Characterisation of the mechanical and fracture properties of a uni-weave carbon fibre/epoxy non-crimp fabric composite

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A complete database of the mechanical properties of an epoxy polymer reinforced with uni-weave carbon fibre non-crimp fabric (NCF) is established. In-plane and through-the-thickness tests were performed on unidirectional laminates under normal loading and shear loading. The response under cyclic shear loading was also measured. The material has been characterised in terms of stiffness, strength, and failure features for the different loading cases. The critical energy release rates associated with different failure modes in the material were measured from interlaminar and translaminar fracture toughness tests. The stress–strain data of the tensile, compressive, and shear test specimens are included. The load–deflection data for all fracture toughness tests are also included. The database can be used in the development and validation of analytical and numerical models of fibre reinforced plastics (FRPs), in particular FRPs with NCF reinforcements.

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**Specifications Table**

| Subject area                  | Composite materials                                      |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| More specific subject area    | Material characterisation/mechanics of composite materials|
| Type of data                  | Table and graphs, pictures                              |
| How data was acquired         | Universal testing machines, strain gauges (Showa N22-FA-5-120-11-VS2 for the in-plane tensile tests, Kyowa KFG-3-120-C1-11L3M3R for the compressive tests and through-the-thickness tensile tests), DIC system (ARAMIS 2M(-5M) from GOM GmbH), travelling microscope |
| Data format                   | Raw data in CSV format and post-processed data in tables and graphs |
| Experimental factors          | Mechanical and fracture properties a uni-weave NCF composite material |
| Experimental features         | Stress/strain response, stiffness, strength, fracture toughness, failure features |
| Data source location          | Sweden                                                  |
| Data accessibility            | Data are included in this article                       |

**Value of the data**

- This data set presents a complete mechanical characterisation of a CFRP system.
- The data can be used as input properties in analytical models.
- The data can be used as input parameters in finite element analyses and used for validation of results.
- The data can be compared to already available data for others CFRPs. The data can also be used in the development of future CFRPs, in particular those with NCF reinforcements.
- Guidelines for the mechanical and fracture characterisation of a given FRP material are provided.

**1. Data**

The stress–strain curves under the following loading cases are presented:

- in-plane longitudinal tension
- in-plane longitudinal compression
- in-plane transverse tension
- in-plane transverse compression
- through-the-thickness (TT) tension
- TT compression
- in-plane shear
- TT shear

The following terminology is used: 1-index refers to the longitudinal (to the fibre) direction in the reinforcement plane, 2-index refers to the transverse direction in the reinforcement plane, and 3-index refers to the TT direction w.r.t. the reinforcement plane. The stiffness and strength values are extracted from the stress–strain curves, and the specimen failure features reported.

**Abbreviations:** Avg, average; CC, compact compression; CFRP, carbon fibre reinforced plastic; CNC, computer numerical control; CT, compact tension; CV, coefficient of variation; DCB, double cantilever beam; DIC, digital image correlation; ENF, end notched flexure; FRP, fibre reinforced plastic; FVF, fibre volume fraction; MMB, mixed-mode bending; NCF, non-crimp fabric; NL, nonlinearity method; Peak, maximum peak method; R-curve, crack resistance curves; RTM, resin transfer moulding; TT, through-the-thickness; VI, vacuum infusion; VO, visual observation method
Load–deflection curves are obtained from interlaminar fracture toughness tests in mode I, mode II and mixed-mode, and from translaminar fracture toughness tests. The energy release rates associated with the initiation of crack growth for the different tests are reported, as well as the crack resistance curves (R-curves).

The dimensions of the tests specimens are reported in Appendix A. The raw data for all test specimens are provided in CSV files in Appendix B.

2. Materials

The carbon fibre reinforced plastic (CFRP) material system is an HTS45/LY556. The Hunstman LY556 epoxy resin was supplied by ABIC Kemi AB. The reinforcement layer is a 205 GSM uni-weave non-crimp fabric (NCF), from Porcher Industries. It consists of HTS45 E23 Tenax® carbon fibre bundles, which are held together by glass fibre/polyamide weft threads (Fig. 1). HTS45/LY556 laminates were manufactured by resin transfer moulding (RTM) and vacuum infusion (VI) processes, according to the epoxy resin manufacturer’s recommendation. All the test specimens needed to build the data set were prepared from the laminates listed in Table 1. The fibre volume fraction (FVF) was estimated from the laminate thickness, the laminate layup, the area weight of the carbon fibres in the NCF, and the density of carbon fibres (data provided in [1,2]).

