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Differential Drag Spacecraft Rendezvous  
using an Adaptive Lyapunov Control  
Strategy



why not change the world?<sup>sm</sup>

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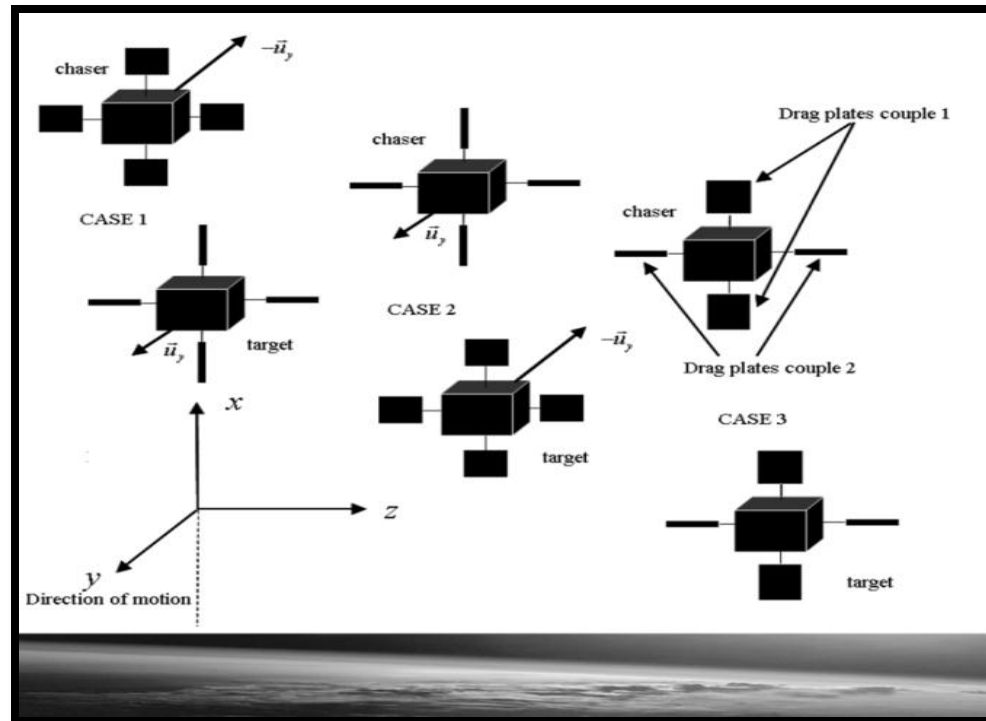
Rensselaer



- Introduction
- Drag Acceleration
- Linear reference model and Nonlinear Model
- Lyapunov Approach
- Drag panels activation strategy
- Critical value for the magnitude of differential drag acceleration
- Adaptive Lyapunov Control strategy
- Numerical Simulations

- ❑ S/C rendezvous maneuvers are critical for:
  - ❑ On-orbit maintenance missions
  - ❑ Refueling and autonomous assembly of structures in space
  - ❑ Envisioned operations by NASA's Satellite Servicing Capabilities Office
- ❑ High cost of refueling calls for an alternative for thrusters as the source of the control forces
- ❑ At LEO drag forces are an alternative
- ❑ An Adaptive Lyapunov control strategy for the rendezvous maneuver using aerodynamic differential drag is presented

- ❑ Differential in the aerodynamic drag produces a differential in acceleration
- ❑ This differential can be used to control the relative motion of the S/C on the orbital plane only
- ❑ One possibility to generate the drag differential is to use rotating flat panels
- ❑ It is assumed that that the panels rotate almost instantly (on-off control)
- ❑ Three cases for the configurations of the panels are considered:



- The foremost contributions in this work are:

- An analytical expression for  $a_{Dcrit}$  .

- Analytical expressions for :

$$\frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{A}_d} \quad \frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{Q}}$$

- Adaptive Lyapunov Control strategy

- Uses adaptation to choose in real time an appropriate positive definite matrix  $\underline{P}$  in a quadratic Lyapunov function such that  $a_{Dcrit}$  is reduced on the fly.

- Does not require numerical iterations

- Runs in real time, requiring onboard measurements that would be available during flight.

- Assessment of the approach performances via STK simulations in terms of:

- Duration of the rendezvous maneuver and the

- Number of switches in the differential drag (control effort)

# Starting References

- ❑ Leonard, C. L., Hollister, W., M., and Bergmann, E. V. “Orbital Formationkeeping with Differential Drag”. *AIAA Journal of Guidance, Control and Dynamics*, Vol. 12 (1) (1989), pp.108–113.
- ❑ Schweighart, S. A., and Sedwick, R. J., “High-Fidelity Linearized J2 Model for Satellite Formation Flight,” *Journal of Guidance, Control, and Dynamics*, Vol. 25, No. 6, 2002, pp. 1073–1080.
- ❑ Curti, F., Romano, M., Bevilacqua, R., “Lyapunov-Based Thrusters’ Selection for Spacecraft Control: Analysis and Experimentation”, *AIAA Journal of Guidance, Control and Dynamics*, Vol. 33, No. 4, July–August 2010, pp. 1143-1160. DOI: 10.2514/1.47296.
- ❑ Graham, Alexander. *Kronecker Products and Matrix Calculus: With Applications*. Chichester: Horwood, 1981. Print.
- ❑ Bevilacqua, R., Romano, M., “Rendezvous Maneuvers of Multiple Spacecraft by Differential Drag under J2 Perturbation”, *AIAA Journal of Guidance, Control and Dynamics*, vol.31 no.6 (1595-1607), 2008. DOI: 10.2514/1.36362

- ❑ The drag acceleration experienced by a S/C at LEO is a function of:
  - ❑ Atmospheric density
  - ❑ Atmospheric winds
  - ❑ Velocity of the S/C relative to the medium,
  - ❑ Geometry, attitude, drag coefficient and mass of the S/C
- ❑ Challenges for modeling drag force:
  - ❑ The interdependence of these parameters
  - ❑ Lack of knowledge in some of their dynamics
- ❑ Large uncertainties on the control forces (drag forces)
- ❑ Control systems for drag maneuvers must cope with these uncertainties.
- ❑ Differential aerodynamic drag for the S/C system is given as:

$$a_{Drel} = \frac{1}{2} \rho \Delta BC v_s^2 \quad BC = \frac{C_D A}{m}$$

- The Schweighart and Sedwick model is used to create the stable reference model
- LQR controller is used to stabilize the Schweighart and Sedwick model
- The resulting reference model is described by:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_d = \underline{\mathbf{A}}_d \mathbf{x}_d, \quad \underline{\mathbf{A}}_d = \underline{\mathbf{A}} - \underline{\mathbf{B}}\underline{\mathbf{K}}, \quad \mathbf{x}_d = \begin{bmatrix} x_d & y_d & \dot{x}_d & \dot{y}_d \end{bmatrix}^T$$

- $\mathbf{K}$  is found by solving the LQR problem



- ❑ The dynamics of S/C relative motion are nonlinear due to
  - ❑  $J_2$  perturbation
  - ❑ Variations on the atmospheric density at LEO
  - ❑ Solar pressure radiation
  - ❑ Etc.
- ❑ The general expression for the real world nonlinear dynamics, including nonlinearities is:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \underline{\mathbf{B}}\mathbf{u}, \quad \mathbf{x} = [x \quad y \quad \dot{x} \quad \dot{y}]^T, \quad \mathbf{u} = \begin{cases} a_{Drel} \\ 0 \\ -a_{Drel} \end{cases}$$

□ A Lyapunov function of the tracking error is defined

$$\text{as: } V = \mathbf{e}^T \underline{\mathbf{P}} \mathbf{e}, \quad \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_d, \quad \underline{\mathbf{P}} \succ 0$$

□ After some algebraic manipulation, the time derivative of the Lyapunov function is:

$$\dot{V} = \mathbf{e}^T (\underline{\mathbf{A}}_d^T \underline{\mathbf{P}} + \underline{\mathbf{P}} \underline{\mathbf{A}}_d) \mathbf{e} + 2\mathbf{e}^T \underline{\mathbf{P}} (\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) - \underline{\mathbf{A}}_d \mathbf{x} + \underline{\mathbf{B}} a_{Drel} \hat{u} - \underline{\mathbf{B}} \mathbf{u}_d)$$

