

# ANALYTICAL AND NUMERICAL STUDY OF COMPOSITE PLATES

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**Abstract** - In past few decades considerable work has been carried out on composites as they are suitable for most of the engineering applications, where specific strength is one of the most important criteria (like automotive and aerospace applications). In this paper the symmetrical and unsymmetrical glass/epoxy, boron/epoxy and graphite/epoxy laminated composite plates are analyzed for different in-plane loading conditions. Thermal loading conditions are also included along with in-plane mechanical loads and the simulations are carried out using ANSYS 14.5 FEA tool. The results are compared with the classical laminate theory (CLT) and it was observed that the results are in unison with each other. Further the mathematical model is generated for CLT by using MATLAB simulation tool for investigating different configurations of composite plate.

**Key Words:** Finite element analysis (FEA), Classical laminate theory (CLT), Laminate, ply, Composite plate.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Composite materials possess enhanced properties compared to other material. Since composite materials have advantages such as light weight, low density, elevated ratio of stiffness and strength, it gives long life to the components. Composite materials wide range of applications in aerospace industry, automotive industry, transport, building and construction, marine & also in medical equipment etc. A laminated composite material consists of some layers of composite combination consisting of matrix and fibers. All layers may have similar or dissimilar material properties with different fiber orientations under varying stacking progression. There are many open issues connecting to design of these laminated composites. Each lamina is represented by the angle of ply and separated from other plies by slash sign. In this work the composite plate are analyzed using both FEA and analytical method considering in-plane loading condition. The study is also extended to understand the combined effect of mechanical and thermal loading on composite plate.

## 1.1 Classical lamination theory

Relationship between stress, strain and displacement are established for a composite plate under in-plane loads such as shear and axial forces. The classical laminate theory is used to develop these relationships. Some assumptions are made to develop the relationship in the classical lamination theory.

- Every lamina is orthotropic.
- Every lamina is homogeneous.
- During deformation the line which is straight and perpendicular to the middle surface remains straight and perpendicular to the middle surface ( $M_{xz} = M_{yz} = 0$ )
- Every lamina is elastic.
- Throughout the laminate displacements are continuous and small. ( $|p|, |q|, |r| \ll |h|$ ), where  $h$  is the laminate thickness.
- Between the lamina interfaces there is no occurrence of slip.
- The thin laminate is loaded only in its plane ( $S_z = N_{xy} = N_{yz} = 0$ )

## 2. Finite element analysis

Finite element analysis has now become integral part of Computer Aided Engineering (CAE) and is been extensively used in the analysis and design of many complex real life systems. It is a numerical method for solving problems of engineering & mathematical physics for complex geometries, materials, loading & boundary conditions.

The model and simulating tool ANSYS 14.5 is used for FEA analysis. The modeling environment is shown in fig. 2.1

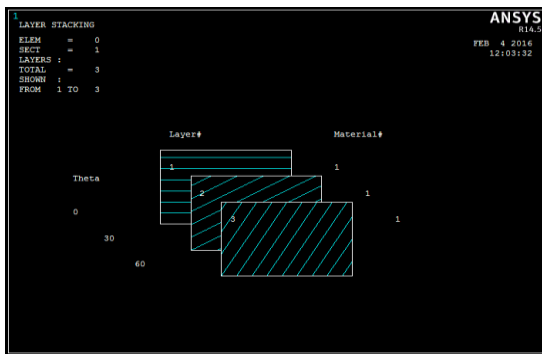


Fig-2.1 Orientation & stacking sequence for [0/30/60]

In this work 2D rectangular composite plate is used for analysis. The mesh size is 0.5 mm and the thickness of each lamina is 5mm.

