

# TLE ANALYSER

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*User Manual v2.8*

TLE analysis  
Satellite tracking and orbit prediction  
Exportation to GMAT, Celestia and Google Earth

# TLE ANALYSER

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## 1. What is TLE Analyser?


Every object in orbit around earth is referenced and checked by the American NORAD. This organisation provides orbital parameters of unclassified satellites in a specific format called TLE (Two Line Elements).

**TLE Analyser first mission** is to decode satellites TLE in order to extract the **osculating orbit** parameters and all other resulted data (velocities, altitudes, periods, precession movements...)

**The second mission** of *TLE Analyser* is to make prediction on satellite position. 2 *graphic* tracking modes are available (2D and 3D).

**Third mission of TLE Analyser** is to export TLE parameters to different 3D spatial applications (NASA GMAT, Celestia and Google Earth).

**TLE Analyser** can also manage ground stations or places for satellite time passing.

 **TLE Analyser provides data with reference to Simplified General Perturbations models (SGP4/SDP4), see §12.**

These models predict the effect of perturbations caused by the Earth's shape (spherical harmonics), drag, radiation, and gravitation effects from the Sun and Moon.

The SGP4 model has an error ~1 km at epoch and grows at ~1–3 km per day.

TLE Analyser can predict satellite position many years before and after TLE epoch but you should keep a range of +/- 10 days to have good prediction.

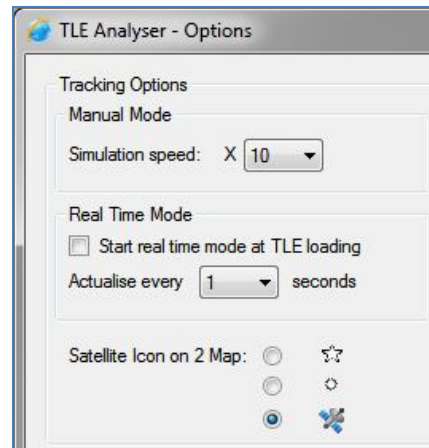
 **Internet connection must be effective for TLE updater and Google Earth visualization.**

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## 2. TLE Analyser Setup and Options



- **TLE Updater** allow to download last versions of all TLE used by TLE Analyser
  - TLE files are located in C:\TLEAnalyser\TLE\
- **Tracking options** allow to choose:
  - **Real Time Mode:**
    - **Start Simulation at TLE Loading:** Real Time Mode automatically starts when you import a TLE
    - You can chose the frequency of the datas display (**Actualise**)
  - **Manual Mode:**
    - **Speed** : frequency of actuation:
      - x1= 1 step/s (1 sec. between each step)
      - x10= 10 steps/s (0,1 sec. between each step)
      - x100= 100 steps/s (0,01 sec. between each step)
  - **Satellite icon** on standard 2D map
- **Export to GMAT.script (R2013a):**
  - **Show Track Plot:** GMAT can display a 2D map of satellite propagation
  - **Partial or Full model:** choose among 2 options of force models
  - **Propagate:** propagate duration (based on Draconitic Period)

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TLE Updater

Update all TLE

Last Update: 03/12/2013 20:34:57

TLE Options

☒ Load TLE at current epoch

☐ Load TLE at TLE epoch

TimeZone

Zone Paris, Madrid

Current Date (Local) 09/12/2013 13:24:00

Current Date (UTC) 09/12/2013 12:24:00

Offset UTC 01:00

Ground Stations

☐ Full names Limit angle 90

☒ Short names

Web links

[Celes Track TLE Catalog](#)

[Real Time Satellite Tracking](#)

[NSSDC Master Catalog](#)

[TLE Analyser Web Page](#)

Glossary

ALT Altitude

AN Ascending Node

AOL Argument Of Latitude

AOP Argument Of Perigee

AP Absidal Precession

ApA Apoapsis Altitude

ApR Apoapsis Radius

ApV Apoapsis Velocity

DL Delta Longitude

EA Eccentric Anomaly

ECC Eccentricity

ETFP Elapsed Time From Periaapsis

ETFE Elapsed Time From TLE Epoch

ex Ecc Vector (x)

ey Ecc Vector (y)

GST Greenwich Sidereal Time

INC Inclinaison

ix Inc Vector (x)

iy Inc Vector (y)

LAcc Longitude Acceleration

LAN Longitude of Ascending Node

LAT Latitude

LNG Longitude

LTAN Local Time of Ascending Node

LST Local Sidereal Time (Sat LNG+GST)

ML Mean Longitude

MA Mean Anomalie

MALT Mean Altitude (SMA-Earth Rad.)

MM Mean Motion

NP Nodal Precession

ONAE Orbit Number At Epoch

PeA Periaapsis Altitude

PeR Periaapsis Radius

PeV Periaapsis Velocity

RAAN Right Ascension of Ascending Node

DREL Relative Distance (r/R)

VEL Velocity at Sat Position

SDOO Satellite Direction On Orbite

SMA Semi Major Axis

TA True Anomaly

Ta Anomalistic Period

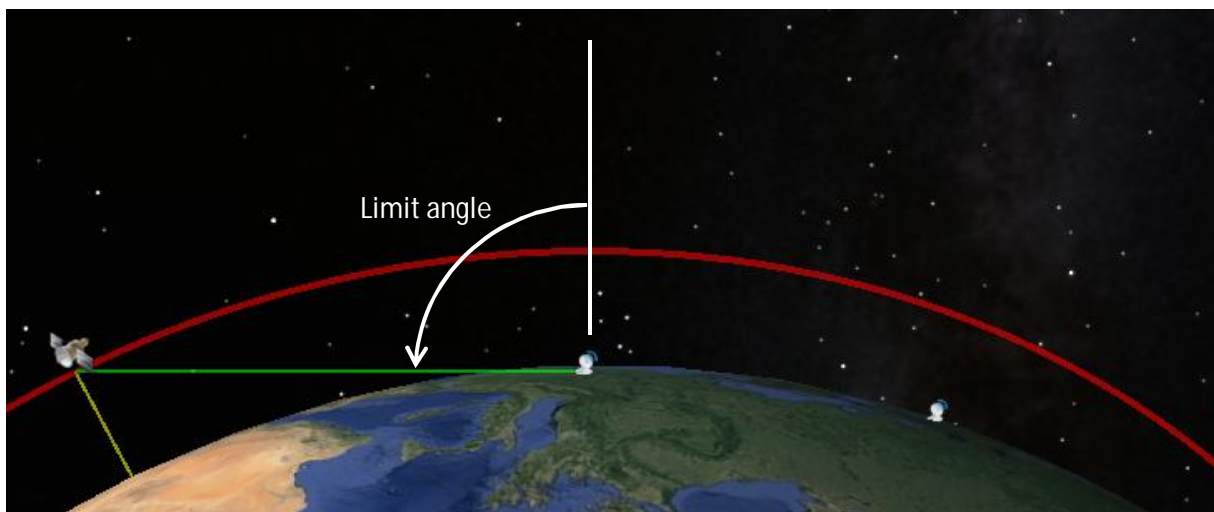
Td Draconitic Period

TLE Two Line Elements

$\omega'$  AOP + RAAN ( Longitude of Periaapsis)

Save Close Load and Save Default Options

- **Web Links option** provides some links to useful websites:
  - CelesTrack TLE Catalog: Catalog of TLE used by TLE Analyser
  - Real Time Satellite Tracking: Satellite Tracking on the web (Google Map)
  - NSSDC Master Catalog: Here you can find some details of loaded satellite
  - TLE ANALYSER WEB SITE: Web Page of TLEA on Sourceforge.net
- **Ground Stations option:**
  - The Limit Angle is the range of visibility

