



# C70 Cleavable Steel and Powder Metal Forged Analytical and Numerical Study of the Elastic Thermo Mechanical Behavior Connecting Rod of the Four-Stroke Diesel Engine

## KEYWORDS

connecting rod, powder metal forged and C70 Steel, Cast3m, Mathematica, stress, strain.

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**ABSTRACT** Today, engine failures are rare but they are always possible despite the high engine reliability. These failures can result from a defect in cooling, a storage problem or maintenance. Premature wear of a mechanical part and sometimes bad conditions of use of the driver the engines are not always immune to failure (ignition, power, defaulters accessories such as connecting rod, crankshaft etc ... pieces that form the central part of the mechanics of the engine, and are normally solicited by various thermomechanical efforts (stress, compression, bending, expansion ...).

In this context, we conducted an analytical and numerical Comparative study of resistance to thermo-mechanical fatigue concerning two connecting rods forged by the two most often used techniques in the world, namely the metal powder forged and forged steel C70.

The connecting rods are submitted to mechanical forces of compression pressure, and the effect of heat of combustion. The extraction of the stresses, strains and displacements using the computer code Castem based on finite element method allows us to classify materials according to the two most reliable

**1- Introduction**

The Powder Metallurgy was considered à lost art, it is as old as art potters and ceramicists. Unlike clay and other ceramic materials, the art of molding and firing metal objects or decorative practices were occasionally applied during the early phases of history. Metal sintering was completely forgotten over the following centuries, before being revived in Europe in the late 18th century, when various methods of producing platinum powder were observed (Table below).

Period	Developed technology	Country origin
1822	Platinum powder solid ingot	France
1830	sintering components of various metals	Europe
1915-1930	cemented carbide Forged P / M and	Germany
1950 and 1960	dispersion reinforced products, including P / M of forgings produced	United States
1990	intermetallic metal matrix composites, nano spray powders, and hot compacting	United States, England

What was that purely empirical ancestral techniques, turned into a scientific discipline in 1930, and following this challenge we have begun to understand the phenomena observed.

We notice that powder metallurgy has applications in several areas of engineering production of high volume pieces for the automotive industry (bearings, connecting rods, crankshaft, brakes, airbags, and other complex components ...), production of unrefined materials high performance, biomaterials, food additives, etc. ...

Today, the technology of powder metallurgy PM enables the production of steels with properties unattainable by conventional metallurgy from a process of atomization metal powders hot compacted.

Most connecting rods engine in the automotive sector are powder metal forged. These connecting rods are often subjected to deformation under the effect of «gas forces and mass forces».



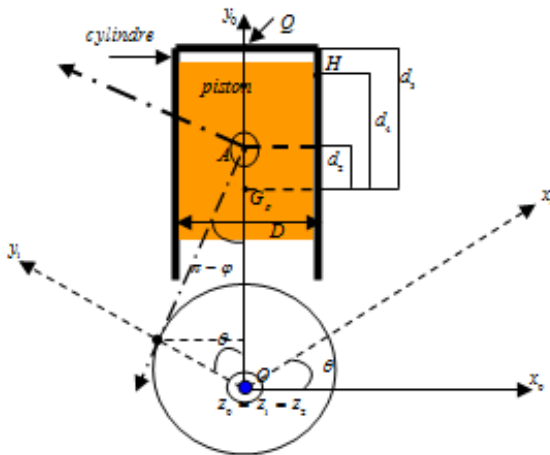
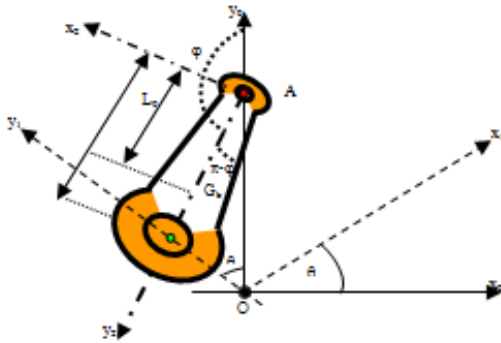
Axial force causing an axial failure

Following the emergence of a new material "XC70 or C70 steel " cleavable in recent years, whose chemical composition comprises, by weight: 0.6% to 0.75% carbon addition to other additives "Mn , Cr, Mo etc. "Having good machinability, and can achieve brittle fracture in satisfactory industrial conditions, the data has changed in the automotive market, and this material is currently a competitor for powder metallurgy metal" MPM ".

