



AS2070: Aerospace Structural Mechanics

Module 2: Composite Materials

Instructor: Nidish Narayanaa Balaji

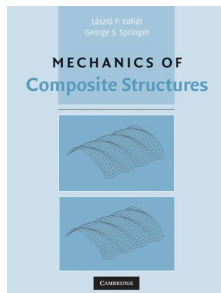
Dept. of Aerospace Engg., IIT Madras, Chennai

January 22, 2025

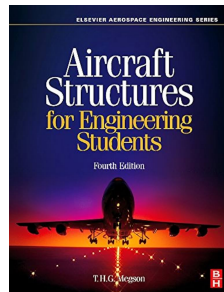
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*Chapters 1-3
in Kollár and
Springer (2003).*

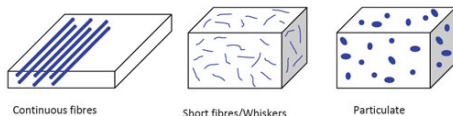


*Chapter 25 in Megson
(2013)*

1.1. What are Composites?

Introduction

- Structural material consisting of multiple non-soluble macro-constituents.
- Main motivation: material properties tailored to applications.
- Both stiffness and strength comes from the fibers/particles, and the matrix holds everything together.



Types of composite materials (Figure from NPTEL Online-IIT KANPUR (n.d.))

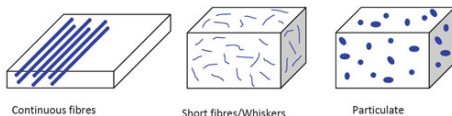
Examples

- Reinforced concrete
- Wood (lignin matrix reinforced by cellulose fibers)
- Carbon-Fiber Reinforced Plastics (CFRP)

1.1. What are Composites?

Introduction

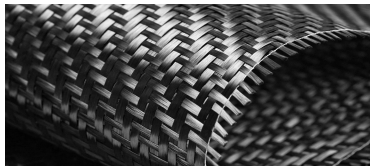
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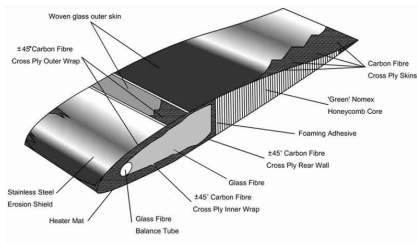


1.1. What are Composites?

Introduction

- Structural material consisting of multiple non-soluble macro-constituents.

CFRP Helicopter Blades



(Figures from *Carbon Fiber Top Helicopter Blades n.d.*)

Ex

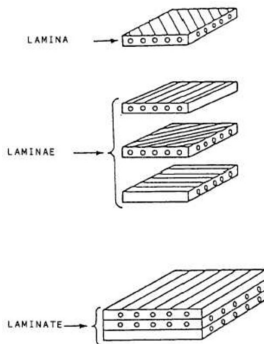
- Reinforced concrete
- Wood (lignin matrix reinforced by cellulose fibers)
- Carbon-Fiber Reinforced Plastics (CFRP)
 - ~2x stiffness, ~3x strength, ~ 70% weight of AA.
 - High fatigue resistance. But quite brittle.
 - Main- and tail-planes, fuselages, etc. Helicopter blades.

1.1. What are Composites?

Introduction

- Structural material consisting of multiple non-soluble macro-constituents.

Laminated Composites



(Figure from Kalkan 2017)



Ex

- Reinforced concrete
- Wood (lignin and cellulose fibers)
- Carbon-Fiber Reinforced Plastics (CFRP)

- Main- and tail-planes, fuselages, etc. Helicopter blades.

Strength, ~ 70%

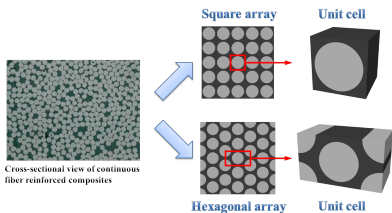
But quite brittle.

