



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**DIELECTRIC, ULTRASONIC AND VISCOELASTIC PROPERTIES
OF RUBBER WOOD**

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**DIELECTRIC, ULTRASONIC AND VISCOELASTIC PROPERTIES
OF RUBBER WOOD**

By

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Dissertation Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of
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*Dedicated to
My Wife, Daughter, Parents, Father-in-law,
Mother-in-law and Uncle*



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		iii
LIST OF TABLES		vi
LIST OF FIGURES		viii
LIST OF PLATES		xvi
LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS		xvii
ABSTRACT		xx
ABSTRAK		xxii
 CHAPTER		
I	GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
II	THEORY AND SOME ASPECTS OF WOOD	6
	Introduction	6
	Dielectric Theory	7
	Dielectric Polarisation	7
	Basic Equations on Dielectric Theory	9
	Dielectric Mixture Equations	17
	Ultrasonic Theory	20
	Viscoelastic Theory	24
	Some Aspects of Wood	25
	Water in Wood	25
	Grain Direction	26
	Structures of Wood/Rubber Wood	27
	Chemical Composition of Wood/Rubber Wood	31
	Summary	33
III	LITERATURE REVIEW	34
	Introduction	34
	Dielectric Properties	34
	Effect of Moisture Content	36
	Effect of Temperature	39
	Effect of Grain Direction and Anatomical Structures.....	41
	Ultrasonic Properties.....	43
	Effect of Moisture Content	43
	Effect of Grain Direction and Anatomical Structures.....	45
	Detection of Defects	46
	Viscoelastic Properties	48
	Summary	50



IV	DIELECTRIC PROPERTIES OF RUBBER WOOD AT LOW AND MICROWAVE FREQUENCY	52
	Introduction	52
	Material and Methods	53
	Sample Preparation	53
	Experimental Set-up and Measurement	54
	Results and Discussions	59
	Effect of Moisture Content	62
	Effect of Temperature	70
	Effect of Grain Direction	73
	Equivalent Circuit Modeling at Low Frequency.....	75
	Multi Component Mixture Modeling at Microwave Frequency	78
	Summary	83
V	ULTRASONIC PROPERTIES OF RUBBER WOOD.....	159
	Introduction	159
	Materials and Methods	160
	Sample Preparation and Measurements	160
	Sources of Errors	163
	Results and Discussions	164
	Prediction of Ultrasonic Properties	170
	Detection of Defects	179
	Effect of Knot	179
	Effect of Split Width.....	182
	Summary	184
VI	VISCOELASTIC PROPERTIES OF RUBBER WOOD	203
	Introduction	203
	Materials and Methods	204
	Sample Preparation and Measurement.....	205
	Results and Discussions	206
	Summary	213
VII	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE WORK	228
	Conclusion	228
	Scope of Future Work	234
	REFERENCES	235
	APPENDICES	250
	PUBLICATION FROM THIS WORK	258
	VITA	259

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	Anatomical Properties of Rubber Wood	31
2.2	Chemical Composition of Wood	32
3.1	Physical Parameters and Frequency Used by Different Workers for the Dielectric Properties of Wood	35
4.1	Standard Deviations and Coefficients of Variation of the Dielectric Constant and Dielectric Loss Factor in Oven-dry Condition at Low Frequencies	62
4.2	Standard Deviations and Coefficients of Variation of the Dielectric Constant and Dielectric Loss Factor in Oven-dry Condition at Microwave Frequencies	63
4.3	Values of the Exponent and Circuit Elements Used in Equivalent Circuit Modeling	79
4.4	Value of “n” in Winner Model	80
5.1	Wood Anisotropy Expressed by the Ratio of Velocities at Different Moisture Content (MC).....	166
5.2	Regression Analysis Between the Velocities and Angle of Rotation at Each MC	166
5.3	Regression Analysis Between Elastic Stiffness Constant and Angle of Rotation at Each MC	167
5.4	Correlation Coefficients Between MC and Ultrasonic Velocity at Each Angle of Rotation	169
5.5	Correlation Coefficients Between MC and Elastic Stiffness Constants at Each Angle of Rotation	169
5.6	Parabolic and Hyperbolic Equations for Predicting Ultrasonic Velocity from Grain Angle	172
5.7	Average Absolute Error (AAE) in Percentage for Predicting Ultrasonic Properties from Grain Angle in L to R Rotation	173
5.8	Average Absolute Error (AAE) in Percentage for Predicting Ultrasonic Properties from Grain Angle in L to T Rotation	174



5.9	Average Absolute Error (AAE) in Percentage for Predicting Ultrasonic Properties from Grain Angle in R to T Rotation	175
5.10	Value of “n” for Different Type of Equations	178
5.11	Ultrasonic Velocity and Elastic Stiffness Constant of the Knot	181
5.12	Correlation Coefficients and Regression Equations Between Ultrasonic Properties and Split Width	182
6.1	Regression Analysis Between Storage Modulus and MC	206
6.2	Regression Analysis Between Loss Tangent and MC	207
6.3	Correlation Coefficients Between Storage Modulus and $\tan\delta$ with MC	207
6.4	Coefficient of Variation for Storage Modulus and $\tan\delta$ in Oven-dry Condition	208
B.1a	Equations for Dielectric Constant and Dielectric Loss Factor of Rubber Wood as a Function of MC at Low Frequency in Longitudinal Direction	253
B.1b	Equations for Dielectric Constant and Dielectric Loss Factor of Rubber Wood as a Function of MC at Low Frequency in Radial Direction	254
B.1c	Equations for Dielectric Constant and Dielectric Loss Factor of Rubber Wood as a Function of MC at Low Frequency in Tangential Direction.....	255
B.2	Constants of the Equations for Curve fitting of Dielectric Constant in Different Grain Directions and at Microwave Frequencies	256
B.3	Constants of the Equations for Curve Fitting of Dielectric Loss Factor in Different Grain Directions and at Microwave Frequencies	257



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
2 1	Different Types Dielectric Dispersion Behaviour	15
2 2	Different Type of Water in Wood, a) Above FSP, b) at FSP and c) Below FSP	26
2 3	Three Anisotropic Directions in Wood	27
4 1	Direction of the Applied Field with Respect to Grain Directions at Microwave Frequencies	58
4 2	Dielectric Constant vs Low Frequency at Different Moisture Content (MC) in Longitudinal Direction	86
4 3	Dielectric Constant vs Low Frequency at Different MC in Radial Direction	87
4 4	Dielectric Constant vs Low Frequency at Different MC in Tangential Direction	88
4 5	Dielectric Loss Factor vs Low Frequency at Different MC in Longitudinal Direction	89
4 6	Dielectric Loss Factor vs Low Frequency at Different MC in Radial Direction	90
4 7	Dielectric Loss Factor vs Low Frequency at Different MC in Tangential Direction	91
4 8	Variation of Dielectric Properties with MC in Longitudinal Direction at Low Frequency	92
4 9	Variation of Dielectric Properties with MC in Radial Direction at Low Frequency	93
4 10	Variation of Dielectric Properties with MC in Tangential Direction at Low Frequency	94
4 11	Dielectric Constant Against Microwave Frequency at Different MC in Longitudinal Direction	95
4 12	Dielectric Constant Against Microwave Frequency at Different MC in Radial Direction	96



4.13	Dielectric Constant Against Microwave Frequency at Different MC in Tangential Direction	97
4.14	Dielectric Loss Factor Against Microwave Frequency at Different MC in Longitudinal Direction	98
4.15	Dielectric Loss Factor Against Microwave Frequency at Different MC in Radial Direction	99
4.16	Dielectric Loss Factor Against Microwave Frequency at Different MC in Tangential Direction	100
4.17	Dielectric Properties vs MC at Different Microwave Frequency in Longitudinal Direction	101
4.18	Dielectric Properties vs MC at Different Microwave Frequency in Radial Direction	102
4.19	Dielectric Properties vs MC at Different Microwave Frequency in Tangential Direction	103
4.20	Dielectric Properties Against Low Frequency of Oven-dried Wood at Different Temperature in Longitudinal Direction	104
4.21	Dielectric Properties Against Low Frequency of Oven-dried Wood at Different Temperature in Radial Direction	105
4.22	Dielectric Properties Against Low Frequency of Oven-dried Wood at Different Temperature in Tangential Direction	106
4.23	Variation of Dielectric Properties with Temperature of Oven-dried Wood at Different Low Frequency in Longitudinal Direction	107
4.24	Variation of Dielectric Properties with Temperature of Oven-dried Wood at Different Low Frequency in Radial Direction	108
4.25	Variation of Dielectric Properties with Temperature of Oven-dried Wood at Different Low Frequency in Tangential Direction	109
4.26	Dielectric Properties Against Microwave Frequency of Oven-dried Wood at Different Temperature in Longitudinal Direction.	110
4.27	Dielectric Properties Against Microwave Frequency of Oven-dried Wood at Different Temperature in Radial Direction	111
4.28	Dielectric Properties Against Microwave Frequency of Oven-dried Wood at Different Temperature in Tangential Direction ..	112



4.29	Variation of Dielectric Properties with Temperature of Oven-dried Wood at Different Microwave Frequency in Longitudinal Direction	113
4.30	Variation of Dielectric Properties with Temperature of Oven-dried Wood at Different Microwave Frequency in Radial Direction	114
4.31	Variation of Dielectric Properties with Temperature of Oven-dried Wood at Different Microwave Frequency in Tangential Direction.	115
4.32	Comparison of Dielectric Properties for Three Grain Direction in Oven-dry Condition at Low Frequency	116
4.33	Comparison of Dielectric Properties for Three Grain Direction in Oven-dry Condition at Microwave Frequency	117
4.34	Plot of the Ratio of Dielectric Constant with MC of Different Grain Direction at Low Frequency	118
4.35	Plot of the Ratio of Dielectric Loss Factor with MC of Different Grain Direction at Low Frequency	119
4.36	Plot of the Ratio of Dielectric Constant with MC of Different Grain Direction at Microwave Frequency	120
4.37	Plot of the Ratio of Dielectric Loss Factor with MC of Different Grain Direction at Microwave Frequency	121
4.38	Equivalent Circuit for Fitting the Experimental Results at Low Frequency	122
4.39a	Experimental and Theoretical Value Obtained from Equivalent Circuit in Longitudinal Direction at MC 99.8 and 32.5%	123
4.39b	Experimental and Theoretical Value Obtained from Equivalent Circuit in Longitudinal Direction at MC 14.5 and 7.6%	124
4.39c	Experimental and Theoretical Value Obtained from Equivalent Circuit in Longitudinal Direction at MC 4.1 and 0%	125
4.40a	Experimental and Theoretical Value Obtained from Equivalent Circuit in Radial Direction at MC 98.2 and 31.4%	126
4.40b	Experimental and Theoretical Value Obtained from Equivalent Circuit in Radial Direction at MC 14.1 and 7.6%	127
4.40c	Experimental and Theoretical Value Obtained from Equivalent Circuit in Radial Direction at MC 4.3 and 0%	128



4.41a	Experimental and Theoretical Value Obtained from Equivalent Circuit in Tangential Direction at MC 98.5 and 31.4%	129
4.41b	Experimental and Theoretical Value Obtained from Equivalent Circuit in Tangential Direction at MC 14.2 and 8.2%	130
4.41c	Experimental and Theoretical Value Obtained from Equivalent Circuit in Tangential Direction at MC 3.8 and 0%	131
4.42	(a) Normalized Data Fitted with Theoretical Value from Equivalent Circuit, (b) Activation Energy in Longitudinal direction.....	132
4.43	(a) Normalized Data Fitted with Theoretical Value from Equivalent Circuit, (b) Activation Energy in Radial Direction	133
4.44	(a) Normalized Data Fitted with Theoretical Value from Equivalent Circuit, (b) Activation Energy in Tangential Direction	134
4.45a	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using Mixture Equations in Longitudinal Direction at Frequency 1.0 and 2.45 GHz.....	135
4.45b	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using Mixture Equations in Longitudinal Direction at Frequency 3.0 and 6.0 GHz	136
4.45c	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using Mixture Equations in Longitudinal Direction at Frequency 9.0 and 12.0 GHz	137
4.45d	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using Mixture Equations in Longitudinal Direction at Frequency 15.0 and 18.0 GHz	138
4.46a	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Longitudinal Direction at Frequency 1.0 and 2.45 GHz	139
4.46b	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Longitudinal Direction at Frequency 3.0 and 6.0 GHz	140
4.46c	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Longitudinal Direction at Frequency 9.0 and 12.0 GHz	141



4.46d	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Longitudinal Direction at Frequency 15.0 and 18.0 GHz	142
4.47a	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using Mixture Equations in Radial Direction at Frequency 1.0 and 2.45 GHz	143
4.47b	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using Mixture Equations in Radial Direction at Frequency 3.0 and 6.0 GHz	144
4.47c	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using Mixture Equations in Radial Direction at Frequency 9.0 and 12.0 GHz	145
4.47d	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using Mixture Equations in Radial Direction at Frequency 15.0 and 18.0 GHz	146
4.48a	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Radial Direction at Frequency 1.0 and 2.45 GHz	147
4.48b	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Radial Direction at Frequency 3.0 and 6.0 GHz	148
4.48c	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Radial Direction at Frequency 9.0 and 12.0 GHz	149
4.48d	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Radial Direction at Frequency 15.0 and 18.0 GHz	150
4.49a	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using mixture Equations in Tangential Direction at Frequency 1.0 and 2.45 GHz	151
4.49b	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using Mixture Equations in Tangential Direction at Frequency 3.0 and 6.0 GHz	152
4.49c	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using Mixture Equations in Tangential Direction at Frequency 9.0 and 12.0 GHz	153



4.49d	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Constant Using Mixture Equations in Tangential Direction at Frequency 15.0 and 18.0 GHz	154
4.50a	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Tangential Direction at Frequency 1.0 and 2.45 GHz	155
4.50b	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Tangential Direction at Frequency 3.0 and 6.0 GHz	156
4.50c	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Tangential Direction at Frequency 9.0 and 12.0 GHz	157
4.50d	Comparison of Measured and Predicted Dielectric Loss Factor Using Mixture Equations in Tangential Direction at Frequency 15.0 and 18.0 GHz	158
5.1	Diagram for Measurement of Ultrasonic Properties Through Knot	163
5.2	Ultrasonic Velocity and Elastic Stiffness Constant at Different MC.....	186
5.3	Ultrasonic Velocity for Different Rotational Angle at Different MC	187
5.4	Elastic Stiffness Constant for Different Rotational Angle at Different MC	188
5.5a	Experimental and Predicted Ultrasonic Velocity Using Different Equations at MC 75.0, 42.0, and 21.2% in LR Rotation	189
5.5b	Experimental and Predicted Ultrasonic Velocity Using Different Equations at MC 15.3, 6.6, and 2.0% in LR Rotation	190
5.6a	Experimental and Predicted Ultrasonic Velocity Using Different Equations at MC 70.6, 44.0, and 19.3% in LT Rotation	191
5.6b	Experimental and Predicted Ultrasonic Velocity Using Different Equations at MC 14.0, 8.9, and 2.0% in LT Rotation	192
5.7a	Experimental and Predicted Ultrasonic Velocity Using Different Equations at MC 75.2, 37.5, and 22.8% in RT Rotation	193
5.7b	Experimental and Predicted Ultrasonic Velocity Using Different Equations at MC 14.6, 3.7, and 2.0% in RT Rotation	194



5.8a	Experimental and Predicted Elastic Stiffness Constant Using Different Equations at MC 75.0, 42.0, and 21.2% in LR Rotation.....	195
5.8b	Experimental and Predicted Elastic Stiffness Constant Using Different Equations at MC 15.3, 6.6, and 2.0% in LR Rotation	196
5.9a	Experimental and Predicted Elastic Stiffness Constant Using Different Equations at MC 70.0, 44.0, and 19.3% in LT Rotation.....	197
5.9b	Experimental and Predicted Elastic Stiffness Constant Using Different Equations at MC 14.0, 8.9, and 2.0% in LT Rotation	198
5.10a	Experimental and Predicted Elastic Stiffness Constant Using Different Equations at MC 75.2, 37.5, and 22.8% in RT Rotation	199
5.10b	Experimental and Predicted Elastic Stiffness Constant Using Different Equations at MC 14.6, 3.7, and 2.0% in LR Rotation	200
5.11	Relationship Between Ultrasonic Velocity and Split Width a) Radial, b) Tangential and c) Combination of Radial and Tangential	201
5.12	Relationship Between Elastic Stiffness Constant and Split Width a) Radial, b) Tangential and c) Combination of Radial and Tangential	202
6.1	Storage Modulus Against MC at Different Frequency and Grain Directions	215
6.2	Loss Tangent Against MC at Different Frequency and Grain Directions	216
6.3	Storage Modulus vs Frequency at Different MC in Longitudinal Direction	217
6.4	Storage Modulus vs Frequency at Different MC in Radial Direction	218
6.5	Storage Modulus vs Frequency at Different MC in Tangential Direction	219
6.6	Loss Tangent vs Frequency at Different MC in Longitudinal Direction	220
6.7	Loss Tangent vs Frequency at Different MC in Radial Direction	221



6.8	Loss Tangent vs Frequency at Different MC in Tangential Direction	222
6.9	Relationship Between Storage Modulus and Temperature at Different Frequency and Grain Directions	223
6.10	Relationship Between Loss Tangent and Temperature at Different Frequency and Grain Directions	224
6.11	Storage Modulus Against Frequency at Different Temperature Grain Directions.....	225
6.12	Loss Tangent Against Frequency at Different Temperature grain Directions	226
6.13	Comparison of Storage Modulus and Loss Tangent for Different Grain Directions in Oven-dry Condition	227



LIST OF PLATES

Plate		Page
2.1	Anatomical structure of rubber wood in longitudinal direction ...	29
2.2	Anatomical structure of rubber wood in radial direction	30
2.3	Anatomical structure of rubber wood in tangential direction	30
4.1	Equipments for measuring dielectric properties at low frequency	54
4.2	Equipments for measuring dielectric properties at microwave frequency	57
5.1	Equipments for measuring ultrasonic properties.....	161
6.1	Equipments for measuring viscoelastic properties	204



LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ϵ^*	complex permittivity
ϵ'	dielectric constant
ϵ''	dielectric loss factor
ϵ_0	free space permittivity
ϵ_s	static dielectric permittivity
ϵ_∞	dielectric permittivity at very high frequency
$\epsilon(\omega)$	dielectric permittivity as function of angular frequency
χ^*	complex susceptibility
χ'	real part of susceptibility
χ	imaginary part of susceptibility
ρ	density
θ	angle in degree
σ	conductivity
τ	relaxation time (sec)
ω	angular frequency
ω_p	peak angular frequency
ω_c	characteristics angular frequency
f	frequency (Hz)
i	$= \sqrt{-1}$
eV	electron volt
r	Correlation coefficients
r^2	Co-efficients of determination
Hz	Hertz



kHz	kilohertz
GHz	gigahertz
ln	natural logarithm
log	logarithm
A	cross-sectional area
C*	complex capacitance
C'	real part of capacitance
C''	imaginary part of capacitance
d	thickness
DC	Direct Current
E	Electric field strength
E*	Complex dynamic modulus
E'	Storage modulus
E''	Loss modulus
FSP	Fiber Saturation Point
MC	Moisture Content
L	Longitudinal
R	Radial
T	Tangential
v	Velocity
Γ	Christofel stiffness
C	elastic constant
S	elastic compliance
N	ultrasonic property at an angle θ
P	ultrasonic property parallel to grain

Q ultrasonic property perpendicular to grain
tan δ loss tangent



Abstract of dissertation submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

DIELECTRIC, ULTRASONIC AND VISCOELASTIC PROPERTIES OF RUBBER WOOD

BY

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June 1998

Chairman : Associate Prof. Dr. W. Mohamad Daud W. Yusoff

Faculty : Science and Environmental Studies

Dielectric, ultrasonic and viscoelastic properties of rubber wood were studied with various physical parameters, such as moisture contents (MC), grain directions and temperatures. Three anisotropic directions, namely longitudinal, radial and tangential to the growth ring were considered for the measurement of these properties. Dielectric properties were measured at low frequencies from 10^{-2} to 10^5 Hz and at microwave frequencies from 1 to 18 GHz. Ultrasonic properties were determined with a commercial ultrasonic tester at 45 kHz. Viscoelastic properties were carried out with the Dynamic Mechanical Thermal Analyzer at frequency ranging from 0.01 to 100 Hz.

At low frequencies, five types of dielectric mechanism were observed for different MC such as 1) less than 5%, 2) 5-10%, 3) 11-17%, 4) 18-25% and 5) more than 25%. Dielectric constant increased with temperature for these frequencies while dielectric loss factor showed minimum value in oven-dry condition. Dielectric constant and dielectric loss factor varied in the order of longitudinal > radial \geq tangential directions. Dielectric data at low frequency are



in well agreement with those calculated from equivalent circuit using the concept of universal capacitor. Three equivalent circuits fitted well for data at very low MC or for oven-dried wood, MC below fiber saturation point and MC above fiber saturation point. Activation energies were 0.27eV, 0.34eV and 0.41eV for longitudinal, radial and tangential directions respectively.

At microwave frequencies, dielectric constant and dielectric loss factor were found to increase with MC ranging from oven-dry up to saturation point. Dielectric constant also decreased with temperature and dielectric loss factor exhibited peaks at 10 GHz. Dielectric constants are predicted well by Winner, Lichteneker and generalized equations with lower value of the exponents. Above 3 GHz, dielectric loss factor fitted well with the predicted values using Winner, Kraszewski, Looyenga or with generalized equations with lower values of the exponents. Below 3 GHz, dielectric loss factor are unpredictable by these mixture equations.

The ultrasonic velocity and elastic stiffness constant vary in the order of longitudinal > radial > tangential. Any deviation from longitudinal axis reduced ultrasonic velocities and elastic stiffness constant for all MC. Ultrasonic velocities were well predicted by Hankinson and Osgood formula for all rotational directions and angles. This method are also capable to detect of wood defects, such as cross grain, knot and split.

The storage modulus (E') decreased with MC up to 30% and it remains almost constant above this point. The loss tangent ($\tan \delta$) showed peaks at lower frequencies. The E' increased with frequency and temperature while $\tan \delta$ decreased with frequency and showed peaks at 50°C. The highest value of E' and $\tan \delta$ were observed in longitudinal direction.

