

# A Case Study Investigation into the Risk of Fatigue in Synchronous Flywheel Energy Stores and Ramifications for the Design of Inertia Replacement Systems

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## Abstract

Flywheels are an attractive energy storage solution for many reasons; high turnaround efficiencies, long cycling lives and high “ramp-up” power rates have all been noted in the literature. Novel flywheel based hybrid energy storage systems have also been suggested by several authors which, due to the inherent partitioning of power sources in the system architecture, provide capacity for flywheels to deliver/receive energy over a comparatively large range of time scales and loading frequencies. Accommodating grid power fluctuations at the millisecond to second time scale is an ever growing problem that almost all grids undergoing de-carbonisation are facing. Synchronous flywheel energy storage systems have the attractive capability of being able to replace “real” (passively controlled) inertia with “real” inertia in a cheap and very robust manner. Flywheel design at the grid scale warrants careful consideration, as for static energy storage applications (i.e. those not used in transportation) the main driving factor is the reduction of manufacturing and material costs. It is paramount that material is used effectively, i.e. it is sufficiently stressed such that the flywheel is not oversized (and therefore expensive) while simultaneously guarding against the likelihood of catastrophic failure during service. Fatigue has the potential to be a serious life limiting mechanism due to fluctuating rotational speeds, however in depth analysis is lacking in the literature. The present work looks to quantify the severity of fatigue in flywheels which re-establish grid inertia by applying fatigue design methods (such as the rainflow cycle counting method and the generalised strain amplitude methods of Ince and Glinka for fatigue lifing) to loading scenarios that represent grid frequency fluctuations. Importantly flywheels are sized based on different limit stress criteria, thereby enabling differing levels of structural capacity usage between designs. For the realistic design cycles considered in the present work (representative of a large scale grid undergoing normal frequency fluctuations) all projected lives are extremely large, suggesting that fatigue is not a limiting factor and that any of the tested design methodologies is viable. Significant improvements in energy density and cost per unit of energy stored may however be achieved if elastic-perfectly-plastic (Tresca based) design criteria are implemented over simple strictly elastic variants. Neglecting containment costs for simplicity, improvements in energy density of  $\approx 74\%$  and cost per unit of energy stored of  $\approx 290\%$  are demonstrated to be achievable.

**Keywords:** *Fatigue, Flywheel, Inertia, Synchronous Machine.*

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# 36 1 Nomenclature

$A, B, C$	Integration constants (flywheel stress equations)
$b, c$	Fatigue damage accumulation law coefficients
$C_i$	$i^{th}$ kinematic hardening modulus
$\mathbf{C}$	Fourth order elastic stiffness tensor
$E$	Young's modulus
$E_K$	Stored kinetic energy
$f_{Grid}$	Nominal grid frequency
$f_{In}$	Instantaneous grid frequency
$\Delta f$	Change in grid frequency
$g$	Yield function
$H$	Inertia time constant
$J_2$	Second invariant function
$J_{FW}$	Flywheel inertia
$n_j$	$j^{th}$ cycle number
$N_f$	Number of cycles to failure
$\mathcal{N}$	Unit vector normal to the yield surface
$p$	Number of machine poles
$p_a$	Accumulated equivalent plastic strain
$P$	Power to/from electric machine
$P_R$	"Real" inertia contribution to power
$P_S$	"Synthetic" inertia contribution to power
$P_{SM}$	Rated electric machine power
$r$	Radial position coordinate
$R_i$	Internal flywheel radius
$R_o$	External flywheel radius
$\mathbf{S}$	Deviatoric component of Cauchy stress tensor
$t$	Time
$T$	Resultant electric machine torque
$u_z$	Axial displacement
$z$	Axial coordinate
$\gamma_i$	$i^{th}$ kinematic dynamic recovery term
$\Delta\gamma^e$	Elastic shear strain range
$\Delta\gamma^p$	Plastic shear strain range
$\epsilon$	Total strain tensor
$\epsilon_e$	Elastic strain tensor component
$\Delta\epsilon_n^e$	Elastic normal strain range
$\epsilon_p$	Plastic strain tensor component
$\Delta\epsilon_n^p$	Plastic normal strain range
$\Delta\epsilon_{gen}^*$	Generalised strain range
$\epsilon'_f$	Fatigue ductility limit
$\lambda$	Plastic multiplier
$\nu$	Poisson's ratio
$\rho$	Density
$\sigma$	Cauchy stress tensor
$\sigma_{n,max}$	Maximum normal stress component
$\sigma_r$	Radial stress component
$\sigma_y$	Initial yield stress
$\hat{\sigma}_Y$	Design limit stress
$\sigma'_f$	Fatigue strength
$\sigma_\theta$	Hoop stress component
$\hat{\sigma}_\theta$	Maximum allowable hoop stress
$\tau_{max}$	Maximum shear stress

$\tau'_f$	Shear fatigue strength
$\chi$	Back stress tensor
$\omega$	Instantaneous rotational speed
$\omega_D$	Design flywheel rotational speed
$\omega_{SM}$	Synchronous machine speed
$\omega_{FW}$	Instantaneous flywheel speed

## 37 2 Introduction

38 In any energy grid there is a constant need for balance between supply and demand. In future smart  
39 grids, which will no doubt increasingly draw on renewable sources, energy storage will play a vital role  
40 in ensuring an uninterrupted supply [1, 2]. Many time scales are involved in addressing this mismatch,  
41 from milliseconds to the order of weeks or months (diurnal and seasonal variations [3]), and all must  
42 be considered if stable grid is to be achieved [3]. Grid inertia limits the rate of change of frequency  
43 (RoCoF) when a sudden variation in load is encountered [4]. In thermal power plants, the physical  
44 inertia (i.e. that relating to a spinning mass) of a turbine passively controls the rate of change in speed  
45 to the synchronous machine it is coupled to. This action buys time for active control systems to take  
46 effect and stabilise the system frequency by adjusting prime mover inputs (note that this may not be  
47 required for a particular load imbalance scenario).

48 For a rotating mass, RoCoF may be defined as the rate of change of the rotor's rotational speed  
49  $\omega_{SM}$ . For a two pole electric machine equation (1) may be developed, wherein RoCoF ( $d\omega_{SM}/dt$ ) is  
50 expressed in terms of machine torque required a change the rotor speed ( $T$ ), the power required to  
51 change the rotor speed ( $P$ ), and rotor inertia ( $J_{FW}$ ). By considering the energy stored in a rotor and  
52 the power rating of the coupled electric machine ( $P_{SM}$ ) a useful metric,  $H$  (the inertia time constant),  
53 is developed (see equation (2)). Study of  $H$  highlights important nuances relating to grid inertia. It is  
54 clear that the magnitude of an energy store cannot be considered in isolation to the power rating of the  
55 machine (or system) that couples the store to the grid. For inertia, both the scale of energy transactions  
56 (the magnitude of the energy store) and the rates at which these transactions can take place (the power  
57 rating of the machine linking the store to the grid) are important. Values of  $H$  between 2 – 10s are often  
58 reported in the literature [5] for thermal power plants. Assuming 2 pole 500 MW electric machines  
59 and a nominal UK generation frequency of 50 Hz, this would suggest total generation train (including  
60 machine rotors, exciters, and all turbine stages) inertias between  $2 \times 10^4$  and  $1 \times 10^5 \text{ kgm}^2$ . Similar inertia  
61 time constants are noted for wind turbines [6], however one must recall that renewable energy sources  
62 are commonly connected to the grid via power converters rather than synchronous generators and do  
63 not respond to system load directly (rather they operate at maximum available power). These power  
64 converters require control technology in order to keep line frequencies, voltages and power oscillations  
65 within acceptable tolerances while also guarding against power circulation [7]. It is debatable, therefore,  
66 as to whether or not this inertia is truly seen by the grid due to the interconnecting power electronics.  
67 What is clear is that "real" inertia (i.e. that resulting from spinning masses) has significant value in  
68 maintaining stable grids. As large thermal generation plants are retired and the grid is decarbonised,  
69 the resource of thermal power plant turbine inertia is diminished.

$$\frac{d\omega_{SM}}{dt} = \frac{T}{J_{FW}} = \frac{P}{J_{FW}\omega_{SM}} \quad (1)$$

$$H = \frac{\frac{1}{2}J_{FW}\omega_{SM}^2}{P_{SM}} \quad (2)$$

70 Inertia replacement systems are vitally important in renewable grids as they ensure stability can  
71 be maintained as loads and generators come on and off line. Flywheel energy storage systems are  
72 considered in the present work as these directly replace the "real" inertia of a turbine with the "real"  
73 inertia of a flywheel, thereby exploiting the benefits noted for thermal plants. The question now becomes  
74 how to appropriately design the flywheel (such that the best use of its load carrying capacity is made)  
75 given the cyclic nature of its operation and the potential for fatigue.

76 Flywheels have been a popular form of energy storage for hundreds of years. By citing the work  
77 of Schmidt *et al.* [8], a recent review by Pullen argued that the levelised cost of electricity for flywheel

78 systems can compete with lithium ion battery technologies for primary frequency response (short  
79 duration, high frequency duty cycles) [9]. Central to this observation is that degradation is accounted for  
80 in the Monte-Carlo simulations performed by Schmidt *et al.* [8]. Pullen goes on to point out additional  
81 “costs” associated with popular lithium ion battery systems, highlighting the difficulties in securing  
82 key materials (raising ethical and sustainability concerns) and end of life treatment [9]. Interestingly,  
83 arguments have also been made in favour of flywheels in transport applications. Erdemir and Dincer,  
84 for example, recently considered electric bus flywheel systems [10]. By referencing both fuel economics  
85 and the nature of the duty cycles (that is to say, frequent acceleration and deceleration phases), Erdemir  
86 and Dincer argue hybrid flywheel energy stores are competitive with batteries and ultra-capacitors.

87 Flywheels are an attractive inertia replacement solution in de-carbonised grids as, when coupled with  
88 a synchronous machine, they can directly restore inertia in a high efficiency and environmentally friendly  
89 manner [2, 11, 12]. Some authors have however raised concerns that flywheels have relatively low  
90 energy density values [13]. Bouland suggests a value of  $0.05 \text{ kWh/kg}$  for metallic flywheels [14], whereas  
91 Pullen indicates  $0.005 \text{ kWh/kg}$  is representative if both rotor and casing (containment) requirements  
92 are considered. Some of this discrepancy can be accounted for by the fact Bouland considers only the  
93 rotating mass in the cost calculation, whereas Pullen includes both the rotor and casing (containment).  
94 Different limiting stresses are also used by the two authors, with the former opting for the ultimate  
95 tensile strength of a material and the latter opting for half the yield. This distinction in design limit  
96 stress and the effect it has on the characteristics of flywheel energy stores is central to the present  
97 work. Depending on duty cycle (i.e. the degree to which a flywheel is exercised and the hence the  
98 magnitude of stress amplitudes and the mean stress state) and the requirement for longevity, either of  
99 these limit stresses are defensible. Design limits based solely on monotonic mechanical behaviours are  
100 potentiality misleading however and may well lead to overly conservative designs. What is needed  
101 is a method to evaluate fatigue life that does presuppose elastic load conditions. The application of  
102 such a lifing method is the focus of the present work. It is clear that, in order to maximise energy  
103 density values, flywheels must be appropriately designed, either through material selection, geometry  
104 definition, or operating rotational speed [15]. As highlighted by Pullen [9], the energy storage capacity  
105 of a flywheel is proportional to the maximum allowable rotor stress. Choices of high density/high  
106 strength materials are limited (especially when unit material cost is considered as a design factor) and,  
107 in cases where a flywheel is “hard coupled” to a synchronous machine, operating speed is fixed by  
108 the machine architecture (number of poles) and supply/generation frequency. Flywheel geometry  
109 refinement is therefore an important area of research which warrants investment if flywheel returns are  
110 to be maximised [15, 14].

111 Many flywheel energy storage systems have been discussed in the literature, with numerous hybrid  
112 examples coupled to renewable energy sources such as photovoltaic cells [15, 2] and wind turbines  
113 [16, 17, 18]. For example, Hamzaoui *et al.* designed control systems for a flywheel energy store which  
114 provides slip energy to a  $7.5 \text{ kW}$  double fed induction generator (DFIG) wind turbine application, with  
115 supplementary pitch angle control used to achieve maximum power point tracking [19]. Flywheel  
116 control systems were also developed by Šonský and Tesař [20]. Specifically, electromagnetic bearing  
117 systems were progressed such that the energy extracted for stabilisation of five degrees of freedom  
118 was minimised. Of particular interest here are publications by Carrillo, Feijóo and Cidrás [21], where  
119 synchronous and asynchronous machines were attached to diesel generators and flywheel systems in  
120 order to compare their performance in supplementing wind power in isolated locations (i.e. for low  
121 power applications of approximately  $50 \text{ kW}$ ). Building on the author’s previous work, one synchronous  
122 machine/flywheel configuration featured a hydraulic transmission linking the two components. This  
123 was done in order to “allow energy transfer between two systems rotating at different speeds”. During  
124 discharge, the flywheel would be spun down and used to drive a fixed displacement pump that  
125 circulates a pressurised fluid in line connected to a variable displacement motor. Work can thus be  
126 extracted by a motor to power a synchronous machine. Broadly speaking, variable speed configurations  
127 (asynchronous machines) were concluded to be superior for accommodating wind speed fluctuations  
128 and synchronous machines were better for demand load variations. The work of Barelli *et al.* showed  
129 that flywheel stores could improve battery life in residential micro-grids [22].

130 Numerous researchers have also looked to determine optimum flywheel geometries through some  
131 sort of optimisation procedure, however structural objective functions are typically simplistic in form.  
132 Arslan, for example, conducted a case study of plain and constant stress (tapered) flywheel geometries  
133 using elastic stress field solutions (with a simple limiting von Mises stress criterion determining ultimate

134 dimensions), showing that energy density can be doubled with “smart” flywheel design [15]. Readers  
135 should note here that the work of Arslan assumes a disk type flywheel design; the potential for this  
136 type of benefit with more complex geometries (such as Laval or Stodola flywheels) is likely diminished  
137 and relatively poor volumetric energy densities will be realised. Jiang and Wu conducted 2D topology  
138 optimisation on high speed rotors by partitioning cross sections into three regions; an inner ring, an  
139 outer ring, and a centre region which may be modified by the optimisation procedure [23]. A distinction  
140 is often drawn between low speed and high speed flywheel energy storage systems [13], with the  
141 latter operating at speeds as high as 100,000 *rpm* [2]. In Jiang and Wu’s work, manufacture constraints,  
142 stress magnitudes, and volume fraction values were used to form objective functions with a penalised  
143 density method used to add/eliminate voxels. Rotors of approximately 800 *mm* in diameter, operating  
144 at 2250 *rpm*, were analysed, however only simple stress limits (200 *MPa*) were applied and no direct  
145 evaluation of fatigue life was made. Through the optimisation procedure improvements in energy  
146 densities of 14.3% were demonstrated. A similar study was reported by Pedrolli *et al.*, who looked to  
147 refine non-constant thickness flywheels using 2D axisymmetric finite element models and an evolution  
148 optimisation algorithm [24]. Flywheel cross sections were defined by 6 control points (the location of  
149 which could be modified by the optimisation algorithm) and a connecting spline. Optimisation objective  
150 functions were based on a maximum von Mises stress criterion (reference to a limit value) and the  
151 deviation of von Mises stress over the flywheel cross section. Results reproduced some well known  
152 features, such as the Stodola disk, and recommendations were made for further factors to be considered  
153 in the optimisation objective function. The present work effectively looks to establish a method which  
154 would allow fatigue to be introduced in such an optimisation. Flywheel structure was considered  
155 by Bouland *et al.* for transportation energy storage applications (200 *kW* permanent magnet machine  
156 systems) [14]. Fibrous materials with circumferential banding were suggested in order to reduce the  
157 number of pieces liberated in the case of a burst.

158 The structural analysis of flywheels has received some attention in the literature. Even so, the  
159 fundamental fatigue lifing approach utilised in the present work has not been applied to grid scale energy  
160 stores. Consequently, arguments on the proper design limit for large flywheel systems have been under-  
161 developed. Composite material flywheels have been a particular focus of structural analysis, having  
162 grown in popularity since the 1970s [9]. Tzeng and Moy considered the prevention of fatigue cracking  
163 in composite flywheel designs [25], suggesting (through the development of analytical expressions  
164 for stress fields in composite material flywheels) that axial reinforced and press fit shaft interfacing  
165 can significantly enhance the crack resistance properties of composite material flywheels. It should be  
166 noted however that, due to their comparatively high unit cost, composite materials are most suitable  
167 for flywheel design when rotational speeds are high. By way of example, the speeds considered by  
168 Tzeng and Moy are of the order of 50,000 *rpm*. When rotational speed is set by the frequency of  
169 a grid, as is the case in a synchronous machine energy store system, steel is commonly considered  
170 to be the most appropriate choice [13]. It is worth noting here that there are at least three distinct  
171 driving motivations in flywheel energy store design (or, indeed, energy store design in general), namely  
172 designing for energy per unit volume, energy per unit mass, and energy per unit cost. Clearly the  
173 latter motivation is most relevant in large grid applications, however readers should remember the  
174 that choice of motivation (based on target application) determines which flywheel technology and  
175 design philosophy is most appropriate. The choice of composite material was studied by Conteh and  
176 Nsofor, who demonstrated that utilising a novel hybrid M46J/epoxy-T1000G/epoxy design over a more  
177 common place Boron/epoxy-Graphite/epoxy material combination could increase energy densities  
178 from 97.7 *kJ/kg* to 1718.54 *kJ/kg* [26]. An evaluation method for microcracking in carbon fibre flywheels  
179 was also developed in the work of Koch *et al.* and relied on the superposition of quasi static and fatigue  
180 simulation results [27]. Fatigue analysis of transport flywheel stores has been notably popular in the  
181 literature. Hearn *et al.* calculated the L10 life for bearing components in disc, arbour, and magnetically  
182 coupled planetary flywheel stores that could be used in fuel cell powered bus applications [28]. Hybrid  
183 vehicles were also the focus of Read *et al.*, wherein it was highlighted that flywheel system sizing and  
184 depth of discharge specification imposes structural requirements on the rest of the vehicle’s transmission  
185 system [29]. Laminated flywheel stores for the light rail sector were considered by Shatil *et al.* through  
186 the simulation of local stress rising features (bolt holes, for example) in 3D finite element simulations  
187 [30]. The principles of linear elastic fracture mechanics were then applied, along with the well known  
188 Paris crack growth law, in order to estimate a maximum allowable crack size. Some inspiration for  
189 flywheel lifing methodologies may be drawn from studies performed on steam turbine rotors, however

190 it is worth noting that the premature failure concerns in these applications typically focus on creep  
191 and fatigue interactions. High temperature damage mechanisms, such as those considered by the R5  
192 procedure [31], are clearly of very limited interest to flywheel applications. Many turbine rotor lifing  
193 problems take a flaw tolerant approach, in which allowable defect sizes are calculated based on viscous  
194 (time dependent) material behaviours [32, 33].

195 Flywheels need to be designed such that the usage of structural material is maximised. Simple  
196 design criteria, such as elastic limit criteria, may be too conservative as many ductile materials can  
197 undergo a modest level of plasticity and harden with no significant detrimental effect on effective  
198 component life. Elastic-plastic criteria may be implemented, however the capacity for low cycle fatigue  
199 mechanism to limit life creates a certain level of concern. To date, most studies in flywheel design  
200 have neglected fatigue as a damaging mechanism. To the author's knowledge, the present work is the  
201 first time where candidate flywheel geometries, determined using simple design rules, are evaluated  
202 using general fatigue lifing methods and grid representative loading cycles. Large rotors are considered  
203 here for grid applications and, due to size, forming methods such as casting are not considered viable.  
204 Attention is therefore limited to multiple plate (or lamina) construction designs, meaning that plane  
205 stress assumptions are permissible. Hollow flywheels (those with an internal bore) are considered as  
206 this feature has value for shaft location purposes and additional energy supply (for example, through a  
207 compressed fluid supplying other components in hybrid storage systems). As discussed previously,  
208 synchronous machine applications are the focus of this work as flywheels have a potentially significant  
209 role to play in inertia replacement strategies. Consequently, 2 and 4 pole machines are considered in  
210 order to maximise peripheral speed for finite diameters.

211 The present work utilises several analysis methods in the study of flywheel fatigue life. A brief  
212 overview is presented here in order to aid reader comprehension and the analysis process is shown  
213 diagrammatically in figure 1. The process begins with a definition of grid frequency history profile that  
214 indicates how the grid frequency fluctuates over the duty cycle. In the present work, these fluctuations  
215 have been determined through frequency analysis of grid disruption events (see section 3). For a given  
216 synchronous machine (here defined by a number of poles), the grid frequency fluctuations can be  
217 translated into a set of rotor speeds (see section 5), which may in turn be used to excite a non-linear  
218 finite element model such that multiaxial stress and strain (elastic and plastic) histories are developed. A  
219 kinematic hardening material model is implemented here for the description of elastic-plastic behaviours  
220 in 1045 steel (see section 4). Standard rainflow cycle counting algorithms are utilised to decompose  
221 the stress and strain histories into complete loading cycles. In doing this, mean and amplitude load  
222 values (stress and strain tensors) are calculated. These in turn can be used in generalised fatigue lifing  
223 methods (here based on the work of Ince and Glinka) to estimate failure life. Novelty in the present work  
224 is derived from the application of these distinct analysis methods to the problem of flywheel fatigue  
225 lifing. While each of the analysis methods is established in the literature, their combined application  
226 to laminar flywheels (which are popular design solutions for grid scale stores) is lacking from the  
227 literature. Indeed, detailed fatigue analysis of laminar flywheels of any sort is limited. Flywheel design  
228 methods are typically stress based and, in many cases, only elastic stress states are permitted. Common  
229 arguments against more ambitious design criterion centre around concerns over fatigue. The present  
230 work addresses a disconnect between appropriate flywheel design criteria (that allow for satisfactory  
231 utilisation of material structural capacity and enable improvements in energy storage characteristics)  
232 and concerns over the risk of premature fatigue failure.

