

# Material characterization and failure envelope evaluation of filament wound GFRP and CFRP composite tubes

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## Abstract

The full procedure for material characterization of filament wound composite pipe is here reported and investigated. Two different typologies of composite were used in order to evaluate the goodness of the developed test methodology. Testing samples were produced with glass/vinylester and carbon/epoxy in tubular section by filament winding process.

Split disk and biaxial tests were used to evaluate the basic in plane material properties. A new design for the biaxial test was developed. The end tabs and fixture were made in order to reduce the stress concentration at the edges of the samples and to remove any possibility of sample misalignments. The influence of the sample length as well as the sample preparation was investigated and the best solution reported. Moreover an innovative optical method was developed for the evaluation of the void content of the produced material.

In addition to the basic strength data, the complete failure envelopes in the plane  $\sigma_2 - \tau_{12}$  were also evaluated for both materials by the use of the biaxial test procedure here developed. The experimental failure envelopes were also compared with the prediction made with some of the most common failure theories currently available. The results clearly showed the goodness of Puck criterion to accurately predict the failure envelope (especially when torsion plus axial compressive loads were applied to the samples).

**Keywords:** *Filament Winding Pipe, Material Properties, Biaxial Test, Split Disk Test*

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## 1. Introduction

In the last decade, the use of filament wound composite materials has drastically increased especially when high strengths and good corrosion properties are required. Filament wound composites have been replacing metal alloys in several applications, for example high-pressure vessel in chemical plant or aeronautical/space vehicles, or transportation tubes in oil, gas and nuclear industry, or trusses for tubular structures [1].

The massive use of composites produced by filament winding is increasing the demand for advanced and specialized testing techniques in order to properly characterize the material behaviour/properties. Over the years several methods have been developed to test filament wound component. The ISO 1268-5 standard [2] describe the procedure to produce flat panel by filament winding allowing the use of the classical testing technique developed for flat composites samples. This approach, even if widely used for industrial applications, presents several drawbacks [1]. Interlaminar stresses occur at the free edge of a sample and can lead to the premature failure of the sample inducing the so call 'edge effect' [1]. Moreover the absence of the optimal compaction (due to the winding on flat surface instead of curved one) can produce higher void content and lower fiber fraction compared to those of actual components in filament wound material [3]. For these reasons specialized test methods for tubular/ring samples, have been developed and standardized by ASTM organization [4-7].

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1 In the current work, the complete testing procedure for the material characterization of filament  
2 wound composite material is reported and analysed in details. Both E-Glass/Vinylester and  
3 Carbon/Epoxy composites were tested in order to evaluate the applicability of the test method  
4 to both material systems/fibre types. Two different test methods were used. Ring samples were  
5 tested according to the split disk test procedure [4] to evaluate the properties in the fibre  
6 direction (both modulus and strength). Biaxial tests [5-7], with the combined axial  
7 plus/torsional load, were carried out on tubular samples. The material moduli and strengths  
8 were evaluated in the direction transverse to the fibre in addition to the shear data. A new  
9 design for the fixture and end tabs was developed in order to minimize the stress concentration  
10 effect at the side (end) of the tubular sample.

11 The biaxial test techniques reported in the ASTM standards [5-7] give the possibility to evaluate  
12 the material data when uniaxial axial load conditions are applied to the sample. But all the real  
13 structures are subject to complex load conditions resulting in biaxial or tri axial states of stress  
14 [8]. For this reason the main challenge for the designer is to predict the material failure (from  
15 the uniaxial strength data) when multi axial stress conditions are applied to the structure. In  
16 these conditions failure theories are generally used to predict the damage. These are  
17 mathematical functions, based on experimental or theoretical basis, which predicts the material  
18 failures under complex stress condition using the experimental strength data. In the last thirty  
19 years, several failure theories have been published. Among them Hashin [9, 10], Tsai-Wu [11],  
20 Tsai-Hill [12] and the most recent Puck [13, 14] have been widely used.

21 The developed biaxial test configuration was here used to experimentally evaluate the complete  
22 failure envelope in the plane  $\sigma_2 - \tau_{12}$ . This was then compared with the theoretical envelope  
23 predicted using the failure theories in order to evaluate their accuracy.  
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## 28 **2. Methodology**

### 29 **2.1. Used material**

30 In order to evaluate the goodness of the developed test procedure, two different types of  
31 filament wound composites were characterized. The used materials presented differences in  
32 both the main constituents and production parameters (more details in the following sections).  
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#### 35 *Glass Fibre Reinforced Polymer*

36 Glass Fibre Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) pipes were manufactured using Advantex™ E-Glass  
37 fibres supplied by 3B (bobbins for direct roving) and Dion 9100-61 + Norpol Nr 24 vinylester  
38 system (mix ratio of 100:2 by weight). All pipes were manufactured using a computer-controlled  
39 4 axes filament winding machine (MAW 20 LS 4/1 by Mikrosam). During the production, the  
40 tension of the fibre tows was monitored and kept constant (20N) using a computer based  
41 tensioning system. The pipes were produced on a steel mandrel covered by a PVC pipe (to  
42 prevent any damage on the mandrel during the extraction). Before starting the production, the  
43 PVC pipe was covered by a thick layer of mold release agent (Chemlease 2185 + Renlease  
44 QV5110) to facilitate the mandrel extraction. After the winding, the pipes were cured at room  
45 temperature for 24h, and then post cured at 100° for 1.5h. The samples were produced in long  
46 pipe of approximately 1500 mm and then cut according to the final samples length. All the  
47 samples were accurately examined to verify the absence of delamination close to the cut edges.  
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#### 51 *Carbon Fibre Reinforced Polymer*

