

Question: A car of mass 1000 kg is moving with a constant speed of 20 m/s on a straight horizontal road with an output power of 20 kW. If the output power is suddenly increased to 60 kW, what is the acceleration of the car at this instant?

Solution:

$$P = \frac{A}{t} = \frac{F \cdot S}{t} = F \cdot V, \text{ where}$$

A – work,

t – time,

F – force,

V – speed.

$$P_1 = 20000 \text{ W}, \quad V_1 = 20 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$

$$P_2 = 60000 \text{ W}$$

The first power is:

$$P_1 = F \cdot V_1$$

$$F = 1000 \text{ N}$$

The second speed:

$$V_2 = \frac{P_2}{F}$$

$$V_2 = \frac{60000}{1000} = 60 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$

$$\Delta P = \frac{\Delta A}{t}$$

Time is:

$$t = \frac{\Delta A}{\Delta P} = \frac{\frac{m \cdot (\Delta V)^2}{2}}{\Delta P} = 20 \text{ s},$$

where

m – mass of car,

$$\Delta V = (V_2 - V_1),$$

$$\Delta P = (P_2 - P_1).$$

ANSWER:

$$a = \frac{\Delta V}{t} = \frac{40}{20} = 2 \text{ m/s}^2$$