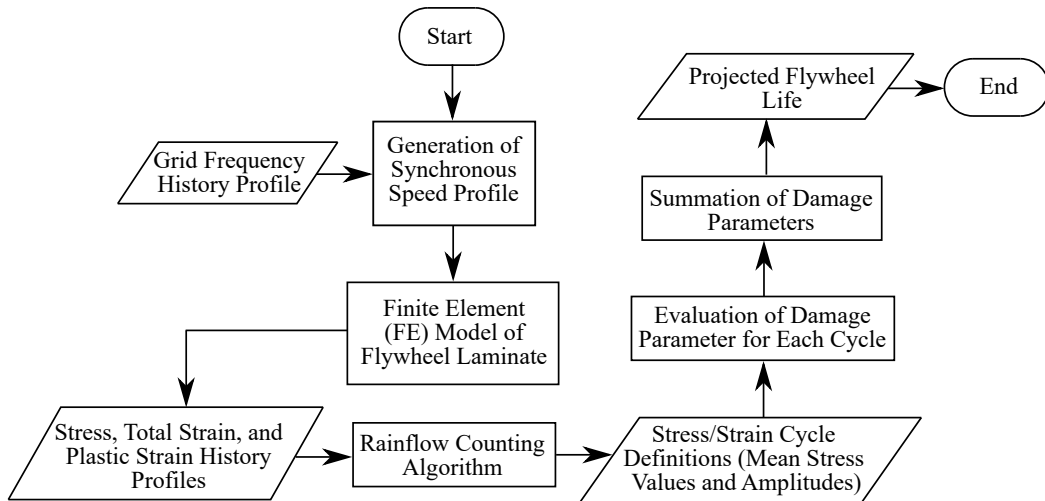


Figure 1: A flow chart illustrating the data flows and analysis methods used in the present work.

### 3 Grid Representative Frequency Fluctuations and Potential Flywheel Applications

Attention is limited here to the analysis of flywheel energy storage systems designed to re-introduce “real” inertia in large de-carbonised grids. The term real inertia is used here to identify systems in which power injection is controlled by the laws of motion only. An example of such a system would be the stiff coupling of a flywheel to a synchronous machine, similar to well known synchronous condenser designs (although such machines were not, originally, intended to provide inertia replacement). Synchronous condensers are, in a sense, very simple machines, as illustrated in figure 2 a). Here, a source a real inertia (a flywheel) is directly coupled to a synchronous electric machine. Mechanical energy can be extracted from the flywheel, at least temporarily, if the grid frequency drops and the synchronous machine rotor begins to de-accelerate. Clearly, the only way the flywheel can be recharged is through the synchronous machine, therefore such a system is not designed as an energy store as such. It is rather a balancing mechanism in which small positive and negative energy transactions are made, such that there is no nett transfer of energy. It is important to distinguish real sources of inertia from “synthetic” equivalents (for example, battery based systems), which require some overarching control system to determine the flow of power. Considering real inertia replacement applications places strict limitations on nominal operating speeds for the flywheel system.

The distinction between real and synthetic inertia is emphasised in the authors’ previous work, wherein a “series hybrid kinetic energy store” (hereafter referred to as SHyKESS) was developed [34] (see figure 2 b).). SHyKESS can be imagined as a flywheel store connected to a synchronous machine through a differential drive unit (DDU). The system is, in effect, a mechanical analogue of a doubly fed induction generator (DFIG), with the DDU allowing for the injection of slip energy. A difference between the synchronous machine rotor speed and the flywheel is therefore tolerated, meaning that SHyKESS can continue to act as a energy store even if the flywheel speed drops below what would normally be allowed by grid frequency limits. In this way, the flywheel can be exercised over a great range of operation and the usefulness of the energy capacity of the flywheel can be maximised. During the most common mode of operation the DDU is locked (it injects no slip energy into the system), meaning that the flywheel speed matches that of the machine rotor and SHyKESS behaves as a conventional synchronous flywheel energy store (i.e. all inertia can be considered to be real). A third type of inertia replacement system can, of course, be considered here, namely one in which all inertia is “synthetic” (i.e. does not emanate from rotating masses), as shown in figure 2 c). Some form of non-synchronous generation (high voltage direct current, HVDC, connections to wind turbines, for example) or energy store (battery banks, for example) can be used to balance the grid through the use of power electronics and sophisticated control systems. Clearly, such an application relies on robust control methods and

267 power electronics are well known to be power limited, meaning the potential for overloading (during  
 268 fault conditions, for example) is limited. Interested readers are directed to the author's previous work  
 269 for a more comprehensive description of SHyKESS [34]. The relevance of these conditions will be made  
 270 clear later in this section, as some loading profiles adopted in the present work exceed the bounds  
 271 of what would normally be expected for a synchronous flywheel store. Note that, while references  
 272 to flywheel axial lengths are omitted from the present work (the laminar flywheel design allows for  
 273 modularity, after all), the authors' previous work sets out a case for square aspect ratios, wherein  
 274 flywheel diameters and axial lengths are approximately equal [34]. The use of large flywheel rotors  
 275 promotes the use of vacuum containment in order to minimise aerodynamic losses. It would make little  
 276 sense in such a case to manufacture a thin vacuum chamber; the benefits of running in vacuum for a  
 277 relatively low inertia system are outweighed by the cost of chamber manufacture. A good compromise  
 278 can however be found for a square flywheel/chamber. For large rotor designs, standby losses can be  
 279 further reduced through the adoption of magnetic bearing systems and vertically orientated rotors. In  
 280 such a system, magnetic bearings provide much of the load carrying capability, while relatively small  
 281 rotating element bearings ensure an acceptable dynamic stiffness. A case study application of SHyKESS  
 282 which incorporates standing loss estimates may be found in the authors' previous work [34].

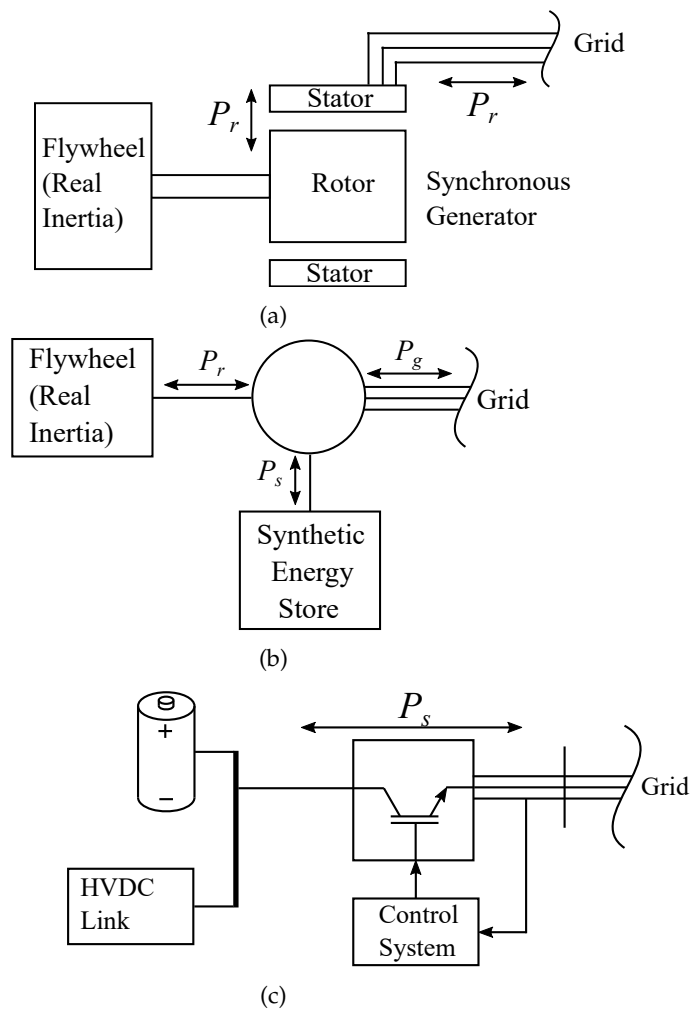


Figure 2: A potential classification of inertia sources, showing a). a completely real system (utilising only rotating inertia, as per a synchronous condenser), b). a hybrid system that mixes real and synthetic inertia sources (as per SHyKESS [34]), and c). a completely synthetic system. Note that  $P_r$  denotes power emanating from real inertia sources, whereas  $P_s$  denotes power emanating from synthetic energy sources.



283 Given the real inertia application, flywheel speed variations are governed by the RoCoF of the grid.  
 284 In order to generate realistic and meaningful loading profiles several sets of data, generously provided  
 285 by the UK's National Grid, have been analysed. Two distinct data sets are considered here; a 24 hour  
 286 set (sampled at 1 Hz) in which large grid loads (pumps) are switched in and out, and a 2 second set  
 287 (sampled at 50 Hz) which represents a 700 MW French inter-connector trip on the UK grid. These  
 288 data sets represent nominal and fault grid conditions respectively, with the latter relating to an event  
 289 which would likely require an enhanced frequency response. Note that in the latter case, frequency  
 290 responses at "London" and "Manchester" locations were recorded, with the responses in figure 3 a).  
 291 clearly showing the effects of a "non-rigid" grid (a rigid grid being one in which all points in the grid  
 292 experience the same frequency at any instant). Example plots of all time series are presented in figure 3.  
 293 Time series data sets have been analysed using a discrete Fourier Transform (FFT) approach, thereby  
 294 generating the spectra shown in figure 4. Simple sinusoidal grid frequency oscillations are not represent-  
 295 ative of real grid conditions, therefore a frequency analysis of grid frequency data is implemented here  
 296 in order to determine the characteristics of grid frequency oscillations. The frequency characteristics of  
 297 the grid frequency oscillations can be reassembled (using inverse Fourier transforms) to form periodic  
 298 loading cycles that may be used to vary flywheel speeds and hence excite fatigue damage mechanisms.  
 299 In order to generate test waveforms that can be readily discretised (over practical time steps) and  
 300 implemented in non-linear analysis methods (see section 5), the spectrum relating to the 24 hour data  
 301 has been partitioned about 0.01 Hz, thereby creating low and high frequency sub sets (see figure 4 a).  
 302 and b)., respectively). This allows for loading cycles to be developed with time scales greater/less than  
 303 periods of 1.66 minutes, thereby representing diurnal variations in  $f_{Grid}$  as well as the effects of sudden  
 304 load disruptions, respectively. Note that the relationship between phase and amplitude is maintained for  
 305 each discrete frequency component (that is to say, during inverse Fourier transforms, random phasing  
 306 values are not applied to each grid frequency oscillation component). Loading waveforms, used to  
 307 evaluate the risk of fatigue in various flywheel designs, are generated from these spectra. The most  
 308 "damaging" components from the data sets are extracted, here summarised as the 5 highest amplitude  
 309 components shown in figure 4. These have been used to create the representative loading cycles shown  
 310 in figure 5. It is these cycles that will be used in fatigue analyses in the present work, where  $\Delta f$  represents  
 311 a deviation from the nominal frequency of 50 Hz. Note that additional components were added in  
 312 initial studies, however little influence was noted for values greater than 5. For convenience, the cycles  
 313 are hereafter referred to as Cycle 24L, Cycle 24H, and Cycle IT, respectively. Cycle names have been  
 314 chosen to indicate the source of the frequency components, namely the low frequency 24 hour data set  
 315 spectrum, the high frequency 24 hour data set spectrum, and the inter-connector trip data set spectrum,  
 316 respectively. An additional loading cycle is presented in figure 5 that has not been derived from the time  
 317 series data in figure 3 (sub-figure d).), hereafter referred to as Cycle SHyKESS. Flywheel systems such as  
 318 SHyKESS can accept large depth of discharge cycles. Cycle SHyKESS represents an arduous limit case  
 319 for which fatigue failure should be a pressing concern. This is taken from the author's previous work  
 320 [34].

