

<b>Table 1. Coefficient of side friction.</b>		
<b>Speed (mph)</b>	<b>Dry Surface</b>	<b>Wet Surface</b>
10	0.45	.38
20	0.40	0.27
30	0.35	0.20
40	0.30	0.16
50	0.26	0.14
55	0.22	0.13
60	0.19	0.12
65	0.18	0.11
70	0.17	0.10
75	0.16	0.09
80	0.15	0.08
85	0.14	0.07

<b>Table 2: Coefficient of forward skidding friction.</b>		
<b>Speed (mph)</b>	<b>Dry Surface</b>	<b>Wet Surface</b>
10	0.78	0.600
20	0.76	0.400
30	0.74	0.350
40	0.72	0.320
50	0.70	0.305
55	0.67	0.300
60	0.65	0.295
65	0.64	0.290
70	0.63	0.285
75	0.62	0.280
80	0.61	0.275
85	0.60	0.270

$$d_B = \frac{V^2}{30 \left[ \left( \frac{a}{32.2} \right) \pm G \right]} \quad (3-3)$$

$$DSD = 1.47Vt + 1.075 \frac{V^2}{a} \quad (3-4)$$

$$R_{\min} = \frac{V^2}{15(0.01e_{\max} + f_{\max})} \quad (3-8)$$

$$L_r = \frac{(wn_1) e_d}{\Delta} (b_w) \quad (3-23)$$

$$* b_w = [1 + 0.5 (n_1 - 1)] / n_1$$

$$L_t = \frac{e_{NC}}{e_d} L_r \quad (3-24)$$

$$L = \frac{3.15V^3}{RC} \quad (3-25)$$

(2.3.7)

$$L_c = 2\pi R \left( \frac{\Delta}{360} \right) \quad (2.4.1)$$

$$\frac{100}{2\pi R} = \frac{D}{360}$$

$$D = \left( \frac{5729.58}{R} \right)^\circ$$

(2.4.2)

$$L = \frac{100\Delta}{D} \quad (2.4.4)$$

$$E: \text{ External distance} = R \left( \sec \frac{\Delta}{2} - 1 \right) \quad (8)$$

$$M: \text{ Middle ordinate distance} = R \left( 1 - \cos \frac{\Delta}{2} \right) \quad (9)$$

$$T: \text{ Length of tangent} = R \tan \frac{\Delta}{2} \quad (10)$$

$$L: \text{ Length of curve} = 100 \frac{\Delta}{D} \quad (11)$$

$$LC: \text{ Long chord} = 2R \sin \frac{\Delta}{2} \quad (12)$$

$$e = \tan \beta$$

$$e + f_s = \frac{v^2}{gR} \quad (2.4.5)$$

$$e + f_s = \frac{v^2}{15R} \quad (2.4.6)$$

$$R_{\min} = \frac{v^2}{g(e_{\max} + f_{\max})} \quad (2.4.7)$$

$$e_{\text{des}} = \frac{v^2}{gR} - f_s \quad \text{for } R > R_{\min} \quad (2.4.8)$$

$$M = R \left( 1 - \cos \frac{\Delta}{2} \right) \quad (10.3)$$

$$= 1000(1 - \cos 8^\circ 19')$$

$$= 10.52'$$

$$E = R \sec \left( \frac{\Delta}{2} - 1 \right) \quad (10.4)$$

$$= 1000(\sec 8^\circ 19' - 1)$$

$$= 10.63 \text{ ft}$$

**Note:** A common mistake made by students first studying circular curves is to determine the station of the EC by adding the  $T$  distance to the PI. Although the EC is physically a distance of  $T$  from the PI, the stationing (chainage) must reflect the fact that the  $\mathcal{C}$  no longer goes through the PI. The  $\mathcal{C}$  now takes the shorter distance ( $L$ ) from the BC to the EC.

