



# PHYSICS

## BOOKS - ARIHANT PHYSICS (HINGLISH)

### GRAVITATION

#### Exercise

1. Two lead balls of mass  $m$  and  $2m$  are placed at a separation  $d$ . A third ball of mass  $m$  is

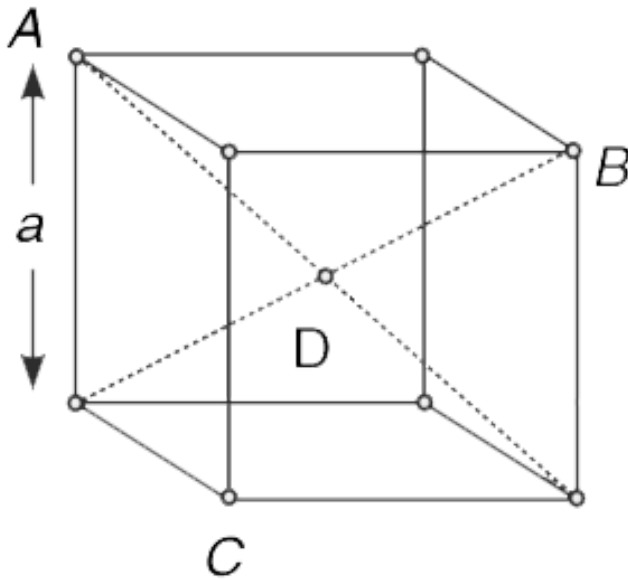
placed at an unknown location on the line joining the first two balls such that the net gravitational force experienced by the first ball is  $\frac{6Gm^2}{d^2}$ . What is the location of the third ball?



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2. Four identical point masses  $m$  each are kept at the vertices A, B, and C of a cube having side length 'a' (see figure). Another identical mass is placed at the center point D of the cube. (a)

Where will you place a fifth identical mass so that the net gravitational force acting on mass at D becomes zero? (b) Calculate the net gravitational force acting on the mass at D.



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3. Two point masses  $m$  and  $M$  are held at rest at a large distance from each other. When released, they begin moving under their mutual gravitational pull. Find their relative acceleration ( $a$ ) when separation between them becomes  $x$ . Integrate the expression of  $a$  obtained above to calculate the relative velocity of the two masses when their separation is  $x$ . Write the velocity of centre of mass of the system when separation between them is  $x$ .



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4. Find the height above the surface of the earth where the acceleration due to gravity reduces by (a) 36% (b) 0.36% of its value on the surface of the earth. Radius of the earth  $R = 6400$  km.



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5. An astronaut landed on a planet and found that his weight at the pole of the planet was one third of his weight at the pole of the

earth. He also found himself to be weightless at the equator of the planet. The planet is a homogeneous sphere of radius half that of the earth. Find the duration of a day on the planet. Given density of the earth  $= d_0$ .



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6. A gravity meter can detect change in acceleration due to gravity ( $g$ ) of the order of  $10^{-9} \%$ . Calculate the smallest change in altitude near the surface of the earth that

results in a detectable change in  $g$ . Radius of the earth  $R = 6.4 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$ .



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7. The earth is a homogeneous sphere of mass  $M$  and radius  $R$ . There is another spherical planet of mass  $M$  and radius  $R$  whose density changes with distance  $r$  from the centre as  $p = p_0 r$ . (a) Find the ratio of acceleration due to gravity on the surface of the earth and that on the surface of the planet. (b) Find  $p_0$ .



8. A planet having mass equal to that of the earth ( $M = 6 \times 10^{24} kg$ ) has radius  $R$  such that a particle projected from its surface at the speed of light ( $c = 3 \times 10^8 ms^{-1}$ ) just fails to escape. Assuming Newton's Law of gravitation to be valid calculate the radius and mass density of such a planet. Are the numbers realistic? Note: The radius that you calculated is known as Schwarzschild radius.



Actually we need to use theory of general relativity for solving this problem.



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**9.** Angular speed of rotation of the earth is  $\omega_0$ . A train is running along the equator at a speed  $v$  from west to east. A very sensitive balance inside the train shows the weight of  $n$  object as  $W_1$ . During the return journey when the train is running at same speed from east to west the balance shows the weight of the

object to be  $W_2$ . Weight of the object when the train is at rest was shown to be  $W_0$  by the balance. Calculate  $W_2 - W_1$ .



