

# Orbital Maneuvers

To date, we've only looked at orbit characteristics.

But satellites change orbits so we need to  
consider maneuvers and estimate velocity changes  
required for a particular mission.  
consider:

## Orbit Establishment

Find  $V_r$  and  $V_\theta$ .

Given  $r, v, \gamma$ , how do we characterize the orbit?

$$\vec{h} = \vec{r} \times \vec{v} \Rightarrow h = r v_\theta \quad (\text{since } \vec{r} = r \hat{r}) \quad \text{skip}$$

$$\boxed{v_\theta = \frac{h}{r} =}$$

$$V_r = \dot{r} = \frac{dr}{d\theta} \dot{\theta} = \frac{dr}{d\theta} \frac{h}{r^2} = \frac{d}{d\theta} \left( \frac{h^2/\mu}{1 + e \cos(\theta - \omega)} \right) \frac{h}{r^2} \quad \text{skip}$$

Rearrange  $V_\theta$  and  $V_r$

$$e \cos \theta^* = \frac{h V_\theta}{m} - 1$$

$$e \sin \theta^* = \frac{h V_r}{m} = \frac{r V_\theta V_r}{m}$$

$$e^2 = e^2 \cos^2 \theta^* + e^2 \sin^2 \theta^*$$

$$\tan \theta^* = \frac{e \sin \theta^*}{e \cos \theta^*}$$

Now from  $r, V, \gamma$ , we can find  $e + \theta^*$

# Single Impulse Adjustments

use single impulse to adjust/change an orbit

Transfer to a  $\text{circular orbit}$  with a  
 impulse is not possible unless the new orbit  
 the original orbit.

Assume :

- 
- 
-

Example: Satellite in an established 8.5

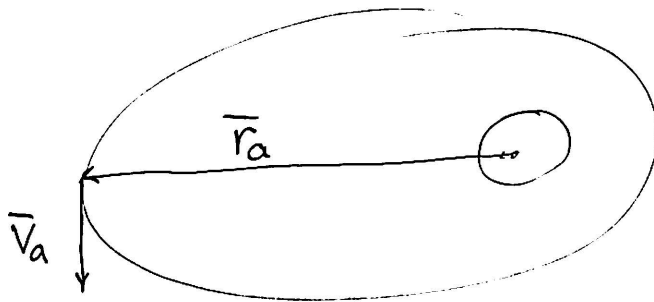
Earth orbit:  $a = 3 R_{\oplus}$   $e = 0.5$   
( $r_p = 1.5 R_{\oplus}$ )

Change to:  $e$  constant

$$a^+ = 4 R_{\oplus}$$

$\Delta V$  (thrust) applied at apogee

Determine magnitude and direction of  $\Delta V$ .



Solution:

1. Current orbit already established
2. Find conditions at thrust point  
before maneuver  
( $r, v, \gamma$ )

$$R_{\oplus} = 6371 \text{ km} \quad \mu = 398600 \text{ km}^3/\text{s}^2$$

Find  $r$ ,  $v$ ,  $\gamma$ .

- Decrease or increase  $v$  for increase in  $a$ ?

If we increase  $v$  and maintain  $e+r$ , does  $\theta$  change?

3. Determine (if possible) conditions at<sup>8.7</sup> thrust point after maneuver.

$$r^+ =$$

$$a^+ = 4 R_\oplus \quad e = 0.5 \quad \text{given}$$

4. Sketch a vector diagram to scale

If not at apoapsis

Use cosine law to find  $\Delta V$ .

