

Maciej SYDOR, Grzegorz WIELOCH

CONSTRUCTION PROPERTIES OF WOOD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN ENGINEERING PRACTICE

The paper shows in a synthetic way tabular catalogue of over 70 construction properties of wood. They were divided according to following properties: (1) physical, strength and acoustical, (2) technological, (3) exploational, (4) thermic, electrical and other physical, (5) economic.

The conclusion states that all properties of wood are investigated taking into consideration its anisotropic structure which results in majority of them being decomposed into three components. In the consequence there are 200 unique construction properties which are different for each kind of wood.

Keywords: wood, construction properties, machine construction

Introduction

Wood has accompanied men since the birth of technics; was and is material for many objects like buildings, machines, furniture, tools, toys or pieces of art. Around 30.000 kinds of trees is present in the world from which 3000–5000 is usable. At present around 1500 kinds has precisely catalogued their construction properties, from 200 is of technical importance [Kokociński 2005; Wood Handbook 1999]. Wood is practically used in all branches of industry especially in building trade, interior equipment (furniture) in production of every-day objects and also in engineering industry. The share of wood production in whole (without paper and fiber pulp) industrial production in Poland in years 2005–2006 was around 3%. It came up with plastics and was smaller than metals' production (4,5%) [Concise Statistical Yearbook of Poland 2007]. According to research conducted in ITD-Wood Technology Institute only production aimed at households and public serviceblenesses was used over 6 mln m³ of different wood materials [Ratajczak et al. 2006].

Maciej SYDOR, Poznan University of Life Sciences, Poland

e-mail: sydor@up.poznan.pl

Grzegorz WIELOCH, Poznan University of Life Sciences, Poland

e-mail: obrawiel@au.poznan.pl

The above mentioned facts resulted in a trial of identification of constructional properties of wood used in machine construction industry. Wood is one of engineering construction materials and one can list thousands of usages of wood in machine constructions [Sydor 2009]. It should be mentioned that the authors under the heading machine understand according to European Directive 2006/42/EC.

All contemporary construction engineering materials used in this area can be classified in four groups (fig.1): 1-metal alloys, 2-ceramics and minerals, 3-polymers, 4- composites.

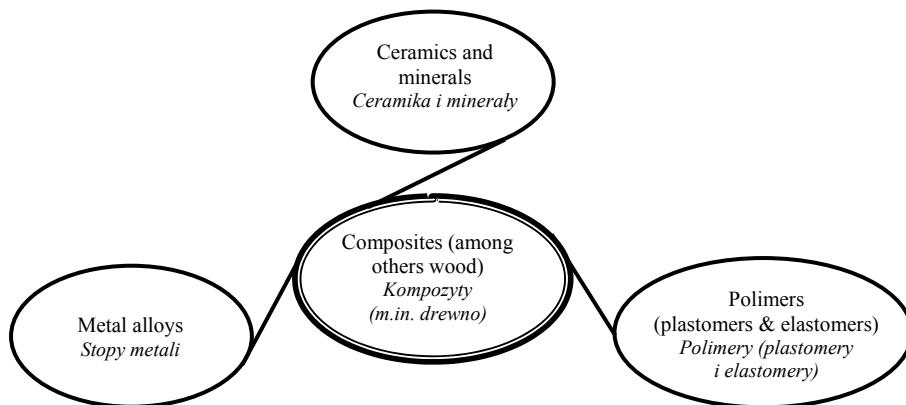


Fig. 1. The position of wood in the structure of engineering construction materials [Sydor 2009]

Rys. 1. Miejsce drewna w strukturze konstrukcyjnych materiałów inżynierskich [Sydor 2009]

Metal alloys are homogenous isotropic submicroscope mixtures of intermetallic phases compounds. Ceramics are inorganic-nonmetallic compounds obtained as a result of heat treatment (burn out) most usually of clay.

Polymers are organic substances consisting of chains of repeating segments (mers).

Their properties are a kind of resultant of properties of particular components (phases). Interaction between particular phases occurs on the macroscopic level. In this meaning composite materials are not for example metal alloys, which in microscopic scale form composition of many components but in macroscopic scale behave as typical homogenous materials.

In composites that is material consisting at least two components can occur permanent macroscopic construction compositions in form of:

- (1) fibres (wood, plywood, polyamide reinforced with carbon fibre – CFRP),

- (2) three-dimensional structures (for example composite materials with slice of honey core),
- (3) irregular (for example particle board, WPC/Wood Plastics Composites/, concrete),
- (4) combinations of the above mentioned for example reinforced concrete.

Fibrous composites so called laminate material can be classified depending on the way of arrangement of fibres as: (1a) direction composites (e.g. solid wood – lignoston) – fibres are arranged in one direction, (1b) composite boards (e.g. plywood, lignofol) – fibres are arranged orthogonally in two perpendicular directions or (1c) fibrous composites disordered (e.g. fibre board).

The central position of composite materials in fig. 1 among engineering materials comes from the fact that their physicomechanical properties are intermediate in comparison with analogical properties of other materials.

The natural feature of composite materials is anisotropy of mechanical properties which doesn't have to be treated as a defect. Thanks to possibility of creation of anisotropic material there exists a possibility of adjustment of resistance indicator values and anisotropy direction to stress state in a material [Dąbrowski 2002].

Wood consists from wood tissue composing of anatomic elements (table 1) and is a composite material consisting of three phases – permanent (lignin and hemicellulose), surrounding distracted phase (crystallites cellulose) and pores filled with air. The properties of wood are resultant of properties of particular phases; they depend on their percentage share, distribution, geometric properties of distracted phase and quantity of pores per volume unit.

Table 1. The voluminal contribution of anatomical elements in wood tissue [Kokociński 2005; Wagenführ 2006; Wood Hanbook 1999]

Tabela 1. Udziały objętościowe elementów anatomicznych w tkance drzewnej [Kokociński 2005; Wagenführ 2006; Wood Hanbook 1999]

Type of tissue <i>Typ tkanki</i>	Wood of coniferous <i>Drewno iglaste</i>			Wood of deciduous <i>Drewno liściaste</i>		
	Min. <i>Min.</i>	Average <i>Srednio</i>	Max. <i>Maks.</i>	Min. <i>Min.</i>	Average <i>Srednio</i>	Max. <i>Maks.</i>
Vessels / Naczynia	–	–	–	5	20	58
Tracheids / Cewki	87	92	95	–	–	–
Fibres / Włókna	–	–	–	26	49	78
Pith ray / Promienie drzewne	4	6	10	6	18	28
Parenchyma / Miekkisz	~ 0	1,5	2,0	3	13	21
Gum ducts / Przewody żywicze	–	0,4	1,1	–	–	–

Construction properties of wood

About technical utility of wood decide its construction properties which are "...minimal set of variables describing [...] relationship of the object to its surroundings..." [Tarnowski 2004].

Construction properties of material determine the utility characteristics of an object made from that material. The most important characteristics of wood as material for technical objects are listed in tables 1–5.

Table 2. Chosen physical, strength and acoustical properties of wood materials

Tabela 2. Wybrane właściwości fizyczne, wytrzymałościowe i akustyczne materiałów drzewnych

Group of properties <i>Grupa właściwości</i>	Kind of properties / <i>Rodzaj właściwości</i>		No.
General physical <i>Fizyczne ogólne</i>	Density / <i>Gęstość</i>		1
	Connected with humidity <i>Wilgotnościowe</i>		2
	Contractibility <i>Kurczliwość</i>	Linear / <i>Liniowa</i>	3
		Voluminal / <i>Objętościowa</i>	4
	Imbibition, permeability / <i>Nasiąkliwość i przesiąkliwość</i>		5
	Hygroscopicity / <i>Higroskopijność</i>		6
	Porosity / <i>Porowatość</i>		7
Mechanical <i>Mechaniczne</i>	Static strength <i>Wytrzymałość statyczna</i>	Temporary <i>Doraźna</i>	for stretching / <i>na rozciąganie</i>
			for compression / <i>na ściskanie</i>
			for bending / <i>na zginanie</i>
			for shearing / <i>na ścinanie</i>
			for pressure / <i>na naciski</i>
			other / <i>inne</i>
		Permanent <i>Trwala</i>	for stretching / <i>na rozciąganie</i>
			for compression / <i>na ściskanie</i>
			for bending / <i>na zginanie</i>
			for shearing / <i>na ścinanie</i>
	Fatigue strength (different loading) / <i>Wytrzymałość zmęczeniowa(różne obciążenia)</i>	for pressure / <i>na naciski</i>	18
			other / <i>inne</i>
		Linear module of rigidity (Young's) <i>Liniowy moduł sprężystości (Younga)(również wsp. Poissona)</i>	21
		Voluminal module of rigidity (Kirhoff's) <i>Objętościowy moduł sprężystości (Kirhoffa)</i>	22
		Hardness / <i>Twardość</i>	23
		Impact resistance / <i>Udarność</i>	24
		Cleavage / <i>Lupliwość</i>	25
		Plasticity / <i>Plastyczność</i>	26
	Acoustic <i>Akustyczne</i>	Wave speed <i>Prędkość fali</i>	Longitudinal / <i>Podłużnej</i>
			Transverse / <i>Poprzecznej</i>
		Structural damping because of elastic hysteresis (and other mechanisms) <i>Tłumienie z powodu histerezy sprężystej (i inne mechanizmy)</i>	29
		Acoustic resistance / <i>Oporność akustyczna</i>	30
		Coefficient of sound wave reflection / <i>Współczynnik odbicia fali dźwiękowej</i>	31
		Resonance frequency and width of resonance / <i>Częstotliwość rezonansowa i szerokość rezonansu</i>	32

