

Orbiting problems

1. The space shuttle ejects a 1200 kg booster tank so that the tank is momentarily at rest at an altitude of 2000 km (above Earth's surface). Neglecting atmospheric effects, determine:
 - a) How much work is done on the booster by the force of gravity in returning it to the Earth's surface. Hint: W-E theorem. [1.8×10^{10} J]
 - b) the velocity with which it strikes the surface of the Earth [5.4×10^3 m/s]

2. A 500 kg satellite is in circular orbit 200 km above the Earth's surface. Calculate :
 - a) the gravitational potential energy of the satellite [-3.03×10^{10} J]
 - b) the kinetic energy of the satellite [1.52×10^{10} J]
 - c) the escape velocity (from earth's surface) [$11,000$ m/s]

3. The moon.
 - a) With what velocity must an object be projected from the moon's surface in order to rise to an altitude equal to twice the moon's radius? [1.7×10^3 m/s]
 - b) What is the escape velocity required from the moon's surface? [2.4×10^3 m/s]

4. A rocketship, of mass 1.00×10^4 kg is located 1.00×10^{10} m from the centre of the Earth?
 - a) Determine its gravitational potential energy at this point [-3.99×10^8 J]
 - b) How much kinetic energy must it have, at this point, to be capable of escaping from the Earth's gravitational field? [$\geq 3.99 \times 10^8$ J]
 - c) What is its escape velocity from Earth, at this point? [2.82×10^2 m/s]