The materials used for rectangular elements are glass/epoxy, graphite/epoxy and boron/epoxy. Typical mechanical properties for unidirectional lamina are given:

Table -2.1: Mechanical properties of unidirectional lamina

| Properties                                    | Symbol     | units                                | Glass/epoxy | Graphite/epoxy | Boron/epoxy |
|---|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Longitudinal elastic modulus                  | $Y_1$      | GPa                                  | 38.6        | 204            | 181         |
| Transverse elastic modulus                    | $Y_2$      | GPa                                  | 8.27        | 18.50          | 10.30       |
| Major Poisson's ratio                         | $V_{12}$   |                                      | 0.26        | 0.23           | 0.28        |
| Shear modulus                                 | $G_{12}$   | GPa                                  | 4.14        | 5.59           | 7.17        |
| Longitudinal Coefficient of thermal expansion | $\alpha_1$ | $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}^\circ\text{C}$ | 8.6         | 6.1            | 0.02        |
| Transverse Coefficient of thermal expansion   | $\alpha_2$ | $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}^\circ\text{C}$ | 22.1        | 30.3           | 25.5        |

### 2.1 Material under loading without temperature

The composite plate is analyzed by using analytical method that is classical laminate theory. The same material for the same fiber orientation is analyzed using MATLAB stimulation tool and it is observed that both the results are in good agreement with each other.

The three ply laminate with orientation of 0/30/-45. The graphite/epoxy material is considered for analysis.

Table -2.1.1: Comparision between MATLAB and Analytical solution for Graphite/epoxy

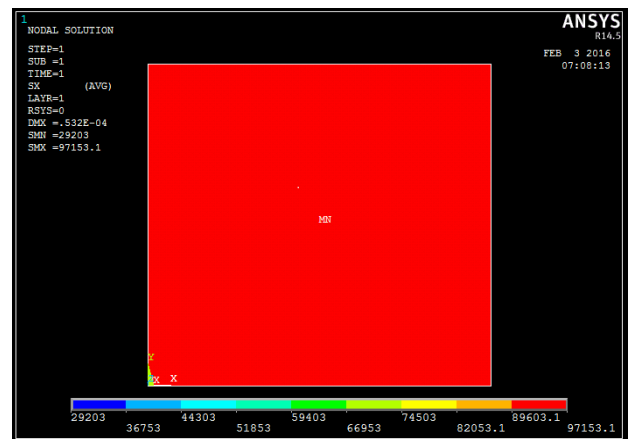
|           | Stress in x direction |                     | Stress in Y direction |                     | Stress in XY direction |                     |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
|           | MATLAB                | Analytical solution | MATLAB                | Analytical solution | MATLAB                 | Analytical solution |
| 0° top    | 33513                 | 33510               | 61875                 | 61880               | -27504                 | -27500              |
| 0° bottom | 55767                 | 55770               | 45312                 | 45310               | -12800                 | -12800              |
| 30°       | 69297                 | 69300               | 73914                 | 73910               | 33808                  | 33810               |

|        |        |        |        |        |         |         |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| top    |        |        |        |        |         |         |
| 30°    | 143360 | 143400 | 81022  | 81020  | 84256   | 84260   |
| bottom |        |        |        |        |         |         |
| -45°   | 123530 | 123500 | 156280 | 156300 | -118670 | -118700 |
| top    |        |        |        |        |         |         |
| -45°   | -25469 | -25470 | -18402 | -18400 | 40913   | 40910   |
| bottom |        |        |        |        |         |         |

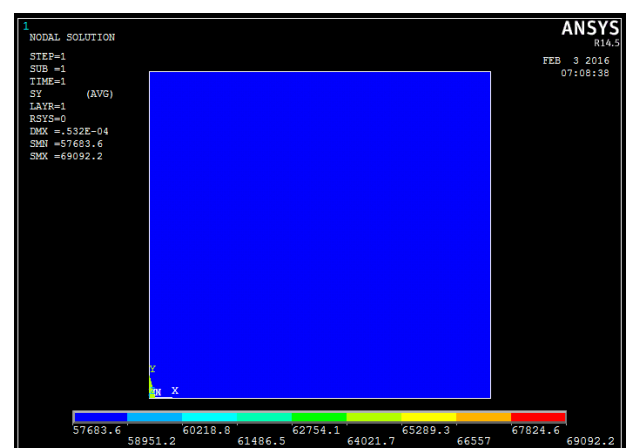
Further the MATLAB results are compared with ANSYS 14.5 analysis tool for different ply orientation of different material.

