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Comparative Assessment of Vehicle Powertrain Concepts in the Early Development Phase

Lehrstuhl für Fahrzeugtechnik

Comparative Assessment of Vehicle Powertrain Concepts
in the Early Development Phase

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Vollständiger Abdruck der von der
Fakultät für Maschinenwesen
der Technischen Universität München zur Erlangung des akademischen Grades
eines Doktor-Ingenieurs (Dr.-Ing)
genehmigte Dissertation

Vorsitzender Prof. Dr.-Ing. Georg Wachtmeister

Prüfende/-r der Dissertation

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Die Dissertation wurde am 22.05.2018 bei der Technischen Universität München
eingereicht und durch die
Fakultät für Maschinenwesen am 14.08.2018 angenommen

Berichte aus der Fahrzeugtechnik

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**Comparative Assessment of Vehicle Powertrain
Concepts in the Early Development Phase**

Shaker Verlag
Aachen 2019

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet at <http://dnb.d-nb.de>.

Zugl.: München, Techn. Univ., Diss., 2018

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Printed in Germany.

ISBN 978-3-8440-6461-2

ISSN 0945-0742

Shaker Verlag GmbH • P.O. BOX 101818 • D-52018 Aachen

Phone: 0049/2407/9596-0 • Telefax: 0049/2407/9596-9

Internet: www.shaker.de • e-mail: info@shaker.de

Acknowledgements

This work was mainly created during the TUM CREATE "Center for Electromobility" project in Singapore, which is a joint research collaboration between TU München (TUM) and Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU). The project is financially supported by the National Research Foundation (NRF) Singapore under its Campus for Research Excellence And Technological Enterprise (CREATE) program. I would like to acknowledge with great gratitude the trust and freedom granted to me during my affiliation.

There are many people who contributed to and essentially enabled my work in various ways. First of all I would like to thank my supervisor Professor Markus Lienkamp for his trust to originally employ me. His continuous support and optimism, even when I was in doubt, was the stable and much needed base.

My co-supervisor Assistant Professor Erik Wilhelm provided an essential contribution in reserving his scarce time for discussion and guidance, despite pressing things on his side. Beyond his continuous and always quick support, I value his broad knowledge, sharp assessment ability, and his inspiring academic and technological idealism.

Much more than he is probably aware of, I owe Dr Daniel Gleyzes. He introduced me to the "scientific" way of vehicle engineering and gave me invaluable personal feedback, which set me on the right track. His early topic and literature recommendations are the nucleus of this thesis. Furthermore, I copied his being a "tool and hotkey wizard", which is fun and saves me often little and cumulatively lots of time.

The colleagues from TUM CREATE and the TUM Chair of Automotive Technology were the best. I would like to mention (all in alphabetic order) the people from the early pioneer team in Singapore: Sebastian Bender, Pablo Hidalgo, Robert Kochhan, Stephan Schickram and Andreas Schwab. Further Christian Angerer, David Ciechanowicz, Rahul Gujarathi, Raymond Khoo, Patrick Osswald, Sebastian Osswald, Dominik Pelzer, Benjamin Reuter, Felix Römer and Reinhard Sellmair. They provided support through inspiring discussions with consistent personal dedication. I hope the bonds will prevail beyond work and last a lifetime.

Working with good students is a gift in itself. They provided me with an unbiased view, an incentive to reconsider and trained my ability to explain. Although not all of their theses were related to this work, I would like to mention Niklas Frank, Wen Gao, Nils Hoppe, Alexander Koch, Patrick Kraft, Srikanth Ramachandran, Andreas Sauer, Jeanette Seewald and Adam Waclaw.

This work was undeniably a challenge. Eventually, the scientific insights gained and the vehicle powertrain system improvements with its potential environment impact gave me great personal satisfaction. Motivation in difficult times and the opportunity to grow in a multitude of ways was especially provided by the outstanding people I was lucky to meet along the way.

May 2018
Maximilian Tschochner

Abstract

In recent years vehicle powertrains show a growing trend towards diversification. This helps to mitigate inevitable conflicts between objectives, but vastly expands and complicates the concept solution space. The fair optimization and assessment across a number of distinct powertrain structures poses a considerable challenge for vehicle concept teams in the early development phase. Previous work fails to derive a realistic and holistic approach to tackle this challenge, which is still viable under tight time constraints. The solution presented in this thesis is based on novel combination of state-of-the-art concepts. Flexible powertrain definition is achieved with graph theory and parametric component models. Important secondary mass compounding effects are considered. A vectorized quasi-static backward simulation approach and derived meta-models guarantee high computational performance. Fair dynamic assessment is realized consistently with global optimal control. Component sizing uses closed-loop optimization. The implementation of the methodology is applied for five technical vehicle criteria and to 10 powertrain structures as an example. For each structure two criteria are simultaneously optimized and depicted as a Pareto front. Concurrent visualization of the respective components' characteristics provides transparent insight on the relation between objective and decision space. Families of Pareto fronts allow comparative graphical decision making. The methodology presented here contributes to advanced vehicle systems engineering and its application in a practical development context.

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