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EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH OF FORCE WAVE PRECESSION GEARS WITH ROLLING ELEMENT

М.В. Маргуліс, Я.О. Гордієнко. Експериментальні дослідження силової хвильової прецесійної передачі з тілами кочення. Підвищення якості та надійності машин і механізмів при одночасному зменшенні їх масових та габаритних параметрів і підвищення економічності ϵ основним завданням сучасного машинобудування. Відомо, що хвильові передачі з тілами кочення ϵ найбільш економічним різновидом хвильових передач за масовими та габаритними параметрами і ККД. Це досягається заміною хвильового зубчастого зачеплення кульовим, яке практично виключає тертя ковзання і підвищує ККД (за рахунок виключення втрат в хвильовому зубчастому зачепленні і генераторі хвиль) і надійність передачі (за рахунок виключення гнучких ланок). Метою виконаної роботи було проведення експериментальних досліджень нового дослідницько-промислового зразка хвильової прецесійної передачі з тілами кочення з метою підтвердження актуальності виконаних теоретичних досліджень і практичного відпрацювання рекомендацій щодо раціонального конструювання нових хвильових прецесійних передач з тілами кочення. На підставі розроблених рекомендацій по створенню хвильової прецесійної передачі з тілами кочення був спроектований і виготовлений механізм з оптимізованими конструктивними і технологічними параметрами, який успішно пройшов стендові випробування, в процесі яких була підтверджена працездатність механізму, визначені його ККД, температурні, вібраційні і шумові характеристики, а також виконані випробування на довговічність. Використання розробленої конструкції хвильової прецесійної передачі з тілами кочення дозволяє: до 2,7 рази знизити матеріаломісткість передавальних механізмів в порівнянні з традиційними зубчастими передачами; забезпечити більш надійну працездатність в порівнянні з хвильовими зубчастими передачами за рахунок виключення гнучкого ланки; забезпечити підвищення навантажувальної здатності механізму до 30 % в порівнянні з існуючими хвильовими передачами з тілами кочення. На підставі результатів експериментальних досліджень хвильової прецесійної передачі з тілами кочення отримали подальший розвиток основи міцністного розрахунку з оптимізацією конструктивних параметрів за критеріями мінімальних контактних напружень і рівномірності руху тіл кочення вздовж періодичних доріжок кочення. Проведені експериментальні дослідження розробленого механізму підтвердили правомірність використання розроблених рекомендацій по конструюванню і технології виготовлення при створенні серійних аналогічних приводів з високими техніко-економічними показниками.

Ключові слова: хвильова передача, періодична доріжка кочення, тіло кочення, кут нутації, ковзання, оптимізація, прецесія

M. Margulies, Y. Gordienko. Experimental research of force wave precession gears with rolling element. The main task of modern mechanical engineering is to improve the quality and reliability of machinery and mechanisms while reducing their overall dimensions and increasing cost-effectiveness. Wave gears with rolling element are known to be the most efficient type of wave gears in terms of weight, dimensions and efficiency factor. This is achieved by replacing the wave gearing with the spherical engagement which eliminates sliding friction and increases the efficiency factor (due to the exclusion of losses in the wave gearing and wave generator) and gear reliability (due to the exclusion of flexible links). The purpose of the work is to perform experimental research of the new industrial prototype of wave precession gear with rolling element in order to confirm the importance of the performed theoretical studies and practical recommendations developed for the rational engineering of new wave precession gears with rolling element. On the basis of the developed recommendations for the production of wave precession gears with rolling element, a mechanism with optimized design and technological parameters has been engineered and manufactured; it has successfully passed bench tests, during which the efficiency of the mechanism has been confirmed, its efficiency, temperature, vibration and noise tests as well as performance tests have been performed. The use of the design developed for wave precession gears with rolling element allows: (a) reduce material consumption of gears in comparison with traditional gears up to 2.7 times; (b) provide more reliable performance in comparison with wave gears by eliminating the flexible link; (c) ensure the increase of the loadcarrying capacity of the mechanism by up to 30 % in comparison with existing wave gears with rolling element. On the basis of the results of experimental research for wave precession gears with rolling element, further strength calculations of wave precession gears with rolling element has been developed with optimization of design parameters according to the criteria of minimum contact stresses and uniform motion of rolling element along the periodic roller path. The experimental research of the developed mechanism with wave precession gears with rolling element confirmed the proper use of the developed recommendations on design and manufacturing technology in terms of serial production of similar drives with high technical and economic indicators.

Keywords: harmonic drive, periodic race groove, rolling element, nutation angle, sliding motion, optimization, precession

Introduction

The development of modern mechanical engineering puts in a number of priority tasks a constant increase of capacities and reduction of mass-dimensional indicators, concentrated in single machines or units.

