

so let us begin the last lecture in this series of discussions on gravitation

so what we are going to do today is to wind up the discussion on gravitational potential energy and then the escape velocity following which i am going to discuss a little bit about satellites and finally the implications of newtonian gravity to cosmology because after all we call it as universal law therefore it is a good question to ask what it tells us about the large scale structure of the universe there is yet another topic which is quite important although we may not realize at this particular point and that is the concept of weightlessness

so this goes back to the equivalence principle that we discussed at the very beginning of this set of lectures

so we will also discuss that what we did was to start looking at escape velocity essentially almost everything that we discussed will be using gravitational potential energy concept

so what i did was to imagine that i have the surface of the earth this is my radius  $r$  and there is a body here which has to be short let us say perpendicular to the surface at that very particular point so that it escapes away to infinity escapes away to infinity which means to say that as time becomes larger and larger it goes farther and farther away it will not be bounded by any distance if it gets bounded by some distance of course either it will return if it is shot perpendicularly upwards or if it has a horizontal velocity it may either return or it may get into an elliptic orbit and that is what we mean by satellites when it gets into an orbit but right now we are interested in the escape velocity

so escape velocity is the minimum velocity which is required to free this body whatever let me call it as  $a$  from the gravitational field of the earth so what we did was to look at the kinetic energy and potential energy at the surface

so we wrote  $\frac{1}{2} m v^2 - \frac{G M m}{r_e}$  where  $r_e$  is the radius of the earth this is the total energy of the body and that should be conserved as the body moves along the field of the earth's gravitational field but now i am asking for the minimum energy and therefore the minimum kinetic energy and therefore the minimum velocity which i call the escape velocity and that would happen if the particle were at rest far far away from the earth therefore we put this equal to zero

so once you do this as observed my masses are going to cancel and we get a neat expression escape velocity is simply given by  $\sqrt{2 g R}$  mass of the earth

so let me write  $e$  clearly divided by  $r$  of  $e$

so as we said the escape velocity is independent of the mass of the body which is trying to go away a rocket let us say we may not like to remember all possible values for example you have the gravitational constant you have the mass of the earth you have the radius of the earth so what we can do is to rewrite it in terms of another constant  $g$  which you are all completely familiar with and that is the acceleration due to gravity at the surface of the earth

so i am basically revising whatever we did in the last lecture

so we are going to write  $m g$  equal to  $\frac{G M m}{R^2}$  in writing this we are of course assuming that the earth is a perfect sphere and it is not too bad in approximations again i cancel

so  $g$  is nothing but  $\frac{G M}{R^2}$  therefore i can write my escape velocity to be  $\sqrt{2 g R}$  and we all know  $g$  is of the order of  $10$  meters per second square that is what it is  $g$  equal to  $10$  meters per second

square and radius of the earth is roughly 6400 kilometer  
so if you substitute you will get a velocity around eleven point two eleven  
point three eleven point six etcetera etcetera  
so whatever it is  
so it let us say it is of the order of eleven point five kilometers per  
second and we got an idea of how large or how small this velocity is by  
comparing it with some of the known velocities of the very fast flowing jet  
planes and cars  
so on and  
so forth in fact it is large enough to require us to develop very special  
technologies rocket technologies in order to escape for example when the  
apollos were launched by the united states by nasa they had to really work  
hard because the rocket had to escape from the gravitational field of the  
earth and go as far as the moon is  
so this is what we have of course if we were to try to escape from the  
surface of the moon then moon is much much lighter than the earth therefore  
the escape velocity will become smaller probably about a few kilometers per  
second i am not very sure of that and it is generally argued that it is for  
this reason that the moon does not have any atmosphere of course we should  
be very careful about making such a statement because that assumes that a  
2.5 kilometers or whatever that magnitude is available to the gas molecules  
that would depend on the temperature of the gas rms velocity of the gas  
so presumably what you should do is to go back look up your books look up  
the internet and check what the temperature of the moon is because on one  
side it is very very cold and dark on the other side is always bright it is  
always one side of the moon that faces the sun the other sign is perillary  
dark because its period of rotation is roughly the same as the period of  
revolution that is the reason so probably the temperature is large enough  
for the gas molecules to escape  
so please work that out and convince yourself to check whether such a reasoning  
is correct or not  
so nothing should be taken at its face value now this 11.5 kilometer per  
second the number that i obtained assumes that the earth is stationary it is  
at rest but what is reality reality is that the earth rotates about its axis at  
this point will ignore the fact that the axis is tilted at 23.5 degrees that of  
course is extraordinarily important because it is distilled that is  
responsible for seasons etcetera etcetera let us ignore that particular  
fact note earth is rotating about its axis therefore earth is not an  
inertial frame earth is not an inertial frame because if there is an observer  
who looks at us since we are born to the earth we are moving toward together  
with the earth with the same angular velocity  
so let me indicate that my earth is rotating  
so these are my latitudes these are my longitudes  
so let me look at this point on the equator which is very very convenient my  
earth is rotating about this particular axis let us say then we know that  $v$   
equal to  $\omega r$  that is what we have in fact i should treat it as  $r \omega$   
there is a certain velocity and my acceleration is given by  $\omega^2 r$   
so there is a certain force that is acting on us because of which we are  
rotating together with the earth we are a part of the earth and there is a  
continuous pin that is taking place but from the viewpoint of the earth  
surface itself we are not accelerating and remember this acceleration is  
inverse this is inverse acceleration because anything that has a circular  
motion experiences a centripetal force which is inverse  
so from the pure point viewpoint of an observer in the free space in the outer

