# Designing the Load Cell for a Tribometer

David A. Yun

# PROJECT INTRODUCTION

- Senior design project (Summer 2020)
- Project statement: Design a tribometer with a frictional measurement resolution of 1 micronewton for <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> of the cost of existing commercial alternatives.
- Sponsored by Dr. Mangolini for use in a research laboratory
- Development of very low-friction materials (μ = 10<sup>-3</sup>)



Dr. Mangolini, Mangolini Research Group

#### THE TEAM



Thomas Erickson



Henry Jiang



Irene Lee



David Yun









# WHAT'S A TRIBOMETER?

An instrument that measures friction and wear properties of a sample.

• Measures normal load and friction force

$$f=\mu N$$

- Commercial alternatives: \$120,000
- Budget: \$40,000



Pin-On-Disk Tribometer, Anton-Paar

### TRIBOMETER DESIGN



#### TRIBOMETER IN ACTION



#### SPECIFICATION SHEET

Demand/Wish	Functional Requirements/ Constraints	Required/Target Values	Units/Scale
D	Velocity Range	0-10	mm/s
D	Max Linear movement distance	5	mm
D	Max normal load	100	mN
D	Max frictional force	25	mN
D	Normal load resolution	1	mN
D	Friction force resolution	1	μN
D	Project cost	40,000	\$
D	Device Voltage	120	Volts
D	Max Dimensions	24x24x24	in

# THE LOAD CELL

- Central to the tribometer
- Fully 1060 aluminum alloy
- Sensitive to small forces
- Precise deflections
- Task: Determine beam dimensions



Initial Load Cell Design (Bottom View)

# LOAD CELL REQUIREMENTS



Capacitive Displacement Sensor, Micro-Epsilon Catalog

- Capacitive sensor selected by Henry
- The load cell must <u>deflect vertically between 0.3</u> mm and 0.4 mm at max normal load of 100 mN
  - Normal load resolution of 1 mN
- The load cell must <u>deflect horizontally between</u> 0.15 mm and 0.2 mm at max friction force of 25 mN
  - $\circ$  Friction force resolution of 1  $\mu$ N

# LOAD CELL CONSTRAINTS



Probe Misalignment Geometry, University of Florida Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

- Calculations done by Henry
- Small misalignments can create unacceptable error
- Max of <u>0.02° of misalignment</u>
- Max <u>unwanted deflections of < 5%</u>

of total deflection

 Preferably beams under 120 mm in length

## WHY FOUR BEAMS?

- Four vertical deflection beams (purple)
- Four horizontal deflection beams (green)



An Early Load Cell Design without the Outer Shell

# SINGLE BEAM MODEL

- Unwanted  $\theta$  and  $\delta_{v}$  (marked as  $\mathcal{E}$ ) at the tip
- Inaccurate sensor measurements



Simple Beam (Awtar, 2004)

#### DUAL-BEAM MODEL



Conventional Parallelogram Flexure (Awtar, 2004)

- Eliminates θ
- Still creates  $\delta_{v}$

#### QUAD-BEAM MODEL



Double Parallelogram Flexure (Awtar, 2004)

- Eliminates θ
- Eliminates  $\delta_y$

# QUAD-BEAM MODEL



Quad-beam design, Mangolini Research Group

#### CONNECTING THE BEAMS



# INITIAL LOAD CELL DESIGN



Initial Load Cell Design without the Outer Shell

- Model created by Thomas
- Slots dimensions are placeholders
- Slots increase deflection and are easy to manufacture

# INITIAL LOAD CELL FEA



- Normal load of 100 mN
- No gravity
- Proper symmetry

# INITIAL LOAD CELL FEA



- No normal load
- Only gravity (-Y axis)
- No symmetry

Cross Section Side View

# INITIAL LOAD CELL FEA



- Normal load of 100 mN
- Gravity (-Y axis)
- No symmetry

#### QUAD-BEAM VS DUAL-BEAM

#### Quad-beam model

#### Dual-beam model



Z-axis Deflection: 1.1562e-4 mm

>

Z-axis Deflection: 7.9299e-5 mm

### **RESULTANT CHANGES**

#### Old







# WHY THE SLOTS?

Slots change the moment of inertia, I

Assume b=13 mm, h=0.8 mm,  $b_1$ =6.5 mm,  $h_1$ =0.8 mm

- No slot
  - $\begin{array}{c|c} \circ & I_x = 0.555 \ L^4 \\ \circ & I_y = 146.5 \ L^4 \end{array}$

$$I_{x} = 0.277 L^{4}$$
  

$$I_{y} = 128.2 L^{4}$$

Good way to keep the beams short.







