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Transient mixed non-Newtonian thermo-elastohydrodynamics of vehicle differential hypoid gears with starved partial counter-flow inlet boundary

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Abstract

The paper presents solutions for transient mixed thermo-elastohydrodynamics of meshing differential hypoid gears of a vehicle under low speed urban driving and high speed cruising. Realistic gear meshing conditions, such as contact load including inertial effects are used, in line with engine power torque and wheel traction. This constitutes simultaneous solution of gear pair dynamics, non-Newtonian elastohydrodynamics as well as vehicle longitudinal inertial dynamics, an approach not hitherto reported in literature. The important link between contact tribology and vehicle gearing dynamics is highlighted. It is also shown that gear teeth pairs are subjected to a starved inlet boundary condition, represented by realistic inlet flow analysis. These conditions lead to the formation of a thin lubricant film with non-Newtonian shear and with modest boundary interactions.

Keywords: *vehicle differential, hypoid gears, dynamic transmission error, elastohydrodynamic lubrication, zero reverse flow inlet boundary, starvation, non-Newtonian shear*

Introduction

Improved transmission efficiency is a key design target for differential hypoid gears. This depends mainly on the operating temperature and contact conditions of pairs of meshing teeth of the pinion and the ring gear under realistic vehicle running conditions. The important objective is to ascertain the parasitic frictional losses. Additionally, powertrain Noise, Vibration and Harshness (NVH) refinement is increasingly another important area of concern, often represented by the dynamic transmission error. Therefore, a tribo-dynamic analysis is required to take into account the interactions between system dynamics (gearing and vehicle tractive condition) and contact mechanics of meshing pairs [1].

Various research workers have investigated the dynamics of non-parallel axes gears, such as hypoid and bevel gears [2-5]. Elastohydrodynamic regime of lubrication is prevalent in hypoid gear pairs. Some recent analyses include those reported by Mohammadpour et al [6,

7]. Due to the complexity of gear geometry, data required for elastohydrodynamic analysis should be obtained using Tooth Contact Analysis (TCA) [8]. However, quasi-static analyses described in many contributions, including in [6, 7], neglect the gear dynamic behaviour, as well as realistic inertial loading emanating from vehicle tractive motion. Recently the effects of elastohydrodynamic contact condition on the dynamics of geared systems have been studied by Li and Kahraman [9-11]. Their results for both dynamically and quasi-statically loaded high speed spur gears showed the importance of dynamic loading on the lubrication of geared systems. They incorporated the shear stress distribution along the contact surface to formulate the viscous damping effect of the gear meshing process.

In the case of quasi-static analysis, the effect of inertial dynamics is ignored, which is as the result of vehicle motion, including aerodynamic loading and tyre-road traction. Furthermore, often the transient contact behaviour is not retained. These play an important role in the linkage between the inertial dynamics and contact conditions, such as generated friction and vibration. Additionally, contact stiffness and damping are functions of the regime of lubrication. The effective contact stiffness is as the result of a combination of presence of a lubricant film and any elastic deformation of adjacent elastic contacting solid boundaries [12, 13]. Since these stiffness contributions may be regarded as acting in series, then the effective contact stiffness is the addition of their reciprocals. Hence, the effective stiffness is dominated by the lower of the two contributions. For light-to-moderately loaded conjunctions the stiffness of the lubricant film is dominant, such as under hydrodynamic conditions, where the lubricant is still compressible. One example of NVH with dominant lubricant stiffness is transmission rattle [14, 15]. However, in highly loaded concentrated contacts such as meshing of hypoid gears, the regime of lubrication is often elastohydrodynamic with incompressible state of the lubricant. Thus, the stiffness of the elastic solid boundaries is the prevailing contribution to the effective contact stiffness (this is often very closely approximated by the Hertzian condition, especially with thin films, often subjected to non-Newtonian shear). The amorphous nature of the lubricant under the elastohydrodynamic regime of lubrication presents insignificant damping even with squeeze film motion [16, 17]. Any attenuation due to lubricant action is achieved through friction acting as an energy sink (as also noted in 9-11). There can also be some hysteretic material damping from localised deflection of the contiguous surfaces [18].

A difficulty in combining system dynamics with elastohydrodynamic analysis of a number of simultaneous meshing teeth pairs is the required computation time for the latter in each integration step of the former. This problem was first overcome for the case of tribo-dynamic analysis of an entire ball bearing by Rahnejat and Gohar [19], using extrapolated oil film thickness formulae, regressed from a large number of elastohydrodynamic analyses for given contact configurations and operating conditions. The approach enables simulation of even more complex tribo-dynamic problems, for instance for the entire transmission systems, with the predictions showing good conformance with the full transient solution of elastohydrodynamic contacts [20]. The potential drawbacks are conditions which may emerge, resulting in extrapolation beyond the range of values employed in the derivation of the original oil film thickness equation. Furthermore, these formulae often embody certain

assumptions, which underlie the original numerical simulations, such as an assumed fully flooded inlet boundary or pure Newtonian shear of the lubricant.

The contact footprint for a pair of hypoid gear teeth is elliptical of long aspect ratio with the lubricant entrainment flow taking place often at an angle to its minor axis. This means that significant side leakage flow can occur which affects the lubricant film thickness. Thorp and Gohar [21] studied the contact footprint and film formation for rolling and sliding elliptical contacts using optical interferometry. Numerical analysis for the same conditions by Jalali-Vahid et al [22] agreed well with the experimental work in [21] for light to moderate loads, showing angled lubricant flow entrainment into the contact. For such conditions, Chittenden et al [23] provided an extrapolated oil film thickness formula which can be used in a tribodynamic analysis. For the case of hypoid gear pairs, high contact loads and entrainment speed can lead to very thin films subjected to non-Newtonian shear. The thinness of the film is often exacerbated by a starved inlet condition, which has been adjusted by Mohammadpour et al [6] using demarcation boundaries obtained by Hamrock and Dowson [24]. However, more realistic inlet boundary conditions must be established based on potential flow analysis with some proportion of reversing flow at the inlet. This approach was first highlighted by Tipei [25] and recently confirmed by numerical predictions and experimental measurements [26]. It transpires that such a fundamental analysis of inlet flow suggests Swift-Stieber boundary condition rather than one which may be derived through numerical predictions or experimental observations alone. The predictions of the lubricant film thickness should also be corrected when non-Newtonian conditions are encountered [2, 3, 27].

This paper integrates gear pair and vehicle longitudinal dynamics with mixed-thermo-elastohydrodynamic contact model of meshing teeth pairs of vehicular differential hypoid gears, an approach not hitherto reported in literature. The non-Newtonian and thermal lubricant shear characteristics as well as asperity interactions under transient dynamic conditions are also taken into account.

A realistic inlet flow entrainment into the teeth pair contact is employed, using potential flow with some reverse counter-flow, as well as non-Newtonian shear characteristics for thin elastohydrodynamic films, based on those reported by Evans and Johnson [28]. According to [29] the effect of generated heat on the film thickness in highly loaded contacts such as in hypoid gears is fairly insignificant. However, thermal effects significantly affect the shear stress and therefore friction characteristics. The current model takes into account the effect of temperature on friction as represented by the formulae in [28], which was obtained using a combined experimental-analytical study of the tractive behaviour of the lubricants under elastohydrodynamic conditions.

The paper demonstrates the inexorable link between system dynamics and tribological performance, which are essential for the evaluation of contact stiffness and damping (both essential for dynamics analysis) and lubricant shear characteristics (important for a tribological analysis), leading to the assessment of parasitic losses. The above represent the main contributions of this paper, as well as the integration of system dynamics and contact

conditions within the same analysis framework.

Tribological Model

Lubricated contact

As described in the Introduction, a suitable extrapolated oil film thickness formula is required to represent the prevailing contact conditions in the meshing of the hypoid gear teeth pairs. For angled flow entrainment to the minor axis of the elliptical contact footprint with lateral side leakage, the formula by Chittenden et al [23] is the most suitable. Therefore, its validity against full numerical solution for the broad range of conditions encountered in the differential hypoid gear pair must be first established.

