



Research Paper

Optimization of Brake Disc Profile Based on the Thermal Performance for Electric Vehicles

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ABSTRACT

The brake disc market has reached the value of USD 20.9 billion in 2021 at a CAGR of 4.9% and it is expected to grow to USD 26.5 billion by 2026. However, the difficulties associated with the brake discs are significant rise in the temperature which results in, early wear, thermal cracks and brake fade leading to uneven braking and premature replacement. In this context many researchers have been studying the parameters like brake disc material and type of ventilation. The objective of the work was to study of the effect of ventilation types on thermal responses and optimize the brake disc profile for better thermal performances. Center of gravity and dynamic load transfer were calculated for two wheeler electric vehicle experimentally which was followed by computing the force required for braking process and heat flux on the brake disc analytically. Ventilation of type cross drilled holes (CD) was adopted in brake disc modelling, and was carried out in SOLIDWORKS 2022 and finite element model for the brake disc was created in ANSYS 17.2 with mesh size of 2 mm for lamellar graphite iron (LGI) with temperature dependent material properties. The transient thermal analysis for three braking cycles were carried out with the considerations such as: initial velocity of the vehicle of 96 km/h, ambient temperature of 22°C, conduction and convection modes of heat transfer and 5 s of deceleration and acceleration time

Keywords: Cross drill ventilation; heat flux; transient thermal analysis; Lamellar Graphite Iron (LGI).

1. INTRODUCTION

Disc brakes are widely utilized on automobile and motorbike wheels in automotive applications and are usually made of cast iron disc that is fastened to the wheel hub. This is positioned between two pads that are supported in a calliper located on the stub shaft and are driven by pistons as shown in the Fig. 1. The opposing pistons and brake pads are pushed into frictional contact with the disc when the brake pedal is depressed, which is caused by hydraulically pressurized fluid being driven into the cylinders. This type of braking has the benefits of steady braking, simple design,

easy ventilation, and balancing thrust loads. The braking action is proportional to the applied force because there is no self-energizing action. The net thrust load on the disc cancels as equal forces are applied to the pads on either side of it. The brake system, which transforms mechanical energy into thermal energy [1,2] and distributes it through the discs and pads, is a crucial component of the locomotive safety system. The disc absorbs between 80 to 90 percent of the heat, which causes the brake disc's temperature to rise quickly and impairs braking performance [3]. It becomes very much important to consider the thermal behaviour of the brake disc and brake pad in the process of braking because rapid rise in the brake disc temperature reduces the braking performance and leads to thermal cracking, hot spots [3] brake fade and early wear [4]. Various parameters like brake disc profile, material, ventilation, etc. play important role in thermal behaviour. This led many researchers to do comprehensive study on thermal behaviour of the disc brake. Yang Ying et al. [5] investigated the effect of number of brake pads (14 and 18) and brake pad arrangements on temperature rise on brake disc resulted in the early stage of braking for ultra-deep mine hoist. Numerical simulations were carried out using direct coupling method. It was found that the increase in the number of brake pads does not improve the thermal performance but changing the brake pad arrangement has greater impact on thermal performance.) on braking torque for ventilated air disc brake. Orthogonal experimental design L9 array was selected and dynamic analysis was carried out. It was observed that the braking torque is more sensitive to pressing force rather than friction coefficients. Whereas A.A. Yevtushenko et al. [7] investigated the disc brake of material cast iron and pad made of FMC11 at different values of contact pressure (0.59, 0.78,

1.18 and 1.47 MPa) and corresponding constant friction coefficients (0.672, 0.593, 0.507 and 0.448) and temperature dependent friction coefficients. Three dimensional FE contact model analysis is performed and resulting temperature fields, braking times and braking distances were found. Further A.A. Yevtushenko et al. [8] investigated the effect of temperature dependent friction coefficient on cast iron disc with FC-16L and FMC-11 pad materials at 1.47 MPa contact pressure. It was found that for friction pair of cast iron and FC-16L the maximum temperature attained was 112.3°C with 23.1% increase in friction coefficient whereas for cast iron and FMC-11 pair the maximum temperature attained was 97.1°C with 8.4% decrease in friction coefficient. Lucival Malcher et al. [1] analysed steel SAE 1045 and stainless steel AISI 304 (brake disc material) for better heat dissipation. Amount of heat generated was calculated by braking power for 25 braking cycles. Transient thermal simulations were carried out where the heat flux was applied to the friction surface. It was found that steel SAE 1045 has better heat dissipating capacity than the stainless steel AISI 304. Whereas Tohid Mahmoudi et al. [4] analysed FG Al-A359/SiCp, aluminium, and ductile cast iron materials for functionally graded wheel mounted brake disc. Experimental tests and uncoupled thermo-mechanical analysis is performed. It was found that safety factor for FG material is higher than other materials considering the stress analysis. But maximum temperature in a braking cycle for FG material is 248.5°C and for aluminium and cast iron is

