

# **HYDRAULIC FAILURE ANALYSIS**

**Fluids, Components,  
and System Effects**

**George E. Totten  
David K. Wills  
Dierk G. Feldmann**

**EDITORS**



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# ***Hydraulic Failure Analysis: Fluids, Components, and System Effects***

*George E. Totten, David K. Wills, and Dierk G. Feldmann, editors*

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# Foreword

This publication, *Hydraulic Failure Analysis: Fluids, Components, and System Effects*, contains papers presented at the symposium of the same name held in Reno, Nevada, on 5–6 December 1999. The symposium was sponsored by Committee D-2 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants. The symposium co-chairmen were George E. Totten, Union Carbide Corporation, David K. Wills, Sauer-Danfoss, and Dierk G. Feldmann, Technical University Hamburg-Harburg.

# Contents

<b>Overview</b>	ix
<b>SESSION I: THEORY, MECHANISM, AND SIMULTION</b>	
<b>Tribological Design: A Real World Approach—K. C. LUDEMA</b>	3
<b>Mechanisms of Abrasive Wear in Lubricated Contacts—J. A. WILLIAMS AND A. M. HYNICICA</b>	13
<b>Tribology of Hydraulic Systems: Hydrodynamic Effects of Surface Roughness— K. TØNDER</b>	31
<b>Lubrication Characteristics on Sliding Surfaces in a Piston Pump and Motor During Running-In Tests—K. TANAKA, K. KYOGOKU, AND T. NAKAHARA</b>	41
<b>Elastic-Plastic Finite Element Stress Analysis of Two-Dimensional Rolling Contact— Y. JIANG, J. CHANG, AND B. XU</b>	59
<b>Development of a New Application-Related Test Procedure for Mechanical Testing of Hydraulic Fluids—D. G. FELDMANN AND M. KESSLER</b>	75
<b>Modeling Abrasive Wear of Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Materials-K. ELALEM, D. Y. LI, M. J. ANDERSON, AND S. CHIOVELLI</b>	90
<b>Hydraulic Gear Pump Failure Analysis and Tribology Simulation—L. D. WEDEVEN AND R. BOURDOULOUS</b>	105
<b>Corrosive Wear in Hydraulic Systems: An Overview—H. LIANG AND G. E. TOTTEN</b>	119
<b>SESSION II: FAILURE ANALYSIS - PART 1</b>	
<b>Root Cause Analysis to Identify Hydraulic Failure Modes—J. REICHEL AND M. WAHL</b>	137
<b>Failure Analysis of the Hydraulic Drive System in a Storm Surge Barrier—M. FLUKS</b>	150
<b>Analysis of Failure Modes of a Military Hydraulic Fluid: MIL-H-46170— R. B. MOWERY AND E. M. PURDY</b>	167

## SESSION III-A: FAILURE ANALYSIS - PART II

<b>Wear Particle Analysis—J. POLEY</b>	179
<b>Problems and Possibilities with Bottle Sampling for Assessment of Particle Concentration—G. C. SVEDBERG AND K. SUNDVALL</b>	190
<b>Wear and Wear Debris in a Changing World—B. J. ROYLANCE</b>	200
<b>Advanced Strategies for the Monitoring and Control of Water Contamination in Oil Hydraulic Fluids—D. D. TROYER</b>	214
<b>Advancements in Fluid Analysis Technologies and Strategies for Hydraulic System Condition-Based Maintenance—J. C. FITCH</b>	225
<b>Hydraulic Pump Contaminant Wear—R. K. TESSMANN AND I. T. HONG</b>	248
<b>Piston Pump Failures in Various Type Hydraulic Fluids—S. OHKAWA, A. KONISHI, H. HATANO, AND D. VOSS</b>	263
<b>Fundamental Hydraulic Wear Processes—H. LIANG, K. MIZUNO, G. E. TOTTEN, R. J. BISHOP, JR., AND S. LEMBERGER</b>	278
<b>Analysis of Common Failure Modes of Axial Piston Pumps—C. G. FEY, G. E. TOTTEN, AND Y. H. SUN</b>	299
<b>Effect of Pump Inlet Conditions on Hydraulic Pump Cavitation: A Review—R. J. BISHOP, JR. AND G. E. TOTTEN</b>	318
<b>The Influence of Surface Topography and Environment on the Fatigue Life of a Hydraulic Motor—W. SCOTT</b>	333
<b>TRIZ-Based Root Cause Failure Analysis for Hydraulic Systems—D. L. MANN AND E. J. HUGHES</b>	340

## SESSION IV-A: MATERIALS

<b>The Surface Behavior of Metallic Materials During the Incubation Period of Cavitation Erosion—A. YABUKI, K. NOISHIKI, K. KOMORI, AND M. MATSUMURA</b>	357
<b>Failure Mechanism of a Hydraulic Log Piston and Slipper Assembly—J. T. SIKES</b>	370
<b>Development of Pseudoelastic TiNi Tribo Materials—D. Y. LI</b>	382
<b>Research of Suitable Material Pairs for Applications Operating with High Water-Based Fluids—R. OBEREM AND H. MURRENHOF</b>	402
<b>Ceramic Parts for Hydrostatic Pumps and Motors—D. G. FELDMANN</b>	417

