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THE ESTIMATION OF THE FRICTIONAL LOSSES OF THE
ROLLING PISTON TYPE REFRIGERANT COMPRESSORS

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ABSTRACT

This paper is concerned with the frictional losses in rolling piston type refrigerant compressors. The forces balance equations, the frictional forces and the frictional losses of each part of the compressor have been studied. The comparisons of the computation results with the experimental results show good correlation.

NOMENCLATURE

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| R_r | radius of roller m | R_o | vane nose radius m |
| P_g | compressed gas pressure P_a | P_s | suction pressure P_a |
| V_o | displacement volume m | H | height of cylinder, width of vane m |
| R_c | radius of cylinder m | w | thickness of vane m |
| L_B | length of vane m | e | shaft eccentricity |
| θ | crank angle rad | k_s | vane spring constant |
| μ, μ_1 | the coefficient of boundary lubrication | I_p | roller mass moment of inertia |
| C_1 | the clearance between the roller and the eccentric shaft m | P_f' | the oil film pressure in the point that distance from middle line is Z , arbitrary angle γ (in finite bearing) |
| P_f | the oil film pressure in the point that arbitrary angle γ in infinite bearing. | k_B | the coefficient of oil film pressure drop when considering end leakage, it is a function of eccentricity and the ratio of width-diameter. |
| Z | the coordinate along the bearing width | F | the summary of oil film pressure (vertical direction), the load that bearing can bear. |
| γ | relative clearance | V | the tangential velocity of journal m/s |
| B | width of bearing m | C_p | the specific heat capacity, for mineral oil, $C_p = 168 \text{ 2100, J/kg } ^\circ\text{C}$ |
| η | the viscosity of lubricant in the mean temperature of lubricant inlet and outlet P_a, s | k_s | the coefficient of heat transfer, for the light load or there are difficulty in heat transfer, $k_s = 54 \text{ J/m } ^\circ\text{C}$ |
| ρ | the density of lubricant, for mineral oil, $\rho = 850 \text{ 950, kg/m}^3$ | | |
| W_B | the weight of eccentric shaft and rotor kg | R_{B1} | the inner radius of thrust bearing m |
| R_{B2} | the outer radius of thrust bearing m | R_{r1} | the outer radius of roller end m |
| W_r | the weight of roller kg | V_1 | the sliding velocity of vane in the m/s cylinder slot |
| R_{r1} | the inner radius of roller end m | V_w | velocity of refrigerant m/s |
| W_p | the absolute angular velocity of roller $1/s$ | C_D | drag force coefficient |
| A_t | total area of the balancer ends normal to the tangential line of the rotor m | D_R | average diameter of balancer |
| n_s, n_1 | the rotating speed of the motor R.P.S. | P_1 | the percentage of the frictional losses between vane tip and roller in the total frictional losses |
| P_2 | the percentage of the frictional losses between shaft and main bearing in total frictional losses | P_2 | the percentage of the frictional losses between shaft and sub bearing in total frictional losses |
| P_3 | the percentage of the frictional losses between roller and eccentric shaft in total frictional losses | P_3 | the percentage of the frictional losses between upper roller end and cylinder plate end in total frictional losses |
| P_4 | the percentage of the frictional losses between lower roller end and cylinder plate end in total frictional losses | P_4 | the percentage of frictional losses between roller and cylinder wall in total frictional losses |
| P_5 | the percentage of frictional losses between vane and cylinder slot in total frictional losses | P_5 | the percentage of windage losses between balancer end and refrigerant gas in total frictional loss |
| | | P_6 | the percentage of frictional losses between shaft and cylinder plate end (thrust bearing) in total frictional losses |

INTRODUCTION

Rolling piston type refrigerant compressors have been used in air conditioning units and household refrigerators.

Since energy consumption is an important feature of those compressors, strenuous efforts have been made to estimate the frictional losses of these type compressors. In this paper, special attention was paid to the frictional losses of main bearing and sub bearing. The theory of finite length bearings were applied and two assumptions were made:

1. The compression process begins from $\theta = 0$.
2. The eccentricity between the main bearing and the sub bearing is neglected.

