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Rock permittivity characterization and application of electromagnetic mixing models for density/compactness assessment of HMA by means of Step Frequency Radar.

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Abstract

This work aims to determine the compactness/density of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) by measuring its permittivity by means of Step Frequency Radar (SFR). As HMA is mainly made of rocks, their dielectric properties are measured in the frequency range applied with SFR [0.5-4 GHz] using cylindrical cavities. The results show that the rocks can be considered as lowloss dielectric. As electromagnetic mixing models are required to switch from the measured permittivity to the compactness, Power Law (PL) models and Unified Mixing Rules (UMR) are applied to laboratory experiment. Slabs permittivity of various compactness are determined with the help of the SFR system. This study shows that (i) the selection of the electromagnetic mixing model has a critical impact on the accuracy of the calculated compactness, (ii) the choice of the host matrix for UMR family has huge consequences and (iii) the best assessment of compactness/density is given by CRIM, Rayleigh and Böttcher models with aggregate matrix.

Keywords: Permittivity, GPR, density, compactness, Step Frequency Radar, electromagnetic mixing model.

1. Introduction

The dielectric characterization of rocks is of great interest for exploration in geophysics. The electromagnetic (EM) methods for soil prospection require a good comprehension of EM waves interaction with soil, as well as an accurate knowledge of the dielectric properties of the observed materials. Dielectric measurements can help in various areas such as volcanic rock study (Gomaa and Elsayed, 2009), estimation of rock porosity in petroleum reservoirs (Tong and Tao, 2008), new methods for oil shale extraction (Lopatin and Martemyanov, 2012), rock wettability and grain size, water and clay influences in soil (Bona et al., 2002; Dobson et al., 1985; Hallikainen et al., 1985; Lesmes and Morgan, 2001), water-bearing rocks (Chelidze and Gueguen, 1999; Chelidze et al., 1999) or dry geological materials (Saint-Amant and Strangway, 1970). In civil engineering, the widespread use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)

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10 methods for non-destructive purposes (Al-Qadi and Lahouar, 2004; Benedetto and Tosti, 2013) has led to the study
11 of man-made materials dielectric properties. Robert (1998) studied the dielectric behaviour of concrete between 50
12 MHz and 1 GHz. Maierhofer and Wöstmann (1998) assessed the dielectric properties of brick materials and porous
13 concrete as a function of moisture and salt content at 7 GHz. Hasar (2009) measured the hardened mortar and cement
14 with various water-content in the frequency band [8-12 GHz].

15 For dry civil engineering materials such as HMA, the rock proportion generally represents as much as 88 to 96 %
16 of the mix. Hence the knowledge of the rock dielectric properties is of major importance and represents a consistent
17 a-priori information for thickness or density controls performed on site with GPR or SFR systems. As a matter of fact,
18 the dielectric characterization of dry rocks has already been undertaken but for different purposes: Ulaby et al. (1990)
19 in support of radar investigation to Mars, studied 80 samples of igneous and sedimentary rocks in the microwave
20 region [0.5-18 GHz]. Campbell and Ulrichs (1969) conducted similar measurements on lunar samples at 450 MHz
21 and 35 GHz.

22 In the first section of this work, the complex permittivity of 24 magmatic, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks
23 are measured in cylindrical cavities at 6 frequencies in the microwave region. They have mainly been extracted from
24 quarries providing road manufacturers in building materials. These measurements complete a previous study carried
25 out on 11 rock types (Fauchard et al., 2013) and a discussion is proposed on the measured values and their dependency
26 to the rock bulk density and their mineral composition.

27 The HMA density (and its equivalent compactness, or indice of compaction) is one of the key parameters to
28 control for the reception of newly-paved roads. Nuclear tests based on gamma ray interaction with matter (ASTM
29 D2950 / D2950M, 2011; ASTM D6938 - 10, 2010) can be implemented directly on site and have been considered
30 since the 70's as the only non-destructive method for assessing in-place density. Nevertheless, nuclear methods tend
31 to disappear because of the cost induced by their transportation and storage. Their radiations also threaten the life
32 users. Nowadays, core testing in the lab remains the only reference method valuable for density evaluation. Two
33 main core methods are suitable and standard: the paraffin coated test samples (NF EN 12697-6, 2012) and the nuclear
34 bench (NF EN 12697-7, 2003). The challenge to take up today is to develop non-destructive on site testing, without
35 the constraints of nuclear devices. SFR system allows getting the HMA permittivity which is related to the density
36 by electromagnetic models. In that purpose, the basic principle of mixing rules are mainly taken from the work of
37 Sihvola (1999) and the results are widely compared with Al-Qadi et al. (2010), Leng et al. (2011) and Fauchard et al.
38 (2015). In the second section of this work, these models are applied and discussed to a laboratory investigation.

39 **2. Rock permittivity measurements**

40 *2.1. Lab experiments and results*

41 As a HMA mainly consists of 88% to 96% of rocks, the dielectric characterization of rocks is a major issue for
42 the comprehension of HMA electromagnetic behaviour. Hence, the knowledge of dielectric properties of rocks in

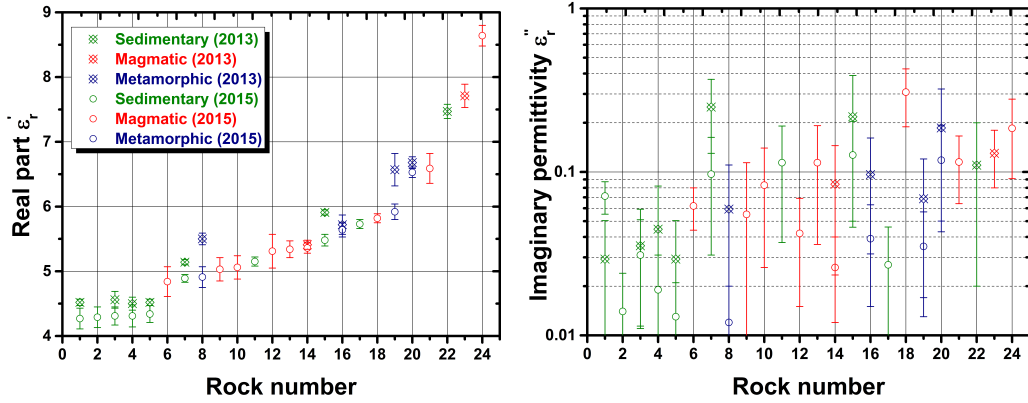
43 the frequency band used in civil engineering application has been undertaken. This study updates some results of
44 a previous work (Fauchard et al., 2013) and intends to test dielectric mixture models selected in the literature. In
45 order to evaluate the HMA density with radar methods, rocks extracted from various quarries for road manufacturing
46 have been studied. The table 1 reports the name, the measurement date (2013 and 2015), the origin and the rock
47 feature. Furthermore, other rocks that are not used for road manufacturing such as the volcanic basalt of the Piton de
48 la Fournaise, or the limestone from Caen, are reported for knowledge purpose.