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**10.** If a planet rotates too fast, rocks from its surface will start flying off its surface. If density of a homogeneous planet is  $\rho$  and material is not flying off its surface then show that its time period of rotation must be

greater than  $\sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{G\rho}}$



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11. The angular speed of rotation of the earth is  $\omega = 7.27 \times 10^{-5} \text{rads}^{-1}$  and its radius is  $R = 6.37 \times 10^6 \text{m}$ . Calculate the acceleration of a man standing at a place at  $40^\circ$  latitude.  $[\cos 40^\circ = 0.77]$  If the earth suddenly stops rotating, the acceleration due to gravity on its surface will become  $g_0 = 9.82 \text{ms}^{-2}$ . Find the effective value of acceleration due to gravity ( $g$ ) at  $40^\circ$  latitude taking into account the rotation of the earth.



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12. A planet has radius  $\left(\frac{1}{36}\right)$  th of the radius of the earth. The escape velocity on the surface of the planet was found to be  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}$  times the escape velocity from the surface of earth. The planet is surrounded by a thin layer of atmosphere having thickness  $h$  ( $\ll$  radius of the planet). The average density of the atmosphere on the planet is  $d$  and acceleration due to gravity on the surface of the earth is  $g_e$ .

Find the value of atmospheric pressure on the surface of the planet.



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**13.** Using a telescope for several nights, you found a celestial body at a distance of  $2 \times 10^{11} m$  from the sun travelling at a speed of  $60 km s^{-1}$ . Knowing that mass of the sun is  $2 \times 10^{30} kg$ , calculate after how many years you expect to see the body again at the same location.



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**14.** A man can jump up to a height of  $h_0 = 1m$  on the surface of the earth. What should be the radius of a spherical planet so that the man makes a jump on its surface and escapes out of its gravity? Assume that the man jumps with same speed as on earth and the density of planet is same as that of earth. Take escape speed on the surface of the earth to be 11.2 km/s and radius of earth to be 6400 km.



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15. It is known that if the length of the day were  $T_0$  hour, a man standing on the equator of the earth would have felt weightlessness. Assume that a person is located inside a deep hole at the equator at a distance of  $\frac{R}{2}$  from the centre of the earth. What should be the time period of rotation of the earth for such a person to feel weightlessness? [R = radius of the earth]



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**16.** A small satellite of mass  $m$  is going around a planet in a circular orbit of radius  $r$ . Write the kinetic energy of the satellite if its angular momentum about the centre of the planet is  $J$ .



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**17.** Suppose that the gravitational attraction between a star of mass  $M$  and a planet of mass  $m$  is given by the expression

$F = K \frac{Mm}{r^n}$  where  $K$  and  $n$  are constants. If



the orbital speed of the planets were found to be independent of their distance ( $r$ ) from the star, calculate the time period ( $T_0$ ) of a planet going around the star in a circular orbit of radius  $r_0$ .



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**18.** A near surface earth's satellite is rotating in equatorial plane from west to east. The satellite is exactly above a town at 6:00 A.M today. Exactly how many times will it cross ver

the town by 6:00 A.M tomorrow. [Don't count its appearance today at 6:00 A.M above the town].



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**19.** Imagine an astronaut inside a satellite going around the earth in a circular orbit at a speed of  $\sqrt{\frac{gR}{2}}$  where  $R$  is radius of the earth and  $g$  is acceleration due to gravity on the surface of the earth. What is weight experienced by the astronaut inside the

satellite? Assume that an alien demon stops the satellite and holds it at rest. What is weight experienced by the astronaut now? The demon now releases the satellite (from rest). What is weight experienced by the astronaut now?



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**20.** The height of geostationary orbit above the surface of the earth is  $h$ . Radius of the earth is  $R$ . The earth shrinks to half its present

radius (mass remaining unchanged). Now what will be the height of a geostationary satellite above the surface of the earth?



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21. (a) Estimate the average orbital speed of the earth going around the sun. The average Earth-sun distance is  $1.5 \times 10^{11} m$ . (b) An asteroid going around the sun has an average orbital speed of 15 km/s. Is the asteroid farther

from the sun or closer to the sun as compared to the Earth? Explain your answer.



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**22.** Assume that the earth is not rotating about its axis and that Scientists have developed an engine which can propel vehicles to very high speed on the surface of the earth. What is the maximum possible speed for any such vehicle running on surface of the earth. Earth is a sphere of radius  $R = 6400$  km and

acceleration due to gravity on the surface is

$$g = 10m / s^2$$



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**23.** A satellite of Earth is going around in an elliptical orbit. The smallest distance of the satellite from the centre of the earth happens to be  $2R$  (where  $R$  = radius of the earth). find the upper limit of the maximum speed of such a satellite.



