

J1

Transfers

Goal: Shift to an orbit that does NOT intersect the original orbit

→ To accomplish: use *multi impulses transfer*

Usually propellant is the limiting factor so use the transfer that requires the minimum total Δv

<NOTE: min $\Delta v \neq$ min # of impulses>

Approach transfer problems:

(1) Define transfer geometry

Given *transfer orbit type*: what are departure & arrival points initial/final orbits; departure & arrival conditions

(2) Define departure/arrival points

much more difficult

solve for transfer path that meets the specification

Since (2) more difficult, begin by considering some types from (1)

*simplest possible example:
circle-to-circle planar
transfer*

sketches ↔ consistent with numerical results
 $\gamma \rightarrow \theta^* \rightarrow E \rightarrow H$

transformation matrix } angles ⇒ quadrant check

local horizon — add to sketch/plot

J2

Simplest two-impulse transfer (also the minimum Δv two-impulse solution)

→ *Hohmann Transfer*

Walter Hohmann – first to draw attention to problem and compute mission times

1925 (Munich) “The Accessibility of the Heavenly Bodies”



↓
simplest version of Hahnmann
transfer: circle-to-circle
planar transfer

Example

$$r_1 = 2 R_{\oplus}$$

$$r_2 = 4 R_{\oplus}$$

transfer geometry known

Solution:

- (a) Establish current orbit

$$a = r_1 = 2 R_{\oplus}$$

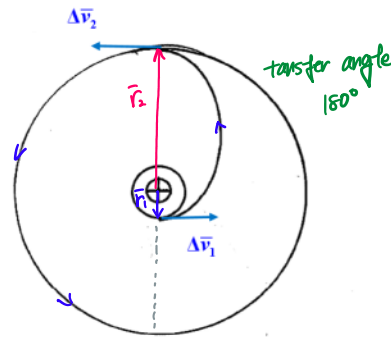
$$e = 0$$

- (b) Conditions at thrust point before maneuver

$$r_1 = 2 R_{\oplus}$$

$$v_1 = 5.59 \text{ km/s}$$

$$\gamma_1 = 0^\circ$$



insert
into
process

To calculate Δv requires conditions on the transfer ellipse so transfer ellipse must be defined

- (c) Determine transfer ellipse

$$a_T = \frac{1}{2}(r_p + r_a) = 3 R_{\oplus}$$

Transfer angle: ΔAng

$$r_p = a(1 - e) \rightarrow e_T = \frac{1}{3}$$

- (d) Conditions at thrust point (on transfer) after maneuver

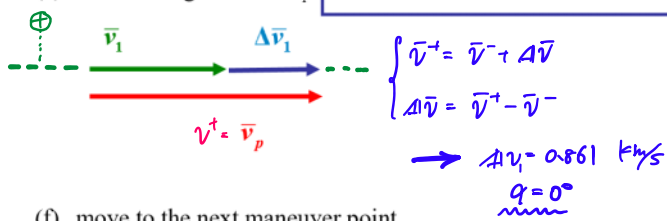
$$r = r_1$$

$$\frac{v_p^2}{2} = \frac{\mu}{r_1} - \frac{\mu}{2a_T} \rightarrow v^* = v_p = 6.45 \text{ km/s}$$

$$\gamma_1 = 0^\circ$$

(e) Vector Diagram for $\Delta \vec{v}_1$

ALWAYS sketch the vector diagram



(f) move to the next maneuver point

Conditions at thrust point before 2nd maneuver
(now in transfer orbit)

$$r_a = r_2 = 4 R_\oplus$$

$$\frac{v_a^2}{2} = \frac{\mu}{r_2} - \frac{\mu}{2a_T} \rightarrow v^- = v_a = 3.22 \text{ km/s}$$

