

Wikipedia – In [astronomy](#), **Kepler's laws of planetary motion** are three [scientific laws](#) describing [orbital motion](#), each giving a description of the [motion](#) of [planets](#) around the [Sun](#).

Kepler's laws are:

1. The [orbit](#) of every [planet](#) is an [ellipse](#) with the Sun at one of the two [foci](#).
2. A [line](#) joining a planet and the Sun sweeps out equal [areas](#) during equal intervals of time.^[1]
3. The [square](#) of the [orbital period](#) of a planet is directly [proportional](#) to the [cube](#) of the [semi-major axis](#) of its orbit.

The laws are named after German astronomer [Johannes Kepler](#) (1571 - 1630), who proposed them in the early 1600s. Kepler was able to summarize the carefully collected data of his mentor - [Tycho Brahe](#) - with three statements that described the motion of planets in a [sun-centered](#) solar system. Kepler's efforts to explain the underlying reasons for such motions are no longer accepted; nonetheless, the actual laws themselves are still considered an accurate description of the motion of any planet and any satellite. From Goldstein, Poole, & Safko, Classical Mechanics 3rd Edition

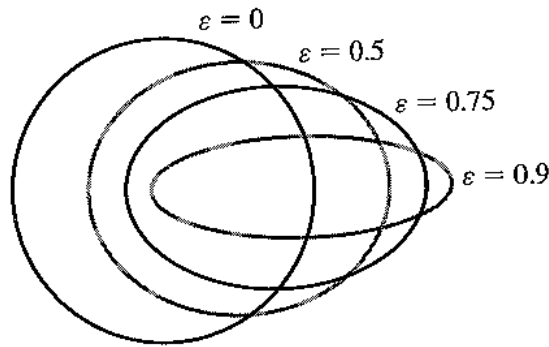
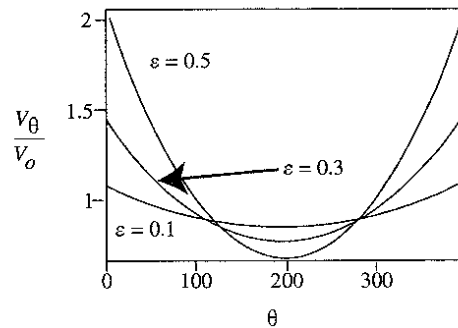
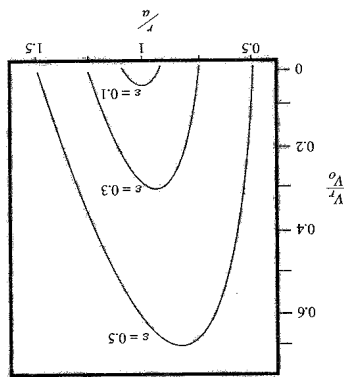


FIGURE 3.14 Ellipses with the same major axes and eccentricities from 0.0 to 0.9.

FIGURE 3.16 Normalized radial velocity, v_r , versus r for three values of the eccentricity



Normalized orbital velocity, v_θ , versus θ for three values