□ Defining  $\underline{\mathbf{A}}_d$  Hurwitz and  $\underline{\mathbf{Q}}$  symmetric positive definite,  $\underline{\mathbf{P}}$  can be found using:

$$-\underline{\mathbf{Q}} = \underline{\mathbf{A}}_d^T \underline{\mathbf{P}} + \underline{\mathbf{P}} \underline{\mathbf{A}}_d$$

□ If the desired guidance is a constant zero state vector (controller acts as a regulator)

$$\dot{V} = 2\mathbf{e}^T \underline{\mathbf{P}} (\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) + \underline{\mathbf{B}} a_{Drel} \hat{u})$$

□ Rearranging  $\dot{V}$  yields

$$\dot{V} = 2(\beta \hat{u} - \delta),$$

$$\beta = \mathbf{e}^T \underline{\mathbf{P}} \underline{\mathbf{B}} a_{Drel}, \quad \delta = -\mathbf{e}^T \underline{\mathbf{P}} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}), \quad \hat{u} = \begin{cases} 1 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{cases}$$

□ Guaranteeing  $\dot{V} < 0$  would imply that the tracking error ( $\mathbf{e}$ ) converges to zero

□ By selecting:

$$\hat{u} = -\text{sign}(\beta) = -\text{sign}(\mathbf{e}^T \underline{\mathbf{P}} \underline{\mathbf{B}})$$

$\dot{V}$  is ensured to be as small as possible.

- Product  $\beta\hat{u}$  is the only controllable term that influences the behavior of  $\dot{V} = 2(\beta\hat{u} - \delta)$
- There must be a minimum value for  $a_{Drel}$  that allows for  $\dot{V}$  to be negative for given values of  $\beta$  and  $\delta$
- This value is found analytically by solving:

$$0 \geq e^T \underline{PB} a_{Drel} \hat{u} - \delta$$

- Solving this expression for  $a_{Drel}$  yields

$$a_{Drel} \geq \frac{\delta}{|e^T \underline{PB}|} = \frac{-e^T \underline{P} f(x)}{|e^T \underline{PB}|} = a_{Dcrit}$$

□ Choosing appropriate values for the entries of  $\underline{Q}$  and  $\underline{A}_d$  can minimize  $a_{Dcrit}$

□ To achieve this, the following partial derivatives were developed

$$\frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{A}_d}, \quad \frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{Q}}$$

□ The first step to find them is to develop:

$$a_{Dcrit} = \frac{-\underline{e}^T \underline{P} \underline{f}(x)}{|\underline{e}^T \underline{P} \underline{B}|}, \quad \frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{P}} = \frac{\underline{e}^T \underline{f}(x)}{|\underline{e}^T \underline{P} \underline{B}|} - \frac{(\underline{e}^T \underline{P} \underline{B})(\underline{e}^T \underline{P} \underline{f}(x)) \underline{e} \underline{B}^T}{|\underline{e}^T \underline{P} \underline{B}|^3}$$

□ Afterwards the Lyapunov equation was transformed into:

$$-\underline{Q} = \underline{A}_d^T \underline{P} + \underline{P} \underline{A}_d, \quad \underline{A}_v \underline{P}_v = -\underline{Q}_v,$$

$$\underline{A}_v = \underline{I}_{4 \times 4} \otimes \underline{A}_d + \underline{A}_d \otimes \underline{I}_{4 \times 4}, \quad \underline{P}_v = \text{vec}(\underline{P}), \quad \underline{Q}_v = \text{vec}(\underline{Q}),$$

$$\underline{P}_v = -\underline{A}_v^{-1} \underline{Q}_v$$

□ Using  $\underline{P}_v = -\underline{A}_v^{-1}\underline{Q}_v$

The following derivatives can be found:

$$\frac{\partial \underline{P}}{\partial \underline{Q}} = T_1 \left( (-\underline{A}_v^{-1})^T \right), \quad \frac{\partial \underline{P}_v}{\partial \underline{A}_v} = (\underline{I}_{16 \times 16} \otimes \underline{A}_v^{-1}) \underline{U}_{16 \times 16} (\underline{I}_{16 \times 16} \otimes \underline{A}_v^{-1}) (\underline{I}_{16 \times 16} \otimes \underline{Q}_v),$$

$$\frac{\partial \underline{P}}{\partial \underline{A}_d} = T_2 \left( \frac{\partial \underline{P}_v}{\partial \underline{A}_d} \right), \quad \frac{\partial \underline{A}_v}{\partial \underline{A}_d} = (\underline{I}_{4 \times 4} \otimes \underline{U}_1) (\underline{U}_{4 \times 4} \otimes \underline{I}_{4 \times 4}) (\underline{I}_{4 \times 4} \otimes \underline{U}_1) + \underline{U}_{4 \times 4} \otimes \underline{I}_{4 \times 4}$$

