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Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
Faculty of Electrical Engineering



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CONTENT

KEYNOTE LECTURES

Simo Jokanovic, Bjørn Solvang, Trygve Thomessen, Gabor Sziebig
 INTEGRATION OF DISTRIBUTED PRODUCTION RESOURCES BY MEANS OF RT-MIDDLEWARE AND VIRTUAL REALITY 3

Dušan Gruden
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY 17

Radivoje Mitrovic, Milan Tica, Ivana Atanasovska, Predrag Popovic
 SCIENCE – GENERATOR OF INDUSTRIAL AND OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF SERBIA AND REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA 41

PRODUCTION AND COMPUTER-AIDED TECHNOLOGIES

Dušan Petković, Miloš Madić, Goran Radenković, Predrag Živković, Mladen Tomic
 HEAT EXCHANGERS MATERIALS SELECTION BY USING MCDM APPROACH 55

Elvis Hozdić
 EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR FACTORIES OF THE FUTURE 61

Marina Dojčinović, Milena Čosić
 INFLUENCE OF ALLOYING ELEMENTS ON CAVITATION RESISTANCE OF QUENCHED AND TEMPERED CARBON STEEL 73

Milena Čosić, Marina Dojčinović,
 MICROSTRUCTURE OF AISI18CuMg ALLOY PRODUCED BY RHEOCASTING PROCESS 79

Miloš Madić, Miroslav Radovanović, Srdjan Mladenović, Dušan Petković, Predrag Janković
 AN EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF KERF WIDTH IN CO₂ LASER CUTTING OF ALUMINUM ALLOY 85

Todic Mladen, Miletic Ostoja
 ZONE OF DEFORMATION AT MULTI-LAYER MATERIALS 91

Predrag Živković,
 PARAMETRIC MODELING OF GEOMETRY SHAPES OF GEAR TEETH BY USING CAD SOFTWARE 97

Dragana Temeljkovski, Stojanče Nusev, Climent Ohridski, Dragan Temeljkovski
 STONE IN THE WORLD OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN – REENGINEERING STONE PROCESSING 105

Milentije Stefanović, Dragan Adamović, Zvonko Gulišija, Srbislav Aleksandrović,
 Vesna Mandić, Mila Milovanović
 LIMITATIONS OF PHYSICAL TRIBO-MODELING IN METAL FORMING PROCESSES 111

Content

Petar S. Đekić, Goran Radenković, Biljana Milutinović	
IMPROVEMENT OF THE PROPERTIES OF GROUND TIRE RUBBER BY MECHANOCHEMICAL MODIFICATION AND APPLICATION IN SRB/NR BLENDS	119
Vujadin Aleksić, Bojana Aleksić, Dejan Momčilović, Ljubica Milović, Aleksandar Sedmak	
NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING OF PRESSURE VESSELS – APPLICATION OF SolidWorks	125
Dejan Lukić, Velimir Todić, Mijodrag Milošević, Goran Jovičić, Jovan Vukman, Mića Đurđev	
COST ESTIMATION AS ASPECT OF DESIGN FOR MANUFACTURING-DfM	131
Goran Jovičić, Mijodrag Milošević, Dejan Lukić, Jovan Vukman, Mića Đurđev	
APPLICATION OF MULTI-AGENT SYSTEMS WITHIN THE CONCEPT OF DISTRIBUTED INTELLIGENT PRODUCTION	139
Aleksandar Vujović, Zdravko Krivokapić, Jelena Jovanović, Gordan Kijanović	
POSSIBILITY OF APPLICATION OF THE INTELLIGENT AGENT-BASED SYSTEM IN THE WOOD INDUSTRY	147
Milan Šljivić, Nenad Grujović, Ana Pavlović, Cristiano Fragassa, Jovica Ilić, Mirko Topić	
DEVELOPING PROFILES FROM WOOD-PLASTIC COMPOSITES	159
Said Pašalić, Milan Jurković, Mladen Todić	
MOVEMENT AND MOVING SPEED EDGE OF THE CORNICE CIRCLES BLANK OF THE WORKPIECE IN DEEP DRAWING	169
Miloš Madić, Miroslav Radovanović, Dušan Petković, Predrag Janković, Miloš Milošević	
PREDICTION OF SURFACE ROUGHNESS USING REGRESSION AND ANN MODELS IN CO ₂ LASER CUTTING OF MILD STEEL	175
Dragoslav Dobraš, Nenad Bukejlović	
HARDOX 450 – ATTACHMENT ASSESSMENT OF WELDABILITY	181
Dragoslav Dobraš, Ismar Hajro	
SPECIFICS OF THE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF WELDERS FOR ALUMINOTHERMIC WELDING PROCESS	187
Velibor Karanović, Mitar Jocanović, Saša Laloš, Bojan Knežević	
OIL CLEANLINESS CLASS INFLUENCE ON WEAR INTENSITY OF PISTONCYLINDER CONTACT PAIR INSIDE OF HYDRAULIC DISTRIBUTIONAL VALVE	193
Tomaz Irgolic, Franc Cus, Janez Kopač	
CUTTING FORCE PREDICTION BY MILLING GRADED MATERIAL	199
Ranko Radonjic, Mathias Liewald, Fei Han	
INFLUENCE OF BLANK HOLDER STIFFNESS ON PART SURFACE QUALITY IN DEEP DRAWING PROCESS	205
Bekir Novkinić, Vladimir Kočović, Marija Jeremić, Dragomir Miljuš	
PROBLEMS OF CLAMPING FIXTURES COMPLIANCE DURING THE MACHINING	

OF THE WORKPIECE ON THE MULTI-AXIAL MILLING MACHINE TOOL	213
Aleksandar Košarac, Milan Zeljković, Cvijetin Mlađenović, Aleksandar Živković	
MODAL ANALYSIS OF A HORIZONTAL MACHINING CENTER	221
Aleksandar Živković, Milan Zeljković, Cvijetin Mlađenović	
MATHEMATICAL MODEL FOR STIFFNESS DETERMINATION OF BALL BEARINGS WITH ANGULAR CONTACT	233
Bogdan Nedić, Marko Janković, Milan Erić, Gordana G. Lakić, Branislav Sredanović	
SPECIFICS OF THE DESIGN FOR CNC PLASMA CUTTING	241
Živko Babić, Rodoljub Lekanić	
THE IMPACT OF TOOL DESIGN ON PHARMACEUTICAL BLISTER PACKAGING	249
Saša Živanović, Branko Kokotović	
CONFIGURING A VIRTUAL DESKTOP 5-AXIS MACHINE TOOL FOR MACHINE SIMULATION	255
Mario Moćić, Sanja Dobrnjac	
DEDUSTING OF DUST POLYURETHANE IN THE PROCESS OF PRODUCTION OF ORTHOPEDIC AIDS	263
Ostoja Miletic, Mladen Todic	
STRESS-STRAIN STATE IN PROFILING ANISOTROPIC STRIPS	269
Nenad Grujović, Miroslav Živković, Fatima Živić, Andreja Radovanović, Miloš Mladenović, Milan Šljivić	
COST OPTIMIZATION OF ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING IN WOOD INDUSTRY	275
Nenad Miloradović, Slobodan Mitrović, Blaža Stojanović	
WEAR OF ZA27/10SiC/1Gr HYBRID COMPOSITE	287
Branislav Sredanović, Gordana Globočki - Lakić, Davorin Kramar, Janez Kopač	
MODELLING OF TOOL WEAR IN TURNING OF BEARING STEEL USING CARBIDE TOOL AND HPJAM TECHNIQUE	293
Zvonko Gulišija, Marija Mihailović, Aleksandra Patarić	
THE STRUCTURE-PROPERTIES CORRELATION OF NICKEL BASED SUPEREALLOYS IN DESIGNING THE TECHNOLOGY FOR TURBINEBLADES PROCESSING	299
Zvonko Gulišija, Aleksandra Patarić, Marija Mihailović, Milentije Stefanović	
DESIGNING THE HIGH QUALITY AL-ALLOYS OBTAINED WITH ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD FOR HOT FORGING PROCESS	305
Jure Bernetič, Gorazd Kosec, Matjaž Marčetič, Borut Kosec, Aleš Nagode, Mirko Gojić, Zijah Burzić	
ARMoured STEEL PLATE OF NEW GENERATION	309

ENERGETICS AND THERMAL ENGINEERING

Cvete Dimitrieska, Igor Andreevski, Sanja P. Vasilevska, Sevde Stavreva
NUMERICAL SOLUTION OF MATHEMATICAL MODEL FOR FLUID FLOW AND