321 The inclusion of a hybrid flywheel energy store in the present work allows for the consideration of  
 322 greater depth of discharge cycles. This would, however, also decouple the flywheel rotational speed  
 323 from the synchronous machine rotor speed (note that in synchronous condensers, these are always  
 324 equivalent). The nature of control systems is outside the scope of the present work, there a simple  
 325 relationship is assumed to relate instantaneous grid frequency ( $f_{In}$ ) and instantaneous flywheel speed  
 326 ( $\omega_{FW}$ ), see equation (3). It is assumed here that the flywheel rotor speed matches what would be the  
 327 synchronous speed of the electric machine it is attached to at the instantaneous grid frequency  $f_{In}$ . The  
 328 electric machine is characterised by the number of poles  $p$ . This assumption ensures that the DDU in  
 329 the SHyKESS system can be locked near the nominal grid frequency while still allowing for decoupling  
 330 in extended depth of discharge cycles.

$$\omega_{FW} = \frac{4\pi f_{In}}{p} \quad (3)$$

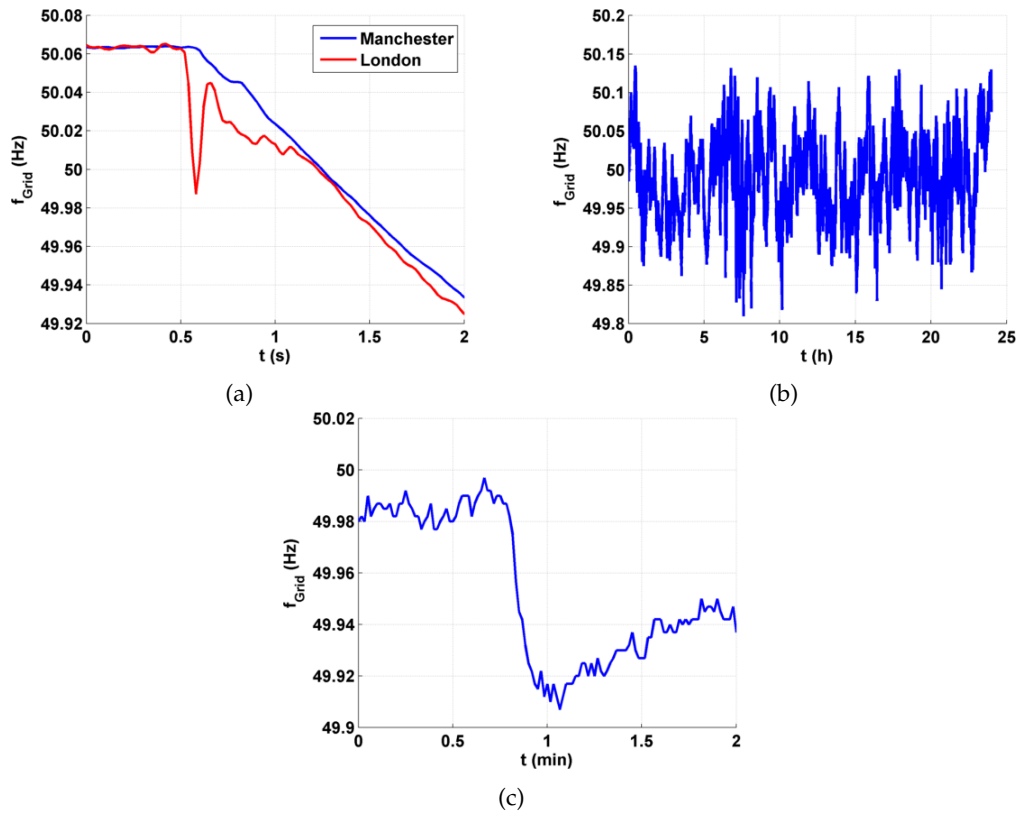


Figure 3: Time series of grid frequency ( $f_{Grid}$ ) variations used in the present work, showing a). a 700 MW inter-connector trip event (2 second period), b). large grid loads coming in to and out of service (24 hour period), and c). a “close-up view” of a load coming in to service event (from the 24 hour period data set).

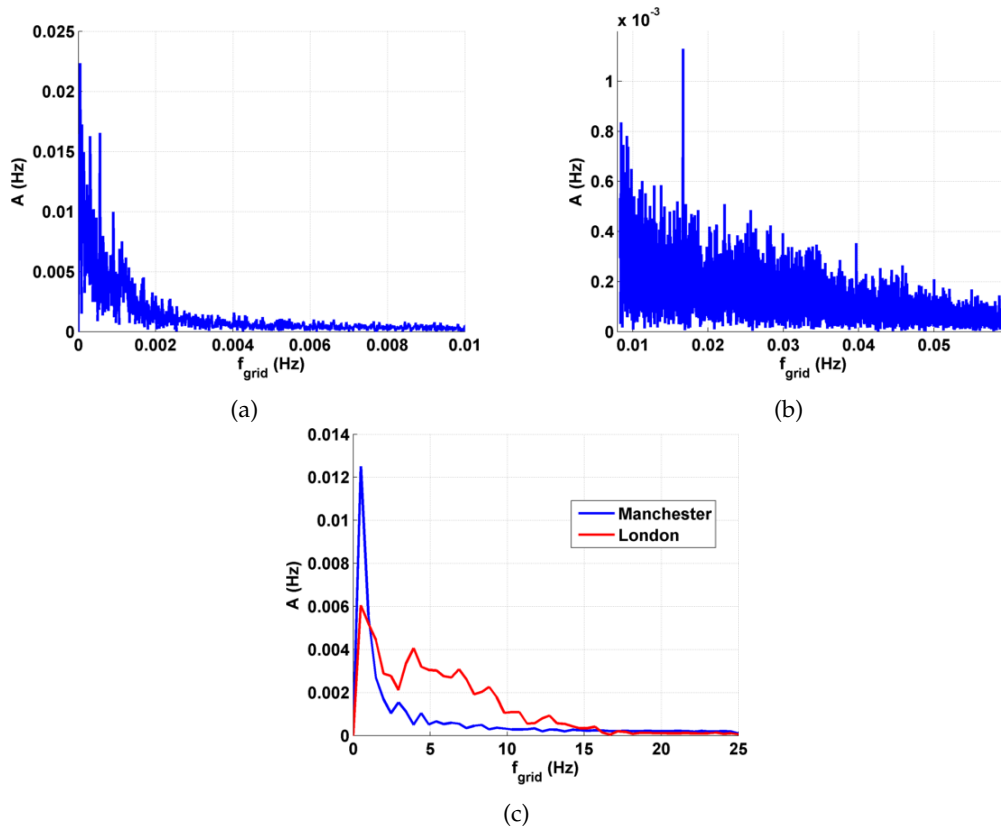


Figure 4: Amplitude spectrum plots (from FFT analysis of the data sets shown in figure 3), showing a). low frequency ( $\leq 0.01$  Hz) components in the 24 hour data set, b). high frequency ( $\geq 0.01$  Hz) components in the 24 hour data set, and c). components related to the inter-connector trip data set (measured at both London and Manchester).

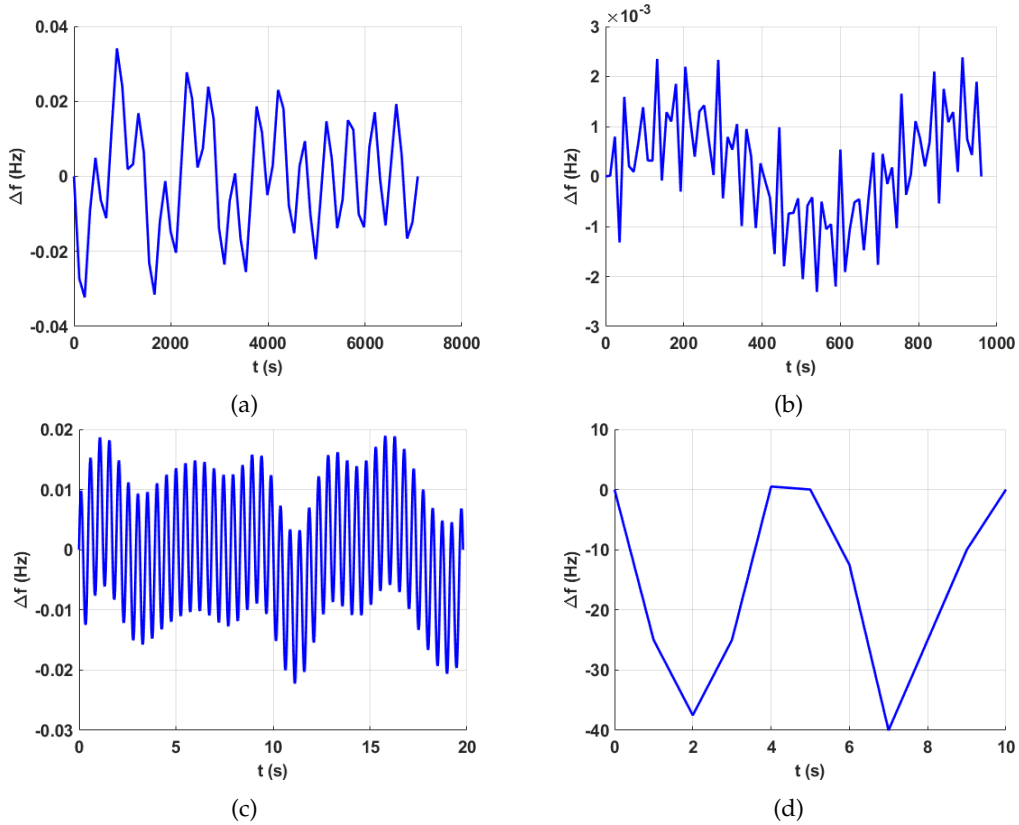


Figure 5: Loading cycles developed from the FFT analyses shown in figure 4, showing responses relating to a). low frequency 24 hour data set components (Cycle 24L), b). high frequency 24 hour data set components (Cycle 24H), c). inter-connector trip data set components (Cycle IT), and d). an arduous large depth of discharge cycle (Cycle SHyKESS).