Table 3. Chosen technological properties of wood materials*Tabela 3. Wybrane właściwości technologiczne materiałów drzewnych*

Group of properties <i>Grupa właściwości</i>	Kind of properties / <i>Rodzaj właściwości</i>			No.	
Technological <i>Technologiczne</i>	Machinability <i>Obrabialność</i>	Machining <i>Skrawaniem</i>	Milling / <i>Frezowanie</i>	33	
			Turning / <i>Toczenie</i>	34	
			Boring / <i>Wiercenie</i>	35	
			Sawing / <i>Piłowanie</i>	36	
			Sanding / <i>Szlifowanie</i>	37	
		Chipless <i>Bezwiórowo</i>	Slicing / <i>Cięciem</i>	38	
			Bending / <i>Gięciem</i>	39	
			Splitting / <i>Łupaniem</i>	40	
			Burnishing <i>Nagniataniem</i>	41	
			Pressing <i>Prasowaniem</i>	42	
			Polishing <i>Polerowaniem</i>	43	
			Hydrothermal <i>Hydrotermicznie</i>	44	
			Chemical / <i>Chemicznie</i>	45	
			Outer layer / <i>Warstwy wierzchniej</i>	46	
			Volume / <i>Objętości</i>	47	
		Gluing flexibility / <i>Podatność na klejenie</i>			48
		Machining cost (e.g. machining facility, energy-consuming) <i>Koszt obróbki (np. łatwość obróbki, energochlonność)</i>			49
		Homogeneity (batch of delivered material; properties repeatability in different batches) / <i>Jednorodność; długość partii dostarczonego materiału; powtarzalność właściwości w poszczególnych partiach</i>			50

Table 4. Chosen usable properties of wood materials
Tabela 4. Wybrane właściwości użytkowe materiałów drzewnych

Group of properties <i>Grupa właściwości</i>	Kind of properties / <i>Rodzaj właściwości</i>		No.
Exploational <i>Eksplotacyjne</i>	Aesthetics / <i>Estetyka</i>	Colour / <i>Barwa</i>	51
		Gloss / <i>Połysk</i>	52
		Design / <i>Rysunek</i>	53
	Quality (the degree of user requirements) <i>Jakość (stopień spełnienia wymagań użytkownika)</i>	Reliability (also repair ability) / <i>Niezawodność (również naprawialność)</i>	54
		Functionality / <i>Funkcjonalność</i>	55
		Safety / <i>Bezpieczeństwo</i>	56
		Durability <i>Trwałość</i>	57
		Biological corrosion resistance <i>Odporność na biokorozję</i>	
		Chemical corrosion resistance <i>Odporność na korozję chemiczną</i>	58
		Bioactivity / <i>Bioaktywność</i>	59
		Fire resistance / <i>Odporność na ogień</i>	60

Table. 5. Chosen thermal, electrical and other physical properties of wood materials
Tabela 5. Wybrane właściwości cieplne, elektryczne i pozostałe fizyczne materiałów drzewnych

