On the temperature evolution during continuous laser-assisted tape winding of multiple C/PEEK layers: The effect of roller deformation

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Abstract

Laser-assisted tape winding (LATW) is a highly automated process for manufacturing tubular-like fiber-reinforced thermoplastic composites such as flywheels and pipes. One of the crucial parameters in the LATW process is the temperature of the nip point at which the incoming prepreg tape is bonded with the substrate by a compaction roller. Therefore, the temperature evolution of the nip point plays a significant role to have a proper consolidation at the tape-substrate interface. The nip point temperature is highly affected by the time-dependent geometry of the substrate and roller during continuous LATW of thick composite rings. In this paper, a critical assessment of the substrate and tape surface temperature evolution is investigated experimentally by means of a thermal camera during the LATW process of a 26-layers thick carbon/PEEK composites. A three-dimensional (3D) optical model is coupled with a thermal model in which the substrate computational domain is updated with respect to the deposited tapes. A good agreement is found between the measured and predicted tape and substrate temperatures. The total absorbed heat and heated length of the substrate and tape are described based on the roller deformation. An increase in tape and substrate nip point temperatures is found with an increase in roller deformation during consecutive winding. It is also found that the consolidation pressure and contact length at the roller-substrate interface increases during the winding process. Accordingly, the heat transfer coefficient at the roller-substrate interface is studied using the developed process model.

Keywords Tape winding · Prepreg · Process simulation · Thermal analysis · Laser

Introduction

Continuous fiber-reinforced thermoplastic composites such as C/PEEK (carbon/poly ether-ether-ketone) are considered in potential applications where high mechanical performance and lightweight design are required for structural elements used in e.g. aerospace, aircraft or energy storage

[24]. There are various manufacturing techniques to produce continuous fiber-reinforced thermoplastic composites such as press and/or stamp forming, automated fiber placement (AFP), automated tape winding (ATW), autoclave consolidation, etc.

The ATW technique is highly automated and used to manufacture tubular-like structures such as flywheel rotors [21, 38], tanks for energy storage, pipes for oil and gas industry [29, 44], tubes for bikes, etc. The heating source can be a hot gas torch [12, 13, 22], infrared lamp [4, 16, 18], near-infrared (NIR) diode lasers [5, 10, 11, 31], and recently LED heating [25]. The parts are built up layer by layer onto a rotating mandrel in the ATW processes. The prepreg tape and the laid down substrate are locally molten by the heat source before touching each other at the nip point which can be seen schematically in Fig. 1. In-situ consolidation which is the main mechanism to form the final product takes place at the nip point vicinity where the melted incoming tape and substrate bond to each other by means of a compaction roller [17]. Consolidation includes the development of intimate contact and then healing of the

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Fig. 1 A schematic view of the LATW process

polymeric matrix. Both phenomena are highly temperature-dependent processes and especially it is very challenging during depositing multiple layers since the substrate is exposed to multiple heating and cooling cycles during the manufacturing process. In addition, the absorption and reflection of the laser light by the substrate and tape material is highly anisotropic due to the presence of the fibers which influences the heating behavior of the materials. It is therefore a difficult task to control the process temperature which together with the applied pressure and the corresponding dwell time affects the consolidation quality and the mechanical performance of the final part. It was shown in [37] that a high process temperature resulted in a reduction in the wedge peel strength of the carbon-reinforced polyamide 6 (C/PA6) composites manufactured by the LATP process. On the other hand, a proper bonding was achieved for consolidation temperatures lower than the melting point of the C/PEEK material produced by LATP process in [35].

Several experimental and numerical modeling studies were conducted to understand, describe and predict the process temperature during the AFP and ATW processes. An in-situ thermographic analysis was carried out in [7, 9, 15, 30] by utilizing an AFP process. Significant temperature gradients were found for the deposited regions having overlapped tows, gaps and twists. The through-thickness temperature in between the deposited layers was measured by using thermocouples in [28] for a LATW process. The measured temperature was compared with the optical-thermal model predictions. An analytical thermal model was developed in [40] for a LATP process. It was found that the through-thickness temperature was significantly affected by the high process speed. The same analytical approach was used in [41] and an inverse analytical method was developed to obtain the desired heat flux distribution on the tape surfaces for a desired processing temperature. The heat power and placement speed were correlated with

the process temperature considering the roller deformation in [8]. A semi-empirical thermal model was developed and validated with the experiments. An optical-thermal model was developed in [43] for a LATW process. The effect of winding angle on the nip point temperature was investigated. The effect of the deformed geometry, temperature and thermal contact resistance of the roller on the process temperature was studied in [36] by using a thermal process model. The presence of the shaded region for the non-deformed roller resulted in a lower surface temperature prior to the nip point.

Specific attention was given to the placement and winding of multiple layers in the literature to investigate the effect of previously placed or wound layer on the process temperature as summarized in the following. The continuous hoop winding of glass/polypropylene and carbon/epoxy tapes was studied in [39] and [13], respectively. The temperature evolution during continuous deposition of multiple layers on a cylindrically shaped mandrel was captured by a thermal model and the predictions were compared with the measurements. The analysis of the temperature and degree of cure for hoop-wound cylinders was carried out in [4] for graphite/epoxy and glass/epoxy composites. The radiative surface heating was found to be more significant for the glass/epoxy composites than the graphite/epoxy composites. The in-situ curing of graphite/epoxy taped during continuous winding was modeled in [18] by using a thermo-chemical process model. It was found that the winding speed had a significant effect on the degree of cure of the material. A thermo-mechanical model was developed in [6] to predict the process-induced thermal residual stresses in a continuous winding of multiple carbon/PEEK layers. The mandrel properties and the tape tension were found to be effective parameters for the development of residual stress. The effect of growing thickness in a continuous LATW process was studied numerically in [14]. The evolution of peak temperature was investigated during continuous deposition of C/PEEK tapes. The adjacent placement of a carbon epoxy prepreg with an IR heater was studied in [23]. A significant temperature increase perpendicular to the placement path was obtained experimentally and numerically. A surrogate process model was developed in [27] for the simulation of multiple placement of C/PA6 tapes. The laser power and placement velocity were found to be the most effective parameters.

