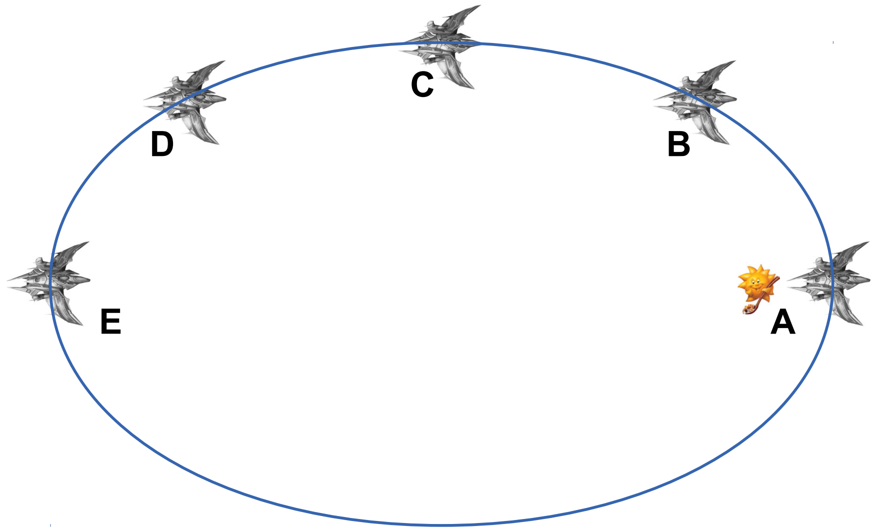
Physics 2211 GPS Week 9

Problem #1

The diagram shows the path of a spacecraft orbiting a star. You will be asked to rank order various quantities in terms of their values at the locations marked on the path, with the largest first. You can use the symbols "<" and "=". For example, if you were asked to rank order the locations in terms of their distance from the star: "A <B <C <D <E"



(a) Rank order the locations on the path in terms of the spacecraft's **kinetic energy** at each location, starting with the location where the kinetic energy is the largest.

(b) Consider the system of the spacecraft plus the star. **Which of the following statements are correct?**

A. As the kinetic energy of the system increases, the gravitational potential energy of the system decreases.

B. As the spacecraft slows down, the kinetic energy of the system decreases.

C. As the spacecraft slows down, energy is lost from the system.

D. External work must be done on the system to speed up the spacecraft.

E. As the spacecraft's kinetic energy increases, the gravitational potential energy of the system also increases.

F. Along this path the gravitational potential energy of the system is never zero.

G. The sum of the kinetic energy of the system plus the gravitational potential energy of the system is a positive number.

H. The gravitational potential energy of the system is inversely proportional to the square of the distance between the spacecraft and star.

I. The sum of the kinetic energy of the system plus the gravitational potential energy of the system is the same at every location along this path.

J. At every location along the spacecraft's path the gravitational potential energy of the system is negative.

Problem #2

In the rough approximation that the density of a planet is uniform throughout its interior, the gravitational field strength (force per unit mass) inside the planet at a distance r from the center is $\frac{GM}{R^3}r$, where M is the mass of the planet and R is the radius of the planet.

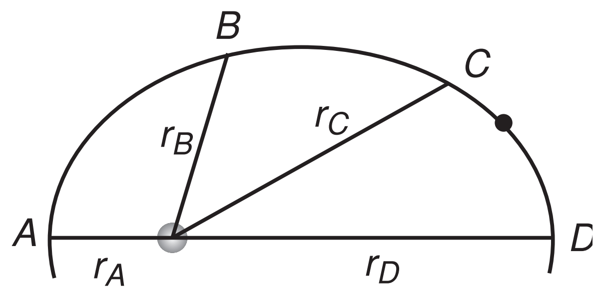
A. Using the uniform-density approximation, calculate the amount of energy required to move an object of mass m from the center of a planet to the surface.

B. For comparison, how much energy would be required to move the mass from the surface of the planet to a very large distance away?

