Effect of Infinite Friction during Load Transfer in Lug Joints

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Abstract: Pin joints are structural elements which are extensively used in mechanical and structural design. Friction plays a significant role in fastener joints in redistributing the stress and thereby affecting fatigue life. In the current thesis, a lug joint with rigid and interference fit is considered. It is well known that as the load is increased on the interface, localized relative slip is initiated between the pin and the lug. This initiated slip is due to the shear forces on parts of interface overcoming the local frictional forces. Therefore, the region of slip spreads non-linearly with the applied load. Slip amplitude for interference fit with infinite friction is determined by an inverse technique. This slip region leads to high stress concentration at the edge of the hole influencing difficulties in fretting damage, crack initiation, and crack growth life.

Keywords: fastener joints, interference fit, friction co-efficient, proportional interference, slip region.

I. INTRODUCTION

Fatigue causes structural damage. This occurs when material undergoes cyclic loading and fretting damage. Due to fretting crack can initiate in fretting zone. Hence, crack propagates into the material. Lug joints primarily transfer load from one structural component to other like wing root fitting, under carriage connections, Pylon attachment etc., are the locations of fretting damage occurrence. At surface interface of lug-pin, Fretting happens and roughness of the surface considered as major factor. Interference fit with infinite friction coefficient for various increments in load reduces the radial stresses and increases the shear stresses at the critical location and after reaching critical load, shear stress increases but slip initiate at the interface. With assistance of known slip region of infinite friction, the actual slip region for defined friction coefficient of interference fit has to be determined. This actual slip region is more than the known slip region of finite friction lug with interference fit. This amplitude of slip develops fretting damage and reduces the life of joints.

1.1 Geometry of lug-pin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Geometry (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>200 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outer radius</td>
<td>50 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner radius</td>
<td>20 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness</td>
<td>1 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2 Component materials of lug-pin joint

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Poisson’s ratio</th>
<th>Young’s modulus</th>
<th>Tensile strength</th>
<th>Yield strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lug</td>
<td>Aluminium</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>73000 Mpa</td>
<td>483 Mpa</td>
<td>345 Mpa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pin</td>
<td>Mild steel</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>210000 Mpa</td>
<td>410 Mpa</td>
<td>250 Mpa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3 Stress analysis

To know the stress fields and stress concentrations for various applied loads of 2d lug joint, finite element method (FEM) is adapted. Fem is used for structural analysis like static, linear, dynamic, buckling, material nonlinear, geometry nonlinear, fracture mechanics, composite structures, contact stress, thermal problems. Method of interpolation is solved by FEM.

1.4 Geometric modelling

To model a lug geometry MSC PATRAN uses input parameters. The design of lug is accomplished through geometric parameters. A systematic lug model considered with the symmetric boundary conditions. ½ or ¼ of the original or full structure consider to decrease the total no of
elements and nodes. At the symmetry or ½ refined mesh used and coarse mesh used for full model there by reduction in no of elements than full model and the size of analysis domain reduced by factor of two which consumes less time and higher accuracy in results.

\[ \text{Bias factor} = \frac{\text{maximum element length}}{\text{minimum element length}} = \frac{L_2}{L_1} \]

**1.5 Element Shape**

**Displacement Function**

For linear triangular element

\[ u_i = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 y \]

For linear quadrilateral element

\[ u_i = a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 y + a_3 x y \]

The extra term which present in the linear quadrilateral element ensures the results more accurate. Hence throughout the analysis linear quadrilateral element is used.

**1.6 Refined mesh in the critical region**

Here 2 co-ordinate systems are used in the modeling, i.e Cartesian (X,Y,Z) and polar co-ordinate (r,θ,z) system. Cartesian is a reference co-ordinate and polar is an analysis coordinate system.

**1.7 Inverse technique of loading**

In pin loading the pin will move with a load which leads to complicated geometry analysis. In inverse technique due to rigid body displacement at the far the pin will be stationary position. Hence reduces complication in geometry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loading condition</th>
<th>Interface constraint force</th>
<th>Far-end constraint force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pin loading</td>
<td>351.97 (N)</td>
<td>264.67 (N)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverse loading</td>
<td>351.97 (N)</td>
<td>264.67 (N)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because of same results in pin loading and inverse loading, we have used inverse loading throughout the analysis for convinience.

