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I declare, I confirm, I certify and I sign that I received substantial, important, line by line peer review with several and substantial comments, important remarks and hints from, at least, 3 Reviewers and the Assistant Editor for my paper: **Numerical Investigation of the Variability of Bolt Forces in a Preloaded Asymmetric Multi-Bolted Connection under Cyclical Loading**

with Author: **Rafał Grzejda**

I would like to thank all the reviewers for their thoughtful comments and efforts towards improving my manuscript. I revised the manuscript with special attention to the comments that I received from 3 reviewers that were experts, specialists in the area of my paper.

I declare, confirm, certify and sign that WSEAS has checked my paper for possible plagiarism by Turnitin and my paper was found without plagiarism or self-plagiarism by Turnitin. I also declare, confirm, certify and sign that also that no Associate-Editor, no Editor-in-Chief, no member of the WSEAS Secretariat forced me in this Journal to add references (citations) to any previous publications of the journal.

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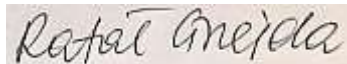
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Signature (insert an image file with scanned signature or print out the whole page, sign and scan)

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to read "Rafat Gneida".

Date:

June 9th, 2023

Prof. Ivan Kazachkov
Editor-in-Chief
WSEAS Transactions on Applied and Theoretical Mechanics

Numerical investigation of the variability of bolt forces in a preloaded asymmetric multi-bolted connection under cyclic loading

Rafał Grzejda

I would like to express my thanks for the opportunity to improve my article and for the Reviewers' comments. Below are my responses to these comments.

Responses to the comments of the Reviewer No. 1

(Substantive changes in the new version of the article referring to the comments of the Reviewer No. 1 have been marked in **green**.)

The citation of sources has been improved in the new version of the article.

I confirm that all citations in the text exist in the reference list and that all articles in the reference list exist in the citations in the text. I also confirm that the in-text citations for tables, equations and figures are correctly linked to the relevant tables, equations and figures.

Information on article funding and conflict of interest has been added at the end of the article.

Responses to the comments of the Reviewer No. 2

(Substantive changes in the new version of the article referring to the comments of the Reviewer No. 2 have been marked in **blue**.)

1. 'The mathematical analysis is missing. The mathematical background should be added.'

Answer:

A mathematical analysis of the results has been added to the article.

2. 'What are the benefits of the authors' analysis? The authors should make clear the benefits of their study.'

Answer:

An analysis of the variability of bolt forces in the multi-bolted connection was carried out both at the preloading step of the connection in a three-pass cycle and after loading with a cyclically varying external force. It was shown that, as a result of applying this force, the bolt forces also change in a cyclical manner, and that this variability depends on the position of the bolt in the asymmetrical bolt arrangement in the connection. This has not yet been shown in other papers, as demonstrated above.

3. 'In the introduction section the authors should explain better the problem and analyze other methods and models. A better classification and a comparative analysis between them would be useful.'

Answer:

The introduction has been completed as recommended by the Reviewer.

4. 'In conclusion, the comment regarding 'In the case under consideration, the reduction of forces in the bolts at the end of the operating process does not result in a loss of load-bearing capacity of the connection.' should be better explained.'

Answer:

An explanation has been added in the text of the article by reference to Table 3.

Responses to the comments of the Reviewer No. 3

(Substantive changes in the new version of the article referring to the comments of the Reviewer No. 3 have been marked in purple.)

1. 'More details about the figure 5 must be incorporated inside the text.'

Answer:

A quantitative analysis of the graphs shown in Figure 5 has been added.

2. 'The authors claim: "However, the observed changes in bolt forces do not result in a loss of load-bearing capacity of the connection." However, this is not so clear. We want more details.'

Answer:

An explanation has been added in the text of the article by reference to Table 3.

3. 'This paper describes the results but little discussion is included, therefore the authors should improve notably the discussion of their results to show the scientific contribution.'

Answer:

The discussion of the results has been expanded.

4. 'The section 3 "Problem Solution" is very poor. The authors must write it better and must extend it.'

Answer:

Section 3 'Problem Solution' has been expanded.

There are also corrections in red in the article to reduce its similarity to other published papers.

I believe that the newly submitted article has been properly corrected and completed. I request to perform a re-review of it.