Insertion investigation of cylindrical parts to be assembled with clearance

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1. Introduction

The main stages of automated assembly are matching of connective surfaces and insertion of parts. Works published about parts insertion process are rare, besides, in the majority of these works, quasi-static analysis is applied, where the insertion speed is very low and the influence of inertia and gravity is negligible. Recently, using quasi-static insertion theory, it is attempted to analyse microparts insertion [1], more complex cases of wedging are in process [2]. The vibratory method and the diagram of assembling equipment, which aid to assemble parts avoiding jams, are proposed [3].

However, quasi-static insertion occurs rarely in practice. Successful and competitive manufacture requires to increase productivity and to reduce equipment cost. Most effective solution to increase the productivity of assembly operations is to increase the insertion speed. Insertion of parts is a complex dynamic process, which is under the influence of many factors – gravity, inertia, insertion speed, stiffness of basing device, friction, etc. Parts can get wedged if improper parameters influencing insertion process are selected. Therefore, the parts and assembly equipment can be damaged. To develop low-priced, effective and reliable assembly equipment, it is necessary to investigate and in depth understand parts insertion mechanism.

Paper [4] investigates dynamics of insertion process. Differential equations of peg’s movement in a hole are presented, while the peg contacts the hole in one and two points in all possible arrangements of connecting surfaces. Geometric compatibility conditions for the successful insertion were presented. However, this paper does not investigate chamfer crossing stage, does not determine the influence of different parameters on the insertion process.

The model of dynamic insertion is investigated more properly in papers [5, 6]. However a few simulation results are presented in these articles, besides the simulation results are different. Paper [5] investigates dynamic model of insertion process. Diagrams of variation in time of insertion force along axial direction and tilt angle of the peg, in chamfer crossing, one point and two point contact stages are given. A device for high speed chamferless assembly is proposed. Paper [6] investigates the insertion process in greater detail. Diagrams of variation in time of insertion forces, tilt angle of peg, lateral deviation along the horizontal direction and depth of insertion are given. It is noticed that the motion of mobile based peg during two point contact stage is uneven. The influence of different parameters on tilt angle of the peg and insertion forces was determined, but diagrams of their dependences were not given. Dependences of insertion time on basing device characteristics, insertion speed and others parameters were not determined.

This paper investigates the influence of different parameters on insertion duration and reliability of the insertion process of cylindrical parts with clearance.

2. Mathematical model of insertion process

Insertion of mobile based peg, which is moved in constant velocity \(v\), into immobile bush is investigating (Fig. 1). The peg is hold by the gripper and only can turn around the centre of compliance \(C\).

![Fig. 1 Mobile based peg](image)

Elastic components of the insertion force along \(x\) axis \(F_x\), along \(z\) axis \(F_z\) and torsion moment \(M\) about point \(C\), can be written

\[
F_x = K_x (x_C - x_{C0}) \quad (1)
\]
\[
F_z = K_z (vt + z_C - z_{C0}) \quad (2)
\]
\[
M = K_\theta (\theta - \theta_0) \quad (3)
\]

where, \(x_C\) and \(z_C\) are the coordinates of point \(C\); \(x_{C0}\) and \(z_{C0}\) are the coordinates of point \(C\) at the initial instant of time; \(\theta\) is tilt angle of the peg; \(\theta_0\) is tilt angle of the peg at the initial instant of time; \(K_x, K_z, K_\theta\) are lateral stiffness, axial stiffness and angular stiffness respectively.

