Features of the Ball Screw

Driving Torque One Third of the Sliding Screw

With the Ball Screw, balls roll between the screw shaft and the nut to achieve high efficiency. Its required driving torque is only one third of the conventional sliding screw. (See Fig.1 and Fig.2.) As a result, it is capable of not only converting rotational motion to straight motion, but also converting straight motion to rotational motion.

[Calculating the Lead Angle]

$$\tan \beta = \frac{\text{Ph}}{\pi \cdot d_r}$$

- $\beta$ : Lead angle (°)
- $d_r$ : Ball center-to-center diameter (mm)
- Ph : Feed screw lead (mm)

Fig.1 Positive Efficiency (Rotational to Linear)

Fig.2 Reverse Efficiency (Linear to Rotational)
[Relationship between Thrust and Torque]
The torque or thrust generated when thrust or torque is applied is obtained from equations (1) to (3).

- **Driving Torque Required to Gain Thrust**
  \[ T = \frac{F_a \cdot P_h}{2\pi \cdot \eta_1} \quad \text{(1)} \]
  
  - $T$ : Driving torque (N-mm)
  - $F_a$ : Frictional resistance on the guide surface (N)
  - $F_a = \mu \cdot m \cdot g$
  - $\mu$ : Frictional coefficient of the guide surface
  - $m$ : Mass of the transferred object (kg)
  - $g$ : Gravitational acceleration (9.8 m/s²)
  - $P_h$ : Feed screw lead (mm)
  - $\eta_1$ : Positive efficiency of feed screw

- **Thrust Generated When Torque is Applied**
  \[ F_a = \frac{2\pi \cdot \eta_1 \cdot T}{P_h} \quad \text{(2)} \]
  
  - $F_a$ : Thrust generated (N)
  - $T$ : Driving torque (N-mm)
  - $P_h$ : Feed screw lead (mm)
  - $\eta_1$ : Positive efficiency of feed screw

- **Torque Generated When Thrust is Applied**
  \[ T = \frac{P_h \cdot \eta_2 \cdot F_a}{2\pi} \quad \text{(3)} \]
  
  - $T$ : Torque generated (N-m)
  - $F_a$ : Thrust generated (N)
  - $P_h$ : Feed screw lead (mm)
  - $\eta_2$ : Reverse efficiency of feed screw
Examples of Calculating Driving Torque

When moving an object with a mass of 500 kg using a screw with an effective diameter of 33 mm and a lead length of 10 mm (lead angle: 5°30'), the required torque is obtained as follows.

**Rolling guide (μ= 0.003)**
**Ball Screw (from μ= 0.003, η= 0.96)**

Frictional resistance on the guide surface

\[ F_a = 0.003 \times 500 \times 9.8 = 14.7 \text{ N} \]

Driving torque

\[ T = \frac{14.7 \times 10}{2\pi \times 0.96} = 24 \text{ N \cdot mm} \]

**Rolling guide (μ= 0.003)**
**Ball Screw (from μ= 0.2, η= 0.32)**

Frictional resistance on the guide surface

\[ F_a = 0.003 \times 500 \times 9.8 = 14.7 \text{ N} \]

Driving torque

\[ T = \frac{14.7 \times 10}{2\pi \times 0.32} = 73 \text{ N \cdot mm} \]
Ensuring High Accuracy

The Ball Screw is ground with the highest-level facilities and equipment at a strictly temperature-controlled factory, its accuracy is assured under a thorough quality control system that covers assembly to inspection.

![Automatic lead-measuring machine using laser](image)

Fig.3 Lead Accuracy Measurement

<table>
<thead>
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<th>[Conditions]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Model No.: BIF3205-10RRG0+903LC2</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Standard value</th>
<th>Actual measurement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directional target point</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative travel distance error</td>
<td>±0.011</td>
<td>−0.0012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fluctuation</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.0017</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table1 Lead Accuracy Measurement  Unit: mm
Capable of Micro Feeding

The Ball Screw requires a minimal starting torque due to its rolling motion, and does not cause a slip, which is inevitable with a sliding motion. Therefore, it is capable of an accurate micro feeding. Fig.4 shows a travel distance of the Ball Screw in one-pulse, 0.1-μm feeding. (LM Guide is used for the guide surface.)

Fig.4 Data on Travel in 0.1-μm Feeding
High Rigidity without Backlash

Since the Ball Screw is capable of receiving a preload, the axial clearance can be reduced to below zero and the high rigidity is achieved because of the preload. In Fig.5, when an axial load is applied in the positive (+) direction, the table is displaced in the same (+) direction. When an axial load is provided in the reverse (-) direction, the table is displaced in the same (-) direction. Fig.6 shows the relationship between the axial load and the axial displacement. As indicated in Fig.6, as the direction of the axial load changes, the axial clearance occurs as a displacement. Additionally, when the Ball Screw is provided with a preload, it gains a higher rigidity and a smaller axial displacement than a zero clearance in the axial direction.

Fig.5

Fig.6 Axial Displacement in Relation to Axial Load
Capable of Fast Feed

Since the Ball Screw is highly efficient and generates little heat, it is capable of a fast feed.

[Example of High Speed]

Fig. 7 shows a speed diagram for a large lead rolled Ball Screw operating at 2 m/s.

[Conditions]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Sample</td>
<td>Large Lead Rolled Ball Screw</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WTF3060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Shaft diameter: 30mm; lead: 60mm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum speed</td>
<td>2m/s</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Ball Screw rotational speed: 2,000 min⁻¹)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 7 Velocity diagram
Features and Types
Features of the Ball Screw