

1 Constants

Symbol	Name	value	unit
	Earth radius	6378.14	km
μ	Gravitational parameter	3.986×10^{14}	m^3/s^2

2 Newton's laws of motion

2.1 Newton's first law of motion

A body continues in its state of rest, or of uniform motion in a straight line, unless compelled to change that state by forces impressed upon it.

$$\vec{p} = m\vec{V}$$

\vec{p} = linear momentum vector ($\text{kg} \cdot \text{m/s}$)

m = mass (kg)

\vec{V} = velocity vector (m/s)

$$\vec{H} = I\vec{\Omega}$$

$$\vec{H} = \vec{R} \times m\vec{V}$$

\vec{H} = angular momentum vector ($\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{s}$)

I = moment of inertia ($\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2$)

$\vec{\Omega}$ = angular velocity vector (rad/s)

\vec{H} = angular momentum vector ($\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{s}$)

\vec{R} = position (m)

m = mass (kg)

\vec{V} = velocity vector (m/s)

2.2 Newton's second law of motion

The time rate of change of an object's momentum equals the applied force.

$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$$

\vec{F} = force vector ($\text{kgm/s}^2 = \text{N}$)

m = mass (kg)

\vec{a} = acceleration (m/s^2)

2.3 Newton's third law of motion

When body A exerts a force on body B, body B will exert an equal, but opposite, force on body A

3 Newton's laws of universal gravitation

$$F_g = \frac{Gm_1m_2}{R^2}$$

F_g = force due to gravity (N)

G = universal gravitational constant $\approx 6.674 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{kg}^2$

m_1, m_2 = masses of two bodies (kg)

R = distance between the two bodies (m)

$$a_g = \frac{\mu_{Earth}}{R^2}$$

$$a_g = \text{acceleration due to gravity (m/s}^2\text{)}$$

$$\mu_{Earth} \equiv G m_{Earth} \approx 3.986 \times 10^{14} \text{ m}^3/\text{s}^2$$

$$R = \text{distance between the two bodies (m)}$$

4 Laws of conservation

4.1 Conservation of momentum

In the absence of outside forces, linear and angular momentum are conserved.

4.2 Energy

$$E = KE + PE$$

$$PE = m a_g h$$

$$PE = -\frac{m\mu}{R}$$

E = total mech. energy (kg m ² /s ²)	m = mass (kg)	m = spacecraft's mass (kg)
KE = kinetic energy (kg m ² /s ²)	a_g = acceleration due to gravity (m/s ²)	μ = gravitational parameter (km ³ /s ²)
PE = potential energy (kg m ² /s ²)	h = height above ref. point (m)	R = distance from Earth's center (km)

$$KE = \frac{1}{2}mV^2$$

$$E = \frac{1}{2}mV^2 - \frac{m\mu}{R}$$

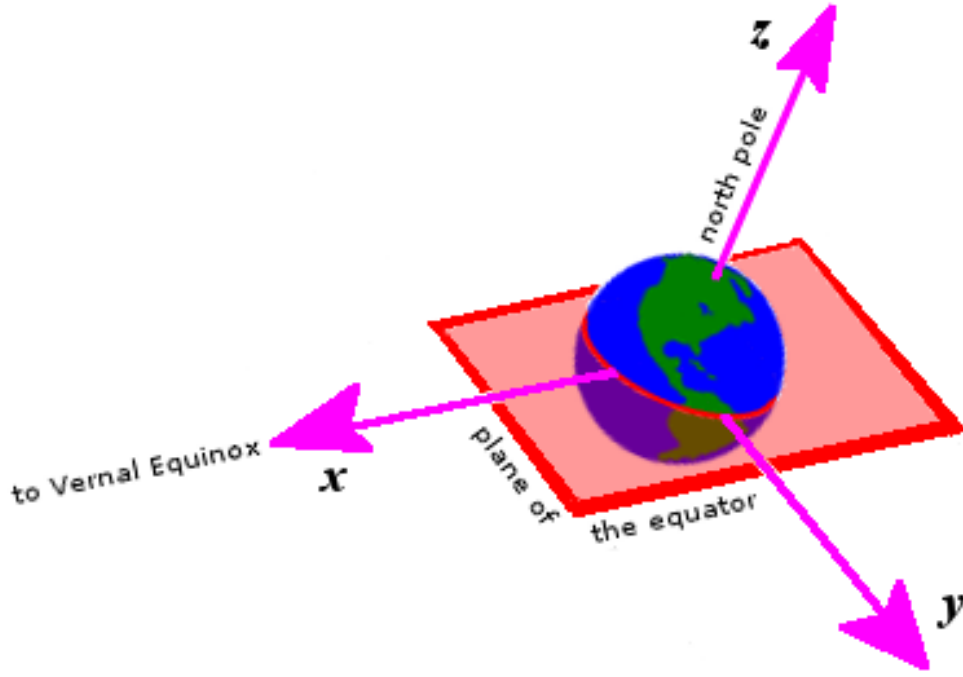
KE = kinetic energy (kg m ² /s ²)	E = total mech. energy (kg m ² /s ²)
m = mass (kg)	m = mass (kg)
V = velocity (km/s)	V = velocity (km/s)
	μ = gravitational parameter (km ³ /s ²)
	R = position (km)

5 The restricted two-body problem

5.1 Coordinate systems

A coordinate system (figure 2) is:

- **an origin**
- **a fundamental plane**, containing two axes, and the perpendicular to it
- **a principal direction** within the plane
- **the third axis** using the right-hand rule



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FIGURE 1 – Geocentric equatorial coordinates. The origin is the centre of the Earth. The fundamental plane is the plane of the Earth's equator. The primary direction (the x axis) is the vernal equinox. A right-handed convention specifies a y axis 90° to the east in the fundamental plane; the z axis is the north polar axis. The reference frame does not rotate with the Earth, rather, the Earth rotates around the z axis.

