

# Fundamentals of Chain Technology



**WIPPERMANN**



# Agenda

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1) Structure, terms and classification as machine element

2) Forces, torques, kinematics

3) Arrangement and mounting

4) Tribology, wear and failure mechanisms

5) Design and calculation

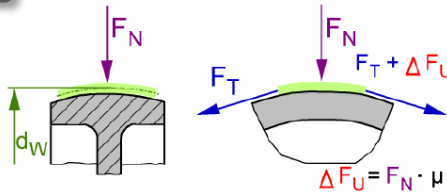
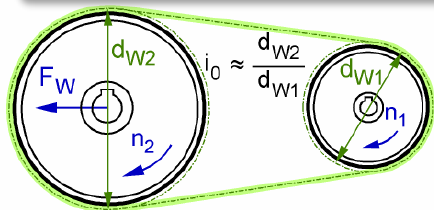
6) Lubrication, corrosion, coating, temperature

# Power transmission drives

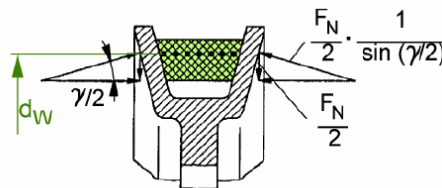
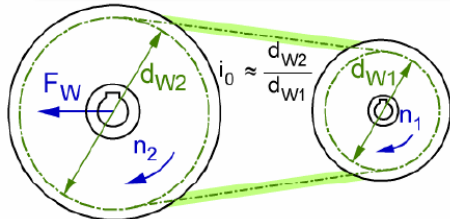
- Function of power transmission drives:
  - Power transmission (torque, rotational speed)
  - over a specific distance of axles
- Selection criteria:
  - Function, economic efficiency

## by friction

### flat belts

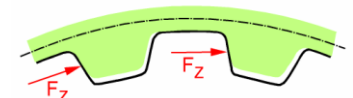
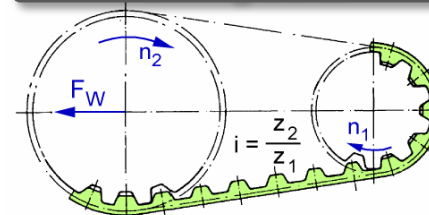


### V belts

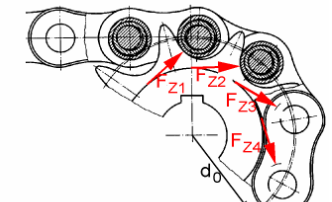
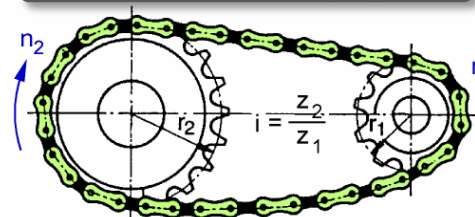


## by positive fit

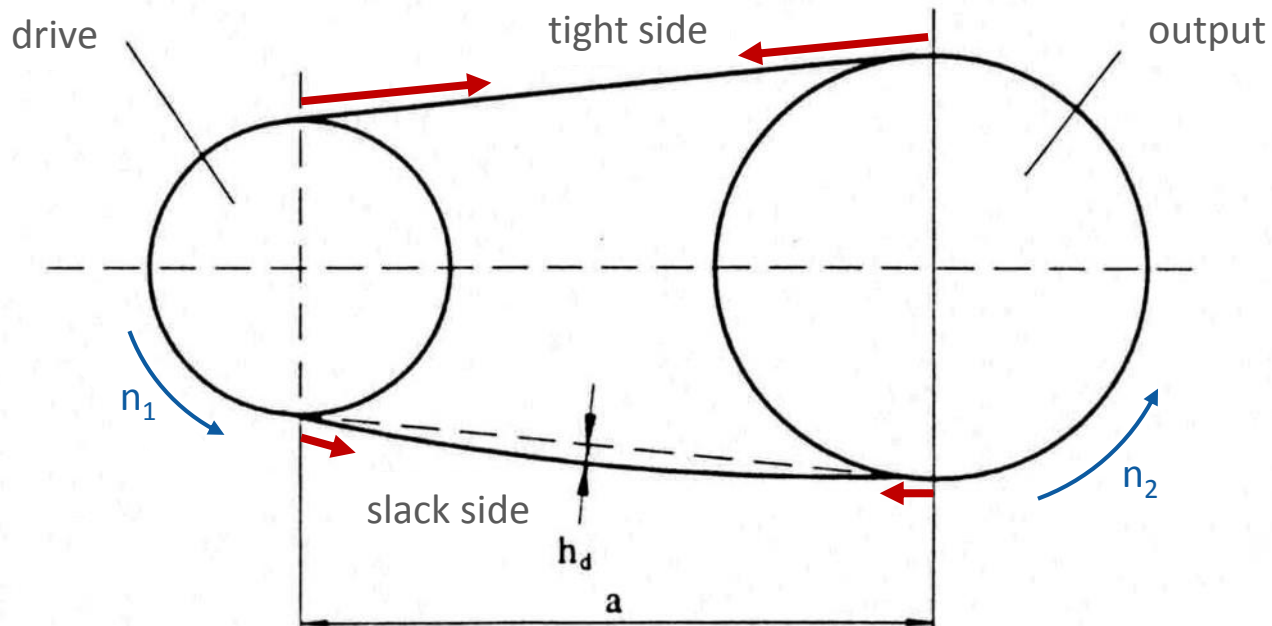
### timing belts



### steel-link chains



# Drive chains



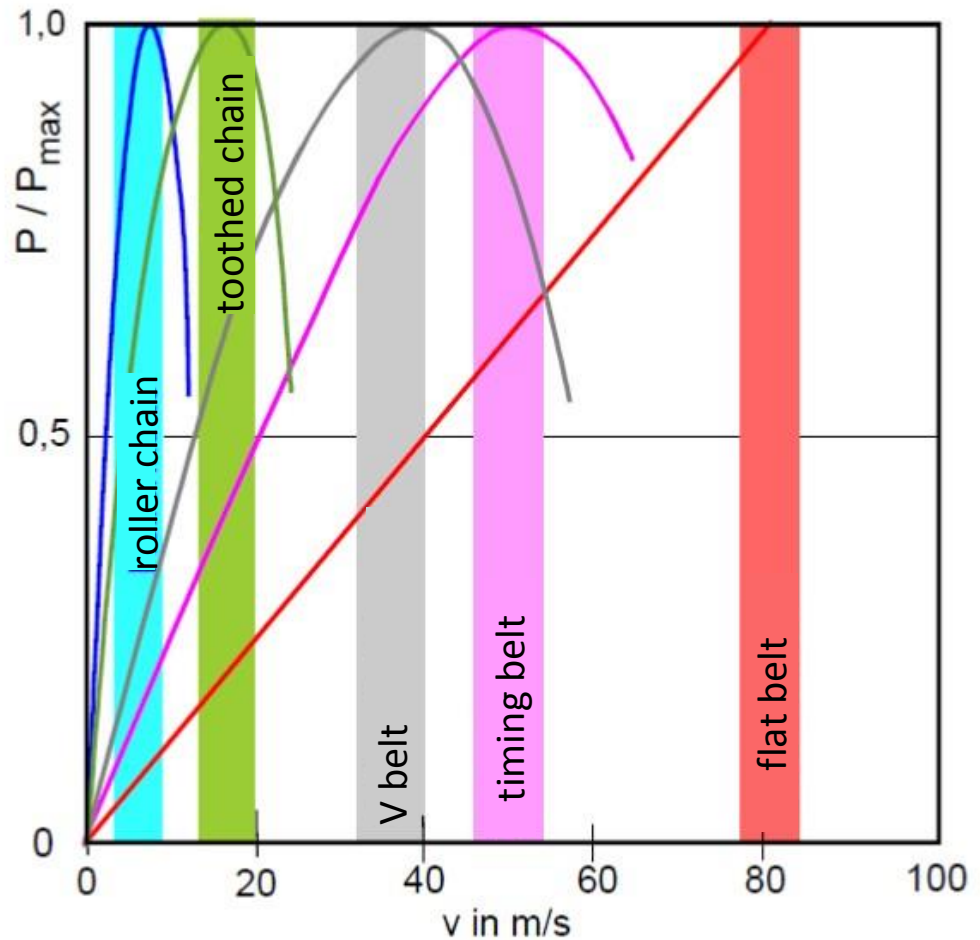
positive fit power transmission  
 $P = T \cdot \omega$  (torque, rotational speed)  
 over a large distance of axles

## Comparison of power transmission drives

- **Roller chain** performance is very good at low speeds and high loads
- For applications with high speed **belt drives** are more suitable
- All drive systems can reach a similar transferable power level, depending on their design

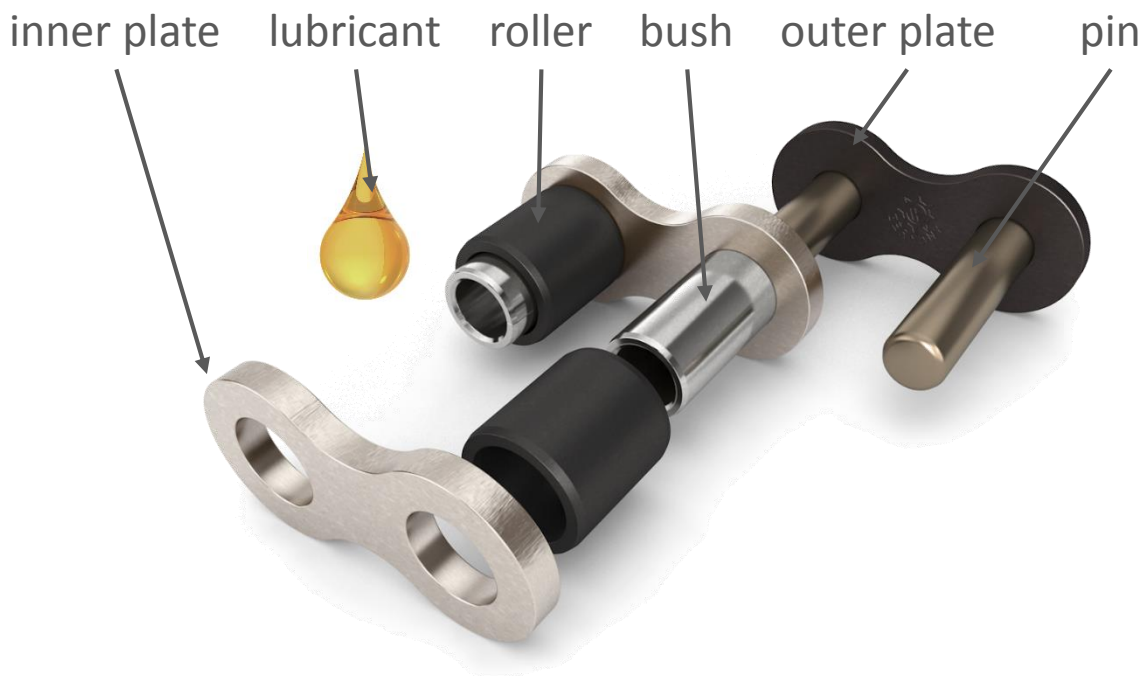
$$P = T \cdot \omega$$

↑
↑  
 chain    belt





# Structure of roller chains



form  
(waisted,  
straight,  
cranked,  
special...)

x

size

x

material

x

coating

x

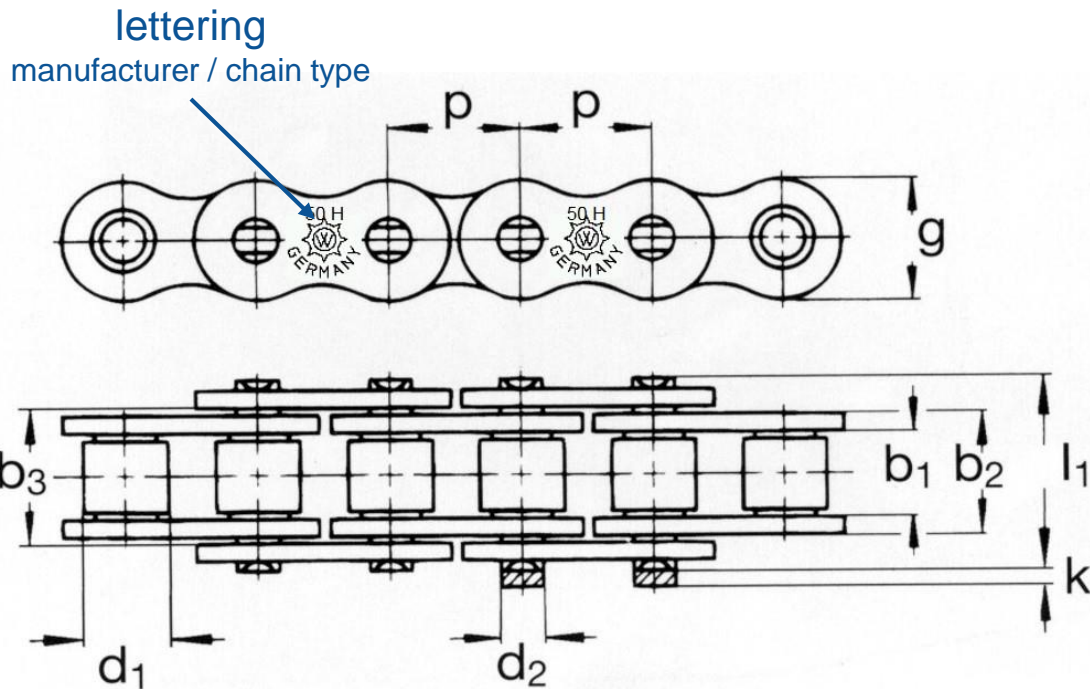
special  
parts

x

lubrication



# Roller chain dimensions ISO 606 (DIN 8187, DIN 8188)



$p$ : pitch

$l_1$ : width over pin (max)

$k$ : projection over conn. link (max)

$b_1$ : inner width (min)

$b_2$ : inner link width (max)

$b_3$ : outer plate width (min)

$d_1$ : roller diameter (max)

$d_2$ : pin diameter (h9)

$g$ : plate height (max)



## Chain terms

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**WIPPERMANN****(DIN) ISO****Design**

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548

16 B-1

1" Simplex roller chain

D 54816 B-2

1" Duplex roller chain

652

32 B-1

2" Simplex roller chain

└─┬─> ISO 606 (DIN 8187) „British Standard“  
└─┬─> 1/16 of pitch in Inch or ≈ roller-Ø in mm

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F 254

LL 1644

1" Leaf chain LL 4x4 lacing

F 504 U

2" Leaf chain 4x4 works standard

548 GL (GLS DIN g-Maß)

1" Roller chain with straight plates

548 GL MA

+ Marathon version

548 RF

1" Roller chain stainless steel

548 RF MA

+ Marathon version

548 SF

1" Accumulator chain



## How to order - necessary information

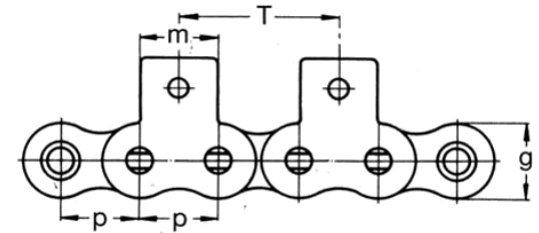
- Chain (type, size, version)
- Length (meter or number of links, standard length 5 m)
  - Chain ends are inner links,
  - Connection link separately
  - Uneven no. of links: cranked link required

$$L = X \cdot p$$



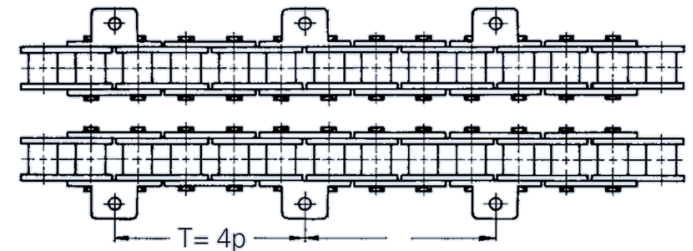
- Attachment plates are usually outer plates

$$T_{\min} = 2 \cdot p$$



- Chains in **clocked** production machinery (e.g. packaging machines) require special manufacturing tolerances to ensure their parallel run.

- Realization by measuring and sorting of sections in classes ( $L = (T-1) \cdot p$ )
- Only economically for larger orders
- Description required in the order





## Chain drive: Pro and Contra

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### Pro

- **Wide range of applications** (drive-, conveyor- and lifting chains)
- **Implementation of multiple functions** by means of chain attachments (custom chains)
- **Reliable** (temperature, contamination, environment)
- **Positive fit drive**, no slip
- **Economical**
- **Wide power range** (pitch, simplex, duplex, triplex)
- Diverse transmission ratios
- Wide distance of axles possible (e.g. conveyor applications)
- Early indication of possible failure through chain elongation (wear)
- Easy shortening or extending
- Drive and output from both sides possible, also on several axes
- Fire safety
- High efficiency
- Long lifetime
- Elasticity, damping
- No preload necessary = no static bearing load

### Contra

- **Maintenance** required (re-lubrication, re-stress)
- **Chain elongation** through joint wear
- **Dynamic** through polygon effect (small number of teeth)
- Noise
- Possibly occurrence of oscillations in unfavorable designs
- Weight, centrifugal forces
- Precise alignment of shafts and sprockets necessary
- Partly chain tensioner necessary (reversing operation)
- Partly guide rails necessary (wide distance of axles, conveyor chains)
- Partly adaption of distance of axles necessary



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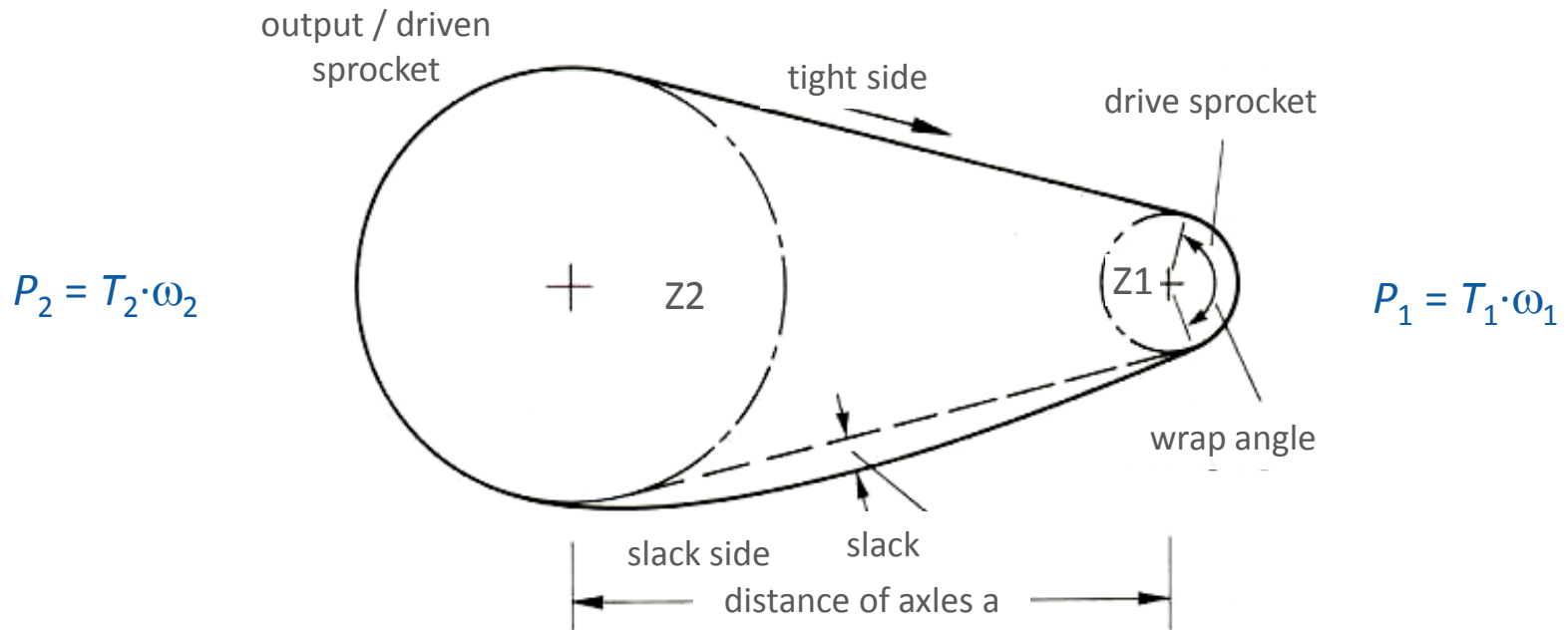
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# Forces, torques and transmission ratio

