

A PEDANTIC REVIEW ON MECHANICAL BEHAVIOR OF FIBER SANDWICHED COMPOSITE MATERIALS

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ABSTRACT

In present day, there is demand of high class materials having good strength, light weight and low cost investment for many engineering applications. However, this demand is satisfied by composite materials but they are useful in some applications only. So, development of newly generated sandwiched composite materials which are applicable to almost all engineering applications is the need of this century.

The present work includes the theoretical review on the development of fiber sandwiched composite materials and studied their mechanical Testing. The literature presents an explanations about natural fiber and polymer fiber. Several materials and methodology have discussed and the Conclusion have discussed.

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INTRODUCTION

The application of composite materials like Fiber Reinforce Polymer (FRP), Carbon Fiber Reinforce Polymer (CFRP) and Glass Fiber Reinforce Polymer (GFRP) are increasing rapidly in industrial use. This is because of characteristics of these materials including high strength, low cost investment and minimum weight. In aerospace industries, these materials are most useful in past thirty years. Composite materials helping us in combination with different materials to achieve the desired properties. In general, these materials has taken a part of sheet metal in many automobile industries. Every type of such composite material has its own properties and can be change or adopted easily by changing either percentage of content or change of content. The composite is the combination of two constituents one is reinforcing (in form of sheet, fiber) and other is matrix (in form of continues structure). The figure 1 represent a type of composite sandwich material. It consist of face sheets at top and bottom integrated by core material like honeycomb foam jointed by some adhesives or epoxy resin. The face sheets generally takes planer and bending load while core materials takes transverse loading. Such sandwich materials have more strength, they are widely used in aero plane, satellite, automobile, transportation and many polymer industries.

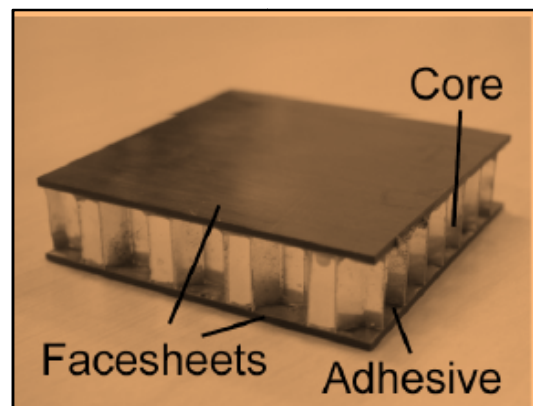


Figure 1 Composite Sandwich Material

Simple metals and their alloys are not sufficient to meet the demands of today's competitive world. An automobile company has a demand to have more performance of vehicle, there should be requirement to replace existing material by different material. Combination of two or more material are most common in such industry. Thus, by this way the demand of composites are increasing. The paper presents the pedantic view of composite materials used in industrial sector to develop a new technology in world.

LITERATURE SURVEY

Nobuo et al describes the recent developments in smart technologies to inspect the reliability of smart structure having composite face sheets. They focused on sandwich technology in aerospace area. The damages in the composite structure were identified and damage detection techniques like dynamic

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response, optical fiber and wave propagation were explained. The authors' proposed new type of sandwich structure which may be fabricated for meeting the demands of aerospace area.[1]

Nunna et al made a review on the mechanical characteristics of natural fiber based hybrid composites. The hybrid composite materials were applicable to enhance the mechanical properties. The hybrid composite materials were made by combining single or double matrix form. The properties of hybrid materials were improved by changing their fiber layer, volume fraction of mixture and different orientation of fibers. The mechanical properties of such hybrid materials also depend on the treatment given to them like natural fiber with NaOH improves the properties. [2]

Porrás and Marañón investigated that the eco-friendly sandwich cores were produced from both renewable and biodegradable sources by enhanced fabrication. The in-plane compressive loading was applied to identify the mechanical behavior of sandwich panel. Experimental testing was performed to obtain the stress-strain curve and linear elastic region. It was concluded that the sandwich panel is improving the mechanical behavior. [3]

Shama, rana and fangueiro concluded that the natural fiber composites are most useful in structural applications. The goal considered here was a review on recent developments in composite structures. Several characteristics of natural fiber and their limitations have been discussed. [4]

Patil and Chawla investigated the performance of ZnS and TiO₂ filler composite. It was found that the mechanical characteristics of ZnS filler composite have better performance than TiO₂ filler composite. The impact toughness has been identified and compared to explained composites and found that the unfilled glass composite has more characteristics. The ultimate aim was found that the ZnS filler composite is more useful than TiO₂ filler composite material. [5]