52 Carbon fibre reinforced polymer (CFRP) pipes were manufactured using TCR™ high  
53 performance towpreg. Toray M30SC Carbon Fibre 18k and TCR UF3325 epoxy resin were the  
54 main constituents of the used prepreg. A fully automated 4 axes filament winding machine,  
55 produced by Bolenz & Schäfer GmbH, was used for the material production. The fibre tension  
56 was monitored and kept constant at 20N during the production by the use of computer  
57 controlled tensioning system. The prepreg band of 3mm width, were wound over a steel  
58 mandrel covered with mold release agent. Several pipes were produced with an approximately  
59 length of 800mm. After winding, the pipes were cured in two different steps: before 2h at 100 °C  
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and then 4h at 140 °C. The samples were then cut according to the final sample length using a diamond pipe saw. All the samples were accurately checked to verify the absence of delamination or any other type of damage near the cut edges.

All the pipes (for both materials) were produced with a pure hoop layup (approximately 89°, function of the used band width). The winding quality was verified for each produced pipe by comparing the fibre and void contents (more details in the following sections).

## 2.2. Split disk test

The longitudinal properties in the fibre direction ( $E_1$  Young's modulus and  $X_t$  tensile strength), were evaluated by the split disk test following the general suggestions of the ASTM D2290 standard [4]. All the tests (for both materials) were carried out in a hydraulic INSTRON 10 Ton machine and recorded by a digital acquisition system at a sampling rate of 4Hz. All the tests were done in displacement control at a constant displacement of 0.5mm/min. A customized design for the fixture was developed (more details in Figure 1).

The samples presented a pure hoop layup with an internal diameter of  $50.0\pm 0.5$ mm, width of  $10.0\pm 0.5$ mm and thicknesses of  $1.2\pm 0.1$ mm for GFRP  $1.7\pm 0.1$ mm for the CFRP. The sample width was defined in order to have at least two bands of fibre in the width of the sample (band width of approximately 4mm for the GFRP and 3mm for CFRP). This reduced the possible influence of local material imperfection on the obtained results. The thickness instead was chosen in order to obtain the best compromise between: the number of overlapped layers and the final sample thickness. The increase of the overlapped layers of fibre was necessary in order to guarantee a homogeneous coverage of the mandrel (affected by the possible variation of the fibre band width during the production). On the other hand, there was the necessity to keep a lower material thickness in order to not overcome the design load of the fixtures.

A total of 20 samples for GFRP and 15 for CFRP were tested (less samples for CFRP due to the material limitation). Ten samples for each material were also equipped, according to Yoon [15], with one unidirectional strain gauge to evaluate the elastic modulus ( $E_1$ ). As suggested in [15], the strain gauges were placed in the part of the sample directly in contact with the fixture (see Figure 1) in order to avoid the bending effect of the middle part of the sample. In order to reduce the effect of the friction, liquid lubricant was applied on the fixture surface (contact part with the sample).

The elastic modulus  $E_1$  was calculated by the evaluation of the slope in the linear part of the stress-strain curves (from strain gauge). The strength instead was calculated according to the ASTM D2290 [4] by the Eq. 1.

$$X_t = \frac{P}{2A_{max}} \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

Where

$X_t$ =Ultimate tensile strength [MPa]

P= maximum load [N] evaluated by the machine (load cell) data

$A_{max}$ = minimum cross sectional area of the sample [mm<sup>2</sup>]

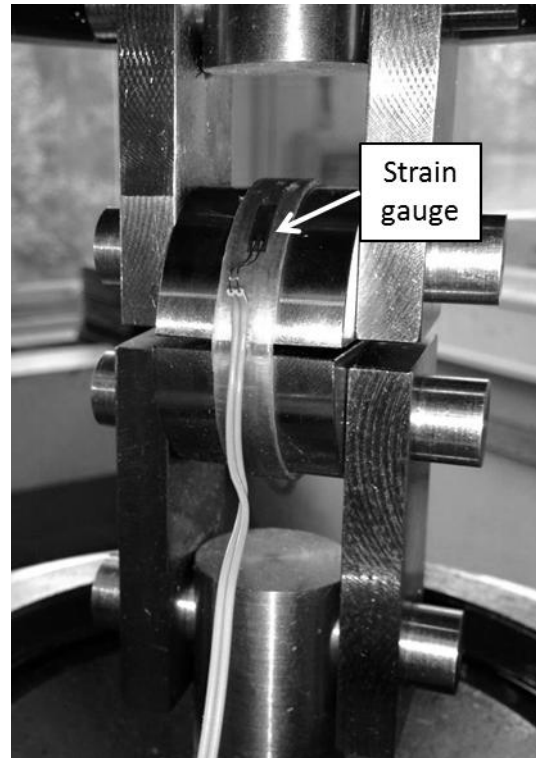
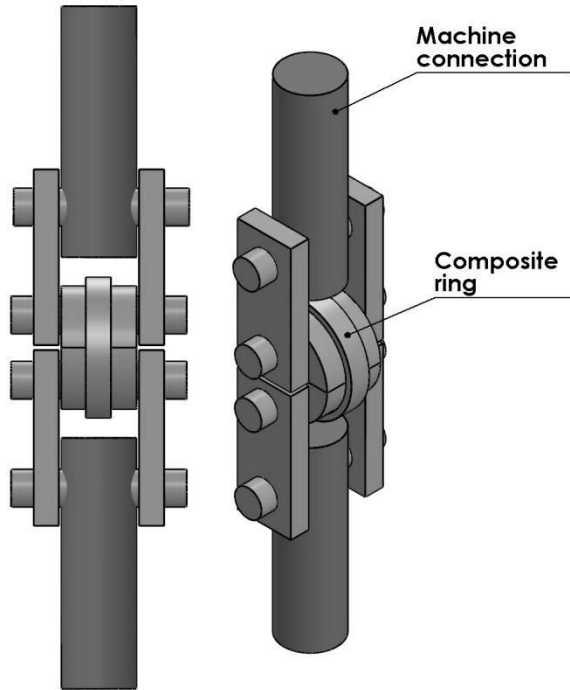


