

## Projectile Motion Concept Sheet

Projectile motion is a combination of two separate motions: constant speed horizontally and constant acceleration due to gravity vertically. On this sheet, you will calculate what happens to the components of a projectile's velocity and position, and then graph the positions, much as you did on some previous concept sheets.

For this problem, we have a projectile launched upward with an initial horizontal velocity of 20 m/s and an initial vertical velocity of 30 m/s. Answer the following questions first:

1. What is the actual initial speed of the projectile?

$$v_x = 20 \text{ m/s} \quad v_y = 30 \text{ m/s} \quad v^2 = v_x^2 + v_y^2 \rightarrow v^2 = (20)^2 + (30)^2 = 1300$$

$$v = 36.1 \text{ m/s}$$

2. What happens to the horizontal component of the velocity as the projectile flies through the air?

$v_x$  stays constant and so does not change.

3. What happens to the vertical component of the projectile as it flies through the air?

$v_y$  changes at the constant rate of  $-10 \text{ m/s}^2$ . This means we subtract  $10 \text{ m/s}$  from  $v_y$  every second - which is due to gravity!

4. At the projectile's maximum height, what is the horizontal component of its velocity?

$v_x$  still  $20 \text{ m/s}$

5. At the projectile's maximum height, what is the vertical component of its velocity?

$v_y = 0 \text{ m/s}$  @ max height!

Now to fill out the chart on the other side by completing the following:

6. Fill out the column for the horizontal velocity ( $v_x$ ) at each point in time. Explain how you filled the chart out, or show your calculations here.

$v_x$  never changes, so it's always  $20 \text{ m/s}$

7. Fill out the column for the vertical velocity ( $v_y$ ) at each point in time. Explain how you filled the chart out, or show your calculations here.

$$v_y = at + v_{y_i} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \therefore @ t=1 \quad v_y = (-10)(1) + 30 = 20 \text{ m/s} \\ @ t=2 \quad v_y = (-10)(2) + 30 = 10 \text{ m/s} \\ \vdots \\ @ t=6 \quad v_y = (-10)(6) + 30 = -30 \text{ m/s} \end{array} \right.$$

side 1

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8. Fill out the column for the horizontal position (X) at each point in time. Explain how you filled the chart out, or show your calculations here.

$$X = V_x t$$

$$V_x = 20 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \therefore @ t=1 \quad X = (20)(1) = 20 \text{ m} \\ @ t=2 \quad X = (20)(2) = 40 \text{ m} \\ @ t=6 \quad X = (20)(6) = 120 \text{ m} \end{array} \right.$$

9. Fill out the column for the vertical position (Y) at each point in time. Explain how you filled the chart out, or show your calculations here.

$$Y = \frac{1}{2} a t^2 + v_{y_i} t$$

$$a = -10 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$v_{y_i} = 30 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \therefore @ t=1 \\ Y = \frac{1}{2}(-10)(1)^2 + (30)(1) \\ = -5 + 30 \\ Y = 25 \text{ m} \end{array} \right. \quad @ t=2$$

$$Y = \frac{1}{2}(-10)(2)^2 + (30)(2)$$

$$= -20 + 60$$

$$= 40 \text{ m}$$

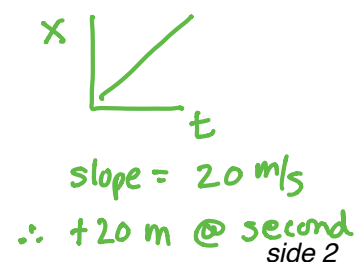
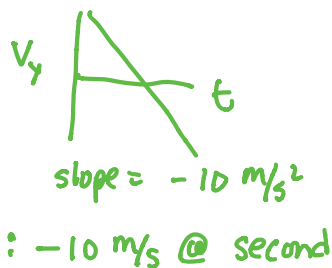
Time (s)	Velocity		Position	
	$V_x$ (m/s)	$V_y$ (m/s)	X (m)	Y (m)
0	20	30	0	0
1	20	20	20	25
2	20	10	40	40
3	20	0	60	45
4	20	-10	80	40
5	20	-20	100	25
6	20	-30	120	0

10. Mark each of the positions of the projectile (X,Y) on the coordinate shown below. Label each position "t=" with the appropriate time. The first position is already done for you.

11. At each position, draw vectors to represent both components of the velocity. Use the scale of 1 square = 10 m/s. The first position is already done for you.