49 A portable network analyser (PNA, Agilent E8362B) and two cylindrical cavities ($\phi=400$ mm and $\phi=200$ mm)
50 allow the complex permittivity measurement of 4-5 cm-diameter and 2.52 cm-height cylindrical rock samples at six
51 frequencies (0.57 GHz, 1.32 GHz, 2.06 GHz and 1.15 GHz, 2.63 GHz and 4.13 GHz, respectively). A previous study
52 carried out on 11 different rocks has reported the good repeatability of this method (Fauchard et al., 2013). Indeed,
53 the permittivity of each tested rocks was averaged on 10 to 15 cores for one single type of rock at six frequencies.
54 However a substantial heterogeneity were observed in a given set of cores extracted from a single vein. In this study,
55 24 rocks are tested, including the aforementioned rocks. Herein, just one cylindrical core by rock type is extracted and
56 measured twice (side and upside down) at six frequencies. Hence, the standard deviation of the 2015 measurements
57 is calculated from 12 permittivity values. The purpose is to record a high frequency reference permittivity that will
58 be used for further works in the low frequency domain. Rocks were dried 48h at 115°C in oven before measurement.
59 The real (ϵ_r') and imaginary dielectric (ϵ_r'') constants, the loss tangent ($\tan\delta$) and the density (ρ^1) are reported in the
60 table 1. The real and imaginary part of the permittivity and the loss tangent are respectively shown in the Fig.1(a),
61 1(b) and 1(c).

62 2.2. Discussion on the measured permittivity

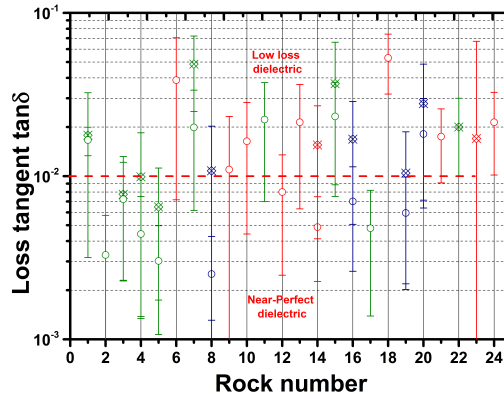
63 The real dielectric permittivity ranges from 4 to 9 and these results are in accordance with the studies of Ulaby
64 et al. (1990) and Parkhomenko (1967). There is no significant evidence of the values distribution of permittivity as a
65 function of rock formation (sedimentary, magmatic or metamorphic). The imaginary part of the permittivity exhibits
66 strong standard deviation related, first, to the experimental system, and second, to the losses. According to Li et al.
67 (1981), cylindrical cavity allows an accuracy of 1% on the real part of the permittivity and 2% for the imaginary part.
68 This uncertainty may increase respectively from 1% to 2% and from 2% to 5% by taking into account the uncertainty
69 measurement of sample dimensions. The measurements highlight a slight dispersion on the real part of the permittivity
70 which is negligible over the 6 used frequencies (less than 1%). However, a stronger dispersion is noticeable on the
71 imaginary part. First, this could be due to water molecules which were not evaporated during the annealing (115°C for
72 48h). This water (probably bounded) induces an interfacial polarization (Maxwell-Wagner-Sillar) ((Benedetto, 2010;
73 Kaden et al., 2013; Saltas et al., 2008)) which is basically observable about 0.5 to 1 GHz and at lower frequencies
74 as well. Second, another phenomenon such as interfacial polarization between mineral structures should also be

¹For rocks, the relative density ρ/ρ_{water} is named density with $\rho_{water} = 1g/cm^3$ at 4°C



(a) Real part of the permittivity

(b) Imaginary part of the permittivity



(c) Loss tangent

Figure 1: Dielectric characterization of 24 rocks obtained by means of cylindrical cavities at 0.57 GHz, 1 GHz, 1.7 GHz, 1.15 GHz, 2.63 GHz and 4.13 GHz. Rock details are given in the table 1.

75 considered and will be undertaken in the future through petrographic and chemical studies. By covering the frequency
 76 band from 0.5 to 4 GHz, relaxation phenomena may occur and might explain such high dispersion. However, despite
 77 the variation of the imaginary part, the loss tangent ranges between 0.1 to 0.01, in such a manner that tested rocks can
 78 be considered as low-loss dielectrics.

79 Overall, the differences between the 2013 and 2015 measurements are about 0.2 for the real part of the permit-
 80 tivity which is close to the standard deviation of the measurement for a given rock. However four of them (rhyolite,
 81 gneiss, quartz arenite and amphibolite) highlight a higher difference probably related to the structure heterogeneity
 82 and segregation. As a matter of fact, rhyolite and amphibolite are respectively (i) an igneous rock that exhibits a
 83 heterogeneous nodular structure composed of quartz and feldspath crystals, and (ii) a metamorphic rock with am-
 84 phibole and plagioclase feldspars weakly foliated. The distribution of these heterogeneities differs from sample to
 85 sample and could explain the measured difference. Gneiss and quartz arenite are respectively (i) a metamorphic rock

86 with foliation and (ii) a sedimentary rock with micro-cracking filled with quartz. These horizontal structures are ran-
 87 domly oriented into the samples and according to the Hashin-Shtrikman bounds (Brovelli and Cassiani, 2010), affect
 88 the measured permittivity. Relations between rock permittivity and bulk density are plotted in the Fig.2. The three
 89 following empirical laws are studied:

$$\epsilon' = a_1 \rho \quad (1)$$

90 The equation 1 is given by Ulaby et al. (1990) for terrestrial rocks and by Olhoeft and Stangway (1975) for lunar
 91 materials, where $a_1 = 1.96$ and $a_1 = 1.93$, respectively;

$$\epsilon' = (a_2 + a_3 \rho)^2 \quad (2)$$

92 The equation 2 is given by Shutko (1982) for dry soil, where $a_2 = 1$ and $a_3 = 0.5$;

$$\epsilon' = (a_4 + a_5 \rho)^2 - a_6 \quad (3)$$

93 The equation 3 is given by Dobson et al. (1985) for soil having extremely low moisture content, where $a_4 = 1.01$,
 94 $a_5 = 0.44$ and $a_6 = 0.062$;

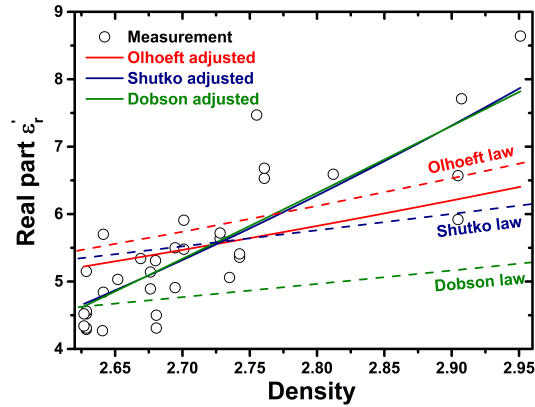


Figure 2: Real part of the permittivity as a function of the density according to Olhoeft, Shutko and Dobson laws (dashed lines) and then adjusted (solid lines).

