

14. We follow the method shown in Sample Problem 13-3. Thus,

$$a_g = \frac{GM_E}{r^2} \Rightarrow da_g = -2 \frac{GM_E}{r^3} dr$$

which implies that the change in weight is

$$W_{\text{top}} - W_{\text{bottom}} \approx m(da_g).$$

But since $W_{\text{bottom}} = GmM_E/R^2$ (where R is Earth's mean radius), we have

$$mda_g = -2 \frac{GmM_E}{R^3} dr = -2W_{\text{bottom}} \frac{dr}{R} = -2(600 \text{ N}) \frac{1.61 \times 10^3 \text{ m}}{6.37 \times 10^6 \text{ m}} = -0.303 \text{ N}$$

for the weight change (the minus sign indicating that it is a decrease in W). We are not including any effects due to the Earth's rotation (as treated in Eq. 13-13).