Answer on Question #73874 Physics / Mechanics | Relativity

A falling object requires $\tau = 1.50$ s to travel the last s = 30 m before hitting the ground. From what height above the ground h did it fall?

Solution:

Let us denote as *t* the total time of object motion. Then

 $h = \frac{gt^2}{2}$

and

 $h - s = \frac{g(t - \tau)^2}{2}$

These equations give

 $s = \frac{gt^2}{2} - \frac{g(t-\tau)^2}{2} = g\tau t - \frac{g\tau^2}{2}$

So

 $t = \frac{s + \frac{g\tau^2}{2}}{g\tau} = \frac{s}{g\tau} + \frac{\tau}{2} = \frac{30}{9.8 \times 1.50} + \frac{1.50}{2} = 2.79 \text{ s}$

Thus, the height

 $h = \frac{gt^2}{2} = \frac{9.8 \times 2.79^2}{2} = 38.16 \text{ m}$

Answer: 38.16 m

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