

Year 12 Physics

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Chapter 1

Module 5 Advanced Mechanics

1.1 Practical Investigation 5.1

Aim: To confirm the dependence of the range of a projectile (the horizontal distance it travels) on its time of flight and launch velocity by predicting the landing point of a projectile and then testing the prediction.

1.1.1 Variables

Independent	Dependent	Controlled
Height of drop	Initial velocity Range	Angle of ramp Distance of flat surface Acceleration due to gravity Type and size of ball

1.1.2 Materials

1. Ball
2. Inclined plane
3. Pen
4. Stopwatch
5. Ruler

1.1.3 Method

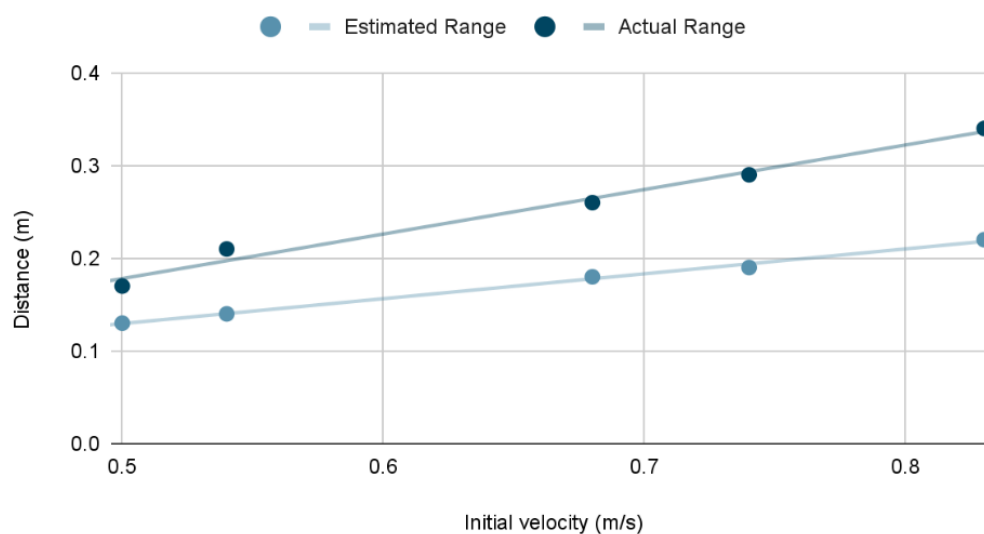
1. Prepare a ramp facing the edge of the table, 50 cm away.
2. Mark 5 cm intervals along ramp
3. Release ball at an interval
4. Record time taken to travel 50cm flat distance and distance from table after drop
5. Repeat steps 3-4 for each interval 3 times.
6. Calculate the initial velocity of the drop using $v = \Delta s / \Delta t$

7. Calculate the time of flight using height of table ($height = \frac{1}{2} \times (-9.8)t^2$), hence estimate the horizontal range of the ball ($s_x = ut$)
8. Graph estimated range and actual range over velocity and compare.

1.1.4 Results

Distance released (cm)	Time taken to travel 0.5m (s)			Average time	Initial velocity (m/s)	Estimated range (cm) $X = ut$	Actual range (cm)
10	1.03	0.96	1.02	1.00	0.5	13	17
15	0.92	0.89	0.95	0.92	0.54	14	21
20	0.75	0.67	0.79	0.74	0.68	18	26
25	0.72	0.65	0.68	0.68	0.74	19	29
30	0.54	0.60	0.67	0.60	0.83	22	33.5

Range over Initial Velocity



1.1.5 Data and Analysis

1. Is the velocity being calculated the velocity of the ball at the edge of the table? If not, is it a reasonable approximation? Explain your answer.

Although the calculated velocity is not completely accurate due to friction forces, it is a reasonable approximation when assuming friction is minimal.

2. What effect would increasing the horizontal distance have on the reliability of your measurements?

Increasing the distance would make the experiment more reliable at the cost of accuracy.

1.1.6 Discussion

Controlled variables were somewhat maintained to provide validity to the experiment, however numerous sources of error arose. Sources of error included:

- Ramp moving after ball was placed
- Irregular ball movements due to variations in placement and imperfections of ramp
- Inconsistency of measurement of horizontal range
- Timing of ball over flat distance

These errors were mitigated, however could not be avoided. The experiment was repeated three times for each interval to reduce the effect of outliers. More tests per interval could have been conducted to improve the reliability.

1.1.7 Conclusion

1. **State whether your prediction was successful, and describe any difficulties encountered in testing the prediction.**

The prediction was successful, with a small but consistent variation from the expected value.

2. **In this experiment, the assumption was made that there is negligible effect from air resistance. Would the effect of air resistance be more significant if the ball was released from a height of 30 cm up the ramp or 15 cm? Explain.**

If released from a higher point, the effect of air resistance would be more significant as there are more air particles applying friction forces to the ball. However, the effect of this resistance would still be minimal.

