

Live loads with Vehicular centrifugal force

This document analyzes the vehicular live load force effects by calculating the unit wheel-load factors with the centrifugal force and superelevation.

The calculation is based on LRFD for Highway Bridge Superstructures Reference Manual.

References:

- (Spec) : AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specification
- (Manual) : [Load and Resistance Factor Design \(LRFD\) for Highway Bridge Superstructures](#)
- (Exam) : [Design Examples](#)

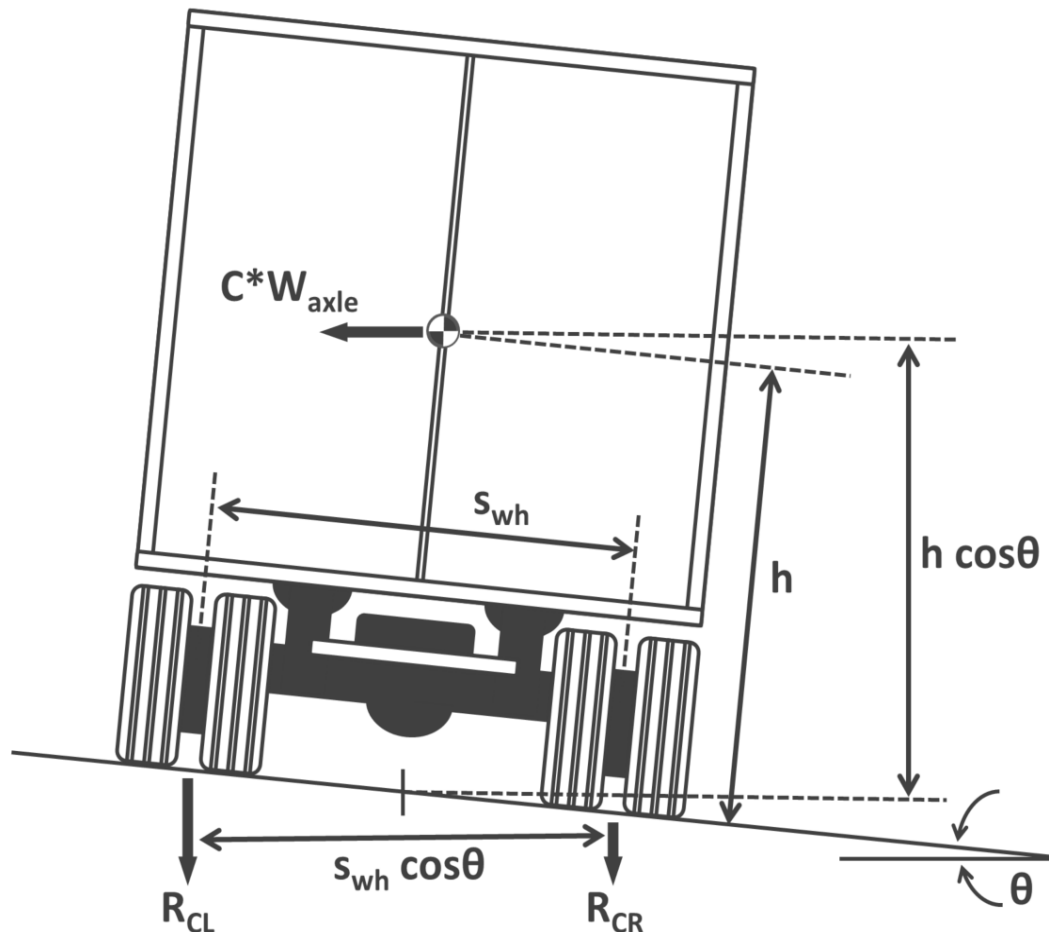


Figure 1 : Vehicular centrifugal force by the wheel-load reactions

1. Parameters and conditions

Vehicle

Wheel spacing $s_{wh} := 6 \text{ ft}$

Height at which the radial force is applied above the deck $h := 6 \text{ ft}$

Lane and Deck

Radius of curvature of traffic lane $R := 700 \text{ ft}$

Deck cross slope (superelevation) $sl := 0.05$
 $sl = 5.00\%$

Design condition

Highway design speed $v := 35 \text{ mph}$

Wheel-load Factor
for fatigue : 1.0 $f := \frac{4}{3}$
Other than fatigue : 4/3

Others

Gravitational acceleration $g := 32.2 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{s}^2}$

2. Vehicular centrifugal force

The centrifugal effect on live load can be analyzed with the axle weights of the design truck or tandem and the following factor C.

Reference: Spec-Eq 3.6.3-1 $C := \frac{f \cdot v^2}{g \cdot R}$

$$C = 0.156$$

3. Wheel-load reactions by the centrifugal force effects

This effects shows in Figure.1.

