

A stone thrown from the surface of the earth at a speed of 10 m/s at an angle of 60° to the horizontal. The radius of curvature of the upper root point of the trajectory

Solution:

Gravitational acceleration change velocity amount only on the vertical component, the horizontal component then remains constant:

$$V_x = \text{const} = V \cos \alpha \text{ (from a right triangle)}$$

$$\alpha = 60^\circ, \cos 60^\circ = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$V_x = V \cos \alpha = \frac{V}{2}$$

At the topmost point of the trajectory velocity of the body is equal to the horizontal component of the initial velocity, so that the vertical component of the velocity is zero:

$$2: V_2 = V_x = \frac{V}{2}$$

Formula for the centripetal acceleration at the topmost point (2):

$$a_c = \frac{V_x^2}{R} = g \text{ (the only acceleration that acts on the ball)}$$

$$R = \frac{V_x^2}{a_c} = \frac{\left(\frac{V}{2}\right)^2}{g} = \frac{V^2}{4g} = \frac{\left(10 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}\right)^2}{4 \cdot 9.8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}} = 2.6\text{m}$$

Answer: the radius of curvature of the upper root point of the trajectory is 2.6m