Glass/Epoxy material is used for the analysis and the ply angle are (0/30/60). The above fig. 2.1 shows the orientation & stacking sequence for [0/30/60] for FEA model.

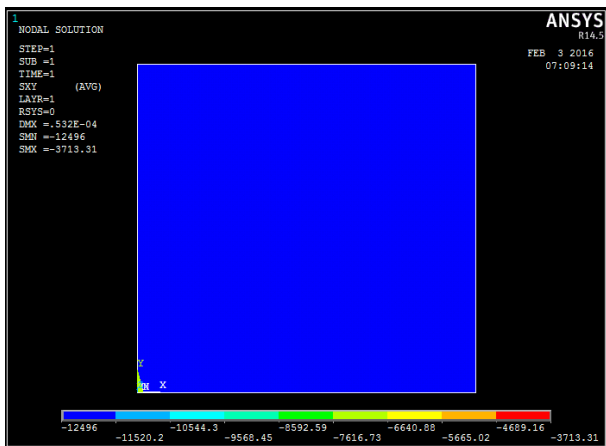
The same materials are simulated using ANSYS 14.5 analysis tool. The contour for stresses is plotted in fig and it observed that both FEA and MATLAB results are in good union with each other.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Fig-2.1.1: Stress distribution for 0° lamina in (a) X (b) Y and (c) XY direction

Fig-2.1.2 shows the lamina stresses X,Y and XY direction respectivity. These results are compared with MATLAB simulation tool as per given in Table no.-2.1.2

Table -2.1.2: Comparison between MATLAB and ANSYS result for Glass/epoxy.

|            | Stress in x direction |         | Stress in Y direction |         | Stress in XY direction |          |
|------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|----------|
|            | MATLAB                | ANSYS   | MATLAB                | ANSYS   | MATLAB                 | ANSYS    |
| 0° top     | 29203                 | 29203   | 69092                 | 69092.2 | -3713.3                | -3713.31 |
| 0° bottom  | 97153                 | 97153.1 | 57684                 | 57683.6 | -12496                 | -12496   |
| 30° top    | 72899                 | 72899.3 | 73969                 | 73968.8 | 16639                  | 16639.2  |
| 30° bottom | 88111                 | 88111.4 | 58757                 | 58756.7 | 7856.5                 | 7856.52  |
| 60° top    | 56729                 | 56729.1 | 98108                 | 98107.6 | 10843                  | 10842.8  |
| 60° bottom | 55904                 | 55904.1 | 42391                 | 42391.1 | -19129                 | -19129.2 |

The above table shows the result of comparisons of MATLAB simulation tool and ANSYS analyses tool.

The MATLAB results are given in fig. 2.1.1

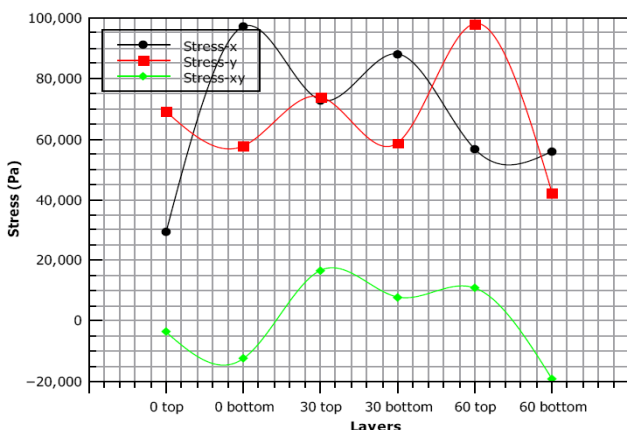


Chart -2.1.1: MATLAB results for glass/epoxy composite plate

Boron/Epoxy material is used for the analyses and the ply angle are (0/30/60)