235.5°C. Qifeng Jian et al. [3] investigated heat pipe ventilated brake disc (HPVBD) for maximum heat dissipation and temperature uniformity. Experimental and simulation results were computed for repeated 15 braking and continuous downhill braking. It was found that, by introducing the heat pipes, temperature uniformity has increased by 36.675% and 21.435% and the heat

dissipation has increased by 12.625% and 18.90% for repeated 15 braking and continuous downhill braking respectively. Further Qifeng Jian et al. [9] investigated the transient temperature field of automobile brake under hard braking in radial and circumferential direction. Experimental tests were performed on vehicle test bench along with finite element simulations. It was found that the temperature in friction zone was maximum in radial direction, the maximum temperature in the circumferential direction was same at all points but at different times. Pyung Hwang et al. [10] analysed the ventilated disc brake for temperature field and thermal stress during single brake cycle. Multi body model simulations with thermo-mechanical coupling boundary conditions were carried out along with experimental trials. It is found that the maximum contact pressure is occurred at mid circle of the contact region the mid stage of the braking cycle, and the maximum of 205.56° is occurred at the mid circle region. Ali Belhocine et al. [2] analysed the full brake disc and ventilated brake disc of cast iron (FG 15). Coupled thermomechanical and computational fluid dynamic simulations were carried out. It was found that the maximum temperature in full brake disc was 401.55°C and in ventilated disc brake was 345.44°C. Further the maximum thermal deformation and von mises stress on ventilated brake disc were found to be 284.55 µm and 495.56 MPa respectively. A.A. Yevtushenko et al. [11] investigated the effect of temperature dependence on material properties such as coefficient of heat conduction and specific heat, keeping thermal diffusivity constant. Titanium pad is associated with different disc materials (steel disc, grey iron and aluminium alloy). Laplace transform and Newton-Raphson methods were used to find the numerical-analytical solutions and were compared with results obtained with constant thermo physical properties of disc and pad. It was found that at constant speed influence of thermo sensitive materials on temperature is increasing with increasing time of friction heating and at constant deceleration the influence of thermo sensitive materials on temperature was noticeable for steel-titanium system and least noticeable for grey iron-titanium system.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Material of the Brake Disc

The grey cast iron alloy is the most common type of cast iron used in braking discs. It has a pearlitic matrix with graphite particles. Due to the higher concentration of graphite in the microstructure of grey cast iron, which increases heat conductivity and permits lower temperatures in the area of friction [15]. In contrast to ductile iron, where spherical graphite particles are isolated from one another and therefore contribute very little to the thermal conductivity, which makes ductile iron have excellent strength and wear resistance comparable to other cast irons. Graphite flakes are interconnected and disposed in the form of plates, creating an easy path for fast heat dissipation [15]. Lamellar Graphite Iron (LGI) is considered for the brake disc material with the following properties shown in the Table 1 [16,17].

2.2 Locating Centre of Gravity

Experimentally During the process of deceleration the vehicle load will be partially shifted towards front wheel due to inertia. Due to this phenomenon braking force required in front wheel disc to stop the vehicle becomes more compared to rear wheel disc. Hence it becomes very much

important to calculate location of centre of gravity and actual dynamic load transfer during braking. Fig. 2 shows the diagrammatic representation of two wheeler vehicle when front wheel is elevated while measuring centre of gravity. The location centre of gravity is measured for two wheeler electric vehicle. The details are given in Table 2 whereas the Table 3 and Table 4 give the details of weight measurement of vehicle when kept horizontally and front wheel elevated respectively

Table 1. Material properties of lamellar graphite iron

Property	Value	At Temperature
Density	7146 kg/m ²	
Specific Heat	590 J/kg-K	773 K
	700 J/kg-K	873 K
Thermal Conductivity	58 W/m-K	300 K
	45 W/m-K	773 K

