

# Design Optimization of Industrial and Automobile Clutches

Saddam Shakeel<sup>1</sup> Prof. Ranjeet Kumar<sup>2</sup> Dr. R.S. Sikarwar<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>M.Tech. Student <sup>2</sup>Faculty <sup>3</sup>Director

<sup>1</sup>Department of Machine Design <sup>2</sup>Department of Mechanical Engineering

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Vaishnavi Institute of Technology & Science, Bhopal (M.P.), India

**Abstract**— Clutches and the relevant systems are an important component in any automobile. Whenever any automobile is in moving condition, we need some system of power transmission. Clutches are employed for this vary role. Clutches may be of different types but for this current study, multiplate clutch used in Bajaj CT-100 bike has been considered. Conventionally structural steel (mild steel or low carbon steel) has been used for manufacturing the clutches but it is accompanied by a large weight which in turn increases the overall weight of vehicle. This increased weight increases the losses occurring in the vehicle during movement. It also reduces the thermal and mechanical efficiency. To counter these two problems, we must go for some other materials which can have lower weight & higher tensile strength, compressive strength etc. In this particular study six different materials have been tried & tested. These materials are Aluminium Alloy, High Strength Aluminium Alloy, Alumina, Cork, stainless steel, Kevlar and Asbestos. These materials have been analysed for weight, Equivalent Stress, Total Deformation, Maximum Principal Stress, Shear Stress, Maximum Shear Stress, Strain Energy, Equivalent Elastic Strain and Maximum Principal Elastic Strain. In the end a comparative analysis has been presented. In order to develop the model of disc brake rotor for conducting analytical solution in software, SOLIDWORKS-2019 software will be used to develop the model & ANSYS 19.2 will be used to analyze the model.

**Keywords:** SOLIDWORKS-2019, ANSYS 19.2, Clutches, Aluminium Alloy, Aluminium Alloy NL, Carbon Fibre, Carbon Epoxy UD, Carbon E-Glass Epoxy UD, Equivalent Stress, Weight

## I. INTRODUCTION

A clutch is a mechanical device that engages and disengages power transmission, especially from a drive shaft (driving shaft) to a driven shaft. The clutch acts as a mechanical linkage between the engine and transmission; and briefly disconnects, or separates the engine from the drivetrain, and therefore the drive wheels, whenever the pedal is depressed, allowing the driver to smoothly change gears.

A composite material (also called a composition material or shortened to composite, which is the common name) is a material which is produced from two or more constituent materials. These constituent materials have notably dissimilar chemical or physical properties and are merged to create a material with properties unlike the individual elements. Within the finished structure, the individual elements remain separate and distinct, distinguishing composites from mixtures and solid solutions.

On the basis of gaps in literature following sections for current study have been specified-

- Design optimization of clutches through material variations.

- Design optimization of clutches through feature variations.
- Static structural analysis of clutches to be used in sports Bikes.
- Comparative analysis of the clutches for different materials.
- Suggestions for further future research in the field of clutches.

## II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

This paper focuses on analyzing clutch and optimizing its design for determining a better material which can serve the purpose in a better way. For the current study purpose Bajaj CT-100 has been chosen and its multi plate clutch will be analysed for different materials in order to optimize its design.

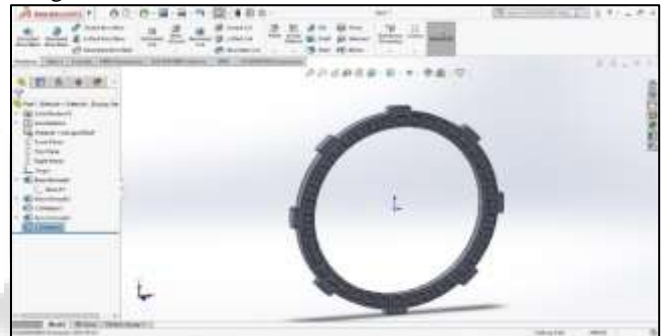


Fig. 1: Clutch plate modelled in Solidworks-2019

### A. Performance Parameters

Different performance parameters will be analysed on the basis of which a comparative analysis would be performed in order to optimize the design of Multi plate clutch. Some of the performance parameters are as follows-

- Operating Pressure
- Axial Force
- Von-Mises Stress
- Total Deformation
- Stress Intensity
- Maximum Principal Stress

### B. Materials to be analysed

Different types of conventional and non-conventional materials will be used to prepare the comparative analysis among materials and the primary objective will be to choose whether we can use any other material than the conventional material which is generally used for development of clutches in automobiles. Some of the materials are listed below-

