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Question 1 {3 marks}

A circular specimen of MgO is loaded using a three-point bending mode. Compute the minimum possible radius of the specimen, given that it can be loaded with 425 N without fracture, the flexural strength is 105 MPa, and the separation between load points is 50 mm.

Solution:

We are asked to calculate the maximum radius of a circular specimen of MgO that is loaded using three point bending. Solving for R from Equation 12.7b

$$R = \left[\frac{F_f L}{\sigma_{fs} \pi} \right]^{1/3}$$

which, when substituting the parameters stipulated in the problem statement, yields

$$\begin{aligned} R &= \left[\frac{(425 \text{ N})(50 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m})}{(105 \times 10^6 \text{ N/m}^2)(\pi)} \right]^{1/3} \\ &= 4.0 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m} = 4.0 \text{ mm} \text{ (0.16 in.)} \end{aligned}$$

Question 2 {7 marks}

The density and associated percent crystallinity for two polytetrafluoroethylene materials are as follows:

ρ (g/cm ³)	crystallinity (%)
2.144	51.3
2.215	74.2

- (a) Compute the densities of totally crystalline and totally amorphous polytetrafluoroethylene.
 (b) Determine the percent crystallinity of a specimen having a density of 2.26 g/cm³.

Solution

$$C = \frac{\rho_c(\rho_s - \rho_a)}{\rho_s(\rho_c - \rho_a)}$$

Rearrangement of this expression leads to

$$\rho_c(C\rho_s - \rho_s) + \rho_c\rho_a - C\rho_s\rho_a = 0$$

For the two conditions given, we can generate two equations and solve them simultaneously to find the densities of totally crystalline and totally amorphous polytetrafluoroethylene, that is

$$\rho_c(C_1\rho_{s1} - \rho_{s1}) + \rho_c\rho_a - C_1\rho_{s1}\rho_a = 0$$

$$\rho_c(C_2\rho_{s2} - \rho_{s2}) + \rho_c\rho_a - C_2\rho_{s2}\rho_a = 0$$

Therefore, the density of the totally amorphous material is

$$\rho_a = \frac{\rho_{s1}\rho_{s2}(C_1 - C_2)}{C_1\rho_{s1} - C_2\rho_{s2}} = \frac{(2.144 \text{ g/cm}^3)(2.215 \text{ g/cm}^3)(0.513 - 0.742)}{(0.513)(2.144 \text{ g/cm}^3) - (0.742)(2.215 \text{ g/cm}^3)} = 2.000 \text{ g/cm}^3$$

And that of the totally crystalline material is

$$\rho_c = \frac{\rho_{s1}\rho_{s2}(C_2 - C_1)}{\rho_{s2}(C_2 - 1) - \rho_{s1}(C_1 - 1)}$$
$$= \frac{(2.144 \text{ g/cm}^3)(2.215 \text{ g/cm}^3)(0.742 - 0.513)}{(2.215 \text{ g/cm}^3)(0.742 - 1) - (2.144 \text{ g/cm}^3)(0.513 - 1)} = 2.301 \text{ g/cm}^3$$

(b) Now we are to determine the % crystallinity for $\rho_s = 2.26 \text{ g/cm}^3$. So, using Equation 14.8

$$\% \text{ crystallinity} = \frac{\rho_c(\rho_s - \rho_a)}{\rho_s(\rho_c - \rho_a)} \times 100$$
$$= \frac{(2.301 \text{ g/cm}^3)(2.260 \text{ g/cm}^3 - 2.000 \text{ g/cm}^3)}{(2.260 \text{ g/cm}^3)(2.301 \text{ g/cm}^3 - 2.000 \text{ g/cm}^3)} \times 100$$
$$= 87.9\%$$