## 4 Material Models and General Multi-axial Fatigue Lifting Models

The stress analysis work carried out here requires the definition of both a material model to describe the constitutive behaviour of the chosen flywheel material and a fatigue lifting model which, due to the wide range of potential loading conditions expected, must be generalised. The material assumed in the present work is an SAE 1045HRC medium carbon steel. High density and strength parameters are noted for this material and typical applications include ductility favouring components such as pressure vessels. Parameters used in simple material models (for the description of elastic and plastic deformation) are also widely available in the literature for 1045 steel, making the implementation of the material in the analysis straightforward [35]. It is worth noting that the 1045 steel assumed here is similar in terms of stiffness, ultimate tensile strength, density, and price to the 4340 steel referenced as a candidate flywheel material by Bouland *et al.* [14]. The 1045 steel tested by Whener and Fatemi was tempered at  $176.67^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 1 hour, leading to a lower yield stress than that considered by Bouland and co-workers. In the present work this lower yield stress steel was chosen as, with the elastic-plastic design criterion outlined below, it results in flywheel geometries (specifically diameters) that are achievable in most steel foundries. Higher yield stress values would, with the design criterion discussed in section 5, result in flywheel diameters that are larger than the capacity of most steel plate mills.

An elastic-plastic material model is required in order to describe material non-linearity in the FEA simulations performed in the present work. A simple elastic-plastic model is implemented here which assumes a von-Mises ( $J_2$  invariant) yield function and the normality hypothesis. A two component Armstrong-Frederick back stress law is used to describe kinematic hardening (which is particularly relevant for the description of monotonic behaviour). Total strain,  $\epsilon_T$ , is decomposed into elastic,  $\epsilon_e$ , and plastic,  $\epsilon_p$ , components (see equation (4)). Elasticity is assumed to follow Hooke's law as shown

353 in equation (5), where  $\sigma$  is the Cauchy stress tensor and  $\mathcal{C}$  is the fourth order elastic stiffness tensor  
 354 (isotropic elasticity is assumed using Young's modulus  $E$  and Poisson's ratio  $\nu$ ).

$$\epsilon_T = \epsilon_e + \epsilon_p \quad (4)$$

$$\sigma = \mathcal{C} : (\epsilon_T - \epsilon_p) \quad (5)$$

355 Plastic strain,  $\epsilon_p$ , accumulates according to the normality hypothesis while obeying the consistency  
 356 condition, as shown in equation (6). Note that rate terms are denoted by a dot above relevant quantities.  
 357 When the yield function,  $g$ , is satisfied (i.e.  $g = 0$ ),  $\epsilon_p$  accumulates in a direction normal to the yield  
 358 surface (defined by the unit normal  $\mathcal{N}$ ) by a scalar amount defined by  $\lambda$  (the plastic multiplier). By  
 359 substituting expressions for  $g$ , it may be shown that  $\lambda$  is equivalent to the accumulated plastic strain  
 360  $p_a$  (defined by equation (7)) and the deviatoric component of  $\sigma$ ,  $S$ . A  $J_2$  invariant based yield function  
 361 is assumed, as shown in equation (8), where  $\chi$  is the total back stress and  $\sigma_y$  is the yield stress. A two  
 362 component back stress decomposition is assumed, as shown in equation (9). Note that back stress  
 363 decomposition allows for an improved representation of monotonic response, as discussed by Chaboche  
 364 [36, 37, 38, 39]. The  $i^{th}$  back stress component evolves by an Armstrong-Frederick rule [40], where  $C_i$  is  
 365 the  $i^{th}$  component hardening modulus and  $\gamma_i$  is a dynamic recovery exponent relating to the  $i^{th}$  back  
 366 stress component ( $\chi_i$ ). The material model described here can be readily implemented in the commercial  
 367 finite element solver ABAQUS using the in built combined hardening model.

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\epsilon}_p &= \dot{\lambda} \mathcal{N} = \dot{\lambda} \frac{\partial g}{\partial \sigma} \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \dot{p}_a \frac{S - \chi}{J_2(\sigma - \chi)} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

$$p_a = \left( \frac{2}{3} \epsilon_p : \epsilon_p \right)^{1/2} \quad (7)$$

$$g = J_2(\sigma - \chi) - \sigma_y \quad (8)$$

$$\chi = \sum_{i=1}^2 \chi_i \quad (9)$$

$$\dot{\chi}_i = C_i \dot{\epsilon}_p + \chi_i \gamma_i \dot{p}_a \quad (10)$$

368 Material parameter ( $E$ ,  $\sigma_y$ ,  $C_1$ ,  $\gamma_1$ ,  $C_2$ , and  $\gamma_2$ ) values for the 1045 steel used in the present work have  
 369 been determined using monotonic tensile data from Wehner and Fatemi [35]. For the sake of brevity the  
 370 material parameter fitting procedure is omitted here. It should be noted, however, that the method is  
 371 based on Cottrell's stress partitioning approach [41], uses a linear regression approach to determine  
 372 the onset of plasticity, and may be found in the author's previous work [34, 42, 43]. The well known  
 373 Ramberg-Osgood equation is used as a smoothing function in this procedure to limit the effect of noise  
 374 in the experimental data. A summary of material parameters, used in both constitutive behaviour  
 375 description and fatigue life estimation (to be described later) is presented in table 2. A density value  
 376 of  $7870 \text{ kg/m}^3$  is assumed for the 1045 material [44]. For reference, the uniaxial monotonic and cyclic  
 377 material response predicted by the model is presented in figure 6 a). and b)., respectively. Note that, as  
 378 would be expected, cyclic response stabilises after one cycle and the behaviour clearly displays the well  
 379 known Bauschinger effect.

Table 2: Assumed material properties (monotonic, and cyclic) for SAE 1045HRC [35].

Parameter	Value
Young's Modulus, $E$	204 GPa
Poisson's Ratio, $\nu$	0.30
Yield Strength, $\sigma_Y$	426 MPa
Ultimate Tensile Strength, $\sigma_{UTS}$	-----
Hardening Modulus, $C_1$	$9.91 \times 10^4$ MPa
Dynamic Recovery Coefficient, $\gamma_1$	$5.15 \times 10^3$
Hardening Modulus, $C_2$	$2.72 \times 10^5$ MPa
Dynamic Recovery Coefficient, $\gamma_2$	$7.65 \times 10^2$
Fatigue Strength Coefficient, $\sigma'_f$	3372 MPa
Fatigue Strength Exponent, $b$	-0.1
Fatigue Ductility Coefficient, $\epsilon'_f$	0.04
Fatigue Ductility Exponent, $c$	-0.4

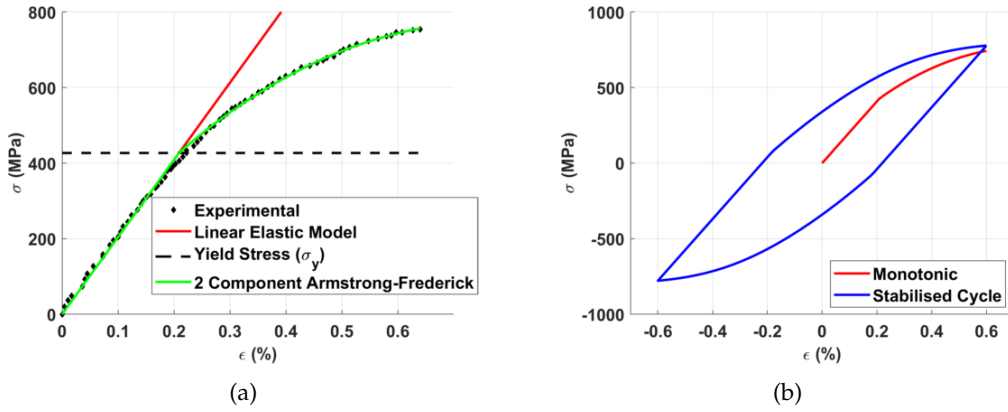


Figure 6: The a). monotonic and b). cyclic uniaxial material response predicted for 1045 steel.

380 Fatigue life estimation over a large range of loading conditions is a difficult problem and there is  
381 no consensus in the community as to the best approach [45]. Fatigue lifing problems are commonly  
382 sub-divided into strain controlled low cycle fatigue and stress controlled high cycle fatigue analyses,  
383 with the former relating to the accumulation of plastic strain and failure lives less than 10,000 cycles and  
384 the latter usually related to an elastic structure response with associated failure live several orders of  
385 magnitude greater than those experienced in low cycle fatigue conditions. Due to the elastic-plastic  
386 response modelled in the present work, a generalised approach is required that can accommodate  
387 both these mechanisms. Many methods for mean stress correction (such as the well known Gerber,  
388 Goodman, and Soderberg methods) and fatigue life estimation (such as modified Smith-Watson-Topper  
389 [46], Manson-Coffin-Basquin [47], and Ramberg-Osgood relationships [48]) all experience difficulties  
390 when applied to general multi-axial loading conditions over such a wide range of structure responses.

391 The generalised strain approach of Ince and Glinka is adopted here due to its ability to collapse  
392 proportional and non-proportional loading fatigue life behaviours on to a single curve. Mean stress  
393 and path dependency corrections have also been demonstrated for 1045 steels [49]. A general strain  
394 amplitude ( $\Delta\epsilon_{gen}^*/2$ ) may be calculated by equation (11), wherein an evaluation is made on all planes  
395 using the maximum shear stress ( $\tau_{max}$ ), the elastic and plastic shear strain amplitudes ( $\Delta\gamma^e/2$  and  
396  $\Delta\gamma^p/2$ , respectively), the maximum normal stress ( $\sigma_{n,max}$ ), and the elastic and plastic normal strain  
397 amplitudes ( $\Delta\epsilon_n^e/2$  and  $\Delta\epsilon_n^p/2$ , respectively). Scaling of stress quantities is achieved using the shear  
398 fatigue strength ( $\tau'_f$ , given by equation (12) [50, 51]) and fatigue strength ( $\sigma'_f$ ). Such an approach is  
399 generally termed a critical plane approach as a user must search for the most detrimental projection of  
400 the stress and strain tensors. Due to the dominance of hoop stresses and strains, the hoop direction is  
401 chosen as the normal for evaluation of equation (11) in the present work. Stress and strain tensors are

402 then transformed by defining a rotation matrix about this axis, with the orientation that gives rise to peak  
 403 generalised strain range values taken as the critical one. Discrete rotation angles are applied in order  
 404 to limit computational effort here, with  $2^\circ$  increments between evaluations. With the definition of an  
 405 equivalent uniaxial strain range in hand, strain based relationships such as the one given in equation (13)  
 406 may be used to approximate the number of cycle to fatigue failure  $N_f$  [46]. Fatigue strength ( $\sigma'_f$ ) and  
 407 fatigue ductility limit ( $\epsilon'_f$ ) parameters are used in conjunction with life exponents  $b$  and  $c$  to approximate  
 408 high cyclic and low cycle life contributions, respectively. Standard rainflow cycle counting methods,  
 409 such as those proposed by Matsuishi and Endo [52], are used to decompose the equivalent strain loading  
 410 time series, with the damage attributed to a particular component calculated using the Palmgren-Miner  
 411 rule [45] (see equation (14) for an example implementation with  $n$  cycle contributions).

$$\frac{\Delta\epsilon_{gen}^*}{2} = \left( \frac{\tau_{max}}{\tau'_f} \frac{\Delta\gamma^e}{2} + \frac{\Delta\gamma^p}{2} + \frac{\sigma_{n,max}}{\sigma'_f} \frac{\Delta\epsilon_n^e}{2} + \frac{\Delta\epsilon_n^p}{2} \right)_{max} = f(N_f) \quad (11)$$

$$\tau'_f = \frac{\sigma'_f}{\sqrt{3}} \quad (12)$$

$$f(N_f) = \frac{\sigma'_f}{E} (2N_f)^{2b} + \epsilon'_f (2N_f)^c \quad (13)$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{n_j}{N_{f,j}} \leq 1 \quad (14)$$