Group of properties <i>Grupa właściwości</i>	Kind of properties / <i>Rodzaj właściwości</i>	No.
Thermal <i>Ciepne</i>	Specific heat / <i>Ciepło właściwe</i>	61
	Conduction / <i>Przewodnictwo</i>	62
	Heat expansibility / <i>Rozszerzalność cieplna</i>	63
Electric <i>Elektryczne</i>	Conductivity / <i>Konduktyność</i>	64
	Permittivity / <i>Przenikalność elektryczna</i>	65
	Electrical resistance / <i>Wytrzymałość elektryczna</i>	66
	Coefficient of dielectric / <i>Współczynnik strat dielektrycznych</i>	67
	Resistance for crowling current / <i>Odporność na prąd pelzający</i>	68
Other physical <i>Inne fizyczne</i>	Friction coefficient and scrape / <i>Współczynnik tarcia i ścieralność</i>	69
	Gases penetrability / <i>Przepuszczalność gazów</i>	70
	Range of work temprature / <i>Zakres temperatury pracy</i>	71
	Absorption of non-polar liquids / <i>Pochłanianie cieczy niepolarnych (np. oleju)</i>	72

Table. 6. Chosen economic properties of wood materials
Tabela 6. Wybrane właściwości ekonomiczne materiałów drzewnych

Group of properties <i>Grupa właściwości</i>	Kind of properties / <i>Rodzaj właściwości</i>	No.
<i>Economic Ekonomiczne</i>	Accessibility (intern aria) purchasing cost) / <i>Dostępność (m. in. koszt zakupu)</i>	73
	Utilisation costs / <i>Koszt utylizacji</i>	74
	Delivery time and probabilisty of on time delivery / <i>Czas oczekiwania na dostawę i prawdopodobieństwo dostarczenia w terminie</i>	75

Wood properties listed in tables 1, 2 and 4 determine the utility features of a wooden object. During projecting of a machine part its function imposes a set of features, which are taken into consideration. Usually it consists of several chosen properties out of tens listed in tables 2-6. All wood properties can be divided into two groups of parameters: subjective – depending on evaluating subject and objective – measurable.

In the past usage of wood in construction of artefacts was dependend on objective parameters which were more advantegous in comparison with other accessible materials. At present in most cases more important are subjective characteristics, that is mainly aesthetical ones. To the group of subjective parameters one can include exploational and economic non-measurable characteristics (tables 4 and 6). To objective parameters belongs the whole group of measurable physical and mechanical characteristics of wood (tables 2 and 5).

Chosen subjective parameters (1) aesthetics, (2) quality, (3) accessibility

(1) Aesthetics. In the times when there is possibility to chose from hundreds of thousands utilitary practical engineering materials some unique characteristics of wood can decide about its usage. The most important factor of aesthetic estimation is its look (colour, gloss and surface apperance).

Visual sensations and conneted with it aesthetic experiences of potential user of each artefact are very their important markscheme (except for strictly functional parameters) and can decide about purchasing.

Design and colour of wood are characterised by natural harmony (angiospermae types e.g. birch, beech, lime-tree, hornbeam) or by natural contrast (e.g. coniferous and tropical angiospermae types especially mahogony, hebanon).

Particular section colours of wood complement each other and have identical chromaticity. Particularly interesting colouristic effect has natural waviness of growth rings which results in interesting patterns of wood (it is considered

a defect as it decreases its technical properties). Waviness of growth rings is normal phenomenon of some types of trees like e.g. hornbeams (*Carpinus L.*), yews (*Taxaceae*), junipers (*Juniperus L.*).

(2) Quality is understood not only in its narrow meaning, as a synonym of reliability but more complex as: the extent, in which a set of inherent features [of a product] accomplishes requirements [PN ISO 9001:2001]. So the meaning of quality of a product contains both the extent of fulfilling of requirements both functional-exploational and aesthetical.

Wood is currently used mainly in machine equipment belonging at the same time to the group of pieces of art. In perception of this type of artefacts quite important is ethos of usage of natural material.

This is the matter in the construction of musical instruments, some sorts of sports equipment and so called(e.g. handles, holders, knobs, tools' parts and toys). Therefore despite worse resistance parameters, lower durability from other available materials in some usages a wooden product can be of higher quality. Natural wood also has self-recovery properties, that is some minor damages can be self-compensated.

Some kinds of utility of wood may be caused by fashion, wish to be distinguished and original. Wood is a perfect material for such purposes – it is associated with luxury and used in modern products looks original and surprises (e.g. computers, hi-fi equipment, bicycles).

Wood is an attribute of luxury, above standard furnishings e.g. in motor industry from the beginning of the industry some elements of car interior are made from wood products. Even in mass production there are no two identical parts made from wood having identical design and colour.

Wood is a human friendly material giving feeling of physical comfort.

