

15<sup>th</sup> German LS-DYNA Forum

# **Modeling bolts in LS-DYNA**<sup>©</sup> using explicit and implicit time integration

Nils Karajan, Alexander Gromer (DYNAmore Corp.); <u>Maik Schenke (</u>DYNAmore GmbH); Thomas Borrvall (DYNAmore Nordic); Kishore Pydimarry (Honda R&D Americas, Inc.)

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## **Friction Grip Bolts**

#### **Definitions and load bearing mechanism**

- What is a bolted friction grip connection
  - Fastener is a bolt with a head, a threaded shank and a nut to apply tension
  - Washers may be included to distribute tensioning loads more evenly
  - Joins two or more sheets or blocks of material
  - Load carrying mechanism
    - Bolt pre-tensioning (clamping) allows to build up friction forces
    - Service loads are only carried by friction forces between plates
    - Above service loads, slipping occurs until hole bearing forces take over







[images: www.wikipedia.com]



#### In-plane failure modes

- Above service loads the law of static friction is violated
- Slipping motion between plates with dynamic friction resisting the motion
- Hole bearing forces take over after bolt-to-plate contact is established
- Failure will occur in the weakest part of the bolt or the plate

EW

Bolt fails in shear

bolted connection - bolt shear







Here: No characterization of the failure itself

[videos: www.youtube.com/user/ExpeditionWorkshed]



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Friction Grip Bolts

#### Bolt grades and pre-tension forces



- Pre-tension force based on yield stress
  - Application by tightening torque





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Friction Grip Bolts

### **Modeling Techniques for Pre-Tensioned Bolts in LS-DYNA**

**Overview of the "bolt types" used in this presentation** 

shell elements solid elements	a)			
shank discretization	spot weld beam	spot weld beam	spot weld beam	solid elements
shank material	*MAT_SPOTWELD	*MAT_SPOTWELD	*MAT_SPOTWELD	any (*MAT_024)
pre-stress/tension application	*INITIAL_AXIAL_ FORCE_BEAM	*INITIAL_AXIAL_ FORCE_BEAM	*INITIAL_AXIAL_ FORCE_BEAM	*INITIAL_STRESS _SECTION
head / nut discretization	nodal rigid body or beam spider	shell elements	solid elements	solid elements
contact beam on shank	no	yes & no (depend	ls on contact card)	not necessary
contact beams @ shell plate	no	yes & no (depend	ls on contact card)	yes & no (contact)
contact beams @ solid plate	no	yes & no (depend	ls on contact card)	not necessary



- \*CONTACT AUTOMATIC SINGLE SURFACE
  - "Classic" node to segment penetration check



- Captured contact situations
  - Nodes not allowed to penetrate segments
    - Segment extension on nodes of shell edge
- Missed contact situations
  - Beam to beam
  - Beam to shell edge
  - Beam to segment of shell and solid
  - Shell edge to segment of shell and solid
  - Solid edge to segment of shell and solid







- \*CONTACT\_AUTOMATIC\_SINGLE\_SURFACE
  - Now SOFT=2 : segment-based penetration check



- Captured contact situations
  - Segments not allowed to penetrate segments
    - Shell edge to segment of shell and solid
    - Solid edge to segment of shell and solid
- Missed contact situations
  - Beam to beam
  - Beam to shell edge
  - Beam to segment of shell and solid
    - Also when beam nodes are "on segment"







CPU contact w. R10.1: 2.6 s [81%]

- \*CONTACT\_AUTOMATIC\_SINGLE\_SURFACE
  - Now SOFT=2 : segment-based penetration check
  - No segment extension on shell edge (\*CONTROL CONTACT, SHLEDG=1)

- Captured contact situations
  - Segments not allowed to penetrate segments
    - Shell edge to segment of shell and solid
    - Solid edge to segment of shell and solid
- Missed contact situations
  - Beam to beam
  - Beam to shell edge
  - Beam to segment of shell and solid
    - Also when beam nodes are "on segment"







#### \*CONTACT\_AUTOMATIC\_GENERAL

- "Classic" node to segment penetration check
- Enhanced by beam to beam penetration check
  - Shell edges treated as beams



- Captured contact situations
  - Nodes not allowed to penetrate segments
  - Beam to beam
  - Beam to shell edge (segment extension!)
- Missed contact situations
  - Beam to segment of solid (but shell works)
  - Shell edge to segment of solid (but shell works)
  - Solid edge to segment of solid





