

1. A missile is shot horizontally from the top of a 500 m cliff with an initial speed of 300 m/s
- Find the time it takes for the missile to hit the ground.
 - What is the range of the missile?
 - Calculate the velocity of the missile just before it hits the ground.
 - If the missile hits the ground and bounces up at an angle of 30° with a speed of 200 m/s, how far away from the point of impact will it land?

Solution: This is a projectile motion problem, a type of motion in which, without air resistance, we have $a_x = 0$ and $a_y = -g$.

The kinematic equations for projectile are:

$$x = \underbrace{(v_0 \cos \alpha)}_{v_{0x}} t$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2 + \underbrace{(v_0 \sin \alpha)}_{v_{0y}} t + y_0$$

$$v_x = \underbrace{v_0 \cos \alpha}_{v_{0x}}$$

$$v_y = \underbrace{v_0 \sin \alpha}_{v_{0y}} - gt$$

- (a) If we choose the initial position of the missile as the origin of the coordinate system (i.e. $x_0 = y_0 = 0$) then the hitting position has coordinate $(x, y = -500 \text{ m})$. Use the following kinematic relation to find the total flight time.

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2 + v_0 t \sin \alpha + y_0$$

$$\rightarrow -500 = -\frac{1}{2}(9.8)t^2 + 300 t \sin 0^\circ + 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t_{tot} = \sqrt{\frac{1000}{9.8}} = 10.10 \text{ s}$$

Note: in horizontally shot $\alpha = 0^\circ$ (b) To find the range of the projectile, we must find the total flight time of the motion and then substitute it into $x = v_0 t \cos \alpha$. In the previous part the total flight time is calculated as $t = 10.10 \text{ s}$, therefore

$$R_1 = x = v_0 t \cos \alpha$$

$$= 300 \times 10.10 \times \cos 0^\circ$$

$$= 3030.30 \text{ m}$$

- (c) In projectile motion first find the components of the velocity then use the $v = \sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2}$ to determine the velocity of the missile at any moment (in this case the hitting position, t_{tot}).

$$v_x = v_0 \cos \alpha = 300 \times \cos 0^\circ = 300 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 v_y &= v_0 \sin \alpha - gt \\
 &= 300 \times \sin 0^\circ - (9.8 \times 10.10) \\
 &= -98.98 \text{ m/s}
 \end{aligned}$$

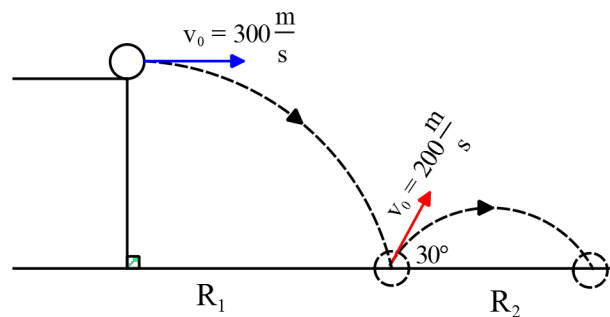
$$v = \sqrt{v_x^2 + v_y^2} = \sqrt{(300)^2 + (-98.98)^2} = 315.9 \text{ m/s}$$

(d) In this part we have a separate projectile motion problem, hence we choose the launching point as the origin with the following information $x_0 = y_0 = 0$, $v_0 = 200 \text{ m/s}$, $\alpha = 30^\circ$. First by setting $y = 0$ in the $y = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2 + v_0 t \sin 30^\circ + y_0$ find the total flight time, then substitute it into the $x = v_0 t \cos 30^\circ$

$$0 = -\frac{1}{2}(9.8)t^2 + 200t\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + 0 \Rightarrow t(9.8t - 200) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} t_1 = 0, & \text{initial time} \\ t_2 = \frac{200}{9.8} = 20.4 \text{ s}, & \text{landing time} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_2 = x &= v_0 t_2 \cos 30^\circ \\
 &= 200 \times 20.4 \times \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) \\
 &= 3533.38 \text{ m}
 \end{aligned}$$



2. A projectile is fired horizontally from a gun that is 45 m above the ground. The muzzle velocity is 250 m/s.

- How long does the projectile remain in the air?
- At what horizontal distance from the firing point does it strike the ground?
- What is the magnitude of the vertical component of its velocity as it strikes the ground?

