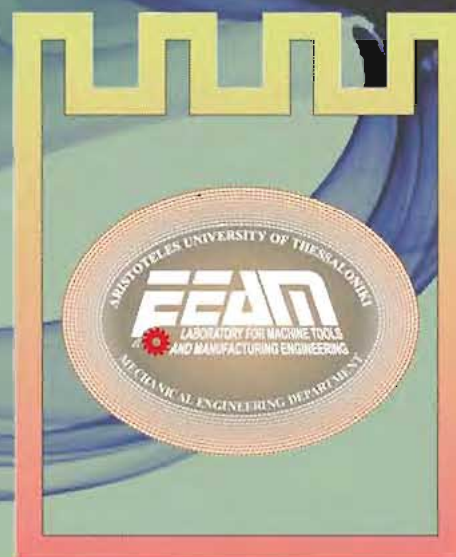


**7<sup>TH</sup> BALKANTRIB'11**  
International Conference on Tribology

**PROCEEDINGS**

**Editor: Prof. K.-D. BOUZAKIS**

**3-5 October 2011, Thessaloniki-GR**



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ISBN 978-960-98780-6-7

Thessaloniki - Greece

*Printed by*



18th klm Thessaloniki - Perea  
P.O. Box 4171 – 570 19 Perea -Thessaloniki  
Tel.: +30 2392 072.222 – Fax: +30 2392 072.229  
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## PREFACE

Tribology is an interdisciplinary scientific area, always in the core of research and industrial interests. Seeking opportunities for further developing and solidifying co-operations in the field of tribology, scientists from six Balkan countries, Bulgaria, FYROM, Greece, Romania, Serbia and Turkey established in 1993 the Balkan Tribological Association (BTA). BTA aims at strengthening the relations between academic institutions and companies from the member countries and instigating collaborative efforts with further countries from all over the world.

After 15 years, for second time, Greece organizes the International Conference of BTA in Thessaloniki. This significant event takes place every three years successively in the BTA member countries. The “BALKANTRIB’11” embraces the scientific fields of tribology, focused on the friction description and control as well as the wear reduction in various applications, such as of manufacturing, machines’ operation, bio-engineering, etc.

It's a privilege for the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Manufacturing Engineering of the Aristoteles University of Thessaloniki and for the Fraunhofer Project Center Coatings in Manufacturing (PCCM) to organize the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference “BALKANTRIB’11”, a unique 3-days forum, in the historical city of Thessaloniki. The participants will have the opportunity to attend lectures of their interest, in the frame of the 9<sup>th</sup> “THE-A” and the 4<sup>th</sup> “ICMEN” international Conferences, which take place simultaneously at the same location in Thessaloniki.

I wish all participants's a pleasant stay in Thessaloniki and a fruitful conferences' attendance.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil., Dr.-Ing. E.h., Dr.h.c. K.-D. Bouzakis

*Director of EEDM and PCCM*

*Chairman of the Organizing Committee*

Thessaloniki, October 2011





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The President of the Organizing Committee would like to thank

the collaborators of  
the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Manufacturing Engineering of  
the Aristoteles University Thessaloniki, for their efforts in organizing  
the 7th International Conference BALKANTRIB'11,

as well as  
ZITI SA for all printing works.

## Contents

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### Tribological Properties, Wear and Corrosion

Friction characteristics of plasma nitrided H11 steel <i>M.B.Karamis, K.Yıldızlı and G.Carkıt Aydın</i> .....	3
Noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) in automotive applications: gear rattle and the role of tribodynamics <i>M. De la Cruz, S. Theodossiades and H. Rahnejat</i> .....	13
Corrosion behavior of materials in technological environments from oil atmospheric and vacuum distillation installations <i>M. Morosanu, Ov. Georgescu, N.N. Antonescu</i> .....	23
Research the wear intensity of pvd coatings on steel X46Cr13 <i>S. Dishliev; G. Mishev</i> .....	31
Austenitic stainless steel type AISi316L corrosive behavior in hair shampoo medium <i>R.G. Ripeanu, V. Ispas, D. Ispas</i> .....	41
Influence of dry sliding conditions and coating roughness on the wear of titanium nitride coatings deposited at low temperature <i>D. Kakas, B. Skoric, P. Terek, A. Miletić, L. Kovacević, M. Vilotic</i> .....	49
Influence of Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> particle content on the sliding wear behaviour of ZA-27 alloy composites <i>S. Mitrovic, M. Babic, F. Živic, I. Bobic, D. Dzunic</i> .....	59
Wear properties of shot peened surfaces of 36NiCrMo16 alloyed steels under lubricated condition <i>M. Babic, D. Adamovic, S. Mitrovic, F. Živic, D. Dzunic</i> .....	69
Wear and corrosion behaviours of low temperature nitrided AISi 304 L austenitic stainless steel <i>O. Celik, H. Cimenoglu, E.S. Kayali</i> .....	77
The rough chromates steel XC45 wear behaviour at dry friction and high temperature <i>M.-T. Popescu, N. Popa, R.-N. Dobrescu, J. Denape, C. Onescu</i> .....	81
Tribological behaviour of duplex treated plastic mold steel <i>O. Alpaslan, M. Gunyuz, E. Atar, H. Cimenoglu</i> .....	89
Studies on wear protection for humidity sensor in a sand drying plant <i>O.N. Ionescu, G.C. Ionescu, M. Minescu, I. Nae</i> .....	95