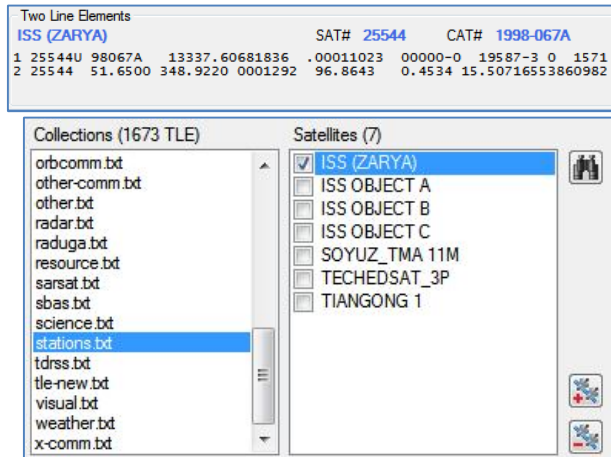






- The **Glossary** provides a definition of each acronyms used in TLE Analyser

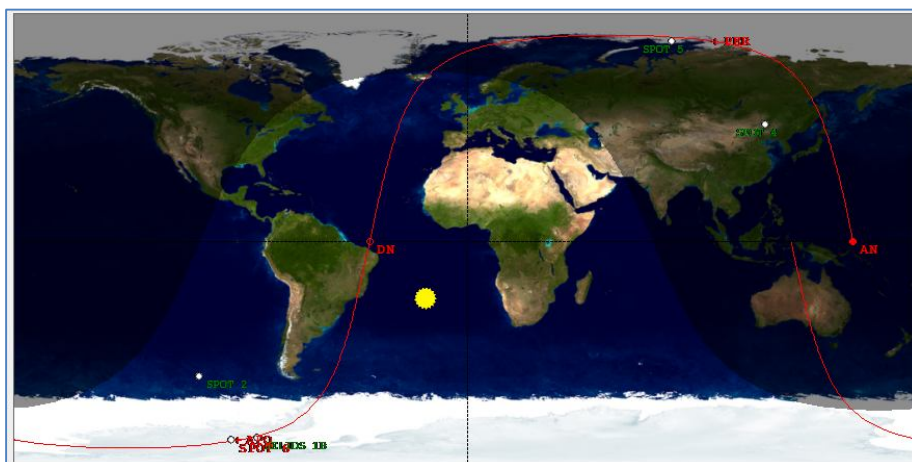
# TLE ANALYSER

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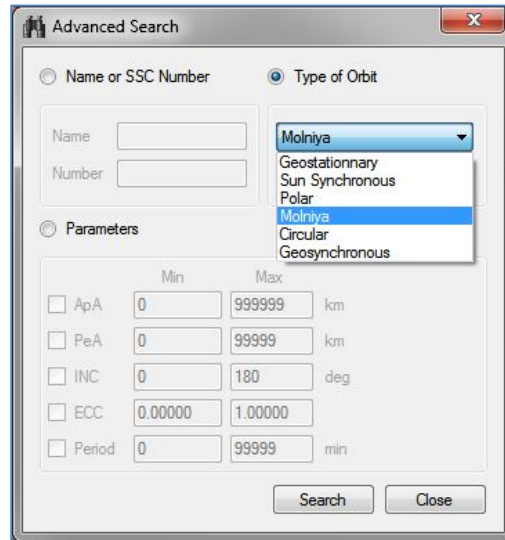
## 3. Import/Modify a TLE



- Import a TLE:
  - Choose an available satellite in collections.
  - Satellite is automatically imported at **Current UTC date** or at **TLE Epoch** (to choose in **Options**)
  - Click on  button to use the complete search engine
  - Click on  button allows you to paste your own **2 lines**
  - Click on  button to accept the new TLE.
  - When a TLE is imported, click on  to change Keplerian values in the **2<sup>nd</sup> line**.
    - Be careful to respect characters positions (use **Show Details** to be sure)
    - Click on **IMPORT** button to accept the new TLE.
  - You can display several satellites on the 2D map
    - Select a satellite to display position and track (1<sup>st</sup> click)
    - Check a satellite to keep its position on the map (2<sup>nd</sup> click)
    - Double-Click on a satellite on a map to display its track



## 4. Search Engine



This complete Search Engine allows you to find any satellite in 4 specific search modes:

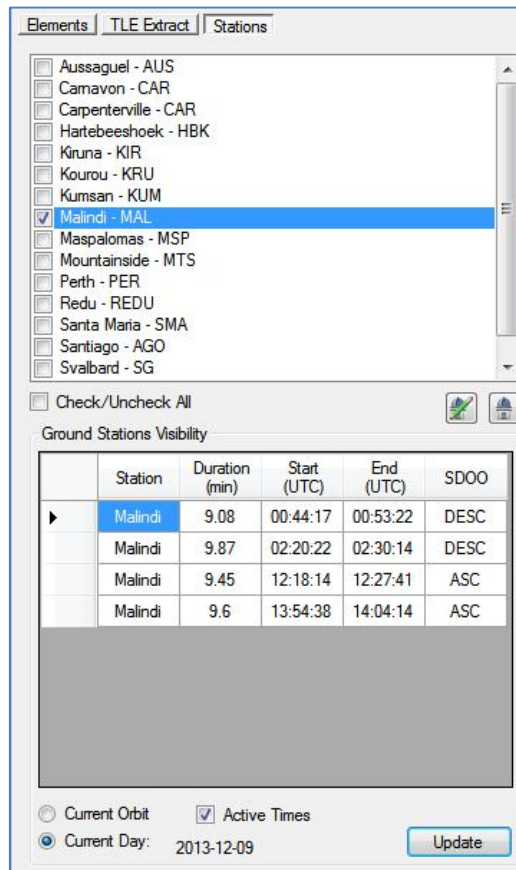
- By Name or Satellite Number
- By type of orbit
- Or by choosing from 1 to 6 orbital parameters

Specificities for "Type of Orbit" option:

- **Geostationary:**
  - $0.99 < MM < 1.01$
  - $0.01 < INC < 0.1$
  - $ECC < 0.01$
- **Sun Synchronous:**
  - $0.97 < NP < 1$
- **Polar:**
  - $89 < INC < 91$
- **Molniya:**
  - $60 < INC < 65$
  - $ECC > 0.5$
- **Circular:**
  - $ECC < 0.01$
- **Geosynchronous:**
  - $0.99 < MM < 1.01$




## 5. Ground Station management

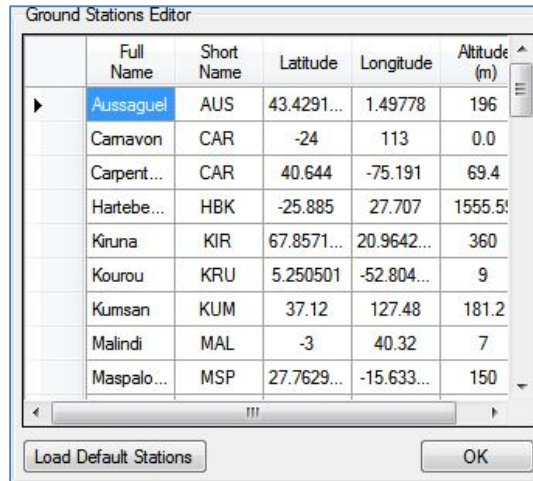


- **Ground Stations (or other places you want)** management is available:
  - Directly from the list in "C:\TLEAnalyser\GroundStations.txt" file (TLE Analyser must be closed and re-opened to take effect), each line contains one station parameters:
    - Full name
    - Short name
    - Station latitude
    - Station longitude
    - Station altitude

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- Or using this button  :




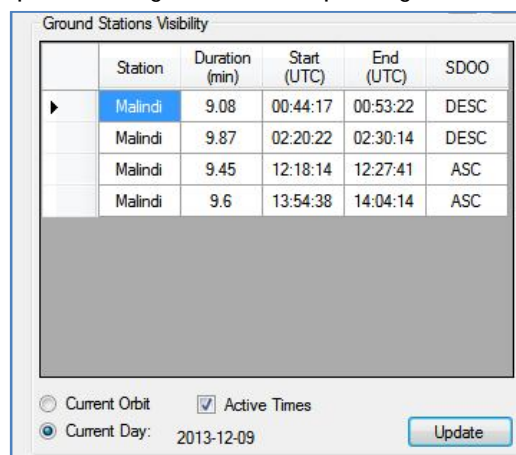
Ground Stations Editor

	Full Name	Short Name	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude (m)
▶	Aussaguel	AUS	43.4291...	1.49778	196
	Camavon	CAR	-24	113	0.0
	Carpent...	CAR	40.644	-75.191	69.4
	Hartebe...	HBK	-25.885	27.707	1555.5
	Kiruna	KIR	67.8571...	20.9642...	360
	Kourou	KRU	5.250501	-52.804...	9
	Kumsan	KUM	37.12	127.48	181.2
	Malindi	MAL	-3	40.32	7
	Maspalo...	MSP	27.7629...	-15.633...	150

Load Default Stations OK

In this case, stations can be added, deleted and modified without clothing the TLEA.  
**Default** button load initial stations.

