

INFLUENCE OF MOISTURE CONTENT ON THE TEST OF RESILIENCE MODULES IN BR-319/AM SUBGRADE SOILS

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Abstract: In view of the BR-319 implementation scenario, with the execution of Lot Charlie and the contracting of projects in the middle section, and the introduction of the new national dimensioning method (MeDiNa), the present work sought to evaluate the influence of the behavior of the resilience module with the gain of $\pm 2\%$ of moisture in soils of BR-319. Soil characterization tests were carried out, such as Atterberg limits, granulometry by sedimentation, and real density, in addition to the resilience module according to the DNIT 134/2018 standard. As expected, the results showed that the moisture gain generated a reduction of more than 50% in the average resilience modulus. The confining stress-dependent model presented a low frame, and the deviation stress-dependent model showed a better frame, but the composite model used in MeDiNa proved to be the most suitable for this type of soil, regardless of moisture.

Keywords: BR-319, Resilient Modulus.

INTRODUCTION

The BR-319/AM highway was built under the military government, during the 70's and 80's, to foster the 885 km land connection between the cities of Manaus and Porto Velho and promote region's economic development. Fearnside and Graça (2009) state government policy was to build the highways without asphalt coating, and to coat them over time if there was a significant traffic flow increase. However, the BR-319 was an exception to the policy as asphalt was applied during the construction.

Many challenges were encountered during the construction process due to areas prone to flooding, watercourses, the lack of rocky material, and high precipitation levels. In addition to those challenges, the urgency for the highway was such the hat road was built during a period of rain. Therefore, to protect the pavement structure from heavy rainfall,

the engineers used a construction technique that consisted of applying kilometers of canvas to the pavement and road structure during the implementation stages of the project, as shown in Figure 1 (Neto and Nogueira, 2014 and Fearnside and Graça, 2009).

Because of the physical conditions of the site, a lack of maintenance, vehicles exceeding weight limits, and high precipitation, the highway became impassable within a decade, owing to a series of holes that were more hazardous to vehicles than in an unpaved road.

The highway reconstruction has been planned and postponed repeatedly. Currently, the highway has two paved road sections, the first section from km 0 to km 198 (counting from Manaus) and the second section from km 622 (BR-319/AM/RO) to km 64.90 (BR-319/RO), as shown in Figure 2.

Reconstruction is currently being done by the National Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DNIT) on lot C (198-250 km) in the BR-319/AM. In addition, a preliminary environmental license was also granted to DNIT by Ibama (Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources) in July 2022 for the middle section, which encompasses 405 kilometers of the highway.

The moisture content of the composite layers on the pavement may change in response to variations in the water level, infiltration through cracks, and uncoated edges (Franco, 2007). Several studies have been conducted to investigate the moisture content "in loco" (Nazarian and Yuan, 2008; Khoury et al., 2009; Freitas, 2019). It was observed that the resilience modulus increased as the soil dried out, due to suction, whereas the RM decreased as the water content increased. During the initial phase tests, in which the subject is the moisture content variations, Guimarães (2009) verified permanent excessive deformation in



Figure 1 - BR-319 Highway construction



Figure 2 - BR-319 map that shows the patch from Manaus - AM to Porto Velho - RO (Infrastructure Minister of Brazil, translated from Portuguese)

laterite from Rondônia, when the moisture content was increased from the optimum moisture value.

In the context of the BR-319 implementation scenario, the reconstruction of lot C, the contracting projects for the middle section of the highway, and the revised National Dimensioning Method (MeDiNa) employed in new DNIT projects, the purpose of this research is to understand the effects of moisture variation in subgrade soils, thereby, helping in the Structural Analysis of Pavements in the region.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experimental program was developed at Traficon Engineering Soil Laboratory, using repeated load triaxial equipment. All soils were characterized in the laboratory using sedimentation granulometry, Atterberg limits, real densities, HRB classification, and MCT classification.

Furthermore, compaction was carried out in the tripartite mold, because according to Zucchi et al., (2017), using the tripartite mold results in moisture contents and maximum dry densities different from the compactions performed in the CBR cylinder. The compactions were therefore performed in the tripartite mold, however because of a lack of research material, a curve with 3 samples was obtained rather than a normative 5 samples curve.

The resilience modulus test was performed for each soil sample according to 132 standard (DNIT, 2018). The conditioning was done with stress levels ($\sigma_3 = 0.07$ MPa and $\sigma_d = 0.07$ MPa), at 500 repetitions. After conditioning, a series of 12 stress level tests were conducted. For each subgrade, the test was performed at two moisture levels: Wot and Wot \pm 2%. Therefore, the influence of moisture on the resilient behavior of soils was confirmed by determining whether the elastic

response is altered when the soil is subjected to short-duration repeated load bursts.

SOIL CHARACTERIZATION

On the BR-319/AM highway, soil samples were collected from 6 piles, 2 soil samples from plot Charlie (km 198 to km 250), 2 soils samples in segment 1 (km 250 to km 346.20), and 2 soils samples in segment 2 (km 346.20 to km 433.10), as shown in Table 1.

Like in the state of Acre, the soil in the Amazon region is known locally as Tabatinga, and its many unique mechanical and mineralogy characteristics can be observed throughout the entire highway. In their report, Barbosa et al. (2018) conclude that structural pavement failures in this type of soil are primarily due to the neglect of the soil's unique mineralogy, physical, and chemical characteristics.

The soil has a fine silty-clayey consistency or a clayey-silty texture, with a low capacity for support, a high expansion quality, and high plasticity. According to laboratory tests conducted for the purpose of studying the increase in moisture by capillarity, the soil displays an effervescent behavior. When in contact with water, it collapses and loses all its capacity to support itself.

Figure 3 shows the attempt of the saturation process. When introducing a water depth of 3mm to the sample, the soil instantly "effervesced" and collapses under its own weight. This renders the experience impossible. Guimarães (2009) concluded that samples with moisture induced by capillarity show high deformations in the initial cycle of permanent deformation tests. The research is interesting but highly prone to failure.

