

Evaluation of Lubricant Film Thickness for Ball Bearings 6207 & 6307 with Elliptical & Circular Contact Area

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Abstract - Rolling element bearings are widely used in the industry, aviation, marine and automobiles. Failure of bearing may cause the damage of machineries and also impose threat to the life of human beings. Therefore it is essential to monitor the performance of bearing continuously. The major monitoring techniques used are based on Vibration Signature, Acoustic Emission Measurement, Interferometry, Chemical Analysis of Lubricant, Measurement of Lubricant Film Thickness by various methods (Resistance, Capacitance, Impedance Measurement, etc.). The present work is based on measurement of lubricant film thickness by Resistance Method using Hertz Contact Theory. The contact area between the races and balls plays a vital role for the formation of elastohydrodynamic lubricant film. Formation of elastohydrodynamic lubricant film is the deciding factor for the life of the bearing. To prolong the life it is important to maintain the lubricant film between the ball and races. Aim of this present paper is to calculate the Resistive lubricant film thickness based on elliptical and circular contact area for the deep groove ball bearing 6207 & 6307 for two lubricants, namely A and B. A comparison has also been made for Resistive elastohydrodynamic lubricant film thickness for elliptical and circular contact area. The results indicate that the method used is capable to predict the failure of Rolling Element Bearing. It is also observed that, the developed formula along with inexpensive measuring instruments can be effectively used for online condition monitoring of rolling element bearings with ease.

Keyword-K Rolling element bearing, Elastohydrodynamic lubricant film, Elastohydrodynamic lubricant film thickness, Resistive film thickness (RFT), Hertz contact area, Circular contact area, Elliptical contact area, Elliptical Parameter, Complete elliptical integral of second kind.

I. INTRODUCTION

Lubricant film is maintained between the ball and races of the rolling element bearing when it is in operating condition. Lubricant film depends upon the load and speed of the shaft on which the bearing is mounted. Matharu et. al. [1] have developed a new monitoring technique to measure the Resistive lubricant film thickness of Rolling Element Bearings. The formula developed was based the circular contact area between the ball and race using the Hertz contact theory. According the Hertz contact theory, when the two isotropic, homogeneous, linear elastic solids with smooth surfaces solids are pressed together with a force Q directed normal to the surfaces, an approximately elliptic or circular contact area is formed. In this paper the Resistive lubricant film thickness has been calculated by the analogy given by Matharu et. al.[2] assuming the contact area Elliptical and circular both. Both the contact area has been calculated here for the bearing 6207 & 6307 by Hertz contact theory. Correspondingly the lubricant film thickness has been calculated for lubricants A & B. And the variation of Resistive lubricant film thickness with load and speed is analyzed here. Number of researcher have also developed the techniques to monitor the lubricant film thickness, based on some parameters, by various methods [3]-[5]. Jie Zhang [6] described a lubricant film monitoring system for a conventional deep groove ball bearing using high frequency ultrasonic transducer mounted in a hole drilled on the static outer raceway of the bearing. The film thickness is calculated using the reflection coefficient characterized by lubricant film. Bruce [7] measured the lubricant-film thickness in a rolling element bearing using a piezoelectric thin film transducer to excite and receive ultrasonic signals. High frequency (200 MHz) ultrasound is generated using a piezoelectric aluminum nitride film deposited in the form of a very thin layer onto the outer bearing raceway of a deep groove 6016 ball bearing. The reflection coefficient from the lubricant layer is then measured from within the lubricated contact and the oil-film thickness extracted via a quasi static spring model. The above monitoring methods are

either expensive or some major modification was required on the bearing for proper instrumentation. The present work uses the technique which is simple & inexpensive [1], [2].

II. METHODOLOGY

For a ball bearing, the Resistive lubricant film thickness (RFT) can be estimated by the formula given by Matharu et. al [1], [2] is expressed below.

$$(h_o)_T = \frac{a_1 a_2}{(a_1 + a_2)} \frac{R_T}{\rho}$$

Where,

$$R_T = R_{IR} + R_{OR} , \quad R_{IR} = \frac{\rho h_o}{a_1} , \quad R_{OR} = \frac{\rho h_o}{a_2}$$

The contact area between the inner & outer race with the balls are assuming to be elliptical & circular, which has been calculated by the formula mentioned below.

