

Planetary protection: design and verification

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Planetary protection

INTRODUCTION

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Humans now routinely venture beyond Earth and send spacecraft to explore other planets.

With this extraordinary ability comes great responsibility:

- we must ensure that we do not bring back anything harmful from other worlds
- we must make sure that we do not introduce terrestrial biological contamination to other planets and moons that have potential for past or present life.

http://exploration.esa.int

<u>Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) planetary protection policy</u> <u>United Nations Outer Space Treaty</u>



Planetary protection framework

- Since 1958 (year after Sputnik) concern that initial exploration of the Moon and other celestial bodies might compromise future scientific exploration
- Ranger missions in 1961 first used planetary protection requirements
- Since then, all planetary missions had to implement planetary protection measures at different degrees
- Legal framework in the United Nations Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies (Outer Space Treaty)
- Spacecraft have to control
 - Forward contamination
 - Backward contamination
- G. Kminek. ESA planetary protection requirements. Technical Report ESSB-ST-U-001, European Space Agency, February 2012.

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Planetary protection requirements for forward contamination

For interplanetary missions and missions at Libration Point Orbit, planetary protection analysis need to be performed

Forward contamination, contamination of celestial bodies other than the Earth by terrestrial life forms in the course of spaceflight missions

- Ensure that the impact probability of spacecraft and upper stages with planets and moons over 50-100 years is below the required threshold with a give confidence level.
- Compliance with requirements should be verified for
 - The nominal trajectory
 - Considering on-board failures
 - Considering uncertainties on orbit injection and s/c parameters



Nov. 13, 2015: "WT1190F Safely Re-enters Earth's Atmosphere"

Solar System and Beyond

Nov. 13, 2015

'WT1190F' Safely Reenters Earth's Atmosphere, Provides Research Opportunity



Just after 1:18 AM EST (6:18 AM UTC) on Friday, Nov. 13 an object tagged as WT1190F remetred Earth's atmosphere as predicted above the Indian Ocean, just off the southern tip of Sri Lanka. The object - most likely man-made space debris from some previous lunar or interplanetary mission – burned up on reentry and was not a threat to anyone on Earth due to its low density and small size (3-6 feet or 1-2 meters).



Object tagged as 'WT1190F' reenters Earth's atmosphere south of Sri Lanka on Nov. 13, 2015 Credits: IAC/UAE/NASA/ESA

The object was detected while still on a large elongated orbit about the Earth on Oct. 3 by the Catalina Sky Survey (CSS), one of the NASA-funded asteroid search projects operated by the University of Arizona and located near Tucson. The U.S. All Force Space Command had primary responsibility for tracking it, though NASA was also interested in tracking this object because its final trajectory was entering Earth's atmosphere at an angle more like an asteroid from interplanetary space than of a typical piece of space debris. This event was therefore good to practice some of the procedures that NASA's Near-Earth Object. Observations Program would follow if a small asteroid were on a collision course with Earth. Those procedures include detecting and tracking of the object, characterizing its physical parameters, calculating its trajectory with high precision modeling, and delivering accurate predictions to scientists who would like to observe the entry through Earth's atmosphere.

Last Updated: Nov. 17, 2015 Editor: Tricia Talbert

Tags: Ames Research Center, Asteroids, Earth, Solar System

https://www.nasa.gov/feature/wt1190f-safelyreenters-earth-s-atmosphere-provides-researchopportunity



Design of heliocentric disposal for Libration Point Orbit missions

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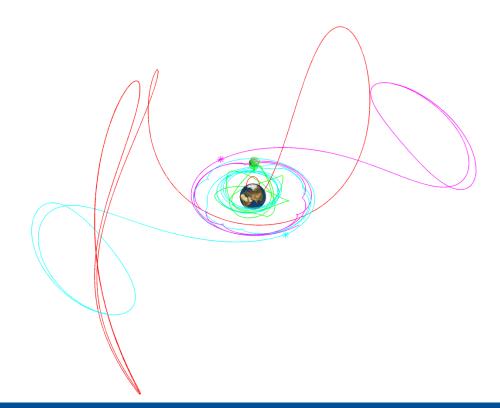
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End-of-life disposal of Libration Point Orbit missions

- Libration Point Orbits (LPO) are often selected for astrophysics and solar terrestrial missions
- It is a critical aspect to clear these regions at the end-of-mission

- Highly perturbed environment
- Spacecraft with large dimensions
- Uncontrolled s/c on manifold trajectories can re-enter to Earth or cross the protected regions
- End-of-life trajectory can enhance science return and operational knowledge base



Gaia mission end-of-life disposal

Design and analysis

Design

- Heliocentric disposal in a n-dynamical model
- Robust disposal that prevent the return of the spacecraft to Earth for the following 100 years at least

Analysis

- Effect of the Earth's eccentricity and other perturbations on the disposal strategy
- Behaviour of the close approaches between spacecraft and Earth once the disposal manoeuvre is given

The Gaia mission

Mission datasheet

Launch date:	19 December 2013 Nominal mission and after 5 years (2018)
Mission end: Launch vehicle:	Nominal mission end after 5 years (2018) Soyuz-Fregat
Launch mass:	2030 kg (710 kg of payload, a 920 kg service module, 400 kg of propellant)
Mission phase: Orbit:	Completed first year of science observations Lissajous-type orbit around L ₂
Instruments:	Astro (2 identical telescopes and imaging system); BP/RP (Blue and Red Photometers) and RVS (Radial-Velocity Spectrometer)
Partnerships:	Gaia is a fully European mission designed, built and operated by ESA. The Gaia Data Processing and Analysis Consortium will process the raw data to be published in the largest stellar catalogue ever made.



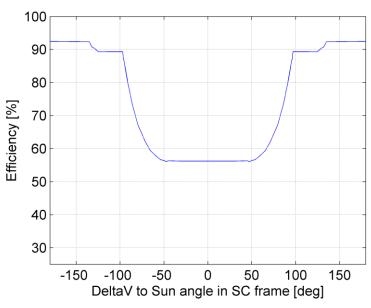
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The Gaia mission

Gaia disposal constraints and requirements

Constraints

- Time window: 01/07/2019 31/12/2020
- Operational: maximum 6 months between two disposal manoeuvers
- Thrust efficiency from European Space Agency

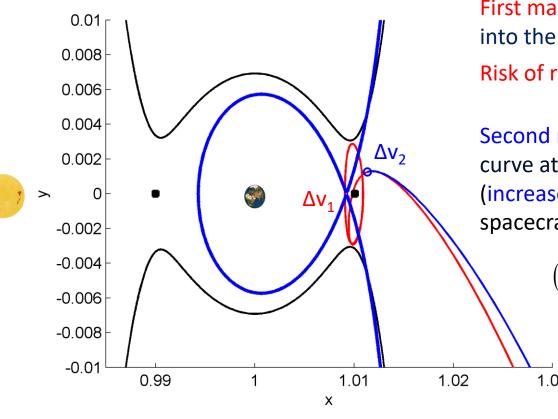


Requirement

The spacecraft should not return to the Earth for at least 100 years after the disposal epoch



Design in circular restricted three body problem



First manoeuvre to inject the spacecraft into the unstable trajectory leaving the LPO Risk of returning to Earth through L₂

