

Theory and Processes of Formation and Sintering of Powder Materials Теория и процессы формования и спекания порош<u>ковых материалов</u>



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Abstract. The finite element method is employed to analyze the distribution of residual stresses in axisymmetric preforms of a gas compressor seal at the final stage of compaction. A computational scheme is presented, based on the obtained data on equivalent stress isolines. The dependence of the stress-strain state on the contact conditions between the compact and the die during pressing is examined. The obtained data illustrate equivalent stress isolines (MPa) according to the Mirolyubov criterion. It was established that in various sections, the stress state approaches the critical limit, which may lead to visible fracture of the briquette and delamination of its lateral surface. This finding confirms the results of previous studies on obtaining high-density powder compacts via single-step cold pressing. When solving the problem of producing a high-density powder component, the initial input data included a previously known stress distribution in the compacted briquette. Such data can be obtained from widely established methodologies, particularly for cold pressing in rigid dies for components with complex geometries. The stress-strain state of the powder briquette was computed at the contact surface between the compact and the rigid die under high and infinite friction conditions. In certain regions, significant stress levels can provoke hidden or visible failure, such as rupture of the "terminal layer" or delamination of the lateral surface. The results of numerical investigations are also applicable to low-modulus powder materials compacted in massive dies. The described method for calculating residual stresses was developed using a specialized IBM software program and was utilized for stress state analysis of compacted preforms under elastic unloading conditions.

Keywords: cold pressing, residual stress, stress-strain state, finite element method, computational scheme, seal, die, powder material

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Оценка напряженного состояния холоднопрессованного брикета уплотнителя для газокомпрессорной установки

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Аннотация. Методом конечных элементов анализируется распределение остаточных напряжений в осесимметричных заготовках уплотнителя газокомпрессорной установки к концу прессования. Представлена схема расчета, основанная на полученной информации по изолиниям эквивалентных напряжений. Дается зависимость напряженно-деформированного состояния от контактных условий прессовки с матрицей. На основании полученной информации показаны изолинии экви-



валентных напряжений (МПа) по критерию Миролюбова. Установлено, что на разных участках напряженное состояние близко к предельному и может привести к видимому разрушению брикета и расслоению его боковой поверхности. Это подтверждает результаты работ по получению высокоплотных порошковых прессовок путем однократного холодного прессования. При решении задачи получения высокоплотной порошковой детали вводной информацией являлось известное распределение напряжений в уплотненном брикете. Такие данные возможно получить из некоторых широко представленных методик, особенно для состояния холодного прессования в твердых матрицах деталей сложной конфигурации. Произведен расчет напряженио-деформированного состояния порошкового брикета на контактной поверхности прессовки с твердой матрицей для высокого и безграничного трений. На некоторых участках значительное напряженное состояние способно спровоцировать скрытое или видимое разрушение, например разрыв «конечного слоя» или же расслоение боковой поверхности. Результаты численных исследований приемлемы и для низкомодульных порошковых материалов, спрессованных в массивных матрицах. Описанная методика расчета остаточных напряжений была разработана специальной программой в IBM и была использована при проведении исследований напряженного состояния прессуемых заготовок в условиях упругой разгрузки.

- **Ключевые слова:** холодное прессование, остаточное напряжение, напряженно-деформированное состояние, метод конечных элементов, схема расчета, уплотнитель, матрица, порошковый материал
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Introduction

The production of parts and semi-finished products from metal and other powders in a closed mold through cold pressing of unsintered briquettes is accompanied by the formation of significant technological stresses. After the upper pressing punch is removed, the briquette in the die undergoes elastic "expansion", which primarily occurs due to a sudden change in the stressstrain state of the "green" compact. As is well known, such tensile stresses can lead to the failure of an entire region or the upper layer of the compact [1; 2]. Based on literature data, it can be noted that the elastic springback behavior in pressed parts remains insufficiently studied [1-3]. In this regard, considering the aforementioned phenomenon, the development of a methodology for calculating the stress-strain state of compacted products is a relevant problem for predicting their strength. The quality of sintering is determined at the stage of the "green" compact, depending on various temperature regimes of cold pressing and heating conditions. Studies [4–6] have shown that during highpressure compaction of iron-based mixtures, gas (air) evacuation from the compacted briquette becomes difficult.

The main objective of this study was to analyze the distribution of residual stresses at the final stage of cold pressing in axisymmetric powder preforms of a gas compressor seal.

Residual stress evaluation

The distribution of residual stresses in axisymmetric compacts of the seal was analyzed using the finite element method after punch removal. The analytical approach is significantly complicated by the physical nonlinearity of this problem. The proposed algorithm considers the stress state of the compact at the final stage of densification, along with the elastic relaxation of contact (including force and kinematic factors) and other conditions in the compacted briquettes. High tensile pressures arise, which, upon release of the compact from the die, lead to significant loosening and even fracture of the briquette. Therefore, in [7], a device and method were proposed to enhance air drainage from the pressing zone during high-pressure compaction of a powder mixture. Accordingly, obtaining highdensity powder products requires knowledge of residual stress levels in different regions of the compact. This information serves as the basis for constructing a further technological chain for manufacturing highdensity powder products of complex geometry.