space the earth is rotating  
 so we are like a mass tied to a string from the center of the earth  
 so we are going round and round and round there is a centripetal force  
 acting on us and that acceleration is given by  $a = \omega^2 r$   
 again you can write an  $m$  and then  $m$  and you can cancel that and that is one  
 feature which is common between the centripetal force and also the  
 gravitational force it is given by  $\omega^2 r$  whatever it is however  
 from the viewpoint of the earth we are not accelerating we are at rest but  
 in every frame of reference if you want to balance all the forces that means we  
 have to include a fictitious force which is balancing this physical force  
 this is a physical force coming from the spin of the earth there must be a  
 fictitious force  
 so what we are saying is that in the earth frame this is a very very  
 important concept in the earth frame we are at rest and therefore there is a  
 fictitious what is fictitious means unreal it is not a real force it does not  
 have any physical origin like gravitation or electrostatic force or a spring  
 mass system unreal force which cancels the physical force the physical  
 centripetal force which cancels the centripetal force that is what it is  
 so this physical force is acting on it and this is what is called as a  
 centrifugal force this centrifugal force is acting outwards and therefore what  
 we have is if i look at the surface of the earth then what is happening  
 there is a gravitational force which is acting inwards there is a  
 centrifugal force which is acting outwards which is given by  $m \omega^2 r$   
 where  $\omega$  is simply the angular frequency of the rotation of the earth  
 that is what we have therefore i would like to leave it as an exercise for  
 you people to find out what is  $g$  effective  
 so let me write that for you  
 so what we have is you have the earth here  
 so the gravitational force is acting inwards the centrifugal force is acting  
 outwards  
 so my  $g$  effective is nothing but  $g$  minus the acceleration coming from the  
 centrifugal force which i will write it as  $\omega^2 r$  that is what i  
 should write  
 so please remember  $\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}$  and the period is simply given by  
 24 hours which is 24 into 3600 seconds that is what we have now if you  
 plug it in and find out the escape velocity  
 so please take it as an exercise if you plug it in and look at the escape  
 velocity this will decrease  
 so i am not going to work it out as i told you but the answer is that it  
 will decrease decrease by about a kilometers per second i think eleven point  
 or eleven point three will become ten point four or ten point five it's  
 about a kilometer per second that is what we have to remember now this  
 requires a little bit more analysis  
 so if i am sitting on the surface of the earth here the centrifugal force is  
 everywhere acting in this direction in fact and the magnitude of the  
 centrifugal force keeps on decreasing and in fact here the force is zero  
 because  $\omega$  is equal to constant but  $v$  equal to zero because the velocity is  
 equal to zero force equal to zero that means as you move from equator and  
 you go towards the pole you are escape velocity assuming that everything is  
 thrown upwards becomes smaller and smaller so this is another exercise the  
 two people can work out and what you find is that there is a not too  
 insignificant but not too large variation from the equator to the north pole  
 so please work it out  
 so the problem is difference between the escape velocities at the equator and

