

Theoretical Study on Fatigue Damage of Sonic Standing Wave Resonant Drill-String

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Abstract: To achieve high-speed and undisturbed core drilling, the standing wave vibration of the drill string in a sonic drill is excited by a high-frequency inertial vibrator; the resulting high alternating stress cycle in the drill string can easily cause fatigue damage. In order to minimize the fatigue failure of drill-string at the stage of its design, it is necessary to assess the fatigue damage caused by alternating stress to guide engineering practice. In this paper, based on one-dimensional wave theory, we analyse the standing wave vibration in a drill-string excited by a sonic vibrator, and theoretically prove that the dynamic resonant stress of a drill-string is the key factor influencing the fatigue damage. By using the Palmgren–Miner fatigue damage rule, we establish a theoretical formula for the cumulative fatigue damage of a variable-length standing wave vibration drill string and reveal the fatigue damage mechanism of the variable-length resonant drill string. Furthermore, the effects of sonic drill systems and process parameters on the damage are quantified. It was found that by an appropriate choice of a drill-pipe length, the fatigue damage can be reduced whilst the axial stress concentration factor (aSCF) k_σ on threaded connections can be significantly reduced. At the fundamental frequency of the resonant sonic drilling, the maximum fatigue damage point, x_f , is located approximately $l_a/2$ above the drill bit, not exceeding the theoretical sonic standing wave starting length, l_a , and unrelated to the hole depth. This study promotes the theoretical understanding and exploration of variable-length standing wave oscillators.

Keywords: Sonic drill; Cumulative fatigue damage; Variable length drill string; Standing wave resonance; Palmgren–Miner rule; Threaded connection

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c	Damping
d_i	Inner diameter of drill string
d_o	Outer diameter of drill string
$f(x,t)$	Distributed load
k_σ	Axial stress concentration factor
l	Total length of drill string
l_a	Theoretical starting length of sonic standing wave
l_b	Length of drill string without fatigue damage
l_0	Maximum length of drill string, not exceeding l_a
m	Material constant
m_e	Static moment of sonic vibrator
n_k	Number of cycles under the stress level σ_{-1k}
$u(x,t)$	Displacement response of drill string
x_f	Maximum fatigue damage point
D	Cumulative fatigue damage
D_k	Fatigue damage under the stress level σ_{-1k}
E	Elastic modulus
N_C	Total number of cycles under the stress level σ_{-1}
N_k	Total number of cycles under the stress level σ_{-1k}
S	Cross-sectional area of drill string
V	Rate of penetration (ROP)
Δl	Length of a single drill pipe
ξ	Damping ratio
ρ	Density
$\lambda_r(x,t)$	Estimated deviation between resonant order dynamic stress and total dynamic stress
$\sigma(x,t)$	Dynamic stress
σ_b	Tensile strength
σ_{-1}	Symmetrical cyclic fatigue limit stress
σ_{-1k}	Stress level
φ_i	Phase angle
ω_i	i^{th} order natural frequency
API	American Petroleum Institute

32 1. Introduction

33 For geological drilling and oil drilling, drill string dynamics problems have been widely
34 concerned, the purpose of solving dynamic problems is mostly to improve drilling efficiency
35 and reduce losses caused by drill string failure. Scholars worldwide have focused on the
36 dynamic modelling of drill strings based on simplifications and assessments of downhole
37 interactions and exercises to predict the axial, torsional, and bending vibration (Ghasemloonia
38 et al., 2015; Jansen 1991; Leine et al., 1998; Mihajlović et al., 2007; Vandiver et al., 1990; Yigit
39 and Christoforou 2006; Zhao et al., 2018). In particular, some scholars have employed a
40 reduced-order model to simplify the complex boundary dynamic problem of drill string
41 coupling vibrations (Kapitaniak et al., 2015; Liao et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2014). Drilling tool
42 failures can be caused by various reasons mostly associated with excessive loads and tear and wear
43 of drill-string components. Drilling fluids can help to reduce the problem as was shown by Jiang et
44 al. (2021) by developing a new drilling fluids technology to improve wellbore quality and reduce
45 drill-string wear. Tension, compression, bending, and twisting stresses through the drilling process
46 can also result in drilling tool failures, reduced rates of penetration, increase times to replace failed
47 tools (Albdiry and Almensory 2016). Occurrences of downhole failures of drill-strings disrupt
48 drilling operations, which can result in heavy financial losses due to non- productive time (Zamani
49 et al., 2016). Statistical data indicate that over 50% of drill string failures result from fatigue
50 (Macdonald and Bjune 2007; Moradi and Ranjbar 2009); consequently, the fatigue damage of
51 drill strings is a dynamic problem that has garnered the attention of researchers worldwide.

52 Recently, ultrasonic standing waves have been used to enhance oil production and Wang
53 et al. (2022) studied the dynamic performance of the foam surface subjected to ultrasonic
54 standing wave fields and developed a novel solution to defoam drilling liquids. Sonic drills also
55 use standing resonant waves to achieve high progression rates and better quality of borehole
56 which is important for sample coring. However, a drill string with standing wave resonance
57 undergoes significant dynamic stress at a specific position. Furthermore, as the length of the
58 drill string increases on extending the drilling hole, this position of the maximum dynamic
59 stress changes. Therefore, the mechanism of fatigue damage in the drill strings of sonic drills
60 should be determined first. Analysing the fatigue damage in a sonic drill string can help reduce
61 drilling accidents and prolong the service life of sonic drill strings.

62 Fatigue failure is caused by the accumulation of fatigue damage, which eventually reaches
63 the critical value. For almost a century, researchers have proposed many theoretical models to

64 describe the development of cumulative damage (Benkabouche et al., 2015; Fatemi and Yang
65 1998). In 1924, Palmgren first proposed the linear accumulation hypothesis for fatigue damage.
66 In 1945, Miner (1945) developed this theory and formulated the Palmgren–Miner linear
67 accumulation damage rule (or Miner’s rule). Thereafter, based on experimental research, many
68 novel linear cumulative damage models have been proposed and applied in engineering (Proso
69 et al., 2016; Rahman et al., 1999; Zambrano and Foti 2014; Zhao 2000; Zhu et al., 2011). In
70 addition, the nonlinear damage theory based on multiaxial stress (Benkabouche et al., 2015;
71 Freitas 2017; He et al., 2018; Lin et al., 2016; Lv et al., 2015; Nesládek et al., 2012; Susmel et
72 al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2021; Zhuang et al., 2019) and fracture and damage mechanics (Albdiry
73 and Almensory 2016; Ojanomare et al., 2017; Sun et al., 2020; Xu et al., 2021; Zamani et al.,
74 2016; Zhao et al., 2020; Zhuang et al., 2019) have been developed rapidly. In some cases,
75 multiaxial stress fatigue experiments have indicated that the Palmgren–Miner rule is in good
76 agreement with experimental results (Xia and Yao 2013). In 1956, based on Grover's viewpoint,
77 Corten and Dolan (1956) proposed that cumulative damage is related to loading, and they
78 established the Corten–Dolan cumulative damage theory. Moreover, the modified nonlinear
79 Corten–Dolan model exhibits significantly superior life prediction capability, as compared to
80 its predecessor (Lv et al., 2015; Zhu et al., 2012). Manson (1966) divided the fatigue process
81 into stages of crack formation and crack propagation and established the bilinear cumulative
82 damage theory for different stages by utilising the linear cumulative damage rule. Following
83 the introduction of fracture and damage mechanics, the cumulative damage process was
84 explained from a microscopic perspective. In 1963, Paris and Erdogan (1963) expressed the
85 crack growth law using fracture mechanics; the Paris formula is used to estimate fatigue life
86 and serves as a novel method for investigating the same. Based on the work of Paris, Forman
87 et al., (1997) considered the effect of the fracture toughness of a material on the crack growth
88 rate, improved the Paris formula, and established the Forman model. In 1970, Walker (1970)
89 further considered the influence of the stress ratio on the fatigue crack growth rate and proposed
90 the Walker model. Among these methods, Miner’s rule and the Corten–Dolan model have been
91 widely used in engineering. However, the Corten–Dolan model occasionally yields results with
92 significant errors; this is because the method of determining the Corten–Dolan exponent is often
93 empirical or semi-empirical (Rao et al., 2001; Zhao 2000).

94 In engineering practice, the fatigue analysis methods vary depending on the forms of stress.
95 Miner's cumulative fatigue damage theory is simple and convenient to use, and its calculation
96 results are in good agreement with the test results for most cases; it can also be used to predict
97 the average fatigue life of engineering structures subjected to random loads (Sun et al., 2014).
98 Therefore, this theory is widely used for predicting the fatigue life of general mechanical parts

99 used in engineering, aircraft engines, skins, hydraulic pipes, and other components (Baek et al.,
100 2008; Chen et al., 2014; Rui et al., 2018; Shi 2014; Zambrano and Foti 2014; Zhao et al., 2020).
101 Rao et al. (2001) emphasized that the Palmgren–Miner rule is the most commonly used theory
102 for predicting the fatigue life of a blade subjected to variable stress amplitudes.