### EXAMPLE 10.2

Refer to Figure 10.5. Given

$$\Delta = 12^\circ 51'$$

$$R = 400 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{PI at } 0 + 241.782$$

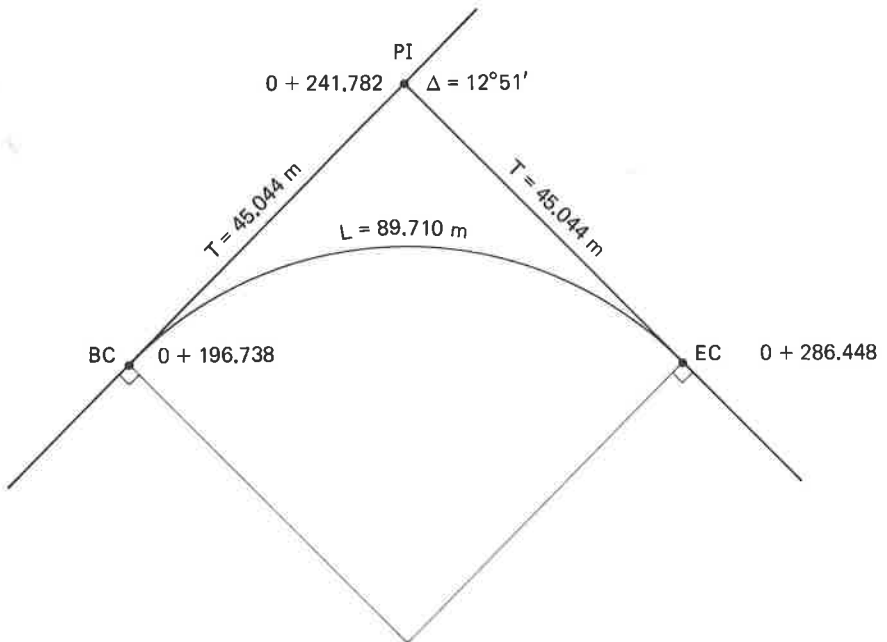


Figure 10.5 Sketch for Example 10.2.

Calculate the station of the BC and EC.

$$T = R \tan \frac{\Delta}{2} \quad (10-1) \quad L = 2\pi R \frac{\Delta}{360} \quad (10.5)$$

$$= 400 \tan 6^{\circ}25'30'' \quad = 2\pi \times 400 \times \frac{12.850}{360}$$

$$= 45.044 \text{ m} \quad = 89.710 \text{ m}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{PI at } 0 + 241.782 \\ -T \quad \underline{\quad 45.044} \\ \text{BC} = 0 + 196.738 \\ +L \quad \underline{\quad 89.710} \\ \text{EC} = 0 + 286.448 \end{array}$$

### EXAMPLE 10.3

Refer to Figure 10-6. Given

$$\Delta = 11^{\circ}21'35''$$

$$\text{PI at } 14 + 87.33$$

$$D = 6^{\circ}$$

Calculate the station of the BC and EC.

$$R = \frac{5729.58}{D} = 954.93 \text{ ft} \quad (10.6)$$

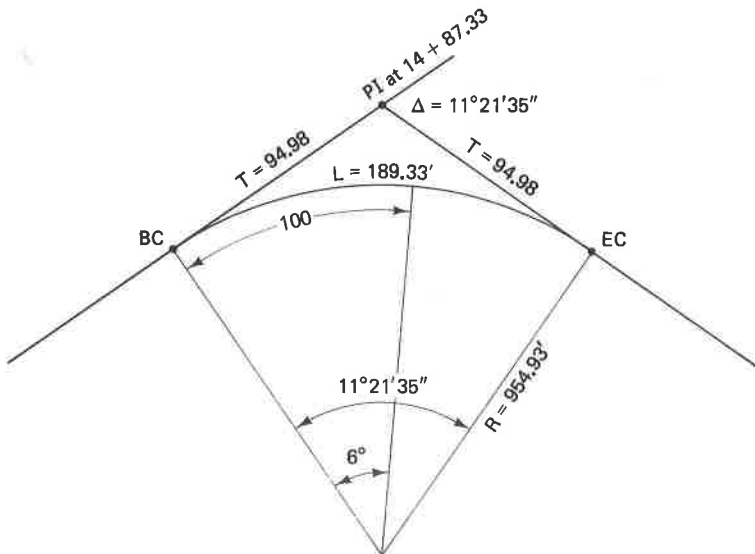


Figure 10.6 Sketch for Example 10.3.

