Research Article

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Strength analysis of marine biaxial warp-knitted glass fabrics as composite laminations for ship material

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Abstract: Fiberglass-reinforced plastics (FRP) composite materials for ships that are widely used are marine-grade unsaturated polyester resin matrix and combimat fiber, a combination of marine-grade chopped strand mat (CSM) and woven roving (WR) fibers. Although less popular than marine CSM-WR, marine biaxial warp-knitted glass fabrics have the potential to be applied as fiber laminates for ship hull materials. A comparative study of tensile and bending strength between marine CSM-WR composite and marine CSM-biaxial composite had been conducted. All composites met the criteria of the Indonesian Classification Bureau. Specifically, the CSM-biaxial had higher tensile and flexural strength with fewer laminations than the CSM-WR. Laminate type II had the highest average normalized tensile and flexural strength, 186.1 and 319.2 MPa. A layer of biaxial fiberglass had a very significant effect on tensile and flexural strength. Besides its strength, fewer type II laminations can speed up the production process of FRP ship hulls. Furthermore, the CSM-biaxial composite had relatively high normalized flexural strength compared to other references. However, the normalized tensile strength achieved in this study was at an intermediate level compared to other references.

Keywords: mechanical properties, biaxial fiberglass, ships material, lamination arrangement, composite reinforcement

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1 Introduction

Archipelagic countries need small vessels of various types, such as patrol boats [1], fishing boats [2], and small interisland passenger boats [3]. Ships for this function generally use fiberglass-reinforced plastics (FRP) materials because FRP materials have easy manufacturing techniques, flexible geometries and shapes, fairly good material durability, corrosion resistance, and a high strength-to-weight ratio [4]. Furthermore, this lightweight FRP material has an impact on high payload, which is expected to be able to transport more goods in one trip, resulting in cost savings for ship owners and lower pollution, which supports the international maritime organization target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in 2050 [5,6]. Compared to ships made of aluminum which are also light, FRP shipyards do not require significant investments, the technology is simple, the construction is lightweight, and it does not require high qualifications of the worker.

The most widely used FRP composite materials for ships are the matrix in the form of marine-graded unsaturated polyester resin (UPR) and combimat fiber which is a combination of marine-grade chopped strand mat (CSM) fibers and marine-grade woven roving (WR) [7]. Although less popular than conventional fibers (CSM–WR), biaxial warp-knitted glass fabrics have the potential to be applied as fibers for ship hull composite materials due to their high modulus of elasticity and good delamination resistance. FRP with biaxial fiber warp-knitted glass fabrics has high strength, stiffness, and yarn utilization efficiency [8].

Biaxial warp-knitted glass fabrics have good structural integrity, flexible design, high tear resistance, and improved through-the-thickness strength [9]. Biaxial warp-knitted glass fabric composite has been fabricated by the vacuum-assisted resin transfer molding method. FRP biaxial composite showed higher tensile and flexural strength than FRP quadriaxial composite [10]. Furthermore, composite materials with warp-knitted fabric were reported to have higher tensile strength and tensile modulus compared to weft

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fabric-reinforced composite due to their interlocking of the yarns from the consecutive yarn [11]. FRP biaxial composite has been studied on the effect of stitch and biaxial yarn types on tensile, bending, and impact properties [12].

The tensile and flexural behavior of composites with multiaxial fibers has been studied. Biaxial fiber, included in the multiaxial fiber group, has superior strength due to straight fiber bundles [13]. Bending and impact properties of biaxial composite FRP have been investigated, where better mechanical properties can be achieved by using aramid stitch varn with a combination of glass warp and glass weft varns [14]. Biaxial fiberglass composite has been tested for tensile and flexural. Composites with multiwalled carbon nanotubes showed a 3% increase in tensile strength and 65% flexural strength compared to composites without multiwalled carbon nanotubes [15]. An experimental study of the tensile and flexural properties of the biaxial warp-knitted fiberglass composite has been carried out. The study shows that the stacking configuration of fabric layers affects the performance of tensile and flexural properties [16]. The failure mechanism and deformation behavior of the biaxial warp-knitted flexible composite have been investigated. The tensile failure has two failure modes: fiber fracture and tensile-shearing mixed failure [17]. Gao et al. have studied the tensile and flexural behavior of various types of multiaxial warp-knitted fiberglass composites [18]. Still, the mechanical properties of composites with multiaxial fibers and conventional fibers (CSM and WR) have not been studied in a comparative study.

Most studies on biaxial composites are developed for general applications, even though applications on ships must meet specific class/standard criteria. Fojtl et al. performed a flexural test on a biaxial glass fabric composite for front-end cab application [19]. Biaxial fiberglassreinforced vinyl ester composites have been subjected to tensile and flexural tests for application in marine environments, but the lamination arrangement, acceptance of certain ship structure standards, and marine-grade materials used have not been very clearly stated [20], making it difficult for FRP shipyards to reproduce ship based on this research. Bonded reinforcement elements for the application of yacht decks have been studied but have not used biaxial glass fabric [21]. Composites for marine applications have been investigated, but the fibers used are CSM, WR, and unidirectional fiberglass [7].