□ Using the chain rule the desired final expressions can be found:

$$\frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{Q}} = T_3^{-1} \left( \frac{\partial \underline{P}}{\partial \underline{Q}} \right) \left[ \underline{I}_{4 \times 4} \otimes T_1^{-1} \left( \frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{P}} \right) \right],$$

$$\frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{A}_d} = T_3^{-1} \left( \frac{\partial \underline{P}}{\partial \underline{A}_d} \right) \left[ \underline{I}_{4 \times 4} \otimes T_1^{-1} \left( \frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{P}} \right) \right]$$

□ Using this derivatives  $\underline{A}_d$  and  $\underline{Q}$  are adapted as follows:

$$\frac{dA_{ij}}{dt} = \kappa_A \left[ -\text{sign}\left(\frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial A_{ij}}\right) \delta_A \right], \quad \frac{dQ_{ij}}{dt} = \kappa_Q \left[ -\text{sign}\left(\frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial Q_{ij}}\right) \delta_Q \right]$$

$$\kappa_A = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial A_{ij}} > \frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial A_{kl}} \text{ for } i, j \neq k, l \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}, \quad \kappa_Q = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial Q_{ij}} > \frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial Q_{kl}} \text{ for } i, j \neq k, l \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

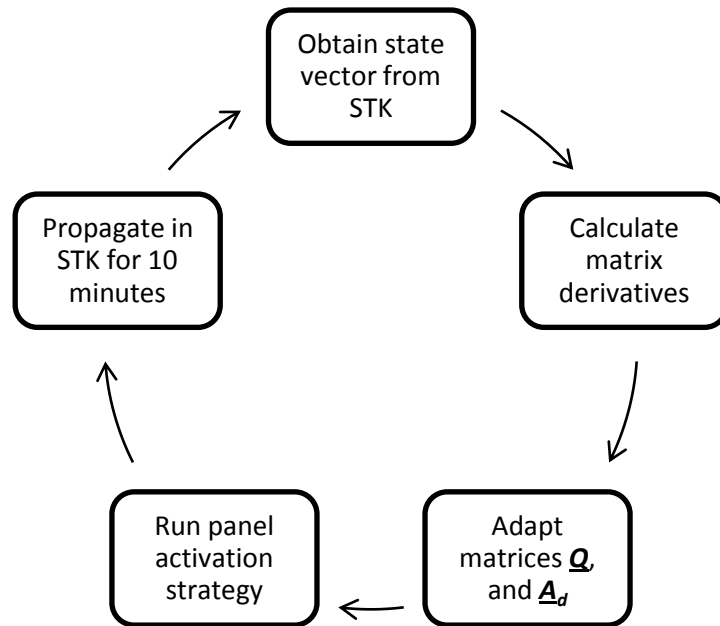
□ These were designed such that:

□  $\underline{Q}$  is symmetric positive definite

□  $\underline{A}_d$  is Hurwitz

□ These adaptations result in an adaptation of the quadratic Lyapunov function

- ❑ Simulations were performed using an STK scenario with High-Precision Orbit Propagator (HPOP) that included:
  - ❑ Full gravitational field model
  - ❑ Variable atmospheric density (using NRLMSISE-00)
  - ❑ Solar pressure radiation effects

