

# High-precision Analyser for Lunar Orbits (HALO)

Quentin Gautier<sup>1,2</sup>, Yang Yang<sup>2,\*</sup>, Andrew Dempster<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Australian Center for Space Engineering Research, School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications, UNSW, Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia,

<sup>2</sup>School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, UNSW, Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia

\*Space Engineering Lecturer, yang.yang16@unsw.edu.au

# Moon to Mars Initiative



Artemis human exploration program & Australia's contribution to Artemis



Trailblazer Program  
Australian-made rover, **Roo-ver**

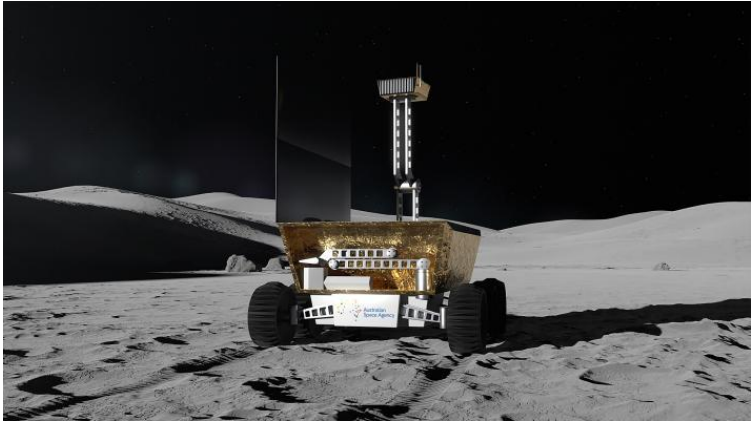
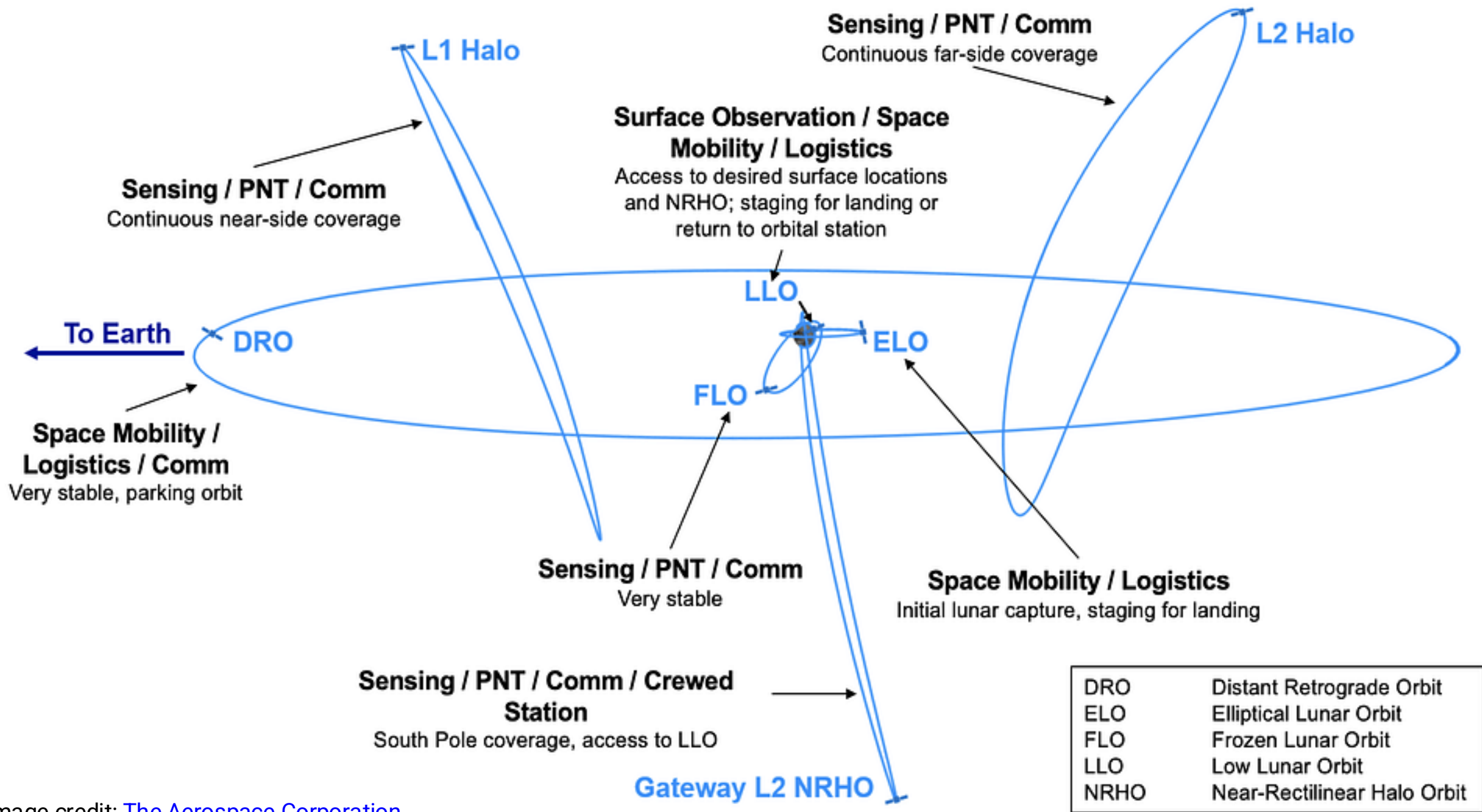
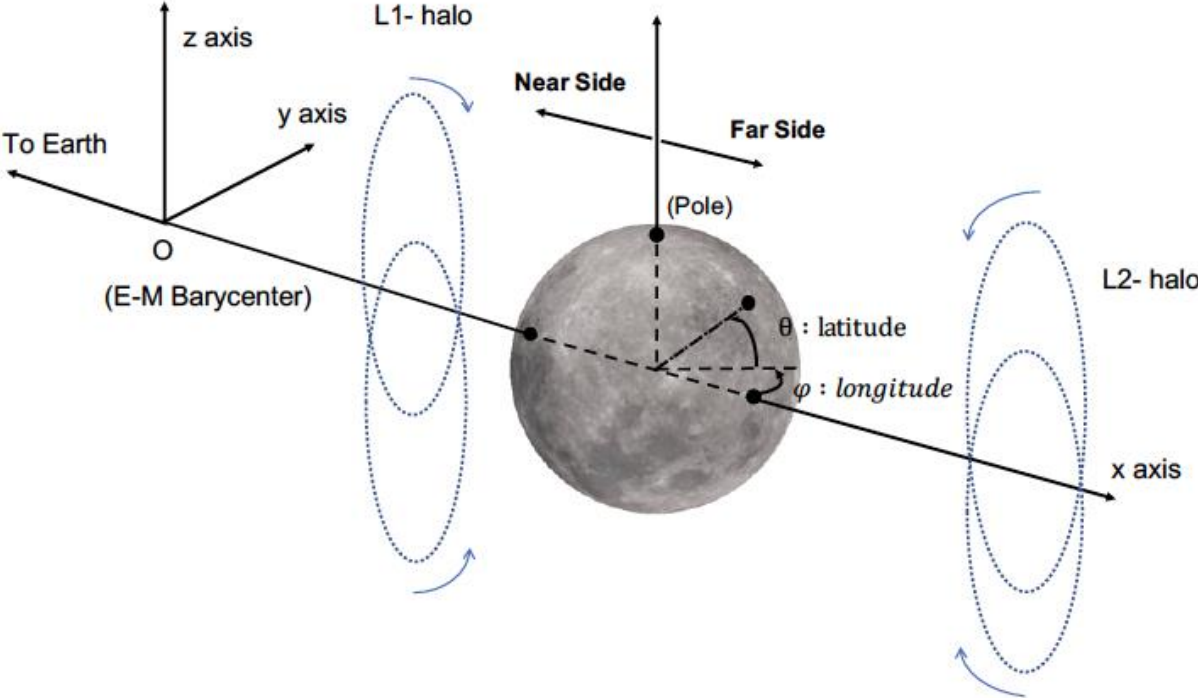


Image credit: [Australian Space Agency](https://www.space.gov.au/)

