

- 5 Two stars A and B are separated by a distance of 1.2×10^{10} m as shown in Fig. 5.1. x is the distance from the centre of star A, in the direction toward the centre of star B.

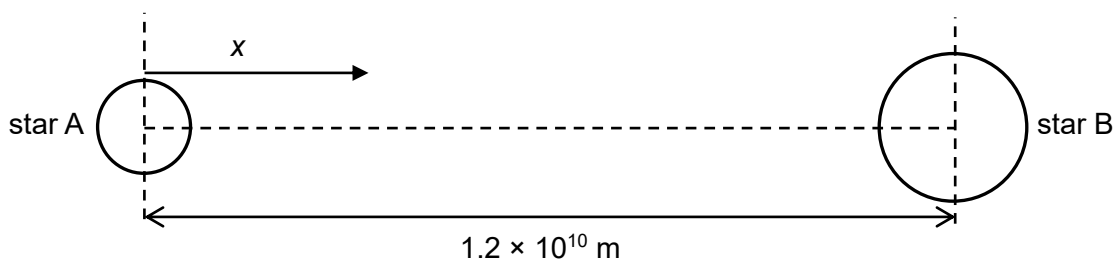


Fig. 5.1

The variation with x of the gravitational potential ϕ due to the two stars along the line joining their centres is shown in Fig. 5.2.

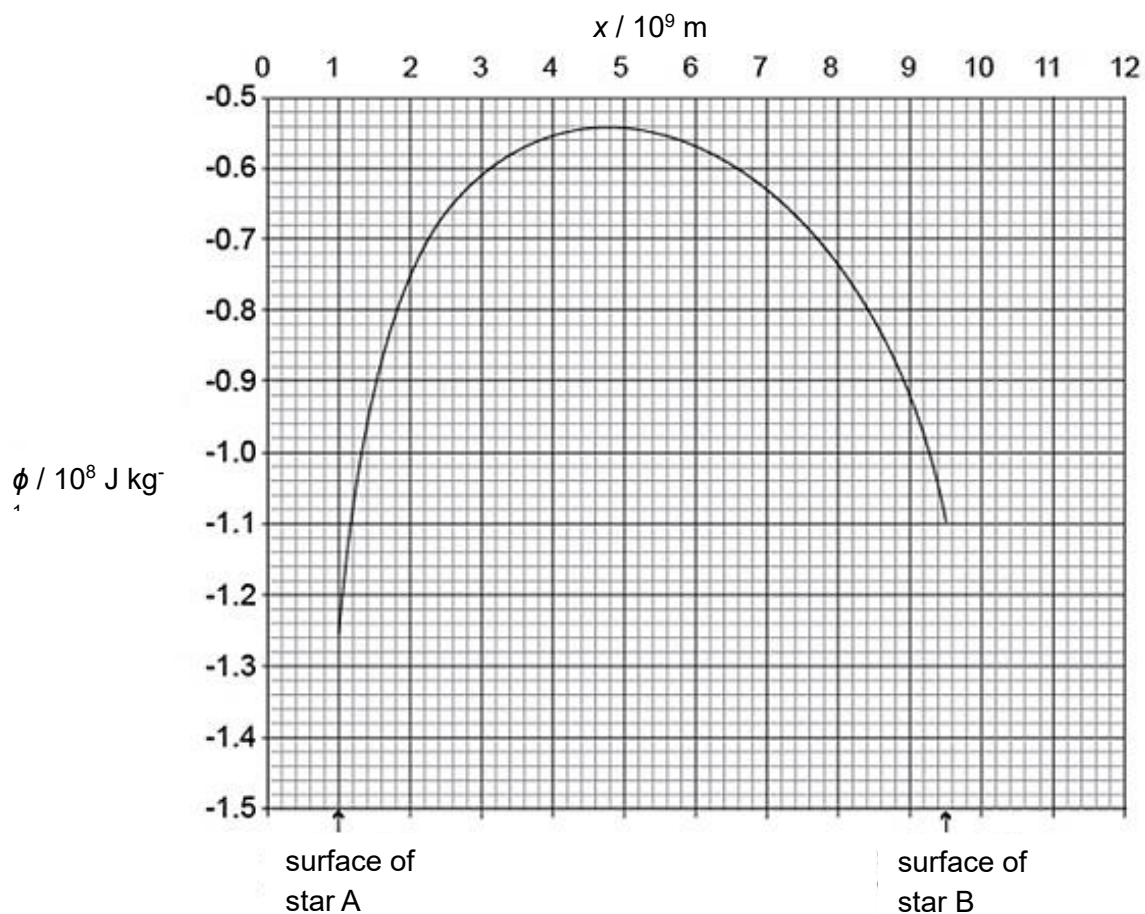


Fig. 5.2

A body is launched with kinetic energy E_k from the surface of star B.

The body then arrives at the surface of the star A.

- (a) Define *gravitational potential* at a point.

ratio = [3]

[Total: 8]