Figure 1: Split disk test fixture with the strain gauge positioning

### 2.3. Biaxial tests

The material properties in the direction transverse to the fibre ( $E_2$  modulus,  $Y_t$  tensile strength,  $Y_c$  compressive strength) in addition to the shear modulus ( $G_{12}$ ) and strength ( $S_{12}$ ) were tested using filament wound tubular samples by an hydraulic multi axes (axial or/plus torsional loads) test machine INSTRON 8550. In addition to the basic material properties, the complete failure envelopes in the plane  $\sigma_2 - \tau_{12}$  were also evaluated for both materials. The experimental failure envelopes were then compared with some of the most popular failure theories in order to evaluate their capabilities to predict the damage under complex multi-axial loading conditions.

#### *Sample dimension and preparation*

During the preliminary test phase, it was observed that several parameters (as sample's geometry, end tabs, fixture and sample preparation) played a critical role in order to obtain the correct damage.

The sample dimensions were initially defined according to the suggestions provided by Whitney et al. [16] and Vicario et al. [17] to design thin walled filament wound tubular specimens. According to their suggestions, the sample radius divided by the length ( $R/L$ ) should be less than 0.1, while the radius divided by the thickness ( $R/t$ ) should be higher than 10. The samples used in this work, presented an internal diameter of 50mm and length of 120mm with a thickness  $2.4 \pm 0.2$ mm for GFRP and  $1.7 \pm 0.1$ mm for CFRP. These dimensions only partially fulfilled the suggestions reported before, resulting in  $R/L = 0.2$  (suggested  $< 0.1$ ) with  $R/t = 10.4$  for GFRP and  $R/t = 14.7$  for CFRP (suggested  $> 10$ ). As reported by Mistry et al. [18], the increase of the  $R/L$  ratio can result in a higher influence of the end fitting with more sensitivity to the axial load. For this reason several preliminary tests were done in order to evaluate the influence of the sample length (with the designed end tabs – more detail after) to the axial load. The results showed that a decrease of the samples length (with the consequent increase of the  $R/L$  ratio) did not affect significantly the results. Due to the limited amount of available material, the reduction of the sample length resulted in the possibility to perform more tests.

An customized design was developed for the machine fixtures in order to prevent any sample misalignment and any source of stress concentration. Schematic drawings of the sample and fixture geometries are shown in Figure 3. The end tabs were designed to reduce the production cost (important due to the impossibility to re-use the tab after the test) and provide a fast sample alignment with the possibility of using different samples thickness. The tabs were designed with a trapezoidal section providing a precise and fast sample alignment and leaving the required space for the glue (the details drawings are reported in Figure 3.c). The tabs were optimized to be produced in aluminium by lathe (speeding up the production). The preliminary test phase clearly highlighted the crucial importance of the glue (between the tabs and sample) in order to obtain the correct results/failure mode. Several different types of epoxy based glues were tested. The best results were obtained using structural bi-components epoxy based glue Araldite 2015 cured for 15h at 40°C. The selected glue, specific for metal composite bonding, provided the required strengths coupled with the ability to fill the small gap between the sample and the tab. After the application of the glue, the tabs and the sample were aligned using an internal tube (covered with a non-stick Teflon layer). Even with all the expedients previously reported, the samples preparation was time consuming and needed a lot of experience in order to obtain good results. A total of 22 samples of GFRP and 33 of CFRP were prepared and tested.

All the samples were equipped with unidirectional or three axial strain gauges according to the specific tests type:

- Pure axial load (tension or compression): 2/3 UD strain gauges around the sample midsection (according to the ASTM D5450 [5]/ASTM D5449 [6])
- Pure torsional load: 2 three-axial (rosette) strain gauges placed at 180° around the sample midsection (according to ASTM D5448 [7])
- Multi-axes loads: 2/3 UD strain gauges around the sample midsection

#### *Load configurations*

In order to evaluate the complete failure envelope (in the plane  $\sigma_2 - \tau_{12}$ ) in addition of the basic material properties, four combinations of axial and/or torsional loads were tested:

- **Pure axial load:** pure axial load (tension or compression) was applied until the final failure. The torsion was monitored and kept at zero.
- **Pure shear:** pure torsion was applied to the samples until the final failure. The axial load was monitored and kept at zero.
- **Shear + axial load:** pure torsion was applied to the sample up a to a fixed value. Subsequently, the axial load (tension or compression) was applied until the final failure (keeping the torsion load constant).
- **Axial load + shear:** pure axial compression or tension load was applied to the sample up a to a fixed value. Subsequently, torsion was applied until the final failure (keeping the axial load constant).

