

Question:

Imagine sitting with two friends around a table, where all three of you have different masses. Calculate the magnitude and direction of the gravitational field in the centre of the table due to your three masses

Solution:

The intensity of the gravitational field equals to  $\vec{I} = G \frac{m}{r^3} \vec{r}$  where  $m$  is a mass producing the field,  $\vec{r}$  is the proper radius-vector, directed from the center to  $m$ . Respectively the net intensity is

$$\vec{I}_n = G \sum_1^3 \frac{m_i}{r_i^3} \vec{r}_i, \text{ the magnitude of the gravitational field in the centre M is } M = \text{mod}(\vec{I}_n)$$

and the direction corresponds to  $\vec{I}_n$  direction.

The answer:

The net intensity is  $\vec{I}_n = G \sum_1^3 \frac{m_i}{r_i^3} \vec{r}_i$ , the magnitude of the gravitational field in the centre M is

$M = \text{mod}(\vec{I}_n)$  and the direction corresponds to  $\vec{I}_n$  direction.