3. Experimental design and methods

3.1. In-plane tensile and compressive properties

The test procedure for the tensile and compressive in-plane tests followed the ASTM standard D 3039 [3] and the ASTM standard D 3410 [4], respectively. Both longitudinal and transverse properties were measured. All specimens were tabbed with 1 mm thick glass fibre/epoxy laminates and equipped with strain gauges. The compressive specimens were initially polished to eliminate free edge effects.

Table 2 and Fig. 2 report the results of the tests. The specimen bending in the gauge section, \( B_y \), was evaluated in the compressive tests from the back-to-back strain measurements, according to the standard recommendation (Eq. 2 in [4]). Only the average between the two strain gauge readings was

![Carbon fibre bundle](image)

Fig. 1. Photograph of the uni-weave NCF.
### Table 1
Plate specifications.

| Plate | Layup | Thickness (mm) | FVF (%) | Manufacturing process | Cure+ post-cure | Cure pressure (bar) |
|-------|-------|----------------|---------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| UD1   | [0]_10 | 1.83           | 61      | RTM                   | 4 h 80 °C+4 h 140 °C | 3                  |
| UD2   | [0]_187| 35/38          | 55/60*  | VI                    | 4 h 80 °C+4 h 140 °C | 0.5                |
| UD3   | [0]_16 | 3.04           | 59      | RTM                   | 18 h 80 °C+4 h 140 °C | 3                  |
| CP1   | [0/90]_5s| 4.05        | 55      | RTM                   | 18h 80 °C+4 h 140 °C | 3                  |

* Considering 35 and 38 mm for the laminate thickness.

b 7.5 micron polyimide film insert in the midplane of the laminate.

### Table 2
In-plane tensile/compressive properties.

| Specimen | Modulus | Poisson ratio | Strength | Strain at failure | Fracture angle a | Bending, B (%) |
|----------|---------|---------------|----------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Transverse compression | E_{22c} (GPa) | Y_c (MPa) | \varepsilon_{22cu} (%) | \alpha (deg) | (0.2\%e) | (\epsilon_{22cu}) |
| cy1      | 9.4     | 118           | 1.48     | 65                | –                | –              |
| cy2      | 8.5     | 114           | 1.47     | 53                | 2.2              | -1.5           |
| cy3      | 9.2     | 139           | 1.89     | 70                | -0.5             | 2.4            |
| cy4      | 9.7     | 140           | 1.79     | 64                | 2.5              | 7.5            |
| cy5      | 9.7     | 133           | 1.78     | 56                | 3.5              | 8.5            |
| cy6      | 9.0     | 138           | 1.88     | 65                | 5.6              | 3.8            |
| Avg. (CV)| 9.3 (5%) | 130 (9%) | 1.71 (11%) | 62 (10%) |                      |                |

| Longitudinal compression | E_{11c} (GPa) | X_c (MPa) | \varepsilon_{11cu} (%) | (0.2\%e) | (\epsilon_{11cu}) |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| cx1                      | 134            | 591       | 0.45                    | 3.8       | 3.6               |
| cx2                      | 137            | 703       | 0.53                    | 6.4       | 14.0              |
| cx3                      | 135            | 579       | 0.43                    | -6.8      | 6.5               |
| cx4                      | 129            | 572       | 0.43                    | 3.8       | 1.8               |
| cx5                      | 127            | 649       | 0.52                    | 4.6       | 11.4              |
| cx6                      | 130            | 690       | 0.55                    | -26.2     | 29.5              |
| Avg. (CV)                | 132 (3%)       | 631 (9%)  | 0.49 (11%)              |           |                   |

