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ABSTRACT

The development of asphalt mixtures with improved electrical and thermal properties is crucial in terms of producing suitable mixtures for the induction heating without losing their durability. The main scope of this research is to evaluate experimentally the impact of filler-sized electrically conductive additives on the induction heating efficiency and the rheological performance of asphalt mixtures. Within this framework, an experimental assessment protocol of structural and non-structural important parameters of induction heated asphalt mastics – asphalt mixtures without stone aggregates and sand – was developed. It was observed that by adding iron powder as filler-sized conductive additive to asphalt mastics the electrical and thermal properties improve. Moreover, the rheological investigations of different conductive asphalt mastics show the importance of adding iron powder after replacing the amount of mineral filler in order to maintain the workability of mastics. The micro-morphological observation of asphalt mastics using scanning electron microscopy illustrates the impact of filler-size particles – minerals and conductive additives – on the skeleton of asphalt mastics.

INTRODUCTION

Today, the rapid growth of the transportation infrastructure around the world and the need to focus more on environmental friendly solutions for the construction and maintenance of pavements is leading the asphalt paving industry to explore novel technological improvements. With the impending European and global regulations on greenhouse gas emissions, fumes and energy conservation, these demands are becoming increasingly challenging (*1-3*). Meanwhile a lot of effort is on developing sustainable asphalt mixtures with non-structural properties by integrating new functionalities without losing their durability. One of these non-structural functionalities is induction healing. Induction healing asphalt mixtures have attracted considerable attention as conductive mixtures capable to restore their mechanical properties under induction energy (*4-10*).

With regard asphalt pavement maintenance, there are various techniques that can be used to restore the mechanical characteristics of mixtures during their lifespan. The induction heating is one of these and a promising technique to prolong the service life of asphalt pavements by speeding up the self-healing process of asphalt. In order to increase the efficiency of induction heating, new mixtures with electrically conductive additives need to be developed. The contribution of these additives is to create asphalt mixtures with improved electrical and thermal properties, suitable for induction heating.

To study the new asphalt mixtures for induction heating, it is important to have in-depth understanding of the interaction between the conductive additives and other asphalt components. Because of the fact that the improved macroscopic response of an asphalt pavement has a direct link with the durability of the bonding components in the asphalt mixtures, much research is focused on the behavior of asphalt mastics (binder and filler-sized particles) and mortars (binder, filler-sized particles and sand). Particularly, the influence of filler-to-binder interaction on mastic performance (*11-12*) and the volumetric concentration of different types of fillers (*13*) are studied at mastic level. On the other hand, asphalt mortars have been studied extensively in (*14-15*).

To develop conductive asphalt mixtures suitable for induction heating, many efforts were concentrated on adding fiber-type conductive particles (e.g. steel fibers or steel wool) in order to improve the durability of mixtures and increase the induction heating efficiency. However, mixtures with steel fibers require a strong mixing effort and longer mixing time to disperse steel fibers uniformly. Especially, the longer steel fibers easily produce clusters inside the asphalt mixtures, causing inhomogeneity and reducing the mechanical response (*9, 10*). Apart from the performance degradation because of the large amounts of fiber-type additives, this type of additives can result significant increase of cost (*17*). For this reason and in order to resolve the problems resulted by the fiber-type particles, conductive asphalt mixtures can be produced by adding filler-sized conductive particles.

The effective properties of asphalt mixtures vary considerably according to the type and the characteristics of filler-sized conductive additives. Higher conductivity of additives results in higher conductivity of the asphalt concrete (*18*). Moreover, the volumetric concentration of particles affects on the effective conductivity of asphalt mixture. Carbon black (*18*) and graphite powder (*4, 18, 19*) are among the examples of filler-sized particles that were used to improve electrical conductivity of asphalt mixture. Also it is known from previous researches that carbon black and graphite powder appear to have excellent compatibility with asphalt binder imparting in parallel easy mixing. However, no extended research has focused on other types of filler-sized conductive additives and subsequently on additives for developing asphalt concrete mixtures for induction heating application.

In this paper, iron powder is selected as filler-sized additive with very high electrical conductivity and its interaction with the conventional components of asphalt mastic is studied. For a certain asphalt binder, asphalt mastics with different volumetric properties are developed and characterized following a new experimental protocol designed for this purpose. Initially, the evaluation of physical properties of mineral fillers and iron powder is required before the development of conductive asphalt mastics. To study in detail

the micro-morphology of different conductive asphalt mastics scanning electron microscopy (SEM) is utilized. As mentioned above, the performance of asphalt mastic is associated with the skeleton of filler particles inside and for this reason the micro-morphology of mastic surface is examined. Furthermore, electrical, thermal and rheological properties of conductive asphalt mastics are determined by using a digital multimeter, a thermal sensor and dynamic shear rheometer (DSR), respectively. The finding of the current research will contribute to understand the influence of filler-sized conductive additives on the mechanical performance of asphalt mastics designed for induction heating applications.

INDUCTION HEATING APPROACH OF CONDUCTIVE ASPHALT MIXTURES

Induction heating is adapted as a maintenance technique for asphalt pavements and requires the development of conductive asphalt mixtures. For this reason, conductive additives are mixed within the mixtures and an alternating magnetic field is applied. This field induces eddy currents in the additives and consequently heats them according to the principles of Joule's law, see Figure 1.c. The generated heat in the additives increases the temperature of the asphalt mixture around them, through the temperature rise the bitumen is melting, the micro-cracks are healed and the pavement is treated. In particular, induction power heats locally the mastic part of asphalt concrete and because of diffusion and flow of bitumen the cracks are healed without damaging the stone skeleton. According to Faraday's law, the electromotive force from the magnetic field is:

$$\varepsilon = -\frac{d\emptyset B}{dt} \quad (1)$$

where ε is the electromotive force, $\frac{d\emptyset}{dt}$ is the momentary angular velocity and B is the magnetic flux.

Based on Joule's first law, the alternating electric currents generate heat in the additives. Consequently, power dissipation occurs locally on the mixture and it is expressed in terms of exposure time t as:

$$Q = I^2 R t \quad (2)$$

where I is the amount of current and R is the effective electrical resistance of the conductive mixture with additives.