- The second button  open a data grid with time passing above selected stations:



Ground Stations Visibility

	Station	Duration (min)	Start (UTC)	End (UTC)	SDOO
▶	Malindi	9.08	00:44:17	00:53:22	DESC
	Malindi	9.87	02:20:22	02:30:14	DESC
	Malindi	9.45	12:18:14	12:27:41	ASC
	Malindi	9.6	13:54:38	14:04:14	ASC

☐ Current Orbit ☒ Active Times  
☒ Current Day: 2013-12-09 Update

- **Active Times** means that user can click on time cells to position the satellite on the map.

## 6. Tracking and Maps

- When a TLE is imported, the tracking tools are enabled and satellite position can be estimated with following options:

The screenshot shows the TLE ANALYSER interface with two main panels: 'Simulation' and 'Track/Map Options'. The 'Simulation' panel includes a dropdown for '1' and a 'period' dropdown, with navigation buttons (back, forward, stop, etc.) and radio buttons for 'Manual' (selected) and 'Real Time'. Below this is the 'Epoch (UTC)' section with a 'Format' dropdown set to 'UTCGregorian', and fields for 'Current Epoch' (09/12/2013 02:30:14) and 'TLE Epoch' (03/12/2013 14:33:49). The 'Track/Map Options' panel has checkboxes for 'Track on 1 Periods' (checked), 'Full Track' (unchecked), 'Night Shadow' (checked), 'Full Grid' (unchecked), and 'Specific Pts On Orbit' (checked). At the bottom right, it displays orbital parameters: GST 115.5597 deg, LST 160.8124 deg, ONAE 86183, and Eclipse NO.

- **Epoch parameters:**
  - **Gregorian** and **Modified Julian Date** are available
  - Click on **Current Epoch** to use *Current UTC* Date
  - Click on **TLE Epoch** to use *TLE UTC* Date
- **Simulation Mode:**
  - Allow to choose **Manual** or **Real Time** mode
- **Track Options:**
  - Allow to generate from 1 to 15 periods track.
  - Allow to generate **Full Track**
    - The Full Track is not available in Google Earth view
    - The Full Track is a prediction at T0
  - Allow to display **Day/Night** on **Standard Map** and on **Google Earth**.
  - Allow to display **full grid** of meridians on standard Map.

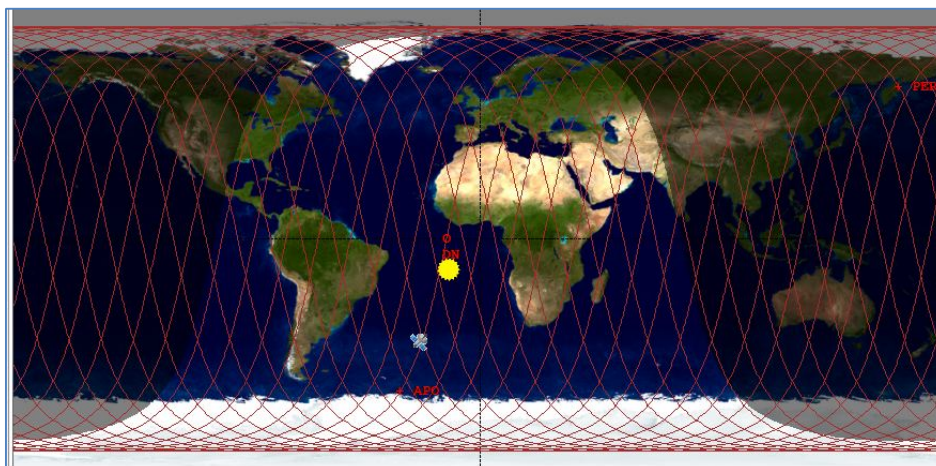


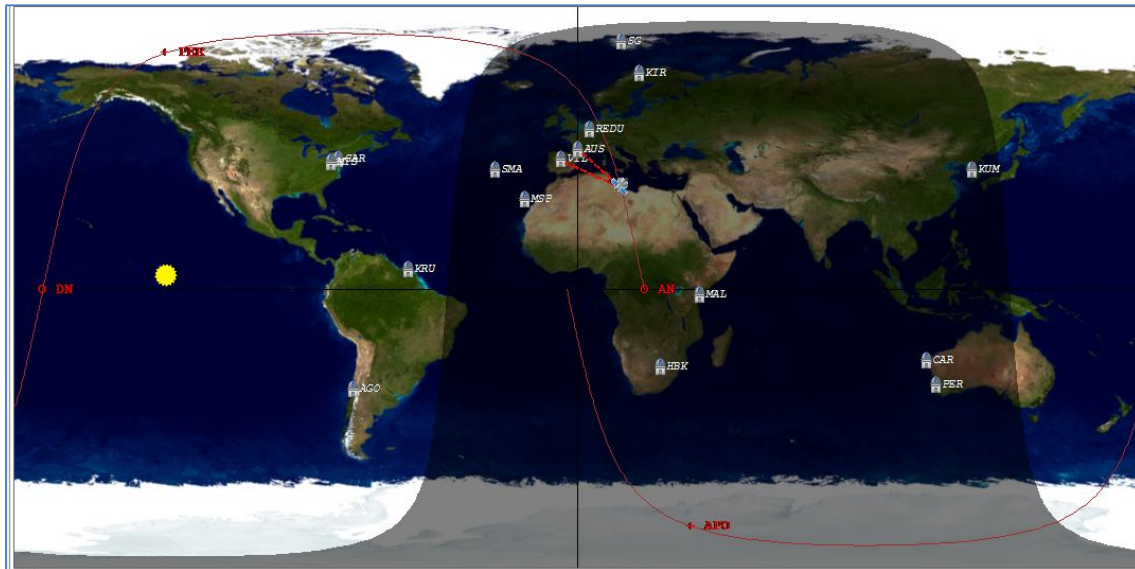
Figure 1: Example of full track display

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- **Standard Map (based on a Equirectangular projection)**

- You can visualise the satellite **track** on different periods (from 1 to 15)
- Positions of the Satellite and position of the Sun are available.
- The track starts from the ascending node to the descending node of the orbit
- Apoapsis and Periapsis points are displayed



- More info about Phasing parameters:

Periods	
Tk	92.9271 min
Ta	92.8603 min
Td	92.799 min
Phasing	[ 15 ; 15 ; 29 ] 450

- Phasing form is: **[n ; p ; q] r**
  - n = Entire part of the daily phasing frequency
  - p / q = Fractional part of the daily phasing frequency
- That mean:
  - The Satellite performs "r" revolutions in "q" days.
  - $n + (p/q)$  = Number of orbit per day
- These parameters are usually used for specific Low Orbit missions.
  - **As TLE provide osculating parameters, the Phasing provided by TLE Analyser is correct as long as the Satellite is frequently maintained on his mean orbit.**
  - **As some satellite don't need to be phased, the phasing parameters are not useful.**
  - **In some cases, the phasing parameters can be wrong (e.g. ISS)**

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- Google Earth

- This view mode provides a 3D view from **Google Earth API**
- **Google Earth plugin must be installed in your web browser.**

