

Introduction to Engineering Materials

Composites

Issues to address...

- What are composites?
- Classification of composites.
- Why composites?
- Mechanical properties of composites.
- Applications.

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Composites: definition & examples

- **Multiphase materials with chemically different phases and distinct interfaces.**
- **Properties of the resultant combination of materials are superior to the properties of the individual components.**
- **Advantages:** High-strength/light-weight, low cost, environmentally resistant...
- **Natural composites:**
 - **Wood:** strong & flexible cellulose fibers in stiffer lignin (surrounds the fibers).
 - **Bone:** strong but soft collagen (protein) with hard but brittle apatite (mineral).
 - Certain types of rocks can also be considered as composites.
- **Synthetic composites:** fiberglass, concrete, carbon-carbon composites....

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Bicycleforks

Braided and unidirectional S-2 Glass and carbon fibers are used to produce forks with different stiffness

High Strength
Weight Reduction
Design Flexibility
Cost Performance

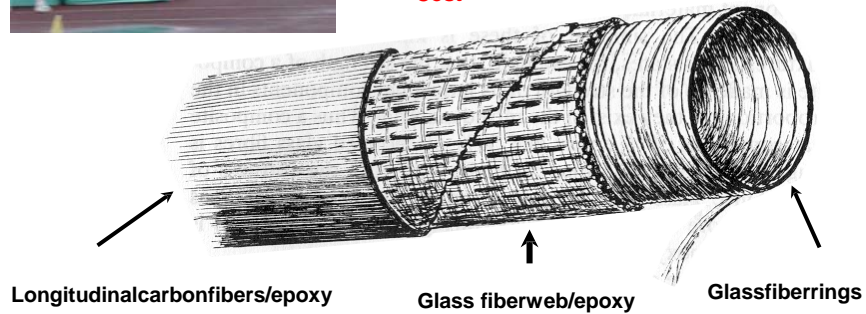


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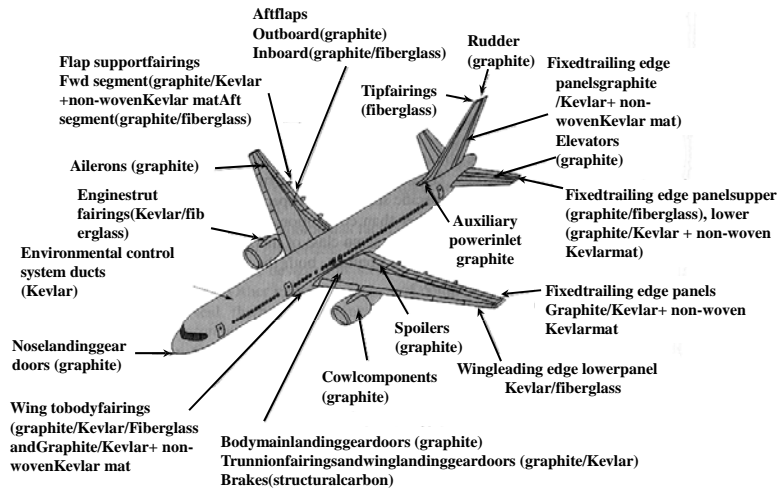
Pole-vaulting

Lightweight -
low density Buckling resistance -
stiffness Strong - yield
strength Minimal twisting
Cost



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Boeing 757-200



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Terminology

- **Matrix:**
 - softer, more flexible and continuous part that surrounds the other phase.
 - transfer stress to other phases
 - protect phases from environment
- **Reinforcement (dispersed phase):**
 - stiffer, high strength part (particles or fibers are the most common).
 - enhances matrix properties

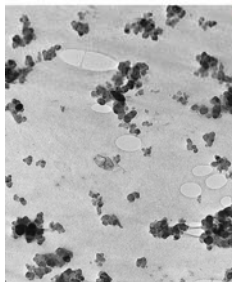
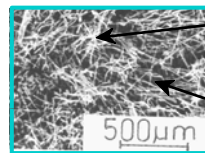


FIGURE 16.5 Electron micrograph showing the spherical reinforcing carbon black particles in a synthetic rubber tire tread compound. The areas resembling water marks are tiny air pockets in the rubber. 80,000 \times . (Courtesy of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.)



C fibers:
very stiff
very strong

C matrix:
less stiff
less strong

fibers lie in plane

view onto plane



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Composite characteristics

Depends on:

- properties of the matrix material.
- properties of reinforcement material.
- ratio of matrix to reinforcement.
- matrix-reinforcement bonding /adhesion.
- mode of fabrication.

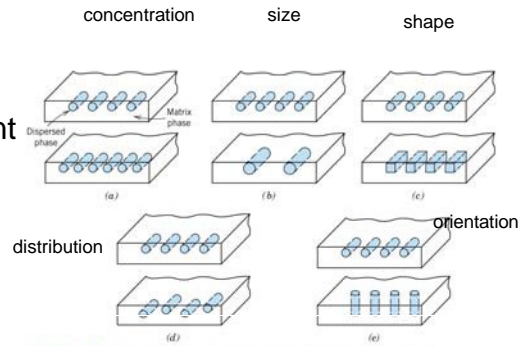


FIGURE 16.1 Schematic representations of the various geometrical and spatial characteristics of particles of the dispersed phase that may influence the properties of composites: (a) concentration, (b) size, (c) shape, (d) distribution, and (e) orientation. (From Richard A. Flinn and Paul K. Trojan, *Engineering Materials and Their Applications*, 4th edition, Copyright © 1990 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Adapted by permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.)

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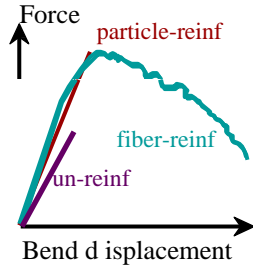
Classification of Composites

- Matrix-based:
 - Metal Matrix Composites (MMC)
 - Ceramic Matrix Composites (CMC)
 - Polymer Matrix Composites (PMC)

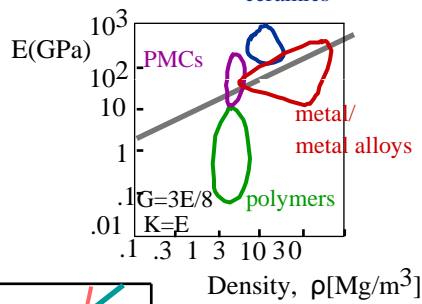
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COMPOSITE BENEFITS

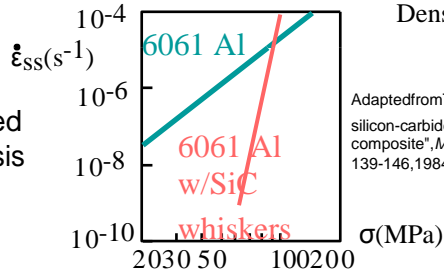
- CMCs: Increased toughness



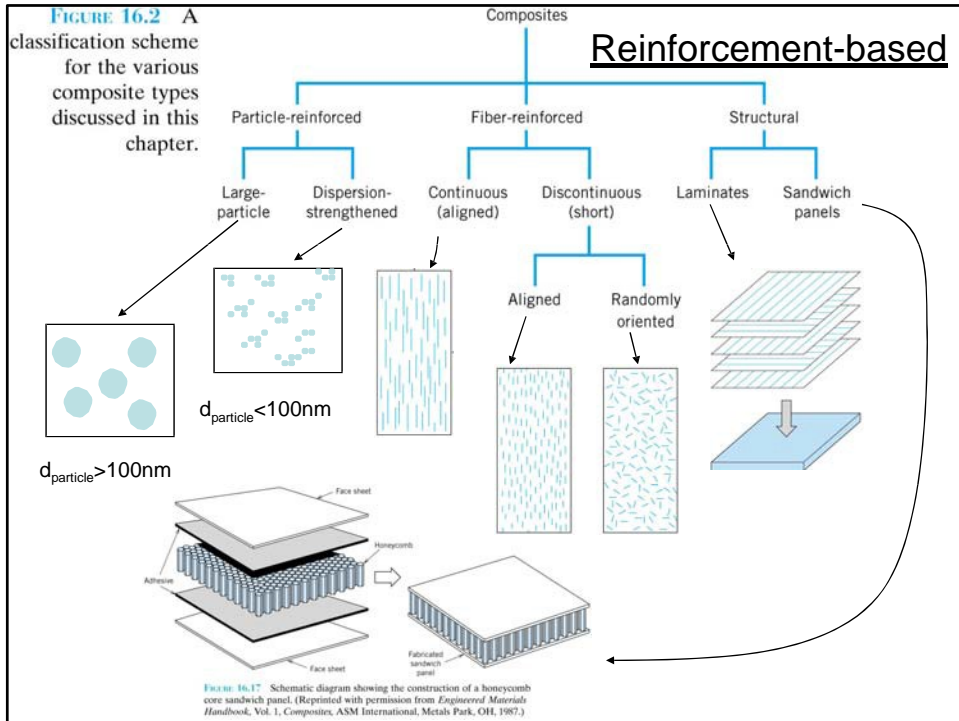
- PMCs: Increased E/ρ



- MMCs: Increased creep resistance



Adapted from T.G. Nieh, "Creep rupture of a silicon-carbide reinforced aluminum composite", *Metall. Trans. A* Vol. 15(1), pp. 139-146, 1984. Used with permission.



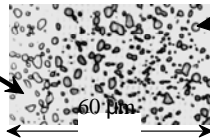
COMPOSITE SURVEY: Particle-I

Particle-reinforced Fiber-reinforced Structural

• Examples:

- Spheroidite steel

matrix: ferrite (α) (ductile)

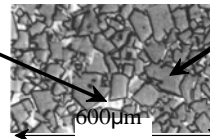


particles: cementite (Fe_3C) (brittle)

Adapted from Fig. 10.10, Callister 6e. (Fig. 10.10 is copyright United States Steel Corporation, 1971.)

- WC/Cocemented carbide

matrix: cobalt (ductile) Vm: 10-15 vol%!