95 As it can be seen on the Fig.2, none of the previous laws is adapted to the studied rocks. Thus, the parameters
 96 are adjusted to this specific application and give the following values : $a_1 = 1.88$, $a_2 = 3.1$, $a_3 = -2$, $a_4 = 3.1$,
 97 $a_5 = 0.89$ and $a_6 = 24.5$. The Olhoeft's law does not fit correctly the data (the correlation coefficient is $R=0.64$) while
 98 the best-adjusted laws are given by both Stuko and Dobson ($R=0.83$). However, the same conclusion established by
 99 Ulaby et al. (1990) can be drawn, meaning that the variation in the density accounts for about 50% of the observed
 100 variance in the dielectric constant ϵ' value. The remaining data scatter can be attributed to the mineral composition

101 of the rocks. Some of these observations were confirmed by Sengwa and Soni (2008) on dry minerals: at 10.1 GHz,
 102 they observed that both the density (of clay, fuller's earth, siliceous earth, tourmaline and magnesium rocks) and the
 103 chemical composition - and particularly the SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 and FeO_3 oxides content - equally affect the measured ϵ' . As
 104 the previous authors concluded, no obvious relation between the density and the imaginary part of the permittivity
 105 can be established.

106 These assumptions would deserve a complementary study (i) by characterizing the chemical composition and the
 107 crystalline structure and (ii) by extending the frequency range of measurements.

108 3. Theoretical approach and application of models

109 3.1. Definition and presentation of the models

110 3.1.1. Definition of HMA density and compactness

111 HMA is considered as 4-phase mixture composed of binder, filler, aggregate and air. Density and compactness
 112 HMA have already been studied by Al-Qadi et al. (2010), Leng et al. (2011) for 3-phase mixture and by Fauchard
 113 et al. (2013, 2015) for 4-phase mixture. Here is a brief remind of these basic principles. Density ρ , weight content
 114 T , volume V and real part of the permittivity ϵ of each component are depicted in the Fig.3(a). The indexes b, f,
 115 a, and air refer respectively to binder, filler, aggregate and air. All densities and weight contents are provided by
 116 the road manufacturer for on site control, except the air void content that determines the mechanical objective of the
 117 road construction. In Europe, aggregates and filler densities are measured according to the NF-EN 18545 standard.
 118 The bitumen density is measured according to the NF-EN 15326+A1 standard. The HMA formulation is controlled
 119 (I) in laboratory, every year by an independent organism, and (ii) on site, by cores sampling every time a road is
 120 manufactured. Permittivity of each component are measured in laboratory. The related critical parameter to assess
 121 on newly-paved roads are (i) the density of the mix including air (namely bulk specific gravity) ρ_{HMAS} or (ii) the
 122 compactness C^2 of the HMA, related to each other by the following relation:

$$C = 1 - C_{air} = \frac{\rho_{HMAS}}{\rho_{HMAM}} \quad (4)$$

123 Where ρ_{HMAM} is the theoretical density of the HMA without air (namely maximum specific gravity).

124 It is the controlled parameter in France and other European countries.

125 All material contents are defined with respect to the total dry mass $m_s = m_a + m_b + m_f$. The weight content is
 126 simply $T_i = \frac{m_i}{m_s}$. The volumic fraction of the i^{th} component is defined as below:

$$C_i = C_a T_{i \neq a} \frac{\rho_a}{\rho_{i \neq a}} \quad (5)$$

127 And:

²Compactness can be expressed from 0 to 1 (unitless) or from 0 to 100 %.

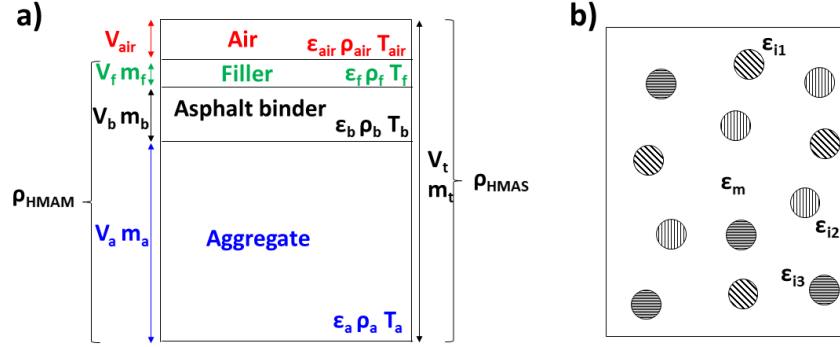


Figure 3: a) HMA representation and distribution of its components, and b), dielectric 4-phase mixture where the matrix permittivity ϵ_m can be either aggregate or binder.

$$C_a = \frac{C}{Z} \quad (6)$$

128 Where:

$$Z = 1 + \frac{\rho_a T_b}{\rho_b T_a} + \frac{\rho_a T_f}{\rho_f T_a} = 1 + C_{rb} + C_{rf} \quad (7)$$

129 3.1.2. Model assumptions

130 In this section, the basic concept of electromagnetic models are taken from Sihvola (1999), Sihvola and Kong
131 (1988) and Parkhomenko (1967). HMA is assumed following two assumptions:

132 First, it is considered as a multiphase media composed of binder, filler, aggregate and air, where the permittivity
133 and volumic fraction of each component average the effective permittivity of the media. This first model family is
134 called the Power Law (PL) model which does not differentiate host component from the guests.

135 Second, the HMA (Fig.3(b)) is considered as several spherical inclusions immersed in a host matrix. In this work,
136 the filler content is very low (about 1%) and the air is considered randomly distributed into the media. Hence, the host
137 matrix can be either aggregate that presents the greater proportion in the mix or binder that encloses the remaining
138 components. Under this assumption, the Unified Mixing Rules (UMR) can described the dielectric behaviour of the
139 mix. Models acronym are detailed in table 2.

