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DETERMINATION OF CRACK RESISTANCE OF A TANK WITH A SEMI-ELLIPTIC CRACK**S.O. Pyskunov¹**,
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The estimation of a stress-strain state of a steel vertical tank with an initial semi-elliptical crack under the action of hydrostatic pressure is performed. The distribution of stress intensity factors along the crack front is obtained. A comparison of the results obtained using of semi-analytic finite element method and of finite elements, being used in different software packages, is made.

Keywords: finite element method (FEM), elliptic crack, stress intensity factor, reservoir.

Introduction. The occurrence of crack-like defects is a common phenomenon in the operation of vertical steel tanks (VST). Such defects can occur both as a result of violation of the manufacture requirements or tank installation procedures, as during operation process. Such defects increase significantly and turn into cracks over the time. According to current regulations, the operation of VST with cracks is prohibited. At the same time, the organization, that operating the tanks, does not have the opportunity to perform repairs immediately often. However, the cases of trouble-free operation of tanks with non-through surface cracks at the stage of their sustainable growth, which are confirmed by model calculations, are known.

The most probable areas of cracks occurrence in tanks are:

- connection area of the wall and the bottom of the tank;
- connections of hatches and other elements;
- vertical welds, especially in the lower part of tank (wall panels in the lower rows), as a zone of maximum internal hydrostatic pressure;
- upper part of tank as the zone of pressure variation as a result of change of tank filling and condensate action.

Among the various crack-like defects the vertically oriented cracks are the most dangerous. Such cracks can have different shapes, but the most common model of them using in the estimated calculations of structures are semi-elliptical cracks. This type of cracks, in particular, is expected to be considered when assessing the bearing capacity of equipped NPPs. Therefore, the semi-elliptical

crack is considered in this work to demonstrate the procedure and possibilities of finite element analysis of the crack resistance of the HRV-5000 tank.

It is well known that the main factor influencing the level of stresses in the tank is the hydrostatic pressure due to filling of the oil product. Therefore, in this work, the crack resistance of the tank was determined precisely under the action of this load. However, it should be noted that the final assessment of the load-bearing capacity of such structures requires taking into account of loads, related to the influence of the external environment, in particular - temperature, wind pressure and others. The initial defect was taken in the form of a semi-elliptical crack located on outside surface of the wall panel of the lower part of tank.

The estimation of the crack resistance requires the calculation of the fracture mechanics parameters [1, 2]. Both direct and energy methods are widely used to solve this problem. Because the tank is a body of rotation it is effectively to use the semi-analytical variant of finite element method (SFEM) for finite element modeling [2, 9]. The procedures of the fracture mechanics parameters calculation and issues of the results reliability in spatial bodies using SFEM are reflected in the works of the authors quite fully [2-8]. Given the assumption of elastic (linear) deformation of the tank, it is advisable to use a stress intensity factor (SIF). The solution of the problem of SIF calculation is performed mainly by numerical methods, among which finite element method (FEM) is the most widespread.

SIF calculation for a semi-elliptical crack in a tank wall. The geometric scheme of the HRV-5000 tank and the initial data are shown in Fig. 1 and in Table 1. Mechanical characteristics of material: $E = 2,1 \cdot 10^5$ MPa, $\nu = 0,3$. The maximum level of filling the tank with petroleum products was accepted 95% of its height.

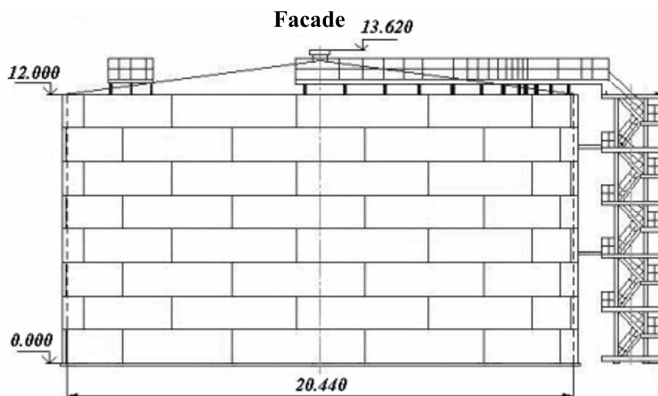


Fig. 1. Steel vertical tank HRV-5000

The stress distribution along the height of the tank, obtained on the basis of FEM when calculating the tank without a crack, at some distance from the

bottom of the tank coincides well to the values of stresses, calculated according to the well known relation of the moment-less shell theory (Fig. 2).

Table 1

Wall height, m	12
Height of panel, m	1.5
Level of oil product filling, m	11.36
Estimated wall thickness (by rows of panels, numbering of rows - from bottom to top), mm	1st row - 8.7 2nd row - 6.7 3rd row - 5.7 4th-8th row - 4.7
Density of oil product, kg/m ³	820

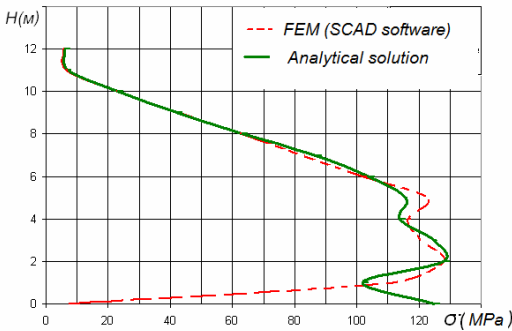


Fig. 2. Stress distribution along the height of the tank wall

The stress distribution along the height of the tank, obtained on the basis of FEM when calculating the tank without a crack, at some distance from the bottom of the tank coincides well to the values of stresses, calculated according to the well known relation of the moment-less shell theory (Fig. 2).

The calculation of the tank in the presence of the initial crack, the location of which is shown in Fig. 3(a) was carried out next. A fragment of the tank wall panels in the lower row is considered as a design scheme (Fig. 3(b)).

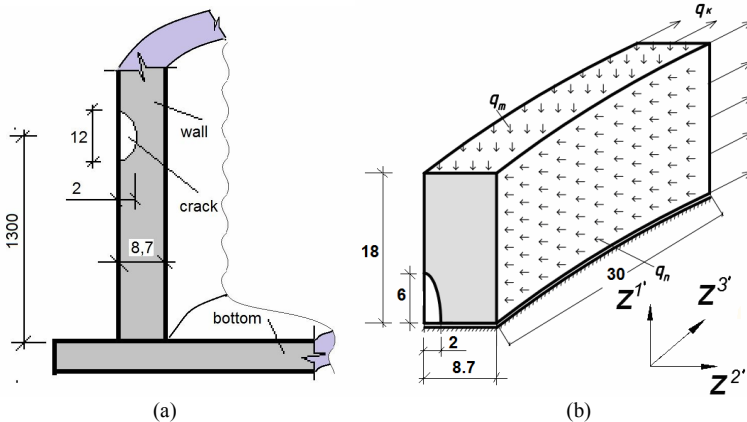


Fig. 3. The location of the crack in the wall of the tank (a) and the calculation scheme of the wall fragment with a crack (b)

In addition to the effective hydrostatic pressure q_n on the inner wall, the fragment was loaded by forces acting in the wall towards the circular and meridian directions (q_k and q_m respectively). The values of these loads were determined using the stress distributions obtained in the calculation of the tank as a whole and acting in the corresponding sections, which are limit the fragment with crack.

The crack modeling was made due to the implementation of the relevant boundary conditions. The surface of the crack located in the plane $z^1 - z^2$ (marked in white in Fig. 3(b)). It is considered free from attachments along z^3 . All other points of the end surface (marked in gray in Fig. 3(b)) are fixed along z^3 .

Fig. 4 shows three-dimensional FEM (a) and semianalytical FEM (SFEM, b) discrete models of a wall fragment of the tank with a crack. The “SCAD” software package was used to obtain and calculate the three-dimensional FEM discrete model. Studies of the results convergence showed that to obtain reliable values of displacements the finite element dimensions along the crack front should be at least 10 times smaller than the crack size along the wall thickness (Fig. 4(a)).

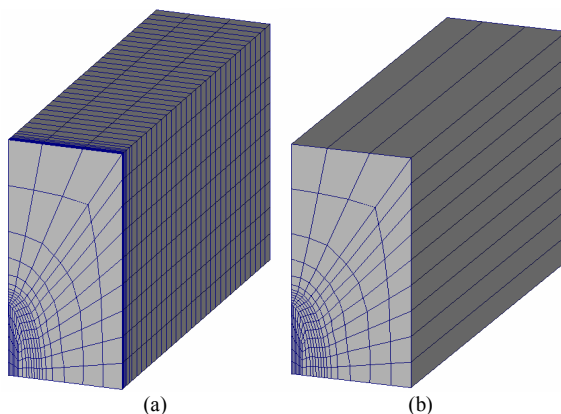


Fig. 4. Discrete models of FEM (a) and SFEM (b)

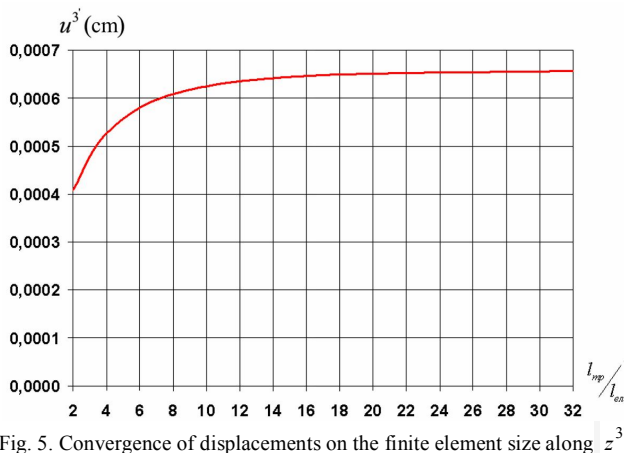


Fig. 5. Convergence of displacements on the finite element size along z^3

The distribution of displacement and stress values along the crack front (Fig. 6 and Fig. 7), obtained with the use of FEM and SFEM coincide with each other, which justifies the results reliability.

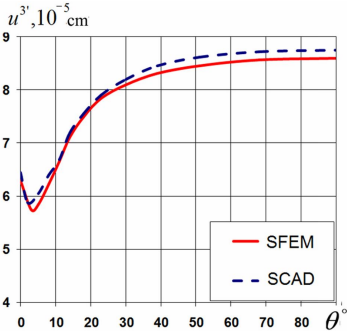


Fig. 6. Distribution of displacements along the crack front

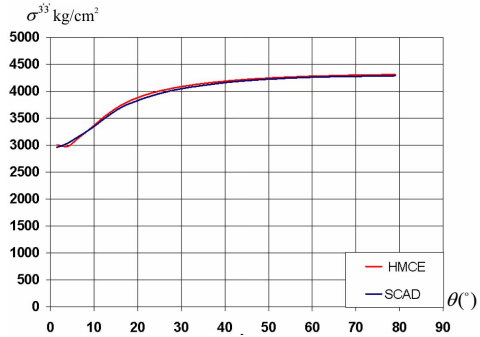


Fig. 7. Stress distribution along the crack front

The obtained SIF values differ along the crack front by 50%. The minimum value of SIF acquires at the point of the front, which is located on the outer surface of the tank. The maximum value of SIF acquires at the point of the front that is furthest from the outer surface.

The obtained results show the uneven distribution of SIF along the crack front, the receipt of which requires the calculation of such problems in the spatial setting.

Determination of SIF by the direct method is performed on the basis of displacements values being calculated in the vicinity of the crack front. Determination of SIF by the energy method is based on the method of reactions. Its effectiveness is confirmed by numerical solutions of test problems [7, 8]. The SIF distribution along the crack front obtained using SFEM by both direct and energy methods almost coincides and agrees well with the values of SIF calculated by the direct method when using three-dimensional FEM (Fig. 8).

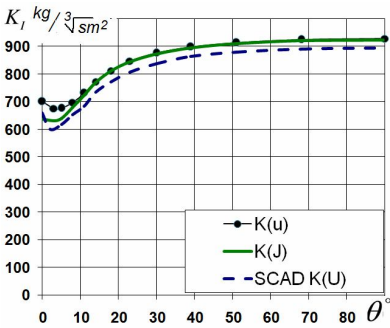


Fig. 8. Distribution of SIF along the crack front

Comparison of the received SIF values with the admissible one, established with regulatory documents, can give the possibility to estimate safety of operation of the tank with a crack.

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ВИЗНАЧЕННЯ ТРИЩИНІСТІЙКОСТІ РЕЗЕРВУАРА З НАПІВЕЛІПТИЧНОЮ ТРИЩИНОЮ

Виникнення тріщиноподібних дефектів є поширеним явищем у процесі експлуатації вертикальних сталених резервуарів (ВСР). Такі дефекти можуть виникати як на початку роботи резервуарів, що може бути пов'язаним із порушенням умов виготовлення або монтажу елементів резервуару, так і в процесі експлуатації. З часом такі дефекти суттєво збільшуються і перетворюються на тріщини. Існуючі норми забороняють експлуатацію ВСР з тріщинами. В той же час в організації, яка експлуатує резервуар, не завжди є можливість одразу виконати ремонт. З практичного досвіду, відомі випадки безаварійної експлуатації резервуарів із не наскрізними поверхневими тріщинами на стадії сталого росту, які підтверджуються модельними розрахунками. В роботі проводиться аналіз тріщинистості резервуара ВСР-5000 з напівеліптичною тріщиною під дією гідростатичного тиску. Рівень заповнення резервуара нафтопродуктами складає 95% від його висоти. Напівеліптична тріщина розташована в панелі нижнього поясу стінки із зовнішньої сторони. Визначення тріщинистості резервуара з тріщиною виконується на основі коефіцієнтів інтенсивності напружень (КІН). Для визначення КІН використано прямий та енергетичні методи. Визначення напружено-деформованого стану виконується на основі напіваналітичного методу скінченних елементів (НМСЕ). Розподіл КІН вздовж фронту тріщини, отриманий прямим та енергетичним методами в НМСЕ добре узгоджується із значеннями КІН, обчисленими при використанні тривимірного МСЕ. Отримані величини КІН відрізняються вздовж фронту

тріщини на 50%. Мінімальні значення КІН набуває в точці фронту, що розташована на зовнішній поверхні резервуара. Максимальне значення КІН набуває в точці фронту, що найбільш віддалена від зовнішньої поверхні. Отримані результати показують нерівномірність розподілу КІН вздовж фронту тріщини, отримання якого вимагає розрахунку таких задач в просторовій постановці.

Ключевые слова: метод скінченних елементів (МКЕ), еліптична тріщина, коефіцієнт інтенсивності напружень, резервуар.

Pyshkunov S.O., Shkryl O.O., Maksymiuk Yu.V.

DETERMINATION OF CRACK RESISTANCE OF A TANK WITH A SEMI-ELLIPTIC CRACK

The occurrence of crack-like defects is a common phenomenon in the operation of vertical steel tanks (VST). Such defects can occur both at the beginning of the operation of the tanks, which may be associated with a violation of the manufacture conditions or the installation procedures of the tank elements and during operation. Over time, such defects increase significantly and turn into cracks. Existing regulations prohibit the operation of VST with cracks. At the same time, the organization that operates the tank does not always have the opportunity to perform repairs immediately. There are cases of trouble-free operation of tanks with non-through surface cracks at the stage of sustainable growth, which are confirmed by model calculations are known from practical experience. The analysis of crack resistance of the VST-5000 tank with a semi-elliptical crack under the action of hydrostatic pressure is carried out in the work. The level of filling the tank with petroleum products is 95% of its height. The semi-elliptical crack is located on outside surface of the wall panel in lower row of cladding. Determination of crack resistance of a tank with a crack is performed on the basis of stress intensity factors (SIF). Direct and energy methods were used to SIF calculation. Determination of the stress-strain state is performed on the basis of the semi-analytical finite element method (SFEM). The SIF distribution along the crack front obtained using SFEM by both direct and energy methods almost coincides and agrees well with the values of SIF calculated by the direct method when using three-dimensional FEM. The obtained values of SIF differ along the crack front by 50%: the minimum value of SIF acquires at the point of the front, which is located on the outer surface of the tank, the maximum one - at the point of the front inside the wall that is furthest from the outer surface. The obtained results show the quite uneven SIF distribution along the crack front, so that the calculation of such problems requires the spatial setting of problem.

Keywords: finite element method (FEM), elliptic crack, stress intensity factor, reservoir.

Пискунов С.О., Шкрыль А.А., Максимюк Ю.В.

ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИЕ ТРЕЩИНОСТОЙКОСТИ РЕЗЕРВУАРА С ПОЛУЭЛЛИПТИЧЕСКОЙ ТРЕЩИНОЙ

Проведена оцінка напружено-деформованого стану резервуара с начальной полуэллиптической трещиной при действии внутреннего гидростатического давления от заполняющей жидкости. Получено распределение коэффициентов интенсивности напряжений вдоль фронта трещины.

Ключевые слова: метод конечных элементов (МКЭ), эллиптическая трещина, коэффициент интенсивности напряжений, резервуар.

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Пискунов С.О., Шкрыль О.О., Максимюк Ю.В. **Визначення тріщиностійкості резервуара з напівеліптичною тріщиною** // Опір матеріалів і теорія споруд: наук.-тех. збірн. – К.: КНУБА, 2021. – Вип. 106. – С. 14-21.

Проведена оцінка напружено-деформованого стану резервуара з початковою напівеліптичною тріщиною при дії гідростатичного тиску. Отриманий розподіл коефіцієнтів інтенсивності напружень вздовж фронту тріщини.

Табл. 1. Іл. 7. Бібліогр. 9 назв.

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Pyskunov S.O., Shkryl O.O., Maksimyuk Yu.V. Determination of crack resistance of a tank with elliptical crack // Strength of Materials and Theory of Structures: Scientific-&Technical collected articles – Kyiv: KNUBA, 2021. – Issue 106. – P. 14-21.

The assessment of the stress-strain state of a reservoir with an initial semi-elliptical crack under the action of hydrostatic pressure has been carried out. The distribution of stress intensity factors along the crack front is obtained.

Tabl. 1. Fig. 7. Ref. 9.

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Пискунов С.О., Шкрыль А.А., Максимюк Ю.В. Определение трещиностойкости резервуара с полуэллиптической трещиной // Сопроотивление материалов и теория сооружений: науч.-тех. сборн. – К.: КНУСА, 2021. – Вып. 106. – С. 14-21.

Проведена оцінка напружено-деформованого станю резервуара с начальной полуэллиптической трещиной при действии гидростатического давления. Получено распределение коэффициентов интенсивности напряжений вдоль фронта трещины.

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