# ACOUSTIC PERMEABILITY FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF POROUS SAMPLES

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# ABSTRACT

Usually in the last years the phenomenological approach has been a way for the research in the study of the porous materials. It allows important simplifications in the theoretical models, and it depends on parameters whose static value can be determined by non-acoustic methods that affect the precision of these models. The permeability is one of these parameters and in this work it has been determined by means of an acoustic experimental procedure. The experimental data have been confronted with theoretical values of great precision obtaining good adjustments in porous materials, tested in different regimes of flow and air-structure coupling.

#### **1.INTRODUCTION**

In the phenomenological approach for the study of the porous materials there are two parameters that condition the theoretical study of the sound propagation these media, they are the acoustic permeability and the tortuosity of the means. By microscopic approaches, experimentally or theoretically, both parameters can be determined following the works of Jhonson [1], Pride [2] and Allard [3]. In the experimental procedures, it is more frequent to make the measures in stationary regimes, and less frequent the dynamical measures. For it in this work the second experimental line has been chosen, applying it to samples of rockwool of different densities and to determine the acoustic permeability of these materials. In previous works [4], [5], it was already proven that by means of this experimentation applied to the acoustic tortuosity, it was not easy to obtain good adjustments between the theoretical and experimental values in all the analysed densities. This problem was consequence that although when varying the density of the samples to twice as much, it supposed to only alter the porosity of the samples 10%, and the theoretical structure factor (it leaves real of the tortuosity) of the samples it could end up varying until 200%. These differentiated physical characteristics suppose that testing all the samples in the same band of frequencies, by the test of flow impedance, the real conditions of flow through the samples are very different. In most of the cases intermediate flow regimes between the regime of Poiseuille and Helmholtz are the usually conditions and so that it supposes an additional difficulty. For it has been studied it in this new work the adjustments of the parameter acoustic permeability, and the obtained results are exposed later.

# 2. ACOUSTIC PERMEABILITY MODELS.

In this section different theoretical and experimental procedures are indicated for study of the dynamic permeability.

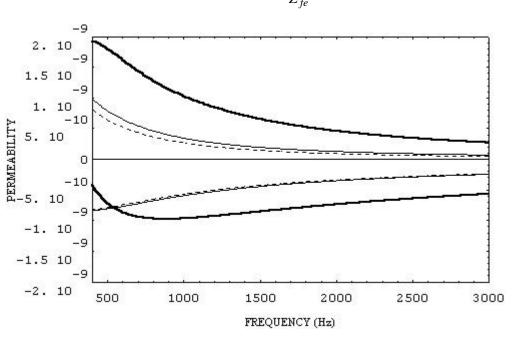
## 2.1. Theoretical Permeability

From a theoretical point of view they can be carried out several focuses that next they figure. In the first place it is necessary to mention the work of Pride [2] that it incorporates microscopic parameters and it is based on the works of Jhonson [1], also commented by Allard[3]. In this work Pride defines the permeability:

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{b}}(\boldsymbol{w}) = \boldsymbol{b}_0 \frac{1}{\left[\sqrt{1 + jP(\boldsymbol{w}/\boldsymbol{w}_0)} + j(\boldsymbol{w}/\boldsymbol{w}_0)\right]} = \frac{\boldsymbol{h}}{j\boldsymbol{w}\boldsymbol{\tilde{r}}}$$
(1)

Where  $P = 4k_{so}\mathbf{b}_0/(\wedge^2 h)$ ,  $\mathbf{w}$  is circular frequency,  $\mathbf{w}_0 = \mathbf{h}h/(\mathbf{r}_0k_{so}\mathbf{b}_0)$  is the partial decoupling frequency of the air wave or the transition frequency,  $k_{so}$  is the static structure factor,  $\mathbf{b}_0$  is the static permeability,  $\wedge$  the pore radius,  $\mathbf{h}$  the air viscosity, and h the porosity of the medium. Also at the eq. 1, the effective density  $\mathbf{\breve{r}}$  of the medium, in a phenomenological approach can be obtained.