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Successful creation of a new high-efficiency technique depends on providing it with a reliable and durable drive, the most laborious part of which is the mechanism of conversion of speed and output moment – a reducer or a multiplier. The variety of requirements made by different consumers for gearboxes is reduced, in the main, to an increase in reliability and durability, efficiency and load capacity while reducing their weight, overall dimensions and cost of manufacture. The leading place among the mechanical gears used in the drives of the machines is occupied by non-wave gears, for which, with increasing load capacity, there is a significant increase in overall dimensions and material capacity, and in large gear ratios, a decrease in efficiency.

Complex satisfaction of these requirements with partial improvement of traditional gears becomes less effective. Therefore, the problem of creating new types of gears and mechanical gears is particularly urgent and requires fundamentally new design solutions.

The known wave gears have the following advantages over gears: a larger gear ratio in one step (up to 455); high load capacity due to multi-pair contact of teeth at comparable gear sizes; high efficiency (0.80...0.90) due to the low speeds and relative displacements of the teeth in the wave gearing.

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Currently, active research, development and development of mechanisms of motion conversion, using gears not in the gearing, but in the types of gearing, in which the torque transmission is carried out by means of rolling element, balls or rollers moving in periodic rolling tracks, are underway.

Exclusion from the wave gearing of a flexible link and its replacement by functional purpose on a rolling body and periodic paths of a swing allows to increase reliability and to reduce the complexity of manufacturing of similar gears in terms of operational parameters, while maintaining all the advantages of wave gearing, which is why working.

Analysis of recent publications and problem statement

At the moment, on the basis of Tomsk Polytechnic University, wave transmissions with intermediate rolling element are being actively developed and investigated [2-9]. A significant contribution to the theoretical and experimental study of gears with rolling element was made by professors A. Belyaev [10] and R. M. Ignatishchev [11], I. A. Bostan [12]. However, the existing works cannot be used to assess the performance of the proposed new wave gears with rolling element due to significant differences in the kinematics of gears and the geometry of the main links (a significant difference in the spatial trajectories of the periodic race grooves, as well as the designs of the nodes of the main links), which caused theoretical and subsequent experimental studies of a new transmission design with rolling element [13].

The purpose and objectives of research

The aim of this work was to conduct experimental studies of a new pilot industrial model of wave precession transmission with rolling element (WPGRE) [13] in order to confirm the relevance of the theoretical studies and practical development of recommendations for the rational design and manufacturing technology of new WPGRE.

To achieve this goal, the following series of tasks were solved:

- an analysis of modern manufactured structures and research on gears using rolling element to transmit torque was performed;
 - developed a new rational design of WPGRE;
- recommendations were developed for calculating the geometric parameters of the main links of the WPGRE [14];
 - developed a rational technology for the manufacture of the main parts of WPGRE [15];
 - a workable prototype industrial design of WPGRE and a test bench were manufactured;
 - bench tests of the WPGRE model were carried out according to the main operational indicators.

Statement of the main material

The pilot industrial design of WPGRE was manufactured and tested at the machine-building enterprise MAGMA LLC in Mariupol in accordance with our developed methodology.

The transmission gear under study (Fig. 1) contains: an input shaft 1 mounted on radial bearings 3, based on a threaded cover 4 and an output shaft 6; thrust roller bearings 2 mounted on the eccentric journals of the input shaft 1, which interact with the precession wheel 11; output shaft 6 mounted on tapered angular contact bearings 7, based in a glass 8, rigidly connected to the housing 5; an intermediate wheel 9 connected by a spline connection to the output shaft 6; an intermediate wheel 10 connected by a spline connection to the housing 5; balls 12 located in the holes of the separators 13. Balls 12 are based on the surface of the MPC, made on the outer spherical surface of the precession wheel 11 and the inner spherical surfaces of the intermediate wheels 9 and 10. The precision wheel 11 is mounted on bearings 2, with the possibility of making rotational and translational axial movements, providing self-alignment of the input shaft 1 in the axial direction.

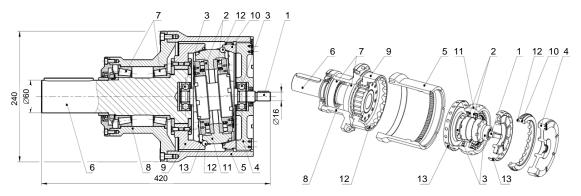


Fig. 1. Transmission gear under study with a two-stage WPGRE: 1 – input shaft, 2 – thrust bearing, 3 – radial bearing, 4 – cover, 5 – housing, 6 – output shaft, 7 – bearings, 8 – glass, 9 – intermediate wheel, 10 – intermediate wheel, 11 – precession wheel, 12 – balls, 13 – separator

This mechanism operates as follows. When the input shaft 1 is rotated through the thrust bearings 2, the precession movement of the precession wheel 11 is excited. Two symmetrically arranged periodic race grooves are made on the outer spherical surface of the precession wheel, one of which interacts via balls 12 with periodic race grooves made on the inner spherical surface of the stopped the intermediate wheel 10, and the other with a periodic raceway made on a rotating intermediate wheel 9.