103 In recent years, scholars have studied the fatigue life of drill strings based on fracture
104 mechanics. Dao and Sellami (2012) obtained the stress intensity factor through finite element
105 analyses. Ojanomare et al. (2017) determined the stress intensity factor of a drill string through
106 a multi-parameter weight function; they substituted the stress intensity factor and the crack
107 growth rate in the relationship to estimate the fatigue life of the drill string. Over 50% of the
108 fatigue failures in drill strings occur at the drill-pipe joint (Chen 1990; Grondin and Kulak 1994;
109 Knight and Brennan 1999; Macdonald and Bjune 2007). Based on analyses of drill pipe failures,
110 Zamani (2016) believed that, under the action of seven influential forces, including complex
111 stress, the drill string undergoes an initial crack and continuously develops fatigue fracture.
112 Bertini et al. (2008) and Santus et al. (2008, 2018) set up a resonant experimental platform and
113 studied the fretting wear of aluminium–steel joints in aluminium alloy drill pipes; they revealed
114 that fretting resulted in the initial crack, nucleation, and fatigue fracture and that the fatigue
115 analysis of the symmetrical cyclic stress in the resonance experiment exhibits clear linear
116 characteristics. Most scholars have investigated the fatigue life of drill strings considering the
117 fields of geological drilling and petroleum drilling engineering, mainly based on the linear
118 fatigue cumulative damage theory. Rahman et al. (1999) believed that the die marks generated
119 on the surface of the drill pipe during the clamping process of the feeding system result in stress
120 concentration and influence the fatigue of the drill string, and they used the stress concentration
121 factor to modify the alternating stress generated by the rotation and bending at dangerous points,
122 and analysed the cumulative fatigue damage of the drill string based on the Miner fatigue
123 cumulative damage theory. Sikal et al. (2008) simulated the drilling trajectory and bending state
124 of a drill string; calculated the asymmetric cyclic stress generated by the torsion, bending, and
125 stretching at a specific position in the drill string during drilling; obtained the symmetric cyclic
126 stress based on the Goodman model; and determined the cumulative fatigue damage at a
127 specific location in the drill string based on the Miner cumulative fatigue damage theory. Zhao
128 et al. (2018) proposed a two-degree-of-freedom nonlinear lumped-mass model that accounted
129 for stick/slip vibrations and Hertzian contact forces, in order to simulate the time-domain

130 responses of whirl on the drill collar; furthermore, the bending cumulative fatigue at the
131 connection was investigated based on the Miner method, and the results indicated that vibration
132 is a major cause of connection fatigue. When using a sonic drill for drilling, the length of the
133 drill string varies as the borehole is extended, and each point in the drill string is subjected to
134 variable-amplitude loads (Bu et al., 2015). When the stress level exceeds the fatigue limit of
135 the drill string material, each cycle causes damage to the drill string. When the cumulative
136 damage reaches a certain critical level, fatigue failure of the drill string occurs. In tests involving
137 asymmetric cyclic loadings of constant and variable-amplitude loads, the frequency of
138 ultrasonic testing has no effect on the fatigue life (Fitzka and Mayer 2016; Mayer et al., 2013).
139 Moreover, the Palmgren–Miner rule affords better life predictions under simple load conditions,
140 as compared to the other approaches (Zhu et al. 2012).

141 To provide theoretical support for minimizing the fatigue failure of a drill string in
142 engineering practice, based on Palmgren–Miner linear cumulative fatigue damage theory and
143 one-dimensional wave theory, a novel theoretical formula is established to describe the
144 cumulative fatigue damage of a variable-length standing wave vibration drill-string. The
145 formula is obtained by the following process: 1) Establish a sonic excitation drill string system
146 model for determining the dynamic stress of drill strings with different lengths; 2) Identify the
147 dynamic stress that affects the fatigue life of drill strings; 3) Determine the number of stress
148 cycles and the fatigue life under different stress levels; 4) Determine the cumulative fatigue
149 damage. According to the formula, the effects of sonic drill systems and process parameters on
150 the damage are quantified. At the fundamental frequency of the resonant sonic drilling, the
151 maximum fatigue damage point, x_f , is located approximately $l_a/2$ above the drill bit, not
152 exceeding the theoretical sonic standing wave starting length, l_a , and unrelated to the hole
153 depth. Furthermore, through the introduction of axial stress concentration factor (aSCF) k_σ , the
154 theoretical calculation formula of fatigue damage at the joint is established. This research and
155 its results are expected to serve as a theoretical basis for sonic drill designs and production
156 practices, in order to improve the service life of and reduce the risk of fatigue failure in drilling
157 tools.

158

159 **2. Methodology**

160 Sonic drills mainly employ sonic vibrators to generate a harmonic excitation force in order
161 to drive the high-frequency vibration of the drill string. When the excited drill-string is in the

162 standing wave vibration state, significant alternating stresses are generated in the drill string,
 163 which may result in the fatigue or fracture of the drill string. Bu et al. (2015) studied the sonic
 164 excitation of drill string vibration and showed that the dynamic stress field of each point in the
 165 drill string can be solved via mathematical modelling to obtain an explicit expression; they also
 166 reported that the vibration response of each point in the drill string is the superposition of the
 167 forced vibration response of the n^{th} mode shapes. For a sonic drill string of a specific length,
 168 the response of each order of the forced vibration dynamic stress is a periodic function of the
 169 harmonic alternating stress; the Palmgren–Miner cumulative fatigue damage rule can help
 170 understand the fatigue of a drill-string excited by a sonic vibrator.

171 2.1. Fatigue damage of a sonic drill-string

172 The Palmgren–Miner cumulative fatigue damage theory states that fatigue damage is a
 173 linear cumulative process under cyclic loading. When the cumulative damage reaches a critical
 174 value, the specimen undergoes fatigue failure. The cumulative fatigue damage D can be written
 175 as

$$176 \quad D = \sum D_k = \sum \frac{n_k}{N_k}, \quad (1)$$

177 where n_k is the number of cycles under the stress level σ_{-1k} ($k = 1, 2, 3 \dots$), N_k is the
 178 total number of cycles that the test piece can withstand under the stress level σ_{-1k} (i.e. fatigue
 179 life), and D_k is the fatigue damage under the stress level σ_{-1k} . When the stress level is known,
 180 the fatigue life of the test piece under this condition can be determined based on the $\sigma-N$
 181 curve. The $\sigma-N$ curve obeys the Basquin model (Ciavarella et al., 2017). The expression
 182 can be written as

$$183 \quad \sigma_{-1k}^m N_k = \sigma_{-1}^m N_c \quad (2)$$

184 where m is the material constant, σ_{-1} is the symmetrical cyclic fatigue limit, and N_c is
 185 the fatigue life corresponding to σ_{-1} , generally assumed as $N_c = 10^7$. The $\sigma-N$ curve of
 186 the test piece is obtained from a fatigue test using standard specimens of the same material (Liu
 187 et al., 2016; Lin et al., 2015). According to Lin et al. (2015), in the fatigue performance tests of
 188 the commonly used S135 and G105 materials, the material constants of the drill pipes are
 189 obtained when the survival rate is 99%. S135 and G105 high-strength alloy steel API drill pipes
 190 are selected for sonic drilling. The drill pipe material constants are listed in Table 1.

191
 192
 193

Table 1. Material constants of drill pipe (ISO11961:2008; Lin et al., 2015).

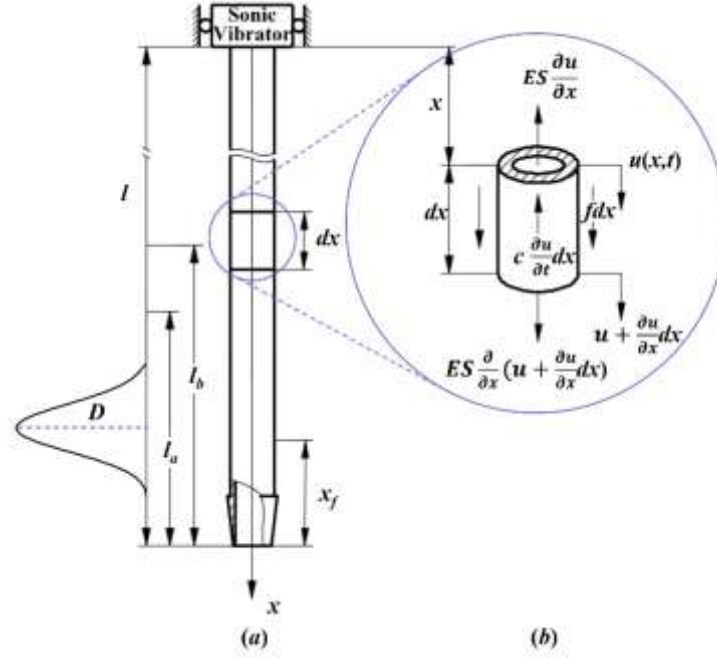
Drill pipe material	Fatigue limit $\sigma_{-1} (MPa)$	Tensile strength $\sigma_b (MPa)$	Material constant m	Density $\rho (kg / m^3)$	Elastic modulus $E (Pa)$
S135	527.37	1000	16.53	7850	$2.06e^{11}$
G105	435.62	793	9.77	7850	$2.06e^{11}$

195 During sonic drilling, the length of the drill string changes continuously as the borehole
 196 extends, and the stress level in the drill string also varies accordingly. Based on the Palmgren–
 197 Miner cumulative fatigue damage rule, after selecting the drill pipe material, to determine the
 198 fatigue damage in a sonic drill string at a specific location, the stress level and the number of
 199 stress cycles must be determined for different drill string lengths. The fatigue life at this stress
 200 level can be obtained by Eq. (2), which can then be used in Eq. (1) to determine the fatigue
 201 damage at a specific position of the drill string.

202 2.2. Modelling the sonic excitation drill string system

203 A sonic vibrator is installed at the top of a sonic drill; this vibrator is used to excite the
 204 drill string vibrations. Certain large sonic drills are also equipped with a top drive gyrator to
 205 rotate the drill string for achieving rotary sonic drilling. The top drive gyrator and the sonic
 206 vibrator are isolated by air springs; thus, they do not participate in the excitation of the sonic
 207 vibrator to cause drill string resonance (Xiao et al., 2019). When the sonic drill is operated in a
 208 saturated stratum or with limited drilling fluid, the vibration and deformation result in a rapid
 209 increase in the water pressure in the voids of the thin layer of soil in contact with the drill string;
 210 this causes the soil to liquefy into a viscous fluid with a dynamic state, and the shear strength
 211 and stiffness approach zero (Barrow 1994). Therefore, only the influence of the viscous fluid
 212 damping on the drill string vibrations is considered; the influence of the gravitational field and
 213 the lateral effects are neglected. Thus, under the steady-state excitation of the sonic vibrator, a
 214 drill string model is established as shown in Fig. 1.

215



216 **Fig. 1.** Model of the sonic excitation drill string system. (a) Schematic diagram of an example of
 217 cumulative fatigue damage of the G105 drill pipes. Under the condition that the excitation frequency is
 218 200 Hz, the position of the maximum fatigue damage point of the axial standing wave vibration of the
 219 drill string of length l is around $l_a/2$ above the drill bit. (b) Schematic diagram of displacement, stress
 220 and external load of drill string micro-element in the axial direction.

