Health Monitoring of Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessels (COPVs) using Meandering Winding Magnetometer (MWM®) Eddy Current Sensors

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Agenda

• Define COPV
• Background
• Proof of concept test plan
• MWM technology
• Coupon Testing/Results
• Full COPV Testing/Results
• Conclusions
What is a COPV?

- NASA Orbiter Pressure Vessel
- Need was a light weight high strength pressure vessel
- NASA COPV was designed in 1970’s
- Basic Composition:
  - Boss
  - Composite Overwrap
  - Metallic Liner
- Safety is key factor
Background

• There are 3 mechanisms that affect the life of a COPV
  – The age life of the overwrap
  – Cyclic fatigue of the metallic liner
  – Stress Rupture life

The first two mechanisms are understood through test and analysis

• A COPV Stress Rupture is a sudden and catastrophic failure of the overwrap while holding at a stress level below the ultimate strength for an extended time.

• Currently there is no simple, deterministic method of determining the stress rupture life of a COPV, nor a screening technique to determine if a particular COPV is close to the time of a stress rupture failure.
Stress Ratio

- A key factor in the stress reliability model is the Stress Ratio

\[
\text{STRESS RATIO} = \frac{\text{Stress in Overwrap @ MEOP}}{\text{Stress in Overwrap @ Burst}}
\]

- The stress at burst varies from vessel to vessel, therefore the discrete stress ratio varies from vessel to vessel
- Recent Orbiter COPV testing has proven that analytic prediction of the stress ratio and subsequent reliability modeling to be highly inaccurate
  - ~20% off

- Proposed technology would provide the ability to directly measure the stresses at various depths in the overwrap and potential directly calculate the Stress Ratio
Proof of Concept Study

• KSC funded a proof-of-concept study to study the ability eddy current sensors to measure stresses in a carbon wrapped COPV

• Why MWM Eddy current?
  • MWM and MWM-Arrays measure bulk conductivity within the depth of penetration with a selectivity biased towards those fibers aligned with the sensors drive windings
  • Conductivity and density of carbon fibers varies with stress
MWM® Technology

- Magnetic Stress Gages (MSGs) will be produced utilizing Meandering Winding Magnetometer (MWM) and/or MWM-Array eddy current sensor technology
  - What is MWM? (see slide 10 for an example of an MWM-Array)
    - Primary winding is a linear construct that can be aligned with fibers
    - Secondary windings for sensing the response
    - Fabricated on thin flexible substrate creating a conformable sensor
    - Can be manufactured in various array configurations
    - Depth of penetration varies with sensor wavelength (spacing) and frequency
    - Vendor has capability to perform computer simulations
Proof-of-Concept Test Plan

• Select an MWM eddy current sensor for COPV application
• Design and test coupons for initial configuration testing
• Adapt sensors and procedures
• Hydrostatic test with sensors on full COPV
• Final report
Test Article

Fibers: Toray T-800 24k
Resin: 826/Huntsman T403

- 1 helical 17 degrees
- 5 hoops
- 2 helicals 18 degrees
- 5 hoops
- 1 high angle helical (60 degrees)
- 1 helical 17 degrees
- Aluminum
Fiber Orientation Effects

- Multiple fiber orientations in several different layers
- Orientation measurements with FS33
  - 15.8 MHz data indicated
- Limited penetration depth of MWM so outermost hoop (90°) layer barely visible

![Diagram showing fiber orientation effects](image)
Sensors Used

MWM-Array FA41

MWM-Array FA28

MWM FS36

FA41 $\lambda \approx 480/190$ mils

FA28 $\lambda \approx 150$ mils

FS36 $\lambda \approx 400.0$ mils
Coupon Testing

- Coupon cut from center section of COPV (~4” wide)
- Two test fixtures designed
- Due to cutting only hoop direction could be measured
- Several different sensor designs and orientations were tested

Example of results from compressive loading of tapered wedges test
Hydrostat Test

- Full COPV tested hydrostatically at KSC on February 5, 2011
- Vessel cycled to 8,000 psi and back to zero stopping at 2,000 psi increments
  - Pressure chosen to mimic MEOP
  - Estimated design burst pressure of COPV is 16,000 psi
- Based on coupon tests 3 sensor configurations were chosen
  - Different wavelength to obtain various depth of penetration
- Tests were performed with 3 sensor orientations
  - 90°, 60° and 17° to align sensor drive with fiber orientations
GridStation Results

FA41 (far channel) magnitude at 17° sensor orientation

- Channel to channel variability still being studied
- Layer orientation variability will contribute to channel variability
- Sensor magnitude correlates with pressure and strain

Hoop strain from strain gage

Axial strain from stain gage
FA41 (far channel) Results:

17°, 60° and 90° Orientations

- Average of 18 far channels of the FA41
- Two repeat pressure cycles: 0 psi to 8,000 psi and back to 0 psi shown
Both sensors show a response and correlation with pressure.

- FA41 response is much larger than FA28

Note Scale Change (~10x)
• FA41 shows a much larger response to pressure than the FA28
Conclusions

• Demonstrated a correlation between MWM response and pressure or strain.

• Demonstrated the ability to monitor stress in COPV at different orientations and depths.

• FA41 provides best correlation with bottle pressure or stress.