



北京航空航天大学  
BEIHANG UNIVERSITY

# 飞行力学 Flight Mechanics

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2023 - Spring

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- Interplanetary trajectories
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  2. Hohmann Transfers
  3. Gravity assist

# Flight orbit

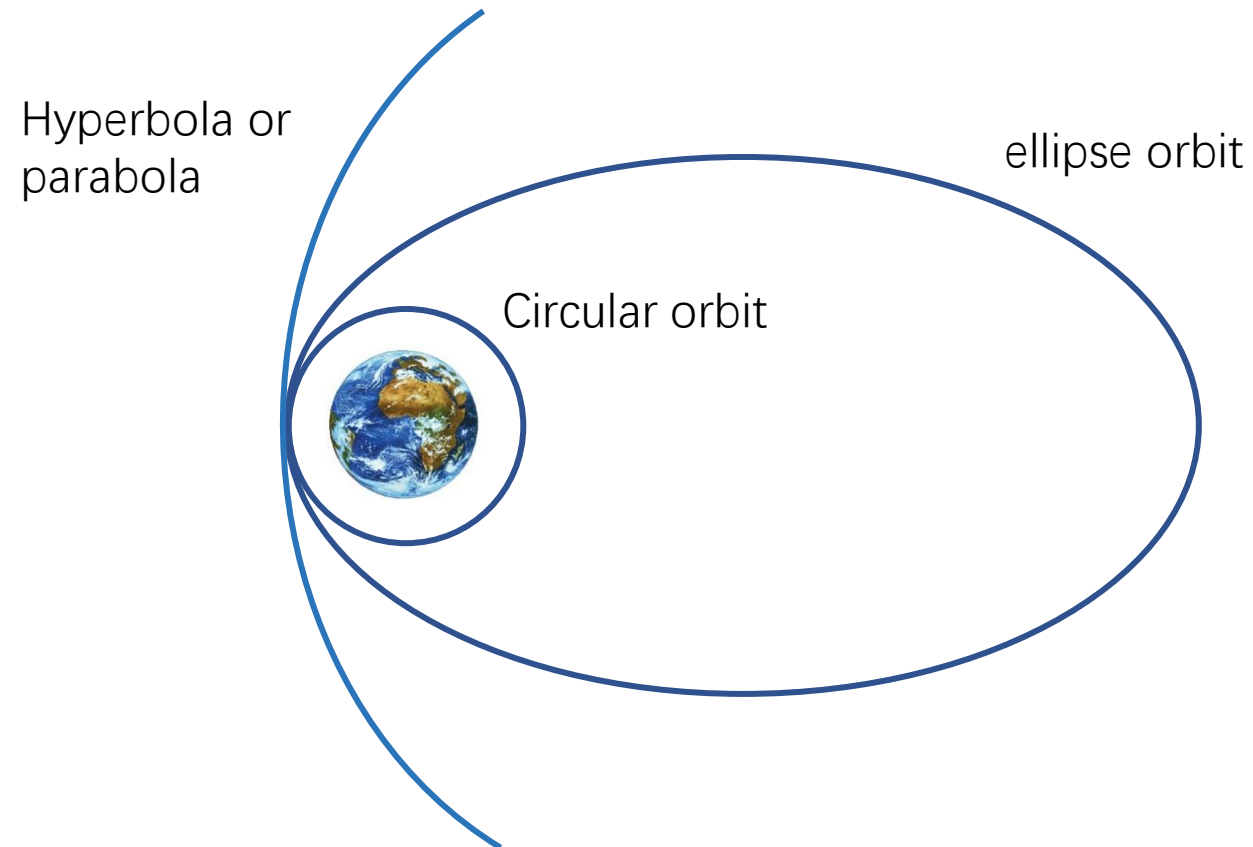
## Review

| Type of Trajectory | $e$   | Energy Relation                   |
|--------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| Ellipse            | $< 1$ | $\frac{1}{2}mV^2 < \frac{GMm}{r}$ |
| Parabola           | $= 1$ | $\frac{1}{2}mV^2 = \frac{GMm}{r}$ |
| Hyperbola          | $> 1$ | $\frac{1}{2}mV^2 > \frac{GMm}{r}$ |

escape orbit

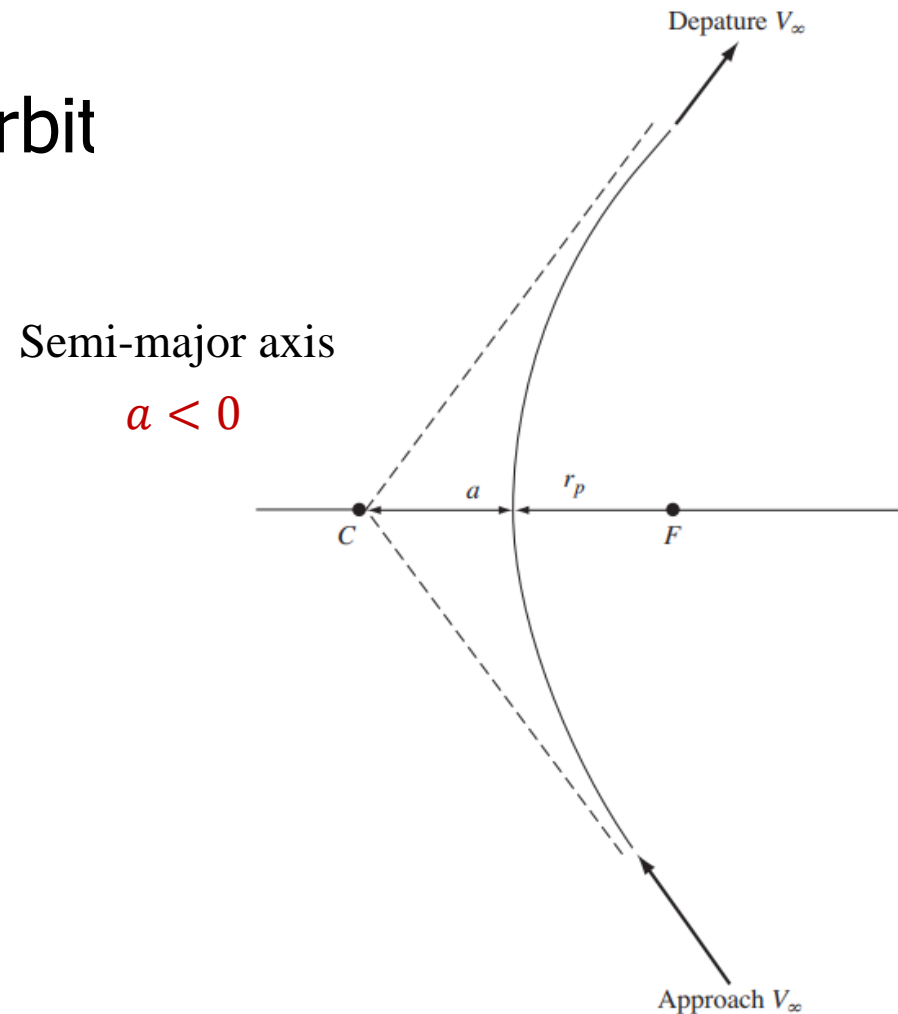
# Flight orbit

## Review



# Flight orbit

## Hyperbolic orbit



**Figure 8.30** Hyperbolic trajectory.

# Flight orbit

Specific energy

$$H = -m \frac{k^2}{2a}$$

$$E = \frac{H}{m} = -\frac{k^2}{2a}$$

Ellipse orbit ( $a > 0$ ) ,  $E < 0$ .

Hyperbolic orbit ( $a < 0$ ) ,  $E > 0$ .

# Flight orbit

## Parameters

$$k^2 = GM = 3.986 \times 10^{14} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}^2$$

| symbol      | meaning                          | ellipse                          | hyperbola                        |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| $a$         | semi-major axis                  | $> 0$                            | $< 0$                            |
| $e$         | eccentricity                     | $< 1$                            | $> 1$                            |
| $E$         | (specific) energy                | $< 0$                            | $> 0$                            |
| $r(\theta)$ | radial distance                  | $a(1 - e^2)/(1 + e \cos \theta)$ |                                  |
| $r_{min}$   | minimum distance<br>(pericenter) | $a(1 - e)$                       |                                  |
| $r_{max}$   | maximum distance<br>(apocenter)  | $a(1 + e)$                       | $\infty$                         |
| $V$         | velocity                         | $\sqrt{2k^2/r - k^2/a}$          | $\sqrt{V_{es}^2 - V_{\infty}^2}$ |

# Two Line Elements (TLE)

## Definition

The Two Line Elements or TLE format is the [standard way to describe satellites in orbit above Earth](#). Understanding the TLE format allows users to make predictions about future or past satellite passes.

ISS (ZARYA)

```
1 25544U 98067A 20331.01187177 .00003392 00000-0 69526-4 0 9990
2 25544 51.6456 267.7478 0001965 82.1336 12.7330 15.49066632257107
```

SKCUBE

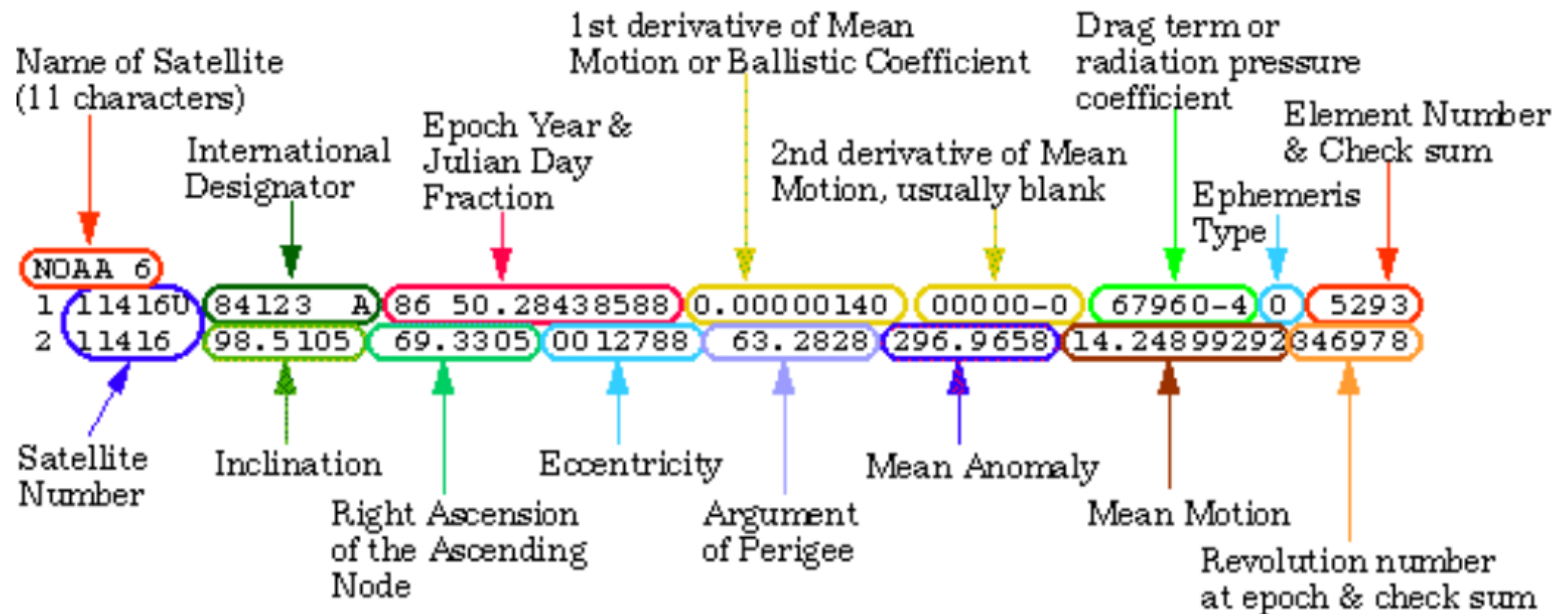
```
1 42789U 17036AA 19084.74586761 .00001246 00000-0 56588-4 0 9992
2 42789 97.3621 144.5852 0012165 160.6847 199.4853 15.22573301 97347
```