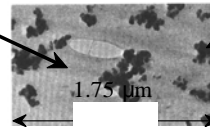


particles: WC (brittle, hard)

Adapted from Fig. 16.4, Callister 6e. (Fig. 16.4 is courtesy Carbony Systems, Department, General Electric Company.)

- Automobile tires

matrix: rubber (compliant)



particles: C (stiffer)

Adapted from Fig. 16.5, Callister 6e. (Fig. 16.5 is courtesy Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.)

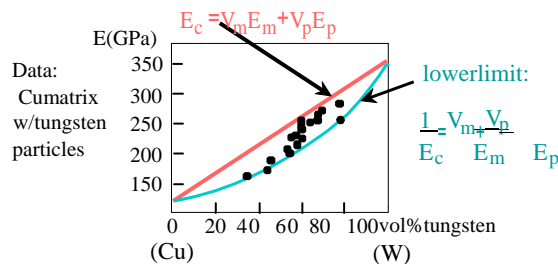
COMPOSITE SURVEY: Particle-II

Particle-reinforced Fiber-reinforced Structural

• Elastic modulus, E_c , of composites:

--two approaches.

upper limit: "rule of mixtures"



Adapted from Fig. 16.3, Callister 6e. (Fig. 16.3 is from R.H. Krock, ASTM Proc, Vol. 63, 1963.)

• Application to other properties:

- Electrical conductivity, σ_e : Replace E by σ_e .
- Thermal conductivity, k: Replace E by k.

Analogy to resistors in series vs. parallel...

Fiber-reinforced composites

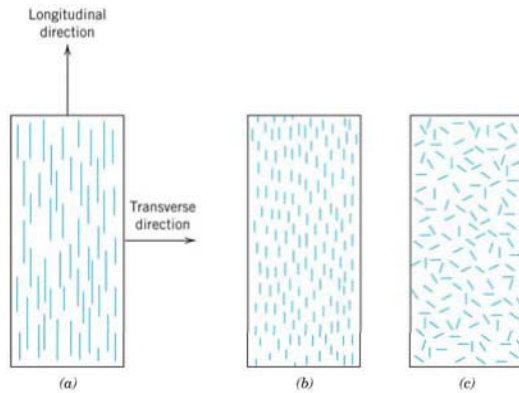


FIGURE 16.8 Schematic representations of (a) continuous and aligned, (b) discontinuous and aligned, and (c) discontinuous and randomly oriented fiber-reinforced composites.

Continuous
& aligned

Discontinuous
& aligned

Discontinuous
& random

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Fiber-reinforced composites

The Fiber Phase

Smaller diameter fiber is stronger than bulk in most materials (especially brittle ones). Why? **Flaws!**

Whiskers:

- very thin single crystals that have extremely large aspect ratios.
- high degree of crystallinity and virtually flaw-free – exceptionally high strength.
- usually extremely expensive.
- some whisker materials: graphite, SiC, silicon nitride, aluminum oxide.

Fibers:

- polycrystalline or amorphous.
- typically: polymers or ceramics (polyaramids, glass, carbon, boron, SiC...)

Fine Wires:

- relatively large diameter, often metal wires.
- e.g. steel, molybdenum, tungsten...

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Fiber-reinforced composites


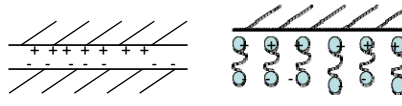
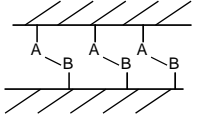
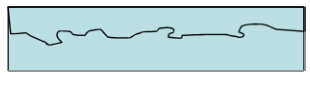
The Matrix Phase

- can be metal, polymers, or ceramics.
- typically metals and polymer because some ductility is often desired.
- main functions of the matrix:
 - Hold fibers together.
 - Transmit and distribute external stress to the fibers.
 - Protect fibers from surface damage: abrasions, chemical reactions...
- in CMCs, reinforcements are usually added to improve fracture toughness.

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Fiber-reinforced composites

The Fiber-Matrix Interface

1. Molecular entanglement (interdiffusion):
 - Entanglement of molecules at the interface.
 - Especially important in fibers that are pre-coated with polymers.
 - Molecular conformation/structural and chemical aspects.
2. Electrostatic attraction
 - Depends on surface charge density.
 - e.g. glass fibers, polymers with chargeable groups.
3. Covalent bonding
 - Usually the strongest fiber-matrix interaction.
 - The most important in many composites.
4. Mechanical adhesion
 - Interlocking of two rough surfaces
 - e.g. thermosetting resins

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Fiber-reinforced composites

Properties depend on LENGTH and ORIENTATION of the fibers (as well as isolated properties of each of the components)!

Critical fiber length

$$l_c = \frac{\sigma_f^* d}{2\tau_c}$$

σ_f^* = Fibertensile strength

d = Fiber diameter

τ_c = Smaller of:
 • fiber-matrix bond strength
 • matrix shear yield strength.

Continuous when fiber length $\gg l_c$

Discontinuous when fiber length $< 15 l_c$

Possible failure modes:

- 1) fiber breaking.
- 2) matrix breaking.
- 3) fiber pullout (interface between fiber and matrix fails)

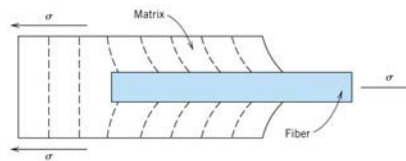
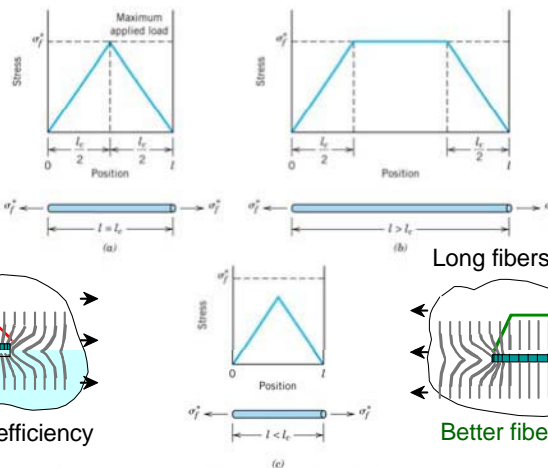


FIGURE 16.6 The deformation pattern in the matrix surrounding a fiber that is subjected to an applied tensile load.

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Fiber-reinforced composites



Short fibers

Long fibers

Poorer fiber efficiency

Better fiber efficiency

FIGURE 16.7 Stress-position profiles when fiber length l (a) is equal to the critical length l_c , (b) is greater than the critical length, and (c) is less than the critical length for a fiber-reinforced composite that is subjected to a tensile stress equal to the fiber tensile strength σ_f^* .

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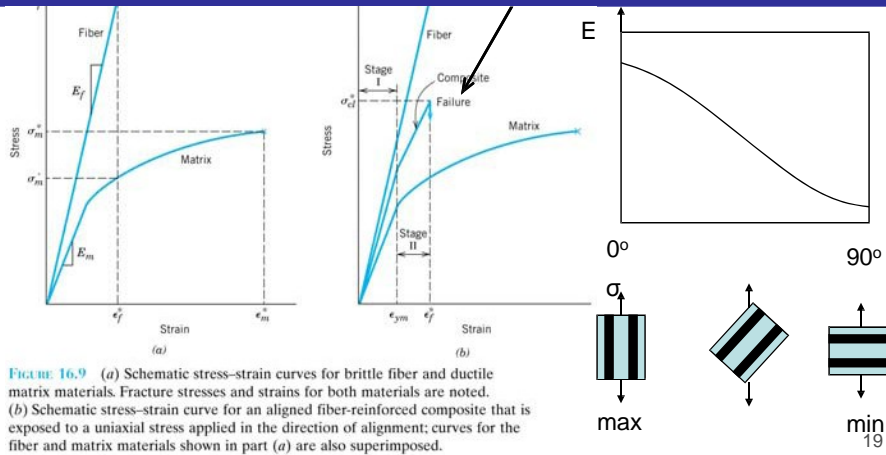
Aligned fibers

Continuous when fiber length $\gg l_c$
 Discontinuous when fiber length $< 15l_c$

Elastic Modulus

Not so detrimental since:

- 1) Not all fibers fail at the same time
- 2) Matrix still intact



COMPOSITE SURVEY: Fiber-I

Particle-reinforced

Fiber-reinforced

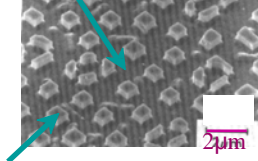
Structural

Aligned Continuous fibers

- Examples:

--Metal: γ' (Ni_3Al) - α (Mo)
 by eutectic solidification.

matrix: α (Mo) (ductile)

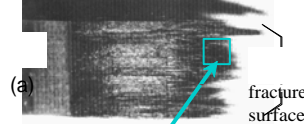


fibers: γ' (Ni_3Al) (brittle)

From W. Funk and E. Blank, "Creep deformation of Ni_3Al -in-situ composites", *Metal. Trans. A* Vol. 19(4), pp. 987-998, 1988. Used with permission.

--Glass/SiC fibers
 formed by glass slurry

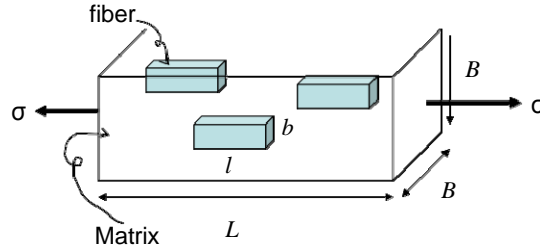
$E_{\text{glass}} = 76 \text{ GPa}$; $E_{\text{SiC}} = 400 \text{ GPa}$.