A. Elliptical Area

The elliptical contact area at inner race and outer race for the calculation of Resistive film thickness can be calculated by Hertz contact theory [8-9]:

$$a_1 = \pi \times a_i \times b_i \quad \& \quad a_2 = \pi \times a_i \times b_i$$

where

$$a_i = \left[\frac{6\varepsilon QR}{\pi k E^*} \right]^{\frac{1}{3}} \quad b_i = \left[\frac{6k^2 \varepsilon QR}{\pi E^*} \right]^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

The parameters involved in the above can be calculated as follows

$$\frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{R_x} + \frac{1}{R_y} , \quad \frac{1}{R_x} = \frac{1}{r_{ax}} + \frac{1}{r_{bx}} \quad \& \quad \frac{1}{R_y} = \frac{1}{r_{ay}} + \frac{1}{r_{by}}$$

$$\varepsilon = 1 + \left(\frac{q_a}{\alpha} \right), \quad q_a = \left(\frac{\pi}{2} \right) - 1, \quad \alpha = \frac{R_y}{R_x} \quad \& \quad k = (\alpha)^{(2/\pi)}$$

$$\frac{2}{E^*} = \frac{1 - \nu_1^2}{E_1} + \frac{1 - \nu_2^2}{E_2}$$

B. Circular Area

The circular contact area at inner race and outer race for the calculation of Resistive film thickness can be calculated by Hertz contact theory [8], [9]:

$$a_{1c} = \pi(a_{ic})^2 \quad \& \quad a_{2c} = \pi(a_{oc})^2$$

where,

$$a_i = \left[\frac{3Qr_{ic}r}{4E^*(r_{ic} + r)} \right]^{1/3} \quad \& \quad a_o = \left[\frac{3Qr_{oc}r}{4E^*(r_{oc} - r)} \right]^{1/3}$$

The parameters involved in the above can be calculated as follows (Matharu et. al (8)):

$$\frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}, \quad \frac{1}{E^*} = \frac{1 - \nu_2^2}{E_1} + \frac{1 - \nu_2^2}{E_2} = k_1 + k_2 \quad \& \quad a = \left[\frac{3QR}{4E^*} \right]^{1/3}$$

In Table 1 useful dimensions are given, which has been used for the calculation of elliptical & circular contact area.

TABLE 1: Useful Dimensions of Bearing for Calculation of Elliptical & Circular Contact Area

BEARING	INNER RACE			OUTER RACE		
	$r = r_{ax} = r_{ay}$ (mm)	$r_i = r_{bx}$ (mm)	r_{by} (mm)	$r = r_{ax} = r_{ay}$ (mm)	$r_o = r_{bx}$ (mm)	r_{by} (mm)
6207	5.75	21	-5.98	5.75	-32.5	-5.98
6307	6.75	22	-7.02	6.75	-35.5	-7.02

On the basis of above formula, different parameter for elliptical area has been calculated for the Bearing 6207 and it is tabulated in the given Table 2.

III. CALCULATION

Calculation for elliptical & circular contact area is done for the bearing 6207 & 6307 and then Resistive lubricant film thickness is calculated for lubricant A & B. The calculation is done for different speed of the bearing. Different parameters for the calculation of Resistive lubricant film thickness assuming the elliptical contact area is tabulated in Table 2.

TABLE 2: Parameters for Calculation of Elliptical Contact Area

PARAMETERS	BEARING 6207		BEARING 6307	
	INNER RACE	OUTER RACE	INNER RACE	OUTER RACE
$1/R_x$	0.22	0.14	0.19	0.12
$1/R_y$	0.0067	0.0067	0.0057	0.0057
R_x	4.51	6.99	5.17	8.33
R_y	149.5	149.5	175.5	175.5
$1/R = (1/R_x) + (1/R_y)$	0.2282	0.1498	0.1993	0.1257
R	4.38	6.67	5.02	7.96
$\alpha = R_y / R_x$	33.12	21.40	33.98	21.06
$k = (\alpha)^{(2/\pi)}$	9.28	7.03	9.44	6.96
$q_a = (\pi/2) - 1$	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57
$\epsilon = 1 + (q_a / \alpha)$	1.02	1.03	1.02	1.03
$E^*(N/mm^2)$	227363	227363	227363	227363

Parameters used for the calculation of circular contact area and Resistive lubricant film thickness is tabulated in the Table 3.