Solution: (a) "Remains in the air" means the total flight time. To find this time put the coordinate of the impact of the projectile into the $y = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2 + v_0 t \sin \alpha + y_0$ and then solve for the time t_{tot} . Let the origin of the coordinates be the firing point. Therefore, the projectile hits the ground -45 m below the origin!

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2 + v_0 \sin \alpha t + y_0$$

$$-45 = -\frac{1}{2}(9.8)t^2 + 250 t \sin 0^\circ + 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t_{tot} = \sqrt{\frac{90}{9.8}} = 3.03 \text{ s}$$

(b) Namely, find the range of the projectile. Hence substitute t_{tot} into the x component of the motion i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} R = x &= v_0 \cos \alpha t_{tot} \\ &= (250)(3.03) \cos 0^\circ \\ &= 757.5 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

(c) The components of the velocity vector in a projectile motion at any moment in time are

$$\begin{aligned} v_x &= v_{0x} = v_0 \cos \alpha \\ &= 250 \cos 0^\circ = 250 \text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} v_y &= v_{0y} - gt \\ &= v_0 \sin \alpha - gt \\ &= 250 \sin 0^\circ - (9.8)(3.03) \\ &= 29.69 \text{ m/s} \end{aligned}$$

Where we have substituted the total time (the moment of impact on the ground).

3. **A ball is thrown horizontally from the roof of a building 50 – m-tall and lands 45 m from the base. What was the ball's initial speed?**

Solution: This is a projectile motion problem with launch angle $\alpha = 0^\circ$, so the projectile equations which are the x and y components of velocity and displacement vectors are written

as below

$$x = v_{0x}t = v_0 \cos \alpha t$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2 + \underbrace{v_0 \sin \alpha t}_{v_{0y}} + y_0$$

$$v_x = v_0 \cos \alpha$$

$$v_y = \underbrace{v_0 \sin \alpha}_{v_{0y}} - gt$$

If we choose the releasing point as the reference then the coordinate of the point of impact is $(x = 45, y = -50 \text{ m})$. First, find the total flight time, then substitute it into the x component of the projectile.

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}gt_{tot}^2 + \underbrace{v_0 \sin \alpha}_{v_{0y}} t_{tot} + y_0$$