| Transverse tension | E_{22t} (GPa) | \nu_{21} (-) | Y_c (MPa) | \varepsilon_{22tu} (%) |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------|----------|------------------------|
| ty1                | 9.6           | 0.032        | 27.8     | 0.29                   |
| ty2                | 9.6           | 0.027        | 28.8     | 0.32                   |
| ty3                | 7.8           | –            | 30.3     | 0.36                   |
| ty4                | – b           | – b          | 29.3     | – b                    |
| ty5                | 8.8           | –            | 29.7     | 0.33                   |
| Avg. (CV)          | 9.0 (10%)     | 0.029 (12%)  | 29.2 (2%) | 0.32 (9%)              |

| Longitudinal tension | E_{11t} (GPa) | \nu_{12} (-) | X_c (MPa) | \varepsilon_{11tu} (%) |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|----------|------------------------|
| tx1                  | 129           | 0.23         | 1506     | 1.10                   |
| tx2                  | 152           | 0.34         | 1889     | 1.23                   |
| tx3                  | 146           | 0.25         | 1891     | 1.29                   |
| tx4                  | 136           | 0.27         | 1851     | 1.25                   |
| tx5                  | 137           | 0.33         | 1796     | 1.26                   |
| Avg. (CV)            | 140 (6%)      | 0.28 (17%)   | 1787 (9%) | 1.23 (6%)              |

a Defined in Fig. 3(d).
b No strain reading.
considered to construct the stress–strain curve. In the tensile tests, the strain transverse to the loading direction was also measured to evaluate the Poisson’s ratios of the FRP material.

Longitudinal tensile specimens exhibited broom-like fracture, Fig. 3(a). Transverse tensile specimens failed in the gauge section at the end of the tabs, Fig. 3(b). Longitudinal compressive specimens failed by kink-band formation resulting in a stepped fracture surface, Fig. 3(c). Finally, transverse compressive specimens failed in a localised way with a smooth fracture surface oriented with an angle $\alpha_0$ to the direction transverse to the loading, Fig. 3(d).

3.2. Shear properties

Iosipescu tests, documented with the ASTM standard D 5379 [5], were performed to evaluate the material response under in-plane and TT shear (in the 1–3 plane) loading. The data was extracted from monotonic tests and cyclic tests. The latter consists of unloading/reloading cycles with an increasing level of applied load. The specimens were prepared with the fibres oriented along the specimen length. The specimens for in-plane shear testing were tabbed with a 1 mm thick glass fibre/epoxy laminate outside the notched region to increase their load bearing capacity. The material

Fig. 2. Stress–strain curves of the in-plane tensile and compressive tests; (a) longitudinal tension, (b) longitudinal compression, (c) transverse tension, and (d) transverse compression.
orthotropic ratios \( \frac{E_{11}}{E_{22}} \) and \( \frac{E_{11}}{E_{33}} \) were used to determine the opening angle of in-plane and TT shear specimens, according to the rescaling procedure proposed by Melin and Neumeister [6]. During the tests, the shear strain was determined by averaging strain measurements from the digital image correlation (DIC) system over a narrow band spanning the notch-to-notch axis of the specimen.

The failure mode of the Iosipescu specimens was premature failure at the notches by splitting, followed by shear failure in the gauge section (Fig. 4). This failure mode is described as an acceptable failure mode in the test standard [5]. The shear data, reported in Table 3 and Fig. 5, indicate that the shear strength of the material is close to the splitting stress of the specimen. In some specimens shear failure occurred prior to splitting failure.

3.3. Interlaminar fracture toughness properties

Double cantilever beam (DCB), end notched flexure (ENF) and mixed-mode bending (MMB) interlaminar fracture toughness tests are documented by test method standards [7–9]. A mode mixity
of 0.5 was chosen for the MMB tests, i.e. \( G_{I} = G_{II} \). For tests involving a mode I component, hinge caps were used instead of the standard piano hinges. In all test setups, the crack elongation was measured from the specimen edge with a travelling microscope.

The critical energy release rates \( G_{Ic} \) (mode I), \( G_{IIC} \) (mode II), and \( G_{C} \) (mixed-mode) were calculated following the procedure detailed in section 12.1.1 in [7], section 9.1 in [8], and section 12.3.1 in [9], respectively. From the load–deflection curves in Fig. 6, the initiation value of the critical energy release rates in each test was determined using the visual observation (VO), maximum peak (Peak), 5%/Max, and nonlinearity (NL) methods [7–9]. The critical energy release rate values at crack initiation for the different tests are reported in Table 4. The \( R \)-curves, in Fig. 6, were constructed using the VO method. For ENF tests, the crack generally made a single large jump as far as the loading point at the middle of the specimen, so no crack propagation value was measured. For the mode I tests, the \( R \)-curves in Fig. 6(a) are converging towards a propagation value of 300 J/m².

