

Publisher's Note

This note outlines the investigation and conclusion of a complaint alleging plagiarism made against the authors of the paper:

J.N. Sharma, R. Kumar, Asymptotics of wave motion in transversely isotropic plates, *Journal of Sound and Vibration* 274 (3–5) (2004) 747–759 [1].

Dr. Nikolay Losin has drawn our attention to similarities between portions of the text in Ref. [1] and two of his own papers that had previously been published in the *ASME Journal of Applied Mechanics* in 1997 [2] and 1998 [3].

After careful consideration and close examination of the papers in question by the Editors, the following conclusions have been reached:

Conclusions

1. The paper in *JSV* by Sharma and Kumar [1], contains a genuine extension of Losin's work [2,3]. Rather than being isotropic, the plate material is assumed transversely isotropic. This is a small extension which does not merit a paper of 13 pages. About 50% of the material in the Sharma and Kumar paper—6 pages—is a direct copy of Losin's work, apart from trivial changes. No explicit attribution or acknowledgment is given for this material in the text although Losin's work is cited in the paper's bibliography.

By borrowing text extensively from the previously published work, Sharma and Kumar have made their paper look more substantial than the amount of their new material warranted. This is a serious lapse from good scientific practice. Sharma and Kumar should have presented their work as a *Discussion* or *Short Communication*.

By quoting Losin's derivation without explicitly referring to its origin [2,3], Sharma and Kumar [1] may have caused the reader to assume that Losin's work was their own. This wholesale copying of material by Sharma and Kumar without proper acknowledgment of the original works amounts to plagiarism in the strictest meaning of the term. However, as the work is listed in the bibliography we believe that Sharma and Kumar did not have the intention to deceive the scientific community.

2. Sharma and Kumar claim that Losin made an error in calculation, and that they have rectified it (Ref. [1, p. 758]). This assertion is not clearly supported as far as we can determine.

Actions

- We have notified Sharma and Kumar that we are aware of their bad scientific practice of borrowing an unacceptably large amount from Dr. Losin's papers without giving proper acknowledgment, which amounts to plagiarism in the strictest meaning of the term. They have been warned for the future and informed that other manuscripts that they submit to *JSV* will be subject to the closest scrutiny by the Editors to reassure all concerned that the papers are appropriate.
- Dr. Losin has been invited to submit a Discussion paper to *JSV*, to address Sharma and Kumar's assertions as necessary (as noted under 2).

We believe that we have taken appropriate action concerning this incident following a lengthy and detailed investigation. We would like to avoid similar cases in the future and focus on maintaining the high quality and reputation of the journal. Therefore, Elsevier and the Editors of the *Journal of Sound and Vibration* would like to remind authors that plagiarism, intentional or accidental, is unethical and will not be tolerated. The copying of large sections of material from previously published work without proper acknowledgment of the source documents is a form of plagiarism.

References

- [1] J.N. Sharma, R. Kumar, Asymptotics of wave motion in transversely isotropic plates, *Journal of Sound and Vibration* 274 (3–5) (2004) 747–759.
- [2] N.A. Losin, Asymptotics of flexural waves in isotropic elastic plates, *ASME Journal of Applied Mechanics* 64 (2) (1997) 336–342.
- [3] N.A. Losin, Asymptotics of extensional waves in isotropic elastic plates, *ASME Journal of Applied Mechanics* 65 (4) (1998) 1042–1047.