

## **The Mechanical Behavior of Foam-filled Corrugated Core Sandwich Panels in Lateral Compression**

### **ABSTRACT**

A series of experimental investigations and finite element analyses is presented in the compression response and subsequent failure modes in foam-filled corrugated core sandwich panels. The corrugated cores based on carbon fiber reinforced plastic (CFRP) and glass fiber reinforced plastic (GFRP) were fabricated using a hot press molding process and then bonded to face sheets based on the same material, to produce a range of lightweight sandwich panels. A liquid of low-density Rigid Polyurethane (PUR) foam was injected to fill the empty space of the panels, where to investigate the influence of filling the corrugation with the foam. The experiments also provide an insight into the post-failure response of the sandwich panels. The results are compared with the numerical predictions offered by a finite element analysis (FEA). Buckling of the cell walls has been found to be initial failure mode in these corrugated core panels. Continued loading resulted in fracture of the cell walls, localized delamination as well as debonding between the skins and the core. The predictions of the FEA show reasonably good agreement with the experimental measurements, for semi-filled and fully-filled foams. Finally, filling the inside of the corrugated core sandwich panels with the foam significantly improved the specific energy absorption (SEA) characteristics of the panels. The SEA for the GFRP and the CFRP fully-filled specimens were improved by almost 160% and 105%, respectively. This improvement was due to the constraint effects between the foam and the corrugated core members.

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M.R.M.Rejab, D.Bachtiar and J.P.Siregar, Structural Materials and Degradation Focus Group, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, 26600 Pekan, Pahang, Malaysia.

P. Paruka, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Politeknik Kota Kinabalu, Jalan Menggatal, 88450 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

S.H.S.M.Fadzullah, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, 76100 Durian Tunggal, Melaka, Malaysia.

B. Zhang, School of Mechanical Engineering, Ningxia University, 750021 Yinchuan, China

W.J.Cantwell, Department of Aerospace Engineering, Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research (KUSTAR), PO.Box 127788, Abu Dhabi, UAE.