**II. RELATED WORKS**

**2.1 Friction**

Friction force is the force exerted by the surface as an object moves across it or makes an effort to move across it. Two types of friction force sliding and static friction. Though it is not always the case, the friction force often opposes the motion of an object. Friction depends upon the nature of the two surfaces and upon the degree to which they are pressed together. The maximum amount of friction force can be calculated by using the formula below.

\[ \text{FRICTIONAL FORCE (F}_{\text{friction}}) = \mu N \]

Where \( \mu \) = coefficient of friction, which is the quantity that expresses the dependence of frictional forces on the particular surfaces in contact.

**2.2 Slip**

At the lug-pin interface there is occurrence of slip, this slip is characterized by relative tangential displacement between originally adjoining points. There are three cases for relative tangential displacement explained as follows.

**Case (1):** If the interfacial shear stress less than \( \mu \) times radial stress, then there is no relative tangential displacement between the lug-pin, from there no slip.
Case (2): If the interfacial shear stress greater than μ times radial stress, then there is a relative tangential displacement between the lug-pin, hence there will be slip.

\[ \left| \tau_{\rho \theta} \right| / \left| \sigma_r \right| < \mu \]

Case (3): If the tangential shear stress is equal to the μ time's radial stress, then there will be a start of relative tangential displacement between lug-pin. Hence slip starts at interface.

\[ \left| \tau_{\rho \theta} \right| / \left| \sigma_r \right| = \mu \]

2.3 Boundary conditions

2.4 Interference fit with infinite friction coefficient

When the diameter of the pin is greater than the diameter of the hole, this kind of fit is called as interference fit. In this the considered proportional interference is positive. There will be uniform radial stress all along the interface due to the pin diameter greater than hole diameter.

The radial stress changes from compressive to tensile then there will be a separation between pin and plate. By increasing load P, on loading side compressive stress will be more where on the opposite side reduces. By increasing the load continuously at some point compressive stress will become zero and separation will start according to the level of the load increased.

2.4.1 Boundary conditions for interference fit

Interference fit with infinite friction: for this the interface of the lug and pin is 0° to 90° at the interface: Radial displacement \( U_r = a \lambda \), \( a = \) radius of the lug, \( \lambda = \) proportional interference

Tangential displacement \( U_{\theta} = 0 \)

For Symmetric Geometry, Displacement in (Y, Z) direction, i.e., \( U_y = U_z = 0 \)

Rotation about(X, Y) is zero, i.e., \( \theta_x = \theta_y = 0 \)

2.4.2 Analysis for interference fit with infinite friction

Fig 2.4.1 Interference Fit With Infinite Friction Boundary Condition

Fig 2.4.2 Symmetric Lug with Interference Fit
III. RESULTS

3.1 Radial stress distribution for $\lambda=0.0035$

Above figures shows that for various proportional interface values there is increase in radial stresses up to some level and sudden drop with increase in displacement load. Hence separation starts at the interface of the interference fit.

3.2 Shear stress distribution for $\lambda=0.0035$

Above figures shows that Shear stress also increases up to certain level and decreases by increasing in displacement load.

3.3 Slip region for infinite friction coefficient

If the $|\tau_{r\theta}|/|\sigma_r|$ ratio is less than, equal, greater than coefficient of friction $\mu=0.3$, then there is no slip, start of the slip, generated slip regions are known. By increment in load slip spreads accordingly.

3.4 Slip region for $\lambda=0.0035$

Above figures shows that for interference fit $\lambda=0.0035$ for different proportional interface values.
3.5 slip region for various $\lambda$

Fig 3.5 $|\tau_\theta| / |\sigma_r|$ vs $\Theta$ for various $\lambda$

IV. CONCLUSION

2-D stress analysis of lug- rigid pin joint is carried out and the amplitude of slip for interference fit with rough interface with infinite friction has been determined. The push fit amplitude of slip is high, due to more slip in push fit the fretting is more and life of lug lug joint reduces than interference fit. This slip region used to know stress concentration of the model. From the results the slip region which is useful to find where fretting damage and fatigue life of the joint occurs.

V. FUTURE ENHANCEMENT

- Slip amplitude of lug joint with interference fit with finite friction coefficient has been analysed for further problems.
- Actual slip region for finite friction has been determined for straight lug joint with the help of this actual slip amplitude we can find fatigue life and crack initiation problems.
- Tapered lug with finite friction problems are taken for further analysis.
- For validation of theoretical calculations, a structural testing of wing fuselage lug is considered.
- Instead of metals, composite materials can be used.

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