

3.1 Motion of a projectile

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 15 marks**KEY WORDS** motion of a projectile 抛射体运动 • projectile 抛射体 • trajectory 轨迹

Objective

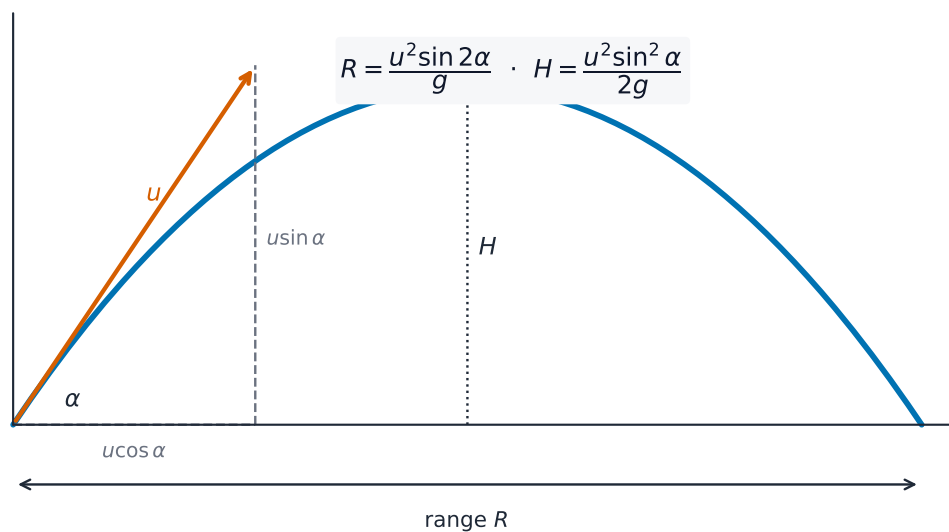
Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **motion of a projectile** 抛射体运动 — separating horizontal/vertical motion, the **trajectory** 轨迹 equation, range and greatest height. Take $g = 10 \text{ m s}^{-2}$.

You must be able to:

- use $x = u \cos \alpha t$, $y = u \sin \alpha t - \frac{1}{2}gt^2$
- eliminate t to get the Cartesian trajectory
- find range $\frac{u^2 \sin 2\alpha}{g}$ and greatest height $\frac{u^2 \sin^2 \alpha}{2g}$

1 Worked examples

■ Range and height



The path is a parabola; u splits into a steady horizontal part and a vertical part slowed by gravity

$u = 20, \alpha = 30^\circ$: range = $\frac{400 \sin 60^\circ}{10} = 34.6$ m; greatest height = $\frac{400 \sin^2 30^\circ}{20} = 5$ m.

2 Practice

2.1 A projectile is launched at 25 m s^{-1} at 40° . Find its initial vertical velocity component. [2]

2.2 Write down the formula for the range on level ground. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A ball is projected horizontally at 15 m s^{-1} from a height. After 2 s its horizontal distance is: [1]

A	B
C	D

- A 15 m
B 30 m
C 20 m
D 7.5 m

3.2 A particle is projected at 30 m s^{-1} at 60° to the horizontal.

(a) Find the time to reach the greatest height. [2]

(b) Find the greatest height reached. [3]

3.3 A stone is thrown at 20 m s^{-1} at 45° from the top of a cliff. It lands in the sea 50 m horizontally away.

(a) Find the time of flight. [3]

(b) Find the height of the cliff above the sea. [3]
