

1. Our car is travelling at a constant velocity of 30 m/s when we spot a priceless painting on the road 100 m in front of us! We apply the brakes, giving our car an acceleration of  $-5 \text{ m/s}^2$ . Putting our initial position as 0 m and the position of the painting as 100 m, find our position when the car comes to a stop (i.e., when velocity is 0). Did we save the painting?

$$\begin{aligned}a(t) &= -5 \\v(t) &= -5t + v_0 \\&= -5t + 30 \\x(t) &= -2.5t^2 + 30t + x_0 \\&= -2.5t^2 + 30t\end{aligned}$$

The car comes to a stop when  $v(t) = 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= v(t) \\0 &= -5t + 30 \\t &= 6\end{aligned}$$

We need to know if we hit the painting (which is at position 100). We calculate the car's position when it stops.

$$\begin{aligned}x(t) &= -2.5t^2 + 30t \\x(6) &= 90\end{aligned}$$

We stopped at position 90, so we saved the painting!

2. We are designing a car, and we need to ensure that it has a stopping distance of 50 m when traveling at a speed of 25 m/s. How much acceleration must the brakes be designed to provide?

$$\begin{aligned}a(t) &= -A \\v(t) &= -At + v_0 \\&= -At + 25 \\x(t) &= -\frac{A}{2}t^2 + 25t + x_0 \\&= -\frac{A}{2}t^2 + 25t\end{aligned}$$

We need to find the time  $t$  when the velocity is zero.

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= v(t) \\0 &= -At + 25 \\t &= \frac{25}{A}\end{aligned}$$

Our car stops at time  $t = \frac{25}{A}$ . We need to see how far it goes.

$$\begin{aligned}x(t) &= -\frac{A}{2}t^2 + 25t \\x\left(\frac{25}{A}\right) &= -\frac{A}{2}\left(\frac{25}{A}\right)^2 + 25\left(\frac{25}{A}\right) \\&= \frac{625}{2A}\end{aligned}$$

So our stopping distance is  $\frac{625}{2A}$ . On the other hand, we need our stopping distance to be 50 m. Equate, and solve for  $A$ .

$$\begin{aligned}50 &= \frac{625}{2A} \\A &= 6.25\end{aligned}$$

We need our brakes to be able to apply  $-6.25 \text{ m/s}^2$  of acceleration.

3. Our car has brakes that can provide  $-6 \text{ m/s}^2$  acceleration. Find the stopping distance as a function of velocity. Find the velocity at which the stopping distance becomes 100 m, and find the velocity at which the stopping distance becomes 200 m (give your answers in m/s and correct to 2 decimal places).

We know that our acceleration is  $-6$ . Our initial velocity is unknown, so we give it a symbol, say  $v_0$ .

We need to find the time  $t^*$  when our car stops (*i.e.*, when the velocity equals 0) and the distance we travel before stopping (in terms of  $v_0$ ).

$$\begin{aligned}a(t) &= -6 \\v(t) &= -6t + v_0 \\x(t) &= -3t^2 + v_0t\end{aligned}$$

Set  $0 = v(t^*)$  and solve for  $t^*$ .

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= v(t^*) \\0 &= -6t^* + v_0 \\t^* &= \frac{v_0}{6}\end{aligned}$$

So our car stops at time  $t^* = \frac{v_0}{6}$ . Our stopping distance is  $x(t^*)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}x(t^*) &= -3(t^*)^2 + v_0t^* \\&= \frac{1}{9}v_0^2\end{aligned}$$

So our stopping distance in terms of our velocity  $v_0$  is  $\frac{1}{9}v_0^2$ .

We need to find the velocities that result in stopping distances of 100 m and 200 m, respectively.

$$\begin{array}{lll}x(t^*) = 100 & \implies & v_0 = 30 \\x(t^*) = 200 & \implies & v_0 = 42.42\end{array}$$

Notice that increasing our speed a relatively small amount doubles our stopping distance.