

9. The gravitational forces on m_5 from the two 500-kg masses cancel each other. Contributions to the net force on m_5 come from the remaining two masses:

$$F_{\text{net}} = \frac{(6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{kg}^2)(250 \text{ kg})(300 \text{ kg} - 100 \text{ kg})}{(\sqrt{2} \times 10^{-2} \text{ m})^2} = 0.017 \text{ N} .$$

The force is directed along the diagonal between the 300 kg and 100 kg masses, towards the 300-kg mass.