221

222 The differential equation of the longitudinal vibration of a uniform cross-section sonic drill
 223 string subjected to the distributed load $f(x,t)$ is

$$224 \quad \rho S \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} + c \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - ES \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = f(x,t) \quad (3)$$

225 where the longitudinally distributed load generated by the sonic vibrator is

$$226 \quad f(x,t) = m_e \omega^2 \sin \omega t \delta(x) = \begin{cases} m_e \omega^2 \sin \omega t, & x = 0 \\ 0, & x \neq 0 \end{cases}, \text{ and the boundary conditions of the sonic}$$

227 drill string system can be written as Eq. (4).

$$228 \quad \frac{\partial u(0,t)}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial u(l,t)}{\partial x} = 0 \quad (4)$$

229 Using the method of separation of variables, the steady-state solution of the forced
 230 vibration displacement response of the drill string is obtained (Sun et al., 2017):

$$231 \quad u(x,t) = \frac{2m_e \omega^2}{\rho S l} \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(\omega t - \varphi_i)}{\sqrt{(\omega_i^2 - \omega^2)^2 + (2\zeta_i \omega_i \omega)^2}} \cos \frac{i\pi x}{l} \quad (5)$$

232 where the natural frequency of each order of the drill string is $\omega_i = i\pi\sqrt{E/\rho}/l$
 233 ($i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$). When adjusting the angular frequency ω of the sonic vibrator to approach the

234 natural frequency of the drill string ω_i , the sonic drill is in a state of standing wave resonance.

235 The phase angle $\varphi_i = \arctan \frac{2\zeta_i \omega_i \omega}{\omega_i^2 - \omega^2} \rightarrow \pi/2$, and ζ_i is the mode shape damping ratio. In

236 engineering, it is typically assumed that the damping ratio of each mode shape is the same (Wen

237 et al., 2009); therefore, $\zeta = \zeta_i$ is assumed in this study.

238 The strain field $\varepsilon(x, t) = \frac{\partial u(x, t)}{\partial x}$ is obtained from the partial derivative of the

239 displacement field with respect to x , and the steady-state solution of the dynamic stress response

240 of each point in the drill string is obtained as Eq. (6).

$$241 \quad \sigma(x, t) = E\varepsilon(x, t) = -\frac{2\pi E m_e \omega^2}{\rho S l^2} \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{i \sin(\omega t - \varphi_i)}{\sqrt{(\omega_i^2 - \omega^2)^2 + (2\zeta \omega_i \omega)^2}} \sin \frac{i\pi x}{l} \quad (6)$$

242 Eq. (6) expresses the dynamic stress at any position in the drill string at any time. However,

243 the dynamic stress response of a drill string is the superposition of the forced vibration dynamic

244 stress of each mode. Thus, the stress level at a specific location cannot be obtained directly

245 from Eq. (6); further analyses are needed to determine the dynamic stress that causes fatigue

246 damage in drill strings.

247 2.3. Stress field analysis of sonic standing wave vibration drill string

248 In sonic drilling, first-, second-, or third-order frequency vibration drilling is generally

249 used to ensure reliable and efficient drilling. Thus, this study focuses on the fatigue damage of

250 a low-order resonance drill string. The technical parameters of the sonic vibrator and drill pipe

251 are listed in Table 2.

252 **Table 2.** Technical parameters of sonic vibrator and drill pipe (ISO11961:2008; Sun et al., 2017).

Total static moment of sonic vibrator	Drill-string inner/outer diameter	Drill-string cross-sectional area
m_e	d_i / d_o	S
0.126 kg · m	92.46/114.3 mm	$3.547 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^2$

253

254 When the drill string undergoes the r^{th} -order resonance, the angular frequency of the sonic

255 vibrator ω approaches the r^{th} -order natural frequency, ω_r . From Eq. (6), the dynamic stress,

256 $\sigma_{ri}(x, t)$, at each point in the drill string caused by the i^{th} -order forced vibration is expressed as

257 Eq. (7).

$$258 \quad \sigma_{ri}(x, t) = -\frac{2\pi E m_e}{\rho S l^2} \cdot \frac{i \cdot \sin(\omega_r t - \varphi_i)}{\sqrt{[(\frac{\omega_i}{\omega_r})^2 - 1]^2 + (2\zeta \cdot \frac{\omega_i}{\omega_r})^2}} \cdot \sin \frac{i\pi x}{l} \quad (7)$$

259 Substituting the ratio of the i^{th} -order to the r^{th} -order natural frequency into Eq. (7), the

260 dynamic stress can be obtained by simplification as Eq. (8).

$$\sigma_{ri}(x,t) = -\frac{2i}{\sqrt{\left[\left(\frac{i}{r}\right)^2 - 1\right]^2 + \left(2\zeta \cdot \frac{i}{r}\right)^2}} \cdot \frac{\pi E m_e}{\rho S l^2} \cdot \sin \frac{i\pi x}{l} \cdot \sin(\omega_r t - \varphi_i) \quad (8)$$

From Eq. (8), for a specific drill string length l , when the sonic drill is in r^{th} -order resonance during drilling, the maximum dynamic stress amplitude generated by the i^{th} -order of the forced vibration in the drill string is

$$\sigma_{ri\max} = \frac{2i}{\sqrt{\left[\left(\frac{i}{r}\right)^2 - 1\right]^2 + \left(2\zeta \cdot \frac{i}{r}\right)^2}} \cdot \frac{\pi E m_e}{\rho S l^2} \quad (9)$$

Specifically, when $i = r$, Eq.(9) can be simplified as Eq. (10).

$$\sigma_{rr\max} = \frac{r}{\zeta} \cdot \frac{\pi E m_e}{\rho S l^2} \quad (10)$$

To study the effect of the dynamic stress generated by different orders of the forced vibration on the fatigue life of the drill string, we first compare the maximum dynamic stress amplitude of the i^{th} - order forced vibration and the r^{th} -order resonance, obtained as Eq. (11).

$$\frac{\sigma_{ri\max}}{\sigma_{rr\max}} = \frac{2\zeta \cdot \frac{i}{r}}{\sqrt{\left[\left(\frac{i}{r}\right)^2 - 1\right]^2 + \left(2\zeta \cdot \frac{i}{r}\right)^2}} \quad (11)$$

From Eq. (11), the maximum stress ratio $\sigma_{ri\max}/\sigma_{rr\max}$ generated between the i^{th} -order forced vibration and the r^{th} -order resonance is a function of the ratio i/r . When $i = r$, the value of $\sigma_{ri\max}/\sigma_{rr\max}$ is 1. The maximum stress ratio $\sigma_{ri\max}/\sigma_{rr\max}$ generated between the $(r-1)^{\text{th}}$ or the $(r+1)^{\text{th}}$ -order forced vibration and the r^{th} -order resonance is the largest when $i \neq r$. Investigating the maximum dynamic stress of the $(r-1)^{\text{th}}$ -order and $(r+1)^{\text{th}}$ -order forced vibration and the r^{th} -order resonance yields Eq. (12).

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\sigma_{(r+1)\max}}{\sigma_{r\max}} = \frac{2r(r+1)\zeta}{\sqrt{[(r+1)^2 - r^2]^2 + [2r(r+1)\zeta]^2}} < \frac{2r(r+1)\zeta}{\sqrt{[(r+1)^2 - r^2]^2}} = \frac{2r(r+1)\zeta}{r+1+r} = \frac{2r\zeta}{1 + \frac{r}{r+1}} < 2r\zeta, \quad r \geq 1 \\ \frac{\sigma_{(r-1)\max}}{\sigma_{r\max}} = \frac{2r(r-1)\zeta}{\sqrt{[r^2 - (r-1)^2]^2 + [2r(r-1)\zeta]^2}} < \frac{2r(r-1)\zeta}{\sqrt{[r^2 - (r-1)^2]^2}} = \frac{2(r-1)r\zeta}{r-1+r} = \frac{2r\zeta}{1 + \frac{r}{(r-1)}} < 2r\zeta, \quad r > 1 \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

Therefore, the range of values of the ratio of the maximum stress amplitude of the i^{th} -order non-resonant forced vibration to the maximum stress amplitude of the r^{th} -order resonance is expressed as Eq. (13).

$$\frac{\sigma_{ri\max}}{\sigma_{rr\max}} < 2r\zeta, \quad i \neq r \quad (13)$$

When the sonic drill undergoes standing wave resonance, its resonance order r is generally

284 the first or second order and not greater than the third order. For the sonic drill, when a lower-
 285 order mode is used to drill in a saturated stratum or with limited circulating fluid, it can be
 286 regarded as a small damping system ($0 \leq \zeta_i \leq 0.2$). When the ratio of the maximum stress
 287 value of the other non-resonant forced vibrations to the maximum stress value of the resonance
 288 order is less than $2r\zeta$, it can be considered that the dynamic stress in the drill string is mainly
 289 generated by the resonance order.

290 Furthermore, to analyse the contribution of the dynamic stress of the resonant order to the
 291 total dynamic stress in the drill string, we consider the effects of the stress amplitude and phase
 292 difference. In the case of resonance, the total stress and the resonant order stress at each point
 293 of the drill string can be obtained from Eq. (6) and Eq. (7), as shown in Fig. 2.

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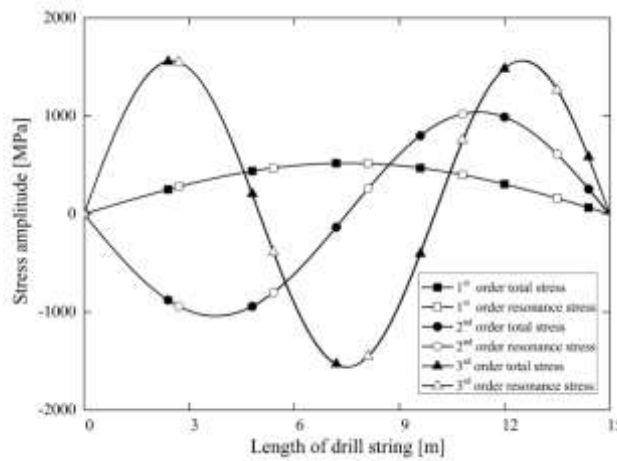


Fig. 2. Total stress and resonance stress amplitudes for the first three orders at each point of the G105 drill string with a length of 15 m (under the technical parameters of Table 2) and damping ratio $\zeta = 0.025$.

296 As can be seen from Fig. 2, the amplitudes of the dynamic stress of the resonant order and
 297 the total dynamic stress in the drill string are highly consistent. The fatigue damage of a drill
 298 string is primarily caused by the dynamic stress exceeding the symmetrical cyclic fatigue limit.
 299 Therefore, it is necessary to accurately analyse the amplitude deviation between the dynamic
 300 stress in the drill string and the dynamic stress of the resonant order that exceeds the
 301 symmetrical cyclic fatigue limit. The estimated deviation between the dynamic stress of the
 302 resonant order and the total dynamic stress in the drill string can be expressed as Eq. (14).

$$303 \quad \lambda_r(x, t) = \left| \frac{\sigma_{rr}(x, t) - \sigma(x, t)}{\sigma(x, t)} \right| \quad (14)$$

304 In the case of the G105 drill string, which has a length of 15 m and a damping ratio of

305 $\zeta = 0.025$, as shown in Fig. 2, the maximum deviation between the dynamic stress of the
 306 first-order resonance and the total stress of the drill string is 1.2%. The maximum deviation
 307 between the dynamic stress of the second-order resonance and the total stress of the drill string
 308 is 8.5%. Moreover, the maximum deviation between the dynamic stress of the third-order
 309 resonance and the total stress of the drill string is 3.8%. Notably, the deviation between the
 310 dynamic stress of the first-order resonance and the total stress of the drill string is the smallest.
 311 As the driving order increases, the deviation gradually increases to a maximum deviation of
 312 less than 5%.

313 Thus, for low-frequency resonant drilling using a sonic drilling rig, when analysing the
 314 effects of different orders of dynamic stress in the drill string on the fatigue life, it can be
 315 considered that the fatigue damage of the drill string is caused by the resonant order dynamic
 316 stress; hence, we only need to account for the fatigue damage at each point in the drill string
 317 under the dynamic stress of the resonant order.

318 Based on the number of stress cycles and the fatigue life of a drill string under different
 319 stress levels, we establish a standing wave vibration fatigue damage model for a sonic drill
 320 string, in order to determine the cumulative fatigue damage during sonic drilling.

321 2.4. Characteristic analysis of fatigue damage of sonic drill string

322 To conveniently model the fatigue damage during sonic drilling, we first analyse the
 323 internal stress of the drill string that causes fatigue damage. The upper frequency of the sonic
 324 vibrator is limited by its mechanical structure; this frequency generally does not exceed 200 Hz.
 325 In other words, the maximum excitation frequency of the sonic vibrator $f_{\max} \leq 200$ Hz. To
 326 generate the r^{th} -order resonance in the drill string, the natural frequency of the drill string should
 327 satisfy $f_i \leq f_{\max}$. The sonic vibrator can provide the corresponding driving frequency to induce
 328 a sonic resonant standing wave in the drill string. Accordingly, the length l of the drill string is
 329 defined as the theoretical starting length l_a of the standing sonic wave vibration, expressed as
 330 Eq. (15).

$$331 \quad l_a = \frac{r}{2f_{\max}} \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}} \quad (15)$$

332 From Eq. (15), the theoretical starting length of the r^{th} -order resonant standing wave is

333 $l_a = \frac{r}{2f_{\max}} \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}}$. In the case of a steel alloy drill pipe, when the maximum frequency of the sonic
 334 vibrator is $f_{\max} = 200$ Hz, the initial length of the drill string of the first-order resonant standing
 335 wave is $l_a = 12.8$ m.

336 When the maximum dynamic stress of the drill string $\sigma_{rr\max} \leq \sigma_{-1}$, the length of the drill

337 string, without fatigue damage caused by the resonant standing wave l_b , is obtained from Eq.
338 (10), as shown in Eq. (16).

$$339 \quad l_b = \sqrt{\frac{\pi r m_e}{\zeta \sigma_{-1} S}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}} \quad (16)$$

340 In the case of the G105 drill pipe, the damping ratio $\zeta = 0.025$. From Eq. (16), the
341 length of the first-order standing wave resonant drill string without fatigue damage is
342 $l_b = 16.4$ m .

343 When the standing wave resonant drilling is commenced, the maximum dynamic stress in
344 the drill string is $\sigma_{rr_{\max}} \leq \sigma_{-1}$. At this time, $l_a \geq l_b$, and no fatigue damage occurs at any point
345 on the drill string during drilling. The analysis shows that the range of fatigue damage in the
346 drill string during standing wave drilling is $l_a \leq l \leq l_b$.

347 In the sonic drilling process, the drill string is short. Thus, the natural frequency of the drill
348 string is high at the start of drilling and the driving frequency of the sonic vibrator cannot induce
349 resonance in the drill string. Therefore, the drill string penetrates the soil in a non-resonant form
350 of the travelling wave; in this case, the internal stress amplitude of the drill string can still be
351 obtained using Eq. (6). As the drilling depth increases, $l \geq l_a$ is satisfied, and the resonant
352 standing wave is adopted for drilling. At this time, the internal stress amplitude of the drill string
353 can be approximated from the dynamic stress amplitude of the resonant order, given by Eq.
354 (10). Assuming that the sonic drill commences the standing wave drilling at the maximum
355 driving frequency of 200 Hz, the relationship curve between the dynamic stress amplitude and
356 the length of the drill string can be obtained considering the non-resonant forced vibration
357 and/or the resonant standing wave, as shown in Fig. 3.

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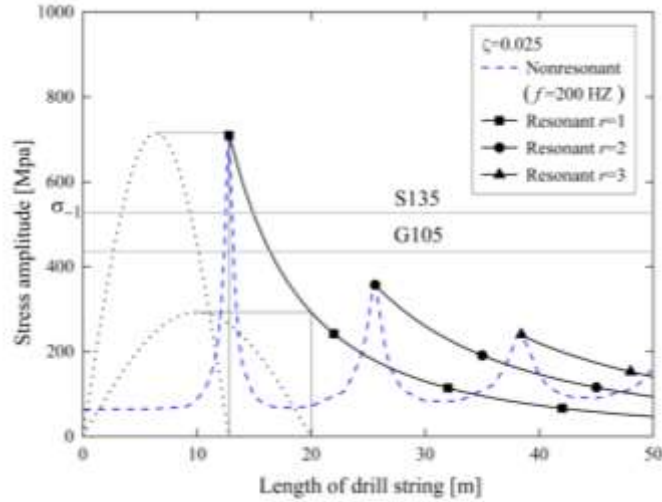


Fig. 3. Relationship between the dynamic stress amplitude of the drill string and drill string length during sonic drilling. The blue dashed line denotes the maximum dynamic stress under non-resonant forced vibration driven by 200 Hz; the black solid line indicates the maximum dynamic stress under the resonant standing wave. The dotted lines represent the maximum dynamic stress at each point of the drill strings with specific lengths of 12.8 m and 20 m, whereas the grey lines denote the fatigue limits of S135 and G105.

361 If the vibrator drives the sonic drilling at 200 Hz throughout the drilling process, the
 362 maximum dynamic stress in the drill string can be obtained from Eq. (6), as indicated by the
 363 blue dashed line in Fig. 3. It is observed that the maximum dynamic stress is relatively low at
 364 the start of drilling. With an increase in the length of the drill string, when the driving frequency
 365 approaches the first-order natural frequency, the dynamic stress in the drill string is redistributed
 366 rapidly, and the maximum dynamic stress in the drill string also increases rapidly. If the original
 367 driving frequency is retained, the internal dynamic stress amplitude decreases rapidly. When
 368 approaching the second- and third-order natural frequencies, the amplitude of the internal stress
 369 is redistributed rapidly. If the original driving frequency is maintained, the amplitude of the
 370 internal dynamic stress decreases rapidly.

371 To improve drilling efficiency, when the length of the drill string satisfies Eq. (15), the
 372 frequency of the sonic vibrator is continuously adjusted to approach the natural frequency of
 373 the variable-length drill string, such that the drill string resonates and the drill bit attains a
 374 greater amplitude and impact velocity. The dynamic stress amplitude at each point of the drill
 375 string resonance order can be obtained using Eq. (8). Considering the first-order resonance as
 376 an example, as shown in Fig. 3, the black dotted line indicates the amplitude of the stress field
 377 in the drill string of a specific length; the maximum dynamic stress amplitude in the drill string
 378 occurs at the midpoint (i.e., the stationary point). As the borehole is extended, the dynamic
 379 stress amplitude at each point of the drill string decreases. When the internal stress amplitude
 380 of the drill string is lower than the symmetric cyclic fatigue limit, the drill string no longer

381 suffers stress damage. The maximum dynamic stress amplitude in the drill string can be
 382 obtained using Eq. (10), as represented by the black solid line in Fig. 3.

383 After reaching a certain depth during drilling, in terms of the working capacity of the
 384 equipment, the first-order resonance drilling can be continued or the vibrator frequency can be
 385 adjusted such that the drill string moves from the first-order resonance to the second or third
 386 order. At this point, the internal stress of the drill string is redistributed. If the internal dynamic
 387 stress of the drill string exceeds the symmetrical cyclic fatigue limit again, it continues to cause
 388 fatigue damage to the drill string. However, if the internal dynamic stress of the drill string
 389 remains lower than the symmetrical cyclic fatigue limit after the redistribution, no fatigue
 390 damage is caused to the drill string. As shown in Fig. 3, considering S135 and G105 as the drill
 391 pipe materials and a damping ratio of $\zeta = 0.025$, the second- and third-order standing wave
 392 resonant drilling no longer causes fatigue damage.

393 The dynamic stress in the drill string is rapidly redistributed when moving from the
 394 travelling wave drilling to the standing wave resonant drilling. Therefore, when analysing the
 395 fatigue damage in the drill string, we only need to calculate the fatigue damage of the drill string
 396 in the standing wave resonance state.

397 2.5. Mathematical modelling of the cumulative fatigue damage of the sonic drill string

398 Based on the analysis, during the r^{th} -order standing wave vibration drilling, the influence
 399 of other non-resonant forced vibrations on the dynamic stress in the drill string can be neglected.
 400 Thus, only the effect of the dynamic stress of the resonant order on the fatigue life of the drill
 401 string needs to be considered. Accordingly, for a specific drill string length l , the dynamic stress
 402 at each point in the drill string can be expressed as Eq. (17).

$$403 \quad \sigma(x, t) = \sigma_r(x, t) = -\frac{r}{\zeta} \cdot \frac{\pi E m_e}{\rho S l^2} \sin\left(\frac{r\pi x}{l}\right) \cdot \sin(\omega_r t - \varphi_r) \quad (17)$$

404 In sonic drilling, the length of the drill string does not increase continuously. Once the drill
 405 pipe length specification Δl is selected, the length of the drill string is increased by integral
 406 multiples of Δl . Owing to the constantly changing length of the drill string, the position of a
 407 specific point on the drill string, relative to the drill bit, is fixed. Therefore, for convenience, in
 408 this study, we analysed the fatigue damage of the drill string at a distance of x_f above the bit
 409 for a specific length of the drill string, as shown in Fig. 1; the abscissa $x = l - x_f$,
 410 corresponding to the point x_f above the bit, is substituted into Eq. (17). The corresponding
 411 dynamic stress at this point is expressed as Eq. (18).

$$412 \quad \sigma(x, t) = \sigma(l - x_f, t) = -\frac{r}{\zeta} \cdot \frac{\pi E m_e}{\rho S l^2} \sin\left(r\pi - \frac{r\pi x_f}{l}\right) \cdot \sin(\omega_r t - \varphi_r) \quad (18)$$

413 When the length of the drill string is $l \geq l_a$, the frequency of the sonic vibrator is adjusted
 414 such that the drill string produces resonant standing waves. If the dynamic stress generated in
 415 the drill string exceeds the fatigue limit, it will result in fatigue damage.

416 Before drilling without the resonant standing wave, the maximum length of the drill string
 417 l_0 is an integral multiple of the length of the drill pipe, and it does not exceed the theoretical
 418 starting length l_a of the resonant standing wave, $l_0 \leq l_a$. When one drill pipe is added to the drill
 419 string, standing wave vibration occurs. With the extension of the borehole, on adding k drill
 420 pipes, the length of the drill string is expressed as Eq. (19).

$$421 \quad l = l_0 + k\Delta l \quad (19)$$

422 Accordingly, from Eq. (18), it is known that the fatigue stress amplitude σ_{-1k} at the
 423 distance x_f above the drill bit is given by Eq. (20).

$$424 \quad \sigma_{-1k} = \frac{r}{\zeta} \cdot \frac{\pi E m_e}{\rho S (l_0 + k\Delta l)^2} \sin\left(\frac{r \cdot \pi \cdot x_f}{l_0 + k\Delta l}\right) \quad (20)$$

425
 426 where $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. Based on the stress–life ($\sigma - N$) curve of the materials, it is
 427 observed from Eq. (2) that the amplitude of the dynamic stress σ_{-1k} exceeds the fatigue limit
 428 σ_{-1} of the drill pipe materials; the corresponding number of total stress cycles N_k is obtained
 429 as Eq. (21).

$$430 \quad N_k = N_c \cdot \left(\frac{\sigma_{-1}}{\sigma_{-1k}}\right)^m \quad (21)$$

431 If the rate of penetration (ROP) in sonic drilling is V , the time required for drilling a single
 432 drill pipe length Δl is $\Delta t = \Delta l / V$. For a specific length of the drill string l_k , the number of
 433 stress cycles n_k at the point x_f above the drill bit is given by Eq. (22).

$$434 \quad n_k = \frac{\omega_r}{2\pi} \cdot \Delta t = \frac{r\Delta l}{2V(l_0 + k\Delta l)} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}} \quad (22)$$

435 After determining the number of fatigue cycles N_k and the number of stress cycles n_k
 436 corresponding to the stress level at the point x_f above the drill bit, by substituting Eqs. (20),
 437 (21), and (22) into Eq. (1), the cumulative fatigue damage during the r^{th} -order standing wave
 438 resonant drilling at this point can be expressed as Eq. (23).

$$D = \sum \frac{n_k}{N_k} = \frac{\pi^m r^{m+1}}{2N_C(\sigma_{-1})^m} \cdot \left(\sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}}\right)^{2m+1} \cdot \left(\frac{m_e}{S}\right)^m \cdot \frac{1}{V\zeta^m} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{k_{\max}} \left[\frac{\Delta l}{(l_0 + k\Delta l)^{2m+1}} \cdot \sin^m\left(\frac{r\pi x_f}{l_0 + k\Delta l}\right) \right] \quad (23)$$

where k_{\max} is the largest integer not exceeding $(l_b - l_0)/\Delta l$. Throughout the sonic drilling process, once the standing wave resonant drilling is commenced, fatigue damage occurs only when the stress level at the point x_f above the drill bit is $\sigma_{-ik} > \sigma_{-1}$, and the length of the drill string undergoing fatigue damage at the point x_f does not exceed the interval $l_a \leq l_0 + k\Delta l \leq l_b$.

From Eq. (23), the cumulative fatigue damage caused by the r^{th} standing wave vibration at the point x_f is related to the technical parameters of the sonic drilling rig system (i.e. the total static moment m_e of the sonic vibrator, length of the drill pipe Δl , and cross-sectional area S), material parameters of the drill pipe (i.e. elastic modulus E , density of the drill string ρ , material constant of the drill pipe, and symmetric cyclic fatigue limit), construction parameters (i.e., the ROP and damping ratio), and other conditions.

Furthermore, to analyse the cumulative fatigue damage during sonic drilling, a method for evaluating the fatigue damage of the sonic drill should be established based on the specific technical parameters and construction conditions of sonic drilling. The cumulative fatigue damage at any point in the drill string can be determined using Eq. (23). It is only necessary to calculate the cumulative fatigue damage when the stress level at the distance x_f above the bit exceeds the fatigue limit. If the stress level at x_f does not exceed the fatigue limit factor throughout the sonic drilling, no fatigue damage occurs at this position. Eq. (23) can be quickly solved using MATLAB, a numerical analysis software; the flow chart of this calculation is presented in Fig. 4.

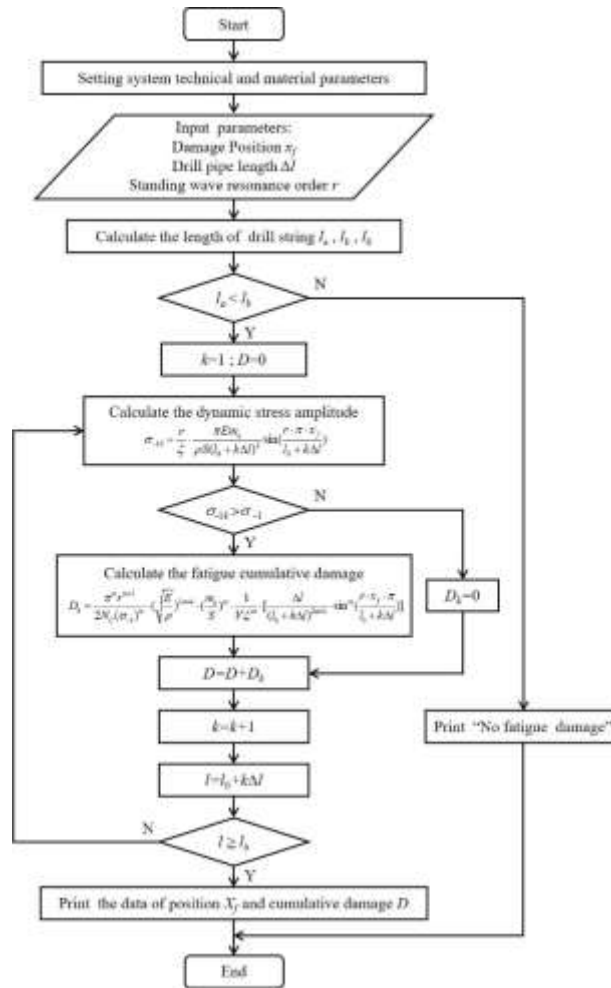


Fig. 4. Flow chart for calculating the cumulative fatigue damage in sonic drill strings. First, determine whether fatigue damage will occur based on the equipment's technical parameters. If so, the total damage value in the whole drilling process can be calculated according to the damage calculation formula and the steps in the figure.

461

462 In this study, the cumulative fatigue damage modelling is aimed at a certain order of
 463 standing wave resonant drilling. In actual sonic drilling, the first-order resonance is usually
 464 used to drill up to a certain depth; this is followed by higher-order resonant drilling in order to
 465 improve the drilling efficiency. Accordingly, if the stress level after the redistribution in the drill
 466 string exceeds the fatigue limit, the cumulative fatigue damage must be calculated continuously.
 467 Based on the initial cumulative damage, the newly generated fatigue damage is calculated to
 468 obtain the cumulative fatigue damage. Fig. 4 explains the calculation method employed.

469

470 3. Results and discussion

471 The fatigue damage of the sonic drill string is related to the technical parameters of the
 472 sonic drill, the drill pipe material, the length of the drill pipe, construction parameters, and the
 473 theoretical starting length of the standing wave resonant drill string. In addition, the technical

474 parameters of the sonic drill, such as the total static moment of the sonic vibrator and the cross-
 475 sectional area of the drill string, have a significant influence on the fatigue damage of the drill
 476 string, which is directly proportional to the m -power of the total static moment of the sonic
 477 vibrator and inversely proportional to the m -power of the cross-sectional area of the drill string
 478 (m is the material constant of the drill pipe). Under the premise of ensuring the amplitude and
 479 speed of the drill bit in order to achieve high-efficiency dynamic crushing of rocks, reducing
 480 the total static moment or increasing the cross-sectional area of the drill pipe can reduce the
 481 fatigue damage of the sonic drill string.

482 In drilling practice, the drill string is typically stimulated to enter the first-order standing
 483 wave resonance mode for sonic drilling. Considering first-order standing wave resonant full-
 484 hole drilling, this study analyses the influence of the drill pipe material, construction parameters,
 485 and length of the drill pipe on the fatigue damage of the sonic drill string in the actual drilling
 486 process.

