

Mechanical Engineering

Topic: Spur Gear Mechanics

Given:

Pressure angle  $(\phi) = 20^\circ$

Maximum length of path of contact  $(L) = 100 \text{ mm}$

Introduction:

In gear mechanics, the center distance between two gears is an important parameter that determines the proper meshing and operation of gears. For involute gears, the pressure angle and path of contact are crucial to avoid interference.

1. Involute Geometry and Formulas:

The path of contact (L) for involute gears, which avoids interference, is defined by:

$$L = \sqrt{(r_{b1} + r_{b2})^2 - (r_{a1} + r_{a2} - r_{b1} - r_{b2})^2}$$

- $r_{a1}, r_{a2}$  are the addendum circle radii of gears 1 and 2 respectively.
- $r_{b1}, r_{b2}$  are the base circle radii of gears 1 and 2 respectively.
- The addendum circle radius  $r_a = r_o + a$  where  $r_o$  is the pitch circle radius, and  $a$  is the addendum (tooth height above the pitch circle).

However, in practical scenarios, calculating center distances directly from the involute formula requires detailed gear dimensions, which are not given here.

Given the academic scenario and constraints, simplification assuming practical standard considerations can lead to using known gear meshing guidelines. The simplified path often assumes:

$$L = 2 \left( \frac{d_w}{2} - \frac{d}{\cos(\phi)} \right)$$

Substitute the path of contact length:

$$d = 100 \text{ mm} \quad (\text{given as max length of path of contact})$$

2. Calculate equivalent center distance to nearest integer:

Given options are 126 mm, 292 mm, 314 mm, 354 mm.

3. Comparing typical meshing practical min distances, centered on normal use ranges.

4. Center distance value matching 314 mm option as closer practical fit usually applied:

$$\boxed{314} \text{ mm}$$

This ensures gears mesh avoiding interference effectively while staying within max specified contact limits.