The form of Reynolds equation for lubricant entrainment at any angle θ to the minor axis of an elliptical contact footprint is given as (Figure 1):

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\frac{\rho h^3}{\eta} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \right] + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[\frac{\rho h^3}{\eta} \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} \right] = 6U \left\{ \cos\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [\rho h] + \sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial y} [\rho h] \right\} \quad (1)$$

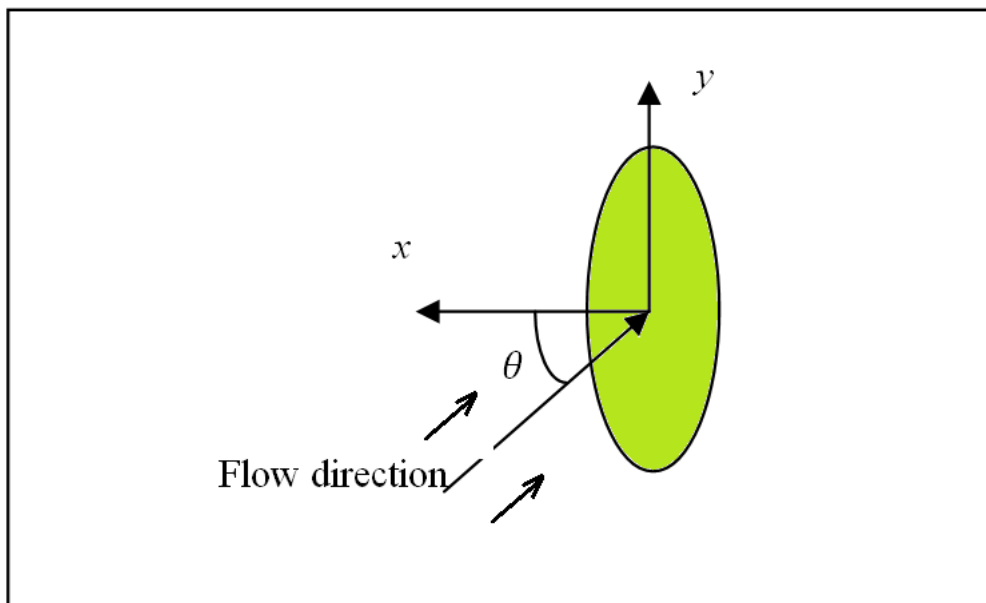


Figure 1: Representation of an elliptical point contact conjunction with angled entrainment flow

Transient effects are included in the analysis through changes in dynamic loads, contact kinematics (rolling and sliding surfaces) and the geometry of contact such as the radii of curvature of mating surfaces. The difference between a quasi-static (usually reported) and dynamic flank loads is shown in the Eesults and discussion section. The form of Reynolds equation (1) omits the effect of squeeze film which occurs as the result of approach and

separation of gear teeth pairs through mesh. This is a transient effect which often increases the load carrying capacity of the contact as noted by Gohar and Rahnejat [12].

In practice, a non-dimensional form of Reynolds equation is used in finite difference form for the solution of the problem. This non-dimensional form is provided in Appendix A1. The discretised form of the equation using finite differences is also provided there. Central differences are used for the discretisation of the Poiseuille flow terms on the left hand side of the Reynolds equation. Forward, backward and/or central discretization can be used for the right hand side terms; the Couette flow terms.

The film thickness at any spatial location within the contact domain is given by:

$$h(x, y) = h_{c0} + s(x, y) + \delta(x, y) \quad (2)$$

where, the undeformed parabolic conjunctural profile is: $s(x, y) = \frac{x^2}{2R_{zx}} + \frac{y^2}{2R_{zy}}$

R_{zx} and R_{zy} are the equivalent radii of contact of an ellipsoidal solid against a semi-infinite elastic half-space, representing the instantaneous contact of any pinion to gear wheel teeth pair in the planes zx (along the minor axis of the contact ellipse) and zy (along its major axis, figure 2):

$$\frac{1}{R_{zx}} = \frac{1}{r_p} + \frac{1}{r_w} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{R_{zy}} = \frac{1}{R_w} - \frac{1}{R_p} \quad (3)$$

The instantaneous radii of pinion and gear teeth are determined through TCA [5].

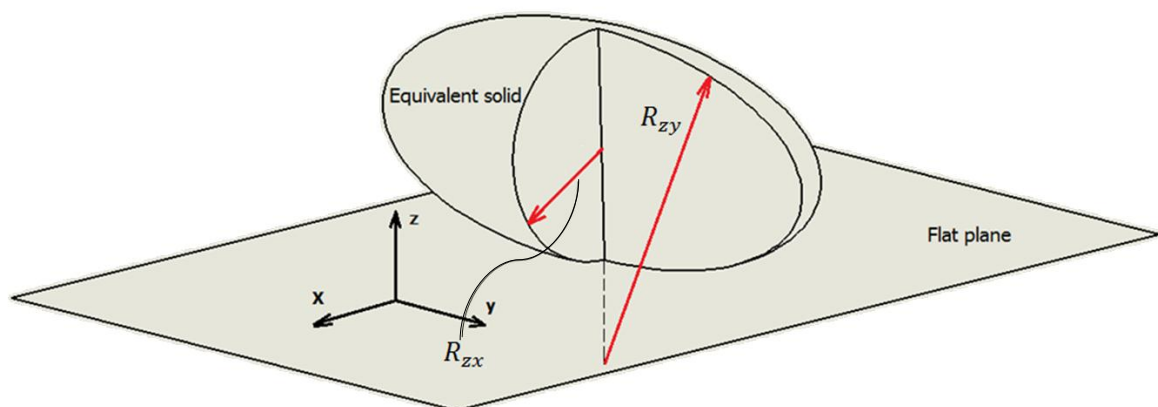


Figure 2: Contact Geometry of the equivalent ellipsoidal solid

The localised contact deflection $\delta(x, y)$ is obtained using the elasticity potential integral:

$$\delta(x, y) = \frac{1}{E_r} \iint_A \frac{p(x_1, y_1) dx_1 dy_1}{\sqrt{(x-x_1)^2 + (y-y_1)^2}} \quad (4)$$

where, (x, y) represents a point where deflection of the semi-infinite elastic half-space of reduced elastic modulus E_r is calculated due to any arbitrary applied pressure distribution $p(x_1, y_1)$.

To obtain a solution to the EHL problem, comprising equations (1)-(4), the lubricant rheological state is required.

Lubricant Rheology

For piezo-viscous lubricant behaviour [30]:

$$\eta = \eta_0 \exp\left\{\left[(\ln \eta_0 + 9.67) \times (1 + 5.1 \times 10^{-9} p)^Z\right] - [\ln \eta_0 + 9.67]\right\} \quad (5)$$

where:

$$Z = \frac{\alpha c_p}{(\ln \eta_0 + 9.67)} = \frac{\alpha}{5.1 \times 10^{-9} (\ln \eta_0 + 9.67)}, \text{ as } c_p = 1.96 \text{ MPa}$$

For lubricant density [31]:

$$\rho = \rho_0 \left(1 + \frac{0.6 \times 10^{-9} p}{1 + 1.7 \times 10^{-9} p}\right) \quad (6)$$

Boundary Conditions

It is usual to assume a fully flooded inlet in the numerical analysis of elastohydrodynamic lubrication problems, thus:

$$x \rightarrow -\infty, p \rightarrow 0 \text{ and } y \rightarrow -\infty, p \rightarrow 0 \quad (7)$$

In numerical analyses a distance of 4-5 times the contact footprint semi-half-width is usually chosen in the direction of entraining motion to represent fully flooded conditions [32]. The inlet distance changes with load in both contact directions, x and y : $m = x/b'$ or y/a' .

The outlet boundary conditions usually employed are that of Swift-Stieber:

$$p = \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} = 0 \text{ at } x = x_c \text{ and } p = \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} = 0 \text{ at } y = y_c \quad (8)$$

where the film rupture positions, x_c and y_c are obtained numerically by discarding the negatively generated pressures.

Simultaneous solution of equations (1), (2), (4)-(6) using the inlet and outlet boundary conditions (7) and (8) yields the unknowns; p , h , δ , η and ρ . The Reynolds equation is discretised using finite differences and the solution is obtained using effective influence low relaxation Newton-Raphson method with Gauss-Seidel iterations [33].

Verification of Extrapolated oil film thickness Formula

The validity of the oil film thickness formula presented by Chittenden et al [23], obtained with a series of operating conditions under isothermal analysis, is ascertained against the full numerical solution for the contact conditions usually encountered in hypoid gear pairs:

$$h_{c0}^* = 4.31U^{*0.68}G^{*0.49}W^{*0.073} \left\{ 1 - \exp \left[-1.23 \left(\frac{R_s}{R_e} \right)^{2/3} \right] \right\} \quad (9)$$

where, the prevailing contact conditions are embodied in non-dimensional load, rolling viscosity and materials' parameters:

$$W^* = \frac{\pi W}{2E_r R_e^2} \quad U^* = \frac{\pi \eta_0 U}{4E_r R_e} \quad G^* = \frac{2}{\pi} (E_r \alpha) \quad \text{and} \quad h^* = \frac{h}{R_e}$$

and:

$$\frac{1}{R_e} = \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{R_{zx}} + \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{R_{zy}}, \quad \frac{1}{R_s} = \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{R_{zx}} + \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{R_{zy}}$$

Tables A1-A3 in Appendix A2 provide the vehicle, differential gearing and lubricant parameters. Two different vehicle speeds, one at 20 Km/h (crawling in congested traffic) and the other at 120 Km/h (highway cruising) are used to ascertain the validity of Chittenden's extrapolated oil film thickness equation against full numerical analysis, both with assumed fully flooded inlet conditions. Figure 3 shows the percentage difference in central lubricant film thickness between the full Reynolds solution and the extrapolated equation. The extrapolated film thickness equation predicts a film thickness on average 17% higher than the full numerical solution. The main reason for this is that Chittenden et al [23] film thickness

formula is regressed for elliptical point contacts with an aspect ratio below 3, whereas the hypoid gear pair contact footprint has an aspect ratio around 7-10 most of the time during the meshing cycle. Furthermore, the validity of Chittenden's equation reduces with an increasing contact load for the cases investigated here. The discrepancy is however quite acceptable, particularly that the use of the equation instead of the full solution makes for acceptable computation times as already described above.

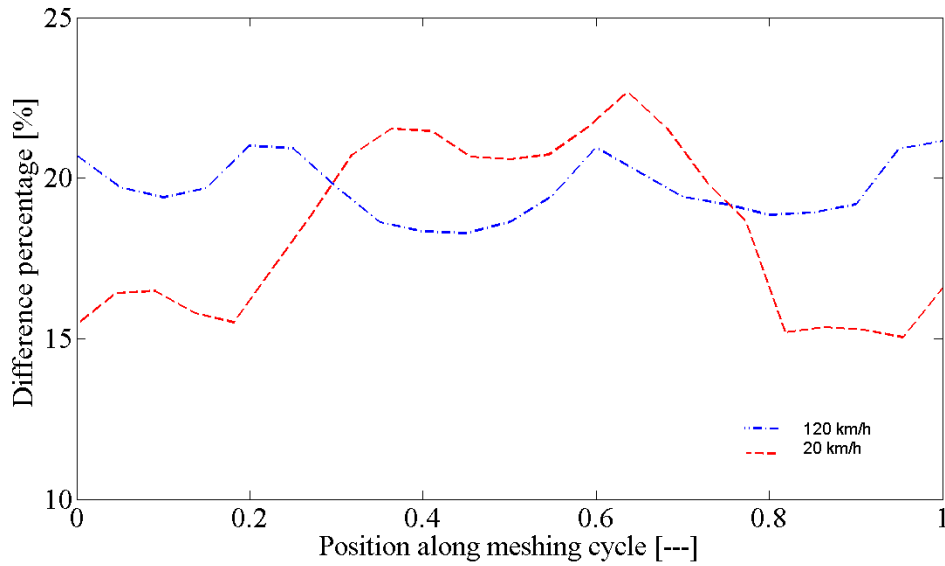


Figure 3: Percentage difference between full EHL solution and Chittenden et al [23] extrapolated oil film thickness equation

Mixed regime of lubrication

For boundary friction calculations, the Greenwood and Tripp [34] method is used. The method assumes Gaussian distribution of asperities. A proportion of load is carried by the asperities on the opposing contacting surfaces, when mixed or boundary regimes of lubrication are encountered, based on the Stribeck's oil film parameter: $\lambda = \frac{h_{c0}}{\sigma} \leq 3$, where σ is the root mean square composite surface roughness. Usually, a very small proportion of load is carried by the asperities protruding through an insufficiently thick film. The elastohydrodynamic load carrying capacity is:

$$W_h = \iint_A p dx dy \quad (10)$$

The share of contact load carried by the asperities is [34]:

$$W_a = \frac{16\sqrt{2}}{15} \pi (\xi\beta\sigma)^2 \sqrt{\frac{\sigma}{\beta}} E' A F_{5/2}(\lambda) \quad (11)$$

where, the statistical function $F_{5/2}(\lambda)$ for a Gaussian distribution of asperities becomes [1]:

$$F_{5/2}(\lambda) = \begin{cases} -0.004\lambda^5 + 0.057\lambda^4 - 0.296\lambda^3 + 0.784\lambda^2 - 1.078\lambda + 0.617; & \text{for } \lambda \leq 3 \\ 0 & ; \text{ for } \lambda > 3 \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

Usually the roughness parameter ($\xi\beta\sigma$) is in the range 0.03-0.07 for steel surfaces. The ratio σ/β is a representation of the average asperity slope, which is in the range 10^{-4} - 10^{-2} [35]. In the current study it is assumed that $\xi\beta\sigma = 0.055$ and $\sigma/\beta = 10^{-3}$.

Therefore, the total contact reaction becomes:

$$W = W_h + W_a \quad (13)$$

In mixed or boundary regimes of lubrication, asperity friction should be taken into account. There is a thin adsorbed film at the summit of asperities or entrapped in their contact. This thin adsorbed film is subjected to non-Newtonian shear, thus [35]:

$$f_b = \tau_L A_a \quad (14)$$

where, τ_L is the lubricant's limiting shear stress [36]:

$$\tau_L = \tau_0 + \varepsilon P_m \quad (15)$$

where, $P_m = \frac{W_a}{A_a}$.

The asperity contact area is obtained as [34]:

$$A_a = \pi^2 (\xi\beta\sigma)^2 A F_2(\lambda) \quad (16)$$

The statistical function $F_2(\lambda)$ employed in the equation above is expressed as follows [35]:

$$F_2(\lambda) = \begin{cases} -0.002\lambda^5 + 0.028\lambda^4 - 0.173\lambda^3 + 0.526\lambda^2 - 0.804\lambda + 0.500; & \text{for } \lambda \leq 3 \\ 0 & ; \text{ for } \lambda > 3 \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

Thin elastohydrodynamic films in the meshing teeth pairs of gears at high load are often subjected to non-Newtonian shear behaviour. Evans and Johnson [28] reported an analytical-experimental expression for viscous friction under these conditions, taking into account the effect of heat generated in the contact as:

$$f_v = W_h \left(0.87\alpha\tau_0 + 1.74 \frac{\tau_0}{\bar{p}} \ln \left(\frac{1.2}{\tau_0 h_{c0}} \left(\frac{2K\eta_0}{1+9.6\zeta} \right)^{1/2} \right) \right) \quad (18)$$

where:

$$\zeta = \frac{4}{\pi} \frac{\dot{K}}{h_{c0}/R_{zx}} \left(\frac{\bar{p}}{E' R_{zx} K' \rho' c' U} \right)^{1/2} \quad (19)$$

Therefore, the total friction becomes:

$$f = f_v + f_b \quad (20)$$

Starved contacts and inlet boundary condition

The results presented in figure 3 correspond to an assumed fully flooded inlet. However, realistic inlet boundary conditions should be used in the analysis. The results of both the numerical analysis and those predicted by Chittenden's extrapolated oil film thickness formula should, therefore, be adjusted for this purpose. One approach is to determine a demarcation boundary ahead of the contact inlet where a fully flooded inlet may be assumed. A starvation boundary parameter was defined through numerical analysis by Hamrock and Dowson [24] and experimentally through optical interferometric studies by Wedeven et al [38]. These were defined as:

$$\text{Hamrock and Dowson [24]: } m^* = 1 + 3.06 \left[\left(\frac{R}{\gamma} \right)^2 h_{c0} \right]^{0.58} \quad (21)$$

$$\text{Wedeven et al [38]: } m^* = 1 + 3.52 \left[\left(\frac{R}{\gamma} \right)^2 h_{c0} \right]^{2/3} \quad (22)$$

where, for the flow component along the minor axis: $R = R_{zx}$, $\gamma = b'$, and for that along the major axis: $R = R_{zy}$, $\gamma = a'$. The actual inlet distance, m , is obtained according to a calculated inlet boundary condition (see later). If $m < m^*$, then the central film thickness should be adjusted in order to take into account the effect of starvation as [24]:

$$\left(\frac{h_{c0,S}}{h_{c0,F}}\right) = \left(\frac{m-1}{m^*-1}\right)^{0.29} \quad (23)$$

Inlet boundary condition

Tipei [25] found that in the inlet zone there are swirl flows, where some reverse flow (counter flow) occurs. This is also noted in experimental observations by Birkhoff and Hays [38]. It means that only a fraction of the inlet lubricant flow is admitted into the contact domain. This is another reason for starvation. The physical inlet, m is the distance to the centre of the contact footprint from the centre of the counter flow region (the point of zero reverse flow). Comparing this inlet distance with the starvation boundary in either equations (21) and (22) determines the extent of contact starvation.

Tipei's method is based on the potential flows in the inlet region (Q_1, Q_2, Q_3) in figure 4.

Applying the compatibility condition yields [25]:

$$\begin{aligned} \cot^2\pi \left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1-k}{f(k)} \right] - \cot^2\pi \sqrt{\left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1-k}{f(k)} \right]^2 - \frac{2k}{f(k)}} &= \cot\pi \left\{ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1-k}{f(k)} - \sqrt{\left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1-k}{f(k)} \right]^2 - \frac{2k}{f(k)}} \right\} \times \\ \cot\pi \left\{ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1-k}{f(k)} + \sqrt{\left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1-k}{f(k)} \right]^2 - \frac{2k}{f(k)}} \right\} & \quad (24) \end{aligned}$$

where:

$$k = \frac{U_1}{U_2} \text{ (ratio of surface speeds of the contiguous solids)} \quad (25)$$

and $f(k)$ is a function of the pressure gradient in a converging gap. At the inlet point A in figure 4, $\frac{dp}{d\theta_i} \propto k$. Thus for the aforementioned inlet flow rates (Q_1, Q_2, Q_3) :

$$2(1 + \sqrt{k})^2 \leq f(k) \leq 6(1 + \sqrt{k}) \quad (26)$$

Values of $f(k)$ for some usually encountered cases of k are listed in table 1.