- Positive fit power transmission
- Fixed transmission ratio  $i$  according to number of teeth of the drive and output sprockets

$$i = \frac{z_2}{z_1} = \frac{n_1}{n_2} = \frac{T_2}{T_1}$$



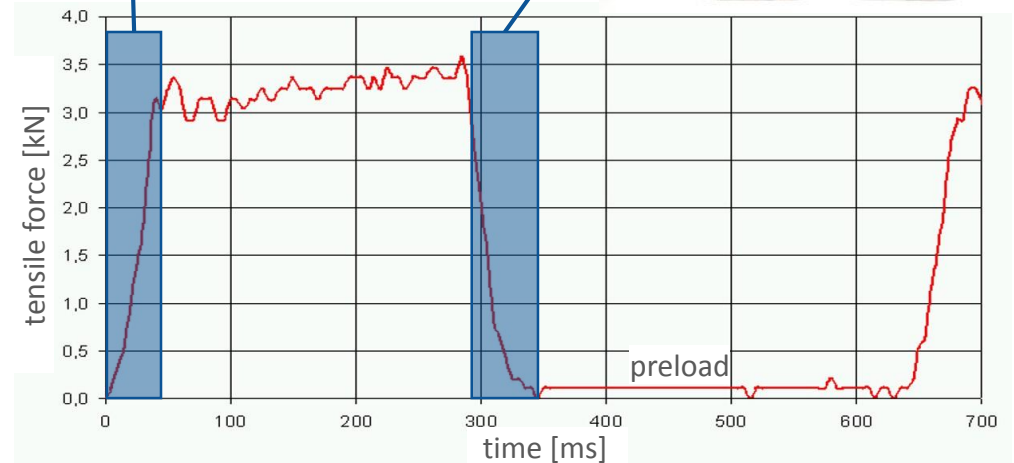
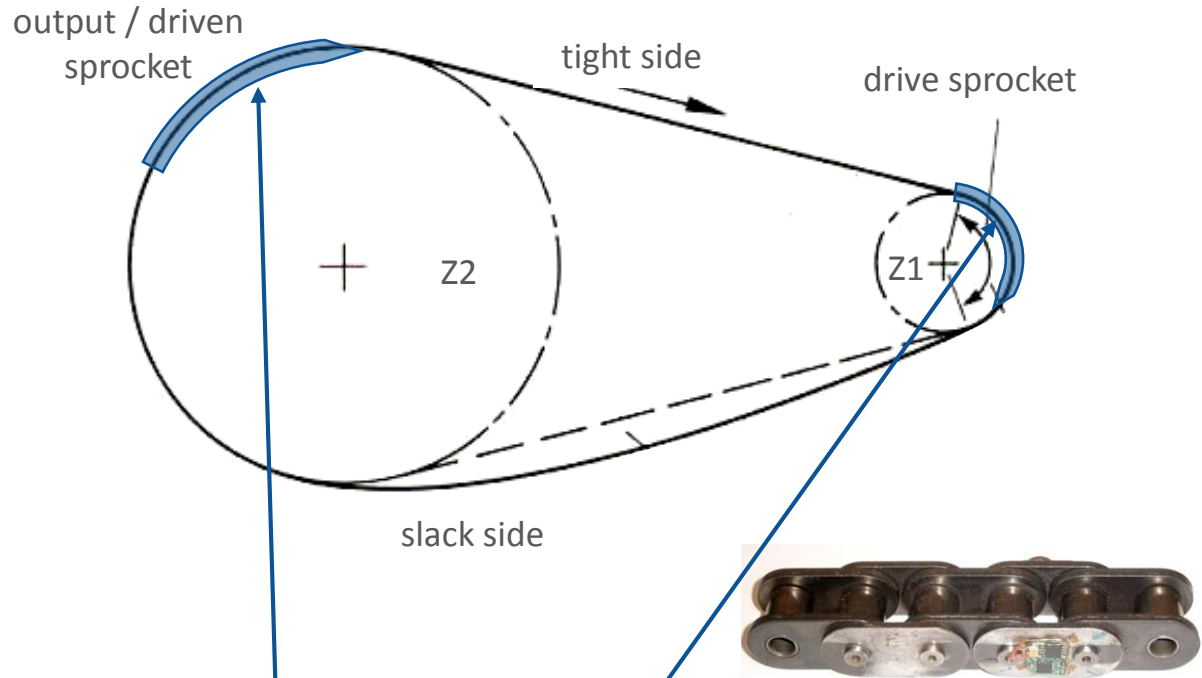
efficiency about 97%

$$P_2 \approx 0,97 \cdot P_1$$

$\Delta P$ : losses through: heat, noise, wear

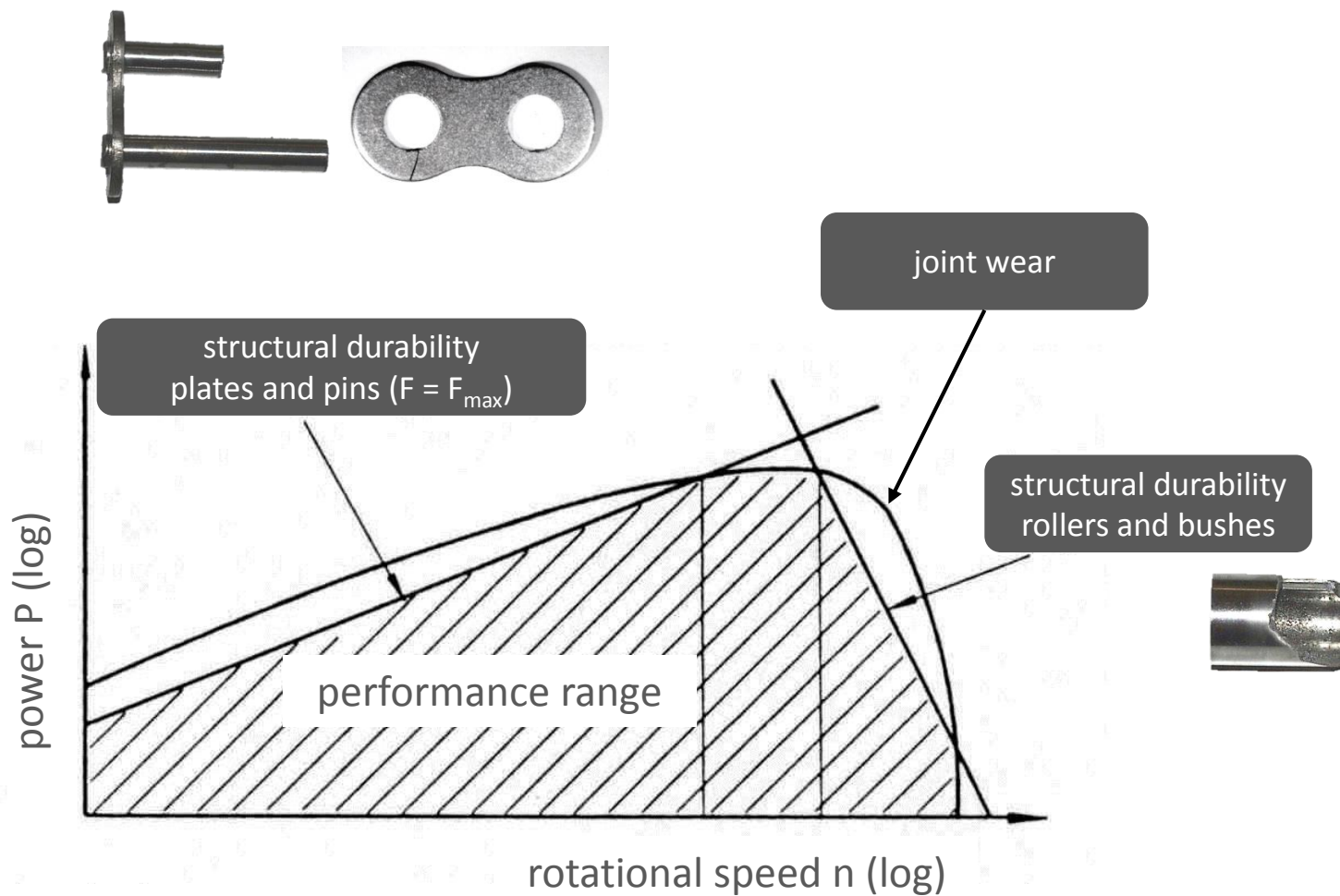
# Power transmission in the application

- Torque induction is not equally distributed of the whole wrap angle
- Normally the load is induced over the first (approx. 5) teeth
- The higher the wear induced elongation of the chain the less teeth carry the load

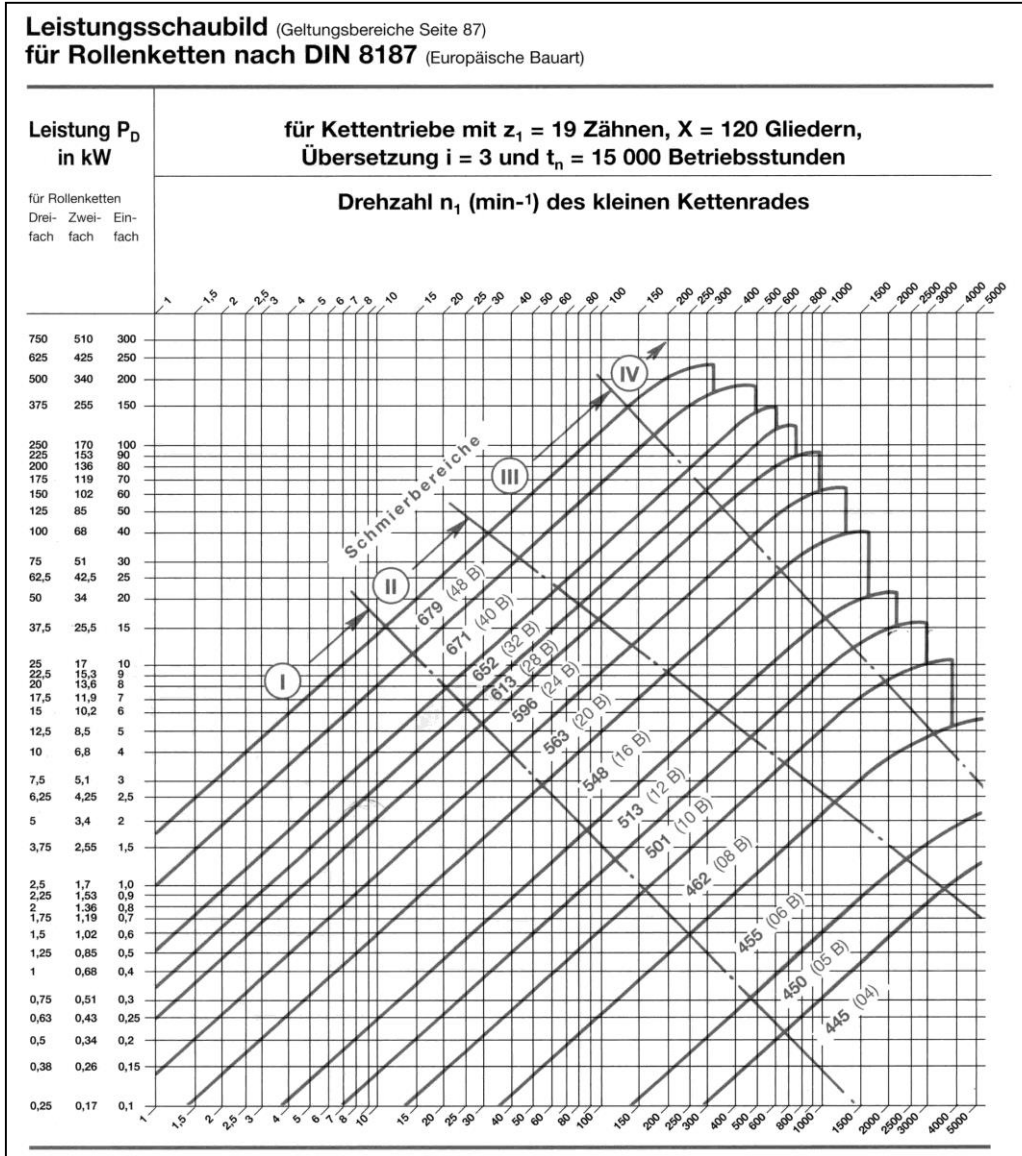




# Limits of power transmission



# Performance range (example)

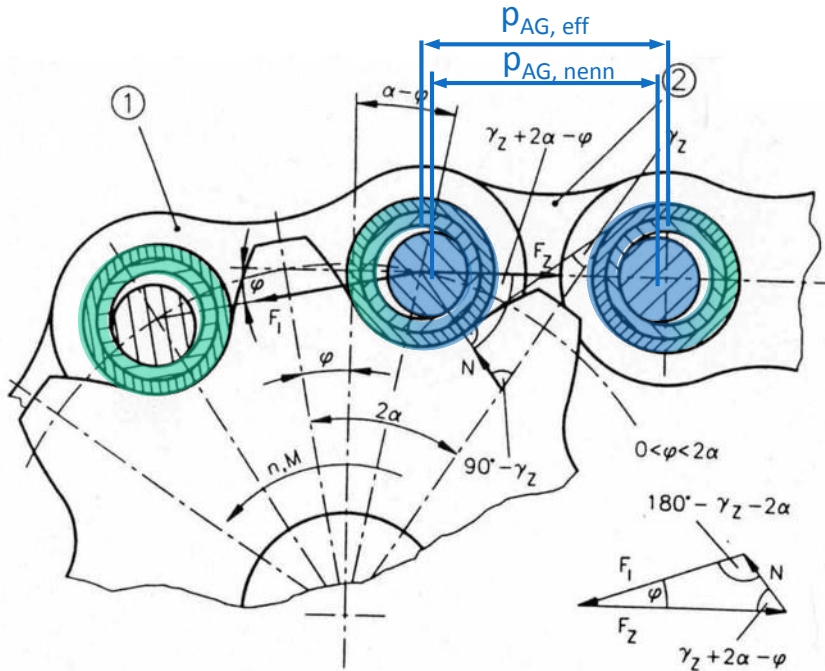


## Reference conditions

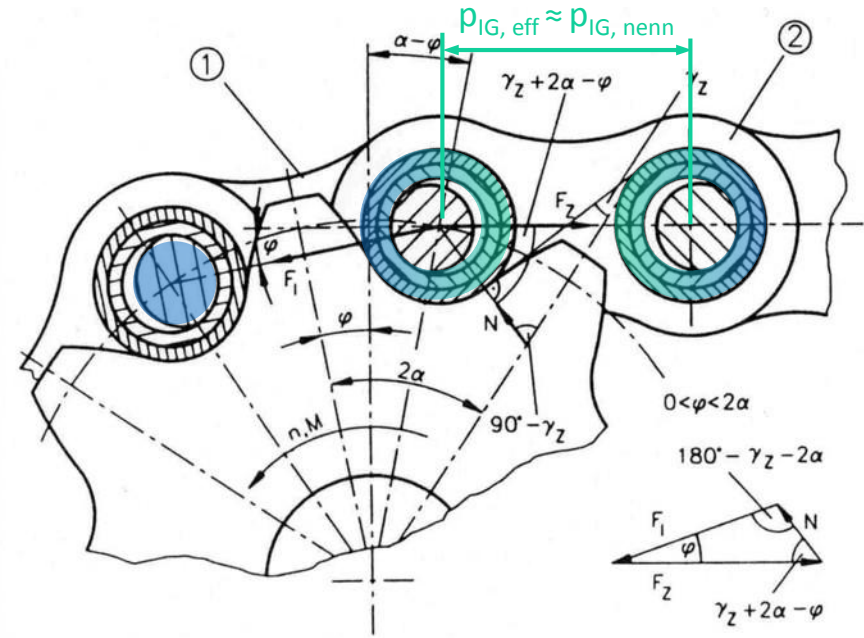
- $L_V = 15.000$  hours of operation
- $X = 120$  chain links
- $z_S = 19$
- $i = 3$
- temperature =  $-5 \dots +70^\circ\text{C}$
- sprockets alligned
- no impacts
- clean environment and sufficient lubrication

# Chain run in into the sprocket

run in outer link



run in inner link

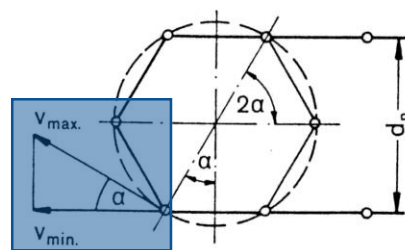
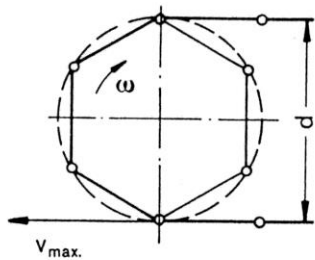


- Inner- and outer links have different hole distances (manufacturing pitch). The outer link pitch is shorter.
- By means of the clearance between pin and bushing, which is eliminated when force is applied, the differences in inner and outer link manufacturing pitches is compensated. The effective pitch of inner and outer link is the same in new state.
- Wear of pin and bushing increase the effective pitch of the outer link. The inner link pitch remains nearly the same.
- To prevent transfer of this uneven wear on the sprocket **uneven number of teeth** should be used.



# Polygon effect

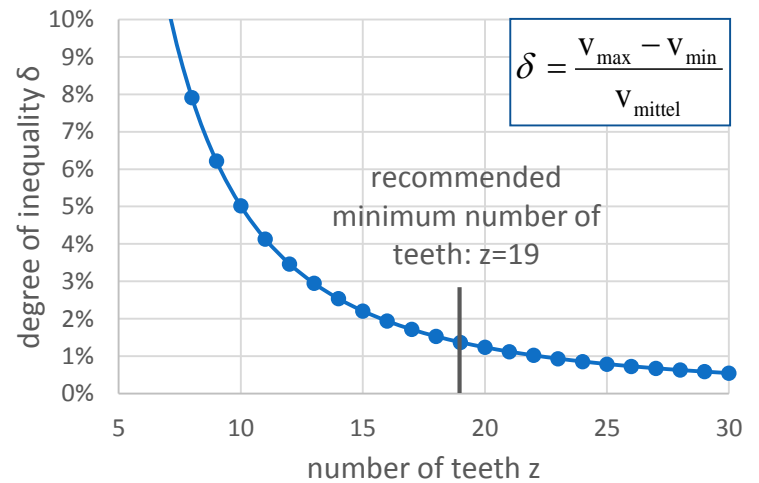
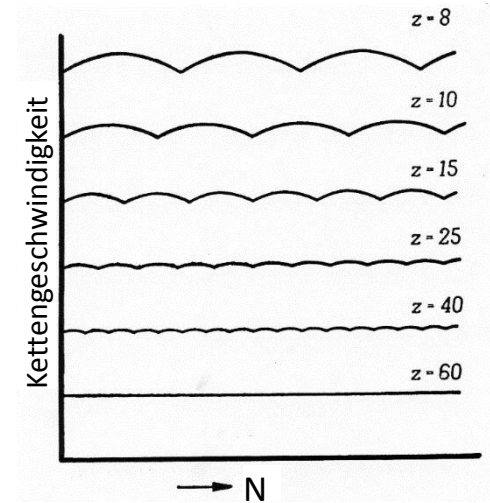
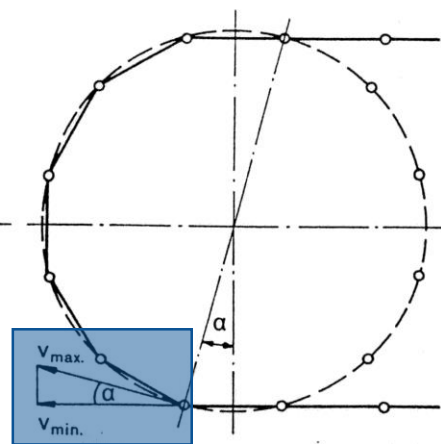
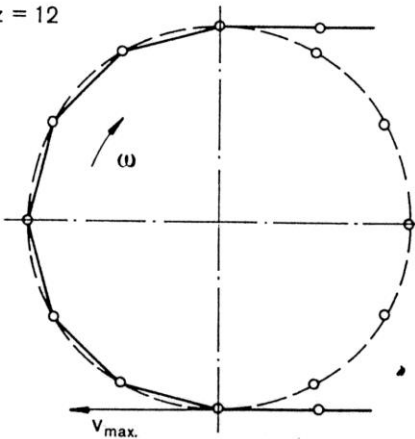
z = 6



