

An elevator starts from rest with a constant upward acceleration and moves 1 m in the first 1.9 s. A passenger in the elevator is holding a 5 kg bundle at the end of a vertical cord. What is the tension in the cord as the elevator accelerates? The acceleration of gravity is 9.8 m/s².

Answer in units of N

Solution:

Let:

$$h = 1\text{m}$$

$$t = 1.9\text{s}$$

$$m = 5\text{kg}$$

$$g = 9.8\text{m/s}^2$$

$$F = ?$$

$$F = mg + ma, \text{ where } a = \text{acceleration of elevator}$$

$$h = \frac{1}{2}at^2 \Rightarrow a = \frac{2h}{t^2}$$

$$F = m(g + \frac{2h}{t^2})$$

$$F = 5(9.8 + \frac{2 * 1}{1.9^2}) = 51.77\text{N}$$

Answer: 51.77N