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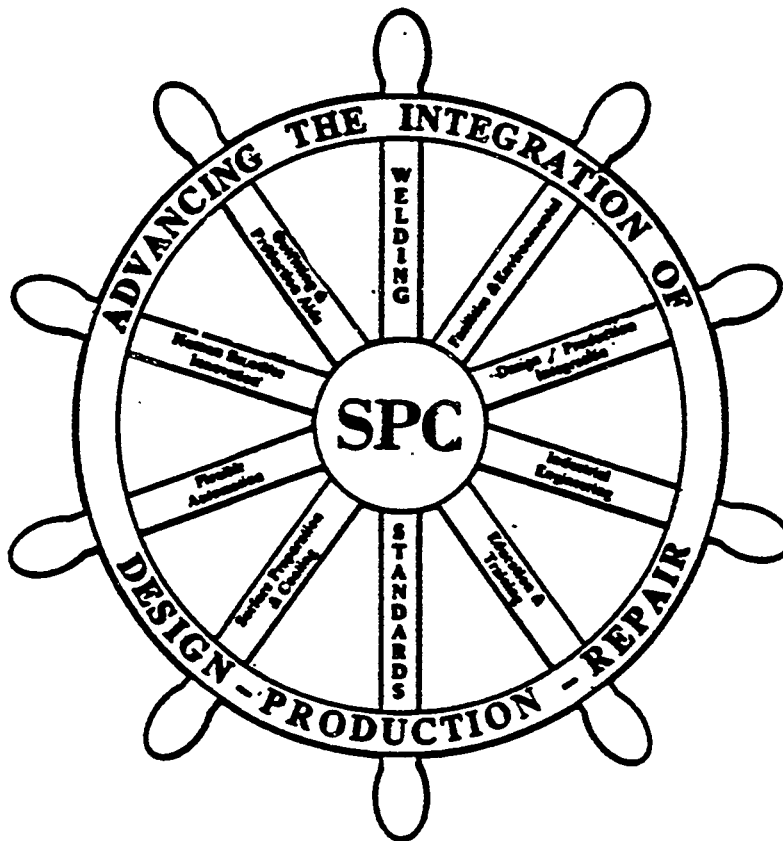
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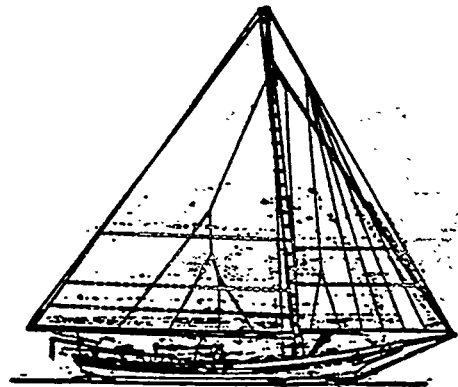
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A Design Oriented Model of Plate Forming for Shipbuilding

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ABSTRACT

Ship designers as well as product designers in general, are most concerned with the function and form of the design, and typically cannot pay adequate attention to the manufacturing consequences of their design decisions. Much of this problem can be alleviated by providing the designer with new tools that allow easy, yet thorough exploration of material and process options as part of the design process. This paper will present a prototype of such a tool, aimed at providing process information about bending and rolling of plate. The model presented is derived from first principles of mechanics and can provide a plethora of information. However the unique aspect of this work is the development and presentation of design-oriented information, such as optimization tradeoffs of process/material selection, and process control options ranging from purely manual to mechanized to fully automatic.

INTRODUCTION

In shipbuilding, as in general manufacturing, it is often difficult to address process oriented issues at the design stage. The designer's efforts are generally focused on the form and function of the marine structure, and little attention is paid to evaluating how design decisions affect the actual shipbuilding. Ship designers have very few analytical tools with which to evaluate these process oriented effects. The hypothesis here is that given appropriate process simulations, a designer could make choices which would also reflect fabrication considerations. This work concentrates on developing such tools.

The current scope of this research involves plate cutting and forming processes. Functional models have been developed for the processes of sequential bending and roll forming of metal plate for submarine hulls, and ongoing work is also directed at modeling typical plate cutting processes. A detailed discussion of the sequential bending model and its experimental verification is included in this paper along with a short description of the roll bending model.