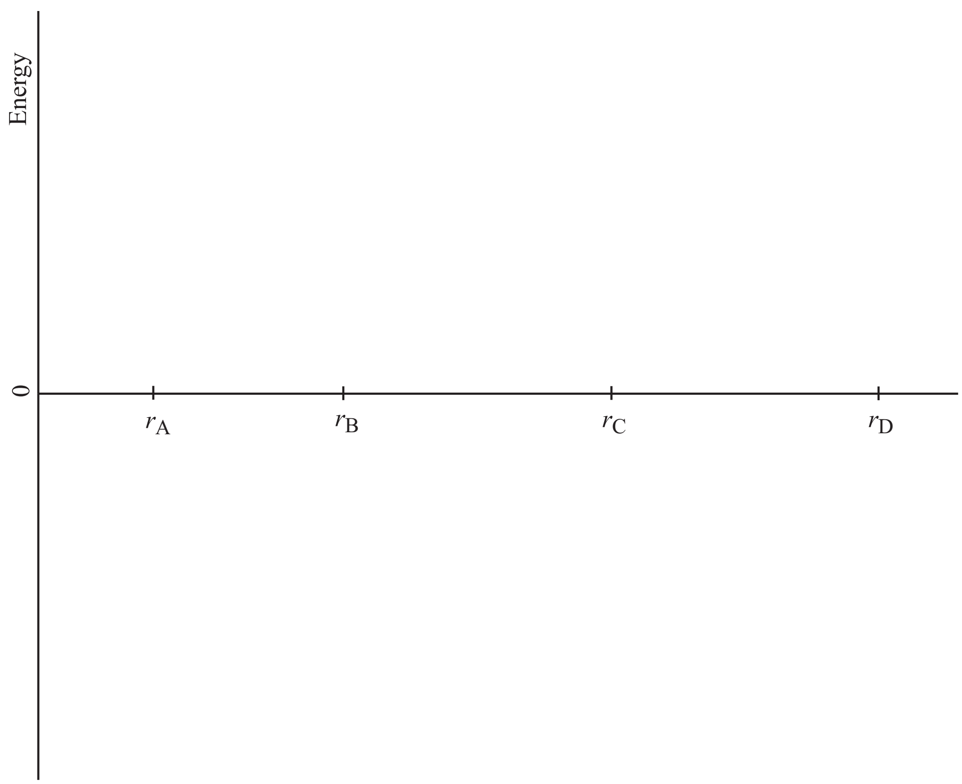
C. Imagine that a small hole is drilled through the center of the Earth from one side to the other. Determine the speed of an object of mass m, dropped into this hole, when it reaches the center of the planet. The mass of the Earth is $M = 6 \times 10^{24}$ kg and its radius is $R = 6.4 \times 10^6$ m.

Problem #3

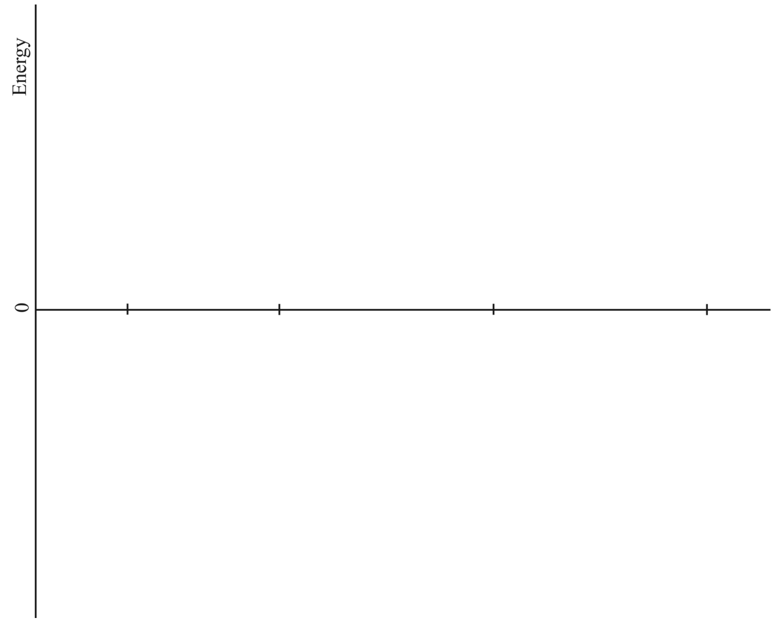
Here is a portion of the elliptical orbit of an asteroid moving around the sun from A to B to C to D.



