

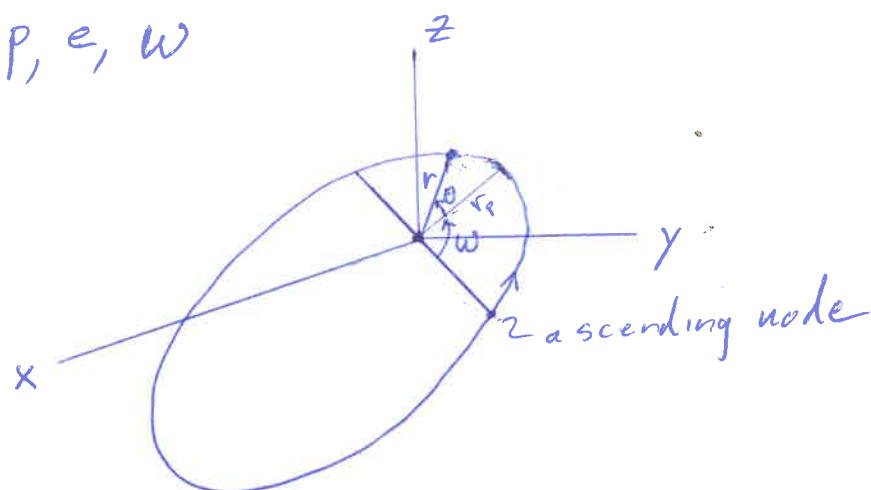
7.5 Orbit Determination

a) Orbit from 3 Coplanar Positions

Given (r_1, Θ_1) , (r_2, Θ_2) and (r_3, Θ_3) where

$\Theta = w + \theta$ (θ = true anomaly, w = angular position of pericenter passage)

Find p, e, w



$$r_i = \frac{p}{1 + e \cos \theta_i} = \frac{p}{1 + e \cos (\Theta_i - w)} \quad i = 1, 2, 3 \quad (7.39)$$

Three non-linear equations for 3 unknowns (p, e, w)

To linearize, define

$$P = e \cos w \quad Q = e \sin w \quad (7.40)$$

$$\frac{P}{r_i} - P \cos \Theta_i - Q \sin \Theta_i = 1 \quad i=1, 2, 3 \quad (7.41)$$

Solve for P , I and Q using Cramer's rule

$$P = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 1 & -\cos \Theta_1 & -\sin \Theta_1 \\ 1 & -\cos \Theta_2 & -\sin \Theta_2 \\ 1 & -\cos \Theta_3 & -\sin \Theta_3 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} \frac{1}{r_1} & -\cos \Theta_1 & -\sin \Theta_1 \\ \frac{1}{r_2} & -\cos \Theta_2 & -\sin \Theta_2 \\ \frac{1}{r_3} & -\cos \Theta_3 & -\sin \Theta_3 \end{vmatrix}}$$

$$P = \frac{r_1 r_2 r_3 [\sin(\Theta_3 - \Theta_2) + \sin(\Theta_1 - \Theta_3) + \sin(\Theta_2 - \Theta_1)]}{r_2 r_3 \sin(\Theta_3 - \Theta_2) + r_1 r_3 \sin(\Theta_1 - \Theta_3) + r_1 r_2 \sin(\Theta_2 - \Theta_1)}$$

Similarly

$$I = \frac{r_1(r_2 - r_3) \sin \Theta_1 + r_2(r_3 - r_1) \sin \Theta_2 + r_3(r_1 - r_2) \sin \Theta_3}{r_2 r_3 \sin(\Theta_3 - \Theta_2) + r_1 r_3 \sin(\Theta_1 - \Theta_3) + r_1 r_2 \sin(\Theta_2 - \Theta_1)}$$

$$Q = \frac{r_1(r_3 - r_2) \cos \Theta_1 + r_2(r_1 - r_3) \cos \Theta_2 + r_3(r_2 - r_1) \cos \Theta_3}{r_2 r_3 \sin(\Theta_3 - \Theta_2) + r_1 r_3 \sin(\Theta_1 - \Theta_3) + r_1 r_2 \sin(\Theta_2 - \Theta_1)}$$

and from (7.40)

$$e = \sqrt{I^2 + Q^2} \quad \tan W = \frac{Q}{I} \quad (7.42)$$

b) Orbit from 3 Position Vectors

Given 3 successive coplanar position vectors $\bar{r}_1, \bar{r}_2, \bar{r}_3$. Find p, \bar{e}, \bar{v}_2

