Orbital Mechanics

- Energy and velocity in orbit
- Elliptical orbit parameters
- Orbital elements
- Coplanar orbital transfers
- Noncoplanar transfers
- Time and flight path angle as a function of orbital position
- Relative orbital motion ("proximity operations")

Energy in Orbit

- Kinetic Energy

$$K.E. = \frac{1}{2} m v^2 \Rightarrow \frac{K.E.}{m} = \frac{v^2}{2}$$

- Potential Energy

$$P.E. = -\frac{m\mu}{r} \Rightarrow \frac{P.E.}{m} = -\frac{\mu}{r}$$

- Total Energy

$$Const. = \frac{v^2}{2} - \frac{\mu}{r} = -\frac{\mu}{2a}$$

<--Vis-Viva Equation

Implications of Vis-Viva

- Circular orbit (r=a)

$$v_{circular} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r}}$$

- Parabolic escape orbit (a tends to infinity)

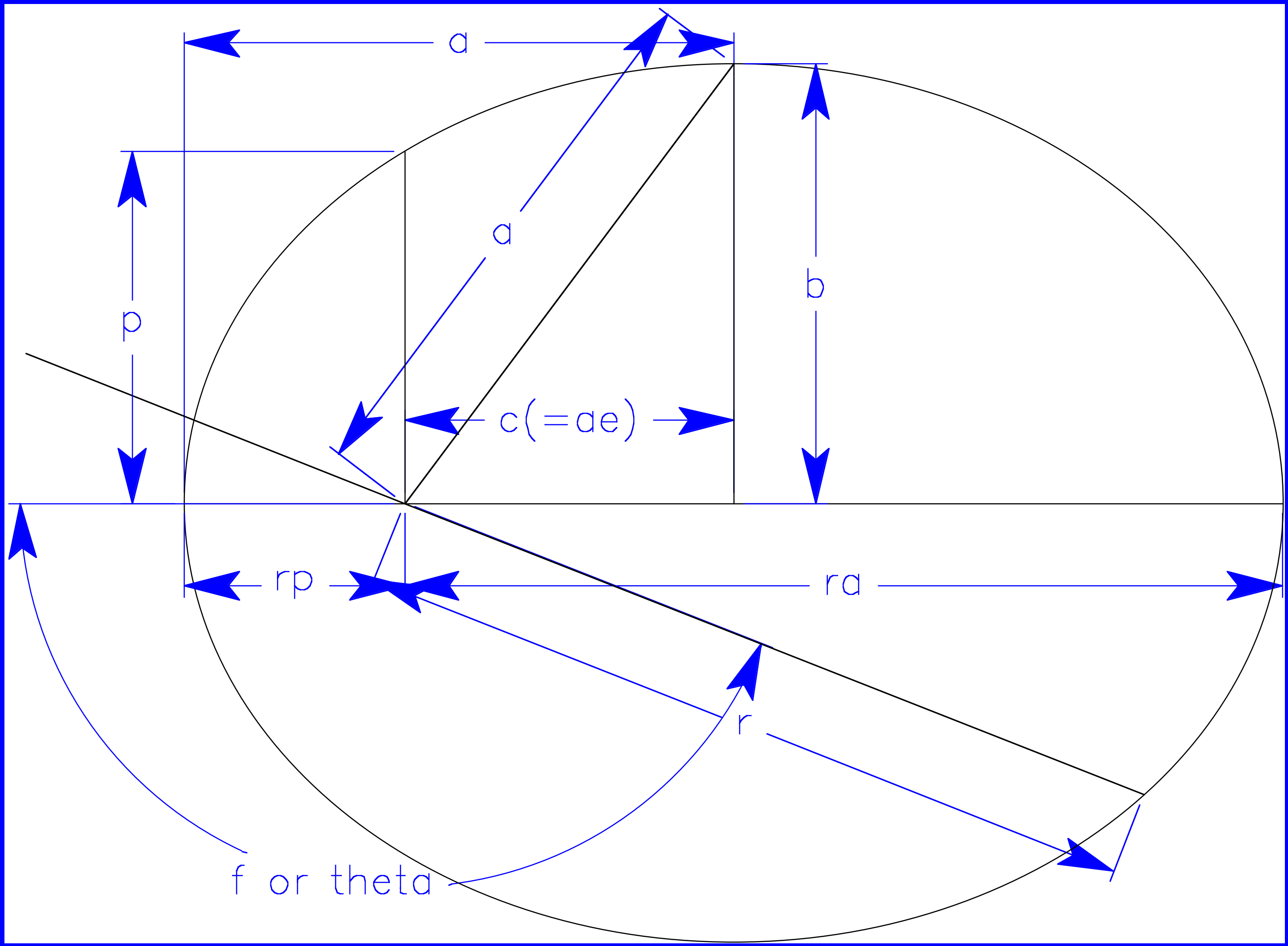
$$v_{escape} = \sqrt{\frac{2\mu}{r}}$$

- Relationship between circular and parabolic orbits $v_{escape} = \sqrt{2} v_{circular}$

Some Useful Constants

- Gravitation constant $\mu = GM$
  - Earth: 398,604 km^3/sec^2
  - Moon: 4667.9 km^3/sec^2
  - Mars: 42,970 km^3/sec^2
  - Sun: 1.327×10^{11} km^3/sec^2
- Planetary radii
  - r_{Earth} = 6378 km
  - r_{Moon} = 1738 km
  - r_{Mars} = 3393 km

Classical Parameters of Elliptical Orbits



Basic Orbital Parameters

- Semi-latus rectum (or parameter)

$$p = a(1 - e^2)$$

- Radial distance as function of orbital position

$$r = \frac{p}{1 + e\cos\theta}$$

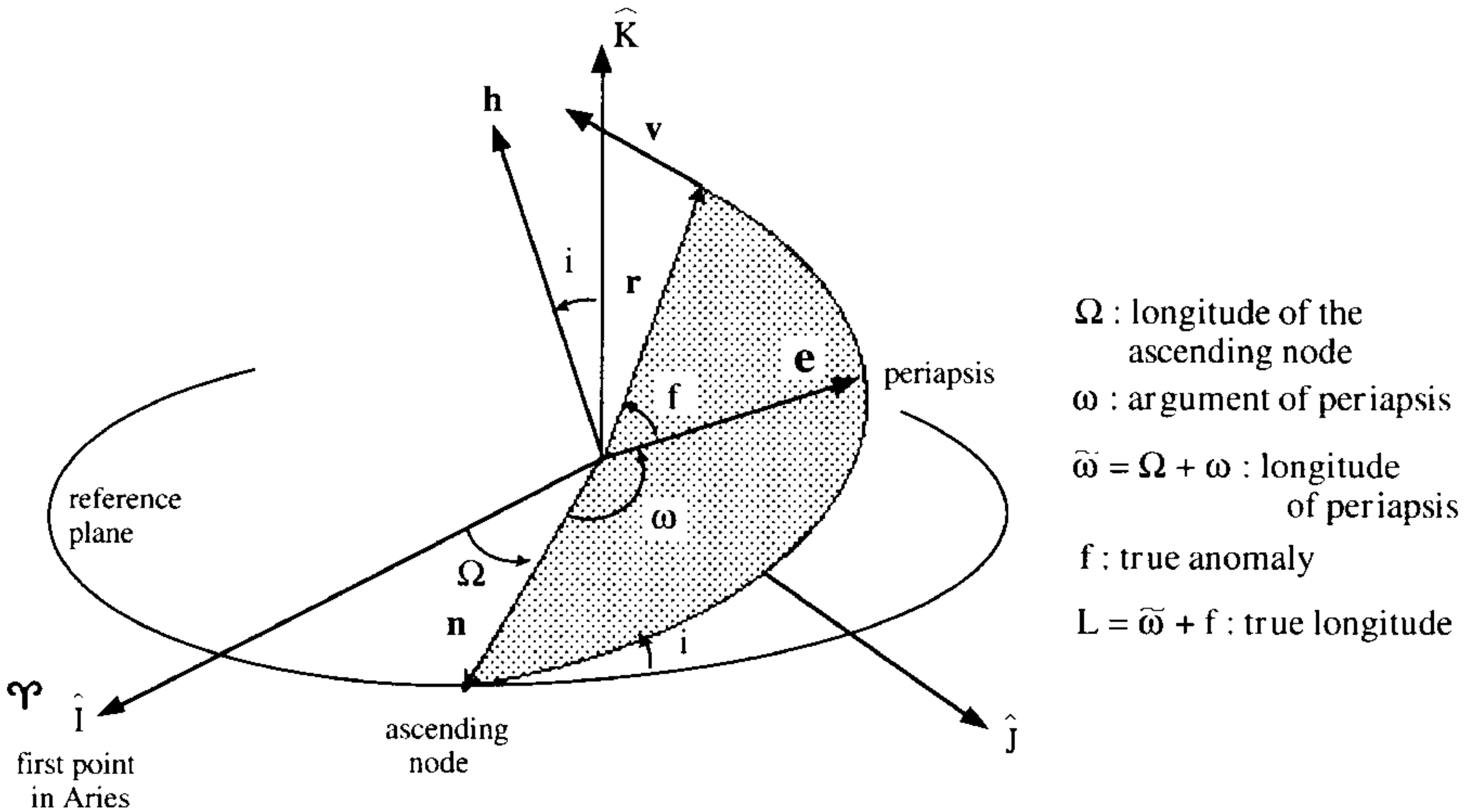
- Periapse and apoapse distances

$$r_p = a(1 - e) \qquad r_a = a(1 + e)$$

- Angular momentum

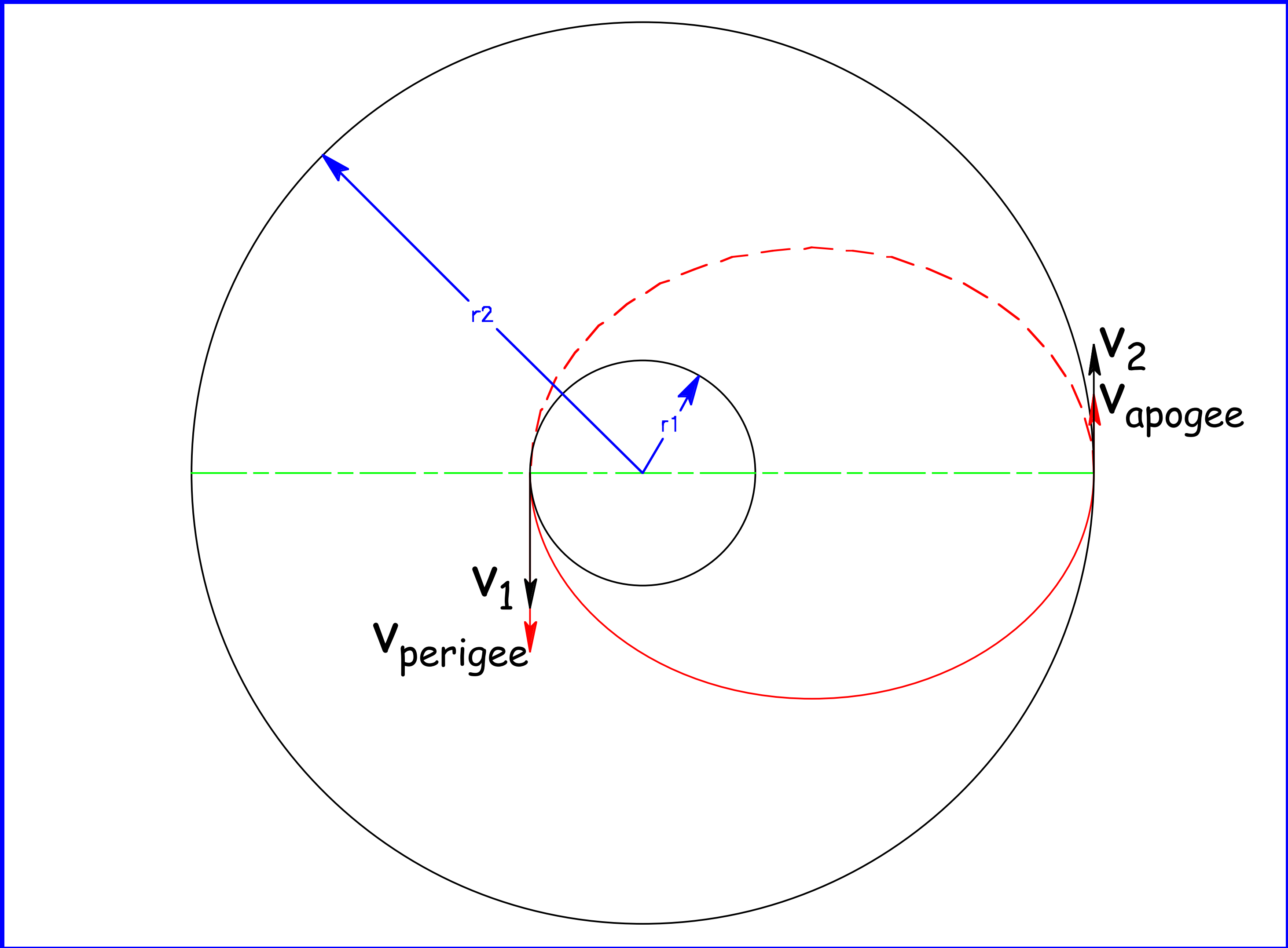
$$\vec{h} = \vec{r} \times \vec{v} \qquad h = \sqrt{\mu p}$$

The Classical Orbital Elements



Ref: J. E. Prussing and B. A. Conway, *Orbital Mechanics* Oxford University Press, 1993

The Hohmann Transfer



First Maneuver Velocities

- Initial vehicle velocity $$v_1 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_1}}$$
- Needed final velocity $$v_{perigee} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_1}}\sqrt{\frac{2r_2}{r_1 + r_2}}$$
- Delta-V $$\Delta v_1 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_1}}\left(\sqrt{\frac{2r_2}{r_1 + r_2}} - 1\right)$$