TABLE 3: Parameters for Calculation of Circular Contact Area

PARAMETERS	BEARING 6207	BEARING 6307
D	8.50	13.50
$r = d/2$	4.25	6.75
$r_i = r_{bx}$	20.00	22.00
$r_o = r_{bx}$	-28.50	-35.50
$k_1 = k_2$	0.000004398	0.000004398

Calculations for ball bearing 6207 are being shown below for a single lubricant. Values of parameters for ball bearing 6307 are also calculated similar to the calculations for 6207, which are not shown in the paper.

A. Determination of Elliptical Contact Area for Bearing 6207 with Lubricant A

1) For Inner Race

$$a_i = \left[\frac{6\epsilon QR}{\pi k E^*} \right]^{1/3} = \left[\frac{6 \cdot 1.02 \cdot 4.38 Q}{\pi \cdot 9.28 \cdot 227363} \right]^{1/3} = 0.0159 [Q]^{1/3}$$

$$b_i = \left[\frac{6k^2 \epsilon QR}{\pi E^*} \right]^{1/3} = \left[\frac{6 \cdot 9.28^2 \cdot 1.02 \cdot 4.38 Q}{\pi \cdot 227363} \right]^{1/3} = 0.1478 [Q]^{1/3}$$

$$a_1 = \pi a_i b_i = \pi \cdot 0.0159 \cdot 0.1478 [Q]^{2/3} = 0.0074 [Q]^{2/3}$$

2) For Outer Race

$$a_i = \left[\frac{6\varepsilon QR}{\pi k E^*} \right]^{1/3} = \left[\frac{6 \cdot 1.02 \cdot 6.67 Q}{\pi \cdot 7.03 \cdot 227363} \right]^{1/3} = 0.0202 [Q]^{1/3}$$

$$b_i = \left[\frac{6k^2 \varepsilon QR}{\pi E^*} \right]^{1/3} = \left[\frac{6 \cdot 7.03^2 \cdot 1.02 \cdot 6.67 Q}{\pi \cdot 227363} \right]^{1/3} = 0.1417 [Q]^{1/3}$$

$$a_2 = \pi a_i b_i = \pi \cdot 0.0202 \cdot 0.1417 [Q]^{2/3} = 0.0090 [Q]^{2/3}$$

$$(h_o)_T = \frac{a_1 a_2}{(a_1 + a_2)} \frac{R_T}{\rho} = \frac{0.0074 [Q]^{2/3} \times 0.0090 [Q]^{2/3}}{(0.0074 [Q]^{2/3} + 0.0090 [Q]^{2/3})} \frac{R_T}{\rho} = 0.00405 \frac{Q^{2/3} R_T}{\rho}$$

B. Determination of Circular Contact Area for Bearing 6207 with Lubricant A

1) For Inner Race

$$a_{ic} = \left[\frac{3Q(k_1 + k_2)r_{ic}r}{4(r_{ic} + r)} \right]^{1/3} = \left[\frac{3Q(4.398 \times 10^{-6} + 4.398 \times 10^{-6})21 \times 5.75}{4(21 + 5.75)} \right]^{1/3} = 0.0310 [Q]^{1/3}$$

$$a_1 = \pi(0.0285)^2 [Q]^{2/3} = 0.00302 [Q]^{2/3}$$

2) For Outer Race

$$a_{oc} = \left[\frac{3Q(k_1 + k_2)r_{oc}r}{4(r_{oc} - r)} \right]^{1/3} = \left[\frac{3Q(4.398 \times 10^{-6} + 4.398 \times 10^{-6})32.5 \times 5.75}{4(32.5 - 5.75)} \right]^{1/3} = 0.0359 [Q]^{1/3}$$

$$a_1 = \pi(0.0321)^2 [Q]^{2/3} = 0.00404 [Q]^{2/3}$$

$$(h_o)_T = \frac{a_1 a_2}{(a_1 + a_2)} \frac{R_T}{\rho} = \frac{0.00302 [Q]^{2/3} \times 0.00404 [Q]^{2/3}}{(0.00302 [Q]^{2/3} + 0.00404 [Q]^{2/3})} \frac{R_T}{\rho} = 0.00173 \frac{Q^{2/3} R_T}{\rho}$$

Both circular areas above complies with area determination by Matharu et.al. [2]. Now, the Resistive film thickness for lubricant A & B based on elliptical and circular contact area is given in the Table 4, 5, 6 & 7.

