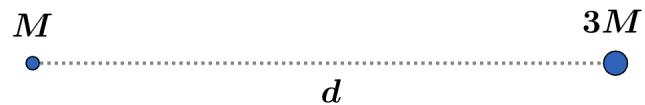


2009 F=ma Exam: Problem 21

Kevin S. Huang



Recall the gravitational potential energy between two masses M and m separated by distance r is

$$U = -\frac{GMm}{r}$$

In our case, we have

$$U = -\frac{3GM^2}{d}$$

so the answer is D.