

ME 322: Machine Design

Rolling Contact Bearings



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Bearings

- Bearing is a mechanical element that permits relative motion between two parts, such as the shaft and the housing, with minimum friction.
- The functions of the bearing are as follows:
 - The bearing ensures free rotation of the shaft or the axle with minimum friction.
 - It supports the shaft or the axle and holds it in the correct position.
 - It takes up the forces that act on the shaft or the axle and transmits them to the frame or the foundation.

Classification of bearings

Depending on the direction of acting of load, bearings are classified in to two types.

- Radial bearings
- Thrust bearings

Radial bearings supports the load which acts perpendicular to the axis of the shaft where thrust bearings support the load acting along the axis of the shaft.

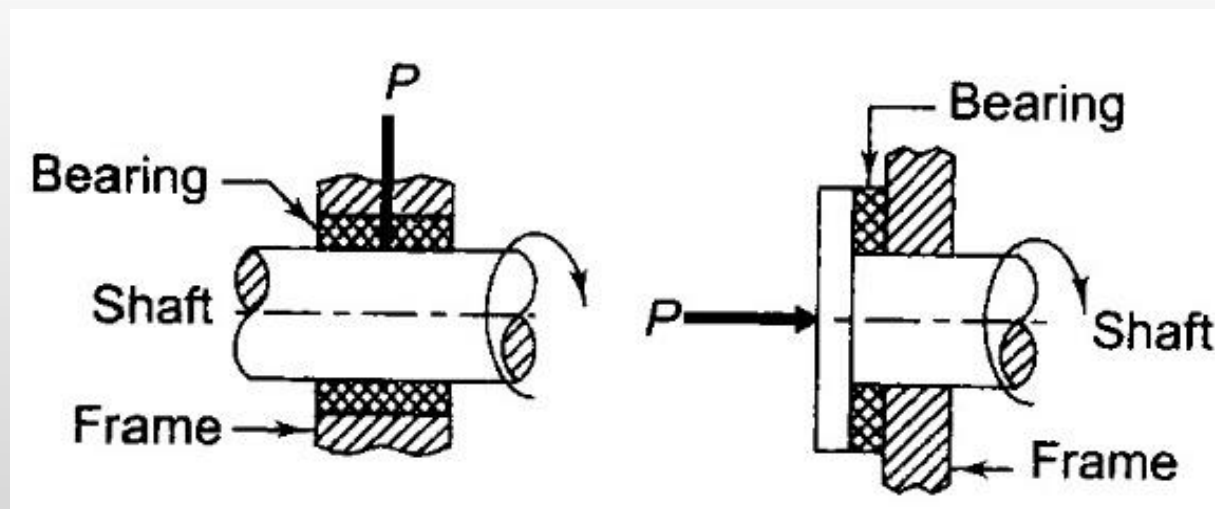


Fig.1: (a) Radial bearing

(b) Thrust bearing

Depending on the type of friction, bearings are classified into two groups.

- Sliding contact bearings
- Rolling contact bearings

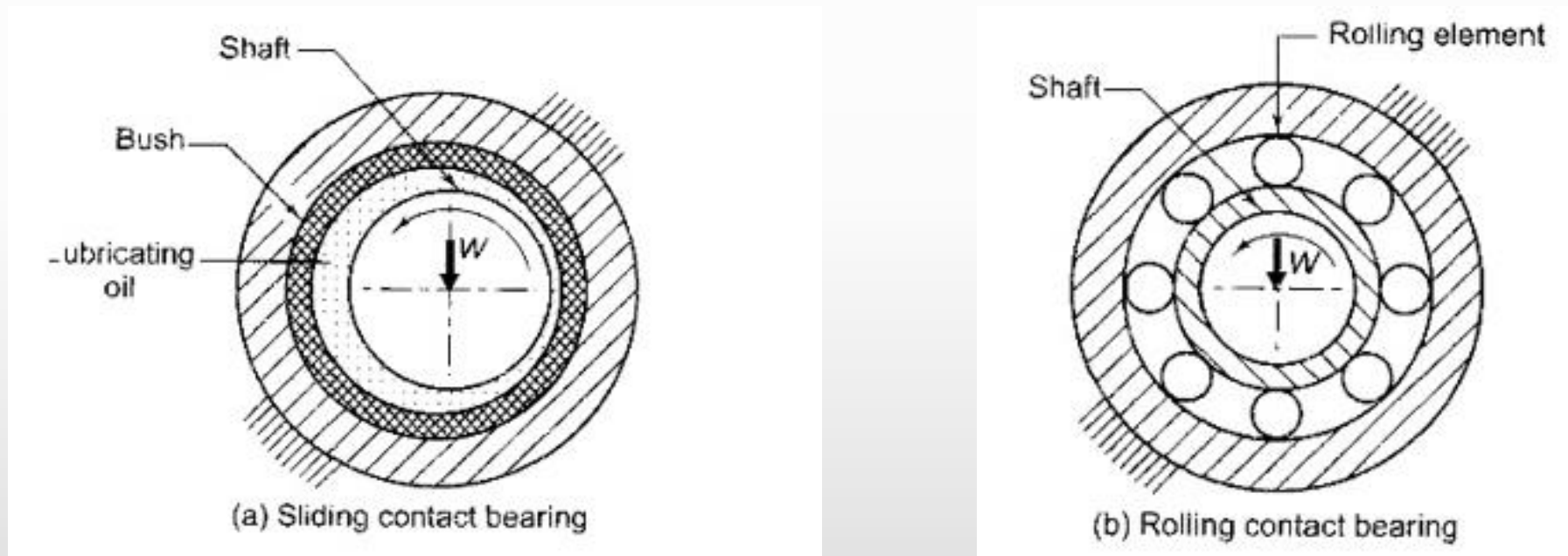


Fig. 2: Classification of bearings

Sliding contact bearings

- In Sliding contact bearings, the surface of the shaft slides over the surface of the bush resulting in friction and wear.
- In order to reduce the friction, these two surfaces are separated by film of lubricating oil.
- The bush is made of special bearing material like white metal or bronze.
- Sliding contact bearings are also called plain bearings, journal bearings or sleeve bearings.

