

[mex16] Projectile in resistive medium

A particle of mass m is projected vertically upward with initial velocity v_0 against a uniform gravitational field g and against a resistive force

(a) $F(v) = -\beta v$, (b) $F(v) = -\gamma v^2$.

(i) In each case, calculate the following results for the maximum height h reached by the particle and the time T it takes to get there:

$$h_\beta = \frac{m}{\beta} \left[v_0 - \frac{mg}{\beta} \ln \left(1 + \frac{\beta}{mg} v_0 \right) \right], \quad T_\beta = \frac{m}{\beta} \ln \left(1 + \frac{\beta}{mg} v_0 \right).$$

$$h_\gamma = \frac{m}{2\gamma} \ln \left(1 + \frac{\gamma}{mg} v_0^2 \right), \quad T_\gamma = \sqrt{\frac{m}{g\gamma}} \arctan \left(\sqrt{\frac{\gamma}{mg}} v_0 \right).$$

(ii) Show that these results coincide in the limits $\beta \rightarrow 0$ and $\gamma \rightarrow 0$, respectively.

Solution: