

ISBS



**Institut für Straßenwesen
TU Braunschweig**



**Technische
Universität
Braunschweig**

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On fatigue and recovery of road asphalt mixtures

2018

Heft 35 • Braunschweig 2018 • ISBN 978-3-932164-35-4

Von der Fakultät Architektur, Bauingenieurwesen und Umweltwissenschaften
der Technischen Universität Carolo-Wilhelmina zu Braunschweig
zur Erlangung des Grades eines Doktoringenieurs (Dr.-Ing.)
genehmigte Dissertation

Eingereicht am: 09.04.2018

Disputation am: 07.06.2018

Berichterstatter: Univ.-Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr.techn. Michael P. Wistuba

Univ.-Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr.techn. Ronald Blab

Danksagung

Zu allererst möchte ich Professor Michael P. Wistuba für seine umfangreiche Unterstützung bei meiner Arbeit am Institut danken. Durch seine freundschaftliche und unkomplizierte Art war er für mich ein hervorragender Wegbegleiter. Ohne seine fachliche Kompetenz wäre die Erarbeitung der Lösungen innerhalb meiner Dissertation deutlich erschwert gewesen.

Ebenso danke ich Herrn Professor Ronald Blab für die bereitwillige Übernahme des Zweitgutachtens. Für die Mitwirkung bei der Verteidigung meiner Arbeit möchte ich Herrn Professor Dirk Lowke als Prüfer, sowie Herrn Professor Klaus Thiele als Vorsitzenden der Prüfungskommission danken.

Ich danke herzlich allen Kolleginnen und Kollegen des ISBS für die großartige Unterstützung beim Erlernen der deutschen Sprache, sowie für die umfangreiche Motivation und für den fachlichen Austausch.

Ein herzliches Dankschön gilt auch meiner Frau Ivana für die vielen motivierenden Worte und für die treue Begleitung und unermüdliche Unterstützung während dieser Jahre.

Zu guter Letzt bin ich meiner Familie für das bedingungslose Vertrauen in mich überaus dankbar.

Vorwort des Herausgebers

Dieses Heft ist die kumulative Promotionsschrift von Dr.-Ing. Ivan Isailović, M.Sc. Die Arbeit ist der experimentellen Analyse des Verhaltens von Asphalt unter zyklischer Dauerbelastung gewidmet. Sie besteht aus 2 Teilen. Der erste Teil bildet die inhaltliche Klammer, der zweite Teil enthält 7 Publikationen: 6 reviewte Journalbeiträge und ein reviewtes Konferenzpaper, alle in englischer Sprache. Ivan Isailović ist bei allen Publikationen, die in Kooperationen mit unterschiedlichen Mitautoren entstanden sind, der Erstautor. In der ersten Publikation (A) vergleicht er mit Hilfe der Auswertung der während des Versuchs dissipierten Energie den in Deutschland weit verbreiteten Spaltzug-Schwellversuch mit anderen Laborversuchen zur Ermüdungsprüfung und liefert damit wichtige Erkenntnisse zur Wahl der Prüfmethodik. In der zweiten Publikation (B) beleuchtet er das Problem der normgemäßen Analyse des Ermüdungsverhaltens bei einer einzigen Prüftemperatur und schlägt ein neues Prüfverfahren vor, mit dem unter Ausführung eines Amplitudensweeps das Ermüdungsverhalten über den gesamten Gebrauchstemperaturbereich analysiert werden kann. Mit den Publikationen C, D und E trägt Ivan Isailović bei zur Entschlüsselung des Heilungsverhaltens von Asphalt, also dem Vermögen, einen während des Ermüdungsversuchs beobachteten Steifigkeitsverlust durch Einführung von Lastpausen wieder zurückzustellen. In der Publikation C analysiert er die Einflussgrößen unterschiedlicher Prüfvariablen (Bindemittelgehalt, Verdichtungsgrad, Lastpausendauer, Alterungszustand, Bindemittelsorte) auf die Heilungs-Eigenschaften, in Publikation D entwickelt er einen neuen Index zur vergleichenden Bewertung des Heilungsvermögens, der den Vorteil hat, dass die materialbedingte Streuung im Prüfergebnis reduziert ist. Schließlich isoliert er die Nebeneffekte aus Nichtlinearität und Selbsterwärmung von der eigentlichen Materialheilung und stellt fest, dass der Effekt der Nichtlinearität einen relativ geringen Einfluss auf die Heilungs-Eigenschaften hat und unabhängig ist von der Lastpausendauer, während im Gegensatz dazu der Selbsterwärmungseffekt einen signifikanten Einfluss hat (Publikation E). Mit der Publikation F entwickelt Ivan Isailović den bekannten zyklischen Schersteifigkeitsversuch zur Analyse des Schichtenverbundes weiter zu einer neuen Scherermüdungsprüfung, analysiert die Einflüsse aus Prüftemperatur, Normalspannung und materialspezifischen Parametern und schlägt Prüfparameter vor, mit denen eine bestmögliche Ermüdungsbewertung des Schichtenverbundes erfolgen kann. In der Publikation G vergleicht er Ergebnisse aus zyklischen und monotonen Scherversuchen und stellt fest, dass eine nur schwache Korrelation zum monotonen Scherversuch formuliert werden kann und die resultierende Scherkraft aus dem monotonen Scherversuch als ein nur grober Indikator für die Bestimmung der Lebensdauer des Schichtenverbundes herangezogen werden kann.

