

“Automatic Braking Action of Vehicles”

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Abstract

The Automatic Braking System (ABS)* system is an effective intelligent vehicle safety mechanism for avoiding any possible collision. This study develops a national-level road safety evaluation model which is the intelligent vehicle function. This includes the potential maximum impact and realistic impact. Road fatalities and severe injuries trends, the proportion of different collision types, the effectiveness of collision avoidance.

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I. Introduction:

The vehicle technology has increased rapidly over the years, especially in relation with an effective braking system to avoid collisions. The introduction of the Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS), Traction Control (TC), Brake Assist and Electronic Stability Control (ESC) functions, Electronic Brake-Force Distribution (EBD) system are some of the major developments which the Automotive Industry has seen over the years. These systems are used to provide proper control over the vehicle and to minimize the accidents due to uncontrollability of the vehicles.

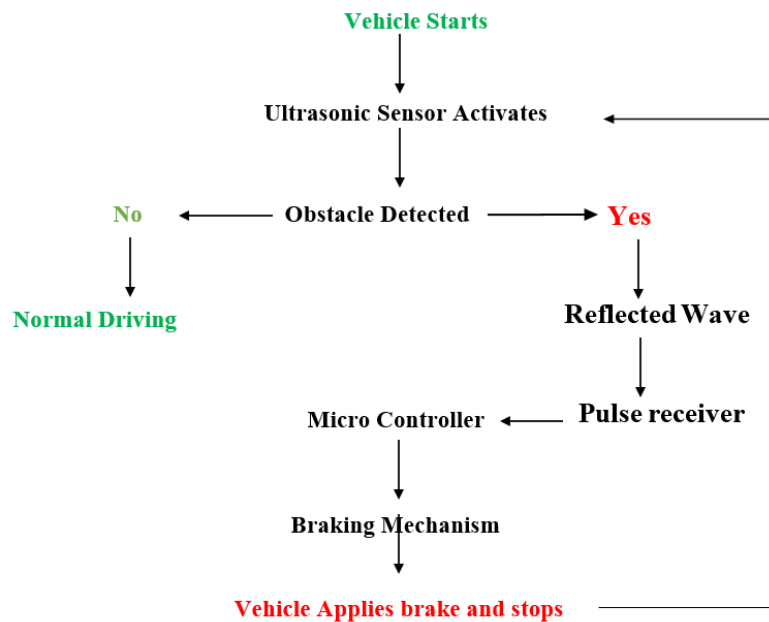
In parallel to these developments, various technologies like the Sensor Based Braking System has been developed which are capable of detecting any possible physical obstacles for example- other vehicles and pedestrians. This collision avoidance system is capable of sensing any obstruction on its way and assists the driver to slow down the vehicle automatically and if necessary, then to a halt. The modern sensors are highly advanced having a quick response time in slowing down the vehicle compared to a human reaction time which results in minimizing the road fatalities. But, these systems are very costly and sophisticated and hence are mostly used by premium luxury manufacturers like the Mercedes-Benz and Volvo.

II. Objective:

This paper investigates the development and implication of a simple and economical Self Braking System that can be installed in any economical family car as the majority percentage of the population in India belongs to the middle-class group and affording such premium cars is not feasible. Safety in economical vehicles are limited only to the use of Airbags and ESP which may seem beneficial for the people inside but not for any pedestrian or a person outside the vehicle. Hence developing a low cost, easy install system is a need as 35% of accidental deaths in India are caused due to road fatalities and accidents and out of which about 78% of the road accidents is due to the carelessness and negligence of the driver.

This new system is designed to provide a solution to this problem. Sometimes the drivers are not able to brake manually exactly at the required time in a situation of sudden braking action, but the vehicle can still stop automatically using its sensors to detect the obstacles to avoid an accident.

III. Methodology:



IV. Requirements:

4.1 Component requirements:

1. Ultrasonic sensor (Transmitter and receiver)
2. Microprocessor (Arduino)
3. Solenoid Valve and LED
4. Braking System and Mechanism
5. Electrical and Electronic systems

4.2 Implementation aspects:

The self-braking system circuit and mechanism is different for electric vehicles and different for the IC engine vehicles. In IC engine vehicles the methodology is same but the braking mechanism is different. In this project we will be discussing on a prototype which is in consideration with the widely used system in most of the presently on-road vehicles.