3. **What is the major source of error in this experiment? What steps were taken to minimise it?**

The major source of error in this experiment is the human variation when timing with the stopwatch. This was mitigated by using slow motion cameras to more accurately measure the time taken for the ball to travel across the flat surface.

1.2 Practical Investigation 5.2 - The effect of launch angle on range

Aim: To investigate the relationship between the launch angle of a projectile, its motion and the range of the projectile.

90cm vertical height

1.2.1 Method

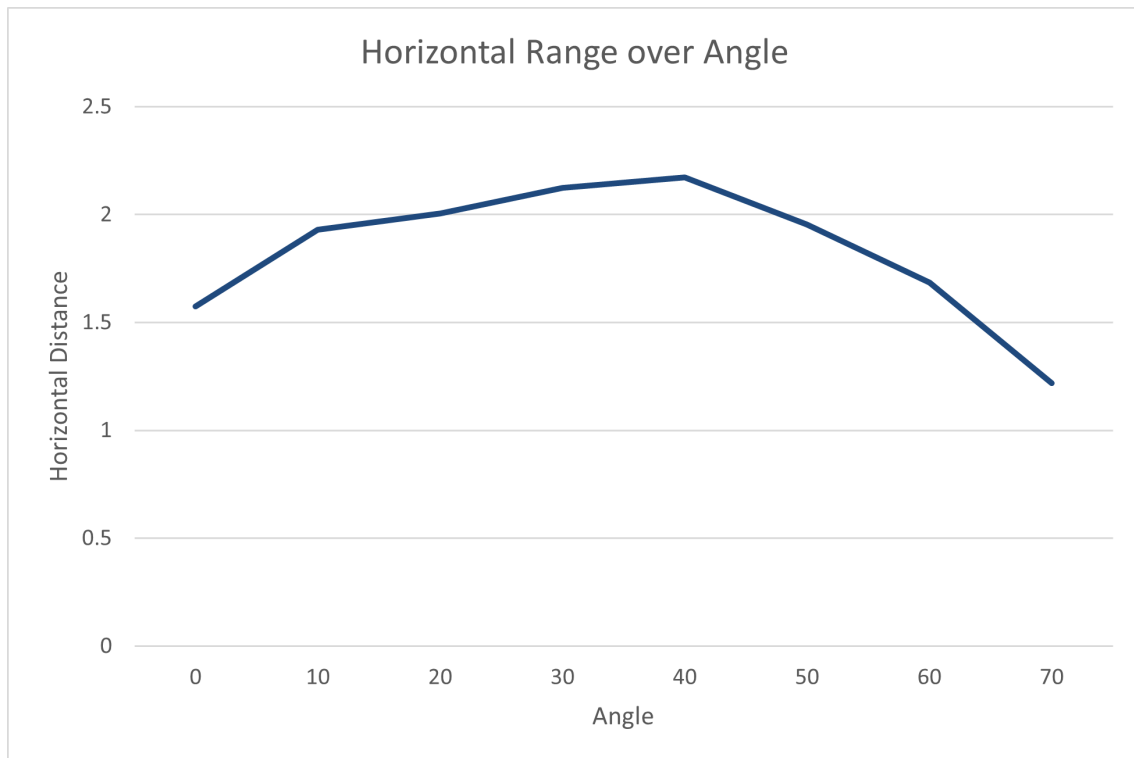
1. Set the launcher in the horizontal position with a launch angle of 0° .
2. Load a projectile into the launcher and ensure that the launcher is set to its maximum compression or distance setting.
3. Launch the projectile, and note the point of impact on the paper.
4. Lay a sheet of carbon paper on top of the white paper over the point of impact, carbon side down, so that when a ball lands on it there will be a mark on the paper.

5. Place a sheet of paper where the ball hits. Highlight the point with a pencil or marker when the projectile lands.
6. State recording with the data collection system and launch the projectile
7. Use the angle indicator on the launcher the angle of inclination by 10° each time for data points between 10° and 80° .
8. Measure the horizontal velocity for each angle.

1.2.2 Results

Angle ($^\circ$)	Time (s)	Horizontal Range (m)
0	0.46	1.5
0	0.41	1.65
10	0.46	1.94
10	0.61	2.00
10	0.59	1.85
20	0.61	2.03
20	0.65	1.98
20	0.58	2.003
30	0.83	2.065
30	0.71	2.122
30	0.83	2.185
40	0.79	2.22
40	0.70	2.16
40	0.78	2.14
50	0.85	1.99
50	0.83	1.845
50	0.93	2.031
60	0.96	1.708
60	0.85	1.76
60	0.88	1.59
70	0.85	1.14
70	0.83	1.21
70	0.86	1.31

Angle $^\circ$	Time (s)				Horizontal Range (m)			
	Trial 1	T2	T3	Avg	Trial 1	2	3	Avg
0	0.46	0.41		0.44	1.50	1.65		1.58
10	0.46	0.61	0.59	0.55	1.94	2.00	1.85	1.93
20	0.61	0.65	0.58	0.61	2.03	1.98	2.00	2.00
30	0.83	0.71	0.83	0.79	2.07	2.12	2.19	2.12
40	0.79	0.70	0.78	0.76	2.22	2.16	2.14	2.17
50	0.85	0.83	0.93	0.87	1.99	1.85	2.03	1.96
60	0.96	0.85	0.88	0.90	1.708	1.76	1.59	1.69
70	0.85	0.83	0.86	0.85	1.14	1.21	1.31	1.22



1.2.3 Conclusion

1. **How did the measured horizontal velocities compare to the average horizontal velocities?**

The measured horizontal velocities were similar to the average horizontal velocities.