In this work, we compare the behavior of both materials engineering precedents under the action of axial loads on connecting rod following:

- A kinematic study : piston and connecting rod system
- A dynamic study: determination of loads
- A thermodynamic study to determine the gas pressure
- A thermoelastic study (linear thermal expansion)
- A graphical study of loads according to the crank angle: The Mathematica software
- Numerical simulation the two connecting rods (PM and C70): the computer code used "CAST3M" to extract the fields of stresses, strains and corresponding displacements.

2- kinematic study



Operating Schemes

Kinematics of piston

Engine at full speed

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \delta &= \frac{L_1}{r} = 4 \\ \omega &= 209.44 \text{ rad / s} = 2000 \text{ tr / min} \end{aligned} \right.$$

piston speed

$$\frac{v_p}{L_1} = -\dot{\theta} \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{\cos \theta}{\delta} \right) \cdot \sin \theta = \frac{-209.44}{4} \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{\cos \theta}{4} \right) \cdot \sin \theta$$

acceleration of piston

$$\frac{\gamma_p}{L_1} = \frac{d \left( \frac{v_p}{L_1} \right)}{dt} = \frac{-\ddot{\theta} \cdot d \left( 1 + \frac{\cos \theta}{\delta} \right) \cdot \sin \theta}{dt} = \frac{-\omega^2 \cdot \cos \theta}{\delta} - \frac{\omega^2 \cdot \cos 2\theta}{\delta^2} = \frac{\gamma_1}{L_1} + \frac{\gamma_2}{L_1}$$

Kinematics of the connecting rod

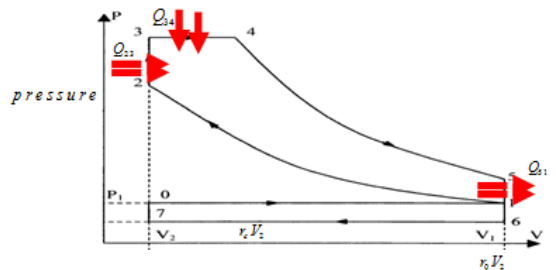
$$\overline{V_{G/R_0}} = \begin{cases} \ddot{\theta} \cdot \dot{\theta} \cdot \cos \theta & ( \quad \quad \quad ) \cdot \dot{\varphi} \cdot \cos \theta \\ -r \cdot \dot{\theta} \cdot \sin \theta + (L - L_0) \cdot \dot{\varphi} \cdot \sin \theta \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\overline{\gamma_{G/R_0}} = \begin{cases} \frac{L_0 \cdot \dot{\theta}^2 \cdot \sin \theta}{\delta} \\ r \cdot \dot{\theta} \cdot \left( \ddot{\varphi} - \frac{L_0}{L_1} \cdot \dot{\varphi} \cdot \dot{\theta} \right) \cdot \cos \theta + r \cdot \ddot{\varphi} \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{L_0}{L_1} \right) \cdot \sin \theta \\ 0 \end{cases}$$

3- Dynamic study of the connecting rod and piston

$$\begin{aligned} m_{bielle} \cdot \frac{L_0}{\delta} \cdot \dot{\theta}^2 \cdot \sin \theta &= F_{Ax} + F_{Bx} \\ m_{bielle} \cdot r \cdot \dot{\theta} \cdot \left[ \dot{\varphi} - \frac{L_0}{L_1} \cdot \dot{\varphi} \right] \cdot \cos \theta + m_{bielle} \cdot r \cdot \dot{\varphi} \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{L_0}{L_1} \right) \cdot \sin \theta &= F_{Ay} + F_{By} - m_{bielle} \cdot g \\ \kappa \cdot \dot{\varphi} \cdot (L_0 - L_1) \cdot [F_{Bx} \cdot \cos \theta + F_{By} \cdot \sin \theta] + L_0 \cdot (F_{Ax} \cdot \cos \theta + F_{Ay} \cdot \sin \theta) & \\ -F_{Ax} + F_{Bx} &= 0 \\ m_{piston} \cdot (r \cdot \dot{\theta} \cdot (\dot{\varphi} - \dot{\theta}) \cdot \cos \theta + r \cdot \dot{\varphi} \cdot \sin \theta) &= -F_{Ay} - F_{By} - m_{piston} \cdot g \\ F_{Qy} &= S_{piston} \cdot P(\theta) = \frac{\pi \cdot D^2}{4} \cdot P(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