#### *Data analysis*

Tension/compression modulus was evaluated using the initial linear part of the strain stress curve measured by the strain gauges. The failure strength (tension/compression) was calculated, according to the ASTM D5450 [5]/ASTM D5449 [6], by the Eq. 2:

$$Y_{t/c} = \frac{P_{max}}{A_{min}} \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

Where

$Y_{t/c}$  = Ultimate tensile/compressive strength [MPa]

$P_{max}$  = maximum load [N] (tension/compression) carried by the sample

$A_{min}$  = minimum cross sectional area of the sample [mm<sup>2</sup>]

The shear modulus was evaluated, according to the ASTM D5448 [7], by the Eq. 3:

$$G_{12} = \frac{\Delta_{12}}{\Delta\gamma_{12}} \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

Where:

$G_{12}$  = in plane shear modulus [GPa]

$\Delta\tau_{12}$  = variation in the applied shear stress between two strain points (generally 1000 $\mu\epsilon$  and 6000  $\mu\epsilon$ )

$\Delta\gamma_{12}$  = difference between the two shear strain points (generally 1000 $\mu\epsilon$  and 6000  $\mu\epsilon$ )

The shear strength was evaluated, according to the ASTM D5448 [7], by the Eq. 4:

$$S_{12} = \frac{T_{max} r_{max}}{J} \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

Where:

$T_{max}$  = the maximum torque applied to the cylinder [Nm]

$J$  = the polar moment of inertia calculated as:

$$J = \frac{\pi}{32} (OD^4 - ID^4) \quad \text{Eq. 5}$$

$OD$  = Outer diameter     $ID$  = Inner diameter

$r_{max}$  = the maximum radial distance ( $r_{max} = OD/2$ )

## 2.4. Failure Envelope ( $\sigma_2 - \tau_{12}$ )

The experimental failure envelopes in the plane  $\sigma_2 - \tau_{12}$  were compared with some of the classical failure theories used for composite materials. A short summary of the used theories is reported here. All the equations are reported assuming the stresses in the fibre direction  $\sigma_1 = 0$ , with  $\sigma_2$  the stress in the transverse direction and  $\tau_{12}$  the shear stress.

### **Max Stress criterion [19]**

This criterion assumes no interaction between the different failure modes. The damage is predicted when one of the follow criteria is verified:

$$\begin{cases} \sigma_2 \geq Y_t & \text{for } \sigma_2 < 0 \\ \sigma_2 \geq Y_c & \text{for } \sigma_2 > 0 \\ \tau_{12} \geq S_{12} \end{cases} \quad \text{Eq. 6}$$

### **Tsai - Wu [11]**

This is a quadratic interaction failure criterion in which all the strength data are used to create the failure surface. The failure is predicted when the following equation is verified.

$$\left(\frac{1}{Y_t} - \frac{1}{Y_c}\right)\sigma_2 + \frac{\sigma_2^2}{Y_t Y_c} + \left(\frac{\tau_{12}}{S_{12}}\right)^2 \geq 1 \quad \text{Eq. 7}$$

### **Tsai - Hill [12]**

This criterion distinguishes between the different failure modes and it is based on a modified version of the yield criterion for metals.

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\sigma_2}{Y^2}\right) + \frac{\tau_{12}}{S_{12}^2} \geq 1 & \quad Y = Y_t \text{ for } \sigma_1 > 0 \\ Y = Y_c \text{ for } \sigma_1 < 0 \end{aligned} \quad \text{Eq. 8}$$

### Hashin 1973 [10]

This is a stress based failure criterion developed for unidirectional composite.

$$\begin{cases} \left(\frac{\sigma_2}{Y_t}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\tau_{12}}{S_{12}}\right)^2 \geq 1 & \text{for } \sigma_2 > 0 \\ \left(\frac{\sigma_2}{Y_c}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\tau_{12}}{S_{12}}\right)^2 \geq 1 & \text{for } \sigma_2 < 0 \end{cases}$$

Eq. 9

### Puck [13, 14, 20]

Due to the complexity of the Puck [13, 14, 20] failure theory, no details are reported in the present work. More details can be found in the publications by Puck [13, 14, 20].

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Fibre volume fraction and micrograph analysis

The fibre volume fraction ( $V_f$ ) was evaluated for both materials by ignition loss tests according to the ASTM D 2584 [21]. At least two samples for each of the produced pipes were tested in order to evaluate the winding quality. All the pipes showed similar  $V_f$  with a variance within  $\pm 2\%$  (this can be considered an acceptable value for filament winding material [1]). The measured fibre volume fraction was  $45.7 \pm 0.5\%$  for the GFRP and  $65.5 \pm 1\%$  for the CFRP. As reported by Peter [1], the void content considerably influence the transverse (to the fibre) material properties. For this reason, one sample for each of the produced pipes (GFRP and CFRP) was inspected under an optical microscope in order to have an evaluation of the void content. A representative sample for each type of composite is reported in Figure 2. Both materials showed a high quantity of voids (black spot in Figure 2). These are mainly related to the production process and are almost impossible to avoid. An automated computer based optical technique was developed in Matlab in order to get an estimation of the void content directly from the micrographic optical images of the samples. The voids were found using a Watershed transformation while fibres were found using an edge detection algorithm based on circular Hough transform. This enables one to obtain statistics about fiber radius in addition to fibre fraction. The measured void content was approximately 2% for the GFRP and 4% for CFRP.

