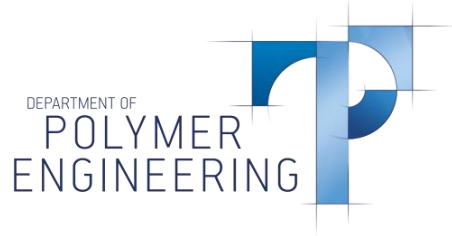




Budapest University of Technology  
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**11-16 AUGUST 2019**  
22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference  
on Composite Materials



**Bristol Composites  
Institute (ACCIS)**



# THE COMBINED EFFECT OF MOISTURE AND TEST TEMPERATURE ON THE PSEUDO-DUCTILITY OF THIN-PLY HYBRID COMPOSITES

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SUPPORTERS:



**#ICCM22**

# Carbon/epoxy composites: STIFF, STRONG





# and LIGHTWEIGHT!





# BUT failure is CATASTROPHIC





# DUCTILITY is needed for safety



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High Performance  
Ductile Composite Technology-  
HiPerDuCT Programme



# Introduction

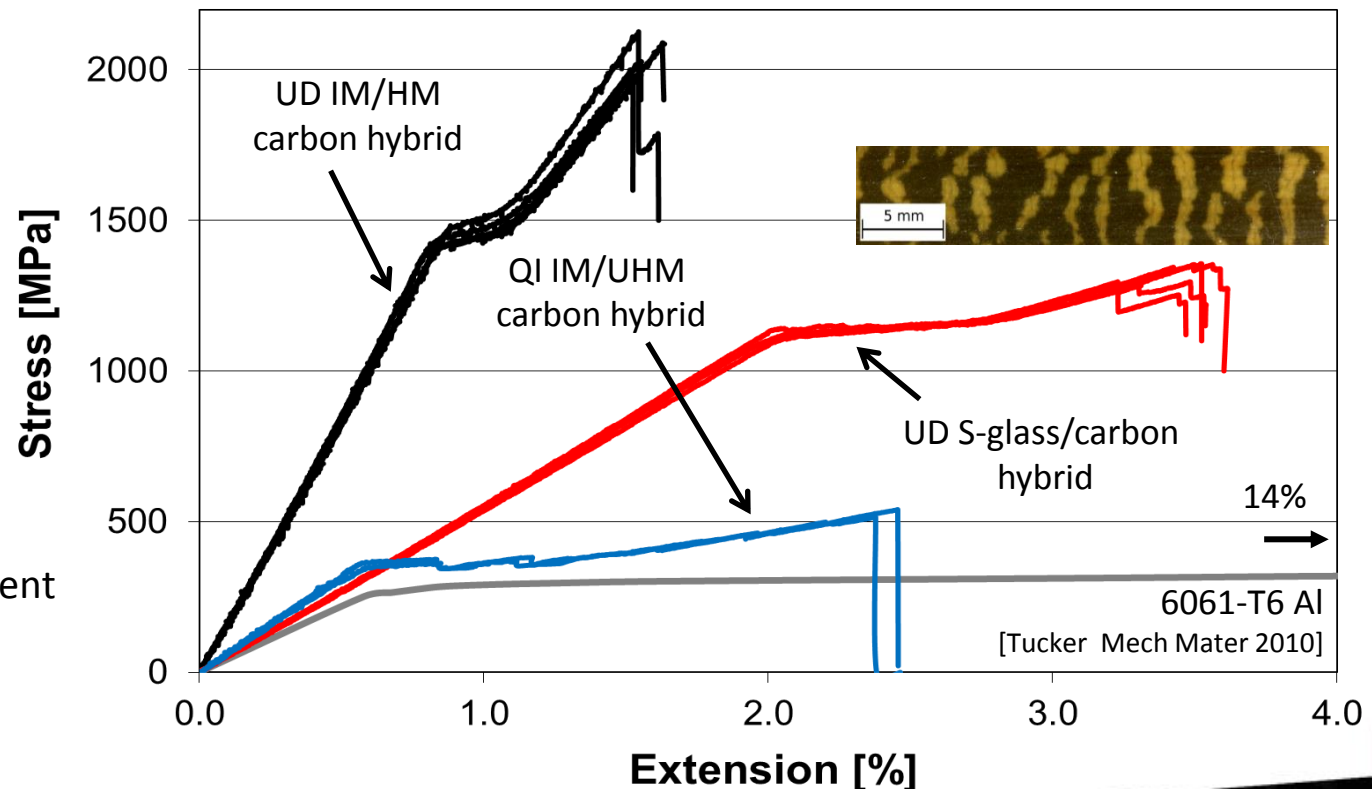
- **High performance composites: stiff and strong, but failure is sudden and brittle with little warning and poor residual strength**
- **Pseudo-ductility with an intrinsic safety margin could change design approach and offer major benefits**
- **Excellent pseudo-ductility demonstrated first with UD glass/carbon interlayer hybrids in tension [1,2]\***
- **Visible damage:**

-**Overload indicator** [3]

The concept is then adopted for:

- **UD IM/HM carbon hybrids** [4]
- **QI IM/UHM carbon hybrids** [5]

\*See references at the end of the document

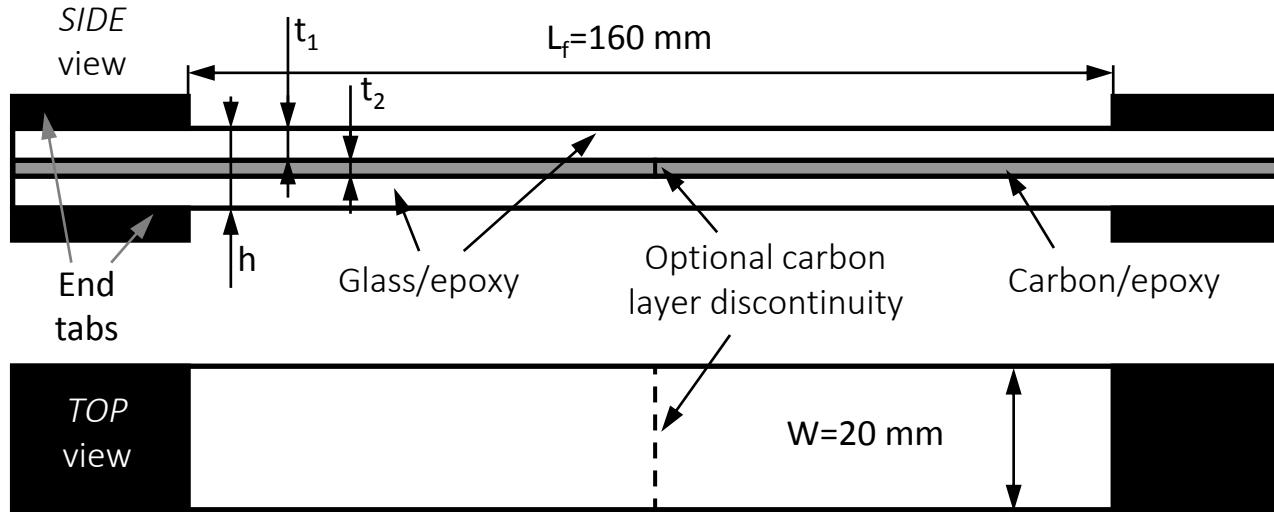


# Key challenges

- To study the effect of **test temperature and moisture** on the ductility mechanisms in UD carbon/glass hybrids in tension
- **Fragmentation** and **delamination** to be assessed separately



# Specimen design



Delamination:

$$G_{II} = \frac{\varepsilon_{2b}^2 E_2 t_2 (2E_1 t_1 + E_2 t_2)}{8E_1 t_1}$$

Glass layer thickness:

$$t_1 > \frac{\varepsilon_{2b} E_2 t_2}{2E_1 (\varepsilon_{1b} - \varepsilon_{2b})}$$

Lay-up sequence	Carbon layer	Nominal thickness	Energy release rate at carbon fibre failure strain (1.6%) <sup>a</sup>	Minimum vs. nominal glass/epoxy layer thickness	Initial modulus <sup>a</sup>
		[mm]	[N/mm]	[mm]	[GPa]
[S-glass <sub>1</sub> /TC35 <sub>2</sub> / S-glass <sub>1</sub> ]	Continuous	<b>0.358</b>	<b>0.480</b>	0.045/0.155	54.7
[S-glass <sub>2</sub> /TC35 <sub>4</sub> / S-glass <sub>2</sub> ]	Discontinuous	<b>0.716</b>	<b>0.959</b>	0.090/0.310	54.7

<sup>a</sup>Calculated using manufacturer's data



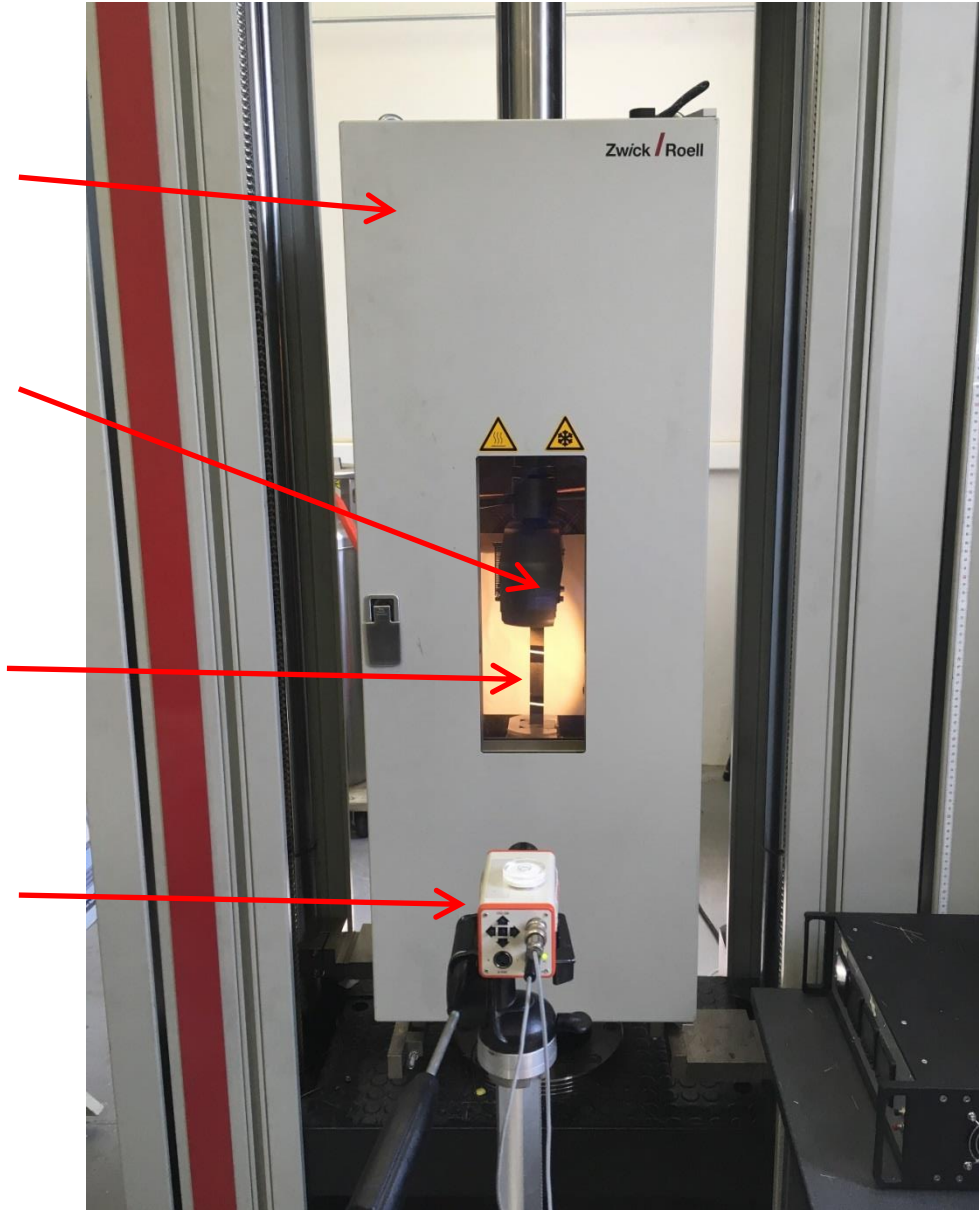
# Test method

Environmental chamber

Mechanical wedge grip

Test specimen with markers for strain measurement

Video-extensometer



Test temperatures:

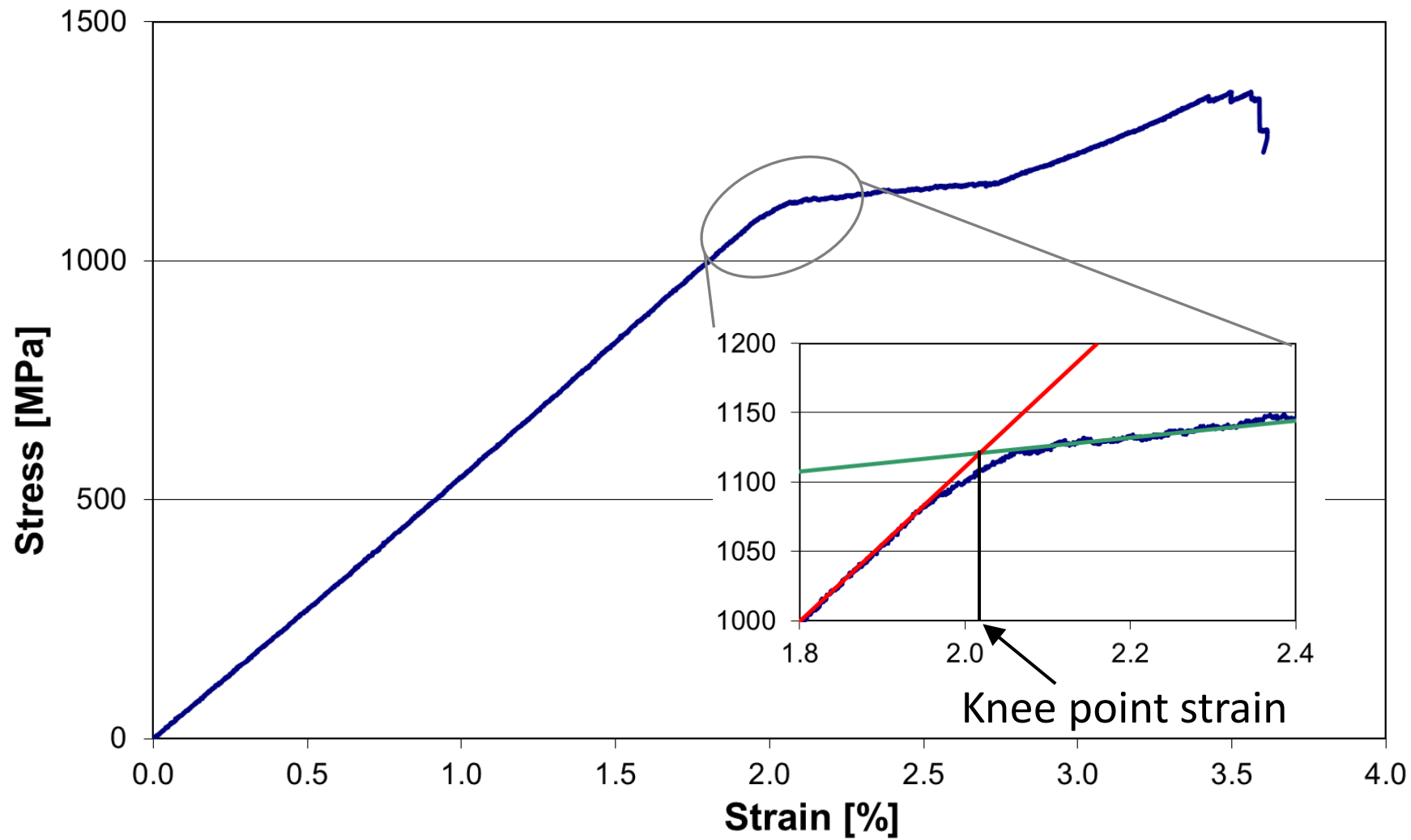
-50°C, 25°C, 80°C

Wet conditioning:  
60°C, 90% RH

Hybrid specimens:  
1500 hour conditioning

S-glass/epoxy:  
125/500/1000/1500 h  
conditioning

# Evaluation of pseudo-ductility

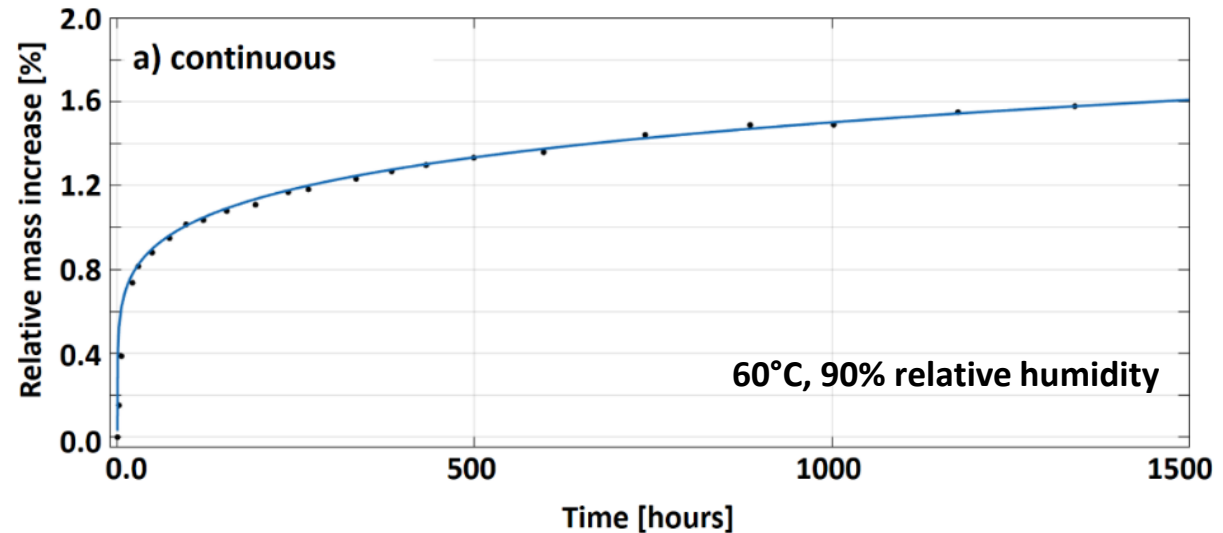


# Results- Water uptake

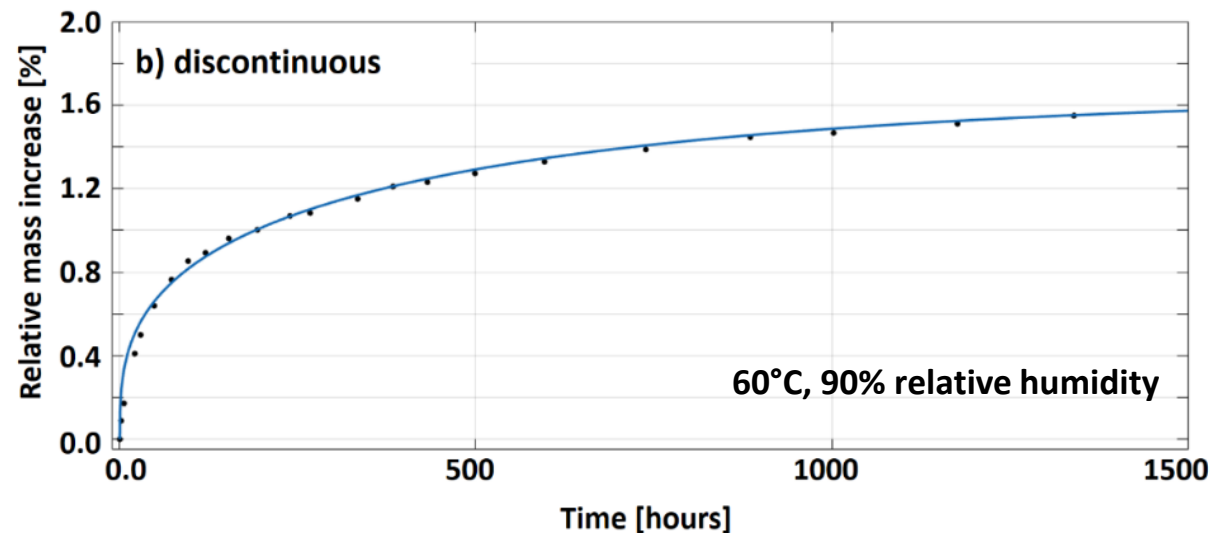
Process modelling:

$$\Delta m(t) = \Delta m_{\infty} \cdot \left(1 - e^{(-A \cdot t)^{\left(\frac{1}{2K}\right)}}\right)^K$$

Continuous hybrid  
(average of 16 specimens)

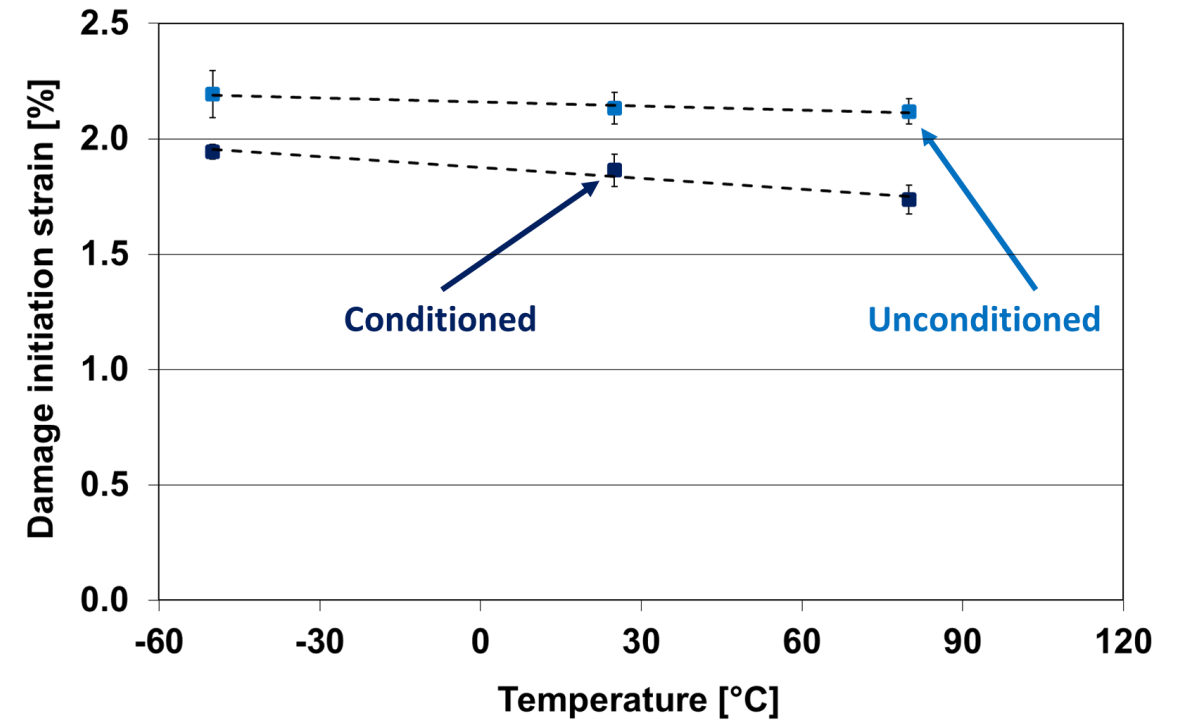
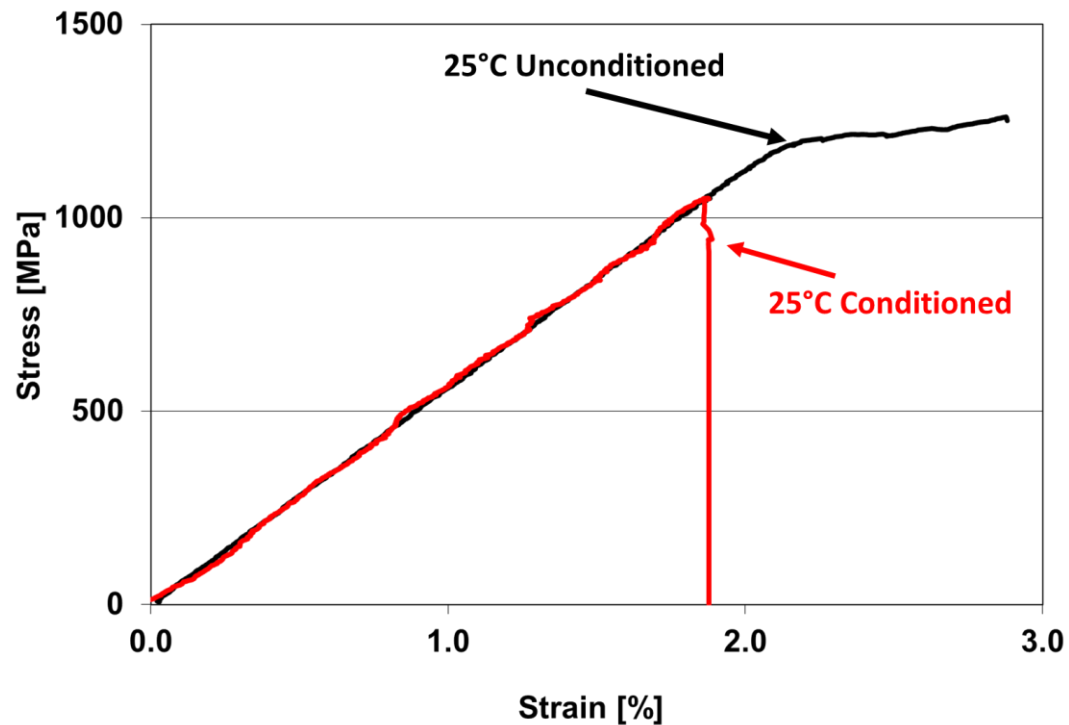


Discontinuous hybrid  
(average of 16 specimens)



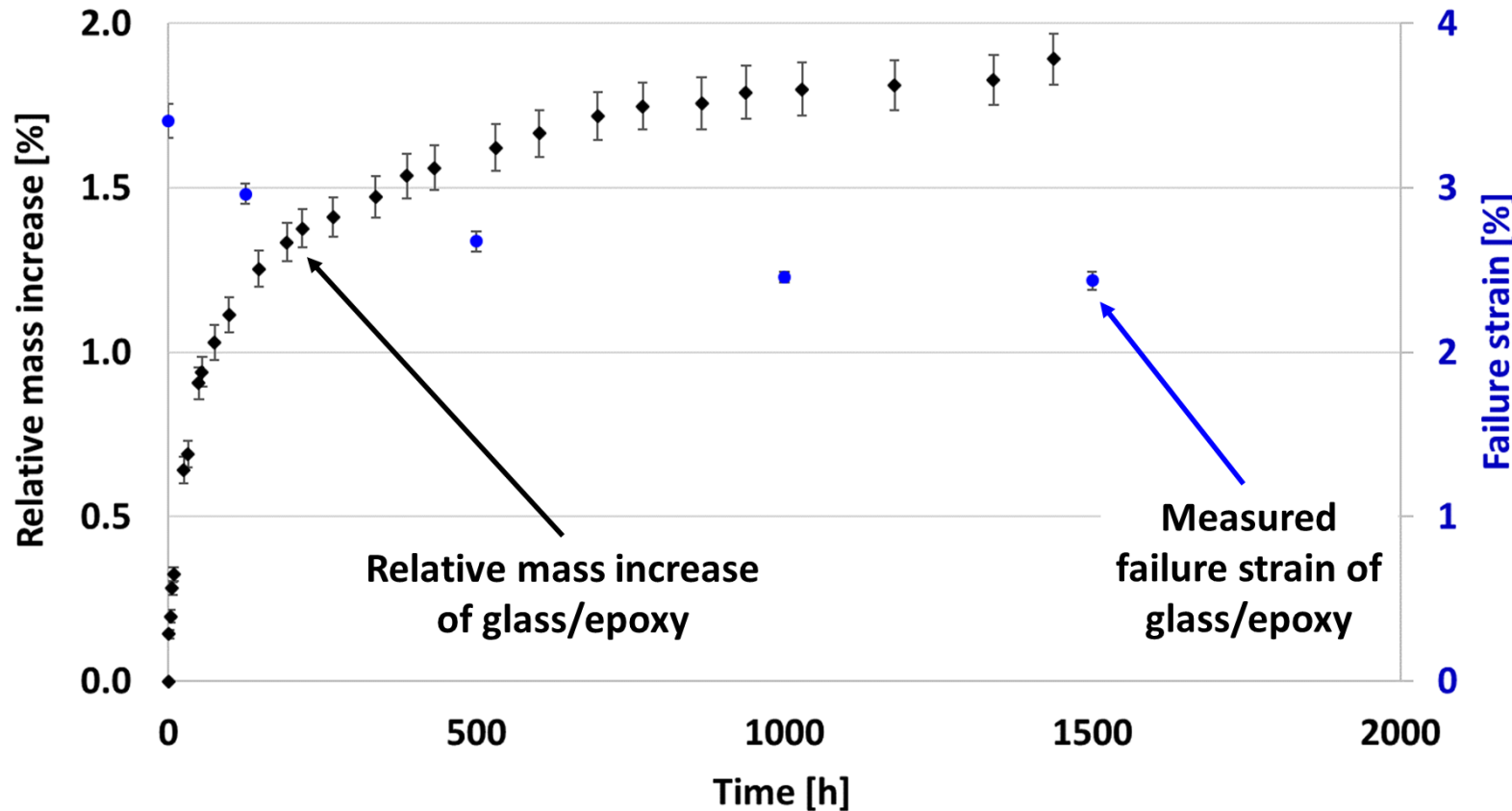


# Results- Continuous hybrid specimens



- Change of failure mode due to conditioning
- Significant drop in damage initiation strain

# Results- Monolithic S-glass/epoxy specimens

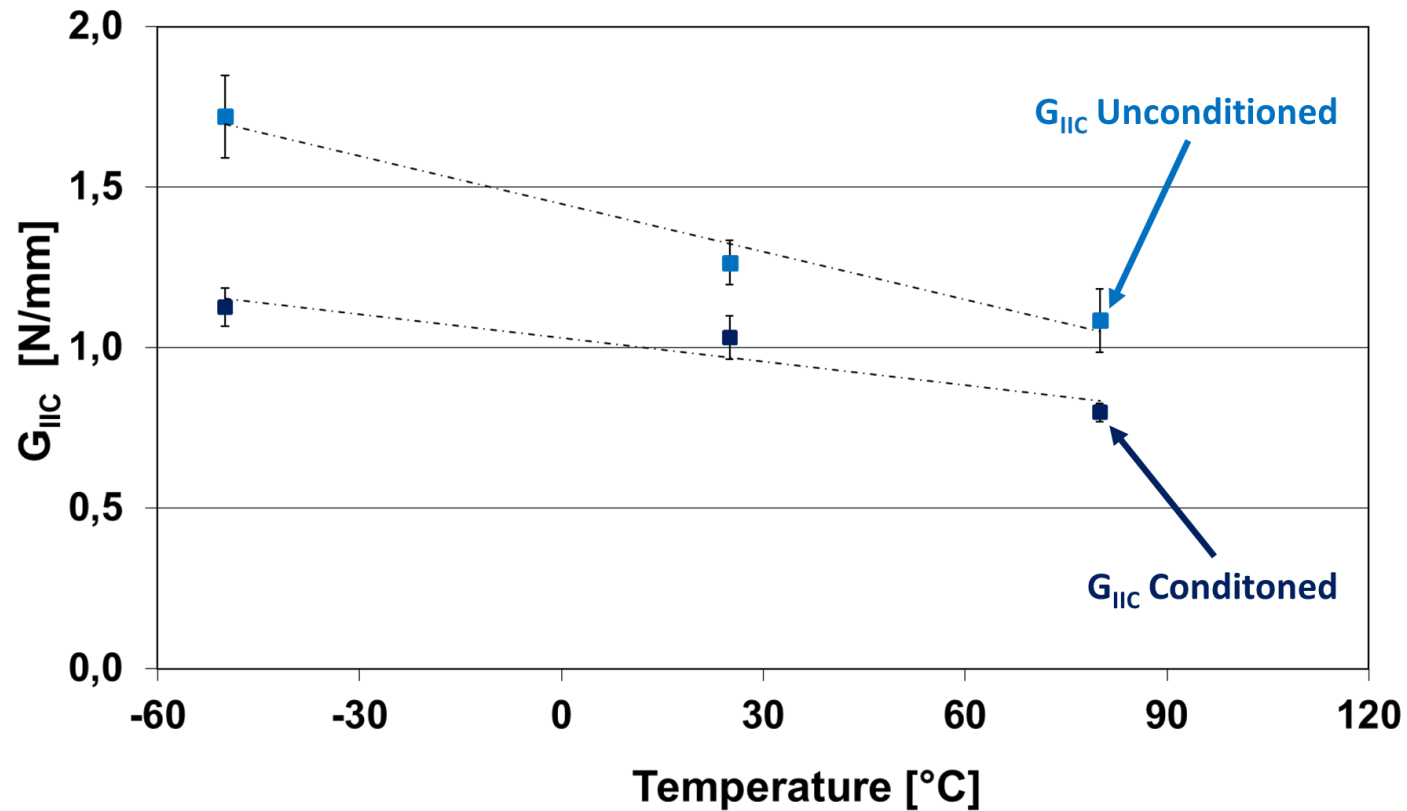


- Water uptake of S-glass/epoxy is higher than that of the hybrids
- Failure strain is reduced by 30% after 1000 hours

Hot-wet conditioning: 60°C, 90% relative humidity, 125/500/1000/1500 hours

Tensile testing at room temperature (25°C)

# Results- Discontinuous hybrid specimens



- Failure became less stable due to moisture
- Glass layer strength reduced





# Conclusions

- Unconditioned hybrid specimens showed pseudo-ductile stress-strain response between -50°C and 80°C: the continuous specimens fragmented, the discontinuous specimens showed stable delamination between the glass and carbon layers
- Water uptake processes of monolithic S-glass/epoxy and both hybrid specimen types were investigated in detail
- A suitable function was found to model the water uptake process that fitted well to the experimental data
- Wet conditioning changed the damage mode of the continuous hybrid specimens from pseudo-ductile to catastrophic failure
- Moisture sensitivity of glass/epoxy layers was found to be responsible for the lack of pseudo-ductility in the case of continuous hybrids
- Increasing test temperature decreased the mode II fracture toughness of the discontinuous specimens
- Wet conditioning decreased the mode II fracture toughness further at all temperatures

# References

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- [2] G. Czél, M. Jalalvand, M.R Wisnom. Design and characterisation of advanced pseudo-ductile unidirectional thin-ply carbon/epoxy-glass/epoxy hybrid composites. Composite Structures, 143:362-70, 2016.
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