TABLE 4: Resistive Film Thickness Based on Elliptical Contact Area for Bearing 6207

Load (kg)	$a_1 = \pi \times a_i \times b_i$ (mm ²)	$a_2 = \pi \times a_i \times b_i$ (mm ²)	Resistive Film Thickness (RFT) (h _o) _T (Picometer)							
			400 rpm		600 rpm		800 rpm		1000 rpm	
			Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B
4	0.0528	0.0641	69.15011	15.12533	85.44202	16.50454	98.47554	53.09956	115.49154	145.13879
10	0.0973	0.1181	100.70007	21.76383	129.37625	26.08273	140.04646	111.78311	156.05176	230.08691
20	0.1544	0.1875	115.38942	29.84296	141.85488	46.37757	183.14101	138.46058	199.02028	331.22998
30	0.2024	0.2457	140.10545	39.10534	167.84911	50.02665	227.49796	146.90925	252.46725	369.56309
40	0.2452	0.2977	142.83843	37.55677	178.12793	99.01331	248.70692	297.25332	260.47009	504.24235

TABLE 5: Resistive Film Thickness Based on Circular Contact Area for Bearing 6207

Load (kg)	$a_1 = \pi(a_i)^2$ (mm ²)	$a_2 = \pi(a_o)^2$ (mm ²)	Resistive Film Thickness (RFT) (h_o) _T (Picometer)							
			400 rpm		600 rpm		800 rpm		1000 rpm	
			Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B
4	0.02157	0.02886	29.4766	6.4475	36.4214	7.0354	41.9772	22.6348	49.2306	61.8683
10	0.03974	0.05317	42.9254	9.2773	55.1492	11.1183	59.6976	47.6498	66.5202	98.0792
20	0.06308	0.0844	49.1871	12.7212	60.4685	19.7694	78.0675	59.0216	84.8364	141.1934
30	0.08266	0.1106	59.7228	16.6694	71.5490	21.3249	96.9756	62.6230	107.6192	157.5337
40	0.10014	0.13398	60.8877	16.0093	75.9306	42.2064	106.0163	126.7102	111.0306	214.9434

TABLE 6: Resistive Film Thickness Based on Elliptical Contact Area for Bearing 6307

Load (kg)	$a_1 = \pi \times a_i \times b_i$ (mm ²)	$a_2 = \pi \times a_i \times b_i$ (mm ²)	Resistive Film Thickness (RFT) (h_o) _T (Picometer)							
			400 rpm		600 rpm		800 rpm		1000 rpm	
			Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B
4	0.0625	0.0773	82.48905	18.04298	101.92364	19.68824	117.47132	63.34238	137.76967	173.1358
10	0.1151	0.1424	120.1249	25.96204	154.33272	31.11404	167.06119	176.9863	186.15390	274.4703
20	0.1827	0.2260	137.6478	35.59962	169.21846	55.32373	218.46861	165.1694	237.41098	395.1237
30	0.2394	0.2961	167.1315	46.64870	200.22693	59.67671	271.38196	175.2478	301.16778	539.4018
40	0.2900	0.3587	170.3917	44.80141	212.48852	118.1128	296.68209	354.5930	310.71435	551.8719

TABLE 7: Resistive Film Thickness Based on Circular Contact Area for Bearing 6307

Load (kg)	$a_1 = \pi(a_i)^2$ (mm ²)	$a_2 = \pi(a_o)^2$ (mm ²)	Resistive Film Thickness (RFT) (h_o) _T (Picometer)							
			400 rpm		600 rpm		800 rpm		1000 rpm	
			Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B	Lubricant-A	Lubricant-B
4	0.02538	0.03491	35.08652	7.67454	43.35298	8.37434	49.96614	26.94253	58.60000	73.64291
10	0.04675	0.06431	51.09486	11.04289	65.64505	13.23428	71.05908	75.28073	79.18012	116.7452
20	0.07421	0.10209	58.54818	15.14221	71.97667	23.53182	92.92510	70.25441	100.98219	168.0649
30	0.09724	0.13377	71.08901	19.84191	85.16605	25.38335	115.43166	74.54124	128.10099	229.4332
40	0.11779	0.16206	72.47572	19.05617	90.38148	50.23900	126.19301	150.8252	132.16160	234.7374

IV. GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION

Variation of Resistive lubricant film thickness with load and speed for elliptical and circular contact area is shown in given figure. Here two bearings 6207 & 6307 has been considered for analysis. Film thickness for both of the bearing is analyzed separately.

A. Elliptical Contact

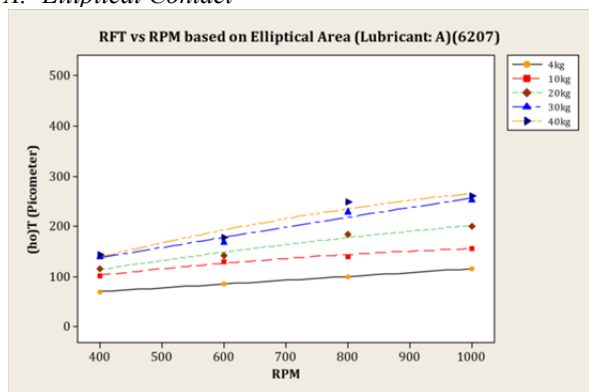


Fig. 1. Variation of Resistive film thickness with speed for bearing (6207) & Lubricant (A) based on elliptical contact area

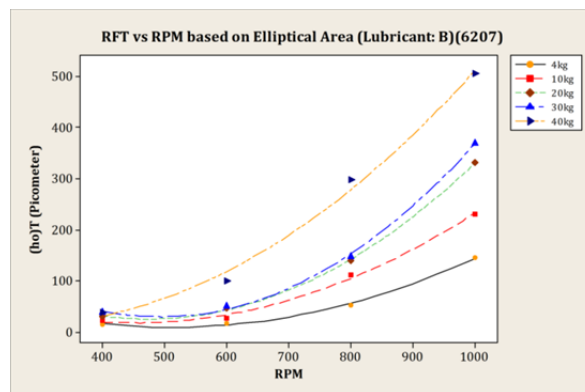


Fig. 2. Variation of Resistive film thickness with speed for bearing (6207) & Lubricant (B) based on elliptical contact area

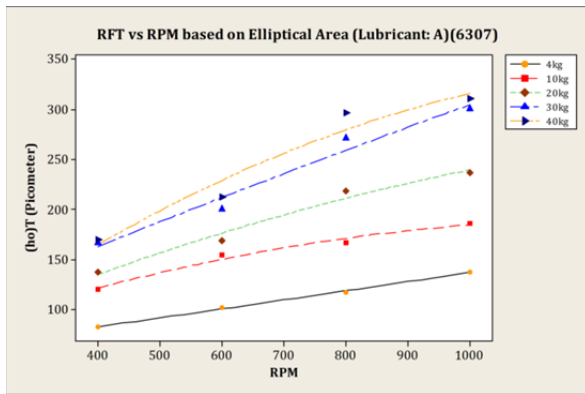


Fig. 3. Variation of Resistive film thickness with speed for bearing (6307) & Lubricant (A) based on elliptical contact area

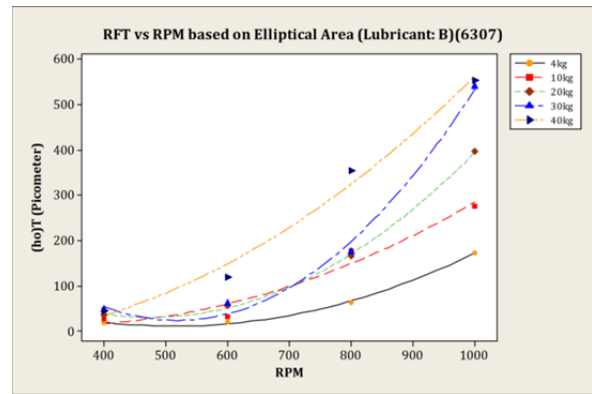


Fig. 4. Variation of Resistive film thickness with speed for bearing (6307) & Lubricant (B) based on elliptical contact area

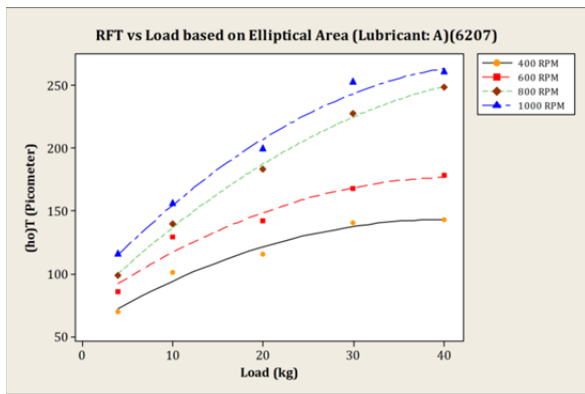


Fig. 5. Variation of Resistive film thickness with load for bearing (6207) & Lubricant (A) based on elliptical contact area