## Lubricants

Solid lubrication with powder WS <sub>2</sub> through self-repairing and self-replenishing. Modeling and Experimentation <b>I. Filip, T. Constantin</b> .....	103
Viscosity of future biofuels under pressure and temperature variation <b>S. Drumm, A. Fatemi, L. Leonhard, H. Murrenhoff</b> .....	111
Polyacrylamide – new opportunity in lubrication <b>A.C. Drumeanu</b> .....	117
Some aspects about lubrication in the presence of nuclear radiation <b>O. Florea, A. Marin</b> .....	125
Comparative methodes for measuring the rheological properties of fresh and used oils <b>A.V. Radulescu, I. Radulescu</b> .....	135
Experimental researches on biodegradable lubricants with multifunctional properties <b>A. Tudor, M. Vlase, A. V. Radulescu, E. Bojan, E. Stepan, V. Vladut</b> .....	141

## Tribo-tests and Tribo-aspects in Various Applications

Influence of the machining tool wear on the tribological properties of the produced surfaces <b>A. Mihailidis, C. Salpistis, C. Sachanas, S. Gatsios</b> .....	153
Experimental measurements for determination of frictional forces within the rod seals of hydraulic cylinders <b>C. Cristescu, P. Drumea, D. I. Guta, S. Anghel, M. Crudu</b> .....	163
Corrosion behavior evaluation of high strength aluminum alloy <b>A. Mavropoulos, S. Skolianos</b> .....	171
Methods of fault detection in rolling element bearings <b>P. Stepanic, V. Kvrjic, N. Misic, Z. Dancuo, I. Lazarevic</b> .....	179
Neural predictor to analyse the efficiency of positive displacement pumps <b>F.Canbulut, C.Sinanoglu, M.Erkilet,Ö.Özmen</b> .....	189
Experimental determination of the heat of adsorption of mineral oils on a two-disk test rig <b>A. Mihailidis, S. Gatsios, C. Salpistis</b> .....	199
Non destructive testing in roller bearing using wavelets <b>I. Tsiafis, K.-D Bouzakis, A. Kaplanis, A. Karamanidis, Th. Xenos</b> .....	209
About damage of the femoral head of total hip prosthesis <b>L. Capitanu, L.-L. Badita, D.-C. Bursuc</b> .....	217
A case study of turbogenerator journal bearing failure <b>T. Lazović, A. Marinković, S. Marković</b> .....	227

Characterization of titanium carbide coatings on wave bearings <i>F. Dimonte, N. M. Ene, K.-D. Bouzakis, M. Batsiolas, A. Asimakopoulos</i> .....	235
Wheel-rail wear damage of the metro <i>A. Tudor, I. Tountas, N. Sandu</i> .....	245
Tribological behavior of bra e bands <i>R.G. Ripeanu, V. Ispas, D. Ispas</i> .....	255
Tribology in ballroom dance with energy consumption analysis <i>A. Marinkovic, A. Zunjic, D. Pejic, M. Stankovic</i> .....	263
The influence of slip rate on friction coefficient during slip roll contact <i>B. Ivkovic, N. Marjanovic, M. Ravlic</i> .....	271
Optimization of the deposition parameters of thick atmospheric plasma spray coatings <i>A. Vencel</i> .....	275
Possibility of application of tribometric investigations in diagnostics tribology assemblies of vehicles <i>S. Peric, B. Nedic, P. Dakic</i> .....	283

## Tribomechanics

Thermal elastohydrodynamic lubrication of elliptical contacts <i>A. Mihailidis, K. Panagiotidis, K. Agouridas</i> .....	295
Self-organization in tribology: the role of Synergism and selective transfer <i>E. Assenova, M. Kandeve</i> .....	305
Friction in rectilinear motion mechanical systems <i>G. Mishev</i> .....	311
Study about friction coefficient estimation in friction stir welding <i>M. Mijajlovic, D. Stamenkovic, D. Milcic, M. Durdanovic</i> .....	323
Study of tribological coatings wear according to the law of contact interaction <i>M. Kandeve</i> .....	331
Evaluation of lubrication and friction in knee joint affected by osteoarthritis treated with ostenil, ostenil plus, yarel forte and durolane <i>R. Stoilov, M. Ivanova, K. Garbeva, N. Marinova, I. Manolova, Zh. Kalitchin</i> .....	337
Tribological, Mechanical and physical Characterization of Hydroxyapatite polycaprolactone bio-composites <i>A. Tsouknidas, D. Kountouras, S. Maropoulos, N. Kiratzis, N. Michalilidis</i> .....	343
Multi-parametric analysis of surface roughness in high-speed turning of a high-alloyed tool steel <i>N.M. Vafeianidis, N.A. Fountas, N.I. Galanis, I. Bounas, J. Sideris</i> .....	351
The tribometamorphism – A particular kind of geotribological processes in the Earth's crust <i>E. Kozhoukharova</i> .....	359

## STUDY ABOUT FRICTION COEFFICIENT ESTIMATION IN FRICTION STIR WELDING

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### ABSTRACT

Friction Stir Welding is a solid state welding method that uses friction processes for power transformation into welding consumable state. Friction coefficient is one of dominant tribological parameters in Friction Stir Welding: its nature and value changes influence welding process, ease the application or decrease loads on the welding tool with no change in quality of weld. However, friction coefficient is not completely defined in Friction Stir Welding either theoretically or experimentally. A brief study on friction coefficient in Friction Stir Welding assumes: decomposition of the welding process, recognition of the most important parameters, application of adequate mathematical model and validation of results. Paper describes possible model for experimental estimation of friction coefficient in Friction Stir Welding and makes parallel with theoretical connotations.

KEYWORDS: Friction coefficient, Friction Stir Welding, Friction parameters

### 1. INTRODUCTION

For a long time friction coefficient was considered to be constant value and that throughout the process of friction it does not change its value. Such a view was reflected in the 19th century however, the theory that introduces the coefficient of friction as a fixed and unchanging value, for the given frictional interface has appeared. From the mid-20th century it became clear that coefficient of friction and frictional force have values that change: they depend on many factors (especially conditions in which the process of friction takes place) and they can have extreme, even when analyzed on the same friction pair.

On the other hand, in the bearing device it is required that coefficient of friction has stable and often high value, while for bearings it has to be marginally low. For numerous parts in machinery it is necessary that the friction coefficient has time-stable value, with no matter on its intensity, while in some cases it is required that friction coefficient varies with speed or loads, etc. In other words - depending on the function and purpose of a given tribomechanical system it is necessary to set up different requirements in terms of behavior of the friction parameters. For this reason, recognition and determination of friction parameters and the laws of their change in function of the factors on which they depend are the most important tasks from the standpoint of predicting the process of friction.

### 2. PARAMETERS THAT INFLUENCE FRICTION

Solving the task of friction parameters recognition is extremely difficult even in modern times. Anyway, first of all it is necessary to get the information about the friction process: researchers often make different, conditionally determined, indexing of friction parameters, with an idea of simplification of the friction problem. For example, some classifies friction parameters on internal, external and combined influencing factors.

Internal parameters are all factors which define tribomechanical system as it is. Each one of them defines and characterizes parts of the system and the system itself and in most of the cases these parameters can not be affected changed easily (or by chance) nor does change of a single parameter stay localized or substantive from other parameters. Some of these



3-5 October 2011,  
Thessaloniki, Greece

Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Tribology (BALKANTRIB'11)

Edited by: Prof. K.-D. Bouzakis,  
Director of the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Manufacturing Engineering (EEAM) of the  
Aristoteles University Thessaloniki and the Fraunhofer Project Center Coatings in Manufacturing (PCCM),  
a joint initiative by Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and Centre for Research and Technology Hellas  
Published by: EEAM and PCCM

parameters are the crystal structure of materials then the mechanical thermophysical chemical magnetic electrical properties etc.

The external parameters include pressure relative speed duration of the process geometry and other characteristics of the contact the state of the environment in which the friction occurs chemical composition humidity air temperature air pressure and so on. These are therefore factors that can be predicted – measured – determined in advance – before the start of the process of friction. External parameters usually can be changed without concern on change of other external parameters what is not the case with the internal parameters .

The group of combined parameters is a result of the interaction of internal and external factors which exist or even before the start of friction or occur during the process. This includes impurities of different origin oxide lubricant moisture then coatings various contaminants and so on. This group includes very important parameter – temperature increase resulting from the heat generation in friction. That is a factor that always occurs during the friction processes and its effects on the process and system's functionality are extremely large and can not be neglected in any analysis.

Tragelskii [1] has given another classification of parameters that influence friction processes. His division is based on physics of the friction process and parameters are concerning on material of the tribo-pair elements factors of the design and working conditions factors.

However previously mentioned classifications and groups of factors must be considered only as informational. They only help in decomposition of the friction process and might help in local solving of the friction processes problem. If some other division or decomposition helps the problem solving every researcher is entitled to provide another explanation or decomposition of parameters that involve friction.

But regardless of disagreements over the classifications there is a general consensus in opinions that individual action on the process of friction by any of the parameters can not be considered independently of the actions of other parameters. Even the analysis of the effects of whole groups of parameters completely independent of any other group it is also difficult or impossible to be achieved. The reason is that they are all entwined they participate in the process of friction at the same time acting in turn on each other. That is why when examining the impact of certain factors on the coefficient and the friction force one can speak only of more or less dominant influences of one of them in the circumstances of friction.

### 3. FRICTION COEFFICIENT

Coefficient of friction  $\mu$  on contact between two solids is defined as relation between tangential force  $F_t$  that is necessary to produce sliding condition between bodies and normal force between contact surfaces  $F_n$

$$\mu = F_t / F_n. \quad 1$$

Following Leonardo da Vinci's supposition of basic friction principles Newton Amontons Desaguliers Euler and Coulomb studied friction.

Tomlinson [2] in 1929 developed *Molecular theory of friction* where the friction coefficient is expressed as

$$\mu = \frac{C_f \cdot W \cdot n_m}{l \cdot F_n}, \quad 2$$

where  $C_f$  is constant  $W$  is activation energy for a pair of molecules  $n_m$  is number of molecular connections  $l$  is the distance between molecules  $F_n$  is normal force.

Rowden and Tabor [6] in 1930 formulated the *hesion theory* which presents significant contribution for science of friction. Their approach is that adhesion component of friction force is the major part of its total value and the friction coefficient is:

$$\mu = \frac{\tau}{\sigma} = \frac{\tau_s}{\sigma_s} \quad (3)$$

where  $C = \tau_s / \tau_0$  is constant depending on material,  $\tau_s$  is shear strength of softer material in contact,  $\tau_0$  is shear strength of membrane which covers the softer material.

Magel's [1, 2] in 1939 formulated *Mechanical theory*. Towards this theory, total friction force in contact area of tribomechanical system is a sum of molecular and deformable components. Friction force value depends on type of deformations contact one. Deformation may be elastic or plastic depending on mechanical properties of contact bodies, normal load and surface micro-topography.

In elasto-deformable condition, in real contact one, friction coefficient can be calculated by formula:

$$\mu = \frac{2,4 \cdot \tau_0 \cdot (1-\nu^2)^{0,8}}{c \cdot \Delta^{0,4} \cdot 0,8} + \beta + 0,2 \cdot \alpha_{ef} \cdot \Delta^{0,4} \cdot \left[ \frac{(1-\nu^2)^{-0,2}}{\Delta^{0,4}} \right] \quad (4)$$

This complex equation includes characteristics of friction pair (contact pressure), material features ( $\alpha_e, \nu$ ), technological parameters (surface quality  $\Delta$  - micro-geometry roughness, complex parameter) and exploitation-technological parameters which include used lubricant ( $\tau, c$ ). In plasto-deformable condition, in real contact one, friction coefficient can be calculated by formula:

$$\mu = \frac{\tau_0}{\sigma} + \beta + 0,9 \cdot \Delta^{0,5} \cdot \left( \frac{\tau_0}{\sigma} \right)^{0,5} \quad (5)$$

On the base of supposition that total friction force depends mainly on plastic deformation of surface asperities, Ludema [5] set the model:

$$\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\nu^2}} \quad (6)$$

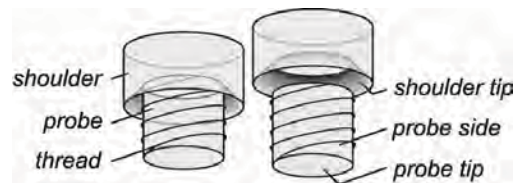
where  $\nu$  is the ratio of the shear strength of surface asperities and the bulk shear strength. Ludema [4] set the new model for calculating the friction coefficient and his model includes all of influence parameters: type and thickness of surface films, normal force, surface texture, solid solubility of paired materials, presence of third bodies, sliding velocity, ambient temperature, ambient atmosphere, elasticity of the tribosystem, mechanical properties of each member of the couple, waviness:

$$\mu = \left( \sqrt{\frac{h}{s}} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_h}{\sigma_s}} \cdot 3 \cdot \sqrt{\frac{h}{s}} \right) \frac{1-\nu_s}{10} \cdot \left( \frac{1-\nu_s}{\frac{\sigma_s}{50}} \right) \quad (7)$$