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**24.** Haley's Comet is going around the Sun in a highly elliptical orbit with a period of 76 y. It was closest to the sun in the year 1987 (I was 13 year old then and heard a lot about it on radio). In which year of 21<sup>st</sup> century do you expect it to have least kinetic energy?



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**25.** A planet goes around the sun in an elliptical orbit. The minimum distance of the

planet from the Sun is  $2 \times 10^{12}m$  and the maximum speed of the planet in its path is  $40kms^{-1}$ . Find the rate at which its position vector relative to the sun sweeps area, when the planet is at a distance  $2.2 \times 10^{12}$  from the sun.



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**26.** To launch a satellite at a height  $h$  above the surface of the earth (radius  $R$ ) a two stage rocket is used . The first stage is used to lift



the satellite to the desired height and the second stage is used to impart it a tangential velocity so as to put it in a circular orbit. Assume (incorrectly) that the mass of rocket is negligible and that there is no atmospheric resistance. If  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are the energies delivered by the first and the second stage of the rocket. Calculate the ratio  $\frac{E_1}{E_2}$ . Calculate the time period of the satellite if it is given that  $\frac{E_1}{E_2} = 1$ . Take mass of the earth to be  $M$ .



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27. A satellite of mass  $m$  is going around the earth in a circular orbital at a height  $\frac{R}{2}$  from the surface of the earth. The satellite has lived its life and a rocket, on board, is fired to make it leave the gravity of the earth. The rocket remains active for a very small interval of time and imparts an impulse in the direction of motion of the satellite. Neglect any change in mass due to firing of the rocket. Find the minimum impulse imparted by the rocket to the satellite. Find the minimum work done by

the rocket engine. Mass of the earth =  $M$ ,

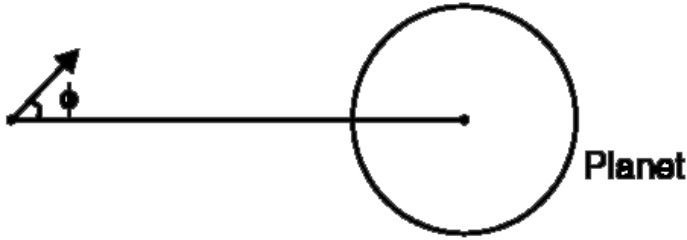
Radius of the earth =  $R$



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**28.** A small asteroid is at a large distance from a planet and its velocity makes an angle  $\phi$  ( $\neq 0$ ) with line joining the asteroid to the centre of the planet. Prove that such an asteroid can never fall normally on the surface

of the planet.



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**29.** Three identical particles, each of mass  $m$ , are located in space at the vertices of an equilateral triangle of side length  $a$ . They are revolving in a circular orbital under mutual gravitational attraction. Find the speed of each particle. Find the acceleration of the centre of

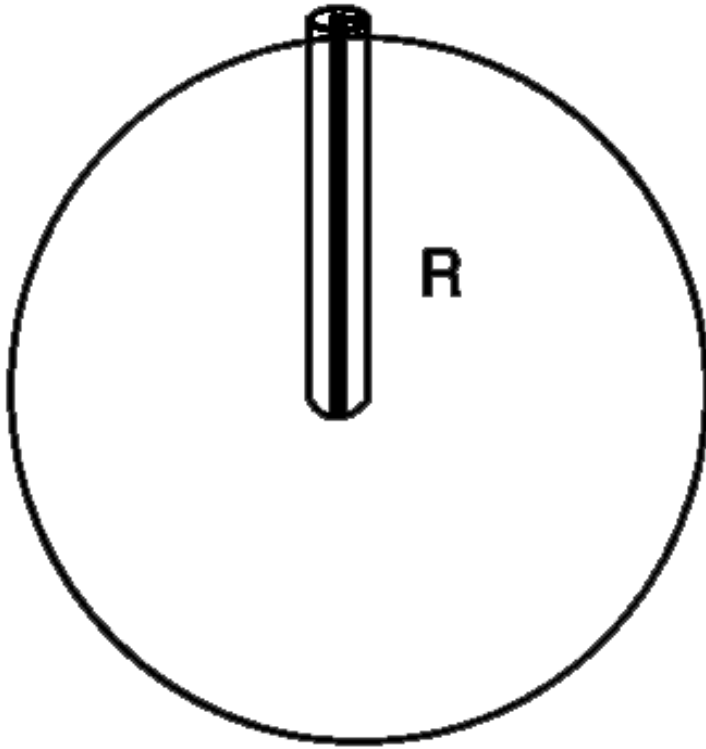
mass of a system comprising of any two particles. Assume that one of the particles suddenly loses its ability to exert gravitational force. Find the velocity of the centre of mass of the system of other two particles after this.