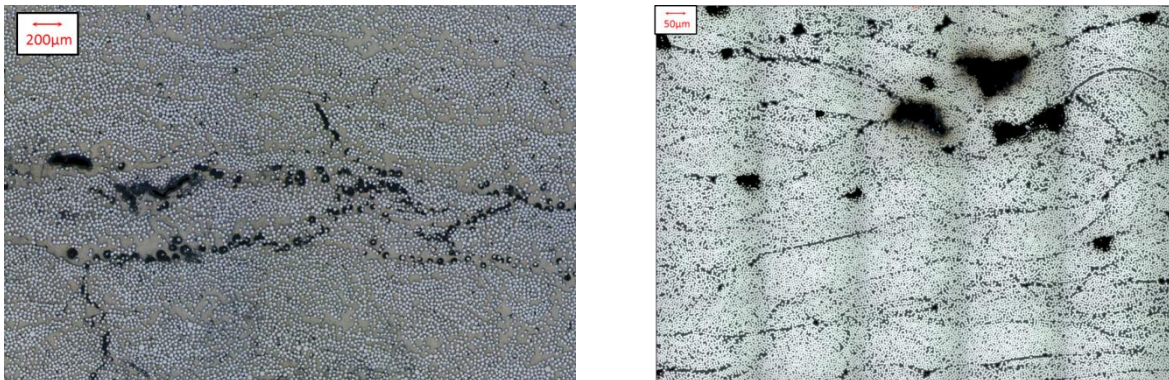


Figure 2: Optical micrograph pictures of the produced material (plane normal to the fibre direction)

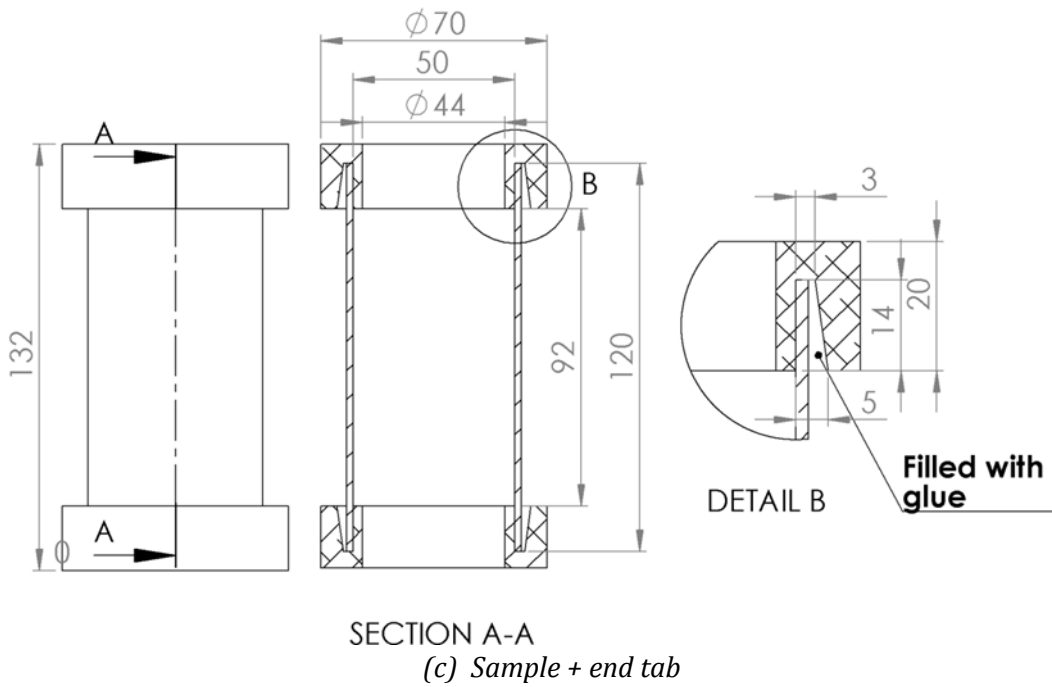
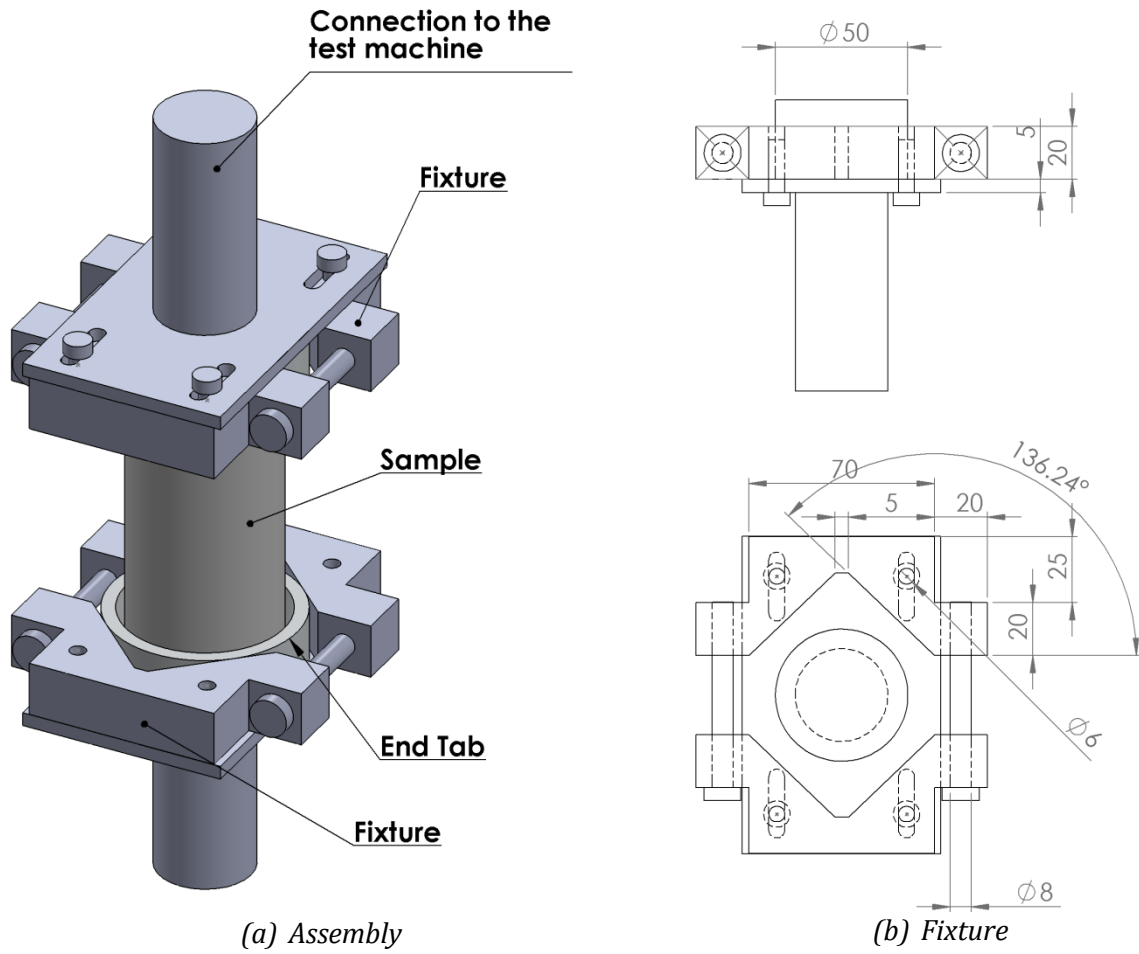