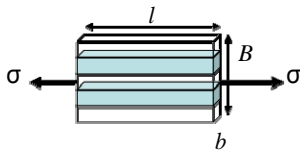
From F.L. Matthews and R.L. Rawlings, *Composite Materials; Engineering and Science*, Reprint ed., CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL, 2000. (a) Fig. 4.22, p. 145 (photoby J. Davies); (b) Fig. 11.20, p. 349 (micrograph by H.S. Kim, P.S. Rodgers, and R.D. Rawlings). Used with permission of CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL. 20

Continuous-aligned fibers

Consider a composite with fibers having square rod geometry with stress in the longitudinal direction...



When $l \gg l_c$ (typically $l > 15l_c$), we can simplify to:



$$\text{then } \frac{\Delta L_{\text{composite}}}{l} = \frac{\Delta L_{\text{fiber}}}{l} = \frac{\Delta L_{\text{matrix}}}{l}$$

$$\text{since } \epsilon \equiv \frac{\Delta L}{l}, \quad \epsilon_{\text{composite}} = \epsilon_{\text{fiber}} = \epsilon_{\text{matrix}}$$

ISO-STRAIN

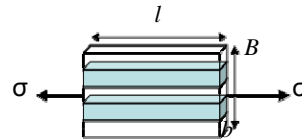
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Continuous-aligned fibers

Longitudinal loading

What about elastic modulus?

Total force on the composite is simply the sum of forces on matrix and fibers.



$$F_{\text{composite}} = F_{\text{matrix}} + F_{\text{fiber}}$$

$$\text{since } \sigma = \frac{F}{A} \text{ or } F = \sigma A, \text{ we have: } \sigma_c A_c = \sigma_m A_m + \sigma_f A_f$$

Recall stress-strain relation: $\sigma = E\epsilon$

Sub-in for stresses...

$$E_c \epsilon_c A_c = E_m \epsilon_m A_m + E_f \epsilon_f A_f$$

$$\text{rearrange } E_c = \frac{E_m \epsilon_m A_m + E_f \epsilon_f A_f}{\epsilon_c A_c}$$

Imposing isostrain condition $\epsilon_c = \epsilon_f = \epsilon_m$,

$$E_c = E_m \frac{A_m}{A_c} + E_f \frac{A_f}{A_c}$$

"Area fractions"

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Prefer volume fractions....

Continuous-aligned fibers

Longitudinal loading

Total area = Bb

$A_f =$ number of fibers x area of each fiber = Nb^2

Then we have: $\frac{A_f}{A_c} = \frac{Nb^2}{Bb}$

Also, $A_m = A_c - A_f$

or

$$\frac{A_m}{A_c} = 1 - \frac{A_f}{A_c} = \frac{Nb}{B}$$

For volume fractions: $V_c = \frac{Bbl^2}{V_j = Nbl}$

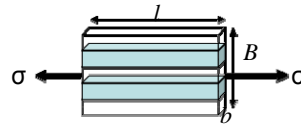
Then: $v_f = \frac{V_f}{V_c} = \frac{Nb^2}{Bbl} = \frac{A_f}{A_c}$ same as "area fraction"

Similarly, $v_m = \frac{A_m}{A_c}$

$$E_{cl} = v_m E_m + v_f E_f$$

Longitudinal elastic modulus
(upper bound for E_c)

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Continuous-aligned fibers

Longitudinal loading

What about the load on the matrix and the fibers?

$$\frac{F_f}{F_m} = ? \quad F = \sigma A$$

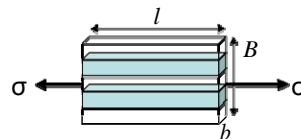
$$\frac{F_f}{F_m} = \frac{\sigma A_f}{\sigma_m A_m} = \frac{\sigma_f v_f}{\sigma_m v_m}$$

With $\sigma = E \epsilon$

$$\frac{F_f}{F_m} = \frac{E_f \epsilon v_f}{E_m \epsilon_m v_m} \xrightarrow{\text{Isostrain conditions}}$$

$$\frac{F_f}{F_m} = \frac{E_f v_f}{E_m v_m}$$

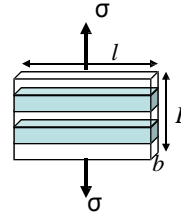
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Continuous-aligned fibers

Transverse loading

Stress, rather than strain, is the same in this case:



$$\sigma_c = \sigma_f = \sigma_m \quad \text{ISOSTRESS condition}$$

The total elongation will be the sum of elongation of the components:

$$\Delta L_c = \Delta L_f + \Delta L_m$$

$$\text{Strain} = \epsilon_c = \frac{\Delta L_c}{L_c} = \frac{\Delta L_f}{L_c} + \frac{\Delta L_m}{L_c}$$

Where L_c = length of the composite along the direction of stress = B

Again, to express in terms of volume fractions:

$$L_f = N b$$

$$\frac{L_f}{L_c} = \frac{N b}{B} = v_f$$

$$\text{Rearrange } L_c = \frac{L_f}{v_f}$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \frac{L_m}{L_c} = \frac{L_m}{\frac{L}{v_m}} = v_m$$

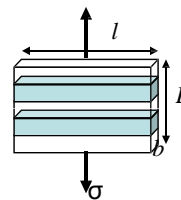
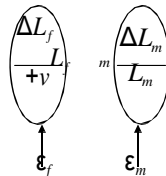
Same as what we derived for volume fraction

Continuous-aligned fibers

Transverse loading

$$\epsilon_c = \frac{\Delta L_c}{L_c} = \frac{\Delta L_f}{L_c} + \frac{\Delta L_m}{L_c}$$

$$= \frac{\Delta L_f}{L_f/v_f} + \frac{\Delta L_m}{L_m/v_m} = v_f \left(\frac{\Delta L_f}{L_f} \right) + v_m \left(\frac{\Delta L_m}{L_m} \right)$$



$$\epsilon_c = v_m \epsilon_m + v_f \epsilon_f$$

From stress-strain relation;

$$\epsilon = \frac{\sigma}{E}$$

$$\sigma_c = v_m \sigma_m + v_f \sigma_f$$

$$\frac{\sigma_c}{E_c} = v_m \frac{\sigma_m}{E_m} + v_f \frac{\sigma_f}{E_f}$$

Lower bound for E_c
(transverse modulus)

$$E_{ct} = \frac{E_m E_f}{v_m E_f + v_f E_m}$$

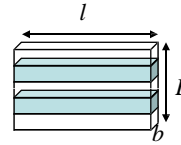
Applying isostress condition and rearranging gives

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Continuous-aligned fibers

Many properties follow these upper and lower bound relations for continuous-aligned fiber composites.

In general:



$$X_{cl} = X_{upper} = v_m X_m + v_f X_f$$

$$X_{ct} = X_c^{lower} = \frac{X_m X_f}{v_m X_f + v_f X_m}$$

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Continuous-aligned fibers: example

1. Calculate the longitudinal and transverse modulus and thermal conductivity for polyester reinforced with 60% volume fraction of glass fiber (E-glass).
2. Calculate longitudinal specific stiffness.
3. Calculate the percentage of the load on the fibers for longitudinal loading.

	E (GPa)	K (W/mK)	Specific gravity
Polyester	6.3	0.17	1.46
E-glass	72.4	0.97	2.58

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Continuous-

aligned fibers: example Mixed Fibers

- A two-fiber composite (continuous aligned) is composed of the following components.

	E (GPa)	Vol. fraction
Kevlar fiber	131	30%
E-glass fiber	72.5	20%
Epoxy matrix	2.41	50%

- Calculate the longitudinal elastic modulus.

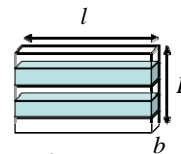
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Continuous-aligned fibers

Tensile strength

$$\text{Longitudinal: } \sigma_{cl}^* = \nu_m \sigma_m + \nu_f \sigma_f^*$$

Similar to elastic modulus



This is assuming that the fiber fails prior to the matrix.

$$\sigma_m = \text{Stress in the matrix at failure}$$

$$\sigma_f^* = \text{Tensile strength of the reinforcement fiber}$$

Transverse: more complex due to many factors that affect it (e.g. matrix & fiber properties, fiber-matrix bond strength, presence of voids etc...)

Table 16.1 Typical Longitudinal and Transverse Tensile Strengths for Three Unidirectional Fiber-Reinforced Composites. The Fiber Content for Each Is Approximately 50 Vol%.

Material	Longitudinal Tensile Strength (MPa)	Transverse Tensile Strength (MPa)
Glass-polyester	700	20
Carbon (high modulus)-epoxy	1000	35
Kevlar-epoxy	1200	20

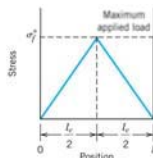
In general, stronger along longitudinal direction

Source: D. Hull and T. W. Clyne, *An Introduction to Composite Materials*, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press, 1996, p. 179.

Discontinuous & aligned fibers

Discontinuous when fiber length $< 15 l_c$

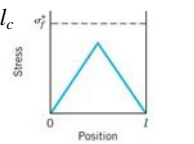
$l > l_c$



$$\sigma_{cd}^* = \sigma_f v_f \left[1 - \frac{l_c}{2l} \right] + \sigma_m v_m$$

Similar to continuous case, except for the length factor.

$l < l_c$



$$\sigma_{cd}^* = \frac{l}{d} v_f \sigma_f + \sigma_m v_m$$

$T_c = \text{Smaller of:}$

- fiber-matrix bond strength
- matrix shear yield strength.