the poles by the same token the escape velocity will also depend on how you throw the object for example i can throw it in this direction or in this direction

so this is another thing that you can look at

so again you can add your forces vectorially and you can find out what happens

so one is the equator and the pole and another is direction of let us call it ejection direction of ejection

so please work out both these problems and then you will get a fair understanding of the concept of escape velocity the computation of this was extraordinarily important because as i told you this is what led to the development of the great technology starting from 1950s or even earlier that was made use of in order to develop the rockets that would escape from the surface of the earth there was one indian who was quite an expert in rocket technology not to send it out of the earth but as a military tool and that was the great tipu sultan

so that is something that is celebrated by the rocket community that he had developed very very efficient rockets because he had worked out the trajectory

so well that it would go and hit the enemy installations

so this is about the escape velocity what i want to now do is to look at the concept of potential energy and equilibrium in a slightly greater detail and this has some very interesting and important lessons for us which tells us that we should be very very careful in drawing conclusions without doing without looking at things carefully so let me start with two masses let us say of capital  $M$  and let me look at a small mass  $m$  right at the midpoint we would like to contrast this with two equal charges  $q$   $q$  now i have to be careful in the case of masses i do not have to worry because gravitation is always attractive electrostatic is both repulsive and attractive and what i will do i will put a small charge which is also of the same sign here all the charges are of the same sign basically what we are saying is that the larger charges the plus queues capital  $q$ 's and capital  $M$ 's are fixed they are not free to move take them to be very very heavy here take the charges to be very very heavy but whatever is in the middle is free to move and let us look at a rectilinear motion let us say that this charge is straight to your bead this mass is straight to your bead and then these small masses are there now what is happening in the second case is that both the charges at the end are repelling the central charge

so what happens if i move a smaller charge to a certain extent in this direction then what happens the repulsion here becomes smaller but the repulsion here becomes larger therefore the particle tends to move to the right and if the charge moves to the left then the repulsion here becomes larger therefore it starts moving to the right

so whatever your displacement is the restoring force is in the opposite direction in fact it is a very simple example which all of you people work out many many times it executes a simple harmonic motion

so if the perturbations are small it is going to execute a simple harmonic motion that means we say that this point the middle point where the total force is equal to zero where the force is equal to zero is a stable equilibrium position stable equilibrium position as far as one dimensional motion is concerned now of course i cannot dictate that this small  $q$  should move only along the line connecting plus  $q$  the two charges for example it can move in this direction or let us say in this direction a simple analysis will tell you that if it did that the particle will escape away in other words this

stability is guaranteed only if it is constrained to move along the line connecting the two charges even the slightest displacement either above or below this particular line will make the charge move away all that you have to do is to make use of your law of addition of forces add them vectorially you will see that it is not going to work out so one says that electrostatics does not give you a stable equilibrium now what you can do you can try to find out of course this is not a general result the general result that any configuration of charges will not give rise to stable equilibrium is something that you will study probably in your 12 standard or if not when you go for a higher studies but the point in the case of gravitation is even more dramatic because even along a line there is no stable equilibrium because what happens at this point the total force is equal to zero the minute i move my mass slightly in this direction the attractive force from this becomes weaker the attractive force from this becomes stronger so it will simply continue to move in this direction it will never come back so you give the most gentle push the most gentle nudge the particle will go away in this direction and again you can play around for example by putting two masses here two masses here so on and so forth you will find that in any such configuration it is not possible to have a stable equilibrium position there are always points of total zero force but then a slight disturbance from the total zero force is going to disturb the equilibrium and that is a consequence of gravitational law that is something that we have to remember now when newton formulated his great laws the first law the second law and the third law he had the idea of absolute space with respect to which everything moves and the big question that was raised was what is the frame of reference that gives me absolute space because after all there are so many frames of reference so if there is water flowing and then there is a boat water is flowing with respect to the bank the boat is flowing with respect to water let us say this all at uniform velocities so on and so forth in fact this is not a example just given out of the blue because for example aryabhatta says that just as for a person in a boat in a stream all objects at the banks appear to move in a similar manner because the earth is rotating about its axis for a person on the earth the stars appear to go around the sun it is one of the most famous statements that you made so there is always relative motion and even if you look at our own earth the earth is rotating about its axis or the earth is going around the sun and the solar system is traversing around the milky way so on and so forth therefore if i say that there is an inertial frame of reference in which newton's laws are valid then i need a physical approximation if not a physical example a completely accurate example of an inertial frame because if it were not there this formulation would be useless so what did newton do newton looked up the sky and looked at the fixed stars we know that far far away the stars do not have any relative motion among themselves and they all appear to be at rest with each other and because it is because of this that we are able to have the ideas of constellation the shape remains fixed so we say we say aries taurus capricorn sagittarius or in our own language you say whatever okay these patterns are fixed so newton postulated that god has given the example of an absolute absolute space they deal with a capital d t okay inertial frame which is fixed in the