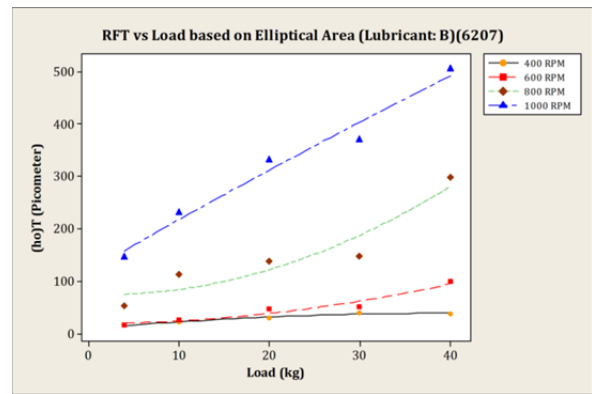


Fig. 6. Variation of Resistive film thickness with load for bearing (6207) & Lubricant (B) based on elliptical contact area

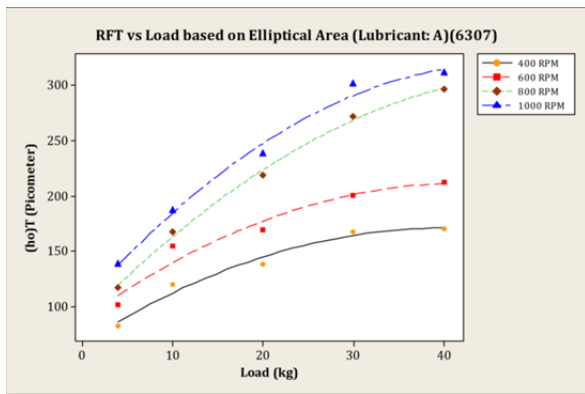


Fig. 7. Variation of Resistive film thickness with load for bearing (6307) & Lubricant (A) based on elliptical contact area

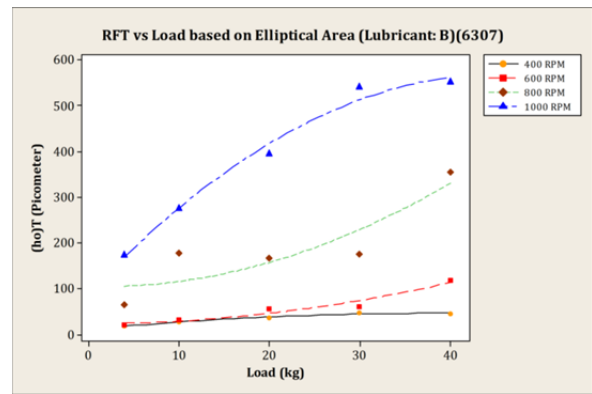


Fig. 8. Variation of Resistive film thickness with load for bearing (6307) & Lubricant (B) based on elliptical contact area

B. Circular Contact

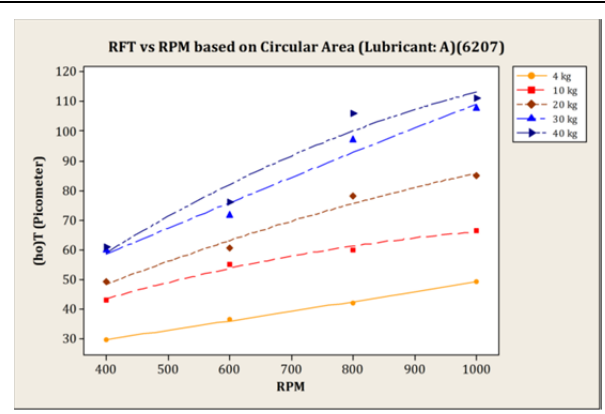


Fig. 9. Variation of Resistive film thickness with speed for bearing (6207) & Lubricant (A) based on circular contact area

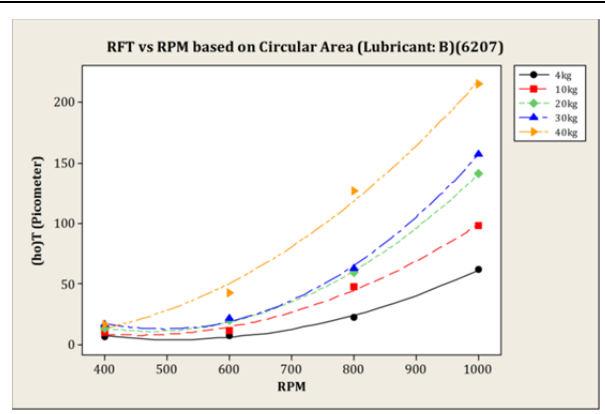


Fig. 10. Variation of Resistive film thickness with speed for bearing (6207) & Lubricant (B) based on circular contact area

