

BUCKLE UP! IMPROVING INTEGRITY ANALYSES OF OFFSHORE PIPELINE DEFLECTIONS

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Background

Concept of Pipeline Bending Strain, IMU and qualification.

Case Stud(ies) and Primary Benefits

Secondary Benefits

Other Considerations



Why do new offshore pipelines curve?

- 1. Route that changes directions (eg due to geohazards)
- 2. Undulating seabed topography
- 3. Engineered spans
- 4. Crossings of features on seabed
- 5. Tie-in design
- 6. Start up designed buckle



Why may pipeline curvatures change over time?

- 1. Buckling from thermal expansion and/or walking
- 2. Pipeline walking behavior 'pulling/pushing' curves
- 3. Third party
 - a) Anchor drag
 - b) Other construction work
- 4. Inclement Metocean conditions
- 5. Changes in seabed topography
 - a) Scouring
 - b) Sandwaves
 - c) Geohazard events
 - Seismic
 - Subsea slips



Do we need to worry about pipeline curvature?

Not normally - if the pipeline is fit for purpose



'Super Span' Courtesy of Chevron (Public Domain)

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Unplanned pipeline deviations have many potential causes including:

- Non conforming issues during pipelay(eg lay angle, lay weather/conditions etc)
- Pipeline movement due to more onerous metocean/environmental forces
- Poor understanding of on-bottom conditions/stability
- Geohazard events
- Excessive seabed mobility
 - As spans develop/scour
 - Calcareous



Unplanned pipeline deviations have many potential causes including:

- Unforeseen operational upsets eg:
 - Design temperature/pressure
 - Unforeseen axial movement/walking/buckling
- Third party damage (eg anchor/trawl board damage)

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EXAMPLES - POST INSTALLATION



Ship's anchors





Ice gouging





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BACKGROUND – DRIVERS FOR MONITORING



- Design calculations may indicate a pipeline is 'borderline' to experience 'walking' with potential buckling
 - Monitoring may be the mitigating factor to avoid considerable cost/effort required to design, procure and install hold back anchors, ZRB posts and the like.
- In areas of higher seabed mobility, a similar situation may arise where operator may decide to monitor vs costly trenching or burial efforts.
- Conventional Inspection/Monitoring Methods include ROV/SSS/Divers/AUV





BEND STRAIN CONCEPT - MEASUREMENT SYSTEM





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MEASUREMENT SYSTEM



- Angles are measured via the Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU)
- IMU Comprises of 3 accelerometers and 3 gyroscopes



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BENDING STRAIN





Bending of a Beam

Bending of the pipe

ĸD [%] $\mathcal{E}_{bending} = \frac{1}{R_{am}^2} = \frac{1}{2}$

Neutral axis has same length. Outer side will elongate Inner side will compress

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BENDING STRAIN





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BENDING STRAIN QUALIFICATION AT ROSEN TECHNOLOGY CENTRE **ROSEN**

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BENDING STRAIN TEST AT RTRC/LINGEN





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BENDING STRAIN REPORTING

Detailed description:

- Table with information
- Top view / horizontal bending strain
- Side view / vertical bending strain
- Total bending strain
- O'clock position of the elongation strain
- Type of Strain
 - 'B' bend / green marked
 - 'S' bending strain / red marked
 - 'O' other i.e. ID anomaly / yellow
- Coloring codes for different entries
- Joint numbers are at the bottom

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BENDING STRAIN REPORTING

Available in the report:

Lists

- List of Maximum Bending Strain
- List of Bending Strain
- List of Possible Construction Irregularities
- Detailed Graphs for each bending strain area
- Kilometer plots of the complete pipeline

Rules for List of Maximum Bending Strain:

•Standard reporting: 25 Bending Strain Areas with largest bending strain values

BEND STRAIN ACCURACIES/SAMPLING INTERVALS

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Method	Accuracies (m or %)	Sampling Intervals	Comments
SD ROV*	1 (x,y) 0.1 (z)	every 1 second	N/A
HD ROV*	0.1 (x,y,z)	every 1 second	With wheels on ROV
Standard SSS *	4-5 (x,y)	Between 400 to 900kHz	125m WD, (High frequency)
Multibeam AUV*	0.2 (x,y,z)	0.25 m grid size	13m above Seabed
ILI - XYZ	1 – ABS 2km(1) 0.1 – REL 200m(2)	0.004m possible^ 0.1m standard	1m/s inspection speed 0.1m reporting^
ILI - Geo	0.01 (L,W). Depth: 0.5% of OD (=<16 ") 0.3% of OD (18-28") 0.2% of OD (30-38") 0.15% of OD (40-48")	0.0025m (long) 0.011m (circ) – 8inch	1m/s inspection speed Dent/Wrinkles sizing.
ILI – MFL	Varies	0.0025m	1m/s. MELO sizing

* Turbidity dependent

^ Post processing time is limiting factor but in theory can get even better definition

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B

WRINKLES WITHIN DEFLECTED SHAPES

EGP		

XYZ, bending strain

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> Bending strain indication: Confirmation of wrinkled bends existence

CASE STUDY: LATERAL (1ST ORDER) GLOBAL BUCKLE **ROSEN**

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Anomaly No.	BSTR #002
Anomaly	bending strain
Start distance [m]	103960.0
End distance [m]	104355.0
Length (rounded) [m]	395.0
Max. strain value [%]	0.15
Strain direction	various
Coord _{Start} (Lon [9] Lat [9] Height [m])	
Coord _{End} (Lon [9 Lat [9] Height [m])	
Comment	horizontal bending strain, combined with anodes

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CASE STUDY: SHIP ANCHOR

- Side sonar scan
- Pipeline angular deviation 18° to the right
- Metal object crossing
 pipeline

- Picture from ROV
 - Last ROV survey showed no angular deviation at this location (2006)
- Picture from 2007 ROV inspection showing pipeline damage and 18° angular deviation to the right
- Anchor chain crossing under pipeline

CASE STUDY: SHIP ANCHOR

- ROV pictures (both from right)
- Severe buckle including dent

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CASE STUDY: SHIP ANCHOR (LOCAL BUCKLING)

Anomaly No.	BSTR #001			
Anomaly	bending strain			
Start distance [m]	62793.5			
End distance [m]	62912.0			
Length (rounded) [m]	118.5			
Max. strain value [%]	1.07			
Strain direction	various			
Coord _{Start} (Lon [9] Lat [9] Height [m])				
Coord _{End} (Lon [9] Lat [9] Height [m])				
Comment horizontal bending strain, combined with anode and dents ((62811.709 m; 1.70 %), (62812.017 m; 1.60 %), (62812.361 m; 1.40 %), (62812.008 m; 1.40 %), (62824.486 m; 1.30 %), (62836.142 m; 1.40 %), (62836.842 m; 1.70 %), (62837.260 m; 1.40 %), (62849.106 m; 1.90 %), (62861.513 m; 1.70 %), (62873.673 m; 2.10 %), (62897.086 m; 1.00 %), (62897.688 m; 2.00 %), (62898.201 m; 1.00 %)); reduced accuracy				
	Top View			
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0.4 0.2 0.2 0.4			
E 62760 62780 62900	e2820 e2840 e2860 e2880 e2900 e2920 e2940			
	Datante (m) Side View			
	0.4 0.2 0.4 0.2 0.4			
62760 62780 62800	62820 62840 62880 62880 62900 62920 62940 Distance (m)			
Total Bending Strain				
Direction of Bending Strein				
	0 00 0S 0 0 00			
	Strain type			
51850 51880 51880	S1980 51910 S1930 51950 51960 S1980 S1980			

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PRIMARY BENEFITS

- 1. Accuracy of strain assessment improved
 - a) Improves bend strain estimates. Optimises focus on strain estimation which historically focuses on residual axial strain (notorious).
 - b) Avoid unnecessary repairs/intervention (COMMON benefit)
 - c) If IMU ran in combination with Geometry or MFL or UT ILI tools bending strain/stress can be accurately correlated to other features (corrosion/dents/gouges/ wrinkles) within or in close proximity to the buckle/deviated shape and local effects can be modelled.
- 2. For buckles/deviated shapes in stable seabed and stable operational conditions (little upsets) potential to optimize external subsea inspection intervals.
- 3. ILI internal and strain assessments would be very useful for HPHT buried pipelines with propensity for buckles (that may not be able to be detected visually).
- 4. In context of conditions in Point 2, approximately 80% cheaper than normal focused close visual inspection of a single deflected area with added benefit of full route, internal and close interval pipeline survey.

- 1. Aid in Spans Assessments (if through-life span, not engineered span)
 - a) In-situ approximation of actual strain at 'plastic hinge' locations.
 - b) Multiple surveys (not just ILI) will give holistic model of span
 - Actual deviation angle at shoulders of span
 - c) Whole pipeline coverage not just one span
- For areas of 'walking' concern and close to reference markers (spools/tie-in flanges) – IMU will give you an indication of axial displacements.
 - Also changes in bend strains and angles of spools and jumpers could provide good estimates of potential walking.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 1. Doesn't negate the need for external visual or sonar or multi-beam inspections
- 2. When coupled with other external inspection techniques, understanding of in-situ localized strain conditions and deflections (multi-run) is greatly improved eg aid in assessment of wrinkles, dents etc in buckled areas.
- 3. Doesn't negate the need for FEA but provides greatly improved close interval input data which should improve FEA approximations and possibly improve engineering time (ie minimal smoothing)

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