TLE data for most spacecraft can be downloaded from <https://www.space-track.org/>



# Two Line Elements (TLE)

## Data format



[Source: Two Line Elements \(TLE\) – Kaitlyn's Tech Logs](#)

# Two Line Elements (TLE)

## TLE of **Tiangong**

### 中国空间站轨道参数

发布日期: 2022-05-19      信息来源: 中国载人航天工程办公室

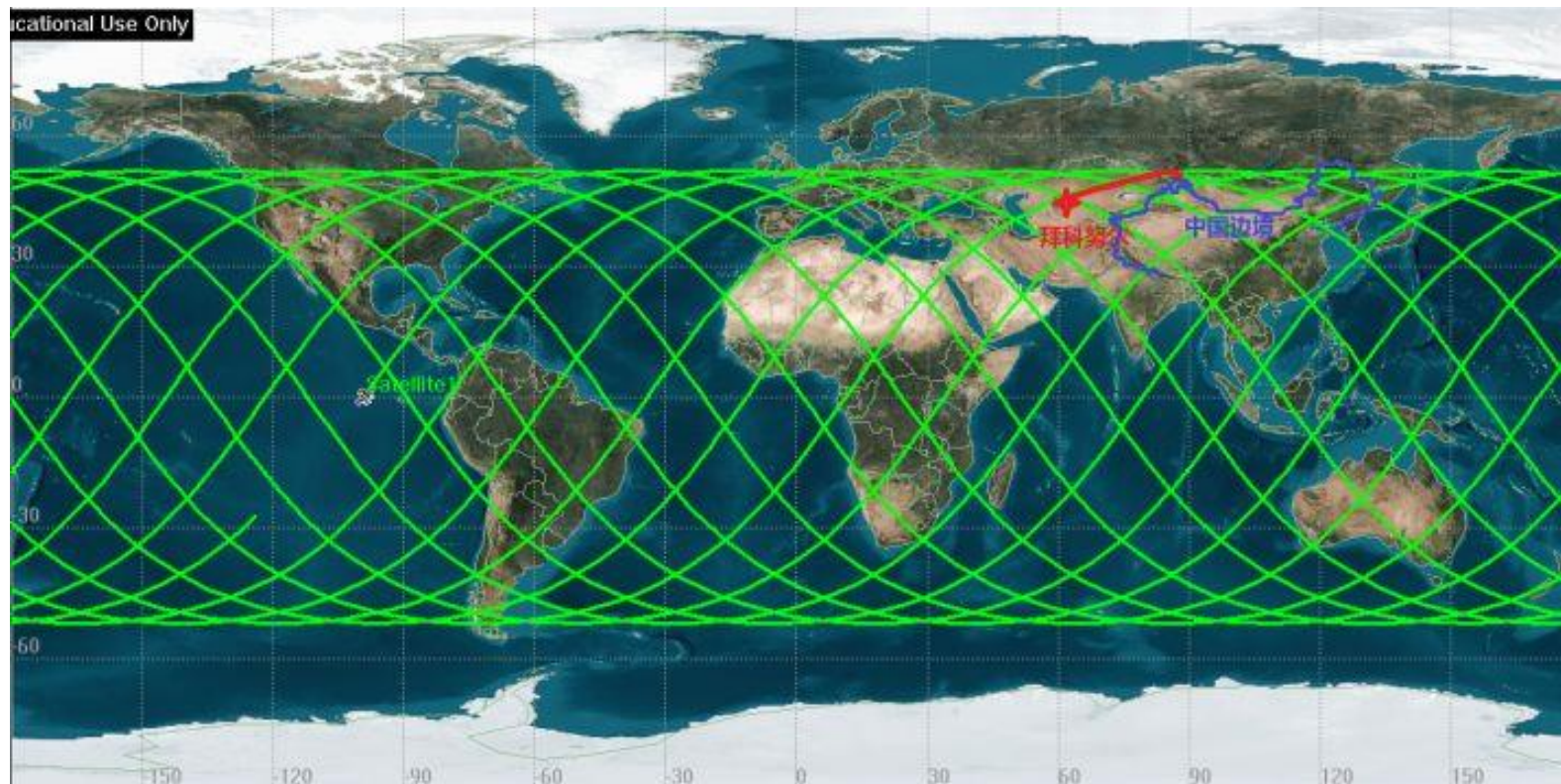
```
1 48274U 21035A 22139.00000000 .00028715 00000-0 34150-3 0 9992
2 48274 41.4712 36.3623 0002231 1.8855 335.0230 15.59814191 60213
```

Mean motion  
(revolutions/day)

Source: 中国空间站轨道参数 中国载人航天官方网站 ([cmse.gov.cn](http://cmse.gov.cn))

# Two Line Elements (TLE)

## Trajectory of ISS



Drawn by Satellite  
Tool Kit (STK)

# Two Line Elements (TLE)

## Orbit parameters of **Tiangong**

$$\tau = \frac{1}{n}[\text{day}] = \frac{86164}{15.598}[\text{s}] = \mathbf{5524\ s}$$

$$a = \sqrt[3]{\frac{\tau^2}{4\pi^2} GM} = 6.754 \times 10^6[\text{m}] = \mathbf{6754\ km}$$

$$h = a - r_{\text{earth}} = 6754 - 6378[\text{km}] = \mathbf{376\ km}$$

$$E = -\frac{GM}{2a} = \mathbf{-29.5\ km^2/s^2}$$

# Flight orbit

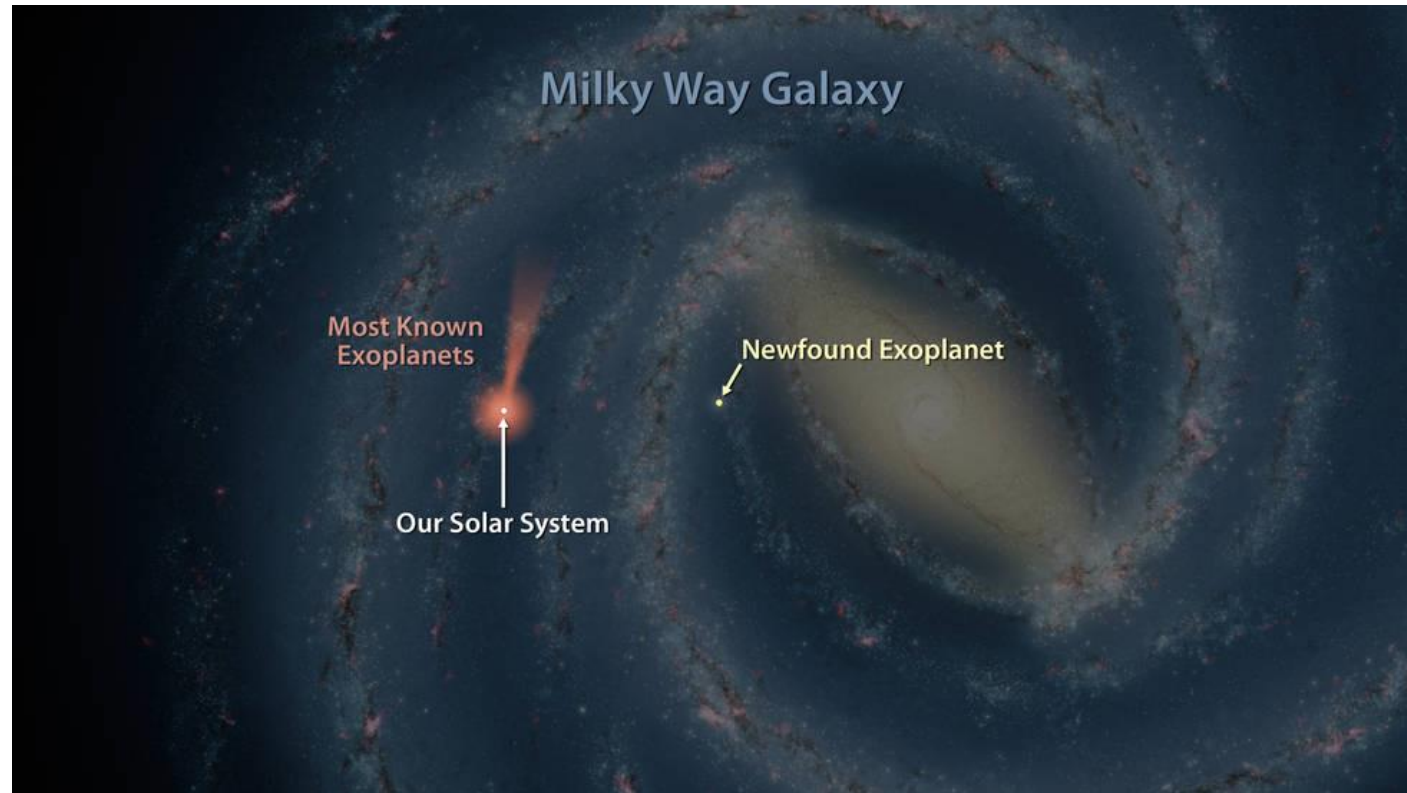
## Specific energy comparison

| <b>satellite</b>      | <b>altitude [km]</b>                    | <b>specific energy<br/>[km<sup>2</sup>/s<sup>2</sup>]</b> |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| NVISAT                | 800                                     | -27.8   |
| LAGEOS                | 5,900                                   | -16.2   |
| GEO                   | 35,900                                  | -4.7  |
| Moon                  | 384,000                                 | -0.5  |
| Tiangong              | 376                                     | -29.5   |
| in parking orbit      | 185                                     | -30.4   |
| Hohmann orbit to Mars | 185 (after 1 <sup>st</sup> $\Delta V$ ) | +4.3  |