1.2. Modeling Composite Material

Introduction

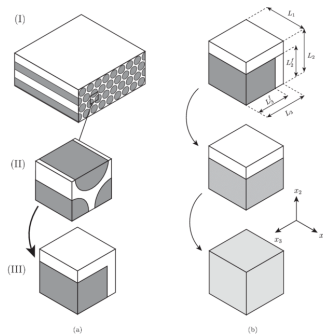
Two main approaches:

Micro-Mechanics



(Figure from "Micro-Mechanics of Failure" 2024)

Macro-Mechanics



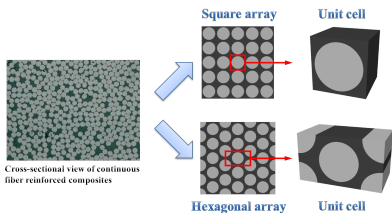
Homogenization of micro-structure (Figure from Skovsgaard and Heide-Jørgensen 2021)

1.2. Modeling Composite Material

Introduction

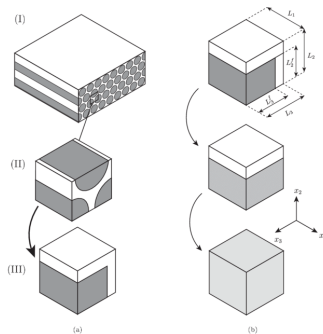
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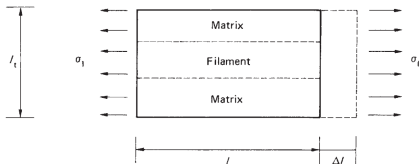


Homogenization of micro-structure (Figure from Skovsgaard and Heide-Jørgensen 2021)

1.3. Constitutive Modeling for Composites

Introduction

Axial Elongation



- Strain is fixed, but stress experienced by media differ.

$$\sigma_l = E_l \varepsilon_l$$

- Stress-strain relationship simplifies as,

$$\sigma_m = E_m \varepsilon_l, \quad \sigma_f = E_f \varepsilon_l$$

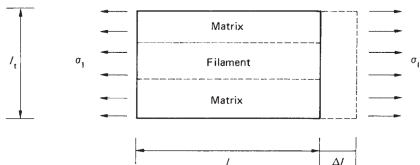
$$\sigma_l A = \sigma_m A_m + \sigma_f A_f$$

$$\Rightarrow E_l = \frac{A_f}{A} E_f + \frac{A_m}{A} E_m$$

1.3. Constitutive Modeling for Composites

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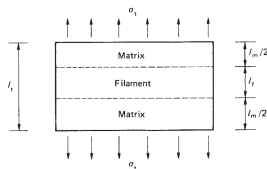
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$$\sigma_l A = \sigma_m A_m + \sigma_f A_f$$

$$\Rightarrow E_l = \frac{A_f}{A} E_f + \frac{A_m}{A} E_m$$

Transverse Elongation



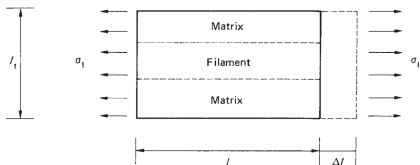
- Stress is fixed, strains differ:

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_t l_t &= \varepsilon_m l_m + \varepsilon_f l_f \\ \Rightarrow \frac{\sigma_t}{E_t} l_t &= \frac{\sigma_t}{E_m} l_m + \frac{\sigma_t}{E_f} l_f \\ \Rightarrow \frac{1}{E_t} &= \frac{1}{E_m} \frac{l_m}{l_t} + \frac{1}{E_f} \frac{l_f}{l_t} \end{aligned}$$

1.3. Constitutive Modeling for Composites

Introduction: Poisson Effects

Axial-Transverse Coupling



- Transverse displacement written as

$$\Delta_t = \nu_m \varepsilon_l l_m + \nu_f \varepsilon_l l_f := \nu_{lt} \varepsilon_l l_t$$

