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Q: A car is moving collinearly with a laser beam emitted by a transceiver. A laser pulse emitted at t = 0 s is received back by the transceiver 100 ns (nanoseconds) later after reflection from the car. A second pulse emitted at t = 0.1 s is received back 90 ns later. Given the speed of light is 3×10^8 m/s, the average speed of the car in this interval is __.

- (A) 54 kmph, moving towards the transceiver
- (B) 108 kmph, moving towards the transceiver
- (C) 54 kmph, moving away from the transceiver
- (D) 108 kmph, moving away from the transceiver

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Solution:

Transceiver	$t = t_3$ $\leftarrow \boxed{\text{Car}}$	$ \begin{array}{c} t = t_2 \\ & \leftarrow \boxed{\text{Car}} \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{c} t = t_1 \\ & \leftarrow \boxed{\text{Car}} \end{array} $	$v = 0$ $\leftarrow Car$
d = 0	$d = d_3$	$d = d_2$	$d = d_1$	$d = d_0$

Fig. 0: block diagram of the system

Variable	Description	Value
v_c	velocity of laser	3×10^8 m/s
v	average speed of car	none
t_1	time at which first pulse hits car	none
t_2	time at which second pulse is emmited	0.1s
t_3	time at which second pulse hits car	none
d_0	Distance between tranceiver and car at $t = 0$	none
d_i for $i = 1, 2, 3$	Distance between tranceiver and car at $t = t_i$	none

TABLE 0: Input parameters

From Fig. 0

$$t_1 = \frac{d_1}{v_c} = \frac{d_0 - d_1}{v} \tag{1}$$

$$\implies d_1 = \frac{d_0}{\left(1 + \frac{v}{v_c}\right)} \tag{2}$$

Distance travelled by first pulse is given by

$$2d_1 = v_c \times 100 \,\mathrm{ns} \tag{3}$$

$$2\frac{d_0}{\left(1 + \frac{\nu}{\nu_c}\right)} = \nu_c \times 100 \,\text{ns} \tag{4}$$

similarly time taken by car to move from d_2 to d_3 is given by

$$t_3 - t_2 = \frac{d_3}{v_c} = \frac{d_2 - d_3}{v} \tag{5}$$

$$\implies d_3 = \frac{d_2}{\left(1 + \frac{v}{v_c}\right)} \tag{6}$$

from Fig. 0

$$d_2 = d_0 - 0.1v \tag{7}$$

$$\therefore d_3 = \frac{d_0 - 0.1v}{\left(1 + \frac{v}{v_c}\right)} \tag{8}$$

Distance travelled by second pulse is given by

$$2d_3 = v_c \times 90 \,\mathrm{ns} \tag{9}$$

$$2\frac{d_0 - 0.1v}{\left(1 + \frac{v}{v_c}\right)} = v_c \times 90 \text{ ns}$$
 (10)

solving (4) and (10) we get

$$v = 15 \,\mathrm{m/s} \tag{11}$$

$$v = 54 \,\mathrm{kmph} \tag{12}$$

since v is same but time taken by pulses to reach tranceiver is decreasing, v is towards tranceiver. \therefore Average speed of car is 54 kmph, moving towards the transceiver (option A)