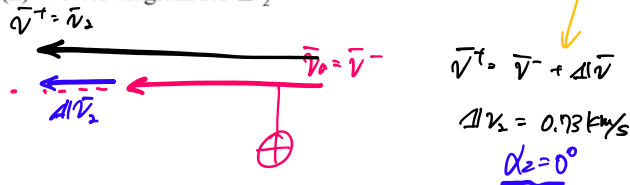
$$\gamma_2 = 0^\circ \text{ (apogee)}$$

(g) Conditions required after maneuver in final orbit

$$r_2 = 4 R_\oplus$$

$$v_2 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_2}} = 3.95 \text{ km/s}$$

$$\gamma = 0^\circ$$

(h) Vector diagram for $\Delta \vec{v}_2$ (i) Total $\Delta v = |\Delta \vec{v}_1| + |\Delta \vec{v}_2|$

$$\Delta v_{\text{total}} = 1.59 \text{ km/s}$$

Hohmann \rightarrow inexpensive \rightarrow Δv is tangential
 takes time \leftarrow efficient easy to compute
 to transfer TOF (time of flight)

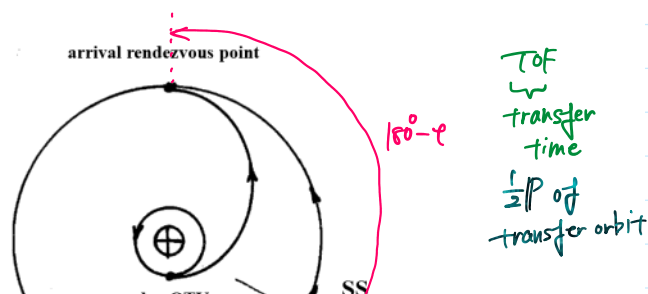
Conditions for Rendezvous

Transfers shift vehicles from one orbit to another

Additional complexity if rendezvous:

Just reaching target orbit is not sufficient

Timing becomes a critical factor

Example: \oplus orbiting OTV departing low \oplus orbit to rendezvous with a space station

IF destination object in elliptical orbit \Rightarrow use Kepler's eqn to relate time to location in orbit.

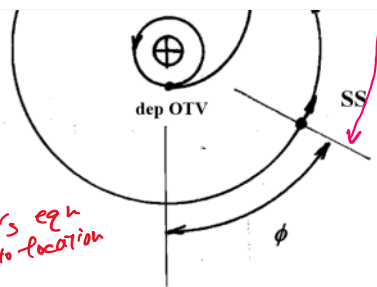
φ : phase angle at departure

circular orbit for SS

$$(h_2)(TOF) = 180^\circ - \varphi \rightarrow \varphi = 63.1^\circ$$

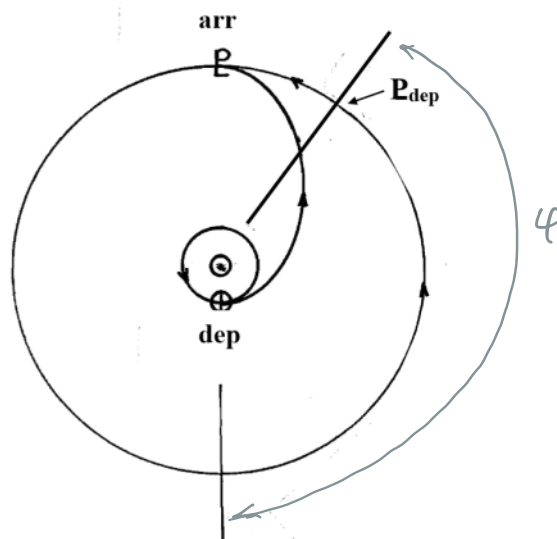
\uparrow ang vel = mean motion (circular)

transfer orbit



J6

Example: Hohmann Earth-to-Pluto



Requirement for rendezvous/interception determines initial geometry

If this "launch" opportunity is missed, how long until proper alignment again available?

