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Editorial

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## VLADIMIR VASIL'YEVICH BOLOTIN (80th Birthday Tribute)<sup>☆</sup>



The great, high-profile scientist and applied mathematician Vladimir Vasil'yevich Bolotin has reached the age of eighty. He has made an enormous contribution to the development of the theory of vibrations and stability, the applied theory of elasticity, structural mechanics, the theory of reliability and safety of machinery and structures, fracture mechanics, and the mechanics of composite materials, and has published over 400 papers, including 15 monographs.

He was born on 29 March 1926 in Tambov. In 1948 he graduated from the Moscow Institute of Transport Engineers, specializing in bridges and tunnels. In 1950 he defended a first higher-degree dissertation, and two years later a dissertation for his doctorate. From 1953 onwards he worked in the Department of the Strength of Materials at the Moscow Power Institute. From 1958 to 1996 he headed this department, which in 1962 was renamed the Department of the Dynamics and Strength of Machinery. From 1980 onwards he was Head of the Laboratory of Reliability and

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Operating Life of the A. A. Blagonravov Institute of Mechanical Engineering of the Russian Academy of Sciences, continuing to work at the same time at the Moscow Power Institute. In 1974 he was elected a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and in 1992 a full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

He has obtained fundamental results in the theory of stability of elastic systems under dynamic loads, in the theory of aeroelasticity, and in the development of an asymptotic method for solving problems of the vibration theory. His monographs "Dynamic Stability of Elastic Systems" (1956) and "Non-conservative Problems of the Theory of Elastic Stability" (1961) are classic works in this field.

He has had a great influence on the development of probabilistic statistical methods in mechanics, on creating a general theory of reliability of structures, based on the application of methods of the theory of random processes and fields, and on the development of the theory of seismic stability of structures. Research on this topic was generalized in his books "Statistical Methods in Structural Mechanics" (1961, 1965), "Methods of the Probability Theory and the Reliability Theory in the Analysis of Structures" (1971, 1982), and "Random Vibrations of Elastic Systems" (1979).

His work in the field of the mechanics of composite materials is widely known. He developed models of multi layered and fibrous media, methods for determining effective constants of elasticity, methods for predicting the residual stresses in structures of composite materials, and stochastic models of the build-up of damage and fracture. He proposed methods for predicting operating life at the design stage and estimating the remaining operating life of technical plant at the service stage. A cycle of work in this direction was reflected in the monographs "Mechanics of Multilayer Cells Structures" (1980, coauthor with Yu. N. Novichkov) and "Operating Life of Machinery and Structures" (1984, 1990).

In recent years he has been active in the field of fracture mechanics and mesomechanics. He has proposed a general approach to describing the behaviour of loaded bodies when their configuration changes (including the case of crack propagation in them). Using a synthesis of fracture mechanics and the mechanics of the accumulation of dispersed damage, he developed a theory of crack growth that describes all stages of fatigue failure; he appied the theory to crack growth under conditions made complicated by inherited effects, corrosion, etc. The results of this work were included in his monographs "Stability Problems in Fracture Mechanics" (1996) and "Mechanics of Fatigue" (1999).

Along with theoretical research, he is active in fields of application. In the period from 1960 to 1980 he took part in an investigation of a number of problems arising in the building industry, in aerospace engineering, in shipbuilding, and in the nuclear power industry. In the period from 1980 to 1985 he supervized the development of a new generation of State standards concerning the reliability of technical plant, issuing the principal standard of this series and a number of reference and procedural materials.

His work is well known in Russia and abroad, and the results of his research are being used in various areas of engineering. His monographs have been translated into many languages, and a large number of his papers have been published in foreign publications. He is an active participant in many international congresses and symposia, and is constantly being invited to give lectures at the leading foreign universities and scientific centres.

He devotes much effort and energy to popularizing the latest achievements in mechanics, to publishing reference, educational, procedural, and technical standard literature, and to improving the training of research engineers and teachers. The Department of the Dynamics and Strength of Machinery that he founded at the Moscow Power Institute (Technical University) has trained over 1200 mechanical engineers. Representatives of the scientific school he set up are carrying out fruitful work in many sectors of science and engineering. He has trained 20 doctors of science and over 150 graduates.

His active social-scientific and organizational activity in the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Academy of Architecture and Structural Sciences, the National Committee on Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, the "Reliability of Machinery" Interindustry Scientific and Technical Complex, and the Higher Certification Commission, on the editorial boards of Russian and foreign scientific journals, and in the organization of many scientific conferences and symposia is universally known.

He is a winner of state prizes of the USSR (1985) and Russia (2000) in the field of science and engineering, the Prize of the Russian Government (1996), the Honorary Prize of the International Association of Reliability and Safety (1993), and the Humboldt Prize (2001). He is a full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Engineering Academy, The International Engineering Academy, the Russian Academy of Architecture and Structural Sciences, a foreign member of the US National Engineering Academy, Professor Emeritus of the Moscow Power Institute, and an honorary doctor of the Budapest Technical University. He has been awarded the orders of Lenin, the Red Badge of Labour, the October Revolution, and Friendship, and the Gold Medal of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences "for

services to science and humanity", as well as the Freidenthal Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers and an honorary prize by the International Association of Reliability and Safety.

The editorial board and editorial staff of the journal *Prikladnaya Matematika i Mekhanika* and his students and colleagues send birthday greetings to him and wish him robust health and future success in his creative activity.

## A LIST OF V.V. BOLDTIN'S PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

1950

On the action of a moving load on bridges. Trudy MIIT, 74, 269-296.

1951

The transverse vibrations of rods caused by periodic longitudinal forces. In *Transverse Vibrations and Critical Speeds*. USSR Acad. Sci., Moscow, Issue. 1, 46–77.

1952

Parametrically excited vibrations of elastic arches. Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR, 83, 4, 537-539.

A dynamic analysis of railway bridges taking account of the mass of the moving load. Trudy MIIT, 76, 87-107.

The combined work of arches with a superarch structure. Trudy MIIT, 76, 32-41.

1953

Dynamic stability of a plane bending shape. Inzh. Sbornik, 14, 109-122.

Integral equations of hindered torsion and the stability of thin-walled rods. *Prikl. Mat. Mekh.* **17**, 2, 245–248. Parametric excitation of skew-symmetric vibrations of elastic arches. *Inzh. Sbornik*, **15**, 83–88.

The parametric excitation of transverse vibrations. In *Transverse Vibrations and Critical Speeds*. USSR Acad. Sci.,

Moscow, Issue 2, 5-44.

Determination of the amplitudes of transverse vibrations caused by periodic longitudinal forces. In *Transverse Vibrations and Critical Speeds*. Izd. Akad. Nauk SSSR, Moscow, Issue 2, 45–64.

1954

Flexural vibrations of shafts whose sections have dissimilar principal stiffnesses. *Inzh. Sbornik*, **19**, 37–54. Some non-linear problems of the dynamic stability of plates. *Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR. OTN*, 10, 47–59. *1955* 

The stability of a plane bending shape of beams connected by elastic links. In *Analyses of Strength, Stiffness, Stability, and Vibrations*. Mashgiz, Moscow, Issue 1, 223–230.

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Dynamic stability of plates. Trudy MEI, 17, 22-46.

1956

The Dynamic Stability of Elastic Systems. Gostekhizdat, Moscow.

Problems of the general theory of elastic stability. Prikl. Mat. Mekh., 20, 5, 561–577.

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The interaction of forced and parametrically excited vibrations. Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR. OTN, 4, 3-15.

The motion of liquid in a vibrating vessel. Prikl. Mat. Mekh., 20, 2, 293–294.

1958

Investigation of the vibrations of shafts with different principal flexural stiffnesses. In *Strength Analyses*. Mashgiz, Moscow, Issue 2, 302–312.

The stability of a thin-walled spherical shell under the action of a periodic pressure. In *Strength Analyses*. Mashgiz, Moscow, Issue 2, 284–299.

Statistical methods in the non-linear theory of elastic shells. Izv. Akad. Nauk SSSR. OTN, 3, 33-41.

The non-linear theory of elasticity and stability "in the large". In *Strength Analyses*. Mashgiz, Moscow, Issue 3, 310–354.

The non-linear vibrations of shafts beyond critical rotation velocities. In *Strength Problems in Engineering*. USSR Acad. Sci., Moscow, Issue 1, 25–53.

1959

The development of structural mechanics. *Izv. Akad. SSSR. OTN. Mekhanika i Mashinostroyeniye*, 2, 122–133 (coauthor with V. Z. Vlasov and I. I. Gol'denblat).

The statistical theory of the seismic stability of structures. *Izv. Akad. Nauk SSR. OTN. Mekhanika i Mashinos-troyeniye*, 4, 123–129.

Non-linear problems of the stability of plane panels at high supersonic speeds. *Izv. Akad. Nauk SSR. OTN. Mekhanika i Mashinostroyeniye*, 3, 59–64 (coauthor with Yu. V. Gavrilov, B. P. Makarov and Yu. Yu. Shveiko).

The three-dimensional strains of beams after loss of stability. In *Analysis of Three-dimensional Structures*. Gosstroiizdat, Moscow, Issue 5, 3–18.

The problem of the stability of a plate in a compressible gas flow. In *Problems of the Strength of Materials and Structures*. Izd. Akad. Nauk SSSR, Moscow, 194–204.

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1965

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1971

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1973

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