V. Working of Automatic Braking System (ABS):

- As the vehicle ignition starts, the vehicle control unit activates the ultrasonic sensors.
- The ultrasonic sensor emits ultrasonic waves for the detection of any obstacle.
- On detection of any physical obstacle the emitted waves get reflected and are recognized by the receiver.
- This feedback is sent to the microcontroller which calculates the relative velocity between the vehicle and the obstacle.
- A predefined value is set to identify the need of activating the braking mechanism.
- If the calculated value is identified as a hazard, the microcontroller sends a signal to the braking circuit.
- The microcontroller also sends its warning signal to the driver through hazard beeping sound and notifying the driver to apply brakes.
- If the driver fails to react within the allotted time then the data is sent to the braking system and it is activated.
- The braking system reads the data and acts accordingly by applying the brakes of the vehicle resulting in slowing the vehicle and reducing its speed.
- If the data is within the prescribed limits, the braking system acts partially just to slow the vehicle to a safe driving speed.
- If the data is beyond the predetermined limits then the braking system acts completely and results in a complete stop.

- Once the obstruction is undetected, this data is sent to the braking system which releases the applied force on the brakes resulting in free movement of the vehicle.

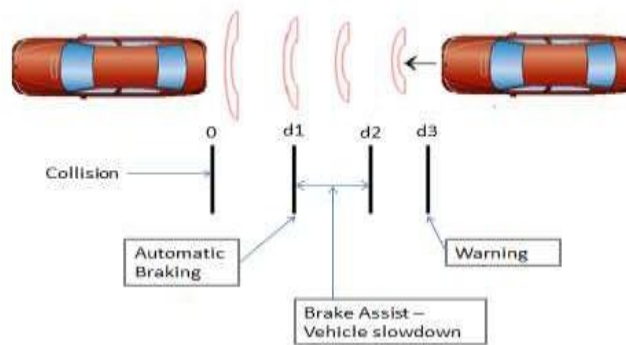


Fig:1 Working of Automatic Braking System

4.1 IC-Engine mechanism:

In IC-Engines the braking action is caused due to the friction action between the brakes and the brake pads. In modern day vehicles, every vehicle consists of a disc and caliper setup which performs the braking action. The following steps will help explaining the braking concept in today's vehicles.

- When the brake pedal is pressed, a mechanism made of set of links work simultaneously.
- These links are connected to piston-cylinder setup.
- The Piston-1 is initially at its rest position and on application of the brakes, the brake pedal makes it move.
- This movement causes the brake fluid to flow through connected brake hose piping and entering the brake caliper chamber.
- The brake caliper chamber consists of brake pad the movement of which is controlled by another piston say Piston-2.
- This Piston-2 is moved due to the pressure of the fluid caused due to the pressing of the pedal.
- The caliper has also through which the disc passes when the vehicle moves.
- The Piston-2 applies the force on the disc via the brake pad causing friction generation and resulting in slowing the vehicle down.
- If the pedal is pressed completely then the brakes are applied to its maximum limits causing maximum friction to stop the vehicle as soon as possible.
- Once the pedal is released, the pistons move back to their initial rest positions which releases the force on the disc and making it ready for free movement.
- This mechanism works in the principle of Pascal's Law.

The use of self-braking system in this mechanism works by adding another automated piston near the Piston-1. If the driver forgets to apply brakes on time, this automated piston does the work for the manually operated Piston-1 resulting in an effective braking mechanism. If the driver releases the brake in the presence of the obstruction, the system keeps the automated piston activated preventing the possible collision.



Fig:2 Vehicle disc-braking system

4.2 Electric Vehicle Mechanism:

In Electric Vehicles, the braking method is similar to the conventional IC-Engine braking system that is using disc-brakes but another factor is to be considered in EVs i.e. the motors. In EVs, the motors also participate in the braking action which increases the braking efficiency of the vehicle and henceforth self-braking system in these vehicles, the mechanism has an addition.

The following steps explain the additional working parts in the self-braking system of EV.

