

4. To maintain the stone's motion, a horizontal force (in the $+x$ direction) is needed that cancels the retarding effect due to kinetic friction. Applying Newtons' second to the x and y axes, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}F - f_k &= ma \\ N - mg &= 0\end{aligned}$$

respectively. The second equation yields the normal force $N = mg$, so that (using Eq. 6-2) the kinetic friction becomes $f_k = \mu_k mg$. Thus, the first equation becomes

$$F - \mu_k mg = ma = 0$$

where we have set $a = 0$ to be consistent with the idea that the horizontal velocity of the stone should remain constant. With $m = 20$ kg and $\mu_k = 0.80$, we find $F = 1.6 \times 10^2$ N.