Second manoeuvre to close the Hill's curve at L_2 : Δv to decrease the energy (increase Jacobi constant) tangent to spacecraft velocity in the rotating frame

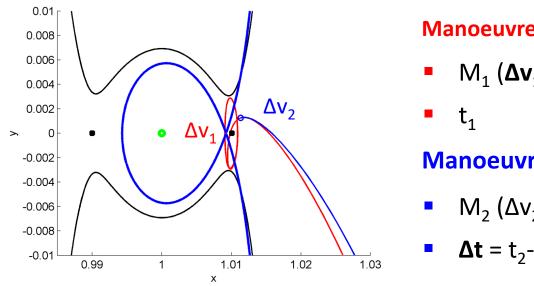
$$(x^{2})^{-} = x^{2} + y^{2} + 2 \left((1 - \beta) \frac{1 - \mu}{r_{s}} + \frac{\mu}{r_{E}} \right) - J$$

$$(v^{2})^{+} = x^{2} + y^{2} + 2 \left((1 - \beta) \frac{1 - \mu}{r_{s}} + \frac{\mu}{r_{E}} \right) - J_{L_{2}}$$

$$\Delta v_{\text{closure } @ J_{2}} = v^{-} - v^{+}$$

$$\Delta \mathbf{v}_{\text{closure }@FR} = \mathbf{v}^{-} = \sqrt{\dot{\mathbf{x}}^{2} + \dot{\mathbf{y}}^{2} + \dot{\mathbf{z}}^{2}}$$

Design in high-fidelity dynamics model



Manoeuvre 1

 $M_1 (\Delta v_1, \alpha_1, \beta_1)$

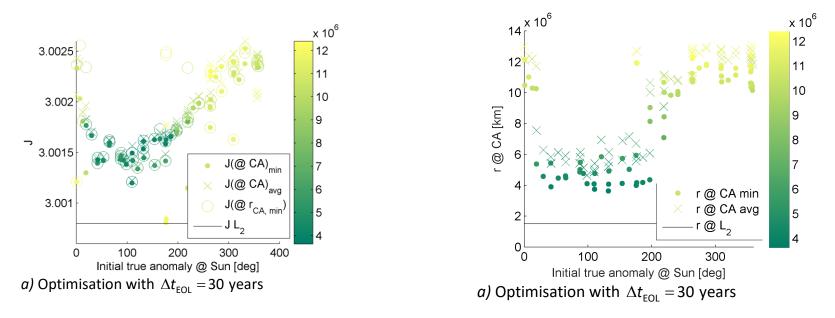
Manoeuvre 2

- M_{2} (Δv₂, α₂, β₂) @ t₂
- $\Delta t = t_2 t_1$
- α_2 and β_2 are **fixed** to π and 0 with respect to the velocity in synodic frame
- The second manoeuvre is performed using all the remaining available Δv
- Find solutions where the **minimum J** in the monitored points is **higher than J** at L₂. Monitor only the points at the close approach with the Earth
- Disposal **starting time** treated with a **grid search**

Results

- Each point is a fully optimised solution
- True anomaly of Earth + Moon @ Sun when leaving LPO drives effectiveness of the disposal:

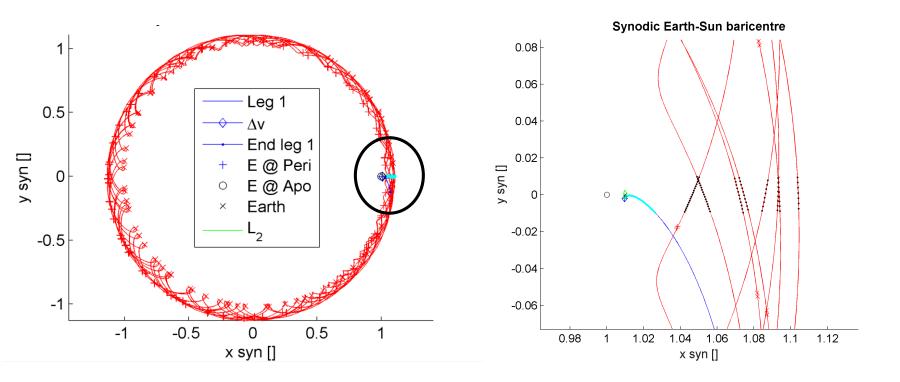
Higher minimum distance from Earth attained for solutions that leave the LPO when Earth + Moon is within [180, 360].



Selected solution

Robust solution

Gaia always outside the Hill's curves with respect to the L₂ point

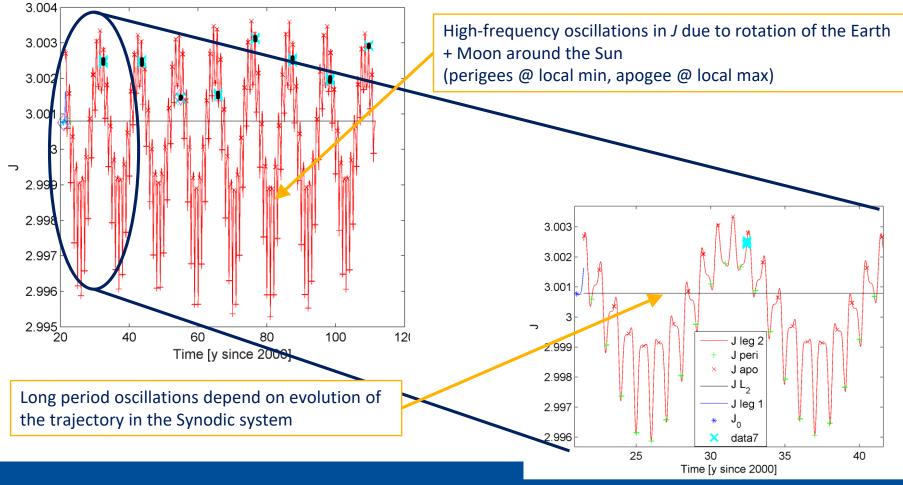


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Selected solution

Design parameters $y = [0.3561 \ 37.74 \ deg \ -0.16 \ deg \ 173.38 \ days]$



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Selected solution

Sun-centred inertial system

- Disposal manoeuvres moves the spacecraft on an orbit which is far the Earth orbit.
 Leg 1 = transfer orbit,
 Leg 2 = "final" orbit
- Proposed optimisation is like Maximising Minimum Orbit Interception Distance

