

Orbital Mechanics Module 1: MATLAB fundamentals & numerical integration of dynamical systems

Academic year 2020/21

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About me



2016: Beng, Università di Parma, Mechanical Engineering



2019: Meng, Politecnico di Milano, Space engineering

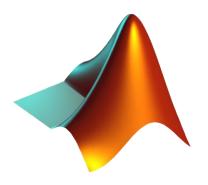


2019-present: Research Fellow, Politecnico di Milano, "SUNRISE project: design of ADR mission for mega constellations – ESA OneWeb"

Research activities: Formation flying, active debris removal, proximity operations, GNC, low thrust trajectory design.

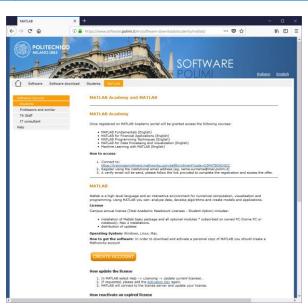
Before we begin...

- We will use MATLAB for the lab classes
 - You need to know the basics to follow the lab!



PoliMi has a Campus License, giving access to the software and many resources:

https://www.software.polimi.it/en/software-download/students/matlab



Module Contents

MATLAB fundamentals & numerical integration of dynamical systems

MATLAB fundamentals

- MATLAB learning resources
- Code structuring
- Best coding practices
- Figures

Numerical Integration of Dynamical Systems

- Ordinary Differential Equations
- Numerical resolution of ODEs
- Exercise 1: The underdamped harmonic oscillator
- Exercise 2: Orbital dynamics

Root-finding

• Exercise 3: Kepler's equation



MATLAB FUNDAMENTALS

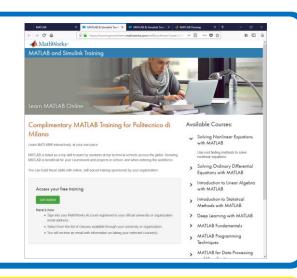
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Mathworks online courses

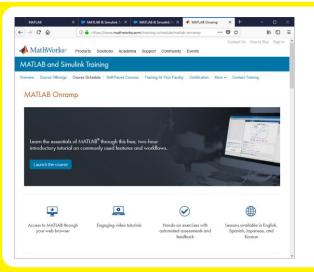


Visit the courses in MATLAB Academy (included in the Campus license) to improve your MATLAB competencies

https://trainingenrollment.mathworks.com/selfEnrollment?code=D3M4TB3KDGIC







For those with little or no MATLAB experience, it is **strongly recommended** to follow the **MATLAB Onramp** online course (approx. 2 hours)

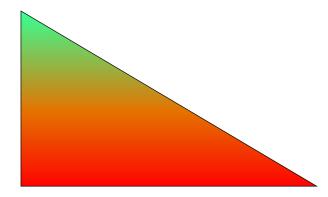
https://www.mathworks.com/training-schedule/matlab-onramp

MATLAB functions: too many things to remember

MATLAB has:

- Thousands of included functions
 - Most of them with multiple inputs and outputs
 - To be provided in a given way (can affect behaviour)
 - Many are optional, with pre-set default values

Effort to remember it all:



Impossible to remember/know them all!



But it is easy remembering to check MATLAB's documentation (even the pros use it)

MATLAB's help command

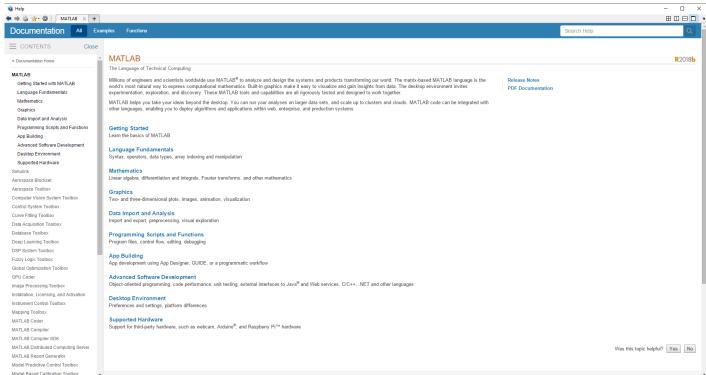
MATLAB's help command is run from the command window, and provides usage information about a given function:

>> help name_of_function

```
New to MATLAB? See resources for Getting Started.
 >> help sum
  sum Sum of elements.
      S = sum(X) is the sum of the elements of the vector X. If X is a matrix,
     S is a row vector with the sum over each column. For N-D arrays,
      sum(X) operates along the first non-singleton dimension.
      S = sum(X, 'all') sums all elements of X.
      S = sum(X,DIM) sums along the dimension DIM.
      S = sum(X, VECDIM) operates on the dimensions specified in the vector
     VECDIM. For example, sum(X,[1 2]) operates on the elements contained in
      the first and second dimensions of X.
      S = sum(..., TYPE) specifies the type in which the
      sum is performed, and the type of S. Available options are:
      'double'
                  - S has class double for any input X
      'native'
                  - S has the same class as X
      'default' - If X is floating point, that is double or single,
                     S has the same class as X. If X is not floating point,
                     S has class double.
      S = sum(..., NANFLAG) specifies how NaN (Not-A-Number) values are
      treated. The default is 'includenan':
```

MATLAB documentation center

- The documentation center provides:
 - Detailed information on functions (usage, inputs/outputs, examples, etc.)
 - General and specific information about how to use MATLAB
 - Practical examples and tutorials

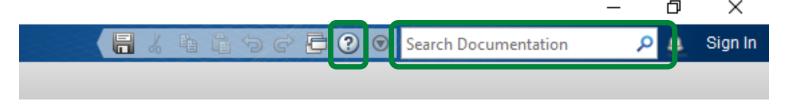


MATLAB documentation center

- You can access the documentation center:
 - Running command doc from the command window
 - If you use command doc name_of_function, you will go directly to the documentation page for that function

```
>> doc
>> doc name_of_function
```

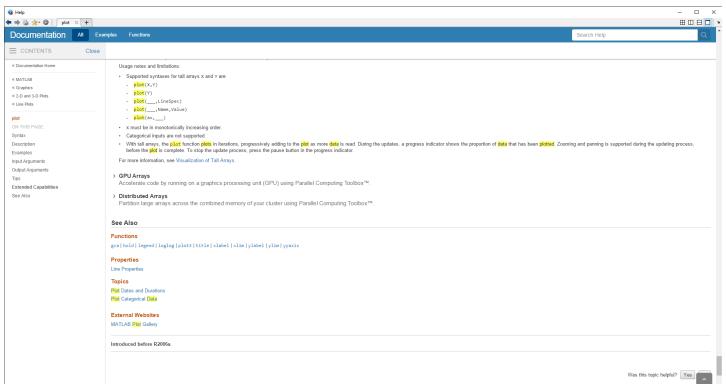
Using the help button or the Search Documentation box in the toolbar:



Pressing F1 on your keyboard

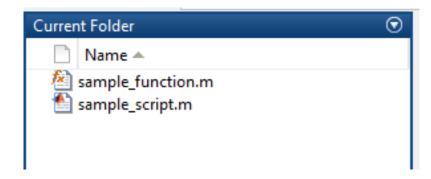
MATLAB documentation center

- Many times MATLAB already has the functionality you need:
 - Search the documentation center before implementing new functions
 - At the end of each documentation page, you will find a list of related functions and topics that can be very handy

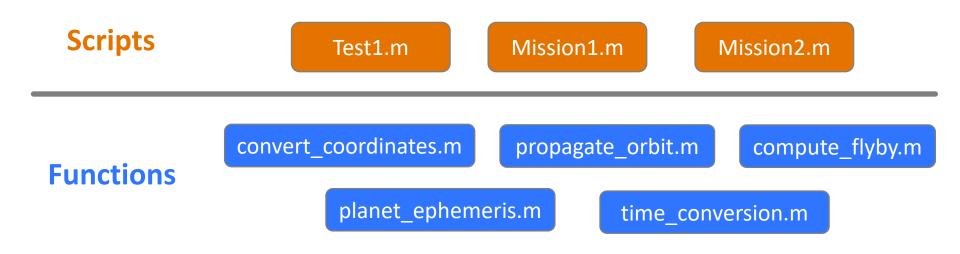


Scripts and functions

- MATLAB code is organized in scripts and functions
 - Both have file extension .m
 - They get different icons in MATLAB file explorer



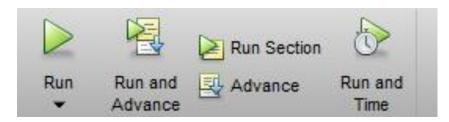
 Scripts should be the top-level part of your code, where you organize the whole program. Functions should correspond to specific tasks.