It is essential to provide process models which, in an interactive format, allow the designer to accomplish several related tasks. First, the models permit a "single run" simulation of the process in which output geometry, stress state, and deviation from specifications can be evaluated for a particular set of input parameters. As an extension of this analysis, the models allow for "multiple run" process simulation in which typical control algorithms from operator control to fully automatic process control can be modelled and evaluated. Finally, the process models have been integrated into a wider evaluation scheme in which output data is used to generate sensitivity curves. From these curves, the designer can determine regions in which the process is less sensitive (i.e. more "robust") to variations in machine and material parameters. This set of information is of considerable value at the design stage. Constructive application of simulation information should result in a more successful design that is both easier to fabricate and less likely to deviate from specifications.

DESIGN-MANUFACTURING INTEGRATION

The research presented in this paper looks at the issue of design-oriented process simulation. This specific area of work is focused on plate cutting, forming and limited fixturing. As previously discussed, the specific intention is to create a prototype tool with which the designer can take fabrication considerations into account at the design stage. This effort is part of a larger ONR sponsored project at MIT which is concerned with the general issue of design-manufacturing integration in shipbuilding. This project also includes the modeling of welding distortion [1], and complex fitup [2]. In addition, CAD issues are being addressed with the intention of providing better methods of representation for the complex geometries encountered in hull design [3]. Figure 1 illustrates how this work combines with these of fixturing and distortion modeling.

The application of process models and simulations by the designer permits the prediction of part geometry, and more importantly the

prediction of deviation from desired geometry. This information is of significant interest when looking at the issue of fitup for assembly. Proper process investigation can significantly reduce the fitup effort. Also, the evaluation of sensitivity functions allows the designer to "discover" trade offs in the process, and use them to advantage. These sensitivity functions can also be used to minimize forming error, as they would facilitate a choice of process operating point that is less sensitive to parameter variations such as changes in material properties.

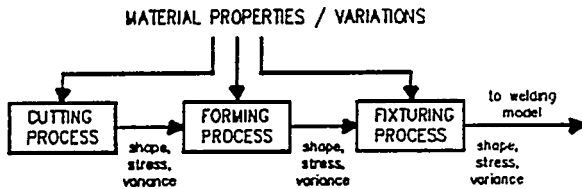


Figure 1: Integrated Weldment Design System

PROCESS MODELS

In describing the modeling aspects of this work, it is essential to make the semantic distinction between the terms "process model" and "process simulation". In describing a process model, one generally refers to an analytical tool developed from first principles that allows for the prediction of process output characteristics for a given set of input parameters. In this case, a model accurately predicts the geometry and state of stress of a bent plate, for a given set of inputs (machine geometry and material properties). One can incorporate the model into a process simulation by looking at the actual steps involved in "using" the process at the shop floor level. Here, one would examine the sequence of steps involved in bending a plate to a desired radius. This could, for example, involve an operator control algorithm (bend, measure, rebend) or an adaptive control scheme (bend, measure, then use this information to more accurately predict performance by re-estimating material parameter values). Also, one could apply the model to a closed loop, real time control scheme such as discussed in Hardt and Chen [4]. Thus, the simulation program incorporates a process model, and a measurement model into a parent program which follows a particular control algorithm.

The sequential bending and roll forming models have been designed so as to permit a "non-zero" initial geometry and state of stress for the plate being bent. This feature allowed for the development of a plate bending simulation which makes use of these fundamental forming models. This simulation is of significant value to the investigative designer.

User-interface programming has been added to the simulation, to permit the easy modification of model input variables, and a clear display of graphic data. This interface was written so as to be model independent making it flexible for future use. The graphics facilities have been implemented on a DEC Vax Station 3200 in the Ultrix/X-Windows environment, with all programs written in "C". Figure 2 illustrates the overall arrangement of the process model in an integrated process simulation program, and Figure 3 shows the basic display screen available on the engineering workstation.

