

CHAPTER NO. 16 'COMPOSITES'

What are the four main types of materials.

- (i) Metals
- (ii) Ceramics
- (iii) Composites
- (iv) Polymers.

Define Ceramics and give examples.

Ceramics are compounds composed of metallic and non-metallic elements bonded together through ionic and covalent bonds.

Example:- Alumina, SiC, porcelain etc.

Define Composites and give examples.

Composites are materials made from two distinct constituent materials with different physical or chemical properties.

Example.

- (i) Wood (cellulose fibre in lignin matrix)
- (ii) Bone (collagen & calcium)
- (iii) Safety helmets and bullet proof vests.
- (iv) Fiber glass tanks (fiber glass, re-enforced plastic)
- (v) plywood
- (vi) Mud & straw plaster/Bricks.
- (vii) Reinforced Cement Concrete
- (viii) Boats, sports equipment

Why do we use composites in comparison to other materials.

Metals do have intermediate strength, moduli and good ductility but they are heavy

Metals Polymers Ceramics

↓ ↓ ↓

Polymer are light weight, low cost but have low strength and low moduli and large strains

strong
stiff
but
brittle

* Furthermore engineering applications often require combinational properties ∴ composites are used.

Example:-

Aerospace industries would require strong stiff, light weight and abrasion resistant materials.

⇒ available strong materials like metals/ ceramics may be too heavy/dense.

⇒ while light weight polymers are not good abrasion resistant and lack strength.

Therefore we use composites like 'PMCs, CMCs and MRACs'.

Other examples in;

Automobile,

transportation, sports industry etc.



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Question:- Describe and enlist the components of composites.

Following are the components of a composite.

(i) Matrix

Continuous phase that holds the composite together, provides cohesion, shape and support. example; maybe; metal, polymer or ceramic.

(ii) Re-enforced materials:-

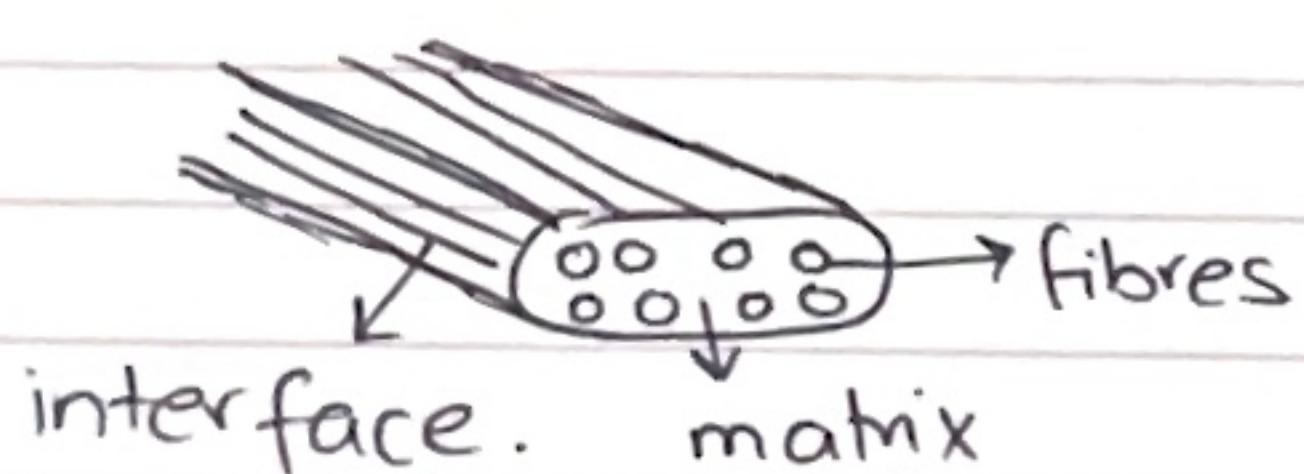
discontinuous phase that is dispersed in the matrix; provides strength, stiffness, and specific properties.

They are materials like glass, carbon, aramid or natural fibers.

(iii) Interface :-

Region where the matrix interacts with the re-enforcing material.

Crucial for stress transfer and load distribution.



Question:-
How can composites be classified?