THE ANALYSIS OF FORCES

1. Vane

The magnitude of forces are as follows (Fig. 1):

$$F = P_0 H \{ (e + r_n + R_r) - [e \cos \theta + (R_n + R_r) \cos \alpha] \} \quad (1)$$

where $\alpha = \arcsin \left(\frac{e \sin \theta}{R_r + R_n} \right)$

$$V_D = \left\{ \frac{R_n^2 (2\pi - \theta)}{2} - \frac{R_r^2 (2\pi - \psi)}{2} + \left(\sqrt{R_r^2 - e^2 \sin^2 \theta} + e \cos \theta \right) \frac{e \sin \theta}{2} \right\} H \quad (2)$$

$$V_0 = \pi H (R_n^2 - R_r^2) \quad (3)$$

$$F_4 = P_c W H \quad (4)$$

$$F_5 = P_s \left[\frac{W}{2} - \frac{R_n e \sin \theta}{(R_n + R_r)} \right] H \quad (5)$$

$$F_7 = P_0 \left[\frac{W}{2} + \frac{R_r e \sin \theta}{(R_n + R_r)} \right] H \quad (6)$$

$$F_{10} = m_v [e \omega^2 \cos \theta + (R_n + R_r) \omega^2 \cos \alpha] \quad (7)$$

$$F_{11} = F_5 L_7 H \quad (8)$$

$$F_{12} = P_D L_7 H \quad (9)$$

$$F_{13} = \frac{(F_0 - F_5)}{2} L_7 H \quad (10)$$

$$F_{20} = \frac{(F_7 - P_c)}{2} L_7 H \quad (11)$$

$$F_7 = k_s [2e - (e + R_n + R_r) + (e \cos \theta + (R_n + R_r) \cos \alpha)]^2 \quad (12)$$

Combining with equations (1), (2), (3) and (4) yields the following equations

$$B(1) = F_4 + F_7 - F_{10} - F_7 - F_8$$

$$B(2) = F_{11} - F_{12} + F_{13} - F_{20} - F_1$$

$$B(3) = F_{13} \frac{L_7}{2} - F_{17} \frac{L_7}{2} + F_1 L_6 + F_{20} \frac{L_7}{3} - F_{19} \frac{L_7}{3}$$

$$F_5 = \frac{B(1)/M_1 - B(2) - 2B(3)/L_7}{(2L_5/L_7 - 1) \cos \alpha - \sin \alpha / M_1 - \frac{(2L_5/L_7 - 1) \sin \alpha + \cos \alpha / M_1}{M_1}} \quad (\alpha > 0) \quad (13)$$

$$F_5 = \frac{-B(1)/M_1 - B(2) - 2B(3)/L_7}{(2L_5/L_7 - 1) \cos \alpha - \sin \alpha / M_1 - \frac{(2L_5/L_7 - 1) \sin \alpha + \cos \alpha / M_1}{M_1}} \quad (\alpha < 0) \quad (14)$$

$$F_6 = \frac{|F_5|}{M_1} \quad (15)$$

$$F_2 = \frac{B(3)}{L_7} + \frac{L_5}{L_7} (F_5 \cos \alpha - F_6 \sin \alpha) \quad (16)$$

$$F_3 = B(2) + B(3)/L_5 + F_2 - F_2 L_7/L_5 \quad (17)$$

$$F_4 = 2(P_0 - P_5)H R_r \sin \frac{\psi}{2} \quad (18)$$

$$F_{1,3} = \sqrt{[F_6 \cos(\alpha + \pi/2) + F_{11} \cos(3\pi/2 + \psi/2 - \theta)]^2 + [F_{11} \sin(\alpha + \pi/2) + F_{11} \sin(3\pi/2 + \psi/2 - \theta)]^2} \quad (19)$$

The azimuth angle is as follows

$$\sigma = \operatorname{tg}^{-1} \frac{F_6 \sin(2 + \pi/2) + F_{11} \sin(3\pi/2 + \psi/2 - \theta)}{F_6 \cos(2 + \pi/2) + F_{11} \cos(3\pi/2 + \psi/2 - \theta)} \quad (20)$$

2. Rolling piston

Fig. 2 shows the forces applied to the rolling piston. The momental balance equation is as follows

$$I_p \dot{\omega}_r = M_c - R_r F_5 - M_b \quad (21)$$

where M_b is the frictional moment from cylinder wall to rolling piston surface.