4- thermodynamic study.



the mixed cycle

Isale	$P(\theta) \leq 10.325 \cdot 10^7 \text{ Pa}$	$0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$
Compression	$P(\theta) = \frac{P_1 \cdot r_2^{\gamma}}{\left[ v_1 + r_1 \cdot \cos \theta + L_1 \cdot \left( 1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{r_1^2 \sin^2 \theta}{L_1^2}} \right) \right]^{\gamma}}$	$\pi \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$
Combustion	$P(\theta) = \frac{P_1 \cdot r_2^{\gamma}}{\left[ v_1 + r_1 \cdot \cos \theta + L_1 \cdot \left( 1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{r_1^2 \sin^2 \theta}{L_1^2}} \right) \right]^{\gamma}}$	$2\pi \leq \theta \leq 3\pi$
Isobar	$P(\theta) \geq 10.325 \cdot 10^7 \text{ Pa}$	$3\pi \leq \theta \leq 4\pi$

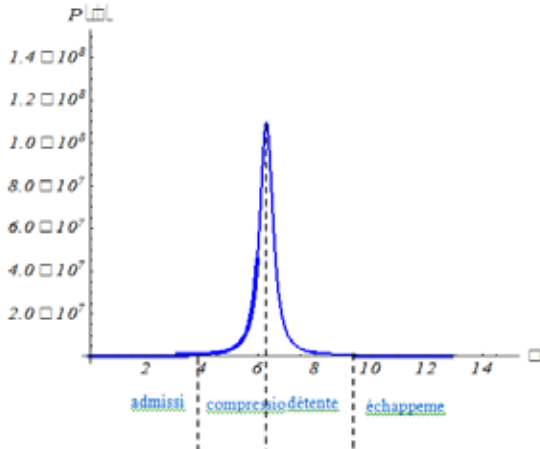
$$\begin{aligned} F_{By} &= -\frac{P(\theta) \cdot \pi \cdot D^2}{4} - m_{piston} \cdot g + m_{piston} \cdot r \cdot \dot{\theta}^2 \cdot \left( 1 + \frac{\cos \theta}{\sqrt{\delta^2 - \sin^2 \theta}} \right) \cdot \cos \theta + m_{piston} \cdot r \cdot \dot{\theta} \cdot \left[ \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\delta^2 - \sin^2 \theta} - 1 \right] \cdot \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\sqrt{\delta^2 - \sin^2 \theta}} \\ F_{Bx} &= -F_{By} + m_{bielle} \cdot g - m_{bielle} \cdot r \cdot \dot{\theta}^2 \cdot \left[ 1 + \left( 1 - \frac{L_0}{L_1} \right) \cdot \frac{\cos \theta}{\sqrt{\delta^2 - \sin^2 \theta}} \right] \cdot \cos \theta + m_{bielle} \cdot r \cdot \dot{\theta}^2 \cdot \left( 1 - \frac{L_0}{L_1} \right) \cdot \left[ 1 - \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\delta^2 - \sin^2 \theta} \right] \cdot \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\sqrt{\delta^2 - \sin^2 \theta}} \end{aligned}$$

$$F_{bx} = \frac{m_{belle} \cdot L_0 \cdot \dot{\theta}^2 \cdot \sin \theta}{\delta} - F_{ix}$$

$$F_{ix} = \alpha \cdot m_{belle} \cdot \frac{L_0}{\delta} \cdot \dot{\theta}^2 \cdot \sin \theta + \frac{L_0}{L_1} \cdot \frac{\sin \theta \cdot F_{Ay}}{\delta \cdot \chi} - \alpha \cdot \frac{\sin \theta \cdot F_{By}}{\delta \cdot \chi} + \frac{\kappa \cdot \dot{\theta}^2 \cdot \sin \theta \cdot \left( \frac{\cos^2 \theta}{\delta^2 - \sin^2 \theta} - 1 \right)}{L_1 \cdot \delta \cdot \chi^2}$$

