

# To Infinity and Beyond!

Newton's law of universal gravitation states that every particle attracts every other particle in the universe with a force that is directly proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between their centers.



$$F = \frac{GMm}{x^2}$$

We know that the force  $F(x)$  on a satellite varies with its distance  $x$  from the center of the earth according to

$F(x) = \frac{GMm}{x^2}$ , where  $G$  is the gravitational constant, i.e.,  $G = 6.67 \cdot 10^{-11}$  Newtons  $\text{kg}^{-2}\text{m}^2$ ,

$M$  is the mass of the earth in kg, i.e.,  $M = 5.97 \cdot 10^{24}$  kg,

$m$  is the mass of the satellite in kg, and

$x$  is the distance in meters between them.

- a. As a satellite is lifted off into space and  $x$  increases, what does the graph of  $F(x)$  look like?

Recall  $F$  is the weight of the satellite when it is  $x$  meters from the center of the earth.

- b. Suppose a satellite is at the surface of the earth. Assume the radius of the earth is  $R = 6.371 \cdot 10^6$  m. What is the gravitational force, in Newtons, of the satellite at this value of  $x$ ? Report as a multiple of the mass (in kg) of the satellite. Round your value in the box to **two** decimal places.

$$F = (\text{mass of satellite}) \cdot \boxed{\phantom{000000}} \text{ Newtons}$$

- c. Report the gravitational force on a satellite when it is at an altitude of  $d = 1.48 \cdot 10^6$  m above the earth's surface. Report as a multiple of the mass (in kg) of the satellite. Round your value in the box to **two** decimal places.

$$F = (\text{mass of satellite}) \cdot \boxed{\phantom{000000}} \text{ Newtons}$$

- d. Report the work required to lift a 1325-kg satellite from the earth's surface to an altitude of  $d = 1.48 \cdot 10^6$  m above the earth's surface.  
(Round to two decimal places.)

- e. Report the work required to lift a 1325-kg satellite from the earth's surface to *outer space*.  
(Round to two decimal places.)