On the properties of projectile motion and quadratic air resistance

Simon Halvdansson

February 25, 2016

The functions for projectile motion in a three dimensional space are derived. Some properties of such motion are defined. Numerical approximations and analytical solutions to the effects of one dimensional quadratic air resistance are made and compared to experimental results with small error. Analytical approximations to two dimensional quadratic air resistance are made using a model which separates low, high and split angle trajectories. The equations of motion for these are derived and plotted and compared to numerical integration of the original differential equation.

| 1 | Introduction | 4 |
|---|--|--|
| 2 | Trajectory 2.1 Acceleration | |
| 3 | Properties of a projectile parabola 3.1 Time to highest point | 5 6 6 6 6 |
| 4 | Choosing initial values to match result values 4.1 Delimitations | 6 7 7 7 |
| 5 | Longest parabola starting at height 5.1 Expression for range | 8 8 |
| 6 | Computational approach to air resistance 6.1 Change at every time interval | 9 10 |
| 7 | Analytical solution to one-dimensional air resistance 7.1 Derivation 7.1.1 Position as a function of time 7.1.2 Determining the duration of the fall 7.1.3 Terminal velocity 7.2 Plots 7.2.1 Examples 7.2.2 Analysis | 10 10 11 11 11 11 12 |
| 8 | . y | 12 13 13 13 |

| | | 8.2.3 Position | 13 |
|----|------|--|----|
| | | 8.2.4 Equations of motion | 14 |
| | 8.3 | High Angle Trajectory approximation | 14 |
| | | 8.3.1 Differential equations of motion | 14 |
| | | 8.3.2 Ascending velocity | 14 |
| | | 8.3.3 Ascending position | 14 |
| | | 8.3.4 Descending velocity | 15 |
| | | 8.3.5 Descending position | 15 |
| | | 8.3.6 Equations of motion | 16 |
| | 8.4 | Split Angle Trajectory approximation | 16 |
| | | 8.4.1 Differential equations of motion | 16 |
| | | 8.4.2 Equations of motion | 16 |
| | 8.5 | Plots | 16 |
| | | 8.5.1 Low Angle Trajectory | 16 |
| | | 8.5.2 High Angle Trajectory | 17 |
| | | 8.5.3 Split Angle Trajectory | 17 |
| 9 | Ехр | eriment | 17 |
| | 9.1 | Setup | 17 |
| | 9.2 | Results | 18 |
| | 9.3 | Analysis | 18 |
| 10 | Con | culsions | 18 |
| | Furt | ther reading | 18 |