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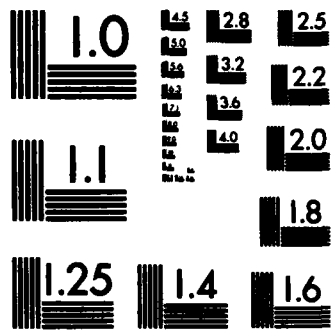
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AN ANALYSIS OF THE SATELLITE KINEMATICS  
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GAMING SYSTEM

by

Rex H. Shudde

September 1983

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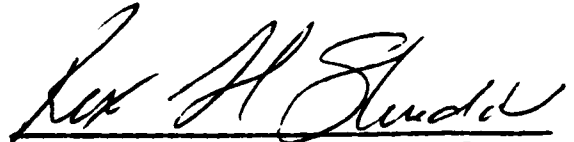
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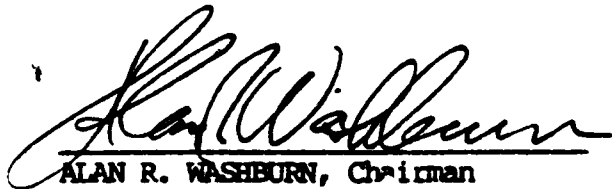
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by

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**September 1983**

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## ABSTRACT

The satellite kinematics model in the Naval Wargaming System (NWGS) is described and critiqued. Suggestions are made for simplifying the existing computer code and for increasing the accuracy of the satellite simulation.



## A. Introduction

The M18 satellite control model (SCM) in the Naval Warfare Gaming System (NWGS) serves two primary purposes. First, the model performs orbital kinematic computations to position the satellite(s) to the current game time. Second, the model selects either the radar satellite detection model or the elint detection model depending upon the type of satellite being processed. The purpose of this report is to critique the orbital kinematics section of the SCM and to make recommendations for improvement.

## B. The SCM Kinematics

Satellite parameter inputs to the SCM, pertinent to the kinematics, consist of the satellite orbital period, the time of last position update and the latitude, longitude and course at the time of last position update. The time interval since the last position update,  $t_{int}$ , is the current game time minus the time of last update. The great circle distance traveled (measured in arc length) since the time of last update is  $t_{int}/period$ . Using spherical trigonometry, the position and course are updated by moving the satellite along the great circle determined by its last position and course, and the arc distance traveled in  $t_{int}$ . The ground position is then corrected by subtracting the amount of the Earth's rotation in  $t_{int}$  from the updated longitude.

In essence, the SCM assumes all satellites to be in unperturbed circular Keplerian orbits about the Earth.

### C. Critique

The major limitation of the SCM is that all orbits are assumed circular. Even when this assumption is valid, the major flaw in the existing SCM is the neglect of the precession of the orbit caused by the Earth's oblateness. This precession depends upon the height and inclination of the orbit and can be as much as 10 degrees per day which, in turn, can cause a ground position error up to 600 n. mi. per day. Neither orbital height nor inclination are input parameters to the SCM.

An additional error, caused by the neglect of the Earth's oblateness, is in the computed latitude of the satellite's ground track. At current game time the computed (geocentric) latitude can be in error by as much as 11.5 n. mi. from the true (geographic) latitude at latitudes near 45 degrees.

### D. Summary of Recommendations

The sophistication of the SCM model can be increased in several steps. An overview is given below. Details are given in Section E.

1. The programming of the existing SCM can be simplified by using alternate formulas from spherical trigonometry.
2. By including the satellite semimajor axis (which can be derived from its orbital period) and the orbital inclination, the existing SCM can be easily modified to include the orbital precession caused by the Earth's oblateness. Without this inclusion, a ground position error of 600 n.mi. per day can occur.

3. To include noncircular orbits it will be necessary to introduce all of the satellite orbital parameters. The computations involve the solution of Kepler's equation, the transformation of the in-plane coordinates to an inertial system, and the reduction of the coordinates to geocentric latitude and longitude.
4. The satellite's geocentric latitude can be converted to geographic latitude to account for the Earth's oblateness. This conversion can eliminate an 11.5 n.mi. ground position error in the N-S direction. A by-product is the determination of the satellite's height.

The computation of the satellite position using Recommendations 3 and 4 are time consuming and could degrade real time operation of the existing NWGS. It would, however, be possible to precompute and store the satellite positions in a table prior to running the NWGS.

