

MECHANICAL, DURABILITY AND DAMPING PROPERTIES FOR OPTIMUM
RUBBERISED CONCRETE PERFORMANCE

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For my beloved mother, father, wife, daughter and family.



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ABSTRACT

Waste tyres pose significant health and environmental concerns if there are not recycled or appropriately discarded. Partial replacement of natural aggregate with waste tyres in the concrete mixture has been proven to be more economical and sustainable. Many researchers have study on mechanical and durability properties of rubberised concrete. However, there are lack of study on damping properties of rubberised concrete. Previous study has shown that incorporating rubber in concrete mix caused significant reduction on mechanical and durability properties of rubberised concrete and thus discourage its commercialisation. Large rubber particle and high percentage of rubber replacement causes substantial reduction on mechanical and durability properties of rubberised concrete. The goal of this research is to investigate the mechanical, durability and damping properties by using small rubber particles, namely rubber ash and rubber crumb, to partially replace sand in concrete at low percentage namely 3%, 5%, 7% and 9%. The material properties of sand, rubber ash and rubber crumb, namely: (1) bulk density; (2) specific gravity; (3) particle size distribution; (4) morphology; and (5) chemical composition, are determined by using five different tests. Further eight tests were conducted to determine the engineering properties of the concrete mix with rubber ash or rubber crumb, namely: (1) workability; (2) bulk density; (3) compressive strength; (4) flexural strength; (5) splitting tensile strength; (6) modulus of elasticity; (7) water absorption; and (8) water permeability. Damping properties of the concrete mix with rubber ash or rubber crumb, namely: (1) frequency; (2) mode shape; and (3) damping ratios, are determined by using impact hammer test. The mechanical, durability and damping properties of rubber ash concrete and rubber crumb concrete are compared with the control concrete. The results show that the rubber ash and rubber crumb are suitable to partially replace sand in the concrete mix. Both the mechanical, durability and damping properties have improved by up to 15%. This study found that the optimum content for rubber ash to replace sand in concrete mix is found to be at 5%, whilst the rubber crumb is at 3% for

achieving improved engineering properties. The optimised rubber ash or rubber crumb to replace sand in concrete mix are 3% and 9%, respectively, for achieving improved damping properties. The experimental results of damping properties for rubber ash concrete and rubber crumb concrete are validated by computational modelling, and thus the damping properties of any rubberised concrete structure within the range of this study can be determine by computational modelling. The results of this study indicate the huge potential of the waste rubber to be recycled and used to partially replace sand in concrete mix, and hence reduce dumped tyre waste as well as reduce the use of natural resources (sand).



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ABSTRAK

Sisa buangan tayar menimbulkan kebimbangan kesihatan dan persekitaran yang signifikan jika tidak dikitar semula atau dibuang dengan sewajarnya. Penggantian sebahagian batu baur semula jadi dengan sisa buangan tayar dalam campuran konkrit telah terbukti lebih ekonomi dan lestari. Ramai penyelidik membuat kajian terhadap sifat mekanikal dan ketahanan konkrit getah. Namun kurang kajian mengenai sifat redaman konkrit getah. Kajian terdahulu menunjukkan bahawa memasukkan getah dalam campuran konkrit menyebabkan pengurangan yang ketara pada sifat mekanikal dan ketahanan konkrit getah dan dengan itu tidak menggalakkan pengkomersialannya. Partikel getah yang besar dan peratusan penambahan getah yang tinggi menyebabkan penurunan ketara pada sifat mekanikal dan ketahanan konkrit getah. Tujuan penyelidikan ini adalah untuk mengkaji sifat mekanikal, ketahanan dan redaman dengan menggunakan partikel getah kecil, iaitu abu getah dan remah getah, untuk menggantikan sebahagian pasir dalam konkrit dengan peratusan rendah iaitu 3%, 5%, 7% dan 9%. Sifat bahan pasir, abu getah dan serbuk getah, iaitu: (1) ketumpatan pukal; (2) graviti tentu; (3) taburan saiz zarah; (4) morfologi; dan (5) komposisi kimia, ditentukan dengan menggunakan lima ujian yang berbeza. Selanjutnya lapan ujian telah dijalankan untuk menentukan sifat kejuruteraan campuran konkrit dengan abu getah atau rumah getah, iaitu: (1) keboleherjaan; (2) ketumpatan pukal; (3) kekuatan mampatan; (4) kekuatan lenturan; (5) kekuatan tegangan membelah; (6) modulus keanjalan; (7) penyerapan air; dan (8) kebolehtelapan air. Sifat redaman bagi campuran konkrit dengan abu getah atau remah getah, iaitu: (1) frekuensi natural; (2) bentuk mod; dan (3) nisbah redaman ditentukan melalui ujian tukul impak. Sifat mekanikal, ketahanan dan redaman konkrit abu getah dan konkrit remah getah dibandingkan dengan konkrit kawalan. Dapatan ujian menunjukkan bahawa abu getah dan remah getah adalah sesuai untuk menggantikan sebahagian pasir dalam campuran konkrit. Sifat mekanikal, ketahanan dan redaman telah bertambahbaik sehingga 15%. Kajian ini mendapati kandungan optimum untuk abu getah untuk menggantikan pasir dalam

campuran konkrit didapati pada 5%, manakala serbuk getah adalah pada 3% untuk mencapai penambahbaikan sifat mekanikal dan ketahanan. Kandungan optimum abu getah atau remah getah untuk menggantikan pasir dalam campuran konkrit adalah masing-masing pada 3% dan 9% untuk mendapatkan sifat redaman yang terbaik. Hasil eksperimen sifat redaman untuk konkrit abu getah dan konkrit remah getah disahkan oleh pemodelan komputasi, dan oleh itu sifat redaman apa-apa struktur konkrit getah dalam julat kajian ini dapat ditentukan dengan pemodelan komputasi. Dapatan kajian ini menunjukkan sisa tayar mempunyai potensi yang besar untuk dikitar semula dan digunakan untuk menggantikan sebahagian pasir dalam campuran konkrit, dan sekali gus mengurangkan lambakan tayar buangan selain mengurangkan penggunaan sumber semula jadi (pasir).



PTTA UTHM
PERPUSTAKAAN TUNKU TUN AMINAH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
ABSTRACT	vi
ABSTRAK	viii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xv
LIST OF TABLES	xix
LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS	xxii
CHAPTER 1	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Problem Statement	5
1.3 Objectives of Study	7
1.4 Scope of Study	7
1.5 Significance of Research	8
1.6 Thesis Outline	9
CHAPTER 2	11
LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1 Introduction	11
2.2 Rubberised Concrete	11

	11
2.3 Rubber Crumb	13
2.4 Rubber Ash	17
2.5 Previous Research on Concrete Rubber	20
2.5.1 General Previous Research	20
2.5.2 Categories of Rubber Replacement	28
2.5.3 Size and Percentage of Rubber Replacement	29
2.5.4 Workability of Rubberised Concrete	32
2.5.5 Bulk Density of Rubberised Concrete	34
2.5.6 Compressive Strength of Rubberised Concrete	37
2.5.7 Flexural Strength of Rubberised Concrete	43
2.5.8. Splitting Tensile Strength of Rubberised Concrete	47
2.5.9. Modulus of Elasticity of Rubberised Concrete	49
2.5.10 Water Absorption of Rubberised Concrete	51
2.5.11 Water Permeability of Rubberised Concrete	52
2.5.12 Damping Properties of Rubberised Concrete	54
2.6 Microstructure and morphological of rubberised concrete	58
2.7 Conclusion	58
CHAPTER 3	60
METHODOLOGY	60
3.1 Introduction	60
3.2 Preparation of Materials	60
3.2.1 Cement	62
3.2.2 Fine Aggregate	62
3.2.3 Coarse Aggregate	64
3.2.4 Rubber Ash	65
3.2.5 Rubber Crumb	67
3.3 Material Properties	70
3.3.1 Bulk Density Test	70
3.3.2 Specific Gravity Test	72

3.3.3	Particle Size Distribution Test	75
3.3.4	Morphology Test	78
3.3.5	Chemical Test	80
3.4	Preparation of Concrete Specimens	82
3.4.1	Concrete Mix Design	82
3.4.2	Concrete Cube Specimens	83
3.4.3	Concrete Cylinder Specimens	88
3.4.4	Concrete Prism Specimens	90
3.4.5	Reinforced Concrete Slab	94
3.5	Engineering Properties of Concrete Testing	98
3.5.1	Workability Test (Slump Test)	98
3.5.2	Bulk Density Test	99
3.5.3	Compression Test	101
3.5.4	Flexural Strength Test	102
3.5.5	Splitting Tensile Test	104
3.5.6	Modulus of Elasticity	105
3.5.7	Water Absorption Test	108
3.5.8	Water Permeability Test	110
3.6	Damping Properties	112
3.6.1	Impact Hammer Test	113
3.6.2	Data Analysis	117
3.6.3	Finite Element Modelling	123

CHAPTER 4 **125**

THE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES AND MINERALOGICAL NATURAL SAND, RUBBER ASH AND RUBBER CRUMB **125**

4.1	Introduction	125
4.2	Bulk Density	125
4.3	Specific Gravity	127
4.4	Particle Size Distribution	128
4.5	Morphological examination	130

		13
4.6	Chemical Properties	133
4.7	Conclusion	139
CHAPTER 5		140
THE ENGINEERING PROPERTIES OF THE RUBBER ASH AND CRUMB CONCRETE		140
5.1	Introduction	140
5.2	Workability	140
5.3	Bulk Density	143
5.4	Compressive Strength	145
5.5	Flexural Strength	150
5.6	Splitting Tensile Strength	153
5.7	Modulus of Elasticity	156
5.8	Water Absorption	159
5.9	Water Permeability	161
5.10	The Optimum Percentage Replacement of Sand by Rubber Ash and Rubber Crumb	162
5.11	Conclusion	164
CHAPTER 6		167
THE DAMPING PROPERTIES OF RUBBERISED CONCRETE		167
6.1	Introduction	167
6.2	Frequency	167
6.3	Damping Ratio	172
6.4	Mode Shape	178
6.5	Conclusion	188
CHAPTER 7		190



PTTA UTHM

PERPUSTAKAAN TUNJUKU TUN AMINAH

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	190
7.1 Introduction	190
7.1.1 Physical and Chemical Properties of Sand, Rubber Ash and Rubber Crumb	190
7.1.2 Mechanical and Durability Properties of Rubber Ash Concrete and Rubber Crumb Concrete	191
7.1.3 Damping Properties of Rubber Ash Concrete and Rubber Crumb Concrete	193
7.1.4 Validation of Damping Properties	194
7.1.5 Recommendations for Future Works	195
REFERENCES	196
APPENDIX A	207
APPENDIX B	213
APPENDIX C	214
APPENDIX D	219
APPENDIX E	235
APPENDIX F	236



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1: Various sizes of rubber particles (Li <i>et al.</i> , 2014)	15
Figure 2.2: The four pyrolysis products of the tyre (adapted from Martínez <i>et al.</i> (2013))	18
Figure 3.1: Flow chart of research methodology of the present study	61
Figure 3.2: Type 1 Ordinary Portland Cement Used in the Present Study	62
Figure 3.3: Sand Preparation Process	63
Figure 3.4: Coarse Aggregate Preparation Process	65
Figure 3.5: Ecomaterials Factory in Gopeng, Perak	66
Figure 3.6: Pyrolysis Process	66
Figure 3.7: Rubber Ash Produced from Pyrolysis	67
Figure 3.8: Various Types and Brands of Tyres as Observed in Recycled Tyre Factory in Muar, Johor	68
Figure 3.9: Rubber Crumb Grade 16 (1.18mm in Size)	68
Figure 3.10: The Process of Making Rubber Crumb	69
Figure 3.11: The Process of Measuring Bulk Density of River Sand, Rubber Ash and Rubber Crumb	71
Figure 3.12: Specific gravity test process	73
Figure 3.13: Sieve Analysis Process for Sand, Rubber Ash and Rubber Crumb	76
Figure 3.14: Sample Preparation of Sand, Rubber Ash and Rubber Crumb for Morphology Test by using Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)	78
Figure 3.15: Sample Preparation of Sand, Rubber Ash and Rubber Crumb for Chemical Test by using X-ray Fluorescence (XRF)	80
Figure 3.16: Concrete Cube Specimens Preparation Process	86
Figure 3.17: Preparation Process of Cylinder Specimens	89
Figure 3.18: Concrete Prisms Specimens Preparation Process	91
Figure 3.19: Reinforced Concrete Slab Preparations Process	94
Figure 3.20: Slump Test Process	99

Figure 3.21: Bulk Density Process	100
Figure 3.22: Compressive Test Process	101
Figure 3.23: Preparation of the Specimens for Flexural Test	103
Figure 3.24: Splitting Tensile Test	105
Figure 3.25: Steps to Conduct Static Modulus of Elasticity	106
Figure 3.26: Water absorption test	109
Figure 3.27: Water permeability test	110
Figure 3.28: Impact hammer test setup	114
Figure 3.29: Marking points	114
Figure 3.30: Accelerometer and hammer configurations for determination of damping properties	115
Figure 3.31: Examples of raw data generated from the MeScope VES software for impact hammer test	117
Figure 3.32: Flow Chart Analysis using MEScopeVES Software	118
Figure 3.33: Create new structure	119
Figure 3.34: Draw points to represent node points for slab, accelerometer and hammer	119
Figure 3.35: Draw lines to create area and volume for the slab	120
Figure 3.36: Draw surface quads	120
Figure 3.37: Import data block from the impact hammer test, namely the time, force and acceleration from each accelerometer	121
Figure 3.38: Data block setup	121
Figure 3.39: Transform to Frequency Response Function (FRFs)	122
Figure 3.40: Select peaks of the FRF for determining the natural frequencies, mode shape and damping ratios of the slab specimen	122
Figure 3.41: Animate the structure	123
Figure 3.42: Flow chart of modelling using SAP2000	123
Figure 4.1: Particle size distributions of raw materials	128
Figure 4.2: Particle size distributions of raw materials	129
Figure 4.3: Morphology of river sand at (a) 300x and (b) 500x magnifications	131
Figure 4.4: Morphology of rubber ash at (a) 1,500x and (b) 5,500x magnifications	131
Figure 4.5: Morphology of rubber crumb at (a) 100x and (b) 500x magnifications	131
Figure 4.6: Microstructure of Control Concrete Mix	132

Figure 4.7: Microstructure of Rubber Ash in Concrete Mix (The rubber ash does not dissolve in concrete mix and thus are not pozzolonic materials)	132
Figure 4.8: Microstructure of Rubber Crumb Concrete Mix (The rubber crumb does not dissolve in concrete mix and thus are not pozzolonic materials)	132
Figure 5.1: Slump values for rubber ash and rubber crumb concrete	141
Figure 5.2: Bulk density of the rubber ash and rubber crumb concrete	144
Figure 5.3: Compressive strength of rubber ash concrete	146
Figure 5.4: Compressive strength of rubber crumb concrete	148
Figure 5.5: Comparison Percentage Reduction of The Compressive Strength for Rubber Crumb Concrete	149
Figure 5.6: Flexural strength for rubber ash concrete	150
Figure 5.7: Flexural strength for rubber crumb concrete	151
Figure 5.8: Splitting tensile strength for rubber ash concrete	153
Figure 5.9: Splitting tensile strength for rubber crumb concrete	155
Figure 5.10: The graph for modulus of elasticity against the percentage of rubber ash and rubber crumb substitutions (Ctrl denotes the modulus of elasticity for control specimen)	157
Figure 5.11: Water absorption for rubber ash and rubber crumb concrete (Ctrl denotes the modulus of elasticity for control specimen)	160
Figure 5.12: Depth of penetration for rubber ash and rubber crumb concrete (Ctrl denotes the modulus of elasticity for control specimen)	161
Figure 5.13: The percentage improvement indicator of the engineering properties	163
Figure 6.1: Frequency of rubber ash and crumb concrete	168
Figure 6.2: Amplitude response for control specimen	174
Figure 6.3: Amplitude response for RAC 3% specimen	174
Figure 6.4: Amplitude response for RAC 5% specimen	174
Figure 6.5: Amplitude response for RAC 7% specimen	175
Figure 6.6: Amplitude response for RAC 9% specimen	175
Figure 6.7: Amplitude response for RCC 3% specimen	175
Figure 6.8: Amplitude response for RCC 5% specimen	176
Figure 6.9: Amplitude response for RCC 7% specimen	176
Figure 6.10: Amplitude response for RCC 9% specimen	176
Figure 6.11: Frequency and mode shape from experimental using ME`Scope software	178

Figure 6.12: Frequency and mode shape from theoretical using SAP2000 software



LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Physical Properties of River Sand	12
Table 2.2: Compound Composition of River Sand	13
Table 2.3: Physical Properties of Rubber Crumb	15
Table 2.4: Elements Composition of Rubber Crumb	16
Table 2.5: Physical Properties of Rubber Ash	18
Table 2.6: Compounds Composition of Rubber Ash	19
Table 2.7: Elements Composition of Rubber Ash	19
Table 2.8: List of previous research on concrete rubber	20
Table 2.9: Rubber Replacement in Concrete	28
Table 2.10: Size and Percentage Rubber Replacement Used in Concrete	30
Table 2.11: Slump of Rubberised Concrete	33
Table 2.12: Density of Rubberised Concrete	36
Table 2.13: Compressive Strength of Rubberised Concrete	39
Table 2.14: Flexural Strength of Rubberised Concrete Reported by Previous Researchers from 1999 to 2019	44
Table 2.15: Splitting Tensile Strength of Rubberised Concrete Reported by Previous Research from 2013 to 2019	47
Table 2.16 Modulus of Elasticity of Rubberised Concrete	50
Table 2.17: Water Absorption of Rubberised Concrete	52
Table 2.18: Water Permeability of Rubberised Concrete Reported by Previous Researchers	53
Table 2.19: Frequency of Rubberised Concrete	56
Table 2.20: Damping Ratio of Rubberised Concrete	57
Table 3.1: Details of the Specimens	82
Table 3.2: Mix proportion for concrete mix design	83
Table 3.3. Details of the Cube Specimens	84
Table 3.4: Details of the Cylinder Specimens	88

Table 3.5: Details of the Prism Specimens	91
Table 3.6: Details of the Slab Specimens	98
Table 3.7: Material Properties	124
Table 4.1: Bulk density for raw materials	126
Table 4.2: Specific gravity for raw materials	127
Table 4.3: Elements Composition for raw materials	134
Table 4.4: Comparison of Rubber Ash Elements Composition	134
Table 4.5: Comparison of Rubber Crumb Elements Composition	135
Table 4.6: Compounds composition for raw materials	136
Table 4.7: Comparison of River Sand Compound Composition	137
Table 4.8: Comparison of Rubber Ash Compounds Compositions	138
Table 5.1: Comparison of percentage reduction of slump test between the present study and previous research at 5% replacement	142
Table 5.2: Discrepancy bulk density for rubber ash and crumb concrete	145
Table 5.3: Discrepancy in compressive strength for rubber ash concrete	147
Table 5.4: Discrepancy in compressive strength for rubber crumb concrete	149
Table 5.5: Discrepancy in flexural strength for rubber ash concrete	151
Table 5.6: Discrepancy in flexural strength for rubber crumb concrete	152
Table 5.7: Discrepancy in splitting tensile for rubber ash concrete	154
Table 5.8: Ratio of experimental to calculated values of splitting tensile strength for rubber ash concrete	154
Table 5.9: Discrepancy in splitting tensile for rubber crumb concrete	155
Table 5.10: Ratio of experimental to calculated values of splitting tensile strength for rubber crumb concrete	156
Table 5.11: Discrepancy in modulus of elasticity for rubber ash and crumb concrete	158
Table 5.12: The average modulus of elasticity for rubber ash and crumb concrete	158
Table 5.13: Ratio of experimental to calculated values	159
Table 5.14: Discrepancy in water absorption for rubber ash and crumb concrete	160
Table 5.15: Discrepancy in depth of penetration for rubber ash and crumb concrete	162
Table 6.1: Discrepancy of the frequency	169
Table 6.2: Frequency of rubber ash and rubber crumb concrete	170
Table 6.3: Discrepancy of the frequency between theoretical and experimental	171

Table 6.4: Damping ratio and discrepancy of rubber ash reinforced concrete slab and rubber crumb reinforced concrete slab with Ctrl	172
Table 6.5: Amplitude response and damping ratio	177



LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

%	-	Percentage
<	-	Small/ Less Than
>	-	Larger/ More Than
-	-	Negative
C	-	Degree Celsius
H	-	Hour
mm	-	Millimetre
Hz	-	Hertz
AS	-	Australian Standards
ACI	-	American Concrete Institute
ASTM	-	American Society for Testing and Materials
Ctrl	-	Control
BS	-	British Standards
BS EN	-	British Adoption of European Standards
MK	-	Metakaolin
MS EN	-	Malaysian Standards
OPC	-	Ordinary Portland Cement
RAC	-	Rubber Ash Concrete
RCC	-	Rubber Crumb Concrete

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Nowadays, road authorities struggle to maintain a substantial number of ageing bridges, which do not comply with the current standard. This can be due to: (1) deterioration and structural deficiencies developed over time; or (2) the escalating demands imposed by increased traffic intensity and higher axle loads (Mara *et al.*, 2014). As a result, the maintenance of bridges is costly and has turned into a very challenging task for the road authorities. Bridge maintenance is even more expensive and complicated in urban areas compared to rural areas, with the additional indirect costs due to traffic disruption. New maintenance methods that minimize the traffic disruption and disturbance in highly populated areas are therefore beneficial for road authorities or owners. One aspect that can be further improved is the use of durable material for concrete deck on bridge structure.

Portland cement concrete is one of the most versatile materials commonly used in construction industry. The widespread use of this type of cement had facilitated industrial growth in the last century and also contributed to environmental issues (Petersen *et al.*, 2015). Gupta *et al.* (2014) argued that concrete industry is one of the most environmentally demanding industries as its production processes involved mining of natural aggregates, use of increasingly scarce freshwater resources, and development of new chemical admixtures. Most of the research today and the current state-of-practices related to resource productivity in structural concrete are limited to cement conservation through the partial replacement of cement with industrial by-product, for example, fly ash, ground granulated blast furnace slag, and silica fume

(González-López *et al.*, 2015). Unfortunately, there has been a slight overlook on the development of suitable substitution materials to the concrete mixture, such as industrial and agricultural wastes, that resulted in concrete mixture with superior mechanical properties.

The National Solid Waste Management Department, Ministry of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia reported that approximately 300,000 tonnes of scrap tyres are generated annually (Chemisian Konsultant Sdn. Bhd., 2011). This value is estimated to increase at about 5% every year, in line with the percentage increment of vehicle usage. Through this study, it can be estimated that by 2021, the volume of scrap tyres generated is expected to be approximately 471,221 tonnes. This problem, however, is not localised as other countries such as the United States of America generates approximately 300,000,000 scrap tyres annually, about 40% of which are used as fuel for generating energy, 26% ground into crumb rubber, 13% discarded in landfills, and only about 5.5% used in civil engineering applications (Shu & Huang, 2014). In the meantime, Xiong *et al.* (2021) reported that approximately 1 billion tyres end their service life every year around the world and more than 50% are discarded without any treatment.

