

Introduction to Satellite Geodesy - Exercise

Assignment 2: Date, time, and frequency

Exercises

1. Write a function that computes a basic 3d-rotation matrix using the equations in attachment. The first line could read `function R_i = rot3d(angle,axis)` where `angle` denotes the rotation angle (unit?) and `axis` specifies the rotation axis (e_i , $i \in \{1,2,3\}$). Both input arguments are scalar. Output argument is a (3x3) matrix R_i . Check the correctness of the function by testing the examples $R_i(2\pi) = R_i(0) = R_i(\pi)$ $R_i(\pi) = I$, where I is the (3x3) identity matrix. Are the basic rotation matrices providing clockwise ($e_1 = R_3(\pi/2) e_2$) or anti-clockwise ($e_2 = R_3(\pi/2) e_1$) rotation in case of positive angle when taking the point of view from the origin?
2. Write a function that computes a 3d-reflection matrix using the equations in attachment. The first line could read `function M_i = mir3d(axis)` where `axis` specifies the mirror axis (e_i , $i \in \{1,2,3\}$). The input argument is scalar. Output argument is a (3x3) matrix M_i . Check the correctness of the function by testing $M_i M_i = I$, $M_i M_j M_k = -I$ with $i \neq j \neq k \in \{1,2,3\}$ and I as of (exercise 1.).
3. In the theory of satellite orbits, a common problem is the KEPLER equation: $M = E - e \sin E$. It relates the mean anomaly $M \in [0; 2\pi[$ to the eccentric anomaly $E \in [0; 2\pi[$ with given numerical eccentricity $e \in [0; 1[$. For E , the equation has no closed solution. To compute E from a given M one can iterate: $E_{i+1} = M + e \sin E_i$ e.g. with starting value $E_{i=0} = M$. Write a function that computes E from given M and e iteratively with the stop criterion $|E_{i+1} - E_i| < 10^{-6}$. Next, extend the number of output arguments so that the function returns the number of iterations as well, e.g.: `function [E_an,i_ter]=kepler(M_an,ecc_1)`. What variable could be introduced to the list of input arguments additionally? Test the correctness of the function on a $[M \times e]$ -grid with resolution 0.01 for M and 0.001 for e . For each grid point, compute the difference between the eccentric anomaly and the mean anomaly ($E - M$) and the number of iterations. Plot the two quantities over the test grid with `mesh` each into an own figure. Where do the anomalies differ maximally and minimally? Where does the solution need the maximal or minimal number of iterations? Compute the median of the number of iterations?
4. Write a function that converts an angle in degree (decimal number) into degree (integer), minute (integer) and second (decimal number). Can you use this function to convert an angle in hour angle (decimal number) to hour, minute and decimal second as well? If so, what would have to be changed? Write a function that does the back conversion: [degree, minute, second] \rightarrow degree. Make sure the function works for negative angles as well. Test both functions with two own examples by doing a forward and a consecutive backward transformation.
5. Write a function that computes the Julian Date and Modified Julian Date from a given Gregorian calendar date specified as year, month, day, hour, minute and second.
(a) Compute the Earth Rotation Angle (ERA) at 2025-04-10, 02^h:00^m:00^s CET and specify it in degree, minute and second to one second precision.

(b) Compute the Greenwich Apparent Sidereal Time (GAST) at 2025-04-10, 02^h:00^m:00^s CET and specify it in hour angle, minute and second to one second precision.

6. (Optional). The baseline length of the Westford – Wettzell baseline is about 6000 km in ITRF. At 2025-04-10, 12:00:00 UTC, a VLBI group delay Δt in TT is measured to be 20 ms on this baseline. Compute the difference of the delay in TT vs. TCB compatible seconds using the TT to TCG and TCG to TCB coordinate time transformations. Then specify the delay difference in meter. What solar system bodies are significant for the general relativistic transformation when taking 99.99% significance level into consideration? Show that the gravitational relativistic term is about twice as large as the special relativistic term.

Attachment

1. 3d - rotation matrices:

$$R_1(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ 0 & -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}, \quad R_2(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & 0 & -\sin \theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin \theta & 0 & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}, \quad R_3(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta & 0 \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

2. 3d - reflection matrices:

$$M_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad M_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad M_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

3. Solar system parameters:

body (<i>A</i>)	$GM_A (m^3 s^{-2})$	mean distance to Earth $ \vec{x}_e - \vec{x}_A $ (km)
Sun	$1.32712440018 \cdot 10^{20}$	149,597,870.7 (= 1 AU)
Mercury	$2.2032 \cdot 10^{13}$	91,691,000
Venus	$3.24859 \cdot 10^{14}$	41,400,000
Moon	$4.9048695 \cdot 10^{12}$	385,000.6
Mars	$4.282837 \cdot 10^{13}$	78,340,000
Ceres	$6.26325 \cdot 10^{10}$	414,000,000
Jupiter	$1.26686534 \cdot 10^{17}$	628,730,000
Saturn	$3.7931187 \cdot 10^{16}$	1,275,000,000
Uranus	$5.793939 \cdot 10^{15}$	2,723,950,000
Neptune	$6.836529 \cdot 10^{15}$	4,351,400,000
Pluto	$8.71 \cdot 10^{11}$	5,890,000,000
Eris	$1.108 \cdot 10^{12}$	96.1 AU

Use 30 km s^{-1} for the magnitude of the barycentric velocity of Earth v_e .

Due date

November 26, 2025