### Table 3
In-plane shear and TT shear properties.

| Test/specimen | Modulus | Strength | Strain at failure | Shear stress at splitting | Shear strain at splitting |
|---------------|---------|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| xy1           | 4.8     | 79.8     | 11.3              | 74.1\(^a\)               | 5.9\(^a\)                |
| xy2           | 4.5     | 79.0     | 9.2               | 76.2\(^a\)               | 6.9\(^a\)                |
| xy3           | 4.1     | 75.7     | 7.4               | 75.7\(^a\)               | 7.4\(^a\)                |
| xy4           | 4.2     | 76.8     | 8.7               | 72.0\(^a\)               | 5.5\(^a\)                |
| Avg. (CV)     | 4.4 (7\%) | 77.8 (3\%) | 9.1 (18\%)        | 74.5 (3\%)               | 6.4 (14\%)               |

| Test/specimen | Modulus | Strength | Strain at failure | Shear stress at splitting | Shear strain at splitting |
|---------------|---------|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| xy5           | 4.2     | 72.2     | 11.1              | 68.5\(^a\)               | 7.0\(^a\)                |
| xy6           | 4.5     | 73.3     | 10.1              | 66.1\(^a\)               | 5.8\(^a\)                |
| xy7           | 4.2     | 74.8     | 11.4              | 69.0\(^a\)               | 6.4\(^a\)                |
| xy8           | 4.3     | 71.8     | 9.3               | 69.3\(^a\)               | 6.1\(^a\)                |
| Avg. (CV)     | 4.3 (3\%) | 73.0 (2\%) | 10.5 (9\%)        | 68.2 (2\%)               | 6.3 (8\%)                |

| Test/specimen | Modulus | Strength | Strain at failure | Shear stress at splitting | Shear strain at splitting |
|---------------|---------|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| xy9           | 4.3     | 71.4     | 9.3               | 69.3\(^a\)               | 6.1\(^a\)                |
| xy10          | 4.2     | 76.8     | 8.7               | 72.0\(^a\)               | 5.5\(^a\)                |
| Avg. (CV)     | 4.3 (3\%) | 73.0 (2\%) | 10.5 (9\%)        | 68.2 (2\%)               | 6.3 (8\%)                |

| Test/specimen | Modulus | Strength | Strain at failure | Shear stress at splitting | Shear strain at splitting |
|---------------|---------|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| xz1           | 3.8     | 59.4     | 3.4               | 59.3\(^a\)               | 3.2\(^a\)                |
| xz2           | 3.9     | 54.5     | 2.6               | 51.2\(^a\)               | 2.0\(^a\)                |
| xz3           | 3.5     | 53.3     | 2.2               | 52.0\(^a\)               | 2.0\(^a\)                |
| xz4           | 3.4     | 59.8     | 3.2               | 59.8                      | 3.2                      |
| xz5           | 3.9     | 56.4     | 3.0               | 56.4                      | 3.0                      |
| Avg. (CV)     | 3.7 (6\%) | 56.7 (5\%) | 2.9 (17\%)        | 55.7 (7\%)               | 2.7 (24\%)               |

| Test/specimen | Modulus | Strength | Strain at failure | Shear stress at splitting | Shear strain at splitting |
|---------------|---------|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| xz6           | 3.9     | 50.4     | 2.1               | 50.4                      | 2.1                      |
| xz7           | 3.7     | 55.0     | 2.3               | 55.0                      | 2.3                      |
| xz8           | 4.0     | 53.0     | 2.5               | 53.0                      | 2.5                      |
| xz9           | 3.5     | 54.1     | 2.4               | 54.1                      | 2.4                      |
| Avg. (CV)     | 3.8 (6\%) | 53.7 (4\%) | 2.3 (7\%)        | 49.8 (13\%)               | 2.1 (29\%)               |

\(^a\) Stress and strain levels associated to the first split.