Since $\bar{r}_1, \bar{r}_2, \bar{r}_3$ are coplanar, can write

$$\bar{r}_2 = \alpha \bar{r}_1 + \beta \bar{r}_3 \quad (7.43)$$

To get α , cross (7.43) with \bar{r}_3

$$\bar{r}_2 \times \bar{r}_3 = \alpha \bar{r}_1 \times \bar{r}_3 + \beta \cancel{\bar{r}_3 \times \bar{r}_3}^0 = \alpha \bar{n}$$

where

$$\bar{n} = \bar{r}_1 \times \bar{r}_3 \quad (7.44)$$

Dot with \bar{n}

$$(\bar{r}_2 \times \bar{r}_3) \cdot \bar{n} = \alpha \bar{n} \cdot \bar{n} = \alpha n^2$$

$$\alpha = \frac{(\bar{r}_2 \times \bar{r}_3) \cdot \bar{n}}{n^2} \quad (7.45)$$

To get β , cross \bar{r}_1 with (7.43)

$$\bar{r}_1 \times \bar{r}_2 = \alpha \cancel{\bar{r}_1 \times \bar{r}_1}^0 + \beta \bar{r}_1 \times \bar{r}_3 = \beta \bar{n}$$

Dot with \bar{n}

$$(\bar{r}_1 \times \bar{r}_2) \cdot \bar{n} = \beta n^2$$

$$\beta = \frac{(\bar{r}_1 \times \bar{r}_2) \cdot \bar{n}}{n^2} \quad (7.46)$$

To get p , dot (7.43) with \bar{e}

$$\bar{r}_2 \cdot \bar{e} = \alpha \bar{r}_1 \cdot \bar{e} + \beta \bar{r}_3 \cdot \bar{e} \quad (a)$$

Using $r_i = \frac{p}{1 + e \cos \theta_i}$

$$p - r_2 = \alpha (p - r_1) + \beta (p - r_3)$$

$$\bar{r}_i \cdot \bar{e} = p - r_i \quad i=1,2,3 \quad (b)$$

Therefore using (b), (a) becomes

$$p - r_2 = \alpha (p - r_1) + \beta (p - r_3)$$

Solve for p

$$p = \frac{\alpha r_1 - r_2 + \beta r_3}{\alpha - 1 + \beta} \quad (7.47)$$

To get \bar{e} , using the identity

$$(\bar{A} \times \bar{B}) \times \bar{C} = (\bar{A} \cdot \bar{C}) \bar{B} - (\bar{B} \cdot \bar{C}) \bar{A}$$

$$\bar{n} \times \bar{e} = (\bar{r}_1 \times \bar{r}_3) \times \bar{e} = (\bar{r}_1 \cdot \bar{e}) \bar{r}_3 - (\bar{r}_3 \cdot \bar{e}) \bar{r}_1$$

Using (b)

$$\bar{n} \times \bar{e} = (p - r_1) \bar{r}_3 - (p - r_3) \bar{r}_1$$

Cross with \bar{n} and use the identity

$$(\bar{A} \times \bar{B}) \times \bar{C} = (\bar{A} \cdot \bar{C}) \bar{B} - (\bar{B} \cdot \bar{C}) \bar{A}$$

$$(\bar{n} \times \bar{e}) \times \bar{n} = \underbrace{n^2 \bar{e}}_0 - (\bar{e} \cdot \bar{n}) \bar{n}$$

since $\bar{e} \perp \bar{n}$ \bar{e} along pericenter
in plane of orbit

\bar{n} normal to plane
of orbit.

