



Czech Technical University in Prague
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,
Department of Mechanics, Biomechanics and Mechatronics

Technická 4
166 07 Praha 6
Czech Republic

tel.: +0042 2435 2509
fax.: +0042 3332 2482

To:
Professor Neno Trichkov, Dean of Faculty of Forest Industry
University of Forestry (LTU)
Kliment Ohridski Blvd, No 10
1756 Sofia
Bulgaria

Dear Professor Trichkov,

We keep in continuous touch and collaboration with Professor Stefan Sťefanov. I know from him about the procedure for defense of his thesis for the DSc degree that had been launched in your Faculty. As well, I know that if he presents any proof for practical application of his IDD (Integration of Damage Differentials) method, it will be an asset for his defense.

On this occasion I can confirm that IDD has been and is being applied for assessments of fatigue lives of tubular smooth specimens of 11523.1 steel, experiments on which are a part of our research projects. What Professor Stefanov writes about this IDD application is true: I mean the conclusions from Chapter 5 of his Author's Summary placed on the English IDD site <http://www.freewebs.com/fatigue-life-integral/> above all. He also placed in English, in draft, on the Bulgarian IDD site <http://metodnaintegrala.hit.bg>, in Volume II, the description of our IDD application to the 11523.1 steel specimens so far. Indeed, the IDD results are impressive. We plan and do our next large experimental and computational fatigue life studies on notched tubular specimens under multiaxial non-proportional random loadings. The IDD software of Professor Stefanov is able to process on our long and complicated stress-time histories at numerous points of the specimens, and thus we count on the IDD method. We encourage young doctorand Jaromír Janoušek who works on our research project to specialize in acquiring and applying Stefanov's IDD method and software. Therefore, we also applied to the Czech Science Foundation for another project concerning IDD evaluation and extension for next 4 years.

We were among the first researchers out of Bulgaria who noticed the appearance of IDD and admired it. Professor Stefanov placed the IDD software on his site for free downloading and thus he provided the conditions for practical IDD application in a mass international scale. I believe that, in Bulgaria, the IDD merits will be adequately evaluated during the defense.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Ing. Milan Růžička CSc.
Head of Institute of Strength of Materials
Department of Mechanics, Biomechanics and Mechatronics
Czech Technical University in Prague