HEAT TRANSFER PROCESSES IN PLATE EXCHANGER BASE ON STREAMLINE – VORTEX METHOD	317
Dragan Cvetković, Milorad Bojić, Dragan Taranović, Jasmina Skerlić	
EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF HEAT FLUX AT THE PANEL HEATING SYSTEMS	323
Dragana Dimitrijević, Mladen Tomić, Predrag Živković, Mladen Stojiljković, Mirko Dobrnjac	
THERMAL CHARACTERISTICS AND POTENTIAL FOR RETROFIT BY USING GREEN VEGETATED ROOFS	329
Filip Mojsovski	
ENTERING AIR STATE INFLUENCE ON THERMAL PERFORMANCE OF HYPERBOLIC COOLING TOWER	335
Miloš Simonović, Vlastimir Nikolić, Ivan Ćirić, Emina Petrović	
RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORK SHORT-TERM PREDICTION OF DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEM IN TRANSIENT REGIMES	341
Mladen Tomić, Predrag Živković, Mića Vukić, Mirko Dobrnjac, Dragana Dimitrijević	
A NUMERICAL STUDY OF PERFORATED PLATE LOCAL HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENT	347
Mladen Tomić, Mića Vukić, Predrag Živković, Žana Stevanović, Ivan Ćirić	
EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF THERMAL AND FLUID FLOW PROCESSES IN A PERFORATED PLATE HEAT EXCHANGER	353
Predrag Živković	
HEAT BALANCE OF LOSSES IN PLANETARY GEAR DRIVES	359
Saša Pavlović, Velimir Stefanović, Marko Mančić, Zivan Spasic	
DEVELOPMENT OF MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF OFFSET TYPE SOLAR PARABOLIC CONCENTRATING COLLECTOR	365
Predrag Živković, Mladen Tomić, Dušan Petković, Ivan Ćirić, Žana Stevanović, Dragana Dimitrijević, Sanja Dobrnjac, Milica Ćirić	
POSSIBILITIES OF WIND ENERGY USAGE IN THE SKI CENTER KOPAONIK	373
Vladimir V. Jovanović, Nebojša Manić, Dragoslava D. Stojiljković, Pavle Hadžić	
PRODUCTION OF BIODIESEL IN A BATCH REACTOR BY ALKALINE TRANSESTERIFICATION AT ROOM TEMPERATURE	379
Ivan Komusanac, Boris Čosić, Luka Perković, Neven Duić	
EXPERIENCE WITH SOLAR-DRIVEN LIBR/H ₂ O ABSORPTION COOLING SYSTEM IN VODOVOD DUBROVNIK D.O.O.	385
Vesna Ranković, Milorad Bojić, Jasna Radulović, Danijela Nikolić, Jasmina Skerlić	
MODELING OF THE BUILDING THERMAL BEHAVIOUR USING NONLINEAR SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION	391
Sadoon Ayed, Miloš Jovanović, Mladen Tomić, Gradimir Ilić, Predrag Živković, Mića Vukić, Mirko Dobrnjac	
INSTABILITY OF RAYLEIGH-BERNARD CONVECTION AFFECTED BY INCLINED	

Content

WALL TEMPERATURE VARIATION	397
Ratka Neshkovska	
ELECTROCHROMIC COPPER(I) OXIDE THIN FILM AS A CANDIDATE FOR SMART WINDOW	403
Milorad Bojic, Jasna Radulovic, Vesna Rankovic, Danijela Nikolic, Ljubisa Bojic, Jasmina Skerlic	
FLEXIBLE THIN-FILM SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS: RESEARCH AND APPLICATION	409
Vujadin Aleksić, Dejan Momčilović, Bojana Aleksić, Ljubica Milović, Aleksandar Sedmak	
ANALYSIS OF THE STEAM LINE DAMAGES	415
Danijela Nikolic, Milorad Bojic, Jasna Radulovic, Jasmina Skerlic, Saša Jovanović	
ENERGY OPTIMIZATION OF SERBIAN BUILDINGS WITH PV PANELS AND DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEM	421
Sevde Stavreva, Cvete Dimitrieska, Igor Andreevski, Sanja P. Vasilevska, Elizabeta Hristovska	
IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF DATA CENTRES	427
Mila Mihajilović, Vanja Šušteršić, Gordana Bogdanović	
LEED TECHNOLOGY IN URBAN PLANNING	433
 MECHANICS AND DESIGN	
Filip Zdraveski, Dimitri Kozinakov	
ANALYSIS OF POINT SUPPORTED-GLASS WALL SYSTEM UNDER WIND LOAD	441
Filip Zdraveski, Hristijan Mickoski	
APPLICATION OF SIMILITUDE LAWS FOR EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS OF DYNAMIC PROPERTIES OF TALL PROTOTYPE STEEL STRUCTURE	451
Filip Zdraveski, Elisaveta Donceva	
MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF DYNAMIC VIBRATION ABSORBER RESPONSE PREDICTION AND REDUCTION	459
Dorđe Miltenović, Milan Tica, Aleksandar Miltenović, Milan Banić	
LOAD CAPACITY OF WORM GEARS WITH COMPACT DESIGN	469
Luka Panić, Atif Hodžić, Ekrem Nezirević	
MODERN AND SOPHISTICATED PROCESSES OF 3D VENEER PLYWOOD BENDING	475
Stevan Maksimović, Mirjana Đurić, Mirko Maksimović, Ivana Vasović	
FATIGUE LIFE ESTIMATION OF AIRCRAFT STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS WITH SURFACE CRACKS UNDER LOAD SPECTRUM	481
Darko Knežević, Saša Laloš, Mitar Jocanović, Velibor Karanović	
EFFECT OF BULK MODULUS OF FLUID ON THE DYNAMIC BEHAVIOR OF THE HYDRAULIC SYSTEM	487

