

ME 355

NOTES ON
FRICTION & WEAR

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FRICTION - WEAR - LUBRICATION



TRIBOLOGY

FRICTION
10 b

WEAR
100 b

ADHESION
(W/O ADHESIVES)
'03

ELECTRICAL
CONTACTS

2 b

LOSS OF USEFULNESS OF
MATERIAL OBJECTS

OBSOLESCENCE
15 %

BREAKAGE
15 %

70 %
SURFACE DETERIO-
RATION

WEAR 55 %

CORROSION
15 %

Adhesive
25 %

Abrasive
20 %

Corrosive
Wear
2 %

Surface
fatigue
8 %

SOME COUNTER-INTUITIVE EXAMPLES

1. FILE VS FILE WITH
LUBRICANT

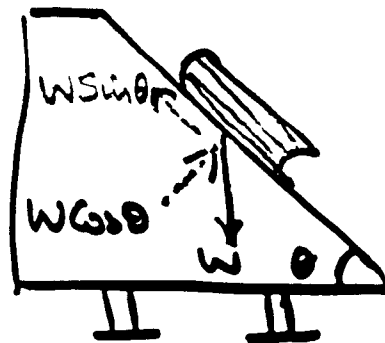
LESS NOISE; LESS WORK DONE
BUT MORE MATERIAL REMOVED!

2. GENERALLY BELIEVED:

HIGHER ROUGHNESS $\Rightarrow$ HIGHER
FRICTION

BUT A VERY SMOOTH SURFACE
MAY HAVE HIGHER FRICTION

TRIBOLOGICAL PROPERTIES



SURFACE INTERACTIONS

THREE MECHANICAL PHENOMENA:

FRICTION : TANGENTIAL FORCE
TRANSMITTED

WEAR : MATERIAL REMOVED

ADHESION: EXTENT OF INTER-
ATOMIC BONDING

MATERIAL PROPERTIES THAT 4 INFLUENCE SURFACE INTERACTIONS

1. VOLUME PROPERTIES:

YIELD STRENGTH

HARDNESS

YOUNG'S MODULUS

SHEAR MODULUS

STORED ELASTIC ENERGY

BRITTLENESS (i.e., PLASTIC DEFORMATION
BEFORE FRACTURE)

THERMAL PROPERTIES (IMPORTANT
IN HIGH SPEED SLIDING)

MATERIAL PROPERTIES, CONT'D.

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2. SURFACE PROPERTIES

• CHEMICAL REACTIVITY

~ Tendency of a surface to acquire a film of different chemical composition (e.g. an oxide film)

• CHEMICAL ADSORPTIVITY

~ tendency to absorb molecules from the environment

• SURFACE ENERGY

~ determines work needed to create fresh surface area

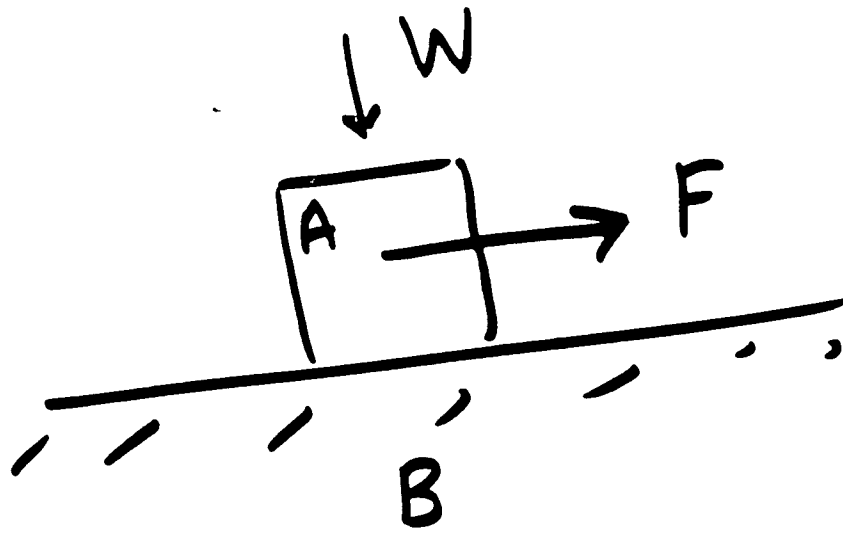
• INTERFACIAL ENERGY

determines the compatibility of

two contacting surfaces.