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**30.** Imagine a hole drilled along the radius of the earth. A uniform rod of length equal to the radius ( $R$ ) of the earth is inserted into this hole. Find the distance of centre of gravity  $f$

the rod from the centre .



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**31.** A large non rotating star of mass  $M$  and radius  $R$  begins to collapse under its own gravity and ultimately becomes very small (nearly a point mass). Assume that the density remains uniform inside the sphere in any stage. Plot the variation of gravitational field intensity (well, you can call it cceleration due to gravity) at a distance  $\frac{R}{2}$  from the centre vs the radius ( $r$ ) of the star.



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32. At a depth  $h_1 = \frac{R}{2}$  from the surface of the earth acceleration due to gravity is  $g_1$ . It's value changes by  $\Delta g_1$  when one moves down further by 1 km. At a height  $h_2$  above the surface of the earth acceleration due to gravity is  $g_2$ . It's value changes by  $\Delta g_2$  when one moves up further by 1 km. If  $\Delta g_1 = \Delta g_2$  find  $h_2$ . Assume the earth to be a uniform sphere of radius  $R$ .



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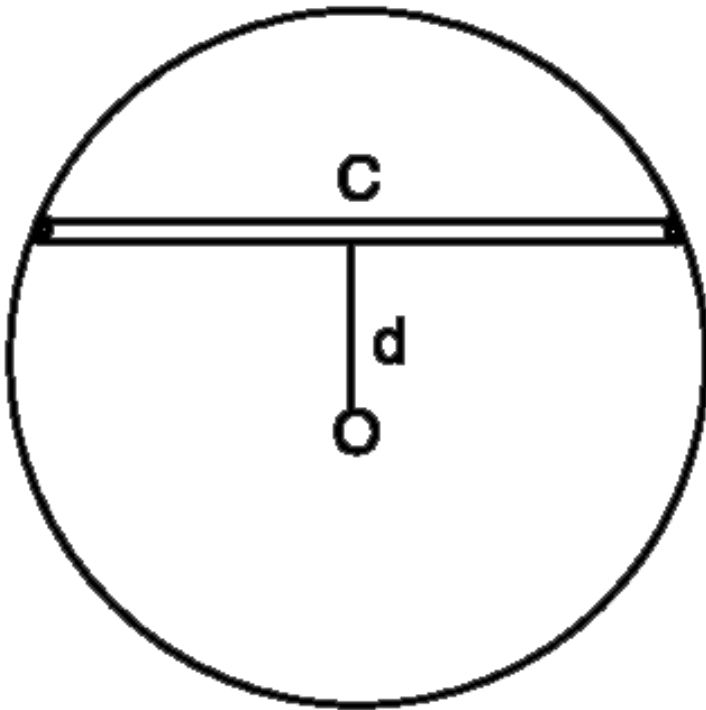
**33.** Due to rotation of the earth the direction of vertical at a place is not along the radius of the earth and actually makes a small angle  $\phi$  with the true vertical (i.e. with radius). At what latitude  $\theta$  is this angle  $\phi$  maximum ?



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**34.** A tunnel is dug along a chord of non rotating earth at a distance  $d = \frac{R}{2}$  [R = radius of the earth] from its centre. A small

block is released in the tunnel from the surface of the earth. The block comes to rest at the centre (C) of the tunnel. Assume that the friction coefficient between the block and the tunnel wall remains constant at  $\mu$ .



Calculate work done by the friction on the block. Calculate  $\mu$ .



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**35.** Diameter of a planet is  $10d_{\circ}$ , its mean density is  $\frac{\rho_{\circ}}{4}$  and mass of its atmosphere is  $10m_{\circ}$  where  $d^{\circ}$ ,  $\rho^{\circ}$  and  $m^{\circ}$  are diameter, mean density and mass of atmosphere respectively for the earth. Assume that mean density of atmosphere is same on the planet and the earth and height of atmosphere on

both the planets is very small compared to their radius. Find the ratio of atmospheric pressure on the surface of the planet to that on the earth. If a mercury barometer reads 76 cm on the surface of the earth, find its reading on the surface of the planet.



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**36.** A particle of mass  $m$  is projected upwards from the surface of the earth with a velocity equal to half the escape velocity. ( $R$  is radius of

earth and  $M$  is mass of earth) Calculate the potential energy of the particle at its maximum. Write the kinetic energy of the particle when it was at half the maximum height.