Content

Nikola Vučetić, Aleksija Đurić, Miroslav Milutinović EXPERIMENTAL DETERMINATION OF SLIDING BEARING OPERATING TEMPERATURE	497
Slobodanka Boljanović, Stevan Maksimović, Dragi Stamenković FATIGUE STRENGTH SIMULATION OF AIRCRAFT LUG	503
Slobodanka Boljanović, Stevan Maksimović, Strain Posavljak RESIDUAL LIFE EVALUATION OF A THREADED ROUND BAR WITH SURFACE CRACK UNDER CYCLIC LOADING	509
Nenad Miloradović, Rodoljub Vujanac ANALYSIS OF OVERHEAD TRAVELLING CRANE'S MOTION IN HORIZONTAL PLANE	515
Rodoljub Vujanac, Nenad Miloradovic, Snezana Vulovic DYNAMIC STORAGE SYSTEMS	521
Vladimir Čavić, Mirko Dobrnjac, Milan Lečić, Jela Burazer MOGUĆNOSTI PRIMJENE VAKUUMSKOG PNEUMATSKOG TRANSPORTA U PIVARAMA	529
Zoran Majkić ATTACHMENT RESEARCH JUDGEMENTS INDICATORS FOR COMFORT MANAGEMENT OF TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES	535

MECHATRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Muhanad D. Almawlawe, Darko Mitic, Marko Milojkovic THE ADVANTAGE OF USING DIGITAL QUASI-SLIDING MODE IN COMPARISON WITH ANALOGUE PID SLIDING MODE CONTROLLER	551
Petar D. Mandić, Mihailo P. Lazarević, Tomislav B. Šekara CONTROL OF THE CART PENDULUM SYSTEM BY USING A FRACTIONAL ORDER PD CONTROLLER	557
Vladimir Savic, Jelena Eric Obucina, Darko Knezevic, Andrea Ivanisevic, Boban Balovic, Sanjin Kizic TECHNICAL-ECONOMIC VIEW OF THE REPLACEMENT OF PUMPS WITH VARIABLE VOLUME PUMPS A CONSTANT VOLUME OF THE FREQUENCY CONVERTER	563
Jelena Živković, Dragan Adamović, Miroslav Živković, Milentije Stefanović, Slobodan Mitrović, Fatima Živić ELECTRONIC DATABASES FOR MATERIALS SELECTION	569
Ivan Ćirić, Žarko Ćojašić, Vlastimir Nikolić, Milica Ćirić, Mladen Tomić, Emin Petrović, Miloš Simonović NEURAL NETWORK PREDICTION OF PERSON POSITION FOR HUMAN FOLLOWING MOBILE ROBOT PLATFORM	577
Ivan Ćirić, Žarko Ćojašić, Vlastimir Nikolić, Milica Ćirić, Predrag Živković, Ivan	

Pavlović, Emina Petrović INTELLIGENT CONTROL OF MOBILE ROBOT FOR OBJECT RECOGNITION AND GRASPING	583
Dragan Pršić, Novak Nedić, Ljubiša Dubonjić, MASS FLOW RATE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE FLAPPER-NOZZLE PNEUMATIC VALVE	589

AUTOMOTIVE AND TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

Aleksandar Milašinović, Indir Mujanić, Željko Bulatović, Željko Đurić OUTPUT TORQUE OF THE FLYWHEEL OF THE IC ENGINE VARIATIONS DURING AN ENGINE CYCLE	597
Branislav Aleksandrović, Rajko Radonjić, Aleksandra Janković RESEARCHING ABOUT BEHAVIOUR OF CYBERNETIC SYSTEM, DRIVER – MOTORCYCLE AT LIMITED REGIMES MOVEMENT	609
Danijela Miloradović, Rajko Radonjić, Jasna Glišović APPLICATION OF VERTICAL ACCELERATION RECORDS ACQUIRED AT THE CENTRES OF THE VEHICLE WHEELS	615
Jasna Glišović, Jovanka Lukić, Danijela Miloradović, Slavica Mačužić TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRAKE SYSTEMS OF THE AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS AND TRAILERS	621
Jovan Dorić, Atila Kovač, Nebojša Nikolić, Stjepan Galamboš, Ivan Klinar IMPROVING PERFORMANCE OF SPARK IGNITION ENGINE USING VARIABLE LENGTH INTAKE MANIFOLD	627
Jovanka Lukić, Jasna Glišović, Danijela Miloradović, Slavica Mačužić METHOD OF DISK BRAKE NOISE ASSESSMENT	633
Melisa Kustura, Aleksandra Kostic A MODEL OF ACC – ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL	639
Milan Milovanović, Zoran Jovanović, Milentije Stefanović ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF NEW MATERIALS APPLICATION ON CAR BODIES	645
Stojko Biočanin, Željko Bulatović, Aleksandar Milašinović, Indir Mujanić, Ranko Božičković CRANKSHAFT ANGULAR VELOCITY OF A TEN-CYLINDER DIESEL ENGINE AS A DIAGNOSTICS PARAMETER	651
Stojko Biočanin, Željko Bulatović, Aleksandar Milašinović, Indir Mujanić, Ranko Božičković ENGINE MISFIRE IDENTIFICATION BY MONITORING EXHAUST PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE PULSATION IN THE EXHAUST MANIFOLDS	667
Saša Milojević, Radivoje Pešić APPLICATION OF BIOMETHANE IN PROPULSION AND MOBILE SYSTEMS	681