140 Both dielectric approaches are presented in the following section and the HMA compactness/density are calcu-
141 lated.

142 3.1.3. Power Law model

143 The PL model gives the HMA dielectric constant as a sum of each permittivity component weighted by their
144 volumic concentration. It is defined according to the following formula:

$$\epsilon_{HMA}^\alpha = \sum_i C_i \epsilon_i^\alpha \quad (8)$$

145 The parameter α is known in the literature to have several values: when $\alpha = 1/2$, (8) gives the Complex Refractive
 146 Index Model, also called CRIM model or Birchak formula (Birchak et al., 1974). As explained by Sen et al. (1981),
 147 this assumption can be seen as a 3D-generalisation of the 1D-multilayered case of an EM field in normal incidence
 148 where the square root of the effective permittivity is the sum of the lineic concentration multiplied by the square root
 149 permittivity of each layer. If $\alpha = 1/3$, (8) is the Looyenga formula (Looyenga, 1965). Both cases $\alpha = 1$ and $\alpha = -1$
 150 can be explained by considering a circuit capacitors, respectively (i) parallel and (ii) series connected (Sihvola, 1999).
 151 Finally, for the limit $\alpha \rightarrow 0$, (8) is simply the Lichtenecker and Rother (1931) approximation given by:

$$\ln(\epsilon_{HMA}) = \sum_i C_i \ln(\epsilon_i) \quad (9)$$

152 (9) is obtained by taking into account the first order term of the Taylor series of the exponential function $e^{\alpha \ln(\epsilon)}$.

153 By combining the equations (4-8), the HMA compactness and density are calculated by the following relations:

$$C = \frac{(\epsilon_{HMA}^\alpha - 1)Z}{\epsilon_a^\alpha + C_{rf}\epsilon_f^\alpha + C_{rb}\epsilon_b^\alpha - Z} \quad (10)$$

$$\rho_{HMAS} = \frac{(\epsilon_{HMA}^\alpha - 1)Z}{\epsilon_a^\alpha + C_{rf}\epsilon_f^\alpha + C_{rb}\epsilon_b^\alpha - Z} \rho_{HMAM} \quad (11)$$

154 3.1.4. Unified mixing rule formula

155 UMR allows writing the effective permittivity by considering a host matrix with guest inclusions (Sihvola, 1999;
 156 Sihvola and Kong, 1988).

$$\frac{\epsilon_{HMA} - \epsilon_m}{\epsilon_{HMA} + d_m} = \sum_i C_i \frac{\epsilon_i - \epsilon_m}{\epsilon_i + d_m} \quad (12)$$

157 Where ϵ_m is the permittivity of the host matrix m and $d_m = 2\epsilon_m + \nu(\epsilon_{HMA} - \epsilon_m)$.

158 After solving (12) by assuming that the matrix is the aggregate,

$$C = \frac{\frac{\epsilon_{HMA} - \epsilon_a}{\epsilon_{HMA} + d_a} - \frac{1 - \epsilon_a}{1 + d_a}}{\frac{1}{Z} C_{rb} \frac{\epsilon_b - \epsilon_a}{\epsilon_b + d_a} + \frac{1}{Z} C_{rf} \frac{\epsilon_f - \epsilon_a}{\epsilon_f + d_a} - \frac{1 - \epsilon_a}{1 + d_a}} \quad (13)$$

$$\rho_{HMAS} = \frac{\frac{\epsilon_{HMA} - \epsilon_a}{\epsilon_{HMA} + d_a} - \frac{1 - \epsilon_a}{1 + d_a}}{\frac{1}{Z} C_{rb} \frac{\epsilon_b - \epsilon_a}{\epsilon_b + d_a} + \frac{1}{Z} C_{rf} \frac{\epsilon_f - \epsilon_a}{\epsilon_f + d_a} - \frac{1 - \epsilon_a}{1 + d_a}} \rho_{HMAM} \quad (14)$$

159 Where $d_a = 2\epsilon_a + \nu(\epsilon_{HMA} - \epsilon_a)$.

160 After solving (12) by assuming that the matrix is the binder,

$$C = \frac{\frac{\epsilon_{HMA} - \epsilon_b}{\epsilon_{HMA} + d_b} - \frac{1 - \epsilon_b}{1 + d_b}}{\frac{1}{Z} \frac{\epsilon_a - \epsilon_b}{\epsilon_a + d_b} + \frac{1}{Z} C_{rf} \frac{\epsilon_f - \epsilon_b}{\epsilon_f + d_b} - \frac{1 - \epsilon_b}{1 + d_b}} \quad (15)$$

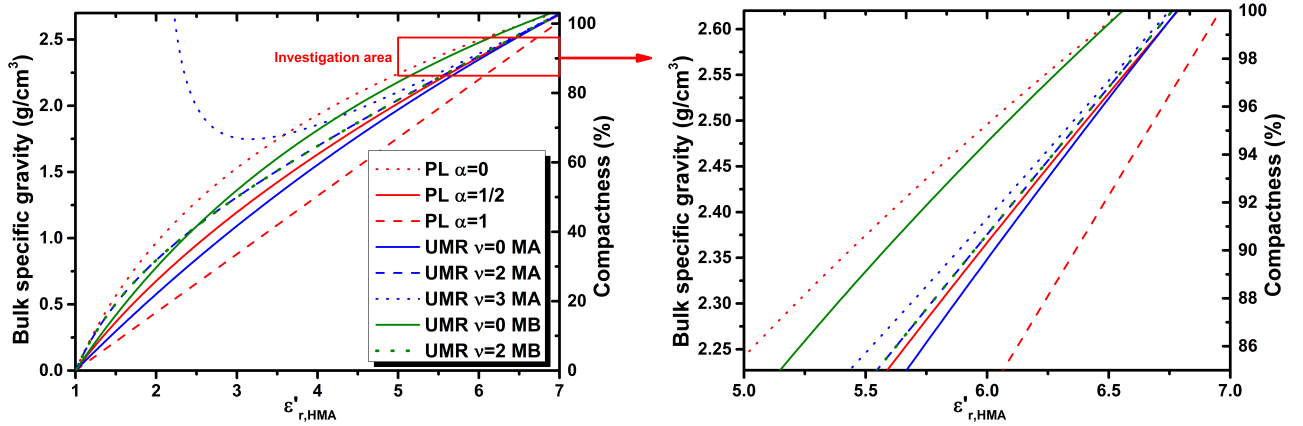
$$\rho_{HMAS} = \frac{\frac{\epsilon_{HMA} - \epsilon_b}{\epsilon_{HMA} + d_b} - \frac{1 - \epsilon_b}{1 + d_b}}{\frac{1}{Z} \frac{\epsilon_a - \epsilon_b}{\epsilon_a + d_b} + \frac{1}{Z} C_{rf} \frac{\epsilon_f - \epsilon_b}{\epsilon_f + d_b} - \frac{1 - \epsilon_b}{1 + d_b}} \rho_{HMAM} \quad (16)$$