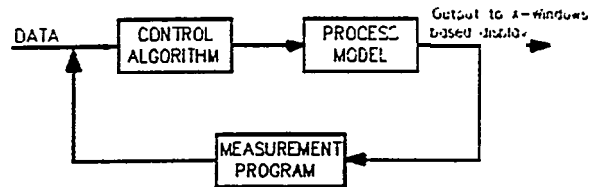


Figure 2: Simulation Block Diagram

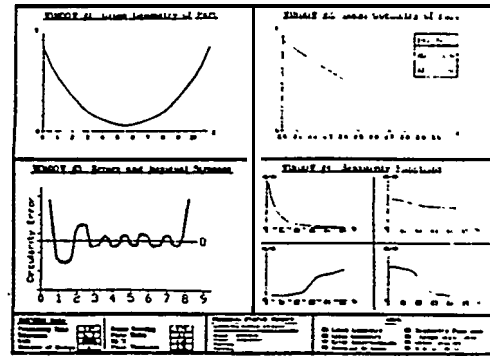


Figure 3: Sample Simulation Screen

SEQUENTIAL BENDING MODEL

The process of plate bending to achieve a circular hull section involves creating a series of overlapping plastic deformation zones to achieve an acceptable average curvature. However, unlike roll bending, this process will not produce a uniform curvature with arc length, but will instead result in a periodic variation in curvature about an average value. The following model has been developed to allow a process designer to examine the effect of machine geometry, bend line spacing and punch penetration on both the average and continuous curvature distribution along the arc length of the part. To assess the amount of yard-level control that will be necessary to achieve tolerance on a part (or alternatively the achievability of a part tolerance) the model is used as well to calculate local gradient in outputs with respect to process parameters of material yield strength (σ_y), thickness (t) and machine control accuracy via the punch displacement (Y_n).

The geometry of the bending process is simple three point beam bending as shown in Figure 4. As the punch penetrates into the workpiece, the maximum bending moment (under the punch) increases. If a linear moment distribution with arc-length is assumed (as done in all similar bending analyses [5,6,7]), then a corresponding loaded curvature distribution can be found given the basic constitutive relationship for the material, which for bending is the Moment-Curvature relationship. (Note that the latter is typically derived from stress-strain information assuming simple beam theory and pure moment bending. Although the influence of large deflections and transverse shear is important, it is assumed herein that such effects are of second order to this analysis.)

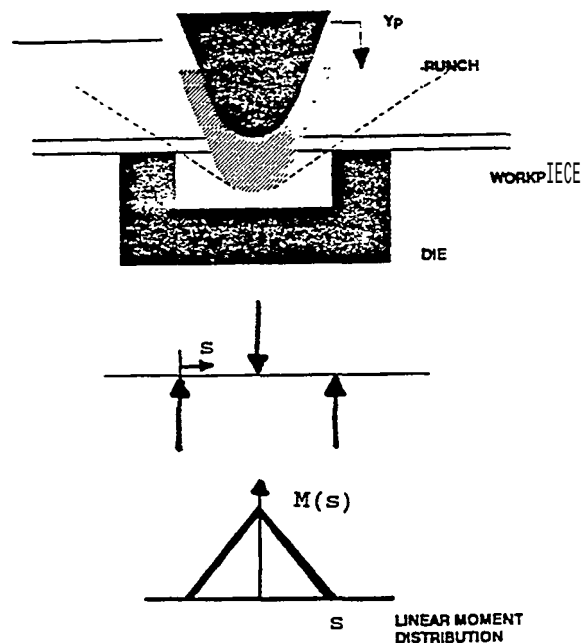


Figure 4: Basic Geometry of Bending

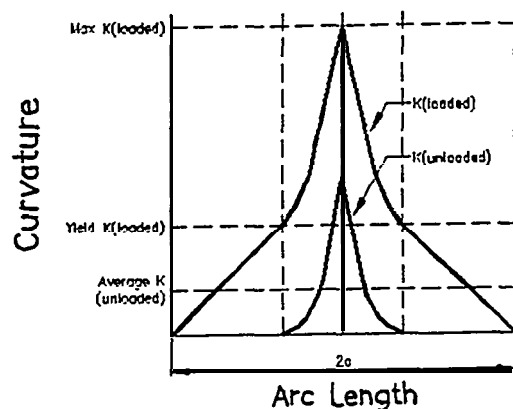


Figure 5: Single Bend Curvature Distribution

The bending model used here starts with a given machine geometry (die half-width a) and material properties (based on a linear strain hardening material model with elastic modulus E , plastic modulus E_p , and yield stress Y), and is then driven by a specified punch penetration Y_p . The maximum moment M_{max} is then matched to Y_p by an iterative series of calculations that integrates the curvature to find the center point deflection. Given M_{max} and the resulting linear moment distribution across the plate: $M(s)$, the M-K relationship can be applied to find the corresponding loaded curvature $K_l(s)$. Finally, the unloaded curvature distribution, $K_u(s)$ is found by applying an elastic moment of equal and opposite magnitude to the original load to account of the elastic springback. Thus we obtain:

$$K_u(s) = K_l(s) - \frac{M(s)}{S_e}$$

where $S_e = EI(1-\nu^2)$ is the equivalent bending stiffness of the plate section.

The key output of the model at this stage is, therefore, the curvature distribution $K_u(s)$ that results from a single bend. A typical result is shown in Figure 5, where the effect of springback is evidenced by the lack of permanent curvature change at the periphery of the die region. Also shown in the figure is the superposition of a sequence of identical bends to produce the desired average curvature. However, this figure does not accurately represent the process of deformation overlap that is the heart of sequential bending.

To appreciate this effect, consider the problem of the first few bends of a flat plate. After the first bend, the plate now has some initial curvature (see Figure 6). When it is incremented along the line of curvature, and the next punch penetration occurs, two important changes have occurred. First, much of the material that will be plastically deformed was also deformed on the previous step, and has potentially undergone strain hardening and certainly contains residual stresses. More importantly, the point of contact of the punch on the plate is lower than for a flat plate, and since the process is controlled on the basis of absolute punch position, this means a lesser effective penetration for a pre-formed piece than for a flat sheet.

Such effects must be included to properly simulate this process, as the curvature distribution of Figure 7 illustrates. Here a fixed punch penetration has been used for successive bends. The above effect is immediately obvious the first "bump" is of high magnitude (since the plate was flat) and the next bump is smaller owing to less "effective" penetration. Then a steady-state is reached as each sequence leads to a consistent ini-

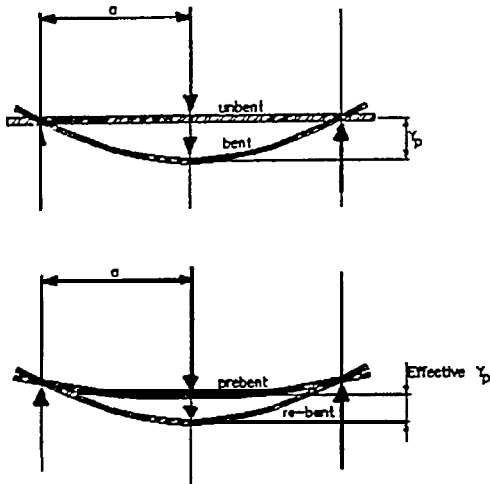


Figure 6: Effect of Prebend

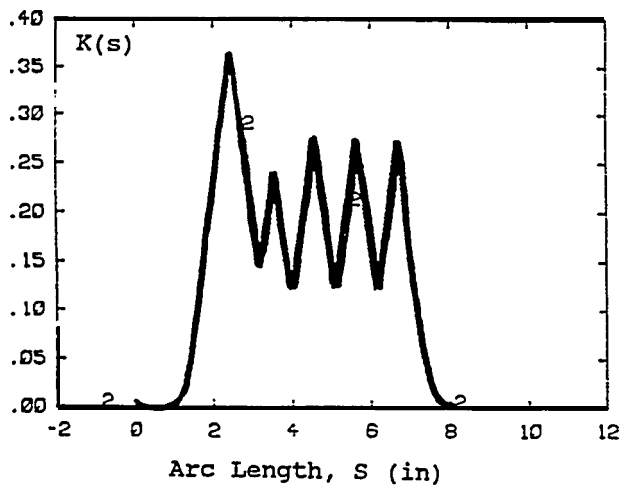


Figure 7: Total Bump Sequence

tial geometry.

As currently implemented, the model accepts a punch penetration and a bend spacing as inputs, the pre-bend plate curvature and residual stress state as in-process inputs and produces outputs of curvature distribution, $K(s)$, part geometry, (x,y) , and residual stresses, $\sigma_r(y,s)$. The model parameters include the plate properties (modulus, yield point, thickness, and strain hardening properties). This model structure is shown in Figure 8.

