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Railway Track and Track Stresses Formulas

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List of 27 Railway Track and Track Stresses Formulas

Railway Track and Track Stresses

Lap of Flange

1) Diameter of Wheel given Lap of Flange

$$fx \quad D = \frac{\left(\frac{L}{2}\right)^2 - H^2}{H}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 11.25mm = \frac{\left(\frac{50mm}{2}\right)^2 - (20mm)^2}{20mm}$$

2) Extra Track Width in Curves

$$fx \quad W_e = (W + L^2) \cdot \frac{125}{R}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 2.180233mm = \left(3500mm + (50mm)^2\right) \cdot \frac{125}{344m}$$

3) Lap of Flange given Diameter of Wheel

$$fx \quad L = 2 \cdot \left((D \cdot H) + H^2\right)^{0.5}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 50mm = 2 \cdot \left((11.25mm \cdot 20mm) + (20mm)^2\right)^{0.5}$$



4) Lap of Flange given Extra Width of Track

$$fx \quad L = \sqrt{\left(W_e \cdot \frac{R}{125}\right) - W}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(cbe80b694ebd74fcfe136a095b608235_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 49.9936\text{mm} = \sqrt{\left(2.18\text{mm} \cdot \frac{344\text{m}}{125}\right) - 3500\text{mm}}$$

5) Radius of Curve given Extra Width

$$fx \quad R = (W + L^2) \cdot \frac{125}{W_e}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(3e2231b1ad3ca8da8658228c00dd08e0_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 344.0367\text{m} = \left(3500\text{mm} + (50\text{mm})^2\right) \cdot \frac{125}{2.18\text{mm}}$$

6) Wheel Base given Extra Width

$$fx \quad W = \left(W_e \cdot \frac{R}{125}\right) - L^2$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(0d5ec72f61334709c3fc9450209b754f_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 3499.36\text{mm} = \left(2.18\text{mm} \cdot \frac{344\text{m}}{125}\right) - (50\text{mm})^2$$

Lateral Forces

7) Characteristic Length given Seat Load on Rail

$$fx \quad I = W_L \cdot \frac{S}{z \cdot L_{\max}}$$

[Open Calculator !\[\]\(84f47badaad7772cd95667a7c387a639_img.jpg\)](#)

$$ex \quad 15.99696\text{m} = 43.47\text{kN} \cdot \frac{2.3\text{m}}{0.0125\text{m}^3 \cdot 500\text{kN}}$$



8) Maximum Contact Shear Stress 

$$fx \quad F_s = 4.13 \cdot \left(\frac{F_a}{R_w} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Open Calculator 


$$ex \quad 9.121644 \text{kgf/mm}^2 = 4.13 \cdot \left(\frac{200 \text{tf}}{41 \text{mm}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

9) Maximum Load on Rail Seat 

$$fx \quad L_{\max} = W_L \cdot \frac{S}{z \cdot I}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 499.905 \text{kN} = 43.47 \text{kN} \cdot \frac{2.3 \text{m}}{0.0125 \text{m}^3 \cdot 16 \text{m}}$$

10) Radius of Wheel given Shear Stress 

$$fx \quad R_w = \left(\frac{4.13}{F_s} \right)^2 \cdot F_a$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 40.30458 \text{mm} = \left(\frac{4.13}{9.2 \text{kgf/mm}^2} \right)^2 \cdot 200 \text{tf}$$

11) Section Modulus of Rail given Seat Load 

$$fx \quad z = \frac{W_L \cdot S}{I \cdot L_{\max}}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 0.012498 \text{m}^3 = \frac{43.47 \text{kN} \cdot 2.3 \text{m}}{16 \text{m} \cdot 500 \text{kN}}$$




12) Sleeper Spacing given Seat Load on Rail 

$$\text{fx } S = z \cdot I \cdot \frac{L_{\max}}{W_L}$$

Open Calculator 


$$\text{ex } 2.300437\text{m} = 0.0125\text{m}^3 \cdot 16\text{m} \cdot \frac{500\text{kN}}{43.47\text{kN}}$$

13) Static Wheel Load given Shear Stress 

$$\text{fx } F_a = \left(\frac{F_s}{4.13} \right)^2 \cdot R_w$$

Open Calculator 

$$\text{ex } 203.4508\text{tf} = \left(\frac{9.2\text{kgf/mm}^2}{4.13} \right)^2 \cdot 41\text{mm}$$

14) Wheel Load given Seat Load 

$$\text{fx } W_L = z \cdot I \cdot \frac{L_{\max}}{S}$$

Open Calculator 

$$\text{ex } 43.47826\text{kN} = 0.0125\text{m}^3 \cdot 16\text{m} \cdot \frac{500\text{kN}}{2.3\text{m}}$$



Vertical Loads

15) Bending Moment on Rail

fx

Open Calculator 

$$M = 0.25 \cdot L_{\text{Vertical}} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{x}{l}\right) \cdot \left(\sin\left(\frac{x}{l}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{x}{l}\right)\right)$$

ex

$$1.575269\text{N}\cdot\text{m} = 0.25 \cdot 49\text{kN} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{2.2\text{m}}{2.1\text{m}}\right) \cdot \left(\sin\left(\frac{2.2\text{m}}{2.1\text{m}}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{2.2\text{m}}{2.1\text{m}}\right)\right)$$

16) Dynamic Overload at Joints

fx

Open Calculator 

$$F = F_a + 0.1188 \cdot V_t \cdot \sqrt{w}$$

ex

$$311.9522\text{tf} = 200\text{tf} + 0.1188 \cdot 149\text{km/h} \cdot \sqrt{40\text{tf}}$$