From the various studies on the biaxial composite, strength studies of the matrix in the form of marine-grade UPR combined with biaxial marine fiber for ship applications are still limited. However, composites with biaxial fibers have very interesting potential to be applied as ship materials. In addition, not much literature discusses

comparative studies of strength between marine-grade FRP composites with biaxial fibers and marine-grade FRP composites with CSM and WR fibers. For Indonesia, ship FRP materials must meet the tensile and flexural strength criteria set by the Indonesian Classification Bureau to ensure the strength and safety of ships [22].

Therefore, comparative studies of tensile and bending strength between marine-grade CSM–WR composites and marine-grade biaxial composites need to be carried out. Tensile and bending strength must meet the criteria of the Indonesian Classification Bureau so that a material composition can be applied to shipyards in Indonesia. An experimental study was conducted to determine the effect of UPR type, laminate arrangement, and fiber orientation on normalized tensile and flexural strength. A comprehensive review of normalized tensile and flexural strength from various references is also compared with the tensile and flexural strength achieved in this study.

2 Materials and methods

This experimental study aims to compare the tensile and bending strength between marine-grade CSM–WR composites and marine-grade biaxial composites. Section 2 provides an explanation of the materials used in specimen preparation and the methods employed for the uniaxial tensile and three-point flexure tests to address the research objective mentioned above.

2.1 Material development

In this study, FRP composites were developed for ship hulls using marine-grade UPR. UPR has good mechanical properties, low in weight, non-corrosive, and less costly than epoxy resin [23], making it very suitable for FRP ship hull applications. The matrix has been formed from different marine-grade UPR brands, namely Yukalac 157 BQTN-EX (UPR brand A), which was supplied by PT. Justus Sakti Raya, Indonesia, and Everpol 324 AR-1 (UPR brand B) purchased from PT. Arindo Pacific Chemicals, Indonesia. Both brands are commonly used in FRP shipyards in Indonesia and have been approved by the Indonesian Classification Bureau (BKI) with material characteristics, as shown in Table 1. UPR A and B have similar specific gravity, tensile and flexural strength, but the viscosity is different, UPR A is 450-500 cps, and UPR B is 540 cps. Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide as a curing agent was obtained from PT.

Table 1: Material characteristics of marine-grade UPR brands A and B

Properties	Marine-grade UPR brand A	Marine-grade UPR brand B
Specific gravity (g/cm³)	1.1 ± 0.02	1.1–1.2
Tensile strength (MPa)	54	55
Flexural strength (MPa)	92	95
Viscosity (cps)	450–500	540

Kawaguchi Kimia Indonesia. Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide was added 5% by weight of the resin to help initiate the hardening process and control the pot life, gel time, and curing time in the fiber lamination process.

The types of fiberglass used in this study were Chopped Strand Mat 300 g/m² (CSM 300), Chopped Strand Mat 450 g/m² (CSM 450), Woven Roving 600 g/m² (WR 600), Woven Roving 800 g/m² (WR 800), biaxial warp-knitted fabrics 800 g/m² (Biaxial 800), double biaxial warp-knitted fabrics 800 g/m² (DB 800), and double biaxial warp-knitted fabrics 800 g/m² (DB 800/M225E). CSM and WR fiberglass fibers are supplied from PT. Justus Sakti Raya, Indonesia, while the Biaxial 800, DB 800, and DB 800/M225E fiberglass fibers were purchased from PT. Triaxis Composites, Indonesia. The Indonesian Classification Bureau (BKI) has approved all types of fiberglass fibers above. Warp- and weft-knitted structures [11], including stitch yarn on a biaxial warp-knitted fabric [24], are illustrated in Figure 1.

The 35 cm \times 70 cm specimen sheet was designed using the hand lay-up technique and cured at room temperature, as illustrated in Figure 2(a), with a laminated arrangement as shown in Table 2. Specimen I was a laminated arrangement according to Indonesian yard practices, while specimens II, III, and IV were developmental lamination arrangements for ship hulls with biaxial wrap-knitted fabric fibers. The combination of CSM/WR and biaxial laminates was also

applied to yacht shipbuilding [21]. A hand roller was used to press the resin onto the fiberglass and to remove air bubbles. The hand lay-up technique was applied in several studies [12,25] (Figure 2(b)). In contrast, the hand lay-up technique was often used in FRP shipyards, including yacht shipbuilding [21] and fishing boats [7].

The fiber volume fraction was calculated using formula 1 [12,26] with a fiberglass density of 2.56 g/cm³ [18]. Thus, there were four lamination arrangements, namely I, II, III, and IV, with resins A and B and fiber orientation 0° (specimen code 0) and 90° (specimen code 90)

$$V_{\rm f} = \frac{\frac{B}{\rho_{\rm f}}}{A \times h},\tag{1}$$

where B is the weight of one layer of fiberglass (g), ρ_f is the density of fiberglass (gr/cm³), A is the surface area of the FRP laminate (cm 2), and h is the thickness of the FRP laminate (cm).

The specimen sheet was cut according to the tensile test specimen's and flexure test's size and adjusted to the orientation of the fibers 0° and 90°. The cutting method was also carried out in previous studies [10,16,17] with the same type of material as this study, namely biaxial warp-knitted composite. These specimen variations were designed to determine the effect of resin type, fiberglass type configuration, number of layers/laminations, and fiber orientation on FRP composite ships' tensile and flexural strength.

