The Relationship of Binder Delta Tc (ΔTc) & Other Binder Properties to Mixture Fatigue and Relaxation

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INTRODUCTION

- Great deal of information has been presented on the ΔTc parameter
- Not going to go into much detail about ΔTc or other parameters because that is not the focus of this presentation
- Goal is to show the relationship between binder and mix relaxation and measured properties of aged binders
 - R-Value, Glover-Rowe, cross over frequency, ΔTc, T_{m-Critical}

ΔTc Determination & Sources of Error

- 1. $\Delta Tc = (T_{s-critical} T_{m-critical}) \checkmark$
- 2. To obtain an accurate value for ΔTc the BBR needs to be performed at enough temperatures so that
 - a. BBR stiffness values < 300 MPa and > 300 MPa
 - b. BBR m-values < 0.300 and > 0.300
 - c. Extended aging of binders , high levels of RAP and/or RAS, the use of high levels of additives such as REOB might require BBR testing at 3 or more temperatures √
- 3. If BBR stiffness is less than \approx 125 MPa when BBR m-value barely exceeds 0.300 then generally a 3rd BBR test temperature will be required to meet the requirements of 2.a and 2.b \checkmark
- 4. If you perform BBR at 2 temperatures where stiffness is <200 MPa so that $T_{m-critical}$ will be <0.300 and >0.300 you can end up with an incorrect $T_{s-critical}$
- 5. Linear extrapolations based on 2 test temperature over 100 to 150°C can result in incorrect predictions. Not all binders are linear (m value) or log linear (S value) with temperature



When a binder exhibits a ΔTc of < -4 or -5 the S critical temperature increases at a substantially slower rate than does the m-critical temperature and this will necessitate the need for a 3rd BBR Test



Slope Ts-Critical for ΔTc of -7 is 50% that of the binder with ΔTc of -2.5

Slope of Tm-Critical for ΔTc of -7.5°C is 75% that of the binder with ΔTc of -2.5

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WHY IS AN UNDERSTANDING OF ΔTc IMPORTANT?

- 1. Reasons that we should all know are \checkmark
 - a. As binders age they become more m-controlled; $T_{m-critical}$ increases more rapidly than $T_{s-critical} \checkmark$
 - b. As binders become more m-controlled they are more brittle and lose ability to relax stress \checkmark
 - c. As pavements age they are more prone to cracking distress \checkmark
 - d. As ΔTc becomes more negative pavements become more prone to top down fatigue cracking \checkmark
 - e. It may not appear intuitively obvious that a value derived from low temperature testing should be associated with distresses that are associated with intermediate service temperatures </
 - f. Based on research, some of which goes back 50+ years, research has shown the connections between pavement surface distresses and several parameters the most recent of which is $\Delta Tc \checkmark$

ΔTc can quantify the aging propensity of a binder















SPECIFICALLY BINDER RELAXATION





TIME TO GET SERIOUS

- As with most advances in technical research developments are the result of cumulative increase in knowledge
- I will briefly reference the work of three individuals, but reading their research will show many other contributors along the way
- Prithvi (Ken) Kandhal Pennsylvania DOT Bituminous Engineer
- Dr. Charles Glover—Research Professor Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M
- Mike Anderson—Director of Research at the Asphalt Institute



References

- 1. Kandahl, Low Temperature Ductility in Relation to Pavement Performance, ASTM STP 628, Marek, Ed., 1977
- 2. Glover, Charles J, Davison, Richard, Domke, Chris, Ruan, Yonghong, Juristyarini, Pramitha, Knorr, Daniel, Jung, Sung, "Development Of A New Method For Assessing Asphalt Binder Durability With Field Validation", FHWA/TX-05/1872-2, August 2005
- 3. Anderson, R. M, King, G.N., Hanson, D.I., Blankenship, P.B. "Evaluation of the Relationship between Asphalt Binder Properties and Non-Load Related Cracking." Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists, 2011 Volume 80, pp 615-663, 2011
- 4. TRB papers in 2010, 2011 and 2012 by Sui and Farrar, et al from Western Research Institutre
- 5. EECongress in Istanbul, 2012, Farrar, et al



In the interest of time I have hidden several background slides which will be available when this presentation is provided to the ETG members

Ductility and Pavement Condition of 1961 and 1962 Pennsylvania Pavements Reported by Kandhal (Kandhal 1977)

| Ductility value at 60°F (15.5°C), 5 cm/min, cm | Pavement Condition Observed | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|
| More than 10 | Satisfactory | | |
| 8 to 10 | Loss of fines (matrix) | | |
| 5 to 8 | Raveling | | |
| 3 to 5 | Cracking, needs resurfacing | | |
| Less than 3 | Very poor, extensive cracking | | |
| SOME COMMENTS REGARDING KANDHAL'S WORK | | | |

- 1. At 10 cm ductility there is no cracking reported, however when it takes longer than 3 years to reach 10 cm loss of fines and some raveling is noted
- 2. Regardless of the time it takes to reach less than 5 cm of ductility that ductility value is associated with the onset of cracking \checkmark

Extent of binder aging is the key factor and not the time of binder aging



What Can We Infer From This Data?

- There is a point in the aging of a binder when cracking begins to develop
- Binder aging rate is not the same for every binder (crude source impacts performance) or perhaps it is not the same time point for the same binder depending on the conditions of the job
 - Time of year constructed
 - % bitumen in the mix
 - Air voids
 - Aggregate type and/or gradation
 - Other factors e.g. RAP, RAS, polymer or ???
- Extent of Binder Aging is the Key Driver
- How can we age binders and mixtures sufficiently in the lab to tell us something useful about long term performance?



Taken from Glover, et al 2005, plot shows

- Linear correlation between G'/ η'/G' and 15°C ductility for ductility values < 10 cm√
- 2. Based on Kandhal's data when ductility drops below
 10 pavement distress begins √
- Glover used this data to develop relationship between ductility and binder rheology at 15°C √
- Glover used time temperature superposition principles to adjust the DSR test to 44.7°C and 10 rad/sec



Moving from Ductility to ΔTc

- Mike Anderson, et al AAPT 2011—introduced ΔTc concept
- Rheological & ductility of PAV binders and binders recovered from aged airfield mixtures
- Established Relationship of ΔTc to non-load associated distress
- Key findings ✓
 - Glover @ Texas A&M had shown ductility @ 15°C & 1 mm/min correlated to long term pavement distress ✓
 - 2) G'/(η '/G') correlated to ductility @ 15°C & 1 mm/min \checkmark
 - 3) Also showed G'/(η'/G') correlated to ΔTc (difference between the BBR $T_{m-critical} BBR T_{s-critical} \checkmark$
 - 4) $\Delta Tc \text{ of } 2.5^{\circ}C = cracking warning limit, <math>\Delta Tc = 5^{\circ}C \text{ point where binder durability lost }$



ΔTc and 4 mm DSR Testing

- Much of the data to be discussed next was generated at MTE using a 4 mm DSR test developed at Western Research Institute (see reference list)
- Requires very little material to perform test
- Results correlate well to BBR, but there is a learning curve 🗸
- Provides a broader temperature range (-36°C to +30°C or +40°C) of data collection in less time than BBR test at 3 temperatures





The size advantages are obvious for performing tests on field samples and other forensic work When the main mixture layer that needs testing is binder recovered from the top ½ inch of a 6 inch diameter core very little binder is obtained and the 4 mm test requires only one core to provide sufficient binder for a 25 mm and 4 mm test

Just How Does ΔTc Relate to Mix Performance?

- Need to get back to RELAXATION
- As binders age their ability to relax stress diminishes ∴ BBR result becomes increasingly m-controlled (poor relaxation) ✓
- Some binders have inherently poor relaxation properties, BBR will show this and ΔTc can quantify impact of poor relaxation√
- Relaxation is not just a low temperature (i.e. sub o°C) problem
 - Ductility decreases when binder cannot relax fast enough to prevent the binder thread from breaking (Kandhal & Glover at 15°C)
 - The DSR data shows similar behavior (Glover's DSR vs Ductility Plot another test performed at 15°C)



Just How Does Δ Tc Relate to Binder Relaxation and Ultimately Mix Performance?

- How many of you have really looked at or compared the BBR data plot for different binders?
- BBR test is not just a single data point at 60 seconds
- In that plot is the story of how the binder relaxes (or doesn't) due to the imposition of load



COMPARISON OF BBR MASTERCURVES @ -18°C FOR TWO DIFFERENT BINDERS

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---BBR S(t) mastercurve @ -18° Ref Temp, Binder A, Δ Tc = -5°C

- ----BBR S(t) mastercurve @ -18° Ref Temp, Binder B, Δ Tc= 1°C



COMPARISON OF BBR & 4 mm MASTERCURVES @ -18°C FOR TWO DIFFERENT BINDERS



- ----- BBR S(t) mastercurve @ -18° Ref Temp, Binder A, $\Delta Tc = -5^{\circ}C$
- -----BBR S(t) mastercurve @ -18° Ref Temp, Binder B, Δ Tc= 1°C
- ·4 mm DSR ,G(t) mastercurve @ -18°C Ref Temp, Binder B, Δ Tc= 0.6°C
 - Relaxation time = 60 seconds

- When you incorporate the 4 mm data for the same binders similar
 ΔTc results are obtained, but you also observe how the relaxation disparity carries over to longer relaxation times
- 2. Longer relaxation times are a surrogate for relaxation behavior at warmer temperatures



COMPARISON OF BBR & 4 mm MASTERCURVES @ -18°C & 25°C FOR TWO DIFFERENT BINDERS



If binders have a relaxation disparity at low temperatures they also have a relaxation disparity at warmer temperatures

An additional benefit of the 4 mm test is the ability to examine the binder's behavior at temperatures beyond those capable by the BBR



Illustration of Determination of R-Value (Rheological Index)



SOME FIELD EXAMPLES

 I've presented this information at AI and other places such as ETG meetings, .: I will only provide a couple brief comments



COMPARATIVE CRUDE SOURCE STUDY

- CTH 112 Olmsted Cty, MN; 2006 construction
- 3 virgin test sections to compare 3 different crude sources of PG 58-28 binder (MN1-3, MN1-4, MN1-5)
- 1 virgin PG 58-34 PMA binder (MN1-2)
- Project specified mix of a PG 58-34 + 20% RAP (MN1-1)
- Substantial surface cracking began to show up between years 4 and 5



Olmsted County, MN CTH 112, 2014 (8 yrs)



- **COMMENTS**
- 1. ΔTc does not correlate well with transverse cracking 2. transverse cracking
- level is similar for all mixes, but ΔTc varies widely
- 3. Substantial difference in top down cracking in the test sections does correlate well with ΔTc



- (Total Distress-transverse) = $F(\Delta Tc \text{ of Top } 1/2" \text{ Binder})$
 - Linear (Total Transverse = F(ΔTc of Binder from Top 1/2"))

- Linear (Total Distress = $F(\Delta Tc \text{ of Binder from Top } 1/2''))$
- Linear ((Total Distress-transverse) = F(ΔTc of Top 1/2" Binder))

Relationship of Cracking to Binder Relaxation

 For purposes of my objective in this discussion the next few slides are more important than looking at ΔTc plots correlated to cracking

Reduced Time VS Relaxation Modulus @ 15°C for MN1-3, MN1-4, MN1-5 of 40 hour PAV Residue



COMMENTS 1. MN1-3 & MN1-5 have greater relaxation moduli than MN1-4 at short relaxation times 2.HOWEVER 3. MN1-4 relaxes stiffness so slowly

that at extended time it intersects MN1-3





COMMENTS

- The first derivative of relaxation modulus curves show more clearly what is happening
- 2. The 1st derivative plot is the same as determining the m-value at every point along the relaxation modulus mastercurve
- 3. The slope of MN1-3 decreases at a faster rate than the slope of MN1-4 and the slope of MN1-5 decreases at the fastest rate of all.
- This rate of relaxation emphasizes the interrelation of relaxation slope and level of ΔTc





Reduced Time VS Relaxation Modulus @ -18°C of Recovered Binder from Top ½ inch of 8 year Field Cores of MN1-1, MN1-2, MN1-3, MN1-4, MN1-5



COMMENTS

- Plot is of relaxation moduli of binders recovered from the top ½ inch of 8 year field cores
- The 3 PG 58-28 binders have relaxation moduli plots that reflect their ΔTc values;
- The plots of MN1-1 and MN1-2 (PMA binder) appear to have worse relaxation moduli even though they have the 2nd & 3rd best ΔTc values





COMMENTS

- This is a zoomed plot of the slope of the relaxation modulus mastercurve vs log of reduced time for all 5 CTH 112 binders
- MN1-1 starts out at a slightly lower relaxation modulus than MN1-5, but relaxes more slowly and by 60 seconds is relaxing at a slower rate than MN1-2
- MN1-4 which has the lowest relaxation modulus at short times relaxes so slowly that it eventually crosses over all of the other binders and has the worst slope of all materials

Relationship of T_{m-Critical} to Several Parameters







Transverse Cracks = $F(\Delta Tc)$ Olmsted CTH 112 Crude Source Study



Transverse Cracks = $F(\Delta Tc)$ Olmsted CTH 112 Crude Source Study





There is not a linear relationship between the slope of the binder relaxation modulus and the level of transverse cracking

Transverse Cracking (m) = F(slope of Binder Relaxation modulus, -18°C, 60 sec)



The exponential relationship fits the data, but I suspect that this function really fits the physical reality of transverse cracking as a function of binder relaxation modulus

Transverse Cracking (m) = F(slope of Binder Relaxation modulus, -18°C, 60 sec)



For the non-REOB binders the linear correlation between slope of the binder relaxation modulus and transverse cracking is reasonable. Keep in mind that MN1-2 was a virgin PMA PG 58-34 mix and MN1-1 was a 20% RAP mix with PG 58-34 binder. MN1-5 and MN1-3 were virgin PG 58-28 mixes. I think the most we can conclude from this data is that binder relaxation plays a role in transverse cracking, but is certainly not the whole story

Transverse Cracks = F(Slope of Binder Relaxation Modulus) Olmsted CTH 112 Crude Source Study



Total Distress = F(Slope Binder Relaxation Modulus) Olmsted CTH 112 Crude Source Study



Total Distress (Excludes CL cracks)=F(Slope of Binder Relaxation Modulus, -

• Total Distress (Non CL)=F(Slope of Relaxation Modulus, -18°C, 60 sec) all Binders

Total Distress (excludes CL)=F(slope of Binder Relaxation Modulus @ -18C, 60 sec PG 58-28 only)

The relationship between total fatigue distress and the slope of the binder relaxation modulus master curve has a R^2 value of 0.79 for all binders, including the **REOB** binder mix MN1-4. Considering that this relationship includes the virgin PMA mix (MN1-2) and the 20% RAP containing PMA mix (MN1-1) this is a good result. When the PMA mixes are removed the relationship is nearly perfect. Both relationships indicate that binder relaxation plays a greater role in fatigue cracking than in transverse cracking

Total Distress = F(R-Value) Olmsted CTH 112 Crude Source Study



There is not a good correlation of Total Distress as a function of Binder R-Value when the data for all mixes are evaluated

Total Distress = F(R-Value) Olmsted CTH 112 Crude Source Study



There is not a good correlation of Total **Distress as a function** of Binder R-Value; however when the polymer mix (MN1-2) and the polymer + RAP mix (MN1-1) data are removed there is a linear correlation with the non modified PG 58-28. Binder R-Values differ when polymer and/or reclaimed binders are included in the mix.

The base binder for MN1-1 and MN1-2 are from the same crude source as MN1-3

Total Distress = $F(\Delta Tc)$ Olmsted CTH 112 Crude Source Study



Unlike relaxation modulus or other parameters such as R-Value, crossover frequency and Glover Rowe which are impacted by binder additives or crude source and therefore do not correlate well with pavement distress the **ΔTc parameter appears** to be blind to the presence of polymer or RAP when looking at the correlation to pavement performance. ΔTc may not correlate this well for all mixtures with a wide variety of binder types, but it appears it will always correlate better than other parameters.

MnROAD TEST OF 3 BINDERS

- 1. CONSTRUCTED IN SEPT 1999
- 2. 3 BINDERS
 - a. PG 58-28
 - b. PG 58-34
 - c. PG 58-40
- 3. TRAFFICED UNTIL APRIL 2007
- 4. ANNUAL OR NEARLY ANNUAL PAVEMENT DISTRESS SURVEYS CONDUCTED



Total Crack Length (Non CL) @ years 4, 5.5 & 7.5 = $F(\Delta Tc 40 hr PAV)$



COMMENTS

- Between years 4 and 5.5 a substantial increase in cracking took place for the PG 58-40 section. While the increases for the other 2 sections were not as severe they also showed an increase after 5.5 years
- Regardless of the years in service, the cracking trended with the ΔTc of the 40 hour PAV residue.
- 3. No binder was recovered from field cores over the course of the project.

4 Year Total Cracks (Non CL)= F(ΔTc @ 40 hr. PAV)

• 5.5 Year Total Cracks (Non CL) = $F(\Delta Tc @ 40 hr.)$

■ 7.5 Year Total Cracks (Non CL) = F(△Tc @ 40 hr. PAV)



MnRoad Comparative Binder Study

Cracking @ 7.5 yrs VS F(Glover-Rowe 40 hr. PAV)



MnRoad Comparative Binder Study



Evaluation of Relaxation of Mixes Aged for 10 and 20 Days @ 85°C

1. Six Mixtures

- a) PG 52-34 + 5% RAS, PG 52-34 + 5% ADD#1+5% RAS, PG 52-34 + 5% ADD#1, 2.5% ADD#2 +5% RAS
- b) PG 58-28 +5% RAS, PG 58-28 + 5% ADD#2 +5% RAS, PG 58-28 + 5% ADD#3 +5% RAS
- 2. Binders recovered from aged mixes and characterized
- 3. Relaxation modulus determined for mixes and binders
- 4. Relationship between mixes and binders evaluated



| AO & AP | PG 52-34 + 5% RAS |
|---------|----------------------|
| | PG 52-34 + 5% |
| AL & AM | ADD#1+5% RAS |
| | PG 52-34 + 5% ADD#1, |
| AR & AS | 2.5% ADD#2 +5% RAS |
| BA & BB | PG 58-28 +5% RAS |
| | PG 58-28 + 5% ADD#2 |
| AX & AY | +5% RAS |
| | PG 58-28 + 5% ADD#3 |
| AU & AV | +5% RAS |

- MODEL: G(t) @25°C Summary 1531, 07-05-16-BA,
- MODEL: G(t) @25°C Summary 1531, 07-05-16-AX,
- ----- MODEL: G(t) @25°C Summary 1531, 07-05-16-AO,
- ----- MODEL: G(t) @25°C Summary 1531, 07-05-16-AR,

Relaxation Modulus of Commpacted Mix aged 20 days @ 85°C all mixes contained 5% RAS, different Binders and Additives were employed





| AO & AP | PG 52-34 + 5% RAS |
|---------|----------------------|
| | PG 52-34 + 5% |
| AL & AM | ADD#1+5% RAS |
| | PG 52-34 + 5% ADD#1, |
| AR & AS | 2.5% ADD#2 +5% RAS |
| BA & BB | PG 58-28 +5% RAS |
| | PG 58-28 + 5% ADD#2 |
| AX & AY | +5% RAS |
| | PG 58-28 + 5% ADD#3 |
| AU & AV | +5% RAS |

Relaxation Modulus of Binder Recovered from 20 day, 85°C Compacted Mix with 5% RAS and Different Binders



| AO & AP | PG 52-34 + 5% RAS |
|-----------|----------------------|
| AL 8. ANA | PG 52-34 + 5% |
| | PG 52-34 + 5% ADD#1, |
| AR & AS | 2.5% ADD#2 +5% RAS |
| BA & BB | PG 58-28 +5% RAS |
| | PG 58-28 + 5% ADD#2 |
| AX & AY | +5% RAS |
| | PG 58-28 + 5% ADD#3 |
| AU & AV | +5% RAS |

Recovered Binder ΔTc correlates well with the slope of the mixture relaxation modulus





SUMMARY COMMENTS

- Parameters such as ΔTc, Glover-Rowe, R-Value, crossover frequency are manifestations of binder relaxation
- Binder relaxation largely drives mix relaxation for the aged mixes we studied
- $T_{m-Critical}$ and ΔTc of recovered binders correlated to mix relaxation
- Slope of relaxation modulus mastercurves appear to correlate well with ΔTc for a variety of binders
- Slope of relaxation modulus did not correlate well with transverse cracking on the Olmsted CTH 112 project

SUMMARY COMMENTS

- ΔTc did not correlate well with transverse cracking on CTH 112, but did correlate well with total cracking
- Slope of binder relaxation modulus at -18C correlated reasonably well (R² =0.79) with total cracking on CTH 112 for all 5 test sections including virgin PMA (MN1-2) and PG 58-34 + 20% RAP (MN1-1)
- ΔTc correlated well with the project cracking even when modified binders were used
- Glover-Rowe, crossover frequency and R-value did not correlate well when evaluating mixtures produced with straight run and modified binders

WI STH 33 @ 4 years of age



WI STH 33 @ 8 years of age

| Top 1/2 inch of core extracted and recovered | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Core Time after construction | S critical,°C | m critical, °C | ΔTc, °C |
| 4 year | -30.2 | -30.9 | 0.7 |
| 8 year | -28.9 | -26.6 | -2.3 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

At 8 years cracking has started, some transverse, some wheel path. This is more consistent with the onset of distress than the pervasive deterioration seen on some sections of CTH 112 and MnROAD