Scripts

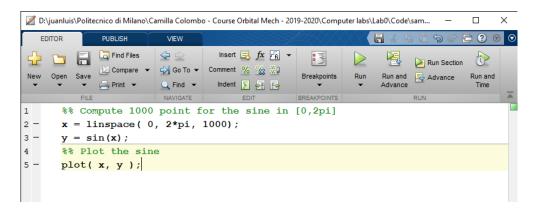
Scripts are the main files of your code. They can be executed directly:

- From the editor, using the toolbar or the keyboard
- From the command window, typing the name of the script (without file extension)
- You can also define sections, to execute your scripts part by part
 - New sections are created typing %%
 - The current section is the one containing the cursor, and is highlighted in yellow



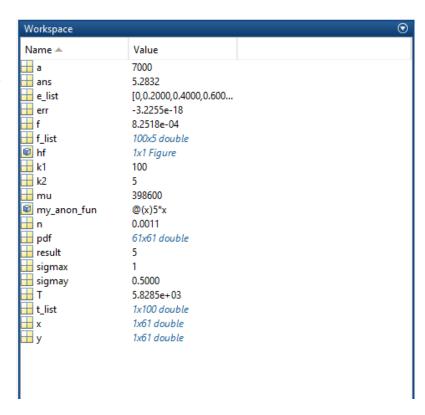
Keep your cursor over a button in the toolbar to see the keyboard shortcut

```
>> sample_script
```



Scripts

- Scripts use the global memory workspace:
 - They can access any variable previously defined in the workspace
 - They can add new variables to the workspace
- This is very dangerous when calling scripts from scripts. Because they share the workspace, if they accidentally use the same name for different variables, they will overwrite each other:
 - Very difficult to debug
 - You have better control calling functions instead



Functions

Functions can be called from the command window, scripts, or other functions:

```
>> [ouput1,output2] = sample_function(input1,input2)
```

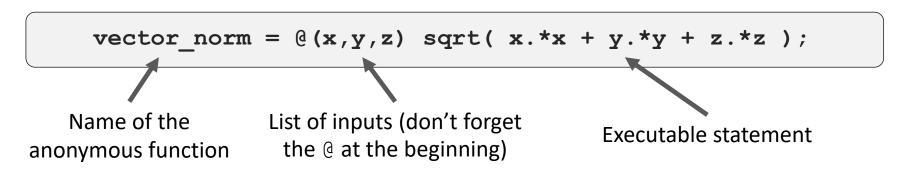
- Functions should focus on performing specific tasks:
 - Breaking code in small pieces makes it easier to test, develop and maintain
 - Try making them as general as possible, so that they can be reused
- Functions have their own memory workspace:
 - They don't "see" variables created outside of their workspace, except for those defined as global (strongly discouraged)
 - Data exchange is controlled through input/output variables
 - Their internal variable names will not conflict with other scripts/functions
 - All internal variables are erased when the function ends, unless they are defined as persistent (be careful when using them)

Functions

```
function n = mean motion( a, mu )
% mean motion Mean motion of a Keplerian orbit
% Function to compute the mean motion of an orbit. This is a very simple
% example to put in the slides of the lab
 PROTOTYPE
   n = mean motion( a, mu )
 INPUT:
   a [1]
            Semimajor axis [L]
               Gravitational parameter of the primary [L^3/T^2]
   mu [1]
 OUTPUT:
              Orbit mean motion [1/T]
    n [1]
 CONTRIBUTORS:
    Juan Luis Gonzalo Gomez
% VERSIONS
    2018-09-26: First version
n = sqrt(mu/a^3);
end
```

Anonymous functions

- An anonymous function is a function that is not written in a file, but defined directly as a variable
 - They can have several inputs and outputs, as a normal function
 - But they can only contain a single executable statement
 - You can define them inside scripts, functions, or in the command line
- Anonymous functions are created as follows:



Anonymous functions are called as any normal function

Anonymous functions

- Anonymous functions are normally used to:
 - Define small auxiliary functions within a function or script, without the need of creating a new file
 - Adapt the **interface** (inputs/outputs) of another function. Example:

```
% MATLAB's 'integral' function can be used to perform the
% numeric integral of a 1D function. 'integral' expects
% a function with a single input variable.
% I want to perform the integral of function my_fun
% between 0 and 1, but it has 2 inputs (the second one
% is a parameter, of value 5 for this example).
% I can do it using an anonymous function:

my_anon_fun = @(x) my_fun(x, 5);
result = integral(my_anon_fun, 0, 1);
```

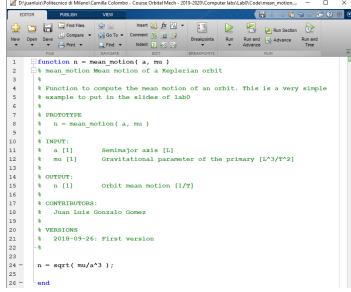
Best coding practices

Documentation

Document your code!

• Software is normally developed by **teams**; others must be able to understand/use your code

- Not just for others, also for the future you
- Use easily identifiable names for functions and variables
- Include a header with:
 - Usage of the function
 - List of inputs and outputs (with physical units)
 - Authors and dates
 - Version log
 - External dependencies





Comments in MATLAB begin with symbol %

They can begin at any point of the line (e.g. after a command)

Best coding practices

Testing

- Test your code as you go!
 - No large code is bug-free (empirically demonstrated)
 - Unit testing: test each function independently as you program them
 - If you only debug the whole program at the end, it is very difficult to identify the source of each problem
 - Breaking up your code into small functions eases validation
 - One great way of validation is to check if the code reproduces known results (analytic solutions for particular cases, conservation principles, etc.)

MATLAB includes very useful **debugging tools**:

(i)

- Pause the execution and advance line by line,
- Check the memory workspace of each function,
- And much more.

Read the documentation page "Debug a MATLAB Program" to learn more!

Best coding practices

Compute_orbit1.m Compute_orbit2.m

initial conditions.m

kepler_eq.m

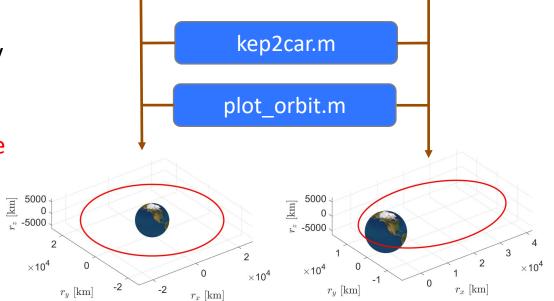
Reusability

Reuse as much as possible!

 Break your code into small, single-task functions with general inputs, so that they can be reused

 This is not the same as copy-pasting blocks of code

 This eases development and testing





By writing small, task-specific, reusable functions you will have less code to write, test and maintain

Are they really important?