Some applications of Sliding contact bearings are:

- crankshaft bearings in petrol and diesel engines
- centrifugal pumps
- large size electric motors
- steam and gas turbines
- concrete mixers, rope conveyors and marine installations.

Rolling contact bearings

- In Rolling contact bearings, rolling elements such as balls or rollers are introduced between the surfaces that are in relative motion.
- In this type of bearings sliding friction is replaced by rolling friction.
- Rolling contact bearings are also called anti-friction bearings or simply ball bearings.

Some applications of Rolling contact bearings are:

- machine tool spindles
- automobile front and rear axles
- gear boxes
- small size electric motors
- rope sheaves, crane hooks and drums

Types of Rolling contact bearings

- Deep groove ball bearing
- Cylindrical roller bearing
- Angular contact bearing
- Self-aligning bearing
- Tapper roller bearing
- Thrust ball bearing

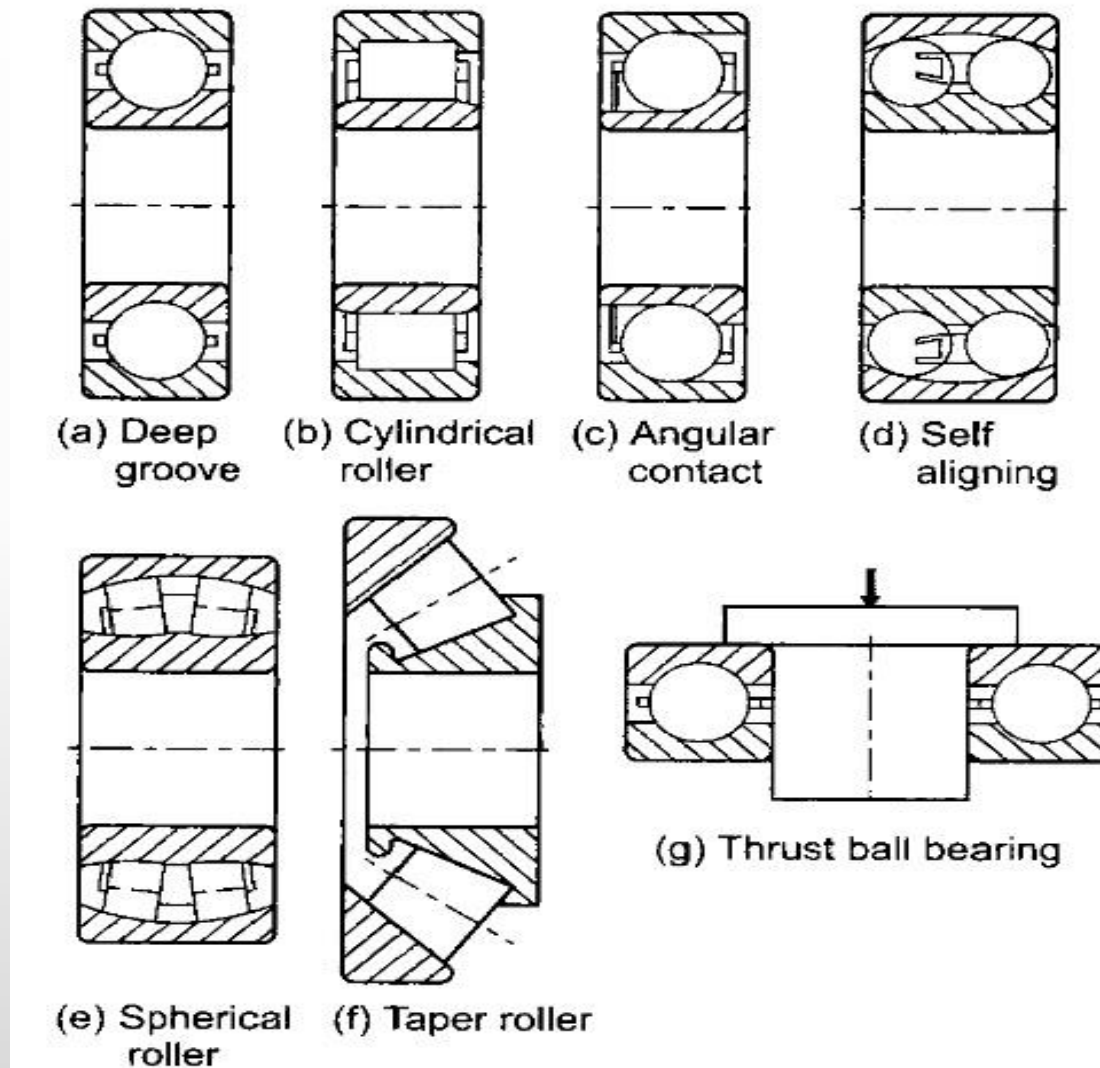


Fig. 3: Rolling contact bearings

Deep groove ball bearing

- Deep groove bearing is the most frequently used bearing which is found in almost all kind of products in mechanical engineering.
- In this type of bearing, the radius of the ball is slightly less than the radii of curvature of the grooves in the races. Kinematically, this gives a point contact between the balls and the races. Therefore, the balls and the races may roll freely without any sliding.

