

# Performance Analysis of the Linear Induction Motor for the Deep-Underground High-Speed GTX

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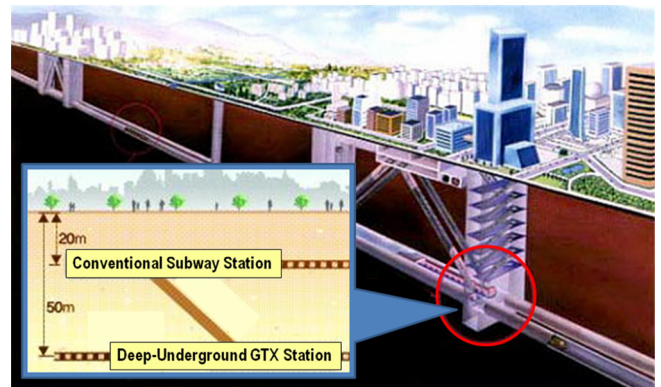
**Abstract** – In order to develop a deep-underground great train express (GTX) in South Korea, the specifications decision and development of a traction control system (including an inverter and a traction motor), which considers a variety of route conditions, must be advanced. In this study, we examined the running resistance properties of a high-speed traction system based on a variety of tunnel types and vehicle organization methods. Then, we studied the power requirements necessary for the traction motor to maintain balanced speed in the high-speed traction system. From this, we determined the design criteria for the development of a high-speed traction system for use in the deep-underground GTX. Finally, we designed a linear induction motor (LIM) for a propulsion system, and we used the finite element method (FEM) to analyze its performance as it travelled through deep-underground tunnels.

**Keywords:** Linear induction motor, Traction system, Electromagnetic analysis, Power consumption

## 1. Introduction

Traffic-related problems are multiplying rapidly in the densely-populated capital of the Republic of Korea. In addition, the number of long-distance commuters continues to increase as an increasing number of citizens moving to newly constructed satellite cities. In order to alleviate traffic congestion, there is a need for a comprehensive plan that shall cover the entire metropolitan area. Moreover, a fast, efficient public transportation system, which will allow passengers to travel between central Seoul and major outlying areas in less than 30 minutes, should be constructed. However, extending existing infrastructures, such as highways and railroads, can be problematic. It is extremely expensive and can decrease the aesthetic appeal of the city. For this reason, many researchers have proposed the construction of a deep-underground great train express (GTX), which is twice as fast as a conventional subway and is constructed at a depth of more than 40 m below ground. This system, which shall greatly contribute to the South Korean economy, is currently undergoing a government-run feasibility study [1]. The deep-underground GTX is a subterranean railway system, which makes use of the land located 40 to 50 m below the surface of the land. The GTX is an express train that makes a minimum number of intermediate stops. Several countries, including the United States, Russia and Ukraine,

have incorporated deep-underground railroads into their subway systems and have been using them for many years [1]. In order to develop a deep-underground GTX in South Korea, an advanced traction control system (including an inverter and an electric motor), which considers a variety of route conditions, must be designed. Fig. 1 shows the construction concept of the deep-underground GTX at the city center.



**Fig. 1.** Construction concept of the deep-underground GTX at the city center

In this study, we examined the running resistance properties of a high-speed traction system based on a variety of tunnel types and vehicle organization methods. Then, we studied the power requirements necessary for the traction electric motor to maintain balanced speed in the high-speed traction system. From this, we determined the design criteria for the development of a high-speed traction system for use in the deep-underground GTX. Finally, we designed a linear induction motor (LIM) for use in the

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propulsion system and employed the finite element method (FEM) to analyze its force and power consumption properties as it travels through the deep-underground tunnels.