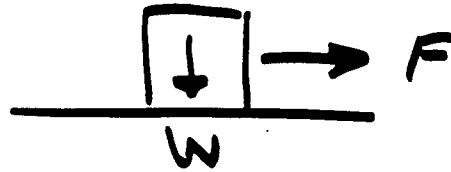
KNOWLEDGE OF INTERFACIAL PHENOMENA IS STILL IMPERFECT!

FRICITION



$$\mu = \frac{F}{W}$$

"LAWS" OF FRICTION



$$\mu = F/W$$

F = FORCE REQ'D TO
INITIATE MOVEMENT

1. μ INDEPENDENT OF LOAD
(AMONTON, 1699)

2. μ INDEPENDENT OF
AREA OF CONTACT
(AMONTON, 1699)

3. μ INDEPENDENT OF SLIDING VELOCITY

COUNTER
INTUITIVE

(COULOMB, 1783)

ROUGHNESS

4. μ INDEPENDENT OF SURFACE A
(MODERN)

- THE COEFFICIENT OF FRICTION
DEPENDS ON MATERIALS IN
CONTACT
AND
CONTAMINANTS AND LUBRICANTS

THEORIES OF FRICTION

COULOMB :

FRICTION DUE EITHER TO
ADHESION (IN WHICH CASE IT
SHOULD DEPEND ON THE AREA OF
CONTACT)

AND/OR

ROUGHNESS (INTERLOCKING OF
ASPERITIES)

(IN WHICH CASE A SMOOTH SURFACE
SHOULD HAVE A LOW μ)

(AND μ SHOULD DEPEND ON THE TOTAL
CONTACT AREA)

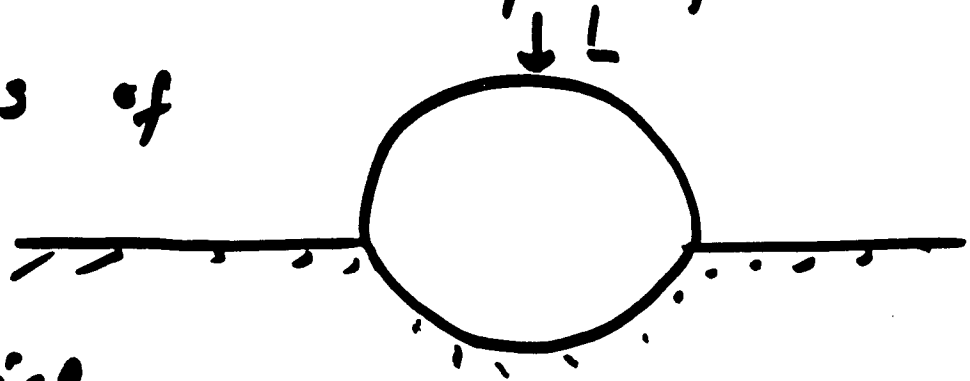
Modern THEORY OF FRICTION:

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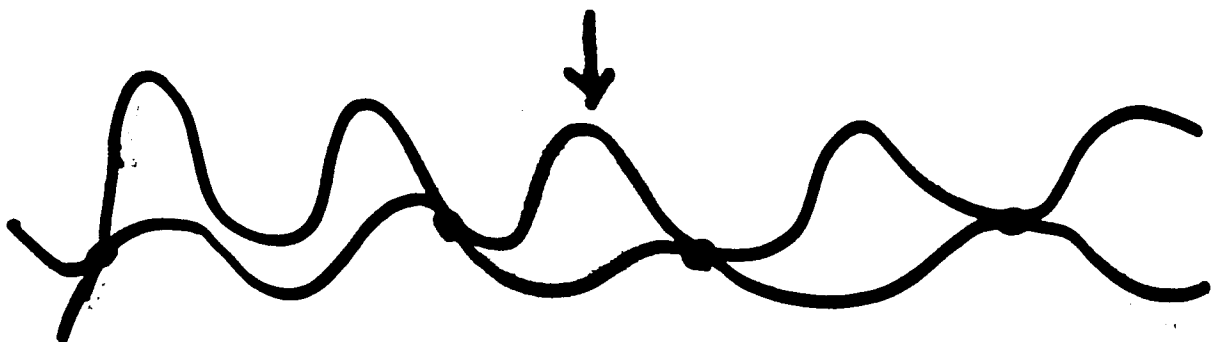
Modified Adhesion theory

draws on the concept of hardness of

a material.



