

# Mechanical and dynamic mechanical behaviour of novel glass—natural fibre intra-ply woven polyester composites

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**Abstract.** A novel intra-ply woven fabric polyester composite with glass fibre yarns in one direction and natural fibre yarns in another direction of basket-type woven fabric has been investigated for mechanical and dynamic mechanical characteristics. Individual glass fibre woven fabric, natural fibres woven fabric and intra-ply natural fibres woven fabric composites are also investigated for the comparison purpose. Results reveal that the intra-ply woven fabric hybridization enhances impact and damping properties of the composite significantly than the tensile and flexural properties. Intra-ply woven fabrics with glass fibre yarns in warp direction and jute fibre yarns in weft direction (WGWJ) exhibit better impact properties compared with woven fabric with other combinations. Dynamic mechanical analysis results reveal that intra-ply woven fabric composite with glass fibre yarns in warp direction and jute and banana fibre yarns in weft direction (WGWJAB) gives higher damping characteristics due to the multi-level interaction between fibre—fibre and fibre—matrix interactions.

**Keywords.** Intra-ply hybrid; natural fibre; mechanical properties; dynamic mechanical analysis; vibration; scanning electron microscopy.

## 1. Introduction

In the last few decades, usage of polymer in mechanical, automobile, civil, aerospace and structural applications tremendously increased due to their easy availability, good mechanical properties and low cost compared with conventional material [1, 2]. The main advantage of polymers is their easy preparation, production and reduced cost in comparison with conventional materials. In order to improve the use of polymer in several polymer applications, researchers are suggesting the addition of filler or fibre in the polymer matrix to enhance the performance of the polymer material [3]. Many researchers added man-made fibres (glass, carbon, kevlar and boron) as a reinforcement in polymer to improve the mechanical behavior. Fu *et al* [4] analysed the tensile properties of short glass and carbon fibre reinforced composite regarding various factors and found that volume and length of fibre influence tensile properties of the composites. Lassila *et al* [5] studied the effect of volume percentage of glass fibre in a polymer and found that 45 vol% gives better flexural strength.

Nowadays natural fibres are employed to fabricate the fibre-reinforced composites for mechanical, civil and aerospace structure in low and medium load applications. This is due to their lower weight, better thermal and

insulation properties, low energy consumption during processing, good acoustic behaviour and easy availability of resources [6, 7]. Natural fibres are more eco-friendly than man-made fibre such as glass, carbon and kevlar fibres [8]. Corbire-Nicollier *et al* [9] proved that in polymer composites the man-made fibres are successfully replaced by natural fibre with equivalent property. Several researchers analysed the effect of hybridization of two different natural fibres on various properties of polymer composites. Venkateshwaran *et al* [10] studied the mechanical properties of banana—sisal—epoxy hybrid composite. They found that hybrid composite with 10 wt% of sisal fibre combination gives better mechanical properties than other combinations. Sasthra *et al* [11] investigated the tensile behaviour of arenga pinnata fibre—epoxy composites and found that the woven fibre composites give better properties than long random, chopped random composites. Okubo *et al* [12] studied the tensile properties of bamboo—polypropylene composite and found that bamboo fibre bundle composite improved the tensile property.

Several researchers have investigated the mechanical properties of natural fibre composite in hybrid woven form. Venkateshwaran and ElayaPerumal [13] studied the mechanical properties of banana—jute—epoxy hybrid composite by keeping woven banana mat and jute mats layer by layer and found that banana—jute—banana composite gives

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better properties than other combinations. Santulli *et al* [14] studied the mechanical properties of woven jute—wool—epoxy composite and found that addition of wool fibre in woven jute—epoxy composite improves the mechanical properties of the composite. Jawaid *et al* [15] investigated the hybridization effect on mechanical properties for oil palm fruit bunches with woven jute composite and found that hybridized composite gives better tensile and flexural properties than individual-fibre-reinforced composite.

In order to improve the mechanical properties of the natural fibre polymer composite material, several researchers have suggested addition of glass fibre in the composite material. Ahmed and Vijayarangan [16] studied the mechanical properties of jute—glass—polyester composite and found that when glass fibre mat was kept as an outer layer, composite gives better mechanical properties. Harish *et al* [17] compared the mechanical properties of coir—epoxy and glass—epoxy composites and found that glass—epoxy composite gives better properties than coir—epoxy composite. However, coir fibres improve the mechanical properties of the hybrid composite. Ramesh *et al* [18] studied the effect of incorporation of glass fibre on mechanical properties for sisal and jute fibre composites. Their results showed that addition of glass fibre in the composites improves the mechanical properties of natural fibre composite. Thwe and Liao [19] compared the short bamboo—polypropylene composite to bamboo—glass—polypropylene composite on mechanical properties such as tensile and flexural strength. Their results revealed that 20% by mass of glass fibre in the composite increases the tensile and flexural strength of bamboo composite by 7% and 25%, respectively. Velmurugan and Manikandan [20] studied influence of weight percentage on mechanical properties of palm—glass sandwich composite by keeping the glass as skin and palm as core. They found that the sandwich effect increases the load carrying capacity of palm—glass composite.

Idicula *et al* [21] studied the dynamic mechanical properties of randomly oriented short banana—sisal hybrid composite and found that 40% volume fraction gives better properties. Tajvidi *et al* [22] computed the dynamic mechanical behaviour of various natural fibres such as kenaf, wood flow, rice hulls and newsprint fibres in polypropylene composites. They reported that kenaf fibre reinforcement increases the storage modulus of the composite than other fibre composites. Devi *et al* [23] studied influence of fibre volume percentage on the dynamic properties of pineapple leaf fibre—glass fibre—polyester composite and found that composite with 0.2 of glass fibre gives better storage modulus due to lower molecular mobility in the polymer chain. Tao *et al* [24] examined the dynamic mechanical properties of short ramie and jute—poly(lactic acid) composite and found that addition of natural fibre increases the dynamic properties. Jeyaraj *et al* [25] carried out a numerical investigation on the effect of thermal load on damping behavior of laminated composite plate and found that the modal damping increases with temperature.

Most of the researchers investigated the hybrid composite by keeping natural fibre and glass fibres layer by layer or by intimately mixing the short glass and natural fibres. The present work analyses a novel intra-ply woven reinforcement of glass and natural fibres in mat form. A basket-type woven single mat consists of glass yarn in one direction and natural fibre yarn (banana or jute) in another direction of the mat. Effects of orienting glass and natural fibre yarns in the two different directions of the woven mat on the mechanical and dynamic mechanical behaviors have been investigated.

## 2. Experimental details

### 2.1 Fibre mat and polymer preparation

In the present work, glass fibre is chosen as a synthetic fibre while banana and jute fibres are chosen as natural fibres for the detailed study on synthetic—natural fibre in a-ply woven composite. Initially 100—140 loose natural and synthetic fibres are spun into yarn separately. Later, a basket-type intra-ply woven fabric has been prepared using a hand-loom. From the previous study carried out by authors, it is found that basket-type woven fabric reinforcement gives better mechanical properties compared with twill, stain, plain and huckaback woven fabric reinforced composites [26]. Hence, in the present study, basket-type woven fabric is used to prepare different kinds of intra-ply woven composites. Figure 1 shows a schematic

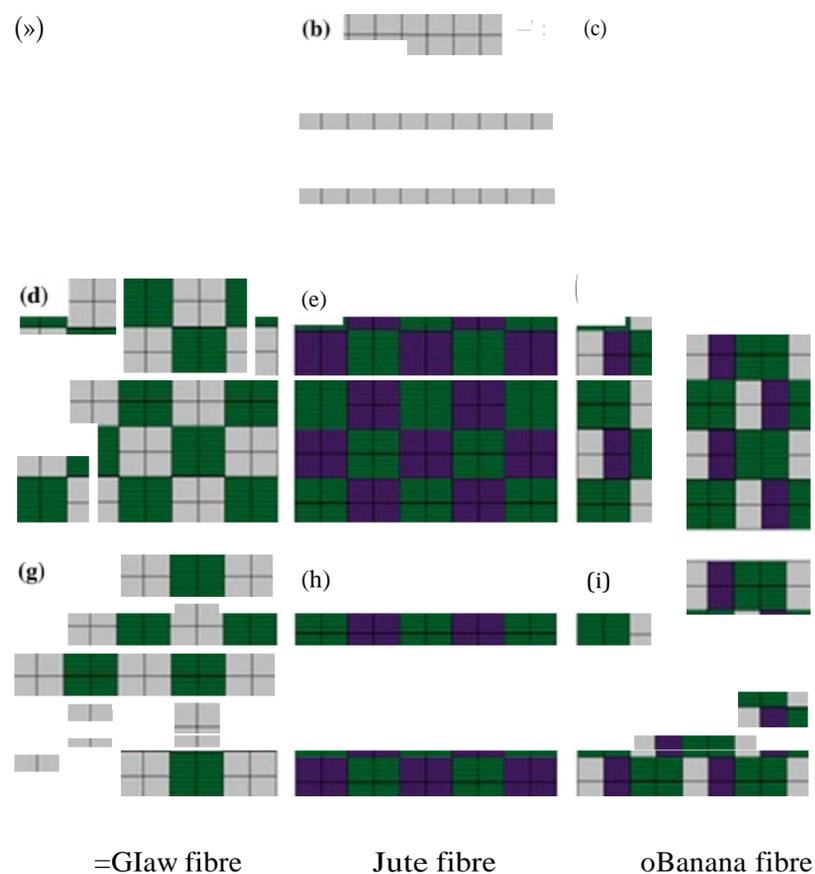


Figure 1. Schematic diagram of glass—natural fibre in a-ply mat. (a) WAWG, (b) WAWJ, (c) WAWB, (d) tYGY/J, (e) tYGWB, (f) WGSYJAB, (g) WJWG, (h) WBWG and (i) WJABWG.

### Intra-ply hybrid natural fibre composite

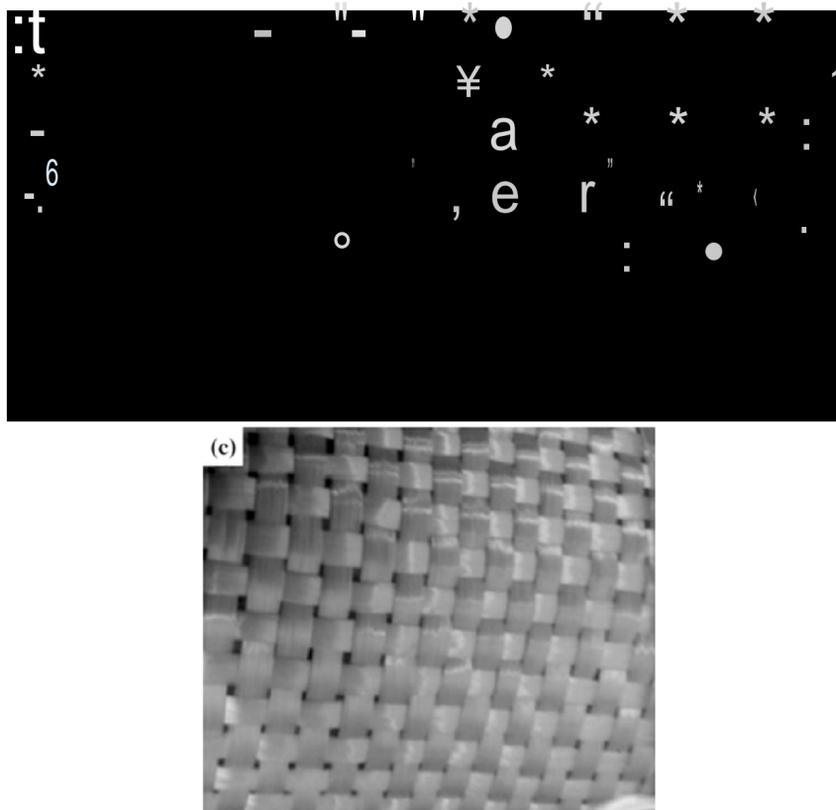


Figure 2. Different types of banana—jute—glass intra ply woven mat. (a) WGWB, (b) WJWG and (c) WAWG.

diagram of different types of woven inaa-ply hybrid glass—natural fibre mats used in the present work.

In his work, 1 wt% methyl ethyl ketone peroxide (MEKP) and cobalt naphthenate are used as a catalyst and accelerator, respectively, and mixed with the unsaturated isophthalic polyester in the ratio of 100: 1: 1. Different types of inaa-ply woven fabric investigated in the present work are shown in figure 2. In order to analyse the effect of inaa-ply woven hybridization of synthetic and natural fibres, individual natural fibres and synthetic fibres woven fabric reinforced composites were also investigated. Different types of hybrid intra-ply woven fabric are WAWG—glass in both warp and weft, WAWJ—jute in both warp and weft, WAWB—banana in both warp and weft, WGWJ—glass in warp and jute in weft, WGWB glass in warp and banana in weft, WGWJAB glass in warp and both banana and jute in weft, WJWG—jute in warp and glass in weft, WBWG—banana in warp and glass in weft and WJABWG—both banana and jute in warp and glass in weft, as shown in table 1.

## 2.2 Fabrication of composites

Different types of intra-ply woven fabric reinforced composite laminates investigated in the present work are prepared using a hand lay-up method. A silicon rubber mould of size 270 mm x 250 mm x 3 mm covered with stiff parallel granite plates is used. Initially a known amount of unsaturated isophthalic polyester resin, catalyst (MEKP) and accelerator (cobalt naphlenate) mixture is poured into the mould cavity; later the inaa-ply woven hybrid fabric is placed over the resin mixture. Following this, the remaining resin mixture is poured again over the woven fabric with the help of a roller made of aluminium. It removes the voids

Table 1. Representation of different combinations of woven hybrid intra-ply composite.

Sl. no.	Type of fibre and weaving style	Symbols used in the report
1	Both warp and weft glass fibre	WAWG
2	Both warp and weft jute fibre	WAWJ
3	Both warp and weft banana fibre	WAWB
4	Warp glass fibre and weft jute fibre	WGWJ
5	Warp glass fibre and weft banana fibre	WGWB
6	Warp glass fibre, weft jute and banana fibre	WGWJAB
7	Warp jute fibre and weft glass fibre	WJWG
8	Warp banana fibre and weft glass fibre	WBWG
9	Warp jute and banana fibre, weft glass fibre	WJABWG

present in laminates. Finally, the mould is covered by a stiff parallel plate and a dead weight of 60 kg is placed over the plate to compress the laminates for 5 h under ambient temperature curing. Later the laminate is sized into several pieces according to the ASTM standard requirement for specimen of different mechanical tests and dynamic mechanical analysis.

## 2.3 Testing standards

**2.3a Mechanical test:** Three different mechanical properties of the intra-ply woven fabric composites analysed in the present work are tensile, flexural and impact strengths. Tensile test is conducted according to the ASTM D-638 standard while flexural (three-point bending test) is conducted according to the ASTM D-790 standard on a universal testing machine. Impact strengths of the composites (without notch) are obtained from the izod impact test based on the ASTM D-256 standard. Apart from this, tensile test is conducted separately on different woven fabrics based on ASTM D-5034 standards.

**2.3b Dynamic mechanical analysis:** Storage modulus, loss modulus and material loss factor of the intra-ply woven fabric composite are calculated as a function of temperature using a dynamic mechanical analyser. The dynamic mechanical analysis test is conducted in nitrogen environment over a temperature range of 0-200°C at 1 Hz frequency.

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1 Tensile properties of woven fabric

Tensile characteristics of different inaa-ply woven fabric are given in table 2. From table 2, it is clear that individual glass fibre woven fabric has better tensile properties, as anticipated. Similarly, individual natural fibre woven fabrics also have better tensile strength compared with glass—natural fibre intra-

Table 2. Tensile properties of different types of woven natural fibre—glass fibre mat.

Type	Tensile strength (MPa)	Tensile modulus (MPa)
WAWG	15.6	157
WAWJ	13.8	128
WAWB	6.45	55
WGWJ	2.78	83
WGWB	6.31	116
WGWJAB	3.28	92
WJWG	3.25	105
WBWG	3.81	42
WJABWG	2.39	40

ply woven fabrics as seen in table 2. Among the glass—natural fibre in-plain hybrid woven fabrics, fabric with glass yarns in warp direction and banana fibre yarns in weft direction has better tensile properties compared with other types of in-plain woven hybrid fabrics. This is attributed to the fact that strong glass fibre in warp direction and relatively weak banana natural fibre along the weft direction enhance the properties.

From table 2, it is observed that variation of tensile strength and modulus of woven fabric is not uniform. This is due to the tightness of yarn in warp and weft directions and it influences the strength and modulus. Individual woven fabric (glass, jute and banana) shows better strength and modulus, which vary uniformly according to strength of the fibre. This is due to weaving tightness in warp and weft directions. Same fibre in the warp and weft directions increases the tightness while glass—natural fibre reduces the tightness due to slippage. This increases the deformation at break. Hence it reduces the strength and modulus of woven fabric.

### 3.2 Mechanical properties of in-plain woven composite

Tensile, Flexural properties and impact strength of different in-plain woven fabric reinforced composites are given in table 3. Due to the higher strength associated with the glass

fibre, individual glass fibre woven fabric reinforced composite (WAWG) has better mechanical properties compared with individual natural fibre fabric reinforced composites and in-plain woven glass—natural fibre hybrid fabric-reinforced composites. From table 3, it is clear that type of yarn in the warp and weft directions influences different mechanical properties of the in-plain woven fabric reinforced composite in different ways.

Tensile properties of the in-plain woven hybrid fabrics reinforced composite with glass fibre yarns in warp direction are better compared with the in-plain woven hybrid composites with glass fibre yarns oriented along weft direction. This happens due to the higher strength glass fibre oriented along the tensile loading direction. Among the in-plain woven hybrid fabric composites, WGWB composite has better tensile properties compared with other types of in-plain woven hybrid composites. Even though jute fibre is relatively stronger than the banana fibre, tensile properties of the WGWJ composite are not better than WGWB composite. In both WGWJ and WGWB, glass fibre yarns are oriented along the warp direction, which is the tensile loading direction. The relatively strong jute yarns do not allow the glass fibre yarns to take more load. However, as the banana yarns are relatively weak, it allows glass fibre to take more load; hence, WGWB has better tensile behaviour compared with WGWJ. A similar observation has been reported by Rajesh and Pitchaimani [26] in their work on dynamic mechanical behaviour of jute—banana in-plain fabric composite. They also found that relatively strong jute fibre in the warp direction and relatively weak banana fibre in the weft direction enhances the dynamic mechanical behaviour of the composite. This is due to less resistance provided by weak banana fibre against load carrying by stronger fibre in the warp direction.

Stress—strain curves of different types of composites analysed in the present work are given in figure 3. From figure 3, one can observe that composites with glass fibre oriented along warp direction have better modulus. It is also observed that WGWB has high modulus. This can be attributed to less resistance provided by banana fibre

Table 3. Mechanical properties of hybrid woven natural fibre—glass fibre in-plain composite.

Type	Tensile properties		Flexural properties		Impact properties
	Tensile strength (MPa)	Tensile modulus (GPa)	Flexural strength (MPa)	Flexural modulus (GPa)	Impact strength (J/m)
WAWG	90.0	0.897	69.1	2.505	992
WAWJ	29.2	1.500	52.0	2.755	142
WAWB	13.4	0.857	31.7	1.465	62
WGWJ	26.3	0.931	49.0	1.920	752
WGWB	31.0	1.290	30.0	1.275	326
WGWJAB	25.4	0.604	15.6	1.215	500
WJWG	17.9	0.946	39.6	1.715	173
WBWG	9.84	0.935	38.9	1.600	57
WJABWG	10.6	0.673	25.6	1.500	83

*Intra-ply hybrid natural fibre composite*

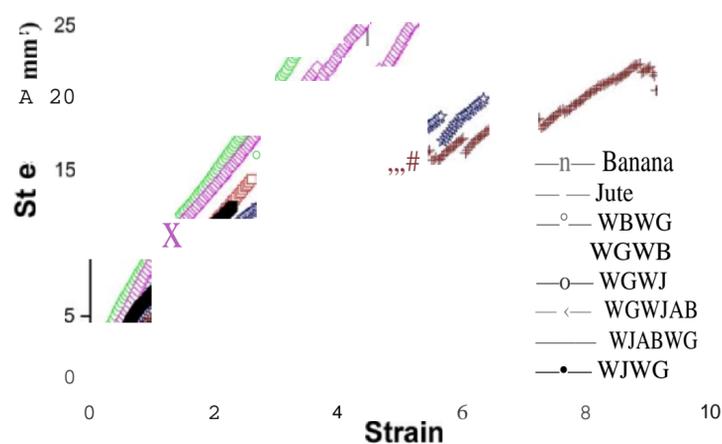


Figure 3. SFess vs strain from tensile test.

against higher load carrying capacity of glass fibre. These results indicate that the inaa-ply hybridization of glass and natural fibre enhances tensile properties of the composite. This is also evident from poor brittle failure behaviour of banana fabric and jute fabric composites.

Surface morphology studies are carried out on the tensile fractured specimens using scanning electron microscope images to understand the load transfer mechanism between the fibres along warp and weft direction and between the fabric and matrix during loading. Figure 4a shows the tensile fractured surface of woven jute fibre composite. It reveals that ie failure occurs in the warp direction due to tensile loading and indicaies the uniform stress distribution

in the loading direction. Figure 4b and c shows the fractured surface of WBWG woven intra-ply hybrid composite under tensile load with different magnifications. It reveals that addition of glass fibre in the natural fibre composite damages the maaix material due to non-uniform stress distribution of fibre. This indicates that extremely strong glass fibre in the maaix carries higher load compared with banana natural fibre. Due to these drastic differences in the strength, banana fibre fails earlier and also damages the matrix.

Figure 4d shows the failure of banana fibre surface in the WBWG composite. It indicates that banana natural fibre failure has brittle nature since it shows poor load carrying capacity compared with glass fibre. This causes severe damage in ie matrix material, which is evident from figure 4c. A similar observation was noticed for GWGJ composite also. Figure 5c shows when glass fibre is oriented along warp or loading direction, it tries to carry more load. At the same time, natural fibres in the weft direction start to fail and cause severe damages in the matrix. Figure 5c reveals glass fibre damages in the matrix material near the fibre surface, which then propagate to the outer surface.

However, a similar kind of variation of flexural properties with the type of inaa-ply hybrid woven fabric composites is not observed, as seen in table 3. Flexural properties of GWJAB and WJABWG composites are poor compared with other intra-ply woven hybrid composites due to the presence of both natural fibres in the

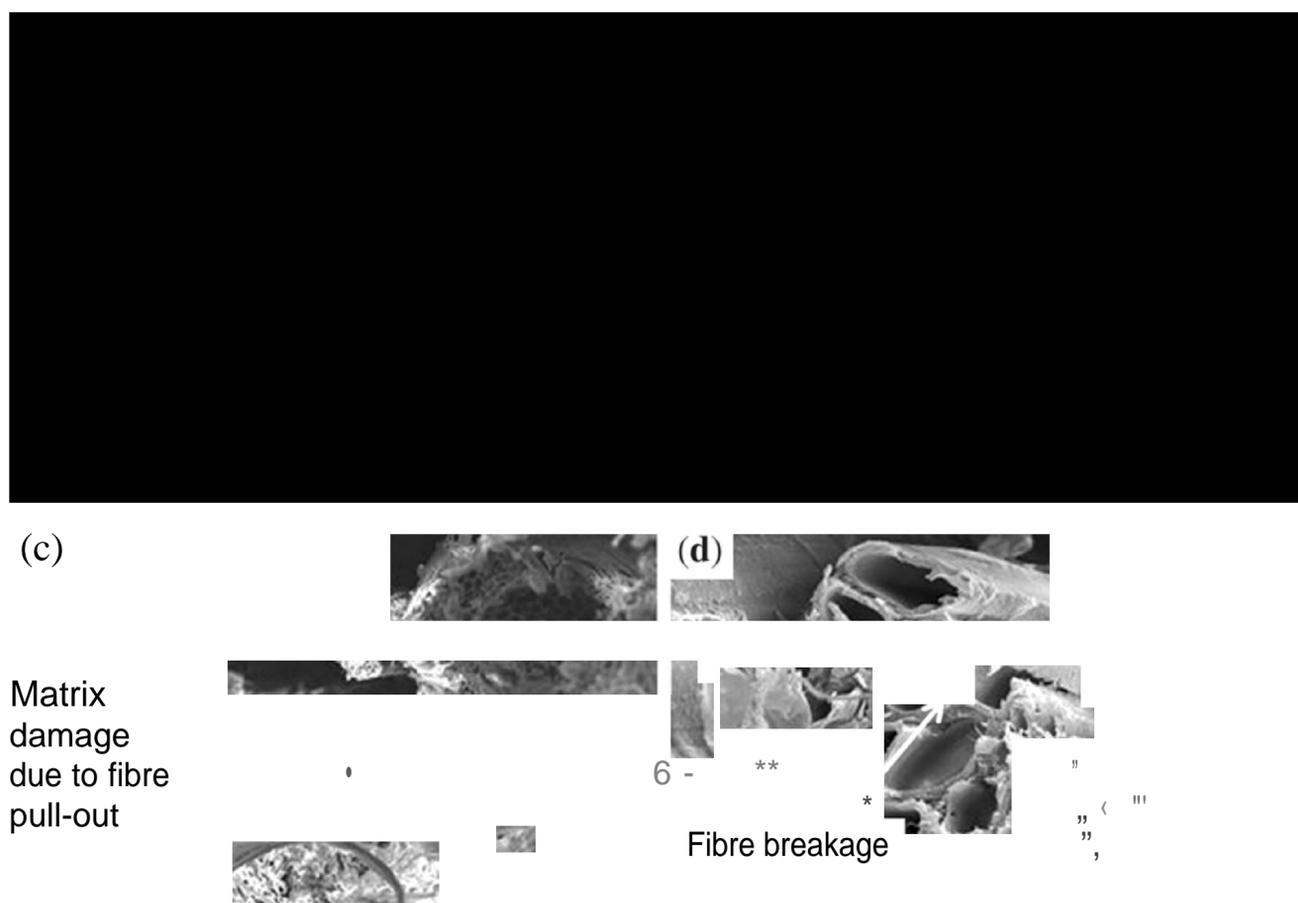
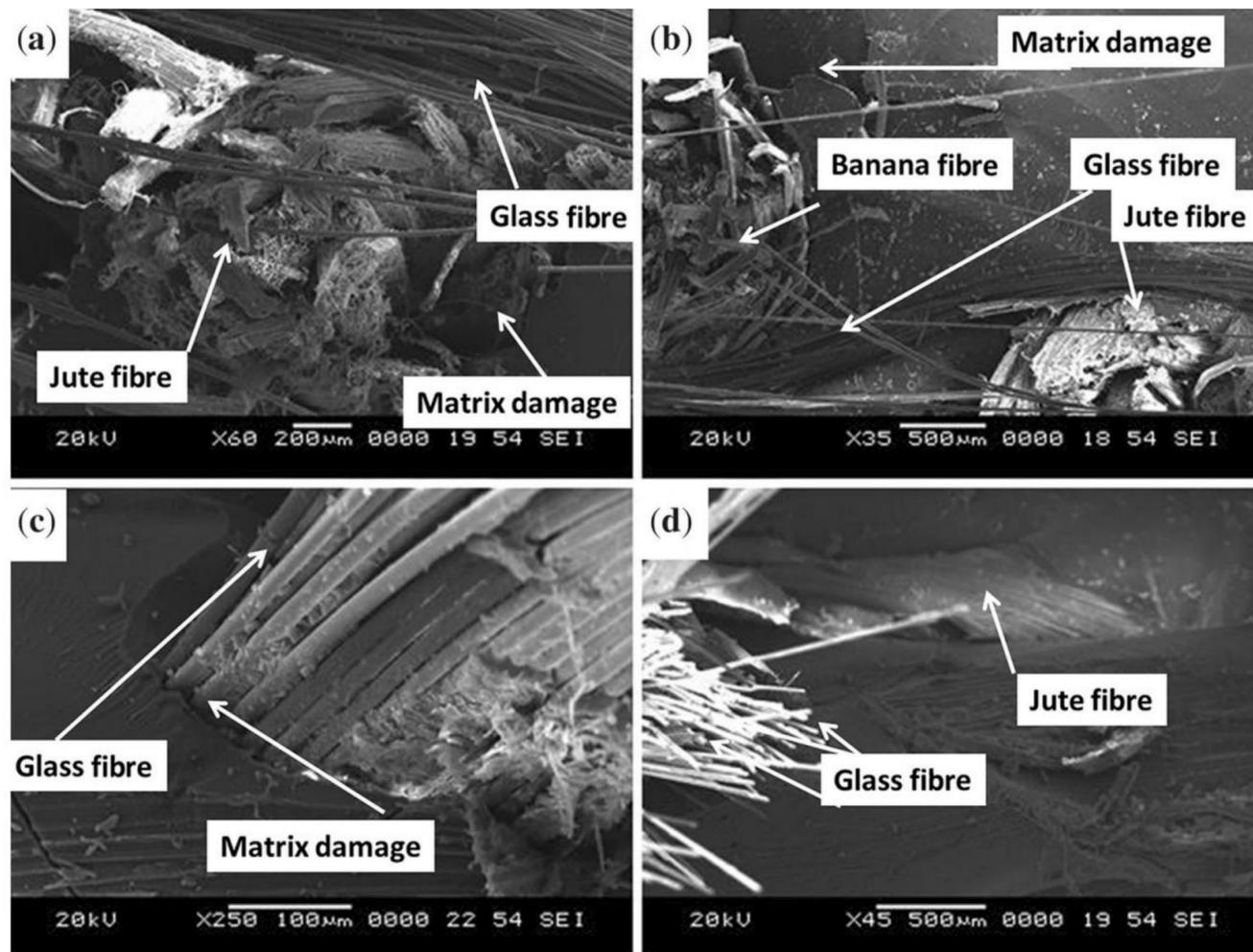


Figure 4. Micro structure of woven composites. (a) Jute composite under tensile load. (b)—(d) WBWG composite under tensile load.



**Figure 5.** Micro-structure of woven composites. (a) WJWG composite under flexural load, (b) WJABWG composite under flexural load, (c) WGWJ under tensile load and (d) WGWJ under flexural load.

fabric along with glass fibre. This can be attributed to the poor stress transfer between the natural fibres when both the fibre yarns are present in the fabric along with the glass fibres. Results also revealed that for WJWG and WBWG the tensile properties of the intra-ply woven hybrid fabric composites do not vary significantly while WGWJ and GWB composites tensile properties vary significantly. This is due to higher resistance offered by the jute yarns compared with banana yarns during the bending loading. The result indicates that for better tensile properties of intra-ply woven hybrid composites, relatively weaker natural fibre should be oriented along the weft direction of the fabric. Similarly, for better flexural properties, relatively stronger natural fibre should be oriented along the weft direction of the fabric.

Figure 5a shows the fracture surface of WJWG composite under flexural load. This reveals that WJWG composite under flexural load fails due to fibre pull-out; due to poor strength of fibre it could not carry more load. Hence, the composite fails either by fibre breakage or fibre pull-out and causes severe damages in the matrix material of composite. Similar observations can be made for WJABWG composite also. Figure 5b shows the presence of glass fibre and natural fibre (banana and jute) in the polyester composite. It also reveals that damage occurs in the matrix material due to non-uniform stress formation during composite loading under flexural load due to different fibre strengths. Figure 5d shows WGWJ composites fracture surface under flexural load. It reveals less damage on

matrix material. This is due to the presence of jute fibre in weft direction. Even though jute fibre strength is not equal to that of glass fibre, compared with banana fibre, jute fibre has better strength. This jute fibre tries to transfer load uniformly but is drastically different compared with glass fibre composite at failure. However, it gives better stress transfer compared with glass–banana and glass–banana–jute combination.

Similar to the tensile properties, the impact strength of the intra-ply woven hybrid fabric reinforced composite is better when the glass fibre is oriented along the warp direction and the impact strength is poor when the glass fibre is oriented along weft direction, as seen in table 3. One can observe from table 3 that intra-ply hybridization of natural fibre with glass fibre increases impact strength of the composite significantly compared with tensile and flexural behaviour of the composite. The intra-ply hybridization of glass and natural fibre does not enhance the tensile and flexural strength of the composite. Individual jute fibre woven fabric reinforced (WAWJ) composite has better flexural and tensile strength. However, the impact strength of the glass–natural fibre intra-ply woven hybrid composites is several times higher than the individual natural fibre woven fabric reinforced composites. It is also observed that WGWJ composites impact strength is about 75% of the individual glass fibre woven composite (WAWG). From table 3, it is clear that impact strength of the intra-ply woven hybrid composite is better when the glass fibre is oriented along the warp direction. The reason

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for this is that glass fibre has a higher modulus than that of natural fibre, which increases the resistance against deformation. Glass fibre has higher stiffness, strength and toughness together in a single material than those of natural fibre. Hence, glass fibre can absorb more energy compared with natural fibre. Also glass fibre has higher aspect ratio compared with natural fibre; it offers better energy transfer between polymer and fibre upon load impact, and dissipates those impact forces throughout the composite instead of localizing them into one point. Also it provides resistance against cracking and rapid propagation throughout the specimen.

### 3.3 Dynamic mechanical analysis

Dynamic mechanical analysis studies carried out on different in-ply woven fabric reinforced composites to investigate dynamic mechanical characteristics such as storage, loss modulus and material loss factor are presented in this section.

**3.3a Storage modulus:** Influence of type of woven fabric reinforcement on storage modulus of the composite as a function of temperature is shown in figure 6. Figure 6 reveals that individual jute fibre woven fabric reinforced composite has better storage modulus in both the glassy and rubbery region compared with the other types of composites. However individual glass fibre woven fabric reinforced composite has storage modulus higher than that of individual jute fibre woven composite in the glassy region, up to 70°C. Beyond 70°C sudden drops in storage value occur for the individual glass fibre composite, and it has storage modulus value lesser than that of the jute fibre woven composite for higher values of temperature. This indicates that individual glass fibre woven composite loses its stiffness in the rubbery region due to the higher amount of molecular movement at temperature beyond 70°C. Along with this, another reason for the behaviour of glass fibre composite is its typical brittle nature. Due to this brittle nature of glass fibre, intra-ply hybridization of glass and

natural fibre does not enhance the storage modulus of the composite and results in storage modulus lower than that of individual jute fibre woven composite as seen in figure 6. Figure 6 also reveals that intra-ply woven fabrics with glass fibre oriented along warp direction do not enhance the storage modulus of the composite.

**3.3b Loss modulus:** Influence of type of in-ply woven fabric reinforcement on loss modulus of the composite as a function of temperature is shown in figure 7. From figure 7, it is clear that variation of loss modulus of the individual glass fibre woven fabric composite with temperature is similar to the storage modulus variation. The width associated with WAWJ and WAWB fabric (individual natural fibre woven fabric) composite is larger than that of the WAWG and other intra-ply woven hybrid fabric composites as seen in figure 7. This indicates better energy dissipation capability of individual natural fibre woven fabric composite compared with the other composites. Glass transition temperature of these WAWJ and WAWB composites is also higher than that of the other intra-ply woven composites. This can be attributed to the effective fibre matrix adhesion, which increases the frictional resistance for the molecular movement. Due to the brittle nature of glass fibre, the intra-ply woven hybrid fabric composites do not have a better glass transition temperature.

**3.3c Material loss factor:** Influence of type of intra-ply woven fabric reinforcement on material loss factor of the composite as a function of temperature is shown in figure 8. Figure 8 also reveals that due to the higher molecular movement, the intra-ply woven glass—natural fibre hybrid composite has better material loss factor values than those of the natural fibre woven (WAWJ and WAWB) composites. From figure 8, it is observed that the peaks of WAWJ and WAWB composites shift towards the higher temperature side compared with glass—natural fibre intra-ply hybrid composite. This is due to lower molecular mobility of polymer chain in the presence of individual woven fabric. In the case of glass—natural fibre, tightness

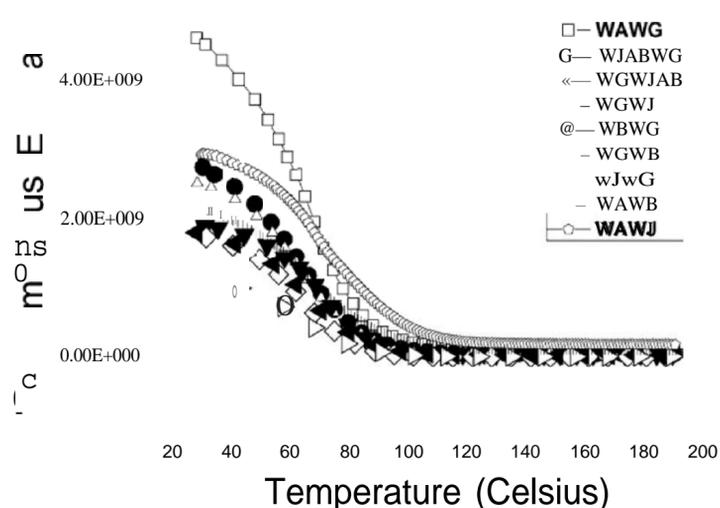


Figure 6. Effect of in-ply hybridization with temperature on storage modulus.

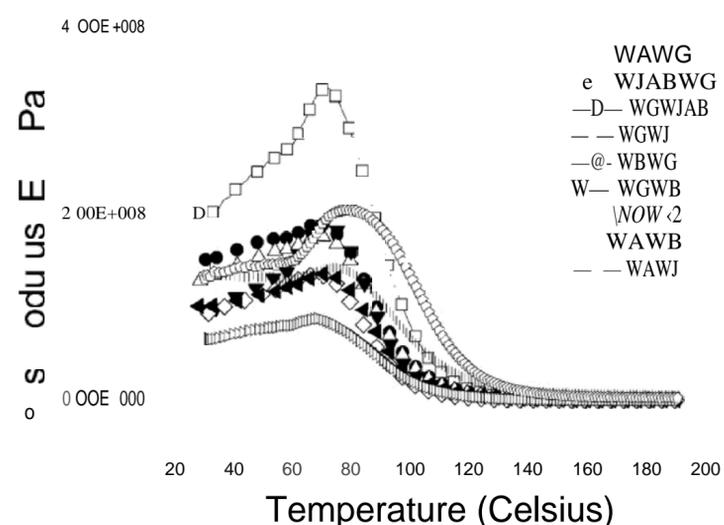


Figure 7. Effect of intra-ply hybridization with temperature on loss modulus.

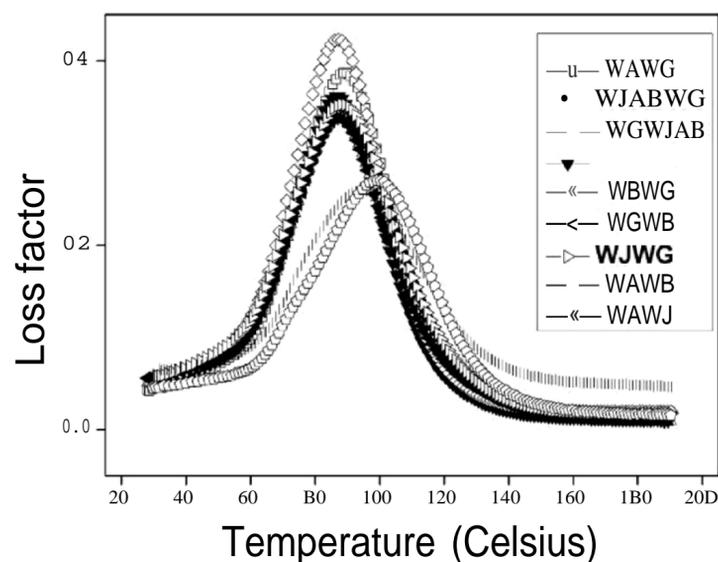


Figure 8. Effect of inFa ply hybridization with temperature on loss factor.

Table 4. Peak height and glass transition temperature of different composites.

Type of composite	Peak height $D_f \tan b$	Temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	
		$T_g$ from $\tan \delta$	$T_g$ from loss modulus
WAWG	0.3870	89.9	70.9
WAWJ	0.2703	99.2	77.7
WAWB	0.2601	94.8	74.5
WJWG	0.3528	88.1	68.8
WGWJ	0.3617	87.4	71.3
WBWG	0.4232	87.1	67.9
WGWB	0.3383	87.1	71.1
WJABWG	0.3470	89.4	68.0
GWJAB	0.3401	87.0	68.9

between two different fibres such as glass and banana, jute natural fibre is poor compared with individual jute and banana fibre fabric. This would be the influence of interfaces of fibre and matrix. In the case of glass—natural fibre intra-ply fabric composite, peak height is higher compared with individual jute and banana fibre fabric composite. This reveals that glass—natural fibre fabric increases the interaction between fibre—fibre and fibre—matrix, which increases the energy dissipation of composite material. This is reflected in the peak height of the  $\tan \delta$  value given in table 4 also.

**3.3d Cole—Cole plot:** Figure 9 shows the Cole—Cole plot of intra-ply hybrid glass—natural fibre composite. The plot indicates the structural behaviour of the matrix such as fibre—matrix interaction and homogeneity of the material due to incorporation of fibres in the matrix. From the results, it is found that addition of glass and natural fibre in the polymer matrix changes the material behaviour from homogeneity to heterogeneity, which is evident from the Cole—Cole plot. It shows that addition of glass and natural fibre in the polymer matrix changes the perfect semi-circle into imperfect semi-circular shape in Cole—Cole plot.

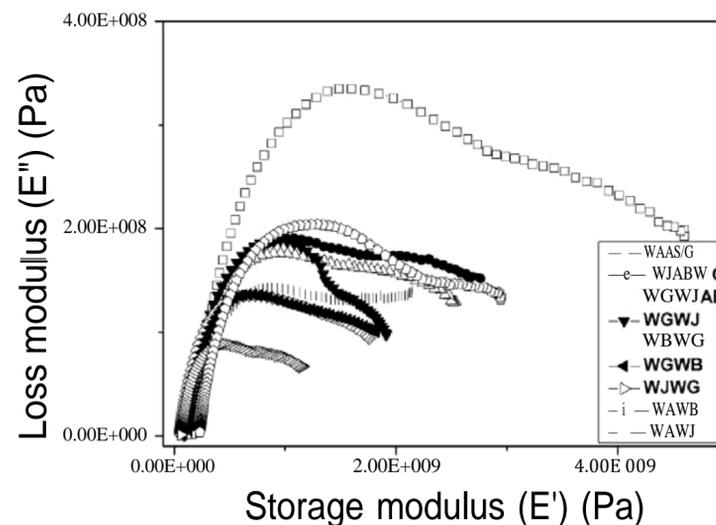


Figure 9. Cole—Cole plot of intra-ply hybrid woven composite.

## 4. Conclusion

Influence of orienting synthetic fibre yarns and natural fibre yarns in a basket-type woven fabric on mechanical and dynamic mechanical properties of a polyester composite has been investigated. It is found that intra-ply hybridization effect of synthetic and natural fibre yarns in a woven fabric is not significant on tensile and flexural characteristics of the composite. However, the in-ply woven fabric hybridization enhances impact strength and damping characteristics significantly. It is observed that woven fabric composite with glass fibre yarns oriented along has better impact characteristics, while woven fabric composite with glass, jute and banana yarns shows better loss factor due to multi-level interaction between fibre—fibre in woven fabric and woven fabric—matrix.

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