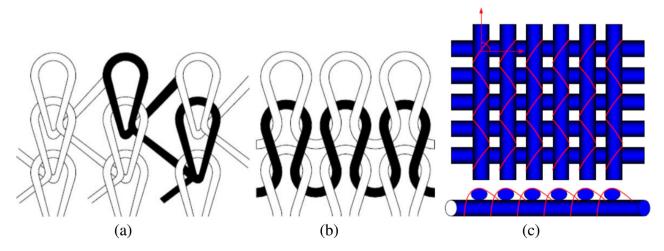


Figure 1: (a) Warp-knitted structures, (b) weft-knitted structures, and (c) biaxial warp-knitted fabric.

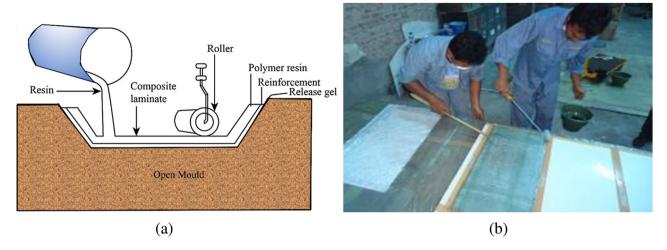


Figure 2: (a) Schematic of hand lay-up technique and (b) specimen sheet fabrication process.

2.2 Experimental method

This study investigated the strength of FRP ship materials through a uniaxial tensile and three-point flexure test using a calibrated Universal Testing Machine (RME 100 Schenck Trebel) in a certified laboratory (KAN No. 077-IDN and KNAPP No. PL 007-INA, P68-01 a). A uniaxial tensile test was carried out referring to ISO 527-3 with a crosshead speed of 5 mm/min [27]. Figure 3 shows the tensile test specimen type 3, which had dimensions of overall length (*L*3) 250 mm, width (*b*1) 25 mm, and thickness (*h*) 8 mm, with a total of five specimens for each type. The reported data from the uniaxial tensile test data represented

an average value of five specimens for each type with standard errors. The tensile loading can be seen in Figure 4, where the strain was measured using a strain gauge sensor, as was done in the study of Demircan *et al.* [12].

Meanwhile, the three-point flexure test refers to ISO 14125 with a strain rate of 0.01 (*i.e.*, 1% per minute) [28]. The flexure test results were based on the average values of six specimen measurements for each type with standard errors. The specimen and scheme of three-point flexure referred to Class II for plastics reinforced with mats, continuous matting, and fabrics with specimen length (l) 80 mm, outer span (L) 66 mm, width (b) 15 mm, thickness (b) 4 mm, the radius of central loading (b) 5 mm, and radius of supports members

Table 2: Lamination arrangement

Stacking sequences	Lamination arrangement							
	Resin A				Resin B			
	IA	IIA	IIIA	IVA	IB	IIB	IIIB	IVB
Layer 1	CSM 300	CSM 300	CSM 300	CSM 300	CSM 300	CSM 300	CSM 300	CSM 300
Layer 2	CSM 450	CSM 450	CSM 450	CSM 300	CSM 450	CSM 450	CSM 450	CSM 300
Layer 3	WR 600	Biaxial 800	DB 800/M225E	DB 800	WR 600	Biaxial 800	DB 800/M225E	DB 800
_ayer 4	CSM 450	CSM 450	DB 800/M225E	DB 800	CSM 450	CSM 450	DB 800/M225E	DB 800
Layer 5	WR 800	Biaxial 800	DB 800/M225E	CSM 450	WR 800	Biaxial 800	DB 800/M225E	CSM 450
_ayer 6	CSM 450	CSM 450	DB 800/M225E	DB 800	CSM 450	CSM 450	DB 800/M225E	DB 800
Layer 7	WR 800	Biaxial 800	CSM 300	CSM 450	WR 800	Biaxial 800	CSM 300	CSM 450
Layer 8	CSM 450	CSM 450			CSM 450	CSM 450		
_ayer 9	WR 800	Biaxial 800			WR 800	Biaxial 800		
Layer 10	CSM 450	CSM 300			CSM 450	CSM 300		
_ayer 11	WR 600				WR 600			
Layer 12	CSM 450				CSM 450			

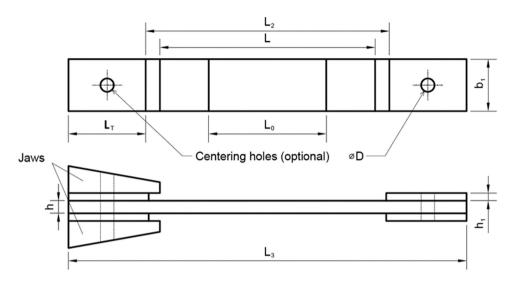


Figure 3: Dimensions of the uniaxial tensile test specimen [27].



Figure 4: Uniaxial tensile loading using UTM.

(R2) 5 mm, as shown in Figure 5. Normalized strength was calculated using formula (2) [18,29] so that the tensile and flexural strength had a value comparable to the same fiber volume fraction, namely 30%. Formula (2) was also used to analyze other studies' tensile and flexural strength to compare it to this study

$$E_{\text{normal}}(30\%) = E(V_{\text{f}}) \cdot \frac{(30\%)}{V_{\text{f}}},$$
 (2)

where E_{normal} (30%) (MPa) is the normalized strength at 30% volume fraction, $E(V_f)$ is the tensile/flexural strength (MPa), and V_f is the volume fraction (%).