- Figures (plots, graphs, charts, etc.) are a key component of scientific and technical communication
 - Good figures convey a lot of information in a clear and concise way
- A good figure should:
 - Have its axes clearly labelled, including physical units
 - Include a caption, placed below the figure, presenting its contents
 - If more than one data set is represented, include a legend and use different colours and markers/line styles
 - Use a font size clearly readable
 - Be self-contained (i.e. should be understandable even without reading the whole document)



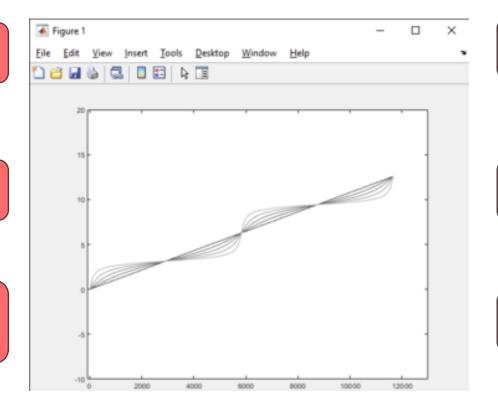
Badly presented figures in the reports will be harshly punished

This is a BAD figure

It is just a low-resolution screenshot

Font is too small to read

I don't know what the axes represents, or their physical units



Very difficult to distinguish the lines

I don't know the meaning of each line

Plenty of wasted blank space

Without a title or a caption, I cannot know what is being represented in the plot

This is a GOOD figure

Good-quality image

Font size is similar to the text of the slide

The variable represented in each axis is indicated, along with its units

The unit of time (orbital period) is chosen to get numerical values easy to understand

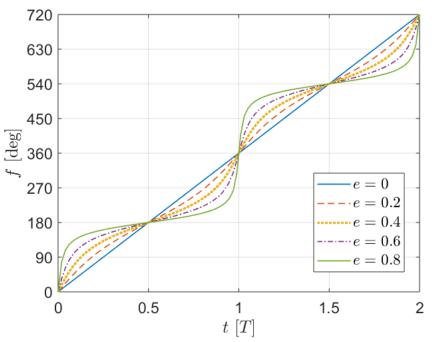


Figure 1. Evolution of true anomaly with time for several orbits with a=7000 km, $\mu=398600$ km $^3/\text{s}^2$, and different e

Lines are set apart using different colors and line styles

A legend is included

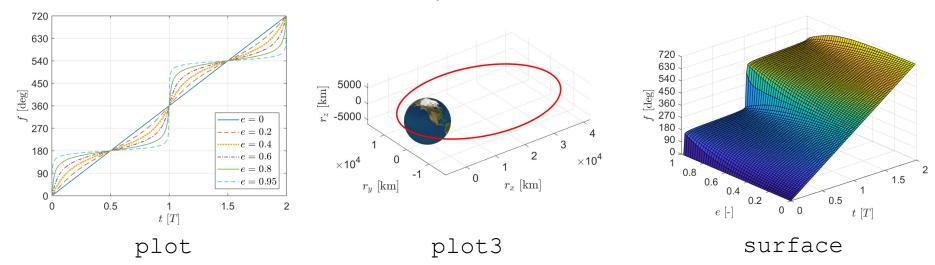
A grid is included to improve readability

Ranges are set to make use of all available space

Figure contents are clearly introduced in a caption, together with a number to reference the figure

Plotting in MATLAB

 MATLAB can represent many types of figures (check the documentation center to learn how to use them)



- Other types of MATLAB plots:
 - quiver and quiver3: 2D and 3D vector field plots
 - comet and comet3: animations in 2D and 3D plots
 - sphere: Generates a sphere
 - mesh: 3D surface plots

Customizing plots in MATLAB

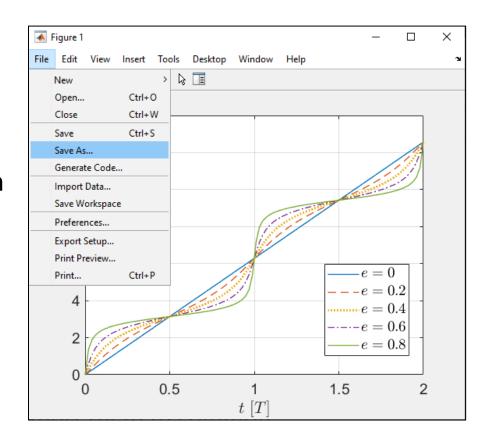
- Properties of plots can be adjusted from the graphical interface or using commands:
 - xlabel, ylabel, and zlabel: Set labels for x, y, and z axes
 - xlim, ylim, and zlim: Set the plotting range for each axis
 - title: Set the title of the plot
 - legend: Add a legend to the plot
 - grid on: Add a grid to the plot
 - hold on: Hold the plot, so new lines can be added
 - axis equal: Use equal unit length along all axes
 - and many more



Check the documentation page for each kind of plot to discover all the available options and related commands

Saving figures in MATLAB

- MATLAB uses its own format (.fig) to save figures
 - You can open fig files in MATLAB to edit them
- You can export figures to common formats (png, jpg, eps, etc) through menu "File > Save as..."
 - MATLAB cannot edit these formats after exporting
- You can also save figures from code using commands such as saveas and print





Screenshots are not a good way to include figures in the report



NUMERICAL INTEGRATION OF DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS

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Ordinary Differential Equations

An ordinary differential equation (ODE) is an equation F involving one or more functions \mathbf{x} of an independent variable t (usually **time**) and their derivatives:

$$F\left(t;\mathbf{x}(t),\dot{\mathbf{x}}(t),\ddot{\mathbf{x}}(t),\dots,\mathbf{x}^{(n)}(t)\right)=0$$

Many dynamical systems in nature can be modelled through a system of ODEs

Example: Damped harmonic oscillator

Applying 2nd Newton's law:

$$m \ddot{x} = -k x - c \dot{x}$$

Rearranging terms:

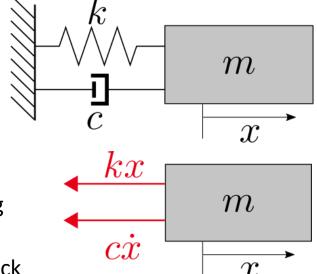
$$\ddot{x} + 2\gamma \dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = 0$$

where:

$$\gamma = \frac{c}{2m}$$
, $\omega_0 = \sqrt{k/m}$

k: spring constantc: viscous damping coefficient

m: mass of the block



Reduction to a first-order system

The **order** of an ODE is that of the highest-order derivative involved.

Any ODE can be reduced to a **first-order system** by treating the derivatives up to order n-1 as **independent variables**. In explicit form:

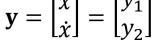
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{y}(t)}{\mathrm{d}t} = \mathbf{f}(t; \mathbf{y}(t))$$

where $y = [x, \dot{x}, ..., x^{(n-1)}].$

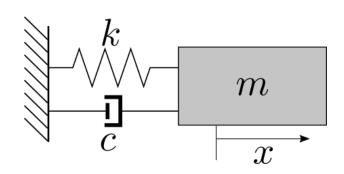
Example: Damped harmonic oscillator, reduction to a first-order system

New state vector (including velocity):
$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ \dot{x} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Equation of motion: Velocity definition: $\dot{y}_2 = -2\gamma y_2 - \omega_0^2 y_1$ $y_2 = \dot{x} = \dot{y}_1$



$$\dot{\mathbf{y}} = \begin{bmatrix} \dot{y}_1 \\ \dot{y}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_2 \\ -2\gamma y_2 - \omega_0^2 y_1 \end{bmatrix}$$



Resolution of an ODE system

If **f** is *regular enough*, the solution of the first order ODE system for given initial conditions $\mathbf{y}(t_0) = \mathbf{y}_0$ exists and is unique (Cauchy-Lipschitz or Picard-Lindelöf theorem)

- In some cases, a closed form (analytic) solution can be found
- In general, we will resort to **numerical integration schemes**