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**37.** A uniform spherical planet is rotating about its axis. The speed of a point on its equator is  $v$  and the effective acceleration due to gravity on the equator is one third its value

at the poles. Calculate the escape velocity for a particle at the pole of the planet. Give your answer in multiple of  $v$ .



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**38.** A planet is a homogeneous ball of radius  $R$  having mass  $M$ . It is surrounded by a dense atmosphere having density  $\rho = \frac{\sigma_0}{r}$  where  $\sigma_0$  is a constant and  $r$  is distance from the centre of the planet. It is found that acceleration due to gravity is constant

throughout the atmosphere of the planet.

Find  $\sigma_0$  in terms of  $M$  and  $R$ .



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**39.** A projectile is to be launched from the surface of the earth so as to escape the solar system. Consider the gravitational force on the projectile due to the earth and the sun only. The projectile is projected perpendicular to the radius vector of the earth relative to the centre of the sun in the direction of motion of

the earth. Find the minimum speed of projection relative to the earth so that the projectile escapes out of the solar system.

Neglect rotation of the earth. mass if the sum

$M_s = 2 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$ , Mass of the earth

$M_e = 6.4 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}$  Radius of the earth

$R_e = 6.4 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$ , Earth-Sun distance

$r = 1.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}$

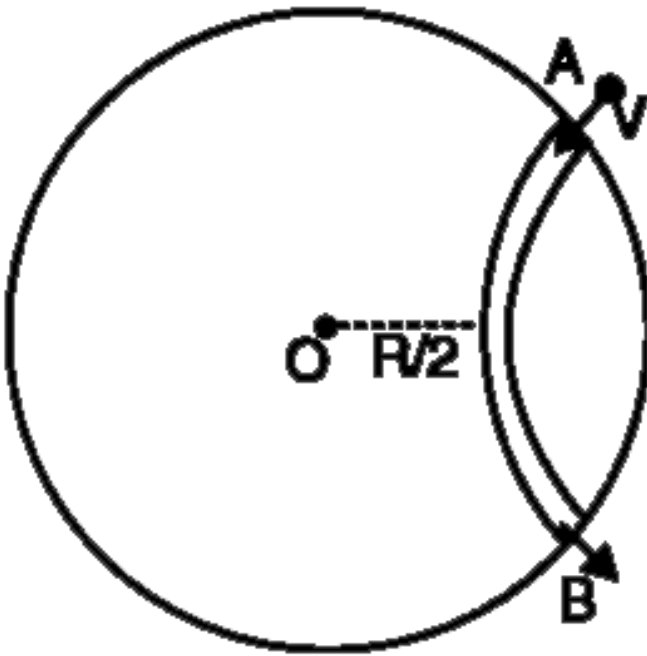


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40. Assume that there is a tunnel in the shape of a circular arc through the earth. Wall of the tunnel is smooth. A ball of mass  $m$  is projected into the tunnel at A with speed  $v$ . The ball comes out of the tunnel at B and escapes out of the gravity of the earth. Mass and radius of the earth are  $M$  and  $R$  respectively and radius of the circle shaped tunnel is also  $R$ . Find minimum possible value of  $v$  (call it  $v_0$ ) If the ball is projected into the tunnel with speed  $v_0$ , calculate the normal force applied by the tunnel wall on the ball when it is closest to the

centre of the earth. It is given that the closest distance between the ball and the centre of the earth is  $\frac{R}{2}$



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41. A celestial body, not bound to sun, will only pass by the sun once. Calculate the minimum speed of such a body when it is at a distance of  $1.5 \times 10^{11} m$  from the sun (this is average distance between the sun & the earth and is known as astronomical unit- A.U.) The mass of the sun is  $M \sim 2 \times 10^{30} kg$ .

$G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \frac{N \cdot m^2}{kg^2}$  Show that this

speed is  $\sqrt{2}$  times greater than speed of earth around the sun, assuming circular trajectory



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**42.** A body is projected vertically upward from the surface of the earth with escape velocity. Calculate the time in which it will be at a height (measured from the surface of the earth) 8 times the radius of the earth ( $R$ ). Acceleration due to gravity on the surface of the earth is  $g$ .



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**43.** An astronaut on the surface of the moon throws a piece of lunar rock (mass  $m$ ) directly towards the earth at a great speed such that the rock reaches the earth. Mass of the earth =  $M$ , Mass of the moon =  $\frac{M}{81}$  Radius of the earth =  $R$ , Distance between the centre of the earth and the moon =  $60R$  In the course of its journey calculate the maximum gravitational potential energy of the rock Find the minimum possible speed of the rock when it enters the atmosphere of the earth.



