



**MATERIAL SELECTION, CHARACTERIZATION,
OPTIMIZATION, AND USABILITY OF BIO-COMPOSITES USING
FUSED DEPOSITION MODELLING**

اوینیورسیتی تیکنیکال ملیسیا ملاک

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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

2025



Faculty of Mechanical Technology and Engineering

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AND USABILITY OF BIO-COMPOSITES USING FUSED
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HAZLIZA AIDA BINTI CHE HAMID



A thesis submitted
in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy



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UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA
Faculty of Mechanical Technology and Engineering

UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA

2025

DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis entitled “Material Selection, Characterization, Optimization, And Usability Of Bio-Composites Using Fused Deposition Modelling” is the result of my own research except as cited in the references. The thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted in candidature of any other degree.



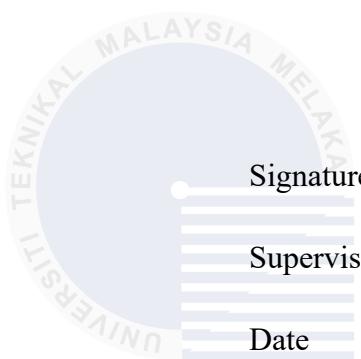
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APPROVAL

I hereby declare that I have read this thesis and in my opinion this thesis is sufficient in terms of scope and quality for the award of Doctor of Philosophy.



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Supervisor Name

Date

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DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my family and friends who have consistently provided unwavering attention and affection during my research journey.

This research is also dedicated to my supervisor, Dr. Mastura Binti Mohammad Taha and co. supervisor, Dr. Syahibudil Ikhwan Bin Abdul Kudus, who has provided me with diligent guidance and inspired me to strive for greater objectives in order to create exceptional research.

Lastly, I would want to express my gratitude to all UTeM instructors, personnel, and my research partners for their valuable collaboration in contributing to this work.

جامعة ملaka التقنية

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the material selection, characterization, optimization, and usability of bio-composites in additive manufacturing (AM). Development of environmentally sustainable egg carton packaging is used as case study and fabricate using Fused Deposition Modelling (FDM). The case study comprises of four primary phases: identifying appropriate bio-composite filament materials, characterizing their mechanical and printing characteristics, optimizing FDM settings, and assessing the usability of the final egg carton prototype. The Fuzzy Analytic Network Process (FANP) identified polylactic acid (PLA) reinforced with 7.5 wt.% sugar palm fibre (SPF) as the ideal material. The SPF-PLA composite containing 7.5 wt.% SPF was selected as the optimum material in this study, owing to its superior mechanical strength, printability, environmental sustainability, and processing stability, as corroborated by both FANP ranking and experimental validation. The printing settings were first optimized by the Taguchi technique, establishing optimal circumstances of 0.1 mm layer thickness, 100% infill density, and a print speed of 25 mm/s to guarantee better print quality and structural integrity. Mechanical and physical evaluations validated the printability and efficacy of the SPF-PLA composite. A functioning egg carton prototype was then produced using FDM based on these proven features. Usability testing was performed with 10 volunteers using the System Usability Scale (SUS), in which participants evaluated 10 assertions on a Likert scale. The findings produced an average SUS score of 80, categorizing the prototype as good within the 4th quartile range. Participants expressed positive opinions about the carton's durability, usability, and environmental benefits. The results confirm the SPF-PLA bio-composite as a feasible material for sustainable egg carton packaging and illustrate the potential of FDM technology for scalable, environmentally responsible production.