$$T = R \tan \frac{\Delta}{2} = 954.93 \tan 5.679861^\circ \quad (10.1)$$

$$= 94.98 \text{ ft}$$

$$L = 100 \frac{\Delta}{D} = \frac{100 \times 11.359722}{6} \quad (10.7)$$

$$= 189.33 \text{ ft}$$

or

$$L = \frac{2\pi R \Delta}{360} = 2\pi \times \frac{954.93 \times 11.359722}{360} \quad (10.5)$$

$$= 189.33 \text{ ft}$$

$$\text{PI at } 14 + 87.33$$

$$-T \quad \underline{\quad 94.98}$$

$$\text{BC} = 13 + 92.35$$

$$+L \quad \underline{\quad 89.33}$$

$$\text{EC} = 15 + 81.68$$

## 10.4 CIRCULAR CURVE DEFLECTIONS

The most common method of locating a curve in the field is by deflection angles. Typically, the theodolite is set up at the BC, and the deflection angles are turned from the tangent line (see Figure 10.7).

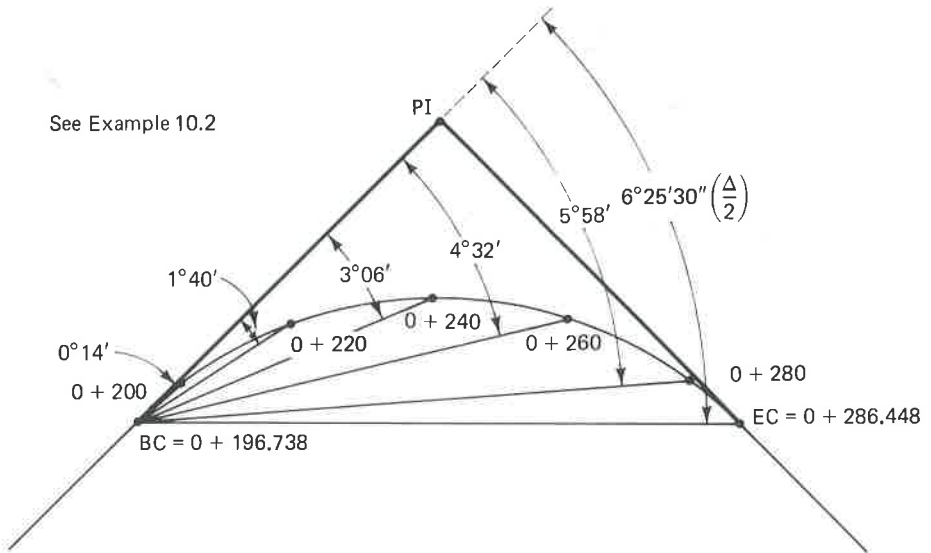


Figure 10.7 Field location for deflection angles.

If we use the data from Example 10.2

$$BC \text{ at } 0 + 196.738$$

$$EC \text{ at } 0 + 286.448$$

$$\frac{\Delta}{2} = 6^{\circ}25'30'' = 6.4250^{\circ}$$

$$L = 89.710$$

$$T = 45.044$$

And if the layout is to proceed at 20-m intervals, the procedure would be as follows. First, compute the deflection angles for the three required arc distances:

$$\text{deflection angle} = \left( \frac{\text{arc}}{L} \right) \frac{\Delta}{2}$$

1. BC to first even station (0 + 200):  $([0 + 200] - [0 + 196.738]) = 3.262$

$$\frac{6.4250}{89.710} \times 3.262 = 0.2336^{\circ} = 0^{\circ}14'01''$$

2. Even station interval:

$$\frac{6.4250}{89.710} \times 20 = 1.4324^{\circ} = 1^{\circ}25'57''$$

3. Last even station (0 + 280) to EC:

$$\frac{6.4250}{89.710} \times 6.448 = 0.4618^{\circ} = 0^{\circ}27'42''$$

Second, prepare a list of appropriate stations together with *cumulative* deflection angles.