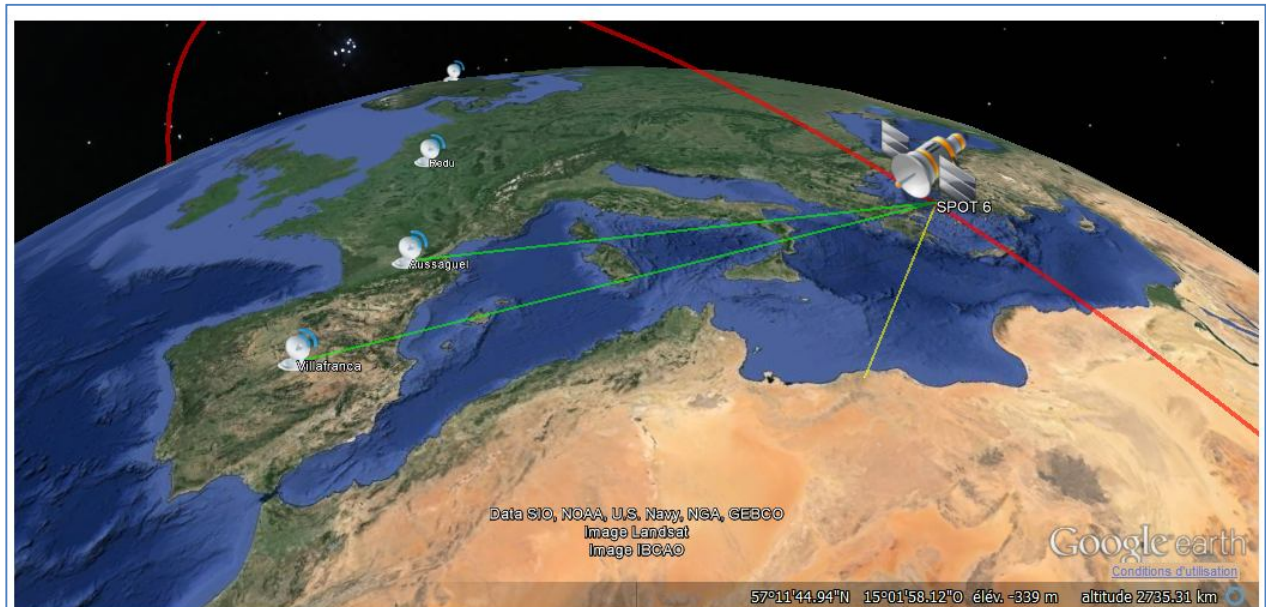


Figure 2: Large view on Spot6 near its passing over Europe



## 7. XY Plot Generator

**TLE Analyser** allows you to generate XY Plot for some orbit parameters.

- First of all, a satellite must be loaded
- 5 time options are available (minutes, hours, period, days, years)

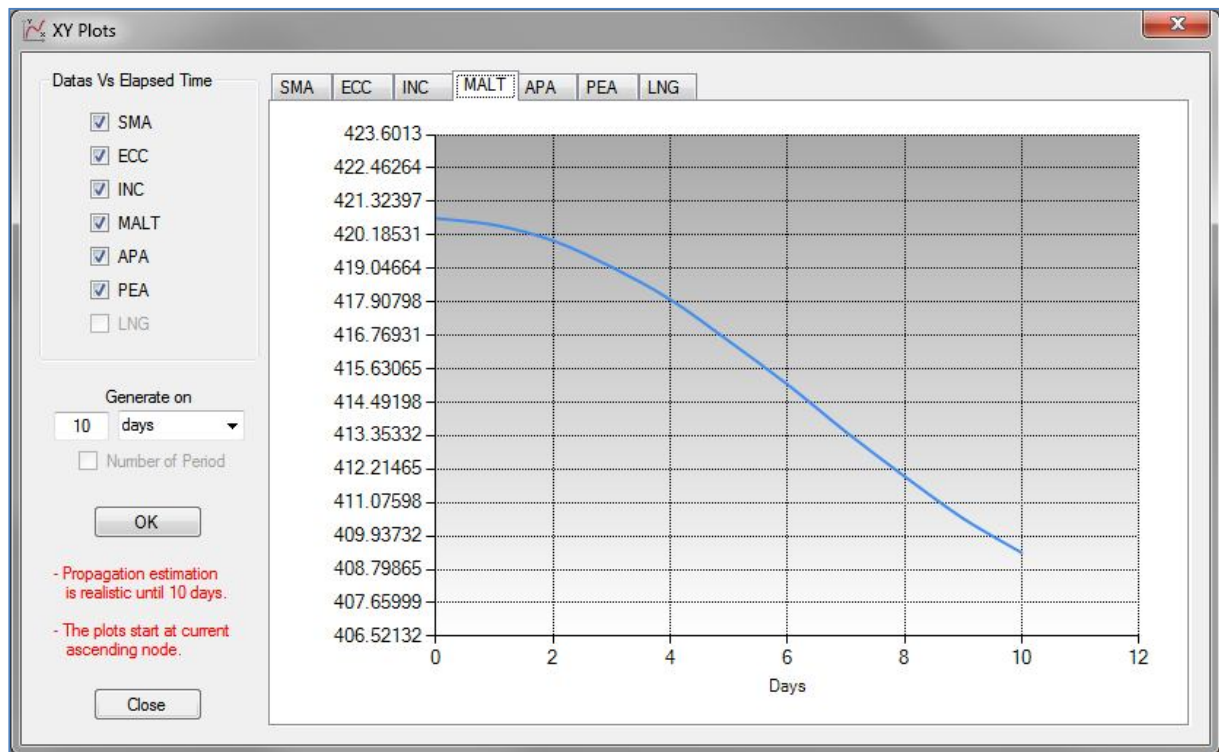


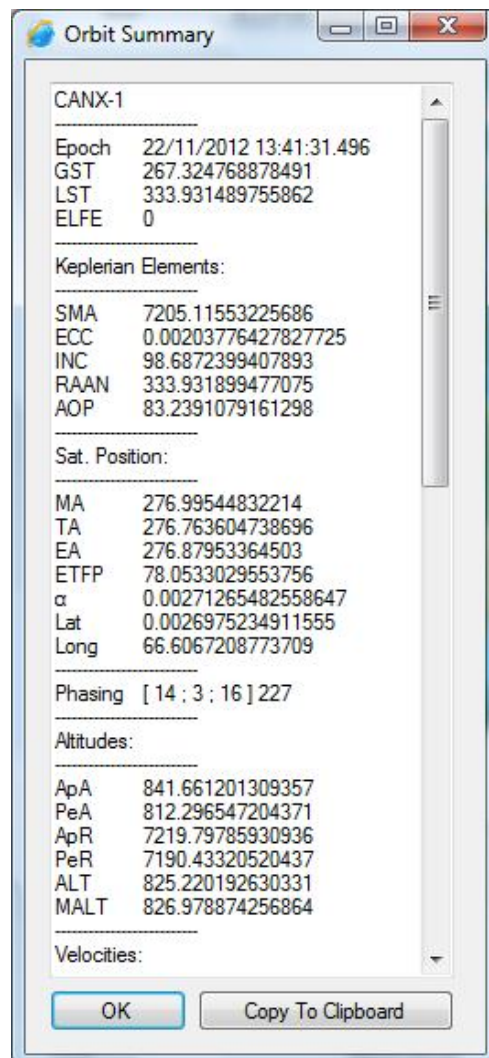
Figure 3: Example for ISS during 10 days

## 8. Menu



### • TLE Menu

- **Open Favorites:** Load *Favorites.txt* file into TLE list
- **Save to Favorites:** Save current TLE into C:\TLEAnalyser\FAV\Favorites.txt
- **Delete from Favorites:** Delete current TLE from Favorites
- **Report:** Display a complete report of all orbit parameters.



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- **Export Menu**

- **Export To GMAT:**

- Allow to generate a **GMAT** *.script* file to be directly used by the NASA software.

- **Export a Formation to GMAT:**

- Allow to generate a **GMAT** *.script* file with several satellites in the same file.