The advantages of the deep groove ball bearing are

- Due to relatively large size of the balls, this bearing has high load carrying capacity.
- It takes loads in the radial as well as axial direction.
- Due to point contact between the balls and races, frictional loss and the resultant temperature rise is less in this bearing. The maximum permissible speed of the shaft depends upon the temperature rise of the bearing. Therefore, deep groove ball bearing gives excellent performance, especially in high speed applications.

- Deep groove ball bearing generates less noise due to point contact.
- Deep groove ball bearings are available with bore diameters from a few millimetres to 400 millimetres.

The disadvantages of deep groove ball bearing are:

- Deep groove ball bearing is not self-aligning. It requires accurate alignment between axis of the shaft and the housing bore.
- Deep groove ball bearing has poor rigidity compared with roller bearing. This is due to the point contact compared with the line contact in case of roller bearing. It is unsuitable for machine tool spindles where rigidity is important consideration.

Cylindrical roller bearing

- When maximum load carrying capacity is required in a given space, the point contact in ball bearing is replaced by the line contact of roller bearing.
- A cylindrical roller bearing consists of relatively short rollers that are positioned and guided by the cage.

The advantages of Cylindrical roller bearing are:

- Due to line contact between rollers and races, the radial load carrying capacity of the cylindrical roller bearing is very high.
- Cylindrical roller bearing is more rigid than ball bearing.
- The coefficient of friction is low and frictional loss is less in high-speed applications.

The disadvantages of cylindrical roller bearings are:

- In general, cylindrical roller bearing cannot take thrust load.
- Cylindrical roller bearing is not self-aligning. It cannot tolerate misalignment. It needs precise alignment between axes of the shaft and the bore of the housing.
- Cylindrical roller bearing generates more noise.

Angular contact bearing

- In angular contact bearing, the grooves in inner and outer races are so shaped that the line of reaction at the contact between balls and races makes an angle with the axis of the bearing.
- This reaction has two components—radial and axial.
- Therefore, angular contact bearing can take radial and thrust loads.
- Angular contact bearings are often used in pairs, either side by side or at the opposite ends of the shaft, in order to take the thrust load in both directions.
- These bearings are assembled with a specific magnitude of pre-load.

The advantages of angular contact bearing are

- Angular contact bearing can take both radial and thrust loads.
- In angular contact bearing, one side of the groove in the outer race is cut away to permit the insertion of larger number of balls than that of deep groove ball bearing. This permits the bearing to carry relatively large axial and radial loads. Therefore, the load carrying capacity of angular contact bearing is more than that of deep groove ball bearing.

The disadvantages of angular contact bearing are:

- Two bearings are required to take thrust load in both directions.
- The angular contact bearing must be mounted without axial play.
- The angular contact bearing requires initial Pre-loading .

Self aligning bearing

- There are two types of self aligning rolling contact bearings
 - Self aligning ball bearing
 - Spherical roller bearing
- In self aligning ball bearing, the assembly of the shaft, the inner race and the balls with cage can freely roll and adjust itself to the angular misalignment of the shaft.
- Compared with the self aligning ball bearing, the spherical roller bearing can carry relatively high radial and thrust loads.
- Both types of self-aligning bearing permit minor angular misalignment of the shaft relative to the housing. They are therefore particularly suitable for applications where misalignment can arise due to errors in mounting or due to deflection of the shaft.

They are used in agricultural machinery, ventilators, and railway axle-boxes.

Tapper roller bearing

- The taper roller bearing consists of rolling elements in the form of a frustum of cone.
- They are arranged in such a way that the axes of individual rolling elements intersect in a common apex point on the axis of the bearing.
- In taper roller bearing, the line of resultant reaction through the rolling elements makes an angle with the axis of the bearing.
- Therefore, taper roller bearing can carry both radial and axial loads. In fact, the presence of either component results in the other, acting on the bearing.
- In other words, a taper roller bearing subjected to pure radial load induces a thrust component and vice versa. Therefore, taper roller bearings are always used in pairs to balance the thrust component.
- Taper roller bearing has separable construction. The outer ring is called 'cup' and the Inner ring is called 'cone'. The cup is separable from the remainder assembly of the bearing elements including the rollers, cage and the cone.

The advantages of Tapper roller bearings are

- Taper roller bearing can take heavy radial and thrust loads.
- Taper roller bearing has more rigidity.
- Taper roller bearing can be easily assembled and disassembled due to separable parts.

The disadvantages of Tapper roller bearings are

- It is necessary to use two taper roller bearings on the shaft to balance the axial force.
- It is necessary to adjust the axial position of the bearing with pre-load. It is essential to coincide the apex of the cone with the common apex of the rolling elements.
- Taper roller bearing cannot tolerate misalignment between the axes of the shaft and the housing bore.
- Taper roller bearings are costly.

Taper roller bearings are used for cars and trucks, propeller shafts and differentials, railroad axle-boxes and as large size bearings in rolling mills

Thrust ball bearing

- A thrust ball bearing consists of a row of balls running between two rings-the shaft ring and the housing ring.
- Thrust ball bearing carries thrust load in only one direction and cannot carry any radial load.

The major advantage of thrust bearing is:

- The use of a large number of balls results in high thrust load carrying capacity in smaller space.