During the elastic relaxation process, the stress state of the compact was determined by formulating a finite element problem using the finite element method, which includes:

- the variational Lagrange equation [8–10]:

$$\int_{V} \delta\left\{\varepsilon\right\}^{T} \left\{\sigma\right\} dv - \int_{S_{f}} \delta\left\{u\right\}_{S_{f}}^{T} \left\{F\right\}_{f} dS_{f} = 0; \qquad (1)$$

- the material equation accounting for initial stresses:

$$\{\sigma\} = \begin{vmatrix} \sigma_{\varphi} \\ \sigma_{T} \\ \sigma_{z} \\ \tau_{rz} \end{vmatrix} = [B] \{\varepsilon\} + \{\sigma^{0}\}, \qquad (2)$$

$$\{\varepsilon\} = \begin{vmatrix} \varepsilon_{\varphi} \\ \varepsilon_{r} \\ \varepsilon_{z} \\ \gamma_{rz} \end{vmatrix} = [L]\{u\}, \quad (3)$$

where $[L] = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{1}{r} & 0 \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial r} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial z} & \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \end{vmatrix}$ is the differential operator;

- the displacement approximation equation within the element nodes is given by:

$$\{u\} = \begin{cases} u_r \\ u_z \end{cases} = [N] \{x\} = [N] \begin{cases} x_i \\ x_j \\ x_R \end{cases};$$
(4)

- the contact conditions in the "compact-die" system, considering frictional forces at the contact surface:

$$\{F\}_f = f\{\sigma_n\}S_f.$$
 (5)

The kinematic problem (contact condition), which refers to the necessary unilateral boundary conditions, is taken into account in the analysis and model construction [11]. For a rigid die, these conditions can be formulated as "impermeability conditions":

$$\begin{aligned} & \{u_r\}_{r=R} < 0 \dots \{\sigma_r\}_{r=R} > 0, \\ & \{u_z\}_{z=0} > 0 \dots \{\sigma_z\}_{z=0} > 0. \end{aligned}$$
 (7)

In equations (1)–(7), the parameters are defined as follows: { σ }, { ϵ } – tensors of residual stresses and strains, respectively; { σ^0 } – stress tensor in the compact at the final moment of densification; {u}_{Sf} – displacement vector of the element nodes on the friction surface (between the compact and the die at initial and final moments); [B], [N] – the elastic constant matrix of the compact material and the shape function of the finite element, determined based on [12]; {F}_f – friction force acting on the uniform contact surface; {x} – displacement vector of the finite element nodes; f – friction coefficient; { σ_n }S_f – normal stresses at the "compact– die" contact surface; x, T, δ – operators of multiplication, transposition, and variation, respectively. Considering equations (2)-(4), equation (1) can be rewritten in the standard form for the finite element method:

$$[K] \{x\} = \{R\}_{\sigma^0} + \{R\}_f, \qquad (8)$$

where [K] is the global stiffness matrix [11]; $\{R\}_{\sigma^0} = = \int [B]^T \{\sigma^0\} dv$ is the nodal force vector arising from the presence of stresses $\{\sigma^0\}$ in the compact; $[B] = [L][N]; \{R\}_f = \int_{S_f} [N]^T \{F\}_f dS_f$ is the nodal forces

dependent on frictional forces.

Thus, the problem formulated in equations (1)–(7) is reduced to solving the system of linear algebraic equations (8), considering the displacement of finite element nodes [13].

However, due to the uncertainty of vector $\{R\}_{f}$, the problem is generally nonlinear. Therefore, an iterative method is proposed, based on sequential solutions of classical elasticity theory with friction force corrections and validation of constraints (6) and (7) at a specific stage.

At the first step, the nodal force vector $\{R\}_{\sigma^0}$ and the friction force $\{R\}_{r}$ are applied to the element nodes, using the normal stress distribution in the zone $\{\sigma^0\}$. $\{g\}$ of the stress-strain state of the compact, corresponding to the removal of the upper punch under the influence of frictional forces initially acting on the briquette surface [14]. By adjusting the friction force vector $\{\sigma\}_1$ to match the updated normal stresses, the procedure is repeated until the desired accuracy is achieved. Furthermore, as numerical experiment indicates, it is advisable to verify connectivity conditions, while the "impermeability" conditions (6) and (7) remain satisfied throughout the solution process. Ultimately, after removing the externally applied pressing forces from the initial stress state $\{\sigma^0\}$, the residual stress distribution and strain state of the compact are obtained [15].

In solving the stated problem, the input data consisted of a previously known stress distribution in the compacted briquette. Such data can be obtained from several widely established methodologies, particularly for cold pressing in rigid dies [16; 17]. A similar approach was applied in our study.