Second Maneuver Velocities

- Initial vehicle velocity

$$v_{apogee} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_2}}\sqrt{\frac{2r_1}{r_1 + r_2}}$$

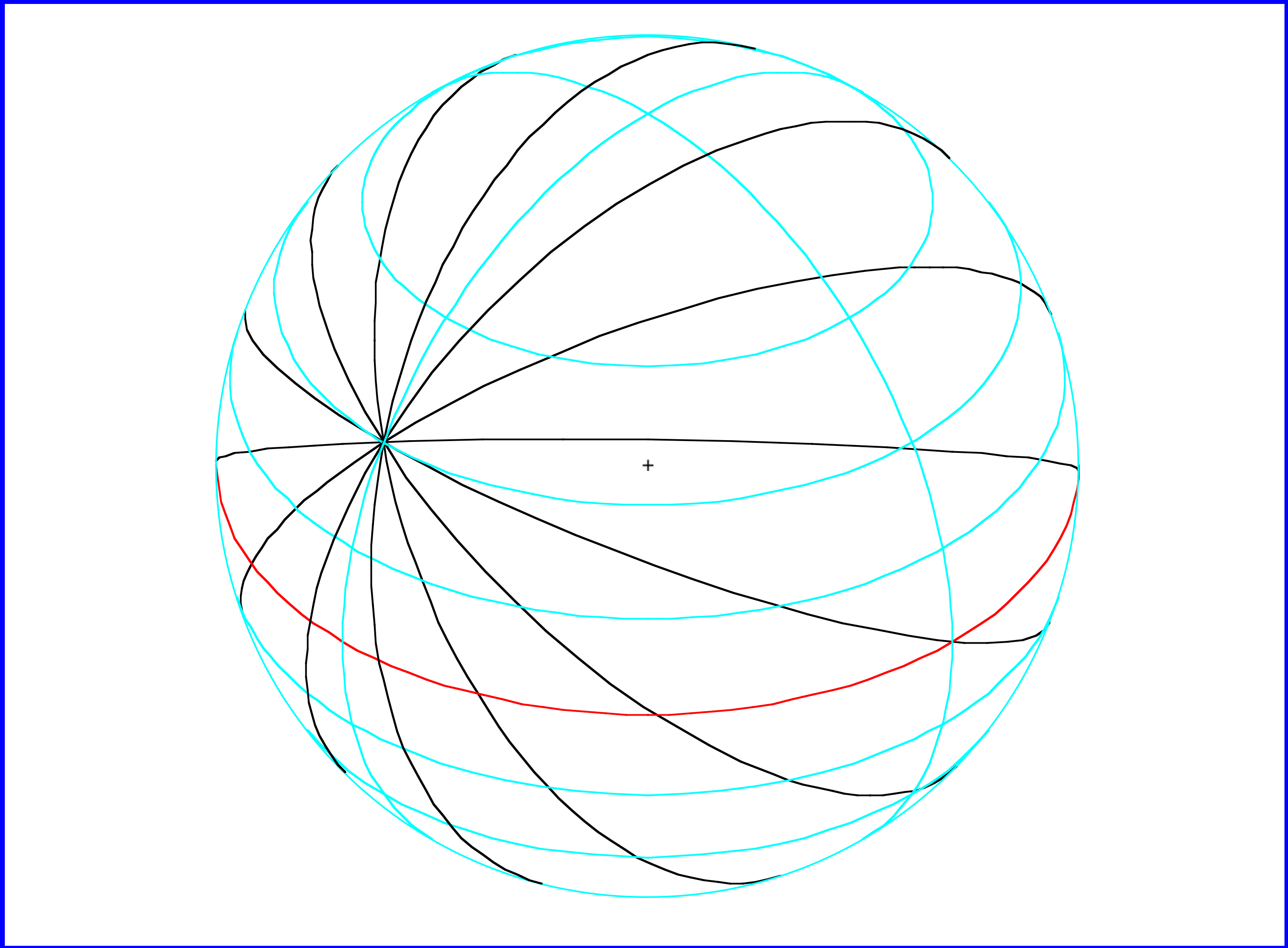
- Needed final velocity

$$v_2 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_2}}$$

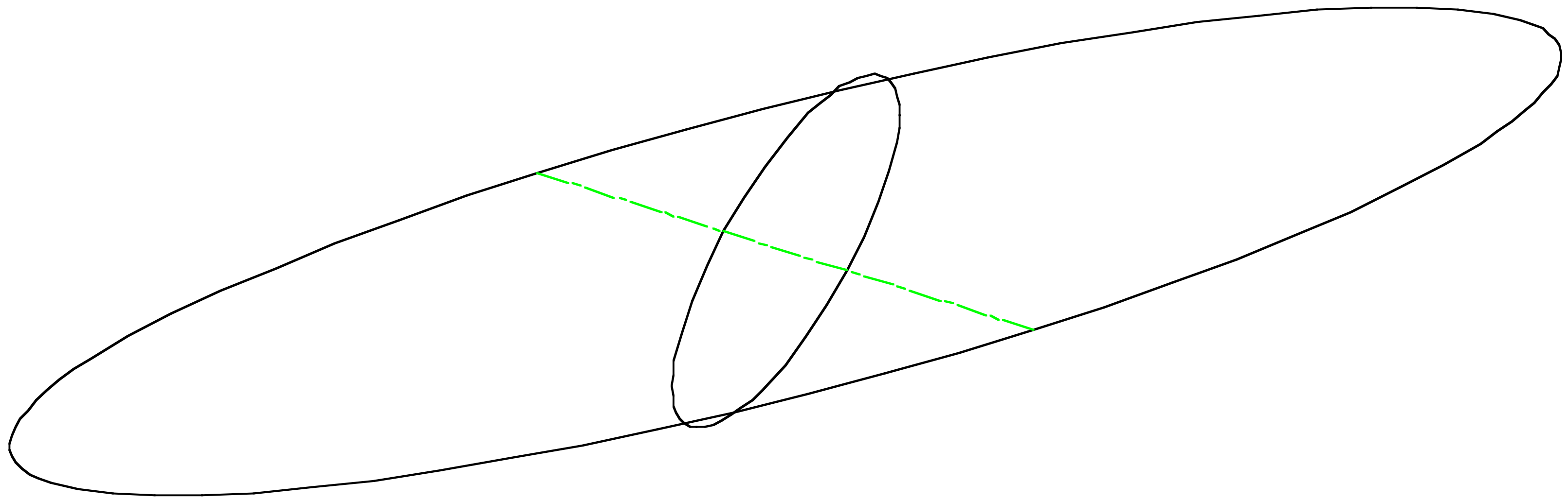
- Delta-V

$$\Delta v_2 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_2}}\left(1 - \sqrt{\frac{2r_1}{r_1 + r_2}}\right)$$

