

NIST Center for Neutron Research

# Design of Octo-Strain Device for Sheet Metal Testing using Neutron Diffraction

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## Motivation

- Automotive lightweighting Research
  - Meet demand to develop automobiles with increased fuel efficiency
  - Improvements in crash test ratings
  - Create material models that accurately represent mechanical properties of material
    - Saves cost by producing correct metal forming dies that require zero rework because of incorrect modeling



Figure 1: Chart displaying steel development [1]



# Motivation-Continued

• Traditional uniaxial testing is not an accurate enough measurement for the prediction of complex multiaxial deformation



Figure 2: Various Strain Paths for Octo-Strain Device

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Figure 3: Strain Paths when Forming Automotive Parts

## Introduction- What is Octo-Strain?

- A device used for multiaxial sheet metal testing
- Designed for specialized test specimens with eight arms
- Eight linear actuators apply tensile or compressive forces to the test specimen



Figure 4: Assembled Octo-Strain Ring



# Introduction- Why use Neutron Diffraction?

- Unlike traditional tensile testing, cross-sectional area is difficult to calculate for complex geometries
- Neutrons are non-destructive with high penetration depth (cm)
  - X-ray Diffraction penetrates surface millimeters in comparison



Figure 6: Comparing traditional tensile test specimen to Octo-Strain test specimen



# Introduction- Stress-Strain Relationship



Figure 8: Finding Strain using Digital Image Correlation

Figure 9: Finding Stress using Neutron Diffraction



# Introduction- Stress-Strain Relationship



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# Introduction- Benefits of test specimen geometry

- Increased failure strain by over 2x
- Increased strain homogeneity within gauge area
- Early failure due to sample geometry of Cruciform



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# Design Requirements

- 50 kN force applied to each of the eight loading arms
  - Allows for testing of High-Strength Metals
- Easy to assemble and make adjustments
- Keep weight of design under 500 pounds
  - Max. Capacity of 3-axis measurement table
- Stepper Motors cannot protrude from device
  - This will allow for an increased range of measurable scattering angles



#### Figure 13: Previous 10 kN design



# CAD Modeling

- Creo Elements direct drawing CAD software was used to model all components of Octo-Strain
- From 3D models, engineering drawings were made and sent to machine shop







Figure 14: Isometric and Front View of Octo-Strain Device



# Drive System

- Determined a timing belt would work best for driving screw-jack
- Calculated Torque of 26.3 Nm to drive screw-jack
- 1:1 gear ratio, 25 tooth, 30 mm wide pulley
- Bearing eliminates radial load on motor shaft

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26.3 Nm of torque at drive shaft required (includes Break-away Torque)

Figure 16: CAD model of completed drive assembly

Figure 15: Free-body diagram of forces acting on screwjack [4]

# Design Requirements- Continued

- Transmission and Reflection beam paths are possible
  - Provides Measurement of all three principle directions





Figure 17: Top and Side View of BT8 Beam Path



#### FEA Results

• Determined max deflection of test stand when Device is assembled into base



Figure 18: FEA Result of Max. Deflection due to gravity (0.37mm)



Figure 19: Assembled Octo-Ring without Test Stand

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### FEA Results- Continued

• Determined max deflection with loading condition of 50 kN (Compression)



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Case 1



Von Mises Stress 47.76 MPa Yield Strength of Aluminum 6061 =276 Mpa

#### FEA Results- Continued

• Determined max deflection with loading condition of 50 kN (Tension)



Figure 21: FEA Result of deflection due to 50 kN load in tension on Octo-Ring (0.04 mm)

Case 2

Von Mises Stress 47.76 MPa Yield Strength of Aluminum 6061 = 276 Mpa



#### FEA Results- Continued

• Determined max deflection with worst case loading condition of 50 kN



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## Comparison of Designs



Figure 23: CAD model of 50 kN redesign compared to existing 10 kN design



# Conclusions

- With this device, material property data will be collected that will lead to the adoption of generation three high strength steels in the automotive industry
- Increased load capacity
  - Allows for testing of high-strength metals
- By using pulley and drive system, significant space is saved
  - Increased range of measurable scattering angles
- FEA was performed to verify structural integrity of device



## Future Work

- Get all parts machined from engineering drawings
- Assemble Octo-Strain device
- Begin Testing of high-strength metals



# Acknowledgements

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# Refestions?

[1] Courtesy of World Auto Steel

[2] Courtesy of Dr. Justin Milner

[3] Courtesy of Correlated Solutions

[4] "Worm Gear Screw Jacks." Thomsonlinear. Web.

