

12. Measurement method and model simulation of the benchmark line in the deformed frame of a heavy vehicle

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Abstract. Wheel alignment is an important item of vehicle detection to ensure the vehicle safety. The precision of wheel alignment is determined by the benchmark line which is the center line of the vehicle frame. A measurement method of the benchmark line for the deformed frame of heavy vehicle is deduced by constructing a model which consists of a laser bar with two laser range finders and a measurement bar with scale. The simulations are performed on a model of typical heavy vehicle CA1190 whose frame size is 11230 mm×860 mm. The simulation results of the center points are solved by the least squares method while the fitting line of the points for the benchmark line is also achieved in the simulation.

Keywords: vehicle inspection, wheel alignment, benchmark line, heavy vehicle.

1. Introduction

Wheel alignment is a key part of automobile maintenance that consists of adjusting the angles between wheels and vehicle frame [1]. The purpose of measuring these angles is to reduce the tire wear and to ensure that the vehicle is driven in a straight line safely [2-6]. Some emergencies of vehicles on highway are related to the unreasonable value of the wheel alignment [7-10]. The angles in the horizontal plane are commonly defined by the frame centerline in the case of passenger cars. However the current measurement model of the wheel alignment cannot be utilized for heavy commercial vehicles if the frame is deformed by vibration, partial load or over load, accident, etc. For the measurement accuracy of heavy vehicles, the benchmark line of the deformed frame should be exactly explored before the inspection of the wheel alignment. For this reason, it is important to develop the measurement method to provide the benchmark line for the deformed frame of heavy vehicle.

The inspection models of the angles of the wheel alignment itself using various methods are deeply explained in the published theories [11, 12]. January D. B. studies the steering geometry of a vehicle and proposes a solution for the two angles of steering angle inclination (SAI) and caster [13]. The approximate calculation formulae of SAI and caster are also outlined in the paper. To evaluate the errors of the approximate calculation formulae for SAI and caster, an accurate model is constructed and calibration equipment is established to enhance the measurement precision [14]. Nozaki H. reports a method of measuring side slip for toe angle and camber angle, separately [15]. Cho Y. G. presents a method for the maximum steering wheel angle based on the vehicle steering returnability [16]. However the research about the measurement benchmark of wheel alignment in horizontal plane is not found in previous works.

The purpose of the study in this paper is to solve the problem of deducing the centerline of a deformed frame which is considered as the benchmark for measuring the parameters of the wheel alignment. The benefit of the research is to improve the test precision by a more accurate benchmark line of heavy vehicle.

2. Measurement method

The measurement model for the central line of the deformed frame is described in Fig. 1. As there are the machining holes on the frame which are considered as the accurate manufacturing

benchmark, a self-aligning laser bar and a measurement bar are designed for inspection and installed with the holes on the frame. The center of the self-aligning laser bar coincides with the local center of the frame. Furthermore, the centerline of a deformed frame can be obtained by adopting the least squares method in the central point group. The laser bar consists of two laser range finders symmetrically located at the both ends of the bar. Each of them is employed to test the distance between the laser bar and the measurement bar. The measurement bar with a marked scale is positioned in the front of the frame. The laser bar moves or rotates with the deformation of the frame. The projected points of the laser range finders on the measurement bar are numerated by the scale.