\(^b\) No load measurement in the range of modulus calculations.
The fracture surfaces of DCB, ENF and MMB specimens were not perfectly flat but exhibited some waviness, which is specific of textile FRPs (Fig. 7). The formation of an undulating fracture surface is a toughness enhancing mechanism as it promotes slip-stick fracture processes.

3.4. TT tensile and compressive properties

The TT tensile and compressive data were extracted using the double waisted specimen design proposed by Ferguson et al. [10]. A 1/2 scale version of the original specimen produces accurate data [10], but a 3/4 scale version was chosen to ensure that a sufficient amount of bundles of the NCF were present over the specimen gauge width (Fig. 8). The specimens were machined by a CNC milling machine using diamond-coated tools.
Fig. 6. Load–deflection curves (left) and R-curves (right) obtained from (a) DCB tests, (b) ENF tests, and (c) MMB tests.
Table 5 reports the material data extracted from the stress-strain curves of the tensile and compressive tests (Fig. 9).

For the compressive tests, the specimens were simply loaded between two parallel platens in displacement control equivalent to an initial strain rate of approximately 2%/min. Back-to-back strain measurements and stereo DIC measurements indicated no specimen bending. The strains were averaged from the DIC measurements over the entire surface of constant gauge section. The surface monitored by the DIC system was not always the same in all specimens so that the evaluation of both Poisson’s ratios $\nu_{32}$ and $\nu_{31}$ was possible.

For the tensile loading configuration, rod end bearings were attached to the universal testing machine to prevent the introduction of moments in the specimens. The specimen end surfaces were adhesively bonded to two steel plates connected to the bearings. Strain gauges were bonded at the centre of the wider surfaces of the specimen, and the average of the two strain readings was considered to construct the stress–strain curves. In two specimens, the strain gauges produced inaccurate signals and the strain data were discarded. However, the strength values associated with these two specimens are considered reliable.

![Crack path observed on a post-test MMB specimen. The initiation point indicates the end of the initial crack.](image)

*Fig. 7. Crack path observed on a post-test MMB specimen. The initiation point indicates the end of the initial crack.*

Table 4

| Test/specimen | Initiation value for the critical energy release rate (J/m²) |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
|               | DCB (mode I) VO                                       |
|               | 5%/Max NL                                             |
| dcb1          | 144                                                    |
| dcb2          | 143                                                    |
| dcb3          | 160                                                    |
| Avg. (CV)     | 149 (6%)                                              |
|               | ENF (mode II) VO                                      |
|               | Peak                                                   |
| enf1          | 740                                                   |
| enf2          | 551                                                   |
| enf3          | 613                                                   |
| enf4          | 713                                                   |
| enf5          | 834                                                   |
| Avg. (CV)     | 690 (16%)                                             |
|               | MMB (mixed-mode) VO                                   |
|               | Peak                                                   |
|               | 5%/Max NL                                             |
| mmb1          | 507                                                   |
| mmb2          | 179                                                   |
| mmb3          | 220                                                   |
| mmb4          | 122                                                   |
| Avg. (CV)     | 174/257 (28/67%)                                      |

* Excluding deviant value of 507 for specimen. A possible explanation for the high toughness measured for specimen mmb1 is the presence of a rather uneven crack surface observed just at the location of crack initiation. The high energy built up at this location is finally released once a sufficient load is achieved, resulting in an instantaneous crack growth over 8 mm (see R-curve in Fig. 6(c)).
Fig. 10 shows the different specimen failure modes observed during testing. The adhesive bond remained intact in all tensile specimens, which fractured in a region close to the waist radius (Fig. 10(a)). Two failure modes were observed in the compressive case, Fig. 10(b), and a fracture angle, $\lambda_0$, was defined.

3.5. Translaminar fracture toughness properties

The test procedure described by Pinho et al. [11] was followed to determine the energy associated with fibre breakage in tension and in compression, using compact tension (CT) and compact
**Fig. 9.** Stress–strain curves of the TT tensile (a) and compressive tests (b).