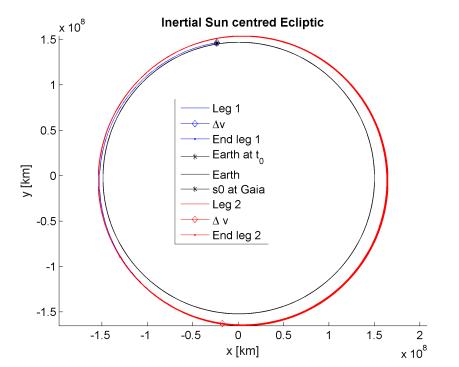
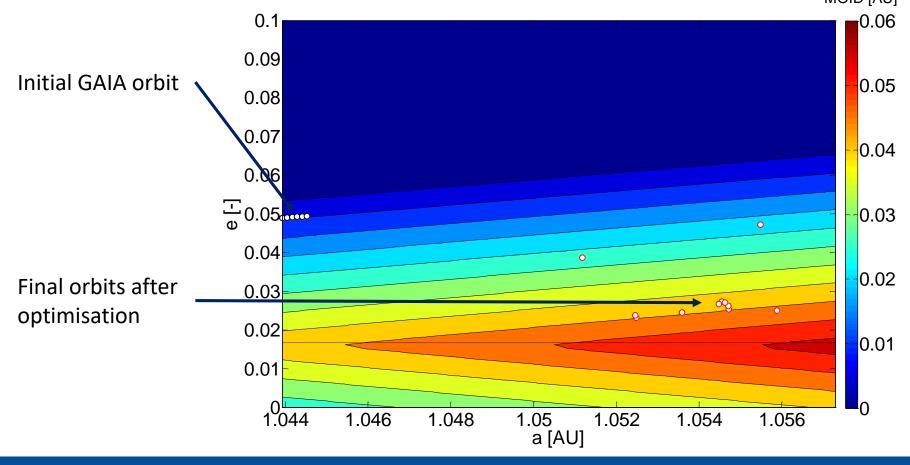


Figure 1. Gaia heliocentric disposal on 7669 MJD2000: trajectory in the Sun-centred ecliptic inertial system.

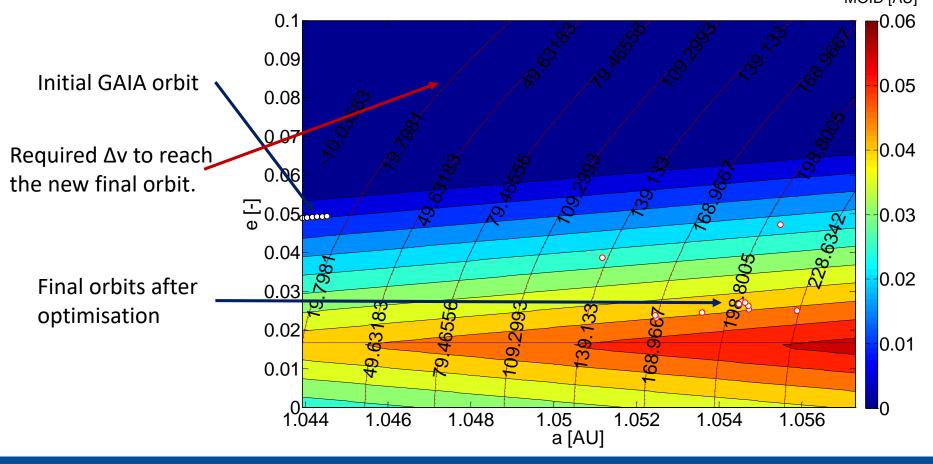
MOID variation with (*a*,*e*)

Variation of the MOID between the orbit of the Earth around the Sun and an aligned/coplanar orbit with variation only in a and e



MOID variation with (*a*,*e*)

Variation of the MOID between the orbit of the Earth around the Sun and an aligned/coplanar orbit with variation only in a and e





Verification with the SNAPPshot suite

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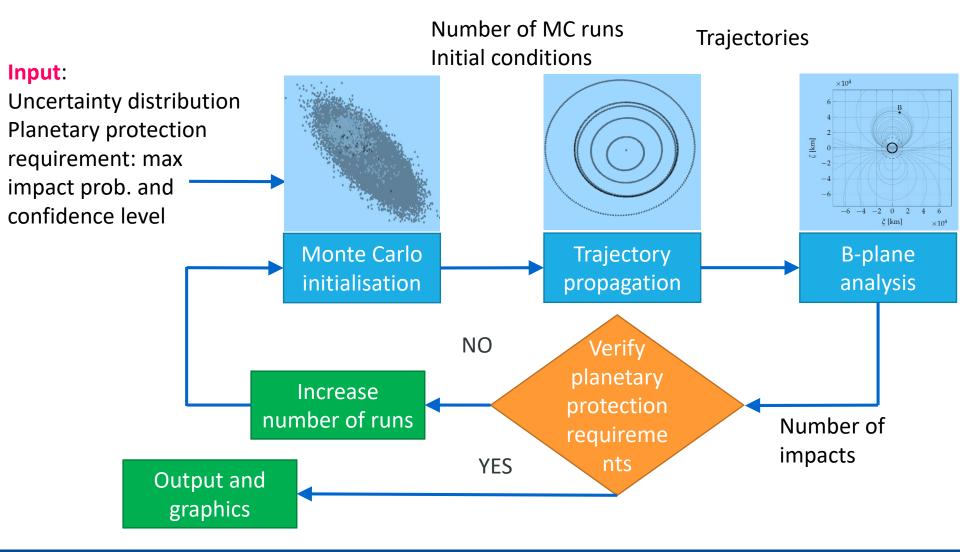
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SNAPPshot



Suite for Numerical Analysis of Planetary Protection



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Monte Carlo initialisation

Defining the number of runs

 The output of the Monte Carlo (MC) run is treated as a binomial variable, with the two binary states impact/no impact

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

- *X*= number of impacts
- B = Bernoulli distribution
- *n* = number of independent trials
- *p* = probability of impact in each trial
- Estimate the **confidence interval** with a normal distribution with mean μ =np and variance $\sigma = np(1-p)$

$$p=(\hat{p},c)$$

- \widehat{p} = probability of success estimated from the statistical sample (i.e. $\widehat{p} = n_I/n$) n_I = number of impacts c = confidence level
 - Lawrence D. Brown, 2001

Monte Carlo initialisation

Defining the number of runs

• Wilson's confidence interval preferred: define the interval looking at the value of p that would put \hat{p} at the extremes of the confidence interval

$$p \le \left(\frac{\hat{p} + \frac{z^2}{2n} + z^2 \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n} + \frac{z^2}{4n^2}}}{1 + \frac{z^2}{n}}\right)$$

 \hat{p} = probability of success estimated from the statistical sample (i.e. $\hat{p} = n_I/n$) $z = \propto$ quantile from a standard normal distribution

Aim: estimating the minimum number of MC runs (*n*) required to verify the compliance with the planetary protection requirements: verify the maximum level of impact probability (*p*), with a level of confidence (α)



Application of the tool

Effects of initial uncertainty distribution

Dispersion of the initial condition:

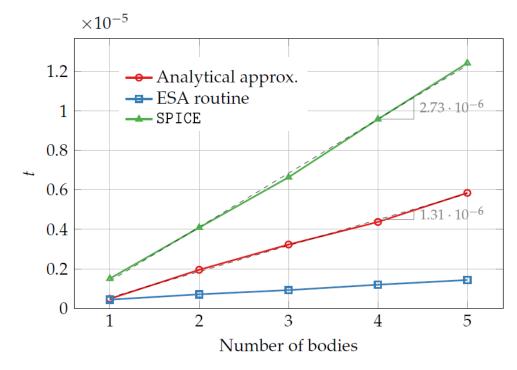
- Launcher inaccuracy
- Input: 6 x 6 Covariance matrix describing the dispersion of the escape velocity and position of injection
- Failure of the propulsion system
- **Input:** random failure time within an **interval**
- Uncertainty on spacecraft parameters (e.g. unknown area-to-mass ratio)
- Input: Distribution can be selected (e.g., uniform, triangular) and known values