Therefore

$$\bar{e} = \frac{1}{n^2} [(p - r_1) \bar{r}_3 \times \bar{n} - (p - r_3) \bar{r}_1 \times \bar{n}] \quad (7.48)$$

$$p = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \Rightarrow h = \sqrt{\mu p} \quad \bar{h} = h \frac{\bar{n}}{n}$$

From (7.25)

$$\bar{V}_2 = \frac{\mu}{h^2} \bar{h} \times \left[\frac{\bar{r}_2}{r_2} + \bar{e} \right]$$

c) Approximate orbit from 3 Position Fixes

The previous methods are exact but numerical error can result if angles between the given position vectors are small.

Given $\bar{r}_1, \bar{r}_2, \bar{r}_3$ at times t_1, t_2, t_3 respectively.

Find \bar{V}_2 (from which orbital elements can be determined).

Expand \bar{r} in power series to $O(t^5)$
(valid for small t)

$$\bar{r} = a_0 + t \bar{a}_1 + t^2 \bar{a}_2 + t^3 \bar{a}_3 + t^4 \bar{a}_4 + t^5 \bar{a}_5 \quad (7.49a)$$

$$\bar{V} = \bar{a}_1 + 2t \bar{a}_2 + 3t^2 \bar{a}_3 + 4t^3 \bar{a}_4 + 5t^4 \bar{a}_5 \quad (7.49b)$$

Using $\frac{d^2 \bar{r}}{dt^2} + \frac{\mu}{r^3} \bar{r} = 0$

write

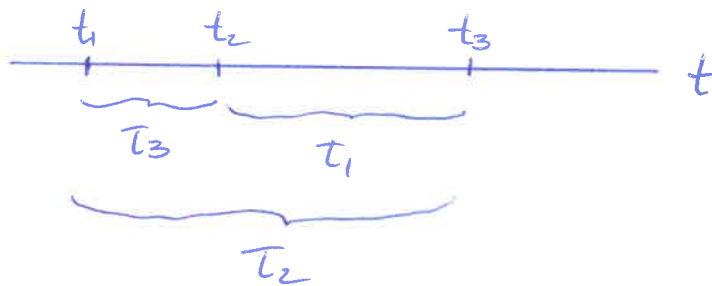
$$\frac{d^2 \bar{r}}{dt^2} = -\varepsilon \bar{r} \quad \text{where} \quad \varepsilon = \frac{\mu}{r^3}$$

Sub. (7.49a) into above equation

$$-\varepsilon \bar{r} = 2\bar{a}_2 + 6t\bar{a}_3 + 12t^2\bar{a}_4 + 20t^3\bar{a}_5 \quad (7.49c)$$

Define the time intervals

$$\tau_1 = t_3 - t_2, \quad \tau_2 = t_3 - t_1, \quad \tau_3 = t_2 - t_1$$



Set the time $t_2 = 0$



Apply (7.49) at $t = -T_3, 0, T_1$

$$\bar{r}_1 = \bar{a}_0 - T_3 \bar{a}_1 + T_3^2 \bar{a}_2 - T_3^3 \bar{a}_3 + T_3^4 \bar{a}_4 - T_3^5 \bar{a}_5 \quad (7.50a)$$

$$\bar{r}_2 = \bar{a}_0 \quad (7.50b)$$

$$\bar{r}_3 = \bar{a}_0 + T_1 \bar{a}_1 + T_1^2 \bar{a}_2 + T_1^3 \bar{a}_3 + T_1^4 \bar{a}_4 + T_1^5 \bar{a}_5 \quad (7.50c)$$

$$\bar{V}_2 = \bar{a}_1 \quad (7.50d)$$

$$-\varepsilon_1 \bar{r}_1 = 2\bar{a}_2 - 6T_3 \bar{a}_3 + 12T_3^2 \bar{a}_4 - 20T_3^3 \bar{a}_5 \quad (7.50e)$$

$$-\varepsilon_2 \bar{r}_2 = 2\bar{a}_2 \quad (7.50f)$$

$$-\varepsilon_3 \bar{r}_3 = 2\bar{a}_2 + 6T_1 \bar{a}_3 + 12T_1^2 \bar{a}_4 + 20T_1^3 \bar{a}_5 \quad (7.50g)$$