PEMILIHAN BAHAN, PENCIRIAN, PENGOPTIMUMAN DAN KEBOLEHGUNAAN BIO KOMPOSIT MENGGUNAKAN PERMODELAN PEMENDAPAN BERSATU

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini meneliti pemilihan bahan, pencirian, pengoptimuman, dan kebolehgunaan bio-komposit dalam pembuatan tambahan (AM). Pembangunan pembungkusan karton telur yang mesra alam sekitar digunakan sebagai kajian kes dan dihasilkan menggunakan Pemodelan Pemendapan Bersatu (FDM). Kajian kes ini merangkumi empat fasa utama: mengenal pasti bahan filamen bio-komposit yang sesuai, mencirikan sifat mekanikal dan keupayaan cetakannya, mengoptimumkan tetapan FDM, serta menilai kebolehgunaan prototaip akhir kotak telur tersebut. Proses Rangkaian Analitik Kabur (FANP) telah mengenal pasti asid polilaktik (PLA) yang diperkuuh dengan 7.5 wt.% serat kelapa sawit (SPF) sebagai bahan yang paling ideal. Komposit SPF-PLA dengan kandungan 7.5 wt.% SPF telah dipilih sebagai bahan optimum dalam kajian ini, berdasarkan kekuatan mekanikalnya yang unggul, keupayaan cetak, kelestarian alam sekitar, dan kestabilan pemprosesan, seperti yang disahkan oleh kedudukan FANP dan pengesahan eksperimen. Tetapan percetakan telah dioptimumkan terlebih dahulu menggunakan teknik Taguchi, yang menetapkan keadaan optimum pada ketebalan lapisan 0.1 mm, ketumpatan pengisian 100%, dan kelajuan cetakan 25 mm/s bagi menjamin kualiti cetakan dan integriti struktur yang lebih baik. Penilaian mekanikal dan fizikal mengesahkan kebolehgcatannya serta keberkesanan komposit SPF-PLA tersebut. Prototaip karton telur berfungsi kemudiannya telah dihasilkan menggunakan FDM berdasarkan ciri-ciri yang telah terbukti ini. Ujian kebolehgunaan telah dijalankan bersama 10 orang sukarelawan menggunakan Skala Kebolehgunaan Sistem (SUS), di mana para peserta menilai 10 pernyataan menggunakan skala Likert. Dapatan menunjukkan purata skor SUS sebanyak 80, yang meletakkan prototaip tersebut dalam julat kuartil ke-4 sebagai "baik." Para peserta memberikan maklum balas positif mengenai ketahanan, kebolehgunaan, dan manfaat alam sekitar bagi karton tersebut. Keputusan ini mengesahkan bahawa bio-komposit SPF-PLA merupakan bahan yang berdaya maju untuk pembungkusan karton telur yang mampan dan menggambarkan potensi teknologi FDM untuk pengeluaran yang berskala dan mesra alam.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ABS</i>	-	Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene
<i>AD</i>	-	Anderson-Darling
<i>AHP</i>	-	Analytic Hierarchy Process
<i>AM</i>	-	Additive Manufacturing
<i>ANOVA</i>	-	Analysis of Variance
<i>ANP</i>	-	Analytic Network Process
<i>ASTM</i>	-	American Society for Testing and Materials
<i>ASQ</i>	-	After-Scenario Questionnaire
<i>bioPe</i>	-	Biobased Polyethylene
<i>BJ</i>	-	Binder Jetting
<i>C</i>	-	Carbon
<i>C</i>	-	Celcius
<i>CAD</i>	-	Computer-Aided Design
<i>CAM</i>	-	Computer-Aided Manufacturing
<i>CC</i>	-	Contour Crafting
<i>CE</i>	-	Closed-ended
<i>CF</i>	-	Carbon Fibre
<i>CSUQ</i>	-	Computer System Usability Questionnaire
<i>DC</i>	-	Direct Current
<i>DLP</i>	-	Direct Light Processing
<i>DMLS</i>	-	Direct Metal Laser Sintering
<i>DOD</i>	-	Drop on Demand
<i>DOE</i>	-	Design of Experiment

<i>EBM</i>	- Electron Beam Melting
<i>ELECTRE</i>	- Elimination and Choice Expressing the Reality
<i>FANP</i>	- Fuzzy Analytic Network Process
<i>FBG</i>	- Fibre Bragg Grating
<i>FDM</i>	- Fused Deposition Modelling
<i>FEA</i>	- Finite Element Analysis
<i>FFF</i>	- Fused Filament Fabrication
<i>FG</i>	- Fibre Glass
<i>FPP</i>	- Fuzzy Preference Programming
<i>G-codes</i>	- Geometric Code
<i>H</i>	- Hydrogen
<i>HDPE</i>	- High-Density Polyethylene
<i>HIPS</i>	- High Impact Polystyrene
<i>KRABS</i>	- Kenaf fibre-reinforced ABS
<i>LBMD</i>	- Laser-Based Metal Deposition
<i>LCA</i>	- Lifecycle Analysis
<i>LENS</i>	- Laser Engineering Net Shaping
<i>LOM</i>	- Laminated Object Manufacturing
<i>MAUT</i>	- Multi-Attribute Utility Theory
<i>MCC</i>	- Microcrystalline Cellulose
<i>MCDM</i>	- Multi-Criteria Decision-Making
<i>N</i>	- Number of run
<i>NFRC</i>	- Natural Fibre-Reinforced Composite
<i>O</i>	- Oxygen
<i>OL</i>	- Whole Length