$$\text{hardness } p = \frac{\text{Load}}{\text{Area of Contact}}$$

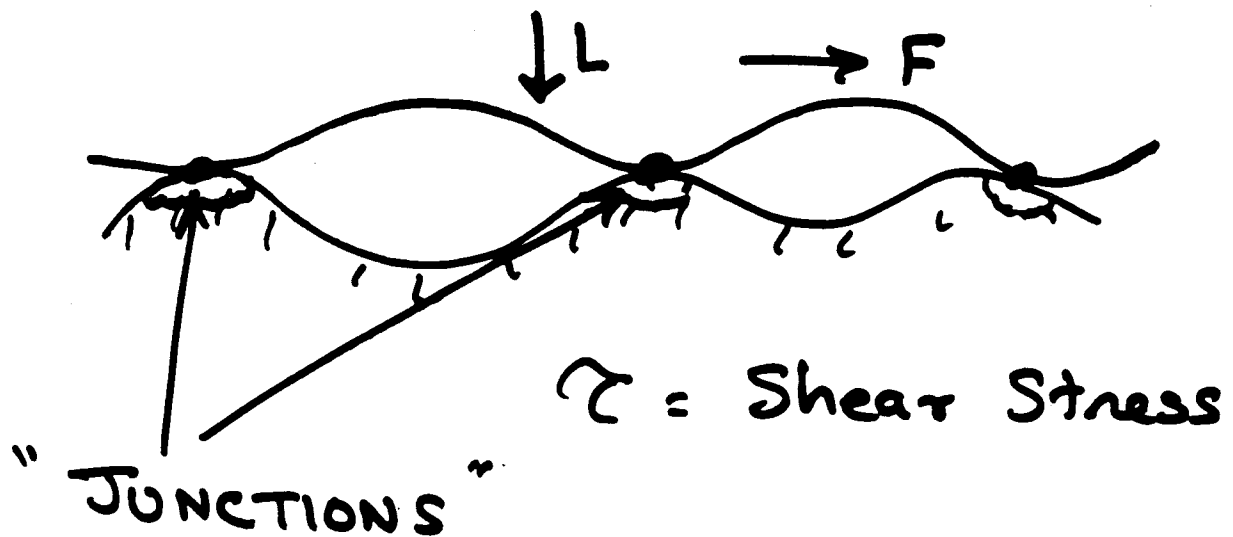


contact occurs at a finite number of "junctions". The load ΔL carried by a junction is $\Delta L = p \cdot \Delta A_r$

$$L = \sum \Delta L, \quad A_r = \sum \Delta A_r$$

MODIFIED ADHESION THEORY OF FRICTION

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CONTACT OCCURS AT
JUNCTIONS

REAL AREA (A_r) IS SAME

$$L = A_r \cdot p$$

$L = \text{Normal Load}$

$p = \text{hardness of the softer material}$

Sliding $\rightarrow$ Shearing of junctions

$$F = A_r \cdot \tau$$

$\uparrow$ Shear Stress

● Then:

$$\mu = \frac{F}{L} = \frac{\tau A_r}{p A_r} = \frac{\tau}{p}$$

Note: μ is independent of A_r !

Consider identical materials
in contact (e.g. Cu on Cu)