$$\Delta V =$$

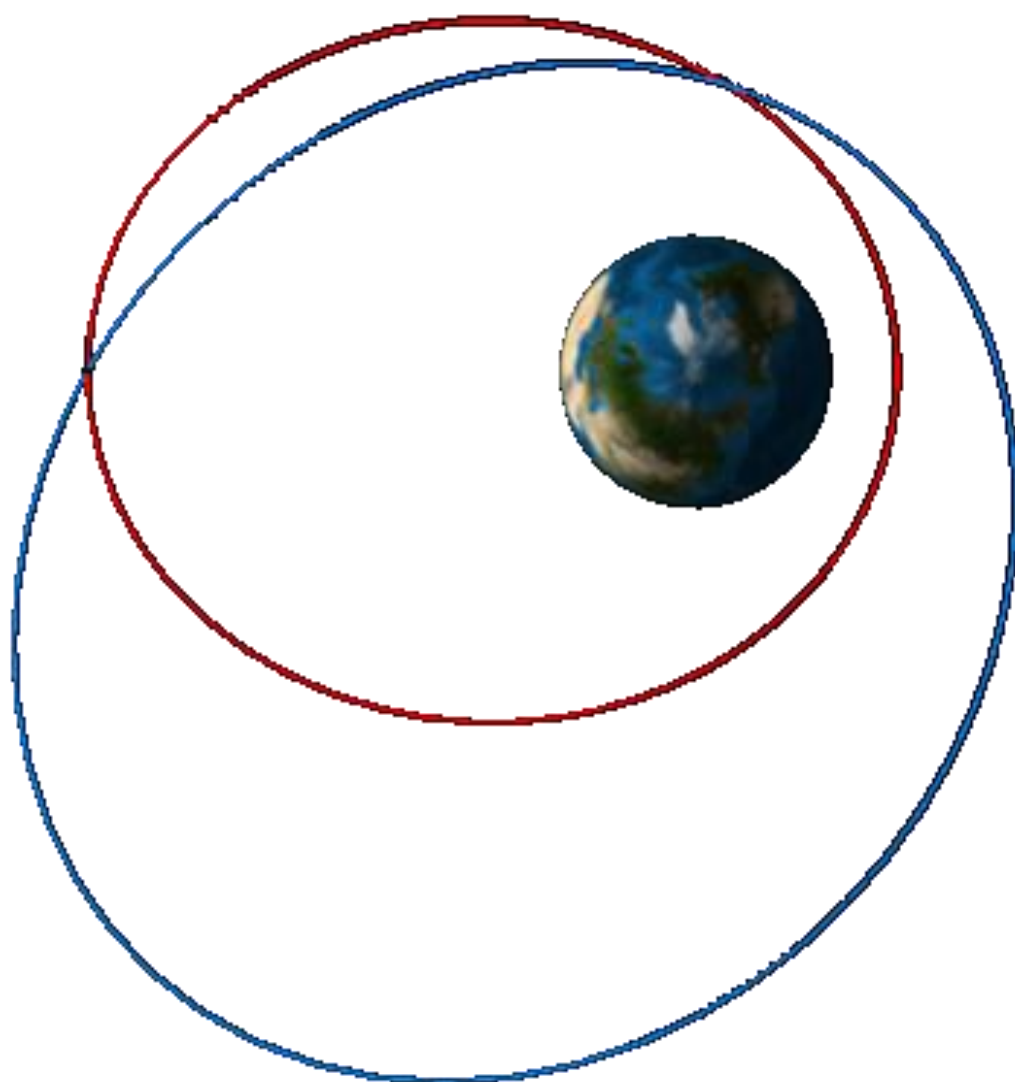
Use law of sines to find  $\alpha$

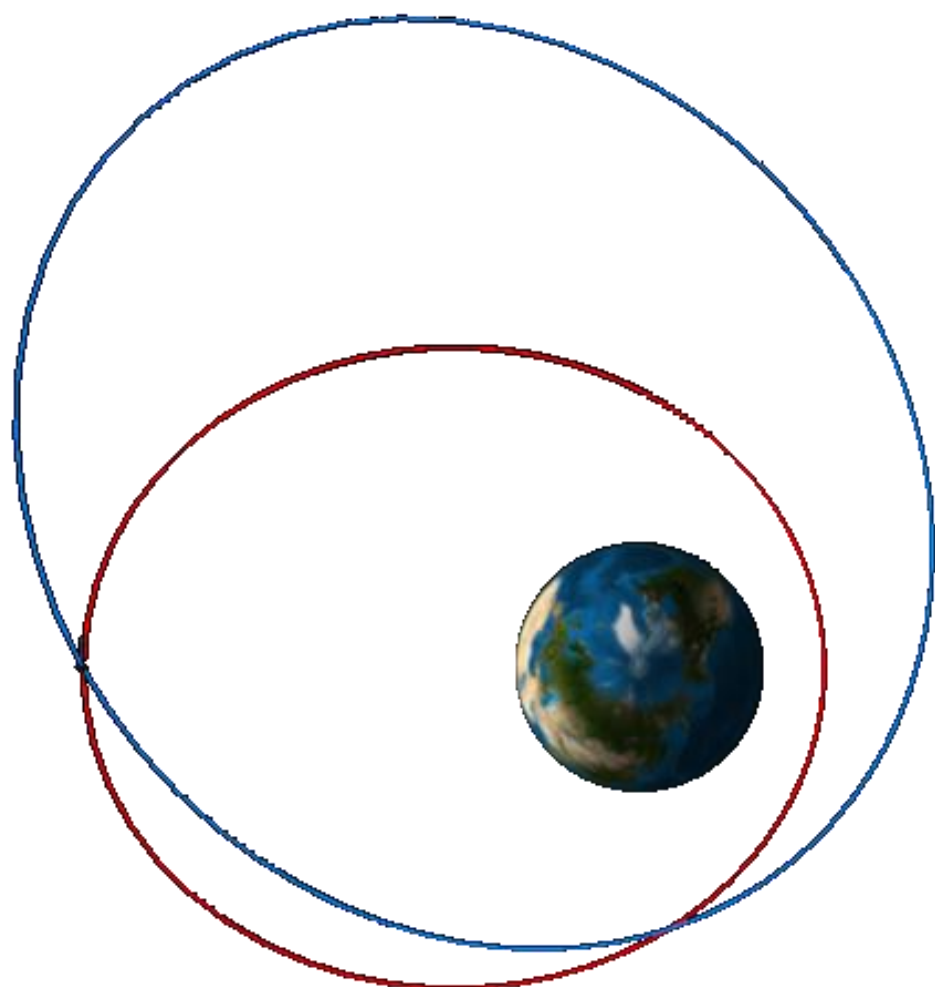


$$\theta^{*+} =$$

Originally  $\theta^* = 180^\circ \rightarrow$

New orbit:

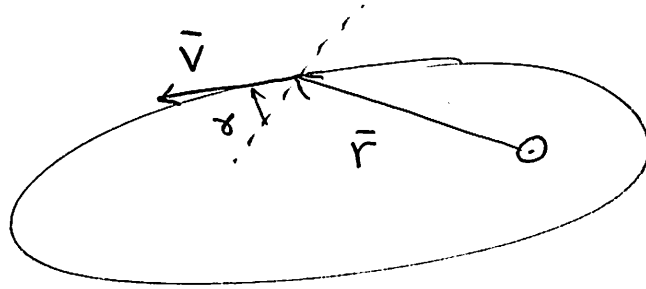




Let's do the same maneuver

$$(a = 3R_{\oplus} \Rightarrow a = 4R_{\oplus}, e = 0.5)$$

but at  $\theta^* = 120^\circ$



1. Know current orbit
2. Conditions before

$$r =$$

$$v =$$

$$\gamma =$$

Increase or decrease velocity?