161 Where $d_b = 2\epsilon_b + \nu(\epsilon_{HMA} - \epsilon_b)$.

162 The factor ν is a dimensionless parameter: $\nu = 0$ gives the Maxwell-Garnett rule also named Rayleigh model
 163 (Sihvola, 1999). $\nu = 2$ gives the Polder-Van Santen (Polder and Van Santen, 1946) formula or Böttcher formula
 164 (Böttcher et al., 1974) and $\nu = 3$ gives the Coherent potential approximation (Sen et al., 1981). This formula is
 165 valuable for 3D inclusions meaning that they are assumed to be spherical. However, inclusions can also be in 2D such
 166 as disk shaped. According to Wiener (1910) and Yaghjian (1980), the difference between both shapes is the factor $2\epsilon_m$
 167 for 3D inclusions at the denominators which becomes ϵ_m for 2D inclusions.

168 3.2. Models application to laboratory HMA slabs

169 Lab experiments were conducted on two 40*60*8 cm slabs with a SFR system composed of the PNA described
 170 in section II and mono-static ultra wideband antenna of bandpass [1.4-6 GHz]. The tested slabs are mainly composed
 171 of basalt aggregates (0/10 mm) and the weight content, permittivity and density of each component are presented in
 172 the table 3. Binder and filler permittivities have been measured by means of cylindrical cavities. In order to analyze
 173 the behaviour of the models described in section 3.1, the density and compactness are calculated for every models
 174 in a theoretical HMA permittivity range of [1-7], corresponding to air void content ranging between 100% to 0%.
 175 This application is performed for the basalt slab described in the column 1 of table 3 (air void content of 13%) and is
 176 presented in the Fig.4(a).



(a) HMA model behaviour from 100% to 0% air void content.

(b) HMA model behaviour in the investigation area.

Figure 4: Bulk specific gravity/compactness as a function of the real part of HMA permittivity (87% basalt slab): the red lines refer to the Power Law model, the blue lines to the Unified Mixing Rule with aggregate matrix and the green lines to Unified Mixing Rule with binder matrix.

177 The Fig.4(a) shows PL and UMR models tested with various parameter values: (i) $\alpha = [0; 1/2; 1]$ and (ii) $\nu =$
 178 $[0; 2; 3]$ for an aggregate matrix (MA) and $\nu = [0; 2]$ for a binder matrix (MB), respectively.

179 Generally speaking, four of these models give relatively similar calculated compactness. Indeed CRIM (PL $\alpha =$
 180 $1/2$), Rayleigh (UMR $\nu = 0$ MA) and Böttcher (UMR $\nu = 2$ MA and MB) models seem to be close especially as

181 soon as the permittivity is near from the investigated area [$85\% \leq C \leq 96\%$]. A noticeable crossover point can be
 182 observed for a permittivity equal to 2.5 (i.e. binder permittivity) for UMR family model with binder matrix. Above
 183 and below this crossover point, models behave differently from each other, which is the first visible consequence of
 184 the chosen matrix. The choice of the matrix does not have any effect concerning the Böttcher model (UMR $\nu = 2$): as
 185 it is seen on the Fig.4(a) green dot line and blue dashed line are exactly superimposed whereas blue line and green line
 186 (Rayleigh model, UMR $\nu = 0$) are far from each other. This can be easily explained by looking at the denominator
 187 in (8). Böttcher model gives more importance to the HMA permittivity ($3\epsilon_{HMA}$) while Rayleigh gives to the matrix
 188 permittivity ($\epsilon_{HMA} + 2\epsilon_a$). A basic calculation proves that the compactness of UMR $\nu = 2$ MA and UMR $\nu = 2$ MB
 189 are strictly equal. Coherent potential approximation (UMR $\nu = 3$ MA) for an aggregate matrix (blue dot line) exhibits
 190 a huge deviation of the calculated compactness for the HMA permittivity between 1 to 4. This deviation is explained
 191 by Sihvola (1999) as the percolation point who pictures a huge change of the model behaviour for a small variation
 192 of the permittivity. In the Fig.4(a), the blue dot line below this percolation point is not represented. PL family shows
 193 a significant difference in the calculated compactness for a given value of α . The CRIM model (PL $\alpha = 1/2$) widely
 194 used by Fauchard et al. (2015) gives closest results with the Böttcher (UMR $\nu = 2$ MA and MB) and Rayleigh (UMR
 195 $\nu = 0$ MA).

196 The target air void content in civil engineering is usually comprised between 15% (such low compactness is
 197 usually used for porous asphalt) and 4%. The Fig.4(b) is a zoom of the Fig.4(a) in the investigated compactness area.
 198 As it is seen, the PL $\alpha = 1/2$ and the Böttcher (UMR $\nu = 2$ MA and MB) models are very closed from each other. The
 199 Coherent potential approximation (UMR $\nu = 3$ MA) and Rayleigh (UMR $\nu = 0$ MA) models have a slight deviation
 200 from both sides of the three previous models. However, Rayleigh (UMR $\nu = 0$ MB), Lichtenenecker-Rother (PL $\alpha = 0$)
 201 and Silberstein (PL $\alpha = 1$) models exhibit a huge deviation from the five other models. The highest the compactness,
 202 the closest is the HMA permittivity. For the studied slab with $C = 87\%$, the difference of the calculated compactness
 203 can be expected to be larger than the slab with $C = 95\%$.

