

# **EXPERIMENTAL MECHANICS OF COMPOSITE MATERIALS**

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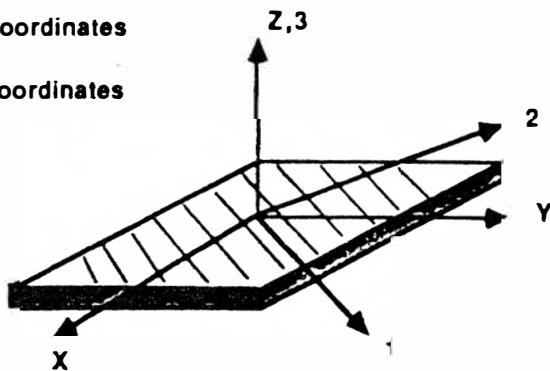
University of Delaware  
Center for Composite Materials  
and Department of Mechanical Engineering

# MECHANICS REVIEW

## Coordinate Conventions

X,Y,Z Plate Coordinates

1,2,3 Fiber Coordinates

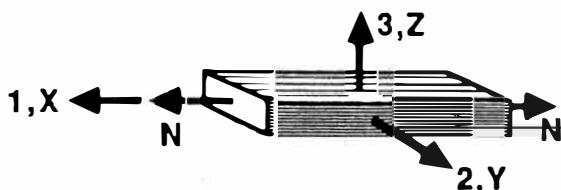


# MECHANICS REVIEW

## Lamina Response

### Hooke's Law (2-D)

$$\begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_1 \\ \sigma_2 \\ \tau_{12} \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Q_{11} & Q_{12} & 0 \\ Q_{12} & Q_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & Q_{66} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \epsilon_1 \\ \epsilon_2 \\ \gamma_{12} \end{Bmatrix}$$

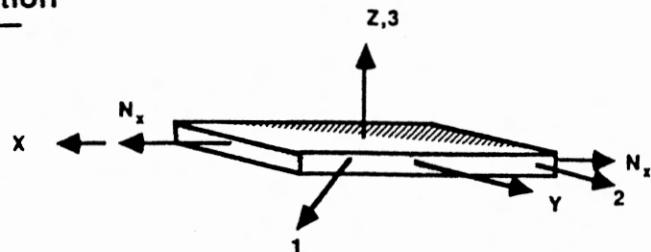


$$\begin{Bmatrix} \epsilon_1 \\ \epsilon_2 \\ \gamma_{12} \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} S_{11} & S_{12} & 0 \\ S_{12} & S_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & S_{66} \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_1 \\ \sigma_2 \\ \tau_{12} \end{Bmatrix}$$

## MECHANICS REVIEW

### Coordinate Transformation

$$\begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_1 \\ \sigma_2 \\ \tau_{12} \end{Bmatrix} = [T] \begin{Bmatrix} \sigma_x \\ \sigma_y \\ \tau_{xy} \end{Bmatrix}$$



$$[T] = \begin{bmatrix} m^2 & n^2 & 2mn \\ n^2 & m^2 & -2mn \\ -mn & mn & m^2 - n^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

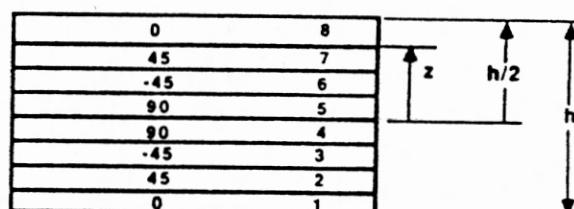
## MECHANICS REVIEW

### Laminate Notation

$[0/+45/-45/90]_s$

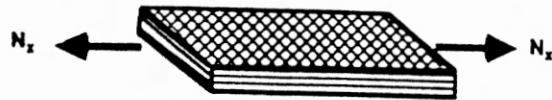
$[0_l / 45_m / 90_n]_{ps}$

Where l,m,n,p are integer constants



## MECHANICS REVIEW

### Laminate Response



$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{N} \\ \mathbf{M} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ B & D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \\ \kappa \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \sum_{k=1}^n (Q_{44})(z_k - z_{k-1})$$

$$B = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n (Q_{44})(z_k^2 - z_{k-1}^2)$$

$$D = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{k=1}^n (Q_{44})(z_k^3 - z_{k-1}^3)$$

$$N_x = \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \sigma_x dz$$

$$M_x = \int_{-h/2}^{h/2} \sigma_x z dz$$

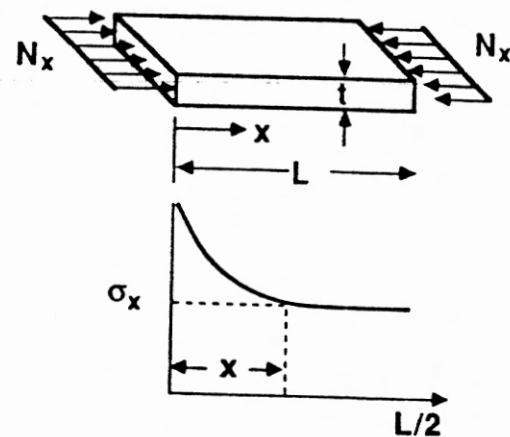
## MECHANICS REVIEW

St. Venant's Principle:

$$\lambda = \frac{t}{2\pi} \left( \frac{E_x}{G_{xz}} \right)^{1/2}$$

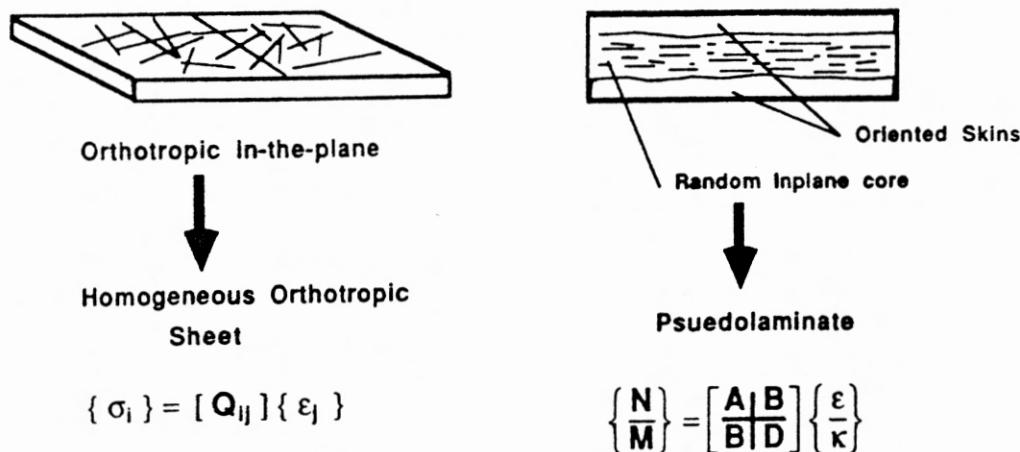
$$\lambda < \frac{t}{2\pi} \left( \frac{E_1}{G_{12}} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$\lambda \leq \frac{4.6t}{2\pi} \left( \frac{E_x}{G_{xz}} \right)^{1/2}$$



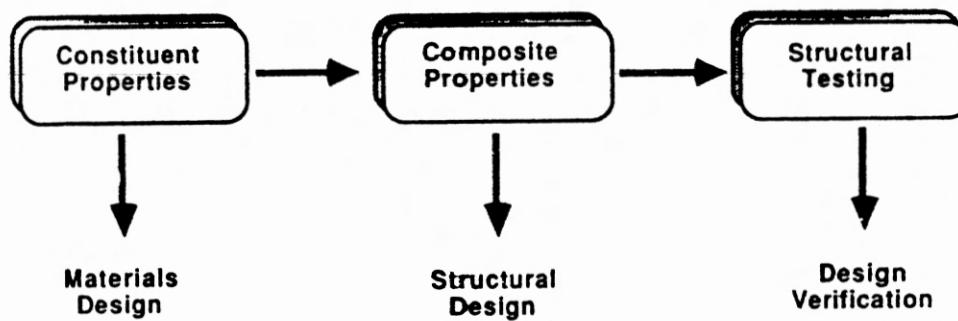
# MECHANICS REVIEW

## Discontinuous Fiber Composites



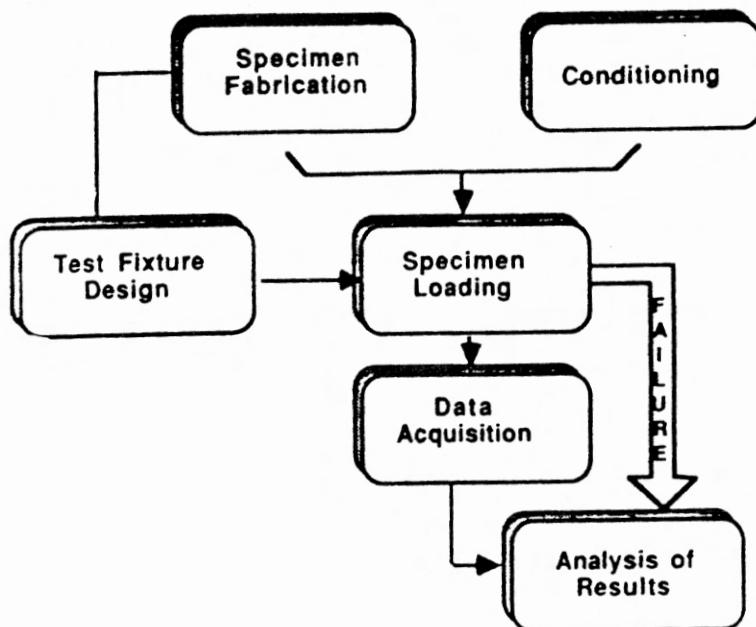
## Basic Test Considerations

### Types of Testing



# TEST METHODOLOGY

## Test Design

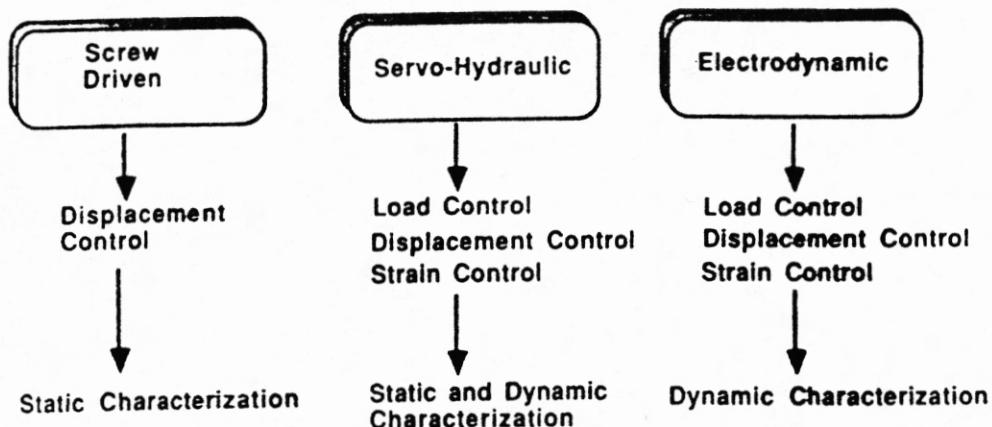


## REPORTING DATA

- Material Type
- Processing Conditions
- Void Content
- Volume Fraction
- Observed Failure Mode
- Specimen Conditioning
- Test Conditions
- Fiber Orientation State