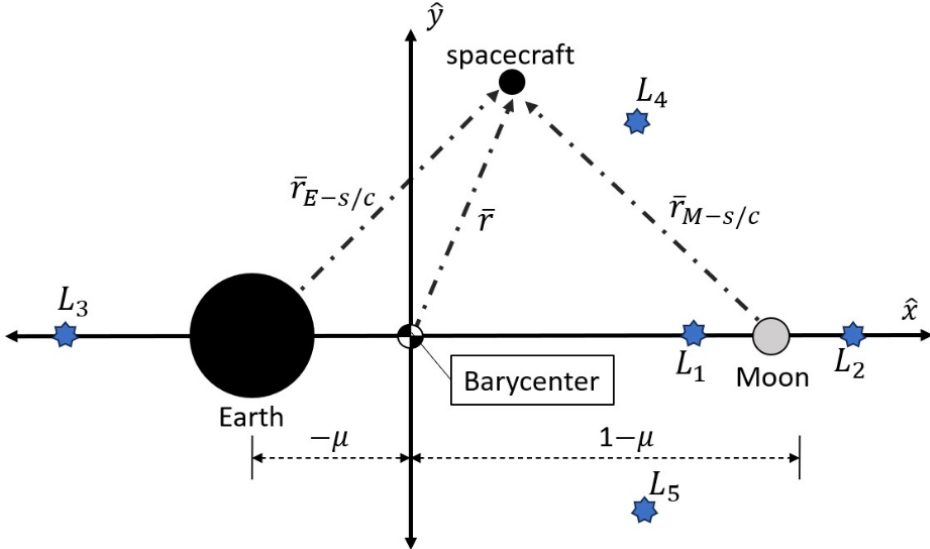


# Coordinate Systems



Earth-Moon rotating frame  
(image credit: Keidai Ilyama 2019)

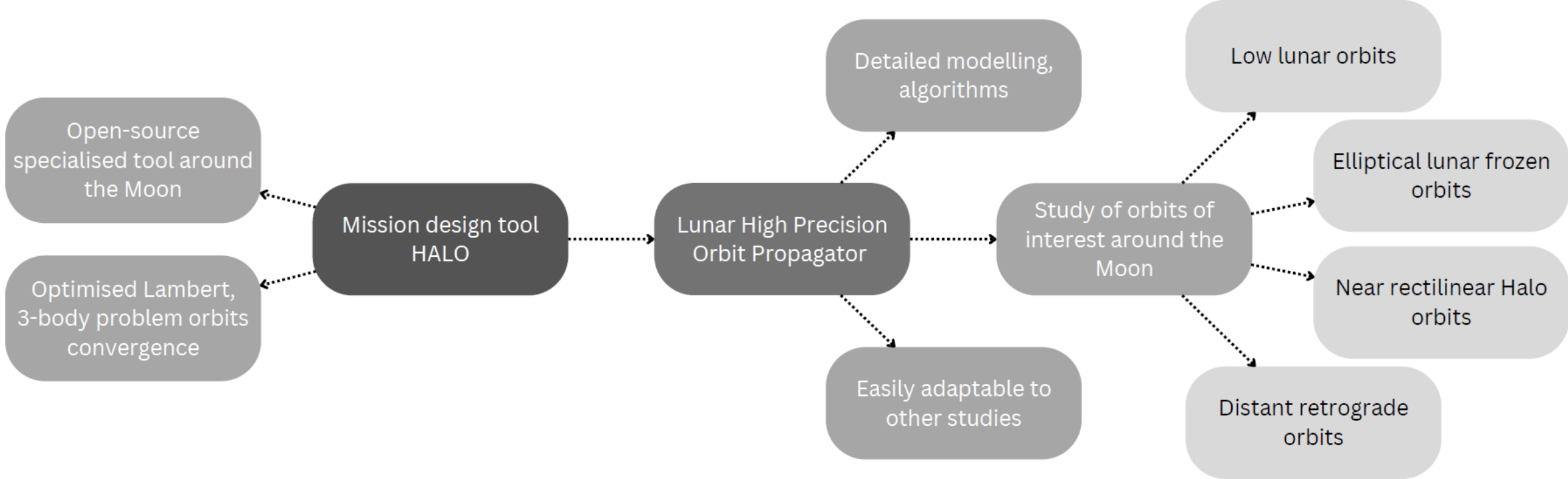
- Earth-Moon rotating frame



CR3BP model in the Earth-Moon rotating frame  
(image credit: Marta Lopez Castro)

- Moon centred rotating frame
- Moon centred inertial frame

# High-precision Analyser for Lunar Orbits (HALO)

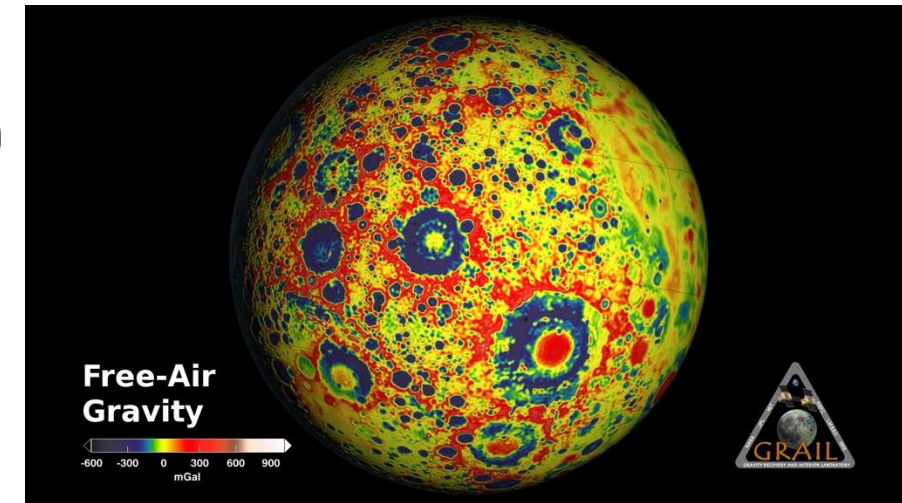


HALO functionalities



# Force Models

- **Field forces**
  - **Lunar gravitational field:** 350 × 350 harmonics model from the GRAIL mission
  - **Point mass attraction:** Sun and Jupiter, JPL DE430
  - **Earth gravitational attraction:** 100 × 100 harmonics model, EGM2008
  - **General relativistic correction**
- **Surface forces**
  - **Solar radiation pressure:** spherical satellite geometry
  - **Earth albedo**



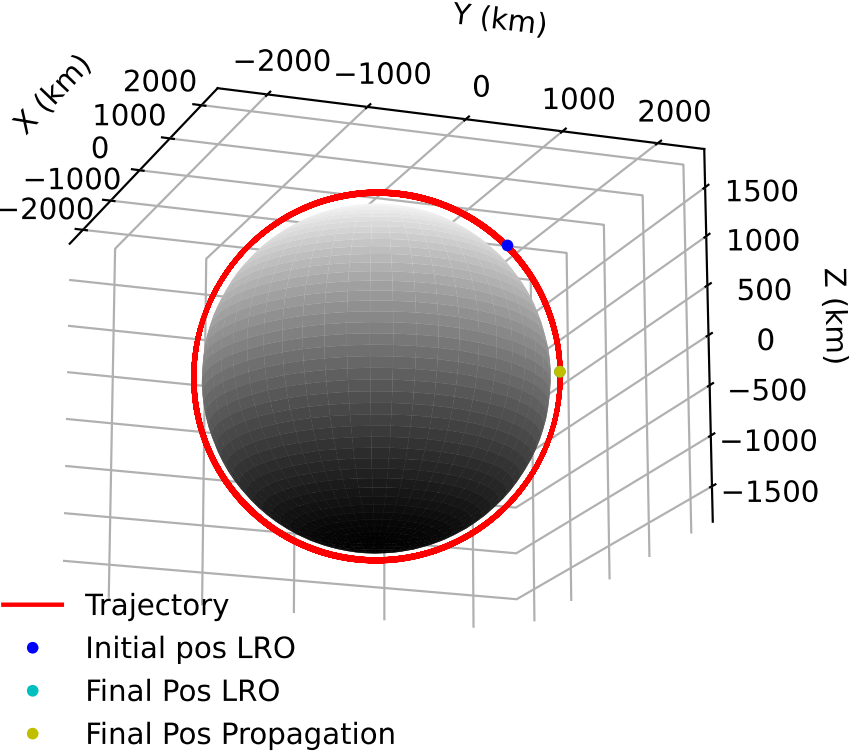
Lunar gravity model by the GRAIL mission

