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Abstract Related to the importance of selectivity to natural fibers that can be used and qualify as one of the raw material composite engineering substitute for Fiber Reinforced Plastics (FRP) or Fiber Reinforced Metals (FRM), one plants that have the potential of fiber and volume growth is very abundant, namely abaca.

This research aims to clarify scattering in tensile strength of an abaca single fiber through statistical approach and to search a way of suppression in the scatter with intention that abaca fibers can be used as a raw material for engineering structural components. Tensile test specimens were prepared from fiber samples from two different areas, East Aceh and North Aceh, Indonesia.

Specimen gauge length is 25 mm, then as the holder of a fiber made of paper (20mm x 100mm), where the specimen size for fiber tensile test in accordance with JIS standard K-760. Diameter the specimen fibers obtained varied from 0.060 mm to 0.140 mm. The tensile strength of abaca fiber varies in the wide range from 100 MPa to 900 MPa. Coefficient of variation was calculated for East Aceh abaca fibre 0.32 and North Aceh abaca fibre 0.35. It was examined whether Weibull distribution or log-normal distribution could well express scatted experimental results.

The results showed that both the distribution types could well express the experimental probability density, but log-normal distribution could be more rational for expression of biological and chronological effects. To reduce scattering of tensile strength, pre-concept was proposed. 1. Introduction Climate change and global warning have triggered extensive researches on ecological or environmentally friendly materials.

Automotive industry tries to use advanced high strength steel to reduce plate thickness of vehicle structures that eventually aims to lighten vehicle weight resulting in enhancement of fuel economy. From viewpoint of ecology and environmental friendliness, total CO₂ emission is evaluated in a period of life span from mining of raw materials to depositing process after usage. It is defined as life cycle assessment of CO₂ emission, namely LCA of CO₂ emission.

LCA of CO₂ emission of metallic and plastic materials is rather high, for instance, it is around 2.3 t CO₂ emission/t steel (Fujita et al., 2010) and 2.0 to 9.0 t CO₂/t plastic (Groot, and Boren, 2010). In addition, that of carbon fiber used for carbon fiber reinforced plastics (CFRP) is around 20.0 t CO₂/t carbon fiber (JCFMA, 2014).

Density of CFRP is much smaller than metallic materials, and consequently, vehicles and aircrafts fabricated with CFRP are significantly lighter than metallic vehicles and aircrafts resulting in lower emission of CO₂ in their life cycle than those manufactured by metallic materials (JCFMA, 2014). Therefore, composite materials reinforced by strong and advanced fibers, such as carbon, glass, kevlar fibers and so on, receive great attention as environmentally friendly materials. However, as described above, LCA of CO₂ emission of the advanced fibers is not necessarily low.

Hence, more ecological reinforcement fibers are recently sought. One potential candidate is cellulosic natural fibers. Cellulosic natural fibers are extracted from leaves, trunks, Keywords : Statistical approach, Tensile strength, Abaca fiber, Weibull, Log-normal Received: 13 February 2018; Revised: 6 July 2018; Accepted: 13 September 2018 Abubakar DABET*, Hiroomi HOMMA**, Hiroki HOMMA*** and SUARDI**** * Department of Mechanical Engineering, Universitas Malikussaleh, Jl. Universitas Malikussaleh, Lhokseumawe, Aceh, 24351, Indonesia, and Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia. E-mail: abubakar@unimal.ac.id ** Department of Mechanical Engineering, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia, Professor Emeritus, Toyohashi University of Technology, Toyohashi, Japan.

*** Department of Mechanical Engineering, Matsue National Institute of Technology, Matsue, Japan. **** Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia. basts, and seeds of plants. Absorption of CO₂ by photosynthetic reaction during their growing process can be considered to be counterbalanced with CO₂ emission during depositing process of burning and chemical decomposition.

Thus, LCA of CO₂ emission for cellulosic natural fibers is much lower than one of synthetic fibers like carbon fibers, glass fibers, and kevlar fibers. For instance, LCA of CO₂ emission for flax fibers is 1.07 t CO₂/t fiber (Deng, 2014), which is around 5 % of

one for carbon fiber. There are several cellulosic natural fibers that have been used for clothes, bank bills, papers, marine cordages, handicrafts such as a bag, a floor mat, a tray, and others. Recently, application of natural cellulosic fibers to engineering structural components was initiated merely in automotive industry (Akova, 2013).

When natural cellulosic fibers are used for engineering structural components, one of critical issues is wide scattering in fiber strength. An index of scattering in tensile strength is a ratio of standard deviation to mean value called coefficient of variation. The coefficient of variation of natural fiber strength is larger than 0.28 for curaua, jute, coir, piassava, and sisal (Fidelis et. al.,

2013), while for man-made materials like steel, E glass and aramid in yellow rows, the coefficient of variation is less than 0.14. The man-made materials have been used for engineering structural components over a long period of industrial history and safe design concepts based on fail-safe, and damage tolerance have been effectively applied to dimensional decision of engineering components manufactured by those materials.

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2017) while flax fiber tensile strength is scattered so widely that the coefficient of variation is more than 0.28. Natural fibers may be used for engineering structural materials as reinforcement of plastic matrix composites. Abaca fibers can be potentially used for uniaxially reinforced composite materials because of availability of long fibers and high strength.

However, statistical approach to abaca fiber tensile strength has been carried out in very limited number (Liu et.al., 2013), (Richter et. al., 2013) and (Agung et.al., 2011). 2. Experiment p , Inesi . 3 . Dimer of an aca berspecien wa msur athrposiis, ie d wo ds thspecien ge lgth usinadiamcrope . m 70 ' t to , - 609. a nd d isc si 3. Diamer fers Diameter histogram of two regions is shown in Fig. 2.

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However, it was deduced that log-normal distribution could more rationally represent statistical results of abaca fibers than Weibull distribution from theoretical aspects of these distributions. 2. From log-normal distributions fitted with tensile strength results of East Aceh and North Aceh fibers, it was indicated that expected value of the tensile strength was much higher for North Aceh than that for East Aceh. The difference between two expected values was significant in t-test. 3. A pr - scriinmod s opos he.Thpr - scrintwasttiilldied d t s owntha ts ethcoulprde acafis thacoulbe for gininstruramaerl .

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