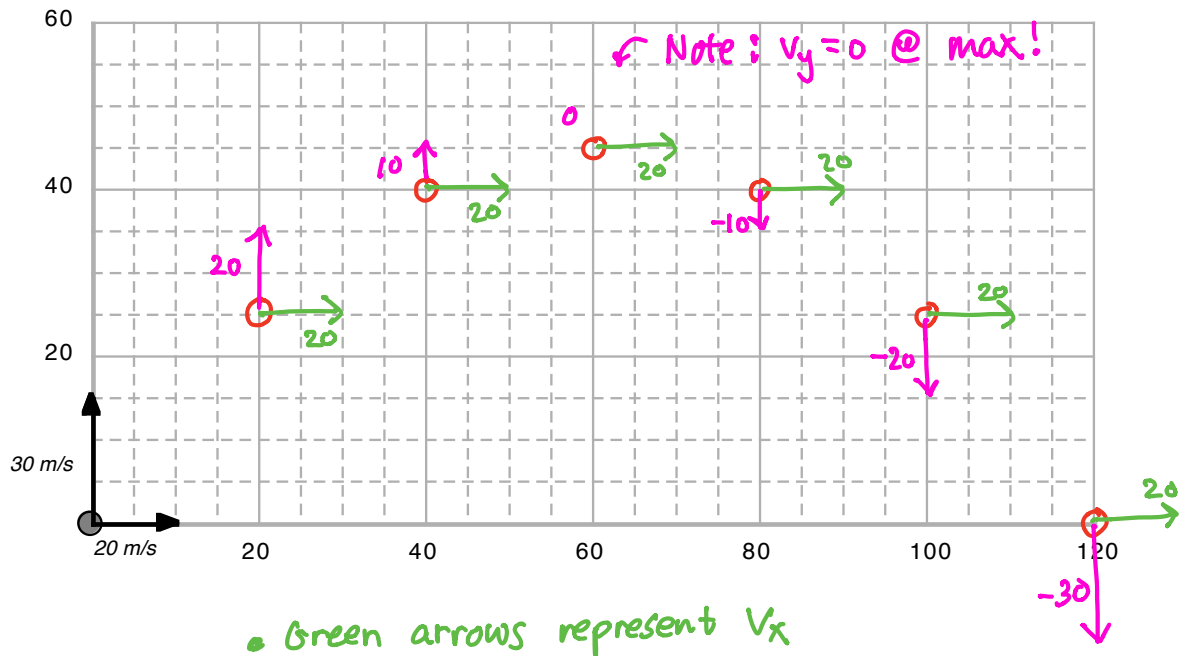


$\therefore$  never changes



You can figure these out based on graph concepts too!

# Projectile Motion Concept Sheet



• Green arrows represent  $V_x$

• Pink arrows represent  $V_y$

## Projectile Motion Concept Sheet

### Questions:

1. Imagine that you did the same thing for a projectile with an initial  $V_x$  of 10 m/s and  $V_y$  of 30 m/s.

a. What would be different?

The horizontal parts of the motion would be different. (That means the  $x$  &  $v_x$  columns would be different.)

b. What would be the same?

The vertical parts of the motion ( $y$  &  $v_y$ ) would NOT change! They don't depend on  $v_x$  at all!

c. How long would the projectile be in the air?

So still 6 seconds.

d. What would be the maximum height of this projectile?

So still 45 m.

e. How far away would the projectile land?

$$X = v_x t \rightarrow X = (10)(6) = \boxed{60 \text{ m}}$$

2. Imagine that you did the same thing for a projectile with an initial  $V_x$  of 30 m/s and  $V_y$  of 30 m/s.

a. What would be different?

Just  $x$  &  $v_x$

b. What would be the same?

$y$  &  $v_y$

c. How long would the projectile be in the air?

6 seconds

d. What would be the maximum height of this projectile?

45 m

e. How far away would the projectile land?

$$X = v_x t \rightarrow X = 30(6) = \boxed{180 \text{ m}}$$

## Projectile Motion Concept Sheet

3. If you wanted the projectile to go higher,  
a. what should you change? Explain.

Increase the  $v_y$ !

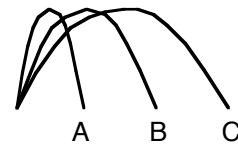
- b. would this affect the time in the air? Explain.

Yes! If  $v_y$  is bigger  $\frac{1}{2}$  it goes higher it takes longer

- c. would this affect how far away the projectile landed? Explain.

It would! Remember  $X = v_x t$  so if it is in the air longer it will go farther as well.

4. Imagine that three different projectiles were launched across a level field. All the projectiles had the exact same maximum height, but they landed in different places. The paths of the projectiles are shown in the diagram to the right.



- a. Which projectile was in the air the longest time?

all the same!

- b. Which projectile had the largest initial vertical velocity?

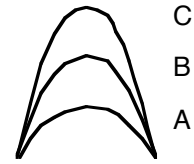
all the same!

- c. Which projectile had the largest horizontal velocity?

C. (went farthest in the same amount of time)

## Projectile Motion Concept Sheet

5. Imagine that three different projectiles were launched across a level field. All the projectiles landed in the same place, but had different maximum heights. The paths of the projectiles are shown in the diagram to the right.



- a. Which projectile was in the air the longest time?

C

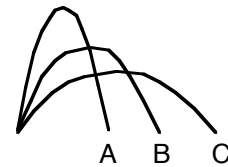
- b. Which projectile had the largest initial vertical velocity?

C

- c. Which projectile had the largest horizontal velocity?

A (They all had the same "x", but A did it in less time.)

6. Imagine that three different projectiles were launched across a level field. The projectiles all had different maximum heights and landed in different places. The paths of the projectiles are shown in the diagram to the right.



- a. Which projectile was in the air the longest time?

A

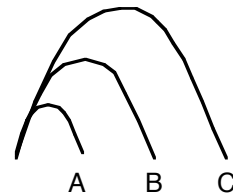
- b. Which projectile had the largest initial vertical velocity?

A

- c. Which projectile had the largest horizontal velocity?

C

7. Imagine that three different projectiles were launched across a level field. The projectiles all had different maximum heights and landed in different places. The paths of the projectiles are shown in the diagram to the right.



- a. Which projectile was in the air the longest time?

C

- b. Which projectile had the largest initial vertical velocity?

C

- c. Which projectile had the largest horizontal velocity? (Be careful!)

not enough information to tell!