Figure 3: Biaxial test geometry



### 3.2. Split disk tests

The results for each sample are reported in Figure 4 , Figure 5 and Table 1. The results showed a high scatter of the measured failure strength for both GFRP and CFRP composites. Both materials showed an almost linear behaviour up to the final failure. This was characterized by a loud bang with the simultaneously catastrophic damage of the samples. Furthermore in almost all the tests, even if no variations were reported in the force/displacement curves (Figure 4 and Figure 5), a noise was noticed few second before the final failure, which is a clear evidence of some damage prior to the final failure. Using a digital camera, it was possible to realize that before the final failure a long matrix crack developed along the fibre direction over the entire sample, almost dividing the sample in two different parts. A different material thickness and/or sample width could have mitigated this phenomenon. Further investigations need to be done in order to evaluate the possible influences of this problem on the results.

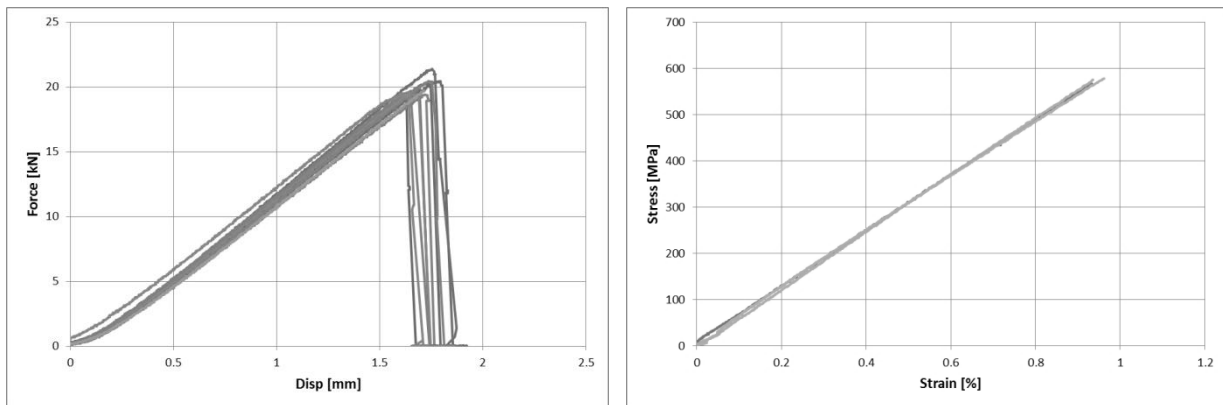


Figure 4: GFRP - Force/Disp. and Stress/Strain curve for the Split Disk Test

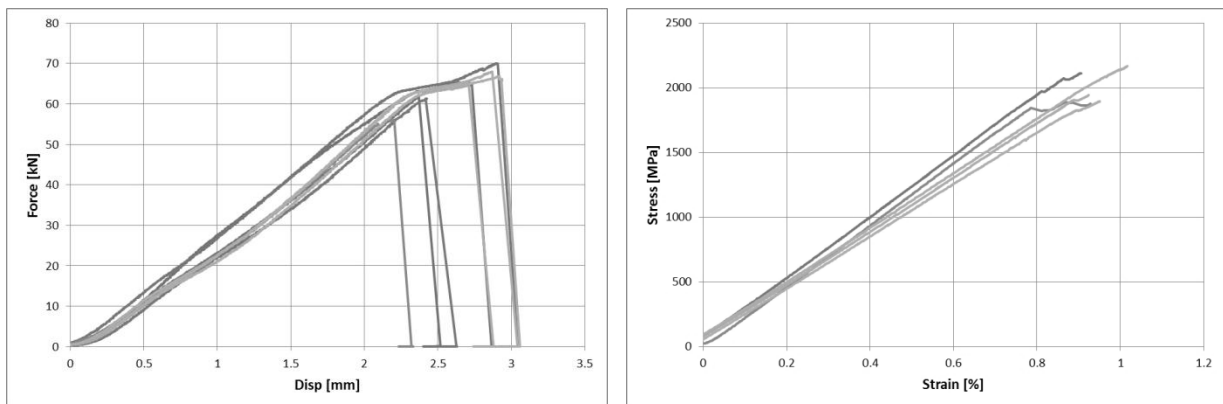


Figure 5: CFRP - Force/Disp. and Stress/Strain curve for the Split Disk Test

### 3.3. Biaxial tests

The results of the biaxial tests for both materials are reported in Figure 6 and Table 1. As suggested by the ASTM standards (D5450 [5], D5449 [6] and D5448 [7]), the data recorded by the different strain gauges for each sample, were compared in order to evaluate any possible misalignment. For the results reported here, this variation was within 5%. Few tests (not reported here) failed this requirement clearly showing the goodness of the designed fixtures and end tabs.

Both tested composite showed a similar behaviour. The pure tensile and compressive tests (plots not reported here) presented an almost linear behaviour up to the final failure. The damage was unexpected with no variation in the force displacement curve prior the final failure. The damage was located in the middle section (gauge section) as required by the standards. Only few samples (less than 6% of the total testes samples) showed damage in proximity of the end tab.

1 The test response was instead different for the pure torsional load where the samples showed a  
2 highly nonlinear behaviour up to the final failure. In this case, the failure was progressive with  
3 an accumulation of damage (mainly matrix cracks) over the whole sample. Matrix cracks were  
4 easily audible during the tests. The final failure was smooth and proceeded with a clear drop of  
5 the measured torque.

6 The combination of axial and torsional loads resulted instead in a mix of the two behaviours  
7 previously reported. The highly nonlinear behaviour seen for the pure torsional load, was  
8 reduced when an axial compressive load was applied to the sample. Moreover the scatter  
9 between the different tests curves was reduced when axial plus torsional loads were applied. No  
