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Analytical Mechanics

2023-2024

**Lec.12: Vertical motion in a resistance medium: Terminal velocity**

## 2.10 Vertical Motion in a Resistance Medium :- Terminal Velocity

If the resistance is  $\propto v$  (Linear case), we can express this force as  $(-cv)$  regardless of the sign of  $v$ , because the resistance is always opposite to the direction of motion.

\* The constant of proportionality ( $c$ ) depends on

- 1- The size of the object
- 2- Shape of the object
- 3- Viscosity of the fluid.

\* Let us take the  $x$ -axis to be positive upwards.

The differential eq. of motion is

$$\vec{F} = m \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt}$$

$$-mg - cv = m \frac{dv}{dt}$$

$$t = \int_{v_0}^v \frac{m dv}{-mg - cv} \Rightarrow t = -\frac{m}{c} \ln \frac{mg + cv}{mg + cv_0}$$

$$-\frac{ct}{m} = \ln \frac{mg + cv}{mg + cv_0} \rightarrow e^{-\frac{c}{m}t} = \frac{mg + cv}{mg + cv_0}$$

$$v = -\frac{mg}{c} + \left(\frac{mg}{c} + v_0\right) e^{-\frac{c}{m}t} \dots \dots \dots \textcircled{1}$$

Terminal velocity: - The highest velocity attained by an object falling through a fluid.

velocity  
1

Eq. (1) expresses  $v$  as a function of  $t$ , So a second integration will give  $x$  as a function of  $t$ :

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -\frac{mg}{c} + \left(\frac{mg}{c} + v_0\right) e^{-\frac{c}{m}t}$$

$$\int_{x_0}^x dx = \int_0^t \left\{ -\frac{mg}{c} + \left(\frac{mg}{c} + v_0\right) e^{-\frac{c}{m}t} \right\} dt$$

$$x = -\frac{mg}{c}t + \left(\frac{mg}{c} + v_0\right)\left(-\frac{m}{c}\right) e^{-\frac{c}{m}t} \Bigg|_0^t$$

$$x = -\frac{mg}{c}t + \left(\frac{mg}{c} + v_0\right)\left(-\frac{m}{c}\right) \left[ e^{-\frac{c}{m}t} - 1 \right]$$

$$x = -\frac{mg}{c}t + \left(\frac{m^2g}{c^2} + \frac{mv_0}{c}\right) (1 - e^{-\frac{c}{m}t}) \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\therefore v_t = \frac{mg}{c} \text{ (terminal velocity)}$$

$$\therefore \tau = \frac{m}{c} \text{ (characteristic time)}$$

$$v = -v_t + (v_t + v_0) e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

Thus, an object dropped from rest ( $v_0 = 0$ )

$$v = -v_t + v_t e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

When ( $t = \tau$ )

$$v = -v_t + v_t e^{-1}$$

If the viscous resistance  $\propto v^2$  (quadratic case)

\* positive direction up ward

$$\text{So } -mg \pm cv^2 = m \frac{dv}{dt}$$

$-cv^2$  (resistance term) for  $v$  positive  $\Rightarrow$  up ward motion

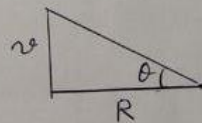
$+cv^2$  (resistance term) for  $v$  negative  $\Rightarrow$  down ward motion

The double sign is necessary for any resistive force that involves an even power of  $v$

$$\int_{t_0}^t dt = \int_{v_0}^v \frac{m dv}{-mg - cv^2}$$

$$t - t_0 = - \int_{v_0}^v \frac{m dv}{mg + cv^2} \rightarrow t - t_0 = - \frac{m}{c} \int_{v_0}^v \frac{dv}{\frac{m}{c}g + v^2}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{v}{R}$$



$$v = R \tan \theta \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$dv = R \sec^2 \theta d\theta \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$$R^2 + v^2 = R^2 + R^2 \tan^2 \theta \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$$R^2 + v^2 = R^2 \sec^2 \theta \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

$$t - t_0 = -\frac{m}{c} \int_{v_0}^v \frac{dv}{R^2 + v^2}$$

$$t - t_0 = -\frac{m}{c} \int_{\tan^{-1} \frac{v_0}{R}}^{\tan^{-1} \frac{v}{R}} \frac{R \sec^2 \theta d\theta}{R^2 \sec^2 \theta} = -\frac{m}{c} \int_{\tan^{-1} \frac{v_0}{R}}^{\tan^{-1} \frac{v}{R}} \frac{R \sec^2 \theta d\theta}{R^2 \sec^2 \theta}$$

$$t - t_0 = -\frac{m}{Rc} \int_{\tan^{-1} \frac{v_0}{R}}^{\tan^{-1} \frac{v}{R}} d\theta \longrightarrow t - t_0 = -\frac{m}{c} \sqrt{\frac{c}{mg}} \tan^{-1} \frac{v}{v_t} = -\tau \tan^{-1} \frac{v}{v_t}$$

$$v_t = \sqrt{\frac{mg}{c}}$$

$$\tau = \sqrt{\frac{m}{cg}}$$

$$t = -\tau \tan^{-1} \frac{v}{v_t} + t_0 \quad \text{upward}$$

$$t = -\tau \tan^{-1} \frac{v}{v_t} + t_0 \quad \text{downward}$$

