

ANALYSIS OF FIVE-POINT BENDING TEST FOR MULTILAYER SURFACING SYSTEM ON ORTHOTROPIC STEEL BRIDGE

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Submission Date: 19/07/2012

Word Count:

Body Text	= 3052
Abstract	= 190
Figures	16×250 = 4000
Tables	1×250 = 250
Total	= 7492

ABSTRACT

The French five-point bending test (5PBT) provides a laboratory scale test that allows studying the fatigue resistance of surfacing systems on orthotropic steel deck bridges (OSDB). The surfacing structure for OSDB in the Netherlands consists mostly of multilayer system: top porous asphalt layer, guss asphalt layer, steel deck and two membrane layers. In this paper, an analytical solution for 5PBT setup is presented first. In order to better understand the influence of geometrical, mechanical and structural parameters on the performance of the typical multilayer surfacing system of OSDB in the Netherlands, the 5PBT specimens with five structural layers have been investigated. The parametric study is performed at the numerical platform CAPA-3D that was developed at the Section of Structural Mechanics of TU Delft. The thicknesses of the top porous asphalt layer, middle guss asphalt layer and the steel plate are varied. The influences of the mechanical properties of both top and bottom membrane layers are studied. The sensitivities of those influence factors are evaluated by the examination of the maximum tensile stress at the top surface of the porous asphalt layers and the strain distributions through the entire thickness of the specimen at two cross sections.

Keywords: five-point bending test; orthotropic steel deck bridge; surfacings; membrane; finite element analysis

1 INTRODUCTION

2 Orthotropic steel bridges are widely used in most of the major long span bridges around the world.
3 The lightweight and flexibility make OSDB a prior cost-effective solution for cases where a high
4 degree of pre-fabrication or rapid erection is required (1), in seismic zones, for movable bridges, long-
5 span bridges and for rehabilitation to reduce bridge weight (2).

6 An OSDB consists of a deck plate supported in two mutually perpendicular directions by a
7 system of longitudinal stiffeners and transverse crossbeams. Usually the deck plate is surfaced by
8 bituminous wearing courses. It is known that surfacings reduce the stresses in the steel structure
9 except for their functions of skid resistance or waterproofing. In the Netherlands an asphaltic
10 surfacing structure for OSDB mostly consists of two structural layers. The upper layer consists of
11 porous asphalt (PA) because of reasons related to noise hindrance. For the lower layer a choice
12 between mastic asphalt (MA), or guss asphalt (GA), can be made (3). There are two layers of
13 membrane layers are needed to bond the two structure layers together. Earlier investigations have
14 shown that the bonding strength of membrane layers to the surrounding materials has a strong
15 influence on the structural response of OSDB. The most important requirement for the application of
16 membrane materials is that the membrane adhesive layer shall be able to provide sufficient bond to
17 the surrounding materials.

18 In the last three decades, several problems were reported in relation to asphaltic surfacing
19 materials on OSDB such as rutting, cracking, loss of bond between the surfacing material and the
20 steel plate. Better understanding of the response of the multilayer surfacings as well as **fine** modeling
21 of their behavior are required in order to improve the current design method so as to prolong the
22 service life of the surfacings on OSDB.

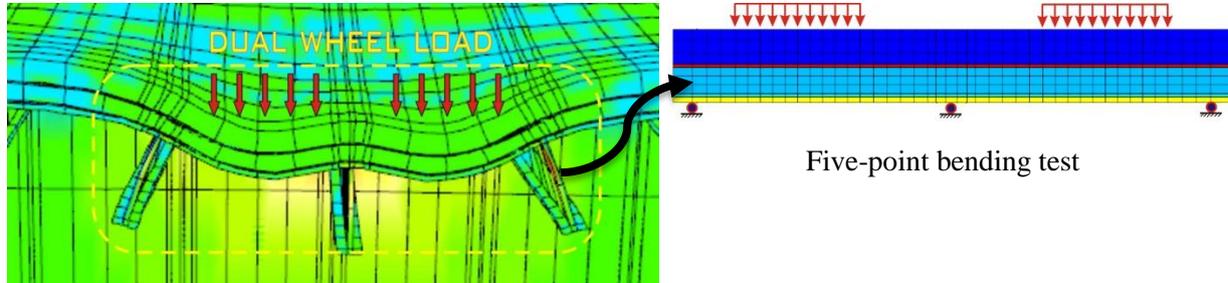
23 The five-point bending test (5PBT) was developed in France by the Laboratoire Central des
24 Ponts et Chaussées (LCPC) in the 1970's (4). This is a capable test that is essential for the design of
25 the asphalt layers on bridge decks because of its reliable testing results are consistent with in situ
26 observations on real steel decks.