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Discontinuous & random fibers

Discontinuous, random 2D fibers

- Example: Carbon-Carbon
 - process: fiber/pitch, then burn out at up to 2500C.
 - uses: disk brakes, gas turbine exhaust flaps, nose cones.

$$E_c = E_m V_m + K E_f V_f$$

efficiency factor

(depends on v_f and E_f/E_m):

- aligned 1D: $K = 1$ (anisotropic)
- random 2D: $K = 3/8$ (2D isotropy)
- random 3D: $K = 1/5$ (3D isotropy)

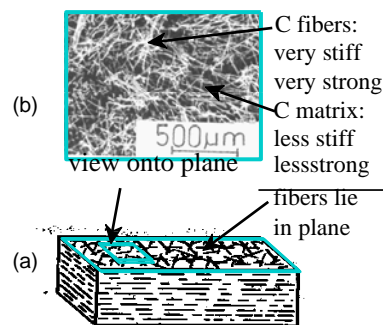


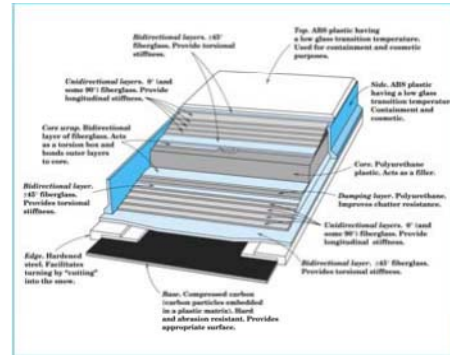
Table 16.2 Properties of Unreinforced and Reinforced Polycarbonates with Randomly Oriented Glass Fibers

Property	Unreinforced	Fiber Reinforcement (vol%)		
		20	30	40
Specific gravity	1.19-1.22	1.35	1.43	1.52
Tensile strength [MPa (ksi)]	59-62 (8.5-9.0)	110 (16)	131 (19)	159 (23)
Modulus of elasticity [GPa (10^6 psi)]	2.24-2.345 (0.325-0.340)	5.93 (0.86)	8.62 (1.25)	11.6 (1.68)
Elongation (%)	90-115	4-6	3-5	3-5
Impact strength, notched Izod (ft·lb/in.)	12-16	2.0	2.0	2.5

Source: Adapted from Materials Engineering's *Materials Selector*, copyright © Penton/IPC.

Polymermatrixcomposites

- Glass fiber-reinforced polymer (GFRP) composites: fiberglass
 - Somereasonsforusing glassasfibers:
 - Easy to draw fibersfrom molten state.
 - Strength.
 - Readilyavailable/economic.
 - Chemicalinertness(e.g. non-corrosive).
 - Applications:automotive& marinebodies,storage containers,industrial flooring...



*O*ne relatively complex composite material is the modern ski. In this illustration, a cross-section of a high-performance snow ski, one shows the various components. The function of each component is noted, as well as the material that is used in its construction. (Courtesy of Evolution Ski Company, Salt Lake City, Utah.)

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Polymermatrixcomposites

- Carbonfiber-reinforcedpolymer(CFRP)composites:
 - SomereasonforusingC-fibers:
 - Highestspecificmodulusandspecificstrengthofall reinforcingfibermaterials.
 - RetainhighmodulusandTSatelevatedT(chemical oxidationmaybeaproblem).
 - AtornearRT, veryinert.
 - Canengineerspecificmechanicalandphysicalproperties.
 - Some applications:fishingrods, golf clubs,bicycles, military and commercial aircraft structural components...

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Polymermatrixcomposites

- Aramid(e.g.Kevlar)fiber-reinforcedpolymercomposites:
 - High strength, highmodulus.
 - Muchbetter strength-to-weightthan metals.
 - Stable torelativelyhighT (highmechanicalpropertiesmaintainedfrom ~- 200 to 200°C).
 - Relativelyinert chemically(exceptstrong acids).
 - Uses: bullet-proofvests, tires, ropes, missilecases, parts for automotive brake,clutchliningandgaskets...

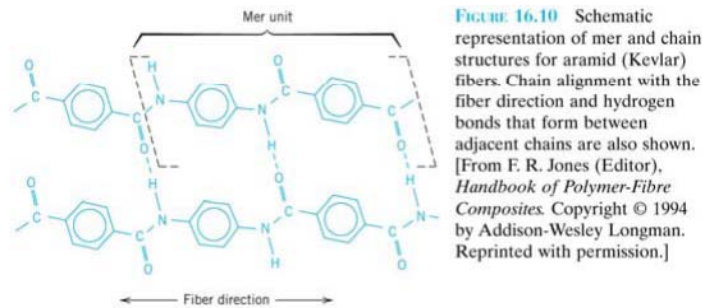


FIGURE 16.10 Schematic representation of mer and chain structures for aramid (Kevlar) fibers. Chain alignment with the fiber direction and hydrogen bonds that form between adjacent chains are also shown. [From F. R. Jones (Editor), *Handbook of Polymer-Fibre Composites*. Copyright © 1994 by Addison-Wesley Longman. Reprinted with permission.]