# Interplanetary flight

## The Galaxy

[Source: NASA](#)

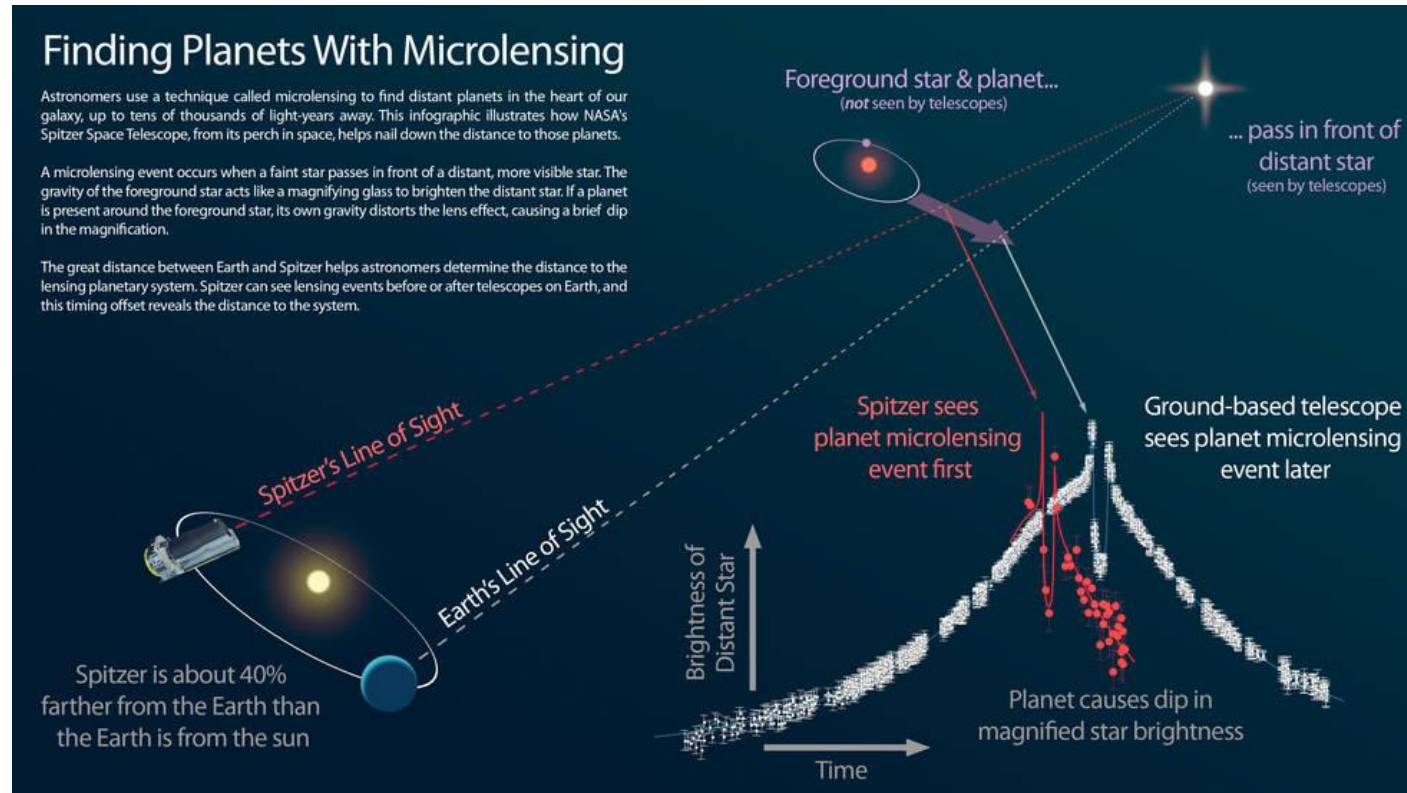




# Interplanetary flight

## The Galaxy

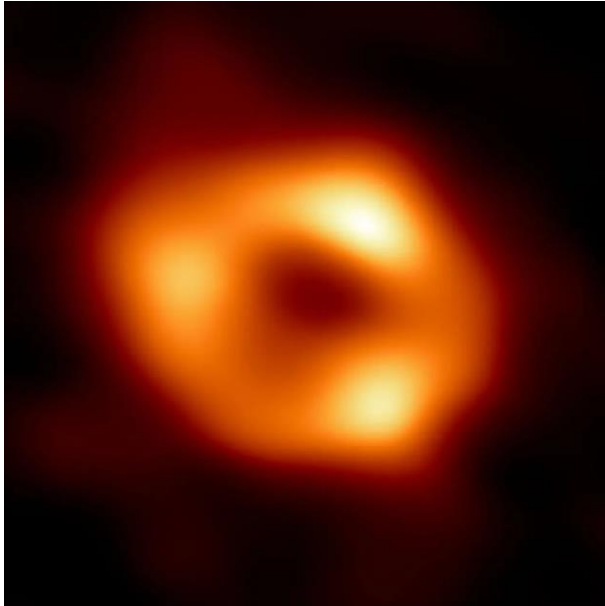
[Source: NASA](#)



The NASA's  
Spitzer Space  
Telescope

# Interplanetary flight

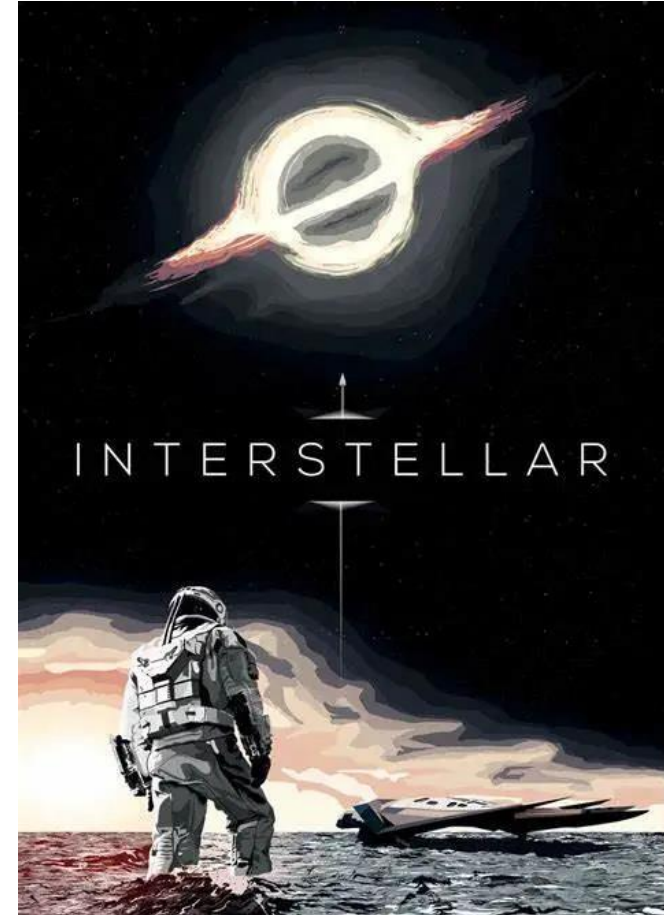
## The blackhole of Galaxy



Source: [新华网](#)

Blackhole at the Galaxy center (2022.05.13)

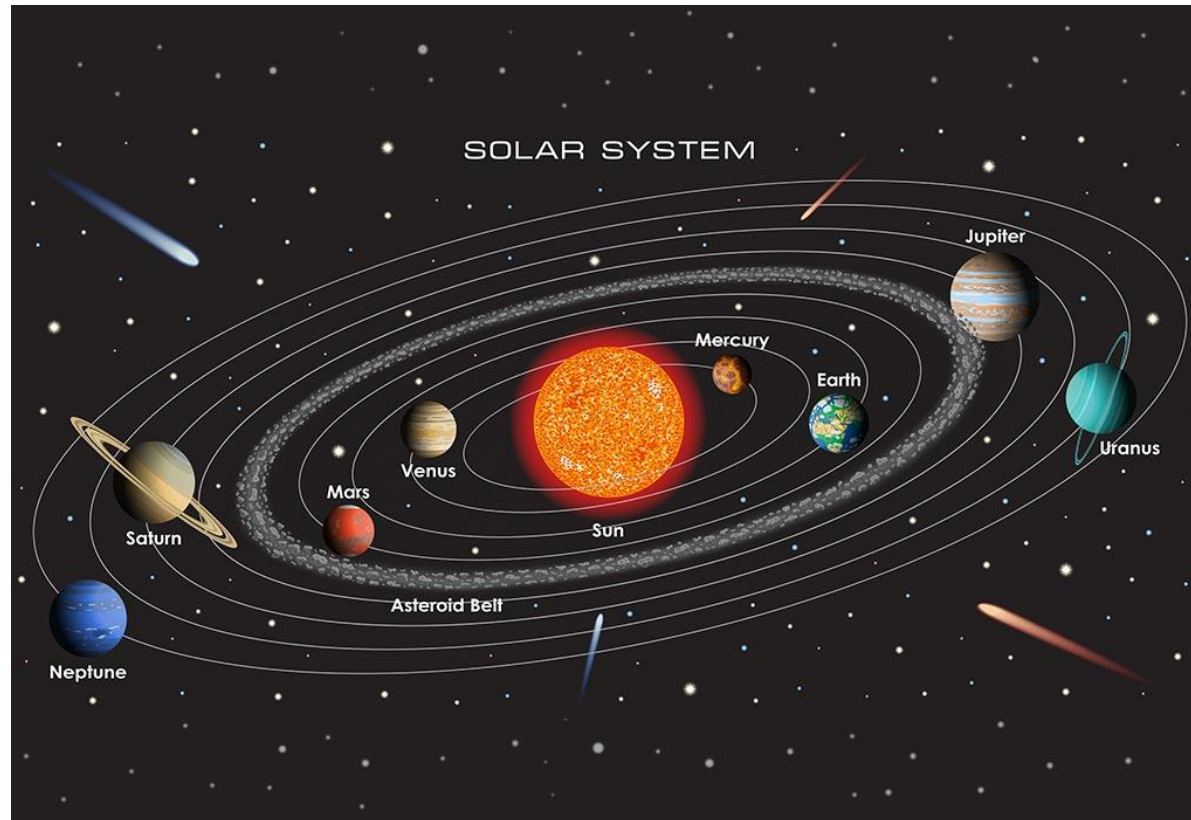
Source: [internet](#)





# Interplanetary flight

## Solar system



[Source: WorldAtlas](#)

# Interplanetary flight

## Solar system

| planet        | mean distance [AU] | eccentricity [-] | inclination [°] |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Mercury (水星)  | 0.387              | 0.206            | 7.0             |
| Venus (金星)    | 0.723              | 0.007            | 3.4             |
| Earth (地球)    | 1.000              | 0.017            | 0.0             |
| Mars (火星)     | 1.524              | 0.093            | 1.9             |
| Jupiter (木星)  | 5.203              | 0.048            | 1.3             |
| Saturn (土星)   | 9.537              | 0.054            | 2.5             |
| Uranus (天王星)  | 19.191             | 0.047            | 0.8             |
| Neptune (海王星) | 30.069             | 0.009            | 1.8             |
| Pluto *       | 39.482             | 0.249            | 17.1            |

# Interplanetary flight

## Solar system - conclusions

- Orbits of planets more or less **circular** (Except Mercury)
- Orbits of planets more or less **coplanar**
- **2-dimensional** situation with circular orbit → good 1<sup>st</sup> order model
- Scale of interplanetary travel >> scale of earth-bound missions

# Interplanetary flight

## Question

- How can we escape from earth gravity?
- How can we travel to other planets/asteroids in the most efficient way?
- How can we reach beyond 10 AU?