<b>PVD-Coatings-Applications in Fluid Power Technology—D. VAN BEBBER AND H. MURRENHOF</b>	427
---	-----

<b>Improving Tribological Performance of Mechanical Components by Laser Surface Texturing—I. ETISON, G. HALPERIN, AND G. RYK</b>	441
--	-----

#### SESSION III-B: COMPONENTS—SEALS, VALVES, AND ROLLING ELEMENT BEARINGS

<b>An Investigation of Fundamental Blistering Phenomena in Rotary Lip Sealing— F. SCHULZ, V. M. WOLLESEN, AND M. VÖTTER</b>	451
---	-----

<b>Influence of Lubrication on Wear and Friction on O-Rings in Contact with Yellow Metal—M. VÖTTER AND O. SCHULTZ</b>	462
---	-----

<b>Hydraulic Valve Problems Caused by Oil Oxidation Products—A. SASAKI</b>	474
--	-----

<b>Rust Inhibitor Contamination-Related Problems in Military Aircraft Hydraulic Systems—S. K. SHARMA, C. E. SYNDER, JR., L. J. GSCHWENDER, J. C. LIANG, AND B. F. SCHREIBER</b>	489
---	-----

<b>Extending Rolling Element Bearing Life in Hydraulic Systems with Water-Based Fluids-The Grease Lubrication Option—G. W. POLL</b>	500
---	-----

#### SESSION IV-B: FLUIDS

<b>The Importance of Shear Stability in Multigraded Hydraulic Fluids— C. W. HYNDMAN, B. G. KINKER, AND D. G. PLACEK</b>	523
---	-----

<b>Corrosive Wear Behavior of 304 Stainless Steel and its Variation with Alloyed Oxygen-Active Element Yttrium—T. ZHANG AND D. Y. LI</b>	535
--	-----

<b>A Study of the Mechanism for Beneficial Effects of Yttrium Additive in Lubricant on Corrosive Wear and Friction of Metals—R. LIU AND D. Y. LI</b>	549
--	-----

<b>The Effect of Oil Type on Wear in Fluid Power Components—T. KOIVULA, R. KARJALAINEN, E. ELLMAN, AND M. VILENIUS</b>	563
--	-----

<b>Recent Experiences with Ester Based Fluids in Qualification Tests—D. G. FELDMANN AND M. KESSLER</b>	575
--	-----

# Overview

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Problems in hydraulic systems associated with hydraulic fluids have been an important area of investigation for many years. Of equal importance is the mutually dependent interaction of hydraulic fluids with component design, component metallurgy, and the design of the hydraulic system itself. Investigation related to these important areas include the following:

- The effect of fluid chemistry on component failure as the result of oxidation, wear debris, viscosity loss, generation of corrosion by-products, and yellow metal wear.
- Metallurgy of the material, including material pair effects and physical properties.
- The effect of surface finish.
- Modeling wear mechanisms as a function of material pair contact loading, speed, and other factors.
- Dynamic versus static wear.
- Wear mechanisms including rolling contact fatigue, cavitation, lubrication failure, abrasive wear, and others, in addition to combinations of these mechanisms.
- Methods of failure analysis focusing on strategies to identify root causes of failure.
- Hydraulic component design and metallurgy of bearings, gears, slippers, and end-plates.

Since there are relatively few, if any, books published that provide a comprehensive overview of these issues, an International Symposium on Hydraulic Failure Analysis, Fluids, Components and System Effects was held in Reno, Nevada on December 5–6, 1999. The objective of this conference was to address these issues and to provide an insight into new technologies that are being developed to address hydraulic wear and failure problems.

The first paper in the first section of this book: Theory, Mechanism, and Simulation provides a thorough overview of the importance of tribological design. Many hydraulic wear and failure problems could be eliminated if appropriate design principles were employed. The remaining papers in this section, taken together, provide the reader with a thorough overview of fundamental principles involved in hydraulic lubrication and wear and set the stage for the wide range of topics discussed in the remainder of the book.

The second section of the book, Failure Analysis, provides a wide range of discussion on numerous topics related to hydraulic failure analysis. These include: methodologies for root cause analysis to identify hydraulic wear, importance and different applications of wear particle analysis to identify the sources of hydraulic component failure, and a failure catalog of hydraulic pump and rolling element bearing wear provided by the examples given in the papers comprising this section.



The third section of this book, Materials, provides an overview of significant research underway to identify superior materials for hydraulic pump and component design. The areas of research include: effect of material selection on cavitation erosion, surface engineering to improve material properties, and surface texturing.

Hydraulic wear and failure is not limited to hydraulic pumps and motors. The fourth section, Components—Seals, Valves and Rolling Element Bearings, addresses the effects of various wear, selected failure mechanisms of hydraulic seals, and yellow metal wear.

The last section of the book is Fluids. The papers provided in this section discuss the effects of fluid shear stability, additives, and bio-oils on hydraulic pump wear.

The information provided in this book make it an excellent resource for the hydraulic design engineer and maintenance engineer to properly design, maintain, and troubleshoot a hydraulic system. Additionally, the tests and recommendations made by the speakers at this conference will be carefully analyzed within the ASTM D.02N subcommittee to determine their applicability for the development of new ASTM standards and guides.

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