

# Multiaxial fatigue life prediction using an improved SWT model

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## **Abstract:**

In this paper, the SWT model was improved by incorporating the Walker equation into the strain-life curve. The established model takes into account the material's sensitivity to mean stress by introducing the Walker exponent,  $w$ . Under uniaxial loading condition, the proposed model can reduce to the SWT model, Manson-Coffin equation, and Walker model for  $w$  values of 0.5, 1, and 0, respectively. Under multiaxial symmetric loading, when  $w = 0.5$ , the proposed model can be simplified as another SWT correction model (CXH) proposed by Chen et al. The prediction accuracy of the established model was validated using about 200 data points collected from literature. These data points were obtained from tests conducted on eight different kinds of metals under various multiaxial loading paths. The verification results indicate that 96.8% and 97.9% of the data points fall within the factor-of-three boundary for the loading paths without and with mean stresses, respectively.

**Key words:** Multiaxial cyclic loading, Walker exponent, Fatigue life prediction, SWT model, Strain energy density

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## 1 1. INTRODUCTION

2 In service, many engineering structures are subjected to multiaxial cyclic loading, which  
3 may lead to multiaxial fatigue failures in metallic structures. Therefore, multiaxial fatigue  
4 failure is a well-known technical problem for metallic structures. The multiaxial fatigue cyclic  
5 load is typically defined as the generation of a stress state tensor on the loaded object at spe-  
6 cific locations, where the stress tensor consists of two or more components. This may occur  
7 when multiple fatigue cyclic loads are applied, which may not necessarily be in-phase or  
8 proportional.<sup>1-2</sup> Accordingly, it is meaningful to estimate the multiaxial fatigue lives of struc-  
9 tures, especially for that under non-proportional loading conditions.

10 As for multiaxial loading, many fatigue life estimation criteria have been developed in dif-  
11 ferent expressions. Most of these models can be divided into the following four categories,  
12 i.e., stress-based approaches,<sup>3-8</sup> strain-based approaches,<sup>9-15</sup> strain-energy-based approach-  
13 es,<sup>16-24</sup> and fracture mechanics approaches.<sup>25-30</sup> Among these fatigue life prediction models,  
14 those that combine the concept of critical plane and strain energy density are considered  
15 highly advanced for estimating multiaxial fatigue life of materials.<sup>23</sup> One of the widely-used  
16 fatigue life prediction models that belongs to this category was developed by Socie,<sup>24</sup> which is  
17 usually named as the SWT model. In this model, the critical plane was defined as the plane  
18 with the maximum range of tensile strain.<sup>24</sup> The SWT model is commonly used to estimate  
19 the fatigue lifetime of material that is mainly characterized by mode I crack propagation (ten-  
20 sile cracking).<sup>24</sup> In order to take into account the general cracking behavior, the SWT model  
21 was corrected by Jiang et al.<sup>31-32</sup> through introducing a material constant. The value of the in-  
22 troduced material constant varies depending on the cracking behavior. Unfortunately, it is a  
23 complex task to determine this material constant reasonably, especially in the absence of the  
24 test data. Chen et al.<sup>33</sup> (CXH) introduced the shear strain energy density into the SWT model  
25 based on the observation that the effect of shear terms on fatigue life is significant under 90°  
26 out-of-phase loading. However, the effect of mean stress is not taken into account in the CXH  
27 model, which may result in non-conservative predictions under asymmetric cyclic loading  
28 conditions. The SWT model was also corrected by Li et al.<sup>34-35</sup> through introducing the shear  
29 components. However, it fails to consider the different effects of shear and normal terms on

30 fatigue damage. Lv et al.<sup>36</sup> modified the SWT model by introducing a material-dependent ex-  
31 ponent proposed by Walker.<sup>37</sup> According to Lv's proposal, the prediction accuracy can be im-  
32 proved by using their modified model. However, the shear components were also not consid-  
33 ered in this modified method, which is similar to the SWT model. Kujawski<sup>38</sup> proposed a de-  
34 viatoric SWT model to take into account the effect of negative mean stress on fatigue life.  
35 However, more multiaxial fatigue test data are necessary to verify the reliability of this model.  
36 Based on the idea of SWT, Ince and Glinka<sup>39</sup> suggest that both mean normal stress and mean  
37 shear stress only influence the elastic components. They therefore proposed two fatigue life  
38 prediction models, named as the GSE model and GSA model, respectively. Different from the  
39 SWT model, the critical plane in both models was defined as the maximum damage plane.<sup>39</sup>  
40 Subsequently, Ince<sup>40</sup> adopted the idea of Kujawski<sup>38</sup> and extended the GSE model to consider  
41 the influence of negative mean stress on fatigue life. Yu and his co-workers<sup>41</sup> believed that  
42 both the plastic and elastic terms are affected by shear and normal mean stresses. As a result,  
43 modifications were made to both the GSE and GSA models.<sup>41</sup> In contrast to the models pro-  
44 posed by Ince and Glinka<sup>39</sup>, the critical plane in the two modified models was defined as the  
45 plane with the maximum shear strain.<sup>41</sup> Later, Yu's modified GSE model was improved by Li  
46 et al.<sup>42</sup> through considering the different effects of normal strain energy density and shear  
47 strain energy density on fatigue damage.

48 Most recently, 14 critical plane models were validated and compared by Poczkłán et al.<sup>43</sup>  
49 using the experimental data of 316L steel tested under different loading paths. It was observed  
50 that the orientations of the cracks were the most accurately predicted by the SWT model,  
51 while the model proposed by Fatemi and Socie (FS)<sup>44</sup> presented the least accurate results.  
52 However, the predicted lifetime of FS model is the most satisfactory, where more than 93% of  
53 the data points fall within the factor-of-two boundary. In contrast, the life prediction results of  
54 the SWT model are far less accurate than those of the FS model. Nascimento et al.<sup>45</sup> per-  
55 formed strain-controlled tension, torsion and proportional fatigue experiments on Inconel 718  
56 at 20°C and 450°C, respectively. It was also found that, at both temperatures, the FS model  
57 presented more accurate fatigue life prediction results than the SWT model. The multiaxial  
58 notch fatigue behavior of 18Ni300 maraging steel produced by selective laser melting was  
59 studied by Branco et al.<sup>46</sup> through performing proportional bending-torsion tests with different

60 bending moment to torsion moment ratios. In the linear-elastic framework, a straightforward  
61 method was developed to estimate the multiaxial notch fatigue life of this material. This ap-  
62 proach combines the SWT model with the theory of critical distances. The multiaxial fatigue  
63 behavior of A356-T6 aluminum alloy was studied by Nourian-Avval and Fatemi<sup>47</sup> through  
64 conducting a series of stress-controlled fatigue tests under various loading conditions, includ-  
65 ing axial, torsion, proportional, and non-proportional loadings. The study revealed that fatigue  
66 cracks propagated on the maximum normal stress plane in all tested conditions for A356-T6  
67 aluminum alloy. However, the application of the SWT model for fatigue life prediction re-  
68 sulted in non-conservative estimates under non-proportional loadings.

69 Overall, while numerous criteria for estimating fatigue life have been developed, there is  
70 currently a lack of widely accepted models.<sup>39</sup> One possible reason for this is that the issue of  
71 converting multiaxial stress states to uniaxial equivalents has not been adequately addressed.<sup>23</sup>  
72 Therefore, in the present paper, the SWT model was improved by incorporating the equation  
73 of Walker into the strain-life curve. Step-by-step procedures were provided to determine the  
74 location of the maximum normal strain range plane and the damage parameters acting on this  
75 plane. The prediction accuracy of the established model was validated using about 200 data  
76 points collected from literature that were tested by eight kinds of metals under different mul-  
77 tiaxial loading paths without/with mean stresses. Comparisons with the CXH, SWT and FS  
78 models showed that the established criterion gives the best prediction results in the considered  
79 loading paths regardless of whether the mean stresses are zero or not.

## 80 **2. MODIFICATION OF THE SWT MODEL**

### 81 **2.1 Establishment of the life estimation model**

82 Smith et al.<sup>48</sup> proposed that the fatigue damage of material was determined by the geomet-  
83 ric mean of the stress amplitude and the maximum stress, and the following model was de-  
84 veloped:

$$85 \quad \sigma_{eq} = \sqrt{\sigma_{max} \sigma_a} \quad (1)$$

86 where  $\sigma_{max}$  is the maximum stress,  $\sigma_a$  is the stress amplitude, and  $\sigma_{eq}$  is the equivalent  
87 completely reversed stress amplitude. Here, Eq. (1) is referred to as the Original SWT

88 (OSWT) model. This terminology is used to distinguish it from the multiaxial version of the  
 89 SWT model developed by Socie.<sup>24</sup>

90 In reference,<sup>37</sup> a similar model was proposed by Walker. In this model, an additional mate-  
 91 rial constant was introduced to account for the sensitivity of the material to mean stress. It can  
 92 be presented as:

$$93 \quad \sigma_{eq} = \sigma_{\max}^{1-w} \sigma_a^w \quad (2)$$

94 where  $w$  is the additional material constant named as Walker exponent. It can be determined  
 95 by using the procedures proposed by Dowling.<sup>49</sup> In the absence of the test data, the Walker  
 96 exponent can also be estimated by<sup>6</sup>:

$$97 \quad w = \log_2 \frac{\sigma_0}{\sigma_{-1}} \quad (3)$$

98 where  $\sigma_0$  and  $\sigma_{-1}$  represent the fatigue limits tested under repeating loadings with stress  
 99 ratios  $R = 0$  and  $-1$ , respectively. Equation (2) shows that the OSWT model is a special case of  
 100 the Walker model. In other words, the Walker model reduces to the OSWT model as long as  $w$   
 101  $= 0.5$ .