The alternating electric current through the conductive mixture with effective resistance R is:

$$I = \frac{\varepsilon}{R} \quad (3)$$

and by substituting the above equation for the current into one or both factors of current in Joule's law, the power dissipated on the asphalt mixture can be rewritten in the equivalent form:

$$Q = \frac{\varepsilon^2}{R} \cdot t \quad (4)$$

The induction heating efficiency depends on the operational parameters, such as frequency, power, and the effective properties of asphalt mixtures. In this paper, as previously mentioned, the induction heating efficiency is investigated of additives on the asphalt mastics under constant operational conditions.

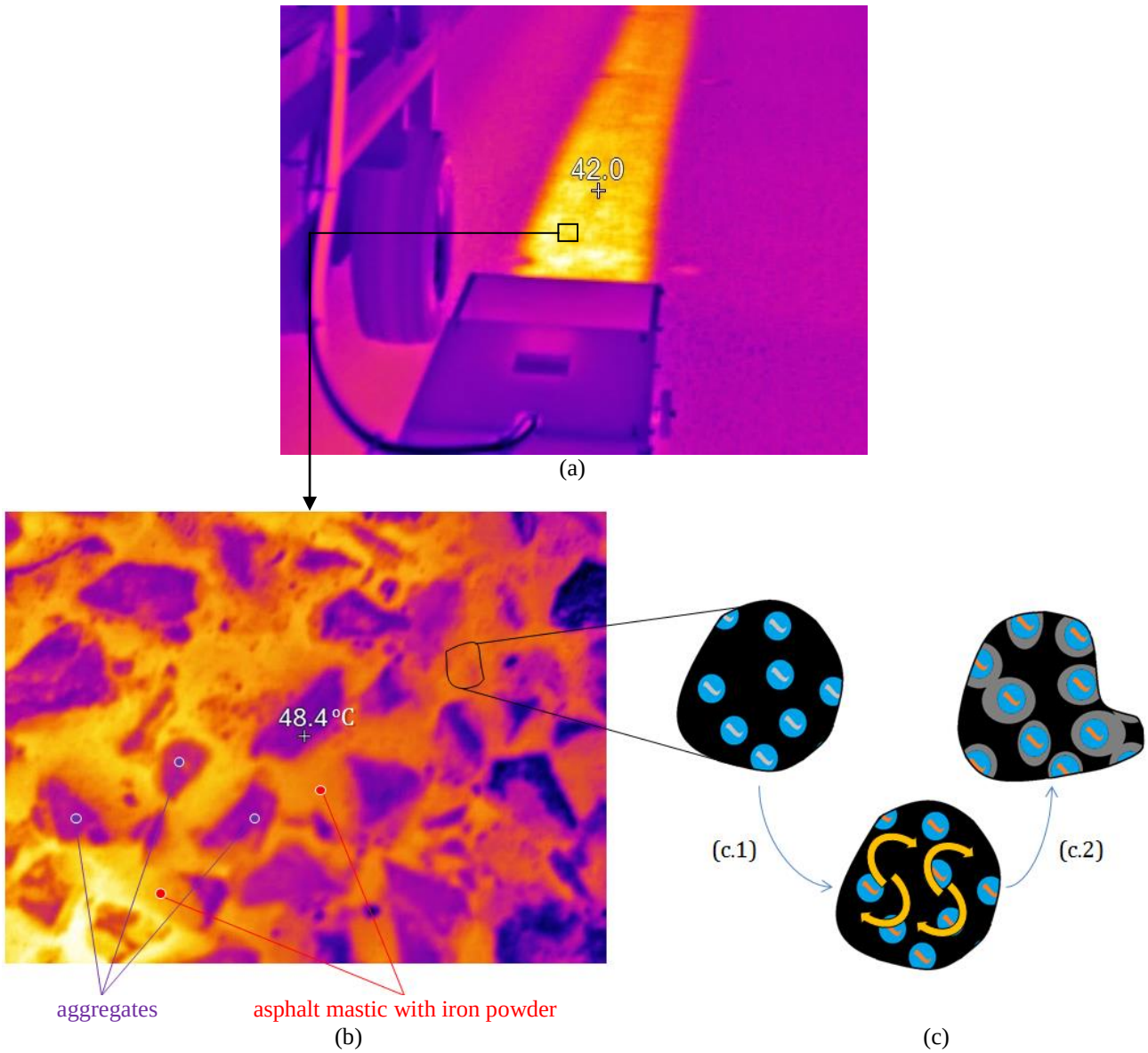


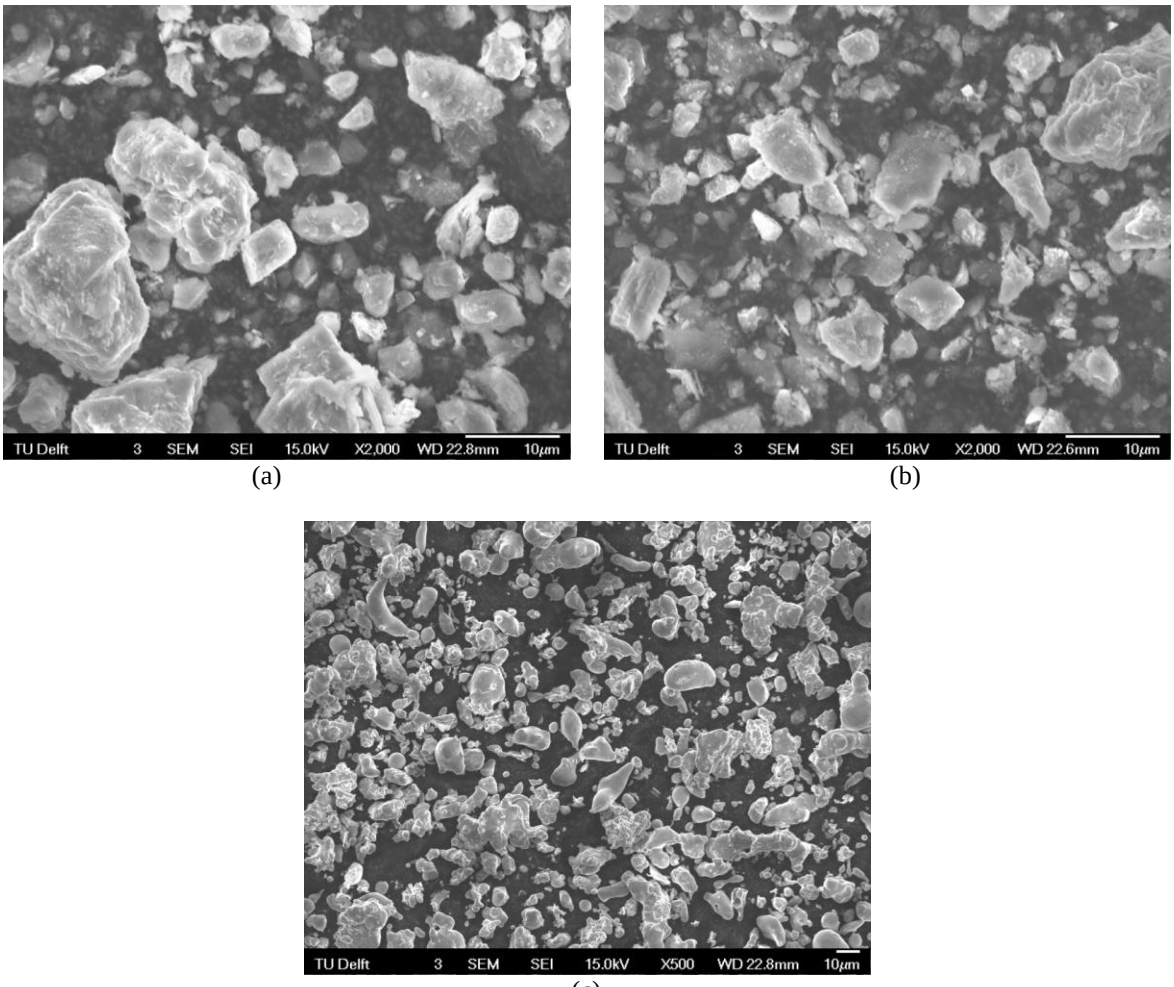
FIGURE 1 Infrared image (a) during induction heating of an asphalt pavement (A58 near Vlissingen, the Netherlands), (b) of heated asphalt pavement surface at high resolution and (c) the schematic of induction heating of an asphalt mixture (c.1) induced by eddy currents and (c.2) heat generation in the mixture based on the Joule's law

MATERIAL AND PREPARATION

Firstly, the selected fillers and filler-sized conductive additive are analyzed. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM), BET (Brunuer, Emmett and Teller theory) and Ultrapycnometer have been utilized in order to determine the shape, specific surface area and density, respectively. Figure 2 shows the SEM images of the

filler-sized particles; weak limestone (WL) filler, produced limestone (PL) filler and iron powder (IP). It can be seen that the angular shape and size of filler limestone – WL and PR – is similar comparing iron powder (IP) where it presents smaller size and smoother shape than mineral fillers. Moreover, the physical properties of filler-sized particles of conductive mastics were determined and given in Table 1.

In order to investigate the impact of iron powder as filler-sized conductive particle within the asphalt mastics, two mastic preparation processes are used. The first one is by adding iron powder with replacing an equivalent volumetric amount of mineral fillers and the other one is without replacing the mineral fillers. It is important to note that the adding order of filler-sized particles, the mixing time and the mixing temperature affect on the well-dispersion of asphalt mastics. In the current research, the mixing process is separated in two stages; (1) adding and mixing filler-sized particles together for 90 sec and (2) adding asphalt binder which is SBS polymer modified and mixing it together with particles for 120 sec. Mixing is carried out at 180 ^{o}C for 180 sec. The compositions of the different conductive asphalt mastics (MA_F()_P()) are given in Table 1. The notation MA indicates mastic, F represents filler, P represents iron powder. The values between brackets indicate the corresponding volume of the components.