The significant increase in the number of vehicles worldwide and the lack of both technical and economical mechanisms resulting in waste tyres are considered serious pollution problems in terms of waste disposal. The best way to dispose of waste tyres is to reuse them (Lv *et al.*, 2015). The interest in recycling tyre is due to its availability and the high generation volume. The rate of scrap tyre generation is expected to continue growing as the world population and vehicle usage increase (Onuaguluchi & Panesar, 2014). Throughout the United States, there were still 128,000,000 tyres remain stockpiled (Xue & Shinozuka, 2013). Waste tyre management and disposal are major environmental concerns in many countries. Stockpiling is dangerous, not only due to potential adverse environmental impacts, but also because it poses a fire hazard and provides breeding for vector such as rats, mice, vermin, and mosquitoes (Elchalakani, 2015). Also, when such tyres dumps catch fire it is notoriously difficult and costly to extinguish (Youssf *et al.*, 2014).

Rubber is also one of the industrial wastes that attracts the interest of many researchers. For example, Pelisser *et al.* (2011) mixed rubber into concrete mixture to produce a concrete product with low density and increased thermal insulation and soundproofing. The increase in the waste tyre content in the concrete mixture was

found to lower the density of concrete to as low as 75% of the normal concrete weight (Abd. Aziz *et al.*, 2014). Nadal Gisbert *et al.* (2014) found that the addition of rubber particles produces lighter concrete, which can be used for specific applications and have the characteristic of occluding a large amount of air inside that further improves its workability. Furthermore, the increased capacity to dissipate and absorb energy favours its usage in many applications, including the production of sound barriers (Nadal Gisbert *et al.*, 2014). Rubber has a high resistance to cracking in which it does not only improves the resistance of the cementitious to cracking from impact load but also enhances the overall impact strength (Dehdezi *et al.*, 2015).

Construction materials used for engineering applications including the airport runway, road pavement, bridge deck and other structural systems are expected to be concrete structure of high impact resistance. These applications are often exposed to dynamic impact loading thus making its energy-absorbing ability or durability very important. It is established that incorporating rubber to a concrete mixture contributes to a significant improvement in its durability, and hence resistant to impact (Liu *et al.*, 2012). However, the main disadvantages of adding waste tyre rubber in concrete are reduction of the compressive strength and elastic modulus (Hilal, 2017; Khorami & Ganjian, 2011; Thomas & Gupta, 2016; Youssf *et al.*, 2016). Eldin and Senouci (1993) were the first to study concrete consisting tyre aggregate of 38, 25 and 19 mm, in 1993 they found that concrete exhibits lower compressive strength and splitting tensile strength. A notable result was that the failure mode of the concrete was ductile rather than brittle. Thomas *et al.* (1994) further investigated the effects of adding rubber into a concrete mixture by replacing fine (1 mm) and coarse (6 mm, 19 mm, 25 mm and 38 mm) aggregate. Their results supported the findings of the previous study, in that the concrete tyre aggregate had lower compressive and tensile strength. Several studies (Thomas *et al.*, 1994; Bravo & de Brito, 2012) have shown that the increase in the size of the tyre aggregate will result in decreasing compressive strength. They also observed that the loss of compressive strength increased with the size of the tyre aggregate (Bravo & de Brito, 2012). The greater the size of rubber particles added to the concrete, the lower the strength of the concrete, and vice versa (Li *et al.*, 2014; Liu *et al.*, 2012).

