

# Orbital Mechanics

Dr. Adrià Rovira Garcia

Credit: NASA / WMAP Science Team

Gravitational potential (white lines) of the Sun-Earth system. Lagrange Points are positions in space where the gravitational forces produce enhanced regions of attraction (red arrows) and repulsion (blue arrows). ([URL](#))

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# Module 3 Requirements

## Objectives:

**Reference Systems: Coordinates and Time**  
**Keplerian Orbits**  
**Orbital Maneuvers**  
**Interplanetary Trajectories**

## Time Allocation:

**8 hours**



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## Objectives:

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Interplanetary systems

Earth-based systems

Satellite-based systems

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Orbital Maneuvers

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# Reference Systems vs Frames

Coordinates must be expressed in a well defined reference. Therefore an **accurate definition and determination is essential**.

Distinction must be made between:

- **Reference System:** Theoretical definition, including models and standards for its implementation [*generally only one system*].
  - **Space-fixed** or inertial systems, in which the positions of stars are fixed or almost fixed. → Suitable for satellite motion.
  - **Earth-fixed** systems, co-rotating with the Earth, in which terrestrial points can be expressed conveniently on the Earth's surface. → Suitable for user position.
- **Reference Frame:** Practical implementation, through observations and a set of reference coordinates (a set of fundamental stars for space-fixed frames or fiducial stations for a Earth-fixed frames) [*usually many frames*].

**Source:**

Sanz J, Juan JM, Rovira-Garcia A (2019) "GNSS Data Processing Lectures" ISBN 978-84-93230-7-6



# Reference Systems

Table 3-1 Vallado DA (2013) "Fundamentals of Astrodynamics and Applications" 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

System	Name	Symbol	Origin	Fundamental Plane	Principal Direction	Example Use
Inter-planetary	Heliocentric	XYZ	Sun	Ecliptic	Vernal equinox	Patched conic
	Solar system	(XYZ) ICRF	Barycenter	varies	varies	Planetary motion
Earth based	Geocentric	IJK	Earth	Earth equator	Vernal equinox	General
	Earth	(IJK) GCRF	Earth	varies	varies	Perturbations
	Body-fixed	(IJK) ITRF	Earth	Earth equator	Greenwich meridian	Observations
	Earth-Moon (synodic)	(IJK) S	Barycenter	Invariable plane	Earth	Restricted three body
	Topocentric horizon	SEZ	Site	Local horizon	South	Radar observations
	Topocentric equatorial	(IJK) t	Site	Parallel to Earth equator	Vernal equinox	Optical observations
Satellite based	Perifocal	PQW	Earth	Satellite orbit	Periapsis	Processing
	Satellite radial	RSW	Satellite	Satellite orbit	Radial vector	Relative motion, Perturbations
	Satellite normal	NTW	Satellite	Satellite orbit	Normal to $\vec{V}_{sat}$ vector	Perturbations
	Equinoctial	EQW	Satellite	Satellite orbit	Calculated vector	Perturbations



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## Objectives:

### Reference Systems: Coordinates and Time

**Interplanetary systems**

**Earth-based systems**

**Satellite-based systems**

**Keplerian Orbits**

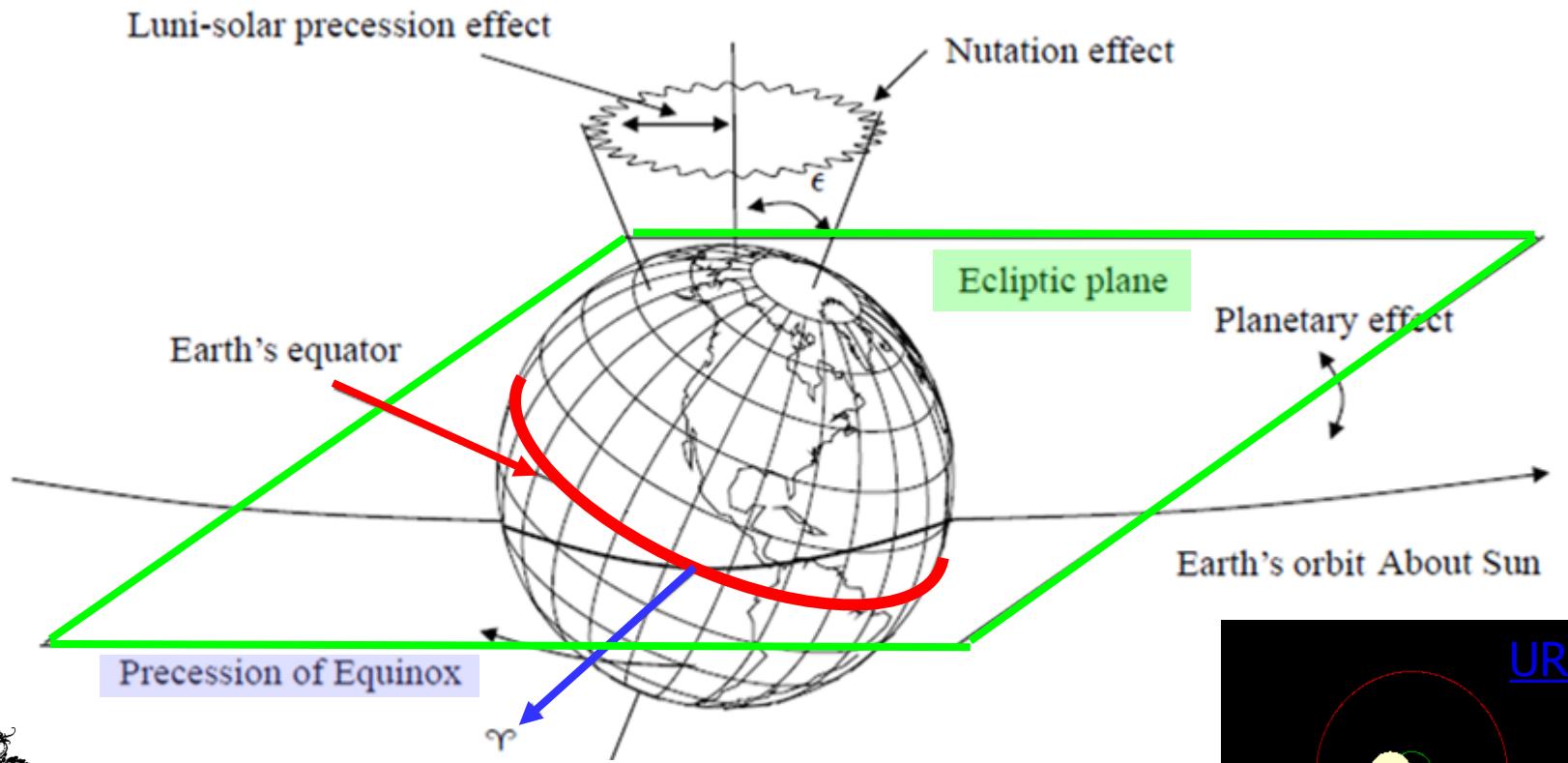
**Orbital Maneuvers**

**Interplanetary Trajectories**

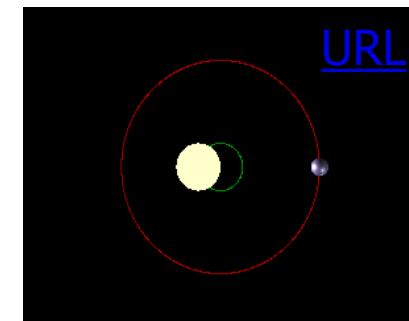
## Time Allocation:

**8 hours**

Motion	Period	Comment
Precession	25,765 years	Caused by Earth oblateness and gravities of moon and sun
Nutation	18.6 years	Periodic and near-periodic effects < 300 years duration
Rotation	23 h 56 m 4 s	Revolution time measured with respect fixed reference star
Translation	365 d 6 h 9 m	Orbital period around the Sun

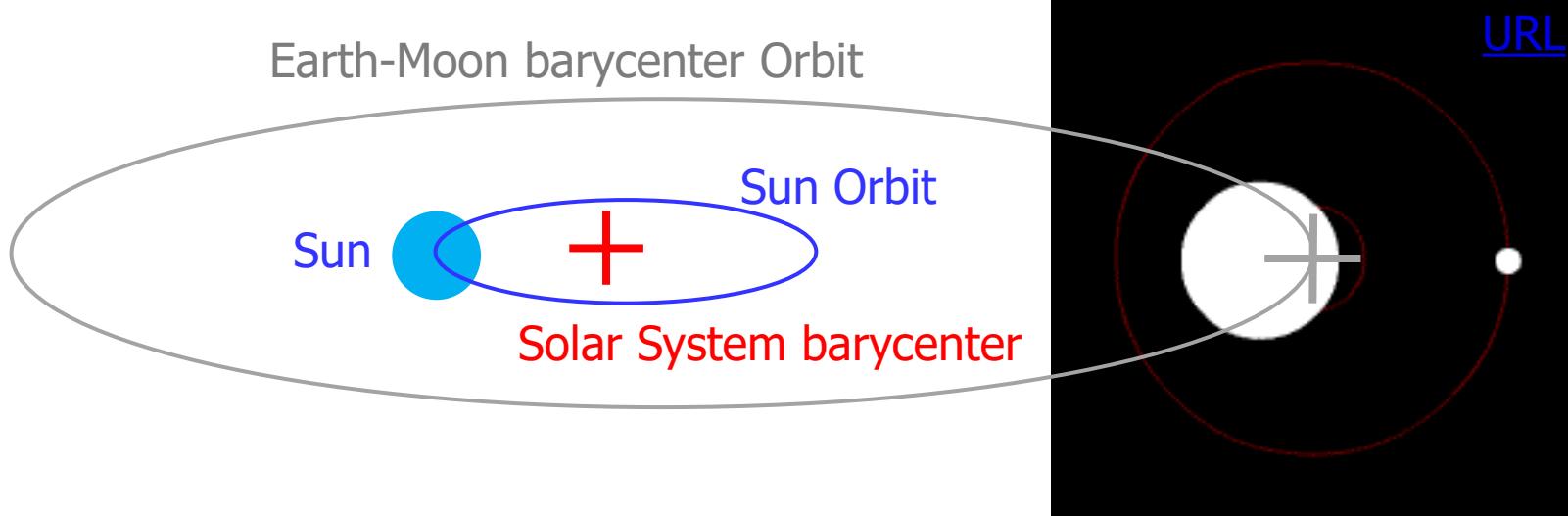


Note: Ram symbol  $\gamma$  designates the direction of the spring Vernal Equinox (VE), often referred to as the first point of Aries.  
 VE pointed to the constellation Aries during Christ's lifetime.  
 VE points today to the constellation Pisces,  $56^\circ$  western, because precession.



# Ecliptic

The ecliptic is the plane perpendicular explicitly defined by the mean **orbital angular momentum vector** of the Earth-Moon barycenter.



The simple diagram below illustrates, to scale, the sizes of the Earth, the Moon, and the distance between them. The Earth/Moon barycenter lies within the Earth at a distance of approximately 4670 km from the Earth's center toward the Moon. The current best estimate of the Earth-Moon mass ratio is  $81.300570 \pm 0.000005$  [2].



## Source:

International Astronomical Union (2006) "[Resolution B1 - Adoption of the P03 Precession Theory and Definition of the Ecliptic](#)" XXVI International Astronomical Union General Assembly

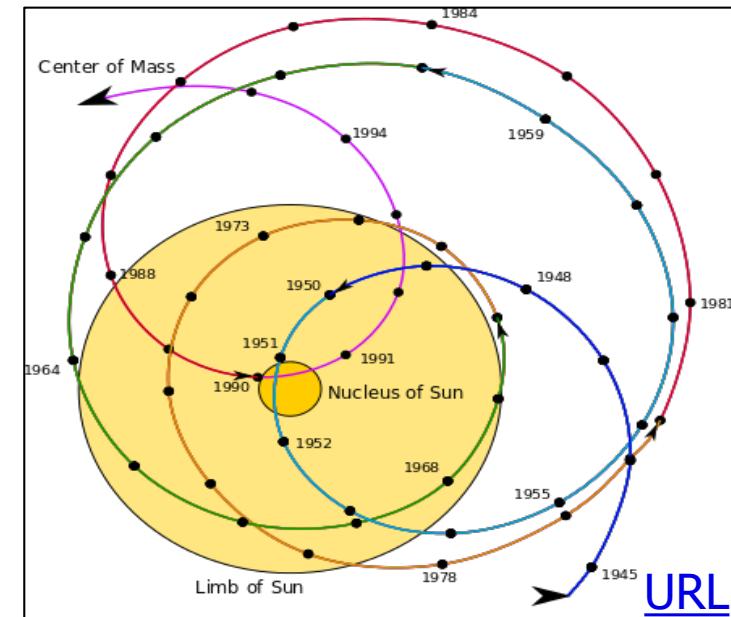
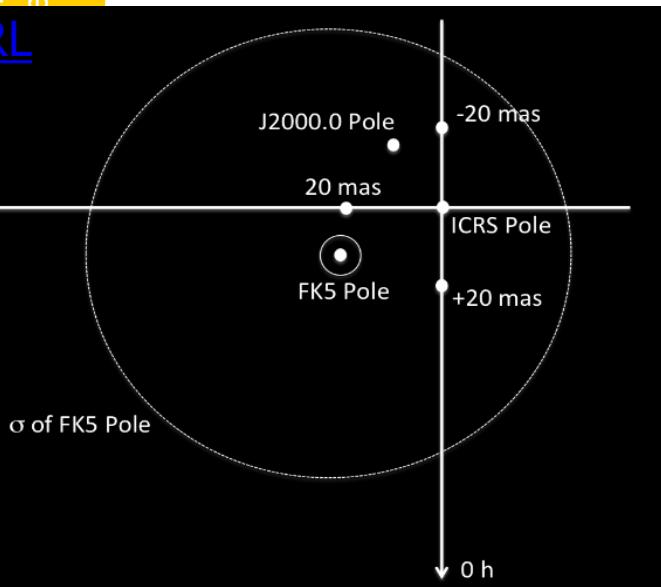
# International Celestial Reference System (ICRS)

**Origin:** barycenter of the solar system.

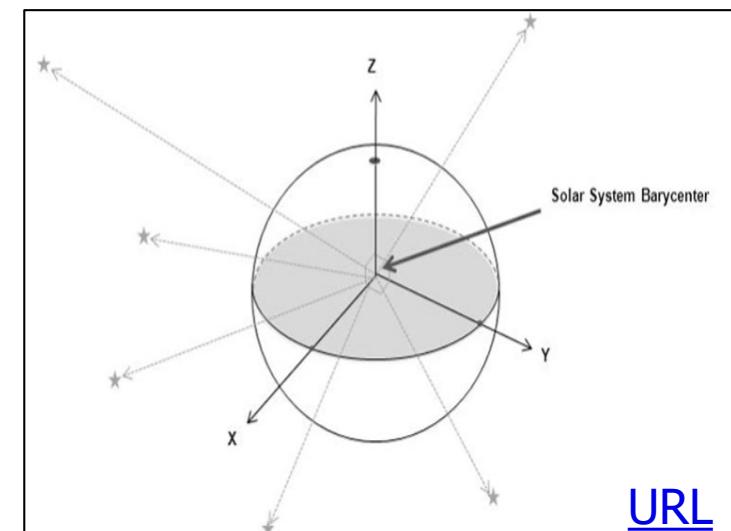
**Rotation:** **NO.** ICRS is fixed with respect to distant objects of the Universe.

ICRS pole and right ascensions origin are maintained fixed relative to quasars within +/- 20 microarcseconds:

- **X-axis:** quasar [3C273B](#) the optically brightest quasar in our sky. Origin of right ascensions, details in Arias et al. (1995).
- **Base-plane (normal to z-axis):** equatorial plane at 12h January 1<sup>st</sup> 2000


[URL](#)


for continuity with previous fundamental reference systems


[URL](#)

**Source:** International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service ([IERS](#)) Arias et al. (1995) "[The extragalactic reference system of the International Earth Rotation Service, ICRS](#)" *Astronomy and Astrophysics* 303:604-608



# Module 3 Requirements

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**8 hours**

# Geocentric Equatorial Coordinate System

**Origin:** center of the Earth

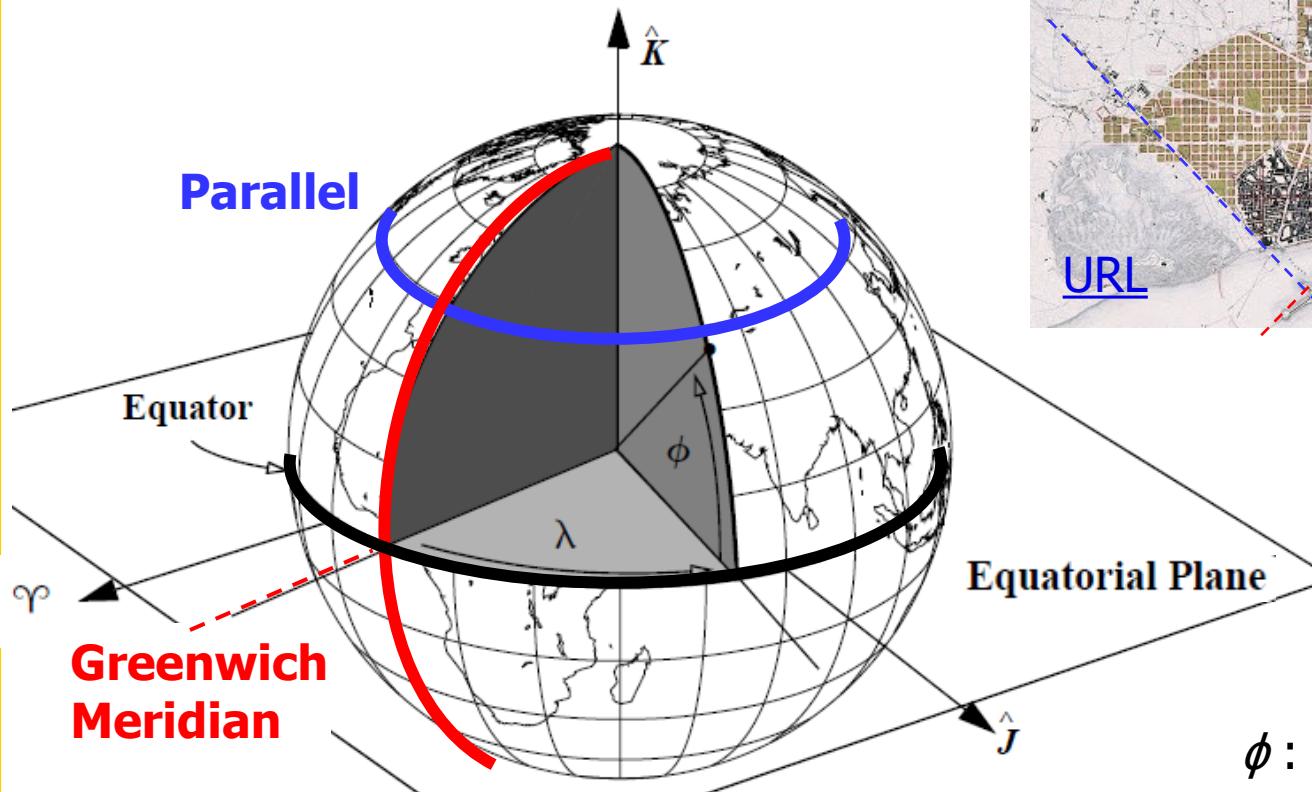
**Rotation:** only around the solar system barycenter and Earth-Moon barycenter

**Notation:** index IJK

**Fundamental plane:** Earth equator

**Axis Orientation:**

- I points towards the (precessing) vernal equinox
- K Earth rotation axis through the North Pole
- J points 90° to the east in the equatorial plane



$\lambda$ : Longitude  
 $\phi$  : Geocentric latitude

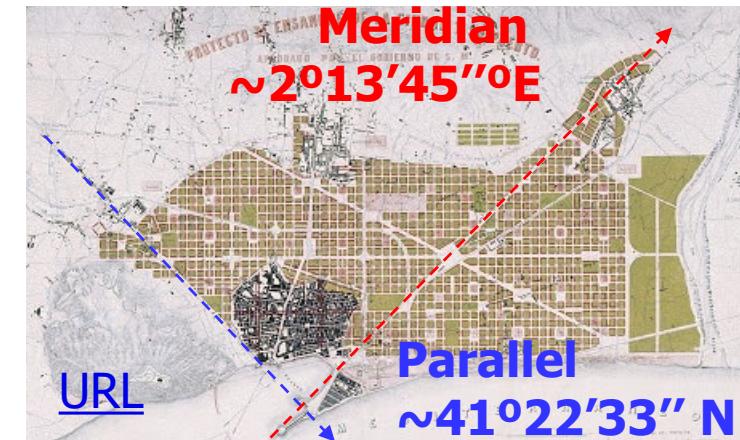


Figure 3-11 Vallado DA (2013) "Fundamentals of Astrodynamics and Applications" 4th Edition, Space Technology Library  
Délambre M (1792) "[Base du système métrique décimal ou Mesure de l'arc du méridien compris entre les parallèles de Dunkerque et Barcelone](#)"

# Geocentric Celestial Reference System (GCRS)

**Origin:** center of the Earth

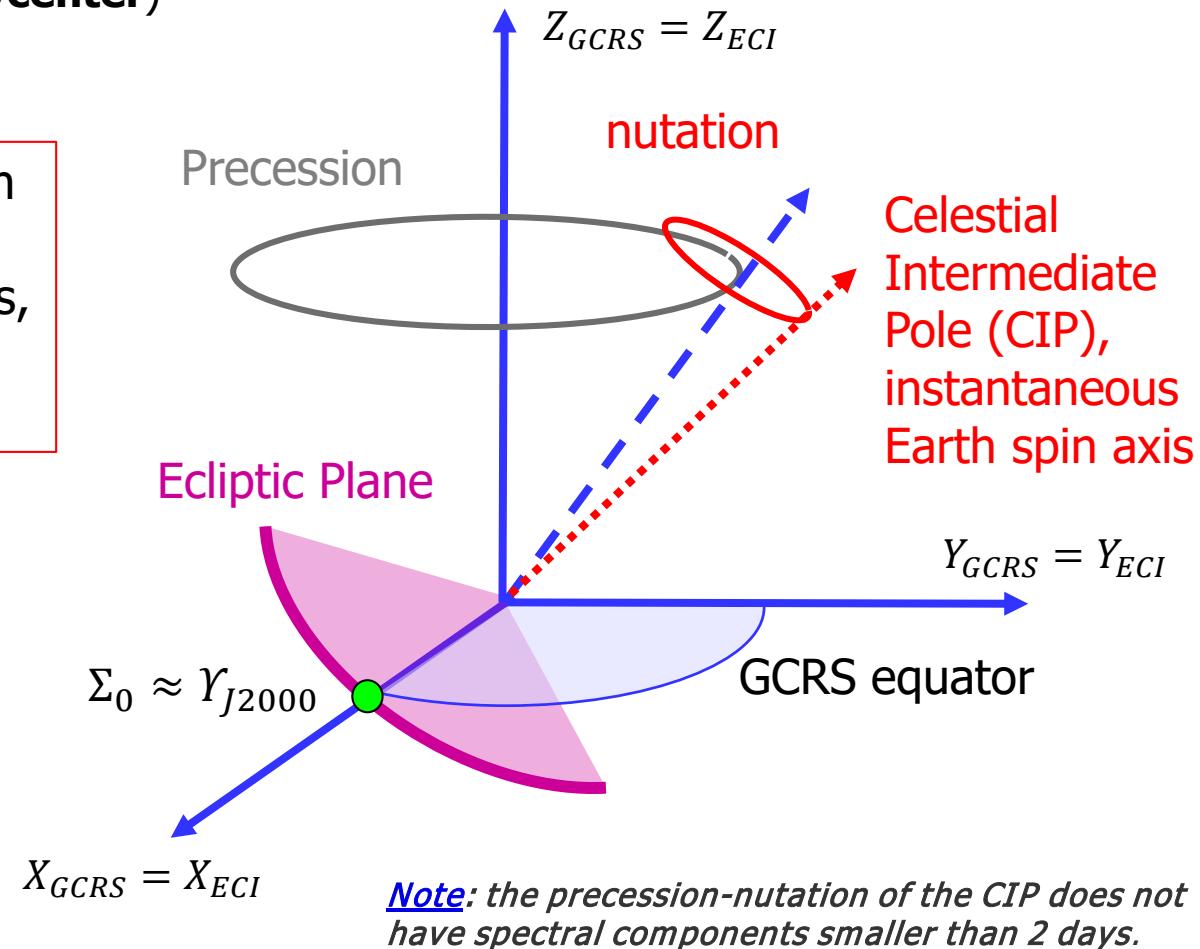
**Rotation:** only around the solar system barycenter and Earth-Moon barycenter

## Standard Earth Centered Inertial (ECI) coordinate system

### Fundamental plane and axis orientation:

- Same as ICRS (**SS barycenter**)

Precession and Nutation transformation is based in analytical expressions, which are valid for long time intervals



# International Terrestrial Reference System (ITRS)

**Origin:** Geocenter (center of mass of the whole Earth, including oceans and atmosphere)

**Rotation:** Earth, around the solar system barycenter and Earth-Moon barycenter

## ITRS is the standard Earth Centered Earth Fixed (ECEF) System

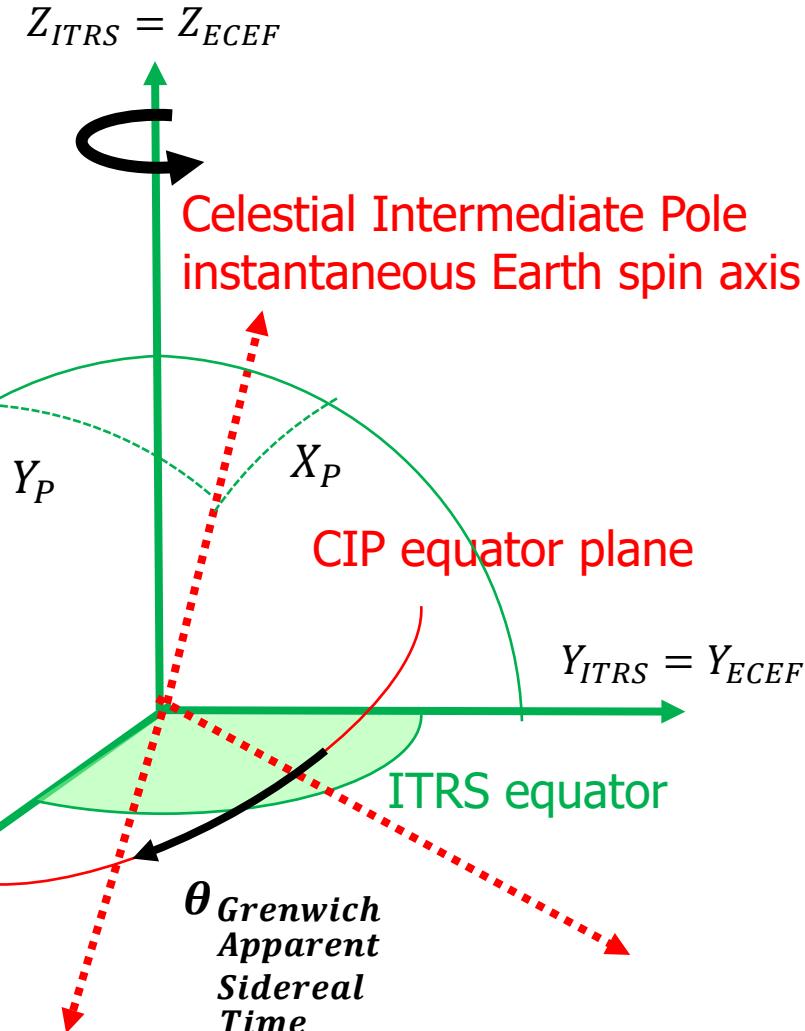
### Axis Orientation:

- **Z-axis:** the IERS Reference Pole (IRP): the Earth rotational pole.
- **X-axis:** IERS Reference Meridian (IRM): Greenwich meridian
- First alignment: close to the mean equator of 1900 and the Greenwich meridian.

the Earth's rotation and orientation **parameters** cannot be modelled analytically and must be periodically **updated using observations**

Greenwich Meridian

$X_{ITRS} = X_{ECEF}$



# Topocentric Horizon Coordinate System

**Origin:** observing/user location

**Notation:** SEZ

**Fundamental Plane:** Local horizon

**Axis Orientation:**

- S points due south pole.
- Z (zenith) points radially outward from the site along the site local vertical.
- E points east from the site.  
Undefined at Poles.

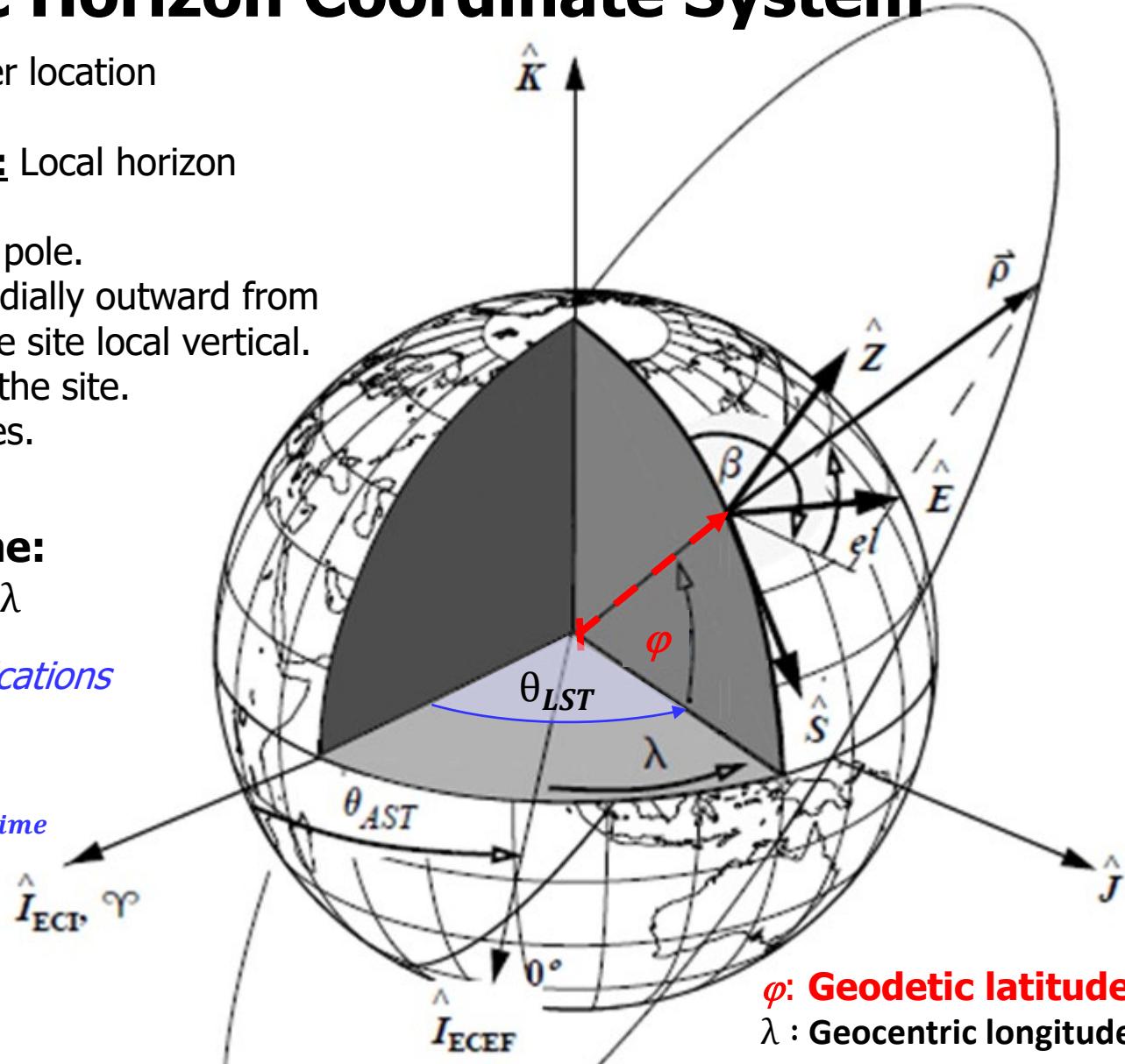
**Local Sidereal Time:**

$$\theta_{LST} = \theta_{GMST} + \lambda$$

*Note: For precise applications*

$\theta_{AST}$  replaces  
 $\theta_{GMST}$

$\theta_{LST}$



$\varphi$ : Geodetic latitude

$\lambda$  : Geocentric longitude

$\beta$ : azimuth, the angle measured from north, clockwise to the location beneath the object of interest.