The analytical details of the model and its solution details are found in [8]. However, the basic structure of the solution is shown in Figure 9, where the multiple iterations are shown. These are necessitated by the indeterminate nature of the punch penetration - plate curvature relationship.

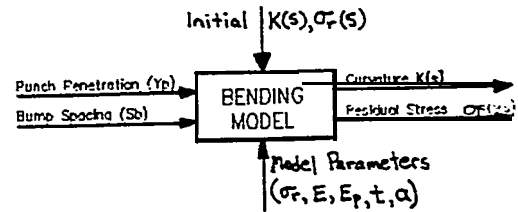


Figure 8: Bending Model Structure

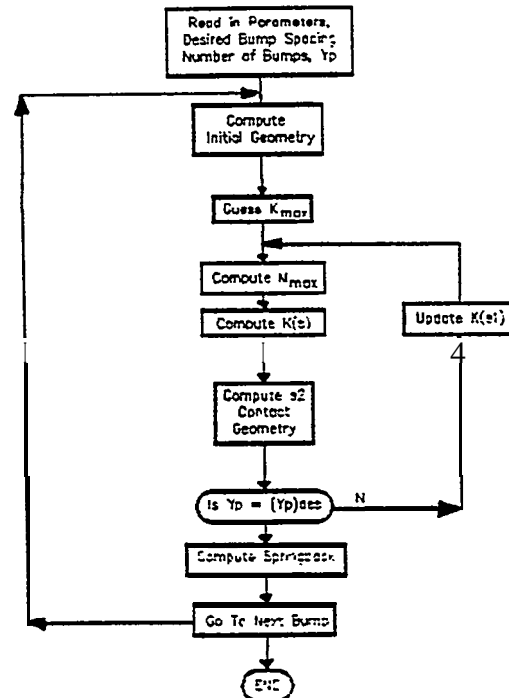


Figure 9: Bump Forming Model Flowchart

A typical set of results from the model is shown in Figure 10. Here, a sequence of 5 bends spaced 1 inch apart on 1/4 inch HY 80 is simulated. The punch penetration is fixed at 0.25 inches, and is kept constant. Thus, following the above definitions, this is a use of a *model* rather than a *simulation* since the latter would vary penetration to achieve a desired curvature. Figure 11 shows the net effect of all five bends in Cartesian coordinates.

Finally, the model is used to generate sensitivity functions that will be used to aid a designer in choosing operating points for the process that minimize output variations. The iterative calculations preclude analytical gradients, and thus local gradients must be explicitly calculated by perturbing the appropriate process parameter and observing the resulting outputs change. This must then be repeated for each parameter and is only valid at a given operating

