

Ken Sugimura

***Novel Hydraulic Hybrid System
for Excavators***

Novel Hydraulic Hybrid System for Excavators

Neuartiges hydraulisches Hybridsystem für Bagger

Von der Fakultät für Maschinenwesen der Rheinisch-Westfälischen Technischen Hochschule Aachen zur Erlangung des akademischen Grades eines Doktors der Ingenieurwissenschaften genehmigte Dissertation

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Für Liebe Yuriko, Ririka, Yurino und meine Eltern

„It always seems impossible until it's done.“

NELSON MANDELA (1918–2013), 8th President of South Africa

I Preface

I am now looking back on my five years at IFAS. The great experiences began in March 2010. At that time, I visited IFAS to attend the 7th IFK. I remember that I was deeply impressed with the great research being carried out by IFAS and its advanced laboratory. This impression led to my decision to study in Aachen. After a few years, Dr. Miyakawa kindly introduced me to Professor Murrenhoff. Thanks to their assistance, I was able to start my study at IFAS in September 2012. Now I would like to express my gratitude to them for offering me a great chance, trusting me, and supporting me at all times. I would also like to express thanks to Professor Jacobs for acting as co-referee for my examination and to Professor Brecher and Professor Schmitz for the examination council.

Studying abroad was difficult for me at first and I always harbored strong hesitation and anxieties in my mind as to whether or not it really was the right step. But the problem was easily solved with the warm support of colleagues and friends. Especially, I would like to express my genuine respect and gratitude to Milos Vukovic, without whom it would have been impossible to conduct my doctoral work. Danke Milos! I would also like to thank my other office mates, Roland Leifeld, and Philipp Weishaar, for making the best office in the world, named “Bagger Büro.” The same gratitude goes to all of the students who worked at Bagger Büro. I must also thank Yukio Kamizuru for supporting me to start my study at IFAS. All corresponding thanks belong to Heino Theissen, Jutta Zacharias, Susanne Schmitz, and Johannes Schmitz. My gratitude is also expressed to Jan Elvers and Klaus Breuer, as they invited me to a football team. I have to thank the members of the cooking group: Felix Fischer, Filipp Kratschun, Gunnar Matthiesen, Stephan Merkelbach, Marcel Rückert, and Maximilian Waerder. The lunches were always innovative and funny. Thank you to Arnav, Patrik, Marco, Dominic, Stefan, Matthias, Rahel, Raphael, Hang, Yong Bon, Seiji, Seong, Chong for your warm friendships. My gratitude always belongs to all of the staff at IFAS.

My life in Aachen was also supported by the presence of, among others, the Bender, Chiche, Chizari, Elsen, Podoll and Riesen families etc. Thank you very much!! The Japanese community in Aachen was also a very important presence for me. Arigatou!! Furthermore, I express my gratitude to my first friends in Aachen, Min and Youjung. I must also thank to my mother-in-law Kazuko Kadokawa for supporting me and my family.

I wish to express my sincerest thanks to my parents Nobuyuki and Hiroko Sugimura for supporting me in going to Aachen. I have now followed in their footsteps. I would

also like to thank my brothers Tom and Rui for supporting me. I cooperate closely with them for years to come.

Dear Yuriko, I am so thankful to you for supporting me for a long time. I am proud that you took care of our daughters and made a lot of friends during your hectic period in Aachen. Ririka, you went to Aachen when you were only 8 months old and stayed there for 5 years. Yurino, you were born in Aachen in 2015 and are now 2 years old already. I and your Mam are looking forward to both your futures, and we hope that you will grow into people who make efforts without giving up your dreams. The great experiences in Aachen are always with you.

Aachen, 25.04.2018

Ken Sugimura

II Zusammenfassung

Hydraulische Bagger sind die gängigsten Baumaschinen auf Baustellen in der ganzen Welt. Sie werden für eine große Vielzahl von Aufgaben an verschiedenen Orten eingesetzt, z.B. für Straßenaufbau oder -ausbesserung, Verlegung von Kabeln oder Rohren und Hochbau in städtischen Gebieten, die verschiedenen Tätigkeiten in Wäldern, Feldern und Flussbetten oder –ufern, Großbaustellen in ländlichen Gebieten sowie Bergbau der Kohle, Eisen und Diamanten. Aufgrund der Notwendigkeit, fossile Energieressourcen einzusparen und unter Berücksichtigung der schwankenden Kraftstoffpreise, werden Hersteller mobiler Maschinen gezwungen, effizientere Produkte zu entwickeln. In den letzten Jahren wurde in vielen Forschungsprojekten die Energieeinsparung von hydraulischen Systemen für Bagger untersucht.

Bezüglich des energetischen Wirkungsgrades von Baggern hat die Effizienz des Verbrennungsmotors den größten Einfluss auf den Energieverbrauch, da dieser bereits mehr als 60% der gesamten Energie verbraucht. Das IFAS (Institut für fluidtechnische Antriebe und Steuerungen) der RWTH Aachen University hat ein Hydrauliksystem, genannt STEAM (Steigerung der Energieeffizienz in der Arbeitshydraulik mobiler Maschinen), vorgeschlagen. Dieses System erhöht die Gesamtenergieeffizienz des Baggers. Es ist ein System mit Konstantdrucknetzen und optimierter Betriebsstrategie, um die Verluste des Verbrennungsmotors zu minimieren. Die Drehzahl des Verbrennungsmotors wird auf einen niedrigen Wert entsprechend der maximalen Energieeffizienz reduziert. STEAM hat zwei konstante Druckniveaus mit hydraulischen Speichern und die Hauptpumpe wird unabhängig von den Belastungen verwendet, um die Speicher zu laden. Daher kann die Pumpenverdrängung so gesteuert werden, um das optimale Lastdrehmoment des Verbrennungsmotors einzustellen. Jedoch kann das Konstantdrucksystem das Druckniveau nicht auf das Lastdruckniveau einstellen. Deswegen werden die Drosselverluste sehr groß, wenn der Lastdruck beträchtlich niedriger als das konstante Druckniveau ist. Folglich verliert sich der Vorteil des effizienten Betriebs des Verbrennungsmotors. Das hydraulische System von STEAM wurde zur Lösung dieses Problems entwickelt. Das System besteht aus drei Druckniveaus, einem hohen und einem mittleren Speicherdruck sowie dem Tankdruck. Für jeden linearen Antrieb sind sechs Schaltventile und elektrisch gesteuerte Ventile installiert, um den Volumenstrom und die Richtung zu steuern. Die Schaltventile erzeugen neun Kombinationen um die unterschiedlichen Zylinderkräfte zu produzieren. Die Kombination, welche die geringsten Drosselverluste produziert, wird automatisch festgelegt. Außerdem ermöglichen einige Kombinationen die Energierückgewinnung, wenn die Belastung am Zylinder unterstützend wirkt. Die Realisierung dieser Art benötigt jedoch zahlreiche Druck- und Wegsensoren für die

linearen Verbraucher, elektrische Joysticks, elektrisches Steuergerät und den zugehörigen Algorithmus, die das System kompliziert und teuer machen. Daher ist es das Ziel dieser Arbeit, die grundlegende Idee von STEAM ohne elektronische Steuerung mit hydraulisch-mechanisch wirkenden Schaltungen zu realisieren, um die kommerzielle Anwendbarkeit dieses Systems zu erweitern. Die hier vorgestellten Untersuchungen basieren auf Simulationen.

Im ersten Teil dieser Arbeit werden die konventionellen und neu vorgeschlagenen Lösungen zur Verbesserung der Energieeffizienz hydraulischer Bagger vorgestellt. Der zweite Abschnitt befasst sich mit der Implementierung des STEAM-Systems mit einem rein hydro-mechanischen Ansatz ohne Verwendung von elektrischen Sensoren und Steuerungen. Dafür werden die elektrisch gesteuerten Schaltventile durch hydro-mechanisch betätigte Ventile ersetzt. Um die Kosten der Maschine zu reduzieren, wird die Anzahl der Ventile durch Analysen verschiedener Arbeitslastzyklen reduziert. Außerdem werden einige neue Ideen behandelt, wie z.B. ein Ladesystem der Speicher, System bei Leistungsuntersättigung, ein neuer Regler der Pumpe usw.. Im letzten Abschnitt wird das Potenzial des neu vorgeschlagenen hydraulischen Hybridsystems durch Simulationsergebnisse aufgezeigt. Fünf typische Lastzyklen werden in Simulationen verwendet, um die Energieeffizienz des neuen Hybridsystems mit einem konventionellen Load-Sensing-System zu vergleichen. Ein wichtiger Faktor vom Konstantdrucksystem ist das nominale Gasvolumen von hydraulischen Speichern. In dieser Arbeit werden Simulationen für das Hybridsystem mit unterschiedlichen Gasvolumen der Speicher durchgeführt und die Einflüsse auf die Simulationsergebnisse werden vorgestellt. Abschließend werden Empfehlungen für zukünftige Konstantdrucksysteme dargestellt.

III Abstract

Hydraulic excavators are the most common construction machines used at building sites across the world. They are employed for a wide variety of tasks in different places, e.g. for road construction or improvement, laying cables or pipes, and building construction in urban areas; the various operations in forests, agricultural lands and riverbeds; large scale construction in rural areas; mining ores such as coal, iron and diamonds. Owing to the need for saving fossil energy resources and considering the fluctuating fuel prices, mobile machine manufacturers are being forced to develop products that are more efficient. In recent years, numerous studies explored the energy saving of hydraulic systems for hydraulic excavators.

With regards to the energy efficiency of the hydraulic system and the overall efficiency of hydraulic excavators, the energy efficiency of the ICE (internal combustion engine) has the greatest effect on energy consumption because more than 60% of the fuel energy is lost. IFAS (Institute for Fluid Power Drives and Controls) at RWTH Aachen University proposed a system called STEAM (Steigerung der Energieeffizienz in der Arbeitshydraulik mobiler Maschinen). This system increases the overall efficiency of the excavator. This is a constant pressure system, and point operation is employed to minimize the losses in the ICE. The rotation speed of the ICE is reduced to a low value corresponding to the maximum energy efficiency. STEAM has two constant pressure rails with accumulators, and regardless of the load conditions, the main pump is used only to charge them. Therefore the pump displacement can be regulated to produce the efficiently optimal loading torque of the ICE. The constant pressure system, however, cannot adjust the pressure level to the load pressure level. Therefore, in situations such as when the load pressure is considerably lower than the constant pressure level, the throttling losses become very large, and the advantage of the efficient operation of the ICE is lost. The hydraulic system of STEAM was developed considering the need to overcome this problem. The hydraulic system mainly consists of three pressure rails of high, middle and tank pressures. Six on/off valves and electrically controlled valves are installed for each linear actuator to control the flow rate and direction. These on/off valves generate nine combinations producing different cylinder forces, the combination that produces the lowest possible throttling losses is chosen automatically. Moreover, some combinations allow the recuperation of energy when the load on the actuators is assistive. However, realizing this design involves numerous pressure sensors, displacement sensors for linear actuators, electric signals of joysticks, the electric controllers and the related complex algorithm, making the system complex and expensive. Therefore the purpose of this study was to realize the basic idea of STEAM without

using an electronic control to broaden the commercial applicability of the product. The investigations presented herein are based on hydraulic system simulations.

The first section of this thesis introduces and discusses the conventional and newly proposed solutions aiming to improve the energy efficiency of the hydraulic excavators. The second section deals with the implementation of the STEAM architecture based on a purely hydro-mechanical approach without using electric sensors and controllers. For that the electrically controlled on/off valves will be replaced by hydro-mechanically actuated valves. To reduce the initial costs of the machine, the number of valves is reduced by analyses of some different working load cycles. Moreover, some new ideas are shown, such as accumulators charging system, non-saturation system, a new pump displacement regulator, and so on. In the last section, the potential of the newly proposed hydraulic hybrid system is considered using simulations. Five typical load cycles are used to compare the energy efficiency of the new hybrid system with a conventional LS System (load sensing system). An important factor of constant pressure systems is the nominal gas volume of hydraulic accumulators installed in the pressure rails. In this study, simulations are conducted for the hybrid system with different volumes of accumulators, and the effects on the simulation results are introduced. Finally, some recommendations for future constant pressure systems are explained.

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