(3) Accessibility. A proper indicator of wood accessibility is its price. Although the price can be expressed numerically, accessibility is not a measurable parameter because it depends on many unobjective features. Example-prices of some domestic wood assortment contains table 3. The quoted prices refer to big dimension logs of highest quality. Wood of small dimensions can be bought even at the price of 30 PLN/m³. Average price of wood calculated for first 3 terms of year 2007 was 147,28 PLN/m³ (GUS 22.10.2007).

Table 7. Retail prices in PLN for one m³ of domestic large-dimensions Wood (source: Forest Inspectorate Plock; price list 22.06.2007)*Tabela 7. Ceny detaliczne brutto w zł za m³ krajowego drewna wielkowymiarowego (źródło: Nadleśnictwo Płock, cennik obowiązujący od 22.06.2007 roku)*

Level of length quality <i>Klasa długościowo-jakościowa</i>	Level of thickness <i>Klasa grubości</i>	Kind of wood / <i>Rodzaj drewna</i>								
		Pine <i>Sosna</i>	Spruce <i>Świerk</i>	Larch <i>Mo-drzew</i>	Birch <i>Brzoza</i>	Alder, elm, beech <i>Olsza, wiąz, buk</i>	Oak <i>Dąb</i>	Ash <i>Jesion</i>	Poplar <i>Topola</i>	Other deciduous <i>Pozostale liściaste pozostale liściaste</i>
A0	2	401	418	405	359	355	854	732	267	244
	3	534	549	529	423	431	1230	921	300	287
B0	1	310	322	314	234	253	633	476	207	195
	2	342	375	345	276	300	756	592	226	207
	3	400	448	400	306	351	899	659	240	232
CO	1	257	253	259	196	211	392	281	182	183
	2	299	306	328	227	250	500	384	207	195
	3	348	328	350	256	277	632	451	222	220

Table 8 contains prices of nine tropical kinds of wood offered in the Polish wood market.

Table 8. Retail prices in PLN for one m³ of tropical large-dimensions wood (source: Gomex 11.12.2007)*Tabela 8. Ceny detaliczne brutto w zł za m³ tropikalnego wielkowymiarowego (źródło: Gomex 11.12.2007 roku)*

Length log [m] <i>Długość kłody [m]</i>	Thickness log [cm] <i>Grubość kłody [cm]</i>	Kind of wood / <i>Gatunek drewna</i>								
		Acajou/ khaya/acacia	Afromosia	Anegre	Amazakoue	Badi	Bongossi	Bosse	Bubinga	Danta
to/do 16	to/do 1200	2008	4239	2094	2303	1727	1651	2251	2879	1651

As it can be noticed from tables 7 and 8, tropical wood can be even 10 times more expensive than Polish one.

Conclusions

All wood properties are considered in the aspect of its anisotropic structure which causes that the majority of them can be decomposed into three components (according to anatomic directions of wood, e.g. Young modulus, resistance for stretching and so on). One can point around 200 unique construction properties of wood. The values of respective properties are different for each type of wood.

Some groups are correlated (e.g. resistance with humidity). All properties of wood are the result of its chemical and anatomical structure.

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WŁAŚCIWOŚCI KONSTRUKCYJNE DREWNA UWZGLĘDNIANE W PRAKTYCE INŻYNIERSKIEJ

Streszczenie

W pracy w sposób syntetyczny przedstawiono tabelaryczny katalog ponad 70 właściwości konstrukcyjnych drewna. Podzielono je na cechy: (1) fizyczne, wytrzymałościowe i akustyczne, (2) technologiczne, (3) użytkowe (eksploatacyjne), (4) cieplne, elektryczne i pozostałe fizyczne oraz (5) ekonomiczne. W konkluzji wskazano, że wszystkie właściwości drewna są rozpatrywane w aspekcie jego anizotropowej budowy co sprawia, że większość z nich można zdekomponować na trzy składowe; w efekcie można wskazać niemal 200 jego unikalnych właściwości konstrukcyjnych. Wartości poszczególnych właściwości są odmienne dla każdego gatunku drewna i decydują o jego zastosowaniu. Właściwości drewna, przekładają się na cechy użytkowe wyrobu drewnianego. Podeczas projektowania części maszyny jej funkcja narzuca zestaw cech, które są brane pod uwagę. Najczęściej jest to kilka lub kilkanaście wybranych z kilkudziesięciu rodzajów właściwości wymienionych w tabelach.

Słowa kluczowe: drewno, właściwości konstrukcyjne, budowa maszyn

