Calculating the Average Load

In cases where the load applied to each LM block fluctuates under different conditions, such as an industrial robot advancing while holding a workpiece with its arm then retreating with its arm empty, or a machine tool handling various workpieces, it is necessary to calculate the service life of the LM block while taking into account such fluctuating load conditions.

The average load (P_m) is the load under which the service life of the LM Guide is equivalent to that under varying loads applied to the LM blocks.

$$P_m = \sqrt[i]{\frac{1}{L} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{n} (P_n{}^{i} \cdot L_n)}$$

P_m	: Average load	(N)
P_n	: Varying load	(N)
L	: Total travel distance	(mm)
L_n	: Distance traveled under load P_n	(mm)
i	: Constant determined by rolling element	

Note) The above equation or the equation (1) below applies when the rolling elements are balls.

(1) With stepwise load fluctuation

LM Guide Using Balls (i=3)

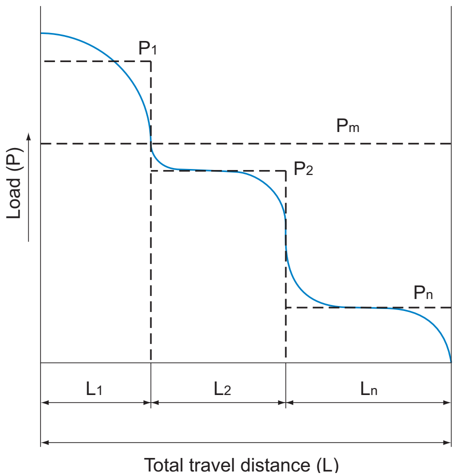
$$P_m = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{L} (P_1{}^3 \cdot L_1 + P_2{}^3 \cdot L_2 \cdots\cdots + P_n{}^3 \cdot L_n)} \quad \cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots (1)$$

P_m	: Average load	(N)
P_n	: Varying load	(N)
L	: Total travel distance	(mm)
L_n	: Distance traveled under P_n	(mm)

LM Guide Using Rollers (i= $\frac{10}{3}$)

$$P_m = \sqrt[\frac{10}{3}]{\frac{1}{L} (P_1{}^{\frac{10}{3}} \cdot L_1 + P_2{}^{\frac{10}{3}} \cdot L_2 \cdots\cdots + P_n{}^{\frac{10}{3}} \cdot L_n)} \quad \cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots (2)$$

P_m	: Average load	(N)
P_n	: Varying load	(N)
L	: Total travel distance	(mm)
L_n	: Distance traveled under P_n	(mm)

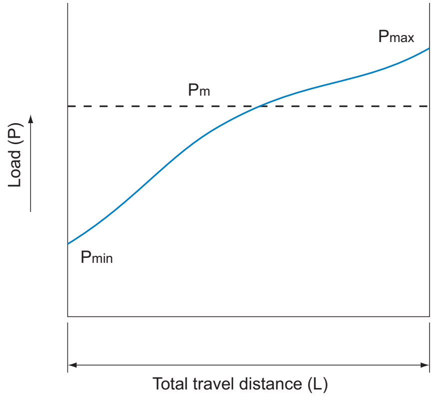


LM Guide

(2) With monotone load fluctuation

$$P_m \doteqdot \frac{1}{3}\left(P_{min} + 2 \cdot P_{max}\right) \quad \cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots(3)$$

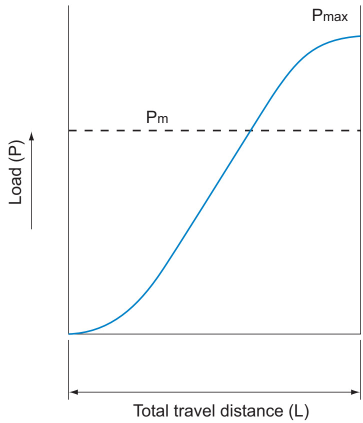
P_{min} : Minimum load (N)
P_{max} : Maximum load (N)

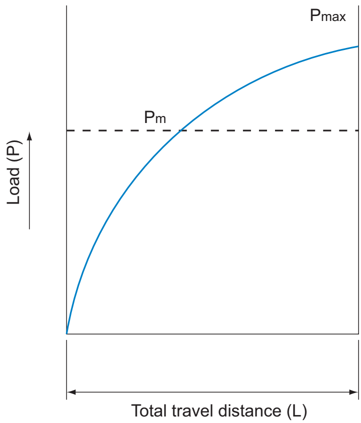


(3) With sinusoidal load fluctuation

(a) $P_m \doteqdot 0.65P_{max}$ ············(4)

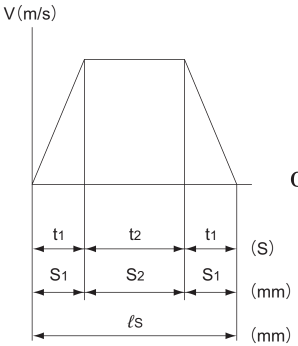
(b) $P_m \doteqdot 0.75P_{max}$ ············(5)