For example, for $H_0/D = 1.5$, where H_0 is the height of the compressed cylinder and D is its diameter (Fig. 1), the stress-strain state of a proportionally cylindrical seal for a gas compressor unit was investigated [18]. The semi-finished product was obtained





Fig. 1. Calculation scheme *I* – rigid die, *2* – compact, *3* – mesh

Рис. 1. Схема расчета 1 – жесткая матрица, 2 – прессовка, 3 – сетка

by pressing an iron-based composite powder containing 2 wt. % graphite powder under a maximum pressure of P = 1000 using a punch.

The friction coefficient was determined from the following relationship

$$f = A + B\sigma_0^c, \tag{9}$$

where *A* and *B* are material constants, and σ_0^c is the mean pressure in the elements of the contact layer.

In the calculations, the average values of the material's elastic constants were used for the entire volume of the compact: Young's modulus E = 4 GPa and Poisson's ratio v = 0.4.

The discretization of the axisymmetric preform was performed using circular elements of triangular cross-section. The finite element mesh was refined in regions with the highest stress concentrations, specifically on the lateral surface and the free end of the compact [19].

A stress-strain state analysis was conducted for different force conditions at the "compact-rigid

die" contact interface (Fig. 2, *a*, *b*): for high-friction conditions, where the axial displacement of points on the compact's contact surface was restricted, i.e. $\{u_x\}_{S_f} = 0$ and for friction defined by equation (5), where $\{u_x\}_{S_f}$ is infinite.

Fig. 2 illustrates the "natural" shape of the preform after unloading. The dashed lines represent certain sections of the compact before unloading, while the dotted lines indicate the positions of the finite element nodes of the same sections after punch removal.

The calculations show that stress redistribution is often accompanied by the development of internal tensile stresses [20]. For example, in the zone *I* elements, we have $\sigma_1 > 0$, while in the shaded zone $II - \sigma_1 > 0$, $\sigma_0 > 0$, (see Fig. 2, *a*), where σ_1 is the highest stress in the *rz*-plane, and σ_0 is the mean normal stress (*I* - compression zone).

In the elements of the surface layer, both radial stress (σ_{τ}) and circumferential stress (σ_{ϕ}) were positive. Curves *1*, *2* in Fig. 2 represent variations in these stresses along the free end surface of the seal. The stress state of the briquette is characterized by a well-developed $\sigma_1 > 0$ zone under unloading conditions close to real scenarios, by stress concentration $\sigma_1 > 0$, $\sigma_0 > 0$, in the closed "corners" of the compact, and by the occurrence of tensile stresses σ_{ϕ} in the lateral layer of the open end (Fig. 2, *c*).

To assess the strength of the compact after elastic unloading, the Mirolyubov criterion is used in the following form [21]:

$$\sigma_e = \frac{3(1-\lambda)}{2}\sigma_0 + \frac{1+\lambda}{2}\sigma_i, \qquad (10)$$

where σ_i is the stress intensity, and $\lambda = \sigma_d^p / \sigma_d^s$, σ_d^s are the boundary stresses under simple tension and compression conditions.

Fig. 3 shows the distribution of residual equivalent stresses σ_e under unloading conditions at $\lambda = 0.15$ [22]. The highest stress concentration in the compact occurs in the bottom volume after punch removal: tensile stresses develop in the wall layers, while compressive stresses dominate in the central region.

In these regions, the stress state is close to the critical limit and may lead to either hidden or visible failure, such as rupture of the "terminal layer" or delamination of the lateral surface [23].

It should be noted that the results of the numerical investigations are also applicable to low-modulus powder materials compacted in massive dies.



a – natural shape of the preform after unloading; b – stress variation on the surface of the free end of the preform;

c – tensile stresses in the lateral layer of the free end

I – compression zone, II – stress-free zone

I, *2* – variation of radial and circumferential stresses

 $h\!/\!H_0-{\rm ratio}$ of the final briquette height to its initial height

Рис. 2. Зависимость напряженно-деформированного состояния прессовки с матрицей от контактных условий *a* – натуральная форма заготовки после разгрузки; *b* – изменение напряжений на поверхности свободного торца заготовки;

с – растягивающие напряжения в боковом слое свободного торца

I – зона сжатия, II – зона, свободная от напряжений I, 2 – изменение радиального и окружного напряжений

 h/H_0 – отношение конечной высоты брикета к первоначальной



Fig. 3. Isolines of equivalent stresses according to the Mirolyubov criterion



Conclusion

The finite element analysis established the stressstrain state of the compact at the final stage of cold pressing. This problem was reduced to solving a system of linear algebraic equations while accounting for the displacement of finite element nodes. It was revealed that the highest stress concentration in the compact occurs in the bottom volume after punch removal, with tensile stresses in the wall layers and compressive stresses in the central part of the compact.

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