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Jawhar ELGUEDER, Emmanuelle ROUHAUD, Florent COCHENNEC, Lionel ROUCOULES - Integration of residual stresses in the design of mechanical parts - In: 8th European Conference on Residual Stresses (ECRS8), Italy, 2010-06 - Materials Science Forum - ECRS-8 - 2011

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Integration of residual stresses in the design of mechanical parts

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Keywords: residual stress, manufacturing constraint, design for manufacturing, fatigue design

Abstract. This paper presents an original approach in mechanical design to integrate the manufacturing constraints in the final CAD model. A specific user-interface is proposed to integrate manufacturing constraints (for example tolerances) and manufacturing consequences (for example roughness or hardening) into the model. One of the important consequences of manufacturing processes is the generation of residual stresses into the part. An appropriate tool has been developed and used as a design tool to manage the global evolution of residual stresses in the mechanical part and to obtain the deformed geometry resulting from the applied manufacturing plan. These results could eventually be used in fatigue simulation. To support the model, a database is used for the integration of residual stresses from stored experimental results, analytical or numerical calculations. An example of a metal sheet, laminated and deformed by shot peening is given, the deformed geometry is rebuilt and compared to the experimental results.

Introduction

Most manufacturing processes introduce residual stresses into the mechanical part. These residual stresses can play an important role increasing or decreasing the resistance, fracture limit, the fatigue behaviour, the corrosion resistance and even the geometry of the part in some cases. The failure of a component or a structure is not only due to external loads; residual stresses are to be considered as an important parameter in this respect. The state of residual stresses superposed to the service stresses can have a positive effect such as increasing the fatigue limit in the case of surface compressive stresses (introduced by shot peening for example) or it can have a negative effect such as decreasing the stress corrosion behaviour of a material in the case of tensile residual stresses [1]. There is an increasing interest in how residual stresses can affect the mechanical properties of a material and of a structure, so residual stresses are gradually taken into account in advanced mechanical design in industrial sectors such as the nuclear, automotive and aerospace industries. We propose to use an original interface in a Design For Manufacturing (DFM) context to integrate manufacturing constraints and residual stresses into the final CAD model. The work presented is based on a product model built using the skin and skeleton concepts [2]. The industrial context of DFM, concurrent engineering and the reasons of the integration of residual stresses are given in the first part. After presenting the product-process interface and its concept, the case of integration of residual stresses due to shot peening is treated in the mechanical design tool and the whole manufacturing plan is chained. Finally conclusions and the perspectives for further work are proposed.

Industrial context: Concurrent Engineering, DFM and integration of residual stresses

The fundamentals of authors' DFM approach aim at integrating manufacturing constraints (such as tolerances) and data at the earliest stage of design. The model of integration (i.e. product-process interface model) chosen is based on the work of Roucoules and Skander [3]. They showed that the

consideration of manufacturing constraints as early as possible in the design process is of great interest for a better selection of the manufacturing processes. This, indeed, supports the emergence of product geometry [4] and goes towards a limited number of iterations between design and manufacturing decisions: “do [it] right the first time”. This first section treats the design context in which the DFM approach is studied.

Design context. Concurrent engineering aims at linking all expertise taking part in the design of a new product from functional specifications to the product’s industrialisation and dismantling. It implies the simultaneous use of various engineering disciplines such as design, manufacturing, assembly, recycling, etc. During the product development phase, every expert involved in the product life cycle, has to bring his constraint to include in the definition of the product as soon as he got the justification to do; specially manufacturing expert, because manufacturing decisions are directly related to the product design. The reason various disciplines need to work together is to avoid changes in the design late in the product development cycle. DFM can be defined as a design practice keeping in mind manufacturing information. To effectively design the product, manufacturing knowledge needs to be incorporated into product design. The designer should know how the process and design interact. In this context, for example residual stresses can be incorporated into the design of mechanical parts. Thus, this leads to a better knowledge of the fatigue life of the part and reduces the safety coefficient at the design stage.

This paper therefore presents an original DFM approach for manufacturing information synthesis in design. It gives some results to manage the data of the whole manufacturing process plan and to integrate those data to generate the CAD model. The CAD model and process parameters are then jointly defined that totally fits with concurrent and integrated design concepts.

The main advantages of that design approach are detailed in the following section considering the fact that:

- The CAD model is defined taking into account manufacturing information.
- The manufacturing simulations do take into account the history of the whole process plan. Since the CAD model is the input of the simulation, it has not to be seen as virgin of any previous manufacturing operation. On the contrary it has to embed manufacturing parameters and product-process relationships.

Product-process integration: application to residual stresses. Residual stresses are stresses that remain within the mechanical part after it has been deformed and all external forces have been removed. Macro residual stresses are the result of non homogeneous plastic deformation under the action of external treatment (such as induced by shot peening), non homogeneous plastic deformation during nonuniform cooling or heating, etc. Figure 1 shows an example of a metal sheet laminated and deformed by shot peening. Residual stresses can result in visible distortion of a component.

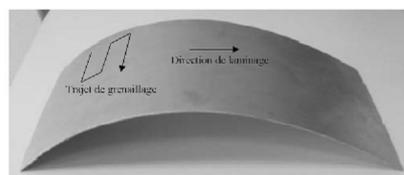


Fig. 1: example of a metal sheet laminated and deformed by shot peening

Residual stresses can play a significant role in explaining or preventing failure of a component at times. One example of residual stresses preventing failure is the shot peening of component to induce surface compressive stresses that improve the fatigue life of the component.

Shot peening is a classical surface treatment process which consists in impacting mechanical components with high velocity shots. This process is widely used in automotive industry to improve the fatigue resistance of parts by introducing compressive residual stresses under the peened surface [5]. Shot peen-forming is a specific application of the shot peening process which consists in using

the residual stresses state induced by the multiple shot impacts to bend and extend the treated sheet metal [6]. It is; therefore, very important to take into account the residual stresses (generated by manufacturing operations) during the development of the component. But today, few industrial sectors consider the residual stress parameter directly. In technical specifications, requirements are included that are often closely related to residual stress without actually naming it. For example an Almen intensity must be guaranteed in the case of shot peening, a roller-burnishing load, a machining procedure or a minimum treated thickness in the case of thermal or thermochemical treatment, and a maximum dimensioning tolerance in the case of a machined or welded part. [1]

Residual stresses are very difficult to foresee. In the case of shot peening many analytical and numerical models are proposed in the literature for predicting the geometrical distortions induced [7] [8] [9] [10] also experimental data [11] make it easier to take the residual stresses into account during the mechanical design.

Product-process interface modelling

The product-process interface model comes from the assumption that every manufacturing operation is based on a material flow called manufacturing skeleton in the following. This flow (or skeleton) (cf. Figure 2-a) is then defined with:

- Sections defining the initial and final surfaces through which the material is going (i.e. transversal surfaces).
- A trajectory on which the material is formed.
- An envelope surface which is generated. The link between envelopes generated in the process plan will provide manufacturing skins.

Based on that flow (called manufacturing skeleton) the material can be added (ex: injection), removed (ex: machining) or deformed (ex: forging, peen forming) to obtain the final part surfaces (called manufacturing skin). In the “added” and “removed” categories those surfaces are equal to the envelope surface.

Beyond very good results presented in [12] which concern the current results of that approach for nominal aspects, figure 2 gives the novelties of that paper. The new results concern the capabilities of that product-process interface:

- To manage product tolerances coming from manufacturing operations. Each level of tolerancing features (dimensional tolerances, form tolerances and roughness) is concerned. Figure 2 shows how those features are integrated in the product-process interface (i.e. manufacturing skeleton) characteristics.
- To manage material heterogeneity coming from manufacturing operations. It is also obvious that material flows (cf. above assumption) generate some gradients inside the manufactured product. Those gradients (ex: residual stresses) can, for instance, come from:
 - o Thermal phenomena in the skeleton’s sections that come from a cooling phase which is not always homogeneous during casting operations.
 - o Mechanical deformation on the skeleton’s trajectory coming from forming processes (ex: forging, peen forming...).

Generation of advanced CAD model taking into account residual stresses

The design tool. The generation of the enhanced CAD model is currently supported by a KBE application that is made of

- A DFM_synthesis software that manages the product-process breakdown and the form features algorithms that generate the CAD model from manufacturing skeleton.