3 Results and discussion

This section describes the results and discussion regarding the influence of UPR type, laminate arrangement, and fiber orientation on normalized tensile and flexural strength. A thorough analysis compares the normalized tensile and flexural strength obtained in this study with the results obtained from various references.

3.1 Tensile properties

The results of the tensile test with standard errors on resins A and B are shown in Figure 6. All variations of the specimens showed adjacent volume fractions, which were between 27.06 and 31.89%. In other references, the difference in volume fraction variation of 10% indicates that the higher the volume fraction, the higher the tensile strength [30-32]. Figure 6 and Table 3 show something similar; the higher the fiber volume fraction, the higher the tensile strength of the same resin type. However, this trend did not apply to laminates IIA and IIB, which had pretty high tensile strength, even with a fiber volume fraction of 27.06%. The volume fraction of 29.69% in CSM-biaxial resin A had an average tensile strength of 135.2 MPa. The increase in the volume fraction of 0.76-30.45% increased the tensile strength to 145.1 MPa. A slight increase in volume fraction also impacted the tensile strength of CSM-biaxial resin B, where a rise of 0.39% increased the tensile strength from 148.9 to 152.3 MPa. So, the FRP with the CSM-biaxial fiber combination in this study, especially the lamination types I, III, and IV, had a tensile strength that was sensitive enough to

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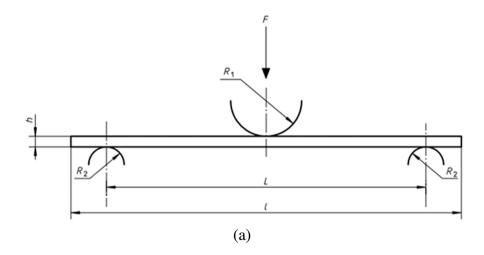




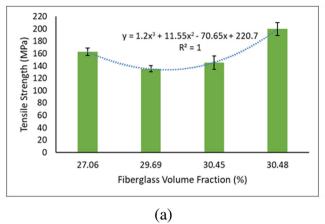
Figure 5: (a) Flexural test schematic [28] and (b) flexural loading using UTM.

be affected by volume fraction, which did not occur in vinyl ester resin/biaxial weft-knitted fiberglass materials using hand lay-up specimen fabrication method [12] and polyester resin/CSM-continuous fiberglass material using the injection molding fabrication method [33].

In contrast, all specimens in this study met the minimum tensile strength criteria of 121.23 MPa as required by the Indonesian Classification Bureau [22], so the hand lay-up technique, material type, and laminate I–IV arrangement types in this study can be applied to FRP shipyard. The hand lay-up technique is the most applicable FRP shipbuilding technique for shipyards in Indonesia. Even yacht

manufacturing in Italy still uses hand lay-up and not standardized procedures [21].

Normalized strength at a 30% volume fraction was used so that tensile strength had a comparative value to several tensile strengths between variations in this study and other studies, as can be seen in Figure 7 and Table 4. The average tensile strength of resin A was 160.7 MPa, while resin B of 160.5 MPa. Meanwhile, after normalization using formula (2), the average normalized tensile strength of all resin A specimens was 164.1 MPa, and resin B was 163.1 MPa, so that differences in resin brands did not affect the tensile strength. FRP yards could choose brand A or B



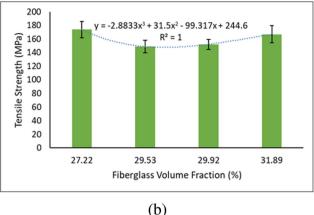


Figure 6: Effect of volume fraction on tensile strength: (a) Resin A and (b) Resin B.

Table 3: Effect of volume fraction on tensile strength

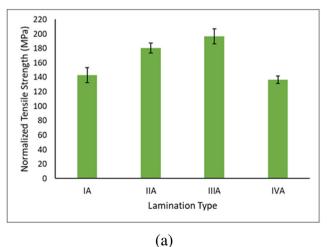
Lamination type	IA	IIA	IIIA	IVA
Average tensile strength (MPa) Fiberglass volume fraction (%)	145.1 30.45	162.8 27.06	199.7 30.48	135.2 29.69
Lamination type	IB	IIB	IIIB	IVB

based on price or ease of purchase for parts of the ship that were subject to frequent tensile loads.

More specifically, specimens of the IIA and IIB laminate types had the highest tensile strength on average, 186.1 MPa. Specimens IIIA and IIIB had an average tensile strength of 176.7 MPa, specimens IA and IB had 147.8 MPa, and specimens IVA and IVB had 144 MPa. Specimens II and

III, a combination of CSM and biaxial fiber laminations, had higher tensile strength, although the number of laminations was less than specimen I (CSM and WR fibers). Even specimen III (CSM-biaxial), which consisted of 7 layers, had a 19.5% higher tensile strength than specimen I (CSM-WR), which consisted of 12 layers. Specimen IV (CSM-biaxial) also consisted of seven layers and had almost the same tensile strength as specimen I (CSM-WR). Thus, the CSM-biaxial lamination type had better tensile strength than CSM-WR.

