



Performance Assessment of Stress Concentration Reduction Methods in Mild Steel Transmission Shaft

Ravindra Kannojiya, Akshat Shukla, Mohit Jain, Sarthak Kaintura, Aditya Bachchan

Abstract: A shaft is subjected to tensile stress, compressive stress, torsional force and bending moment due to reaction on the components. The stress distribution in a shaft can be similar to the flow of fluid in a channel. So, it is perfectly logical to use the fluid analogy to understand the phenomenon of stress concentration. When the cross section is uniform the flow is uniform whereas if there is a sudden change in the cross section then the velocity increases to keep the flow rate constant. The same phenomenon is observed in the shaft i.e. when the cross section of the shaft is uniform throughout, the stresses are uniform where as if the cross section changes abruptly then the stress lines come closer to each other in order to keep the force same. When there are sharp changes then it results in stress concentration. The effect of stress concentration can be reduced effectively as there are numerous discontinuities which makes it impossible to eradicate it fully. This could be done by numerous some of which are removal of material, providing fillet radius and also by choosing appropriate material for manufacturing. Software like Solid works can be used for the design and analysis of the component. An object drawn with Solid works can be analysed interactively and physical information can be extracted from it.

Keywords: Stress Distribution, Phenomenon, Analysed Interactively, Physical Information.

I. INTRODUCTION

Transmission shaft is a circular cross sectioned rotating member used to transmit power from engine or motor to the differential from which the power is further transmitted to the wheels. It was invented by Louis Renault in 1898. It is also called as 'power shaft' in British English. It provides the point where useful power is needed from the motor. Generally in automobile industry the shafts deliver the main driving power from the final reduction gear of the power train system to the front wheel in front wheel drive vehicles where as in rear wheel drive they supply power to the rear wheels.[1] Generally, shafts are of two types (i) Hollow shafts and (ii) Solid shafts. Hollow shaft is stiffer, offers more strength than solid shaft and has greater natural frequency however it is more expensive and requires more axial space.[2] Whilst in process of transmitting power the shaft witnesses torsional, tensile and compressive stresses.

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The flow of these stresses can be understood with the flow of water in a pipe or stresses in a circular shaft flows in the same way as water flows in a circular pipe. When the cross section of the pipe is uniform throughout then the flow of the fluid is also uniform where as if there is a sudden change in the cross section the velocity of the fluid increases or decreases to keep the discharge of the flow so as to satisfy the continuity equation in one dimension. Similarly when the cross section of the circular shaft is uniform throughout the flow is also uniform but if there is an abrupt change in the cross section then the rate of flow of stress gets affected and is concentrated at that point. This phenomenon of stress concentration causes failure in the shaft in the form of cracks or fracture[3]. This failure of the transmission shaft can't be fully eradicated but various methods can be used to reduce stress concentration and increase the fatigue life of the drive shaft. This includes selection of proper material for the manufacturing of shaft, machining of fillets and grooves at appropriate location and of appropriate size [4]. Proper material can be selected based on the properties of the material and the proper theory of failure. Various work has been previously done in order to study the effect of these factors on the performance of the transmission shaft.

Myungshinetal [5]studied the effect of stress relieving grooves on axle shaft. Two stress relieving grooves were applied on the snap ring cut vicinity on the long span axle shaft. FEA was used to investigate qualitatively the effect of the stress relieving grooves. They concluded that when both the sides of the snap ring cut have grooves machined and the grooves are moved closer to the snap ring cut when the radius of the relief grooves is larger then it results in reduction of the stress concentration upto 22.3%.

Rushton [6]performed a preliminary investigation of the torsional stress concentration for circular shafts containing circular grooves, which was determined with the help of an analogue computer. He concluded that torsion testing of grooved shafts exhibits that values due to Nuber tends to over estimate the stress concentration factor within the limited range of parameters but for deep grooves they are accurate.

Sriram et al[7] studied the relation between the critical speed and frequency of composite shaft and it was concluded that replacement of conventional steel shaft by composite material provided ample weight saving which makes available surplus power and and it also reduces the vibration produced in the transmission shaft compared to the conventional shaft because of the vibration damping ability of composite material.

Jayanaidu et al[8] found that the replacement of conventional drive shaft results in reduced weight ratio of mobile.

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Finite element analysis was used to predict the deformation of shaft and it was concluded that the total deformation of steel, titanium was to be better than conventional steel.

Zappalorato et al [9] Theoretical results have been compared with numerical data as determined from two model weakened by a parabolic notch and a hyperbolic notch, both having the local axis inclined to 45° with respect to the round bar longitudinal axis. The agreement was found to be very satisfactory.

Tipton et al [10] performed detailed FEA over a wide range of fillet shafts to define the following relations for tension loading and bending

- (i) revised elastic stress concentration factor
- (ii) revised elastic von mises equivalent stress concentration factor
- (iii) the maximum stress location in the fillet

It was demonstrated that the first relation reveals the full multiaxial elastic state of stress and strain at the maximum stress location.

Gujar et al [11] studied a shaft employed in an inertia dynamometer rotated at 1000 rpm. To calculate the stress induced, torque acting on the shaft is used. To calculate fatigue stress concentration factor, stress concentration factor was calculated. The fatigue life prediction is performed based on FEA and analytical method. It was concluded that the working alternating / mean stress within limit value and increased fatigue strength for infinite life below material endurance strength limit.

Arun et al [12] studied on piece hybrid aluminium E glass epoxy composite drives shaft for automobile applications. Torsional buckling, torsional strength and bending natural frequency were considered as basic requirements. Hybrid shaft of aluminium and epoxy was made in which aluminium transmits the torque and bending natural frequency is increased by E glass epoxy. Four cases of aluminium tube were studied with different layer of composite material wound. There was an enhancement of 66% in maximum static torsion in multi layered shaft than pure aluminium and 42% mass reduction was achieved.

Dinesh et al [13] studied the properties of E glass / epoxy, high strength carbon / epoxy and high modulus carbon / epoxy for the replacement of two piece steel drive shaft by a single piece shaft for automobile application. Torsional buckling, torque transmission and natural bending frequency were considered as basic parameters and it was concluded that 48.36%, 86.9% and 86.9% weight saving was achieved by E glass / epoxy, high strength carbon / epoxy and high modulus carbon / epoxy shafts respectively. It was also observed that torque transmission capacity of the shaft reduces due to centrifugal forces.

Dharmadhikari et al [14] optimisation of drive shaft via ANSYS and genetic algorithm was done. Since composite shaft have high specific stiffness and strength with respect to conventional shaft so it is considered to be a better option for manufacturing. Conventional steel delivers low specific stiffness which results in poor performance of shaft as a product. In general a shaft is made into two parts for achieving greater natural bending frequency but it also increases the weight which makes it not suitable for the present scenario and it was concluded that replacement of conventional shaft with a composite one results in reduction in weight ratio. This was predicted by F.E.A. which also predicts that single piece high strength carbon / epoxy

composite drive shaft is a better replacement for two piece conventional steel drive shaft in a vehicle.

Ramyasri et al [15] investigated the variation of stress concentration factor under cyclic loading for different methods of reduction. The solution of transient structural problems was made based on theory of stress by three dimensional F.E.A. The analysis was done in two phases in which the first phase consisted of static analysis of stress concentration with fully reversed bending loads. The result of the reduction method like notches, simple fillet and undercut is taken to reduce the stress concentration.

II. EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

The test was carried out on the shaft to determine the mechanical properties such as tensile strength and torsion strength of the shaft made of most feasible materials and the comparison of filleted and non-filleted shafts. Following steps were followed for completion of the experiment.

- 1) Selection of material of which the shaft is to be made from
- 2) Selection of mode of making and finishing of shaft.
- 3) Selection of criterion on which the shaft is to be judged.
- 4) Selection of tests to be performed on the shaft for yielding its properties.
- 5) Determination of the dimensions of the shaft according to the range of testing apparatus available and as per the relations mentioned in the machine design data book.

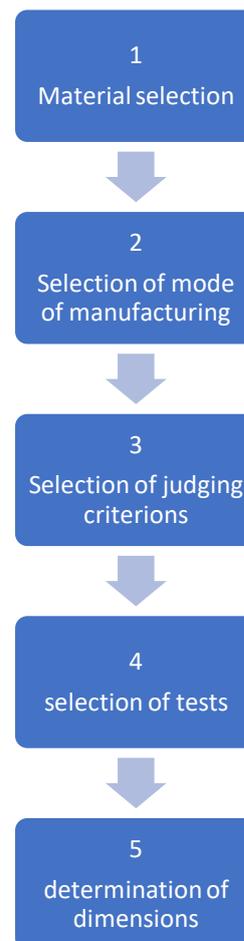


Fig1: flow chart for execution of experiment

Selection of material

Table1: Table for material selection

Properties	Low carbon steel AISI 1018	Nickel Chromium-Molybdenum steel AISI 8620	Stainless steel grade 304	Stainless steel grade 304 L	Cast iron	EN 8/AISI 1040	Cold rolled c1045 steel
Tensile strength(mpa)	440	530	515	485	115-620	620	570-700
yield strength(mpa)	370	385	215	210	65.5-172	415	310.2641
Corrosion resistant	Fair	Fair	Excellent	excellent	excellent	Fair	Not good
Density	7870	7850	7999	8000	6800 – 7800	7845	7870