# Hohmann transfer

## Two impulses maneuver

$$(\Delta V)^2 = V_1^2 + V_2^2 - 2 V_1 V_2 \cos \alpha$$

$$\alpha \Rightarrow 0$$

$\Delta V_1$  = impulse at point 1

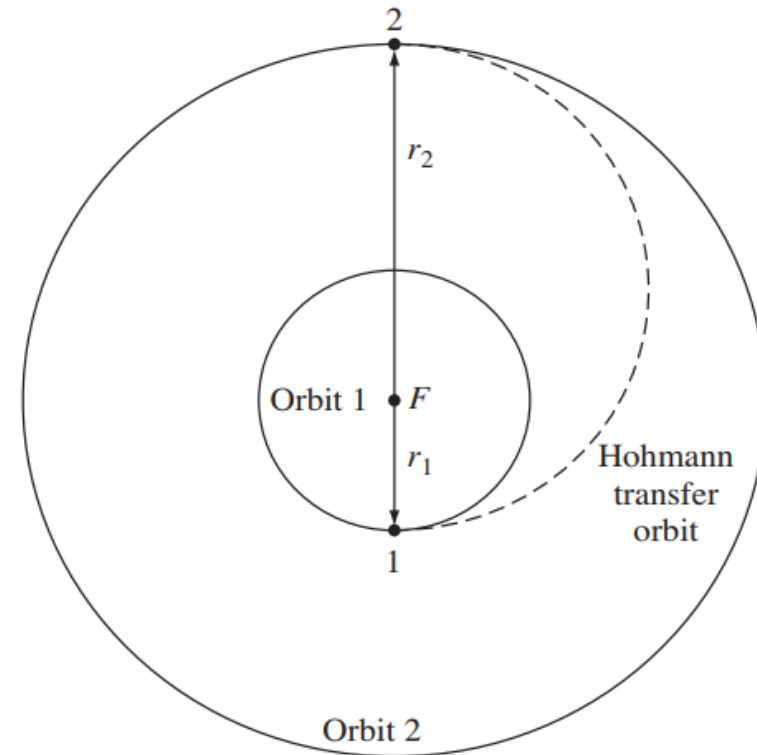
$\Delta V_2$  = impulse at point 2

$V_{pt}$  = velocity at periapsis on the transfer orbit

$V_{at}$  = velocity at apoapsis on the transfer orbit

$V_1$  = velocity at point 1 on orbit 1

$V_2$  = velocity at point 2 on orbit 2



**Figure 8.29** Illustration of the Hohmann transfer orbit.

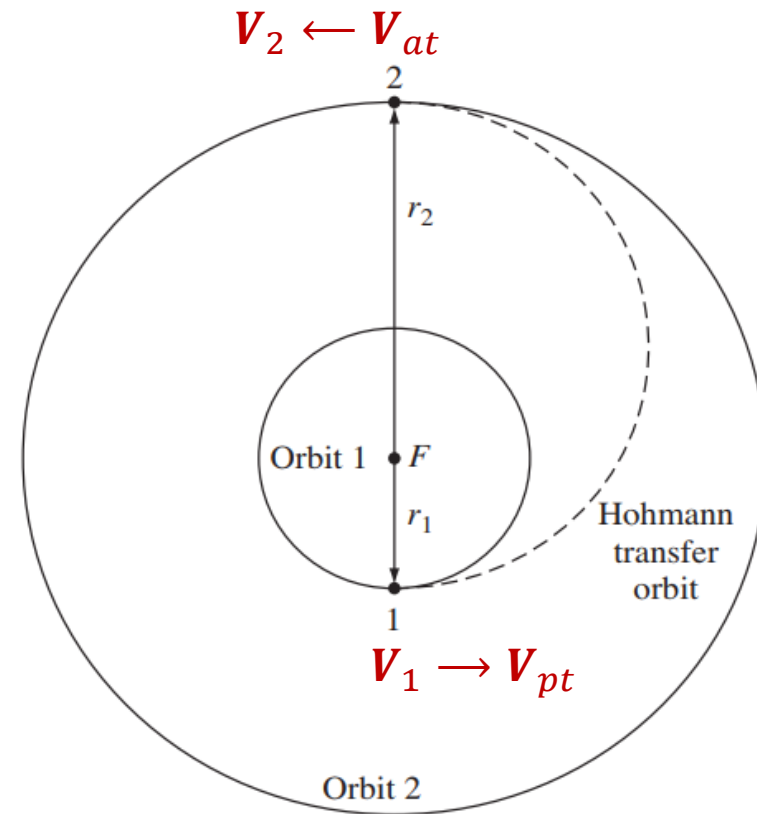
# Hohmann transfer

## Advantages

- Minimum energy transfer

$$\Delta V_1 = V_{pt} - V_1$$

$$\Delta V_2 = V_2 - V_{at}$$



# Hohmann transfer

## Example 8.8

Consider the Space Shuttle in a low-earth **circular orbit** at an altitude of **200 km above sea level**. The payload of the shuttle is **a satellite to be boosted by means of a Hohmann transfer into geosynchronous circular orbit** at an altitude of **35,700 km** above sea level. Calculate the total impulse  $\Delta V$  required for this transfer.

$$\Delta V_1 = V_{pt} - V_1$$

$$\Delta V_2 = V_2 - V_{at}$$

# Hohmann transfer

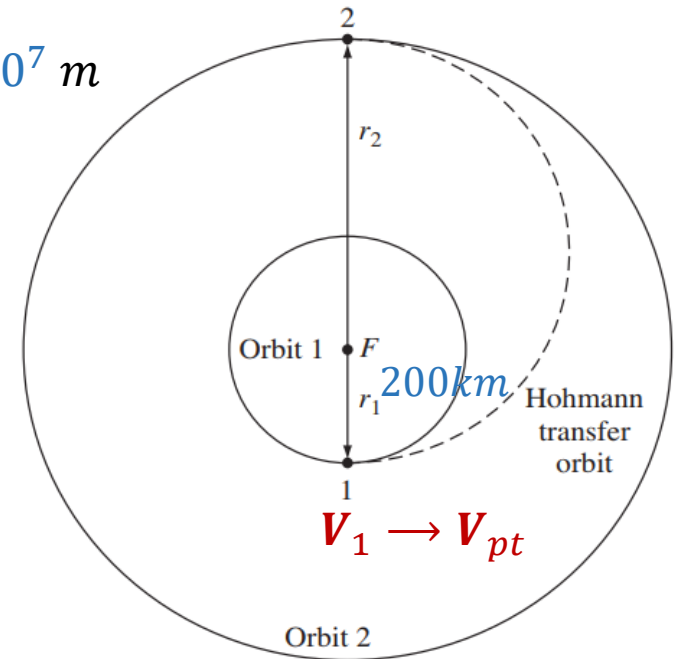
## Example 8.8

$$\left. \begin{aligned} r_1 &= 6.4 \times 10^6 + 2 \times 10^5 = 6.6 \times 10^6 \text{ m} \\ r_2 &= 3.57 \times 10^7 + 6.4 \times 10^6 = 4.21 \times 10^7 \text{ m} \end{aligned} \right\} a = \frac{r_1 + r_2}{2} = 2.435 \times 10^7 \text{ m}$$

$$V_1 = \sqrt{\frac{3.986 \times 10^{14}}{6.6 \times 10^6}} = 7771 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_{pt} &= \sqrt{\frac{2k^2}{r_1} - \frac{k^2}{a_1}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(3.986 \times 10^{14})}{6.6 \times 10^6} - \frac{3.986 \times 10^{14}}{2.435 \times 10^7}} \\ &= \sqrt{1.2079 \times 10^8 - 0.1637 \times 10^8} = 10,219 \text{ m/s} \end{aligned} \quad \Delta V_1 = V_{pt} - V_1$$

$$V_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2k^2}{r_1} - \frac{k^2}{a_1}}$$





# Hohmann transfer

## Example 8.8

$$V_1 = \sqrt{\frac{2k^2}{r_1} - \frac{k^2}{a_1}}$$

$$V_2 = \sqrt{\frac{k^2}{r_2}} = \sqrt{\frac{3.986 \times 10^{14}}{4.21 \times 10^7}} = 3077 \text{ m/s}$$

