

## #2: Gravity & Energy

Recall from Lecture 1:

$$m_e = 5.97 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg} \quad r_e = 6.37 \times 10^6 \text{ m}$$

$$|\vec{F}_b| = G \frac{m_e m_b}{r^2} = \left( 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N} \frac{\text{m}^2}{\text{kg}^2} \right) \frac{5.97 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg}}{(6.37 \times 10^6 \text{ m})^2} m_b = 9.8 \frac{\text{N}}{\text{kg}} m_b$$

$$g = G \frac{m_e}{r_e^2}$$

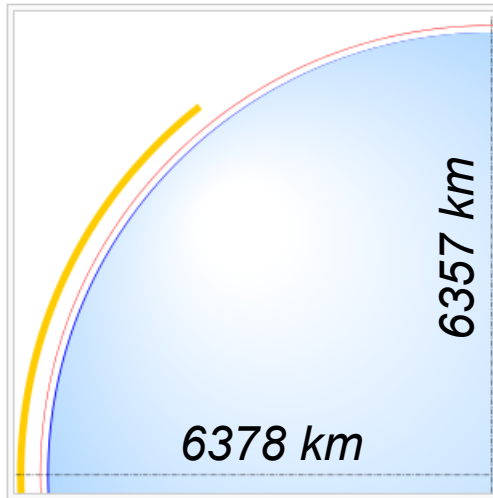
“Constant”  $g$  varies with distance from center of earth

**Table 13-1** Variation of  $a_g$  with Altitude

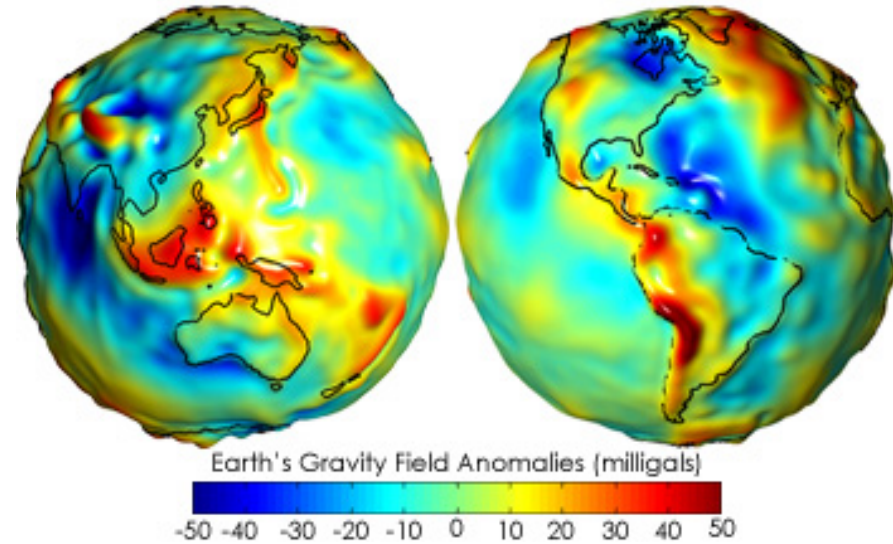
| Altitude (km) | $a_g$ (m/s <sup>2</sup> ) | Altitude Example         |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0             | 9.83                      | Mean Earth surface       |
| 8.8           | 9.80                      | Mt. Everest              |
| 36.6          | 9.71                      | Highest crewed balloon   |
| 400           | 8.70                      | Space shuttle orbit      |
| 35 700        | 0.225                     | Communications satellite |

