

# Characterization of Satellite Swarms Under Non-Keplerian Dynamics – Model Development

Taryn J. Noone & Norman G. Fitz-Coy





- Completion of new literature search for **non-Keplerian disturbance terms** and the applications in which they appear.
  - Particularly interest in applications involving **formation-flying satellites** (e.g., Geodesy).
- Further development of the framework to implement **new disturbance terms as loadable data files**.
  - Sources pulled directly from **NASA-JPL's NAIF and PO.DAAC databases** to obtain Earth orientation and geopotential data.
- Introduced additional disturbance terms to bring the dynamics in line with the International Earth Rotation and Reference System Service (**IERS**) **2010 Conventions**.



# Review of Prior Discussion

The case of Keplerian dynamics uses Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation to propagate the position and velocity of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  satellite:

$$\begin{bmatrix} d\vec{r}_i/dt \\ d\vec{v}_i/dt \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{v}_i \\ -\vec{r}_i \mu / \|\vec{r}_i\|^3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that, in this case, future positions may be differentiated with respect to the initial orbital elements to obtain closed-form expressions for the gradient and hessian values used in optimization.

Non-Keplerian dynamics modify these equations to

$$\begin{bmatrix} d\vec{r}_i/dt \\ d\vec{v}_i/dt \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{v}_i \\ \nabla \vec{u}_{t,i} + \vec{a}_{t,i} - \vec{r}_i \mu / \|\vec{r}_i\|^3 \end{bmatrix},$$

- $\vec{u}_{t,i}$  is the potential field arising from conservative, non-Keplerian forces.
- $\vec{a}_{t,i}$  is the net acceleration due to non-conservative, non-Keplerian forces.

Note that both  $\vec{u}_{t,i}$  and  $\vec{a}_{t,i}$  are evaluated at time  $t$ .



# Review of Prior Discussion

If we, for now, assume that **all forces acting on the satellite are conservative** (i.e.,  $\vec{a}_{t,i} = 0$ ), then we may use the dynamics

$$\begin{bmatrix} d\vec{r}_i/dt \\ d\vec{v}_i/dt \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{v}_i \\ \nabla \mathcal{U}_{t,i} - \vec{r}_i \mu / \|\vec{r}_i\|^3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let us further assume that  $\mathcal{U}_{t,i}$  may be fully expressed as a function of the **instantaneous values of the following orbital elements**:

1. Semi-major axis  $a_{t,i}$ ;
  2. eccentricity  $e_{t,i}$ ;
  3. right ascension of the ascending node (RAAN)  $\Omega_{t,i}$ ;
  4. inclination  $I_{t,i}$ ;
  5. argument of periapse  $\omega_{t,i}$ ;
  6. mean anomaly  $M_{t,i}$ ;
- and time  $t$ .



Lagrange's Planetary Equations thus yield

$$\frac{da_{t,i}}{dt} = \frac{2}{n_{t,i} a_{t,i}} \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_{t,i}}{\partial M_{t,i}}$$

$$\frac{dI_{t,i}}{dt} = \frac{\cot(I_{t,i})}{n_{t,i} a_{t,i}^2 f_{t,i}} \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_{t,i}}{\partial \omega_i} - \frac{f_{t,i}}{n_{t,i} a_{t,i}^2 \sin(I_{t,i})} \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_{t,i}}{\partial \Omega_{t,i}}$$

$$\frac{de_{t,i}}{dt} = \frac{f_{t,i}^2}{n_{t,i} a_{t,i}^2 e_{t,i}} \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_{t,i}}{\partial M_{t,i}} - \frac{f_{t,i}}{n_{t,i} a_{t,i}^2 e_{t,i}} \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_{t,i}}{\partial \omega_{t,i}}$$

$$\frac{d\omega_{t,i}}{dt} = \frac{f_{t,i}}{n_{t,i} a_{t,i}^2 e_{t,i}} \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_{t,i}}{\partial e_{t,i}} - \frac{\cot(I_{t,i})}{n_{t,i} a_{t,i}^2 f_{t,i}} \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_{t,i}}{\partial I_{t,i}}$$

$$\frac{d\Omega_{t,i}}{dt} = \frac{1}{n_{t,i} a_{t,i}^2 \sin(I_{t,i}) f_{t,i}} \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_{t,i}}{\partial I_{t,i}}$$

$$\frac{dM_{t,i}}{dt} = n_{t,i} - \frac{2}{n_{t,i} a_{t,i}} \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_{t,i}}{\partial a_{t,i}} - \frac{f_{t,i}^2}{n_{t,i} a_{t,i}^2 e_{t,i}} \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_{t,i}}{\partial e_{t,i}}$$

where  $n_{t,i} = (\mu/a_{t,i}^3)^{1/2}$  and  $f_{t,i} = (1 - e_{t,i}^2)^{1/2}$ .

• Remark on singular cases:

- $I_{t,i} = 0 \Rightarrow \Omega_{t,i} = \text{undefined}$
- $e_{t,i} = 0 \Rightarrow \omega_{t,i} = \text{undefined}$
- Different representations available for the singular cases.



# Review of Prior Discussion

Nonconservative forces are introduced by setting

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_{t,i}}{\partial * } = \frac{\partial \vec{r}_i}{\partial * } \cdot \vec{a}_{t,i}.$$

This enables inclusion of:

- Atmospheric drag;
- Solar radiation pressure;
- Thrust actuation;

Thrust actuation may also be used as a control term. Bounding this term is tantamount to bounding the level of control effort required to maintain swarm geometry.



# Non-Keplerian Dynamics

Note that the bounds of some gravitational potentials can be determined:

Source	$\min(u_i) \left[ \frac{km^2}{s^2} \right]$	$\max(u_i) \left[ \frac{km^2}{s^2} \right]$	$\min(\ \nabla u_i\ ) \left[ \frac{km}{s^2} \right]$	$\max(\ \nabla u_i\ ) \left[ \frac{km}{s^2} \right]$
$J_2$	$-3.02 \times 10^{-2}$	$+6.04 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.769 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.776 \times 10^{-5}$
$\odot$	$-9.02 \times 10^{+2}$	$-8.72 \times 10^{+2}$	$5.736 \times 10^{-6}$	$6.125 \times 10^{-6}$
$\text{♀}$	$-2.68 \times 10^{-4}$	$-1.02 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.701 \times 10^{-13}$	$3.266 \times 10^{-12}$
$\text{♀}$	$-8.22 \times 10^{-3}$	$-1.25 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.820 \times 10^{-12}$	$2.078 \times 10^{-10}$
$\text{☾}$	$-1.63 \times 10^{-2}$	$-1.07 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.318 \times 10^{-8}$	$5.450 \times 10^{-8}$
$\text{♂}$	$-7.68 \times 10^{-4}$	$-1.07 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.681 \times 10^{-13}$	$1.377 \times 10^{-11}$
$\text{♃}$	$-2.14 \times 10^{-1}$	$-1.31 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.360 \times 10^{-10}$	$3.631 \times 10^{-10}$
$\text{♄}$	$-3.16 \times 10^{-2}$	$-2.30 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.393 \times 10^{-11}$	$2.630 \times 10^{-11}$
$\text{♅}$	$-2.24 \times 10^{-3}$	$-1.84 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.821 \times 10^{-13}$	$8.664 \times 10^{-13}$
$\text{♁}$	$-1.59 \times 10^{-3}$	$-1.46 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.115 \times 10^{-13}$	$3.680 \times 10^{-13}$



# Motivation to Adopt a New Model

Why account for disturbances beyond the largest few?

- Prior formation analyses limited to **Low-N swarms**.
- Per the swarm initialization procedure that we have introduced in prior discussions, satellite states **are interconnected with one another**. We believe High-N swarms have the potential to display **chaotic behavior**.
  - It is an observable fact of nature that interconnected systems **tend towards chaos** as the system (and thus the number of connections) becomes larger.
  - **Chaotic systems are susceptible to variation in initial condition.**
- Even if High-N swarms do not display chaotic behavior, the dynamics are sufficiently nonlinear that **impact of individual terms is unknown – particularly on the relative motion**. Thus, we feel it necessary to test the impact of terms beyond the most common lower order terms.
- Besides the above, we do not see any compelling reason to deny the Air Force tools relevant **swarm-based applications that require high-fidelity dynamics models** if it so chooses (a goal in keeping with our longstanding goal of mission variability and customization)



# Motivation to Adopt a New Model



- **Problem:** Our swarm analysis requires a way to test high-N swarms for sensitivity to small changes in the dynamics function without the ability to conduct true, on-orbit experiments.
- **Solution:** Obtain as close to exact model knowledge as possible using the IERS 2010 Conventions as a blueprint to construct a thorough dynamics model.
- **Benefits:** A framework wherein the dynamics function can be modified with additional terms; wherein **individual dynamics terms may be activated or deactivated** separately of one another to determine the impact they have on the evolution of the swarm over time.



# Building the Dynamics Model

- We redefine the non-Keplerian dynamics by the relation

$${}_G\dot{\vec{x}}_i = {}_N\dot{\vec{x}}_i - {}_N\dot{\vec{x}}_G = \begin{bmatrix} {}_N\vec{v}_i - {}_N\vec{v}_G \\ {}_N\vec{a}_i - {}_N\vec{a}_G \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} {}_G\vec{v}_i \\ \vec{f}(t, {}_G\vec{x}_i) - {}_N\vec{a}_G(t) \end{bmatrix},$$

where  ${}_G\vec{x}_i^T \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [{}_G\vec{r}_i^T \quad {}_G\vec{v}_i^T]$  is the **orbital state** of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  satellite given position  ${}_G\vec{r}_i$  and velocity  ${}_G\vec{v}_i$  determined relative to the geocentric reference frame  $G$ ;  ${}_G\dot{\vec{x}}_i$  is its derivative with  ${}_G\vec{a}_i$  denoting acceleration.

- We define  $G$  (**commonly called “ECI”**) to be the set of coordinate axes whose origin is coincident with Earth’s center of mass and whose axes are parallel to those of the J2000 inertial reference frame  $N$ .
- We define  $N$  to be the set of coordinate axes whose origin is coincident with the solar system barycenter, **neglecting proper motion of the sun over mission-relevant timescales**.
- ${}_N\vec{x}_G^T \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [{}_N\vec{r}_G^T \quad {}_N\vec{v}_G^T]$  is the orbital state of the Earth relative to  $N$ .
- In general,  ${}_B\vec{x}_A^T$  denotes the orbital state of **point or non-rotating reference frame  $A$**  as seen by an observer in reference frame  $B$ .



# Building the Dynamics Model

- $\vec{f}(t, {}_G\vec{x}_i)$  contains higher-order dynamics terms.
- Models are available containing higher order terms which are dependent on Earth's orientation at time  $t$ .
- Per the rules of transformation between rotating reference frames:

$${}_{\mathcal{E}}\vec{x}_i = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{r}_i \\ {}_{\mathcal{E}}\vec{v}_i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{0} \\ -({}_G\vec{\omega}_{\mathcal{E}} \times) & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{r}_i \\ {}_G\vec{v}_i \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} {}_{\mathcal{E}}\mathbf{T}^G {}_G\vec{x}_i$$

where  ${}_G\vec{\omega}_{\mathcal{E}}(t)$  is the angular velocity of  $\mathcal{E}$  relative to  $G$ , and  ${}_{\mathcal{E}}\mathbf{T}^G$  is the tensor which transforms a  $G$ -relative state into an  $\mathcal{E}$ -relative state.  $\mathbf{I}$  is the identity tensor.

- Let  ${}_G\vec{a}_i^{\mathcal{E}}$  be the acceleration due to disturbances evaluated in frame  $\mathcal{E}$ .

$${}_G\vec{a}_i^{\mathcal{E}} = \begin{bmatrix} ({}_G\vec{\omega}_{\mathcal{E}} \times)({}_G\vec{\omega}_{\mathcal{E}} \times) + ({}_G\vec{a}_{\mathcal{E}} \times) & 2({}_G\vec{\omega}_{\mathcal{E}} \times) & \mathbf{I} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{r}_i \\ {}_{\mathcal{E}}\vec{v}_i \\ {}_{\mathcal{E}}\vec{f}(t, {}_{\mathcal{E}}\vec{x}_i) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow {}_G\vec{a}_i^{\mathcal{E}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} {}_G\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{E}} {}_{\mathcal{E}}\mathbf{T}^G {}_G\vec{x}_i + {}_{\mathcal{E}}\vec{f}(t, {}_{\mathcal{E}}\mathbf{T}^G {}_G\vec{x}_i)$$



# Building the Dynamics Model

- We may similarly apply nonspherical Lunar gravity, which is defined in the Moon-centered, Moon-fixed frame  $\mathcal{M}$ .
- We will also denote Lunacentric coordinates  $\mathcal{L}$  to be parallel to  $\mathcal{N}$  with origin fixed to the Moon's center of mass.

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{\mathcal{L}}\vec{x}_i &= {}_G\vec{x}_i - {}_G\vec{x}_L \Rightarrow {}_{\mathcal{M}}\vec{x}_i = {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{L}}({}_G\vec{x}_i - {}_G\vec{x}_L). \\ \Rightarrow {}_{\mathcal{L}}\vec{a}_i^{\mathcal{M}} &= {}_{\mathcal{L}}\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{M}} {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{L}}({}_G\vec{x}_i - {}_G\vec{x}_L) + {}_{\mathcal{M}}\vec{f}\left(t, {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{L}}({}_G\vec{x}_i - {}_G\vec{x}_L)\right). \end{aligned}$$

- In a final step, we must account for the acceleration of  $\mathcal{L}$  relative to  $\mathcal{G}$ .