$$\alpha = \left( 1 - \frac{L_0}{L_1} \right)$$

$$\chi = \sqrt{\delta^2 - \sin^2 \theta}$$

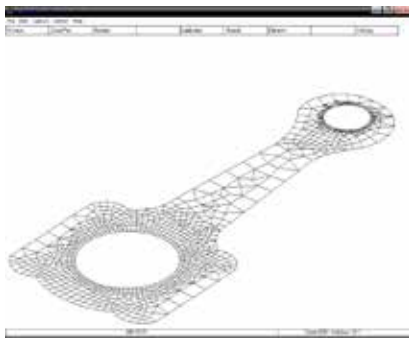


The pressure curve, function of the crankpin angle: the Mathematica code

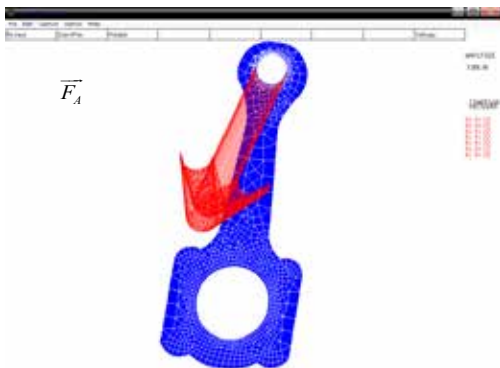
5- Numerical simulation

2D modeling of the connecting rod by Cast3M.

Using CAST3M: computer code by the method of EF "product under license by CEA"



2D mesh by Cast3m



The compressive force at the top end

6- Thermoelastic behavior

Thermal expansion of solids is a general phenomenon, although not very visible, but with serious consequences. The solids expand and contract in the opposite way during their heating and cooling processes.

The combustion of gas "fuel-air" produces heat so the energy to push the piston. If 30% to 50% energy is converted into work, 70% to 50% remains in a state of heat, such excess thermal energy not evacuated, can damage many pieces while in contact with the hot gas and in particular connecting rod of the engine.

In this context we compare the effects of the thermal expansion stress, on the two materials cited above.

Formulation

In the theory of linear thermoelasticity, the convex quadratic thermodynamic potential is given by:

$$\psi = \frac{1}{\rho} \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\lambda \cdot \varepsilon_i^2 + 4 \cdot \mu \cdot \varepsilon_{ij}) - (3\lambda + 2 \cdot \mu) \cdot \alpha \cdot \Theta \cdot \varepsilon_i \right] - \frac{C_\varepsilon}{T_0} \cdot \Theta^2$$

$$\bar{\sigma} = \lambda \cdot Tr(\varepsilon) \bar{1} + 2 \cdot \mu \cdot \bar{\varepsilon} - (3 \cdot \lambda + 2 \cdot \mu) \cdot \alpha \cdot \Theta \bar{1}$$

$$\bar{\varepsilon} = \frac{1 + \nu}{E} \bar{\sigma} - \frac{\nu}{E} Tr(\bar{\sigma}) \bar{1} + \alpha \Theta \bar{1}$$

μ and λ: are the two coefficients of Lamé

$\bar{1}$  unit tensor: second order.

$$C_\varepsilon = -T_0 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial T^2}$$
 specific heat at constant strain

$$\begin{cases} \sigma_{ij} = \lambda \cdot \varepsilon_{kk} \cdot \delta_{ij} + 2 \cdot \mu \cdot \varepsilon_{ij} - (3\lambda + 2 \cdot \mu) \cdot \alpha \cdot \Theta \delta_{ij} \\ \varepsilon_{ij} = \frac{1 + \nu}{E} \sigma_{ij} - \frac{\nu}{E} \cdot \sigma_{kk} \delta_{ij} + \alpha \Theta \delta_{ij} \end{cases}$$

$$\varepsilon_{ij} (\sigma_{ij} = 0, \sigma_{kk} = 0) = \alpha \Theta \delta_{ij} = \varepsilon_{ij} (\text{thermal})$$

α=f(T) Thermal expansion coefficient;

$$\Theta = \Delta T$$
 temperature variation

An additional linear deformation thermo elastic appears the center distance of the connecting rod and the radius of the crank pin of the crankshaft:  $L; L_0; \delta$

By analyzing the two equations of the stress  $\sigma_{ij}$  and the deformation  $\varepsilon_{ij}$ , we note that the material of the connecting rod expands with the growth of the deformation  $\varepsilon_{ij} \uparrow \ll \alpha \cdot \Theta \cdot \delta_{ij} \gg$ .

Calculations and results

α is a characteristic of the material: factor:

$$\alpha \approx \frac{\gamma_G \cdot \rho \cdot c}{3 \cdot E} \quad \text{equation 1}$$

factor  $\gamma_G$  : is the Grüneisen constant

$$\alpha \approx \frac{\gamma_G}{100 \cdot T_f} \quad \text{equation 2}$$

$\gamma_G$  : varies between 0.4 and 4, but usually between 1 and 2 for most solid.

$\rho$  in  $kg.m^{-3}$ ,  $C$ : is the specific heat  $J.kg^{-1}.K^{-1}$ ,  $E$ : Young's modulus (Pa)

$$\begin{cases} E(C-70) \square 213GPa \\ E(PM) \square 199GPa \end{cases}$$

$\rho.C = C_v$  specific heat per volume unit;

It varies little for all solid and therefore  $E$  and  $\alpha$  are inversely.

$$\begin{cases} \alpha(C-70) \square 21,6.10^{-6} m/m^{\circ}C \\ E(C-70) \square 213GPa \\ \alpha(C-70) \square 21,6.10^{-6} m/m^{\circ}C < \alpha(PM) = \frac{E(C-70)}{E(PF)}. \alpha_{C70} \end{cases}$$

$$\alpha_{PM}(\Theta \square 900^{\circ}C) \square \frac{E(C-70)}{E(PF)}. \alpha_{C70} \square 23,12.10^{-6} m/m.^{\circ}C$$

**Forged to manufacture automobile parts: example**

Steel  
X60NiMnCr13-5-3  
European standards:  
AECMA:  
- Designation: FE-PA2801  
- X60NiMnCr13-5-3  
BS : S 131

**COMPOSITION**

Carbon .....0.60  
Nickel .....11.00  
Manganese .....5.00  
Chromium.....3.00  
Molybdenum.....0.40

**PHYSICAL PROPERTIES**

- Density: 7.9
- Mean coefficient of expansion in  $m/m.^{\circ}C$ :
  - between 20°C and 200°C:  $20.2 \times 10^{-6}$
  - between 20°C and 400°C:  $21.0 \times 10^{-6}$
  - between 20°C and 600°C:  $21.3 \times 10^{-6}$
  - between 20°C and 800°C:  $21.6 \times 10^{-6}$

**APPLICATIONS**

- Fasteners used for assembly of light alloy components working at high temperatures.
- Distribution tubes for valveless engines with pistons and cylinders in light alloys.
- Precombustion chambers fitted to light alloy piston heads for diesel engines.

standard conditions: 25°C

$$\begin{cases} P_1 = P_{am} \square 1,01325.10^5 Pa \\ V_1 \square 1,917.10^{-3} m^3 \\ V_m \square 2.10^{-5} m^3 \\ L_1 = 15cm \\ r = 38.25mm \\ L(PMH - PMB) = 2.r = 76.5mm \\ \gamma = 1.4 \\ r_0 = \frac{V_{tot}}{V_m} = 1 + \frac{V_d}{V_m} = 18 \\ \Omega = 209.44 rad / s = 2000tr / min(plein.régime) \\ m_{bielle} \square 0.711kg \\ m_{piston} \square 0.422kg \\ L_0 = \frac{2.L_1}{3} \\ D = 75.8cm \\ \delta = \frac{L_1}{r} \end{cases}$$

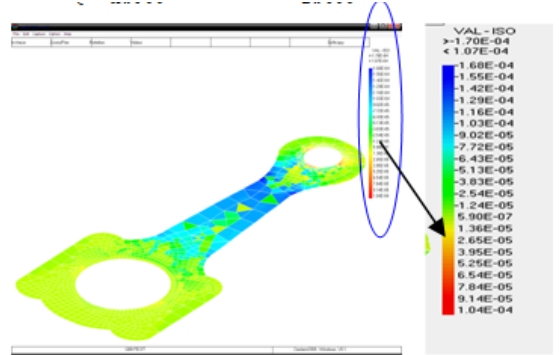
Full Speed in (taking into account the thermal effect) :

$$\begin{cases} X_f(\square 900^{\circ}C) = X_i(25^{\circ}C) + \alpha.\Delta\Theta \\ X = L_1; r; L_0; \delta \end{cases}$$

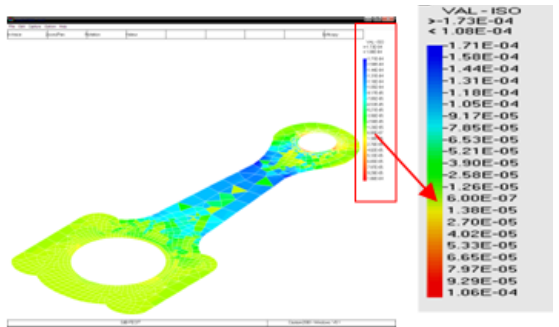
The comparison is made at maximum pressure which corresponds to the moment of explosion of fuel-air mixture "maximum compression":  $\theta = 2.\pi$  rad

$$\begin{cases} P_{2s}(2\pi) \square 120MPa = P_{900}(2.\pi) \\ F_{Ay900}(C70) = -5,4150517.10^7 N \\ F_{Ax900}(C70) = F_{Bx900}(C70) = 0N \end{cases}$$

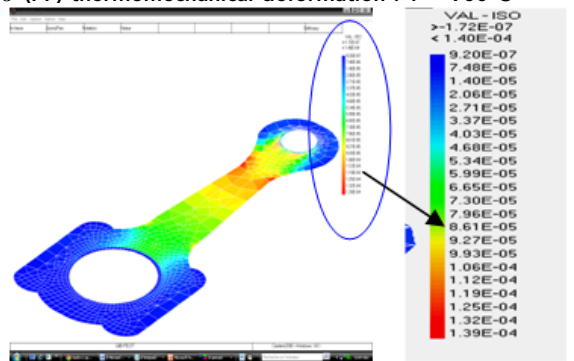
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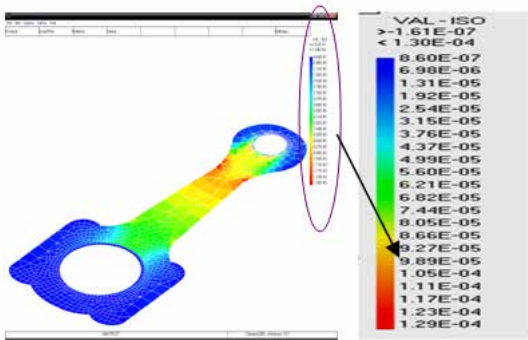
$\epsilon_{xx}(PF)$  mechanical deformation : ambient T°



$\epsilon_{xx}(PF)$  thermomechanical deformation : T° ~900°C



$\epsilon_{vm}(PF)$  thermomechanical deformation T° ~900°C



$\epsilon_{VM}(C70)$  thermomechanical deformation  $T^\circ \sim 900^\circ C$

For  $\epsilon_{xx}$  and  $\epsilon_{yy}$  deformations, we add

the thermal term  $\alpha \cdot \Delta\theta$ .

$$\epsilon_{ij} = \frac{1+\nu}{E} \sigma_{ij} - \frac{\nu}{E} \cdot \sigma_{kk} \delta_{ij} + \alpha \cdot \Delta\theta \delta_{ij}$$

$$\epsilon_{xx}(tot) = \frac{1+\nu}{E} \sigma_{xx} - \frac{\nu}{E} \cdot \sigma_{kk} + \alpha \Delta\theta$$

$$\epsilon_{yy}(tot) = \frac{1+\nu}{E} \sigma_{yy} - \frac{\nu}{E} \cdot \sigma_{kk} + \alpha \Delta\theta$$

It just takes the most stressed areas, the red areas.

