

SECTION OVERVIEW

5.8: The Gravitational Potentials Near Various Bodies

Because potential is a scalar rather than a vector, potentials are usually easier to calculate than field strengths. Indeed, in order to calculate the gravitational field, it is sometimes easier first to calculate the potential and then to calculate the gradient of the potential.

Topic hierarchy

[5.8.1: Potential Near a Point Mass](#)

[5.8.2: Potential on the Axis of a Ring](#)

[5.8.3: Plane Discs](#)

[5.8.4: Infinite Plane Lamina](#)

[5.8.5: Hollow Hemisphere](#)

[5.8.6: Rods](#)

[5.8.7: Solid Cylinder](#)

[5.8.8: Hollow Spherical Shell](#)

[5.8.9: Solid Sphere](#)

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