Example: Damped harmonic oscillator, analytic solution

Initial conditions: $x(0) = x_0$, $\dot{x}(0) = \dot{x}_0$

Overdamped
$$v^2 > \omega_0^2$$

$$x(t) = e^{-\gamma t} \left[x_0 \cosh \omega^* t + \frac{\dot{x}_0 + \gamma x_0}{\omega^*} \sinh \omega^* t \right] \quad \omega^* = \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2}$$

$$\omega^* = \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2}$$

$$\gamma^2 = \omega_0^2$$

$$x(t) = e^{-\gamma t} [x_0 + (\dot{x}_0 + \gamma x_0)t]$$

$$\gamma^2 < \omega_0^2$$

$$x(t) = e^{-\gamma t} \left[x_0 \cos \omega t + \frac{\dot{x}_0 + \gamma x_0}{\omega} \sin \omega t \right] \qquad \omega = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2}$$

$$\omega = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2}$$

Numerical resolution of ODEs

General aspects

Let us approximate function $\mathbf{y}(t)$, solution to the first-order ODE system $\dot{\mathbf{y}}(t) = \mathbf{f}(t, \mathbf{y})$, through its values at a set of times $\begin{bmatrix} t_0 & t_1 \dots t_k & t_{k+1} & \dots & t_f \end{bmatrix}$:

$$y_k = y(t_k)$$
 $f_k = f(t_k, y_k)$

It is possible to construct numerical schemes that compute the value of y at the next time step from the values of y and f at previous time steps:

$$y_{k+1} = \Phi(t_{k+1}, t_k, t_{k-1}, \dots, y_{k+1}, y_k, y_{k-1}, \dots, f_{k+1}, f_k, f_{k-1}, \dots)$$

There exist many schemes/algorithms, with different characteristics:

- The number of previous steps involved depends on the scheme
- Schemes can be implicit (Φ depends on the values at t_{k+1}) or explicit
- Time steps can be fixed, or adjusted automatically by the solver to ensure a preset accuracy
- In all cases, you have to provide the solver with
 - The initial condition (t_0, \mathbf{y}_0)
 - A way to evaluate \mathbf{f}_k (i.e. a function). The values of t_k and \mathbf{y}_k are not known a priori, so $\mathbf{f}_k = \mathbf{f}(t_k, \mathbf{y}_k)$ has to be evaluated as the numerical solver advances.

Numerical resolution of ODEs

Euler scheme

The simplest numerical scheme for solving ODEs is the **Euler scheme**.

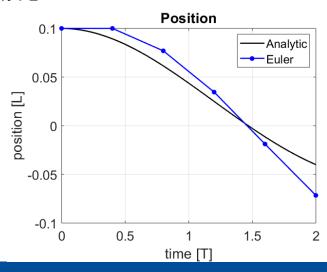
Consider the Taylor expansion of y(t) around t_k :

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{y}(t_k) + \dot{\mathbf{y}}(t_k)(t - t_k) + O(t - t_k)^2$$

Retaining only the first order term, and recalling that $\dot{y}(t) = f(t, y)$:

$$\mathbf{y}(t_{k+1}) = \mathbf{y}_{k+1} \approx \mathbf{y}_k + \mathbf{f}(t_k, \mathbf{y}_k) \Delta t$$

That is, we approximate the value of \mathbf{y} at time step $t_{k+1} = t_k + \Delta t$ from its value at t_k . Geometrically, this is equivalent to treating \mathbf{y} between t_k and t_{k+1} as a straight line with the slope given by \mathbf{f}_k .



Euler scheme requires very small time steps to achieve high precision (local error is of order $\ddot{\mathbf{y}}_k \Delta t^2$). This leads to large number of steps and computational time.

In practice, we will use more advanced integration schemes already implemented in MATLAB

Integrating ODEs with MATLAB

MATLAB provides several solvers for systems of ODEs

- Based on different integration schemes, with different properties
- We have to select the most appropriate one for our dynamics

Solver	Problem Type	Accuracy	When to Use
ode45	Nonstiff	Medium	Most of the time. ode45 should be the first solver you try.
ode23		Low	ode23 can be more efficient than ode45 at problems with crude tolerances, or in the presence of moderate stiffness.
ode113		Low to High	ode113 can be more efficient than ode45 at problems with stringent error tolerances, or when the ODE function is expensive to evaluate.
ode15s	Stiff	Low to Medium	Try ode15s when ode45 fails or is inefficient and you suspect that the problem is stiff. Also use ode15s when solving differential algebraic

Integrating ODEs with MATLAB

ode45

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ode45

Explicit Runge-Kutta (4,5) formula (the Dormand-Prince pair)

- Very versatile
- Low performance for stiff problems
- Low performance for high accuracy requirements

Integrating ODEs with MATLAB

ode113

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ode113

Variable-step, variableorder Adams-Bashforth-Moulton Predictor-Corrector solver of orders 1 to 13

 Less function calls than ode45 (less evaluations of the ODE function)

```
[t, y] = odeXX( odefun, tspan, y0, options )
```

Inputs: ODE function

```
[t, y] = odeXX( odefun, tspan, y0, options )
```

odefun is a MATLAB function representing the right-hand side of the first order ODE system, that is, function f in:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{y}(t)}{\mathrm{d}t} = \mathbf{f}(t; \mathbf{y}(t))$$

This function has to be of the form:

```
function dy = odefun( t, y )
    ....
end
```



t is a scalar y and dy are column vectors of dimension [n x 1]

How do we introduce additional parameters (such as γ and ω_0 in the harmonic oscillator)?

Inputs: ODE function

```
[t, y] = odeXX( odefun tspan, y0, options )
```

Two ways of introducing additional parameters:

1. Additional inputs added at the end of the argument list of odeXX (i.e. after options) are passed directly to odefun:

```
[t, y] = odeXX( odefun, tspan, y0, options, par1, par2, par3, ...)

dy = odefun( t, y, par1, par2, par3, ...)
```

2. Use an anonymous function:

```
[t, y] = odeXX(@(t,y) odefun(t,y,par1,par2), tspan, y0, options)
```

This creates an unnamed function with inputs t and y, to be used by odeXX as a wrapper for odefun.

Inputs: Time span

```
[t, y] = odeXX( odefun, tspan, y0, options )
```

Time span for the integration. There are two possibilities:

get the values for the requested times).

- 1. tspan = [tstart tend] If tspan is a 2-elements array, they represent the initial and final times for the integration, respectively. Output is given at the internal time steps used by the solver.
- 2. tspan = [tstart t1 t2 ... tend]

 If tspan is a monotonic array of more than 2 elements, the solver returns the value of y only at the times in tspan. The first and last elements of tspan still represent the initial and final time of the integration.

 This does not affect the internal time steps automatically decided by the solver (it uses its own time steps to integrate, and afterwards interpolates to



The time values in tspan must be strictly monotonic!

Inputs: Initial conditions

```
[t, y] = odeXX( odefun, tspan, y0 options )
```

Column array with the initial conditions for the state (i.e., the value of y at the first time given in tspan, $y(t_{start}) = y_0$). It must have the same dimensions as y and dy.

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Inputs: Options

```
[t, y] = odeXX( odefun, tspan, y0, options)
```

Object containing optional parameters for the ODE solver. It is created using the odeset function (check the documentation center). For example:

```
options = odeset( 'RelTol', 1e-13, 'AbsTol', 1e-14);
```

For now, we consider only the relative and absolute tolerances (RelTol and AbsTol, respectively). The internal time steps used by the solver are automatically chosen to fulfill the tolerances (they do not depend on tspan)



This is an optional argument. You can omit it if no later arguments are given, or use the empty variable []



There are many (powerful) options that can be configured. Check the documentation center page about odeset for more information



Default tolerance values, RelTol=1e-3 and AbsTol=1e-6, are too loose for orbit propagation. Don't forget to set more stringent ones!

Outputs: Two possibilities

```
[t, y] = odeXX( odefun, tspan, y0, options )
```

t: m x 1 array with the times at each of the m time steps.

y: m x n array with the n states at each of the m time steps. That is, row m corresponds to the state at the m-th time step.

```
sol = odeXX( odefun, tspan, y0, options )
```

sol: MATLAB structure containing detailed information about the solution:

- Time and state at the time steps decided by the integrator are stored in sol.x and sol.y, respectively. Beware, they are transposed with respect to t and y: sol.x is a 1 x m array, and sol.y is a n x m array with each column corresponding to a different time step.
- The state for other times can be obtained using the function deval.

