

Calculations for the second-order zonal harmonic

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Notations:

$$\mathbf{r} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}, |\mathbf{j}| = 1, r = |\mathbf{r}|.$$

For oblateness along the z-axis, the potential is

$$\frac{J_2}{2r^5}(3z^2 - r^2).$$

For oblateness along \mathbf{j} ,

$$U(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{J_2}{2r^5}(3(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 - r^2).$$

Differentiating,

$$\frac{dU}{d\mathbf{r}} = \frac{J_2}{2} \left(-\frac{5}{r^6} \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{d\mathbf{r}} (3(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 - r^2) + \frac{1}{r^5} \left(3 \frac{d}{d\mathbf{r}} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 - 2r \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{d\mathbf{r}} \right) \right).$$

Recall that $\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{d\mathbf{r}} = \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dU}{d\mathbf{r}} &= \frac{J_2}{2} \left(-\frac{5\mathbf{r}}{r^7} (3(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 - r^2) + \frac{1}{r^5} \left(3 \frac{d}{d\mathbf{r}} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 - 2\mathbf{r} \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{J_2}{2} \left(-\frac{15\mathbf{r}}{r^7} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 + \frac{3\mathbf{r}}{r^5} + \frac{3}{r^5} \frac{d}{d\mathbf{r}} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

With $\frac{d}{d\mathbf{r}} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 = 2(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j}) \frac{d(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})}{d\mathbf{r}} = 2(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})\mathbf{j}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dU}{d\mathbf{r}} &= \frac{J_2}{2} \left(-\frac{15\mathbf{r}}{r^7} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2 + \frac{3\mathbf{r}}{r^5} + \frac{6\mathbf{j}}{r^5} (\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j}) \right) \\ &= \frac{3J_2}{2r^5} \left(2\mathbf{j}(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j}) + \mathbf{r} \left(1 - \frac{5(\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{j})^2}{r^2} \right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Note that this is invariant under $\mathbf{j} \mapsto -\mathbf{j}$ (but not under $\mathbf{r} \mapsto -\mathbf{r}$).

Implementation:

```
// If j is a unit vector along the axis of rotation, and r a vector from the
// center of |body| to some point in space, the acceleration computed here is:
//
// 
$$-(J_2 / (\mu \|r\|^5)) (3 j (r \cdot j) + r (3 - 15 (r \cdot j)^2 / \|r\|^2) / 2)$$

//
// Where  $\|r\|$  is the norm of r and  $r \cdot j$  is the inner product. It is the
// additional acceleration exerted by the oblateness of |body| on a point at
// position r.  $J_2$ ,  $\tilde{J}_2$  and  $\tilde{J}_2$  are normally positive and  $\tilde{C}_{20}$  and  $\tilde{C}_{20}$  negative
// because the planets are oblate, not prolate. Note that this follows IERS
// Technical Note 36 and it differs from
// https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geopotential\_model which seems to want  $\tilde{J}_2$  to be
// negative.
template<typename Frame>
FORCE_INLINE Vector<Quotient<Acceleration, GravitationalParameter>, Frame>
Order2ZonalAcceleration(OblateBody<Frame> const& body,
                        Displacement<Frame> const& r,
                        Exponentiation<Length, -2> const& one_over_r_squared,
                        Exponentiation<Length, -3> const& one_over_r_cubed) {
    Vector<double, Frame> const& axis = body.polar_axis();
    Length const r_axis_projection = InnerProduct(axis, r);
    auto const j2_over_r_fifth =
        body.j2_over_mu() * one_over_r_cubed * one_over_r_squared;
    Vector<Quotient<Acceleration,
                GravitationalParameter>, Frame> const axis_effect =
        (-3 * j2_over_r_fifth * r_axis_projection) * axis;
    Vector<Quotient<Acceleration,
                GravitationalParameter>, Frame> const radial_effect =
        (j2_over_r_fifth *
         (-1.5 +
          7.5 * r_axis_projection *
           r_axis_projection * one_over_r_squared)) * r;
    return axis_effect + radial_effect;
}
```