$$\Rightarrow -50 = -\frac{1}{2}(9.8)t_{tot}^2 + v_0 \sin 0^\circ t_{tot} + 0$$

$$\Rightarrow t_{tot} = \sqrt{\frac{2 \times 50}{9.8}} = 3.19 \text{ s}$$

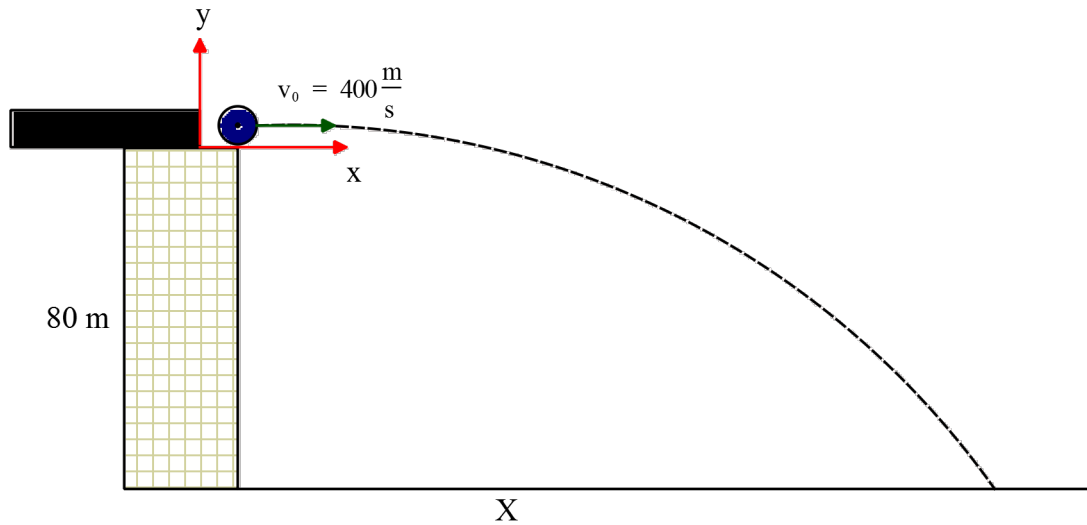
Therefore,

$$x = v_0 \cos \alpha t_{tot}$$

$$\Rightarrow v_0 = \frac{x}{\cos 0^\circ t_{tot}} = \frac{45}{3.19} = 14.1 \text{ m/s}$$

4. A 1 kg projectile is fired from a cannon with an initial kinetic energy of 10^4 J . The cannon has an elevation angle of 45° . How far does the projectile go before striking the ground (neglect the air resistance)?

Solution: In the projectile language, the distance from the launching to the striking point is called the range of the projectile that is found by substituting the total flight time into the x component of the projectile motion that is $X = v_0 \cos \theta t$.



From the definition of kinetic energy, one can find the initial velocity of the projectile below

$$K = \frac{1}{2}mv_0^2 \rightarrow 10^4 = \frac{1}{2}(1)v_0^2$$

$$\Rightarrow v_0 = \sqrt{2} \times 10^2 \text{ m/s}$$

Consider the starting and landing points to be on the same level. In this case, using the kinematic equation $v_y = v_0 \sin \theta - gt$ and knowing the fact that at the highest point, the vertical component of the projectile's velocity is zero, i.e., $v_y = 0$, find half of the total flight time that is $t_{tot} = 2t$ (since there is no air resistance).

$$v_y = v_0 \sin \theta - gt = 0$$

$$\rightarrow t = \frac{v_0 \sin \theta}{g} = \frac{(\sqrt{2} \times 10^2) \sin 45^\circ}{9.8} = 10.2 \text{ s}$$

This is the elapsed time to the highest point.

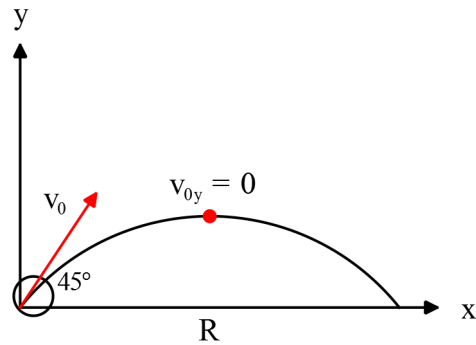
$$\Rightarrow t_{tot} = 2t = 20.4 \text{ s}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Range} = X &= v_0 t \cos \theta \\ &= (\sqrt{2} \times 10^2) \cos 45^\circ \times 20.4 \\ &= 2040 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

5. A bullet is fired horizontally from the top of a cliff which is 80 m above a big lake. If the bullet muzzle (initial) speed is 400 m/s, how far from the bottom of the cliff does the bullet strike the surface of the lake? Neglect air resistance.

Solution: A pictorial representation of the problem is shown in the figure below.



Put a coordinate at the starting point. Since the hitting point of the bullet is 80 m below the coordinate, so the coordinate of the landing point is $(x=?, y = -80 \text{ m})$. First, using the equation $y = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2 + v_{0y}t + y_0$ find the time required to reach the bullet to the ground.

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2$$

$$\rightarrow t = \sqrt{\frac{2y}{-g}} = \sqrt{2 \times \frac{(-80)}{(-10)}} = 4 \text{ s}$$

Now using the relation between uniform velocity and displacement, i.e., $x = vt$ we obtain

$$x = vt = (400)(4) = 1600 \text{ m} \rightarrow x = 1 \text{ mile}$$