- Cork
- Kevlar
- Asbestos
- Cast Iron
- Sintered Metal

- Alumina

### III. ANSYS ANALYSIS OF CLUTCH PLATE

Modelling of the clutch has been conducted on Solidworks-2019. Step by step procedure for modelling of clutch is as discussed below-

- There are different procedures available for modelling of clutch namely top-down approach & bottom -up. Here we utilize bottom-up approach for the modelling of clutch-
- Create below cited sketch using the leaf spring data already calculated in the chapter of “Problem Statement”. All the components (Only one component is there in this study) will be modelled separately according to bottom-up approach.
- After the modelling of all the components in Part Design workbench of Solidworks-2019, these will be assembled as and when needed.
- After designing the part, it will be exported to ANSYS for static structural analysis purpose.
- Now the materials to be used will be inserted



Fig. 2: Material Assignment on the part

- The part is to be meshed now with appropriate settings

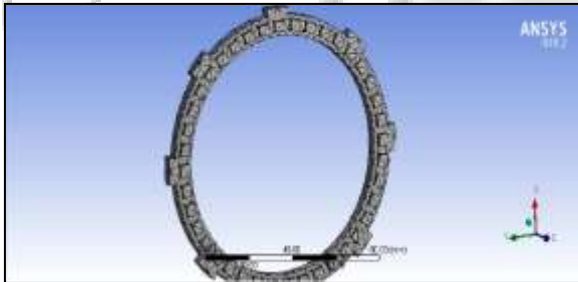


Fig. 3: Meshing of the material

- Boundary conditions will be applied now.

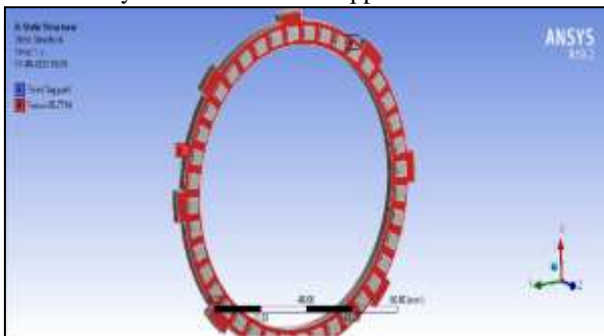


Fig. 4: Applying boundary conditions on the part

- Lastly the analysis is run and results are discussed. In this analysis several process parameters have been evaluated for example Equivalent stress & total deformation.

ANSYS simulation values of maximum Equivalent stress & maximum total deformation are found to be 0.029361 MPa & 7.3247 x 10-7 mm respectively.

Mathematically found maximum equivalent (von-mises) stress is 0.028 MPa. One can clearly observe that both these values are approximately similar hence we can say that ANSYS simulation is validated along with mathematically calculated data.

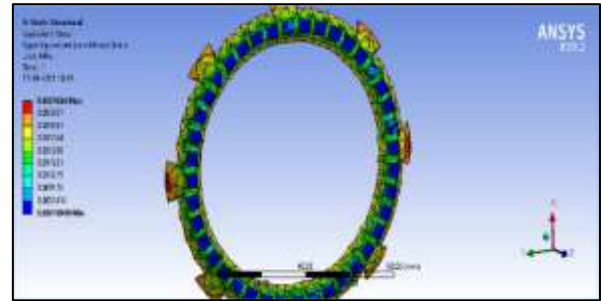


Fig. 5: Equivalent Stress distribution for structural steel

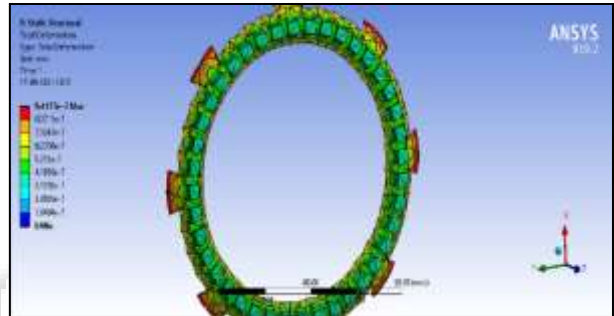


Fig. 6: Total Deformation for structural steel

After validating the model, it is analysed for different materials.

The result set for all the materials is being represented here.