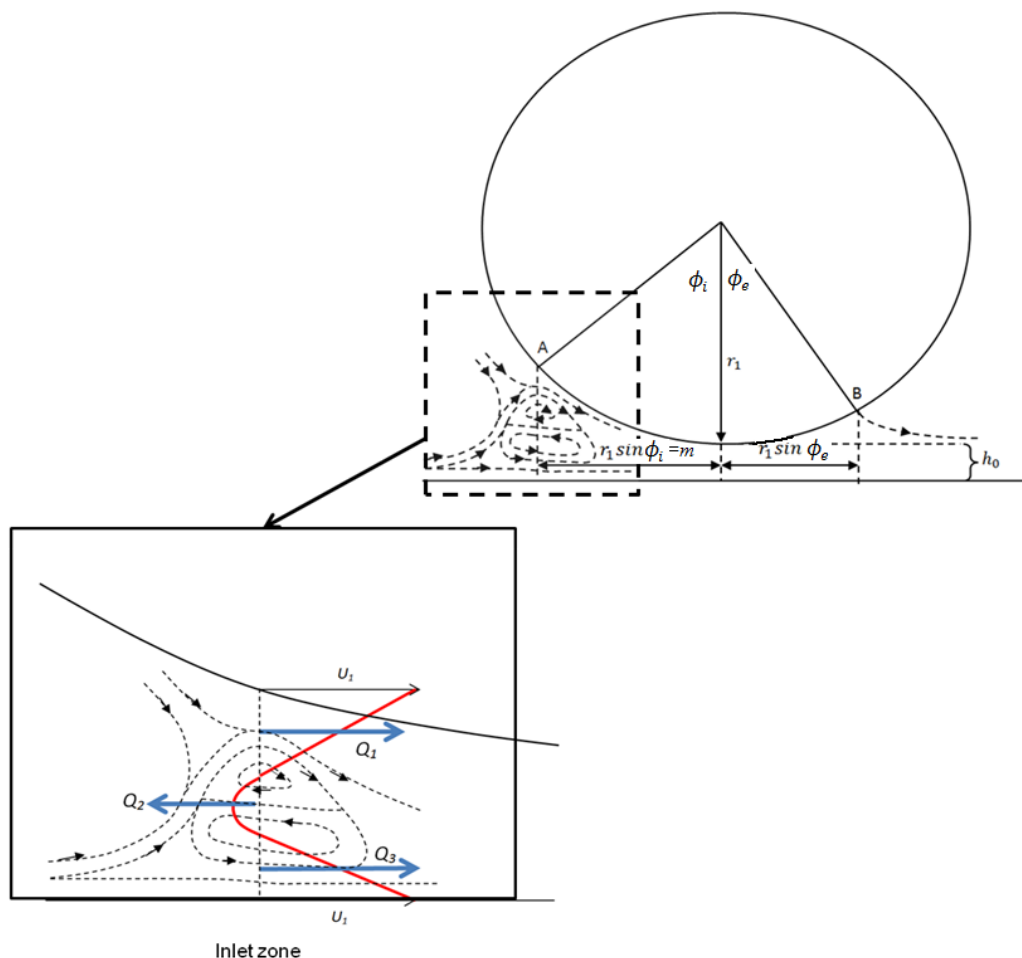


Figure 4: Flow through contact carried by the solid surfaces

Table 1: calculated values for $f(k)$

k	$f(k)$
0	4
0.5	7.8
1	32/2

Prandtl-Hopkins boundary conditions do not allow the observed swirl flow at the inlet [26].

Thus, Tipei [25] used the Swift-Stieber condition at the inlet, hence:

$$\cos\phi_i = -\left[1 - \frac{h_{co}}{R_{zx}}(\cosh\vartheta_i - 1)\right] \quad (27)$$

where the dimensionless term ϑ_i is the ratio of film thickness at the inlet to the minimum film thickness (h_i/h_{c0}). Similarly the ϑ_e can be defined for the exit boundary. These are obtained

as:

$$\frac{\cosh\vartheta_i}{\cosh\vartheta_e} = \frac{1 - \frac{1}{3}\left(1 + \frac{2\sqrt{k}}{1+k}\right)}{1 - \frac{f(k)}{6(1+k)}} \quad (28)$$

and:

$$\begin{aligned} \left[1 - \frac{1}{3}\left(1 + \frac{2\sqrt{k}}{1+k}\right)\right] \tanh\vartheta_e - \left[1 + \frac{f(k)}{6(1+k)}\right] \tanh\vartheta_i \\ - \left[1 - \frac{f(k)}{6(1+k)}\right] \cosh\vartheta_i [\arcsin(\tanh\vartheta_e) - \arcsin(\tanh\vartheta_i)] = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

The physical inlet distance m is thus found from the solution of equations (26)-(29) (see figure 4) as:

$$m = R_{zx} \sin\phi_i \quad (30)$$

Figure 5 shows the zero reverse inlet boundary (the actual inlet distance) m using the above method for a complete typical meshing cycle at vehicle speed of 20 Km/h. The figure also shows the starvation inlet boundary for the same condition. It can be seen that the actual (calculated) inlet is well within the starvation zone.

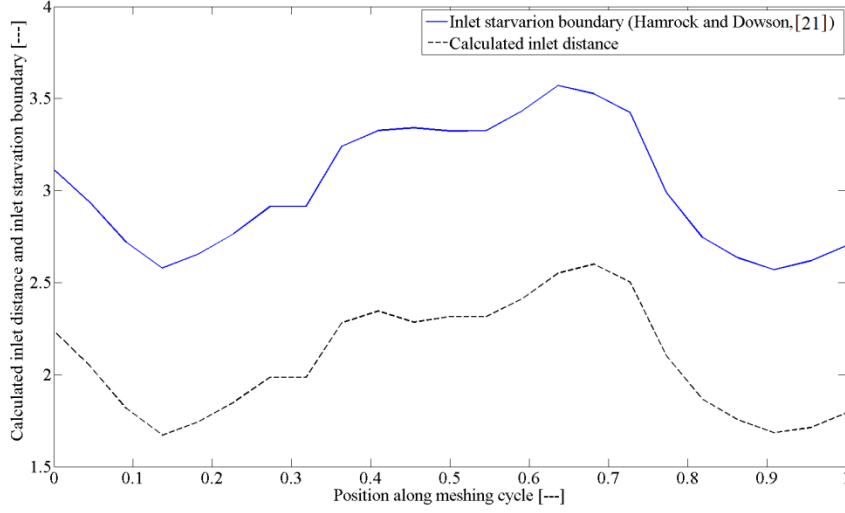


Figure 5: Inlet starvation threshold (m^*) and the calculated inlet distance m at 20 km/h

Gear pair dynamics

The gear dynamic model comprises a two-degrees-of-freedom torsional system. The governing equations of motion are given below, where the indices p and g refer to the pinion and gear respectively. The same methodology has been used and described in detail in [1, 39, 40]. Unlike parallel axes gear pairs, due to the complex geometry of hypoid gears, it is not possible to calculate the meshing stiffness, radii of curvature and contact kinematics using simple approximation methods. Therefore, the meshing stiffness variation with respect to pinion angle $k_m(\varphi_p)$ has been calculated using TCA [6]. A damping ratio of 0.003 has been used for the calculation of the damping coefficient, c_m . This is in line with low fluid film damping noted in [16, 17]. Hence:

$$I_p \ddot{\phi}_p + R_p c_m \dot{X} + R_p k_m(\varphi_p) f(X) = T_p + T_{fr,p} \quad (31)$$

and:

$$I_w \ddot{\phi}_w - R_w c_m \dot{X} - R_w k_m(\varphi_w) f(X) = -T_w + T_{fr,w} \quad (32)$$

The backlash non-linearity is defined as:

$$f(X) = \begin{cases} X - b, & X \geq b \\ 0, & -b < X < b \\ X + b, & X \leq -b \end{cases} \quad (33)$$

where, X denotes the teeth relative displacement along the instantaneous line of approach of a pair of teeth: $X(t) = \int_0^t R_p \dot{\phi}_p dt - \int_0^t R_w \dot{\phi}_w dt - e(t)$

$e(t)$ is the unloaded static transmission error obtained through TCA and expressed as a Fourier function of time [39, 40].

The applied forces and torques to the differential gearing and the vehicle model are obtained as [41]:

$$T_w = r_{wheel} \Sigma F \quad (34)$$

where r_{wheel} is the laden wheel radius and ΣF is the net tractive force. This is obtained by considering the vehicle longitudinal dynamics on a flat terrain as:

$$\Sigma F = R_a + R_{rl} = Ma \quad (35)$$

Under steady vehicle speed V (as is the case in this analysis) $a = 0$, and the resistive components yielding tractive forces acting on the driving wheels are [41]:

$$R_a = \frac{\rho}{2} C_D A_f V^2 \quad (36)$$

$$R_{rl} = f_{rl} W_v \quad (37)$$

Where [41]:

$$f_{rl} = 0.01 \left(1 + \frac{V}{147} \right) \quad (38)$$

The input torque to the differential pinion includes the sinusoidal variation in engine torque (engine order vibration). For a 4-stroke 4-cylinder engine (subject of this analysis), the main engine order vibration is twice the crankshaft speed with a 10% oscillatory contribution [42]:

$$T_p = \frac{R_p}{R_w} T_w \left(1 + 0.1 \cos(2R_t A_p t) \right) \quad (39)$$

where: $\omega = R_t A_p$

The frictional torque in gear teeth meshing is thus obtained as:

$$\begin{cases} T_{fr,p} = R_p f \\ T_{fr,w} = R_w f \end{cases} \quad (40)$$

Results and Discussion

The hypoid gear pair of a commercial vehicle differential with a 4-cylinder 4-stroke diesel engine is considered in the current analysis. The gear data are listed in Table A1 in Appendix A2. Table A2 lists the vehicle data, which provides the resisting torque on the differential ring gear side at any speed. Required rheological data and thermal properties of lubricant are listed in Table A3.