# Assessments in Low Lunar Orbit

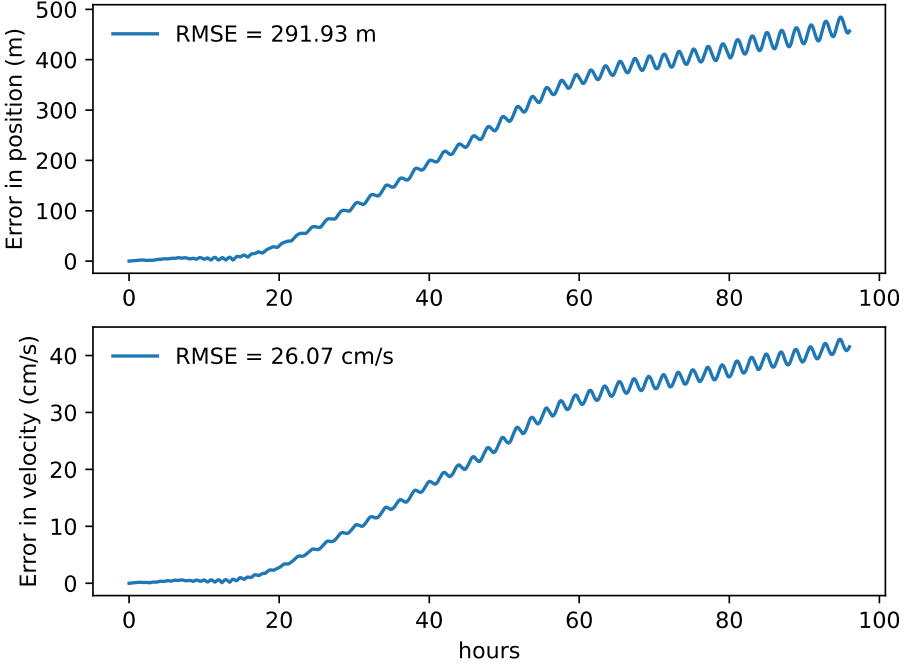


LRO spacecraft  
(Image Credit: NASA)

**Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO):** perilune 60 km and apolune 130 km  
 Scenario : February 1, 2020, over a four-day window, ~48 orbit rev  
 Reference orbit: [Horizons System \(nasa.gov\)](https://www.nasa.gov)