204 3.3. Models application to laboratory HMA slabs

205 In this section, the HMA permittivity is measured with a SFR system. The experimental system and the theoretical
 206 background of the HMA permittivity measurement have already been well described by Fauchard et al. (2015). In
 207 this work, the HMA permittivity ϵ_{HMA} is assessed thanks to the two-way travel time Δt of the EM wave into the slab
 208 and its thickness e according to the equation: $\epsilon_{HMA} = (\frac{c\Delta t}{2e})^2$. The SFR permittivity measurements on the slab surfaces
 209 were performed every 5 cm along the x-axis, and every 1 cm along y-axis. In order to avoid the edge effects, a 40
 210 cm*20 cm smaller surface is taken into account. Then, the compactness and the density of the slabs are calculated
 211 with the models PL $\alpha = 1/2$ and UMR $\nu = [0; 2]$, MA and MB (with 10-11 and 13-16, respectively). UMR with 2D
 212 inclusions (disk shaped) was also tested on the slabs, but systematic offsets were observed meaning that the disk shape
 213 inclusions are not adapted for this material. This case is not presented here. The compactness and the density obtained
 214 with a gamma bench is considered as the reference value (NF EN 12697-7, 2003). The result of the measurement

215 is represented as a color map along x and y axis. The color scale represents the assessed compactness. The whole
216 experiment was carried out on 4 slabs of various target air void contents (87%, 90%, 92% and 95%) both on top and
217 bottom surfaces. In this paper, only the top surface 87% and 95% slabs results are presented in the Fig.5 and 6.

218 3.4. In-lab results interpretation and discussion

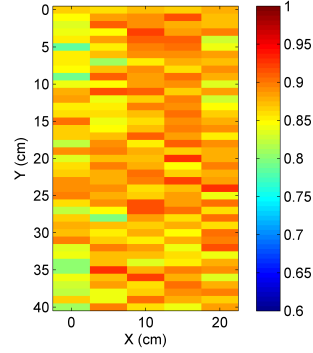
219 First of all, a design flaw called rutting effect can be observed on the slabs especially for the 95% compactness
220 slab. This is observable by a lower calculated compactness along the y-axis following two bands corresponding to
221 the passage of the wheels during the compaction process. However this rutting effect is not observed on the gamma
222 bench measurement, meaning that the slabs were implemented homogeneously. Hence, the explanation can only be
223 attributed to the two-way travel time measured with the SFR that was already observed and explained by Fauchard
224 et al. (2013). The table 4 summarizes the average compactness and the average density of each slabs according to
225 the reference value (gamma bench) and the studied models. The compactness of the 87% designed slab is exactly as
226 expected (87.2%). Withal, gamma bench measurement on the 95% designed slab exhibits a compactness of 92.6% due
227 to a manufacturing constraint. The values obtained by gamma bench will be now considered as the true compactness.
228 In the present results, for both slabs and every models, the calculated compactness is close to the reference value,
229 except for the Rayleigh model (UMR $\nu = 0$) with binder matrix. Indeed, the UMR $\nu = 0$ MB overestimates the
230 compactness from 3 to 6% depending on the selected slab and exhibits a systematic shift compared to the other
231 models. However, the UMR $\nu = 0$ MA calculation gives excellent results for both slabs - particularly for the 87% slab
232 (from 0.003 to the reference value) - which suggests that aggregate matrix is the appropriate choice.

233 The Böttcher model UMR $\nu = 2$ MA and MB are strictly identical and as explained previously, a basic calculation
234 of both models proves that 13-14 are equal to 15-16. In that case, the matrix nature does not affect the calculation.
235 UMR $\nu = 2$ MA and MB point out excellent results as well, with a best-calculated compactness for the 95% slab
236 (from 0.004 to the reference value).

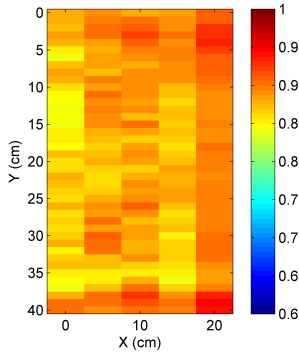
237 As described earlier, the PL $\alpha = 1/2$ model is a part of the group that exhibits excellent results. Consequently,
238 CRIM model is very close to the gamma bench compactness (from 0.007 to 0.011). In that formalism, the PL does
239 not distinguish the host matrix from guest inclusions. Previous works (Fauchard et al., 2015) shown that PL $\alpha = 1/2$
240 is a relevant model for HMA compactness assessment. As UMR $\nu=[0,2]$ MA are relatively similar to the reference
241 value and the PL $\alpha = 1/2$, it could suggest that aggregate as host matrix is a valid choice.

242 For the present lab experiment, the slabs were manufactured with basalt rock extracted from a single vein and
243 controlled by means of cylindrical cavities. This leads to the assumption that the aggregate permittivity is constant
244 into the whole slab, tacking into account the standard deviation of 2%. Following this consideration, the PL $\alpha = 1/2$
245 and the UMR $\nu=[0,2]$ MA models might be considered as equivalent for the lab compactness/density assessment.

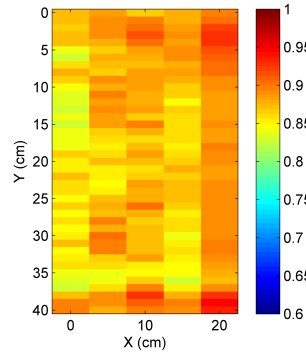
246 Al-Qadi et al. (2010) have shown for their on-site application that the Rayleigh model with binder matrix gave
247 closest results from the reference value than the CRIM and Böttcher models. In another work, Leng et al. (2011)
248 concluded that the Böttcher model was the most accurate for their on-site case study. Finally, Fauchard et al. (2015)



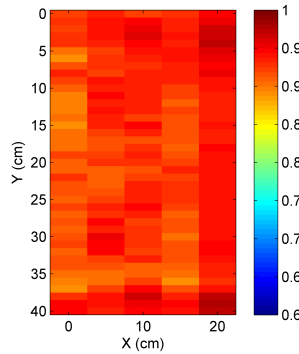
(a) Gamma bench compactness: $C = 0.872 \pm 0.027$



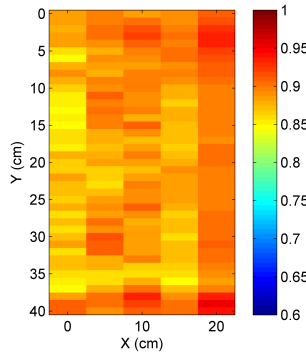
(b) PL $\alpha = 1/2$: $C = 0.883 \pm 0.020$



(c) UMR $\nu = 0$ MA: $C = 0.875 \pm 0.022$



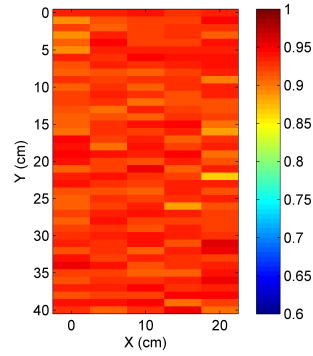
(d) UMR $\nu = 0$ MB: $C = 0.929 \pm 0.017$