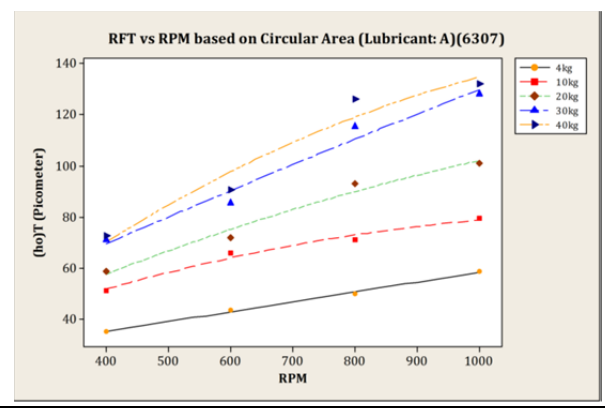


Fig. 11. Variation of Resistive film thickness with speed for bearing (6307) & Lubricant (A) based on circular contact area

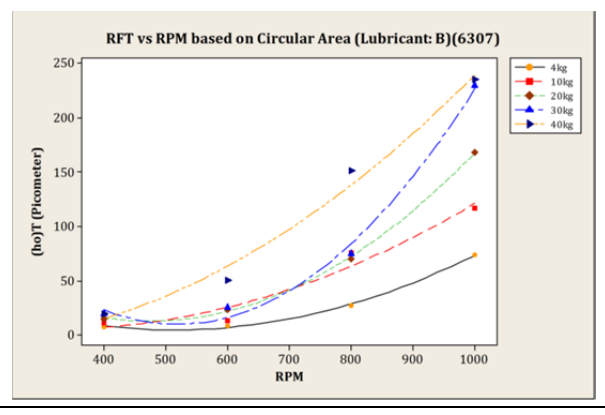


Fig. 12. Variation of Resistive film thickness with speed for bearing (6307) & Lubricant (B) based on circular contact area

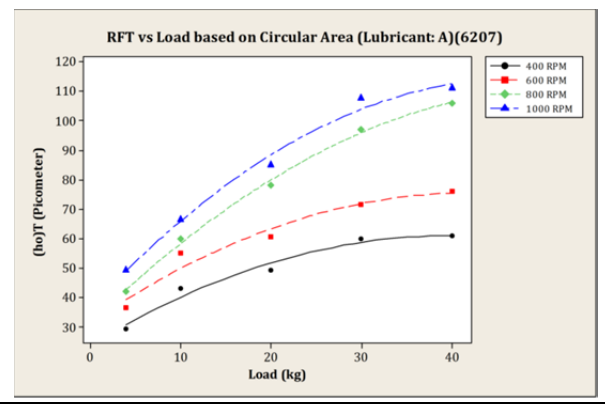


Fig. 13. Variation of Resistive film thickness with load for bearing (6207) & Lubricant (A) based on circular contact area

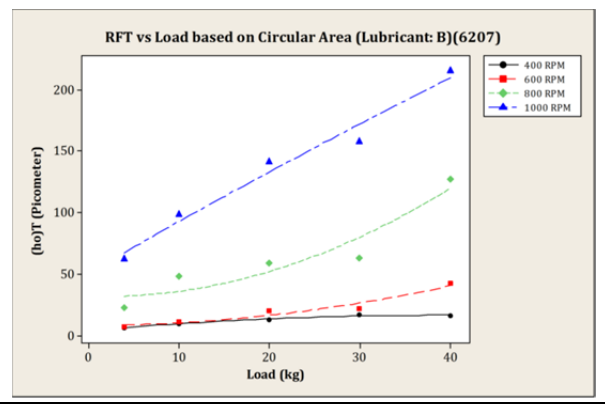


Fig. 14. Variation of Resistive film thickness with load for bearing (6207) & Lubricant (B) based on circular contact area