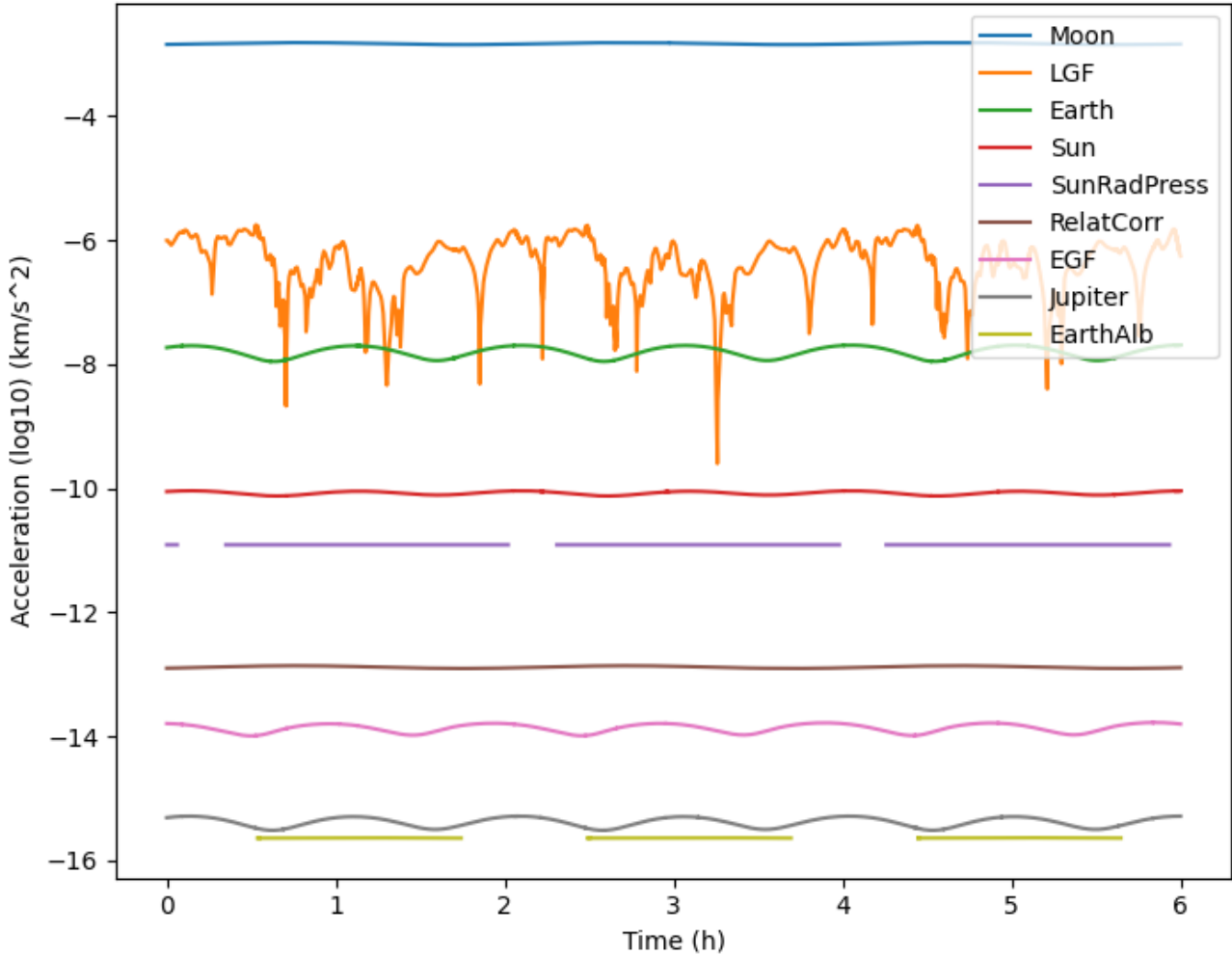


LRO Trajectory in the Moon centered inertial frame



Propagation errors compared to the LRO reference orbit

# Assessments in Low Lunar Orbit

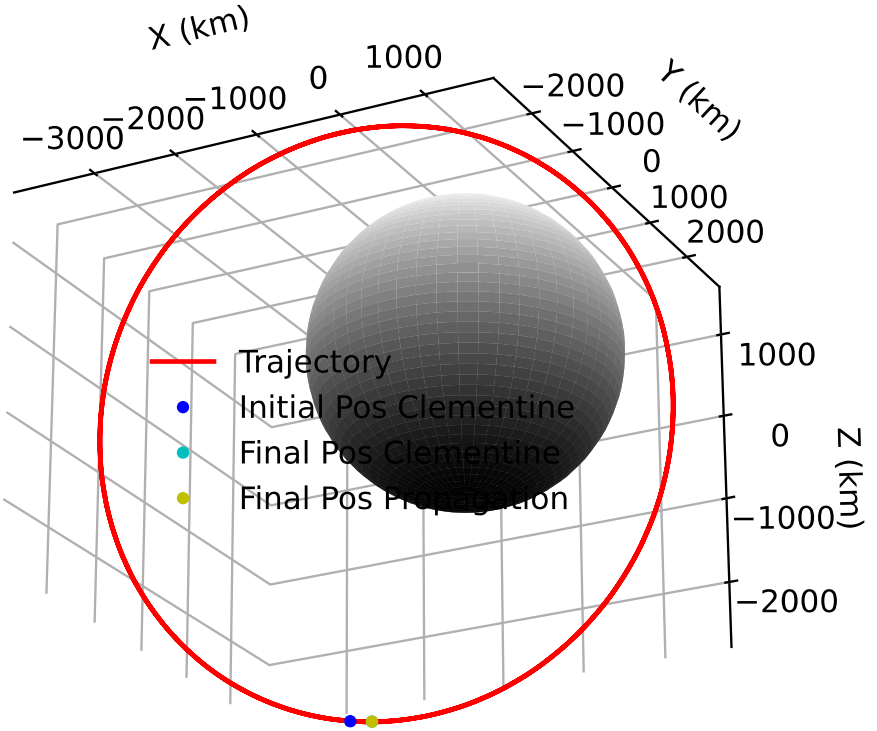


Magnitudes of perturbations for LRO in LLO

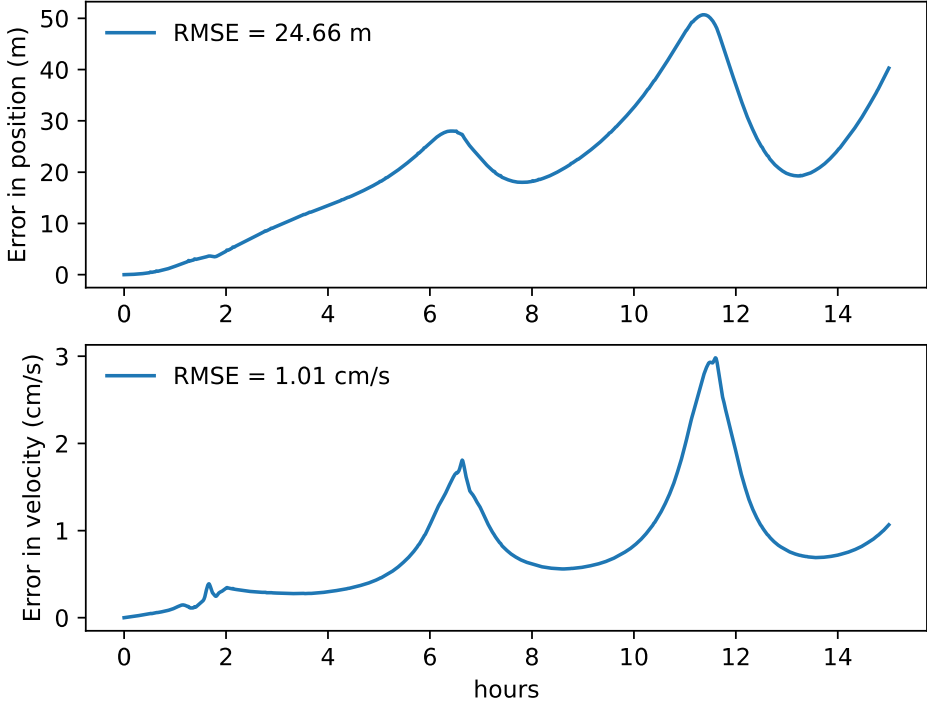


# Assessments in Elliptical Lunar Polar Orbit

**Clementine:** perilune 415 km, and apolune 2939 km  
 Scenario: 15-hour time span on April 15, 1994 (three orbit rev)