Stations	Deflection Angle
BC 0 + 196.738	0°00'00"
0 + 200	0°14'01" + 1°25'57"
0 + 220	1°39'58" + 1°25'57"
0 + 240	3°05'55" + 1°25'57"
0 + 260	4°31'52" + 1°25'57"
0 + 280	5°57'49" + 0°27'42"
EC 0 + 286.448	6°25'31" $\approx$ 6°25'30" = $\frac{\Delta}{2}$

For most engineering layouts, the deflection angles are rounded to the closest minute or half-minute.

$$E = \frac{AL}{800} \text{ ft} \quad (2.4.11)$$

$$y = 4E\left(\frac{x}{L}\right)^2 \quad (2.4.12)$$

$$X = \frac{LG_1}{G_1 - G_2} \quad X \geq 0 \quad (2.4.13)$$

$$\text{Elevation of } P = \left[ \text{elevation of VPC} + \left(\frac{G_1}{100}\right)x \right] + y \quad (2.4.14)$$

Crest vertical curves:

$$L = \frac{|A|S^2}{200(\sqrt{h_1} + \sqrt{h_2})^2} \quad \text{for } S \leq L \quad (2.4.15a)$$

$$L = 2S - \frac{200(\sqrt{h_1} + \sqrt{h_2})^2}{|A|} \quad \text{for } S \geq L \quad (2.4.15b)$$

Sag vertical curves:

$$L = \frac{|A|S^2}{200(h + S \tan \beta)} \quad \text{for } S \leq L \quad (2.4.16a)$$

$$L = 2S - \frac{200(h + S \tan \beta)}{|A|} \quad \text{for } S \geq L \quad (2.4.16b)$$

where

$L$  = length of curve, in ft

$S$  = sight distance, in ft

$|A| = |G_2 - G_1|$ , in %

$h_1$  = height of driver's eyes, in ft

$h_2$  = height of object, in ft

$h$  = headlight height: approximately 2 ft

$\beta$  = beam angle: approximately  $1^\circ$



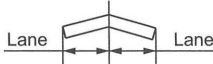
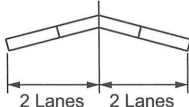
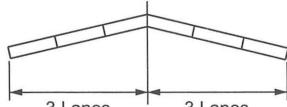
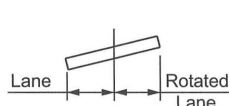
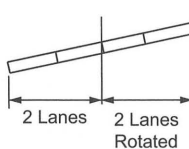
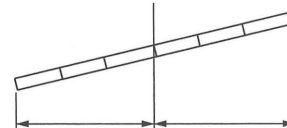
A strict application of the maximum relative gradient criterion provides runoff lengths for four-lane undivided roadways that are double those for two-lane roadways; those for six-lane undivided roadways would be tripled. While lengths of this order may be considered desirable, it is often not practical to provide such lengths in design. On a purely empirical basis, it is recommended that minimum superelevation runoff lengths be adjusted downward to avoid excessive lengths for multilane roadways. The recommended adjustment factors are presented in Table 3-16.

The adjustment factors listed in Table 3-16 are directly applicable to undivided streets and highways. Development of runoff for divided highways is discussed in more detail later in the subsection titled, "Axis of Rotation with a Median." The topic of runoff superelevation for turning roadway designs at intersections and through interchanges is discussed in Chapters 9 and 10, respectively.

**Table 3-16. Adjustment Factor for Number of Lanes Rotated**

Metric			U.S. Customary		
Number of Lanes Rotated, $n_1$	Adjustment Factor,* $b_w$	Length Increase Relative to One-Lane Rotated, $(= n_1 b_w)$	Number of Lanes Rotated, $n_1$	Adjustment Factor,* $b_w$	Length Increase Relative to One-Lane Rotated, $(= n_1 b_w)$
1	1.00	1.0	1	1.00	1.0
1.5	0.83	1.25	1.5	0.83	1.25
2	0.75	1.5	2	0.75	1.5
2.5	0.70	1.75	2.5	0.70	1.75
3	0.67	2.0	3	0.67	2.0
3.5	0.64	2.25	3.5	0.64	2.25

