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Evaluation of blank holding force in hydro-mechanical process

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ABSTRACT

In sheet metal forming technology, one of the sheet metal forming process is hydro-mechanical process. In this process the blank is subjected to fluid pressure on its periphery to get high forming limits and also preventing the failure. So there is improvement of deep drawing process for making the cups with utilization of fluid pressure. The contribution of hydraulic pressure to the deep drawing process is positively in several ways. The frictional resistance reduces in the flange due to lubrication of flange and dies radius. In this analysis three different fluids medium are used. Hydro mechanical deep drawing process is a simple non-steady state metal forming process, it is widely used in industry for making seamless shells, cups and boxes of various shapes. It is an important process used for producing cups from sheet metal in large quantities. In deep drawing a sheet metal blank is drawn over a die by a radiuses punch. Amongst the advantages of hydraulic pressure assisted deep drawing techniques, increased depth to diameter ratio's and reduces thickness variations of the cups formed are notable. In addition, the hydraulic pressure is applied on the periphery of the flange of the cup, the drawing being performed in a simultaneous push-pull manner making it possible to achieve higher drawing ratio's than those possible in the conventional deep drawing process. The pressure on the flange is more uniform which makes it easiest to choose the parameters in simulation. The pressure in the die cavity can be controlled very freely and accurately, with the approximate liquid pressure as a function of punch position. The pressure is generated in fluid due to punch movement with in the fluid chamber and directed through the bypass path to the blank periphery and is to reduce tensile stresses acting on the wall of the semi drawn blank. The fluid pressures obtained from numerical analysis software for using the fluids such as olive oil, heavy machine oil and castor oils. The Evaluation of fluids pressure with changing the punch speed at constant punch radius. The pressure of fluid is acting radially on surface of blank during the process. The radial pressure of fluid is controlled by the blank holder pressure. As these two pressures are equal, the deformation of blank is uniform to get a required shape and also it prevents the blank failure during deformation. In this paper blank holding force evaluated and studied.

KEY WORDS: Hydro mechanical forming process, deep drawing, pressure.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In hydro mechanical forming process the pressurized fluid is used as a medium. This pressurized fluid is used to form different component shapes. The process allows manufacturing lighter complex shapes more with increased strength at lower cost compared to more traditional techniques such as stamping, forging, casting or welding. The hydro formed components are used in the aerospace, automotive and other industries[1,2]. In hydro forming deep drawing process, applying the hydraulic pressure in radial direction on the periphery of the blank is obtained through the punch movement with in the fluid chamber. The fluid is taking place in the die cavity and punch chamber and these are connected with the bypass path provided in the die portion. Fluid pressure is the dominant parameter for failure and success of forming of cups from the cylindrical blanks[3,6]. This pressure of fluid is used to evaluate the blank holding pressure. The pressurized fluid is utilized for many purposes as the sheet metal blank is supported in entire forming process, elimination of fracture in deformation of cup and formation of wrinkles on the wall and edges of the cup are minimized. The performance of deep drawing process can be enhanced for producing components through using the liquids in the process. The process performance like draw ratio, thickness ratio, ratio of volume to surface area of product, volume to thickness of product, good surface finish, high quality surface, high accuracy in dimensional, no scratches developed on outer side of cup, limiting drawing ratio, deep drawability and formability index are improved and these are obtained in higher levels[7,10]. The fluid pressure effects on radial, hoop and drawing stresses of blanks in during the process. Hydro forming deep drawing process the pressurized fluid also serves to delays the on set of material failure and reduces the wrinkle formation.

2. EVALUATION OF BLANK HOLDING FORCE

The hydraulic pressure is to be applied on the periphery of the blank in radial direction for successful formation of cup. The fluid is placed in the die cavity and punch chamber, which are connected through bypass path in the die. The gap is provided between the blank holder and die surface for the fluid and blank movement.The punch movement in the fluid chamber produces pressure in the fluid. This pressurized fluid is directed through the bypass path and acts radially on the blank periphery. The blank is supported by pressurized viscous fluid in between blank holder and die surface within the fluid region in the gap and a fluid film is formed on the upper and lower surfaces of blank which reduces frictional resistance. The wrinkling is reduced in the blank due to the support of high pressurized viscous fluid. The radial pressure of fluid , which is produced in hydro forming deep drawing process is due to punch movement within the fluid chamber is equal to blank holder pressure. The hydro mechanical forming process as shown in fig.1.