ODE function

```
function dy = ode harmonic oscill( ~, y, omega0, gamma )
%ode harmonic oscill ODE system for the damped harmonic oscillator
 PROTOTYPE
   dy = ode harmonic oscill( t, y, omega0, gamma )
% INPUT:
 t[1]
         Time (can be omitted, as the system is autonomous) [T]
y[2x1] State of the oscillator (position and velocity) [ L, L/T ]
% omega0[1] Natural frequency of the undamped oscillator [1/T]
 gamma[1] Damping coefficient [1/T]
% OUTPUT:
   dy[2x1] Derivative of the state [ L/T^2, L/T^3 ]
 CONTRIBUTORS:
   Juan Luis Gonzalo Gomez
% VERSIONS
   2018-09-26: First version
% Set the derivatives of the state
dy = [y(2)]
       -2*gamma*y(2)-omega0^2*y(1);
end
```

ODE function

```
function dy = ode harmonic oscill(  y, omega0, gamma )
%ode harmonic oscill ODE system for the damped harmonic oscillator
 PROTOTYPE
   dy = ode harmonic oscill( t, y, omega0, gamma )
 INPUT:
  t[1]
               Time (can be omitted, as the system is autonomous) [T]
 y[2x1]
          State of the oscillator (position and velocity) [ L, L/T ]
 omega0[1]
               Natural frequency of the undamped oscillator [1/T]
               Damping coefficient [1/T]
   gamma[1]
 OUTPUT:
   dy[2x1]
               Derivative of the state [L/T^2, L/T^3]
 CONTRIBUTORS:
   Juan Luis Gonzalo Gomez
 VERSIONS
   2018-09-26: First version
% Set the derivatives of the state
dy = [y(2)]
       -2*qamma*y(2)-omega0^2*y(1) ];
end
```



Use ~ to omit unneeded inputs (like time in our oscillator)



Always document your code! You can take this example as template.

Main script

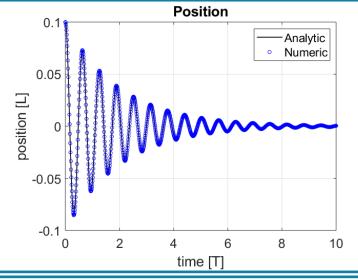
```
% Oscillator parameters
omega0 = 10;
qamma = 0.1;
% Initial condition
v0 = [0.1; 0];
% Set options
options = odeset( 'RelTol', 1e-13, 'AbsTol', 1e-14);
% Set time span
tspan = linspace(0, 10, 1000);
% Perform the integration
[ T, Y ] = ode113(@(t,y) ode harmonic oscill(t,y,omega0,gamma), tspan, y0, options);
% Plot the results
figure()
plot( T, Y(:,1), '-')
xlabel('time [T]');
ylabel('position [L]');
title('Position');
figure()
plot(T, Y(:,2), '-')
xlabel('time [T]');
ylabel('velocity [L/T]');
title('Velocity');
```

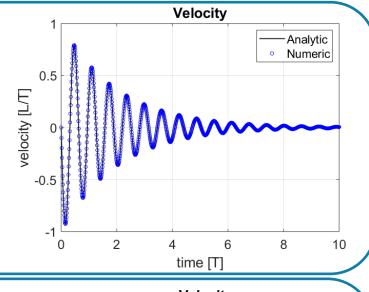
Some results



$$\omega_0 = 10 [T^{-1}]$$

 $\gamma = 0.5 [T^{-1}]$
 $x_0 = 0.1 [L]$
 $\dot{x}_0 = 0 [L/T]$

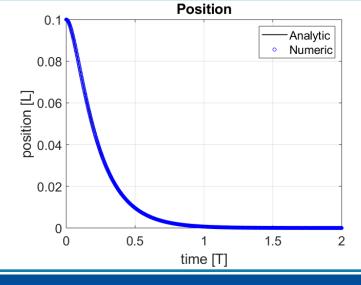


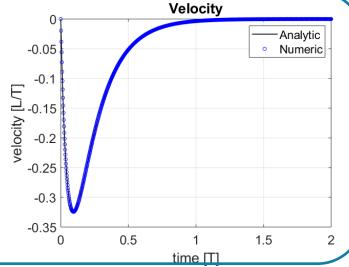


Overdamped

$$\omega_0 = 10 [T^{-1}]$$

 $\gamma = 12 [T^{-1}]$
 $x_0 = 0.1 [L]$
 $\dot{x}_0 = 0 [L/T]$





Exercise 1: Damped harmonic oscillator

Exercise 1: Compare the analytical and numerical solutions for the underdamped harmonic oscillator

- 1. Write a **function** for the analytic solution. Which are the inputs?
- Write the ODE function for the system, and solve it numerically using ode113
- 3. Write a main script to compute the solutions and plot them
- 4. Try different initial conditions $(x_0, \dot{x_0})$ and physical parameters c, k, and m
 - Remember that $\gamma^2 < \omega_0^2$ for underdamped oscillators

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline k \\ \hline c \\ \hline \end{array}$$

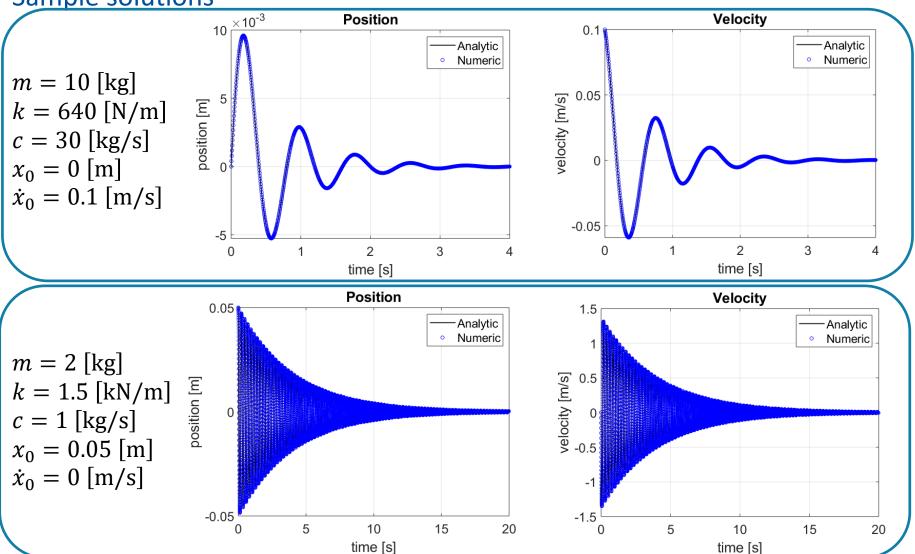
$$x(0) = x_0, \qquad \dot{x}(0) = \dot{x}_0$$

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = e^{-\gamma t} \left[x_0 \cos \omega t + \frac{\dot{x}_0 + \gamma x_0}{\omega} \sin \omega t \right] \\ \dot{x}(t) = e^{-\gamma t} \left[\dot{x}_0 \cos \omega t - \frac{\omega_0^2 x_0 + \gamma \dot{x}_0}{\omega} \sin \omega t \right] \end{cases}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{c}{2m}, \quad \omega_0 = \sqrt{k/m}, \quad \omega = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2}$$

Exercise 1: Damped harmonic oscillator

Sample solutions



Two-body problem

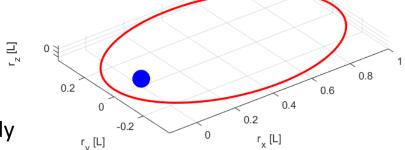
Exercise 2a: Integrate numerically a Keplerian orbit (two-body problem)

- 1. Implement the code to propagate the orbit¹:
 - Identify the states of the system and the physical parameters involved
 - Write the second-order ODE describing dynamics
 - Reduce the problem to a first-order ODE system
 - Implement the odefun MATLAB function for this ODE system
 - Integrate numerically the system, choosing one of MATLAB's solvers and setting its options as needed.