Biaxial warp-knitted fabric fiberglass had a significant effect on tensile properties. The average tensile strength of specimens II and III was better than that of specimen IV because specimens II and III had four layers of biaxial fiberglass. In comparison, specimen IV consisted of three layers of biaxial fiberglass. The CSM-biaxial fiber combination can speed up the production process of FRP ship materials because to get the same volume fraction, a



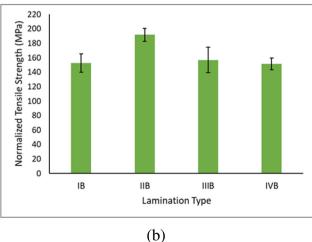


Figure 7: Normalized tensile strength: (a) Resin A and (b) Resin B.

Table 4: Normalized tensile strength

Lamination type	Tensile strength (MPa)	Standard error (MPa)	Fiberglass volume Fraction (%)	Normalized tensile strength (MPa)	Standard error (MPa)
IA0°	132	±3.96	30.45	130.03	±3.90
IIA0°	165.2	±4.29	27.06	183.17	±4.76
IIIA0°	197.4	±6.90	30.48	194.29	±6.79
IVA0°	124.8	±4.08	29.69	126.10	±4.12
IA90°	158.2	±17.36	30.45	155.84	±17.10
IIA90°	160.4	±8.46	27.06	177.85	±9.38
IIIA90°	202	±14.50	30.48	198.81	±14.27
IVA90°	145.6	±6.07	29.69	147.12	±6.13
IB0°	123.8	±8.04	29.92	124.14	±8.06
IIB0°	165.6	±7.91	27.22	182.50	±8.72
IIIB0°	157.2	±22.02	31.89	147.89	±20.71
IVB0°	141.8	±10.08	29.53	144.08	±10.24
IB90°	180.8	±6.66	29.92	181.30	±6.68
IIB90°	182.2	±15.67	27.22	200.80	±17.27
IIIB90°	176.4	±3.20	31.89	165.96	±3.01
IVB90°	156	±7.86	29.53	158.51	±7.99

smaller number of laminations is required compared to the CSM–WR fiber combination, which so far has been more frequently used by FRP shipyards, especially Indonesia. Thus, the CSM–biaxial fiber combination has the potential to be further applied to FRP vessels because it can accelerate production and has high tensile strength.

This result confirmed other studies that biaxial warp-knitted fabric fiberglass has high strength and stiffness [8], low production cost, and high production and efficiency [9]. These fibers have superior strength due to straight fiber bundles and have been widely applied in various applications [13]. However, these fibers have yet to be widely used to produce FRP vessels, especially in Indonesia.

Furthermore, the combined lamination arrangement, commonly called rovimat/combimat [7] as in Table 2, has been used in other references, namely the CSM-biaxial combination [21,25] and the CSM-WR combination [7]. Several CSM layers in this study and other studies [7,21,25] have a function to increase the resin content [7]. So that, this rovimat/combimat technique is widely applied to the marine industry, such as pleasure boats and fishing boats [7]. It was proven in this study that the specimens with relatively low resin content, specimens IVA and IVB, had not as good a tensile strength performance as specimens IIA, IIIA, IIB, and IIIB. This result showed that the biaxial warp-knitted fabric fiber should be combined with CSM fiber layers to increase the resin content and improve tensile properties.

In addition, Table 4 shows that specimens with 90° fiber orientation had greater tensile strength than 0° fiber

orientation, both for resin A and B resin specimens. Specimens with 0° fiber orientation had an average tensile strength of 154 MPa, while fiber orientation 90° of 173.3 MPa. Stitch yarn provides more support for tensile loads in specimens with a fiber orientation of 90° than 0°, where the effect of stitch yarn is shown in the study of Zhao *et al.* [17]. Fibers with a fiber orientation of 90° in the outer layers of the laminate are in the direction of loading so that fibers in that direction will bear the tensile load and increase the load-carrying capacity of the composite. Warp fibers in that direction are also distributed more evenly [16].

For various FRP composite studies, normalized tensile strength was also used as a comparative value. The average normalized tensile strength of CSM-biaxial resin A (laminations II, III, and IV) is 171.2 MPa, while CSM-biaxial resin B is 166.6 MPa, as can be seen in Table 5. In Table 5, the CSM-biaxial composite in this study had better normalized tensile strength compared to several other studies, which were also made using the hand lay-up technique [30,32,34]. Compared to other studies using a matrix in the form of polyester resin, the CSM-biaxial composite in this study was still better [31,32,35]. Furthermore, the composites in this study had higher normalized tensile strength than other reference composites using more advanced fabrication techniques, such as spray forming [31] and contact molding [35]. However, the composites in this study were not better than those of previous studies [7,12,18,29,36–38], so that the CSM-biaxial composite can be classified as having normalized tensile strength at an intermediate level.

Table 5: Normalized tensile strength comparison of various references

Reference	Fabrication	Material	Tensile strength (MPa)	Fiberglass volume fraction (%)	Normalized tensile strength (MPa)
7]	Hand lay up	Polyester resin/CSM and WR mat	100	16	187.5
		Polyester resin/CSM and Unidirectional fiberglass	156	23	203.5
[12]	Hand lay up	Vinyl ester resin/biaxial weft-	321	40	240.8
	• •	knitted fiberglass	317	41.5	229.2
[18]	Vacuum-assisted resin	Epoxy/quadriaxial warp-	391.72	51.6	227.9
	transfer molding	knitted fabric fiberglass	387.69	50.8	229.0
			330.12	50.6	195.9
			316.97	50.6	188.1
		Epoxy/biaxial warp-knitted	342.8	56.6	181.7
		fabric fiberglass	280.09	55.8	150.6
			515.51	48.4	319.7
			495.72	48.6	306.3
29]	Vacuum-assisted resin transfer molding	Epoxy/E-glass fiber mats	589.7	40	442.3
30]	Hand lay up	Epoxy resin/natural and	40	18	66.7
-	- 1	glass fiber	46	24	57.5
		_	50	30	50.0
			62	36	51.7
			72	42	51.4
31]	Spray forming	Polyester/random fiberglass	90.39	30	90.4
			101.27	30	101.3
			87.68	30	87.7
			90.44	30	90.4
			92.44	30	92.4
			115.39	40	86.5
			121.88	40	91.4
			116.65	40	87.5
			126.23	40	94.7
			118.44	40	88.8
			132.12	50	79.3
			143.45	50	86.1
			140.11	50	84.1
			136.57	50	81.9
			145.67	50	87.4
[32]	Hand lay-up	UPR/transversely aligned	10.36	10	31.1
		fiberglass	9.78	20	14.7
			8.06	30	8.1
			7.41	40	5.6
			7.26	50	4.4
		UPR/unidirectional	42.57	10	127.7
		discontinuous fiberglass	52.52	20	78.8
			63.83	30	63.8
			70.91	40	53.2
			65.68	50	39.4
		UPR/short fiberglass (random)	43.96	10	131.9
			49.74	20	74.6
			53.9	30	53.9
			57.57	40	43.2
			55.78	50	33.5
		UPR/woven fiberglass	52.15	10	156.5
			73.12	20	109.7
			99.17	30	99.2
			118.61	40	89.0

Table 5: Continued

Reference	Fabrication	Material	Tensile strength (MPa)	Fiberglass volume fraction (%)	Normalized tensile strength (MPa)
			109.83	50	65.9
[34]	Hand lay up	Epoxy/woven E-glass mat	17.59	10	52.8
[35]	Contact molding	UPR/woven E-fiberglass	120	40	90.0
[36]	Hand lay up	UPR/woven E-glass fabric	65	11	177.3
[37]	Resin Transfer Molding	Polyester resin/woven E-glass	382	41.5	276.1
			472	41.5	341.2
			499	41.5	360.7
			374	36.5	307.4
			379	36.5	311.5
			308	28.5	324.2
			344	28.5	362.1
			347	28.5	365.3
[38]	Compression molded	Polyester resin/Glass fiber roving	288	20	432.0

3.2 Flexural properties

Flexural strength with standard errors on resins A and B is shown in Table 6 and Figure 8. Figure 8 shows flexural strength was not correlated with variations in volume fraction with adjacent ranges. In general, the higher the volume fraction, the higher the flexural strength if the difference in fractional volume variation is around 10%, as in the previous studies [30,32,39]. The discrepancy in the correlation between the variation in the volume fraction range below 2.3% was also confirmed in other studies using better fabrication methods, namely the injection molding technique [33] and a hot-press machine [15]. Few references have examined the effect of flexural strength on FRP ships with low volume fraction range variations due to the difficulty of controlling fiber volume fraction over the overall volume. In addition, experimental variability has an influence that cannot be ignored [16], especially at low-volume fraction variations.

Hence, to get better flexural strength, the fiber volume fraction should be increased by at least 10%. However, all

Table 6: Effect of volume fraction on flexural strength

Lamination type	IA	IIA	IIIA	IVA
Average flexural strength (MPa) Fiberglass volume fraction (%)	208.08 30.45	254.75 27.06	309.08 30.48	282.58 29.69
Lamination type	IB	IIB	IIIB	IVB

variations in this study fully met the minimum flexural strength criteria of 116.15 MPa as required by the Indonesian Classification Bureau [22]. So the hand lay-up technique, material type, and laminate I–IV arrangement types in this study can be applied to the FRP shipyard. Even the lowest flexural strength obtained at the IAOo variation of 200.3 MPa is 72% above the minimum criteria.

Normalized flexural strength analysis was carried out to obtain comparative values between variations in this study and other studies, as shown in Table 7. After normalized flexural strength analysis, specimens using B resin showed a higher average normalized flexural strength of 288.8 MPa than resin A specimens, with an average normalized flexural strength of 269.3 MPa. Alternatively, in other words, resin B has 7.2% higher flexural strength compared to resin A. Thus, the flexural properties analysis shows that resin B was more recommended for FRP ship materials to have higher flexural strength.

Furthermore, flexural properties analysis further proved that the CSM-biaxial fiber combination was better than CSM-WR. Specimen I, a CSM-WR combination, had an average flexural strength of 214.3 MPa, while all CSM-biaxial specimens had a higher average flexural strength. The CSM-biaxial lamination type (specimens II, III, and IV) indicated that the greater the number of laminations, the higher the flexural strength. Specimen II (10 layers) had the highest average flexural strength of 319.2 MPa, followed by specimens III and IV (7 layers), which were 302.7 and 280 MPa, respectively.

