Teacher Notes

Image: Students will explore the motion of a projectile parametrically by adjusting the projectile's initial height, initial velocity and angle to the horizontal.

Image: Students will explore the motion of a projectile's initial height, initial velocity and angle to the horizontal.

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Problem

Students will explore the motion of a projectile using the parametric equations

 $x(t) = x_0 + v_0 \cos(\theta)t$ and $y(t) = y_0 + v_0 \sin(\theta)t + \frac{1}{2}gt^2$ by changing the parameters of the equations and observe the results. The students will then examine problems involving two-dimensional particle motion.

Exploration



Analysis

- 1. t = 3.53 or 3.54 s x = 70.6 or 70.8 m y = 61.22 m
- 2. t = 7.07 s x = 141.4 m y = -0.01 m
- 3. vo: = 30 The particle does not rise as high or travel as far horizontally.
 - vo: = 50 The particle rises higher and travels further horizontally. Change Xmax to 250 and Tmax to 9 to see a complete graph.
- 4. θ : = 30 The particle does not rise as high and travels about the same horizontally.
 - θ : = 70 The particle rises higher and does not travel as far horizontally.
- 5. yo: = 10 The graph is shifted up 10 m making the object rise higher and travel further horizontally.
 - yo: =15 The graph is shifted up 15 m making the object rise higher and travel further horizontally.
- 6. The greater the value of v_0 , the higher and further the object will travel. The greater the value of θ , the higher the object will rise. But the horizontal distance will decrease once the angle reaches 45°. The graph of the object is shifted up as y_0 is increased.

Additional Exercises Solutions

1.
$$t = [0,3]$$

x = [0, 40]

y = [-1, 10]

Highest Point:

 $t = 1.02 \ s$

x = 17.67 m

y = 5.10 m

Strikes the ground:

 $t = 2.04 \ s$

x = 35.33 m

y = 0.01 m





 $x = 4082.83 \ m$

y = -0.20 m

- 4. The angle is 45°. Students should fix the values of v_0 and y_0 and change θ until they see that the maximum horizontal distance occurs at that point.
- 5. Students should use the steps 1 through 9 from the Activity to see the results.