

# Project 2: Maneuver Reconstruction

Tyson Warner and Jack Pence

## I. PROJECT STATEMENT: MANEUVER RECONSTRUCTION

Maneuver reconstruction is an important part of the astrodynamics suite of applications. Specially in sparse data environments, or in the event that the spacecraft is performing multiple maneuvers, identifying how much delta-v was expended is an important metric in characterizing the capabilities of a satellite. In this project, we will idealize a simplified maneuver reconstruction experiment.

Consider a spacecraft that is continuously being tracked. The ground station loses tracking when a maneuver is performed, but has regained its custody at a later time. (Maneuver detection and tracking is another important and difficult problem in astrodynamics. For this project, let us assume that this problem is solved). A schematic of one such maneuver reconstruction is shown as follows:

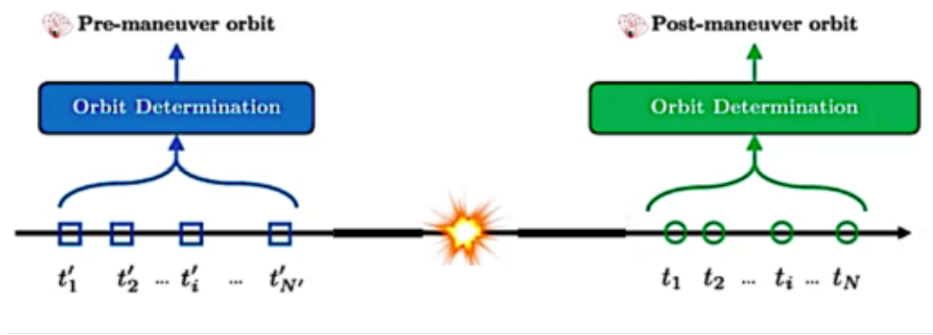


Figure 1. Maneuver Reconstruction Schematic.

We will utilize Gauss' initial orbit determination to identify the orbit that the spacecraft occupies before and after the maneuver and calculate how much delta-v was used to transfer between them.

## II. ANALYTICAL PART: COMPUTING THE MANEUVER

Given the pre-maneuver and post-maneuver orbit parameters, compute the delta-v used to transfer from one to the other. Let us assume a coplanar case for this project, i.e. the inclination and RAAN of the pre and post-maneuver orbit are the same. However, the argument of perigee may be different.

In such a case, let us suppose that we adopt the perifocal reference frame for the first ellipse. In this reference frame, then, the argument of periapsis of the second ellipse is rotated counter-clockwise from the x-axis by an angle  $\Delta\omega$  - where  $\Delta\omega$  is the difference in the argument of periapsis of the two co-planar orbits.

So, the radial distance of a satellite on the first orbit can be thought of as:

$$r_1 = \frac{p_1}{1 + e_1 \cos(f)} \quad (1)$$

and that on the second orbit is:

$$r_2 = \frac{p_2}{1 + e_2 \cos(f - \Delta\omega)} \quad (2)$$

If the two orbits intersect, the two radial distances must be equal:

$$r_1 = r_2 = r$$

Our aim in this analytical part of the project is to find the value of the radius where the two orbits intersect. This leads to a quadratic equation in the free variable  $r$ . Let's go about this step-by-step.

#### A. Derivation of radius of intersecting orbits

1. Using the first relation:

$$r_1 = \frac{p_1}{1 + e_1 \cos(f)}$$

rearrange to identify an expression for  $\cos(f)$ . Also, using trigonometric identities, identify an expression for  $r^2 \sin^2(f)$ . We will keep these quantities aside, as we will be using them at a later step.

