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This expression has been discussed extensively (e.g., Ref. 4), and the interpretation of  $d\chi/dt$  is that it describes the perturbative variation in the mean anomaly exclusive of the perturbations in the mean motion  $n$ . The form of  $d\chi/dt$  as given by Eq. (4) of Ref. 1 is equivalent to the perturbative variation  $\dot{M}$  of Herrick [cf. Eq. (190), Ref. 2]. Alternatively, it can be equated to the perturbative variation in the parameter  $\epsilon - \bar{\omega}$  of Plummer,<sup>5</sup> who also gives an expression for the total perturbative variation in the mean anomaly.

It follows from Eq. (1) and the definition of the mean longitude (i.e.,  $L = M + \omega + \Omega$ ) that

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = n + \frac{d\chi}{dt} + \frac{d\omega}{dt} + \frac{d\Omega}{dt} \quad (2)$$

where  $\omega$  is the argument of the perifocus and  $\Omega$  is the longitude of the ascending node. Therefore, the averaged motion in the mean longitude is given by

$$\overline{\frac{dL}{dt}} = \bar{n} + \overline{\frac{d\chi}{dt}} + \overline{\frac{d\omega}{dt}} + \overline{\frac{d\Omega}{dt}} \quad (3)$$

The only problem with this expression is in the interpretation of  $\bar{n}$ . The mean motion itself is given by an integral

$$n = n_0 + \int_{t_0}^t \left( \frac{dn}{dt} \right) dt \quad (4)$$

The average value of  $n$  with respect to the mean anomaly is, therefore, given by the following expression:

$$\bar{n} = n_0 + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \int_{t_0}^t \left( \frac{dn}{dt} \right) dt dM \quad (5)$$

The term to the right of the plus sign represents the deviation of the mean value of  $n$  from the initial value  $n_0$  at the epoch  $t_0$ . Thus, if  $n_0$  is used instead of  $\bar{n}$  in the rate formula [Eq. (3)], than an additional term corresponding to the time integral of  $dn/dt$  enters in the expression for  $\overline{dL}/dt$  or  $\overline{dM}/dt$ . For example, a formulation of this sort has been used by Edelbaum [Ref. 3, Eq. (21)].

Of course, when the periodic perturbations in  $L$  are required, it is necessary to include the extra term so that by Eqs. (2) and (4) the complete expression for the mean longitude is the following:

$$L - L_0 = n_0(t - t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t \left( \frac{dn}{dt} \right) dt^2 + \delta\chi + \delta\omega + \delta\Omega \quad (6)$$

where the symbol  $\delta$  represents a variation from the unperturbed orbit with elements equal to the osculating elements at the epoch  $t_0$ .

Therefore,

$$\delta L = L - L_0 - n_0(t - t_0)$$

or, in agreement with Eq. (48) of Ref. 1, the perturbation in the mean longitude can be written in the following form:

$$\delta L = \int_{t_0}^t \delta n dt + \delta\chi + \delta\omega + \delta\Omega$$

Incidentally, we would like to take this opportunity to correct a typographical error in Eq. (46) of Ref. 1. That expression should read as follows:

$$\delta\omega = (\mu/2ac^2) \left[ \frac{3}{2} e^3 \sin 2M - (1 - \frac{3}{2} e^2) \sin 2M - \frac{3}{2} e \sin 3M - \frac{7}{4} e^2 \sin 4M \right]$$

#### References

- 1 Anderson, J. D. and Lorell, J., "Orbital motion in the theory of general relativity," AIAA J. 1, 1372-1374 (1963).
- 2 Baker, R. M. L., Jr. and Makemson, M. W., *An Introduction to Astrodynamics* (Academic Press, New York, 1960), p. 175.

<sup>3</sup> Edelbaum, T. N., "Optimum low-thrust rendezvous and station keeping," AIAA Paper 63-154 (1963).

<sup>4</sup> Herrick, S., "The mean longitude or mean anomaly in perturbations by variation of constants," Astron. J. 56, 186-188 (1951-1952).

<sup>5</sup> Plummer, H. C., *An Introductory Treatise on Dynamical Astronomy* (Cambridge University Press, London, 1918), p. 152.

## Comment on "Vibration of a 45° Right Triangular Cantilever Plate by a Gridwork Method"

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IT is of interest that Christensen<sup>1</sup> considers a sophisticated version of the Hardy-Cross method to be better than the classical Rayleigh-Ritz procedure. The authors of this comment contend that an elaborated Rayleigh-Ritz method must inevitably give better results. This conviction is sustained by the proof that a first-order error in modal shape estimate causes only a second-order error in frequency. To realize

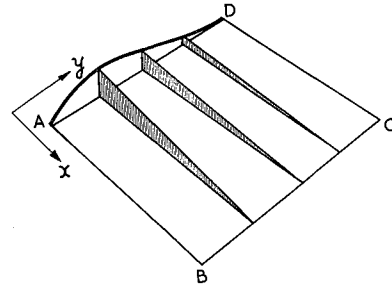


Fig. 1 Representation of displacement functions.

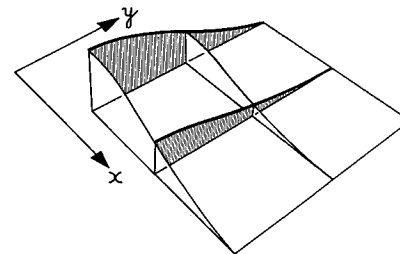


Fig. 2 Representation of displacement functions.

the practical advantage of this useful theoretical result in a complex engineering structure, it is necessary to eliminate first-order errors in structural idealization. Ideally the elements must have the same deflections at common boundaries and also the same slopes; further discussion on structural idealization can be found in Refs. 2 and 3.

The results of a recent investigation by the authors, considering a 3- × 4-in. rectangular cantilevered plate of uniform thickness analyzed into 1-in.-square elements, have been included in this comment. The nodes were allowed three degrees of freedom in the out-of-plane directions, giving 48 degrees of freedom to the plate.

The element displacements assumed for unit deflections are typified by the following expressions, applicable to a rectangle with vertices  $\pm a, \pm b$ :

$$w = \frac{1}{8} \{x + a\} \{x^2/a^2 - 1\} \{y/b + 1\}$$

$$w = \frac{1}{16} \{-x^2/a^2 + 3x/a + 2\} \{-y^2/b^2 + 3y/b + 2\}$$

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