

## Orbital velocity

For a stable orbit there is a balance between the centrifugal force of the circular motion and the gravitational force of the body. This implies that  $F_{cent} = F_{grav}$  which leads to the following derivation:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{mv^2}{r} &= \frac{GMm}{r^2} \\ v^2 &= \frac{GM}{r} \\ v_{orb} &= \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}\end{aligned}$$

**Legend:**

**M:** the mass of the body.

**m:** the mass of the object orbiting the body.

**G:** gravitational constant.

**v:** orbital velocity.

## Escape velocity

The escape velocity is the velocity needed to break free of the gravitational pull of a body. It is the speed at which  $E_{kin} = E_{pot,grav}$ . This leads to the following derivation:

$$\begin{aligned}E_{kin} &= E_{pot,grav} \\ \frac{mv^2}{2} &= \frac{GMm}{r} \\ v^2 &= \frac{2GM}{r} \\ v_{esc} &= \sqrt{\frac{2GM}{r}}\end{aligned}$$

**Legend:**

**M:** the mass of the body.

**m:** the mass of the object orbiting the body.

**G:** gravitational constant.

**v:** escape velocity.