- \*... AUTOMATIC SINGLE SURFACE MORTAR
  - Segment-based penetration check



- Captured contact situations
  - Segments not allowed to penetrate segments
    - Shell edge to segment of shell and solid
    - Solid edge to segment of shell and solid
  - Beam to beam
  - Beam to shell edge (NO segment extension!)
  - Beam to segment of shell and solid
- Missed contact situations
  - None (since recently also spot weld beams)





#### Bolt type a)

- General remarks
  - Simplest way to add pre-tension to a friction grip bolt connection
  - Spot weld beam of shaft is connected via rigid or deformable beam spider
  - No additional contact needed besides \*CONTACT\_AUTOMATIC\_SINGLE\_SURFACE
- Explicit vs. implicit time integration
  - The \_MORTAR option is typically advised to use in implicit simulations
- Merits and drawbacks
  - Usually only good within the service load regime
  - Above service loads, slipping between sheets and head/nut is missed
  - Rigid beam spiders influence stress wave propagation
  - For connection of three sheets with slipping motion, refer to bolt type b)
  - Failure probably not well captured







#### Bolt type b)

- General remarks
  - More detailed method to model friction grip bolt connections
  - Possibility to predict slipping beyond service load and even failure
  - Sheets Head, nut and washers in \*CONTACT\_AUTOMATIC\_SINGLE\_SURFACE
  - If hole bearing behavior is of interest a special contact is needed
    - \*CONTACT\_AUTOMATIC\_GENERAL
      - □ Needs contact null beam with \*MAT\_NULL on spot weld beam
      - Needs contact null beams at the perimeter of the hole
        - to limit the usage of this more expensive contact definition
        - exhibits beam-to-beam self contact of contact null beams when in same part ID
    - \*CONTACT\_AUTOMATIC\_GENERAL\_MPP
      - □ No need for contact null beam on top of spot weld beam, if CPARM8=2
      - □ Contact null beams at the perimeter of the hole are still advised
        - to limit usage of more expensive contact
        - CPARM8=1 or 2 excludes beam-to-beam self contact from the same part ID









#### Bolt type b) – cont'd

- Explicit vs. implicit time integration
  - The \_MORTAR option is typically advised to use in implicit simulations
    - In theory, no contact null beams are needed
    - In practice, contact null beams are still modeled
      - □ Mortar contact stiffness is smaller on shell edges
      - □ Mortar contact has no segment extension of shells
      - □ Without null beams, the bolt hole is bigger and slip may be greater
      - □ Keep contact null beams to keep comparability to explicit simulations
- Merits and drawbacks
  - Usually also good beyond the service load regime during slip
  - Bolt shear failure might be difficult to predict with a single spot weld beam element
  - Flat shell element topologies like the head and the nut are not able to connect the shank with torsion
    - Drilling rotation constrained automatically switched on in implicit to avoid unconstrained degrees of freedom
  - Shells of the head and the nut have a segment extension which might bother in detailed models





#### Bolt type c)

- General remarks
  - Shank and bolt hole modeled as in type b)
    - Same special contact treatment to capture hole bearing
  - Head and nut modeled with solids instead of shells elements
    - Solids lack rotational degrees of freedom and there is no drilling rotation constraint to connect spot weld beam
    - Head and nut modeled as rigid bodies
      - □ LS-DYNA takes care of fixing rotations in explicit and implicit simulations
    - Head and nut modeled as deformable bodies
      - Beam spider should be used to connect spot weld beam to the solid elements
- Explicit vs. implicit time integration
  - As in type b), the \_MORTAR option is advised in implicit simulations together with contact beams
  - Use beam spider to connect spot weld beam with deformable head & nut to avoid singular stiffness matrix
- Merits and drawbacks
  - Similar as for type b)  $\rightarrow$  might go the extra mile and model type d)







#### Bolt type d)

used in

commonly

used

this paper

- General remarks
  - Shank, head and nut are meshed with solid elements
    - Typical are hexahedron elements only or in combination with some pentahedrons
    - Tetrahedrons should be always avoided
    - Sharing nodes or tied contact between head or nut and shank
  - Three common ways to define contact between shaft and bolt hole
    - \*CONTACT\_AUTOMATIC\_GENERAL or \*CONTACT\_AUTOMATIC\_GENERAL\_MPP with CPARM8=2
      - Achieve bolt hole sizes consistent with bolt types a) d), i.e. diameter is enlarged by contact null beam diameter
      - □ Contact null beams at hole perimeter (not necessary) can be included when converting from bolt types a) d)
    - \*CONTACT\_AUTOMATIC\_SINGLE\_SURFACE with SOFT=2 (segment based contact)
      - $\hfill\square$  Achieve bolt holes with segment extension at shell edge
      - □ Usually meshed bolt hole size consistent with bolt types a) d), i.e. diameter is enlarged by shell thickness
    - \*CONTACT\_AUTOMATIC\_SINGLE\_SURFACE with SOFT=2 and SHLEDG=1 in \*CONTROL\_CONTACT
    - □ Mesh has bolt holes with the diameter they actually have, i.e. no segment extension at shell edge (convenient!)
    - □ Bolt hole size directly compatible to the \_MORTAR contact option when using implicit LS-DYNA