#### **SOLUTION:**

Using  $r_1 = r$  and solving for  $\cos(f)$ :

$$\cos(f) = \frac{1}{e_1} \left( \frac{p_1}{r} - 1 \right) \quad (3)$$

Solving for  $r^2 \sin^2(f)$  using Pythagoras' theorem ( $\sin^2(f) = 1 - \cos^2(f)$ ) and squaring the previous, rearranged expression:

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 \sin^2(f) &= r^2 (1 - \cos^2(f)) \\ r^2 \sin^2(f) &= r^2 \left( 1 - \left( \frac{1}{e_1} \left( \frac{p_1}{r} - 1 \right) \right)^2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

Expanding this expression (this will be helpful for step 5):

$$r^2 \sin^2(f) = \left( \frac{e_1^2 - 1}{e_1^2} \right) r^2 + \left( \frac{2p_1}{e_1^2} \right) r + \left( -\frac{p_1^2}{e_1^2} \right) \quad (4)$$

2. Using the relation:

$$r_2 = \frac{p_2}{1 + e_2 \cos(f - \Delta\omega)}$$

rearrange to identify an expression for  $\cos(f - \Delta\omega)$

#### **SOLUTION:**

Repeat the first part of step 1 but replacing subscripts and substituting  $\cos(f - \Delta\omega)$  for  $\cos(f)$ :

$$\cos(f - \Delta\omega) = \frac{1}{e_2} \left( \frac{p_2}{r} - 1 \right) \quad (5)$$

3. Expand the above expression using the trigonometric identity for  $\cos(A - B)$  and rearrange to find an expression for  $r\sin(f)$ . After this step, you may also substitute the expression for  $\cos(f)$  from step 1.

On performing this step, you should find the resulting expressions contain the terms:

$$\alpha = e_2 \cos(\Delta\omega) - e_1$$

$$\beta = e_1 p_2 - e_2 p_1 \cos(\Delta\omega)$$

$$\gamma = e_1 e_2 \sin(\Delta\omega)$$

you may use these placeholder variables  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$  to simplify your math process.

**SOLUTION:**

Expanding the resulting expression from Equation (5) and solving for  $\sin(f)$ :

$$\cos(f - \Delta\omega) = \cos(f)\cos(\Delta\omega) - \sin(f)\sin(\Delta\omega)$$

$$\sin(f) = \frac{\cos(f - \Delta\omega) - \cos(f)\cos(\Delta\omega)}{\sin(\Delta\omega)}$$

Multiplying  $r$  to both sides:

$$r\sin(f) = r \left( \frac{\cos(f - \Delta\omega) - \cos(f)\cos(\Delta\omega)}{\sin(\Delta\omega)} \right)$$

Substituting the results from steps 1 and 2:

$$r\sin(f) = r \left( \frac{\frac{1}{e_2} \left( \frac{p_2}{r} - 1 \right) - \frac{1}{e_1} \left( \frac{p_1}{r} - 1 \right) \cos(\Delta\omega)}{\sin(\Delta\omega)} \right)$$

Simplifying by factoring out  $\frac{1}{r}$  in the numerator and multiplying the numerator and denominator by  $e_1$  and  $e_2$ :

$$r\sin(f) = \left( \frac{e_1(p_2 - r) - e_2(p_1 - r)\cos(\Delta\omega)}{e_1 e_2 \sin(\Delta\omega)} \right)$$

$$r\sin(f) = \left( \frac{(e_2 \cos(\Delta\omega) - e_1)r + e_1 p_2 - e_2 p_1 \cos(\Delta\omega)}{e_1 e_2 \sin(\Delta\omega)} \right)$$

Substituting for the placeholder variables mentioned earlier in this step:

$$r\sin(f) = \frac{\alpha r + \beta}{\gamma} \tag{6}$$

4. Now, you may square the resulting expression on either side to obtain another expression for  $r^2 \sin^2(f)$  i.e., you will obtain an expression as:

$$r^2 \sin^2(f) =$$

**SOLUTION:**

Squaring both sides of the resulting expression from Equation (6):

$$r^2 \sin^2(f) = \frac{(\alpha r + \beta)^2}{\gamma^2}$$

Expanding this expression (this will be helpful for the next step):

$$r^2 \sin^2(f) = \frac{\alpha^2}{\gamma^2} r^2 + 2 \frac{\alpha\beta}{\gamma^2} r + \frac{\beta^2}{\gamma^2} \quad (7)$$

5. Plug in your relation for  $r^2 \sin^2(f)$  from step 1. At this stage, we have eliminated true anomaly from the equations.