$$v_{\max} = \frac{p \cdot n \cdot \pi}{\sin 180^\circ / z}$$

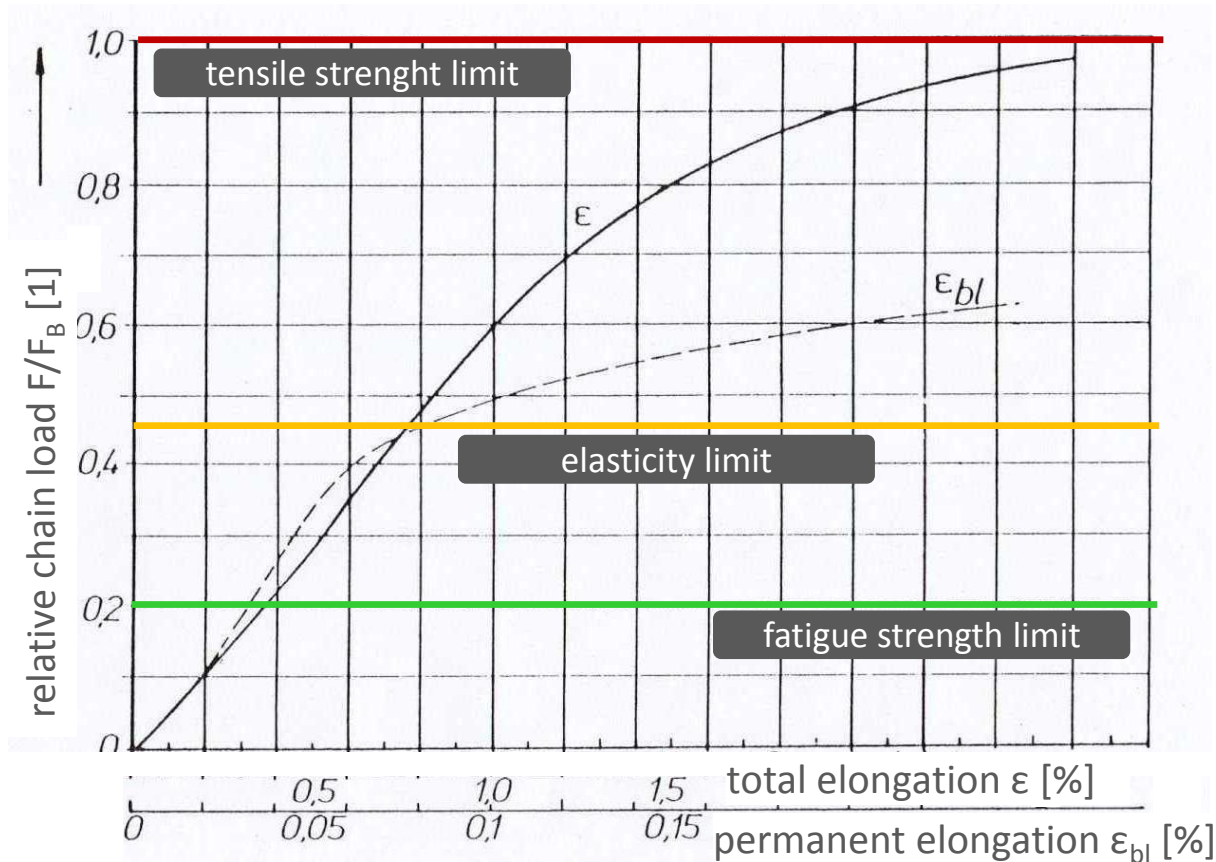
$$v_{\min} = \frac{p \cdot n \cdot \pi}{\tan 180^\circ / z}$$

z = 12



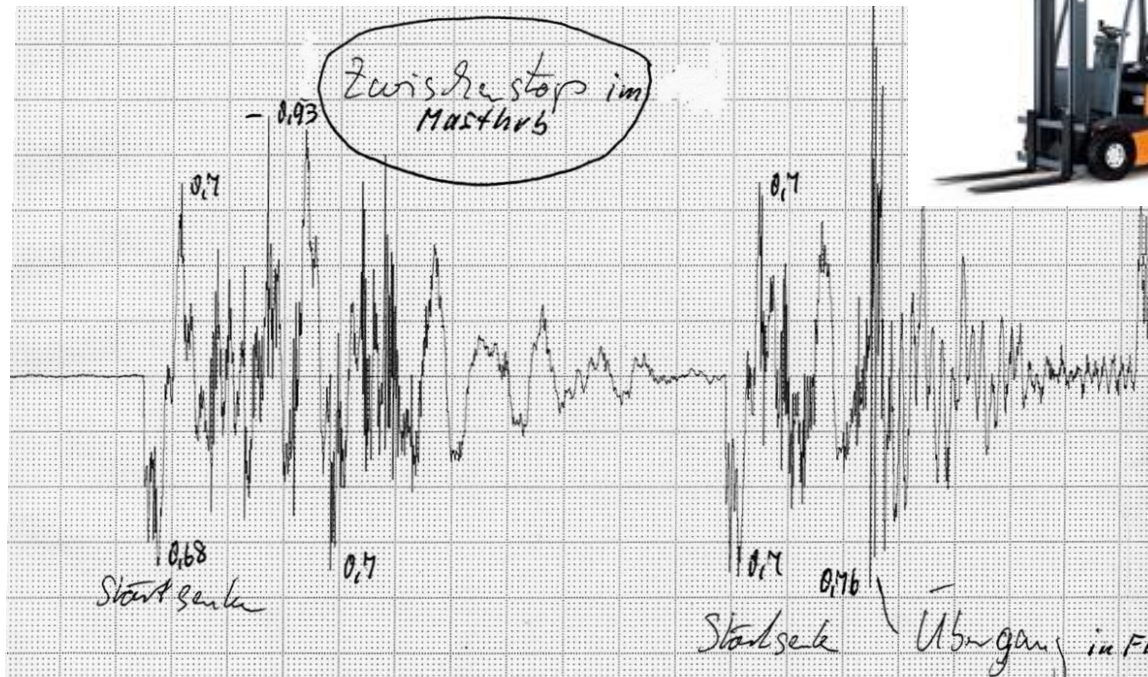
# Load limits

- Usually in chain applications a safety factor of  $S > 7$  is designed. Hence chains are operated in fatigue strength range. For lifting applications the safety factor should be at least  $S > 10$ .
- At loads higher than about 40% of tensile strength settling effects and also substantial plastic deformation occurs.



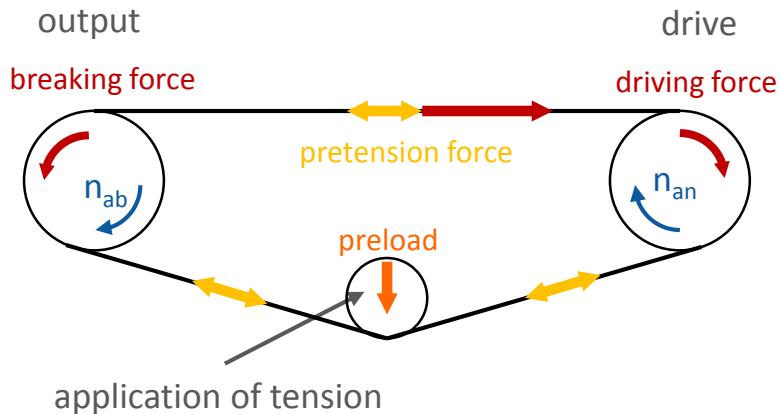
# Dynamic load during operation

- Usually chains are stressed with alternating loads during operation .
- These loads result for drive chains e.g. from the continuous change of the link between tight side and slack side.
- In common applications the chain is stressed additionally by dynamic forces coming from accelerations or loading events. The designer often does not know the precise height of these forces.
- E.g. in case of a forklift truck driving over bumps can cause very high loads, as can be seen below.

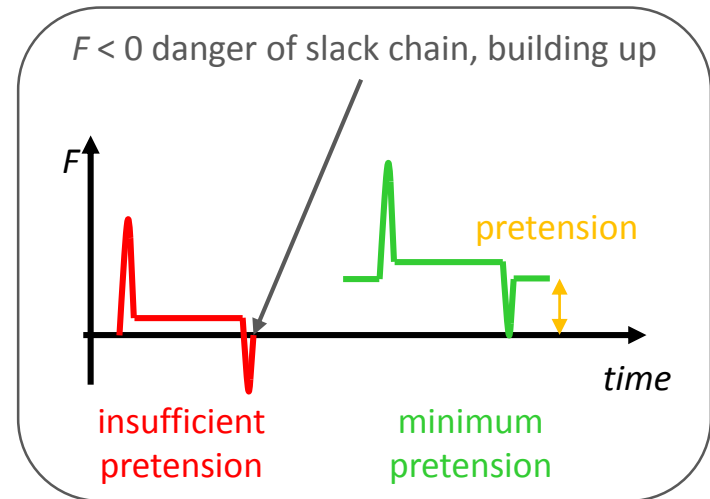
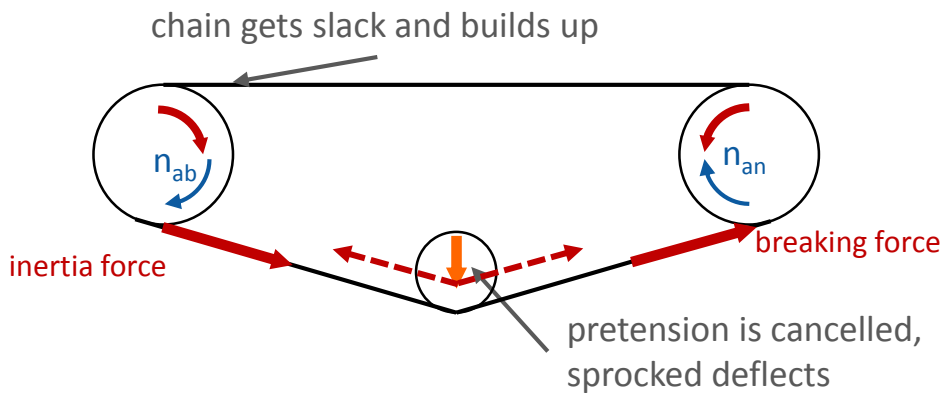


# Pretensioning of chain drives

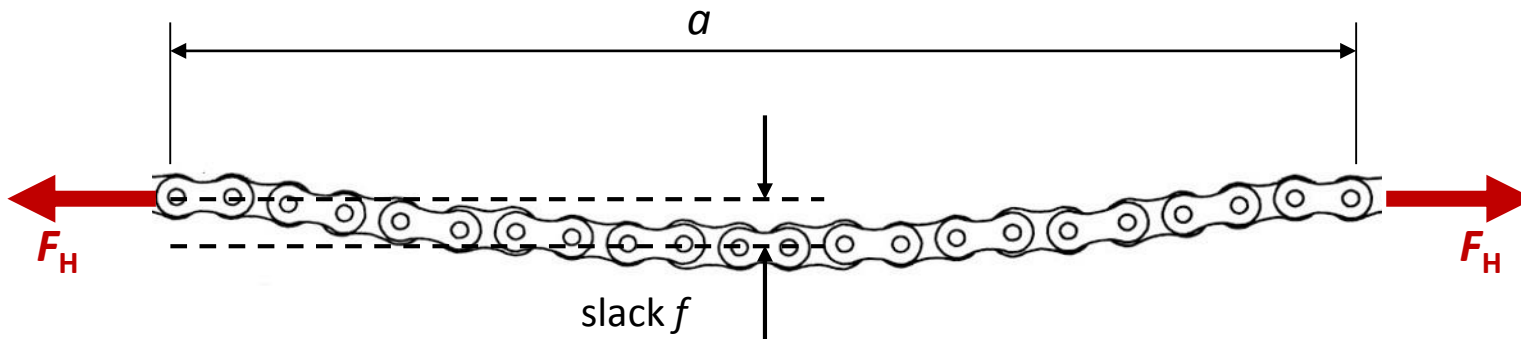
Drive in steady state condition



Deceleration



# Slack and pretensioning



$$f \approx \sqrt{\left(\frac{a + \Delta l}{a} - 1\right) \cdot \frac{3 \cdot a^2}{8}}$$

$$\text{holding force } F_H = \frac{q \cdot g}{f} \cdot \frac{a^2}{8}$$

(horizontal)

$\Delta l$  chain elongation

$a$  distance of axles / free chain length

$\Delta q$  weight per m chain

Example: Chain 16 B-1 with distance of axles  $a = 997\text{mm}$  and  $z_1 = z_2 = 19$

	Nominal length	0,1% elongation	1% elongation	2% elongation	3% elongation
Slack $f$	none	30 mm	96 mm	136 mm	167 mm
Holding force $F_H$	infinity	107 N	34 N	24 N	20 N



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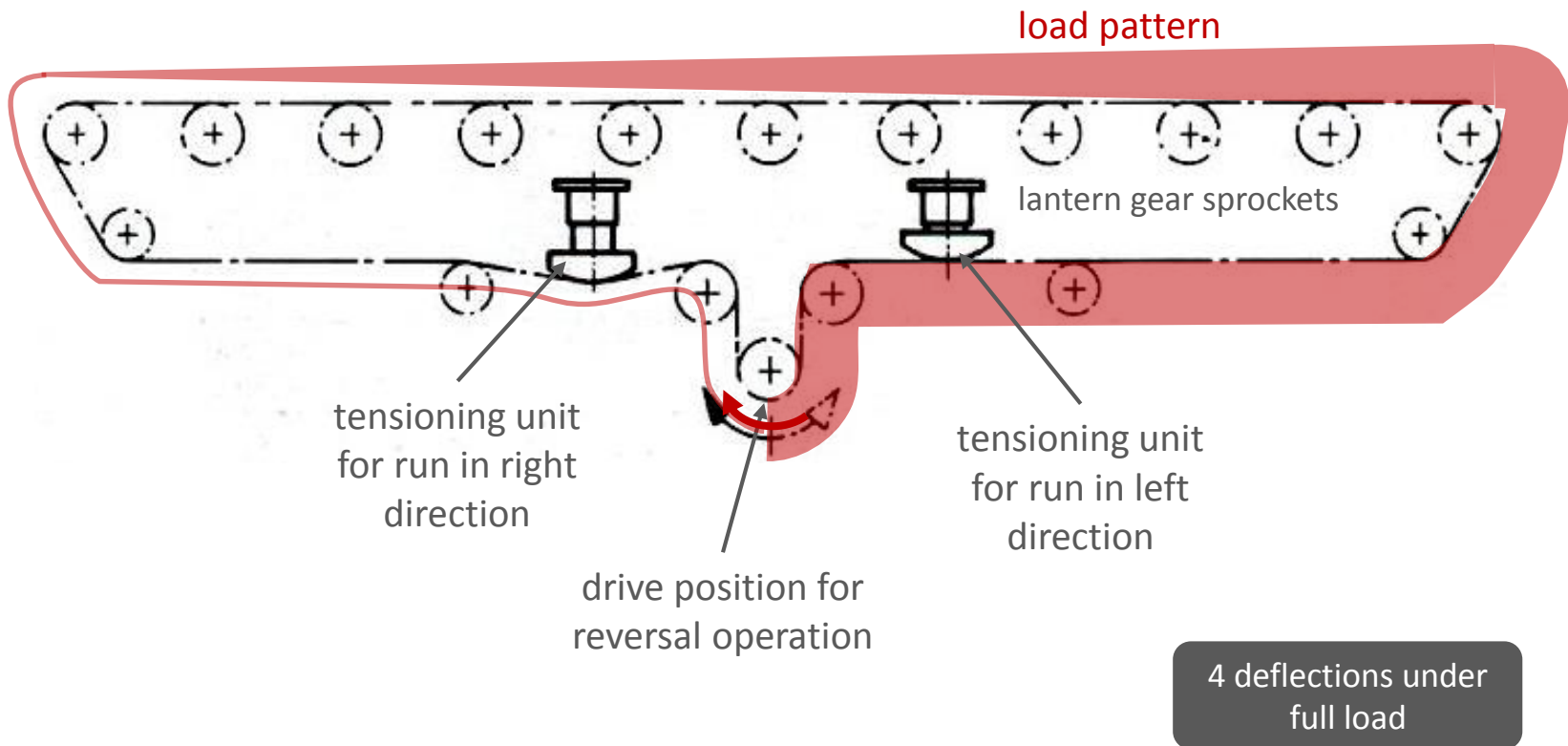
4) Tribology, wear and failure mechanisms

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## Drive and preload unit position

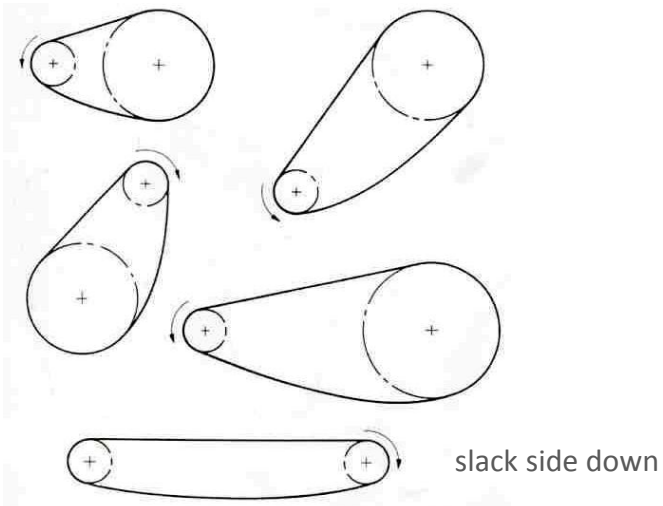
- Drive and tensioning unit should be arranged in a way that there is always a preload unit in the slack side of the chain drive. Also in case of reversal operation.



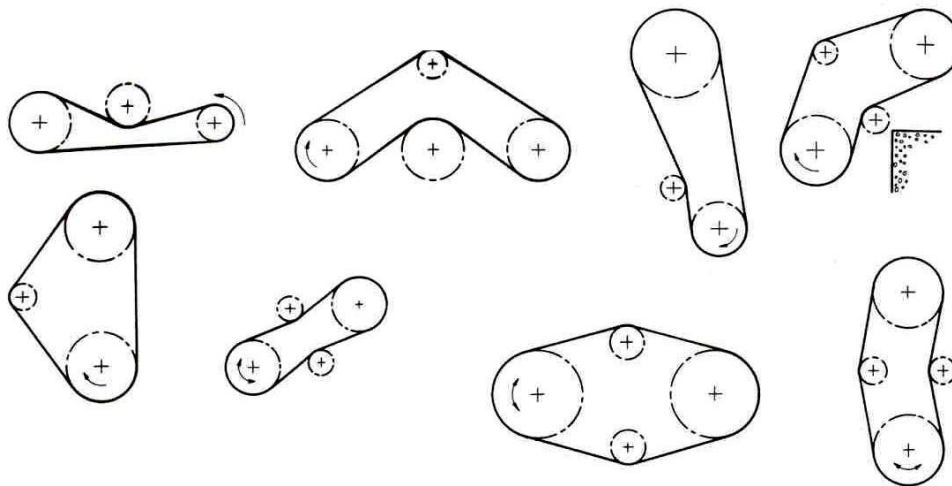
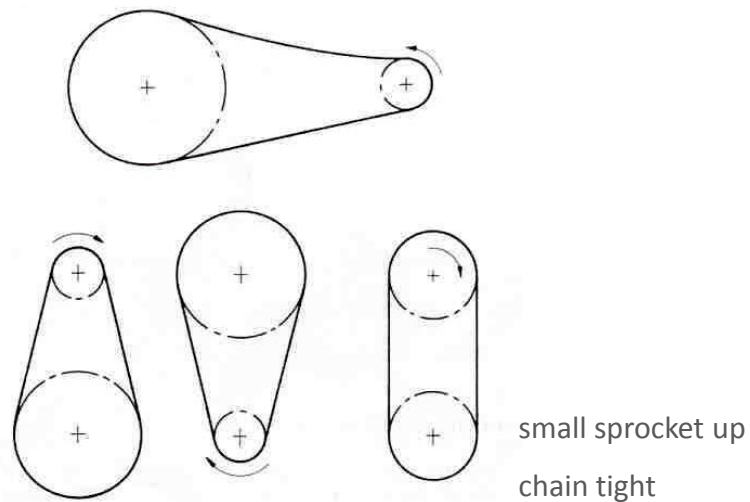


# Chain drive configurations

favourable



less favourable



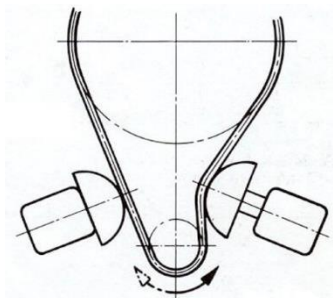
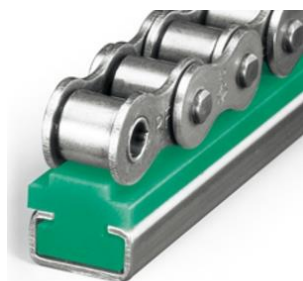
tensioning wheel with 3 teeth in slack side



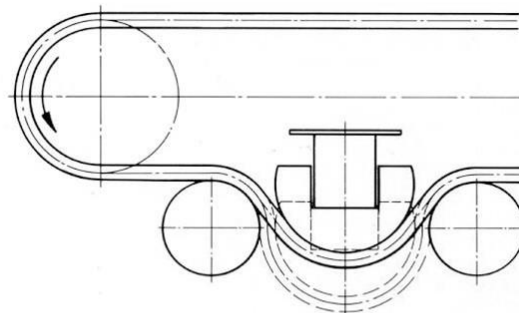


# Tensioning and guiding

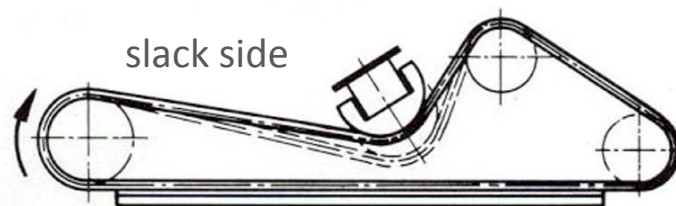
Wippermann recommends:



reversal



maximum use of shift range



slack side

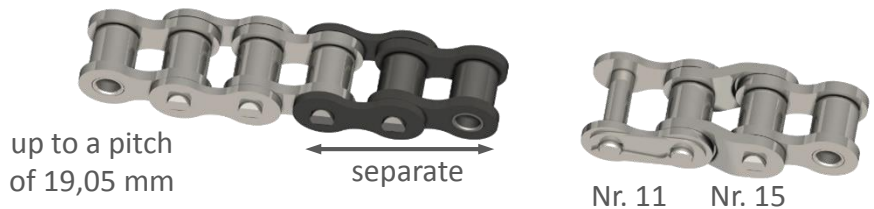
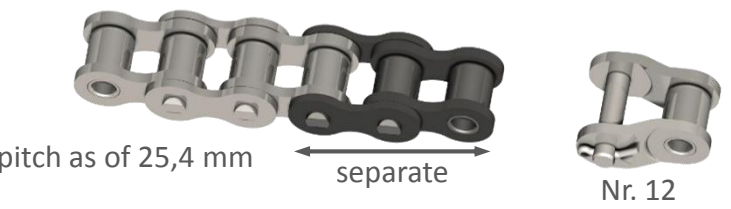
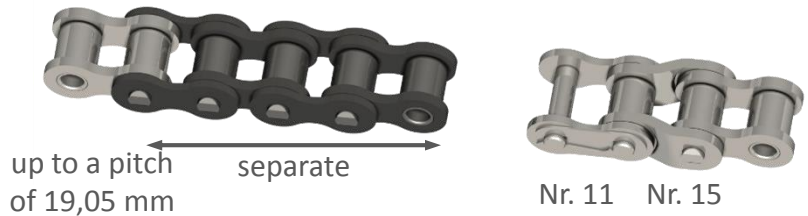