In the sedimentation granulometry test, it was possible to verify the zero presence of gravel (particles larger than 2mm) or/and the low presence of coarse and medium sand. The percentage of silt.

| Identification | Stake | Km | Side | Visual-Manual Soil Classification | HRB Soil Classification |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Subgrade 1 | 190 | 201.8 | Right | Silty Clay Loam | A-7-6 |
| Subgrade 2 | 310 | 204.2 | Right | Silty Clay Loam | A-6 |
| Subgrade 3 | 1205 | 274.8 | Axis | Silty Clay Loam | A-6 |
| Subgrade 4 | 1990 | 290.5 | Left | Pink Clay Silt | A-7-5 |
| Subgrade 5 | 115 | 348 | Axis | Silty Clay Loam | A-7-6 |
| Subgrade 6 | 1440 | 375 | Right | Silty Clay Loam | A-7-5 |

Table 1 - Soils Identification

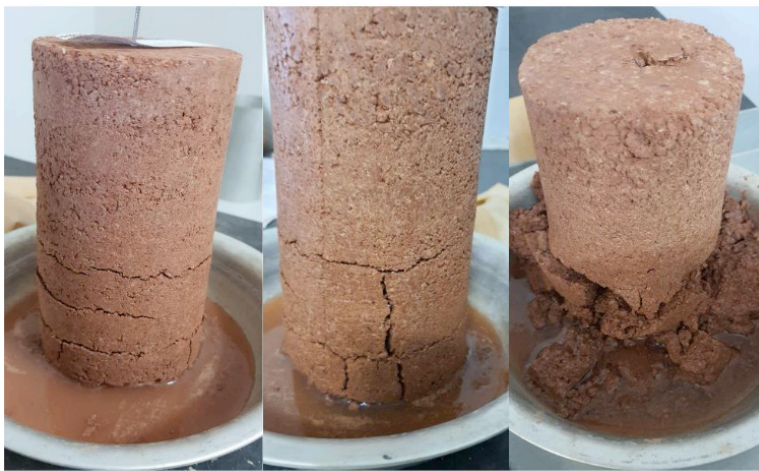


Figure 3 - Capillarity process

| Identification | Gravel | Corse Sand | Medium Sand | Fine Sand | Silt | Clay |
|----------------|--------|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Subgrade 1 | 0.00% | 10.80% | 16.67% | 18.24% | 22.33% | 31.96% |
| Subgrade 2 | 0.00% | 6.44% | 19.13% | 17.01% | 25.27% | 32.14% |
| Subgrade 3 | 0.00% | 2.73% | 26.63% | 28.38% | 18.36% | 23.90% |
| Subgrade 4 | 0.00% | 0.80% | 4.41% | 10.31% | 50.04% | 34.45% |
| Subgrade 5 | 0.00% | 1.96% | 1.18% | 6.13% | 39.09% | 51.64% |
| Subgrade 6 | 0.00% | 1.04% | 3.09% | 20.27% | 36.48% | 39.12% |

Table 2 – Particle proportion in the subgrade composition fraction

The Sedimentation Granulometry results can be observed in Table 3 and Figure 4. It is concluded that the soil composition of subgrade 3 is characterized by the highest proportion of sandy material. Additionally, this can be consistently observed throughout the first half of segment 1, which contains pockets of sandy soil with low plasticity and expansion qualities. Subgrades 1 and 2 had a similar soil composition, with medium and fine sand in the sample.

In subgrades 4, 5 and 6, there is more than 84.5% sandy and granular material (soil material with less than 200 mesh particle size). At last, Segment 2 was primarily composed of extremely fine soils. No sandy and granular soil material present in the sample.

Table 4 presents the results of the real density, Atterberg limits, the maximum dry density, and the optimal moisture content found in the compaction tests in the tripartite mold. It is concluded that the presence of medium and fine sand in sub-grade 3 resulted in a lower optimum moisture content and a lower actual density. Subgrade 5 had the highest moisture content and the lowest maximum dry density, a fact justified by the very low presence of sand (< 10%) and the high percentage of clay and silt in the sample. Subgrades 1 and 2 had a similar maximum density, moisture content, and liquidity limit, however Subgrade 2 presented a lower plasticity limit when in contrast to the Subgrade 1.

Figure 5 shows the soil compaction curves performed in the tripartite mold. Subgrades 1 and 2 showed a small decrease in dry density from the optimum point to the point with +2% moisture content, a phenom that was not observed in other subgrade samples.

MATHEMATICAL MODELS

In order to evaluate the resilient behavior of the BR-319 highway subgrade, three mathematical relationships were established

between the resilience modulus and the stress state. For this purpose, the confining stress-dependent model, the deviation stress-dependent model, and the composite model were employed.

The confining stress-dependent model, known as the “ $k-\sigma_3$ ” model, was proposed by Hick (1970). In equation 1, the author related the resilience module with the confining stress. The k_1 and k_2 are representative of the regression coefficients, obtained in laboratory results.

$$MR = k_1 \times \sigma_3^{k_2}$$

Furthermore, Svenson (1980) presented a model in which the deviation stress is used as an independent variable, known as the “ $k-\sigma_d$ ” model.

$$MR = k_1 \times \sigma_d^{k_2}$$

Additionally, several studies have found that the resilience modulus in fine soils depends primarily on stress deviation. (Carmo, 1999) suggests that in granular soils, the resilience modulus depends greatly on the confining stress, and it is not strongly influenced by the deviation stress. The “ $k-\sigma_d$ ” model is used for fine soils or other types of soils, in which more than 50% of their soil composition is 200 mesh particles in size. They usually are subgrade lateritic soils or subgrade reinforcement layer.

At last, the revised National Dimensioning Method (MeDiNa), considers and utilizes a Composite Model in its software calculation base. The model utilizes four constants (values) to characterize and understand the material by utilizing the most appropriate model to represent its behavior and properties (Santos, 2021). The Composite Model suggests that the resilience modulus is strongly dependent deviation stress and confining stress.

$$MR = k_1 \times \sigma_3^{k_2} \times \sigma_d^{k_3} \times \theta^{k_4}$$

According to the MeDiNa User Manual

| Diameter (mm) | Subgrade 1 | Subgrade 2 | Subgrade 3 | Subgrade 4 | Subgrade 5 | Subgrade 6 |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Passed grain (%) | Passed grain (%) | Passed grain (%) | Passed grain (%) | Passed grain (%) | Passed grain (%) |
| 50.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 38.1 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 25.4 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 19.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 9.5 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 4.8 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 2.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 1.2 | 98.7 | 98.6 | 99.7 | 100.0 | 99.2 | 99.7 |
| 0.60 | 89.2 | 93.6 | 97.3 | 99.2 | 98.0 | 99.0 |
| 0.420 | 84.5 | 87.7 | 93.1 | 98.3 | 97.6 | 98.5 |
| 0.30 | 76.8 | 80.7 | 82.6 | 96.4 | 97.5 | 97.3 |
| 0.150 | 68.3 | 68.1 | 58.7 | 93.2 | 96.3 | 94.5 |
| 0.0750 | 61.6 | 61.2 | 44.4 | 85.3 | 90.6 | 84.5 |
| 0.0649 | 54.7 | 58.2 | 44.5 | 84.5 | 91.2 | 76.8 |
| 0.0459 | 53.1 | 55.0 | 36.4 | 84.5 | 88.6 | 71.5 |
| 0.03246 | 50.0 | 51.9 | 33.7 | 74.0 | 86.0 | 63.6 |
| 0.0229 | 45.3 | 50.3 | 31.0 | 63.6 | 83.4 | 55.7 |
| 0.0162 | 42.9 | 47.1 | 31.0 | 58.3 | 80.8 | 50.5 |
| 0.0118 | 43.0 | 42.1 | 28.1 | 50.5 | 78.3 | 47.8 |
| 0.0084 | 40.5 | 40.6 | 27.9 | 45.2 | 70.4 | 45.2 |
| 0.0059 | 37.3 | 38.6 | 27.7 | 42.6 | 67.7 | 42.4 |
| 0.0042 | 35.7 | 35.3 | 27.4 | 39.8 | 62.5 | 42.4 |
| 0.0012 | 29.2 | 29.8 | 22.8 | 31.9 | 45.9 | 38.7 |

