

Advancing Technology with Multidisciplinary Innovation for *Sustainable Growth*

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Chapter 9

Design, Simulation and Analysis of Floating Rotor Brake Plate

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Abstract

In an ever-evolving automotive landscape, brake systems play a pivotal role in ensuring vehicle safety and performance. This engineering project takes an extensive look at the design, analysis, and implications of a floating rotor brake plate, a critical component within the disc brake assembly. By examining the detailed design and modeling process, simulation analysis, and experimental testing of the floating rotor brake plate, this project addresses the limitations of traditional solid disc rotors. Key objectives include enhancing thermal management, reducing weight, and simplifying maintenance. The implications of this research extend to improving brake system design, increasing safety and reliability, reducing vehicle weight, and streamlining maintenance procedures, contributing to the automotive industry's pursuit of safer, more efficient, and high-performance vehicles.

Keywords: Floating rotor brake plate; Disc brake assembly; Thermal management; Vehicle safety; Vehicle performance; Experimental

testing;

1. Introduction

Disc brake systems have been extensively studied for their role in ensuring vehicle safety and performance, with recent trends focusing on floating rotor designs for improved thermal and structural behavior (Adams and Cebon, 1998). Traditional solid disc rotors, while reliable, often suffer from heat accumulation, uneven wear, and susceptibility to warping under high-stress braking (Belhocine and Bouchetara, 2012). Floating rotors, which separate the friction ring from the hub, allow thermal expansion without inducing structural deformation, thus improving resistance to brake fade (Lee et al., 2013).

The adoption of advanced materials such as carbon-ceramic composites and lightweight alloys has significantly enhanced thermal conductivity, reduced mass, and extended service life (Kang and Lim, 2015). Numerical simulation methods, particularly finite element analysis (FEA), have been instrumental in predicting rotor temperature distribution and stress patterns under dynamic braking conditions (Abu Bakar et al., 2010). Ventilated rotor designs, including cross-drilled and slotted patterns, have been shown to improve cooling efficiency and reduce the likelihood of thermal cracking (Gulzar et al., 2017). Hybrid designs that combine aluminum hubs with cast iron or composite friction surfaces have demonstrated reduced unsprung mass, contributing to better handling and energy efficiency (Kuhn et al., 2013). Several studies emphasize that lowering rotor mass also reduces rotational inertia, enhancing acceleration and deceleration responsiveness (Kumar et al., 2020). Optimization techniques for rotor geometry have yielded designs with improved

heat dissipation while maintaining structural integrity (Zhou et al., 2021).

Thermal stress analysis confirms that floating rotor systems can withstand greater thermal gradients, thereby prolonging service life (Belhocine, 2014). Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) coupled with structural modeling enables accurate representation of airflow and cooling performance in ventilated brake rotors (Talati and Jalalifar, 2009). Advanced coating technologies have been explored to increase wear resistance and protect against environmental corrosion (Gupta and Sharma, 2020). Collectively, these developments underpin the engineering rationale for floating rotor brake plates, providing the foundation for their design, analysis, and implementation in modern automotive systems.

The primary objectives of this project were to encompass several key aspects: Design of a Floating Rotor Brake Plate: The project initiates with the design of a floating rotor brake plate. This design includes specifications for dimensions and materials to optimize the braking system's performance. Simulation and Analysis: Finite Element Analysis (FEA) using Ansys is employed to simulate and predict the structural and thermal behavior of the designed floating rotor brake plate. This stage aims to comprehensively assess its performance under varying conditions.

2. Mechanism Used

Design and Modeling the design phase of the project involves the creation of a three-dimensional model of the floating rotor brake plate using Siemens NX.

This design phase plays a crucial role in addressing the limitations of traditional solid disc rotors and harnessing the potential advantages of floating disc rotors, such as improved thermal management and reduced weight.

2.1 Design Parameters

To optimize the performance of the floating rotor brake plate, the design encompasses critical parameters. These parameters include the rotor's diameter, thickness, and material selection. The design of the rotor should effectively balance factors such as heat dissipation, structural integrity, and weight.

Rotor Diameter: The size of the rotor plays a significant role in the braking system's performance. A larger diameter generally offers better leverage and braking force due to increased contact area with the brake pads. However, larger rotors might also add weight, which could affect other aspects of the system.