Content

Slobodan Mišanović, Zlatomir Živanović	
ANALYSIS OF RENEWAL BUS FLEET GSP "BEOGRAD" FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY ASPECTS	687
Stjepan Galamboš, Jovan Dorić	
DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF CAR BODY USING CFD SOFTWARE	693
Velimir Petrović, Branka Grozdanić, Zlata Bracanovic, Stojan Petrović	
THE PROBLEM OF REAL DRIVING EMISSIONS CONTROL	697
Aleksandar Davinić, Radivoje Pešić, Dragan Taranović, Saša Milojević	
THE USE OF MODERN FUELS IN DIESEL ENGINES OF THE OLDER GENERATION	703
Dušan Petković, Miloš Madić, Goran Radenković, Miloš Milošević	
APPLICATION OF MCDM METHODS FOR AUTOMOBILE'S BUMPER MATERIAL SELECTION	713
Nebojša Nikolić, Ivan Klinar, Jovan Dorić, Nenad Raspopović	
INFLUENCE OF THE FAULTY MAP SENSOR ON SOME OPERATION PARAMETERS OF AN AUTOMOBILE SPARK-IGNITION ENGINE	719
Dobrivoje Ninković	
THE USE OF PARAMETRIC SPECTRAL ESTIMATION FOR EXTRACTING ANGULAR VELOCITY VARIATIONS FROM THE EXHAUST PRESSURE PULSATIONS IN IC ENGINES	723
Petković Snežana, Hnatko Emil, Stefanović Radmilo, Veinović Stevan	
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF BIO RESOURCES AND RENEWABLE/RECURRENT ENERGY SOURCES IN AGRICULTURE	733
Saša Milojević, Radivoje Pešić, Aleksandar Davinić, Dragan Taranović	
COATED AL PISTON AS TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTION TO LOWERING OF FRICTION LOSSES INSIDE IC ENGINE	741

QUALITY AND ECOLOGY

Biljana Milutinović, Gordana Stefanović, Ksenija Denčić-Mihajlov, Petar Djekić	
ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF WASTE-TO-ENERGY TREATMENT	749
Borut Kosec, Blaž Karpe, Aleš Nagode, Dragan Gogić, Gorazd Kosec, Igor Budak, Zorana Tanasić, Goran Janjić, Miroslav Bobrek, Mirko Soković	
LCA METHOD AS AN USEFUL TOOL IN PRODUCTION ENGINEERING	755
Srdjan Pelkic, Stevan Salatic, Radivojka Vučnic	
THE CAPACITY OF MUNICIPALITY NEVESINJE IN DEVELOPING WOODPROCESING INDUSTRIES	761
Zorana Tanasić, Borut Kosec, Goran Janjić, Mirko Soković, Goran Jotić	
INTEGRATING LEAN AND GREEN INTO A HOLISTIC PRODUCTION SYSTEM	767
Miroslav Bobrek, Jugoslav Tepić, Duška Radmanović	
QUALITY ASSURANCE INSTRUMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM OF	

REPUBLIKA SRPSKA	771
Miloš Madić, Marko Kovačević, Miroslav Radovanović POSSIBILITIES OF USING DISCRETE MONTE CARLO METHOD FOR SOLVING MACHINING OPTIMIZATION PROBLEMS	781
Željko Pavićević, Leonid Albijanic INTELLIGENT INVESTMENTS MANAGEMENT; TRANSITION U-TURN	787
Nataša Đalić, Irena Đalić THE IMPACT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS ON IMPROVEMENT OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISES	795
Marko Serafimov, Sevde Stavreva, Igor Shesho COST – OPTIMAL METHODOLOGY	801

**MAINTENANCE OF ENGINEERING SYSTEMS AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
ENGINEERING**

Aleksandar Majstorović THERMAL IMAGES AND THEIR APPLIANCE IN THE FIRE UNITS	811
Dejan Brankovic, Boris Latinovic, Zdravko N. Milovanovic THE OPTIMIZATION OF THE PAPER MACHINE DEWATERING PROCESS BY USING THE NEW POLYURETHANE SUCTION PRESS ROLL COVER	817
Dragan Milčić, Erdinč Rakipovski, Tasko Smileski, Miodrag Milčić RELIABILITY ANALYSIS OF DISTRIBUTOR VALVE OF THE AIR BRAKE SYSTEM	825
Dragoljub Vujić STRUCTURAL HEALTH MONITORING TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS IN AIRCRAFT STRUCTURES	831
Mitar Jocanović, Velibor Karanović, Darko Knežević, Marko Orošnjak MODEL FOR MONITORING OF THE PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OIL FILLING IN HYDRAULIC SYSTEMS	837
Mladen Todić, S. Petkovic, B. Milinovic HARMFULNESS OF EXHAUSTED SYSTEM MOTOR SUS IN CONFINED SPACE	843
Biljana Vranješ, Zorana Tanasić DETERMINING THE CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS AT WORK – ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS	849



TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRAKE SYSTEMS OF THE AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS AND TRAILERS

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Summary: As agricultural tractor size and speeds have increased during recent years, heavier loads are transported on public roads at higher speeds. With the combination of higher-energy level and more rapid deceleration, brake systems with excellent heat dissipation characteristics are required. Wet multiple-disc brakes have similar multiple-disc construction, but operate in an oil bath. ABS is the next step in the development of a brake system of the tractor that brings an additional level of safety and control. In addition to the illustrations of development trends of the various components of the braking system of agricultural tractors and trailers, the aim of this paper is to describe the FE modelling of wet multiple-disc brakes and their brake performances.

Key words: agricultural tractors; trailers; multiple-disc brakes; brake performances

1. INTRODUCTION

There is a tendency worldwide to improve tractor's transporting performance by increasing tractor speed. Faster, bigger, more powerful and more manoeuvrable machines are capable of developing ever higher speeds. Nevertheless, the increase of the agricultural vehicles' speed requires efficient braking system that should enable agricultural vehicles to keep the pace with the other fast vehicles participant in road traffic, taking into account traffic safety. Braking technology for the mega-machines of today and tomorrow needs to be equally efficient, low-maintenance, convenient and economical. Highly effective, oil-cooled multi servo disk brakes guarantee a solid, reliable braking performance.

Tractor standards include three basic types of standards: safety, performance and interoperability. There are seven different major Standard Development Organizations (SDOs) for the agricultural tractor industry: the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), Society of Automotive

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Engineers (SAE) International, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), Association of Equipment Manufacturers – Equipment Manufacturers Institute (AEM-EMI), Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratories (NTTL) [1].

The European directive 76/432/EEC specifies the performance requirements for the braking systems of wheeled agricultural tractors with a maximum speed of up to 40 km/h (categories T1, T2 and T3). When the directive came under revision, tractors faster than 40 km/h (Category T5) and trailers & interchangeable towed machinery (category R&S), have come into the scope. Until a compromise has been found between European Commission/Member states/ industry categories, T5 and R&S vehicles fall under national type approval for braking. Braking on self-propelled agricultural machinery is also handled by national approvals. Regulation 167/2013 of the European parliament and of the Council of 5 February 2013 on the approval and market surveillance of agricultural and forestry vehicles add requirements and expand the scope to cover tractors, trailers, and towed equipment up to 60 km/h and above. Also in development is ISO 12933 Agricultural tractors - Safety and performance requirements for braking [2].

In North America, ANSI/ASAE S318 references ANSI/ASAE S365, Braking System Test Procedures and Braking Performance Criteria for Agricultural Field Equipment for braking requirements [3]. The scope of this standard includes both tractors and agricultural equipment. For a European designer of tractors marketed in North America, the minimum park brake performance requirement in this standard is particularly noteworthy. To paraphrase, the parking brake needs to hold the equivalent of 2.5 times the maximum weight rating for the tractor on an 18% slope [4]. This is more rigorous than the European equivalent of the maximum weight rating of a tractor on an 18% slope [5].

A summary of the minimum tractor braking performance requirements expressed as percentage efficiencies (i.e. braking effort as a percentage of the tractor's Design Gross Vehicle Weight (DGVW)) are included in Table 1 below. These will apply to both new and existing agricultural tractors from 1st January 2016.

Table 1 Revised Agricultural Tractor Braking Standards

Minimum Braking Performance Requirements for Agricultural Tractors	
Speed rating less than or equal to 40 km/h	Speed rating greater than 40 km/h
Service Brake (25%) Parking Brake (16%)	Service Brake (45%) Emergency Brake (22.5%) Parking Brake (16%)

A summary of the minimum trailer braking performance requirements, once again expressed as percentage efficiencies, are included in Table 2 below. Note that the figure quoted for the service brake performance is based on the weight transmitted to the road surface by the trailer axle(s) fitted with brakes, whereas the breakaway and parking brake performances quoted are based on the Design Gross Vehicle Weight (DGVW) of the trailer. These will apply from 1st January 2016.

