

# 1 Constants

Symbol	Name	value	unit
	Earth radius	6378.14	km
$\mu$	Gravitational parameter	$3.986 \times 10^{14}$	$\text{m}^3/\text{s}^2$

## 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 ( $\text{m/s}^2$ )

### 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 <sup>2</sup> /s <sup>2</sup> )	$m$ = mass (kg)	$m$ = spacecraft's mass (kg)
$KE$ = kinetic energy (kg m <sup>2</sup> /s <sup>2</sup> )	$a_g$ = acceleration due to gravity (m/s <sup>2</sup> )	$\mu$ = gravitational parameter (km <sup>3</sup> /s <sup>2</sup> )
$PE$ = potential energy (kg m <sup>2</sup> /s <sup>2</sup> )	$h$ = height above ref. point (m)	$R$ = distance from Earth's center (km)

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

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

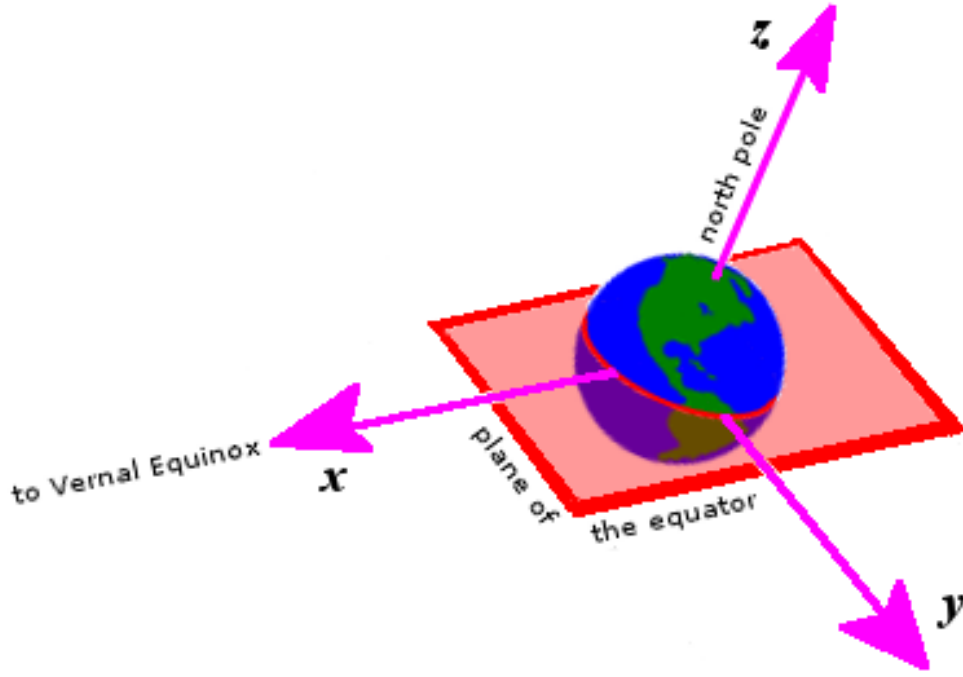
$KE$ = kinetic energy (kg m <sup>2</sup> /s <sup>2</sup> )	$E$ = total mech. energy (kg m <sup>2</sup> /s <sup>2</sup> )
$m$ = mass (kg)	$m$ = mass (kg)
$V$ = velocity (km/s)	$V$ = velocity (km/s)
	$\mu$ = gravitational parameter (km <sup>3</sup> /s <sup>2</sup> )
	$R$ = position (km)

## 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/s<sup>2</sup>)

$\mu$  = gravitational parameter (km<sup>3</sup>/s<sup>2</sup>)

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

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

### 5.3 Orbital geometry

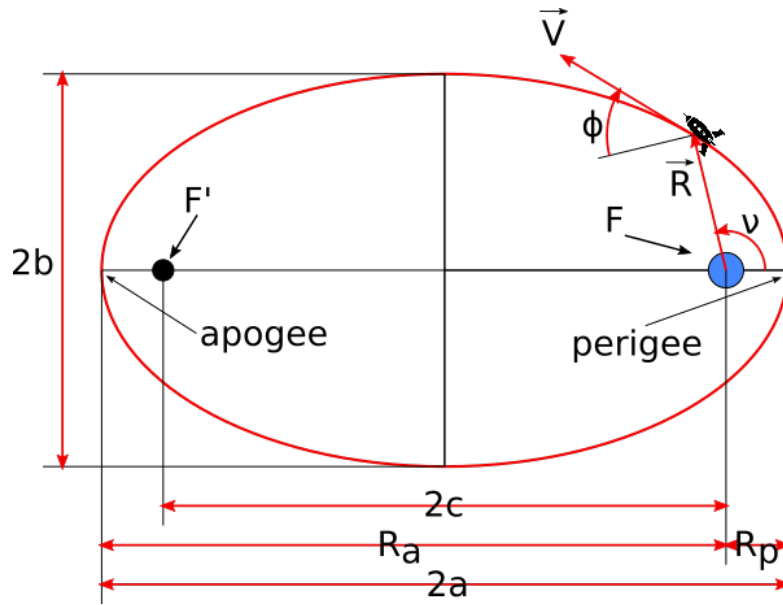


FIGURE 2 – Geometry of an elliptical orbit

- $\vec{R}$  = 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
- $\nu$  = true anomaly
- $\phi$  = 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)  
 $\nu$  = 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$	$e > 1$