102 For completely reversed loading, the Basquin model is typically used to describe the  
 103 stress-life curves. This model can be given by:

$$104 \quad \sigma_a = \sigma'_f (2N_f)^b \quad (4)$$

105 where  $\sigma'_f$  is the fatigue strength coefficient, and  $b$  is the fatigue strength exponent.  $N_f$  is the  
 106 fatigue life. For uniaxial fatigue loading with non-zero mean stress, the following equation  
 107 was proposed by Dowling et al.<sup>49-50</sup> to describe the stress-life curve based on the equivalent  
 108 stress amplitude and the Basquin equation:

$$109 \quad \sigma_{eq} = \sigma'_f (2N_f)^b \quad (5)$$

110 For the completely reversed experiments, the strain-life curves are often described by the  
 111 Coffin-Manson equation:

$$112 \quad \varepsilon_{a,t} = \varepsilon_{a,e} + \varepsilon_{a,p} = \frac{\sigma'_f}{E} (2N_f)^b + \varepsilon'_f (2N_f)^c \quad (6)$$

113 where  $\varepsilon'_f$  and  $c$  are fatigue ductility coefficient and fatigue ductility exponent, respectively.

114  $\varepsilon_{a,p}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{a,e}$ , and  $\varepsilon_{a,t}$  are the plastic, elastic and total strain amplitudes, respectively.  $E$  is the  
115 modulus of elasticity.

116 Substitute Eq. (2) into Eq. (5), the following equation can be derived:

$$117 \quad \sigma_{\max}^{\frac{1-w}{w}} \sigma_a = \sigma_f^{\frac{1}{w}} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w}} \quad (7)$$

118 If the material deformation is elastic, Eq. (7) can be rewritten as:

$$119 \quad \sigma_{\max}^{\frac{1-w}{w}} E \varepsilon_{a,e} = \sigma_f^{\frac{1}{w}} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w}} \quad (8)$$

120 Then,

$$121 \quad \sigma_{\max}^{\frac{1-w}{w}} \varepsilon_{a,e} = \frac{\sigma_f^{\frac{1}{w}}}{E} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w}} \quad (9)$$

122 If the material deformation is plastic, the relationship between  $\varepsilon_{a,p}$  and  $\sigma_a$  can be de-  
123 scribed by the Ramberg-Osgood equation, that is:

$$124 \quad \sigma_a = K' \varepsilon_{a,p}^{n'} \quad (10)$$

125 where  $K'$  is the cyclic strength coefficient, and  $n'$  is the cyclic strain hardening exponent.

126 Substitute Eq. (10) into Eq. (7), Eq. (7) can be rewritten as:

$$127 \quad \sigma_{\max}^{\frac{1-w}{w}} K' \varepsilon_{a,p}^{n'} = \sigma_f^{\frac{1}{w}} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w}} \quad (11)$$

128 And then, the following equation can be obtained by substituting Eq. (6) into Eq. (11):

$$129 \quad \sigma_{\max}^{\frac{1-w}{w}} \varepsilon_{a,p} = \frac{\sigma_f^{\frac{1}{w}}}{K'} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w}} \varepsilon_{a,p}^{1-n'} = \frac{\sigma_f^{\frac{1}{w}}}{K'} \varepsilon_f^{1-n'} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w} + (1-n')c} \quad (12)$$

130 Based on Eqs. (9) and (12), an effective strain energy density model that is similar to the  
131 SWT model can be obtained:

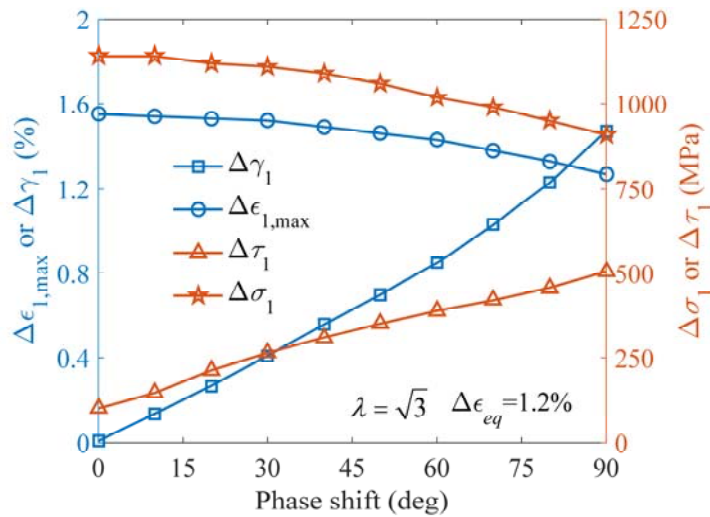
$$132 \quad \sigma_{\max}^{\frac{1-w}{w}} \varepsilon_{a,t} = \frac{\sigma_f^{\frac{1}{w}}}{E} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w}} + \frac{\sigma_f^{\frac{1}{w}}}{K'} \varepsilon_f^{1-n'} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w} + (1-n')c} \quad (13)$$

133 The developed criterion, as represented by Eq. (13), can be directly used to evaluate the fa-  
134 tigue lifetime of a material under uniaxial loading conditions. In order to extend this equation  
135 for predicting the multiaxial fatigue lifetime of a material, the critical plane concept can be  
136 employed which is similar to the idea proposed by Socie.<sup>24</sup> Here, the critical plane was also  
137 defined as the plane of maximum normal strain range. Then, Eq. (13) can be rewritten as:

138 
$$\sigma_{1,\max}^{\frac{1-w}{w}} \frac{\Delta \varepsilon_{1,\max}}{2} = \frac{\sigma_f'^w}{E} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w}} + \frac{\sigma_f'^w}{K'} \varepsilon_f'^{1-n'} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w} + (1-n')c} \quad (14)$$

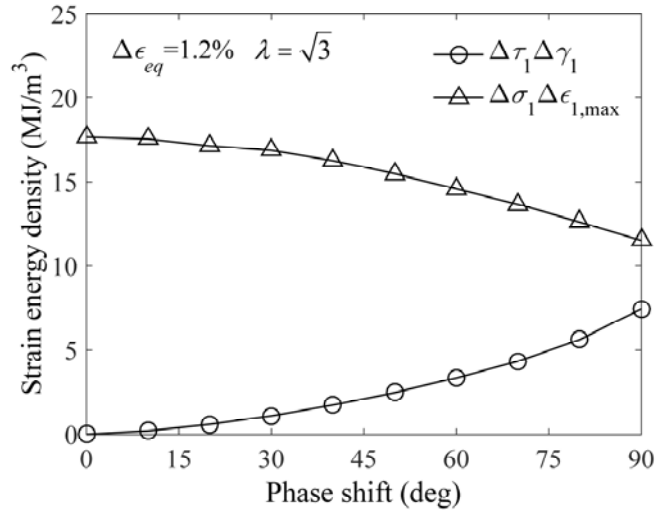
139 where  $\sigma_{1,\max}$  and  $\Delta \varepsilon_{1,\max}$  are the maximum normal stress and the maximum normal strain  
 140 range acting on the defined critical plane, respectively. Similar to the SWT model, Eq. (14)  
 141 only takes into account the effect of normal terms on fatigue life. However, Chen et al.<sup>33</sup> have  
 142 pointed out that both the shear stress and shear strain are significant on the maximum normal  
 143 strain range plane under circular loading path, so that the shear terms should be taken into  
 144 account for assessing the non-proportional fatigue life of material.

145 Taking 16MnR steel<sup>51</sup> for example, the relationships between the phase shift and various  
 146 factors, including shear stress range, shear strain range, normal stress range, and normal strain  
 147 range, acting on the maximum normal strain range plane were plotted in Fig. 1. Figure 1 il-  
 148 lustrates that as the phase shift increases, the normal stress and strain ranges decrease, while  
 149 the shear stress and strain ranges increase. The variations of shear and normal strain energy  
 150 densities with the phase shift were illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3, respectively. These figures  
 151 clearly show that the ratio of shear strain energy density to total strain energy density increas-  
 152 es with the increase of the phase shift. More exactly, the shear strain energy accounts for  
 153 about 40% of the total strain energy when the phase shift is 90°. Therefore, the shear strain  
 154 energy density cannot be ignored for the out-of-phase loadings.



