

- 2 A planet of mass M and radius R is isolated in space.

Assume that all the mass of the planet is situated at its centre.

The planet has no atmosphere.

A satellite S of mass m orbits the planet at a height h above the surface of the planet, as shown in Fig. 2.1.

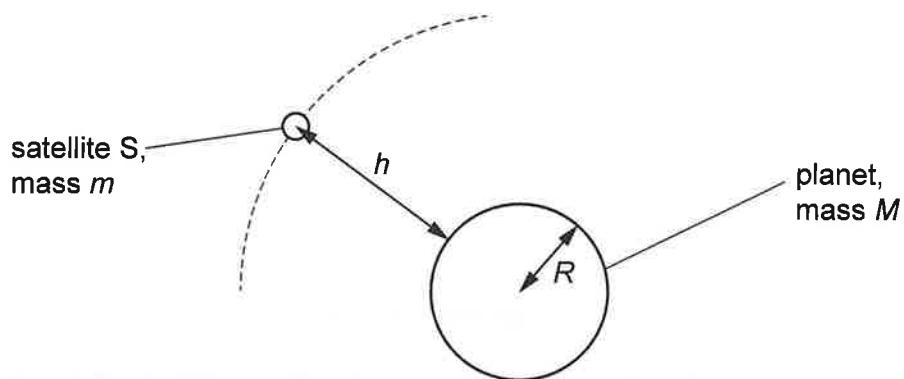


Fig. 2.1

- (a) Show that the kinetic energy E_k of satellite S is given by the expression:

$$E_k = \frac{GMm}{2(R + h)}$$

where G is the gravitational constant.



- (b) By considering the potential energy of satellite S and the expression in (a), derive an expression for the total energy E_T of S in terms of G , M , m , R and h .

[3]

- (c) The planet has a mass of 7.35×10^{22} kg and a radius of 1.74×10^6 m.

Satellite S orbits at a height of 110 km above the surface of the planet.

Calculate the speed of S.

speed = ms^{-1} [3]



- (d) Another satellite P, also of mass m , is in orbit around the planet in (a) at a height above the surface that is less than 110 km.

State and explain how:

- (i) the kinetic energy of P compares with that of S

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[2]

- (ii) the total energy of P compares with that of S.

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[2]

[Total: 13]