Trajectory propagation

Dynamical model

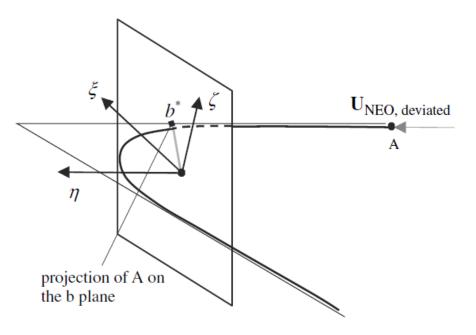
- Cartesian coordinates centred in the Solar System Barycentre J2000
- Dynamics of n planets and solar radiation pressure with cannonball model
- Ephemerides
 - Analytical ephemerides
 - ESA routine based on DE422
 - NASA SPICE
- Normalisation in dimensionless variables

$$\hat{L} = rac{L}{AU}$$
 $\hat{t} = rac{t}{2\pi\sqrt{AU^3/\mu_{SUN}}}$



Planet close-approach representation

B-plane definition



- Intersection of the incoming asymptote and the b-plane:
 b* = impact parameter
- $\eta = 0$ on the b-plane identifies a fly-by

Plane orthogonal to the object planetocentric velocity when the object enters the planet's sphere of influence

- η-axis: parallel to the planetocentric velocity
- ζ-axis: parallel to the projection on the b-plane of the planet velocity, but in the opposite direction
- ξ-axis: to complete a positively oriented reference system

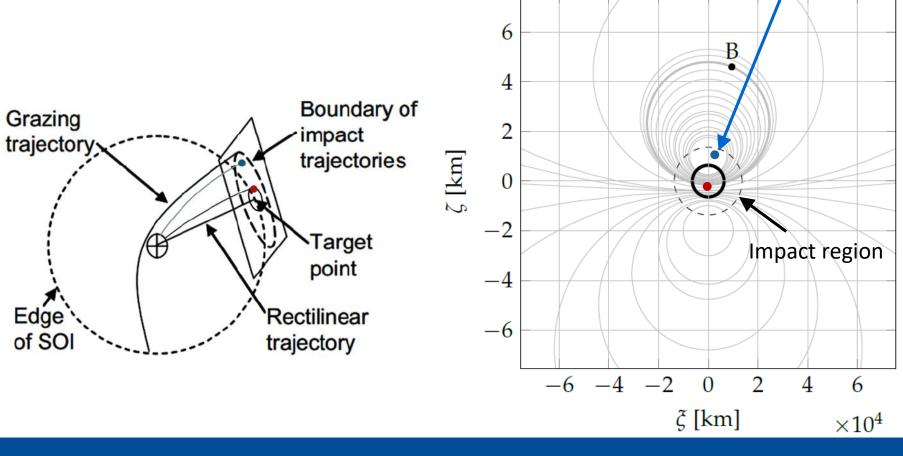
Vasile and Colombo, 2008

⁽Öpik, 1976)

Planet close-approach representation

State characterisation

- Impact
- Gravitational focussing



 $\times 10^4$

 $R_{GF} = R_E \left| 1 + \frac{2\mu_E}{R_E U^2} \right|$

Planet close-approach representation

State characterisation

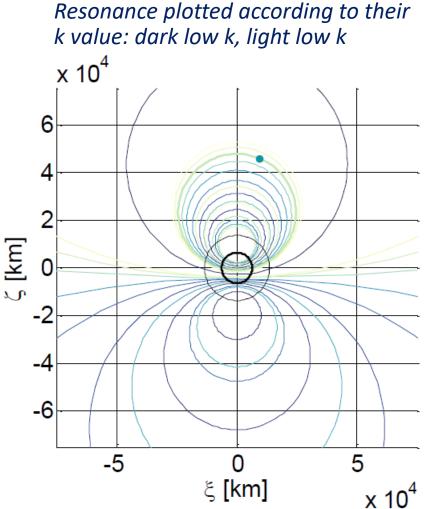
Resonance:

Circle on the b-plane $\xi^2 + \zeta^2 - 2D\zeta + D^2 = R^2$ Requirement: Tisserand criterion < 3

Valsecchi et al. (2003)

For a given close encounter, the **post-encounter semi-major axis** is computed. The resulting period is compared to the ones of **possible** resonances.

The **severity** measured by the value of *k* (planet's period repetitions): the lowest, the most critical. Resonance selection: closest resonance or resonance with the lowest *k* (and below the period threshold)

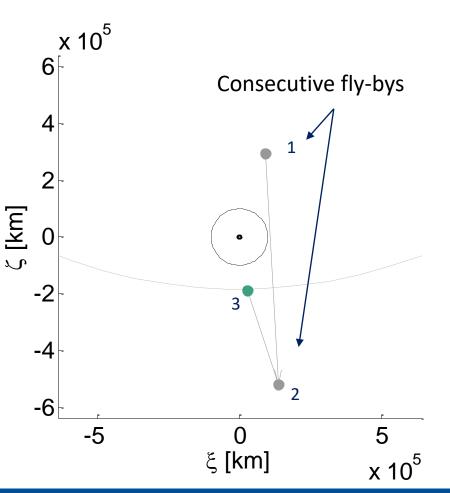


B-plane analysis

Close-encounter sorting

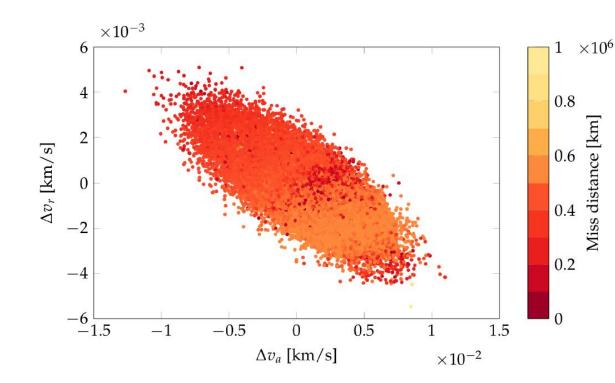
- When multiple fly-bys are recorded, for the Monte Carlo analysis only one state should be selected to characterise the trajectory. Two implemented options:
 - first encounter
 - worst encounter.
- Multiple encounters are sorted sorting = identify the most critical ones (e.g. impact with Earth > resonance with Mars
 - Distance-driven: worst case is the one with the minimum distance from the Earth
 - State-driven: impact > resonance > simple close approach Earth > Mars > Venus

Evolution of one GAIA Fregat trajectory on the Earth's b-plane for 100 years of propagation

