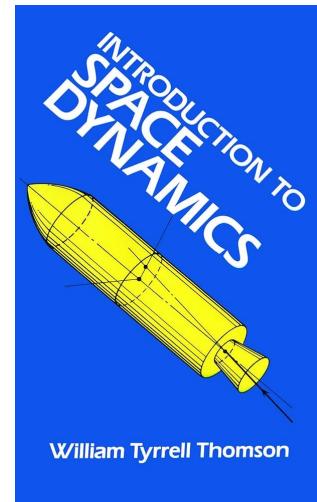
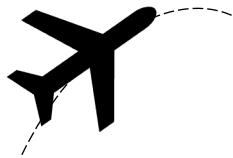


# Python for Orbital Mechanics

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# WHO & WHY...



# CONTENT

## WEEK 1:

- INTRO & 2-BODY PROBLEM

## WEEK 2:

- MOVING IN AN ELLIPTICAL ORBIT

## WEEK 3:

- COORDINATE SYSTEMS

## WEEK 4:

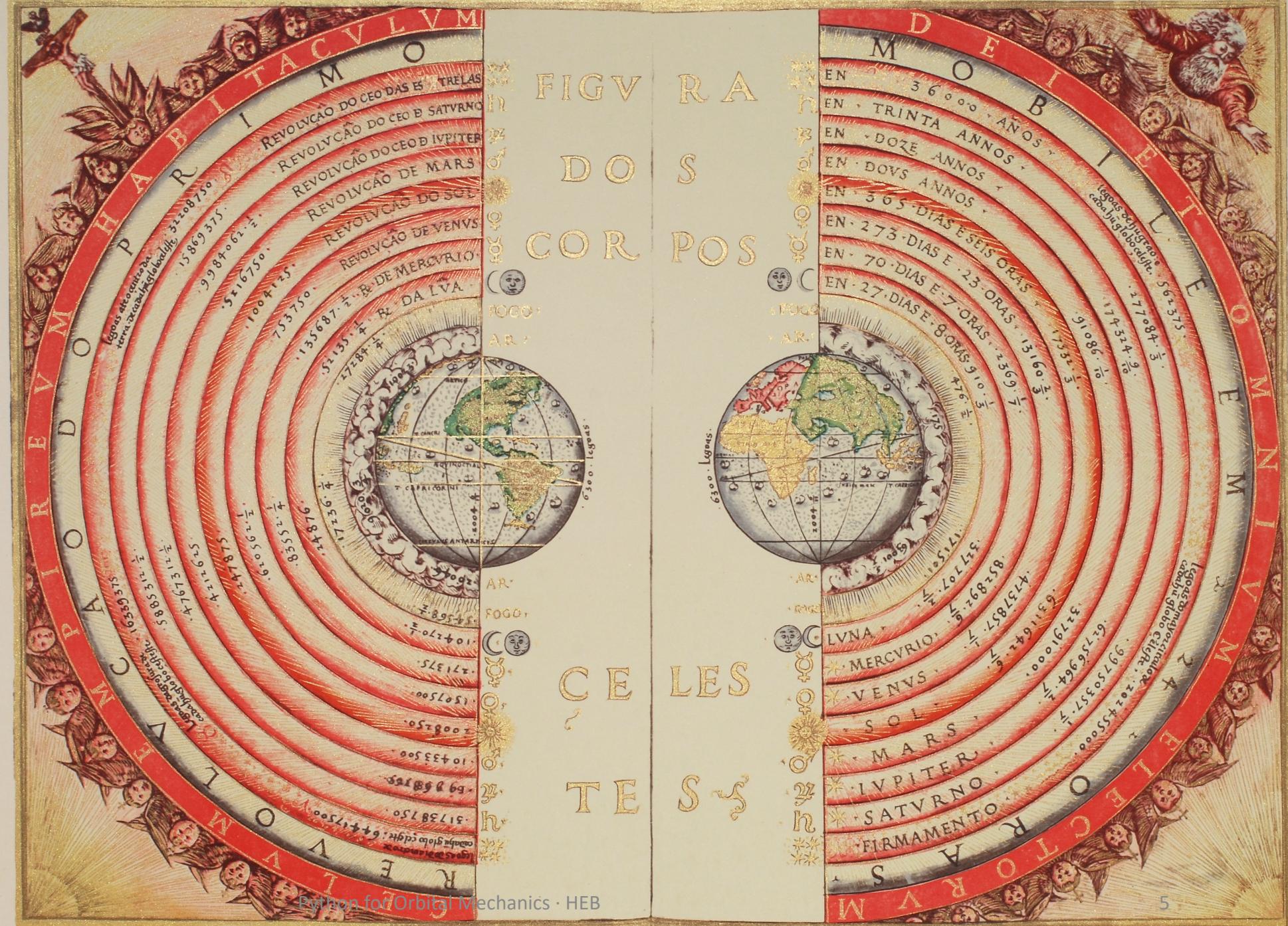
- MANOEUVRING THE SPACECRAFT - HOHMANN TRANSFER

## WEEK 5:

- LAMBERT'S PROBLEM & PYTHON LIBRARIES FOR SPACE APPLICATIONS

# **INTRO & 2-BODY PROBLEM**

# GREEKS





# BRAHE



# KEPLER

# KEPLER'S 1<sup>ST</sup> LAW

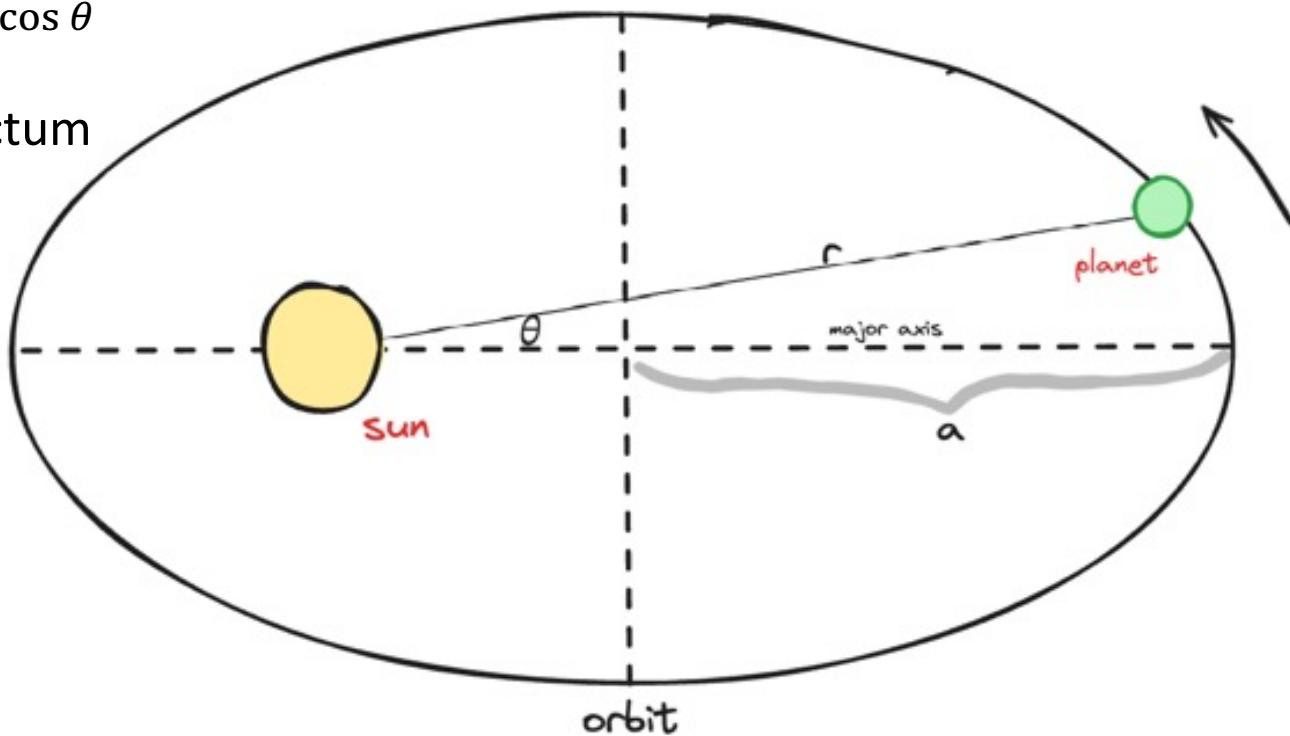
Law of orbits : planets orbit the sun elliptically

The distance from the Sun to the planet,  $r = \frac{p}{1+\varepsilon \cos \theta}$

