

An object is thrown vertically upwards from the surface of the earth, with a speed(V_0). If its speed at a height (h) is(V), then show that

$$V_0^2 - V^2 = \frac{2GM}{R^2} \left(\frac{h}{1+h/R} \right) = \frac{2gh}{1+h/R}$$

Solution

Using the energy conservation law (R_{earth} is the radius of Earth, M is the mass of Earth) we obtain

$$\frac{mv_0^2}{2} - \frac{mv^2}{2} = \frac{GmM}{R_{earth}} - \frac{GmM}{R_{earth} + h} \Rightarrow$$

$$v_0^2 - v^2 = \frac{2GMh}{R_{earth}(R_{earth} + h)}$$

We have

$$\frac{GM}{R_{earth}^2} = g \Rightarrow$$

$$v_0^2 - v^2 = \frac{2g}{\left(1 + \frac{h}{R_{earth}}\right)}$$

Answer

$$v_0^2 - v^2 = \frac{2g}{\left(1 + \frac{h}{R_{earth}}\right)}$$