

Design and Fabrication Of hybrid (Glass/Fibre) Composite Materials

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ABSTRACT

Nowaday's composites are playing a dominant role in many industrial applications. Different types of composites are fabricated by using hand layup method. Natural fibers are very tough, lightweight and also comparatively very cheap. This work concerns the production of hybrid composites by hand lay-up method and predict the effect of process parameter on tensile, flexural and compression strength of jute and glass fiber reinforced polyester-based hybrid composites. The mechanical properties like tensile, flexural and compressive strength were evaluated for the specimen cut from the fabricated composite plates to the dimensions according ASTM standard.

I. INTRODUCTION

Composites are combinations of materials differing in composition, where the individual constituents retain their separate identities. Among all the synthetic fibers, glass fibers are now dominant due to their low cost and comparatively better physic-mechanical properties. Natural fibers are very thin hair like material. They are directly obtained from a vegetable, animal, or mineral resource and convertible into non-woven fabrics like felt or after spinning into yarns, or paper into woven cloth. The increased demand of natural fiber is due to their low cost, renew-ability, low density, bio-degradability, and abundance. When two or more materials with different properties are combined together, they form a composite material. Composite material comprise of strong load carrying material (known

as reinforcement) imbedded with weaker materials (known as matrix). The primary functions of the matrix are to transfer stresses between the reinforcing fibres/particles and to protect them from mechanical and/or environmental damage whereas the presence of fibres/particles in a composite improves its mechanical properties like tensile strength, flexural strength, impact strength, stiffness etc.

II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Composite materials having a range of advantages over other conventional materials such as tensile strength, impact strength, flexural strength, stiffness and fatigue characteristics. The development of composite materials and their related design and manufacturing technologies is one of the most important advances in the history of materials.

Composites are the material used in various fields having exclusive mechanical and physical properties and are developed for particular application. In order to obtain the preferred material properties for a particular application, it is important to know how the material performance changes with the fibre content and fibre orientation under given loading conditions. By combining fiber and resin a bulk material is produced with a strength and stiffness close to that of the fibers and with the chemical resistance to the plastic. The arrangement or orientation of the fibres relative to one another within the matrix can affect the performance of a composite. In order to obtain the preferred material properties for a particular application, it is important to know how the material performance changes with the fibre content and fibre orientation under given loading conditions.

Table 1 Physical properties of natural fibres

Fibre	Tensile strength (Mpa)	Young's modulus (Gpa)	Elongation at break (%)	Density (g/cm ³)
Jute	393-773	26.50	1.50-1.80	1.30
Bamboo	140-230	11-17	----	0.60-1.10
Cotton	287-597	5.50-12.60	7-8	1.50-1.60
Flax	345-1035	27.60	2.70-3.20	1.50
Hemp	690	70	1.60	1.48
Sisal	511-635	9.40-22	2.0-2.50	1.50
E-glass	3400	72	---	2.5

A great deal of work has been carried out to measure the potential of natural fibre as reinforcement in polymer such as jute, coir, bamboo, sisal, banana and wood fibres have been reported. The present research work thus is undertaken to study the processing, characterization and mechanical behaviour of

jute/glass fibre reinforced epoxy based hybrid composites

III. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

The details of processing of the composites and the experimental procedures carried out for their characterization and testing of samples which the composite specimens are subjected to. The major raw materials used in this project are:

Materials and Fabrication:-

1. Jute fiber
2. Glass fiber
3. Epoxy resin and
4. Hardener

Material:

The hybrid composite material used in this research was fabricated using light weight chopped strand mat of E-glass fabrics as synthetic reinforcement. Jute fibers were used as natural reinforcement. Jute fibers and the plant from which they are extracted are shown in figure 1. polyester resins with initiator (Methyl ethyl Kenton Peroxide) and accelerator International (cobalt) were used as matrix materials.

Fabrication:-

The composites are fabricated by conventional hand layup method. The jute fiber and the glass fibers are taken as reinforcement and epoxy is used as matrix material. Glass fibers are obtained from Go Green products Ltd. The low temperature epoxy resin and hardener are mixed in a ratio of 3:1 by weight percentage respectively. Composites of different compositions with three different fiber loading (30wt%, 40wt% and 50wt %) are made .