2. **For any projectile launched horizontally, what can you state about the horizontal velocity?**

The horizontal velocity will be constant throughout the time of flight

3. **Which launch angle will yield the maximum range?**

40°

4. **Are there launch angles that yield the same range? What are they and why is that the case?**

There are some launch angles that yield the same range. This is due to the parabolic shape of the range versus angle graph, meaning that there are two points on either side of the ideal (40°) that provide the same range.

1.3 Circular Motion

1.3.1 Uniform Circular Motion

Occurs when objects travel in a circle at a constant speed, taking the same length of time to make each revolution

The period T is the time taken to travel the full circle

The distance covered during the period depends upon the radius of the circle of travel and is equal to the circle's circumference, ie. $d = 2\pi r$

1.4 Practical Investigation 5.3 - Circular Motion - centripetal force in a horizontal plane

Aim: To investigate the relationship between the centripetal force acting on an object moving in a circle of constant radius and the frequency of revolution.

1.4.1 Method

1. Securely tie one end of the fishing line to the small, soft mass
2. Pass the fishing line down through the thin plastic tube and attach a 50g slotted mass carrier to the end.
3. Attach an alligator clip to the line to act as a marker for a measured radius of around 1 m.
4. Spin the stopper in a horizontal circular path at a speed that pulls the paperclip up to, but not touching the bottom of the tube.
5. Measure time taken for 20 revolutions
6. Add 50g and repeat steps.

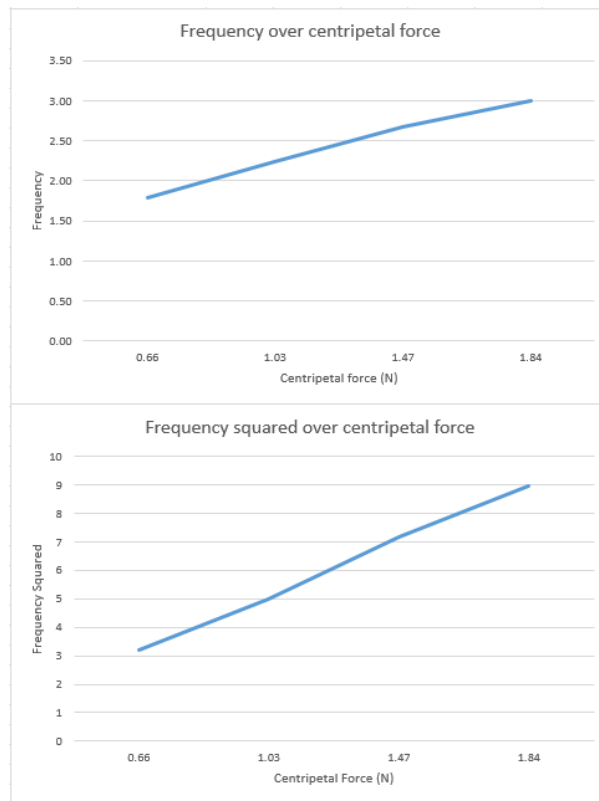
Mass (kg)	Time for 20 revolutions (s)				Period (s)	f=1/T	F_c (N)	F_G (N)	ω °s ⁻¹
	Trial 1	2	3	Avg					
0.05	10.34	10.78	12.34	11.15	0.558	1.79	0.6601	0.49	11.27
0.1	9.00	8.97	8.85	8.94	0.447	2.24	1.027	0.98	14.06
0.15	7.93	7.22	7.25	7.47	0.373	2.68	1.473	1.47	16.83
0.2	6.56	6.47	7.03	6.69	0.334	2.99	1.837	1.96	18.79

1.4.2 Data and Analysis

Measured radius of revolution: 0.5m

1. **What force is the mass carrier providing in this experiment**

The mass carrier is exerting a gravitational force on the string



1.4.3 Conclusion

1. Based on your results, what is the relationship between the centripetal force and the frequency of rotation? Do your results confirm what was expected from theory? Comment on any differences.

Based on the results, centripetal force has an square root graph relationship to frequency of rotation. This is expected, as $F_c = \frac{mv^2}{r}$, with velocity being squared.

2. The radius of revolution will not actually be quite what was measured, nor will the tension in the string be exactly equal to the centripetal force. Why is this so?

Due to human inaccuracies, the radius of revolution will vary as the mass moves up and down. It is difficult to maintain a set tension, so this variation is expected. Because of this, the tension will also not be equal to the weight force applied by the mass.

3. What effect does this have on your results

This will shift the results slightly away from the expected value, but each factor somewhat counteracts the other so this is minimised.