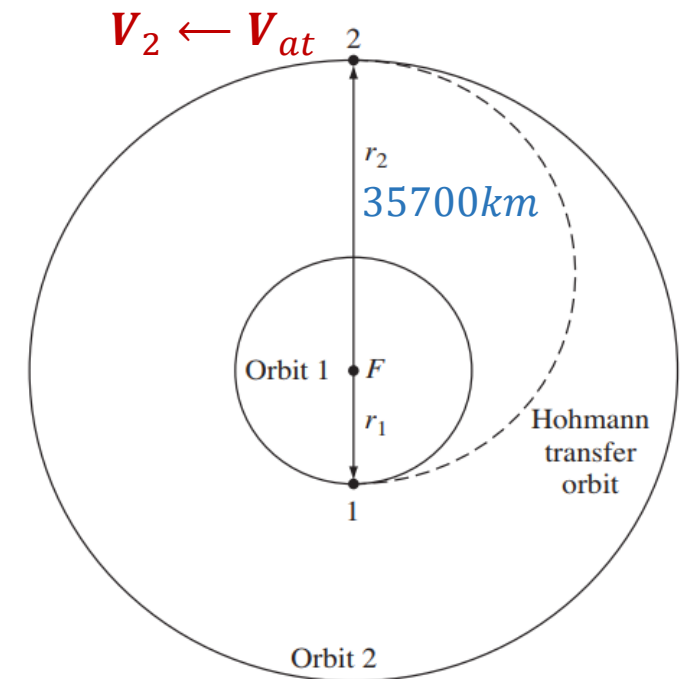
$$V_{at} = \sqrt{\frac{2k^2}{r_2} - \frac{k^2}{a}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(3.986 \times 10^{14})}{4.21 \times 10^7} - \frac{3.986 \times 10^{14}}{2.435 \times 10^7}}$$

$$= \sqrt{1.8936 \times 10^7 - 1.637 \times 10^7} = 1602 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\Delta V_2 = V_2 - V_{at}$$

$$\Delta V_1 = \Delta V_1 + \Delta V_2$$

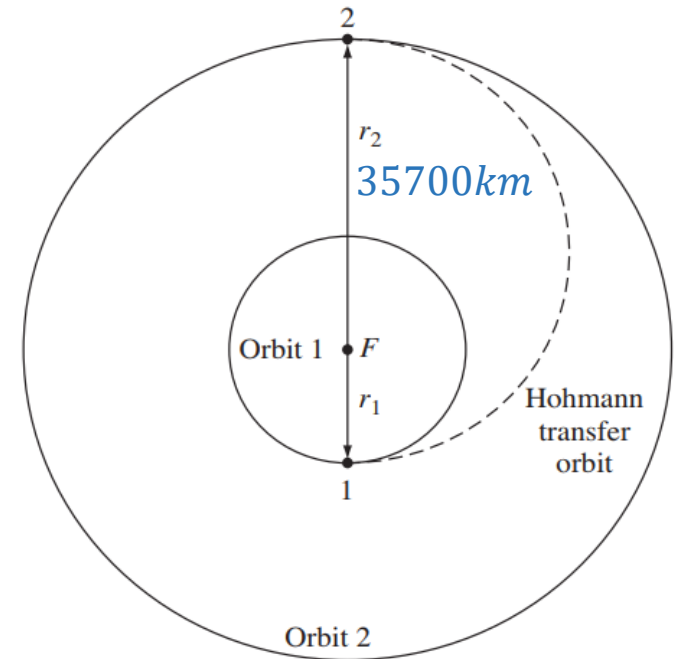
The problem is solved !



# Hohmann transfer

## Example 8.8 – extra practice

Calculate the time from orbit 1 to orbit 2.

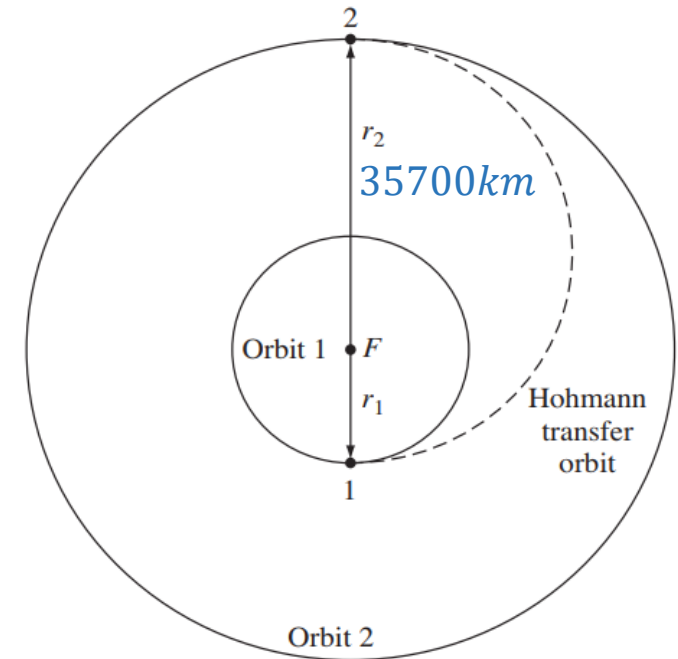


# Hohmann transfer

## Example 8.8 – extra practice

The time of transit in the Hohmann orbit is one half the period of the full elliptic orbit. [Kepler's third law](#) gives:

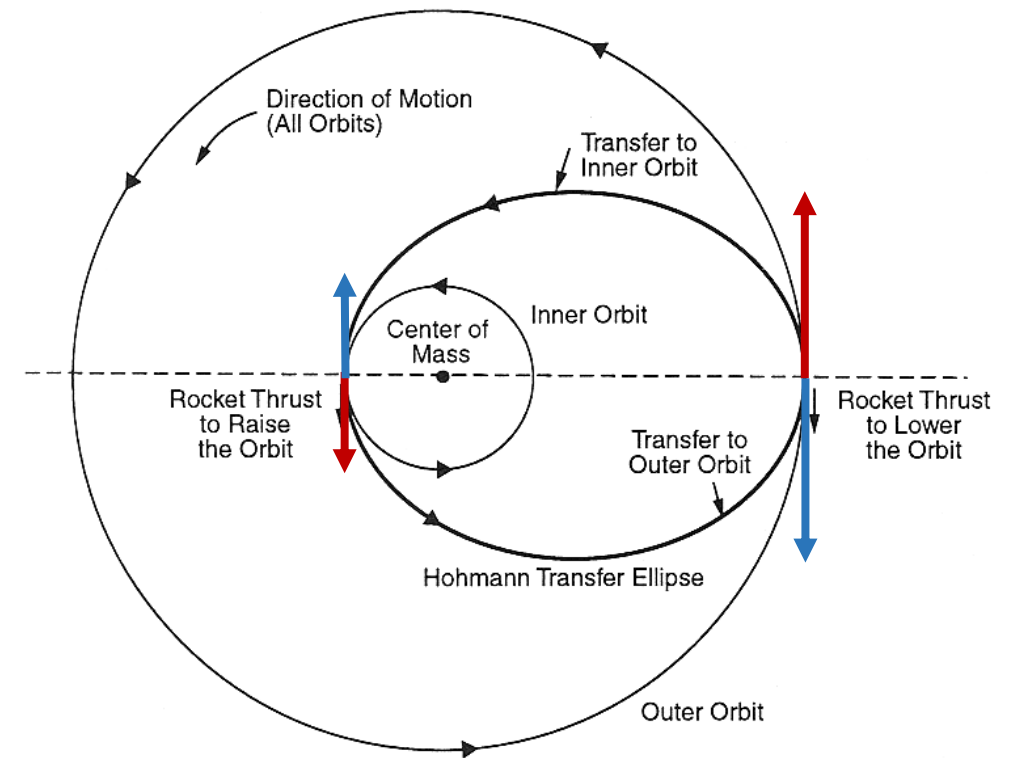
$$\tau_H = \frac{\tau}{2} = \pi \sqrt{\frac{a^3}{k^2}} = \pi \sqrt{\frac{(r_1 + r_2)^3}{8GM}}$$



# Hohmann transfer

Hohmann transfer between orbits around Earth:

- Coplanar orbits
- Impulsive shots
- Transfer orbit touches tangentially
- Minimum energy



# Hohmann transfer

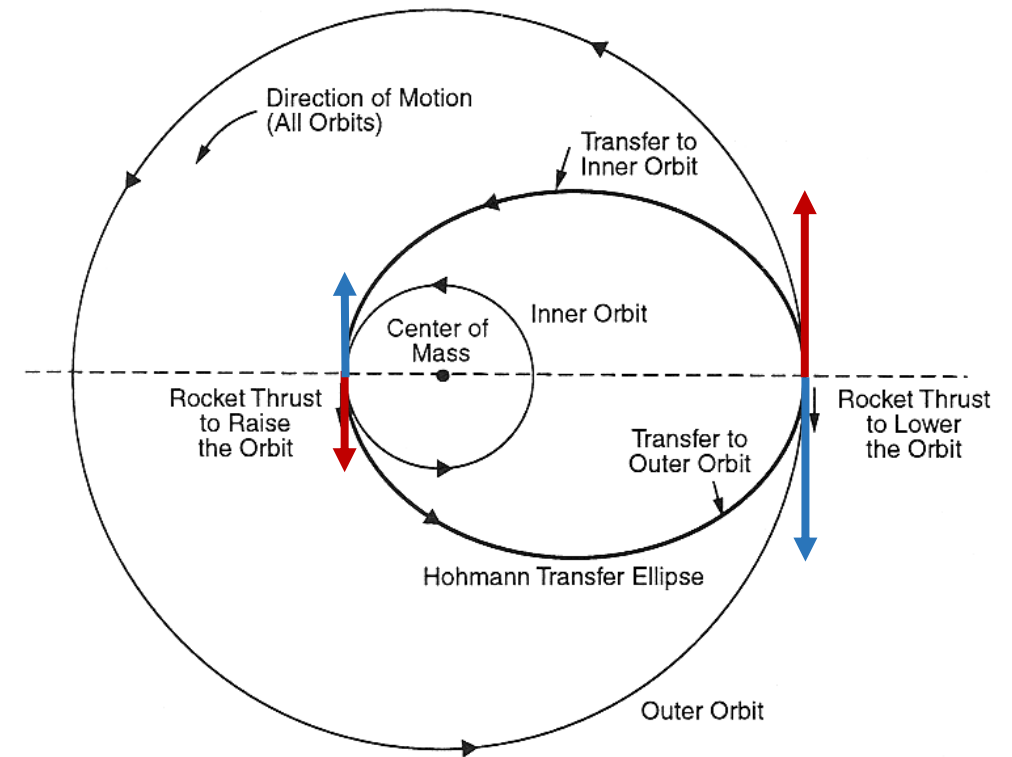
Hohmann transfer between orbits around Earth:

$$a = \frac{r_1 + r_2}{2}$$

$$\Delta V_1 = V_{pt} - V_1 = \sqrt{GM_E \left( \frac{2}{r_1} - \frac{1}{a} \right)} - \sqrt{\frac{GM_E}{r_1}}$$

$$\Delta V_2 = V_2 - V_{at} = \sqrt{\frac{GM_E}{r_2}} - \sqrt{GM_E \left( \frac{2}{r_2} - \frac{1}{a} \right)}$$

$$\tau_t = \frac{1}{2} \tau = \pi \sqrt{\frac{a^3}{GM_E}}$$



# Hohmann transfer

Hohmann transfer between orbits around Sun:

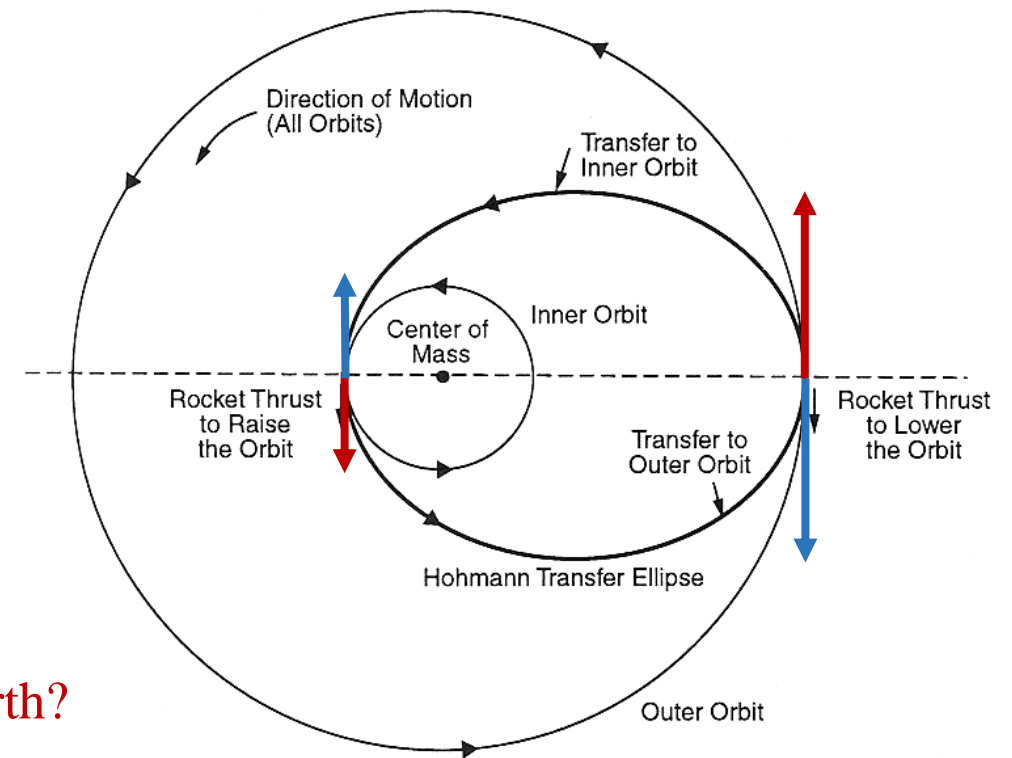
$$a = \frac{1}{2}(r_{dep} + r_{arr})$$

$$V_{\infty,1} = V_{pt} - V_{dep} = \sqrt{GM_S \left( \frac{2}{r_{dep}} - \frac{1}{a} \right)} - \sqrt{\frac{GM_S}{r_{dep}}}$$

$$V_{\infty,2} = V_{tar} - V_{at} = \sqrt{\frac{GM_S}{r_{tar}}} - \sqrt{GM_S \left( \frac{2}{r_{tar}} - \frac{1}{a} \right)}$$

$$\tau_t = \frac{1}{2}\tau = \pi \sqrt{\frac{a^3}{GM_S}}$$

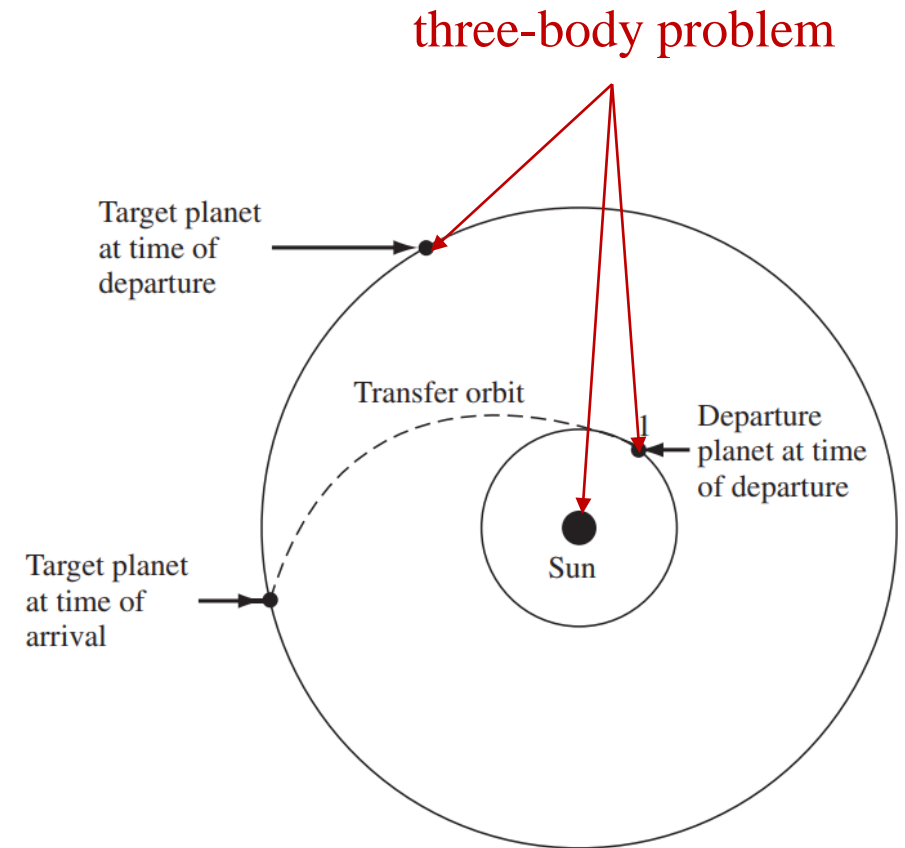
Identical to the earth?



# Hohmann transfer

## Interplanetary trajectory

Due to the [three-body problem](#), the interplanetary trajectory is much more complicated. Hohmann transfer orbit [does not have to be restricted followed](#).

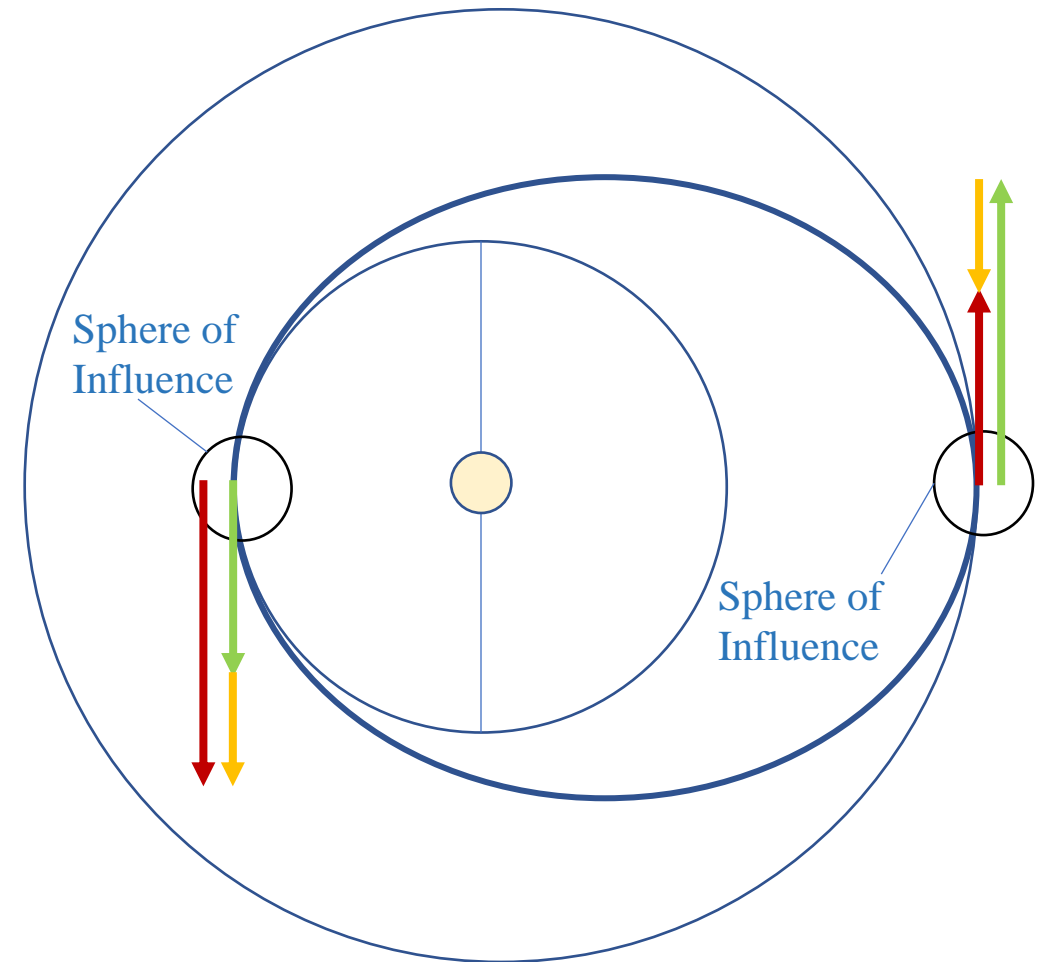


**Figure 8.31** Heliocentric transfer orbit.

# Hohmann transfer

Heliocentric velocities:

- $V_{\text{dep}}, V_{\text{tar}}$  (planets)
- $V_1, V_2$  (Spacecraft)
- $V_{\infty}$  (relative)

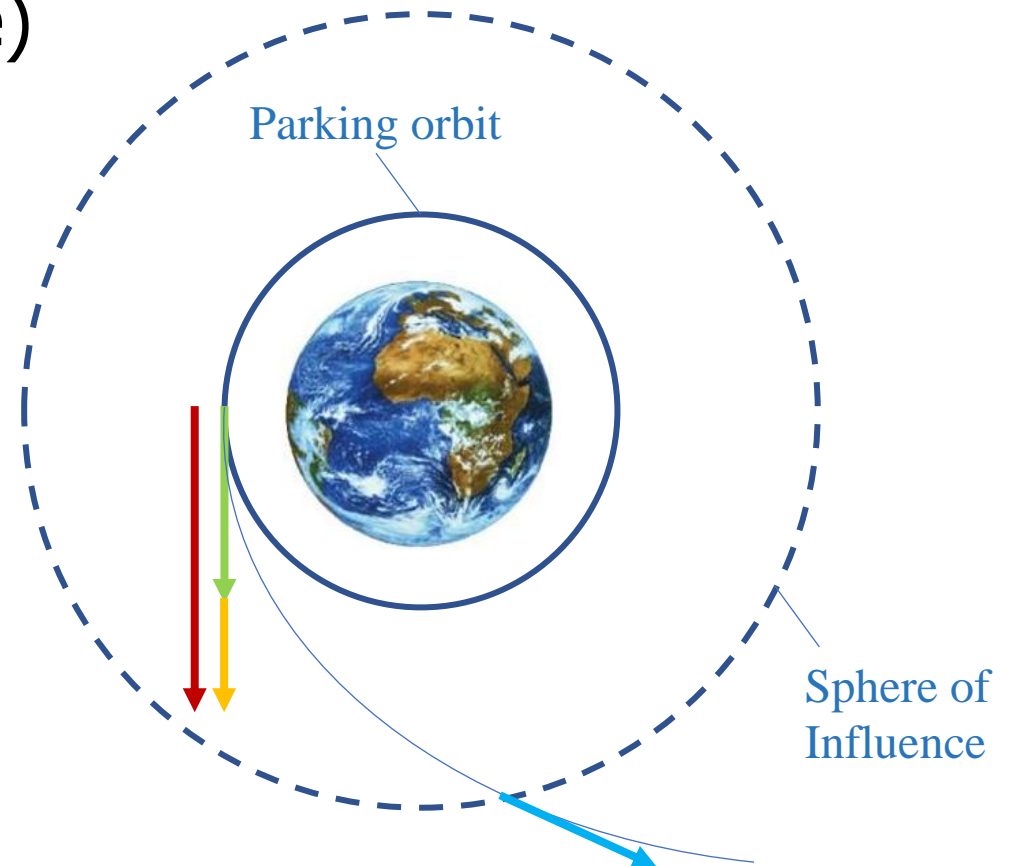




# Hohmann transfer

## Planetocentric velocities (Earth scale)

- $V_c$  (Parking orbit)
- $V_0$  (Hyperbola)
- $\Delta V$  (Maneuver)
- $V_\infty$  (excess velocity)