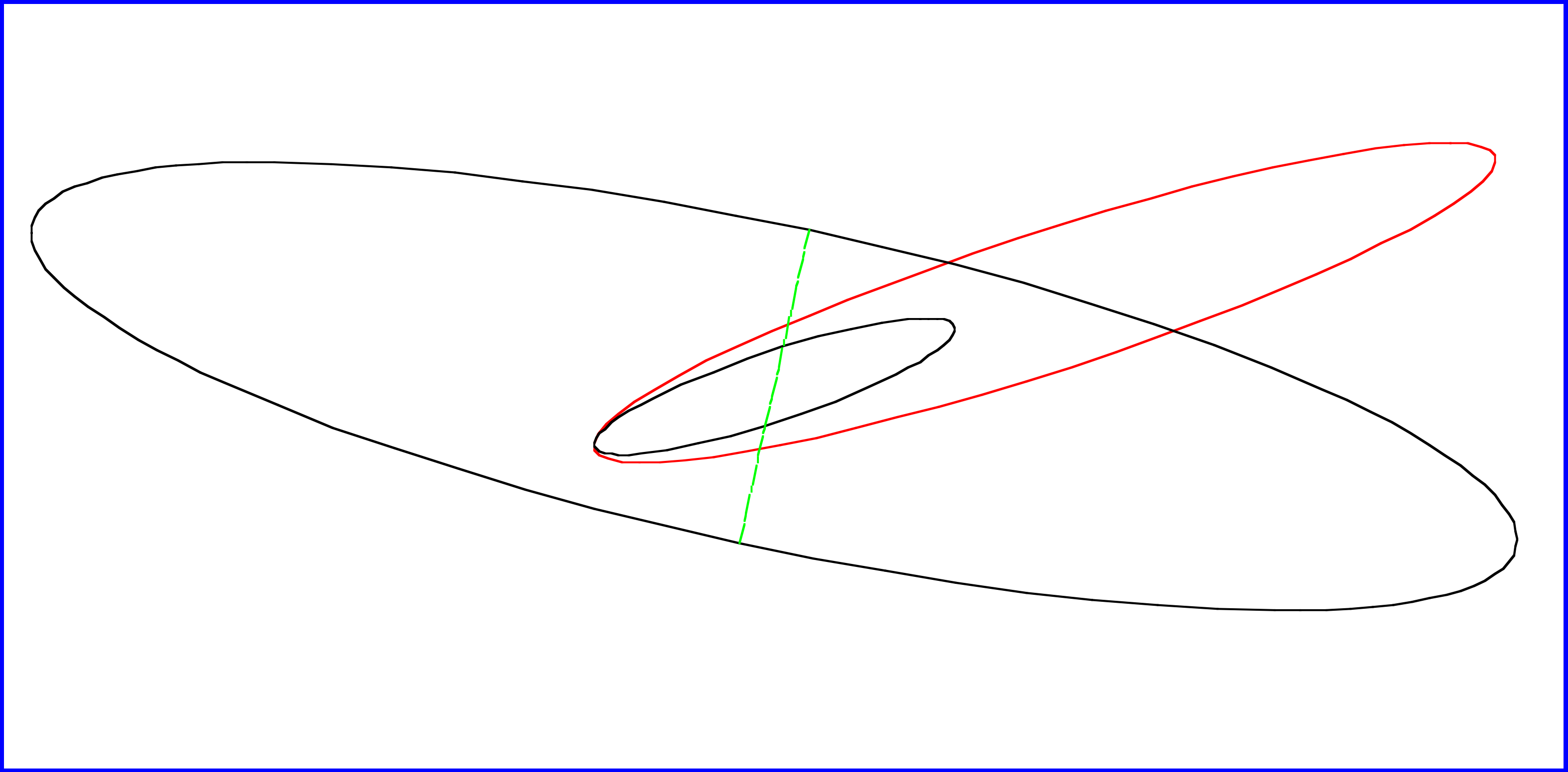
Limitations on Launch Inclinations



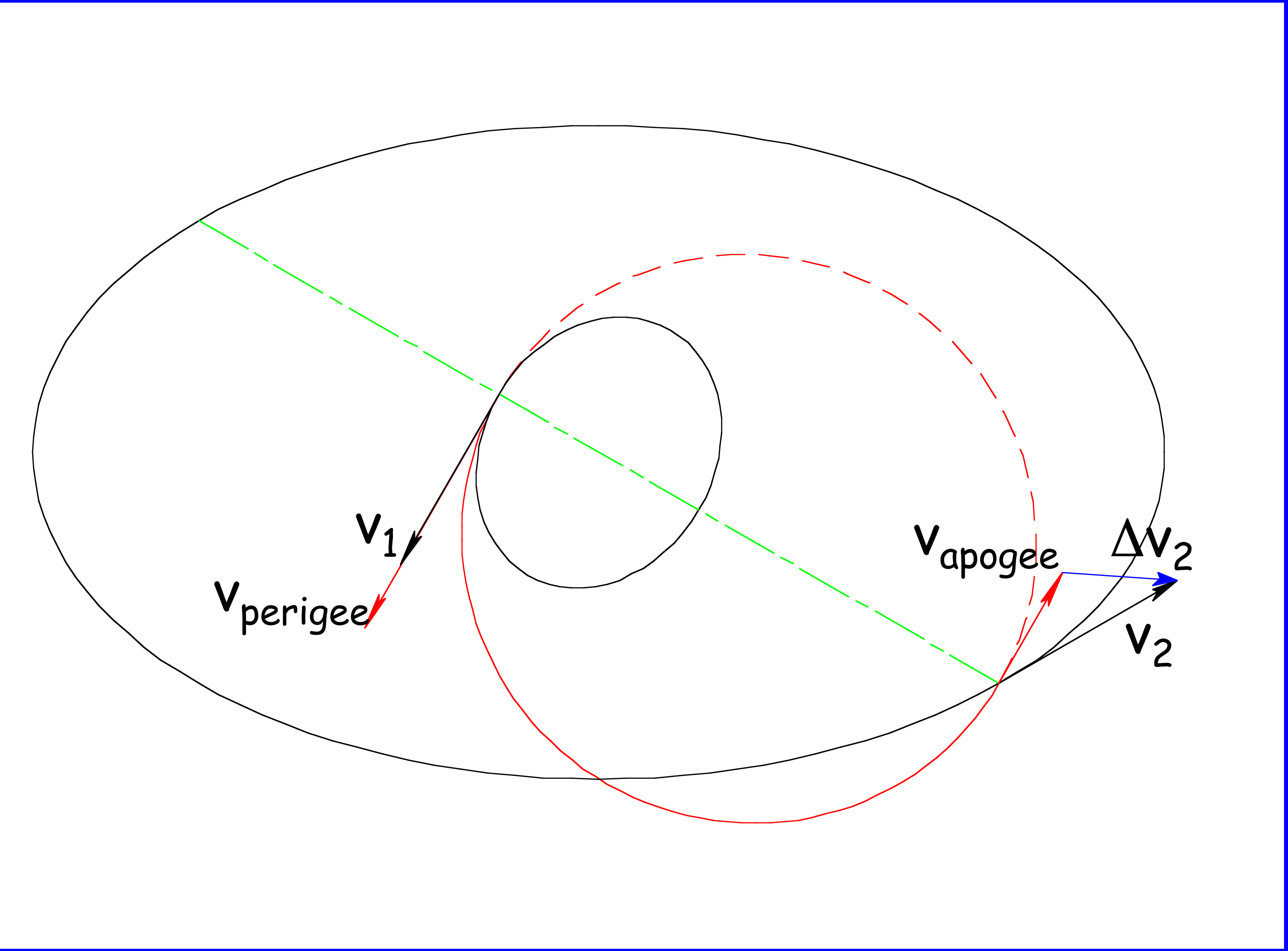
Differences in Inclination



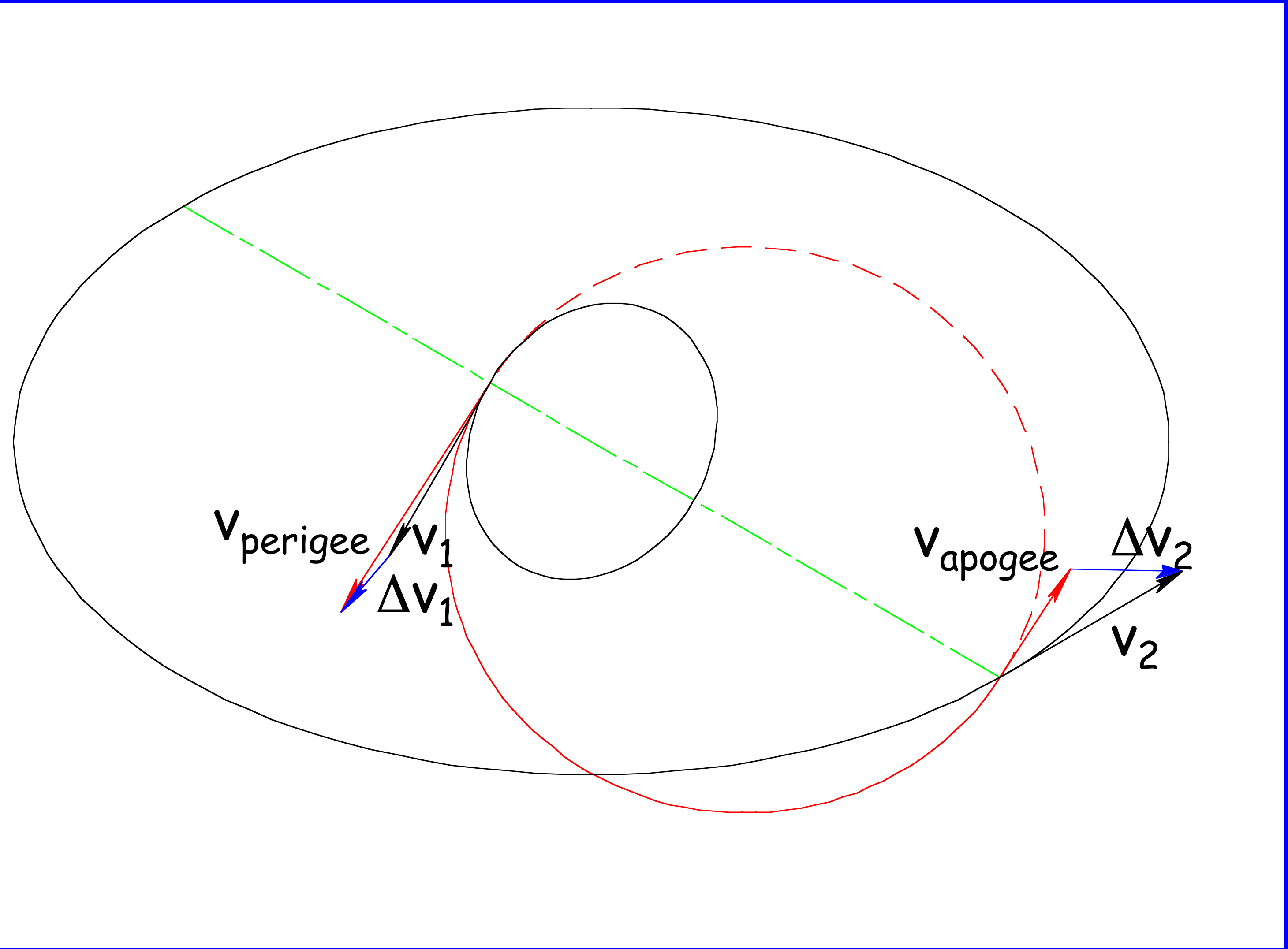
Choosing the Wrong Line of Apsides



Simple Plane Change



Optimal Plane Change



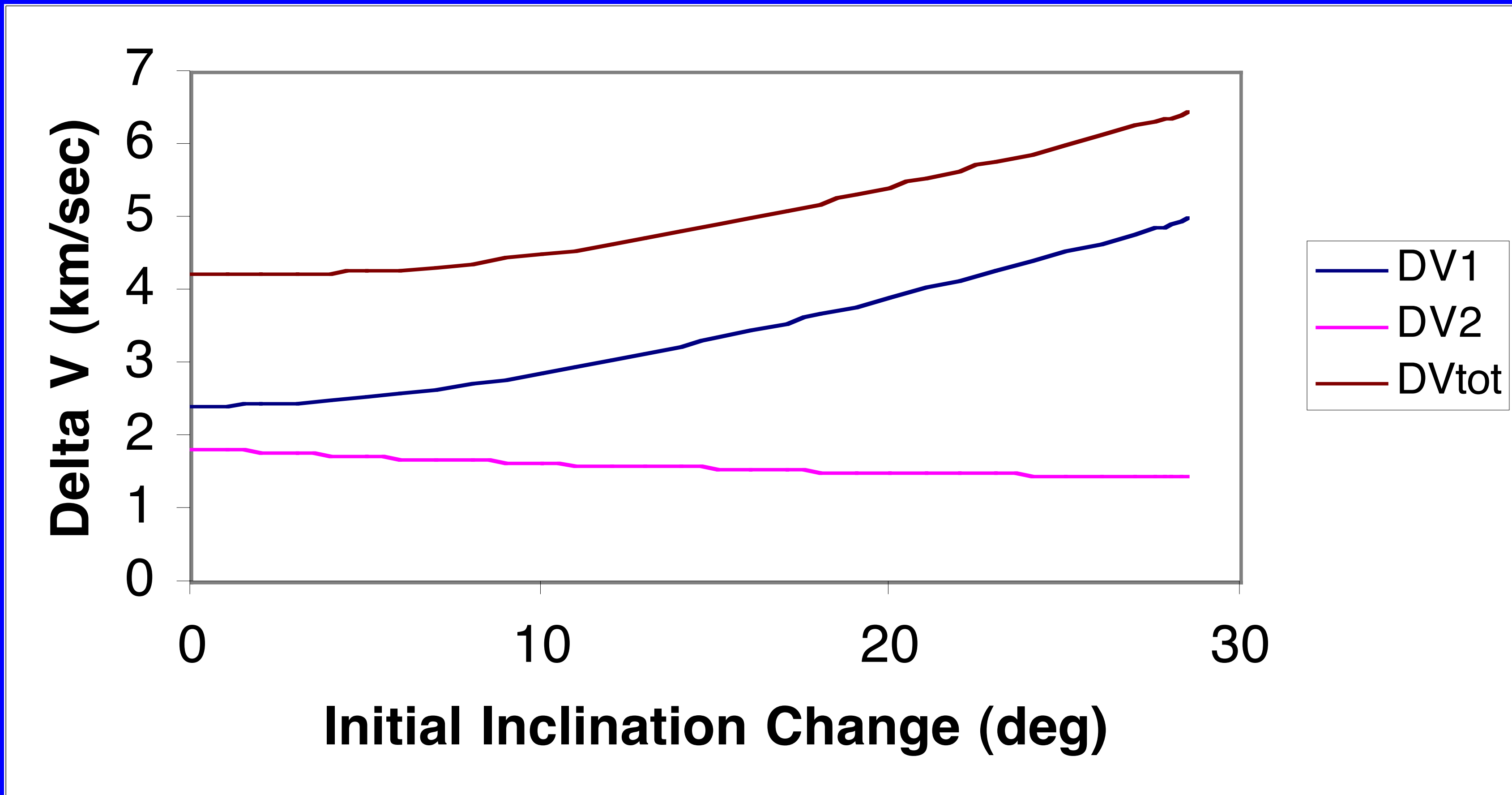
First Maneuver with Plane Change Δi_1