Table 2. Location of centre of gravity

Condition	a (m)	h (m)
Vehicle	0.831	0.376
Vehicle and rider	0.83	0.597
Vehicle rider and Passenger	0.92	0.862

Table 3. Weight measurement of vehicle when kept horizontally

Weighing Condition	Front F or Rear R	Weight (kg)	Average (kg)
Vehicle Weight (kg)	F1	36.60	36.13
	F2	36.80	
	F3	35.00	
	R1	53.25	54.32
	R2	54.20	
	R3	55.50	
Vehicle and Rider Weight (kg)	F1	64.10	63.7
	F2	64.30	
	F3	62.70	
	R1	93.90	
	R2	93.80	
	R3	95.70	
Vehicle, Rider and Passenger Weight (kg)	F1	75.70	75.93
	F2	75.90	
	F3	76.20	
	R1	151.60	152.67
	R2	153.90	
	R3	152.50	

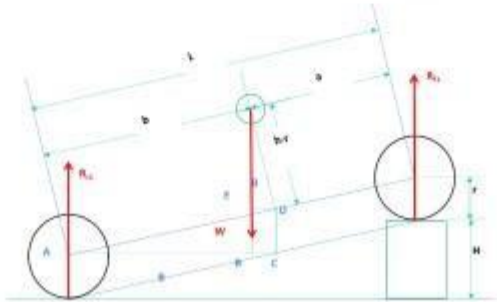


Fig. 2. Locating centre of gravity

2.3 Brake Disc Modelling

Brake disc is modelled in SOLIDWORKS 2022. Fig. 3 illustrated the details of modelling carried out in SOLIDWORKS 2022. Twelve ventilation model of different types are considered with cross drilled holes of different diameter. The effective frictional surface area lies between diameters 150 mm to 200 mm on the disc where disc pad comes in contact with disc. Ventilations are provided in the frictional surface area with holes of diameters 3.5 mm, 4 mm, and 4.5 mm. Three cross drill holes are provided in one group as shown in the detail A in Fig. 3. Three number of holes are drilled at

pitch circle diameters 160 mm, 175 mm and 190 mm in one group. Different types of ventilation on the disc is modelled and are shown in the Fig. 4 and the details of the same is provided in the Table 5.

2.4 Heat Flux Calculation

The brake system, which transforms mechanical energy into thermal energy [1,2] and distributes it through the discs and pads, is a crucial component of the locomotive safety system. The disc absorbs between 80 to 90 percent of the heat, which causes the brake disc's temperature to rise quickly. Hence the amount of heat entering the disc is calculated per mm² of area (heat flux) on the frictional surface of the disc.

3. Discussion

It is observed that the maximum temperature for disc without ventilation after 3rd braking cycle is 349.9 °C, which is considered as the maximum wear rate zone as the wear rate increases exponentially after 300°C [15]. Hence ventilation is provided on the disc to reduce the temperature on the disc. Basically ventilation increases the surface area of the disc by which the heat flux reduces as they are inversely related. As the heat flux is directly proportional to the temperature rise on disc, Ventilation is provided with parameters like hole diameter and number of cross drilled holes to increase the convective heat transfer area there by reducing the heat flux entering the disc. The overall character of these shows a quick rise in temperature at the start of the process, followed by the achievement of the maximum value and, eventually there is a drop in temperature. The phenomenon naturally occurs pertaining to the connection between the thermal load and its concomitant conduction-mediated absorption and convection, although it doesn't significantly affect regular single-phase flow circumstances for braking.

4. CONCLUSION

In this project the effect of ventilation is studied on the brake disc for three braking cycles in the two wheeler vehicle. Modelling of brake disc is carried out in SOLIDWORKS 2022 and transient thermal simulations are carried out in ANSYS 17.2. Lamellar Graphite Iron (LGI) is consider for the brake disc material. • The simulations were carried out for 30 s and for 3 braking cycles with maximum speed of vehicle being 96 km/h. Acceleration and deceleration times were considered as 5 s. • The temperature field plots shows that the maximum temperature occurs at the surface of the friction. • The rise in the temperature in nonventilated brake disc for three braking cycles leads to cause maximum wear rate on the disc as the temperature reaches 349°C. • Simulations were carried out by providing the ventilations on the disc which increases the surface area and reduces the heat flux on the disc resulting in the decrease in the temperature • For the ventilation type VT-12 the maximum temperature was about 299°C, which is 50°C lesser than the temperature observed in brake disc without ventilation. COMPETING INTERESTS Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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