

Orbital Position as a Function of Time

Time since periapsis passage: t (for any type of orbit)

$$\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} t = \int_0^\theta \frac{d\theta}{(1 + e \cos \theta)^2}. \quad (1)$$

Circular orbit: $\theta \sim t$

$$t = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} T, \quad (2)$$

where $T = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{\mu}} r^{3/2}$.

Elliptic orbit: $\theta \sim E \sim M_e \sim t$

$$\tan \frac{E}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{1-e}{1+e}} \tan \frac{\theta}{2}, \quad (3)$$

$$M_e = E - e \sin E, \quad (4)$$

$$t = \frac{M_e}{2\pi} T, \quad (5)$$

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

Parabolic orbit: $\theta \sim M_p \sim t$

$$M_p = \frac{1}{2} \tan \frac{\theta}{2} + \frac{1}{6} \tan^3 \frac{\theta}{2}, \quad (6)$$

$$\tan \frac{\theta}{2} = \left[3M_p + \sqrt{(3M_p)^2 + 1} \right]^{1/3} - \left[3M_p + \sqrt{(3M_p)^2 + 1} \right]^{-1/3}, \quad (7)$$

$$t = M_p / \left(\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} \right). \quad (8)$$

Hyperbolic orbit: $\theta \sim F \sim M_h \sim t$

$$\tanh \frac{F}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{e-1}{e+1}} \tan \frac{\theta}{2}, \quad (9)$$

$$M_h = e \sinh F - F, \quad (10)$$

$$t = M_h / \left(\frac{\mu^2}{h^3} (e^2 - 1)^{3/2} \right). \quad (11)$$