Table 3 – Granulometry by sedimentation

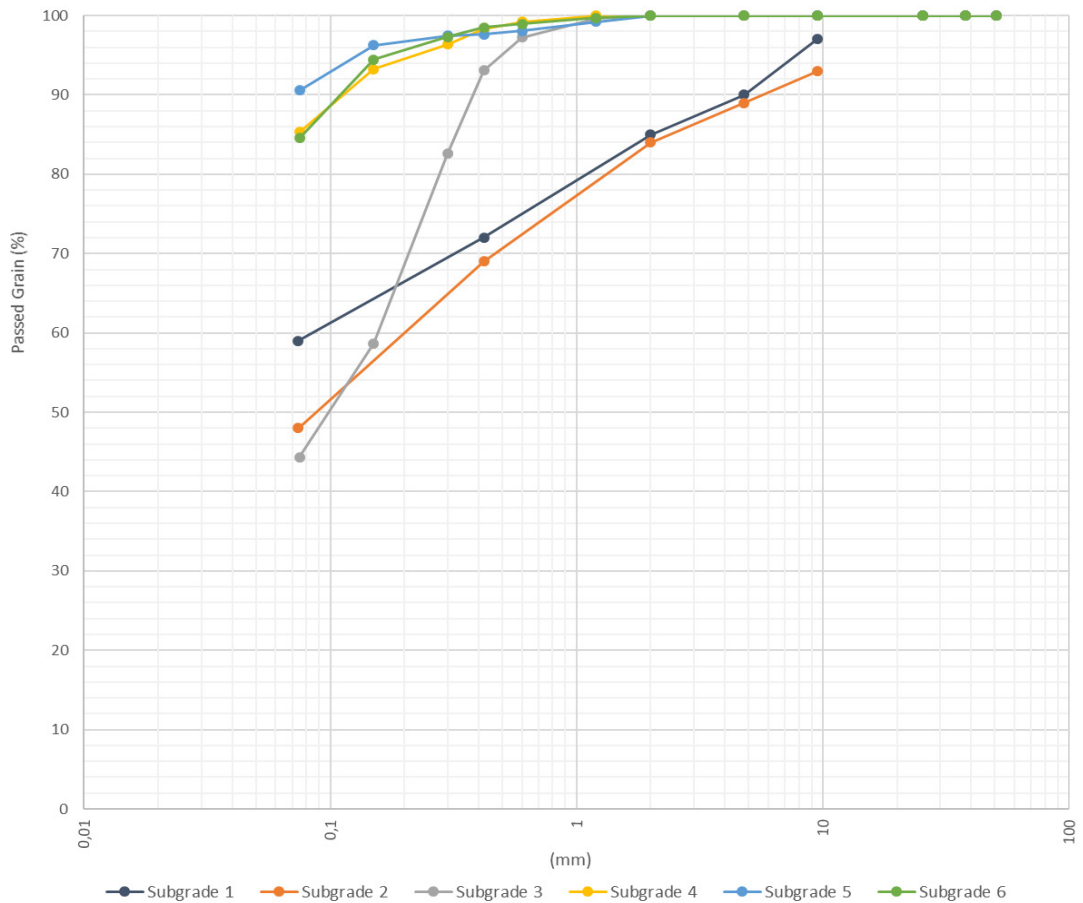


Figure 3 - Granulometry Curves

| Parameter | Subgrade 1 | Subgrade 2 | Subgrade 3 | Subgrade 4 | Subgrade 5 | Subgrade 6 |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Real Density(g/cm ³) | 2.578 | 2.528 | 2.517 | 2.614 | 2.651 | 2.606 |
| Liquid Limit | 42.5% | 40.9% | 26.67% | 42.5% | 56.3% | 33.95% |
| Plasticity Limit | 29.7% | 21.5% | 14.22% | 20.7% | 25.6% | 20.08% |
| Plasticity Index | 12.8% | 19.4% | 12.45% | 21.8% | 30.7% | 13.87% |
| Max Dry Density (g/cm ³) | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.78 | 1.67 | 1.58 | 1.66 |
| Optimum Moisture Content | 16.6% | 16.4% | 13.6% | 16.4% | 20.8% | 18.2% |

Table 4 – Subgrade soils properties

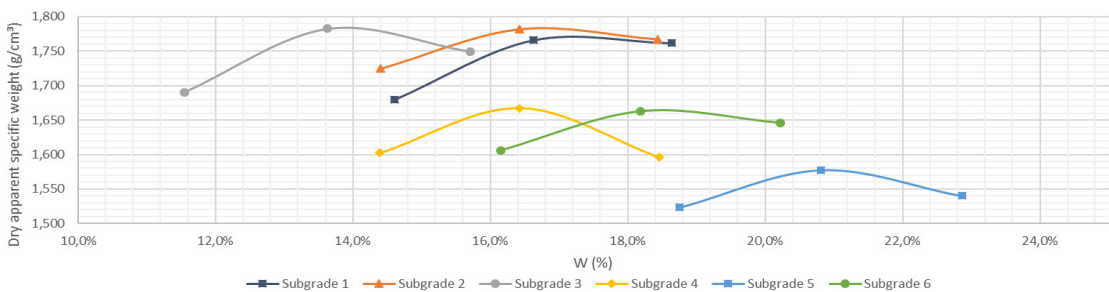


Figure 4 Compaction curve of the tripartite mold

(DNIT, 2020), the users can define which constitutive model best characterizes the resilient behavior of the material. However, if the users choose to, they can also opt for the linear elastic model, exclusively takes into account the resilient modulus average value.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The result of the 12 stress level test parameters for each subgrade is presented below. The results of the cyclic triaxial tests allowed generating models that consider the modulus variation as a function of the confining stress and deviation stress. In this context, three models were employed to verify possible changes in soil behavior with a 2% moisture gain.

SUBGRADE 1

Subgrade 1 (Table 5) showed a stress deviation-dependent behavior, with a correlation coefficient (r^2) of 0.68 for Wot soil and 0.86 for Wot \pm 2% soil. Analyzing the stress level parameters, it is possible to observe that the 0.5/0.5 (stress sample) in the optimum moisture soil had a displacement of the trend line. This was consistent with other stress samples, which showed a similar arrangement for both moisture content.

Table 6 and Figure 6 show the resilience modulus reduction was lower in the first 5 stress samples, with an average of 41.5%. This behavior can be explained by the lower load applied to the sample. After the fifth stress sample, the samples had an average reduction of 48.9%, with a 51.1% reduction in the last two stress samples, due to a higher stress ratio (σ_1/σ_3), generating a greater resilient deformation. The composite model showed an excellent fit for both moisture content (with the soil Wot \pm 2% with a coefficient of 0.9 determination).

SUBGRADE 2

Subgrade 2 (Table 7) also showed a behavior dependent on the deviation stress, but the r^2 was closer to 1 for the soil at optimal moisture. It is considered that the higher the value of the regression coefficient, the better the fit of the model (Viana, 2007).

The Wot \pm 2% soil showed a high point dispersion in the confining stress model, with an r^2 of only 0.05. Note that the Wot \pm 2% soil generated a lower r^2 than the optimum moisture content soil for the deviation stress model. In the composite model, both had a high r^2 .

The models and regression constants are presented in Table 8 and Figure 7. Despite having a similar granulometry, subgrade 2 had a greater reduction in resilience modulus with the addition of 2% moisture compared to subgrade 1, with an average loss of 64.9%. The reduction of the last stress sample was only 39.6%. This can be justified by the high deformation of the sample in both moisture content.

SUBGRADE 3

The sedimentation test showed that subgrade 3 has the highest percentage of sand of all subgrades. Silva (2020) states that sandy or granular soils, with less than 50% being 200 mesh particles in size, show a behavior dependent on the deviation stress (Table 9). However, this behavior was not demonstrated for subgrade 3 in resilience modulus test, attesting that the soil's fraction of silt and clay is more relevant in its mechanical characteristics.

Table 10 and Figure 8 showed the models and regression constants. The Wot \pm 2% soil did not complete the test, showing a high sample deformation in the last stress level tests. The average reduction was 68.9%. Only the first stress level sample showed a reduction of 66%, which correlates with the low load applied.

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 0,021 | 0,021 | 0,009 | 238,422 |
| 0,020 | 0,042 | 0,022 | 194,302 |
| 0,021 | 0,062 | 0,035 | 179,737 |
| 0,036 | 0,037 | 0,017 | 211,036 |
| 0,036 | 0,072 | 0,036 | 199,346 |
| 0,035 | 0,107 | 0,060 | 178,784 |
| 0,050 | 0,052 | 0,020 | 255,409 |
| 0,050 | 0,101 | 0,051 | 200,568 |
| 0,050 | 0,151 | 0,099 | 153,158 |
| 0,070 | 0,072 | 0,035 | 203,476 |
| 0,070 | 0,141 | 0,083 | 169,898 |
| 0,070 | 0,211 | 0,152 | 138,667 |

(a) Subgrade 1 – Wot

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) | MR Reduction (%) |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------|
| 0,021 | 0,022 | 0,016 | 137,452 | 42,3 |
| 0,020 | 0,041 | 0,037 | 113,340 | 41,7 |
| 0,020 | 0,062 | 0,061 | 100,497 | 44,1 |
| 0,036 | 0,036 | 0,027 | 136,069 | 35,5 |
| 0,036 | 0,071 | 0,064 | 111,041 | 44,3 |
| 0,035 | 0,106 | 0,112 | 94,678 | 47,0 |
| 0,051 | 0,051 | 0,040 | 125,622 | 50,8 |
| 0,050 | 0,101 | 0,098 | 103,580 | 48,4 |
| 0,050 | 0,151 | 0,202 | 74,736 | 51,2 |
| 0,070 | 0,071 | 0,062 | 115,412 | 43,3 |
| 0,070 | 0,141 | 0,170 | 83,065 | 51,1 |
| 0,070 | 0,211 | 0,311 | 67,801 | 51,1 |

(b) Subgrade 1 – Wot±2%

Table 5 – Triaxial testing results – Subgrade 1

| Soil | Medium Modulus | Model Dependent on Confining stress | | | Model Dependent on Deviator stress | | | Composite Model | | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------|-------|------------------------------------|--------|-------|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| | | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | K_3 | R^2 | |
| Subgrade 1 | Wot | 193.6 | 128.03 | -0.12 | 0.12 | 109.10 | -0.21 | 0.68 | 168.60 | 0.18 | -0.28 | 0.76 |
| | Wot±2% | 105.3 | 48.24 | -0.24 | 0.25 | 44.80 | -0.32 | 0.86 | 65.28 | 0.16 | -0.37 | 0.90 |

Table 6 – Models and regression constants - Subgrade 1

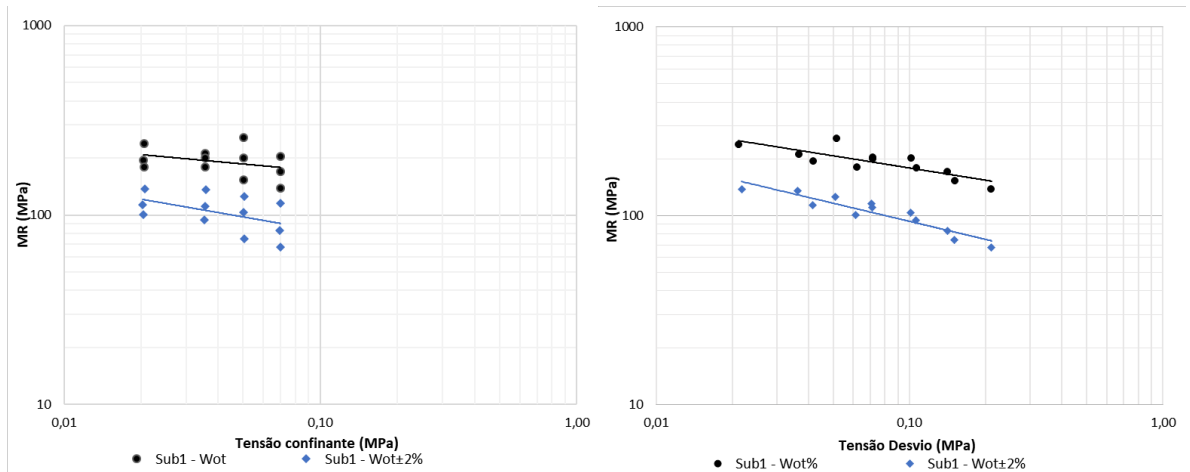


Figure 6 - Resilient Modulus x Confining Stress and Resilient Modulus x Deviator Stress – Subgrade 1