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SIFAT DIELEKTRIK, ULTRASONIK DAN VISKOELASTIK KAYU GETAH

Oleh

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Sifat dielektrik, ultrasonik dan keanjalan visko terhadap kayu getah telah dikaji dengan menggunakan pelbagai parameter fizikal, seperti kandungan wap air (KWA), arah butiran dan suhu. Tiga arah anisotropik, iaitu arah membujur, jejari dan tangen kepada gelang pertumbuhan telah dipertimbangkan untuk pengukuran terhadap sifat-sifat di atas. Sifat dielektrik telah diukur pada frekuensi rendah, dari 10^{-2} kepada 10^5 Hz dan pada frekuensi gelombang mikro dari 1 hingga 18 GHz. Sifat ultrasonik telah diperolehi dengan menggunakan penguji ultrasonik komersial pada 45 kHz. Sifat viskoelastik telah dijalankan dengan menggunakan Alat Analisis Dinamik Mekanikal Terma pada julat frekuensi antara 0.01 hingga 100 Hz.

Pada frekuensi-frekuensi rendah, lima jenis mekanisma dielektrik diperhatikan untuk KWA yang berlainan iaitu 1) kurang daripada 5%, 2) 5-10%, 3) 11-17%, 4) 18-25% dan 5) lebih daripada 25%. Pemalar dielektrik meningkat dengan suhu untuk frekuensi-frekuensi tersebut sementara faktor kehilangan dielektrik menunjukkan nilai minimum dalam pengeringan-ketuhar. Pemalar dielektrik dan faktor kehilangan dielektrik berubah seperti susunan

berikut: arah membujur $>$ jejari \geq tangen. Data-data dielektrik pada frekuensi rendah adalah sepadan dengan pengiraan yang dibuat daripada litar setara dengan berkonsepkan kapasitor universal. Tiga litar setara sepadan dengan data-data pada KWA yang amat rendah atau pada kayu getah yang telah dikering-ketuharkan, KWA dibawah paras gentian tepu dan KWA diatas takad gentian tepu. Tenaga pengaktifan adalah masing-masing 0.27 eV, 0.34 eV dan 0.41 eV untuk arah membujur, jejari dan tangen.

Pada frekuensi gelombang mikro, pemalar dielektrik dan faktor kehilangan dielektrik didapati telah meningkat dengan KWA dari julat pengeringan-ketuhar hingga takat tepu. Pemalar dielektrik juga menurun dengan suhu dan faktor kehilangan dielektrik mempamerkan puncak-puncak pada 10 GHz. Pemalar dielektrik dianggarkan dengan baik menggunakan persamaan Winner, Lichteneker dan persamaan am dengan nilai eksponen yang rendah. Di atas 3 GHz, faktor kehilangan dielektrik berpadanan dengan nilai-nilai anggaran menggunakan persamaan Winner, Kraszewski, Looyenga atau dengan persamaan am dengan nilai-nilai eksponen yang rendah. Pada frekuensi 3 GHz kebawah, faktor kehilangan dielektrik tidak boleh diramalkan dengan gabungan persamaan-persamaan ini.

Halaju ultrasonik dan pemalar ketegangan elastik berbeza mengikut susunan membujur $>$ jejari $>$ tangen. Sebarang lencongan daripada paksi membujur mengurangkan halaju ultrasonik dan pemalar ketegangan elastik untuk semua KWA. Halaju ultrasonik telah dianggarkan dengan baik menggunakan formula-formula Hankinson dan Osgood untuk semua arah putaran dan sudut. Kaedah ini juga berupaya untuk mengesan kecacatan-kecacatan pada kayu, seperti butiran silang, buku dan belahan.

Modulus simpan (E') berkurang dengan KWA hingga 30% dan kandungan ini berkekalan secara berterusan diatas takad ini. Kehilangan tangen ($\tan \delta$) menunjukkan puncak-puncak pada frekuensi dan yang lebih rendah. E' meningkat dengan frekuensi dan suhu sementara $\tan \delta$ berkurang dengan frekuensi dan menunjukkan puncak-puncak pada 50° C. Nilai E' dan $\tan \delta$ yang tertinggi diperhatikan pada arah membujur.