One Lane Rotated	Two Lanes Rotated	Three Lanes Rotated
 <p>Normal Section</p>	 <p>Normal Section</p>	 <p>Normal Section</p>
		

\*  $b_w = [1 + 0.5 (n_1 - 1)]/n_1$

Typical minimum superelevation runoff lengths are presented in Table 3-17. The lengths shown represent cases where one or two lanes are rotated about a pavement edge. The former case is found on two-lane roadways where the pavement is rotated about the centerline or on one-lane interchange ramps where the pavement rotation is about an edge line. The latter case is found on multilane undivided roadways where each direction is separately rotated about an edge line.



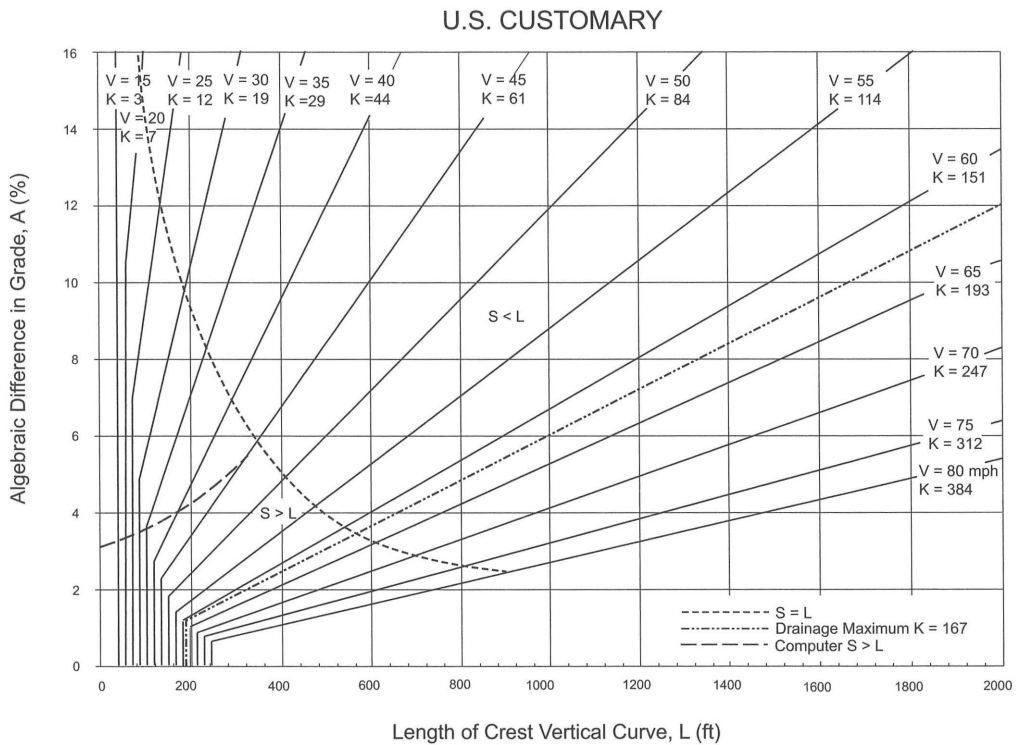
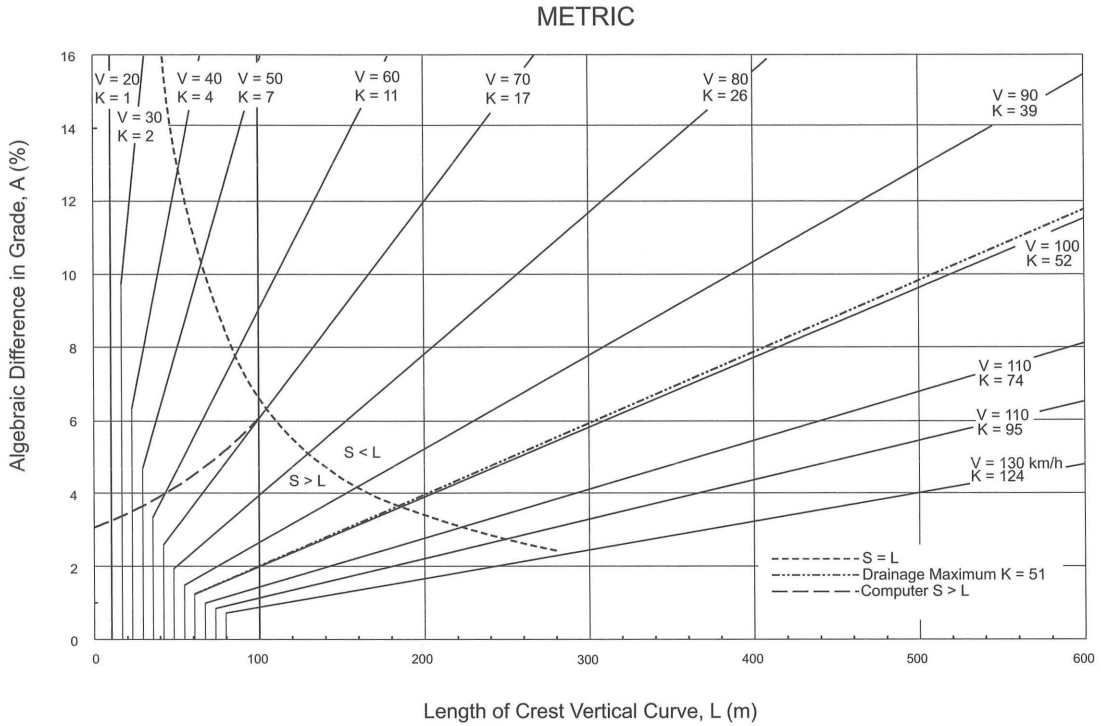