- Use   buttons to **add** or **delete** satellites in the "formation" list.
    - **The export is done at active Epoch!**

For both options:

- GMAT *.script* files are located in C:\TLEAnalyser\GMAT\
    - GMAT *.script* files are optimised for GMAT R2012a and R2013a version

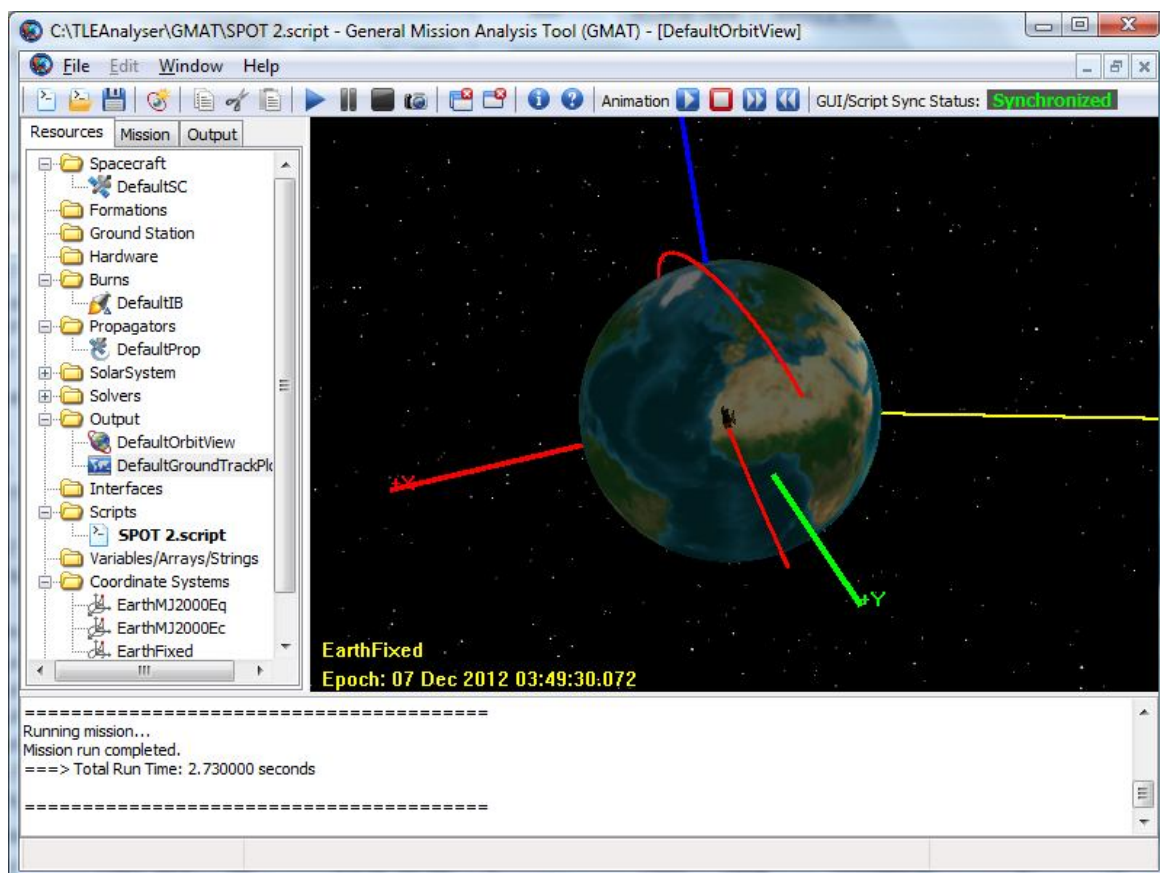


Figure 4: GMAT View

- **Export To CELESTIA:**



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- Allow to generate a **Celestia** Folder to be directly used by the famous software.
- **Satellite** folder is located in C:\TLEAnalyser\CELESTIA\
- The folder can be directly paste into **Extras Celestia's** folder
- Don't forget to enable "Orbit" option in **Celestia**.
- **Be careful, it seems that Celestia doesn't use SGP model. It would be better to choose the effective epoch before export to Celestia.**

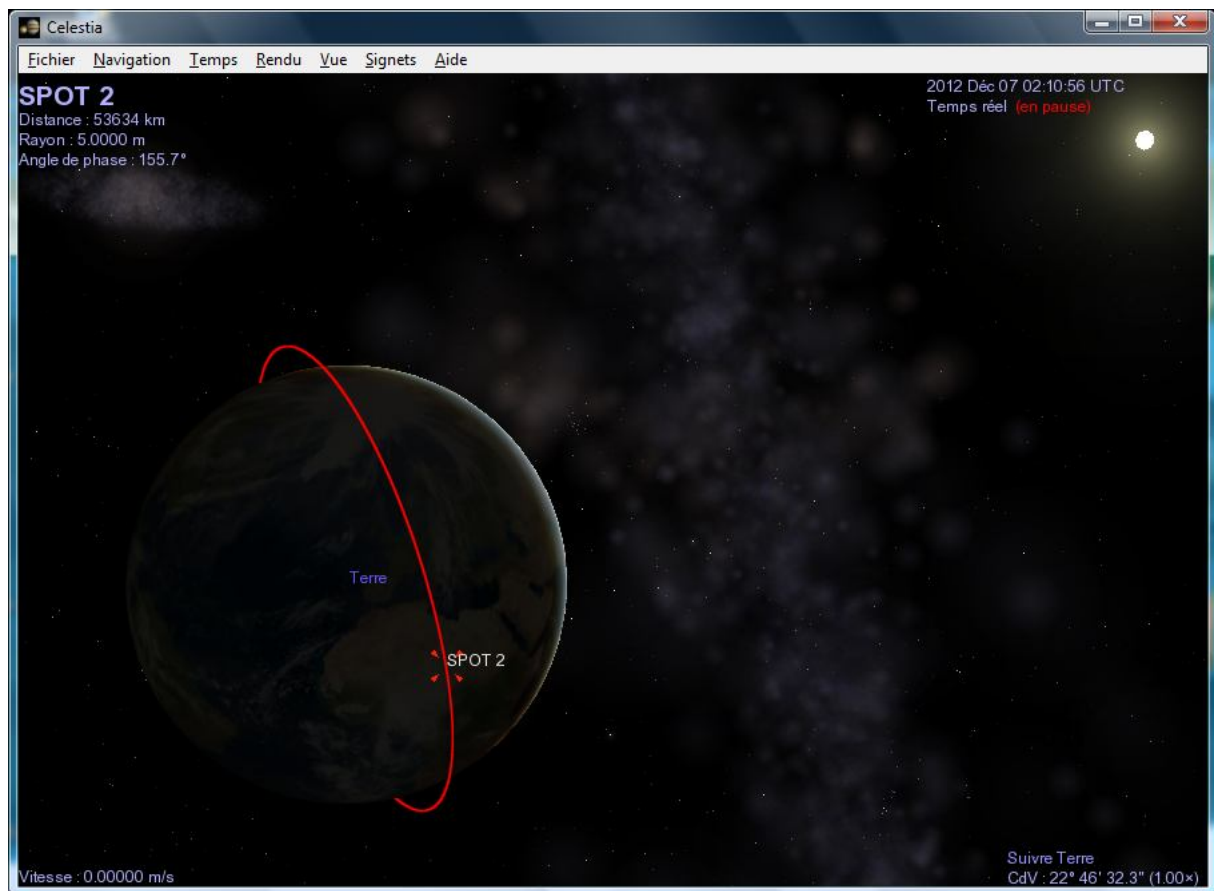


Figure 5: Celestia view

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- **Export To Google Earth:**
  - Allow to generate a Google Earth Folder with .kml file and satellite.png file
  - Satellite folder is located in C:\TLEAnalyser\GOOGLEEARTH\
  - Satellite.kml file can be directly executed from this folder
  - Export is not enabled for **Full Track Mode**
  - **Exporting time might be longer for more than 1 periods tracks**

