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**A mechanical degradation model for bidirectional natural fiber reinforced composites under hydrothermal ageing and applying in buckling and vibration analysis**

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**Abstract:** Natural fiber reinforced composites may have a great potential applications in the automotive and aerospace industries. Hydrothermal ageing in natural fiber reinforced composites leads to significantly degradation of their mechanical properties. This paper proposes a theoretical model for predicting the mechanical responses of bidirectional natural fiber reinforced composites under hydrothermal loading. Nine elastic coefficients of orthotropic composites after hydrothermal reaction and moisture absorption are obtained. Based on the present model, closed-form solutions for buckling load and frequency of a simply supported composite plate are derived. It is found that the elastic module and buckling load decrease monotonously with time, and approaches to a certain value with time. However, the frequency decreases with time firstly, and then increases with time, finally approaches to a certain value with time. In addition, the degradation of elastic modulus, buckling load and frequency for the composites with high fiber content are larger than those with low fiber content. This research may be helpful for designing natural fiber reinforced composites for applications in humid environments.

**Keywords:** Natural fiber reinforced composite; moisture absorption; hydrothermal reaction; buckling; vibration.

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