Where  $p = a(1 - \varepsilon^2)$  is called the semi-latus rectum

For  $0 \leq \varepsilon \leq 1$  is the eccentricity

$a$  – semimajor axis



# KEPLER'S 2<sup>ND</sup> LAW

Law of areas: a line connecting a planet to the sun covers an equal area over equal periods of time

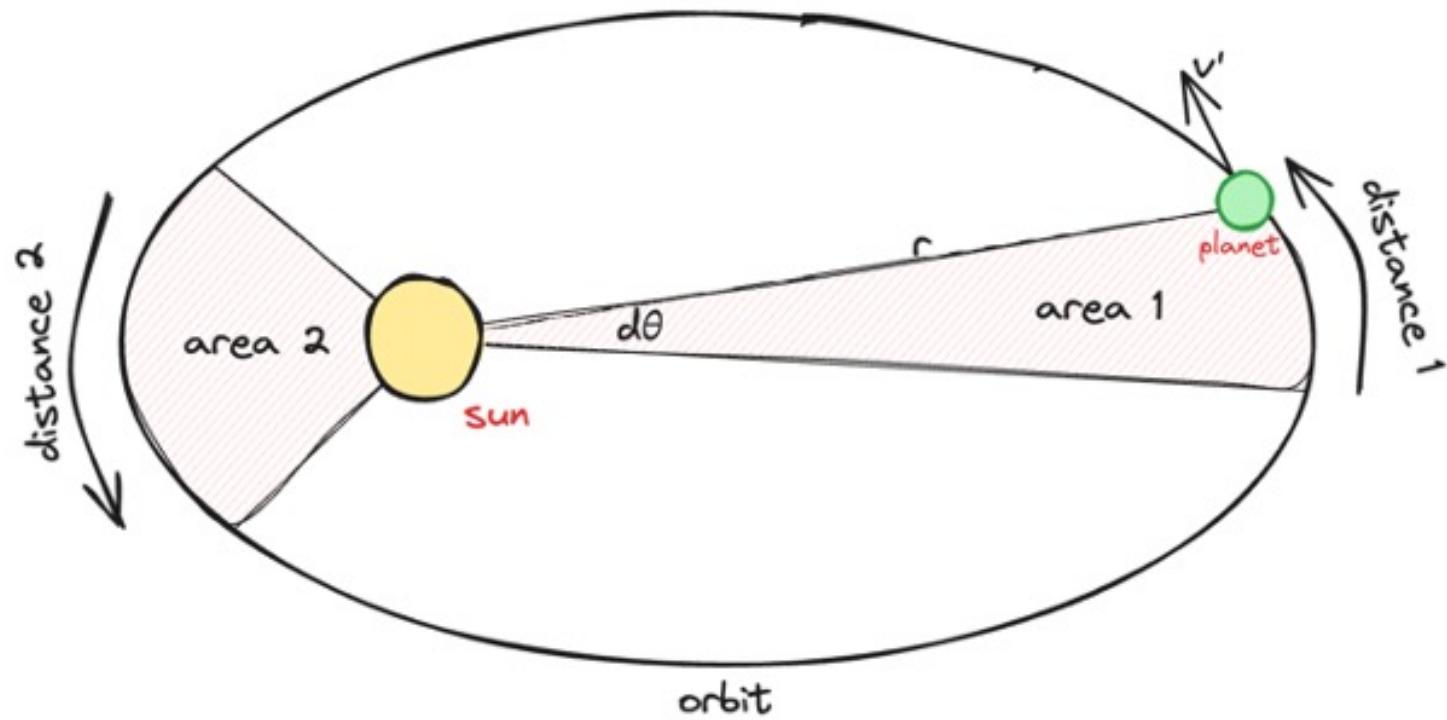
$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} r v_\theta$$

$$L = m r v_\theta$$

is the angular momentum

Area 1 = Area 2

Time to travel distance 1 = Time to travel distance 2



# KEPLER'S 3<sup>RD</sup> LAW

Law of periods: establishes relationship between planet's orbital period and its distance from the sun

