

Question

An object is thrown upward at an angle of 37° with a velocity of 10 m/s from the top of a 20 m high building. Where, from the foot of the building, would it land?

Solution

$v_0 = 10 \text{ m/s}$; $\alpha = 37^\circ$; $h_0 = 20 \text{ m}$; $l = ?$

$$OY: y = h_0 + v_0 \sin(\alpha) t - \frac{gt^2}{2};$$

$$OX: x = v_0 \cos(\alpha) t$$

When $y = 0$ it means that object is on surface of Earth.

$$y = 0 = h_0 + v_0 \sin(\alpha) t_f - \frac{gt_f^2}{2};$$

$$t_f = \frac{v_0 \sin(\alpha)}{g} \pm \frac{\sqrt{v_0^2 \sin^2(\alpha) + 2gh_0}}{g};$$

We choose "+", because if we choose "-": $t_f < 0$.

$$l = v_0 \cos(\alpha) t_f = v_0 \cos(\alpha) \left(\frac{v_0 \sin(\alpha)}{g} + \frac{\sqrt{v_0^2 \sin^2(\alpha) + 2gh_0}}{g} \right)$$

$$l \approx 9 \cdot (0.6 + 2.1) \text{ m} = \mathbf{24.3 \text{ m}}$$

Answer: $l = 24.3 \text{ m}$.