S. No.	Material	Parameter	Parameter Value
01	Asbestos	Equivalent Stress	0.028427 MPa
02		Total Deformation	0.00084646 mm
03		Maximum Principal Stress	0.010035 MPa
04		Shear Stress	0.00349236 MPa
05		Maximum Shear Stress	0.015538 MPa
06		Strain Energy	4.0557 x 10 <sup>-8</sup> mJ
07		Equivalent Elastic Strain	1.4803 x 10 <sup>-7</sup> mm/mm
08		Maximum Principal Elastic Strain	6.9617 x 10 <sup>-8</sup> mm/mm
09		Weight	0.0247 Kg
10	Aluminium Alloy	Equivalent Stress	0.029723 MPa
11		Total Deformation	2.0948 x 10 <sup>-6</sup> mm
12		Maximum Principal Stress	0.010171 MPa

13	Alumina	Shear Stress	0.0038215 MPa	
14		Maximum Shear Stress	0.015795 MPa	
15		Strain Energy	$1.134 \times 10^{-7}$ mJ	
16		Equivalent Elastic Strain	$4.2227 \times 10^{-7}$ mm/mm	
17		Maximum Principal Elastic Strain	$2.0523 \times 10^{-7}$ mm/mm	
18		Weight	0.0427 Kg	
19		Equivalent Stress	0.028742 MPa	
20		Total Deformation	$4.3022 \times 10^{-7}$ mm	
21		Maximum Principal Stress	0.010123 MPa	
22		Shear Stress	0.0028145 MPa	
23		Maximum Shear Stress	0.015046 MPa	
24		Strain Energy	$2.4874 \times 10^{-8}$ mJ	
25		Equivalent Elastic Strain	$8.7712 \times 10^{-8}$ mm/mm	
26		Maximum Principal Elastic Strain	$3.9224 \times 10^{-8}$ mm/mm	
27		Weight	0.0571 Kg	
28		Cork	Equivalent Stress	0.028853 MPa
29			Total Deformation	0.0044637 mm
30			Maximum Principal Stress	0.010149 MPa
31	Kevlar	Shear Stress	0.0029457 MPa	
32		Maximum Shear Stress	0.015143 MPa	
33		Strain Energy	0.00025601 mJ	
34		Equivalent Elastic Strain	0.00090828 mm/mm	
35		Maximum Principal Elastic Strain	0.00041092 mm/mm	
36		Weight	0.00277 Kg	
37	High Strength Aluminium Alloy	Equivalent Stress	0.030166 MPa	
38		Total Deformation	0.0025595 mm	
39		Maximum Principal Stress	0.01003 MPa	
40		Shear Stress	0.0041523 MPa	
41		Maximum Shear Stress	0.016094 MPa	
42		Strain Energy	0.00013533mJ	
43		Equivalent Elastic Strain	0.00051572 mm/mm	

44	High Strength Aluminium Alloy	Maximum Principal Elastic Strain	0.00027174 mm/mm
45		Weight	0.0222 Kg
46		Equivalent Stress	0.029818 MPa
47		Total Deformation	$2.0225 \times 10^{-6}$ mm
48		Maximum Principal Stress	0.010147 MPa
49		Shear Stress	0.0038985 MPa
50		Maximum Shear Stress	0.015859 MPa
51		Strain Energy	$1.089 \times 10^{-7}$ mJ
52		Equivalent Elastic Strain	$4.0757 \times 10^{-7}$ mm/mm
53		Maximum Principal Elastic Strain	$2.0199 \times 10^{-7}$ mm/mm
54	Weight	0.0427 Kg	

Table I: Result Analysis for Different Materials

#### IV. RESULT ANALYSIS

Weights for all the materials have been already listed in the table in previous section. Weight comparison among all the materials shows that when we use conventional structural steel, mass of the clutch is 0.121 Kg & as soon as we move to aluminium alloys & other materials, there is a drastic reduction in the mass of the clutch. If we are focused on weight criteria then we can easily identify from the graph that using all the other materials we can easily lower the total weight of system & thus we can reduce the overall losses but we need to inspect other data also before jumping into any kind of conclusion. The data is represented in form of a graph as follows-

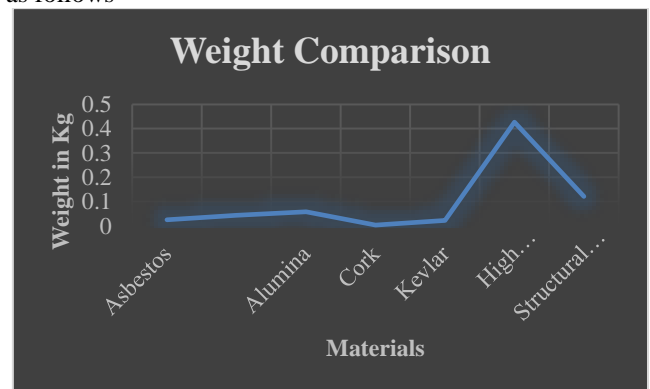


Fig. 7: Weight Comparison among materials

Equivalent (von-mises) stress for all the materials have been already listed in the table in previous chapter. The data is represented in form of a graph as follows-

