



# An analytical model for the prediction of strip temperatures in hot strip rolling

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## ABSTRACT

In hot strip rolling, sound prediction of the temperature of the strip is vital for achieving the desired finishing mill draft temperature (FDT). In this paper, a precision on-line model for the prediction of temperature distributions along the thickness of the strip in the finishing mill is presented. The model consists of an analytic model for the prediction of temperature distributions in the inter-stand zone, and a semi-analytic model for the prediction of temperature distributions in the bite zone in which thermal boundary conditions as well as heat generation due to deformation are predicted by finite element-based, approximate models. The prediction accuracy of the proposed model is examined through comparison with predictions from a finite element process model.

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## 1. Introduction

In hot strip mills, the thermal history experienced by the strip during processing is one of the most important parameters influencing the product quality, not only because the flow stress is strongly dependent on the temperature but also because the metallurgical properties of product are substantially affected by it. Recently, the increasing demand for a high quality microalloyed steel strip leads to advanced rolling practices such as controlled rolling and, consequently, to the need for precise temperature control.

It is demonstrated during the last two decades that the prediction of the strip temperature can be made far more accurately on the basis of either the finite difference process models [1–10] or the finite element (FE) process models [11–22] than on the basis of the elementary models which inherently involve many simplifying assumptions. However, a precise model such as a FE process model tends to require a large central processing unit time, rendering itself inadequate for on-line calculation.

Presented in this paper is an analytic model for the prediction of temperature distributions in the inter-stand zone of finishing mill. Also presented is a semi-analytic model for the prediction of temperature distributions in the bite zone, in which thermal boundary conditions as well as heat generation due to deformation are predicted by FE-based on-line models. The prediction accuracy of the proposed model is examined through comparison with the predictions from a FE process model.

## 2. A finite element model

A FE process model applied for the present investigation consist of four basic FE models: a model for the analysis of steady-state thermo-viscoplastic deformation of the strip (Model A), a model for analysis of steady-state heat transfer in the strip (Model B), a model for the analysis of steady-state heat transfer in the work roll (Model C), and a model for analysis of non-steady-state heat transfer in the strip (Model D). As shown in Fig. 1, interaction between the thermal behavior of the work roll and that of strip caused by roll-strip contact, as well as interaction between the thermal behavior of strip and mechanical behavior of strip, are taken into account by iterative solution schemes. Details regarding the process model and its solution accuracy are given in Ref. [21].

It is to be noted that heat transfer in the direction of the roll axis as well as in the direction of strip width are neglected. Also, plane-strain deformation of strip is assumed. Consequently, all basic FE models applied for the present investigation are two dimensional models. The thermal and mechanical boundary conditions adopted for the basic FE models are shown in Fig. 2.

As illustrated in Fig. 3, a sufficiently large number of elements, along with the mesh refinement near the contact zones, are used to construct the roll and strip meshes in order to remove the mesh dependency of the solution accuracy. The element type used is a linear quadrilateral element. 3440 elements are used for the roll, and 2520 elements are used for the strip.

The predicted temperature distributions in the strip as well as in the roll are illustrated in Fig. 4. Clearly seen is the effect of heat transfer from the strip to roll at the roll-strip interface, as well as the effect of heat generation in the strip due to plastic deformation.

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**Nomenclature**

$f_s$	forward slip, $f_s = \frac{V_2 - R\omega}{R\omega}$	$V_s$	strip velocity at the roll/strip interface
$H_1$	strip inlet thickness	$V_R$	roll tangential velocity
$H_2$	strip outlet thickness	$V_1$	strip inlet velocity at the bite zone
$h_{rw}$	heat transfer coefficient due to water cooling, at the roll surface	$V_2$	strip outlet velocity at the bite zone
$h_w$	heat transfer coefficient due to water cooling, at the strip surface	$V_{it}$	strip velocity in the inter-stand zone
$h_{lub}$	heat transfer coefficient at the roll/strip interface	<b>Greek symbols</b>	
$k$	thermal conductivity	$\bar{\epsilon}$	effective strain
$L$	strip length in the inter-stand zone	$\dot{\bar{\epsilon}}$	effective strain rate
$l_d$	contact length at the roll/strip interface	$\Gamma_c$	roll/strip interface
$R$	roll radius	$\mu$	coefficient of Coulomb friction
$r$	reduction ratio	$\rho c_p$	heat capacity
$s$	shape factor $s = \frac{2}{2-r} \sqrt{\frac{Rr}{H_1}}$	$\Omega$	plastic deformation zone (bite zone) in the strip
$T_1$	strip inlet temperature	$\sigma$	flow stress
$T_2$	strip exit temperature	$\sigma_1$	back tension, in a stress unit
$T_s$	strip temperature at the roll/strip interface	$\sigma_2$	front tension, in a stress unit
$T_R$	roll temperature at the roll/strip interface	$\sigma_n$	normal stress
$u^n$	normal component of the velocity vector	$\sigma_t$	tangential stress
$u_x, u_y$	x, y component of the velocity vector	$\omega$	roll angular velocity
		$\zeta$	penalty constant

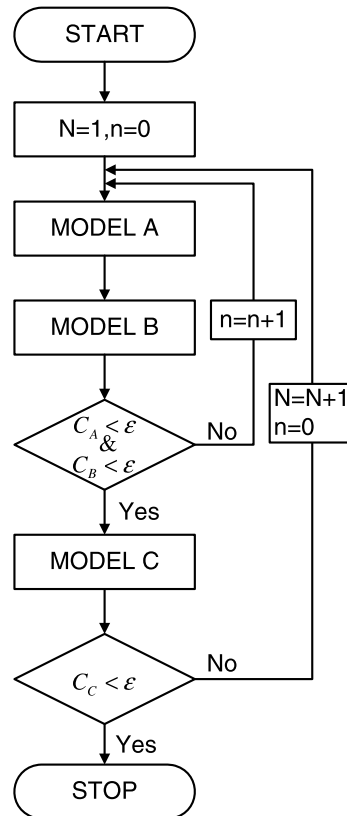
$\bar{u}_k$  : nodal velocity of the strip  
 $T_k$  : nodal temperature of the strip  
 $T_{Rk}$  : nodal temperature of the roll  
 n, N : iteration number

$$C_A = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_k |\bar{u}_k^n - \bar{u}_k^{n-1}|^2}}{\sqrt{\sum_k |\bar{u}_k^n|^2}}$$

$$C_B = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_k |T_k^n - T_k^{n-1}|^2}}{\sqrt{\sum_k (T_k^n)^2}}$$

$$C_C = \frac{\sqrt{\sum_k |T_{Rk}^n - T_{Rk}^{n-1}|^2}}{\sqrt{\sum_k (T_{Rk}^n)^2}}$$

$$\epsilon = 10^{-3}$$



MODEL A : a FE model for the analysis of steady-state thermo-mechanical behavior of the strip

MODEL B : a FE model the analysis of steady-state heat transfer in the strip

MODEL C : a FE model for the analysis of steady-state heat transfer in the roll

Fig. 1. An integrated FE process model for the analysis of the thermo-mechanical behavior of strip.

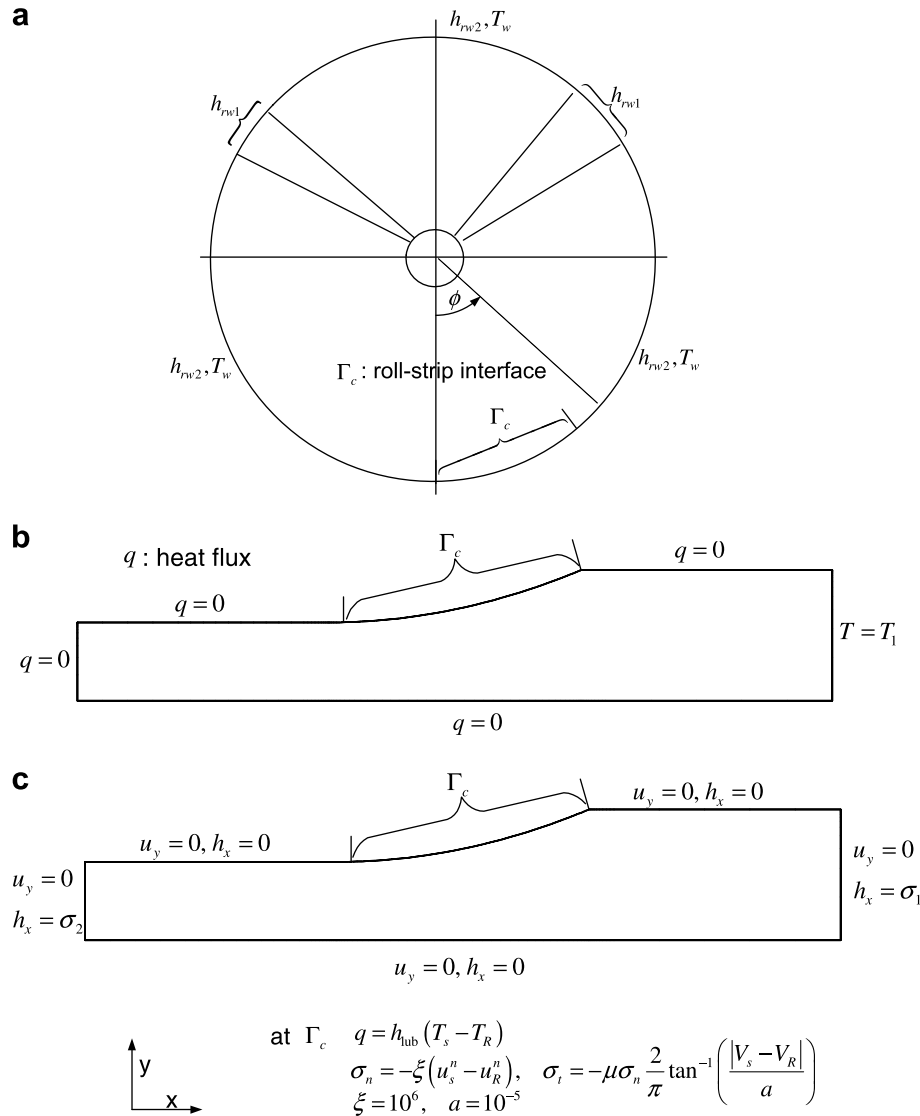


Fig. 2. Boundary conditions for the basic FE models: (a) thermal boundary conditions for the roll, (b) thermal boundary conditions for the strip, and (c) mechanical boundary conditions for the strip.

The process simulation requires approximately 20 min of CPU time of a modern personal computer, which clearly indicates that a FE process model cannot be directly employed as an on-line model, at least not in the near future, considering that the temperature calculations should be carried out in a tiny fraction of a second for on-line process control.