Recently, the anisotropic reflection behavior of the laser beams was considered in the process modeling studies [26, 33, 34, 42]. A comprehensive 3D reflection model was developed in [34] for carbon fiber reinforced thermoplastic composite tapes. A “micro-half-cylinder” model was implemented in a CAD model which was subsequently used in OptiCAD software to simulate the anisotropic reflective

Table 1 Overview of the studies focusing on the multiple placement/winding of layers and the roller deformation for the investigation of temperature development in AFP and ATW processes

Process - Ref.	Roller deformation	Deposited layers	Heat source	Heat flux modeling	Temperature measurement	Composite
ATW [6]	No	Multiple	Laser beam	Specular ray tracing	Thermocouple	C(IM7)/PEEK, $V_f = 60\%$
AFP [33]	Yes	Single	NIR diode laser	Anisotropic ray tracing	IR camera, Thermocouple	AS4/PEEK, $V_f = 55\%$
AFP [36]	Yes	Single	NIR diode laser	Uniform heat flux	IR camera, Thermocouple	AS4/PEEK, $V_f = 55\%$
ATW [13]	No	Multiple	Hot gas torch	Convective	Thermocouple	AS4/epoxy
ATW [39]	No	Multiple	Hot gas torch	Convective	Pyrometer	G/PP, $W_f = 70\%$
ATW [4]	No	Multiple	Infrared heating	Radiative	N/A	graphite/epoxy, S-glass/epoxy
ATW [18]	No	Multiple	Infrared heating	Radiative	N/A	graphite/epoxy
ATW [14]	No	Multiple	NIR diode laser	Anisotropic ray tracing	IR camera	C/PEEK
AFP [23]	No	Multiple	IR heating	Radiative	IR camera, Thermocouple	Toray T800S/3900-2
AFP [27]	No	Multiple	NIR diode laser	Specular ray tracing	IR camera, Thermocouple	PA-6/carbon
ATW [28]	No	Multiple	NIR diode laser	Anisotropic ray tracing	IR camera, Thermocouple	PA12/carbon $V_f = 45\%$

behavior of tapes. The same optical model was used in [33] to predict the temperature distribution in an AFP process in which the roller deformation was taken into account. The anisotropic reflection behavior of the prepreg tapes for the LATW process was studied in [26] in which a bidirectional reflectance distribution function (BRDF) was employed to estimate the heat flux distributions on the substrate and tape by taking the fiber orientation into account. The effect of specular and anisotropic reflection of the laser irradiation on the process temperature was studied numerically in [42].

A summary of the aforementioned literature survey focusing on multiple placement/winding taking the roller deformation into account is listed in Table 1 with important aspects based on the utilized experimental techniques and process models. Although there have been several works carried out to analyze the temperature evolution during ATW and AFP processes, the influence of the roller deformation evolution and local geometry change during winding of multiple layers on the temperature history has not been studied as seen from Table 1.

A critical assessment of the temperature development in the vicinity of the nip point by taking the local geometry change into account is essential to ensure a proper final product quality. In this paper, the temperature near the nip point region is analyzed by employing a thermal camera. The change in the nip point location due to the roller deformation is captured by performing an image analysis. The roller deformation and resulting increase in the consolidation pressure and length are described by using a pressure-sensitive film. A coupled optical-thermal process model is developed to predict the influence of the roller deformation on the temperature evolution. The already developed optical model [26] is used to estimate the anisotropic reflection behavior of the incoming laser rays. The roller deformation and the local geometry change near the nip point are considered in the 3D optical model. The growing substrate thickness during the multiple winding of the incoming C/PEEK tapes is taken into account in the 2D thermal model by updating the computational domain. A parameter study is performed based on the heat transfer

Fig. 2 A view of the AFP machine during LATW process

Fig. 3 Model geometry used for the optical model (reproduced with permission from [26])

at the interface between the roller and substrate using the developed process model and results are compared with the temperature measurements.

Experimental

The prepreg material used in the LATW process was TC1200 AS-4/PEEK provided by TenCate with a fiber volume

content of 59% and a nominal thickness and width of $t_p = 0.15$ mm and $w_p = 6.35$ mm, respectively. The roller was made of solid polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) with 40 shore hardness. The mandrel was made from Al-6082-T6 anodized aluminum. The winding surface was covered by a polyimide (Kapton[®]) tape with a silicone adhesive coating to improve the adhesion for the first layer [2].

Three thick rings were manufactured using the Coriolis Composites AFP machine for reliability and repeatability of

Table 2 Optical and geometrical reference values used in simulating the LATW process

	Symbol	Value	Description
Roller	R_r	35 mm	Roller radius
	w_r	50 mm	Roller width
	n_r	1.4	Roller refractive index [26]
	I	2 mm	Roller indentation into mandrel surface
	C	22 mm	Arc length of roller contact with substrate
Tape	w_t	6.35 mm	Tape width
	L_{tape}	40 mm	Considered length of the tape
	α_t	60°	Laying tape angle
	n_t	1.8	Tape refractive index [10]
Substrate	R_s	122 mm	Substrate radius
	w_s	6.35 mm	Substrate width
	L_{subs}	767 mm	Considered length of the substrate (Mandrel circumference)
	ϕ_s	0°	Substrate fiber orientation
	n_s	1.8	Substrate refractive index [10]
	y_l	−308.61 mm	Laser spot y-position (of centroid)
	z_l	111.93 mm	Laser spot z-position (of centroid)
Laser spot	h_l	28 mm	Laser spot height
	w_l	11 mm	Laser spot width
	α_l	−20.89°	Laser beam angle
	N_0	4000	Number of rays launched from the laser source
	N_r	5	Number of reflected rays per incident used in optical model [26]

the temperature measurements. The AFP machine consisted of an industrial robot with six degrees of freedom, onto which a tape laying head (end-effector) was mounted. A side view of the tape laying head and its components during the winding process are shown in Fig. 2. A schematic view of the tape laying head describing the position of individual parts is depicted in Fig. 3. The reference values for geometrical parameters are listed in Table 2.