## 2. Deduction of the Design Criteria of the High-speed Traction System

### 2.1 Running resistance properties based on a variety of tunnel types and vehicle organization

The air resistance created when a train travels through a tunnel varies depending on the tunnel's structure and type. The air resistance within the tunnel is an important factor, because it creates resistance as the train moves. When the running resistance becomes too great, trains require a large traction power source when traveling at a high speed. This increases the capacity of the traction control system. In order to create a suitable design for a train's traction control system, it is necessary to calculate the exact running resistance of the vehicle under its operation. In this study, the increasing coefficient of air resistance (IC-AR) for open ground has been set to 1, and the increasing coefficient values of air resistance by tunnel type are shown in Table 1 [2, 3]. Then, the increasing coefficient values of air resistance from Table 1 were applied to Eq. (1), and the running resistance was calculated by tunnel type. The South Korean Tilting Train eXpress (TTX) was used for evaluating the running resistance (organization: 6 vehicles, 344 tons). These are calculated as follows:

$$R = (1.3\sqrt{\frac{10}{m}} + 0.01V)W + k(c_0V^2) \quad [kgf] \quad (1)$$

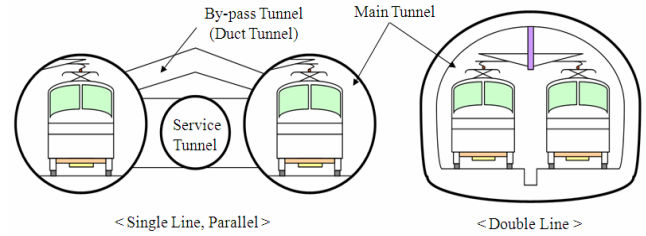
$$c_0 = 0.0035S + 0.0041\frac{pL}{100} + 0.002N_p \quad (2)$$

where  $R$  is the running resistance (kgf),  $W$  is the total weight of the railway vehicles (tons),  $m$  is the axle load (tons),  $V$  is the railway vehicle speed (km/h),  $c_0$  is the air resistance coefficient on open ground,  $k$  is the increasing coefficient value of the air resistance,  $S$  is the cross-section of a vehicle front surface ( $m^2$ ),  $p$  is the circumference length of a vehicle (m),  $L$  is the length of the railway vehicles (m), and  $N_p$  is the number of pantographs [4, 5].

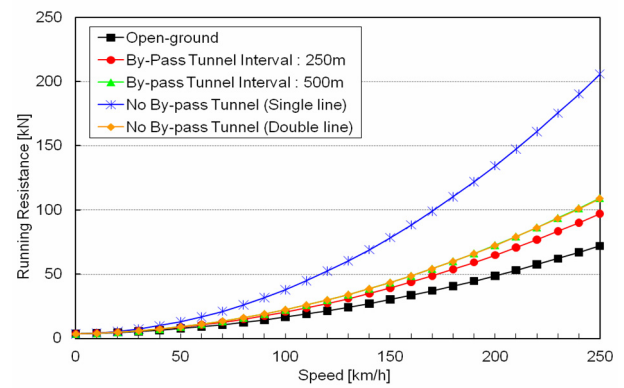
**Table 1.** Increasing coefficient value of the air-resistance by tunnel type

Tunnel type		IC-AR (k)
Open-ground		1
Single line	By-pass tunnel interval : 250m	1.418
	By-pass tunnel interval : 500m	1.621
	Without By-pass tunnel	3.229
Double line (Without By-pass tunnel)		1.612

As shown in Fig. 3, the running resistance of a single-line tunnel (by-pass tunnel interval: 500 m) is similar to that of a double-line tunnel (without a by-pass tunnel).



**Fig. 2.** Tunnel types for the deep-underground GTX



**Fig. 3.** Running resistance properties of the traction system based on a variety of tunnel types (1 organization : 6 vehicles, 344 tons).