Table 2 Revised Agricultural Trailer Braking Standards

Minimum Braking Performance Requirements for Agricultural Tractors	
Trailers with a speed rating less than or equal to 40km/h and a Design Gross Vehicle Weight (DGVW) exceeding 5,000kg.	Trailers with a speed rating greater than 40km/h and a Design Gross Vehicle Weight (DGVW) exceeding 3,500kg.
Service Brake (25%) Breakaway Brake (13.5%) Parking Brake (16%)	Service Brake (45%) Breakaway Brake (13.5%) Parking Brake (16%)

Furthermore, all agricultural trailers which are manufactured from 1st January 2016 and are capable by design of being drawn at a speed exceeding 40km/h must be equipped with:

- pneumatic braking systems (including load sensing functionality which matches the service brake effort to the weight of the load being carried); and those capable of being drawn at a speed exceeding 60km/h must also be equipped with antilock braking systems (ABS).
- a breakaway brake capable of automatically stopping them should they become detached from the tractor while in motion.

Amendments to the Regulation of the division of motor vehicles, trailers and technical requirements for vehicles in traffic in Republic of Serbia of 22nd September 2014 brought: detailed definition of vehicles of type R-tractor trailer and type S-towed equipment, as well as the term-working equipment. It is also explained in more detail the term of braking coefficient, method and conditions used to measure it. The table that gives the prescribed minimum value of the braking coefficient is supplemented with the values for type S for working and auxiliary braking. Prescribed norms referring to the braking coefficient for vehicles of type T, i.e. R and S apply also to the measurement of deceleration vehicles' combination consisting of a tractor and tractor's trailer type R or S [6].

2. DEVELOPMENT OF TRACTORS AND TRAILERS' BRAKE SYSTEM

Braking performance of the vehicle is prescribed by technical requirements and is determined by deceleration (m/s^2) of the vehicle during braking. The tractor must be equipped with two independent braking systems (Figure 1). For normal operation and control of the braking system, the maximum physical force required from a man during the maximum braking deceleration is in the range from 200N to 490N.

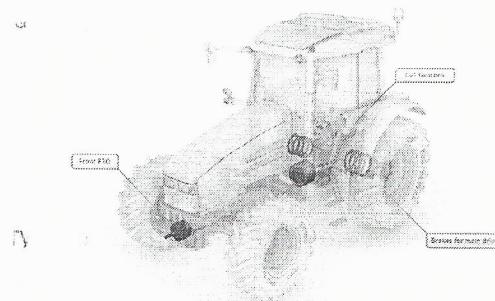


Fig.1 Brakes for main drive

The weight distribution and large rear tires of conventional tractors have enabled tractors to generate sufficient braking effort from their rear wheels alone; typically such tractors have no front brakes fitted. The move to 40 km/h tractors in Europe has coincided with the almost universal acceptance of front wheel assist driven axles. This has given manufacturers the opportunity to engage the front axle drive while braking. This technology has also been carried into the 50 km/h tractor models, with the addition of incorporating some form of disc brakes onto the front drive system to assist the braking effort.

In the case of hydrostatic transfer of the control force, the muscle force shall be transferred from the brake pedal to the master hydraulic cylinder, and then through the hydraulic installations to the individual braking elements, which are mounted on the driving wheels or some other elements with rotational motions (Figure 2). Usually, braking elements are mounted before the final transmission on the drive wheel for easier braking-stopping vehicles at lower rotational moment of inertia, and this is occurring at the moment of stopping of the tractor.

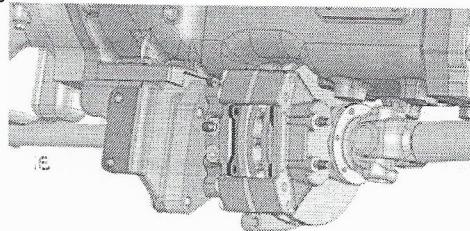


Fig. 2 Drive shaft brake

Multiple disc brakes consist of a plurality of braking plates, which are operating in the dry/oil condition with a large pressure force between the plates during braking. To reduce the wear of the brake lining, disc brake pads are immersed in oil, and they are protected from dirt, the circulation of the oil through a heat exchanger usually provides greater heat dissipation than can be had from direct air cooling and have steady braking effect and a long service period. Their downside is significant energy loss due to hydraulic friction between the linings and oil, especially in higher speeds and cold oil in the state when the brakes are not used, but the brake disc rotating with a certain speed.

Ball on ramp brakes (Figure 3) have a mechanism inside the axle however if they are hydraulically applied the actuation is usually accessible from outside which helps to reduce servicing costs. In order to make a ball ramp actuator non servo the actuator must be decoupled from the friction plates.