Reality is more complicated

1. Earth is not a perfect sphere



2. Earth's mass is not distributed uniformly

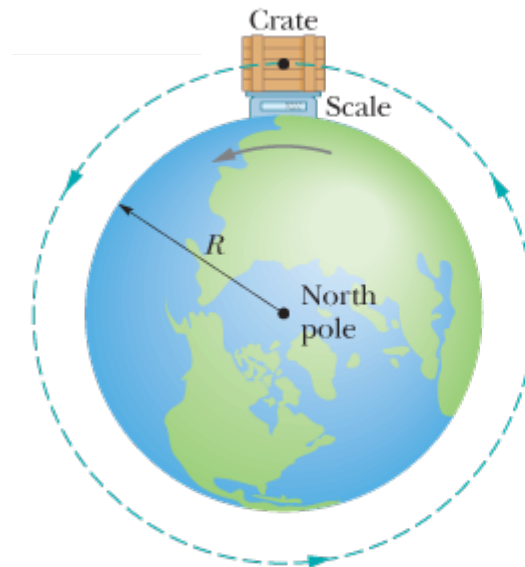


3. The Earth rotates

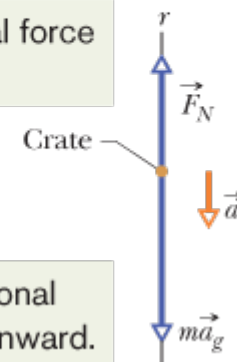
$$\vec{F}_{net} = \vec{F}_N - ma_g = -m\omega^2 r$$

$$\vec{F}_N = ma_g - m\omega^2 r$$

$$\omega^2 r = \left( \frac{2\pi}{86,400s} \right)^2 r_e = 0.03 \frac{m}{s^2}$$



The normal force is upward.



The gravitational force is downward.

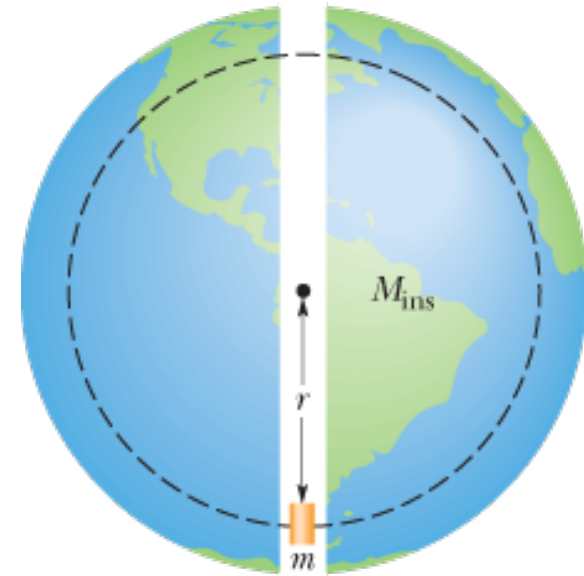
The net force is toward the center. So, the crate's acceleration is too.

Let's take a journey through the earth.

As you go into earth, does the force that you feel from gravity:

- A. Increase,
- B. Decrease,
- C. Stay the same?

At a radius  $r$ , only mass enclosed contributes



**If** the density of earth was uniform:

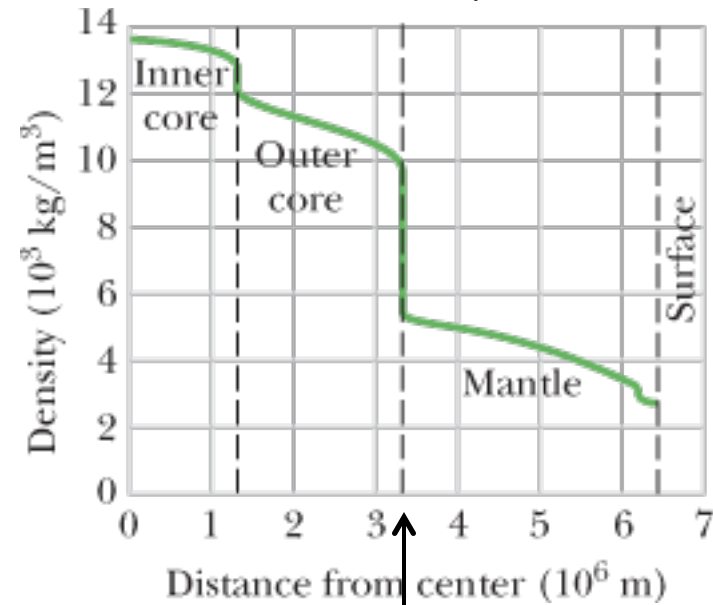
$$m_{enc} = \rho \left( \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \right) = m_e \frac{r^3}{r_e^3}$$