The frictional moment M_c from eccentric to roller is as follows:

$$M_c = \frac{2\pi\gamma(\omega - \omega_p)H_2 R^3}{c_3(1 - \varepsilon^2)^{3/2}} - \frac{1}{2} C_3 \varepsilon F_{1,3} \sin \psi \quad (22)$$

According to references [1, 2], we take the ε and $\operatorname{tg} \psi$ as follows:

$$\varepsilon = 0.65 + 0.33 \cos \theta \quad (23)$$

$$\operatorname{tg} \psi = \frac{\pi \sqrt{1 - \varepsilon^2}}{2 \varepsilon} \quad (24)$$

THE FRICTIONAL LOSSES IN THE JOURNAL BEARINGS

The follow assumptions were made:

1. Lubricant seems as Newtonian fluid.
2. Film is so thin that the fluid flow is laminar.
3. The viscosity of oil depends on the temperatur and pressure and will keep constant in the whole oil film.
4. The Reynolds equation of the journal bearing is simplified to be the one order ordinary differential equation and Gumbel's boundary condition is available.

Fig. 3 shows the geometrical relationship of the journal bearing. The follow parameters are used: The clearance $\Delta = D - d$, the radius clearance $\delta = \Delta/2$, the relative clearance $\psi = \delta/r$, the attitude of bearing $\varepsilon = e/\delta$. In this Figure, the attitude angle θ is the included angle between the action line of load F_r and the connecting line $\bar{o}o'$. φ is the included angle between the connecting line $\bar{A}o'$ and $\bar{o}o'$. The oil film thickness h at point A equals $\delta(1 + \varepsilon \cos \varphi)$, and the oil film at the maximum pressure point ($\varphi = \varphi_0$) is $h_0 = \delta + (1 + \varepsilon \cos \varphi_0)$. The Reynolds equation in the polar coordinate system is as follows:

$$d\dot{\phi} = \frac{6\gamma V}{r\psi^2} \frac{\varepsilon(\cos \varphi - \cos \varphi_0)}{(1 + \varepsilon \cos \varphi)^3} d\varphi \quad (25)$$

By intergrating equation (25), the oil film pressure at arbitrary angle φ can be expressed as follows

$$p_\varphi = \int_{\varphi_1}^{\varphi} d\dot{\phi} = \int_{\varphi_1}^{\varphi} \frac{6\gamma V}{r\psi^2} \frac{\varepsilon(\cos \varphi - \cos \varphi_0)}{(1 + \varepsilon \cos \varphi)^3} d\varphi \quad (26)$$

For a finite length bearing, the pressure distribution of the oil film is as shown in Fig. 4.

The oil film pressure P_φ' (at the position z , arbitrary angle φ) and its vertical component P_φ'' (along the direction of load action line) are as follows:

$$p_{\varphi'} = p_\varphi k_B [1 - (\frac{2z}{B})^2] \quad (27)$$

$$p_{\varphi''} = p_\varphi' \cos[\pi - (\varphi + \theta)] \quad (28)$$

where $1 - (\frac{2Z}{B})$ is the modification of the oil film pressure for the finite length bearing and for the parabola distribution pressure.

The sum pressure F can be given by integrating η and Z .

$$F = \int_{-\frac{\psi}{2}}^{\frac{\psi}{2}} \int_{\varphi_1}^{\varphi_2} p' r d\varphi dz = \frac{2\gamma VB}{\gamma^2} \left\{ -2 \int_{\varphi_1}^{\varphi_2} \int_{\varphi_1}^{\varphi_2} \frac{\varepsilon (\cos\varphi - \cos\varphi_2)}{(1 - \varepsilon \cos\varphi)^2} d\varphi \right\} k_B [\cos(\varphi + \theta) d\varphi] \quad (29)$$

Let $C_F = \left\{ -2 \int_{\varphi_1}^{\varphi_2} \int_{\varphi_1}^{\varphi_2} \frac{\varepsilon (\cos\varphi - \cos\varphi_2)}{(1 - \varepsilon \cos\varphi)^2} d\varphi \right\} k_B [\cos(\varphi + \theta) d\varphi]$
 then

$$C_F = \frac{F \psi^2}{2\gamma VB} \quad (30)$$

C_F is defined as the coefficient of load-supporting, or the Sommerfeld number. In this paper, C_F is taken from reference [3] since it is difficult to integrate.

The frictional losses for a dynamic pressure liquid lubricated bearing consist two parts, one is in the region of load-supporting. The ratio of the coefficient of friction f in the region of load-supporting to the relative clearance ψ is known as the natural parameter of friction

$$C_f = \frac{f}{\psi} \quad (31)$$

for this bearing which angle is 360° , the value of C_f' can be got from reference [3].

The natural parameter of friction C_f' for the coefficient of friction f' (in the nonload-supporting region) is

$$C_f' = \frac{f'}{\psi} = k_n \frac{\gamma c}{2 C_f} \quad (32)$$

where k_n is the coefficient and we take it as m_e .

Finally, the frictional loss of the bearing can be expressed as follows:

$$N = \left(\frac{f}{\psi} + \frac{f'}{\psi'} \right) \gamma F_r V \quad (33)$$

Fig. 5 shows the forces applied to the main bearing and the sub-bearing.

$$F_{13} = F_{mc} + F_{mf} \quad (34)$$

let $C_1 = \frac{f_{mc}}{f_{mf}} \quad (35)$

then $F_{mf} = F_{13} \frac{C_1}{1 + C_1} \quad (36)$

$$F_{mc} = \frac{F_{13}}{1 + C_1} \quad (37)$$

The constructional parameters of the bearings are shown in table 1.

| | table 1 | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| | shaft diameter (mm) | bearing length (mm) | Maximum radial clearance (mm) | Width-length ratio B/d |
| main bearing | 20 | 44 | 0.01E-3 | 2.2 |
| sub bearing | 20 | 22 | 0.015E-3 | 1.1 |
| eccentric bearing | 31 | 17.5 | 0.011E-3 | 0.565 |

The frictional losses in the main bearing, sub-bearing and eccentric bearing are as follows:

$$L_{bf} = \left(\frac{f_1}{\psi_1} + \frac{f_1'}{\psi_1'} \right) \psi_1 \omega R_s F_{mf} \quad (38)$$

$$L_{bc} = \left(\frac{f_2}{\psi_2} + \frac{f_2'}{\psi_2'} \right) \psi_2 \omega R_s F_{mc} \quad (39)$$

$$L_{br} = \left(\frac{f_3}{\psi_3} + \frac{f_3'}{\psi_3'} \right) \psi_3 (\omega - \omega_p) R_r F_{r3} \quad (40)$$

In the above analysis, the temperature rise of lubricant oil Δt can be determined by the follow heat balance equation:

$$N = c_p Q \Delta t + A k_s (t_2 - t_1) \quad (41)$$

THE MECHANICAL LOSSES IN THE OTHER PARTS OF THE ROLLING PISTON TYPE REFRIGERANT COMPRESSOR

The mechanical losses are mainly caused by rubbing surfaces with oil films, besides this, there is a aerodynamic losses between the balance weight to the refrigerant gas.

The following assumptions are made in order to simplify the calculation.

- (1) Only the fluid or boundary friction are considered.
- (2) Coefficient of friction for boundary friction is always constant.

1. Upper roller end and cylinder plate end

$$L = \frac{\pi z \omega r^2 \epsilon^3}{h} (R_{r2}^2 - k_{r1}^2) \quad (42)$$

2. Shaft and cylinder plate end

$$L = \frac{2\mu W_s}{3} \frac{(R_{s2}^3 - R_{s1}^3) \omega}{R_{s2}^2 - R_{s1}^2} \quad (43)$$

3. Lower roller and cylinder plate end

$$L = \frac{2\mu W_r}{3} \frac{(R_{r2}^3 - R_{r1}^3) \omega}{R_{r2}^2 - R_{r1}^2} \quad (44)$$

4. Vane and cylinder slot

$$L_s = (|F_2| + |F_3|) V \quad (45)$$

5. Vane tip and roller

$$L = \bar{F}_6 V \quad (46)$$

$$V = \omega_p R_r + e \omega C r s (\kappa + \alpha) \quad (47)$$

6. Balance weight and refrigerant gas

$$L = \frac{\rho}{2} C_d (\pi D_R n)^2 A_R \quad (48)$$

For each rotating angle, the frictional forces and relative velocities between two contact surfaces are not constant, so, the frictional losses vary according to the rotating angle. If we define L_s as a losses during each degree of rotating angle

$$L_s = \frac{\bar{F} V}{360 n_s} \quad -$$

then the total frictional loss during one rotation is

$$L_s = F_1 \sum_r \frac{360}{r} \cdot \frac{(\bar{F} V)}{360 n_s}$$

Applying the above equations to a rolling piston type refrigerant compressor under different operating condition, the results are shown in table 2.