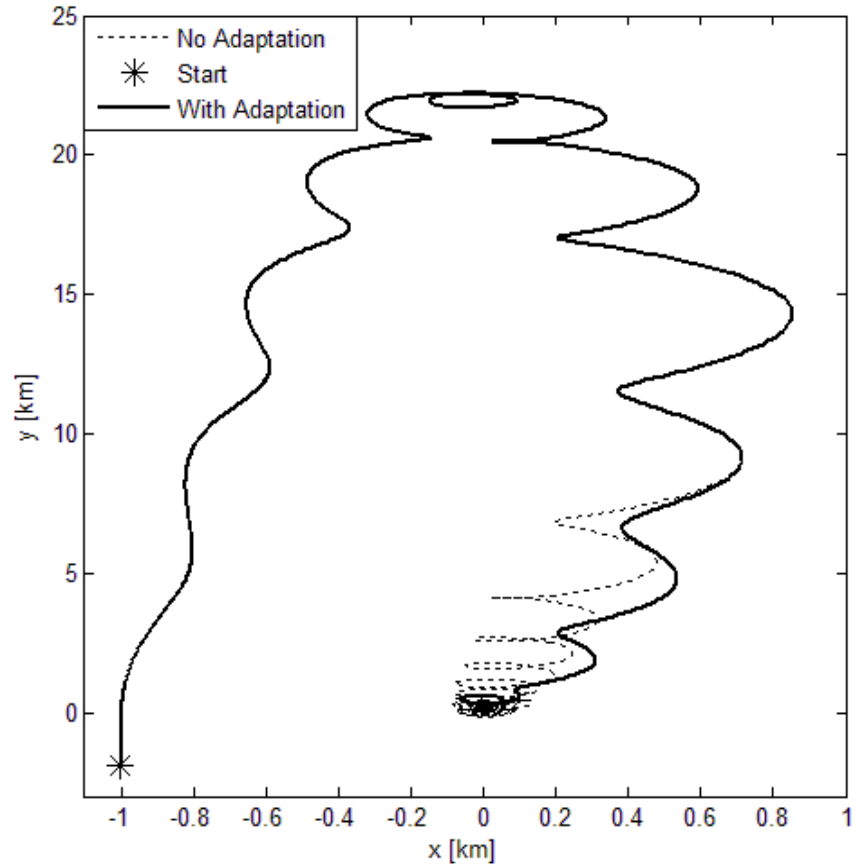
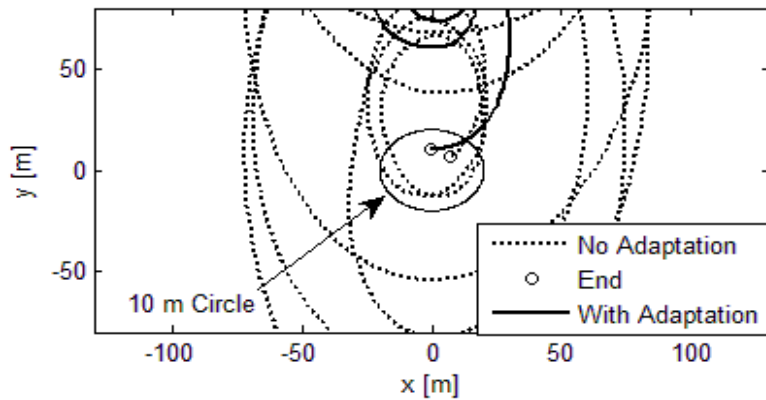
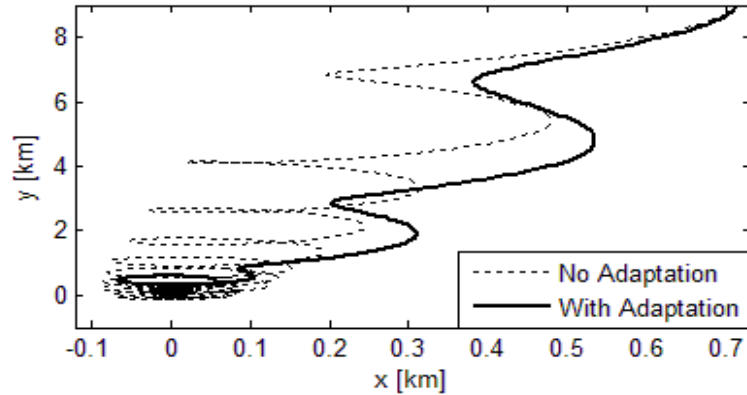


