Sliding Friction Contact Stiffness Model of Involute Arc Cylindrical Gear Based on Fractal Theory

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Abstract

Gear’s normal contact stiffness played an important role in the mechanical equipment. In this paper, the M-B fractal model is modified and the contact surface coefficient is put forward to set up the fractal model, considering the influence of friction, which could be used to calculate accurately the involute arc cylindrical gears’ normal contact stiffness based on the fractal theory and Hertz theory. The contact surface coefficient is an exponential function of the load, radius of curvature and tooth line radius. The simulation results validate the reasonability of the contact surface coefficient and correctness of the fractal model. The contact surfaced coefficient increases with the increase of the load, radius of curvature and tooth line radius; the normal contact stiffness increases with the increase of material properties parameters, radius of the gear, load and fractal dimension (when fractal dimension is greater than 1.85, the normal contact stiffness decreases). Meanwhile, the normal contact stiffness increases with the decrease of roughness and decreases exponentially or linearly with the increase of friction coefficient. Research results are the foundation of the further analysis of arc gear contact problems.

Keywords:
Fractal Theory
Involute Arc Cylindrical Gear
Numerical Simulation

Nomenclature

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1. INTRODUCTION

The buckling or chatter vibration might happen because of lack of stiffness in engineering, machinery, bridges, buildings, vehicles and ships. So enough structure stiffness is required in the design. A lot of works on the dynamic characteristics of machine have been done by many researchers for a long time [1-4]. The traditional ways of calculating the normal contact stiffness of involute arc cylindrical gear (called arc gear) were finite element analysis and Hertz theory, which used to make use of geometric parameters, material parameters and boundary conditions etc. However, consideration of microcosmic characteristics was inadequate. The fractal theory was a new scientific method, and a series of fractal models of contact stiffness and contact mechanics were developed, one of the most typical models was M-B fractal model [5]. Simulation analysis showed the influence of microcosmic parameters on fractal model, Wen Shuhua et al. [6] established the stiffness fractal model for fixed joint interfaces and gave a method to calculate fractal parameters. Wei Long et al. [7] established the sliding friction surface contact mechanics model and discussed the influence of
different factors on $A$, when $f=0.1, \phi=0.01$. He also gave the relation between the pressure and contact area using a cubic polynomial in the elastic-plastic stage. Shuyun et al. [8] established a contact stiffness model of machined plane to study the contact between planes machined by different methods. However, all above models paid less attention to macro properties of contact surfaces, such as geometry of contact bodies and contact ways. The model was established mainly for the contact properties analyses of two planes, which was not suitable for cylinder surfaces’ analyses. Hence, Zhao Han et al. [9] modified and expanded the fractal model and set up the normal stiffness model of two cylinder bodies. With the new model, he discussed the influence of different factors on tangential contact stiffness between cylinders’ joint interface where $R = 100 \text{ mm}, R_0 = 60 \text{ mm}$. However, he ignored the friction factor, which had nonlinear vibration properties. Therefore, Li Xiaopeng et al. [10, 11] set up the fractal model of cylinder bodies, which paid more attention to friction. In his paper, $f$ ranged from 0 to 0.8. At present, the study about the arc gear is mostly based on the finite element analysis and Hertz theory [12-15]. Finite element analysis is based on the 3-D model. However, there is usually no 3-D model in the design, it is possible to lead to rework by choosing experimentally parameters. On the other hand, as for Hertz theory, the gear strength design parameters couldn’t be chosen from related graphic of straight gear and helical gear; but fractal model could solve related problems. Therefore, it is necessary to study joint surface of arc gear by fractal model.

In this paper, the fractal model of normal contact stiffness between two arc gears’ joint surfaces is established by combination of macro and micro perspective based on the Hertz theory and fractal model, considering the influence of friction. The influence of relevant parameters on the normal contact stiffness is revealed with numerical simulation. Research results are the foundation of the further analysis of arc gear contact problems.

2. DISCUSSION OF ASPERITY DEFORMATION AND LOAD

2.1. Discussion of Asperity Deformation

According to fractal theory, the mechanical surface with fractal characteristics could be described by W-M function [16]:

$$z(x) = G_{D}^{\mu, \nu} \sum \gamma^{(\nu - \mu)k} \cos \left(2\pi\gamma'x\right)$$

(1)

where $z(x)$ is height of asperity profile, $x$ is position coordinate of profile, $D$ is fractal dimension, $G$ is parameter of roughness, $\gamma'$ is a constant and greater than one, $\gamma''$ is spatial frequency of the random profile, $n$ is an ordinal number about the profile structure of the lowest cutoff frequency.

In Figure 1, $\rho$ is the top curvature radius of asperity, $l$ is actual interface cross section width after deformation, $l'$ is transverse width of asperity before deformation. The relation between asperity contact area $A'$ and $l'$ is $l' = 2\sqrt{A'/\pi}$. When $-l'/2 < x < l'/2$, the surface profile is cosine wave.

$$z(x) = G_{D}^{\mu, \nu} \cos \frac{\pi x}{l'} \left(-l'/2 < x < l'/2\right)$$

(2)

According to Equation (2), the top curvature radius of asperity $\rho$ is:

$$\rho^{\gamma} \left[1 + (x')^{2}\right]^{2\gamma/\gamma'} = \frac{l''}{\pi G_{\gamma}^{\nu}} = \frac{2^{\gamma} A^{\nu + 1}}{\pi^{\gamma + \nu} G_{\gamma}^{\gamma + \nu}}$$

(3)

Combining Figure 1 and Equation (2), the asperity deformation $\delta$ is:

$$\delta(0) = G_{D}^{\mu, \nu} \delta_{1}^{(\nu - \mu)/\nu} = 2^{\gamma} A^{\nu + 1} \left(\frac{A}{\pi}\right)^{(\nu - \mu)/\nu}$$

(4)

1) The critical elastic deformation of asperity. According to Hertz theory, when asperity deformation is in elastic state, the maximum contact pressure $P_{\text{max}}$ is [16]:

$$P_{\text{max}} = \frac{2E}{\pi \left(\frac{\delta}{\rho}\right)^{2}}$$

(5)

where, $E$ is the general elastic modulus, and $E = \frac{1 - \nu^{2}}{E_1} + \frac{1 - \nu^{2}}{E_2}$, $E_1, E_2$ are elastic modulus of body-1 and body-2; $\nu_1, \nu_2$ are Poisson’s ratio of body-1 and body-2.

Considering the relative sliding friction existing in contact bodies, the critical yield pressure of asperity $P_{\text{cr}}$ is [17]:

$$P_{\text{cr}} = 1.1 K, \sigma,$$
where, $\sigma_y$ is softer material’s yield strength; $K_e$ is the correction factor of sliding friction [18], and

$$K_e = \begin{cases} 1-0.228f & 0 \leq f \leq 0.3 \\ 0.932 \exp[-1.58(f - 0.3)] & 0.3 < f \leq 0.9 \end{cases}$$

is friction factor.

According to reference [17], the relation between real area $A$ and $A'$ is $A = A'/2$ when asperity deformation is in the elastic state. According to Equation (3, 5-6), when the maximum contact pressure $P_{max}$ is equal to the critical yield pressure of asperity $P_c$, the asperity critical elastic deformation $\delta^e_w$ could be obtained, represented as

$$\delta^e_w = \frac{2^{\frac{3}{2}}A'^{\frac{3}{4}}}{\pi^{\frac{3}{2}}G^{\frac{3}{4}}}(11K_e\phi)^{-\frac{2}{3}}$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

where, $\phi$ is material characteristic parameter, and $\phi = \sigma_y / E$.

When the asperity is in the elastic state, combining Equation (4) and the relationship $A = A'/2$, the relation between asperity deformation $\delta$ and real area $A$ is:

$$\delta = \frac{2^{\frac{3}{2}}A'^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\pi^{\frac{3}{2}}G^{\frac{3}{4}}}A^{1/4}(20)^{1/4}$$  \hspace{1cm} (8)

If $\delta = \delta^e_w$, combining Equation (7) and Equation (8), critical contact area in elastic state $A^e_w$ is:

$$A^e_w = \frac{\pi}{8}G^{1/4}(20)^{1/4}(11K_e\phi)^{-1/4}$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

2) The critical plastic deformation of asperity. Deformation style changes with curvature radius. In order to make sure the accuracy of the contact stress analysis, it is necessary to distinguish plastic and elastic-plastic deformation. Assuming $\delta^p_w$ is the full plastic deformation, when the asperity deformation $\delta$ is larger than $\delta^p_w$, asperity is in the elastic-plastic deformation state. Now, $A' = A$ [17].

According to Johnson theory [17], asperity is in the full plastic deformation state when $E'\sqrt{\sigma / \rho} = 60$. $E'\sqrt{\sigma / \rho} = 60$ is a condition to distinguish the plastic deformation and the elastic-plastic deformation. In this paper, combining Equation (3) and Johnson theory, the expression of $A'$ is Equation (10) at critical plastic deformation point.

$$A' = \left\{ \frac{\pi}{60}G^{1/4}E' \right\}^2$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

And $\tau = 2\sqrt{A' / \pi}, A' = A$. According to Equation (10), the critical contact area in full plastic state $A_w$ is:

$$A_w = \frac{\pi}{900}\sqrt[3]{\frac{E'\sigma}{\rho}\frac{1-\nu}{\nu}}$$  \hspace{1cm} (11)

In conclusion, if $A < A_w$, asperity deformation is in the full plastic deformation state; $A_w < A < A^e$, asperity deformation is in the elastic-plastic deformation state; $A > A^e$, asperity deformation is in the elastic deformation state.

2. 2. Relation Between Asperity Load and Contact Area

1) The relation between load and contact area when asperity is in the elastic state. The pressure on the asperity $p_w$ [16] is:

$$p_w = \frac{4E\left(\frac{\delta}{\rho}\right)^2}{3\pi}$$  \hspace{1cm} (12)

And the asperity load $F_e(A)$ is:

$$F_e(A) = p_wA = \frac{A^{(1-\nu)\frac{1}{2}}}{(1-\nu)}E G^{\frac{1}{2}} A^{1/2}$$  \hspace{1cm} (13)

2) The relation between load and contact area when asperity is in the plastic state. Considering the influence of sliding friction, plastic asperity contact pressure $p_r$ [19] is:

$$p_r = 1.1k_e\sigma$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)

And the asperity load $F_r(A)$ is:

$$F_r(A) = p_rA = 1.1k_e\sigma A$$  \hspace{1cm} (15)

3) The relation between load and contact area when asperity is in the elastic-plastic state. When elastic and plastic deformation exist at the same time, the relation between contact area and contact loading becomes quite complex. However, the pressure of two critical deformation points couldn’t mutate, namely the changing of critical points’ contact pressure and deformation should be continuous. According to reference [20], when asperity is in the elastic-plastic state, the relation between load and contact area could be expressed as a polynomial function, where elastic-plastic deformation of the contact area ranges from $A_w$ to $A_w$. The elastic-plastic deformation asperity contact pressure’s $p_w$ boundary condition is defined as:

When $A = A_w \Rightarrow p_w = p_w, \ dp_w / \ dw = dp / dw$

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According to Hermite interpolation method, the expression for \( p_x \) in terms of \( A \) is a cubic polynomial function. Taking a sample function for a cubic polynomial, \( y = 3x^3 - 2x^2 \). The function increases monotonously in the interval \([0, 1]\), and the boundary values are \( x = 0, y = 0 \) and \( x = 1, y = 1 \).

Assuming \( x = \frac{A-A_s}{A_s-A_p} \), \( A = A_p \) and \( A = A_s \) are respectively corresponding with \( x = 0 \) and \( x = 1 \).

According to the cubic polynomial, the elastic-plastic deformation contact pressure \( p_x \) is:

\[
p_x = p_x - (p_x - p_{pc}) \left[ 3 \left( \frac{A-A_s}{A_s-A_p} \right)^2 - 2 \left( \frac{A-A_s}{A_s-A_p} \right) \right] A
\]

\[
F_{pc}(A) = p_{pc}A = 1.1K_x \sigma_f (1 - 0.1K_x \sigma_f) - \frac{2(20.27/1.1)^{2/3} - 1}{3} \left( \frac{A_s-A_s}{A_s-A_p} \right) \left( \frac{A-A_s}{A_s-A_p} \right) \right] A
\]

3. FRACTAL MODEL OF INVOLUTE ARC CYLINDRICAL GEAR

According to fractal theory, distribution function of asperity \( n(A) \) was represented as [7]:

\[
n(A) = \frac{D}{2} \psi^{(\psi-1)} A \psi^{(\psi-1)}
\]

\[
\psi = \frac{(2-D)/D}{1+\psi^{(\psi-1)}} = 1
\]

where, \( \psi \) is fractal region expansion coefficient; \( A \) is asperity contact area; \( A_0 \) is asperity maximum contact area; \( A_{\text{real}} \) is real area of sliding friction surface.

This distribution function applies to two planes. Obviously, when the contact faces were curved surface, quantity of asperities \( N \) would change. In theory, quantity of asperities increase with the increase of contact area, but \( N \) is always less than \( n(A) \). Therefore, the form of contact faces has influence on quantity of asperities.

3.1. Modification of Distribution Function

Arc gear is a new kind of gear, and its model which is modeled by UG software is showed in Figure 2. The following two are its main characteristics: tooth trace is part of the arc; tooth profile curve is involute spur.

1) According to reference [15], touch strength of gear is always calculated at gear node. The integrative curvature radius of arc gear \( \rho_s \) is

\[
\rho_s = \frac{\rho_{pc\alpha} \rho_{pc\beta}}{\rho_{pc\alpha} + \rho_{pc\beta}} = \frac{d_1' \sin \alpha_\nu}{2(\cos \beta_\nu)}
\]

where, \( \alpha_\nu \) is pressure angle of reference circle end face; \( \rho_{pc\alpha}, \rho_{pc\beta} \) are the normal curvature radius of node, \( \rho_{pc\alpha} = d_1' \sin \alpha_\nu \); \( \rho_{pc\beta} = \frac{d_1' \sin \alpha_\nu}{2 \cos \beta_\nu} \); \( d_1', d_1' \) are pitch circle diameter; \( \beta_\nu \) is tooth trace angle.

2) Arc gear could be divided into width-infinitesimal gear along the direction of gear width. The total length of contact line is the sum of the contact line of divided gears, so the total length of contact line \( L \) is

\[
L = \frac{2R_t e \arccos B \cos 20'}{2R_t}
\]

where, \( R_t \) is tooth trace radius; \( e \) is transverse contact ratio, \( e = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[ \frac{1}{2\pi} (\tan \alpha_i - \tan \alpha_j) + \frac{1}{2\pi} (\tan \alpha_i - \tan \alpha_j) \right] \); \( \alpha_i, \alpha_j \) are number of teeth, \( \alpha_{i1}, \alpha_{i2} \) are addendum circle angle; \( B \) is gear width.

3) Assuming that two contact bodies are uniform in texture and isotropic, the quantities of asperities on the contact faces satisfy the following relation

\[
n'(A) = \lambda n(A)
\]

where, \( \lambda \) is impact factor of contact nodes, called contact surface coefficient.

Because the quantities of asperities on contact faces satisfy exponential function, assuming that contact surface coefficient is an exponential function, \( \lambda \) was represented as:

\[
\lambda = \left( \frac{A}{s} \right)^{s/2}
\]

where, \( s \) is theoretical contact area of deformation.

Figure 2. Involute arc cylindrical gear
section; \( \sum s \) is the sum of two contact bodies’ (cylinder) surface area; \( x \) is integrative curvature radius of arc gear, \( x = \rho_s \); \( c \) is coefficient, \( c = 1/2 \).

According to the Hertz theory, geometrical shape of deformed section is rectangle. \( s \) is the product of deformed width of contact section \( 4 \left( \frac{F \rho_s}{\pi E} \right)^{1/2} \) and the length of contact section \( L \) (length of contact line), represented as:

\[
s = 4L \left( \frac{F \rho_s}{\pi E} \right)^{1/2}
\]

(23)

where, \( F \) is unit line load.

The contact of the gear could be regarded as the contact of the two deformed cylinders showed in Figure 3. The radius of two cylinders is respectively the normal curvature radius of node \( \rho_{a1}, \rho_{a2} \). Therefore, the contact area \( \sum s \) represented as:

\[
\sum s = 2\pi (\rho_{a1} + \rho_{a2}) L
\]

(24)

According to the Equations (19)-(20) and Equations (22)-(24), Equation (22) can be rewritten as:

\[
\lambda = \left[ \frac{8F \rho_s \tan \alpha}{\pi E \left( d_1 + d_2 \right) \sin \alpha} \left( \frac{d_1 d_2 \sin \beta_2}{\rho_{d1} \rho_{d2} \sin \alpha} \right)^{1/2} \right]^{2/3}
\]

(25)

where, \( d_1, d_2 \) are reference circle, and \( d_1 = d'_1, d_2 = d'_2 \) (standard installation) Assuming that \( F=1000 \) N, \( B=35 \) mm, \( R_s=50 \) mm, \( E=2 \times 10^1 \) Pa, \( d_1=125 \) mm and \( d_2 \) could be changed; Figure 4 (a) could be obtained. It revealed that \( \lambda \) was always less than 1. It meant that \( \lambda \) satisfied assumption, quantities of asperities on contact faces were always less than \( n(A) \). When \( d_1 \) approached 0, \( \lambda \) approached 0; \( d_2 \) was approached infinite, \( \lambda \) approached 1 but it was always less than 1, now, which was equivalent to contact between cylindrical surface and plane, but it was still different from M-B model, so \( \lambda \) must be theoretically less than 1.

Changing \( F \), and ensuring other conditions to be fixed, Figure 4 (b) could be obtained. When \( F \) approached 0, \( \lambda \) was minimum, not equal to 0, there was no contact stress, but there was contact, so \( \lambda \) wasn’t equal to 0. With the increase of \( F \), \( \lambda \) increased within a narrow range, and was always less than 1. Because the asperity always existed on contact faces, complete contact was impossible. The changing trend of \( \lambda \) with \( R_s \) was showed in the Figure 4 (c), \( \lambda \) increased with the increase of \( R_s \), \( R_s \) was tending to be infinite, \( \lambda \) was always less than 1, it agreed to limit of \( \lambda \). In conclusion, the choice about \( \lambda \) is reasonable.

Based on the reasonable analysis of \( \lambda \), the new distribution function was put forward in this paper, represented as:

\[
n'(A) = \frac{D}{2} \frac{c \rho_s}{\pi} \left( \frac{d_1 d_2 \sin \alpha \cos \beta_2}{\rho_{d1} \rho_{d2} \sin \alpha} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{1}{A} \right)^{2d_2/3} \left( \frac{1}{A} \right)^{2d_1/3}
\]

(26)
3.2. Arc Gear Normal Contact Stiffness According to reference [21], the asperity normal stiffness of joint surface $k_\alpha$ is

$$k_\alpha = 2E (A/\pi)^{3/2}$$

(27)

The normal stiffness of joint surface $K_s$ is

$$K_s = \int k_n(A)dA$$

(28)

The asperity deformation has elastic stage, elastic-plastic stage and plastic stage. However, each asperity deformation is just one of three deformations. The normal stiffness represents the ability of resisting plastic deformation. According to reference [10], in the elastic-plastic stage, stress decreases, deformation increases, and elastic modulus decreases, so elastic modulus $E' = 0.9E$. There exists no stiffness in the plastic stage. So, the normal stiffness of joint surface $K_s$ can be rewritten as:

$$K_s = \int k_n(A)dA + \int k_n'(A)dA = \\
\frac{2D}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( \frac{2 - D}{D} \right)^{1/2} \psi^{(2-2)/4} A_{n+1/2}^{(1/2)} \times \\
- \left( \frac{2}{D} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{2 - D}{D} \right)^{1/2} \psi^{(2-2)/4} A_{n-1/2}^{(1/2)} \times \\
+ \frac{1.8D}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( \frac{2}{D} \right)^{1/2} \psi^{(2-2)/4} A_{n+1/2}^{(1/2)} \times \\
\left( A_{n+1/2}^{(1/2)} - A_{n-1/2}^{(1/2)} \right)$$

(29)

Equation (29) can be rewritten as dimensionless expression $K_s^*$:

$$K_s^* = \frac{2D}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( \frac{2 - D}{D} \right)^{1/2} \psi^{(2-2)/4} A_{n+1/2}^{(1/2)} \times \\
- \left( \frac{2}{D} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{2 - D}{D} \right)^{1/2} \psi^{(2-2)/4} A_{n-1/2}^{(1/2)} \times \\
+ \frac{1.8D}{\sqrt{\pi}} \left( \frac{2}{D} \right)^{1/2} \psi^{(2-2)/4} A_{n+1/2}^{(1/2)} \times \\
\left( A_{n+1/2}^{(1/2)} - A_{n-1/2}^{(1/2)} \right)$$

(30)

where, $A_s^*$ is dimensionless real contact area, $A_s^* = A_s/A_s$; $A_c^*$ is dimensionless critical elastic deformation area, $A_c^* = A_c/A_s$; $A_p^*$ is dimensionless critical plastic deformation area, $A_p^* = A_p/A_s$; $A_n$ is nominal contact area.

According to the relation among real area, critical elastic deformation area and critical plastic deformation area, the relation between real area and asperity load could be divided into following three situations.

when $A_s \leq A_p$, total load $F_s = \int F_s(A)(n(A)dA$, divided both sides by $A_s$. The total dimensionless load expression of $p^*$ is:

$$p^* = 1.1 \lambda K_k ^\phi A_p^*$$

(31)

when $A_p < A_s < A_n$, total load $F_s = \int F_s(A)(n(A)dA + \int F_s(A)(n(A)dA$, divided both sides by $A_s$. Total dimensionless load expression of $p^*$ is:

$$p^* = 1.1 \lambda K_k ^\phi A_p^* + \lambda H(D) g(D) A_p^* \times (H_s(D) - H_s(D))$$

(32)

where, $g(D) = D(2 - D)^{1/2}$; $F_s(i)$ is bridging function, and $i$ is integer ranging from 1 to 4, $F_s(i) = \frac{2}{2i - D} (A_s^{(2d-D)/2} - A_s^{(2d-D)/2})$; $G^* = G / \sqrt{A_s}$; $A_s = A_s / A_n$. When $A_s \geq A_n$, the total load $F_s = \int F_s(A)(n(A)dA + \int F_s(A)(n(A)dA$, divided both sides by $A_s$. The total dimensionless load expression of $p^*$ is:

When $D \neq 1.5$

$$p^* = \lambda G^{2n-1} \lambda_s (D) A_s^* \left[ \frac{g(D) A_s^*}{\lambda_s A_s^* + A_s^*} \right]$$

(33)
When $D = 1.5$
\[ p^* = \frac{1}{2} \lambda \psi^G G \frac{1}{2} \phi^{A^3 \frac{1}{2}} \ln A^3 \frac{1}{3} \alpha \]
\[ + 1.1 \times 3^2 \lambda \phi \psi^G G \frac{1}{2} \phi^{A^3 \frac{1}{2}} \]
\[ - \frac{3}{4} \lambda \phi \psi^G G \frac{1}{2} \phi^{A^3 \frac{1}{2}} K(D) \times (H(D) - H(D)) \]  
(34)

where
\[ g_0(D) = \frac{2^{D-3D/2} D^{D-1/2} D}{3(3-2D)} (2 - D) \frac{D^{12}}{D^2} \psi^{12-0/14}; \]
\[ g_r(D) = \left( \frac{2 - D}{D^{2-2D/2}} \right)^{D/2} \psi^{12-0/14}; \]
\[ F_r(i) = \frac{\psi}{2i - D} \left( A \psi^{2i-D-1/2} - A \psi^{2i-D-1/2} \right), \]
and $i$ is integer ranging from 1 to 4.

4. PARAMETERS ANALYSES OF ARC GEAR FRACTAL MODEL

4.1. The Influence of Load on the Normal Contact Stiffness
The influence of load on the normal contact stiffness was revealed in Figure 5. Simulation showed that normal contact stiffness increased with the increase of contact load, and the bigger $D$ was, the faster the increase rate was. Because of the contact area $A$, increased with the contact load, which would lead to the increase of resistance capacity to deformation. Therefore, it was beneficial to improve the normal stiffness by increasing the contact load.

4.2. The Influence of Fractal Dimension on the Normal Contact Stiffness
The influence of fractal dimension on the normal contact stiffness was revealed in Figure 6.

Simulation showed that normal contact stiffness increased nonlinearly with the increase of fractal dimension, because the critical deformation area decreased with the increase of fractal dimension, resulting in the increase of quantities of elastic deformation asperity. Stiffness was improved.

Figure 5. Relation curves between stiffness and contact force at different fractal dimensions

However, when $D$ was greater than 1.85, normal contact stiffness decreased with the increase of fractal dimension, because the outline became more and more refined with the increase of fractal dimension, and quantities of plastic and elastic-plastic deformation asperity added. Finally, the stiffness decreases. What’s more, the smaller parameter of roughness was, the bigger rate of increase or decrease was. Therefore, it was beneficial to improve the normal stiffness by increasing reasonably the fractal dimension.

4.3. The Influence of Parameter of Roughness on Stiffness
The influence of parameter of roughness on stiffness was revealed in Figure 7. Simulation showed that normal contact stiffness increased with the decrease of roughness on stiffness, rate of increase was bigger with bigger load and smaller parameter of roughness. Therefore, it was beneficial to improve the normal stiffness by decreasing parameter of roughness.

4.4. The influence of Friction Coefficient on Stiffness
The influence of friction coefficient on stiffness was revealed in Figure 8.

Simulation showed that normal contact stiffness decreased with the increase of friction coefficient. When the friction coefficient was between 0 and 0.3, the normal contact stiffness decreased linearly with the increase of friction coefficient; when the friction coefficient was between 0.3 and 1, the normal contact stiffness decreased exponentially with the increase of friction coefficient.

Figure 6. Relation curves between stiffness and fractal dimension at different characteristic length scales

Figure 7. Relation curves between stiffness and contact force at different roughness
Rate of decrease became smaller with the increase of fractal dimension. Therefore, it was beneficial to improve the normal stiffness by decreasing friction coefficient at bigger fractal dimension.

4.5. The Influence of Material Properties Parameters on Stiffness

The influence of material properties parameters on stiffness was revealed in Figure 9. Simulation showed that normal contact stiffness increased with the increase of material properties parameters. \( \phi = \frac{\sigma_y}{E} \) is softer material’s yield strength. Therefore, it was beneficial to improve the normal stiffness by improving softer material’s yield strength.

4.6. The Influence of Contact Surface Coefficient on Stiffness

The influence of contact surface coefficient on stiffness was revealed in Figure 10. Simulation showed that normal contact stiffness increased with the increase of contact surface coefficient at the same load, but rate of decrease wasn’t big. According to Figure 4, the contact surface coefficient increased with the increase of gear radius and load. Therefore, it was beneficial to improve the normal stiffness by increasing gear radius and load.

5. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the M-B fractal model was modified and the contact surface coefficient was put forward to set up the fractal model, considering the influence of friction, which could be used to calculate accurately normal contact stiffness between two arc gears’ joint interfaces based on the fractal theory and Hertz theory. The simulation results validated the reasonability of the contact surface coefficient and revealed the contact surfaced coefficient increased with the increase of the load, radius of curvature and tooth line radius.

Simulation results showed that the normal contact stiffness increased nonlinearly with the increase of fractal dimension. However, when fractal dimension was greater than 1.85, the normal contact stiffness decreased with the increase of fractal dimension. In addition, the smaller parameter of roughness caused the bigger rate of increase or decrease and the normal contact stiffness increased with the decrease of roughness and increase of material properties parameters, radius of the gear and load. Furthermore, when the friction coefficient was between 0 and 0.3, the
stiffness decreased linearly with the increase of friction coefficient. When the friction coefficient was between 0.3 and 1, the stiffness decreased exponentially with the increase of friction coefficient, and rate of decrease became smaller with the increase of fractal dimension. Many parameters of model were selected empirically in the simulation. It must be careful to calculate the stiffness of actual product by the fractal model of normal contact stiffness, although simulation showed that the model was right in theory. In order to settle the problem, the authors will do test and validate study for the normal contact stiffness in following study.

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Sliding Friction Contact Stiffness Model of Involute Arc Cylindrical Gear Based on Fractal Theory

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