$\epsilon l$ : elevation, measured from the local horizon, positive up to the object of interest

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# Perifocal Coordinate System

**Origin:** Non-empty ellipse focus (e.g. Earth center)

**Notation:** PQW

**Fundamental Plane:** Satellite Orbit (PQ plane)

**Axis Orientation:**

P axis points towards orbit Periapsis

Q axis is  $90^\circ$  from the P axis in the direction of satellite motion

W axis is normal to the orbit plane

The PQW best suited for orbits with a well-defined eccentricity.

However, circular orbits do not have periapsis

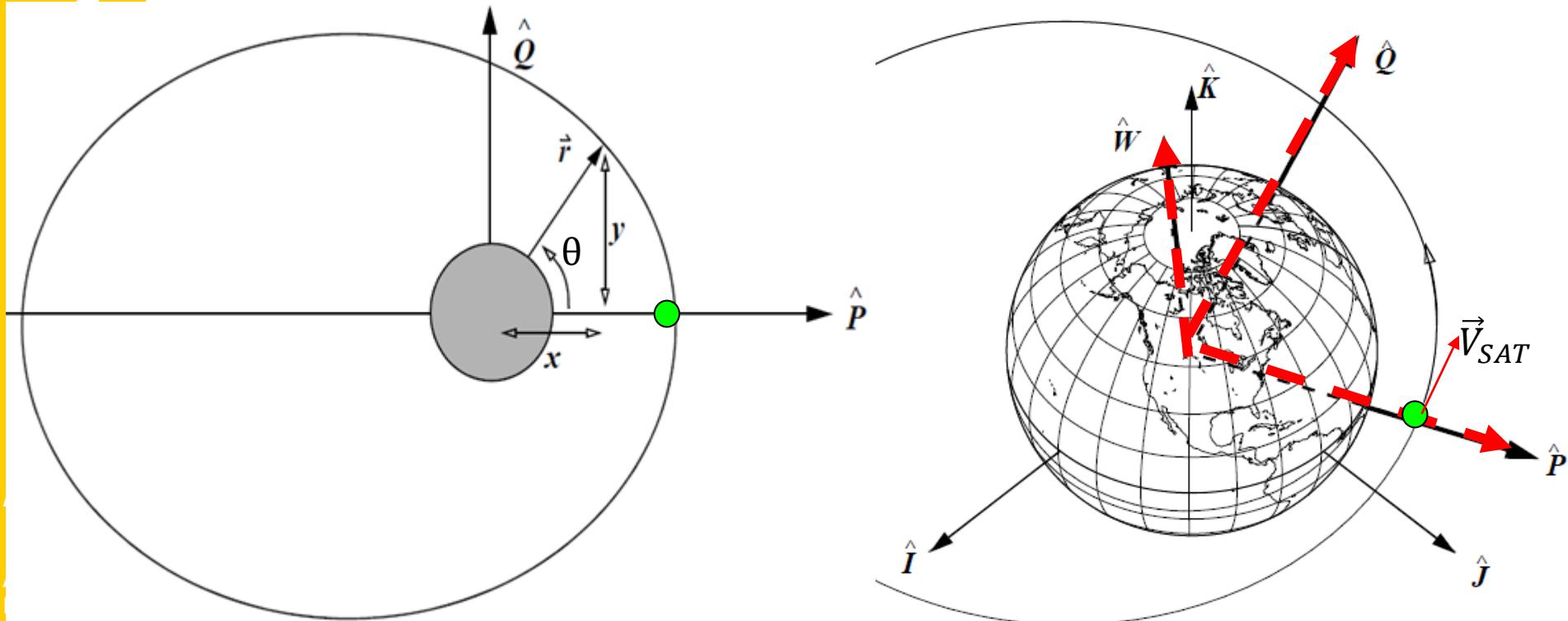


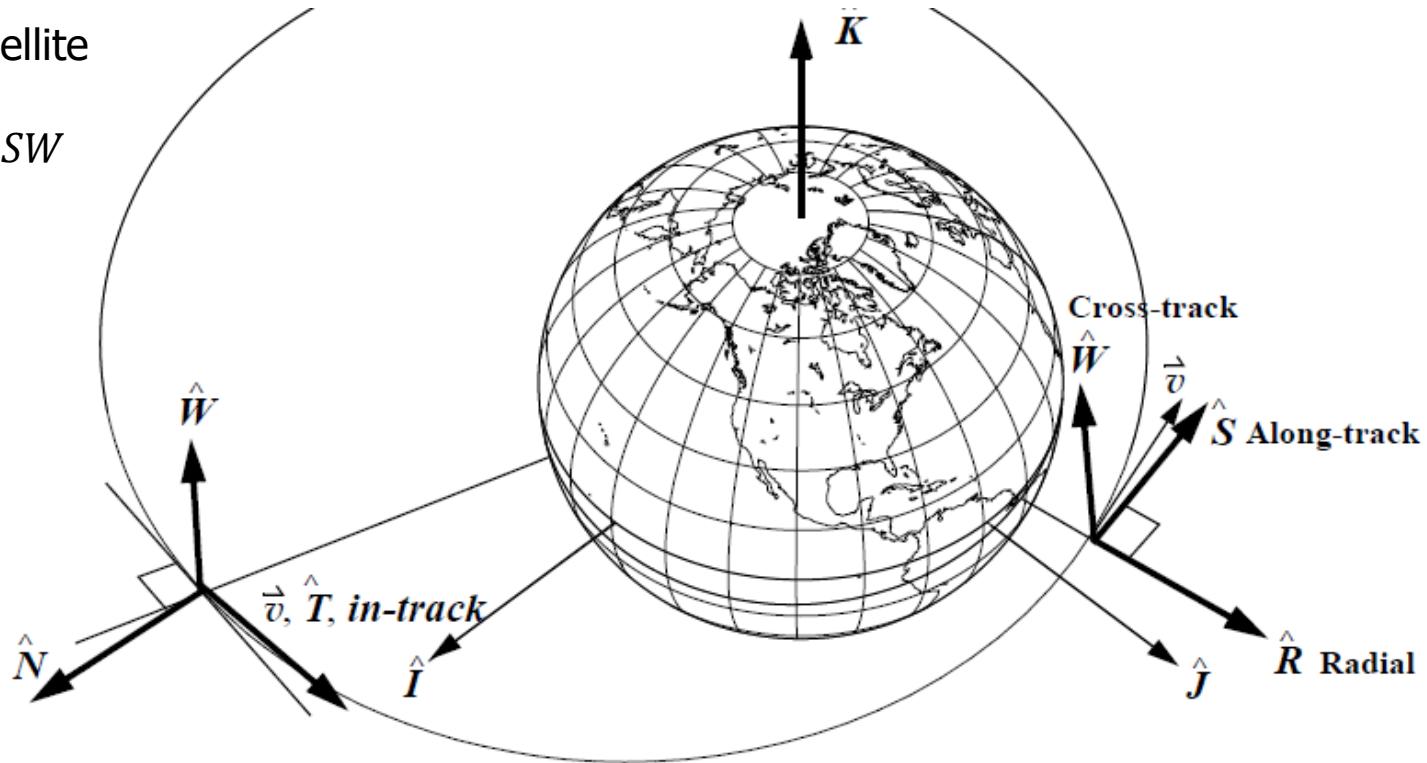
Figure 3-14 Vallado DA (2013) "Fundamentals of Astrodynamics and Applications" 4th Edition, Space Technology Library

# Satellite Coordinate Systems

**Origin:** Satellite

**Notation:**

NTW and RSW



- **Normal** axis is normal to the velocity vector
  - Note: N only aligns with the radius:
    - circular orbits
    - elliptical orbits at both apses
- **In-track** axis is always parallel to velocity
- **Cross-track** axis is normal to the orbital plane (**not usually aligned with the K axis**)

- **Radial** axis points out from the satellite along the geocentric radius vector
- **Along-Track** axis is normal to the position vector and positive in the direction of the velocity vector.
  - Note: S axis only aligns with the velocity
    - circular orbits
    - elliptical orbits at both apses
- **Cross-track** axis is normal to the orbital plane (**not usually aligned with the K axis**)



# Module 3 Requirements

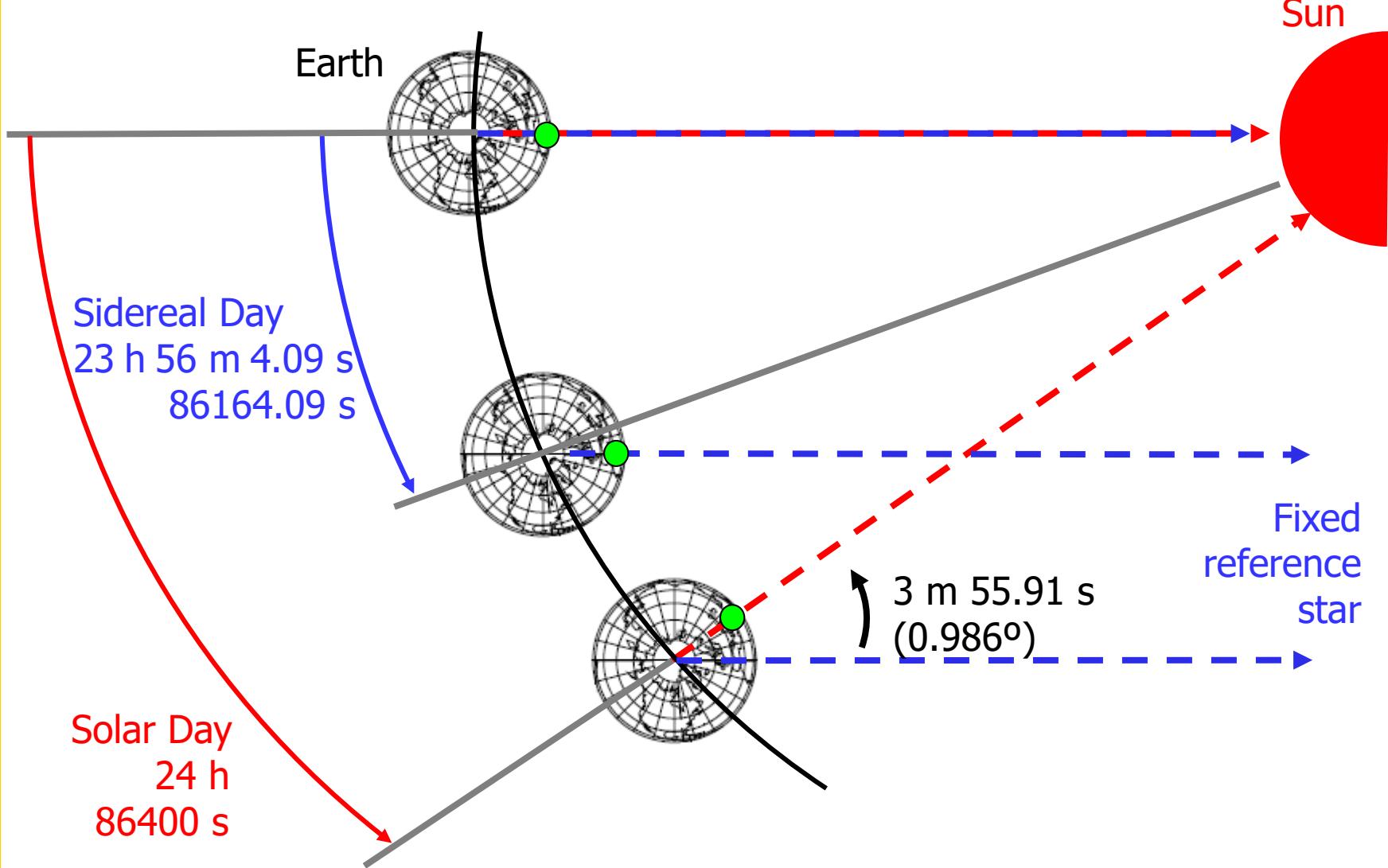
## Objectives:

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## Time Allocation:

**8 hours**

# Solar vs Sidereal Time



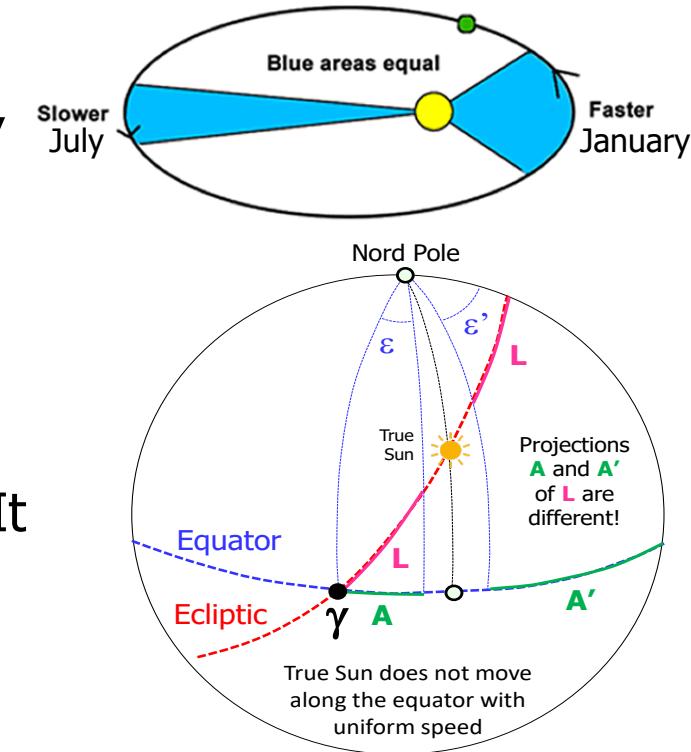
$$\frac{\text{solar day}}{\text{sidereal day}} = \frac{86400}{86164.09} = 1.00273791$$

$$3 \text{ m } 55.91 \text{ s} \frac{360^\circ}{23 \text{ h } 56 \text{ m } 4.09 \text{ s}} = 0.986^\circ$$

# Earth's Rotation Times

Our time keeping was initially based on the **motion of the Sun**, but the way that this time flows is affected by two main causes:

- **The orbit of Earth is elliptic:**  
Thus, according to Kepler's second law, the orbital speed is not constant.
- **Earth's axis of rotation is not perpendicular** to the plane of Earth's orbit around the Sun (the ecliptic), hence the angular rate is not constant. It moves fastest at the end of December and slowest in mid-September.



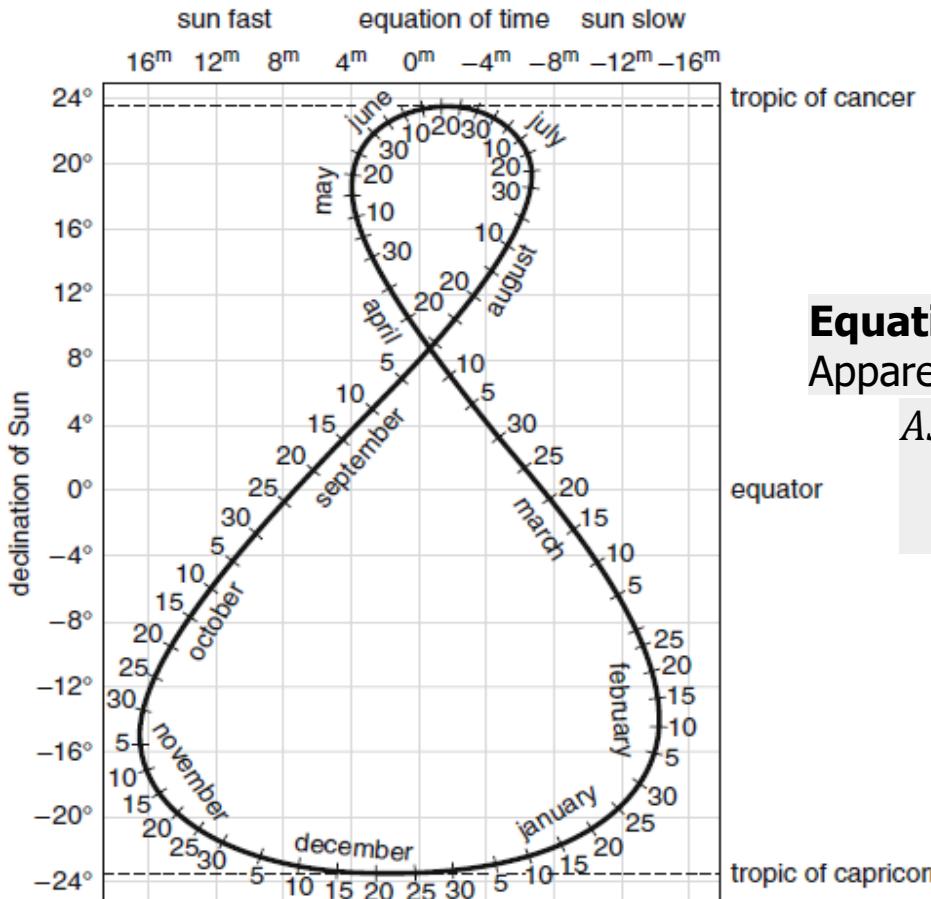
To get a more uniform time:

- we define a **fictitious mean Sun**, which moves along the (celestial) equator of Earth with uniform speed.
- **Mean Solar Time** as the hour angle of the mean **fictitious Sun**  
Universal Second = 1/86400 of one rotational day

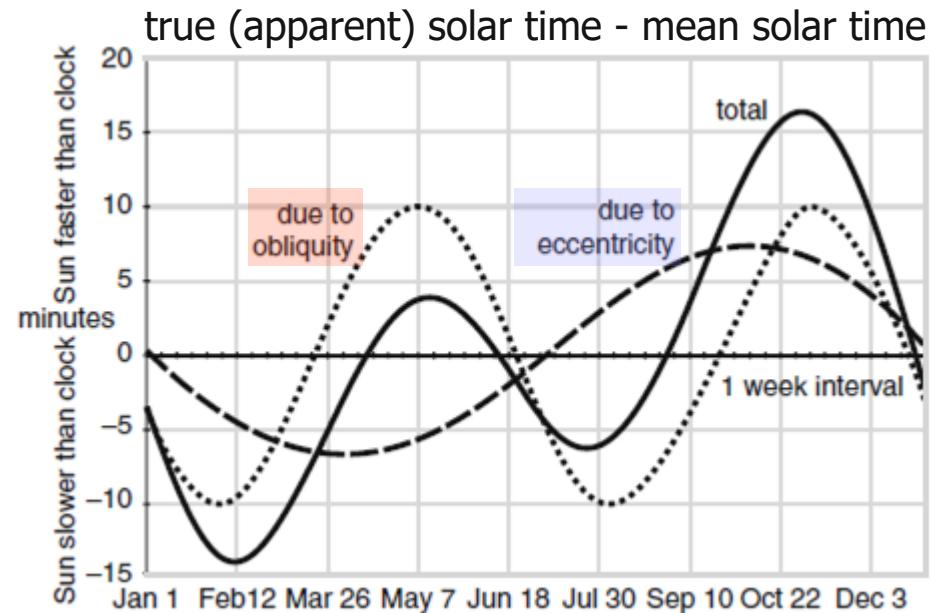
# Equation of time

spacial

Obliquity of the ecliptic and eccentricity of the Earth orbit contributions for year 2000



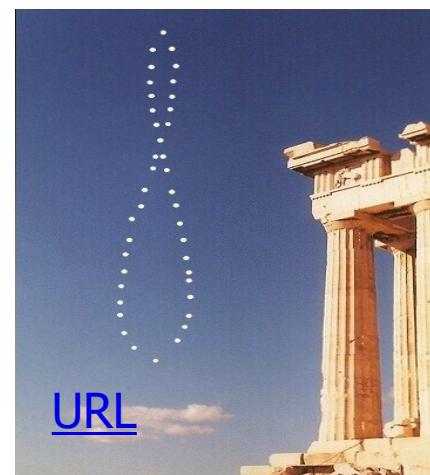
Analemmas are found on sundials to convert true (apparent) solar time to mean solar time.



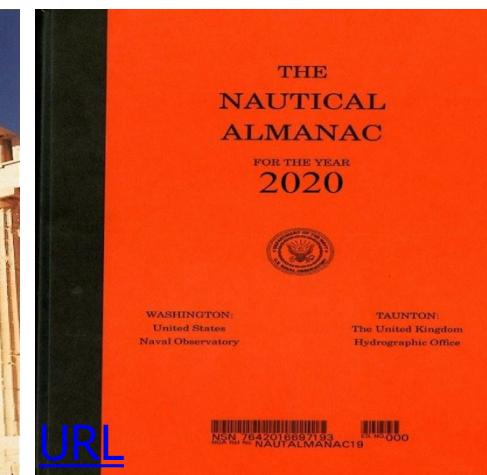
**Equation of time** is the difference between the true Apparent Solar Time (AST) and the Mean Solar Time (MST):

$$AST - MST = 595^s \cdot \sin(198^\circ + 1.9713^\circ \cdot d) + 442^s \cdot \sin(175^\circ + 0.9856^\circ \cdot d)$$

$$d = JD - JD(31.12.2019) = JD - 2458848.5$$



[URL](#)



[URL](#)

# Julian Day (JD)

Calculations for long time intervals use Julian Date (after Julio Scalier).

Days are counted from 1st of January of 4713 BC in a correlative manner.

The Julian Day (JD) starts at noon 12 hours of the corresponding civil day (e.g. 6<sup>th</sup> January 1980 = JD 2 444 244.5).

The following expression gives the JD for a civil date (YY/MM/DD UT):

$$JD = \text{int} [365.25 \cdot y] + \text{int} [30.6001 \cdot (m + 1)] + DD + \frac{UT(h)}{24} + 1\,720\,981.5$$

where:

$$\begin{cases} \text{if } MM \leq 2 & y = YY - 1 \text{ and } m = MM + 12 \\ \text{if } MM > 2 & y = YY \quad \text{and} \quad m = MM \end{cases}$$

The **Modified Julian Day (MJD)** is used by subtracting JD(17/11/1858 00h):

$$MJD = JD - 2\,400\,000.5$$

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**Source:**

Sanz J, Juan JM, Hernández-Pajares M (2013) "[GNSS Data Processing, Vol. 1: Fundamentals and Algorithms](#)"



# Greenwich Sidereal Times (GSTs)

Greenwich Apparent Sidereal Time (GAST), "Apparent" means "True":

$$\theta_{\text{GAST}} = \theta_{\text{GMST}} + \alpha_E$$

- $\theta_{\text{GMST}}$  is the **Greenwich Mean Sidereal Time** (GMST), in seconds, computed as:

$$\theta_{\text{GMST}} = 1.002737909350795 \cdot \text{UT1} + \theta_{\text{GMST}_0}$$

- 1.002737909350795 converts from solar 24h to sidereal day 3m56s shorter  $\approx 86400/86164$
- $\text{UT1} = \text{UTC} + \Delta(\text{UT1} - \text{UTC})$  ( $\Delta$  from the [IERS Bulletin A](#))

- $\theta_{\text{GMST}_0}$  is the GMST, **in seconds**, at 00h00 UT computed as:

$$\theta_{\text{GMST}_0} = 6h41m50s54841 + 8640184s812866 \cdot T_{\text{JC}} + 0s093104 \cdot T_{\text{JC}}^2 - 6s2 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T_{\text{JC}}^3$$

$$\theta_{\text{GMST}_0} = 24110.54841 + 8640184.812866 \cdot T_{\text{JC}} + 0.093104 \cdot T_{\text{JC}}^2 - 6.2 \cdot 10^{-6} \cdot T_{\text{JC}}^3$$

- where  $T_{\text{JC}}$  are the Julian Centuries:

$$T_{\text{JC}} = \frac{\text{JD}(\text{UT1}) - \text{JD}_{2000}}{100 \cdot \text{JY}} = \frac{\text{JD}(\text{UT1}) - 2451545.0}{36525}$$

From which the **Local Mean Sidereal Time** can be derived as  $\text{LMST} = \text{GMST} + \lambda_{\text{observer}}$

*Note: seconds to degrees conversion by*  $\theta_{\text{GMST}} = \frac{360^\circ}{86400 \text{ s}} \text{ mod}(\theta_{\text{GMST}}, 86400)$

- $\alpha_E$  is the equation of the equinoxes: the right ascension component of nutation:

$$\alpha_E = \text{arc tan} \left( \frac{N_{12}}{N_{11}} \right) \text{ where } N_{ij} \text{ are the elements of the matrix from } \text{IAU Nutation Model}$$

# Module 3 Requirements

## Objectives:

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**Two body problem**

**Circles, Ellipses, Parabolas and Hyperbolas**

**Keplerian Orbital Elements**

**Orbital Maneuvers**

**Interplanetary Trajectories**

## Time Allocation:

**8 hours**

# Three laws of Kepler

**First Law:** If two objects in space interact gravitationally, each will describe an orbit that is a conic section with the center of mass at one focus.

If the bodies are permanently associated, their orbits will be ellipses; if not, their orbits will be hyperbolas.

**Second Law:** If two objects in space interact gravitationally (whether or not they move in closed elliptical orbits), a line joining them sweeps out equal areas in equal intervals of time.

**Third Law:** If two objects in space revolve around each other due to their mutual gravitational attraction, the sum of their masses multiplied by the square of their period of mutual revolution is proportional to the cube of the mean distance between them;

$$(m + M)T^2 = \frac{4\pi^2}{G} a^3$$

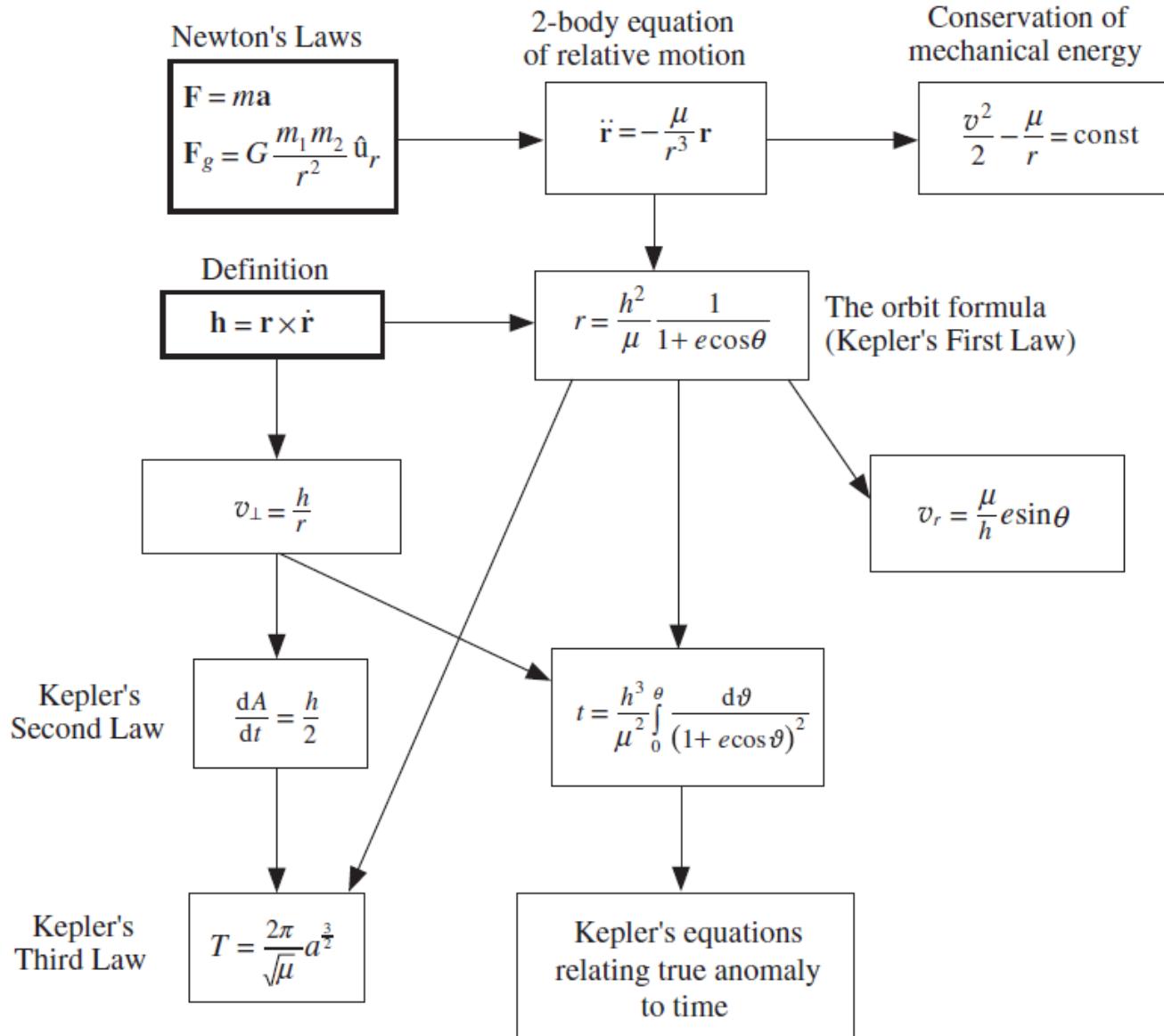
Where G is Newton's gravitational constant  $G = 6.673 \cdot 10^{-11} \frac{m^3}{kg \cdot s^2}$

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**Source:**

Wertz JR et al (2009) "Orbit and constellation design and management" Space Technology Series

# Keplerian Orbits: Layout



# Orbit Equation (first law of Kepler)

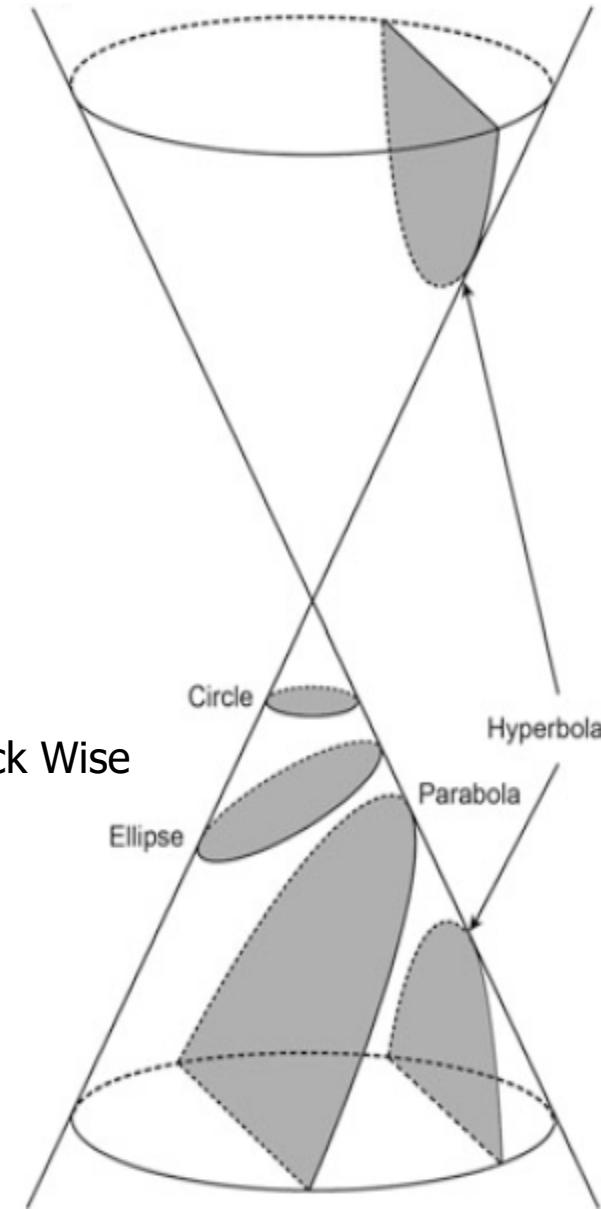
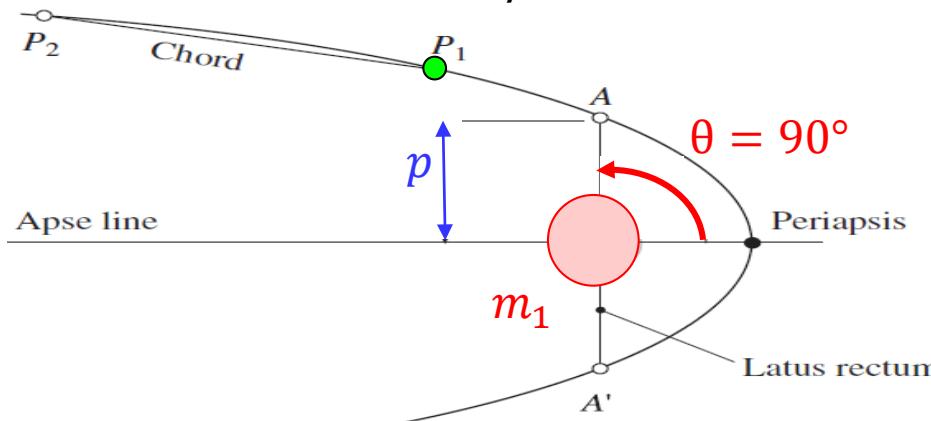
The path of the body  $m_2$  around  $m_1$ , relative to  $m_1$ :

$$r = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta} = \frac{p}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta}$$

where  $p$ ,  $h$ , and  $e$  are constants:

- eccentricity  $e \geq 0$ 
  - $e = 0$  circle
  - $0 < e < 1$  ellipse
  - $e = 1$  parabola
  - $e > 1$  hyperbola
- Gravitational parameter  $\mu = G(m_1 + m_2)$
- Angular momentum  $h = |\mathbf{h}| = |\mathbf{r} \times \dot{\mathbf{r}}|$
- Orbit Parameter  $p = \frac{h^2}{\mu}$  (semilatus rectum or width)

and  $\theta$  is the True Anomaly  $\theta > 0$  measured Counter Clock Wise

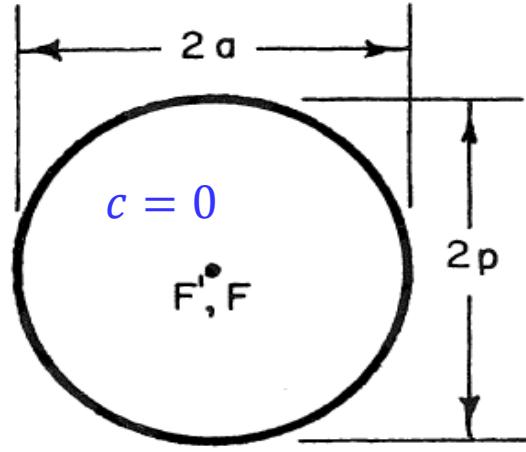


**Source:** Fig. 2.13 Curtis HD (2014) "Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students" (3rd Edition) Elsevier.  
Fig. 7.8 of Walter U (2019) "Astronautics. The Physics of Space Flight" (3rd Edition) Springer.

