Personal Project Portfolio

Software Design and Development

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# Proposal

This program will take several variables relating to projectile motion eg. Initial velocity, maximum height the projectile reaches, the range of the projectile, etc. and will determine the rest of the variables and show the path of the projectile on a graph. Developing the graph will involve measuring what height the projectile is at a point of the projectile’s motion and placing a dot on the graph. The graph could have multiple dots to create a curve. Excel could also be used as an alternative in creating the graph.

Advantages: Small project, is possible in Visual Basic 6

Disadvantages: Possibly too hard to do in Visual Basic 6 in creating the graph, and will require many functions to determine the rest of the variables.

# Define the Problem

## Identification of the Problem

The problem presented is that physics students require a program that can easily solve and visualise projectile motion problems. This would include calculating the initial velocity, its maximum height, its range, its horizontal and vertical velocity at any point of time, and its time. It must be able to input different variables and output the rest of the variables. A graph which visualises the projectile’s motion is also required to allow physics students to easily solve any projectile motion problem.

## Ideas

* The program could calculate the position of the ball at a certain point in its motion and pinpoint it on the graph. After creating many points, these points can be connected, creating a curve.
* Several variables will be listed with a box allowing the user to input a number into it
* If there is not sufficient information, a prompt can appear after the user enters the information saying that there is not sufficient information.
* After some information has been inputted by the user, the rest of the boxes can be filled by calculating from the user’s information and the graph can be shown.
* Excel can be used to create the curve for the graph, as Excel has a function which allows the line of a graph to be curved.
* The data required could be entered when the program is first opened, then when all necessary data has been entered, the program can then load the graph and enter all the variables into their boxes.
* A function to calculate the velocity at any point during the projectile’s motion can be added, which can be used after the graph has been loaded.

## Requirements

1. The program is to run on Microsoft Windows machines and must fit a 1920x1080 resolution as this is the resolution that school computer displays have.
2. The program must not crash when the program is put in use
3. The program must run on a computer with 4GB RAM.
4. The program must be able to visualize the projectile motion specified by the user and output variables that can be calculated from the information inputted into the program.
5. If the program cannot calculate any information from the data given, the program will output an error displaying that the information given is not sufficient.
6. The user should be able to use the program again after the user has inputted information for a projectile motion problem without having to reopen the program.
7. The program must give an error when non-numeric characters have been entered.

## Gantt Chart

# Understanding the Problem

### Storyboard

## Context Diagram



## Feasibility Study

This project is designed for physicists and physics students, and its purpose is to solve projectile motion problems. Many physics students and physicists have to solve projectile motion problems, and this program can help visualise and aid with solving these problems.

The boundaries of this project include not being able to pinpoint a specific point of the projectile’s motion on the graph, as Visual Basic 6 does not have the capability to create this. The graph will also not be a smooth curve, as Visual Basic 6 does not have a proper graphing feature. However, dots can be created on the graph to attempt to create a curve.

The benefits of creating this project include being able to solve projectile motions much more easily, and allowing physics students to check their answers easily if they need to. The program can also provide more accurate answers for projectile motion problems than what physicists can calculate by hand, and can create a visual aid for students by showing what the projectile motion should look like on a graph.

This project is possible in Visual Basic 6 as points can be placed on a drawn graph to create a curve on the graph, which visualises the projectile’s motion. There is also a limited amount of possibilities for projectile problems, and so all projectile motion problems can be solved using a program. Although Visual Basic 6 does not have a graphing function, it is still possible using Excel to create a graph.

One person is needed to actually create and maintain the program, and it will most likely take around 1-2 months to create. Visual Basic 6 must be used to create the program as the programmer who will develop it can program efficiently in Visual Basic 6. A computer with Windows is needed as Visual Basic 6 can only run on Windows.

If the project is not completed, the graph can be left out to allow most of the functionality of the program to operate. As the graph is the most complex part of the program and only helps achieve the purpose of the program, it can be left out if it has to. This will allow students to still easily use the program, and the project to be completed in less time.

## Social and Ethical Issues

### Malware

Malware has been considered as a possible issue for the software, and so the software after completion will be scanned by antivirus software and uploaded to virustotal.com, a Google-developed website that uses many antivirus software to ensure that the software is free of malware and viruses.

### Intellectual Property

The program is owned by the Department of Education and Communities of New South Wales, as it is developed due to educational purposes. Therefore, the program’s intellectual property is protected by copyright laws as no license has been given to it.

### Quality

The program will be developed to the highest quality possible in the time frame provided. The program will be tested with school computers to ensure that it meets hardware requirements, which are that it must run on Windows with a 1920x1080 resolution. Error checking will be built into the code, and all errors that are found during the development process will be fixed and solved.