Figure 3-43. Design Controls for Crest Vertical Curves—Open Road Conditions

Table 3-34. Design Controls for Crest Vertical Curves Based on Stopping Sight Distance

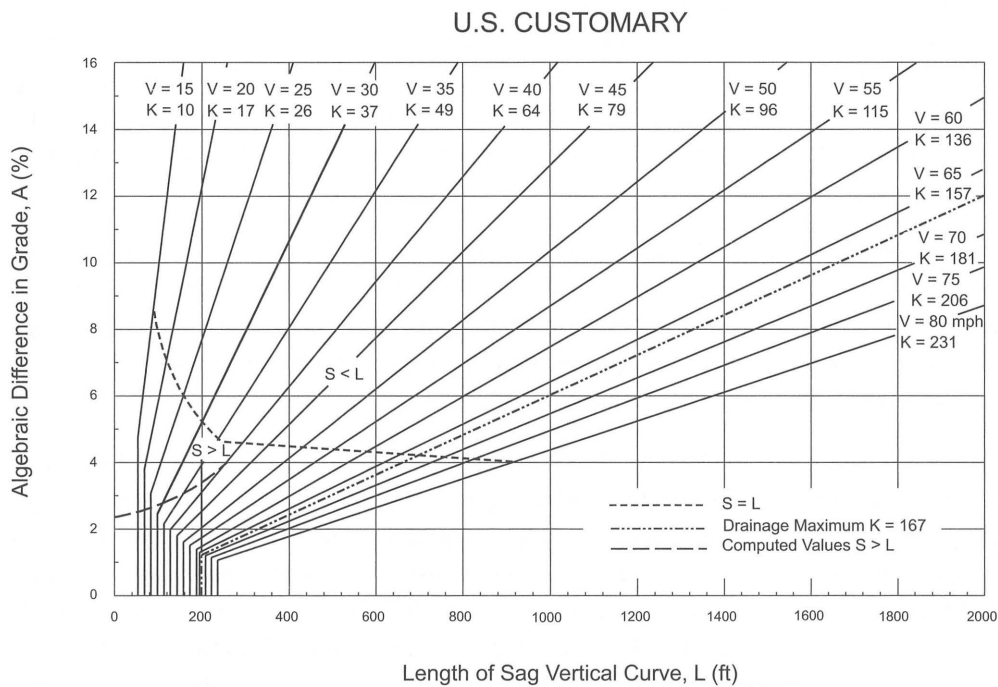
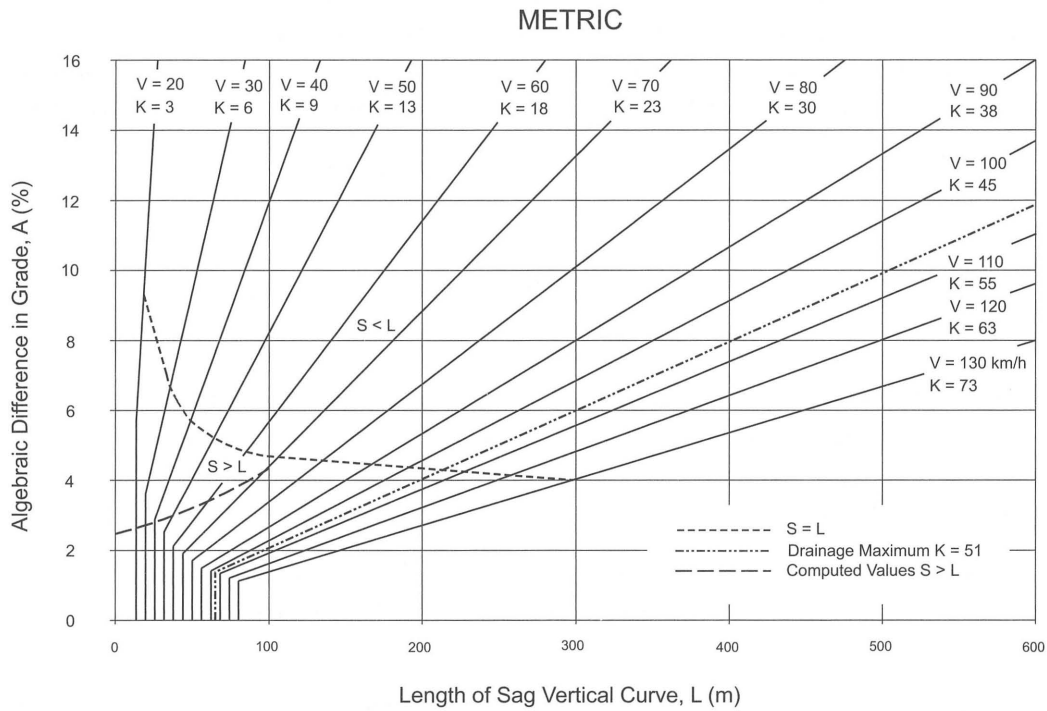
Metric				U.S. Customary			
Design Speed (km/h)	Stopping Sight Distance (m)	Rate of Vertical Curvature, $K^a$		Design Speed (mph)	Stopping Sight Distance (ft)	Rate of Vertical Curvature, $K^a$	
		Calculated	Design			Calculated	Design
20	20	0.6	1	15	80	3.0	3
30	35	1.9	2	20	115	6.1	7
40	50	3.8	4	25	155	11.1	12
50	65	6.4	7	30	200	18.5	19
60	85	11.0	11	35	250	29.0	29
70	105	16.8	17	40	305	43.1	44
80	130	25.7	26	45	360	60.1	61
90	160	38.9	39	50	425	83.7	84
100	185	52.0	52	55	495	113.5	114
110	220	73.6	74	60	570	150.6	151
120	250	95.0	95	65	645	192.8	193
130	285	123.4	124	70	730	246.9	247
				75	820	311.6	312
				80	910	383.7	384

<sup>a</sup> Rate of vertical curvature,  $K$ , is the length of curve per percent algebraic difference in intersecting grades ( $A$ ),  $K = L/A$ .

The values of  $K$  derived above when  $S$  is less than  $L$  also can be used without significant error where  $S$  is greater than  $L$ . As shown in Figure 3-42, extension of the diagonal lines to meet the vertical lines for minimum lengths of vertical curves results in appreciable differences from the theoretical only where  $A$  is small and little or no additional cost is involved in obtaining longer vertical curves.