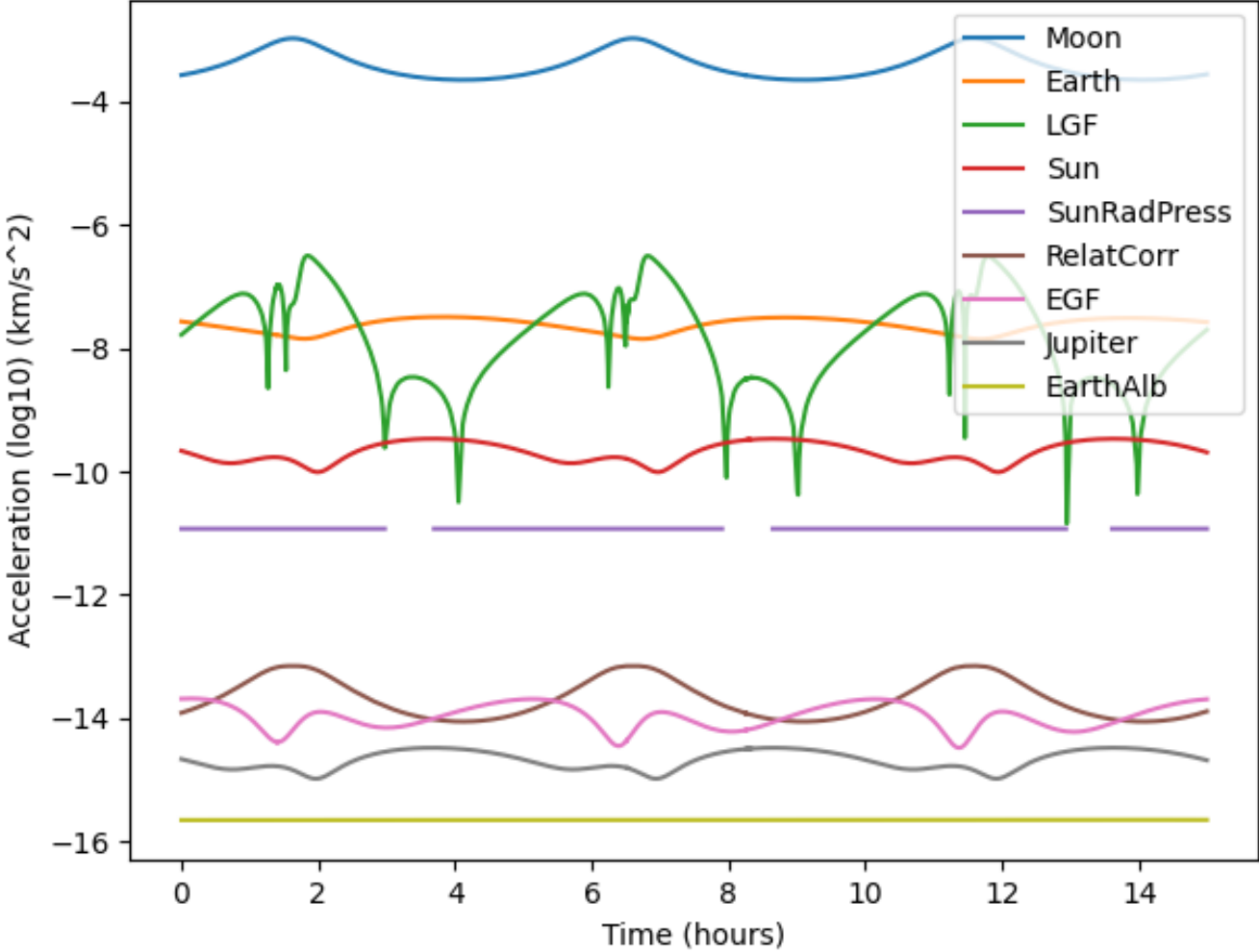


The Clementine spacecraft in the Moon centered inertial frame



Propagation errors compared to the Clementine reference orbit

# Assessments in Elliptical Lunar Polar Orbit

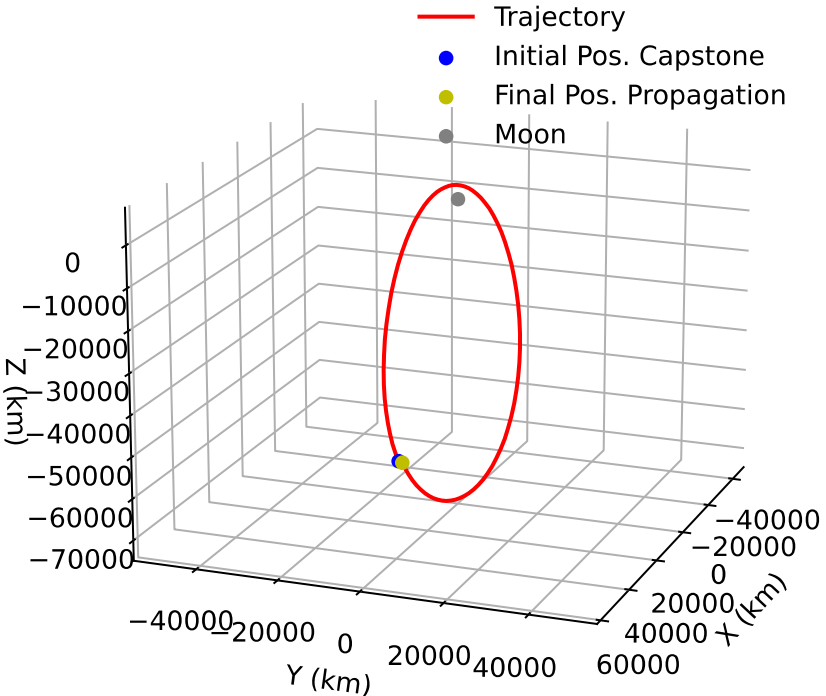


Magnitudes of perturbations for Clementine in the elliptical lunar orbit

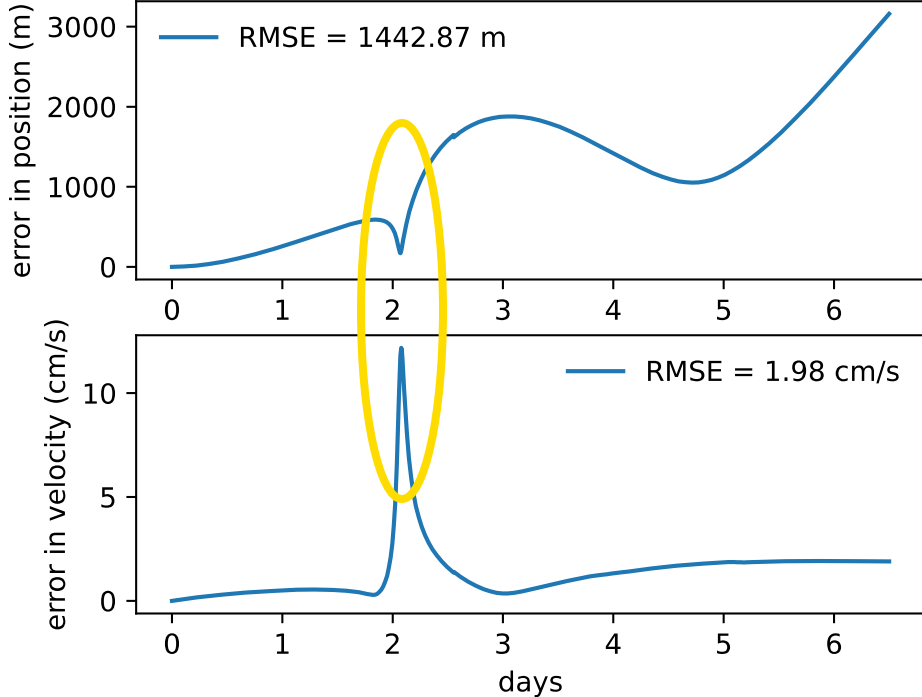
# Assessments in Near Rectilinear Halo Orbit

**CAPSTONE:** 9:2 synodic resonance, perilune 1,610km and apolune 69,918 km

Scenario: time span of 6.5 days from 25 November 2022, ~ 1 orbital rev

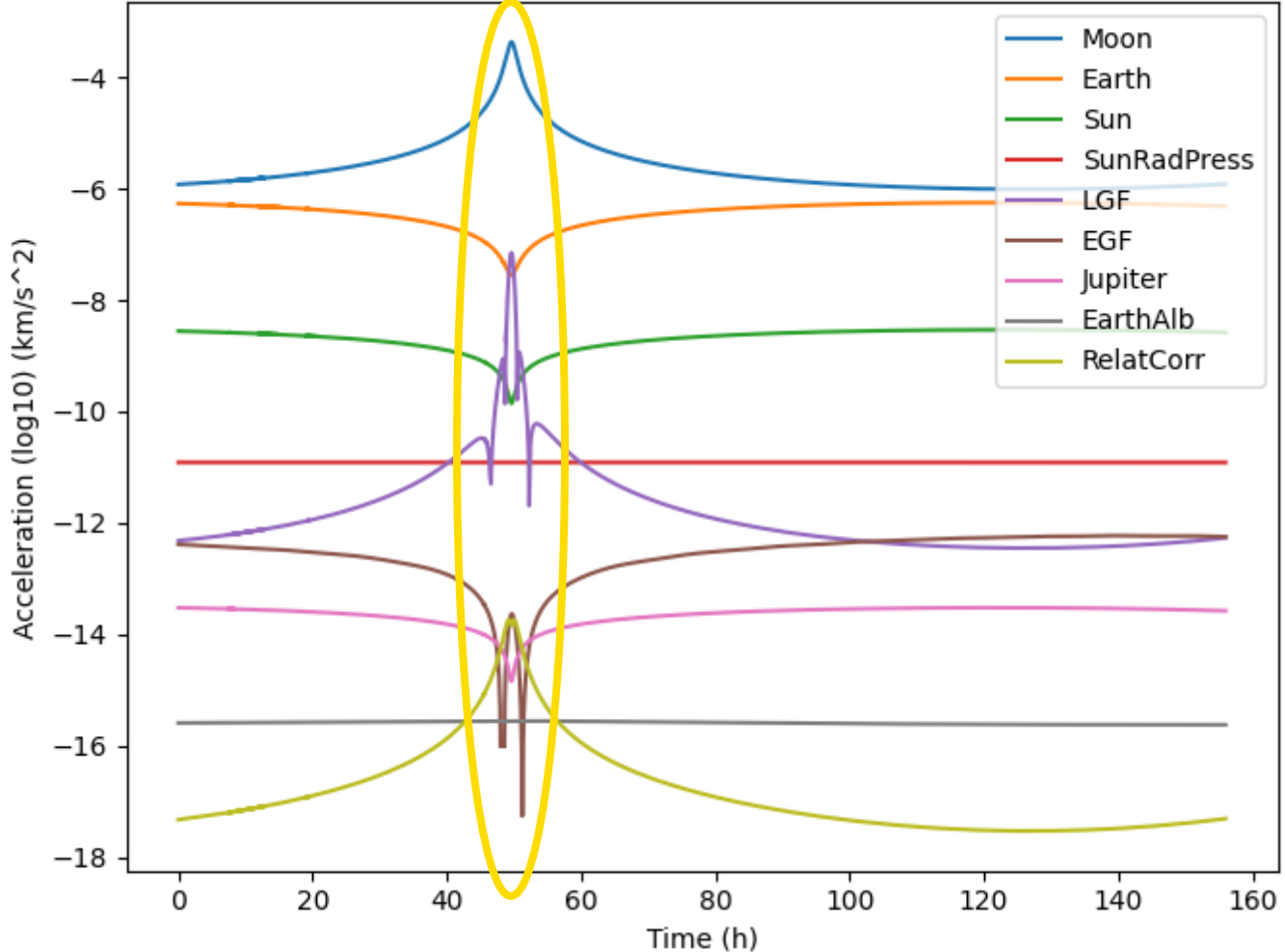


CAPSTONE trajectory in the Moon centred rotational frame



Propagation errors compared to the CAPSTONE reference orbit

# Assessments in Near Rectilinear Halo Orbit

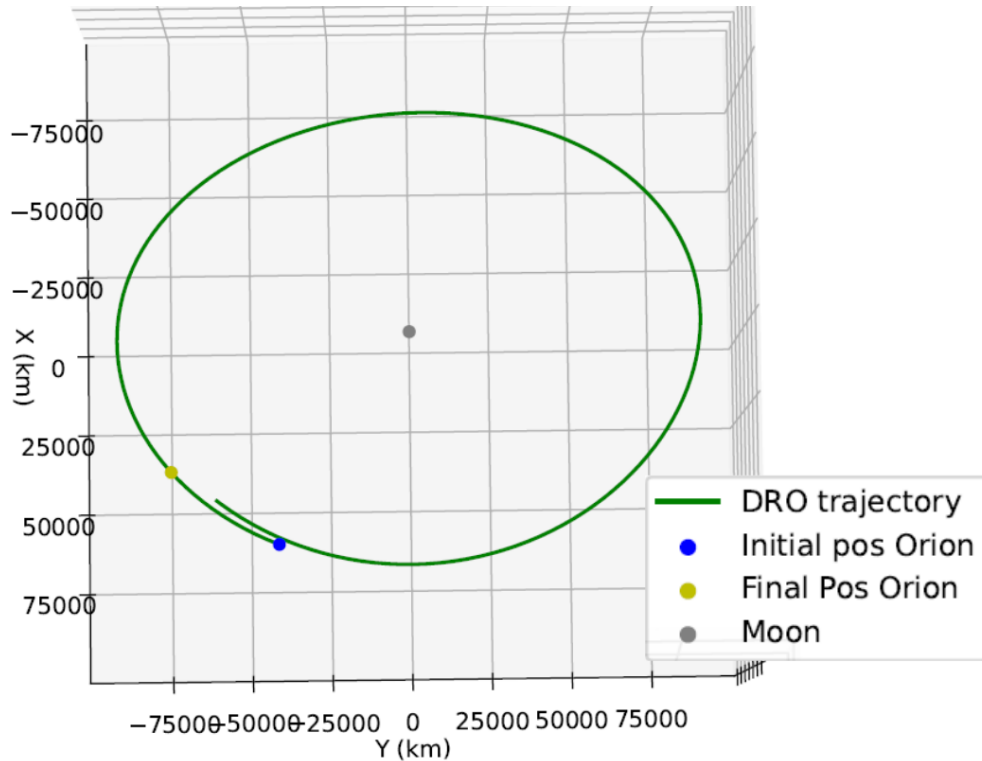


Magnitudes of perturbations for CAPSTONE in NRHO

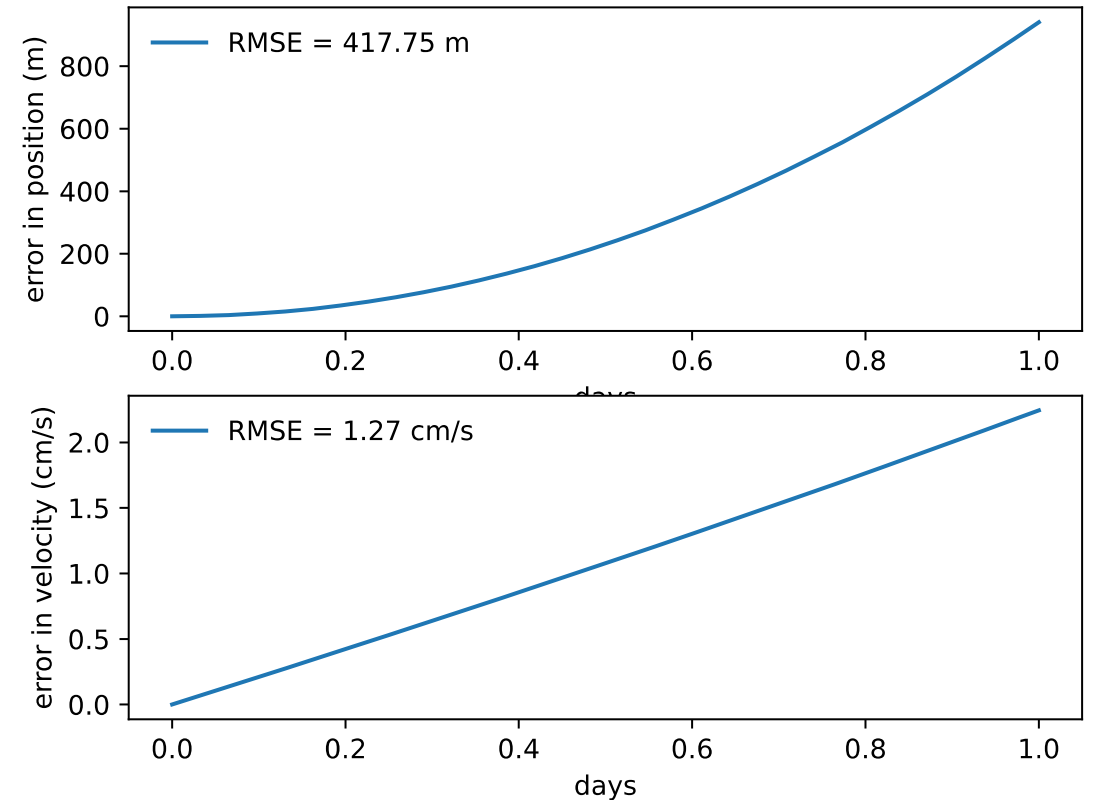


# Assessments in Distant Retrograde Orbit

**Artemis I/Orion:** 14-day period, perilune 70,100 km and apolune 94,800 km  
Scenario: time span of 1 days from 29 November 2022



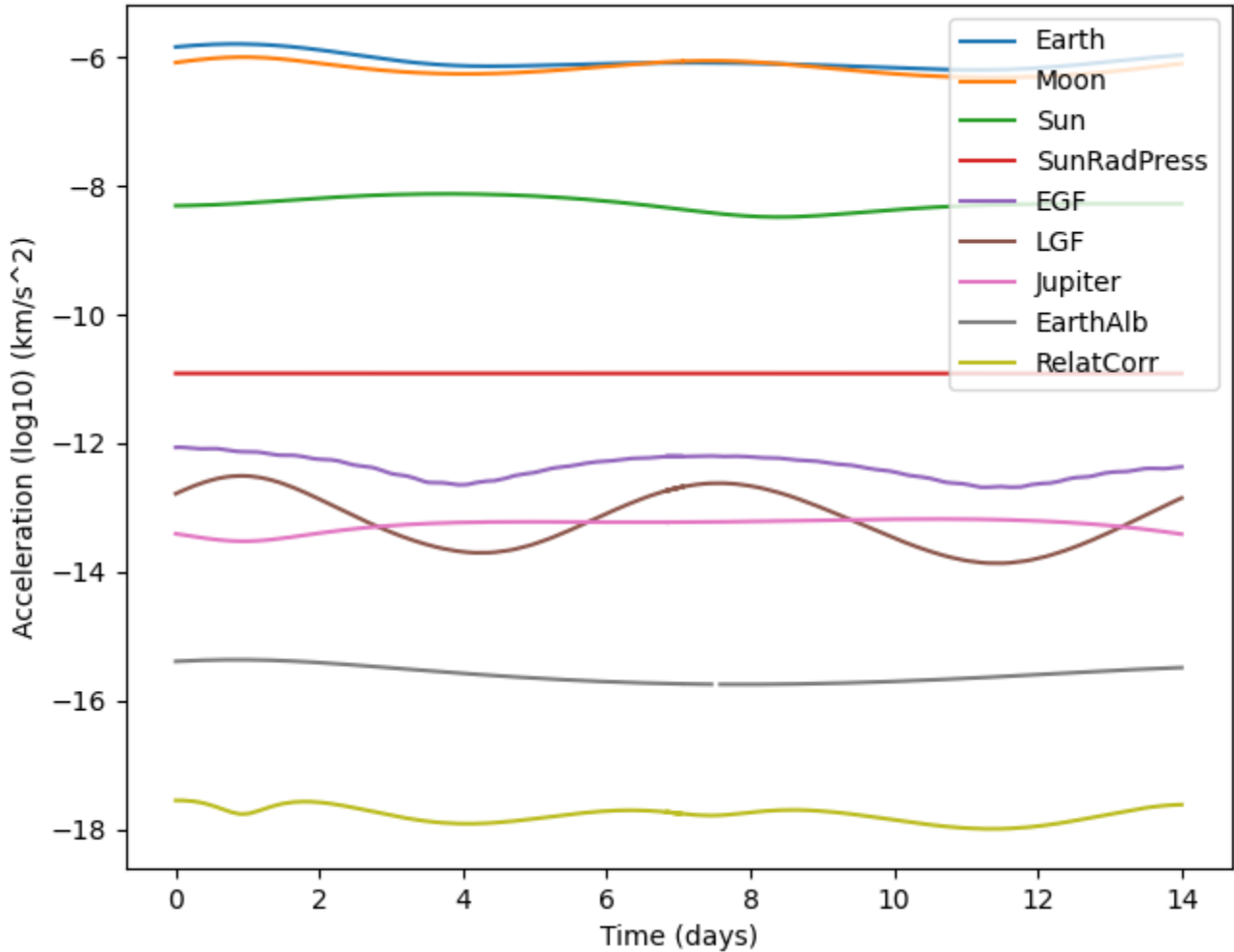
Orion trajectory in the Moon centred rotational frame