#### E. Detailed Recommendations

1. Add a two argument quadrant arctangent function, called here 'qatanbf', to the atrigf include file. Details of the qatan function are in the appendix. Then, the M10\_satellite\_control\_ee module can be modified as follows:
  - a. Replace lines 201-202 by
$$d\_long = qatanbf (sinb\_dist * sinb\_course , cosb\_dist * cosb\_lat - sinb\_dist * cosb\_course * sinb\_lat).$$

b. Replace lines 206-220 by

$$n\_course = \text{qatanbf} ( \text{sinb\_course} * \text{cosb\_lat} , \\ \text{cosb\_course} * \text{cosb\_dist} - \text{sinb\_dist} * \text{sinb\_lat} ).$$

c. With these two modifications, lines 224-231 are no longer required.

These equations take advantage of the general spherical triangle [Ref. 1]. Both  $d\_long$  and  $n\_course$ , as computed above, lie in the range of  $-1$  to  $+1$  bams ( $-\pi$  to  $+\pi$ ). The 4-part formula [Ref. 2] is used to compute  $n\_course$  directly. The possibility of polar crossing is automatically included.

2. The formula for the precession of the ascending node of the orbit, owing to the Earth's oblateness, is

$$N = N_0 - \frac{(3 J_2 \cos i) n (T - T_0)}{2a^2},$$

where  $N$  is the longitude of the ascending node at time  $T$ ,  $N_0$  is the longitude of the ascending node at time  $T_0$ ,  $J_2 = 0.001082616$  is the Earth's second harmonic shape parameter,  $i$  is the orbital inclination,  $n$  is the satellite motion and  $a$  is the semimajor axis. The motion  $n = 2/P$ , where  $P$  is the orbital period. Further,  $a$  and  $P$  are related by

$$P^2 = 4\pi^2 a^3 / k^2,$$

where  $k = 0.0743669161(e.r.)^{3/2}/\text{min.}$  is the Earth's gravitational constant. Using these relations, the formula for the node may be written in one of several ways:

$$N = N_0 - 9.9639(a_e/a)^{7/2}(T - T_0) \cos i,$$

where  $a_e$  is the Earth's equatorial radius,  $N$  is degrees and  $T$  is measured in days, or

$$N = N_0 - 216.74 P^{-7/3}(T - T_0) \cos i,$$

where  $N$  is in degrees, and  $P$  and  $T$  are measured in minutes, or,

$$N = N_0 - 282.83 P^{-7/3} t_{int} \cos i,$$

where  $N$  is in bams, and  $P$  and  $t_{int}$  are in seconds as is the custom in the NWGS.

Using the last equation, line 235 of `M10_satellite_control_ee` can be written as

$$\text{sat\_long} = \text{sat\_long} + \text{d\_long} - (\text{bams\_sec} + \text{prec}) * t_{int},$$

where  $\text{prec} = 282.83 * P^{-7/3} * \cos i$ . Note that  $\text{prec}$  is a constant for each satellite.

3. Since noncircular orbits do not give rise to uniform motion of the ground track over a non-rotating spherical Earth, the method used in `M10_satellite_control_ee` cannot be used. In fact, eccentric orbits can give rise to ground tracks containing cusps.

Whatever procedure is used for the orbital computation, it will be necessary to obtain all of the satellite parameters. These are: the semimajor axis  $a$ , the eccentricity  $e$ , the longitude of the ascending node  $N_0$ , the argument of perigee

$w_0$ , the angle of inclination  $i$ , and the mean anomaly  $M_0$  for some epoch  $T_0$ , or their equivalent. Because of the complexity of the computations, it might be advisable to obtain the orbital elements distributed by NORAD and to use simplest of their existing programs, the SGP model [Ref. 3]. The NORAD elements differ slightly from those given above but they also compensate for orbital decay due to atmospheric drag. Another alternative would be to use equations such as those given in Escobal [Ref. 4]. An outline of the necessary computations is given below.

Set up the global constants:

$$k = 0.0743669161 = \text{gravitational constant,}$$

$$J_2 = 0.001082616 = \text{second harmonic of Earth,}$$

$$a_e = 1 \text{ e.r.} = \text{Earth's equatorial radius,}$$

$$T'_g = 0.0043752695 \text{ rad/min} = \text{Earth's rotation rate.}$$

Input  $a$ ,  $e$ ,  $i$ ,  $w_0$ ,  $N_0$ ,  $M_0$ , and  $T_0$ .