Specimen IV, which only had seven layers, has 31% higher flexural strength than specimen I, which had 12 layers. Even the flexural strength of specimen III, which

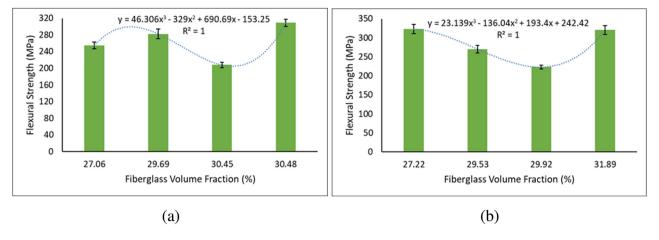
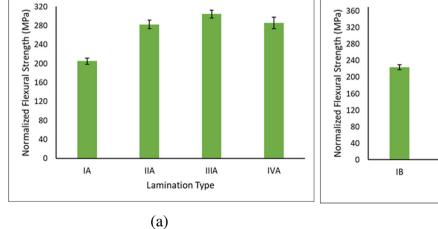


Figure 8: Effect of volume fraction on flexural strength: (a) Resin A and (b) Resin B.

Table 7: Normalized flexural strength

Lamination type	Flexural strength (MPa)	Standard error (MPa)	Fiberglass volume fraction (%)	Normalized flexural strength (MPa)	Standard error (MPa)
IA0°	200.33	±5.72	30.45	197.34	±5.63
IIA0°	227.17	±6.77	27.06	251.88	±7.51
III A0°	303.67	±10.56	30.48	298.88	±10.39
IVA0°	247.67	±8.77	29.69	250.25	±8.86
IA90°	215.83	±8.02	30.45	212.61	±7.90
IIA90°	282.33	±9.88	27.06	313.05	±10.96
IIIA90°	314.50	±6.80	30.48	309.54	±6.69
IVA90°	317.50	±15.26	29.69	320.81	±15.42
IB0°	207.00	±4.27	29.92	207.58	±4.28
IIB0°	322.33	±13.32	27.22	355.24	±14.68
IIIB0°	395.67	±18.36	31.89	372.24	±17.28
IVB0°	225.17	±11.08	29.53	228.78	±11.25
IB90°	239.00	±5.56	29.92	239.66	±5.57
IIB90°	323.50	±10.46	27.22	356.52	±11.53
IIIB90°	244.83	±4.17	31.89	230.34	±3.92
IVB90°	315.17	±9.08	29.53	320.23	±9.22



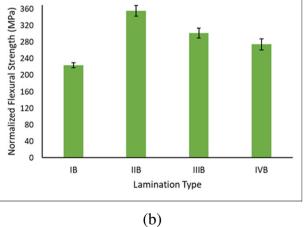


Figure 9: Normalized flexural strength: (a) Resin A and (b) Resin B.

 Table 8: Comparison of normalized flexural strength from various references

Reference	Fabrication	Material	Flexural strength (MPa)	Fiberglass volume fraction (%)	Normalized flexural strength (MPa)
[7]	Hand lay up	Polyester resin/CSM and WR mat	182	16	341.25
		Polyester resin/CSM and Unidirectional fiberglass	191.4	23	249.65
[10]	Vacuum-assisted resin transfer molding	Epoxy/biaxial warp-knitted glass fabric composite	430.85	56.68	228.04
	J	Epoxy/quadriaxial warp-knitted glass fabric composite	194.67	50.8	114.96
[12]	Hand lay up	Vinyl ester resin/biaxial weft- knitted fiberglass	365	41.5	263.86
[14]	Hand lay up	Vinyl ester resin/biaxial weft-	385	41.5	278.31
	·····- · / F	knitted fiberglass	369	41.5	266.75
[18]	Vacuum-assisted resin	Epoxy/quadriaxial warp-knitted	585.99	51.57	340.89
.0]	transfer molding	fabric fiberglass	494.22	50.79	291.92
	transfer moraling	labile liberglass	564.71	50.55	335.14
			499.71	50.55	296.56
		Epoxy/biaxial warp-knitted	1022.63	56.6	542.03
		fabric fiberglass	192.31	55.81	103.37
		labric liberglass	911.2	48.37	565.14
201	V	F/F	812.46	48.55	502.04
29]	Vacuum-assisted resin transfer molding	Epoxy/E-glass fiber mats	522.7	40	392.03
30]	Hand lay up	Epoxy resin/natural and	125	18	208.33
		glass fiber	149	24	186.25
			187	30	187.00
			207	36	172.50
			236	42	168.57
32]	Hand lay-up	UPR/transversely aligned	10.93	10	32.79
		fiberglass	11.69	20	17.54
			12.36	30	12.36
			12.92	40	9.69
			12.48	50	7.49
		UPR/unidirectional	81.93	10	245.79
		discontinuous fiberglass	85.72	20	128.58
			90.06	30	90.06
			92.31	40	69.23
			90.59	50	54.35
		UPR/short fiberglass (random)	66.76	10	200.28
		-	74.88	20	112.32
			80.94	30	80.94
			86.77	40	65.08
			83.59	50	50.15
		UPR/woven fiberglass	85.22	10	255.66
		. 3	122.34	20	183.51
			165.56	30	165.56
			177.53	40	133.15
			158.25	50	94.95
[33]	Injection molding	UPR/chopped fiberglass and continuous fiberglass	131.78	21	188.26
		_	440.07	18.7	190.70
	Compression molded	Polyacter recin/alace fiber			
	Compression molded	Polyester resin/glass fiber	118.87		
[38]	Compression molded Contact molding	Polyester resin/glass fiber roving UPR/woven E-fiberglass	118.87 106.65 74	19.8 30	161.59 74.00

also consisted of 7 layers, was 41% higher than that of specimen I. Thus, the flexural strength of CSM-biaxial was much higher than that of CSM-WR, even though CSM-WR (specimen I) had more lamination. In addition, type IV biaxial composites had flexural strength, which was not as good as type II and III biaxial composites because specimen IV had low resin content due to a minimal CSM layer. In type II and III laminations, a layer of CSM was applied between the biaxial fiber layers to increase the resin content [7]. Thus, marine composites with biaxial fibers should be combined with CSM fibers to increase the resin content and result in better flexural properties.