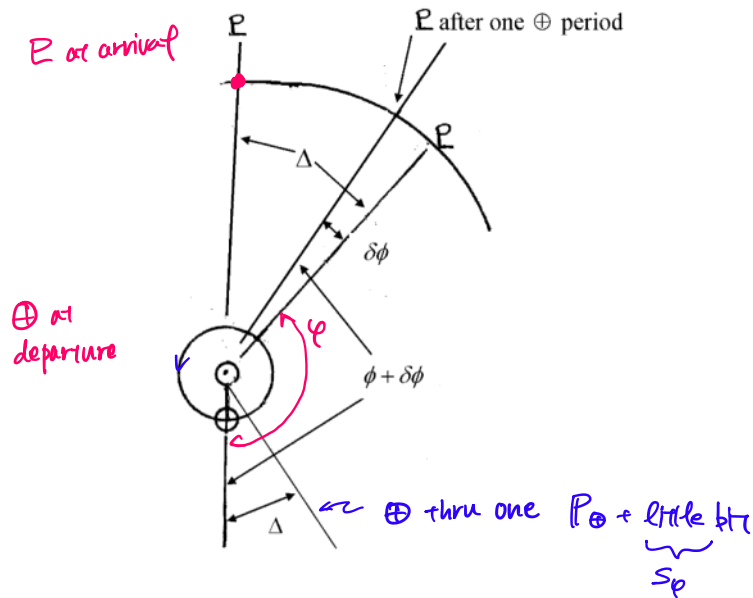
→ synodic period?

note: just need φ to occur again - do NOT require that planets be in same position in space

J7

\mathcal{P}

\mathcal{P} after one \oplus period



1. $IP_{Pluto} = 247$ yrs; $\mathbf{\underline{E}}$ does not move far in one Earth IP
2. After one IP_{Earth} , angle between Earth and Pluto = $\phi + \delta\phi$
3. Earth moves faster than Pluto, so if we let both move a little, Earth will “catch up”

$$IP = \frac{2\pi}{n} \quad nP = 2\pi (360^\circ) \quad n t = \text{angle thru time}$$

Earth time to go one period plus a little = $IP + \Delta = t_s$

$$n_{Earth} t_s = 2\pi + \Delta$$

$$n_{Pluto} t_s = \Delta$$

subtract

$$(h_{\text{Earth}} - h_{\text{pluto}}) t_s = 2\pi$$

$$t_s = \frac{2\pi}{\text{Nearest-Neighbour}}$$

synodic
period

$$S = \frac{2\pi}{h_1 - h_2}$$

if both \oplus and \otimes
move thru same Δ
 \rightarrow recreate geometry

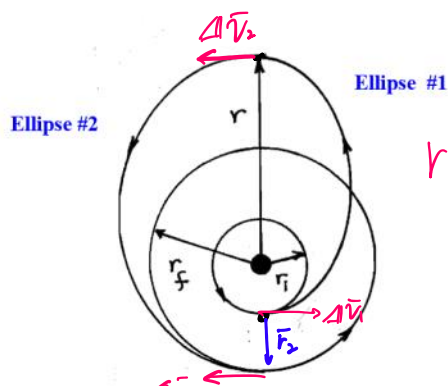
Bi-Elliptical Transfers

Hoelker-Silber

all tangential

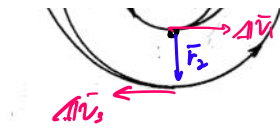
Extension to Hohmann transfer that uses three impulses

predetermined geometry $\rightarrow 360^\circ$ transfer



γ : intermediate apoptosis

best bi-elliptic
save ~10%
- Hans Flohmann



best in practice
save ~10%
than Hohmann

Characteristics:

1. Initial orbit circular (?)
2. 1st impulse applies tangentially; shift to periapsis of transfer Ellipse #1 (E1)
3. Apogee on E1 = $r > r_f$
2nd impulse applied tangentially; shifts from apoapsis of E1 to apoapsis of transfer Ellipse #2 (E2)
4. Periapsis on E2 = r_f
3rd impulse applied tangentially; shifts into final circular (?) orbit
5. Total cost = $|\Delta \vec{v}_1| + |\Delta \vec{v}_2| + |\Delta \vec{v}_3|$