Parameter	Value
Target's inclination (deg)	98
Target's semi-major axis (km)	6778
Target's right ascension of the ascending node (deg)	262
Target's argument of perigee (deg)	30
Target's true anomaly (deg)	25
Target's eccentricity	0
m(kg)	10
S(m <sup>2</sup> )	1.3
C <sub>D</sub>	2

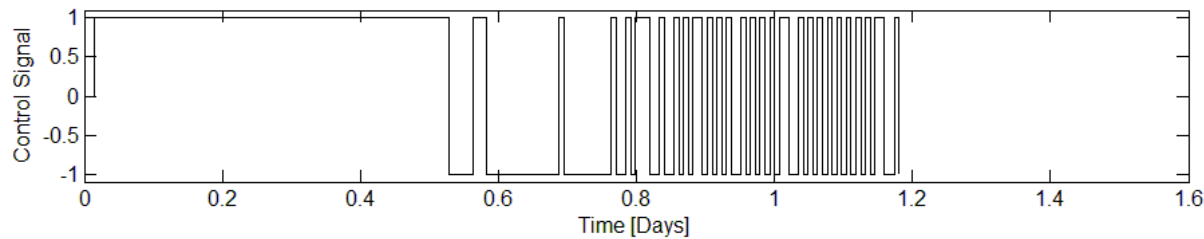
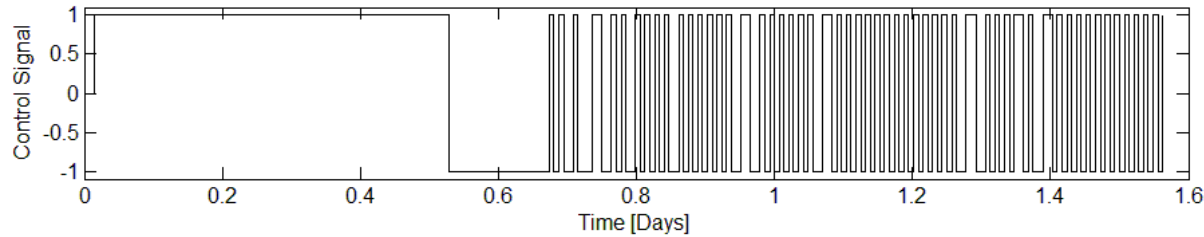
- ❑ Initial relative position of -1km in x, -2km in y in the LVLH
- ❑ The maneuver ended when S/C were within 10m.



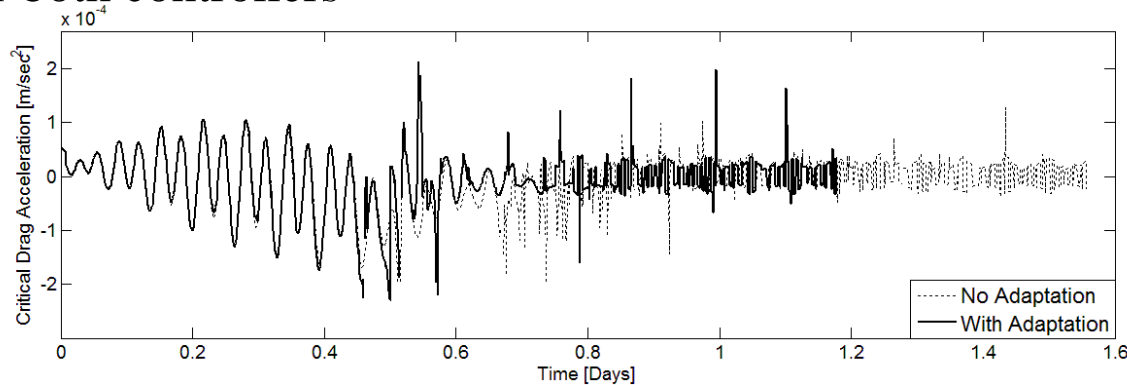
## □ Simulated trajectory in the x-y plane