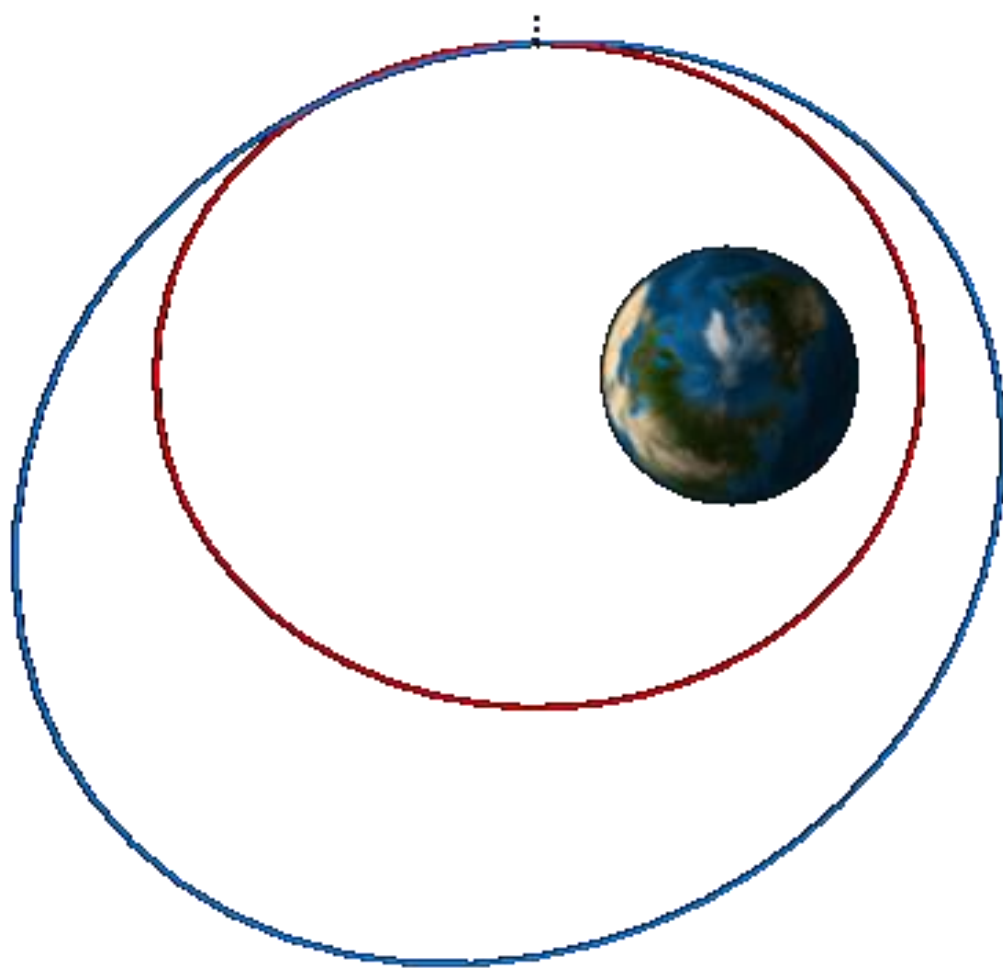
Tangential  $\Delta V$  possible? (no  $\gamma$  change<sup>8.13</sup>)