In general transmission shafts are manufactured from medium carbon steels with a carbon content of 0.15 to 0.40 percent such as 30C8 or 40C8 also known as machinery steels. When greater strength is needed high carbon steel such as 45C8 or 50C8 or alloy are employed. Alloy steels include nickel, molybdenum and nickel chromium steel. Alloy steels are costly compared to plain carbon steels. However, they have higher strength hardness and toughness. Alloy steel have higher resistance against corrosion compared with plain carbon steel. Since they are more expensive so this makes them less feasible too.

According to the above table AISI 1018 was selected for the experimental work. AISI 1018 show very good tolerance against applied load and has a very good resistivity against corrosion. The material can be heat treated and have excellent weldability. Both the materials are used in manufacturing of crank shafts and transmission shafts

Preparation of specimen

Shafts are manufactured by hot rolling and finished to size either by cold drawing turning or grinding. Shafts with high strength are produced by cold drawing. However cold drawing also have disadvantages which are not good for the quality of the shaft and hampers the performance and life of the shaft. The tolerance of their diameter and straight ness are not very close compared to shafts which are finished via turning and grinding process. There is residual stresses near the ends of the shaft if it is finished by cold drawing . These residual stresses are released when the shaft is further machines, hence resulting in distortion in the shaft. The correction of the distorted and twisted shaft is difficult and costly operation. It requires highly labour. This is the reason why the shafts were machined by the process of plain turning on centre lathe machine and grinding. Surface finishing was also done on the centre lathe machine.

Specimens of AISI 1018 and AISI 1040 were made. Three specimens with stress removing fillets were made with appropriate d/D, r/D ratio as per proper stress concentration factor . Three specimens without stress removing fillets were made but d/D ratio was maintained. The specimens were made on a centre lathe machine . Proper dimensions were achieved by process like turning with the help of tungsten carbide cutting tool and parting tool. After completion of turning chamfering was also done so that the specimen can be properly gripped in the UTM machine.

Tensile testing

The testing of the specimen was done on a universal testing machine.

The specimen was loaded on the UTM machine and the tensile load and the elongation in the shaft was recorded until the shaft experienced fracture.

Torsional testing

The shaft was mounted on the torsional testing machine with the help of special jigs which prevent the slipping of the shaft from the machine grip. The load as well as the angle of twist of the shaft were recorded time to time until the shaft experienced fracture.

III. RESULT

The results obtained from the tensile test, torsion test and static analysis of mild steel shaft without fillet and mild steel with fillet were compared. In tensile testing of mild steel shaft without fillet the tensile stress obtained under the load of maximum 104 KN was 552.83 MPa whereas stress in mild steel shaft with fillet the stress obtained under maximum load of 118 KN was 627.252 MPa. In torsion testing of mild steel shaft without fillet the average torsional stress obtained was 54.7 Mpa at 100 degree and with fillet was 94.2 Mpa.

The static analysis was also carried out on mild steel shaft in SOLIDWORKS SIMULATION. For tensile test in mild steel shaft without fillet the tensile stress obtained was 747.8 Mpa whereas in the specimen with fillet stress obtained was 792.84 Mpa.

In torsional test the torsional stress obtained in shaft without fillet was 60.4 Mpa whereas in shaft without fillet the torsional stress obtained was 99.080 Mpa.

Table2: stresses obtained by testing the shaft on UTM & Torsion testing machine

Material	MILDSTEEL SHAFT	
	With fillet	Without fillet
Tensile stress(Mpa)	627.252	552.83
Torsional stress(Mpa)	94.2	54.7

Simulation results

The simulation results obtained clearly show the effectiveness of the fillet used in the shaft. The figures shown below clearly verify the reduction of stress concentration in the shaft.