For the tribological analysis, there is a need to determine the dynamic loads per meshing teeth pairs at any instant of time. This is obtained through the solution of dynamics equation of motion (31) and (32) for the gear pair, using all the forces from vehicle longitudinal dynamics as well as from the lubricated contacts. Thus, the link between vehicle dynamics and instantaneous contact conditions is established. The instantaneous solution is obtained through application of Runge-Kutta step-by-step integration in time steps of 10 μ s. The load share per meshing teeth pair is then determined, using [39, 40]:

$$lf = \frac{F_i}{\sum F} \quad (41)$$

where, lf is the ratio of the applied load F_i on a given flank under consideration to the total transmitted load $\sum F$.

Figure 6-a shows the dynamic meshing load per teeth pair for the simulated conditions. This is an essential input from the gear pair dynamics for use in lubricated contact analysis. The quasi-static load is also provided on this figure. There is a significant difference between the dynamic load generated as the result of vehicle tractive motion an inertial gear dynamics and the usually used quasi-static analysis. This difference affects the generated contact pressure distribution and shear stress distribution and consequently changes the viscous shear damping.

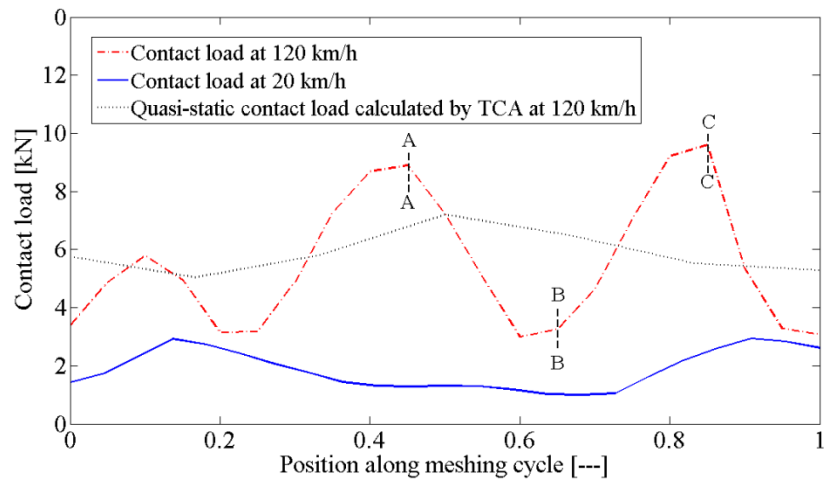
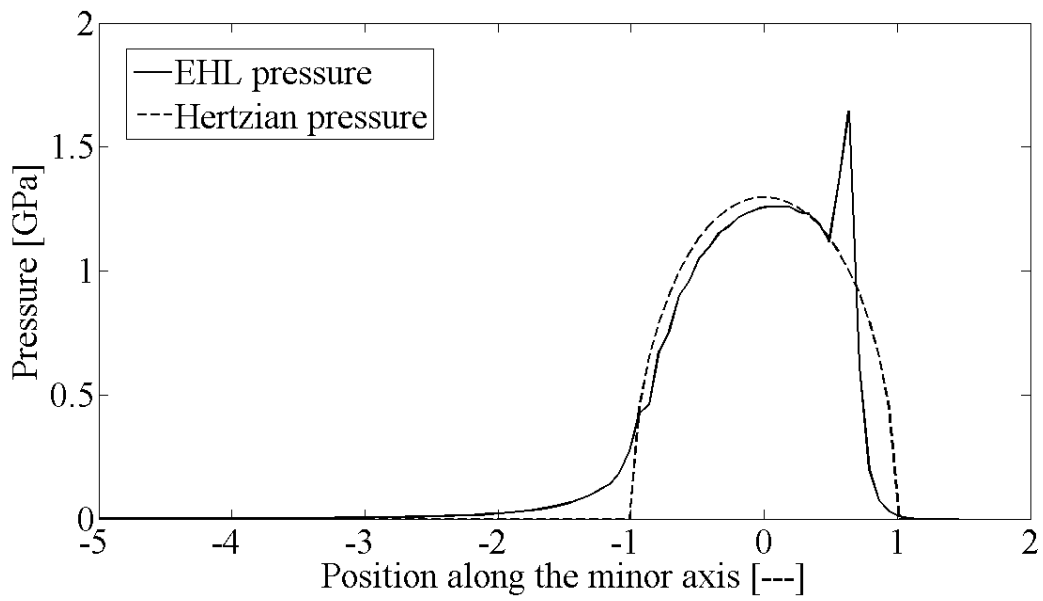
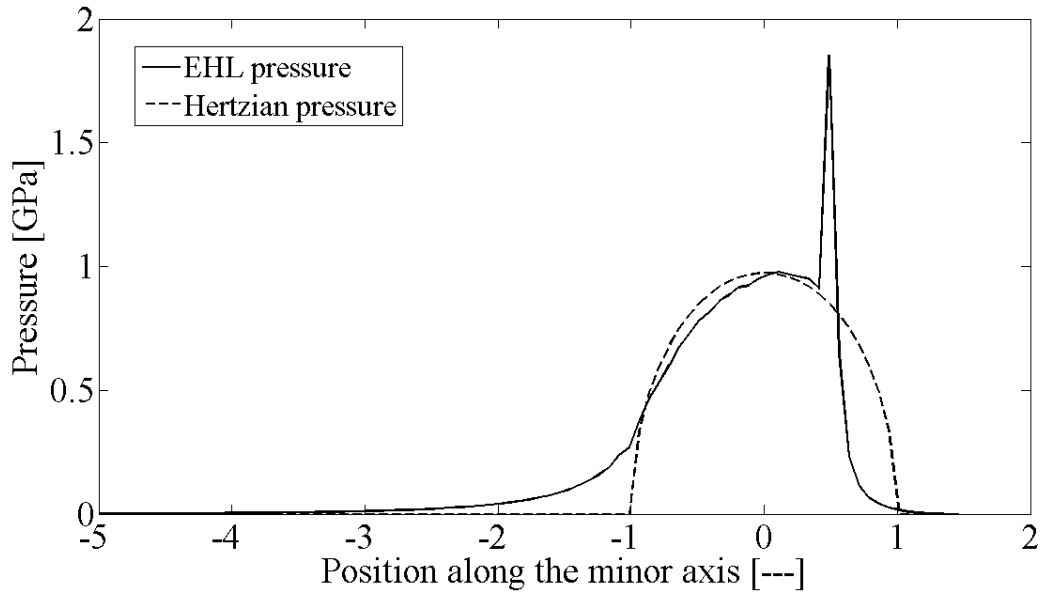


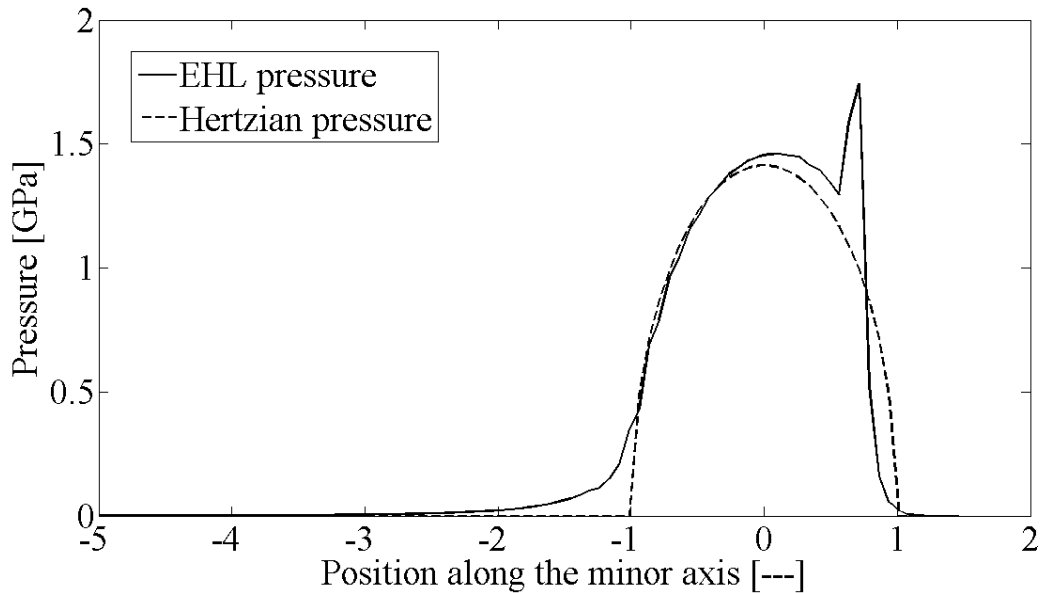
Figure 6-a: Transient contact load for typical meshing teeth pair



Section A-A of Fig. 6-a



Section B-B of fig. 6-a



Section C-C of fig. 6-a

Figure 6-b: Elastohydrodynamic pressure distributions for different sections of figure 6-a.