### Issues

After development, users who use the program may report any bugs and issues with the developer, and they will be fixed.

### Ergonomics

User interface elements will be used to ensure consistency with other software, which makes the program easy to use. As the program is targeted towards physicists and physics students, the program will be developed with the demographics of this target market in mind to ensure that the target market find the program easy to use. Industry standards will be used to do this. The program will also be tested by physics students to make sure the software meets the needs of physics students and physicists.

### Inclusivity

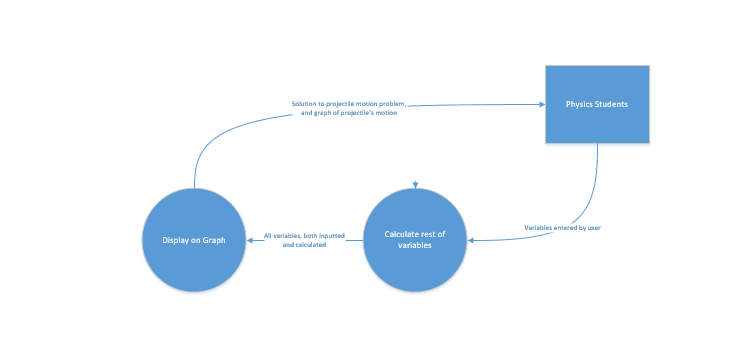
The graph in the program will follow normal science standards, with the dependent variable on the y axis and the independent variable on the x axis. All units used for variables entered and outputted will follow SI units as well to give physics students units they expect. The program will have no cost, therefore economic issues will not be considered. No offensive language will be used in the program, and a variety of testers will be used including people from both genders to address the possible inclusivity issue of gender. To address disability issues, shortcuts like TAB and ENTER can be used to operate the program as well.

### Privacy

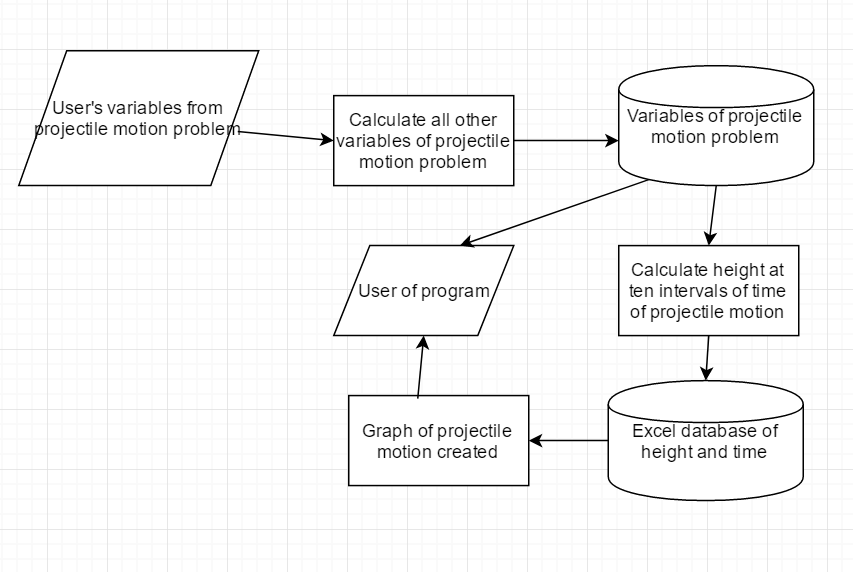
To address a possible privacy issue, no information will be kept in a database, and the program will not save any information entered by the user.

# Plan and Design

## Data Flow Diagram



## System Flowchart



## Specifications

* Windows XP or later
* 1GB RAM or more
* 1920X1080 resolution
* Any processor will run

## Data Dictionary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Variable Name | Description |
| time | The amount of time the projectile travelled before landing. |
| initVelo | The projectile’s initial velocity. |
| angle | The angle the projectile was launched from the horizontal. |
| xVelocity | The x (horizontal) component of the projectile’s initial velocity. |
| yVelocity | The y (vertical) component of the projectile’s initial velocity. |
| timeSpecific | The time the projectile took from launch to reach maximum height. |
| timeSpecific2 | The time the projectile took to land from maximum height. |
| maxHeight | The projectile’s maximum height it reached. |
| range | The horizontal distance the projectile travelled from its launch to its landing point. |
| divisor | A temporary variable used to find the angle of the projectile for the 2nd Algorithm. |
| height | The projectile’s initial height from the ground. (Always given by the user) |
| heightEnd | The projectile’s landing height from the ground. (Always given by the user) |
| heightDiff | The difference in height between the landing height and the initial height (heightEnd – height = heightDiff) |
| angleR | The angle from the horizontal the projectile was launched at converted to radians. |

## Algorithms

Algorithm 1: Given Initial Velocity and Angle (Basic algorithm of the 5 algorithms that will be used in the program. All algorithms that calculate the variables are based off this one)

BEGIN

angleRadians = (angle / 180) \* 3.14 // Convert angle into radians

xInitialVelocity = initialVelocity \* Math.Cos(angleRadians)

yInitialVelocity = initialVelocity \* Math.Sin(angleRadians)

maximumHeight = (yInitialVelocity^2 / (2 \* 9.8)) + height // v^2 = u^2 + 2as

timeTillMaxHeight = yInitialVelocity / 9.8 // v = u + at

timeAfterMaxHeight = sqrt(maximumHeight / (0.5 \* 9.8)) // s = ut + 0.5at^2

range = xInitialVelocity \* time

Output(time, range, initialVelocity, xInitialVelocity, yInitialVelocity, timeTillMaxHeight, angle, maximumHeight) // Output these variables to the user

excelGraph(time, yInitialVelocity, height) // Graph function needs variables

END

Algorithm 2: Graph Function

timeInterval = time / 10 // Needed to create the graph accurately and to plot points on it

For i = 1 to 10:

Times[i – 1] = timeInterval \* i

Heights[i – 1] = (yInitialVelocity \* times[i – 1]) + (0.5 \* -9.8 \* times[i – 1]^2) // s = ut + 0.5at^2

End For

AddToExcelWorksheet(Times)

AddToExcelWorksheet(Heights)

excelChart.Type(lineChart)

excelChart.Smooth = True

excelChart.Show()

END

# Test Data

The following projectile motion problems will be used to test the program:

1. A projectile is fired at 30° to the horizontal from the top of a cliff 200 m high. Its initial speed is 49 ms-1.
2. A projectile is fired from the top of a 120m high cliff at 25 ms-1. It lands on the ground 6.4s after firing
3. A cannon is at the top of a 60 m high cliff firing at a castle on top of an adjacent cliff 110m high. The cannon and castle are 200m apart horizontally.
4. A cannon ball is fired at 50ms-1 from the top of a 200m high cliff so that maximum range is achieved.
5. A boy throws a rock at 15ms-1 from the top of a 75m high cliff. The rock lands in the water at the bottom of the cliff 4.0s later.
6. A projectile is thrown up from the top of a 60m high cliff. It rises to a maximum height of 44.1 m above the cliff top. It hits the ground 76m out from the base of the cliff.
7. A ball is thrown out from the edge of a 40m high cliff with a velocity of 35.1ms-1 at 30° to the horizontal.
8. A cannon ball is fired at 40° to the horizontal from the top of a 218.7m cliff and hits a target 300m from the base of the cliff.
9. A cannon fires from the top of a 150m high cliff at a castle 300m from the base of the cliff. The ball hits the castle 15 s later.

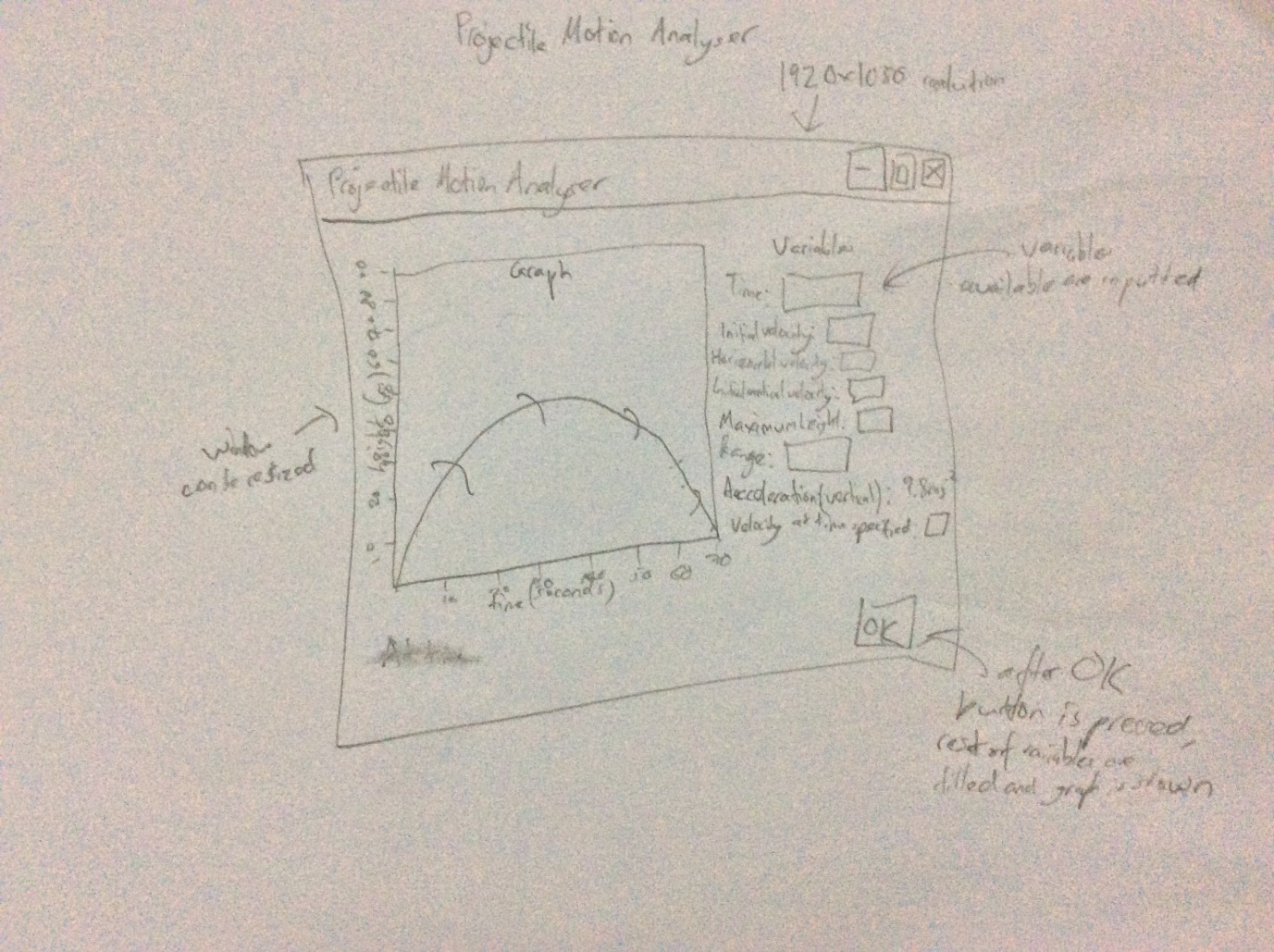
The program must match the following output data:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Problem | Initial Velocity | Initial horizontal velocity | Initial vertical velocity | Range | Max Height | Time to reach max height | Time of flight |
| 1 | 49ms-1, 30 deg | 42.4 | 24.5 | 396.9 | 30.6 | 2.5 | 9.36 |
| 2 | 25 ms-1, 30.3 deg | 21.6 | 12.6 | 138 | 8.1 | 1.3 | 6.4 |
| 3 | 101 ms-1, 84.3 deg | 10 | 100.5 | 200 | 510 | 10.3 | 20 |
| 4 | 50 ms-1, 45 deg | 35.4 | 35.4 | 387.2 | 63.9 | 3.6 | 10.94 |
| 5 | 15 ms-1, 13.1 deg | 14.6 | 3.4 | 58.4 | 0.6 | 0.34 | 4.0 |
| 6 | 31 ms-1, 71.2 deg | 10 | 29.4 | 76 | 44.1 | 3.0 | 7.6 |
| 7 | 35.1 ms-1, 30 deg | 30.4 | 17.6 | 157.3 | 15.8 | 1.5 | 5.2 |
| 8 | 40 ms-1, 40 deg | 30.64 | 25.7 | 300 | 33.6 | 2.62 | 9.8 |
| 9 | 66.6 ms-1, 14.3 deg | 20 | 63.5 | 300 | 205.7 | 6.5 | 15 |

## IPO Chart

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Input | Process | Output |
| Variables of projectile motion problem (eg. Time, initial velocity, range) | 1. Identify which variables were given by the user 2. Use the algorithm that can solve the projectile motion problem using the variables given. 3. Use projectile motion equations like v = u + at to calculate all variables, including time, initial velocity, range, maximum height, and time until maximum height is reached. 4. Display all variables of the projectile motion problem to the user | All projectile motion variables related to the problem given. |

## Window Design



## Feedback for Projectile Motion Analyser

* Instead of drawing graph using lines and dots to create a curve, Excel can be used to create a curve for the graph.

## Data Structures

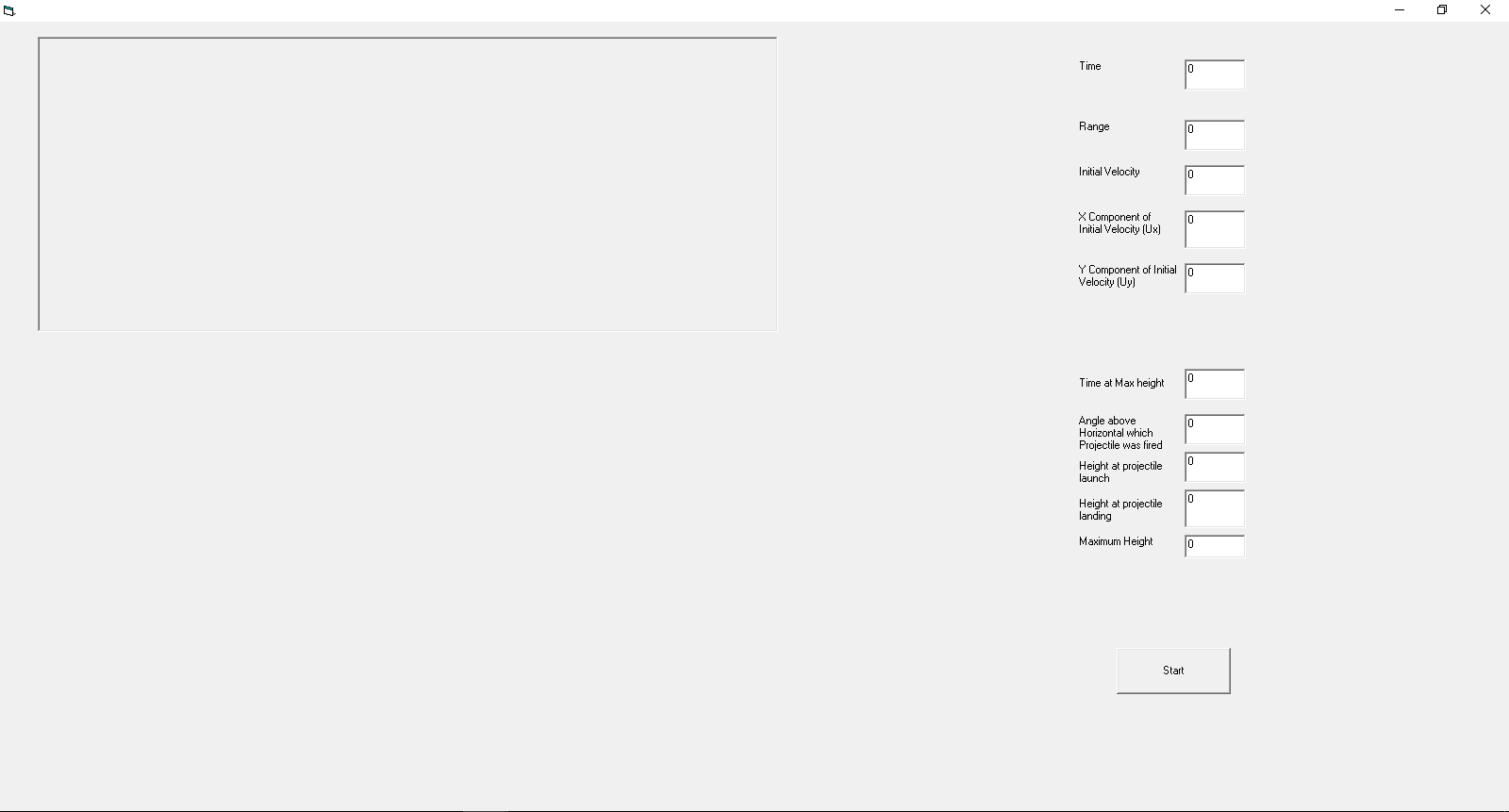
No data will be stored permanently by the program, for privacy reasons. Arrays will only be used by the graphing function of the program, as the times and heights of each interval of the projectile motion are required and so arrays must be used.

# Implementation

## User Documentation

## How to use Projectile Motion Analyser:

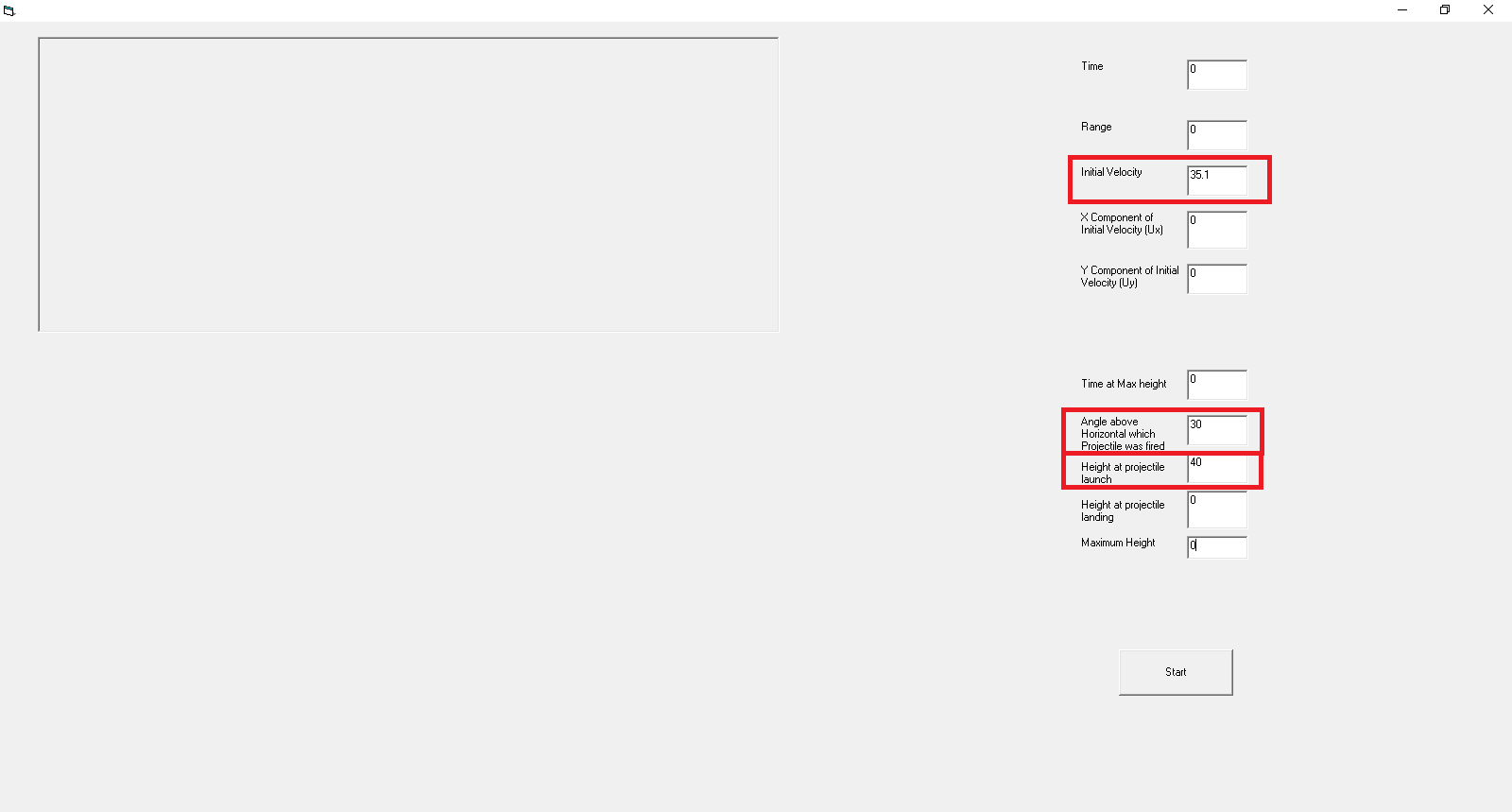
Step 1: Open the program. This screen should be shown (If not, maximise the window)

Step 2: An example of a projectile motion problem will now be used to demonstrate the program.

Problem: A ball is thrown out from the edge of a 40m high cliff with a velocity of 35.1 ms-1 at 30 degrees to the horizontal.

The variables that the problem gives must be entered into the program.

For example:

Variables given – Initial Velocity (35.1), Angle (30), Initial Height (40)

Step 3: Press the button “Start”, and the graph and all other variables will be given. (Note that the graph will take around half a minute to load)

# Evaluation

## Testing

1. Projectile Problems from Surfing Space Book:

Gives correct data for every problem.

1. Projectile Problems from HSC

**EXCEL HSC Space Section: Question 3**

The program returns “Please enter more variables” due to it finding the angle is 0. However, the initial angle is actually 0 in the question.

Bug has been fixed, now program will detect whether a box is blank instead of whether it contains a 0.

The program gives the correct answer to this question.

**2008 HSC Question 3**

The program gives the correct answer to this question.

**2010 HSC Question 22**

The program supports a default acceleration value of 9.8 ms-2 for gravity, as this is the acceleration value of gravity on Earth. However, this question uses the acceleration value on the Moon, which is 1.6ms-2, and so currently the program cannot solve this question.

An acceleration option has been added, with the default value set at 9.8, however the user can change this value.

Therefore, the program can now solve this question and gives the correct answer to this question.

**2011 HSC Question 15**

The program gives the correct answer to this question.

**2012 HSC Question 27**

The program DOES NOT give the correct answer to this question. In the program’s code, “300” was written instead of the variable “range”, making the algorithm give a wrong answer. This was fixed, and now the program gives the correct answer to this question.

