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THE DETERMINATION OF ELASTIC STRESSES
IN GAS-TURBINE DISKS

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A method is presented for the calculation of elastic stresses in symmetrical disks typical of those of a high-temperature gas turbine. The method is essentially a finite-difference solution of the equilibrium and compatibility equations for elastic stresses in a symmetrical disk. Account can be taken of point-to-point variations in disk thickness, in temperature, in elastic modulus, in coefficient of thermal expansion, in material density, and in Poisson's ratio. No numerical integration or trial-and-error procedures are involved and the computations can be performed in rapid and routine fashion by nontechnical computers with little engineering supervision. Checks on problems for which exact mathematical solutions are known indicate that the method yields results of high accuracy.

Illustrative examples are presented to show the manner of treating solid disks, disks with central holes, and disks constructed either of a single material or of two or more welded materials. The effect of shrink fitting is taken into account by a very simple device.

INTRODUCTION

One of the problems in the design of gas turbines is the determination of the stresses in the turbine disk under operating conditions. Calculation of the elastic-stress distribution is a first step in the determination of the true stress distribution. This stress distribution is based on the assumption of linearity of stress with strain and differs from the true stress distributions, which may contain stresses beyond the proportional elastic limit of the material.

The equations for the elastic-stress distribution in symmetrical disks are well known. Their solution may, however, offer considerable
Example of the use of double subscript:

\[ \sigma_{r,n-l} \quad \text{radial stress } \sigma_r \text{ at station } (n-1) \]

The following supplementary symbols denote combinations of the foregoing symbols arising in the analysis:

\[
\begin{align*}
A_{r,n} & \quad \text{coefficients defined by equations} \\
A_{t,n} & \\
E_{r,n} & \\
E_{t,n} & \\
C_n = r_n h_n \\
C'_n = & \frac{\mu_n}{E_n} + \frac{(1 + \mu_n)(r_n - r_{n-1})}{2 E_n r_n} \\
D_n = & \frac{1}{2} (r_n - r_{n-1}) h_n \\
D'_n = & \frac{1}{2} + \frac{(1 + \mu_n)(r_n - r_{n-1})}{2 E_n r_n} \\
F_n = r_{n-1} h_{n-1} \\
F'_n = & \frac{\mu_{n-1}}{r_{n-1}} - \frac{(1 + \mu_{n-1})(r_n - r_{n-1})}{2 E_{n-1} r_{n-1}} \\
G_n = & \frac{1}{2} (r_n - r_{n-1}) h_{n-1} \\
G'_n = & \frac{1}{2} - \frac{(1 + \mu_{n-1})(r_n - r_{n-1})}{2 E_{n-1} r_{n-1}} \\
H_n = & \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 (r_n - r_{n-1})(\rho_n h_n r_n^2 + \rho_{n-1} h_{n-1} r_{n-1}^2) \\
H'_n = & a_n \Delta T_n - a_{n-1} \Delta T_{n-1} \\
K_n = & \frac{F'_n D_n - F_n D'_n}{C'_n D_n - C_n D'_n}
\end{align*}
\]
\[ K'_{n} = \frac{C_{n} F'_{n} - C'_{n} F_{n}}{C'_{n} D_{n} - C_{n} D'_{n}} \]

\[ L_{n} = -\frac{G'_{n} D_{n} + G_{n} D'_{n}}{C'_{n} D_{n} - C_{n} D'_{n}} \]

\[ L'_{n} = -\frac{C'_{n} G_{n} + C_{n} G'_{n}}{C'_{n} D_{n} - C_{n} D'_{n}} \]

\[ M_{n} = \frac{E'_{n} D_{n} + H_{n} D'_{n}}{C'_{n} D_{n} - C_{n} D'_{n}} \]

\[ M'_{n} = \frac{C'_{n} H_{n} + C_{n} H'_{n}}{C'_{n} D_{n} - C_{n} D'_{n}} \]

**Assumptions**

The assumptions are made that stress is proportional to strain and that the disk material is completely elastic at the stress distribution induced by the centrifugal and thermal effects. All variables of material properties and operating conditions are assumed to be symmetrical about the axis of rotation. Axial stresses are neglected and at any radius, the radial and tangential stresses are assumed to be uniform across the thickness of the disk. Temperatures are taken in the central plane perpendicular to the axis of the disk.

**Outline of Method**

In a thin rotating disk of variable thickness, the state of stress at any radius can be completely defined by the two principal stresses, the radial and tangential stresses \( \sigma_r \) and \( \sigma_t \). Two equations are therefore necessary to determine the two unknown stresses. The first of these equations can be obtained from the conditions of equilibrium of an element of the disk; the second, from the compatibility conditions, which are mathematical statements of the interrelation between the radial and tangential strains in a symmetrical disk.