7 equations, 7 unknowns $\bar{a}_0, \dots, \bar{a}_5, \bar{V}_2$

Solve for \bar{V}_2

$$A_0 \bar{V}_2 = A_1 \bar{r}_1 + A_2 \bar{r}_2 + A_3 \bar{r}_3 \quad (7.51)$$

where

$$A_0 = 12 T_1 T_2 T_3 (T_3 - T_1) (2T_1^2 + 5T_1 T_3 + 2T_3^2)$$

$$A_1 = T_1^4 [12(2T_2 + 3T_3) + \varepsilon_1 T_3^2 (T_1 + 3T_2)]$$

$$A_2 = \varepsilon_2 \tau_1^2 \tau_2 \tau_3^2 (8\tau_2^2 + 3\tau_1 \tau_3) - 12\tau_2 [2\tau_2^4 - 5\tau_1 \tau_3 (\tau_2^2 + \tau_1 \tau_3)]$$

$$A_3 = \tau_3^4 [12(3\tau_1 + 2\tau_2) + \varepsilon_3 \tau_1^2 (3\tau_2 + \tau_3)]$$

When the time intervals are equal (i.e., $\tau_1 = \tau_2 = \tau_3 = \tau$) the solution is indeterminate.

Alternate approach which does not contain this difficulty

Truncate power series after $O(t^4)$

Have one more equation than unknowns.

Eliminate \bar{a}_2 by multiplying (7.50a) by τ_1^2 and (7.50c) by τ_3^2 and subtract to get

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_1^2 \bar{r}_1 - \tau_3^2 \bar{r}_3 &= (\tau_1 - \tau_3) \tau_2 \bar{a}_0 - \tau_1 \tau_2 \tau_3 \bar{a}_1 \\ &\quad - \tau_1^2 \tau_2 \tau_3^2 \bar{a}_3 + \tau_1^2 \tau_2 \tau_3^2 (\tau_3 - \tau_1) \bar{a}_4 \end{aligned} \quad (7.52)$$

Let (7.52) replace (7.50a, c)

Have 6 eqs for 6 unknowns $\bar{a}_0, \dots, \bar{a}_4, \bar{V}_2$

Solve for V_2

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{V}_2 = & -T_1 \left(\frac{1}{T_2 T_3} + \frac{\varepsilon_1}{12} \right) \bar{r}_1 - (T_3 - T_1) \left(\frac{1}{T_1 T_3} + \frac{\varepsilon_2}{12} \right) \bar{r}_2 \\ & + T_3 \left(\frac{1}{T_1 T_2} + \frac{\varepsilon_3}{12} \right) \bar{r}_3 \end{aligned} \quad (7.53)$$

valid to 4th order in time intervals

Derivation of 3 useful equations

$$\frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} = \frac{\mu}{r^3} (p - r) \quad (7.54) \quad (\text{general})$$

$$\left(\frac{dr}{dt} \right)^2 = \mu \left(\frac{2}{r} - \frac{p}{r^2} - \frac{1}{a} \right) \quad (7.55) \quad (\text{elliptic})$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} (r^2) = 2\mu \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{a} \right) \quad (7.56) \quad (\text{elliptic})$$

$$r = \frac{p}{1 + e \cos \theta}$$

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{pe \sin \theta}{(1 + e \cos \theta)^2} \frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{r^2}{p} e \sin \theta \cdot \frac{h}{r^2} = \frac{he}{p} \sin \theta$$

$$\frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} = \frac{he}{p} \cos \theta \frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{h}{p} \frac{p-r}{r} \frac{h}{r^2} = \frac{h^2}{pr^3} (p-r) = \frac{\mu}{r^3} (p-r)$$

$$\boxed{\frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} = \frac{\mu}{r^3} (p-r)}$$

