Problems

Any satellite orbiting the earth must satisfy this equation

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{5.18 \times 10^{12}}{d+r}}$$

where v is the velocity of the satellite in kilometers per hour, d is the height of orbit above earth's surface in kilometers, and r is the radius of the earth in kilometers. Write the expression to compute the height of Geostationary Orbit above the earth's surface in kilometers.

Solution

We have two equations

$$v^2 = \frac{5.18 \times 10^{12}}{d+r} \tag{1}$$

$$v = \frac{2\pi(d+r)}{24} \tag{2}$$

Substituting (2) into (1), we have

$$d = \sqrt[3]{\frac{5.18 \times 10^{12} \times 24^2}{(2\pi)^2}} - r \tag{3}$$