For night driving on highways without lighting, the length of visible roadway is that roadway that is directly illuminated by the headlights of the vehicle. For certain conditions, the minimum stopping sight distance values used for design exceed the length of visible roadway. First, vehicle headlights have limitations on the distance over which they can project the light intensity levels that are needed for visibility. When headlights are operated on low beams, the reduced candlepower at the source plus the downward projection angle significantly restrict the length of visible roadway surface. Thus, particularly for high-speed conditions, stopping sight distance values exceed road-surface visibility distances afforded by the low-beam headlights regardless of whether the roadway profile is level or curving vertically. Second, for crest vertical curves, the area forward of the headlight beam's point of tangency with the roadway surface is shadowed and receives only indirect illumination.

Since the headlight mounting height (typically about 0.60 m [2.00 ft]) is lower than the driver eye height used for design (1.08 m [3.50 ft]), the sight distance to an illuminated object is controlled by the height of the vehicle headlights rather than by the direct line of sight. Any object within the shadow zone must be high enough to extend into the headlight beam to be directly illuminated. On the basis of Equation 3-41, the bottom of the headlight beam is about 0.40 m [1.30 ft] above the roadway at a distance ahead of the vehicle equal to the stopping sight distance. Although the vehicle headlight system does limit roadway



**Figure 3-44. Design Controls for Sag Vertical Curves—Open Road Conditions**

The effect on passenger comfort of the change in vertical direction is greater on sag than on crest vertical curves because gravitational and centripetal forces are combining rather than opposing forces. Comfort

wherever practical, but special attention to drainage should be exercised where values of  $K$  in excess of 51 m [167 ft] per percent change in grade are used.

Minimum lengths of vertical curves for flat gradients also are recognized for sag conditions. The values determined for crest conditions appear to be generally suitable for sags. Lengths of sag vertical curves, shown as vertical lines in Figure 3-44, are equal to 0.6 times the design speed in km/h [three times the design speed in mph].

Sag vertical curves shorter than the lengths computed from Table 3-36 may be justified for economic reasons in cases where an existing feature, such as a structure not ready for replacement, controls the vertical profile. In certain cases, ramps may also be designed with shorter sag vertical curves. Fixed-source lighting is desirable in such cases. For street design, some engineers accept design of a sag or crest where  $A$  is about 1 percent or less without a length of calculated vertical curve. However, field modifications during construction usually result in constructing the equivalent to a vertical curve, even if short.

**Table 3-36. Design Controls for Sag Vertical Curves**

Metric				U.S. Customary			
Design Speed (km/h)	Stopping Sight Distance (m)	Rate of Vertical Curvature, $K^a$		Design Speed (mph)	Stopping Sight Distance (ft)	Rate of Vertical Curvature, $K^a$	
		Calculated	Design			Calculated	Design
20	20	2.1	3	15	80	9.4	10
30	35	5.1	6	20	115	16.5	17
40	50	8.5	9	25	155	25.5	26
50	65	12.2	13	30	200	36.4	37
60	85	17.3	18	35	250	49.0	49
70	105	22.6	23	40	305	63.4	64
80	130	29.4	30	45	360	78.1	79
90	160	37.6	38	50	425	95.7	96
100	185	44.6	45	55	495	114.9	115
110	220	54.4	55	60	570	135.7	136
120	250	62.8	63	65	645	156.5	157
130	285	72.7	73	70	730	180.3	181
				75	820	205.6	206
				80	910	231.0	231

<sup>a</sup> Rate of vertical curvature,  $K$ , is the length of curve (m) per percent algebraic difference intersecting grades ( $A$ ),  $K = L/A$ .

### Sight Distance at Undercrossings

Sight distance on the highway through a grade separation should be at least as long as the minimum stopping sight distance and preferably longer. Design of the vertical alignment is the same as at any other point on the highway except in some cases of sag vertical curves underpassing a structure as illustrated in Figure 3-45. While not a frequent concern, the structure fascia may cut the line of sight and limit the sight distance to less than otherwise is attainable. It is generally practical to provide the minimum length of sag vertical curve at grade separation structures, and even where the recommended grades are exceeded,