


Lecture Notes in Mechanical Engineering

Chander Prakash  
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# Contents

<b>On Study of Stress Intensity Factors for Different FGM Plates Having Inclined Edge Crack Using Extended Finite Element Method . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
Vikas Goyat, Suresh Verma, and Ramesh Kumar Garg	
<b>Analysis of Sensitization in Austenitic Stainless Steel-Welded Joint . . . .</b>	<b>13</b>
Hitesh Arora, Viranshu Kumar, Chander Prakash, Danil Pimenov, Mandeep Singh, Hitesh Vasudev, and Vishaldeep Singh	
<b>Comparative Analysis on Mechanical Properties of Al 6061 and Al 7075 Cross Matrix Composites . . . . .</b>	<b>25</b>
R. Balaji, J. V. Muruga Lal Jeyan, A. Basithrahman, Talasila Estheru Rani, and S. Abirami	
<b>Tensile and Flexural Behaviour of Areca Husk Fibre Reinforced Epoxy Composite . . . . .</b>	<b>35</b>
Sakshi S. Kamath, D. N. Punith, S. Preetham, S. N. Gautham, Janardhan, K. Lalith Yashwanth, and Basavaraju Bennehalli	
<b>Control Techniques and Failure Mode of Active Magnetic Bearing in Machine Tool System . . . . .</b>	<b>45</b>
Shishir Bisht, Nitin Kumar Gupta, and G. D. Thakre	
<b>A Technological Review on Temperature Measurement Techniques in Various Machining Processes . . . . .</b>	<b>55</b>
Vineet Dubey, Anuj Kumar Sharma, and Rabesh Kumar Singh	
<b>Development of a Model for the Number of Bends During Stirrup Making Process . . . . .</b>	<b>69</b>
S. N. Waghmare, Sagar D. Shelare, C. K. Tembhurkar, and S. B. Jawalekar	
<b>Numerical Analysis of Heat Transfer in Ferrofluid Under Constant External Magnetic Field . . . . .</b>	<b>79</b>
Jaswinder Singh Mehta, Rajesh Kumar, Harmesh Kumar, and Harry Garg	

  
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<b>Formulation of a Mathematical Model for Quantity of Deshelled Nut in Charoli Nut Deshelling Machine</b> .....	89
Sagar D. Shelare, Ravinder Kumar, and Pravin B. Khope	
<b>On Investigation of Dimensional Deviation for Hybrid Composite Matrix of PLA</b> .....	99
Sudhir Kumar, Rupinder Singh, T. P. Singh, and Ajay Batish	
<b>Performance Evaluation of Graphene-Gear Oil Nanolubricants in Rayleigh Step Bearing</b> .....	109
Gaurab Kumar Ghosh, Ankit Kotia, Niranjana Kumar, and Subrata Kumar Ghosh	
<b>The Effect of Two-Step Austempering on Abrasion Wear Characteristics of the Ductile Cast Iron</b> .....	119
C. S. Wadageri, R. V. Kurahatti, Dayanand M. Goudar, Vijaykumar Hiremath, and V. Auradi	
<b>Effect of Particle Content and Temperature on Steady-State Creep in Thick Composite Cylinder</b> .....	127
Gagandeep Singh Kohli, Tejeet Singh, and Harwinder Singh	
<b>Comparative Study on Wind Tunnel Calibrating Instruments</b> .....	139
Akhila Rupesh, J. V. Muruga Lal Jeyan, V. M. Ram Mohan, K. Praveen Kumar, T. Abhishek, T. Ashish, K. V. V. M. Reddy, and Greeshma Maddireddy	
<b>Wear and Friction Study of the Coated Piston Rings Material</b> .....	149
Vinayak Goel, Mudit Shukla, and Vipin Kumar Sharma	
<b>Thermal Conductivity Analysis of Graphene Oxide Nanofluid Using Three-Level Factorial Design</b> .....	161
Munish Gupta, Jodh Singh, Harmesh Kumar, and Rajesh Kumar	
<b>Design Optimization of Go-Kart Chassis Frame Using Modal Analysis</b> .....	171
A. A. Dere, Manpreet Singh, A. Thakan, Rajeev Kumar, and Harpreet Singh	
<b>Effect of Process Parameters on Water Absorption and Impact Strength of Hybrid PLA Composites</b> .....	187
Guravtar Singh Mann, Lakhwinder Pal Singh, Pramod Kumar, and Sunpreet Singh	
<b>Comparative Investigation of Different Types of Cutting Fluid in Minimum Quantity Lubrication Machining Using CFD</b> .....	199
Payal Chauhan, Anjali Gupta, Amit Kumar Thakur, and Rajesh Kumar	