#### Bolt type d)

- Explicit vs. implicit time integration
  - As in type b), the \_MORTAR option is advised in implicit simulations
  - Contact null beams can be included
    - Keep compatibility to explicit models which have them included
  - Works also without contact null beams
    - Keep compatibility to explicit model with SOFT=2 and SHLEDG=1
- Merits and drawbacks
  - Bolt failure can be captured well with fine enough mesh
    - Almost all material models can be used with MAT\_ADD\_EROSION
  - Bolt pre-tension is applied as stress versus an applied force in case of the spot weld beam
    - To compare with types a)-c), make sure to convert with the right cross section area







# **Initializing the Pre-Tension in the Bolt**

#### Shanks modeled with spot weld beam elements

Initialization of a normal force as pre-tension in the spot weld beam

*INI	TIAL_AXIAI	FORCE_E	BEAM					
\$#	bsid	lcid	scale	kbend				
	100	100						
*DEF	INE_CURVE							
\$#	lcid	sidr	sfa	sfo	offa	offo	dattyp	lcint
	100	δ	dtPreStr a	&BltForce				
\$#		a1		01				
		0.0		0.0				
		1.0		1.0				



- bsid: beam set ID containing the spot weld beams to be pre-tensioned
- dtPreStr: parameter defining the initialization time of the pre-tension
- BltForce: parameter defining the pre-tension force
- Bending stiffness of bolt during initialization
  - kbend=0: no bending stiffness
  - kbend=1: beam has bending stiffness (starting with R10)





#### Shanks modeled with solid elements



Initialization of a normal stress in a cross section of the solid elements

- psid: part set ID containing the solid elements to be pre-stressed
- $\{x, y, z\}$  ct  $\{x, y, z\}$  ch: head and tail coordinate of normal vector of the cross section
- BltForce: radius of a circular cross section (provide reasonable value!)
- izshear: flag to activate shear stiffness during pre-stressing phase (was revised for R11)



#### Shanks modeled with solid elements – cont'd

- izshear: Allow shear stresses to develop during the pre-stressing phase
  - Yields more realistic distribution of the normal stresses
  - Normal stress distribution in the bolt at equilibrium using LS-DYNA implicit (R11)
    - izshear=0: yields homogeneous normal stress of 0.38 GPa
    - izshear=2: yields inhomogeneous normal stresses averaging 0.38 GPa over the cross section



- Revised for implicit in current developer versions (SVN>123041, including R11 branch)
  - For explicit analysis this will be available as izshear=2 as of R11 (due to backward compatibility reasons)
  - For implicit izshear=1 and izshear=2 are synonymous





Shanks modeled with solid elements – cont'd

- Avoid pentahedron elements in the shank
  - Normal stress distribution might be disturbed
  - Cause convergence problems during implicit simulations with some LS-DYNA releases (R9.2, R10)



- Allow for large enough elements to account for initial contraction
  - Elements with a pre-stress application "shrink" until equilibrium is reached
    - Head and nut need to travel far enough to be in contact with the sheets
    - Best to account for this such that the deformed configuration leads to a nice mesh





Initializing the Pre-Tension in the Bolt



#### General rules of thumb during pre-stress initialization

- Initial gap size
  - The smaller the gap the better!
  - Head and nut impact causes
    - Stress waves in the rest of the model (noise)
    - Convergence problems in implicit simulations
- Skew bolt shaft
  - Can cause an initial slip of the connection
  - Bolt may end up tilted causing
    - Stress concentration
    - Reduction in clamping force
- Forgot to define the right friction in the contact card?
  - Here: static friction of 0.1





Initializing the Pre-Tension in the Bolt

#### General rules of thumb during pre-stress initialization

#### Pre-stress application time

If the tension initialization ends before equilibrium is reached, the desired bolt force is not reached 



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Initializing the Pre-Tension in the Bolt



# **Bolts Modeled with LS-DYNA / Implicit**

#### Perform static or dynamic simulation?

- Start with dynamic simulation to avoid matrix singularities
  - Initially the bolt is loose which leads to unconstrained rigid body modes (bad for convergence)
  - Damped Newmark scheme will help convergence greatly calms the system during pre-tensioning
- Switch to static simulation after bolt is pre-tensioned
  - Over time, dynamic effects can be removed to fully calm the system
- Dynamic parts may be switched back on, if needed (i.e. slipping with loads beyond service loads)