# DUAL-BEAM MATHEMATICAL MODEL

Assumptions

- 1. Both beams are identical
- 2. Deflection and moment at the vertical bar fixture are the same for both beams
- Due to symmetry, assume point load on one beam is W= F/2 to compute moment at the free end
- 4. End slope of both beams is equal to zero assuming the vertical bar stays orthogonal to the other two beams.



Dual cantilever beam schematic

BEAM BEN	IDING			
$\mathcal{L} = \text{overall}$ W = point l w = load point	length oad, M = moment er unit length	End Slope	Max Deflection	Max bending moment
1	M	ML	$\underline{ML^2}$	M
8	¥	EI	2 <i>EI</i>	
3	<b>↓</b> ₩	$WL^2$	WL <sup>3</sup>	WI.
1		2EI	3EI	

Beam Bending, Learneasy

# DUAL-BEAM MATHEMATICAL MODEL

Apply the principle of superposition to solve for maximum deflection of a dual cantilever beam.

4. End slope of both beams is equal to zero

$$\frac{WL^2}{2EI} + \frac{ML}{EI} = 0$$

3. The point load on each beam is W = F/2

$$M = \frac{-FL}{4}$$

Find the deflection at the end of the beam

$$\delta_{total} = \frac{WL^3}{3EI} + \frac{ML^2}{2EI} \qquad \delta_{total} = \frac{FL^3}{24EI}$$



Dual cantilever beam schematic

BEAM BE	NDING			
$\mathcal{L} = \text{overal}$ W = point w = load p	I length load, $M =$ moment ber unit length	End Slope	Max Deflection	Max bending moment
1	YM	ML	$\frac{ML^2}{2E}$	M
20	₩ ₩	WL <sup>2</sup>	WL <sup>3</sup>	WI
8		2EI	3EI	WL

Beam Bending, Learneasy

# QUAD-BEAM MATHEMATICAL MODEL

Assumptions

- 1. All beams are identical
- 2. Each pair of beams acts like a spring with the same spring constant, k

Therefore, the deflection is equal to 2 times the deflection for a single pair of beams:









# **PYTHON SCRIPT**

Developed by Irene

Inputs:

- Young's modulus
- Normal load
- Friction force
- Beam height (thickness)
- Slot width
- Desired deflection



#### Outputs:

 Combinations of beam length and beam width that create the desired deflection

#### Selected beam dimensions that:

- 1. Kept the beam lengths low
- 2. Made the slots easy to machine

### RESULTANT LOAD CELL MODEL



Redesigned by Thomas

Changes:

- Beam width of 8 mm
- Beam length of 100 mm
- Slot width of 4 mm

Task: validate the model with FEA simulations

# LOAD CELL FEA



Y-axis deflection: <u>0.3314 mm</u> (Target: 0.3 - 0.4 mm)

Z-axis deflection: <u>6.369e-3 mm</u> (Max value: 5%, 1.657e-2 mm)

Max probe angle: <u>0.0184°</u> (Max value: 0.02°)

# LOAD CELL FEA



X-axis deflection: <u>0.1674 mm</u> (Target: 0.15 - 0.2 mm)

Z-axis deflection: <u>1.1801e-4 mm</u> (Max value: 5%, 8.37e-3 mm)

Max probe angle: <u>0.119°</u> (Max value: 0.02°)



**Bottom View** 

# **REDUCING TORSION**

Changes made:

- Reduced probe length
- Separated beams

**Results:** 

Max probe angle:  $0.119^{\circ} \rightarrow 0.07^{\circ}$ (Max value:  $0.02^{\circ}$ )



# **DEFLECTION VS TWIST**

Deflection scales cubically with length



Twist scales linearly with length

Twist of a beam



# **DEFLECTION VS TWIST**

By increasing the moment of inertia and beam length, torsion becomes smaller.



