A driver is negotiating a turn on a mountain road that has a radius of R = 40.0 m when the m = 1600 kg car hits a patch of wet road. The coefficient of friction between the wet road and the wheels is $\mu = 0.500$ if the car is moving at v = 30.0 km/h will the car skid off the road?

Solution:

Car will skid off the road when the centripetal force would be more then friction force

 $F_{\rm c} > F_{\rm frict}$

The centripetal force

$$F_{\rm c} = \frac{mv^2}{R} = \frac{1600 \times (30 \div 3.6)^2}{40.0} = 2777.8 \,\mathrm{N}$$

Friction force

$$F_{\rm frict} = \mu N = \mu mg = 0.5 \times 1600 \times 9.8 = 7840 \text{ N}$$

Thus

 $F_{\rm c} < F_{\rm frict}$

So car will not skid off the road.

Answer: Car will not skid off the road.