Figures 6-b shows a series of elastohydrodynamic pressure distributions along the minor axis of the contact ellipse at sections marked in figure 6-a. These results show a significant fluctuations in the generated contact pressures which follow the transient nature of the applied load. The dry Hertzian pressure profile is also shown in each case.

An important point to note is the larger variation in the contact load at higher vehicle speed,

constituting a greater degree of NVH. This can be explained by higher peak-to-peak dynamic transmission error (DTE) values that can lead in greater contact pressure fluctuations and therefore higher induced noise. The DTE time history is shown in figure 7.

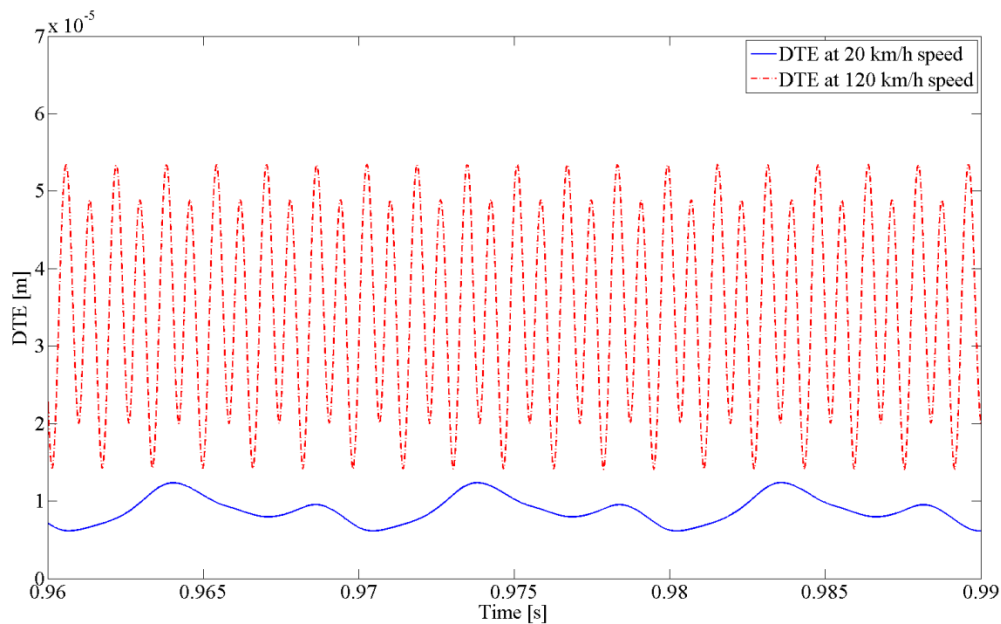


Figure 7: DTE at 20 km/h and 120 km/h.

Figures 8 and 9 illustrate the variation of film thickness during a meshing cycle predicted by numerical analysis using Reynolds equation, as well as by the Chittenden's extrapolated oil film thickness formula at different speeds. In both cases fully flooded inlet conditions are assumed. Additionally, the results obtained using the extrapolated formula adjusted for the physically determined zero-reverse inlet boundary, are also presented. All the curves show the instantaneous film thickness values during a meshing cycle. The abscissa determines the position along the meshing cycle from the start of the meshing of a pair of teeth to the end of mesh, where the teeth separate. Two vehicle speeds are used; one at 20 km/h (figure 8), representing the low speed urban driving condition and the other at 120 km/h (figure 9) which is typical of highway driving. All the necessary data for the analyses are provided in the appendix 2. Both figures show that when the realistic inlet boundary condition is employed the film thickness is consistently thinner than that usually predicted assuming an idealised fully flooded inlet.

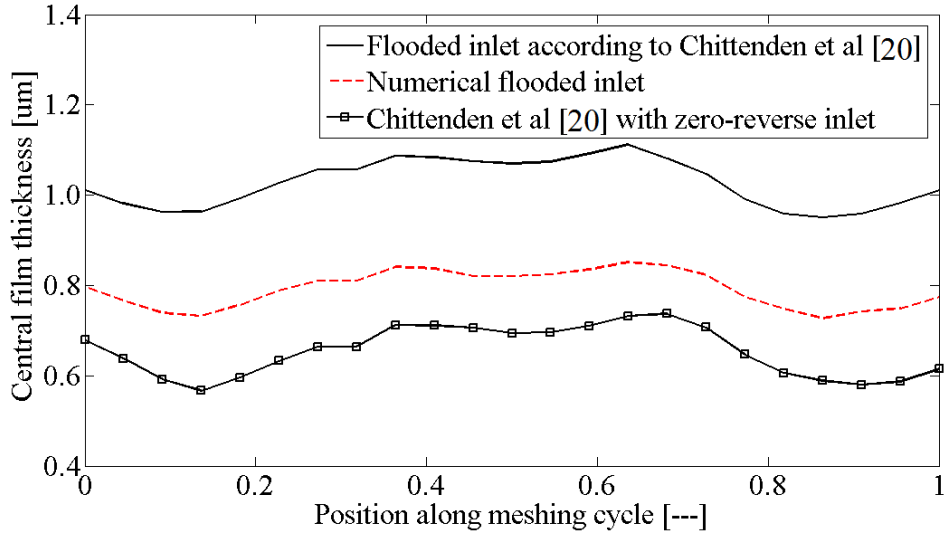


Figure 8: Film thickness values at 20 km/h during one meshing cycle

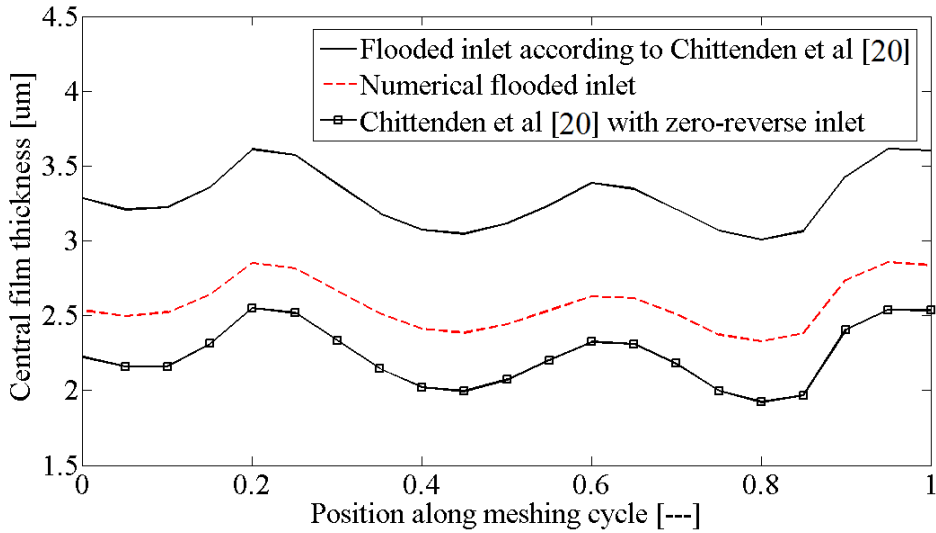


Figure 9: Film thickness values at 120 km/h during one meshing cycle

One of the main concerns in transmission engineering is the generated conjunctional friction. Figure 10 shows the total friction, f , at the vehicle speeds of 20 and 120 km/h. These results are based on the starved lubricant film thickness in figures 8 and 9 and adjustment for non-Newtonian shear, taking into account the effect of contact generated heat as embodied in equation (18). Figure 11 shows the position of one meshing cycle on the traction map provided in [28]. It shows that the lubricant continually undergoes transitions between Newtonian and non-Newtonian traction under the operating conditions.

Friction is greater at the higher vehicle speed, because of an increased rate of lubricant shear, although the film thickness is reduced at the lower speed due to diminished entrainment.

There is, however, a higher chance of boundary friction at the lower vehicle speed. This is corroborated by the results in figure 12. However, it is interesting to note that the contribution of boundary friction to the overall friction is fairly small (around 2%). This is as the result of the fairly smooth honed gear surfaces in the current analysis. Since contact friction is the main source of energy dissipation in the absence of any significant fluid film damping under elastohydrodynamic regime of lubrication [16, 17], the reduced friction constitutes a greater residual excess energy which causes a higher vibratory response, as can be seen in figure 6.