- Increase the moment of inertia
- Scale the beam length to keep the deflection constant
- Angle of twist will be reduced

# DEFLECTION VS TWIST



# **RESULTANT CHANGES**



Modeled by Thomas

Changes:

- Removed slots
- Beam width from 8 mm to 13 mm
- Beam length from 100 mm to 160 mm

Task: validate the model with FEA simulations

# FINAL LOAD CELL FEA



Side View

Y-axis deflection: <u>0.381 mm</u> (Target: 0.3 - 0.4 mm)

Z-axis deflection: <u>1.237e-4 mm</u> (Max value: 5%, 1.905e-2 mm)

Max probe angle: <u>0.00142°</u> (Max value: 0.02°)

# FINAL LOAD CELL FEA



Bottom View

X-axis deflection: <u>0.191 mm</u> (Target: 0.15 - 0.2mm)

Z-axis deflection: <u>1.107e-3 mm</u> (Max value: 5%, 9.55e-3 mm)

Max probe angle: <u>0.0123°</u> (Max value: 0.02°)

#### FINAL LOAD CELL STRESS ANALYSIS



Max stress at max loading: 5.498 MPa

1xxx Aluminum yield strength: 70-175 MPa

Minimum safety factor: 12.7

# FINAL LOAD CELL MODEL





#### FINAL TRIBOMETER MODEL



# PROJECT DELIVERABLES

- Final engineering paper
- Python script
- CAD models and drawings
- ANSYS simulations
- Supplier quotes/contacts
- Bill of Materials
- Assembly instructions
- Calibration instructions

#### ENGINEERING DRAWINGS



#### ENGINEERING DRAWINGS



## TRIBOMETER COST ANALYSIS

- Capacitive Sensors \$10,600
- 3 x Lead Screw Linear Actuators \$1,700
- Aluminum & Polycarbonate Stock \$850
- Piezo Actuator w/ Driver \$4,700
- Machining costs \$1,200
- Grand total: <u>\$19,050</u> (Budget: \$40,000)
- Savings vs commercial alternatives: about \$100,000

## POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Create a mathematical model for torsion before creating CAD models
- Shorten the beams even more
- Do a vibration analysis
- Fatigue failure analysis
- Do a tolerance analysis on the load cell beams

# TRIBOMETER FUTURE WORK

- Order materials
- Manufacture Tribometer Components
- Assemble Device
- Create LabView Code to Operate
- Calibrate and Test
- Make Adjustments
- Measure Samples

# QUESTIONS?



# POTENTIAL QUESTIONS

**Q:** If the capacitive sensor measures down to the micron, what about surface imperfections from machining? A: We are only interested in the relative displacement,  $\Delta X$ , not absolute displacement. Any surface imperfections will be measured in the initial and final measurements which means they will be accounted for and cancelled out.

#### Q: What are some features commercial tribometers have that you will not include?

- 1. Wear volume and rate
- 2. Temperature and humidity controls (already in a lab)
- 3. Pressure controls (no need for vacuum chamber)
- 4. Optical alignment sensors

#### Q: How accurate were the mathematical models?

A: The vertical deflection mathematical was off by up to 6.3% while the horizontal deflection model was off by up to 2.7%, shown in A2 and A3, respectively.

#### Q: Why were the slots on the cantilever beams removed so late in the design process?

A: They are relatively easy to machine and help reduce the total length of the beams. This trade-off was deemed justifiable to keep the length low. However, due to torsion, the beam length had to be increased, removing the purpose of slots.

# POTENTIAL QUESTIONS

#### Q: What's another way to make a mathematical model besides superposition?

A: We can use the double integration method, where we find the moment of the beam in respect to x (along the length of the beam) then integrate twice. Then we use known values to find the integration constants and we end up with equations for the moment and deflections across the beam.

#### Q: Was a vibration analysis conducted on the system?

A: No, a vibration analysis was not part of the scope of our project. However, the tribometer was to be placed on a damped table.