**Fig. 10.** Failure of the double waisted specimens; in tension (a), and in compression (b).
The machining of the notches was as follows: first a circular saw was used to make a wide cut, then a 0.5 mm wide notch was achieved using a precision low-speed saw (only for CT specimens), and finally a razor blade was used to create a sharp pre-crack. During testing, the load was introduced using steel cylinders through the holes of the CT/CC specimen.

Cross-ply specimens are needed to prevent splitting at the notch when the crack initiates. The data reduction scheme, based on Eqs. (1)–(3), was followed to extract the critical energy release rate for the 0°-plies in tension and in compression. In Eq. (1), the critical energy release rate for the laminate is calculated from the measurement of the critical load $P_c$ at crack initiation. $t$ is the thickness of each specimen. The unit energy release rate $G_{lc\text{||unit}}$ is found by calculating the $J$-integral of the specimen configuration (geometry and layup considered) with finite element methods.

$$G_{lc\text{||lam}} = \frac{G_{lc\text{||unit}}P_c^2}{t^2}$$ (1)

Table 6
Initiation values of the critical energy release rates from the translaminar fracture toughness tests.

| Test/Specimen  | Initiation value for the critical energy release rate (kJ/m²) |       |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
|               | $G_{lc\text{||lam compressive}}$                           | $G_{lc\text{||lam tensile}}$ |
| Compact compression |                                                           |       |
| cc1           | 53.7                                                      | 107.1 |
| cc2           | 49.8                                                      | 99.2  |
| Avg. (CV)     | 51.8 (5%)                                                 | 103.1 (5%) |
| Compact tension |                                              |       |
| ct1           | 32.3                                                      | 64.1  |
| ct2           | 35.2                                                      | 70.0  |
| Avg. (CV)     | 33.7 (6%)                                                 | 67.1 (6%) |

Fig. 11. Dimensions of the CT specimens (a) and CC specimens (b); in mm.
From the critical energy release rate for the laminate, the critical energy release rate for the 0°-plies is found using Eqs. (2) and (3), respectively,

\[
G_{Ic0}^{\text{tensile}} = \frac{t}{t_0} G_{Ic}^{\text{lamtensile}} - \frac{t_{90}}{t_0} G_{Ic,\text{in}}
\]

\[
G_{Ic0}^{\text{compressive}} = \frac{t}{t_0} G_{Ic}^{\text{lamcompressive}} - \frac{\sqrt{2}t_{90}}{t_0} G_{IIc,\text{in}}
\]

where \(t_0\) is the total thickness of the 0°-plies, and \(t_{90}\) the total thickness of 90°-plies. The values for \(G_{Ic,\text{in}}\) and \(G_{IIc,\text{in}}\) were taken from in Table 4. The results from the data reduction scheme are presented in Table 6.

**Acknowledgements**

The work performed within the following projects contributed to the construction of the present database: “Compcrash” project, Swedish Energy Agency (Energimyndigheten), project number 34181-1; “SAFEJOINT” project, European Commission under FP7, grant agreement number 310498; “FFI crash” project, VINNOVA, Sweden, Dnr 2012-03673; “FALS” project, VINNOVA, Sweden, Dnr 2014-03929.

The authors would like to thank Runar Lånström and Erik Sandlund for the manufacturing of the plates and test specimens, as well as Fredrik Ahlqvist for his assistance in mechanical testing.

**Appendix A.** See Table 7 for specimen information.

**Table 7**

Information on the test specimens.