# Shortening and extending

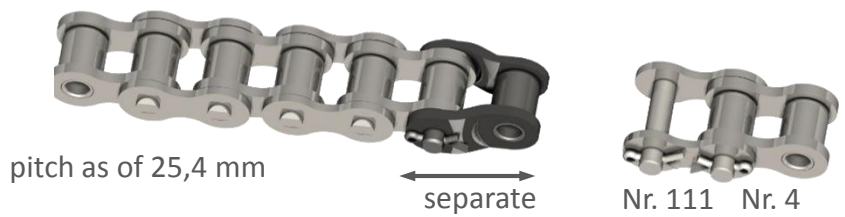
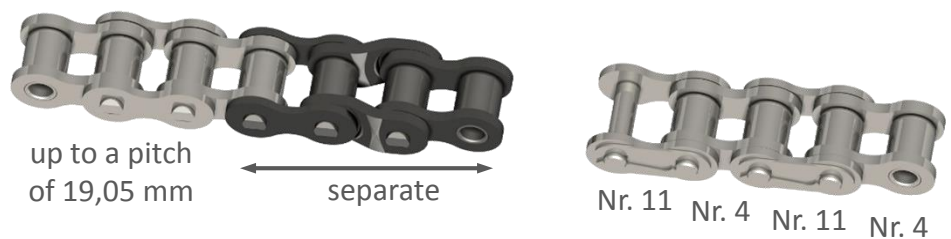
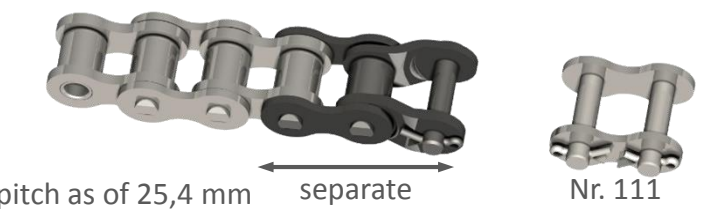
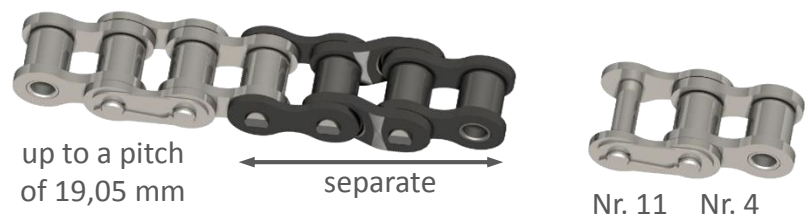
## Shortening

## Extending

uneven number of links



even number of links



## Structure of connection links

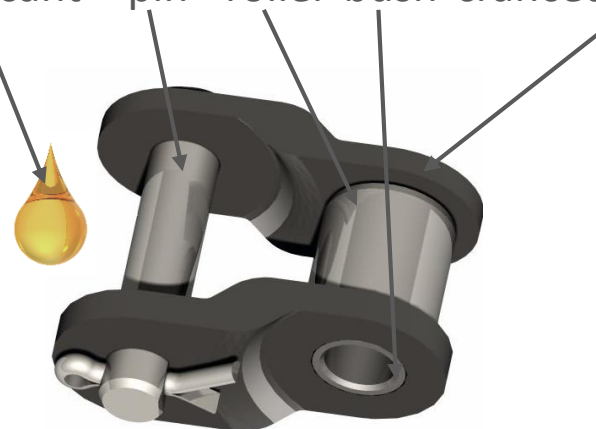
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outer plate    pin    spring clip



No. 11: Spring clip connection link

lubricant    pin    roller bush    cranked plate



No. 12: Single cranked link



# Connection links



Nr. 4 (B):  
inner link

Nr. 7 (A):  
outer link  
(to be riveted)

Nr. 11 (E):  
spring clip  
connecting link

Nr. 111 (S):  
connecting link  
with cottered pins

Nr. 12 (L):  
single cranked link  
with cottered pins

Nr. 15 (C):  
double cranked  
link



open side

closed side



running direction



## Mounting tools

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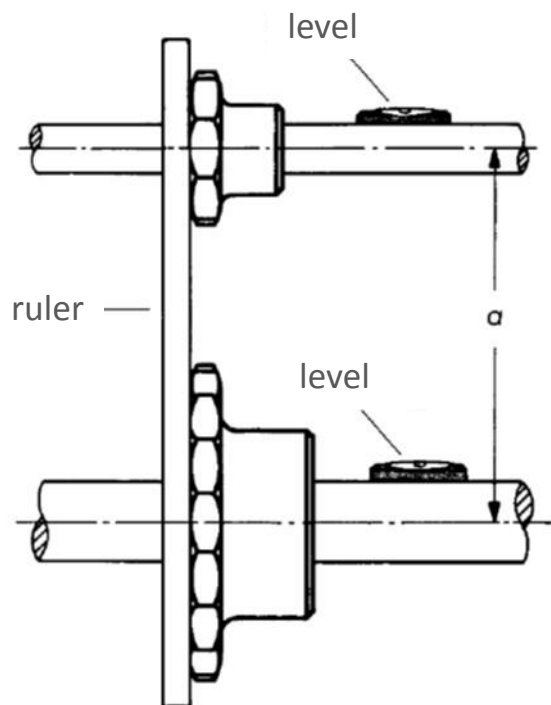


chain breakers



chain pullers

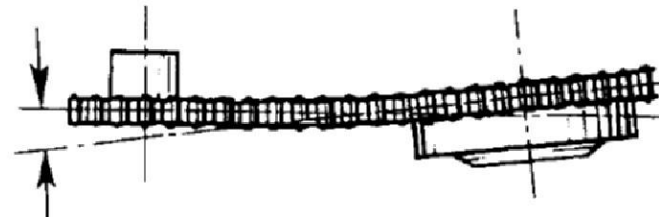
# Sprocket alignment



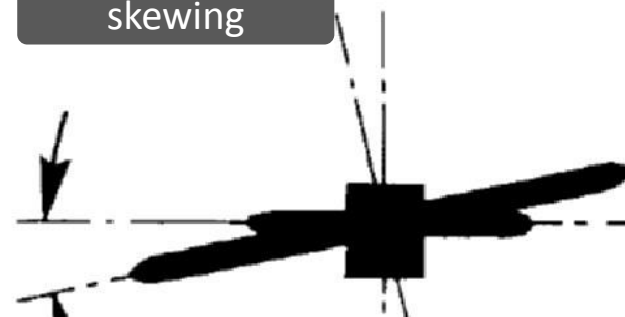
lateral offset



tilting



skewing



## Alignment errors - damage patterns

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### Pin

- skewed wear due to non parallel axles



### Roller

- skewed wear due to non parallel axles



### Inner plate

- wear due to lateral offset



### Sprocket

- worn edges due to lateral offset
- irregular wear due to even number of teeth



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# Service life of roller chains

## Wear

Chain elongation due to wear in joint (abrasion)  
 → function can be restricted or not fulfilled  
 → reduced cross section and load capacity



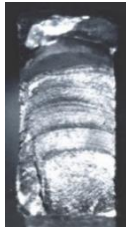
Pin roller chain



Pin leaf chain

## Break

Fatigue failure  
 (Material-) fatigue of plates, pins, bushes



Overload fracture  
 Failure due to load exceeding material breaking stress



## Corrosion

Loss of material  
 → reduced cross section, reduced strength  
 Stiffness  
 → friction  
 Abrasive debris  
 → wear



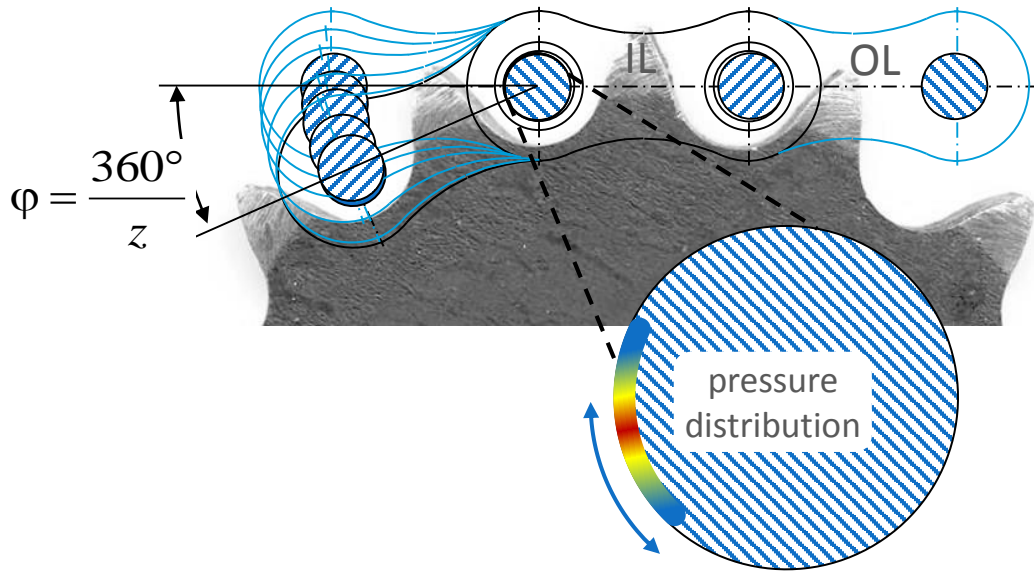
## Application and mounting errors

Mounting failure and bad machine design  
 → crash  
 → one-sided load  
 Bad maintenance, dirt  
 → wear



# Chain joint mechanics

Critical section: contact pin - bush

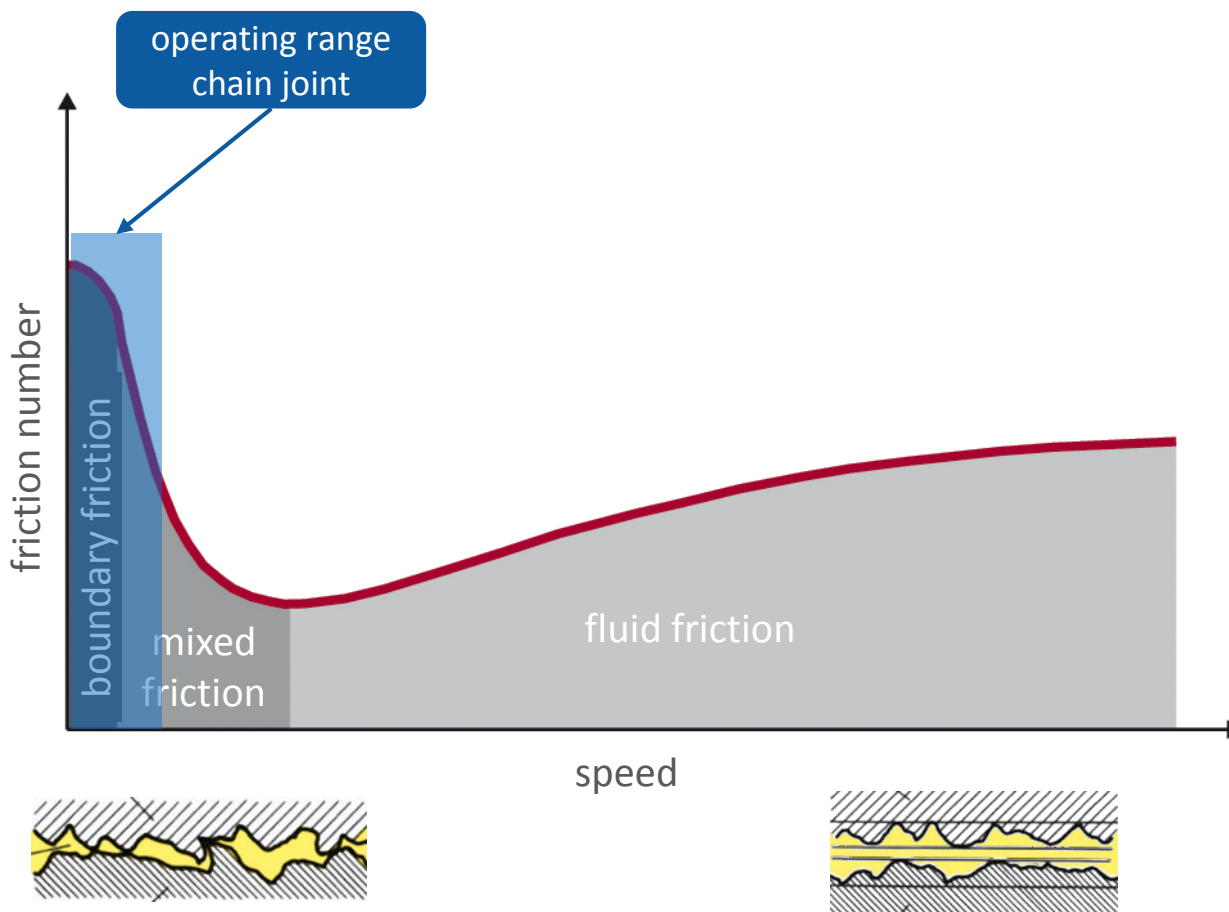


- oscillating swivel movement
- low sliding speeds
- bad lubrication
- additional impact loads
- bad accessibility (re-lubrication)

→ static and mixed friction



# Mixed and boundary friction





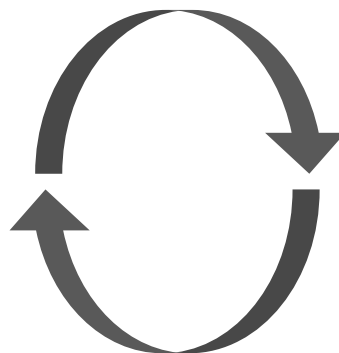
# Tribosystem chain joint



basic body: pin



chain lubricant



antibody: bush



environment

# Wear and failure mechanisms

## Wear mechanisms under tribologically load (wear)

Mechanism		Characteristic	
adhesion			holes, cracks, material transfer, scratches, structural changes,
abrasion			chips, grooves, deformation, structural changes,
surface spallation			deformation, cracks, structural changes, pitting
tribo-chemical and / or tribophysical reaction	reaction layer		layer formation, oxidation
	ablation		evaporation, outgas, decomposition

# Wear and failure mechanisms

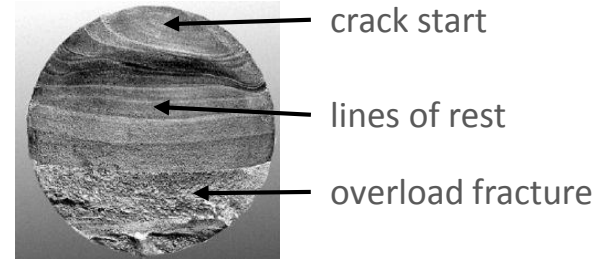
## Failure mechanisms under mechanical load (break)

overload fracture

plastic deformations  
rough surface

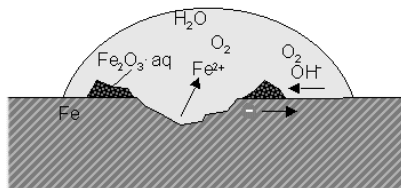
fatigue fracture

no deformations  
lines of rest

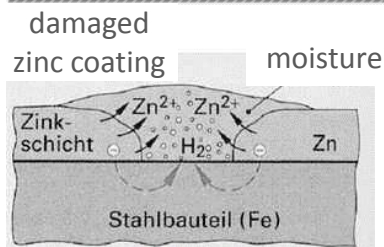


## Wear mechanisms under tribochemical stress (corrosion)

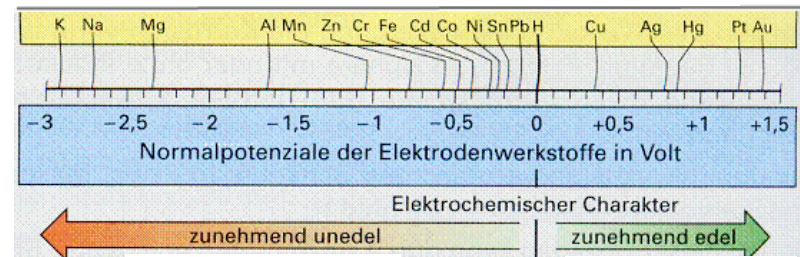
el. chem. corrosion



el. chem. corrosion with  
metal reaction partner



electrochemical series

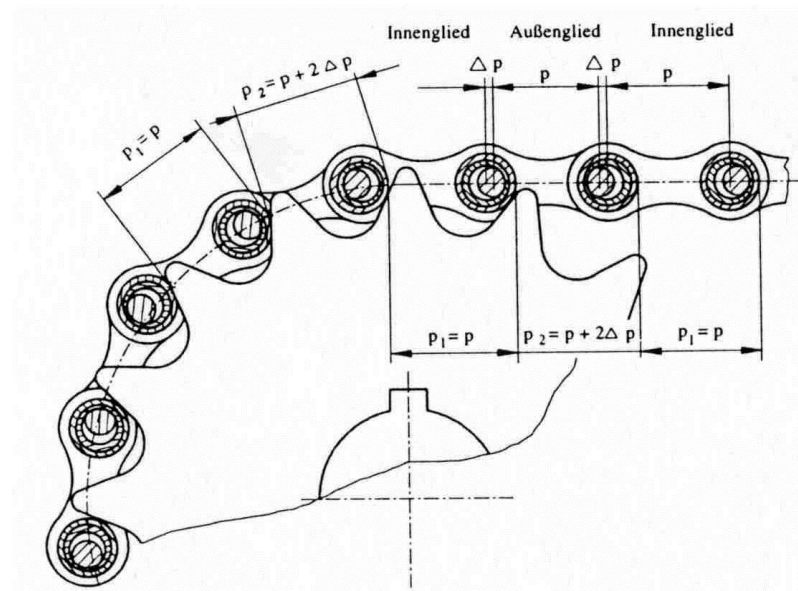
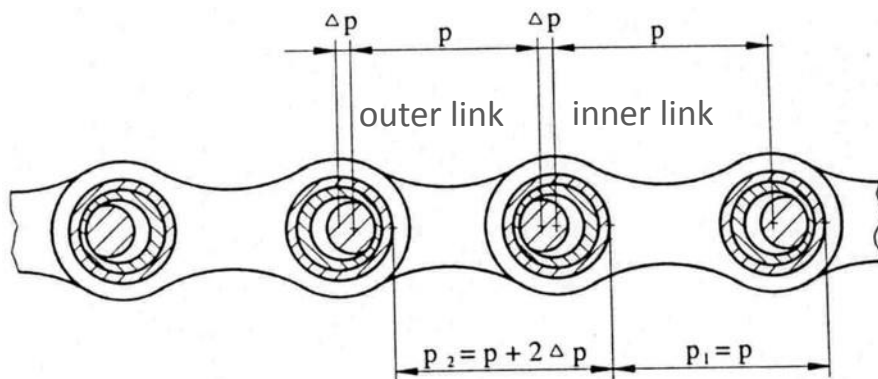


sacrificial anode

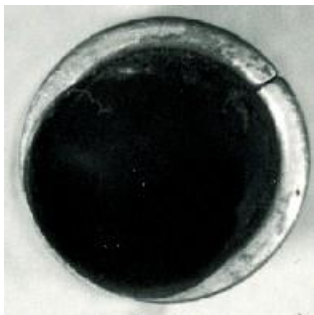
unprecious metal

precious metal

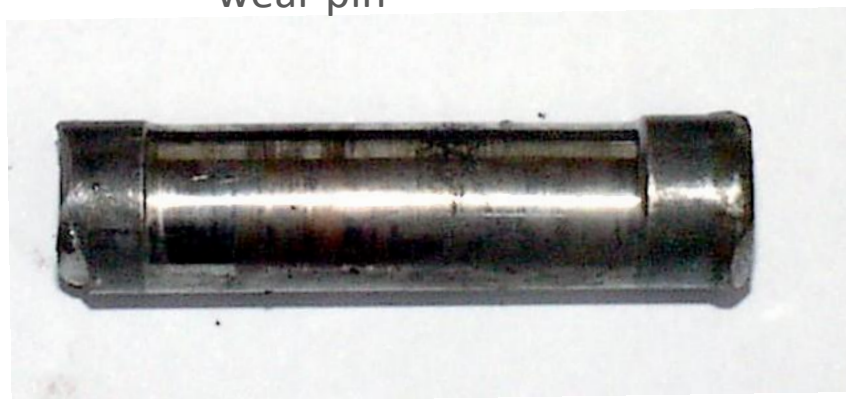
# Effects of wear induced chain elongation



