu^2 + \left( \frac{-279A_2 \varepsilon^2}{2} + \varepsilon^2 + 27A_2 \varepsilon + \frac{489A_2}{2} + 27 \right) \mu + 12A_2 + 1 = 0 \quad (14)
\]

When \(A_2 = 0\), Equation (14) exactly coincides with that of \(^{(14)}\).

Solution of the Equation (14) for \(0 \leq \mu \leq \frac{1}{2}\) is

\[
\mu_{\text{crit}} = \frac{-\alpha - \beta}{2}, \quad (15)
\]

Where

\[
\alpha = \frac{279}{53} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta = \frac{279}{489}.
\]

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\[
\alpha = \left(-27 - 6e - e^2\right) + \left(-\frac{489}{6} - 27e + \frac{279e^2}{2}\right)A_2,
\]
\[
\beta = \left(\sqrt{621} + \frac{50\sqrt{621}e}{207} + \frac{1217\sqrt{621}e^2}{42849}\right) + \left(\frac{1205\sqrt{621}}{138} + \frac{13829\sqrt{621}e}{142853} + \frac{546905\sqrt{621}e^2}{85098}\right)A_2
\]
\[
\gamma = (54 + 12e + 2e^2) + (531 + 54e - 279e^2)A_2
\]

And \( m_{\text{crit}} \) expression in (15) becomes
\[
m_{\text{crit}} = \left(1 + 6A_2\right)
\]

6 Result

The value of the Critical mass that we got from the Mean motion \( (n^2) = 1 + 6A_2 \) is
\[
m_{\text{crit}} = 0.0385209 - 0.0089174e + 0.0005816e^2 + A_2\left(0.119406935 + 0.01120287e + 0.6131487216e^2\right)
\]

7 Conclusion

In earlier case of mean motion \( n \) given by \( (n^2) = 1 + 3/2A_2 \) from (3), only secular effect of oblateness on the mean motion was considered (3). However, when the secular effect of the oblateness on the mean motion is considered, argument of perigee and right ascension of the ascending node \( (1, 2) \), the resulting mean motion \( n \) of the primaries is given by \( n^2 = 1 + 6A_2 \) is included in the present studies.

In this study, mean motion is increasing since the effect of oblateness on mean motion, argument of perigee and right ascension of ascending node have been considered. All these three parameters are included to get the mean motion of primaries.
\[n^2 = 1 + 6A_2\]. The value obtained of the critical mass \(\mu_{\text{crit}}\) higher than the unperturbed value of \(\mu_c = 0.0385209\) in (3) with oblateness of the smaller primary. It is a very interesting result, because the zone of mass parameter \(\mu\) providing stable solutions at the triangular points increases with oblateness. It can be observed from [Figure 7] and [Table 7] that the increase in oblateness increases the mean motion \(n\) and increases the value of critical mass parameter \(\mu_{\text{crit}}\).

References


