

Pitch Diameter (D_m): 1.8 in

Lead (L): 1 in

Screw Efficiency (ϵ): 65% = 0.65

Collar Friction (f_c): Neglected ($f_c = 0$)

Step 1: Calculate the Lead Angle (α)

The lead angle of a power screw represents the angle of inclination of the threads relative to a plane perpendicular to the screw axis. It is calculated by unwrapping one turn of the thread, forming a right-angled triangle where the rise is the lead (L) and the base is the circumference at the pitch diameter (πD_m). In the provided material, this angle is designated as α . The tangent of the lead angle is defined by the following expression:

$$\tan \alpha = \frac{L}{\pi D_m} = \frac{1 \text{ in}}{\pi (1.8 \text{ in})} = 0.176839$$

Step 2: Establish the Power Screw Efficiency Equation

The fundamental efficiency equation for a power screw accounting for both thread and collar friction is given by standard mechanical design references (such as Faires or Shigley) as follows:

$$\epsilon = \frac{\tan \alpha (1 - f \tan \alpha)}{\tan \alpha + f + \left[\frac{f D_c}{D_m} \right] (1 - f \tan \alpha)} * 100\%$$

Because the problem statement explicitly instructs to **neglect collar friction**, the term containing f_c becomes zero ($f_c = 0$). This simplifies the denominator significantly, isolating the mechanical losses strictly to the thread interface:

$$\begin{aligned}\epsilon &= \frac{\tan \alpha (1 - f \tan \alpha)}{\tan \alpha + f} * 100\% \\ 0.65 &= \frac{0.176839(1 - 0.176839f)}{f} * 100\% \\ f &= 0.09085\end{aligned}$$

In this specific problem, $\tan \alpha = 0.1768$ while $f = 0.0908$. Because $f < \tan \alpha$, **this screw is not self-locking**. It will experience "back-driving" or "overhauling," meaning the load will cause the screw to spin backward automatically if the driving torque is removed. To make a power screw self-locking, an engineer must either lower the lead angle (decrease pitch/lead) or accept a lower efficiency value (typically under 50%). This demonstrates the classic engineering trade-off: you must balance mechanical efficiency against inherent system safety.