## 412 5 Flywheel Stress Solutions and Design Conditions

413 One of several design methodologies may be applied in order to size a flywheel such that the value  
 414 of its structural material is maximised. Cylindrical laminated (i.e. made from several stacked plates)  
 415 flywheels are considered in the present work (these are sufficiently general as to be applicable for  
 416 synchronous energy stores and can be readily scaled). As such, plane stress states are considered in  
 417 the following calculations. The present section outlines three of these design strategies, all of which  
 418 use simple stress based calculations in order to specify the out radius ( $R_o$ ) of a flywheel for a given  
 419 internal radius ( $R_i$ ) and design speed ( $\omega_D$ ). Note that the present work considers synchronous machine  
 420 applications only, meaning that  $\omega_D$  is taken to be equivalent to the machine's synchronous speed  $\omega_{SM}$   
 421 (given by equation (15), where  $p$  is the number of poles in the machine and  $f_{Grid}$  is the operating  
 422 frequency, here taken to be a UK grid relevant 50 Hz). Readers are encouraged to note that plane stress  
 423 states are assumed here as a convenient design tool (finite element models present later in this section  
 424 do not make this restriction). Plane stress enforces a zero stress magnitude in the direction that is normal  
 425 to the plane of loading which, in general, is not true to finite thickness plates. The conditions that need  
 426 to be satisfied in order for the plane stress to be considered appropriate are therefore not well defined.  
 427 A planar dimension to thickness ratio of 10:1 is sometimes quoted, however the suitability of this is  
 428 very much situationally dependent. Note that radius to thickness ratios for flywheel used in the present  
 429 work vary between 11.5 and 46.7 and very little through thickness stress variation is noted in the finite  
 430 element models, suggesting that the plane stress assumption is appropriate here.

$$\omega_{SM} = \frac{4\pi f_{Grid}}{p} \quad (15)$$

431 Elastic solutions for the radial and hoop stresses ( $\sigma_r$  and  $\sigma_\theta$ , respectively) in a rotating disk are widely  
 432 known (see equations (16) and (17), where  $B$  and  $C$  are constants of integration and  $r$  is a radial position  
 433 coordinate) and are used here in order to produce two conservative design conditions, namely that  
 434 peak hoop stress ( $\hat{\sigma}_\theta$ , realised at  $r = R_i$ ) is equal to half the yield stress ( $\sigma_Y/2$ , representing a design with  
 435 a large factor of safety) and that  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$  (representing a flywheel designed to operate on the elastic  
 436 limit). For hollow flywheels (i.e. where  $R_i \neq 0$ ),  $R_o$  is found iteratively by assuming a trial value for  $R_o$ ,  
 437 enforcing boundary conditions (namely that  $\sigma_R = 0$  at  $r = R_i$  and  $r = R_o$ , note that no internal pressure  
 438 is considered here as associated loads are generally small in comparison to centrifugal forces), solving

439 for the stress distributions, and adjusting  $R_o$  to minimise the difference between the calculated  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta$  and  
 440 its limiting condition. Note that, when  $R_i = 0$  (i.e. a solid flywheel), the integration constant  $C$  must  
 441 equal 0 so that stresses remain finite. In this case,  $R_o$  may be determined by equation (18), where  $\hat{\sigma}_Y$  is  
 442 an effective yield stress for the given design condition (in the present work equal to  $\sigma_Y/2$  or  $\sigma_Y$ ).

$$\sigma_r = B - \frac{C}{r^2} - \frac{\rho\omega^2(3+\nu)}{8}r^2 \quad (16)$$

$$\sigma_\theta = B + \frac{C}{r^2} - \frac{\rho\omega^2(1+3\nu)}{8}r^2 \quad (17)$$

$$R_o = \sqrt{\frac{8\hat{\sigma}_Y}{\rho\omega^2(3+\nu)}} \quad (18)$$

443 A less conservative flywheel sizing procedure may be based on elastic-perfectly-plastic (EPP) material  
 444 assumptions with a Tresca yield criterion (see Rees [53, 54]). Equation (19) describes equilibrium in a  
 445 disk rotating at speed  $\omega$ . The limiting case (burst) is considered to be when the material has yielded  
 446 through the entire radius of the flywheel. The Tresca criterion and EPP material assumption therefore  
 447 indicate that this occurs when  $\sigma_\theta = \hat{\sigma}_Y$  for all  $r$ . Substituting this in equation (19) and integrating gives  
 448 equation (20), where the constant  $A$  is determined using the boundary condition at  $r = R_i$  (where  
 449  $\sigma_r = 0$ , see equation (21)). With this in hand, the external flywheel radius  $R_o$  may be found at a design  
 450 speed (here taken to be  $1.1\omega_D$ , chosen such that a completely plastic flywheel is not realised at nominal  
 451 operating speeds and the design retains some over-speed capacity) by enforcing the external boundary  
 452 condition ( $\sigma_r = 0$  at  $r = R_o$ ). Fully plastic flywheel stress distributions (i.e. when  $\omega = 1.1\omega_D$ ) can be seen  
 453 in figure 7 (a). When  $\omega \leq \omega_D$  stresses will transition from plastic (towards the centre of the flywheel)  
 454 to elastic at some radial position  $R_{EP}$ . Solutions in these two regions are given by equation (20) and  
 455 equations (16) and (17), respectively.  $R_{EP}$  may be found by enforcing continuity in  $\sigma_r$  over this boundary.  
 456 Elastic/plastic stress distributions for  $\omega = \omega_D$  are presented in figure 7 (b) (note  $R_{EP}$  is indicated by a  
 457 dashed vertical line). As with the fully elastic design conditions, a convenient closed form solution for  
 458  $R_o$  may be developed for the elastic-perfectly-plastic case, given in equation (22).

$$\sigma_\theta - \sigma_r - r \frac{d\sigma_r}{dr} = \rho r^2 \omega^2 \quad (19)$$

$$\sigma_r = \hat{\sigma}_Y - \frac{\rho r^2 \omega^2}{3} + \frac{A}{r} \quad (20)$$

$$A = -R_i \left( \hat{\sigma}_Y - \frac{\rho R_i^2 \omega^2}{3} \right) \quad (21)$$

$$R_o = \sqrt{\frac{3\hat{\sigma}_Y}{\rho\omega^2}} \quad (22)$$



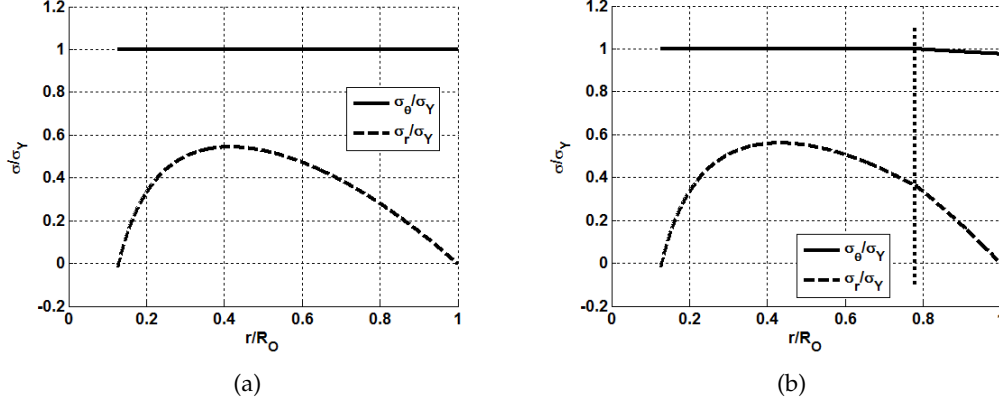


Figure 7: Normalised flywheel stress distributions calculated using the Tresca elastic-perfectly-plastic solution for (a) the design speed case ( $\omega = 1.1\omega_D$ ) and (b) the typical operating speed case ( $\omega_D, 50$  Hz equivalent).

459 Three simple design criteria have been described above which impose varying levels of conservatism  
 460 on the design of a flywheel. A summary of flywheel geometries determined by these methods is given  
 461 in table 3. Synchronous machine configurations with 2 and 4 poles are considered here as these will  
 462 inevitably lead to the largest design speeds (see equation (15)). Solid ( $R_i = 0$ ) and hollow flywheel  
 463 designs are considered, with internal radii values chosen to represent a range relevant shaft diameters.

Table 3: Flywheel geometries (external radii) calculated using the three criterion assumed in the present work (namely  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y/2$ ,  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$ , and the elastic-perfectly plastic TRESCA condition) for 2 and 4 pole synchronous machine applications.

	2 Pole Machine $\omega_D = 100\pi\text{rad/s}$			4 Pole Machine $\omega_D = 50\pi\text{rad/s}$		
	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \frac{\sigma_Y}{2}$	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$	TRESCA	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \frac{\sigma_Y}{2}$	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$	TRESCA
$R_i = 0$ m	0.816 m	1.154 m	1.167 m	1.633 m	2.309 m	2.335 m
$R_i = 0.1$ m	0.575 m	0.815 m	1.114 m	1.153 m	1.632 m	2.283 m
$R_i = 0.2$ m	0.570 m	0.811 m	1.054 m	1.151 m	1.630 m	2.228 m
$R_i = 0.4$ m	0.547 m	0.795 m	0.915 m	1.140 m	1.622 m	2.109 m

464 A simple finite element analysis (FEA) model is used in the present work in order to solve for  
 465 cyclic stress and strain fields in a flywheel made from the material described in section 4 (see figure 8).  
 466 Axisymmetric quadratic reduced integration elements (CAX8R in ABAQUS/Standard) are used in  
 467 order to reduce computational expense. Thin sections (0.05 m) are used in order to replicate plane stress  
 468 conditions, with displacement in the axial direction (direction Z in figure 8) constrained on one plane  
 469 and equation type constraint applied on the parallel face to ensure planar motion. Rotational forces  
 470 are applied to the flywheel body by defining the rotational speed (based on the instantaneous values  
 471 extracted from the design cycles in figure 5). Gravitational loads are neglected. A comparison of elastic  
 472 stress profiles obtained by the FEA model and analytical solutions is shown in figure 9, displaying a  
 473 good level of agreement between the two solutions methods.

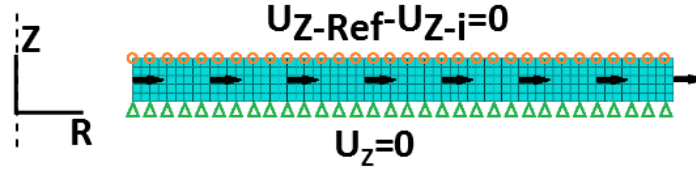


Figure 8: The axisymmetric FEA model used to analyse flywheel geometries subjected to fluctuating loads. Note that centrifugal loads are indicated by black arrows (these are body forces applied to the entirety of the model) and a planar constraint is applied to the top surface, such that the difference between any individual nodal displacement in  $z$  on this plane ( $u_{z-i}$ ) and a reference node displacement in  $z$  ( $u_{z-Ref}$ ) is 0.