**GHS Trials Q3 2006**

The program gives the correct answer to this question.

**Independent Trials Q16 2006**

The program gives the correct answer to this question.

**NEAP Trials Q16 2006**

The program gives the correct answer to this question.

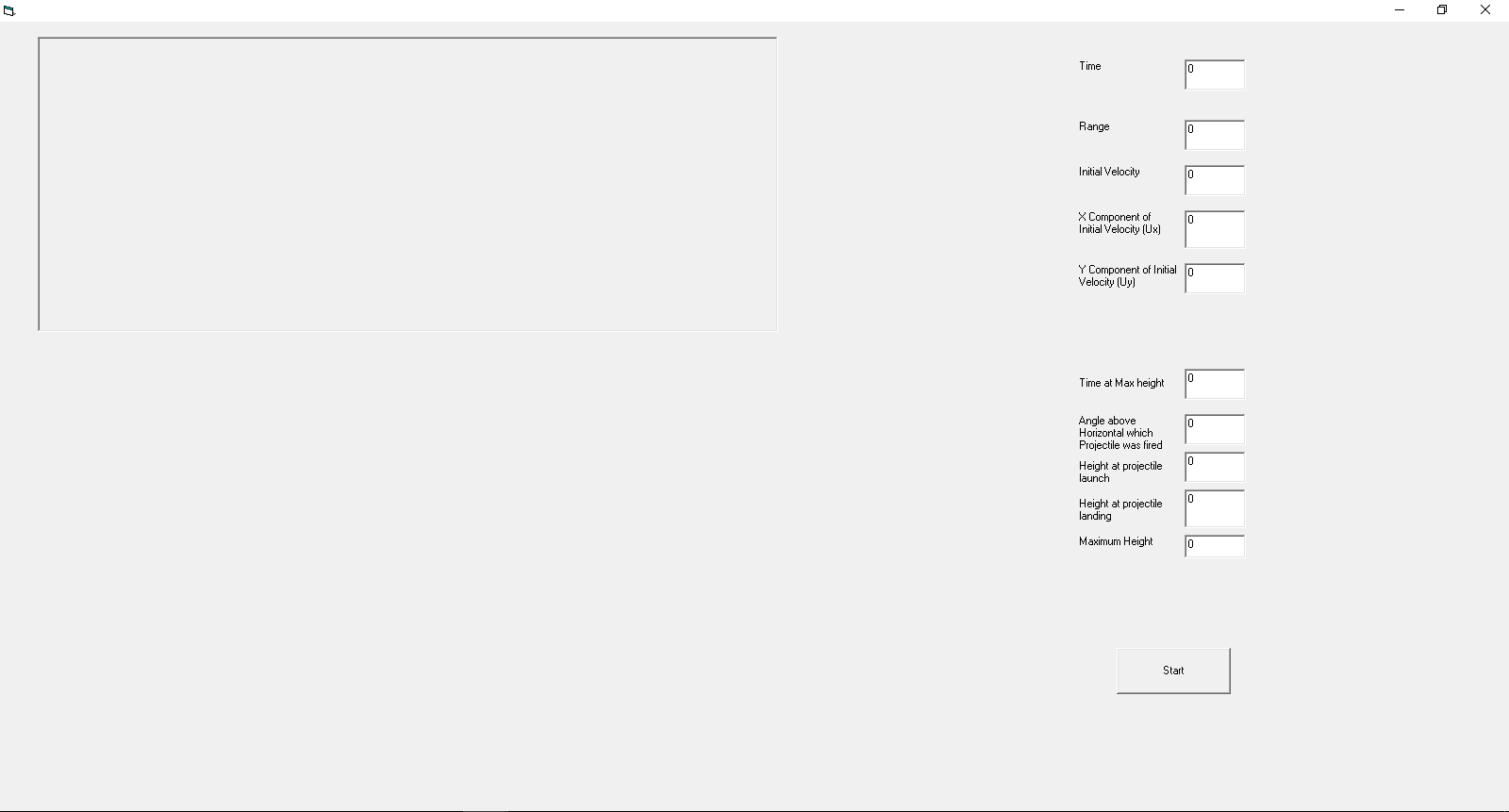
**Catholic School Trials Q17 2006**

The program gives the correct angle but in radians, not in degrees. This bug was fixed, and the program now gives the correct answer.