- When the sensors detect any obstacle, they send this feedback to the braking system which initiates the disc brakes.
- In EVs, the braking technology also utilizes the motor for braking action.
- When the brakes are applied, the motor that powers the wheels starts to act as a generator. A reverse flow of current starts to flow and this also converts the kinetic energy of the braking force to electrical energy.
- This reversing of the circuit is controlled by the Battery Management System (BMS).
- The reverse flow of current creates resistance causing the vehicle to slow down.
- Hence, an additional circuit is used to perform this task which is activated by the feedback data from the sensor.
- Using the self-braking system in Electric vehicle needs an additional circuit which automatically activates the braking action without any manual application.

VI. Literature Review:

6.1 Braking System:

In this project we are reviewing the presently used disc brake braking mechanism as it is widely in operation in majority of the vehicles on road today. In this, the automated piston is operated using a solenoid valve hence the mechatronics part plays an important role in the making of this project.

Solenoid valve: It is an electromagnetic component which is used to actuate the automated piston-cylinder mechanism. This part is divided into two parts i.e. the solenoid part and the valve part. The solenoid consists of coiled structure and electromagnetically operated armature which acts as a piston whereas the valve acts as the cylinder. The movement of the piston controls the fluid pressure to activate the disc braking system following Pascal's Law of hydraulics.

Ultrasonic Transducer: The ultrasonic transducer or sensor is an electronic device used to determine the physical obstacle. The transducer emits the ultrasonic waves with high frequency and get reflected due to the presence of any physical object. This reflected wave is captured by the receiver which is converted to equivalent electrical current.

To calculate the distance the formula used is:

$$\text{Distance} = \text{Time} \times (\text{Speed of sound} / 2)$$

Where Time is defined as the duration between which the ultrasonic wave was emitted and the reflected wave was captured. The equation is then divided by 2 because the sound wave travels to the object and back.

Arduino Microcontroller: The ATmega328P Arduino microcontroller is used for this project. Use of Arduino UNO or Arduino Nano can be done but to reduce the space requirements this prototype is controlled using the Arduino Nano. The construction only differs with the lack of DC power jack and works with a mini-USB cable.

Power supply: The Arduino Nano is powered by the Mini-B USB connection and a 6-20V unregulated external power supply (pin 30) or 5V regulated external power supply (pin 27). The power source automatically selects to the highest voltage source and the Ultrasonic transducer uses a 12V battery to start.

Input and output: The 14 digital pins on the Arduino-Nano can be used as an input or output. The functions like `pinMode()`, `digitalRead()` and `digitalWrite()` can be used. They can operate at 5V and each pin has the ability to provide or receive a maximum current of 40 mA. It has an internal pull-up resistor of up to 50 Kilo Ohms which is disconnected by default.

Drivers: The ULN2803APG / AFWG Series are high-voltage and high-current Darlington drivers which comprises eight N-P-N Darlington pairs. All these units feature an integral clamp diodes for switching the inductive loads. Applications are relay, hammer, lamp and display (LED) drivers.