In case of peg contact with the chamfer (Fig. 2, a), coordinates of the centre of compliance \(C\) and the centre of mass \(G\) are expressed by the dependences

\[
x_C = R + \varepsilon - L_C \sin \theta \quad (4)
\]
\[
z_C = L_C \cos \theta + r \sin \theta + z_A \quad (5)
\]
\[
x_G = R + \varepsilon - L_G \sin \theta \quad (6)
\]
\[
z_G = L_G \cos \theta + r \sin \theta + z_A \quad (7)
\]

where \(L_C\) is the distance from the lower end surface of the peg to the centre of compliance; \(L_G\) is the distance from the lower end surface of the peg to the centre of mass; \(R\) and \(r\) are the radius of the hole and the peg respectively; \(\varepsilon\) is the
displacement from the centre of the lower end of the peg to the centre line of the hole, along x axis direction.

\[ z_A = (r \cos \theta - \varepsilon - R)\tan \alpha \]  

(8)

where \( \alpha \) is the chamfer angle.

Initial coordinates of the centre of compliance

\[ x_{c0} = R + \varepsilon_0 - L_C \sin \theta_0 \]  

(9)

\[ z_{c0} = L_C \cos \theta_0 + r \sin \theta_0 + \]  

\[ + (r \cos \theta_0 - \varepsilon_0 - R)\tan \alpha \]  

(10)

where \( \varepsilon_0 \) is the initial value of \( \varepsilon \).

During chamfer crossing stage (Fig. 2, b), the peg is influenced by elastic components of insertion force and torque (\( F_z, F_x, M \)), gravity \( mg \), inertia forces \( \tau \), friction force \( \mu F_n \); where \( m \) is the mass of the peg and gripper, \( I \) is inertia moment of the peg and gripper about the centre of mass, \( g \) is gravitational constant, \( \mu \) is dry friction constant.

Applying D’Alembert principle, the peg contact with the chamfer is determined by the following equations

\[ K_1 F_n - F_z - mg = 0 \]  

\[ K_2 F_n - F_z - m\ddot{z}_g - mg = 0 \]  

\[ (F_x \cos \theta + F_y \sin \theta)(L_C - L_Al) + K_3 F_n - M - I\ddot{\theta} = 0 \]  

(11)

where \( K_1 = \sin \alpha - \mu \cos \alpha \) ; \( K_2 = \cos \alpha + \mu \sin \alpha \) ;

\( K_3 = (L_C K_1 - rK_2) \cos \theta + (L_Al K_1 + rK_2) \sin \theta \) .

Initial conditions: \( \dot{\theta}(0) = \dot{\theta}_0, \quad \ddot{\theta}(0) = \ddot{\theta}_0, \quad \varepsilon(0) = \varepsilon_0 \).

When \( z_A = 0 \), the process steps into one point contact stage.

In case of one point contact (Fig. 3, a), geometric constraints

\[ \varepsilon = r \cos \theta + h \sin \theta - R \]  

(12)

\[ B = 2R - h \sin \theta - 2r \cos \theta \]  

(13)

where \( h \) is insertion depth, which is the distance from the point of contact to the lower end of the peg along axial direction of the peg.

The coordinates of points \( C \) and \( G \)

\[ x_c = r \cos \theta - (L_c - h) \sin \theta \]  

(14)

\[ z_c = (L_c - h) \cos \theta + r \sin \theta \]  

(15)

\[ x_g = r \cos \theta - (L_g - h) \sin \theta \]  

(16)

\[ z_g = (L_g - h) \cos \theta + r \sin \theta \]  

(17)

After the evaluation of acting forces in one point contact stage (Fig. 3, b), movement of the peg in the hole is determined by the following equations

\[ K_4 F_n - F_z - m\ddot{z}_g = 0 \]  

\[ K_5 F_n - F_z - m\ddot{z}_g - mg = 0 \]  

\[ (F_x \cos \theta + F_y \sin \theta)(L_C - L_Al) + \]  

\[ + (L_g - h - \mu w) F_n - M - I\ddot{\theta} = 0 \]  

(18)

where \( K_4 = \cos \theta - \mu \sin \theta \) ; \( K_5 = \sin \theta + \mu \cos \theta \) .