# Hohmann orbit



# Hohmann transfer

Escape velocity and excess velocity

$$V = \sqrt{\frac{2k^2}{r} - \frac{k^2}{a}}$$

$$V = \sqrt{\frac{2k^2}{r}} = V_{es} \quad \text{Parabola orbit (a} \rightarrow \infty \text{)}$$

→  $V = \sqrt{\frac{2k^2}{r} - \frac{k^2}{a}}$

Excess velocity ( $r \rightarrow \infty$ ) :  $V_{\infty} = \sqrt{-\frac{k^2}{a}}$

# Hohmann transfer

## Example 8.9

The initial hyperbolic trajectory of the *Viking I Mars Lander* upon departure from the earth had a semimajor axis of  $-1.885 \times 10^4$  km. Calculate the hyperbolic excess velocity provided by the space vehicle's *Titan III* launch vehicle.

# Hohmann transfer

## Hohmann transfer between planets around sun

- Transfer starts in parking orbit around **departure planet**
- Planetocentric until leaving **Sphere of influence (SoI)**
- **Relative velocity** when crossing SoI:  $V_{\infty}$
- $V_{\infty}$  achieved by **maneuver  $\Delta V$**  in parking orbit
- Similarly around target planet
- Succession of 3 two-body problems

# Hohmann transfer

Essential difference between around Earth and around Sun

- Earth missions:  $\Delta V$  directly changes velocity from  $V_{\text{circle}}$  to  $V_{\text{per}}$  (or  $V_{\text{apo}}$ ) of Hohmann transfer orbit
- Interplanetary missions:  $\Delta V$  changes velocity from  $V_{\text{circle}}$  to value (larger than)  $V_{\text{escape}}$ , which results in  $V_{\infty}$

# Hohmann transfer

Earth (185 km) → Mars (500 km)

Recipe (1-2):

| step | parameter  | expression  | example                 |
|------|--|---|-------------------------|
| 1    | $V_{\text{dep}}$ (heliocentric velocity of departure planet) | $V_{\text{dep}} = \sqrt{GM_S/r_{\text{dep}}}$   | 29.785 km/s             |
| 2    | $V_{\text{tar}}$ (heliocentric velocity of target planet)    | $V_{\text{tar}} = \sqrt{GM_S/r_{\text{tar}}}$   | 24.130 km/s             |
| 3    | $V_{c0}$ (circular velocity around departure planet)         | $V_{c0} = \sqrt{GM_{\text{dep}}/r_0}$   | 7.793 km/s              |
| 4    | $V_{c3}$ (circular velocity around target planet)            | $V_{c3} = \sqrt{GM_{\text{tar}}/r_3}$   | 3.315 km/s              |
| 5    | $a_{\text{tr}}$ (semi-major axis of transfer orbit)          | $a_{\text{tr}} = (r_{\text{dep}} + r_{\text{tar}})/2$                                   | $188.77 \times 10^6$ km |
| 6    | $e_{\text{tr}}$ (eccentricity of transfer orbit)             | $e_{\text{tr}} =  r_{\text{tar}} - r_{\text{dep}}  / (r_{\text{tar}} + r_{\text{dep}})$ | 0.208                   |
| 7    | $V_1$ (heliocentric velocity at departure position)          | $V_1 = \sqrt{[GM_S(2/r_{\text{dep}} - 1/a_{\text{tr}})]}$                               | 32.729 km/s             |
| 8    | $V_2$ (heliocentric velocity at target position)             | $V_2 = \sqrt{[GM_S(2/r_{\text{tar}} - 1/a_{\text{tr}})]}$                               | 21.481 km/s             |

# Hohmann transfer

Earth (185 km) → Mars (500 km)

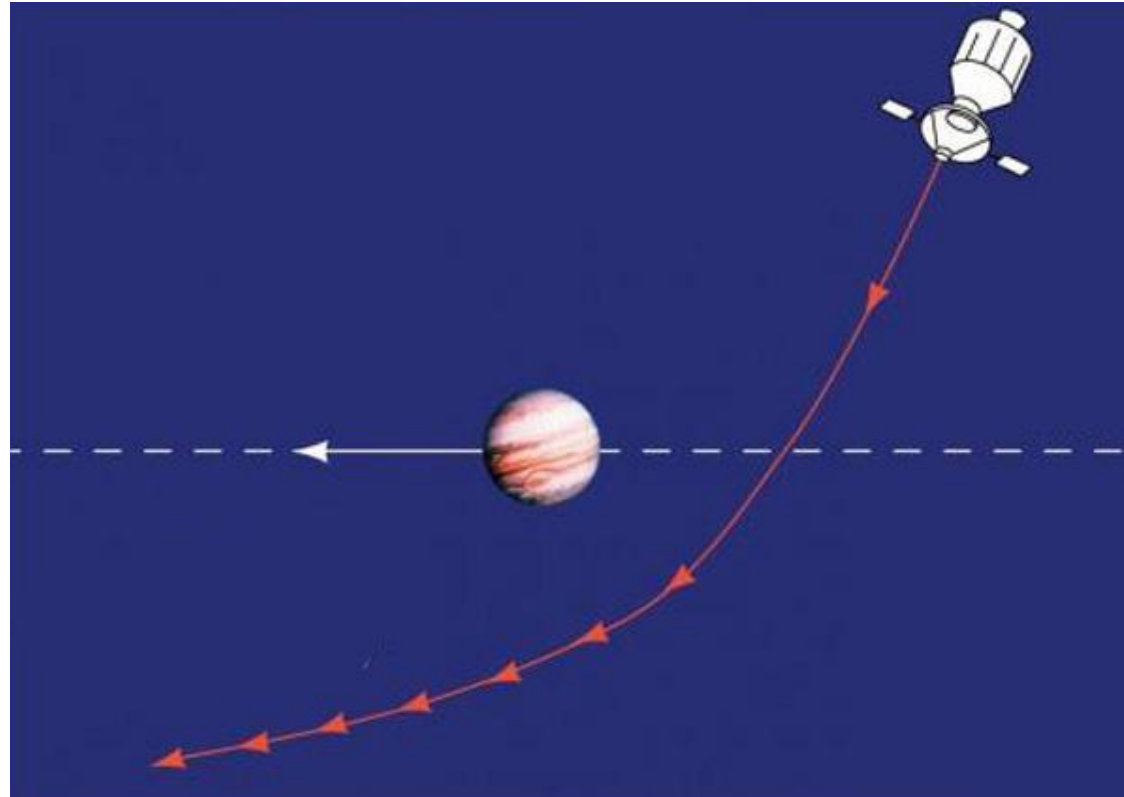
Recipe (2-2):

| step | parameter   | expression   | example     |
|------|---|--|-------------|
| 9    | $V_{\infty,1}$ (excess velocity at departure planet)                | $V_{\infty,1} =  V_1 - V_{\text{dep}} $                | 2.945 km/s  |
| 10   | $V_{\infty,2}$ (excess velocity at target planet)                   | $V_{\infty,2} =  V_2 - V_{\text{tar}} $                | 2.649 km/s  |
| 11   | $V_0$ (velocity in pericenter of hyperbola around departure planet) | $V_0 = \sqrt{(2GM_{\text{dep}}/r_0 + V_{\infty,1}^2)}$ | 11.408 km/s |
| 12   | $V_3$ (velocity in pericenter of hyperbola around target planet)    | $V_3 = \sqrt{(2GM_{\text{tar}}/r_3 + V_{\infty,2}^2)}$ | 5.385 km/s  |
| 13   | $\Delta V_0$ (maneuver in pericenter around departure planet)       | $\Delta V_0 =  V_0 - V_{c0} $                          | 3.615 km/s  |
| 14   | $\Delta V_3$ (maneuver in pericenter around target planet)          | $\Delta V_3 =  V_3 - V_{c3} $                          | 2.070 km/s  |
| 15   | $\Delta V_{\text{tot}}$ (total velocity increase)                   | $\Delta V_{\text{tot}} = \Delta V_0 + \Delta V_3$      | 5.684 km/s  |
| 16   | $T_{\text{tr}}$ (transfer time)                                     | $T_{\text{tr}} = \pi \sqrt{a_{\text{tr}}^3/GM_S}$      | 0.709 year  |



