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## Sound Absorption Characteristics of Membrane-Based Sound Absorbers

August 28th, 2003

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Ray W. Herrick Laboratories

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## Motivation

- Recently, it has been observed that
  - Macro-cellular polyolefin foams (e.g., Quash-like) absorb sound energy even though the foams are mostly closedcelled and the average cell size is very large.



- How does this sound absorption arise?
- How do you model this effect?
  - C. Park et al., New Sound-Absorbing Foams from Polyolefin Resins, Proc. of Inter-Noise 2000, pp 583-586, 2000

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# **Quash Membrane Model**

- To this point, model is based on tensioned membranes
- Stiffness of this model is provided by tension of membrane



#### Top View of Quash

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## **Foam Modeling Procedure**



## **Theoretical Model - Permeable Membrane**



### **Assumed Solutions**

- Sound Pressures in Acoustic Cavities:
- Membrane Displacement (Solid Component):
- Membrane Displacement (Fluid Component):

$$P_{\rm I}(r,z) = e^{-jkz} + \sum_{n} B_{n} J_{\rm o}(k_{r_{n}}r) e^{jk_{z_{n}}z}$$

$$P_{\rm II}(r,z) = \sum_{n} C_{n} J_{\rm o}(k_{r_{n}}r) e^{-jk_{z_{n}}z}$$

$$y(r,t) = \sum_{n} A_{n} J_{o}(k_{0_{n}}r)$$

$$u(r,t) = \sum_{n} F_{n} J_{o}(k_{0_{n}}r) + F_{o}$$

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### **Theoretical Model – Solution Method**

Boundary Conditions

- The Continuities of Velocity at the Both Side of a Membrane:

$$-\frac{1}{j\omega\rho_{o}}\frac{\partial P_{I}}{\partial z}\Big|_{z=0} = (1-\Omega)\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} + \Omega\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$$
$$-\frac{1}{j\omega\rho_{o}}\frac{\partial P_{II}}{\partial z}\Big|_{z=0} = (1-\Omega)\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} + \Omega\frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$$

- The Force Equilibrium Equation in the Membrane:

$$\nabla^2 y - \frac{\rho_s}{T} \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} - \frac{R_f}{T} \frac{\partial (y - u)}{\partial t} = -\frac{(1 - \Omega)}{T} (P_{\rm I} - P_{\rm II})$$
$$\rho_0 \Omega h \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - R_f \frac{\partial (y - u)}{\partial t} = \Omega (P_{\rm I} - P_{\rm II})$$

where

$$T = T_{o}(1 + j\eta) \qquad \Omega = N\pi a^{2} / A \qquad P_{front} - P_{back} = R_{f}v_{f}$$

### Solution Method

Apply four boundary conditions on a point-by-point basis across the membrane



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## **Energy dissipation by Membrane**



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## **Transfer Matrix Method**

• Membrane & Air Cavity Transfer Matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} T_m \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & Z_m \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_a \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(k \cdot (l_2 - l_1)) & i\rho_o c \sin(k \cdot (l_2 - l_1)) \\ \frac{i}{\rho_o c} \sin(k \cdot (l_2 - l_1)) & \cos(k \cdot (l_2 - l_1)) \end{bmatrix}$$

N lavers

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• Total Transfer Matrix

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## **Experimental Set-up**



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## **Experimental Set-up**

Loading Quash Sample

Measurement Set-up



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### **Comparison of Measurement and Prediction**



 $\rho_m$ =0.0885 kg/m<sup>2</sup>,  $T_o$ =0.13 N/m,  $\eta$ =1.6,  $m_s$ =0.1586 kg/m<sup>2</sup>,  $\Omega$ =0.0085,  $R_f$ =0.286 Rayls, t=0.0002 m,  $d_o$ =0.00486 m, h=0.05832 m, N=12.

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### **Parameter Effects on Sound Absorption**

#### **Foam Thickness**

**Membrane Size** 



 $\rho_m = 0.07 \text{ kg/m}^2$ , To=0.5 N/m,  $\eta = 0.7$ ,  $m_s = 0.2 \text{ kg/m}^2$ ,  $\Omega = 0.01$ ,  $R_f = 0.2 \text{ Rayls}$ , t = 0.0002 m,  $d_o = 0.0059 \text{ m}$ ,

 $\rho_m$ =0.07 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, To=0.5 N/m,  $\eta$ =0.7,  $m_s$ =0.2 kg/m<sup>2</sup>,  $\Omega$ =0.01,  $R_f$ =0.2 Rayls, t=0.0002 m, N=10

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## **Parameter Effects on Sound Absorption**

**Surface Mass** 

**Membrane Porosity** 



 $\rho_m$ =0.07 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, To=0.5 N/m,  $\eta$ =0.7,  $\Omega$ =0.01, R<sub>f</sub>=0.2 Rayls, t=0.0002 m, d<sub>o</sub>=0.0059 m, N=10  $\rho_m$ =0.07 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, To=0.5 N/m,  $\eta$ =0.7,  $m_s$ =0.07 kg/m<sup>2</sup>,  $R_f$ =0.2 Rayls, t=0.0002 m,  $d_o$ =0.0059 m, N=10

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## **Parameter Effects on Sound Absorption**



 $m_s$ =0.2135 kg/m<sup>2</sup>,  $\Omega$ =0.0,  $R_f$ =0.2 Rayls, *t*=0.0002 m,  $d_o$ =0.0056 m, *h*=0.056 m, *N*=12 (1/3-octave band normal incidence absorption averaged from 125 Hz to 1600 Hz)

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### **Some High Absorption Designs**



#### New Design 1

$$\begin{split} \rho_m = 0.2213 \text{ kg/m}^2(\uparrow), \\ T_o = 0.065 \text{ N/m} (\downarrow), \ \eta = 1.6, \\ m_s = 0.1941 \text{ kg/m}^2(\uparrow), \ \Omega = 0.02(\uparrow), \\ R_f = 0.286 \text{ Rayls}, \ t = 0.0002 \text{ m}, \\ d_o = 0.00583 \text{ m}(\uparrow), \ h = 0.0583 \text{ m}, \\ N = 10(\downarrow) \end{split}$$

#### New Design 2

 $\rho_m = 0.1770 \text{ kg/m}^2(\uparrow),$   $T_o = 0.13 \text{ N/m}, \eta = 1.6,$   $m_s = 0.0970 \text{ kg/m}^2(\downarrow), \Omega = 0.03(\uparrow),$   $R_f = 0.286 \text{ Rayls}, t = 0.0002 \text{ m},$   $d_o = 0.00583 \text{ m}(\uparrow), h = 0.0583 \text{ m},$  $N = 10 (\downarrow)$ 

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# **Conclusions & Future Work**

- An acoustical model for membrane-based sound absorbing materials was presented and was verified experimentally on the basis of acoustical measurements.
- It has been found that the theoretical model can accurately reproduce the acoustical behavior of the particular foam studied here.
- It was shown that the choice of particular combinations of material properties can result in improved sound absorption.
- The present work can provide the foundation necessary to design membrane-based sound absorbing materials having enhanced sound absorption capacity.
- The present work implies that alternative stiffness mechanisms of membrane systems such as flexural stiffness, membrane curvature, bulk elasticity, and membrane inhomogeneity, can also result in sound dissipation in membrane-based foams; this work will be presented in the future.

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