

# Spaceflight Mechanics:

= Orbital Mech. + Spacecraft  
Attitude Dyn

## Orbital Mech:

get from A to B in context  
of space travel

position vs. time  
(velocity, accel.)

Particle model works

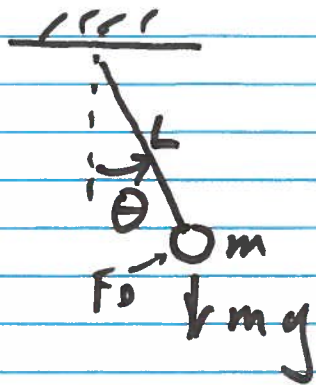
$$\sum \vec{F}^P = m_p \ddot{\vec{r}}^P \quad > 90\%$$

Equally important

Spacecraft (S/c) Attitude Dyn. < 10%

(orientation, stability, control)

⇒ Analytic Solutions vs. Numeric Solutions



$$\underbrace{mL\ddot{\theta}}_a = -F_D + mg \sin \theta$$

$$F_D = -\frac{1}{2} \rho C_D A (L\dot{\theta})^2 \operatorname{sgn}(-\dot{\theta})$$

$$\ddot{\theta} - \frac{1}{2m} \rho C_D L \dot{\theta} |\dot{\theta}| A + \frac{g}{L} \sin \theta = 0$$

$$C_D \sim 0$$

$$\sin \theta \sim \theta$$

$$\sin \theta = \theta - \frac{\theta^3}{3!} + \frac{\theta^5}{5!} - \dots$$

$$\rightarrow \ddot{\theta} + \frac{g}{L} \theta = 0$$

→ Analytic Solution:

$$\theta(t) = A \sin \omega t + B \cos \omega t$$

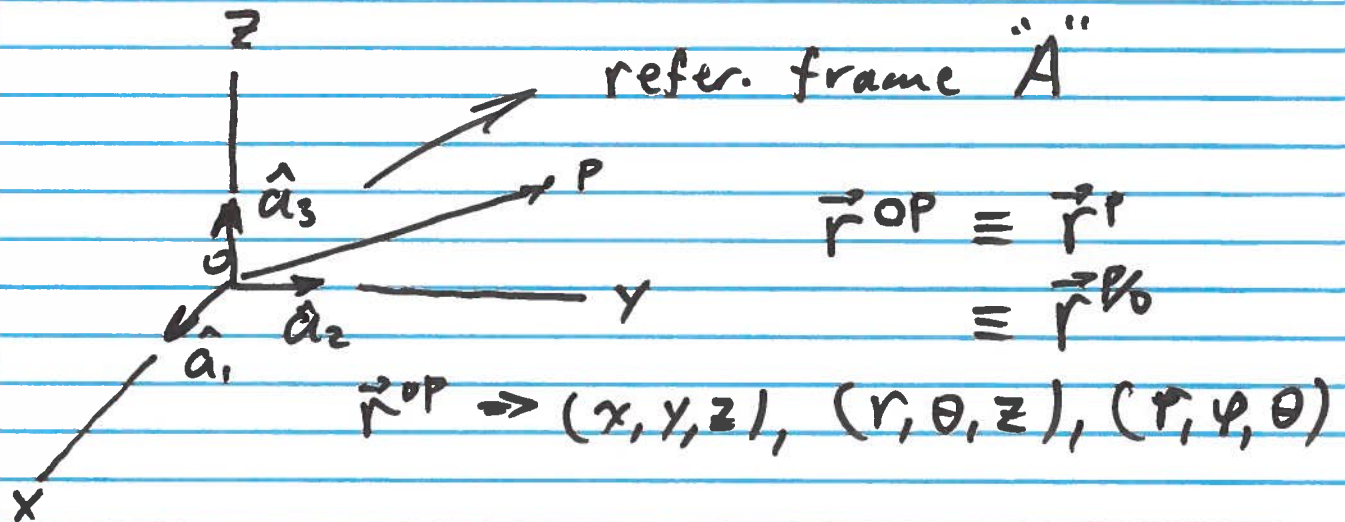
$$\omega = \sqrt{g/L}$$

Numeric. Solution: Accurate, slow,  
expensive, little or no insight



$$\vec{F}^P = m_P \vec{a}^{N \rightarrow P}$$

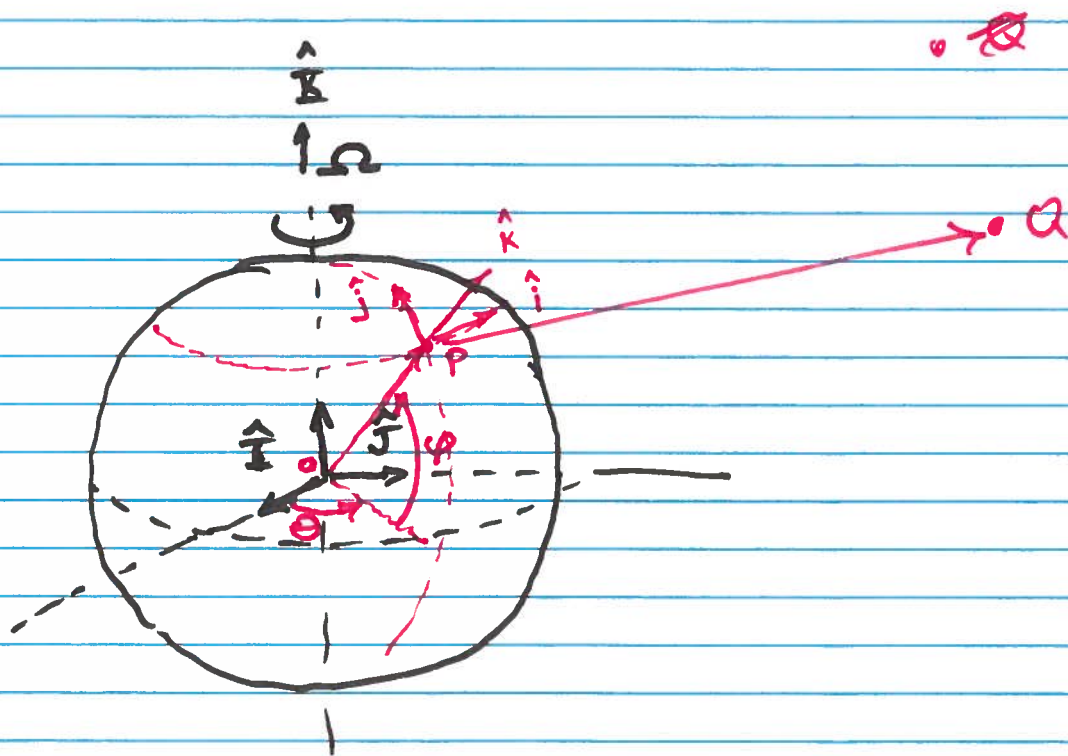
coordinates & reference frame.



$$\vec{r}^Q = \vec{r}^{OQ} = \vec{r}^P + \underbrace{\vec{r}^{PQ}}_{\vec{r}^{Q/P}}$$

$$\vec{v}^{N \rightarrow Q/0} = \vec{v}^{N \rightarrow Q} = \frac{d}{dt} \vec{r}^{Q/0} = \vec{v}^{N \rightarrow P/0} + \vec{v}^{A \rightarrow Q/P} + \vec{\omega}^A \times \vec{r}^{PQ}$$

$$\vec{a}^{N \rightarrow Q} = \vec{a}^{N \rightarrow P} + \vec{a}^{A \rightarrow Q/P} + \vec{\alpha}^A \times \vec{r}^{PQ} + \vec{\omega}^A \times (\vec{\omega}^A \times \vec{r}^{PQ}) + 2\vec{\omega}^A \times \vec{v}^{A \rightarrow Q/P}$$



$\hat{i}, \hat{j}, \hat{k}$  non-rotating geocentric frame

$P = \text{ground station}$

$Q = \text{S/C or object of interest}$

have  $r_{PA}$ ,  $\vec{v}_{Q/P}$ .

Need  $\vec{r}_{OQ}$ ,  $\vec{v}_{Q/O}$ ,  $\vec{a}$

$$\vec{r}_{OQ} = \underbrace{\vec{r}_{OP}}_{R_E \hat{k}} + \underbrace{x\hat{i} + y\hat{j} + z\hat{k}}_{\text{measured!}}$$

$$\vec{v}_{Q/P} = \dot{x}\hat{i} + \dot{y}\hat{j} + \dot{z}\hat{k}$$

$$\vec{\omega}^E = \Omega \hat{k}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 \underbrace{\vec{F}^a}_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{gravity}}} &= m_a^N \vec{a}^a = m \left[ \vec{a}^P + \vec{a}^{Q/P} + \vec{\alpha} \times \vec{r}^{PR} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \vec{\omega}^E \times (\vec{\omega}^E \times \vec{r}^{PR}) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + 2 \vec{\omega}^E \times \vec{v}^{Q/P} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$