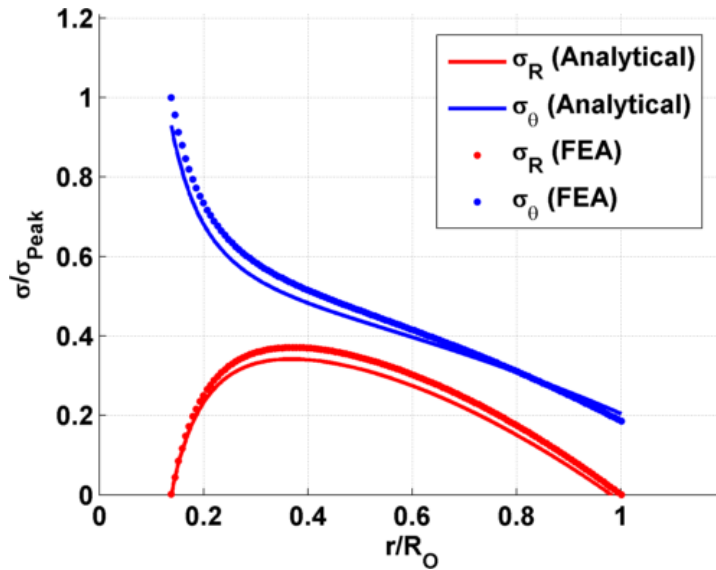


Figure 9: A comparison of elastic stress distributions calculated using analytical expressions (see equations (16) and (17)) and the FEA model shown in figure 8.

## 474 6 Results and Discussion

475 Fatigue life estimation results are presented in table 4 and table 5, with damage fractions ( $D_{Fraction}$ ,  
476 evaluated using the Palmgren-Miner rule given in equation (14)) attributed to the design cycles Cycle  
477 24L, Cycle 24H, Cycle IT, and Cycle SHyKESS along with projected failure lives  $t_f$  (expressed in years).  
478 Projected failure lives are calculated using the duration of the loading cycles (see figure 5) and observing  
479 the point at which the damage fraction achieves unity. This is clearly conservative as it assumes the  
480 flywheel is only subjected to one loading condition throughout its life and it does not account for  
481 the non-linear accumulation of damage. This simplistic method is implemented here in order to help  
482 visualise the comparative risk of adopting one of the three flywheel design methods. Of the loading  
483 cycles derived from grid event data (see figure 3) Cycle IT (relating to fault conditions and enhanced  
484 frequency response) is the most damaging cycle. This is to be expected of course, as the amplitudes and  
485 sub-cycle frequencies associated with Cycle IT are far greater (by two orders of magnitude) than those  
486 associated with loadings Cycle 24L and Cycle 24H. It should be noted however that projected failure  
487 lives (determined by taking cycle time and multiplying by the inverse of  $D_{Fraction}$ ; a highly conservative  
488 lifing hypothesis) are relatively insensitive to flywheel design criterion (i.e. the maximum allowable  
489 stress). This suggests that damage fractions associated with each rainflow sub-cycle fall on the upper  
490 limit of the damage model. Differences between these three cycle failure lives are can be attributed to  
491 the different loading cycle durations (see figure 5) and the different number of rainflow sub-cycles. For

492 all of the grid based loading cycles failure lives are extremely large, suggesting that fatigue is not a  
 493 limiting design factor at present. The outer diameters reported in table 3 are, at a maximum 4.67 *m*. This  
 494 is approaches the capacity of most of the world’s steel mills (for example, JFE steel in Japan can, at a  
 495 maximum, produce plates 5 *m* in width [55]), indicating that manufacture constraints are likely to limit  
 496 flywheel dimensions before fatigue failure. Flywheels in the present work are designed using simple  
 497 limit stress based design criterion. As such, under elastic dominate loading conditions, similar stress  
 498 and strain states will be induced in each flywheel design. Loading cycles Cycle 24L, Cycle 24H, and  
 499 Cycle IT bring about small variations in rotational speed which, given the over-speed design mentioned  
 500 in section 5, give rise to such elastic states. The stress/strain based lifing criterion implemented in the  
 501 present work therefore predicts identical fatigue lives for all geometries when excited by Cycle 24L,  
 502 Cycle 24H, and Cycle IT loading cycles, leading to the omission of geometry data in table 4. Note that  
 503 the same is not true for Cycle SHyKESS, wherein large grid frequency fluctuations (see figure 5) result  
 504 in different levels of plasticity in each flywheel designed and thus differences in projected fatigue life.

505 Cycle SHyKESS is, of course, the most damaging of all loading cycles. In grid data based loading  
 506 cycles frequency fluctuations are small (peak component amplitudes are 0.022 *Hz*). Many hybrid systems  
 507 have been proposed which allow for extended discharge/charge of the flywheel (through the use of  
 508 a continuously variable transmission, or CVT, for example), meaning that rotational speed variations  
 509 have the potential to be significant. Cycle SHyKESS attempts to represent such a variation. Failure  
 510 lives calculated for Cycle SHyKESS are highlighted in table 5. The difference between flywheel design  
 511 criterion becomes evident for the arduous Cycle SHyKESS loading conditions. For solid flywheels, there  
 512 exists a two orders of magnitude difference between fatigue lives calculated for conservative flywheel  
 513 designs ( $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y/2$ ) and those that allow for the onset of plasticity ( $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$  and TRESCA variants).  
 514 When hollow flywheels are considered a two orders of magnitude difference is maintained between  
 515 fatigue lives calculated for  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y/2$  and  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$  design methodologies. Hollow flywheels designed  
 516 using the TRESCA methodology are over 10,000 times smaller than the  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y/2$  equivalent. These  
 517 general trends are consistent for all internal bore diameters and each electric machine variant.

518 The kinetic energy ( $E_K$ ) stored in a flywheel may be given by equation (23), where  $J_{FW}$  is the  
 519 moment of inertia (see equation (24), where  $m$  is flywheel mass). Using these expressions evaluations  
 520 of energy density (*kWh/kg*), volumetric energy density (*kWh/m<sup>3</sup>*), and cost per unit of energy stored  
 521 (*\$/kWh*) may be made for the geometries given by the three design rules used here (geometries are  
 522 summarise in table 3). Flywheel energy characteristics are summarised in table 6. Note that, in the case  
 523 of volumetric energy density calculations for hollow flywheels, the volume “saving” due to the central  
 524 hole is neglected (i.e. flywheel volume is calculated using  $R_O$  only). The volumetric energy density  
 525 metric provides information on how well energy stores can be packaged. In the case of hollow flywheels,  
 526 the central hole presumably carries a transmission shaft (albeit a potentially hollow one), meaning that  
 527 this volume cannot be utilised for any useful purpose and should not be considered as a benefit when  
 528 calculating volumetric energy density. It is also crucial to note that, in the present work, containment  
 529 costs or volume requirements are not incorporated into indicative calculations. A unit cost of \$0.89/*kg* is  
 530 assumed here for the 1045 steel raw material[56]. Although processing/manufacturing is not explicitly  
 531 costed in the present work, the indicative costs in table 6 highlight the inexpensive nature of flywheel  
 532 systems and provide a useful metric to compare design solutions. As discussed above, fatigue lifing  
 533 is not, in most cases, a contributing factor to design for the loading cycles considered in the present  
 534 work. Designs which allow for some level of plasticity are therefore potentially viable. In addition to  
 535 the energy characteristic measures summarised in table 6, potential “savings” are presented in table 7.  
 536 Savings are here calculated by taking the TRESCA design characteristic as a reference, calculating the  
 537 difference to one of the elastic design condition ( $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y/2$  or  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$ ) characteristics, and normalising  
 538 with respect to the corresponding TRESCA characteristic. Note that like flywheels are compared with  
 539 like (for example, 2 pole machine solid TRESCA flywheel characteristics are compared with 2 pole  
 540 machine solid  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$  flywheel characteristics). The results presented in table 7 therefore indicate the  
 541 loss in energy density and increase in cost incurred if conservative design methods (e.g.  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y/2$  or  
 542  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$ ) are implemented over ones which better utilise material strength (e.g. TRESCA).

543 Careful design of the flywheel can increase energy density and volumetric energy density values  
 544 by 74.35% (by, for example, designing a flywheel using a TRESCA criterion rather than a  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y/2$   
 545 criterion). Cost per unit of energy stored may also be improved by over 200% if TRESCA criterion  
 546 designs are implemented over  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y/2$  variations, for hollow flywheels. This is due to the stress  
 547 concentration effect of including an internal bore in a flywheel. In elastic designs this severely limits

548 outer radius, however the yielding offered by elastic-perfectly-plastic designs reduces this. Significant  
549 improvements are not realised in solid flywheels (savings of around 2% are observed for all metrics) due  
550 to the lack of a stress concentration and the rapid increase in plasticity as outer diameter is increased.  
551 That is to say, for solid flywheels, the adoption of a TRESCA design methodology does not result in  
552 a significantly bigger flywheel than a  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$  design methodology, as yielding by the TRESCA yield  
553 criterion occurs at nearly the same flywheel diameter where  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$ . Note that this is not true in  
554 flywheels with a hole, where there is a significant difference between the flywheel diameter that causes  
555  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$  and the flywheel diameter that satisfies the TRESCA yield criterion. It is interesting to compare  
556 the solid flywheel characteristics developed here to commercial monolithic flywheel storage systems,  
557 such as those produce by Amber Kinetic [57] and Temporal Power [58]. By approximating rotor masses  
558 of  $\approx 4000\text{kg}$  and stored energy capacities of  $30 - 50\text{kWh}$  for both systems, energy densities between  
559  $6 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kWh/kg}$  may be crudely estimated for these systems (based on published rotor  
560 masses, dimensions, and operating speeds [57, 58]). Referring to table 6, it can be seen that these values  
561 fall between the  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y/2$  and plastic design criterion energy densities suggested in the present work.  
562 This observation suggests that elastic design criterion were used to develop the Amber Kinetic and  
563 Temporal Power systems and that the improvements discussed here for laminar flywheels may be  
564 applicable to monolithic designs.

$$E_K = \frac{1}{2} J_{FW} \omega^2 \quad (23)$$

$$J_{FW} = \frac{1}{2} m (R_o^2 + R_i^2) \quad (24)$$

Table 7: A summary of energy density ( $\text{kWh/kg}$ , equivalent to volumetric energy density,  $\text{kWh/m}^3$ ), and cost per unit of energy stored ( $\$/\text{kWh}$ ) savings (%), comparing  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \frac{\sigma_Y}{2}$  and  $\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$  solutions to TRESCA criterion equivalents.

