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IMPACT OF DRIVING TECHNIQUES ON FUEL CONSUMPTION

Climatologists constantly point to the change of the climate on Earth. They consider CO₂ emissions to be one of the main causes of these changes. Transport is significant producer of the greenhouse gases. If one litre of gasoline is burnt, 2.5kg of CO₂ is released into environment. Incineration of one litre of oil means that the air gets 2.7kg of CO₂ [1]. Moreover, the air gets other pollutants, particularly nitrogen oxides NO_x, unburned hydrocarbons, particulates. If we want to stop or delay the climate change, we should minimize production of the greenhouse gases. This objective could be implemented through legislation, designing of more efficient propulsion units, construction of infrastructure or using of alternative fuels. The easiest way is to minimize vehicle fuel consumption. This is dependent on driver and his driving techniques. The technical condition of the vehicle, route selection and the type of the vehicle are also significant [2]. We want to show the influence of the driving technique on the fuel consumption. Article describes four different driving techniques and their impact on the fuel consumption.

Keywords: Transport, greenhouse gases, vehicle fuel consumption, driving techniques, change of the climate.

1. Conditions for experiment

We compared the impact of a driving technique on the vehicle consumption by driving on the street circuit. To minimize the impact of inequalities and random effects on vehicle consumption we carried out two measurements for each driving technique. The third measurement was performed when the results between the first two measurements were significantly different. Traffic density has a significant effect on the car consumption. To eliminate this impact on measurements, we performed the measurements out in the evening with a minimum traffic density. When the waiting time at the traffic lights or junction was 1 minute or more, we annulled the measurement and started a new one [3].

Before measuring the consumption, the vehicle was warmed up to the operating temperature by driving to at least 10km distance. The vehicle was operated by the same driver during the consumption measuring and the driver was following traffic rules and regulations valid in Slovakia. The measurements were carried out on Suzuki SX 4 with front-wheel drive. The technical characteristics of the vehicle are described in Table 1.

2. Description of the measuring circuit

Measurements were done on the circuit in the city of Zilina. The starting point of the circuit number 1 is at an altitude of 363m. The highest point of the route is at an altitude of 401

The basic parameters of the tested vehicle

Table 1

Engine	Fuel	Number of cylinder	Stroke volume [cm ³]	Maximum power [kW/rpm]	Maximum torque [Nm/rpm]	Maximum speed [km.h ⁻¹]	Number of gears
Spark ignition	Gasoline	4	1490	82/6000	145/4400	180	5
Dimensions [mm]				Standby mass of the vehicle [kg]	Payload [kg]	410	
Length	Width	Height	Wheelbase				
4 120	1730	1565	2500	1240	410		

Source: vehicle manufacturer

meters and the lowest point is at an altitude of 351 metres. Altitude values were determined by the Google earth program. Altitude profile of the measuring circuit is shown in Fig. 1 [4].

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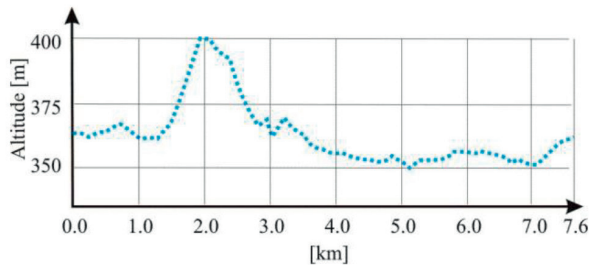


Fig. 1 Elevation profile of the measuring circle

The route was divided into sections depending on the longitudinal slope, the speed limit or obligation to give way to other vehicles.

The first section, 100m long, was used to achieve a speed of 50 km/h. The driver drove through the second section at a speed of 50 km/h and he was obliged to slow down to 40 km/h at the end of the section. The driver kept driving at a speed of 40 km/h on the third section. The driver accelerated to 50 km/h in the fourth section and at the end of it he slowed down to a speed of 40 km/h. Here is an intersection where the driver turned to the right into the fifth section. The average slope of this section is 5%. The driver sped up to 50 km / h in this section. The driver slowed down to a speed of 40 km / h at the end of this section. The sixth section had degressive character and the driver braked by engine. He had to slow down to a speed of 30 km/h at the end of the section because he was obliged to give way to the vehicles traveling on the main road. The vehicle increased its speed again to 50 km/h on the seventh section and went through a slight incline. The eighth section of the road had a decline and at the end of it the driver entered a roundabout and had to slow down to 30 km/h. The driver could go through the ninth section at a speed of 50 km/h but at the end of it he had to slow down to 30 km/h as he entered a roundabout again. The tenth section had a decline. At the end of this section, the driver was turning to the left so he had to give way to the vehicles coming from the opposite side. The driver slowed down to 30 km/h and entered the eleventh section. This sector had an incline and the driver could increase the speed to 70 km/h. He increased the speed to this speed limit. There is a road sign STOP - GIVE WAY at the end of the eleventh section so the driver had to stop the vehicle. The beginning of the twelfth section had a speed limit of 50 km/h so the vehicle accelerated to 50 km/h. Then the driver had to slow down to 40 km/h due to the speed limit at the end of this section. At the thirteenth section, the driver went through the first 100m at a speed of 40 km/h, after that he accelerated to 50km/h which was also the speed limit. The road had a slight decline. The driver had to slow down to 30 km/h at the end of the section as he entered a roundabout. The fourteenth section had a moderate incline. The speed limit was 50km / h. At the end, the driver parked the vehicle at the spot where we started the measurements [5] and [6].