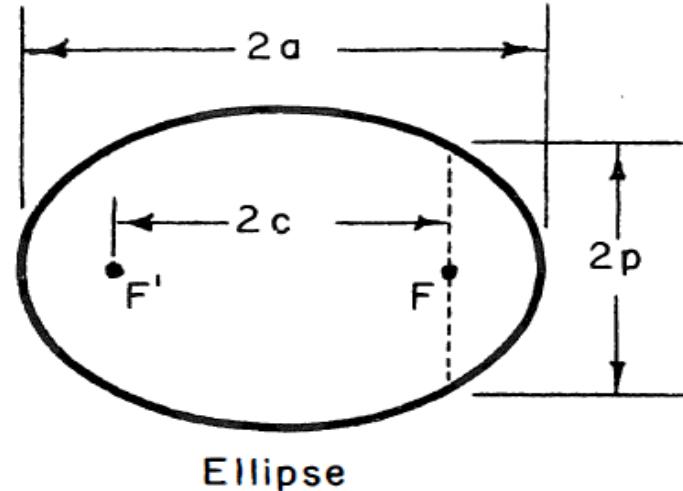
# Reminder!

$$p = \frac{h^2}{\mu}$$

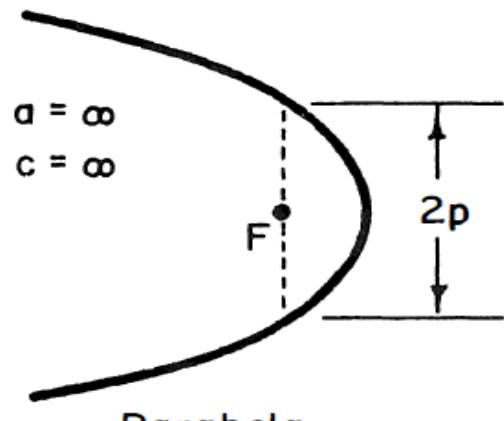
Geometrical dimensions common to all conic sections



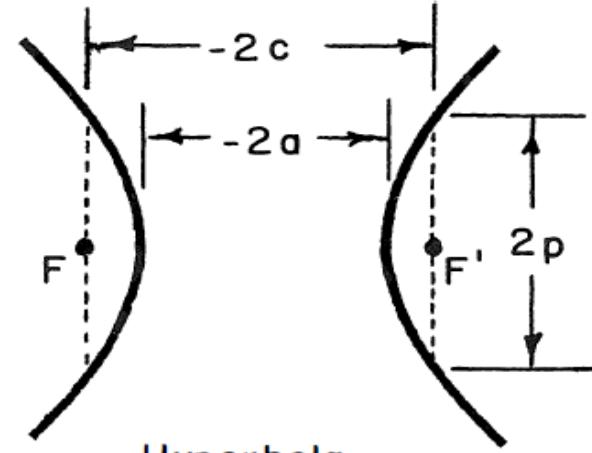
Circle



Ellipse



Parabola



Hyperbola

# Orbit Velocity

## Velocity components

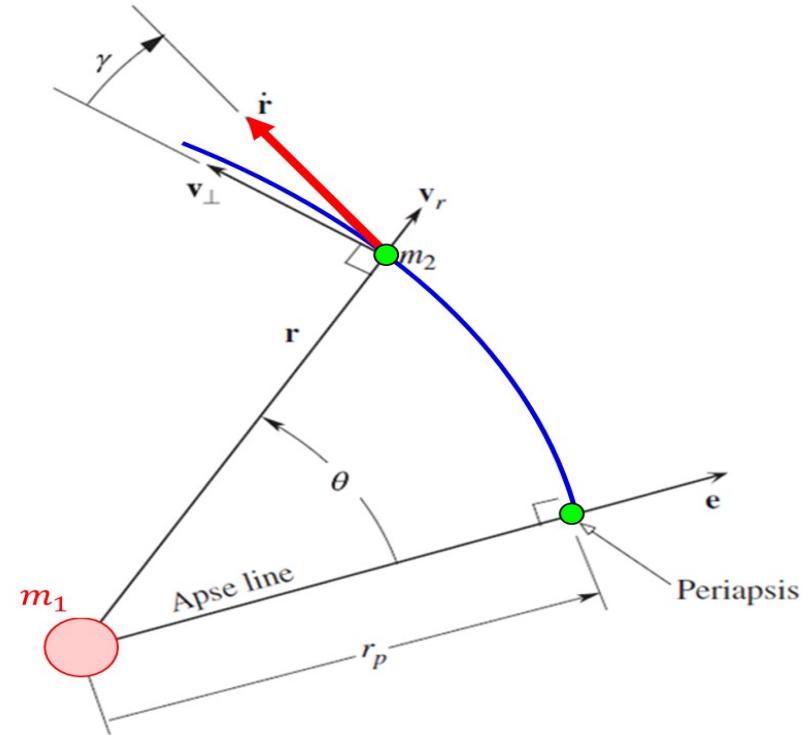
Radial:

$$v_r = \frac{d}{dt} r = \frac{\mu}{h} e \sin \theta$$

Along-track:

$$v_{\perp} = r \dot{\theta} = \frac{\mu}{h} (1 + e \cos \theta)$$

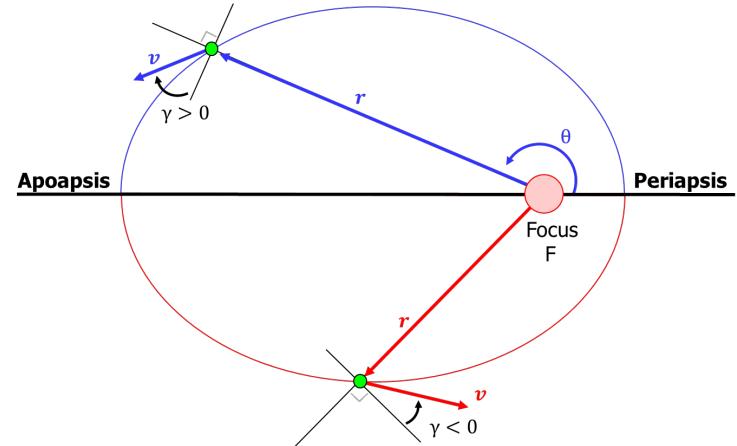
since  $h = r \cdot v_{\perp} = r \cdot (\dot{\theta} \cdot r)$



## Flight path angle (wrt local horizon):

$$\tan \gamma = \frac{v_r}{v_{\perp}} = \frac{e \sin \theta}{1 + e \cos \theta} = \frac{e r}{p} \sin \theta$$

$$\gamma \begin{cases} > 0 & \text{when moving away from periapsis} \\ = 0 & \text{at apsides (periapsis and apoapsis)} \\ < 0 & \text{when moving towards periapsis} \end{cases}$$



# Orbit Velocity in different systems

**RSW:** Radial  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_r$ , Along-Track  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_\perp$ , Cross-Track  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_w$

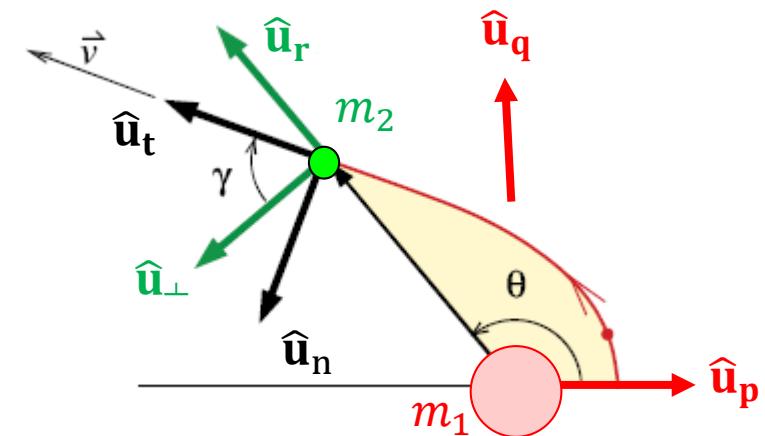
$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \dot{r} \hat{\mathbf{u}}_r + \frac{h}{r} \hat{\mathbf{u}}_\perp = \frac{\mu}{h} \begin{pmatrix} e \cdot \sin \theta \\ 1 + e \cdot \cos \theta \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{RSW} = v \begin{pmatrix} \sin \gamma \\ \cos \gamma \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{RSW}$$

**NTW:** Normal  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_n$ , In-track  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_t$ , Cross-Track  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_w$

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \dot{r} \hat{\mathbf{u}}_t = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{NTW} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \gamma & -\sin \gamma & 0 \\ \sin \gamma & \cos \gamma & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_r \\ v_s \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{RSW}$$

**PQW:** Periapsis  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_p$ , Semi-latus rectum  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_q$ , Cross-Track  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_w$

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}} = \dot{x} \hat{\mathbf{u}}_p + \dot{y} \hat{\mathbf{u}}_q = -\frac{\mu}{h} \begin{pmatrix} -\sin \theta \\ e + \cos \theta \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{PQW}$$



**Source:** Fig 2.12 Curtis HD (2014) "Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students" (3rd Edition) Elsevier.



# Module 3 Requirements

## Objectives:

**Reference Systems: Coordinates and Time**

**Keplerian Orbits**

**Two body problem**

**Circles, Ellipses, Parabolas and Hyperbolas**

**Keplerian Orbital Elements**

**Orbital Maneuvers**

**Interplanetary Trajectories**

## Time Allocation:

**8 hours**

# Law of Areas (second law of Kepler)

The angular momentum of  $m_2$  relative to  $m_1$  is conserved:

$$\mathbf{H}_{m_2} = \mathbf{r} \times m_2 \dot{\mathbf{r}}$$

$$\mathbf{h} = \frac{\mathbf{H}_{m_2}}{m_2} = \mathbf{r} \times \dot{\mathbf{r}}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{h}}{dt} = \dot{\mathbf{r}} \times \dot{\mathbf{r}} + \mathbf{r} \times \ddot{\mathbf{r}} = 0 + \mathbf{r} \times \left( -\frac{Gm_1}{r^3} \mathbf{r} \right) = 0$$

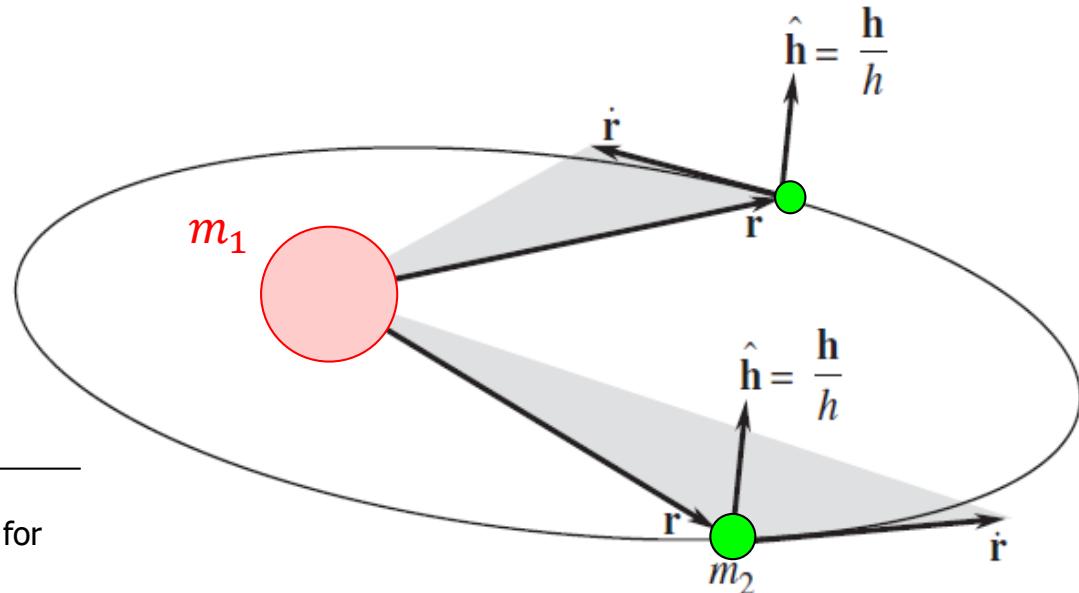
$$G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^3} \mathbf{r} = m_2 \ddot{\mathbf{r}}$$

Therefore,  $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{r} \times \dot{\mathbf{r}} = \text{constant}$ :

- Straight line (hence  $\mathbf{h} = 0$ )
- or
- $\mathbf{r}$  and  $\dot{\mathbf{r}}$  remain in the same plane

## Source:

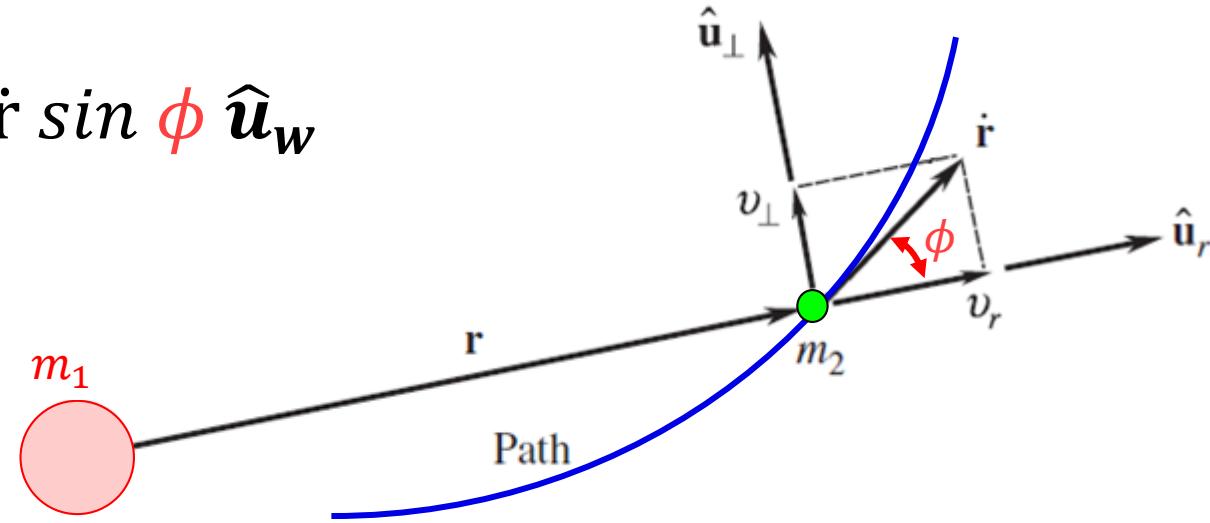
Fig 2.8 Curtis HD (2014) "Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students" (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) Elsevier.



# Law of Areas (second law of Kepler)

$$\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{r} \times \dot{\mathbf{r}} = r \dot{r} \sin \phi \hat{\mathbf{u}}_w$$

RSW	
$\hat{\mathbf{u}}_r$	Radial
$\hat{\mathbf{u}}_\perp$	Along-Track
$\hat{\mathbf{u}}_w$	Cross-Track

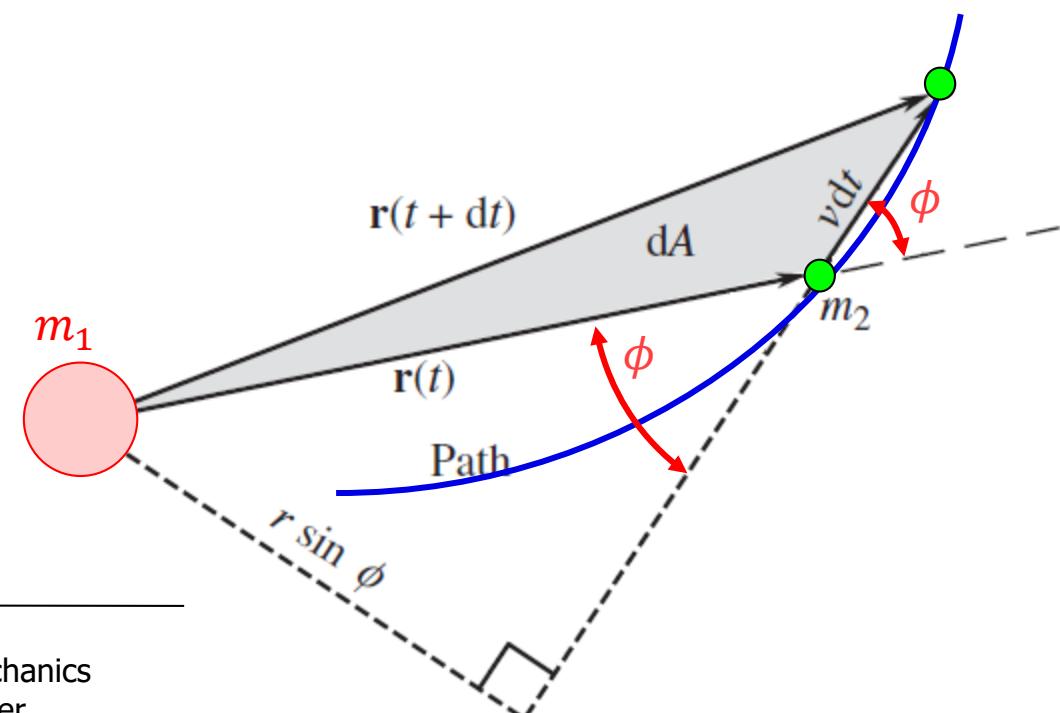


$$dA = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \text{base} \cdot \text{altitude}$$

$$dA = \frac{1}{2} \cdot r \sin \phi \cdot v dt$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot (r \cdot v) \sin \phi$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} h = \text{constant}$$



**Source:**

Figs 2.9 & 2.10 Curtis HD (2014) "Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students" (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) Elsevier.

# Time since periapsis

$$r = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta}$$

$$h = r \cdot v_{\perp} = r \cdot (r \cdot \dot{\theta})$$



$$h = \frac{h^4}{\mu^2} \frac{1}{(1 + e \cdot \cos \theta)^2} \frac{d\theta}{dt}$$

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} dt = \frac{d\theta}{(1 + e \cdot \cos \theta)^2}$$

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} \int_{t_p=0}^t dt = \int_0^\theta \frac{d\theta}{(1 + e \cdot \cos \theta)^2}$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{(a + b \cdot \cos x)^2}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} b < a & \frac{1}{(a^2 - b^2)^{3/2}} \left( 2a \tan^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{a-b}{a+b}} \tan \left( \frac{x}{2} \right) - \frac{b \sqrt{a^2 - b^2} \sin x}{a+b \cdot \cos x} \right) \\ b = a & \frac{1}{a^2} \left( \frac{1}{2} \tan \left( \frac{x}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{6} \tan^3 \left( \frac{x}{2} \right) \right) \\ b > a & \frac{1}{(b^2 - a^2)^{3/2}} \left( \frac{b \sqrt{b^2 - a^2} \sin x}{a + b \cdot \cos x} - a \ln \left( \frac{\sqrt{b+a} + \sqrt{b-a} \tan \left( \frac{x}{2} \right)}{\sqrt{b+a} - \sqrt{b-a} \tan \left( \frac{x}{2} \right)} \right) \right) \end{array} \right.$$

# Circular Orbit ( $e=0$ )

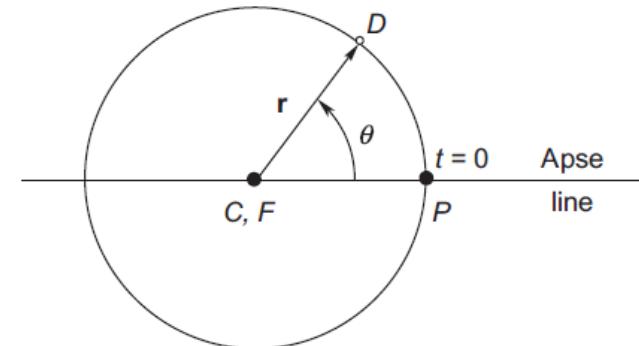
$$r = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta} = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \longrightarrow h^2 = \mu r$$

$$\begin{aligned} v_r &= \frac{d}{dt} r = \frac{\mu}{h} e \sin \theta = 0 \\ v_{\perp} &= r \dot{\theta} = \frac{\mu}{h} (1 + e \cos \theta) = \frac{\mu}{\sqrt{\mu r}} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r}} \end{aligned} \quad \left. \right\} v_{circ} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r}}$$

$$T = \frac{2 \pi}{\omega} = \frac{2 \pi}{v_{\perp}/r} = 2 \pi \sqrt{\frac{r^3}{\mu}}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{v^2}{2} - \frac{\mu}{r} = \frac{\mu}{r} \left( \frac{1}{2} - 1 \right) = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu}{r}$$

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} \int_{t_p=0}^t dt = \int_0^\theta \frac{dx}{(1 + e \cdot \cos x)^2} \longrightarrow \frac{\mu^2}{h^3} t = \theta$$



**Source:** Fig. 3.1 Curtis HD (2014) "Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students" (3rd Edition) Elsevier.

# Elliptical Orbit (third law of Kepler)

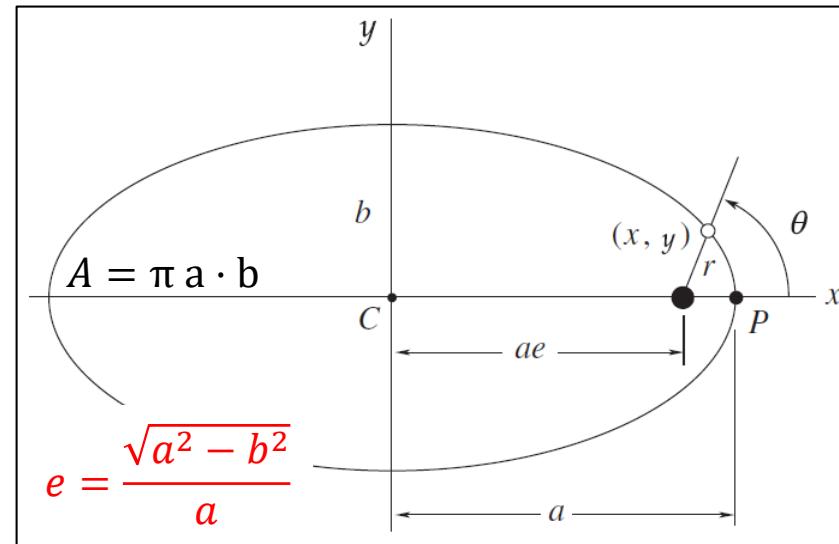
$$r = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta}$$

$$\begin{cases} \theta = 0^\circ & r_p = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e} \\ \theta = 180^\circ & r_a = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 - e} \end{cases}$$

$$r_p + r_a = 2a$$

$$\frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 - e^2} = a$$

$$h^2 = \mu \cdot a \cdot (1 - e^2)$$



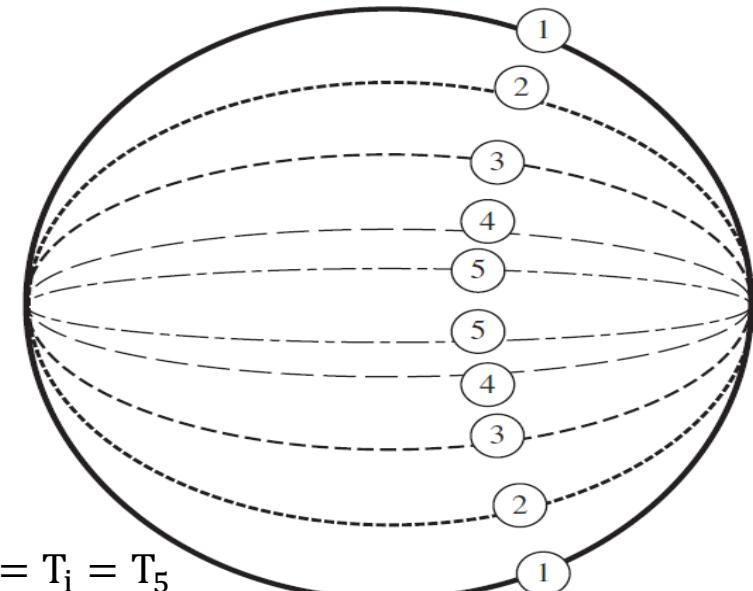
Using the second Kepler law:

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} h$$

$$T = \frac{A}{\frac{1}{2} h} = \frac{\pi a \cdot b}{\frac{1}{2} h} = 2\pi \frac{a \cdot a\sqrt{1 - e^2}}{\sqrt{\mu \cdot a \cdot (1 - e^2)}}$$

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

**Source:** Figs 2.12 and 2.20 Curtis HD (2014) "Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students" (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) Elsevier.



$$T_1 = T_i = T_5$$

All five ellipses have the same major axis, then, their periods and energies are identical

# Elliptical Orbit ( $0 < e < 1$ )

$$r = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta} \quad h^2 = \mu \cdot a \cdot (1 - e^2)$$

$$v_r = \frac{d}{dt} r = \frac{\mu}{h} e \sin \theta = \frac{\mu}{\sqrt{\mu \cdot a \cdot (1 - e^2)}} e \sin \theta = \sqrt{\frac{\mu \cdot e^2}{a \cdot (1 - e^2)}} \sin \theta$$

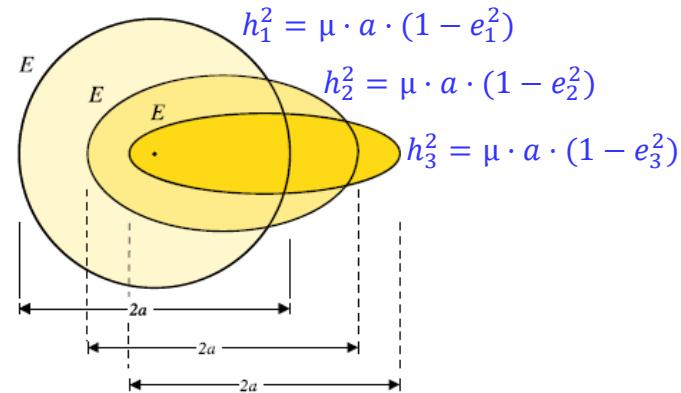
$$v_{\perp} = r \dot{\theta} = \frac{\mu}{h} (1 + e \cos \theta) = \frac{\mu}{\sqrt{\mu \cdot a \cdot (1 - e^2)}} (1 + e \cos \theta) = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{a \cdot (1 - e^2)}} (1 + e \cos \theta)$$

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

$$\epsilon_p = \frac{v_p^2}{2} - \frac{\mu}{r_p} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu}{a \cdot (1 - e^2)} \cdot (1 + e)^2 - \frac{\mu}{h^2} \frac{1}{1 + e}$$

$$\epsilon_p = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu}{a \cdot (1 - e^2)} \cdot (1 + e)^2 - \frac{\mu}{\frac{\mu \cdot a \cdot (1 - e^2)}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e}}$$

$$\epsilon_p = \frac{\mu}{2 a \cdot (1 - e^2)} (1 + e^2 + 2e - 2 - 2e) = \frac{\mu}{2 a \cdot (1 - e^2)} (e^2 - 1) = -\frac{\mu}{2 a}$$



# Elliptical Orbit ( $0 < e < 1$ )

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} \int_{t_p=0}^t dt = \int_0^\theta \frac{dx}{(1 + e \cdot \cos x)^2}$$

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} t = \frac{1}{(1 - e^2)^{3/2}} \left( 2 \tan^{-1} \left( \sqrt{\frac{1 - e}{1 + e}} \tan \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \right) - \frac{e \sqrt{1 - e^2} \sin \theta}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta} \right)$$

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} t = \frac{1}{(1 - e^2)^{3/2}} M$$

Where  $M$  is the **Mean anomaly  $M$** , that can be related with the orbital period  $T$  as:

$$M = \frac{2\pi}{T} t = n t$$

That can be related with an **Eccentric anomaly  $E$**  using Kepler equation:

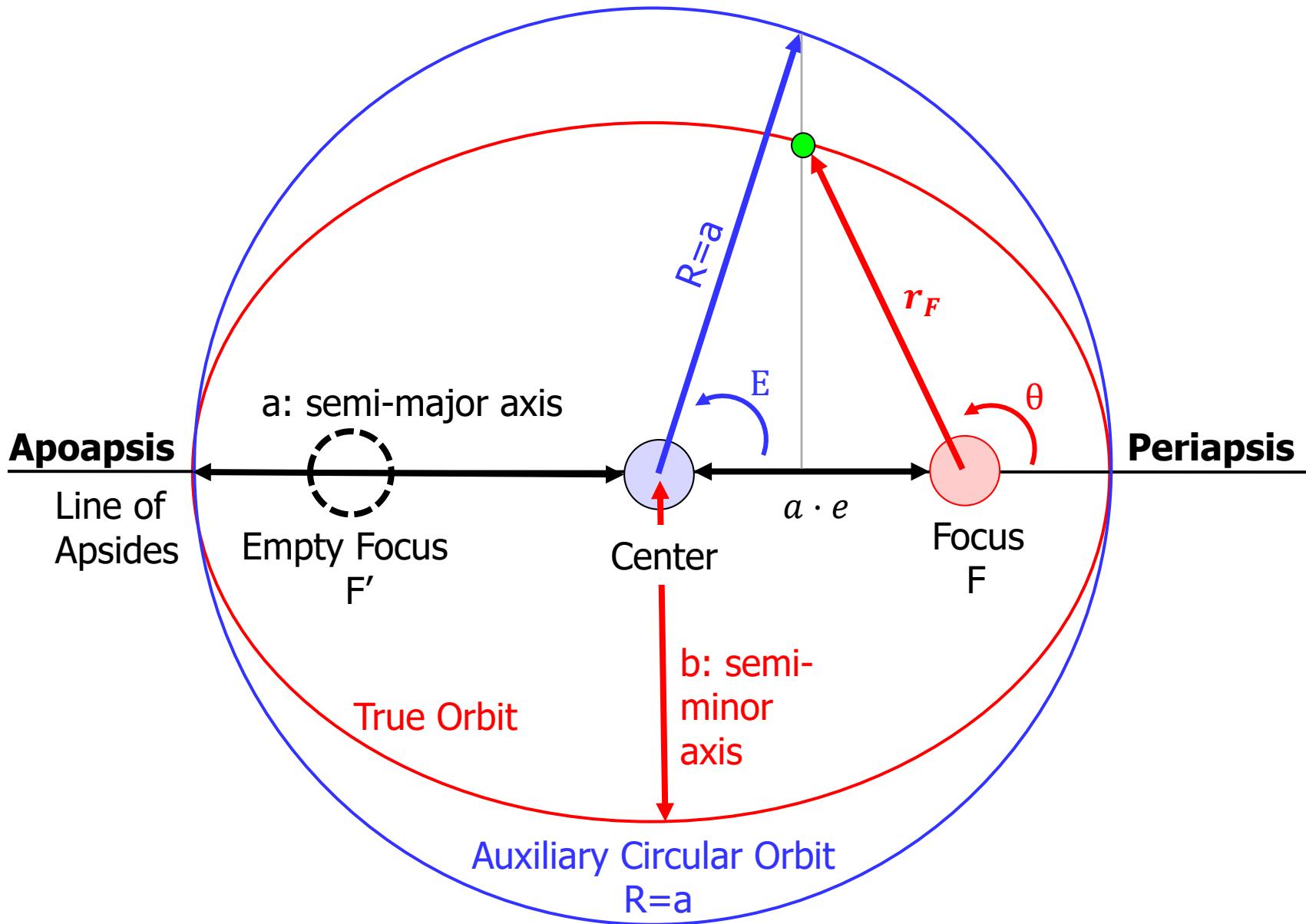
$$M = E - e \sin E$$

and back to the **True anomaly  $\theta$**

$$\tan \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right) = \sqrt{\frac{1 + e}{1 - e}} \tan \left( \frac{E}{2} \right)$$

