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A transverse isotropic equivalent fluid model combining both limp and rigid frame behaviors for fibrous materials

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Due to the manufacturing process, some fibrous materials like glasswool may be transversely isotropic (TI): fibers are mostly parallel to a plane of isotropy within which material properties are identical in all directions whereas properties are different along the transverse direction. The behavior of TI fibrous material is well described by the TI Biot's model, but it requires to measure several mechanical parameters and to solve the TI Biot's equations.

This paper presents an equivalent fluid model that can be suitable for TI materials under certain assumptions. It takes the form of a classical wave equation for the pressure involving an effective density tensor combining both limp and rigid frame behaviors of the material. This scalar wave equation is easily amenable to analytical and numerical treatments with finite element method.

Numerical results, based on the proposed model, are compared with experimental results obtained for two configurations with a fibrous material. The first concerns the absorption of an incident plane wave impinging on a fibrous slab and the second corresponds to the transmission loss of a splitter-type silencer in a duct. Both configurations highlight the effect of the sample orientation and give an illustration of the unusual TI behavior for fluids.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Porous materials, such as those used for sound absorption, are made of a fluid phase and a solid phase. Their dynamic behavior is well described by the Biot theory, which takes into account the skeleton motion coupled with the fluid embedded inside the pore network^{1,2}. In cases of a large contrast between the fluid and the solid stiffness, simplified modeling approach can be used. This yields classically i) the rigid frame model² for which the solid phase is considered as motionless and ii) the limp model^{3–6} where skeleton stiffness is very small in comparison with the saturating fluid bulk modulus. In this case, only inertial effects due to the solid frame motion are retained.

Though originally developed for isotropic materials, the Biot theory has been extended to anisotropic materials. However, the mechanical and acoustical characterization of such materials remains challenging and recent works have been dedicated to the measurement of elas-

tic and acoustical parameters^{7–12} either by direct or by inverse methods. Acoustic parameters can also be estimated via a micro-macro approach when a representative elementary volume is known by imaging technique^{13–15}. From a computational point of view, Biot's equations can be solved by the finite element method^{16,17} (see also the references therein). In some situations, semi-analytical techniques such as the Transfer Matrix Method¹⁸ and the plane wave decomposition¹⁹ can also be used. In these papers, it is illustrated how the anisotropic nature of the material can have a strong impact on sound absorbing properties.

Due to manufacturing process, some fibrous materials like wools may be transversely isotropic: wool fibers are mostly¹⁴ parallel to a plane of isotropy (I) within which material properties are the same in all directions whereas properties are different along the transverse direction (T), which is normal to this plane (see Fig. 1). These TI materials have been studied for many years^{20–23} (a quick survey can be found in² (section 3.7, p. 39)).

The mathematical description of wave propagation in such materials is usually made using the classical rigid frame assumption. This permits to derive a simplified equivalent fluid model involving a scalar bulk modulus and effective densities which take the form

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of a tensor^{24,25}. This class of fluid is also present in superfluid^{26,27}, in the low frequency limit (homogenization) for multilayered materials²⁴, in sonic crystals or metamaterials²⁸⁻³⁰.

The aim of this paper is to extend the equivalent fluid model approach to TI materials, such as soft fibrous, for which the rigid frame assumption remains valid only in the plane of isotropy (stiff directions) while inertial effects due to the frame motion along the transverse direction are retained. The interest is twofold: (i) it permits the analysis of the leading sound absorbing properties of this class of materials without the knowledge of elastic parameters which are known to be difficult to measure and (ii) the equivalent fluid model takes the form of a scalar wave equation which is easily amenable to analytical and numerical treatments with finite element method (FEM).

The paper is organized as follows: first, the full Biot's equations related to TI poroelastic materials are recalled and the equivalent TI fluid model is derived. Two classes of analytical solutions are investigated: plane wave solutions and guided modes. In order to deal with more general configurations, the numerical treatment of the wave equation using FEM is also presented. In a second part of the paper, some experimental results are shown. Two specific scenarios are investigated: one concerns the sound absorption properties at normal incidence, the other one is related to the transmission loss for dissipative silencers whose dimensions are very similar to recent applications already published by the present authors^{31,32}. Results are discussed and compared with numerical simulations.

II. THEORETICAL MODEL

A. Wave equation for the pressure

Original Biot's equations^{1,33} are written in terms of solid and fluid displacements $\mathbf{u}$ and $\mathbf{U}$ or with their combination. In the present discussion, it is more convenient for the analysis to use an alternative formulation based on the *in vacuo* solid stress tensor $\hat{\sigma}$ and proposed by Dazel *et al.*⁵. The formulation involves the skeleton displacement $\mathbf{u}$ and the quantity $\mathbf{u}^w$ which, in the present situation, is equal to the total displacement defined as $\mathbf{u}^t = \phi\mathbf{U} + (1-\phi)\mathbf{u}$ (here, ϕ is the porosity). This formulation has been extended to TI poroelastic materials^{18,34}. We recall here the TI governing equations from Khurana *et al.*¹⁸

$$\nabla \cdot \hat{\sigma}(\mathbf{u}) = -\omega^2 \rho_s \mathbf{u} - \omega^2 \gamma \rho_{eq} \mathbf{u}^w, \quad (1a)$$

$$K_{eq} \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}^w) = -\omega^2 \gamma \rho_{eq} \mathbf{u} - \omega^2 \rho_{eq} \mathbf{u}^w, \quad (1b)$$

where, K_{eq} is the bulk modulus of the fluid phase (see appendix A).

The coupling coefficient γ and the effective density ρ_{eq}

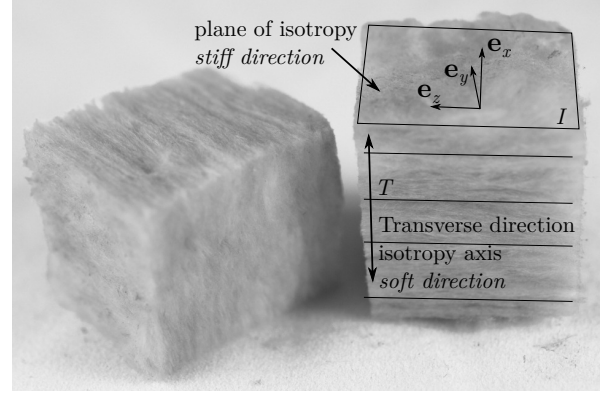


FIG. 1. Transverse isotropic material and associated coordinate system, when the sample is aligned on its principal axis.

and ρ_s can be linked to the Biot effective densities

$$\gamma = \phi \left(\rho_{22}^{-1} \rho_{12} - \frac{Q}{R} \mathbf{I} \right), \quad (2)$$

$$\rho_{eq} = \rho_{22} / \phi^2, \quad (3)$$

$$\rho_s = (\rho_{11} - \rho_{12}^2 \rho_{22}^{-1}) + \gamma^2 \rho_{eq}, \quad (4)$$

where $\mathbf{I}$ is the second order identity tensor, R is the effective bulk modulus of the fluid phase and Q indicates the coupling of the two phases volumic dilatation. Other definitions³⁵, more consistent with the 2007 formulation⁵, can be found in Ref.34. For a complete anisotropic description the reader can refer to Hörlin *et al.*¹⁷.

Without loss of generality, all tensors are represented by matrices and expressed in their principal basis which reflect the transverse isotropy of the frame. The axis of the coordinate system: $\mathbf{e}_x$ is the isotropy axis and $\mathbf{e}_y$ and $\mathbf{e}_z$ define the plane of isotropy (see Fig. 1). Where the Biot effective densities ρ_{11} , ρ_{12} , ρ_{22} take the form of diagonal matrices

$$\rho_{ij} = \text{diag } \rho_{ij}^k, \quad k = T, I, I, \quad (5)$$

where ρ_{ij}^k is given by

$$\rho_{12}^k = \phi \rho_f (1 - \alpha^k), \quad (6a)$$

$$\rho_{22}^k = \phi \rho_f - \rho_{12}^k, \quad (6b)$$

$$\rho_{11}^k = \rho_1 - \rho_{12}^k. \quad (6c)$$

Here, $\rho_1 = (1-\phi)\rho_m$ is the *in vacuo* bulk density whereas ρ_m is the density of the matter constituting the solid phase and ρ_f the density of the saturating fluid. It is assumed that these values are the same for all directions. The viscous losses are taken into account by coefficients α^k which are the dynamic tortuosity in the direction k , and these are given by the Johnson-Champoux-Allard model (this is reminded in the appendix A) and it is assumed they have the same TI as the frame *ie* the same principal axis. An important consequence is that all second order tensors in the right hand side of Eq. (1) and in Eqs. (2)-(4) can commute since they have the same principal directions.

For the skeleton, the *in vacuo* stress-strain relation for TI materials with Voigt notation, reads (see Chap. 10 in Allard *et al.* textbook²):

$$\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\sigma}_{xx} \\ \hat{\sigma}_{yy} \\ \hat{\sigma}_{zz} \\ \hat{\sigma}_{yz} \\ \hat{\sigma}_{xz} \\ \hat{\sigma}_{xy} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} C & F & F & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ F & B & A & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ F & A & B & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & G_{II} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & G_{TI} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & G_{TI} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_{xx} \\ \varepsilon_{yy} \\ \varepsilon_{zz} \\ 2\varepsilon_{yz} \\ 2\varepsilon_{xz} \\ 2\varepsilon_{xy} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (7)$$

where A, B, F, G_{TI}, G_{II} and C , are the elasticity moduli. For the sake of completeness, their explicit expressions are reminded in appendix B.

At this stage, some assumptions are suggested to simplify the governing equations. First, the type of materials considered here must have very small Poisson's ratios^{16,36} so that A and F terms can be neglected in the system (7), becoming diagonal. The remaining coefficients are then of the same order of magnitude as the solid elastic moduli, i.e. $C \sim E_T$ whereas $B \sim E_I$ and therefore $G_{II} \sim 2E_I$. It is also assumed that $G_{TI} \sim E_T$. Secondly, E_T is considered much smaller than the bulk modulus of the fluid K_{eq} ³⁷. We can borrow from the limp frame model and neglect the stress field along the transverse direction. The solid and total displacements become linearly dependent as

$$u_T = -\frac{\rho_{eq}^T}{\rho_s^T} \gamma^T u_T^w. \quad (8)$$

Finally, we assume that $E_I \gg E_T$: the limp model is no more suitable in the plane of isotropy and we consider the rigid frame equivalent fluid model in the I directions. This hypothesis is to consider that the frame does not undergo any displacements, that reads

$$\mathbf{u}_I = 0. \quad (9)$$

With these assumptions, Eq. (1b) has as simpler form involving the total displacement only

$$K_{eq} \nabla (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}^w) = -\omega^2 \rho \mathbf{u}^w, \quad (10)$$

where the diagonal tensor

$$\rho = \text{diag}(\rho_\ell^T, \rho_{eq}^I, \rho_{eq}^I), \quad (11)$$

can be interpreted as a TI density tensor involving the limp density

$$\rho_\ell^T = \rho_{eq}^T \left(1 - \frac{\rho_{eq}^T (\gamma^T)^2}{\rho_s^T} \right), \quad (12)$$

in the transverse direction and the classical rigid frame equivalent density in the plane of isotropy ρ_{eq}^I . In the low frequency limit³², the rigid frame model density is dominated by its imaginary part and $\rho_{eq}^I \sim i\sigma^I/\omega$ while the limp effective density tends to a real-valued constant equal to the total apparent mass of the equivalent fluid limp medium as $\rho_\ell^T \approx \rho_1 + \phi \rho_f$ which can reach a high value depending on the frame added mass.