27 In this paper, finite element (FE) simulations of 5PBT with two membrane layers surfacing
28 system are presented. The finite element system CAPA-3D (5) developed at the Section of Structural
29 Mechanics of TU Delft has been utilized as the numerical platform for this study. The goal of this
30 study is to develop efficient numerical and analytical techniques for optimization of the multilayer
31 system composed of asphaltic mixes, top and bottom membranes as well as the interfaces with proper
32 mechanical properties. The influences of two asphaltic surfacing materials, two membranes and four
33 interface layers are quantified systematically. The non-linear material models and the material
34 properties are derived and utilized to characterize the mechanical behavior of the asphaltic surfacing
35 materials. In the end to come up with a guidance for engineers who are involved with deck-pavement
36 designs.

37

38 **COMPARABILITY BETWEEN 5PBT AND ORTHOTROPIC STEEL BRIDGE**

39 When a dual wheel load is applied onto a steel deck surfacing, a typical deformation could be
 40 obtained as shown in Figure 1 left. Transversal tensile deformations are observed at upper locations in
 41 middle of the dual wheel load as well as the lower parts of those surfacing layers under the wheel load.
 42 The three stiffeners could be regarded as exactly the three supporters in 5PBT.

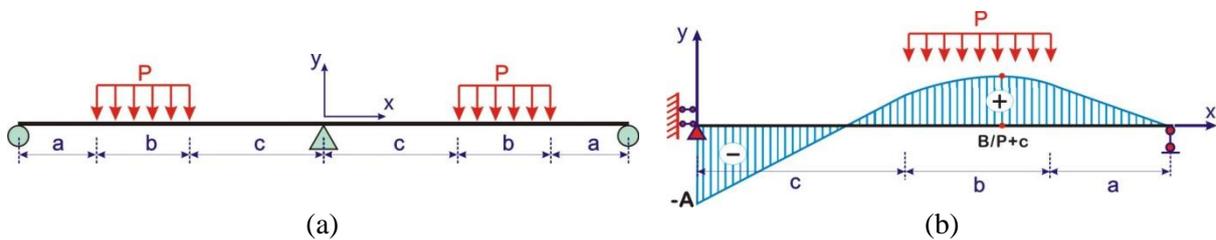


43 **FIGURE 1 Schematic show of a dual wheel load on OSDB and 5PBT**

44 The 5PBT is a laboratory scale test that allows studying the fatigue resistance of surfacing
 45 layers on OSDB. Hameau et al. (1981) report the most severe load case for surfacing layers of OSDB
 46 is when they are subjected to negative moments. During the 5PBT tests, high stress concentration at
 47 the location in the middle of the test specimen is produced. The 5PBT has become a French standard
 48 test method (NF-P98-286, 2006) and has been used in several studies (6)(7)(8).

49 **ANALYTICAL SOLUTION OF 5PBT**

50 In this section, the deduction of analytical solution for 5PBT setup is presented. The mechanical
 51 model used for carrying out the analytical study is a two-span continuous beam, Figure 2 (a).



52 **FIGURE 2 (a) Beam model of 5PBT for analytical study; (b) Half of the model due to symmetry**

53 Figure 2(a) shows the beam-model where x, y are the axes in the direction of the length and
 54 thickness respectively. The two-span beam is symmetric by the middle support, with each span length
 55 a+b+c. The two distribution loads have a length of b. The loading area has a distance a from the
 56 beam end and a distance c to the middle support. Because of symmetry, half of the two-span
 57 continuous beam is plotted in Figure 2(b).

58 This is a statically indeterminate structure. By using force method, the moment distribution
 function along the beam can be expressed by:

$$M = \begin{cases} -A + Bx & 0 \leq x < c \\ -A + Bx - \frac{P(x-c)^2}{2} & c \leq x < b+c \\ C \left(1 - \frac{x}{a+b+c} \right) & b+c \leq x < a+b+c \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

60 in which:

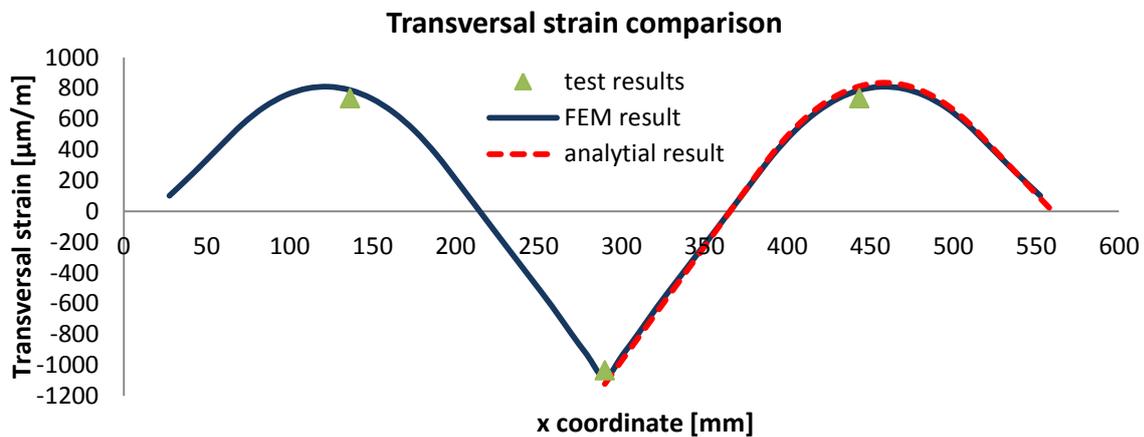
$$A = \frac{Pb(4ba^2 + 8ca^2 + 12abc + 4b^2a + 4c^2a + 2bc^2 + b^3 + 4b^2c)}{8(a+b+c)^2};$$