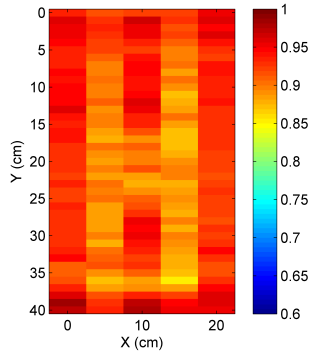
(e) UMR $\nu = 2$ MA and MB: $C = 0.888 \pm 0.019$

Figure 5: Assessed compactness on the 87% slab by means of SFR system obtained with a) the reference gamma bench system, b) the CRIM model (PL $\alpha = 1/2$), c) the Rayleigh model with aggregate matrix (UMR $\nu = 0$ MA), d) the Rayleigh model with binder matrix (UMR $\nu = 0$ MB) and e) the Böttcher model with aggregate and binder matrix (UMR $\nu = 2$ MA and MB).

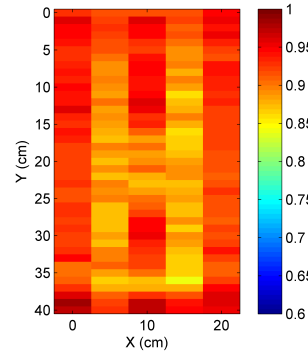
249 carried out on-site compactness assessment by using PL $\alpha = 1/2$ in great accordance with standard nuclear and
 250 core testing. For all of these approaches, the aggregate permittivity was back-computed according to density cali-



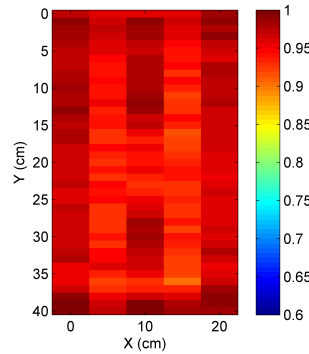
(a) Gamma bench compactness: $C = 0.926 \pm 0.014$



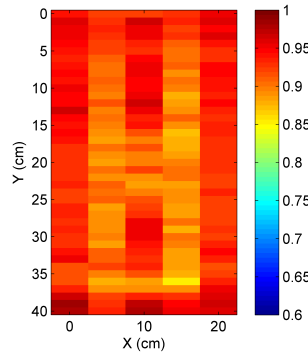
(b) PL $\alpha = 1/2$: $C = 0.919 \pm 0.026$



(c) UMR $\nu = 0$ MA: $C = 0.913 \pm 0.028$



(d) UMR $\nu = 0$ MB: $C = 0.958 \pm 0.021$



(e) UMR $\nu = 2$ MA and MB: $C = 0.922 \pm 0.025$

Figure 6: Assessed compactness on the 95% slab by means of SFR system obtained with a) the reference gamma bench system, b) the CRIM model (PL $\alpha = 1/2$), c) the Rayleigh model with aggregate matrix (UMR $\nu = 0$ MA), d) the Rayleigh model with binder matrix (UMR $\nu = 0$ MB) and e) the Böttcher model with aggregate and binder matrix (UMR $\nu = 2$ MA and MB).

251 bration by core drilling. Due to the multiple parameters which could influence the accuracy of the HMA measured
 252 permittivity, the same conclusion can be drawn, i.e. the three aforementioned models can be usable for the *in-situ*

253 compactness/density assessment.

254 **4. Conclusion**

255 The objective of this work has been to characterize the dielectric properties of rocks used in pavement assessment
256 in order to calculate the HMA compactness from electromagnetic mixing models. The dielectric investigation has
257 shown that the studied rocks can be considered either as near perfect dielectric or low loss dielectric with a real
258 permittivity ranges from 4 to 9. Application of Olhoeft and Stangway (1975), Shutko (1982) and Dobson et al. (1985)
259 fitting pointed out that the real permittivity is dependent upon the density and the chemical composition of the rock.
260 Further studies need to be performed concerning the structural and chemical composition of the rocks in order to
261 support these assumptions. It could be of great interest to carry out the dielectric behaviour on a wider frequency
262 range so that the behaviour of dry rocks at high frequencies could be better understood. The comparison of the
263 two electromagnetic mixing model families recently used for HMA assessment has been performed on laboratory
264 slabs whose the permittivity of each component was measured by means of cylindrical cavities (binder, filler and
265 aggregate). Slabs were controlled by gamma bench measurement as standard for comparison with applied models.
266 This investigation highlights that the PL $\alpha = 1/2$ (CRIM), UMR $\nu=0$ MA (Rayleigh) and UMR $\nu=2$ MA (Böttcher)
267 models gave excellent results in correlation with the reference compactness. Thereby, it was concluded that choosing
268 aggregate as matrix for the UMR family is more appropriate than binder. In consideration of the uncertainties of radar
269 measurement or permittivity measurement for both on site and lab experiments, the three models i.e. PL $\alpha = 1/2$
270 (CRIM), UMR $\nu=0$ MA (Rayleigh) and UMR $\nu=2$ MA (Böttcher) can be considered as equivalent. These models
271 deserve to be applied on different slab natures in order to study their deviation and further *in-situ* investigations should
272 be undertaken for validation.

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Table 1: First column: the rock number (x-axis in Fig.1(a), 1(b) and 1(c)), the name, the measurement date (2013 and 2015), the quarry and the rock feature - subsequent columns: real and imaginary part of the permittivity measured at 0.57 GHz, 1 GHz, 1.7 GHz, 1.15 GHz, 2.63 GHz and 4.13 GHz in cylindrical cavities, corresponding loss tangent $\tan\delta$ and density ρ .