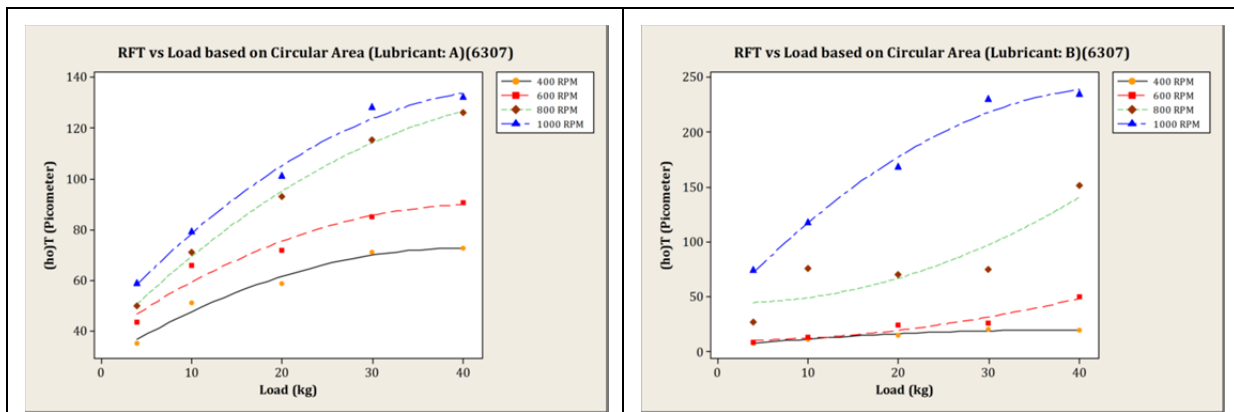


Fig. 15. Variation of Resistive film thickness with load for bearing (6307) & Lubricant (A) based on circular contact area

Fig. 16. Variation of Resistive film thickness with load for bearing (6307) & Lubricant (B) based on circular contact area

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results in the Tables 4, 5, 6 & 7 clearly indicate increase in elliptical as well as circular contact area with increase in load. The both contact areas are more at outer race than at the respective inner race. Figures 1-16 clearly depicts increase in lubricant film thickness increases with increase in load and speed. Mathematical analysis for lubricant film thickness yields more contact area for elliptical contact than circular contact.

VI. CONCLUSION

The lubricant film thickness computed, based on Hertz contact theory, have load and bearing resistance in numerator for elliptical as well as circular contact. Experimentally it is seen that the bearing resistance increases with increase in speed. This means the lubricant film thickness will increase with increase in load and speed. From the outcome of present analysis for elliptical contact, it is found the determined lubricant film thickness is indicative and it is termed as Resistive Lubricant Film Thickness. Use of elliptical contact area, which is the actual contact area, will yield better results than the circular contact area taken earlier in similar work.

The plots show increase in the lubricant film thickness with increase in contact area as well as with increase in lubricant viscosity. This is in-line with classical theory of lubrication. Thus it is concluded that the determined lubricant film thickness for elliptical contact can also be used for online condition monitoring of rolling element bearings successfully.

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Nomenclature

k	- Elliptical parameter
Q	- Load on heaviest loaded ball (N)
a_i	- Radius of contact ellipse in x-direction (mm)
b_i	- Radius of contact ellipse in y-direction (mm)
a_1	- Elliptical Contact Area at inner race (mm ²)
a_2	- Elliptical Contact Area at outer race (mm ²)
a_{1c}	- Circular Contact Area at inner race (mm ²)
a_{2c}	- Circular Contact Area at outer race (mm ²)
α	- Radius ratio
r_{ax}	- Radius of ball wrt x-axis
r_{ay}	- Radius of ball wrt y-axis
r_{bx}	- Radius of race wrt x-axis
r_{by}	- Radius of race wrt y-axis
R_x	- Equivalent radius of ball & race wrt x-axis
R_y	- Equivalent radius of ball & race wrt y-axis
R	- Overall equivalent radius
\mathcal{E}	- Elliptic integral of second kind
α	- Radius ratio
q_a	- Constant
ν_1, ν_2	- Poission's ratio for the material of ball & race ($\nu_1 = \nu_2 = 0.3$)
E^*	- Equivalent modulus of elasticity (N/mm ²)
E_1, E_2	- Modulus of elasticity for the material of ball & race ($E_1 = E_2 = 206900$ N/mm ²)
R_T	- Bearing Resistance (kilo Ω)
R_{IR}	- Resistance between ball and inner race (Ω)
R_{OR}	- Resistance between ball and outer race (Ω)
ρ	- Resistivity of lubricant (Ω -mm)
$(h_o)_T$	- Representative film thickness (mm)

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