

# Orbital Mechanics

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# 5. ORBIT PERTURBATIONS

# References

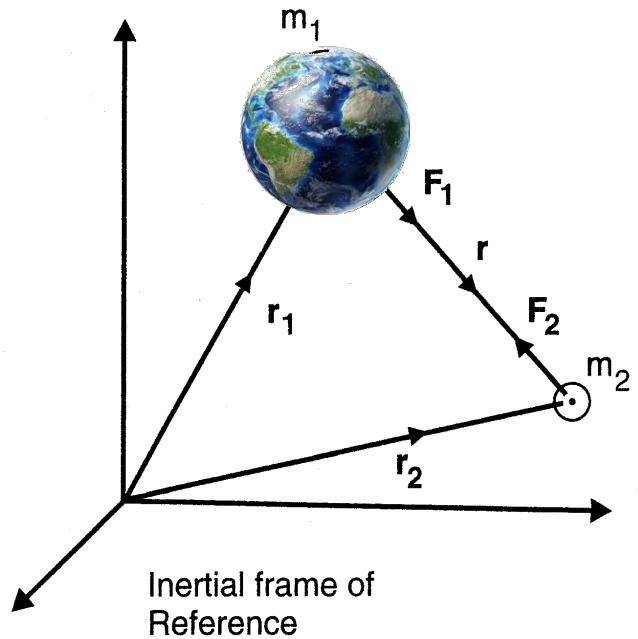
- A. Vallado, Fundamentals of Astrodynamics and Applications (Space Technology Library). 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Springer, 2007, ISBN-13 978-0387718316. Chapter 8 and 9 (Very detailed)
- R. H. Battin, An Introduction to the Mathematics and Methods of Astrodynamics, Revised Edition, AIAA Educational Series, Reston, 1999. Chapter 10 – Gauss and Lagrange equations derivation
- H. Curtis, Orbital Mechanics for Engineering Students, Second Edition (Aerospace Engineering). 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Butterworth-Heinemann, 2009, ISBN-13 978-0123747785. Chapter 12 (Introduction to orbit perturbations)

# Recall: general and restricted two-body problem

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

Keplerian orbit: closed form solution of the two-body equation of relative motion

- Only two masses in space
- Their spherical gravitational fields are the only source of interaction between them
- $m_1 \gg m_2$ , and  $\mu = G \cdot m_1$



## 5.1 The perturbed two-body problem

The introduction of a perturbing acceleration  $\mathbf{a}_p$  modifies the equations of motion such that

$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}} = -\frac{\mu}{r^3} \mathbf{r} + \sum \mathbf{a}_p$$

$\mathbf{a}_p$ : perturbative acceleration from each source other than spherically symmetric gravitational attraction between two bodies.

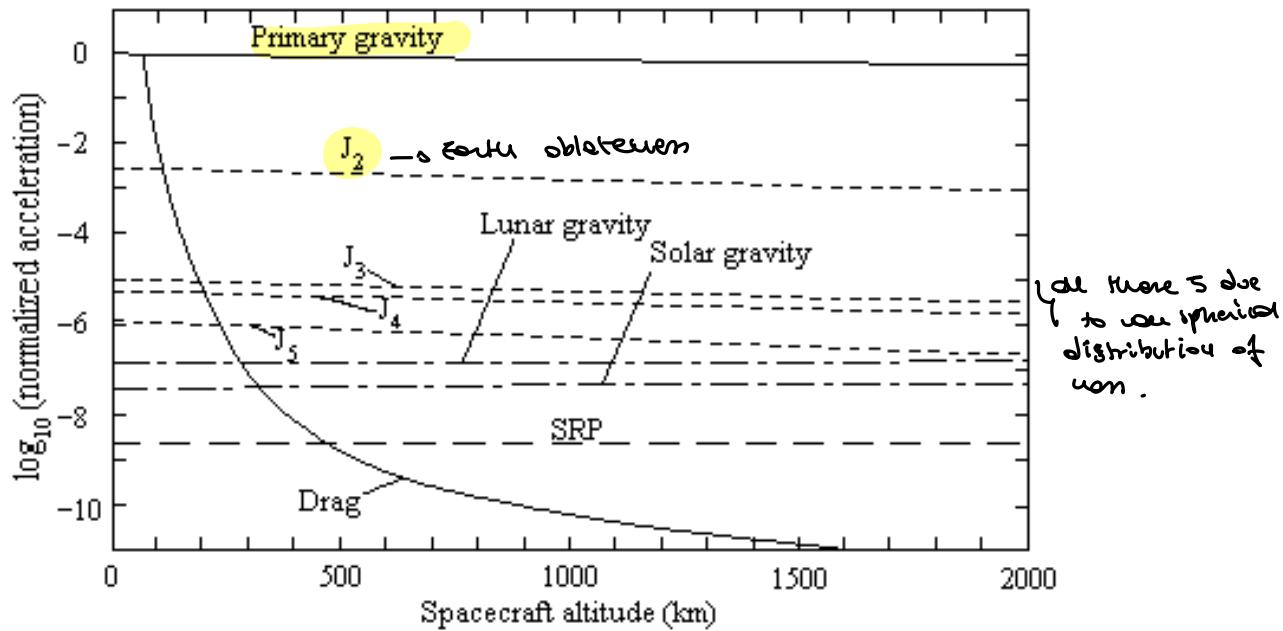
- Magnitude small compared with primary gravitational acceleration

$$\mathbf{a}_p \leq a_0, \text{ with } a_0 = \frac{\mu}{r^2}$$

- Exception: atmospheric drag below 100 km

# The perturbed two-body problem

from notes



# The perturbed two-body problem

Example: at 1000 km

- Acceleration of Earth's oblateness  $a_p \approx 10^{-2} a_0$
- Acceleration due to lunar gravity  $a_p \approx 10^{-9} a_0$
- Acceleration due to solar radiation on conventional satellite  $a_p \approx 10^{-7} a_0$

# The perturbed two-body problem

Trajectory design, orbit prediction and maintenance are a challenging task when the effects of orbit perturbations is relevant

- Design of planet centred orbits (i.e. planetary explorer mission)
  - Frozen orbit definition → How to design a stable orbit.
  - Orbit maintenance → How to stay on the orbit design in the two body restriction.
  - Coverage → e.g. ground track design.
- Space situation awareness →
  - Asteroid Defence
  - Space weather
  - Space Debris
- Design of end-of-life disposal trajectories
  - Graveyard orbit stability
  - Prediction of spacecraft re-entry
- Modelling of the evolution of space debris and high area-to-mass ratio objects



## 5.2 Numerical methods

### OPTION 1

- Starting with initial condition  $(\mathbf{r}_0, \mathbf{v}_0)$
- Numerically integrate equation of motion over time period

$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}} = -\frac{\mu}{r^3} \mathbf{r} + \sum \mathbf{a}_p$$

- Find time evolution of  $(\mathbf{r}(t), \mathbf{v}(t))$
- Compute orbital elements through the conversion `car2kep` at each time step

### OPTION 2 → write dynamics of the orbital elements considering the perturbations

- Described in term of variation of orbital elements
- In the unperturbed motion all Keplerian elements, except the true anomaly  $\theta$  (or analogously the mean anomaly  $M$ ), remain constant

# Numerical methods

For conservative perturbation (e.g., Earth geopotential) which have a disturbing function  $R$ , the Lagrange planetary equations can be used to calculate change in elements

The derivative are no longer like the body problem

$$\begin{cases} \frac{da}{dt} = \frac{2}{na} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \lambda} \\ \frac{de}{dt} = -\frac{b}{na^3 e} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \omega} + \frac{b^2}{na^4 e} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \lambda} \\ \frac{di}{dt} = -\frac{1}{nabsini} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \Omega} + \frac{\cos i}{nabsini} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \omega} \\ \frac{d\Omega}{dt} = \frac{1}{nabsini} \frac{\partial R}{\partial i} \\ \frac{d\omega}{dt} = -\frac{\cos i}{nabsini} \frac{\partial R}{\partial i} + \frac{b}{na^3 e} \frac{\partial R}{\partial e} \\ \frac{d\lambda}{dt} = -\frac{2}{na} \frac{\partial R}{\partial a} - \frac{b^2}{na^4 e} \frac{\partial R}{\partial e} \end{cases}$$

with

- $t_0$ : time of perigee passage
- $\lambda = -nt_0$
- $R(a, e, i, \Omega, \omega, \lambda)$  disturbing function
- System of equations solved simultaneously by numerical integration
- Equations function of orbital elements

► Battin, An Introduction to the Mathematics and Methods of Astrodynamics, Revised Edition, AIAA Educational Series, Reston, 1999. Chapter 10

# Numerical methods

For non-conservative perturbation (e.g., Aerodynamic drag) the Gauss planetary equations can be used to calculate change in elements

↳ for non  
conservative  
effect.

$$\frac{da}{dt} = \frac{2a^2 v}{\mu} a_t$$

component of the disturbing acceleration into the transversal orbital axis with

$$\frac{de}{dt} = \frac{1}{v} \left( 2(e + \cos \theta) a_t - \frac{r}{a} \sin \theta a_n \right)$$

out of plane contribution,

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

$$n = \sqrt{\mu/a^3}$$

$$h = nab$$

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

$$\theta^* = \theta + \omega$$

$$\frac{di}{dt} = \frac{r \cos \theta^*}{h} a_h$$

$$b = a \sqrt{1 - e^2}$$

$$\frac{d\Omega}{dt} = \frac{r \sin \theta^*}{h \sin i} a_h$$

$$p = b^2/a$$

$$\frac{d\omega}{dt} = \frac{1}{ev} \left( 2 \sin \theta a_t + \left( 2e + \frac{r}{a} \cos \theta \right) a_n \right) - \frac{r \sin \theta^* \cos i}{h \sin i} a_h$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{h}{r^2} - \frac{1}{ev} \left( 2 \sin \theta a_t + \left( 2e + \frac{r}{a} \cos \theta \right) a_n \right)$$

or equivalently  $\frac{dM}{dt} = n - \frac{b}{eav} \left( 2 \left( 1 + \frac{e^2 r}{p} \right) \sin \theta a_t + \frac{r}{a} \cos \theta a_n \right)$

- Battin, An Introduction to the Mathematics and Methods of Astrodynamics, Revised Edition, AIAA Educational Series, Reston, 1999. Chapter 10

# Numerical methods

$a_t, a_n, a_h$  are the components of the perturbing acceleration  $\mathbf{a}_p$

They can be obtained with rotation matrix

$$\mathbf{s}_{car} = \{\mathbf{r} \quad \mathbf{v}\}^T = \{x, y, z, v_x, v_y, v_z\}^T$$

$$\begin{cases} \hat{\mathbf{t}} = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|} \\ \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{v} \\ \hat{\mathbf{n}} = \hat{\mathbf{h}} \times \hat{\mathbf{t}} \end{cases} \quad \xrightarrow{\hspace{1cm}} \quad \mathbf{A} = [\hat{\mathbf{t}} \quad \hat{\mathbf{n}} \quad \hat{\mathbf{h}}]$$
$$\mathbf{a}_{p,tnh} = [\hat{\mathbf{t}} \quad \hat{\mathbf{n}} \quad \hat{\mathbf{h}}]^T \mathbf{a}_{p,car}$$
$$\mathbf{a}_{p,car} = [\hat{\mathbf{t}} \quad \hat{\mathbf{n}} \quad \hat{\mathbf{h}}] \mathbf{a}_{p,tnh}$$

Note: Gauss equations can be also used to model low-thrust propulsion. In that case  $a_t, a_n, a_h$  would be the control acceleration of the low-thrust engine

# Numerical methods

Solved by numerical integration: Example: code

```
% Gauss' Equations in {t,n,h} reference system (Battin pag 489)

u_tnh = feval(handleAcc,t,kep,mu,accArgs{:});
ut = u_tnh(1);
un = u_tnh(2);
uh = u_tnh(3);

v = sqrt(2*mu/r - mu/a);

Da = 2*a^2*v/mu * ut;
De = 1/v*(2*(e+cos(f)) * ut - r/a*sin(f) *un);
Di = r*cos(theta)/h * uh;
Dom = r*sin(theta)/(h*sin(i)) * uh;
Dom = 1/(e*v)*(2*sin(f) * ut + (2*e+r/a*cos(f)) * un) - r*sin(theta)*cos(i)/(h*sin(i)) * uh;
Df = h/r^2 - 1/(e*v)*(2*sin(f) * ut + (2*e+r/a*cos(f)) *un);
DM = n - b/(e*a*v)*(2*(1+e^2*r/p)*sin(f) * ut + r/a*cos(f) * un);
```

```
b = a*sqrt(1-e^2);
p = b^2/a;
n = sqrt(mu/a^3);
h = n*a*b;

r = p/(1+e*cos(f));

theta = om+f;
```

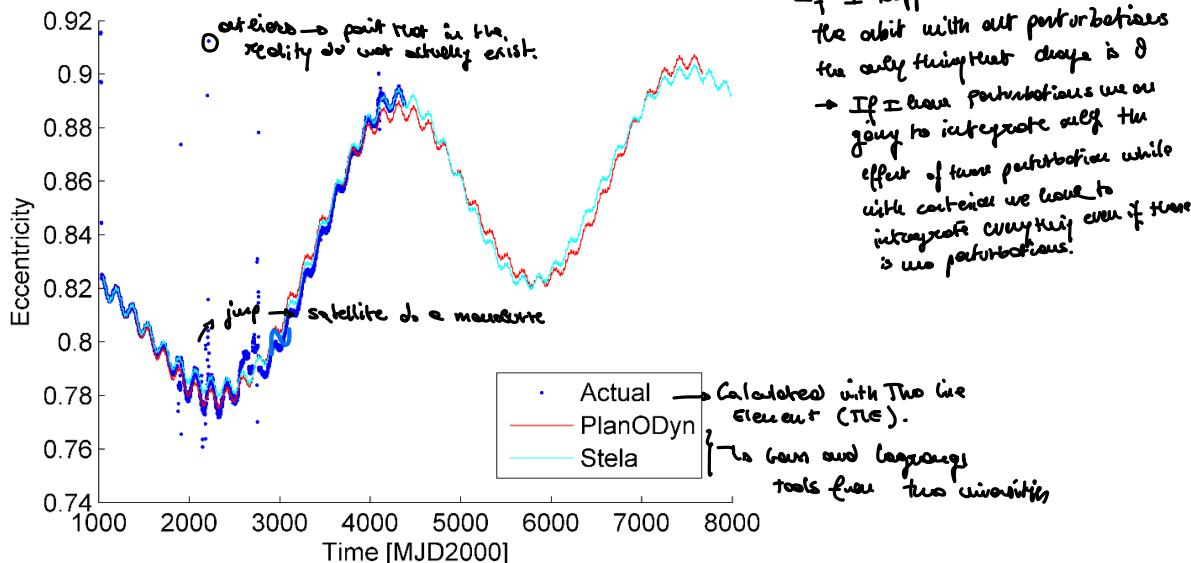
In the unperturbed motion all Keplerian elements, except the true anomaly  $\theta$  (or analogously the mean anomaly  $M$ ), remain constant

# Numerical methods

first method cartesian coordinates

second method Keplerian element (Lagrange or Gauss)

If the motion is unperturbed the only Keplerian elements that change in time are  $\theta, H, E \rightarrow$   
 Note to us Keplerian elements varied is not if  $\dot{\theta}$  do not have perturbation  $\dot{\theta}$  can be the only variable that are  
 In the unperturbed motion all Keplerian elements, except the true anomaly changing due to the  
 (or analogously the mean anomaly M), remain constant, but in an unperturbed problem  
 all the orbital elements vary

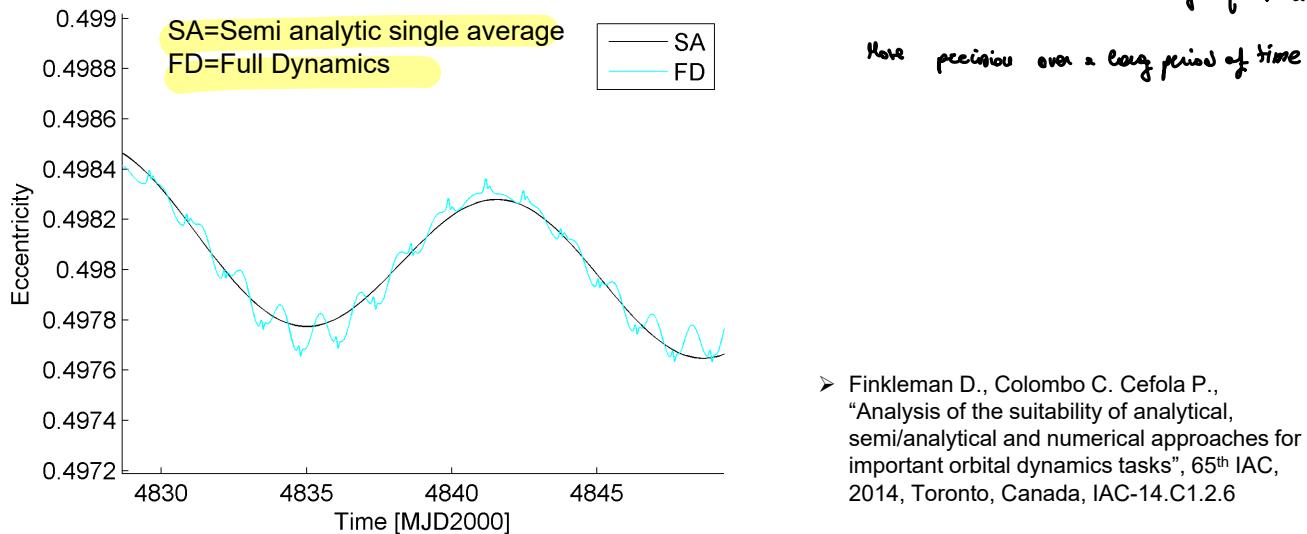


- Colombo C., Letizia F., Alessi E. M., Landgraf M., "End-of-life Earth re-entry for highly elliptical orbits: the INTEGRAL mission", The 24th AAS/AIAA Space Flight Mechanics Meeting, Jan. 26-30, 2014, Santa Fe, New Mexico

## 5.3 Semi-analytical methods

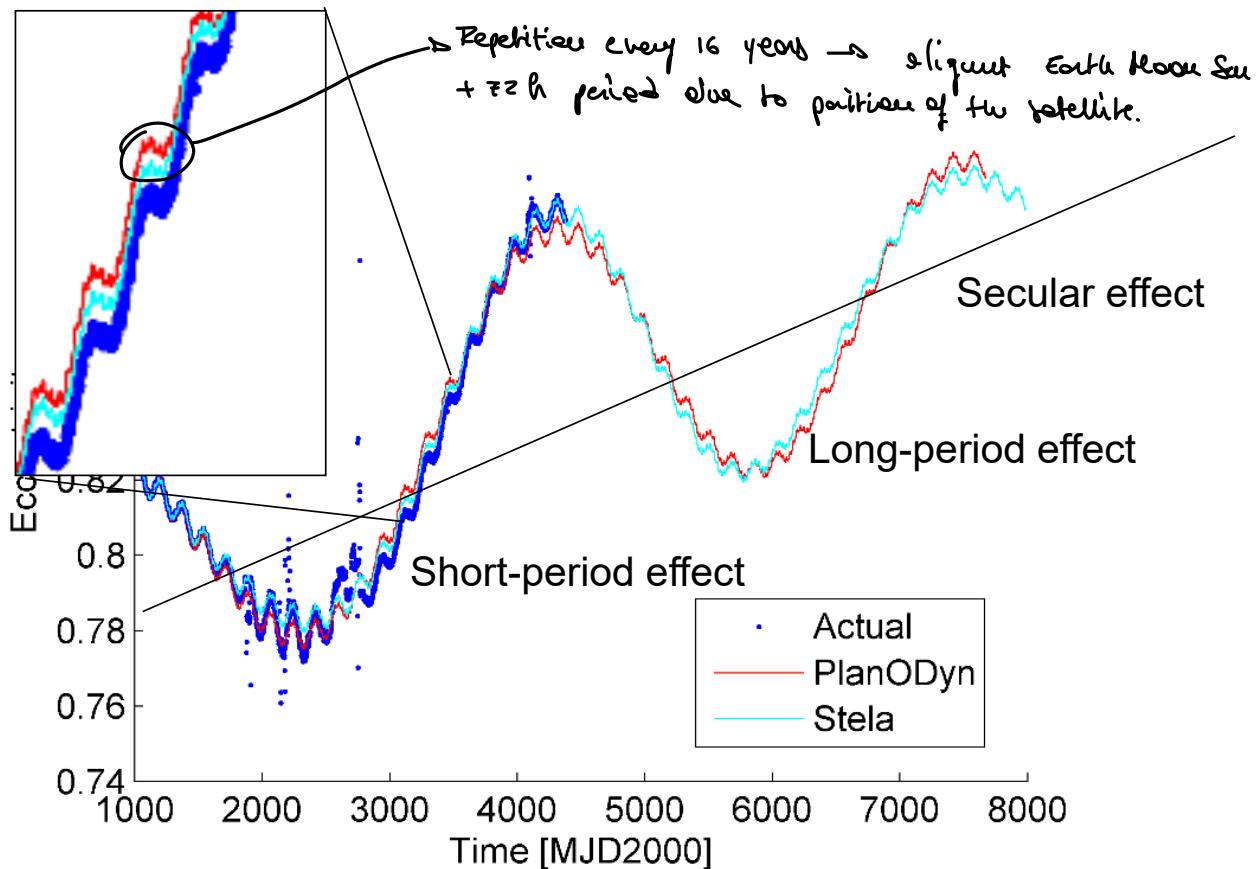
Start with Lagrange and Gauss planetary equations but we do not integrate them directly but I am integrating the average of variation over one orbit  $\rightarrow$  so I use propagate the average variation of an orbital elements for very long time and only when I am interested in it we can add the classical integration of the Lagrange / Gauss planetary equation.