(a) (b)

(c)

FIGURE 2 High magnification SEM SEI images of filler-sized particles; (a) WL, (b) PL and (c) IP

TABLE 1 Physical properties of filler-sized particles and composition of conductive asphalt mastics

	Mineral filler (WL)	Mineral filler (PR)	Iron powder (IP)
Specific surface area (m^2/g)	10.2650	1.9765	1.0066
Density (kg/m^3)	2780	2698	7507

Type of Asphalt mastic	Density of Asphalt mastic	Mineral filler WL (% m/m)	Mineral filler PR (% m/m)	Iron powder (% m/m)
MA_F100_P0	1.594	50.40	7.10	0.00
MA_F95_P5	1.646	47.88	6.75	7.79
MA_F90_P10	1.683	45.36	6.39	15.58
MA_F85_P15	1.730	42.84	6.04	23.37
MA_F80_P10	1.844	40.32	5.68	31.16
MA_F75_P25	1.957	37.80	5.33	38.95
MA_F50_P50	2.243	25.20	3.55	77.90
MA_F25_P75	2.455	12.60	1.78	116.85
MA_F0_P100	2.796	0.00	0.00	155.80
MA_F100_P25	2.361	50.40	7.10	38.95
MA_F100_P50	3.006	50.40	7.10	77.90

MA: asphalt mastic, F: mineral filler, P: iron powder, bitumen (% m/m): 42.5

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

SEM Imaging

Micrographs of the conductive asphalt mastics are captured using a scanning electron microscope (SEM). The micrographs are obtained from a JEOL JSMM 6500F using an electron beam energy of 15 keV and beam current of approx. 100 pA. The backscattered electron image mode (BSE) is selected for the images acquisition.

Aluminum cylinders with a height of 18 mm and a diameter of 31 mm are used as sample-substrates for SEM scanning. A thin film of mastic is applied on a glass plate at 140 ^{o}C in order to form a very smooth area at one side after which the sample is stored at room temperature for 24 hours. Then, the sample is gently cut and placed on the aluminum cylinders. The study of micro-morphology of conductive asphalt mastic is performed in the environmental mode.

Electrical and Thermal Properties

After mixing the components, the hot conductive asphalt mastic is poured in a silicon-rubber mould to obtain rectangular samples with dimension 125 × 20 × 25 mm. Electrical resistivity is determined with the two-electrode method at room temperature of 20 ^{o}C. The short ends of specimen are cut by 1mm in order to avoid the problem of binder concentration at the surface and to have better contact with the electrodes. The electrodes are made of copper, placed in the right and left sides of the moulds and with the samples inside the mould the electrical volumetric resistance is measured using a digital Multimeter.

