

Answer on Question #36952, Physics, Mechanics Kinematics Dynamics

Question

A steel wire of diameter 2mm has a breaking strength of 4×10^5 N. What is the breaking force of a similar steel wire of diameter 1.5 mm?

Answer

Breaking strength is the maximum force that a body (wire) can withstand while being stretched before breaking. Breaking strength is directly proportional to the area of wire:

$$F_{br} \propto A$$

Therefore:

$$\frac{F_1}{F_2} = \frac{A_1}{A_2} = \frac{r_1^2}{r_2^2}$$

where r_1, r_2 are radii of wires

$$F_2 = F_1 \frac{r_2^2}{r_1^2} = 4 \times 10^5 \text{ N} \frac{1.5^2}{2^2} = 2.25 \times 10^5 \text{ N}$$

Answer: $2.25 \times 10^5 \text{ N}$