In a previous work [4], a study of this parameter was made relating it with the specific impedance of flow. For it the permeability can be written in function of this parameter and it is:



$$\breve{\boldsymbol{b}}(\boldsymbol{w}) = \frac{\boldsymbol{h}}{\breve{Z}_{fa}} \tag{2}$$

Figure 1.- Permeability from eqs. 1(continuous line), 2 (dashed line), 3 (continuous bold line), for samples of 30  $Kg/m^3$ .

On the other hand it is possible to express the eq (1) in function of their characteristic impedance and their propagation constant according to:

$$\breve{\boldsymbol{b}}(\boldsymbol{w}) = \frac{\boldsymbol{h}}{\breve{Z}_c \breve{\boldsymbol{g}}}$$
(3)

Where it is possible to express these magnitudes by means of very well-known empiric expressions as those of Delany and Bazley [6]. With everything it can be carried out a comparison of theoretical results. This appears in the figures 1 at 3.

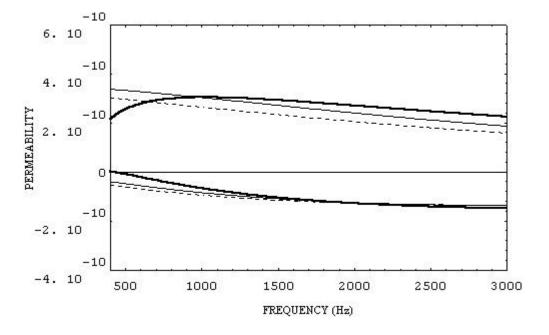


Figure 2.- The same concept of figure 1 but for samples of 100  $Kg/m^3$ .

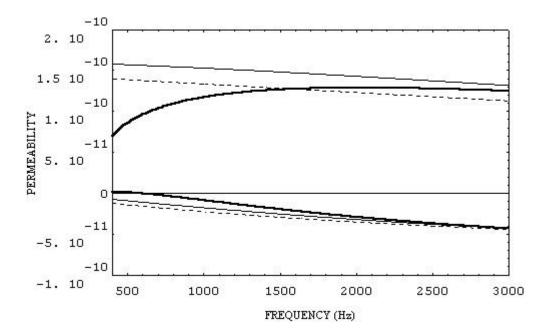


Figure 3.- The same concept of figure 1 but for samples of 175  $Kg/m^3$ .

In the figures 1, 2, 3 the real parts of the permeability are > 0 and the imaginary parts are negative functions. A good adjustment of the three models can be observed only in the intermediate densities. But in the lowest densities big discrepancies are observed. While it is also necessary to indicate that the permeability in the International System of Units is a very small number.

#### 2.2. Experimental Permeability

The flow impedance can be defined [7] that follows:

$$\breve{Z}_f = \frac{\Delta \breve{p}}{\breve{v}} \tag{4}$$

Where  $\Delta \vec{p}$  it is the difference of complex acoustic pressure before and after the sample and  $\vec{v}$  is the complex speed of flow through the sample. This definition supposes that the sample is very thin compared with the wave longitude, and with it the speed of flow it can be considered a constant through the sample. From the work [4] the specific flow impedance and the effective density of the samples are related directly according to the relationship:

$$\breve{r} = \frac{\breve{Z}_{fe}}{j\mathbf{w}} \tag{5}$$

that facilitates an experimental method for the direct measure of this parameter, and it allows revising the ec.5 rewrite the expression of the flow impedance that follows:

$$\bar{Z}_{fe} = \mathbf{s} + j \mathbf{w} \mathbf{r}_{p} = j \mathbf{w} \bar{\mathbf{r}}$$
(6)

With this the permeability from this approach it is like it continues:

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{b}}(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{\mathbf{h}}{\left(\mathbf{s} + j\mathbf{w}\mathbf{r}_{p}\right)} = \frac{\mathbf{h}\,\mathbf{s}}{\left|\boldsymbol{\bar{Z}}_{f}\right|^{2}} - j\frac{\mathbf{h}\mathbf{w}\mathbf{r}_{p}}{\left|\boldsymbol{\bar{Z}}_{f}\right|^{2}} \tag{7}$$

By the experimental procedure, described in a previous work [7], the permeability can be measured and the results can be compared with the theoretical values.

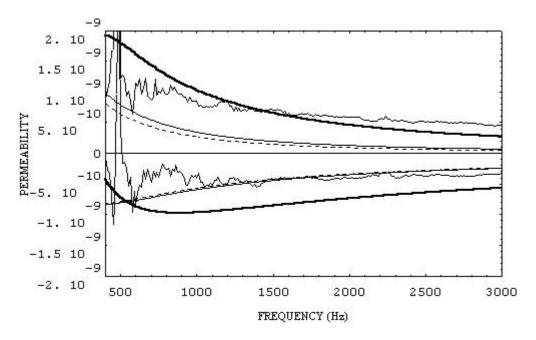


Figure 4.- Theoretical and experimental Permeability from eqs. 1(continuous line), 2 (dashed line), 3 (continuous bold line), and 7, for samples of 30  $Kg/m^3$ .

The figures 1 at 3 indicate a good correspondence among the two theoretical models employees, but it is different with the model that uses empirical values of impedance and constant of propagation (3).

# 3. RESULTS

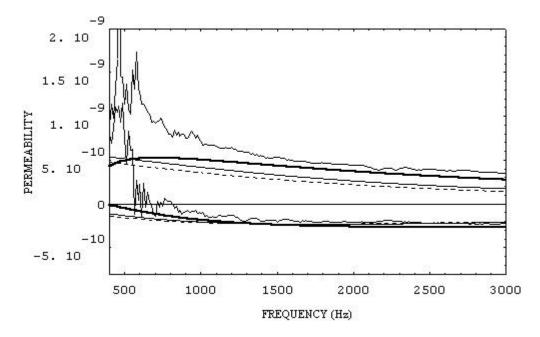


Figure 5.- Theoretical and experimental Permeability from eqs. 1(continuous line), 2 (dashed line), 3 (continuous bold line), and 7, for samples of 70  $Kg/m^3$ .

In the figure 4 one can observe a quite good adjustment in the imaginary part of the permeability that is observed also in the figure 5, where the empirical pattern begins to adjust with the other ones two models at intermediate densities. However in both cases the real part of the permeability doesn't adjust so well. In the following figures the conditions of flow are very different because the density of the samples and the porosity also change considerably and for it the obtained results.

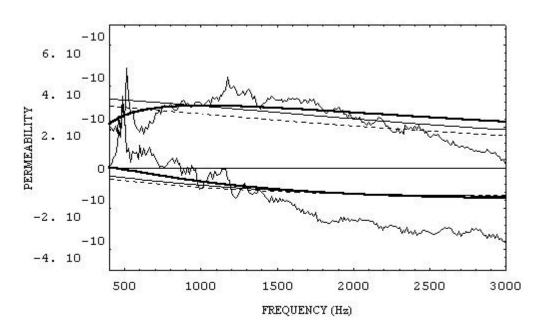


Figure 6.- Theoretical and experimental Permeability from eqs. 1(continuous line), 2 (dashed line), 3 (continuous bold line), and 7, for samples of 100  $Kg/m^3$ .

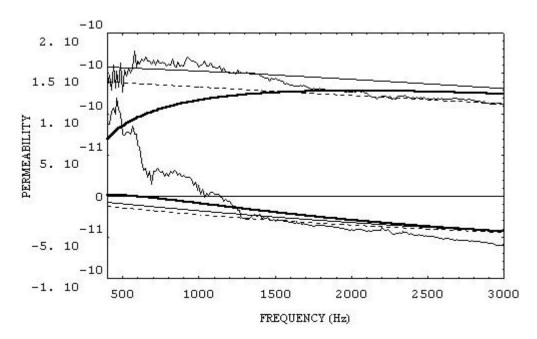


Figure 7.- Theoretical and experimental Permeability from eqs. 1(continuous line), 2 (dashed line), 3 (continuous bold line), and 7, for samples of 175  $Kg/m^3$ .

In the figure 6 begin to take place a change in the experimental results, improving the real part of the permeability this result is the same in the high densities on the figure 7. Obtaining worse results in these two cases for the imaginary part at low frequencies.

#### 5. CONCLUSIONS

In this group of samples the empirical models work well in the intermediate densities. And the experimental results obtained indicate that in low densities the dominant effect is the inertia, and while as the density goes up and the porosity of the samples lowers, the dominant effect it is the friction.

#### **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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