The intermediate wheel 10 is fixedly mounted in the housing 5. The intermediate wheel 9 is connected to the output shaft 6 motionless, which ensures the transmission of torque. The difference in the numbers of periods of the periodic raceway of the precession wheel 11 and the intermediate wheel 10 provides rotation with reduction of the precession wheel 11. The difference in the numbers of periods of the periodic raceway of the precession wheel 11 and the intermediate wheel 9 provides rotation with reduction of the intermediate wheel 9. The rotation speed of the output shaft 6 is determined by the algebraic sum of the rotational speeds of the precession wheel 11 and the intermediate wheel 9 relative to the precession.

Experimental studies were conducted to determine the compliance of its calculated and actual characteristics and identify possible design flaws for their subsequent elimination.

Specifications of developed WPGRE:

– maximum torque on the output shaft, Nm	2500
– gear ratio	100
number of steps	2
- frequency of rotation of the input shaft of the gearbox, rpm	1500
The mass of the gearbox, kg	70

In the process of bench testing, the following transmission characteristics were investigated:

- performance in operating modes,
- coefficient of performance
- the presence of wear of the periodic raceway after a test cycle under loads,
- temperature condition
- noise level,
- durability.

The study of the main parameters of the WPGRE pilot industrial model was carried out by observing, recording and analyzing the results of experiments in the bench operating conditions of the transmission.

In order to evaluate the performance of the WPGRE links in the research process, reverse loading (smooth and stepwise) was carried out under steady and transient operating conditions. The main characteristics of WPGRE were determined at steady loads and rotational speeds.

During the initial tests, the transmission kinematics was verified and the theoretical methodology of the kinematic calculation was confirmed.

The test bench developed by us for testing a pilot industrial design WPGRE (Fig. 2) contains a drive motor 1, powered by a frequency converter, the output shaft of which is connected through an elastic coupling 2 to the gearbox under test with VPGRB 3, the output shaft of which is connected through a gear coupling 4 to a pair of gear gearboxes 5 and 6, connected by a gear clutch 7 and operating in multimultiplier mode. The output shaft of the second gearbox through the second elastic coupling 8 is connected to the shaft of the generator 9 with a frequency converter.

The efficiency was determined by the ratio of the electrical parameters on the WPGRE drive motor and the generator installed as a load element on the side of the WPGRE output shaft through two multipliers (the method of measuring electric power). Previously, prior to testing, the efficiency of all the constituent elements of the stand involved in the transmission of torque for their consideration in calculating the efficiency of the mechanism was determined by a similar method.

The measurement of electrical parameters was performed by a three-phase energy recorder PEL103 No. 166486 PKH.

Research results

The efficiency study was carried out with a torque on the output shaft and the rotation speed of the input shaft in the range: $T_{\text{out}} = 0...2500 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$; $V_{\text{in}} = 300, 500, 750, 1000, 1250, 1500 \text{ rpm}$.

At the beginning of the tests, the gearbox was run in idle (about 10 hours) and run-in under load. The criterion of running-in transmission was adopted the condition for obtaining a stable efficiency. The gear running-in process took about 20 hours.

The increase in the efficiency of the mechanism under study during its running-in can be explained by

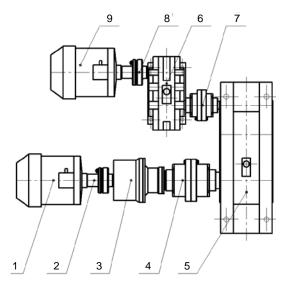
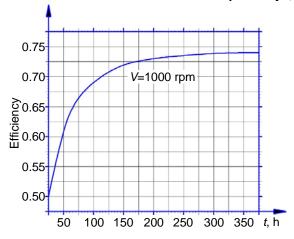


Fig. 2. Scheme of the test bench for WPGRE: 1 – electric motor, 2 – coupling MYBII 250, 3 – gearbox with WPGRE, 4 – gear coupling M3 6300, 5 – gearbox LI2V-250; 6 – gearbox 2LI2-100H, 7 – clutch gear M3 1600, 8 – clutch MYBII 250, 9 – generator

the elimination of the initial edge contact of the periodic race grooves with the rolling element, revealed during repeated disassemblies of the WPGRE.