Mit dieser Arbeit hat Dr.-Ing. Ivan Isailović, M.Sc. im Frühjahr 2018 sein Promotionsstudium an der Fakultät für Architektur, Bauingenieurwesen und Umweltwissenschaften der Technischen Universität Braunschweig mit Auszeichnung abgeschlossen. Ich gratuliere ihm dazu ganz herzlich und freue mich, die Promotionschrift im Rahmen der Schriftenreihe des ISBS herausgeben zu dürfen.

Braunschweig, im August 2018

Michael P. Wistuba

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Contents of this thesis

Fatigue is a key failure mode of asphalt pavement structures. Stress in consequence of repeated traffic loading and temperature changes may significantly weaken the coherence of the asphalt mixture with time. This long-term deterioration mechanism is generally called “fatigue”, usually understood as the formation of a micro-crack network weakening strength of the asphalt pavement.

As pavement structures are not continuously loaded, and because asphalt is a highly viscous material, already developed micro-cracks may close during non-loading phases partially or even entirely in consequence of viscous flow. Thus, an intermediate “recovery” of strength loss may take place.

This thesis is devoted to the investigation of both fatigue and recovery properties of asphalt materials. It is structured to five main Chapters. The first two Chapters are dedicated to a general introduction to fatigue and recovery properties of asphalt in-situ (Chapter 1) and in laboratory (Chapter 2). The terms “fatigue” and “recovery” are well defined, and the fatigue and recovery performance mechanisms of the asphalt material as well as fatigue of the interface of two asphalt pavement layers are described. The third Chapter outlines the research work, giving a motivation and a comprehensive summary. The fourth Chapter is composed of a number of contributions to high-level peer-reviewed international journals in the domain of material science. The first two publications are dealing with fatigue evaluation of asphalt mixtures; third, fourth, and fifth publications are devoted to evaluation of asphalt mixture recovery properties; sixth and seventh publications are focused on fatigue evaluation of asphalt mixture layers’ interface.

The first publication (A) “*Energy dissipation in asphalt mixtures observed in different cyclic stress-controlled fatigue tests*” is dedicated to an appropriate evaluation of asphalt mixture fatigue properties in laboratory. Since several test types are available, and even though a number of which is also described in technical guidelines, there is no consensus between researchers about the most appropriate test method for determining the asphalt mixture fatigue resistance. This thesis provides new insights into various techniques of laboratory fatigue evaluation, and assists in selecting most appropriate method for testing and data analysis. For stress controlled testing mode, the uniaxial tension-compression test is identified as most reliable for evaluating asphalt fatigue properties and recovery capacity.

