

An Investigation of Surface Phenomena: Considerations for Surface Modeling

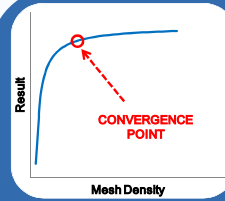
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Introduction

The field of tribology has far reaching effects in a number of areas including mechanical, electrical, chemical and biomedical engineering. However, the last major paradigm shift in tribological theory and modeling was in the 1960s with the contributions of Archard [1] and Greenwood and Williamson [2]. This work seeks to validate and characterize new techniques which combine finite element analysis with real surface data [3]. Ultimately, these techniques may lay the foundation for a new paradigm within the field.

Methods



We seek the **mesh convergence** of models with real surface data to demonstrate that the quality of results obtained are not limited by meshes that can be created and solved today

Additional Assumptions

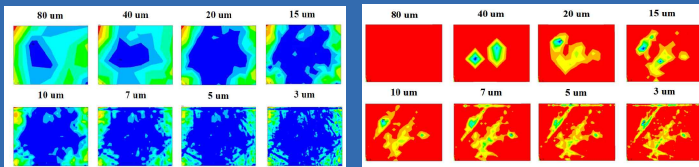
- Part measured is representative of the whole
- Resolution of surface measurement is sufficient
- Static, steady state mechanical contact*
- Ideal non-deformable target surface*
- Linear-elastic material properties*
- Neglect surface layers (oxides, etc.)*
- Neglect surface chemistry

* Will not be neglected in future work

Results

Lateral Resolution of Imported Data

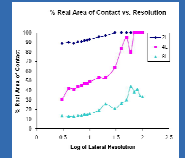
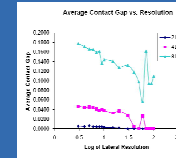
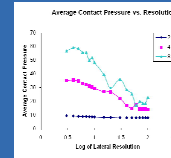
- Looking for the effect of surface resolution on results
- Use hard plastic (soft material) PEEK for material properties



< Contact Pressure 4L Sample >

< Contact Gap 4L Sample >

- 3 surface samples
- Average roughness:
0.05 um, 0.1 um, 0.2 um
- PV roughness:
3.07 um, 4.36 um, 2.6 um
- Measured resolution:
2.24 um, 0.84 um, 1.14 um
- Imported resolution
from 80 um to 3 um



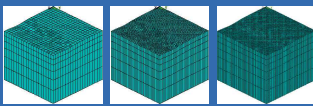
- All three plots are tending towards convergence but none can be said to have reached it
- None of the plots use the full resolution
- None of the plots have more than one element per asperity (mesh coupled to resolution)

Mesh Density of Imported Data

- Use smaller data set (20 x 20) with full resolution
- Decouple mesh from resolution
- Very load
- Material aluminum 6061-T6

< Vary mesh laterally >

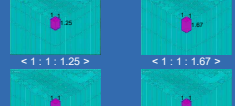
1 to 16 elements per asperity side



< 1, 6, 3 >
> # of elements per asperity side, # of elements deep, ratio between top and bottom most element >

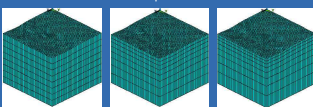
< Aspect Ratio of Contact Elements >

< 1 : 1 : 1.25 >
< 1 : 1 : 1.67 >
< 1 : 1 : 2.50 >
< 1 : 1 : 5.00 >



< Vary mesh vertically (z) >

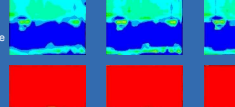
4 to 16 elements deep
1:1 to 7:1 ratio between top and bottom most element



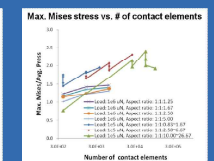
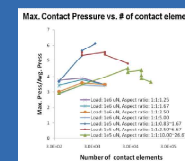
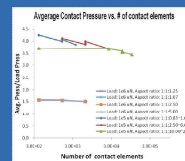
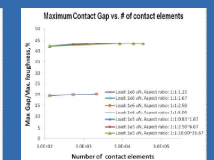
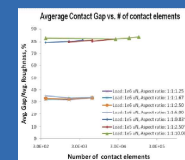
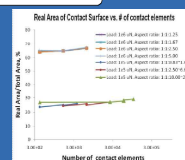
< 2, 8, 1 >
> # of elements per asperity side, # of elements deep, ratio between top and bottom most element >

< Mesh Density of Imported Data >

Contact Pressure 8L Sample
Contact Gap 8L Sample



1 element/ asperity 2 element/ asperity 4 element/ asperity



- High aspect ratios in vertical elements could be giving funny answers.
- Contact is binary: the whole element must be in or out of contact. As element size decreases, contact pressure will go up.
- Linear elastic assumption may not apply. Need to compare to elastic-plastic models to verify
- Max Contact Pressure / Max Equivalent Stress may be hyper-sensitive parameters that are ill-suited to convergence analysis

Conclusions

Preliminary Conclusions

- Minimum resolution needed to accurately represent a surface although the relationship between that resolution and the nature of the surface is not known
- No benefit to having more than one element per asperity in applications which are dependent on real area of contact or average/maximum contact gap
- Maximum contact pressure and equivalent stress are strongly dependent on the mesh and require additional consideration

Future Work

- This presentation contains some of the early results of this work
- A much larger parameterized study has been developed to systematically eliminate variables and characterize the method. This will be the focus on our short term future work.
- Once demonstrated and accepted, this work should revolutionize and revitalize the field of tribology and have a major impact in mechanical, chemical, and medical fields

References

- [1] Archard, J. F. "Elastic Deformation and the Laws of Friction." Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Vol. 243, No. 1233, (Dec. 24, 1957), pp. 190-205.
- [2] Greenwood, J. A. and Williamson, J. P. B., "Contact of Nominally Flat Surfaces" Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (1934-1990) Issue Volume 295, Number 1442 / December 06, 1966
- [3] Thompson, M.K. "A Multi-Scale Iterative Approach for Finite Element Modeling of Thermal Contact Resistance" Thesis (Ph.D.)—Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, 2007.