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Anna M. Barry* (annab@bu.edu), **Glen R. Hall** and **C. Eugene Wayne**. *Relative Equilibria of the $(1+N)$ -Vortex Problem*.

We study relative equilibria of the $(1 + N)$ -vortex problem where N vortices have small, equal circulation and one vortex has large circulation. In the limit, the problem reduces to seeking critical points of a particular potential function defined on a circle. In contrast to the Newtonian $(1 + N)$ -body problem, there are typically multiple relative equilibria for both small and large N . Linear stability is also studied, and situations are found where there are no stable relative equilibria. (Received December 12, 2010)