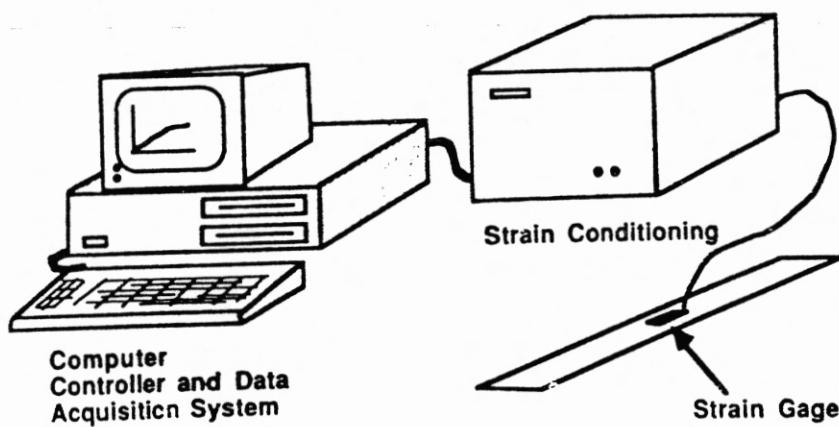
# TEST INSTRUMENTATION

## Loading Apparatus

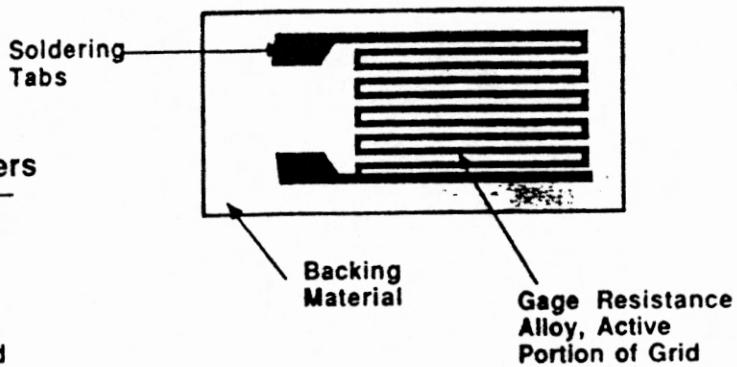


# TEST INSTRUMENTATION

## Strain Measurement



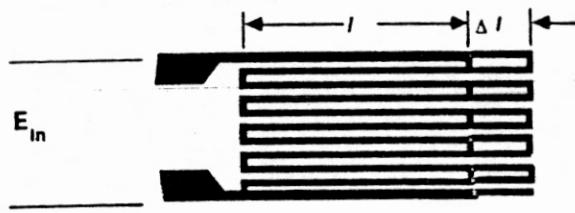
# STRAIN GAGES



## Important Parameters

- Resistance
- Gage Factor
- Grid Size
- Orientation of Grid
- Alloy of Gage
- Type of Backing

# STRAIN GAGES



$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{S_g} \left( \frac{\Delta R}{R} \right)$$

$S_g$  = Gage Factor, constant relating  $\Delta l$  to  $\Delta R$  allowing calibration to strain

$\Delta R$  = Change in resistance due to elongation of gage element

## STRAIN GAGES

### Surface Mounting

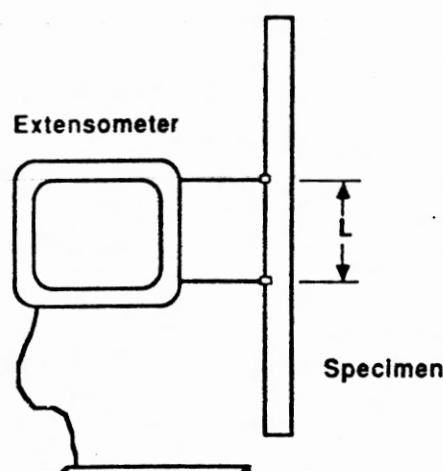


### Embedded Mounting



- Measured Surface Strain
- Averages Strain under gage grid
- Measures strain within the embedded layer

## E XTENSOMETER

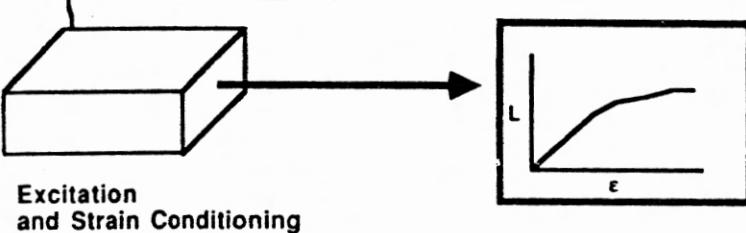


### Advantages:

- low cost on per / test basis
- ease of installation

### Disadvantages:

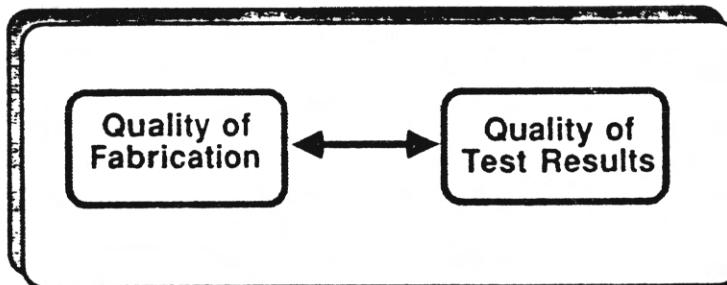
- poor repeatability
- nonlinear response



# STRAIN GAGES

- Advantages
  - Excellent accuracy and reproducibility
  - Operator insensitive
- Disadvantages
  - Cost
  - Installation time requirements

