

5. (10 points) The *trebuchet*, a medieval catapult driven by a falling, hinged counterweight, can be simulated with the use of mathematical models. The range of the projectile flung from the catapult at an angle θ is given by

$$R = \frac{2v_0^2 \sin \theta \cos \theta}{g},$$

where g is the constant acceleration due to gravity and v_0 is the constant representing the initial velocity of the projectile.

(a) Find the exact value of θ on the interval $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi/2$ that maximizes the range of the projectile.

$$R' = \frac{2v_0^2}{g} (\cos \theta \cos \theta + \sin \theta (-\sin \theta))$$

$$= \frac{2v_0^2}{g} (\cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta)$$

$$R' = 0 \text{ if } \cos^2 \theta = \sin^2 \theta \text{ or } \tan^2 \theta = 1$$

Thus, on $[0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$, $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$ is the only C.P.

NOTE: $R(0) = 0 = R(\frac{\pi}{2})$. Therefore, $R(\frac{\pi}{4})$ is the max.
 $\downarrow R(\frac{\pi}{4}) = \frac{v_0^2}{g} > 0$

(b) What is the maximum range?

$$R(\frac{\pi}{4}) = \frac{2v_0^2}{g} \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) = \frac{v_0^2}{g}$$