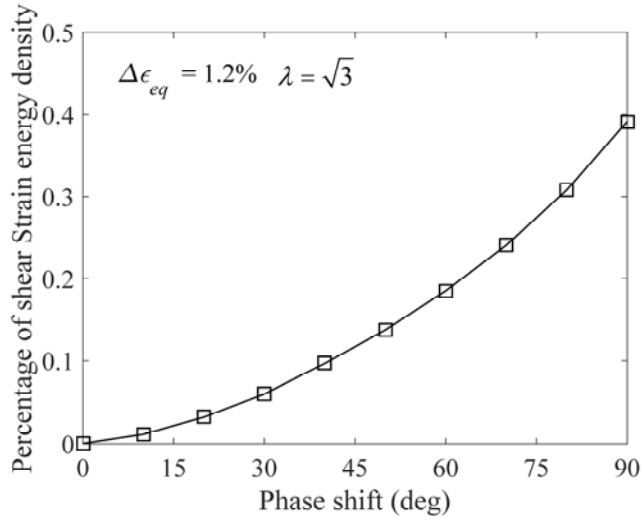
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Fig. 1 Variations of stress and strain ranges with phase shift



157  
158

Fig. 2 Correlations between the strain energy density and phase shift



159

Fig. 3 Correlation between the percentage of shear strain energy density and phase shift

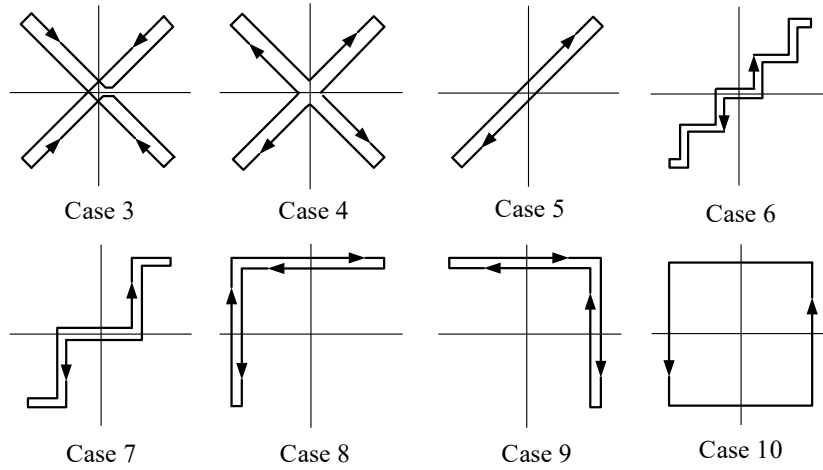
161 In reference,<sup>52</sup> multiaxial fatigue experiments were conducted by Itoh and his co-workers  
 162 on 304 stainless steel under the different loading paths. Here, the shear and normal strain  
 163 ranges as well as the shear and normal strain energy densities were calculated for the loading  
 164 paths shown in Fig. 4. Variation of the  $\Delta\gamma_1/\Delta\epsilon_{1,max}$  with the non-proportionality factor was  
 165 illustrated in Fig. 5(a). In this figure, the non-proportionality factors for the loading paths  
 166 shown in Fig. 4 were determined using the test data. These non-proportionality factors have  
 167 been listed in reference.<sup>53</sup> It can be seen that, the value of  $\Delta\gamma_1/\Delta\epsilon_{1,max}$  equals to 0 for pro-  
 168 portional loading. It means that there is only normal strain range acting on the maximum  
 169 normal strain range plane which is consistent with the Chen's observation.<sup>33</sup> However, the



170 ratios of  $\Delta\gamma_1/\Delta\varepsilon_{1,\max}$  increase as the non-proportionality factors for non-proportional cyclic  
 171 loadings increase. Figure 5(b) shows the variation of  $\Delta\tau_1\Delta\gamma_1/\Delta\sigma_1\Delta\varepsilon_{1,\max}$  with the factor of  
 172 non-proportionality. It can also be observed that the ratios of  $\Delta\tau_1\Delta\gamma_1/\Delta\sigma_1\Delta\varepsilon_{1,\max}$  increase  
 173 with increasing the factor of non-proportionality. Therefore, the shear terms acting on the  
 174 maximum normal strain range plane should be considered under non-proportional loadings.  
 175 For this reason, Eq. (14) was modified as:

$$176 \quad \sigma_{1,\max}^{\frac{1-w}{w}} \frac{\Delta\varepsilon_{1,\max}}{2} + \left( \frac{\Delta\tau_1}{2} + |\tau_{1,m}| \right)^{\frac{1-w}{w}} \frac{\Delta\gamma_1}{2} = \frac{\sigma_f^{\frac{1}{w}}}{E} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w}} + \frac{\sigma_f^{\frac{1}{w}}}{K'} \varepsilon_f^{1-n'} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w} + (1-n')c} \quad (15)$$

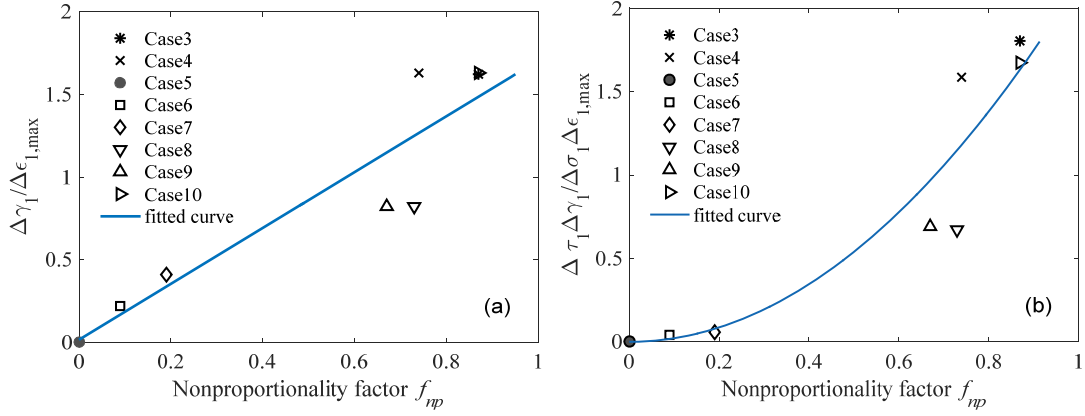
177 where  $\tau_{1,m}$  represents the mean shear stress on the maximum normal strain range plane.  
 178 Here, the introduction of  $|\tau_{1,m}|$  is based on the reason that both the negative mean shear stress  
 179 and the positive mean shear stress have similar detrimental effects on fatigue life.<sup>54-56</sup> Equa-  
 180 tion (15) named as N-SWT model shows that the proposed criterion not only takes into ac-  
 181 count the influence of both shear and normal components on fatigue damage, but also consid-  
 182 ers the sensitivity of the material to mean stress.



183

184

Fig. 4 The loading paths for 304 stainless steel<sup>52</sup>



185

186 Fig. 5 Correlations between the non-proportionality factor and the parameters on the  $\Delta\varepsilon_{1,\max}$   
 187 plane: (a)  $\Delta\gamma_1/\Delta\varepsilon_{1,\max}$  ; (b)  $\Delta\tau_1\Delta\gamma_1/\Delta\sigma_1\Delta\varepsilon_{1,\max}$

188 **2.2 Determination of the critical plane for smooth thin-walled tube**

189 As for the smooth thin-walled tube tested under tensional-torsional loadings, the stress and  
 190 strain tensors on the tube surface can be expressed as:

191 
$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_x & \tau_{xy} & 0 \\ \tau_{xy} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

192 
$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_x & \frac{1}{2}\gamma_{xy} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}\gamma_{xy} & \varepsilon_y & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \varepsilon_z \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

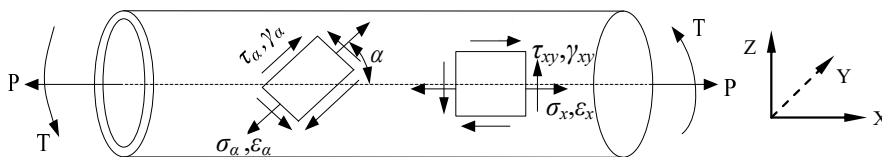
193 Based on Eqs. (16) and (17), the stresses and strains acting on the inclined plane (see Fig. 6)  
 194 which make an angle  $\alpha$  with the axis of the tube can be determined by<sup>1</sup>:

195 
$$\sigma_\alpha = \frac{\sigma_x}{2} + \frac{\sigma_x}{2} \cos(2\alpha) + \tau_{xy} \sin(2\alpha) \quad (18)$$

196 
$$\tau_\alpha = \frac{\sigma_x}{2} \sin(2\alpha) - \tau_{xy} \cos(2\alpha) \quad (19)$$

197 
$$\varepsilon_\alpha = \frac{\varepsilon_x + \varepsilon_y}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon_x - \varepsilon_y}{2} \cos(2\alpha) + \frac{\gamma_{xy}}{2} \sin(2\alpha) \quad (20)$$

198 
$$\frac{\gamma_\alpha}{2} = \frac{\varepsilon_x - \varepsilon_y}{2} \sin(2\alpha) - \frac{\gamma_{xy}}{2} \cos(2\alpha) \quad (21)$$



199

200 Fig. 6 Schematic diagram of the strains and stresses of tube specimen under tensional-torsional  
 201 loading

202 The steps for determining the plane of maximum normal strain range are as follows:

203 1) Determine the strain and stress tensors at different times in the stabilized state. The best  
204 method to determine stress and strain tensors is through experimental testing. However,  
205 experimental testing is not only expensive but also time-consuming. Normally, the stress  
206 and strain tensors were determined by either a multiaxial constitutive model or finite el-  
207 element analysis.

