

> restart;

Masses of each point

> $Ma := 1.3e8$;

$$Ma := 1.3 \cdot 10^8 \quad (1)$$

> $Mb := 2.5e8$;

$$Mb := 2.5 \cdot 10^8 \quad (2)$$

> $Mc := 8.6e7$;

$$Mc := 8.6 \cdot 10^7 \quad (3)$$

Define a coordinate system with B at the origin (0,0).

> $Bx := 0$;

$$Bx := 0 \quad (4)$$

> $By := 0$;

$$By := 0 \quad (5)$$

> $Cx := 2.4e5$;

$$Cx := 2.4 \cdot 10^5 \quad (6)$$

> $Cy := 0$;

$$Cy := 0 \quad (7)$$

Define theta as the angle within the triangle at B. Then by law of cosines:

> $\text{theta} := \text{solve}((4.3e5)^2 = (2.4e5)^2 + (5.6e5)^2 - 2 \cdot (2.4e5) \cdot (5.6e5) \cdot \cos(\text{theta}))$;

$$\theta := 0.8050428356 \quad (8)$$

Solve for the coordinates of point A.

> $Ax := (5.6e5) \cdot \cos(\text{theta})$;

$$Ax := 3.881250000 \cdot 10^5 \quad (9)$$

> $Ay := (5.6e5) \cdot \sin(\text{theta})$;

$$Ay := 4.036817860 \cdot 10^5 \quad (10)$$

Define the point of zero gravitational field strength as (Dx,Dy). In the following derivation we divide through by G m because it appears in all force terms. Then the force vector (over G m) experienced at (Dx,Dy) from asteroid A at (Ax,Ay) is:

$$Fa := \frac{Ma}{((Ax - Dx)^2 + (Ay - Dy)^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \cdot \text{Vector}([Ax - Dx, Ay - Dy]);$$

$$Fa := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1.3 \cdot 10^8 (3.881250000 \cdot 10^5 - Dx)}{((3.881250000 \cdot 10^5 - Dx)^2 + (4.036817860 \cdot 10^5 - Dy)^2)^{3/2}} \\ \frac{1.3 \cdot 10^8 (4.036817860 \cdot 10^5 - Dy)}{((3.881250000 \cdot 10^5 - Dx)^2 + (4.036817860 \cdot 10^5 - Dy)^2)^{3/2}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

The force vector (over G m) experienced at (Dx,Dy) from asteroid B at (0,0) is:

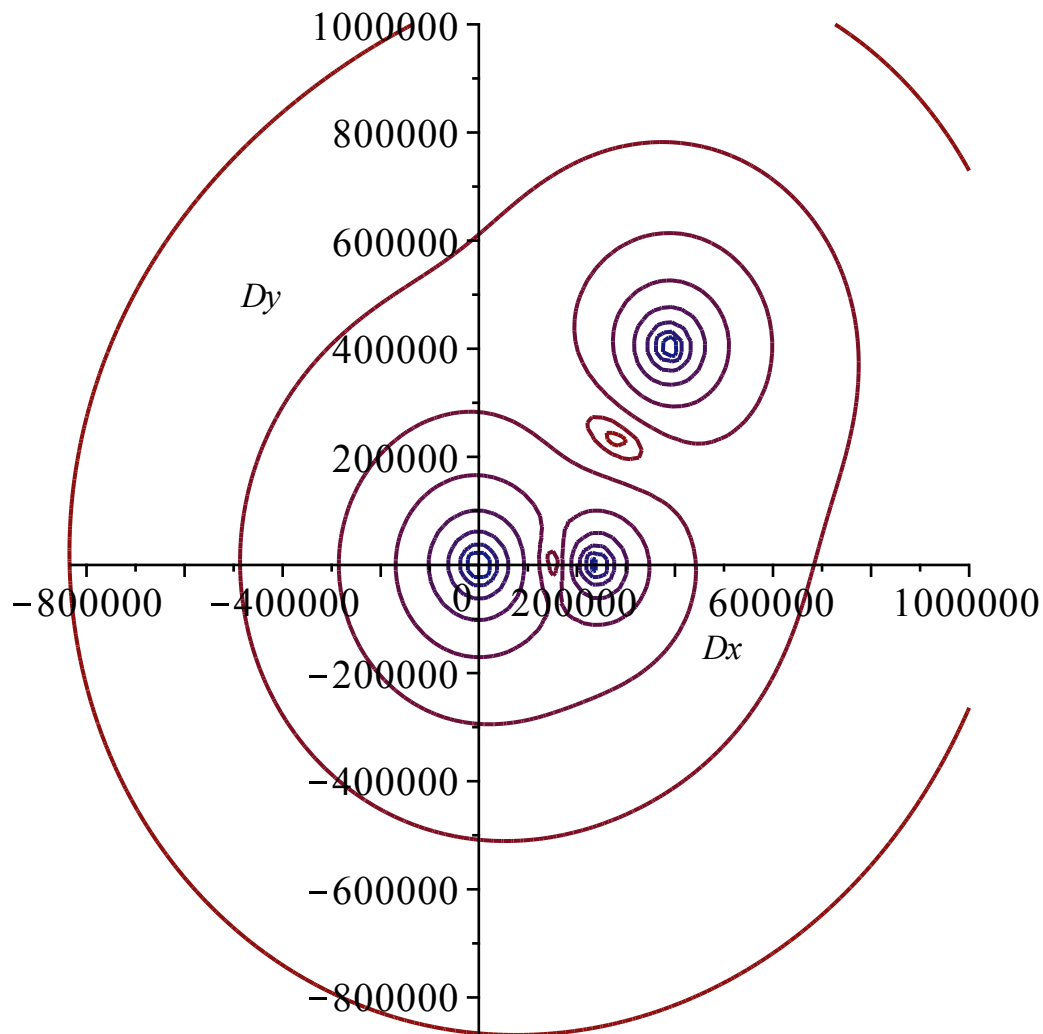
$$\begin{aligned}
 &> Fb := \frac{Mb}{((Bx - Dx)^2 + (By - Dy)^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \cdot \text{Vector}([Bx - Dx, By - Dy]); \\
 &Fb := \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{2.5 \cdot 10^8 Dx}{(Dx^2 + Dy^2)^{3/2}} \\ -\frac{2.5 \cdot 10^8 Dy}{(Dx^2 + Dy^2)^{3/2}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (12)
 \end{aligned}$$

The force vector (over G m) experienced at (Dx,Dy) from asteroid C at (2.4e5,0) is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &> Fc := \frac{Mc}{((Cx - Dx)^2 + (Cy - Dy)^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \cdot \text{Vector}([Cx - Dx, Cy - Dy]); \\
 &Fc := \begin{bmatrix} \frac{8.6 \cdot 10^7 (2.4 \cdot 10^5 - Dx)}{((2.4 \cdot 10^5 - Dx)^2 + Dy^2)^{3/2}} \\ -\frac{8.6 \cdot 10^7 Dy}{((2.4 \cdot 10^5 - Dx)^2 + Dy^2)^{3/2}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)
 \end{aligned}$$

Let's look at a contour plot of the total acceleration experienced by an object.

> `plots[contourplot](log(LinearAlgebra[VectorNorm](Fa + Fb + Fc, 2)), Dx=-10e5..10e5, Dy=-10e5..10e5, grid=[100, 100]);`



Solve numerically for the point (Dx,Dy) where the two components of the force vector ($F_a+F_b+F_c$) is zero.

$$\begin{aligned} &> \text{fsolve}(\{(F_a + F_b + F_c)[1], (F_a + F_b + F_c)[2]\}, \{Dx = 0, Dy = 0\}); \\ &\quad \{Dx = 1.505135703 \cdot 10^5, Dy = 2665.201050\} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

It turns out that there is a second solution which can be obtained using a different starting point

$$\begin{aligned} &> \text{fsolve}(\{(F_a + F_b + F_c)[1], (F_a + F_b + F_c)[2]\}, \{Dx = 3e5, Dy = 3e5\}); \\ &\quad \{Dx = 2.807474366 \cdot 10^5, Dy = 2.332357058 \cdot 10^5\} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$