

Load Displacement Prediction for a Conical Disk Spring using Energy Method

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1. Introduction

A Conical disk spring only possesses a coned disk segment with no lever arms segment. Based on Almen's assumptions in the developed numerical formulation, only displacement due to rigid motion is considered. In this study, we attempt to propose an energy method based on the developed Almen formulation to predict the non-linear load displacement curve for the same conical disk spring. Since the proposed energy method is fundamentally derived from Almen's equations, similar non-linear load displacement curves to Almen's results are obtained. To support the 2 numerical formulations, SAE formulation for conical disk spring is also presented which has similar formulation to Almen's but with different dimensioning parameters. Due to the limitation of 2-dimensional Almen's assumptions, large error occurs in the increasing non-linear curve once 3-dimensional analysis results are compared to Almen's, SAE and the proposed energy method.

2. Conical Disk Spring Dimensioning Parameters

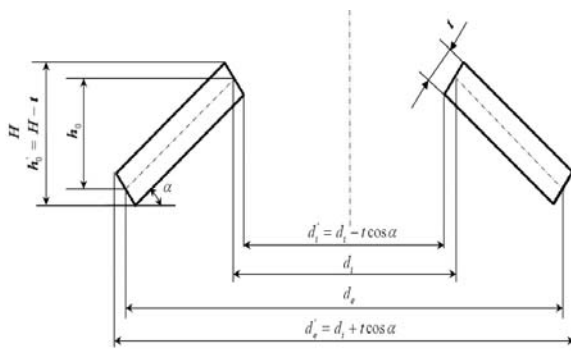


Fig. 1 Geometric Property of a Conical Disk Spring (Non-Slotted Disk Spring)

Theoretical Almen formulation expresses the geometric parameters by referring to the central neutral line, which is different from SAE's geometric dimensioning parameters. Since our proposed energy method is based on Almen's formulation, similar referred dimensioning parameters to Almen's are employed. Fig. 1 shows the different geometric parameters' expressions for both conical disk spring formulations. All SAE dimensions are denoted with an apostrophe sign, such as d'_e (outer diameter) and d'_i (inner diameter), while Almen's dimensions are denoted without the sign. This is also implied to a straight and non-straight slotted disk spring dimensions.

Based on Fig. 1, the parameter expression for free height h_0 can be employed directly from Almen's geometric parameter h_0 . However, for SAE's geometric parameter, the free height h_0 is simply defined as

$$h'_0 = H - t \quad (1)$$

where the expression for SAE's free height dimension is denoted as h'_0 (approximated free height). Numerically, theoretical Almen's formulation is more accurate to define the free height h_0 in comparison to SAE's formulation. This is because Almen's formulation strictly defines the free height h_0 based on a central line. SAE's formulation only approximates the free height h_0 by simply deducting the total height H with thickness t as it is convenient for real industrial measurement. It is therefore, once different referred dimensioning parameters are used in the same numerical formulation, a slight difference can be clearly seen.

3. Energy Method FEM Analysis

For a conical disk spring, the required energy to perform vertical displacement is simply defined from the spring's non-linear load displacement function that can be plotted using Almen's formulation.

Since the numerical formulations are defined based on non-linear elastic behavior, the FEM analysis is also simulated using non-linear elastic analysis with large deflection. Unlike in the previous research, elastic plastic analysis is not used here since plastic deformation or

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material nonlinearity is not considered in the compared numerical formulation. It is impractical to compare both numerical formulation results using elastic plastic analysis such comparison permit dissimilar input variables. From a practical point of view, it is

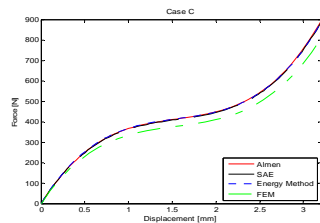
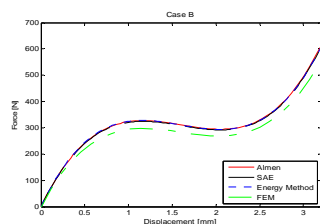
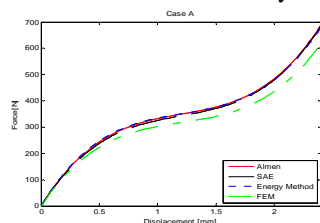
Case (s)	d_e	d_i	t	h_0	H
Case A	94.372mm	75.628mm	1.0mm	1.204mm	2.2mm
Case B	98.887mm	70.613mm	1.0mm	1.606mm	2.6mm
Case C	118.884mm	85.616mm	1.25mm	1.555mm	2.8mm

unreasonable to compare the elastic numerical simulation to an elastic plastic analysis.

4. Example and Results

Table 1 Geometric Properties of Conical Disk Springs

The detail geometric and material properties of three examples of conical disk spring (non-slotted disk spring) are shown in Table 1. Constant Elastic Modulus 200 000 N/mm² and Poisson ratio 0.3 are defined in this computation. By employing our proposed numerical formulation, the predicted non-linear load displacement functions are plotted and compared to Almen, SAE formulation and elastic FEM analysis.



The calculated load displacement results for the three cases are shown. It can be clearly seen that the Almen results tend to be similar to our proposed energy

method. This is the consequence of initially deriving the proposed energy method from Almen formulation besides keeping all the given Almen's assumptions. In the other hand, there is a slight difference between Almen and SAE formulation results. This can be clearly explained by the different dimensioning parameters between Almen and SAE as mentioned in the previous section. Since our proposed energy method applies the same assumptions as Almen, it is reasonable to employ SAE formulation as a comparison to unavailable Almen slotted disk spring in the next section.

From the same figure, it is observed that FEM analysis results almost approach the three numerical formulations in the early quarter displacement but tends to contribute to large error in the following displacement region. This pattern is similar to results obtained in previous research [3] that compares to Almen results. One possible explanation is that, the 3-dimensional FEM model allows the deflection in the radial direction. However, the 2-dimensional numerical formulations completely ignored such deflection as assumed in Almen formulation. This is considered as a factor that contributes to such error.

5. Conclusion

The comparison between the employed numerical formulations to FEM especially in the increasing displacement region follows the trend as discussed in previous research. It is therefore, the occurred error is not because of the weakness of proposed energy method, but it is because the limitations of Almen assumptions. Such limitations are identified as factors to the weakness of proposed energy method which affects the prediction once the obtained results are compared to FEM analysis.

8. References

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- [3] Noboru Yahata, and Masaaki Watanabe, 1993, "Analysis of Coned Disk Spring by Finite Element Method," The Japan Society of Mechanical Engineering, **59**,pp. 260-265