208 2) Calculate the normal strain acting on the  $i$ th candidate plane with the inclined angle  $\alpha_i$   
209 using Eq. (20) at different times. Then, the normal strain range can be calculated by:

$$210 \quad \Delta \varepsilon_{1,\alpha_i} = \max(\varepsilon_{\alpha_i}(j)) - \min(\varepsilon_{\alpha_i}(j)) \quad (22)$$

211 where  $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, s_d$ .  $s_d$  is the subdivision's number in one applied loading cycle. That  
212 is to say, the applied loading cycle is divided into  $s_d$  subdivisions with a small time step.

213 3) Change  $\alpha$  from  $0^\circ$  to  $180^\circ$  step-by-step with a small interval such as  $0.1^\circ$  and calculate  
214 the normal strain range acting on each inclined plane using Eq. (22). Among these planes,  
215 the critical plane is defined as the one which has the maximum normal strain range. Then,  
216 the location of the critical plane, i.e., the inclined angle  $\alpha_{cr}$ , can be determined.

217 4) Calculate shear strain range, shear stress range, mean shear stress, and maximum normal  
218 stress acting on the critical plane by using the following equations:

$$219 \quad \Delta \gamma_1 = \max(\gamma_{\alpha_{cr}}(j)) - \min(\gamma_{\alpha_{cr}}(j)) \quad (23)$$

$$220 \quad \Delta \tau_1 = \max(\tau_{\alpha_{cr}}(j)) - \min(\tau_{\alpha_{cr}}(j)) \quad (24)$$

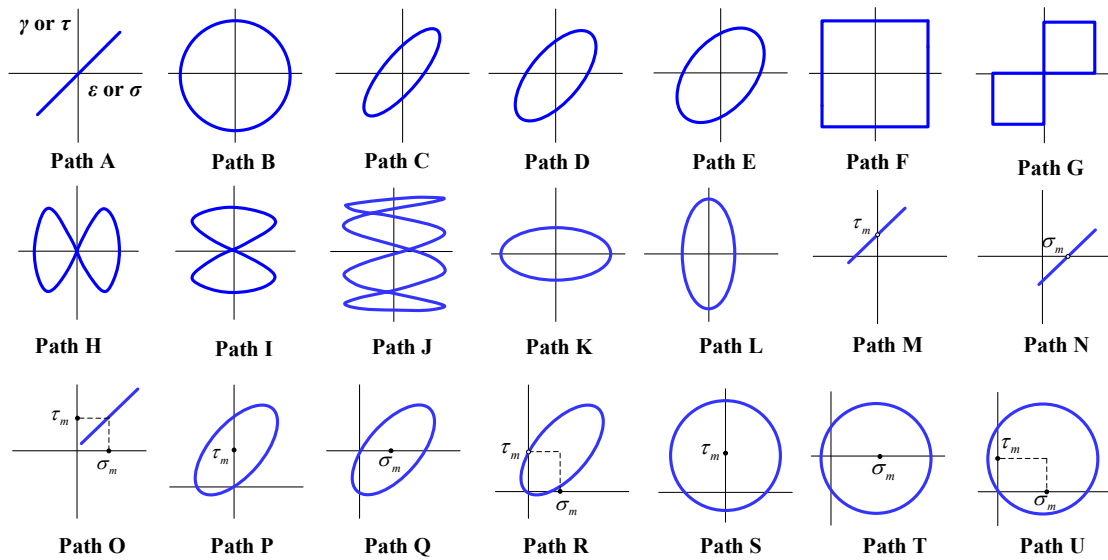
$$221 \quad \tau_{1,m} = \frac{\max(\tau_{\alpha_{cr}}(j)) + \min(\tau_{\alpha_{cr}}(j))}{2} \quad (25)$$

$$222 \quad \sigma_{1,\max} = \max(\sigma_{\alpha_{cr}}(j)) \quad (26)$$

### 223 3. VALIDATION OF THE ESTABLISHED CRITERION

224 Eight metallic materials tested under various loading paths were taken from literature<sup>51, 57-64</sup>  
225 to validate the prediction accuracy of the N-SWT model. The loading paths taken into account  
226 in the present study were illustrated in Fig. 7. The eight kinds of metals include 16MnR  
227 steel,<sup>51</sup> 7075-T651 aluminum alloy,<sup>57</sup> 1%Cr-Mo-V steel,<sup>58</sup> 30CrNiMo8HH steel,<sup>59-60</sup> SA 333  
228 Gr.6 steel,<sup>61</sup> Q235B steel,<sup>62</sup> 2024-T3 aluminum alloy,<sup>63</sup> and 30CrMnSiA steel.<sup>64</sup> The reason

229 for selecting 30CrMnSiA steel is that it has been extensively tested under various loading  
 230 conditions, including both proportional and non-proportional loading paths with normal and  
 231 shear mean stresses. The other seven materials were selected based on the following criteria:  
 232 (i) the loading conditions including both proportional and non-proportional loading paths, (ii)  
 233 both the normal and shear stress ranges were measured, which can be utilized to verify the  
 234 reliability of the plasticity model used in the present study, and (iii) the material constants  
 235 contained in the considered life prediction models can be determined.



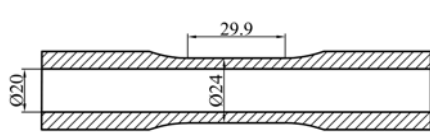
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237 Fig. 7 Loading paths for the considered metallic materials<sup>51, 57-64</sup>

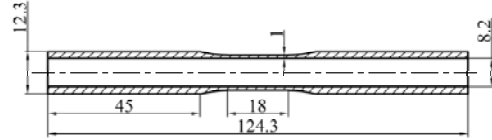
238 All the tests, except for 30CrMnSiA steel and 2024-T3 aluminum alloy, were performed in  
 239 strain-controlled loadings by testing smooth thin-walled tubes at ambient temperature. As for  
 240 the two materials, the tests are load-controlled. Symmetric multiaxial cyclic loadings were  
 241 performed by Gates and Fatemi<sup>63</sup> on 2024-T3 aluminum alloy with smooth thin-walled  
 242 specimens. However, asymmetric multiaxial cyclic loadings were conducted on 30CrMnSiA  
 243 steel to study the influences of shear and normal mean stresses on fatigue life.<sup>58</sup> Besides, solid  
 244 cylindrical specimens were utilized for 30CrMnSiA steel.

245 The specimen geometries and dimensions for the eight considered materials were presented  
 246 in Fig. 8. The fatigue and monotonic properties of the considered metals were tabulated in  
 247 Table 1. In this table,  $S_u$  and  $S_y$  represent the ultimate tensile strength and yield strength, re-  
 248 spectively.

249  
250

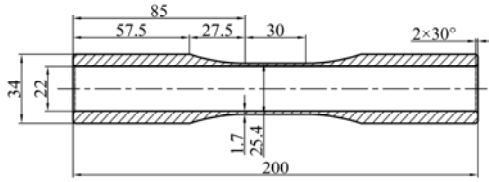


(a) Al7075-T651<sup>57</sup> and 16MnR steel<sup>51</sup>

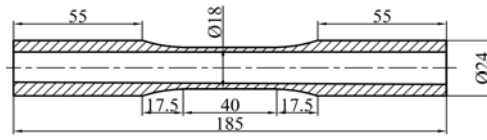


(b) 30CrNiMo8HH steel<sup>59,60</sup>

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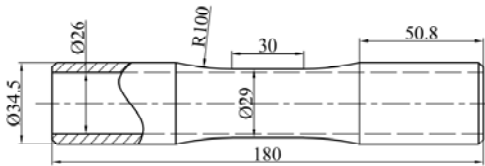


(c) SA 333 Cr.6 steel<sup>61</sup>

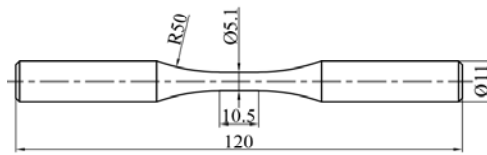


(d) Q235B steel<sup>62</sup>

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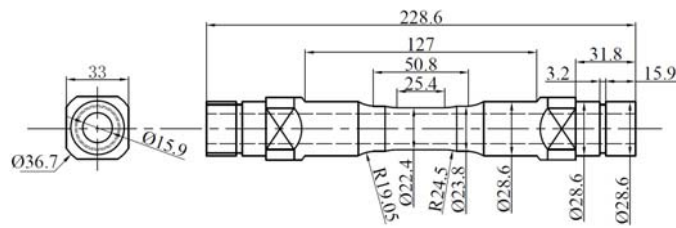


(e) Al2024-T3<sup>63</sup>



(f) 30CrMnSiA steel<sup>64</sup>

255  
256  
257



(g) 1%Cr-Mo-V steel<sup>58</sup>

Fig. 8 Specimens for the considered metallic materials (all dimensions in mm)

Table 1 Monotonic and fatigue properties of the considered materials<sup>51, 57-64</sup>