## Control signal for both controllers



## $a_{Dcrit}$ for both controllers

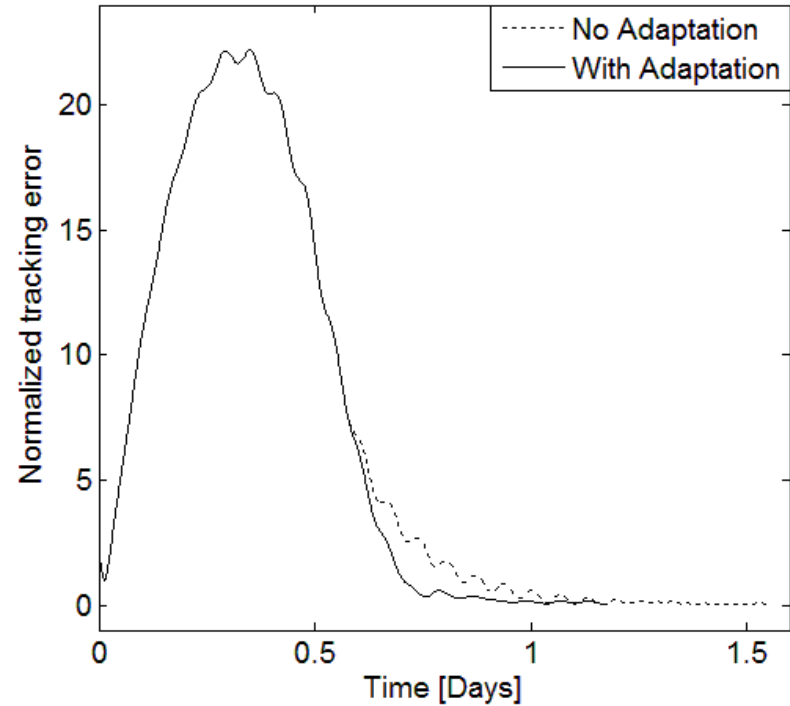
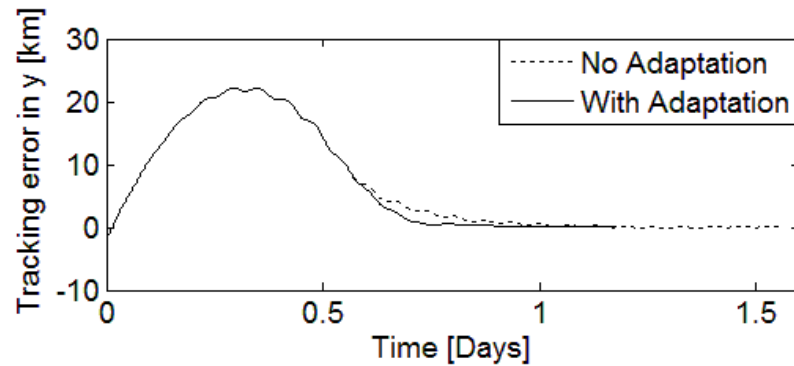
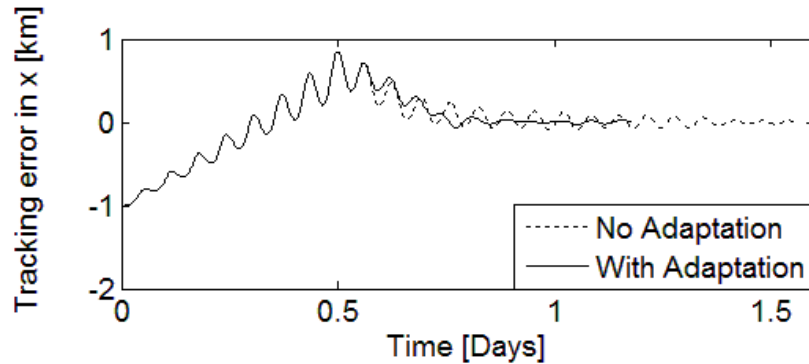


## Adaptive VS Non Adaptive

- Number of control switches: 56 VS 113 (50% less actuation)

- Maneuver time: 29 hr VS 38 hr (24% less time)

## ❑ Error for both controllers



- ❑ Non adaptive Lyapunov controller needs more time and a higher control effort since it approaches the rendezvous state performing larger oscillations
- ❑ The reduction on the maneuver time and the control effort is caused by the adaptation of the matrix  $\underline{P}$  which allows the adaptive Lyapunov control to tune itself as the error evolves

□ Include the linear reference model in the derivation

of:  $\frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{A}_d}, \frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{Q}}$