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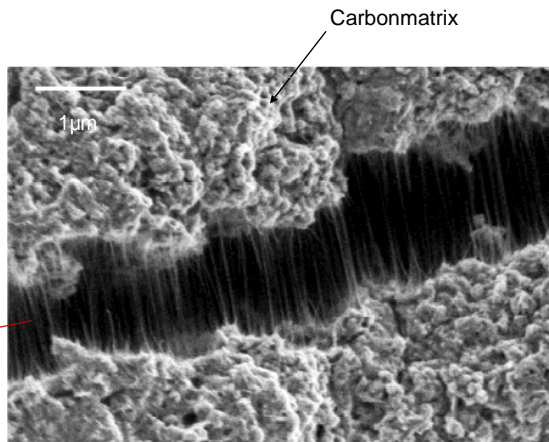
Carbon-carboncomposites

- Carbonfiberreinforcedcarbonmatrixco mposites.
 - High modulus& TS (retainedtoT> 2000°C).
 - Resistant tocreep.
 - Large fracture toughness.
 - Small thermal expansioncoefficient.
 - Highthermalconductivity.
 - Uses:rocketmotors,frictionmaterialforaircraftand high-performanceautomobilebrakes, componentsforturbine engines...
 - Very expensivemainlydueto relativelycomplex processing.

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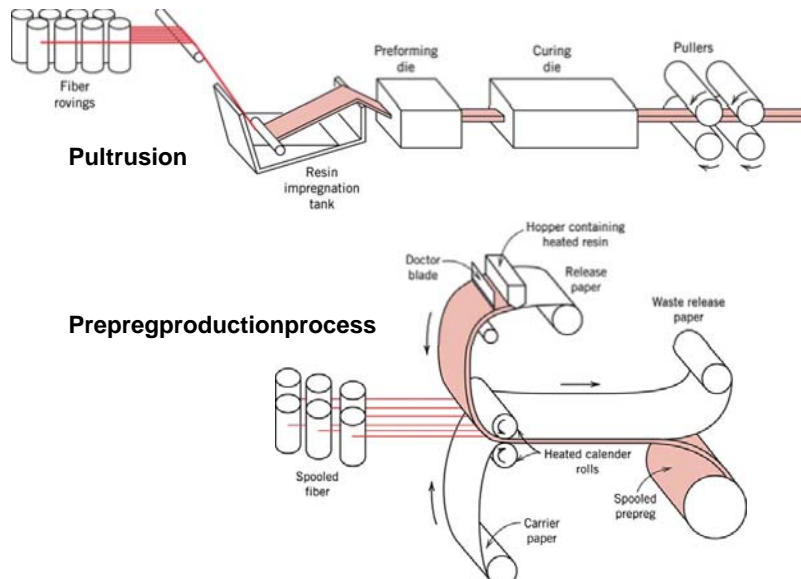
Carbonnanotubecomposite

Material	Young's Modulus
Aluminum alloys	72GPa
Steel	200GPa
Tungsten	400GPa
Carbon Nanotube	>1000GPa



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Processing of fiber-reinforced composites



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Processing of fiber-reinforced composites

Filament winding

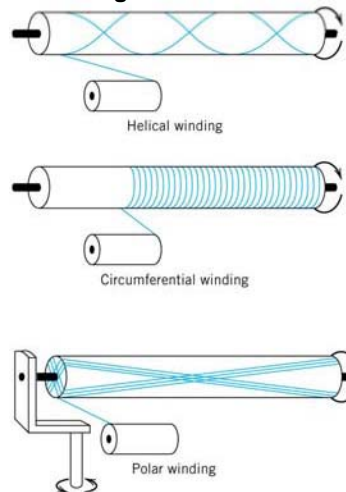


FIGURE 16.14 Schematic representations of helical, circumferential, and polar filament winding techniques. [From N. L. Hancox, (Editor), *Fibre Composite Hybrid Materials*, The Macmillan Company, New York, 1981.]

Design example

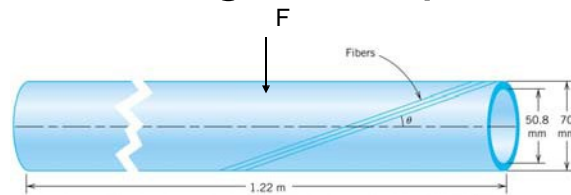


FIGURE 16.15 Schematic representation of a filament-wound composite shaft, which is the subject of Design Example 16.1.

Requirements -at $F=890\text{N}$, deflection $<0.33\text{mm}$
-Circumferential winding with $\theta=15^\circ$

- Which fiber(s), if embedded in epoxy matrix, meet these criteria?
- Decide on the most cost-effective fiber.

Table 16.3 Elastic Modulus, Density, and Cost Data for Glass and Various Carbon Fibers and Epoxy Resin

Material	Elastic Modulus (GPa)	Density (g/cm^3)	Cost (\$/kg)
Glass fibers	72.5	2.58	2.50
Carbon fibers (standard modulus)	230	1.80	35.00
Carbon fibers (intermediate modulus)	285	1.80	70.00
Carbon fibers (high modulus)	400	1.80	175.00
Epoxy resin	2.4	1.14	9.00

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Concepts to remember...

- Matrix & reinforcement.
- What composite characteristics depend on.
- **Classification:** matrix-based – MMC, CMC, PMC; reinforcement-based.
- **Particle reinforced composites:** upper and lower bound for E (rule of mixtures).
- **Fiber-reinforced composites**
 - Continuous-aligned, discontinuous-aligned & discontinuous-random cases.
 - Critical length.
 - Longitudinal & transverse properties.
 - Isostrain & isostress cases.
- **Structural composites.**