Table -2.1.3: Comparison between MATLAB and ANSYS result for Boron/epoxy.

|            | Stress in x direction |          | Stress in Y direction |         | Stress in XY direction |          |
|------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|----------|
|            | MATLAB                | ANSYS    | MATLAB                | ANSYS   | MATLAB                 | ANSYS    |
| 0° top     | -11914                | -11914.3 | 66823                 | 66823   | -5977.5                | -5977.53 |
| 0° bottom  | 145730                | 145734   | 55580                 | 55580.1 | -11048                 | -11047.5 |
| 30° top    | 73443                 | 73442.3  | 70334                 | 70334.2 | 12832                  | 12831.9  |
| 30° bottom | 82224                 | 82224.5  | 61553                 | 61552.8 | 7762                   | 7761.95  |
| 60° top    | 68551                 | 68551.2  | 132760                | 132763  | 33514                  | 33514.2  |
| 60° bottom | 41962                 | 41962    | 12947                 | 12946.7 | -37083                 | -37083   |

The above table shows the result of comparisons of MATLAB situation tool and ANSYS analyses tool.

Graphite/Epoxy material is used for the analyses and the ply angle are (0/30/60)

Table -2.1.4: comparison between MATLAB and ANSYS result for Graphite/epoxy

|            | Stress in x direction |          | Stress in Y direction |          | Stress in XY direction |          |
|------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
|            | MATLAB                | ANSYS    | MATLAB                | ANSYS    | MATLAB                 | ANSYS    |
| 0° top     | -64138                | -64137.9 | 61791                 | 61791    | -11180                 | -11180   |
| 0° bottom  | 188490                | 188491   | 51273                 | 51272.6  | -22870                 | -22870.3 |
| 30° top    | 84501                 | 84500.6  | 78083                 | 78082.8  | 28939                  | 28938.6  |
| 30° bottom | 104750                | 104749   | 57835                 | 57834.6  | 17248                  | 17248.3  |
| 60° top    | 65771                 | 65770.9  | 173990                | 173993   | 47982                  | 47982.1  |
| 60° bottom | 20627                 | 20626.7  | -22974                | -22973.5 | -60119                 | -60118.8 |

The above table shows the result of comparisons of MATLAB situation tool and ANSYS analyses tool. Now as it is established that results obtain from both MATLAB coding and ANSYS simulation have sink with the analytical results.

Glass/Epoxy material is used for the analysis and the ply angle are (30/60/30/60). The fig. 2.1.2 shows the orientation & stacking sequence for [30/60/30/60] for FEA model.

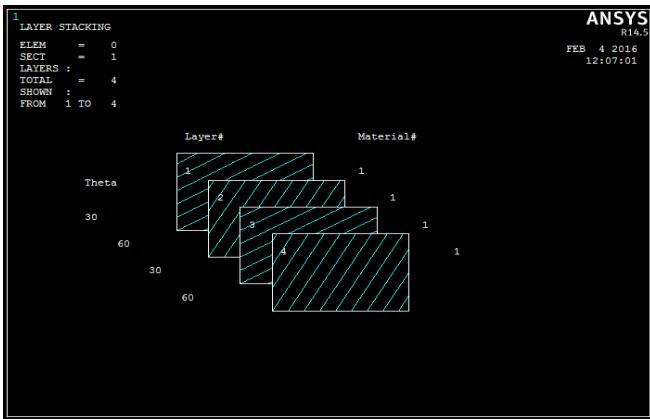
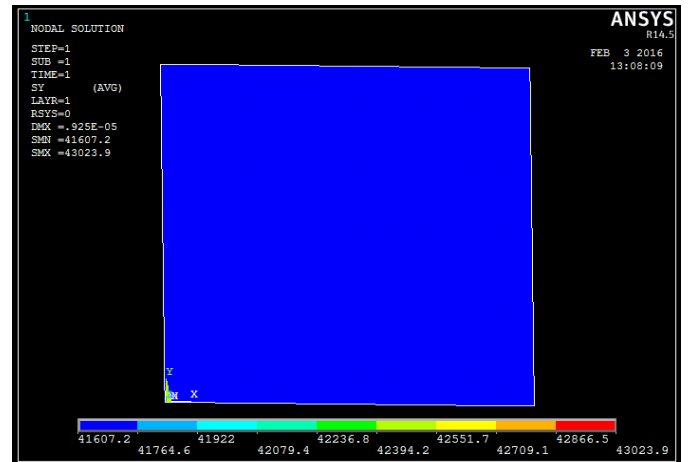