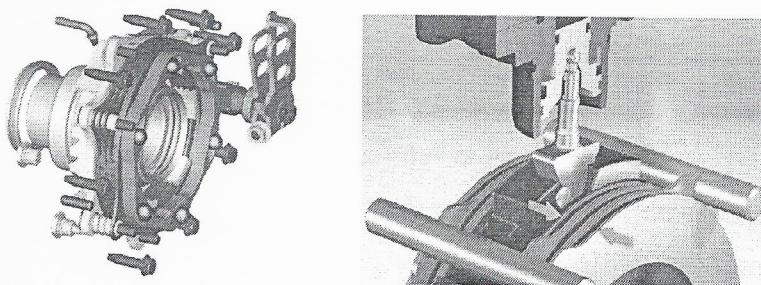


Fig. 3 Ball on Ramp Brakes

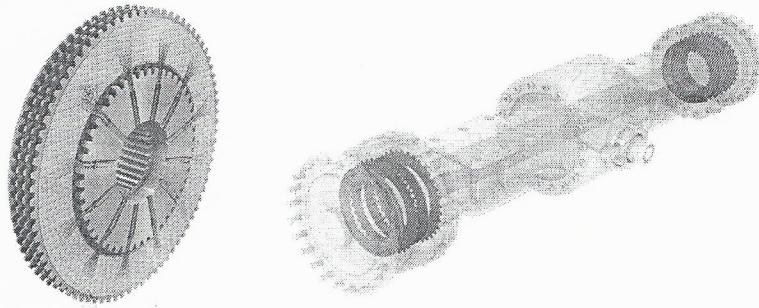


Fig. 4 Multi-plate disc brake [7]

Most modern multi-plate disc brakes (Figure 4) run in oil to transfer the heat away from the friction plates but that hasn't always been the case. The enclosed nature of the brake does require consideration of heat dissipation though. There are two fundamental types of multi-plate brakes, servo and non servo. The purpose of a multi plate disc brake is the same as the more conventional calliper. It has to retard, stop and hold the vehicle. The fundamental difference is that it is self contained and cooled by oil. Many vehicles using this type of brake have hub reduction gearing so it is common for oil immersed brakes to be inboard of this gearing and as such they run at five or six time wheel speed.

Uneven terrain and a huge amount of variation in traction conditions, even from wheel to wheel, means that an effective antilock braking system for tractors requires more advanced development. The ABS module (Figure 5) measures the speed on each individual wheel using four speed sensors. Since the wheels on tractors have a high inertia due to their size and weight, the ABS module also communicates with the tractor control unit. The control unit can then drive the affected wheel via the transmission, if opening the brake is not enough to maintain the required speed. Both front wheels are controlled together to maintain the stability of the tractor, even if there are different surfaces under each wheel. The rear wheels are controlled individually by the ABS module.

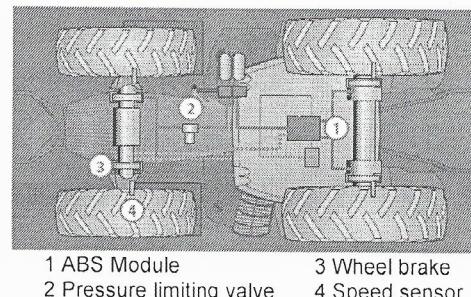


Fig. 5 ABS – for the highest level of braking performance

Influence of different mechanical and thermal properties of composite materials is easily obtained from FE analysis. In this sense FE simulation is a perfect tool for sensitivity analysis. Also the nonuniformities observed in the current results can serve as guidelines for the future to obtain the desired effect (Figure 6).

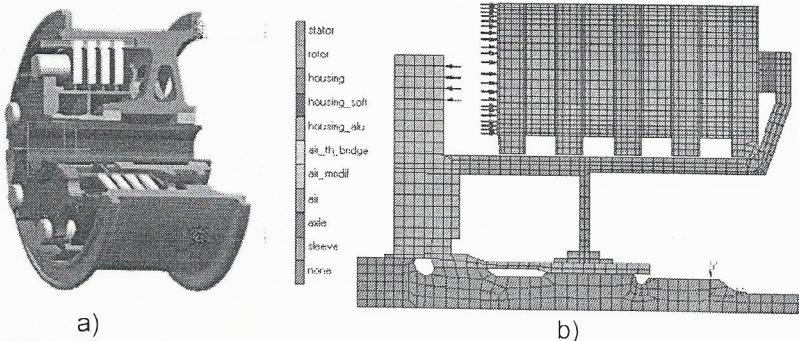


Fig. 6 a) Solid model of a wheel brake assembly b) Mechanical load during brake action

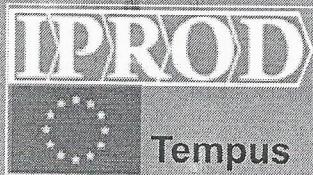
3. CONCLUSION

Adoption of the upcoming European legislation in the field of agricultural tractor and trailer will place new demands on manufacturers of agricultural tractors, trailers and machinery in terms of braking systems. An increase number of tractors with speeds over 60 km/h participate in traffic on highways. Therefore, they must comply with the braking performance of other traffic participants. This led to the development of new generation of efficient wet multi plate brakes, combined tractor's hydro-pneumatic braking systems that are compatible with trailer's pneumatic braking system, braking combined with steering system that increase tractor manoeuvrability, ABS braking system, etc.

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