

Sankey Diagram

The Sankey diagram makes the different aspects of the total power loss visible. What isn't lost is used for the solar car to gain speed.

On a clear day the intensity of the sun is between 600-1000 W/m². The race is only going to take place on a sunny day. We assumed the intensity of the sun is going to be 900 W/m². Not all energy from the sun can be used because of diffuse radiation, this is 10-20% of the total radiation of the sun. So we assume the intensity to be used by our car is going to be 800W/m².

The size of our panel is 0,04 m² (=A).

$$P_{\text{on sun panel}} = A \cdot \text{intensity of radiation on panel} = 0,04\text{m}^2 \cdot 800 \text{ W/m}^2 = 32\text{W}$$

$$P_{\text{used on eq}} = U_{\text{eq}} \cdot I_{\text{eq}} = 7,8\text{V} \cdot 0,4034\text{A} = 3,14\text{W} \quad \text{loss of } 28,86 \text{ W}$$

Assumed average efficiency of the motor and transmission= 70%

$$3,14 \cdot 0,7 = 2,20 \text{ W} \quad \text{loss of } 0,942 \text{ W}$$

Aerodynamic drag losses:

$$P_{\text{aero}} = A_{\text{frontal}} \cdot C_{\text{drag}} \cdot V^3 \cdot \rho_{\text{air}} / 2$$

A_{frontal} = Vehicle frontal area (m²) = (in the part about the solar calculations the angles of the sun in the period the race takes place are calculated, if we assume we race 15:00 the sun light will have an angle of 50 degrees on the racing platform so that's probably going to be the angle of the solar panel on the vehicle¹) + the frontal area of the body itself = $\sin 50^\circ \cdot 0,04\text{m}^2 + 0,02\text{m (width)} \cdot 0,008\text{m (height of the body material)} = 0,0308 \text{ m}^2$

C_D = coefficient of drag of vehicle = 0,5 (cone formed)

V = vehicle velocity (m/s) = 4,07 m/s (assumed average)

ρ_{air} = atmospheric density, kg/m³ = 1,1 kg/m³

$$P_{\text{aero loss}} = 0,57 \text{ W}$$

$$P = 2,2\text{W} - 0,57\text{W} = 1,63\text{W} \quad \text{loss of } 0,57\text{W}$$

Rolling resistance losses:

$$F_{\text{rolling}} = C_{\text{rr}} \cdot N \quad C_{\text{rr}} = 0,015; N = 0,75 \cdot 9,81 = 7,358 \text{ N}$$

$$F_{\text{rolling}} = 0,11037\text{N}$$

$$P_{\text{loss rolling}} = 0,11037\text{N} \cdot 4,07\text{m/s} \quad P_{\text{lost}} = 0,449 \text{ W}$$

$$P = 1,63\text{W} - 0,449\text{W} = 1,181\text{W} \quad \text{loss of } 0,449 \text{ W}$$

The car would keep speeding up till right before the slope.

Power losses because of road inclination:

$$P_{\text{loss}} = 9,81\text{m/s} \cdot 0,75\text{kg} \cdot \sin 3^\circ \cdot 4,07\text{m/s} = 1,567\text{W}$$

$$P = 1,181\text{W} - 1,567\text{W} = -0,386\text{W}$$

With the values, used for this sankey diagram, the car would slow down on the slope.

¹ It's the maximum frontal area of the solar panel on that time, because the sun light could come in sideways. Then the frontal area will be smaller.