The NIR laser with a wavelength of 980 nm was used. The laser beam was homogenized to yield a near-uniform (top-hat) power distribution. The roller was pressed onto the substrate using a controlled nominal force of 435 N. A maximum of 5 continuous layers was allowed to be deposited due to the limitation of the AFP machine. After every 5 layers, the machine cut the tape, shut down the laser and moved to the starting position. Once the ring temperature reached approximately room temperature the winding process was resumed. A total of 26 layers were wound for each ring including one layer as the base and 5 continuous layers repeated 5 times.

The temperature on the substrate and tape surface, at the heating region close to the nip point was measured by an IR thermal camera. The thermal camera was a Micro-Epsilon thermalIMAGER TIM 400 with a resolution of 382×288 pixels. The thermal camera spectrum range (7.5–13 mm) did not interfere with the laser beam wavelength (0.98 mm), therefore, the reflectance of the laser beam toward the thermal camera did not affect the temperature readings. The camera was mounted to the tape laying head just below the laser source (visible in Fig. 2). It constantly measured the infrared radiation emitted by the material near the nip point vicinity with 80 Hz. Continuous video streams of the thermal field for the substrate and tape surfaces were extracted from the camera. To illustrate, a single frame of the measured temperature distribution is shown in Fig. 4a. The temperature was logged and averaged in time over a 3×1 pixels (width $\times$ height) at the center of tape and substrate width, as seen by rectangular boxes in Fig. 4a.

The size of a pixel at object level is known as Instantaneous Field of View (IFOV) which is defined based

Fig. 4 **a** Thermographic image captured by IR thermal camera. White boxes are the schematic measuring areas where the temperature is averaged with 3 pixels in width (x) and 1 pixel in winding (y) directions. **b** A schematic view of the pixels with respect to the camera position and the actual size of the pixel due to curved geometry. **c** The actual pixel size distribution on the tape and substrate surface

on the lens type and the distance to object [1]. Due to the curvature of the substrate and tape, the distance to the thermal camera lens varied, therefore the actual pixel size also varied in the winding direction. Moreover, the orientation of the camera with respect to the measuring pixel (IFOV) caused extra nonlinearity to the actual pixel size. The schematic position of the thermal camera together with two exemplary measuring pixels are plotted in Fig. 4b for the substrate. The covered arc length by the two selected pixels are shown by P_1 (red) and P_2 (green) which correspond to the actual size of the pixels on the object. The actual pixel length P_1 was closer to the nip point and covered larger area of the substrate than P_2 which was located further from the nip point. The arc length for each pixel i was calculated by the following expression:

$$P_i = R_s(\theta_i - \theta_{i-1}) \quad (1)$$

where R_s was the substrate radius, θ_i and θ_{i-1} were the current and previous pixel angle in radians ($\theta_{i=0} = 0$ radians). In order to calculate θ_i , the corresponding length of the line segment (y_i) seen in Fig. 4b was calculated as:

$$y_i = 2R_s \sin(\theta_i/2) \quad (2)$$

The length of the line segment y_i was represented also based on the size of the measuring pixel (IFOV) and the rotation angle of the camera with respect to the Z-axis α_c as:

$$y_i = \frac{i \times IFOV}{\sin(\theta_i/2\alpha)} \quad (3)$$

By combining (2) and (3), the following expression can be derived for θ_i :

$$\sin(\theta/2) \sin(\theta_i/2 + \alpha) = \frac{i \times IFOV}{2R_s} \quad (4)$$

The calculated nonlinear pixel size variation for $\alpha = 10^\circ$ is depicted in Fig. 4c for the current experimental setup.

Finally, the pressure-sensitive films were used to estimate the roller deformation and the resulting increase in the consolidation pressure and length for different substrate thicknesses.

Thermal-optical model

Optical model

The anisotropic reflection behavior of the fiber-reinforced composites tapes can be modeled either *i*) by physically modeling the microstructure of surface defined by micro-half cylinders and applying a specular ray tracing approach as done in [33, 34] by using the non-sequential ray tracing software (OptiCAD 10), or *ii*) by defining a special function or material model that takes the fiber orientation into account and using it within the ray tracing approach as

done in [26]. The first approach takes relatively long computation time, however relatively high accuracy can be obtained for the reflection behavior. On the other hand, the second approach is relatively fast, however, it requires input parameters to define the reflection behavior. The work carried out by Reichardt et al. [26] was the basis of the current 3D optical model since it was computationally fast. The anisotropic reflection behavior of the laser rays reflection and varying beam incident angle due to the cylindrical curvature was considered on the optical model.

A total of 4000 laser rays were defined at the location of the laser source using the Sobol sampling [32]. The ray incident location was then calculated based on the ray tracing technique considering the tape, substrate, and roller triangulated geometries. Then, the anisotropic reflection and absorption at the material surface were calculated. The reflected light was modeled by generating new rays considering the bidirectional reflectance distribution function (BRDF) which is based on microfacet theory [3]. Two consecutive reflections were considered using the BRDF in the present paper. The details of the optical model and its implementation can be found in [26]. The output of the optical model was a 2D surface heat flux distribution q''_i (laser power per unit area) with a mesh size of 1 mm in width and winding directions. The obtained heat flux from the optical model was used as an input boundary condition in the thermal model.

