

- 5 A binary star consists of two stars A and B that orbit about a common centre P, a distance d from the centre of star A, as illustrated in Fig. 5.1.

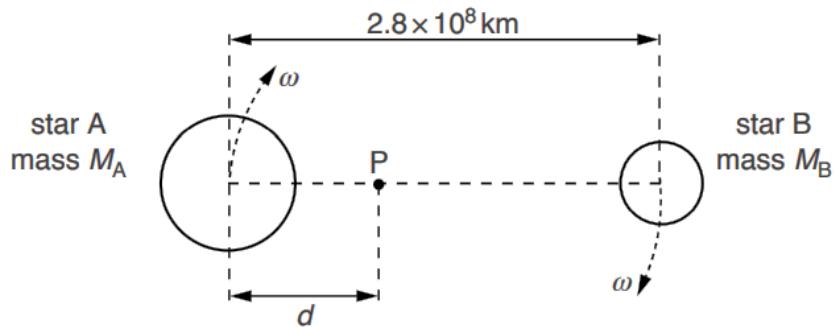


Fig. 5.1

- (a) (i) Explain why the centripetal force acting on both stars has the same magnitude.

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[2]

- (ii) The period of the orbit of the stars about point P is 4.0 years.

Calculate the angular speed ω of the stars.

$$\omega = \dots \text{ rad s}^{-1} \quad [2]$$

- (b) The separation of the centres of the stars is 2.8×10^8 km.

The mass of star A is M_A . The mass of star B is M_B .

The ratio of $\frac{M_A}{M_B}$ is 3.0.

- (i) Determine the distance d .

$$d = \dots \text{ km} \quad [3]$$

- (ii) Use your answers in (a)(ii) and (b)(i) to determine the mass M_B of star B. Explain your working.

$M_B = \dots$ kg [3]

[Total: 10]