Left
$$R_{CL} := C \cdot W_{axle} \cdot \frac{h \cdot \cos(\theta)}{2 \cdot \left(\frac{s_{wh}}{2} \cdot \cos(\theta) \right)} = 0.156 \cdot W_{axle}$$

Right
$$R_{CR} := -R_{CL} = -0.156 \cdot W_{axle}$$

4. Wheel-load reactions by the superelevation effects

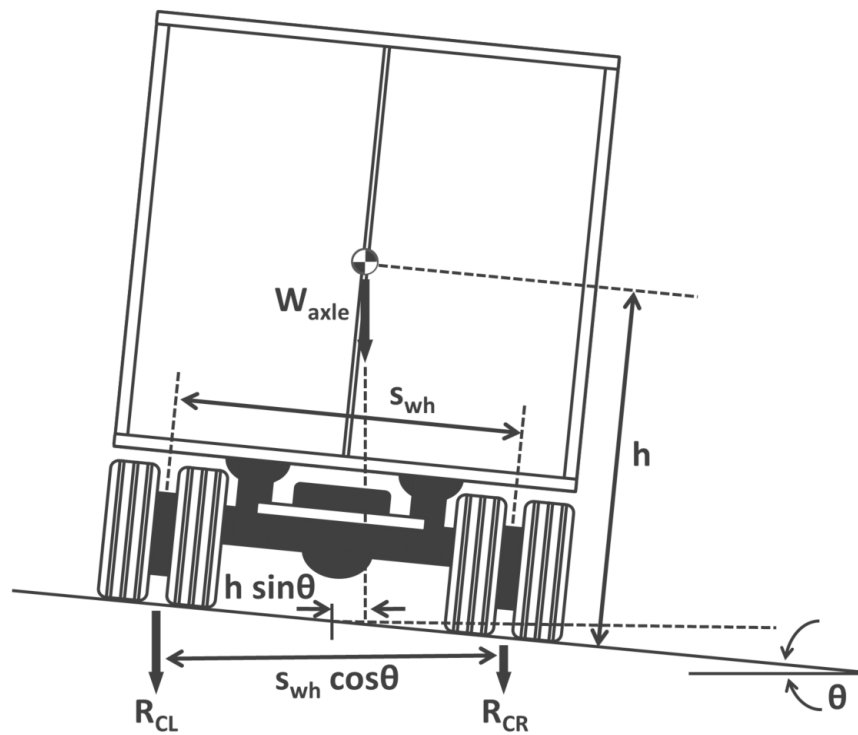


Figure 2 : Effects of superelevation on the wheel-load reactions

Angle of superelevation $\theta := \arctan(sl) \text{ rad} \quad \theta = 2.862 \text{ arcdeg}$

Left
$$R_{SR} := \frac{\left(\frac{s_{wh}}{2} \cdot \cos(\theta) + h \cdot \sin(\theta) \right) \cdot W_{axle}}{s_{wh} \cdot \cos(\theta)} = 0.550 \cdot W_{axle}$$

Right
$$R_{SL} := 1.0 \cdot W_{axle} - R_{SR} = 0.450 \cdot W_{axle}$$

5. Unit wheel-load factors

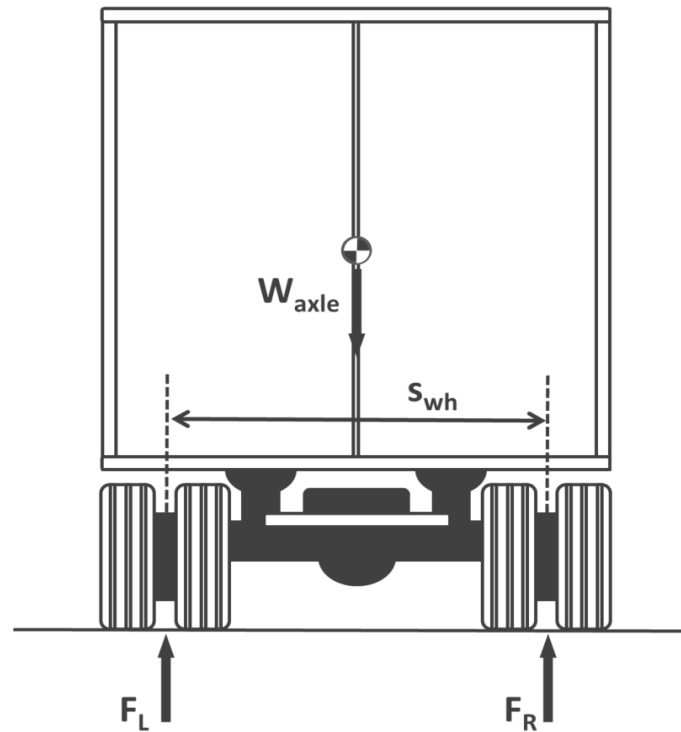


Figure 3 : Effects of superelevation on the wheel-load reactions

Left

$$F_L := 2.0 \cdot \frac{R_{CL} + R_{SL}}{W_{axle}} = 1.212$$

Right

$$F_R := 2.0 \cdot \frac{R_{CR} + R_{SR}}{W_{axle}} = 0.788$$