The roller deformation was considered in this study as a geometrical effect. The roller deformation was modeled by introducing the indentation parameter I in the 3D optical model as seen in Fig. 3. The local geometry change at the nip point vicinity affects the laser heat flux distribution calculated by the 3D optical model, e.g. the shadow area formed by the roller on the substrate reduces as the roller deformation increases. The direction of the indentation was in the Z-direction. The location of the nip point, therefore,

Fig. 5 A schematic view of the 2.5D substrate and tape thermal domains

changed both in Z - and Y -direction. Note that the location of the laser spot was also changed since the laser had moved simultaneously with the roller as seen in Fig. 2. The resulting consolidation length (i.e. the arc length denoted as C in Fig. 3) of the interface between the roller and substrate was estimated based on the geometrical configuration and I by using the following equation:

$$C = R_s \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{R_s + R_r - I}{2R} + \frac{R_s^2 - R_r^2}{2R_s(R_s + R_r - I)} \right) \quad (5)$$

The initial value of I was determined experimentally for layer 2, i.e. winding on a 1-layer substrate. After winding

of each layer it was assumed that I increased with 0.15 mm which was the thickness of a single layer. To illustrate, the total indentation was therefore defined as $I + 25 \times 0.15$ mm for layer 26.

Heat transfer model

Multiple slices of tape and substrate thermal domains were defined adjacent to each other in the width direction, i.e. x -direction as seen in Fig. 5. Thus, a 2.5D thermal model was obtained in which the 3D temperature distribution was predicted while the in-plane conduction in the width direction (x -direction) was neglected. Note that a local

Fig. 6 Schematic view of the thermal model in winding and thickness direction for (a) the growing substrate and (b) the incoming tape together with the applied boundary conditions

(a)

(b)

Table 3 Overview of the prepreg thermal properties [33, 36]

Temperature (°C)	Specific heat capacity (J/kg/°C)	Density (Kg/m ³)	Conductivity in fiber direction (W/m/°C)	Conductivity transverse to fiber direction (W/m/°C)
0	800	1601	3.5	0.42
50	930	1598	4.6	0.52
100	1040	1593	5.1	0.6
150	1260	1586	5.9	0.7
200	1300	1575	5.9	0.7
250	1400	1563	6.1	0.7
300	1550	1551	6.7	0.75
350	1650	1537	6.8	0.68
400	1700	1524	7.0	0.65

coordinate system was used specifically for the substrate. For each layer, the tape temperature was calculated before the substrate calculation. The tape nip point temperature was then forwarded to the growing substrate model. The substrate 2D cylindrical thermal domain was simplified to a Cartesian coordinate system via unfolding the cylindrical domain. The 1D tape domains in thickness (z -) direction traveling in winding (y -) direction were considered in each slice of the incoming tape as shown in Fig. 5. The 2D transient heat conduction problem in Cartesian y - and z -directions is based on the following governing equation:

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(k_y \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(k_z \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right) \quad (6)$$

where ρ is the density, c_p is the specific heat capacity, k_y and k_z are the thermal conductivity in the winding and transverse direction, respectively. The influence of radiation terms and crystallization enthalpy were also neglected since the effects were insignificant compared to laser heat flux [36]. For the tape, the $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(k_y \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right)$ term was omitted from Eq. 6 since the 1D tape domains neglect the in-plane thermal conductivity. Note that a local coordinate system different than the substrate was used specifically for the tape.

A schematic view of the computational domain for the substrate and tape is depicted in Fig. 6. It is seen that a 3D domain was obtained by considering the sliced geometry in Fig. 5 for the tape and substrate. The control volume-based finite difference (CV/FD) model was developed using an explicit scheme considering a Lagrangian frame to solve the governing equation. Total of 5 CVs per layer were used in z -direction. A constant time step of $\Delta t = 2\text{ms}$ was chosen to have a stable solution for the explicit solver. A similar optical mesh size of 1 mm was used in the x - and y -directions. Therefore, the consistency of the coupling between the optical and thermal model was maintained. To model incoming tape deposition, 4 new CVs were added to the substrate computational domain based on the defined Δt and v . Accordingly, the applied heat flux on the substrate surface was shifted in y -direction to simulate the moving heat flux. As indicated in Fig. 6a, the nip point at the next step is shown by the triangle and the tape temperature is indicated as a yellow circle. The nip point temperature was updated by averaging of the already calculated tape and the substrate temperature at the nip point.

The computational description of the tape domain is depicted in Fig. 6b where the tape initial temperature was equal to the $T(t_1) = T_{surr}$. The 1D thermal domain moved

Table 4 Overview of the reference values for the input parameters in the thermal simulation [12, 33, 36, 39]

Symbol	Value	Unit	Description
T_{surr}	30	°C	Surrounding temperature and the initial temperature of the incoming tape and substrate
T_{roller}	50 [33]	°C	Roller temperature
$T_{mandrel}$	30	°C	Mandrel temperature
h_a	20 [39]	W m ⁻² °C ⁻¹	Composite-air coefficient
h_{tr}	40 [12]	W m ⁻² °C ⁻¹	Tape-roller convection coefficient
h_r	1000 [36]	W m ⁻² °C ⁻¹	Substrate-roller convection coefficient
h_m	4000	W m ⁻² °C ⁻¹	Substrate-mandrel convection coefficient

Fig. 7 Cross-section of the produced ring

in winding (y –) direction for $v \times \Delta t$ in each time step. As the 1D thermal domain traveled toward the nip point, the temperature distribution evolved at each timestamp (t_i).