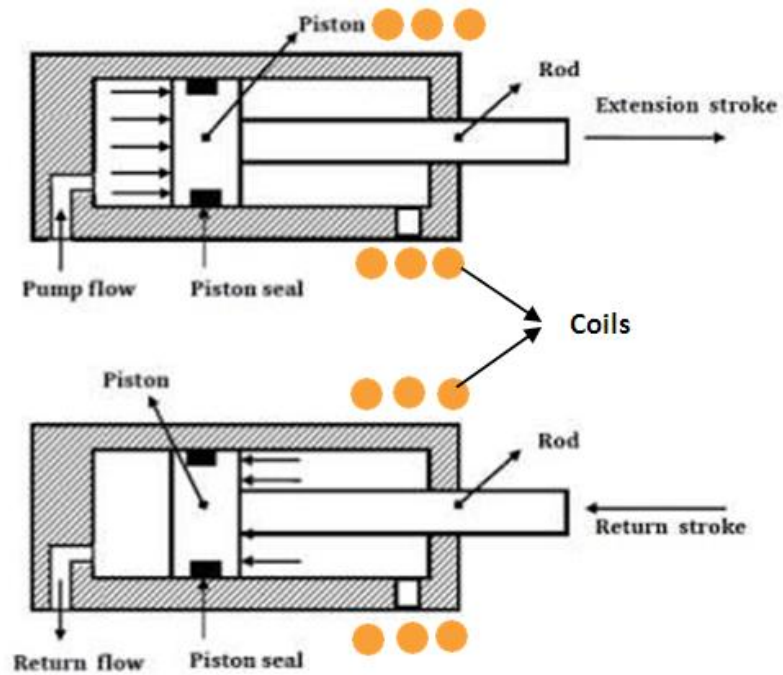


Fig:3 Cross-section of Solenoid Valve Piston-Cylinder

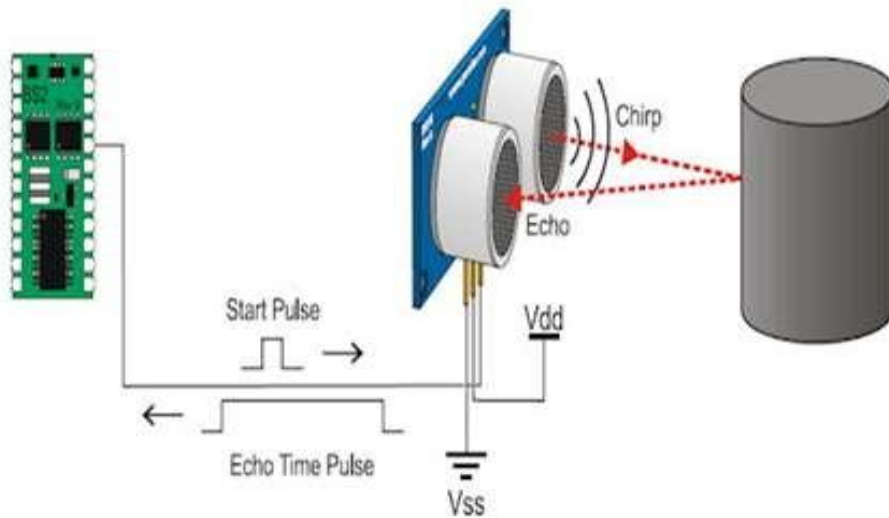


Fig:4 Working of an Ultrasonic Sensor

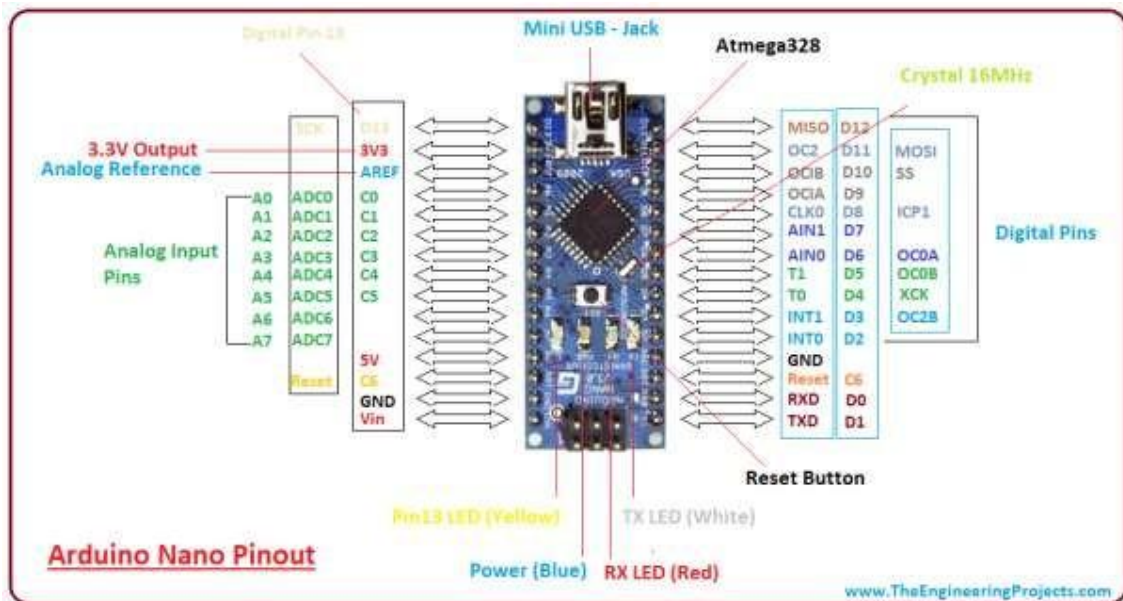


Fig:5 ATmega328P Arduino Nano

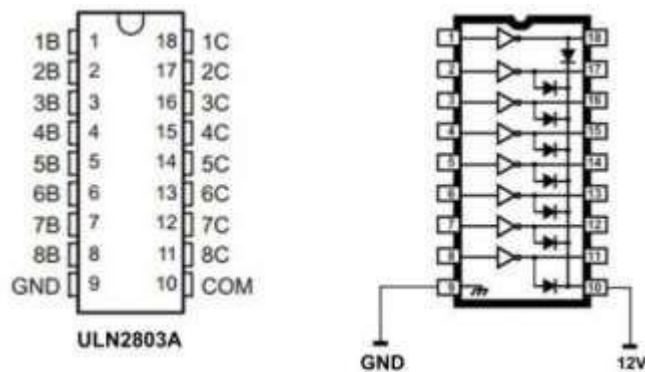


Fig:6 Darlington Driver for LED.

6.2 **Arduino Coding:** The following is the basic code required to perform the task of self braking in the prototype version.

```

const int trigPin = 3;
const int echoPin = 2;
const int solenoid = 9;
const int led = 13;

void setup()
{
  Serial.begin(9600);
  pinMode(trigPin, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(echoPin, INPUT);
  pinMode(solenoid, OUTPUT);
  pinMode(led, OUTPUT);
}

void loop()
{
  long duration, cm; digitalWrite(trigPin, LOW);
  delayMicroseconds(5);
  digitalWrite(trigPin, HIGH);
  delayMicroseconds(10);
  digitalWrite(trigPin, LOW);
  duration = pulseIn(echoPin, HIGH);

```

```

cm = duration/ 29.15 / 2;
Serial.println(cm);
if(cm<100)
{digitalWrite(solenoid,HIGH);digitalWrite(led,HIGH);delay(2000);}
if(100<cm<200)
{digitalWrite(solenoid,LOW);digitalWrite(led,HIGH);delay(2000);}
else
{digitalWrite(solenoid,LOW);digitalWrite(led,LOW);delay(2000);}
}

```

6.3 Explanation:

The above coding is for the prototype version. The distance given is in centimeters as the prototype project is a small scale version. For the application of life-size models, there are a number of preset distance values set according to the speed of the vehicle as different speeds require different braking times and distances. During the speed less than 10 kmph, the minimum value is set which is useful during parking the vehicles. At greater speeds, this value changes which the CPU of the vehicle does automatically. The preset reaction distance can be set manually or the user can use the default values provided in the vehicle. We will see the calculation in the later section of this report.

In the code, as sound travels with the speed of 343 meters per second, which means it needs 29.155 microseconds per centimeter. So we divide this total duration by 29.155 and then by 2 as the sound has to travel the distance two times.

There are three conditions given during the output.

1. **Solenoid (HIGH), led (HIGH):** This means that if the distance between the vehicle and the obstruction is less than 100 cm, the solenoid valve is activated resulting in creating brake pressure and the LED turns on indicating the driver of the hazard as a warning sign.
2. **Solenoid (LOW), led (HIGH):** This condition is satisfied when the distance between the vehicle and the obstruction is between 200 cm to 100 cm. It means that if this condition is identified by the controller unit, the solenoid doesn't act immediately, rather it just sends a warning signal to the driver for the possible hazard ahead.
3. **Solenoid (LOW), led (LOW):** This is the else statement commanding no action is required if the above two conditions are not satisfied. No warning sign is given and normal driving condition is available.

The trigPin is called as the trigger pin. It is the input pin which is used to initialize the measurement by transmitting the ultrasonic waves by keeping this pin high.

The echoPin is an output pin which is in the high mode for a specific time period and it is equivalent to the duration of the time for the wave to return to the sensor.