### 2.2 Traction power properties required to maintain a balanced speed

It is important to design a traction system that can endure air resistance while maintaining balanced speed when the train travels through a tunnel. The power required for the traction motor to maintain balanced speed was calculated under various tunnel conditions. The power of the traction motor was calculated using Eq. (3) given as:

$$P_{motor} = R_{equi}(V/3.6)\eta \quad [W] \quad (3)$$

where  $P_{motor}$  is the power of the traction motor (W),  $R_{equi}$  is the running resistance at a balanced speed (N), and  $\eta$  is the efficiency of the power transmission (0.97). Fig. 4 shows the necessary power properties for the balanced-speed change of the traction system. As shown in Fig. 4, the design maximum speed of the traction system has been set to 170 km/h. The reason for this limitation is that the aerodynamic resistance created at speed levels above 170 km/h result in a rapidly increasing need for power. Fig. 5 shows the necessary running distance properties for reaching the maximum speed. Assuming that GTX underground stations are spaced at intervals of 6 to 9 km, the distance required for the train needed to reach

maximum speed should be around 3–4.5 km [1, 6]. As shown in Fig. 5, the train can reach a speed of 170 km/h within 4.5 km. Meanwhile, Fig. 6 shows the necessary emergency braking distance properties of the traction system according to traveling speed. For the TTX, the emergency braking distance is less than 1,000 m when traveling at a speed of 160 km/h. Thus, in this study, the maximum design and operation speed levels were set at 165 and 150 km/h, respectively. Table 2 shows the design criteria of the high-speed propulsion system for use in the deep-underground GTX.

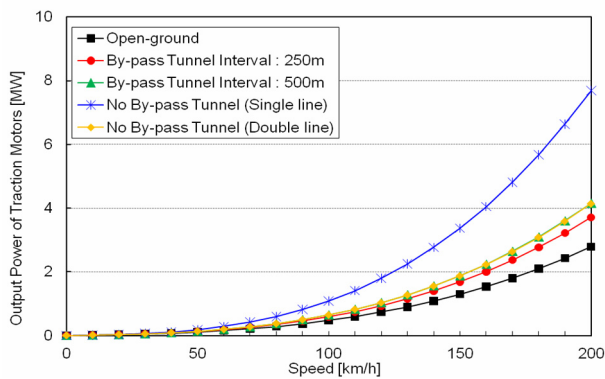


Fig. 4. Necessary power properties for the balanced-speed change of the traction system

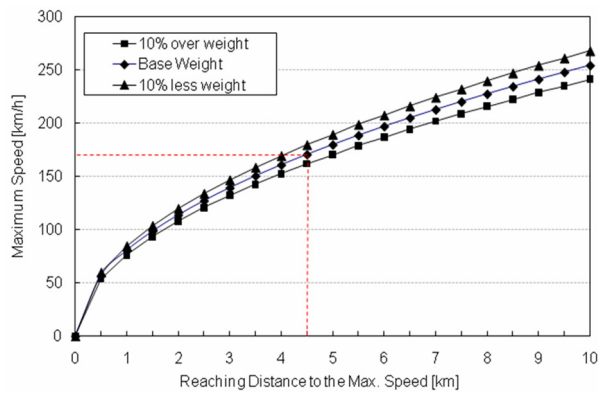


Fig. 5. Necessary running distance properties for reaching the maximum speed

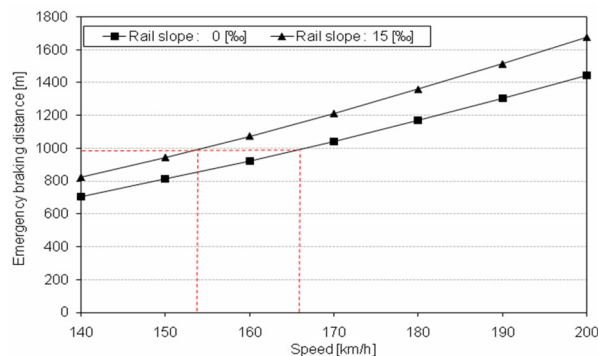


Fig. 6. Necessary emergency braking distance properties of the traction system according to traveling speed