- Initial vehicle velocity $$v_1 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_1}}$$
- Needed final velocity $$v_p = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_1}}\sqrt{\frac{2r_2}{r_1 + r_2}}$$
- Delta-V $$\Delta v_1 = \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_p^2 - 2v_1 v_p \cos(\Delta i_1)}$$

Second Maneuver with Plane Change Δi_2

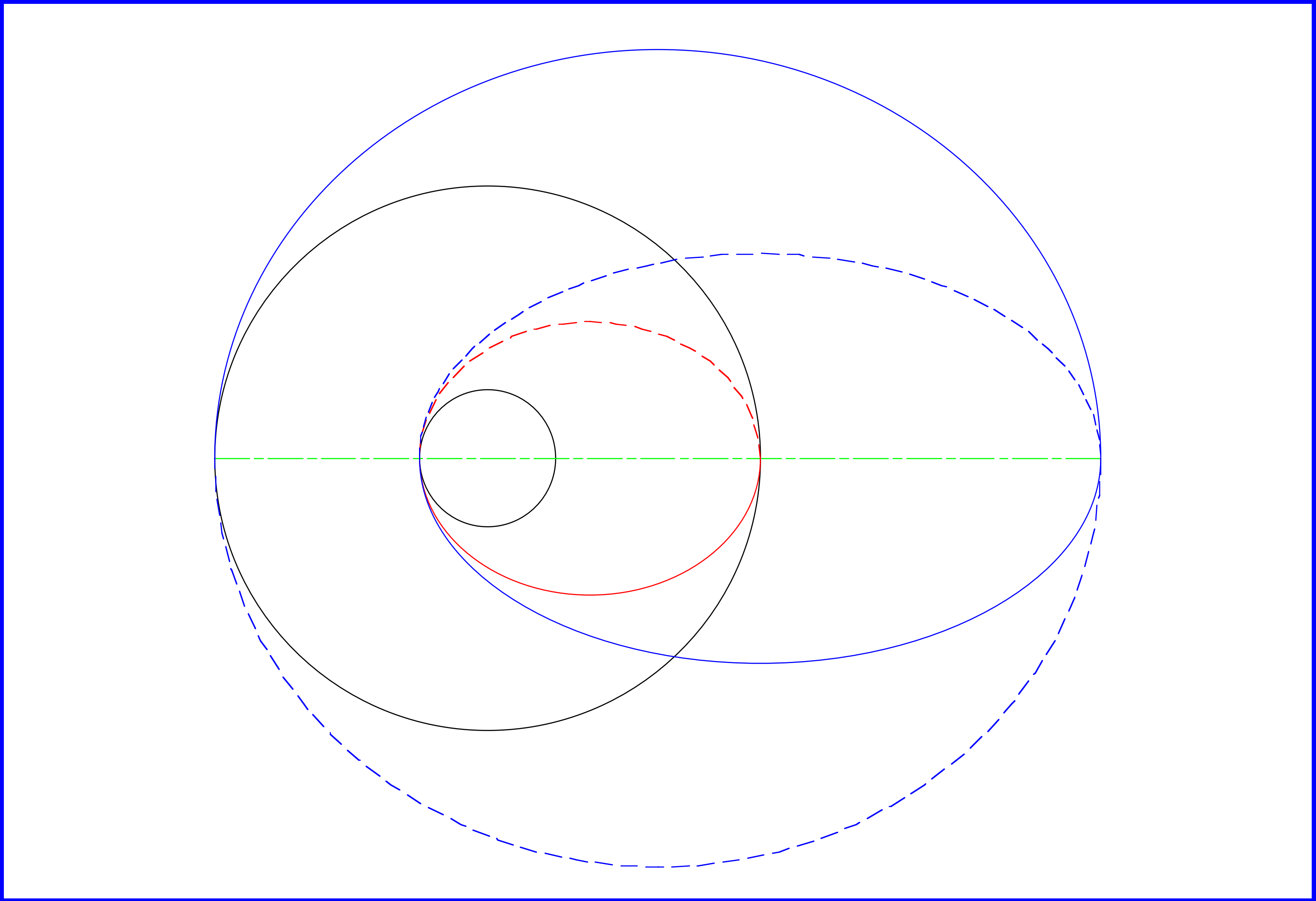
- Initial vehicle velocity $$v_a = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_2}}\sqrt{\frac{2r_1}{r_1 + r_2}}$$
- Needed final velocity $$v_2 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{r_2}}$$
- Delta-V $$\Delta v_2 = \sqrt{v_2^2 + v_a^2 - 2 v_2 v_a \cos(\Delta i_2)}$$