<i>OW</i>	- Overall Width
<i>PALF</i>	- Pineapple Leaves Fibre
<i>PCL</i>	- Polycaprolactone
<i>PEEK</i>	- Poly-ether-ether-ketone
<i>PEI</i>	- Polyetherimide
<i>PHA</i>	- Polyhydroxyalkanoates
<i>PLA</i>	- Polylactic Acid
<i>POE</i>	- Polyethene-co-octene
<i>PP</i>	- Polypropylene
<i>PROMETHEE</i>	- Preference Ranking Organization Method for Enrichment Evaluations
<i>PS</i>	- Polystyrene
<i>PSSUQ</i>	- Post-Study System Usability Questionnaire
<i>POE</i>	- Polyethene-co-octene
<i>rPP</i>	- Recycled Polypropylene
<i>RSM</i>	- Response Surface Methodology
<i>r-WOPPC</i>	- Recycled wood PP composite
<i>SEM</i>	- Scanning Electron Microscope
<i>SLA</i>	- Stereolithography
<i>SLM</i>	- Selective Laser Melting
<i>SLS</i>	- Selective Laser Sintering
<i>SNR</i>	- Signal-to-Noise Ratio
<i>SPF</i>	- Sugar Palm Fibre
<i>St. Dev</i>	- Standard Deviation
<i>SUMI</i>	- Software Usability Measurement Inventory
<i>SUS</i>	- System Usability Scale

<i>T</i>	-	Thickness
<i>TBC</i>	-	Tributyl Citrate
<i>TOPSIS</i>	-	Technique of Ranking Preferences by the Similarity of the Ideal Solutions
<i>TPU</i>	-	Thermoplastic Polyurethane
<i>TSL</i>	-	Surface Tessellation Language
<i>UAM</i>	-	Ultrasonic Additive Manufacturing
<i>USE</i>	-	Usefulness, Satisfaction and Ease of use
<i>UV</i>	-	Ultraviolet
<i>V</i>	-	Voltage
<i>VIKOR</i>	-	Vlse Kriterijumska Optimizacija Kompromisno Resenje
<i>W</i>	-	Width
<i>WF</i>	-	Wood Flour
<i>WAMMI</i>	-	Website Analysis Measurement Inventory
<i>3D</i>	-	Three-Dimensional
<i>3PB</i>	-	Three-point Bend

LIST OF SYMBOLS

mm	- Millimeter
XY	- The x-coordinate is measured along the east-west axis, the y-coordinate is measured along the north-south axis
Z	- The z-coordinate measures height or elevation
mm/min	- Millimeter per minutes
$^\circ$	- Degree
$\%$	- Percent
μm	- Micrometer
$S1$	- Outside layer
$S2$	- Middle layer
$S3$	- Interior layer
L/d	- Length/diameter
$Pa.s$	- Pascal-second
GPa	- Giga Pascal
MPa	- Mega Pascal
ρ	- Density
Tg	- Glass transition temperature
Tm	- Melting point
S	- Tensile strength
E	- Tensile modulus
E/ρ	- Specific modulus
$wt.$	- Weight

kg/h	- Kilogram per hour
m^3	- Cubic meter
G	- Target
n	- Number of groups
C_i	- Element groups
SC_{jl}	- Main criteria
k	- Number of experts
l_{iuv}	- Lower limit
SC_{iu} and SC_{iv}	- Weights of components
w_u/w_v	- Degree of membership
S_{iuv}	- Represents the agreement between the solution weight and expert opinion
0^T	- Weight vector
W_{ij}	- Submatrix
W	- Unweighted supermatrix
A	- Weighted matrix
\bar{W}	- Super-weighted matrix
T	- Network layer
w_{pq}	- One-step priority
p	- The degree to which indicator
q	- Influence indicator
ω_k	- Criterion weight
$\dot{\omega}_k$	- Altered criterion weights
β_k	- Unitary ratio
mm/s	- Millimeter per second