

what net braking force must be applied to stop a car with mass of 900kg initially travelling at velocity of 100kmh⁻¹ within a straight line distance of 50m?

Solution:

$m = 900 \text{ kg}$ - mass of the car;

$V = 100 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{h}} \approx 27.8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$ - the initial speed of the car;

$S = 50\text{m}$ - braking distance;

a - deceleration of the car.

Equations of motion for the car on the X-axis:

$$S = Vt - \frac{at^2}{2} \quad (1)$$

Rate equation for the car along the X-axis

$$0 = V - at$$

$$t = \frac{V}{a} \quad (2)$$

(2) in (1):

$$S = V \cdot \frac{V}{a} - \frac{aV^2}{2a^2}$$

$$S = \frac{V^2}{2a}$$

$$a = \frac{V^2}{2S} \quad (3)$$

Hence, we have acceleration, so we can now use Newton's second law (the projection on the X-axis) for the car:

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

x: $F = ma \quad (4)$

(3) in (4):

$$F = \frac{mV^2}{2S} = \frac{900 \text{ kg} \cdot (27.8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}})^2}{2 \cdot 50\text{m}} = 6950\text{N}$$

Answer: net braking force is 6950N.