Propagation errors compared to the Orion reference orbit

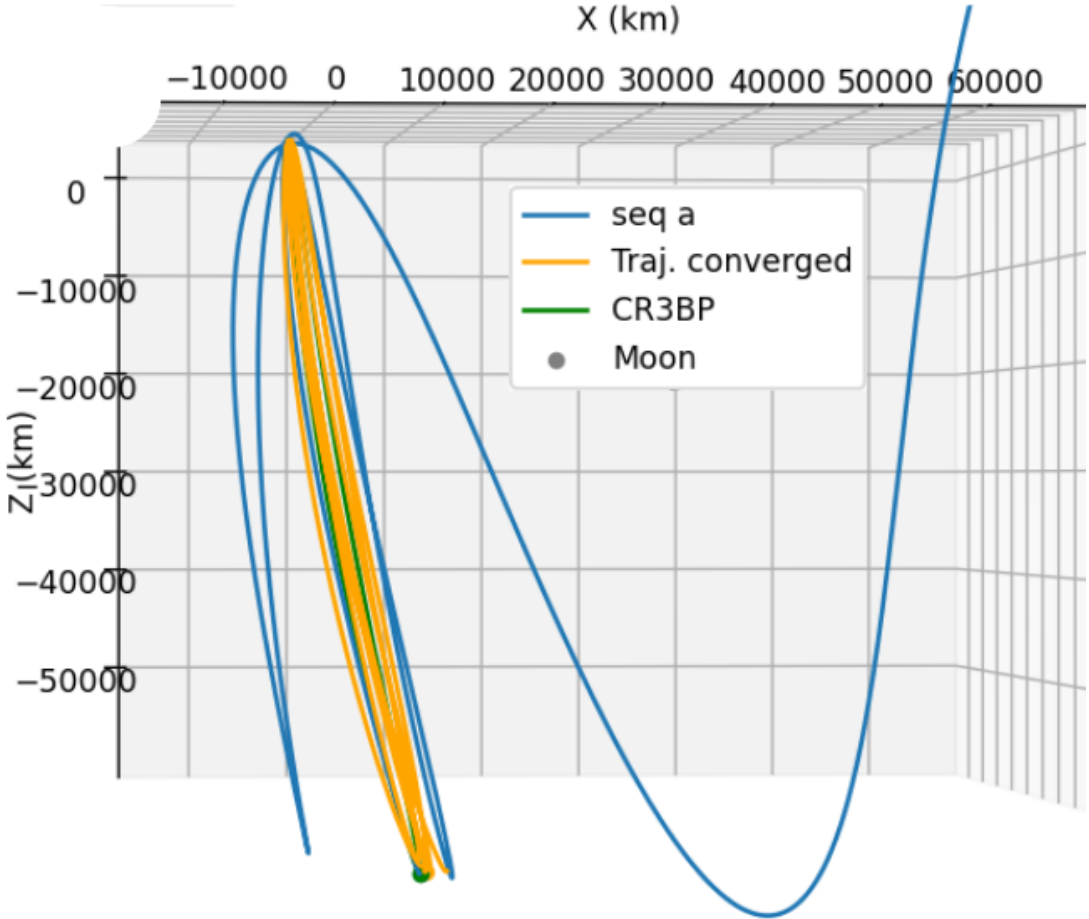


# Assessments in Distant Retrograde Orbit

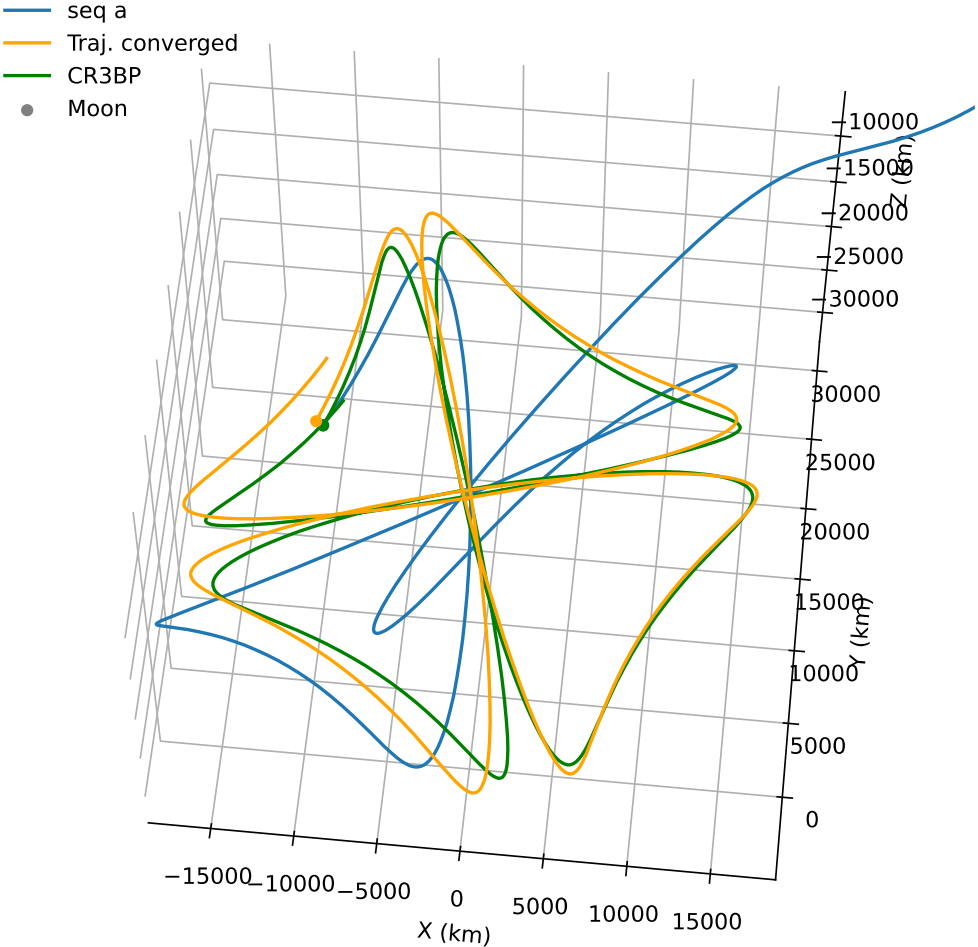


Magnitudes of perturbations for Orion in DRO

# Preliminary Mission Design - Periodic NRHO Optimisation



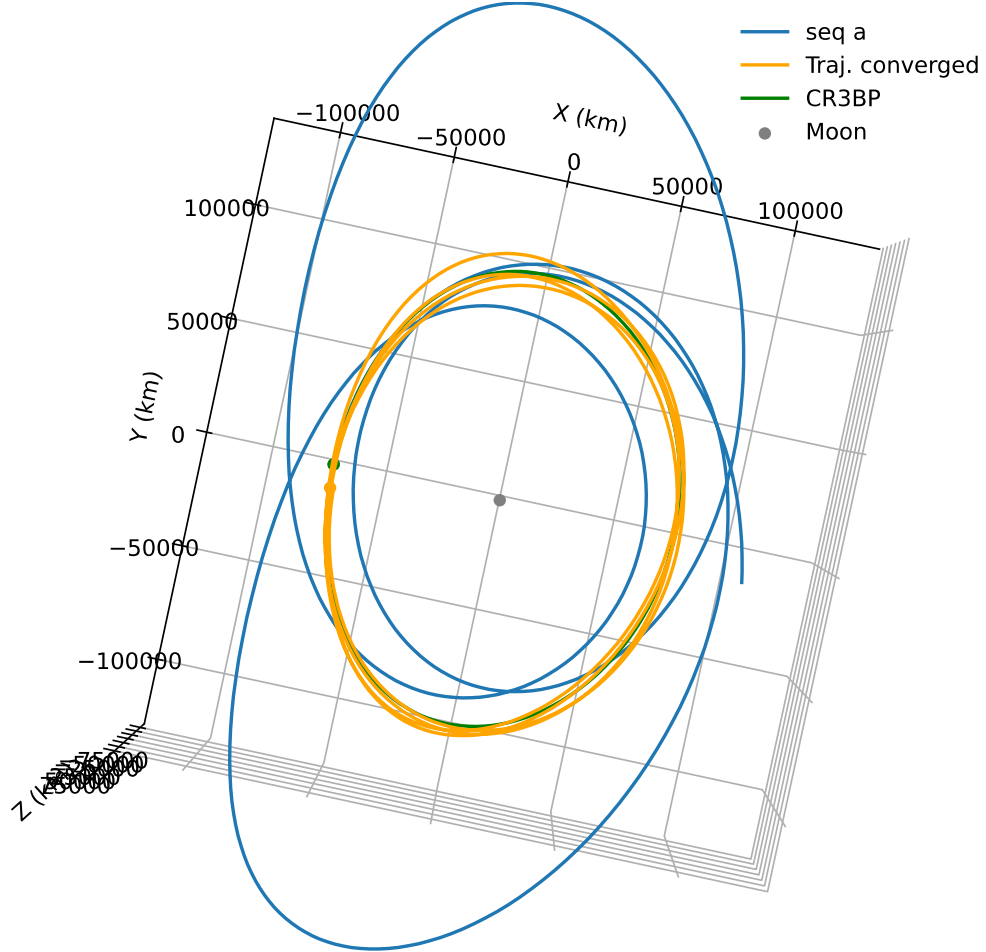
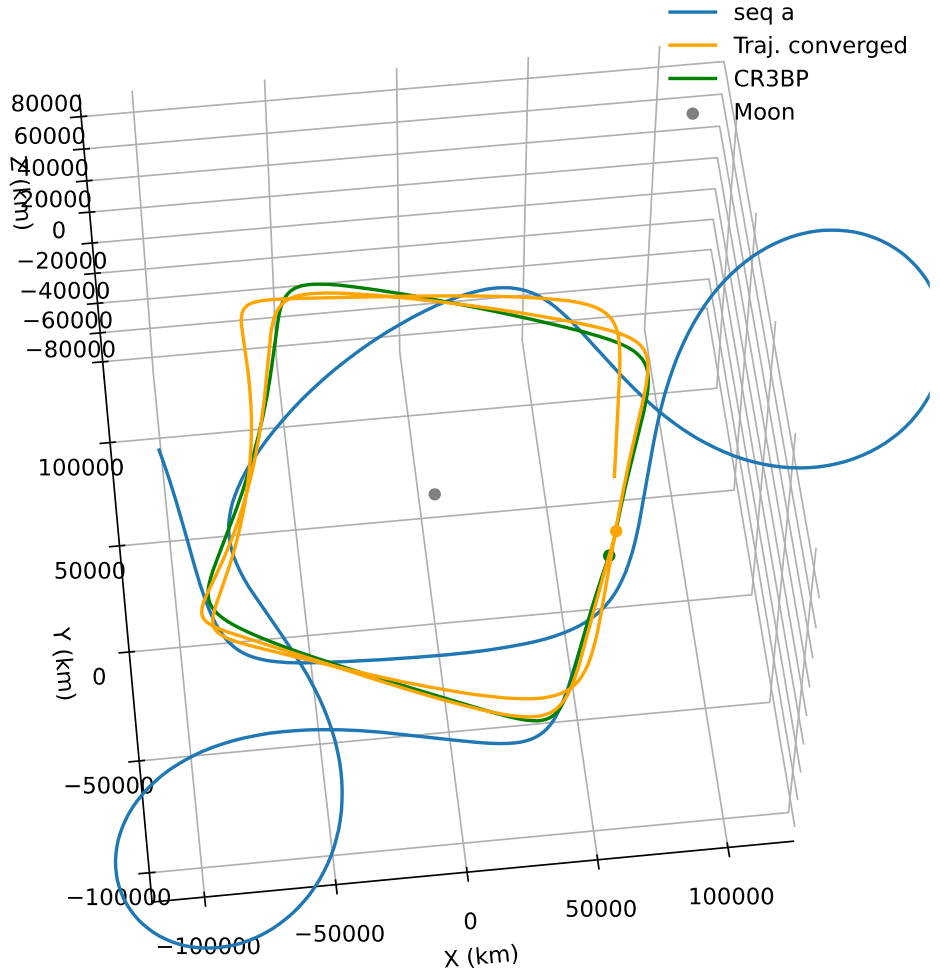
Optimised NRHO trajectory in the Moon centred rotational frame