3. Desired conditions

$$r^+ = r_a = 3R_\oplus \quad a^+ = 4R_\oplus \quad e = 0.5$$

4. Vector diagram





# 3D Example

Assume slc is moving in orbit  
about the Earth

$$a = 8 R_{\oplus}$$

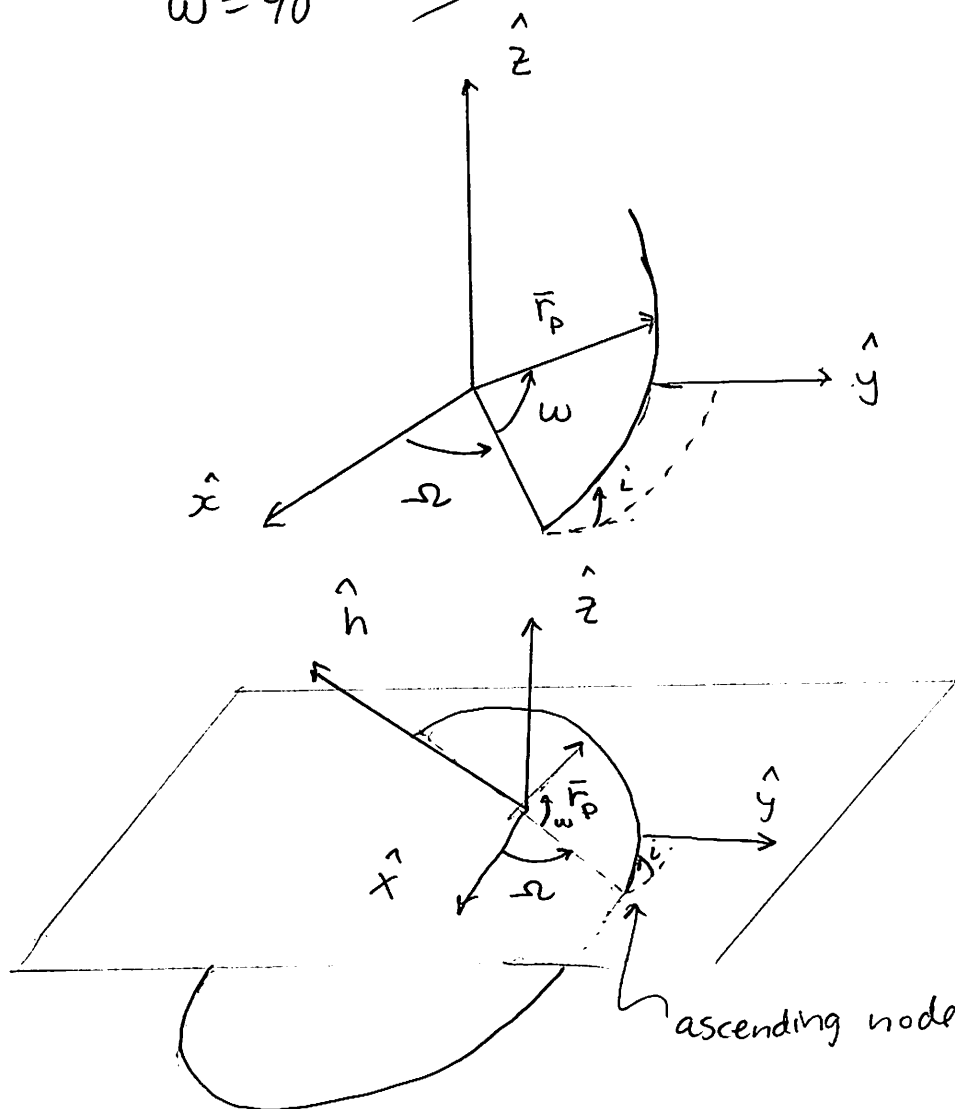
$$e = 0.7$$

$$i = 30^\circ$$

$$\Omega = 60^\circ$$

$$\omega = 90^\circ$$

wrt Earth centered  
Mean J2000 coordinates



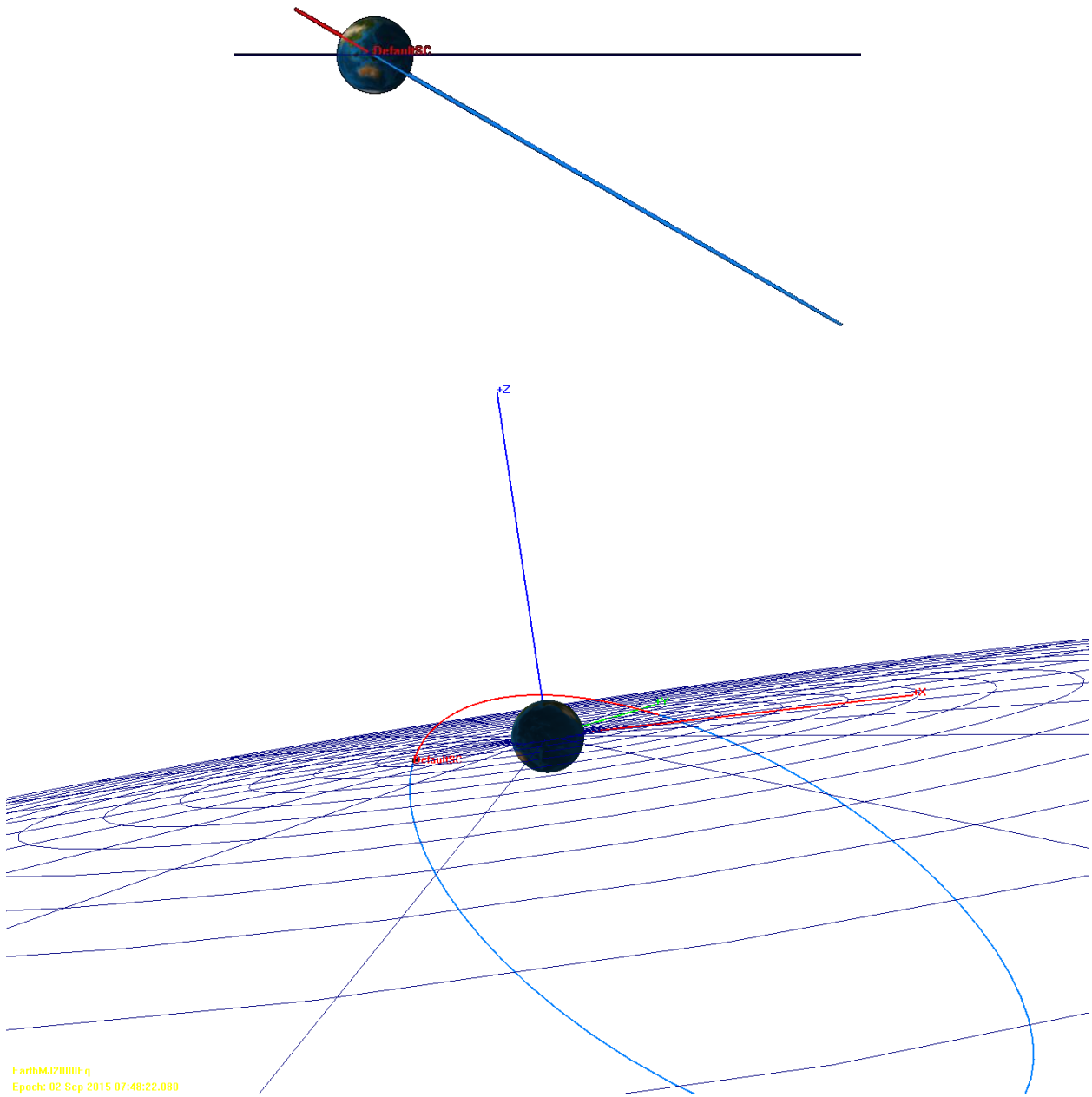


Maneuver at  $\Theta^* = 90^\circ$  descending node

$$\Gamma =$$

$$V =$$

$$\gamma =$$



## VNB coordinate Frame

GMAT calls this VNB.

$\hat{V}$ :

$\hat{C}$ :

$\hat{N}$ :

$$\Delta \bar{V} =$$

$$\overline{\Delta V} =$$

Assume a maneuver such that

$$\Delta V = 2 \text{ km/s} \quad \alpha = 0^\circ \quad \beta = 150^\circ$$

Find  $\Delta \vec{V}$  in  $\hat{r}\hat{\theta}\hat{h}$

Rotate into  $\hat{x}-\hat{y}-\hat{z}$  frame.

Add vectors in ECI b/c  $\hat{r}-\hat{\theta}$  changes w/ orbit.

	$\hat{r}$	$\hat{\theta}$	$\hat{h}$
$\text{ECI } R^{R\theta}$	$\begin{matrix} \hat{x} \\ \hat{y} \\ \hat{z} \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} c\Omega c\theta - s\Omega c i s\theta & -c\Omega s\theta - s\Omega c i c\theta \\ s\Omega c\theta + c\Omega c i s\theta & -s\Omega s\theta + c\Omega c i c\theta \\ s i s\theta & s i c\theta \end{matrix}$	$\begin{matrix} s\Omega s i \\ -c\Omega s i \\ c i \end{matrix}$

$$\text{ECI } R^{R\theta} = \begin{bmatrix} -.5 & .75 & .433 \\ -.866 & -.433 & -.25 \\ 0 & -.5 & .866 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\bar{r} =$$

$$\bar{\nabla} =$$

$$\bar{\nabla}^+ =$$

Find  $i$  and  $\Omega$

$$\hat{h} = S\Omega \sin \hat{x} - c\Omega \sin \hat{y} + ci \hat{z}$$

$$|\overline{v}| =$$

Find  $\theta^+$