*Note: anomaly is an angle that cannot be traced back to a true circular motion*

# Elliptical Orbit ( $0 < e < 1$ )



# Solving the Kepler Equation

Note that for ellipse orbits, typically we have the Mean Anomaly M instead of the True Anomaly  $\theta$

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

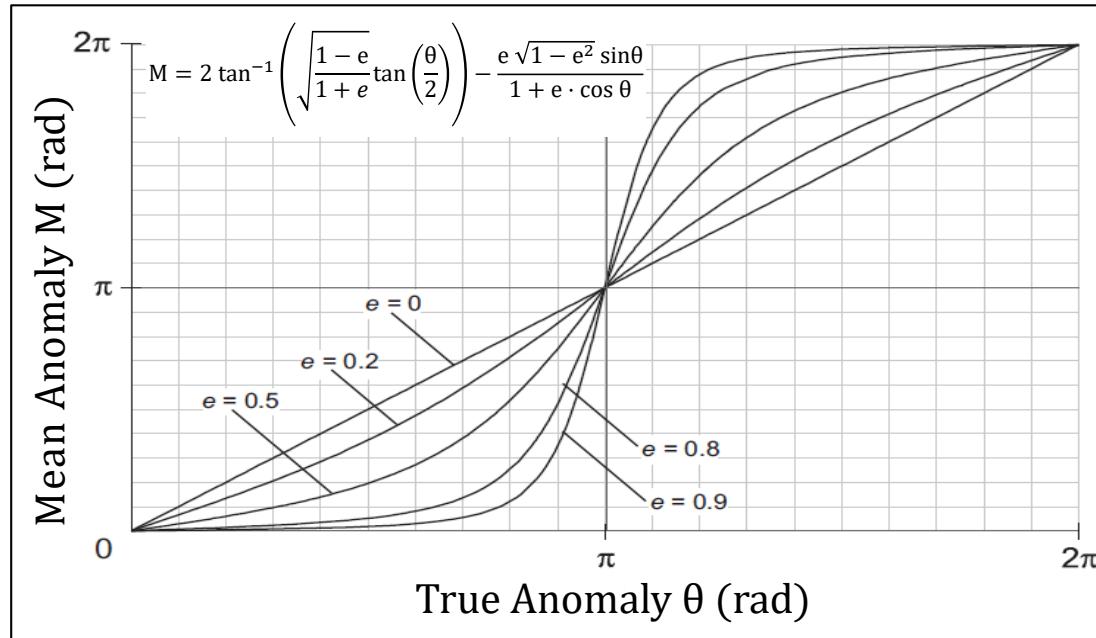
$$M = nt$$

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

$$f(E) = E - e \sin E - M$$

$$f'(E) = 1 - e \cos E$$

$$\tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) = \sqrt{\frac{1+e}{1-e}} \tan\left(\frac{E}{2}\right)$$

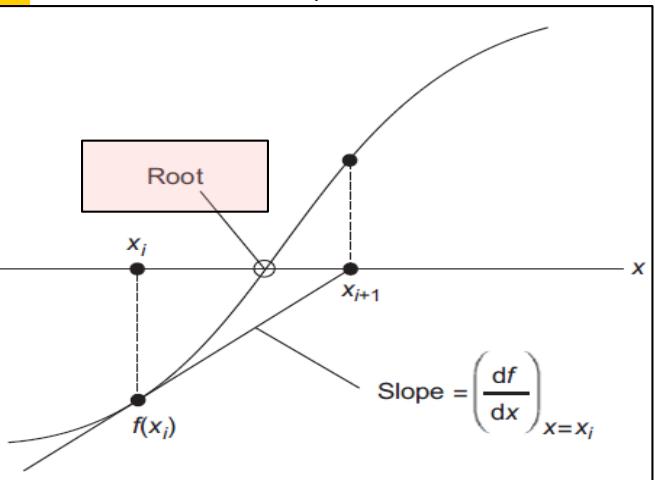


We can solve this (transcendental) equation using Newton iterative method

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(x_i)}{x_{i+1} - x_i}$$

$$f'(x_i) = \frac{0 - f(x_i)}{x_{i+1} - x_i}$$

$$x_{i+1} = x_i - \frac{f(x_i)}{f'(x_i)} \rightarrow E_{i+1} = E_i - \frac{E_i - e \sin E_i - M}{1 - e \cos E_i}$$



# Parabolic Orbit ( $e=1$ )

$$r = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + \cos \theta} \longrightarrow r_a(\theta = 180^\circ) = \infty \longrightarrow a = \infty$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} v_r &= \frac{d}{dt} r = \frac{\mu}{h} e \sin \theta = \frac{\mu}{h} \sin \theta \\ v_\perp &= r \dot{\theta} = \frac{\mu}{h} (1 + e \cos \theta) = \frac{\mu}{h} (1 + \cos \theta) \end{aligned} \right\} \longrightarrow \tan \gamma = \frac{v_r}{v_\perp} = \frac{\sin \theta}{1 + \cos \theta} = \tan \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\epsilon_p = \frac{v_p^2}{2} - \frac{\mu}{r_p} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu}{h} \cdot 2 \right)^2 - \frac{\mu}{h^2} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{1+1}} = 2 \left( \frac{\mu}{h} \right)^2 - 2 \left( \frac{\mu}{h} \right)^2 = 0$$

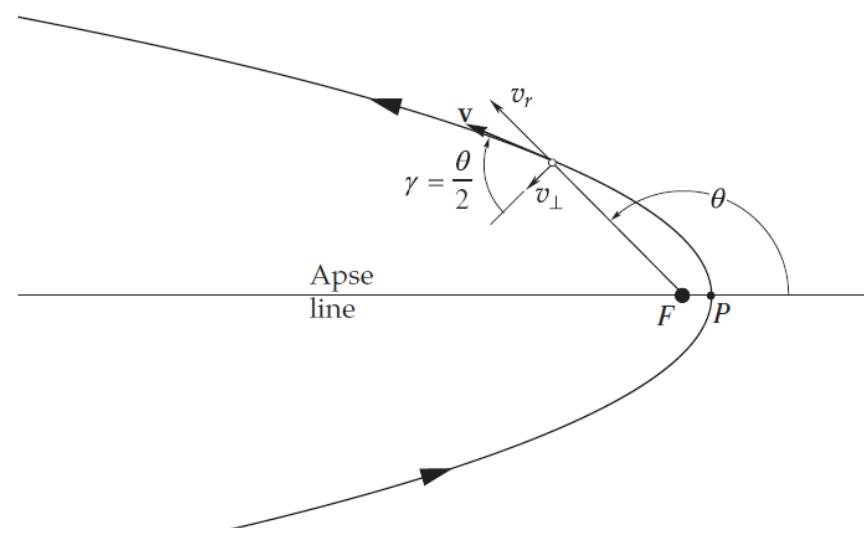
$$\epsilon_\infty = \frac{v_\infty^2}{2} - \frac{\mu}{r_\infty} \longrightarrow v_\infty = 0$$

*m*<sub>2</sub> will arrive to infinity with zero relative velocity to *m*<sub>1</sub>, without returning.

Therefore, parabolic paths are called escape trajectories

$$v_{esc} = \sqrt{\frac{2\mu}{r}} \quad v_{esc} = \sqrt{2} \cdot v_{circ}$$

Earth:  $v_{esc} \approx 11.2 \text{ km/s} \approx 32.9 \text{ M}$



# Parabolic Orbit ( $e=1$ )

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} \int_{t_p=0}^t dt = \int_0^\theta \frac{dx}{(1 + 1 \cdot \cos x)^2}$$

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} t = \frac{1}{2} \tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{6} \tan^3\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} t = M$$

$M$  is dimensionless, and it may be thought of as the "**mean anomaly**" for the parabola.  
 $M$  can be related with **True anomaly  $\theta$** :

$$M = \frac{1}{2} \tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{6} \tan^3\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \quad (\text{known as Baker's equation})$$

Solving the cubic equation

$$\frac{1}{2} \tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{6} \tan^3\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) - M = 0$$

We obtain the only real root:

$$\tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) = \left(3M + \sqrt{(3M)^2 + 1}\right)^{1/3} - \left(3M + \sqrt{(3M)^2 + 1}\right)^{-1/3}$$

# Hyperbolic Orbit ( $e > 1$ )

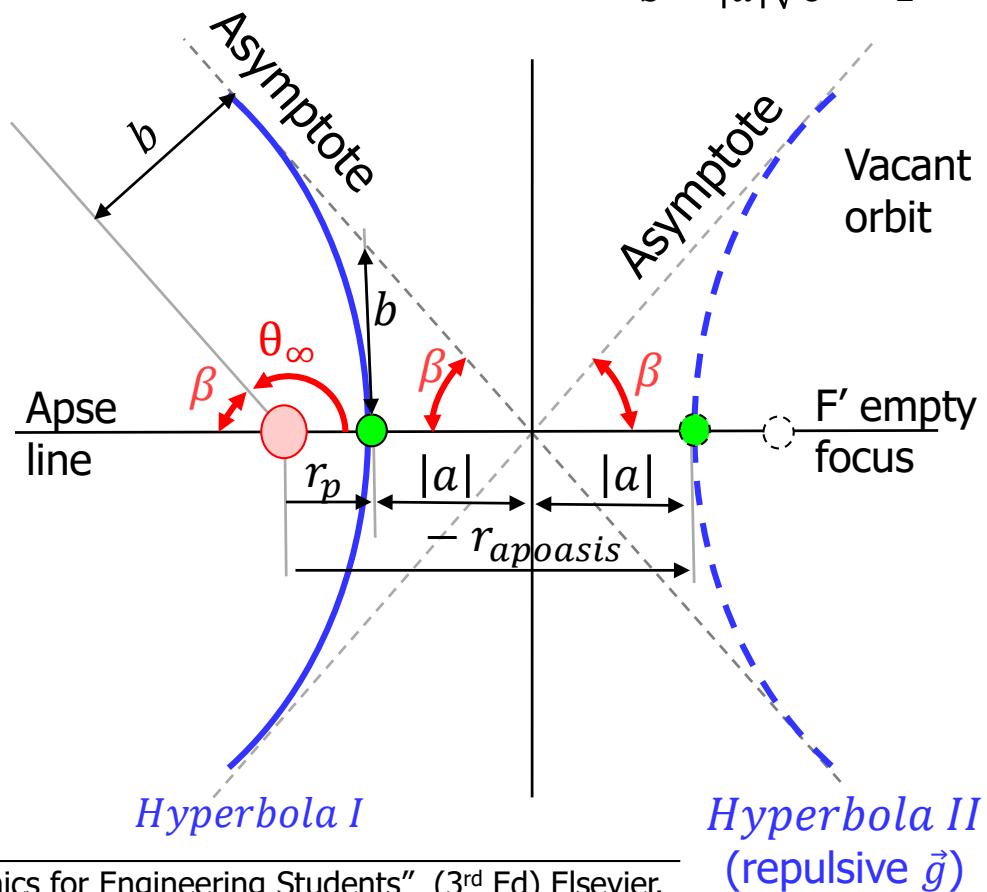
$$r = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e \cos \theta} \longrightarrow \theta_\infty = \arccos(-1/e) \longrightarrow r_\infty = \infty \longrightarrow \beta = 180^\circ - \theta_\infty$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} r_p &= \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e} \\ r_a &= \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 - e} \end{aligned} \right\} \longrightarrow 2|a| = -r_a - r_p \longrightarrow |a| = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{e^2 - 1} \longrightarrow \left[ \begin{aligned} r &= |a| \frac{e^2 - 1}{1 + e \cos \theta} \\ e^2 &= 1 + \frac{h^2}{\mu \cdot |a|} > 1 \\ b &= |a| \sqrt{e^2 - 1} \end{aligned} \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_p &= \frac{v_p^2}{2} - \frac{\mu}{r_p} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu^2}{h^2} (1 + e)^2 - \frac{\mu}{h^2} \frac{1}{1 + e} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu^2}{h^2} (1 + e)[(1 + e) - 2] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\mu^2}{h^2} (e^2 - 1) = \frac{\mu}{2|a|} > 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{v^2}{2} - \frac{\mu}{r} = \frac{\mu}{2|a|} \longrightarrow v_\infty = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{|a|}}$$

*m*<sub>2</sub> will arrive to infinity  
 with an excess velocity  $v_\infty$



# Hyperbolic Orbit ( $e > 1$ )

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} \int_{t_p=0}^t dt = \int_0^\theta \frac{dx}{(1 + e \cdot \cos x)^2}$$

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} t = \frac{1}{(e^2 - 1)^{3/2}} \left( \frac{e \sqrt{e^2 - 1} \sin \theta}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta} - \ln \left( \frac{\sqrt{e + 1} + \sqrt{e - 1} \tan \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right)}{\sqrt{e + 1} - \sqrt{e - 1} \tan \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right)} \right) \right)$$

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} (e^2 - 1)^{3/2} t = \frac{e \sqrt{e^2 - 1} \sin \theta}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta} - \ln \left( \frac{\sqrt{e + 1} + \sqrt{e - 1} \tan \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right)}{\sqrt{e + 1} - \sqrt{e - 1} \tan \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right)} \right)$$

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} (e^2 - 1)^{3/2} t = M$$

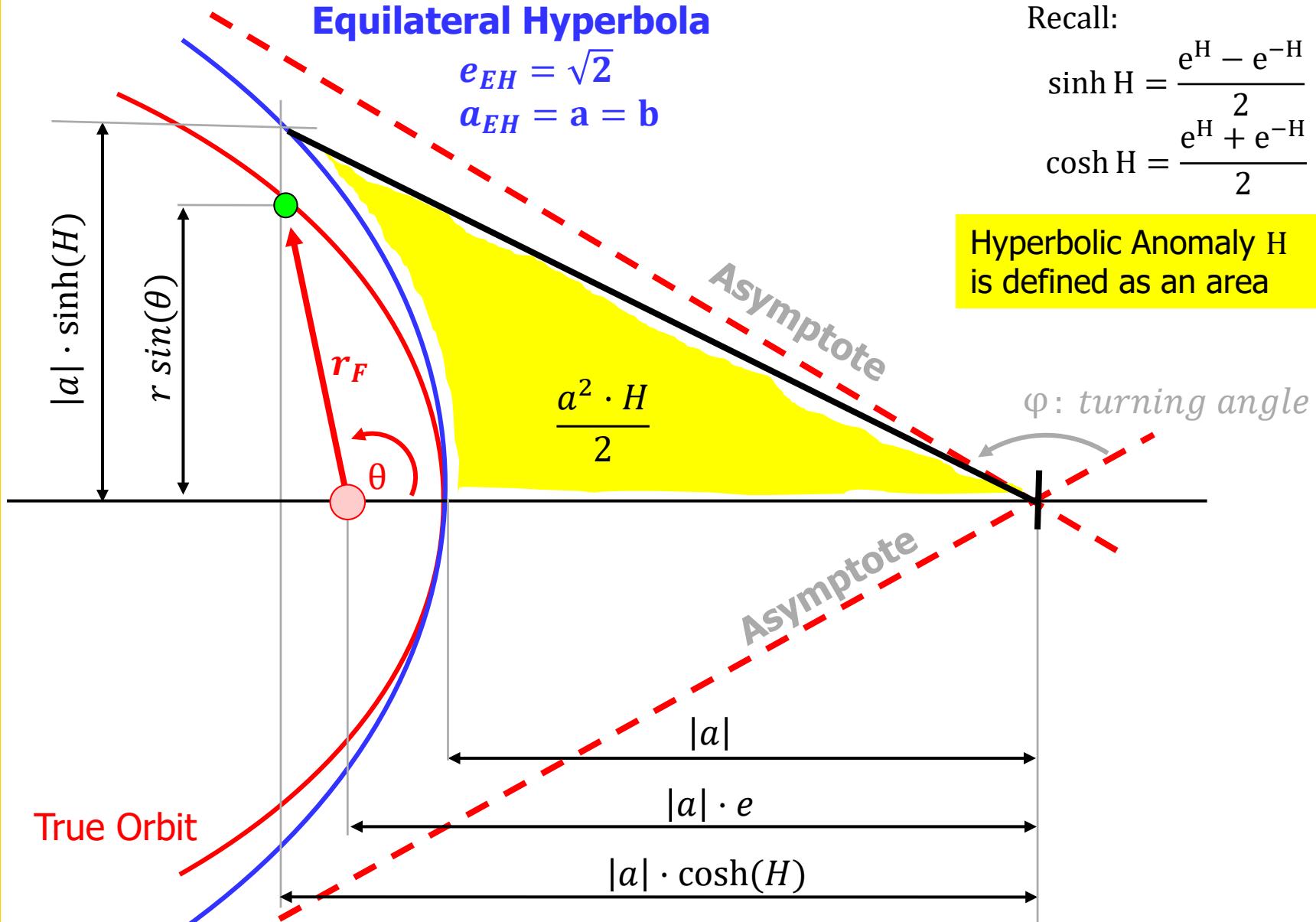
where  $M$  is the **Mean anomaly**, that can be related with an **Eccentric anomaly  $H$** :

$$M = e \cdot \sinh H - H$$

and back to the **True anomaly  $\theta$** :

$$\tan \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right) = \frac{\sqrt{e + 1}}{\sqrt{e - 1}} \tanh \left( \frac{H}{2} \right)$$

# Hyperbolic Orbit ( $e > 1$ )

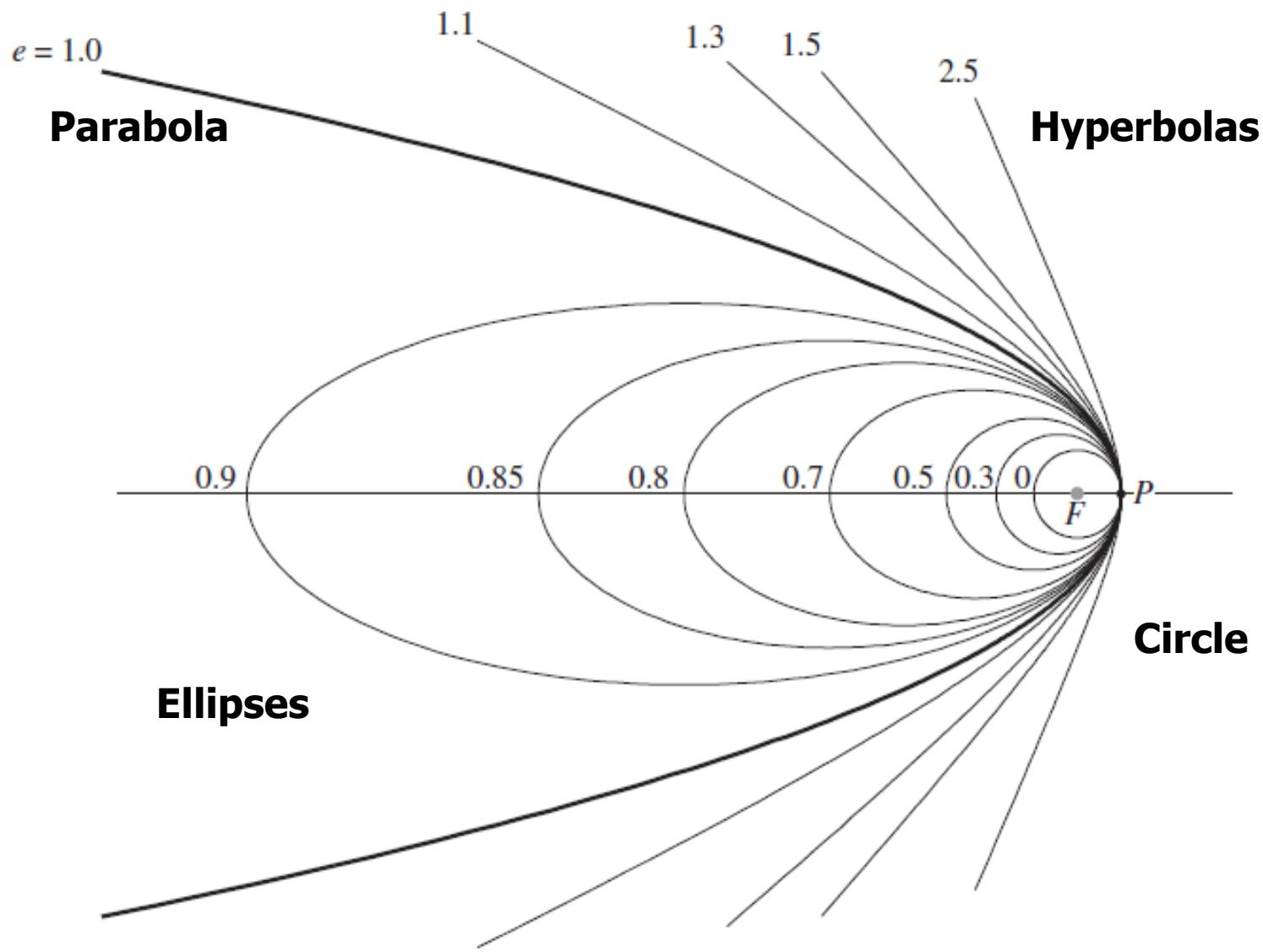


Recall:

$$\sinh H = \frac{e^H - e^{-H}}{2}$$

$$\cosh H = \frac{e^H + e^{-H}}{2}$$

# Keplerian Orbits: Summary





# Keplerian Orbits: Summary

Quantity	Circle	Ellipse	Parabola	Hyperbola
Defining Parameters	$a = \text{semimajor axis} = \text{radius}$	$a = \text{semimajor axis}$ $b = \text{semiminor axis}$	$p = h^2/\mu = \text{semi-latus rectum}$ $r_p = q = \text{perifocal distance}$	$a = \text{semi-transverse axis } (a < 0)$ $b = \text{semi conjugate axis}$
Parametric Equation	$x^2 + y^2 = a^2$	$x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$	$x^2 = 4qy$	$x^2/a^2 - y^2/b^2 = 1$
Eccentricity, $e$	$e = 0$	$e = \frac{\sqrt{a^2 - b^2}}{a} \quad 0 < e < 1$	$e = 1$	$e = \frac{\sqrt{a^2+b^2}}{ a } \quad e > 1$
Periapsis Distance, $r_p$	$r_p = a$	$r_p = a(1 - e)$	$r_p = p/2$	$r_p =  a (1 - e)$
Velocity $V$ , at Distance, $r$ , from Focus	$v = \sqrt{\mu/r}$	$v = \sqrt{\mu(2/r - 1/a)}$	$v = \sqrt{2\mu/r}$	$v = \sqrt{\mu(2/r + 1/ a )}$
Total Energy Per Unit Mass	$\epsilon = -\mu/2a < 0$	$\epsilon = -\mu/2a < 0$	$\epsilon = 0$	$\epsilon = \mu/2 a  > 0$
Mean Angular Motion	$n = \sqrt{\mu/a^3}$	$n = \sqrt{\mu/a^3}$	$n = \sqrt{\mu/p^3}$	$n = \sqrt{\mu/ a ^3}$
Period	$T = 2\pi/n$	$T = 2\pi/n$	$T = \infty$	$T = \infty$
Anomaly	$\theta = M = E$	$\tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) = \sqrt{\frac{1+e}{1-e}} \tan\left(\frac{E}{2}\right)$	$\tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) = \left(3M + \sqrt{(3M)^2+1}\right)^{1/3} - \left(3M + \sqrt{(3M)^2+1}\right)^{-1/3}$	$\tan\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) = \sqrt{\frac{e+1}{e-1}} \tanh\left(\frac{H}{2}\right)$
Mean Anomaly	$M = M_0 + nt$	$M = E - e \sin E$	$M = qD + D^3/6$ $D = \sqrt{2 \cdot q} \tan(\theta/2)$	$M = (e \sinh H) - H$
Distance from Focus	$r = a$	$r = a(1 - e \cos E)$	$r = p/(1 + e \cos \theta)$	$r =  a (1 - e \cosh H)$



# Module 3 Requirements

## Objectives:

**Reference Systems: Coordinates and Time**

**Keplerian Orbits**

**Two body problem**

**Circles, Ellipses, Parabolas and Hyperbolas**

**Keplerian Orbital Elements**

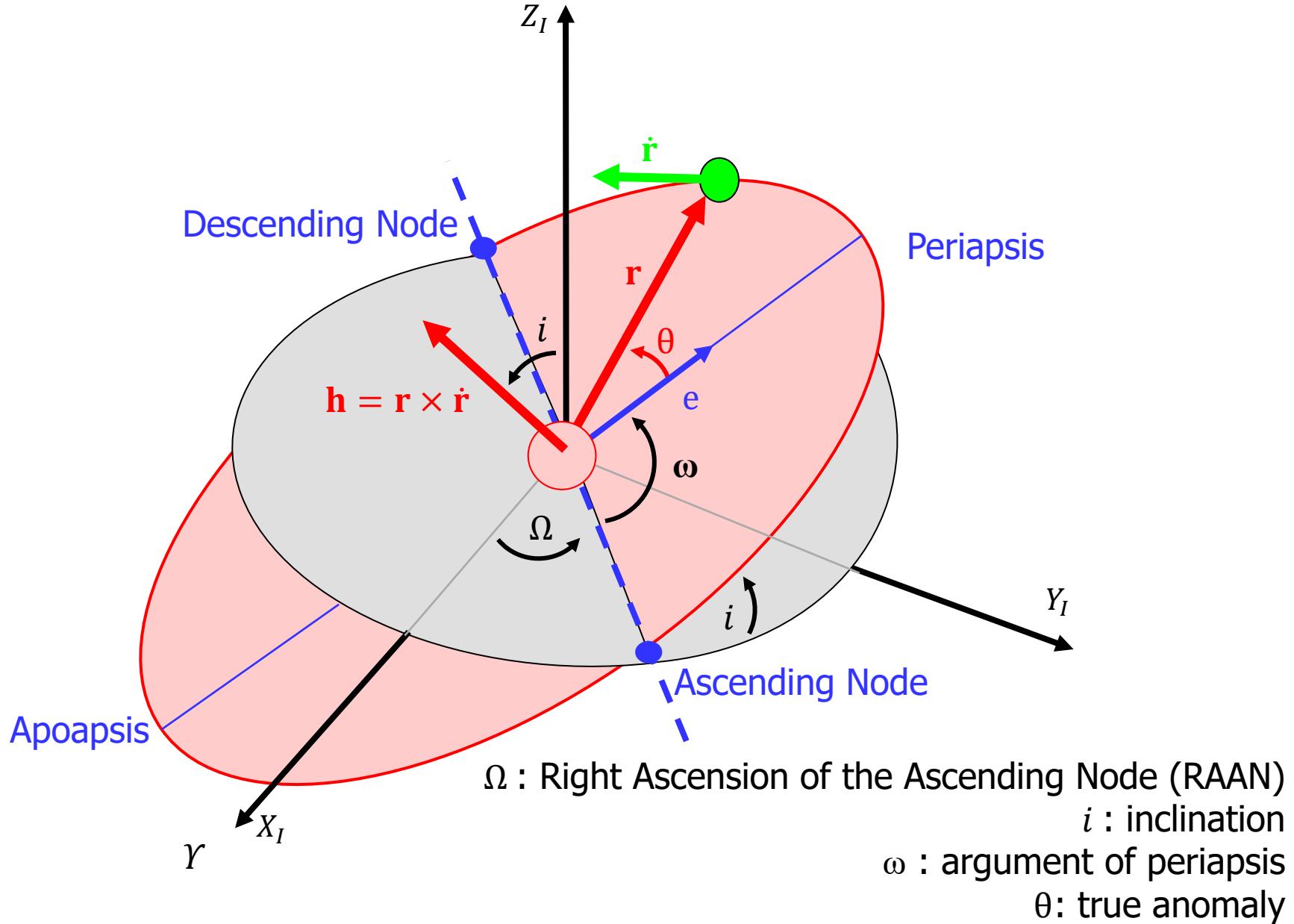
**Orbital Maneuvers**

**Interplanetary Trajectories**

## Time Allocation:

**8 hours**

# Keplerian Orbital Elements

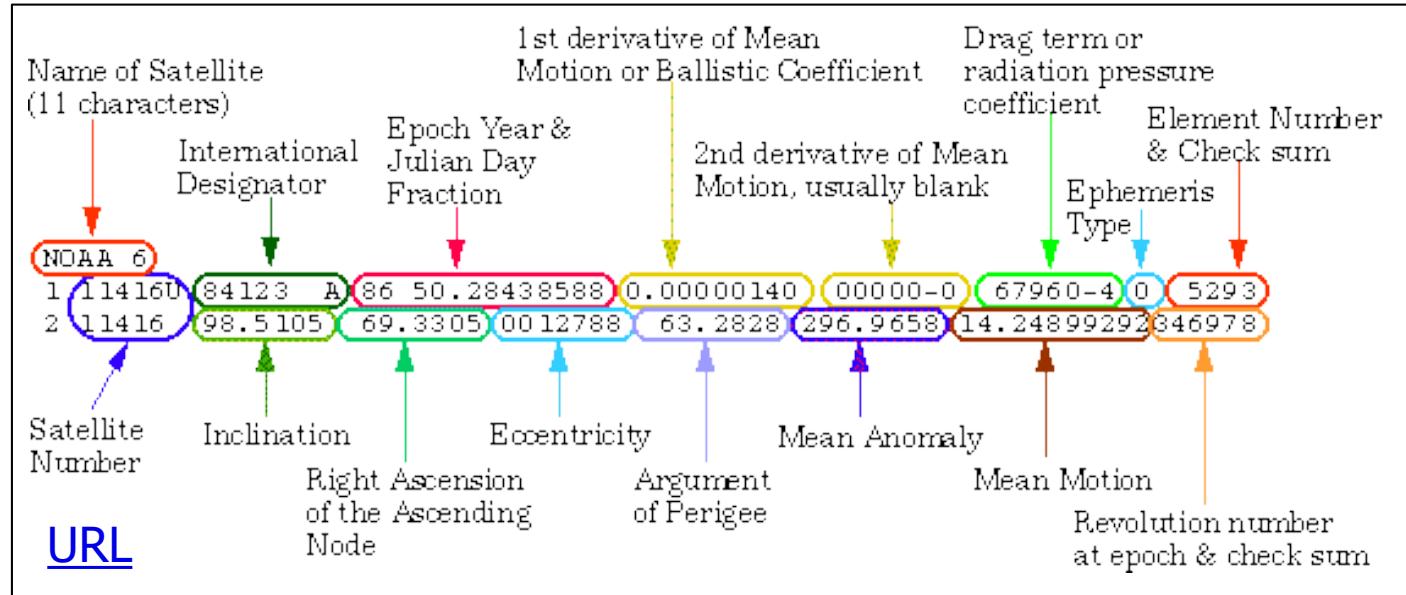


# Keplerian Orbital Elements

element	description	range
$a$	semi-major axis	$ a  > 0$
$e$	eccentricity	$e \geq 0$
$\Omega$	Right Ascension Ascending Node (RAAN)	$0 \leq \Omega < 360^\circ$
$i$	inclination	$0 \leq i < 180^\circ$
$\omega$	argument of periapsis	$0 \leq \omega < 360^\circ$
$\theta$	true anomaly	$0 \leq \theta < 360^\circ$

Note circular orbits ( $e = 0$ ), the argument of latitude  $u$  can replace the argument of periapsis  $\omega$  and true anomaly  $\theta$  as  $u = \omega + \theta$ .

