What Gravity Does

All objects pull all other objects

The forces on two objects are
- equal in magnitude
- opposite in direction

Proportional to masses of each object

$$m_1 m_2$$

Inversely proportional to the distance-squared between their centres.

$$\frac{1}{r^2}$$

What Gravity Does

m_1

F

r

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

G is a "universal constant".
It's the same everywhere
for all time

$m_1 m_2$

–F

We think

$\frac{1}{r^2}$

m_2

What's G?

- Force between two 1-kg masses, 1 m apart —too small to measure
- On earth, $g = G\, m_{earth}/r^2_{earth}$
  —what r_{earth} do we use? (Newton solved this)
  —Have Gm_{earth} together, have to guess m_{earth}.
- Kepler's $K = Gm_{sun}/4\pi^2$ – similar problem

Enter
Henry's Torsion Balance

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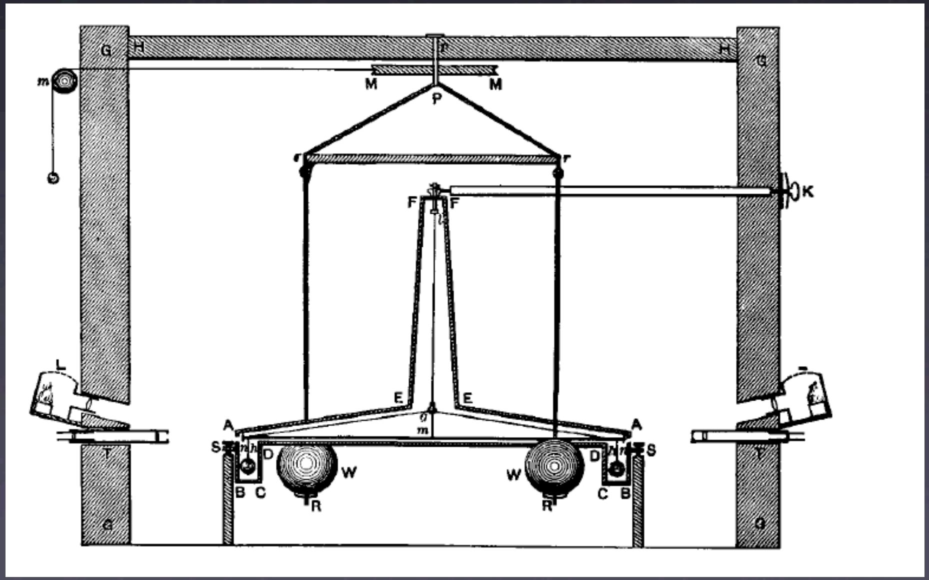
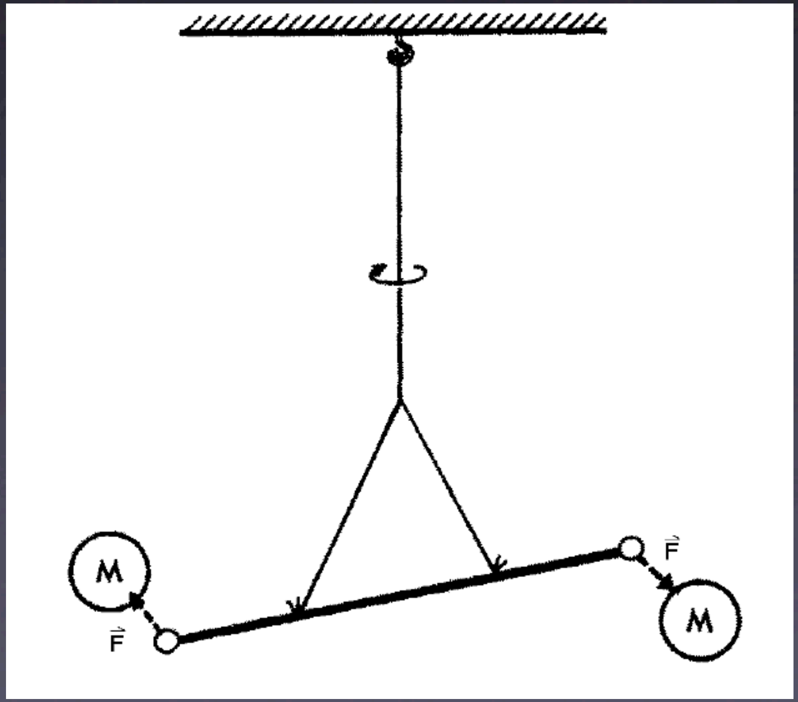
Henry Cavendish that is... (1798)





Enter
Henry's Torsion Balance

Henry Cavendish that is...

$G = 0.667 \times 10^{-10}\ N\text{-}m^2/kg^2$

Quiz

- Somewhere in space, 150 000 000 km from the sun is a stool
- On that stool is an ordinary spring scale
- And on that scale is a planet
- How much does the planet weight?

Answer

- The stool has a very weak gravitational field
- The planet is not heavy enough to crush the stool
- The planet weighs 45 N
- The planet's mass is 5.972 sextillion metric tonnes. (5.972×10^{24} kg)