The geometry and the electrical resistivity of the material are the only parameters that influence the resistance. The difference in potential value between the electrodes and their total charge do not play a role for this material property. Therefore, the electrical resistivity is obtained from the second Ohm-law:

$$\rho = \frac{RS}{L} \tag{5}$$

where ρ is the electrical resistivity, measured in Ωmm, L is the internal electrode distance, measured in mm, S is the electrode conductive area measured in mm^2 and R is the measured resistance, in Ω.

Thermal conductivity measurements are performed by using the C-Therm TCi thermal analyzer. The sensor is based on the Modified Transient Plane Source Method to determine the thermal resistivity and effusivity of the conductive asphalt mastic. The specimen has a diameter of 17 mm to cover the entire sensor. The sensor is heated with a small current and its responses are monitored while in contact with the specimen. The thermal resistivity and effusivity of the specimen are measured and obtained directly from the sensor. From the inverse of the resistivity the thermal conductivity is obtained. Using the effusivity concept other thermal properties such as heat capacity and diffusivity can be derived. The effusivity is given by:

$$Effusivity = \sqrt{k \cdot \rho \cdot c_p} \tag{7}$$

where k is the thermal conductivity [W/m·K], ρ is the density [kg/m^3] and c_p is the heat capacity [J/kg·K]. The thermal conductivity is defined from the Fourier law as:

$$q = -k \cdot \frac{dT}{dx} \tag{8}$$

where q is the heat flux (the amount of thermal energy flowing through a unit area per unit time), $\frac{dT}{dx}$ is the temperature gradient and k is the coefficient of thermal conductivity, often called thermal conductivity. The heating, reading and cooling process was repeated 6 times per specimen and the average value was used for the analysis.

Frequency Sweep Test

Dynamic Shear Rheometer (DSR) was utilized to obtain the rheological properties of the conductive asphalt mastic. Frequency sweep tests are carried out over a temperature range from -10 ^{o}C to 60 ^{o}C and the complex modulus and phase angle can be determined. By shifting these mechanical properties to a reference temperature (i.e. 30 ^{o}C), the master curves of the complex modulus and phase angle are built up for all conductive asphalt mastics. Before starting frequency sweep tests, a stress sweep test was conducted in order to identify the material linear viscoelastic range (LVR). The LVR is characterized as the 10% stiffness reduction criterion and was used to filter the linear and non-linear viscoelastic region.

Multiple-Stress Creep Recovery Test

Apart from the frequency sweep analysis, DSR is also used to conduct the Multiple Stress Creep Recovery Test (MSCRT) at high service temperature. This test has been developed by FWHA as result of refinements

in the repeated creep and recovery test and it basically consists of applying subsequent loading-unloading cycles monitoring the accumulated strain levels at each cycle (*20*). The presence of the elastic response of the asphalt mixtures is defined by determining the percentage recovery and non-recoverable compliance. Notably, the non-recoverable creep compliance denotes the rutting resistance or the permanent deformation sensitiveness of asphalt mixture under repeated loading and that can be determined using the MSCR test (*21, 22*).

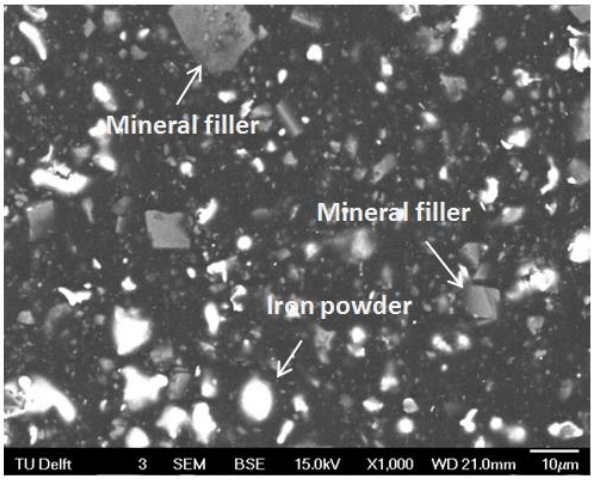
According to AASHTO TP 70-10 standard, the conductive asphalt mastics are loaded at a constant stress for 1 s and then allowed to recover for 9 s. Ten creep and recovery cycles are run at 0.1 kPa creep stress followed by ten more cycles at 3.2 kPa creep stress. The stress and strain are recorded at least every 0.1 seconds for the creep cycle and at least every 0.45 seconds for the recovery cycle during the test. The percent recoveries and the non-recoverable compliance were obtained at the end of each cycle and the average values were used at each loading level.

Here, multiple stress creep and recovery tests were carried out at 64 ^{o}C and the tests were performed with the parallel plate geometry with diameter 25 mm and 1 mm gap. The asphalt mastic samples were allowed to reach constant temperature for 10 minutes (within +/- 0.1 ^{o}C tolerance). Two replicates of each mastic were used for analysis and the rutting potential of each was evaluated at high temperatures. It should be noticed that the test described above is normally done on pure binders, so the results are only for comparison the different mastics under the given loading conditions.