Fig-2.1.2: Orientation & stacking sequence for [30/60/30/60]



(b)

Fig-2.1.3: Stress distribution for 0° lamina in (a) X

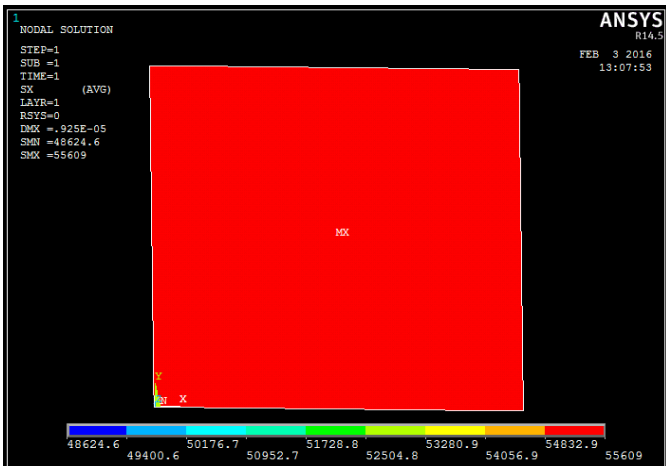
(b) Y direction

Fig-2.1.3 shows the lamina stresses X and Y direction respectively. These results are compared with MATLAB simulation tool as per given in Table no.-2.1.5

Table -2.1.5: comparison between MATLAB and ANSYS result for Glass/epoxy

The table-2.1.5 shows the result of comparisons of MAT LAB situation tool and ANSYS analyses tool.

|            | Stress in x direction |         | Stress in Y direction |         |
|------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
|            | MATLAB                | ANSYS   | MATLAB                | ANSYS   |
| 30° top    | 486256                | 48624.6 | 43024                 | 43023.9 |
| 30° bottom | 55609                 | 55609   | 41607                 | 41607.2 |
| 60° top    | 38774                 | 38773.8 | 69578                 | 69577.7 |
| 60° bottom | 40190                 | 40190.5 | 62593                 | 62593.3 |
| 30° top    | 62593                 | 62593.3 | 40190                 | 40190.5 |
| 30° bottom | 69578                 | 69577.7 | 38774                 | 38773.8 |
| 60° top    | 41607                 | 41607.2 | 55609                 | 55609   |
| 60° bottom | 43024                 | 43023.9 | 48625                 | 48624.6 |



(a)