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**44.** The radius of the circular path of a geostationary satellite was inadvertently made  $\delta r = 1\text{km}$  larger than the correct radius  $r = 42000\text{ km}$ . Calculate the difference in angular speed of the satellite and the earth. If the satellite was exactly above a house on the equator on a particular day, what will be angular separation between the house and the satellite a year later?



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**45.** A spy satellite  $S_1$ , travelling above the equator is taking pictures at quick intervals. The satellite is travelling from west to east and is ready with picture around the whole equator in 8 hours. Another similar satellite  $S_2$ , travelling in the same plane is travelling from east to west and is able to take pictures around the whole equator in 6 hours. Find the ratio of radii of the circular paths of the satellite  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ .



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**46.** A comet is going around the sun in an elliptical orbit with a period of 64 year. The closest approach of the comet to the sun is 0.8 AU [AU = astronomical unit]. Calculate the greatest distance of the comet from the sun.

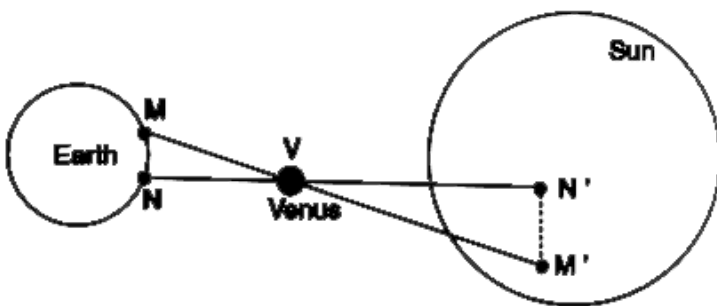


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**47.** The astronomical phenomenon when the planet Venus passes directly between the Sun and the earth is known as Venus transit. For



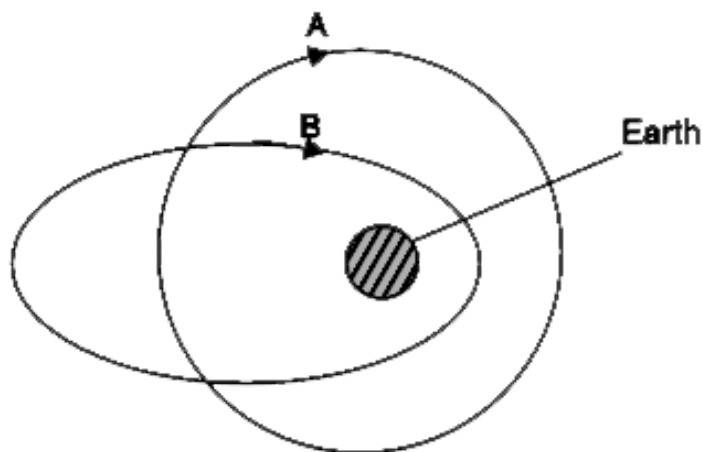
two separate persons standing on the earth at points M and N the Venus appears as black dots at points M' and N' on the Sun. The orbital period of Venus is close to 220 days. Assuming that both earth and Venus revolve on circular paths and taking distance MN = 1000 km, calculate the distance M'N' on the surface of the Sun. [Take  $(2.75)^{1/3} = 1.4$ ]



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**48.** Satellite A is following a circular path of radius  $a$  around the earth another satellite B follows an elliptical path around the earth. The two satellites have same mechanical energy and their orbits intersect. Find the speed of satellite B at the point where its path intersects with the circular orbit of A. Take

mass of earth to be  $M$ .



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**49.** A satellite of mass  $m$  is orbiting around the earth (mass  $M$ , radius  $R$ ) in a circular orbital of radius  $4R$ . It starts losing energy slowly at a constant  $-\frac{dE}{dt} = \eta$  due to friction. Find the

time ( $t$ ) in which the satellite will spiral down to the surface of the earth.



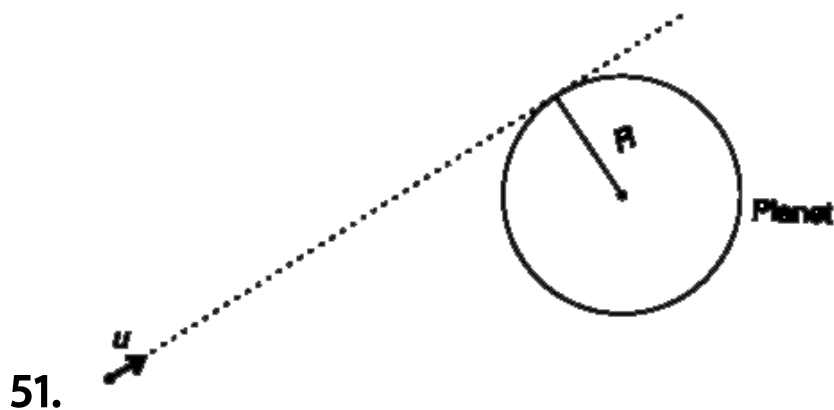
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**50.** Energy of a satellite going around the earth in an elliptical orbit is given by  $-\frac{GMm}{2a}$  where  $M$  and  $m$  are masses of the earth and the satellite respectively and  $2a$  is the major axis of the elliptical path. A satellite is launched tangentially with a speed  $\sqrt{\frac{3GM}{5R}}$  from a height  $h = R$  above the

