

Given

 $\begin{array}{l} d = 23 \ m \\ \vec{v}_0 = 41 \hat{i} \ m/s \\ \vec{a} = -9.8 \hat{j} \ m/s^2 \end{array}$

Solution

Find the height, h, from which the arrow was fired.

The position vector is given by

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r_0} + \vec{v_0}t + \frac{1}{2}\vec{a}t^2$$
$$\vec{r} = h\hat{j} + \left\{41 \ m/s \ \hat{i}\right\}t + \frac{1}{2}\left\{-9.8 \ m/s^2 \ \hat{j}\right\}t^2$$

Regrouping gives

$$\vec{r} = \left\{ (41 \ m/s)t \ \hat{i} + (h - (4.9 \ m/s^2)t^2) \ \hat{j} \right\}$$

Using the x-component and setting it equal to 23 m, the time becomes

$$(41\ m/s)t=23\ m$$

$$t = 0.561 \ s$$

At this time, the final height is zero. Setting the y-component equal to zero and substituting in for time gives

$$h - (4.9 \ m/s^2)t^2 = 0$$

 $h = (4.9 \ m/s^2)(0.561 \ s)^2 = 1.54 \ m$

[†]Problem from Essential University Physics, Wolfson