

You are driving down a straight road at 54km/hr. When you are 30m from a side street a car abruptly pulls out in front of you 1s to react to the car and if your maximum acceleration is 5 m/s² can you stop in time to avoid an accident?

Solution:

Let:

$$v = 54 \text{ km/h} = 15 \text{ m/s}$$

$$S = 30 \text{ m}$$

$$a = 5 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$t_0 = 1 \text{ s}$$

From: $S = \frac{1}{2}at^2, v = at$

The brake distance will be:

$$S = \frac{v^2}{2a} + vt_0$$

$$S = \frac{15^2}{2 \cdot 5} + 15 \cdot 1 = \mathbf{37,5 \text{ m}}$$

As the brake distance is more than 30 m, you can not avoid an accident.