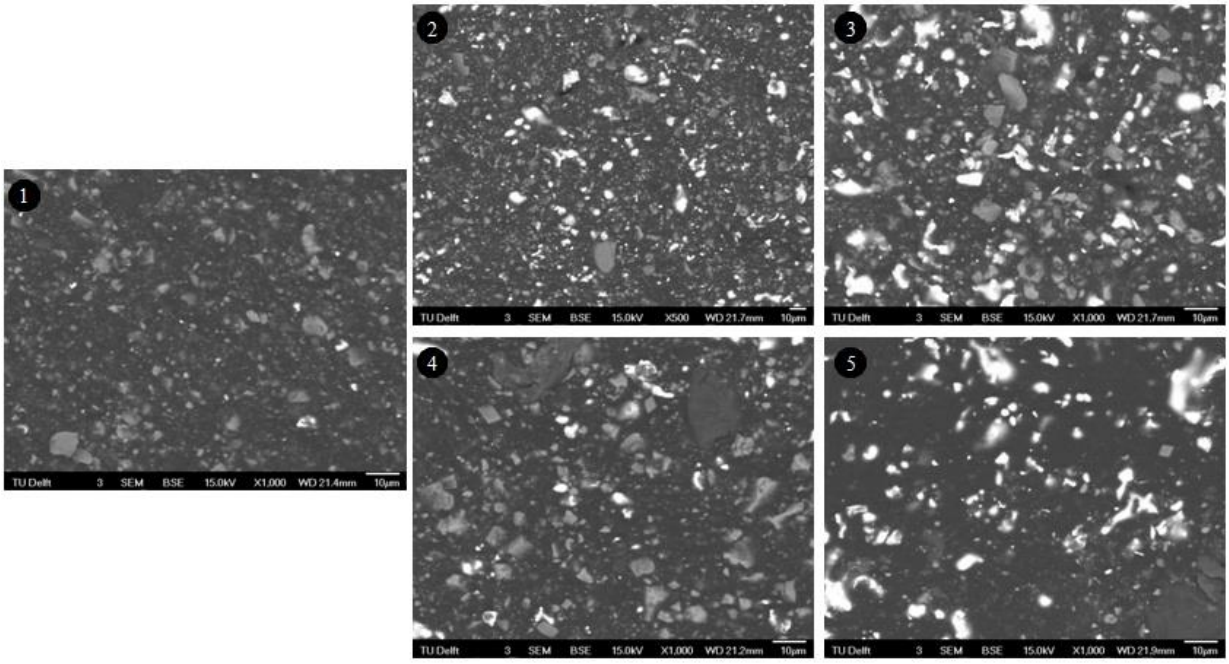
RESULTS

Micro-Morphological Images

The surface micro-morphology of asphalt mastic with iron powder is presented in Figure 3.a. The different conductive asphalt mastics with different amounts of iron powder as described in Table 1 are investigated. The grey particles represent the mineral fillers and the brightest parts of the images are the iron powder. By comparing images 3 and 5 in Figure 3.b, it is obvious that the conductive asphalt mastics without substituting the mineral filler - see image 3 - appear to have a surface morphology with less dark space than asphalt mastics produced with substituting mineral filler with iron powder, see image 5. The spacing among the filler-sized particles is reducing with increasing the amount of iron powder without substituting relative volumetric amount of mineral filler, see images 1 to 3. Qualitative observation of conductive asphalt mastics surfaces with SEM shows that the morphology of asphalt mastics after adding iron powder has a direct link with the volumetric concentration of filler-sized particles – iron powder and mineral fillers. It should be noted that the current micro-morphological results agree with the rheological results of conductive asphalt mastics which will be explained in the Frequency Sweep Test subsection of the current paper.



(a)



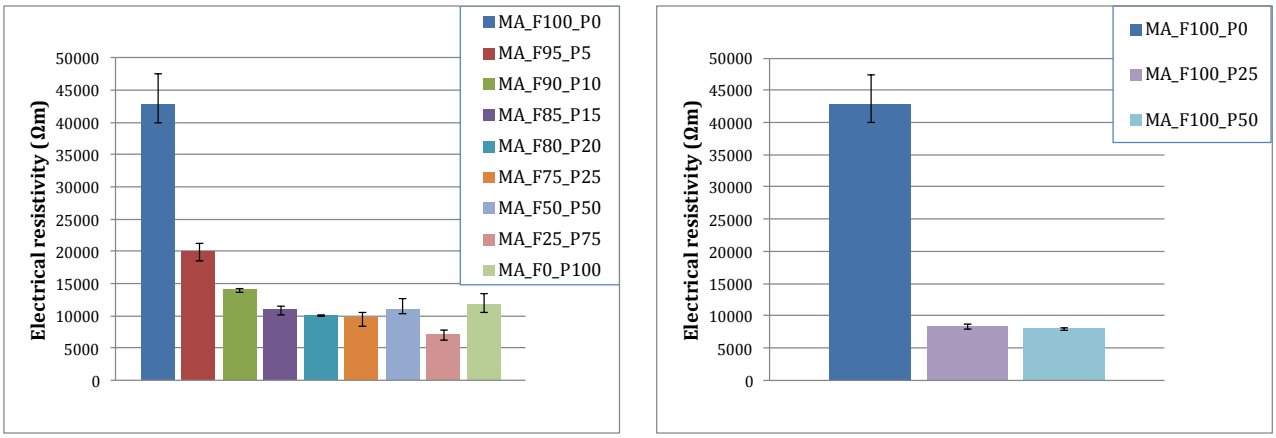
(b)

FIGURE 3 SEM BSE (a) image of a conductive asphalt mastics with iron powder and (b) images of conductive asphalt mastics demonstrating the influence of replacing mineral filler with iron powder on the micro-morphology: (1) MA_F100_P0, (2) MA_F100_P25, (3) MA_F100_P50, (4) MA_F75_P25 and (5) MA_F50_P50

Electrical and Thermal Properties

The electrical resistivity decreases with increasing iron powder content with or without replacing an equivalent proportion of mineral filler, see Figure 4. In Figure 4.a, a reduction of the electrical resistivity is observed when iron powder is mixed proportionally within the asphalt mastic by substituting mineral filler.

Moreover, Figure 4.b shows that the resistivity was also reduced after adding extra iron powder into the asphalt mastic matrix. The reason of this decrease of the electrical resistivity can be explained by the percolation threshold theory. The percolation threshold was reached when the shorter conductive pathways were formed by the higher amount of iron powder in the asphalt mastic. The conductive asphalt mastic MA_F85_P15 represents the mastic at the percolation threshold position and adding more iron powder hardly reduces the electric resistivity further.



(a) (b)

FIGURE 4 Effect of the volume content of iron powder on (a) the electrical resistivity of conductive asphalt mastics after replacing mineral filler with iron powder and (b) the electrical resistivity of conductive asphalt mastics without replacing mineral filler with iron powder

Finally, the conductive asphalt mastics without replacing of mineral fillers with iron powder show a lower electrical resistivity than those developed after replacement, see Figure 5. This observation happens because the filler-sized particles form a highly density skeleton with very short spacing between the particles when extra iron powder is added in the asphalt mastic.