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 0,021 | 0,022 | 0,011 | 196,958 |
| 0,020 | 0,042 | 0,023 | 183,912 |
| 0,020 | 0,062 | 0,039 | 159,112 |
| 0,036 | 0,037 | 0,019 | 199,438 |
| 0,036 | 0,072 | 0,043 | 168,685 |
| 0,035 | 0,107 | 0,077 | 137,831 |
| 0,050 | 0,051 | 0,029 | 177,919 |
| 0,051 | 0,101 | 0,070 | 144,655 |
| 0,051 | 0,150 | 0,142 | 105,607 |
| 0,070 | 0,072 | 0,042 | 170,812 |
| 0,070 | 0,141 | 0,117 | 120,501 |
| 0,070 | 0,210 | 0,242 | 86,806 |

(a) Subgrade 2 – Wot

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) | MR Reduction (%) |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------|
| 0,021 | 0,021 | 0,024 | 85,775 | 56,45 |
| 0,021 | 0,041 | 0,073 | 55,347 | 69,91 |
| 0,020 | 0,060 | 0,134 | 45,162 | 71,62 |
| 0,036 | 0,036 | 0,059 | 60,250 | 69,79 |
| 0,035 | 0,070 | 0,146 | 48,077 | 71,50 |
| 0,036 | 0,105 | 0,300 | 35,000 | 74,61 |
| 0,051 | 0,051 | 0,078 | 64,758 | 63,60 |
| 0,050 | 0,100 | 0,245 | 40,936 | 71,70 |
| 0,050 | 0,151 | 0,393 | 38,421 | 63,62 |
| 0,070 | 0,071 | 0,110 | 63,951 | 62,56 |
| 0,070 | 0,141 | 0,327 | 43,080 | 64,25 |
| 0,070 | 0,211 | 0,404 | 52,373 | 39,67 |

(b) Subgrade 2 – Wot±2%

Table 7 - Triaxial testing results – Subgrade 2

| Soil | Medium Modulus | Model Dependent on Confining stress | | | Model Dependent on Deviator stress | | | Composite Model | | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | K_3 | R^2 | |
| Subgrade 2 | Wot | 154.4 | 53.59 | -0.32 | 0.35 | 57.22 | -0.37 | 0.86 | 77.68 | 0.08 | -0.36 | 0.87 |
| | Wot±2% | 52.8 | 34.95 | -0.12 | 0.05 | 24.46 | -0.28 | 0.53 | 33.47 | 0.32 | -0.55 | 0.92 |

Table 8 - Models and regression constants – Subgrade 2

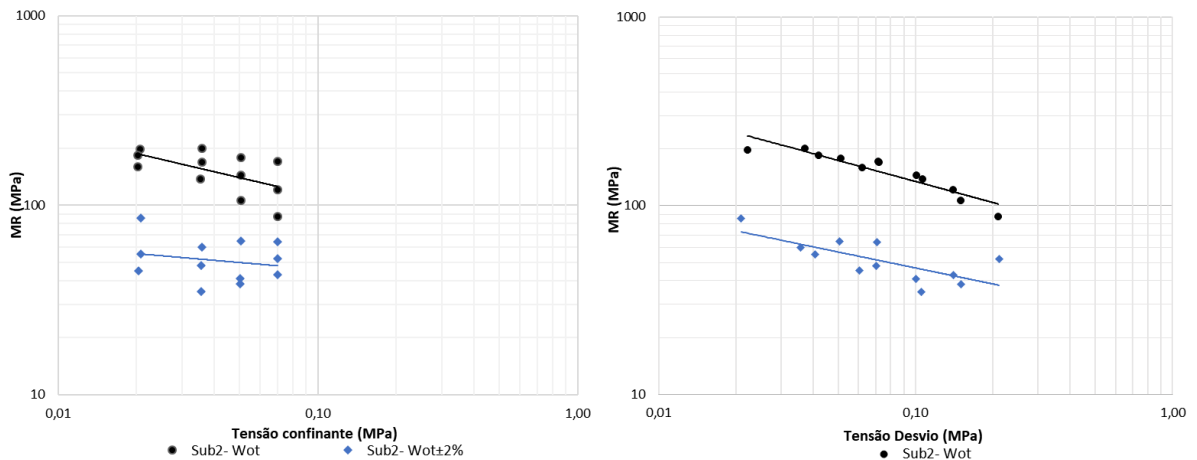


Figure 7 - Resilient Modulus x Confining Stress and Resilient Modulus x Deviator Stress – Subgrade 2

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 0,020 | 0,022 | 0,011 | 194,835 |
| 0,021 | 0,042 | 0,024 | 176,906 |
| 0,020 | 0,062 | 0,037 | 165,415 |
| 0,036 | 0,037 | 0,018 | 200,512 |
| 0,036 | 0,072 | 0,041 | 174,720 |
| 0,035 | 0,107 | 0,064 | 167,690 |
| 0,050 | 0,051 | 0,028 | 183,978 |
| 0,050 | 0,102 | 0,061 | 167,658 |
| 0,051 | 0,151 | 0,113 | 133,700 |
| 0,070 | 0,072 | 0,042 | 171,610 |
| 0,070 | 0,141 | 0,095 | 149,093 |
| 0,070 | 0,211 | 0,180 | 116,951 |

(a) Subgrade 3 – Wot

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) | MR Reduction (%) |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------|
| 0,021 | 0,021 | 0,027 | 78,172 | 59,9 |
| 0,020 | 0,041 | 0,069 | 58,893 | 66,7 |
| 0,020 | 0,061 | 0,127 | 47,915 | 71,0 |
| 0,036 | 0,036 | 0,053 | 67,695 | 66,2 |
| 0,035 | 0,071 | 0,135 | 52,300 | 70,1 |
| 0,035 | 0,105 | 0,271 | 38,856 | 76,8 |
| 0,050 | 0,051 | 0,084 | 60,696 | 67,0 |
| 0,051 | 0,101 | 0,224 | 44,894 | 73,2 |
| 0,050 | 0,151 | 0,386 | 39,202 | 70,7 |
| 0,070 | 0,070 | 0,121 | 58,262 | 66,0 |
| 0,070 | 0,141 | 0,317 | 44,348 | 70,3 |

(b) Subgrade 3 – Wot±2%

Table 9 - Triaxial testing results – Subgrade 3

| Soil | Medium Modulus | Model Dependent on Confining stress | | | Model Dependent on Deviator stress | | | Composite Model | | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| | | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | K_3 | R^2 | |
| Subgrade 3 | Wot | 166.9 | 93.86 | -0.18 | 0.29 | 95.82 | -0.21 | 0.79 | 121.40 | 0.06 | -0.20 | 0.80 |
| | Wot±2% | 53.7 | 29.84 | -0.17 | 0.13 | 20.43 | -0.35 | 0.87 | 30.43 | 0.21 | -0.45 | 0.97 |

Table 10 - Models and regression constants – Subgrade 3

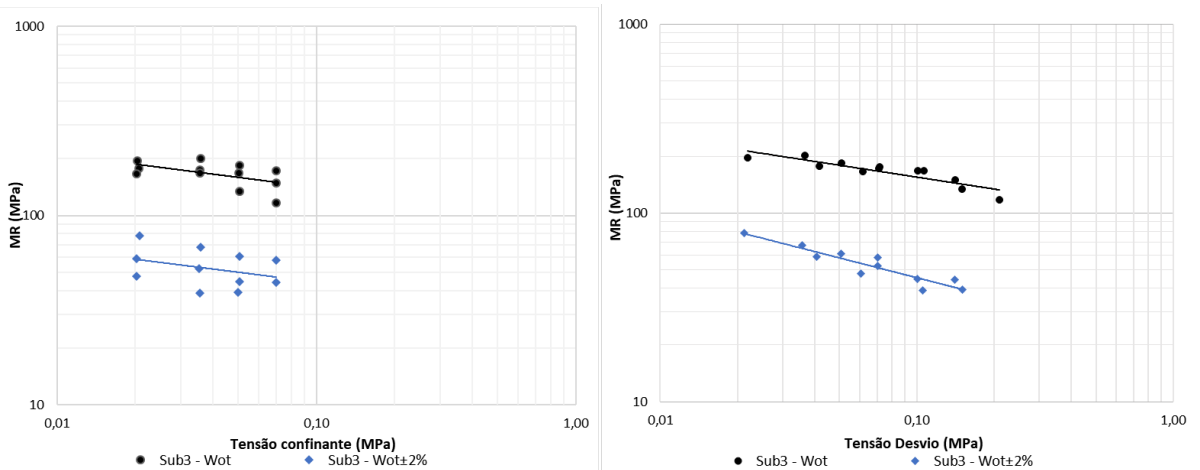


Figure 8 - Resilient Modulus x Confining Stress and Resilient Modulus x Deviator Stress – Subgrade 3

Subgrades 1 and 2, subgrade 3 in the composite model, showed an excellent framework. Nothing worth noting in the $Wot\pm 2\%$ soil, the r^2 remained closer to 1.

SUBGRADE 4

Among all the soils studied, subgrade 4 (Table 11) contains the highest silt content. This characteristic was believed to have had a particular result for both moisture content. Soil in wetness did not fit well in any model. And again, the $Wot\pm 2\%$ soil showed an excellent r^2 for the deviation stress dependent and composite models.

The average reduction of all stress levels in test samples was 53.8%. The most significant reduction is from the sixth stress test sample. A change in the slope of the moisture content curve can be observed in Figure 9.

SUBGRADE 5

Subgrade 5 (Table 13 and Figure 10) moisture content results did not present a good framework for the stress deviation dependent model and confining stress dependent model. The Wot soil had a better fit in the composite model, with values similar to the other soils studied. Additionally, the $Wot\pm 2\%$ soil did not demonstrate a good fit for this model, generating an r^2 much lower than the other soils.

Due to the greater presence of clay (51.64%), the soil had the lowest resilience modulus reduction, with an average of 28.8%. The average reduction in the first 3 stress samples was only 9.9%. Similarly, to subgrade 1, the 0.5/0.5 voltage pair had a low resilient displacement, overall reducing the correlation coefficient, resulting in a high resilience modulus compared to the other samples. It is observed that there was a change in the slope of the trend line in the model depends on the confining stress.

SUBGRADE 6

Subgrade 6 (Table 15) showed a behavior also dependent on the deviation stress, similar to the other soils studied. The average reduction was 68.0% in the stress test samples, a value similar to subgrade 3 in $Wot\pm 2\%$. It is observed that the presence of fine sand does not benefit the resilient behavior of the soil with a gain in moisture.

In addition, subgrade 6 (Table 16 and figure 11) did not complete the last stress test, indicating an excessive strain of the sample, generating a low r^2 for the $k-\sigma_d$ model. The composite model proved to have a good fit for both moisture content.

GLOBAL ANALYSIS

In order to analyze the behavior of the soils broadly, the 3D graph of the composite model (Figure 12 and 13) was plotted in the OriginLab software (2022). Two images representing different surfaces were merged in each figure, the orange surface referring to the soil at optimal moisture and the blue surface referring to the soil at optimal moisture $\pm 2\%$. The red and green dots are the three-dimensional representation of the resilience modulus, σ_3 and σ_d values.

Note that subgrades 2, 3, 5, and 6 present a flatter surface in soil $Wot\pm 2\%$. This result is explained by the low standard deviation (<11) of the modulus value during the test. In other words, there was no significant reduction or increase in modulus with the addition of stress deviation and/or confining stress.

The 3D graphic representation of subgrade 5 at the optimum temperature was different from the others. This can be attributed to the applied stress level parameters 0.5/0.5 and 0.7/0.7MPa, which caused a modulus to go above the average. The other soils, however, presented similar surfaces. These surface curvatures demonstrate that with the increase in deviation stress, there is a reduction in

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 0,020 | 0,021 | 0,024 | 172,010 |
| 0,021 | 0,042 | 0,053 | 156,697 |
| 0,020 | 0,062 | 0,085 | 146,215 |
| 0,036 | 0,036 | 0,040 | 179,617 |
| 0,035 | 0,072 | 0,079 | 181,668 |
| 0,035 | 0,107 | 0,120 | 176,876 |
| 0,051 | 0,051 | 0,046 | 223,551 |
| 0,050 | 0,102 | 0,106 | 191,100 |
| 0,050 | 0,151 | 0,205 | 146,672 |
| 0,070 | 0,072 | 0,065 | 220,052 |
| 0,070 | 0,142 | 0,177 | 159,183 |
| 0,070 | 0,211 | 0,332 | 126,352 |

(a) Subgrade 4 – Wot

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) | MR Reduction (%) |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------|
| 0,021 | 0,022 | 0,029 | 149,894 | 12,9 |
| 0,020 | 0,041 | 0,078 | 104,515 | 33,3 |
| 0,020 | 0,061 | 0,145 | 83,552 | 42,9 |
| 0,036 | 0,036 | 0,068 | 106,300 | 40,8 |
| 0,036 | 0,071 | 0,172 | 81,673 | 55,0 |
| 0,036 | 0,105 | 0,388 | 53,816 | 69,6 |
| 0,051 | 0,051 | 0,106 | 95,656 | 57,2 |
| 0,050 | 0,100 | 0,333 | 59,742 | 68,7 |
| 0,050 | 0,151 | 0,690 | 43,057 | 70,6 |
| 0,070 | 0,071 | 0,189 | 73,499 | 66,6 |
| 0,070 | 0,141 | 0,599 | 46,228 | 71,0 |
| 0,070 | 0,212 | 0,755 | 53,466 | 57,7 |