$$\tau = \text{Shear Strength} \sim \frac{\sigma_y}{2}$$

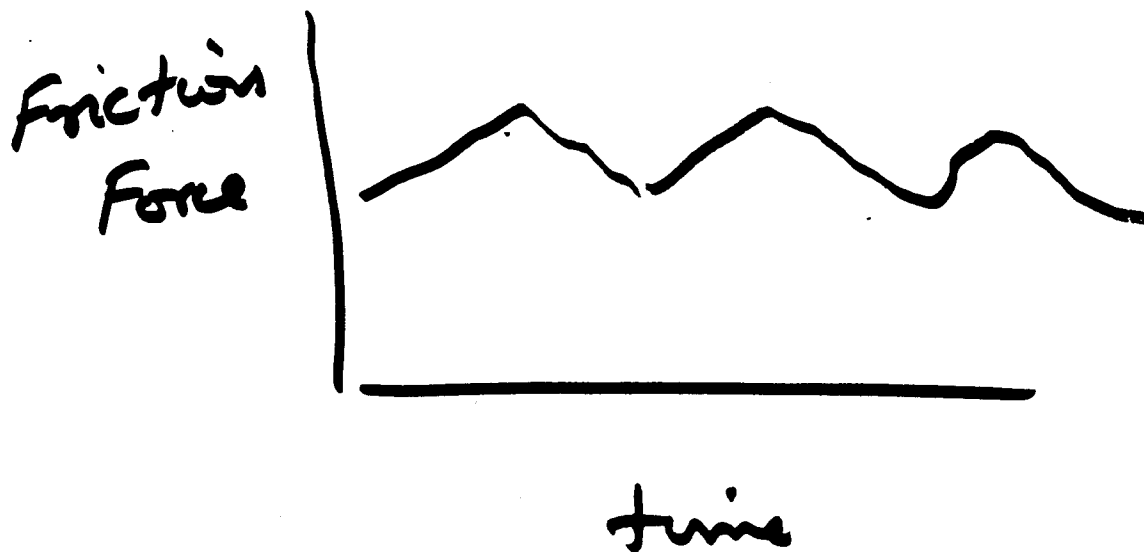
$$p \sim \text{indentation hardness} \\ \sim 3\sigma_y$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu = \frac{1}{6} = 0.17$$

In practice μ is higher than $\frac{1}{6}$.

OTHER FRICTION RELATED PHENOMENA

- STICK - SLIP (e.g. Chatter)



- TEMP. RISE DUE TO FRICTION

Load Vel.

$$\theta = f(\mu, L, V, r, \underbrace{k_1, k_2}_{\text{thermal conductivity}})$$

rad. of
contact

thermal
conductivity

SOME μ VALUES

CONDITION	EXAMPLES	μ
Clean unlubricated	Steel on Ag Leather/Wood Nylon/Steel	.3 - .5
	Cu on Cu Brass on Brass	.8 - 1.5
	Rubber on others	.6 - .9
	Teflon on others	.04 - 0.1
	Graphite on others	.08 - .16

BOUNDARY LUBRICATED

(Covered by liquid lubricant)

ineffective
lubricant

water
gasoline

μ Same as
for
Clean
surfaces

effective
lubricant

Mineral oils
fatty oils

Steel/Steel
Nylon/Steel

.05 - .1

SOLID LUBRICANT

HARD METAL COVERED BY
THIN LAYER OF Soft Metal
or by graphite or Molybdenum
disulphide

$$\mu \sim .06 - .12$$

Hydrodynamic lubrication

A fluid film produced by
Sliding action separates the
Surfaces (Speeds $\gg 10$ ft/min.)

$$\mu .01 - 0.001$$

Hydrostatic lubrication

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fluid film produced by
external pressurization

Separates the surfaces

μ 0.001 to 0.000,001

depending on design parameters

ROLLING CONTACT

pure rolling
Contact

Cylinder over
a plane

.001-
.0001

Normal
rolling Contact
(Some shear)

Commercial
ball bearings

.01-.001

CLEAN METALS in good
vacuum (10^{-6} mm of Hg or better)

μ 3.0 and higher

non-metals under
good vacuum

μ 0.4 to 1.0

In vacuum adhesion
is higher (real area of contact
increases)

MECHANISMS OF WEAR

- "Progressive loss of material from the surface" as a result of sliding against another surface.

WEAR IS

NOT ALWAYS "NEGATIVE":

EG: SAND BLASTING

PENCILS (WRITING!)

POLISHING

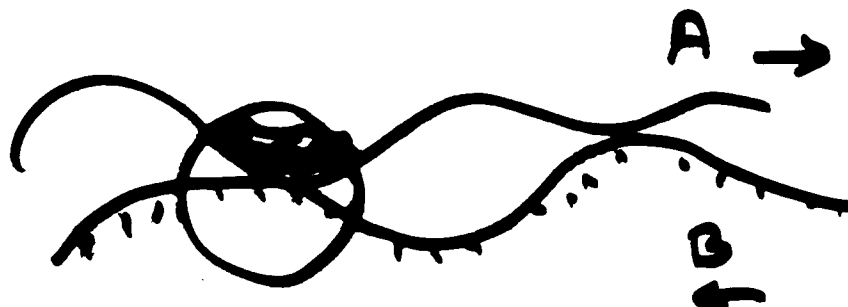
Wear can give a signal for other problems - eg. tires, shoes

Quantity of material usually very small: Radioactive techniques used extensively.