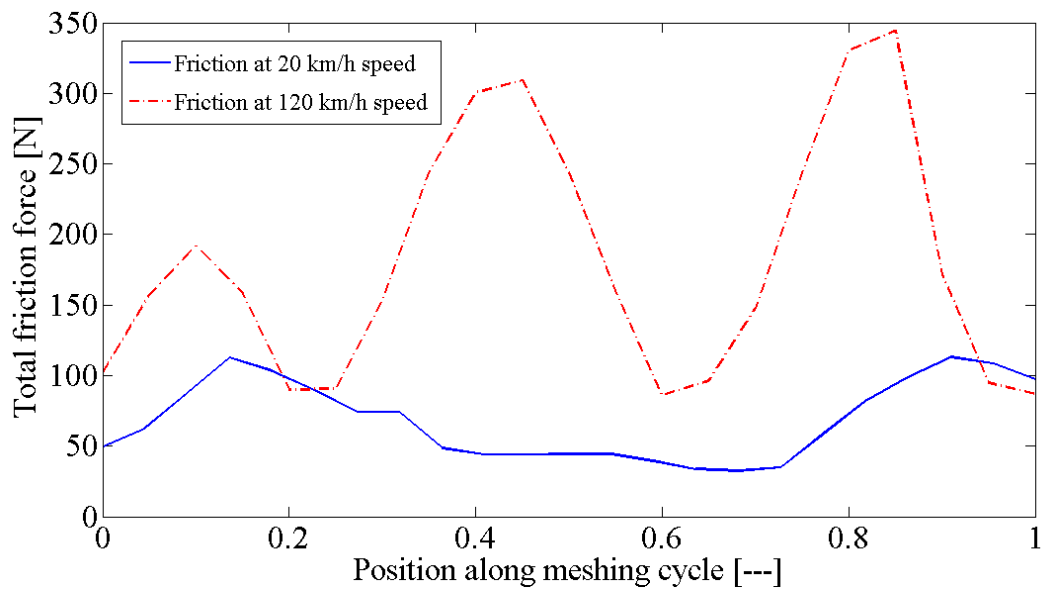


Figure 10: Generated total friction

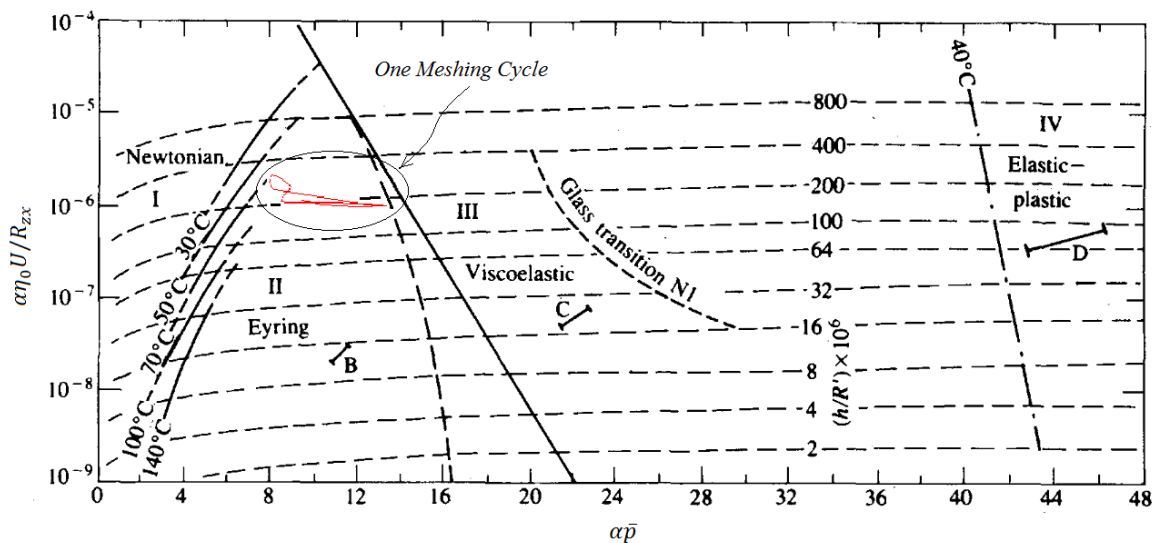


Figure 11: Locus of lubricant tractive behaviour in a meshing cycle at 20 km/h plotted on the traction map of Evans and Johnson [28]

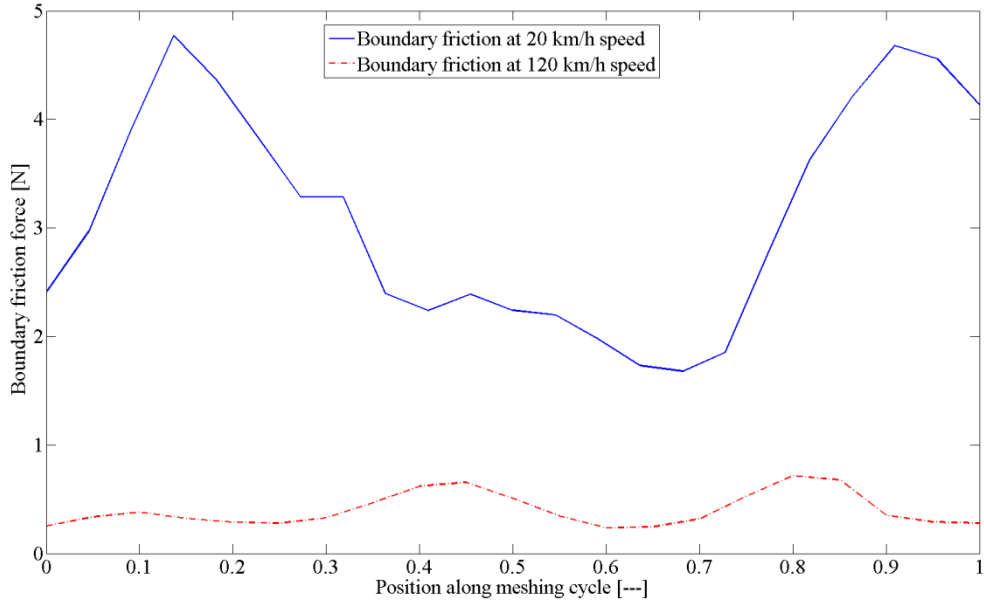


Figure 12: Boundary friction contribution

Figure 13 shows the variation of fuel consumption during a meshing cycle. It shows that the higher speed yields greater fuel consumption due to increased shear. The power loss per meshing teeth is calculated as: $P_{fj} = f_j \Delta u_j$, where Δu_j is the sliding velocity of teeth pair j .

Efficiency is defined as: $\% \text{Efficiency} = \left(\frac{T_p \dot{\phi}_p - \sum_j f_j \Delta u_j}{T_p \dot{\phi}_p} \right) \times 100$. Figure 14 presents the

differential efficiency during the meshing cycle, where j pairs of teeth are in simultaneous mesh. It shows that unlike friction and fuel consumption, there is better efficiency at higher speeds. Note that transmission efficiency is a function of tribo-dynamics (tribology and dynamics) of the system rather than the usually presumed purely tribological attribute.

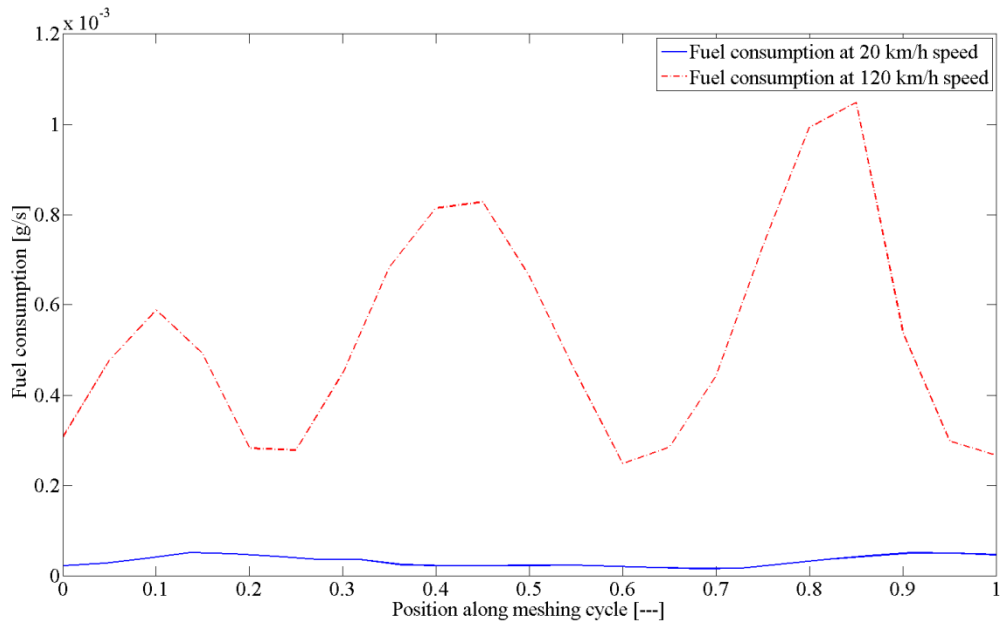


Figure 13.: Fuel consumption during meshing cycle at different speeds

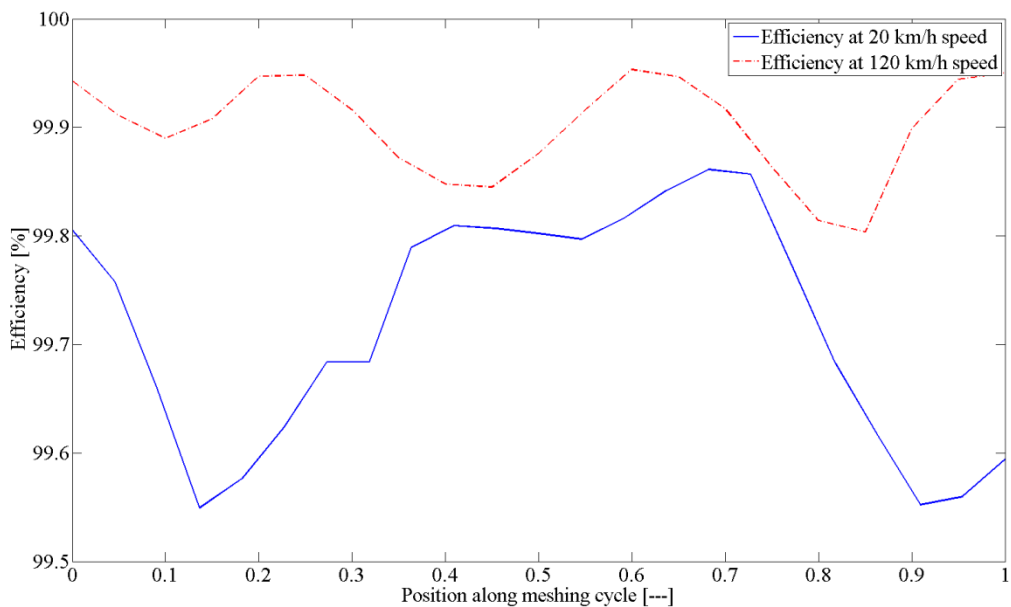


Figure 14: Transmission efficiency during a meshing cycle

Concluding Remarks

A key conclusion of the presented results is the link between instantaneous tribological contact conditions, dynamics of meshing differential hypoid gear pairs and vehicle dynamics in longitudinal manoeuvre. The analysis also shows that the meshing pairs run under starved conditions in mixed elastohydrodynamic regime of lubrication with thin films subjected to

