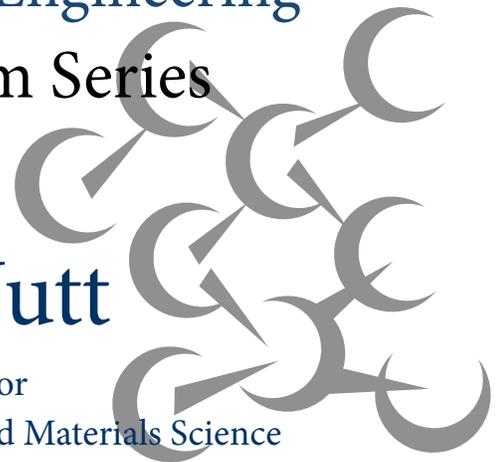


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Steven R. Nutt

M.C. Gill Chair, Professor
Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
University of Southern California



Processing of Composite Prepregs without Autoclaves

In order to meet the demand for commercial airplanes in the coming decades, manufacturers are seeking alternatives to conventional autoclave processing. Once such alternative is a new class of prepregs formulated for processing at low pressures that can be achieved with simple vacuum bags. However, low pressures provide greater risk for formation of voids, the Achilles heel of composite laminates. The effects of process parameters on evolution of voids in these prepregs are investigated.