The proposed product-process interface is then also interesting to “chain” every process simulation. Every simulation can indeed integrate an initial state of residual stresses with respect to the history of previous operations of the process plan (ex: stresses coming from forging, casting...).

Figure 4 illustrates how product-process interfaces with respect to former manufacturing operation are used as input information in the following simulation of the peen forming process. The simulation is currently processed with Zebulon as Finite Elements solver.

The first manufacturing operation consists in extruding material that create the parallelepiped CAD model, attached tolerances and residual stresses as previously presented. The second operation is a peen forming operation. The ball impacts all the upper face and generates plastic deformations. This simulation of the peen forming operation solves the elastic spring-back of the entire part and provides the curve part. The final residual stresses gradient is integrated in the manufacturing interface model to be used for potential further manufacturing operations as milling or drilling for instance.

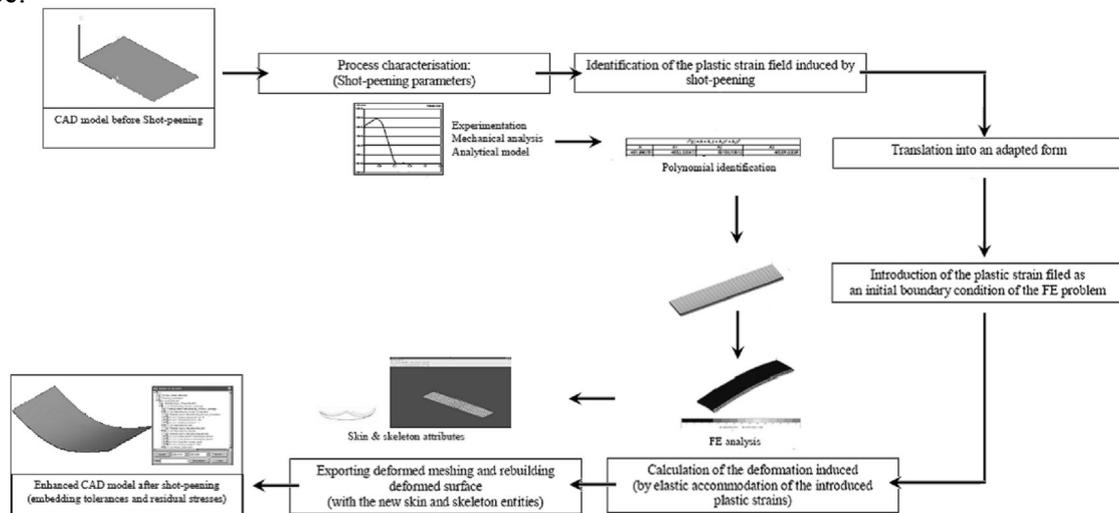


Fig. 4: Illustration of transferring residual stresses embedded in skeleton from first manufacturing simulation to the next one.

Finally, once the entire manufacturing process plan is defined and the respective product information (form + residual stresses field) is generated, all this information can be exchanged with fatigue analysis software; which therefore takes into account the heterogeneity of the part to assess the global product behaviour.

Conclusion and recommendations for future work

This paper presents a product-process interface model for a DFM approach. This model based on material flow modelling with respect to skeleton and skin concepts, is first used to integrate information as early as possible in the product design. The second objective is to manage manufacturing information linked to product characteristics (ex: residual stresses, topology, tolerances,). It is then profitable to simulate manufacturing processes taking into account the evolution of the product characteristics with respect to the manufacturing plan. The whole history of each manufacturing operation is then linked to the product definition, which is a new feature compared to the current CAD-centred design approach (or conventional CAD systems).

The main recommendations for future work are:

- To achieve the three main scenarii of chaining the manufacturing operations and to treat some larger manufacturing plan: e.g. Forging + Thermal Treatment + shot peening + machining.
- The application of the KBE software to more complicated academic and industrial case studies.
- The implementation of product-process relationships database that could take into account other manufacturing physical and technological phenomena; for instance vibration, or dynamic behaviours during machining operations.

Acknowledgments

This research work is partly supported by SNECMA industry. It is part of the MAIA project. The experimental peen forming process has been carried out in the Sisson Lehmann (Wheelabrator group) industry.

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