

# Escape Velocity

## Background Story:

A MASSIVE meteorite is coming, you are in great DANGER and you need to leave planet “\*\*\*” as soon as you can. Your scientists spotted a safer place “not too far”, planet “%%” should be a great place for your colony. To reach planet “%%”, you first need to escape your current planet. For that, you need to figure out the escape velocity!

## Scientific Background :

The Universal Law of Gravitation gives the force of attraction (in N) between two bodies of masses  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  ( in kg) which are at a distance  $r$  (in m) apart via:  $F = \frac{Gm_1m_2}{r^2}$ , where  $G$  is the gravitational constant.

To escape from the planet “\*\*\*”, we first need to calculate work done by the shuttle “WiS” against gravity. This work is directly proportional to the gravitational potential energy and calculated by using the attractive force via:  $Work = \int F dr = \frac{GmM}{R}$   $m$  being the total mass of the rocket  $M$  The mass of the planet ( in kg) and  $R$  the radius of the planet ( in m). The initial speed of the shuttle “WiS” is called the “escape velocity”. Once the shuttle “WiS” is escaped from the planet “\*\*\*”, its speed and work against the gravity will be negligible and hence can be assumed as 0.



## Data, Equations, and Laws:

- For an ideal shuttle getting into orbit, the payload should make up 6% of the total mass. The shuttle engines, fuel tanks and so on should be 3%. The propellants should be 91%.
- Gravitational constant of the planet “\*\*\*” is  $6.674 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-2}$
- Gravitational acceleration of the planet “\*\*\*” is  $10 \text{ ms}^{-2}$
- The radius of “\*\*\*” is 3001 miles
- The shuttle has 2 millions liters of fuel, the total density of the fuel is 2.5 g/ml
- The average density of planet “\*\*\*” is  $4.41 \text{ g/cm}^3$
- Equations of Motion :  $v = u + a.t$  ;  $S = u.t + \frac{1}{2}at^2$

where  $u$  and  $v$  are initial and terminal velocities of the rocket,  $a$  is the rocket's acceleration,  $S$  is the displacement, and  $t$  is the time interval.

- In physics, the law of *conservation of energy* states that the total **energy** of an **isolated system** remains constant. Here this mean that **to find the escape velocity you need to equal the work require to escape and the kinetic energy.**
- *Kinetic energy* =  $0.5 m v^2$  where *m* is the mass of the body and *v* its velocity.

**Procedure:**

- 1) Convert the radius of planet "\*\*\*" in m
- 2) Find the volume of planet "\*\*\*".
- 3) Find the mass of planet "\*\*\*".
- 4) Find the total mass of the fuel.
- 5) Find the total mass of the shuttle "WiS" with fuel.
- 6) Apply the conservation of energy principle for the shuttle "WiS".
- 7) Find the escape velocity " $v_e$ ".
- 8) Find how long it takes for the shuttle "WiS" to escape the planet "\*\*\*".
- 9) Use the equations of motion to derive :  $S = \left( \frac{u+v}{2} \right) . t$
- 10) Find how far the shuttle "WiS" has gone when it escape from the planet "\*\*\*"

**Congratulations you are securely escaped from the planet "\*\*\*"!**