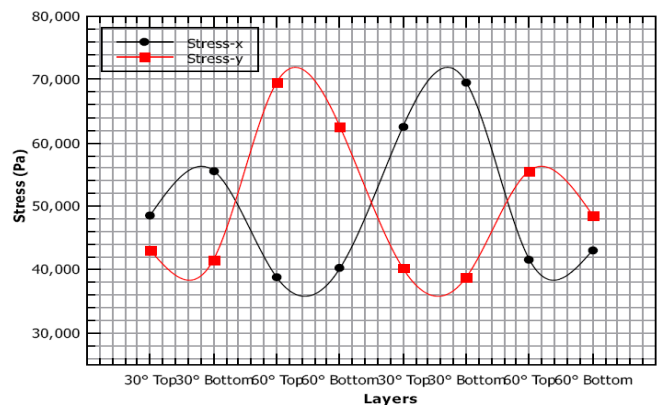


Chart -2.1.2: MATLAB results for glass/epoxy composite plate

Now as it is established that results obtain from both MATLAB coding and ANSYS simulation have sink with the analytical results.

Glass/Epoxy material is used for the analysis and the ply angle are (30/60/60/30). The above fig. 2.1.1 shows the orientation & stacking sequence for [30/60/60/30] for FEA model.

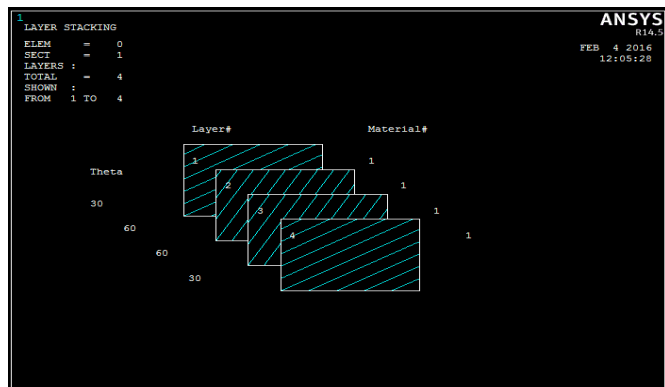
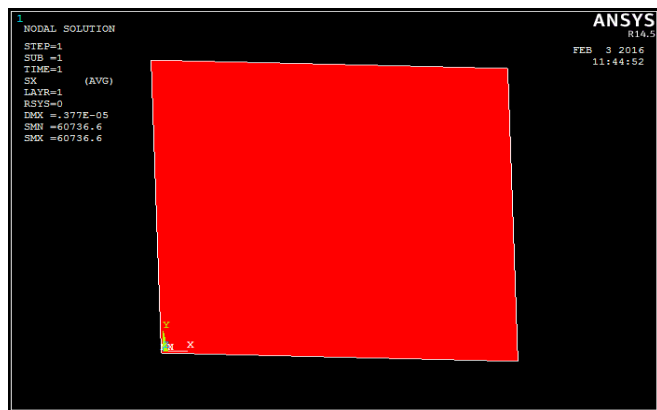
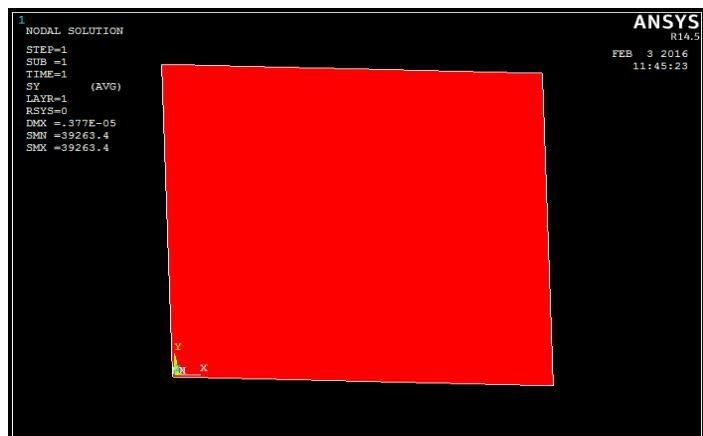