$$a_r = G \frac{m_{enc}}{r^2} = G \rho \left( \frac{4}{3} \pi r \right)$$

$$a_g = G \frac{m_e}{r_e^2} = G \rho \left( \frac{4}{3} \pi r_e \right)$$

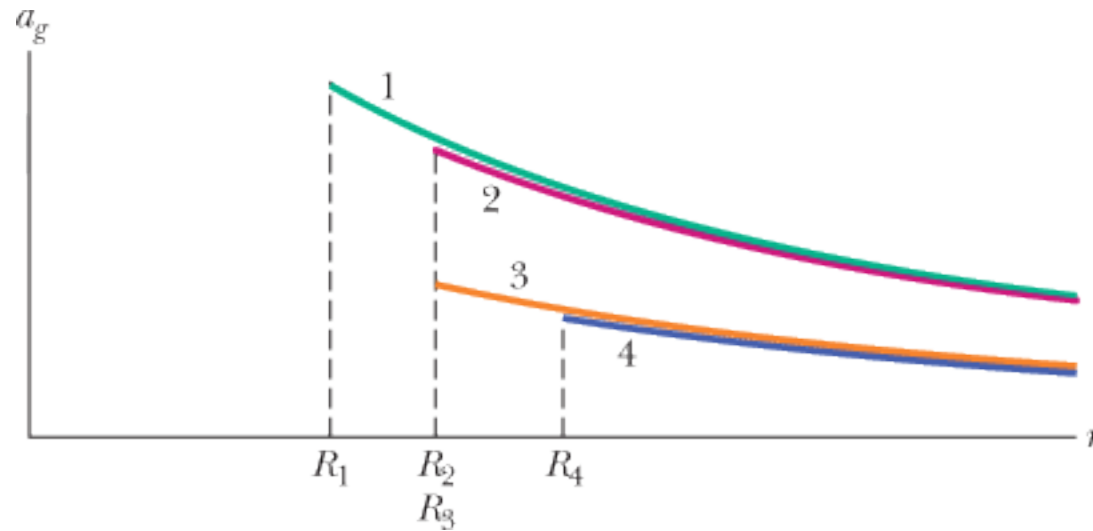
$$\left. \begin{array}{l} a_r \\ a_g \end{array} \right\} \frac{a_r}{a_g} = \frac{r}{r_e}$$

**But** this is a bad assumption:  
30% of mass in core (10% volume)



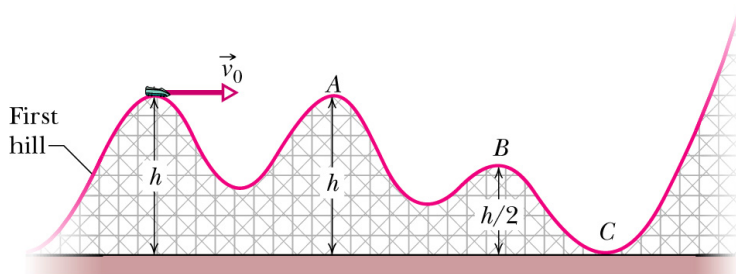
$a_r = ?$

The figure gives the gravitational acceleration  $a_g$  for four planets as a function of the radial distance  $r$  from the center of the planet, starting at the surface of the planet (at radius  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ , or  $R_4$ ). Rank the four planets according to: (a) mass and (b) mass per unit volume, greatest first.



