Introduction to Aerospace Engineering

Lecture slides



Temperature & environment Material properties & degradation

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Challenge the future

Learning objectives Student should be able to...

- Describe effects of low or elevated temperature on typical aerospace material properties
- Explain the significance of temperature for aircraft & spacecraft
- Explain what environments may influence the properties



Material properties Significance of temperatures

- Materials & structures are often operated at
 - Low temperatures
 - High temperatures
 - High temperature ranges
 - For a long time





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Material properties

Effect of temperatures

TUDelft

• Material properties change with temperature (metals)



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Material properties Effect of temperatures

- Material properties change with temperature (polymers)
 - Modulus of elasticity
 - Elongation
- "glass transition temperature"







Material properties

Effect of high temperatures





Material properties Effect of high temperatures

• Thermal stress

TUDelft

Coefficient of thermal expansion

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{V} \frac{dV}{dT}$$



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Material properties Effect of high temperatures



Environmental aspects 8 | 19

Material properties Effect of low temperatures

TUDelft

Mechanical properties ↑ Resistance against plastic deformation ↑ Chemical reaction & diffusion rates ↓



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Material properties Effect of low temperatures

- Fracture toughness
 - Example: T2 and Liberty ships





16 January 1943, S.S. Schenectady, a T2 tanker, 24 hrs old



Material properties Effect of low temperatures

- Fracture toughness
 - Transition from ductile to brittle fracture
 - Temperature $\Downarrow \Rightarrow$ ductility \Downarrow and notch sensitivity \Uparrow





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Example environments

- Air/moisture/salt
- Space & re-entry
- Fuel
- Hydraulics
- Cleaning agents



Example environments

- Air/moisture/salt
 - Sea





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Example environments

- Space & re-entry
 - Radiation/UV exposure
 - Atomic Oxygen (O⁺)
 - Vacuum (degassing)







Example environments

Fuel

• Integral fuel tank: structure sealed during manufacturing





Environmental aspects Example environments

De-icing

TUDelft

- Mechanical/thermal (scraping/heating)
- Liquid chemicals (salts/alcohols/glycols)
- Cleaning compounds
 - Prescribed cleaning method





Environmental aspects Example environmental effect: corrosion

• In time environment affects the material & structure...





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Environmental aspects Example environmental effect: corrosion

- Example: Galvanic corrosion
 - Bicycle in winter: road salt & mud
 - ⇒ galvanic corrosion between chromium plated brass spoke nipple and aluminium rim







Summary

Temperature & environment

- Material properties change with temperature
- Properties may change drastically
 - Glass transition temperature for polymers/composites
 - Ductile to brittle transition temperature for certain steel alloys
- Environment may affect properties in time
 - Air/moisture/salt
 - Space & re-entry
 - Fuel
 - Hydraulics
 - Cleaning agents