## SPECIMEN FABRICATION

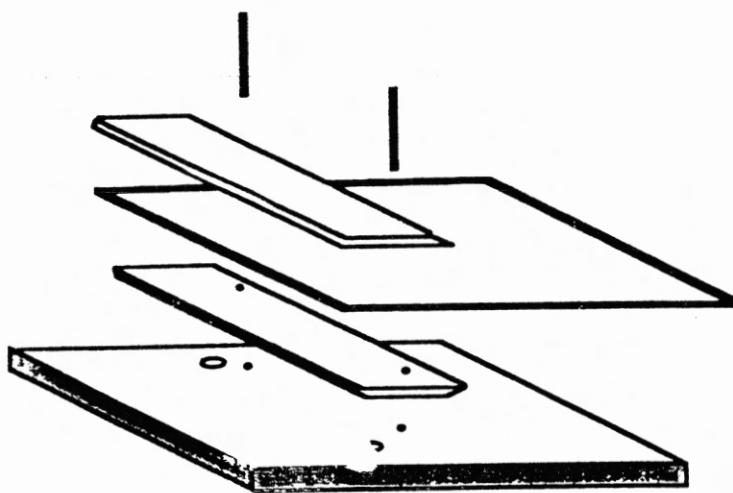


# SPECIMEN FABRICATION

## Issues

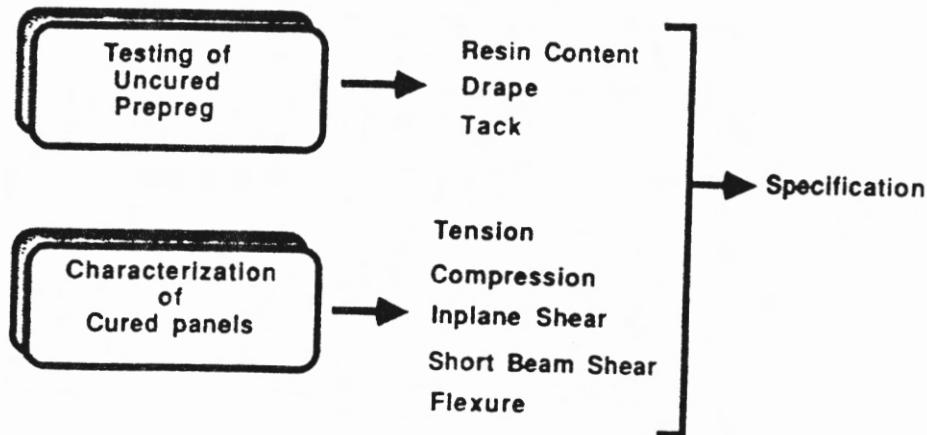
- Geometric Precision
- Machining Quality
- Alignment
- Material Equivalence  
( Test Specimen Material representative of Material in Part )
- Processing History
- Conditioning

# **SPECIMEN FABRICATION FIXTURING**



# QUALITY CONTROL TESTING

## TESTING FOR MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS



## TENSILE TESTS

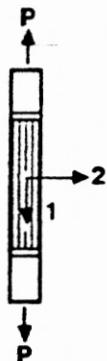
ASTM D3039\*  
D638

## TYPES OF TENSILE TESTS

- Unidirectional lamina  
(continuous and discontinuous fiber)  
 $0^\circ$   
 $90^\circ$
  - Off-axis
  - Laminate  
(continuous/discontinuous)
  - Woven fabric
  - Random orientation discontinuous fiber composites
- ply properties*

## PLY PROPERTIES

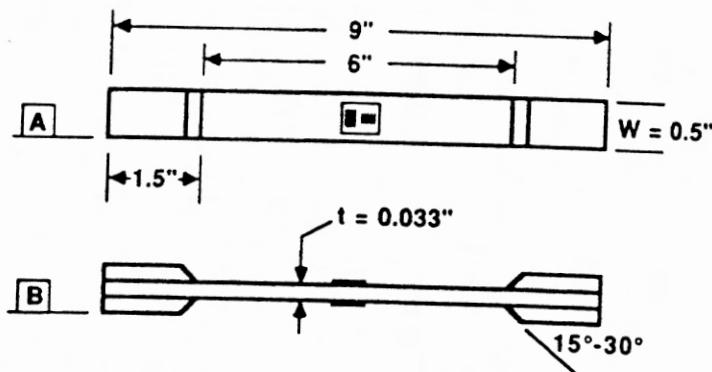
### $0^\circ$ - Tension Test



- $E_1$  - Young's modulus in fiber direction
- $X_1^T$  - Ultimate tension strength in fiber direction
- $\nu_{12}$  - Poisson's ratio
- $\epsilon_1^T$  - Ultimate strain in fiber direction

## COUPON GEOMETRY

### 0° - Tension Test

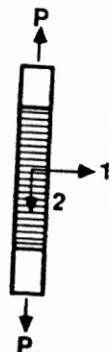


Width II to A within 0.005 in.

Top II to B withing 0.002 in.

## PLY PROPERTIES

### 90° - Tension Test



$E_2$  - Young's modulus in transverse direction

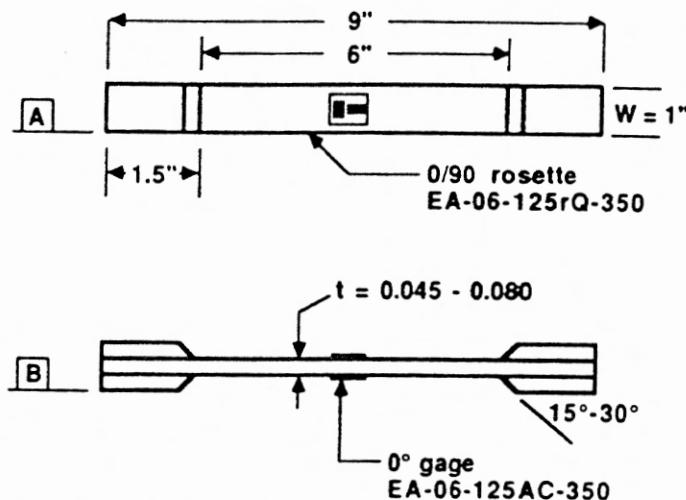
$X_2^T$  - Ultimate tension strength in transverse direction

$V_{21}$  - Poisson's ratio (Minor)

$\varepsilon_2^T$  - Ultimate strain in transverse direction

## COUPON GEOMETRY

90° - Tension Test (8 ply)

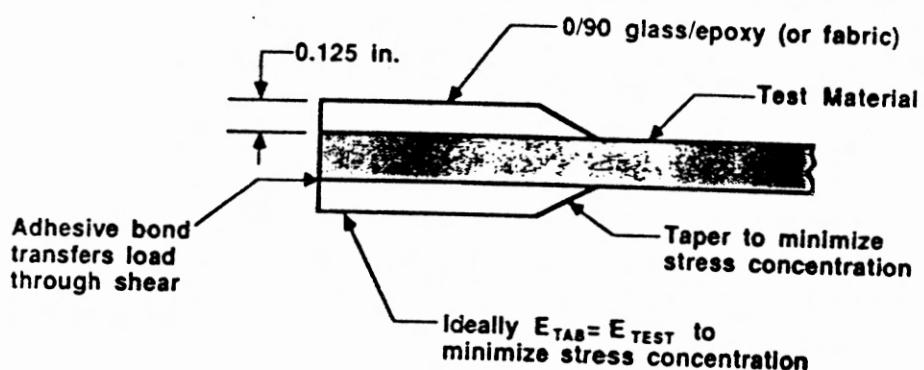


Width II to A within 0.005 in.

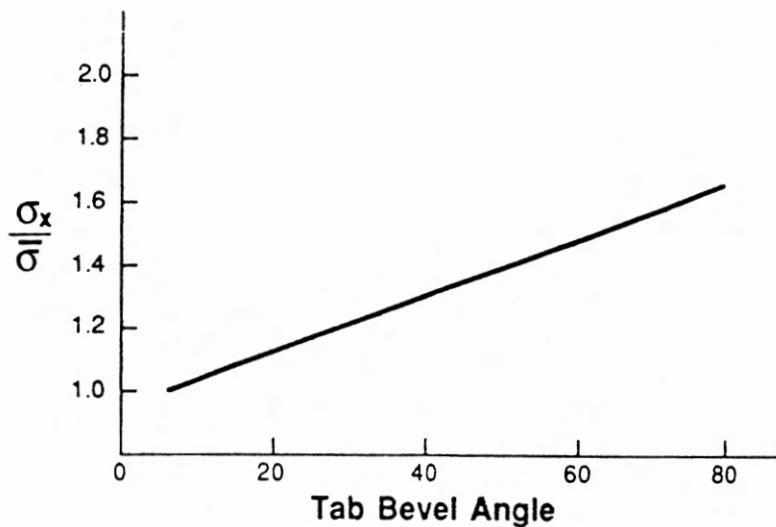
Thickness II to B within 0.002 in.

## END TAB CONSIDERATIONS

Purpose: Prevent Crushing/Splitting of Test Material



## PEAK STRESS AS FUNCTION OF TAB ANGLE



## DATA REDUCTION

### Tensile Modulus

$$E_x = \sigma_x / \epsilon_x$$

### Tensile Strength

$$\sigma_x^{ULT} = P_x^{ULT} / A$$

### Poisson's Ratio

$$\nu_{xy} = -\epsilon_y / \epsilon_x$$

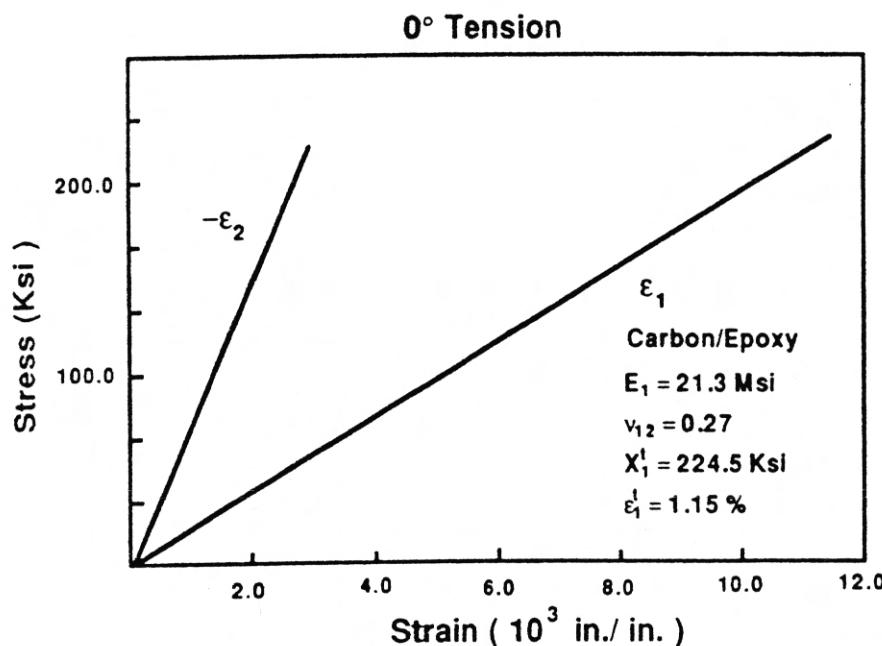
Where:  $\sigma_x = P_x / A$

P = Load

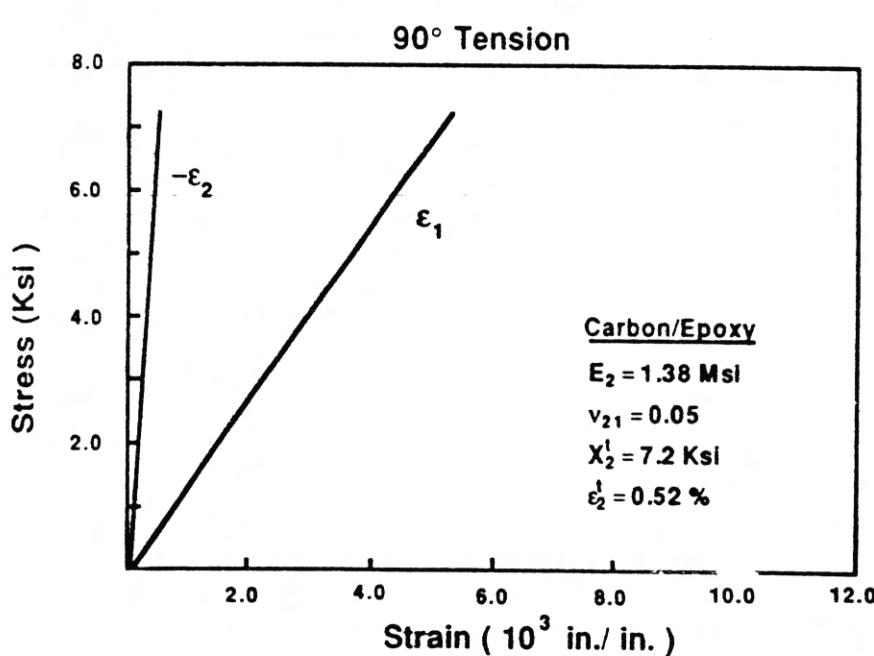
A = w x t

$\epsilon_x, \epsilon_y$  = Longitudinal, Transverse Strain

## LAMINA TENSION RESPONSE

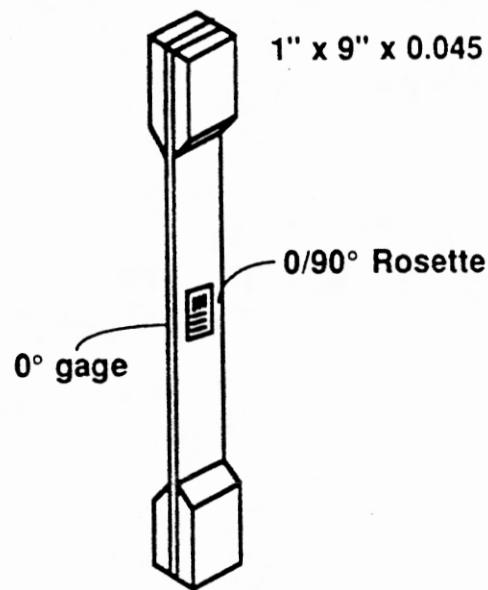


## LAMINA TENSION RESPONSE



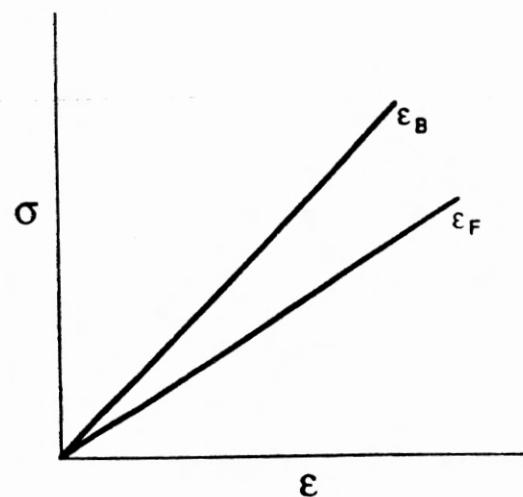
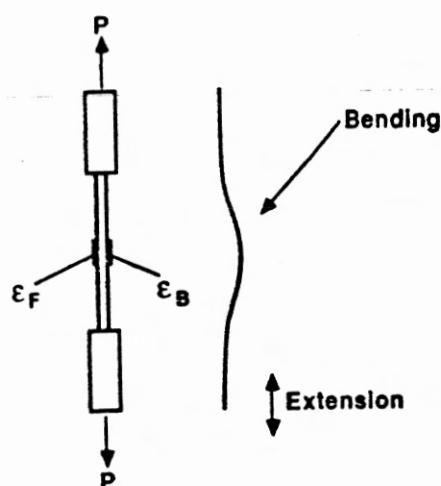
## EFFECTIVE LAMINATE PROPERTIES

- Coupon geometry and test procedure same
- Potential problems
  - Unsymmetric laminate  
→ bending-extentional coupling
  - Unbalanced laminate  
→ shear coupling
  - Interlaminar edge effects



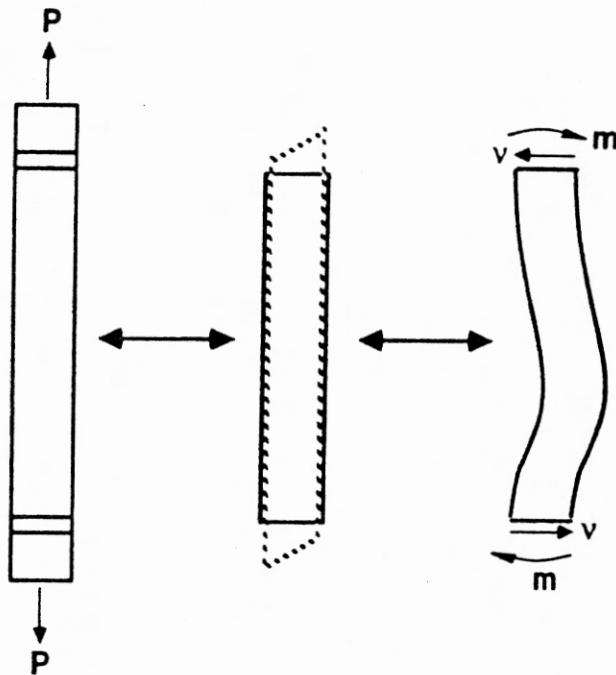
## LAMINATES

[0/90/0/90]



# UNBALANCED LAMINATE

$[0/45/45]_s$



# LAMINATE PROPERTIES

Measured Properties are Effective Properties

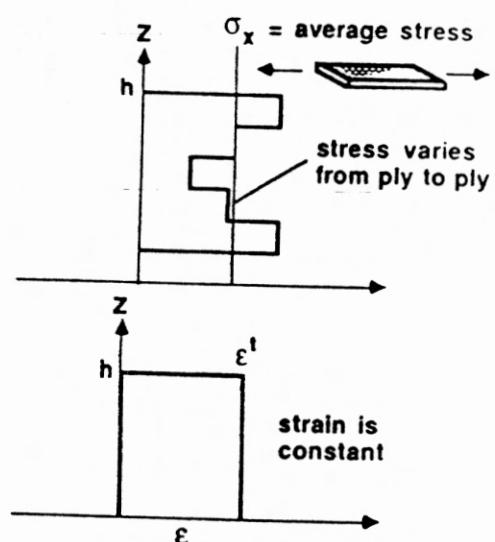
$$E_x = (h H_{11})^{-1} = \sigma_x / \epsilon_x$$

$$E_y = (h H_{22})^{-1}$$

$$V_{xy} = -H_{12} / H_{22}$$

$$G_{xy} = (h H_{33})^{-1}$$

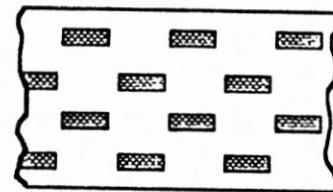
- Assume homogeneous through thickness



## WOVEN FABRIC

### Tension Test

- $B_{ij} \neq 0$  for single ply
- Laminates can be made symmetric
  - Test procedures same as for laminate
- Homogeneity
  - Strain measurements must reflect level of homogeneity



## DISCONTINUOUS FIBER COMPOSITES



Treat like orthotropic sheet. Lamina methods.

0° tension  
90° tension



Treat like laminate.

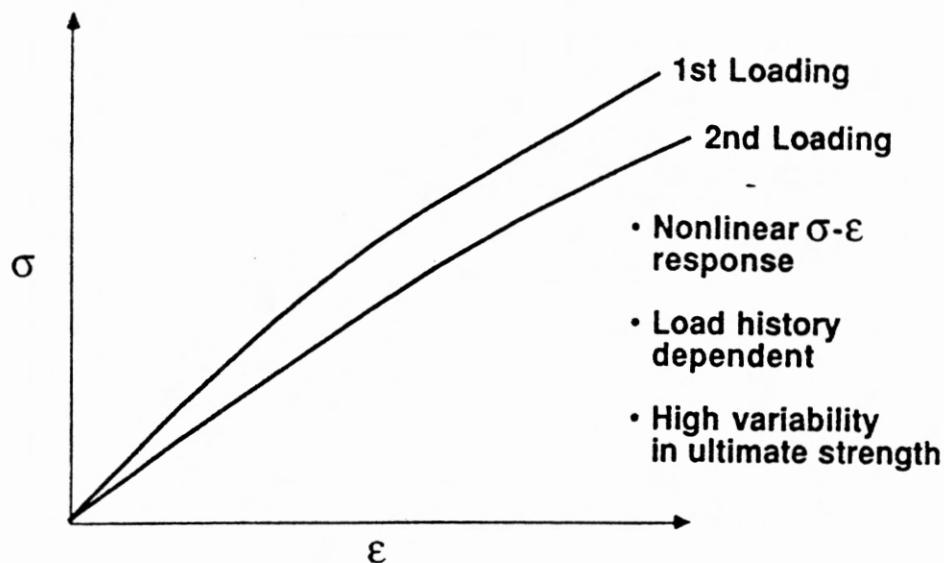
x - direction tension  
y - direction tension

Find "effective" properties

Balanced  
symmetric

Unbalanced  
unsymmetric

## DISCONTINUOUS FIBER COMPOSITES



## FLEXURE PROPERTIES

ASTM D790

- Flexural Strength
- Flexural Modulus

## FLEXURAL TESTING

### Objectives

- Materials Certification
  - comparative screening
- Structural Performance
  - bending properties

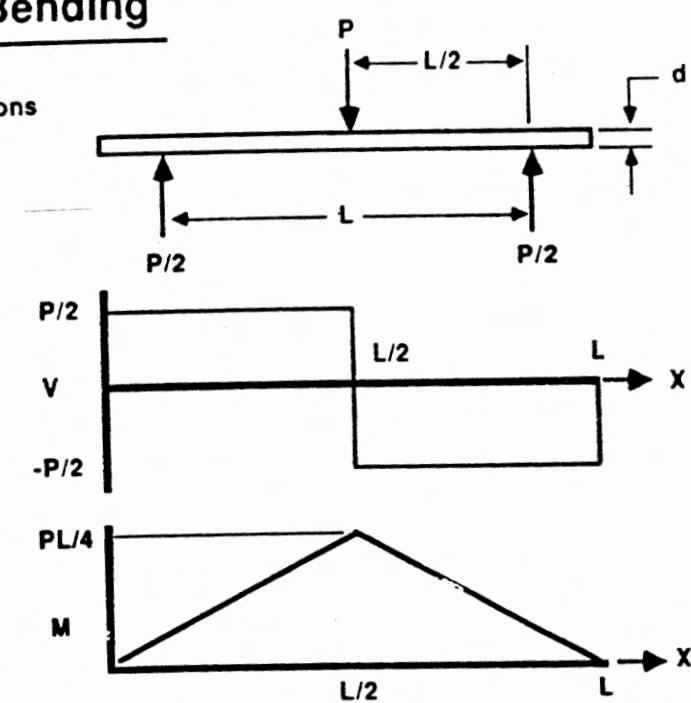
## FLEXURE TESTING

### Three-Point Bending

#### Nominal Dimensions

$L = 4.0$  in.

$d = 0.1$  in.



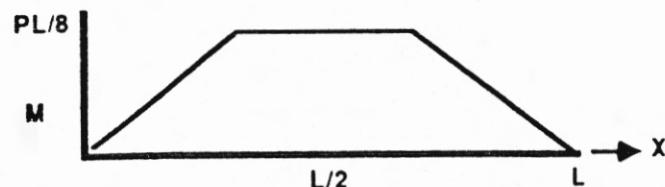
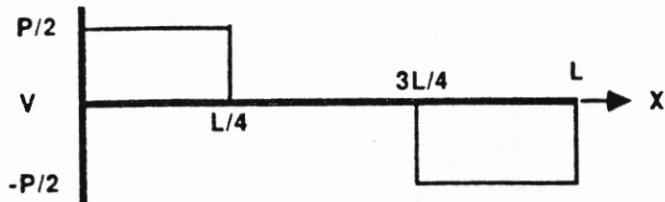
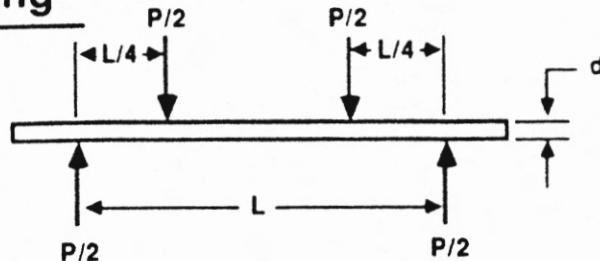
# FLEXURE TESTING

## Four-Point Bending

Nominal Dimensions

$$L = 4.0 \text{ in.}$$

$$d = 0.1 \text{ in.}$$



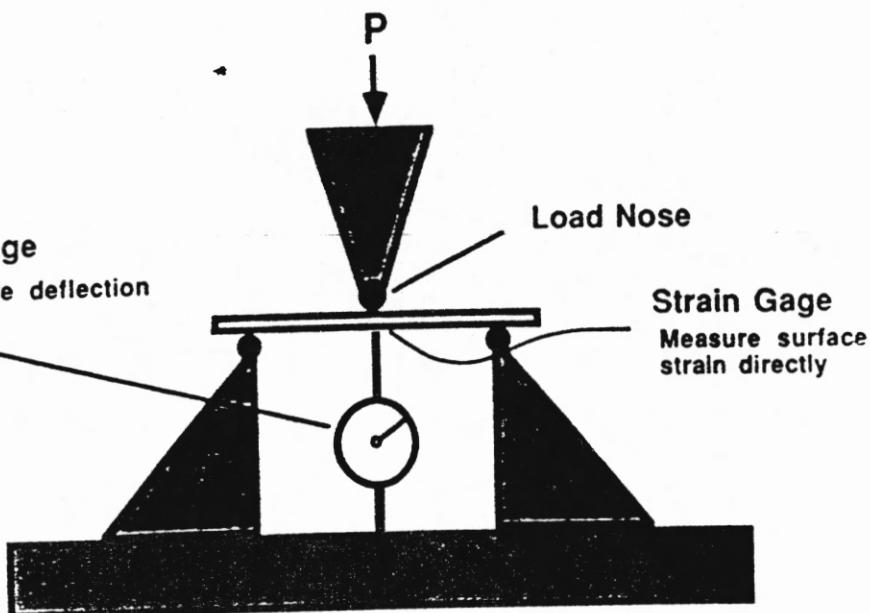
# FLEXURE TESTING

## Dial Gage

Measure deflection  
at  $L/2$

Load Nose

Strain Gage  
Measure surface  
strain directly



## FLEXURAL SPAN

Glass / Epoxy  $\longrightarrow L/h = 16$

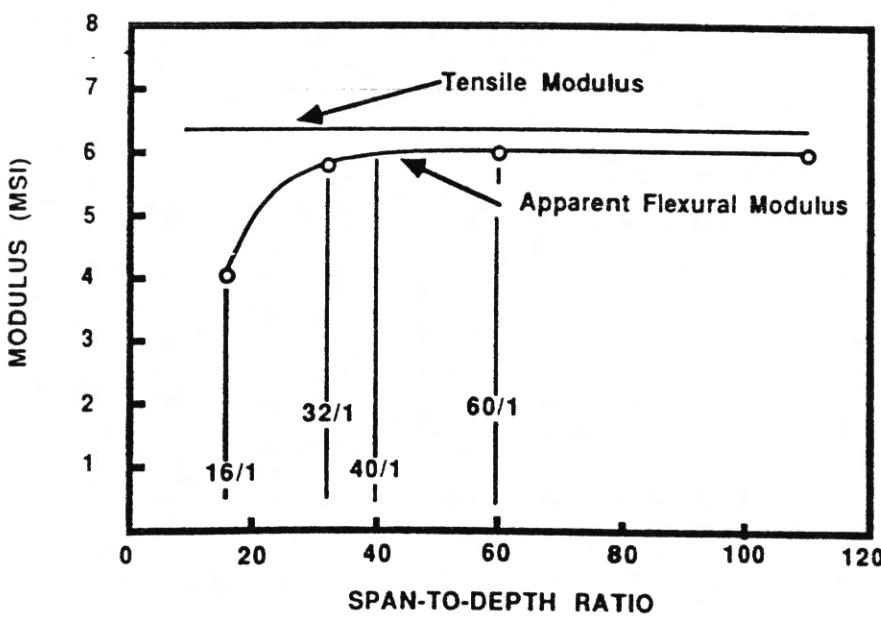
Graphite / Epoxy      Boron / Epoxy  $\longrightarrow L/h = 32 [0^\circ]$   
 $L/h = 16 [90^\circ]$

Kevlar / Epoxy  $\longrightarrow L/h > 32$  (Modulus)  
 $L/h < 32$  (Strength)

$8 \geq R > 1 \longrightarrow L/h \leq 16$   
 $R > 8 \longrightarrow L/h > 16$

$$R = \frac{\sigma_x}{\tau_{xz}}$$

## EFFECT OF SPAN ON MEASURED MODULUS



## IMPORTANT TEST PARAMETERS

- **Span-to-Depth Ratio, L/h**  
function of ratio of tensile strength  
to interlaminar shear strength
- **Beam Width, b**  
(nominally 1/2 in. - 1.0 in.)
- **Crosshead Rate, R**  
 $\dot{\epsilon} = 0.01 \text{ in./in./ min.}$

## ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

### Three-Point Bending

#### **Assumptions**

- Homogeneous
- $E_c = E_t$
- Small deflection

#### **Euler Beam Solution**

$$\sigma = \frac{Mc}{I} \longrightarrow \sigma = \frac{3PL}{2bh^2}$$