#### Q: How did you calculate the machining costs?

A: We got a quote from UT Austin's Mechanical Engineering Machine Shop for all the components.

#### APPENDIX

### A1: BILL OF MATERIALS

# -	Item 🗸	Vendor	Ur	iit Price 💌	Quantity 💌	То	tal 💌
	4" X 1" X 12" 6061 Aluminum	McMaster-Carr	\$	84.48	1	\$	84.48
2	2 12" X 48" X 1/8" Polycarbonate Sheet	McMaster-Carr	\$	25.52	7	\$	178.64
2	Linear Actuator (UGA040D-A10-0200-LS3A1-AX11-0)	PBC Linear	\$	562.31	2	\$	1,124.62
4	Piezo Actuator	MICRONIX USA LLC	\$	3,750.00	1	\$	3,750.00
5	Piezo Actuator Controller	MICRONIX USA LLC	\$	900.00	1	\$	900.00
6	Horizontal Compact Series Actuator (CSLSM10AXXR3A1-2LN-0210-0)	PBC Linear	\$	562.27	1	\$	562.27
7	1/2" X 24" X 24" MIC 6 Cast Aluminum Sheet	McMaster-Carr	\$	265.90	1	\$	265.90
٤	40mm X 40mm 80/20 T-slot framing - 8ft Length	McMaster-Carr	\$	68.91	1	\$	68.91
9	DT6220 capacitive multi channel controller	Micro-Epsilon	\$	1,250.00	1	\$	1,250.00
10	DL6230 Demodulator with integrated preamplifier	Micro-Epsilon	\$	3,200.00	2	\$	6,400.00
11	CSE05/M8 Capacitive Sensor	Micro-Epsilon	\$	920.00	2	\$	1,840.00
12	2 CCg2,0B Sensor cable capaNCDT 2,0 m long	Micro-Epsilon	\$	360.00	2	\$	720.00
13	SCAC3/4 output cable analog capaNCDT 3m long	Micro-Epsilon	\$	170.00	2	\$	340.00
14	4" X 12" X 3/8" Tight-Tolerance Multipurpose 6061 Aluminum with Certificate	McMaster-Carr	\$	59.58	2	\$	119.16
15	2" X 12" X 3/8" Tight-Tolerance Multipurpose 6061 Aluminum with Certificate	McMaster-Carr	\$	46.48	1	\$	46.48
16	5 2-1/2" Thick, 6" x 6" Easy-to-Machine MIC6 Cast Aluminum Shee	McMaster-Carr	\$	91.39	1	\$	91.39
17	3/4" Thick, 6" x 6", Easy-to-Machine MIC6 Cast Aluminum Sheet	McMaster-Carr	\$	30.89	1	\$	30.89
18	Stepper Motor Drivers	Automation Direct	\$	40.00	3	\$	120.00
19	SFB3-8 M3 x 8 mm Countersunk hex heads	Misumi	\$	3.35	2	\$	6.70
20	CBPPS3-10 M3 x 10 mm Socket Head Cap Screws - with Soft Point	Misumi	\$	2.40	2	\$	4.80
21	Machining Cost	UTME Machine Shop	\$	1,215.00	1	\$	1,215.00
					Total	\$1	9,119.24