10 substantial variation were reported inverting the load application sequence (axial and then  
11 torsional load or torsional and then axial load). The curves as well as the measured material data  
12 did not show any substantial variation.

13 Due to the capability of the control system of the test machine, it was impossible to verify the  
14 influence of a simultaneous application of axial and torsional loads. Future investigation  
15 should be carried out to investigate the influence of the load application on the results.  
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### 19 *Failure envelopes*

20 In Figure 6, the experimental failure envelopes (in the plane  $\sigma_2 - \tau_{12}$ ) were compared with the  
21 analytical predictions made with some of the most used failure theories for composite (more  
22 details in the previous section).

23 The failure envelope in case of tension plus torsional loads was accurately predicted by all the  
24 theories. More difficult was the evaluation of the failure envelope when compression plus  
25 torsional loads were simultaneously applied to the samples. The results showed that the  
26 Hashin/Tsai-Hill failure theories, highly underestimated the damage. More accurate results were  
27 predicted by the Tsai-Wu and Puck failure theories. Even if both theories provided quite  
28 satisfactory results, Puck's theory was able to better capture the proper drop of the shear  
29 strength increasing the axial compressive load.  
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31 The fracture surfaces of the different samples were also analysed. These results showed,  
32 according to the Puck's theory [13, 14, 20], the presence of a fracture angle (angle of the crack  
33 propagation) different than 0 (crack perpendicular to the sample surface). Due to the limited  
34 thickness of both investigated materials, it was impossible to properly evaluate the fracture angle.  
35 Further investigations, using a thicker material, are needed to evaluate the variation of the  
36 fracture angle with the  $\sigma_2/Y_c$  ratio according to the Puck's theory.  
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### 40 **3.4. Discussion**

41 The material properties measured for both two materials have been summarized in the Table 1.  
42 Almost all the measured data showed quite high scatter. This effect can mainly be related to the  
43 production process. As already reported by several authors [1, 3, 22], the filament winding  
44 process does not allow a perfect homogeneous material quality, even using a computerized machine  
45 with a full control of all the production parameters. Voids, local fibre damage and local thickness  
46 variation can lead to higher scatter of the results.  
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48 Flat panels were also produced with the same constituents (for both composite) winding a  
49 unidirectional pattern over a flat mandrel according to the ISO 1268-5 standard [2]. These were  
50 then tested following the classical test techniques for flat composite material [23-25].