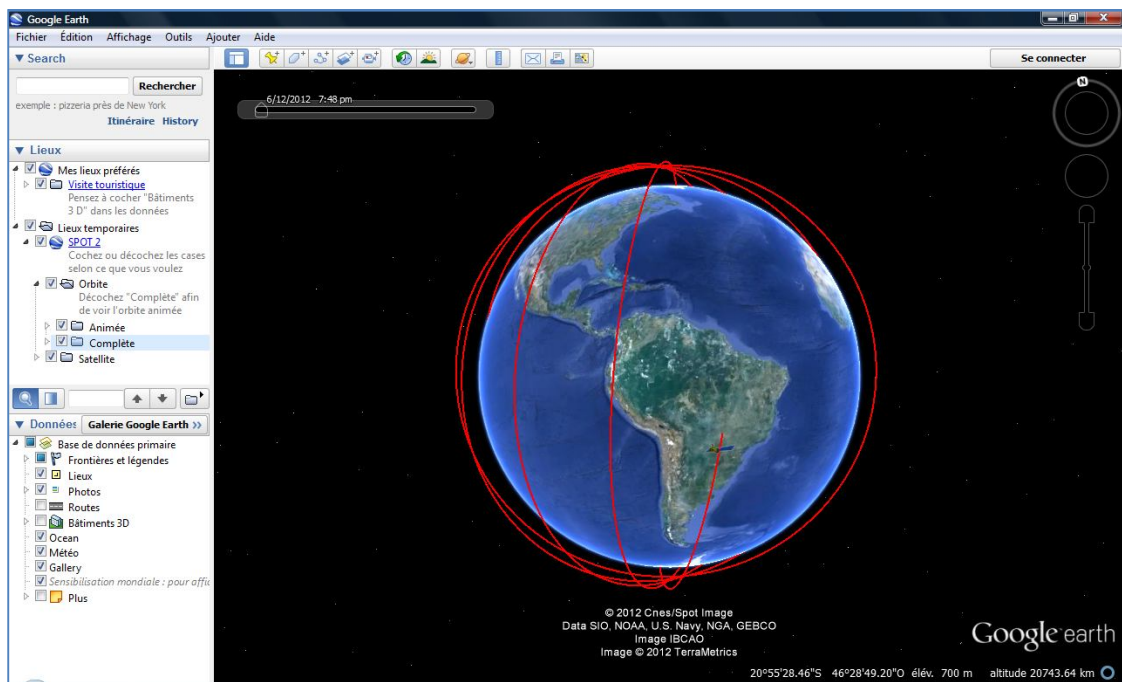


Figure 6: Google Earth View



- **Options Menu**

- **XY Plots:** Allow to generate XY Plots
- **TLE Analyser Options:** Display program's options (see §2)
- **About TLE Analyser:** Display the README file with information about version and updates.
- **Help:** Display the User Manual (pdf)
- **Exit:** Allow to Exit TLE Analyser

## 9. Shortcuts

(Focus must be out of the Maps)

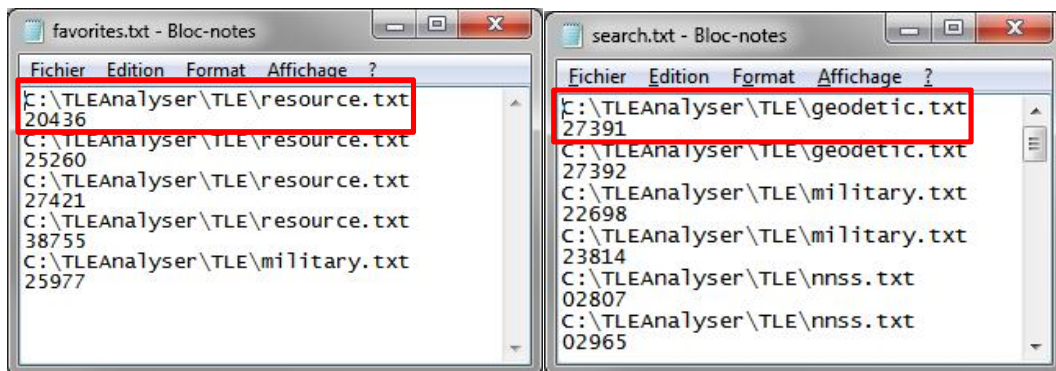
- Open Favorites: Ctrl + O
- Save to Favorites: Ctrl + S
- Export to GMAT: Ctrl + G
- Export to Google Earth: Ctrl + L
- Export to Celestia: Ctrl + T
- Summary: Ctrl + M
- About: F2
- Help: F1

## 10. Error Handling

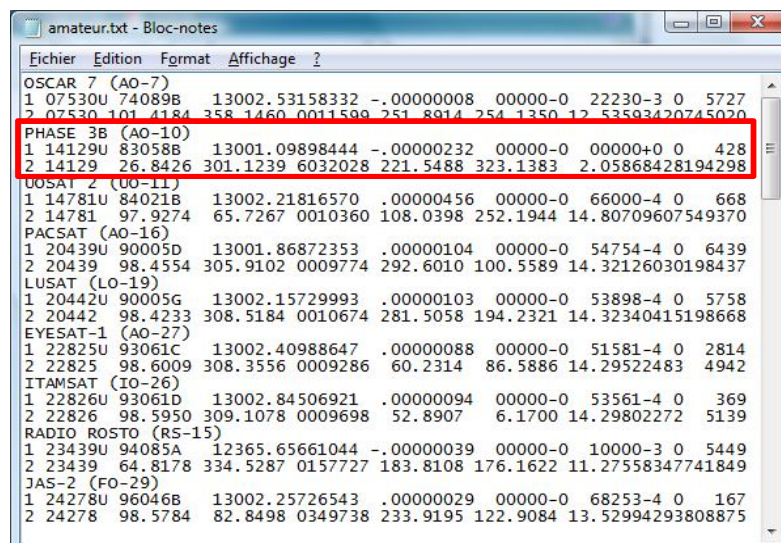
- **Files format**

**Corrupted files should provide errors during TLE ANALYSER using.**

- **Favorites and Search files** (C:\TLEAnalyser\FAV\)) must keep following format:
  - 2 lines for 1 satellite:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> line for the **Collection file name**
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> line for the **satellite number**



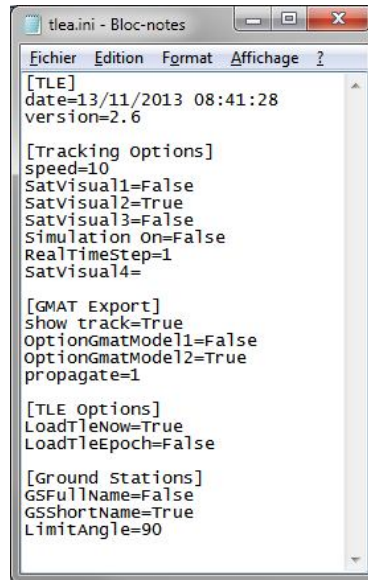
- **TLE files** (C:\TLEAnalyser\TLE\)) and **Formation file** (C:\TLEAnalyser\GMAT) must keep following format:
  - 3 lines for 1 satellite:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> line for the satellite name
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> line is the Line 1 of the TLE
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> line is the Line 2 of the TLE



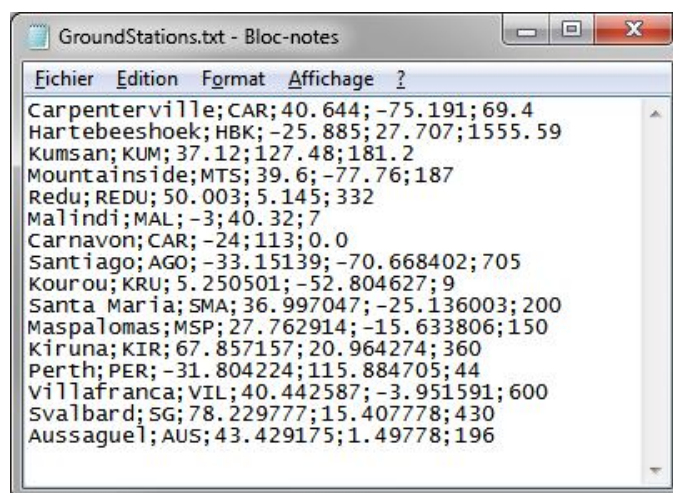
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- **INI file** (C:\TLEAnalyser\tlea.ini) must keep the following format:



- **Date** parameter corresponds to the last update of all TLE files.  
For a 1<sup>st</sup> installation and without TLE update with TLE ANALYSER, this date corresponds to the TLE provided by TLE ANALYSER.
- **Ground Stations file** (C:\TLEAnalyser\GroundStations.txt) must keep the following format:
  - 1 line for 1 station with between each “;”:
    - Full Name
    - Short Name
    - Latitude
    - Longitude
    - Altitude





## 11. Mathematical Specifications

### 11.1. Time System

The time system used in TLE Analyser is the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) provided in Gregorian format (GD) and Modified Julian Day format (MJD)

TLE Analyser extracts the **epoch year (YYYY)** and the **day of the year (DD.ddd)** from the TLE. Then, the TLE epoch is calculated (in MJD format):

$$\text{EPOCH}_{\text{TLE}} = \left( 1721424.5 - \text{int} \left( \frac{\text{YYYY}-1}{100} \right) + \text{int} \left( \frac{\text{YYYY}-1}{400} \right) + \text{int}((365.25 * \text{YYYY}) - 1) + \text{DD.ddd} \right) - 2430000$$

### 11.2. Satellite State Representation

TLE Analyser uses the SGP4 method to extract Cartesian states from the TLE.

Symbol	Description
$x$	$x$ -component of position
$y$	$y$ -component of position
$z$	$z$ -component of position
$\dot{x}$	$x$ -component of velocity
$\dot{y}$	$y$ -component of velocity
$\dot{z}$	$z$ -component of velocity

Then, a conversion is done to obtain the osculating parameters. This method is the same used by GMAT described in the "GMAT Mathematical Specifications" book.

Symbol	Name	Description
$a$	semimajor axis	The semimajor contains information on the type and size of an orbit. If $a > 0$ the orbit is elliptic. If $a < 0$ the orbit is hyperbolic. $a = \infty$ for parabolic orbits.
$e$	eccentricity	The eccentricity contains information on the shape of an orbit. If $e = 0$ , then the orbit is circular. If $0 < e < 1$ the orbit is elliptical. If $e = 1$ the orbit is parabolic. If $e > 1$ then the orbit is hyperbolic.
$i$	inclination	The inclination is the angle between the $\hat{\mathbf{z}}_I$ axis and the orbit normal direction $\mathbf{h}$ . If $i \leq 90^\circ$ then the orbit is prograde. If $i > 90^\circ$ then the orbit is retrograde.
$\omega$	argument of periapsis	The argument of periapsis is the angle between a vector pointing at periapsis and a vector pointing in the direction of the line of nodes. The argument of periapsis is undefined for circular orbits.
$\Omega$	right ascension of the ascending node	$\Omega$ is defined as the angle between $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_I$ and $\mathbf{N}$ measured counterclockwise. $\mathbf{N}$ is defined as the vector pointing from the center of the central body to the spacecraft, when the spacecraft crosses the bodies equatorial plane from the southern to the northern hemisphere. $\Omega$ is undefined for equatorial orbits.
$\nu$	true anomaly	The true anomaly is defined as the angle between a vector pointing at periapsis and a vector pointing at the spacecraft. The true anomaly is undefined for circular orbits.

## 11.3. Constant Values

- Equatorial Radius = 6378.136658
- Geocentric Constant of Gravitation ( $\mu$ )= 398600.4418 ( $\text{km}^3 \cdot \text{s}^{-2}$ )
- First zonal harmonics:
  - $J_2 = 0.0010826158$
  - $J_3 = -0.00000253881$
  - $J_4 = -0.00000165597$
- Earth Nodal Precession ( $\Omega_0$ ) = 1.0027379093507951
- Rotational Speed of the Earth =  $2.\pi \times \Omega_0 \times 1/86400$  ( $\text{rad.s}^{-1}$ )
- Earth Flatness = 1.0 / 298.26
- Reference Julian Day (TJ2000 ) = 2451545

## 11.4. Simple parameters

With:

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

M = Mean Anomaly

MM = Mean Movement or Mean Motion provided by the TLE

### 11.4.1. AOL

**Argument of Latitude** or Position on Orbit is the angle from the ascending node to the satellite.

$$AOL = AOP + TA$$

### 11.4.2. ETFP

**Elapsed time from periapsis** (in minutes)

$$ETFP = \frac{M}{n} \times 60$$

### 11.4.3. NP

The **nodal precession** is the angular velocity of the node line around the poles axis (deg/day)

$$NP = \dot{\Omega} = \left( -\frac{3}{2(1-e^2)^2} \times n \times J2 \times \left(\frac{R}{a}\right)^2 \times \cos i \right) \times 86400$$

### 11.4.4. AP

The **apsidal precession** is the angular velocity of the apside line in the orbit plane (deg/day)

$$AP = \dot{\omega} = \left( \frac{3}{4(1-e^2)^2} \times n \times J2 \times \left(\frac{R}{a}\right)^2 \times (5 \cos^2 i - 1) \right) \times 86400$$



## 11.4.5. Periods

With:

- Keplerian Period (in minutes):

$$Tk = \left( 2\pi \times \sqrt{\frac{a^3}{\mu}} \right) / 60$$

- Secular Variation of the mean movement:

$$\frac{\Delta n}{n} = \frac{3}{4(1-e^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \times J_2 \times \left( \frac{R}{a} \right)^2 \times (3 \cos^2 i - 1)$$

- Secular variation of the AOP:

$$\frac{\dot{\omega}}{n} = \frac{3}{4(1-e^2)^2} \times J_2 \times \left( \frac{R}{a} \right)^2 \times (5 \cos^2 i - 1)$$

**Anomalistic Period** (apsidal period):

$$Ta = 1 - \frac{\Delta n}{n} \times T$$

**Draconitic Period** (nodal period):

$$Td = \frac{Ta}{1 + \frac{\dot{\omega}}{n}}$$

## 11.4.6. DL

The **Delta Longitude** is the angle/distance between each passing at the ascending node.

With:

Earth Nodal Precession:  $\dot{\Omega}_T = 1.0027379093507951^\circ/\text{day}$

$$DL (^\circ) = \left( \frac{360}{\left( \frac{MM \times 360 + \dot{\omega}}{\dot{\Omega}_T \times 360 - \dot{\Omega}} \right)} \right)$$

## 11.4.7. DREL

**Relative Distance** of the satellite

$$DREL = \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}}{R}$$

## 11.4.8. GST

The **Greenwich Sideral Time** is the angle between the Greenwich meridian and the vernal axis.

$$epoch = epoch_{JD} = epoch_{MJD} + 2430000$$

$$\text{if } epoch \geq \text{int}(epoch) + 0.5 \text{ then } DU = \text{int}(epoch) + 0.5 - TJ2000$$

$$\text{if } epoch < \text{int}(epoch) + 0.5 \text{ then } DU = \text{int}(epoch) - 0.5 - TJ2000$$

$$TU = \frac{DU}{36525}$$

$$QGO = \left( 24110.54841 + \left( 86400 \times \frac{36525}{365.2421897} \times TU \right) + (0.093104 \times TU^2) - (0.0000062 \times TU^3) \right)$$

$$\text{if } epoch < \text{int}(epoch) + 0.5 \text{ then } DJ = epoch - (\text{int}(epoch) - 0.5)$$

$$\text{if } epoch > \text{int}(epoch) + 0.5 \text{ then } DJ = epoch - (\text{int}(epoch) + 0.5)$$

$$QGT = \left( QGO + (86400 \times DJ \times \dot{\Omega}_T) \right)$$

$$GST = \left( \frac{QGT}{240} \right)$$

## 11.4.9. LAT/LNG

The **Latitude** of the satellite is calculated with an iterative method.

