

# roller coaster tycoon 2

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# 1 Formulation

## 1.1 Assumptions

- The terminology 'smooth' was used to describe the transition between pieces of track. It is assumed that this means they are both at the same location in space, meaning there will be no gaps, and that their gradient will be the same at the point of intersection, so that there is no sudden change gradient.
- it will be assumed that the gradient of the start and end sections of track is 0 as this was not specified.

## 1.2 Observations

- The roller coaster can be faithfully modeled in 2D to simplify calculations as the width of the track and much of its geometry is not relevant in this case and we are not provided with specifications regarding the width available.
- The task sheet defines the success criteria as causing the maximum amount of exhilaration, caused by "swift changes in direction, height and steepness".
- It is required that the track be constructed of at least 3 types of functions or more. These must be considered when it comes to choosing the shape of the track

## 1.3 Translation of aspects to Mathematical concepts and techniques

- Since the roller coaster has been assumed to be 2D, its track can be represented on the Cartesian plane. This allows us to use desmos to graph its track and perform calculations by letting 1 unit be 1 meter.
- The derivative function of modeled section of track can be used to determine the gradient at that point and therefore be used to determine if the track fulfills the specified "Maximum Slope for safety" requirement provided by the task sheet.
- "Swift changes in direction, height and steepness" can be translated to swift changes in the  $y$ -axis, and gradient. However, there is a maximum gradient specified that must be considered.
- In order to achieve as much of a thrill as possible, the maximum slope should be reached on multiple occasions.

# 2 Solve

## 2.1 Modeling in Desmos

- Cubic function was considered as it has a curved slope and changes direction. Adding a quadratic to this forms a polynomial which

The cubic function was considered as the beginning of the coaster as

# 3 Evaluate and Verify