$$B = \frac{Pb(24ba^2 + 24ca^2 + 36abc + 20b^2a + 12c^2a + 6bc^2 + 5b^3 + 12b^2c + 8a^3)}{8(a+b+c)^3};$$

$$C = \frac{Pb(12abc + 4ab^2 + 12ac^2 + 18bc^2 + 3b^3 + 12b^2c + 8c^3)}{8(a+b+c)^2}.$$

The maximum negative bending moment is located at the center support (x=0); The maximum positive bending moment is located at x=B/P+c. The analytical bending moment distribution is shown in Figure 3. The longitudinal strain (strain x) distribution can be easily computed on the basis of the moment function and section properties of the specimen.

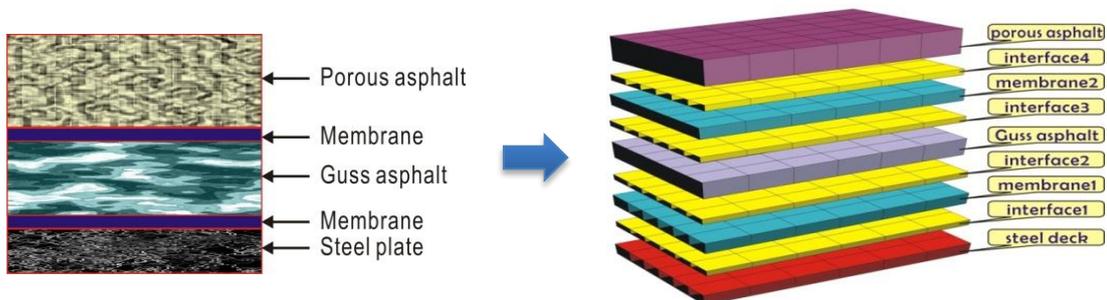
For the 5PBT setup we used in the test, a=45mm, b=130mm and c=95mm, and distribution load P=0.707MPa was applied. In order to verify the analytical solution of Equation (1), a 5PBT test on a steel specimen has been done. Three strain gauges were placed to record the strains in the middle of the specimen and under the two loading feet respectively. Besides, FE simulation for this 5PBT on the steel specimen with elastic modulus E=210GPa and Poisson's ratio 0.2 was also done by CAPA-3D. The transversal strains along x axis direction obtained from those three methods show the great agreement, see Figure 3.



75
76 **FIGURE 3 Verification of analytical solution of 5PBT**

77 **FINITE ELEMENT SIMULATIONS OF 5PBT**

78 Finite element simulations were performed by CAPA3D FE package that was developed at the
79 Section of Structural Mechanics of TU Delft.



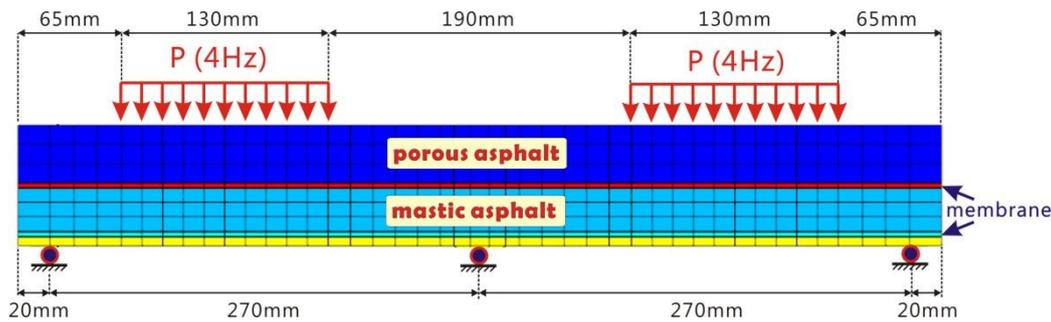
80 **FIGURE 4 Schematic diagram of the FE surfacing layers**

81 Three-dimensional finite elements are used in building the model of 5PBT. The porous
82 asphalt(PA) layer, guss asphalt(GA) layer, top membrane(TM) layer, bottom membrane(BM) layer
83 and the steel deck plate were modelled by using 20-nodes brick (solid) elements, Figure 4. A new
84 contact interface element based on the previous work by X. Liu and A. Scarpas (9) was used to

85 describe the four interface layers between those surfacing layers. A cohesive traction-separation law is
 86 utilized in the contact element.

