

## Critical review

*By Mohammad Mohsen Zadehkamand*

### On the seminar

*“Numerical Analysis of Factors of Safety and Probabilities of Failure in Geotechnical Engineering”, by Dr. Vaughan Griffiths*

The abovementioned seminar was supposed to start on Thursday, October 19th, 2016 at 12 p.m. but due to some problems it started some minutes later.

The presenter “Dr. D. V. Griffiths” is a professor of Civil Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines, USA and an editor of *Computers and Geotechnics Journal*. His primary research interests are mainly on probabilistic geotechnical engineering, finite element software development and its application in risk assessment in civil engineering. Besides being the co-author of three textbooks, he has written around 319 research papers in the geotechnical engineering field. [1]

The whole presentation was about the use of probabilistic methods in geotechnical engineering due to the rapid growth of interest in soil mechanics risk assessment. In this presentation two main terms of “*probability of failure*” and “*factor of safety*” were defined and the results of stability analyses of variable soils obtained by the finite element methods were discussed.

First of all his fluent English accent was completely noticeable in the whole seminar and more importantly his gestures and body language made the audience more confident about his knowledge on the topic. Actually the way of presentation was clearly evidencing his experience in the major by explaining both theoretical and practical aspects of his work. Considering the fact that he discussed lots of details and answered various questions about real and practical issues of programming in the path for obtaining reasonable approaches to the problem, the seminar was a useful tool for anyone who wants to follow this path in the academic career.

[1]. <http://inside.mines.edu/~vgriffit/>