Answer on Question 76300, Physics, Other

Question:

Two objects have equal masses and experience a gravitational force of 25 *N* towards one another. Their centers are 36 *cm* apart. Determine each of their masses.

Solution:

We can find the masses of the objects from the Newton's universal law of gravitation:

$$F_{attr} = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2},$$

here, $G = 6.67 \cdot 10^{-11} \ Nm^2/kg^2$ is the gravitational constant; $m_1 = m_2 = m$ are the masses of the objects, respectively; r is the distance between the centers of the objects.

Then, we get:

$$F_{attr} = G \frac{m^2}{r^2},$$

$$m = \sqrt{\frac{F_{attr}r^2}{G}} = \sqrt{\frac{25 N \cdot (0.36 m)^2}{6.67 \cdot 10^{-11} \frac{Nm^2}{kg^2}}} = 2.2 \cdot 10^5 kg.$$

Answer:

$$m = 2.2 \cdot 10^5 \, kg.$$

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