The disadvantages of thrust bearings are as follows:

- Thrust ball bearing cannot take radial load.
- It is not self-aligning and cannot tolerate misalignment.

- Their performance is satisfactory at low and medium speeds. At high speeds, such bearings give poor service because the balls are subjected to centrifugal forces and gyroscopic couple.
- Thrust ball bearings do not operate as well on horizontal shafts as they do on vertical shafts.
- Thrust ball bearing requires continuous pressure applied by springs to hold the rings together.

Thrust ball bearings are used where heavy thrust loads are to be carried, for example, worm gear boxes and crane hooks.

Specific materials for the Rolling contact bearings

- The balls, the inner and outer races are made of high carbon chromium steel (SAE 52100 or AISI 5210). It contains 1 percent of carbon and 1.5 percent of chromium. The balls and races are through-hardened to obtain a minimum hardness of 58 Rockwell C.
- The cages are made from stampings of low carbon steel.
- The rollers are made of case hardened steels (AISI 3310, 4620 or 8620). They are case carburized to obtain a surface hardness of 58 Rockwell C.

Principle of Self-aligning bearing

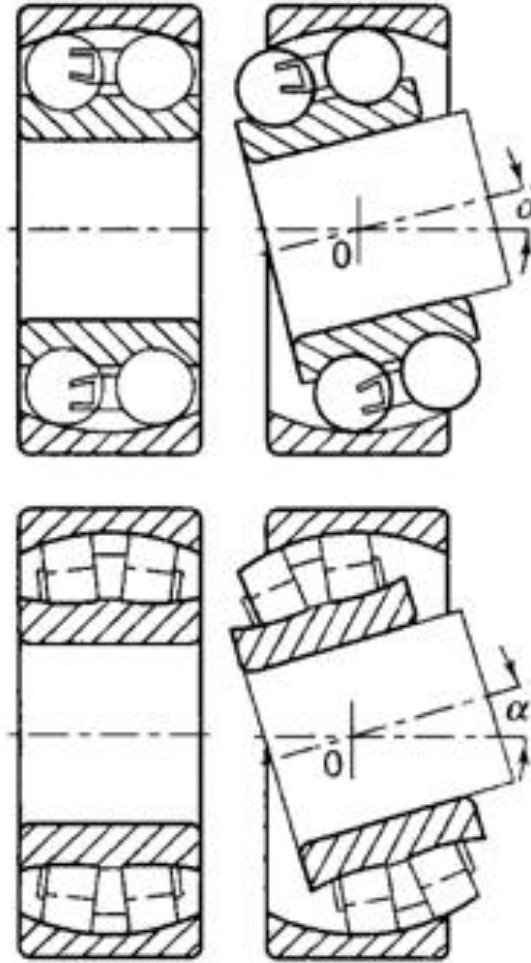


Fig. 4: self-aligning bearing

Selection of bearing-Type

- For low and medium radial loads, ball bearings are used, whereas for heavy loads and large shaft diameters, roller bearings are selected.
- Self-aligning ball bearings and spherical roller bearings are used in applications where a misalignment between the axes of the shaft and housing is likely to exist.
- Thrust ball bearings are used for medium thrust loads whereas for heavy thrust loads, cylindrical roller thrust bearings are recommended. Double acting thrust bearings can carry the thrust load in either direction.
- Deep groove ball bearings, angular contact bearings and spherical roller bearings are suitable in applications where the load acting on the bearing consists of two components—radial and thrust.

- The maximum permissible speed of the shaft depends upon the temperature rise in the bearing. For high speed applications, deep groove ball bearings, angular contact bearings and cylindrical roller bearings are recommended.
- Rigidity controls the selection of bearings in certain applications like machine tool spindles. Double row cylindrical roller bearings or taper roller bearings are used under these conditions. The line of contact in these bearings, as compared with the point of contact in ball bearings, improves the rigidity of the system.
- Noise becomes the criterion of selection in applications like household appliances. For such applications, deep groove ball bearings are recommended.

Static load carrying capacity

The static load carrying capacity of a bearing is defined as the static load which corresponds to a total permanent deformation of balls and races, at the most heavily stressed point of contact, equal to 0.0001 of the ball diameter.

Static load is defined as the load acting on the bearing when the shaft is stationary.

Formulae are given in standards for calculating the static load carrying capacity of different types of bearings.

However, while selecting the bearings, it is not necessary to use these formulae.

The values of static load carrying capacities are directly given in the manufacturer's catalogues, which are based on the above formulae.

Where conditions of friction, noise and smoothness are not critical, a much higher permanent deformation can be tolerated and consequently static loads up to four times the static load carrying capacity may be permissible.

On the other hand, where extreme smoothness of operation is desired, a smaller permanent deformation is permitted.