Rotor Thickness: The rotor's thickness is important for structural integrity and heat dissipation. Thicker rotors can handle more heat without deforming and provide better stability. Thinner rotors might be lighter but could be prone to overheating and warping under heavy braking.

Material Selection: The material choice for the rotor is crucial. It must balance heat dissipation, strength, and weight. Common materials include cast iron, carbon-ceramic, and various composites. Each material has its own advantages in terms of heat resistance, durability, weight, and cost. For example, carbon-ceramic rotors offer excellent heat dissipation and durability but are more expensive.

Heat Dissipation: Effective heat dissipation is vital to prevent brake fade and maintain consistent braking performance. Slots, holes, or vanes in the rotor design aid in heat dissipation by allowing hot gases to escape and cool air to circulate, thus reducing the risk of overheating.

Structural Integrity: The rotor must withstand high mechanical stresses and temperatures without deforming or failing. The design should ensure the rotor maintains its shape and strength under heavy braking and varied conditions.

3. Material Selection

The two-piece design of the floating rotor brake plate allows for the selection of different materials for the hub-mounted portion and the top disc. The hub-mounted portion, which remains consistent across different models, is selected for its strength and reliability, while the top disc is chosen to meet specific material characteristics, such as heat resistance and weight considerations. Material selection is a vital component of the design process to address the limitations of solid disc rotors.

4. Result and Discussion

Simulation and analysis using Ansys, based on the Finite Element Method (FEM), is a fundamental aspect of this project. The primary objective is to understand how the floating rotor brake plate behaves under varying conditions, addressing the thermal challenges and weight concerns that solid disc rotors face.

Structural analysis includes the evaluation of deformation and stress distribution. By subjecting the design to stress analysis, the project aims to identify the structural integrity of the floating rotor brake plate under different braking conditions.

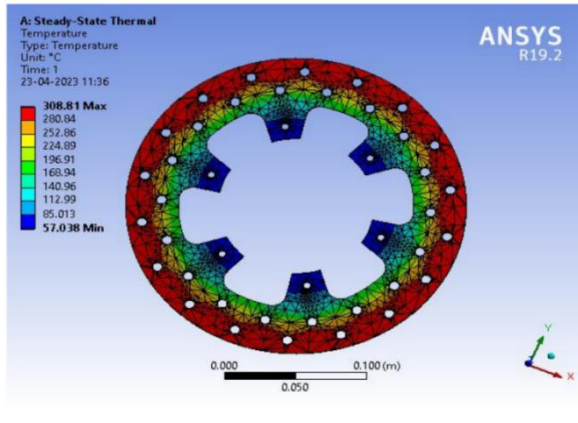


Figure 1: Deformation analysis

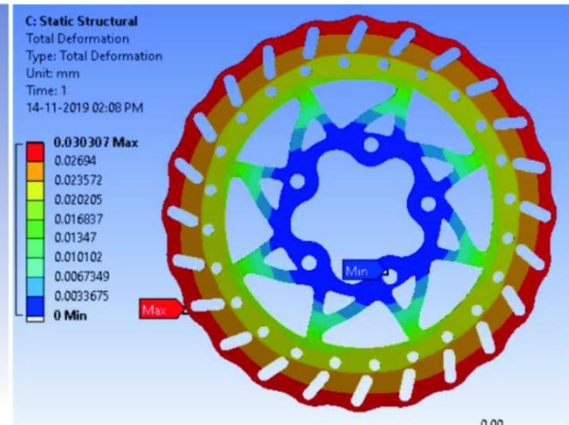


Figure 2: Thermal analysis

4. Conclusion

The floating rotor brake plate design significantly enhances brake system performance by improving heat dissipation, reducing weight, and simplifying maintenance. These advancements address critical limitations of traditional solid rotors, boosting vehicle safety and efficiency. The design is particularly beneficial for high-performance and eco-friendly vehicles. Future research should focus on material optimization and integration with advanced vehicle systems. Industry adoption of this technology promises safer, more efficient braking solutions. This innovation marks a pivotal step toward next-generation automotive braking systems.

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