The Mechanical Properties of Polymers



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Behavior Of Material Under Mechanical Loads = Mechanical Properties.

Term to address here ...

Stress and strain:

These are size-independent measures of load and displacement, respectively.

Elastic behavior:

Recoverable Deformation of small magnitude

Plastic behavior:

This permanent deformation behavior occurs when the tensile (or compressive) uniaxial stress reaches σ_y .

Toughness and ductility:

Defining how much energy that a material can take before failure.

Hardness:

The property of being rigid and resistant to pressure; not easily scratched.













Types of Stresses/Load-Strain/Displacement



Stress:
$$\sigma = \mathbf{F} / \mathbf{A}_0$$
 (MPa @ N/mm²),

- **F:** is load (N)
- A₀:cross-sectional area (m² or mm²)

Strain: $\varepsilon = \Delta l / l_0 \quad (\times 100 \%)$

 Δ **l**: change in length

l_o: original length (m or mm)

Shear stress: $\tau = \mathbf{F} / \mathbf{A}_{o}$

F is applied parallel to upper and lower faces each having area A_0 Shear strain: $\gamma = tan\theta$ (× 100 %)
 θ is strain angle

Torsion: like shear.

Load: applied torque, T

Strain: angle of twist, **\phi.**





Stress-Strain Behavior



Incheon National University

Anion Exchange Membrane

Linear: Elastic Properties

• Modulus of Elasticity, *E*: (also known as Young's modulus)

• **Hooke's Law:** ut tensio, sic vis ("as the extension, so the force")

 $\sigma = E \varepsilon$

Units:

- *E*: [GPa] or [psi]
- σ: in [Mpa] or [psi]

ε: [m/m or mm/mm] or [in/in]



Here: The Black Outline is Original, Green is after application of load



Other Elastic Properties







Atomic Demo of Plastic (Permanent) Deformation

• Simple tension test:







Tensile properties: Tensile Stress

• TS is Maximum stress on stress-strain curve.



- Metals: occurs when noticeable necking starts.
- Polymers: occurs when polymer backbone chains are aligned and about to break.





Tensile Stress : Toughness

Measure the energy to break a unit volume of materialApproximate by the area under the tensile stress-strain curve.



Brittle fracture: elastic energy Ductile fracture: elastic + plastic energy





Tensile properties: Ductility



The total elongation of the specimen due to plastic deformation, neglecting the elastic stretching (the broken ends snap back and separate after failure).





Tensile Properties: Hardness

Resistance to permanently (plastically) indenting the surface of a product.Large hardness means:

Resistance to plastic deformation or cracking in compression.

Better wear properties.







Mechanical Properties of Polymers

There are three typical classes of polymer stress-strain characteristic



Incheon National University

AEM TEAM Anion Exchange Membrane

General Classes of Materials









Increasing strain rate causes the SAME effects as decreasing T.









Figure 3. Stress-strain curves of (A) SEBS-TMA and (B) SEBS-TMHA measured at 50 °C with 0%, 50%, and 90% relative humidity (RH).



Approaches to get better Mechanical Properties

Longer chains make stronger polymers.



Figure 31 The relationship between tensile strength and chain length for a polymer.

- There is a critical length needed before strength increases.
- An average No. of 100 repeating units is necessary for HC polymers but only 40 for nylons.

• Molecular weight Mw: Mass of a mole of chains.

smaller M_W

larger M_W

- Tensile strength (TS):
- --often increases with Mw.
- --Why? Longer chains are entangled (anchored) better.
- % Crystallinity: % of material that is crystalline.
 - --TS and E often increase with % crystallinity.
 --Annealing causes crystalline regions to grow. % crystallinity increases.

crystalline region amorphous region



Crystalline polymers

- Crystallinty is areas in polymer where chains packed in a regular way.
- Both amorphous and crystalline areas can exist in the same polymer.
- More crystalline polymer causes stronger and less flexible polymer.



amorphous region

Figure 32 Crystalline and amorphous regions of a polymer.

Plasticizers

- Are small molecules which occupy position between polymer chains (like adding water to mud to make it easy in molding)
- 1. To increase flexibility, elongation and to reduce hardness and stiffness.
- To lower the processing temperature (energy saving, decomposition preventing)





By cross-linking tensile stress could be increase



Essentials of Materials Science & Engineering Second Edition Authors: Donald R. Askeland & Pradeep P. Fulay

Materials Science and Engineering: An Introduction Sixth Edition, Author: William D. Callister, Jr.

The Science and Engineering of Materials Fourth Edition, Authors: Askeland and Phule (Fulay ?)

Introduction to Materials Science for Engineers Sixth Edition, Author: James F. Shackelford









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