$$\left(\frac{dr}{dt}\right)^2 = \frac{h^2 e^2}{p^2} \sin^2 \theta = \frac{\mu e^2}{p} (1 - \cos^2 \theta)$$

$$r + e \cos \theta = p \Rightarrow \cos \theta = \frac{p-r}{re}$$

$$\left(\frac{dr}{dt}\right)^2 = \frac{\mu e^2}{p} \left[1 - \frac{(p-r)^2}{r^2 e^2} \right] = \frac{\mu}{p} \left[e^2 - \frac{p^2 - 2pr + r^2}{r^2} \right]$$

$$= \frac{\mu}{p} \left[e^2 - \frac{p^2}{r^2} + \frac{2p}{r} - 1 \right]$$

$$\boxed{\left(\frac{dr}{dt}\right)^2 = \mu \left(\frac{2}{r} - \frac{p}{r^2} - \frac{1-e^2}{p} \right)} \quad (\text{general})$$

$$\left(\frac{dr}{dt}\right)^2 = \mu \left(\frac{2}{r} - \frac{p}{r^2} - \frac{1}{a} \right) \quad (\text{elliptic})$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(r^2) = 2r \frac{dr}{dt}$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}(r^2) = 2r \frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} + 2 \left(\frac{dr}{dt} \right)^2$$

$$= 2r \frac{\mu}{r^3} (p-r) + 2\mu \left(\frac{2}{r} - \frac{p}{r^2} - \frac{1-e^2}{p} \right)$$

$$= 2\mu \left(\frac{p}{r^2} - \frac{1}{r} + \frac{2}{r} - \frac{p}{r^2} - \frac{1-e^2}{p} \right)$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}(r^2) = 2\mu \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1-e^2}{p} \right) \quad (\text{general})$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}(r^2) = 2\mu \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{a} \right) \quad (\text{elliptic})$$

d) Approximate Orbit from 3 Range Measurements

Given r_1, r_2, r_3 at times t_1, t_2, t_3 respectively

Find p, a

To $O(t^4)$ write:

$$r = a_0 + a_1 t + a_2 t^2 + a_3 t^3 + a_4 t^4 \quad (7.57)$$

Using (7.54)

$$\frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} = \varepsilon(p - r) = 2a_2 + 6a_3 t + 12a_4 t^2 \quad (7.58)$$

$$\text{where } \varepsilon = \frac{\mu}{r^3}$$

Evaluate (7.57) and (7.58) at $t = -T_3, 0, T_1$

Gives 6 equations for 6 unknowns: a_0, \dots, a_4, p

Solve for p

$$p = \frac{r_1 T_1 (1 + \varepsilon_1 A_1) - r_2 T_2 (1 - \varepsilon_2 A_2) + r_3 T_3 (1 + \varepsilon_3 A_3)}{T_1 \varepsilon_1 A_1 + T_2 \varepsilon_2 A_2 + T_3 \varepsilon_3 A_3} \quad (7.59)$$

to $O(t^4)$

where

$$\left. \begin{aligned} 12A_1 &= \tau_2 \tau_3 - \tau_1^2 \\ 12A_2 &= \tau_1 \tau_3 + \tau_2^2 \\ 12A_3 &= \tau_1 \tau_2 - \tau_3^2 \end{aligned} \right\} (7.60)$$