Optimised NRHO trajectory in the Moon centred inertial frame

Note: CR3BP initial state from [JPL Three-Body Periodic Orbit Catalogue](#).

# Preliminary Mission Design - Periodic **DRO** Optimisation



Optimised DRO trajectory in the Moon centred rotational frame

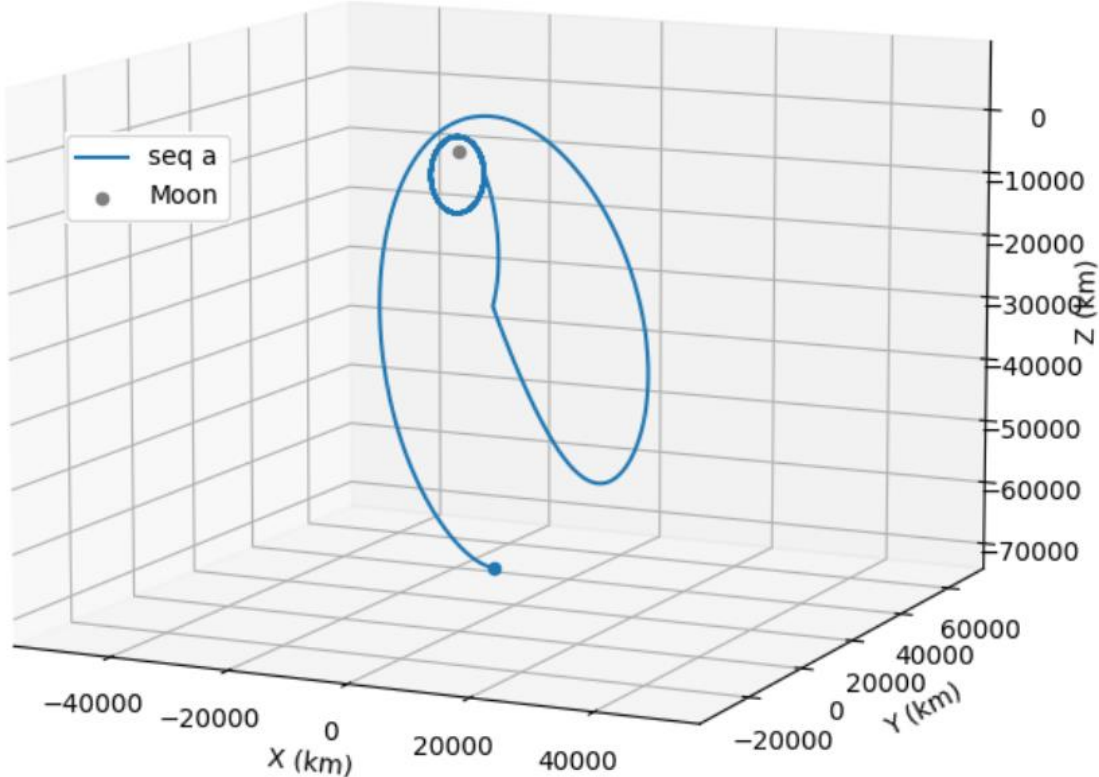
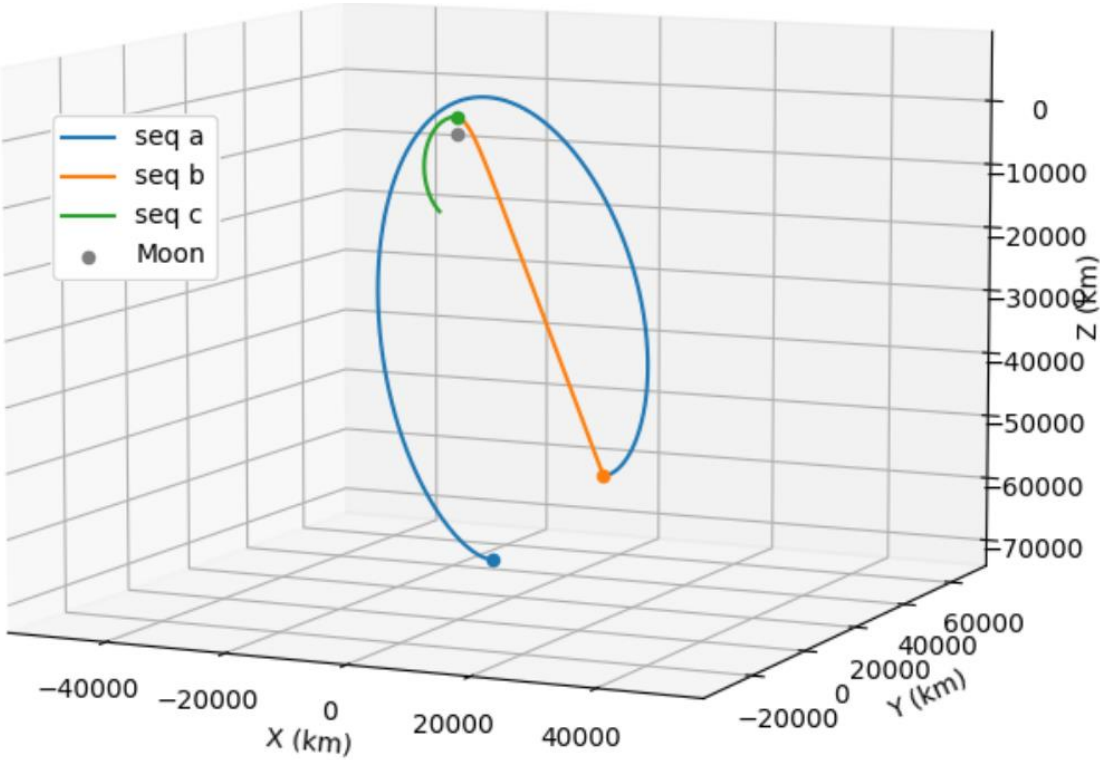
Optimised NRHO trajectory in the Moon centred inertial frame

Note: CR3BP initial state from [JPL Three-Body Periodic Orbit Catalogue](#).

# Preliminary Mission Design – Lambert Transfer Optimisation

$\Delta v$  of 4.470 km/s and a position error of 251 km

$\Delta v$  of 0.816 km/s and a position error of 122 km



Initial situation of a Lambert transfer between the Gateway NRHO and an ELFO

Converged situation of a Lambert transfer between the Gateway NRHO and an ELFO

# Concluding Remarks

- **HALO**: Specialised tool for precise lunar orbit modelling and mission design with open-source flexibility.
- Enables detailed analysis of **LLO, ELFO, NRHO, and DRO**, offering insights into orbit dynamics and mission planning.
- Validated lunar orbit propagator ensures accurate and reliable orbit predictions for **cislunar missions**.

Preprint: [HALO: A High-Precision Orbit Propagation Tool for Mission Design in the Cis-Lunar Domain](#)

Github: <https://github.com/Quent2G/High-precision-Analyser-of-Lunar-Orbits>





**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

# Any questions?

Dr Yang Yang  
Email: [yang.yang16@unsw.edu.au](mailto:yang.yang16@unsw.edu.au)