Table 3 lists the different mechanical losses in the same operating condition when the clearance of the main bearing changes. The operating conditions are listed in table 4.

table 2

| operating condition | mechanical losses η | pressure ratio | P % | F % | P % | P % | P % | P % | P % | P % | P % | P % |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|-------|
| No. 1 | 20.47 | 2.784 | 4.7768 | 5.2967 | 3.0324 | 3.8672 | 0.0026 | 0.0185 | 4.8476 | 74.999 | 0.2501 | 2.917 |
| No. 2 | 19.06 | 2.39 | 4.3999 | 6.3587 | 3.9738 | 4.6069 | 0.0038 | 0.0206 | 5.6928 | 69.9345 | 0.2686 | 3.140 |
| No. 3 | 18.24 | 1.957 | 4.0104 | 8.4004 | 4.6582 | 5.4167 | 0.0047 | 0.0218 | 8.137 | 69.7803 | 0.2807 | |
| No. 4 | 22.4 | 3 | 4.954 | 4.233 | 2.4357 | 3.577 | 0.0018 | 0.0167 | 3.7639 | 78.1354 | 0.2285 | |

table 3

| | clearance mm | total mechanical loss W | P % | F % | P % | P % | P % | P % | P % | P % | P % |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| main bearing | 0.01 E-3 | 22.42 | 5.031 | 4.2295 | 2.4338 | 3.5741 | 0.0018 | 0.0165 | 3.7609 | 78.072 | 0.2284 |
| sub bearing | 0.008 E-3 | 22.79 | 4.9497 | 5.7774 | 2.3944 | 3.5164 | 0.0018 | 0.0164 | 3.7001 | 78.8102 | 0.2247 |
| eccentric bearing | 0.015 E-3 | 22.42 | 5.031 | 4.2295 | 2.4338 | 3.5741 | 0.0018 | 0.0165 | 3.7609 | 78.072 | 0.2284 |
| eccentric bearing | 0.01 E-3 | 22.59 | 4.9931 | 4.1977 | 3.1687 | 3.5472 | 0.0018 | 0.0155 | 3.7325 | 77.4857 | |
| eccentric bearing | 0.011 E-3 | 22.42 | 5.031 | 4.2295 | 2.4338 | 3.5741 | 0.0018 | 0.0166 | 3.7609 | 78.072 | |
| eccentric bearing | 0.008 E-3 | 22.41 | 5.1279 | 4.231 | 2.4346 | 3.4194 | 0.002 | 0.0173 | 3.7075 | 78.099 | |

table 4

| rating | suction pressure bar | discharge pressure bar | pressure ratio | suction temperature C | input power W | refrigerating capacity W | E.S.T. | volumetric efficiency % |
|--------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| No. 1 | 3.538 | 9.849 | 2.784 | 11.7 | 49308 | 1775.0 | 3.60 | 0.855 |
| No. 2 | 4.018 | 9.604 | 2.39 | 12.3 | 507.6 | 2037.91 | 4.05 | 0.862 |
| No. 3 | 5.008 | 9.8 | 1.957 | 11.4 | 49826 | 2592.9 | 6.06 | 0.874 |
| No. 4 | 3.979 | 11.936 | 3 | 12.2 | 58913 | 1776.4 | 3.02 | 0.792 |

table 5

| operating condition | pressure ratio | | indicated power W | | frictional power W | | shaft power W | | motor input power W | | motor efficiency % | | mechanical coe η % | |
|---------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|-------------------------|--|
| | compu. | experi. | compu. | experi. | compu. | experi. | compu. | experi. | experi. | compu. | experi. | compu. | experi. | |
| No. 1 | 2.784 | 2.784 | 352.88 | 348.44 | 23.47 | 373.35 | 368.91 | 493.08 | 75.7 | 74.8 | 5.5 | 5.55 | | |
| No. 2 | 2.39 | 2.39 | 335.57 | 323.77 | 19.06 | 354.63 | 341.83 | 507.6 | 70.0 | 67.3 | 5.4 | 5.58 | | |
| No. 3 | 1.957 | 1.957 | 321.14 | 316.53 | 18.24 | 339.38 | 334.77 | 478.26 | 71 | 70 | 5.37 | 5.45 | | |
| No. 4 | 3 | 3 | 425.59 | 420.53 | 22.4 | 447.99 | 442.93 | 589.13 | 76 | 25.2 | 5.0 | 5.06 | | |

Table 5 lists the comparisons of the simulative computation with the experimental results.