	<sup>a</sup> 7075-T651 <sup>57</sup>	<sup>a</sup> 1%Cr-Mo-V <sup>58</sup>	<sup>b</sup> 30CrNiMo8HH <sup>59,60</sup>	<sup>a</sup> 16MnR <sup>51</sup>	<sup>a</sup> SA 333 Gr.6 <sup>61</sup>	<sup>b</sup> Q235B <sup>62</sup>	<sup>b</sup> 2024-T3 <sup>63</sup>	<sup>c</sup> 30CrMnSiA <sup>64</sup>
<i>Monotonic properties</i>								
$E$ (GPa)	71.7	208.0	200.0	212.5	203.0	204.0	73.4	207
$G$ (GPa)	27.5	81.0	80.0	81.1	78.5	81.4	27.4	77.2
$S_u$ (MPa)	561.0	805.0	1025.0	544.5	463.0	390.1	495.0	1334
$S_y$ (MPa)	501.0	580.0	870.0	324.4	307.0	269.0	330.0	1196
$\nu_e$	0.306	0.29	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	0.343	0.34
<i>Fatigue properties</i>								
$\sigma'_f$ (MPa)	1103.0	929.1	946.1	966.5	921.0	407.6	1194.0	1869.2
$\epsilon'_f$	2.133	0.806	1.050	0.842	0.392	0.809	0.0660	0.244
$b$	-0.118	-0.0571	-0.0404	-0.101	-0.124	-0.0424	-0.133	-0.09
$c$	-1.056	-0.752	-0.732	-0.618	-0.532	-0.583	-0.445	-0.56
$K'$ (MPa)	807.0	897.4	1617.0	1106.0	1015.0	642.2	677.0	2345.8
$n'$	0.0683	0.067	0.135	0.186	0.211	0.160	0.070	0.161
<sup>d</sup> $w$	0.426	0.721	0.677	0.773	0.789	0.804	0.465	0.50
<sup>e</sup> $k_{FS}$	0.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.7	1.3	1.0	1.0
<i>Loading paths</i>								
	A, B, I, J	A ~ D, K, L	A ~ H	A, B	A, B, D, K, L	A, B	A, B	M ~ U

<sup>a</sup> The fatigue properties were obtained by fitting the experimental results listed in the original literature.

<sup>b</sup> The fatigue properties were taken from the original literature.

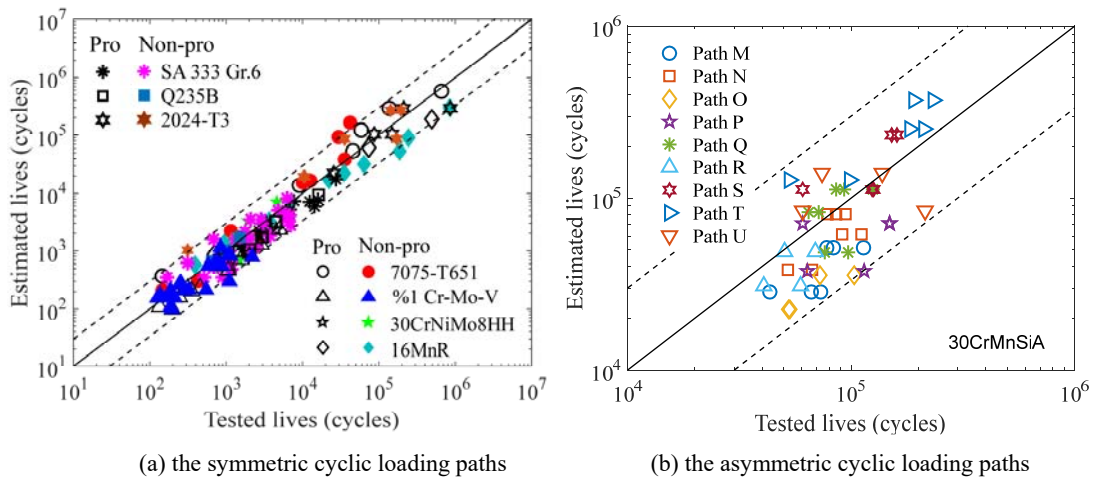
<sup>c</sup> The fatigue properties were determined using the approximation method proposed by Roessle and Fatemi,<sup>65</sup> and the  $n'$  and  $K'$  were calculated using the compatibility equations.

<sup>d</sup> For 7075-T651, the Walker exponent  $w$  was determined by fitting the experimental results using the procedures proposed by Dowling.<sup>49</sup> For 2024-T3, the Walker exponent  $w$  was taken from reference.<sup>16</sup> For 30CrMnSiA, the Walker exponent  $w$  was determined by Eq. (3). For the other materials, the Walker exponent  $w$  was determined by using the approximation method proposed by Dowling.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>e</sup> For 7075-T651 and 1%Cr-Mo-V, the values of  $k_{FS}$  were determined by using the data tested under uniaxial and pure torsional loadings. For 30CrMnSiA, the  $k_{FS}$  value was determined by using the approximation method proposed by Fatemi et al.<sup>66,67</sup> For the other materials, the values of  $k_{FS}$  were taken from the original literature.

1 It can be seen from Eq. (15), both shear and normal stress terms were introduced in the es-  
 2 tablished criterion to reflect the influences of non-proportional additional hardening and mean  
 3 stress. Hence, the constitutive model is necessary to determine the stable stress-strain re-  
 4 sponses for various loading paths. Here, the constitutive model proposed by Li and his  
 5 co-workers<sup>68</sup> was utilized to calculate the stable stress-strain responses except 30CrMnSiA  
 6 steel. As for 30CrMnSiA steel, the Hooke's law was used since all the experimental data fall  
 7 within the elastic regime.<sup>6, 64</sup> It is necessary to point out here that other constitutive models,  
 8 such as those proposed by Jiang et al.,<sup>69-70</sup> Chaboche,<sup>71</sup> and so on, can also be applied to cal-  
 9 culate the responses of cyclic stress-strain. However, it should be noted here that it is not an  
 10 easy task to determine the material constants of these models reasonably, and some bench-  
 11 mark tests are usually necessary.<sup>72-73</sup>

12 The multiaxial fatigue lives of the considered metallic materials were predicted using the  
 13 N-SWT model. Comparisons between the test data and the estimated lives were plotted in  
 14 Figure 9, which shows the prediction accuracy of multiaxial fatigue lives for the considered  
 15 metallic materials using the N-SWT model. In this figure, the dashed lines represent the fac-  
 16 tor-of-three boundary, and the solid line represents the perfect life prediction. From Fig. 9, it  
 17 is evident that the majority of the prediction results fall within the factor-of-three boundary,  
 18 regardless of the presence of mean stresses in the loading paths.



19 (a) the symmetric cyclic loading paths  
 20 (b) the asymmetric cyclic loading paths  
 21 Fig.9 The tested fatigue lives vs. the estimated ones for the N-SWT model<sup>51, 57-64</sup>

22 In order to evaluate the prediction accuracy of the N-SWT model quantitatively, an error  
 23 factor named as  $E(s)$  was introduced. This error factor was defined as:

$$E(s) = \frac{\text{Number of data falling within } \frac{1}{s} \leq \frac{N_p}{N_t} \leq s}{\text{Number of total data}} \quad (27)$$

where  $N_p$  represents the predicted lifetime, and  $N_t$  represents the tested lifetime.  $E(s)$  represents the percentage of data points that fall within the factor of “s” boundary. The prediction accuracy of the N-SWT model was listed in Table 2. It can be seen that, in cases where there are no mean stresses in the loading paths, approximately 79.3% of the data points fall within the factor-of-two boundary, indicating a relatively close agreement between the predicted and test fatigue lives. Moreover, an even higher percentage of the data points (about 96.8%) fall within the factor-of-three boundary, further reflecting the accuracy of the model in estimating multiaxial fatigue lives. For loading paths with mean stress, the prediction results are slightly lower but still within acceptable ranges. Specifically, around 72.9% of the data points fall within the factor-of-two boundary, and an encouragingly higher percentage of the data points (about 97.9%) fall within the factor-of-three boundary.

Table 2 The prediction accuracy of the considered life prediction models

Models	Without mean stress			With mean stress		
	$E(2)$	$E(3)$	$E(5)$	$E(2)$	$E(3)$	$E(5)$
N-SWT	0.793	0.968	1.0	0.729	0.979	1.0
SWT	0.509	0.690	0.832	0.541	0.687	0.791
CXH	0.748	0.929	0.993	0.416	0.708	0.895
FS	0.588	0.816	0.947	0.583	0.833	0.958

The probability analysis was applied using the prediction deviation,  $P_d$  to qualitatively describe the prediction accuracy of the established criterion. The expression of  $P_d$  is given as<sup>74</sup>:

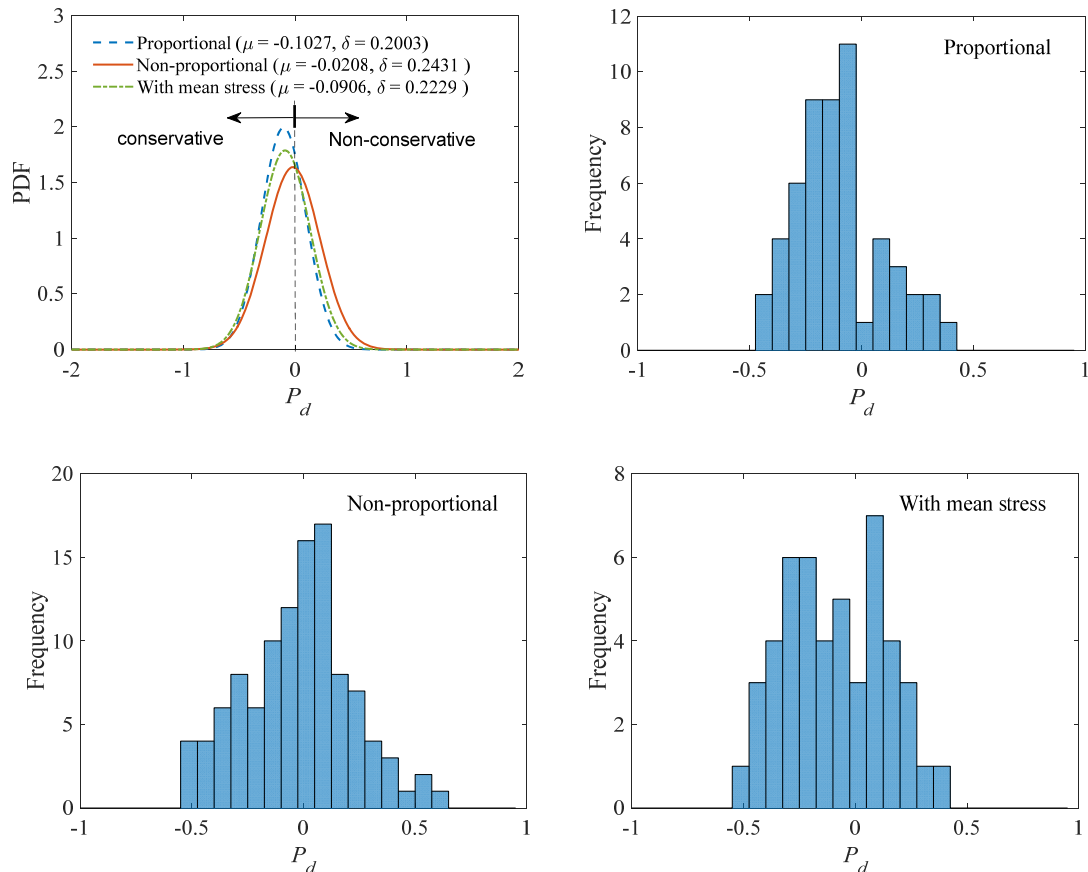
$$P_d = \log_{10} \left( \frac{N_p}{N_t} \right) \quad (28)$$

Equation (28) indicates that non-conservative estimation will be obtained when the value of  $P_d$  is positive. When  $P_d$  equals to unity, perfect estimation can be obtained. The probability density function (PDF) which follows Gaussian distribution was selected, which can be expressed as:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\delta} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\delta^2}} \quad (29)$$



45 where  $\mu$  represents the mean value, and  $\delta$  represents the standard deviation. The fitted PDF for  
 46 the  $P_d$  of different loading conditions was plotted in Fig. 10. The histograms of the prediction  
 47 results under different loading paths were also shown in this figure, where the ordinate and  
 48 abscissa are the values of frequency and  $P_d$ , respectively. Figure 10 shows that the N-SWT  
 49 model generally provides good estimations for all the considered loading conditions. However,  
 50 under proportional loading, the prediction results are slightly conservative.



51

52

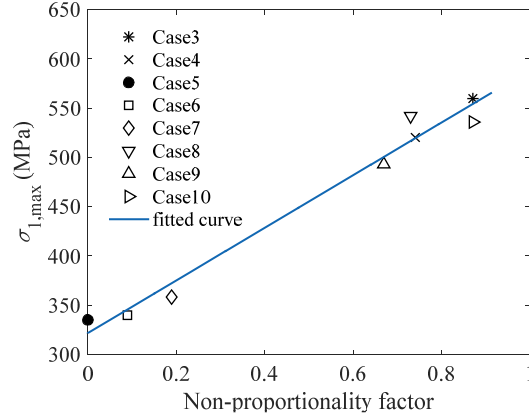
53 Fig. 10 Probability density functions and histograms of  $P_d$  for various loading conditions

54 **4. DISCUSSIONS**

55 As is known to all, the orientation of fatigue crack plays a crucial role in understanding the  
 56 failure mechanism of a material under cyclic loading. Through experimental observations, the  
 57 cracking behavior can be classified into three main categories, i.e., shear cracking, tensile  
 58 cracking, and mixed cracking.<sup>57</sup> In the case of tensile cracking, the fatigue cracks are typically  
 59 observed to propagate along the maximum normal strain/stress range plane.<sup>57</sup> For shear  
 60 cracking, the fatigue cracks are often observed along the plane of maximum shear strain/stress

61 range.<sup>57</sup> A material may show mixed cracking behavior at the condition that the initiation of a  
62 fatigue crack is along the maximum normal strain/stress range plane during ten-  
63 sion-compression loading while it is along the maximum shear strain/stress range plane dur-  
64 ing torsion loading.<sup>57</sup> The propagation direction of fatigue crack can be characterized by the  
65 angle between the crack growth plane and the axis of the specimen. According to the theory  
66 of the critical plane, the principal fatigue crack tends to propagate in or close to the critical  
67 plane.<sup>43,75</sup> The detailed procedures for comparing the predicted crack growth orientation with  
68 the experiments can be found in references.<sup>43,75</sup> The same as SWT model, the critical plane is  
69 defined as the maximum normal strain range plane in the proposed method. In theory, the  
70 proposed method is suitable for estimating the fatigue lifetime of a material experiencing  
71 Mode I failures (tensile cracking), which is analogous to the SWT model. In contrast, the FS  
72 model<sup>44</sup> is more suitable for the shear cracking since the critical plane is defined as the maxi-  
73 mum shear strain range plane. Unfortunately, the cracking behavior of a material may not be  
74 determined before testing. In fact, Fatemi and Socie<sup>44</sup> have pointed out that the crack initia-  
75 tion and growth directions depend not only on the applied loading directions, but also on the  
76 type of material, loading stress/strain amplitude, and some others. The similar results were  
77 also observed by Zhao and Jiang.<sup>57</sup> Therefore, the N-SWT model may not be able to accu-  
78 rately predict the crack growth orientations for materials that exhibit shear cracking or mixed  
79 cracking behaviors.

80 Extensive multiaxial fatigue tests conducted over the last decades have indeed shown that  
81 there are reductions in fatigue life during non-proportional loadings compared to proportional  
82 loading at the same equivalent strain amplitude. As has mentioned above, Itoh et al.<sup>52</sup> per-  
83 formed a series of multiaxial fatigue tests on 304 stainless steel to show the loading path de-  
84 pendence of hardening. The loading paths have been plotted in Fig. 4. Correlation between  
85 the factor of non-proportionality and the maximum normal stress was plotted in Fig. 11. It can  
86 be seen that the maximum normal stress,  $\sigma_{1,max}$ , increases with increasing the  
87 non-proportionality factor. Therefore, in the N-SWT model, the degree of non-proportionality  
88 can be taken into account by the maximum normal stress.



89

90 Fig.11 Correlation between the factor of non-proportionality and the maximum normal stress

91 It is important to note that strain-energy-density-based models, such as the SWT model,  
 92 CXH model, etc., have advantages in accounting for the effects of non-proportional hardening  
 93 on fatigue life because the stress terms were taken into account in these models. Besides that,  
 94 the CXH model is another improved SWT model which was developed by Chen et al.<sup>33</sup> to  
 95 provide better life predictions under non-proportional loadings. Therefore, in the present study,  
 96 both the SWT and CXH models were chosen for validation and further comparison. The ex-  
 97 pressions of the SWT model and CXH model are given as:

98 SWT model:

$$99 \quad \sigma_{1,max} \frac{\Delta \varepsilon_{1,max}}{2} = \frac{\sigma_f'^2}{E} (2N_f)^{2b} + \sigma_f' \varepsilon_f' (2N_f)^{b+c} \quad (30)$$

100 CXH model:

$$101 \quad \frac{\Delta \sigma_1}{2} \frac{\Delta \varepsilon_{1,max}}{2} + \frac{\Delta \tau_1}{2} \frac{\Delta \gamma_1}{2} = \frac{\sigma_f'^2}{E} (2N_f)^{2b} + \sigma_f' \varepsilon_f' (2N_f)^{b+c} \quad (31)$$

102 It is necessary to point out here that the CXH model can reduce to the SWT model under  
 103 proportional loading. This is because under such conditions, there are no shear terms acting  
 104 on the maximum normal strain range plane, and thus the CXH model simplifies to the SWT  
 105 model. In fact, both the CXH model and the proposed one are modifications of the SWT  
 106 model. If the compatibility assumption is ensured, i.e., the Coffin-Manson's plastic strain  
 107 range and elastic strain range correlate with the correspondent Ramberg-Osgood's strain  
 108 ranges perfectly, then the  $K'$  and  $n'$  can be determined by<sup>76-79</sup>:

109 
$$n' = \frac{b}{c} \quad \text{and} \quad K' = \frac{\sigma'_f}{\varepsilon_f^{b/c}} \quad (32)$$

110 Substitute Eq. (32) into Eq. (15), the N-SWT model can be rewritten as:

111 
$$\sigma_{1,\max}^{\frac{1-w}{w}} \frac{\Delta \varepsilon_{1,\max}}{2} + \left( \frac{\Delta \tau_1}{2} + |\tau_{1,m}| \right)^{\frac{1-w}{w}} \frac{\Delta \gamma_1}{2} = \frac{\sigma_f'^{\frac{1}{w}}}{E} (2N_f)^{\frac{b}{w}} + \sigma_f'^{\frac{1}{w}-1} \varepsilon_f' (2N_f)^{\left(\frac{1}{w}-1\right)b+c} \quad (33)$$

112 Equation (33) shows that, if the value of  $w$  is set to 0.5, it can be observed that the N-SWT  
113 model reduces to the CXH model under centro-symmetric loading conditions.