fixed frame of the stars because the stars are all fixed now the question is why is it that the stars are not moving even if they are all gravitationally attracting each other and the answer to that was that Newton said that the stars are all uniformly distributed in space

so if you imagine an infinite space and there is a uniform distribution of stars

so you take any point on the sky then there is a uniform distribution of stars all around up above below whatever whatever therefore the net force on the star is equal to zero

so he argued that look here net force on the stars is zero

so every star is at rest that is what Newton argued

so this is what is called as the static model of the universe and it is with respect to these fixed stars our okay maybe our galaxy moves our star moves our sun moves and we move

so this was in sense a sophisticated version of the Aristotelian area where the earth is fixed and everything is moving around the earth but you see

Newton's laws themselves tell us that such a model is untenable because if there were a slight perturbation then this equilibrium would be destroyed

let us say one star moved away a little bit then the neighboring stars would be perturbed and this perturbation would grow and it would be very very

difficult to sustain this idea of a static homogeneous isotropic universe

homogeneous means it is the same if you move along any given direction isotropic means it is the same in every particular direction

so that is the model that we gave and that is really a problem with Newtonian although at the first instance it appears to be extraordinarily convincing

there is a more sophisticated version of that due to Stephen Hawking but that you will study when you pass your 12 standard and go for higher studies and when you read something called the Gauss's law which you will do in your 12th standard actually

so making use of Gauss's law one can show that such a universe cannot be

stable and indeed as Hubble discovered the universe may be homogeneous and isotropic but all the stars are receding in fact the galaxies are all receding

from each other in a following a law called the Hubble law that is something that we have to remember

so stability is not guaranteed in the static case such a stability is not

challenged when there is dynamics for example our planetary orbit the earth

is probably a few billion years old a billion is  $10^9$  years

and it has been in a stable orbit and presumably it will continue to remain

in a stable orbit for many more billions of years eventually the stability will be lost

so we have to make a distinction between the static description of gravitation and the gravitational effect when things are in motion that is something

that we have to understand

so this is something which is useful for us to remember what I will now do is

to wind up the discussion on gravitation by looking at the concept of

satellites but there is one more piece of information that I would I should

probably give you it suddenly occurred to me and that is about the second

law second law of Kepler is of course a statement of conservation of angular

momentum but there is a certain qualitative understanding that you can have

by looking at gravitational potential energy

so which second law Kepler not Newton's second law Kepler's second law now

let us say that you have the sun and the planet is in a circular orbit now

what is happening along the orbit  $t$  is equal to constant what is  $t$  kinetic

energy  $v$  equal to constant my gravitational potential energy why because  $r$

is fixed because  $r$  is fixed  $v$  is constant because  $t$  plus  $v$  is a constant  $m$   $v$  squared by  $r$  and  $v$  is a constant that is what you write at any given distance but i told you that the keplerian orbits are not necessarily circular but it can also be elliptical

so what i will do is to now look at a highly elliptical orbit which is exaggerated okay the sun is sitting somewhere here it is one of the foci that is something that you study in your 12 standard in your conical geometry the point of the nearest approach is called perigee and the point of the farthest approach is called apogee all these concepts are well known even in ancient astronomy with respect to the earth this is called perihelion now with respect to the sun it is called perihelion helios is sun and this is called aphelion some of you may have heard of einstein's dental theory of relativity there he speaks of the shift of perihelion of mercury just in case you have heard now let us see what happens

so this is maximum distance i will call  $r_m$  or  $d_m$  and this is the minimum distance from the sun  $d$  minimum  $d$  maximum that is what i call now along the orbit my total energy should be conserved