To get a , use

$$r^2 = b_0 + b_1 t + b_2 t^2 + b_3 t^3 + b_4 t^4$$

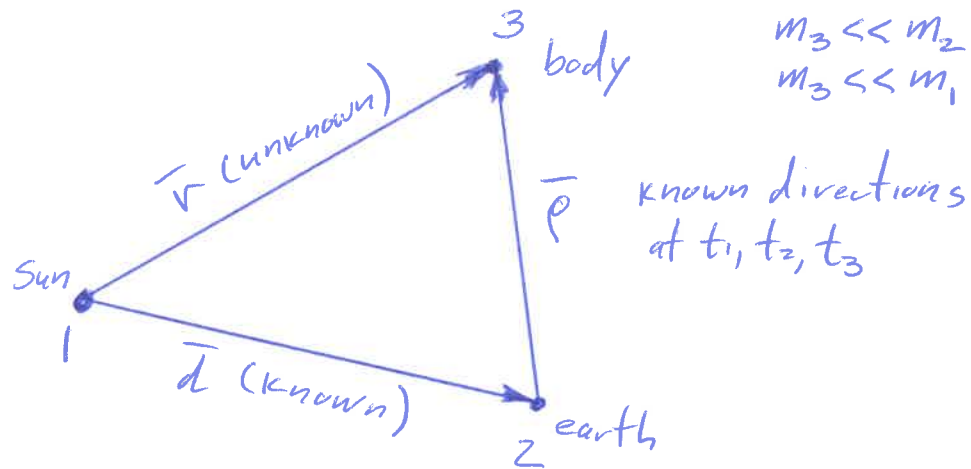
$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}(r^2) = 2\mu \left(\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{a} \right) = 2b_2 + 6b_3 t + 12b_4 t^2$$

Evaluate at $t = -\tau_3, 0, \tau_1$. Get 6 equations for 6 unknowns: b_0, \dots, b_4, a

Solve for μ/a

$$\frac{\mu}{a} = -\frac{r_1^2}{\tau_2 \tau_3} (1 - 2\epsilon_1 A_1) + \frac{r_2^2}{\tau_1 \tau_3} (1 + 2\epsilon_2 A_2) - \frac{r_3^2}{\tau_1 \tau_2} (1 - 2\epsilon_3 A_3) \quad (7.61)$$

e) Approximate Orbit from 3 Angular Observations



Given $\hat{l}_{e1}, \hat{l}_{e2}, \hat{l}_{e3}$ at times t_1, t_2, t_3 respectively,
 Find \bar{r} and \bar{V} at time t_2 (i.e., find \bar{r}_2, \bar{V}_2)

$$\bar{r} = \bar{p} + \bar{d} \quad (7.62)$$

$$\frac{d^2 \bar{r}}{dt^2} + \frac{\mu_1}{r^3} \bar{r} = 0 \quad \mu_1 = Gm_1 \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{neglect effect} \\ \text{of } m_2 \text{ on } m_3 \end{array} \right) \quad (7.63)$$

$$\frac{d^2 \bar{d}}{dt^2} + \frac{\mu_2}{d^3} \bar{d} = 0 \quad \mu_2 = G(m_1 + m_2) \quad (7.64)$$

Write $\bar{p} = \rho \hat{l}_p$

$$\frac{d\bar{p}}{dt} = p \frac{d\hat{l}_p}{dt} + \frac{dp}{dt} \hat{l}_p$$

$$\frac{d^2\bar{p}}{dt^2} = p \frac{d^2\hat{l}_p}{dt^2} + \frac{dp}{dt} \frac{d\hat{l}_p}{dt} + \frac{dp}{dt} \frac{d\hat{l}_p}{dt} + \frac{d^2p}{dt^2} \hat{l}_p$$

$$\frac{d^2\bar{p}}{dt^2} = \frac{d^2p}{dt^2} \hat{l}_p + 2 \frac{dp}{dt} \frac{d\hat{l}_p}{dt} + p \frac{d^2\hat{l}_p}{dt^2} \quad (7.65)$$

From (7.62)

$$\frac{d^2\bar{r}}{dt^2} = \frac{d^2\bar{p}}{dt^2} + \frac{d^2\bar{d}}{dt^2} \quad (7.66)$$

Substitute (7.63, 64, 65) into (7.66)

$$-\frac{\mu_1}{r^3} \bar{r} = \frac{d^2\bar{p}}{dt^2} \hat{l}_p + 2 \frac{dp}{dt} \frac{d\hat{l}_p}{dt} + p \frac{d^2\hat{l}_p}{dt^2} - \frac{\mu_2}{d^3} \bar{d}$$