**SOLUTION:**

Equating the results for  $r^2 \sin^2(f)$  from Equation (4) and Equation (7):

$$\begin{aligned} (r^2 \sin^2(f))_{\text{step1}} &= (r^2 \sin^2(f))_{\text{step4}} \\ \left( \frac{e_1^2 - 1}{e_1^2} \right) r^2 + \left( \frac{2p_1}{e_1^2} \right) r + \left( -\frac{p_1^2}{e_1^2} \right) &= \left( \frac{\alpha^2}{\gamma^2} \right) r^2 + \left( \frac{2\alpha\beta}{\gamma^2} \right) r + \left( \frac{\beta^2}{\gamma^2} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

6. You will notice that you have a quadratic expression in  $r$ .

$$ar^2 + br + c = 0$$

Collect the terms that multiply  $r^2$ ,  $r$ , and the constant term, i.e.  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ . These are the coefficients you will use to compute the roots of a quadratic equation:

$$r = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

As the final step, you should obtain something of the form:

$$a = \frac{e_1^2 - 1}{e_1^2} - \frac{\alpha^2}{\gamma^2}$$

$$b = \frac{2p_1}{e_1^2} - \frac{2\alpha\beta}{\gamma^2}$$

$$c = -\left( \frac{p_1^2}{e_1^2} + \frac{\beta^2}{\gamma^2} \right)$$

**SOLUTION:**

Collecting terms from Equation (8):

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{e_1^2 - 1}{e_1^2} \right) r^2 + \left( \frac{2p_1}{e_1^2} \right) r + \left( -\frac{p_1^2}{e_1^2} \right) &= \left( \frac{\alpha^2}{\gamma^2} \right) r^2 + \left( \frac{2\alpha\beta}{\gamma^2} \right) r + \left( \frac{\beta^2}{\gamma^2} \right) \\ \left( \frac{e_1^2 - 1}{e_1^2} - \frac{\alpha^2}{\gamma^2} \right) r^2 + \left( \frac{2p_1}{e_1^2} - \frac{2\alpha\beta}{\gamma^2} \right) r + \left( -\left( \frac{p_1^2}{e_1^2} + \frac{\beta^2}{\gamma^2} \right) \right) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Equating the previous result to a quadratic expression with constants  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  ( $a^2r + br + c = 0$ ):

$$a = \frac{e_1^2 - 1}{e_1^2} - \frac{\alpha^2}{\gamma^2}$$

$$b = \frac{2p_1}{e_1^2} - \frac{2\alpha\beta}{\gamma^2}$$

$$c = -\left(\frac{p_1^2}{e_1^2} + \frac{\beta^2}{\gamma^2}\right)$$

### B. Testing the algorithm

Now, consider two sets of orbital elements of two spacecraft:

	Orbit 1	Orbit 2
semimajor axis (km)	13000	7226.58
eccentricity	0.3	0.444819
inclination (deg)	20	20
RAAN (deg)	30	30
AOP (deg)	50	301.901

1. Identify the radius at the intersecting point.

#### **SOLUTION:**

Calculating semi-latus rectum (in km) using given eccentricities and semimajor axes for orbits 1 and 2 ( $p_1$  and  $p_2$  respectively):

$$p_n = a_n (1 - e_n^2)$$

$$p_1 = 13000 (1 - (0.3)^2) = 11830$$

$$p_2 = 7226.58 (1 - (0.444819)^2) = 5796.7$$

Calculating the difference in the argument of periapsis ( $\Delta\omega$ ) between the two orbits:

$$\Delta\omega = \omega_2 - \omega_1 = 301.901^\circ - 50^\circ = 251.901^\circ$$