Recalling that the fluid pressure is obtained from the mass conservation equation¹⁸, i.e. $p = -K_{eq} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}^w$, Eq. (10) can be recast into a scalar wave equation for the pressure

$$\nabla \cdot (\boldsymbol{\tau} \nabla p) + \frac{\omega^2}{K_{eq}} p = 0, \quad (13)$$

where we put $\boldsymbol{\tau} = \boldsymbol{\rho}^{-1} = \text{diag}(\tau_T, \tau_I, \tau_I)$. A similar equation has been derived in the De Hoop's textbook²⁵ (Chap. 6) and in the context of sonic crystals²⁸ and metamaterials³⁰. The approach has been extended to the description of pentamode materials involving non-scalar bulk moduli^{30,38,39}. To the authors' knowledge, Eq. (13) which describes the wave propagation in transversely isotropic soft materials is a new result. The model, which relies on classical assumptions encountered both in rigid and limp frame models allows to capture the main characteristics of the wave motion in the plane of isotropy and along the transverse direction. It differs from other TI equivalent fluid models proposed in the literature²⁰⁻²³ in that it allows to take into account the inertia of the frame in the soft direction.

Note that when the principal directions do not coincide with the coordinate system, the new density tensor is obtained via rotation. To illustrate this, let the z -axis be the axis of rotation and call Θ the angle between the T direction and $\mathbf{e}_x$. In this new coordinate system,

$$\boldsymbol{\tau}' = \mathbf{R} \boldsymbol{\tau} \mathbf{R}^T, \quad (14)$$

where

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \Theta & \sin \Theta & 0 \\ -\sin \Theta & \cos \Theta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (15)$$

B. Plane wave solutions in media of infinite extent

Plane waves are homogeneous solutions of Eq. (13) of the form $p = e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}}$, where

$$\mathbf{k} = k (\cos \theta, \sin \theta \cos \varphi, \sin \theta \sin \varphi), \quad (16)$$

is the wavevector and $k = \omega/c$ is the wavenumber. After insertion into the wave equation, the dependence of the wave speed with the direction of propagation is given by

$$c^2 = K_{eq} (\tau_T \cos^2 \theta + \tau_I \sin^2 \theta), \quad (17)$$

which corresponds to an ellipsoid of revolution²⁵ when effective densities are real-valued.

Real and imaginary parts of the slowness $1/c$ are illustrated in Fig. 2 for three frequencies. Note only the first quadrant is considered for symmetry reasons. The material considered here is a glass wool and its acoustical and mechanical properties characteristics are given in Tables I and II (the conditions in which measurements have been made is discussed in Section III).

At low frequency, the attenuation, indicated by the slowness imaginary part, reaches a minimum along the T

direction and this was expected if we have in mind the asymptotic behaviour of the densities, as discussed earlier. This is no longer the case at higher frequencies where the attenuation becomes smaller in the I direction. This suggests that there should be a frequency where both attenuations, i.e. the imaginary part of the slowness, are equal. This scenario is well illustrated in Fig. 2(b) where attenuation is nearly constant regardless of the direction of propagation. Above a certain frequency, the high frequency behaviors of both models, i.e. limp and rigid frame, are nearly identical and the slight anisotropy stems from the material characteristics which differ depending on the stiff and soft directions.

C. Guided waves

In this section the case of a 2D rigid-walled waveguide of height h filled with a TI fluid is investigated. We are looking for a guided mode propagating along the $\mathbf{e}_x$ direction (i.e. the waveguide axis), having the exponential form $p = \psi(y)e^{i\beta x}$ where

$$\psi(y) = ae^{i\alpha_1 y} + be^{i\alpha_2 y}. \quad (18)$$

After insertion into the wave equation, transverse wavenumbers α_1 and α_2 must satisfy

$$\tau_{yy}\alpha^2 + 2\beta\tau_{xy}\alpha + \tau_{xx}\beta^2 - \frac{\omega^2}{K_{eq}} = 0. \quad (19)$$

In order to take into account an angle Θ between the T direction and the waveguide axis, tensor coefficients have the explicit form (see Eq. (14))

$$\tau_{xx} = \tau_T \cos^2 \Theta + \tau_I \sin^2 \Theta, \quad (20)$$

$$\tau_{yy} = \tau_I \cos^2 \Theta + \tau_T \sin^2 \Theta, \quad (21)$$

$$\tau_{xy} = \sin \Theta \cos \Theta (\tau_I - \tau_T). \quad (22)$$

Applying rigid conditions at the wall, i.e. $\mathbf{u}^w \cdot \mathbf{e}_y = 0$, leads to a boundary condition of mixed type

$$\tau \nabla p \cdot \mathbf{e}_y = (i\beta\tau_{xy}\psi + \tau_{yy}\partial_y\psi)e^{i\beta x} = 0, \quad y = 0, h \quad (23)$$

and non-trivial solutions exist if

$$\sin\left(\frac{h\sqrt{\Delta}}{2\tau_{yy}}\right) = 0 \quad (24)$$

where

$$\Delta = 4\tau_{yy}\frac{\omega^2}{K_{eq}} + 4\beta^2(\tau_{xy}^2 - \tau_{xx}\tau_{yy}) \quad (25)$$

is the discriminant of the quadratic equation (19). Propagation constant for guided modes are then found explicitly as

$$\beta_n = \pm \frac{\tau_{yy}}{\sqrt{\tau_T\tau_I}} \sqrt{\frac{\omega^2}{\tau_{yy}K_{eq}} - \left(\frac{n\pi}{h}\right)^2}. \quad (26)$$

The fact that right and left propagating modes are identical was expected for symmetry reasons. Note that the fundamental mode, $n = 0$, is also function of the transverse coordinate y except when $\Theta = 0$ or $\pi/2$. These two particular configurations are treated in Section IIIC.

