

# The Analysis Of Structure Bituminous Knitting, Modified By A Rubber Crumb

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Abstract-Poor quality of road asphalt (insufficient for the Russian conditions fracture toughness, elasticity, adhesion) - is one of the main causes of premature failure of asphalt road surfaces. Polymers, which allow changing one or several properties such as sensitivity to temperature change, cohesion, elasticity are introduced into asphalt cement composition to modify it. For the purpose of upgrading of bitumen polymers modifiers which physical and chemically interact with bitumen components are entered into them, allowing to reach high operational rates of a roadbed. The main shortcoming modified knitting is high cost. Use of comminuted rubber from waste automobile tires allows to reduce considerably cost without loss of service performance of material. Laboratory researches were made on the basis of the theory of scheduling of experiment in the certified road-building laboratory. Process of modification of bitumen is reasonable with use of the theory of pastes. The area of the rational structure modified knitting which application can increase considerably longevity of both career roads, and public roads is certain. Introduction of this material at construction will allow to organize a sales market for producers of comminuted rubber from the processed tires of heavy-load career motor transport.

Keywords: coal tar, comminuted rubber, the modified

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the Russian Federation actively invests in road building. In 2015 the state corporation Avtodor, plans to construct over 12 thousand kilometers in Russia more than 12 thousand kilometers of new high-speed roads, the quality of which should be as close to European standards [1]. The quality question, is actual and for career roads.

The structure-forming component of the asphalt concrete mix is asphalt cement, which largely determines the performance properties of the final product - asphalt concrete. Cement should be chosen depending on the heating temperature of the coating in the most hot (summer) season and the temperature of the coldest days - 0.92 or 0.98. For Kuzbass they are +61°C and -42°C, e.g. the binder plasticity interval should be more than 100°C [2].

In most cases the heavy road petroleum bitumen with an interval of plasticity, usually not exceeding 70°C [3] in accordance with the State Standard 22245-90 [4] is used as a cement.

Polymers, which allow changing one or several properties such as sensitivity to temperature change, cohesion, elasticity are introduced into asphalt cement composition to modify it [5]. Polymer modified asphalt cement have higher plasticity range in comparison with conventional asphalt, which allows to maintain performance characteristics at low and at high temperatures. From 2009 to 2012 the consumption of polymer modified asphalt cement in Russia increased by 5.6 times, but still it is much lower than in other countries. Applying polymer modified asphalt cement provides increased overhaul life of road coatings from 3-4 to 7-10 years, significantly increasing its fracture toughness, heat resistance, shear resistance, water resistance and frost resistance that allows to fully recoup the construction cost over several years of operation [6].

In world practice, the following groups of polymer modified asphalt cement are used [7]:

- 1) asphalt plus styrene-butadiene-styrene;
- 2) rubber modified road asphalt cement;
- 3) asphalt plus ethylene vinyl acetate;
- 4) asphalt plus latex;
- 5) asphalt plus polyolefin (synthetic rubber);
- 6) asphalt plus sulfur;
- 7) asphalt plus coal tar/epoxy resin.

In this work modification of bitumen with use of comminuted rubber as it is more perspective for the following reasons was investigated: 1) the problem of utilization of waste automobile tires which is already solved in the majority of the developed countries of the world is in Russia only at an early stage of development. [8]; 2) the cost of the rubber asphalt, made with recovery of the rubber industry, below than when using other modified bituminous knitting.

Preparation of asphalt concrete mixtures using rubber crumb can be carried out in two ways: dry and wet [9]. The dry method involves the addition of crumb rubber in the mixing tank; the wet one is based on the preliminary introduction of crumb into the asphalt and preparation of rubber modified asphalt cement [10]. The experience of using rubber crumb abroad indicates that the performance properties of coatings which are laid using "dry" method showed unsatisfactory results in most cases. The coatings, tripled from asphalt concrete mixtures, in which the rubber modifier is introduced by the "wet" method, were more resistant to rutting and had longer life. In this regard, in the United States in 1994, the introduction of rubber crumb in asphalt mix by "dry"

method was abandoned [11]. The use of the "wet" method forms a bond between the rubber crumb and the asphalt forming a heterogeneous spatial structure, at the expense of that the material has the degree of elasticity that is sufficient for the most operational purposes [12]. Such structure can retain a large number of fine fillers without significant segregation [13].

The main disadvantage of producing rubber modified asphalt cement is the complexity of its rational composition choice selection and the development of its effective preparation technology.

