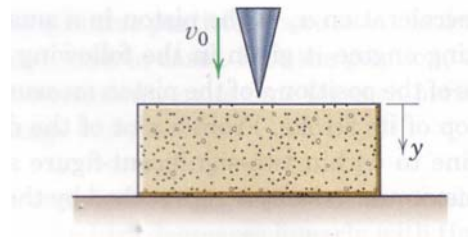


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**Example 2.5**

A cone falling with speed  $v_0$  strikes and penetrates a block of packing material. The acceleration of the cone after impact is  $a = g - cy^2$  where  $c$  is a positive constant and  $y$  is the penetration distance. If the maximum penetration depth is observed to be  $y_{\max}$ , determine the constant  $c$ .

**Solution:**

In this case the acceleration is given as a function of the distance traveled and is related to the initial velocity of the cone. Consequently we use Eqn. (2.25) which relates a displacement-dependent acceleration to velocity:

$$\int_{s_0}^s a(s) ds = \int_{v_0}^v v dv = \frac{1}{2}(v^2 - v_0^2)$$

For the given data  $a(s) = g - cs^2$ ,  $s = y_{\max}$ ,  $s_0 = 0$ ,  $v = 0$  (since the cone comes to rest at maximum penetration), and  $v(0) = v_0$ . Thus the equation above becomes:

$$\int_0^{y_{\max}} (g - cs^2) ds = \int_{v_0}^0 v dv = -\frac{1}{2}v_0^2$$

which results in:

$$gy_{\max} - \frac{1}{3}cy_{\max}^3 = -\frac{1}{2}v_0^2$$

Solving this relationship for  $c$  we obtain:

$$c = \frac{3v_0^2 + 6gy_{\max}}{2y_{\max}^3}$$