Substitute (7.62) $\bar{r} = p + \bar{d}$

$$-\frac{\mu_1}{r^3} (\bar{p} + \bar{d}) = \frac{d^2\bar{p}}{dt^2} \hat{l}_p + 2 \frac{dp}{dt} \frac{d\hat{l}_p}{dt} + p \frac{d^2\hat{l}_p}{dt^2} - \frac{\mu_2}{d^3} \bar{d}$$

Since $\bar{\rho} = \rho \hat{l}_\rho$

$$-\frac{\mu_1}{v^3} (\rho \hat{l}_\rho + \bar{d}) = \frac{d^2 \rho}{dt^2} \hat{l}_\rho + 2 \frac{d\rho}{dt} \frac{d\hat{l}_\rho}{dt} + \rho \frac{d^2 \hat{l}_\rho}{dt^2} - \frac{\mu_2}{d^3} \bar{d}$$

Rearrange

$$\left(\frac{d^2 \rho}{dt^2} + \frac{\mu_1}{v^3} \rho \right) \hat{l}_\rho + 2 \frac{d\rho}{dt} \frac{d\hat{l}_\rho}{dt} + \rho \frac{d^2 \hat{l}_\rho}{dt^2} = \left(\frac{\mu_2}{d^3} - \frac{\mu_1}{v^3} \right) \bar{d}$$

Take dot product of each term with $\hat{l}_\rho \times \frac{d\hat{l}_\rho}{dt}$

$$0 + 0 + \rho \left(\left(\hat{l}_\rho \times \frac{d\hat{l}_\rho}{dt} \right) \cdot \frac{d^2 \hat{l}_\rho}{dt^2} \right) = \left(\frac{\mu_2}{d^3} - \frac{\mu_1}{v^3} \right) \left(\left(\hat{l}_\rho \times \frac{d\hat{l}_\rho}{dt} \right) \cdot \bar{d} \right) \quad (7.67)$$

Take dot product of each term with $\hat{l}_\rho \times \frac{d^2 \hat{l}_\rho}{dt^2}$

$$0 + 2 \frac{d\rho}{dt} \left(\left(\hat{l}_\rho \times \frac{d^2 \hat{l}_\rho}{dt^2} \right) \cdot \frac{d\hat{l}_\rho}{dt} \right) + 0 = \left(\frac{\mu_2}{d^3} - \frac{\mu_1}{v^3} \right) \left(\left(\hat{l}_\rho \times \frac{d^2 \hat{l}_\rho}{dt^2} \right) \cdot \bar{d} \right)$$

Using the identity $(\bar{A} \times \bar{B}) \cdot \bar{C} = -(\bar{A} \times \bar{C}) \cdot \bar{B}$

$$2 \frac{d\rho}{dt} \left(\left(\hat{l}_\rho \times \frac{d\hat{l}_\rho}{dt} \right) \cdot \frac{d^2 \hat{l}_\rho}{dt^2} \right) = \left(\frac{\mu_2}{d^3} - \frac{\mu_1}{v^3} \right) \left(\left(\hat{l}_\rho \times \bar{d} \right) \cdot \frac{d^2 \hat{l}_\rho}{dt^2} \right) \quad (7.68)$$

From (7.62)

$$r^2 = \rho^2 + d^2 + 2\rho \hat{i}_\rho \cdot \bar{d} \quad (7.69)$$

If we can evaluate $\left. \frac{d\hat{i}_\rho}{dt} \right|_{t_2}$ and $\left. \frac{d^2\hat{i}_\rho}{dt^2} \right|_{t_2}$

evaluate (7.67) and (7.69) at t_2 and solve for v_z and ρ_z .

Then evaluate (7.68) at t_2 and solve for $\left. \frac{d\rho}{dt} \right|_{t_2}$

Position and velocity at t_2 is given by

$$\bar{r}_z = \rho_z \hat{i}_{\rho_z} + \bar{d}_z \quad (7.70)$$

$$\bar{V}_z = \frac{d\rho_z}{dt} \hat{i}_{\rho_z} + \rho_z \frac{d\hat{i}_{\rho_z}}{dt} + \frac{d\bar{d}_z}{dt} \quad (7.71)$$

From which orbital elements may be obtained.