The initial conditions become: \( \dot{\theta} = \dot{\theta}_0, \quad \ddot{\theta} = \ddot{\theta}_0, \quad \varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 \) .

In case of two point contact (Fig. 4, a), the coordinates of points \( C \) and \( G \)


\[ x_c = 2R - r \cos \theta - L_c \sin \theta \]  
\[ z_c = (L_c - h) \cos \theta + r \sin \theta \]  
\[ x_g = 2R - r \cos \theta - L_g \sin \theta \]  
\[ z_g = (L_g - h) \cos \theta + r \sin \theta \]  

Geometrical relations in two point contact stage

\[ h = 2(R - r \cos \theta) / \sin \theta \]  
\[ \varepsilon = R - r \cos \theta \]  

After the evaluation of acting forces in two point contact stage (Fig. 4, b), movement of the peg in the hole is determined by the following equations

\[
\begin{align*}
K_xF_x - F_y - r\ddot{\theta} &= 0 \\
K_zF_z + \mu F_y - z\ddot{\theta} - mg &= 0 \\
(F_y \cos \theta + F_z \sin \theta)(L_c - L_g) - M - I\dot{\theta} + \\
+ (L_g - h - r\varepsilon)F_y - (L_cK_x - rK_z)F_y &= 0
\end{align*}
\]

The initial conditions: \( \theta = \theta_0 \); \( \dot{\theta} = \dot{\theta}_0 \), \( r\sin \theta + \) 
+ \( 2r\cos \theta \) \( \dot{h} = \dot{h}_0 \), \( \sin \theta / h_0 \).; where subscript “-” represents values of variables defined just before the two point contact stage.

The transition from the two point contact stage to the one point contact stage is possible, if \( F_y = 0 \). Insertion process terminates when the specified depth of insertion \( h_i \) is reached.

3. Simulation of insertion process

Programs for the simulation of insertion process were written using MatLab software. A number of numerical experiments, while the peg was crossing the chamfer, the peg was in one point contact and two points contact with the bush hole, was performed. The influence of different factors on insertion process was investigated, for purpose to determine when the time of insertion process is the shortest and to determine conditions for the most reliable insertion, avoiding wedging. All experiments were done using the same initial values of parameters of insertion process by changing only the analysing parameter. The following initial values of the parameters of insertion process were used: \( m = 0.1 \) kg; \( r = 0.0099 \) m; \( R = 0.01 \) m; \( I = 0.002 \) kgm\(^2\); \( L_g = 0.05 \) m; \( L_c = 0.025 \) m; \( \alpha = \pi / 4 \) rad; \( \mu = 0.1 \); \( v = 0.3 \) m/s; \( \theta_0 = 0.01 \) rad; \( \dot{h}_0 = 0.01 \) m/s; \( \dot{\theta}_0 = -0.01 \) m; \( \dot{\varepsilon}_0 = 0.01 \) m/s; \( K_x = 2000 \) N/m; \( K_z = 2000 \) N/m; \( K_y = 20 \) Nm/rad; \( h_s = 0.05 \) m.

The process of insertion starts when the peg touches the chamfer. The peg slides down the chamfer until the cylindrical surface of peg touches the hole. Insertion process steps into the one point contact stage, and time instant \( t_1 \) is defined. Parameter \( t_1 \) is the chamfer crossing duration.

An increase of the peg and gripper mass \( m \) yields an increase of the chamfer crossing duration (Fig. 5). Chamfer crossing duration \( t_1 \) increases when initial lateral misalignment \( \theta_0 \) increases due to the increase of the distance whereby the peg slides.

Chamfer crosses faster when the axial stiffness \( K_z \) is increasing (Fig. 6, a).

Peg contacts with the hole in one point until the lower edge of the peg reaches internal surface of the hole. Insertion process steps into the two point contact stage, and time instant \( t_2 \) is defined. Duration \( t_2 \) consists of chamfer crossing duration \( t_1 \) and the duration of two point contact
stage. Parameter $t_2$ is the duration from the beginning of insertion process to the beginning of two point contact stage. Duration $t_2$ is mostly influenced by the depth, wherein the two point contact appears. This is well represented by dependences of duration $t_2$ on assembly clearance $\delta$, under different lateral stiffness $K_x$ values (Fig. 7).

Parts are completely assembled when the required depth of insertion $h_i$ is reached. Insertion process duration $t_3$ is the duration from the beginning of chamfer crossing stage to the termination of insertion process. It consists of the duration of two point contact stage and the duration $t_2$.

Most effective way to shorten insertion process duration $t_3$, and to increase the productivity of assembly operations, is to increase the insertion speed. When insertion speed is increasing, the insertion process duration distinctly shortens (Fig. 8, a). Jumps of insertion process duration $t_3$, visible in diagram, occur due to uneven movement of the peg in the hole. Friction between the parts also makes influence on duration of the insertion process. The insertion process takes more time when the coefficient of friction is increasing (Fig. 8, b) Duration of the insertion process is the most reasonable when the distance from the lower end surface of the peg to the centre of compliance $L_C$ is close to 0 (Fig. 9).

Adjustment of angular stiffness $K_\theta$ can shorten duration of the insertion process. Generally, the insertion
process takes a little bit more time if angular stiffness $K_\theta$ is very low (Fig. 10, a). If the value of angular stiffness $K_\theta$ is very high, duration of the insertion process significantly increases, because it takes more time to compensate angular errors of the peg. Usually, when chamfer angle is approximately in the range of 40-50°, insertion process duration is the shortest (Fig. 10, b). This occurs due to the increase of chamfer crossing duration $t_c$ under high or low values of chamfer angle. Chamfer crossing duration increases under low values of chamfer angle, because it is more difficult to cross the less sloping surface of the chamfer. When the chamfer angle is high, the peg must to slide longer distance under the same value of initial lateral misalignment $\epsilon_0$.

It is more difficult to determine the influence of such insertion process parameters as lateral $K_x$, axial $K_z$ stiffness, mass $m$, clearance $\delta$, initial deviations $\epsilon_0$, $\theta_0$ on insertion process duration, because it varies with jumps under the influence of these parameters (Fig. 11).

Distance to the centre of mass $L_C$ and moment of inertia $I$ do not have high influence on duration of insertion process.

![Fig. 11 Dependences of insertion process duration $t_1$ on axial stiffness $K_x$, under different values of $m$: $1 - m = 0.05 \text{ kg}; 2 - m = 0.1 \text{ kg}; 3 - m = 0.3 \text{ kg}$.](image1)

Insertion process can fail due to wedging. Wedging usually occurs in the two point contact stage. Wedging occurs when reaction forces are inside the friction cones and act in the same line. Therefore the peg can not move. This occurs when tilt angle of the peg exceeds critical angle: $\theta > \theta_c = (R - r)/(r\mu)$.

Insertion process will fail also, if the peg will jump out of the hole due to its oscillating movement along $z$ axis direction. Consequently, it is necessary that maximum value of tilt angle $\theta_{\text{max}}$ would not exceed the critical limit.

Regard to that, it is possible to come to a conclusion that lower $\theta_{\text{max}}$ values yield higher probability of successful insertion. It is possible to decrease the value of $\theta_{\text{max}}$ by applying suitable parameters of insertion process.

When angular stiffness $K_\theta$ of the system is increasing, maximum value of tilt angle of the peg decreases (Fig. 12, a). Maximum value of tilt angle of the peg $\theta_{\text{max}}$ increases, when lateral stiffness $K_x$ is increasing (Fig. 12, b). The value of $\theta_{\text{max}}$ increases, because the peg is forced to turn around the centre of compliance by larger angle to accomplish the insertion process, during two point contact stage, under higher lateral stiffness. Besides, under the increase of lateral stiffness, oscillation amplitude of the peg movement in $z$ axis direction significantly increases. Therefore, the probability of peg coming out of the hole increases.

![Fig. 12 Dependences of maximum tilt angle of the peg $\theta_{\text{max}}$ on angular stiffness $K_\theta$, b – on lateral stiffness $K_x$, under different values of $m$: $1 - m = 0.05 \text{ kg}; 2 - m = 0.1 \text{ kg}; 3 - m = 0.3 \text{ kg}$.](image2)

![Fig. 13 Dependences of maximum tilt angle of the peg $\theta_{\text{max}}$ on $L_C$, under different lateral stiffness $K_x$ values: $1 - K_x = 2000 \text{ N/m}; 2 - K_x = 3000 \text{ N/m}; 3 - K_x = 5000 \text{ N/m}$.](image3)

Distance from the lower end surface to the centre of compliance $L_C$ makes significant influence on the value of tilt angle of the peg. When $L_C$ is close to 0, the value of $\theta_{\text{max}}$ reaches the minimal value (Fig. 13). When total mass of the peg and gripper $m$ is increasing, $\theta_{\text{max}}$ increases (Fig. 14, a). At the beginning, an increase of inertia moment $I$ about mass centre, yields significant decrease of $\theta_{\text{max}}$, later the value of $\theta_{\text{max}}$ does not change much.
(Fig. 14, b). The value of $\theta_{\text{max}}$ also increases under higher values of initial deviations $\varepsilon_0$, $\theta_0$. When the clearance ratio becomes higher, the value of $\theta_{\text{max}}$ increases more significantly only under higher values of lateral stiffness $K_x$. Axial stiffness $K_z$, insertion speed $v$, distance to the centre of mass $L_C$ do not have high influence on the value of $\theta_{\text{max}}$.

![Graph showing the dependence of $\theta_{\text{max}}$ on $m$, $I$](image)

Fig. 14 Dependences of maximum tilt angle of the peg $\theta_{\text{max}}$: a – on total mass of the peg and gripper $m$; b – on inertia moment $I$, under different axial stiffness $K_z$ values: 1 – $K_z = 500$ N/m; 2 – $K_z = 2000$ N/m; 3 – $K_z = 5000$ N/m

Reliability of insertion depends on the depth $h_2$, when the two point contact appears. It is noticed, that wedging usually appears when the two point contact appears in small depth. Besides, the probability increases that the peg will jump out of the hole when the two point contact appears in a small depth. Therefore, it is necessary to select such values of insertion process parameters, which influence the higher value of depth $h_2$.

A high influence on depth $h_2$ has clearance ratio $\delta$. When the clearance ratio is increasing, two point contact stage appears in higher depth (Fig. 15, a). The depth, when the two point contact appears, decreases when distance $L_C$ is increasing (Fig. 15, b). When lateral stiffness $K_x$ is increasing, two points contact appears in smaller depth (Fig. 16). This appears, because the peg is forced to turn around the centre of compliance by larger angle during the chamfer crossing and the one point contact stage due to the increase of stiffness along lateral direction. Jumps of $h_2$ appear due to uneven movement of mobile based peg. Two point contact stage appears in smaller depth under small values of angular stiffness due to easier turning of the peg around the centre of compliance (Fig. 17). Naturally, depth $h_2$ significantly decreases when initial tilt angle $\theta_0$ is increasing. Other parameters of insertion process do not have high influence on depth $h_2$.

![Graph showing the dependence of $h_2$ on $\delta$, $L_C$, $K_x$, and $m$](image)

Fig. 15 Dependences of depth $h_2$: a – on $\delta$, b – on $L_C$, under different values of $K_x$: 1 – $K_x = 500$ N/m; 2 – $K_x = 2000$ N/m; 3 – $K_x = 3000$ N/m; 4 – $K_x = 5000$ N/m

![Graph showing the dependence of $h_2$ on $K_x$ and $m$](image)

Fig. 16 Dependences of depth $h_2$, on lateral stiffness $K_x$, under different values of $m$: 1 – $m = 0.05$ kg; 2 – $m = 0.1$ kg; 3 – $m = 0.3$ kg

![Graph showing the dependence of $h_2$ on $K_\theta$](image)

Fig. 17 Dependences of depth $h_2$, on angular stiffness $K_\theta$, under different values of $K_z$: 1 – $K_z = 500$ N/m; 2 – $K_z = 2000$ N/m; 3 – $K_z = 5000$ N/m
4. Conclusions

1. Mathematical model of cylindrical parts insertion was formed, programs for simulation of the insertion process were written using MatLab software. Numerical experiments of insertion of cylindrical parts with clearance were implemented. Conditions for the most reliable insertion process and for the shortest duration of insertion process were determined.

2. To achieve the shortest duration of insertion process it is necessary to increase insertion speed v, to adjust rational angular stiffness $K_{d}$ to select $L_{c}$ close to 0 and to decrease friction.

3. It was determined that the probability of wedging and the probability of peg jumping out of the hole during insertion process, decrease when the maximum value of tilt angle of the peg $\theta_{\text{max}}$ is smaller, i.e. when angular stiffness $K_{d}$ increases, lateral stiffness $K_{s}$ decreases, distance from the lower end surface of the peg to the centre of compliance $L_{c}$ is close to 0, mass of the peg and gripper m decreases, inertia moment I increases.

4. It was determined that the probability of wedging and the probability of peg jumping out of the hole increase when the two point contact appears in small depth. Two point contact stage appears in higher depth when clearance ratio $\delta$ increases, $L_{c}$ is close to 0, lateral stiffness $K_{s}$ decreases, angular stiffness $K_{d}$ increases and initial tilt angle $\theta_{0}$ decreases.

References


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SU TARPELIU RENKAMŲ CILINDRINIŲ DETALIŲ SUJUNGIMO TYRIMAS

R e z i u m ė

Straipsnyje nagrinėjamas automatiškai renkamų cilindrinių detalių su tarpeliu sujungimas, kai įvėrė bazuojama, o strypas paslanktai. Sudarytas sujungimo proceso matematinis modelis, aprašantis strypo kontaktą su įvėrės nuožulą, strypo vieno ir dviejų taškų kontaktą su įvėrės skyle. Atlįkta skaitmeninės tarpelio renkamų cilindrinių detalių sujungimo eksperimentų. Nustatyta kokiomis sąlygomis sujungimo procesas trunka trumpiausiai ir yra patikimiausias.

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INSERTION INVESTIGATION OF CYLINDRICAL PARTS TO BE ASSEMBLED WITH CLEARANCE

S u m m a r y

Insertion of cylindrical parts to be automatically assembled with clearance, while bush is based immobile and the peg is based mobile, is analysed in the paper. Mathematical model of cylindrical parts insertion, which determines peg contact with the chamfer of the bush, peg one point and two point contact with the bush hole, was formed. Numerical experiments of insertion of cylindrical parts to be assembled with clearance were implemented. Conditions for the shortest duration of insertion process and for the most reliable insertion process were determined.

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ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ СОЕДИНЕНИЯ С ЗАЗОРОМ СОБИРАЕМЫХ ЦИЛИНДРИЧЕСКИХ ДЕТАЛЕЙ

Резюме

В статье рассматривается процесс соединения автоматически собираемых цилиндрических деталей с зазором при неподвижно закреплённой втулке и податливом стержне. Составлена математическая модель процесса соединения, описывающая контакт стержня с фаской втулки, одноточечный и двухточечный контакт стержня с отверстием втулки. Проведены численные эксперименты при соединении цилиндрических деталей с зазором. Определены условия, при которых обеспечивается наибольшая надежность и наименьшая продолжительность процесса соединения.

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