Stribeck's equation

- Stribeck's equation gives static load capacity of bearing.
- The assumptions considered for Stribeck's equation are:
 - ✓ The races are rigid and retain their circular shape.
 - ✓ The balls are equally spaced.
 - ✓ The balls in the upper half do not support any load.
- Fig. 5(a) shows the forces acting on the inner race through the rolling elements, which support the static load C_0
- It is assumed that there is a single row of balls.
- Considering the equilibrium of forces in the vertical direction

$$C_0 = P_1 + 2P_2 \cos \beta + 2P_3 \cos(2\beta) + \dots \quad (1)$$

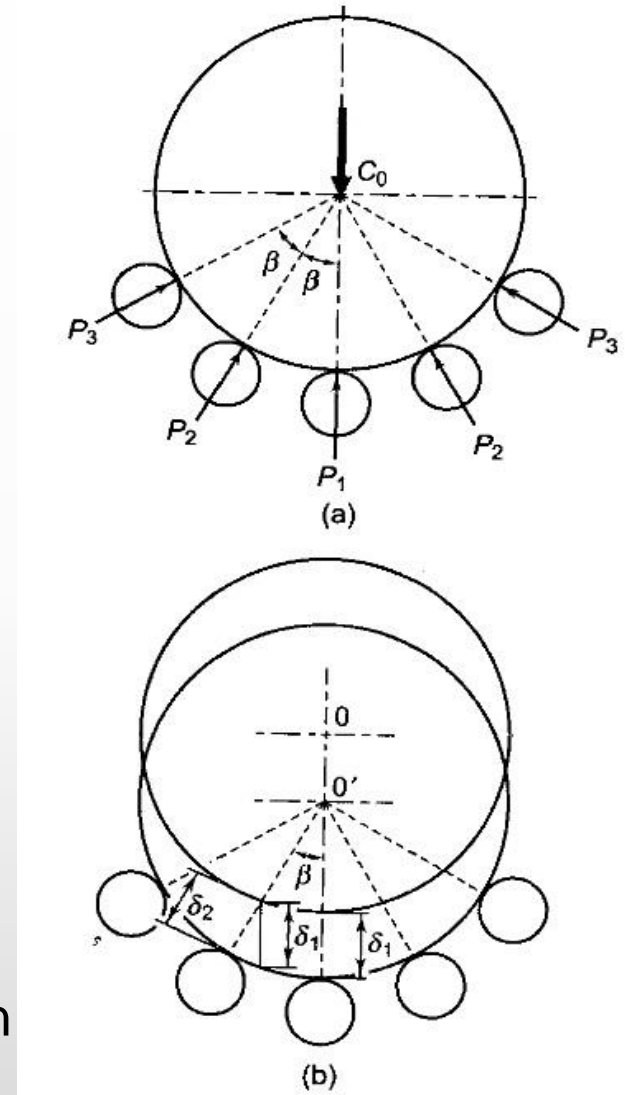


Fig. 5: (a) Forces acting on inner race
(b) Deflection of inner race

As the races are rigid, only balls are deformed. Suppose δ_1 is the deformation at the most heavily stressed Ball No. 1.

Due to this deformation, the inner race is deflected with respect to the outer race through δ_1

As shown in Fig. 5(b), the centre of the inner ring moves from O to O¹ through the distance A without changing its shape.

Suppose $\delta_1, \delta_2 \dots$ are radial deflections at the respective balls.

We have, $\delta_2 = \delta_1 \cos \beta$ or $\frac{\delta_2}{\delta_1} = \cos \beta$

According to Hertz's equation, the relationship between the load and deflection at each ball is given by,

$$\delta \propto (P)^{3/2} \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

Therefore,

$$\delta_1 = C_1 P_1^{3/2} \quad \text{and} \quad \delta_2 = C_1 P_2^{3/2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\delta_2}{\delta_1} = \left(\frac{P_2}{P_1} \right)^{3/2} \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

From eq. (2) and eq. (3), we have

$$\left(\frac{P_2}{P_1} \right) = (\cos \beta)^{2/3}$$

$$\text{or } P_2 = P_1 (\cos \beta)^{2/3} \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

In a similar way,

$$P_3 = p_1 (\cos \beta)^{3/2} \dots\dots\dots (5)$$

Substituting the above values in eq. 1, we have

$$c_0 = P_1 + 2 \left[P_1 (\cos \beta)^{3/2} \right] \cos \beta + 2 \left[P_1 (\cos 2\beta)^{3/2} \right] \cos 2\beta + \dots\dots\dots (6)$$

$$= P_1 [1 + 2(\cos \beta)^{5/2} + 2(\cos 2\beta)^{5/2} + \dots\dots] \quad \text{or} \quad C_0 = P_1 M$$

Where

$$M = [1 + 2(\cos \beta)^{5/2} + 2(\cos 2\beta)^{5/2} + \dots]$$

If z is the number of balls,

$$\beta = \frac{360}{z}$$

The values of M for different values of z are

Z	8	10	12	15
M	1.84	2.28	2.75	3.47
(z/M)	4.35	4.38	4.36	4.37

It is seen from the above table that z/M is practically constant.

So, Stribeck suggested the value for z/M as 5 or $M(\frac{1}{5})z$

Substituting the above value in eq. (6), we have

$$C_0 = \left(\frac{1}{5}\right) z P_1 \dots\dots\dots (7)$$

From experimental evidence, it is found that the force P_1 required to produce a permanent deformation of the ball is given by,

$$P_1 = k d^2 \dots\dots\dots (8)$$

where, d is the ball diameter and the factor k depends upon the radius of curvature at the point of contact, and on the moduli of elastic of materials.

From eqns. 7 and 8, we have

$$C_0 = \frac{k d^2 z}{5} \dots\dots\dots (9)$$

The above equation is known as Stribeck’s equation.

Dynamic load carrying capacity

The life of a ball bearing is limited by the fatigue failure at the surfaces of balls and races. The dynamic load carrying capacity of the bearing is, therefore, based on the fatigue life of the bearing.

The life of an individual ball bearing is defined as the number of revolutions (or hours of service at some given constant speed), which the bearing runs before the first evidence of fatigue crack in balls or races.

Since the life of a single bearing is difficult to predict, it is necessary to define the life in terms of the statistical average performance of a group of bearings.

