

[mex51] Unstable circular orbit

The central force potential $V(r) = -\kappa/r^4$ has an unstable circular orbit of radius R centered at the center of force. (a) Find the angular momentum ℓ , the energy E , and the period τ of this circular orbit. (b) Find a second orbit $r(\vartheta)$ for the same values of E and ℓ which starts at the center of force and approaches the circular orbit of radius R asymptotically.

Solution: