

2-2)

Assume that the rocket starts on the ground at rest.

Since there are two accelerations, we need to break the problem up into two intervals, each of which has a constant acceleration. The final values for the first interval will become the initial values for the second interval.

Let x_i be the start of the problem, x_m be where the engine cuts off, and x_f be the highest altitude attained and similarly for the velocities.

First Interval

$$x_i = 0 \text{ m}$$

$$x_m = ?$$

$$v_i = 0 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_m = ?$$

$$a_I = +40 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$t_I = 5 \text{ sec}$$

$$x_m = x_i + v_i t + \frac{1}{2} a_I t^2 = 0 + 0 \cdot 5 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 40 \cdot 5^2 = 500 \text{ m},$$

at which time the velocity will be

$$v_m = v_i + a_I t = 0 + 40 \cdot 5 = 200 \text{ m/s}.$$

Second Interval

$$x_i = 500 \text{ m}$$

$$x_m = ?$$

$$v_i = 200 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_m = 0 \text{ m/s (It stops at the top.)}$$

$$a_{II} = -10 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$t_I = ?$$

We can use a couple of ways to find the distance traveled during the second interval.

I chose (4).

$$v_f^2 = v_m^2 + 2a_{II}(x_f - x_m)$$

Re-arranging the relationship above, we get that

$$x_f = (v_f^2 - v_m^2) / 2a_{II} + x_m = (0^2 - 200^2) / (2 \cdot (-10)) + 500 = 2500 \text{ m}$$