VII. Case Study:

7.1 Vehicle Braking Condition Simulation:

The following are the aspects to be considered for the chassis simulation to investigate the use of an overall distributed control system in vehicles.

A. Wheel/Chassis Dynamics:

For this paper, single wheel model is employed shown in the following figure:

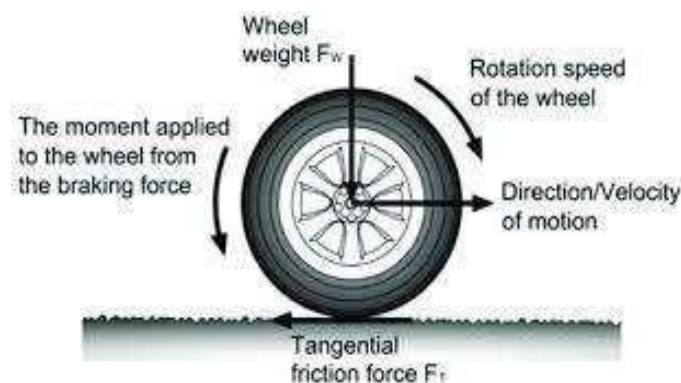


Fig:7 Forces acting on a wheel

The following assumptions are made for calculating:

- i) The overall braking force is distributed evenly to all four wheels.
- ii) Each wheel experiences same road conditions.
- iii) Vehicle's center of gravity is in the mid-way between the wheel-base.

B. Tyre/Road Interaction:

Under normal conditions, the rotational velocity of the wheel (w) matches the forward velocity of the car (V_x). Any difference between the two indicates an issue with tyre grip. This difference is defined as wheel slip (Ω) condition, which can be calculated using the following formula:

$$\Omega = \frac{V_x - R \cdot w}{V_x}$$

Where R is the effective radius of tyre.

A zero slip indicates that the car is free-wheeling whereas a slip value of unity or say 1 denotes the wheel is locked and is skidding. Friction between the tyre and the road surface is described by μ .

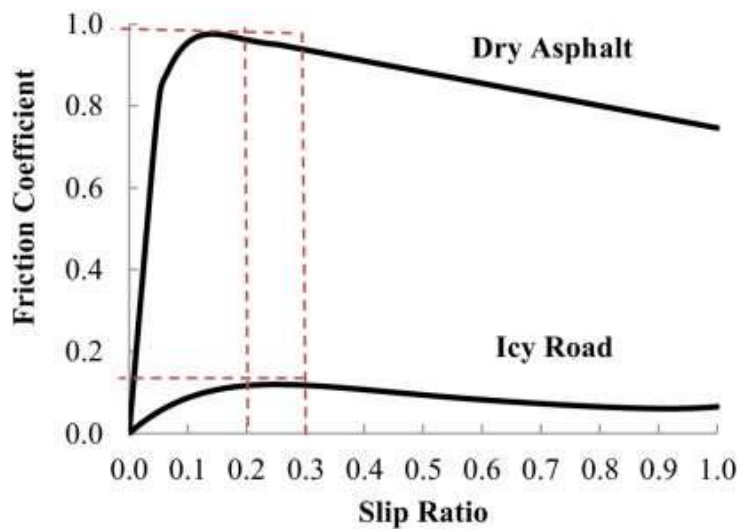


Fig:8 Graph showing the wheel slip factor

The above graph shows the importance of the friction coefficient in determining the slip of a wheel. If the friction coefficient is low, the wheel slip is increased rapidly but if the friction is high, the wheel slip is not instantaneous.

The above two discussed aspects are important in the efficient working of the self-braking system in different road conditions. The braking system needs to know the road condition and work accordingly for the road safety management and hence these are the two major considerations that need to be understood before the development of the module.

Formula: The braking distance is the main factor to be taken into consideration in this system. Braking distance is the distance between the point where the brakes were applied and the point at which the vehicle stops completely from the current speed. It is calculated by using the following formula.

$$d = \frac{u^2}{2\mu g}$$

Where,

d = Stopping distance (m) u = Initial Velocity (m/s) μ = Friction coefficient
 g = Acceleration due to gravity (9.8)

Derivation:

The braking distance has several variable functions to be taken into consideration.