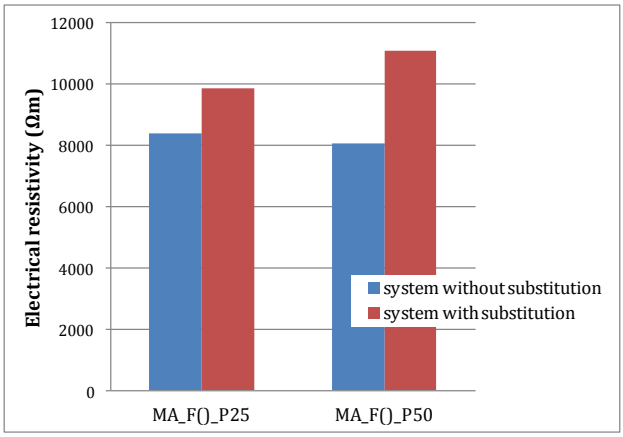


FIGURE 5 Effect of developing conductive asphalt mastics with and without replacing part of mineral filler with iron powder on electrical conductivity

The thermal conductivity and heat capacity of asphalt mastics produced, with and without substituting part of the mineral filler with iron powder, are presented in Figure 6. It was found that the thermal conductivity of asphalt mastic increased after adding iron powder. This increasing tendency can be explained by the thermal properties of iron powder which is added into the asphalt mastic. It is known that the thermal conductivity of iron powder is considerably higher than the conductivity of the other asphalt components. Hence the increase of the amount of iron powder leads to an increase of the effective thermal conductivity of the conductive asphalt mastic. This can be seen in Figure 6.a1&a2 showing that the thermal conductivity of sample MA_F85_P15, which represents the conductive asphalt mastic at the electrical percolation threshold, was 0.56 W/mK is higher than the thermal conductivity of pure asphalt mastic sample MA_F100_P0 which was 0.487 W/mK. On the other hand, Figure 6.b1&b2 demonstrates a reduction of the heat capacity of asphalt mastics when iron powder is added.

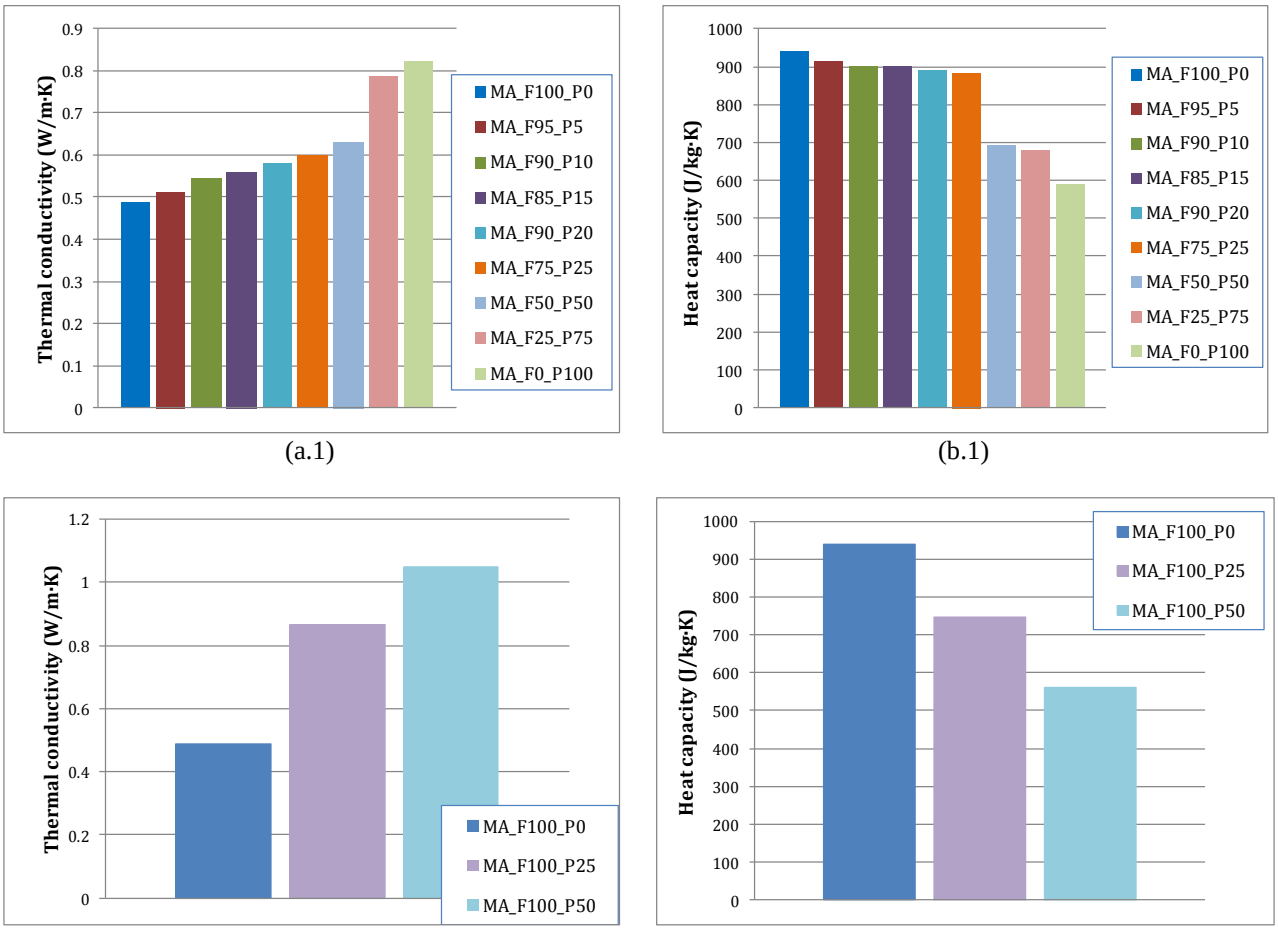


FIGURE 6 Effect of the volume content of filler-size additives on (a.1) the thermal conductivity and (b.1) heat capacity of conductive asphalt mastics after substituting mineral filler with iron powder, (a.2) the thermal conductivity and (b.2) heat capacity of conductive asphalt mastics without substituting mineral filler with iron powder

Finally, the produced conductive asphalt mastics without substitution of mineral filler-sized particles had a higher thermal conductivity and lower heat capacity, see Figure 7. At higher filler-sized particles concentration, the interaction among the particles is increasing within the asphalt mastics. Thus, the spacing among the particles and the coating role of asphalt binder around the particles reduces having as consequence this thermal observation for the conductive asphalt mastics.