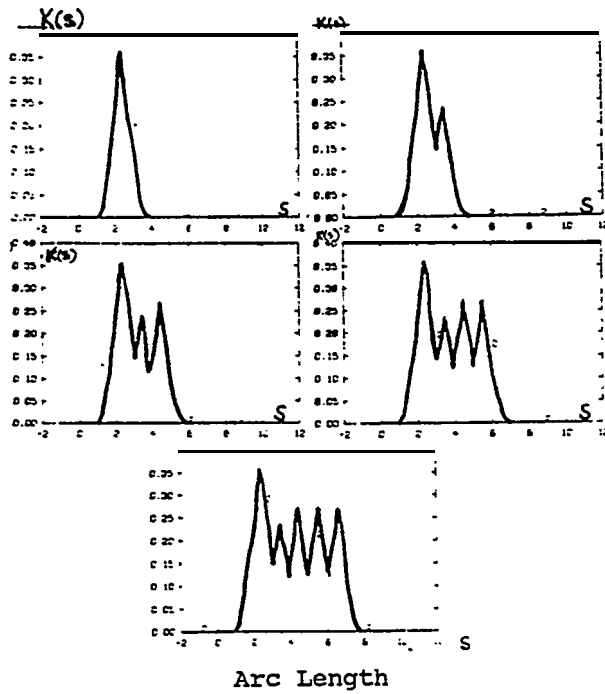


Figure 10: Sequence of Five Successive Bends

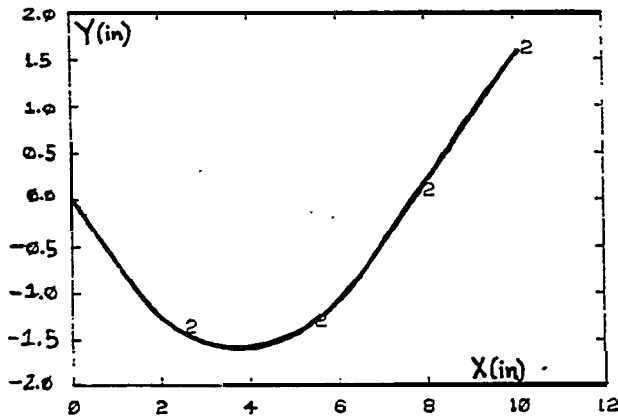


Figure 11: X-Y Profile of Part

point (i.e. machine geometry and desired curvature). The following gradients have been generated

$\frac{\Delta K_{ave}}{\Delta t}$	$\frac{\Delta K_{ave}}{\Delta \sigma_y}$	$\frac{\Delta K_{ave}}{\Delta E_p}$
$\frac{\Delta e_R}{\Delta t}$	$\frac{\Delta e_R}{\Delta \sigma_y}$	$\frac{\Delta e_R}{\Delta E_p}$

(where e_R is defined as the deviation in radius of curvature)

By far the most sensitive quantities are those relating to thickness and plastic modulus (since strain hardening has a strong influence on

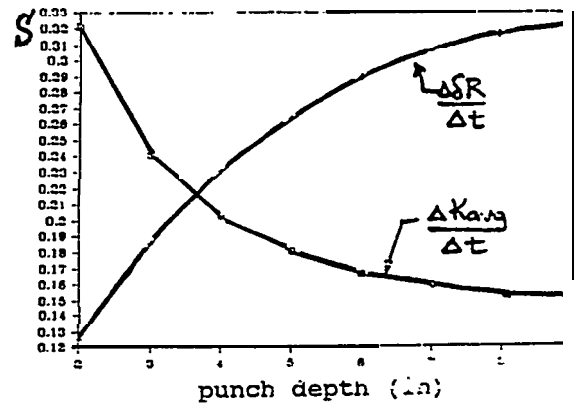


Figure 12: Sensitivity to Thickness

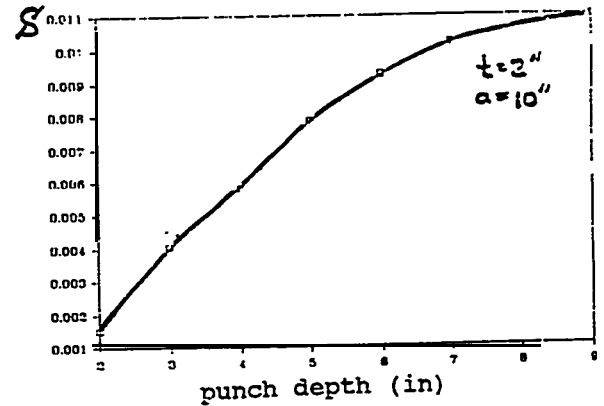


Figure 13: Sensitivity to Plastic Modulus

the size and shape of the plastic zone during bending). Figure 12 shows typical functions for circularity and K_{ave} thickness variations, as a function of punch penetration. This figure indicates, for example, that when thickness variations are significant (as they can be with thick plate), there is an optimal punch depth/bend spacing (which is related to punch depth for a given radius) that minimizes both average curvature circularity errors.

Figure 13 illustrates the effect of changes in plastic modulus of the material on the radial or circularity error. This measures the effect of changes in the work hardening of the material on the resulting variation in curvature. Notice again the strong dependence on the operating point (punch penetration), which in this case favors the choice of a shallow punch penetration.

The model presented here for sequential bending can be used for several purposes. One use demonstrated here is to study process sensitivity to parameter variations. This can in turn be used to develop a statistical picture of the expected variation of the process outputs. For ex-

ample, the parameters can be described by probability distributions and these in turn can be propagated through the model using the sensitivity gradients to develop a measure of the output's variance.