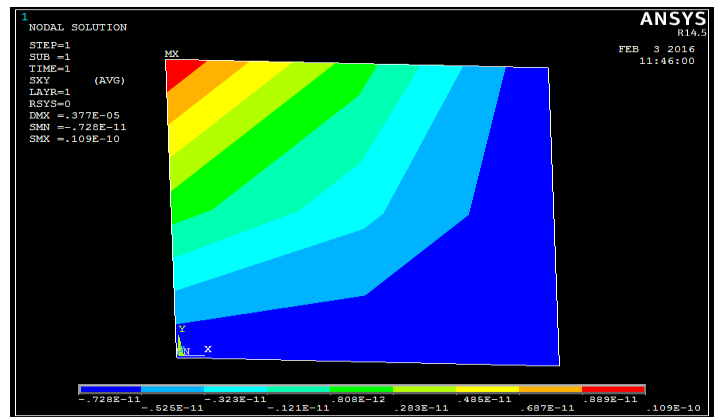
Fig-2.1.4: Orientation & stacking sequence for [30/60/60/30]



(a)



(b)



(c)

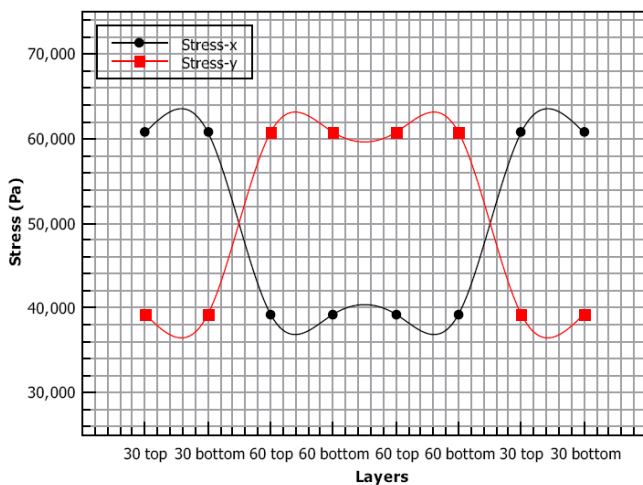
Fig-2.1.5: Stress distribution for 0° lamina in (a) X (b) Y and (c) XY direction

Fig 2.1.5 shows the lamina stresses X and Y direction respectively. These results are compared with MATLAB simulation tool as per given in Table no.-2.1.6

Table -2.1.6: comparison between MATLAB and ANSYS result for Glass/epoxy

|            | Stress in x direction |         | Stress in Y direction |         |
|------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
|            | MATLAB                | ANSYS   | MATLAB                | ANSYS   |
| 30° top    | 60737                 | 60736.6 | 39263                 | 39263.4 |
| 30° bottom | 60737                 | 6073.6  | 39263                 | 39263.4 |
| 60° top    | 39263                 | 39263.4 | 60737                 | 60736.6 |
| 60° bottom | 39263                 | 39263.4 | 60737                 | 6073.6  |
| 60° top    | 39263                 | 39263.4 | 60737                 | 60736.6 |
| 60° bottom | 39263                 | 39263.4 | 60737                 | 6073.6  |
| 30° top    | 60737                 | 60736.6 | 39263                 | 39263.4 |
| 30° bottom | 60737                 | 6073.6  | 39263                 | 39263.4 |

The table-2.1.6 shows the result of comparisons of MAT LAB situation tool and ANSYS analyses tool.



**Chart -2.1.3:** MATLAB results for glass/epoxy composite plate

Now as it is established that results obtain from both MATLAB coding and ANSYS simulation have sink with the analytical results.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

The composite plates are analysed considering different process parameters like fiber orientation, stacking sequence and boundary conditions. The simulations were also carried out on different materials like glass/epoxy, graphite/epoxy and boron epoxy composites. Both symmetric and unsymmetrical composite plates were analyzed using mechanical conditions with the help of ANSYS simulation tool. The results obtained by classical laminate theory were compared with the results obtained from hand calculation and they are in unison with each other. The classical laminate model was also established using MATLAB simulation tool and the results were in good agreement with FEA results obtained from ANSYS.

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