Rock number - nature (quarry, date, feature)	ϵ'_r	ϵ''_r	$\tan\delta$	ρ
1a - Sandstone quartzite (Montebourg, 2015)	4.27±0.16	0.07±0.02	0.017±0.003	2.641
1b - Sandstone quartzite (Montebourg, 2013)	4.52±0.05	0.03±0.02	0.006±0.005	2.641
2 - Quartzite (Vignats, 2015, pink)	4.29±0.16	0.01±0.01	0.003±0.002	2.577
3a - Quartzite (Vignats, 2015, white)	4.31±0.14	0.03±0.02	0.007±0.005	2.629
3b - Quartzite (Vignats, 2013, white)	4.56±0.13	0.03±0.02	0.008±0.005	2.629
4a - Quartzite (Barenton, 2015)	4.31±0.17	0.02±0.01	0.004±0.003	2.681
4b - Quartzite (Barenton, 2013)	4.50±0.10	0.05±0.04	0.010±0.008	2.681
5a - Sandstone (Challoué, 2015)	4.34±0.13	0.01±0.01	0.003±0.002	2.623
5b - Sandstone (Challoué, 2013)	4.52±0.05	0.03±0.02	0.006±0.005	2.623
6a - Rhyolite (Averton Mayenne, 2015)	4.84±0.23	0.06±0.02	0.039±0.032	2.641
6b - Rhyolite (Averton Mayenne, 2013)	5.70±0.09	0.14±0.11	0.025±0.019	2.641
7a - Sandstone (Muneville-Le-Bingard, 2015)	4.89±0.06	0.10±0.07	0.019±0.014	2.676
7b - Sandstone (Muneville-Le-Bingard, 2013)	5.14±0.04	0.25±0.12	0.048±0.024	2.676
8a - Gneiss (Tinchebray, 2015)	4.91±0.16	0.01±0.01	0.002±0.001	2.695
8b - Gneiss (Tinchebray, 2013)	5.50±0.09	0.06±0.05	0.011±0.009	2.695
9 - Granite (Bonotières, 2015)	5.03±0.18	0.05±0.05	0.011±0.012	2.652
10 - Granite (Mouzière, 2015, microcrystalline)	5.06±0.18	0.09±0.06	0.016±0.012	2.735
11 - Quartzite (Vignats, 2015, red)	5.15±0.07	0.11±0.08	0.022±0.015	2.534
12 - Diorite (Noubleau, 2015, large grained)	5.31±0.26	0.04±0.03	0.008±0.005	2.680
13 - Granite (Gouraudière 2015, fine grained)	5.34±0.13	0.11±0.08	0.021±0.015	2.669
14a - Weathered granite (Ferrières, 2015)	5.36±0.08	0.03±0.01	0.005±0.003	2.742
14b - Weathered granite (Ferrières 2013)	5.41±0.07	0.08±0.06	0.015±0.011	2.742
15a - Quartz arenite (Roche Blain, 2015)	5.48±0.09	0.13±0.08	0.023±0.014	2.701
15b - Quartz arenite (Roche Blain, 2013)	5.91±0.04	0.22±0.17	0.037±0.029	2.701
16a - Hornfels (Saint-Honorine-Plafond, 2015)	5.64±0.11	0.04±0.02	0.007±0.004	2.728
16b - Hornfels (Saint-Honorine-Plafond, 2013)	5.72±0.15	0.1±0.06	0.017±0.012	2.728
17 - Limestone (Caen, 2015)	5.73±0.07	0.03±0.02	0.005±0.003	2.230
18 - Basalt (Python de la Fournaise, 2015)	5.82±0.07	0.31±0.12	0.053±0.021	2.094
19a - Amphibolite (Arvieux, 2015)	5.92±0.12	0.03±0.02	0.006±0.004	2.905
19b - Amphibolite (Arvieux, 2013)	6.57±0.25	0.07±0.05	0.010±0.008	2.905
20a - Gneissic sandstone (Vaubadon, 2015)	6.53±0.08	0.12±0.07	0.018±0.012	2.761
20b - Gneissic sandstone (Vaubadon, 2013)	6.68±0.09	0.18±0.14	0.028±0.021	2.761
21 - Diorite (Gouraudière, 2015, microcrystalline)	6.59±0.23	0.11±0.05	0.017±0.008	2.812
22 - Limestone (North region, 2013)	7.47±0.11	0.11±0.09	0.020±0.010	2.755
23 - Basalt (Rhône-Alpes region)	7.71±0.18	0.13±0.05	0.017±0.0050	2.907
24 - Diorite (Noubleau, 2015, medium grained)	8.64±0.16	0.18±0.09	0.021±0.011	2.951

Table 2: Models description

Acronym	Name (Authors)	Family	Parameter
PL $\alpha = 0$	Lichtenecker-Rother formula or logarithmic law	Power law model	$\alpha = 0$
PL $\alpha = 1/3$	Looyenga formula	Power Law model	$\alpha = 1/3$
PL $\alpha = 1/2$	CRIM model or Birchak	Power Law model	$\alpha = 1/2$
PL $\alpha = 1$	Silberstein formula or linear law	Power Law model	$\alpha = 1$
UMR $\nu = 0$	Rayleigh model or Maxwell Garnett rule	Unified Mixing Rule 3D	$\nu = 0$
UMR $\nu = 2$	Böttcher model or Polder-van Santen	Unified Mixing Rule 3D	$\nu = 2$
UMR $\nu = 3$	Coherent potential approximation	Unified Mixing Rule 3D	$\nu = 3$

Table 3: Mix design of the studied HMA slabs

Aggregates	Basalt (0/10)	Basalt (0/10)
Designed compaction	0.87	0.95
T_a	0.927	0.932
T_b	0.056	0.058
T_f	0.017	0.01
ϵ_a	(7.71±0.20)-j(0.13±0.08)	(7.71±0.20)-j(0.13±0.08)
ϵ_b	(2.50±0.02)-j(0.003±0.002)	(2.50±0.02)-j(0.003±0.002)
ϵ_f	(7.2±0.02)-j(0.01±0.005)	(7.2±0.02)-j(0.01±0.005)
ρ_a (g/cm ³)	2.890	2.890
ρ_b (g/cm ³)	1.030	1.030
ρ_f (g/cm ³)	2.635	2.635

Table 4: Compactness (C) and density (ρ) results on HMA slabs designed for an air void content of 13% and 5%. In red color, the reference gamma bench (γ) measurement. Subsequent columns: PL model for $\alpha = 1/2$ and UMR models for $\nu = 0$ (Rayleigh) and $\nu = 2$ (Böttcher), both for aggregate matrix (MA) and binder matrix (MB).

Slabs	Gamma bench γ	PL $\alpha = 1/2$	UMR $\nu = 0$ MA	UMR $\nu = 0$ MB	UMR $\nu = 2$ MA	UMR $\nu = 2$ MB
$C_{87\%}$	0.872±0.027	0.883±0.020	0.875±0.022	0.929±0.017	0.888±0.019	0.888±0.019
$\rho_{87\%}$	2.285±0.071	2.315±0.053	2.292±0.057	2.434±0.043	2.325±0.051	2.325±0.051
$C_{95\%}$	0.926±0.014	0.919±0.026	0.913±0.028	0.958±0.021	0.922±0.025	0.922±0.025
$\rho_{95\%}$	2.421±0.036	2.398±0.041	2.386±0.073	2.504±0.054	2.410±0.066	2.410±0.066