

Velocity of a Planet in Terms of Eccentricity.

Applying the law of conservation of angular momentum at perigee and apogee

$$mv_p r_p = mv_a r_a$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{v_p}{v_a} = \frac{r_a}{r_p} = \frac{a+c}{a-c} = \frac{1+e}{1-e} \quad [\text{As } r_p = a-c, \quad r_a = a+c \text{ and eccentricity } e = \frac{c}{a}]$$

Applying the conservation of mechanical energy at perigee and apogee

$$\frac{1}{2}mv_p^2 - \frac{GMm}{r_p} = \frac{1}{2}mv_a^2 - \frac{GMm}{r_a} \Rightarrow v_p^2 - v_a^2 = 2GM \left[\frac{1}{r_p} - \frac{1}{r_a} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow v_a^2 \left[\frac{r_a^2 - r_p^2}{r_p^2} \right] = 2GM \left[\frac{r_a - r_p}{r_a r_p} \right] \quad v_p = \frac{v_a r_a}{r_p} \quad [\text{As}]$$

$$\Rightarrow v_a^2 = \frac{2GM}{r_a + r_p} \left[\frac{r_p}{r_a} \right] \Rightarrow v_a^2 = \frac{2GM}{a} \left(\frac{a-c}{a+c} \right) = \frac{2GM}{a} \left(\frac{1-e}{1+e} \right)$$

Thus the speeds of planet at apogee and perigee are

$$v_a = \sqrt{\frac{2GM}{a} \left(\frac{1-e}{1+e} \right)}, \quad v_p = \sqrt{\frac{2GM}{a} \left(\frac{1+e}{1-e} \right)}$$

Note: The gravitational force is a central force so torque on planet relative to sun is always zero, hence angular momentum of a planet or satellite is always constant irrespective of shape of orbit.