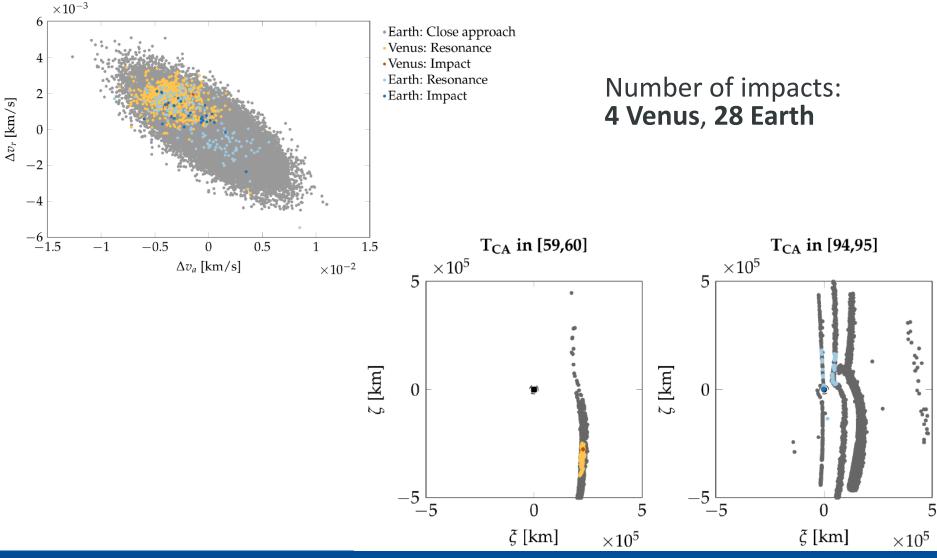


Effect of launcher dispersion: Ariane launcher of BepiColombo

- Uncertainty: state dispersion (covariance matrix) and area-to-mass ratio distribution (triangular distribution)
- Propagation: time 100 years, RK8(7)
- Number of runs: 54114 (the minimum amount of runs required to prove that the object does not impact with a selected planet, with a confidence level of 99%)



Effect of launcher dispersion: Ariane launcher of BepiColombo

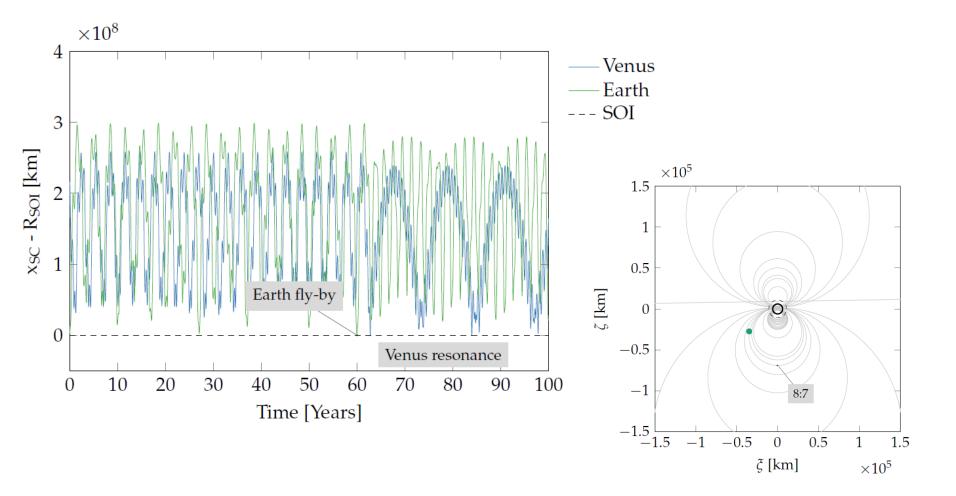


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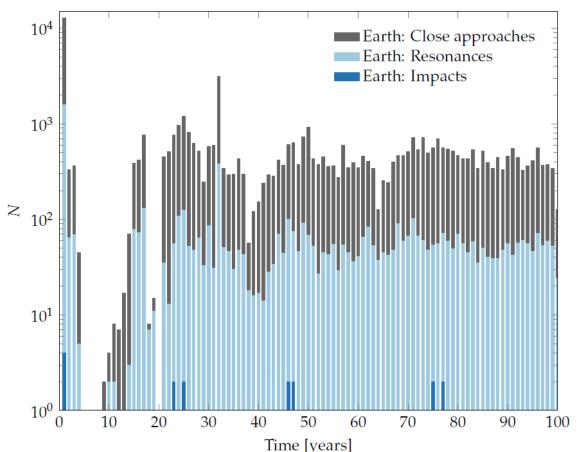
Effect of launcher dispersion: Ariane launcher of BepiColombo



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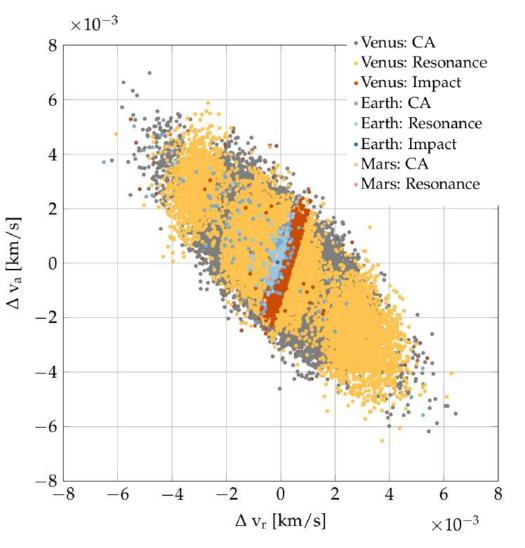
Effect of failure of propulsion system: BepiColombo

- Uncertainty: state dispersion following failure of propulsion system
- Propagation: time 100 years, RK8(7)
- Number of runs: 54114 (the minimum amount of runs required to prove that the object does not impact with Mars of 10⁻⁴, with a confidence level of 99%)
- Number of impacts: 28
 Earth



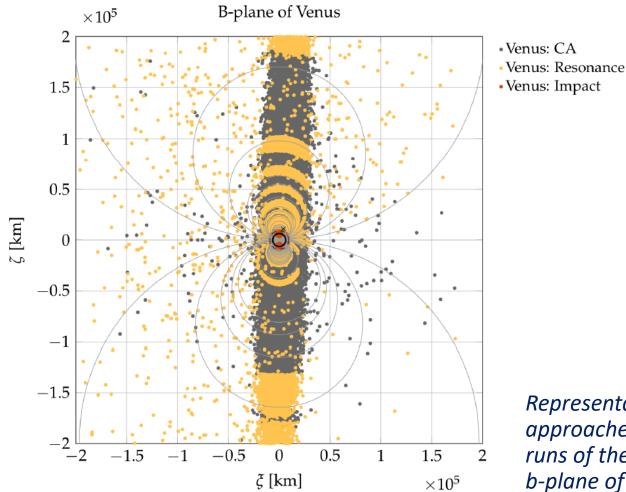
Effect of launcher dispersion: Solo launcher

- Uncertainty: state dispersion (covariance matrix)
- Propagation: time 100 years, RK8(7)
- Number of runs: 54114 (the minimum amount of runs required to prove that the object does not impact with a selected planet, with a confidence level of 99%)
- Number of impacts: 4 Earth, 2348 Venus



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Effect of launcher dispersion: Solo launcher



Representation of the worst close approaches for the 1000 Monte Carlo runs of the launcher of Solo on the b-plane of Venus.