Calculating the constants from part A, step 3 ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ):

$$\alpha = e_2 \cos(\Delta\omega) - e_1 = -0.4382$$

$$\beta = e_1 p_2 - e_2 p_1 \cos(\Delta\omega) = 3373.767$$

$$\gamma = e_1 e_2 \sin(\Delta\omega) = -0.1268$$

Calculating the constants from part A, step 6 ( $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$ ):

$$a = \frac{e_1^2 - 1}{e_1^2} - \frac{\alpha^2}{\gamma^2} = -22.045$$

$$b = \frac{2p_1}{e_1^2} - \frac{2\alpha\beta}{\gamma^2} = 446657.9$$

$$c = -\left(\frac{p_1^2}{e_1^2} + \frac{\beta^2}{\gamma^2}\right) = -2262440535.1$$

Calculating the radius using the relation obtained from part A, step 6:

$$r = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

where the two possible solutions are  $r = 10129.35$  km and  $r = 10131.71$  km. Both values are valid solutions of where the orbits intersect, so we chose to continue using  $r = 10129.35$  km.

2. Compute the position and velocity vectors at these points on the two orbits. Note, that position vectors will be the same, but the velocity vectors may be different.

**SOLUTION:**

Calculating  $\cos(f)$  using Equation (3):

$$\cos(f) = \frac{1}{e_1} \left( \frac{p_1}{r} - 1 \right) = 0.5596$$

Calculating  $\sin(f)$  using Equation (6):

$$\sin(f) = \frac{\alpha r + \beta}{r\gamma} = 0.8287$$

Solving for  $f$  using a quadrant check between the two relations above:

$$f = \cos^{-1}(0.5596) = 55.9689^\circ / -55.9689^\circ$$

$$f = \sin^{-1}(0.8287) = 55.9689^\circ / 124.0311^\circ$$

Using the value that is similar,  $f = 55.9689^\circ$ . Finding the position vector in the perifocal reference frame of the first orbit:

$$\vec{r}_{perifocal} = r[\cos(f) \quad \sin(f) \quad 0]^T = [5668.82 \quad 8394.54 \quad 0]^T$$

3. Compute the delta-v at the intersection point to transfer from one orbit to another.

**SOLUTION:**

### III. NUMERICAL PART

Now that you have performed the analytic part, the numerical part will have you implement an Initial Orbit Determination Algorithm. The following data has been provided to you:

In this data,

1. The date and time of the observation is recorded
2. The Azimuth and Elevation values of the satellite expressed in a Topocentric Equatorial Frame are provided in degrees
3. The telescope's position (on the Earth's surface) is provided in the inertial frame in km. You may be interested to know that the telescope side is located at latitude = 31.9466 N and longitude = 108.8977 W, which is also the proposed location of the Penn State University Dynamical Observatory (PSUDO) lab (check it out on Google maps!)

You may also load this data in using the .mat file attached using the matlab command:

```
load('IODMeasurements.mat')
```

A. *Your tasks are the following:*

1. Taking 3 measurements at a time in sequence, perform the Gauss' method of Initial Orbit Determination to obtain the value of  $\mathbf{r}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{r}_2$ , and  $\mathbf{r}_3$  of the satellite.
2. **Hint: Recall that Gauss' method requires you to find the roots of a 8th degree polynomial. You may use the roots() command in matlab to do so.** Also note that Of the 8 roots, 4 are imaginary, and you can reject them. But there will be 4 real roots. Negative roots can also be rejected. However, if you obtain three positive real roots, you have to now figure out which of the roots is a viable value for  $|\mathbf{r}_2|$ . You may need to identify all the orbits involved to make this decision.
3. Using the three position vectors you have obtained by employing the Gauss' method, perform Gibb's method to find the position and velocity of the middle measurement. *(Note that there are 24 measurements, so you will have to Perform Gauss method 8 times. It may be useful to write a function that does this.)*
4. Convert this position and velocity pair to orbital elements.
5. After performing these three tasks above, how many unique orbits do you observe? Enter your answer in the following form:
6. Plot all of these orbits in one plot. Just by observation can you identify the potential locations of the delta-v maneuvers? Show them on the plot. Also, mark with arrows the direction of motion of your spacecraft.
7. Finally perform the task you were assigned in the analytic part to identify each delta-v that explains the measurements and the orbits you have got. Fill in your answers as follows: