

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

16.346 Astrodynamics
Fall 2008

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.

Lecture 9 Lambert's Theorem and the Lagrange Time Equation

The Theorem of Johann Heinrich Lambert

#6.6

$$\boxed{\sqrt{\mu}(t_2 - t_1) = F(a, r_1 + r_2, c)}$$

Developing Lagrange's Equations

- Kepler's Equation $\sqrt{\mu}(t - \tau) = a^{\frac{3}{2}}(E - e \sin E)$
 $\sqrt{\mu}(t_2 - \tau) - \sqrt{\mu}(t_1 - \tau) = a^{\frac{3}{2}}[(E_2 - e \sin E_2) - (E_1 - e \sin E_1)]$
 $\sqrt{\mu}(t_2 - t_1) = 2a^{\frac{3}{2}}[\frac{1}{2}(E_2 - E_1) - e \sin \frac{1}{2}(E_2 - E_1) \cos \frac{1}{2}(E_1 + E_2)]$
- Equation of Orbit $r = a(1 - e \cos E)$
 $r_1 + r_2 = a(1 - e \cos E_1) + a(1 - e \cos E_2)$
 $\quad\quad\quad = 2a[1 - e \cos \frac{1}{2}(E_2 - E_1) \cos \frac{1}{2}(E_1 + E_2)]$
- Chord $c = \sqrt{r_1^2 + r_2^2 - 2r_1r_2 \cos \theta}$
 $c^2 = r_1^2 + r_2^2 + 2r_1r_2(1 - 2 \cos^2 \frac{1}{2}\theta)$
 $\quad\quad\quad = (r_1 + r_2)^2 - 4r_1r_2 \cos^2 \frac{1}{2}\theta$

Recall the relations between eccentric and true anomalies.

Using $\sqrt{r} \sin \frac{1}{2}f = \sqrt{a(1+e)} \sin \frac{1}{2}E$ $\sqrt{r} \cos \frac{1}{2}f = \sqrt{a(1-e)} \cos \frac{1}{2}E$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{r_1 r_2} \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta &= \sqrt{r_1 r_2} \cos \frac{1}{2}(f_2 - f_1) = \sqrt{r_1 r_2}(\cos \frac{1}{2}f_2 \cos \frac{1}{2}f_1 + \sin \frac{1}{2}f_2 \sin \frac{1}{2}f_1) \\ &= \sqrt{r_2} \cos \frac{1}{2}f_2 \sqrt{r_1} \cos \frac{1}{2}f_1 + \sqrt{r_2} \sin \frac{1}{2}f_2 \sqrt{r_1} \sin \frac{1}{2}f_1 \\ &= a(1-e) \cos \frac{1}{2}E_2 \cos \frac{1}{2}E_1 + a(1+e) \sin \frac{1}{2}E_2 \sin \frac{1}{2}E_1 \\ &= a \cos \frac{1}{2}(E_2 - E_1) - ae \cos \frac{1}{2}(E_2 + E_1) \end{aligned}$$

- Lagrange Parameters

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \psi &= \frac{1}{2}(E_2 - E_1) \\ \cos \phi &= e \cos \frac{1}{2}(E_1 + E_2) \end{aligned}}$$

- Lagrange Equations

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \sqrt{\mu}(t_2 - t_1) &= 2a^{\frac{3}{2}}(\psi - \sin \psi \cos \phi) \\ r_1 + r_2 &= 2a(1 - \cos \psi \cos \phi) \\ c &= 2a \sin \psi \sin \phi \end{aligned}}$$

Note: We also have

$$\boxed{\sqrt{r_1 r_2} \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta = a(\cos \psi - \cos \phi)}$$

Lagrange's Time Equation

Define

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha = \phi + \psi & \implies \psi = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \beta) \\ \beta = \phi - \psi & \implies \phi = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta) \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{\mu}(t_2 - t_1) &= 2a^{\frac{3}{2}}(\psi - \sin \psi \cos \phi) \\ &= a^{\frac{3}{2}}[\alpha - \beta - 2 \sin \frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \beta) \cos \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta)] \\ &= a^{\frac{3}{2}}[(\alpha - \sin \alpha) - (\beta - \sin \beta)] \end{aligned}$$

Also:

$$\begin{aligned} r_1 + r_2 + c &= 2a[1 - \cos(\phi + \psi)] = 2a(1 - \cos \alpha) = 4a \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}\alpha \\ r_1 + r_2 - c &= 2a[1 - \cos(\phi - \psi)] = 2a(1 - \cos \beta) = 4a \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}\beta \end{aligned}$$