Equations of motion:

$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}} + \frac{\mu}{r^3}\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{0}$$

 μ : gravitational parameter of primary body



¹ **Orbit propagation**: prediction of the orbital characteristics of a body at some future date given the current orbital characteristics.

Two-body problem

Exercise 2a: Integrate numerically a Keplerian orbit (two-body problem)

- 2. Analyse the results for different initial conditions $(\mathbf{r}_0, \mathbf{v}_0)$:
 - Plot the orbit over 1 period T
 - Only elliptical (i.e. closed) orbits have a period. Hyperbolic and parabolic (i.e. open) orbits can also be computed, but they will never close.
 - Plot angular momentum vector \mathbf{h} and eccentricity vector \mathbf{e} , and check that they remain constant in magnitude and direction
 - Check that h and e remain perpendicular (hint: plot the error of a suitable test condition)
 - Plot the specific energy ε , and check if it is constant in time
 - Plot the evolution of the radial and transversal components of the velocity

Hints

- Code your functions for a generic value of μ , so they can be reused
 - Earth's gravitational parameter: $\mu_{\oplus} = 398600 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$
 - $\mu_{\odot} = 132712 \times 10^3 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$ Sun's gravitational parameter:
- Try different initial conditions $(\mathbf{r}_0, \mathbf{v}_0)$
 - To have a closed orbit (elliptical orbit), your energy must be $\varepsilon < 0$
- Some useful relations:

$$T=2\pi\sqrt{a^3/\mu}$$

$$\varepsilon = \frac{v^2}{2} - \frac{\mu}{r} = -\frac{\mu}{2a}$$

$$\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{v}$$

Eccentricity vector
$$\mathbf{e} = \frac{1}{\mu} \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{h} - \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r}$$

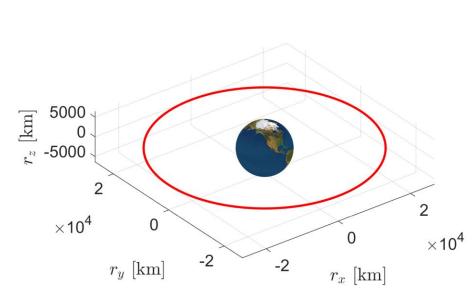
$$\cos f = \frac{\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{e}}{re}$$

Sample solution: Quasi-circular Medium Earth Orbit

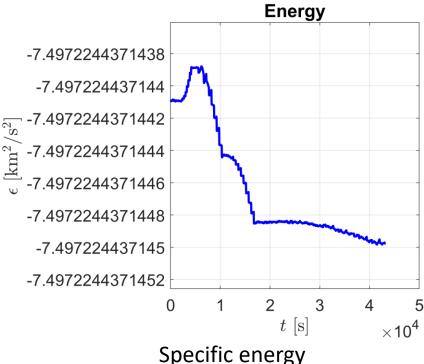
$$\mu_{\oplus} = 398600 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$$

$$\mathbf{r}_0 = [26578.137, 0, 0] \text{ km}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_0 = [0, 3.873, 0] \text{ km/s}$$

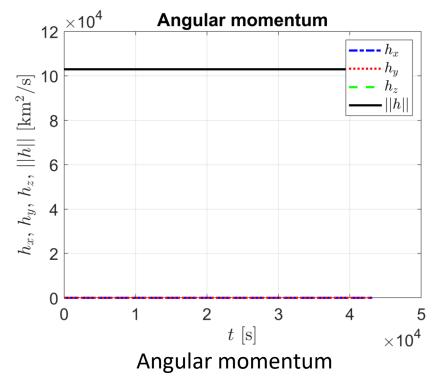


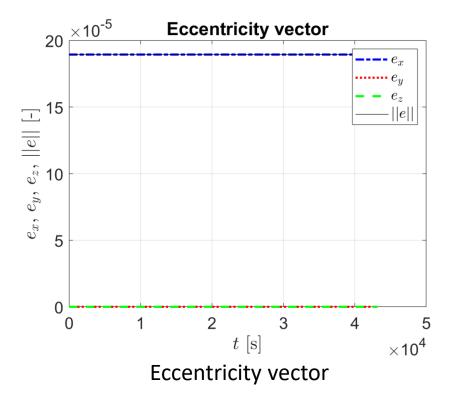
Orbit representation



Sample solution: Quasi-circular Medium Earth Orbit

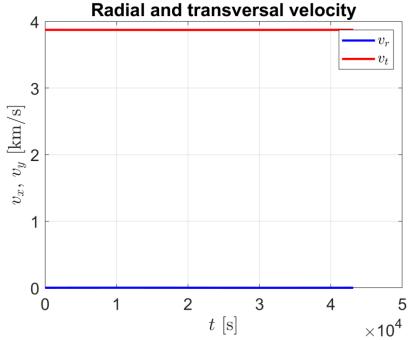
$$\mu_{\bigoplus} = 398600 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$$
 $\mathbf{r}_0 = [26578.137, 0, 0] \text{ km}$
 $\mathbf{v}_0 = [0, 3.873, 0] \text{ km/s}$



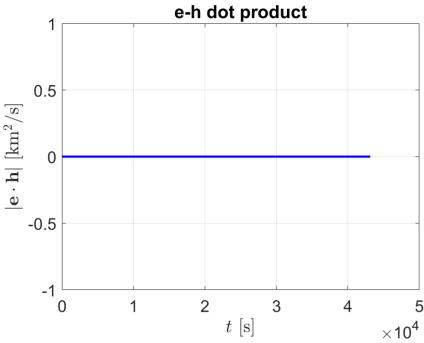


Sample solution: Quasi-circular Medium Earth Orbit

$$\mu_{\bigoplus} = 398600 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$$
 $\mathbf{r}_0 = [26578.137, 0, 0] \text{ km}$
 $\mathbf{v}_0 = [0, 3.873, 0] \text{ km/s}$



Radial and transversal velocity



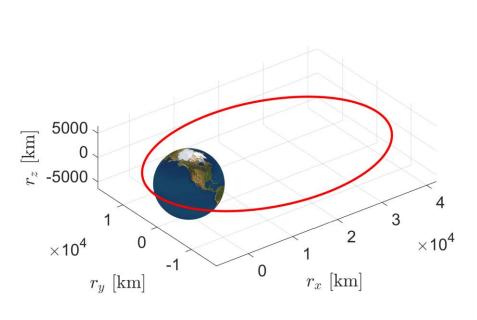
Perpendicularity condition for e and h

Sample solution: Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO)

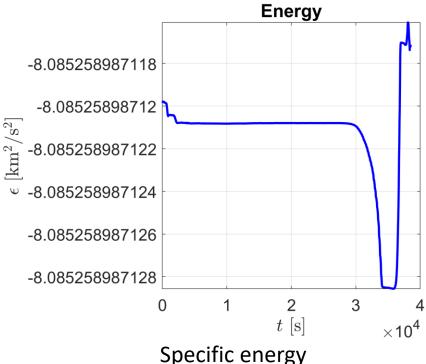
Parameters and initial condition

$$\mu_{\oplus} = 398600 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$$

 $\mathbf{r}_0 = [-7128.137, 0, 0] \text{ km}$
 $\mathbf{v}_0 = [0, -9.781, 0] \text{ km/s}$



