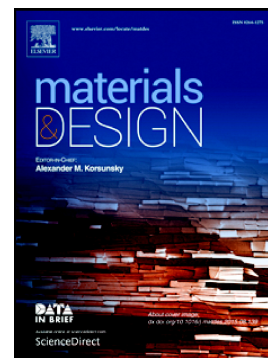


Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0264-1275(16)31611-2
DOI: doi: [10.1016/j.matdes.2016.12.085](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matdes.2016.12.085)
Reference: JMADE 2630

To appear in: *Materials & Design*

Received date: 22 September 2016
Revised date: 24 December 2016
Accepted date: 27 December 2016

Please cite this article as: Mengsi Zhang, Min Li, Shaokai Wang, Yanjie Wang, Yongyi Zhang, Yizhuo Gu, Qingwen Li, Zuoguang Zhang , The loading-rate dependent tensile behavior of CNT film and its bismaleimide composite film. The address for the corresponding author was captured as affiliation for all authors. Please check if appropriate. Jmade(2016), doi: [10.1016/j.matdes.2016.12.085](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.matdes.2016.12.085)

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The Loading-Rate Dependent Tensile Behavior of CNT Film and its Bismaleimide Composite Film

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Abstract

Carbon nanotube (CNT) macroscopic assembly, as a promising candidate for the protective and anti-collision materials, has attracted lots of researchers to explore its mechanical behavior under different loading rates. In this paper, the loading-rate dependent mechanical behavior of CNT film and its composite with bismaleimide (BMI) matrix is investigated. The pristine CNT film shows decreased tensile strength by 33.8% when the loading rate increases from 0.05 mm/min to 40 mm/min. An obvious necking extending phenomenon is observed in the CNT film during the tensile test under lower tensile rates, e.g. 0.05 mm/min and 0.5 mm/min. However, the random composite film and the oriented composite film both display increased tensile strength, by 58.2% and 35.7% respectively, with the increasing loading rate from 0.05 mm/min to 40 mm/min. The different loading-rate dependence of tensile behavior is ascribed to the different tensile-induced motions of CNTs and CNT bundles in composite film. Moreover, strain rate sensitivity coefficients of different film are calculated according to a simplified Johnson-Cook model. The results suggest that the pristine CNT film with the strain rate sensitivity coefficient of -0.0941 has a high loading-rate sensitivity, meanwhile polymer infiltration and oriented alignment can weaken the loading-rate sensitivity of CNT film.

Key words: carbon nanotube film, polymer composite, tensile properties, loading-rate sensitivity

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