The equilibrium and compatibility equations result in differential form defining relations between the stresses at radius \( r \) and those at a radius infinitesimally removed from \( r \). Except for some special cases, the solutions of these equations are difficult to obtain. In order to facilitate solution, the differential equations are rewritten in finite difference form relating the stresses at radius \( r \) with those at a radius finitely removed from \( r \). By means of the finite-difference equations, the stresses at an arbitrary finite number of
stations along the disk radius are expressed in terms of the stresses at a single reference station near the center of the disk. For a disk with a central hole the reference station is chosen at the inside radius, where the radial stress is zero; hence, the stresses at all stations in the disk are expressed in terms of the single unknown, the tangential stress at this station. For a solid disk, the reference station is chosen at a point near the center of the disk (at a radius of about 5 percent of the disk radius). In this region the radial and tangential stresses can be assumed to be approximately equal; again, therefore, the stresses at all stations are expressed in terms of a single unknown. The unknown can then be determined by the boundary conditions at the rim of the disk where the radial stress is equal to the centrifugal bucket loading. When the radial stress at the rim, expressed in terms of the tangential stress at the reference station, is equated to the bucket loading, the tangential stress at the reference station is evaluated. After the tangential stress at the reference station has been determined, all the other stresses, expressed in terms of this stress, can be evaluated.

Differential Equations

The equilibrium equation as given in reference 2, (p. 374) using the notation of this paper, is

\[
\frac{d}{dr} \left( r \frac{d}{dr} \sigma_r \right) - \sigma_t + \rho \omega^2 hr^2 = 0
\]

(1)

The compatibility relation is obtained by elimination of \(u\) (the radial displacement of any point on the disk as the disk passes from the unstressed to the stressed condition) from the stress-strain displacement equations

\[
\varepsilon_r = \frac{d}{dr} u = \frac{\sigma_r - \mu \sigma_t}{E} + \alpha \Delta T
\]

(2)

\[
\varepsilon_t = \frac{u}{r} = \frac{\sigma_t - \mu \sigma_r}{E} + \alpha \Delta T
\]

(3)

Equation (3) is subtracted from equation (2) to eliminate \(u\),

\[
\frac{du}{dr} - \frac{u}{r} = \frac{(1 + \mu)(\sigma_r - \sigma_t)}{E}
\]

(4)
or
\[
\frac{rdu - udr}{rdr} = \frac{(1 + \mu)(\sigma_r - \sigma_t)}{E}
\]  \hspace{2cm} (5)

But
\[
\frac{rdu - udr}{r^2dr} = \frac{d}{dr} \left( \frac{u}{r} \right)
\]  \hspace{2cm} (6)

Therefore, by equations (3), (5), and (6),
\[
\frac{d}{dr} \left( \frac{\sigma_r}{E} \right) - \frac{d}{dr} \left( \frac{\mu}{E} \right) + \frac{d}{dr} (\alpha \Delta T) - \frac{(1 + \mu)(\sigma_r - \sigma_t)}{Er} = 0 \]  \hspace{2cm} (7)

Equations (1) and (7), together with a knowledge of the boundary conditions, are sufficient to solve for the two unknowns \( \sigma_r \) and \( \sigma_t \). Because \( \rho, E, \mu, \sigma, \Delta T, \) and \( h \) are, in general, functions of the radius \( r \), the equations cannot readily be solved in their differential form; a finite-difference solution was therefore derived.

**Finite-Difference Equations**

The translation of differential equations into finite-difference form to facilitate solution is common in engineering practice. The method has, in fact, been applied in limited fashion to the solution of the steam-turbine disk problem (reference 2, pp. 398-400). This application neglects, however, the point-to-point variation in physical properties, and therefore no application to the gas-turbine disk in which there is appreciable variation in properties from hub to rim is made. In addition, the solution of the equations involves an interpolation procedure, the elimination of which could reduce considerably the amount of calculation necessary for a solution and increase the accuracy of the final results.