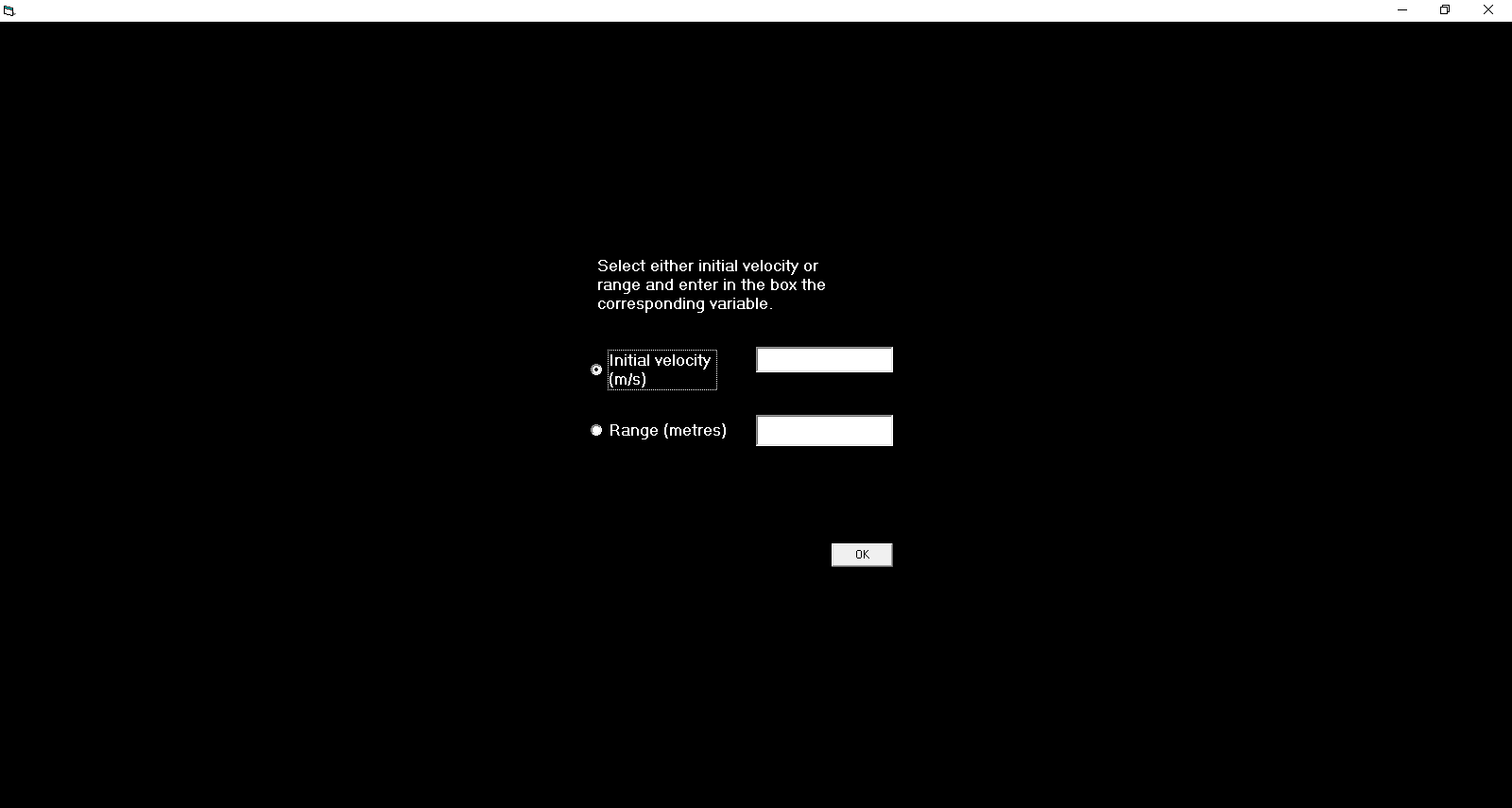
# Maintenance

The program was edited with a new UI to make it easier to use. The program now gives 2 options, initial velocity and range, and gives more options after one is selected. The algorithm is selected based on the option the user picks.

Old UI:



New UI:



A function to calculate the projectile’s velocity at a time during the projectile’s journey was also added, in order to allow the program to be able to solve more projectile problems. This function can only be used after the graph has been shown. More error messages were added to ensure that the program does not crash when a user is using it.

# Social and Ethical Issues Testing

## Authorship/Copyright

The Department of Education owns this program, and so the program will not be distributed commercially.

## Reliability

The program has been tested thoroughly, on school computers and on other computers, and the program works efficiently on all computers. It can perform all tasks given to it, and gives the correct answers to projectile motion problems given to the program.

## Response to Problems

All problems that have arised in the program have been fixed, and any future problems that users have will also be solved.

## Malware

The program is virus-free according to VirusTotal.

## Plagiarism

The program has not copied any code from any other sources.