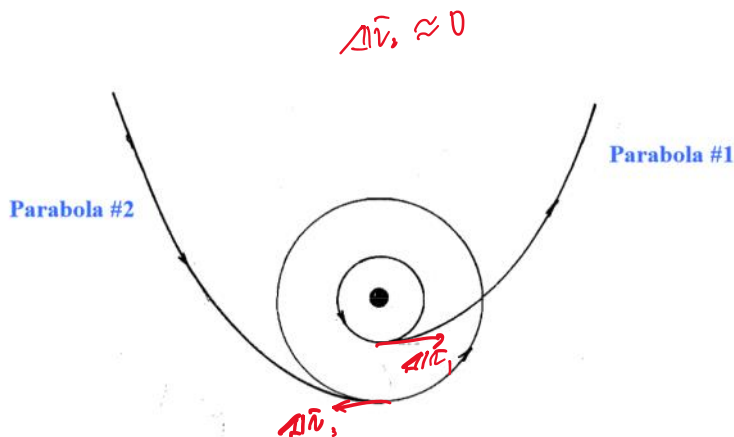
$$\text{min time} = \frac{1}{2} P_1 + \frac{1}{2} P_2$$

J9

Bi-Parabolic Transfers

Move the intermediate radius out to infinity ($r \rightarrow \infty$)

- Transfer paths become parabolic
2nd impulse becomes infinitesimally small ($\Delta v_2 \approx 0$)



No practical value because duration infinite

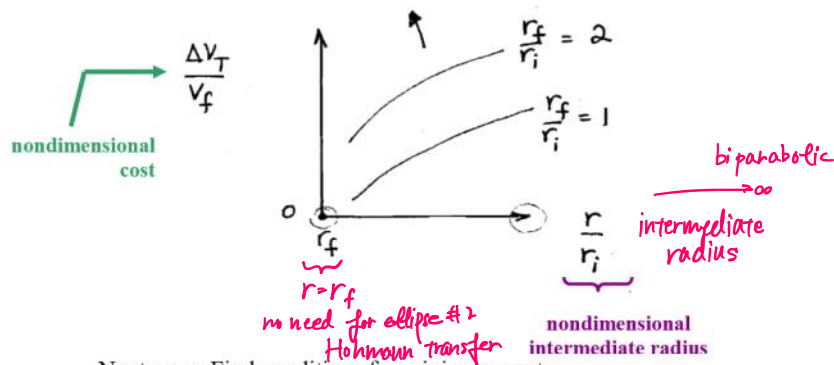
Gain achieved by use of bi-parabolic (in-plane) small (max $\approx 10\%$) so Hohmann preferred in practice

Return to Bi-elliptic

$$\Delta v_{Total} = |\Delta \bar{v}_1| + |\Delta \bar{v}_2| + |\Delta \bar{v}_3|$$

This total cost a fn of intermediate radius

To clarify the relationship between Δv_{Total} and r , consider a plot for circle-to-circle bi-elliptic transfers



Next page: Find conditions for minimum cost

Check limits	$r = r_f$	(two-impulse Hohmann)
	$r \rightarrow \infty$	(bi-parabolic)

- (a) $1 \leq r_f \leq 9 \Rightarrow \Delta V_{\text{total}}$ increases; absolute min Hohmann
- (b) $9 \leq r_f \leq 15.58 \Rightarrow \Delta V_{\text{total}}$ local mins for Hohmann & bi-parabolic
 - (i) $9 \leq r_f \leq 11.94$ absolute min Hohmann
 - (ii) $11.94 \leq r_f \leq 15.58$ absolute min bi-parabolic
- (c) $r_f \geq 15.58 \Rightarrow$ Hohmann not even local min
all bi-elliptic transfers require less ΔV than Hohmann

