

```
// Elliptical Orbit Simulation
// This is a simulation of an orbiting body around a large body, such
// as a planet or comet around the sun.
// shared under Creative Commons license
// https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/
// Written for Processing by Jason Galbraith
// Rewritten for p5.js by Sophia Wang, 10.16.2025
```

```
/*
*****

Change the numbers below to see how it changes the simulation!
*****

*/
```

```
// The following variable is the eccentricity of the orbit.
// An eccentricity of 0 is a circle, while an eccentricity of 0.9 is a
// narrow ellipse.
let eccentricity = 0.39;
```

```
// The following is how many trailing dots to plot.
let TRAILLENGTH = 10;
```

```
// This is how much of an area the planet will sweep out at each step.
let DELTA_T = 5000;
```

```
// This is how much to delay the simulation between steps.
let DELAY = 20;
```

```
// This is the planet size in pixels.
let planetSize = 5;
```

```
// This is the sun size (focus) in pixels
let sunSize = 30;
```

```
/*
*****

Below here is the actual simulation. You probably shouldn't mess
with this section. Or at least, you should expect weird results.
*****

*/
```

```
let WIDTH = 600, HEIGHT = 600;
let a = WIDTH/2 * 0.8; //center to major
let c = eccentricity * a; //focus
```

```

let b = Math.sqrt((a*a)-(c*c)); //center to minor
let x_trail = new Array(TRAILLENGTH);
let y_trail = new Array(TRAILLENGTH);
let counter = 0, currentAngle = 0, currentTrail = 0, currentDelay = 0;

// setup function called initially, only once
function setup() {
  createCanvas(600, 600);
  background(0);
  ellipseMode(RADIUS);
  for (let i = 0; i < TRAILLENGTH; i++) { //Set trail to draw off screen
    x_trail[i] = -100;
    y_trail[i] = -100;
  }
}

// Draw function loops
function draw() {
  currentDelay++;
  if (currentDelay == DELAY) { //If it is time to draw the ellipse
    currentDelay = 0;
    //These are the x and y coordinates on the ellipse
    let startX = x_trail[currentTrail]; //start from most recent position in trail
    let startY = y_trail[currentTrail];
    let finalX = x_trail[currentTrail];
    let finalY = y_trail[currentTrail];
    currentTrail++; //set new trail position
    if (currentTrail == TRAILLENGTH) {
      currentTrail = 0;
    }
    let totalArea = 0.0;
    let changeInAngle = 0.0;
    let startH = 0.0; //hypotenuse of first line from focus
    let finalH = 0.0; //hypotenuse of second line from focus
    let area = 0.0;
    let angleRadians = (currentAngle / 180.0) * PI;
    let startChangeX = startX-(WIDTH/2+c); //x position from focus of first line
    let startChangeY = (HEIGHT/2)-startY; //y position from focus of first line
    let startAngle = Math.atan(Math.abs(startChangeY)/Math.abs(startChangeX)); // angle of
first line from focus
    if ((startChangeX <= 0) && (startChangeY >= 0)) { //figure out what quadrant you are in
      startAngle = PI/2-startAngle + PI/2;
    }
    else if ((startChangeX <= 0) && (startChangeY <= 0)) {

```

```

    startAngle = PI + startAngle;
}
else if ((startChangeX >= 0) && (startChangeY <= 0)) {
    startAngle = PI/2-startAngle + 3*PI/2;
}
let finalChangeX = finalX-(WIDTH/2+c); //X position from focus of second line
let finalChangeY = (HEIGHT/2)-finalY; //Y position from focus of second line
let finalAngle = startAngle;

while (totalArea < DELTA_T) { //while you have not swept out enough area
    startX = finalX;
    startY = finalY;
    startChangeX = startX-(WIDTH/2+c);
    startChangeY = (HEIGHT/2)-startY;
    startAngle = finalAngle;
    currentAngle += 0.1; //change the angle slightly
    angleRadians = (currentAngle / 180.0) * PI; //degrees to radians
    finalX = a * cos(angleRadians) + WIDTH/2; //calculate x position of new point using center
of ellipse formula
    finalY = b * sin(angleRadians) + HEIGHT/2; //calculate y position of new point using center
of ellipse formula
    finalChangeX = finalX-(WIDTH/2+c); //calculate distance from focus in x
    finalChangeY = (HEIGHT/2)-finalY; //calculate distance from focus in y
    finalAngle = Math.atan(Math.abs(finalChangeY)/Math.abs(finalChangeX)); //angle from
second line to focus
    if ((finalChangeX <= 0) && (finalChangeY >= 0)) { //figure out your quadrant
        finalAngle = PI/2 - finalAngle + PI/2;
    }
    else if ((finalChangeX <= 0) && (finalChangeY <= 0)) {
        finalAngle = PI + finalAngle;
    }
    else if ((finalChangeX >= 0) && (finalChangeY <= 0)) {
        finalAngle = PI/2-finalAngle + 3*PI/2;
    }
    changeInAngle = startAngle - finalAngle; //calculate the change in angle
    startH = Math.sqrt(startChangeX*startChangeX+startChangeY*startChangeY); //figure out
the hypotenuse of the first line
    finalH = Math.sqrt(finalChangeX*finalChangeX+finalChangeY*finalChangeY); //figure out
the hypotenuse of the second line
    area = startH * finalH * Math.sin(changeInAngle) * 0.5; //calculate the area of that triangle
    totalArea += area; //Add that to the total area
} //end while
angleRadians = (currentAngle / 180.0) * PI;
x_trail[currentTrail] = a * cos(angleRadians) + WIDTH/2; //figure out planet's x

```

```

y_trail[currentTrail] = b * sin(angleRadians) + HEIGHT/2; //figure out planet's y
background(0);
stroke(255);
fill(0);

ellipse(WIDTH/2, HEIGHT/2, a, b); //draw ellipse
fill('#ffffba');
ellipse((WIDTH/2+c), HEIGHT/2, sunSize, sunSize);
for (let i = 0; i < TRAILLENGTH; i++){
  fill(255);
  ellipse(x_trail[i], y_trail[i], planetSize, planetSize); //draw trail
}
stroke(0, 0, 255);
fill(0, 0, 255);
ellipse(x_trail[currentTrail], y_trail[currentTrail], planetSize, planetSize); //draw planet
}
}

```