Subsequent verification of changes in the efficiency of the mechanism after 400 hours of operation at the stand showed that it increased and amounted to 80% at a load of 2500 Nm, and an input shaft rotation frequency of 300 rpm. In the future, the efficiency remained unchanged (Fig. 3). The results of an increase in efficiency during its running-in are consistent with the findings of other studies [12].

The study of the influence of the rotational speed of the input shaft of the gearbox was carried out in running gear. So, the maximum values of the gearbox efficiency were obtained at a rotation frequency of 300 rpm. At rotation speeds of 500, 750, 1000, 1250 and 1500 rpm, the efficiency values were 0.78, 0.76, 0.74, 0.72 and 0.7, respectively (Fig. 4).



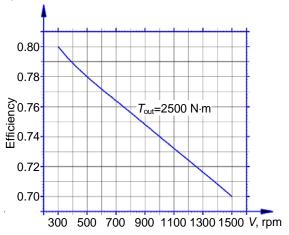


Fig. 3. The dependence of the efficiency on the running-in time of the mechanism

Fig. 4. The dependence of the efficiency on the input shaft speed

A decrease in the efficiency of the transmission under study with an increase in the input shaft rotation frequency is mainly associated with an increase in the sliding speed of the mating links at the contact points of the periodic raceway and the rolling body and a concomitant increase in heat loss. The results of this study confirm the findings of other studies [12].

The study of the *load capacity* by loading the gearbox on the test bench showed the ability to transfer design loads with a margin of 25 %, further overloading of the mechanism was not performed.

The temperature regime was monitored by measuring the temperature of the housing of a working gearbox using a contact temperature sensor.

Temperature control was carried out by Novatek-Electro PT-100 sensors.

The measurement of temperature during each stage of the running-in transmission showed that with an increase in the degree of running-in, the temperature decreases. This result is consistent with an increase in efficiency during running-in.

During the experiment, it was found that with an increase in the load by 25 % above the nominal, the lubricant temperature practically did not change and was in the range of 60...65 ° C. From the results of this study, we can conclude that with the adopted load level and the number of revolutions, the created gear has no heating restrictions.

As a result of studies of the *noise level*, it was found that it was in the range of 50...55 dBA, and with a decrease in load by 50 % there was a slight increase in noise (18...20 %). Measurements of the noise level were carried out by the sound meter Assistant S – (Auto).

The duration of the entire set of tests was over 400 hours, which corresponds to 3.6 * 107 cycles.

Conclusions

Based on our recommendations on the creation of WPGRE, a mechanism with optimized design and technological parameters was designed and manufactured that successfully passed bench tests. During these tests, the operability of the mechanism was confirmed, its efficiency, temperature and noise characteristics were determined, and durability tests were performed. A decrease in efficiency with an increase in the speed of the high-speed shaft was revealed.

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Using the developed design of WPGRE allows:

- reduce material consumption of transmission mechanisms up to 2.7 times in comparison with traditional gears (for example, with a three-stage cylindrical gearbox 1TcZU-200) of similar operational parameters;
- to provide more reliable performance in comparison with wave gears due to the exclusion of the flexible link, the fatigue potential destruction of which is the most likely cause of the failure of the mechanism;
- to provide an increase in the bearing capacity of WPGRE up to 30 % in comparison with existing wave transmissions with rolling element [10-12] by increasing the number of rolling element involved in torque transmission (up to 100 % in a single-stage symmetrical WPGRE) [16].

This confirms the rather high technical and economic efficiency of the new gear mechanism and the possibility of their use instead of wave gears.

Below are the comparative characteristics of the created gearbox and the serial manufactured gearbox manufactured by Sumitomo (Japan), as well as the standardized domestic cylindrical gearbox (Table).

Gear unit designation	developed WPGRE	Sumitomo DRIVE 6165DB	1TcZU-200
Manufacturer	LLC "MAGMA"	Sumitomo Cyclo Drive Germany GmbH	Standardized gearbox
Gear type	The wave with the intermediate rolling ele-		Cylindrical three-stage
Gear type	ment		gearbox
Rated torque on the output shaft	2500	2520	2500
Gear ratio	100	104	100
Weight	70	87	190

Comparative characteristics of gearboxes

Based on the results of experimental studies of WPGRE, the basis for the strength calculation of WPGRE was further developed with optimization of design parameters according to the criteria of minimum contact stresses and uniformity of movement of rolling elements along the periodic raceway.

The conducted experimental studies of the developed mechanism with WPGRE confirmed the legitimacy of using the recommendations we developed on design and manufacturing technology when creating serial analogous drives with high technical and economic performance.

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