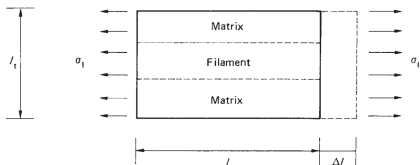
$$\Rightarrow \nu_{lt} = \frac{l_m}{l_t} \varepsilon_l + \frac{l_f}{l_t} \varepsilon_f .$$

(Figures from Megson 2013)

1.3. Constitutive Modeling for Composites

Introduction: Poisson Effects

Axial-Transverse Coupling

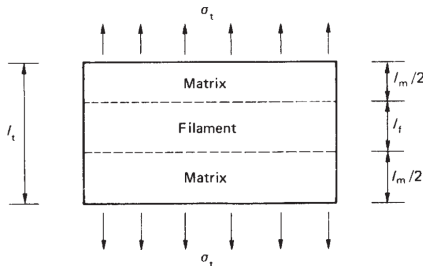


- Transverse displacement written as

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$$\Rightarrow \nu_{lt} = \frac{l_m}{l_t} \varepsilon_l + \frac{l_f}{l_t} \varepsilon_f$$

Transverse-Axial Coupling



- Axial displacement written as

$$\nu_m \frac{\sigma_t}{E_m} = \nu_f \frac{\sigma_t}{E_f} := \nu_{tl} \frac{\sigma_t}{E_t}$$

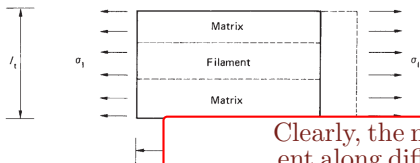
$$\Rightarrow \nu_{tl} = \frac{E_t}{E_l} \nu_{lt}$$

(Figures from Megson 2013)

1.3. Constitutive Modeling for Composites

Introduction: Poisson Effects

Axial-Transverse Coupling



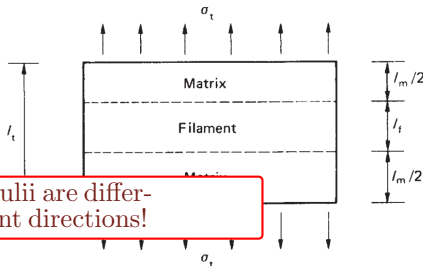
Clearly, the moduli are different along different directions!

- Transverse displacement written as

$$\Delta_t = \nu_m \varepsilon_l l_m + \nu_f \varepsilon_l l_f := \nu_{lt} \varepsilon_l l_t$$

$$\Rightarrow \nu_{lt} = \frac{l_m}{l_t} \varepsilon_l + \frac{l_f}{l_t} \varepsilon_f$$

Transverse-Axial Coupling



- Axial displacement written as

$$\nu_m \frac{\sigma_t}{E_m} = \nu_f \frac{\sigma_t}{E_f} := \nu_{tl} \frac{\sigma_t}{E_t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \nu_{tl} = \frac{E_t}{E_l} \nu_{lt}$$

(Figures from Megson 2013)

1.3. Constitutive Modeling for Composites

Introduction: Anisotropy

General Anisotropy

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} \\ \sigma_{yy} \\ \sigma_{zz} \\ \sigma_{xy} \\ \sigma_{xz} \\ \sigma_{yz} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} & C_{13} & C_{14} & C_{15} & C_{16} \\ C_{12} & C_{22} & C_{23} & C_{24} & C_{25} & C_{26} \\ C_{13} & C_{23} & C_{33} & C_{34} & C_{35} & C_{36} \\ C_{14} & C_{24} & C_{34} & C_{44} & C_{45} & C_{46} \\ C_{15} & C_{25} & C_{35} & C_{45} & C_{55} & C_{56} \\ C_{16} & C_{26} & C_{36} & C_{46} & C_{56} & C_{66} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{xx} \\ \varepsilon_{yy} \\ \varepsilon_{zz} \\ \gamma_{xy} \\ \gamma_{xz} \\ \gamma_{yz} \end{bmatrix}$$