As previously discussed, this model can be incorporated into a process simulation, which facilitates broader exploration of the process. By evaluating the results of simulated process steps, the designer can obtain information about process behavior in general, and particularly about the tradeoffs which are involved in process optimization.

EXPERIMENTAL VERIFICATION

The sequential bending experiments were performed on a Cincinnati Inc. 90-ton pressbrake. A positive stop system was added to the machine to permit exact control of punch penetration. The workpieces used were 6 x 21 x 1/4 inch thick HY80 high strength steel. The objective of the experiments was to bend several pieces to a radius of 18 inches, with a 30 degree arc of approximately constant radius. It should be noted that this radius measurement refers to the radius of the bent plate, measured by a template, without taking the "head" and "tail" of the piece into account. Figure 14 illustrates the die and workpiece used in this experiment, and the steps involved in bending a plate.

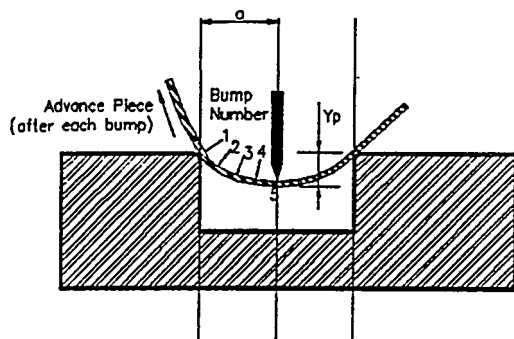


Figure 14: Press Brake and Sequential Bending Illustration



Figure 15: Roll Bending Geometry

In bending the plates, an "operator control algorithm" was used. Specifically, a given piece was first bent using a fixed punch penetration over a sequence of evenly space bends. The punch penetration was then incremented for the next bend. The amount of penetration change was chosen intuitively, by the "operator" with the intention of "sneaking up" on the desired radius without overbending. During each experiment the bump spacing and sequence of punch penetration values were recorded. Measurement of each radius was done using radius templates.

To verify the model, the exact sequence followed in each experiment was simulated. This involved starting with material properties values gleaned from a series of tensile tests performed on the same material, and applying exact measured values of plate thickness, initial geometry and machine geometry to the computer model. After each simulated bend, a measurement program was used to fit a circle to the plate's geometric data. This radius was then compared to the measured intermediate and final radii found experimentally. For each bend, the previously calculated state of geometry was used as an initial description of the plate.

This sequence of steps was carried out for three pieces. In each case, the punch penetration sequence was varied, so as to investigate the effects of changing the bending history of the plate. Tables I through IV describe the data obtained for this sequence of three confirmation experiments. From Table II it is apparent that the model, as initially calibrated, did not provide accurate predictions of the forming tests. However, as is implied by Table III, this discrepancy was overcome by modifying the initial calibration data, specifically the material properties of yield and strain hardening. These are, as expected, the most indeterminate of the process parameters, and such variations can be expected. Comparing

Table I:
Initial Model Calibration Data:

Plate Thickness	= 0.278	inches
Plate Width	= 6.0	inches
Plate Length	= 21.0	inches
E	= 3.0×10^7	psi
E_p/E	= 0.15	
σ_{yd}	= 90,000	psi
a_{yd} (die half width)	= 2.4	inches
Y_p (punch penetr.)	= VARIED	
Δ_{BS} (bump spacing)	= 1.25	inches
# of Bumps	= 11	

Table II:
Experimental Results and Initial Model Predictions:

Plate #	Bend	Yp	Ravg (exptl)	Ravg (model)
01	1	0.204	211	15.70
	2	0.220	209	15.70
	3	0.236	201	15.68
	4	0.268	180	13.77
02	1	0.173	220	18.99
	2	0.236	205	15.66
	3	0.268	180	13.75
03	1	0.236	17.8	13.32

Table III:
Modified Model Calibration Data:

Plate Thickness	= 0.278	inches
Plate Width	= 6.0	inches
Plate Length	= 21.0	inches
E	= 3.0e7	psi
E _p /E	= 0.25	
σ _{yd}	= 100 000	psi
a (die half width)	= 2.4	inches
Y _p (punch penetr.)	= VARIED	
Δ _{BS} (bump spacing)	= 125	inches
# of Bumps	= 11	

Table IV:
Experimental Results and Revised Model Predictions:

Plate #	Bend	Yp	Ravg (exptl)	Ravg (model)
01	1	0.204	211	20.87
	2	0.220	209	20.87
	3	0.236	201	19.88
	4	0.268	180	16.78
02	1	0.173	220	22.50
	2	0.236	205	17.57
	3	0.268	180	15.46
03	1	0.236	17.8	17.30

Tables II and IV, it can be seen that this re-estimation of these material parameters results in much improved model predictions. Also, it is significant to note that the model successfully predicts the radius of the plates for three different bending histories. The first plate was bent much more gradually than plates 2 and 3, however good agreement between the model predictions and the experimental results can be seen in Table IV for all 3 plates. This is due to the fact that this process model takes the "initial" geometry of the plate into account before running each iteration of the simulation.

It is readily apparent that by modifying the initial values of material parameters slightly, agreement between the model and the experimental data was obtained. A primary source of

error in this experiment was the initial lack of flatness of the plate used. This plate was found to be out of flat by as much as 0.050 inches. Correction for this lack of flatness was made in the "runs" shown in Table IV, above.

ROLL BENDING MODEL

The objective of this model is to relate the process input (the roll diameters, spacing and center roll displacement) to the desired outputs of plate radius and residual stresses. In addition, the model will provide sensitivity functions for these outputs with respect to material property and geometry variations.

The basic geometry of the process is shown in Figure 15. The model employed here is based on one developed by Hansen et al. [7]. Only the basic form of the model is presented here. The basic calculations follow much of what is described above, except that the shape of the plate is different between in-coming and outgoing sides. While the same triangular moment distribution applies here, the incoming material sees this as a loading moment, thus the loading portion of the M-K relationship is applied to find $K_1(s)$. However, once the material passes the center roll, it is unloading, and the M-K relationship becomes linear. Thus, a non-symmetric $K_1(s)$ will result. This greatly complicates the calculation of the center roll penetration since this is found by integrating plate curvature to find plate contour. As a result, the execution of the model requires iterative calculations that seek to match roll penetration, boundary conditions and plate shape.

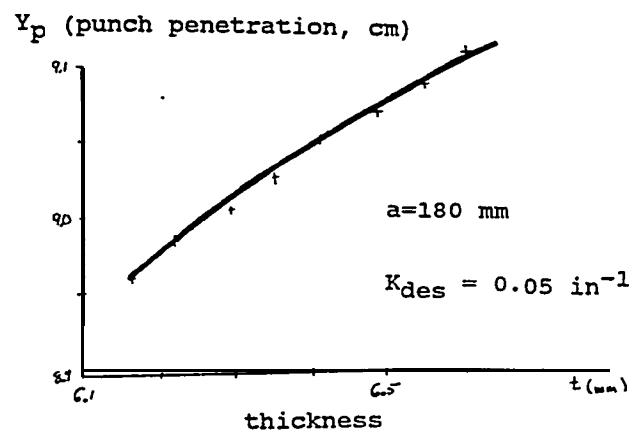


Figure 16: Effect of Thickness on Roll Displacement

As opposed to bending, rolling does not have the process "freedom" to modify input, since there is only one: the center roll displacement. However, the model does allow one to examine the effect of process uncertainty and to explore

the effects of machine geometry (i.e. roll spacing and radius). Since the roll bending process does indeed ensure circular parts, the main use of the model at this point is to generate sensitivity functions so that process optimization studies and statistics propagation can be performed. For example, the effect of thickness on center roll displacement can be seen by the data in Figure 16. Clearly, variations in material thickness will cause significant errors if the roll displacement is not corrected.

This process model, like the bending model, can be incorporated into a process simulation scheme. The graphics and user interface features (Ulrix / X-Windows based) which have been developed can be used with either process model. This approach also supports the implementation of control algorithm and measurement programs for the simulation of various fabrication methods.

CONCLUSIONS

Design oriented process simulations can provide a wealth of information. It is constructive and useful to provide the ship designer with tools that permit the investigation of process oriented questions through accurate simulation. The prototype presented here, for the investigation of the sequential plate bending and roll forming processes, is an example of such a "designer-focused tool. The implementation of such tools in ship design stage would result in a better product, since fabrication considerations could then be evaluated by the designer in a simple yet thorough manner.

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