



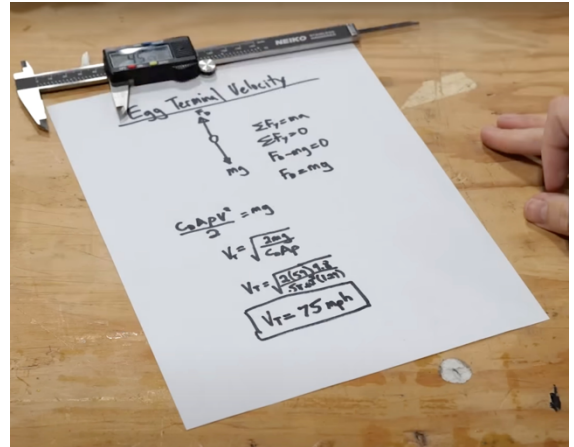
Flipping Physics Lecture Notes:  
 Dear @MarkRober,  
 Could You Show Your Work Better, Please?  
<http://www.flippingphysics.com/mark-rober.html>

Dear Mark Rober,

There is a moment in your video “Egg Drop From Space” which irks me. At the 1 minute, 38 second mark, you calculate the terminal velocity of a chicken egg falling through Earth’s atmosphere.

The first thing that caught my eye was that the acceleration due to gravity is  $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$  and the terminal velocity is  $75 \text{ mi/hr}$ . Those two units do not jive. you completely glossed over a conversion.

Then a closer look led me to the mass of 59.  
 59 what? What are the units on that?



Okay. Then the cross-sectional area which is the area of a circle or  $\pi r^2$ . But what did you write for the radius? Honestly, it is so illegible that I cannot read it.

And then the density of air of 129.  
 Again, 129 what? The density of air is often given as  $1.29 \text{ kg/m}^3$ .

Here is my solution for the terminal velocity of a chicken egg falling through Earth’s atmosphere.

Knowns:  $m = 0.059 \text{ kg}$ ,  $C_D = 0.5$ ,  $r = 0.023 \text{ m}$ ,  $\rho_{\text{air}} = 1.29 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3}$

$$\Sigma F_y = F_D - F_g = ma_y = m(0) = 0 \Rightarrow F_D = F_g = mg$$

$$\frac{C_D A \rho_{\text{air}} v_t^2}{2} = mg \Rightarrow v_t = \sqrt{\frac{2mg}{C_D A \rho_{\text{air}}}} = \sqrt{\frac{2mg}{C_D \pi r^2 \rho_{\text{air}}}}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_t = \sqrt{\frac{(2)(0.059)(9.8)}{(0.5)\pi(0.024)^2(1.29)}} = 33.839 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}} \left(\frac{3600\text{s}}{1\text{hr}}\right) \left(\frac{1\text{mile}}{1609\text{m}}\right) \approx 76 \frac{\text{mi}}{\text{hr}}$$

Mark, you are helping educate loads of people. You showed your work, which I much appreciate. In the future, could you please do a better job of showing your work?<sup>1</sup> I would be lovely if you did so. Thanks!

- mr.p / Billy / Bobby / Bo / The Flipping Physics Guy / Some even call me ... Jonathan

If you want to learn more about terminal velocity and the drag force, I have many videos for you:

- What is Terminal Velocity? How Do We Find It?
  - <https://www.flippingphysics.com/terminal-velocity.html>
- Demonstrating and Solving for Drag Coefficient
  - <https://www.flippingphysics.com/drag-coefficient.html>
- Effects of Drag Force on Free Fall
  - <https://www.flippingphysics.com/drag-force-free-fall.html>
- Deriving Motion Equations with Drag Force
  - <https://www.flippingphysics.com/drag-force-motion-equations.html>
- Time Constant and the Drag Force
  - <https://www.flippingphysics.com/drag-force-time-constant.html>

<sup>1</sup> I have a video about showing how work called “Why “Show All Your Work?”” - <https://www.flippingphysics.com/show-work.html>