The second publication (B) “*Sweep test protocol for fatigue evaluation of asphalt mixtures*” focuses on investigating the temperature dependency of asphalt fatigue. Asphalt mixture fatigue properties determined by means of fatigue function at a single test temperature, although in best accordance with the European Standard (EN 12697-24, 2012), is not representative for the whole in-service-temperature range. Therefore, fatigue tests which are limited to a single temperature may provoke misleading conclusions, especially

for modified asphalt mixtures, where little or no experience exists about their long-term behaviour in-situ. In order to overcome any potential shortcomings if studying the asphalt mixture fatigue resistance according to European Standard, a new test protocol is introduced, which allows for plausible evaluation of asphalt mixture fatigue performance considering a wide temperature range. The new test protocol relies on amplitude sweep test, with a marginally increased laboratory effort if compared to the procedure at single test temperature according to the European Standard.

The third publication (C) “*Investigation on mixture recovery properties in fatigue tests*” aims in clarifying the dubiety about the factors influencing asphalt mixture recovery potential. Due to the application of different materials and test methods, some influencing parameters are not well assessed, because of either contradictory or non-plausible test results, e.g. the effects of bitumen polymer modification, ageing condition. Therefore, beside effects of ageing and bitumen polymer modification, further effects influencing asphalt mixture recovery properties are investigated, such as asphalt binder content, degree of compaction, and rest period duration. It was found that the asphalt ageing condition seems to be the most influencing parameter regarding asphalt mixture recovery potential.

The fourth publication (D) “*Experimental study on asphalt mixture recovery*” focuses on improving the laboratory evaluation of asphalt mixture recovery properties. Due to the potentially large scattering of the experimental results observed in cyclic tests, the commonly used recovery index, relying on fatigue live comparison of tests with and without rest period, may lead to the erroneous evaluation of the recovery potential. In order to allow an accurate evaluation of the asphalt mixture recovery potential, a new recovery index is developed, which can substantially and successfully mitigate the material-related scatter observed in the experimental tests without rest period. The procedure relies on a normalized energy ratio-complex modulus curve that shows a unique trend for all tests conducted at the same loading conditions.

The fifth publication (E) “*Influence of rest period on asphalt recovery considering nonlinearity and self-heating*” is dedicated to a detailed investigation of asphalt mixture recovery potential, taking into consideration biasing effects such as nonlinearity and self-heating observed during cyclic loading. These effects are barely investigated in tests in stress controlled mode, and their contribution to the recovery of asphalt mixture mechanical properties with the change of rest period duration is unclear. Based on stress controlled discontinuous fatigue tests with single rest periods of different durations, it was found that the effect of nonlinearity on complex modulus recovery is relatively small and it is not affected by increasing duration of the rest period. Contrary, the self-heating effect has a significant influence on asphalt mixture recovery properties. It results in a much more rapid recovery of complex modulus than other eventual side effects, such as thixotropy, self-healing, and strain relaxation.

The sixth publication (F) “*Fatigue investigation on asphalt mixture layers’ interface*” focuses on investigating the fatigue performance mechanisms of the interface of two asphalt pavement layers, and on characterizing the influence of material and test related factors on fatigue performance. Using a set of bond types differing in the asphalt mixture types, tack coat types, and tack coat application rates, it was found that the interface shear fatigue performance is highly dependent on normal stress state and increases with increasing normal stress. This is a direct consequence of the enhanced friction, adhesion and interlock at the shear interface. Observing the layers’ interface fatigue resistance at different test temperatures, the best results were observed at the lowest temperature. Based on this preliminary work, the test parameters are proposed, allowing for a successful fatigue evaluation of layers’ interfaces.

The seventh publication (G) “*Asphalt mixture layers’ interface bonding properties under monotonic and cyclic loading*” focuses on clarifying the question, if the outcomes from monotonic shear tests are comparable with outcomes from fatigue shear tests. Based on the research results obtained from a set of bond types, it was found that the resulting shear strength from monotonic shear test can be used only as a rough indicator for long term interface bonding performance, because not all research and field experience could be reflected in the test results. The differences in bond types with some specific material and production variations cannot be recognized as good as when using the cyclic fatigue shear test.