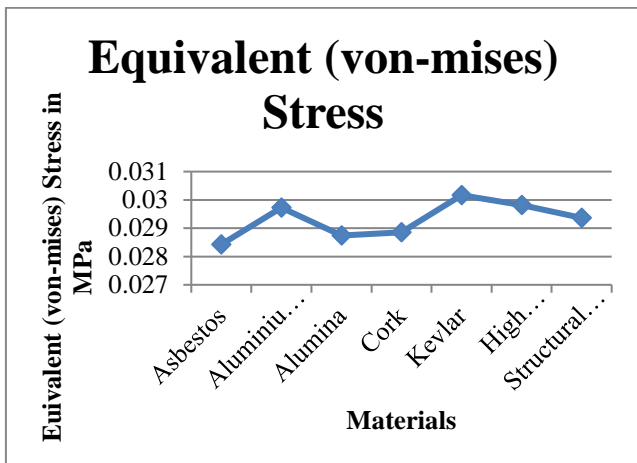


Fig. 8: Equivalent Stress Comparison among Materials

Equivalent (von-mises) stress distribution after applying given inputs for all the materials has been plotted in above cited graph which clearly indicates that as we move towards materials other than structural steel, the equivalent (von-mises) stress value suddenly decreases for Asbestos, Alumina and Cork but increases for Aluminium Alloy, Kevlar and High Strength Aluminium Alloy. Hence according to this criterion, Asbestos, Alumina and cork will produce better results. We can also see that although other newer materials are showing larger values of equivalent stress but when numerical values of equivalent stress for these materials are observed, these are quite similar to the equivalent stress of structural steel.

Total deformation for all the materials has been already listed in the table in previous chapter. The data is represented in form of a graph as drawn below. Total deformation distribution after applying given inputs for all the materials has been plotted in above cited graph which clearly indicates that for alumina, the total deformation is the least of all the materials being used for the analysis. Hence according to this criterion alumina is the best possible solution for the current problem.

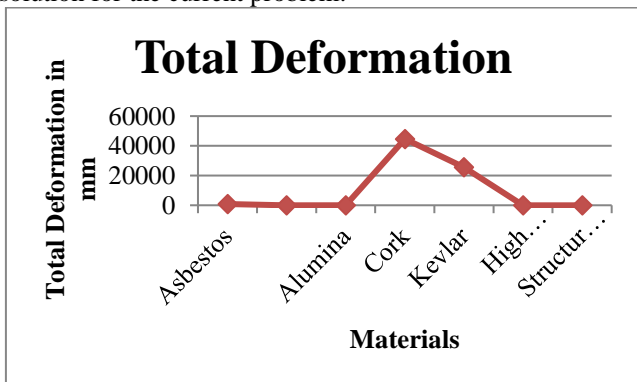


Fig. 9: Total Deformation Comparison among Materials

Maximum principal stress for all the materials have been already listed in the table in previous chapter. The data is represented in form of a graph as follows-

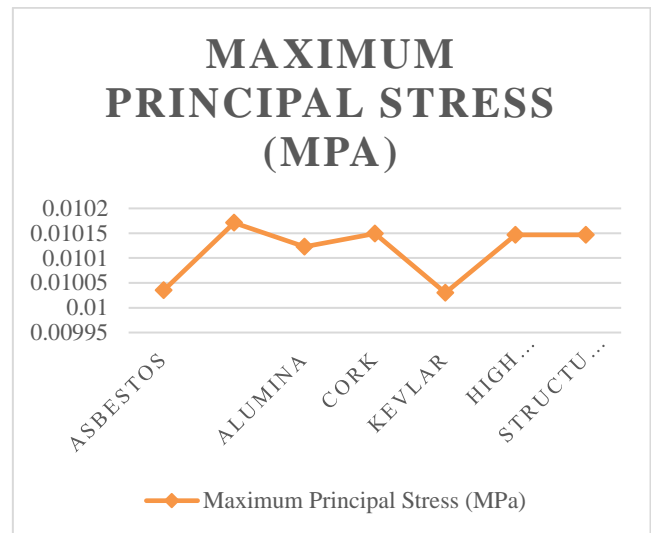


Fig. 10: Maximum Principal Stress Comparison

Maximum principal stress distribution after applying given inputs for all the materials has been plotted in above cited graph which clearly indicates that as we move towards composite materials, the maximum principal stress value remain approximately similar for all the materials with Kevlar showing the least maximum principal stress among all the materials.