#### A2: VERTICAL DEFLECTION MODEL ERROR



### A3: HORIZONTAL DEFLECTION MODEL ERROR



#### A4: ERROR ANALYSIS



			MAXMUM		MINIMUM		TOTAL	TOTAL
STAGE	DESCRIPTION FROM/TO	+	MAX	+	MIN	TOTAL	TOLERANCE	TOLERANCE
		-	MIN	•	MAX	TOLENVIOL	FOR MRSS	SQUARED
0	Mounting Base (Datum) to Linear Rail Support Trapezoid bottom surface	+	0.004		0.004	0.0080	0.0080	0.00006
1	Linear Rail Support Trapezoid bottom surface to Linear Rail Support Trapezoid through hole		0.005		0.005	0.0100	0.0100	0.00010
2	Linear Rail Support Trapezoid through hole to Linear Rail Support Trapezoid top surface	+	0.005		0.005	0.0100	0.0100	0.00010
3	Linear Rail Support Trapezoid top surface to Verticle Carriage through hole		0.005		0.005	0.0100	0.0100	0.00010
4	Verticle Carriage through hole to Cell Frame top surface	+	0.002		0.002	0.0040	0.0040	0.00002
5	Cell Frame top surface to Probe Mount top surface	+	0.002		0.002	0.0040	0.0040	0.00002
1	TOTAL		0.023		-0.023	0.046	0.030	0.020
						WORST CASE	MRSS	RSS
e.			MAXIMUM		MINIMUM	1 222220	TOTAL TOLERANCE	TOTAL TOLERANCE
STAGE	DESCRIPTION FROM/TO	+	MAX	+	MIN	TOTAL		
		-	MIN	-	MAX		FOR MRSS	SQUARED
0	Mounting Base (Datum) to Compact Actuator Mounting Bracket bottom surface	٠	0.004		0.004	0.0080	0.0080	0.00005400
1a	Compact Actuator Mounting Bracket bottom surface to Compact Actuator Mounting Bracket top surface	•	0.005		0.005	0.0100	0.0100	0.00010000
1b	Compact Actuator Mounting Bracket top surface to Linear Actuator Bracket bottom surface	•	0.005		0.005	0.0100	0.0100	0.00010000
2	Linear Actuator Bracket bottom surface to Linear Actuator Bracket bottom through hole		0.005		0.005	0.0100	0.0100	0.00010000
3	Linear Actuator Bracket bottom through hole to Horizontal Carriage top surface	•	0.0001		0.0001	0.0002	0.0002	0.00000004
4	Horizontal Carriage top surface to Piezostage measuring surface		0.0001		0.0001	0.0002	0.0002	0.00000004
	TOTAL		0.0192		-0.0192	0.0384	0.029	0.019
						WORST CASE	MRSS	RSS

#### A5: MISALIGNMENT MEASUREMENT



#### A6: FRICTION MEASUREMENTS



#### COF vs. Distance for Teflon sample:



COF vs. Distance for Glass, NANOVEA, 2014

COF vs. Distance for Teflon, NANOVEA, 2014

### A7: PROBE MISALIGNMENT

$$F_X = F_f \cos \alpha + F_n \sin \alpha = F_n (\sin \alpha + \mu \cos \alpha)$$

$$F_Y = F_n \cos \beta - F_f \sin \beta = F_n (\cos \beta - \mu \sin \beta)$$

$$\mu = \frac{F_X \cos \beta - F_Y \sin \alpha}{F_Y \cos \alpha + F_X \sin \beta}$$

$$E = \frac{\mu - \mu'}{\mu} = \frac{\mu \cos \beta - \mu^2 \sin \beta - \mu \cos \alpha - \sin \alpha}{\mu \cos \beta - \mu^2 \sin \beta}$$

Equations from *The Difficulty of Measuring Low Friction: Uncertainty Analysis for Friction Coefficient Measurements,* by Dr. Schmitz.



#### **A8: Z-AXIS DEFLECTION ERROR**



X = Horizontal tribometer distance

A 5% Z-axis deflection creates a 2.5% error in the horizontal tribometer distance.