so what is happening at this particular point you look at the gravitational potential energy at liquidal point to look at the gravitational energy again i will leave it as an exercise for you people to figure out where the body should be moving faster and where the body should be moving slower i will leave it as an exercise and in some sense you can relate it to the keplerian law which says equal areas are swept during equal intervals of time so this is one more thing that we can worry about now as the last topic let us look at satellite motion

so when we speak of satellites there are two kinds of satellites that we have to keep in mind and this word satellite is peculiar to our solar system because in principle all planets can be looked upon as satellites for the sun we are not worried about that particular part

so we are looking at the moons and the planets moons of the planets so planets have many many moons as i told you the earth has only one moon jupiter has probably 12 or such moons uranus also has many more moons so these are called natural satellites all moons are natural satellites and they are of great interest to us because they tell us a lot about the origin of the solar system if you study their behavior how they were formed so on and

so forth then we have what we call artificial satellites which we are able to launch and which we are able to put around the earth so these are launched by us the humans

so what it requires is rocket engineering about which i will make a few more statements in a short while now there is no reason to spend a lot of time trained to convince you that these satellites play an important role they play great role in communication in remote sensing in weather prediction in beaming all these programs for you the satellite communication so on and

so forth and of late over the last five or ten years when we are driving in a car and we are making use of gps that is also due to the satellites so basically what you have done is to put a whole area of satellites around the earth some of them are lola in some of them are very very far away depending on what the needs are these satellites talk to each other and then they are able to help us observe what is happening in the world all over the place monitor weather change monitor climate change and help us in communication so on and

so forth as i told you therefore it is a good time to spend a little bit of our time to understand what is happening of course there are more sophisticated satellites that one can launch for example if you imagine something like mangalyaan mars orbit mission you launched a rocket which went all the way up to the mass and then it orbited mars so it becomes a satellite of mars in order to understand the behavior the nature the topography of mass temperature whatever whatever the composition of the atmosphere

so on and so forth

so that is also of great interest and satellite technology of course requires very very advanced techniques and cooperation of a whole lot of scientists engineers

so on and so forth india is at the forefront of the countries that have mastered this technology

so you people will be reading in the newspaper how indian satellite launchers are able to launch not only our own satellites but satellites for google satellites for european countries satellites for american companies etc etc the most recent tweet was when one of our rocket launchers actually launched more than 100 mini satellites very very small satellites nano satellites all of it happened within a matter of five or six minutes actually you know like your gun shoots bullets

so this rocket was able to shoot the satellites and the important thing was that it was able to put them in the required orbits that is the challenge in technology

so we have a big organization and in fact we have a whole education institution dedicated to that indian institute of space science technology so those of you who really want to become astronomers astrophysicists aviation technologists should really study more and what i am going to tell you in the next few minutes is a glimpse of what i am what is happening one very important concept that we need is that of geostationary satellite

so when we say geostationary satellite what we are saying is that so let us say we have this earth i will make it into a big blob and we launch a satellite and the satellite goes around in an orbit at a distance  $d$  let us say from the center of the earth

so given this distance i know the period kepler's law newton's law of gravitation essentially gives me but then the earth itself is rotating about its axis

so what i want to do is to synchronize the period of the satellite with the period of the earth that means if i look up suppose i launched it above me and i saw it above me i will continue to see it above me the other person somewhere continues to see it at the same point because it is essentially co-moving with the earth as far as the angular motion is concerned

so these are called geostationary satellites

so how do we accomplish that the answer is very simple

so i should go back i am going to write  $m v^2$  by  $r$  is equal to  $g m_e m$  by  $r^2$  okay i use the distance  $d$

so  $r$  equal to  $d$  this is the distance from the center of the earth that is what i have i should put an  $r^2$  here

so i cancel this

so i cancel this and now i will write  $v$  equal to  $\omega r$  in fact that is what we were doing earlier also therefore what am i going to get i am going to get  $\omega^2 r$  squared is equal to  $g m_e$  by  $r^2$  that is what we have

