

Projectile Motion

i) Verify that the range, R , of a projectile launched from a height h (with respect to the ground), with speed v , and at an angle θ above the horizontal is given by:

$$R = \frac{v^2 \cos \theta}{g} \left(\sin \theta \pm \sqrt{\sin^2 \theta + \frac{2gh}{v^2}} \right) \quad (1)$$

ii) Show that, in the limit $h \rightarrow 0$, this reduces to the familiar:

$$R = \frac{v^2 \sin 2\theta}{g} \quad (2)$$

iii) Show that the angle, θ , that maximizes R is, in general, given by:

$$\cos \theta = \sqrt{\frac{2gh + v^2}{2gh + 2v^2}} \quad (3)$$

Does this reduce to what you expect as $h \rightarrow 0$?