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A STUDY OF THE PARAMETERS INVOLVED IN DESIGNING AN INTERPLANETARY TRAJECTORY USING LAGRANGIAN POINTS

Abstract

With the increase in complexities of interplanetary missions, the main focus has shifted to reducing the total delta-V for the entire mission and hence increasing the payload capacity of the spacecraft. This paper discusses the parameters involved in developing an interplanetary trajectory using the Lagrangian points of a Sun-Planet system in the framework of the Circular Restricted Three-Body Problem (CRTBP). It shows that for a trajectory to Mars using the Sun-Earth L2 and Sun-Mars L1 libration points, the detlav consumed is 35 percent lesser than those consumed by conventional trajectories. Photogravitational Restricted Three-Body Problem (PGRTBP) is considered to study the halo orbits in the vicinity of the Sun-Mars L1 Lagrangian point. Deviation of properties such as time period, size and velocity variation in the halo orbits with Sun as a source of radiation is discussed. The variation in the behavior of invariant manifolds with change in radiation pressure is also computed.