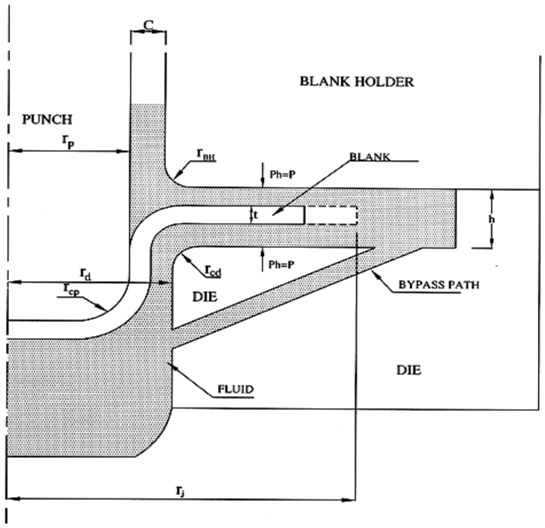

Fig.1 Hydro mechanical forming process

This fluid pressure depends on the punch speed and various process parameters of process. Evaluation of fluids pressure by using Finite element simulation software. Ansys - Flotran CFD analysis is used to study the variation of pressure of fluid with different punch speeds at constant punch radius using three fluids such as castor oil, olive oil and heavy machine oil. This pressure of fluid is used to evaluate the blank holding pressure and force. The element type is fluid 141 element from the Flotran CFD library is selected for meshing. The element is defined by three nodes [triangle] or four nodes [quadrilateral] and by isotropic properties of material. The fluid model is developed in Ansys preprocessing using geometric modeling approach. Using adaptive mesh, a converged mesh is obtained. The total number of elements and nodes in the model are 9206 and 10795. Boundary and loading conditions are $V_x = V_y = 0$ on the boundary and punch velocity, V_y = 10 - 25mm/sec. In this hydro forming deep drawing process the pressure of the fluid is equal to the blank holder pressure is obtained. These blank holder pressure is divided by contacting area of blank holder with blank or fluid contact area is gives the blank holding force.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The variation of fluid pressure and blank holder force per unit area(blank holder pressure) is evaluated with different punch speed at constant punch radius for three different oils such as olive oil, heavy machine oil and castor oil as medium in hydro forming deep drawing process. The parameters considered as punch speed u = 10,15,20 and 25 mm/sec , radius of punch r_p = 35mm and radius of die opening r_d = 40mm. viscosity of olive oil μ = 0.081N–sec/m^2 , viscosity of heavy machine oil μ = 0.453 N–sec/ m^2 and viscosity of castor oil μ =0.985N–sec/ m^2 .The numerical analysis results are presented in fig.2. In this process the pressure of the fluid is equal to the blank holder force per unit area (blank holder pressure). These blank holder pressure is divided by contacting area of blank holder with blank or fluid contact area is gives the blank holding force.

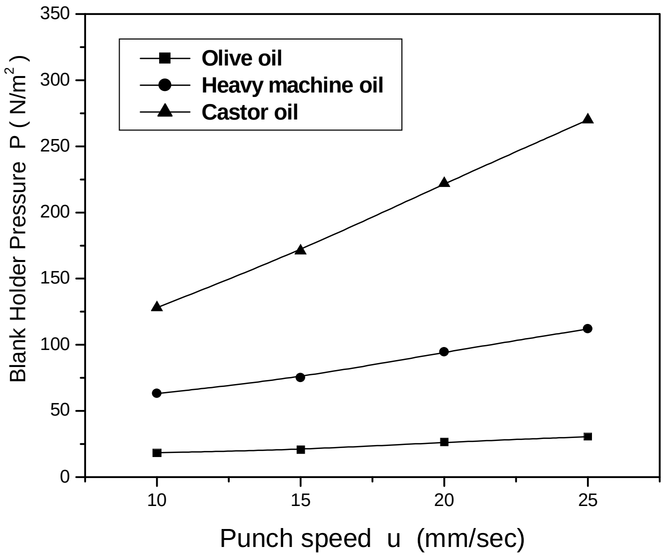

Fig.2 Blank holder force per unit area (Blank holder pressure) for different fluids

From fig.2 the blank holder pressure increases with increase in the punch speed for all three fluids. The high pressures are obtained in castor oil medium and low pressures are obtained in olive oil medium. Also the pressure of oil depends on its viscosity. The range of blank holder force per unit area for castor oil, heavy machine oil and olive oils are 128.5N/m^2 – 270.3 N/m^2 , 63.2 N/m^2 – 112.55 N/m^2 and 18.37 N/m^2 –30.6N/m^2 respectively. The blank holder force per unit area is maximum at u = 25mm/sec for castor oil is 270.3 N/m^2 , heavy machine oil is 112.55 N/m^2 and in olive oil which is 30.6 N/m^2. At u = 10mm/sec, the blank holder force per unit area is least variation is observed for castor oil is 128.5 N/m^2 , heavy machine oil is 63.2 N/m^2 and olive oil is 18.37 N/m^2 .High fluid pressures as well as blank holder force per unit area (blank holder pressure) are found for castor oil medium and least in olive oil medium and within these heavy machine oil is observed.

The induced pressure in the oil is higher with high viscosity oil and the generated pressure in the oil is lower with low viscosity oil. So blank holder force, pressure is required high for high viscosity oil and low for low viscosity oil.

4.CONCLUSIONS

- Blank holder pressure, blank holding force as well as Fluid pressure has been increased with increase in the viscosity of fluid.
- The blank holder pressure and force is evaluated and the fluid pressure is controlled.

- In this process the uniform deformation of blank is obtained to get a required shape and also blank failure is prevented during deformation due to fluid pressure and blank holding pressure being equal.
- The wrinkling is reduced in the blank due to the support of high pressurized viscous fluid with supporting of equal blank holding force.
- Fluid pressure in the process depends on the geometry of process and process parameters.

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