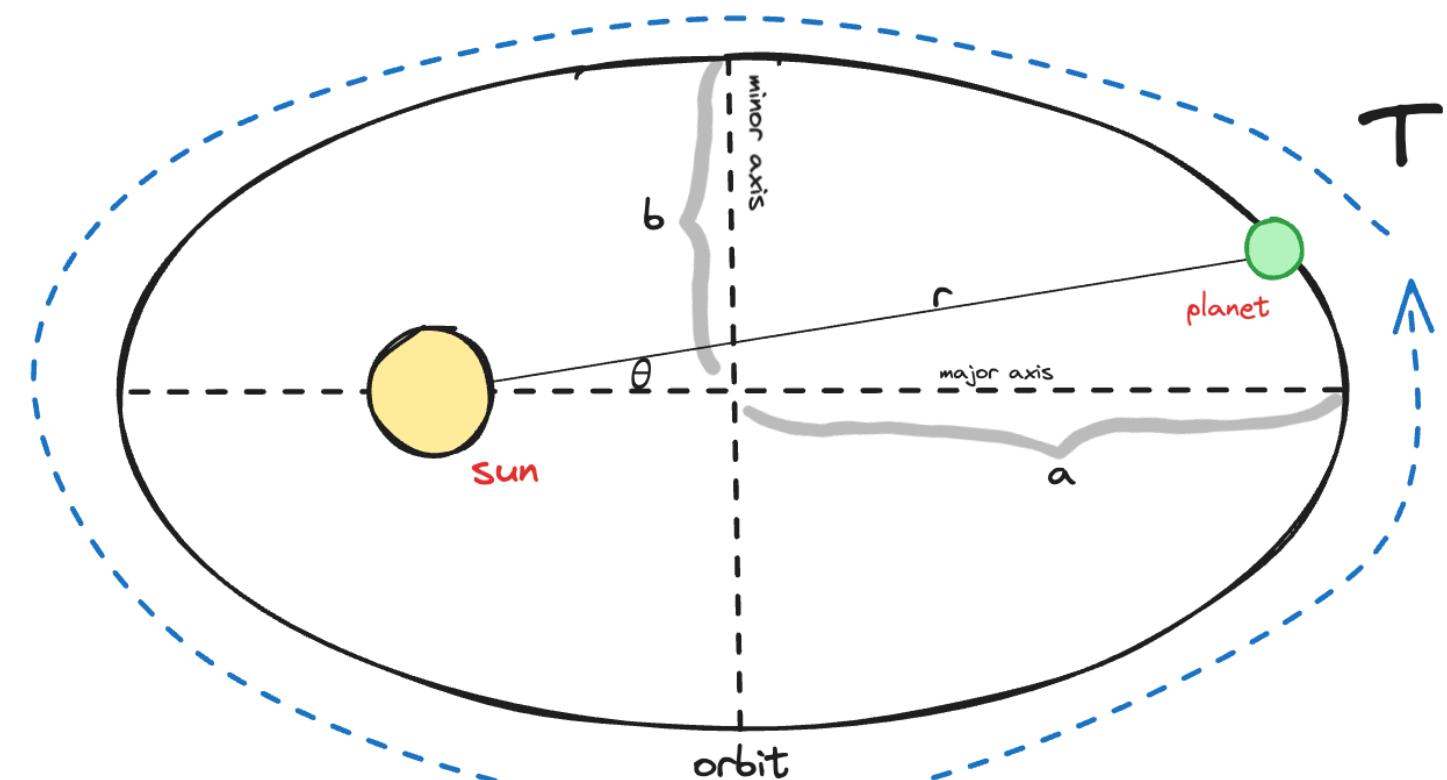
$$T^2 \propto a^3$$

$$b^2 = a^2(1 - \varepsilon^2)$$

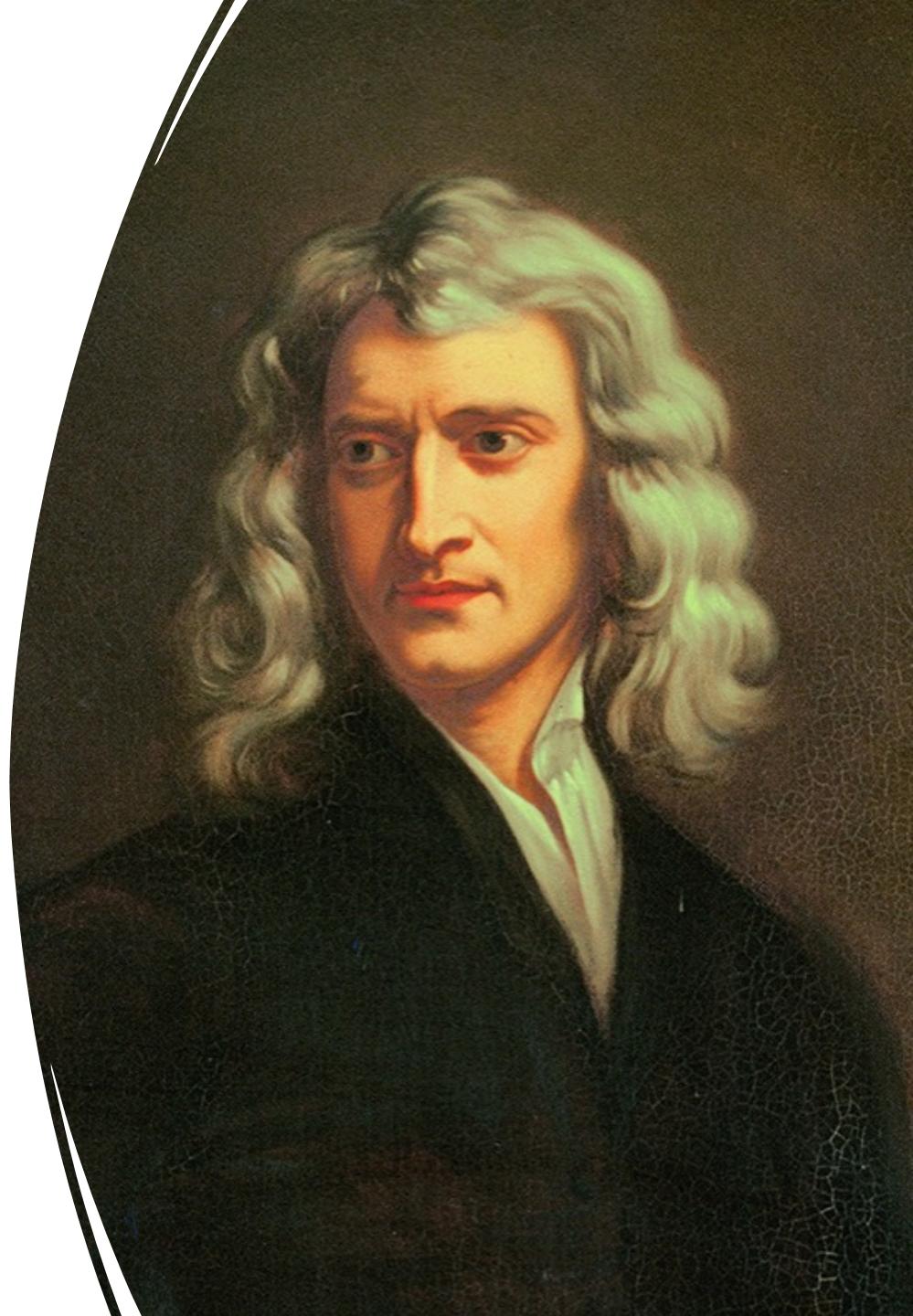
T - time to complete orbit

a – semimajor axis

b – semiminor axis



# NEWTON



# NEWTON'S LAWS

## 2<sup>nd</sup> law of motion

“The net force on a body is equal to the body's acceleration multiplied by its mass.”

$$\hat{\mathbf{F}} = m \hat{\mathbf{a}}$$

## Universal gravitation

“Every particle attracts every other particle in the universe with force directly proportional to the product of the masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them.”

$$\mathbf{F} = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

Gravitational constant of our universe,  $G = 6.67430 * 10^{-11}$

Rewrite Kepler's 3<sup>rd</sup> law as

$$T^2 \propto a^3 \quad \rightarrow \quad T^2 = \left( \frac{4\pi^2}{GM} \right) r^3$$