114 For uniaxial loading condition, substitute Eq. (32) into Eq. (13), the established criterion  
115 can be rewritten as:

116 
$$\sigma_{\max}^{1-w} \varepsilon_{a,t}^w = \sigma_f' (2N_f)^b \left[ \frac{1}{E} + \frac{\varepsilon_f'}{\sigma_f'} (2N_f)^{c-b} \right]^w \quad (34)$$

117 It can be seen that the established criterion reduces to the SWT model as long as  $w = 0.5$ . If  $w$   
118 = 1, Eq. (34) is seen to reduce to Eq. (6), and the established criterion coincides with the Cof-  
119 fin-Manson equation. If  $w = 0$ , Eq. (34) is rewritten as:

120 
$$\sigma_{\max} = \sigma_f' (2N_f)^b \quad (35)$$

121 Equation (35) shows that the established criterion coincides with the Walker model in this  
122 condition.

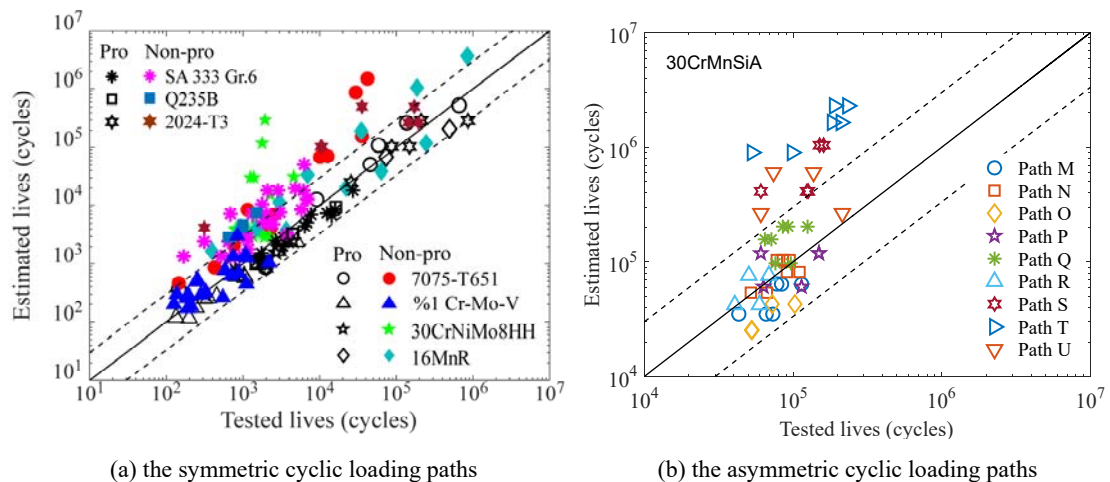
123 Certainly, the FS model is another widely used critical-plane-based life prediction model.  
124 Hence, this model was also applied to compare with the other models in terms of their accu-  
125 racy and reliability in predicting fatigue life. Different from the SWT and CXH models, the  
126 critical plane is defined as the plane of maximum shear strain range in FS model. The FS  
127 model can be expressed as:

128 
$$\frac{\Delta \gamma_{\max}}{2} \left( 1 + k_{FS} \frac{\sigma_{n,\max}}{\sigma_y} \right) = \left[ (1 + \nu_e) \frac{\sigma_f'}{E} (2N_f)^b + (1 + \nu_p) \varepsilon_f' (2N_f)^c \right] \left( 1 + k_{FS} \frac{\sigma_f'}{2\sigma_y} (2N_f)^b \right)$$

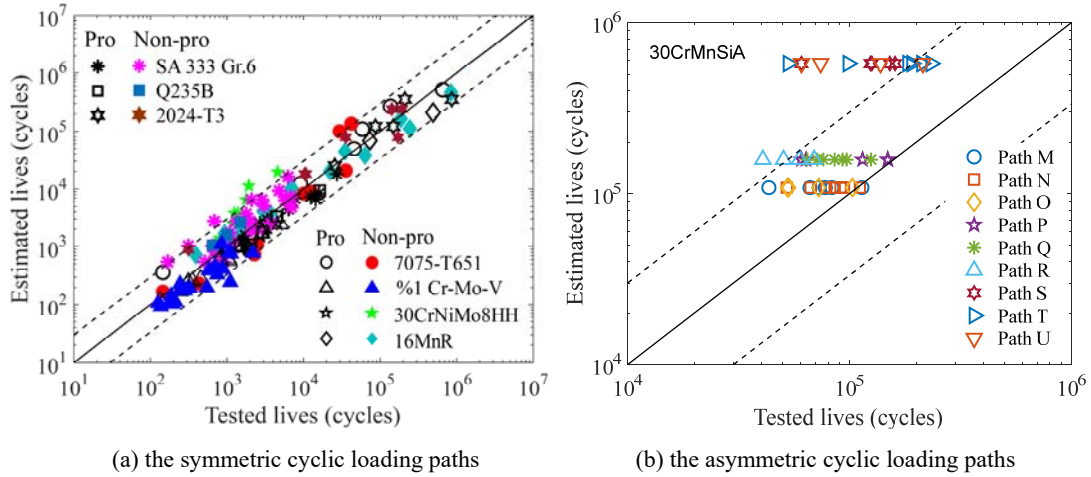
129 (36)

130 where  $\Delta \gamma_{\max}$  and  $\sigma_{n,\max}$  are the maximum shear strain range and the maximum normal  
131 stress on the critical plane, respectively.  $k_{FS}$  is a material constant which can be determined  
132 using the data tested under uniaxial and pure torsional fatigue loadings.  $\nu_e$  and  $\nu_p$  repre-  
133 sent the elastic and plastic Poisson's ratios, respectively.

134 The metallic materials listed in Table 1 were also used to validate the prediction accuracy  
 135 of the SWT model, CXH model, and FS model. The comparisons between the predicted lives  
 136 and experimental ones for each model were shown in Fig. 12, Fig. 13, and Fig. 14, respec-  
 137 tively. The dashed and solid lines in these figures also represent the factor-of-three boundary  
 138 and the perfect prediction, respectively. Figures 12(a) and 13(a) show that both the SWT and  
 139 CXH models can present satisfactory predictions under proportional loading. However,  
 140 non-conservative prediction results were observed for SWT model under non-proportional  
 141 loadings without mean stress since the shear components are not considered. By contrast,  
 142 more reasonable prediction results were obtained by CXH model under the same loading  
 143 paths. In more details, the prediction accuracy listed in Table 2 shows that 50.9% and 69% of  
 144 data points predicted by SWT model fall within the factor-of-two and factor-of-three bounda-  
 145 ries, respectively. As for the CXH model, 74.8% of the data points fall within the fac-  
 146 tor-of-two boundary, and 92.9% fall within the factor-of-three boundary. It means that  $w = 0.5$   
 147 can simply be used in the N-SWT model for the absence of the tested Walker exponent. It  
 148 should be pointed out here that a more accurate  $w$  value is still necessary to improve the pre-  
 149 diction accuracy of the established criterion. Figure 14(a) shows that the FS model can also  
 150 present satisfactory prediction results for proportional loading. However, under  
 151 non-proportional loadings, the prediction results of FS model exhibit some scattering, alt-  
 152 hough most of the data points still fall within the factor-of-three boundary. More specifically,  
 153 58.8% and 81.6% of the data points fall within the factor-of-two and factor-of-three bounda-  
 154 ries, respectively.

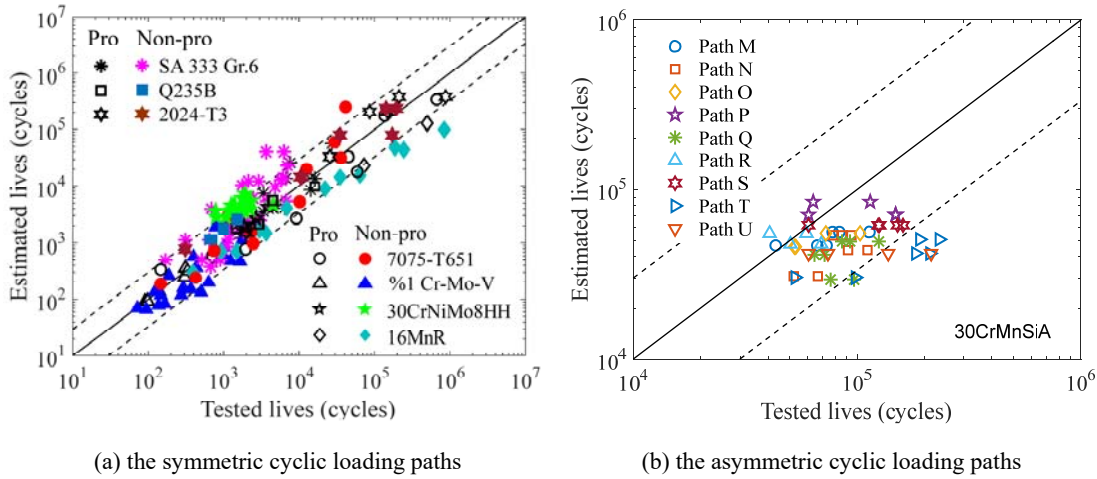


157 Fig.12 The tested fatigue lives vs. the estimated ones for the SWT model<sup>51, 57-64</sup>



158  
159  
160

Fig.13 The tested fatigue lives vs. the estimated ones for the CXH model<sup>51, 57-64</sup>



161  
162  
163

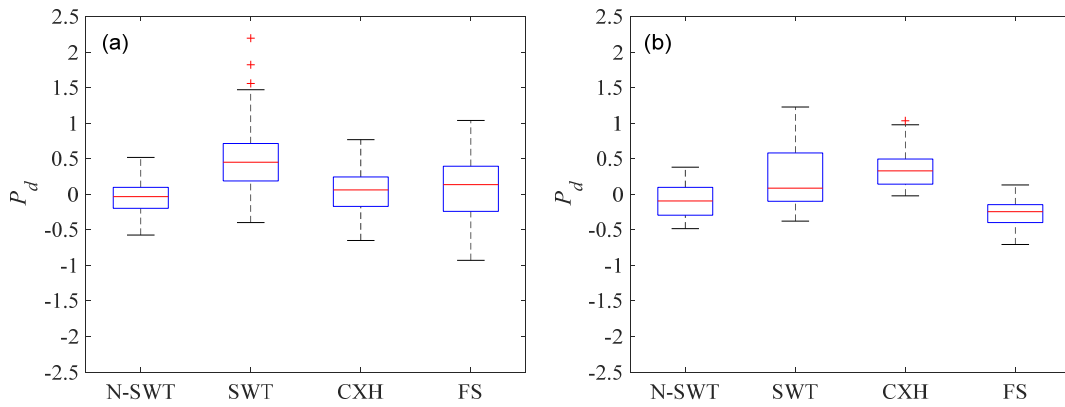
Fig.14 The tested fatigue lives vs. the estimated ones for the FS model<sup>51, 57-64</sup>

164 As for the loading paths with non-zero mean stress, Fig. 12(b) shows that the SWT model  
165 fails to give accurate estimations for assessing some of tested data of 30CrMnSiA steel. More  
166 exactly, the loading paths from M to R showed most of prediction results that fall within the  
167 factor-of-three boundary, which indicates good accuracy for these loading paths. However,  
168 non-conservative estimations were obtained for the paths from S to U. This could be attrib-  
169 ed to the fact that paths S to U are circular loading paths with a high degree of  
170 non-proportionality, while paths M to R have a lower degree of non-proportionality. Based on  
171 Figs. 2, 3 and 5, it can be observed that the weight of shear strain energy density increases as  
172 the level of non-proportionality increases. For the loading paths with non-zero mean stress,  
173 the prediction accuracy listed in Table 2 shows that 54.1% and 68.7% of the data points pre-  
174 dicted by the SWT model fall within the factor-of-two and factor-of-three boundaries, respec-  
175 tively. For the CXH model, according to Fig. 13(b), the prediction results are independent of

176 the non-zero shear/normal mean stress in the loading path, regardless of whether it is propor-  
177 tional or non-proportional loadings with the same loading stress amplitude. Hence, it appears  
178 that the same prediction results were obtained for paths M to O, paths P to R, and paths S to U  
179 in the CXH model. However, it is noted that the prediction results are unsatisfactory. The  
180 main reason for this unsatisfactory prediction is attributed to the model's neglect of the influ-  
181 ence of mean stress on fatigue life. For the loading paths with non-zero mean stress, Table 2  
182 shows that 41.6% and 70.8% of the data points estimated by CXH model fall within the fac-  
183 tor-of-two and factor-of-three boundaries, respectively. As for FS model, Fig. 14(b) presents  
184 that most of the predicted lives are superior to the ones that estimated by SWT model and  
185 CXH model. However, it is also noted that for loading paths involving mean stresses, most of  
186 the data points were underestimated by the FS model. This suggests that the FS model may  
187 not accurately account for the influence of mean stress on fatigue life in these specific cases.  
188 In more details, 58.3% and 83.3% of the data points fall within the factor-of-two and fac-  
189 tor-of-three boundaries, respectively. Compared with SWT, CXH and FS models, the N-SWT  
190 method can give more reasonable prediction results.

191 Figure 15 presents a box plot of  $P_d$  comparing the prediction accuracy of four models,  
192 namely the N-SWT model, SWT model, CXH model, and FS model. However, it is worth  
193 noting that Path A depicted in Fig. 8 was excluded from the box plot comparison. This exclu-  
194 sion is due to both the N-SWT model and CXH model reducing to the SWT model under  
195 proportional loading. According to Figure 15(a), it can be observed that the SWT model pro-  
196 duces non-conservative prediction results under non-proportional loadings. Additionally, the  
197 fatigue life predictions generated by the FS model exhibit some scattering. In contrast, both  
198 the CXH model and N-SWT model demonstrate the ability to provide reasonable estimations.  
199 Further analysis has revealed that the prediction results of the N-SWT model are superior to  
200 those estimated by the CXH model. For asymmetric cyclic loading, Fig. 15(b) shows that al-  
201 most all the prediction results of CXH model are non-conservative, while most of the pre-  
202 dicted lives of FS model are conservative. The predictions of SWT model are the most scat-  
203 tered. In contrast to the three models, the established one displays the best estimations among  
204 the considered models. Overall, these results indicate that the N-SWT model performs well in  
205 predicting multiaxial fatigue lives for metallic materials, even when mean stresses are present

206 in the loading paths. It demonstrates the effectiveness and robustness of the N-SWT model in  
 207 handling different loading conditions.



208  
 209 Fig. 15 Box plot of model prediction deviations: (a) non-proportional loadings, and (b) loading  
 210 paths with mean stress

## 211 5. CONCLUSIONS

212 Among numerous fatigue life prediction methods, the SWT model has been widely used in  
 213 fatigue life prediction, especially for materials that exhibit tensile cracking. However, it is  
 214 often criticized for ignoring the influences of shear terms on fatigue damage, which may re-  
 215 sult in non-conservative prediction results during non-proportional loadings. Therefore, in this  
 216 paper, an improved SWT model was developed by incorporating the equation of Walker into  
 217 the strain-life curve. The prediction accuracy of the improved SWT model was validated us-  
 218 ing 8 kinds of materials. The prediction results were then compared with those obtained from  
 219 the SWT model, CXH model, and FS model. Then, the conclusions can be drawn as follows:

220 (1) For symmetric cyclic loadings, the SWT model can provide reasonable predictions for  
 221 fatigue life under proportional loading condition. However, it tends to yield non-conservative  
 222 prediction results for non-proportional loadings. In contrast, the prediction results of FS mod-  
 223 el are somewhat scattered for these non-proportional loading paths, while the CXH model has  
 224 shown to provide more accurate predictions.

225 (2) For the asymmetric cyclic loadings, the SWT, CXH, and FS models are all unable to  
 226 accurately estimate the fatigue lifetime of the considered metals due to the influence of mean  
 227 stress and/or non-proportionality. Specifically, the CXH model tends to provide  
 228 non-conservative predictions, while the FS model tends to be conservative in predicting fa-



229 tigue life. The SWT model, on the other hand, produces the most scattered predictions.

230 (3) An improved SWT model was developed by incorporating the equation of Walker into  
231 the strain-life curve. Under uniaxial loading condition, when the value of  $w$  is set to 0.5, the  
232 established criterion is equivalent to the SWT model. When  $w = 1$ , the established criterion  
233 reduces to the Coffin-Manson equation. And when  $w = 0$ , the established criterion coincides  
234 with the Walker model. Under multiaxial loading conditions, the established criterion can re-  
235 duce to the CXH model if the value of  $w$  is set to 0.5 and the loading paths are cen-  
236 tro-symmetric. Experimental validation shows that the improved model can present satisfac-  
237 tory fatigue life predictions regardless of the presence of mean stress in the considered load-  
238 ing paths.

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### 245 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

246 **Jing Li:** Conceptualization, Data curation, Methodology, Writing – Original draft, Writing  
247 – Review & editing. **Feng-shan Shao:** Writing – Original draft, Formal analysis, Validation.  
248 **Zheng-wei He:** Methodology, Investigation. **Juan Ma:** Supervision, Formal analysis. **Yu-**  
249 **an-ying Qiu:** Funding Acquisition, Resources. **Michael Beer:** Writing – Review & editing.

### 250 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMEN**

251 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal rela-  
252 tionships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

### 253 **DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT**

254 The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author  
255 upon reasonable request.

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