surface of the earth. Calculate its maximum distance from the centre of the earth



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A small asteroid is approaching a planet of mass  $M$  and radius  $R$  from a large distance. Initially its velocity ( $u$ ) is along a tangent to

the surface of the planet. It fall on the surface making an angle of  $30^\circ$  with the vertical. Calculate  $u$ .

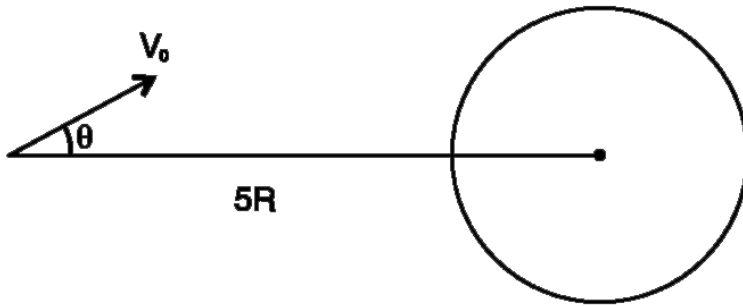


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**52.** An asteroid was fast approaching the earth. Scientists fired a rocket which hit the asteroid at a distance of  $5R$  from the centre of the earth ( $R$  = radius of the earth). Immediately after the hit the asteroid's velocity ( $V_0$ ) was making an angle of  $\theta = 30^\circ$  with the line

joining the centre of the earth to the asteroid.

The asteroid just grazed past the surface of the earth. Find  $V_0$  [Mass of the earth =  $M$ ]



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**53.** A satellite is orbiting around the earth in a circular orbit. Its orbital speed is  $V_0$ . A rocket on thrust to the satellite directed radially

away from the centre of the earth. The duration of the engine burn is negligible so that it can be considered instantaneous. Due to this thrust a velocity variation  $\Delta V$  is imparted to the satellite. Find the minimum value of the ratio  $\frac{\Delta V}{V_0}$  for which the satellite will escape out of the gravitational field of the earth.



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**54.** In last question assume that circular orbit of the satellite has radius  $r = (0)$ . Find  $\frac{\Delta V}{V_0}$



for which the maximum distance of the satellite from the centre of the earth become  $2r_0$  after the rocket is fired.



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**55.** A satellite is at a distance  $r_1$  from the centre of the earth at its apogee. The distance is  $r_2$  when it is at perigee. Mass of the earth is  $M$ . Calculate the maximum speed of the satellite in its orbit around the earth. Estimate the maximum speed of the moon

going around the earth. For moon

$$r_1 \sim 400,000 \text{ km} \quad \text{and} \quad r_2 \sim 360,000 \text{ km}$$



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**56.** A satellite is going around the earth in an elliptical orbit and has maximum and minimum distance from the centre of earth equal to  $10r$  and  $r$  respectively. It was planned to fire on board rocket so as to increase the energy of the satellite by maximum amount. Assume that the rocket is fired for a small time

(almost instantaneous) and gives an impulse  $J$  to the satellite in forward direction. Take  $J$  to be small compared to overall momentum of the satellite.



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**57.** A satellite is going around the earth in an elliptical orbit and has maximum and minimum distance from the centre of earth equal to  $10r$  and  $r$  respectively. It was planned to fire on board rocket so as to increase the

energy of the satellite by maximum amount.

Assume that the rocket is fired for a small time (almost instantaneous) and gives an impulse  $J$  to the satellite in forward direction. Take  $J$  to be small compared to overall momentum of the satellite.



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**58.** Imagine a smooth tunnel along a chord of nonrotating earth at a distance  $\frac{R}{2}$  from the centre.  $R$  is the radius of the earth. A projectile

is fired along the tunnel from the centre of the tunnel at a speed  $V_0 = \sqrt{gR}$  [ $g$  is acceleration due to gravity at the surface of the earth]. (a) Is the angular momentum [about the centre of the earth] of the projectile conserved as it moves along the tunnel? (b) Calculate the maximum distance of the projectile from the centre of the earth during its course of motion.



