

✍ Ether 2/21/2014

✍ Given yp (y coordinate of apex),
and coords (x1,y1) of a point on the trajectory,
where x1>xp, compute a & b

All xy coords are relative to launch point at (0,0)

✍ (%i1) f1: $y = a*x^2 + b*x$
f2: $m = 2*a*x + b$

✍ set up simultaneous equations:

✍ (%i3) q1: $ev(f1, y=y1, x=x1);$
q2: $ev(f1, y=yp, x=xp);$
q3: $ev(f2, m=0, x=xp);$

(%o3) $y1 = a x1^2 + b x1$

(%o4) $yp = a xp^2 + b xp$

(%o5) $0 = 2 a xp + b$

✍ Solve for a & b and create a function:

✍ (%i6) $solve([q1, q2, q3], [a, b, xp])[2]$

ab_ypx1y1(yp, x1, y1) := (
a: $(-2*\sqrt{yp*(yp-y1)} - 2*yp + y1)/x1^2,$
b: $(2*(\sqrt{yp*(yp-y1)} + yp))/x1,$
[a, b]);

(%o7) ab_ypx1y1(yp, x1, y1) :=

$\left(a: \frac{(-2)\sqrt{yp(yp-y1)} - 2yp + y1}{x1^2}, b: \frac{2(\sqrt{yp(yp-y1)} + yp)}{x1}, [a, b] \right)$

✍ Example usage:

✍ (%i8) goal : 3 + 1/12\$
bottom : 6 + 10.75/12\$
top : bottom + goal\$
ball_radius : 1\$

launch_height : 3.5\$
yp : (top - launch_height) - ball_radius\$
y1 : (bottom - launch_height) + ball_radius\$
x1 : 21.9302867486\$

[a, b]: ab_ypx1y1(yp, x1, y1);

(%o16) [-0.023776863283001, 0.7218792052362]

... so the equation of the parabolic trajectory in a coordinate system in which the coordinates of the launch point are (0,0) is:

$$y = a*x^2 + b*x$$

... and the equation in a coordinate system in which the coordinates of the launch point are (0,launch_height) is:

$$y = a*x^2 + b*x + \text{launch_height}$$