



## **The Challenges of Determining**

the Strength of Composites

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### A B S T R A C T

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Why are there such large differences in reported strengths of composites? Some of the reasons are the definition of strength, material variability, poor test methods, and subtle variations in carrying out the tests. But there are other important factors that affect strength that are not always fully appreciated, and these are discussed for unidirectional composites and laminates. There is a need to synthesize the huge amount of published work in order to reach a consensus on the best test methods and the further research that is required.



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### **B I O**

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Michael Wisnom is Professor of Aerospace Structures at the University of Bristol and Director of Bristol Composites Institute. He is a leading expert on the mechanics and failure of fibre reinforced composites, with over 400 published papers. He is a member of the steering board of the UK National Composites Centre, Editor in Chief and European Editor for Applied Science and Manufacturing of the international journal Composites Part A. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and of the American Society for Composites.