Alagarraja et al fabricated and tested the Sisal-Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) composite samples. For that purpose, several tests like tensile, flexural and impact were carried out to obtain the characteristics of different fabricated materials. It was found that Sisal-Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) composite is much stronger as compared to single metal and their alloys.[6]

Roslan et al investigated the performance of honeycomb sandwich structures with changing various configurations by applying tensile and compressive tests. The effect of fiber orientation on tensile strength was determined for unidirectional bamboo-epoxy composites and found that 0° orientation is much stronger than other orientations. [7]

Sudhir Mathapati and Shivukumar Mathapatii investigated that 3% volume fraction of glass fiber holds better tensile strength as compared to 1% and 2%. The compressive strength is considerably less for 1% fiber. The results of experimental tests were validated by FEA approach. The certain errors were considered such as matrix mixture and air bubbles during fabrication. [8]

Uthirapathy, Loganathan and Kayaroganam fabricated the specimens of carbon fiber reinforced aluminum sandwich material and tested tensile, flexural and shear failure. It was concluded that tensile and flexural strength increases to certain

limit and then decreases. The fracture surfaces were analyzed by Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). [9]

MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

Materials

Fiber is a long substance significantly shorter in width. It forms a micro-wired structure. Fibers are mainly classified into two types: one is Natural Fiber and the other is Synthetic Fiber. Natural fibers are those fibers which are obtained from natural resources like plants, animals, etc. The examples of natural fibers are Jute, Sisal, Cotton, and Hemp. Synthetic fibers are those which are manufactured by artificial ways like Nylon Fiber.[10]

Jute is the most important vegetable fiber after cotton due to its abilities. Jute is used chiefly in making cloth for wrapping, the fibers are also used in curtains, chair covers, carpets. Today jute is being replaced by synthetic fibers in many of their applications, some applications take advantage of jute's biodegradable characteristics, where synthetic fibers would be unsuitable. The fibers are used independently or blended with other types of fiber to obtain twine and rope.

Sisal Fiber is extracted by a decortication process, where leaves are crushed and brushed away by a rotating wheel with knives, so that only fibers remain. For more production, the leaves are transported to a central decortication plant, where water is used to wash away the waste materials. The fiber is then dried, brushed for export. Drying is important as fiber quality depends mostly on moisture content. Fiber is cleaned by brushing. Dry fibers are sorted into various grades.

Aluminium is a white-colored metal obtained by electrical processes from alumina, which is produced from a bauxite. It has a light weight and a specific gravity of 2.7. The tensile strength of the metal varies from 70 MPa to 130 MPa. In its pure state, it is weak and soft. But when mixed with other alloys, it becomes hard and rigid. The main property of aluminium used widely is good electrical conductivity.

Steel is an alloy of iron and 1.5% Carbon. Carbon occurs in the form of iron carbide, because of its nature to increase the hardness and strength of the steel. Other elements like silicon, Sulphur, phosphorus and manganese are also present to certain amount to impart certain desired properties to steel. Most of the steel generated today is Plain Carbon Steel.

A Sandwiched Composite Material is a type of composite material that is produced by joining two thin face sheets to a lightweight core (Aluminium or Steel core with any fiber face sheet). The core material has normally low strength, but its thickness provides the sandwich composite with high flexural strength with overall minimum density. The examples of core materials are Open-cell and closed-cell foams like polyethersulfone, polyvinylchloride, polyurethane, polyethylene or polystyrene foams, balsa wood, syntactic foams, and honeycombs. Laminates of glass or carbon fiber-reinforced plastics (FRP, CFRP, and GFRP) are widely used as face sheet materials. In some practical applications the Sheet metal is also used. The core is joined to the face sheets with a strong adhesive. A type of such sandwich material is shown in figure 2.[11]