The physical body of the roller and mandrel were not modeled, however, their effect was taken into account by defining a convective heat transfer at the tape-roller, substrate-roller, and substrate-mandrel interfaces. Perfect thermal contact between the deposited layers was assumed in the thermal model since the thermal contact resistance between the layers is negligible [20]. The boundary conditions used in the thermal model are summarized in the following:

- Laser irradiation ($-k\nabla T = q''_i(x, y)$): The heat flux obtained from the optical model ($q''_i(x, y)$) was applied at the tape and substrate surfaces.
- Tape-roller interface ($-k\nabla T = h_{tr}(T - T_{roller})$): Convective heat transfer was defined at the tape-roller interface (L_{tape}) using a heat transfer coefficient of h_{tr} and roller temperature T_{roller} . The tape was always in contact with the roller at $z = t_p$ during heating.

- Substrate-roller interface ($-k\nabla T = h_r(T - T_{roller})$): Convective heat transfer was defined at the substrate-roller interface using a heat transfer coefficient h_r .
- Substrate-mandrel interface ($-k\nabla T = h_m(T - T_{mandrel})$): Convective heat transfer using a heat transfer coefficient of h_m and mandrel temperature $T_{mandrel}$.
- Convective cooling to air ($-k\nabla T = h_a(T - T_{surr})$): Convective heat transfer using a heat transfer coefficient of h_a and surrounding temperature T_{surr} was applied at the tape and substrate surfaces.
- Continuity boundary condition: The temperatures and corresponding temperature gradients for the substrate surfaces at $y = 0$ and $y = subs$ were defined as equal.

The temperature-dependent thermal properties of the C/PEEK tape were used in the thermal model which were taken from [33, 36] and listed in Table 3. The input parameters for the thermal model is listed in Table 4. The heat transfer coefficients and the corresponding temperatures were selected based on the reported values

Fig. 8 Thermal camera measurement during continuous winding of layers 22 to 26 for the visible nip point and at the 5th pixel away from the nip point on the tape and substrate surfaces. The 5th pixel roughly located at 4 mm and 2.2 mm away from the nip point for the substrate and tape, respectively. The dashed lines show the value and the duration where the temperature was averaged for the corresponding layer

Fig. 9 **a** Pixel based temperature distribution in the winding (y –) direction. **b** A schematic view showing the movement of the nip point location as the substrate thickness grew from a x – z view

in the literature [12, 33, 36, 39]. A near-perfect contact was assumed at the substrate-mandrel interface, therefore a relatively high value for $h_m = 4000 \text{ W m}^{-2} \text{ °C}^{-1}$ was used. Although the roller temperature changes during the process due to laser heating, in this study T_{roller} was assumed to be constant with a value of 50°C as used also in [33]. Besides [33], it was shown in [36] that a lower roller temperature was found to be closer to the experimental data based on the slope of the cooling curves in the consolidation region. In the present work, the total laser power was set to 400 W and the linear winding speed was 100 mm/s as taken from the experiments.

Results and discussions

Three composite rings were manufactured and Fig. 7 shows the resulting cross-section. It is seen that the top surface was slightly curved due to a non-linear distribution of the compaction force. As the ring got thicker during winding, the edges were prone to deform by the deformable roller at relatively high temperatures. This yielded a slightly wider composite ring than the expected nominal width of 6.35 mm. The thickness of the cross-section at the center was found to be the same as the expected nominal thickness which was $26 \times 0.15 \text{ mm} = 3.9 \text{ mm}$. However, the thickness

Fig. 10 **a** The consolidation pressure distribution measured by pressure sensitive films placed between the compaction roller and substrate. **b** A schematic view to show the change in the consolidation region length of the thin and thick substrate and the nip point location from a y – z view

at the edges was found to be approximately 2.9 mm. Although the curved substrate surface might affect the absorbed laser heat flux across the width, the change in the substrate geometry was not taken into account in the process simulations. Based on the micrograph of the ring cross section as seen in Fig. 7, there was no void or porosity observed in between the wound layers. The measured tape and substrate temperatures are presented in the following.

Temperature measurements

The surface temperature of the substrate and tape was measured continuously by the thermal camera as indicated in Fig. 4a. To illustrate, the measured temperature as a function of time is shown in Fig. 8 for the continuous winding of layers 22 to 26. Note that the substrate and tape temperatures are plotted for the 5th pixel away from the nip point at the width mid-plane. It took approximately 7.7s to wind one layer as shown in Fig. 8. There was an increase of approximately 25 °C for the tape temperature while winding layers 22 to 26. On the other hand, a larger increase in substrate and visible nip point temperatures were observed which were approximately 100 °C and 55 °C, respectively. The overall increase in the temperature was mainly due to the continuous heating of the system during multiple windings. As expected, the increase in nip point temperature was in between the increase in substrate and tape temperatures. The temperature during the winding of the first layer of the five consecutive layers (e.g. layer 22 in Fig. 8) was found to vary because the winding was started after waiting the system got cooled to room temperature. After winding the other layers (e.g. layers 23–26), the substrate, tape and nip point temperature were found to vary less as compared with the first layer (e.g. layer 22). The

peaks in between the layers were related to the overlapping of the incoming tape with the already deposited substrate [15]. The trend in temperature evolution presented in Fig. 8 was the same as in winding of layers 2–6, 7–11, 12–16 and 17–21.