Figure 1 Jute Fibre

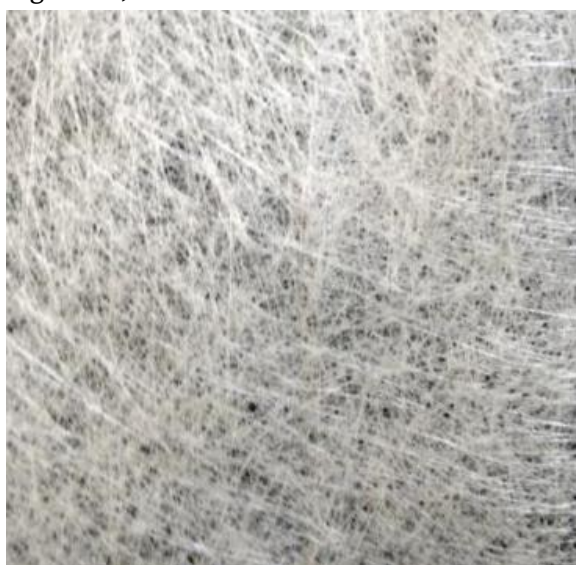


Figure 2 Glass Fibre

Tensile Test:

The tensile test generally performed on flat specimen. Tensile test of composite sample is carried out in ASTM D3039-76 test standard. In tensile test, a uniaxial load was applied through both the end. Tensile test is a measurement of the ability of a material to applied forces tending to pull it apart and observe the extent of material stretches before

breaking. Different types of plastic materials are often compared based on tensile property data (i.e. strength, modulus, and elongation data) As a testing machine, the machine of a constant-rate-of-crosshead movement, containing a stationary member carrying one grip, and a moveable member carrying the second grip, is used.

Flexural Test:

This test is done on a three point bend test. Flexural test is to determine the capability of a material to withstand the bending before reaching the breaking point.

Inter-laminar shear test is also performed on the same equipment. The flexure test does not measure fundamental material properties as compression test or tension test. Flexure tests are usually performed to evaluate the flexural modulus or flexural strength of a material. It is more affordable than a tensile test and the results are somewhat different. The material is laid vertically with supports and load support is placed at middle of the specimen and then a force is applied to specimen until the sample fails

Interlaminar Shear Test:

Inter-

laminar shear test is also performed on the same equipment. A span of 40mm was taken and cross head speed was maintained at 2mm/min

IV. RESULTS:

% w of Jute	% w of Glass	Ultimate tensile strength in MPa	Avg. UTS in MPa
10	20	59.1	79.4
15	15	74.2	72.4
20	10	69.4	66.2

Textile composite materials are composed of fibres, yarn or fabric system and matrix material that is bind and protect the fibres. At first, jute

Table 2

Tensile test results:

The woven fabric and non-woven glass were cut into the desired size. As jute content moisture was dried at 100°C for 1 hour in a drying oven. In Jute/polyester and glass/polyester composites, mechanical properties such as tensile properties, bending properties and impact strength increase with the increases of stacking sequences

The tensile strength and tensile modulus of the composites that are under influence of fiber loading is shown in table 2 respectively. Therefore from the table 2 the tensile strength of the composites with 60% matrix and 40% fiber is higher than other two compositions. The maximum tensile strength is observed for composite with 40wt% fiber loading

Flexural test results:

The flexural properties of various hybrid composites at different fiber loading of reinforcement are shown in table IV. The results show that adding up natural fiber content in glass fibers increases the overall flexural strength of composites. However, natural fiber content should be lesser than synthetic fiber content. The maximum flexural strength is observed for composite with 20% of glass and 10% of jute fiber loading.

It can be concluded from the graphs that the hybrid composites have better properties than single fiber composites. Though the composites have some pros and cons, the combination of the useful properties of two different materials, quicker processing time, lower manufacturing cost, etc., make them as an adaptable material in the field of engineering and technology. Hence with this conclusion, it is sure that the technology shows composite is the most hunted material in the modern trend. This is clear that E-glass fiber composites retained much of its tensile properties than that of the jute composites during soil degradation. Finally the strength and modulus of jute composites decreased almost 23 and 11% respectively after 6 months. On the other hand, E-glass composites showed only 5.8 and 6% loss of FS and FM respectively in the same period

Table 3

% w of Jute	% w of Glass	Flexural strength in MPa	Avg. Flex strength in MPa
10	20	219	168
15	15	254	218
20	10	264	279

V. CONCLUSION

The experimental study on the effect of fiber loading on mechanical behavior of jute/glass fiber reinforced polyester based hybrid composites lead to the following conclusions

- The effect of reinforcement of jute fiber and glass fiber into epoxy resin matrix is investigated on the basis of fiber loading.
- Also the change in flexural strength is quite marginal from 10-30% of glass fiber content.
- Cost analysis for manufacturing of hybrid composites shows 38.46% cost reduction

Scope for future work

There is a wide scope for future scholars to explore the current research area. The present work can be further extended to study other aspects of composites like use of other natural fibres and evaluation of their dynamic mechanical, thermal, tribological properties and the experimental results can be similarly be analyzed.

VI. REFERENCES

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