

# KINEMATICS

Units 4 & 5 Dr. John P. Cise, Professor of Physics, Austin Community College,

1212 Rio Grande St., Austin Tx. 78701 [jpcise@austincc.edu](mailto:jpcise@austincc.edu) & NYTimes December 16, 2012 by Douglas Quenqua

They Believe They Can Fly



Jumpers leap off cliffs or out of airplanes wearing winged jumpsuits that let them control their free fall.

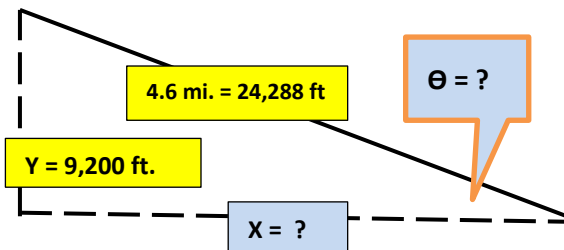
This primal urge has given rise to wingsuit fliers: thrill-seekers who leap off cliffs or out of airplanes wearing winged jumpsuits that give them the gliderlike capacity to control and delay their free fall. With practice, some wingsuiters can stay airborne for up to 90 minutes and hit speeds over 100 miles an hour, achieving what they say is the closest thing to engineless flight that humans have ever experienced. “It’s a weird, risky thing to do,” said Taya Weiss, 35, a professional wingsuit pilot and charity organizer. “But the dream of flight is ancient, and some of us feel like it’s something we were born with and can’t get rid of.”

## INTRODUCTION: From WikipediaWingsuit\_flying

A wingsuit modifies the body area exposed to wind to increase desired amount of lift with regards to drag generated by the body. The glide ratio of most wingsuits is 2.5. This means that for every meter dropped, two and a half meters are gained moving forward. The ratio is called efficiency. The body shape manipulation and by choosing the design characteristics of the wingsuit a flier can alter both his forward speed and fall rate.

## INFORMATION TO BE USED IN QUESTION BELOW:

The longest winged suit jump was from the Eiger Mt. in Switzerland on November 2, 2011. That jump was from 9,200 ft. and a length of 9.6 miles(24,288 ft.) for 3 min. 20s.



**QUESTIONS:** (a) In the longest wingsuit jump on record mentioned above (and in graphic at left) find the angle  $\theta$ ? (b) Find horizontal distance  $X$  traveled in this 4.6 mile 3 min 20 s wingsuit longest jump? (c) Above in the introduction the concept of efficiency of the jump is explained. What is the efficiency of this jump? (d) Find speed (in mph) of this 4.6 mile longest jump? (e) Find Vertical speed  $V_y$ ? (f) Find the horizontal speed  $V_x$ ?

**HINTS:**  $\sin\theta = \text{opp/hyp.}$ ,  $\tan\theta = \text{opp/adj}$ ,  $\cos\theta = \text{adj/hyp}$   
 $60 \text{ mph} = 88 \text{ ft/s}$ , for a right triangle:  $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$

**ANSWERS:** (a)  $22.26^\circ$ , (b)  $X = 22,493 \text{ ft.}$ , (c) efficiency = 2.445  
(d) 82.8 mph, (e)  $V_y = -31.36 \text{ mph}$ , (f)  $V_x = 76.63 \text{ mph}$