so if you remember that  $\omega$  is equal to  $2\pi$  by  $t$  that is the period  
 so what is going to happen now  
 so this will tell me that  $4\pi^2$  by  $t^2$  is equal to  $g$   $m$   $e$  by  $r^3$   
 of course all of you would be highly familiar with this expression  $i$   
 may have a problem because you see  $t^2$  by  $r^3$  is a constant  $4\pi^2$   
 $gme$  is what you have  
 so if  $i$  were to write the expression for  $t$  what will this be my  $t^2$  is  
 essentially  $4\pi^2 r^3$  over  $g$  divided by the mass of the earth  
 so  $i$  do the square root  $i$  do the square root and  $i$  get the period  
 so what do  $i$  do now what  $i$  do is to demand that this  $t$  is equal to 24 hours  
 which is 24 into 3600 seconds that is what  $i$  will do the only parameter that  
 $i$  can change is  $r$  the distance from the surface of the earth  
 so well you know gravitational constant you know  $m$   $a$   $i$  cannot convert it into  
 acceleration due to gravity because this  $r$  is the distance from the surface  
 of the earth therefore if you want  $i$  can write  $r$  equal to  $r_e$  plus  $d$  that is  
 a better notation and this  $d$  is what  $i$  have to adjust  
 so  $i$  won't find spend any time working this out  
 so if you did that you will get  $d$  to be a very very large number of the order  
 of twenty eight thousand five hundred kilometers which is practically giving  
 the escape velocity just that it will also have a horizontal component of  
 the velocity because of which it will be in a circular orbit we have to  
 understand that that is what we are doing this is a very large number and  
 that means you need a really very very powerful rocket to launch this  
 so these are the geostationary orbits now what is the advantage of the  
 geostationary orbits the advantage has been very well described in your book  
 which  $i$  was looking up today you know our earth has an atmosphere and the  
 uppermost part of the atmosphere is your ionosphere basically ionized gas  
 so when you try to do radio communication ionosphere reflects radio waves so  
 suppose  $i$  beam send a beam here it gets reflected at this particular point and  
 it can reach depending on the direction at which event it can actually get  
 reflected and it can reach various parts of the earth that is how we are  
 going to propagate that through repeated reflections but televisions require  
 microwave range radiation in the microwave range and my ionosphere does not  
 reflect  
 so the big question is how is it that a satellite channel is able to beam its  
 programs all over the earth  
 so what you now do is to put a geostationary orbit and my satellite antenna  
 my emitting antenna is sitting here whatever that thing is broadcasting  
 antenna it sends microwaves which goes there now my satellite takes it  
 synthesizes it and beams it that is what it does  
 so you can imagine if you had for example two such transmission stations and  
 there are two such satellites that may not necessarily be the way it works  
 so this will take care of this part of the hemisphere this will take care of  
 this part of the hemisphere it can be again my ionosphere is not going to  
 interfere with the propagation of the microwave and you are able to see your  
 football matches or whatever program that you want  
 so this is the under advantage of geostationary satellite but as  $i$  said this  
 requires putting satellite at a very very large distance now there is  
 another category of satellites called polar satellites the geostationary  
 satellites are in the equatorial plane and they go round and round my polar  
 satellites  
 so if  $i$  did that their motion is from north south north south north  
 so at some point there will be about the north pole and they come down they  
 will be above the south pole

so on and

so forth that is this motion and these are all low level satellites  
so what is happening in the case of these low level satellites for the  
geostationary equatorial satellite it was sitting at the same latitude  
whereas here you are cutting across the latitude because you are moving north  
south or south north therefore you are able to monitor the weather depending  
on whatever your velocity at different times of the day at different parts of  
the earth it is useful for remote sensing it is useful for a whole lot of  
things for example i want to know the rate at which the continents are  
drifting i want to send signals and i want to get them back i want to know  
how the crowds are moving i want to know how the cyclones are developing these  
are all very very important for this this low level satellites may be 500  
000 kilometers is what they are they are launched barely about the atmosphere  
and these are also very important and india has launched a whole lot of them  
so much

so that recently when there was this highly threatening cyclone that was  
threatening to hit the orissa seashore there were a lot of foreign satellite  
weather monitoring centers which were saying that all the people should be  
evacuated because it is going to wreak havoc but the indian meteorology  
department was confident that such a thing would not happen they did not  
evacuate people and they were proved right because they were in possession of  
very very accurate data which came from the observation  
so these satellites are also very important  
so i think we have fairly conclude covered all the topics that we wanted to  
cover

so what i want to do is to conclude this lecture by one very simple concept  
namely weightlessness and probably if i have time i will also tell you  
something about the scientific creativity that one shows when one is  
launching satellites or rockets but first let us discuss weightlessness i  
had almost forgotten that now let us say that we have a spring mass system  
okay