Today precision weighing possible (into $1\mu\text{g}$)

FORMS OF WEAR

1. ADHESIVE WEAR



junction : plastic deformation

particle could shear →
"wear particle"

k = experimental constant

$$V = k \frac{LW}{3p}$$

V = Vol. of material removed

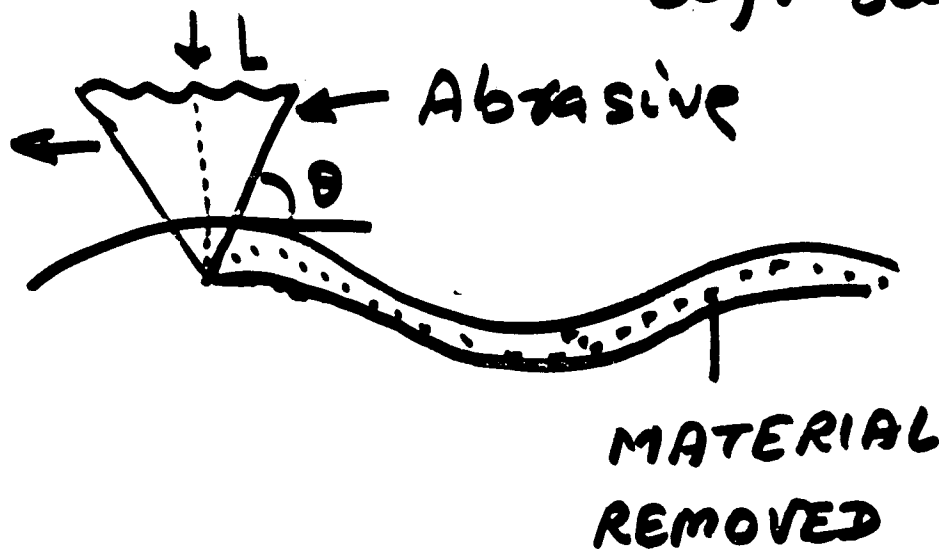
L = Length of travel

W = Normal load

p = Hardness of softer body

2. ABRASIVE WEAR

Hard, Sharpe Surface
Slides on a Soft Surface



(very reproducible wear data)

$$\text{Vol. of Wear } V = \frac{L \tan \theta x}{\pi p}$$

L = Total normal load

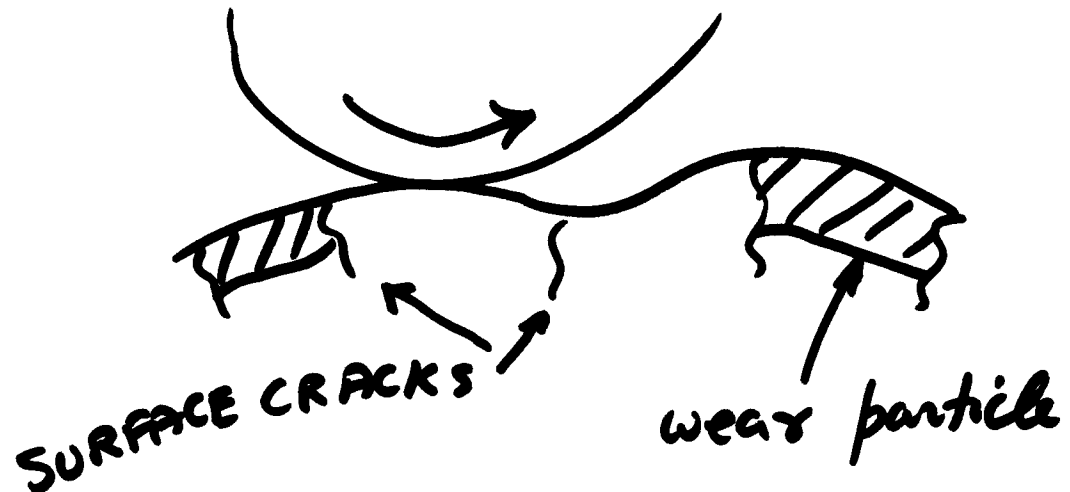
x = distance slid

p = Hardness of softer material

3. CORROSIVE WEAR

chemical attack on surfaces
in toxic environments

4. Surface fatigue and fracture wear



e.g. ball bearings, railroad
gears wheels, etc.

wear is mainly due to surface
fatigue. Rolling contact produces
little adhesive wear