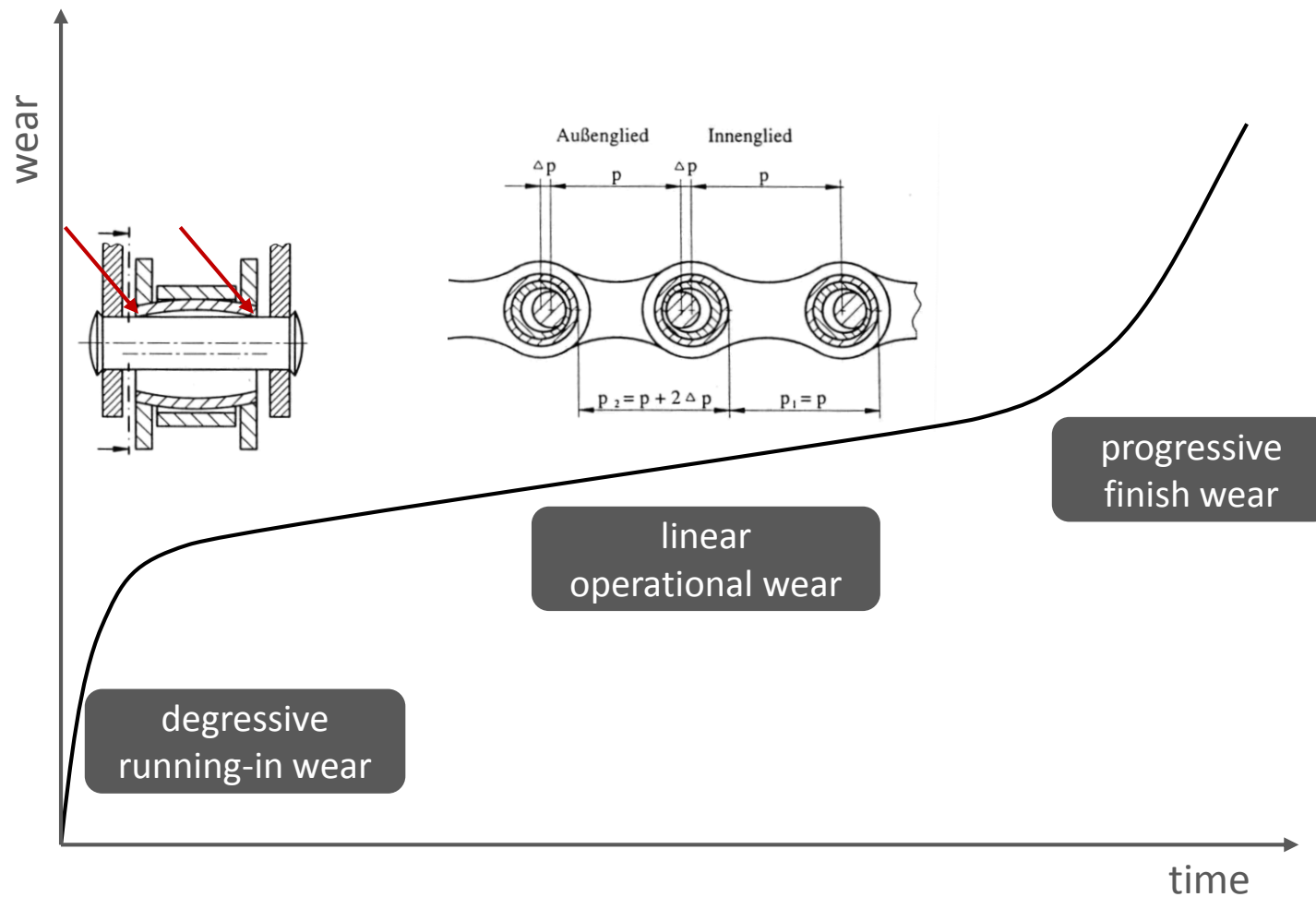
wear bush



wear pin



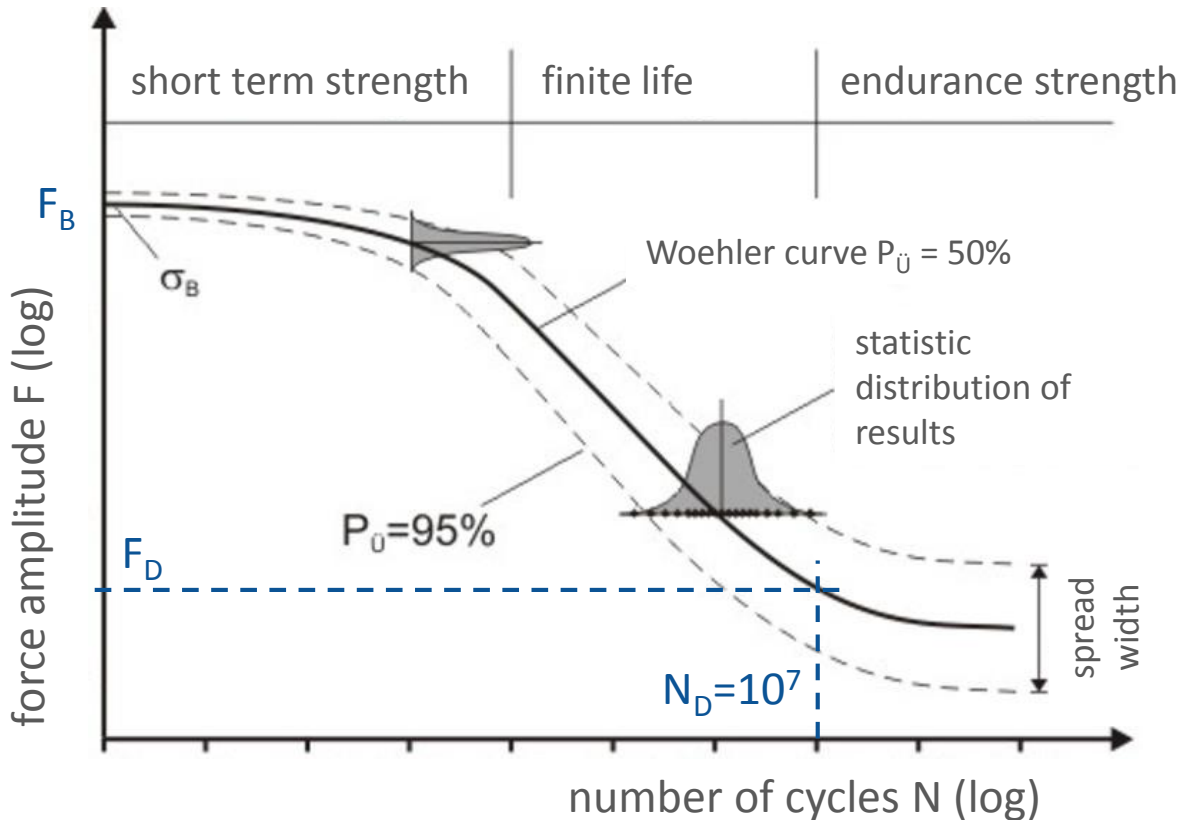
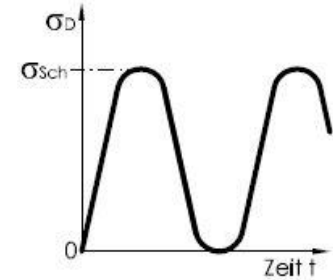
# Abrasion curve





# Fatigue strength in Woehler diagram

- Chains operate usually under alternating loads
- For loads higher than it's endurance limit ( $F_D$ ) this will cause fatigue of the material and lead to limited lifespan



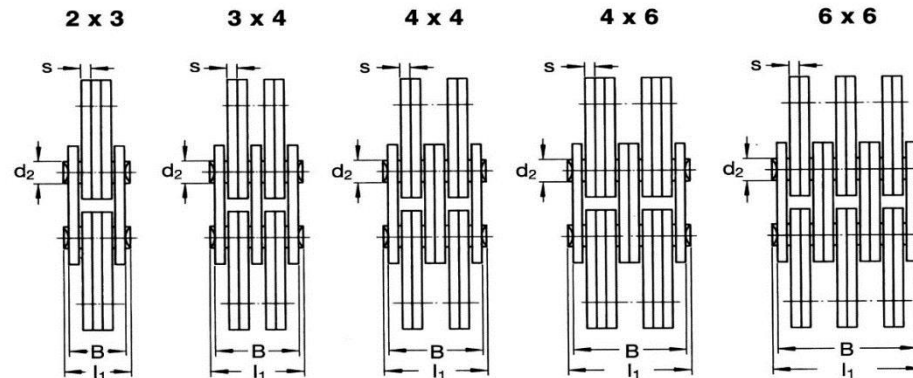
Test der dynamischen Belastbarkeit im Pulsator, Schwingfrequenz 50-100Hz

## Endurance depending on number of strands

- Due to manufacturing tolerances not all parallel plates will carry the same load. The endurance load is limited by the plate which is loaded highest.
- With an increasing number of strands / parallel plates the endurance limit decreases compared to breaking load.
- Hence it does not make sense to build roller chains with more than 3 strands or leaf chains with more than 8 plates



$$\frac{\text{endurance load } F_D}{\text{breaking load } F_B}$$



## Failure mode: corrosion

---

- Loss of material due to corrosion
  - Cross section / bearing area is reduced



- Jamming
  - Loss of functionality
  - Increased friction causes heavy wear



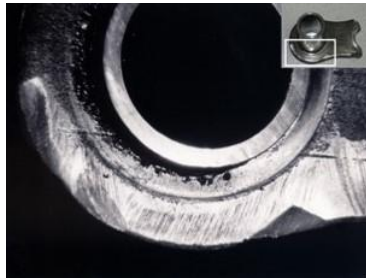
- Abrasive effect of rust debris
  - $\text{FeO}$  acts like abrasive grits  $\rightarrow$  heavy wear





# Failure mode: application failure

bad alignment



Lasche -  
angelaufen



roller -  
skewed wear

worn sprockets



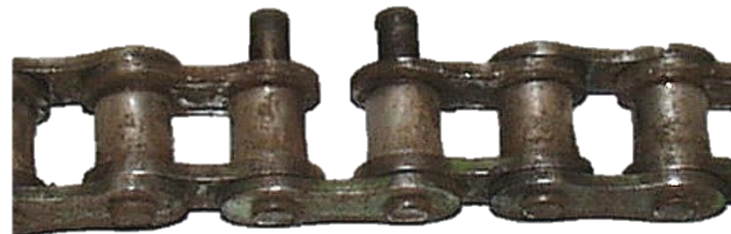
no maintenance (replacement) of sprockets

external causes



crash

bad maintenance



insufficient lubrication, dirt



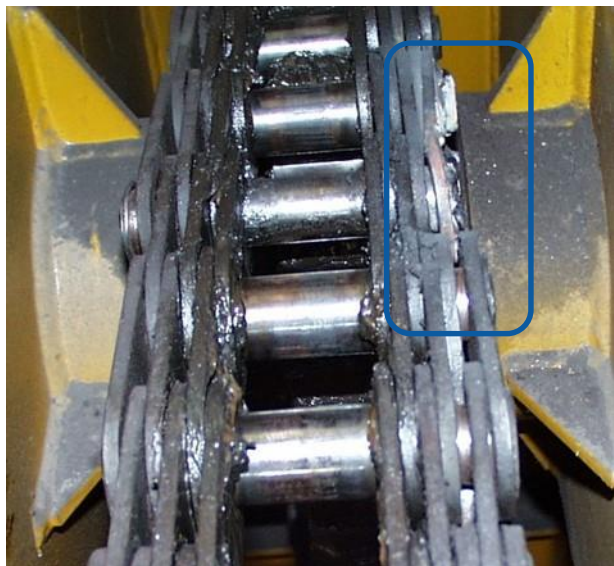
# Failure mode: chain (dis-)assembly and other mistakes



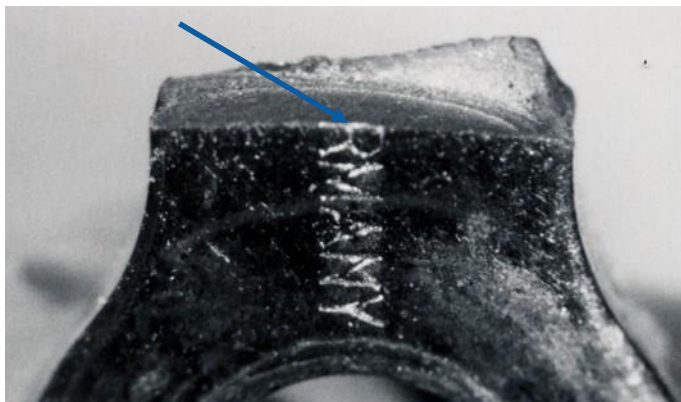
disassembled plate



disassembled pin



missing plate



notch effect of lettering



chain twist



## Limits for chain use

---

- **Adjustable distance of axles**

- bis 16 m/s: max. 3 % elongation
- über 16 m/s: max. 1,5...2 % elongation

- **Fixed distance of axles**

- up to 4 m/s: max. 1,5 % elongation
- over 4 m/s: max. 0,8 % elongation

- **Sprockets > 67 teeth**

- all: max.  $200/z$  in %
- respectively above value if smaller

→ Chain and sprockets should be replaced if elongation has reached its limit



# Agenda

---

1) Structure, terms and classification as machine element

2) Forces, torques, kinematics

3) Arrangement and mounting

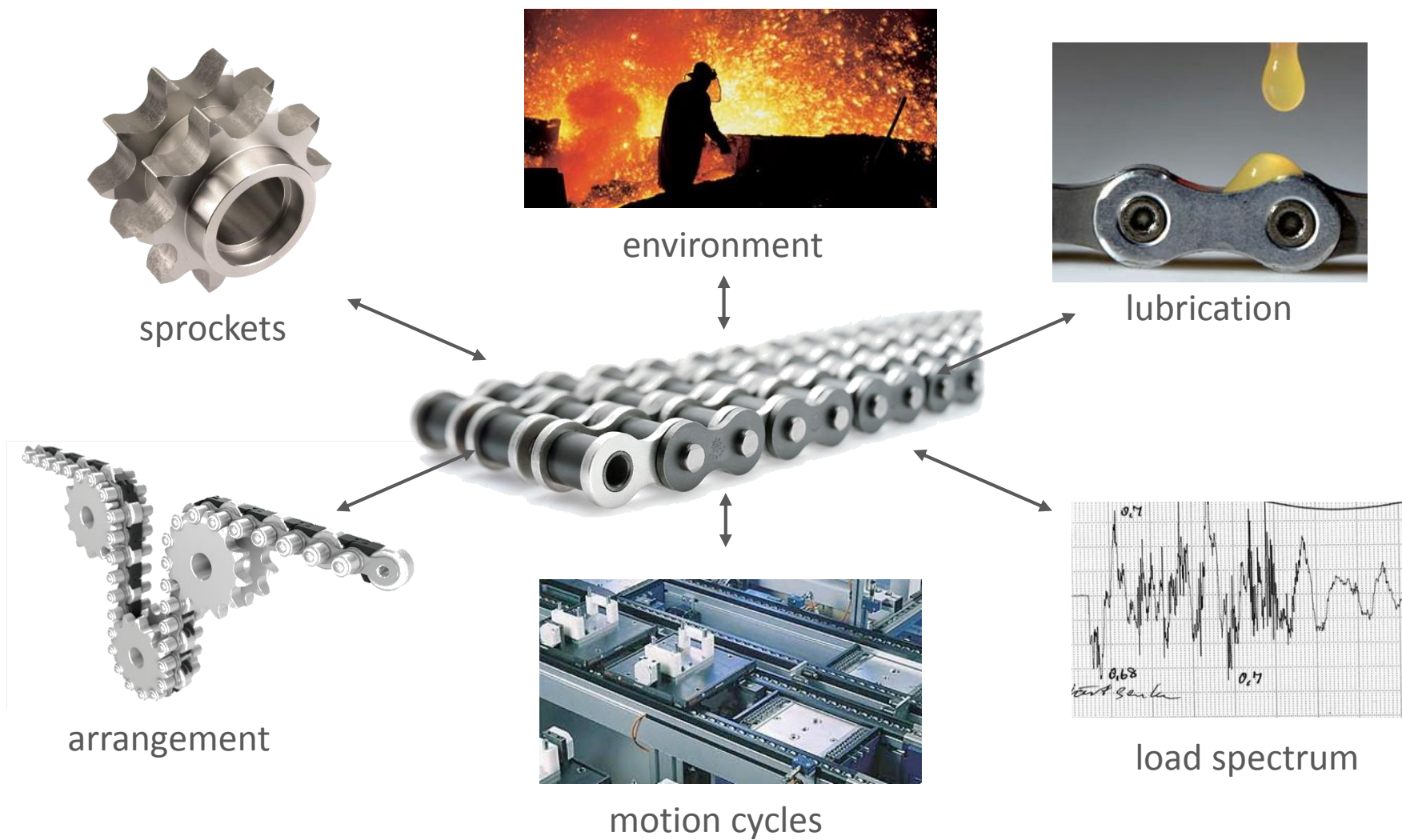
4) Tribology, wear and failure mechanisms

**5) Design and calculation**

6) Lubrication, corrosion, coating, temperature



# System approach







## Service life: influence factors

### chain drive design

#### chain type

- roller chain
- leaf chain
- etc.

#### size

- pitch
- Simplex / Duplex...

#### chain version

- standard
- stainless
- polymer bearings
- etc.

#### friction distance

distance of axles  $a$

transmission ratio  $i$

no. of teeth  $z_i$

no. of sprockets  
and arrangement

### application and environment

working load

preload

speed

temperature

#### application factors

- impact free
- medium impacts
- etc.

#### environment

- splash water
- under water
- etc.

#### cleanliness

- dust free
- dirt
- etc.

#### lubrication

- oil circulation
- manual
- none
- etc.

# Calculation of service life depending on mechanism

procedure

criterion

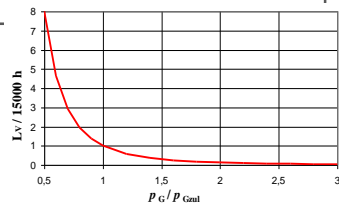
model

## Wear

Calculation of elongation due to wear in chain joints (frictional wear)

Max. allowable elongation (typisch 3%)

Empirical, comparison of actual operation conditions to reference conditions, manufacturer know-how

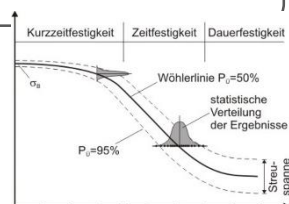


## Breaking

Calculation of (material-) fatigue of plates, pins, bushes  
calculation of breaking load

No. of load cycles for a given load until fatigue limit is reached, maximum breaking load

Empirical test results, material model, simplified calculation models for chain parts

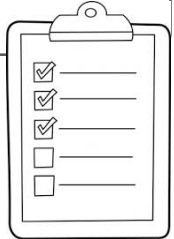


## Corrosion

Selection under consideration of chemical resistance and compatibility

Corrosion tendency and admissible corrosion

Specs, tables + experience





## Influence factors on service life depending on mechanism

### Wear

Actual joint pressure depending on:

- type (joint projection)
- loads

Admissible joint pressure depending on :

- type
- speed
- lubrication
- arrangement (length, sprockets etc.)
- elongation limit
- temperature
- environment

### Break

- type
- load cycles
- breaking load
- endurance load
- temperature

### Corrosion

- type (material)
- coating
- environment
- temperature
- lubrication



## General design advices

---

- Transmission ratio:
  - normal speed: up to 4:1
  - slow speed : up to 7:1
- No. of teeth:
  - minimum no. of teeth: 11
  - slow speed: 11...17 (min.)
  - normal speed: 17...21 (min.)
  - high speed: 21... (min.)
  - maximum no. of teeth: 120
- Speed:
  - good up to 7 m/s
  - normal up to 12 m/s
  - possible up to 25 m/s
- Distance of axles:
  - 30...50 x chain pitch
- Slack:
  - slack side max. 1% of distance of axles

# General design rules

- Selection guide:

Speed	Load	Pitch	No. strains
high	high	small	multi
high	medium	small	single
low	high	big	multi
low	medium	big	single

- Safety factor regarding breaking load

- $S_{stat} = \frac{F_B}{F} \geq 7$

- $S_{dyn} = \frac{F_B}{F_{dyn}} \geq 10$

- Contact pressure in roller-chain joints

- $p = \frac{F}{f} \geq p_{Gzul}$

- $p_{Gzul} = 5 \dots 45 \frac{N}{mm^2}$  for drive applications

- $p_{Gzul} = 15 \frac{N}{mm^2}$  for lifting applications

$F_B$  Breaking load → see main catalogue

$f$  Projection over joint → see main catalogue

Depending on:

- type
- pitch
- lubrication
- no. of links
- no. of teeth, deflections
- required service life
- version
- temperature
- speed
- environment
- application