In order to evaluate the substrate and tape temperature distribution per layer, the measured temperature during winding of each layer was averaged with respect to time. To illustrate, the temperature evolution was averaged at horizontal dashed lines indicated in Fig. 8 for layer 22 to 26 and this procedure was applied to all other layers for three winding experiments. The time-averaged temperature distributions on the substrate and tape are depicted in Fig. 9a for layers 6, 11 and 26 to demonstrate the temperature distribution trend based on the pixel distribution presented in Fig. 4 in the y-direction. It is seen that the tape temperature increased rapidly near nip point which could be due to the IR rays reflected by the tape surface. In other words, the thermal camera receives both the IR rays emitted by the relatively cold tape surface and the reflected IR rays emitted from the relatively hot substrate surface close to the nip point [19]. In addition, it was also found in Fig. 9 that the location of the visible nip point became closer to the tape side as the substrate got thicker. This was due to the fact that the position of the roller center was fixed by the AFP machine as the substrate radius became larger. This mechanism is explained schematically in Fig. 9b from the thermal camera point of view. The initial roller indentation was measured approximately as 2 mm for a 1-layer thick substrate. It became larger as the new layers wound on top of the already placed layers which locally changed the visible nip point location. Therefore, the change in the visible nip point location has to be taken into account for a reliable analysis of the nip point temperature by using

Fig. 11 The nip point temperature evolution during consecutive ring winding. The measured tape and substrate nip point temperatures are belonging to 1st pixel away from the visible nip point. Refer to Fig. 9 for pixel based temperature distribution and the location of the visible nip point for selected layers

Fig. 12 Normalized incident heat flux considering the anisotropic reflection of the (a) substrate and (b) tape surface with $l = 2$ mm. The averaged heat flux values along the width as a function of distance to the nip point for the (c) substrate and (d) tape considering individual energies absorbed in each reflection

the thermal camera. Another consequence of the increase in substrate thickness was the change in the consolidation area and the applied pressure on the substrate. The applied consolidation pressure was qualitatively obtained by using the pressure-sensitive films as shown in Fig. 10a for the layers 6, 11, 16, 21, and 26. It is seen that the darker images were observed as the layer number increased and hence the applied force on the substrate increased as well,

although, the compaction force was maintained constant by the pneumatic system. The increase in consolidation area and change in nip point position are schematically explained in Fig. 10b. The consolidation area increased from 16.8 mm for layer 6 to 24.4 mm for layer 26.

The time-averaged visible, substrate, and tape nip point temperature evolution are depicted in Fig. 11 for consecutive winding of layers 2-6, 7-11, 12-16, 17-21 and

Fig. 13 The predicted temperature distribution on the (a) substrate and (b) tape surface at the heating region during winding of the second layer

22–26. The tape and substrate nip point temperatures were extracted from the 1st pixel away from the nip point as shown in Fig. 4a. The error bars indicate the standard deviation of the temperature values obtained during winding of three rings and the center of the error bars shows the corresponding mean temperature. It is seen that the time-averaged substrate nip point temperature of the first layers, i.e. layer 2, 7, 12, 17 and 22, reduced due to an increase in substrate thickness. On the other hand, these temperatures for the tape were almost the same because the thickness of the incoming tape remained the same. It is seen that as the substrate got thicker, the overall visible, tape, and substrate nip points temperatures increased. The increase in temperature during consecutive winding of 5 layers became larger as the layer number increased. For instance, the substrate temperature increase was found to be approximately 98 °C during winding of layers 22–26, whereas it was approximately 42 °C for layers 7–11. This was due to the less heat loss to the mandrel as the substrate got thicker which resulted in a larger through-thickness thermal resistance. The increase in tape temperature during consecutive winding of 5 layers was found to be in the range of 40–50 °C. This variation was less than the variation in substrate temperature since the incoming tape thickness was constant during winding. The maximum and minimum variation in substrate and tape temperatures among the three winding experiments was found to be 80 °C for layer-22 and 10 °C for layer-7, respectively. The possible reasons for the variations in the temperature measurements within three rings production could be related to the local variation in material properties of the prepreg [44], local deconsolidation in the heated region and varying emissivity coefficient as a function of temperature [19] which was constant in the current configuration of the thermal camera.

Process model predictions

Heat flux and temperature

The predicted distribution of the absorbed heat flux using the 3D optical model is shown in Fig. 12a and b for winding of layer-2 ($I = 2$ mm) in order to illustrate the typical output of the optical simulation. The utilized mesh size of 2 mm and the total number of rays $N_0 = 4000$ were found to have a sufficient accuracy as compared with the finer mesh size of 0.5 mm and $N_0 = 40000$ as also seen in Fig. 12c and d. It is seen that the length of the heated regions was 21 mm and 24 mm for the substrate and tape, respectively. Higher heat flux was predicted for the substrate than the tape due to a more perpendicular incident angle of laser rays at the direct hit which resulted in larger ray energy absorption according to Fresnel law [26]. The magnitude of heat flux reduced near the nip point region both for substrate and tape because

the incident angle of the direct hit decreased as depicted in Fig. 3. The corresponding normalized heat flux distributions at the centerline of substrate and tape along the winding direction are shown in Fig. 12c and d. The normalization was done based on the power intensity of the laser source which was 1.3 W mm^2 . The total energy absorbed by the substrate surface consisted of the direct hit from the laser source and the rays from the first and second reflection as

Fig. 14 Predicted and measured nip point temperatures for the (a) substrate and (b) tape. c Predicted and measured temperature distributions in the winding direction along the centerline of the substrate and tape during winding the 6th layer

shown in Fig. 3. It is seen from Fig. 12c and d that the direct hit for substrate and tape contained approximately the 80% of the total heat flux. The first reflection covered a 15 mm length from the nip point for substrate and tape with approximately 28% of the total heat flux. On the other hand, the second reflection had approximately 2% of the total heat flux.