**3. An analytic model for the prediction of temperatures in the inter-stand zone**

The strip temperatures vary in the inter-stand zone of the hot strip mill where the cooling water is sprayed, mainly due to the convection heat transfer at the strip surface.

Let us define  $T_i(y)$  and  $T_{i+1}(y)$ , the strip temperature distribution at the entry and at the exit of the inter-stand between  $F_i$  stand and  $F_{i+1}$  stand, respectively, as shown in Fig. 5.

Then the initial boundary value problem to be solved may be given by

heat equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( k \frac{\partial T(y,t)}{\partial y} \right) = \rho c_p \frac{\partial T(y,t)}{\partial t} \tag{1}$$

boundary conditions:

$$\frac{\partial T(y,t)}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \text{at } y = 0 \tag{2}$$

$$-k \frac{\partial T(y,t)}{\partial y} = h_w(T(y,t) - T_w) \quad \text{at } y = h \tag{3}$$

initial condition:

$$T(y, 0) = T_i(y) \tag{4}$$

The solution, which may be derived from the technique known as the method of separation of variables, is given by

$$T(y,t) = T_w + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{4\lambda_n \int_0^h T_i(y) \cdot \cos(\lambda_n y) dy - 4T_w \cdot \sin(\lambda_n h)}{2\lambda_n h + \sin(2\lambda_n h)} \cdot \cos(\lambda_n y) \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{k \cdot \lambda_n^2}{\rho c_p} t\right) \right) \tag{5}$$

where  $T_w$  is water temperature,  $h_w$  is convection heat transfer coefficient at the strip surface,  $h$  is a strip thickness,  $k$  is the thermal conductivity of a strip,  $\rho c_p$  is the heat capacity per unit volume of a strip, and  $\lambda_n$  are obtained by solving

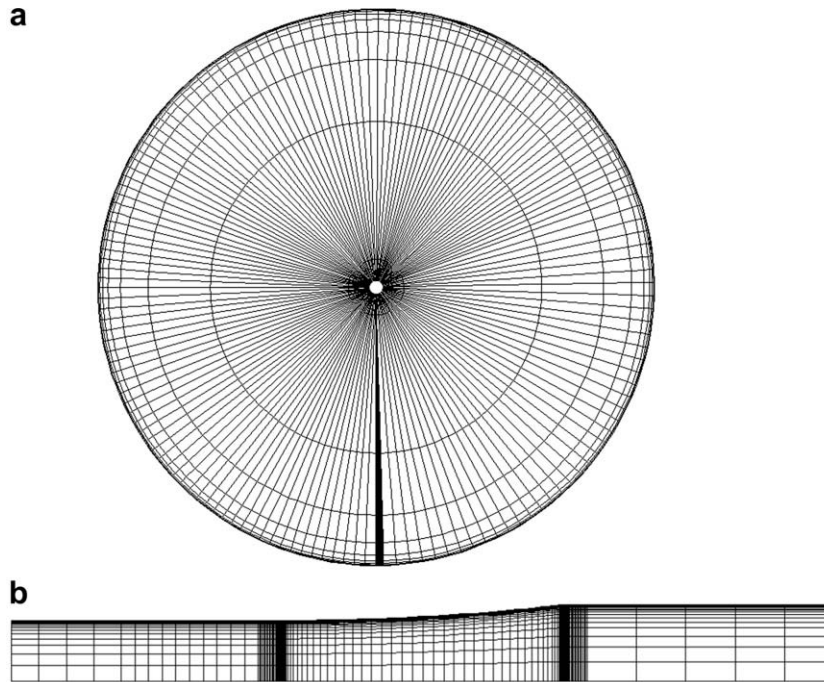


Fig. 3. (a) FE mesh for the roll, (b) FE mesh for the strip.

$$k\lambda_n \sin(\lambda_n h) - h_w \cos(\lambda_n h) = 0 \quad (6)$$

As shown in Fig. 6, the temperature distributions in the inter-stand zone predicted from the proposed model are in excellent agreement with the prediction from FE process model (Model D).

#### 4. A model for the prediction of heat generation due to plastic deformation in the bite zone

Heat generation due to plastic deformation during rolling substantially affects the thermal behavior of strip, and therefore, should be rigorously reflected in predicting the temperature distributions in the bite zone. Due to surface chilling as well as severe shear deformation at the strip surface, heat generation may often become severely non-uniform along the thickness direction.

The average heat generation occurring in a particle flowing through the bite zone may approximately given by

$$\dot{q}(y') = \frac{\int_{y'} \bar{\sigma} \dot{\epsilon} d\Omega}{\int_{y'} d\Omega} \quad (7)$$

where  $y'$  denotes the normalized distance from the centerline, with  $y' = 1$  representing the surface, and the integration is performed along the streamline  $y' = \text{constant}$ .

By examining the actual distributions of  $\dot{q}(y')$  predicted from FE process simulation, which are illustrated in Figs. 7 and 8, it may be deduced that distribution may be approximated by

$$\frac{\dot{q}(y')}{\dot{q}(1)} = 1 - (1 - A) \frac{\arctan\{a(1 - y')\}}{\arctan a} \quad (8)$$

where

$$A = \frac{\dot{q}(0)}{\dot{q}(1)} \quad (9)$$

Integration of Eq. (8) leads to

$$\frac{\dot{q}_{avg}}{\dot{q}(1)} = 1 - (1 - A)B \quad (10)$$

where

$$\dot{q}_{avg} = \frac{\int_{\Omega} \bar{\sigma} \dot{\epsilon} d\Omega}{\int_{\Omega} d\Omega} = \frac{P_d}{\int_{\Omega} d\Omega} \quad (11)$$

$$B = \int_0^1 \frac{\arctan\{a(1 - y')\}}{\arctan a} dy' \quad (12)$$

It follows that

$$\dot{q}(y') = \frac{\dot{q}_{avg}}{1 - (1 - A)B} \left\{ 1 - (1 - A) \frac{\arctan\{a(1 - y')\}}{\arctan a} \right\} \quad (13)$$

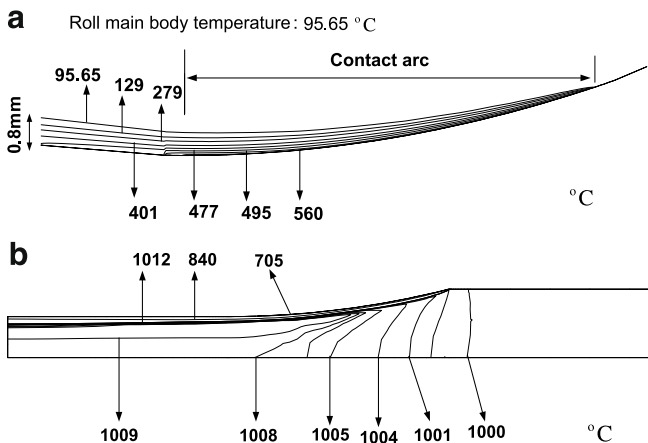


Fig. 4. (a) Temperature distributions in the roll near the bite zone, (b) temperature distributions in the strip at the bite zone, predicted from FE process simulation. Process conditions; carbon pct of the strip material = 0.155,  $T_1 = 1000^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\omega = 2.78 \text{ rad/s}$ ,  $R = 410 \text{ mm}$ ,  $H_1 = 44.52 \text{ mm}$ ,  $H_2 = 27.22 \text{ mm}$ .

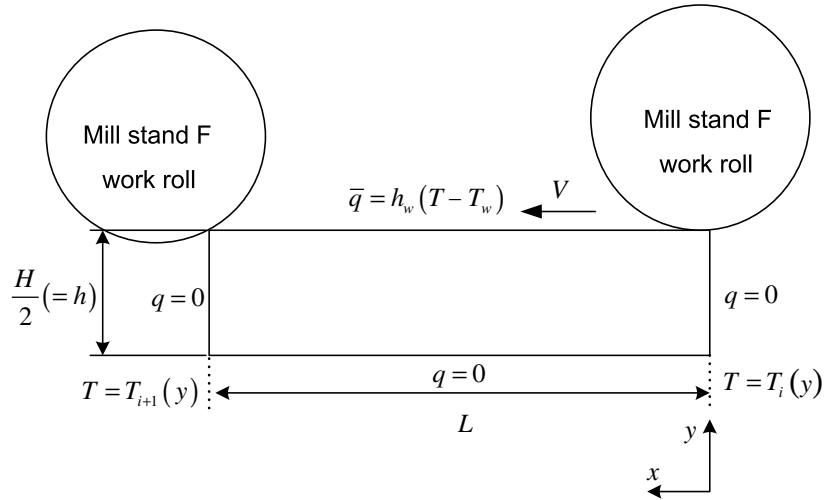


Fig. 5. A definition sketch of an inter-stand zone, inlet = outlet of the bite zone of  $F_i$  stand, outlet = inlet of the bite zone of  $F_{i+1}$  stand.

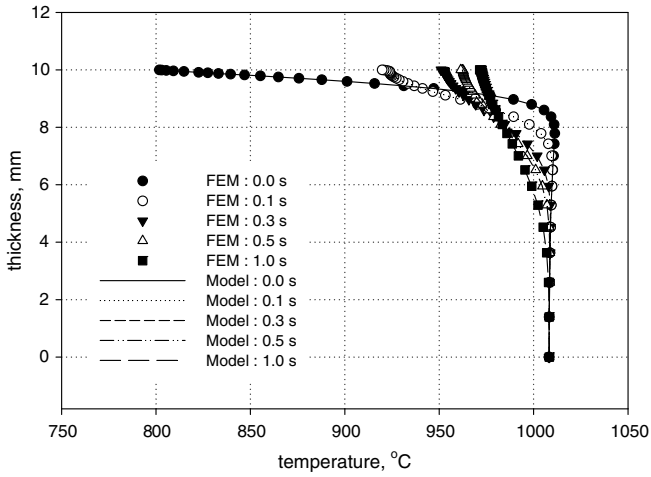


Fig. 6. Temperature distributions along the thickness direction in the inter-stand zone. The temperature distributions at the outlet of the bite zone  $F_i$  stand are temperature distributions at the inlet of the inter-stand zone between the stand  $F_i$  and the stand  $F_{i+1}$ ,  $T_w = 20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $h_w = 0.0001\text{ W/mm}^2\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $L = 5800\text{ mm}$ ,  $V = 1800\text{ mm/s}$ .

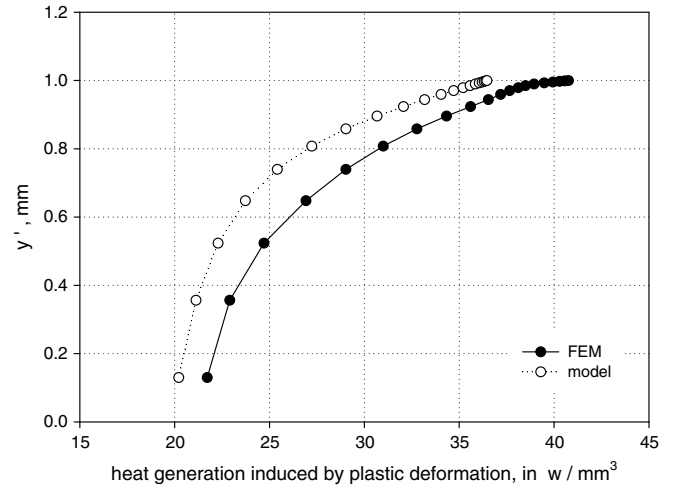


Fig. 8. The average heat generation along the thickness direction in the bite zone of F7 stand. Process conditions are shown in Table 1.

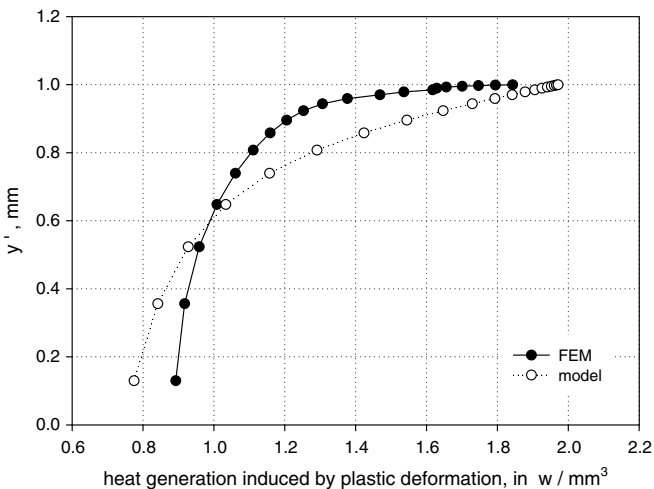


Fig. 7. The average heat generation along the thickness direction in the bite zone of F1 stand. Process conditions are shown in Table 1.

Recently, Kim et al. [24] derived a general dimensionless form that relate the parameters describing the thermo-mechanical behavior of the strip with the process parameters. According to the theory,  $A$  may generally be expressed by a function of eight dimensionless variables, or

$$A = f\left(\frac{\omega}{C_2}, \frac{T_1}{C_1}, \mu, s, r, \beta_1, \beta_2, \tilde{\beta}_3\right) \quad (14)$$

where

$$\beta_1 = \frac{\rho c_p V_R}{k} \quad (15)$$

$$\beta_2 = \frac{P'}{kT_1} \quad (16)$$

$$\tilde{\beta}_3 = \beta_3 = \frac{P_f - 2P_r}{P' + \rho c_p V_R H_1 T_1} \quad (17)$$

$$P' = E_1 V_R H_2 = P' / (1 + f_s) \quad (18)$$

$$P' = V_2 H_2 \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \int_{H_2}^{H_1} \frac{\bar{\sigma}(\bar{\epsilon}, \bar{\epsilon}, T)}{h} dh \quad (19)$$

It is found from a series of FE process simulation that the effect of  $\omega$  and  $\beta_2$  are negligible. Assuming that the coefficient of friction  $\mu = 0.3$ , Eq. (14) may be reduced to a multivariable polynomial form

$$A = f\left(\frac{T_1}{C_1}, s, r, \beta_1, \beta_3\right) = \sum_{i,j,k,l,m} A_{ijklm} s^i r^j T^k \beta_1^l \beta_3^m \quad (20)$$

The coefficients may be found from the least square regression of the data predicted from the FE simulation. The results are given in Tables 2 and 3.

Selecting  $a = 5$ , the distribution of  $\dot{q}(y')$  the thus predicted are in good agreement with the prediction from the FE process simulation, as shown in Figs. 7 and 8.

**5. A semi-analytic model for the prediction of temperatures in the bite zone**

The strip temperatures vary in the bite zone, mainly due to heat transfer occurring at the roll and strip interface and also due to heat generation induced by plastic deformation of the strip. Let  $P_d$ ,  $P_f$ , and  $P_r$  denote the deformation energy, frictional energy, and the heat loss from the strip to the work roll, respectively, define by

$$P_d = \int_{\Omega} \bar{\sigma} \dot{\epsilon} d\Omega \quad (21)$$

$$P_f = \int_{\Gamma_c} \mu \sigma_n |V_s - V_R| d\Gamma \quad (22)$$

$$P_r = \int_{\Gamma_c} h_{lub} (T_s - T_R) d\Gamma \quad (23)$$

For the prediction of  $P_d$ ,  $P_f$ , and  $P_r$  FE-based on-line models proposed by Lee et al. [23] may be used.

Note that heat transfer then average heat flow rate at the roll and strip interface is calculated from

$$q_s = \frac{P_f - 2P_r}{2l_d} \quad (24)$$

The initial boundary value problem associate with heat transfer in the bite zone may be given by heat equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( k \frac{\partial T(y, t)}{\partial y} \right) + \dot{q}(y) = \rho c_p \frac{\partial T(y, t)}{\partial t} \quad (25)$$

boundary conditions:

$$\frac{\partial T(y, t)}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \text{at } y = 0 \quad (26)$$

$$k \frac{\partial T(y, t)}{\partial y} = q_s \quad \text{at } y = h \quad (27)$$

where, as shown in Fig. 9, it is assumed that  $h$  can be approximated by

$$h = \frac{H_1 + H_2}{4} \quad (28)$$

initial condition:

$$T(y, 0) = T_1(y) \quad (29)$$

where  $T_1(y)$  denotes inlet temperature distribution.

We may solve the problem by using the method of eigenfunction expansion. The solution procedure is described in detail in Appendix.

The result may be summarized as follows

$$T(y, t) = \frac{1}{h} \int_0^h T_1(y) \cdot \phi_0(y) dy + \frac{1}{h \cdot \rho c_p} \left( q_s + \int_0^h \dot{q}(y) dy \right) \cdot t + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ \exp\left(-\frac{\lambda_n^2 \cdot k \cdot t}{\rho c_p}\right) \cdot \left\{ a_n(0) + \frac{2 \cdot (-1)^n}{h \cdot \rho c_p} \cdot \int_0^t q_s \cdot \exp\left(\frac{\lambda_n^2 \cdot k \cdot t}{\rho c_p}\right) dt \right\} + \frac{2}{\lambda_n^2 \cdot k \cdot h} \left( 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{\lambda_n^2 \cdot k \cdot t}{\rho c_p}\right) \right) \cdot \int_0^h \dot{q}(y) \cdot \phi_n(y) dy \right] \phi_n(y) \quad (30)$$

where  $\phi_n(y) = \cos(\lambda_n y)$ ,  $\lambda_n = n\pi/h$  and  $a_n(0) = \frac{2}{h} \int_0^h T_1(y) \cdot \phi_n(y) dy$ .

The following procedure may then be taken to predict the temperature distribution in the bite zone:

- (1) Calculate  $P_f$  and  $P_r$  from the mathematical expressions derived by Lee et al. [23].
- (2) Calculate  $q_s$  from Eq. (24).
- (3) Calculate  $P_d$  from the mathematical expressions derived by Lee et al. [23], and calculate  $A$  from Eq. (20).
- (4) Calculate heat generation, from Eq. (13).
- (5) Calculate the temperature distribution, from Eq. (30).

**6. Results and discussion**

A finishing mill consists of several mill stands, with its line length being extremely large compared to the strip thickness. Consequently, finite element simulation considering the entire finishing mill as a single analysis domain is impractical in the light of the computational efficiency. An alternative choice would be to divide

**Table 1**  
FE process conditions.

Variables	Unit	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	
$H_1$	mm	44.52	27.22	16.68	10.82	7.32	5.22	4.02	
$H_2$	mm	27.22	16.68	10.82	7.32	5.22	4.02	3.4	
$V_R$	mm/s	1145	1879	2945	4427	6182	8017	9646	
$R$	mm	410	389	380	340	298	313	322	
$h_w$	W/mm <sup>2</sup> °C	0.000088	0.000132	0.0001584	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0001584	
$\bar{\sigma}$	kN/mm <sup>2</sup>	0.155% carbon steel							
$T_w$	°C	20							
$h_{lub}$	W/mm <sup>2</sup> °C	0.1							
$\bar{h}_{rw}$	W/mm <sup>2</sup> °C	0.011667							
$k_r$	W/mm °C	0.027							
$\rho c_{pr}$	J/mm <sup>3</sup> °C	0.004248							
$k$	W/mm °C	0.03							
$\rho c_p$	J/mm <sup>3</sup> °C	0.00688							
$T_0$	°C	1000, uniform strip temperature at the inlet F1 bite zone							
$L$	mm	5800, inter-stand zone length							







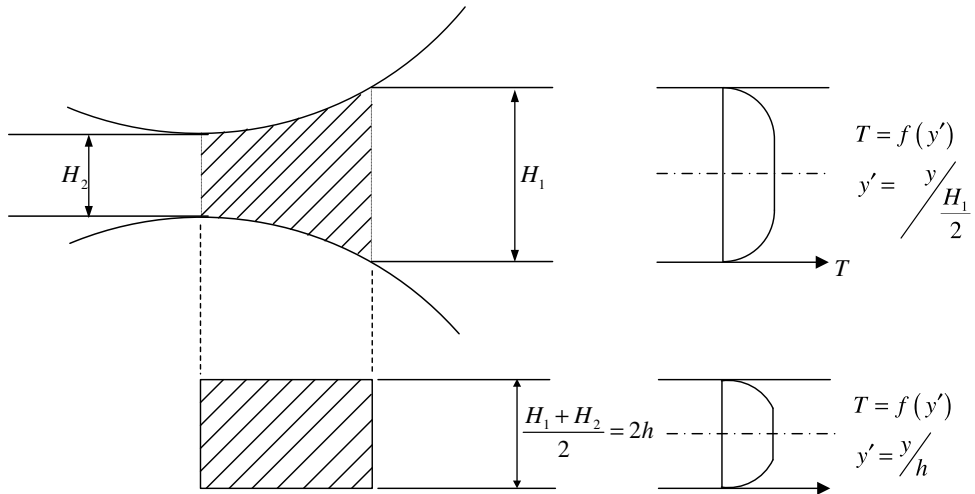


Fig. 9. Approximation of bite zone and temperature distributions at the inlet.

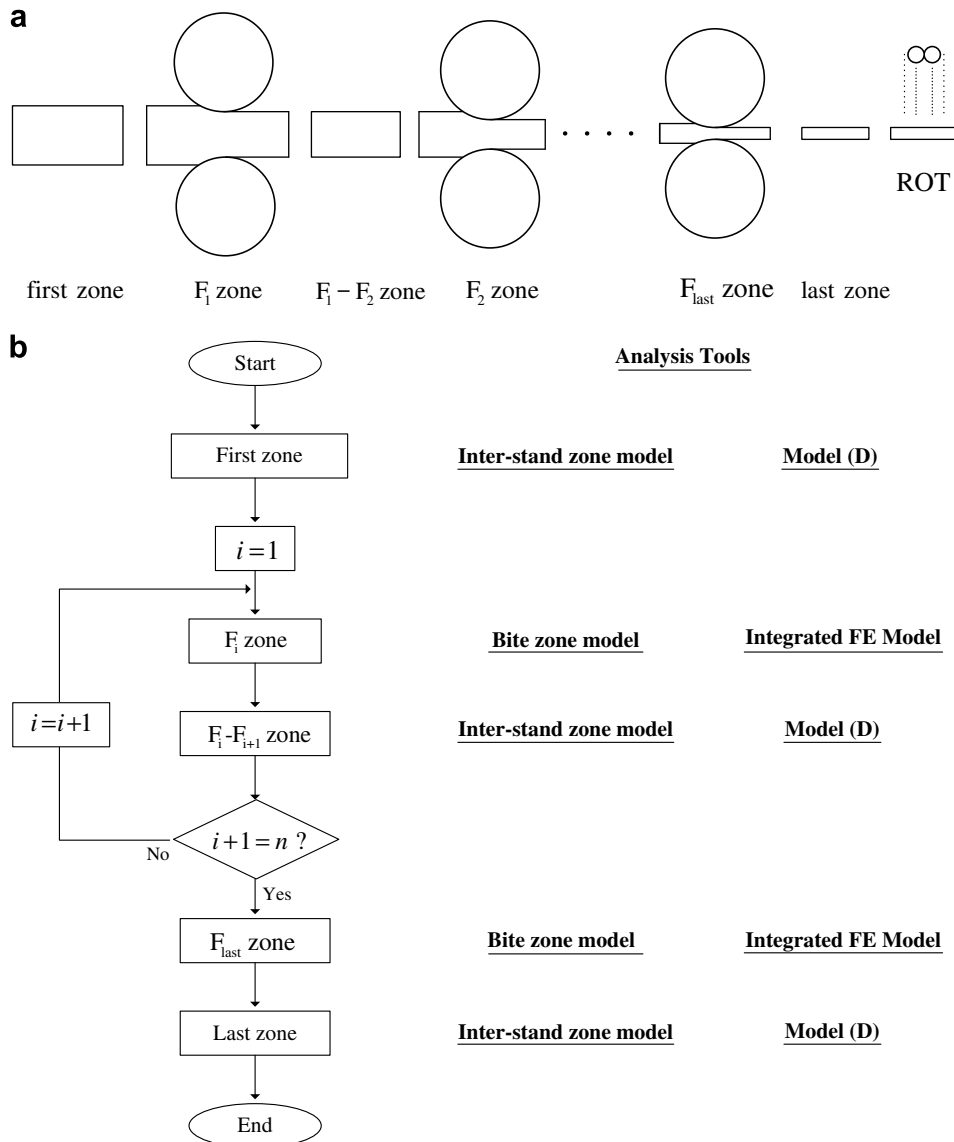


Fig. 10. (a) Division of a finishing mill into several sub zones, (b) Computational procedure.

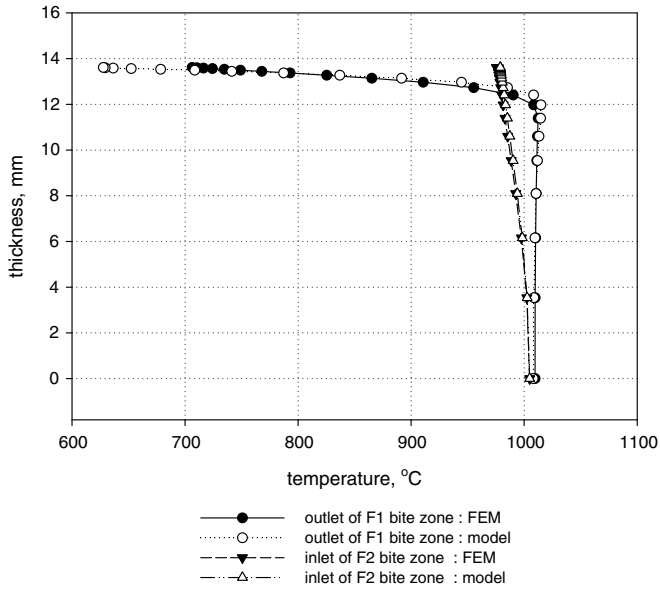


Fig. 11. Temperature distributions along the thickness direction in the finishing mills at the outlet of the bite zone of F1 stand and at the inlet of the bite zone of F2 stand. Process conditions are shown in Table 1.

