

# The Sealing Mechanism of a plain Rotary Lip Seal

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## ABSTRACT

In this study, the pumping mechanism of the lubricant inside the lip region of a rubber plain rotary lip seal, NAK TCL 36\*52\*10, is studied experimentally and numerically. A direct numerical simulation model based on the film thickness equation proposed by Salant [4] has been developed. The commercial package CFD-RC<sup>®</sup> with a SIMPLEC numerical algorithm with the staggered-grid arrangement is employed to simulate the flow field around the contact region between the lip and the shaft in the environment of a pumping-rate test rig, where both air and oil sides are filled with oil initially. The streamline pattern and pressure field are examined. Complicate three-dimensional streamline topology is analyzed. The vortex generated next to the lip on the oil side rotates such to create an inward pumping effect. The pumping rates are calculated at shaft speeds, ranging from 2000 to 6000 rpm, and compared to the measured values from the test rig. Good agreement is observed. Both calculated and measured pumping rates increase as shaft speed increases. The current results demonstrate the validity of Salant's film thickness model. Other parameters in Salant's film thickness equation, besides the shaft speed, are also investigated to understand their effects on the pumping efficiency.

Keywords : 橡膠旋轉軸唇型密封元件 ; 油膜 ; 迴油率 ; 計算流體力學

## Table of Contents

封面內頁 簽名頁 授權書.....	iii
中文摘要.....	iii
iv 英文摘要.....	v
v 誌謝.....	v
vi 目錄.....	vii
vii 圖目錄.....	vii
ix 表目錄.....	xiii
xiii 符號說明.....	xiii
xiii 第一章 緒論 1.1 緣起.....	xiii
1.1.2 研究目的.....	1
1.1.3 油封簡介.....	2
1.4 唇型油封構造.....	3
1.5 唇型油封安裝種類.....	5
1.6 油封密封原理概述.....	7
1.7 文獻回顧.....	8
第二章 研究步驟與方法 2.1 前言.....	14
2.2 理論統禦方程式.....	14
2.3 油膜厚度幾何分佈公式及參數設定.....	16
2.4 Marc分析軟體使用方法.....	19
2.5 模型建構分析軟體使用方法.....	19
2.6 迴轉測試機台實驗方法及操作步驟.....	20
2.7 理論模型模擬.....	22
第三章 研究結果討論 3.1 Marc <sup>®</sup> 未姓幫擘 幫X何外型.....	24
3.2 CFD-RC <sup>®</sup> 未姓幫擘.....	28
3.3 簡化模型格點驗證.....	30
3.4 全尺寸模擬結果.....	32
3.5 實驗與數值模擬比對.....	34
3.6 空氣側與油側壓力差研究.....	37
第四章 物理意義解釋 4.1 壓力場分析.....	39
4.2 速度場分析.....	43
4.3 油膜厚度數值模擬比較結果.....	46
第五章 總結 圖目錄 圖 1 旋轉軸唇型油封實際成品圖[1] 3 圖 2 唇型油封基本組成圖示 4 圖 3 油封型式與種類示意圖[2] 6 圖 4 油封唇下形成迴油現象示意圖[1] 8 圖 5 油封唇部磨合軌跡示意圖[8] 11 圖 6 渦流模型示意圖[12] 12 圖 7 不同軸向接觸壓力圖示[4] 12 圖 8 不同軸向平均油膜厚度圖示[4] 13 圖 9 油膜點分佈圖形 17 圖 10 油膜微波動圖形 18 圖 11 三維動態油膜流場分佈圖示 18 圖 12 迴轉測試機圖示[1] 21 圖 13 迴轉測試機區域圖示[1] 21 圖 14 三維簡化數值網格模型配置圖 22 圖 15 三維全尺寸網格模型配置圖 23 圖 16 全尺寸模型視圖~軸徑36mm 23 圖 17 TCL 36*52*10工程規格圖 25 圖 18 FEA應力分析圖 26 圖 19 唇部徑向力分佈 27 圖 20 唇部徑向應力分佈 27 圖 21 數值簡化網格模型尺寸示意圖 29 圖 22 不同模型網格數與迴油率關係圖 31 圖 23 不同轉速下全尺寸網格之迴油率比較圖 33 圖 24 模擬與測試實驗結果 36 圖 25 壓力差與迴油率關係圖 38 圖 26 軸旋轉方向 40 圖 27 2000rpm轉速下之油膜壓力分佈圖 40 圖 28 3000rpm轉速下之油膜壓力分佈圖 44 圖 29 4000rpm轉速下之油膜壓力分佈圖 44 圖 30 5000rpm轉速下之油膜壓力分佈圖 44 圖 31 6000rpm轉速下之油膜壓力分佈圖 45 圖 32 低轉速與高轉速下之油膜厚度分佈圖 45 圖 33 簡化油封模型切面流線分佈圖 45 圖 34 空氣側流場速度向量圖 45 圖 35 油膜流場速度向量圖 45 圖 36 油側流場速度向量圖 51 圖 37 不同轉速下油膜變化圖 52 圖 38 不同唇型輪廓 數值比較 53 圖 39 不同微波動振幅 數值比較 54 圖 40 不同位置之轉速與迴油率關係圖 53 圖 41 不同值之轉速與迴油率關係圖 53 圖 42 兩組參數比較結果圖 54 圖 43 不同波長於4000RPM轉速下之迴油率結果 56	

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