Orbit representation

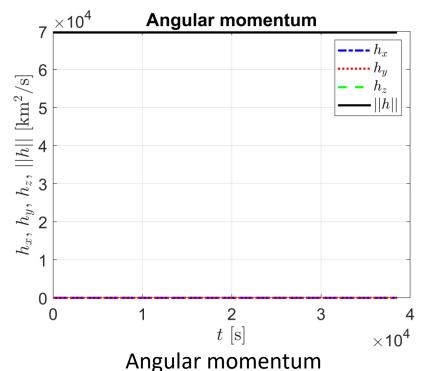


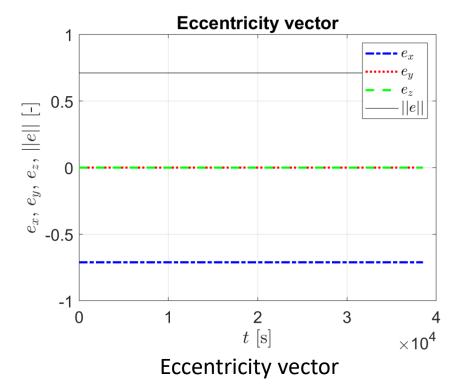
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Sample solution: Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO)

$$\mu_{\bigoplus} = 398600 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$$

 $\mathbf{r}_0 = [-7128.137, 0, 0] \text{ km}$
 $\mathbf{v}_0 = [0, -9.781, 0] \text{ km/s}$

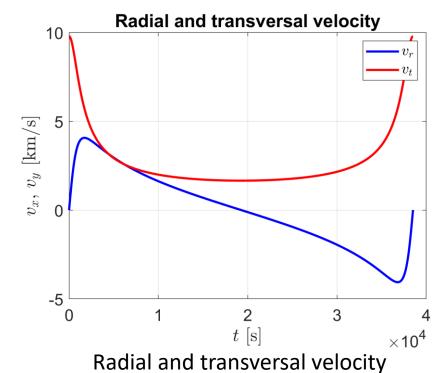




Sample solution: Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO)

$$\mu_{\bigoplus} = 398600 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$$

 $\mathbf{r}_0 = [-7128.137, 0, 0] \text{ km}$
 $\mathbf{v}_0 = [0, -9.781, 0] \text{ km/s}$



Perpendicularity condition for e and h

Perturbed 2BP

Non-spherical gravity fields and other perturbations

- The 2BP only accounts for 2 bodies with spherical gravity fields:
 - In practice, the two bodies will not be homogeneous spheres
 - Many other perturbations will be present, depending on the orbital region: atmospheric drag, solar radiation pressure, gravitational attraction from other bodies, etc.
 - Spacecraft may perform manoeuvres using their propulsion systems
- Non-sphericity of Earth:
 - The Earth bulges out at the equator due to centrifugal forces, taking the form of an oblate spheroid
 - **Zonal variations**: the oblateness causes the gravitational field to depend not only on distance, but also on **latitude**. These **zonal variations** of the gravitational field can be expressed as a **series**, being the major contribution the **second zonal harmonic J**₂

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Perturbed 2BP

Earth's oblateness – Effect of J_2

In Cartesian formulation (\mathbf{r} and \mathbf{v} in inertial reference frame), the perturbation due to the second zonal harmonic \mathbf{J}_2 can be expressed as:

$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}} = -\frac{\mu}{r^3}\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{a}_{J_2}$$

$$\mathbf{a}_{J_2} = \frac{3J_2\mu R_e^2}{r^4} \left[\frac{x}{r} \left(5\frac{z^2}{r^2} - 1 \right) \hat{\mathbf{i}} + \frac{y}{r} \left(5\frac{z^2}{r^2} - 1 \right) \hat{\mathbf{j}} + \frac{z}{r} \left(5\frac{z^2}{r^2} - 3 \right) \hat{\mathbf{k}} \right]$$

where (values of R_e and J_2 taken from [2]):

- $R_e = 6378.137 \text{ km}$ is Earth's equatorial radius
- $J_2 = 0.00108263$
- $\mathbf{r} = x \,\hat{\mathbf{i}} + y \,\hat{\mathbf{j}} + z \,\hat{\mathbf{k}}$

[2] https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/factsheet/earthfact.html

Effect of J_2

Exercise 2b: Earth orbit propagation with J_2

- 1. Modify the function from Exercise 2a to include also the effect of J_2
 - Add physical parameters J_2 and R_e as inputs to the function
 - Remember that the value of \mathbf{a}_{I_2} has to be recomputed at each time step
- Repeat the analysis in point 2. of Exercise 2a, for initial conditions corresponding to Earth-bound elliptical orbits
 - Plot together and compare the results with and without J_2
 - Are all the conservation principles for the 2BP still valid for the orbit propagation including J_2 ?
 - Propagate for a 1-year time span and check how the differences between both models accumulate in time

Data

$$\mu_{\oplus} = 398600 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$$
 $R_e = 6378.137 \text{ km}$ $J_2 = 0.00108263$



ROOT FINDING

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Root-finding

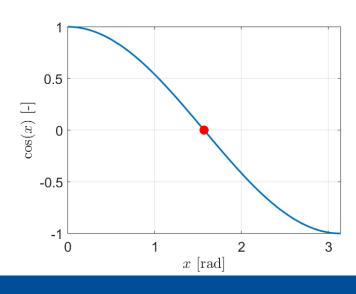
A basic problem in engineering

A root (or zero) of a function F(x) is a number x_0 such that:

$$F(x_0)=0$$

F and x_0 can be scalars or vectors of the same dimension

- Root-finding is a very common problem in engineering
 - A classic Orbital Mechanics example is solving Kepler's equation
- There are many root-finding algorithms:
 - Bisection
 - Secant
 - Regula falsi
 - Newton's method
 - etc

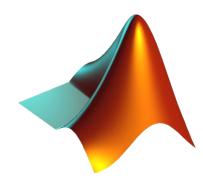


Root-finding

MATLAB's root-finding algorithms

fsolve

- Can solve systems of non-linear equations
- Includes several algorithms to choose from
- Very robust and versatile



fzero

- Works only with scalar equations
- Combines bisection, secant, and inverse quadratic interpolation methods
- Can be faster than fsolve, especially if bounds for x_0 are provided



Read the documentation pages on **fsolve** and **fzero** to learn how to use them!

Both require as inputs the function to be solved and an initial guess for the solution

Anonymous functions can be helpful

Short recap of the two-body problem

- Two-body problem (2BP): Motion of two bodies subjected only to their mutual gravitational attraction
 - The bodies are points or homogeneous spheres
 - First Kepler's law: In an inertial frame centred on one of the bodies (the primary), the other body describes a conic (ellipse, hyperbola, or parabola) with the primary in one of the foci

Equations of motion:

$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}} + \frac{\mu}{r^3}\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{0}$$

Polar equation of the orbit:

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

r: Position vector of the secondary body

 μ : gravitational parameter of primary body

p: semilatus rectum of the conic

e: eccentricity of the conic

f : true anomaly

F: focus

P: orbiting body

C: centre of the conic

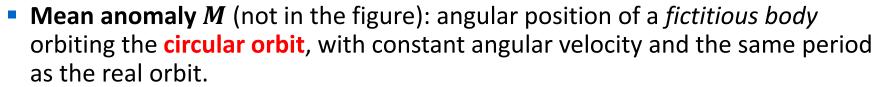
a: semimajor axis

b: semiminor axis

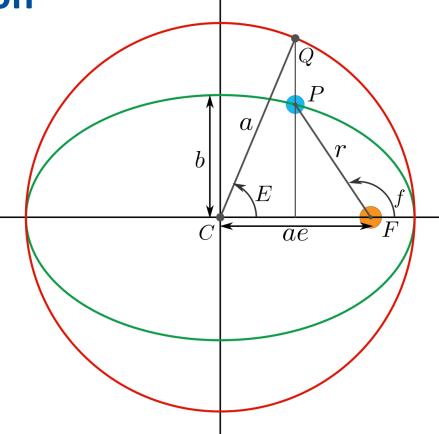
Angles in the 2BP

- True anomaly f: angular position of body P, measured from the direction of periapsis.
- Eccentric anomaly E: angular position of point Q, which is the projection (perpendicular to the semimajor axis) of P onto a circle with radius equal to the semimajor axis of the ellipse and same centre C.