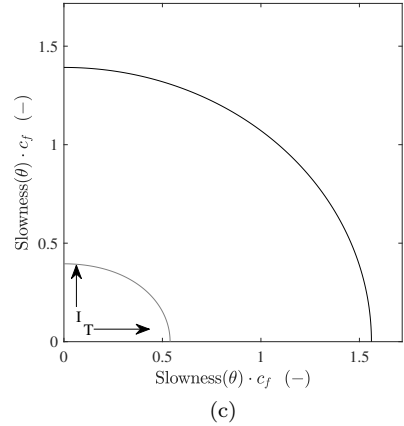
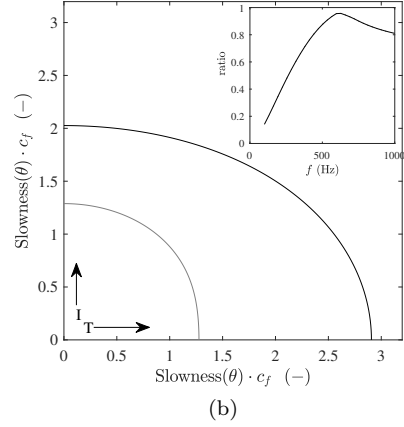
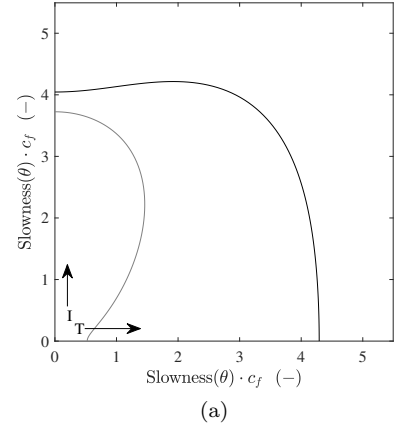


FIG. 2. Real — and imaginary part — of the slowness curves at a) 100 Hz, b) 600 Hz and c) 5000 Hz normalized by the saturating fluid slowness c_f^{-1} . The inset in (b) shows the ratio between the min and the max of the slowness imaginary part with respect to the frequency.

D. General case

The wave propagation in the TI fluid can be solved numerically using the finite element method. The associated weak formulation, is obtained by multiplying the wave equation (13) by a test function q and by integrating over the porous media occupying an arbitrary domain

Ω of boundary S

$$\int_{\Omega} \nabla q \cdot (\tau \nabla p) d\Omega + \frac{\omega^2}{K_{eq}} \int_{\Omega} qp d\Omega = \omega^2 \int_S q \mathbf{u}^w \cdot \mathbf{n} dS. \quad (27)$$

For problems involving a surrounding fluid or another porous material modeled as an equivalent fluid, transmission conditions, i.e. continuity of pressure and total displacement, are automatically satisfied in the weak formulation so Eq. (27) remains valid over the whole computational domain and it suffices to modify the density tensor and bulk modulus accordingly.

In the present work, this formulation has been used for the examples described in sec. III.D. The FEM computations are carried out using Lagrange quadratic triangular finite elements in FreeFEM++⁴⁰. Incident acoustic waves and non reflecting boundary conditions are prescribed using modal expansion⁴¹ for rigid ducts.

III. EXPERIMENTAL VALIDATION

In this section, acoustic and elastic parameters of the tested material are presented. Then, two configurations are investigated experimentally in order to assess the validity of the TI model. The first one concerns the absorption of an incident plane wave impinging on a fibrous slab placed at the end of a rigid duct, see Fig. 3(c). The second configuration shown in Fig. 3(b) corresponds to a splitter-type silencer in a rigid duct with a rectangular cross-section.

A. Material characterization

The tested material is a glass wool illustrated in Fig. 1. Each layer has a nominal thickness of 25.4 mm (1 inch). Experimental characterizations have been performed assuming that samples are extracted along the principal directions (see Fig. 1). In a more general case, note that suitable methods can be found in^{9,11,12}. Even if elastic parameters are not required by the TI equivalent model, these will be useful later (in Sec. III.D) in order to evaluate the influence of elastic waves and establish the validity of the present scalar model.

The properties have been evaluated using several test benches at Roberval laboratory. The porosity is measured by using the pressure/mass method⁴². The resistivity is determined according to the method ISO 9053. The tortuosity is measured by ultrasonic method⁴³ and the two characteristic lengths are obtained by indirect method based on the 3 microphones in-duct technique⁴⁴. The parameters involved in the Johnson-Champoux-Allard model have been obtained for three samples. The mean values are reported in the Table I. Note that the standard deviation is lower than 12% which is in line with Ref.45.

The resistivity ratio between the I and T directions is found to be 0.44 which is close to theoretical prediction of 1/2 given by Tarnow⁴⁶ assuming that fibers can be modeled as parallel cylinders with equal radius. Note

TABLE I. Acoustical parameters.

ϕ_m	σ^T	σ^I	α_∞	Λ^T	Λ^I	Λ'
-	[Nm ⁻⁴ s]	[Nm ⁻⁴ s]	-	[μ m]	[μ m]	[μ m]
0.98	38 000	16 720	1.0	29.5	50.1	70.8

TABLE II. Mechanical properties. Symbol “*” indicates that the corresponding value is extrapolated from Ref.16.

E_T	E_I	G_{TI}	ν_{II}	ν_{TI}	η	ρ_1
[Pa]	[Pa]	[Pa]	-	-	-	[kgm ⁻³]
670	142 000	3 520*	0	0	0.1	16

that when cylinders are oriented randomly in the plane of isotropy the ratio should be close to 2/3. However Tarnow⁴⁷ measured a smaller ratio, about 0.5, that he justifies by the inhomogeneous distribution of the fibers in space. The ratio between viscous characteristic lengths Λ_I/Λ_T is 1.70.

Poisson ratios are assumed to be zero as commonly admitted for fibrous materials^{16,36}. Young’s moduli are estimated by quasistatic method without static preload⁴⁸. The mean values obtained for three samples can be found in Table II. The standard deviation for Young’s modulus is around 8%. The ratio E_T/E_I is 211, which is around 3 times the ratio found by Rice *et al.*¹⁶ so the anisotropy of our material is more pronounced. The value of the coefficient G_{TI} , which has not been measured, is assumed to be equal to $5.3E_T$ as in Ref.16. This point is not crucial as it was checked, via numerical computation, that the value of G_{TI} is not influential as long as it remains small in comparison with E_I .

In order to anticipate the influence of skeleton elasticity, it is instructive to borrow from previous work³⁷ and apply the Frame Stiffness Influence (FSI) criteria which indicates that limp model should apply when $FSI_r < 0.1$. In the present case, it is found that $FSI_r \sim 0.003$ in the I direction and $FSI_r \sim 0.7$ in the T direction. Another parameter of particular interest to us is the phase decoupling frequency f_d introduced in Ref.49 estimated as follows: $f_d \sim \frac{\max(\sigma^k)\phi^2}{2\pi\rho_1} \sim 360$ Hz. This means that, the skeleton could be considered as motionless for fluid excitation above this frequency (if boundary conditions influence can be neglected). These considerations will be illustrated later in a practical configuration.

B. Test bench and experimental procedure

Measurements are made on a test bench (Fig. 3) designed for the acoustic multimodal characterization of test section in the presence (or not) of a low Mach number flow^{31,50}. The duct facility is a rigid rectangular duct of 0.2 m $\times$ 0.1 m section with an anechoic termination at each end. The results are given within the frequency band [200 Hz - 3.5 kHz] which limits the number of propagative modes in the rigid duct to a maximum

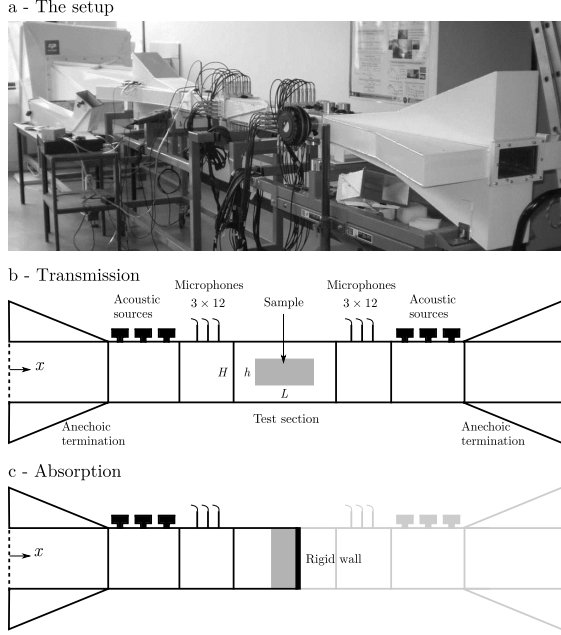


FIG. 3. Multimodal UTC test bench⁵⁰: (a) Experimental setup, (b) transmission configuration, (c) absorption configuration.

of $M_s = 10$. The $2M_s$ -port scattering matrix, which contains the modal reflection and transmission coefficients, is measured using a multi-source method described in⁵⁰. The set-up is generally used to study transmission problems, see Fig. 3(b). It can also be used for the measurement of absorbing coefficients, by sealing the duct at one end as shown in Fig. 3(c).

C. Absorption at normal incidence

A fibrous slab of rectangular shape and of length L is inserted at the end of the rigid duct. Two orientations are investigated: $\Theta = 0$ and $\Theta = \pi/2$ with $L = 5$ cm (made of two slightly prestressed 25.4 mm long fibrous layers) and $L = 10$ cm (made of four layers). Note that these configurations have been chosen so that surface impedance (assuming normal incidence) can be defined in the usual manner from Eq. (26). If the fibers are not aligned with the duct wall, guided waves in the slab depend on the transverse coordinate as in Eq. (18).

Comparison between analytical predictions of section II.C and experimental results are presented in Figs. 4(b) and 4(c). In each case, a good agreement is obtained, except near the cut-off frequencies of the duct, noticeably around 857 Hz and 1714 Hz. In the first scenario $\Theta = 0$, the T direction is aligned with the duct axis and the fibrous slab acts as a limp material. Here, a sharp absorption peak can be observed around 220 Hz in Fig. 4(c) which illustrates resonance effects due to the rigid body motion of the skeleton. This corresponds to the quarter wavelength resonance frequency of the backed fibrous slab. When $\Theta = \pi/2$, the T direction is perpendicular to the duct axis and the slab acts as a rigid frame

material. In this example, the anisotropy nature of the material has a strong impact on the absorbing properties and this could have been anticipated from the imaginary part of the slowness as discussed in section IIB. At higher frequencies, results are very similar, i.e. within 1 dB, regardless of the fibers orientation as expected.