Insights into planetary protection analysis and tool enhancement

SNAPPSHOT EXTENSION

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Integration methods



Symplectic methods

- Planetary protection analysis involves long-term orbital propagations (up to 100 years)
- Numerical methods accumulate errors during the integration
 - This may cause the constants of motion (e.g. energy) to change in time, obtaining a bad estimate of the spacecraft state
- Alternative numerical approaches may be beneficial to the accuracy of the orbital propagation
 - Symplectic schemes ensure that the constants of motion are conserved exactly or have a variation bounded in time
 - Additional methods can "force" the conservation of those quantities

Integration methods



Symplectic schemes

Method	(Order, Stages)	Туре	Time step	Property	Other
RK4	(4,4)	Explicit	Fixed step	(3)	+ projection method
RK45	(5/4,7)	Explicit	Variable step	(3)	+ projection method
RK8	(8,13)	Explicit	Fixed step	(3)	+ projection method + regularised step
RK78	(8/7,13)	Explicit	Variable step	(3)	+ projection method
GLRK4 GLRK6 GLRK8	(4,2) (6,3) (8,4)	Implicit	Fixed step	Symplectic (1)	+ projection method + regularised step
RKN8	(8,26)	Explicit	Fixed step	Symplectic (1)	+ projection method+ regularised step
RKN64	(6/4,6)	Explicit	Variable step	Symplectic (1)	+ projection method
SY4 SY6 SY8	(4,4) (6,8) (8,16)	Explicit	Fixed step	Symplectic, canonical (2)	+ projection method + regularised step

Physical model update



Fly-by detection through Jacobian

Aim: use projection only in correspondence of a fly by to save computational time \rightarrow Fly by detection with Jacobian

- Eigenvalues of the whole Jacobian: $\lambda^2 = eigs(GI) = eigs(G)$, $\Lambda = \max(\lambda)$
- Body alone contribution: $\lambda_j^2 = eigs(G_j)$, $\Lambda_j = \max(\lambda_j)$ $\lambda^2 \neq \sum(\lambda_j^2)$
- Value of planet contribution (grows approaching to the planet)
- Time variation of planet contribution (grows approaching to the planet)
- Fly-by detection criteria (approximation)
 Relative value w.r.t. main attractor:
 Relative variation w.r.t. main attractor:

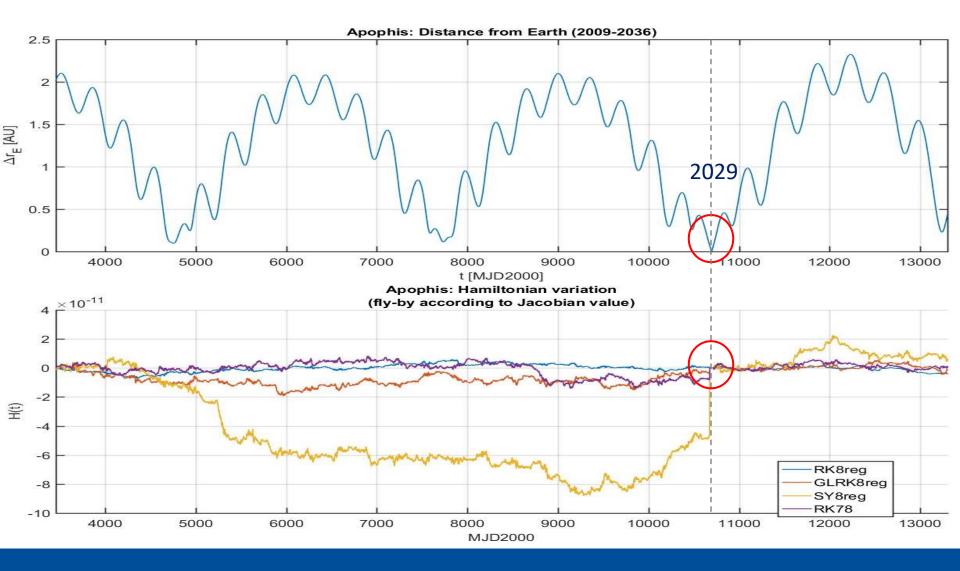
$$\Lambda_{j} = \frac{2\mu_{j}}{\left|\underline{r} - \underline{r}_{j}\right|^{3}}$$
$$\dot{\Lambda}_{j} = 2\mu_{j} \frac{3(\underline{r} - \underline{r}_{j})(\underline{v} - \underline{v}_{j})}{\left|\underline{r} - \underline{r}_{j}\right|^{5}}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \Lambda_{j}/\Lambda_{Sun} \\ \stackrel{\geq}{\to} Tol \ e. \ g. \ 10^{-1} \\ \dot{\Lambda}_{j}/\dot{\Lambda}_{Sun}^{} \geq Tol \ e. \ g. \ 10^{-1} \end{array}$$

Physical model update



Fly-by detection through Jacobian



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Advanced sampling techniques



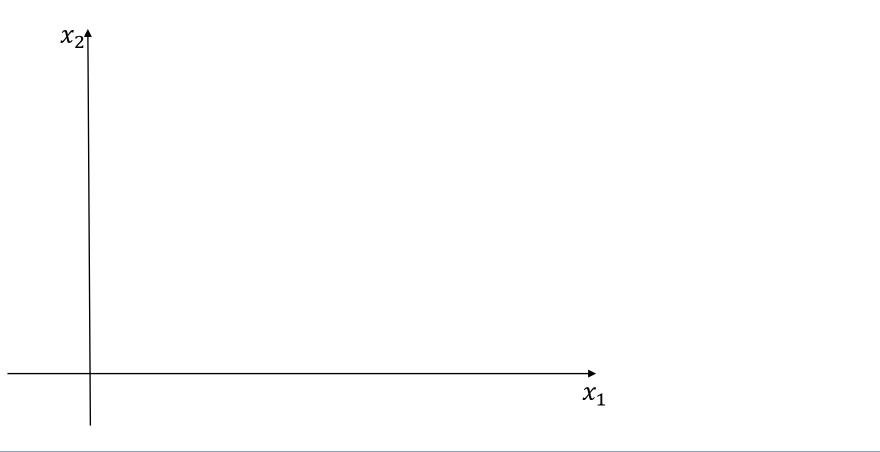
Monte Carlo approach

- Verification that planetary protection requirements are satisfied implies a large number of long-term orbital propagations with standard Monte Carlo Simulations
- More efficient sampling methods may reduce the amount of propagations and the computational cost
- The Line Sampling method probes the impact region of the uncertainty domain by using lines instead of random points
 - This generally improves the estimation of impact probability and reduces the amount of random samples required



Line Sampling

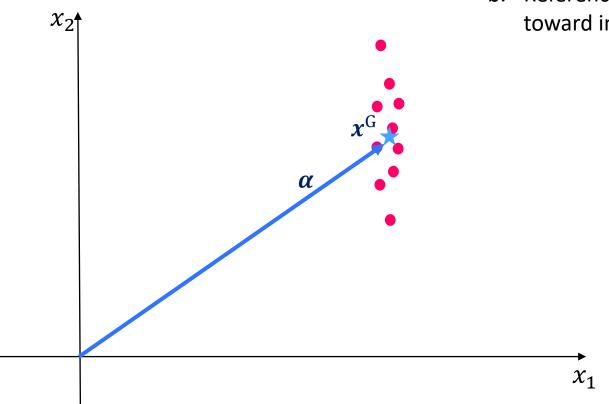
- **1.** Determination of the "reference direction"
 - a. Impact region not known a priori