Bearings are rated on one of the two criteria

- average life
- rated life

The second criterion is widely used in bearing industry.

The rating life of a group of apparently identical ball bearings is defined as the number of revolutions that 90% of the bearings will complete or exceed before the first evidence of fatigue crack.

There are a number of terms used for this rating life. They are minimum life, catalogue life, L_{10} or life or B_{10} life.

The life of an individual ball bearing may be different from rating life.

Statistically, it can be proved that the life, which 50% of a group of bearings will complete or exceed, is approximately five times the rating or L_{10} life.

Equivalent bearing load

The equivalent dynamic load is defined as the constant radial load in radial bearings (or thrust load in thrust bearings), which if applied to the bearing would give same life as that which the bearing will attain under actual condition of forces.

The expression for the equivalent dynamic load is written as,

$$P = XVF_r + YF_a \dots\dots\dots (10)$$

where,

P= equivalent dynamic load (N)

Fr= radial load (N)

Fa= axial or thrust load (N)

V=race-rotation factor

X and Y are radial and thrust factors respectively and their values are given in manufacturer's catalogue.

The race-rotation factor (V) depends upon whether the inner race is rotating or the outer race.

The value of V is 1 when the inner race rotates while the outer race is held stationary in the housing.

The value of V is 1.2 when the outer race rotates with respect to the load, while the inner race remains stationary.

In most of the applications, the inner race rotates and the outer race is fixed in the housing.

Assuming 'V' as unity, the general equation for equivalent dynamic load is given by,

$$P = XF_r + YF_a \dots\dots\dots (11)$$

The above equation is used for calculating equivalent dynamic load.

When the bearing is subjected to pure radial load, F_r

$$P = F_r \quad \dots\dots\dots (12)$$

When the bearing is subjected to pure thrust load, F_a

$$P = F_a \quad \dots\dots\dots (13)$$

Load-Life Relationship

The relationship between the dynamic load carrying capacity, the equivalent dynamic load, and the bearing life is given by,

$$L_{10} = \left(\frac{C}{P} \right)^p \dots\dots\dots (14)$$

where L_{10} = rated bearing life (in million revolutions)

C = dynamic load capacity (N)

P = 3 (for ball bearings)

P = 10/3 (for roller bearings)

Rearranging eq. (14),

$$C = p(L_{10})^{1/p}$$

The relationship between life in revolutions and life in working hours is given by

$$L_{10} = \frac{60nL_{10h}}{10^6} \dots\dots\dots (15)$$

Where,

L_{10h} is rated bearing life
 n is speed of rotation

Selection of bearing life

While selecting the proper size of a bearing, it is necessary to specify the expected life of the bearing for the given application.

The information regarding the life expectancy is generally vague and values based on past experience are used. For all kinds of vehicles, the speed of rotation is not constant and the desired life is expressed in terms of millions of revolutions.

Table 1: Bearing life for wheel application

Wheel application	Life (million rev)
Automobile cars	50
Trucks	100
Trolley cars Rail-road	500
Cars	1000

In other applications, the speed of rotation is relatively constant and the desired life is expressed in terms of hours of service.

Table 2: Bearing life for industrial applications

Industrial application	Life (hrs.)
Machines used intermittently such as lifting tackle, hand tools and household appliances	4000-8000 hrs
Machines used for eight hours of service per day, such as electric motors and gear drives	12000-20000 hrs
Machines used for continuous operation (24 h per day) such as pumps, compressors and conveyors	40000-60000 hrs

The values given in the above tables are for general purpose. For a particular application, the designer should consider the past experience, the difficulties faced by the customer in replacing the bearing and the economics of breakdown costs.

Load Factor

- The forces acting on the bearing are calculated by considering the equilibrium of forces in vertical and horizontal planes.
- These elementary equations do not take into consideration the effect of dynamic load.
- The forces determined by these equations are multiplied by a load factor to determine the dynamic load carrying capacity of the bearing.
- Load factors are used in applications involving gear, chain and belt drives.
- In gear drives, there is an additional dynamic load due to inaccuracies of the tooth profile and the elastic deformation of teeth.
- In chain and belt drives, the dynamic load is due to vibrations.

Table 3: Values of load factor

Types of drive	Load factor
(A) Gear Drives	
(i) Rotating machines free from impact like electric motors and turbo-compressors	1.2 – 1.4
(ii) Reciprocating machines like internal combustion engines and compressors	1.4 – 1.7
(iii) impact machines like hammer mills	2.5 – 3.5
(B) Belt drives	
(i) V-belts	2.0
(ii) Single-ply leather belt	3.0
(iii) Double-ply leather belt	3.5
(C) Chain Drives	1.5

The values of the load factor given in the above table are used in the absence of precise analysis of dynamic forces.

Selection of bearing from Manufacturer's catalogue

The procedure for the selection of a bearing from the manufacturer's catalogue consists of the following steps:

- I. Calculate the radial and axial forces acting on the bearing and determine the diameter of the shaft where the bearing is to be fitted.
- II. Select the type of bearing for the given application.
- III. Determine the values of X and Y, the radial and thrust factors, from the catalogue.

The values of X and Y factors for single row deep groove ball bearings are given in Table. 4 below. The values depend upon two ratios, $\left(\frac{F_a}{F_r}\right)$ and $\left(\frac{F_a}{C_0}\right)$, where C_0 is the static load capacity. The selection of the bearing is, therefore, done by trial and error.