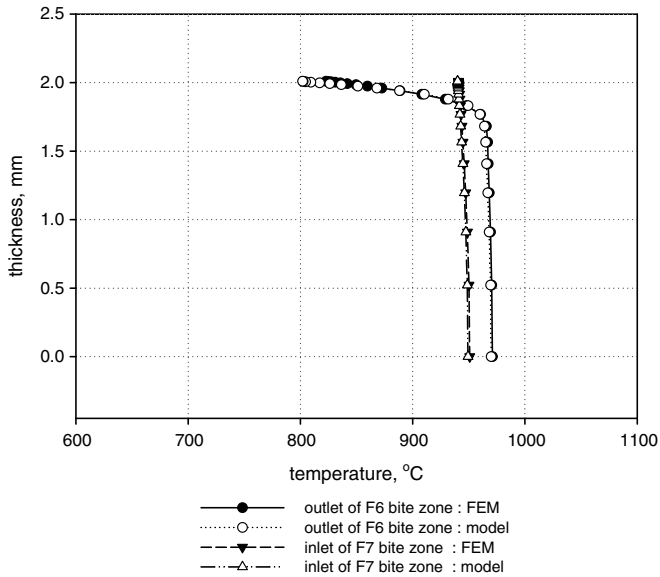


Fig. 12. Temperature distributions along the thickness direction in the finishing mills at the outlet of the bite zone of F6 stand and at the inlet of the bite zone of F7 stand. Process conditions are shown in Table 1.

$$\frac{d\phi_n(0)}{dy} = 0 \tag{A2}$$

$$\frac{d\phi_n(h)}{dy} = 0 \tag{A3}$$

The eigen functions are given by

$$\phi_n(y) = \cos(\lambda_n y), \quad \lambda_n = n\pi/h \tag{A4}$$

Any piecewise smooth function can be expand in terms of these eigen functions, or

$$T(y, t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(t) \cdot \phi_n(y) \tag{A5}$$

It follows that

$$\frac{\partial T(y, t)}{\partial t} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{da_n(t)}{dt} \cdot \phi_n(y) \tag{A6}$$

$$a_n(t) = \frac{\int_0^h T(y, t) \cdot \phi_n(y) dy}{\int_0^h \phi_n^2(y) dy} \tag{A7}$$

From (25) and (A6), it may be shown that

$$\frac{da_n(t)}{dt} = \frac{\int_0^h \left[ \frac{k}{\rho c_p} \frac{\partial^2 T(y, t)}{\partial y^2} + \frac{1}{\rho c_p} \dot{q}(y) \right] \cdot \phi_n(y) dy}{\int_0^h \phi_n^2(y) dy} \tag{A8}$$

In order to derive an expression for  $a_n(t)$ , let us consider Green's formula

$$\int_0^h \left[ u \cdot \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} - v \cdot \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right] dy = \left( u \frac{dv}{dy} - v \frac{du}{dy} \right) \Big|_0^h \tag{A9}$$

where  $u = T(y, t)$ ,  $v = \phi_n(y)$ .

The left-hand side of (A9) is reduced to

$$\int_0^h \left[ u \cdot \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} - v \cdot \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} \right] dy = -\lambda_n^2 \int_0^h T(y, t) \cdot \phi_n(y) dy - \int_0^h \frac{\partial^2 T(y, t)}{\partial y^2} \cdot \phi_n(y) dy \tag{A10}$$

And the right-hand side of (A9) is reduced to

$$\left( u \frac{dv}{dy} - v \frac{du}{dy} \right) \Big|_0^h = (-1)^{n+1} \cdot \frac{q_s}{k} \tag{A11}$$

Thus, from (A8)

$$\int_0^h \frac{\partial^2 T(y, t)}{\partial y^2} \cdot \phi_n(y) dy = -\lambda_n^2 \int_0^h T(y, t) \cdot \phi_n(y) dy + (-1)^n \cdot \frac{q_s}{k} \tag{A12}$$

Equation (A8) then becomes

Case 1:  $n = 0$

$$\frac{da_0(t)}{dt} = \frac{1}{h \cdot \rho c_p} \left( q_s + \int_0^h \dot{q}(y) dy \right) \tag{A13}$$

Case2:  $n \neq 0$

$$\frac{da_n(t)}{dt} = -\frac{\lambda_n^2 \cdot k}{\rho c_p} a_n(t) + \frac{2}{h \cdot \rho c_p} \left( (-1)^n q_s + \int_0^h \dot{q}(y) \cdot \phi_n(y) dy \right) \tag{A14}$$

From (A13), we obtain

$$a_0(t) = a_0(0) + \frac{1}{h \cdot \rho c_p} \left( q_s + \int_0^h \dot{q}(y) dy \right) \cdot t \tag{A15}$$

$$\text{where from (A7) } a_0(0) = \frac{1}{h} \int_0^h T_1(y) \cdot \phi_0(y) dy \tag{A16}$$

Equation (A14) may be solved by introducing the integrating factor  $\exp\left(\lambda_n^2 \frac{k}{\rho c_p} t\right)$ . The result may be summarized as follows.

$$a_n(t) = \exp\left(-\lambda_n^2 \frac{k}{\rho c_p} t\right) \cdot \left\{ a_n(0) + \frac{2 \cdot (-1)^n}{h \cdot \rho c_p} \cdot \int_0^t q_s \cdot \exp\left(\lambda_n^2 \frac{k}{\rho c_p} t\right) dt \right\} + \frac{2}{\lambda_n^2 \cdot k \cdot h} \left( 1 - \exp\left(-\lambda_n^2 \frac{k}{\rho c_p} t\right) \right) \cdot \int_0^h \dot{q}(y) \cdot \phi_n(y) dy \tag{A17}$$

$$\text{where from (A7) } a_n(0) = \frac{2}{h} \int_0^h T_1(y) \cdot \phi_n(y) dy \tag{A18}$$

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