$${}_G\vec{a}_i^{\mathcal{M}} = {}_{\mathcal{L}}\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{M}} {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{L}}({}_G\vec{x}_i - {}_G\vec{x}_L) + {}_{\mathcal{M}}\vec{f}\left(t, {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{L}}({}_G\vec{x}_i - {}_G\vec{x}_L)\right) + {}_G\vec{a}_L.$$

- It follows that  ${}_{\mathcal{L}}\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{M}} {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{L}} \equiv {}_G\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{M}} {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}}$ . Thus, we may write that

$$\begin{aligned} {}_G\vec{a}_i^{\mathcal{M}} &= {}_G\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{M}} {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}} {}_G\vec{x}_i + {}_{\mathcal{M}}\vec{f}\left(t, {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}}({}_G\vec{x}_i - {}_G\vec{x}_L)\right) - ({}_{\mathcal{L}}\vec{a}_G - {}_{\mathcal{L}}\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{M}} {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{L}} {}_{\mathcal{L}}\vec{x}_G). \\ \Rightarrow {}_G\vec{a}_i^{\mathcal{M}} &= {}_G\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{M}} {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}} {}_G\vec{x}_i + {}_{\mathcal{M}}\vec{f}\left(t, {}_{\mathcal{M}}\mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}}({}_G\vec{x}_i - {}_G\vec{x}_L)\right) - {}_{\mathcal{M}}\vec{a}_G. \end{aligned}$$



# Building the Dynamics Model

- A quick note from the previous slide concerning the expression

$${}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{a}_i^{\mathcal{E}} = {}_{\mathcal{G}}\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{E}} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}} {}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{x}_i + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \vec{f}(t, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}} {}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{x}_i),$$

and

$${}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{a}_i^{\mathcal{M}} = {}_{\mathcal{G}}\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{M}} \mathcal{M} \mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}} {}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{x}_i + \mathcal{M} \vec{f}(t, \mathcal{M} \mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}} ({}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{x}_i - {}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{x}_{\mathcal{L}})).$$

If we define

$${}_{\mathcal{G}}\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{G}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} {}_{\mathcal{G}}\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{E}} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}} + {}_{\mathcal{G}}\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{M}} \mathcal{M} \mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}},$$

then the non-Keplerian dynamics encountered so far may be expressed as

$$\dot{{}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{x}_i} = \begin{bmatrix} {}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{v}_i \\ \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \vec{f}(t, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}} {}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{x}_i) + \mathcal{M} \vec{f}(t, \mathcal{M} \mathbf{T}^{\mathcal{G}} ({}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{x}_i - {}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{x}_{\mathcal{L}})) + {}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{f}(t, {}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{x}_i) + {}_{\mathcal{G}}\mathbf{A}^{\mathcal{G}} {}_{\mathcal{G}}\vec{x}_i - \mathcal{M} \vec{a}_{\mathcal{G}} - \mathcal{N} \vec{a}_{\mathcal{G}} \end{bmatrix}.$$



# Building the Dynamics Model

- Earth's angular velocity  ${}_C\vec{\omega}_E(t)$ , angular acceleration  ${}_C\vec{\alpha}_E(t)$ , and linear acceleration  ${}_N\vec{\alpha}_G(t)$  are, for our purposes, determined from empirical data collected by NASA and made available through **JPL's CSPICE software** at <https://naif.jpl.nasa.gov/naif/index.html>.
- For Earth's gravity calculation, **SGG-UGM-2** (<http://icgem.gfz-potsdam.de/>), published to degree 2190 but truncated to degree 96.
- Lunar gravitational acceleration implemented using **sphericalRFM\_MOON\_2519** (<http://icgem.gfz-potsdam.de/>), published to degree 2519 but truncated to degree 60.
- **Set up but not implemented:**
  - Gravitational pull by the sun and other planets.
  - A program to acquire the published monthly GRACE-FO data with a curve fit to obtain non-tidal influences on Earth's gravitational potential.
  - Earth Ocean Tides 2011a to implement the gravitational potential caused by Earth's ocean tides.
  - Atmosphere and Ocean De-Aliasing Level-1B to implement the gravitational potential of Earth's atmosphere.
  - International Earth Rotation and Reference System Service (IERS) guidelines on the following:
    - Gravitational potential caused by solid Earth tides.
    - Gravitational potential caused by solid earth and oceanic polar tides.
    - General relativistic corrections to dynamics (Schwarzschild-Lens-Thinning term).



- Implement the remaining IERS 2010 dynamics terms.
- Apply Tschauner-Hempel equations.
- Include terms for satellite-applied controls (e.g., thrust).
- Determine bounds of control effort required to maintain geometry.
- Satellite networked architecture.