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# Analysis and Countermeasures for Sideband of Gear Mesh Frequency(GMF) Induced by Shaft Fretting Corrosion in a Gearbox

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# Presentation Overview

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1. Abstract
2. Introduction
3. System gear ratios and GMFs
4. Chronology of events
5. Trouble shooting
6. Root Cause
7. Solution
8. Lessons Learned

**Analysis and Countermeasures for  
Sideband of Gear Mesh  
Frequency(GMF)  
Induced by Shaft Fretting Corrosion  
in a Gearbox**



# Abstract

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CS deals with trouble shooting and solving a chronic fretting corrosion damage between a gear and shaft (shrink fit). The damage on the geared shaft always accompanied by an increase in the amplitude and frequency side bands at the gear mesh frequency (GMF).

The troubleshooting process and analysis revealed that the distance between the two gears is a critical design parameter for preventing fretting corrosion.



# Introduction

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Located in a polypropylene plant, an extruder pushes molten polymer through a die plate to make the final product (pellets)

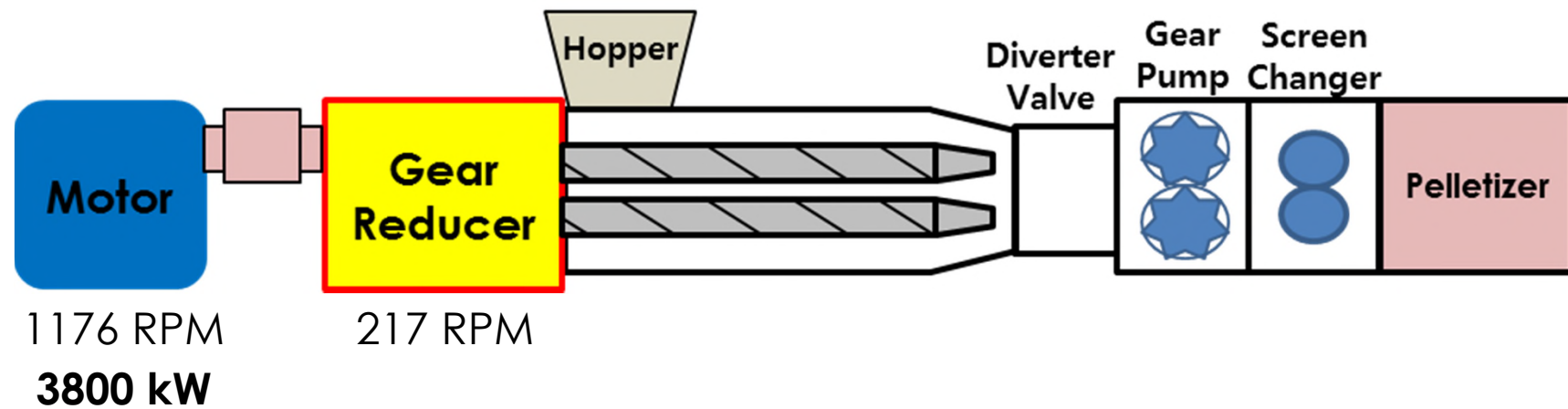


Fig. 1 Schematic drawing of extruder train



# System gear ratios and GMFs

Overall gear reduction(ratio) is **5.4**, as determined by 5 shafts & 8 gears(without low speed)

**LS:** Low Speed  
**HS:** High Speed  
**G1~8 :** Gear No.

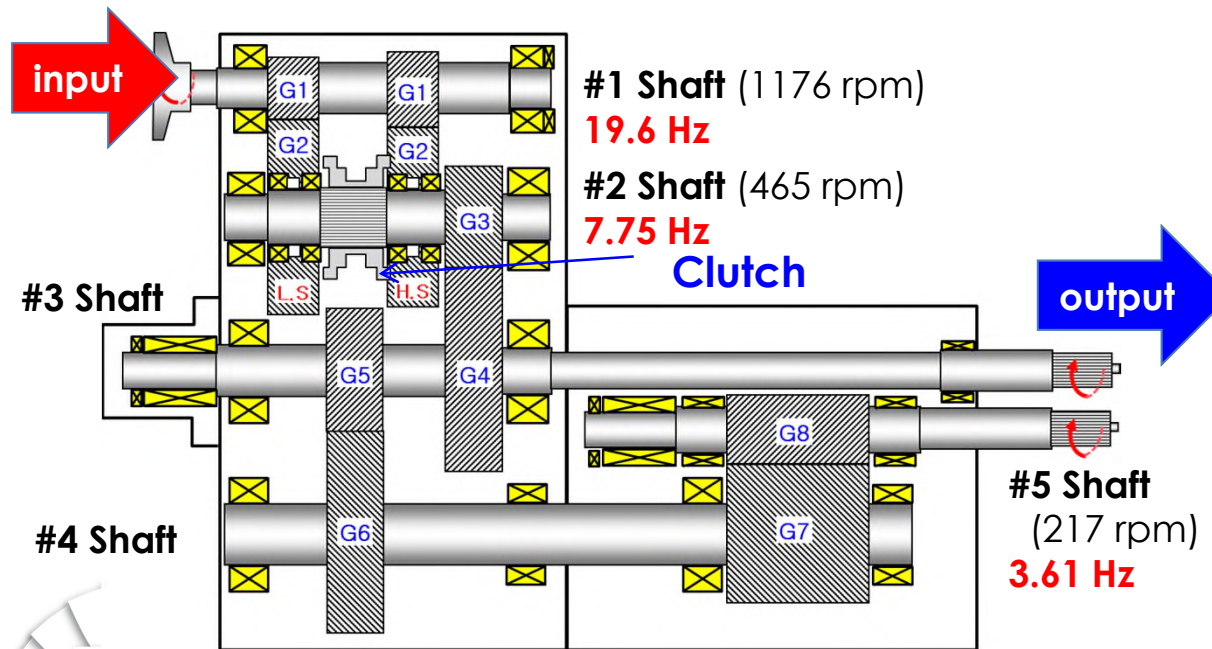


Table. 1 RPM & GMF

Shaft No.	RPM	Gear No.	GMF (Hz)
#1 (Input)	1176	G1	667
#2	465	G2	667
		G3	217
#3 (Output)	217	G4	217
		G5	109
#4	114	G6	109
		G7	109
#5 (Output)	217	G8	109

※ Gears assembled on the shafts by shrink fit



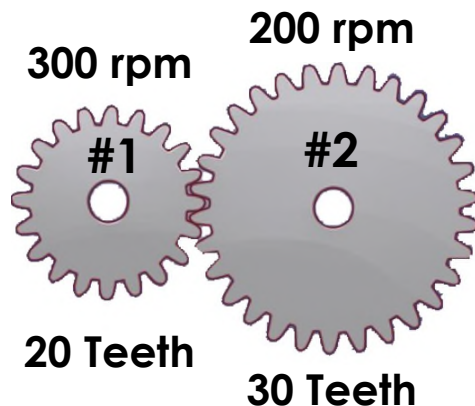
# System gear ratios and GMFs

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**GMF: Gear Mesh Frequency**, also called Tooth Mesh Frequency

**= Number of teeth X Shaft speed**

For example,



**GMF of Gear #1 & #2**

$$= \frac{20 \text{ Teeth} \times 300 \text{ rpm}}{60} = \frac{30 \text{ Teeth} \times 200 \text{ rpm}}{60}$$

$$= 100 \text{ Hz}$$



# Chronology of events

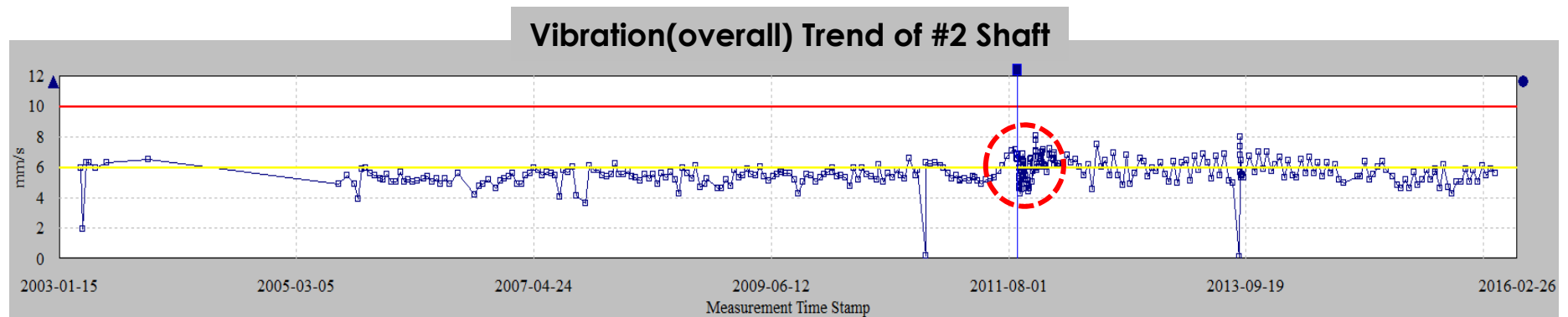
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- 1. Aug. 2011** : Increased vibration of #2 shaft due to occurrence of **GMF side band**.
- 2. Oct. 2011** : After gearbox overhauling, fretting corrosion was found on #2 Shaft  
→ Replaced #2 Shaft with gear and bearing
- 3. 2013, 2015** : Again, GMF side band & fretting corrosion on #2 Shaft  
→ Temporary repair by means of low temperature welding on shaft and Cr plating inside of gears.



# Chronology 1. August 2011

Increased vibration of #2 shaft (5.8 mm/s → 6.9mm/s)



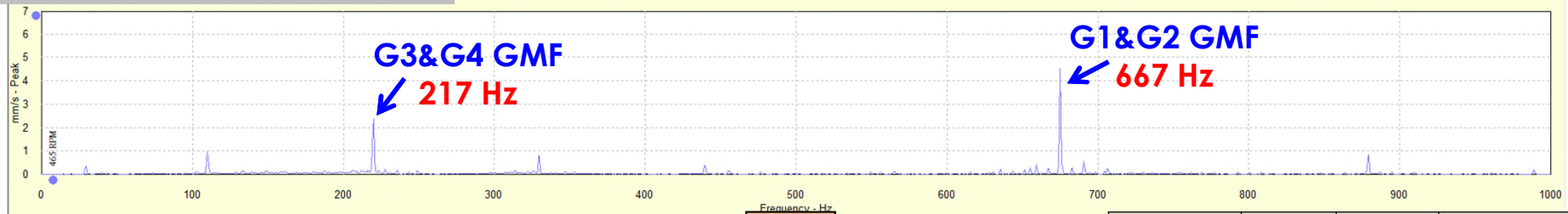
※ Vibration measured bi-weekly with portable sensor



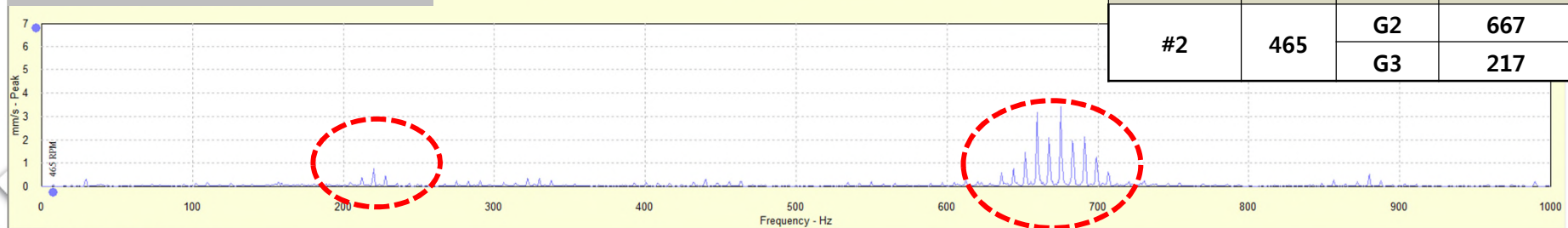
# Chronology 1. Aug 2011

GMF side band frequency appeared, and affected vibration increase

Before increasing vibration



After increasing vibration

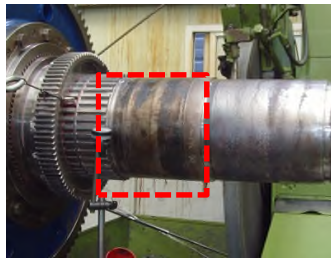


Shaft No.	RPM	Gear No.	GMF (Hz)
#2	465	G2	667
		G3	217

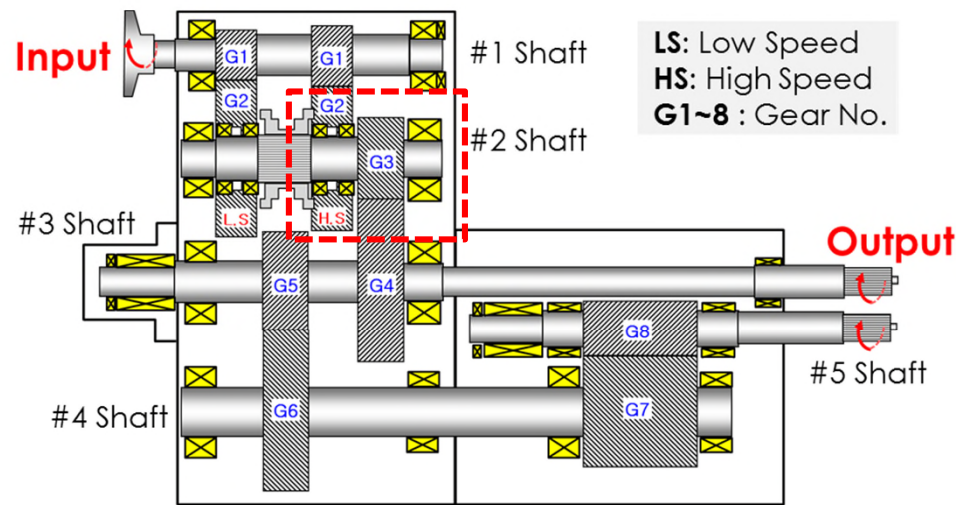
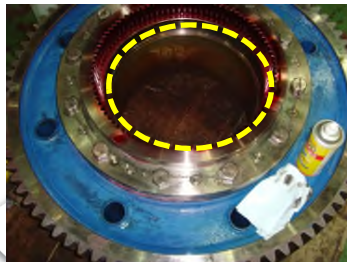
# Chronology 2. October 2011

**Severe damage:** Fretting corrosion damage on #2 shaft.

No.2 Shaft  
(HS G2 Gear Inner Bearing Mating)



G2 Gear  
(Inner Bearing Mating)



No.2 Shaft  
(G3 Gear Mating)



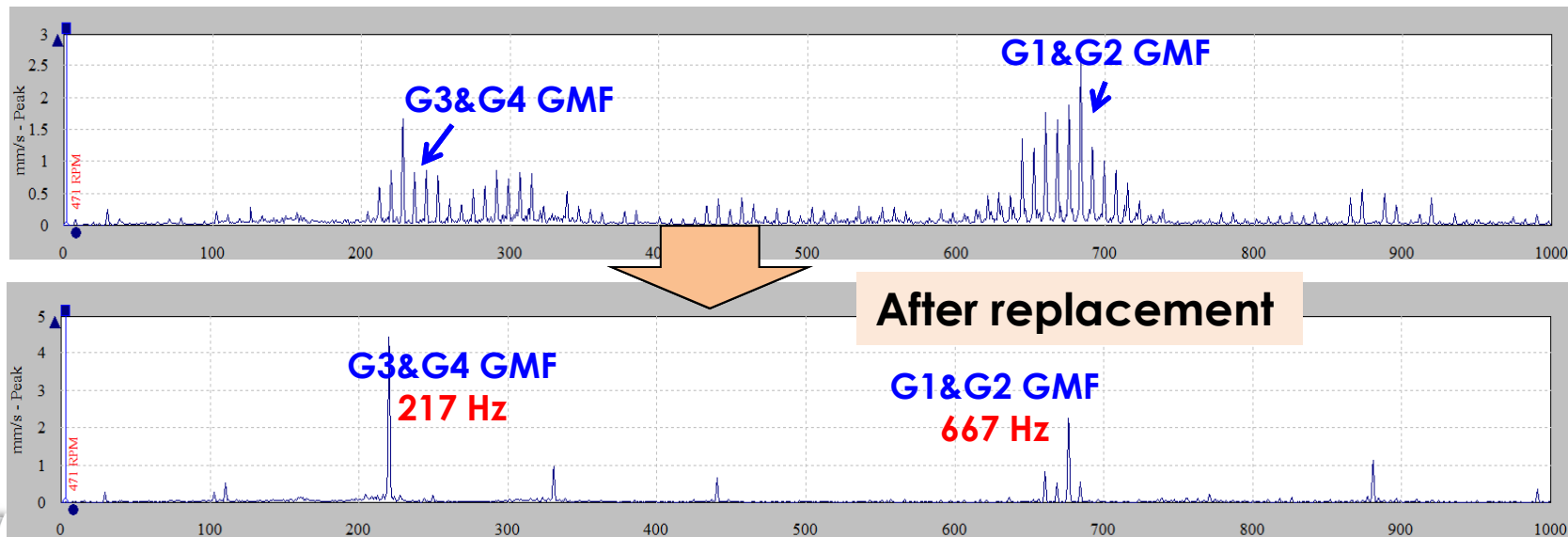
G3 Gear



# Chronology 2. October 2011

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After replacing shaft and bearings,  
Vibration side bands disappeared.



# Persistence of issue and steps to solution

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However, fretting corrosion with **GMF side band** repeatedly happened every 1.5 ~2 years (in 2013 & 2015)

**To prevent fretting corrosion damage, we had to reduce charge rate of extruder.**

**To find the root cause** for the persistency of fretting corrosion damage occurs on #2 shaft only, all aspects were analyzed from operating condition to shaft design, as well as installation condition.



# Troubleshooting

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Fretting corrosion obviously occurs due to minute relative movement (of parts) operating under high pressure.



**Since the gear and shaft are assembled by shrink fit (=high pressure), one must find out why relative movement happens.**



# Troubleshooting

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Three likely causes produce the relative motion:

Probable Causes	Possibility
① Insufficient force while shrink fitting	X
② <b>Excessive torsional load</b>	○
③ <b>Excessive shear force (shaft bending)</b>	○

Most likely are **excessive torsional load & shear force that continuously produced the relative movement.**



# Troubleshooting

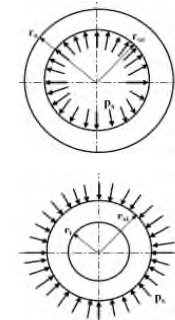
## ① Insufficient force for shrink fit (shaft-gear)

Allowable transmission torque by shrink fit is approx. 3.4 times actual transmitted torque.

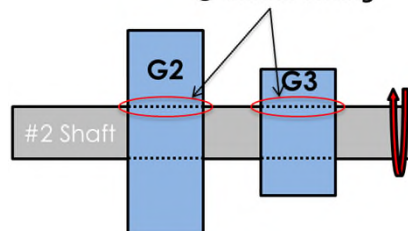
→ **Low probability for relative movement btw gear & shaft**

### ❖ Lame's Equation for Thick Cylinder Shrink Fit

Transmitted Power (kW)	RPM	Transmitted Torque (kN-m)	Interference Pressure (MPa)	Friction Force (kN)	Allowable Transmission Torque (kN-m)	Remark
2700	465	55.4	36.6	1138	188	<b>Safety margin</b> $= 188 / 55.4 = 3.4$



① Shrink Fitting



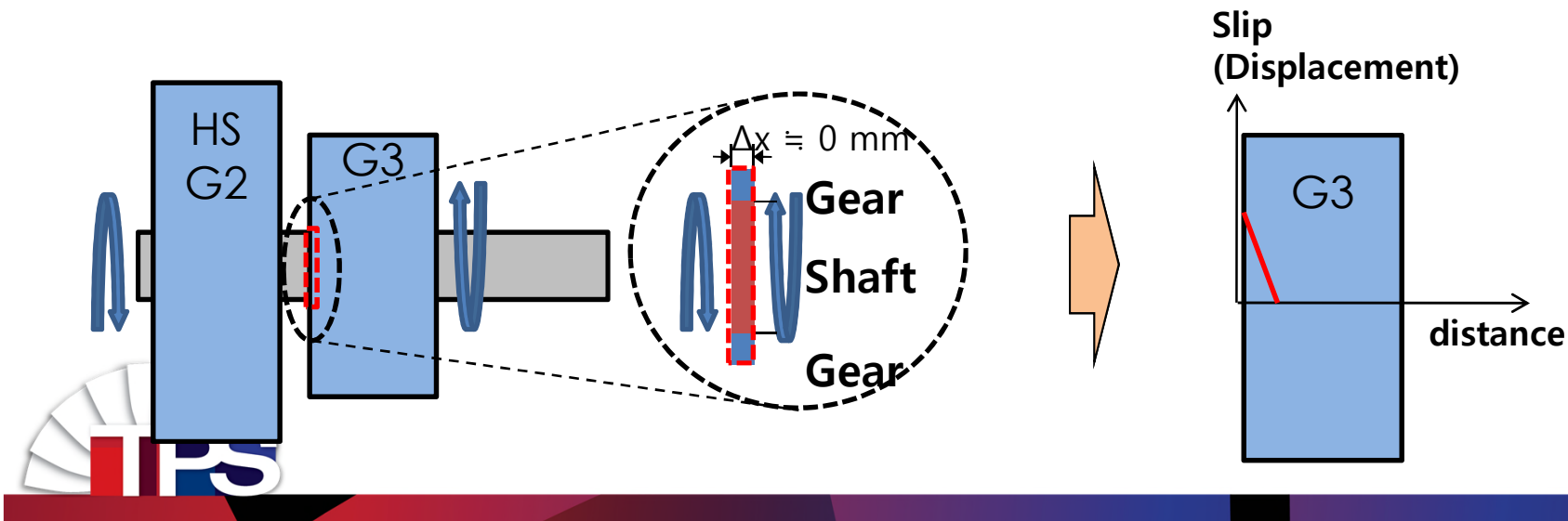


# Troubleshooting

## ② Excessive torsional load

Relative movement can occur at the gear edge zone  
(red dotted box)

**As transmitted torque increases, the relative movement at the edge zone accordingly increases.**

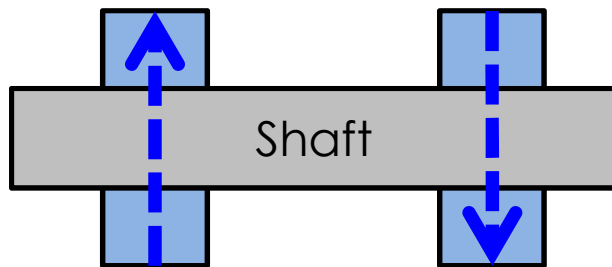


# Troubleshooting

## ③ Excessive shear force (shaft bending)

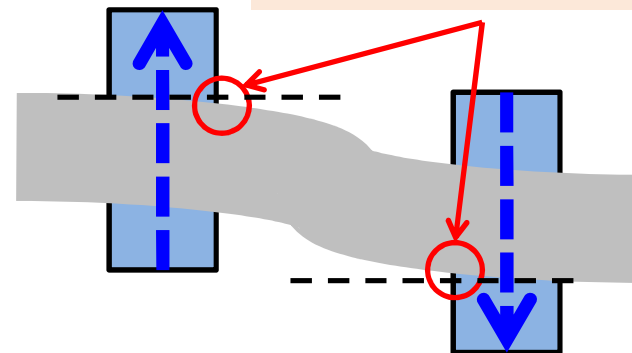
Shear from gear reaction force can cause shaft bending, thus resulting in relative displacement.

Gear Reaction Force  
by Input Gear



Gear Reaction Force  
by Output Gear

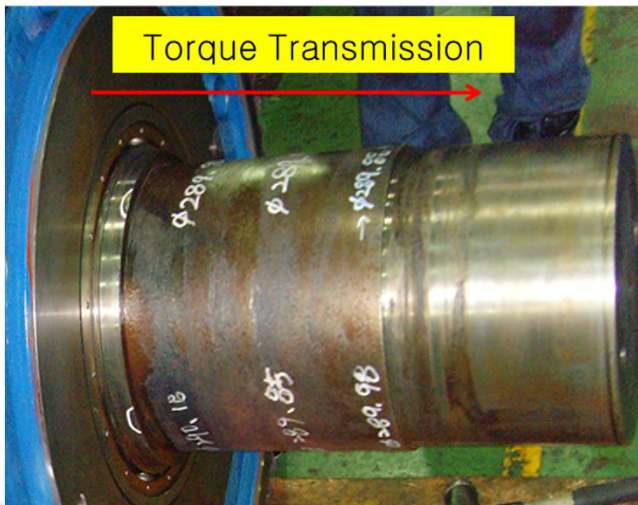
Relative Displacement  
at Torque Input & Output



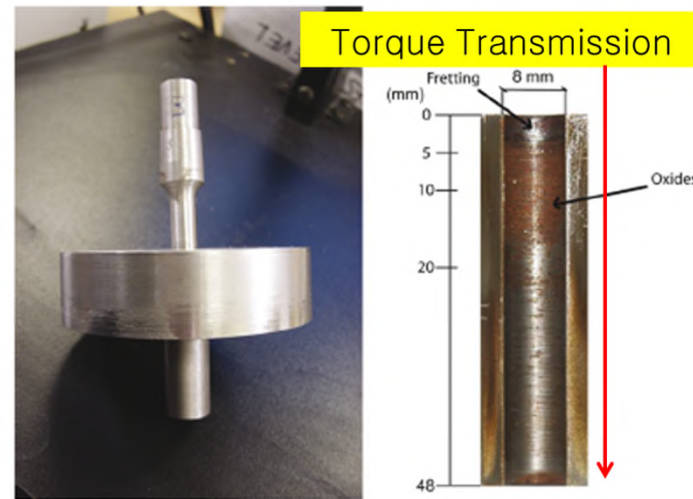
# Troubleshooting

## ③ Excessive shear force (shaft bending)

Fretting corrosion starts from torque input & output by torsion and bending, then propagates to opposite side



Gearbox Shaft



Lab Experiment

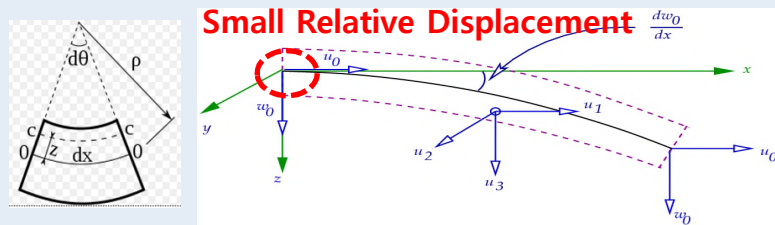


# Troubleshooting

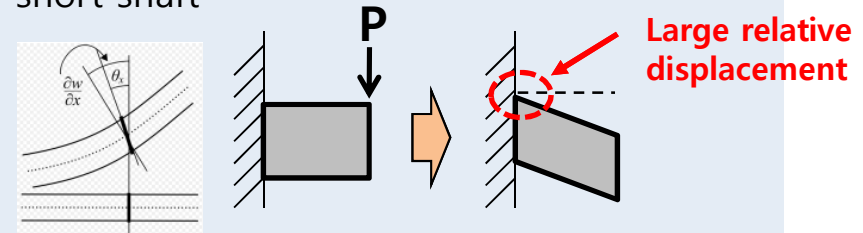
## ③ Excessive shear force (shaft bending)

- ① Long distance between two gears  
: **Small Relative Displacement**
- ② Short distance between two gears  
: **Large Relative Displacement**

① Apply Euler Beam Theory to long shaft



② Apply Timoshenko Beam Theory to short shaft

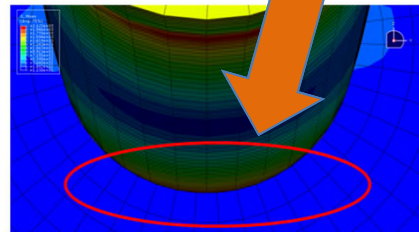
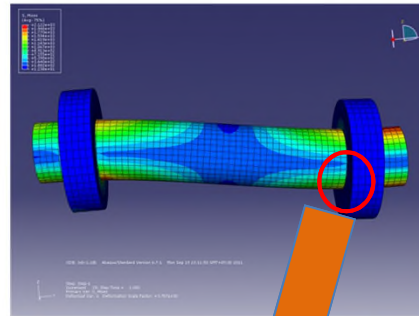


# Troubleshooting

## ③ Excessive shear force (shaft bending)

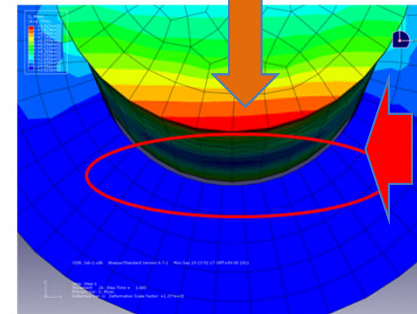
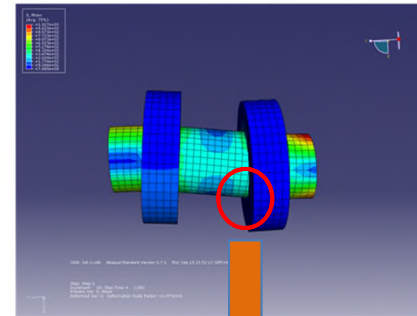
FEM results also reveal a short shaft undergoes a large relative displacement.

Long Shaft(Euler Beam Model)



Long Shaft has smaller relative displacement

Short Shaft(Timoshenko Beam Model)



Large relative displacement



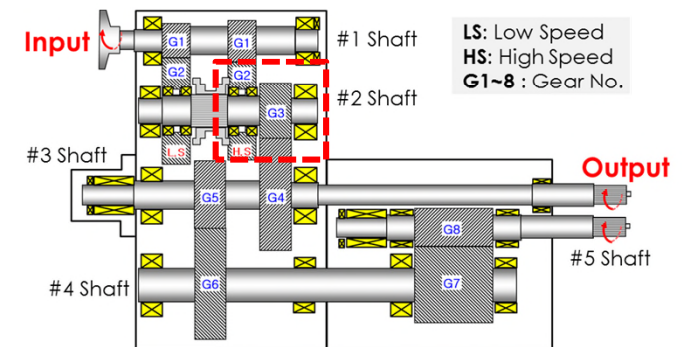
# The root cause:

Thus, the distance between two gears is a critical parameter for causing fretting corrosion b/w a gear and shaft

Since G2 & G3 are too close together (25mm),

#2 shaft has the highest potential risk for fretting corrosion.

Category		G3	G4	G5	G6	G7
Ⓐ	Distance (mm) (Gear - Gear)	25	210	210	1500	1500
Ⓑ	Torque (kNxm)	55.4	189	59	113	113
	Fretting Index (= Ⓑ / Ⓐ)	2.22	0.90	0.28	0.08	0.08
	Fretting Severity	1	2	3	4	4



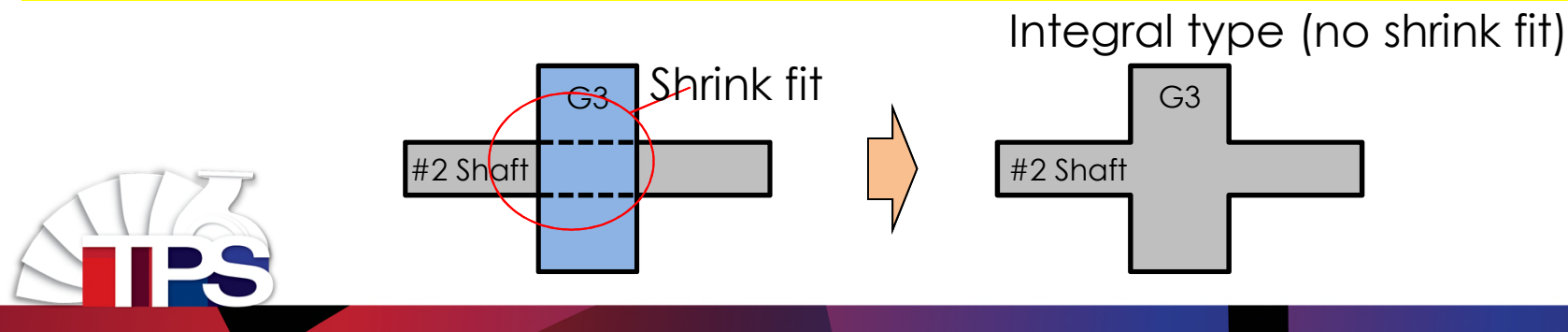
# Solution

To prevent reoccurrence of fretting corrosion on #2 shaft, The distance between G2 and G3 must be increased.

However, it's impossible to modify the gear arrangement of #2 shaft.

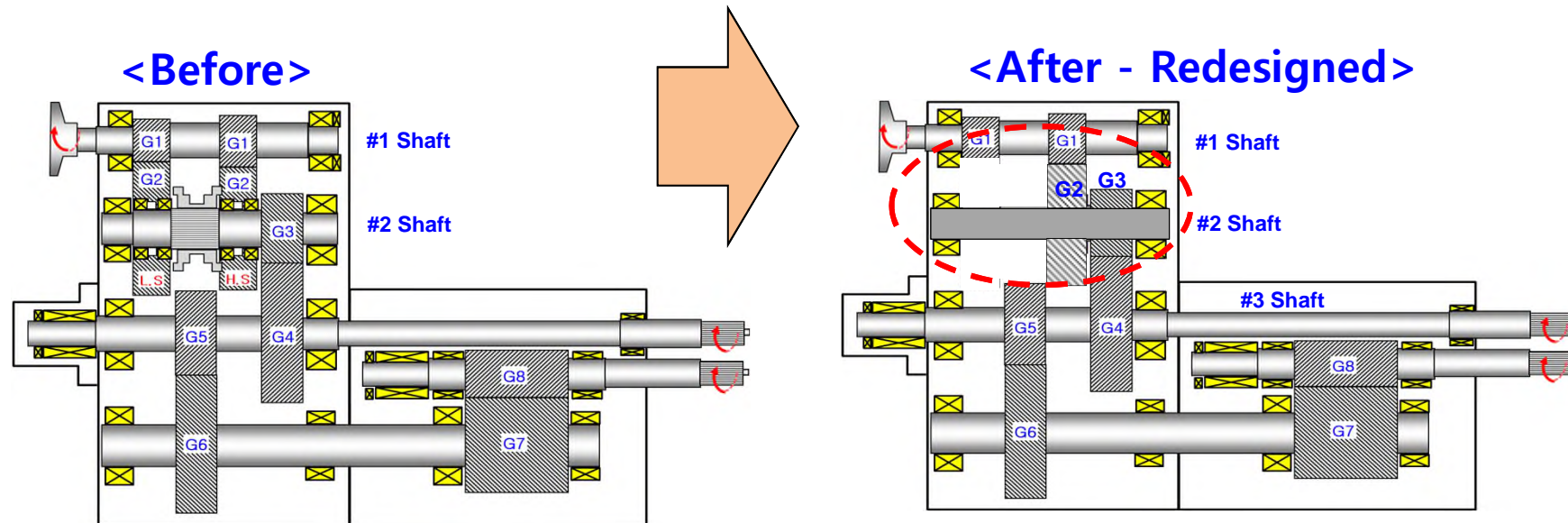
Thus, the following improvements performed in 2016

1. To eliminate relative movement, a new integral shaft + gear #2 manufactured.



# Solution

2. Eliminated clutch, clutch bearings, and LS G2 gear:



Replaced Integral Shaft + G3 Gear.  
Eliminated clutch, clutch bearing, LS G2



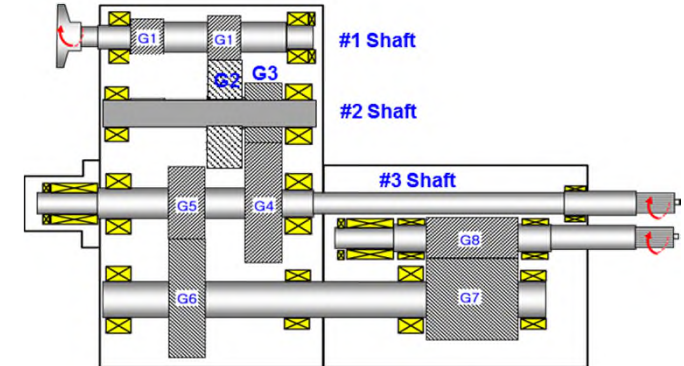


## Solution successful

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Fretting corrosion fully eliminated,  
and vibration significantly reduced  
(max. 7.9 mm/s → 2.9mm/s).

The improvement allowed to  
increase 10% in extruder capacity.



# Lessons Learned

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- If side-band frequency at GMF increases, a probable cause is fretting corrosion damage between shaft and gear.
- Through FEM modeling and other, analysis found that the distance between two gears is a critical design parameter for preventing fretting corrosion. Removed chronic trouble by shaft/gear design modification.
- In case of chronic fretting corrosion damage of a gear shaft, applying an integral gear shaft is a proven solution.



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**End of Presentation**

**Questions?**