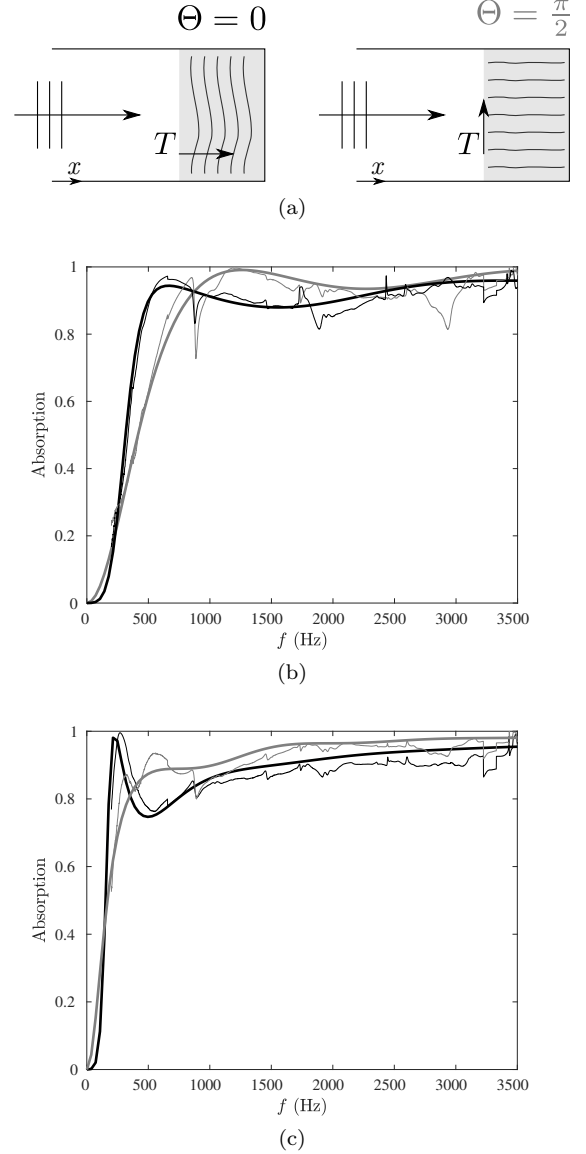


FIG. 4. Description of the configurations (a) and absorption coefficient measurements (thin line) and TI equivalent fluid model (thick line) for $\Theta = 0$ and $\Theta = \pi/2$ and two sample thickness (b) 5cm, (c) 10 cm.

D. Silencer test case

The silencer is made up of one splitter of length $L = 30$ cm with thickness $h = 10$ cm. The splitter is filled with glass wool and placed along the upper part of the inside wall of the duct, as shown in Fig. 5. Three orientations are tested and in all cases the porous layers are maintained by rigid fairings of size 100×100 mm. Acoustic

performances of the silencer are assessed by measuring the Transmission Loss (TL) of an incident plane wave travelling from the left to the right end of the duct. Above the duct cut-off frequency, all propagating modes which are generated via mode conversion are taken into account in the calculation. For each configuration, two sets of measurements have been performed by assembling and deassembling the silencer in order to check the repeatability.

These measurements are compared to 2D finite element simulations based on the discretization of Eq. (27). For validation purposes, the full Transversely Isotropic Biot model using a pressure-displacement formulation proposed by Hörlin *et al.*¹⁷ is used⁵¹. The FEM computations are carried out using Lagrange quadratic triangular finite elements. Incident acoustic waves as well as non reflecting boundary conditions are prescribed similarly as in Sec. II.D. Note all computations are carried out with sliding boundary conditions at the wall and it was checked numerically that clamped boundary conditions do not have significant effects on the TL.

First, let us consider the direction T orthogonal to the waveguide axis ($\Theta = \pi/2$) as depicted in Fig. 5(a). The sample is composed of 4 layers of $300 \times 100 \times 25.4$ mm of wool. Results given in Fig. 6(a) show that the experiment has a good repeatability. This configuration is very well described by the TI equivalent fluid model and the TI Biot model. The very good agreement between both models reveals that the skeleton has no significant elastic contribution here. Note the high TL peak around the cut-off frequency which corresponds to a conversion effect among duct modes. All curves are in good agreement apart from a slight difference around 300 Hz where relatively high attenuation can be observed. This is related to a resonance effect along the T direction in the wool. Here, the resonance quality factor is relatively high because, at low frequency, waves propagating along this direction are much less attenuated as discussed earlier.

The T direction is now parallel to the waveguide axis ($\Theta = 0$) as depicted in Fig. 5(c). The sample is composed of 12 layers of $100 \times 100 \times 25.4$ mm. In this particular configuration, the presence of small air gaps between layers, skin effect (the fibrous material is usually denser near the surface) as well as slight variations in mechanical characteristics are unavoidable. Nevertheless, the experiment has a rather good repeatability. Both experimental curves show a bump around 400 Hz. This behavior is not predicted by the TI equivalent fluid model simulation as opposed to the full TI Biot model which is in better agreement with experimental data. Thus this phenomenon, which appears around the decoupling frequency, is closely linked to a skeleton elastic resonance. This kind of resonances have already been predicted and studied in previous work^{41,52} related to cylindrical dissipative silencers.

Finally, we shall consider an oblique direction with $\Theta = \pi/4$ as depicted in Fig. 5(b). The sample is composed of 11 layers of different length and 25.4 mm thickness. The measurements are fairly repeatable and present a rather good agreement with both TI models though some elastic effects of the structure can be observed.