1.3. Constitutive Modeling for Composites

Introduction: Anisotropy

General Anisotropy

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Monoclinic: Single Plane of Symmetry

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} \\ \sigma_{yy} \\ \sigma_{zz} \\ \sigma_{xy} \\ \sigma_{xz} \\ \sigma_{yz} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} & C_{13} & C_{14} & 0 & 0 \\ C_{12} & C_{22} & C_{23} & C_{24} & 0 & 0 \\ C_{13} & C_{23} & C_{33} & C_{34} & 0 & 0 \\ C_{14} & C_{24} & C_{34} & C_{44} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & C_{55} & C_{56} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & C_{56} & C_{66} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{xx} \\ \epsilon_{yy} \\ \epsilon_{zz} \\ \gamma_{xy} \\ \gamma_{xz} \\ \gamma_{yz} \end{bmatrix}$$

1.3. Constitutive Modeling for Composites

Introduction: Anisotropy

Triclinic: Three Planes of Symmetry

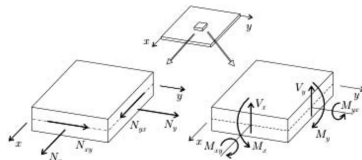
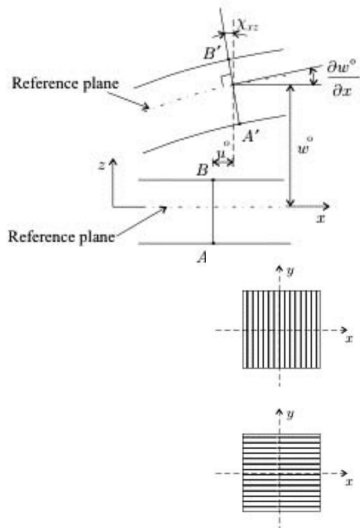
$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} \\ \sigma_{yy} \\ \sigma_{zz} \\ \sigma_{xy} \\ \sigma_{xz} \\ \sigma_{yz} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} & C_{13} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ C_{12} & C_{22} & C_{23} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ C_{13} & C_{23} & C_{33} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & C_{44} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & C_{55} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & C_{66} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{xx} \\ \varepsilon_{yy} \\ \varepsilon_{zz} \\ \gamma_{xy} \\ \gamma_{xz} \\ \gamma_{yz} \end{bmatrix}$$

Transversely Isotropic

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{xx} \\ \sigma_{yy} \\ \sigma_{zz} \\ \sigma_{xy} \\ \sigma_{xz} \\ \sigma_{yz} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} & C_{13} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ C_{12} & C_{22} & C_{13} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ C_{13} & C_{13} & C_{33} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & C_{44} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & C_{44} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{C_{11}-C_{12}}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{xx} \\ \varepsilon_{yy} \\ \varepsilon_{zz} \\ \gamma_{xy} \\ \gamma_{xz} \\ \gamma_{yz} \end{bmatrix}$$

1.4. Classical Laminate Theory

Introduction



Figures from Kollár and Springer 2003

References I

- [1] L. P. Kollár and G. S. Springer. *Mechanics of Composite Structures*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. ISBN: 978-0-521-80165-2. DOI: [10.1017/CB09780511547140](https://doi.org/10.1017/CB09780511547140). URL: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/mechanics-of-composite-structures/804A0A5EE67784D7172E142559979445> (visited on 01/11/2025) (cit. on pp. 2, 17).
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- [6] “Micro-Mechanics of Failure”. Wikipedia, (May 2024). URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Micro-mechanics_of_failure&oldid=1224426361 (visited on 01/22/2025) (cit. on pp. 7, 8).
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