Contents

Preface xi
About the Author xiii

Chapter 1 Introduction 1

1.1 Composite Materials and Structures 1
1.2 Differences Between Composites and Metals 2
1.3 Roles and Characteristics of Constituents 4
1.3.1 Fibres 4
1.3.2 Matrices 7
1.3.3 Interfaces 8
1.4 Definition of Failure and Strength 9
1.5 Fracture Mechanics Considerations 10
1.6 Importance of Discrete Failures 13
1.7 Residual Stresses 13
1.7.1 Micromechanical Level Residual Stresses 13
1.7.2 Laminate Level Residual Stresses 15
1.7.3 Effect of Through-Thickness Contraction 15
1.7.4 Tool–Part interaction 17
1.7.5 Effect of Residual Stresses 17
1.8 Environmental Effects and Strain Rate 18
1.9 Defects and Size Effects 18
1.10 Testing of Composites 19
1.11 Modelling of Failure 20

PART I Fundamental Failure Mechanisms in Unidirectional Composites

Chapter 2 Fibre Direction Tensile Failure 25

2.1 Failure Mechanisms and Models 25
2.1.1 Basic Tensile Failure Mechanism 25
2.1.2 Rule of Mixtures 26
2.1.3 Strength of Fibres 27
2.1.4 Strength of a Loose Fibre Bundle 30
2.1.5 Strength of a Composite – Cumulative Weakening 31
2.1.6 Zweben Fibre Break Propagation Model 33
2.1.7 Interaction between Fibre Breaks 34
2.1.8 X-ray Tomography 36
2.2 Measuring Tensile Strength 39

2.3 Factors Affecting Tensile Failure 41
2.3.1 Effect of Constituents 41
2.3.2 Effect of Stressed Volume 43
2.3.3 Effect of Environment and Strain Rate 44
2.3.4 Effect of Other Stresses 46

Chapter 3 Fibre Direction Compressive Failure 50

3.1 Failure Mechanisms and Models 50
3.1.1 Basic Instability Failure Mechanism 50
3.1.2 Fibre Failure Mechanism 53
3.1.3 Shear Instability Model 56
3.1.4 Fibre Misalignment 57
3.1.5 Non-uniform Misalignment or Stresses 61
3.1.6 Fibre Direction Non-linearity 63
3.2 Measuring Compressive Strength 65
3.3 Factors Affecting Compressive Failure 68
3.3.1 Effect of Constituents 68
3.3.2 Effect of Fibre Misalignment 70
3.3.3 Effect of Stressed Volume and Strain Gradient 70
3.3.4 Effect of Environment and Strain Rate 73
3.3.5 Effect of Hybridisation 74
3.3.6 Effect of Other Stresses 75

Chapter 4 Transverse Tensile Failure 80

4.1 Failure Mechanisms and Models 80
4.2 Measuring Transverse Tensile Strength 84
4.3 Factors Affecting Transverse Tensile Failure 88
4.3.1 Effect of Constituents 88
4.3.2 Effect of Stressed Volume 89
4.3.3 Effect of Environment and Other Factors 90
4.3.4 Effect of Other Stresses 91

Chapter 5 Transverse Compressive Failure 95

5.1 Failure Mechanisms and Models 95
5.2 Measuring Transverse Compressive Strength 97
5.3 Factors Affecting Transverse Compressive Failure 97
5.3.1 Effect of Environment and Other Factors 97
5.3.2 Effect of Other Stresses 99

Chapter 6 Shear Failure 103

6.1 Failure Mechanisms and Models 103
6.2 Measuring Shear Strength 106

6.3 Factors Affecting Shear Failure 111
6.3.1 Effect of Stressed Volume 111
6.3.2 Effect of Environment and Other Factors 112
6.3.3 Effect of Other Stresses 113

PART II Failure in Laminates

Chapter 7 Delamination 119

7.1 Introduction 119
7.2 Delamination Due to Through-Thickness Loading 119
7.3 Delamination Due to Discontinuities 121
7.4 Interaction between Delamination and Transverse Cracking 126
7.5 Effect of Delamination on In-Plane Failure 128
7.6 Measuring Delamination Characteristics 132
7.6.1 Mode I Delamination 132
7.6.2 Mode II Delamination 134
7.6.3 Other Delamination Cases 136
7.7 Factors Affecting Delamination 137

Chapter 8 Fibre-Dominated Tensile Failure 142

8.1 Tensile Failure in Laminates 142
8.2 Effect of Stressed Volume 142
8.3 Effect of Transverse Cracks 143
8.4 Effect of Other Stress Components 145
8.5 Effect of Residual Stresses 147
8.6 Effect of Constraint Due to Other Plies 147
8.7 Fragmentation in Tension 148

Chapter 9 Fibre-Dominated Compressive Failure 151

9.1 Compressive Failure in Laminates 151
9.2 Compressive Failure Due to Delamination 152
9.3 Effect of Laminate Architecture 154
9.4 Effect of Transverse Damage 155
9.5 Effect of Layup 157

Chapter 10 Matrix-Dominated Failure 160

10.1 Transverse Cracking in Laminates 160
10.2 Delamination 163
10.3 Through-Thickness Tensile Failure in Laminates 165
10.4 Interlaminar Shear Failure in Laminates 167

10.5 Through-Thickness Compressive Failure in Laminates..... 168
10.6 Factors Affecting Matrix-Dominated Failure in Laminates..... 169

Chapter 11 Failure under More Complex Loading..... 171

11.1 Flexural Loading..... 171
11.2 In-Plane Multi-Axial Loading..... 172
11.3 Combined In-Plane and Out-of-Plane Loading..... 175

PART III More Complex Failures

Chapter 12 Notched Failure..... 181

12.1 Failure Mechanisms in Notched Tension..... 181
12.2 Notched Tensile Strength Scaling..... 184
12.3 Effect of Layup on Notched Tensile Failure..... 187
12.4 Translaminar Tensile Fracture Propagation..... 189
12.5 Failure Mechanisms in Notched Compression..... 190
12.6 Notched Compressive Strength Scaling..... 192
12.7 Effect of Layup on Notched Compressive Failure..... 193
12.8 Notched Failure under Multi-Axial Loading..... 195
12.9 Other Factors Affecting Notched Failure..... 198

Chapter 13 Impact and Residual Strength..... 205

13.1 Failure Mechanisms under Impact Loading..... 205
13.1.1 Low Energy Impact..... 205
13.1.2 Penetration..... 208
13.2 Factors Affecting Impact Response..... 210
13.3 Residual Strength After Impact..... 215
13.4 Factors Affecting Residual Compressive Strength..... 218

Chapter 14 Failure of Composite Joints..... 225

14.1 Failure of Adhesively Bonded Joints..... 225
14.1.1 Failure Modes of Bonded Joints..... 225
14.1.2 Migration of Failure..... 227
14.1.3 Strength Versus Fracture-Controlled Failure..... 228
14.1.4 Factors Affecting Failure of Bonded Joints..... 231
14.2 Failure of Mechanically Fastened Joints..... 233
14.2.1 Failure Modes in Mechanically Fastened Joints..... 233
14.2.2 Bearing Failure..... 234
14.2.3 Filled-Hole Failure..... 237
14.2.4 Failure under Bearing–Bypass Loading..... 240

Chapter 15 Introduction to Fatigue 244

15.1 Fatigue Versus Static Failure 244
15.2 Fatigue of Unidirectional Composites 244
15.2.1 Fatigue in Tension 244
15.2.2 Fatigue in Compression 247
15.2.3 Matrix-Dominated Fatigue 249
15.3 Delamination Fatigue 249
15.4 Fatigue in Laminates 253
15.4.1 Mechanisms of Stiffness Loss 253
15.4.2 Effect of R-Ratio on Laminate Fatigue 254
15.4.3 Fatigue at Stress Concentrations 255
15.5 Environmental Effects 256

Chapter 16 Failure in Components and Structures 260

16.1 Introduction 260
16.2 Buckling 261
16.2.1 Effect of Transverse Shear and Non-Linearity 261
16.2.2 Failure Mode Maps 262
16.2.3 Buckling and Post-Buckling of Stiffened Shell Structures 263
16.3 Delamination 264
16.3.1 Edge Delamination 264
16.3.2 Tapers 265
16.3.3 Structural Features 266
16.4 Effect of Manufacturing Process and Defects 268
16.4.1 Manufacturing and Curing 268
16.4.2 Misalignment Defects 269
16.4.3 Residual Stresses and Deformations 271
16.5 Failure Criteria 272
16.5.1 Definition of Failure 272
16.5.2 Effect of Different Stress Components 274
16.5.3 Criteria for Notched Failure 275
16.5.4 Other Factors 278
16.6 Interaction of Failure Modes 279
16.6.1 Interaction between Buckling and Stiffener Debonding 279
16.6.2 Interaction between Tensile Failure and Stiffeners 281

Index 287