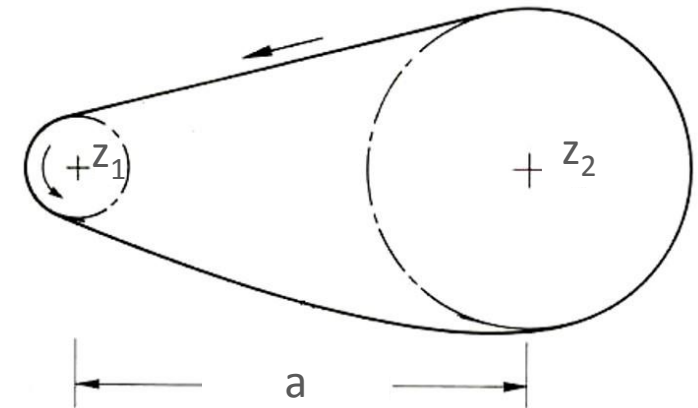


## Wear - service life: fundamentals of calculation

- Basis: empirical test data
- Calculation bases on a reference chain drive with an admissible load that depends on no. of teeth and speed
- Geometry

Designation	Symbol	Value
No. teeth (small sprocket)	$z_1$	19
Transmission ratio	$i$	3:1
Distance of axles	$a$	40p

- good lubrication and cleanliness
  - uniform operation (without overload, impacts)
  - room temperature
  - etc...
- Reference service life is 15.000 hours
- Actual operation conditions are considered through reduction or appreciation factors on admissible joint pressure
- Precise application of factors are manufacturers know how



# Wear - service life: basic formula

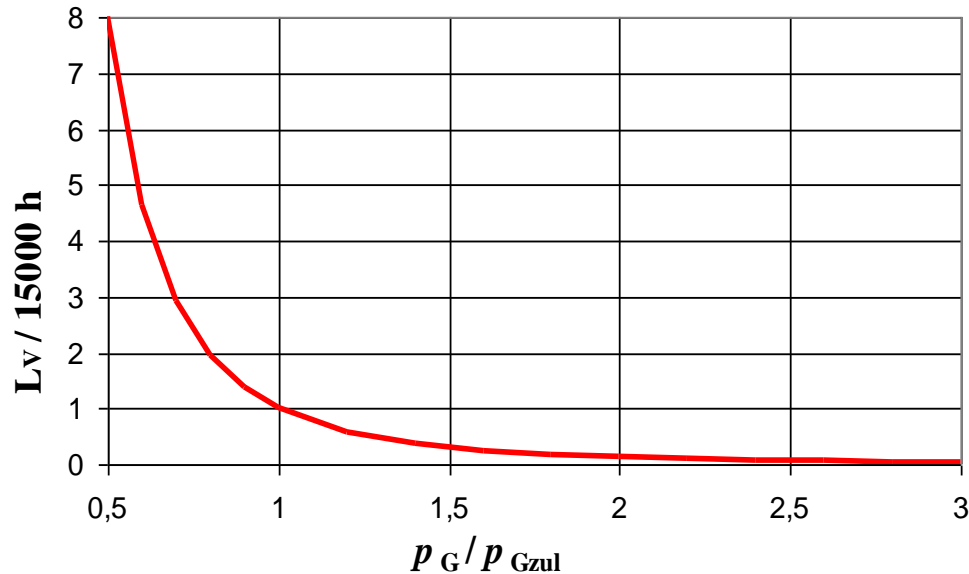
$$L_v = 15.000 \text{ h} \cdot \left( \frac{\epsilon_{Aus}}{3\%} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{p_{Gzul}}{p_G} \right)^3$$

$L_v$  wear service life in operation hours

admissible joint pressure  $p_{Gzul}$

actual joint pressure  $p_G$

operation limit in % elongation  $\epsilon_{Aus}$



## Wear - service life: joint pressure

---

$$p_G = \frac{F \cdot f_y}{f} \leq p_{Gzul}$$

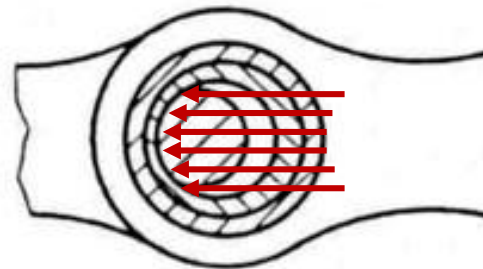
$p_G$  actual joint pressure

tensile load  $F$

operation coefficient (impact factor)  $f_y$

joint projection (see main catalogue)  $f$

admissible joint pressure  $p_{Gzul}$







## Wear - service life: operation coefficient $f_y$

- Impacts and oscillations are taken into account by the operation coefficient  $f_y$
- Thus the actual calculation load is increased with regard to the nominal value to take load peaks into account

Driven equipment	Centrifugal pumps and compressors Printing machines Conveyors with regular infeed Paper calenders Escalators Stirring devices for liquids Rotary driers Ventilators Generators (apart from welding generators)	Piston pumps and compressors with three or more cylinders Concrete mixers Conveyors with irregular feed Screw conveyors Rolling mills direct Saws and reciprocating saws Stirring devices for solid matter Spinning and rinsing machines Brick work machines	Planing machine and pulp grinders Excavators and other building plant Roller crushers Pulling machines Welding generators Choppers Rubber processing machines Piston pumps and compressors with one or two cylinders Gas or oil drill poles Driving motor / engine Dough mixers
Electric motors in continuous operation Internal combustion engines with hydraulic coupling Water, steam or gas turbines	1,0	1,4	1,8
Electric motors, which are repeatedly started and stopped with fewer than 10 cycles/min Internal combustion engines with six or more cylinders and mechanical coupling	1,1	1,5	1,9
Electric motors, which are repeatedly started and stopped with more than 10 cycles/min Internal combustion engines with fewer than six cylinders and mechanical coupling	1,3	1,7	2,1



## Wear - service life: joint pressure

---

$$p_{Gzul} = p_{G0} \cdot f_R \cdot f_S \cdot f_K \cdot f_{\vartheta} \cdot f_{SA}$$

$p_{Gzul}$  admissible joint pressure

admissible joint pressure under nominal operation conditions (see table)

→ takes into account: speed + no. of teeth  $p_{G0}$

friction distance coefficient

→ takes into account: distance of axles + transmission ratio  $f_R$

lubrication coefficient

→ takes into account: lubrication and operation conditions  $f_S$

chain version coefficient

→ takes into account: type and version (e.g. standard, Marathon, stainless etc.)  $f_K$

temperature coefficient

→ takes into account: operation temperatures  $f_{\vartheta}$

cleanliness coefficient

→ takes into account: cleanliness and environment  $f_{SA}$



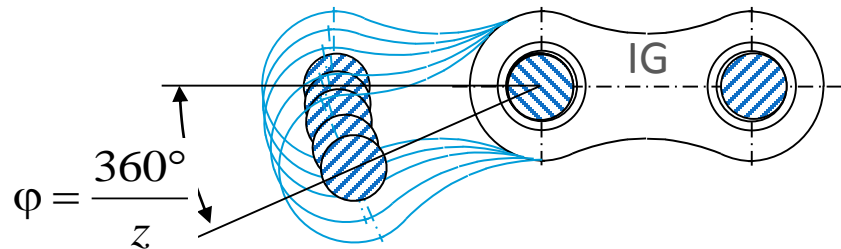
# Admissible joint pressure under nominal operation conditions $p_{G0}$

Chain speed in m/s	Bearing pressure $p_{G0}$ in N/cm <sup>2</sup> with number of teeth $z$ on smaller sprocket														
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	≥25
<b>0,1</b>	3080	3120	3170	3220	3270	3300	3320	3350	3400	3430	3450	3480	3500	3530	3550
<b>0,2</b>	2810	2850	2880	2930	2980	3000	3030	3060	3100	3120	3140	3170	3190	3220	3240
<b>0,4</b>	2700	2740	2780	2830	2870	2890	2910	2950	2980	3000	3020	3070	3070	3100	3120
<b>0,6</b>	2580	2620	2650	2700	2740	2760	2780	2820	2850	2870	2890	2910	2930	2960	2980
<b>0,8</b>	2490	2490	2560	2610	2650	2670	2680	2720	2750	2770	2790	2810	2830	2860	2880
<b>1</b>	2380	2420	2450	2490	2520	2540	2560	2590	2620	2640	2660	2680	2700	2720	2740
<b>1,5</b>	2290	2330	2360	2400	2430	2450	2470	2500	2530	2550	2570	2590	2610	2630	2650
<b>2</b>	2210	2240	2270	2310	2350	2370	2380	2410	2440	2460	2470	2490	2510	2530	2550
<b>2,5</b>	2130	2160	2190	2230	2260	2280	2290	2320	2350	2370	2380	2400	2440	2470	2500
<b>3</b>	2050	2080	2110	2140	2170	2190	2210	2240	2260	2290	2320	2350	2380	2420	2460
<b>4</b>	1740	1830	1920	2000	2070	2100	2130	2160	2180	2220	2260	2300	2340	2380	2420
<b>5</b>	1400	1550	1690	1770	1840	1910	1970	2010	2050	2100	2150	2180	2210	2240	2280
<b>6</b>	1050	1230	1410	1540	1640	1730	1810	1880	1950	1990	2040	2070	2110	2140	2180
<b>7</b>	850	1000	1150	1280	1400	1510	1620	1740	1850	1870	1900	1940	1980	2020	2060
<b>8</b>	-	800	1020	1110	1200	1310	1420	1560	1700	1740	1780	1820	1870	1910	1960
<b>10</b>	-	-	810	900	1020	1110	1200	1320	1430	1460	1500	1570	1640	1700	1770
<b>12</b>	-	-	-	-	820	910	1070	1170	1260	1300	1350	1410	1480	1540	1600
<b>15</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	890	970	1050	1100	1150	1210	1270	1330	1400
<b>18</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	880	960	1050	1110	1180	1240	1300

## Wear - service life: friction distance coefficient $f_R$

- Friction distance coefficient  $f_R$ 
  - Consideration of the actual swivel movement in chain joint compared to reference chain drive
  - Higher transmission ratios  $i$  result in bigger no. of teeth which result in smaller friction distance
  - Higher distance between axles result in less deviations per chain link

$$f_R = \sqrt[3]{\frac{339 \cdot i}{L_{Vref}} \cdot \left( \frac{a}{p} \cdot \frac{1}{i+1} + 4,75 \right)}$$



$i$  transmission ratio

$a$  distance of axles

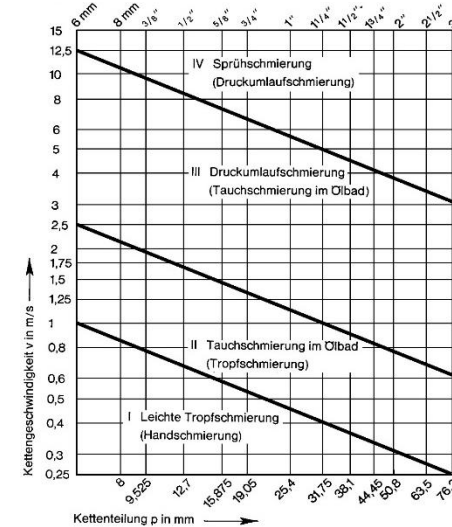
$p$  pitch

$L_{Vref}$  reference service life (15.000 h)

# Wear - service life: lubrication $f_5$

- Lubrication is most important to chain service life
- Lubrication reduces direct metal contact and prevents abrasive and adhesive wear
- Reduction of friction
- Required lubrication depends on operation conditions and chain type and version
- Rating by comparison of actual lubrication conditions and required lubrication (see chart)
- Special chains are rated differently than standard chains. E.g. a Marathon® chain needs no external lubrication and hence for no re-lubrication condition it is rated better than an unlubricated standard chain

lubrication recommendation (required lubrication)



$f_5$  for standard chains

Soll\Ist	Umlauf	Ölbad	Tropf- öler	manuell	keine
<b>Umlauf</b>	1	0,6	0,1	0,1	0,01
<b>Ölbad</b>	1	1	0,6		0,05
<b>Tropf- öler</b>	1	1	1	0,4	0,1
<b>manuell</b>	1	1	1	1	0,3
<b>keine</b>	1	1	1	1	1

example values

## Wear - service life: chain version $f_K$

- Every version shows a specific wear pattern
    - E.g. the hardness of stainless steel chain material is lower and hence SS chains are less wear resistant than standard chains
    - Chemical coated pins are more wear resistant than standard pins and hence Biathlon<sup>®</sup> chains have a higher version coefficient
  - Wear resistance depends significantly on lubrication conditions
    - Under bad lubrication conditions a chain with sintered bush and oil reservoir (Marathon<sup>®</sup>) performs better than a standard chain  
→ chain version has also impact on other coefficients (e.g. lubrication coefficient  $f_S$ )
    - This is also true for chains with polymer bearings (Triathlon<sup>®</sup>)
- Consideration of chain version coefficient is specific know how of chain manufacturer

$f_K$	Version
1,0	Standard
1,1	Biathlon
0,3..0,6	Stainless

example values

## Wear - service life: temperature $f_{\vartheta}$

- Temperature influences properties of chain parts and lubricant
- Low temperatures
  - embrittlement of steel parts → reduced load capacity
  - increased viscosity of lubricant „lubricant becomes sticky“  
→ bad lubricant supply inside joint contact
- High temperatures
  - reduction of breaking stress of steel parts → reduced load capacity
  - reduced viscosity of lubricant „lubricant becomes fluid“  
→ good lubricant supply inside joint contact low load capacity of lubricant  
→ at very high temperatures: evaporation of lubricant → dry run
- Effect of temperature depend on chain version
  - stainless steel is less influenced by temperature
  - polymer bearings can be designed for certain temperatures
  - high temperature lubricant is more tough and includes solid lubricant particles
  - etc...

$f_{\vartheta}$	temperature range	comment
0,5	-40 ... -21 °C	bis 1 m/s
1,0	-20 ... 149 °C	for correct lubrication
0,7	150 ... 199 °C	for correct lubrication
0,4	199 ... 280 °C	bis 1 m/s

standard chain

## Wear - service life: cleanliness $f_{SA}$

---

- Cleanliness  $f_{SA}$ 
  - dirt absorbs lubricant
  - hard debris and particles can act like abrasive grits inside joint contacts and cause abrasive wear

$f_{SA}$	cleanliness
1	optimal
0,8	good
0,6	acceptable
0,2	bad

example values





## Example: influence of lubrication and cleanliness

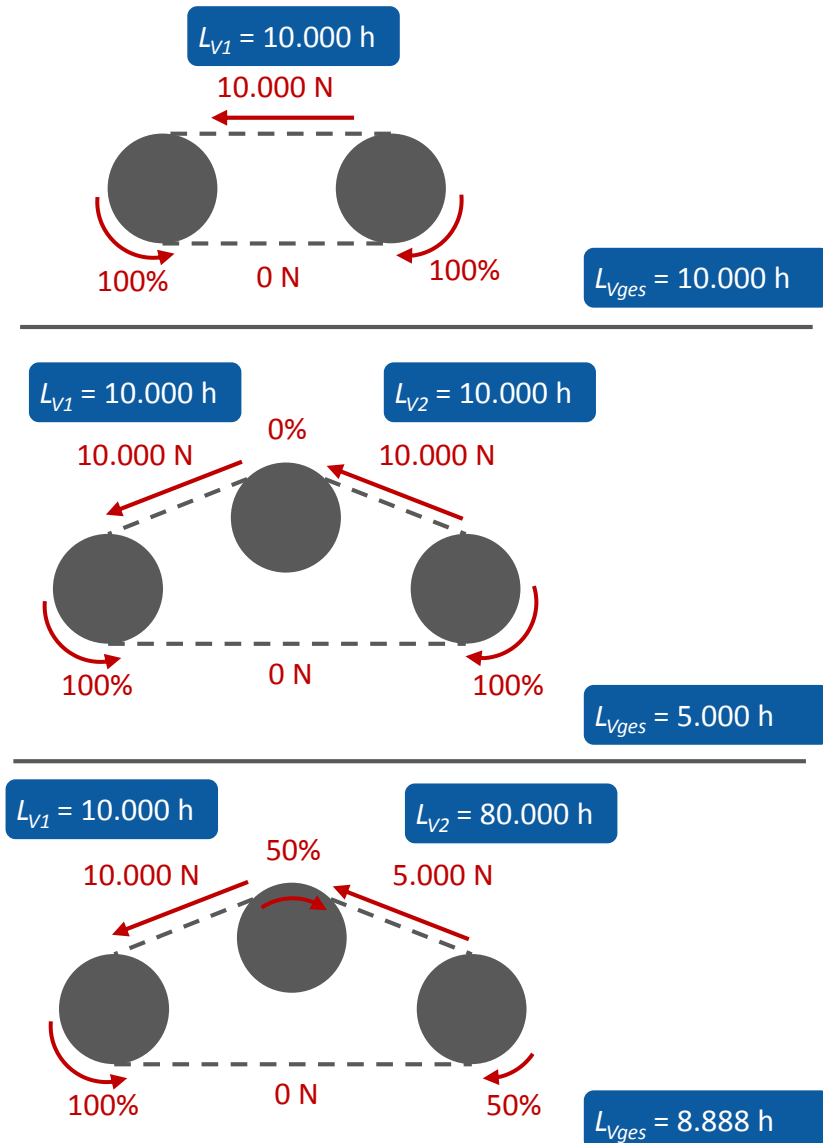
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<b>Cleanliness</b>	<b><math>f_{sa}</math></b>	<b>Lubrication</b>	<b><math>f_s</math></b>	<b>Service life</b>
optimal	1	optimal	1	15.000 h
good	0,8	manual instead of drip lubrication	0,4	491 h
bad	0,2	optimal	1	120 h

## Wear - service life: number of shafts

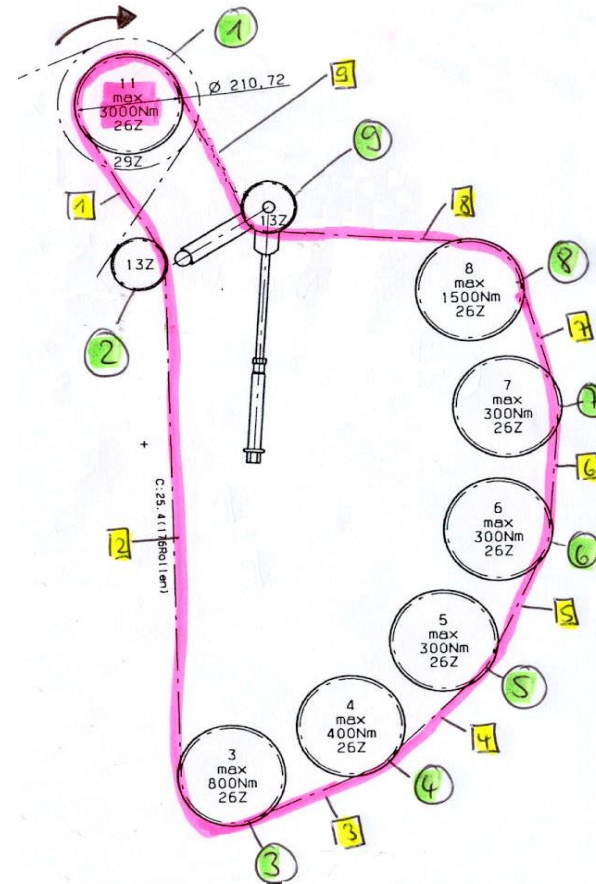
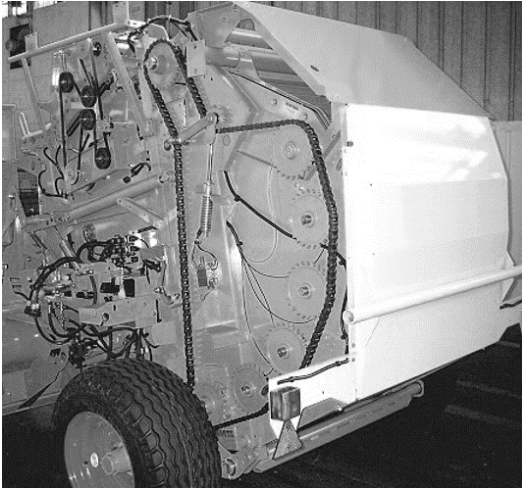
- Additional sprockets / shafts result in a higher number of chain deflections per link → friction distance is increased
- Even small wrap angles cause a full in- and out swivel movement of the joint
- In case of different loads for between the sprockets for every section a service life is calculated separately
- The total service life  $L_{V,ges}$  is determined as sum of service lives of all sections

$$L_{V,ges} = \left( \frac{1}{L_{V1}} + \frac{1}{L_{V2}} + \frac{1}{L_{V3}} + \dots \right)^{-1}$$