Composites may be classified w.r.t to:-

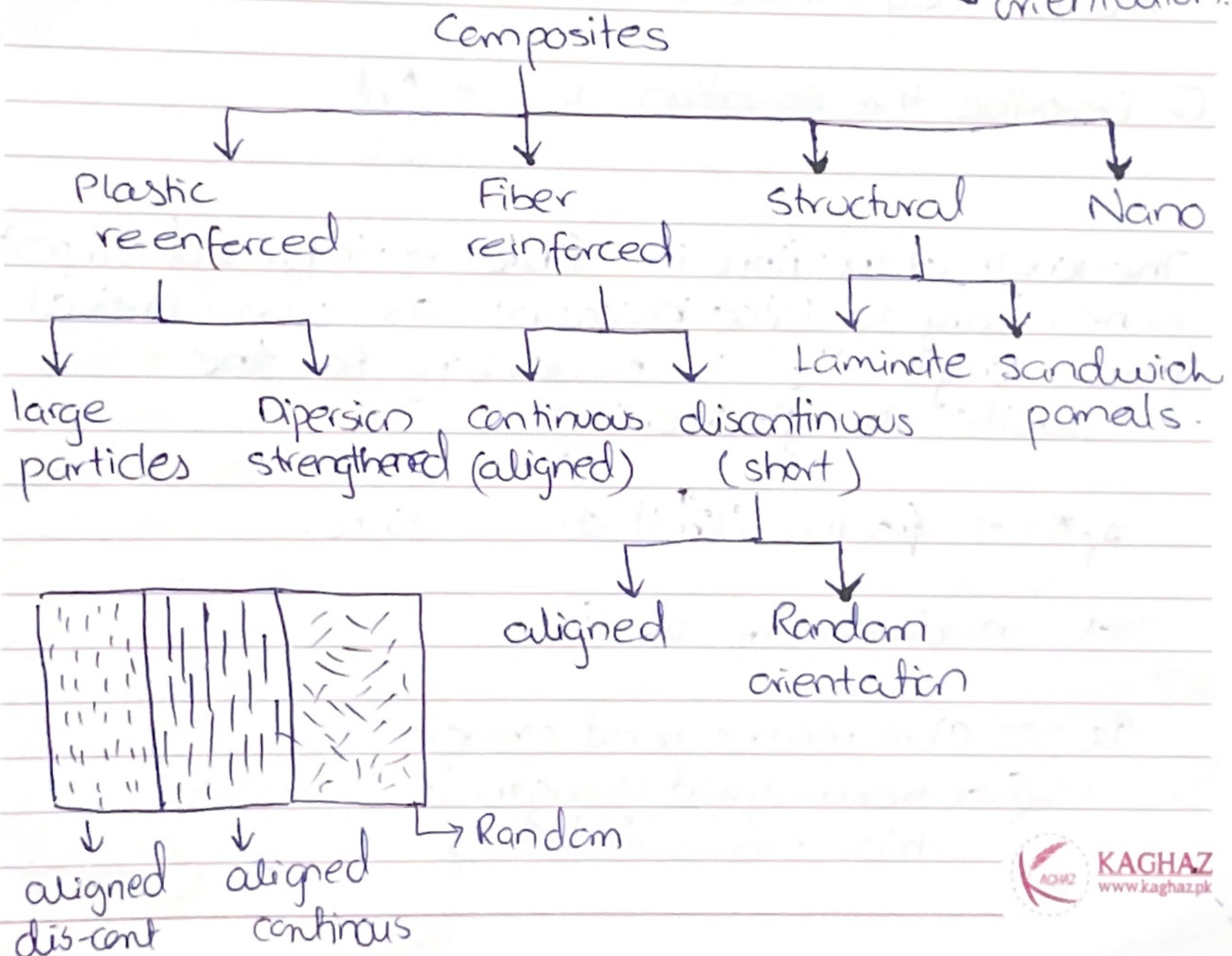
(i) Matrix material → Polymer matrix

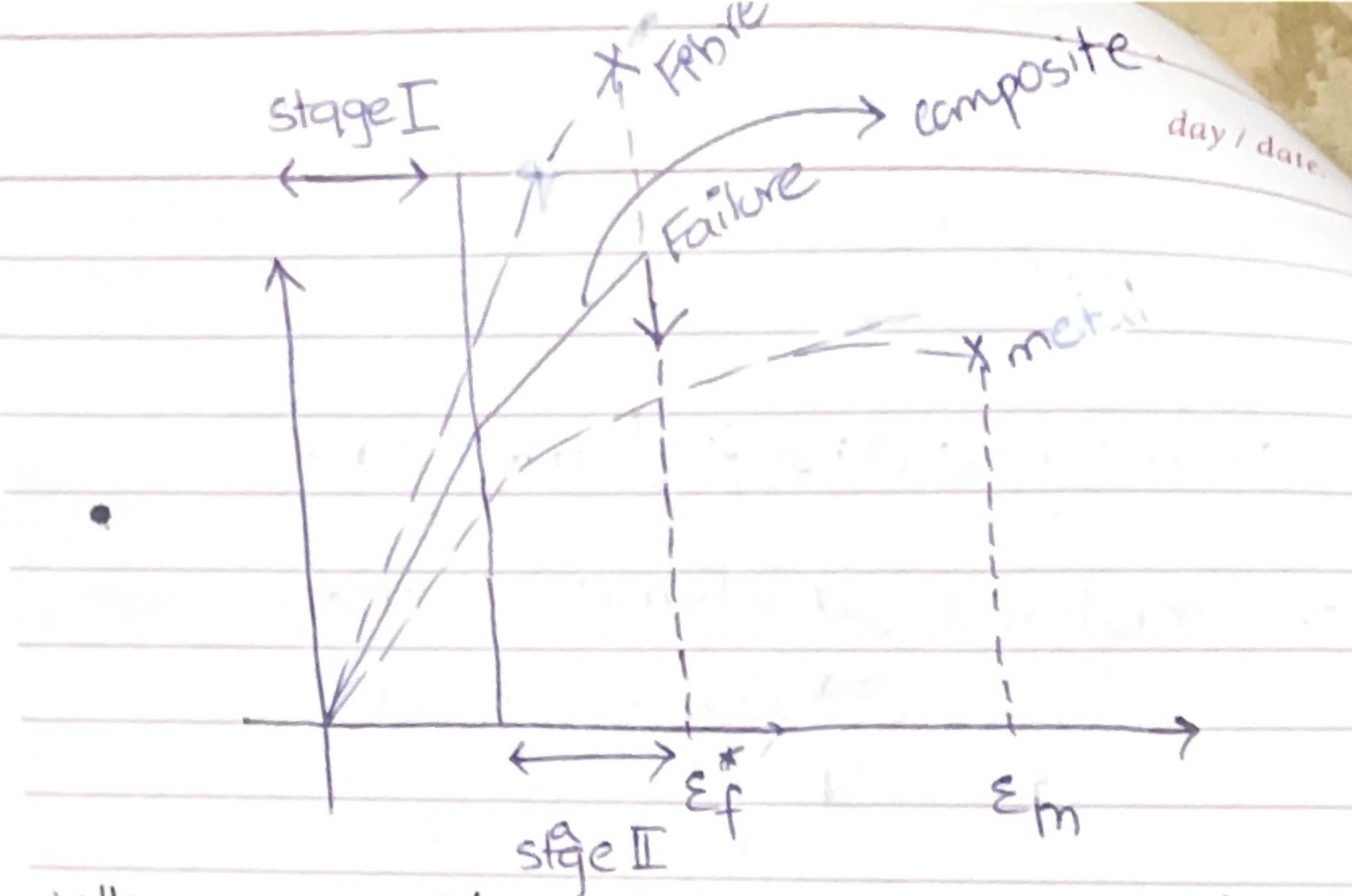
→ Ceramic matrix

Metal matrix

(ii) Re-enforcement material.

(iii) Re-inforcement morphology/phase. → shape
 → size
 → distribution
 → orientation.





Why composite failure / fracture is not catastrophic?

\Rightarrow Not all fibers break at the same time; there are considerable variations of the fracture strength in the brittle fiber material. Similarly the matrix is not fracture even after ϵ_f^* \therefore some fibers in the matrix may still be intact.