Table 2. Design criteria of the high-speed propulsion system for use in the deep-underground GTX

Contents	Specifications
Maximum operation speed	150 km/h
Maximum design speed	165 km/h
Tunnel pattern	Double line or single parallel (By-pass Tunnel : 500m)
Acceleration	2.5 km/h/sec
Reaching distance to the max. speed	Below 4.5 km
Emergency braking distance	1,000 m
Maximum slope of rail	Below 15 ‰

### 3. Traction Performance of the LIM Propulsion System

#### 3.1 Analysis of the traction force requirements of the LIM propulsion system

LIM propulsion system has many advantages over conventional propulsion systems, making it a more suitable choice for the deep-underground GTX. The LIM has excellent acceleration and deceleration as well as the ability to climb steep gradients. It has lower construction cost than conventional systems due to its small tunnel cross-section. It is quiet and runs smoothly (no mechanical couplings). Finally, it is cheaper to maintain [7, 8]. Fig. 7 shows a practical consideration of the LIM propulsion system as applied to the deep-underground GTX. The LIM primary and its control equipment are installed under the deep-underground GTX bogie, and the LIM secondary reaction plate is installed on the rail.

In this study, we analyzed the requirements of the LIM traction force for a LIM propulsion system on vehicles traveling through a double-line tunnel without a by-pass tunnel, as well as a single-line tunnel with a by-pass tunnel, every 500 m. Eq. (4) was used to calculate the necessary traction force at the starting point of the LIM propulsion vehicle, and Eq. (5) was used to calculate the total output power of the LIMs at the terminal speed of the constant-thrust-force region. In addition, Eq. (6) was used to calculate the traction force at the terminal speed (120 km/h) of the constant-output-power region on the middle-speed band, and Eq. (7) was used to calculate the traction force at 165 km/h [9-11]. These are given as follows:

$$T_s = 28.35 \times W \times 1.05 \times \alpha + R_s \times W \quad [kgf] \quad (4)$$

$$P_M = T_s \times V_{rated} / 367.3 \quad [kW] \quad (5)$$

$$T_{120} = P_M \div 367.3 / 120 \times \eta \quad [kgf] \quad (6)$$

$$T_{165} = T_{120} \times 120^2 / 165^2 \quad [kgf] \quad (7)$$

where  $T_s$  is the starting traction force of vehicles,  $W$  is the total weight of fully loaded vehicles (256 tons),  $\alpha$  is the acceleration (2.5 km/h/s),  $R_s$  is the starting resistance of vehicles (5 kgf/tons),  $V_{rated}$  is the rated velocity of vehicles

(60 km/h), and  $P_M$  is the output power of the traction motor (kW). The train consists of eight cars, and each car has two LIMs for propulsion. Therefore, a GTX train has a total of 16 LIMs. In addition, the maximum slope of the rail is 60‰. Fig. 8 shows the necessary traction force for the LIM propulsion system to propel the deep-underground GTX traction system. As can be seen, the necessary traction force at the starting point of a LIM propulsion vehicle is about 200 kN, and the maximum output power of the LIMs at the terminal speed of the constant-thrust-force region is about 3,328 kW. In addition, the traction force at the terminal speed of the constant output power is about 100 kN, and the traction force at 165 km/h is about 53 kN.

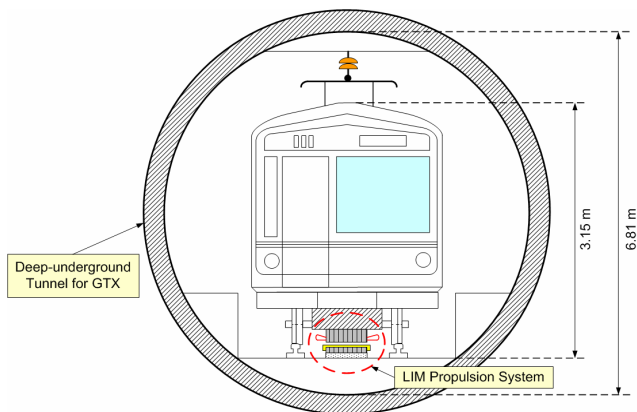


Fig. 7. Practical consideration of the deep-underground GTX and the LIM propulsion system

