Answer on Question 69128, Physics, Mechanics | Relativity

Question:

A car travels in a straight line with an average velocity of 80 km/h for 2.5 h and then average velocity of 40 km/h from 1.5 h.

- a) what is the total displacement for the 4 h trip?
- b) what is the average velocity for the total trip?

Solution:

a) Let's find the total displacement for the 4 *h* trip:

$$\begin{aligned} d_{tot} &= d_1 + d_2 = v_1 t_1 + v_2 t_2 = 80 \ \frac{km}{h} \cdot 2.5 \ h + 40 \ \frac{km}{h} \cdot 1.5 \ h = 260 \ km = \\ &= 2.6 \cdot 10^5 \ m. \end{aligned}$$

b) By the definition, the average velocity is the total distance traveled divided by the total time (the total distance travelled by the car is equal to the total displacement for the 4 h trip):

$$v_{avg} = \frac{d_{tot}}{t_{tot}} = \frac{260 \ km}{4.0 \ h} = 65 \ \frac{km}{h}.$$

Answer:

a) $d_{tot} = 2.6 \cdot 10^5 m$. b) $v_{avg} = 65 \frac{km}{h}$.