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PREPARED FOR

10TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ENGINE RELIABILITY TECHNOLOGY

BOLTED JOINTS -

STILL A KEY PART OF EFFICIENT POWERTRAINS

AND A CHALLENGE FOR SIMULATION





INTRODUCTION

MODELING OF THE BOLTED JOINT BY FEA

POST-PROCESSING OF BOLT DYNAMIC STRESSES DERIVED BY FEA

EVALUATION OF BOLT AMPLITUDE STRESSES – EXAMPLES



Bolted joints have influence on engine design and are decisive for reliability of entire powertrain





BOLT SIZE INFLUENCE

- Local
 - bore pitch
 - crankpin diameter
 - crankcase design and material
 - crankshaft seal dimensions
 - VVT variator connection details
 - ... others
- Global
 - weight
 - size
 - performance
 - efficiency
 - NVH
 - cost

Safety margins of modern bolted joints are low which require higher quality in manufacturing and maintenance



EXAMPLE OF DOWNSIZED FLANGE BOLTED JOINT FAILURE IN A DRIVELINE











Analytical calculation of bolted joints has a strong historical background but rules for application of FEA for bolted joints are initially released in 2014



SYSTEMATIC CALCULATION OF HIGHLY STRESSED BOLTED JOINTS





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Including thread details in the FEA is a big modeling, computational and evaluation effort which creates the need for simplification



Simplified bolt FE model

EVALUATION OF BOLT FATIGUE SAFETY

- plastic stress / strain
- material assignment
- heat treatment
- thread rolling
- tightening into yield
- local stress concentrations
- thread tolerances
- assembly introduced torsional stress

SIMULATION EFFORT

- model preparation
- computational time





Bolt FE model with thread details

Application of the FEA gives a simulation engineer considerable possibilities in modeling of the bolted joint

BOLT FE MODEL CLASSES ACCORDING TO VDI 2230 PART 2 (2014)



There are certain aspects that need particular attention during simplification of bolt FE model

SELECTED ASPECTS FOR CLASS III BOLT FE MODEL





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Exact modeling of the resilience of unengaged thread is decisive for precise reproduction of bolted joint mechanical behavior in FE simulation



EQUIVALENT CROSS-SECTION AREA OF UNENGAGED THREAD REGION



Simulation / calculation type	Bolt model	Reference cross section area	Deviation in resilience in %	
	Class	-	Tension	Bending
FE	IV	Real geom.	0.0	0.0
FE	111	A_{d_3}	+ 5.1	+10.4
FE	111	A_S	- 3.3	- 6.4
Analytical	-	A_{d_3}	+ 5.5	-

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Bolt dynamic load can be evaluated by use of different post-processing methods

OVERVIEW

METHOD I

Bolt tensile forces evaluated by reaction force in pretension node

 σ_a

METHOD II

Stresses evaluated on surface of equivalent bolt volume

METHOD III

Bolt internal forces determined by extrapolation of stresses evaluated on surface of equivalent bolt volume (VDI 2230 part 2)

x, li

x, re





→ s_re_Fv

-s_li_Fv s re Fsma 🗕 s_li_Fsma

-----s_re_Fsmir s li Fsmir



Each method provides advantages ... BENEFITS



Very simple approach



- Straightforward approach
 - Bending stresses considered

METHOD III

- Bending stresses considered
- Part of stress concentration (already considered in bolt fatigue limits) filtered-out from stress results







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Each method provides advantages but also has certain limitations







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Differences in resultant bolt dynamic stress due to chosen evaluation method and cross-section area used in bolt class III FE model can be significant



STRAIGHT-SPLIT CONNECTING ROD





BOTH CAP BOLTS

- A combination of dynamic tension and bending (without shearing force) is observed
- The bending load is dominant
- The stress concentration included by Method II overestimates bolt dynamic stress by 9%
- The effect of bolt cross-section applied in FE model is on the level of 13%

	Method I	Method II	Method III	
Bolt cross-section in FE model		A _S		A _{d3}
Resultant max. amplitude stress of the bolt	10.6 MPa	48.4 MPa	44.4 MPa	39.3 MPa

VDI 2230 part 2

Differences in resultant bolt dynamic stress due to chosen evaluation method and cross-section area used in bolt class III FE model can be significant



INCLINED-SPLIT CONNECTING ROD



UPPER BOLT

- The dynamic bending load (by shearing force) is dominant
- Effects of Method II and III as well as applied bolt cross-section in FE model are similar as in the straight-split connecting rod

	Method I	Method II	Meth	od III
Bolt cross-section in FE model		A _S		A _{d3}
Resultant max. amplitude stress of the upper bolt	3.4 MPa	23.5 MPa	21.7 MPa	19.6 MPa
Resultant max. amplitude stress of the lower bolt	10.4 MPa	18.4 MPa	12.8 MPa	11.8 MPa
				VDI 2230 part 2

- The dynamic tensile load is dominant, weak influence of bending is visible
- The stress concentration included by Method II overestimates bolt dynamic stress by 44%
- Effect of bolt cross-section applied in FE model is on the level of 8.5%.

Differences in resultant bolt dynamic stress due to chosen evaluation method and cross-section area used in bolt class III FE model can be significant



MARINE TYPE CONNECTING ROD



BOTH SHANK-BIG EYE BOLTS

- A combination of dynamic tension, compression and bending (by bending moment and shearing force) is observed
- The evaluation according to Method II is not performed, since only bolt cross-section of A_{d3} is considered
- Nearly equal share of tensile and bending load occurs

	Method I	Method II	Method III
Bolt cross-section in FE model		A _{d3}	
Resultant max. amplitude stress of the bolt	20.8 MPa	-	38.3 MPa
			VDI 2230 part 2



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SUMMARY

Bolted joints are critical for engine reliability





Bolted joint is a one of main fasteners used in the powertrain industry

Bolt size influence weight, size, performance, efficiency, NVH and cost of the powertrain

Downsizing of bolted joints requires precise evaluation with application of FEA

Effective application of FEA in simulation of bolted joint requires simplification of bolt geometry (no thread details)

FE modeling and post-processing of the simplified bolt have significant influence on the assessment of bolt fatigue safety





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"Bolted Joints - Still a Key Part of Efficient Powertrains and a Challenge for Simulation",
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THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST!