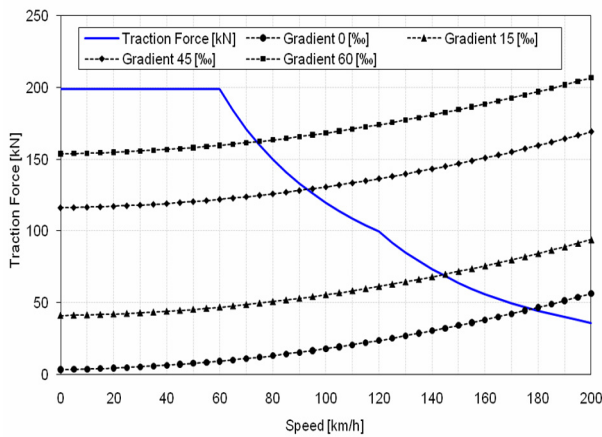


Fig. 8. Necessary traction force for the LIM to propel the deep-underground GTX traction system

### 3.2 Analysis of the design and characteristics of the LIM propulsion system

In this study, an analytical method was used to design a LIM for use in the deep-underground GTX propulsion system. The resulting design is a single-sided, short primary type LIM. Table 3 shows the design specifications of the LIM for use in the deep-underground GTX propulsion system. As shown in Fig. 9, the mixed 2D-3D

Table 3. Design specifications of a LIM for use in a deep-underground GTX propulsion system

Contents	Specification
Rated output power of the total LIMs	170 kW
DC-link voltage / Phase voltage	1,500 V / 675.5 V
Rated frequency / Rated speed	41 Hz / 60 km/h
Phase / Poles	3 / 10
Air-gap / Al-sheet thickness	9 mm / 5 mm
Pole pitch / Slot pitch	252 mm / 21 mm
Primary core length / Stack width	2696 mm / 230 mm

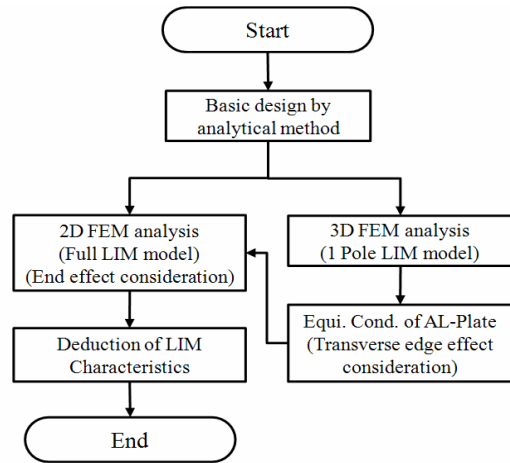
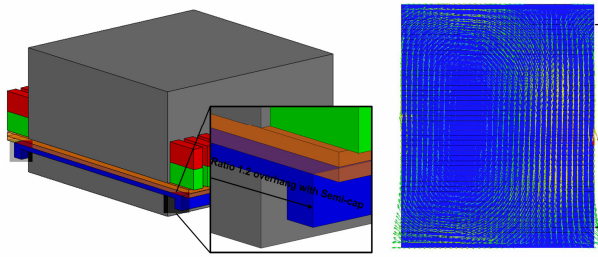


Fig. 9. Analysis flow of the mixed 2D-3D simulation method for a characteristic calculation of the LIM