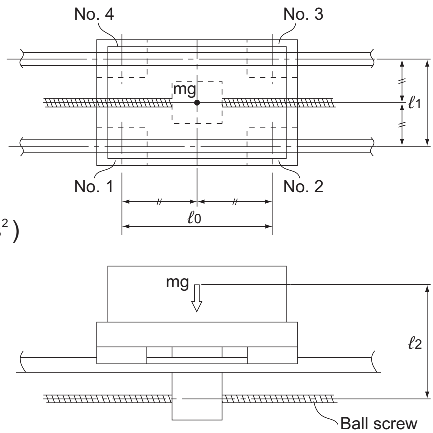


Example of Calculating the Average Load (1) - with Horizontal Mount and Acceleration/Deceleration Considered -

Conditions



$$\alpha_1 = \frac{V}{t_1} \ (m/s^2)$$



Load Applied to the LM Block

●During uniform motion

$$P_1 = + \frac{mg}{4}$$

$$P_2 = + \frac{mg}{4}$$

$$P_3 = + \frac{mg}{4}$$

$$P_4 = + \frac{mg}{4}$$

●During acceleration

$$Pa_1 = P_1 + \frac{m \cdot \alpha_1 \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$Pa_2 = P_2 - \frac{m \cdot \alpha_1 \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$Pa_3 = P_3 - \frac{m \cdot \alpha_1 \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$Pa_4 = P_4 + \frac{m \cdot \alpha_1 \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

●During deceleration

$$Pd_1 = P_1 - \frac{m \cdot \alpha_1 \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$Pd_2 = P_2 + \frac{m \cdot \alpha_1 \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$Pd_3 = P_3 + \frac{m \cdot \alpha_1 \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$Pd_4 = P_4 - \frac{m \cdot \alpha_1 \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

Average Load

$$P_{m1} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{\ell_s} (Pa_1^3 \cdot s_1 + P_1^3 \cdot s_2 + Pd_1^3 \cdot s_3)}$$

$$P_{m2} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{\ell_s} (Pa_2^3 \cdot s_1 + P_2^3 \cdot s_2 + Pd_2^3 \cdot s_3)}$$

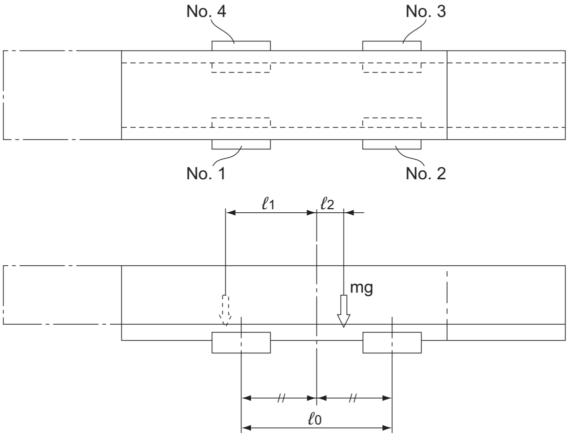
$$P_{m3} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{\ell_s} (Pa_3^3 \cdot s_1 + P_3^3 \cdot s_2 + Pd_3^3 \cdot s_3)}$$

$$P_{m4} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{\ell_s} (Pa_4^3 \cdot s_1 + P_4^3 \cdot s_2 + Pd_4^3 \cdot s_3)}$$

Note) Pa_n and Pd_n represent loads applied to each LM block. The suffix "n" indicates the block number in the diagram above.

Example of Calculating the Average Load (2) - When the Rails are Movable

Conditions



Load Applied to the LM Block

●At the left of the arm

$$P_{\ell 1} = +\frac{mg}{4} + \frac{mg \cdot \ell_1}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$P_{\ell 2} = +\frac{mg}{4} - \frac{mg \cdot \ell_1}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$P_{\ell 3} = +\frac{mg}{4} - \frac{mg \cdot \ell_1}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$P_{\ell 4} = +\frac{mg}{4} + \frac{mg \cdot \ell_1}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

●At the right of the arm

$$P_{r1} = +\frac{mg}{4} - \frac{mg \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$P_{r2} = +\frac{mg}{4} + \frac{mg \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$P_{r3} = +\frac{mg}{4} + \frac{mg \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

$$P_{r4} = +\frac{mg}{4} - \frac{mg \cdot \ell_2}{2 \cdot \ell_0}$$

Average Load

$$P_{m1} = \frac{1}{3}(2 \cdot |P_{\ell 1}| + |P_{r1}|)$$

$$P_{m2} = \frac{1}{3}(2 \cdot |P_{\ell 2}| + |P_{r2}|)$$

$$P_{m3} = \frac{1}{3}(2 \cdot |P_{\ell 3}| + |P_{r3}|)$$

$$P_{m4} = \frac{1}{3}(2 \cdot |P_{\ell 4}| + |P_{r4}|)$$

Note) $P_{\ell n}$ and P_{rn} represent loads applied to each LM block. The suffix "n" indicates the block number in the diagram above.