□ This will allow for tracking a desired path or the dynamics of the linear reference model

□ Further developments on the adaptation strategy are expected to improve controller performance

- ❑ A novel adaptive Lyapunov controller for S/C autonomous rendezvous maneuvers using atmospheric differential drag is presented.
- ❑ Analytical expressions  $a_{Dcrit}$ ,  $\frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{A}_d}$ ,  $\frac{\partial a_{Dcrit}}{\partial \underline{Q}}$  are derived
- ❑ The quadratic Lyapunov function is modified in real time, during flight using these derivatives, minimizing  $a_{Dcrit}$ , thus maximizing the control authority margin.
- ❑ In simulations both Lyapunov controllers have the unprecedented ability to perform rendezvous to less than 10 meters without propellant
- ❑ The resulting behavior of the adaptive Lyapunov controller is an improvement
  - ❑ Significantly lower control effort (50% less actuation)
  - ❑ Less time to reach the desired rendezvous state (24% less time)

# Questions



## □ Vec operator and Kronecker product

$$\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Z}}) = \underline{\mathbf{Z}}_v = [Z_{11} \quad \cdots \quad Z_{n1} \quad \cdots \quad Z_{1n} \quad \cdots \quad Z_{mn}]^T, \quad \underline{\mathbf{X}} \otimes \underline{\mathbf{Y}} = \begin{bmatrix} (X_{11} \underline{\mathbf{Y}}) & \cdots & (X_{1n} \underline{\mathbf{Y}}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ (X_{n1} \underline{\mathbf{Y}}) & \cdots & (X_{nn} \underline{\mathbf{Y}}) \end{bmatrix}$$

## □ Matrix Derivatives

$$\frac{\partial \underline{\mathbf{Y}}}{\partial \underline{\mathbf{X}}} = \underline{\mathbf{Y}}, \underline{\mathbf{X}} = \begin{bmatrix} (\underline{\mathbf{Y}}, X_{11}) & \cdots & (\underline{\mathbf{Y}}, X_{1n}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ (\underline{\mathbf{Y}}, X_{n1}) & \cdots & (\underline{\mathbf{Y}}, X_{nn}) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \frac{\partial \underline{\mathbf{Y}}_v}{\partial \underline{\mathbf{X}}} = \text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}}), \underline{\mathbf{X}} = \begin{bmatrix} (\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}}), X_{11}) & \cdots & (\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}}), X_{1n}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ (\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}}), X_{n1}) & \cdots & (\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}}), X_{nn}) \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\frac{\partial \underline{\mathbf{Y}}_v}{\partial \underline{\mathbf{X}}_v} = \text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}}), \text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{X}}) = \begin{bmatrix} (\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}}))^T, X_{11} \\ \vdots \\ (\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}}))^T, X_{n1} \\ \vdots \\ (\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}}))^T, X_{1n} \\ \vdots \\ (\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}}))^T, X_{nn} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \frac{\partial [\underline{\mathbf{Y}}_v]^T}{\partial \underline{\mathbf{X}}} = [\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}})]^T, \underline{\mathbf{X}} = \begin{bmatrix} ([\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}})]^T, X_{11}) & \cdots & ([\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}})]^T, X_{1n}) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ ([\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}})]^T, X_{n1}) & \cdots & ([\text{vec}(\underline{\mathbf{Y}})]^T, X_{nn}) \end{bmatrix}$$

## □ Matrix Derivative Transformations

$$\frac{\partial \underline{\mathbf{Y}}}{\partial \underline{\mathbf{X}}} = \mathbf{T}_1 \left( \frac{\partial \underline{\mathbf{Y}}_v}{\partial \underline{\mathbf{X}}_v} \right), \quad \frac{\partial \underline{\mathbf{Y}}}{\partial \underline{\mathbf{X}}} = \mathbf{T}_2 \left( \frac{\partial \underline{\mathbf{Y}}_v}{\partial \underline{\mathbf{X}}} \right), \quad \frac{\partial \underline{\mathbf{Y}}}{\partial \underline{\mathbf{X}}} = \mathbf{T}_3 \left( \frac{\partial [\underline{\mathbf{Y}}_v]^T}{\partial \underline{\mathbf{X}}} \right)$$