T is in seconds

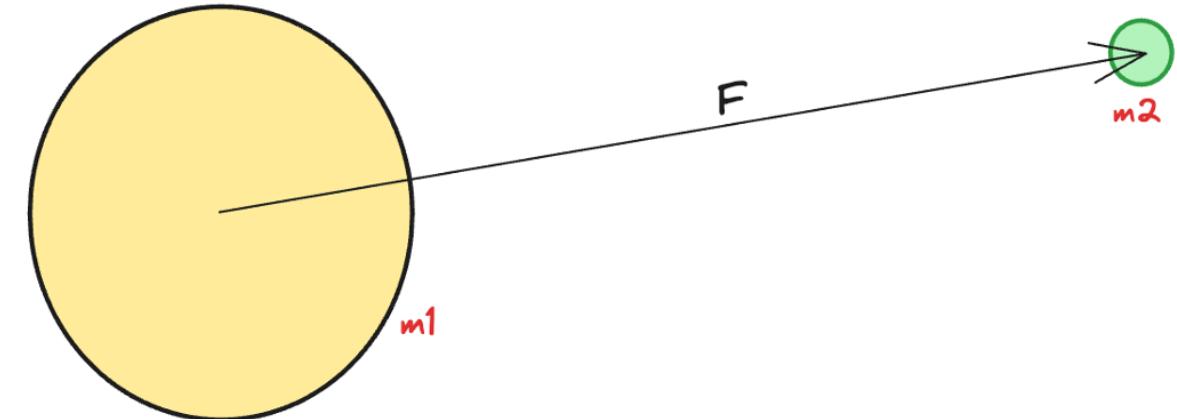
a is in astronomical units (AU) 1AU = 1.496e+11 metres

r is orbital radius in metres

# 2-BODY PROBLEM

## Assumptions

- >> The universe only contains one very large body and one small body
- >> Large body is spherical and mass is evenly distributed, centre of mass is at geometric centre
- >> Large body influences small body gravitationally with force coming from its centre (small body does not influence large body)
- >> Reference frame is centred at geometric centre of the large body



$$F = m_2 a_2 = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}, \quad a_2 = G \frac{m_1}{r^2} = \frac{\mu}{r^2}$$

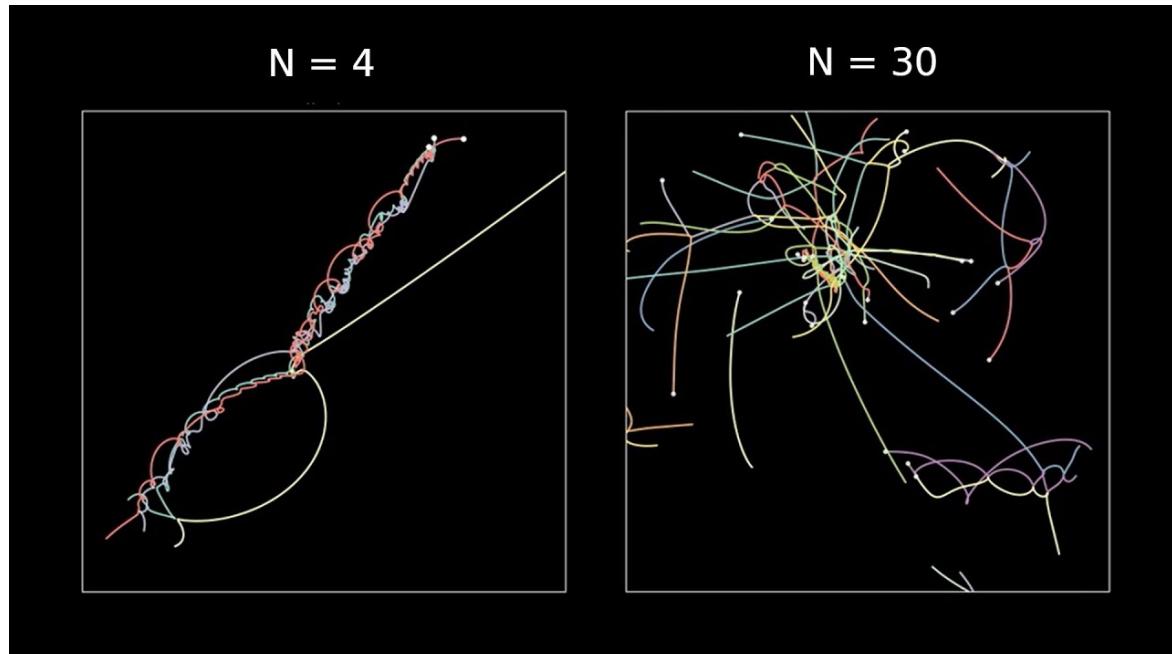
\*every body has it's own mu constant value

# N-BODY PROBLEM

Given the quasi-steady orbital properties (instantaneous position, velocity and time) of a group of celestial bodies, predict their interactive forces; and consequently, predict their true orbital motions for all future times.