87 **Geometry and boundary conditions of 5PBT mesh**

88 The geometry of 5PBT is shown in Figure 5. The specimen is 580 mm in length and 100 mm in width.
 89 The thicknesses of PA, GA, TM, BM and the steel deck are adjustable to test their effects on the
 90 mechanical response of the specimen. Two side supports locate at the distance 270 mm from the
 91 central support. Total 1677 elements is utilized for the simulation. Two loading shoes with each
 92 dimensions 130×100 mm locate 65 mm from the ends of the specimen. The pressure load applied on
 93 each shoe was 0.707MPa. This load pressure corresponds with 9.2 kN on each shoe (0.707MPa x
 94 130mm x 100mm), which means a total of 18.4kN. If the same pressure load of 0.707MPa is applied
 95 on a wheel print type B (double tyre 220mm by 320mm), it corresponds with 100kN wheel load
 96 which is typical truck load utilized in the Netherlands.



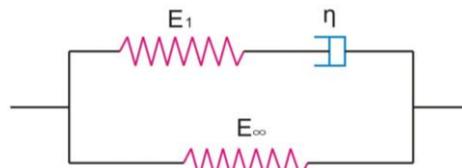
97
 98 **FIGURE 5 Geometry and boundary conditions of 5PBT FE model**

99 **Material models and parameters of the surfacing materials**

100 *Asphaltic materials*

101 As shown in Figure 4, in the Netherlands, the surfacing structure for OSDB mostly consists of two
 102 structural layers. The upper layer consists of porous asphalt (PA) and the lower layer consists a choice
 103 between mastic asphalt (MA), or guss asphalt (GA). Two layers of membrane layers are needed to
 104 bond the two structure layers together.
 105 the membranes products are mostly made by bitumen-based materials, thereby the mechanical
 106 responses of the asphalt surfacing layers and the membrane material are time dependent and
 107 temperature sensitive. In order to simulate the surfacing layer response properly, a Visco-Elastic
 108 Zener model is utilized for the finite element studies.

109 The reason of choosing the Visco-Elastic Zener model for this finite element is because its
 110 constitutive relation is simple and the model parameter can be easily determined by the conventional
 111 experimental tests, i.e. creep test or relaxation test. Figure 6 shows the mechanical analog of this
 112 viscoelastic Zener model.



113
 114 **FIGURE 6 Schematic diagram of Zener model**

115 The model consists of two parallel components. One is purely elastic with modulus E_{∞} and the
 116 other is viscoelastic consisting of a spring with modulus E_1 and a damper with viscosity coefficient η
 117 in series.

118 The total stress σ can be decomposed in two components, one is the stress σ_1 in the
 119 viscoelastic component and the other is the stress σ_2 in the elastic component. It can be expressed as
 120 follow

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma &= \sigma_1 + \sigma_2 = E_\infty \varepsilon + E_1 (\varepsilon - \varepsilon_v) \\ E_1 (\varepsilon - \varepsilon_v) &= \eta \dot{\varepsilon}_v \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

122 in which $\varepsilon_v = \varepsilon(t) - \varepsilon(0) \exp\left(-\frac{E_1}{\eta} t\right) - \int_0^t \exp\left(-\frac{E_1}{\eta} (t-\tau)\right) \dot{\varepsilon}(\tau) d\tau$ is the viscous strain of
 123 the material and $\varepsilon(0)$ is the initial strain at time zero.

124 *Interface layers*

125 A contact interface element based on the previous work by X. Liu and A. Scarpas (9) within the FE
 126 package CAPA-3D is utilized to model the cohesive behavior of the membranes and the surrounding
 127 surfacing materials causing into contact.

128 The contact interface element developed is based on the classical 16-noded interface element.
 129 It consists of two opposite faces each with 8 nodes. The thickness of the element in its un-deformed
 130 configuration can be specified to any initial value.

131 A cohesive traction-separation law is utilized to prevent the contact interface to freely
 132 separate as soon as it undergoes tensile forces, see Figure 7(a).

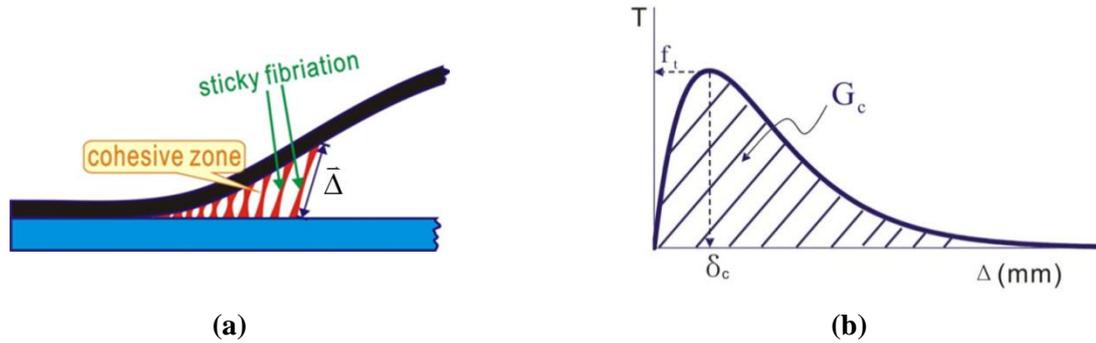


FIGURE 7(a) Schematic of traction separation at contact interface; (b) Schematic traction-separation relation

133 Interfacial fibrillation is a typical mechanism that frequently occurs during debonding of
 134 membranes from substrates, see Figure 7(a). It involves large displacements at the interface as well as
 135 large deformations in the membrane material. Therefore, a generic cohesive zone model is introduced
 136 that is suitable to describe the process of membrane debonding from substrate.