- Filter high frequency oscillations
- Reduce stiffness of the problem
- Decrease computational time for long term integration



- There are different oscillations that can be isolated by using semi-analytical approaches:
  - Secular variations
  - Long-period variations
  - Short-period variations

# Semi-analytical methods



# Semi-analytical methods

For conservative orbit perturbation effects

- $R$  disturbing potential function
- Planetary equations in Lagrange form  $\dot{\mathbf{a}} = \left[ a \quad e \quad i \quad \Omega \quad \omega \quad M \right]^T$

*Solar pertur.*  
↑  
 $R = R_{\text{SRP}} + R_{\text{zonal}} + R_{3-\text{Sun}} + R_{3-\text{Moon}}$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{a}}{dt} = f\left(\mathbf{a}, \frac{\partial R}{\partial \mathbf{a}}\right)$$

How to do the first one?

$$R = P(\underline{x}) \rightarrow \text{disturbing potential}$$

$$\bar{R}(a, e, i, \Omega, \omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} P(\underline{x}) d\underline{x}$$

no more function  
of the mean anomaly

↓  
Average over one orbit revolution of the spacecraft around the primary planet

$$\bar{R} = \bar{R}_{\text{SRP}} + \bar{R}_{\text{zonal}} + \bar{R}_{3-\text{Sun}} + \bar{R}_{3-\text{Moon}}$$

$$\frac{d\bar{\mathbf{a}}}{dt} = f\left(\bar{\mathbf{a}}, \frac{\partial \bar{R}}{\partial \bar{\mathbf{a}}}\right)$$

Single average

↓  
Average over the revolution of the perturbing body around the primary planet

$$\bar{\bar{R}} = \bar{\bar{R}}_{\text{SRP}} + \bar{\bar{R}}_{\text{zonal}} + \bar{\bar{R}}_{3-\text{Sun}} + \bar{\bar{R}}_{3-\text{Moon}}$$

$$\frac{d\bar{\bar{\mathbf{a}}}}{dt} = f\left(\bar{\bar{\mathbf{a}}}, \frac{\partial \bar{\bar{R}}}{\partial \bar{\bar{\mathbf{a}}}}\right)$$

Double average

## Non-singular orbital elements

{ Keplerian elements → physical interpretation  
other use for  $i=0$  then singular for those specific cases

↳ for other applications

Use some Keplerian elements combination that are non-singular

Keplerian elements are undefined in some situations. Note that:

- $\Omega$  is not defined as  $i \rightarrow 0$
- $\Omega$  is not defined as  $e \rightarrow 0$

For example, a satellite in Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) requires  $e \approx 0, i \approx 0$

A redefinition of the orbit element set is sometimes required. For example, **non-singular equinoctial orbit elements** are used:

- mean longitude,  $\lambda$
- longitude drift rate,  $\dot{\lambda}$
- eccentricity vector,  $\mathbf{e} = e \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\Omega + \omega) \\ \sin(\Omega + \omega) \end{bmatrix}$
- inclination vector,  $\mathbf{i} = I \begin{bmatrix} \sin \Omega \\ -\cos \Omega \end{bmatrix}$

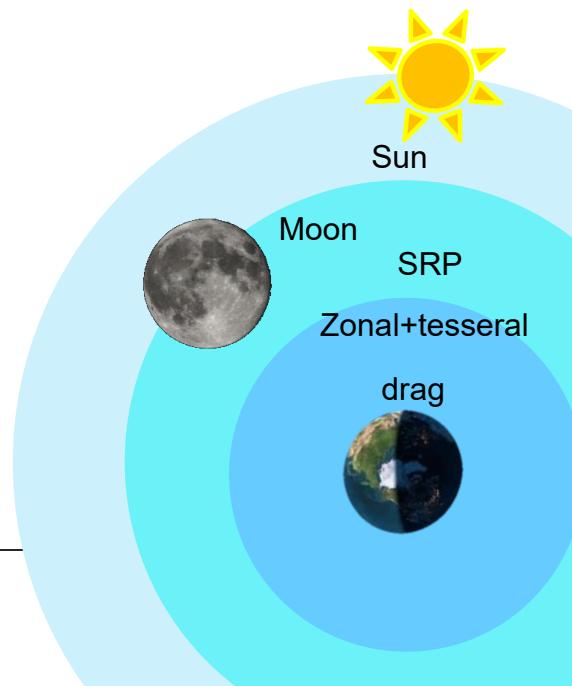
The Gauss and Lagrange planetary equations are re-written accordingly

# The perturbed two-body problem

Principal influence on the motion: central gravity field

Orbit perturbations

- Aerodynamic drag
- Gravity anomalies
- Third body acceleration (e.g., Moon, Sun)
- Solar radiation pressure



## 5.4 Aerodynamic perturbation

$$\frac{A}{m} = 0.0012 \frac{m^2}{kg}$$

↗ mean value

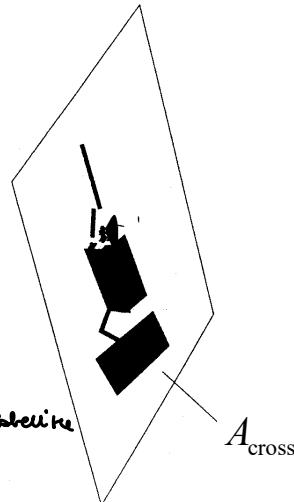
The drag force on an orbit spacecraft is

*Better to work with the acceleration*

$$\mathbf{a}_{\text{Drag}} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{A_{\text{cross}} C_D}{m} \rho(h, t) v_{\text{rel}}^2 \frac{\mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}}}{\|\mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}}\|}$$

*↳ opposite to the direction of the relative velocity b/w satellite and atmosphere.*

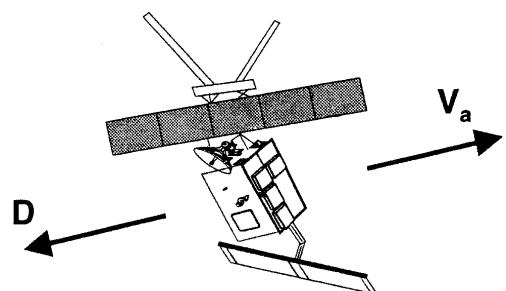
where



- $\rho(h, t)$  atmospheric density
- $\mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}}$  air-relative speed (atmosphere rotates)  $\mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}} = \frac{dr}{dt} - \boldsymbol{\omega}_{\text{Earth}} \times \mathbf{r}$
- $A_{\text{cross}}$  reference area (i.e. cross-sectional area perpendicular to  $\mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}}$ )
- $m$  spacecraft mass
- $c_D$  drag coefficient

Lift acceleration is the same with  $c_D \longrightarrow c_L$

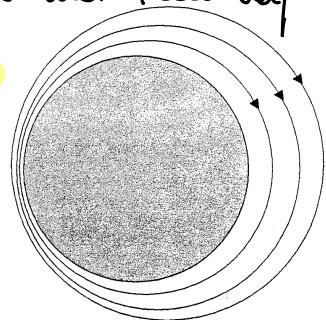
*Satellite are design to have some lift → Instead of  $C_D$  we will use  $C_L$ .*



# Aerodynamic perturbation

Very difficult to predict the orbiting path of the satellite because we do not know very well the upper atmosphere → Because it depends on the solar activity and its behavior has a daily period & yearly one and every 11 years.

- Principal effects upon the orbit are to reduce its size and to circularise it (both  $a$  and  $e$  decrease)



- Uncertainties in modelling aero-perturbations:

- Atmospheric density
  - Depends on the solar Activity with 1 day, 1 year, 11 years period.

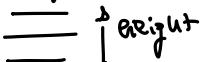
Difficult to model and predict (solar activity)
- Reference area  $A_{\text{cross}}$ 

Can be estimated if attitude profile and configuration of spacecraft are known
- Drag and lift coefficients  $C_D, C_L$ 
  - Depends on the altitude and on the temperature

Experimental data is sparse for the free molecular flow regime of orbital flight ( $C_D \approx 2.1/2.2$ )

- Aero-force modelling is one of the major obstacles to very precise orbit determination and prediction

Each layer has a different exponent



Note: be consistent with units!

## Aerodynamic perturbation

Exponential Band model

$$\rho(h,t) = \rho_0 \exp\left[-\frac{h-h_0}{H}\right]$$

$\rho_0$  reference density

$h, h_0$  actual and reference altitude

$H$  scale height

**TABLE 7-4. Exponential Atmospheric Model.** Although a very simple approach, this method yields moderate results for general studies. Source: Wertz, 1978, 820, which uses the *U.S. Standard Atmosphere* (1976) for 0 km, CIRA-72 for 25–500 km, and CIRA-72 with  $T_{\infty} = 1000$  K for 500–1000 km. The scale heights have been adjusted to maintain a piecewise-continuous formulation of the density.

Altitude $h_{ellp}$ (km)	Base Altitude $h_0$ (km)	Nominal Density $\rho_0$ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Scale Height $H$ (km)	Altitude $h_{ellp}$ (km)	Base Altitude $h_0$ (km)	Nominal Density $\rho_0$ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Scale Height $H$ (km)
0–25	0	1.225	7.249	150–180	150	$2.070 \times 10^{-9}$	22.523
25–30	25	$3.899 \times 10^{-2}$	6.349	180–200	180	$5.464 \times 10^{-10}$	29.740
30–40	30	$1.774 \times 10^{-2}$	6.682	200–250	200	$2.789 \times 10^{-10}$	37.105
40–50	40	$3.972 \times 10^{-3}$	7.554	250–300	250	$7.248 \times 10^{-11}$	45.546
50–60	50	$1.057 \times 10^{-3}$	8.382	300–350	300	$2.418 \times 10^{-11}$	53.628
60–70	60	$3.206 \times 10^{-4}$	7.714	350–400	350	$9.158 \times 10^{-12}$	53.298
70–80	70	$8.770 \times 10^{-5}$	6.549	400–450	400	$3.725 \times 10^{-12}$	58.515
80–90	80	$1.905 \times 10^{-5}$	5.799	450–500	450	$1.585 \times 10^{-12}$	60.828
90–100	90	$3.396 \times 10^{-6}$	5.382	500–600	500	$6.967 \times 10^{-13}$	63.822
100–110	100	$5.297 \times 10^{-7}$	5.877	600–700	600	$1.454 \times 10^{-13}$	71.835
110–120	110	$9.661 \times 10^{-8}$	7.263	700–800	700	$3.614 \times 10^{-14}$	88.667
120–130	120	$2.438 \times 10^{-8}$	9.473	800–900	800	$1.170 \times 10^{-14}$	124.64
130–140	130	$8.484 \times 10^{-9}$	12.636	900–1000	900	$5.245 \times 10^{-15}$	181.05
140–150	140	$3.845 \times 10^{-9}$	16.149	1000–	1000	$3.019 \times 10^{-15}$	268.00

Eq. (7-31) requires knowledge of the actual altitude, found by subtracting the Earth's radius (6378.137 km) from the satellite's given radius ( $h_{ellp} = 747.2119$  km). Now, if we use values from Table 7-4, Eq. (7-31) becomes

$$\rho = 3.614 \times 10^{-14} \exp\left[-\frac{747.2119 - 700}{88.667}\right] = 2.1219854 \times 10^{-14} \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$$

▲ Note that the units in the exponential cancel (all are km), and the result is less than the base value at 700 km, as we would expect.

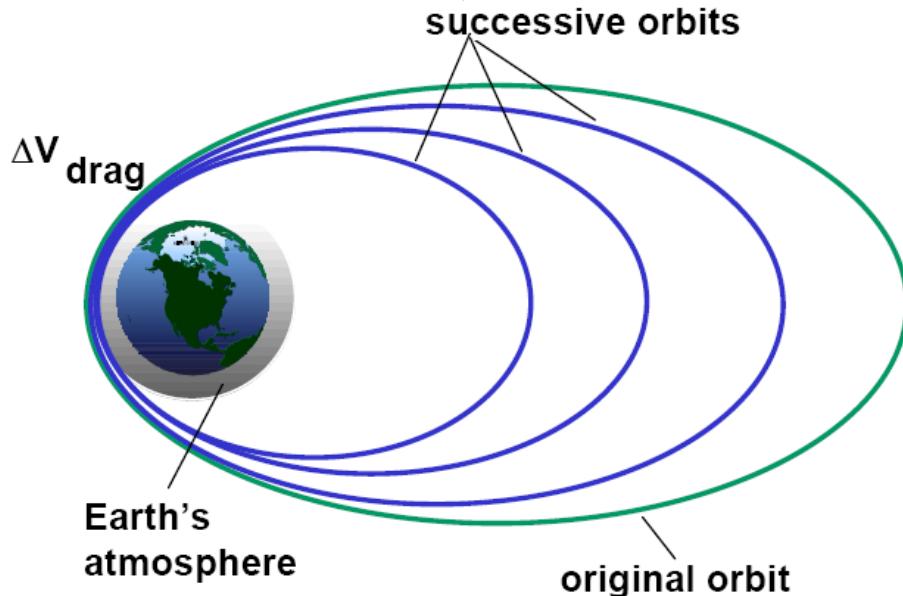
# Aerodynamic perturbation

## Effect of drag

- Decrease the energy of the orbit
- Brems effect  $\rightarrow$  reduce of  $\Delta V$
- We can neglect the velocity of the atmosphere

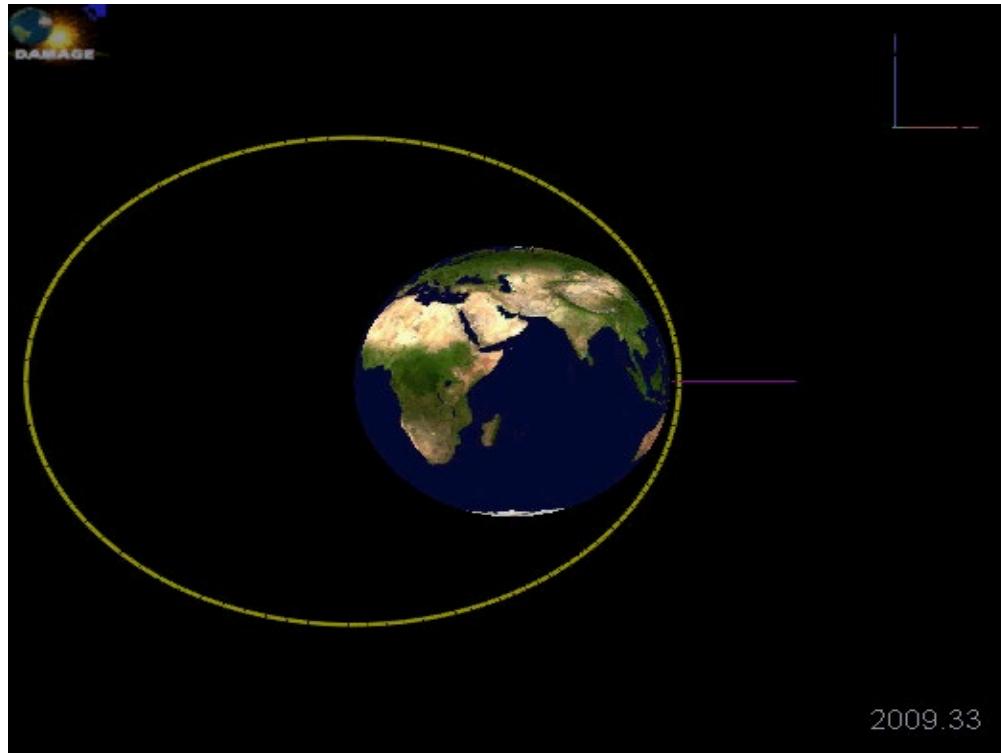
Effect of drag on an elliptical orbit  $\rightarrow$  Decrease the energy of the orbit

Atmosphere relevant up to 2000 km of height



# Aerodynamic perturbation

Effect of drag on an elliptical orbit



UNIVERSITY OF  
Southampton

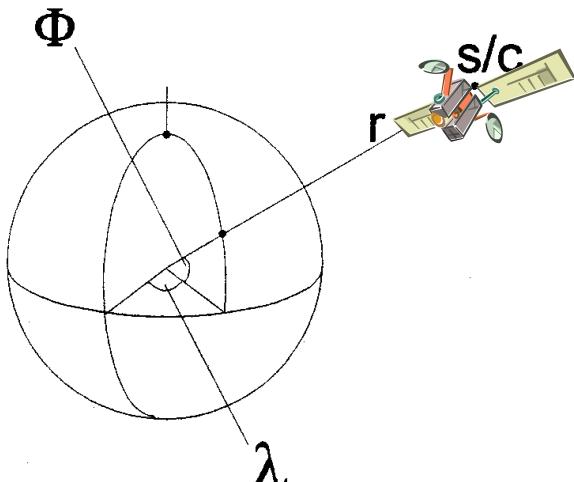
2009.33

Courtesy: University  
of Southampton

## 5.5 Gravitational perturbation

Spacecraft position defined by

- geocentric distance,  $r$
- latitude (i.e. angular distance from the pole),  $\phi$
- longitude,  $\lambda$



Primary gravitational potential  
(for ideal spherical Earth)

$$R(r) = -\frac{\mu}{r}$$



$$\mathbf{F} = -m \nabla R = -\frac{\mu m}{r^3} \mathbf{r}$$

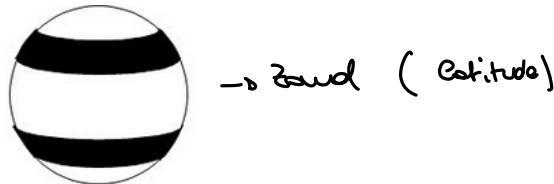
it is not only  $-\frac{\mu}{r}$  → I know another two terms

→ To be more precise we need to consider that the Earth is not symmetrical

# Gravitational perturbation

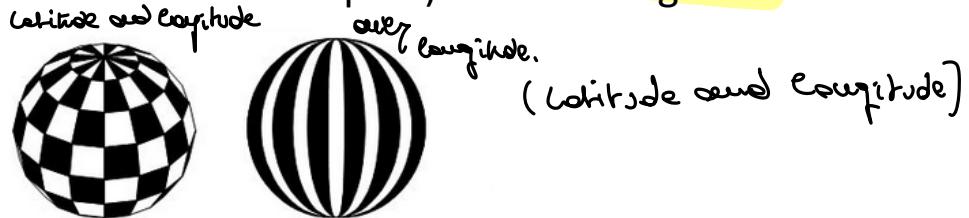
The disturbing perturbing potential on top of the central gravity field can be distinguished in two contributions:

- Zonal harmonic potential: function of the geocentric distance,  $r$  and the latitude (i.e. angular distance from the pole)



Zonal Harmonics

- Tesseral harmonic potential: function of the geocentric distance,  $r$ , the latitude (i.e. angular distance from the pole) and the longitude



Tesseral Harmonics      Sectorial Harmonics

## 5.5.1 Gravitational perturbation: zonal harmonics

Zonal Harmonic Potential (distance and latitude  $\phi$  dependent only)

$$R(r, \phi) = \frac{\mu}{r} (-1 + R_{ZH})$$

← where

$$R_{ZH}(r, \phi) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} J_n \left( \frac{R_E}{r} \right)^n P_n(\cos \phi)$$

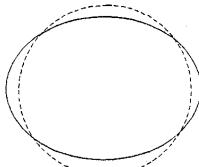
$$\cos \phi = \frac{z}{\|r\|}$$

Legendre polynomial  
function of  $\cos \phi$ .

- $J_n$  are numerical values, and  $P_n$  are Legendre polynomials of degree  $n$ .
- Summation may be represented pictorially by:

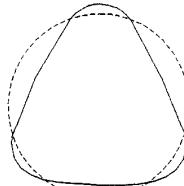
$$J_2 \left( \frac{R_E}{r} \right)^2$$

$$J_2 = 1.08 \cdot 10^{-3}$$



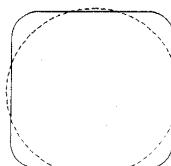
$$J_3 \left( \frac{R_E}{r} \right)^3$$

$$J_3 = -2.51 \cdot 10^{-6}$$

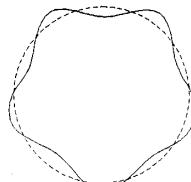


$$J_4 \left( \frac{R_E}{r} \right)^4$$

$$J_4 = -1.60 \cdot 10^{-6}$$



$$J_5 \left( \frac{R_E}{r} \right)^5 + \dots$$



How far is the earth from a sphere in two radii → (how flat on the poles)

28 Orbit perturbations

→ Most important term → All planets when fluid and centrifugal force make their bulge at the equator



POLITECNICO  
MILANO 1863

## Zonal harmonics: $J_2$ effect

$J_2 \approx 10^{-3}$ ,  $J_n \leq 10^{-6}$ ,  $n \geq 3$  Hence  $J_2$  term (Earth oblateness) is dominant

$$\text{Oblateness} = \frac{\text{Equatorial radius} - \text{Polar radius}}{\text{Equatorial radius}}$$

$\Rightarrow J_2$  effect is symmetric w.r.t. xy axis ==

- The Earth, like other planets with comparable or higher rotational rate, bulges out of the equator because of centrifugal force
- Earth equatorial radius = 21 km larger than polar radius
- Due to lack of symmetry the gravity on an orbiting body is not directed towards the centre of the Earth
- Oblateness causes variation also with latitude

Components of spacecraft position vector in an Earth-fixed (rotating) reference frame

```
a_J2_car(1) = muP/r^3*s_sc(1)*(J2*3/2*(RE/r)^2*(5*(s_sc(3)/r)^2-1));  
a_J2_car(2) = muP/r^3*s_sc(2)*(J2*3/2*(RE/r)^2*(5*(s_sc(3)/r)^2-1));  
a_J2_car(3) = -muP/r^3*s_sc(3)*(J2*3/2*(RE/r)^2*(-5*(s_sc(3)/r)^2+3));
```

## Zonal harmonics: $J_2$ effect

We focus on the secular effect of the  $J_2$  perturbation which acts on the right ascension of the ascending node, the argument of perigee and the true anomaly

Variations due to  $J_2$  effect over the long term.

$$\dot{\Omega}_{SEC} = -\frac{3nR_{Earth}^2 J_2}{2p^2} \cos(i)$$

$$\dot{\omega}_{SEC} = \frac{3nR_{Earth}^2 J_2}{4p^2} (4 - 5 \sin^2 i)$$

$$\dot{M}_{SEC} = -\frac{3nR_{Earth}^2 J_2 \sqrt{1-e^2}}{4p^2} (3 \sin^2 i - 2)$$

$\dot{a} = \dot{e} = \dot{i} = 0 \rightarrow$  they have oscillation but the secular effect is null.  
( $\rightarrow$  oscillation over  $\pm$  orbital period).

