

10. Allowable Speed

As bearing speed increases, the temperature of the bearing also increases due to friction heat generated in the bearing interior. If the temperature continues to rise and exceeds certain limits, the efficiency of the lubricant starts to fail down drastically, and the bearing can no longer continue to operate in a stable manner. Therefore, the maximum speed at which it is possible for the bearing to continuously operate without the generation of excessive heat beyond specified limits, is called the allowable speed (r/min). The allowable speed of a bearing depends on the type of bearing, bearing dimensions, type of cage, load, lubricating conditions, and cooling conditions.

The allowable speeds listed in the bearing tables for grease and oil lubrication are for standard TPI bearings under normal operating conditions, correctly installed, using the suitable lubricants with adequate supply and proper maintenance. Moreover, these values are based on normal load conditions ($P \cong 0.09C$, $F_a / F_r \cong 0.3$). For ball bearings with contact seals (LLU type), the allowable speed is determined by the peripheral lip speed of the seal.

For bearings to be used under heavier than normal load conditions, the allowable speed values listed in the bearing tables must be multiplied by an adjustment factor. The adjustment factors f_L and f_C are given in Figs. 10.1 and 10.2. Also, when radial bearings are mounted on vertical shafts, lubricant retentions and cage guidance are not favorable compared to horizontal shaft mounting. Therefore, the allowable speed should be reduced to approximately 80% of the listed speed. For speeds other than those mentioned above, and for which data is incomplete, please consult TPI.

It is possible to operate precision bearings with high speed specification cages at speeds higher than those listed in the bearing tables, if special precautions are taken. These precautions should include the use of forced oil circulation methods such as oil jet or oil mist lubrication.

Under such high speed operating conditions, when special care is taken, the standard allowable speeds given in the bearing tables can be adjusted upward. The maximum speed adjustment values, f_B , by which the bearing table

speeds can be multiplied, are shown in Table 9.1. However, for any application requiring speeds in excess of the standard allowable speed, please consult TPI.

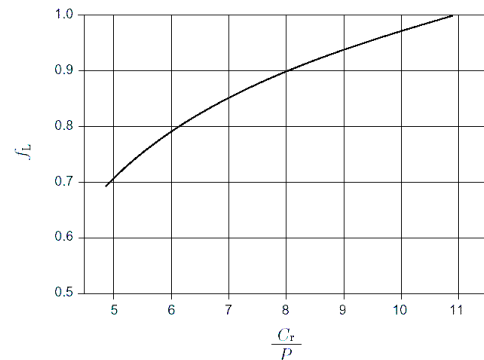


Fig. 10.1 Value of adjustment factor f_L depends on bearing load

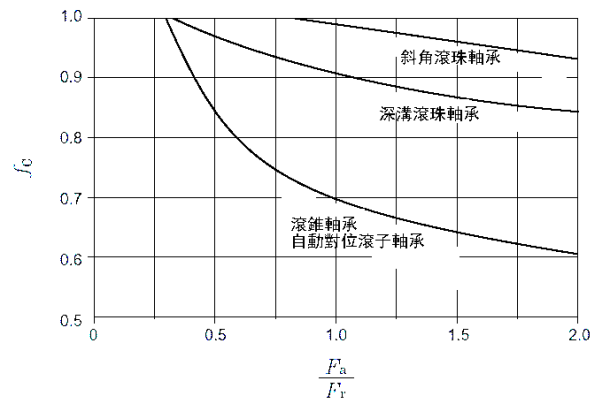


Fig. 10.2 Value of adjustment factor f_C depends on combined load