

Answer on Question#38347, Physics, Other

A comet orbits the sun in a highly elliptical orbit. Does the comet have a constant?

- 1) linear speed
- 2) angular speed
- 3) angular momentum
- 4) kinetic energy throughout its orbit .Justify

Answer

- 1) No. The linear speed of a comet changes when it orbits the sun in a highly elliptical orbit, because the linear speed $v = R \cdot \omega$, where R – distance from the sun and ω - angular speed of a comet. The distance from the sun and angular speed of a comet varies from point to point in a highly elliptical orbit.
- 2) No.
- 3) Yes, as the comet moves under the effect of a pure radial force.
- 4) No, when the comet is closer to the sun its kinetic energy increases because of increase in its speed.