#### **General implicit settings**

General nonlinear solver settings

*cc	NTROL_IMP	LICIT_GENE	RAL					
\$#	imflag	dt0	imform	nsbs	igs	cnstn	form	zero_v
	1	&dt0						
*CC	NTROL_IMP	LICIT_SOLU	TION					
\$#	nsolvr	ilimit	maxref	dctol	ectol	rctol	lstol	abstol
	12	6	12					1.0e-20
\$#	dnorm	diverg	istif	nlprint	nlnorm	d3itctl	cpchk	
	1			3	4	1		
\$#	arcctl	arcdir	arclen	arcmth	arcdmp	arcpsi	arcalf	arctim
\$#	lsmtd	lsdir	irad	srad	awgt	sred		

- imflag: implicit/explicit analysis type
- dt0: initial time step size
- abstol: remove absolute tolerance
- d3itctl: output convergence to d3iter

- nsolvr: recommended nonlinear solver
- ilimit: Iteration limit between automatic stiffness reformations (problem dependent)
- maxref: Stiffness reformation limit per time step (problem dependent)
- Inorm: displacement norm increment for convergence as a function of displacement over current step
- nlnorm=4: consider sum of translational and rotational degrees of freedom



#### Auto time step size and key points

Automatic time step size control

*COI	NTROL_IMP	LICIT_AUTO						
\$#	iauto	iteopt	itewin	dtmin	dtmax	dtexp	kfail	kcycle
	1	40	10		-24			
*DEI	FINE_CURV	E						
\$#	lcid	sidr	sfa	sfo	offa	offo	dattyp	lcint
	24							
\$#		al		01				
	&dtP	reStrss		&dtMax				
		&tLoad		&dtMax				

- iauto: flag to switch on/off automatic time step control
- itopt: optimal number of iterations
- itwin: optimal iteration bandwidth
- dtmin: lower time step boundary (default dt0/1000)
- dtmax: upper time step boundary (<0 it's a curve ID with key points)
- Definition of key points

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Important points in time that need to be reached exactly





Bolts modeled with LS-DYNA / Implicit

# **Presented Example for Bolt Types a) to d)**

#### **Boundary conditions**

- Boundary conditions
  - Bolt pre-tension
    - Spot weld beam:  $F = \sigma A = 28.8 \,\mathrm{kN}$
    - Solids:  $\sigma = 0.3841 \,\text{GPa}$   $A = 74.9859 \,\text{mm}^2$
    - Here: solid pre-stress yields equivalent pre-tension
  - Displacement  $u_x$  on one side
  - Fixed in space on other side





( Tightening Torque for <u>Class 4.6</u> Bolts (METRIC COARSE)							
Dali	Throad	*when µ =	= 0.10	*when µ = 0.14			
Diameter x Pitch	Stress Area mm <sup>2</sup>	Tightening Torque	Pre-load	Tightening Torque	In Pre-load		
M5 x 0.8	14.2	5.2	7.4	6.5	7.0		
M6 x 1	20.1	9.0	10.4	11.3	9.9		
M8 x 1.25	36.6	21.6	19.1	27.3	18.1		
M10 x 1.5	58.0	43	30.3	54	28.8		
M12 x 1.75	84.3	73	44.1	93	41.9		
M14 x 2	115	117	60.6	148	57.5		
140 0	457	100	00.0	000	70.0		





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#### **Deformation behavior with explicit simulations**

- Similar deformation behavior for all bolt types
- Implicit simulations show less vibrations







#### **Von-Mises stress with implicit simulations**

Bolt type a) shows no slip and thus no hole bearing





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#### **Plastic strains with explicit simulations**

Bolt type a) shows no slip and thus no hole bearing





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#### Force displacement curves and bolt forces

- All bolt types play initially in the same ball park
- Implicit sometimes behaves different than explicit
  - Different contact treatment, also in terms of stiffness and thickness
  - Might need further investigation







# Conclusions

- Many possibilities to model bolts in LS-DYNA
- Many things to keep in mind
  - Keep parts as close together as possible before pre-tensioning
  - Provide reasonable time for pre-tension (>= 1ms)
  - Account for extra space in the bolt hole when using contact null beams
  - When using solid elements in the shaft
    - Try to avoid pentahedrons in the shaft
    - Use new izshear option in \*INITIAL\_STRESS\_SECTION
- Explicit as well implicit works fine
  - Implicit time step independent of element size
    - Might be beneficial for longer time spans
  - Attention is needed when comparing results





# Thank you for your attention!