# Gravitational Potential Energy

Near the surface of the earth



$$\vec{F}_g = -mg\hat{j} = \text{constant}$$

$$W_g = \vec{F}_g \cdot \vec{d} = mg(h_i - h_f)$$

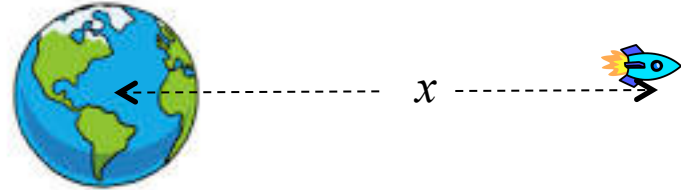
$$U_g = mgh \quad W_g = -\Delta U$$

$E = K + U > 0$  for rocket to leave Earth

$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 > G\frac{Mm}{r_i}$$

Escape speed  $v > \sqrt{\frac{2GM}{r_i}} = (11 \text{ km/s})$

**NOT** Near the surface of the Earth



Let's send a rocket into space!

$$dW_g = \vec{F}_g \cdot d\vec{r} = -G\frac{Mm}{r^2} dr$$

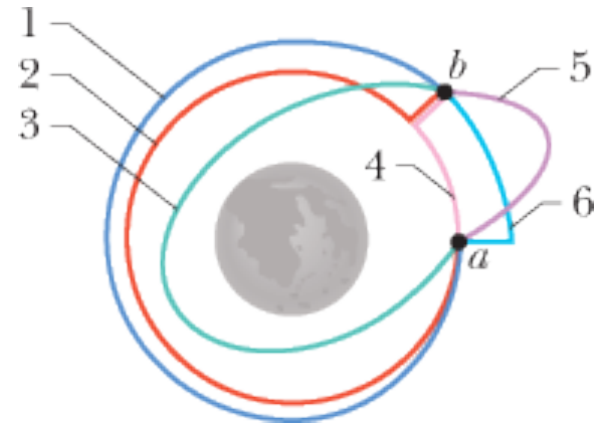
$$W_g = \int \vec{F}_g \cdot d\vec{r} = -GMm \int_{r_i}^{\infty} r^{-2} dr$$

$$W_g = GMmr^{-1} \Big|_{r_i}^{\infty} = -G\frac{Mm}{r_i}$$

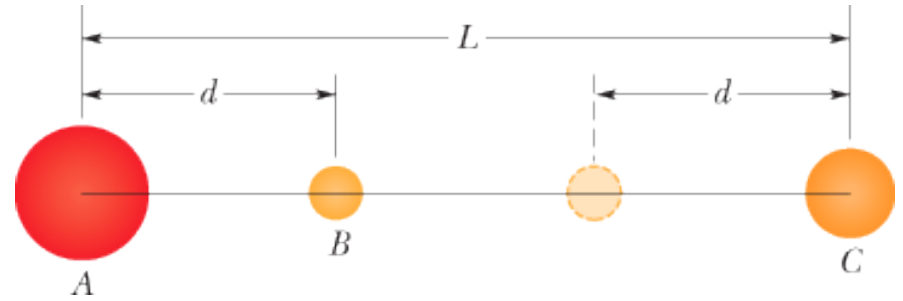
$$W_g = -\Delta U = U_i = -G\frac{Mm}{r_i}$$

$$U_g = -G\frac{Mm}{r}$$

The figure shows six paths by which a rocket orbiting a moon might move from point a to point b. Rank the paths according to (a) the corresponding change in the gravitational potential energy of the rocket-moon system and (b) the net work done on the rocket by the gravitational force from the moon, greatest first.



The three spheres with masses  $m_A = 80\text{g}$ ,  $m_B = 10\text{g}$ , and  $m_C = 20\text{g}$ , have their centers on a common line, with  $L = 12\text{ cm}$  and  $d = 4.0\text{ cm}$ . You move sphere B along the line until its center-to-center separation from C is  $4.0\text{ cm}$ . How much work is done on sphere B: (a) by you and (b) by the net gravitational force on B due to spheres A and C?



$$U_g = -G \frac{Mm}{r} \quad \Rightarrow \quad U_T = -G \left( \frac{m_1 m_2}{r_{12}} + \frac{m_2 m_3}{r_{23}} + \frac{m_1 m_3}{r_{13}} \right) \quad (3 \text{ particles})$$

The figure gives the potential energy function  $U(r)$  of a 25.0 kg projectile, plotted outward from the surface of a planet of radius  $R_s$ .

(a) What speed is required of a projectile launched at the surface if the projectile is to “escape” the planet? (b) If the particle is launched at half that speed, what will be its turning point relative to  $R_s$ ?