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Line Sampling



1. Determination of the "reference direction"

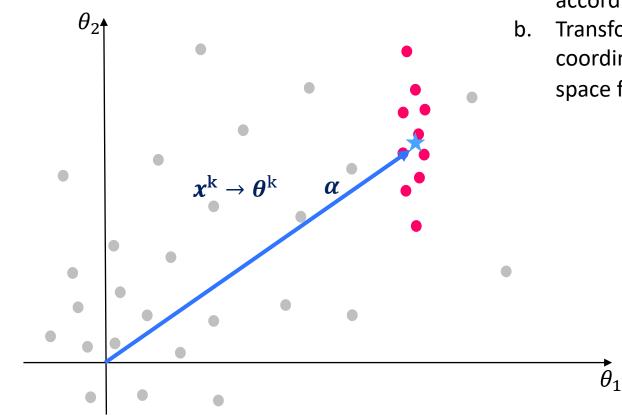
- a. Impact region not known a priori
- b. Reference direction generally pointing toward impact region

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Line Sampling



2. Mapping onto the standard normal space

- a. Generation of random samples according to given distribution
- b. Transformation from physical coordinates into normalised standard space following $\Phi(\theta^k) = F(x^k)$

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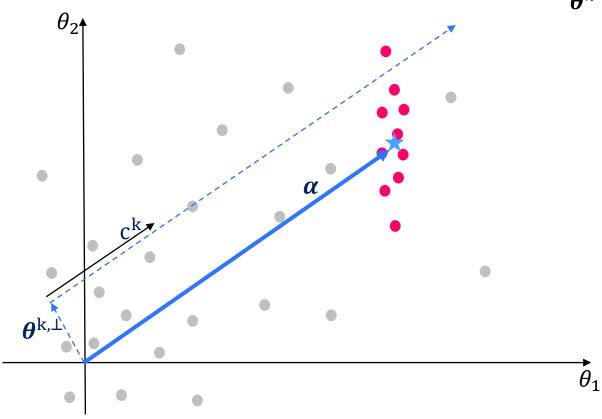
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Line Sampling



a. Lines defined in normalised space $\widetilde{\theta}^k = c^k \alpha + \theta^{k,\perp}$

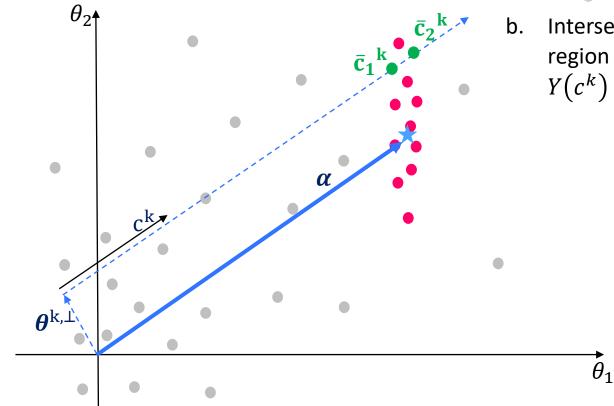


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Line Sampling



3. Sampling along the lines

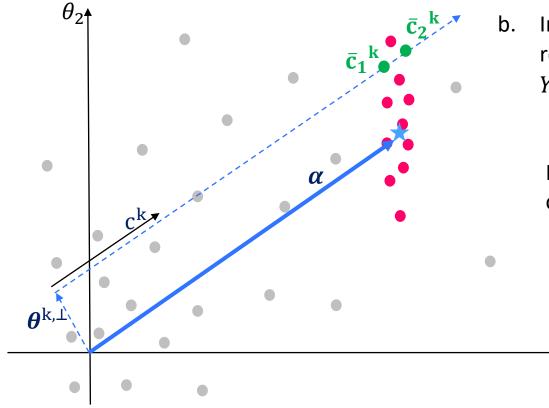
- a. Lines defined in normalised space $\tilde{\theta}^k = c^k \alpha + \theta^{k, \perp}$
- b. Intersections $(\bar{\mathbf{c}}_1^{\ \mathbf{k}}, \bar{\mathbf{c}}_2^{\ \mathbf{k}})$ with impact region found where objective function $Y(c^k) = 0$

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Line Sampling



3. Sampling along the lines

- a. Lines defined in normalised space $\tilde{\theta}^k = c^k \alpha + \theta^{k,\perp}$
- b. Intersections $(\bar{c}_1^k, \bar{c}_2^k)$ with impact region found where objective function $Y(c^k) = 0$

Iterative procedure requires extra orbital propagations

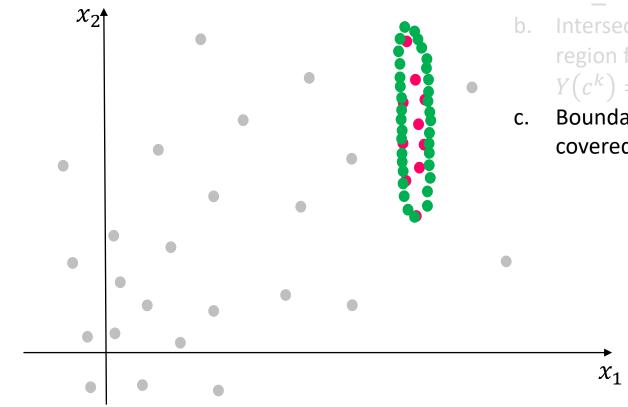
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 θ_1



Line Sampling



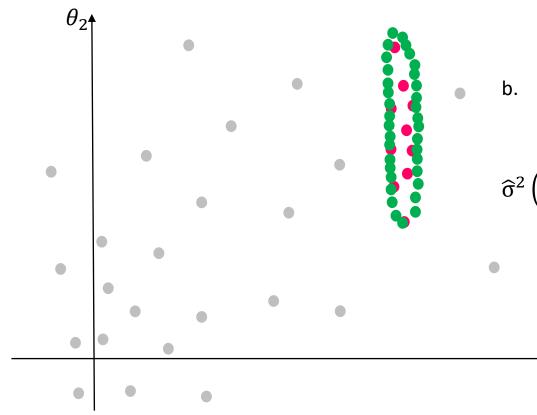
3. Sampling along the lines

- a. Lines defined in normalised space $\underline{\tilde{\theta}}^{k} = c^{k} \underline{\alpha} + \underline{\theta}^{k,\perp}$
- b. Intersections $(\bar{c}_1^{\ k}, \bar{c}_2^{\ k})$ with impact region found where objective function $Y(c^k) = 0$
- c. Boundaries of the impact region are covered

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Line Sampling



4. Estimation of impact probability

 Partial probability estimates are computed along each line using the CDF of the unit gaussian:

$$\widehat{P}^{k}(I) = \Phi(\overline{\mathbf{c}_{2}}^{k}) - \Phi(\overline{\mathbf{c}_{1}}^{k})$$

b. Total probability and variance

$$\widehat{P}(I) = \frac{1}{N_T} \sum_{k=1}^{N_T} \widehat{P}^k(I)$$

$$\widehat{\sigma}^2\left(\widehat{P}(I)\right) = \frac{1}{N_T(N_T - 1)} \sum_{k=1}^{N_T} \left(\widehat{P}^k(I) - \widehat{P}(I)\right)^2$$