The rational ratio of the components of rubber modified asphalt cement as well as temperature-time modes of its preparation will vary considerably depending on the type of the asphalt used, the chemical structure and the rubber fraction [14]. For these reasons, a

simple learning from foreign colleagues and using their rubber modified asphalt cement "recipes" is not possible.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

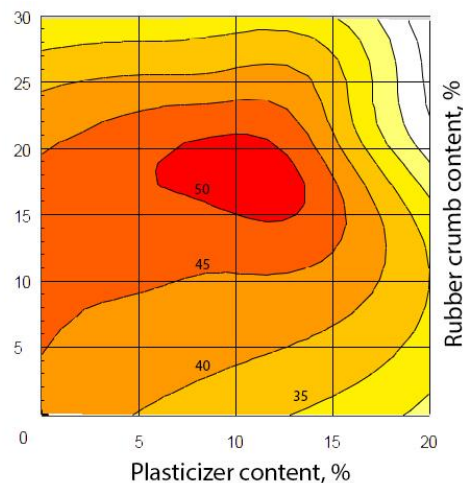
As part of the study the technology for rubber modified asphalt cement preparation leading to effective rubber crumb interaction with asphalt has been developed. The heavy road petroleum bitumen and the crumb rubber from used automobile tires manufactured in Russia were used as the raw materials.

Reliability of the drawn conclusions is confirmed by results of an assessment of the RBV physical and chemical properties.

In table 1 and drawing 1 reduced ring-and-ball softening temperature, in table 2 and figure 2 – depth of needle penetration at 25°C.

**Tab. (1).** - The table showing the changes of ring-and-ball softening temperature related to the plasticizer and rubber crumb content

Rubber crumb content, %	Plasticizer content, %			
	0	5	10	15
0	43	40	37	34
5	45	43	41	39
10	46	46	45	43
15	47	48	50	46
20	45	48	53	42
25	38	41	41	37

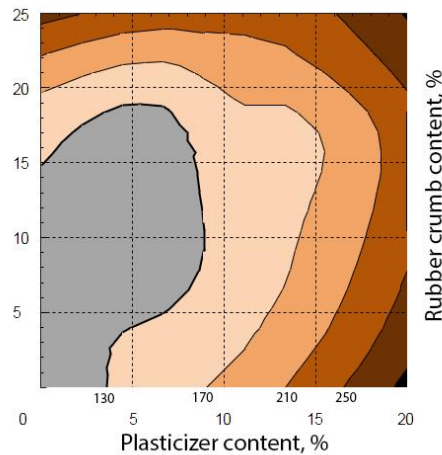


**Fig. (1).** - The graph showing the changes of ring-and-ball softening temperature related to the plasticizer and rubber crumb content

**Tab. (2).** - The table showing the changes of the depth of needle penetration at 25°C related to the plasticizer and rubber crumb content

Rubber crumb content, %	Plasticizer content, %			
	0	5	10	15
0	90	145	177	230
5	110	110	150	216
10	120	113	138	182
15	130	115	140	168

20	175	157	172	198
25	220	220	230	240

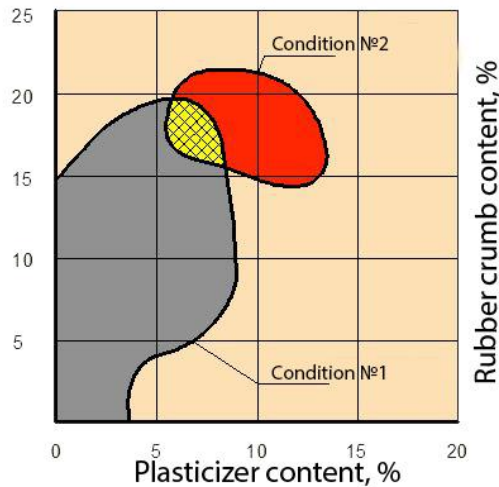


**Fig. (2).** - The graph showing the changes of the depth of needle penetration at 25°C related to the plasticizer and rubber crumb content

### 3. RESULTS

The analysis of the presented data shows (fig. 3) that softening point on a ring-and-ball has a maximum at the content of softener in the range of 10 +/-5% and the

content of comminuted rubber 20 +/-5 of %. Thus the increase in a penetration of in comparison with initial bitumen on 25-190 shares of mm is observed.



**Fig. (3).** - Discovery of the region fulfilling conditions 1 и 2

High performance of rubber modified asphalt cement is obtained through the use of the "wet" method - the structuring of the system "rubber crumb-plasticizer-asphalt" [15]. The developed technology allows obtaining a stable paste. It is known that a paste - is highly concentrated suspension having the structure. The structure of pastes - is a spatial network formed by the particles of the dispersed phase (rubber crumb), in the loop of which there is the dispersion medium (oil asphalt). We can say that a paste occupies an intermediate position between a powder and a dilute suspension [16]. Since a paste is a structured system, its structural and mechanical properties, which are characterized by parameters such as viscosity,

elasticity, plasticity are its determinants. Pastes have a coagulation structure, so their technological properties are mainly determined by the mechanical properties of interparticle liquid layers [17, 18]. Attractive forces between the particles, depending on the distance between them (the thickness of the layers) and conditioned by Vander Waals and hydrogen bonds are acted through these layers. Moreover, the strength of the contact can be reduced there repulsive forces between the particles, providing aggregate stability of the suspension; that's why the structures in the aggregate stable suspensions are not formed or, if formed, are very fragile.

The oil asphalt absorption occurs on the surface of the rubber crumb, therefore the plasticizer may react only with the free centers of the rubber crumb surface [19]. In this case, the interaction between the molecules of the plasticizer with the rubber surface is hindered to some extent by the asphalt adsorption. Consequently, the binding of the plasticizer to the crumb surface in the presence of the asphalt is reduced. It follows that in the course of the asphalt - the paste in fact - preparation, the incomplete stabilization of the disperse systems by the plasticizer occurs.

If the disperse system stabilization is incomplete the double electric layer and the solvation shell of particles is broken only partially; the aggregation of

particles occurs in certain areas, in the regions of the surface without stability factor, i.e. in places where the oil asphalt is adsorbed [20]. The spatial net is formed, in the loops of which the dispersion medium (oil asphalt) is stored. The formed liquid layer between the particles, although decreasing the structure strength, gives it a certain flexibility and elasticity. The fine particles of rubber crumb are completely stabilized. This is due to the denser layers of the plasticizer on the small particles that causes their repulsion and prevents aggregation [21, 22].

This assumption is supported by the photo of the asphalt cement drop borders shown in Figure 4.

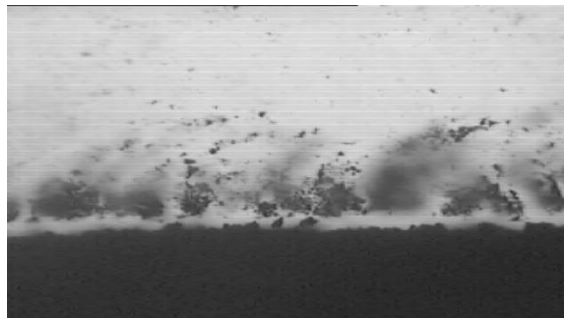


Fig. (4). - The asphalt cement drop border (enlargement in 42 times)

The photograph shows that the larger rubber crumb particles are in the "aggregated interconnection" between them along the surface areas which have no stability factor after the stabilization, forming the micro loops containing the dispersion medium inside asphalt [23]. The smallest rubber crumb particles are not

aggregated and present both inside the micro loops and in a free state and occupy the most "profitable" position. Consequently, we can assume that the rubber modified asphalt cement has the gel-like structure [24].

Therefore, the model of the spatial network of the asphalt cement can be presented as follows (Fig. 5).

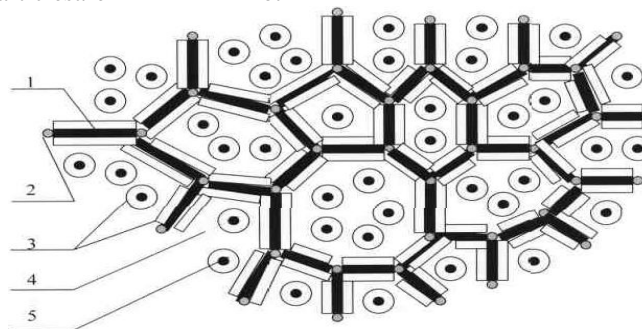


Fig. (5). - The model of the spatial network of the asphalt cement (flat projection): 1 – large rubber crumb particles; 2 – surface areas of the particles with no stability factor; 3 – surface areas of the particles with stability factor; 4 – structure loops filled with the dispersion medium; 5 – small coal particles

#### 4. EXCLUSION

Coagulation structures differ in the distinct dependence of their structural and mechanical properties on the intensity of the mechanical interactions. No mass transfer processes in the structured systems can be started without destroying the previous structure therein. Destruction of spatial structures in the pastes - a complex process characterized by the fact that as the degree of destruction changes considerably and the mechanism of the

structure collapse (e.g. paste overheating - the beginning of the crumb rubber pyrolysis, etc.).

#### 5. CONCLUSION

Thus, the technological properties of the rubber modified asphalt cement are caused by molecular cohesion of the dispersed medium particles with each other at points of their contact, where the thickness of

the dispersion medium layers between them is minimum (lacking stability factor). In the limiting case the complete phase contact is possible. Coagulation interaction of particles causes the formation of the structures with the significant reversible elastic properties; the presence of a thin film at the contact points between the particles [25].

#### CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The author has no conflicts of interest to declare

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