51 Even if the same constituents were used, the material quality was highly affected. The fibre  
52 volume fraction was comparable but the void content was much higher for flat samples. This can  
53 be related to the lack of optimal compaction during the production (induced by the curved  
54 surfaces of mandrel for cylindrical samples). The results showed a reduction of the measured  
55 properties (mainly for the strengths data) of around 50% compared to the tests carried out on  
56 the cylindrical samples. These results clearly showed the necessity to evaluate the material  
57 properties on the real produced material. The classical tests method for flat composite cannot be  
58 used to test filament wound material. Cylindrical structures need to be used instead.  
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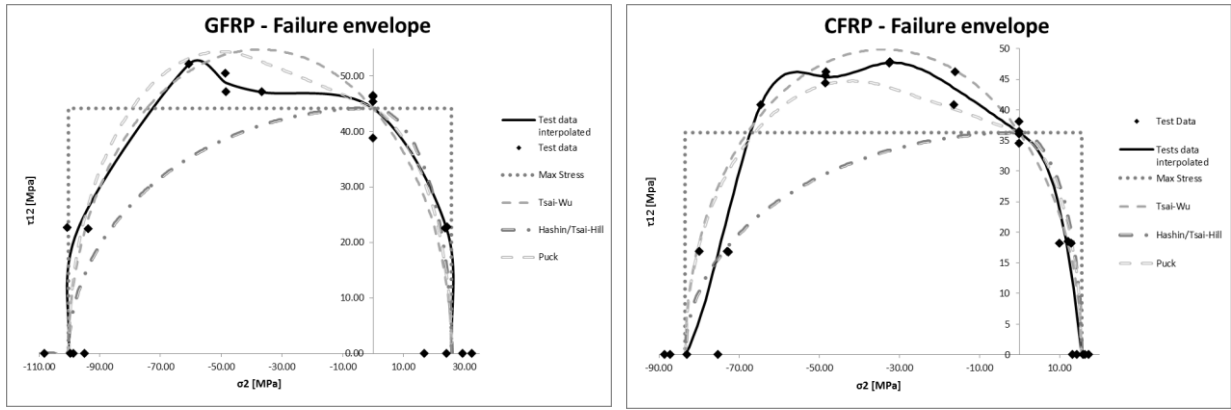


Figure 6: Failure envelopes

Table 1: Measured material properties

Properties	CFRP	CFRP
$V_f$	45.7 [%]	61.5 ( $\pm 1$ ) [%]
$E_1$	61.5 ( $\pm 4.5$ ) [GPa]	222.5 ( $\pm 18.7$ ) [GPa] Tension
$X_t$	837.8 ( $\pm 58.0$ ) [MPa]	1947.0 ( $\pm 141.9$ ) [MPa]
$E_2$	13.93 ( $\pm 1.1$ ) [GPa] Tension 10.36 ( $\pm 2.1$ ) [GPa] Compression	7.27 ( $\pm 0.5$ ) [GPa] Tension 6.57 ( $\pm 0.5$ ) [GPa] Compression
$Y_t$	25.83 ( $\pm 1.1$ ) [MPa]	15.49 ( $\pm 2.5$ ) [MPa]
$Y_c$	100.29 ( $\pm 5.0$ ) [MPa]	83.46 ( $\pm 10.3$ ) [MPa]
$G_{12}$	1.43 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) [GPa]	1.7 ( $\pm 0.1$ ) [GPa]
$S_{12}$	44.24 ( $\pm 3.1$ ) [MPa]	36.25 ( $\pm 1.3$ ) [MPa]
$\nu_{12}$	Assumed 0.30	

#### 4. Conclusion

The full material characterization procedure for filament wound glass and carbon fibre composite was reported here. The different test technique were here analysed and the detailed description of the used method reported.

The capability of the split disk test to evaluate the material strength as well as the modulus in the fibre direction was demonstrated. A new design for the biaxial tests was developed. The end tabs were designed in order to facilitate the sample preparation and avoid any possibility of misalignment and stress concentration. Moreover particular attention was placed on the production cost and the versatility of the procedure (usable with different material thicknesses). The best sample geometry was defined after a series of preliminary experimental tests varying the samples length. A higher radius/length ratio was defined for the sample compared to the suggestions provided by other authors [16, 17]. This gave the possibility to carry out more tests with the same amount of material.

The complete failure envelope, in the plane  $\sigma_2 - \tau_{12}$ , was also evaluated. The experimental data were compared with the prediction of some of the most common failure theories currently used. The results showed the capability of the Puck's failure theory accurately predict the complete failure envelope.

Moreover an innovative optical method for the evaluation of the void content was developed and here used with encouraging results.

1 Due to the increasing use of filament wound structures, further investigations should also  
2 evaluate the capability of the developed test techniques to evaluate the fatigue properties.  
3

## 4 **5. Acknowledgements**

5 This work is part of the collaborative project "Composite structures under impact loading". The  
6 authors would like to express their thanks for the financial support by the Norwegian Research  
7 Council (grant 193238/i40) and the industrial partners. The authors would also like to thank all  
8 partners in the project for constructive discussions.  
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