

Vertical Motion - Get time of flight

$$s = ut + \frac{1}{2}at^2$$

$$s = Vt\sin\alpha - \frac{1}{2}gt^2$$

$$\frac{1}{2}gt^2 - Vt\sin\alpha + s = 0$$

$$t = \frac{V\sin\alpha + \sqrt{V^2\sin^2\alpha - 4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}g \cdot s}}{g}$$

$$t = \frac{V\sin\alpha + \sqrt{V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs}}{g}$$

Horizontal Motion

$$S_H = V_H * t$$

$$S_H = \frac{V\cos\alpha}{g}(V\sin\alpha + \sqrt{V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs})$$

$$\frac{dS_H}{d\alpha} = -\frac{V\sin\alpha}{g}(V\sin\alpha + \sqrt{V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs}) + \frac{V\cos\alpha}{g}(V\cos\alpha + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2V^2\sin\alpha \cdot \cos\alpha (V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs)^{-\frac{1}{2}}) = 0$$

$$\sin\alpha(V\sin\alpha + \sqrt{V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs}) = \cos\alpha(V\cos\alpha + V^2\sin\alpha \cdot \cos\alpha (V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs)^{-\frac{1}{2}})$$

Multiplying both sides by $\sqrt{V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs}$

$$V\sin\alpha \cdot \sqrt{V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs} + V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs = \frac{V\cos^2\alpha}{\sin\alpha} \cdot \sqrt{V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs} + V^2\cos^2\alpha$$

$$\sqrt{V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs}(V\sin\alpha - \frac{V\cos^2\alpha}{\sin\alpha}) = V^2(\cos^2\alpha - \sin^2\alpha) + 2gs$$

$$\sqrt{V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs}(\frac{V\sin^2\alpha - V\cos^2\alpha}{\sin\alpha}) = V^2(\cos^2\alpha - \sin^2\alpha) + 2gs$$

$$V \cdot \sqrt{V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs}(\sin^2\alpha - \cos^2\alpha) = V^2\sin\alpha(\cos^2\alpha - \sin^2\alpha) + 2gs \cdot \sin\alpha$$

now squaring both sides ...

$$V^2(V^2\sin^2\alpha - 2gs)(\sin^2\alpha - \cos^2\alpha)^2 = V^4\sin^2\alpha(\cos^2\alpha - \sin^2\alpha)^2 + 4g^2s^2\sin^2\alpha + 4gsV^2\sin^2\alpha(\cos^2\alpha - \sin^2\alpha)$$

$$\text{let } u = \sin^2\alpha$$

$$V^2(V^2u - 2gs)(2u - 1)^2 = V^4u(2u - 1)^2 + 4g^2s^2u + 4gsV^2u(1 - 2u)$$

$$V^4u(2u - 1)^2 - 2gsV^2(2u - 1)^2 = V^4u(2u - 1)^2 + 4g^2s^2u + 4gsV^2u(1 - 2u)$$

cancelling the term, $V^4u(2u - 1)^2$, from both sides,

$$-2gsV^2(2u - 1)^2 = 4g^2s^2u + 4gsV^2u(1 - 2u)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
-V^2(2u-1)^2 &= 2gsu + 2uV^2(1-2u) \\
-V^2(2u-1)^2 + 2uV^2(2u-1) &= 2gsu \\
-V^2(2u-1)\{(2u-1)-2u\} &= 2gsu \\
V^2(2u-1) &= 2gsu \\
2V^2u - V^2 &= 2gsu \\
u(2V^2 - 2gs) &= V^2 \\
u &= \frac{V^2}{2(V^2 - gs)} \\
\sin^2 \alpha &= \frac{V^2}{2(V^2 - gs)}
\end{aligned}$$

Where,

α is the angle of trajectory,

V is the speed of trajectory,

s is the distance below the cliff.

N.B. s is measured +ve upwards, so s should be entered as a negative value in the above formula. e.g. $s = -100$.