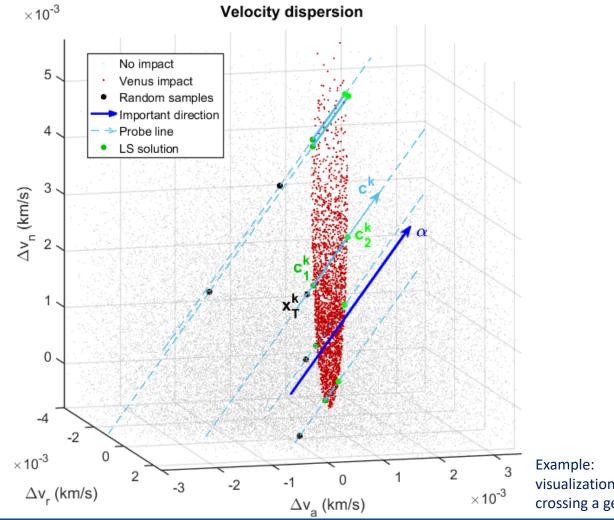
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Advanced sampling techniques



Line sampling



Example: visualization of probe lines crossing a generic impact region

31/10/2017

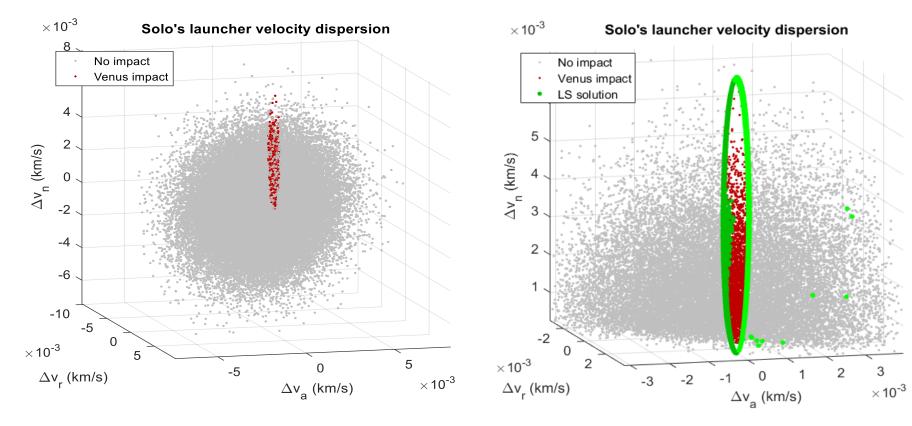
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Advanced sampling techniques



Results



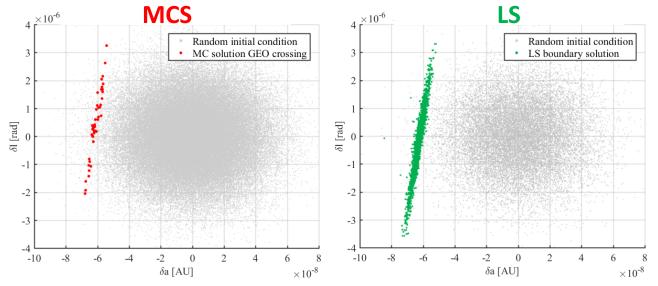
Solution with standard MCS

Boundaries of impact region computed with LS



Results: asteroid Apophis

Analysed event: expected return in 2036 (according to observations in 2009)⁹



Small expected probability Distributed impact region

	N _{Samples}	N _{Prop}	$\widehat{P}(I)$	σ	
MCS	1e6	1e6	5.00e-5	6.86e-6	
	1e4	~1e5 🕂	5.38e-5	1.18e-6	S
LS	1e5	~1e6	5.32e-5	3.45e-7 🗸	S

Similar confidence level as MC

 Similar number of orbital propagations as MC

⁹ http://newton.dm.unipi.it/neodys

* propagations performed with RK8(7) with relative tolerance 10⁻¹²

Conclusions



End-of-life disposal strategy should be planned during mission design

- End-of-life transfer enable **enhancing the scientific return** of the mission
- However disposal cost is not only the additional delta-v, but also the operations.
- Gaia and Lisa Pathfinder mission disposal performed, robustness of the solution depends on true anomaly Earth-Moon around the Sun
- Planetary protection analysis needed for every interplanetary mission
 - SNAPPshot suite for planetary protection analysis
 - Full body dynamics
 - Efficient integration method needed
 - Representation in the b-plane
 - Advanced sampling methods
 - Study of close approaches

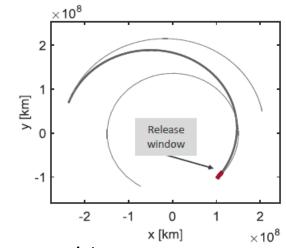
Conclusions

Future directions of research

- Propagation and fly-by characterisation
 - Symplectic integration techniques and projection methods
 - Fly-by detection through Jacobian computation and B-plane analysis
 - Semi-analytical techniques can be extended to describe fly-bys
- Simulation
 - Parallel programming
 - Machine learning
 - Solutions grows like a tree (branch and bound)

Applications

- Planetary moon missions e.g., JUICE mission
- CubeSat swarms (different initial conditions for different s/c)
- Robust trajectory optimisation
- Launcher injection error



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Southampton



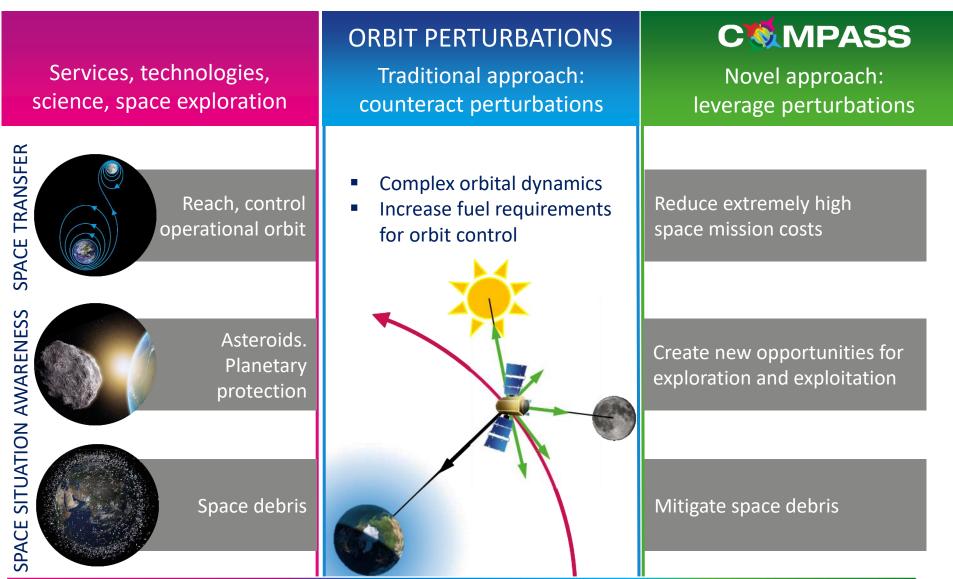
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The COMPASS project

CMPASS erc



Develop novel techniques for orbit manoeuvring by surfing through orbit, perturbations

Collaboration



COMPASS project

合作与机遇:

- 非欧盟地区学者
- •博士&博士后
- European Research Council and 中国国家自然科学基金

Collaboration:

- Non-European researcher
- PhD, Post Doc and researchers
- European Research Council and Chinese National Natural Science Foundation

For information see:

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Moreover collaboration with many professors in the department: PhD scholarships @PoliMi by Chinese State Scholarship Fund China Academy of Space Technology







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感谢观看 Thank you

Planetary protection: design and verification

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