# Interplanetary flight

## Gravity-Assist (引力助推/引力弹弓)



# Interplanetary flight

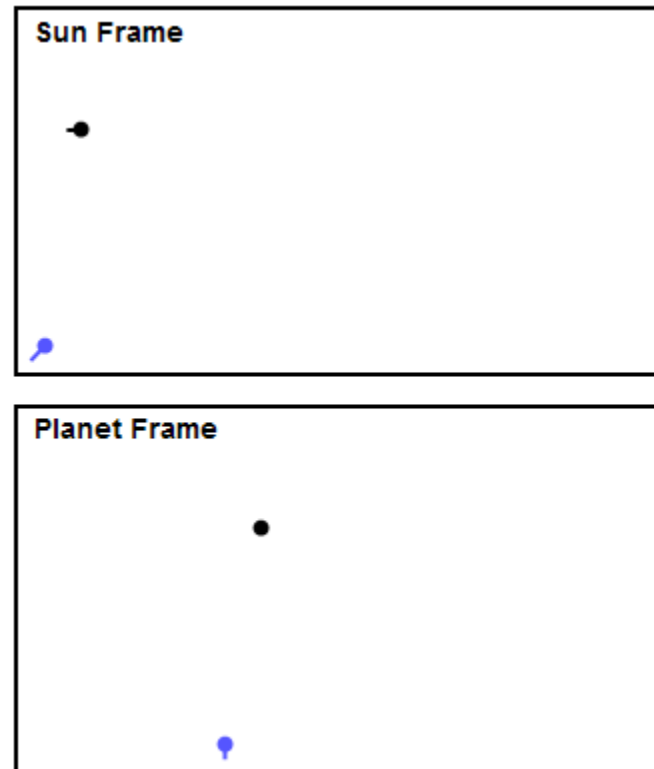
## Gravity-Assist



# Interplanetary flight

## Gravity-Assist (引力助推/引力弹弓)

EXAMPLE ENCOUNTER

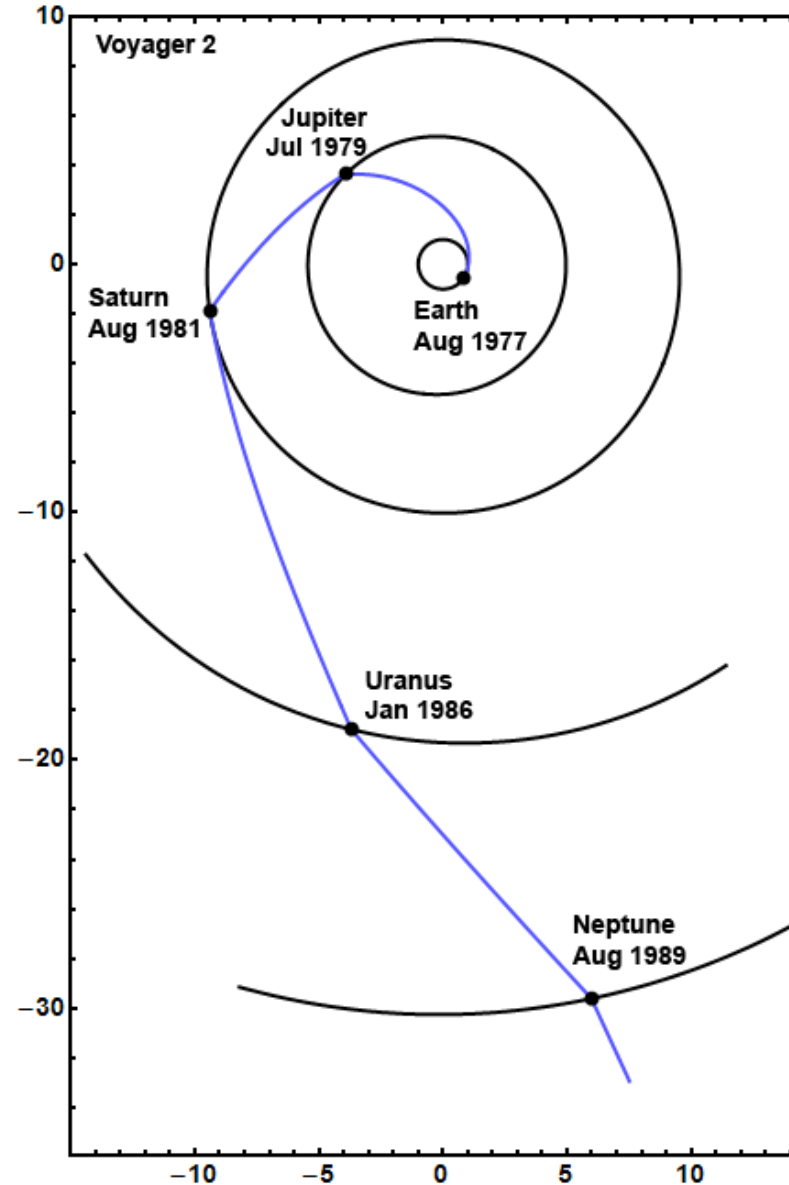


[Source: NASA](#)

# Interplanetary flight

THE PATH OF VOYAGER 2 FROM ITS LAUNCH FROM EARTH IN 1977 THROUGH ITS ENCOUNTER WITH NEPTUNE 12 YEARS LATER

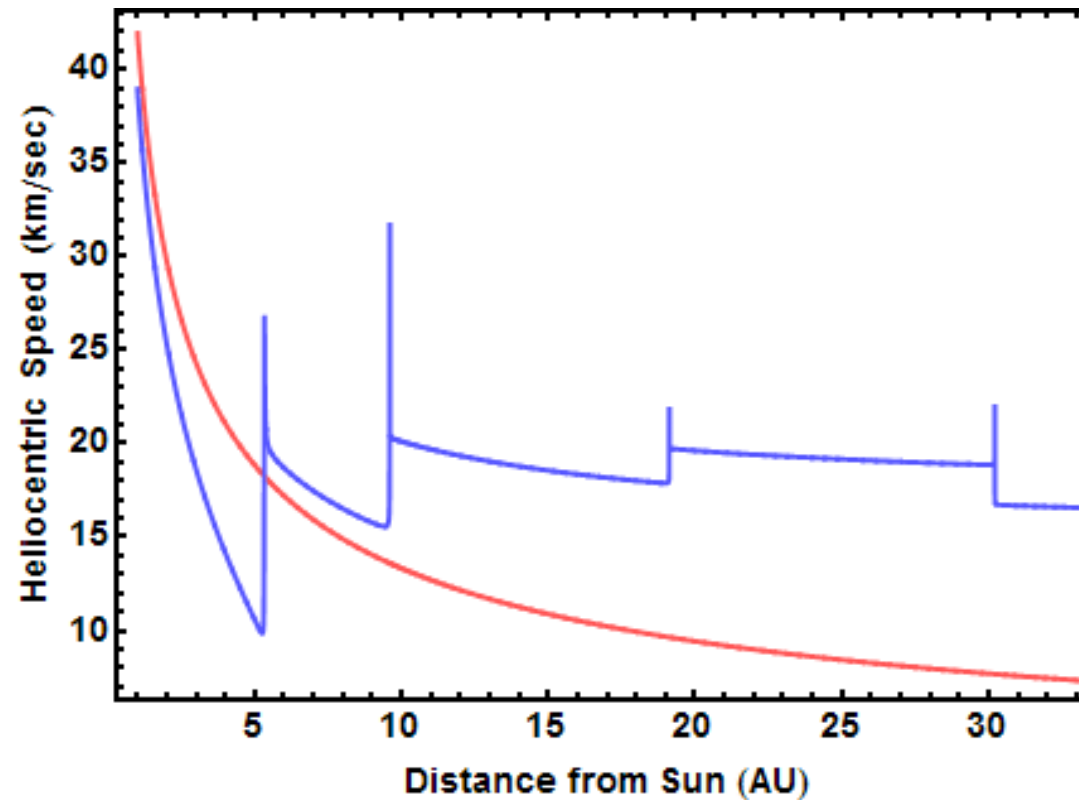
[Source: NASA](#)



# Interplanetary flight

## Gravity-Assist

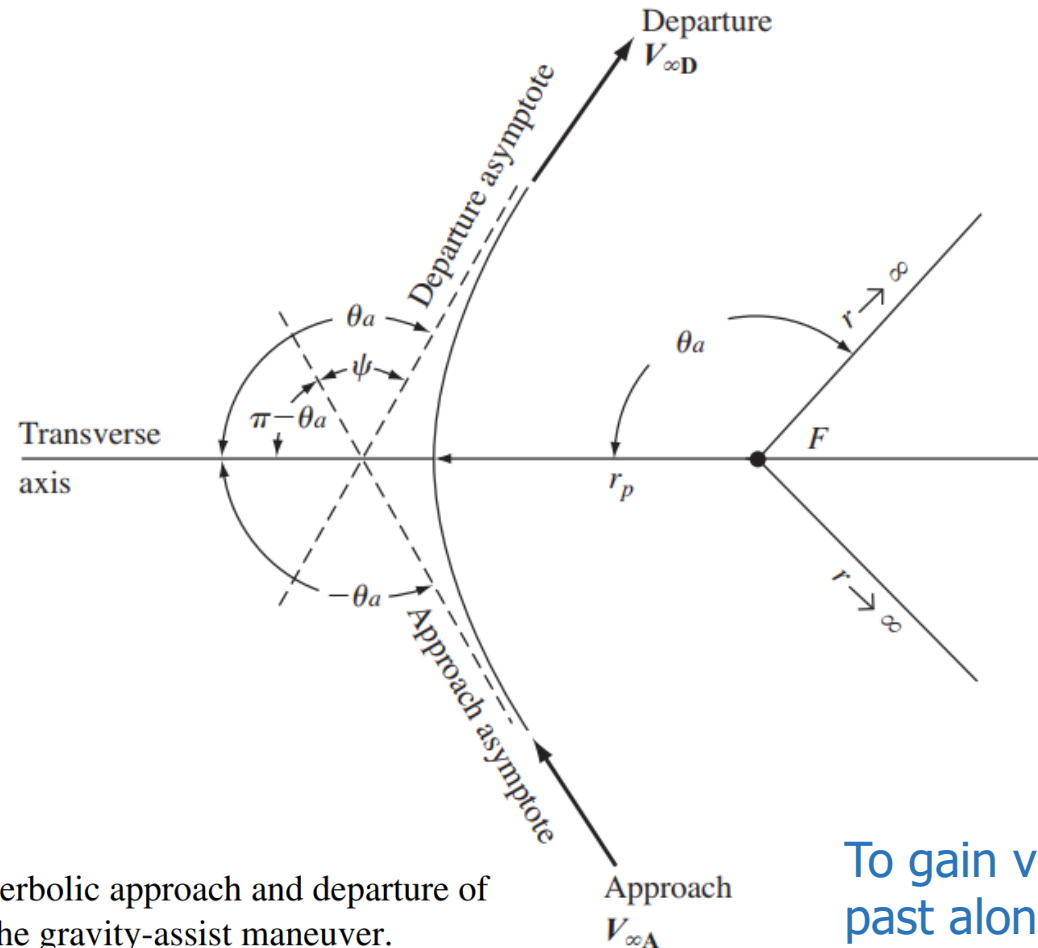
**VOYAGER 2 SPACECRAFT SPEED AS  
A FUNCTION DISTANCE FROM THE  
SUN**



[Source: NASA](#)

# Interplanetary flight

## Gravity-Assist



**Figure 8.32** Geometry for the hyperbolic approach and departure of a spacecraft to and from a planet: the gravity-assist maneuver.

To gain velocity, the spacecraft should past along the direction of the planet

# Interplanetary flight

旅行者号探测器-纪录片-哔哩哔哩