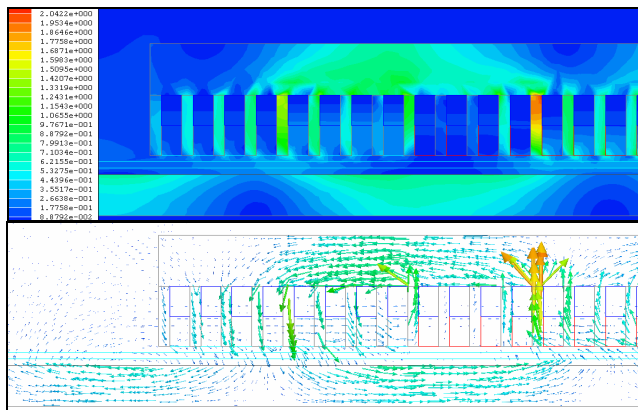
FEM analysis method was used to analyze the characteristics of the LIM. Here, 3D FEM analysis is necessary for considering the transverse edge effect of the LIM [12-14]. In this study, 3D FEM analysis (using a one-pole model as a 3D LIM model) was used to calculate an equivalent conductivity on the AL sheet by varying the overhang ratio on the secondary AL reaction plate. The transverse edge effect correction factors were calculated using the equivalent amount of eddy current by 3D analysis of the LIM model. Fig. 10 shows the 3D one pole LIM model and the distribution of the eddy current to calculate the equivalent amount of eddy current on the AL reaction plate. This equivalent conductivity value was applied to the secondary AL sheet of the 2D FEM model, and the property variation of the tangential and normal forces was analyzed at various speed levels (0–165 km/h), which is considered the constant slip (0.2). Table 4 shows the correction factors considering the transverse edge effect by varying the overhang ratio and shape of the secondary AL reaction plate. The AL reaction plate model with 1.2 overhang and semi-cap was selected for this study after considering performance and cost. Fig. 11 shows the distribution of the magnetic flux density and the B vectors on the LIM for use in the deep-underground GTX propulsion system under the rated load, via 2D FEM analysis. Fig. 12 shows the comparison of the thrust force requirement and the calculated thrust force for a change in



**Fig. 10.** 3D one pole LIM model and distribution of the eddy current to calculate the equivalent amount of eddy current on the AL reaction plate

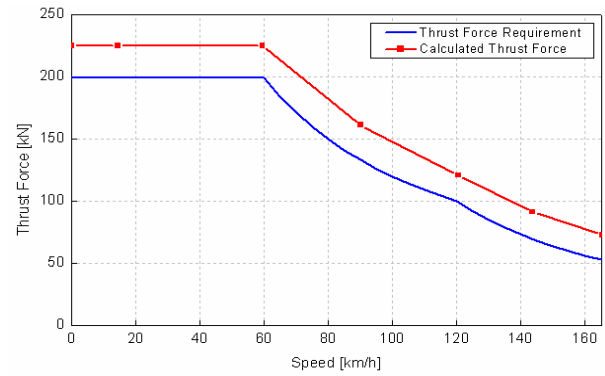
**Table 4.** Correction factors considering the transverse edge effect by varying the overhang ratio and shape of the secondary AL reaction plate

Contents		Correction factor	Equivalent conductivity [mhos/m]
Without overhang		0.7086	2.71E+07
With overhang	Overhang 1.1	0.7777	2.97E+07
	Overhang 1.2	0.8224	3.14E+07
	Overhang 1.3	0.8604	3.29E+07
With overhang and cap	Overhang 1.1 + Semi_cap	0.8575	3.28E+07
	Overhang 1.1 + Full_cap	0.8954	3.42E+07
	Overhang 1.2 + Semi_cap	0.8776	3.35E+07
	Overhang 1.2 + Full_cap	0.9059	3.46E+07
	Overhang 1.3 + Semi_cap	0.9363	3.58E+07
Overhang 1.3 + Full_cap		0.9612	3.67E+07

