

- a. Calculate the velocity that a satellite shot from Newton's cannon must have to orbit Earth, 150 km above its surface.
- b. How long would it take for the satellite to return to the cannon in seconds and minutes?

The second Newton's law for satellite:

$$Ma = G \frac{M_e M}{(R + h)^2}$$

$$a = G \frac{M_e}{(R + h)^2}$$

Where a is the centripetal acceleration:

$$\frac{v^2}{R + h} = G \frac{M_e}{(R + h)^2}$$

So, satellite's speed:

$$v = \sqrt{G \frac{M_e}{R + h}}$$

Using $g = G \frac{M_e}{R^2} \rightarrow GM_e = gR^2$

$$v = R \sqrt{\frac{g}{R + h}}$$

$$v = 6.4 * 10^6 m \sqrt{\frac{10 m/s^2}{6.4 * 10^6 m + 0.15 * 10^6 m}} = 7.91 * 10^3 m/s$$

Time to return to the cannon:

$$T = \frac{2\pi(R + h)}{v}$$

$$T = \frac{2 * 3.14 * (6.4 * 10^6 m + 0.15 * 10^6 m)}{7.91 * 10^3 m/s} = 5.20 * 10^3 s$$

Answer: $v = 7.91 * 10^3 m/s$, $T = 5.20 * 10^3 s$