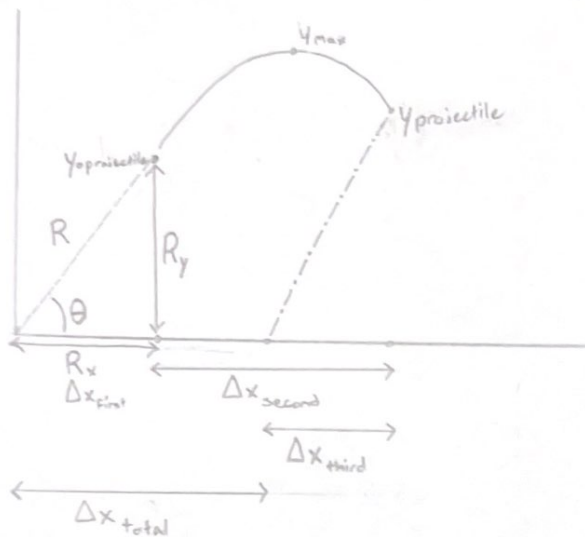


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 Multi-Stage Rocket Problem  
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## First Step

We first find the distance along the line that the rocket travels. We know that  $t_{\text{first}} = 8.1$  s,  $a_{\text{first}} = 6.4$  m/s<sup>2</sup>, and  $v_0 = 0$  m/s, as the rocket was launched from rest. We use the  $v_0 - v$  equation to solve for  $d$  (modified slightly to avoid using  $x$  or  $y$  as variables).

From here, we have a vector problem. We know that  $R = d = 209.952$  m and  $\theta = 51^\circ$ . We then solve for the vector components and take  $R_x = \Delta x_{\text{first}}$  and  $R_y = \Delta y_{\text{first}}$ . Since  $y_0 = 0$  m, we have  $y_{\text{first}} = \Delta y_{\text{first}}$  as well.

Finally, we solve for  $v_{\text{first}}$ , the velocity at the end of the first stage. Since we have  $t_{\text{first}} = 8.1$  s,  $a_{\text{first}} = 6.4$  m/s<sup>2</sup>, and  $v_0 = 0$  m/s, we use the  $v_0 - v$  equation to find  $v_{\text{first}}$ .

$$d = v_0 + \frac{1}{2} a t^2$$

$$d = 0 + \frac{1}{2} (6.4)(8.1)^2$$

$$d = 209.952 \text{ m}$$

$$R_x = R \cos \theta^\circ$$

$$R_x = 209.952 \cos 51^\circ$$

$$R_x = 132.127 \text{ m}$$

$$\Delta x = 132.127 \text{ m}$$

$$R_y = R \sin \theta^\circ$$

$$R_y = 209.952 \sin 51^\circ$$

$$R_y = 163.163 \text{ m}$$

$$\Delta y = 163.163 \text{ m}$$

$$y_{\text{first}} = 163.163 \text{ m}$$

$$v = v_0 + a t$$

$$v = 0 + 6.4(8.1)$$

$$v_{\text{first}} = 51.84 \text{ m/s}$$

## Second Step

First, we solve for  $y_{\max}$  given that  $\theta = 51^\circ$ ,  $v_0 = 51.84 \text{ m/s}$  and  $y_{\text{projectile}} = y_{\text{first}} = 163.163 \text{ m}$ , and using  $a_y = -9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ . We use the no-t equation, plugging in  $v_0 \sin \theta$  for  $v_{0y}$ , and using  $v_y = 0$  to get the  $\Delta y$  from  $y_{\text{projectile}}$  to  $y_{\max}$ .

Then, we add  $\Delta y_{\text{second}}$  to  $y_{\text{projectile}}$  to get  $y_{\max}$ .

$$v_y^2 = v_{0y}^2 + 2a\Delta y$$

$$0^2 = (51.84 \sin 51^\circ)^2 + 2(-9.8)\Delta y$$

$$0 = (40.287)^2 - 19.6 \Delta y$$

$$\Delta y_{\text{second}} = \frac{(40.287)^2}{19.6}$$

$$\Delta y_{\text{second}} = 82.808 \text{ m}$$

$$y_{\max} = y_{\text{projectile}} + \Delta y_{\text{second}}$$

$$= 163.163 + 82.808$$

$$= 245.971 \text{ m}$$

From  $y_{\max}$ , the rocket falls 60 m vertically before the parachute opens. Then, we can find  $y_{\text{projectile}}$ , the height at the end of the second stage.

$$y_{\text{projectile}} = y_{\max} - 60$$

$$= 245.971 - 60$$

$$= 185.971 \text{ m}$$

Now that we have  $y_{0\text{projectile}}$  and  $y_{\text{projectile}}$ , we can solve for  $\Delta x_{\text{second}}$  as with any projectile.

Horizontal	Vertical
$\Delta x_{\text{second}} = v_x \cdot t_{\text{second}}$	$y_{\text{projectile}} = y_{0\text{projectile}} + v_{0y} t_{\text{second}} + \frac{1}{2} a t_{\text{second}}^2$
$\Delta x_{\text{second}} = 51.84 \cos 51^\circ t_{\text{second}}$	$185.971 = 163.163 + 51.84 \sin 51^\circ t - 4.9 t^2$
$\Delta x_{\text{second}} = 32.624 t_{\text{second}}$	$0 = -4.9 t^2 + 40.287 t - 22.808$
$\Delta x_{\text{second}} = 32.624 (7.6102)$	$t_{\text{second}} = 7.6102 \text{ s}$
$\Delta x_{\text{second}} = 248.275 \text{ m}$	(plug into horizontal side)

## Third Step

Because the horizontal and vertical speeds are independent of each other, we can calculate the time it will take to fall to the ground. We're given that  $v_{y\text{parachute}} = -6.0 \text{ m/s}$ ,

$y_{0\text{parachute}} = y_{\text{projectile}} = 185.971 \text{ m}$ , and constant velocity.

Because  $y_{\text{parachute}} = 0 \text{ m}$  (ground),  $\Delta y = -y_{0\text{parachute}} = -185.971 \text{ m}$ .

Then, we solve for  $\Delta x_{\text{third}}$ , given  $t_{\text{third}} = 30.995 \text{ s}$  and  $v_x = -15 \text{ m/s}$ .

$$t_{\text{third}} = \Delta y_{\text{parachute}} / v_{y\text{parachute}}$$

$$t_{\text{third}} = -185.971 / -6.0$$

$$t_{\text{third}} = 30.995 \text{ s}$$

$$\Delta x_{\text{third}} = v_x (t_{\text{third}})$$

$$\Delta x_{\text{third}} = -15(30.995)$$

$$\Delta x_{\text{third}} = -464.925$$

Adding the displacement for each step, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta x_{\text{total}} &= \Delta x_{\text{first}} + \Delta x_{\text{second}} + \Delta x_{\text{third}} \\ &= 132.127 + 248.275 - 464.925 \\ &= -84.523 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

So the displacement is  $-84.52 \text{ m}$ .