137 The cohesive zone law which is utilized to describe the traction-separation relation of
 138 fibrillation is controlled by one constitutive relation between traction force and the opening
 139 displacement along the fibril axis, Figure 7(a). Under large displacements, it is no longer physical to
 140 discriminate between normal and tangential openings, in the case of membrane debonding from
 141 substrates, such large displacements are bridged by fibrils, which at more or less like non-linear springs
 142 can only transfer a load along their axis.

143 The cohesive law proposed here (10) is defined as:

$$T = \frac{G_c}{\delta_c} \left(\frac{\Delta}{\delta_c} \right) \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta}{\delta_c} \right) \quad (3)$$

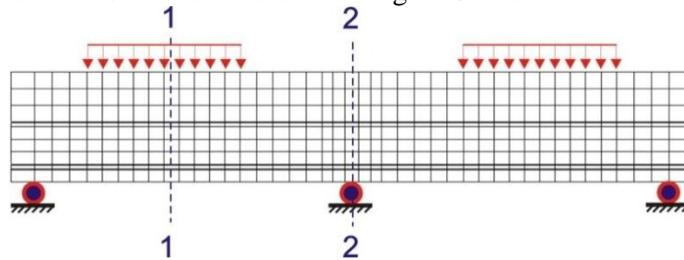
145 where G_c is the strain energy release rate which is characterized as the energy per unit crack length
 146 required for crack/debonding extension. δ_c is a characteristic opening length. The maximum traction
 147 f_t is related to G_c and δ_c , see Figure 7(b).

148 **NUMERICAL PARAMETRIC STUDY**

149 Finite element (FE) analysis is performed to better understand the composite behavior of the
 150 multilayer surfacing system. The coordinate axis x, y and z are in the direction of the length, thickness
 151 and width of the specimen. Five cases are simulated and analyzed in order to identify the sensibilities
 152 of those factors:

- 153 • Thickness and stiffness of porous asphalt layer;
- 154 • Thickness and stiffness of guss asphalt layer;
- 155 • Stiffness of upper and bottom membrane layers;
- 156 • Thickness of steel deck plate,
- 157 • Environmental temperatures of 10 °C and -5 °C.

158 The transversal strain distribution at two cross sections of the structure are outputted and
 159 compared. The two studied sections are shown in Figure 8 below.



160
 161 **FIGURE 8 Two cross sections of the FE mesh where strain & stress are outputted**

162 In this study, the four fully bonded interface layers are utilized, thus not debond occurs in our
 163 finite element simulations. Steel is regarded as a linear elastic material with Young’s modulus 210000
 164 MPa and the Poisson’s ratio 0.2. Asphalt surfacing materials are assumed to be viscoelastic. Model
 165 parameters at 10 and -5 degrees were determined by relaxation tests and were validated by five-point
 166 bending tests (Table 1). Details of determination of those parameters are beyond the scope of this
 167 paper.

168 **TABLE 1 Parameters of VE materials**

temperature(° C)	material layer	E_1 (MPa)	E_∞ (MPa)	Poisson’s ratio	η (MPa.s)
10	Porous asphalt	200	1	0.3	15750
	Guss asphalt	450	3	0.3	15750
	Upper/bottom membrane	9.18	5.9	0.3	267
-5	Porous asphalt	2000	10	0.3	22500
	Guss asphalt	4500	30	0.3	22500
	Upper/bottom membrane	46	30	0.3	384

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171 **Effect of the thicknesses of porous asphalt**

172 A group of simulations are done by varying the thickness of PA layer from 30 mm to 70 mm. The
 173 longitudinal strain (strain xx) at sections 1-1 and 2-2 (Figure 8) are shown in Figure 9.

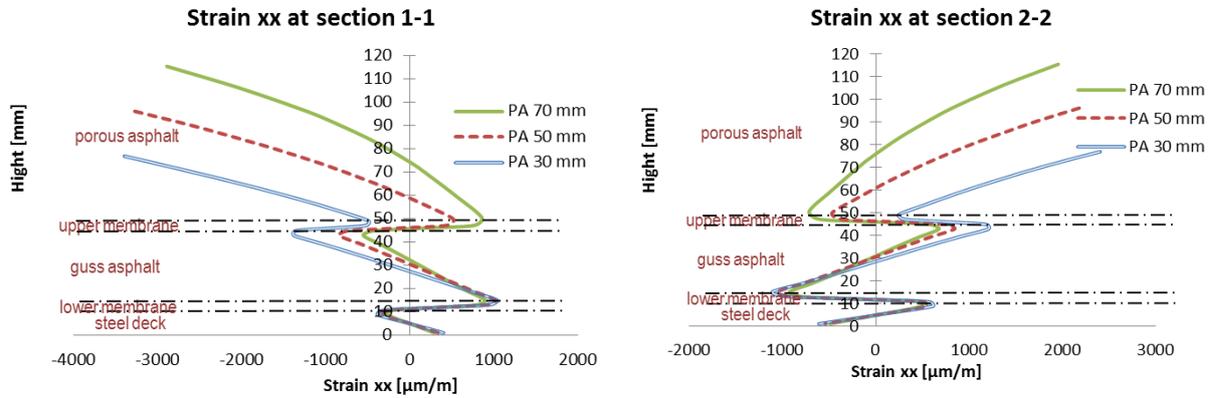


FIGURE 9 Transversal strain at section 1-1 & 2-2 (PA thickness varies)

174 The following observations are made with respect to the results shown in Figure 9.

- 175 • The distribution of the longitudinal strain ϵ_{xx} follows more or less the same pattern in the
 176 5PBT with three different thicknesses of PA. By varying the thickness of the PA layer, the
 177 strain distributions both in PA and GA are effected. However less effects can be observed in
 178 the steel deck plate by this variance.
- 179 • Maximum tensile strains in the two structural layers (PA & GA) are reduced by an increasing
 180 thickness of PA.

181 Figure 10 shows the maximum tensile strain above the middle support on the top of PA
 182 versus the PA thickness variation. It can be observed that a 10 mm thicker porous asphalt layer may
 183 reduce the maximum tensile strain on top of PA layer by 5%. This maximum tensile strains always
 184 capture the attention of engineers since most of the cracks occurs in OSDB are relevant with those.

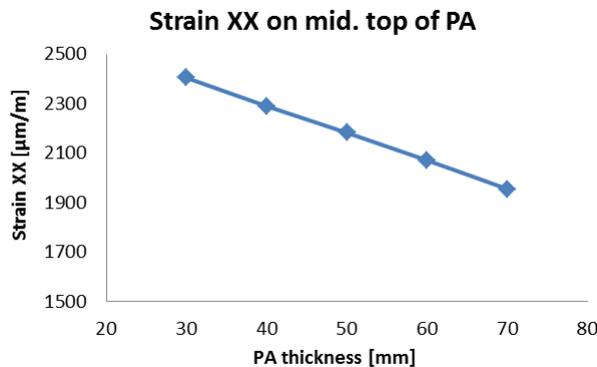


FIGURE 10 Maximum transversal tensile strain on top of PA (PA thickness varies)

185 **Effect of the thickness of guss asphalt layer**

186 Similar simulations are done by varying the thickness of GA layer from 20 mm to 60 mm. The
 187 longitudinal strain (strain xx) at the two studied sections (Figure 8) are shown in Figure 11.

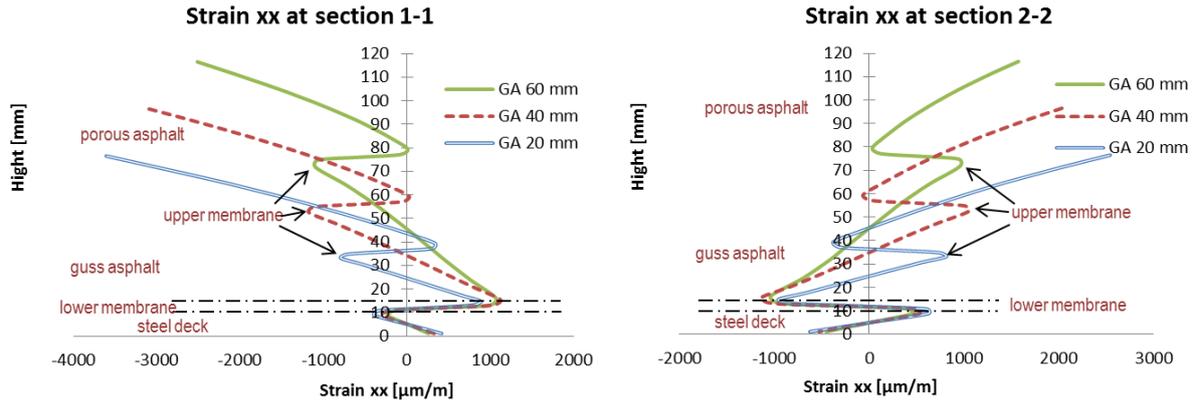


FIGURE 11 Longitudinal strain at section 1-1 & 2-2 (GA thickness varies)

From Figure 11 the following remarks can be made:

- The distribution of the longitudinal strain ϵ_{xx} follows more or less the same pattern in the 5PBT simulations with three different thicknesses of GA. Similar as the previous PA case, by varying the thickness of the GA layer, the strain distributions both in PA and GA are effected. However less effects can be observed in the steel deck plate by this variance.
- Both maximum tensile and compressive strains in GA layer are more or less the same. While the maximum tensile strain in PA layer is reduced significantly by increasing the GA thickness.