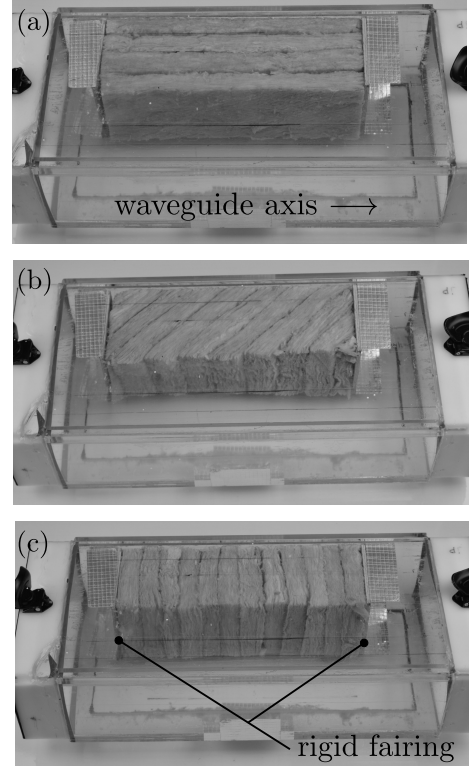


FIG. 5. Test section picture with the three orientations (a) $\Theta = \pi/2$, (b) $\Theta = \pi/4$, (c) $\Theta = 0$.

Some of the results are conveniently reported in Fig. 7 which allow us to identify more clearly the effects of the fiber orientation on the TL. This shows that the equivalent fluid model proposed is sufficiently accurate to capture the essential behavior of dissipative silencers made with TI fibrous materials. As already explained, the occurrence of elastic resonances which can not be predicted by the model originates from the motion of the solid frame. If in principle, the full Biot theory could be employed to observe these phenomena, their effect on the TL remain moderate. Furthermore, they are difficult to predict accurately, both in frequency and amplitude as they must rely on the knowledge of elastic parameters as well as some inherent uncertainties due to the mounting conditions and some material inhomogeneities.

Above the cut-off frequency, the predicted TL for the three orientations are in good agreement with experimental data with a maximum discrepancy of about 1 dB.

It may be noticed that all TL curves intersect around 400 Hz which suggests that the wave attenuation is nearly isotropic at this frequency. This is somewhat in line with results of Fig. 2, showing that isotropy of the attenuation is reached around 600 Hz in the porous material.

IV. CONCLUSION

In this paper a new equivalent fluid model is proposed in order to take into account the transverse isotropic behavior of some porous materials like fibrous wool which

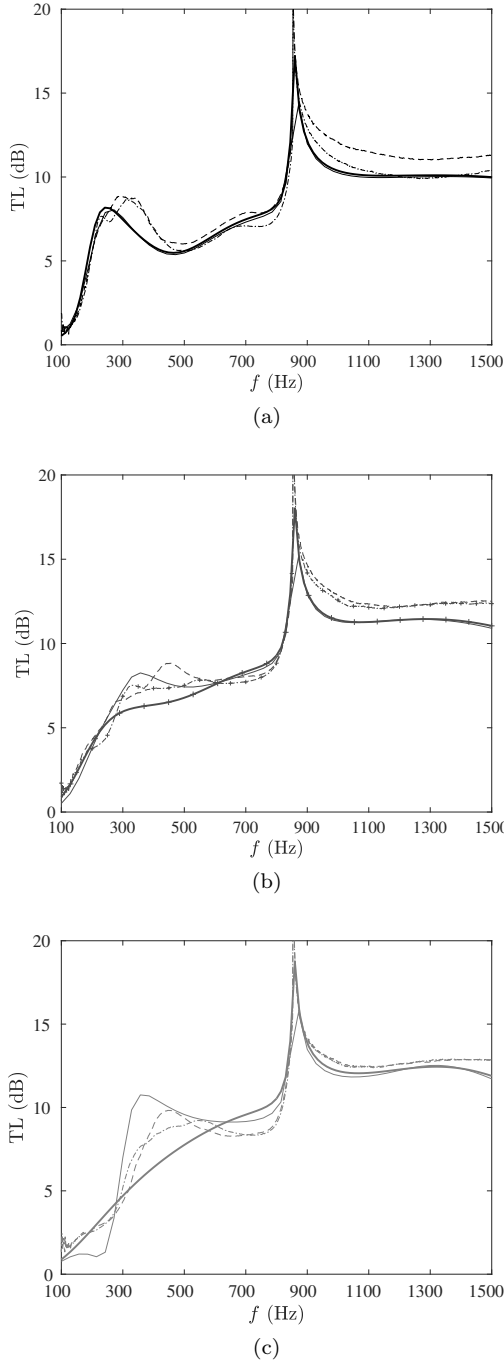


FIG. 6. Transmission loss for the three tested orientations. (a) $\Theta = \pi/2$, (b) $\Theta = \pi/4$, (c) $\Theta = 0$. - - experiment #1, - · - experiment #2, — TI equivalent fluid FEM model and — Biot TI FEM model.

present a strong contrast between the plane of isotropy parallel to the fibers and the transverse direction. It leads to a scalar wave equation for the pressure involving effective densities which takes the form of a tensor and permits to combine both limp and rigid frame behaviors of the material. Experimental validations are carried out for two configurations. The first one concerns the absorption of an incident plane wave impinging on a fibrous slab.