The relation between f and E is purely geometrical.



M is measured over the same circle as E, but they differ because E does not have constant velocity (it follows P).



Kepler's equation: time law for the 2BP

Kepler's equation provides a relation between E and M, depending on the orbit's eccentricity e. For elliptical orbits (i.e. with e < 1):

$$M = E - e \sin E.$$

$$M = \frac{H - H_0}{L_0} = \frac{E - E_0}{L_0} = \frac{1}{L_0} \left(\frac{\ln L - \ln L_0}{\ln L_0} \right)$$

$$\frac{\ln L_0}{\ln L_0} = \frac{1}{L_0} \left(\frac{\ln L_0}{\ln L_0} \right)$$

$$\frac{\ln L_0}{\ln L_0} = \frac{1}{L_0} \left(\frac{\ln L_0}{\ln L_0} \right)$$

M is related to time t through the mean motion n (M_0 is the mean anomaly at

$$M = M_0 + n(t - t_0) = M_0 + \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{a^3}}(t - t_0)$$
, $M = M_0 + n(t - t_0) = M_0 + \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{a^3}}(t - t_0)$

reference time
$$t_0$$
):
$$M = M_0 + n(t - t_0) = M_0 + \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{a^3}}(t - t_0), \quad \text{where } t \in \mathbb{R}$$
 is related to true anomaly f (geometrical relations):
$$V = \chi t_0 = 0$$

$$\cos f = \frac{\cos E - e}{1 - e \cos E}, \quad \tan \frac{f}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{1 + e}{1 - e}} \tan \frac{E}{2}.$$

Therefore, Kepler's equation gives us the position of the orbiting body (true anomaly) as an implicit function of time (time law for the Keplerian orbit).

Handling multiple revolutions

- If M < 0 or $M \ge 2\pi$ radians, we may want to account for the number of revolutions
 - This is straightforward, as a complete revolution in M also corresponds to a complete revolution in E and f
- A simple algorithm to do this:
 - 1. Reduce M to $M \in [0,2\pi]$ rad plus a whole number of revolutions $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, so that $M = \overline{M} + k2\pi$
 - Hint: Take a look at functions like floor, ceil, fix, mod, wrapTo2Pi, wrapToPi.
 - 2. Solve Kepler's equation for \overline{M}
 - 3. Compute the corresponding true anomaly $\overline{f} \in [0,2\pi]$ rad
 - 4. Add the whole number of revolutions, $f = \overline{f} + k2\pi$

Implement a solver for Kepler's equation

Exercise 3a: Implement a solver for Kepler's equation

- Inputs:
 - Time t
 - eccentricity e
 - semimajor axis a
 - gravitational parameter of the primary μ
 - reference initial time t_0 and true anomaly f_0



Outputs:

true anomaly f

$$n(t-t_0) = E - en E - (E_0 - en E_0)$$

from Lot

- Try and compare using both fsolve and fzero
 - You can also implement your own root-finding algorithms (e.g. Newton)
- Be very careful with the ranges of the angles to prevent discontinuities

Hints

- Read the documentation pages for fsolve and fzero
 - You may need to set the tolerance (error) for the solution
- You can use an anonymous function to pass the function to be solved to fsolve and fzero
- A good initial guess for the root is [1]: $E_{guess} = M + \frac{e \sin M}{1 \sin(M + e) + \sin M}$
- You can add additional inputs as you see fit
 - It is possible to call a function without passing all the inputs. You can check the number of inputs passed using nargin. This way, you can program a function to have some inputs as 'optional'. Example:

```
% Seventh input is the tolerance 'tol', treated as optional if nargin<7

tol = 1e-6; % Default value used if input not given end if norgan L L P fo L to = Ø (much report from to)
```

[1] Battin, R., An Introduction to the Mathematics and Methods of Astrodynamics, AIAA Education Series, 1999

Plot the evolution of true anomaly with time

Exercise 3b: Plot f(t) for different orbits

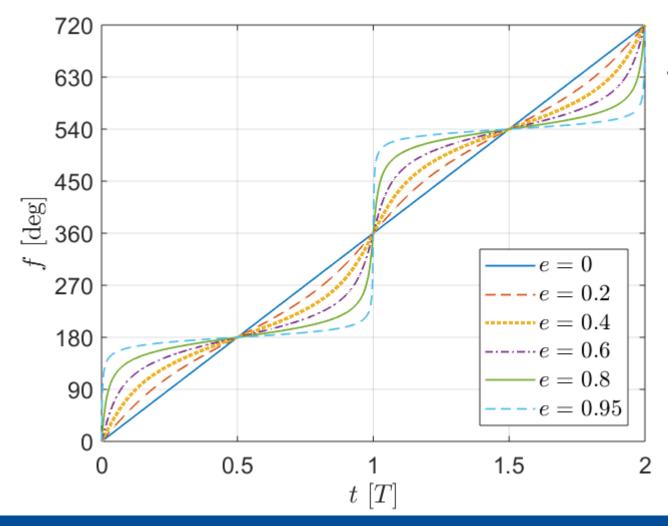
- 1. Create a function that computes the true anomaly for an orbit with fixed e, a, and μ , for an N-points array of times covering k periods of the orbit
 - Hint: This new function can reuse the function you created in Exercise 3a
 - Hint: You can create arrays of uniformly distributed points in MATLAB using the colon operator or the linspace function
 - Hint: The period of an orbit is $T=2\pi/n$, where n is the mean motion
- 2. Compute f(t) for the following values:
 - a = 7000 km
 - $\mu = 398600 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$ (Earth's gravitational parameter)
 - $f_0(t_0 = 0) = 0$ rad
 - $k = 2, N \ge 100$
 - Six different eccentricities: e = 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, 0.95

Plot the evolution of true anomaly with time

Exercise 3b: Plot f(t) for different orbits

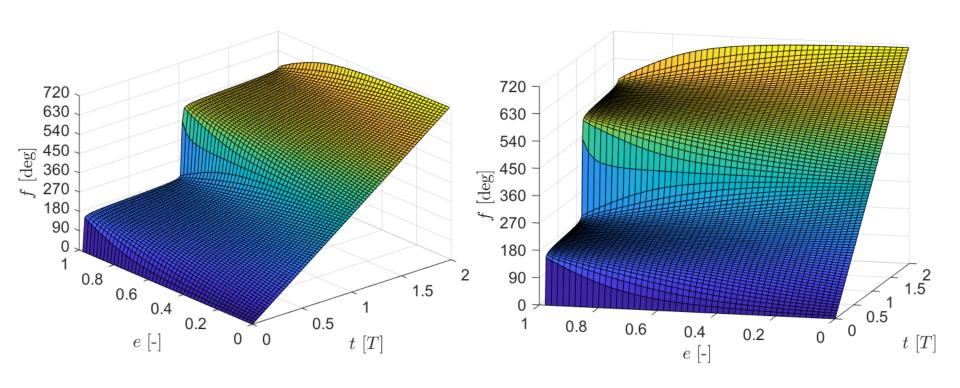
- 3. Plot f(t;e) for all the cases in 2. in a single 2D plot, using the plot command
 - Remember to set the axes and other properties of the plot
 - Hint: You can plot several lines at the same time with a single plot command, or you can use hold on to add them one by one
- 4. Plot f(t; e) as a 3D surface using the surf command
 - Represent time in the x axis, eccentricity in the y axis, and true anomaly in the z axis. Use the documentation center to check the correct way of passing these inputs to surf
 - You can compute f(t; e) for additional values of e to get a smoother plot
- Compare with the results obtained from the numerical propagation of the 2BP in Exercise 2

Solution: 2D plot



Evolution of true anomaly with time for $a=7000~\mathrm{km},$ $\mu=398600~\mathrm{km}^3/\mathrm{s}^2,$ and different eccentricities

Solution: surface plot



Evolution of true anomaly with time and eccentricity for a=7000 km and $\mu=398600 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$

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