

Local to Inertial Coordinate Transformation

The transformation from the local coordinate system (x^l aligned with the radius vector, z^l aligned with the angular momentum vector, and y^l in the orbit plane and completing the right hand set) to the inertial coordinate system (X^I aligned with the Vernal Equinox, Z^I aligned with the North pole, and Y^I in the plane of the Equator (or ecliptic) and completing the right hand set) is given by the following matrix:

$$\{\vec{A}\}^I = [T_{lI}] \{\vec{A}\}^l \quad (1)$$

where $\{\ }^l$ means represented in the l (local) system, and $\{\ }^I$ means represented in the inertial system, $\vec{A}$ is a generic vector, and

$$T_{lI} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\Omega\cos(\omega+v) - \sin\Omega\cos i \sin(\omega+v) & -\cos\Omega\sin(\omega+v) - \sin\Omega\cos i \cos(\omega+v) & \sin\Omega\sin i \\ \sin\Omega\cos(\omega+v) + \cos\Omega\cos i \sin(\omega+v) & -\sin\Omega\sin(\omega+v) + \cos\Omega\cos i \cos(\omega+v) & -\cos\Omega\sin i \\ \sin i \sin(\omega+v) & \sin i \cos(\omega+v) & \cos i \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

The transformation from the perifocal coordinate system to the inertial system is given by the above transformation matrix with $v = 0$,

$$T_{p2I} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\Omega\cos\omega - \sin\Omega\cos i \sin\omega & -\cos\Omega\sin\omega - \sin\Omega\cos i \cos\omega & \sin\Omega\sin i \\ \sin\Omega\cos\omega + \cos\Omega\cos i \sin\omega & -\sin\Omega\sin\omega + \cos\Omega\cos i \cos\omega & -\cos\Omega\sin i \\ \sin i \sin\omega & \sin i \cos\omega & \cos i \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

We need not to determine the position and velocity vector in the local coordinate system. Recall that the local x axis is aligned with the radius vector. Therefore any components in the radial direction are local x components and any in the transverse direction are y components. It follows that the position and velocity vectors have the following representation in the local axis system:

$$\vec{r}^l = \begin{Bmatrix} r \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{V}^l = \begin{Bmatrix} V_r \\ V_\theta \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} \dot{r} \\ r \dot{\nu} \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

where:

$$\dot{r} = \frac{\mu}{h} e \sin v, \quad \text{and} \quad r \dot{v} = \frac{\mu}{h} (1 + e \cos v) \quad (5)$$

Components of the position and velocity vectors in the perifocal coordinate system can be determined by doing a simple transformation from the local axes system to the perifocal axes system. This transformation can be done using a simple $-v$ rotation about the z axis. The transformation is then given by:

$$\{\vec{A}\}^p = \begin{bmatrix} \cos v & -\sin v & 0 \\ \sin v & \cos v & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \{\vec{A}\}^l \quad (6)$$

For the position vector we have:

$$\{\vec{r}\}^p = \begin{bmatrix} \cos v & -\sin v & 0 \\ \sin v & \cos v & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} r \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix}^l = \begin{Bmatrix} r \cos v \\ r \sin v \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix}^p \quad (7)$$

And for velocity we have:

$$\{\vec{V}\}^p = \begin{bmatrix} \cos v & -\sin v & 0 \\ \sin v & \cos v & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \frac{\mu}{h} e \sin v \\ \frac{\mu}{h} (1 + e \cos v) \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix}^l = \begin{Bmatrix} -\frac{\mu}{h} \sin v \\ \frac{\mu}{h} (e + \cos v) \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix}^p \quad (8)$$

Equations (7) and (8) give the position and velocity in the peri-focal coordinate system.