# Two Line Elements (TLEs)



Card #	Satellite Number	Class	International Designator			Yr	Day of Year (plus fraction)	Epoch	Mean motion derivative (rev/day /2)			Mean motion second derivative (rev/day <sup>2</sup> /6)			Bstar (/ER)			Eph	Elem num	Chk Sum	
			Year	Lch#	Piece				S			S.			S.		S	E			
1	1 6 6 0 9	U	8 6 0 1 7	A		9 3 3 5 2 . 5	3 5 0 2 9 3 4		. 0 0 0 0 7 8 8 9			0 0 0 0 0 0	0		1 0 5 2 9 - 3	0		3 4 2			
			Inclination (deg)			Right Ascension of the Node (deg)			Eccentricity			Arg of Perigee (deg)			Mean Anomaly (deg)			Mean Motion (rev/day)			Epoch Rev
2	1 6 6 0 9		5 1 . 6 1 9 0			1 3 . 3 3 4 0	0 0 0 5 7 7 0	1 0 2 . 5 6 8 0	2 5 7 . 5 9 5 0			1 5 . 5 9 1 1 4	0 7 0 4 4 7 8 6 9								

Source: Hoots FR, Roehrich RL (1980) "SPACETRACK REPORT NO. 3 - Models for Propagation of NORAD Element Sets"

Figure 2-19 Vallado DA (2013) "Fundamentals of Astrodynamics and Applications" 4th Edition, Space Technology Library



# Module 3 Requirements

## Objectives:

**Reference Systems: Coordinates and Time**

**Keplerian Orbits**

**Orbital Maneuvers**

**Introduction to Impulsive Maneuvers**

**Maneuvers Types**

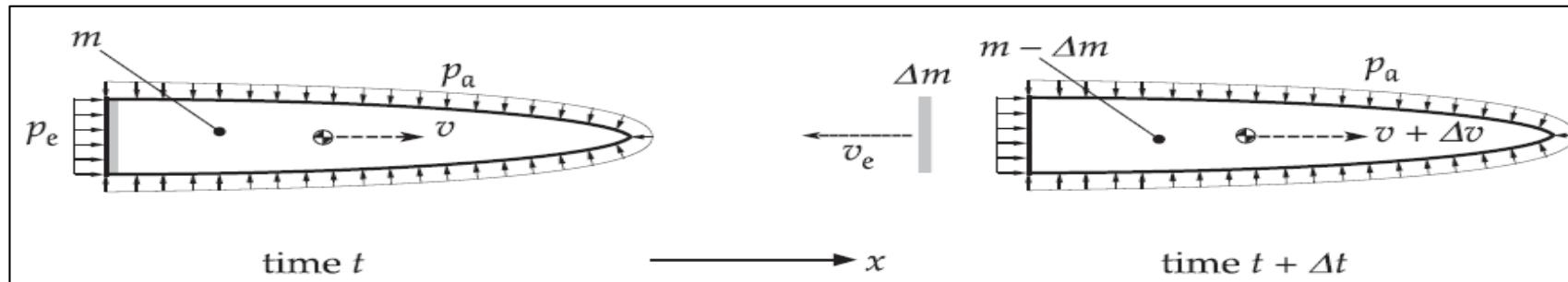
**Interplanetary Trajectories**

## Time Allocation:

**8 hours**

# Impulsive Maneuvers

Assumption:  $\Delta V$  takes place in zero time.  $\dot{r}$  changes but  $r$  not



The Impulse of the system:  $\mathbf{P} = m \cdot \mathbf{v}$

Its variation is due to a Force:  $\mathbf{F} = \frac{d\mathbf{P}}{dt}$

Hence  $\mathbf{F} \cdot dt = d\mathbf{P}$

$$(P_e - P_a) \cdot A_e \cdot dt = P(t + \Delta t) - P(t)$$

$$(P_e - P_a) \cdot A_e \cdot dt = (m - \Delta m)(v + dv) + \Delta m(v - v_e) - m v$$

$$(P_e - P_a) \cdot A_e = m \frac{dv}{dt} - v_e \frac{\Delta m}{dt}$$

In the case of adapted nozzle,  $P_e = P_a$

and noting that our control volume is losing mass (i.e. mass is ejected):  $\Delta m = -dm$

$$m \frac{dv}{dt} = -v_e \frac{dm}{dt}$$

$$dv = -v_e \cdot \frac{dm}{m} \longrightarrow \Delta V = v_e \cdot \ln \frac{m_0}{m_f}$$

# Impulsive Maneuvers

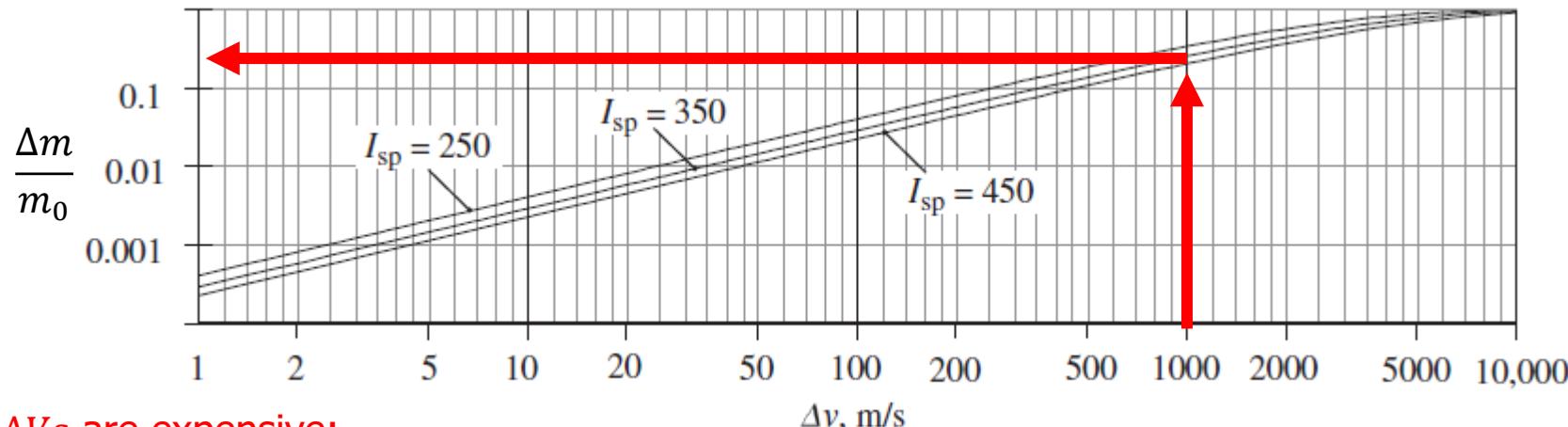
The ideal Rocket equation

$$\frac{\Delta m}{m_0} = 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta V}{I_{sp} \cdot g_{SL}}}$$

Where the specific impulse  $I_{sp}$  is defined as:

$$I_{sp} = \frac{\text{Thrust}}{g_{SL} \cdot \dot{m}_{SL}} = \frac{v_e}{g_{SL}}$$

Propellant	$I_{sp}$ (s)
Cold gas	50
Monopropellant hydrazine	230
Solid propellant	290
Nitric acid/monomethyl hydrazine	310
Liquid oxygen/liquid hydrogen	455
Ion propulsion	>3000



$\Delta V$ s are expensive:

Note that  $\Delta V$  of  $\sim 1$  km/s require propellant  $\sim 25\%$  of the spacecraft mass before the burn

**Source:**

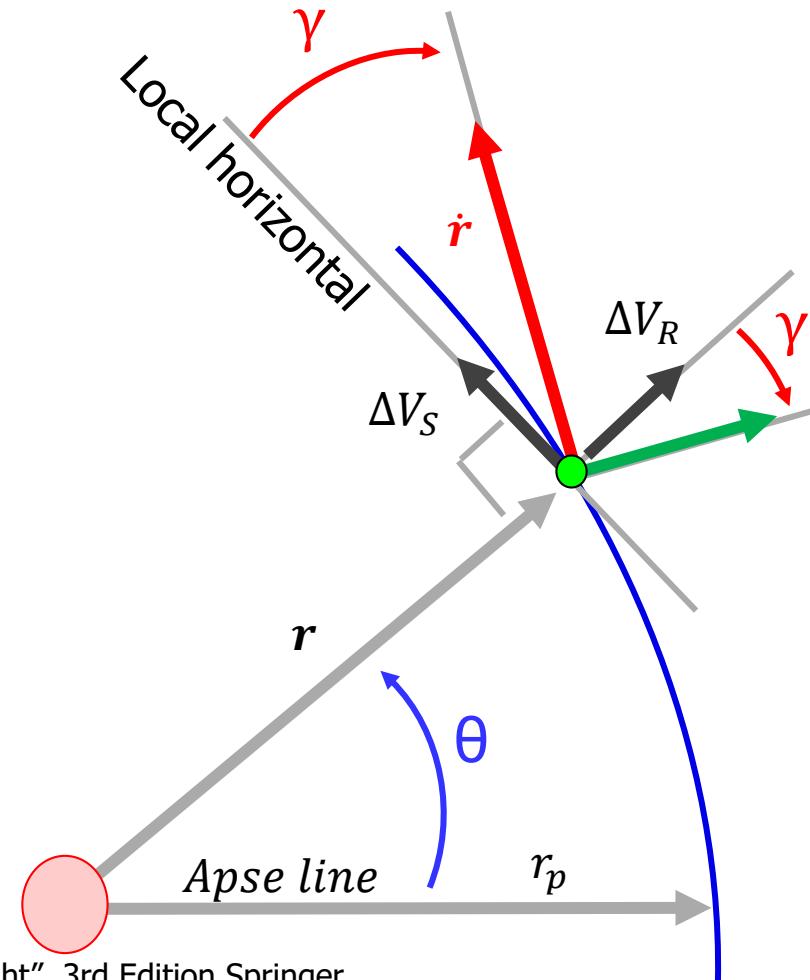
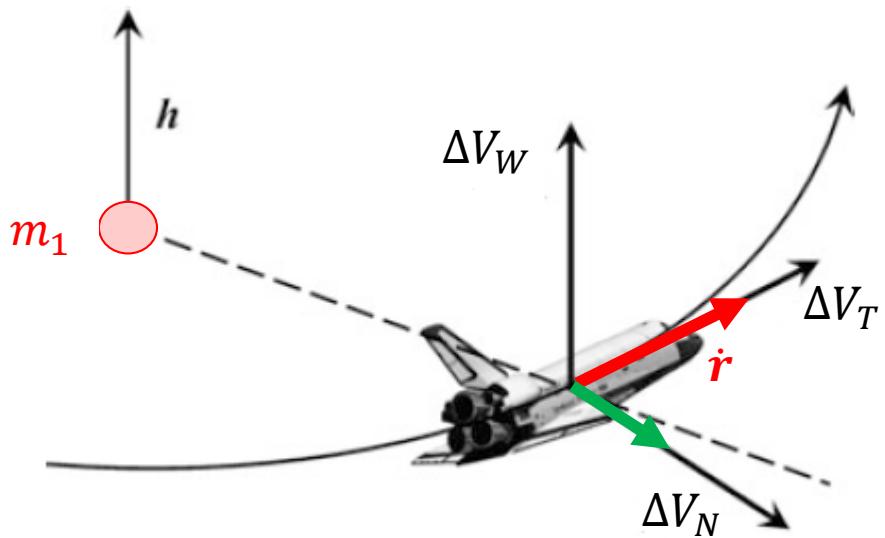
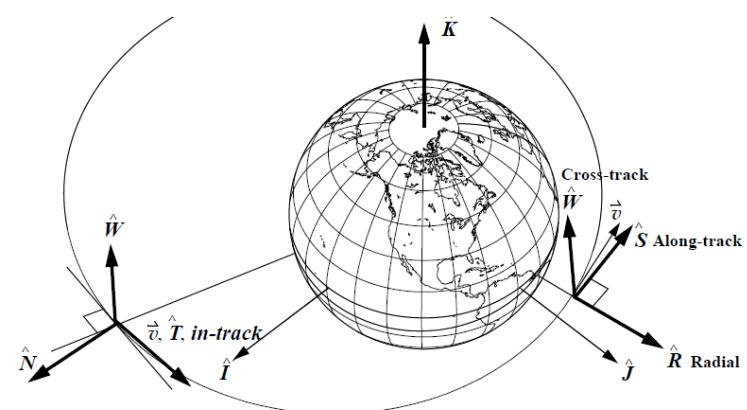
Table 6-1 and Figure 6-1 Curtis HD (2014) "Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students" (3rd Edition).

# Impulsive Orbital Maneuvers

$$\Delta V_R = \Delta V_T \cdot \sin \gamma + \Delta V_N \cdot \cos \gamma$$

$$\Delta V_S = \Delta V_T \cdot \cos \gamma - \Delta V_N \cdot \sin \gamma$$

$$\Delta V_W = \Delta V_W$$



# Impulsive Orbital Maneuvers

Assuming  $\frac{\Delta V}{V} \ll 1$   
the orbital elements  $\Delta\theta$  is:

$$\Delta a = 2 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{a^3}{\mu} \cdot \frac{1 + 2 \cdot e \cdot \cos \theta + e^2}{1 - e^2}} \cdot \Delta V_T$$

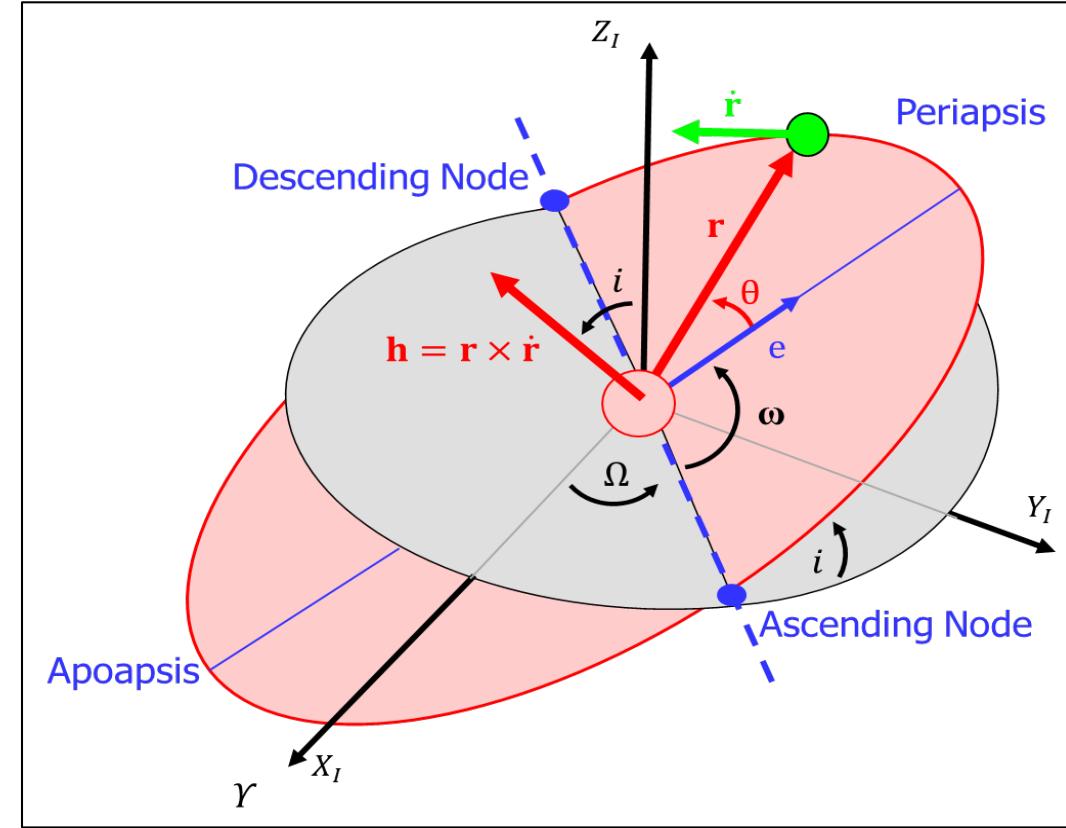
$$\Delta i = \frac{\cos(\theta + \omega)}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta} \sqrt{\frac{a(1 - e^2)}{\mu}} \Delta V_W$$

$$\Delta \Omega = \frac{\sin(\theta + \omega)}{(1 + e \cos \theta) \sin i} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{a(1 - e^2)}{\mu}} \Delta V_W$$

$$\Delta e = 2 \sqrt{\frac{a}{\mu} \cdot \frac{(1 - e^2) \cdot (e + \cos \theta)^2}{1 + 2 \cdot e \cdot \cos \theta + e^2}} \cdot \Delta V_T + \frac{\sin \theta}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta} \sqrt{\frac{a(1 - e^2)^3}{\mu}} \Delta V_N$$

$$\Delta \omega = \frac{2 \sin \theta}{e} \sqrt{\frac{a}{\mu} \cdot \frac{1 - e^2}{1 + 2 \cdot e \cdot \cos \theta + e^2}} \cdot \Delta V_T - \left( 1 + \frac{1}{e} \frac{e + \cos \theta}{1 + e \cos \theta} \right) \sqrt{\frac{a}{\mu} \cdot \frac{1 - e^2}{1 + 2 \cdot e \cdot \cos \theta + e^2}} \Delta V_N$$

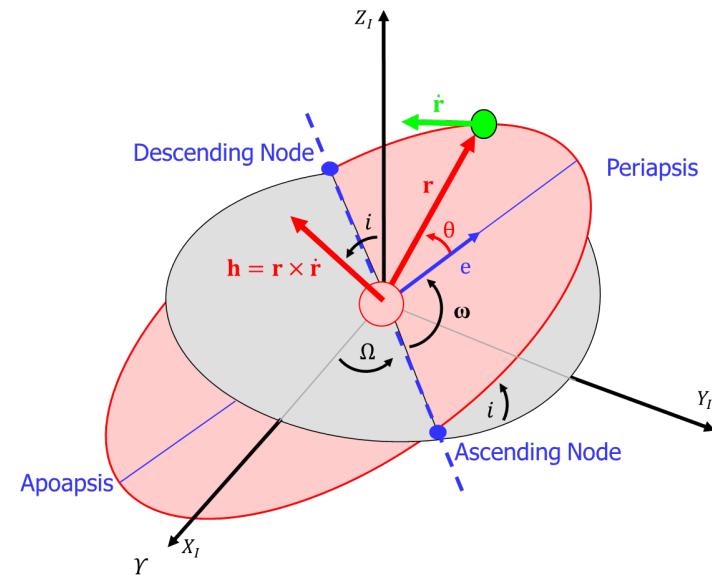
$$- \frac{\sin(\theta + \omega)}{(1 + e \cdot \cos \theta) \tan i} \sqrt{\frac{a(1 - e^2)}{\mu}} \Delta V_W$$



# Impulsive Orbital Maneuvers

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Delta a \\ \Delta e \\ \Delta i \\ \Delta \Omega \\ \Delta \omega \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f(\theta) & 0 & 0 \\ f(\theta) & f(\theta) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & f(\theta + \omega) \\ 0 & 0 & f(\theta + \omega, i) \\ f(\theta) & -f(\theta) & -f(\theta + \omega, i) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \Delta V_T \\ \Delta V_N \\ \Delta V_W \end{pmatrix}$$

- $\Delta V_T$  and  $\Delta V_N$  are contained in the orbital plane  $\rightarrow$  can only affect  $a$ ,  $e$ ,  $\omega$  but not the orientation of the orbital plane  $i$ ,  $\Omega$
- $\Delta V_W$  can only change the direction of orbital motion  $i$ ,  $\Omega$ ,  $\omega$ , but not  $a$ ,  $e$  associated with the orbit energy (speed) or size
- 6 optimal positions for  $\Delta V$ :
  - Regarding True Anomaly
    - Periapsis  $\theta = 0^\circ$
    - Apoapsis  $\theta = 180^\circ$
  - Nodes
    - Ascending Node:  $\omega + \theta = 0^\circ$
    - Descending Node:  $\omega + \theta = 180^\circ$
  - Orthogonal to Nodes
    - $\omega + \theta = 90^\circ$
    - $\omega + \theta = 270^\circ$



**Source:**

Walter U (2019) "Astronautics. The Physics of Space Flight" 3rd Edition Springer

# Module 3 Requirements

## Objectives:

**Reference Systems: Coordinates and Time**

**Keplerian Orbits**

**Orbital Maneuvers**

**Introduction to Impulsive Maneuvers**

**Maneuvers Types**

**Intercepting Orbits:**

**One Impulse maneuver**

- **Inclination change**
- **RAAN change**
- **Apse line rotation**

**Non-Intercepting Orbits**

**Two Impulse maneuver**

- **Hohmann Transfer**
- **Circular Rendezvous different orbits**

**Interplanetary Trajectories**

**Time Allocation:**

**8 hours**

# Inclination Change at Nodes

$\Delta V = (0,0, \Delta V_W)$  applied at, for instance,  $\theta + \omega = 0$ :

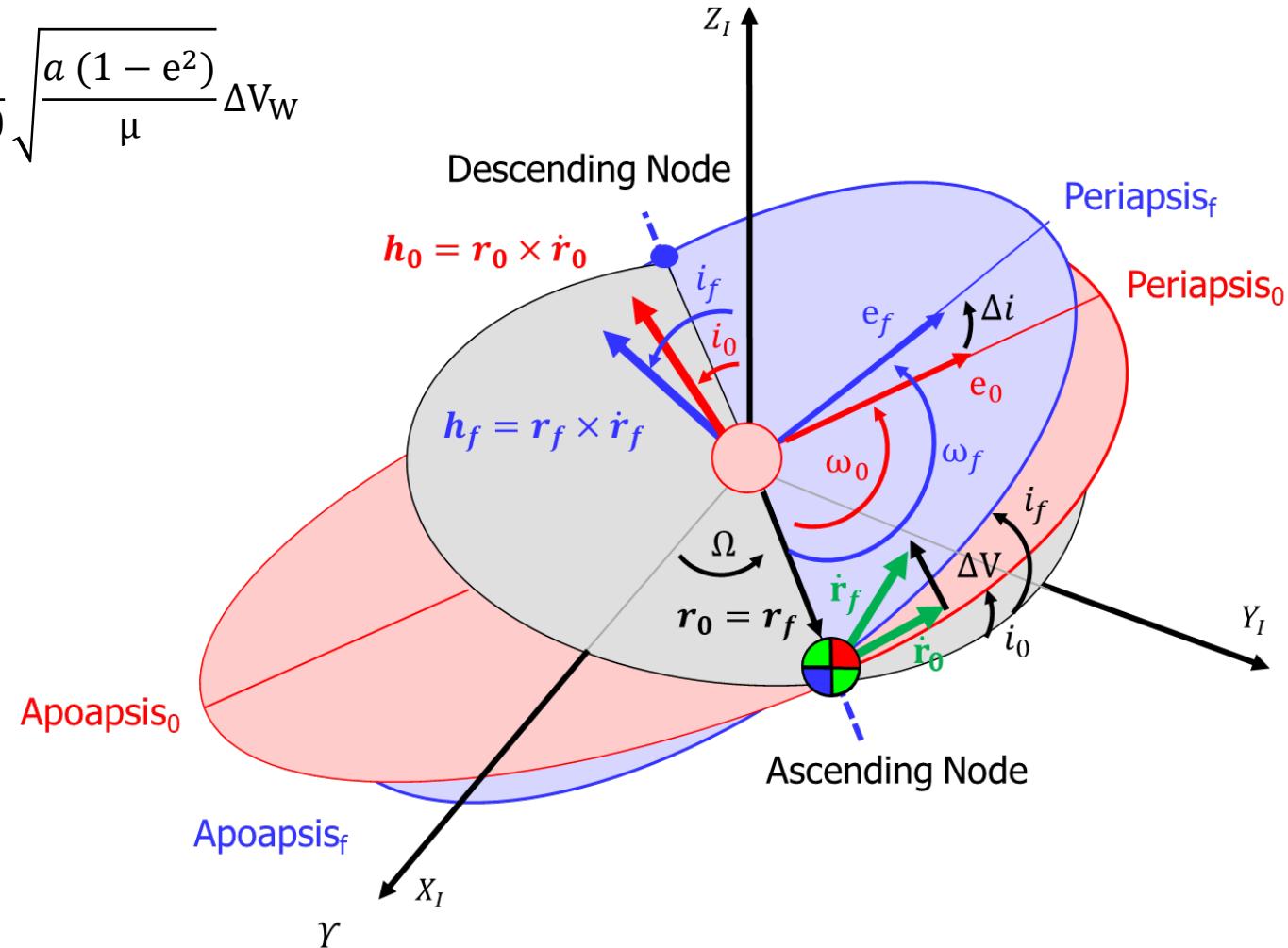
$$\Delta a = 0$$

$$\Delta e = 0$$

$$\Delta i = \frac{1}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta} \sqrt{\frac{a(1 - e^2)}{\mu}} \Delta V_W$$

$$\Delta \Omega = 0$$

$$\Delta \omega = 0$$



# Inclination Change at Nodes

$\Delta V = (0, 0, \Delta V_W)$  at, for instance,  $\theta + \omega = 0$ :

From the law of cosines:

$$\Delta V^2 = V_f^2 + V_0^2 - 2 \cdot V_f V_0 \cos \Delta i$$

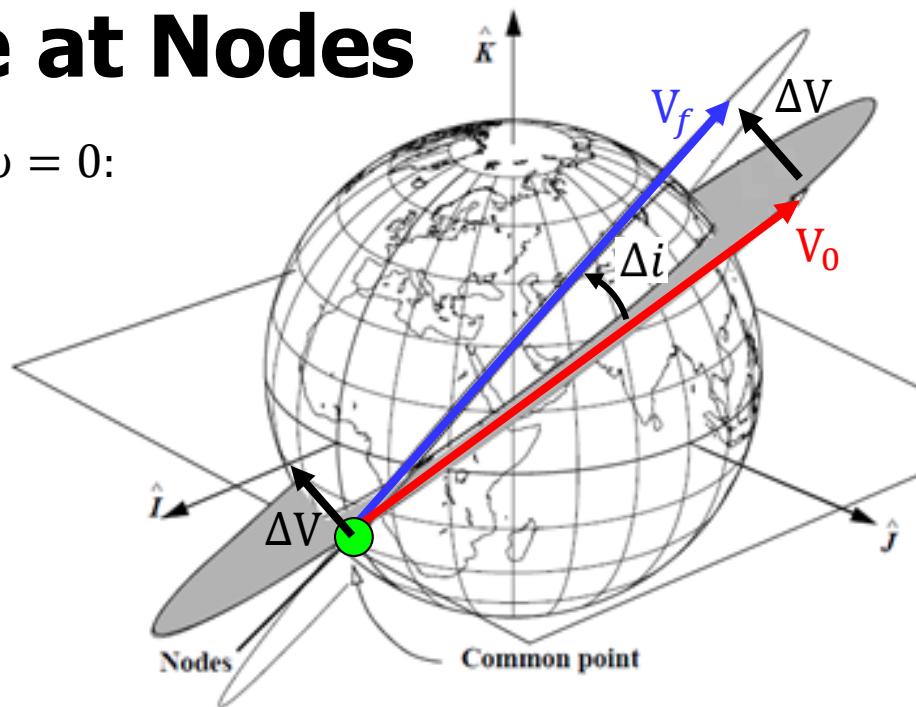
Equal velocity module  $|V_f| = |V_0|$

$$\Delta V^2 = 2 V_0^2 (1 - \cos \Delta i)$$

After some trigonometric identities:

$$\Delta V^2 = 4 V_0^2 \sin^2 \left( \frac{\Delta i}{2} \right)$$

$$\Delta V = 2 \cdot V_0 \cdot \left| \sin \frac{\Delta i}{2} \right|$$



- An expensive maneuver
- To be done close to apogee,  $\min(V_0)$  ideal during a bielliptic transfer

$$a^2 = b^2 + c^2 - 2 \cdot bc \cos A$$

$$b^2 = a^2 + c^2 - 2 \cdot ac \cos B$$

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2 \cdot ab \cos C$$

c

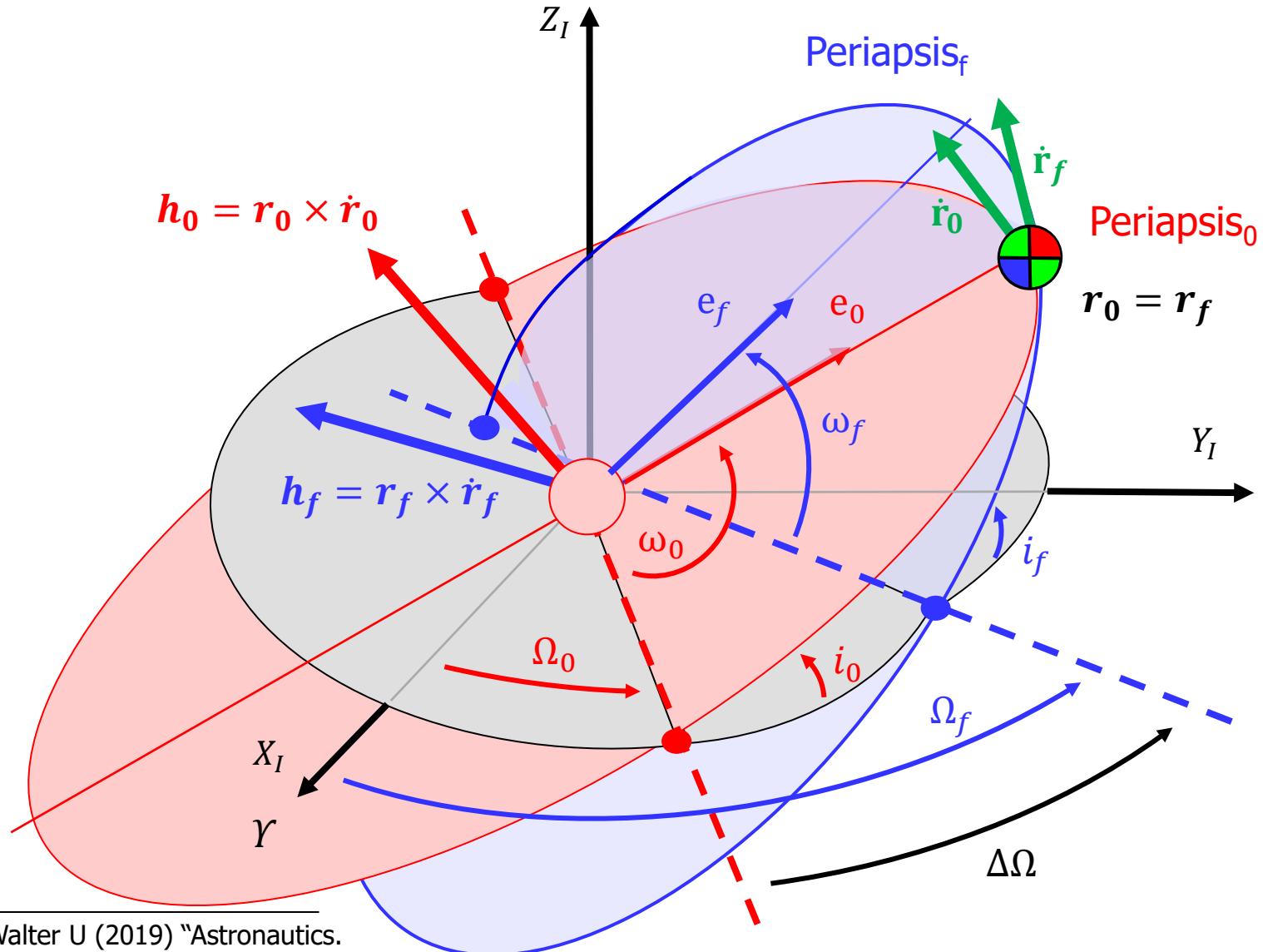
AMVO

Adrià  
Rovira-Garcia

$$\begin{aligned} \cos 2 \left( \frac{\varphi}{2} \right) &= \cos^2 \left( \frac{\varphi}{2} \right) - \sin^2 \left( \frac{\varphi}{2} \right) \\ 1 &= \cos^2 \left( \frac{\varphi}{2} \right) + \sin^2 \left( \frac{\varphi}{2} \right) \\ \hline 1 - \cos(\varphi) &= 2 \cdot \sin^2 \left( \frac{\varphi}{2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

# RAAN Change at orthogonal of Nodes

$\Delta V = (0,0,\Delta V_W)$  at, for instance,  $\theta + \omega = 90^\circ$ :



# RAAN Change at orthogonal of Nodes

$\Delta V = (0, 0, \Delta V_W)$  at, for instance,  $\theta + \omega = 90^\circ$ :