- the forged powder /900°C :

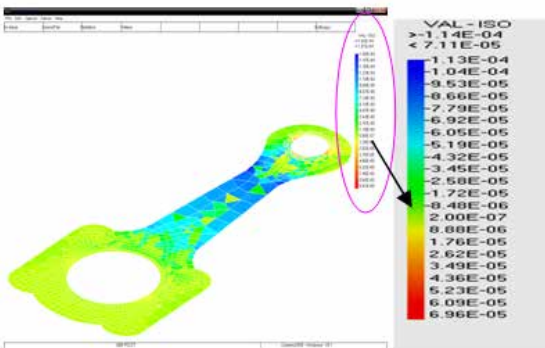
$\alpha=23,12 \cdot 10^{-6} m/m^\circ C$

$\epsilon_{xx} \cdot 10^5$	-1.26	0.06	1.38	2.70	4.02
$\epsilon_{xx}(tot) \cdot 10^3$	20.174	20.231	20.244	20.257	20.270
$\epsilon_{yy} \cdot 10^5$	5.33	6.65	7.97	9.29	10.60
$\epsilon_{yy}(tot) \cdot 10^3$	20.283	20.296	20.310	20.324	20.336

- the C70 steel/900°C :

$\alpha=21,6 \cdot 10^{-6} m/m^\circ C$

$\epsilon_{xx} \cdot 10^5$	-1.18	0.056	1.29	2.52	3.75
$\epsilon_{xx}(tot) \cdot 10^3$	18.89	18.900	18.913	18.93	18.94
$\epsilon_{yy} \cdot 10^5$	4.98	6.22	7.45	8.68	9.91
$\epsilon_{yy}(tot) \cdot 10^3$	18.95	18.96	18.97	18.99	19.00



$\epsilon_{xx}(C70)$  thermomechanical deformation  $\epsilon_{xx}(C70) : T^\circ \sim 900^\circ C$

Same work for the deformation  $\epsilon_{yy}$  :

- the forged powder/900°C :

$\alpha=23,12 \cdot 10^{-6} m/m^\circ C$

$\epsilon_{yy} \cdot 10^5$	-0.907	0.0214	0.95	1.88	2.81
$\epsilon_{yy}(tot) \cdot 10^3$	20.22	20.23	20.24	20.25	20.26
$\epsilon_{yy} \cdot 10^5$	3.74	4.67	5.59	6.52	7.45
$\epsilon_{yy}(tot) \cdot 10^3$	20.27	20.28	20.29	20.30	20.31

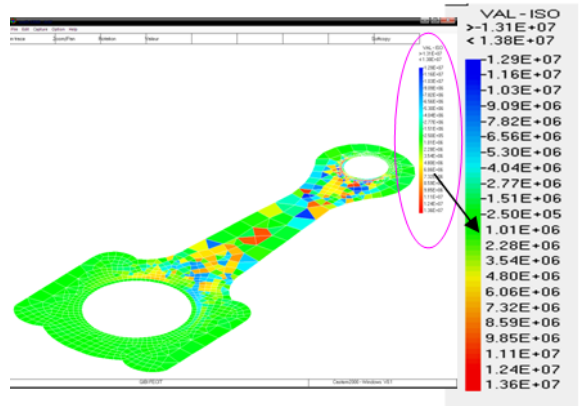
- the C70 steel/900°C :

$\alpha=21,6 \cdot 10^{-6} m/m^\circ C$

$\epsilon_{yy} \cdot 10^5$	-0.85	0.02	0.89	1.76	2.62
$\epsilon_{yy}(tot) \cdot 10^3$	18.892	18.900	18.910	18.918	18.926
$\epsilon_{yy} \cdot 10^5$	3.49	4.36	5.23	6.09	6.96
$\epsilon_{yy}(tot) \cdot 10^3$	18.935	18.944	18.952	18.961	18.970

Von Mises deformations :