1. **Slope** – The gravity helps to stop the vehicle quickly during uphill drive and works against during the downhill drive by increasing braking distance.
2. **Frictional Resistance** – Old and worn-out tyres on wet roads increase the braking distance as compared to a dry road.

3. **Initial velocity**- More the initial velocity, more will be the time required to stop the vehicle. Using basic equation of motion from physics: $v^2 = u^2 + 2ad$, where ‘v’ is final velocity, ‘u’ is initial velocity, ‘a’ is acceleration rate and ‘d’ is distance traveled.

As the final velocity after braking is 0, the equation can be written as $0 = u^2 + 2ad$ from the above equation, $d = -u^2/2a$.

The deceleration of a vehicle depends on the coefficient of friction and the slope of the path it is travelling on.

The acceleration due to gravity is multiplied by the grade of the road which gives us an approximated estimation of the acceleration caused due to the slope of the road.

Acceleration rate (a) = Acceleration due to gravity (g) x (friction coefficient (μ) + grade(G))

Therefore the final formula becomes: $d = u^2/2g(\mu + G)$

For this project demonstration, grade factor is neglected and hence equation above is considered.

Calculations: For calculations, the following python coding was adapted for accurate and exact results. This was only for experimental purpose.

```
>>>print ("Calculatethestoppingdistance")
>>>speed=int(input("Entertheinitialspeedinkm/hr:"))
>>>v=speed/ 0.2777778
>>>g=9.8
>>>coef= int(input("Enterthefriction coefficient:"))

>>>dist= (v*v)/(2*g*coef)

>>>print ("Thedistancetravelledbeforestoppingis",dist,"metres")
```

VIII. Results:

Considering the coefficient of friction in different seasons:

a) **During dry summer day, μ=0.7**

Speed(kmph)	Braking distance(m)
10	0.58
20	2.24
30	5.05
40	9.00
50	14.07

b) **During rainy season, μ=0.4**

Speed(kmph)	Braking distance(m)
10	0.98
20	3.93
30	8.85
40	15.74
50	24.60

From the above results we can see that the braking distance is less in dry roads as compared to wet roads and as the speed increases, the braking distance also increases. Hence, the system needs to adapt the road conditions before performing its task which can be done either manually or automatically.

Understanding road conditions:

The condition of road is an important factor for the effective braking of a vehicle. The road condition can be either selected using the default preset values or by manually entering the variable values or automatically using some more sensors like the hygrometer which measures the moisture content in air.

This device is called PSYCHROMETER. It is a type of hygrometer which is used to determine the moisture content in the air. As during rainy season, the moisture content in the atmosphere will be more compared to a dry summer day. This reading can be used to change the data values and hence the variables can be changed accordingly.

Advantages and Applications:

- Increased Road Safety
- Parking assist
- Automated guided vehicles in industries
- Applicable in self-driving vehicle technology
- Speed Control
- Traffic Discipline
- Minimized backward/reverse collisions
- Safety measure in cheap vehicles

Effectiveness of Self-Braking system and Manual braking system:

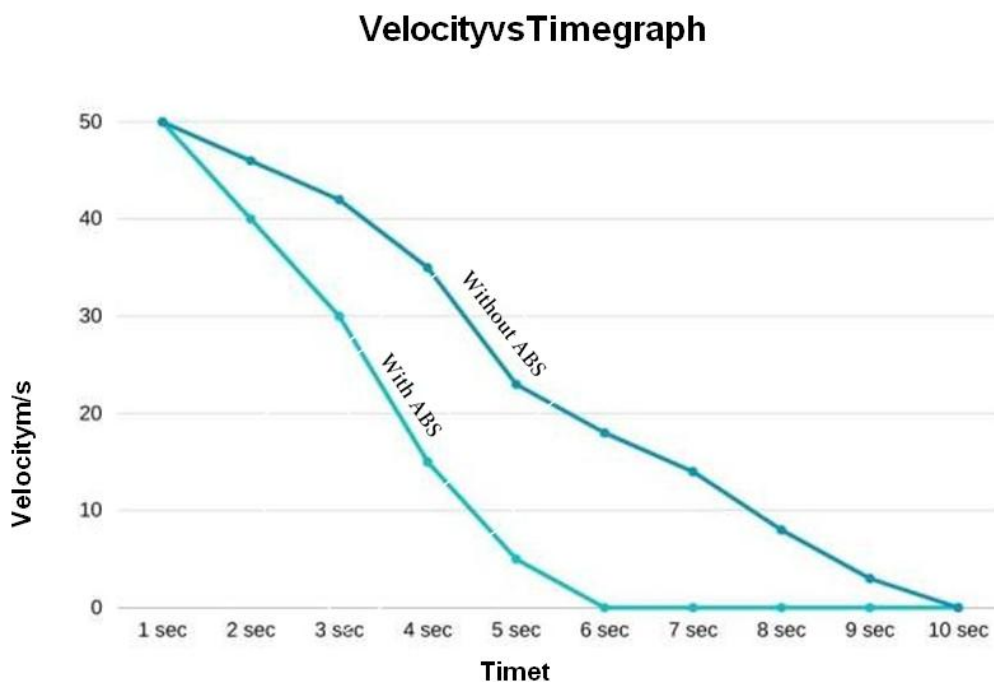


Fig:9 Velocity vs Time graph for difference in braking time

From the above graph we can see that a human reaction and braking effect takes more time to perform than the automated self-braking mechanism. We can see that there is a difference between WITH and WITHOUT Automatic Braking System (ABS) and hence this system is effective in its performance in providing safety.

Advanced Research:

In 2020, the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health published a report by the **State Key Laboratory of Automotive Safety and Energy, Tsinghua University, Beijing** which stated that using the self-braking system in vehicles helps to increase road safety and they collected data regarding the same. The following graph shows the estimated increase in road safety by 2030 when majority of the vehicles will be behaving this system.

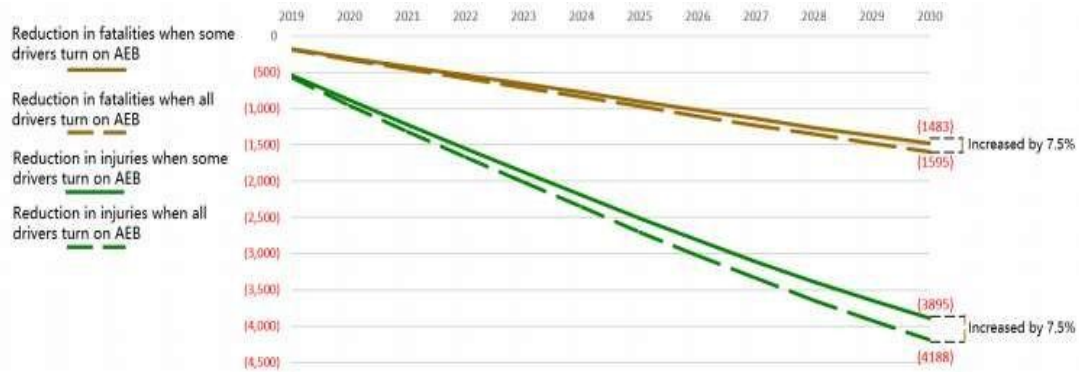


Fig: 10 Reduction in fatalities & injuries in China for different ABS activation rates.

We can see the term AEB (Automatic Emergency Braking) used which is similar to ABS, but the only difference is that AEB only works in emergency situations whereas the ABS is in continuous use. We can see the increase in the reduction percentages in road injuries and fatalities by the use of this system.

IX. Conclusion:

The Automatic Braking System using Ultrasonic Sensor is capable of performing effectively in prototype testing. This project looks into the implementation of an Automatic Braking System for Collision Avoidance and with the intention to be used effectively in vehicles where the drivers may not brake manually. With the help of this system the speed of the vehicle can be reduced automatically due to the sensing of the obstacles. This system reduces the number of accidents and collisions and tends to save the lives of people. By doing this project practically, we gained the knowledge about the working mechanism of an automatic braking system and with this future study and research, we hope to develop the system into an even more advanced vehicle speed control system for automobile safety. To achieve this, a lot of work and learning, like the programming and operation of microcontrollers and the automobile structure is required but development is the necessity for survival and hence making these types of safety features available to common people is a necessary step that has to be taken.

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