In this study, flexural strength was more influenced by lamination quality. The biaxial warp layer of knitted fabric fiberglass significantly affected the flexural properties, which also happened to affect the tensile properties. Biaxial warp-knitted fabric fiberglass contributed significantly to flexural strength because this layer had high strength, high yarn utilization, high orientation, and stable size. It has high resistance to delamination [8], where delamination is often a reducing factor for flexural properties. The effect of through-layer binding from a knitted tricot provides excellent delamination resistance compared to conventional laminated fibers [9]. Fewer layers with better tensile and flexural properties allow CSM-biaxial fiber (lamination types II, III, and IV) to be applied in the FRP shipping industry. These advantages provide lower production time and labor costs. Not surprisingly, composites reinforced with biaxial warp-knitted fabric fiberglass are reported to have low production costs and high production efficiency [9].

Furthermore, the average flexural strength in the 90° fiber orientation was higher than the 0° fiber orientation for both resins A and B. Specimens with 90° fiber orientation had an average flexural strength of 287.8 MPa. In comparison, 0° fiber orientation was 270.3 MPa. The flexural strength of 90° is higher than 0° because, in the orientation of 90°, the biaxial fiber has stitch yarns that better support the increase in bending strength [10,14].

In Figure 9, the CSM-biaxial resin A composite (laminations II, III, and IV) had an average normalized flexural strength of 290.7 MPa. CSM-biaxial resin B had an average normalized flexural strength of 310.5 MPa. This value indicated that the flexural strength was relatively high compared to other references, as summarized in Table 8. Compared to other references that also use specimen fabrication techniques in hand lay-up, the composites in this study have higher normalized flexural strength [12,14,30,32]. This study also had better normalized flexural strength than [32,33,39], which used a polyester matrix. Even the CSM-biaxial composite (made by hand lay-up technique) had higher normalized flexural strength compared to composites fabricated using more advanced techniques, such as vacuum-assisted resin transfer molding [10], contact molding [39], and injection molding [33].

In the future, the mechanical properties of the CSM-biaxial composite obtained in this study can be applied to FRP ship structure models to determine stress and structural deformation using the finite-element method, as shown in previous studies [40,41]. Structural dynamic analysis of the CSM-biaxial composite is also interesting to be developed in the future both experimentally [42] and numerically [43-46]. Furthermore, structural analysis of sandwich materials with core materials in the form of CSM-biaxial composite or CSM-WR needs to be studied, as in previous studies [47,48].

4 Conclusion

FRP ship composites were subjected to uniaxial tensile and three-point flexural tests to determine the effect of fractional volume with adjacent variation ranges, resin type, laminate arrangement type, and fiber orientation on tensile and flexural properties. Based on the tensile and flexural tests, all laminate types, resin types, and fiber orientations met the criteria of the Indonesian Classification Bureau. So, in general, the hand lay-up technique, type of material, and arrangement of laminates I-IV in this study can be applied as FRP ship materials.

Volume fraction (with adjacent range) affects tensile and flexural strength differently. In general, the tensile strength correlates well with the volume fraction increase. However, flexural strength did not correlate with variations in volume fraction within the adjacent range. Therefore, the fiber volume fraction should be increased by at least 10% to get better flexural strength.

The proposed CSM-biaxial or type II, III, and IV laminations had higher tensile and flexural strength with fewer laminations than CSM-WR (type I laminations), so the CSM-biaxial composite has the potential to be applied to ship hulls. FRP. Type II laminates had the highest tensile and flexural strength, followed by type III laminates. Type II laminates had normalized tensile and flexural strength averages 186.1 and 319.2 MPa, respectively. While the average normalized tensile and flexural strength of type III laminates was 176.7 and 302.7 MPa, respectively. Apart from its strength, fewer type II and III laminations can speed up the production process of FRP ship hulls. The presence of biaxial warpknitted fabric fiberglass had a very significant effect on tensile and flexural strength.

On the other hand, resin brands A and B meet the classification criteria of the Indonesian Classification Bureau. Resins A and B had relatively the same tensile strength, but resin B had slightly better flexural strength, so resin B is recommended for application in FRP shipyards. In addition, for all types of resin and laminate type, the composite with the 90° fiber orientation had more excellent tensile and flexural strength than the 0° fiber orientation, which was influenced by the stitch yarn, outer layers of the laminate in the direction of loading, and distribution warp fibers. Furthermore, the CSM–biaxial composite had relatively high normalized flexural strength compared to other references. However, the normalized tensile strength achieved in this study was at an intermediate level compared to other references.

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