Compute the satellite constants:

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

$$n = ka^{-3/2} [1 + 1.5 J_2 (1 - e^2)^{-1/2} (1 - 1.5 \sin^2 i) / p^2],$$

$$w' = 1.5 J_2 n (2 - 2.5 \sin^2 i) / p^2,$$

$$N' = - (1.5 J_2 n \cos i) / p^2.$$

The time interval, measured in minutes from  $T_0$ , is  $T - T_0$ , where  $T$  is the current time. Compute:

$$w = w_0 + w'(T - T_0),$$

$$N = N + N'(T - T_0),$$

$$M = \text{mod}[n(T - T_0), 2\pi].$$

Solve Kepler's equation for E:

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

Compute the in-plane position components,  $X_w$  and  $Y_w$ , and the radius vector R:

$$X_w = a(\cos E - e),$$

$$Y_w = a(1 - e^2)^{1/2} \sin E,$$

$$R = a(1 - e \cos E).$$

Reduce the in-plane coordinates to equatorial coordinates:

$$P_x = \cos w \cos N - \sin w \sin N \cos i,$$

$$P_y = \cos w \sin N + \sin w \cos N \cos i,$$

$$P_z = \sin w \sin i,$$

$$Q_x = -\sin w \cos N - \cos w \sin N \cos i,$$

$$Q_y = -\sin w \sin N + \cos w \cos N \cos i,$$

$$Q_z = \cos w \sin i,$$

$$X = P_x X_w + Q_x Y_w,$$

$$Y = P_y X_w + Q_y Y_w,$$

$$Z = P_z X_w + Q_z Y_w.$$

Compute the right ascension, RA, and declination, DEC, of the satellite:

$$RA = \text{qatan}(Y, X),$$

$$DEC = \text{arccos}(Z/R).$$

The geocentric latitude of the satellite  $L'_t = DEC$ .

Compute the unnormalized longitude:

$$L'_n = RA - T_g - T'_g t,$$

where  $t$  is the total number of minutes elapsed since the year, month and day of  $T_g$ , and  $T_g$  is the Greenwich sidereal time at the initial time  $T_0$ .  $T_g$ , measured in degrees, is given by

$$T_g = 99.6909833 + (36000.7689 + 0.00038708T_u)T_u,$$

where  $T_u$  is given by

$$T_u = (JD - 2415020.0)/36525,$$

and JD is the Julian Day Number,

$$JD = 367Y - \text{int}\{7[Y + \text{int}((M + 9)/12)]/4\} \\ + \text{int}(275M/9) + D + 1721013.5 + UT/24,$$

where  $Y$  is the year ( $1901 \leq Y \leq 2099$ ),  $M$  is the month ( $1 \leq M \leq 12$ ),  $D$  is the day ( $1 \leq D \leq 31$ ), and UT is the universal time in hours. Then compute the east longitude  $L$ , where

$$L_n = \text{mod}(L'_n, 2\pi).$$



4. A conversion of geocentric latitude,  $L'_t$ , to geographic latitude for an oblate Earth can be found in Ref. 4. A slightly improved version is given below. Let

$$a_e = 6378.135 \text{ n. mi.} = \text{Earth's equatorial radius,}$$

$$f = 1/298.26 = \text{Earth's flattening factor,}$$

$$r = a_e R.$$

Let  $L' = \text{DEL}$ . Then compute

$$r_c = a_e \{ [1 - (2f - f^2)] / [1 - (2f - f^2) \cos^2 L'] \}^{1/2},$$

$$L_t = \arctan[\tan L' / (1 - f)^2],$$

$$\begin{aligned} H/r = [1 - (r_c/r)^2 \sin^2(L_t - L')]^{1/2} \\ - (r_c/r) \cos(L_t - L'), \end{aligned}$$

$$DL' = \arcsin[(H/r) \sin(L_t - L')].$$

Next, let  $L' = \text{DEL} - DL'$  and recompute from the equation for  $r_c$  until  $L'$  no longer varies (convergence is rapid).  $L_t$  is the geographic longitude of the satellite and  $H = r(H/r)$  is the height of the satellite above the oblate Earth.

### References

1. Chauvenet, William, "Treatise on Plane and Spherical Trigonometry", 1850.
2. Smart, W. M., "Spherical Astronomy", Cambridge University Press, 1965.
3. Hoots, Felix R. and Roehrich, Ronald L., "Models for Propagation of NORAD Element Sets", Spacetrack Report No. 3, Project Space Track, Aerospace Defense Command, United States Air Force, December 1980.
4. Escobal, Pedro R., "Methods of Orbit Determination", John Wiley & Sons, 1965.

## Appendix

The quadrant arctangent function, designated `qatan`, is a two argument function of rectangular coordinates `x` and `y` which returns an arctangent value in the range of  $-\pi$  to  $+\pi$  depending upon the quadrant of `x` and `y`. In FORTRAN this function is called `ATAN2`. It can be computed as follows:

$$\text{qatan}(x,y) = \text{atan}\left\{y/\left[x + e \cdot t\left(\frac{y=0}{x \neq 0}\right)\right]\right\} \\ + \pi \cdot t(x < 0) \cdot [\text{sign}(y) + t(y \neq 0)],$$

where

`e` = smallest number representable on the computer,

`t(z)` = 1 when `z` is true,

`t(z)` = 0 when `z` is false,

$$\text{sign}(y) = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } y > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } y = 0, \\ -1 & \text{if } y < 0. \end{cases}$$

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