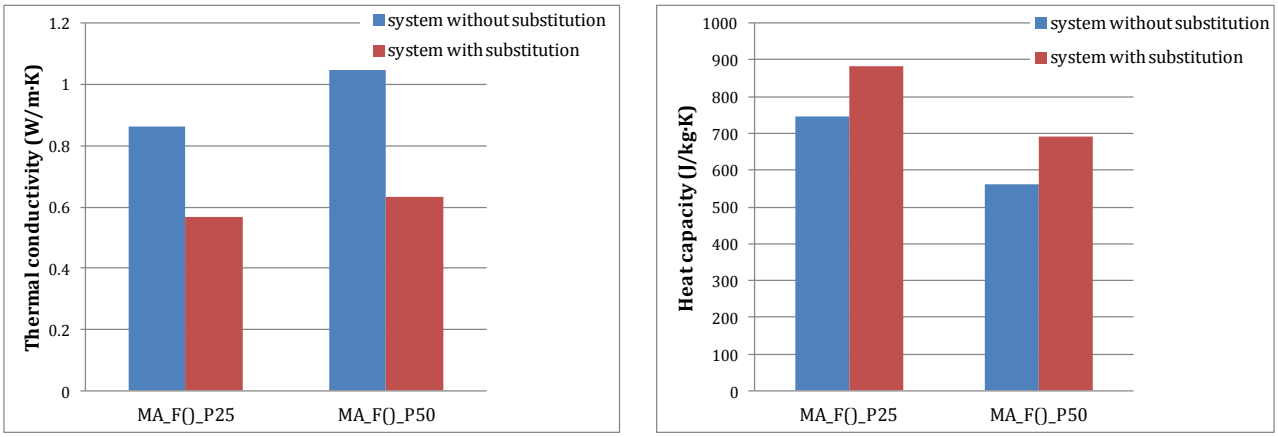
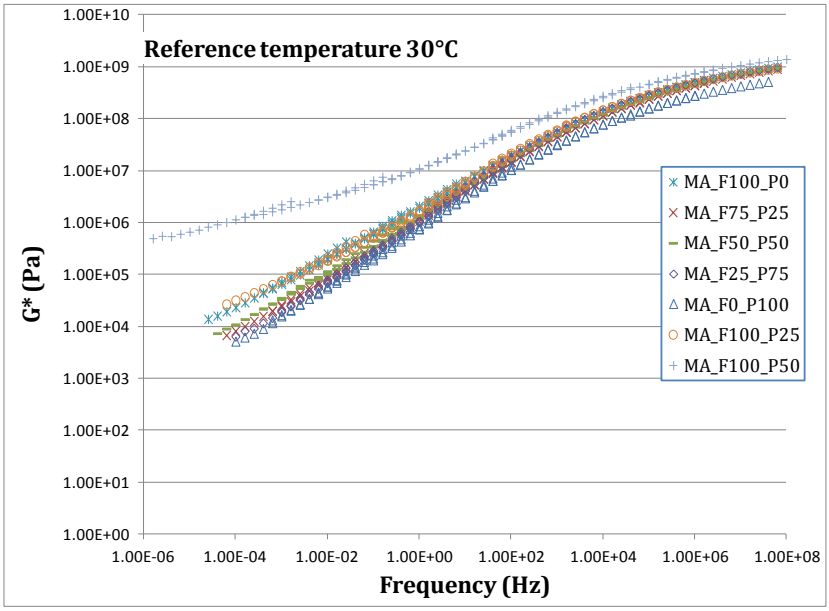


FIGURE 7 Effect of developing conductive asphalt mastics with and without substitution of mineral filler with iron powder on (a) thermal conductivity and (b) heat capacity

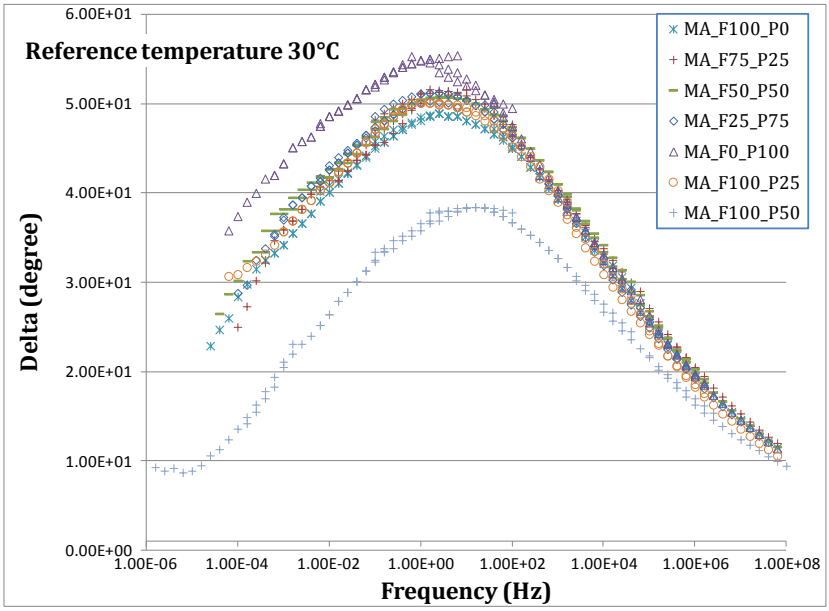
Frequency Sweep Test

Before the frequency sweep tests, the stress sweep test was conducted from -10 ^{o}C to 60 ^{o}C with a shear stress range from 0.01 to 10 Pa and at 1 Hz in order to identify the linear viscoelastic range (LVR). The LVR is characterized as the 10% stiffness reduction criterion and was used to filter the linear and non-linear viscoelastic region. Afterwards, the frequency sweep test was carried out over a temperature range from-10 ^{o}C to 60 ^{o}C. At a reference temperature of 30 ^{o}C, the master curves as given in Figure 8 show the rheological behavior for all the conductive asphalt mastics. The test stress sweep and frequency sweep were run on 8 mm parallel plates with a 2 mm gap for mastics at all the testing temperatures.

It can be observed that the asphalt mastic without adding iron powder is obviously much stiffer than the conductive mastics produced after replacing mineral filler with iron powder. This happens due to the fact that iron powder is spherical and finer particle than the other mineral fillers and is easily rolling under shear stress when is added in the mastic by replacing mineral filler. However, the asphalt mastics appear to have a higher complex modulus and lower phase angle when iron powder is added without replacing the mineral filler. The reducing visco-elastic properties at higher concentrations of filler-sized particles and when particles are added without substitution are linked with the interaction of particle-particle. Increasing the concentration of filler-sized particles leads to lower the spacing among the particles and asphalt mastics with lower viscosity and higher stiffness are obtained. Consequently, the lower workability of mastic during mixing process is resulted.



(a)



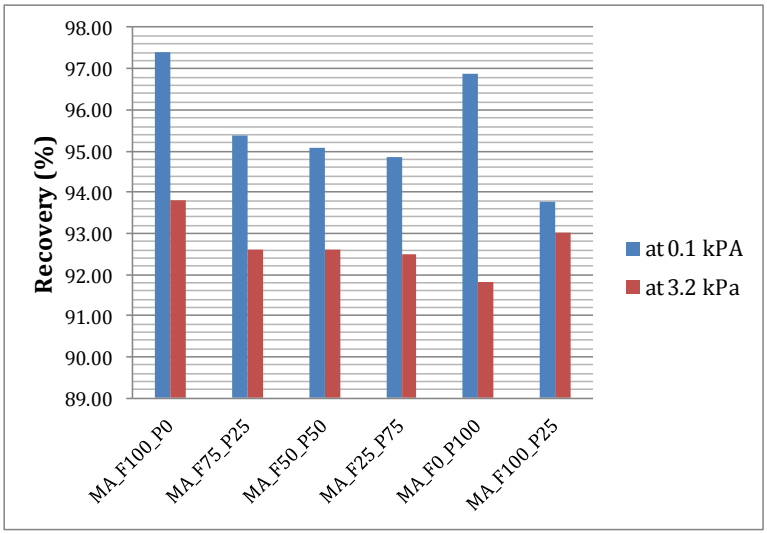
(b)

FIGURE 8 (a) Complex modulus and (b) phase angle master-curves for conductive asphalt mastic produced with and without substitution part of filler with iron powder

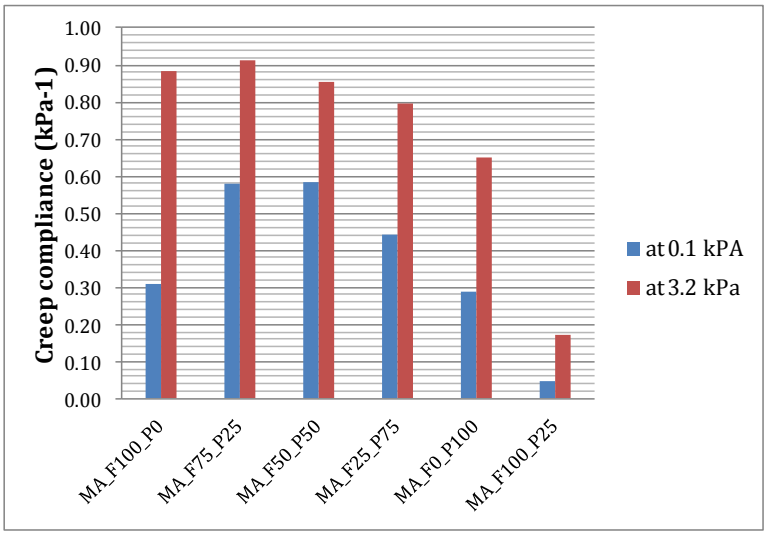
Multiple-Stress Creep Recovery Test

MSCR test was used to quantify the rutting sensitivity of conductive asphalt mastics and for this reason the percent recovery and the non-recoverable compliance were determined at two different stress levels. Figure 9.a shows that the percent recovery of the conductive asphalt mastics experienced a slight reduction from

97.5% to 95% for MA_F100_P0 and MA_F0_P100 respectively, at lower stress level. This slight reduction indicates that the conductive asphalt mastics can recover a lower portion of the total strain at the end of each loading-unloading cycle for the lower load level. Similarly, reduction of the percentage recovery shows the same tendency for the higher stress level for the same mastics. This observation of lower percent recoveries indicate that conductive mastics appear marginally higher prone to rutting when iron powder substitutes mineral filler. Moreover, conductive mastics demonstrate reduction of the percent recovery as well when iron powder was added without replacing part of mineral filler.



(a)



(b)

FIGURE 9 (a) Recovery (%) and (b) non-recoverable creep compliance (kPa^{-1}) of conductive asphalt mastics

The non-recoverable compliances of conductive asphalt mastics are illustrated in Figure 9.b. High compliance values of mastic imply that the rutting performance is weak. It can be observed that significant

decrease of the creep compliance is found in case of producing conductive asphalt mastics by adding iron powder (MA_F100_P25). This means that mastic MA_F100_P25 can accumulate plastic deformations by heavy traffic loads sufficiently. However, as noticed in Frequency Sweep results subsection, the visco-elastic properties of mastics produced with adding iron powder, such as MA_F100_P25, were reduced (lower viscosity and higher stiffness) and subsequently the workability of asphalt mixture lowers. About the mastics produced by replacing mineral filler with iron powder, these appear a minor increase at 0.1 kPa stress level when 25% of iron powder was added. The creep compliance shows similar performance for both low and high stress level such as the percent recovery response of mastics.

CONCLUSIONS

As it is mentioned several times on this paper, the type of filler-sized particles, the concentration of particles and the interaction among particles and asphalt binder have direct influence on structural and non-structural performance of asphalt mastics. Here an experimental protocol was proposed with main objective to explore the impact of filler-sized particles on the performance asphalt mastics produced for induction heating applications.

For these purposes, as well as for the purpose of improving the electrical and thermal properties of asphalt mastics, iron powder was selected as filler-sized additive. During this research, it became clear that understanding the conductive additives-mineral fillers interaction within the binder matrix provides the necessary framework not only to control the electro-thermal properties but also to adjust the workability of mastic at desired levels. Viscosity, effective electrical and thermal conductivity of mastics were assessed as the most valuable parameters to manufacturing more durable asphalt mixtures with induction heating capabilities.

Future studies should include more fundamental parameters of filler-sized particles of mastics, such as chemical and electrochemical studies on the particles-particles and the particles-binder interactions. Moreover, the evaluation of moisture and chloride induced damage of conductive asphalt mastics and subsequently of asphalt concrete mixtures has been assessment crucial to predict the proper time of induction heating maintenance of asphalt pavement.

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