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<b>To Study the Effect of Loading on Defect Signature by Using Statistical Parameters</b> .....	209
Rajeev Kumar, Manpreet Singh, Jaiinder Preet Singh, Piyush Gulati, and Harpreet Singh	
<b>Vibration Analysis of Carbon Fiber and Glass Fiber Composite Beam</b> .....	223
Ajay Kumar Kaviti and Amit Kumar Thakur	
<b>Analysis of Transient Thermal Temperature Distribution Over Service Life of Taper Roller Bearing Using FEA</b> .....	231
Rajeev Kumar, Manpreet Singh, Jujhar Singh, and Siddique Khan	
<b>Incipient Fault Detection in Roller Bearing Using Ultrasonic Diagnostic Technique</b> .....	243
Shashikant Pandey, P. Sateesh Kumar, M. Amarnath, Teki Tanay Kumar, and Paladugu Rakesh	
<b>Comparative Analysis of Imaging and Novel Markerless Approach for Measurement of Postural Parameters in Dental Seating Tasks</b> .....	253
Vibha Bhatia, Jagjit Singh Randhawa, Ashish Jain, and Vishakha Grover	



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# Tensile and Flexural Behaviour of Areca Husk Fibre Reinforced Epoxy Composite



Sakshi S. Kamath, D. N. Punith, S. Preetham, S. N. Gautham, Janardhan, K. Lalith Yashwanth, and Basavaraju Bennehalli

**Abstract** Nowadays, because of the issues related to the environment, it is becoming mandatory for the usage of eco-friendly products for betterment of the people. Hence, here is an attempt made where the harmful synthetic fibre composites used for marine, automobile, constructive applications can be replaced by eco-friendly, biodegradable natural areca fibre composites. Physical properties of areca husk fibre were studied, and it revealed that maximum fibres have length range from 40 to 50 mm with the diameter ranging from 0.200 to 0.299 mm. These untreated and 1% NaOH treated fibres were used for composite fabrication at different fibre loadings like 45, 50, 55, 60, and 65%. It was found that 50% is the optimum fibre percentage. Tensile strength and flexural strength for untreated fibre composite at 50% fibre loading were found to be 7.40 N/mm<sup>2</sup> and 4.01 N/mm<sup>2</sup>, respectively, and 54.91 N/mm<sup>2</sup> and 6.81 N/mm<sup>2</sup>, respectively, for alkali-treated fibre composites.

**Keywords** Areca husk fibre · Mercerization · Linear density diameter method · Tensile testing · Flexural testing

## 1 Introduction

Increasing environmental awareness and decrease in fossil fuels are influencing researchers to use biodegradable natural material in composite manufacture as the substitute for synthetic fibres. The non-biodegradability, environmental impact and high cost of the synthetic fibres used as the reinforcing material in the composite manufacture is questioning the mankind about its usage and hence finding an alternative for using natural fibres as the substitute for composite fabrication [1]. The advantages

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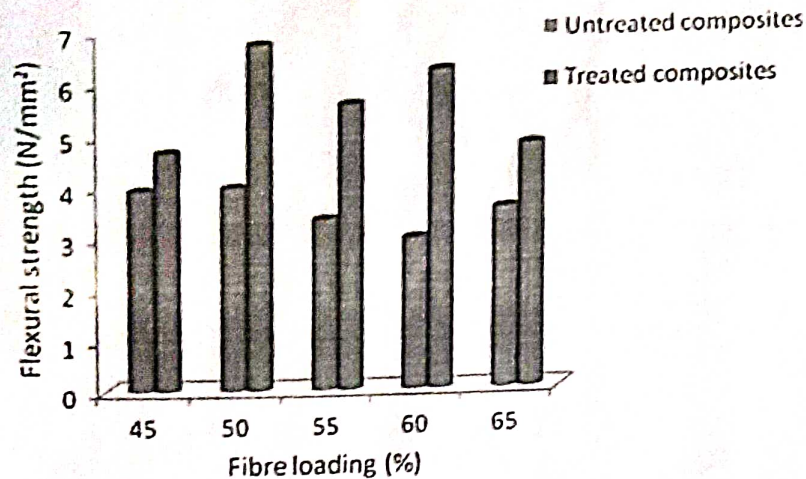


Fig. 7 Comparative study of flexural strength

50% fibre concentration. The reason for this is, at greater fibre concentration, clustering of fibre takes place which results in non-uniform transfer of stress from fibre to resin.

#### 4 Conclusion

The tensile and flexural behaviour of raw and 1% NaOH treated fibres were studied at different fibre loadings from 45% to 65%. The study witnessed that in both the cases, strength is maximum at 50% fibre loading. Hence, 50% fibre loading is selected as optimum loading for future work. The comparative studies revealed that tensile strength and flexural strength of 1% NaOH treated fibre composites are elevated compared to untreated fibre composites. Hence, it proves that mercerization enhances the properties of composites and the need for the identification of different chemical treatments possible which would improve the strength of composites becomes necessary.

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