| Specimen            | Plate | Thickness (mm) | Width (mm) | Gauge length (mm) | Comments          |
|---------------------|-------|----------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Transverse compression |      |                |            |                   |                   |
| cy1                 | UD1   | 1.88           | 9.71       | 10.29             | One strain gauge  |
| cy2                 | UD1   | 1.93           | 9.77       | 10.70             | –                 |
| cy3                 | UD1   | 1.93           | 9.78       | 10.89             | –                 |
| cy4                 | UD1   | 1.94           | 9.87       | 10.46             | –                 |
| cy5                 | UD1   | 1.92           | 9.81       | 10.74             | –                 |
| cy6                 | UD1   | 1.95           | 9.72       | 10.45             | –                 |
| Longitudinal compression |    |                |            |                   |                   |
| cx1                 | UD1   | 1.75           | 9.79       | 10.15             | –                 |
| cx2                 | UD1   | 1.75           | 9.78       | 10.21             | –                 |
| cx3                 | UD1   | 1.78           | 9.90       | 10.17             | –                 |
| cx4                 | UD1   | 1.78           | 9.91       | 10.16             | –                 |
| cx5                 | UD1   | 1.79           | 9.86       | 10.20             | –                 |
| cx6                 | UD1   | 1.79           | 10.00      | 10.22             | –                 |
| Transverse tension |       |                |            |                   |                   |
| ty1                 | UD1   | 1.80           | 25.00      | 125               | –                 |
| ty2                 | UD1   | 1.80           | 25.00      | 125               | –                 |
| ty3                 | UD1   | 1.83           | 14.95      | -                 | One strain gauge  |
| ty4                 | UD1   | 1.81           | 24.80      | 124               | No strain gauge   |
| ty5                 | UD1   | 1.87           | 24.20      | 122               | One strain gauge  |
| Longitudinal tension |     |                |            |                   |                   |
| tx1                 | UD1   | 1.80           | 11.99      | 90                | –                 |
| tx2                 | UD1   | 1.80           | 12.02      | 90                | –                 |
| Specimen | Plate | Thickness (mm) | Width (mm) | Gauge length (mm) | Comments |
|----------|-------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| tx3      | UD1   | 1.81           | 12.02     | 90                | –        |
| tx4      | UD1   | 1.80           | 12.04     | 90                | –        |
| tx5      | UD1   | 1.80           | 11.96     | 86                | –        |

| Specimen | Plate | Thickness (mm) | Gauge length (mm) | Notch angle(*) | Comments |
|----------|-------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------|
| xy1      | UD1   | 1.85           | 12.11             | 141            | –        |
| xy2      | UD1   | 1.76           | 12.14             | 141            | –        |
| xy3      | UD1   | 1.80           | 12.17             | 141            | –        |
| xy4      | UD1   | 1.79           | 12.16             | 141            | –        |

| Specimen | Plate | Thickness (mm) | Initial crack length (mm) | Thickness (mm) | Width (mm) | Length (mm) |
|----------|-------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| dcb1     | UD3   | 48.9           | 3.05                      | 19.72          | Approx. 180|
| dcb2     | UD3   | 48.6           | 3.04                      | 19.64          | Approx. 180|
| dcb3     | UD3   | 48.8           | 3.03                      | 19.67          | Approx. 180|

| Specimen | Plate | Height (mm) | Gauge section (mm x mm) | Comments |
|----------|-------|-------------|--------------------------|----------|
| cz1      | UD2   | 30.01       | 7.49 × 11.88             | – Fibres running along the widest surface |
| cz2      | UD2   | 30.00       | 12.14 × 7.49             | –        |
Table 7 (continued)

| Specimen Plate | Height (mm) | Gauge section (mm x mm) | Comments |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------|
| cz3 UD2        | 30.03       | 7.52 x 12.10            | –        |
| cz4 UD2        | 30.03       | 7.54 x 12.00            | –        |
| cz5 UD2        | 30.03       | 7.54 x 11.97            | –        |
| Tension       |
| tz1 UD2        | 34.11       | 7.64 x 11.98            | –        |
| tz2 UD2        | 32.02       | 7.66 x 11.87            | –        |
| tz3 UD2        | 34.04       | 7.64 x 11.74            | –        |
| tz4 UD2        | 34.04       | 7.53 x 12.02            | –        |
| tz5 UD2        | 34.02       | 7.57 x 12.02            | –        |

Specimen Plate Initial crack length (mm) Thickness (mm) Width (mm) Height (mm)

| Specimen Plate | Initial crack length (mm) | Thickness (mm) | Width (mm) | Height (mm) |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
|Compact compression |
| cc1 CP1         | 20.18                      | 4.09           | 65.19      | 60.04       |
| cc2 CP1         | 20.33                      | 4.03           | 65.15      | 59.96       |
|Compact tension |
| ct1 CP1         | 26.96                      | 4.05           | 65.12      | 60.03       |
| ct2 CP1         | 26.61                      | 4.05           | 65.15      | 60.30       |

Appendix B. Supplementary material

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2016.01.010.

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