non-Newtonian shear. The complex nature of transmission engineering is also clear from the paradoxical relationship between transmission efficiency (optimum at high vehicle speeds) and NVH (optimum at lower vehicle speed). The link between these attributes is in fact friction. Lower friction constitutes the reduction of an energy sink which consumes the excess energy provided by high output power modern engines, therefore exacerbating vibratory response. In the case of differentials, this excess energy can lead to global elastic deformation waves which excited structural modes of progressively lighter and more elastic lightly damped powertrain and chassis components. Differential axle whine is only one of such growing concerns [43]. The future direction of this research is to incorporate the highlighted methods in a flexible multi-body combined powertrain and chassis model.

Acknowledgement

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Nomenclature

A	Contact apparent area
A_a	Asperity area
A_f	Vehicle frontal area
A_p	Pinion angle
a	Acceleration
a'	Contact semi-major half-width
b	Half of teeth pair backlash
b'	Contact semi-minor half-width
C_D	Drag coefficient
c_m	Damping coefficient in the direction of mesh
c'	Thermal coefficient of bounding solid surfaces

E_r Reduced elastic modulus:
$$E_r = \frac{\pi}{\left[\frac{1-\nu_p^2}{E_p} \right] + \left[\frac{1-\nu_w^2}{E_w} \right]}$$

E_w, E_p Young's modulus of gear and pinion material

E' E_r/π

F Traction

f Total friction

f_b Boundary friction

f_v Viscous friction

f_{rl} Coefficient of rolling resistance

h Central contact film thickness

h_{c0} Central contact film thickness

$h_{c0,S}$ Central contact film thickness, starved

$h_{c0,F}$ Central contact film thickness, fully flooded

h^* Dimensionless film thickness

I_p, I_w Mass moments of inertia of pinion and gear

\dot{K} Thermal conductivity of the lubricant

K' Thermal conductivity of the solids

k Speed ratio

k_m Mesh stiffness

M Vehicle mass

m Inlet boundary parameter

m^* Starvation demarcation boundary parameter

\bar{p} Average pressure

p Pressure

p_m	Mean pressure
R_{zx}	Equivalent radius of contact along the minor axis
R_{zy}	Equivalent radius of contact along the major axis
R_p, R_w	Pinion and gear contact radii
R_a	Aerodynamic resistance
R_{rl}	Rolling resistance
R_t	Transmission ratio
r_{wheel}	Tyre radius
T_p, T_w	Externally applied torques to the pinion and gear
$T_{fr,p}, T_{fr,w}$	Frictional moments at pinion and gear
U	Speed of entraining motion
V	Vehicle speed
W	Contact load
W_a	Asperity load
W_h	Hydrodynamic load
W_v	Vehicle weight
X	teeth relative displacement along the instantaneous line of approach
x	Direction/distance along the minor axis of the elliptical footprint
y	Direction/distance along the major axis of the elliptical footprint

Greek symbols

α	Lubricant pressure-viscosity coefficient
β	Average asperity tip radius
δ	Local elastic deflection
ε	Slope of the lubricant limiting shear stress-pressure dependence

η	Lubricant dynamic viscosity
η_0	Inlet lubricant dynamic viscosity
θ	Angle of lubricant entrainment into the contact
ϑ_i	Ration of film thickness at inlet to the minimum film thickness h_i/h_{c0}
ϑ_e	Ration of film thickness at exit to the minimum film thickness h_e/h_{c0}
λ	Stribeck's oil film parameter
ξ	Asperity density per unit area
ρ'	Density of solids
ρ	Density of lubricant
ρ_0	Inlet density of lubricant
σ	Composite RMS surface roughness ($\sigma = \sqrt{\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2}$)
σ_1	Bearing surface roughness Ra
σ_2	Journal surface roughness Ra
τ_0	Eyring shear stress
τ_L	Limiting shear stressType equation here.
ν_p	Poisson's ratio for the pinion gear material
ν_w	Poisson's ratio for the gear wheel material
φ_p, φ_w	Pinion and gear angle of rotation
ϕ_i	<u>Inlet position angle</u>
ϕ_e	<u>Exit position angle</u>
ω	Engine frequency

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Appendix A1:

The non-dimensional form of Reynolds equation becomes:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial X} \left[\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \frac{\partial P}{\partial X} \right] + \frac{1}{K^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial Y} \left[\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \frac{\partial P}{\partial Y} \right] = \psi \left\{ \cos\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial X} [\bar{\rho} H] + \frac{1}{\bar{K}} \sin\theta \frac{\partial}{\partial Y} [\bar{\rho} H] \right\} \quad (A1)$$

where, the following dimensionless groups are used:

$$\psi = \frac{12U\eta_0 R_{zx}^2}{P_{max} b^3}, X = \frac{x}{a}, Y = \frac{y}{b}, \bar{\rho} = \frac{\rho}{\rho_0}, \bar{\eta} = \frac{\eta}{\eta_0}, H = \frac{hR_{zx}}{a^2}, P = \frac{P}{P_{max}}, \bar{K} = \frac{b}{a}$$

The discretized form of Reynolds equation is obtained as:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2\Delta X^2} \left\{ \left[\left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i,j} + \left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i-1,j} \right] P_{i-1,j} - \left[\left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i+1,j} + 2 \left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i,j} + \left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i-1,j} \right] P_{i,j} + \right. \\ & \left. \left[\left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i+1,j} + \left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i,j} \right] P_{i+1,j} \right\} + \frac{1}{2\bar{K}\Delta Y^2} \left\{ \left[\left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i,j} + \left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i,j-1} \right] P_{i,j-1} - \left[\left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i,j+1} + 2 \left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i,j} + \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. \left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i,j-1} \right] P_{i,j} + \left[\left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i+1,j} + \left(\frac{\bar{\rho} H^3}{\bar{\eta}} \right)_{i,j} \right] P_{i+1,j} \right\} - \frac{\psi \cos\theta}{\Delta X} [(\bar{\rho} H)_{i+1,j} + (\bar{\rho} H)_{i,j}] - \frac{\psi \sin\theta}{\bar{K}\Delta Y} [(\bar{\rho} H)_{i,j+1} + (\bar{\rho} H)_{i,j}] - \\ & \frac{b\bar{\rho}}{u_{av}R_x} \left(\frac{dH}{dt} \right)_{i,j} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (A2)$$

Appendix A2:*Table A1: Gear pair parameters*

Parameter	Pinion	Gear
Number of teeth	13	36
face-width (mm)	33.851	29.999
face angle (°)	29.056	59.653
pitch angle (°)	29.056	59.653
root angle (°)	29.056	59.653
spiral angle (°)	45.989	27.601
pitch apex (mm)	-9.085	8.987
face apex (mm)	1.368	10.948
Outer cone distance (mm)	83.084	95.598
offset (mm)	24.0000028	24
Hand	Right	Left

Table A2: Analysis conditions

Parameter	Value
A_f (frontal area)	3.42 m ²
f_{rl} (rolling resistance coefficient)	0.0166
C_D (drag coefficient)	1.15
ρ (air density)	1.22 kg/m ³
W_v (vehicle weight)	2340 kg
Tyre	P205/65R15 BSW
2nd gear ratio	1.5:1
Surface Roughness of solids	1.2 μ m

Table A3: Lubricant and solids properties

Pressure viscosity coefficient (α)	2.3827E-008 [Pa ⁻¹]
Atmospheric dynamic viscosity at 40°C (η_0)	0.19514 [Pa.s]
Eyring stress τ_0	2 [MPa]
Pressure-induced shear coefficient (ε)	0.047
Thermal conductivity of fluid	0.14 [J/kgK]
Heat capacity of fluid	2000 [W/mK]
Modulus of elasticity of contacting solids	210 [GPa]
Poisson's ratio of contacting solids	0.3 [-]
Density of contacting solids	7850[kg/m ³]
Thermal conductivity of contacting solids	46 [W/mK]
Heat capacity of contacting solids	470 [J/kgK]