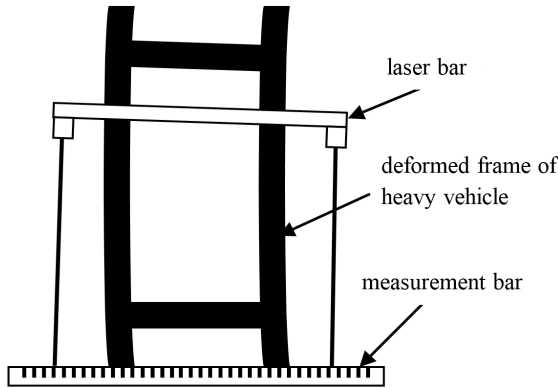


Fig. 1. Measurement method of the benchmark line for the deformed vehicle frame

An abstractive graphic of Fig. 1 is illustrated in Fig. 2. The x axis is set along with the measurement bar. AB is the laser bar attached on the deformed frame with the machining holes. C, D are the projected points of the laser range finder on the measurement bar. C_0, D_0 are the calibration points on the measurement bar which are defined by the two projected points when the laser bar A_0B_0 is parallel to the measurement bar. The distances of CC_0 and DD_0 are observed from the measurement bar and signed by d_1 and d_2 . A_0B_0, C_0D_0, AB and FD are the same with the known length of the laser bar l . The measurement results AC and BD of the laser range finders are noted by h_1 and h_2 , respectively. FD and EC_0 are drawn parallel to AB . AC and BD are vertical to AB .

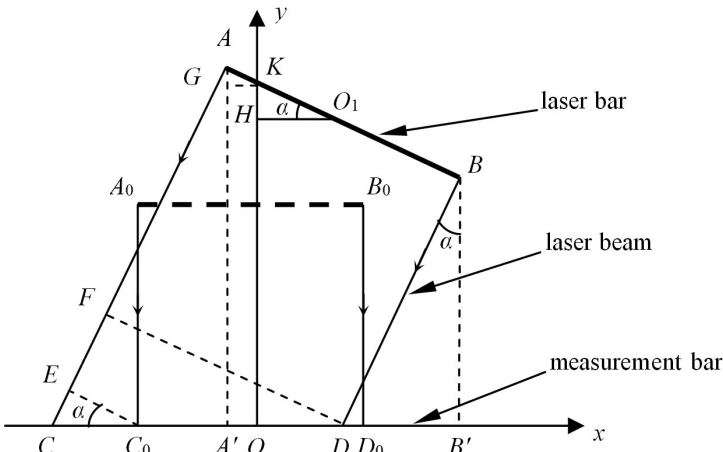


Fig. 2. Measurement model of the benchmark line for the deformed vehicle frame

From the similarity of triangles, the relationship of line segments is:

$$\frac{C_0E}{AB} = \frac{CC_0}{CC_0 + AB - DD_0}. \quad (1)$$

Subscribe the line symbols, then:

$$C_0E = \frac{ld_1}{d_1 + l - d_2}, \quad (2)$$

and:

$$\cos\alpha = \frac{C_0E}{C_0C} = \frac{l}{d_1 + l - d_2}, \quad (3)$$

the angle α is calculated by:

$$\alpha = \arccos \frac{l}{d_1 + l - d_2}, \quad (4)$$

after that:

$$CA' = AC\sin\alpha = h_1\sin\alpha, \quad (5)$$

$$GK = A'O = OC - CA' = \frac{l}{2} + d_1 - h_1\sin\alpha, \quad (6)$$

then:

$$AK = \frac{GK}{\cos\alpha} = \frac{1}{\cos\alpha} \left(\frac{l}{2} + d_1 - h_1\sin\alpha \right), \quad (7)$$

$$O_1K = O_1A - AK. \quad (8)$$

The x coordinate of O_1 is:

$$O_1H = O_1K\cos\alpha = \frac{l}{2} - \left(\frac{l}{2} + d_1 - h_1\sin\alpha \right). \quad (9)$$

The y coordinate of O_1 is:

$$OH = \frac{1}{2(AA' + BB')} = \frac{\cos\alpha(h_1 + h_2)}{2}. \quad (10)$$

The final coordinate of O_1 is solved to:

$$O_1 \left(\frac{l}{2} - \left(\frac{l}{2} + d_1 - h_1\sin\alpha \right), \frac{\cos\alpha(h_1 + h_2)}{2} \right). \quad (11)$$

3. Simulation results

The model of heavy vehicle CA1190 whose chassis consists of one front axle with two wheels and two rear axles with four wheels is constructed to prove the proposed method for the benchmark line on the center of the deformed frame. The technical parameters are outlined in Table 1.

The vehicle model in Fig. 3 is established by Solidworks and the proportion is 1:1. The

measurement bar is fixed on the rear of the frame. The laser bar is installed on eight different positions of the deformed frame. The simulation results are given in Table 2. The input values d_1 , d_2 , l_1 and l_2 of the Eq. (11) are tested by the ruler in Solidworks. In the simulation, the length of the laser bar l is 2800 mm.

Table 1. The parameters of the heavy vehicle

| Length (mm) | Width (mm) | Height (mm) | Axles distance (mm) | Front wheels distance (mm) | Rear wheels distance (mm) | Frame width (mm) |
|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 11230 | 2495 | 2860 | 5265/1450 | 1914 | 1860 | 860 |

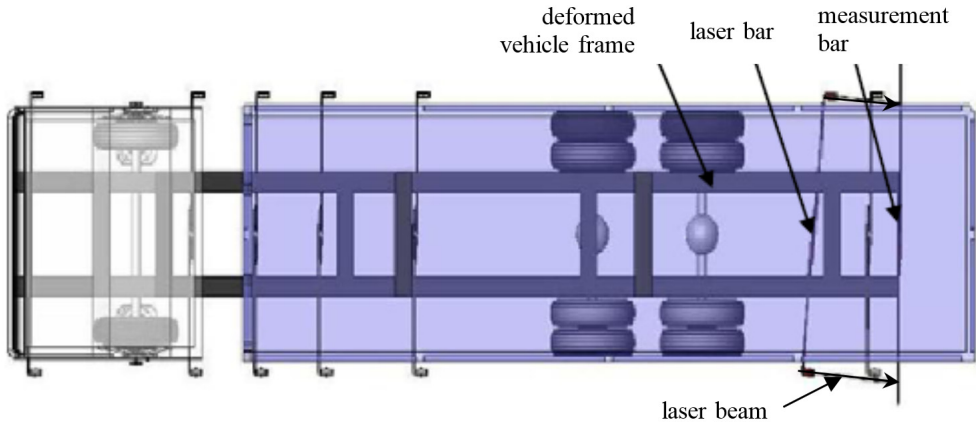


Fig. 3. Simulation model

Table 2. The simulation results of the centerline points

| d_1 (mm) | d_2 (mm) | h_1 (mm) | h_2 (mm) | x (mm) | y (mm) |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|
| 23.66 | -8.24 | 514.16 | 219.86 | 22.59 | 364.0 |
| -53.79 | 61.25 | 687.42 | 891.92 | -7.39 | 787.6 |
| -86.94 | 97.63 | 936.37 | 1181.34 | -10.50 | 1054.8 |
| 57.17 | -53.33 | 2084.47 | 1937.72 | 50.26 | 2008.3 |
| -15.91 | 18.58 | 2030.25 | 2152.51 | -76.68 | 2089.4 |
| -25.36 | 27.06 | 3567.47 | 3665.25 | -101.44 | 3614.1 |
| -196.12 | 198.49 | 6163.55 | 6278.92 | -60.86 | 6215.9 |
| 210.32 | -207.66 | 7182.17 | 7060.03 | 101.98 | 7114.3 |

The benchmark line of the deformed frame is calculated by the least squares method according to the center coordinates in Table 2. The equation of the benchmark line is:

$$y = 5.56 \times 10^{-4}x - 14.38. \tag{1}$$

4. Conclusions

The center line of the vehicle frame is an important benchmark for measuring the parameters of wheel alignment which is crucial in terms of vehicle safety. The precision of wheel alignment is partially determined by the benchmark line. However the test error is often observed in the case of the deformed frame which is caused by traffic accidents or overloading and so on. A method of the benchmark line for the deformed frame of heavy vehicle is presented in this paper. A laser bar with two laser range finders and a measurement bar with scale are implemented in the constructed model. The normal case of deriving the center point of the deformed frame with translational and rotational motions is considered as broadly representative. The simulations are performed on a model of typical heavy vehicle CA1190 whose frame size is 11230 mm×860 mm. The simulation results of the center points are solved by the least squares method while the fitting line of the

points for the benchmark line is also achieved in the simulation. For the future applications the method will promote the measurement precision of the wheel alignment parameters of heavy vehicle.

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