3. Driving technique description

The aim was to investigate the effects of driving techniques on the car consumption and, therefore, measurements were taken for different driving techniques. This route was selected so that the driver had to change the speed of the vehicle frequently and there were only short segments of the road where the driver could drive at a constant speed. The measurement was carried out for four different driving modes, which are described below.

- A The vehicle engine was warmed up to the operating temperature. The driver tried to keep the vehicle engine at low revs, used deceleration of the vehicle and engine braking. The driver used only the first four gears.
- B The engine of the vehicle was warmed up to the operating temperature. The driver tried to keep the vehicle at a low speed and turned on the cruise control when driving at the constant speed. He used only the first four gears.
- C The engine of the vehicle was warmed up to the operating temperature. The ride was dynamic and the driver kept the vehicle at higher speeds. He used only the first three gears.
- D The driver tried to drive the vehicle economically as described in section A. The only difference was that he started to drive as soon as he turned the engine on - the cold start [7] and [8].

The measurement results are in Table 2.

The results of the measurements Table 2

Section	Distance from start [km]	Average fuel consumption of the vehicle from the start, depending on driving techniques of driver [l/100 km]			
		A	B	C	D
1	0.1	16.2	15.1	17.9	27.6
2	0.6	6.5	6.5	7.4	8.1
3	0.9	5.5	5.5	6.5	6.2
4	1.2	5.1	5.0	5.9	6.0
5	2.0	6.7	6.6	7.4	7.5
6	3.0	5.2	5.1	5.5	5.6
7	3.5	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.7
8	4.2	4.8	4.8	5.3	5.4
9	4.4	4.8	4.7	5.4	5.2
10	4.9	4.8	4.6	5.4	5.2
11	5.6	4.8	4.7	5.3	5.2
12	6.1	4.9	4.8	5.4	5.4
13	6.6	4.8	4.7	5.3	5.3
14	7.6	4.9	4.7	5.3	5.3

4. Discussion of results

The results show that the lowest average fuel consumption was achieved when using the cruise control. Using this driving technique, the driver saved 0.2 litres of fuel per 100 km. The cruise control affects not only fuel consumption but it also contributes to road safety. While using the cruise control the driver doesn't have to watch the speedometer to make sure he doesn't exceed speed limit. This will enable him to give more attention to the other cars and to what is happening on the road and, therefore, to drive more carefully. Cruise control is automatically deactivated when the vehicle brakes, so there is no damage risk for the engine. However, it is necessary to be careful when changing the speed gears, because some cruise controls are unable to react to this and so the engine speed is increased unreasonably. If we compare the fuel consumption of driving at higher speeds and using only the 1st, 2nd and 3rd gear to the economical driving, the consumption increased by 0.4 litres / 100km. When we compare it to the driving with the cruise control, the difference is 0.6 litres / 100km. The driver increased the dynamic potential of the vehicle but it was totally unnecessary. In addition to increased consumption, higher engine speed also means increased noise of the vehicle.

To measure differences in consumption we also looked at the driving with cold engine. The overall average fuel consumption of the vehicle was similar to the situation when the driver kept the engine at higher speeds by using only the 1st, 2nd and 3rd gear. In this case very significant is the increased average fuel consumption of the vehicle in the first three kilometres. After accomplishing this distance the vehicle engine was warmed up to the operating temperature and started to work economically.

The manufacturer of tested vehicle determines that fuel consumption is 7.8 litres / 100 km in urban mode.

5. Conclusions

Our measurements proved that the driver can significantly influence the consumption of his car by using different driving techniques.

If we compare the economical driving technique to the driving with the cruise control, the vehicle consumption was 0.2 litres / 100 km higher and it means increase by 4.3%.

In the case of dynamic driving the vehicle consumption was 0.6 litres / 100km higher. It means an increase by 12.8%.

Cold start driving is a different case. The vehicle showed significantly higher fuel consumption on the first sections. This fact is even more serious because the catalyst vehicle begins to work with a time lag and the exhaust system emits unregulated emissions into the environment. Driving on short distance brings increased fuel consumption, but it also leads to increased production of emissions.

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