SUBORBITAL ANALYSIS: THE A-to-B PROBLEM IN PLANETARY SCIENCE TIME OF FLIGHT (TOF): CORRELATING EJECTA & STREWN TO SOURCE

Because So Many Trajectories Are Possible For Every A-to-B Pair, We Need Perspective On How Suborbital Analysis May Help Correlate Both <u>Regional</u> And <u>Global</u> Strewn & Ejecta. Two Master Plots Are Very Helpful For Such Perspective, Allowing Quick Reference For Most Related Problems. On The Left, "Iso-TOF" Contours Are Shown Vs. Central Flight Angle & Normalized Semi-Major Axis. On The Right, Central Flight Angle Contours Are Shown Vs. Eccentricity & TOF.



<u>REGIONAL EXAMPLE:</u> Since The Launch Solution Helix Has A Fairly Vertical Leg For Close A-To-B Range, Emplaced Principal Clocking Stays Relatively Constant For Elevations Below The Knee Of The Helix, While Emplaced In-Track Length Increases With Elevation. This Pronounced Separation Of Effects Allows Range-&-Radial Source Location For Repetitive Emplaced Morphometry That Has Systematic Alignment By Geographic Location (i.e. The Carolina Bays).



EMPLACED PRINCIPAL DIRECTIONS

Infinite A-to-B Trajectories Yield A Continua Of Downrange & Cross-Range Principals At Point B: Different EMPLACED PRINCIPALS For Each TOF.



Above In Red & Black. At Launch Elevations Near Or Above The "Knee" Of The Helix, The In-Track Principal Extends Radically (Black) Vs. Below The Knee (Red).

<u>GLOBAL EXAMPLE</u>: For Strewn Distribution, <u>Launch Solution Helices</u> Of Each Fall Site May Be Collated In KE-Space For Any Possible Launch Point A, And The Group Compared To Hypervelocity Test Results For Ejection Trends Matching Specific Test Conditions (i.e. Volatiles, etc.)





T. H. S. Harris 2015 Lockheed Martin, Retired, Geological Society of America Baltimore 2015