The corresponding temperature distribution for the substrate and tape obtained from the thermal model are shown in Fig. 13a and b for the current default mesh (mesh size of 1 mm and $N_0 = 4000$) and the finer mesh

Fig. 15 Predicted temperature distribution on the surface in the winding direction at the width mid-plane during winding of layer 7 from the roller centerline for the (a) substrate and (b) tape. c The substrate temperature distribution from the actual nip point

(mesh size of 0.5 mm and $N_0 = 40000$). It is seen that the results obtained from the default mesh and the finer mesh yielded a very close temperature distribution. The resulting temperature distribution was not uniform in the width direction, i.e. in the x -direction, due to anisotropic reflections. The tape temperature prior to the nip point was found to be lower than the substrate temperature due to a lower heat flux distribution for the tape, see Fig. 12c and d. This observation was also the case in the measured temperature distribution depicted in Fig. 11.

The temperature predictions were made for all the layers from 2 to 26 using the optical-thermal model in which the roller indentation was increasing linearly from 2 mm to 5.75 mm to be compared with the experimental data. The corresponding results are presented in Fig. 14a and b for the substrate and tape nip points. The predictions confirm the experimental observation that the increase in substrate temperature was found to be larger during winding on thicker substrates. For instance, the predicted substrate temperature increase was 89 °C and 26 °C during winding of layers 22–26 and layers 7–11, respectively. In general, the developed process model captured the measured temperature evolution trend quite well for the substrate with overprediction up to 51 °C as the ring got thicker. According to Fig. 14b, the increase in tape temperature during consecutive winding was found to be lower than the increase in substrate temperature as also observed by the measurements. The predicted tape temperature increase was 5 °C during winding of layers 7–11 and it was almost constant during winding of layers 22–26. A larger mismatch in the measured and predicted nip point temperature was found for the tape with a range of 38–98 °C.

The measured and predicted centerline temperature profiles along the winding direction is given in Fig. 14c during winding of layer 6. It is seen that the predicted substrate temperature distribution agreed well with the measurement. On the other hand, the predicted tape temperature distribution was lower than the measured one near the nip point. This could be due to the employment of relatively simple roller geometry and deformation which was more complex in reality, i.e. the deformation is non-circular. Besides, the utilized tape-roller convection coefficient value could also play a role for the obtained mismatch in the predicted and measured tape temperature near the nip point. In addition, a constant roller temperature $T_{roller} = 50$ °C [33] was used in the thermal model, however it can increase up to 300 °C [36]. This would affect the heat transfer at the tape-roller interface significantly though the averaged nip point temperature would not be affected significantly according to [36]. To illustrate this, the process simulations were conducted with $T_{roller} = 300$ °C and the results are depicted in Figs. 14a and b for the nip point temperature of the substrate and tape for each layer, respectively. It is seen

Fig. 16 A schematic view of the change in the heating length of the tape and substrate considering the effect of roller indentation. The dashed geometry corresponds to higher value of roller indentation

that the overall tape temperature at the nip point increased approximately 17°C as compared to the case with $T_{roller} = 50^{\circ}\text{C}$. A maximum of 20°C difference was obtained for the substrate temperature during winding of layer 26 with varying roller indentation. The temperature difference was negligible during winding of layers 2–11. This indicated that the effect of roller temperature on the substrate nip point temperature was more dominant for larger roller indentation values.

Effect of roller indentation

The influence of the roller deformation on the temperature evolution was investigated using the proposed optical-thermal model. Three constant roller indentation values $I = 0, 2$ and 4.5 mm were considered in the parameter analysis. To illustrate the predicted temperature distribution, the results from winding of layer-7 on a 6-layers thick

substrate are depicted in Figs. 15a and b for the substrate and tape surface, respectively. A schematic description of roller indentation is plotted in Fig. 16 where the substrate is stationary and the roller together with the laser source moved toward the substrate. This modeling approach is basically the same as the case of growing substrate with stationary roller and laser source (refer to Fig. 10b). The nip point temperature increased approximately by 167°C (51%) for the substrate, i.e. from 325°C to 492°C , and by 35°C (9%) for the tape, i.e. from 367°C to 402°C , by increasing I from 0 mm to 4.5 mm. It is seen that the shadow area where the temperature drops close to the nip point diminished for $I = 2$ mm and 4.5 mm both for tape and substrate. Therefore, roller indentation resulted in a shift in the nip point location which was approximately 15 mm and 16 mm by increasing I from 0 mm to 4.5 mm for substrate and tape, respectively. In addition, the roller indentation affected also the total consolidation length as mentioned in

Fig. 17 The evolution of the substrate nip point temperature for various roller indentation (I) values

Fig. 18 The effect of the roller indentation on the nip point temperature (averaged along the width direction), total heated length, total absorbed heat and local absorbed heat at the nip point (averaged along the width direction) for the tape (*left*) and substrate (*right*)

Fig. 10. The contact length of the consolidation region for $I = 2$ mm and 4.5 mm was 21 mm and 31 mm, respectively. An increase of 7 mm in the substrate heating region was obtained as I was increased from 0 mm to 4.5 mm. This was due to the movement of the laser source which was connected to the roller center via the tape laying head as schematically depicted in Fig. 16. Considering both the nip point and laser movement effects the heating length reduced from 27 to 19 mm on the substrate and from 33 to 17 mm on the tape surfaces by increasing I from 0 to 4.5 mm. Although the heated lengths of tape and substrate decreased as the roller deformation increased, the laser incident angles near the nip point became more perpendicular to the tape and substrate surfaces which resulted in larger temperatures.

The substrate temperature distribution shown in Fig. 15a is re-plotted in Fig. 15c by locating the nip point at $y = 0$ mm. The temperature at the nip point was lower for lower indentation values as explained earlier, however, after approximately 5 mm, lower indentation values resulted in higher temperatures since the heating length before this point was larger. The mean surface temperature was approximately 427°C for all the roller indentation values

approximately at 4–5 mm away from the nip point as seen in Fig. 15c. In other words, the mean surface temperature in the range of 4–5 mm from the nip point was not affected by the roller indentation and the effect of change in the input heat flux distribution was therefore negligible.