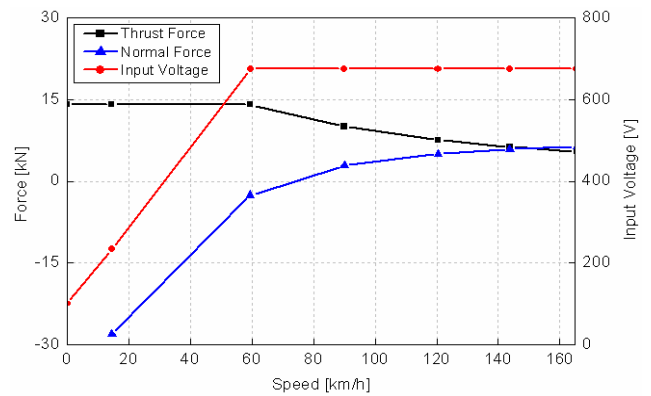


**Fig. 11.** Distribution of magnetic flux density (B) and B vectors on the LIM under the rated load, via 2D FEM analysis

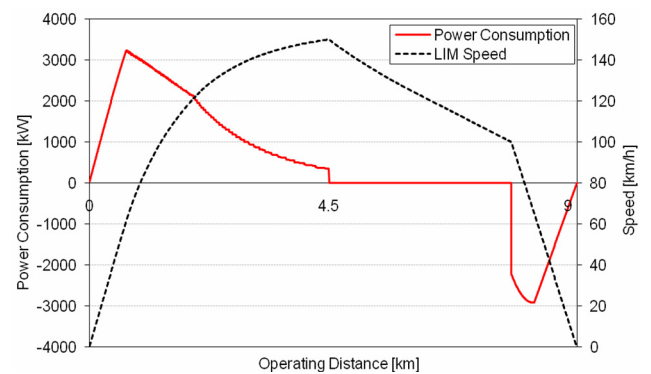
the operating speed of the total LIMs. As can be seen, the calculated thrust force at the starting point was about 235 kN. In addition, the traction force at the terminal speed of the constant output power was about 120 kN, and the traction force at 165 km/h was about 87 kN. Fig. 13 shows the thrust force and the normal force properties for a change in the applied voltage and operating speed of the LIM 1 module. As can be seen, a negative value of the



**Fig. 12.** Comparison of the thrust force requirement and the calculated thrust force for a change in the operating speed of the total LIMs



**Fig. 13.** Thrust force and normal force properties for a change in the applied voltage and operating speed of the LIM 1 module



**Fig. 14.** Total Power consumption of all LIMs installed on the deep-underground GTX vehicles in an arbitrary route

normal force indicates an attraction force. Finally, using the train performance simulation program, the power consumption of a GTX train equipped with a LIM propulsion system was analyzed as it ran an arbitrary route with stations spaced at 9 km intervals [15-17]. Fig. 14 shows the total power consumption of all the LIMs

installed on the deep-underground GTX running on an arbitrary route. As shown in Fig. 14, the GTX train reached a speed of 150 km/h within 4.5 km, and its maximum power consumption was 3,234 kW. It has been confirmed that the thrust force value calculated via FEM analysis satisfies the traction force requirement for the LIM propulsion system installed on the GTX train traveling through deep-underground tunnels.

#### 4. Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to design a LIM suitable for use in the propulsion system of a high-speed underground railway vehicle. In order to accomplish this goal, we analyzed the running resistance properties of a high-speed traction system based on a variety of tunnel types and vehicle organization methods. We then analyzed the power requirement for the traction electric motor to maintain a balanced speed in the high-speed traction system. The element techniques, for the development of a high-speed traction system for the deep-underground GTX, including the design criteria, were presented. Finally, a LIM for use in the propulsion system was designed, and its various performances in a variety of deep-underground tunnels were analyzed using a mathematical method. In conclusion, we confirm that the thrust force value calculated via FEM analysis satisfies the traction force requirement for a LIM propulsion system for use on trains that travel through deep-underground tunnels.

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