

**QUESTION:**

A 3kg box is pushed with a force of 15 N across a friction less floor for 3 second. What is the power exerted on the box?

**SOLUTION:**

Power is

$$P = \frac{W}{t}$$

Where work  $W = F \cdot s$

As floor is frictionless:

$$F = m \cdot a$$

$$a = \frac{F}{m}$$

$$s = \frac{at^2}{2} = \frac{Ft^2}{2m}$$

Hence

$$W = F \cdot s$$

$$W = \frac{F^2 t^2}{2m}$$

And power

$$P = \frac{W}{t} = \frac{\frac{F^2 t^2}{2m}}{t} = \frac{F^2 t}{2m}$$

$$P = \frac{15^2 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 3} = 112.5 \text{ W}$$

**Another way:**

According to the work-energy theorem, in this case

$$W = \frac{mv^2}{2}$$

$$v = at$$

$$F = ma$$

$$a = \frac{F}{m}$$

$$v = \frac{Ft}{m}, \text{ hence}$$

$$W = \frac{mv^2}{2} = \frac{m}{2} \left( \frac{Ft}{m} \right)^2 = \frac{mF^2 t^2}{2m^2} = \frac{F^2 t^2}{2m}$$

And power

$$P = \frac{W}{t} = \frac{\frac{F^2 t^2}{2m}}{t} = \frac{F^2 t}{2m}$$

$$P = \frac{15^2 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 3} = 112.5 \text{ W}$$