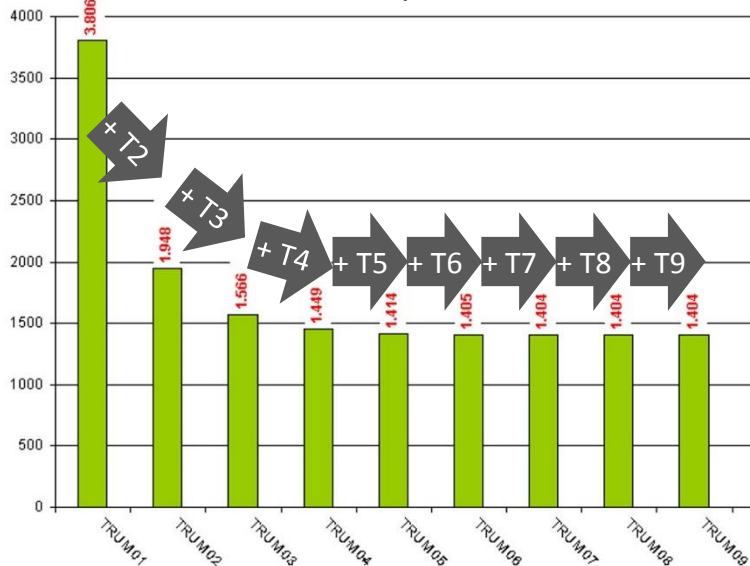




## Example: calculation of a baler drive



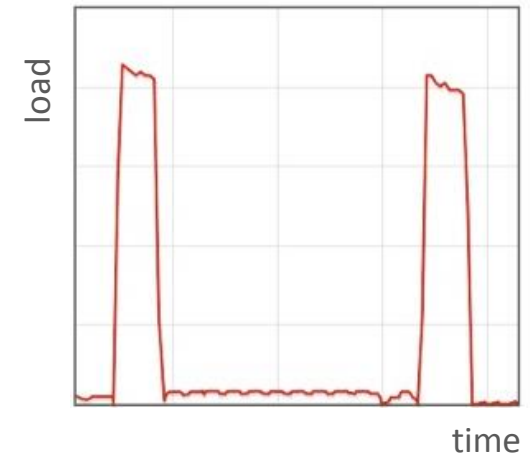
summed up service life



12 sprockets with different torques  
→ Software

## Wear - service life: cycles

- If loads varies over time with a know cycle, e.g. by means of different operation modes
  - processing / idle
  - load lifting / idle
  - positioning / set up / rapid traverse / cleaning
  - etc...
- The service life values for every operation mode are summed up considering its proportion of time



$$L_{V_{ges}} = \left( \frac{1}{L_{V1}} \cdot \frac{\Delta t_1}{t_{ges}} + \frac{1}{L_{V2}} \cdot \frac{\Delta t_2}{t_{ges}} + \frac{1}{L_{V3}} \cdot \frac{\Delta t_3}{t_{ges}} + \dots \right)^{-1}$$



## Fatigue life

---

- In practice fatigue of plates induced by alternating loads are the main cause of fatigue failures
- Calculation can be done with approximation formulas
- Influence factors
  - dynamic load (load rated with operation coefficient)
  - number of teeth
  - pitch



## Calculation software WIPPlife

**WIPPERMANN** Kettenrechner  
 Versionsnummer: 1.0 Seriennummer: 1  
 17.05.2010 Seite 1/1

Bearbeiter: T. Wolf  
 Projekt: Eisenmann Treibstock  
 Datenname: Eisenmann 21.4.2010.wip

Wippermann J. GmbH  
 Delsener Str. 133  
 58091 Hagen  
 Telefon: +49 (0) 2331 782-0  
 Fax: +49 (0) 2331 782-356  
 E-Mail: info@wippermann.com

**Antriebsdaten**

Anteil [%]	Nennleistung [kW]	Drehmoment [Nm]	Drehzahl [U/min]	Zugkraft [kN]	Kettengeschw. [m/s]
P1 100,0	69,31	81,0	11,0	2522,0	0,037

**Kettentrieb**  
 Achsabstand [mm] 3248,02 Gleitanzahl [Z] 206 Kettlänge [mm] 6682

Zähnezahl	Teilkreis [mm]	Drehmoment [%]	Umschlag [%]	
Z1 16	66,1	100,0	0	
Z2 13	53,07	0	0	1.23079023077
Z3 15	61,08	100,0	0	1.06666666667
Z4 15	61,08	0	0	1.06666666667

**Anwendungsdaten**

Antrieb: leichte Stöße | Scherart: keine | Umgebung: mäßige Stöße  
 Sauberkeit: optimal | Verschleiß: keine Angabe | Temperatur [°C]: 25,0  
 Vorspannung [N]: 50,0

**Kettendaten**  
 Rollenreihe Wippermann D 402 (D 8) Ausführung: Standard

**Wippermann Kettenrechner Version 1.0**

**Antriebsdaten**

Anteil [%]	Nennleistung [kW]	Drehmoment [Nm]	Drehzahl [U/min]	Zugkraft [kN]	Kettengeschw. [m/s]
P1 100,0	69,32	81,0	11,0	2471,0	0,047

**Geometrie**

Zähnezahl	Teilkreis [mm]	max. Leistung [%]	Achsabstand [mm]
Z1 16	61,37	100,0	4869,82
Z2 13	46,33	3,2	
Z3 15	76,35	100,0	576
Z4 15	76,35	3,8	
Z5			

**Kettenswahl**

Verschleißlebensdauer = 15000,0 h, Abw. + 200,0 %  
 Ermüdungslebensdauer = 100000,0 h, Abw. + 300,0 %  
 Aussonderungsgröße = 3,8 %

Bezeichnung	Stangenzahl	Ausführung
06.0	1	Standard
06.0	2	Ballrollen KS
06.0	3	Ballrollen
06.0	4	Ballrollen
06.0	5	Ballrollen
06.0	6	Ballrollen
06.0	7	Ballrollen
06.0	8	Ballrollen
06.0	9	Ballrollen
06.0	10	Ballrollen
06.0	11	Ballrollen
06.0	12	Ballrollen
06.0	13	Ballrollen
06.0	14	Ballrollen
06.0	15	Ballrollen
06.0	16	Ballrollen
06.0	17	Ballrollen
06.0	18	Ballrollen
06.0	19	Ballrollen
06.0	20	Ballrollen
06.0	21	Ballrollen
06.0	22	Ballrollen
06.0	23	Ballrollen
06.0	24	Ballrollen
06.0	25	Ballrollen

**Beanspruchung**

Antrieb:  gleichförmig stößfrei  Drücklauf  optimal  keine Angabe  
 leichte Stöße  Obad  gut  Sportwasser  
 mäßige Stöße  Tropfler  ausreichend  Unterwasser  
 Angetriebene Maschine:  manuell  automatisch  unzureichend  LW + Chemie  
 gleichförmig stößfrei  keine  
 mäßige Stöße  stärke Stöße  
 Vorspannung [N]: 50,0 Temperatur [°C]: 25,0

**Ergebnis**

Anteil [%]	Verschleiß [h]	Ermüdung [h]	S <sub>1</sub> [N]	S <sub>2</sub> [N]	S <sub>3</sub> [N]	S <sub>4</sub> [N]	S <sub>5</sub> [N]	S <sub>6</sub> [N]
P1 100,0	70363,81	100000,0	17,71	11,81	2,11	22,76		
P2								
P3								
Ø	100	70363,81	100000,0	17,71	11,81	2,11	22,76	

**Infos (Z)**

Achsabstand gross, Kettenführungen?   
 gerade Zähnezahl: erhalteter Zahnverschleiß möglich

**Projektdaten**  
 Bearbeiter: T. Wolf Projekt: Eisenmann Treibstock

- Geometric design and calculation of wear life
  - distance of axles
  - sprocket geometry
- Considering:
  - preload
  - several sprockets
  - lubrication, environment and operation coefficient
  - chain versions (standard, Biathlon, Marathon, Triathlon, RF etc.)
  - temperature
- Integrated Wippermann chain database
- Filter- and suggestion functions
- Direct pdf-export
- Additional information



# Agenda

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1) Structure, terms and classification as machine element

2) Forces, torques, kinematics

3) Arrangement and mounting

4) Tribology, wear and failure mechanisms

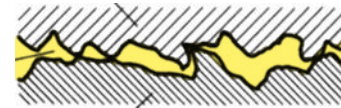
5) Design and calculation

6) Lubrication, corrosion, coating, temperature

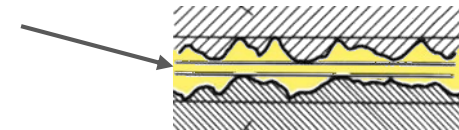
## Function of lubricant

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- Separation of contact partners
  - pin - bush
  - roller - bush
  - reduction of friction
    - efficiency
    - loads
  - reduction of wear
- Corrosion protection

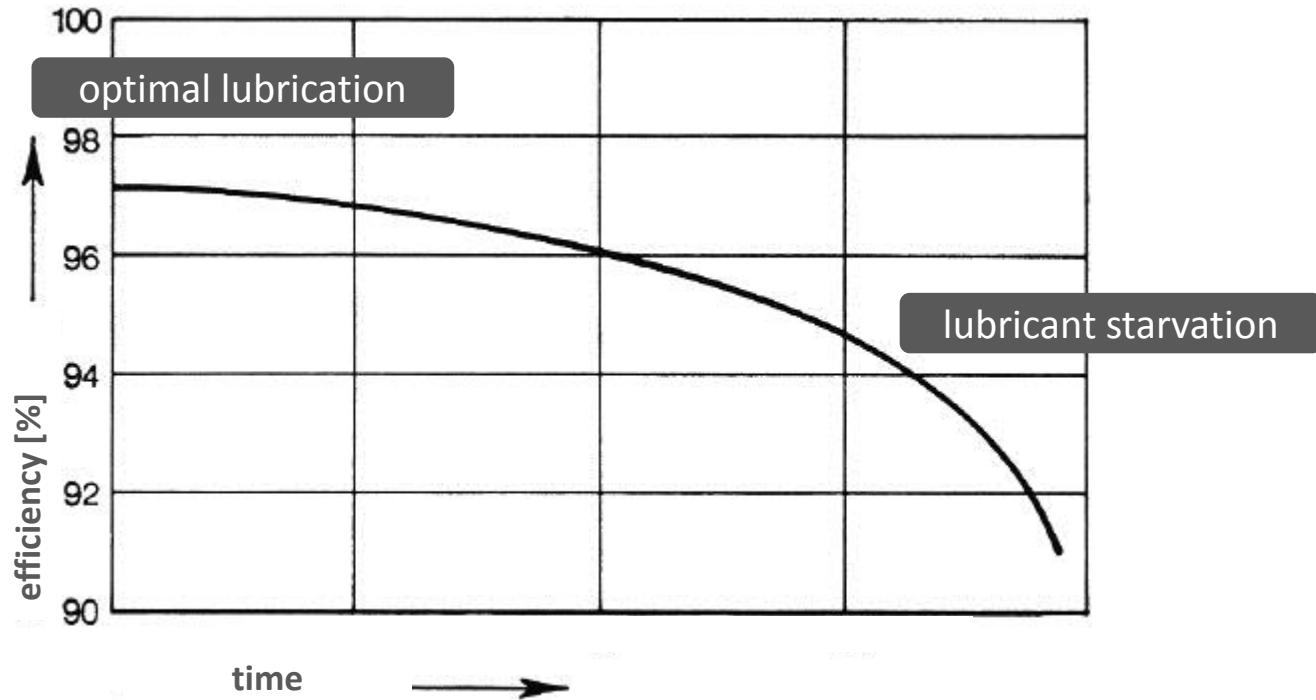


objective: bearing lubricant film





# Efficiency depending on lubrication condition



power loss:

- friction (heat)
- wear
- vibrations / oscillations
- noise



## Results of bad lubrication



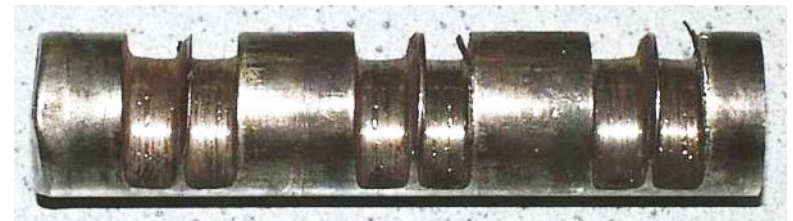
friction rust caused by dry run



tilted pin caused by high friction forces

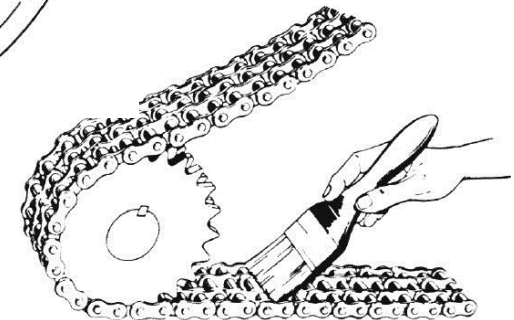
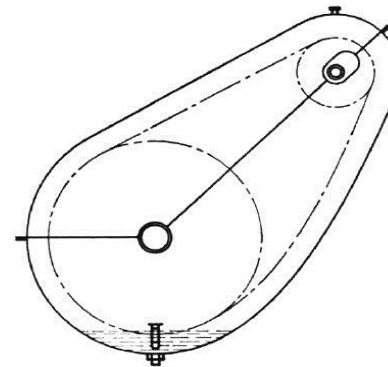
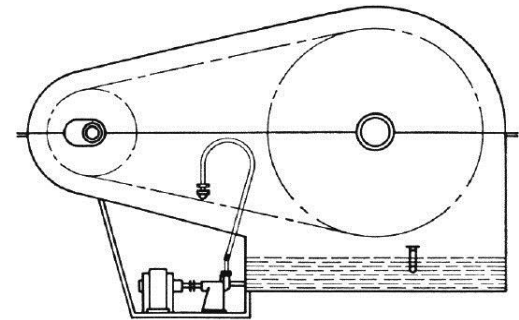
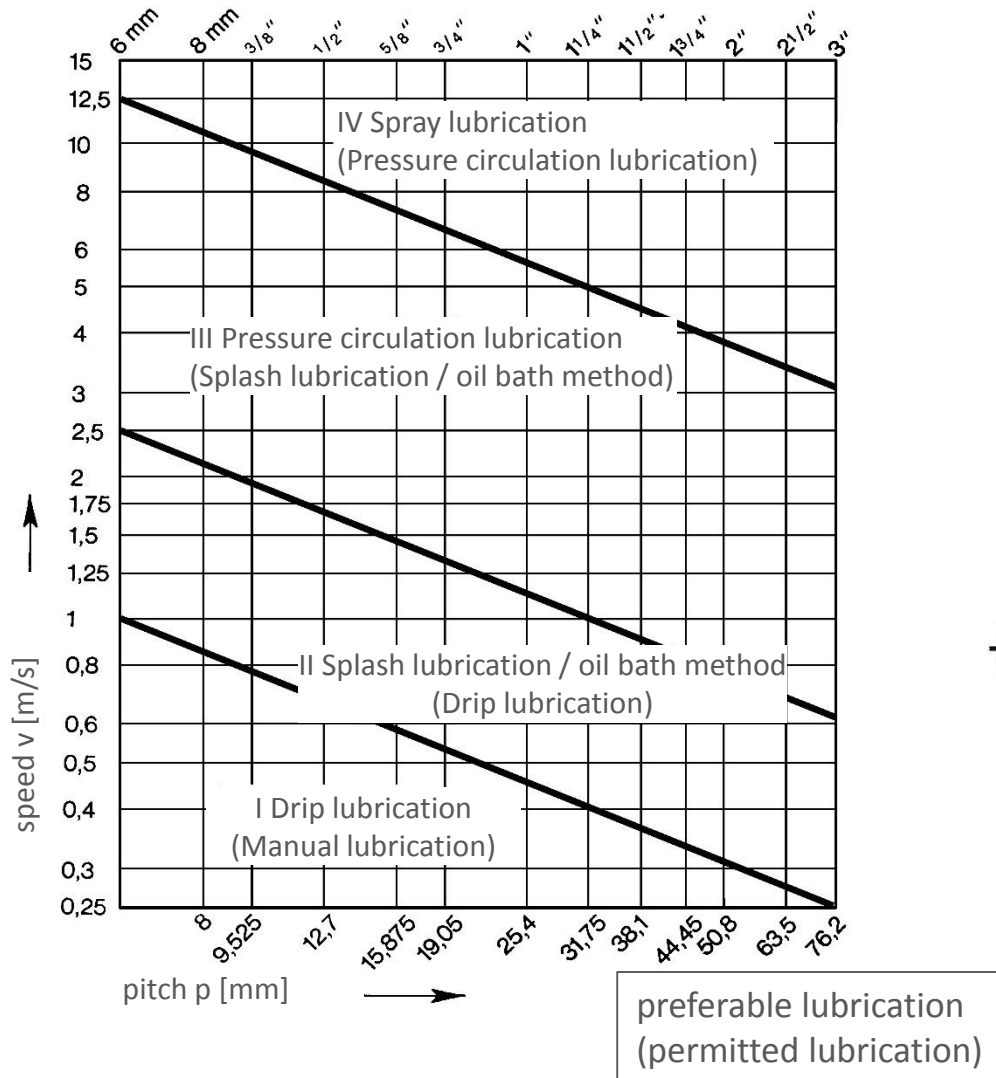


heavy wear on a roller chain pin

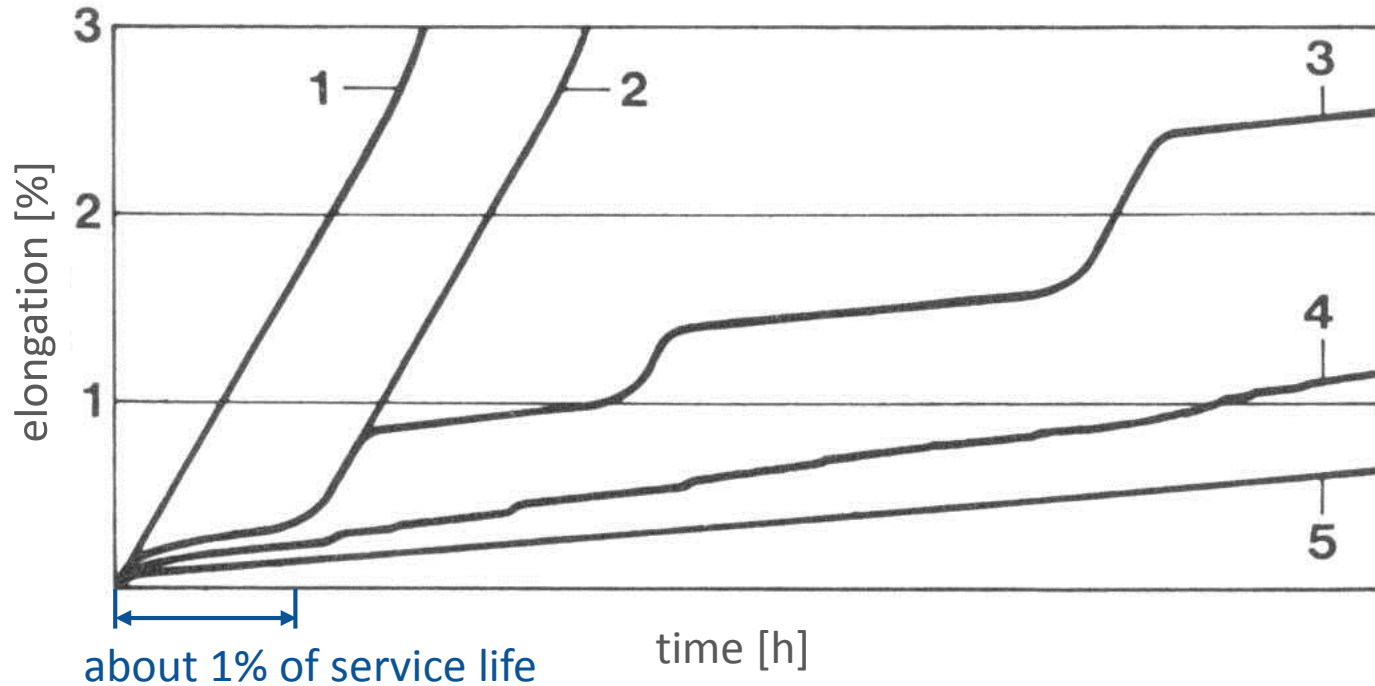


heavy wear on a leaf chain pin

## Lubrication regimes



# Chain elongation depending on lubrication



- 1) no lubrication
- 2) initial lubrication, no re-lubrication
- 3) re-lubrication, interval too long (dry run at times)
- 4) re-lubrication, wrong or contaminated lubricant
- 5) optimum lubrication

- re-lubrication determines 99 % of service life
- 3% elongation = service life
- 15.000 h or more

wear

break

corrosion



## Lubricant properties

---

- Lubricant should be fluid so that it can easily flow into contact zone  
→ low viscosity
- Lubricant should build a bearing lubrication film in contact and stick to the chain → high viscosity
- Informations regarding temperature ranges of lubricants refer mainly to its thermal stability. If lubricant properties are still adequate for the chain application has to be evaluated separately
- The open tribological system “Chain” causes a loss of lubricant at higher temperatures. This is normal and no defect of the lubricant.
- If a loss of lubricant (dripping) can not be accepted in the application this has to be indicated. In this case a lubricant free solution should be used (e.g. Triathlon<sup>®</sup> chains)