#### 4. PHYSICAL PHASES OF THE FSW

uring SW process speciali ed welding tool influences the material of welding plates and along the joint line creates weld. Welding tool is mostly cylindrically conically shaped tool with a shoulder with or without reservoir for the pressed material and non profiled probe that is directly involved in welding of the plates. Welding tool igure 1 consists of at least 3 active surfaces that actively involve in welding

- probe tip flat or profiled surface on the top of the welding tool and the probe itself
- probe side cylindrical or coned surface of the probe usually profiled threaded what makes this surface complex and consisted of several different surfaces the most important for weld creation
- shoulder tip the surface with the greatest area flat or coned surface bellow the shoulder of the welding tool.



**Figure 1:** Scheme of the welding tool and active surfaces

Welding tool is positioned in the head of the machine that can provide rotating of the welding tool. In most of the cases it is the milling head and machine used for the SW is milling machine. After that welding tool is positioned above the welding plates – above the start point on the joint line igure 2. otation of the welding tool starts and SW process begins.

SW process happens thru several phases

1. plunging phase – after positioning welding tool rotates above welding plates and slowly plunges into the material of welding plates relative movement between welding tool and welding plates is achieved due to the vertical movement of welding plates welding tool or rarely combination of both movements plunging last until welding tool reaches the maximal plunging depth what is approximately equal to the height of welding plates.
2. first dwelling phase – there is no translational movement of welding tool or welding plates while welding tool constantly rotates this is transition phase that eases the welding process preheating of welding plates stabilization of welding plates material after plunging phase etc.
3. welding phase – welding tool is constantly rotating and moving with constant welding speed along the joint line it is relative movement since it is possible to have welding plates moving while welding tool is kept steady or welding tool is moving while plates do not or having booth – welding plates and welding tool moving the longest and the most important phase of the SW
4. second dwelling phase – similar to the first dwelling phase stabilizes the welding plates after the end of welding phase
5. pulling out phase – welding tool rotates and slowly leaves the contact with the welding plates.

eside the geometrical description of the SW physical phases define and explain almost all aspects of the SW process load distribution temperature stress and strain history material flow energy consumption etc. Analysis of the friction coefficient between welding tool and welding plates during SW is bonded to the physical phases as well.

Complexity of the FSW process and complexity of the friction coefficient itself require even deeper decomposition of the FSW process and analysis of several FSW parameters that influence friction coefficient.

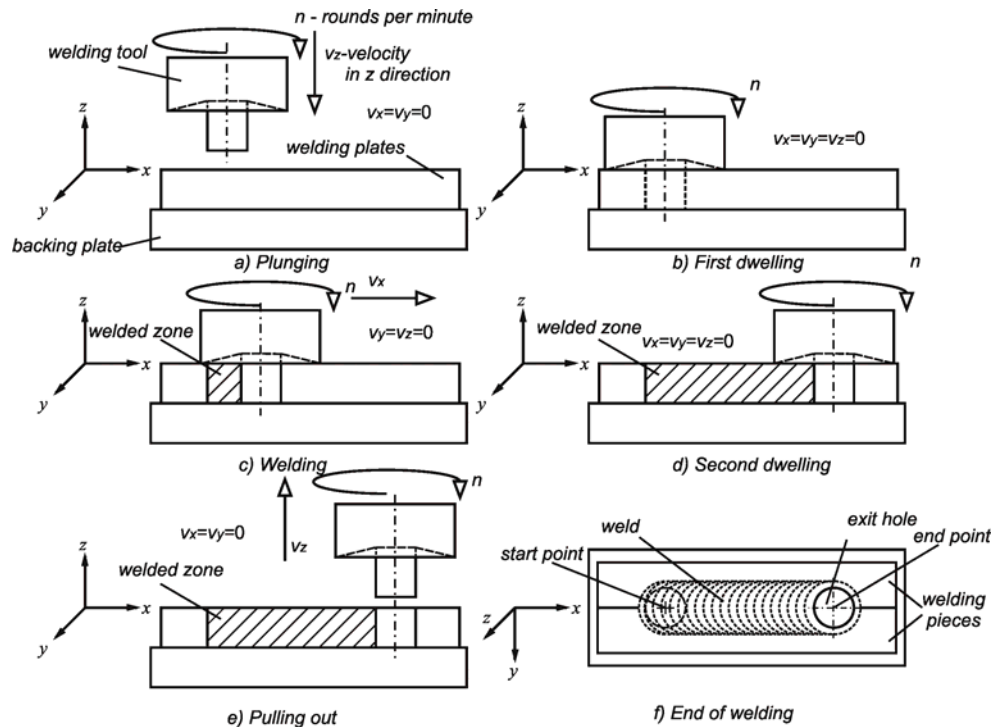


Figure 3. Physical phases of the FSW

### 3.2.1. ACTIVE SURFACE ENGAGEMENT

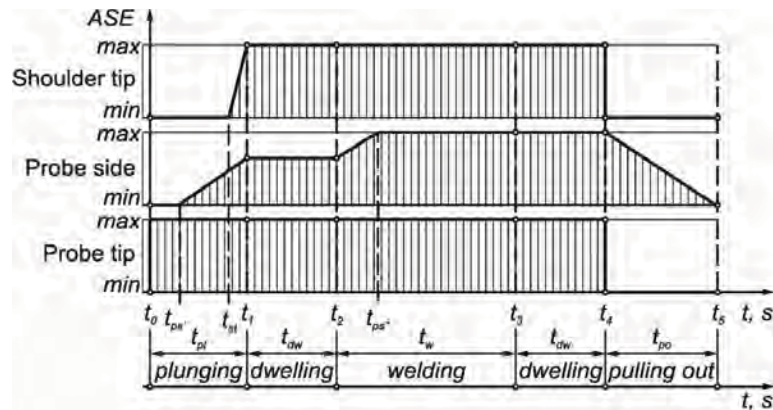
If FSW is analyzed through phases, it is important to recognize when and how much are active surfaces engaged (AS) in the process, in a single moment of time. AS does not directly influence friction coefficient (e.g. area of the active surface), however, AS influences other parameters of the FSW (temperature, contact pressure, type of deformations, surface roughness, etc) that in great amount influence value of the friction coefficient.

Figure 3 gives a scheme of the AS during FSW. Minimal values of AS consider close to 0 engagement and maximal values of AS consider almost 100% engagement, for every of previously mentioned active surfaces.

Probe tip is active surface that is fully engaged in the FSW process from the beginning of the plunging phase ( ) until the end of the second dwelling phase ( ). At the beginning of the plunging phase probe tip slides over the top surface of welding plates and there is no significant plunging into material of the welding plates. Material of the welding plates is still capable to resist influence of the contact pressure on contact between probe tip and welding plates.

Plunging force is rising as the plunging phase goes and eventually plunging force will be intensive enough to produce contact pressure that will overcome resistance of the material and welding tool will penetrate into the material (in the moment of time  $t_s$ ). This intensive plunging will enable contact between probe side and material of welding plates and increase of

engagement of the probe side – it will reach some value until the end of the plunging phase  $t_1$ . It will be kept steady or slightly will decrease during first dwelling phase from  $t_1$  to  $t_2$  and it will increase again during welding phase after  $t_2$ . When welding tool stabilizes in welding phase when it reaches constant speed at the moment of  $t_3$  probe side will reach maximal ASE.



**Figure 1** Active surface engagement ASE during SW process

It will be kept relatively steady until the end of the second dwelling phase  $t_4$  and after will slightly decrease until the minimal value – when welding tool gets pulled out at the end of the pulling out phase  $t_5$ . Shoulder tip will involve in SW process when firstly touches  $t_1$  the material of welding plates that was pushed upwards while plunging phase lasted. ASE will increase to the maximum when plunging phase ends  $t_1$  it will keep steady value until the end of the second dwelling phase  $t_4$  when it will drop to minimum.

### COEFFICIENT OF FRICTION IN FSW

Without any doubt friction is one of the most important parameters in SW. Its dominance in this welding technique has motivated inventors to put the term friction in the name of the process – Friction Stir Welding. However two decades after the invention of the SW friction coefficient remains partly unknown and difficult to be explained in SW. Friction was recognized as somewhat important but never was the main topic of researches on SW. Numerous authors [9-11] have pointed out the nature of the friction in SW static kinematic and assumed for their researches that friction coefficient is constant. Values of the friction coefficient vary in these researches from  $\mu = 0.3$  to  $\mu = 0.6$  and they are always assumed or predicted. Researches aiming in direction of recognition and determination of the friction coefficient in SW are rare. Kumar et al. [7] proposed a method and conducted a set of experiments aiming to determine value of the friction coefficient in SW for different conditions loads technological parameters etc. Figure 4 shows experimental setup that Kumar proposed for experimental determination of friction coefficient in SW. Kumar has based his experiment on Equation 1 to determine friction coefficient  $\mu(t)$  during SW it is necessary to measure tangential force  $F_t(t)$  and normal force  $F_n(t) = F(t)$  that appear during experiment. Based on contact mechanics Malin [8] proposed a dependency between torque  $M(t)$  friction coefficient  $\mu(t)$  and normal force  $F(t)$  between two bodies semi-rigid punch with diameter  $t$  and an elastic half space in contact

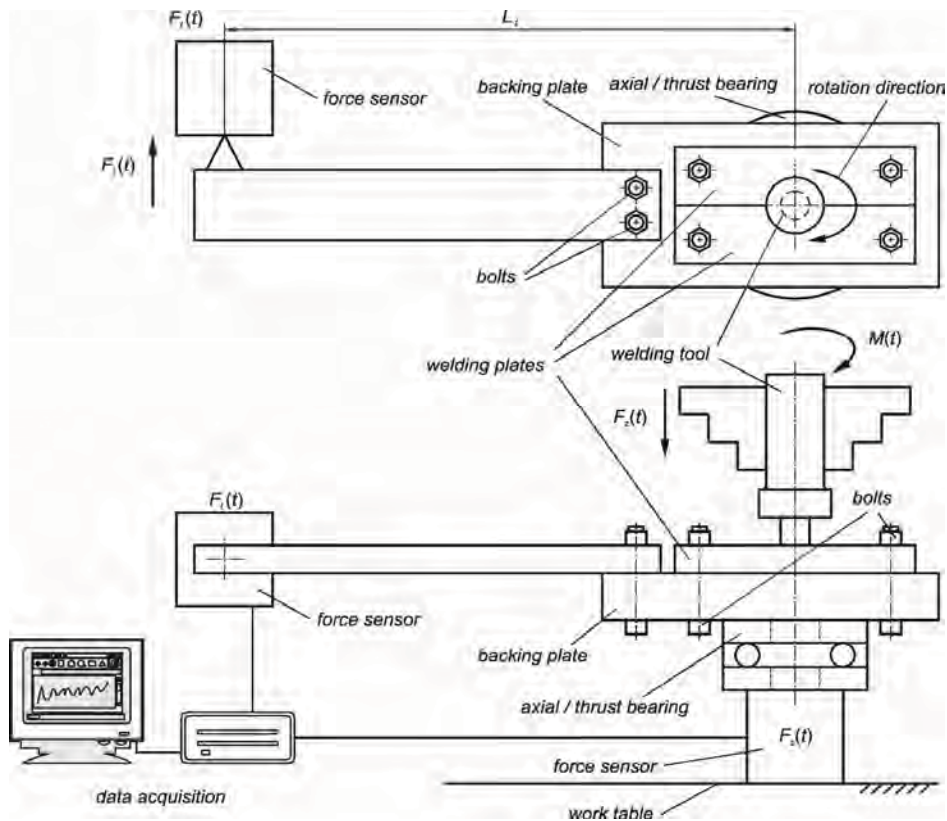
$$M(t) = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \mu(t) \cdot F(t) \cdot (t) \tag{1}$$



Since torque  $M(t)$  can be estimated as a product of tangential force  $F_t(t)$  and distance from rotation axis to the point where the tangential force is measured, transformed equation 9 gives value of experimental friction coefficient  $\mu(t)$ :

$$\mu(t) = \frac{3 \cdot M(t)}{F_t(t) \cdot D_p} = \frac{3 \cdot F_t(t) \cdot L_i}{F_t(t) \cdot D_p} \leq \leq \dots \quad (9)$$

where  $D_p$  (diameter of the punch) is taking values from  $D_w$  (diameter of the welding tool's probe) to  $D_s$  (diameter of the welding tool's shoulder), depending on the AS and FSW phase.



**F** Scheme of a system for experimental determination of friction coefficient during FSW process

### 1. FRICTION CONCENTRATION

Values of friction coefficient determined by the equation 9 are giving better look to the real conditions of friction in FSW than approximate values predicted as constant during complete phases of FSW. Moreover, equation 9 gives a possibility to have values of friction coefficient during FSW  $\mu > 1$ , what is not the case with other researches. Still, Kumar's model is having some imperfections:

- 1) Experimental set shown in Figure 3 can be used only during plunging and first dwelling phases since there is no possibility to enable movement of the tool along the joint line (what

- happens during welding phase and measuring adequate forces. Application of torque sensor mounted on the welding tool will make monitoring system capable to continue monitoring but results collected by this system are questionable torque is not equal to the friction momentum while first setup provides this equality.
- Value of friction coefficient has to be considered as a mean value. Analyzing the ASE it is clear that active surfaces of the welding tool differently influence the SW during process. For example from  $t_0$  to  $t_1$  only probe tip is involved in SW process from  $t_1$  to  $t_2$  probe tip and partially probe side from  $t_2$  probe tip partially probe side and partially shoulder tip. Contact between welding tool and material of the plates changes and it results in change of contact pressure contact area temperature friction etc. It is necessary to recognize friction coefficient for every active surface probe tip  $\mu$  probe side  $\mu_s$  shoulder tip  $\mu_s$  and determine values during SW process.
  - Friction coefficient is considered to be static without concern on kinematic characteristics of the process.

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## Authors' Index

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- Adamovic ., 69  
Agouridas ., 295  
Alpaslan O., 89  
Anghel S., 163  
Antonescu N.N., 23  
Asimopoulos A., 235  
Assenova ., 305  
Atar ., 89
- abic M., 59, 69  
adita L.-L., 217  
atsiolas M., 235  
obic I., 59  
oan ., 141  
ounas I., 351  
ouasis .-, 209, 235  
ursuc .-C., 217
- Canbulut F., 189  
Capitanu L., 217  
Carit Aydın ., 3  
Celi O., 77  
Cimenoglu H., 77, 89  
Constantin T., 103  
Cristescu C., 163  
Crudu M., 163
- aic ., 283  
ancuo Z., 179  
e la Cru M., 13  
enape ., 81  
imofte F., 235  
ishliev S., 31  
obrescu R.-N., 81  
rumea ., 163  
rumeanu A.C., 117  
rumm S., 111  
urdanovic M., 323  
unic ., 59, 69
- ne N. M., 235  
rilet M., 189
- Fatemi A., 111  
Filip I., 103  
Florea O., 125  
Fountas N.A., 351
- alanis N.I., 351  
arbeva ., 337  
atsios S., 153, 199  
eorgescu Ov., 23  
unyu M., 89  
uta . I., 163
- Ionescu .C., 95  
Ionescu O.N., 95  
Ispas ., 255, 41  
Ispas V., 255, 41  
Ivanova M., 337  
Ivovic ., 271
- aas ., 49  
alitchin Zh., 337  
andeva M., 305, 331  
aplanis A., 209  
aramanidis A., 209  
aramis M. ., 3  
ayali .S., 77  
irat is N., 343  
ountouras ., 343  
ovacević L., 49  
o hou harova ., 359  
vrgic V., 179
- La arevic I., 179  
La ović T., 227  
Leonhard L., 111
- Manolova I., 337  
Marin A., 125  
Marin ović A., 227, 263  
Marinova N., 337  
Maranovic N., 271  
Mar ović S., 227  
Maropoulos S., 343  
Mavropoulos A., 171  
Michalilidis N., 343  
Mihailidis A., 153, 199, 295  
Miailovic M., 323  
Milcic ., 323  
Miletić A., 49  
Minescu M., 95  
Mishev ., 31  
Mishev ., 311

Misic N., 179  
Mitrovic S., 59, 69  
Morosanu M., 23  
Murrenhof H., 111  
  
Nae I., 95  
Nedic ., 283  
  
Onescu C., 81  
    men ., 189  
  
    anagiotidis ., 295  
    e ic ., 263  
    eric S., 283  
    opa N., 81  
    opescu M.-T., 81  
Radulescu A. V., 141, 135  
Radulescu I., 135  
Rahne at H., 13  
Ravlic M., 271  
Ripeanu R. ., 41, 255  
  
Sachanas C., 153  
Salpistis C., 153, 199  
Sandu N., 245  
Sideris ., 351  
Sinanoglu C., 189  
S olianos S., 171  
  
S oric ., 49  
Stamen ovic ., 323  
Stan ovic M., 263  
Stepan ., 141  
Stepanic ., 179  
Stoilov R., 337  
  
Tere ., 49  
Theodossiades S., 13  
Tountas I., 245  
Tsiafis I., 209  
Tsou nidas A., 343  
Tudor A., 141, 245  
  
Vaxevanidis N.M., 351  
Vencl A., 275  
Vilotic M., 49  
Vladut V., 141  
Vlase M., 141  
  
Xenos Th., 209  
  
    ildi li ., 3  
  
Zivic F., 59  
Živic F., 69  
Zun ic A., 263



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ISBN 978-960-98780-6-7