Figure 12 shows the maximum tensile strain above the middle support on the top of PA versus the GA thickness variation. It is observed that a 10 mm thicker GA layer may reduce the maximum tensile strain on top of PA layer by 11%.

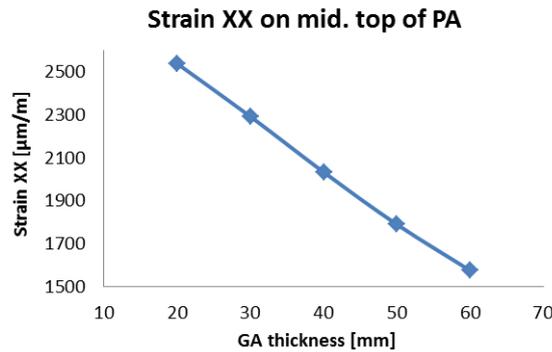
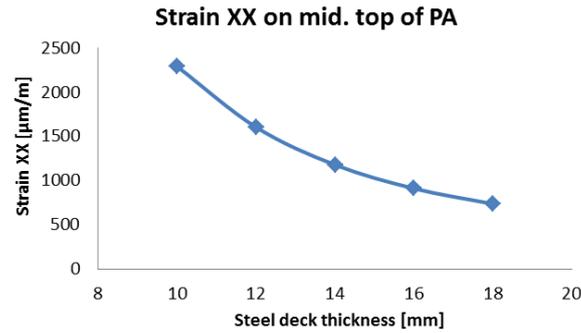


FIGURE 12 Maximum tensile strain on top of PA (GA thickness varies)

Effect of the thickness of steel deck

Five cases with steel deck thickness set to be 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 mm are simulated. Increasing the thickness of a steel deck layer can also reduce the maximum tensile strain effectively. It is observed that 2 mm thicker steel deck layer can reduce the maximum tensile strain on top of PA layer by 25% is drawn, Figure 13.



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FIGURE 13 Maximum tensile strain on top of PA (steel deck thickness varies)

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Effect of the Stiffness of upper and bottom membrane layers

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Relaxation tests have been used to determine the Zener model parameter to simulate the Visco-Elastic response of the membrane layer. The model parameters are listed Table 1. The parameters at 10C° are regarded as standard set of parameters for both top and bottom membranes. Simulations that the set of membrane parameters are magnified as 3 and 5 times larger are done for comparison.

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The stiffness of the two membrane layers plays a quite important role in combining different surfacing material layers together as a whole. Assume that the stiffness of membranes is comparable with PA or GA layers, and those layers are properly bonded together, the multilayer surfacing structure could be regarded as a composite beam. While when the membranes layers are quite soft or the bond condition is too week, all those material layers would behave separately. This phenomena could be testified by the strain distributions at section 1-1 and 2-2, Figure 14.

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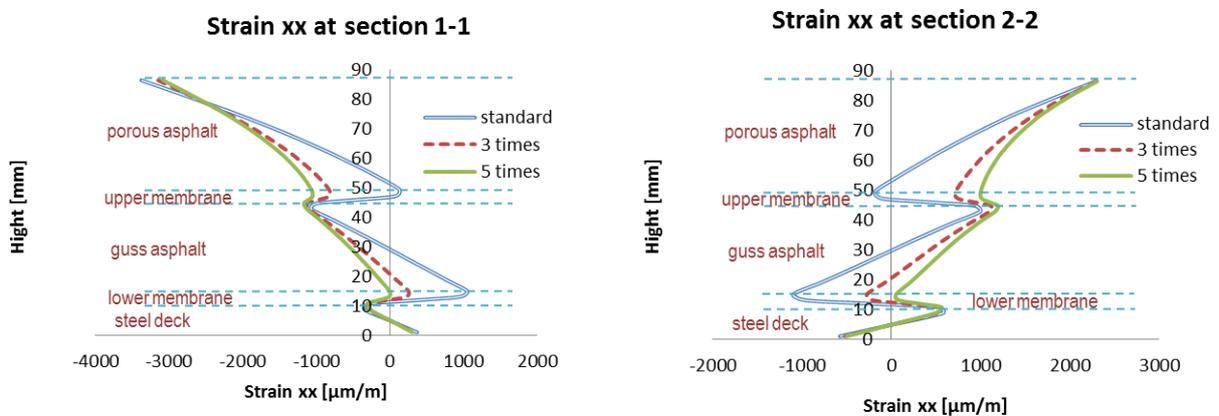


FIGURE 14 Transversal strain at section 1-1 & 2-2 (membrane stiffness varies)

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Basic on the results shown in Figure 14, the following remarks can be made.