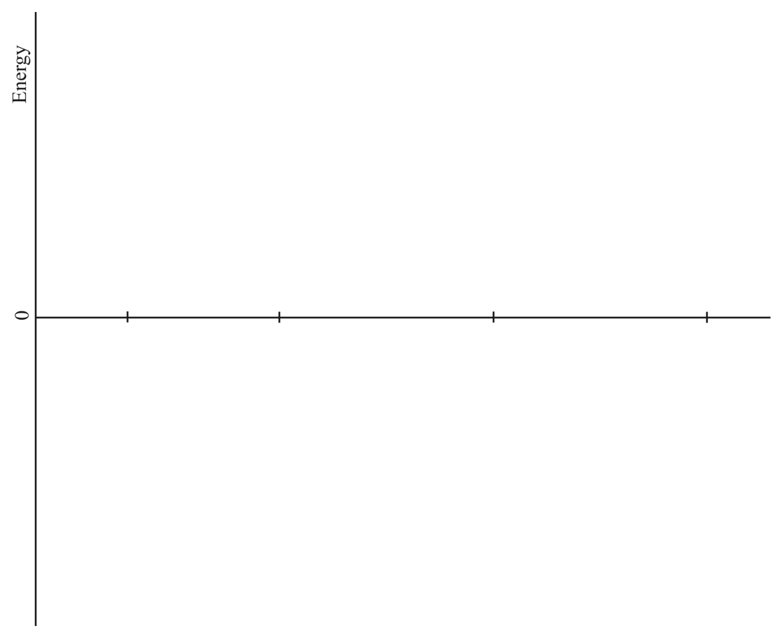
(a) For the system consisting of the Sun plus the asteroid, graph the gravitational potential energy U, the kinetic energy K, and the sum $K+U$ (total energy), as a function of the separation distance between Sun and asteroid. ***Label each curve.*** Along the r axis are shown the various distances between Sun and asteroid.



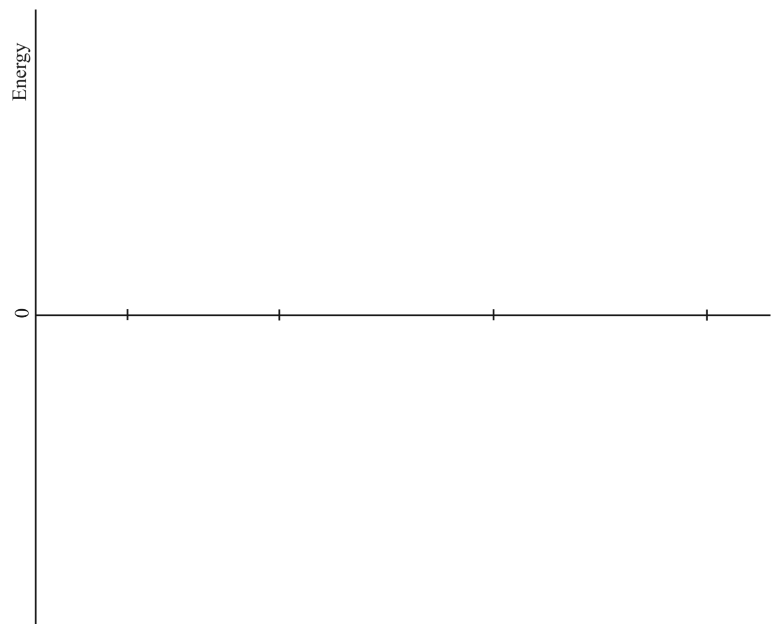
(b) A spacecraft leaves the surface of a planet at exactly the escape speed. For the system consisting of a planet and a spacecraft, graph the gravitational potential energy U, the kinetic energy K, and the sum $K + U$, as a function of the separation distance between planet and the spacecraft. ***Label each curve.***



(c) A spacecraft leaves the surface of a planet with a velocity that is twice the escape speed. For the system consisting of a planet and a spacecraft, graph the gravitational potential energy U, the kinetic energy K, and the sum $K + U$, as a function of the separation distance between planet and the spacecraft. ***Label each curve.***



(d) Two charged particle with opposite charge and identical mass are released from rest a distance R from each other. For the system consisting of the two charges, graph the electric potential energy U, the kinetic energy K, and the sum $K + U$, as a function of the separation distance between the two charges. ***Label each curve.***



(e) Two charged particle with identical charge and mass are released from rest a distance R from each other. For the system consisting of the two charges, graph the electric potential energy U, the kinetic energy K, and the sum $K + U$, as a function of the separation distance between the two charges. ***Label each curve.***