

7.20 When an 800 kg compact car accelerates from rest to 27 m/s it consumes 0.0606 L of gas, and 1.0 L of gas contains approximately 3.2×10^7 J of energy. What is the efficiency of the car?

$$K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{1}{2}(800\text{ kg})(27\text{ m/s})^2 = 291600\text{ J}$$

$$E_{\text{source}} = 0.0606\text{ L} \left(\frac{3.2 \times 10^7\text{ J}}{1\text{ L}} \right) = 1.94 \times 10^6\text{ J}$$

$$\text{efficiency} = \frac{K}{E_{\text{source}}} = \frac{2.92 \times 10^5\text{ J}}{1.94 \times 10^6\text{ J}} = 0.15$$

15% efficient