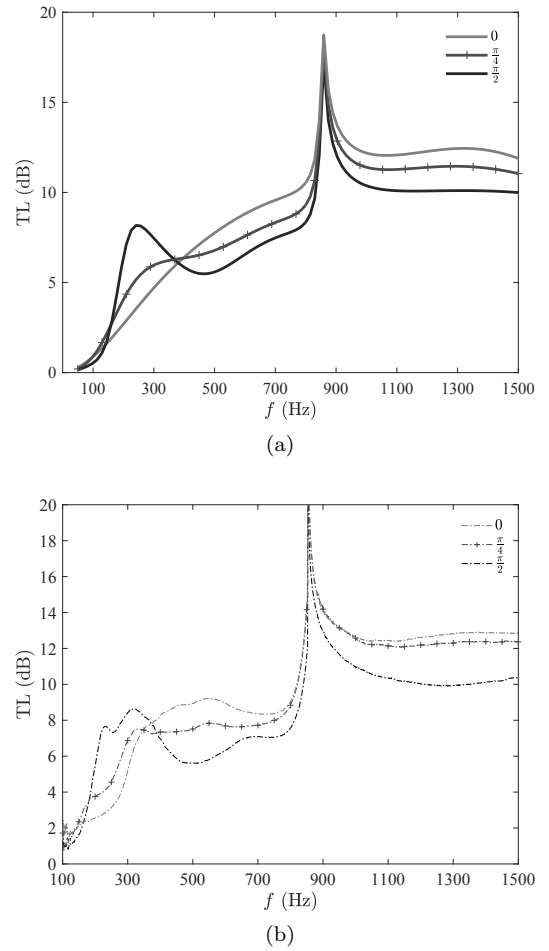


FIG. 7. Comparison between three configurations for (a) TI equivalent fluid model, (b) experimental data #2.

The second configuration corresponds to the Transmission Loss (TL) of a splitter-type silencer in a rigid duct with a rectangular cross-section. In both cases, we show that the material anisotropy has a significant impact on the sound absorbing properties as function of orientation. The equivalent fluid model permits the analysis of silencers made with a certain class of TI fibrous materials, having arbitrarily specified orientation of fibers, without the knowledge of its elastic parameters. A comparison with the full TI Biot's model revealed that some elastic resonances might appear but their effects remain moderate on the TL. They are also hard to predict accurately as they depend on numerous uncertain parameters such as the mounting conditions, material inhomogeneities and elastic parameters.

For other kind of TI materials, a similar approach could be followed in order to derive a transverse isotropic equivalent fluid model combining limp (resp. rigid frame) model behaviors with different densities, in all directions.

In view of some preliminary results shown in this work or in Refs.53, 54, TI absorbing materials should be studied further in order to increase sound attenuation in large dissipative splitter silencers used in industrial applica-

tions and work is ongoing by the authors to exploit this and seek for tailored made solutions.

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APPENDIX A: JOHNSON-CHAMPOUX-ALLARD MODEL

Porous materials with a rigid skeleton such as the porous material involved in this paper, are well described by the Johnson-Champoux-Allard² (Chap. 5) equivalent fluid model. The equivalent bulk modulus of the TI fluid, is not affected by the anisotropy¹⁰ and reads

$$K_{\text{eq}} = \frac{\gamma P_0 / \phi}{\gamma - (\gamma - 1) \left[1 + i \frac{8\eta}{\Lambda'^2 Pr \omega \rho_f} \left(1 - i \rho_f \frac{\omega Pr \Lambda'^2}{16\eta} \right)^{1/2} \right]^{-1}}. \quad (\text{A1})$$

Where γ is the air specific heat ratio and P_0 is the atmospheric pressure, Pr is the Prandtl number, Λ' is the thermal length and η is the dynamic viscosity.

The viscous dissipation effects depend of the air flow resistivity σ and of the viscous characteristic length Λ . It has been measured and shown theoretically^{12–14,46,47} that the flow resistivity is larger in the stacking direction than in the in-plane direction. It is classical to express the air flow resistivity as a second-order tensor which is diagonal in the orthogonal basis of principal directions:

$$\sigma = \text{diag } \sigma^k, \quad k = T, I, I, \quad (\text{A2})$$

and similarly

$$\Lambda = \text{diag } \Lambda^k, \quad k = T, I, I. \quad (\text{A3})$$

In the high frequency limit, the tortuosity is considered as identical in all directions and $\alpha_\infty^k = \alpha_\infty = 1$.

All viscous effects can be included in the equivalent dynamic tortuosity ($e^{-i\omega t}$) in the principal direction k

$$\alpha^k = \alpha_\infty^k \left(1 + \frac{i\phi\sigma^k}{\alpha_\infty^k \rho_f \omega} G_J^k(\omega) \right). \quad (\text{A4})$$

Here, $G_J^k(\omega) = \sqrt{1 - \frac{4i(\alpha_\infty^k)^2 \eta \rho_f \omega}{(\sigma^k \Lambda^k \phi)^2}}$, ϕ is the porosity, σ^k is the flow resistivity, Λ^k is the viscous length in the direction k .

APPENDIX B: DEFINITION OF THE ELASTIC MODULUS

For linear transverse isotropy, the elasticity stiffness matrix has five independent constants. Here we follow^{2,55} (Chap. 10) and we use the Young's Modulus in the isotropy plane E_I , the Young's modulus in the normal

direction E_T , the shear modulus normal to the plane of isotropy G_{TI} . Note that the shear modulus for the plane of isotropy G_{II} is not an independent coefficient unlike G_{TI} . The Poisson's ratio ν_{II} characterizes the transverse strain in the plane of isotropy for a tensile stress in the same plane. Finally ν_{TI} is the Poisson's ratio corresponding to the transverse strain in the plane of isotropy due to a tensile stress normal to it. The coefficient of the rigidity matrix given in Eq. (7) reads

$$A = \frac{E_I(E_T \nu_{II} + E_I \nu_{TI}^2)}{(1 + \nu_{II})(E_T - E_T \nu_{II} - 2E_I \nu_{TI}^2)}, \quad (\text{B1})$$

$$F = \frac{E_I E_T \nu_{TI}}{E_T - E_T \nu_{II} - 2E_I \nu_{TI}^2}, \quad (\text{B2})$$

$$C = \frac{E_T^2(1 - \nu_{II})}{E_T - E_T \nu_{II} - 2E_I \nu_{TI}^2}, \quad (\text{B3})$$

$$G_{II} = \frac{E_I}{2(1 + \nu_{II})}, \quad (\text{B4})$$

$$B = 2G_{II} + A. \quad (\text{B5})$$

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