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DISCUSSION

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This is an interesting study of the flow interaction in pockets of hydrostatic bearings and offers considerable insight into the complexity of the flow that exists in these pockets under different flow regimes considered in the paper. There are two issues that the discussers would like the authors to comment on:

- 1) Effects of the curvature of the shaft on the flow dynamics. These effects are expected to be small for the flow in the clearance, but can become important for the deep pockets.
- 2) The present simulation is done using a 2-D approximation. The pocket is in actuality three-dimensional. Although the 2-D study is an important step in the understanding of the pocket flows, how far is the applicability of such a study to an actual pocket?

Authors' Closure

The authors want to thank Drs. Athavale and Singhal for their comments and insightful questions. In order to effectively answer we have exercised a novel computer model, written by the authors, that allows the three-dimensional (3-D) parametric modeling of hydrostatic pockets, their restrictors, and adjacent lands. In fact this is the 3-D version of the two-dimensional code used in the writing of this paper.

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Figure 11 presents the geometry of the 3-D pocket. The effects of the curvature of the shaft on the flow patterns and pressure distribution as well as 3-D effects are presented in Figs. 12 and 13 for the deep pocket geometry shown in Fig. 11.

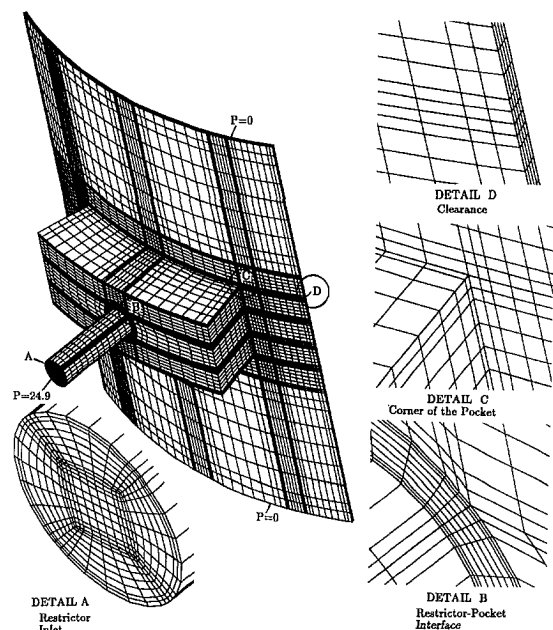


Fig. 11 Geometry of the three-dimensional pocket