With:

$$r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$lat0 = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{z}{r}\right)$$

$$phi = 7.0$$

$$E2 = \frac{1}{298.26} \times \left(2 - \frac{1}{298.26}\right)$$

do while  $abs(lat0 - phi) > 0.0000001$

$$phi = lat0$$

$$ct = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - E2 \times \sin^2(phi)}}$$

$$lat0 = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{z + R \times ct \times E2 \times \sin(phi)}{r}\right)$$

The **Longitude** of the satellite is:

$$LNG = atan2(x, y) - GST$$

## 11.4.10. Altitudes, Velocities

With:

$$R = 6378.136658 \text{ kms (Equatorial Earth Radius)}$$

$$R_s = \|x, y, z\|$$

$$f = 0.003352806$$

$$R_T = \frac{R}{\sqrt{\frac{\cos^2(LAT) + \sin^2(LAT)}{(1 - f)^2}}}$$

(For Altitudes determination, the Earth radius used ( $R_t$ ) is function of the earth flatness  $f$ )

$$APR = SMA \times (1 + ECC)$$

$$PER = SMA \times (1 - ECC)$$

$$APA = APR - R_T$$

$$PEA = PER - R_T$$

$$ALT = R_s - R_T$$

$$MALT = SMA - R$$

$$APV = \sqrt{\mu \times \left(\frac{2}{APR} - \frac{1}{SMA}\right)}$$

$$PEV = \sqrt{\mu \times \left(\frac{2}{PER} - \frac{1}{SMA}\right)}$$

$$VEL = \sqrt{\mu \times \left(\frac{2}{R_s} - \frac{1}{SMA}\right)}$$

## 11.4.11. LST

The **Local Sideral Time** is the angle between the local meridian and the vernal axis

$$LST = LNG + GST$$

## 11.4.12. Eclipse

With:

$$ANGLEX = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{\overrightarrow{x, y, z}}{\|x, y, z\|} \cdot \left( -\frac{\overrightarrow{xs, ys, zs}}{\|xs, ys, zs\|} \right) \right)$$

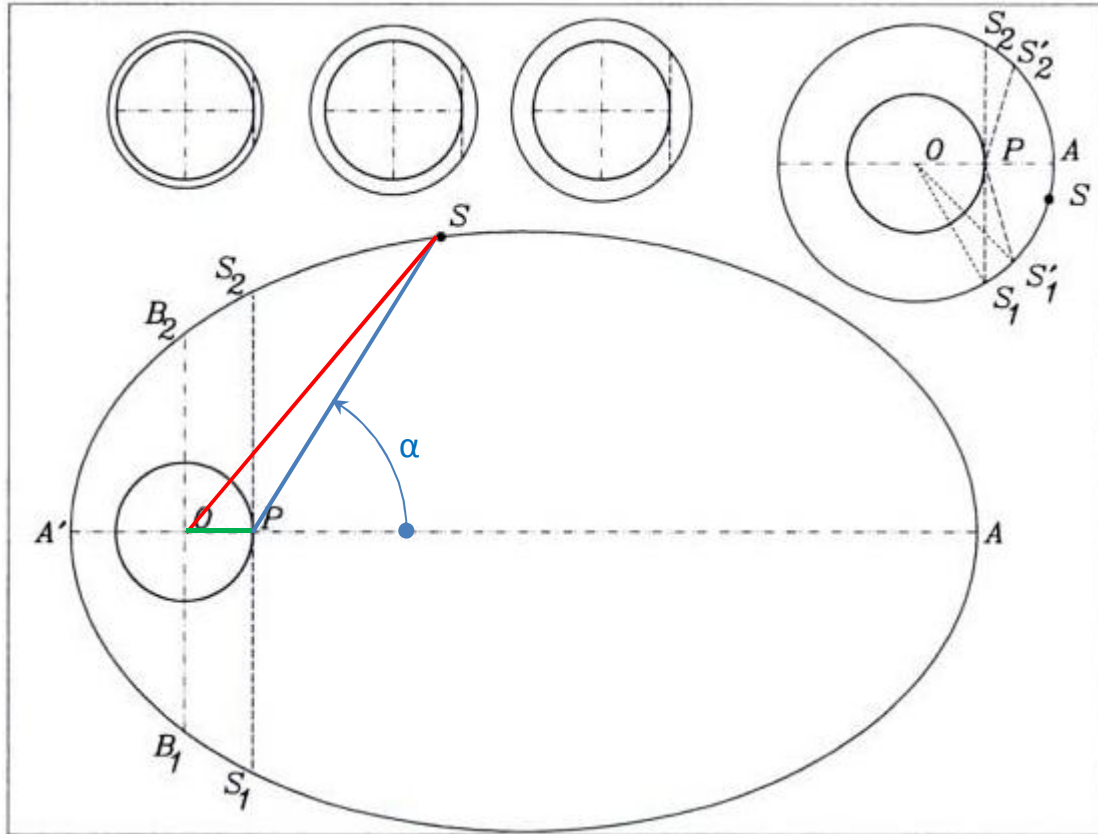
$$ANGLEX0 = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{DREL} \right)$$

**if**  $ANGLEX < ANGLEX0$  **then**  $Eclipse = true$

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### 11.4.13. Station visibility



For both circular and elliptic orbit, the maximum visibility range used by TLE Analyser is when  $\alpha=90^\circ$ . Depending of the satellite position,  $\alpha$  is calculated as following:

$$\overrightarrow{OS} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{sat} \\ Y_{sat} \\ Z_{sat} \end{bmatrix} = (R + ALT) \times \begin{bmatrix} \cos LAT_{sat} \times \cos LNG_{sat} \\ \cos LAT_{sat} \times \sin LNG_{sat} \\ \sin LAT_{sat} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\overrightarrow{OP} = \begin{bmatrix} X_{sta} \\ Y_{sta} \\ Z_{sta} \end{bmatrix} = R \times \begin{bmatrix} \cos LAT_{sta} \times \cos LNG_{sta} \\ \cos LAT_{sta} \times \sin LNG_{sta} \\ \sin LAT_{sta} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\overrightarrow{PS} = \frac{\overrightarrow{OS} - \overrightarrow{PA}}{\|\overrightarrow{OS} - \overrightarrow{PA}\|}$$

$$\alpha = \cos^{-1}(\overrightarrow{PS} \cdot \overrightarrow{OP})$$

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## 12. SGP4 and SDP4 models

**SGP4 model** was developed by Cranford in 1970 and is actually used for Low Earth Orbit determination (with period lower than 225 minutes).

The following example shows the difference between the real SGP4 model and TLE Analyser:

```
1 88888U      80275.98708465 .00073094 13844-3 66816-4 0      8
2 88888 72.8435 115.9689 0086731 52.6988 110.5714 16.05824518 105
```

TLE Epoch: 01/10/1980 23:41:24.000 (UTC)

Parameters	SGP4 Model*	TLE ANALYSER	
x	2328.970	2328.970	km
y	-5995.221	-5995.221	km
z	1719.971	1719.973	km
$\dot{x}$	2.91207	2.91207	Km/s
$\dot{y}$	-0.98341	-0.98341	Km/s
$\dot{z}$	-7.09081	-7.09081	Km/s

**SDP4 model** was developed by Hujzak in 1979 and is used for high altitude orbits (with period above 225 minutes).

The following example shows the difference between the real SDP4 model and TLE Analyser:

```
1 11801U      80230.29629788 .01431103 00000-0 14311-1 0      0
2 11801 46.7916 230.4354 7318036 47.4722 10.4117 2.28537848 000
```

TLE Epoch: 17/08/1980 07:06:40.000 (UTC)

Parameters	SDP4 Model*	TLE ANALYSER	
x	7473.371	7473.371	km
y	428.953	428.947	km
z	5828.748	5828.748	km
$\dot{x}$	5.10715	5.10715	Km/s
$\dot{y}$	6.44468	6.44468	Km/s
$\dot{z}$	-0.18613	-0.18613	Km/s

\* Source from "SpaceTrack Report n°3 - Models for Propagation of NORAD Element Sets"

<http://www.celestrak.com/NORAD/documentation/spacetrk.pdf>

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End of the document.