5.2 Equation of motion

$$\ddot{\vec{R}} + \frac{\mu}{R^2} \frac{\vec{R}}{R} = 0$$

$\ddot{\vec{R}}$ = spacecraft's acceleration (km/s²)

μ = gravitational parameter (km³/s²)

\vec{R} = spacecraft's position vector (km)

R = magnitude of the spacecraft's position vector (km)

5.3 Orbital geometry

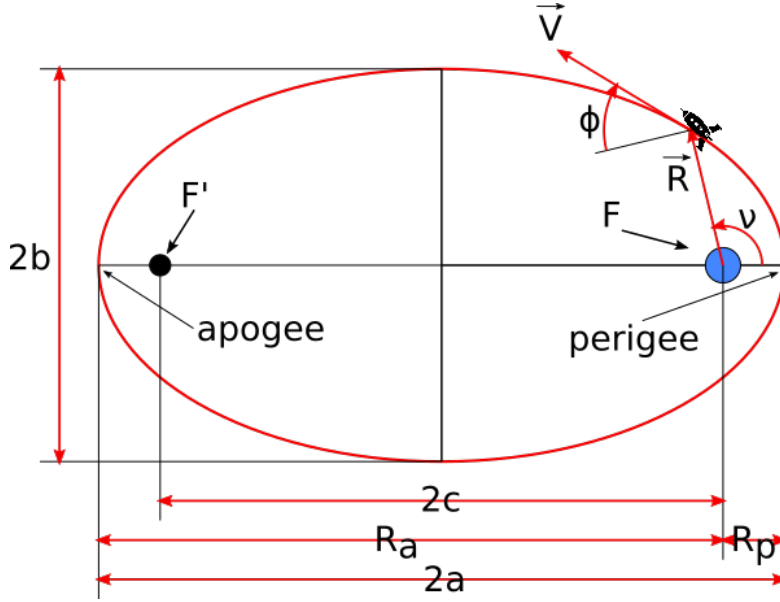


FIGURE 2 – Geometry of an elliptical orbit

- \vec{R} = spacecraft's position vector
- \vec{V} = spacecraft's velocity vector
- F and F' = primary and vacant foci
- R_p = radius of perigee
- R_a = radius of apogee
- $2a$ = major axis
- $2b$ = minor axis
- $2c$ = distance between the foci
- a = semimajor axis
- b = semiminor axis
- ν = true anomaly
- ϕ = flight-path angle

$$e = \frac{2c}{2a} = \frac{R_a - R_p}{R_a + R_p}$$

e = eccentricity

$$R = \frac{a(1 - e^2)}{1 + e \cos \nu}$$

- R = magnitude of the spacecraft's position vector (km)
- a = semi-major axis (km)
- e = eccentricity (unitless)
- ν = true anomaly (deg or rad)

Conic section	a = semimajor axis	c = one half the distance between foci	e = eccentricity
circle	$a > 0$	$c = 0$	$e = 0$
ellipse	$a > 0$	$0 < c < a$	$0 < e < 1$
parabola	$a = \infty$	$c = \infty$	$e = 1$
hyperbola	$a < 0$	$ a < c > 0$	$e > 1$

6 Constants of orbital motion

6.1 Specific mechanical energy

$$\varepsilon \equiv \frac{E}{m} = \frac{V^2}{2} - \frac{\mu}{R}$$

$$V = \sqrt{2\left(\frac{\mu}{R} + \varepsilon\right)}$$

$$\varepsilon = -\frac{\mu}{2a}$$

ε = spacecraft's specific mechanical energy (km^2/s^2)

V = spacecraft's velocity (km/sec)

μ = Gravitational parameter $\text{km}^3/\text{sec}^2 \approx 3.986 \times 10^5 \text{km}^3/\text{s}^2$ for Earth

R = spacecraft's distance from Earth's center (km)

ε = spacecraft's specific mechanical energy (km^2/s^2)

μ = Gravitational parameter $\text{km}^3/\text{sec}^2 \approx 3.986 \times 10^5 \text{km}^3/\text{s}^2$ for Earth

a = semimajor axis (km)

$$P = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{a^3}{\mu}}$$

P = period (seconds)

π = 3.14159... (unitless)

a = semimajor axis (km)

μ = Gravitational parameter $\text{km}^3/\text{sec}^2 \approx 3.986 \times 10^5 \text{km}^3/\text{s}^2$ for Earth

6.2 Specific angular momentum