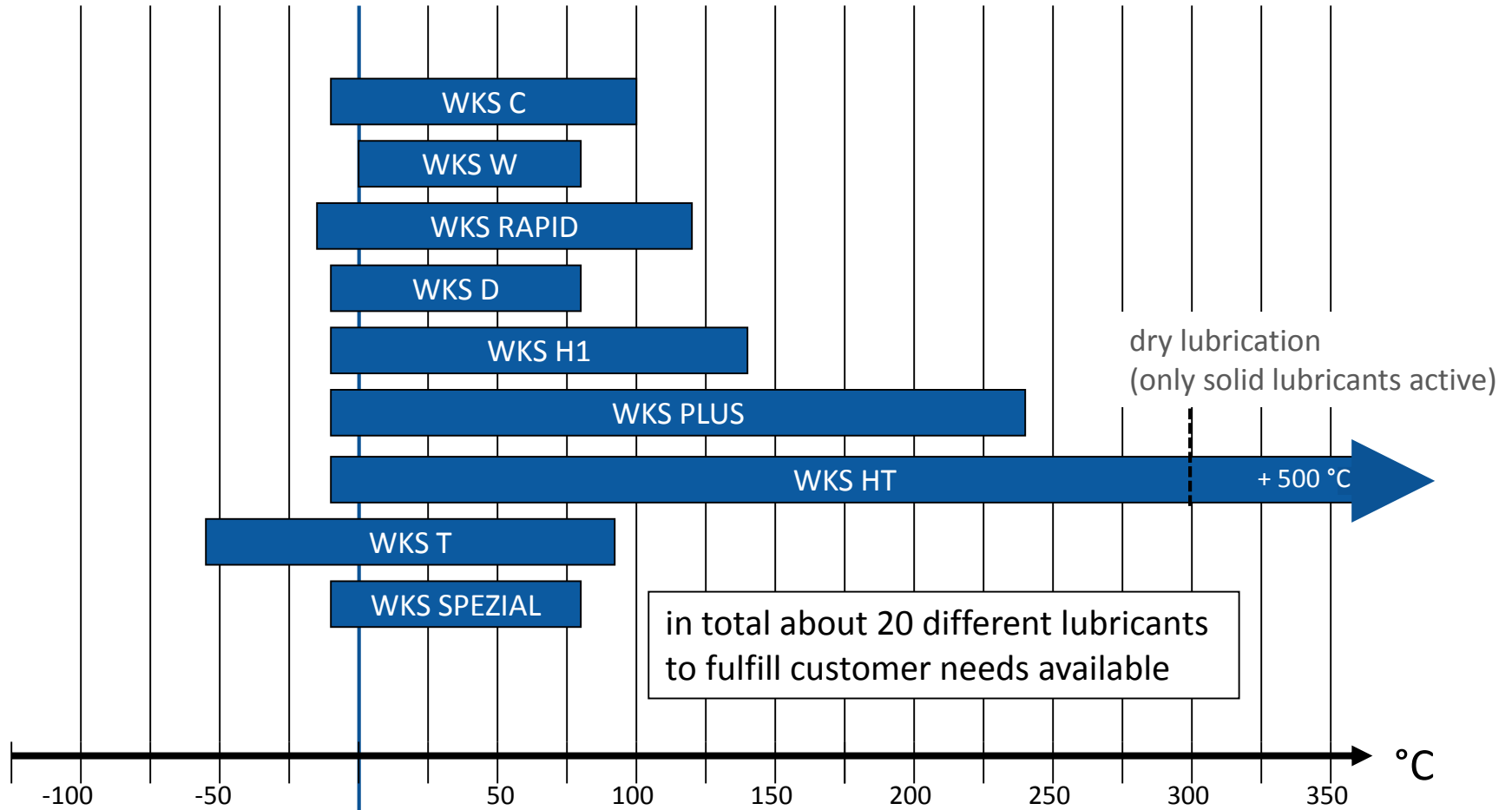


## WKS-lubricants for initial lubrication

<b>Application</b>	<b>WKS-Product</b>	<b>Temperature</b>	<b>Properties</b>
demanding applications	WKS-C	-10...100 °C	grease: high additives, Wippermann standard lubrication
grip dry	WKS-W	0...80 °C	grease: high wax portion, non-tacky
difficult conditions	WKS-Rapid	-15...120 °C	grease: difficult to centrifuge of, protects against corrosion and wear, water resistant
corrosion protection	WKS-D	-10...80 °C	oil: mineral oil with corrosion protection additives, thin
food industry	WKS-H1	-10...140 °C	oil: NSF-H1 listed
high temperatures automotive industry	WKS-Plus	-10...240 °C	oil: spray: synthetic ester oil, lacquer compatibility
extreme temperatures	WKS-HT	-10...500 °C	oil: with solid lubricants (graphite), from 300°C dry lubrication
low temperatures	WKS-T	-55...90 °C	oil: synthetic ester oil with low viscosity
spray for re-lubrication	WKS-Special	-10...80 °C	spray: mineral oil with special additives

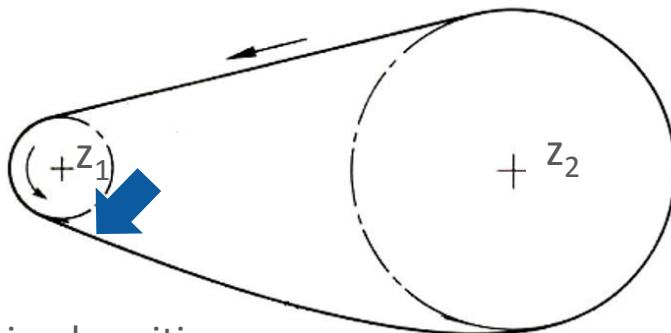


# Temperature range of lubricants

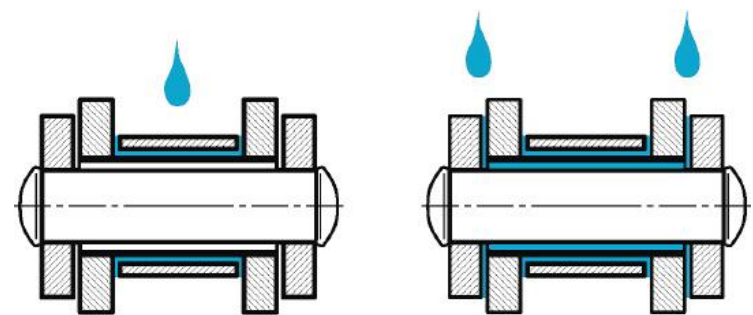


## Instruction for chain lubrication - application

- Re-lubrication should be applied in the unloaded section of the chain (slack side) to enable lubricant flow into contact zone  
 → optimum: **inner side of slack side at point of discharge of drive sprocket**
- Lubricant has to be applied in the gap between inner and outer links
- Do not smear the chain external with sticky lubricant. This can result in “sealed” joints and hence impossible re-lubrication and deposition on dirt particles
- Lubricate in moderate amounts, this means the lubricant should not be dripping off the chain in higher amounts



optimal position



wrong

right





## Instruction for chain lubrication

---

- Cleaning of dirty chains
  - Only use paraffin derivatives (diesel, paraffin, benzine)
  - Optional with a brush
  - Do not use steam
- Choice of lubricant
  - Use a suitable, low viscosity lubricant (see below)
  - Use WKS lubricants for re-lubrication or low viscosity mineral- machine or synthetic oils
  - Lubricant properties should ensure that external dirt does not stick to the chain and that corrosion is prevented
  - Suitable viscosity grades depending on temperature:
    - -5...25°C ISO VG 100
    - 25...45°C ISO VG 150
    - 45...65°C ISO VG 220



## Responsibility for lubrication over lifetime

---

<b>Who?</b>	<b>Function</b>
chain manufacturer	initial lubrication corrosion protection recommendation for re-lubrication
machine and plant manufacturer	access for manual re-lubrication chain boxes oil bath lubrication system re-lubrication schedules, -amounts and -products
machine and plant operator	check of lubrication carry out re-lubrication schedules of necessary: correction of schedules, amounts cleaning chain preservation new lubrication



## Corrosion- and wear protection

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### Corrosion protection

### Wear protection

#### stainless steel products

- material 1.4301
- material 1.4310
- optional: special materials

#### functional coatings

- lubricant with corrosion protection
- galvanically nickel-plated
- galvanized, yellow chromated
- chemically nickel-plated
- Zn-Al-flake-coated
- ...

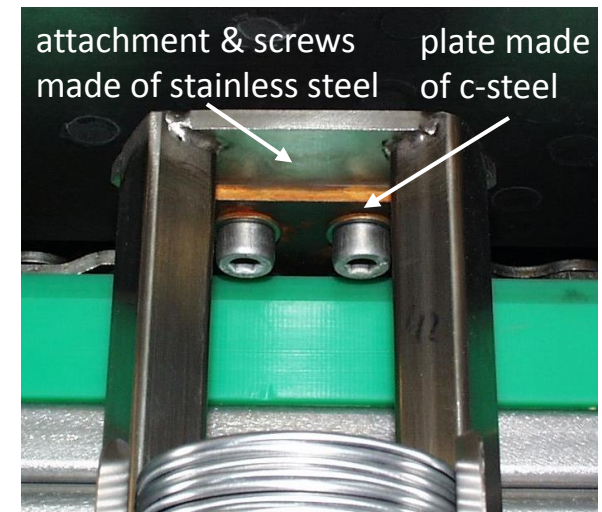
# Stainless steels

Typ	Material no.	Description	Resistance			
			against rust	against acid	strength	weldability
A1	1.4300; 1.4305; 1.4310	good processing	medium	low	low; class 50	poor
A2	1.4301; 1.4306	= classic stainless steel	high	low	medium; class 70	good
A3	1.4550; 1.4590		high	medium	medium; class 70	good
A4	1.4401; 1.4404	= stainless steel for high acid applications	high	high	medium; class 70; class 80 possible	good
A5	1.4436; 1.4571; 1.4580	= stainless steel with special strength	high	high	high	good

## Chemical composition (analysis [%])

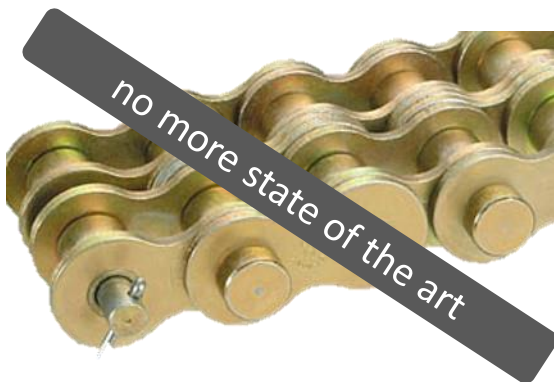
C	Si	Mn	P	S	Cr	Ni
< 0,07	< 1,0	< 2,0	< 0,045	< 0,03	17,0 - 19,5	8,0 - 10,5

Consider chemical compatibility of attachment parts and supporting components.  
Especially Cr and Ni portions have to be similar to prevent electro chemical contact corrosion.





## Roller chains with corrosion protection coatings



galvanized, (yellow chromated)  
containing CrVI



galvanically nickel-plated



Zn-Al-flake-coated



chemically nickel-plated

## Comparison of corrosion protection coatings

Coating	Cost	Resistance DIN 50021 SS	Resistance experience	Comment
galvanized, (yellow chromated)*	+++	50 ... 100 h	+	red rust after about 100 h
galvanically nickel plating	++	ca. 25 h	+ ... ++	better with lubricant
chemically nickel plating	o	resistent	++++	erosion in $\mu\text{m}$ range
Zn-Al-flake	+	> 480 h ... resistent	+++	cathodic remote protection

\*Cr(VI)



standard chain, lubricated, after salt spray test DIN 50021 SS



## Example: results salt spray test according to DIN EN ISO 9227



24 h



48 h



72 h



192 h



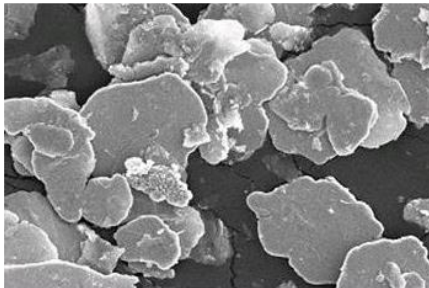
336 h



## Zn-Al-flake coatings - function

### Base layer

- 80% of weight Zn- and Al-flakes
- cross-linking at 180-210 °C
- cathodic remote protection
- Cr(VI) free, no heavy metals (e.g. cadmium)
- drinking water approval
- temperature stable > 150°C
- uniform layer thickness
- good ductility
- no hydrogen embrittlement



### Top layer

- good chemical resistance
  - ductile, good adhesive strength, free of porosities
  - with slip additives, low and constant friction coefficient
  - delay of contact corrosion
  - electrically insulating
- 
- significant better corrosion protection compared to galvanically nickel-plated
  - salt spray test DIN 510021 SS > 500 h
  - coating thickness total about 15µm



## Test results: different corrosion protection coatings



- Zn-Al-Flake coated inner and outer plate
- after 4 weeks in concentrated saline solution  
→ little corrosion



- galvanized, (yellow chromated) outer plates
- 12 hours in concentrated saline solution  
→ corrosion visible



- galvanically nickel-plated outer plates
- 12 hours in concentrated saline solution  
→ heavy corrosion visible



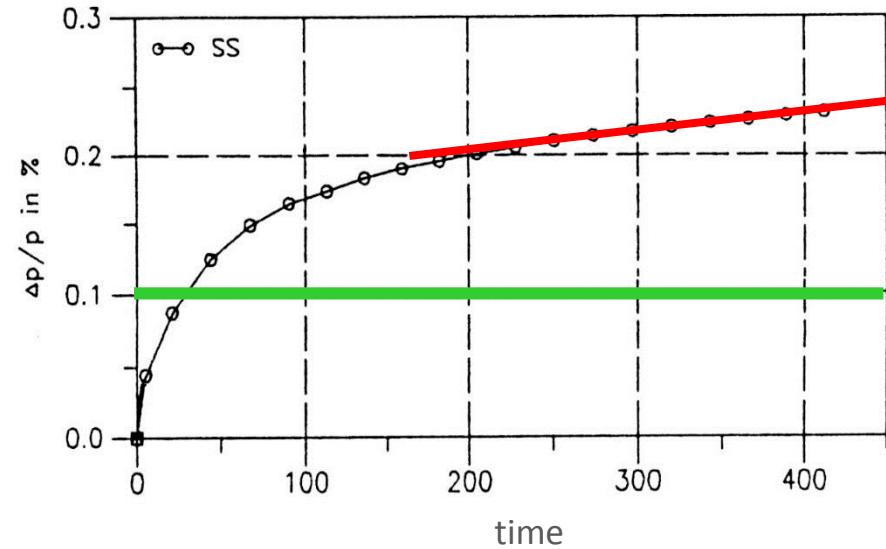
## Properties of chemically nickel plating

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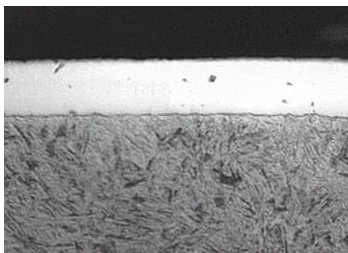
<b>characteristic</b>	<b>effect</b>
high hardness	high resistance against abrasive wear through hard particles
phosphorus proportion	high resistance against abrasive wear = good fail-safe properties through reaction layers
nickel proportion	corrosion protection and protection against tribooxidation

# Wear resistance of chemically nickel plating

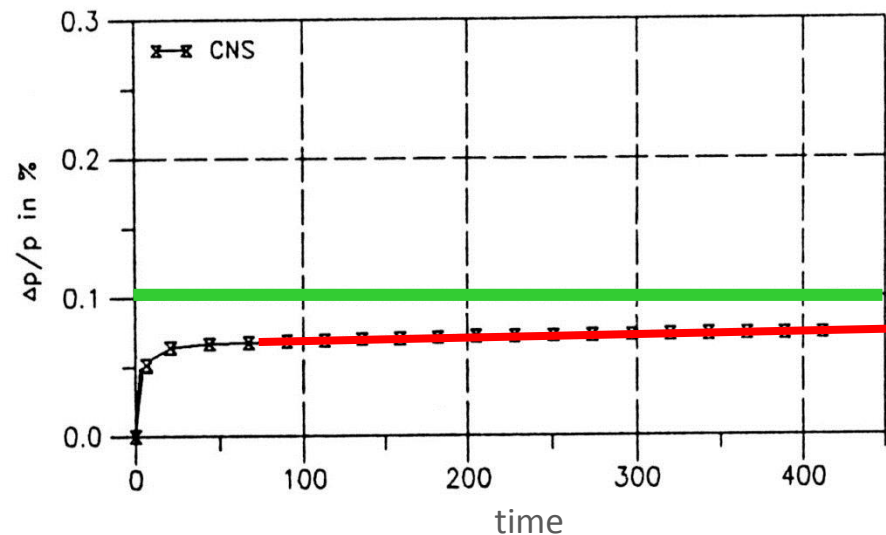
pin: case hardening steel  
bush: case hardening steel



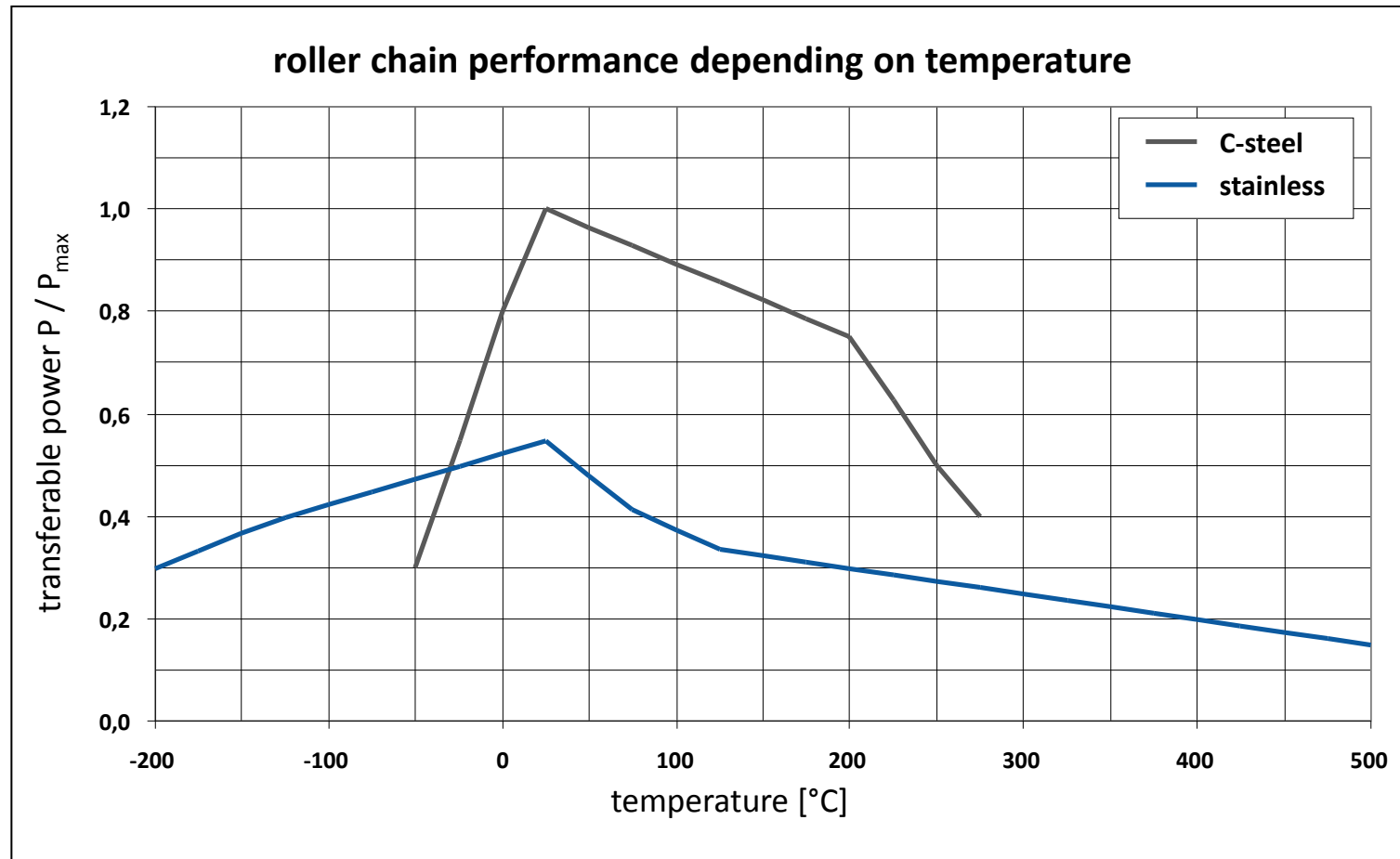
pin: chem. nickel-plated  
bush: case hardening steel



→ formation of a low friction reaction layer by phosphorus



# Influence of temperature on steel material





## Temperature compensation of chain breaking load

Material	Temperature	Compensation coefficient for chain breaking load*
C-steel (standard)	- 40 ...- 21 °C	$0,5 \cdot F_B$
	- 20 ...+ 150 °C	$1,0 \cdot F_B$
	+ 151 ...+ 200 °C	$0,7 \cdot F_B$
	+ 201 ...+ 280 °C	$0,4 \cdot F_B$
Stainless steel (austenite)	- 196 ...- 41 °C	$0,7 \cdot F_B$
	- 40 ...+ 100 °C	$1,0 \cdot F_B$
	- 101 ...+ 200 °C	$0,8 \cdot F_B$
	+ 201 ...+ 300 °C	$0,75 \cdot F_B$
	+ 301 ...+ 400 °C	$0,7 \cdot F_B$

\* values for  $F_B$ : see main catalogue



# Chain application temperatures