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \sigma_{VM} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{(\sigma_{xx} - \sigma_{yy})^2 + (\sigma_{yy} - \sigma_{zz})^2 + (\sigma_{zz} - \sigma_{xx})^2 + 6 \cdot (\tau_{xy}^2 + \tau_{yz}^2 + \tau_{xz}^2)} \\ \epsilon_{VM} &= \frac{\sigma_{VM}}{E} \end{aligned} \right.$$



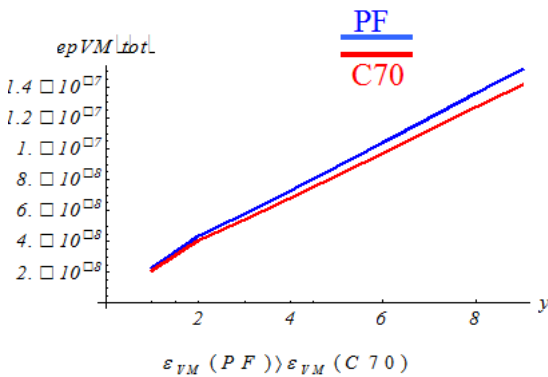
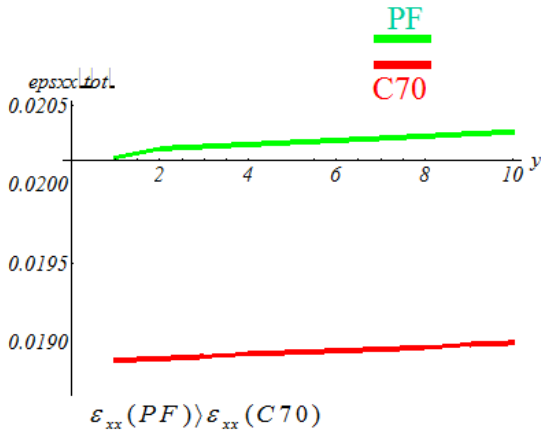
$\tau_{xy}$  à  $\theta \sim 90^\circ C$

$\tau_{xz} = \tau_{yz} = 0; \sigma_{zz} = 0$

$\sigma_{VM} \cdot 10^{-3}$	4.54	8.66	11.53	14.53	17.61
$\epsilon_{VM}(PF) \cdot 10^8$	2.28	4.35	5.79	7.30	8.85
$\epsilon_{VM}(C70) \cdot 10^8$	2.13	4.07	5.41	6.82	8.27

$\sigma_{VM} \cdot 10^{-3}$	20.71	23.86	27.06	30.1
$\epsilon_{VM}(PF) \cdot 10^8$	10.41	12.00	13.60	15.13
$\epsilon_{VM}(C70) \cdot 10^8$	9.72	11.20	12.70	14.13

Curves and results:



	C70	PMF
$\varepsilon_{xx} \text{ max}$	$9,96 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$10,60 \cdot 10^{-5}$
$\varepsilon_{xx} (\text{max,tot})$	$19,00 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$20,34 \cdot 10^{-3}$
$\frac{\varepsilon_{xx} (\text{max,tot})}{\varepsilon_{xx} \text{ max}}$	191,73	191,80
$\varepsilon_{yy} \text{ max}$	$6,96 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$7,45 \cdot 10^{-5}$
$\varepsilon_{yy} (\text{max,tot})$	$18,97 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$20,31 \cdot 10^{-3}$
$\frac{\varepsilon_{yy} (\text{max,tot})}{\varepsilon_{yy} \text{ max}}$	272,56	272,62

Summary results

7- Conclusion

According to the study that was conducted, we observe that the mechanical deformations  $\varepsilon_{xx}$  and  $\varepsilon_{yy}$  multiplied almost respectively 200 and 300 times when the temperature of the combustion chamber attained 900 ° C.

Under the effect of thermal expansion, although

$\varepsilon_{ii}(C70) \cong \varepsilon_{ii}(PM)$ , the two structures of the two materials undergo large deformations compared to the normal state.

The effect of excessive heat added to a low efficiency in cases of fatigue the engine and any inadequate lubrication, are sufficient factors to cause rupture such an important piece that the connecting rod.

Hence the attention, very special to give quality structure of these materials for the production of auto parts in order to predict a catastrophic impact the functioning of thermal engine block in its entirety.



real example

REFERENCE

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