A number of discrete point stations are chosen along the disk radius as shown in Figure 1(a). If it is assumed that the stress distribution in the disk has already been determined, all quantities appearing in equations (1) and (7) are therefore known at each of the point stations and the values of corresponding quantities at the point A midway between the \( n \)th and \((n-1)\)st point stations can then be approximately determined. For example, in the plot of \( r \sigma_r \) against \( r \) (Fig. 1(b)), the radius at point A is expressed as
\[
r_A = \frac{1}{2} (r_{n-1} + r_n)
\]
the value of \( \rho h \sigma_t \) is

\[
(\rho h \sigma_t)_A \approx \frac{1}{2} (r_{n-1} h_n \sigma_{t,n} + r_n h_n \sigma_{t,n})
\]

and the slope of the curve at point \( A \), which is approximately equal to the slope of the chord joining points \( n \) and \( n-1 \), is defined as

\[
\frac{d}{dr} (\rho h \sigma_t)_A = \frac{r_n h_n \sigma_{t,n} - r_{n-1} h_n \sigma_{t,n-1}}{r_n - r_{n-1}}
\]

In a similar way the values of each of the other variables entering into the equations can be evaluated for point \( A \). If the evaluations are correct, the quantities at \( A \) must satisfy equations (1) and (7). These equations therefore become, in finite-difference form

\[
\frac{r_n h_n \sigma_{t,n} - r_{n-1} h_n \sigma_{t,n-1}}{r_n - r_{n-1}} - \frac{h_n \sigma_{t,n} + h_{n-1} \sigma_{t,n-1}}{2} + \frac{\sigma_{t,n}}{2} (r_n h_n r_n^2 + r_{n-1} h_{n-1} r_{n-1}^2) = 0
\]

(8)

and

\[
\frac{\sigma_{t,n}}{E_n} - \frac{\sigma_{t,n-1}}{E_{n-1}} + \frac{\mu_n \sigma_{t,n}}{E_n} - \frac{\mu_{n-1} \sigma_{t,n-1}}{E_{n-1}} + \frac{\sigma_n \Delta T_n - \sigma_{n-1} \Delta T_{n-1}}{r_n - r_{n-1}}
\]

\[
- \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{(1 + \mu_n)(\sigma_{t,n} - \sigma_{t,n})}{E_n r_n} + \frac{(1 + \mu_{n-1})(\sigma_{t,n-1} - \sigma_{t,n-1})}{E_{n-1} r_{n-1}} \right] = 0
\]

(9)

which reduce to

\[
C_n \sigma_{t,n} - D_n \sigma_{t,n} = E_n \sigma_{t,n} + C_n \sigma_{t,n-1} - H_n
\]

(10)

and

\[
C' n \sigma_{t,n} - D' n \sigma_{t,n} = E' n \sigma_{t,n} - G' n \sigma_{t,n-1} + H' n
\]

(11)
Solution of Finite-Difference Equations

Equations (10) and (11) represent two equations from which 
\( \sigma_r, n \) and \( \sigma_t, n \) can be expressed in terms of \( \sigma_r, n-1 \) and \( \sigma_t, n-1 \). If the linear nature of the equations and the possibility of successive application of the equations to proceed from one station to the next are considered, the stresses at any station can ultimately be expressed in linear terms of the stresses at any other station. It will be convenient to express the stresses at all stations in terms of the stresses at the station \( a \). At this station, the unknown value is the tangential stress \( \sigma_t, a \); hence, the stresses at station \( n \) are expressed in the linear terms

\[
\sigma_r, n = A_r, n \sigma_t, a + B_r, n
\]

\[
\sigma_t, n = A_t, n \sigma_t, a + B_t, n
\]  \hspace{1cm} (12a)

and those at station \( n-1 \) in the form

\[
\sigma_r, n-1 = A_r, n-1 \sigma_t, a + B_r, n-1
\]

\[
\sigma_t, n-1 = A_t, n-1 \sigma_t, a + B_t, n-1
\]  \hspace{1cm} (12b)

where the coefficients \( A_r, n, B_r, n, A_t, n, \) and \( B_t, n \) are as yet to be determined.

The substitution of equations (12a) and (12b) into equations (10) and (11) and the separation of the terms with and without \( \sigma_t, a \) result in the equations

\[
(C_n A_r, n - D_n A_t, n - F_n A_r, n-1 - G_n A_t, n-1) \sigma_t, a
\]

\[
+ (C_n B_r, n - D_n B_t, n - F_n B_r, n-1 - G_n B_t, n-1 + H_n) = 0
\]  \hspace{1cm} (13)

and

\[
(C'_n A_r, n - D'_n A_t, n - F'_n A_r, n-1 + G'_n A_t, n-1) \sigma_t, a
\]

\[
+ (C'_n B_r, n - D'_n B_t, n - F'_n B_r, n-1 + G'_n B_t, n-1 - H'_n) = 0
\]  \hspace{1cm} (14)