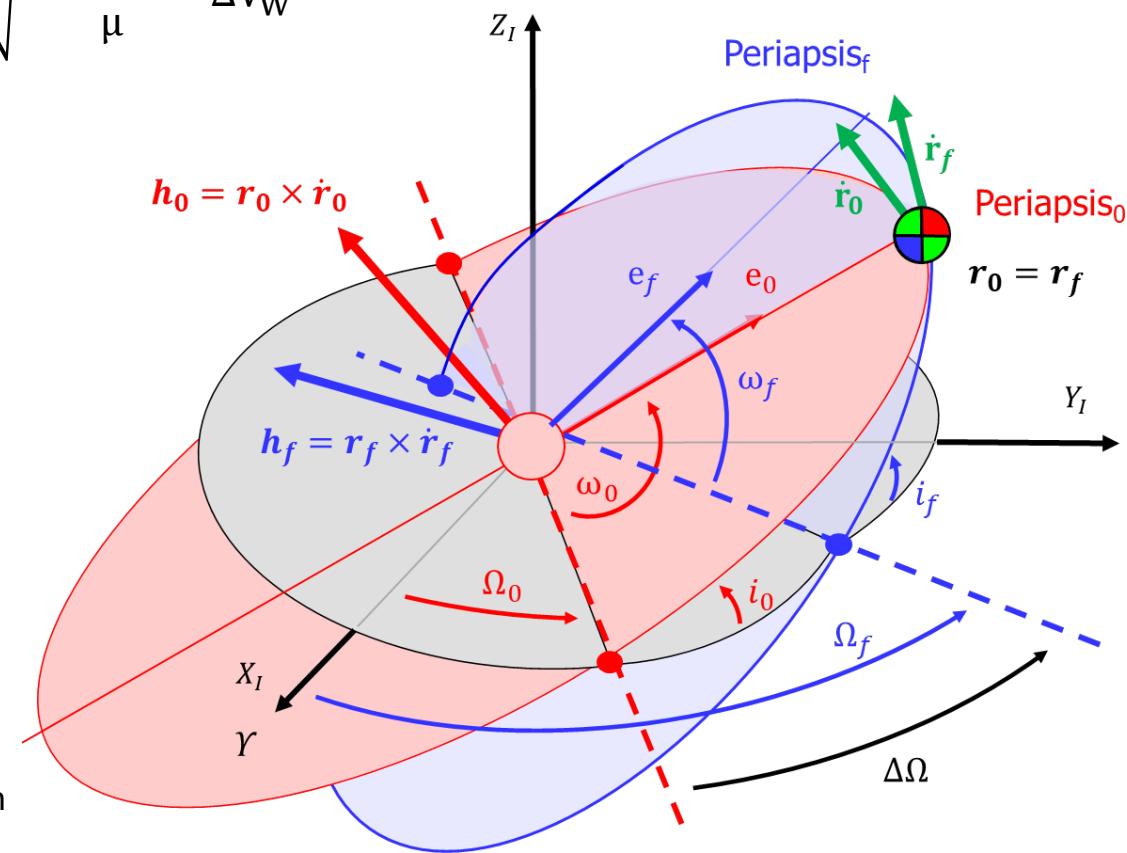
$$\Delta\Omega = \frac{1}{(1 + e \cos \theta) \sin i} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{a(1 - e^2)}{\mu}} \Delta V_W$$

$$\Delta\omega = -\frac{1}{(1 + e \cdot \cos \theta) \tan i} \sqrt{\frac{a(1 - e^2)}{\mu}} \Delta V_W$$

$$\Delta a = 0$$

$$\Delta e = 0$$

$$\Delta i = 0$$



**Source:** Walter U (2019) "Astronautics. The Physics of Space Flight" 3rd Edition Springer

# RAAN Change at orthogonal of Nodes

since  $\mathbf{r}_0 = \mathbf{r}_f$  the angle  $\phi$  between  $\Delta\mathbf{h}$  is the same as  $\Delta\mathbf{V}$ :

$$\mathbf{h}_0 = \mathbf{r}_0 \times \dot{\mathbf{r}}_0$$

$$\mathbf{h}_f = \mathbf{r}_f \times \dot{\mathbf{r}}_f$$

$$\cos \phi = \frac{\mathbf{h}_0 \cdot \mathbf{h}_f}{|\mathbf{h}_0| \cdot |\mathbf{h}_f|}$$

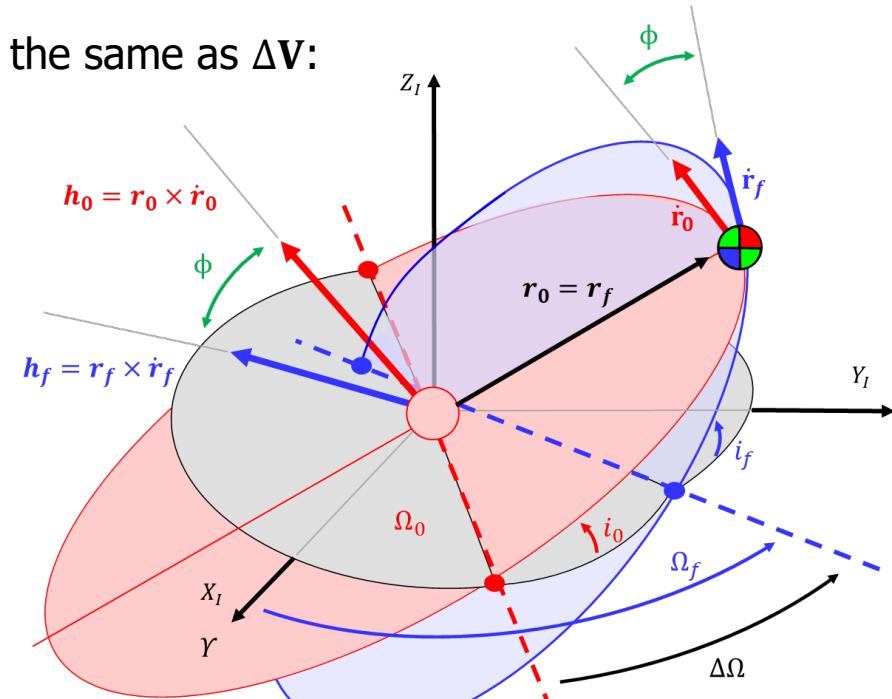
Computation of  $\mathbf{h}_0$  and  $\mathbf{h}_f$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} h_x \\ h_y \\ h_z \end{pmatrix} = R_3(-\Omega)R_1(-i) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ h \end{pmatrix} \text{RSW}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} h_x \\ h_y \\ h_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \Omega & -\sin \Omega & 0 \\ \sin \Omega & \cos \Omega & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos i & -\sin i \\ 0 & \sin i & \cos i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ h \end{pmatrix} \text{RSW}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} h_x \\ h_y \\ h_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \Omega & -\sin \Omega \cdot \cos i & \sin \Omega \cdot \sin i \\ \sin \Omega & \cos \Omega \cdot \cos i & -\cos \Omega \cdot \sin i \\ 0 & \sin i & \cos i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ h \end{pmatrix} \text{RSW}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} h_x \\ h_y \\ h_z \end{pmatrix} = h \begin{pmatrix} \sin \Omega \cdot \sin i \\ -\cos \Omega \cdot \sin i \\ \cos i \end{pmatrix}$$




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**Source:** Walter U (2019) "Astronautics. The Physics of Space Flight" 3rd Edition Springer

# RAAN Change at orthogonal of Nodes

since  $\mathbf{r}_0 = \mathbf{r}_f$  the angle  $\phi$  between  $\Delta\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{h}_f - \mathbf{h}_0$  is the same as  $\Delta\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{V}_f - \mathbf{V}_0$ :

$$\cos \phi = \frac{\mathbf{h}_0 \cdot \mathbf{h}_f}{|\mathbf{h}_0| \cdot |\mathbf{h}_f|} = \sin \Omega_0 \sin i_0 \cdot \sin \Omega_f \sin i_f + \cos \Omega_0 \sin i_0 \cdot \cos \Omega_f \sin i_f + \cos i_0 \cdot \cos i_f$$

Noting that:

$$\begin{aligned}\cos(\Omega_f - \Omega_0) &= \cos \Omega_f \cdot \cos \Omega_0 + \sin \Omega_f \cdot \sin \Omega_0 \\ \cos(i_f - i_0) &= \cos i_f \cdot \cos i_0 + \sin i_f \cdot \sin i_0\end{aligned}$$

$$\cos \phi = \sin i_0 \cdot \sin i_f \cdot [\cos(\Delta\Omega) + 1] + \cos(\Delta i)$$

Noting that:

$$\cos(\phi) = 1 - 2 \cdot \sin^2\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right)$$

$$\sin^2\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right) = \sin i_0 \cdot \sin i_f \cdot \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta\Omega}{2}\right) + \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta i}{2}\right)$$

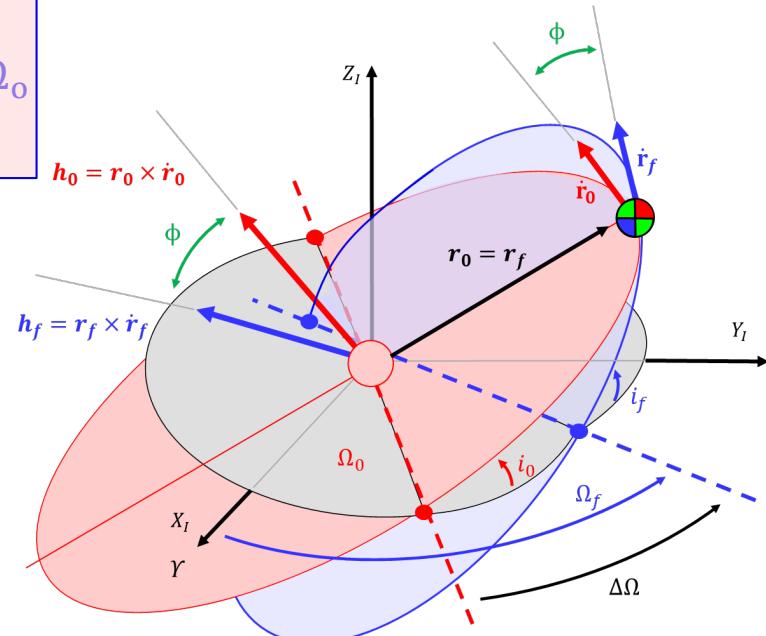
We are ready to apply the law of cosines:

$$\Delta V^2 = V_f^2 + V_0^2 - 2 \cdot V_f \cdot V_0 \cos \phi$$

$$\Delta V^2 = V_f^2 + V_0^2 - 2 \cdot V_f \cdot V_0 \left[ 1 - 2 \sin i_0 \cdot \sin i_f \cdot \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta\Omega}{2}\right) - 2 \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta i}{2}\right) \right]$$

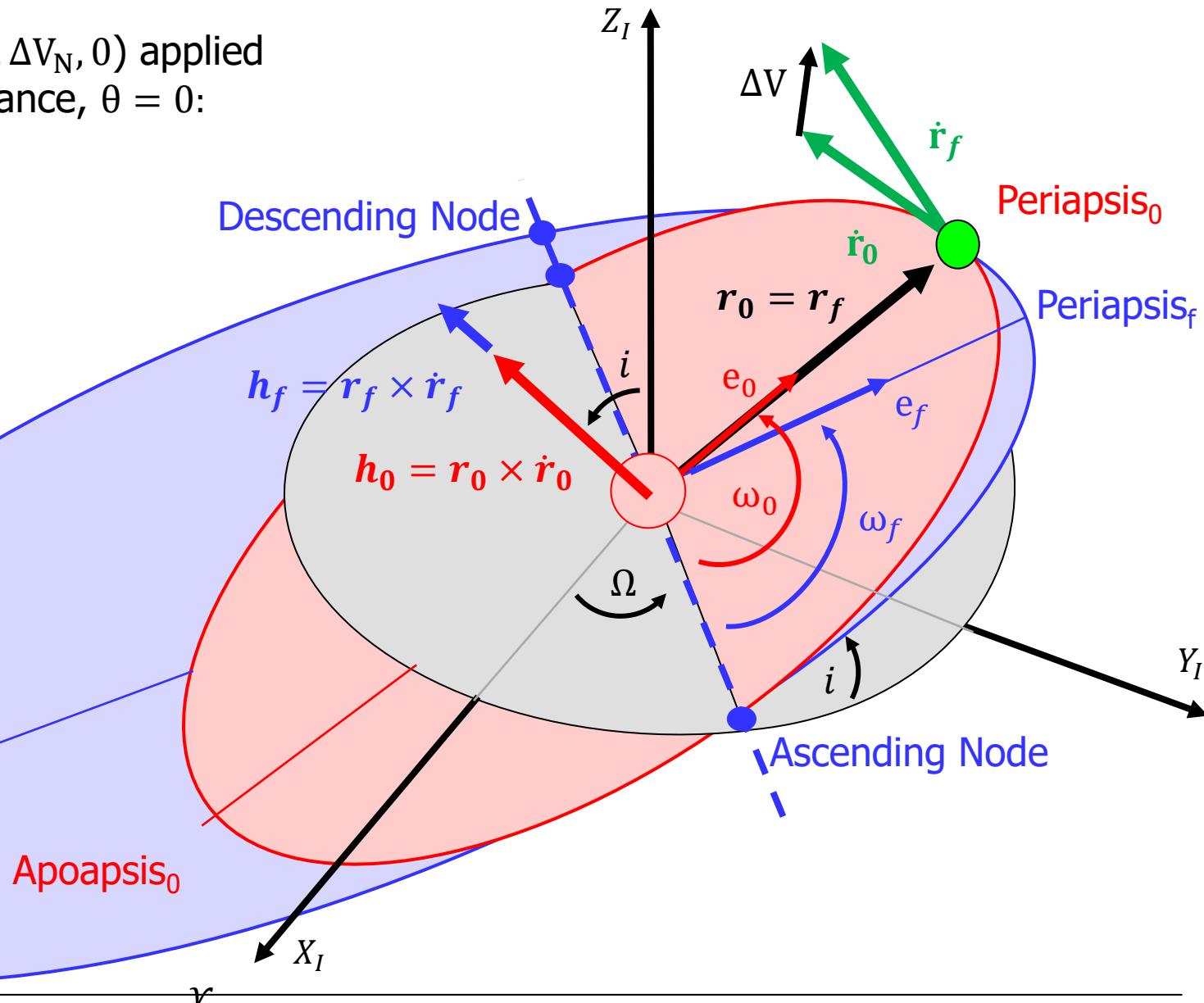
$$\Delta V = 2 \cdot V_0 \sin i_0 \left| \sin\left(\frac{\Delta\Omega}{2}\right) \right|$$

- An expensive maneuver
- To be performed close to apogee for  $\min(V_0)$
- To be performed at minimum inclination  $\min(i_0)$



# Rotation of Apse Line

$\Delta V = (\Delta V_T, \Delta V_N, 0)$  applied at, for instance,  $\theta = 0$ :



Source:

Walter U (2019) "Astronautics. The Physics of Space Flight" 3rd Edition Springer

$\Delta V = (\Delta V_T, \Delta V_N, 0)$  applied at, for instance,  $\theta = 0$ :

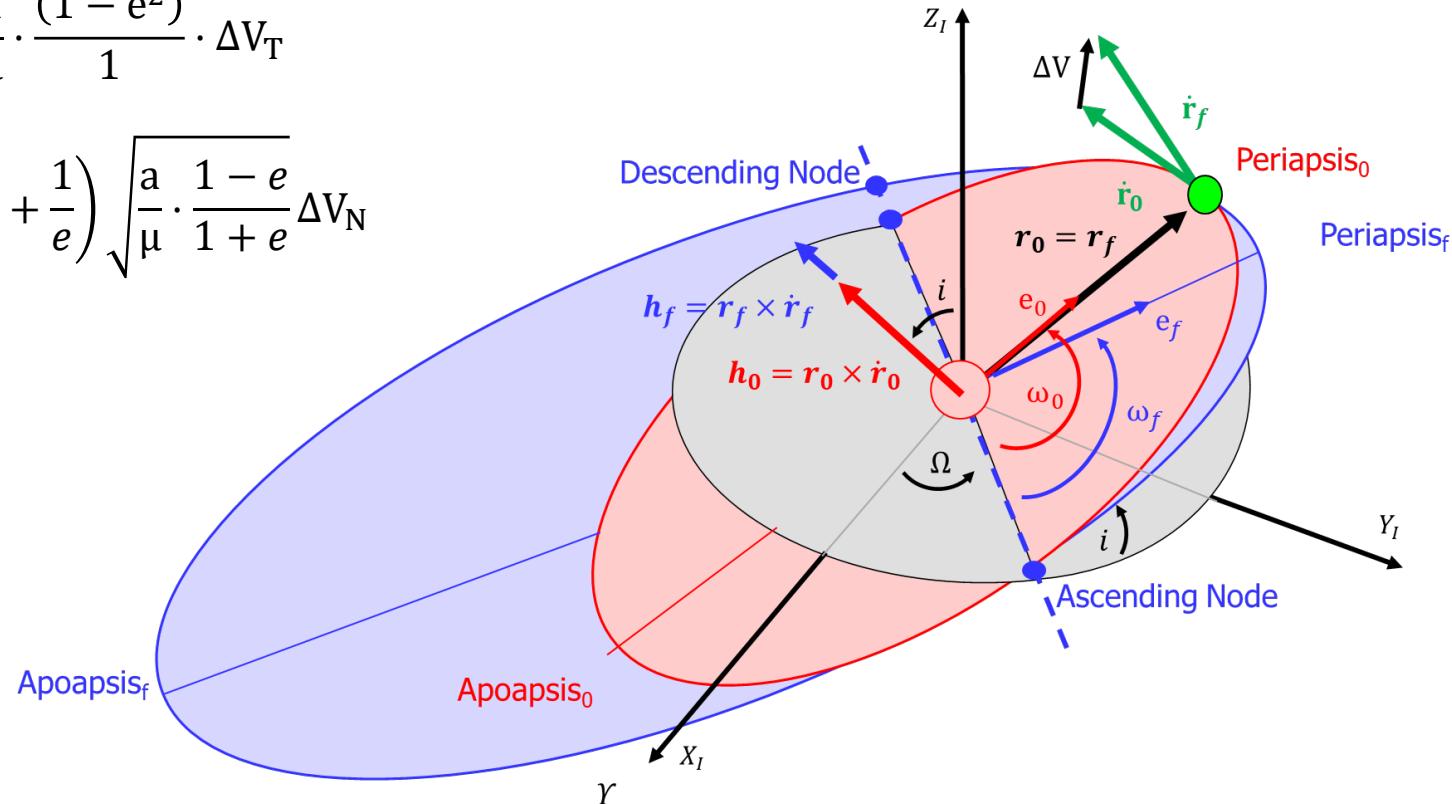
$$\Delta a = 2 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{a^3}{\mu} \cdot \frac{1+e}{1-e}} \cdot \Delta V_T$$

$$\Delta e = 2 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{a}{\mu} \cdot \frac{(1-e^2)}{1}} \cdot \Delta V_T$$

$$\Delta \omega = -\left(1 + \frac{1}{e}\right) \sqrt{\frac{a}{\mu} \cdot \frac{1-e}{1+e}} \Delta V_N$$

$$\Delta i = 0$$

$$\Delta \Omega = 0$$



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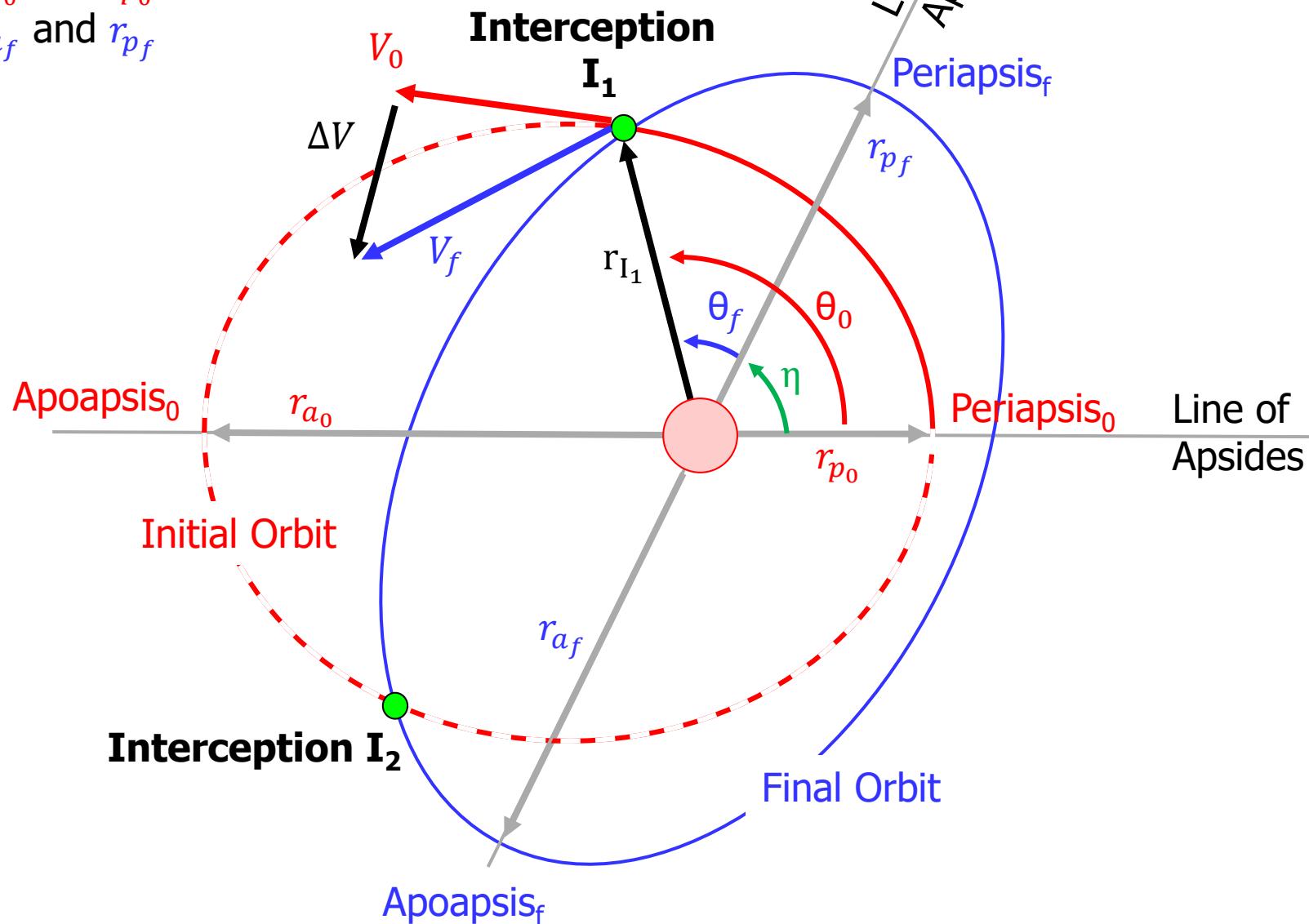
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# Rotation of Apse Line

Compute  $\Delta V$  to rotate  $\eta$  given:

$r_{a_0}$  and  $r_{p_0}$

$r_{a_f}$  and  $r_{p_f}$



# Rotation of Apse Line

$$e_0 = \frac{r_{a_0} - r_{p_0}}{r_{a_0} + r_{p_0}} \quad h_0^2 = \mu \cdot r_{p_0} (1 + e_0 \cdot \cos 0)$$

$$e_f = \frac{r_{a_f} - r_{p_f}}{r_{a_f} + r_{p_f}} \quad h_f^2 = \mu \cdot r_{p_f} (1 + e_f \cdot \cos 0)$$

$$r_{I_0} = \frac{h_0^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e_0 \cdot \cos \theta_0}$$

$$r_{I_f} = \frac{h_f^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e_f \cdot \cos (\eta - \theta_0)}$$

$$0 = \frac{h_0^2}{1 + e_0 \cdot \cos \theta_0} - \frac{h_f^2}{1 + e_f \cdot (\cos \eta \cos \theta_0 + \sin \eta \sin \theta_0)}$$

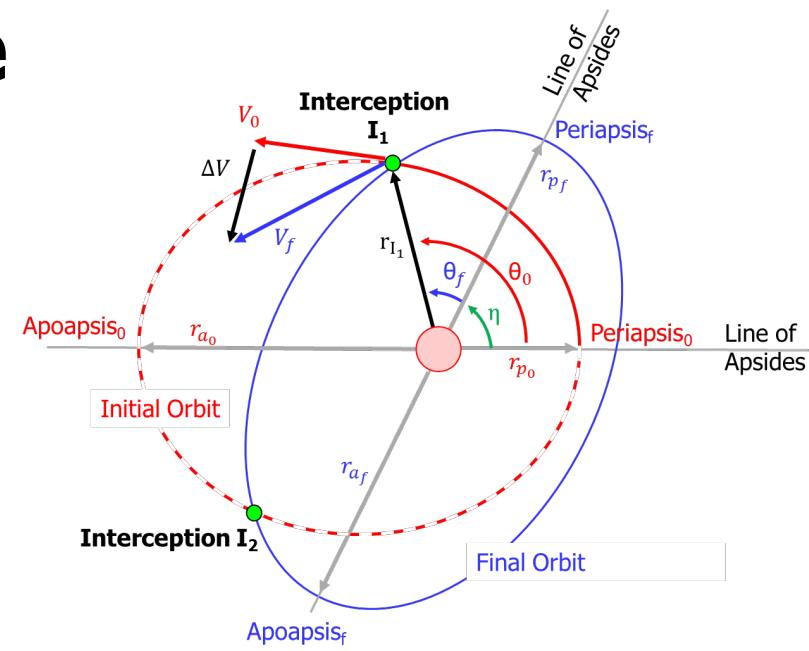
$$h_0^2 + h_0^2 e_f \cos \eta \cos \theta_0 + h_0^2 e_f \sin \eta \sin \theta_0 = h_f^2 + h_f^2 e_0 \cdot \cos \theta_0$$

$$(h_0^2 e_f \cos \eta - h_f^2 e_0) \cos \theta_0 + h_0^2 e_f \sin \eta \sin \theta_0 = h_f^2 - h_0^2$$

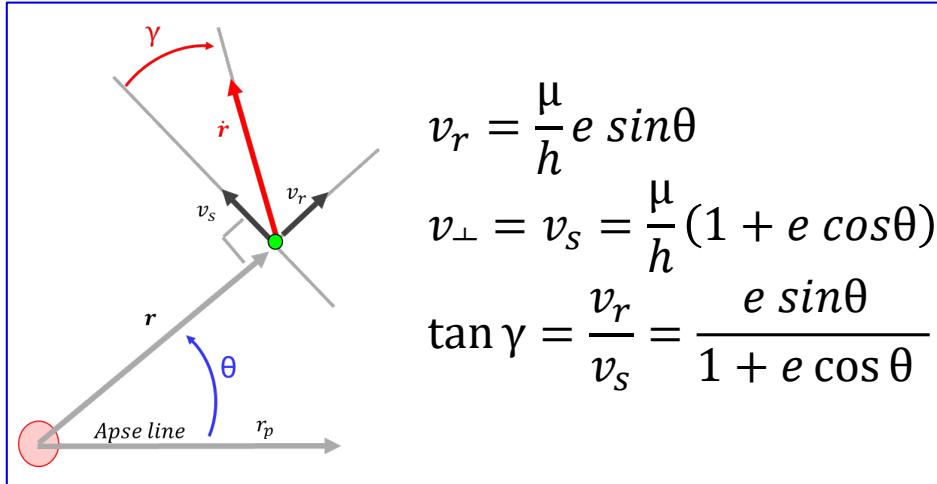
$$a \cos \theta_0 + b \sin \theta_0 = c$$

$$\theta_0 = \text{atan} \left( \frac{b}{a} \right) \pm \text{acos} \left\{ \frac{c}{a} \cos \left[ \text{atan} \left( \frac{b}{a} \right) \right] \right\}$$

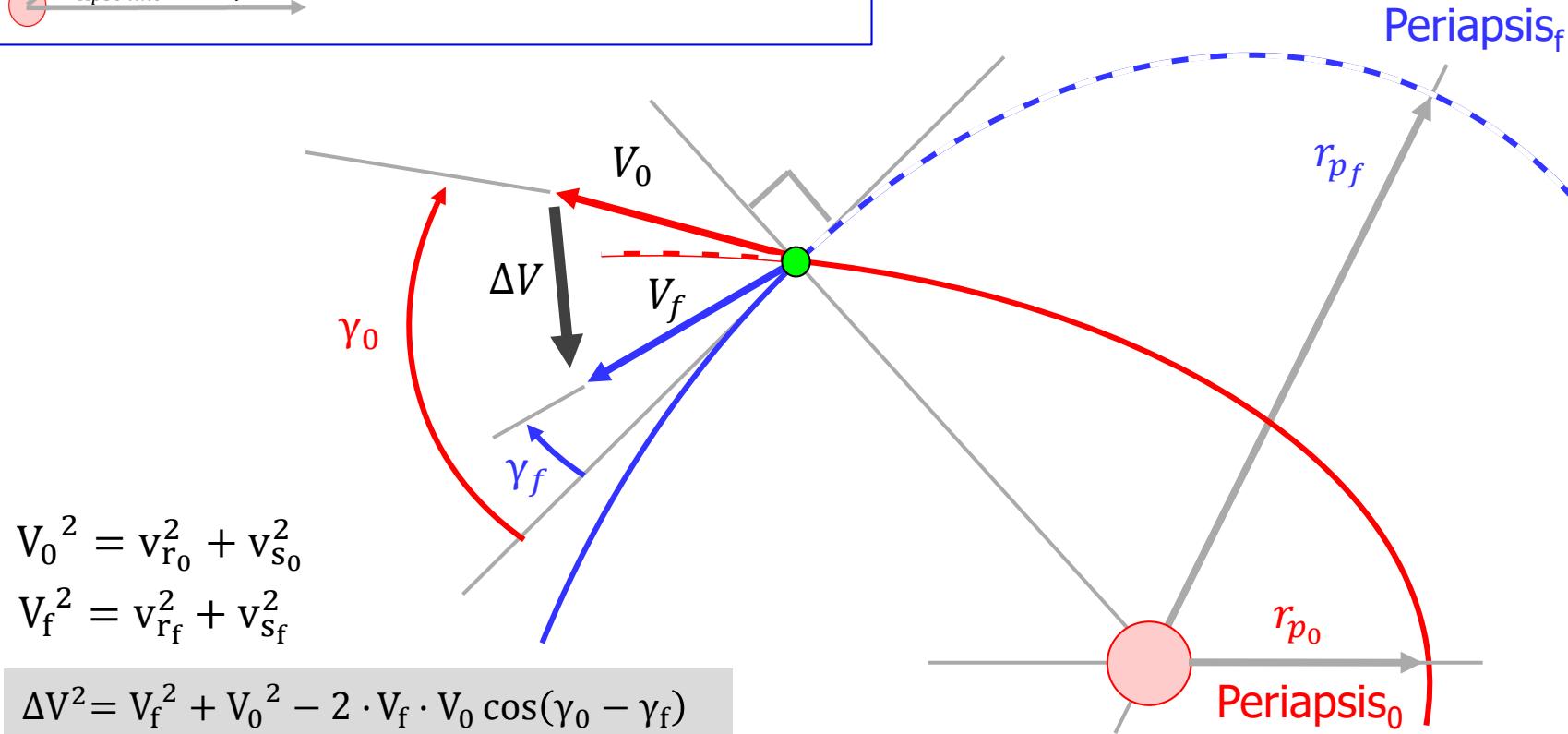
$\theta_{0_{I_1}}$ 
 $\theta_{0_{I_2}}$ 
→
 $\theta_f = \theta_0 - \eta$ 
 $r_I = r_{I_1}(\theta_0)$



# Rotation of Apse Line



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \theta_0: \\ \theta_f: \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} v_{r_0}(\theta_0), v_{s_0}(\theta_0), \gamma_0 \\ v_{r_f}(\theta_f), v_{s_f}(\theta_f), \gamma_f \end{array}$$