221

- Stiffer membranes allow better composite behavior of the surfacing structure. The higher stiffness of the membranes (closer to the stiffness of PA or GA) is, the closer mechanical behavior to the linear elastic theory could be obtained.
- There are less effects on the tensile strain on the top of PA layer when the stiffness of membranes are increased.

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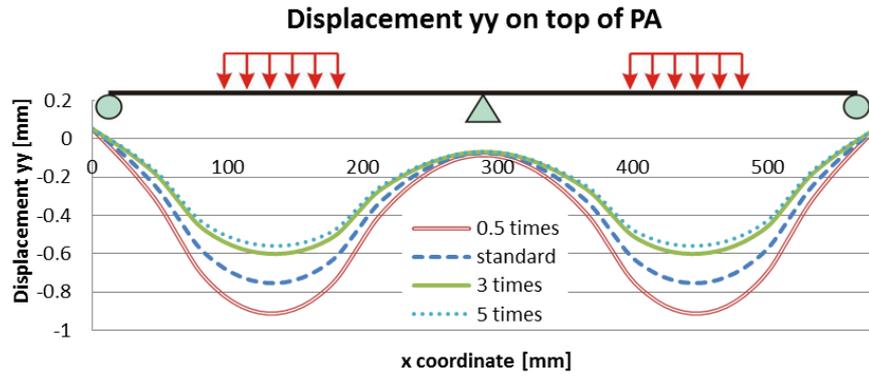
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Figure 15 shows the deflection curves on top of porous asphalt layer. The sensibility of membrane stiffness to the whole surfacing structure is quite significant at low stiffness values and becomes less sensitive when the stiffness comes to a considerable high level.

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FIGURE 15 Vertical deformation on top of PA (membrane stiffness varies)

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Effect of environmental temperatures

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Basic on the model parameters at 10 and -5 °C (Table 1), simulations are done and the FEM results are compared together with the tests data, see Figure 16.

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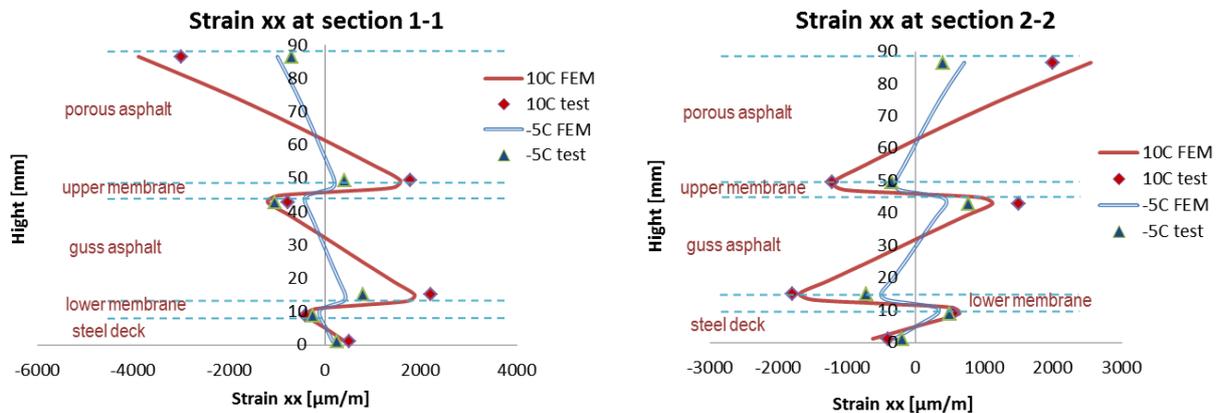


FIGURE 16 Transversal strain at section 1-1& 2-2 (10 °C and -5 °C)

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It can be observed that the FEM results have good agreement with the experimental results. The response of the surfacing structure differs significantly at different temperatures due to the temperature sensitivity of asphaltic materials. The lower the environmental temperature is, the stiffer the surfacing structure will be.

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CONCLUSIONS

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The main findings from the results presented in this paper are summarized as follows.

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- The five-point bending test offers a good tool in studying the composite behavior of the multilayer surfacing system on OSDB;
- The analytical solution is useful in understanding the numerical results. Furthermore, it provides a guild tool for experiment test design;
- A thicker steel plate can significantly reduce the maximum tensile strain as well as the deflection of the structure;
- The thickness of PA layer can influence the maximum tensile strain and deflection of the structure. Compared with the influences of PA, the thickness variation of GA is more effective;
- Stiffer membranes used in the multilayer surfacing system will result in a lower structure deflection and influence the transversal strain distribution in PA and GA layers , However it has less influence on the maximum tensile strain on the top of PA layer.

- 252 • A stiffer membrane results in higher strain and stress inside membrane material itself, which
253 may cause its failure. Special attention should be paid to the strength of membrane materials.
254

255 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

256 This work is part of the research program of InfraQuest. InfraQuest is a collaboration between
257 Rijkswaterstaat, TNO and the Delft University of Technology. This research project is partially funded
258 by the Dutch Transport Research Centre (DVS) of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water
259 Management (RWS). Their financial support is highly appreciated.

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