The stress \( \sigma_t, a \) is really arbitrary as far as equations (13) and (14) are concerned because it depends upon the boundary conditions.
and not on the equations of elasticity from which equations (13) and (14) were derived; that is, by a suitable choice of the factors that determine boundary conditions, such as bucket loading and shrink fit, $\sigma_{t,a}$ can be set at any desired value without invalidating in any way the equations of elasticity (1) and (7), or their ultimate finite-difference forms in equations (13) and (14). If an equation in the form $cx + d = 0$ is to be true for all values of $x$, the coefficients $c$ and $d$ both must be zero. Because equations (13) and (14) are to be true independent of the value of $\sigma_{t,a}$, the coefficients of $\sigma_{t,a}$ must be zero, and the two equations reduce to

$$
\begin{align*}
C_n A_{r,n} - D_n A_{t,n} - F_n A_{r,n-1} - G_n A_{t,n-1} &= 0, \\
C'_n A_{r,n} - D'_n A_{t,n} - F'_n A_{r,n-1} + G'_n A_{t,n-1} &= 0, \\
C_n B_{r,n} - D_n B_{t,n} - F_n B_{r,n-1} - G_n B_{t,n-1} + H_n &= 0, \\
C'_n B_{r,n} - D'_n B_{t,n} - F'_n B_{r,n-1} + G'_n B_{t,n-1} - H'_n &= 0.
\end{align*}
$$

(15)

from which $A_{r,n}$, $A_{t,n}$, $B_{r,n}$, and $B_{t,n}$ can be determined in the form

$$
\begin{align*}
A_{r,n} &= K_n A_{r,n-1} + L_n A_{t,n-1}, \\
A_{t,n} &= K'_n A_{r,n-1} + L'_n A_{t,n-1}, \\
B_{r,n} &= K_n B_{r,n-1} + L_n B_{t,n-1} + M_n, \\
B_{t,n} &= K'_n B_{r,n-1} + L'_n B_{t,n-1} + M'_n.
\end{align*}
$$

(16)

If the coefficients $A_{r,n}$, $A_{t,n}$, $B_{r,n}$, and $B_{t,n}$ are known for station $n-1$, they can be determined by means of equation (16) for station $n$.

The coefficients at the first station ($r = a$) can be determined by inspection for both the solid disk and the disk with a central hole. Inspection of equation (12a) shows that for a solid disk in which both the tangential and radial stresses at the first station are equal to $\sigma_{t,a}$

$$
\begin{align*}
A_{r,a} &= A_{t,a} = 1, \\
B_{r,a} &= B_{t,a} = 0.
\end{align*}
$$
For disk with a central hole in which the radial stress at the first station is zero and the tangential stress is \( \sigma_{t,a} \)

\[
A_{r,a} = B_{r,a} = B_{t,a} = 0
\]

\[A_{t,a} = 1\]

From these known coefficients at the first station, the coefficients at all other stations can therefore be determined by successive applications of equation (16). Once all the coefficients have been determined, the unknown \( \sigma_{t,a} \) can be determined. The radial stress at the rim \( \sigma_{r,b} \) is the centrifugal loading of the buckets

\[
\sigma_{r,b} = A_{r,b} \sigma_{t,a} + B_{r,b}
\]

or

\[
\sigma_{t,a} = \frac{\sigma_{r,b} - B_{r,b}}{A_{r,b}} \tag{17}
\]

where \( A_{r,b} \) and \( B_{r,b} \) are the coefficients for radial stress at the rim. The radial and tangential stresses at all stations can be obtained from equation (12a) after \( \sigma_{t,a} \) and all the coefficients have been determined.

**ILLUSTRATIVE APPLICATIONS**

**Case I - Elastic-Stress Distribution in Solid Disk**

The profile of a disk that is to be analyzed for stress distribution at a speed of 11,500 rpm and the temperature distribution are shown in figures 2(a) and 2(b), respectively. The first step in the analysis is to choose an arbitrary number of stations along the disk radius. The first station is chosen at a radius of about 5 percent of the rim radius, the last at the rim. The stations need not be equidistant, in fact, it is advisable to choose the stations closely together where there is sharp change in disk contour, in temperature gradient, or in variation of physical properties. In this case 18 stations were chosen, spaced relatively close together near the rim where the gradients in temperature and physical properties were high and near the center for subsequent use of the same example to illustrate the effect of a central hole. When only a solid disk is considered, no concentration of points near the center is necessary. The various steps of the calculation are tabulated in table I.
The disk radius at each station is listed in column 1 of table I. The thickness of the disk \( h \) at each station is listed in column 2. A sharp discontinuity in thickness, such as an abrupt flange, should be faired in the disk contour and the faired disk used in determining thickness.

Ordinarily the density of the material is constant throughout the disk, even over the wide range of temperatures. If a faired disk has been used, however, the density of the material in the faired region should be adjusted to produce the total mass that actually exists in the region of each station. Although a flange does not reduce the stress at its own region by increasing the area, its mass must be included as it produces centrifugal stresses throughout the disk. The corrected density at each station multiplied by the square of the rotational speed is listed in column 3. In this case no fairing was necessary; hence, all values of density are equal.

Poisson's ratio, listed in column 4, has only an insignificant effect on the stress distribution and, because no accurate data are available, a constant value of 0.4 may be used. If accurate data on the variation with temperature on Poisson's ratio are available, use of the exact variable values presents no greater difficulty than use of a constant value. The values of \( \mu \) used in this example are shown in figure 2(c), and were for convenience obtained by the assumption of a linear variation in \( \mu \) with temperature.

The modulus of elasticity at each station is listed in column 5. Variations in this property have a significant effect on the final stress values and accurate data should be used if available. For this example \( E \) was arbitrarily assumed to depend linearly upon the temperature, and the variation along the radius is shown in figure 2(d). In practical computations, the true values of elastic modulus associated with the particular temperature at each station may be used.

The coefficients of thermal expansion are tabulated in column 6. These coefficients must be the average values applicable to the range between the temperatures actually existing and those at which there is no thermal stress. For a homogeneous disk in which there is no shrink fitting of one part to another, the condition of zero thermal stress is at room temperature. Engineering tables usually list the average temperature coefficient of expansion between room temperature and values of high temperature; the listed values may therefore be used directly.

The difference between the actual temperature and the temperature at which there is no thermal stress is listed in column 7. In this
case the stress-free condition is at a room temperature of 70°F. Column 7 is therefore obtained by subtracting 70°F from each of the values in Figure 2(b). This column is of great significance in the case involving shrink fits.

The quantities $C_n$ to $M'_n$ are computed for each station as indicated in columns 6 to 34 of Table I. Values in each of these columns can be obtained in one set of operations on a standard computing machine. The method of obtaining the data from the suitable previous columns is indicated at the heading of each column.

Values in columns 33 and 34 must be computed simultaneously. The first value for each of these columns is unity. Subsequent values make use of the previously obtained values in the same columns. Thus, to determine the value for column 33 at station 2, column 27 at station 2 is multiplied by column 33 at station 1, and the product is added to the product of column 28 at station 2 by column 34 at station 1. For example:

$$0.81902 \times 1.0 + 0.18098 \times 1.0 = 1.00000$$

Columns 35 and 36 are likewise computed simultaneously. The first value in each of these columns is zero and each subsequent value is obtained from the previous values in accordance with the symbolic notation given at the head of each column. Thus, to obtain the column 35 at station 2, column 27 at station 2 is multiplied by column 35 at station 1, column 28 at station 2 is multiplied by column 36 at station 1, and the two products are then added to column 31 at station 2.

$$0.81902 \times 0 + 0.18098 \times 0 - 67.192 = -67.192$$

Column 37 is uniform for all stations and is obtained from the expression

$$\frac{C_{r,b} - (36)_b}{(33)_b}$$

where $C_{r,b}$ is the bucket loading at the rim. The bucket loading is obtained by dividing the total centrifugal force at the root of the buckets by the total rim peripheral area. In this problem $C_{r,b}$ is 8500 pounds per square inch, column 37 is therefore,

$$\frac{8500 - (-72,696)}{1.63765} = 42,008 \text{ pounds per square inch}$$
Columns 38 and 39 give the radial and tangential stresses at each of the stations. As indicated in table 1 they are obtained by routine multiplications and additions of columns 31 to 37.

The radial and tangential stresses from columns 38 and 39 are plotted in figure 3. The stresses at the center of the disk are taken equal to those at station a, which is one-half inch removed from the center.

Because the method presented is the only one known to the author that takes into account point-to-point variation in Poisson's ratio, the error involved in the assumption of a constant value of this quantity as compared with the rigorous treatment of its point-to-point variations is valuable to determine. The broken-line curves in figure 3 show calculations for constant values of $\mu = 0.3$ and $\mu = 0.5$ compared with the solid curves, which show the stresses for a continuously variable value of $\mu$ with temperature, as shown in figure 2 and tabulated in column 4 of table 1. The near-coincidence of these curves indicates that the assumption of a constant value of $\mu$ within the range of actual values results in accurate final values of radial and tangential stresses.

The effect that difference in the number of stations has on the accuracy of the results is shown in figure 4. Little accuracy is gained by the use of additional points; as few as six points in this particular case can yield accurate results at a great saving in computing time.

**Case II - Elastic-Stress Distribution in Disk with Central Hole**

A disk with a central hole is studied in a manner similar to the solid disk except that the first station is taken at the inside boundary instead of at an arbitrary small distance as in the solid disk. The choice of stations near the central hole is, however, critical for this case. Stations should be taken also at distances of 1, 2, 3, and 5 percent of the rim diameter from the inside boundary of the disk. In order to illustrate the procedure, the disk of figure 1 is again used but with a central hole 1 inch in diameter, chosen so that station a will be conveniently located in the same place as station a for Case I.

Columns 1 to 32 for the disk of figure 2(a) with the central hole are identical to the corresponding columns of table 1 for the solid
disk. In column 33 the entry for station a is 0 instead of 1 as for the solid disk; otherwise, the procedure for calculating columns 33 to 39 is the same as that of table I. Table II gives the modified columns 33 to 39 that result from changing the single first entry in column 33 and figure 5 shows a plot of the resulting radial and tangential stresses; the curves marked "18 stations" are the stress values for this computation.

The results of supplementary calculations using different numbers of stations (fig. 5) indicate that considerable error can result in the determination of the peak stress at the inner boundary if an insufficient number of stations are chosen near this boundary. A more judicious choice of stations for the 6- and 10-station systems could produce more accurate results than those shown; in the absence of experience in choice of locations, however, it is better to choose a large number of stations and insure accuracy.

A practical procedure used to reduce the amount of calculation necessary to obtain the critical end stresses is to calculate the stress distribution on the basis of a solid disk using a few stations and then to modify the stresses in the immediate vicinity of the central hole by the stress concentration factor characteristically introduced by the hole. A comparison of figures 4 and 5 indicates that, with the exception of the region immediately adjacent to the central hole, the stresses are similar for the cases of the solid disk and of the disk with the central hole; this stress distribution depends very little on the number of stations chosen. By reference 3 (fig. 145), for example, the characteristic stress concentration for a disk with a central hole of which the diameter is one-twentieth of the outside diameter is about 2.0. From calculations based on different numbers of stations the calculated average stress at the center of the solid disk (fig. 4) is 43,000 pounds per square inch. The tangential stress at the inside boundary for the disk with the central hole should therefore be \(2 \times 43,000 = 86,000\) pounds per square inch. The radial stress at a free boundary is, of course, zero. A curve faired between these boundary values and the general curves of figure 4 would coincide very closely with the 27-station result of figure 5.

Case III - Elastic-Stress Distribution in Composite Welded Disks

For some applications turbine wheels must be fabricated by welding parts composed of several materials. The method of analysis
presented is applicable to studies of composite welded disks in which various alternatives of boundary location and shrink interference can be investigated with few changes in the tabulated computations. The procedure is illustrated for a typical application in which the boundary location is constant.

The disk of figure 2(a) is assumed to be made in two parts with the boundary at the 6-inch station. Figure 6 shows the two portions of the disk just before welding. The heat-resisting outer portion is heated to 670° F while the inner portion is maintained at 70° F. (In practice both portions may be heated while maintaining a desired temperature differential.) At this temperature condition an exact fit exists between the mating tips of the two parts. The wedge is then filled with weld metal.

The assumption is made that this temperature differential between the two portions of the disk is maintained throughout the welding process in making the calculations. Any cooling of the outer region prior to the placement of the weld metal would produce a crushing of the mating tips and reduce the effective amount of shrink. Localized effects of the weld metal in producing residual stresses are neglected. The calculations are made as if the high-temperature alloy, having full width at the mating face, is shrunk at 670° F onto the full-width steel central portion. Table III shows the essential tabulations for this case.

In order to insure accuracy a few more stations than were used in tables I and II have been chosen in the vicinity of the boundary. The densities of the two materials are somewhat different. The quantities for $\mu$ and $E$ are the values at the temperatures of figure 2(b). The quantity $\Delta T$ at each station is the difference between the existing temperature and the temperature at which there is zero thermal stress. The temperatures of zero thermal stress occur just before the shrink fit when the outer portion is at 670° F and the inner portion is at 70° F. Therefore, for the outer portion 670° F is subtracted at each station from the temperatures of figure 2(b) and for the inner portion 70° F is subtracted. The value of $\alpha$ at each station must be the average $\alpha$ between the stress-free temperature and the operating temperature. At the rim, for example, an average coefficient of expansion between 670° F and 1270° F must be used. The average temperature coefficient $\alpha_{1-2}$ applicable to the range between any two temperatures $T_1$ and $T_2$ can be found by

$$
\alpha_{1-2} = \frac{\alpha'_{1} T'_2 - \alpha'_{1} T'_1}{(T_2 - T_1)(1 + \alpha'_{1} T'_1)}
$$
where \( \alpha'_{1} \) and \( \alpha'_{2} \) are the average coefficients of thermal expansion between between room temperature and the temperatures \( T_{1} \) and \( T_{2} \), respectively, and \( T'_{1} \) and \( T'_{2} \) are the temperature differences between \( T_{1} \) and \( T_{2} \) and room temperature.

The procedure of calculating table III from column 8 on is similar to that of table I. The final calculated values of stress are shown in figure 6.

Comparison of figures 5 and 6 shows that a shrink fit, unless excessive, can have beneficial effects. The shrink fit reduces the tangential tensile stresses that exist near the central hole under operating conditions and also the tangential compressive stress at the rim. Compressive stresses at the rim can be detrimental. If the elastic compressive stresses exceed the yield strength of the material, plastic flow takes place and a residual tangential tensile stress exists after operation. Because the region of the rim is a stress-concentrated area as a result of the blade attachments, even relatively small residual tensile stress may cause cracks. The shrink fit removes the high tensile stress at the center and the high compressive stress at the rim but introduces a high tensile stress at the boundary of the two fitted regions. The boundary is at a lower running temperature and has no stress-concentrating effects of the blade attachments.

The optimum amount of shrink, however, is fairly critical. Probably the shrink of the illustrative example is excessive. There is no need to reduce the stresses at the hole and at the rim as much as shown in figure 6 at the expense of such a high stress at the boundary. An additional calculation can readily be made by using a smaller temperature difference of shrinking than assumed in this calculation. Only columns 6, 7, 24, 31, 32, and 35 to 39 are affected by any change, and the redistribution of stress can be calculated very rapidly. Thus, a more suitable shrink fit can readily be found.

Case IV - Check on Adequacy of Method

Checks on the adequacy of the method were obtained by comparing the results of finite-difference calculations to theoretically correct results in several cases where the latter could be obtained. In one case a parallel sided disk was studied. The conditions of operation are shown in figure 7; the circles and squares show the radial and tangential stresses as determined by the finite-difference method, respectively; and the solid lines show the theoretically correct stresses obtained by rigorous solution of equations (1) and (7) for this case in which \( E, \alpha, \) and \( \mu \) are constant. This correlation
is seen to be very good. The maximum deviation occurs at the boundary of the central hole where the difference between the tangential stress as computed by the finite-difference method and the theoretically correct value is about 2 percent. The average deviation between the theoretical and finite-difference stresses throughout the disk is less than one-half percent. Checks on solid disk produced closer agreement, even when a small number of stations were used. A check on a disk of uniform strength produced results differing from the exact solution in the order of one-fourth percent of the theoretical stresses throughout the entire disk.

CONCLUSIONS

The finite-difference method of calculating stresses in rotating disks has been applied extensively to various types of turbine disks under different conditions of constant temperature or with a temperature gradient. The procedure was found to be convenient and rapid. Where checks were available, the results showed a high degree of accuracy.

Flight Propulsion Research Laboratory,
National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics,
Cleveland, Ohio, February 27, 1947.

REFERENCES


### Table 1 - Calculation of Stresses

| Engine speed, 5,150 rpm; operating at center; average radial stress |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a          | rₐ   | b₂   | pₐ   | n   | rₐ² | 4₁ₐ₀₀₀₀⁰₀₀ | 5ₐ₁ₐ₀₀₀₀₀₀ | 6ₐ₂₀₀₀₀₀₀ | 7ₐ₃₀₀₀₀₀₀ | 8ₐ₄₀₀₀₀₀₀ | 9ₐ₅₀₀₀₀₀₀ | 10ₐ₆₀₀₀₀₀₀ | 11ₐ₇₀₀₀₀₀₀ | 12ₐ₈₀₀₀₀₀₀ | 13ₐ₉₀₀₀₀₀₀ |
| 0.500   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 2.1707 | 3.0625 | 2.2734 | 2.7444 | 3.4724 | 1.7187 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 0.750   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 2.7444 | 3.0625 | 2.2734 | 2.7444 | 3.4724 | 1.7187 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 1.000   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 3.4724 | 3.0625 | 2.2734 | 2.7444 | 3.4724 | 1.7187 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 1.250   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 4.1906 | 3.0625 | 2.2734 | 2.7444 | 3.4724 | 1.7187 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 1.500   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 4.9099 | 3.0625 | 2.2734 | 2.7444 | 3.4724 | 1.7187 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 1.750   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 5.6292 | 3.0625 | 2.2734 | 2.7444 | 3.4724 | 1.7187 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 2.000   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 6.3484 | 3.0625 | 2.2734 | 2.7444 | 3.4724 | 1.7187 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 2.500   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 1.7187 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 3.000   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 2.4183 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 3.500   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 3.0625 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 4.000   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 3.4724 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 4.500   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 3.8259 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 5.000   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 4.1906 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 5.500   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 4.5554 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 6.000   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 4.9099 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 6.500   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 5.2644 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 7.000   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 5.6292 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 7.500   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 5.9838 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 8.000   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 6.3484 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 8.500   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 6.7039 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 9.000   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 7.0595 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 9.500   | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 7.4150 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |
| 10.000  | 4.375 | 0.333 | 23.5×10⁻⁶ | 9.148×10⁻⁶ | 600 | 7.7549 | 2.7288 | 4.4975 | 2.7493 |

### Notes
- **Center of Pressure**: At each radius, the average radial stress is determined by dividing the average pressure by the radius.
- **Engine Speed**: 5,150 rpm.
- **Operating Conditions**: At center; average radial stress.
- **Stress Calculation**: The stresses are calculated using the formula:
  \[ \sigma = \frac{P}{A} \]
  where \( P \) is the pressure and \( A \) is the area.
- **Table Format**: The table is organized with columns for radius, pressure, and average radial stress.

### Additional Data
- **Average Radial Stress**: The average radial stress is calculated for each radius and presented in the last row.
- **Total Stress**: The total stress is the sum of the average radial stresses for all radii.

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**Committee for Aeronautics**

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**National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics**

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**Engine speed, 11,500 rpm; operating at center; average radial stress**

---

**Center of Pressure**: At each radius, the average radial stress is determined by dividing the average pressure by the radius.

---

**Engine Speed**: 11,500 rpm.

---

**Operating Conditions**: At center; average radial stress.

---

**Stress Calculation**: The stresses are calculated using the formula:
  \[ \sigma = \frac{P}{A} \]
  where \( P \) is the pressure and \( A \) is the area.

---

**Table Format**: The table is organized with columns for radius, pressure, and average radial stress.

---

**Additional Data**
- **Average Radial Stress**: The average radial stress is calculated for each radius and presented in the last row.
- **Total Stress**: The total stress is the sum of the average radial stresses for all radii.
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**NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS**

**IN DISK WITH NO CENTRAL HOLE**

**temperature, 1270° F at rim, 670° F**

**at rim, corrected 8500 lb sq in.**

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### TABLE II - CALCULATION OF STRESSES IN DISK WITH 1-INCH CENTRAL HOLE

[Engine speed, 11,500 rpm; operating temperature, 1270°F at rim, 670°F at center]

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<th>( n )</th>
<th>( \left(\frac{29}{28}\right) x(25) )</th>
<th>( A_{n}^{*} )</th>
<th>( B_{n}^{*} )</th>
<th>( d_{n}^{*} )</th>
<th>( \sigma_{n}^{*} )</th>
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*\( s_{n}^{*} = \left(\frac{34}{33}\right)x(35) \) for all \( n \)
### TABLE III - CALCULATION OF

**Engine speed, 11,500 rpm; operating at center; shrinking condition, 66°F for**

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<td>2.061x10^-6</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>2.187</td>
<td>0.029</td>
<td>0.27344</td>
<td>0.27344</td>
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<td>96.97</td>
<td>0.344</td>
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### STRESSES IN SHRUNK DISK

temperature, $1200^\circ$ F at rim, $700^\circ$ F in portion, $300^\circ$ F for central portion

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### NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS

### STRESSK
(a) Location of point stations.

(b) Value of typical function midway between point stations n and n-1.

Figure 1. - Sketches used to derive finite-difference equations for stresses in symmetrical rotating disk.
Figure 2. - Disk profile, temperature distribution, and variation of physical properties of disk material as function of radius, for illustrative problems.
Figure 3. — Stress distribution in solid disk of figure 2 computed with constant and with variable values of Poisson’s ratio.
Figure 4. Effect on calculated stress distribution in disk of figure 2 of various numbers of stations.
Figure 5. - Effect on calculated stress distribution in disk of figure 2 with central hole of various numbers of stations. (Location of stations shown on fig. 4.)
Figure 6. - Stresses at running conditions of speed and temperature in composite welded disk. Temperature of operating rim section during welding, 670°F; temperature of central section, 70°F.
Figure 7. - Comparison between theoretical and finite-difference solution stresses in parallel-sided disk of 20-inch diameter rotating at 10,000 rpm with temperature gradient that varies as fourth power of radius from 600°F at center to 1200°F at rim. $E = 30 \times 10^6$ pounds per square inch; $\alpha = 8 \times 10^{-6}$ (inches per inch) per °F; $\mu = 0.3$. 

- Radial stress by finite-difference method
- Tangential stress by finite-difference method
- Theoretical solution