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**59.** A geostationary satellite is nearly at a height of  $h = 6R$  from the surface of the earth where  $R$  is the radius of the earth. Calculate the area on the surface of the earth in which the communication can be made using this satellite.



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**60.** There is an infinite thin flat sheet with mass density  $\eta$  per unit area. Find the

gravitational force, due to sheet, on a point mass  $m$  located at a distance  $x$  from the sheet. Consider a large flat horizontal sheet of material density  $\rho$  and thickness  $t$ , placed on the surface of the earth. The density  $\phi$  of the earth is  $\phi_0$ . If it is found that gravitational field intensity just between the sheet is larger than field just above it, prove that  $\rho > \frac{3}{2}\phi_0$ .



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**61.** A spaceship is orbiting the earth in a circular orbit at a height equal to radius of the earth ( $R_e = 6400\text{km}$ ) from the surface of the earth. An astronaut is on a space walk outside the spaceship. He is at a distance of  $l = 200\text{ m}$  from the ship and is connected to it with a simple cable which can sustain a maximum tension of  $10\text{ N}$ . Assume that the centre of the earth, the spaceship and the astronaut are in a line. Mass of astronaut along with all his accessories is  $100\text{ kg}$ . Do you think that a weak cable that can only take a load of  $10\text{ N}$ , can



prevent him from drifting in space ? Make a guess. Estimate the tension in the cable.

[Acceleration due to gravity on the surface of

$$[Earth = 9.8m / s^2]$$



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**62.** Earth is rotating about its axis with angular speed  $\Omega_0$  and average density of earth is  $\rho$ . It is proposed to make a space elevator by placing a long rod with uniform mass density extending from just above the surface for the

earth out to a radius  $nR$  ( $R$  is radius of the earth). Prove that the rod can remain above the same point on the equator all time if,

$$n^2 + n = \frac{8\pi G\rho}{3\omega^2} \text{ density of the earth}$$



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**63.** A body is projected up from the surface of the earth with a velocity half the escape velocity at an angle of  $30^\circ$  with the horizontal. Neglecting air resistance and earth's rotation, find (a) the maximum height above the earth's

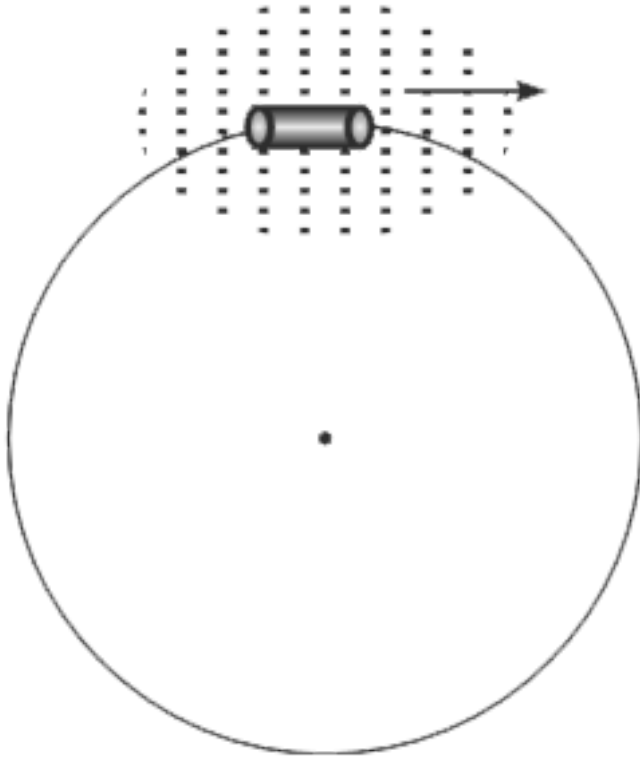
surface to which the body will rise. (b) will the body move around the earth as a satellite?



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**64.** A near surface earth satellite has cylindrical shape with cross sectional area of  $s = 0.5M^2$  and mass of  $M = 10$  kg. It encounters dust which has density of  $D = 1.6 \times 10^{-11} \text{ KG} / \text{m}^3$ . Assume that the dust particles are at rest and they stick to the satellite's front face on collision. Take mean

density of earth to be  $\rho = 5500 \text{ kg/m}^3$  Find the drag force experienced by the satelliten



If the dust extends throughout the orbit, find the change in velocity and radius of the circular path of the satellite in one revolution.





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