487 3.1. Verification of the model

488 The experimental data of G105 material fatigue limit is given in the literature cited in this
 489 paper (Lin et al., 2015). For example, four fatigue life datasets ranging from 3.18e5 to 4.67e5
 490 were obtained for whiles symmetrical cyclic stress of 600 MPa was applied, and the fatigue life
 491 curve is obtained by using the experimental parameters. G105 material's fatigue stress limit
 492 $\sigma_{-1} = 435.62$ MPa and material constant $m=9.77$. Basquin model $\sigma_{-1k}^m N_k = \sigma_{-1}^m N_C$ is used
 493 to predict the material fatigue life under specific stress, as shown in the following Table 3.

494 **Table 3.** Comparison of experimental data and theoretical data

Load Stress (MPa)	Experimental fatigue life (Lin et al., 2015)	Model predicted fatigue life	Dynamic stress amplitude of 14m drill string (MPa)	Fatigue life of drill string calculated by Eq. (23)
600	3.18e5, 3.63e5, 4.23e5, 4.67e5	4.38e5	597.76	4.55e5

495 Assuming a very low ROP when drilling in hard formations and drilling 1 m, the drilling
 496 speed is $V=4e-4$ m/s, and the total length of the new drill string connected by the vibrator is
 497 $l=14$ m. According to Eq. (18), the standing wave resonance stress amplitude is 597.76 MPa.
 498 In this case, we tested the drill-string fatigue damage, and according to Eqs (22) and (23), the
 499 number of stress cycles for fatigue fracture of the drill-string is 4.55e5. The calculation result
 500 of Eq. (23) is almost consistent with the model prediction and within the range of experimental

501 data. This shows that it is correct to set up the fatigue calculation theory of standing wave
 502 resonance drill-string based on Miner's rule and Basquin model in this paper.

503 3.2. Effect of drill pipe material on cumulative fatigue damage

504 S135 and G105 alloy steels, which have the same wave velocity and different grades, are
 505 commonly used in drill pipes. These materials directly affect the symmetrical cyclic fatigue
 506 limit and material constant. Based on Eq. (23), the fatigue damage of a drill pipe is proportional
 507 to the m -power of the ratio $(m_e / \zeta S \sigma_{-1})$ of the total static moment, the fatigue limit, the cross-
 508 sectional area, the damping ratio, and the $(2m+1)$ -power of the wave velocity $\sqrt{E/\rho}$. Clearly,
 509 it is impossible to judge the influence of the material grade on fatigue damage simply based on
 510 the fatigue limit. From Table 1, the fatigue limit and material constant of high-strength drill
 511 pipes are higher than those of low-strength drill pipes. For the S135 and G105 high-strength
 512 alloy steel drill pipes commonly used in API, the total cumulative fatigue damage to each point
 513 in the drill string is calculated using Eq. (23). The influence of the material strength on fatigue
 514 damage is illustrated in Fig. 5.

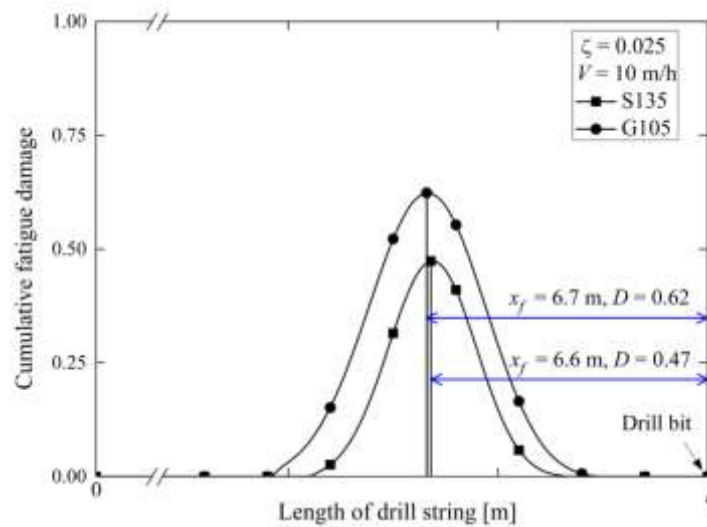


Fig. 5. Cumulative fatigue damage of the S135 and G105 drill pipes under the drilling conditions $V = 10 \text{ m h}^{-1}$, $\zeta = 0.025$, and $\Delta l = 0.1 \text{ m}$. The distance between the maximum damage point and the drill bit is indicated by the blue line.

515 Under the same ROP of $V = 10 \text{ m h}^{-1}$ and damping ratio $\zeta = 0.025$, the length of
 516 the drill string increases almost continuously for the drill pipe length $\Delta l = 0.1 \text{ m}$. The
 517 maximum fatigue damage point for the G105 alloy steel drill string is located at a distance of
 518 $x_f = 6.7 \text{ m}$ above the drill bit, and the maximum cumulative fatigue damage is $D = 0.62$.
 519 The maximum fatigue damage point for the S135 alloy steel drill pipe is located at a distance

520 of $x_f = 6.6$ m above the drill bit, and the maximum cumulative fatigue damage is
521 $D = 0.47$. The fatigue damage of the S135 drill pipe with a higher grade is 31.9% lower than
522 that of the G105 drill pipe. Therefore, if the economic cost is considered, it is advisable to
523 choose high-strength alloy steel drill pipes to prolong the fatigue life under high stress cycles.

524 Fatigue damage in the drill string is distributed mainly within the range of the theoretical
525 starting length of the resonant standing waves above the drill bit. The maximum damage point
526 x_f of the drill string is located approximately $l_a/2$ above the drill bit, and it does not exceed
527 l_a .

528 3.3. *Effect of construction parameters on cumulative fatigue damage*

529 The construction parameters for sonic drilling include the ROP and the damping ratio of
530 the formation. The effects of the same damping ratio with different ROPs and different damping
531 ratios with the same ROP on the drill string fatigue damage are studied and shown in Fig. 6.

532 Under a system damping ratio of $\zeta = 0.025$, when the ROP is $V = 10$ m h⁻¹, the
533 maximum damage point of the G105 drill string is located at a distance of $x_f = 6.7$ m
534 above the drill bit, and the maximum fatigue damage is $D = 0.62$. When the ROP is
535 $V = 20$ m h⁻¹, the maximum damage point of the G105 drill string is located at a distance of
536 $x_f = 6.7$ m above the drill bit, and the maximum fatigue damage is $D = 0.31$. The total
537 fatigue damage is reduced by 50% when the ROP is doubled. The maximum fatigue damage is
538 inversely proportional to the ROP. Thus, increasing the ROP appropriately can shorten the
539 drilling time at high stress levels, thereby reducing the number of stress cycles and the
540 cumulative fatigue damage. The maximum damage point x_f of the drill string is located
541 approximately $l_a/2$ above the drill bit.

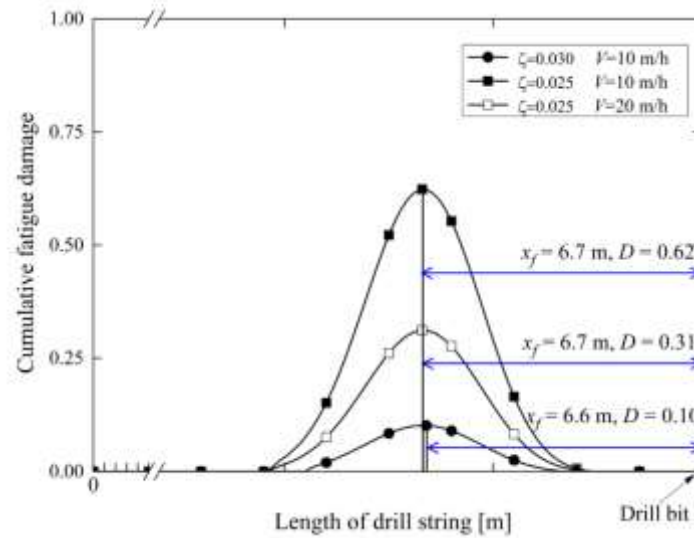


Fig. 6. Influence of construction parameters on the fatigue damage of the drill string (G105 drill pipe, $\Delta l = 0.1$ m); three drilling conditions were considered: $V = 10$ m h⁻¹ and $\zeta = 0.025$; $V = 20$ m h⁻¹ and $\zeta = 0.025$; and $V = 10$ m h⁻¹ and $\zeta = 0.030$. The distance between the maximum damage point and the drill bit is indicated by the blue line.

542 For the ROP $V = 10$ m h⁻¹, as the damping ratio increases from 0.025 to 0.030, the
 543 maximum damage point of the drill string is located at $x_f = 6.6$ m above the drill bit, and
 544 the maximum cumulative damage decreases from $D = 0.62$ to $D = 0.10$. The maximum
 545 damage point of the drill string is located approximately $l_a/2$ above the drill bit.

546 From Eq. (23), it is noted that the cumulative fatigue damage is inversely proportional to
 547 the m -power of the damping ratio. When the damping ratio increases from 0.025 to 0.030, the
 548 maximum cumulative fatigue damage of the drill string is reduced by approximately 83.9%. If
 549 the damping ratio is increased slightly, the cumulative fatigue damage at each point of the drill
 550 string is reduced significantly. Therefore, a smaller damping ratio results in a higher risk of
 551 fatigue failure in the drill string. When performing sonic standing wave drilling in a formation
 552 with a low damping ratio, the dynamic stress in the drill pipe is extremely high, and it may even
 553 exceed the tensile strength of the drill string, resulting in the tensile fracture of the drill string.

554 To significantly reduce the dynamic stress in the sonic drill string when applied to shallow
 555 formations with low damping ratios, it is preferable to first employ travelling wave drilling and
 556 then sonic standing wave drilling, in order to prolong the service life of the sonic drill string.

557 3.4. Influence of drill pipe length on cumulative fatigue damage

558 During sonic drilling, the length of the drill string increases discontinuously, and the length
 559 of the drill pipe Δl affects the fatigue damage of the drill string. For the ROP $V = 10$ m h⁻¹

560 and damping ratio $\zeta = 0.025$, drill pipe lengths of $\Delta l = 0.5$ m, $\Delta l = 1$ m, and
 561 $\Delta l = 1.5$ m are selected. Based on Eq. (23), the cumulative fatigue damage at each point in
 562 the drill string can be calculated. The curves of the cumulative damage at each point in the
 563 G105 drill pipe are plotted in Fig. 7.

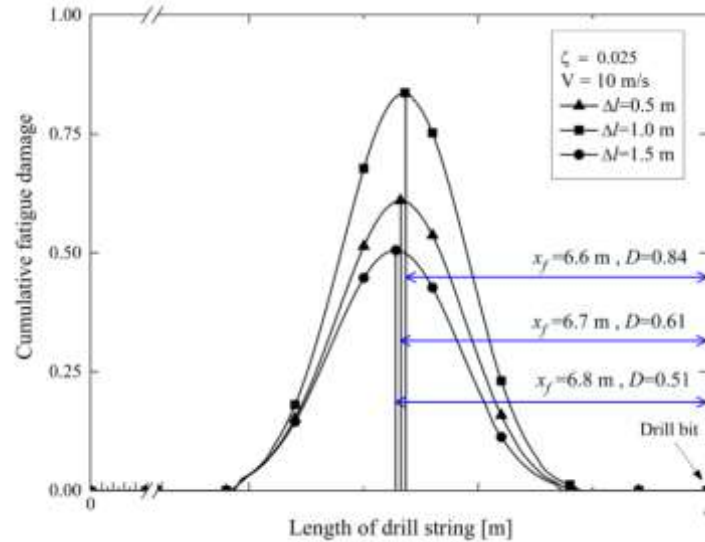


Fig. 7. Effect of the G105 drill pipe length on the fatigue damage in the drill string under the drilling conditions $V = 10$ m h⁻¹ and $\zeta = 0.025$. The three lines correspond to three drill pipe lengths: $\Delta l = 0.5$ m, $\Delta l = 1$ m, and $\Delta l = 1.5$ m. The distance between the maximum damage point and the drill bit is indicated by the blue line.

564 When the length of the drill pipe $\Delta l = 0.5$ m, the maximum damage point of the drill
 565 string is located at $x_f = 6.7$ m above the drill bit, and the maximum damage value is
 566 $D = 0.61$. When the length of the drill pipe $\Delta l = 1$ m, the maximum damage point of the
 567 drill string is located at $x_f = 6.6$ m above the drill bit, and the maximum damage value is
 568 $D = 0.84$. When the length of the drill pipe $\Delta l = 1.5$ m, the maximum damage point of the
 569 drill string is located at $x_f = 6.8$ m above the drill bit, and the maximum damage value is
 570 $D = 0.51$. When drilling with different drill pipe lengths, the maximum damage point x_f of
 571 the drill string is located approximately $l_a/2$ above the drill bit, and it does not exceed l_a .

572 From Fig. 7, the cumulative damage at each point in the drill string is related to the selected
 573 length of the drill pipe. When using drill pipes of different lengths ($\Delta l = 0.5$ m, $\Delta l = 1$ m,
 574 and $\Delta l = 1.5$ m) with the same ROP and damping ratio, for each added drill pipe, the stress
 575 amplitude and the corresponding fatigue damage of the resonant standing wave at different drill
 576 string lengths can be obtained using Eqs. (20) and (23), respectively. Fig. 8 presents the

577 maximum stress amplitude and maximum fatigue damage in the standing wave resonant drill
 578 string for different drill pipe lengths and corresponding lengths, with respect to the increasing
 579 drill string length.

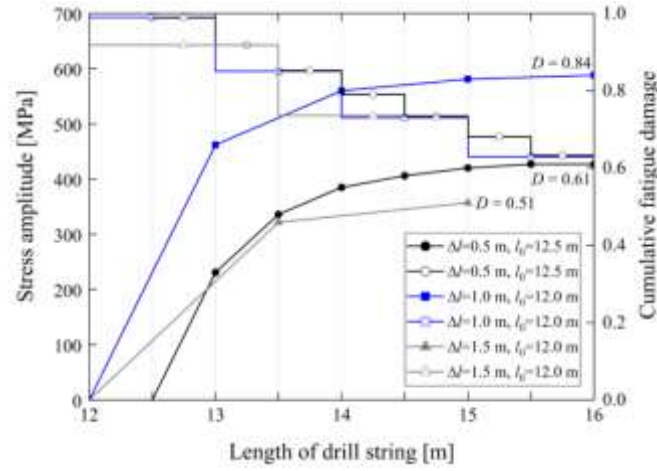


Fig. 8. Dynamic stress and fatigue damage for different drill pipe lengths of $\Delta l = 0.5 \text{ m}$, $\Delta l = 1 \text{ m}$, and $\Delta l = 1.5 \text{ m}$ under the drilling conditions of $v = 10 \text{ m h}^{-1}$ and $\zeta = 0.025$. The stress amplitude lines are plotted using the solid symbols, whereas the cumulative fatigue damage lines are plotted using the hollow symbols.

580 When the length of the drill pipe $\Delta l = 1 \text{ m}$ and the corresponding length $l_0 = 12 \text{ m}$,
 581 with one drill pipe added ($k = 1$), the length of the drill string satisfies $l_0 + \Delta l > l_a$.
 582 Accordingly, the maximum dynamic stress of the standing wave resonant drill string is
 583 $\sigma_{-1k} = 692.95 \text{ MPa}$, and the fatigue damage at the point $x_f = 6.6 \text{ m}$ above the drill bit is
 584 $D_1 = 0.66$. When the drill pipe is connected in turn, the maximum dynamic stress decreases,
 585 and the fatigue damage at $x_f = 6.6 \text{ m}$ above the drill bit decreases to $D_2 = 0.14$,
 586 $D_3 = 0.03$, and $D_4 = 0.01$ for each additional drill pipe, respectively. The fatigue damage
 587 is reduced significantly. When the fifth drill pipe is added, there is no damage at $x_f = 6.6 \text{ m}$,
 588 and the total fatigue damage is $D = 0.84$.

589 When the length of the drill pipe $\Delta l = 0.5 \text{ m}$ and the corresponding length
 590 $l_0 = 12.5 \text{ m}$, with one drill pipe added ($k = 1$), the drill string length satisfies $l_0 + \Delta l > l_a$.
 591 Accordingly, the standing wave resonant condition is available; the maximum dynamic stress
 592 of the drill string $\sigma_{-1k} = 692.95 \text{ MPa}$, and the fatigue damage at the point $x_f = 6.7 \text{ m}$
 593 above the drill bit is $D_1 = 0.33$. When the seventh drill pipe is added, the fatigue damage is

594 $D_7 = 0.00$, and the total fatigue damage at the point $x_f = 6.7$ m above the drill bit is
595 $D = 0.61$.

596 When the length of the drill pipe $\Delta l = 1.5$ m and the corresponding length $l_0 = 12$ m,
597 with one drill pipe added ($k=1$), the drill string length satisfies $l_0 + \Delta l > l_a$. Accordingly,
598 the maximum dynamic stress of the standing wave resonant drill string is
599 $\sigma_{-1k} = 642.72$ MPa, and the fatigue damage at the point $x_f = 6.8$ m above the drill bit
600 is $D_1 = 0.46$. When the second drill pipe is added, the fatigue damage is $D_2 = 0.05$;
601 when the third drill pipe is added, there is no damage at $x_f = 6.8$ m, and the total fatigue
602 damage is $D = 0.51$.

603 From Fig. 8, when the length of the drill pipe is $\Delta l = 0.5$ m or $\Delta l = 1$ m, the drill
604 string length of $l = 13$ m yields resonant standing waves. On comparing the length of the
605 drill string in both cases, a longer standing wave drilling time with a smaller drill string length
606 results in a greater amount of fatigue damage. For the drill pipe lengths of $\Delta l = 1$ m and
607 $\Delta l = 1.5$ m, the lengths of the drill string are the same prior to the start of the resonant
608 standing waves. However, when a 1.5 m drill pipe is added, the dynamic stress amplitude of
609 the drill string decreases significantly, and the maximum fatigue damage is less than that with
610 $\Delta l = 1$ m and $\Delta l = 1.5$ m.

611 Generally, different lengths of drill pipes lead to different dynamic stress amplitudes at
612 each point of the drill string and different corresponding stress cycle times. The length of the
613 drill pipe directly affects the number of stress cycles of the drill string under high stress and
614 also affects the total fatigue damage of the drill string. Therefore, a reasonable choice of the
615 drill pipe can help improve the service life of drill strings significantly.

616 3.5. Effect of sonic drill threaded connections on cumulative fatigue damage

617 Different thread forms and precision of threaded connections will affect the stress
618 distribution and amplitude of sonic drill string. It is difficult to analytically solve the influence
619 of threaded connections on the fatigue life of drill string. However, with the development of
620 computer and finite element methods, it is easy to model the threaded connections, calculate
621 the dynamic stress field, and determine that the dynamic stress amplitude σ_{-1k} at the threaded
622 connection position x_j above the drill bit causes the maximum dynamic stress σ'_{-1k} due to
623 the threaded connection stress concentration. The axial stress concentration factor (aSCF) of
624 threaded connections can be written as $k_\sigma = \sigma'_{-1k} / \sigma_{-1k}$, in which the dynamic stresses are

625 symmetrical cyclic stresses.

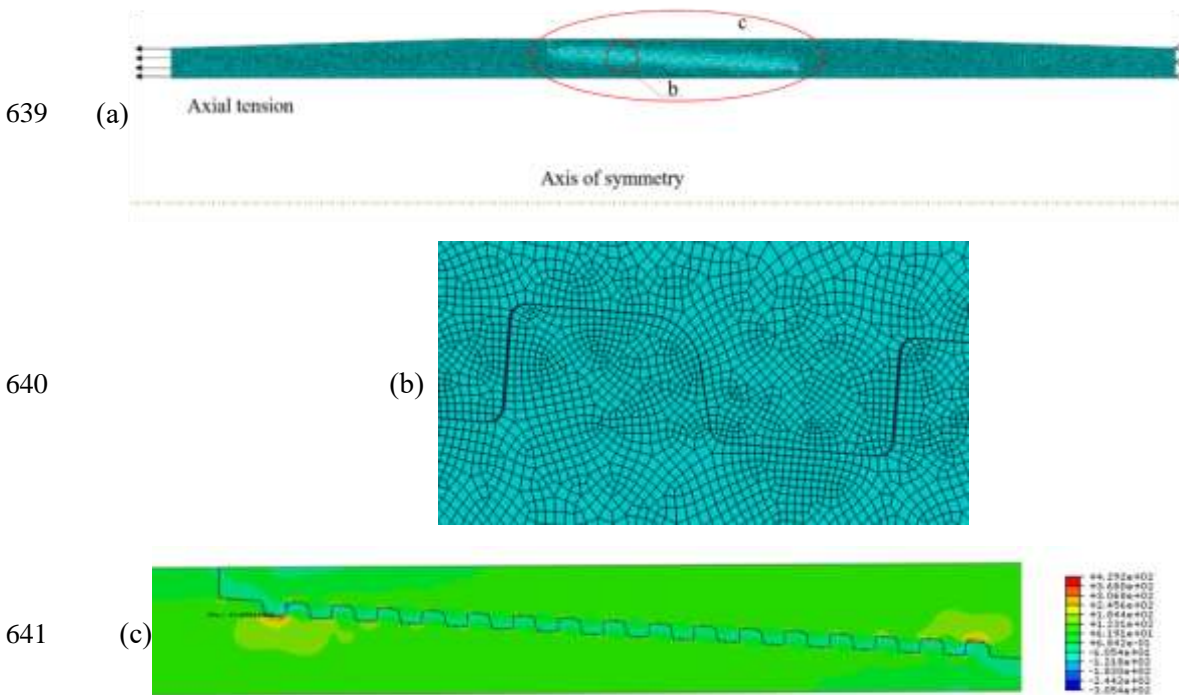
626 In this section, we simulate a specific threaded connection to demonstrate that the aSCF is
 627 constant. The model we adopted is the simplified API standard 5 thread/inch buttress thread
 628 joint. The geometric parameters are shown in Table 4 and material parameters G105 in Table 1,
 629 respectively.

630 **Table 4.** Dimension parameters of the model

Drill-string inner/outer diameter	External upset	Length: End of Pipe to Vanishing point	Shoulder length	Length: Transition between Shoulder and Pipe
Φ92.46/Φ114.3mm	3.27mm	92.39mm	30mm	110mm
Taper on diameter	Thread height	NO. of Threads per In.	Inclination of thread guide surface	Inclination of thread bearing surface
0.0625/1	1.57mm	5	10°	3°

631 Due to the small helix angle of the thread, the model is simplified to a 2D plane
 632 axisymmetric structure (the effect of the helix angle can be ignored). In this simulation, the
 633 linear quadrilateral CAX4R element is used. Set the contact type to Surface -surface contact,
 634 and set the contact surface coefficient of friction (CoF) is 0.02. Take the drill string with the
 635 length of 30 m as an example, select the drill pipe with the length of 1.5m, and the joint numbers
 636 are set from 1 to 19 in order of position from drill bit to sonic vibrator. The mesh, boundary
 637 diagram and stress nephogram of NO.6 joint are illustrated in Fig.9.

638



642 **Fig. 9.** Mesh and boundary of the FE model: (a) Schematic diagram of the 2D axisymmetric model
 643 boundary, the left end is the load boundary, and the right end only limits the axial displacement (axial

644 displacement $U_2=0$). (b) Detailed mesh around thread root. The global mesh size is 1mm, and a finer
 645 mesh with seed size 0.1mm was used in the threads of the model. (c) Nephogram of axial stress field at
 646 the 6th threaded joint, the applied axial stress is calculated as 105.22MPa by Eq. (20)

647

648 The stress nephograms of joints at each position are similar, and the maximum stress is
 649 generated at the root of the first buckle or the last buckle of the connection.

650 Eq. (20) is used to calculate the fatigue stress amplitude σ_{-1k} at different connections.
 651 By applying the amplitude to the model load boundary, the maximum stress of connection at
 652 the different positions can be obtained, so that the aSCF can be calculated by

653 $k_\sigma = \sigma'_{-1k} / \sigma_{-1k}$. The calculation results of aSCF at different joints are shown in Table 5:

654

655 **Table 5.** Calculated aSCF of threaded joints at different positions (CoF=0.02)

Joint number	Distance from joint to the bit x_j (m)	Load stress amplitude σ_{-1k} (MPa)	Maximum stress of threaded connection σ'_{-1k} (MPa)	Calculated aSCF $k_\sigma = \sigma'_{-1k} / \sigma_{-1k}$
2	3	40.18	164.5	4.09
4	6	76.43	312.1	4.08
6	9	105.22	429.2	4.08
8	12	123.72	504.5	4.08
10	15	130.13	530.5	4.08
12	18	123.81	504.9	4.08
14	21	105.36	429.8	4.08
16	24	76.58	312.7	4.08
18	27	40.25	164.7	4.09

656 It can be seen from Table5 that the aSCF in the elastic range can be treated as a constant
 657 within the error range.

658 Because k_σ is a constant, for any joint with given parameters, the maximum stress of the
 659 connection at any position can be calculated by $\sigma'_{-1k} = k_\sigma \sigma_{-1k}$, so that the program in Fig. 4
 660 can be used to realize the theoretical calculation of the connection fatigue damage.

661 Different from calculating the fatigue damage at the non-joint drill string, due to the
 662 introduction of aSCF k_σ at the threaded connection, the expressions of σ'_{-1k} and the upper
 663 limit l'_b of the drill string length causing fatigue damage are changed. According to Eqs. (16)
 664 and (20), Eqs. (16a) and (20a) can be obtained.

665
$$l'_b = \sqrt{\frac{k_\sigma \pi r m_e}{\zeta \sigma_{-1} S}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}} \quad (16a)$$

666
$$\sigma'_{-1k} = k_{\sigma} \sigma_{-1k} = \frac{k_{\sigma}}{\zeta} \cdot \frac{\pi r E m_e}{\rho S (l_0 + k \Delta l)^2} \sin\left(\frac{\pi \cdot x_j}{l_0 + k \Delta l}\right) \quad (20a)$$

667 Due to the change of σ'_{-1k} and l'_b , the total number of stress cycles N'_k corresponding
 668 to σ'_{-1k} at threaded connection x_j can be obtained from Eq. (2) as Eq. (21a).

669
$$N'_k = \left(\frac{\sigma_{-1}}{\sigma'_{-1k}}\right)^m N_c = \left(\frac{\sigma_{-1}}{k_{\sigma} \sigma_{-1k}}\right)^m N_c \quad (21a)$$

670 Considering the influence of aSCF, the cumulative fatigue damage of threaded connections
 671 can be expressed as Eq. (23a).

672
$$D' = \sum \frac{n_k}{N'_k} = \frac{k_{\sigma}^m \pi^m r^{m+1}}{2 N_c (\sigma_{-1})^m} \cdot \left(\sqrt{\frac{E}{\rho}}\right)^{2m+1} \cdot \left(\frac{m_e}{S}\right)^m \cdot \frac{1}{V \zeta^m} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{k'_{\max}} \left[\frac{\Delta l}{(l_0 + k \Delta l)^{2m+1}} \cdot \sin^m\left(\frac{\pi \cdot x_j}{l_0 + k \Delta l}\right)\right] \quad (23a)$$

673

674 It can be seen from Eqs (16a) and (23a) that aSCF k_{σ} increases the upper limit of the
 675 drill string damage length l'_b and the cumulative fatigue damage of threaded connections D' .

676 The fatigue damage of any connection under the standing wave vibration can be calculated
 677 by using Eq.(23a). aSCF k_{σ} of the drill pipe connections significantly reduces the fatigue life
 678 of the drill string.

679

680 4. Conclusions

681 In this study, through the modelling and analysis of the standing wave vibrations in
 682 variable-length drill strings excited by a sonic vibrator, based on one-dimensional wave theory
 683 and the Palmgren–Miner fatigue damage rule, the theoretical formulation of the cumulative
 684 fatigue damage in variable-length drill strings is established innovatively. The following
 685 conclusions can be drawn:

686 1. The fatigue damage of the sonic drill string is closely related to the technical parameters
 687 of the system and drill pipe. Adopting a drill pipe material with a high fatigue limit, reducing
 688 the total static moment m_e , increasing the cross-sectional area S , and selecting the
 689 appropriate length of the drill pipe to avoid high stress damage areas are all conducive methods
 690 to reduce the fatigue damage in drill strings.

691 2. The construction parameters (i.e. rate of penetration V and formation damping ratio
 692 ζ) also affect the fatigue damage of the drill string, and the damage is more sensitive to the
 693 formation damping ratio. Slightly reducing the damping ratio significantly increases the
 694 cumulative fatigue damage of the drill string. Reducing the drilling time in a shallow hole under
 695 high stress levels is, therefore, beneficial in decreasing the total fatigue damage of the drill

696 string.

697 3. The starting oscillation length of standing wave resonant drilling l_a in a shallow hole is
698 determined by the upper frequency limit of the sonic vibrator; the dynamic stress level in the
699 drill string decreases rapidly as the borehole is extended. Throughout the first-order standing
700 wave resonant drilling, the maximum fatigue damage point x_f in the drill string is located
701 approximately $l_a/2$ above the drill bit, and it does not exceed l_a and is unrelated to the
702 length of the drill string corresponding to the drilling depth.

703 Research on the fatigue damage of sonic drill strings can help guide sonic drill designs
704 and practices for improving the service life of drilling tools; it can also help reduce the
705 occurrence of drilling-related accidents. Moreover, this study promotes the theoretical
706 understanding and exploration of stable/variable-length standing wave oscillators.

707

708 **Credit authorship contribution statement**

709 **Changgen Bu:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal analysis, Writing - Reviewing
710 and Editing, Funding acquisition. **Jing Xiao:** Software, Investigation, Writing - Original Draft,
711 Visualization. **Shengyu He:** Software, Visualization, Writing - Reviewing and Editing. **Marian**
712 **Wiercigroch:** Writing - Reviewing and Editing.

713

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718

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