Q. Describe the equation $I_c = \frac{\sigma_f^* d}{2 T_c}$

The length of the fibre in fibre-reinforced composites is necessary to take in account as same critical fibre length 'I_c' is necessary for the composite strengthening.

$\sigma_f^* \Rightarrow$ fracture / limit stress of fibre.

$d \Rightarrow$ diameter of fiber.

$T_c \Rightarrow$ fibre matrix bond strength

(or shear yield strength of the matrix which ever is smaller.)

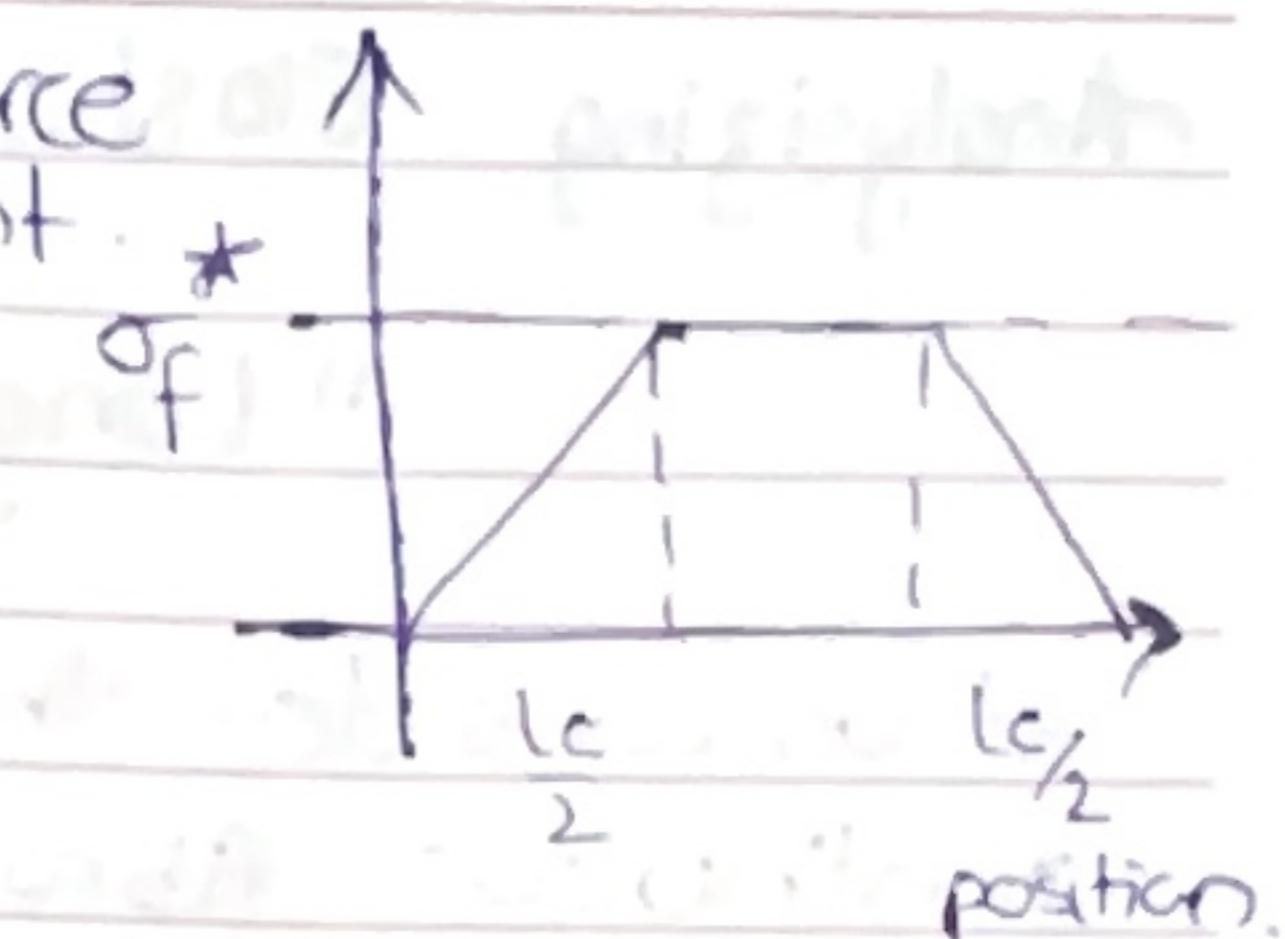
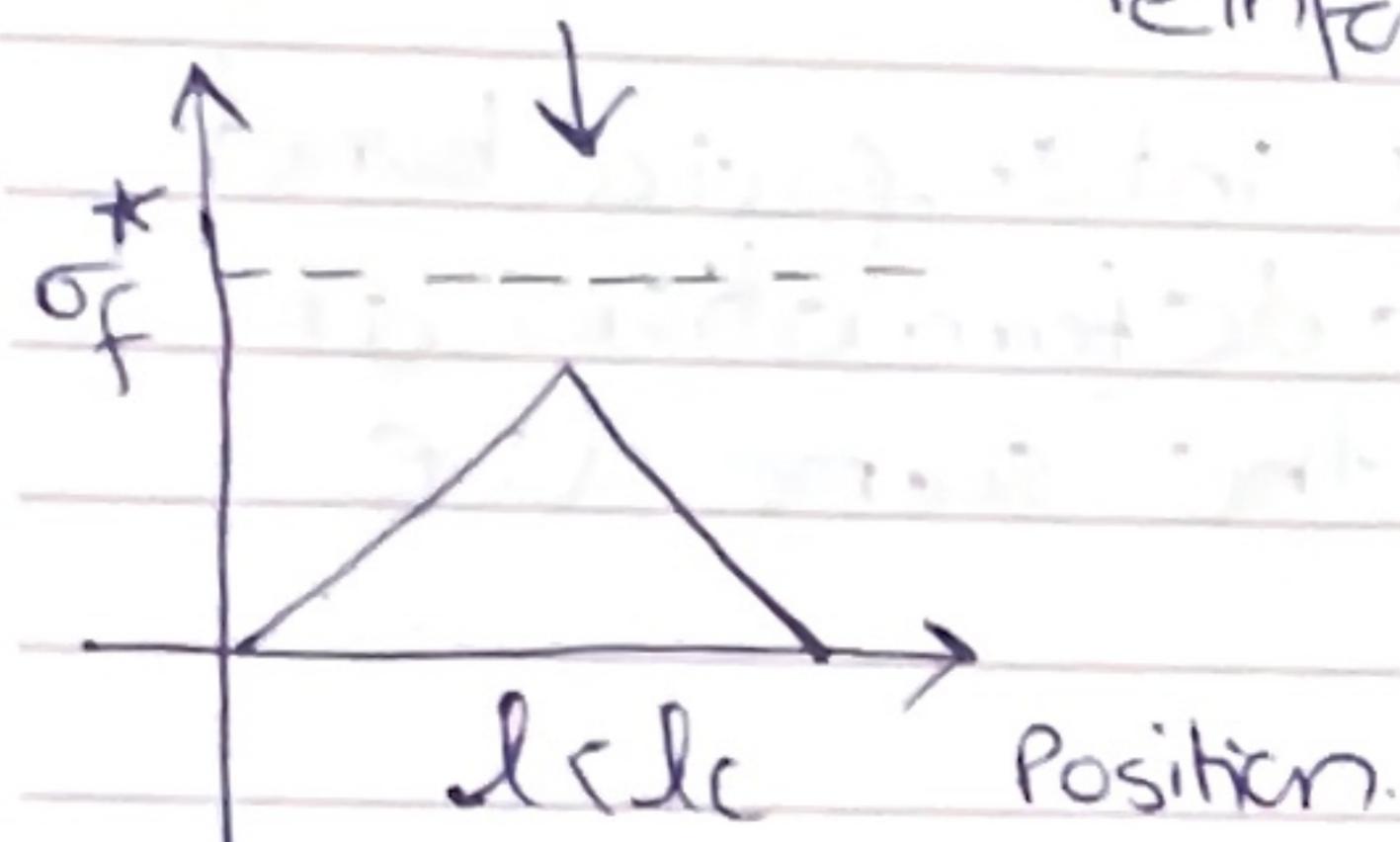
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$l > l_c \Rightarrow$ more effective reinforcement.

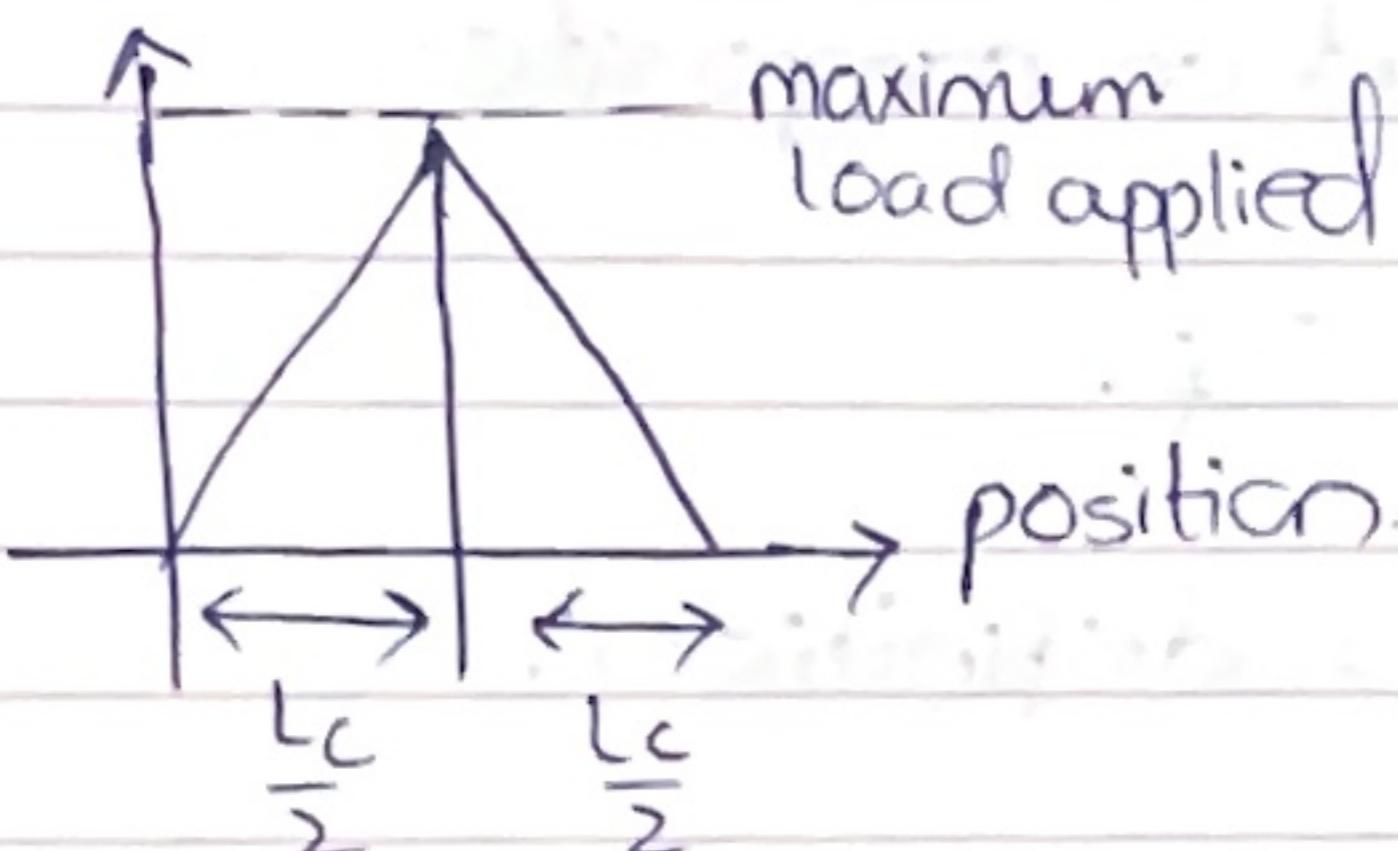
② $l < l_c$;

the matrix deforms around the fibre and there is no stress transferrence \Rightarrow low reinforcement.

$l > l_c$



③ $l = l_c$



Q. Rule of mixtures:-

It is used to estimate the properties of composites by volume fractions of matrix and re-enforcements.

$$E_c = E_m V_m + E_f V_f$$

Note:- This

formula is used when

$$E_c = \frac{E_m E_f}{E_f V_m + E_m V_f}$$

σ is \perp to the direction of fiber alignment.

f - fibres/particulate

E = elastic Modulus.

V = volume ; m = matrix.

Analysizing Elastic behaviour of composites at "Longitudinal Loading".

Let us consider the elastic behaviour of continuous fibrous composite with load in alignment to the direction of fiber.

Assume that fibre-matrix interfacial bond is very good, such that the deformation of both matrix and fibres is the same (i.e iso strain condition).

∴ Total load on composite;

$$\sigma_c A_c = \sigma_m A_m + \sigma_f A_f.$$

also by stress's definition:

$$\sigma_c A_c = \sigma_m A_m + \sigma_f A_f.$$

$\sigma_c = \frac{\sigma_m A_m}{A_c} + \frac{\sigma_f A_f}{A_c}$ where A_m/A_c & A_f/A_c are the area fractions of the matrix and fibre phases.
if composite, matrix & fibre phase lengths are equal.

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_c = \sigma_m V_m + \sigma_f V_f \quad \dots \text{---(a)}$$

Now the isostrain assumption means.

$$\epsilon_c = \epsilon_m = \epsilon_f$$



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∴ dividing (a) with strain of each respective material's component.

$$\frac{\sigma_c}{E_c} = \frac{\sigma_m}{E_m} V_m + \frac{\sigma_f}{E_f} V_f$$

$$\frac{\sigma_c}{E_c} = \frac{\sigma_m}{E_m} V_m + \frac{\sigma_f}{E_f} V_f \quad \text{--- (b)}$$

Also if the composite, matrix & fibre deformations are all elastic then,

$$\frac{\sigma_c}{E_c} = E_c$$

$$\frac{\sigma_m}{E_m} = E_m$$

$$\frac{\sigma_f}{E_f} = E_f$$

$$\text{--- (c)}$$

Note:-

This formula is used when σ longitudinal to the fibre alignment.

Using (c)'s equations in (b).

$$E_c = E_m V_m + E_f V_f$$

or

$$E_c = E_m (1 - V_f) + E_f V_f$$



because

$$V_m + V_f = 1$$

equal to the volume fraction weighted average of the moduli of elasticity of fibre and matrix phases.

also note;

$$\left[\frac{F_f}{F_m} = \frac{E_f V_f}{E_m V_m} \right]$$



$$V_f = 30\% + 10\% = 40\% \quad \} \text{glass}$$

$$E = 69 \text{ GPa}$$

$$V_f = 60\% \quad \} \text{resin}$$

$$E = 3.4 \text{ GPa} \quad \}$$

$$(a) E_c = ?$$

$$\begin{aligned} E_c &= (V_m)(E_m) + (V_f)(E_f) \\ &= 3.4 \text{ GPa} (0.6) + (69 \text{ GPa}) (0.4) \\ &\Rightarrow 30 \text{ GPa}. \end{aligned}$$

$$(b) A = 250 \text{ mm}^2$$

$$\sigma = 20 + 30 = 50 \text{ MPa}$$

$$F_f = ? \quad F_m = ?$$

$$\frac{E_f}{F_m} \Rightarrow \frac{E_f V_f}{E_m V_m} \Rightarrow \frac{(69 \text{ GPa})(0.4)}{(3.4 \text{ GPa})(0.3)} = 13.5$$

$$F_f = 13.5 F_m.$$

$$F_c = \sigma A_c \Rightarrow (250)(50) \Rightarrow 12500 \text{ N}.$$

$$F_c = F_f + F_m$$

$$12500 \Rightarrow 13.5 F_m + F_m$$

$$F_m = 860 \text{ N.}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} F_f &= F_c - F_m \\ &= 12500 - 860 \\ &= 11640 \text{ N} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