Hence, Lagrange's analytic form of Lambert's theorem is

$$\sqrt{\frac{\mu}{a^3}}(t_2 - t_1) = (\alpha - \sin \alpha) - (\beta - \sin \beta)$$

where

$$\sin^2 \frac{1}{2}\alpha = \frac{s}{2a} \quad \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}\beta = \frac{s-c}{2a}$$

in terms of the semiperimeter of the triangle:

$$s = \frac{1}{2}(r_1 + r_2 + c)$$

Euler's Equation for Parabolic Orbits

Since

$$a^{\frac{3}{2}}(\alpha - \sin \alpha) = a^{\frac{3}{2}}\left(\frac{\alpha^3}{3!} + \frac{\alpha^5}{5!} + \dots\right)$$

and

$$\alpha = 2 \arcsin \sqrt{\frac{s}{2a}} = 2\left(\frac{s}{2a}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{1}{3}\left(\frac{s}{2a}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} + \dots$$

Then

$$a^{\frac{3}{2}}(\alpha - \sin \alpha) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}s^{\frac{3}{2}} + O\left(\frac{1}{a^2}\right)$$

Similarly,

$$a^{\frac{3}{2}}(\beta - \sin \beta) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}(s-c)^{\frac{3}{2}} + O\left(\frac{1}{a^2}\right)$$

Therefore:

$$\sqrt{\mu}(t_2 - t_1) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}[s^{\frac{3}{2}} \mp (s-c)^{\frac{3}{2}}]$$

The choice of sign is minus for $\theta < 180^\circ$ and plus for $\theta > 180^\circ$.

Alternately,

$$6\sqrt{\mu}(t_2 - t_1) = (r_1 + r_2 + c)^{\frac{3}{2}} \mp (r_1 + r_2 - c)^{\frac{3}{2}}$$

The Orbital Parameter

From Page 1 of Lecture 8

$$\left(\frac{p}{p_m}\right)^2 - 2D\frac{p}{p_m} + 1 = 0 \quad \text{where} \quad D = \frac{r_1 + r_2}{c} - \frac{r_1 r_2}{ac} \cos^2 \frac{1}{2}\theta$$

Use the Lagrange equations

$$D = \frac{2a(1 - \cos \psi \cos \phi)}{2a \sin \psi \sin \phi} - \frac{a^2(\cos \psi - \cos \phi)^2}{2a^2 \sin \psi \sin \phi} = \frac{\sin^2 \psi + \sin^2 \phi}{2 \sin \psi \sin \phi}$$

$$\sqrt{D^2 - 1} = \frac{\sin^2 \psi - \sin^2 \phi}{2 \sin \psi \sin \phi}$$

so that

$$\frac{p}{p_m} = \begin{cases} \frac{\sin \phi}{\sin \psi} = \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta)}{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \beta)} \\ \frac{\sin \psi}{\sin \phi} = \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \beta)}{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta)} \end{cases}$$

Note: The orbital parameter equations were not developed by Lagrange.

Skewed-Velocity Components in Terms of the Semimajor Axis

#6.8

From

$$p = \frac{\sin \phi}{\sin \psi} p_m = \frac{\sin \phi}{\sin \psi} \times \frac{r_1 r_2}{c} (1 - \cos \theta)$$

and

$$c = 2a \sin \psi \sin \phi \quad \alpha = \phi + \psi$$

$$\sqrt{r_1 r_2} \cos \frac{1}{2}\theta = a(\cos \psi - \cos \phi) \quad \beta = \phi - \psi$$

we obtain

$$v_c = \frac{c\sqrt{\mu p}}{r_1 r_2 \sin \theta} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{a}} \frac{\sin \phi}{\cos \psi - \cos \phi} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{4a}} (\cot \frac{1}{2}\beta + \cot \frac{1}{2}\alpha)$$

$$v_\rho = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{p}} \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{\sin \theta} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{a}} \frac{\sin \psi}{\cos \psi - \cos \phi} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{4a}} (\cot \frac{1}{2}\beta - \cot \frac{1}{2}\alpha)$$

Hence:

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \left(\sqrt{\frac{\mu}{2(s-c)} - \frac{\mu}{4a}} + \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{2s} - \frac{\mu}{4a}} \right) \mathbf{i}_c + \left(\sqrt{\frac{\mu}{2(s-c)} - \frac{\mu}{4a}} - \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{2s} - \frac{\mu}{4a}} \right) \mathbf{i}_{r_1}$$