so this is another block is that okay and this is in a table on a table  
whatever okay now if i were to move the table on the surface of the earth the  
whole table moves nothing happens to the spring mass system because it is  
simply moving equipotential surface and this is moving at a uniform velocity  
nothing happens to the spring mass system

so this distance remains the same and if it is in the equilibrium position it  
is in the equilibrium position however if i have an elevator and then i put  
a spring and i put a mass what is going to happen now this mass is going to  
come down that is the concept of weight because of the gravitation because  
here when this mass is free to move the top mass is not free to move therefore  
there is a tension that develops the gravitational pulls it a little bit  
down the potential energy is stored here and then the bob executes a motion  
oscillatory motion that is what is going to happen and the most important  
thing is that this is not free to move now suppose i remove the support and  
i drop the whole thing the top portion and the bottom portion

so the whole thing drops free fall that is what it is called they move with  
the same acceleration now there is no tension that is building up the  
equilibrium position remains the same there is no elongation in the spring  
or there is no compression in the spring and that means my weight this body has  
become weightless this body has become weightless and this is something that  
all of us experience for example when we suddenly trip and we are about to  
fall there is a momentary weightlessness

so what is essentially happening is that in the rest frame of the body there

is a centrifugal force which acts upwards which cancels the downward gravitational force exactly and there is practically no force that is acting on it

so this is what is called as weightlessness the mass remains the same but weight changes

so let us remember this is mass  $mg$  is the weight and we are saying that the body does not experience any acceleration because it is freely falling what i mean what do you mean by acceleration this body does not experience any acceleration with respect to the spring whatever the top bodies that is the weightlessness that we are speaking of and this is the same psychological feeling that we experience when for example as i told you there is a momentary free fall

so people who dive from a swimming pool on from the diving boards of a swimming pool tall diving boats of swimming pool experience this feeling of weightlessness very very well and this weightlessness is of course there even when you are in a free space because you are not going to experience any force therefore what we are essentially trying to say you may not be able to understand at this particular time is that a freely falling body is as good or as bad as a body in the body in a free space without gravitational field i will not say anything more than that this is the basis actually of einstein's principle of equivalence and general relativity but we'll leave it at that to conclude i want to give an example of ingenuity in rocket launching and that was in our mars orbit mission mangalyaan this is a very famous story you might have heard of it in newspapers or in on tv shows etcetera etcetera who is it that we are able to send a rocket to mars now once the body goes in free space there are no external forces acting on it therefore what you have to do it continues to move with uniform velocity but then if you want to reach your target as early as possible then you are in for trouble because in free space there is no other force

so what do you do you take a rocket and then you burn the fuel

so that this backward thrust actually gives you the enough acceleration that is what you do and this is exactly what nasa did when they sent of course their rocket was much heavier when they sent their rocket on mars mission what indian satellite scientists did was something slightly different they said that there is another way of actually accelerating

so what they did was this was my surface of the earth you launch a rocket and my sun is sitting here

so it goes sufficiently close such that the gravitational force of the sun is not negligible and this rocket was put in a highly elliptical orbit of the sun now the minute you are in a highly elliptical orbit of the sun gravitation comes and says there is acceleration there is acceleration and not only that the acceleration is natural you do not have to put anything because it goes round and round

so what you do is to wait until you get as close to mars as possible

so this mathematics you have to work out as soon as you reached as close to mars as possible because of this acceleration you did not have to spend any fuel on that because the sun's gravitation was doing the job then you fire some secondary rockets and put it on an orbit around the moon

so this was an extraordinary feat which was out of the box thinking as people say which was held apparently it also saved a lot of money

so there are big noise that are involved so the total money spent on mangalyaan was about 450 crore rupees whereas today even big hollywood or bollywood movies make have a budget of the same order if you look at any of the movies one example that was given was that of gravity i think this was deliberately

chosen because we are looking at the gravitational field the budget of this movie called gravity was much more than the budget of mangalia and in our own country recent bollywood movies have had budgets of 25 250 crores 300 crores of that variety so we see that it is one thing to know the principles it is another thing to put it to good use and that requires solving lots and lots of problems and constantly thinking on it i hope you would do that let us conclude this set of lectures on gravitation at this particular time best of luck you

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