Shear Stress for all the materials have been already listed in the table in previous chapter. The data is represented in form of a graph. Shear stress distribution after applying given inputs for all the materials has been plotted in below cited graph which clearly indicates that for all the materials except Kevlar, the value of shear stress is decreasing and hence all the other materials can be effectively used according to this criterion. Although Kevlar is having more shear stress than all the other materials but numerical value is very much less and hence Kevlar can also be used for clutch.

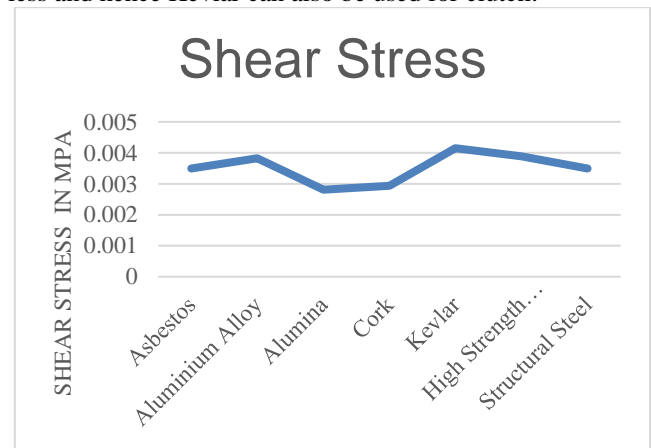


Fig. 11: Shear Stress Comparison among Materials

Maximum Shear Stress for all the materials have been already listed in the table in previous chapter. The data is represented in form of a graph. Shear stress distribution after applying given inputs for all the materials has been plotted in below cited graph which clearly indicates that for all the materials except Kevlar, the value of shear stress is decreasing and hence all the other materials can be effectively used according to this criterion. Although Kevlar is having more shear stress than all the other materials but numerical

value is very much less and hence Kevlar can also be used for clutch.

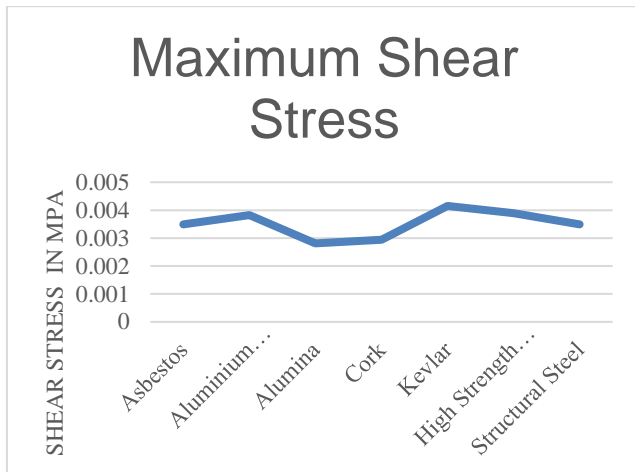


Fig. 12: Maximum Shear Stress Comparison among Materials

## V. CONCLUSIONS

Primary objective of this dissertation was to optimize the material for the clutch of an automobile engine & conducting a comparative analysis among different kinds of materials which may be used for this particular application. In order to optimize any material all, the process parameters were thoroughly analysed and verified from previously available concepts. Hence each & every process parameter needed to be analysed separately. After conducting this rigorous analysis for optimizing the material for disc brake rotor and looking at the result pattern it is concluded that-

When one talks about equivalent stress generated on any material, it is desired that equivalent (von-mises) stress developed in any material during any given application must be less. Equivalent (von-mises) stress developed in this study when Alumina and Cork are used, is less than Structural Steel. Hence Alumina and Cork will be more beneficial to use. This concept will also hold good for maximum principal stress & Shear stress too.

When one talks about weight of the given component in rotation, it is desired that weight must be as less as possible because it will reduce losses, rotational inertia will be lesser & it will become easier to decelerate the component as & when required. It means that brake efficiency will be improved. One can clearly observe through the weight comparison section of last chapter that Asbestos, Alumina and Cork are more beneficial to use for the material of Clutch.

Looking at both the above results one can clearly conclude this work by proposing Alumina and cork as the best suitable material for this particular application.

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