CONCLUSION

- (1) The increase the radial clearance of bearing leads to decrease the lubricant outlet temperature and to increase lubricant leakage, but only a littld change of the total power consumption.
- (2) The ratio of width-diameter of main bearing in rolling piston type rotary compressor is about 2~2.2, this value is very few to use in the other machine. The ability of load-supporting of bearing is not proportional to the width of bearing. To decrease the ratio of with-diameter will improve the load ability and the operating stability of the bearing. It is better to decrease the width-diameter ratio to 1.0~1.5.
- (3) High viscosity lubricant oil is common used in rolling piston type rotary compressor, it will lead to increase the thickness of the oil film, and increase the power consumption.
- (4) The magnitude and the direction of the bearing load in rolling piston type rotary compressors are changed at all time, therefore, the shaft center never stay in a fixed place. The dynamic pressure film is always at the nonstability state. It is better to use the spirality oil groove than to use the straight line type

oil groove for lubricating.

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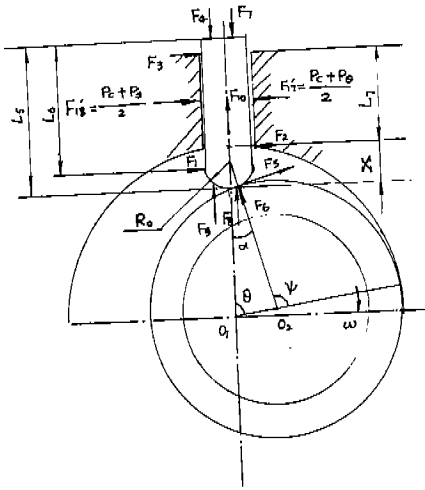


Fig. 1 Forces Acting on The Vane

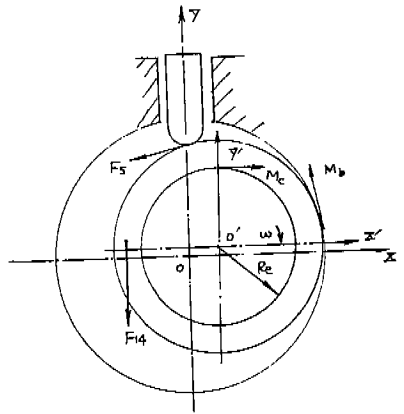


Fig. 2 Forces Acting on The Roller

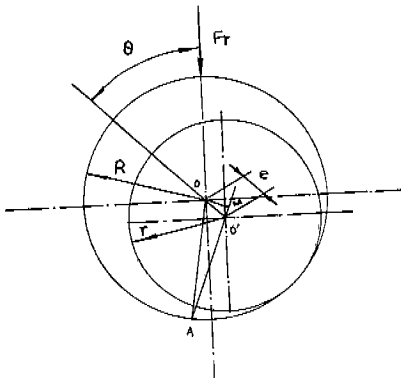


Fig. 3 The Geometrical Relationship of The Journal Bearing

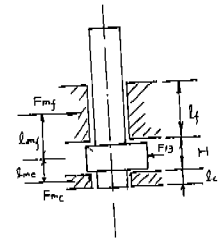


Fig. 5 Force Acting on The Main Bearing And The Sub-bearing

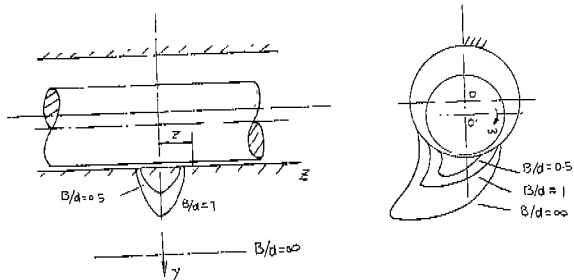


Fig. 4 The Pressure distribution of the oil film