The corresponding evolution of the substrate nip point temperature during continuous winding with different roller indentation values are depicted in Fig. 17. It is seen that the nip point temperature increased with an increase in I . The increase in temperature during 5 consecutive windings was found to be highest for $I = 0$ mm because there was no heat loss at the substrate-roller interface which resulted in higher heat accumulation in the substrate. The predicted variation in substrate nip point temperature due to the change in I was found to be approximately in the range of 20–30°C. This was approximately 5°C for the tape nip point temperature.

In order to interpret the effect of roller indentation on the process temperature more elaborately, the total heated length, the total absorbed power and the local absorbed power at the nip point were investigated for different indentation values as shown in Fig. 18. As aforementioned, the total heated length of the tape and substrate decreased, however the local absorbed heat at the nip point increased due to an increase in the incident angle of the incoming rays as well as the reduction in the shadowed region. The increase in the incident angle was larger for the substrate than the tape due to position of the laser source which was oriented more towards the substrate as seen in Fig. 3. As a result, the total absorbed heat slightly increased for the substrate though the total heated length decreased. On the other hand, a slight decrease in the total absorbed heat was the case for the tape as the roller indentation increased due to larger decrease in the total heated length. This yielded a more rapid increase in the substrate temperature than the tape temperature as the roller indented more. Note that until 1 mm of roller indentation, the shadowing effect was present for both tape and substrate. The step-wise decrease

Table 5 The predicted temperature difference for the selected layers as a function of roller indentation (I) change for tape and substrate nip points

Layer number	Measuring area			
	Tape nip point		Substrate nip point	
	<i>I</i> change (mm)			
	0 → 2	2 → 4.5	0 → 2	2 → 4.5
6	26°C 9°C		139.9°C	16.1°C
11			138.3°C	15.8°C
16			131.2°C	14.8°C
21			123.7°C	12.7°C
26			117.7°C	11.1°C

Fig. 19 Measured and predicted substrate nip point temperatures with different substrate-roller convection coefficient (h_r) during continuous winding

in the total length was due to the used mesh size in the thermal model. Finer mesh would result in a finer total length evolution as the roller indentation increases.

The effect of roller indentation on the temperature variation is quantified in Table 5 for the substrate and tape nip point temperature during continuous windings. By the increment of I from 0 to 2 mm, a more noticeable change in temperature was predicted as compared with the increment from 2 to 4.5 mm. For the tape nip point, the change in the temperature was constant for all the layers since the tape thickness remained constant and a steady-state temperature was the case for the tape. However, the substrate temperature variation due to the change in I , tended to smaller values (not necessarily the absolute value) as the substrate got thicker. For instance, by increasing the indentation from 0 to 2 mm, the temperature increment dropped from 139.9 to 117.7°C (39.6% to 27.4%) during the continuous winding of layers 6 and 26, respectively. The roller compaction length was larger with larger I values, therefore, the consecutive heat loss to the roller was also higher leading to the mentioned drop in the temperature difference.

Effect of substrate-roller convection coefficient (h_r)

In Section 1, it was observed that the growth in substrate thickness affected the applied force and consolidation length on the substrate substantially. This can result in a change in h_r at the roller-substrate interface which directly influences the heat loss from the substrate to the roller. The effect of h_r on the predicted substrate temperature for each layer during continuous winding is shown in Fig. 19. The effect of h_r on the temperature variation was found to be more dominant for the thicker substrates as compared with thinner substrates since the major heat loss for thinner substrates took place at the substrate-mandrel interface instead of the substrate-roller interface. For instance, the substrate nip point temperature difference for layers 21 and

26 were 47°C (9.5%) and 31°C (5.7%) considering $h_r = 100$ $\text{W m}^{-2}\text{°C}^{-1}$ and $h_r = 3000$ $\text{W m}^{-2}\text{°C}^{-1}$. The measured temperature evolutions agreed better with the predictions with higher h_r as the substrate got thicker. This confirms the increase in consolidation pressure for thicker substrates observed by the pressure-sensitive films in Fig 10. Higher consolidation pressure indicates a lower thermal contact resistance at the roller-substrate interface which results in higher h_r values.

Conclusion

The evolution of the temperature distribution during consecutive winding of multiple C/PEEK prepreg layers was investigated experimentally and numerically. Relatively thick C/PEEK rings with 26 layers were manufactured using the LATW process with inline temperature measurements using a thermal camera. A coupled optical-thermal model was used to predict the laser irradiation and reflections, heat flux distributions and resulting temperature distributions on the incoming tape and substrate surfaces. The anisotropic reflections of the incoming laser light were considered in the optical model. The process model was first validated and verified by comparing the measured surface temperature with numerical predictions. The trends of the predicted tape and substrate temperatures were found to agree well with the measurements. The increase in substrate temperature was found to be larger during winding on thicker substrates due to the fact that the heat loss to the mandrel became smaller. The tape temperature increase during consecutive winding was found to be lower than the substrate temperature increase as a general trend. The varying roller deformation or indentation had a significant effect on the surface heat flux distribution together with the total heated length and consequently on the nip point temperatures. The tape nip point temperature increased slightly with an

increase in roller deformation during consecutive winding. On the other hand, a larger temperature increase was found for the substrate with an increase in roller deformation mainly due to the reduction in the shadow region and the larger increase in the incident angle of the incoming rays near the nip point. However, in the range of 4–5 mm from the nip point the effect of roller indentation variation on the temperature was negligible. The pressure-sensitive films indicated that the consolidation pressure and the contact length between the substrate and roller increased during the winding process. The effect of the variation in the substrate-roller convection coefficient (h_r) was found to be more dominant on the variation in substrate nip point temperature for relatively thick substrates.

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Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interests The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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