Sample Plane Change Maneuver

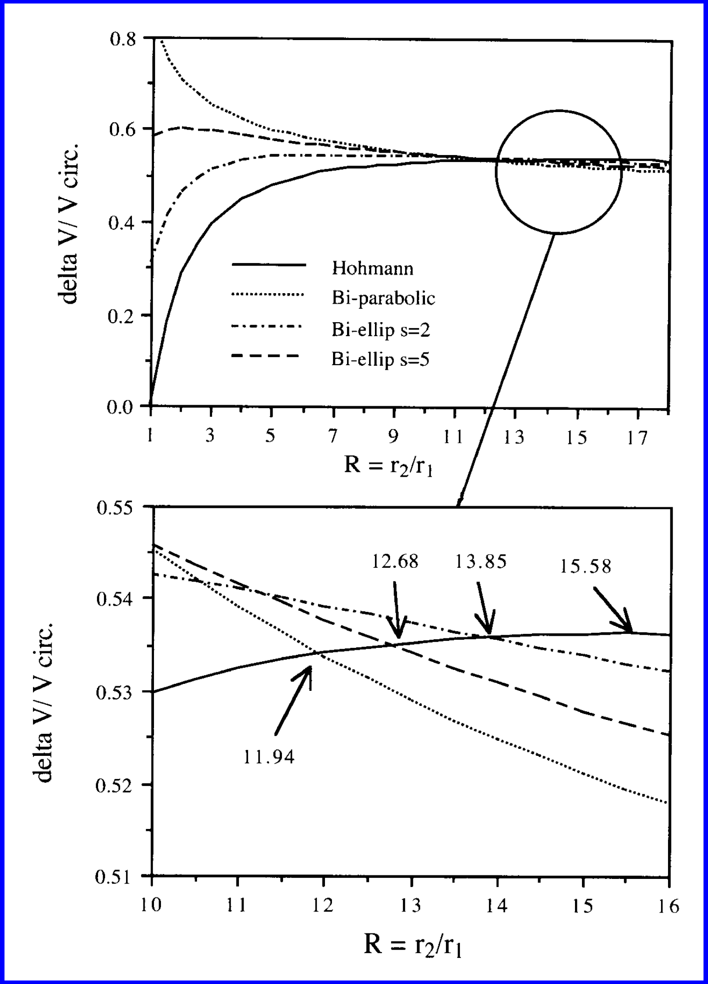


Optimum initial plane change = 2.20°

Bielliptic Transfer

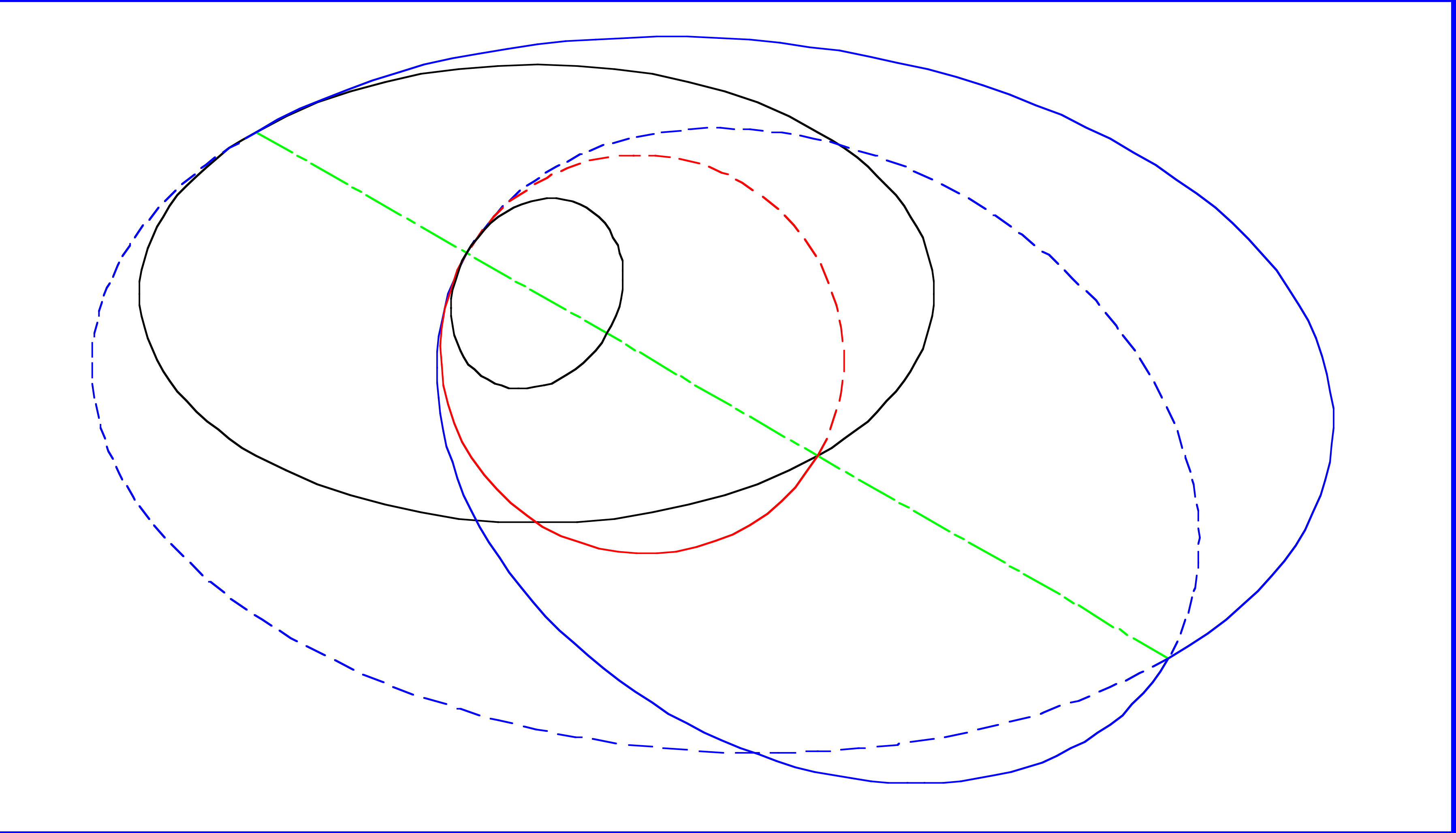


Coplanar Transfer Velocity Requirements

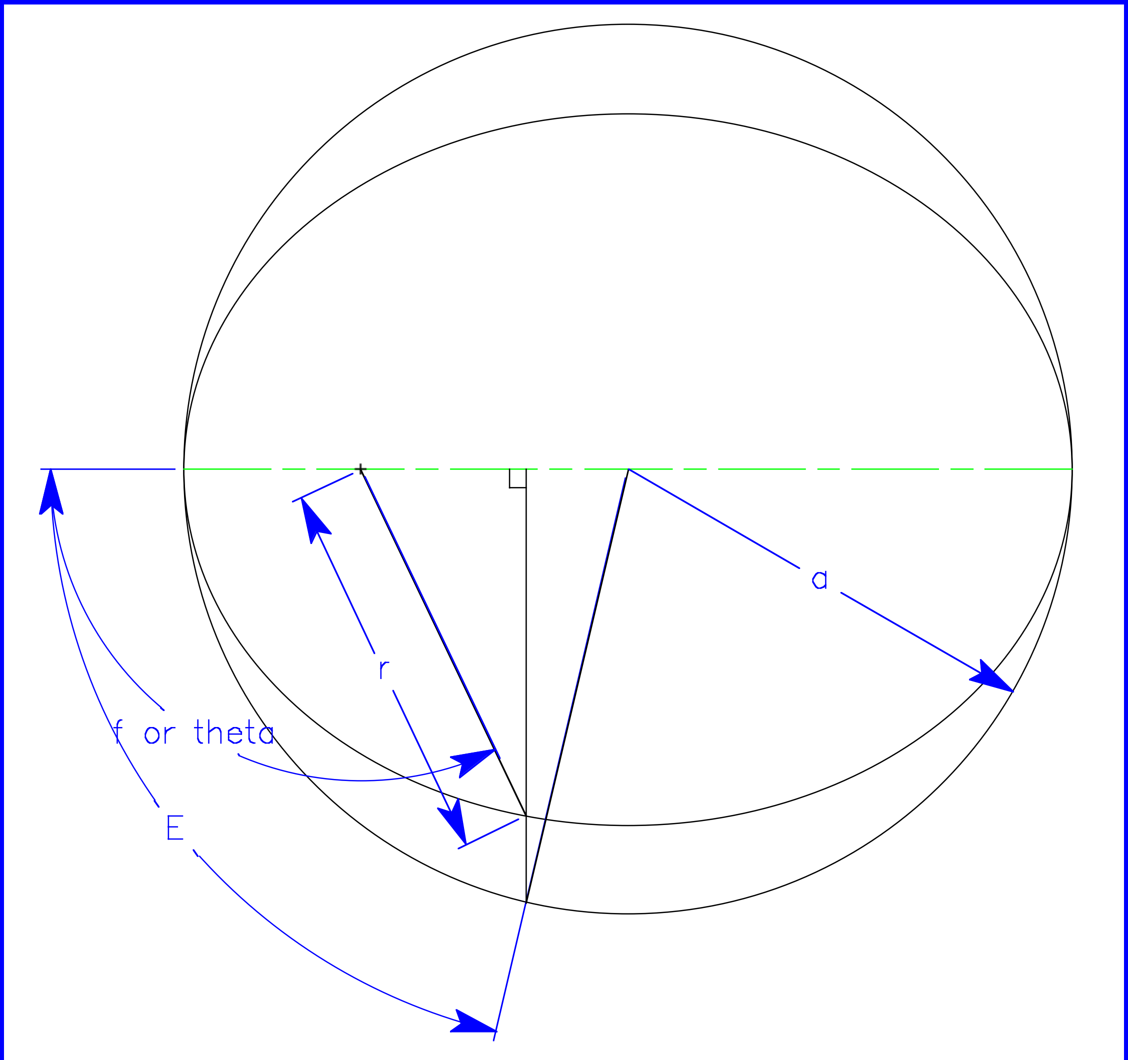


Ref: J. E. Prussing and B. A. Conway, *Orbital Mechanics* Oxford University Press, 1993

Noncoplanar Bielliptic Transfers



Calculating Time in Orbit



Time in Orbit

- Period of an orbit

$$P = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{a^3}{\mu}}$$

- Mean motion (average angular velocity)

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

- Time since pericenter passage

$$M = nt = E - e\sin E$$

➥M=mean anomaly

Dealing with the Eccentric Anomaly

- Relationship to orbit

$$r = a(1 - e\cos E)$$

- Relationship to true anomaly

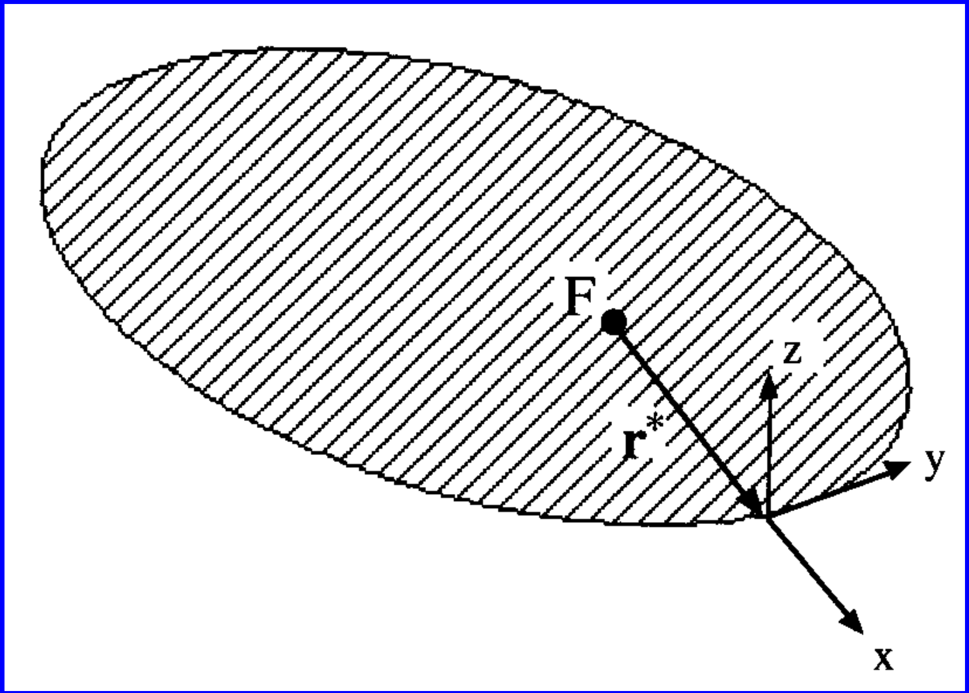
$$\tan\frac{\theta}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{1+e}{1-e}}\tan\frac{E}{2}$$

- Calculating M from time interval: iterate

$$E_{i+1} = nt + e\sin E_i$$

until it converges