#### A9: GANTT CHART

#### UTME Tribometer Gantt Chart

Gantt Chart Template @ 2006-2018 by Vertex42.com

The University of Texas at Austin - ME 266K

VBS	Project Stan Date 614/20. Project Lead Thom TASK LEAD	20 (Thursday) has Erickson START	Displa END	y Week	1 Vunt K	Week 1         Week 2         Week 3         Week 4         Week 5         Week 5         Week 6         Week 7         Week 8         Week 9         Week 9         Week 9         3Aug 2020           1 Jun 2020         8 Jun 2020         15 Jun 2020         22 Jun 2020         22 Jun 2020         29 Jun 2020         6 Jul 2020         13 Jul 2020         20 Jul 2020         27 Jul 2020         3Aug 2020         1         1         3         4         5         6         7         8         10         1         2         3         5         6         7         8         10         1         2         3         4         5         6         7         8         1         3         4         5         6         7         8         1         1         3         4         5         6         7         8         1         1         3         4         5         6         7         8         1         1         3         4         5         6         7         8         1         1         3         4         5         6         7         8         1         1         3         4         5         6         7         8         1 <th>Week 11 10 Aug 2020 10 11 12 13 14 15 T V T F S S</th>	Week 11 10 Aug 2020 10 11 12 13 14 15 T V T F S S
1	Background Research and Project Planning	Thu 6/04/20	Fri 6/26/20	100%	17		
1.1	Research Tribology of Hydrogels	Tue 6/09/20	Fri 6/19/20	100%	9		
1.2	Write Design Proposal	Sat 6/06/20	Fri 6/26/20	100%	15		
1.3	Gantt Chart	Sun 6/07/20	Sat 6/20/20	100%	10		
1.4	Letter of Transmittal	Mon 6/08/20	Sat 6/20/20	100%	10		
	2.1.2						
2	Design Parameters	Fri 6/26/20	Mon 8/03/20	100%	27		
2.1	Loncept Generation Misslingment Error Analysis	Fri 6r26/20	Tue 5/30/20	100%	3 10		
2.3	Capacitive Sensor Research and Selection	Wed 7/01/20	Mon 8/03/20	100%	24		
2.4	Dual-Beam and Quad-Beam Analytical Solution	Wed 7/08/20	Tue 7/28/20	100%	15		
2.5	Piezo Actuator Selection	Thu 7/02/20	Mon 7/27/20	100%	18		
2.6	Vertical Actuator Selection	Mon 7/20/20	Sat 8/01/20	100%	10		
2.7	Horizontal Actuator Selection	Thu 7/09/20	Ved 7/29/20	100%	15		
3	CAD Modelling	Fri 6/26/20	Mon 8/10/20	100%	32		
3.1	Concept Generation	Mon 6/29/20	Fri 7/03/20	100%	5		
3.2	Tribometer Base and Frame	Fri 6/26/20	Mon 7/20/20	100%	17		
3.3	Vertical Actuator	Mon 7/20/20	Sat 8/01/20	100%	10		
3.4	Horizontal Actuator	Thu 7/09/20	Wed 7/29/20	100%	15		
3.5	Piezo Actuator	Thu 7/02/20	Mon 7/27/20	100%	18		
3.6	Include Fasteners	Wed 8/05/20	Mon 8/10/20	100%	4		
3.7	Load Cell Design	Sun 7/19/20	Sat 8/08/20	100%	15		
3.8	Finite Element Analysis - Concept to Final	Mon 7/13/20	Sun 8/09/20	100%	20		
3.9	Create Dravings for all components	Mon 6/29/20	Thu 7/23/20	100%	19		
4	Review and Report						
4.1	Design Review Presentation	Mon 7/06/20	Man 7/13/20	100%	6		
4.2	Design Review Report	Thu 7/16/20	Thu 7/23/20	100%	6		
4.3	Final Report Presentation	Mon 7/27/20	Mon 8/03/20	100%	6		
4.4	Final Report	Tue 7/28/20	Tue 8/11/20	100%	11		

### A9: FINAL RESOLUTION

Normal load range: 0 - 100 mN Desired normal load resolution: 1 mN Vertical deflection range: 0 - 0.381 mm Capacitive sensor resolution: 0.375 nM Resulting load resolution: 9.84\*10<sup>-5</sup> mN

(about 10,000 times smaller)

Friction force range: -25 - 25 mNDesired friction force resolution: 1  $\mu$ N Horizontal deflection range: -0.191 - 0.191 mmCapacitive sensor resolution: 0.375 nM Resulting force resolution: 0.05  $\mu$ N (about 20 times smaller)

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Awtar, Shorya "Synthesis and Analysis of Parallel Kinematic XY Flexure Mechanisms" PhD diss., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2004.

Schmitz, T. L., Action, J. E., Ziegert, A. J., & Sawyer, W. G. (2005). The Difficulty of Measuring Low Friction: Uncertainty Analysis for Friction Coefficient Measurements. Journal of Tribology, 127(3), 673-678. doi:10.1115/1.1843853