17) Isolated Vertical Load given Moment

fx

Open Calculator 

$$L_{\text{Vertical}} = \frac{M}{0.25 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{x}{l}\right) \cdot \left(\sin\left(\frac{x}{l}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{x}{l}\right)\right)}$$

ex

$$42.926\text{kN} = \frac{1.38\text{N}\cdot\text{m}}{0.25 \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{2.2\text{m}}{2.1\text{m}}\right) \cdot \left(\sin\left(\frac{2.2\text{m}}{2.1\text{m}}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{2.2\text{m}}{2.1\text{m}}\right)\right)}$$

18) Mass per Wheel given Dynamic Load

fx

Open Calculator 

$$w = \left(\frac{F - F_a}{0.1188 \cdot V_t}\right)^2$$

ex

$$39.32245\text{tf} = \left(\frac{311\text{tf} - 200\text{tf}}{0.1188 \cdot 149\text{km/h}}\right)^2$$



19) Static Wheel Load given Dynamic Load

$$fx \quad F_a = F - 0.1188 \cdot V_t \cdot \sqrt{w}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 199.0478tf = 311tf - 0.1188 \cdot 149km/h \cdot \sqrt{40tf}$$

20) Stress in Rail Foot

$$fx \quad S_h = \frac{M}{Z_t}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 27.05882Pa = \frac{1.38N*m}{51m^3}$$

21) Stress in Rail Head

$$fx \quad S_h = \frac{M}{Z_c}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 26.53846Pa = \frac{1.38N*m}{52m^3}$$

Speed Factor


22) Speed Factor

$$fx \quad F_{sf} = \frac{V_t}{18.2 \cdot \sqrt{k}}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 2.113826 = \frac{149km/h}{18.2 \cdot \sqrt{15kgf/m^2}}$$




23) Speed Factor according to German Formula 

$$fx \quad F_{sf} = \frac{V_t^2}{30000}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 0.740033 = \frac{(149\text{km/h})^2}{30000}$$

24) Speed Factor using German Formula and Speed is above 100kmph 

$$fx \quad F_{sf} = \left(\frac{4.5 \cdot V_t^2}{10^5} \right) - \left(\frac{1.5 \cdot V_t^3}{10^7} \right)$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 0.502853 = \left(\frac{4.5 \cdot (149\text{km/h})^2}{10^5} \right) - \left(\frac{1.5 \cdot (149\text{km/h})^3}{10^7} \right)$$

25) Speed given Speed Factor 

$$fx \quad V_t = F_{sf} \cdot (18.2 \cdot \sqrt{k})$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 140.9766\text{km/h} = 2 \cdot (18.2 \cdot \sqrt{15\text{kgf/m}^2})$$


26) Speed using German Formula 

$$fx \quad V_t = \sqrt{F_{sf} \cdot 30000}$$

Open Calculator 

$$ex \quad 244.949\text{km/h} = \sqrt{2 \cdot 30000}$$



27) Track Modulus given Speed Factor [Open Calculator](#) 

$$\text{fx } k = \left(\frac{V_t}{18.2 \cdot F_{sf}} \right)^2$$

$$\text{ex } 16.75598 \text{kgf/m}^2 = \left(\frac{149 \text{km/h}}{18.2 \cdot 2} \right)^2$$



Variables Used

- **D** Diameter of Wheel (Millimeter)
- **F** Dynamic Overload (Ton-Force (Metric))
- **F_a** Static Load (Ton-Force (Metric))
- **F_s** Contact Shear Stress (Kilogram-Force per Square Millimeter)
- **F_{sf}** Speed Factor
- **H** Depth of Wheel Flange (Millimeter)
- **l** Characteristic Length of Rail (Meter)
- **k** Track Modulus (Kilogram-Force per Square Meter)
- **l** Characteristic Length (Meter)
- **L** Lap of Flange (Millimeter)
- **L_{max}** Seat Load (Kilonewton)
- **L_{Vertical}** Vertical Load on Member (Kilonewton)
- **M** Bending Moment (Newton Meter)
- **R** Radius of Curve (Meter)
- **R_w** Radius of Wheel (Millimeter)
- **S** Sleeper Spacing (Meter)
- **S_h** Bending Stress (Pascal)
- **V_t** Speed of Train (Kilometer per Hour)
- **w** Unsuspended Mass (Ton-Force (Metric))
- **W** Wheelbase (Millimeter)
- **W_e** Extra Width (Millimeter)
- **W_L** Wheel Load (Kilonewton)
- **x** Distance from Load (Meter)
- **z** Section Modulus (Cubic Meter)
- **Z_c** Section Modulus in Compression (Cubic Meter)



- Z_t Section Modulus in Tension (Cubic Meter)



Constants, Functions, Measurements used

- **Function: cos**, $\cos(\text{Angle})$
Trigonometric cosine function
- **Function: exp**, $\exp(\text{Number})$
Exponential function
- **Function: sin**, $\sin(\text{Angle})$
Trigonometric sine function
- **Function: sqrt**, $\sqrt{\text{Number}}$
Square root function
- **Measurement: Length** in Millimeter (mm), Meter (m)
Length Unit Conversion ↗
- **Measurement: Volume** in Cubic Meter (m^3)
Volume Unit Conversion ↗
- **Measurement: Pressure** in Kilogram-Force per Square Millimeter (kgf/mm^2), Pascal (Pa), Kilogram-Force per Square Meter (kgf/m^2)
Pressure Unit Conversion ↗
- **Measurement: Speed** in Kilometer per Hour (km/h)
Speed Unit Conversion ↗
- **Measurement: Force** in Kilonewton (kN), Ton-Force (Metric) (tf)
Force Unit Conversion ↗
- **Measurement: Moment of Force** in Newton Meter ($\text{N}\cdot\text{m}$)
Moment of Force Unit Conversion ↗



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- [Materials Required per km of Railway track Formulas](#) 
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