1) tensile test

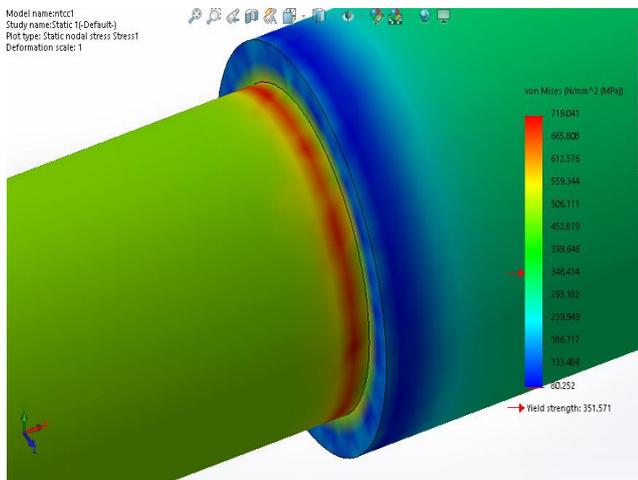


Fig1: Shaft without fillet

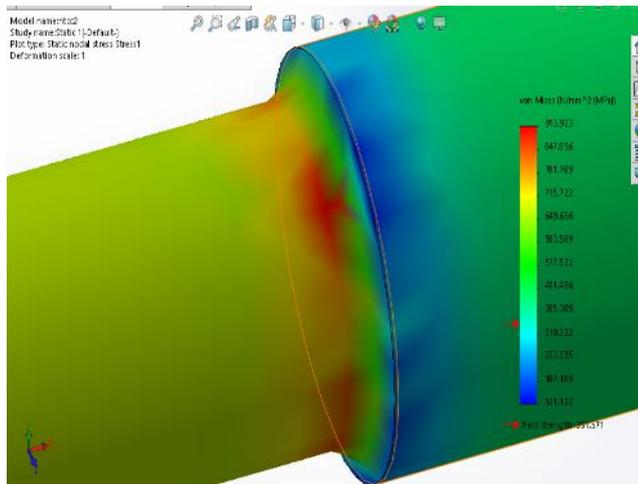


Fig2: Shaft with fillet

2) Torsional test

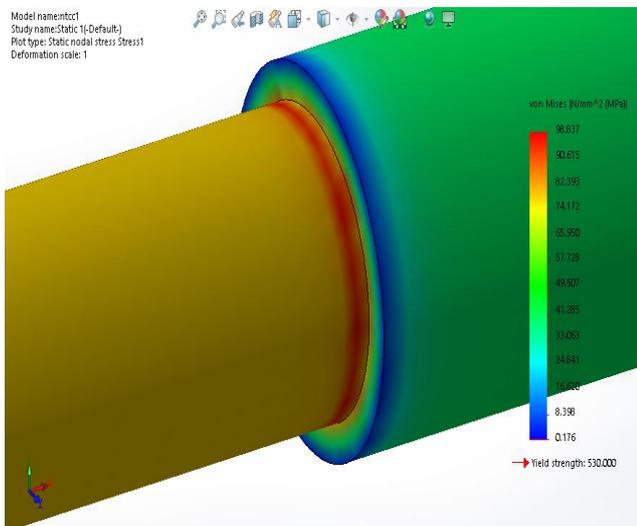


Fig3: Shaft without fillet

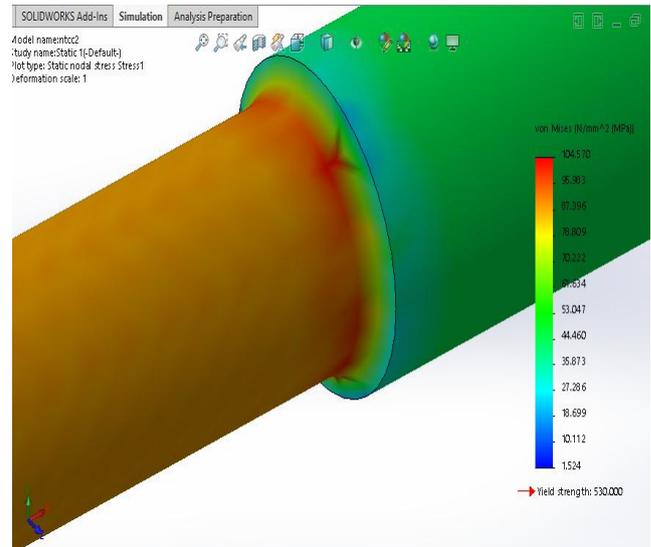


Fig4: Shaft with fillet

IV. CONCLUSION

From the obtained results it was concluded that the tensile stress tolerated by mild steel shaft without fillet was less than the Stress tolerated by the mild steel shaft with fillet and the same was observed for the torsional test and hence simulation results were verified. This evidently shows the efficiency of fillet as a method of stress reduction. Because of the fillet the force flows without any hurdles and it also decreases the effect at the portion with sudden change in cross section.

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