(b) Subgrade 4 – Wot±2%

Table 11 - Triaxial testing results – Subgrade 4

| Soil | Medium Modulus | Model Dependent on Confining stress | | | Model Dependent on Deviator stress | | | Composite Model | | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------|-------|------------------------------------|--------|-------|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| | | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | K_3 | R^2 | |
| Subgrade 4 | Wot | 173.3 | 202.38 | 0.05 | 0.02 | 131.53 | -0.10 | 0.16 | 287.80 | 0.31 | -0.20 | 0.61 |
| | Wot±2% | 79.3 | 12.91 | -0.54 | 0.46 | 17.29 | -0.56 | 0.92 | 13.27 | 0.00 | -0.64 | 0.98 |

Table 12 - Models and regression constants – Subgrade

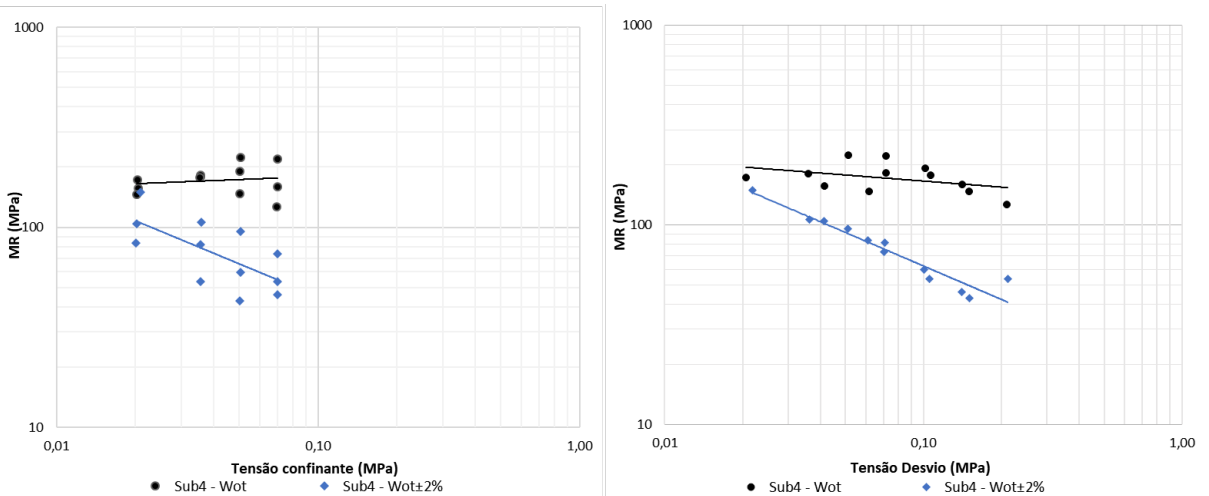


Figure 9 - Resilient Modulus x Confining Stress and Resilient Modulus x Deviator Stress – Subgrade 4

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 0,020 | 0,022 | 0,015 | 145,568 |
| 0,021 | 0,042 | 0,029 | 146,164 |
| 0,020 | 0,062 | 0,043 | 143,930 |
| 0,036 | 0,037 | 0,016 | 234,527 |
| 0,036 | 0,072 | 0,036 | 198,428 |
| 0,035 | 0,107 | 0,058 | 185,059 |
| 0,050 | 0,053 | 0,016 | 337,650 |
| 0,050 | 0,102 | 0,047 | 219,265 |
| 0,050 | 0,152 | 0,080 | 190,288 |
| 0,070 | 0,072 | 0,027 | 267,451 |
| 0,070 | 0,142 | 0,069 | 205,961 |
| 0,070 | 0,211 | 0,118 | 178,928 |

(a) Subgrade 5 – Wot

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) | MR Reduction (%) |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 0,021 | 0,021 | 0,016 | 133,947 | 8,0 |
| 0,020 | 0,042 | 0,032 | 130,734 | 10,6 |
| 0,020 | 0,062 | 0,049 | 127,538 | 11,4 |
| 0,036 | 0,037 | 0,026 | 143,160 | 39,0 |
| 0,036 | 0,072 | 0,048 | 151,535 | 23,6 |
| 0,035 | 0,107 | 0,077 | 139,100 | 24,8 |
| 0,051 | 0,051 | 0,034 | 149,832 | 55,6 |
| 0,050 | 0,102 | 0,072 | 140,609 | 35,9 |
| 0,051 | 0,151 | 0,118 | 127,718 | 32,9 |
| 0,070 | 0,072 | 0,047 | 151,075 | 43,5 |
| 0,070 | 0,141 | 0,097 | 146,047 | 29,1 |
| 0,070 | 0,211 | 0,173 | 122,142 | 31,7 |

(b) Subgrade 5 – Wot±2%

Table 13 - Triaxial testing results – Subgrade 5

| Soil | Medium Modulus | Model Dependent on Confining stress | | | Model Dependent on Deviator stress | | | Composite Model | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|--|--------|-------|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| | | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | K_3 | R^2 | |
| Subgrade 5 | Wot | 204.4 | 620.25 | 0.35 | 0.43 | 220.27 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 856.03 | 0.65 | -0.25 | 0.75 |
| | Wot±2% | 138.6 | 159.88 | 0.05 | 0.09 | 129.84 | -0.02 | 0.05 | 186.85 | 0.14 | -0.06 | 0.58 |