>> The n-body problem is the problem of predicting the individual motions of a group of celestial objects interacting with each other gravitationally.

>> The three-body problem is a special case of the  $n$ -body problem. Unlike two-body problems, no general closed-form solution exists



# SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Conceptually, we can imagine the sphere of influence as a boundary, inside of which the planet's gravitational pull dominates the pull of the Sun on a much smaller mass. This allows us to estimate a specific radius beyond which the focus of the trajectory switches from the planet to the Sun. Therefore, the velocity that the spacecraft has when it leaves the sphere of influence of a planet is the velocity that it starts with on its heliocentric trajectory.

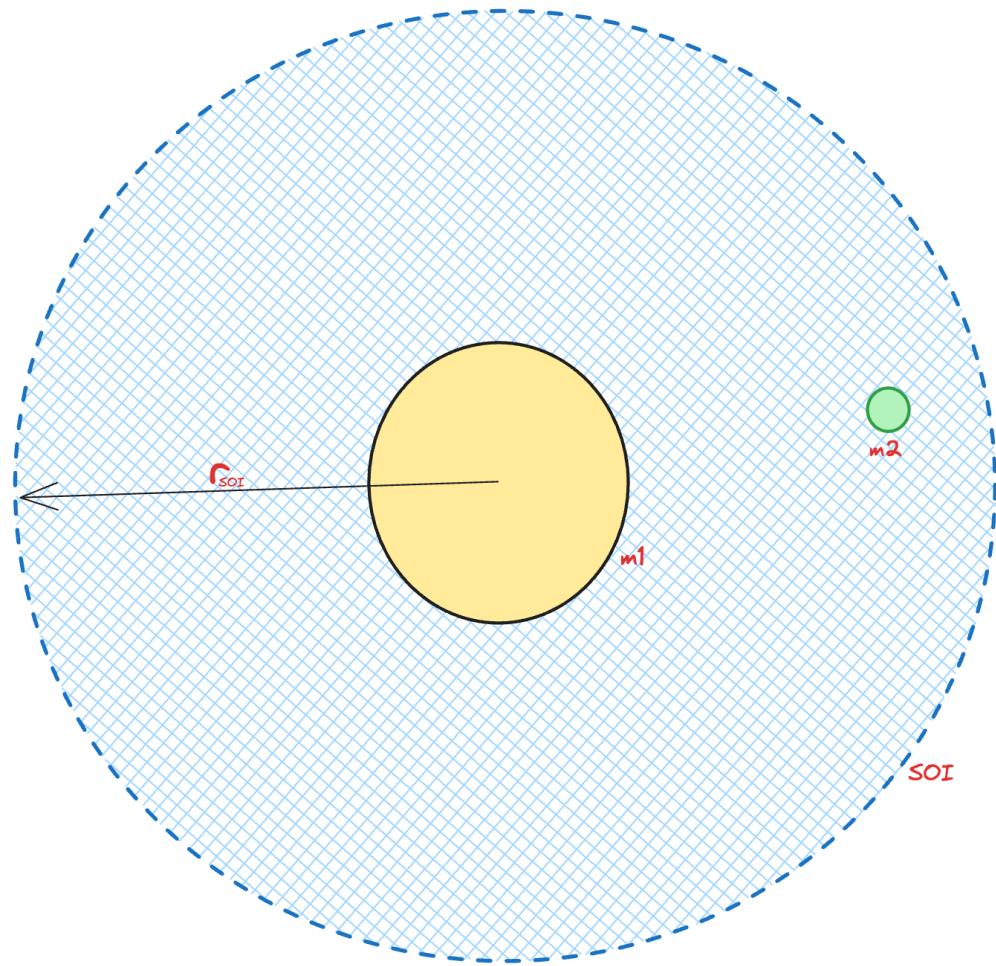
The general equation describing the radius of the sphere  $r_{SOI}$  of a planet

$$r_{SOI} \approx a \left( \frac{m}{M} \right)^{2/5}$$

where

a is the semimajor axis of the smaller object's (usually a planet's) orbit around the larger body (usually the Sun).

m and M are the masses of the smaller and the larger object (usually a planet and the Sun), respectively.



# REFERENCES

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