The static and dynamic load capacities of single-row deep groove ball bearings of different series are given in Table. 5.

Table 4: X and Y factors for single row deep groove ball bearings

$\left(\frac{F_a}{C_0}\right)$	$\left(\frac{F_a}{F_r}\right) \leq e$		$\left(\frac{F_a}{F_r}\right) > e$		e
	X	Y	X	Y	
0.025	1	0	0.56	2.0	0.22
0.040	1	0	0.56	1.8	0.24
0.070	1	0	0.56	1.6	0.27
0.130	1	0	0.56	1.4	0.31
0.250	1	0	0.56	1.2	0.37
0.500	1	0	0.56	1.0	0.44

- (iv) Calculate the equivalent dynamic load from the equation $P = XF_r + YF_a$
- (v) Make a decision about the expected bearing life and express the life L_{10} in million revolutions.
- (vi) Calculate the dynamic load capacity from the equation $C = P(L_{10})^{1/3}$

(vii) Check whether the selected bearing of series 60 has required dynamic capacity. If not select the bearing of the next series and go back to step iii and continue.

Ball bearings are thus selected by the trial and error procedure. The above procedure is also applicable to other types of bearings.

Table. 5: Dimensions and Static and Dynamic load capacities of Single row deep groove ball bearings

Principal Dimensions(mm)			Basic ratings (N)	Load	Designation
d	D (mm)	B	C	Co	
10	19	5	1480	630	61800
	26	8	4620	1960	6000
	30	9	5070	2240	6200
	35	11	8060	3750	6300
12	21	5	1430	695	61801
	28	8	5070	2240	6001
	32	10	6890	3100	6201
	37	12	9750	4650	6301

Table 5 contd....

Principal Dimensions(mm)			Basic ratings (N)	Load	Designation
d	D (mm)	B	C	Co	
15	24	5	1560	815	61802
	32	9	5590	2500	6002
	35	11	7800	3550	6202
17	42	13	11400	5400	6302
	26	5	1680	930	61803
	35	10	6050	2800	6003
	40	12	9560	4500	6202
	47	14	13500	6550	6303
20	62	17	22900	11800	6403
	32	7	2700	1500	61804
	42	8	7020	3400	16404
	42	12	9360	4500	6202
	47	14	12700	6200	6303
	52	15	15900	7800	6403
	72	19	30700	16600	6304
25	37	7	3120	1960	61805
	47	8	7610	4000	16005
	47	12	11200	5600	6005
	52	15	14000	6950	6205
	62	17	22500	11400	6305
	80	21	35800	19600	6405

Table 5 contd....

Principal Dimensions(mm)			Basic ratings (N)	Load	Designation
d	D (mm)	B	C	Co	
30	42	7	3120	2080	61806
	55	9	11200	5850	16006
	55	13	13300	6800	6006
	62	16	19500	10000	6206
	72	19	28100	14600	6306
	90	23	43600	24000	6406
35	47	7	4030	3000	61807
	62	9	12400	6950	16007
	62	9	12400	6950	16007
	72	17	25500	13700	6207
	80	21	33200	18000	6307
	100	25	55300	31000	6407
40	52	7	4160	3350	61808
	68	9	13300	7800	16008
	68	15	16800	9300	6008
	80	18	307000	16600	6208
	90	23	41000	22400	6308
	110	27	63700	36500	6408

Table 5 contd....

Principal Dimensions(mm)			Basic ratings (N)	Load	Designation
d	D (mm)	B	C	Co	
70	90	10	12100	9150	61814
	110	13	28100	19000	16014
	110	20	37700	24500	6014
	125	24	61800	37500	6214
	150	35	104000	63000	6314
	180	42	143000	104000	6414
75	95	10	12500	9800	61815
	115	13	28600	20000	10615
	130	25	6630	40500	6215
	160	37	112000	72000	6315
	190	45	153000	14000	6415

In order to explain the selection procedure, let us consider a numerical example.

Suppose it is required to select a single-row deep groove ball bearing, for a shaft that is 75 mm in diameter and which rotates at 125 rpm. The bearing is subjected to a radial load of 21 kN and there is no thrust load. The expected life of the bearing is 10 000 hours.

Step (i)

$$F_r = 21000N \quad F_a = 0 \quad d=75\text{mm}$$

Step (ii) Type: single-row deep groove ball bearing.

Step (iii) Since there is no axial load,

$$P = F_r = 21000N$$

Step (iv)

$$L_{10} = \frac{60_n L_{10h}}{10^6} = \frac{60(125)(10000)}{10^6} \\ = 75 \text{ million rev.}$$

Step (v)

$$C = P(L_{10})^{1/3} = 21000(75)^{1/3} \\ = 88560.43 \text{ N}$$

Step (vi)

It is observed from Table. 5, that following bearings are available with 75 mm bore diameter,

No. 6015 (C = 39 700 N)

No. 6215 (C = 66 300 N)

No. 6315 (C = 112 000 N)

No. 6415 (C = 153 000 N)

Therefore, bearing No. 6315 is selected for the above application.

Series of the bearing

- While selecting a ball bearing from the manufacturer's catalogue, very often a term 'series' of the bearing is used. Some manufacturers use terms such as light series, medium series and heavy series.
- For a given diameter of the shaft, the dimensions of balls and races are smaller in the light series. The load capacities are less and cost is also less. For the same shaft diameter, the dynamic load carrying capacity of the bearing belonging to the heavy series is more and the cost is also more.
- The trial and error method for the selection of a ball bearing begins with the light series. If that is not suitable, a medium series bearing is selected. The last choice is the costliest heavy series bearing.