## Zonal harmonics $J_2$ effect: nodal regression

If  $0 < i < \pi/2 \rightarrow$  Nodal regression toward West  
 $\pi/2 < i < \pi \rightarrow$  retrograde orbit  $\rightarrow$  toward East

Secular effect (1): Nodal Regression (rotation positive toward East)

$\rightarrow$  the further we are the less important because this effect.

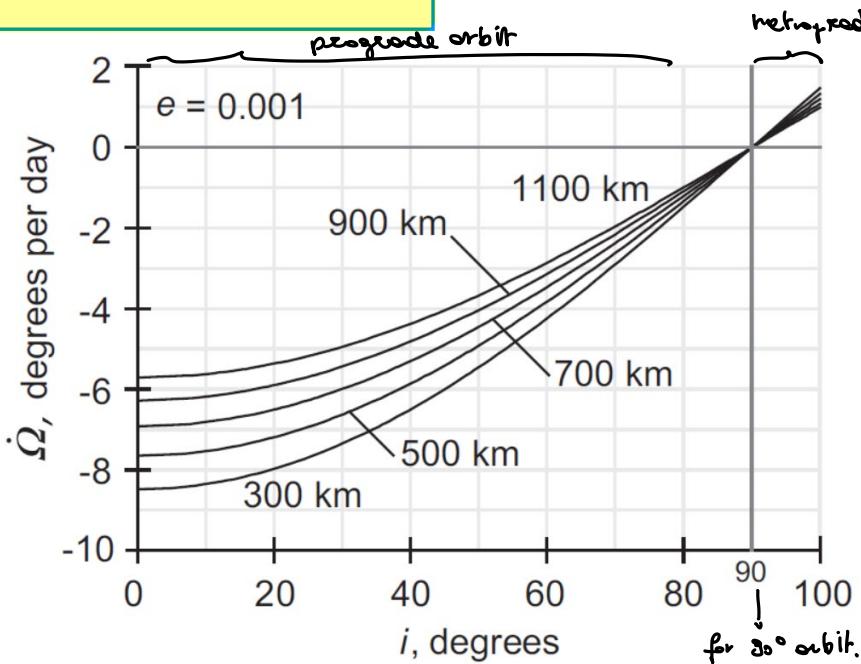
$$\dot{\Omega} = -\frac{3}{2} \frac{n J_2 R_E^2}{a^2 (1-e^2)^2} \cos i \quad n = \sqrt{\mu/a^3}$$

Per orbit

$$\Delta\Omega = \dot{\Omega} \frac{2\pi}{n}$$



$$\Delta\Omega = \frac{-3\pi J_2 R_E^2 \cos i}{a^2 (1-e^2)^2} \quad (\text{rad/rev})$$

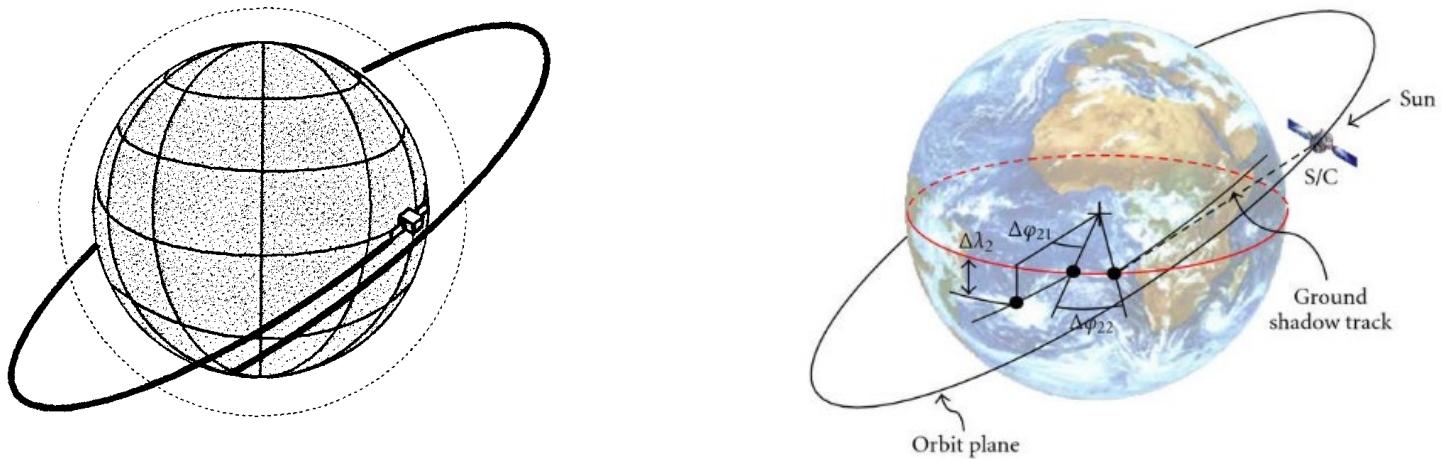


# Zonal harmonics $J_2$ effect: nodal regression

Nodes move

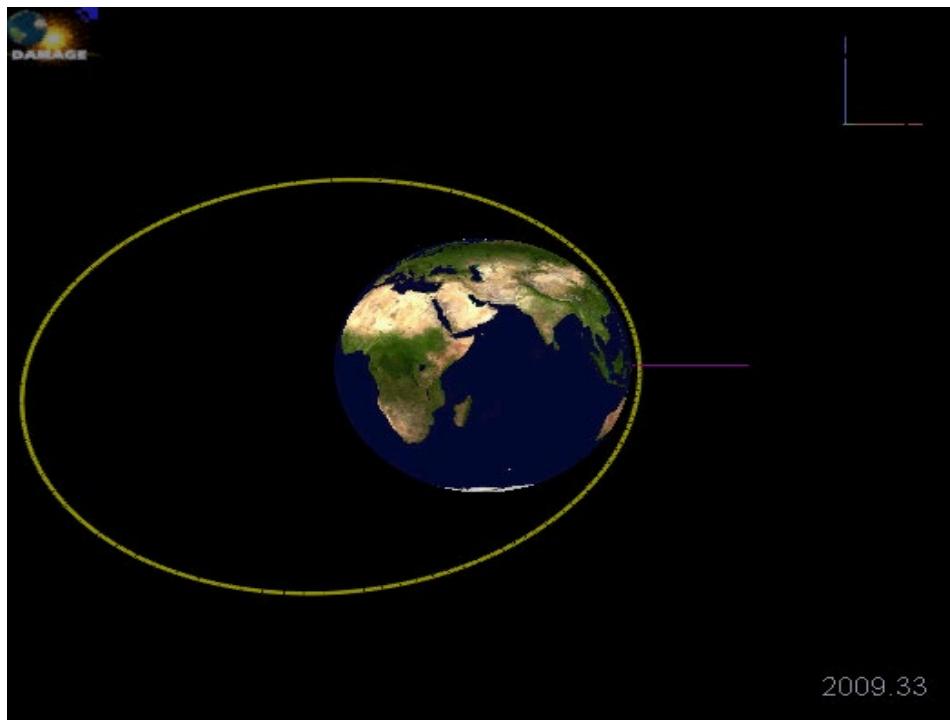
- Westward if orbit inclination is between  $0^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$  (prograde orbit)
- Eastward if orbit inclination is between  $90^\circ$  and  $180^\circ$  (retrograde orbit)

orbit rotates westwards



# Zonal harmonics $J_2$ effect: nodal regression

Prograde orbit

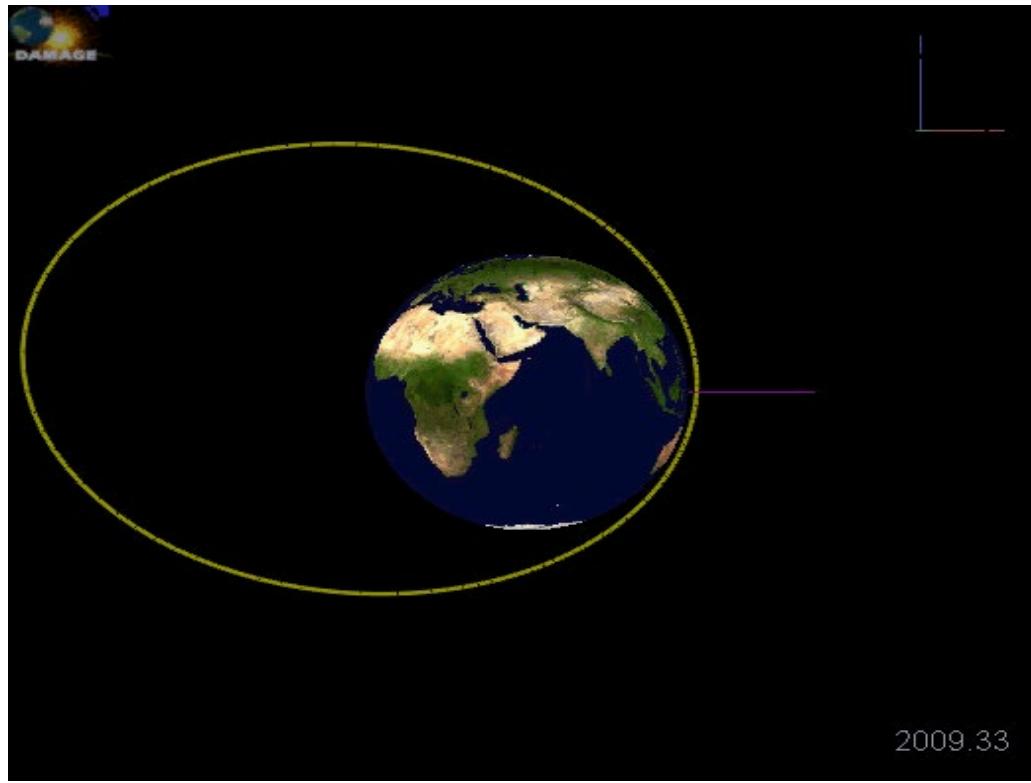


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# Zonal harmonics $J_2$ effect: nodal regression

Retrograde orbit



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# Zonal harmonics $J_2$ effect: perigee precession

*↳ Hooke loop effect*

Secular effect (2): Perigee precession (rotation positive if according to right-hand side rule)

force orbit of  $i = 63.4^\circ$  and  $i = 116.6^\circ \rightarrow$  the closer the orbit is the larger is the effect

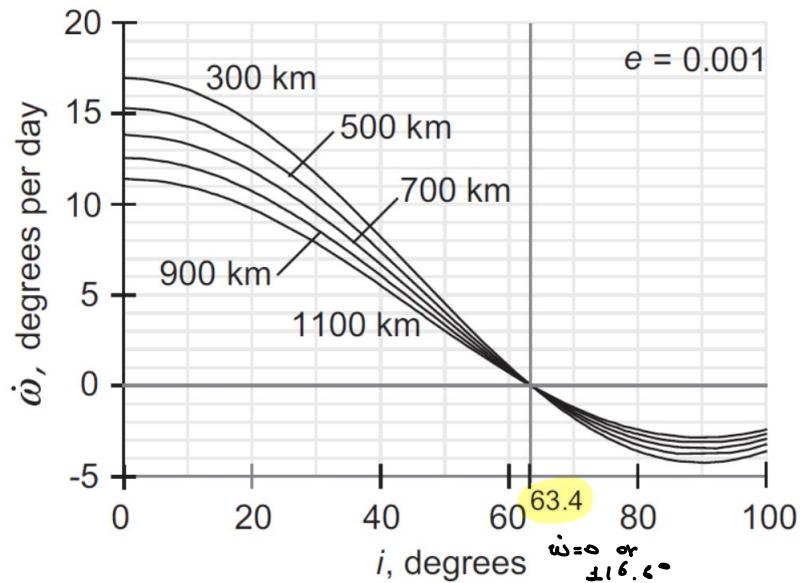
$$\dot{\omega} = \frac{3nJ_2R_E^2}{2a^2(1-e^2)^2} \left( 2 - \frac{5}{2} \sin^2 i \right) \quad n = \sqrt{\mu/a^3}$$

Per orbit

$$\Delta\omega = \dot{\omega} \frac{2\pi}{n}$$



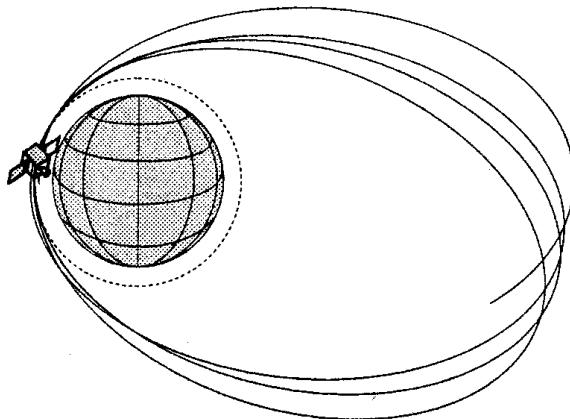
$$\Delta\omega = \frac{3\pi J_2 R_E^2}{a^2(1-e^2)^2} \left( 2 - \frac{5}{2} \sin^2 i \right) \text{ (rad/rev)}$$



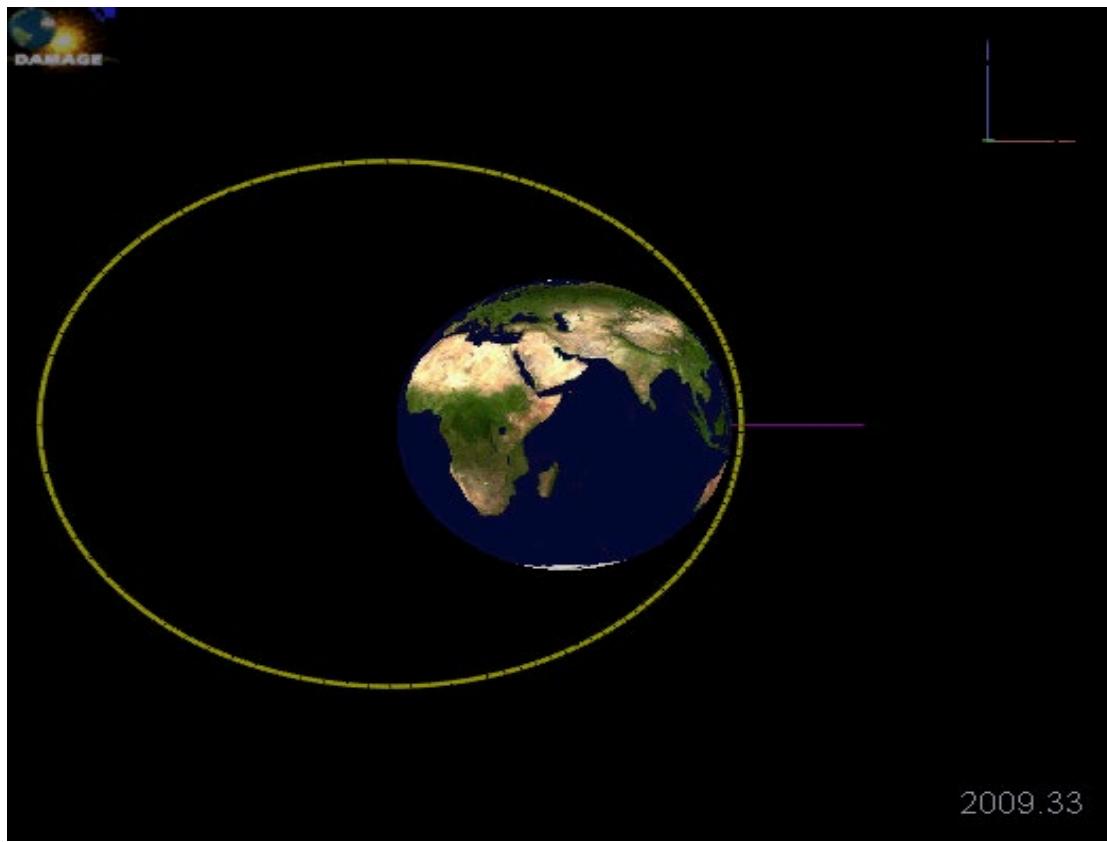
# Zonal harmonics $J_2$ effect: perigee precession

## Perigee precession (apse line rotation)

- Knowledge of the Earth oblateness ( $J_2$ ) effects are vital for Earth orbit operations
- Hula-hooping effect



# Zonal harmonics $J_2$ effect: perigee precession

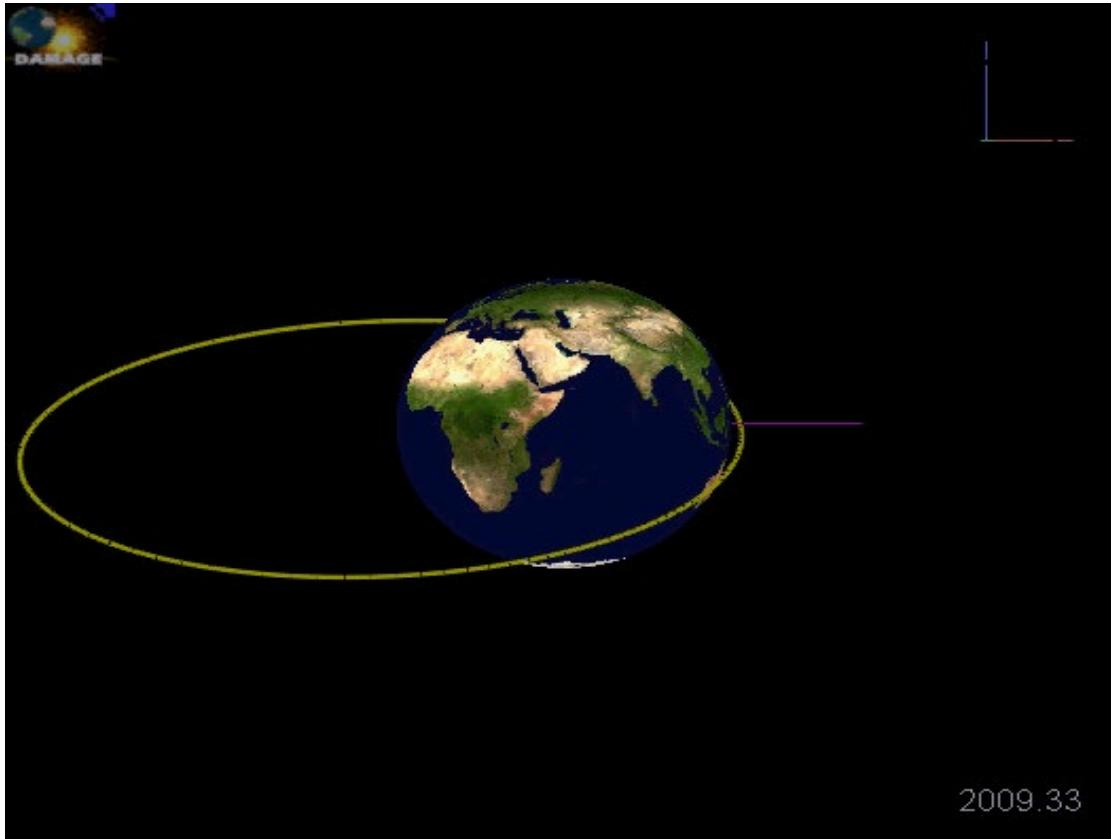


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# Zonal harmonics $J_2$ effect: combined effects of the Earth oblateness



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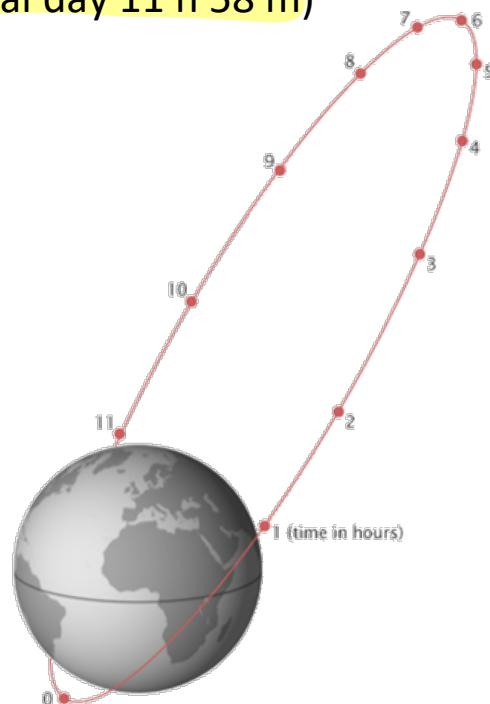
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of Southampton

## Example: Molniya Orbit

### Definition

- Highly elliptical 12 hour orbit (strictly, half a sidereal day 11 h 58 m)
- Inclined at  $63.4^\circ$  to the equator
- Orbital elements:
  - $a = 26,560 \text{ km}$  (orbit period)
  - $e = 0.72$  ( $h_p = 1\,000 \text{ km}$ ,  
 $h_a = 39\,360 \text{ km}$ )
  - $i = 63.4^\circ$  → no drift of the perigee
  - $\omega = 270^\circ$  (perigee in the Southern hemisphere)
  - $\Omega$  arbitrary

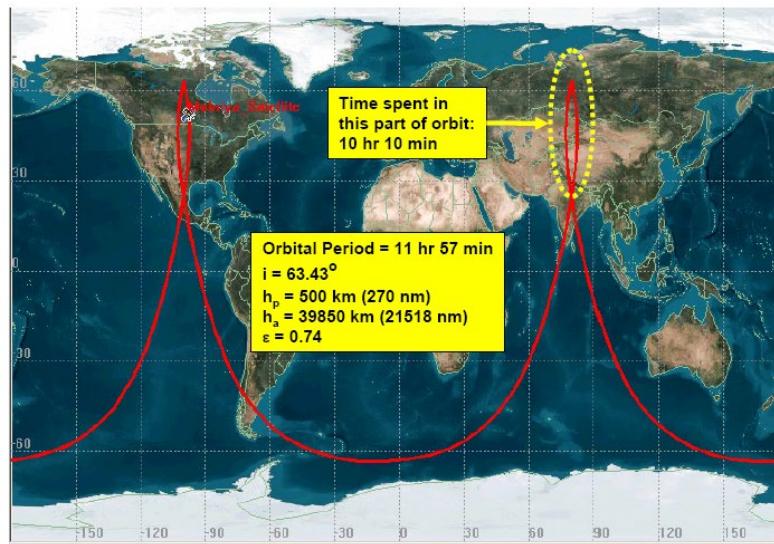
Exploitation of  $J_2$  for defining a frozen orbit with respect to  $d\omega/dt$



# Example: Molniya Orbit

Ground track and global coverage

- Molniya orbit - used for high latitude telecoms in Russia
- 24 h regional coverage is achievable (with a high satellite elevation) at high latitudes with a minimum of 3 spacecraft in orbits with ascending nodes 120° apart (complements GEO coverage)

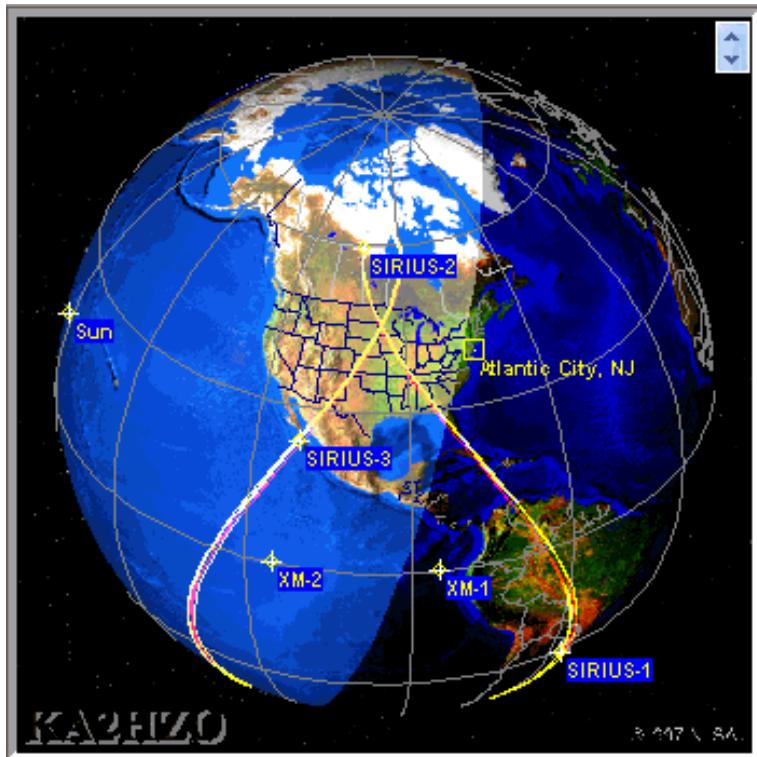


## Example: Tundra orbit

- Highly elliptical 24 hour (strictly, 23 h 56 m) orbit
- Inclined at  $63.4^\circ$  to the equator
- Orbital elements:
  - $a = a_{\text{GEO}} = 42\ 164 \text{ km}$  (a GEO orbit period)
  - $i = 63.4^\circ$
  - $\Omega$  and mean anomaly of each satellite is offset by  $120^\circ$

Exploitation of  $J_2$  for defining a frozen orbit with respect to  $d\omega/dt$

Sirius Satellite Radio



## Example: Other elliptical orbits

Orbit	Period	Inclination	Characteristics	Reference
Molniya	12 hours	63.4°	continuous coverage over Russia	King-Hele et al.
Cobra	8 hours 3 rev/d	63.4°	continuous coverage over three fixed longitudes at medium latitudes by using six satellites	Draim et al.
Magic orbits	3 hours 8 rev/d	63.4°-116.5°	smaller eccentricity, repeated groundtrack	Aerospace Corporation
Ellipso Borealis	3 hours 8 rev/d	116.5°	Sun-synchronous orbits, with a fixed line of apsides and repeating groundtrack apogees = 7,605 km, perigees = 633 km	Sabol et al.

Exploitation of  $J_2$  for defining a frozen orbit with respect to  $d\omega/dt$

## Example: Principal attributes of HEO telecom orbits

### Advantages

- Satellite at high elevation at high latitude ground sites – this is the over-riding benefit for comms services at high latitude
- No eclipse during comms operations
- The flexibility of its design allows targeting specific latitudes if a stable orbit is designed
- High eccentricities allow a longer time spent in the apogee region, hence offer enhanced coverage for regions at the apogee point

## Example: Principal attributes of HEO telecom orbits

### Disadvantages

- Ground stations must track spacecraft
- Satellite switching protocol required
- More than one spacecraft required for 24 h regional coverage
- Variation in satellite range and range-rate – this has a number of impacts upon the comms payload design:
  - Variation in time of signal propagation
  - Frequency variation due to Doppler
  - Variation in received signal power
  - Change in ground coverage pattern during each orbit
- Passage through Van Allen radiation belts each orbit – resulting in accelerated degradation of power and electronic systems
- Orbit perturbations – third body forces may disturb the perigee height, causing premature atmospheric re-entry

## Example: remote sensing mission

→ low Earth orbit → circular → close

Orbit selection for remote sensing

- Orbit inclination:

Global coverage requirement  $\Rightarrow$  orbit near-polar ( $i \sim 90^\circ$ )

- Orbit shape:

Invariant payload sensor range  $\Rightarrow$  orbit near-circular ( $e \sim 0$ )

- Orbit altitude:

Payload sensor resolution  $\Rightarrow$  low altitude

Spacecraft propellant requirement for drag compensation  $\Rightarrow$  high altitude

**Trade-off** leads to height in the region of  $h \sim 700$  to  $900$  km ( $a \sim 7080$  to  $7280$  km) for spacecraft with required operation for an extended period

## Example: remote sensing mission

Need to define exact value of inclination, eccentricity, semi-major axis.

Payload operational requirements:

- sun-synchronous orbit
- repeat ground track
- one spacecraft axis Earth-pointing (attitude constraint)

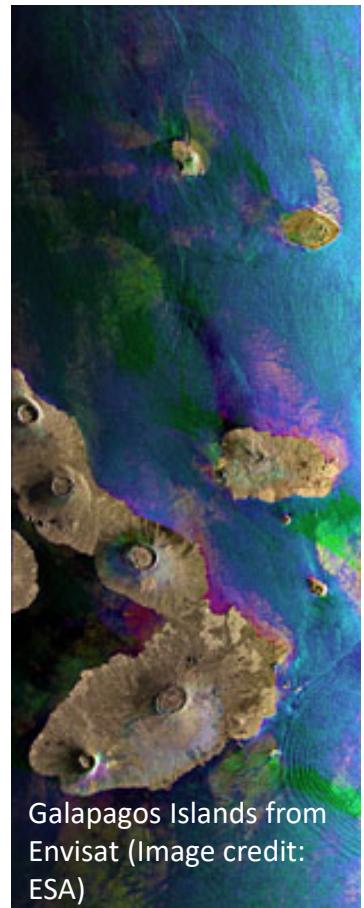
Repetition pattern is synchronized with the sun.

$$i \approx 38^\circ$$

$$\text{so they have } \dot{\Omega} = \dot{\alpha}$$

↓  
Drift of the sun.

Exploitation of  $J_2$  for defining a Sun-synchronous orbit using the  $J_2$  effect on  $d\Omega/dt$



# Sun-synchronous orbit

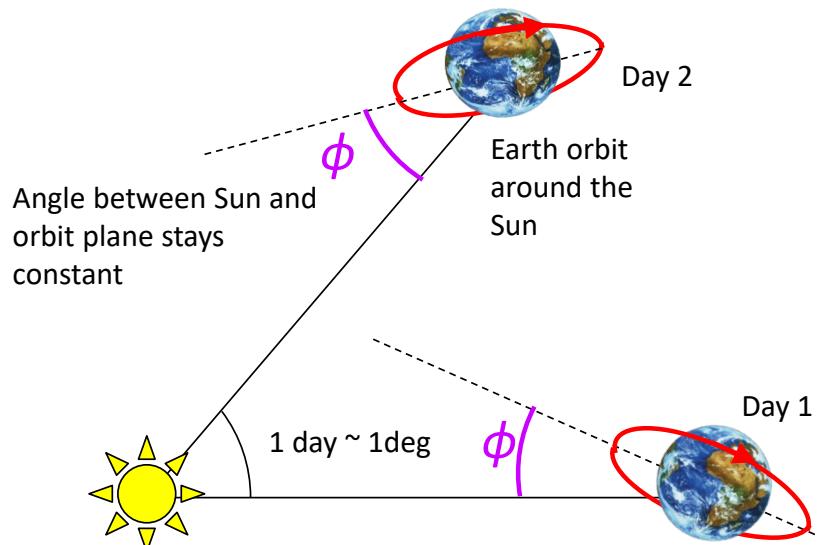
A spacecraft in a sun-synchronous orbit arrives over a particular location at the same local solar time (LST) on each pass

⇒ The ‘solar aspect’ on the ground similarly remain unchanged, apart from seasonal variations:

- Same shadow length
- Same shadow/light orientation
- Provides fixed lighting conditions for imaging (allows image comparison)

$$\dot{\phi} = \dot{\alpha}_s - \dot{\Omega} = 0$$

$$\dot{\Omega} = \dot{\alpha}_s = 360^\circ / 365.25 \text{ days} \approx 0.986^\circ / \text{day (East)}$$



# Sun-synchronous orbit

How is a Sun-synchronous orbit achieved?

Orbit node shift can be achieved using gravitational Earth's oblateness perturbation

Recall nodal regression rate due to  $J_2$  (+ve East)

$$\dot{\Omega}_{J_2} = -\frac{3}{2} J_2 \left( \frac{R_{\text{Earth}}}{a} \right)^2 \frac{1}{(1-e^2)^2} \sqrt{\frac{\mu_{\text{Earth}}}{a^3}} \cos i$$

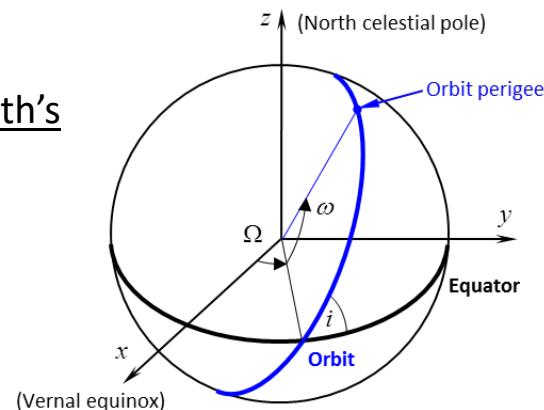
for  $e=0$        $\dot{\Omega}_{J_2} = -2.0647 \cdot 10^{14} a^{-7/2} \cos i$

In degrees/day,  
where  $a$  is in km

hence       $0^\circ < i < 90^\circ$ , Node moves West

$i = 90^\circ$ , Node is stationary

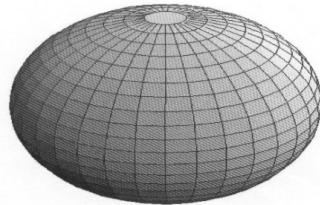
$i > 90^\circ$ , Node moves East



# Sun-synchronous orbit

Natural orbit regression due to  $J_2$

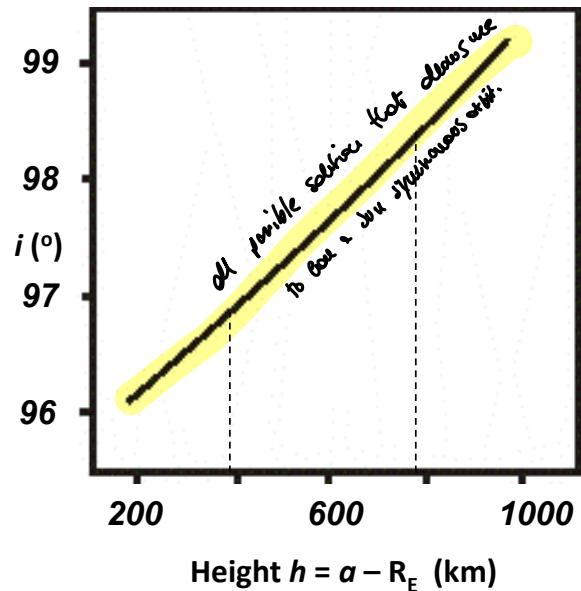
$$\dot{\Omega}_{J_2} = f(a, i)$$



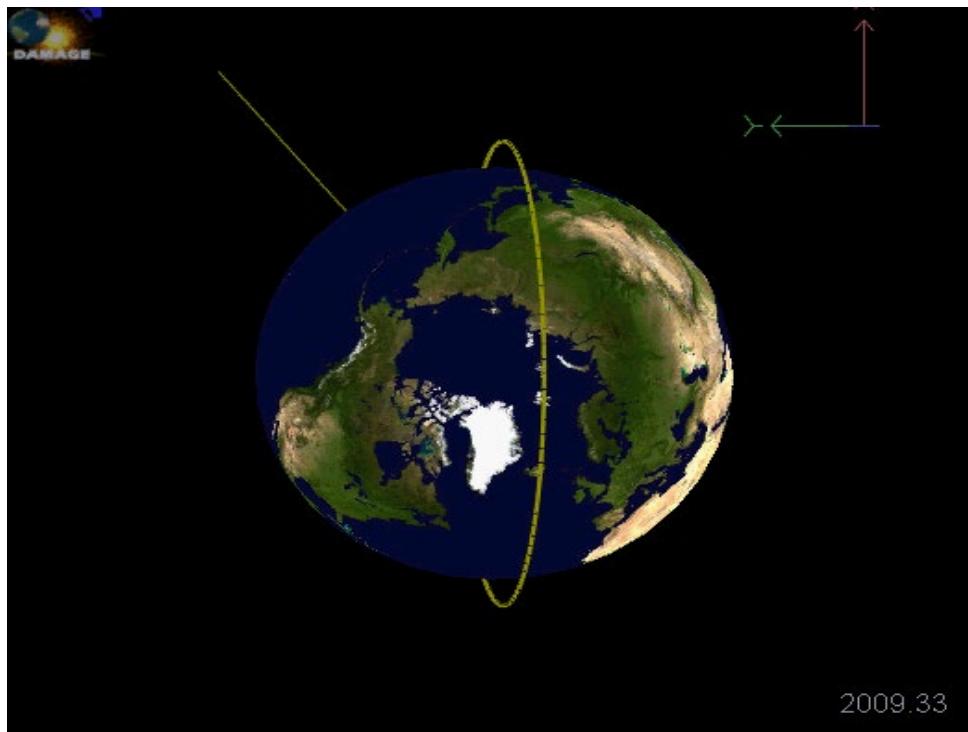
We require to achieve  $\dot{\Omega} \approx 1^\circ/\text{day}$  Eastwards

For LEO we require  $i \approx 98^\circ$

**Sun-synchronous inclination for circular orbits, as a function of orbit altitude**



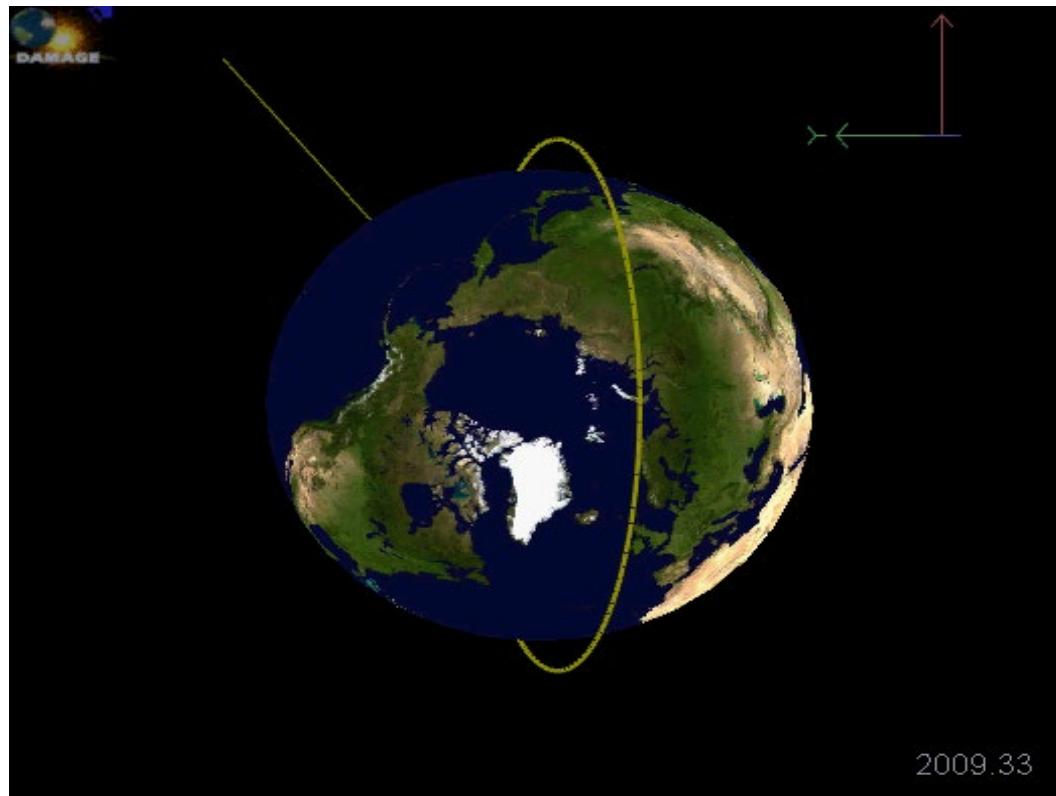
# Sun-synchronous orbit



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# Non Sun-synchronous orbit



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## 5.5.2 Gravitational perturbation: tesseral harmonics

Tesseral Harmonic Potential (distance, latitude  $\phi$  and longitude  $\lambda$  dependant)

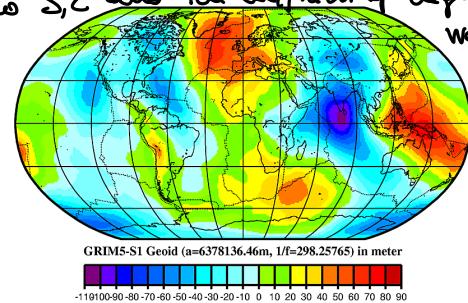
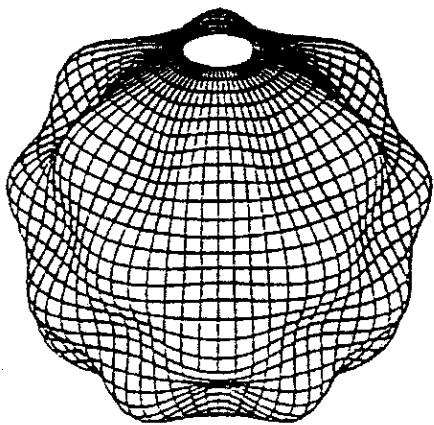
$$R(r, \phi, \lambda) = \frac{\mu}{r} \left( -1 + R_{ZH} \downarrow + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^n \left( \frac{R_E}{r} \right)^n (C_{nm} \cos m\lambda + S_{mn} \sin m\lambda) P_{nm}(\cos \phi) \right)$$

~~tesseral harmonics~~

~~Tesseral harmonics  $\rightarrow$  Tides like to need two simultaneous.~~

Potential expressed as a sum of spherical harmonics

$\hookrightarrow$  function of longitude, latitude and distance  
 $\rightarrow$  If we know  $S, C$  and the coefficient of Legendre polynomial  
 We know everything

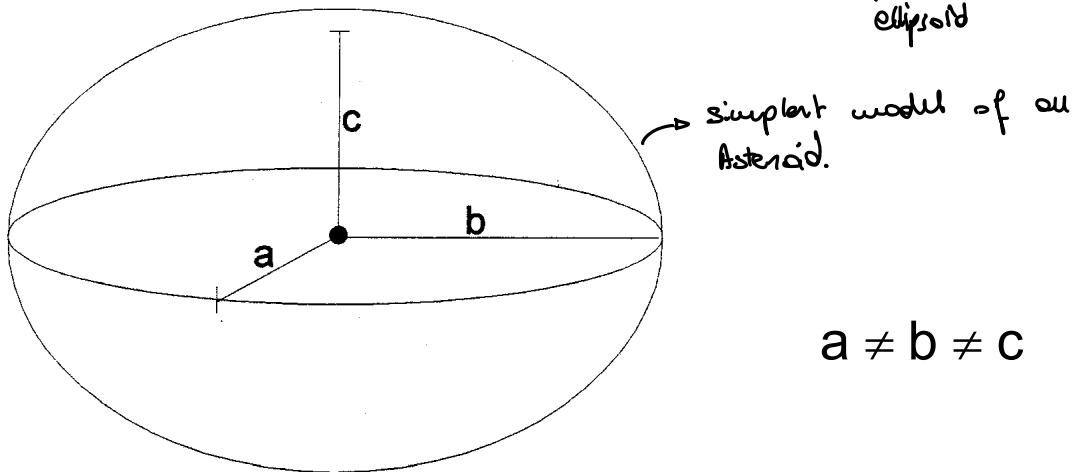


Geopotential map

## Gravitational perturbation: triaxiality

- For LEO spacecraft, perturbation is small
- For GEO spacecraft the lowest order term ( $n = m = 2$ ) has greatest effect  
This, in combination with Earth oblateness, gives a triaxial geometry for the Earth → some satellite feel different attraction force

↳ Earth triaxiality.  
Reality of an oblate planet but it is an ellipsoid



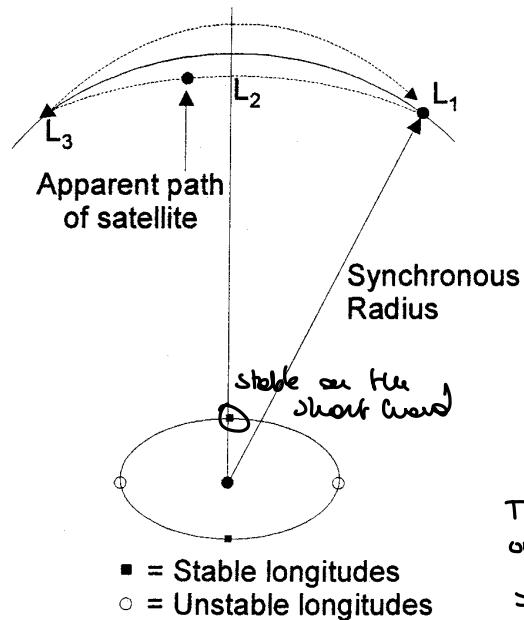
$$a \neq b \neq c$$

# Gravitational perturbation: triaxiality

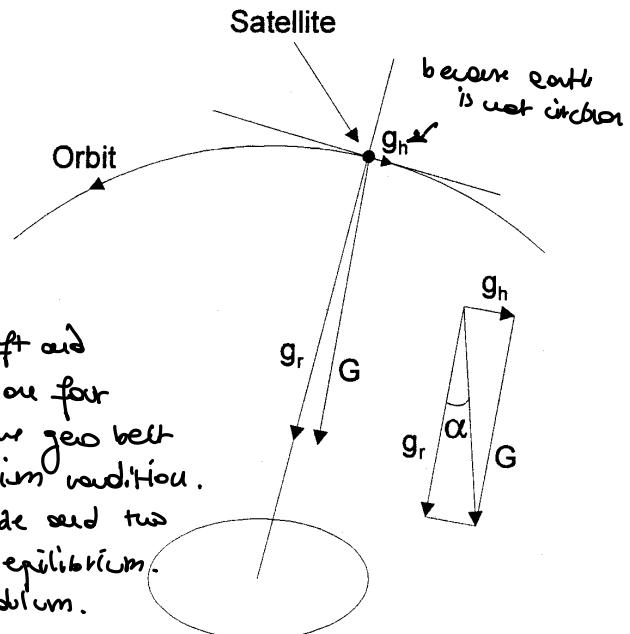
Eccentric GEO orbit on plane a,b.

The principal effect of the triaxiality perturbation on GEO spacecraft is secular changes in satellite longitude  $\lambda$  causing large changes in longitudinal position

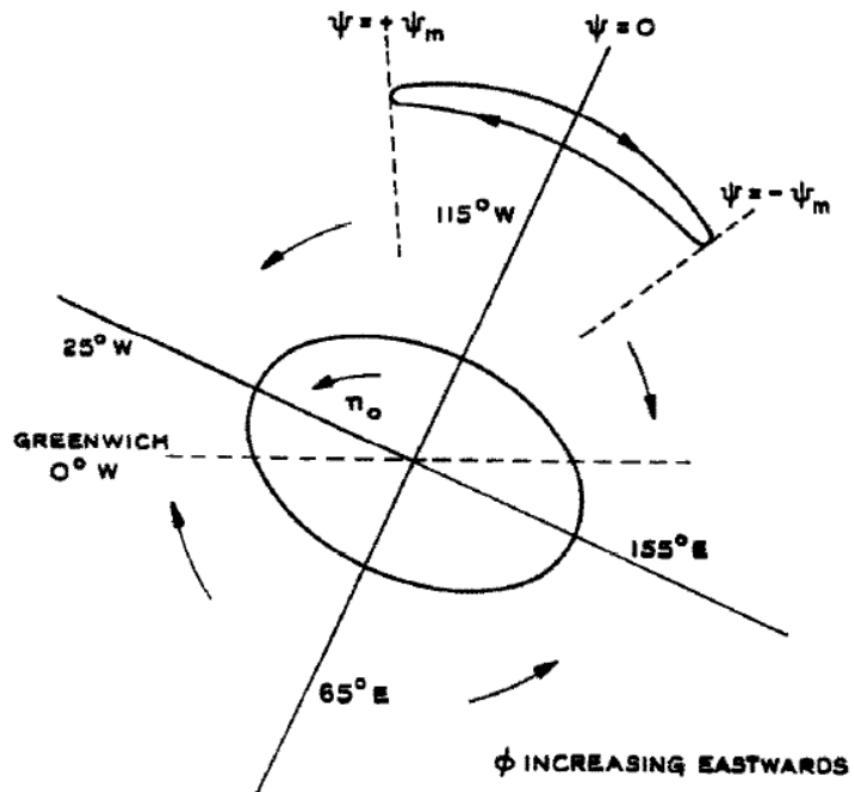
At a particular longitudes,  $d^2\lambda / dt^2 = \text{constant}$



In geo we  
are drifted left and  
right  $\rightarrow$  there are four  
positions on the geo belt  
called equilibrium condition.  
There are two stable and two  
unstable point of equilibrium.  
Similar to a pendulum.



We can write the dynamics in terms of longitude so we use it the difference of longitude with the equilibrium point. Dynamics in terms of longitude and the derivative of the longitude



# Geostationary Orbital Dynamics

One of key perturbation sources at GEO:

- Earth's triaxiality

$$R(r, \phi, \lambda) = \frac{\mu}{r} \left( -1 + R_{ZH} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \sum_{m=1}^n \left( \frac{R_E}{r} \right)^n (C_{nm} \cos m\lambda + S_{mn} \sin m\lambda) P_{nm}(\cos \phi) \right)$$

- For the first two terms: ( $J_2$  and  $J_{2,2}$ )

$$R(r, \phi, \lambda) = \frac{g_0 R_0^2}{r} \left[ 1 - J_2 \frac{R_0^2}{r^2} \left( \frac{3 \sin^2 \phi - 1}{2} \right) + 3J_{2,2} \frac{R_0^2}{r^2} \cos^2 \phi \cos 2\gamma \right]$$

$$\gamma = \lambda - \lambda_{22} \quad \lambda_{22} \text{stable latitude at } \frac{\pi}{2} + \tan^{-1} \frac{S_{nm}}{C_{nm}}$$

$$J_{2,2} = \sqrt{C_{nm}^2 + S_{nm}^2}$$

# Geostationary Orbital Dynamics

Key perturbation sources are:

- Differentiate gravitational potential to obtain acceleration

$$R(r, \phi, \lambda) = \frac{g_0 R_0^2}{r} \left[ 1 - J_2 \frac{R_0^2}{r^2} \left( \frac{3 \sin^2 \phi - 1}{2} \right) + 3J_{2,2} \frac{R_0^2}{r^2} \cos^2 \phi \cos 2\gamma \right]$$

$$a_r = \frac{\partial R}{\partial r} = -\frac{g_0 R_0^2}{r^2} + \frac{3}{2} J_2 \frac{R_0^4}{r^4} (3 \sin^2 \phi - 1) - 9J_{2,2} \frac{R_0^4}{r^4} \cos^2 \phi \cos 2\gamma$$

$$a_\lambda = \frac{1}{r \cos \phi} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \lambda} = -6J_{2,2} \frac{R_0^4}{r^4} \cos \phi \cos 2\gamma$$

$$a_\phi = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial R}{\partial \phi} = -3J_2 \frac{R_0^4}{r^4} \sin \phi \cos \phi - 6J_{2,2} \frac{R_0^4}{r^4} \cos \phi \sin \phi \cos 2\gamma$$

## Earth-Fixed Rotating Reference Frame

Is usually convenient for GEO

In Earth-fixed polar coordinates  $(r, \lambda, \phi)$ :

$$\ddot{r} = a_r + r(\Omega + \dot{\lambda})^2 \cos^2 \phi + r\dot{\phi}^2$$

$$\ddot{\lambda} = \frac{1}{r \cos \phi} (a_\lambda - 2\dot{r}(\Omega + \dot{\lambda}) \cos \phi + 2r(\Omega + \dot{\lambda})\dot{\phi} \sin \phi)$$

$$\ddot{\phi} = \frac{1}{r} (a_\phi - 2\dot{r}\dot{\phi} - r(\Omega + \dot{\lambda})^2 \cos \phi \sin \phi)$$

## Long-term uncontrolled dynamics

Use two equations,

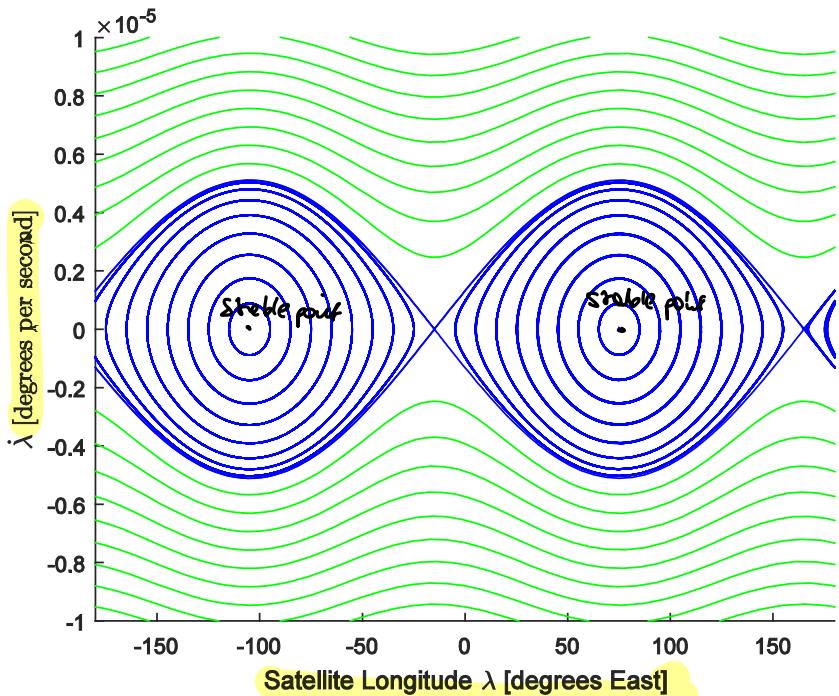
$$\ddot{\lambda} + \Omega^2 \dot{\lambda} - 24 \Omega^3 J_{2,2} \frac{R_0^2}{r^2} \sin 2\gamma \dot{\lambda} - 18 \Omega^4 J_{2,2} \frac{R_0^2}{r^2} \sin 2\gamma = 0$$

The long-term dynamics is

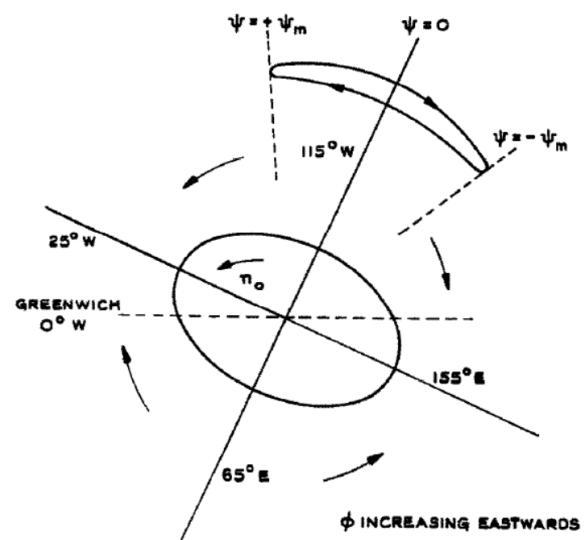
$$\ddot{\lambda} = 18 \Omega^2 J_{2,2} \frac{R_0^2}{r^2} \sin 2(\lambda - \lambda_{22})$$

This is an equation of motion of a pendulum ( $J_{22}$  is negative)

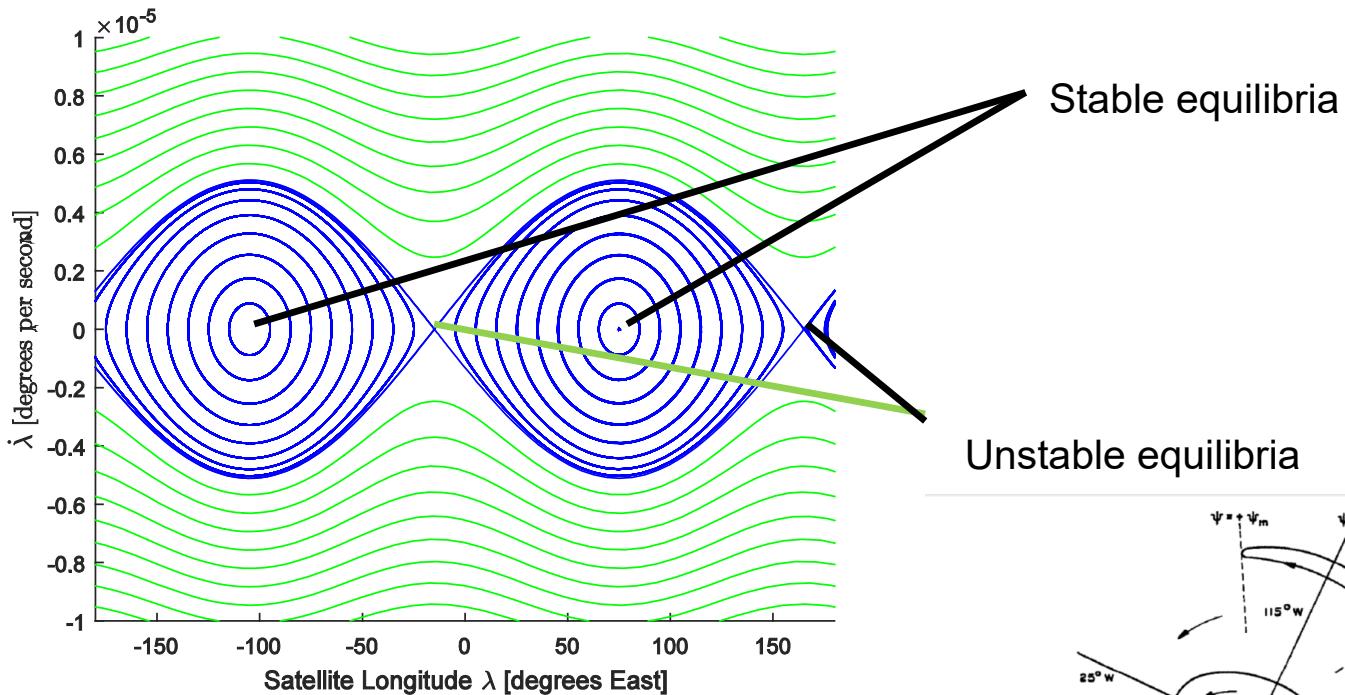
# Long-term uncontrolled dynamics



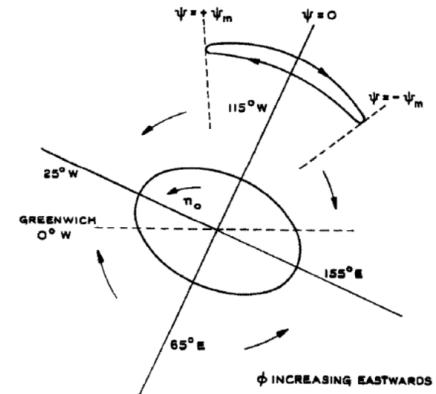
Pendulum like motion



# Long-term uncontrolled dynamics

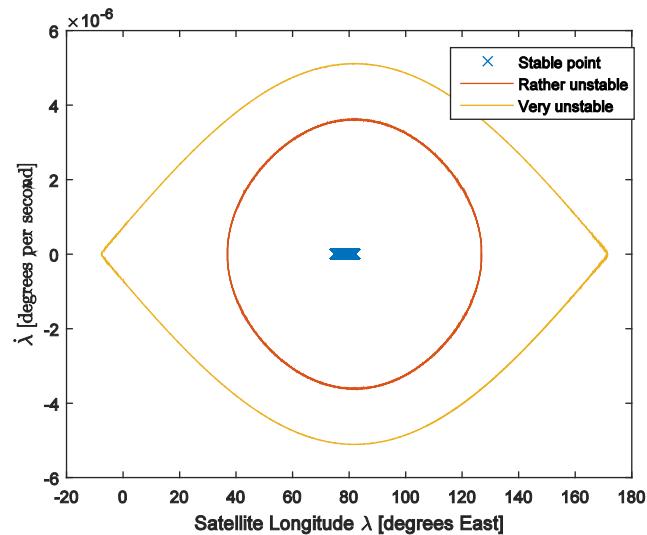
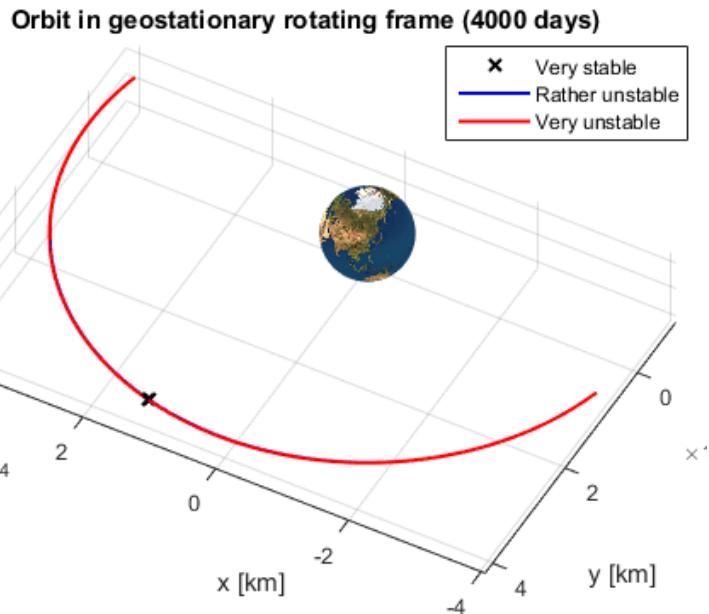


Unstable equilibria



# Long-term uncontrolled dynamics

Fully numerical simulation of  $F=ma$

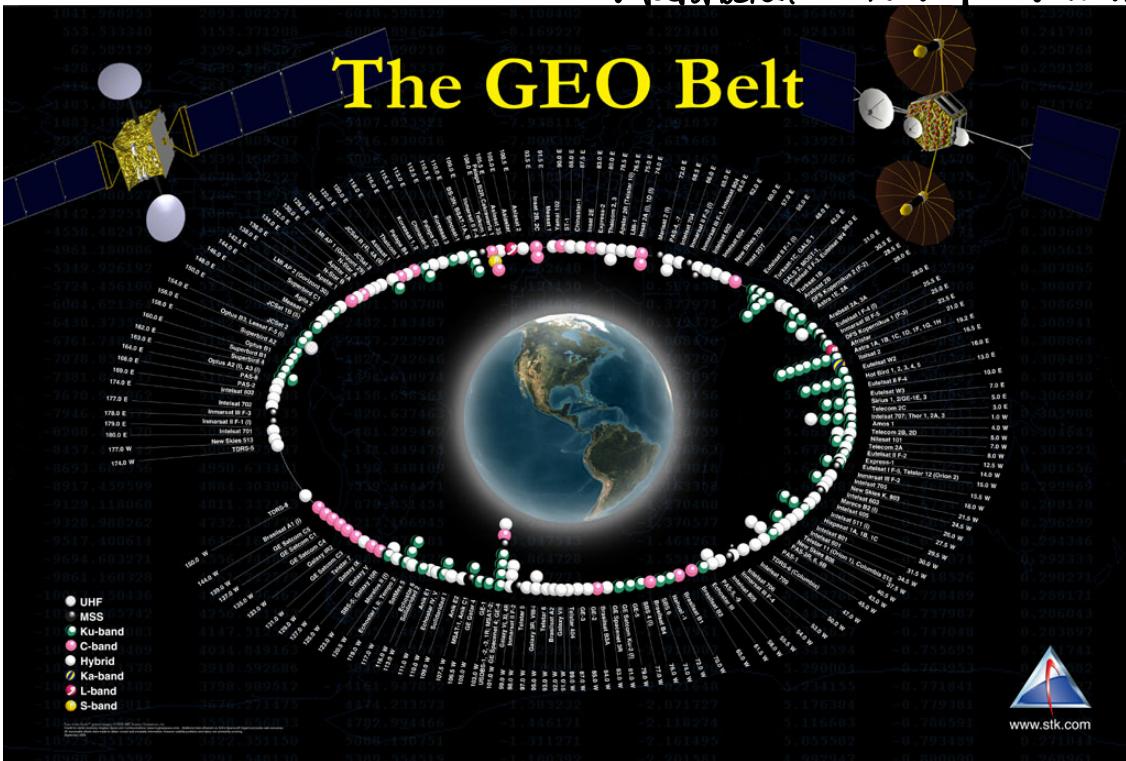


# Gravitational perturbation: triaxiality

## Orbit maintenance

Congestion of the GEO ring

→ geostationary orbit must be stable → even if we have perturbations → to keep a geostationary one needs a control

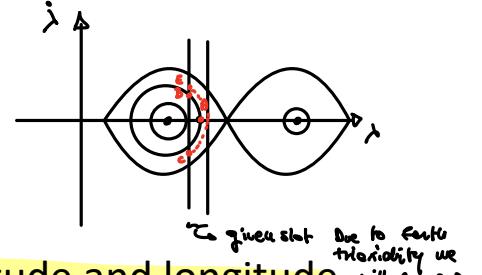


# Station-keeping – Requirements

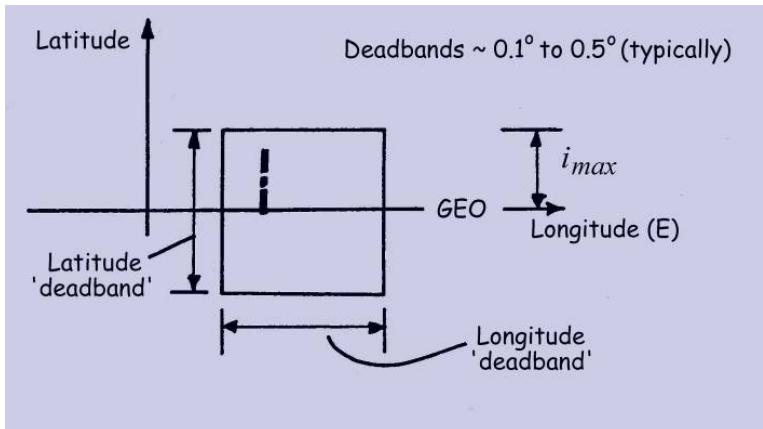
The maintenance of the spacecraft within specified latitude and longitude limits using the least amount of propellant

In GEO station-keeping is performed

- to prevent communication interference between spacecraft in adjacent GEO slots
- to minimise collision risk
- to aid management of the GEO arc



I let the satellite drift until it reaches the outer edge of the slot then I give an upline manoeuvre to go from B to C (not they are at the same position with different velocity). Then from C I let drift the satellite from C to E it is tangent to the outer edges of the slot given then do another upline manoeuvre to go to C.  
There manoeuvres are basically a planing manoeuvre with inertial reference frame. Every 2 months I need to do a manoeuvre. Stay within allocated East-West slot.



There are not only East and West manoeuvre, there are also North and South manoeuvre.

## East West Station Keeping (EWSK) – Strategy

Within the box, perturbation forces are almost constant.

This means the dynamics can be linearised.

$$\frac{d\epsilon}{dt} = -6J_{2,2} \frac{R_0^4}{r^4} \cos 2\gamma \cdot r\Omega$$

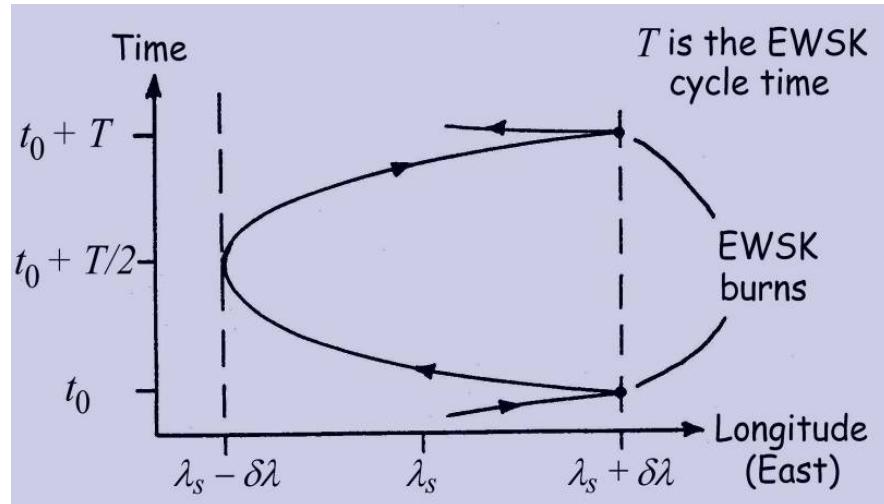
$$\frac{da}{dt} = -12anJ_{2,2} \frac{R_0^2}{a^2} \sin 2\gamma$$

$$\frac{d^2\lambda}{dt^2} = -\frac{3n}{2} \frac{da}{a dt} = \beta = \text{constant}$$

$$T = 2 \sqrt{\frac{\delta\lambda}{\beta}}$$

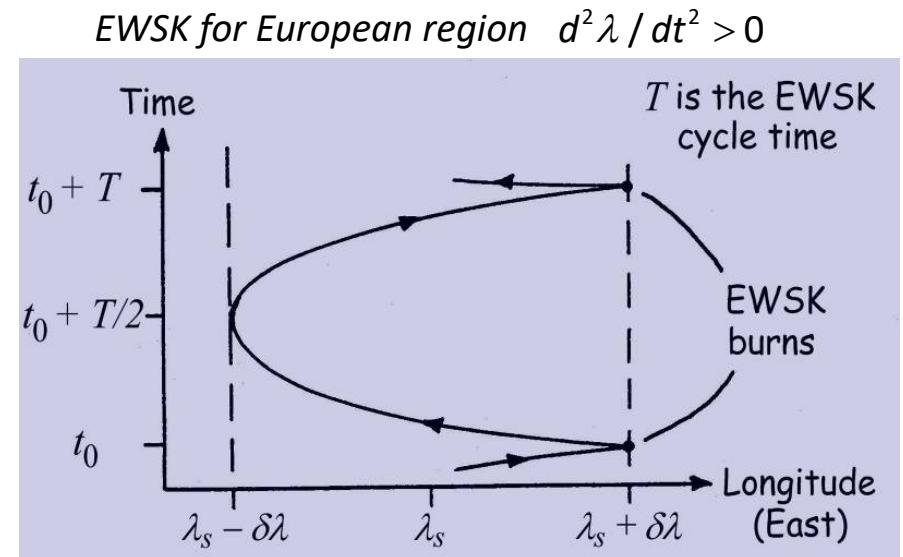
$$\Delta a = T \frac{da}{dt}$$

$$\Delta V_{\text{year}} = 1.75 \sin(\lambda - \lambda_{22}) \text{ m/sec/year}$$



# East West Station Keeping (EWSK) – Strategy

- Triaxiality changes satellite longitude (SRP changes  $e$ ), both causing longitudinal excursions.
- EWSK operations comprise along-track secondary propulsion burns when spacecraft ‘hits’ longitude deadband boundary (triaxiality is the dominant effect).
- EWSK is ~ order of magnitude < NSSK
- EWSK cycle time  $\sim 1/\text{month}$ , depending upon orbital position longitude and longitude deadband



## 5.6 Third-Body perturbation

→ can be written in terms of  
Disturbing potential and then  
use also semi-analytical technique

- Luni-Solar Perturbations
- The effect of the direct gravitational attraction of the Moon and the Sun on the spacecraft
- Principal effects are secular changes in  $i$ ,  $e$  and  $\omega$

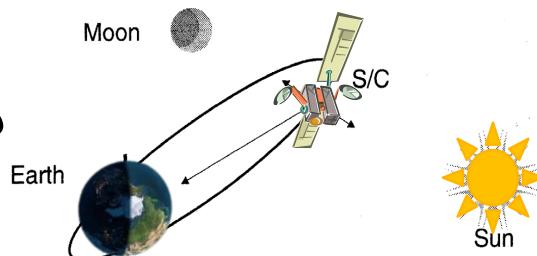
for LEO spacecraft, perturbation is small

for GEO and HEO spacecraft, effect can be significant

$$\mathbf{a}_{3\text{Body}} = \mu_{3\text{Body}} \left( \frac{\mathbf{r}_{sc-3body}}{r_{sc-3body}^3} - \frac{\mathbf{r}_{Earth-3body}}{r_{Earth-3body}^3} \right)$$

formal obtained when we end  
to look at  
the 3 body  
situation

$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}} = -\frac{\mu_{Earth}}{r^3} \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{a}_{3\text{Body}}$$



# Third-Body perturbation

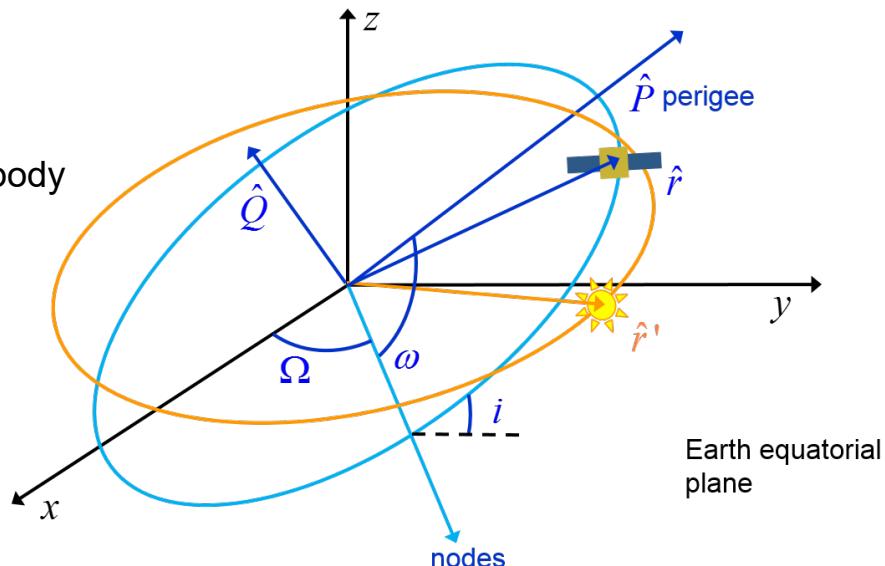
$$R_{3B}(r, r') = \frac{\mu'}{r'} \left( \left( 1 - 2 \frac{r}{r'} \cos \psi + \left( \frac{r}{r'} \right)^2 \right)^{-1/2} - \frac{r}{r'} \cos \psi \right)$$

$\mu'$  gravitational coefficient of the third body

$r'$  position vector of third body

$r$  position vector of satellite

$\psi$  angle between satellite and third body



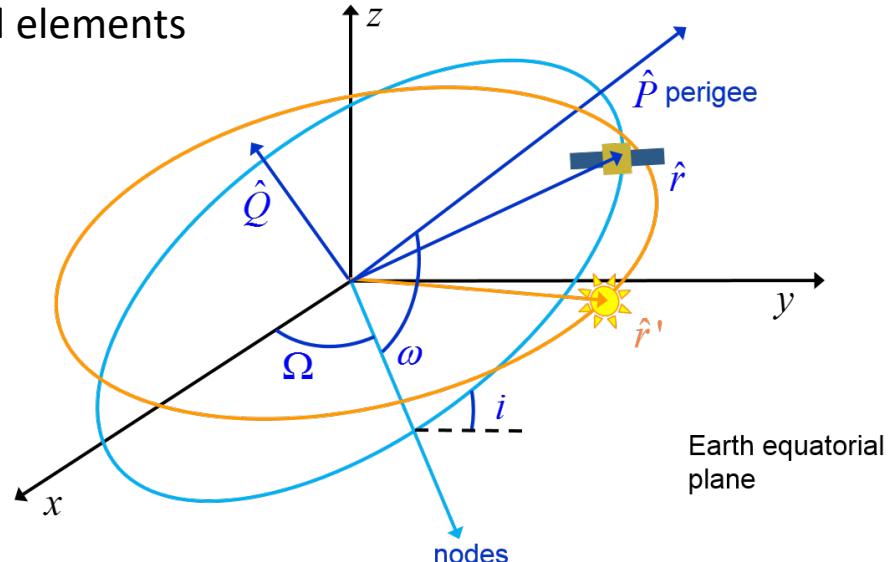
# Third-Body perturbation

Derivation of averaged potential

Third body potential in terms of:

- Ratio between orbit semi-major axis and distance of the third body  $\delta = \frac{a}{r'}$
- Orientation of orbit eccentricity vector with respect to third body  $A = \hat{P} \cdot \hat{r}'$
- Orientation of semi-latus rectum vector with respect to third body  $B = \hat{Q} \cdot \hat{r}'$
- Composition of rotation in orbital elements

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{P} &= R_3(\Omega)R_l(i)R_3(\omega) \cdot [1 \ 0 \ 0]^T \\ \hat{Q} &= R_3(\Omega)R_l(i)R_3(\omega + \pi/2) \cdot [1 \ 0 \ 0]^T \\ \hat{r}' &= R_3(\Omega')R_l(i')R_3(\omega' + f') \cdot [1 \ 0 \ 0]^T\end{aligned}$$



# Third-Body perturbation

Derivation of averaged potential

Series expansion around  $\delta = 0$

$$R_{3B}(r, r') = \frac{\mu'}{r'} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \delta^k F_k(A, B, e, E)$$

Average over one orbit revolution

$$\bar{R}_{3B}(r, r') = \frac{\mu'}{r'} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \delta^k \bar{F}_k(A, B, e)$$

Partial derivatives for Lagrange equations

$$A(\Omega, i, \omega, \Omega', i', u')$$

$$B(\Omega, i, \omega, \Omega', i', u')$$

$$\bar{F}_k(A, B, e)$$



$\mu'$  gravitational coefficient of the third body

$r'$  position vector of third body

$E$  eccentric anomaly

$$\bar{F}_k(A, B, e) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \overbrace{\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} F_k(A, B, e, E) (1 - e \cos E) dE}^{dM}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{F}_k}{\partial \Omega} = \frac{\partial \bar{F}_k}{\partial A} \frac{\partial A}{\partial \Omega} + \frac{\partial \bar{F}_k}{\partial B} \frac{\partial B}{\partial \Omega}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{F}_k}{\partial i} = \frac{\partial \bar{F}_k}{\partial A} \frac{\partial A}{\partial i} + \frac{\partial \bar{F}_k}{\partial B} \frac{\partial B}{\partial i}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{F}_k}{\partial \omega} = \frac{\partial \bar{F}_k}{\partial A} \frac{\partial A}{\partial \omega} + \frac{\partial \bar{F}_k}{\partial B} \frac{\partial B}{\partial \omega}$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{F}_k}{\partial a} = \frac{k}{a} \bar{F}_k$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{F}_k}{\partial e}$$

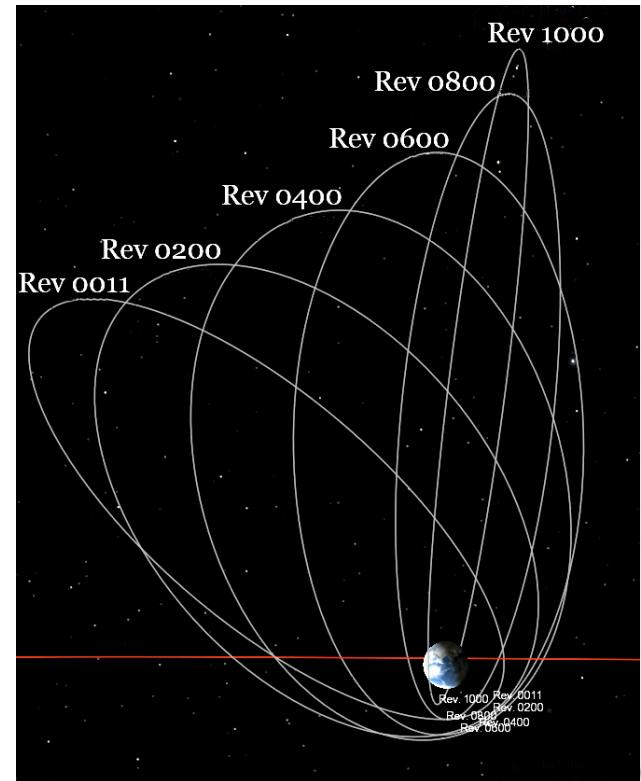
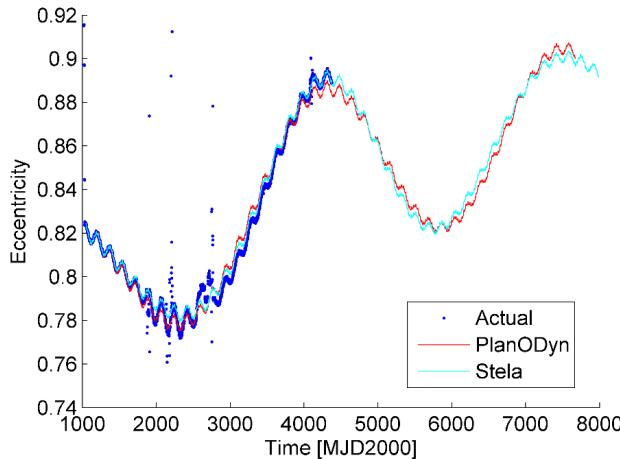
► Kaufman and Dasenbrock, NASA report, 1979

→ We can use 3-body perturbation

# Third-Body Perturbation

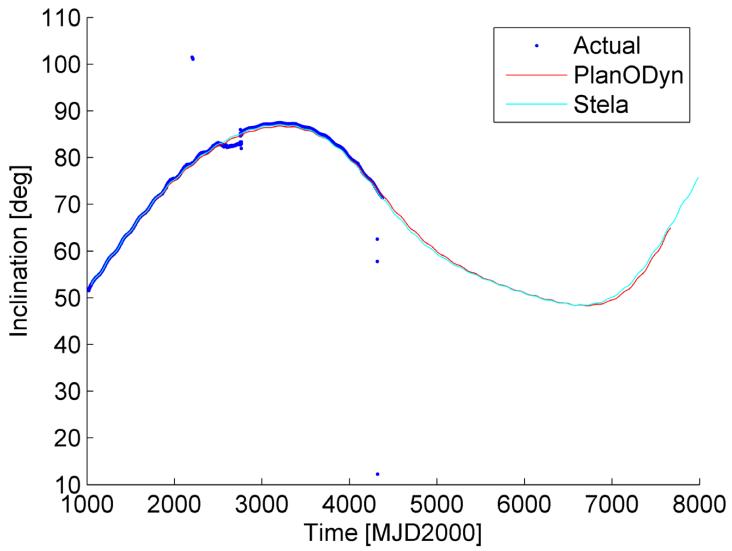
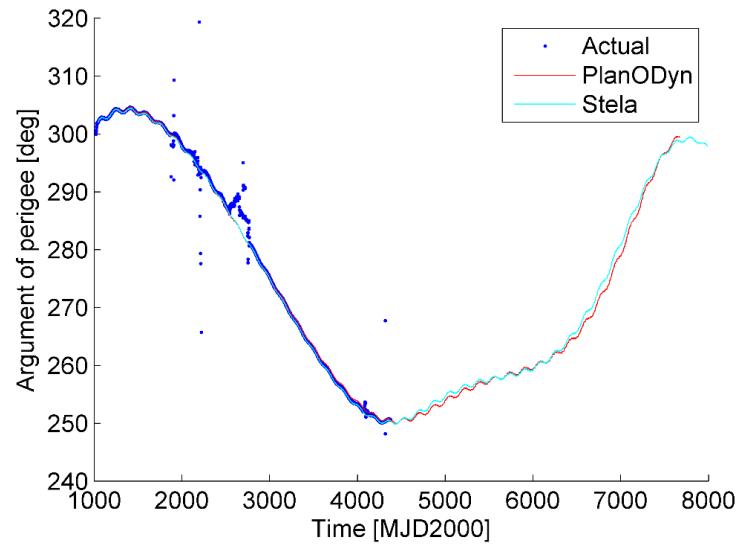
Effects of luni-solar gravity perturbations on Integral orbit:

- initial operational orbit: rev. 11
- initial orbit period 72 hours (3 days)
- rev. 1000 ~ 8.2 years



# Third-Body Perturbation

$\sigma \rightarrow$  over the long terms remain constant.



# Third-Body Perturbation

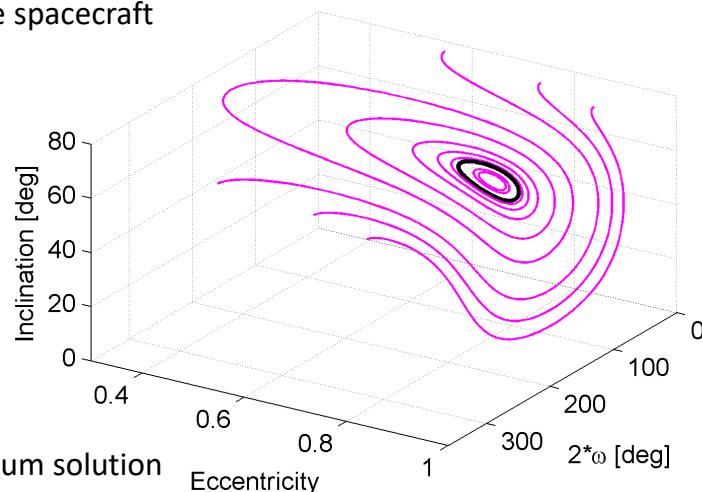
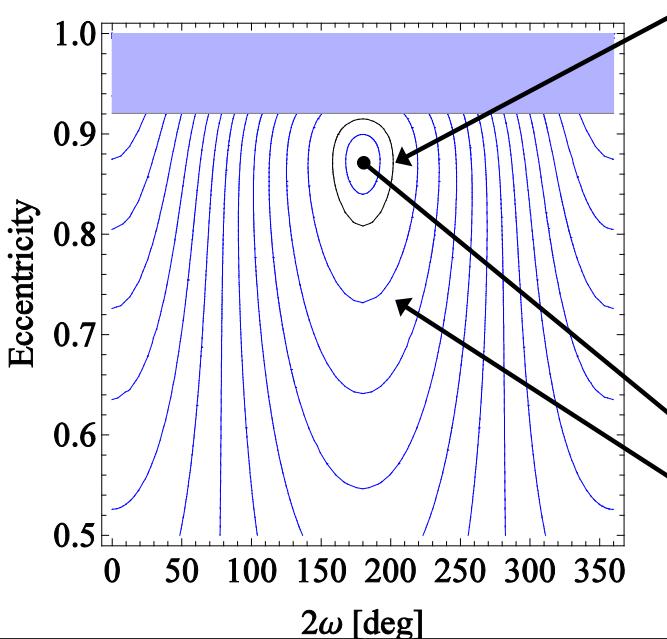
$\omega$  measured from the line where the plane of orbit intersects the plane of the third body

Kozai constant

$$\Theta = (1 - e^2) \cos i^2$$

Initial condition in  $a, e, i, \omega$  defines a contour line in phase space

INTEGRAL-like spacecraft



$\omega$  measured from the point of intersection between plane of orbit and the third body.

## Example: End-of-life of INTEGRAL mission



Integral: gamma-ray observatory

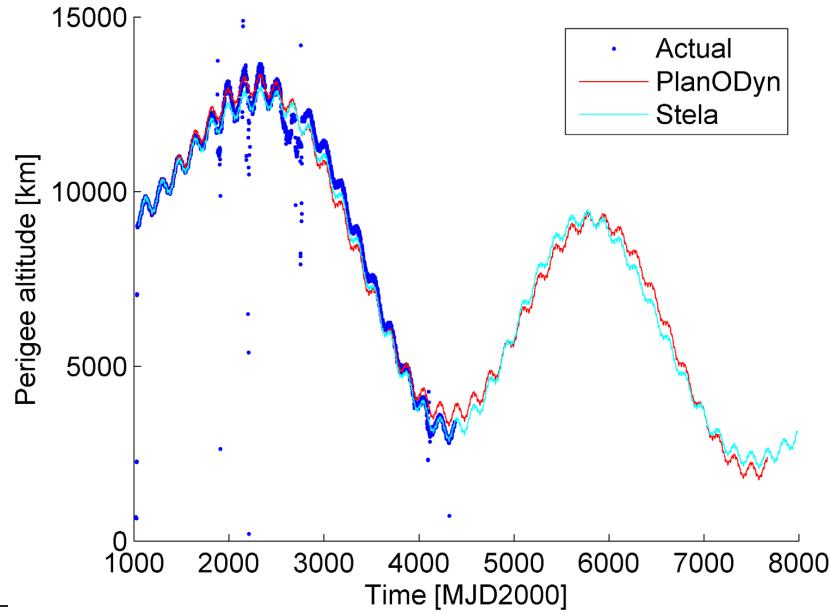
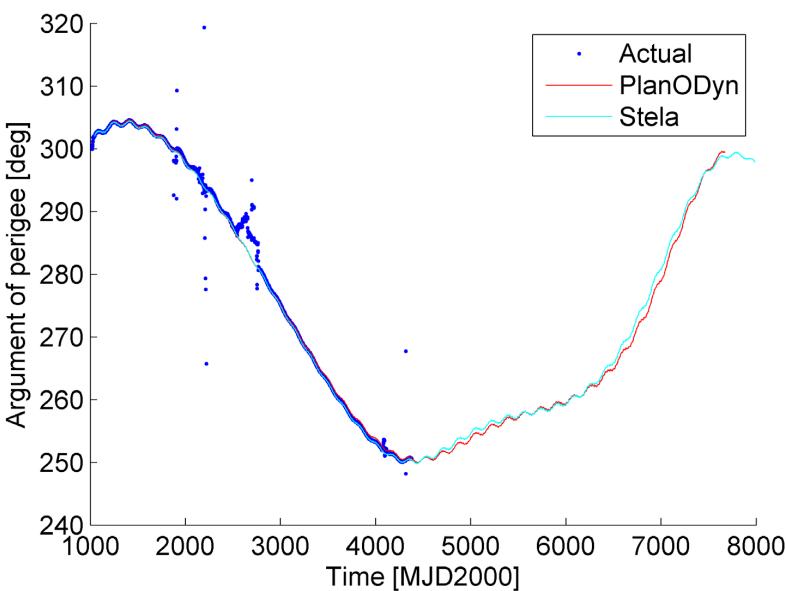
ESA's Integral observatory is able to detect gamma-ray bursts, the most energetic phenomena in the Universe

## Example: End-of-life of INTEGRAL mission

Operational orbit

Mission scenario

- Propagation time: 2002/11/13 to 2021/01/01
- Initial Keplerian elements from Horizon NASA on 2002/11/13 at 00:00:  
 $a = 87736 \text{ km}$ ,  $e = 0.82403$ ,  $i = 0.91939 \text{ rad}$ ,  $\Omega = 1.7843 \text{ rad}$ ,  $\omega = 5.271 \text{ rad}$

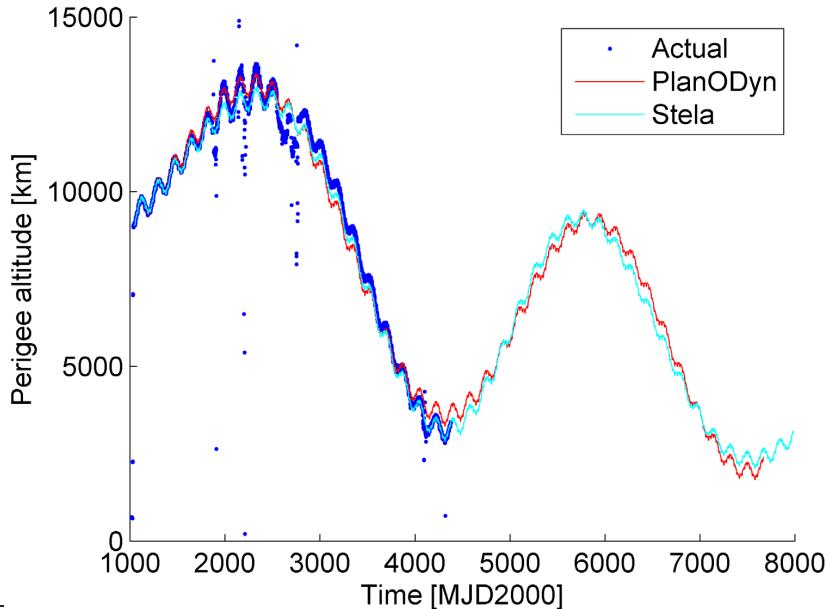
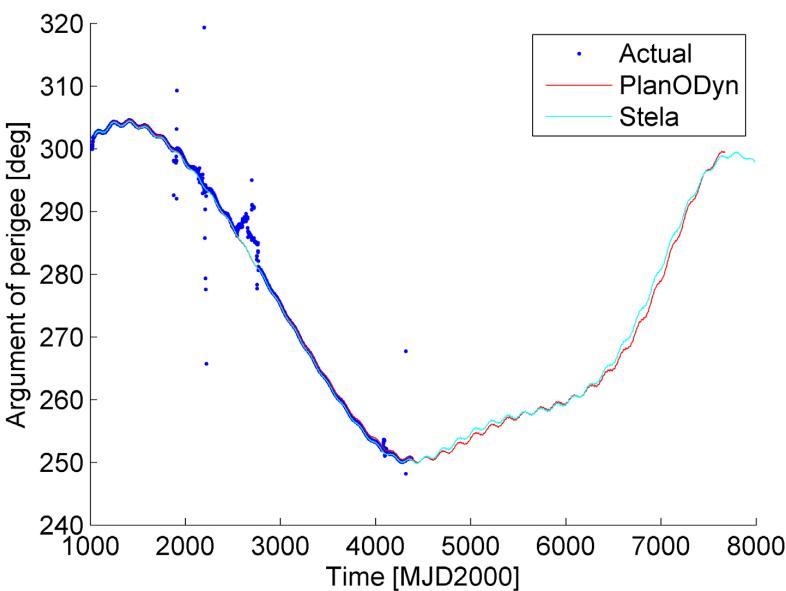


## Example: End-of-life of INTEGRAL mission

Operational orbit

Mission scenario

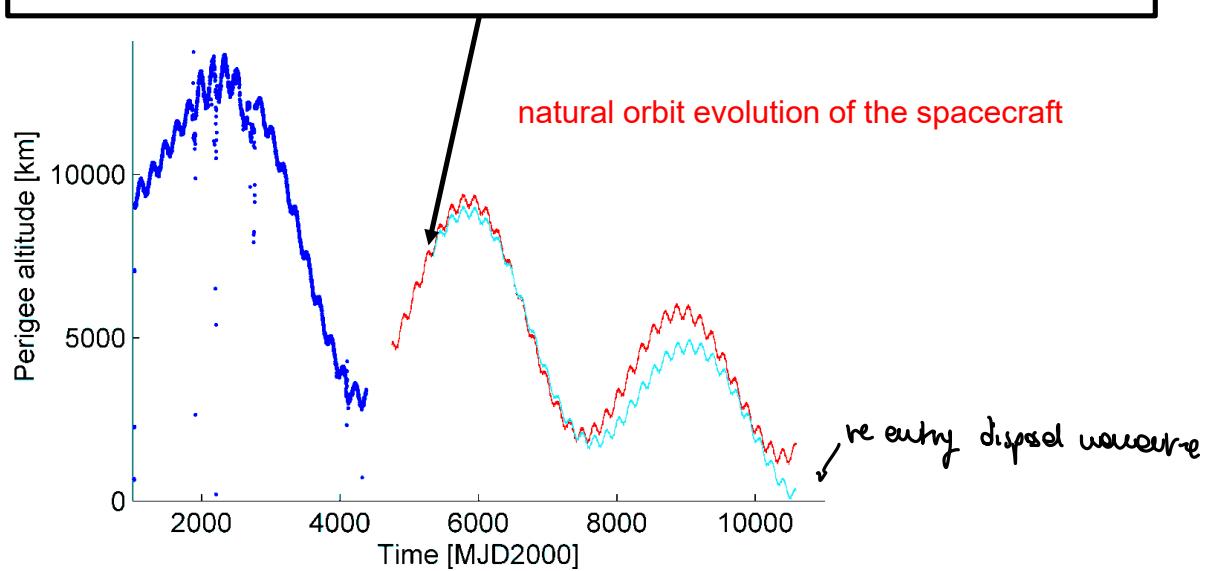
- Propagation time: 2002/11/13 to 2021/01/01
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# Re-entry disposal design for INTEGRAL mission

single maneuver

$$\Delta \mathbf{v} = \Delta v \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha \cos \beta \\ \sin \alpha \cos \beta \\ \sin \beta \end{bmatrix}$$



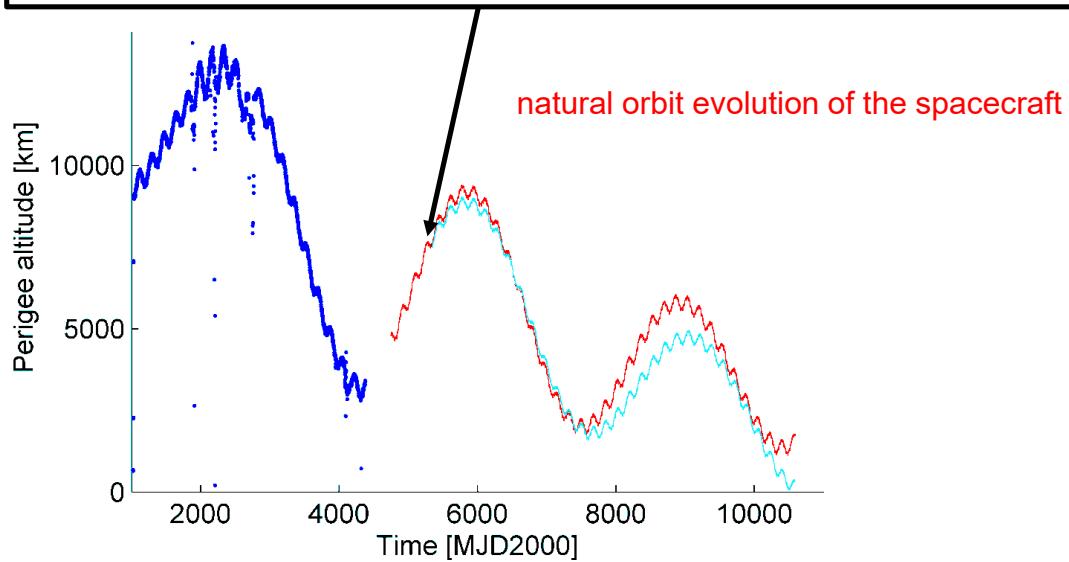
# Re-entry disposal design for INTEGRAL mission

single maneuver

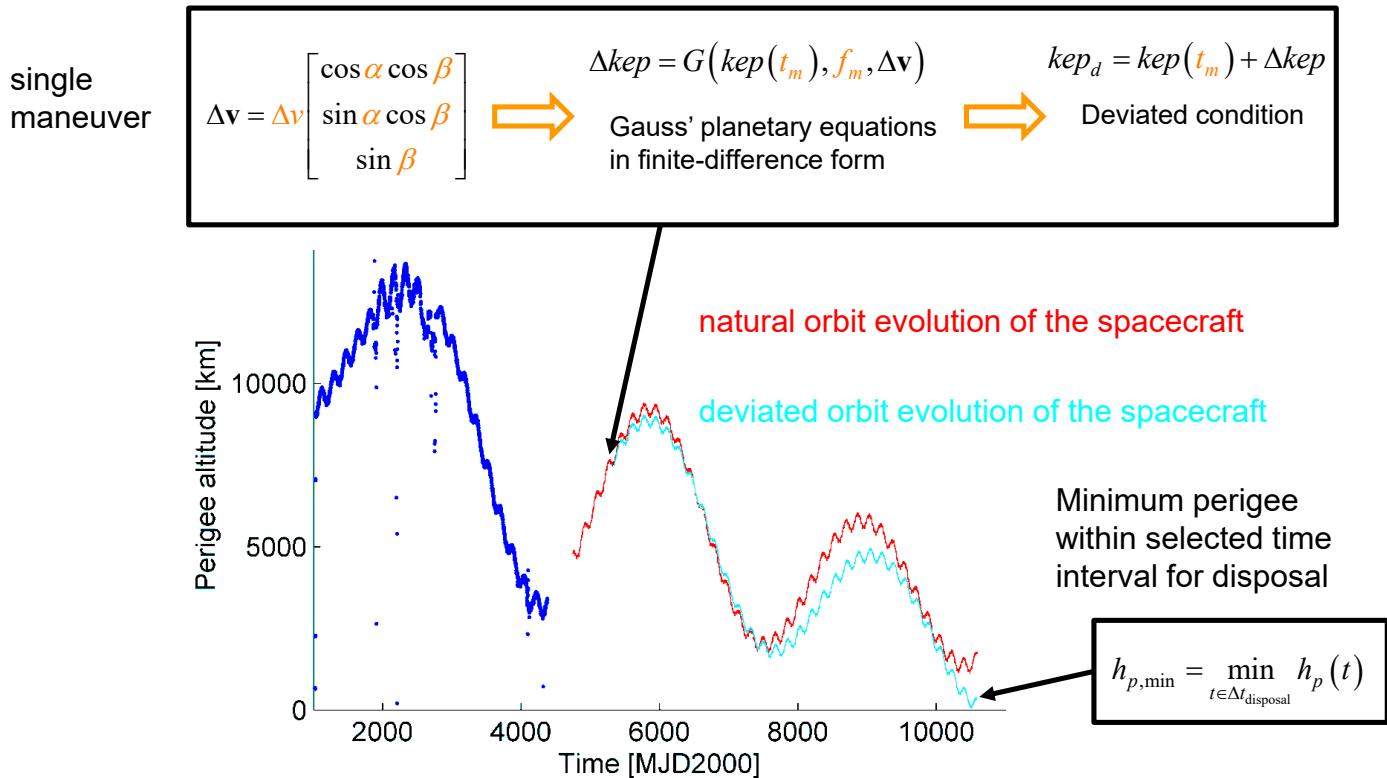
$$\Delta\mathbf{v} = \Delta v \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha \cos \beta \\ \sin \alpha \cos \beta \\ \sin \beta \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \Delta kep = G(kep(t_m), f_m, \Delta\mathbf{v}) \rightarrow kep_d = kep(t_m) + \Delta kep$$

Gauss' planetary equations in finite-difference form

Deviated condition



# Re-entry disposal design for INTEGRAL mission

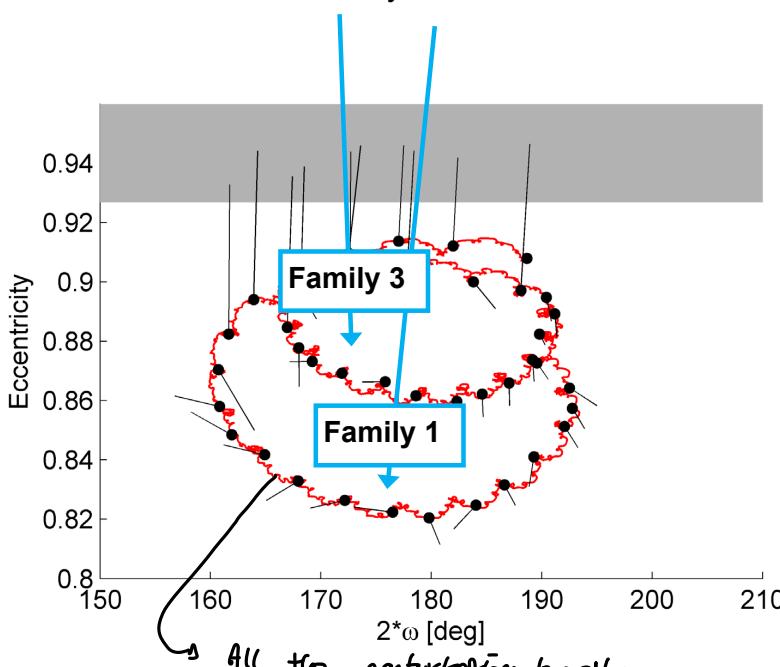


optimization problem  $\rightarrow$  what is the minimum  $\Delta v$  to get a re-entry

## Re-entry disposal design for INTEGRAL mission

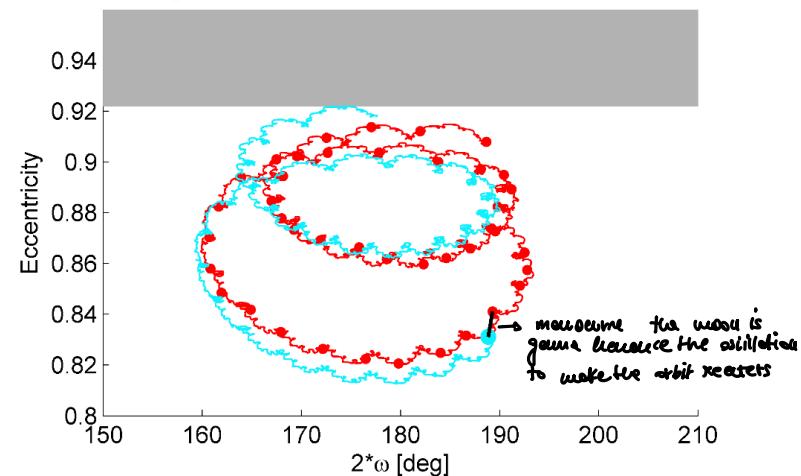
INTEGRAL re-entry

Low eccentricity conditions



when we are already on large elliptical orbit  $\rightarrow$  try to give a single maneuver at the apogee in order to lower the perigee.

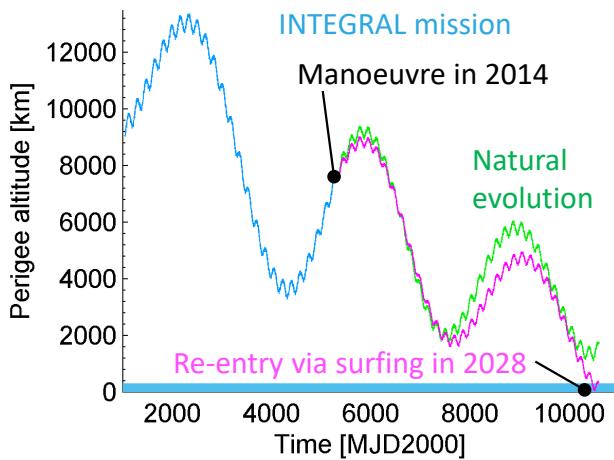
- The manoeuvre tends to further decrease  $e$
- $\rightarrow$  the following long term propagation will reach a higher eccentricity (re-entry).
- The manoeuvre is more efficient (i.e., lower  $\Delta v$  is required).**



Manoeuvre performed on 08/08/2014  
Re-entry in 2028

# Re-entry disposal design for INTEGRAL mission

Luni-solar perturbation surfing made re-entry of INTEGRAL mission possible



## INTEGRAL MANOEUVRES FOR THE FUTURE

From [www.esa.int](http://www.esa.int)



Integral: gamma-ray observatory

23 January 2015 Since 2002, ESA's Integral spacecraft has been observing some of the most violent events in the Universe, including gamma-ray bursts and black holes. While it still has years of life ahead, its fuel will certainly run out one day.

Integral, one of ESA's longest-serving and most successful space observatories, has begun a series of four thruster burns carefully designed to balance its scientific life with a safe reentry in 2029.

That seems far off, but detailed planning and teamwork now will ensure that the satellite's eventual entry into the atmosphere will meet the Agency's guidelines for minimising space debris.

Making these disposal manoeuvres so early will also minimise fuel usage, allowing ESA to exploit the valuable satellite's lifetime to the fullest.

This is the first time that a spacecraft's orbit is being adjusted, after 12 years in space, to achieve a safe reentry 15 years in the future, while maximising valuable science return for the subsequent seven to eight years.

"Our four burns will use about half of the estimated 96 kg of fuel available," says Richard Southworth, spacecraft operations manager at ESA's Space Operations Centre, ESOC, in Darmstadt, Germany.

"This will influence how Integral's orbit evolves, so that even after we run out of propellant we will still have a safe reentry in February 2029 as a result of natural orbit decay.

"No further manoeuvres are required between now and then and Integral can continue to operate."

## 5.7 Solar Radiation Pressure (SRP) perturbation

How to model it?

Direct electromagnetic radiation from the sun exerts a pressure on spacecraft of the order of  $10^{-6} \text{ N/m}^2$  at Earth orbit

Magnitude of the SRP acceleration is

where  $p_{\text{sr}} = 4.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ N/m}^2$  at  $r_s = 1 \text{ AU}$

$c_R$  is a factor dependent upon the optical properties of the spacecraft surface

$r_s$  is the spacecraft-to-Sun distance

$A/m$  is the spacecraft area-to-mass ratio relative to the Sun

For LEO spacecraft, effect is small relative to other surface forces (i.e. drag)

$$a_{\text{SRP}} = p_{\text{SR}@1\text{AU}} \frac{\text{AU}^2}{\|r_{\text{sc-Sun}}\|^2} c_R \frac{A_{\text{Sun}}}{m}$$
$$\mathbf{a}_{\text{SRP}} = -a_{\text{SRP}} \frac{\mathbf{r}_{\text{sc-Sun}}}{\|\mathbf{r}_{\text{sc-Sun}}\|}$$

reflectivity coefficient.

opposite from the spacecraft to the Sun

# Solar Radiation Pressure (SRP) perturbation

↳ More relevant for higher orbit

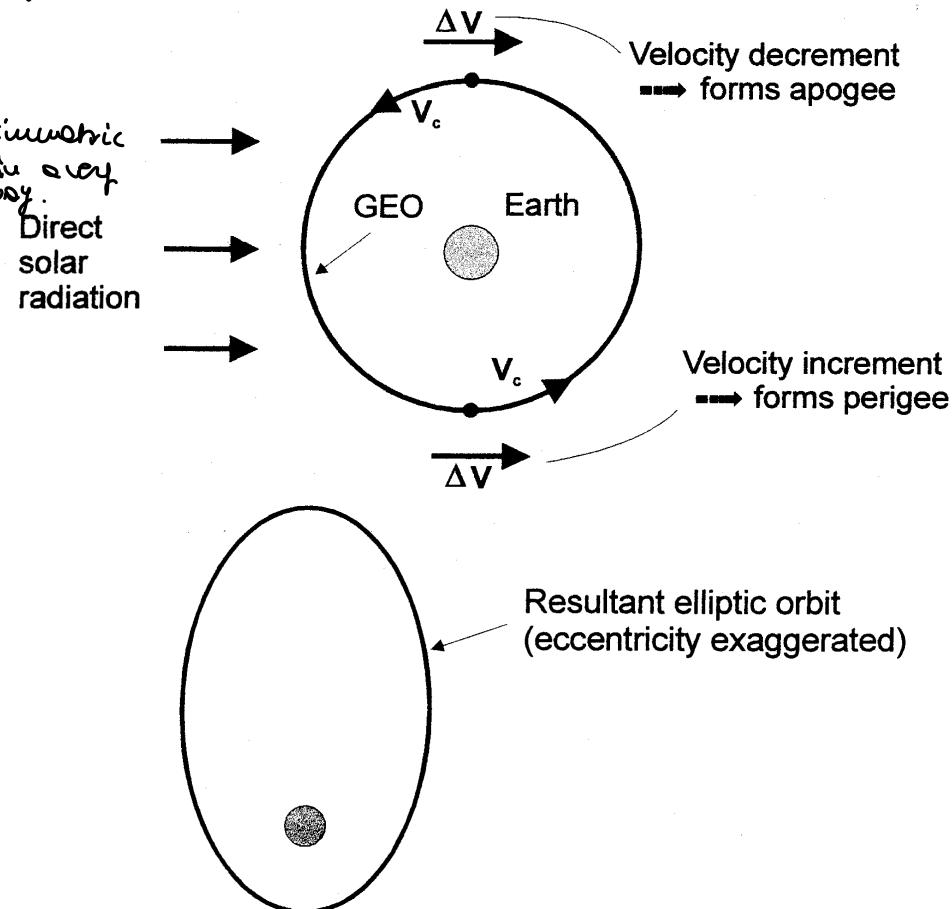
It changes  $\alpha, \omega, e, i$

↳ Because it is not symmetric  
↳ Change it in very complex way.

For GEO spacecraft, effect

can be considerable –  
particularly for spacecraft  
with large array surface  
areas

Principal effect is on GEO  
eccentricity

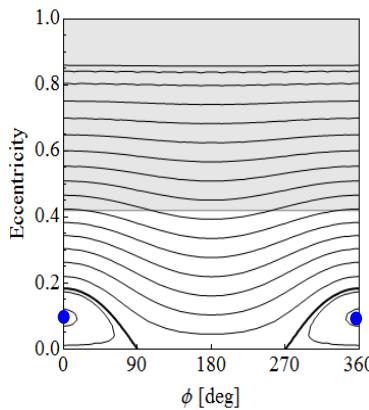


# Solar radiation pressure and $J_2$ perturbation

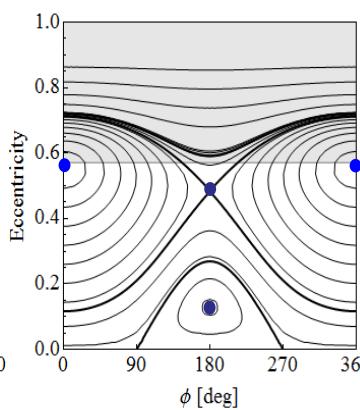
Example of a planar orbit: orbital elements:

- Semi-major axis,  $a$
- Eccentricity,  $e$
- Sun radiation/pericentre angle,  $\phi$

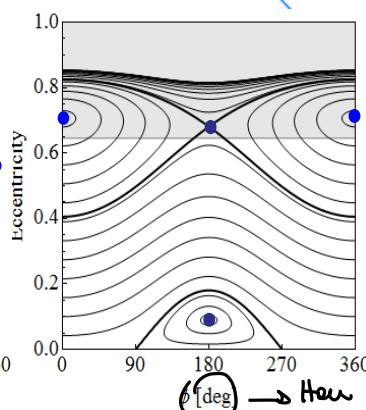
Evolution of the orbit in the phase space



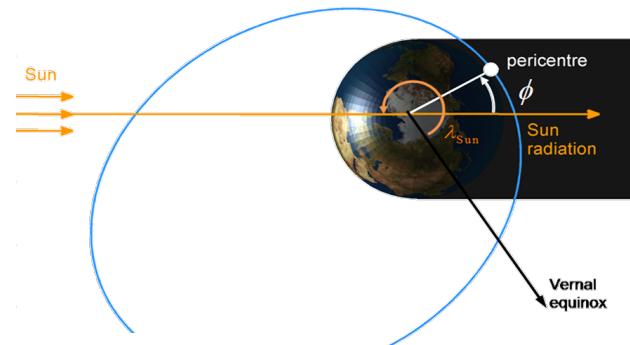
$$a = 11,000 \text{ km}$$



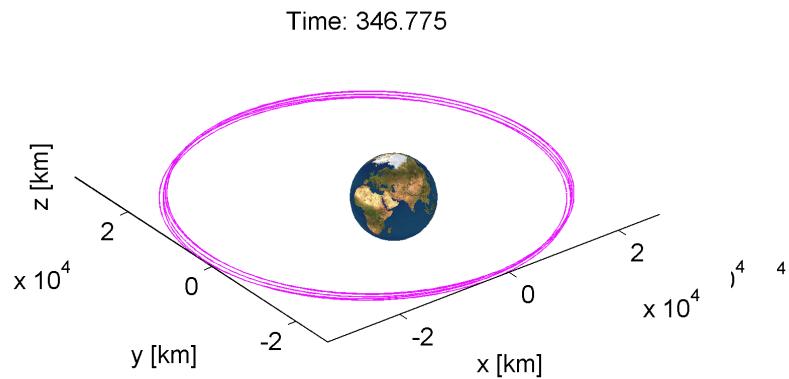
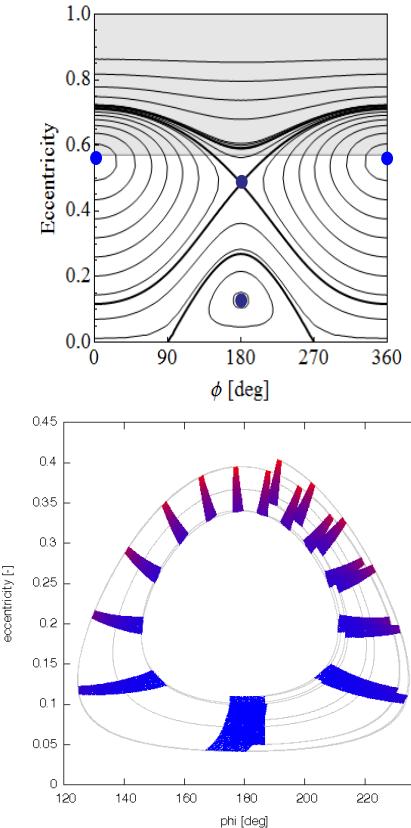
$$a = 14,864 \text{ km}$$



$$a = 18,000 \text{ km}$$



# Solar radiation pressure and $J_2$ perturbation



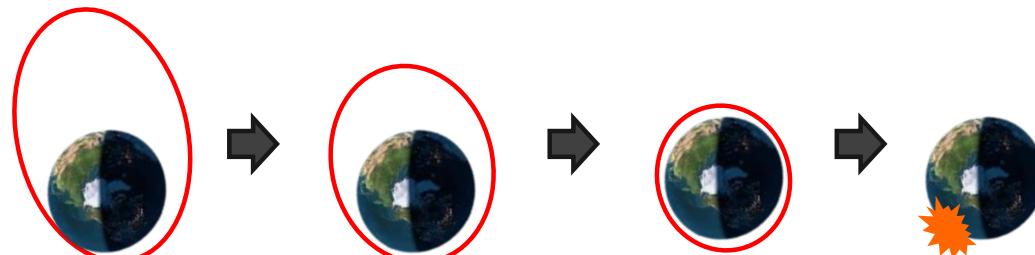
## Example: Deorbiting with sail passive Sun stabilisation

Deploy area-increasing device to augment effect of solar radiation pressure

**Phase 1:** Passive eccentricity increase due to SRP from initial circular orbit (until reach critical eccentricity in drag region)

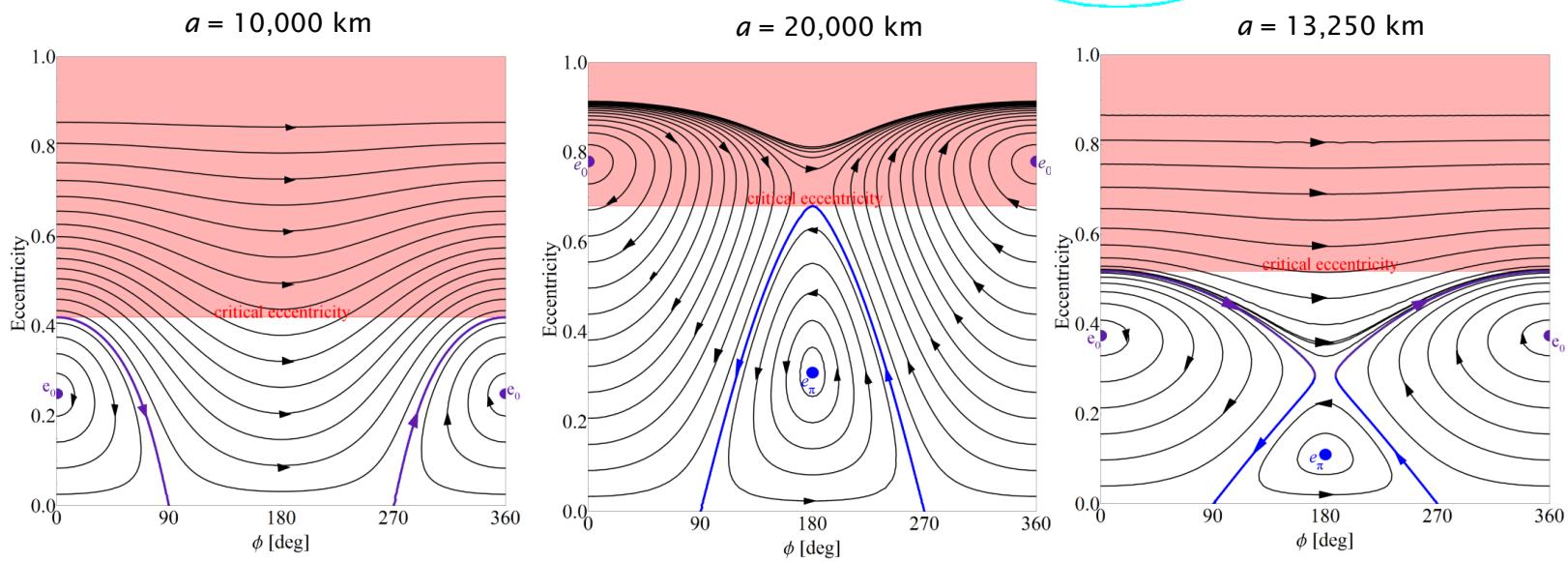
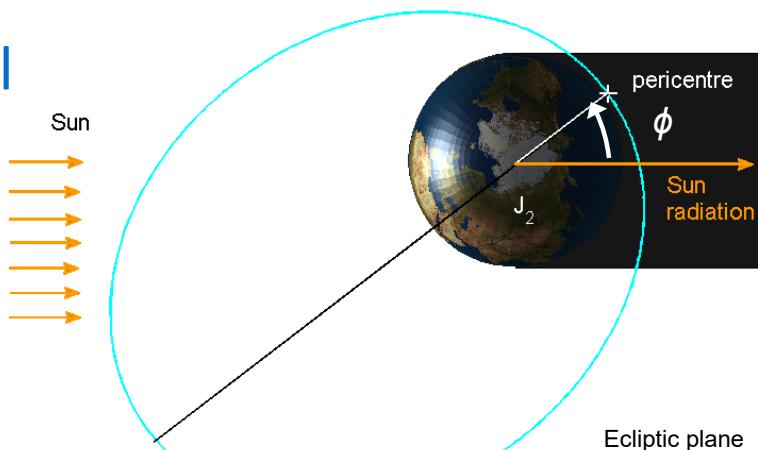


**Phase 2:** Deorbit augmented through drag



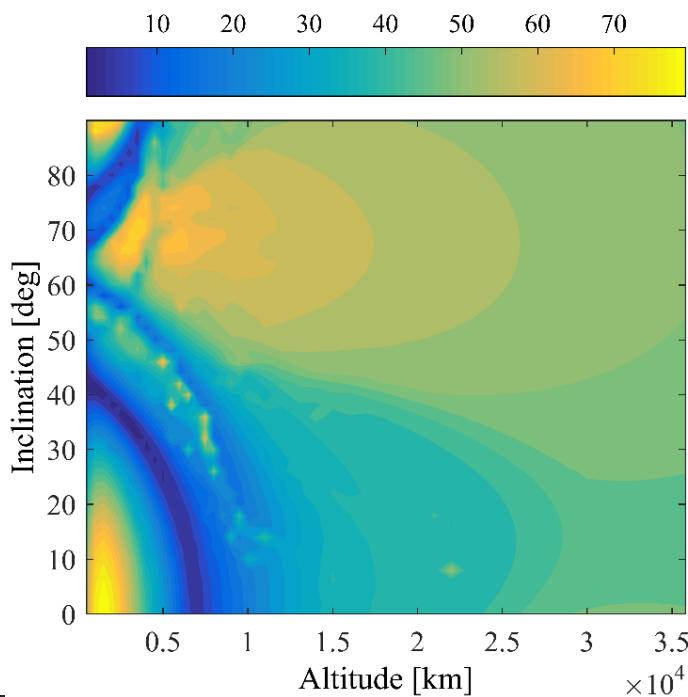
- ▶ Lücking, Colombo, McInnes, "A Passive Satellite Deorbiting Strategy for MEO using Solar Radiation Pressure and the  $J_2$  Effect", Acta Astronautica, 2012.

# Example: Deorbiting with sail passive Sun stabilisation

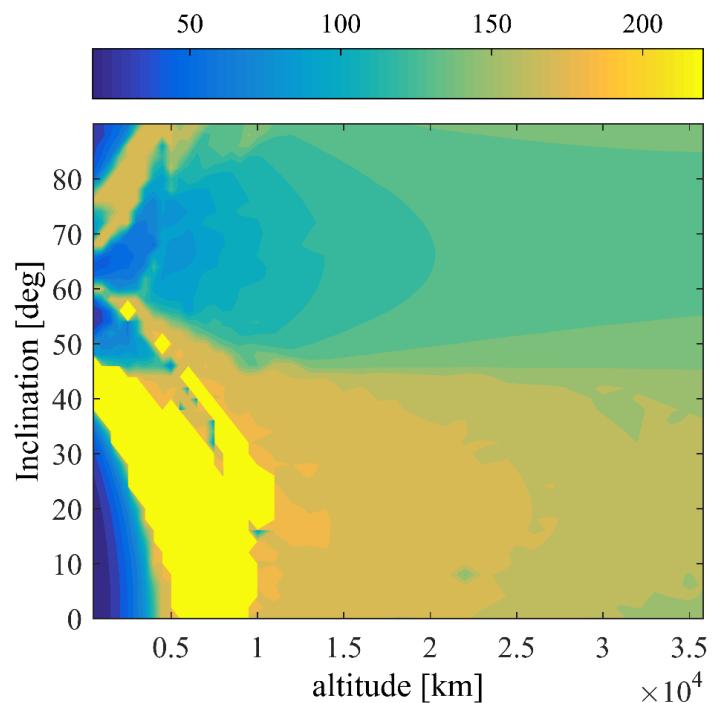


# Example: Deorbiting with sail passive stabilisation

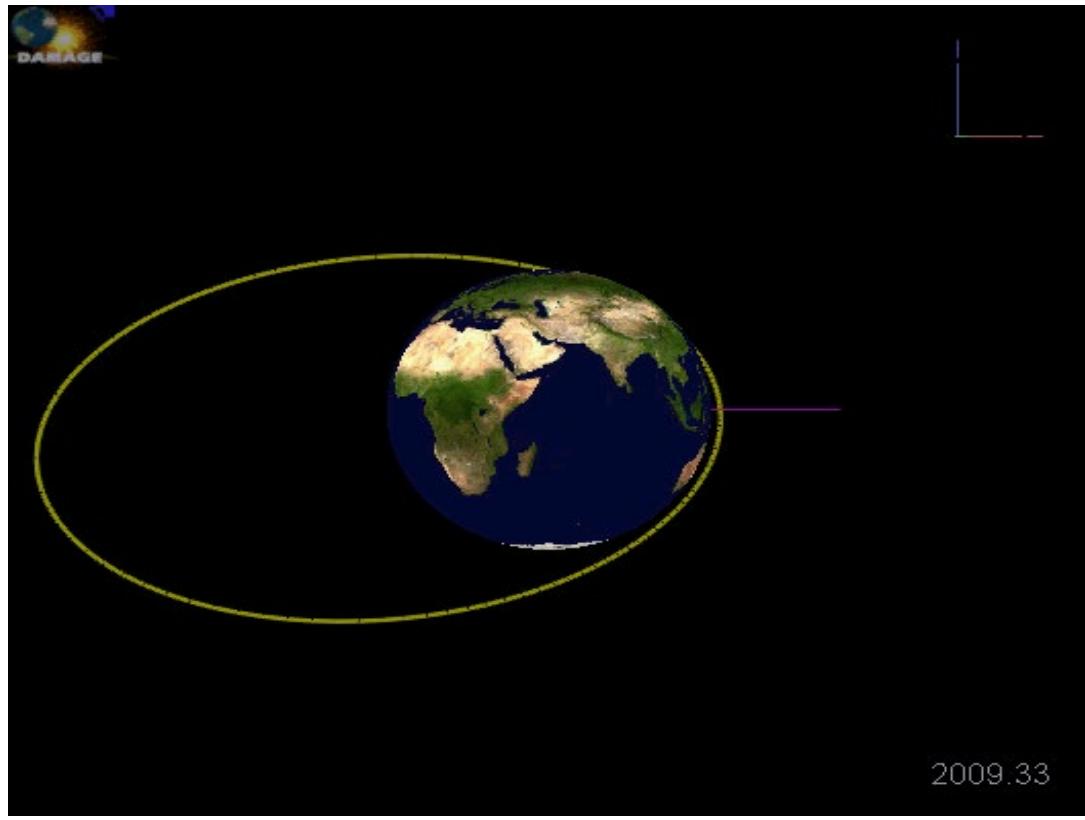
Area-to-mass times reflectivity coefficient [ $\text{m}^2/\text{kg}$ ] to de-orbit from circular orbit and  $\Omega_0 = 0$  degrees



Time to de-orbit from circular orbit



# All Perturbations...



UNIVERSITY OF  
Southampton

Courtesy: University  
of Southampton

# Summary

- ◆ Example to show relative (and approximate) magnitudes of perturbations for LEO (moderately high solar activity, with a drag A/m ratio of  $\sim 0.005 \text{ m}^2/\text{kg}$ )
- ◆ Acceleration normalised to 1 g