		2 Pole Machine $\omega_D = 100 \text{ } \pi\text{rad/s}$		4 Pole Machine $\omega_D = 50 \text{ } \pi\text{rad/s}$	
Reference		$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \frac{\sigma_Y}{2}$	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \frac{\sigma_Y}{2}$	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$
$R_i = 0\text{m}$	$\text{kWh/kg}$	51.11	2.22	51.09	2.21
	$\$/\text{kWh}$	-104.53	-2.27	-104.46	-2.26
$R_i = 0.1\text{m}$	$\text{kWh/kg}$	72.77	46.1	74.35	48.81
	$\$/\text{kWh}$	-267.26	-85.55	-289.88	-95.33
$R_i = 0.2\text{m}$	$\text{kWh/kg}$	68.29	39.38	72.73	46.1
	$\$/\text{kWh}$	-215.41	-64.95	-266.65	-85.55
$R_i = 0.4\text{m}$	$\text{kWh/kg}$	53.95	20.58	68.32	39.43
	$\$/\text{kWh}$	-117.16	-25.91	-215.69	-65.1

## 565 7 Conclusions

566 The effective design of flywheels requires that material is appropriately loaded such that its structural  
567 value is maximised. The present work has analysed frequency fluctuations in the UK grid and applied  
568 derived design cycles to candidate flywheel geometries (assuming plane stress/thin lamina construction)  
569 using a general fatigue lifing procedure of Ince and Glinka. The aim of this work is not to predict  
570 accurate fatigue failure lives of flywheels. The low damage fractions associated with most of the rainflow  
571 sub-cycles results in the implementation of a limit damage value. The simulations conducted here  
572 compare flywheel designs using a common fatigue life metric. A significant difference in projected  
573 fatigue lives is only noted for "arduous" loading cycles that would not normally be realised in simple  
574 flywheel energy stores. Whether the risk associated with a particular design methodology can be  
575 accepted depends on a number of factors, which include the provision for containment and the expected

Table 4: Damage fractions ( $D_{Fraction}$ ) and projected failure lives ( $t_f$ , given in years) calculated for the design cycles Cycle 24L, Cycle 24H, and Cycle IT (evaluated for the geometries derived in table 3). Note that no variation in projected fatigue lives is noted between different flywheel geometries due to near identical stress states being induced in each model.

		2 Pole Machine		4 Pole Machine			
		$\omega_D = 100 \pi \text{rad/s}$		$\omega_D = 50 \pi \text{rad/s}$			
		$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \frac{\sigma_Y}{2}$	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$	TRESCA	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \frac{\sigma_Y}{2}$	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$	TRESCA
Cycle 24L	$D_{Fraction}$	$3.20 \times 10^{-14}$	$3.20 \times 10^{-14}$	$3.20 \times 10^{-14}$	$3.20 \times 10^{-14}$	$3.20 \times 10^{-14}$	$3.20 \times 10^{-14}$
	$t_f$ (yrs)	$7.02 \times 10^{+09}$	$7.02 \times 10^{+09}$	$7.02 \times 10^{+09}$	$7.02 \times 10^{+09}$	$7.02 \times 10^{+09}$	$7.02 \times 10^{+09}$
Cycle 24H	$D_{Fraction}$	$4.00 \times 10^{-14}$	$4.00 \times 10^{-14}$	$4.00 \times 10^{-14}$	$4.00 \times 10^{-14}$	$4.00 \times 10^{-14}$	$4.00 \times 10^{-14}$
	$t_f$ (yrs)	$7.61 \times 10^{+08}$	$7.61 \times 10^{+08}$	$7.61 \times 10^{+08}$	$7.61 \times 10^{+08}$	$7.61 \times 10^{+08}$	$7.61 \times 10^{+08}$
Cycle IT	$D_{Fraction}$	$1.24 \times 10^{-13}$	$1.24 \times 10^{-13}$	$1.24 \times 10^{-13}$	$1.24 \times 10^{-13}$	$1.23 \times 10^{-13}$	$1.24 \times 10^{-13}$
	$t_f$ (yrs)	$5.06 \times 10^{+06}$	$5.06 \times 10^{+06}$	$5.06 \times 10^{+06}$	$5.06 \times 10^{+06}$	$5.08 \times 10^{+06}$	$5.06 \times 10^{+06}$

Table 5: Damage fractions ( $D_{Fraction}$ ) and projected failure lives ( $t_f$ , given in years) calculated for the design cycle Cycle SHyKES (evaluated for the geometries derived in table 3).

		2 Pole Machine $\omega_D = 100 \pi \text{rad/s}$			4 Pole Machine $\omega_D = 50 \pi \text{rad/s}$		
$R_i$		$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \frac{\sigma_Y}{2}$	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$	TRESCA	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \frac{\sigma_Y}{2}$	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$	TRESCA
$R_i = 0 \text{ m}$	$D_{Fraction}$	$3.28 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.52 \times 10^{-06}$	$1.83 \times 10^{-06}$	$3.34 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.53 \times 10^{-06}$	$1.85 \times 10^{-06}$
	$t_f$ (yrs)	$9.66 \times 10^{+01}$	$2.09 \times 10^{-01}$	$1.73 \times 10^{-01}$	$9.51 \times 10^{+01}$	$2.07 \times 10^{-01}$	$1.72 \times 10^{-01}$
$R_i = 0.1 \text{ m}$	$D_{Fraction}$	$3.62 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.68 \times 10^{-06}$	$7.96 \times 10^{-05}$	$3.64 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.69 \times 10^{-06}$	$1.03 \times 10^{-04}$
	$t_f$ (yrs)	$8.77 \times 10^{+01}$	$1.89 \times 10^{-01}$	$3.98 \times 10^{-03}$	$8.71 \times 10^{+01}$	$1.88 \times 10^{-01}$	$3.08 \times 10^{-03}$
$R_i = 0.2 \text{ m}$	$D_{Fraction}$	$3.68 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.70 \times 10^{-06}$	$4.40 \times 10^{-05}$	$3.76 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.71 \times 10^{-06}$	$7.98 \times 10^{-05}$
	$t_f$ (yrs)	$8.62 \times 10^{+01}$	$1.87 \times 10^{-01}$	$7.20 \times 10^{-03}$	$8.43 \times 10^{+01}$	$1.85 \times 10^{-01}$	$3.97 \times 10^{-03}$
$R_i = 0.4 \text{ m}$	$D_{Fraction}$	$3.34 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.62 \times 10^{-06}$	$9.52 \times 10^{-06}$	$3.70 \times 10^{-09}$	$1.71 \times 10^{-06}$	$4.47 \times 10^{-05}$
	$t_f$ (yrs)	$9.51 \times 10^{+01}$	$1.95 \times 10^{-01}$	$3.33 \times 10^{-02}$	$8.57 \times 10^{+01}$	$1.86 \times 10^{-01}$	$7.10 \times 10^{-03}$

Table 6: Energy density ( $kWh/kg$ ), volumetric energy density ( $kWh/m^3$ ), and cost per unit of energy stored ( $$/kWh) evaluations for the flywheel geometries given in table 3.$

	2 Pole Machine $\omega_D = 100 \pi \text{rad/s}$			4 Pole Machine $\omega_D = 50 \pi \text{rad/s}$			
	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \frac{\sigma_Y}{2}$	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$	TRESCA	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \frac{\sigma_Y}{2}$	$\hat{\sigma}_\theta = \sigma_Y$	TRESCA	
$R_i = 0m$	$kWh/kg$ $kWh/m^3$ \$/kWh	$4.56 \times 10^{-03}$ 35.9 195.	$9.13 \times 10^{-03}$ 71.8 97.5	$9.33 \times 10^{-03}$ 73.4 95.3	$4.57 \times 10^{-03}$ 35.9 194.	$9.14 \times 10^{-03}$ 71.9 97.4	$9.34 \times 10^{-03}$ 73.5 95.2
$R_i = 0.1m$	$kWh/kg$ $kWh/m^3$ \$/kWh	$2.33 \times 10^{-03}$ 17.8 381.	$4.62 \times 10^{-03}$ 35.8 192.	$8.57 \times 10^{-03}$ 66.9 103.	$2.30 \times 10^{-03}$ 17.9 387.	$4.58 \times 10^{-03}$ 35.9 194.	$8.95 \times 10^{-03}$ 70.2 99.4
$R_i = 0.2m$	$kWh/kg$ $kWh/m^3$ \$/kWh	$2.50 \times 10^{-03}$ 17.2 355.	$4.78 \times 10^{-03}$ 35.3 186.	$7.89 \times 10^{-03}$ 59.8 112.	$2.34 \times 10^{-03}$ 17.8 380.	$4.62 \times 10^{-03}$ 35.8 192.	$8.57 \times 10^{-03}$ 66.9 103.
$R_i = 0.4m$	$kWh/kg$ $kWh/m^3$ \$/kWh	$3.15 \times 10^{-03}$ 11.5 282.	$5.43 \times 10^{-03}$ 31.9 163.	$6.83 \times 10^{-03}$ 43.5 130.	$2.50 \times 10^{-03}$ 17.2 355.	$4.78 \times 10^{-03}$ 35.3 186.	$7.90 \times 10^{-03}$ 59.9 112.

576 likelihood of various loading scenarios being encountered. This works illustrates however that there  
577 exists a great potential to re-consider the limits of structural design in energy stores. If less conservative  
578 limits can be tolerated significant benefits, both in terms of energy density and capacity cost, can be  
579 realised.

580 Failure in the present work can be interpreted as the initiation of a crack in an initially crack free  
581 component. The determination of a critical initial crack length (given cyclic loading) may serve as a  
582 more useful and selective structural design criterion. This should be investigated in future work using a  
583 “comparison of design methodologies” approach implemented in the present work. Flywheel designs  
584 that plastically deform the structural material will, ideally, harden and achieve elastic shakedown  
585 after some period of transition. If a material isotropically softens and the flywheel design accumulates  
586 a sufficient amount of plastic strain during initial loading this may not be possible. Future work  
587 should therefore also look to implement more sophisticated material models to quantify this risk. It  
588 should be noted also that the fatigue lives calculated here are based on a simple addition of damage  
589 fractions. Frequency domain based fatigue life estimations are difficult due to the strong influence of  
590 mean loading, however approximate methods have been developed (the Durlik equations for example,  
591 recently reviewed in the work of Quigley *et al.* [59]) which could be implemented in detailed future  
592 studies. Loading cycles implemented in the present work have, for the most part, assumed current  
593 grid characteristics and frequency fluctuations. A question therefore inevitably presents itself - how  
594 representative of future decarbonised grids are these fluctuations? Perhaps counter-intuitively, the more  
595 inertia replacement systems utilised on grid the less they are exercised, as the grid has (potentially)  
596 enough reserve to accommodate imbalances without large frequency deviations and RoCoFs. The  
597 characteristics of decarbonised grids and the associated risk of fatigue in flywheels is therefore difficult  
598 to predict as it hinges upon how serious the problem of grid inertia is judged by operators and regulators.  
599 It is assumed in the present work that a consistent level of inertia is maintained through decarbonisation,  
600 however this assumption itself raises an interesting future research question. The relationship between  
601 generation “nodes” and large loads will likely change in future grids. In the UK, for example, offshore  
602 wind will likely be brought onshore from the North Sea at either the west coast of Scotland or along the  
603 coast of East Anglia. This is dramatically different to historic power generation provisions. Given the  
604 dynamics of the grid (frequency fluctuations are not “seen” at all points in the grid simultaneously),  
605 there is an interesting open question on how inertia replacement systems can enable this shift by  
606 accounting for potentially large frequency deviations in geographical regions which, historically, relied  
607 on local generation inertia.



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