

**Task.** Find the distance covered by the bullet which is shot by a gun with an acceleration of  $a = 8 \text{ m/s}^2$  and with a velocity of  $v_0 = 600 \text{ m/s}$  taking the gravity  $g = 10 \text{ m/s}^2$ ?

**Solution.** In fact there is not enough data to solve this problem. We also need the height  $h$  at which the bullet was shot and the angle  $\alpha$  between the initial velocity and the surface of earth.

Assume that the angle is zero so the bullet is shot parallel to the surface of earth.

There is a gravitation force acting on the bullet, and so its motion can be regarded as a sum of two motions: vertical and horizontal. Horizontal motion has initial velocity  $v_0 = 600 \text{ m/s}$  and constant acceleration  $a = 8 \text{ m/s}$ , so the distance covered by the bullet at time  $t$  is given by the formula

$$d(t) = v_0 t + \frac{at^2}{2}.$$

On the other hand, the vertical motion has zero initial velocity and constant acceleration  $g = -10 \text{ m/s}^2$ . Let  $h_0$  be the initial height of the bullet. Then its height at time  $t$  is given by the formula:

$$h(t) = h_0 - \frac{gt^2}{2}.$$

Therefore the bullet will fall to the ground at time  $t$  such that

$$h(t) = h_0 - \frac{gt^2}{2} = 0,$$

whence

$$\bar{t} = \sqrt{\frac{2h_0}{g}}.$$

Then the distance covered by the bullet can be obtained by substituting  $\bar{t}$  into the formula for  $d$ :

$$d(\bar{t}) = v_0 \bar{t} + \frac{a\bar{t}^2}{2},$$

so

$$d(\bar{t}) = v_0 \bar{t} + \frac{a\bar{t}^2}{2} = v_0 \sqrt{\frac{2h_0}{g}} + \frac{a}{2} \cdot \frac{2h_0}{g} = v_0 \sqrt{\frac{2h_0}{g}} + \frac{h_0 a}{g}.$$

**Answer.** There is not enough data for solving the problem. However if we assume that the bullet is shot parallel to earth surface at height  $h_0$ , then it will cover the distance

$$v_0 \sqrt{\frac{2h_0}{g}} + \frac{h_0 a}{g}.$$