

This document is a derivation of the formula used in Euler317.

We begin with a vector description of projectile motion:

$$\vec{r} = ut \cos \theta \hat{\mathbf{i}} + ut \sin \theta \hat{\mathbf{j}} + \frac{1}{2}at^2 \hat{\mathbf{j}} + h \hat{\mathbf{j}}$$

where u, θ, h, t are initial velocity, launch angle, height from which it is launched and time elapsed respectively. We find that:

$$x = ut \cos \theta \quad (1)$$

$$y = ut \sin \theta + \frac{1}{2}at^2 + h \quad (2)$$

These can be rearranged and substituted in for t .

$$\begin{aligned} y &= u \left(\frac{x}{u \cos \theta} \right) \sin \theta + \frac{1}{2}a \left(\frac{x}{u \cos \theta} \right)^2 + h \\ y &= \frac{x \sin \theta}{\cos \theta} + \frac{ax^2}{2u^2 \cos^2 \theta} + h \\ y &= x \tan \theta - \frac{ax^2}{2u^2} \sec^2 \theta + h \end{aligned}$$

As acceleration is due to gravity, $a = g$, and to make it look nice let $u = v$. Hence the final equation is

$$y = x \tan \theta - \frac{gx^2}{2v^2} \sec^2 \theta + h.$$

This is all well and good, but we must find an ‘envelope’ that encompasses all parabolas for values of θ . Wikipedia says that the envelope of the family of curves parametrised by t is given as the set of points where

$$F(t, x, y) = \frac{\delta F}{\delta t}(t, x, y) = 0.$$

We have $F(\theta, x, y) = x \tan \theta - \frac{gx^2}{2v^2} \sec^2 \theta + h - y$, hence:

$$\frac{\delta F}{\delta \theta}(\theta, x, y) = x \sec^2 \theta + \frac{gx^2}{v^2} \sec^2 \theta \tan \theta$$

by applying the chain rule. Solving $\frac{\delta F}{\delta \theta} = 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= x \sec^2 \theta + \frac{gx^2}{v^2} \sec^2 \theta \tan \theta \\ 0 &= \frac{x}{v^2} \sec^2 \theta (v^2 - gx \tan \theta) \\ \therefore \tan \theta &= \frac{v^2}{gx} \end{aligned}$$

Using the trig identity $\sec^2 x = 1 + \tan^2 x$, we find that $\sec^2 x = \frac{g^2 x^2 + v^4}{g^2 x^2}$. Substituting into $F(\theta, x, y) = 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \frac{v^2}{g} - \frac{gx^2}{2v^2} \left(\frac{g^2 x^2 + v^4}{g^2 x^2} \right) + h \\ y &= \frac{v^2}{g} - \frac{g^2 x^2 + v^4}{2v^2 g} + h \\ y &= \frac{v^2}{2g} - \frac{gx^2}{2v^2} + h \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

To find the solid of revolution around the y-axis:

$$V = \pi \int_b^a [f(y)]^2 dy$$

Using equation 3:

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \frac{v^2}{2g} - \frac{gx^2}{2v^2} + h \\ y - \frac{v^2}{2g} - h &= -\frac{gx^2}{2v^2} \\ \frac{v^2}{g} \left(y - \frac{v^2}{2g} - h \right) &= x^2 \\ x &= \sqrt{\frac{v^2}{g} \left(y - \frac{v^2}{2g} - h \right)} \end{aligned}$$

The bounds on the integral will be 0 and $f(0)$, where $f(x)$ is equation 3.

Using Julia and plugging in $\{v, g, h\} = \{20, 9.81, 8\}$