The increasing amount of waste tyres worldwide makes the disposal of tyres a crucial problem to be solved. One of the most critical environmental issues all around the world is the disposal of waste materials. Accumulations of discarded waste tyres

have been a major concern because waste rubber is not easily biodegradable even after a long period of landfill treatment. However, there are material and energy that can be extracted from waste rubber. Other researchers propose to use it as fuel material or as raw materials of rubber goods (Sukontasukkul & Tiamlom, 2012). Recycled used rubber conserves valuable natural resources and reduces the amount of rubber entering landfill (Youssf *et al.*, 2015).

The use of recycled rubber particles as alternative aggregates in concrete has received significant attention over the last two decades. This is due to the massive quantities of scrap vehicle tyres that have already accumulated and the increased annual production estimated to be one billion tyres produced worldwide in 2011 (Hall & Najim, 2014). Utilization of rubber wastes in the construction industry is now well developed for sustainability in two ways. First, reuse the materials which otherwise would become a burden to the environment and occupy scarce land resource. Second, it minimizes the degradation of land and the environment because of comparatively less digging. Recycling is an all-prevailing practice now as it conserves the planet resources (Gesöglu & Güneyisi, 2011). Rubberised concrete has become an emerging research topic in recent years. To date, most research is focused on the evaluation of mechanical properties of the rubberised concrete mixture (Xue & Shinozuka, 2013).

The replacement of fine aggregate with waste tyre rubber, at a volume of 5%, causes the strength to increase up to 10% (da Silva *et al.*, 2015). The addition of shredded scrap tyres to concrete provides some favourable characteristics for concrete and alters some of the concrete properties. The ordinary cement-based concrete is generally brittle, however, the addition of rubber in the concrete material increases its ductility and impact resistance (Moustafa & ElGawady, 2015; Pham *et al.*, 2020). The rubberize concrete is recommended to be used in circumstances where vibration damping is required, such as for bridge construction as a shock-wave absorber (Chou *et al.*, 2010; Li *et al.*, 2020). Experimental studies on rubberised concrete materials have shown that using rubber in concrete as partial replacement of mineral aggregates enhances its ductility, toughness, impact resistance, energy dissipation, and damping ratio (Youssf *et al.*, 2015). A recent study by Moustafa & ElGawady (2015) investigated the methods for increasing the damping capacity of concrete by replacing up to 20% of the fine aggregate with shredded rubber. Generally, the study reported an increase in damping and a decrease in compressive strength (Moustafa &

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1. **Characterization of tyre rubber ash and crumb as fine aggregate resource**
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Journal of Engineering Science and Technology, 2021, 16(1), pp. 510–526
2. **Properties of Concrete Containing Rubber Ash and Rubber Crumb as Partial Replacement of Sand**
Shahidan, S., Mangi, S.A., Senin, M.S., Mohd Zuki, S.S., Ibrahim, M.H.W.
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3. **The effect of using different substitutes of rubber ash on compressive strength of cement mortar**
Senin, M.S., Shahidan, S., Ghafar, N.H.A., ...Ibrahim, M.H.W., Nazri, F.M.
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4. **A review on the suitability of rubberized concrete for concrete bridge decks**
Senin, M.S., Shahidan, S., Abdullah, S.R., Guntor, N.A., Leman, A.S.
IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering, 2017, 271(1), 012074
5. **The durability of concrete containing recycled tyres as a partial replacement of fine aggregate**
Senin, M.S., Shahidan, S., Leman, A.S., ...Ibrahim, M.H.W., Mohd Zuki, S.S.
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6. **The optimum content of rubber ash in concrete: Flexural strength**
Senin, M.S., Shahidan, S., Shamsuddin, S.M., ...Khalid, F.S., Nazri, F.M.
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7. **Analysis of Physical Properties and Mineralogical of Pyrolysis Tires Rubber Ash Compared Natural Sand in Concrete material**
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IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering, 2016, 160(1), 012053
8. **Properties of Cement Mortar Containing Rubber Ash as Sand Replacement** Mohamad Syamir Senin, Shahiron Shahidan, Alif Syazani Leman and Nurul Izzati Raihan Ramzi Hannan
IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering, 2016, 160(1), 012055