

Problem 5:

1. Show that the formula for the altitude, h , of a satellite above the Earth's surface is

$$h = \left(\frac{GMT^2}{4\pi^2} \right)^{1/3} - R$$

$$a = v^2/r = \frac{GM}{r^2} = \frac{4\pi^2 r}{T^2} ; r = \text{orbit radius} = R + h$$

$$r^2 \cdot \frac{4\pi^2 r}{T^2} = \frac{GM}{r^2} \cdot r^2$$

$$\frac{4\pi^2 r^3}{T^2} = GM \rightarrow r^3 = \frac{GMT^2}{4\pi^2} \rightarrow r = \sqrt[3]{\frac{GMT^2}{4\pi^2}}$$

$$R + h = \sqrt[3]{\frac{GMT^2}{4\pi^2}} \rightarrow h = \left(\frac{GMT^2}{4\pi^2} \right)^{1/3} - R$$

2. Script is saved on bitbucket under HW1-5.py

a) @ $T = 1 \text{ day} = 86,400 \text{ seconds}$
 $h = 3.59 \times 10^7 \text{ m} //$

b) @ $T = 90 \text{ min} = 5,400 \text{ seconds}$
 $h = 2.79 \times 10^5 \text{ m} //$

c) @ $T = 45 \text{ min} = 2,700 \text{ seconds}$
 $h = -2.18 \times 10^6 \text{ m} //$

Conclusion: ~~the~~ As the period decrease so does the altitude.

3.

@ $T = 23.93 \text{ hrs} = 86,148 \text{ seconds}$, $h = 2.02 \times 10^7 \text{ m}$

- It is roughly a 43.73% difference from a solar day period
- Smaller altitude than $T = 1 \text{ solar day}$