A rolling contact bearing is usually designated by three or four digits. The meaning of these digits is as follows:

- (i) The last two digits indicate the bore diameter of the bearing in mm (bore diameter divided by 5). For example, XX07 indicates a bearing of 35 mm bore diameter.
- (ii) The third digit from the right indicates the series of the bearing. The numbers used to indicate the series are as follows:

Extra light series — 1

Light series — 2

Medium series — 3

Heavy series — 4

For example, X307 indicates a medium series bearing with a bore diameter of 35 mm.

- (iii) The fourth digit and sometimes fifth digit from the right specifies the type of rolling contact bearing. For example, the digit 6 indicates deep groove ball bearings.

Light series bearings permit smallest bearing width and outer diameter for a given bore diameter. They have lowest load carrying capacities.

Medium series bearings have 30 to 40 per cent higher dynamic load carrying capacities compared with light series bearings of the same bore diameter. However, they occupy more radial and axial space. Heavy series bearings have 20 to 30 per cent higher dynamic load carrying capacities compared with medium series bearings of the same bore diameter.

The ISO plan for the dimension series of the bearing is illustrated in Fig. 6(a) below.

It consist of two digit numbers. The first number indicates the width series 8, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 in order of increasing width.

The second number indicates the diameter series 7, 8, 9, 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 in order of ascending outer diameter of the bearing.

Figure 6(b) shows the proportionate dimensions of SKF bearings belonging to different series with a 50 mm bore diameter (Bearing No. 6010, 6210, 6310 and 6410).

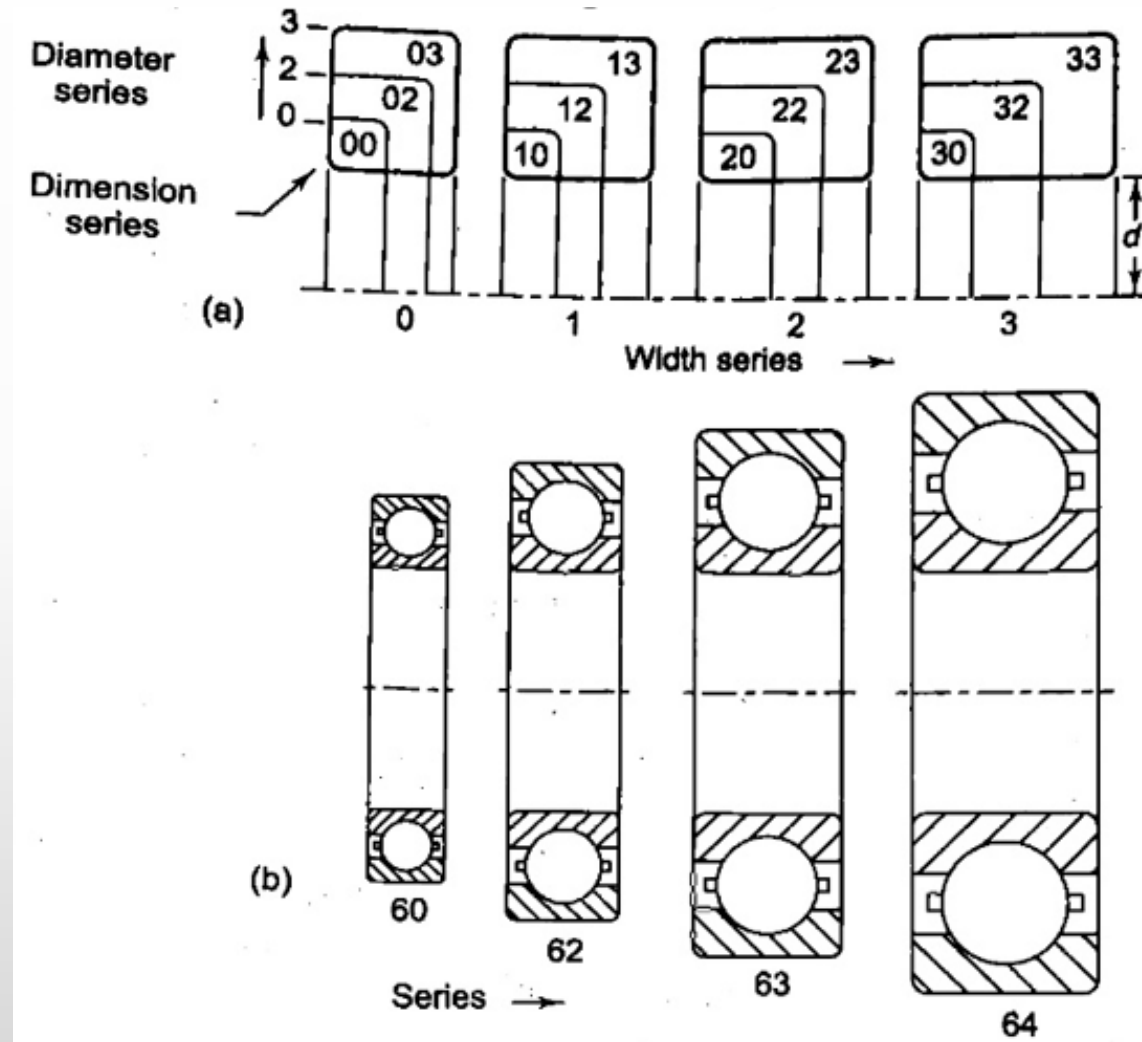


Fig. 6: Dimension series of bearing