Hill's Equations (Proximity Operations)



$$\ddot{x} = 3n^2x + 2n\dot{y} + a_{dx}$$

$$\ddot{y} = -2n\dot{x} + a_{dy}$$

$$\ddot{z} = -n^2z + a_{dz}$$

Ref: J. E. Prussing and B. A. Conway, *Orbital Mechanics*
Oxford University Press, 1993

Clohessy-Wiltshire ("CW") Equations

$$x(t) = \left[4 - 3\cos(nt)\right]x_o + \frac{\sin(nt)}{n}\dot{x}_o + \frac{2}{n}\left[1 - \cos(nt)\right]\dot{y}_o$$

$$y(t) = 6\left[\sin(nt) - nt\right]x_o + y_o - \frac{2}{n}\left[1 - \cos(nt)\right]\dot{x}_o + \frac{4\sin(nt) - 3nt}{n}\dot{y}_o$$

$$z(t) = z_o\cos(nt) + \frac{\dot{z}_o}{n}\sin(nt)$$

$$\dot{z}(t) = -z_o n\sin(nt) + \dot{z}_o\sin(nt)$$

References for Lecture 3

- Wernher von Braun, *The Mars Project* University of Illinois Press, 1962
- William Tyrrell Thomson, *Introduction to Space Dynamics* Dover Publications, 1986
- Francis J. Hale, *Introduction to Space Flight* Prentice-Hall, 1994
- William E. Wiesel, *Spaceflight Dynamics* MacGraw-Hill, 1997
- J. E. Prussing and B. A. Conway, *Orbital Mechanics* Oxford University Press, 1993