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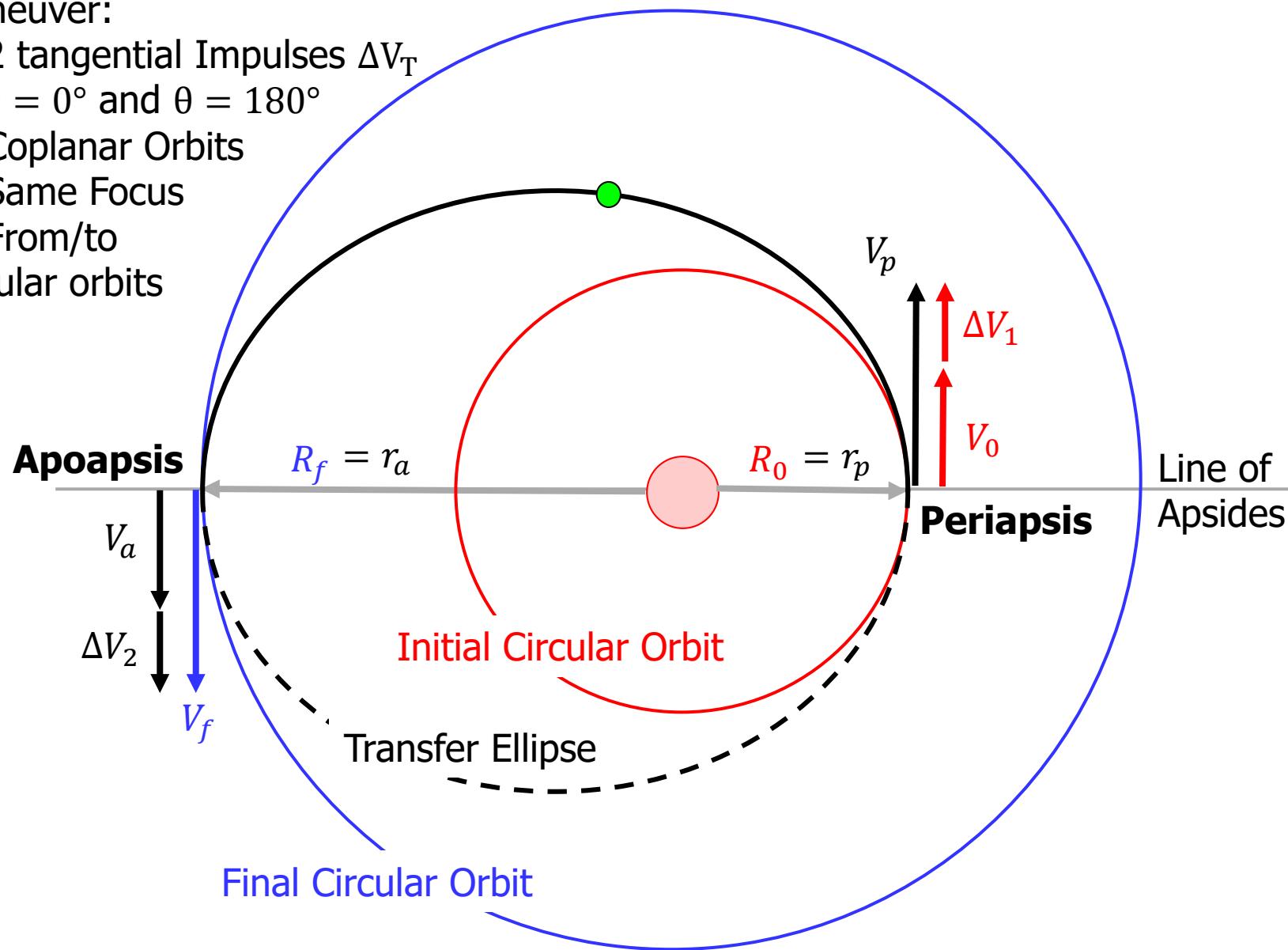
**Time Allocation:**

**8 hours**

# Original\* Hohmann Transfer: Outward

Maneuver:

- 2 tangential Impulses  $\Delta V_T$  at  $\theta = 0^\circ$  and  $\theta = 180^\circ$
- Coplanar Orbits
- Same Focus
- From/to circular orbits



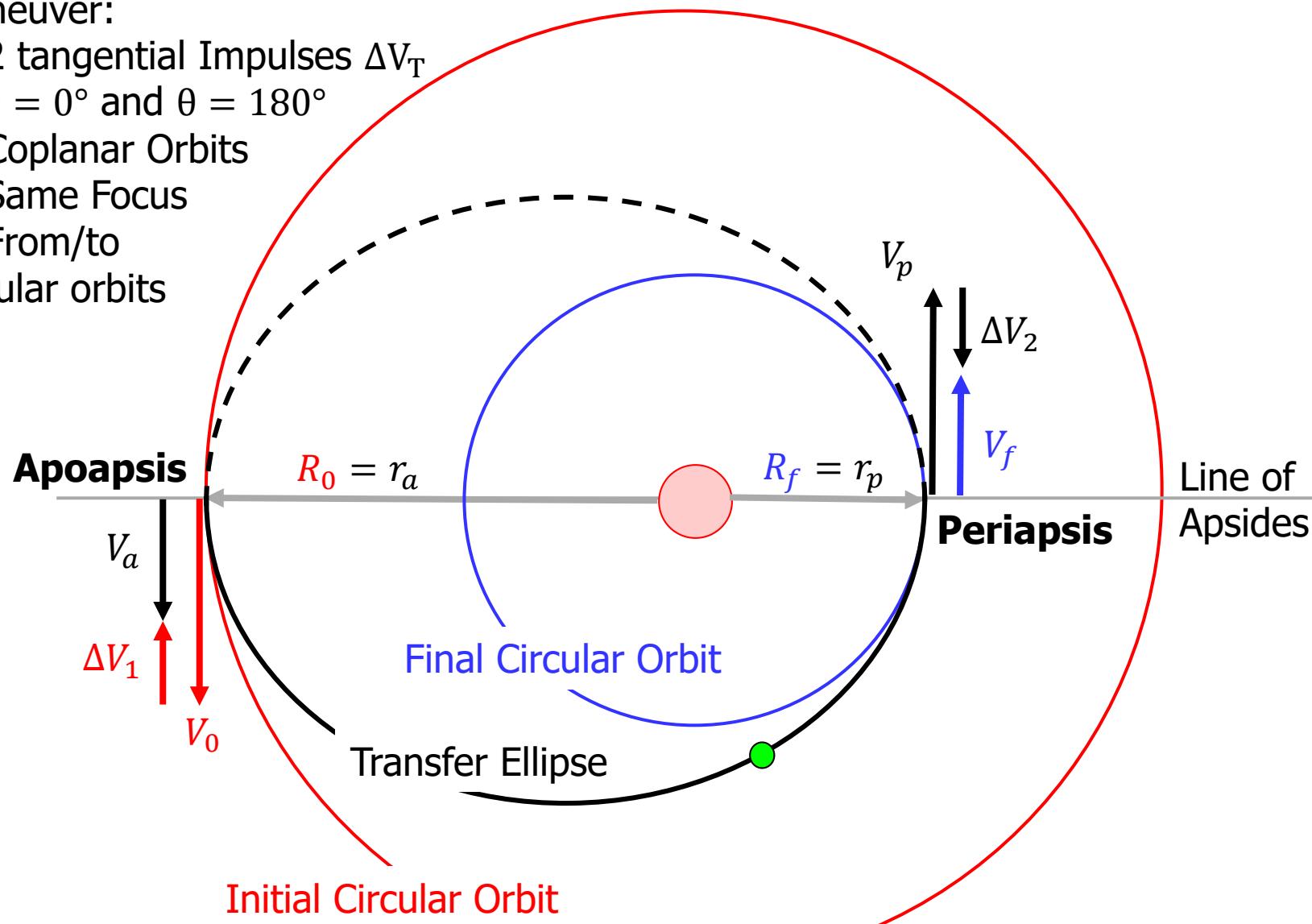
Source: Figure 6-1 Vallado DA (2013) "Fundamentals of Astrodynamics and Applications" 4th Edition

\*Hohmann W (1925) "Die Erreichbarkeit der Himmelskörper ([The Attainability of Celestial Bodies](#))"

# Original\* Hohmann Transfer: Inward

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Source: Figure 6-1 Vallado DA (2013) "Fundamentals of Astrodynamics and Applications" 4th Edition

\*Hohmann W (1925) "Die Erreichbarkeit der Himmelskörper ([The Attainability of Celestial Bodies](#))"

$(r_0, r_f)$  to  $(\Delta t_{trans}, \Delta V)$

$$a_{trans} = \frac{r_0 + r_f}{2}$$

$$e_{trans} = \frac{r_0 - r_f}{r_0 + r_f}$$

$$\Delta t_{trans} = \frac{T_{trans}}{2} = \pi \sqrt{\frac{a_{trans}^3}{\mu}}$$

$$V_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_0}}$$

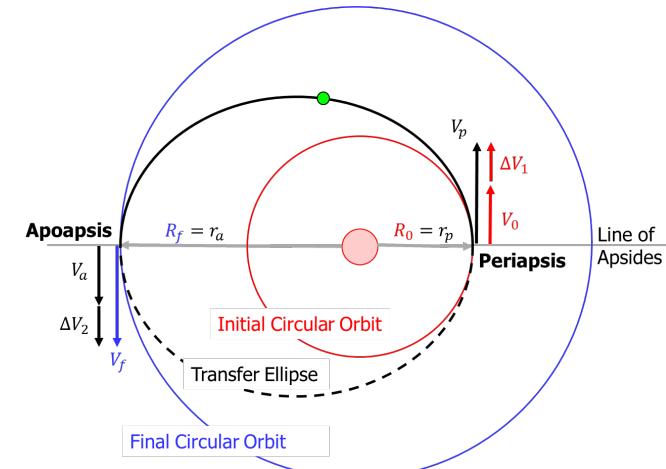
$$V_p = \sqrt{\frac{2 \cdot \mu}{r_0} - \frac{\mu}{a_{trans}}}$$

$$V_a = \sqrt{\frac{2 \cdot \mu}{r_f} - \frac{\mu}{a_{trans}}}$$

$$V_f = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_f}}$$

$$\Delta V_1 = V_p - V_0$$

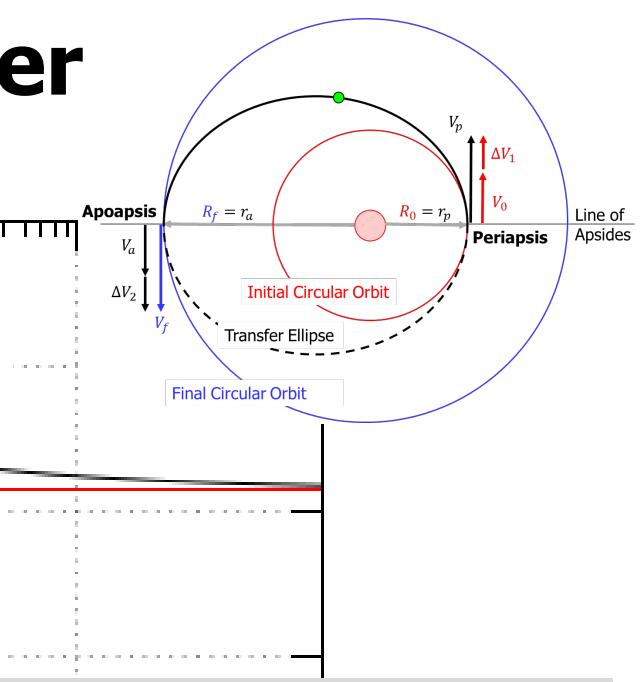
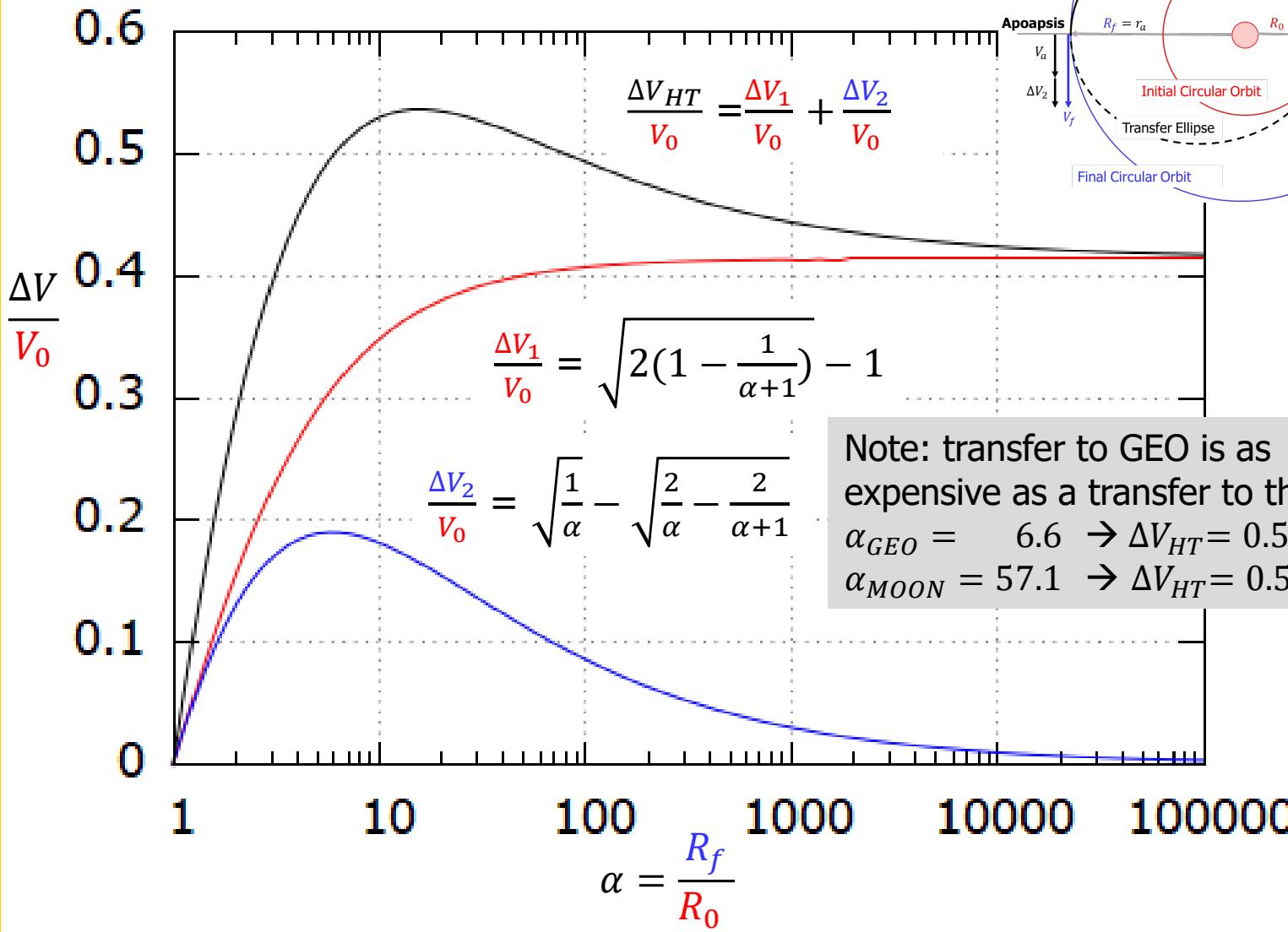
$$\Delta V_2 = V_f - V_a$$



$$\Delta V = |\Delta V_1| + |\Delta V_2|$$

$$\frac{\Delta m}{m_0} = 1 - e^{-\frac{\Delta V}{I_{sp} \cdot g_{SL}}}$$

# Original Hohmann Transfer

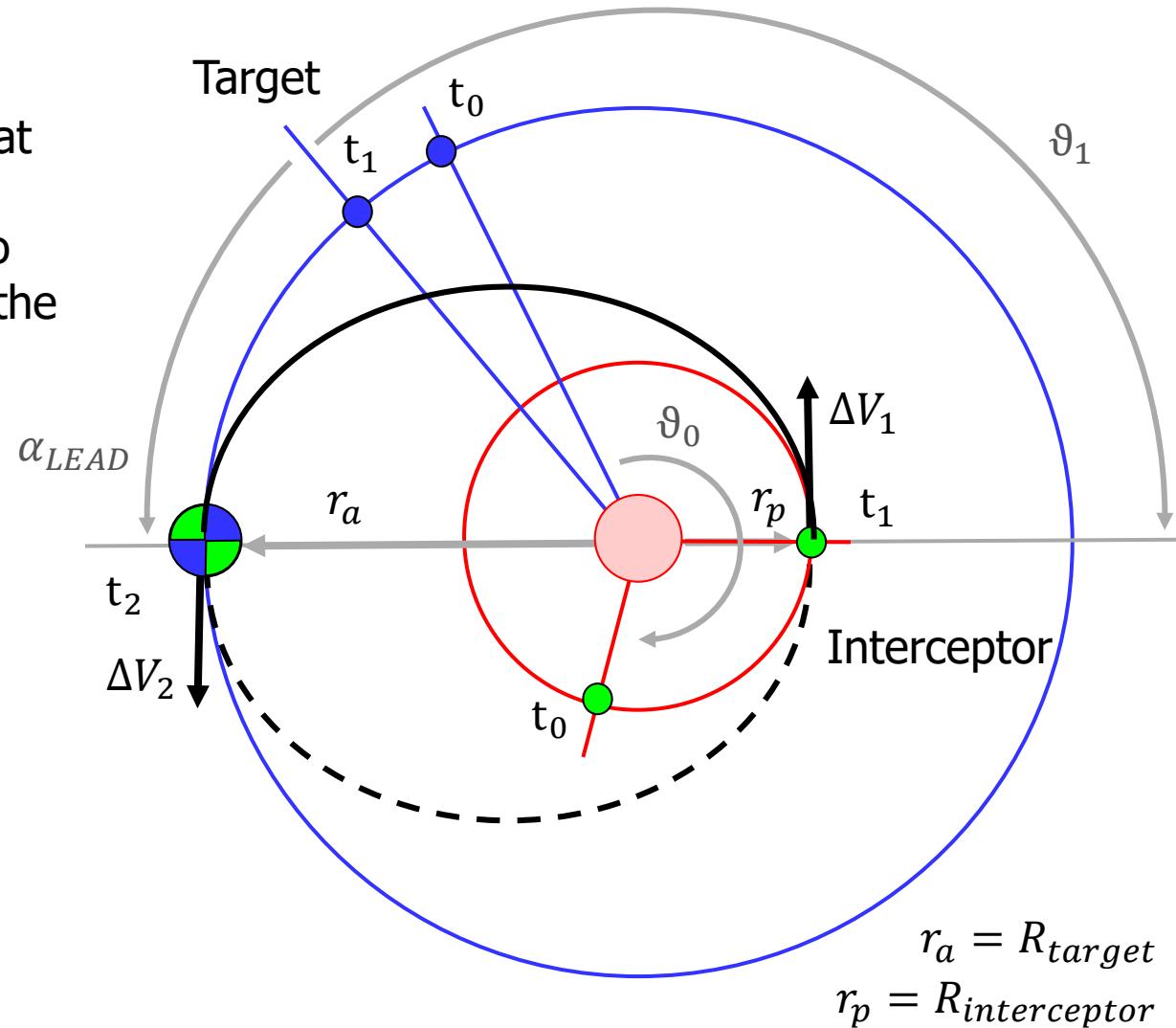


```
gnuplot set logscale x; set xtics auto; plot [1:100000] sqrt(2*(1-1/(x+1)))-1 lc "red" noti, sqrt(1/x)-sqrt(2/x-2/(1+x)) lc "blue" noti, sqrt(2*(1-1/(x+1)))-1+sqrt(1/x) - sqrt(2/x-2/(1+x)) noti lc "black"
```

# Circular Rendezvous different orbits

Maneuver:

- Target and Interceptor are in **different** circular coplanar coaxial orbits
- 2 tangential Impulses  $\Delta V_T$  at  $\theta = 0^\circ$  and  $\theta = 180^\circ$
- $\vartheta$  : angle from the target to the interceptor, positive in the target's motion
  - $\vartheta_0 < 0$
  - $\vartheta_1 < 0$
  - $\alpha_{LEAD} > 0$



# Circular Rendezvous different orbits

The mean anomaly motion of the circular orbits:

$$n_{target} = \sqrt{\mu/R_{tgt}^3} \quad n_{int} = \sqrt{\mu/R_{int}^3}$$

The semi-major axis seizes the transfer time:

$$a_{trans} = (r_a + r_p)/2$$

$$\Delta t_{trans} = T_{trans}/2 = \pi \sqrt{a_{trans}^3/\mu}$$

The angle  $\vartheta$  from the target to the interceptor:

$$\alpha_{LEAD} = n_{target} \Delta t_{trans}$$

$$\vartheta_1 = \alpha_{LEAD} - \pi$$

The  $\Delta V$  budget:

$$v_{int} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{R}}$$

$$v_p = \sqrt{\frac{2\mu}{a_{trans}} - \frac{\mu}{r_p}}$$

$$v_a = \sqrt{\frac{2\mu}{a_{trans}} - \frac{\mu}{r_a}}$$

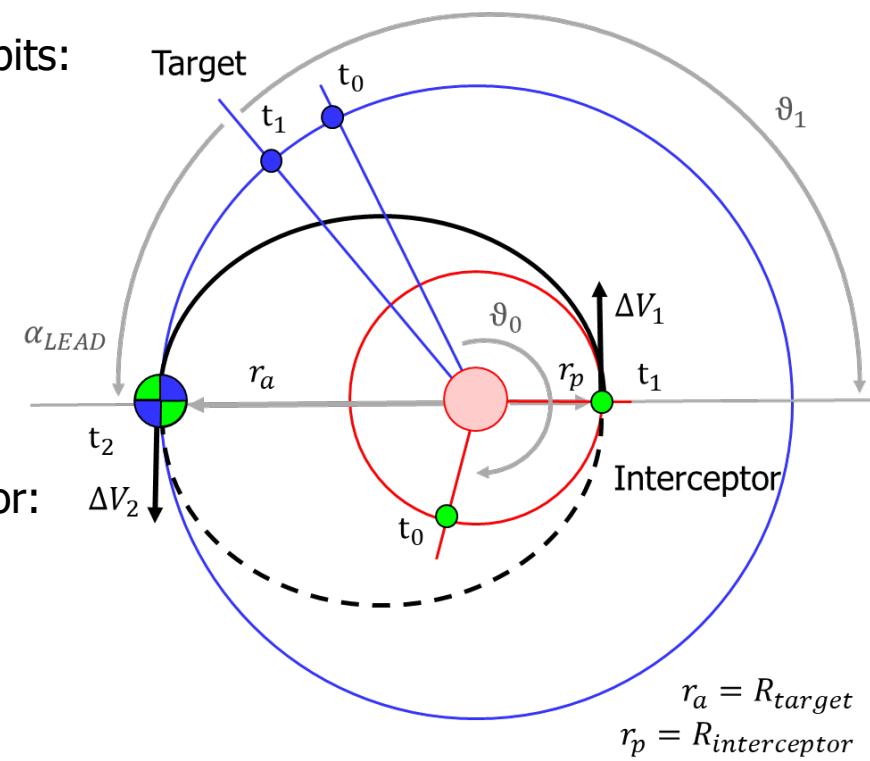
$$v_{target} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{R_{target}}}$$

$$\Delta V_1 = V_p - V_{int}$$

$$\Delta V_2 = V_{target} - V_a$$

$$\Delta V_T = |\Delta V_1| + |\Delta V_2|$$

Time of correct geometry  
after k revolutions:



$$T_{wait} = \frac{\vartheta_0 - \vartheta_1 + 2\pi k}{n_{int} - n_{target}}$$



# Module 3 Requirements

## Objectives:

**Reference Systems: Coordinates and Time**  
**Keplerian Orbits**  
**Orbital Maneuvers**  
**Interplanetary Trajectories**  
**Sphere Of Influence**  
**Patched Conics**

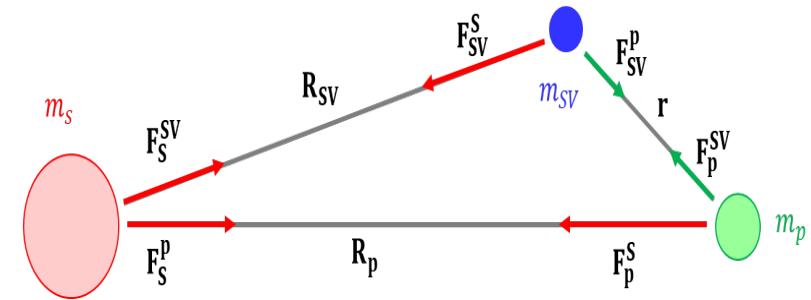
## Time Allocation:

**8 hours**

# Sphere of Influence (SOI)

**Inside the planet SOI**, the motion of the Space Vehicle is determined by its equations of motion relative to the planet:  $\ddot{\mathbf{r}}$ .

**Outside the planet SOI**, the motion of the spacecraft is computed relative to the sun:  $\ddot{\mathbf{R}}_{SV}$ .



$$\begin{cases} \ddot{\mathbf{r}} = -G \frac{m_s}{R_p^3} \mathbf{r} - G \frac{m_p}{r^3} \mathbf{r} \\ \ddot{\mathbf{R}}_{SV} = -G \frac{m_s}{R_{SV}^3} \mathbf{R}_{SV} - G \frac{m_p}{r^3} \mathbf{r} \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{a_s}{a_p} < \frac{A_p}{A_s}$$

$$\frac{G \frac{m_s}{R_p^3} r}{G \frac{m_p}{r^2}} < \frac{G \frac{m_p}{r^2}}{G \frac{m_s}{R_{SV}^2}}$$

$$\frac{m_s}{m_p} \left( \frac{r}{R_p} \right)^3 < \frac{m_p}{m_s} \left( \frac{R_{SV}}{r} \right)^2$$

since  $R_p \approx R_{SV}$

$\frac{a_s}{a_p}$  : the perturbing effect of the **sun** on the vehicle's orbit around the planet  
 $\frac{A_p}{A_s}$ : the perturbing effect of the **planet** on the vehicle's orbit around the sun

$$\frac{r_{SOI}}{R_p} = \left( \frac{m_p}{m_s} \right)^{2/5}$$

# Sphere of Influence (SOI)

<b>Body</b>	<b>Semi-major axis (km)</b>	<b>Mass (kg)</b>	<b>sphere of influence (km)</b>
Sun	-	1.99E+30	-
Moon	384,400	7.34E+22	66,100
Mercury	57,909,083	3.30E+23	112,000
Venus	108,208,601	4.87E+24	616,000
Earth	149,598,023	5.97E+24	925,000
Mars	227,939,186	6.42E+23	577,000
Jupiter	778,298,361	1.90E+27	48,200,000
Saturn	1,429,394,133	5.69E+26	54,800,000
Uranus	2,875,038,615	8.67E+25	51,800,000
Neptune	4,504,449,769	1.03E+26	86,600,000
Pluto	5,915,799,000	1.50E+22	3,080,000

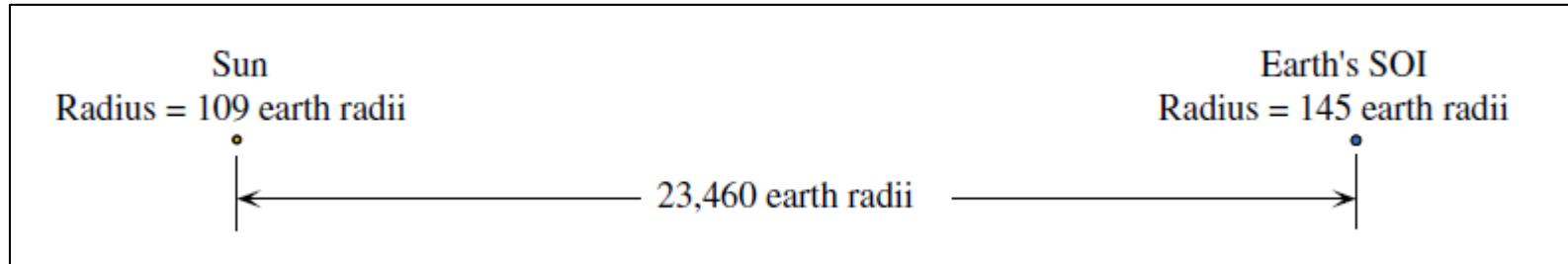
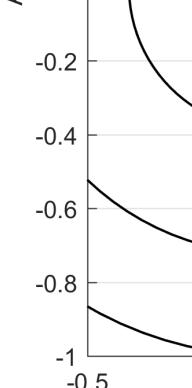

**Source:**

Table D-3 Vallado DA (2013) "Fundamentals of Astrodynamics and Applications" 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

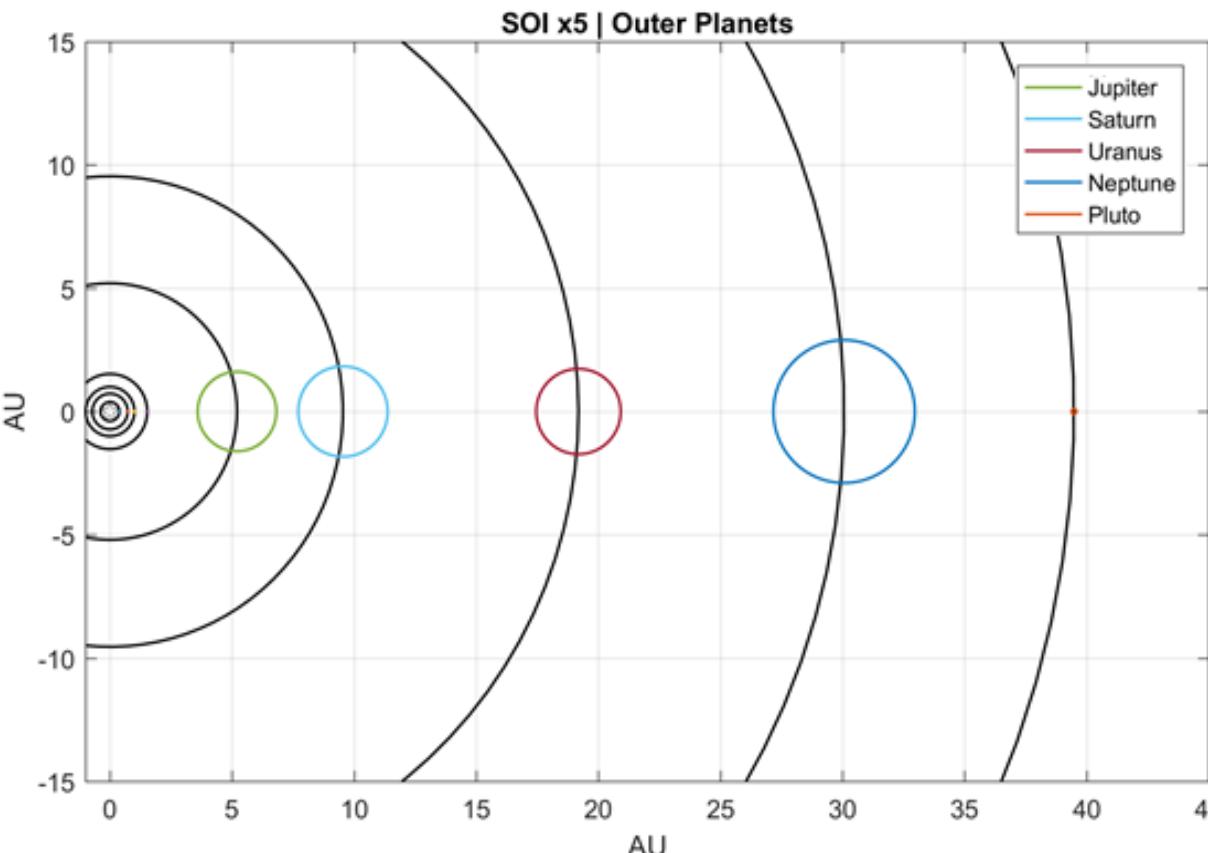
Table A.2 and Fig 8.7 Curtis HD (2014) "Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students" (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) Elsevier.

# Sphere of Influence (SOI)

AU



AU



# Patched Conics

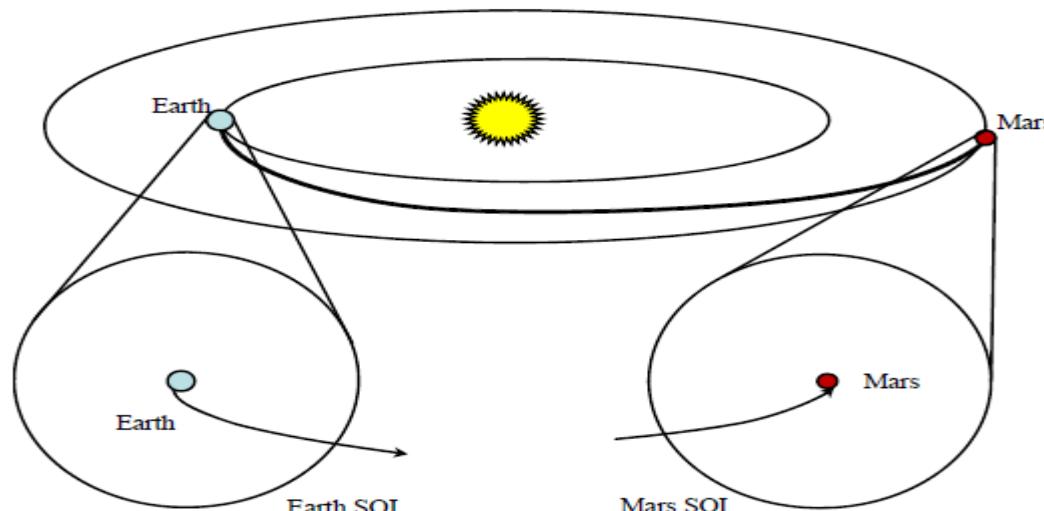
A method to estimate ballistic interplanetary trajectories (i.e. that don't require any propulsion between planetary encounters).

The **central assumption** for the patched conics method is that at one time, there is **only 1 central body** (mass) that acts on the spacecraft.

Inside every sphere of influence, we can apply the two-body equations. These orbital arcs are joined (i.e. patched) at the **edge of the sphere of influence**

Phases:

1. Departure with an escape hyperbola.
2. Interplanetary cruise, modelled as an heliocentric transfer ellipse.
3. Arrival with an approach hyperbola at the target.





# **Back up slides**

# Coordinates Conversion: Ellipsoidal to Cartesian

The Cartesian coordinates of a point  $(x, y, z)$  can be obtained from the ellipsoidal geodetic coordinates  $(\varphi, \lambda, h)$  by the expressions:

$$x = (N + h) \cos \varphi \cos \lambda$$

$$y = (N + h) \cos \varphi \sin \lambda$$

$$z = ((1 - e^2)N + h) \sin \varphi$$

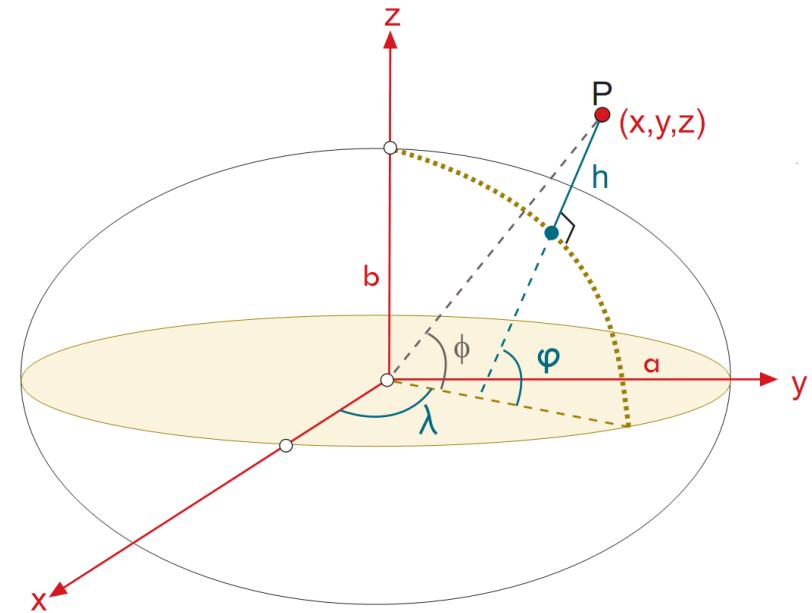
where  $N$  is the radius of curvature in the prime vertical

$$N = \frac{a}{\sqrt{1 - e^2 \sin^2 \varphi}}$$

and where the eccentricity  $e$  is related to the semi-major axis  $a$ , the semi-minor axis  $b$  and the flattening factor by

$$f = 1 - b/a$$

$$e^2 = \frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2} = 2f - f^2$$



# Coordinates Conversion: Cartesian to Ellipsoidal

The ellipsoidal geodetic coordinates of a point  $(\varphi, \lambda, h)$  can be obtained from the Cartesian coordinates  $(x, y, z)$  by the expressions:

The longitude is given by:

$$\lambda = \arctan \frac{y}{x}$$

The latitude is computed by an iterative procedure. The initial value is given:

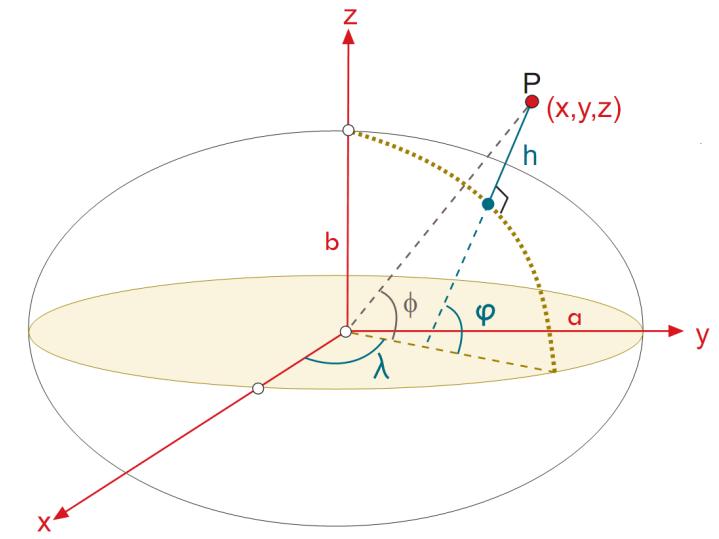
$$\varphi_{(0)} = \arctan \left[ \frac{z/p}{1 - e^2} \right] \quad p = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

Improved values of  $\varphi$ , as well as the height  $h$ , are computed by iterating the equations:

$$N_{(i)} = \frac{a}{\sqrt{1 - e^2 \sin^2 \varphi_{(i-1)}}}$$

$$h_{(i)} = \frac{p}{\cos \varphi_{(i-1)}} - N_{(i)}$$

$$\varphi_{(i)} = \arctan \left[ \frac{z/p}{1 - \frac{N_{(i)}}{N_{(i)} + h_{(i)}} e^2} \right]$$



*The iterations are repeated until the change between two successive values of  $\varphi(i)$  is smaller than the precision required.*

# International Celestial Reference Frame (ICRF)

ICRS is successively realized in ICRF.

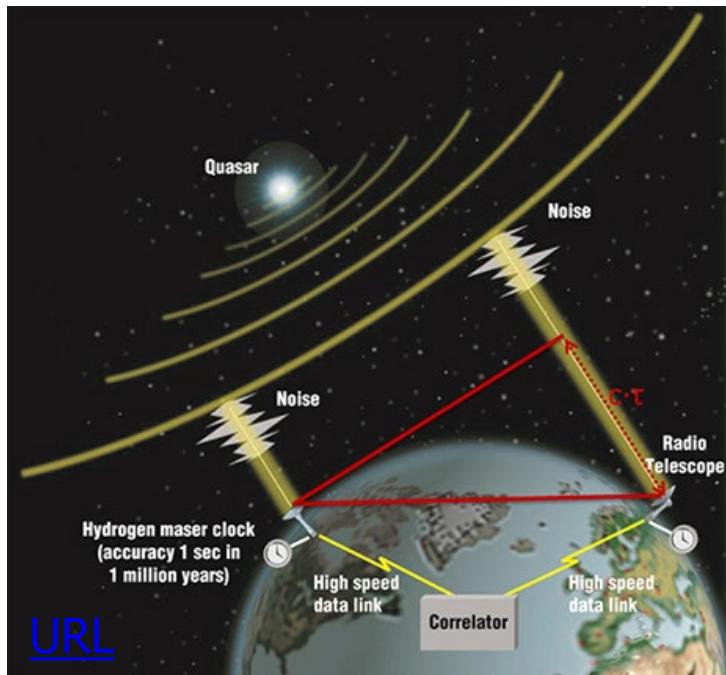
ICRF is our best estimate of an inertial frame located at Solar System barycenter  
Current: ICRF#3 [adopted](#) 30/08/2018 by International Astronomy Union (IAU).

ICRS data acquired by Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI)

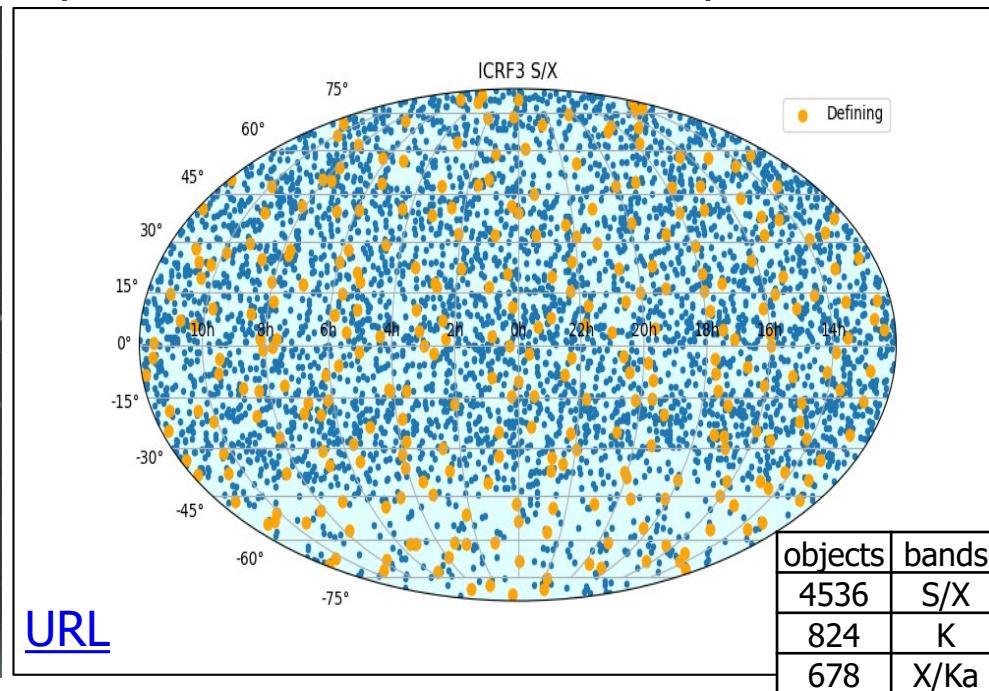
- ~40 years of geodetic and astrometric radio frequencies (2.3 and 8.4 GHz)
- ~15 years of higher radio freqs (24 GHz and dual-frequency 8.4/32 GHz)

ICRF3 contains positions for 4536 Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN), supermassive black holes in the center of distant galaxies, uniformly distributed on the sky:

- very bright in radio frequencies
- no wobble, nor move → extremely distant and stable reference points



[URL](#)

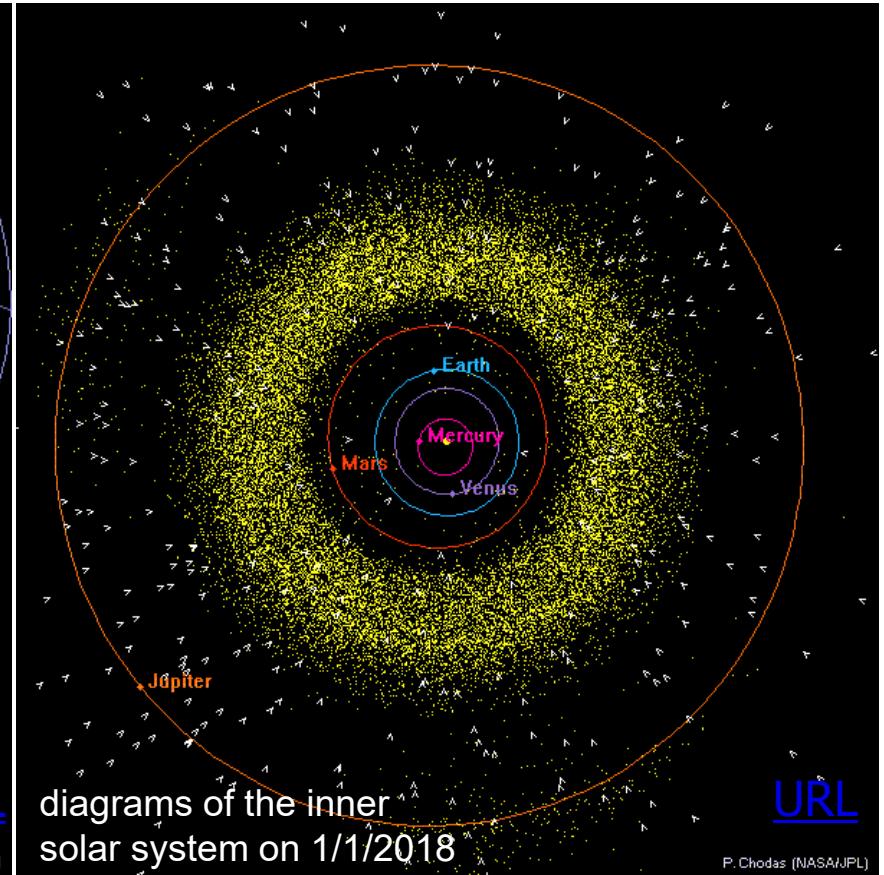
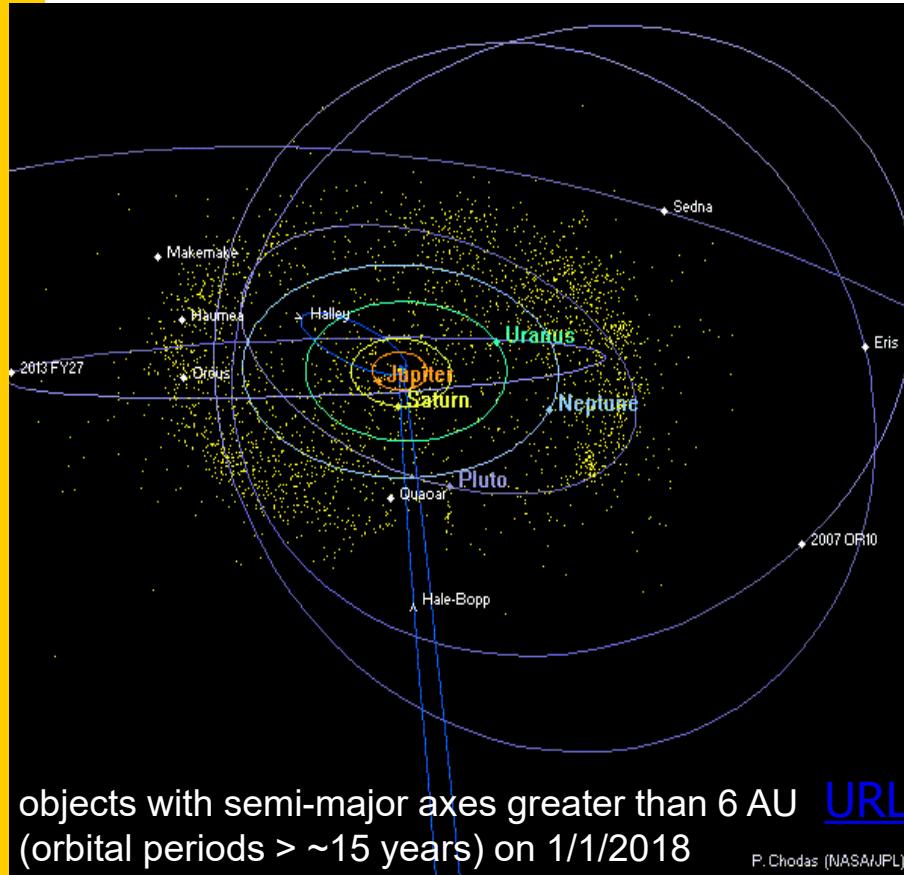


[URL](#)

# International Celestial Reference Frame (ICRF)

ICRF usages:

- Earth-orbiting spacecraft to determine their orientation
- Ground stations tracking space probes navigating through the solar system
- To measure Earth motions in 3-D inertial space with very high precision



## Source:

US Naval Observatory (USNO) "[Naval Oceanography Portal](#)"

Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) "[Planetary and lunar ephemerides with respect to the solar system barycenter, in rectangular coordinates, with respect to the ICRS axes](#)"

# International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF)

ITRF is a realization of ITRS by a set of instantaneous coordinates (and velocities) of reference points distributed on the topographic surface of the Earth (mainly space geodetic stations and related markers)

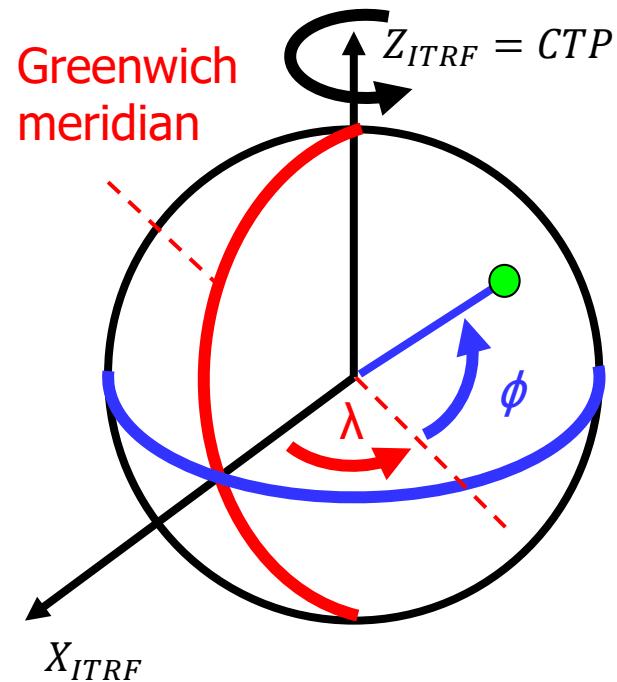
ITRF is called Earth Centered Earth Fixed (ECEF) Frame

ITRF Orientation initially given by the Bureau International de l'Heure (BIH) System at **1984.0** within +/- 3 milli-arcseconds

ITRF Axis:

- The  $z$  of the frame is the origin of the polar motion coordinate system → Conventional Terrestrial Pole (CTP) average of the poles from 1900 to 1905, by the Bureau International de l'Heure (BIH)
- $X$  and  $Y$  axes define the terrestrial equatorial plane.
- $X$  axis lies in what may be loosely called the Greenwich meridian.

*Note: ITRF first alignment was close to the mean equator of 1900 and the Greenwich meridian for continuity with previous terrestrial reference systems.*

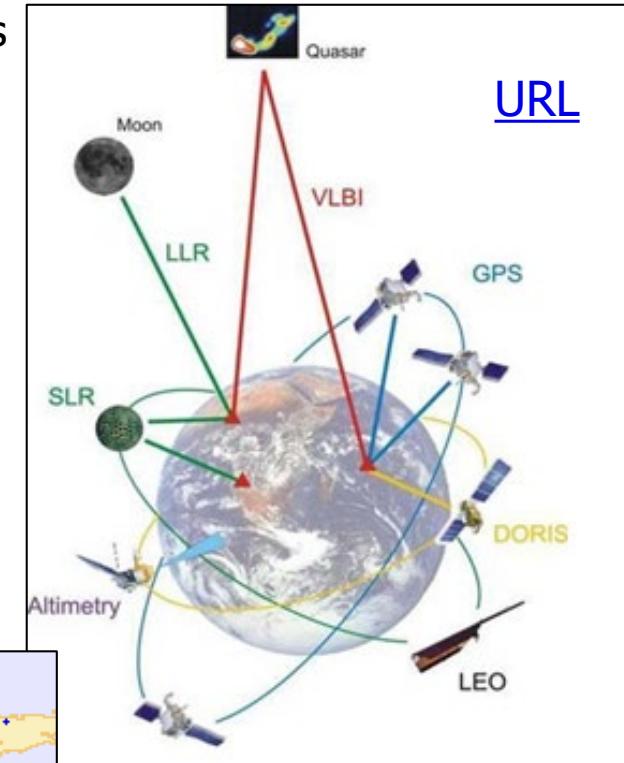


# International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF)

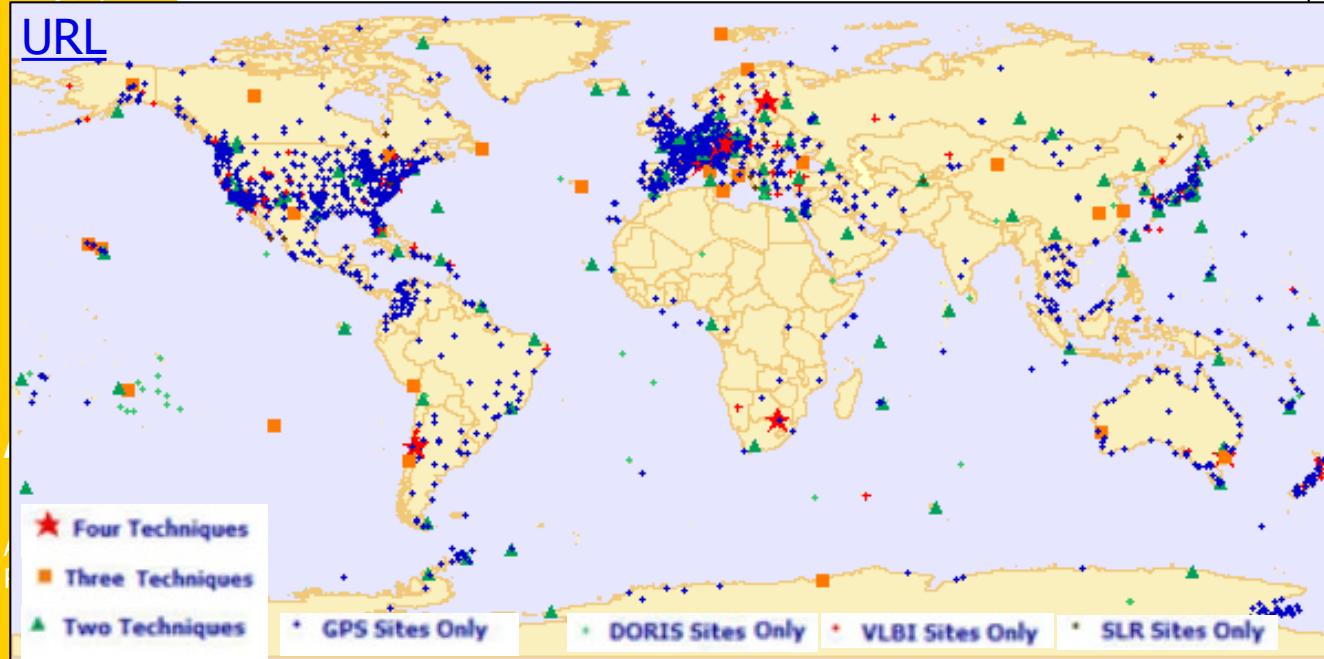
ITRS is realized as the ITRF: with positions and velocities of a set of stations observed

- Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI)
- Lunar Laser Ranging (LLR)
- Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Doppler Orbitography and Radio Positioning Integrated by Satellites (DORIS)

ITRF is a realization of ITRS by a set of instantaneous coordinates (and velocities) of reference points distributed on the topographic surface of the Earth (mainly space geodetic stations and related markers)



[URL](#)

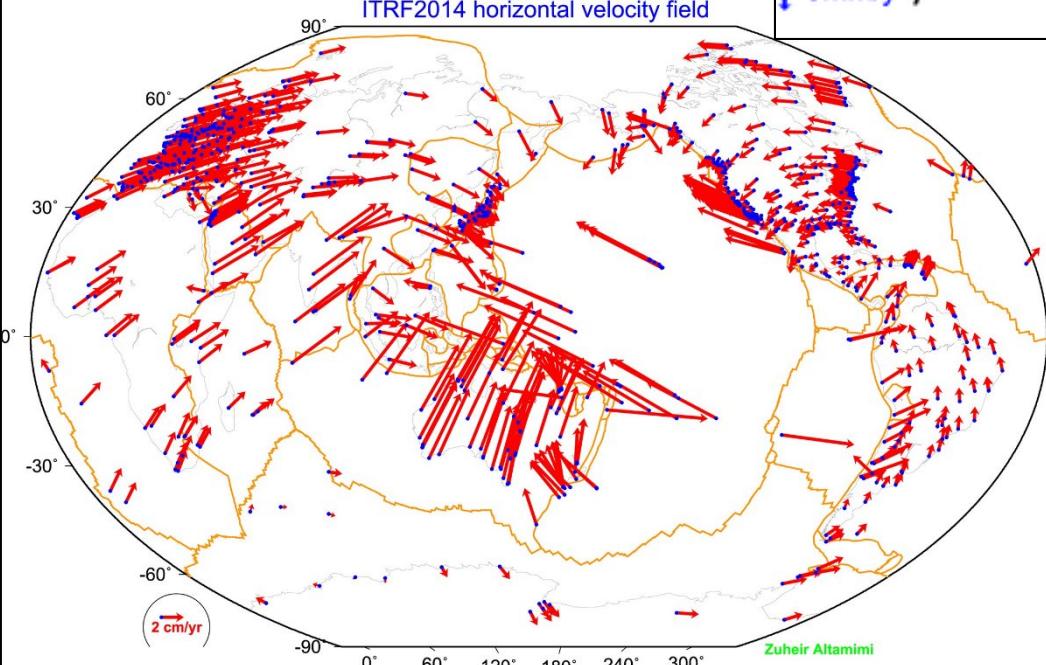
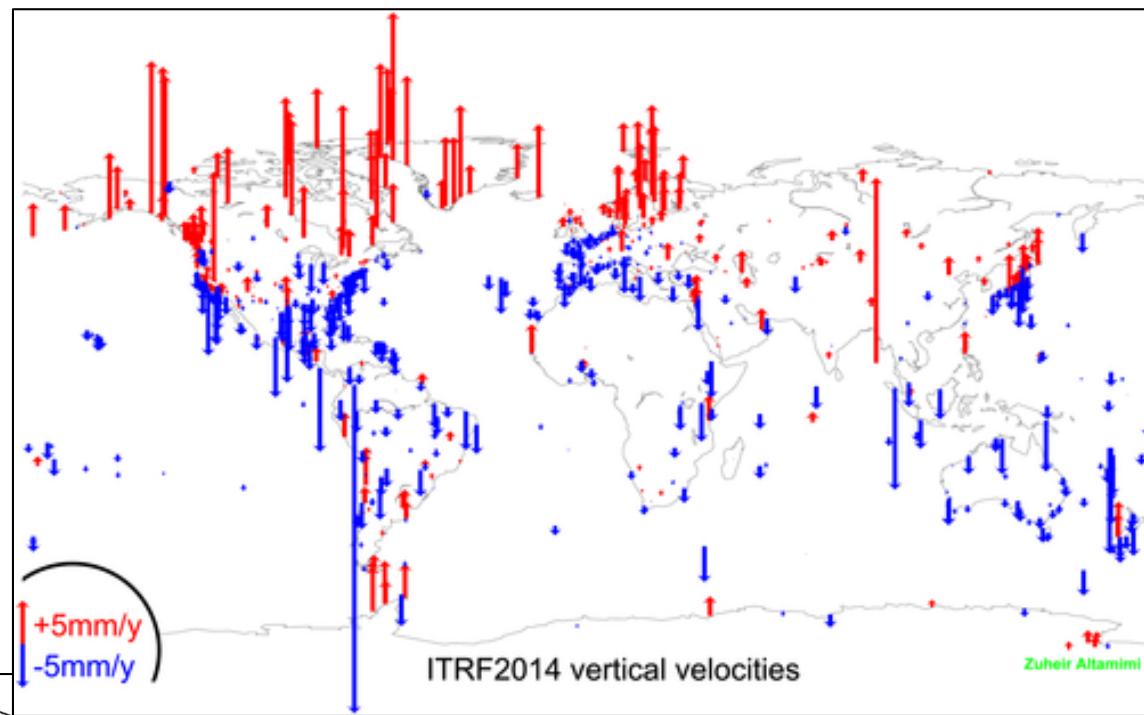


IERS Domes

Piscane VL (2005) Fundamentals of space systems. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press

# International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF)

Because of continental drift, positions in the ITRF are time dependent (position and velocity).



## Versions:

- ITRF2014: 21/01/2016
- ITRF2008: 31/05/2010

## Source:

Altamimi Z et al (2016) "[ITRF2014: A new release of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame modeling nonlinear station motions](#)" Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth 121:6109–6131

# Calculation from the state vector ( $r, v$ ) to orbital elements ( $a, e, \Omega, i, \omega, \theta$ )

1. Distance:  $r = \sqrt{\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{r}} = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2}$  and radial unit vector  $\hat{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{r}/r$

2. Velocity:  $v = \sqrt{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{v}} = \sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2 + v_z^2}$

3. Radial velocity:  $v_r = \frac{\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{v}}{r} \begin{cases} v_r < 0 & \text{flying toward perigee} \\ v_r > 0 & \text{flying away from perigee} \end{cases}$

4. Orbit Eccentricity  $e$

$$\mathbf{e} = \frac{1}{\mu} \left[ \left( v^2 - \frac{\mu}{r} \right) \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r} \cdot v_r \cdot \mathbf{v} \right] \text{ and } e = \sqrt{1 + \frac{h^2}{\mu^2} \left( v^2 - \frac{2\mu}{r} \right)} \begin{cases} e = 0 & \text{circle} \\ 0 < e < 1 & \text{ellipse} \\ e = 1 & \text{parabola} \\ e > 1 & \text{hyperbola} \end{cases}$$

unit vector  $\hat{\mathbf{e}} = \mathbf{e}/e$

5. Specific angular momentum  $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{v}$  and  $h = |\mathbf{h}|$  and Orbit Parameter  $p = \frac{h^2}{\mu}$

6. Semi-major axis  $a = \frac{1}{2} (r_p + r_a) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{p}{1+e \cdot \cos 0} + \frac{p}{1+e \cdot \cos 180} \right) = \frac{p}{1-e^2}$

7. Orbit inclination

$$i = \arccos \left( \frac{h_z}{h} \right) \begin{cases} i = 0^\circ & \text{Equatorial} \\ 0^\circ < i < 90^\circ & \text{Prograde (direct)} \\ i = 90^\circ & \text{Polar} \\ 90^\circ < i < 180^\circ & \text{Retrograde} \end{cases}$$

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**Source:** Curtis HD (2014)  
 "Orbital Mechanics for  
 Engineering Students" (3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Edition) Elsevier.

# Calculation from the state vector ( $r, v$ ) to orbital elements ( $a, e, \Omega, i, \omega, \theta$ )

8. Line of Nodes  $\mathbf{N} = \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{h} = \begin{vmatrix} I & J & K \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ h_x & h_y & h_z \end{vmatrix}$  and  $N = |\mathbf{N}|$  and in unit form  $\hat{\mathbf{N}}$

9. Right Ascension of the Ascending Node  $\Omega$

$$\Omega = \begin{cases} N_Y \geq 0 & \Omega = \arccos\left(\frac{N_x}{N}\right) \\ N_Y < 0 & \Omega = 360^\circ - \arccos\left(\frac{N_x}{N}\right) \end{cases}$$

10. Argument of periapsis  $\omega$

$$\omega = \begin{cases} e_z \geq 0 & \omega = \arccos(\hat{\mathbf{N}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}) \\ e_z < 0 & \omega = 360^\circ - \arccos(\hat{\mathbf{N}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}) \end{cases}$$

11. True Anomaly  $\theta$

$$\theta = \begin{cases} v_r \geq 0 & \theta = \arccos(\hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}) \\ v_r < 0 & \theta = 360^\circ - \arccos(\hat{\mathbf{e}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{r}}) \end{cases} = \arccos\left(\frac{1}{e} \left[ \frac{h^2}{\mu \cdot r} - 1 \right]\right)$$

# Calculation from orbital elements (a, e, $\Omega$ , $i$ , $\omega$ , $\theta$ ) to state vector ( $r$ , $v$ )

$$\mathbf{r} = \frac{h^2}{\mu} \frac{1}{1 + e \cdot \cos \theta} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{PQW} = \begin{pmatrix} r \cos \theta \\ r \sin \theta \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{PQW}$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \frac{\mu}{h} \begin{pmatrix} -\sin \theta \\ e + \cos \theta \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{PQW}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix}_{IJK} = \mathbf{R}_3(-\Omega) \mathbf{R}_1(-i) \mathbf{R}_3(-\omega) \begin{pmatrix} r \cos \theta \\ r \sin \theta \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{PQW}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} V_x \\ V_y \\ V_z \end{pmatrix}_{IJK} = \mathbf{R}_3(-\Omega) \mathbf{R}_1(-i) \mathbf{R}_3(-\omega) \frac{\mu}{h} \begin{pmatrix} -\sin \theta \\ e + \cos \theta \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{PQW}$$

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \Omega & -\sin \Omega & 0 \\ \sin \Omega & \cos \Omega & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos i & -\sin i \\ 0 & \sin i & \cos i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \omega & -\sin \omega & 0 \\ \sin \omega & \cos \omega & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \Omega \cdot \cos \omega - \sin \Omega \cdot \cos i \cdot \sin \omega & -\cos \Omega \cdot \sin \omega - \sin \Omega \cdot \cos i \cdot \cos \omega & \sin \Omega \cdot \sin i \\ \sin \Omega \cdot \cos \omega + \cos \Omega \cdot \cos i \cdot \sin \omega & -\sin \omega \cdot \sin \Omega + \cos \Omega \cdot \cos i \cdot \cos \omega & -\cos \Omega \cdot \sin i \\ \sin i \cdot \sin \omega & \sin i \cdot \cos \omega & \cos i \end{pmatrix}$$