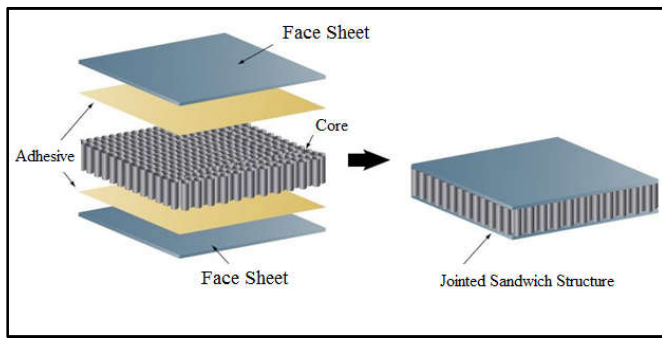


Figure 2 Formation of Sandwich Structure

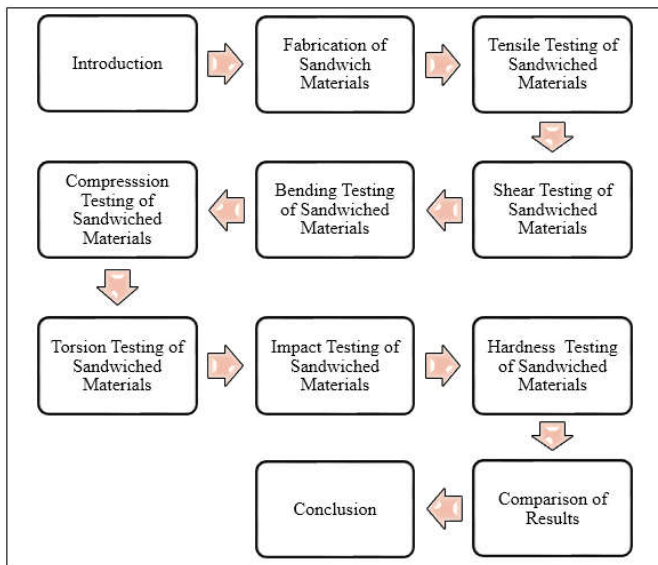


Figure 3 Methodology for Testing of Sandwich Structure

The methodology adopted for sandwich materials is shown in figure 3. It includes fabrication and testing of various specimens having combination of different materials and different fibers with different orientations. [12]

Material Testing

Tensile Test

The tensile test was made by Leonardo da Vinci around 1495. He designed the quality of ropes. A container was hung up with a rope and Leonardo emptied sand into the pail. The sand's mass was estimated as the rope broke. The rope's strength was corresponding with the mass of the sand. He found that if the length of the rope was expanded its strength diminished. This revelation is outstanding these days, in light of the fact that the more drawn out the rope is the more conceivable it is that there are more deformities in the material. The main aim of the tensile test is to determine material characteristics. Several standards exist for the tensile test, which depends on the temperature, the material of the specimen, etc. Force and elongation will be measured. In tensile test, the specimen has only one axis tensile stress. Test machines are of 3 types: Mechanical, Hydraulic and Electro-Dynamic. This test carried on Universal Testing Machine (UTM) as shown in figure 4.



Figure 4 Universal Testing Machine

Compression Test

When a material is subjected to compressive load, the relationship between stress and strain is same as that obtained for a tensile testing. Up to a certain value of stress, the material behaves in elastic manner, i.e. stress is proportional to strain. Beyond this value, plastic stage starts, i.e. more strain starts than happening in elastic limit for any increased value of loading. It is seen that a compression test is more difficult to be conducted than standard tensile test due to

1. Specimen must have more lateral area to resist any buckling,
2. The specimen may strain hardened as deformation proceeds, and
3. Cross-section of the specimen increases with deformation, thereby requiring substantial increase in the required load.

Flexural Test

Making specimens from brittle materials, such as glasses, for tension tests is difficult because of the problems involved in machining them to accurate dimensions. Furthermore, such specimens are sensitive to certain surface defects and notches, and also clamping specimens for testing is difficult. A mainly used test method for measuring strength of such materials is the bend or flexure test. The test specimen can have any cross section and is uniform along the whole length. Such a specimen is very less expensive to prepare than a tensile specimen. The test is conducted with the same kind of UTM used for tensile and compressive strength measurements. The test specimen is supported at the ends and the load is applied at the centre. The longitudinal stresses in the specimens are tensile at their bottom surfaces and compressive at their top surfaces. The bend or flexural strength is defined as the maximum uniaxial tensile strength at failure and it is often referred to as the flexural strength or Modulus of Rupture (MOR). [13], [14]

Torsional Test

Like tensile and flexural tests, torsion test is also useful in determining the modulus of rigidity. Many applications require rotary motion such as shafts. Thus, torsion test conducted to inspect the strength of rotary element by twisting or rotation. It gives the relation between the torque and angle of twist or angular deformation.

CONCLUSION

The paper informs the literature on mechanical behavior fiber sandwiched composite materials and concludes following outcomes:

1. The composite materials are useful in today's engineering applications.
2. Natural fibers plays a role in increasing the strength of composite materials.
3. The synthetic fibers are superior to natural fibers for fabricating the materials.
4. The testing and comparison of such sandwiched composite materials is challenge for future study.

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