

Sally Ride EarthKAM on the International Space Station



Kepler's Laws

Kepler's First Law



The orbits of the planets are ellipses with the Sun at one focus.

Kepler's Second Law



The line joining a planet to the Sun sweeps out equal area in equal times. *This means that the closer a planet is to the Sun, the faster it will travel.*





The square of an orbital period is directly proportional to the cube of the average distance between the Sun and a planet:

$T = constant \cdot a^{\frac{3}{2}}$

This means that the farther a planet is from the Sun, the longer it takes to go around. If you know the distance of a planet from the Sun, you know how long that planet takes to go around.