Table 14 - Models and regression constants – Subgrade 5

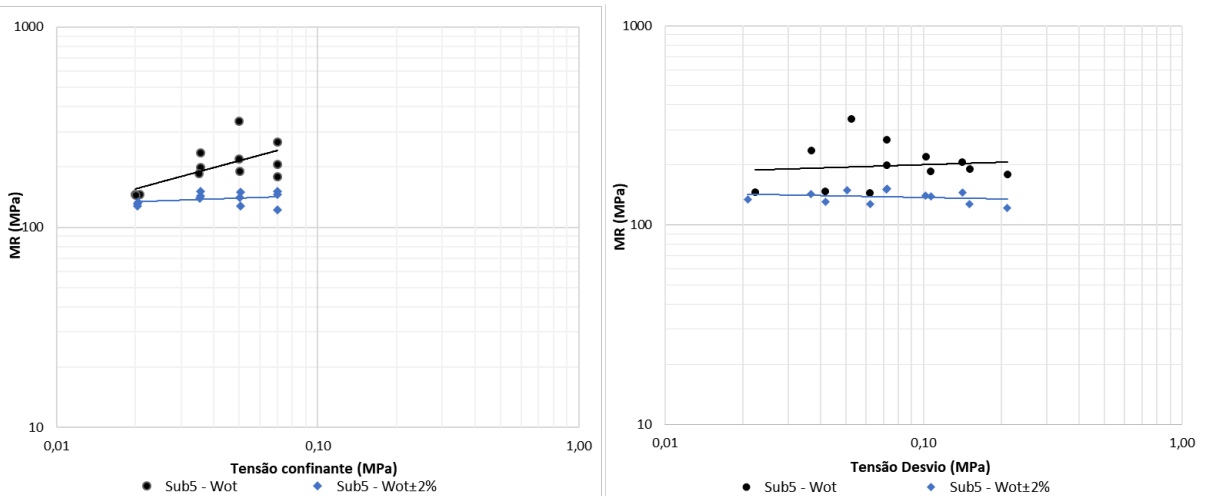


Figure 10 - Resilient Modulus x Confining Stress and Resilient Modulus x Deviator Stress – Subgrade 5

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 0,021 | 0,020 | 0,011 | 180,013 |
| 0,020 | 0,042 | 0,027 | 155,193 |
| 0,021 | 0,062 | 0,044 | 140,930 |
| 0,036 | 0,037 | 0,023 | 161,909 |
| 0,036 | 0,072 | 0,047 | 153,566 |
| 0,035 | 0,106 | 0,084 | 127,211 |
| 0,051 | 0,051 | 0,030 | 173,026 |
| 0,051 | 0,101 | 0,077 | 132,144 |
| 0,050 | 0,151 | 0,162 | 92,829 |
| 0,070 | 0,071 | 0,048 | 147,866 |
| 0,070 | 0,141 | 0,134 | 105,273 |
| 0,070 | 0,211 | 0,271 | 77,740 |

(a) Subgrade 6 – Wot

| σ_3 (MPa) | σ_d (MPa) | Resilient Deformation (%) | MR (MPa) | MR Reduction (%) |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------|
| 0,021 | 0,021 | 0,037 | 55,589 | 69,1 |
| 0,021 | 0,040 | 0,102 | 39,580 | 74,5 |
| 0,020 | 0,060 | 0,175 | 34,529 | 75,5 |
| 0,036 | 0,036 | 0,075 | 47,345 | 70,8 |
| 0,036 | 0,070 | 0,189 | 37,242 | 75,7 |
| 0,035 | 0,105 | 0,346 | 30,505 | 76,0 |
| 0,051 | 0,051 | 0,105 | 48,363 | 72,0 |
| 0,050 | 0,101 | 0,303 | 33,234 | 74,9 |
| 0,050 | 0,151 | 0,389 | 39,072 | 57,9 |
| 0,070 | 0,070 | 0,131 | 53,917 | 63,5 |
| 0,070 | 0,141 | 0,341 | 41,319 | 60,8 |

(b) Subgrade 6 – Wot±2%

Table 15 - Triaxial testing results – Subgrade 6

| Soil | Medium Modulus | Model Dependent on Confining stress | | | Model Dependent on Deviator stress | | | Composite Model | | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | K_3 | R^2 | |
| Subgrade 6 | Wot | 137.3 | 48.76 | -0.31 | 0.33 | 53.44 | -0.35 | 0.82 | 73.71 | 0.08 | -0.34 | 0.81 |
| | Wot±2% | 41.9 | 48.66 | 0.05 | 0.01 | 24.59 | -0.19 | 0.34 | 50.83 | 0.38 | -0.38 | 0.78 |

Table 16 - Models and regression constants – Subgrade 6

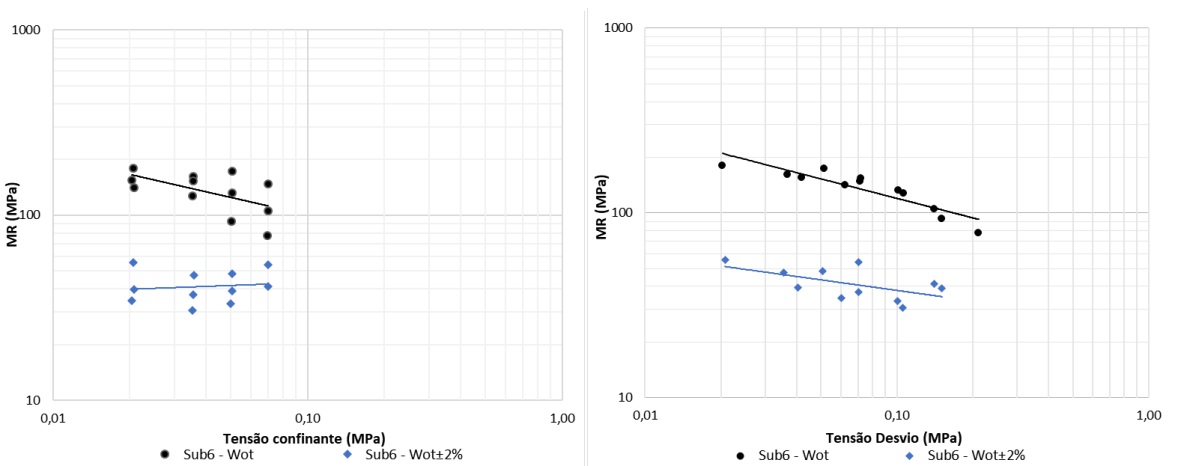


Figure 11 - Resilient Modulus x Confining Stress and Resilient Modulus x Deviator Stress – Subgrade 6

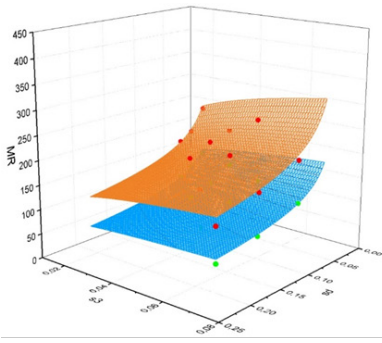


Figure 12a- Subgrade 1

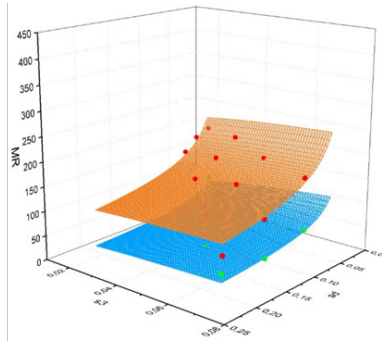


Figure 12b - Subgrade 2

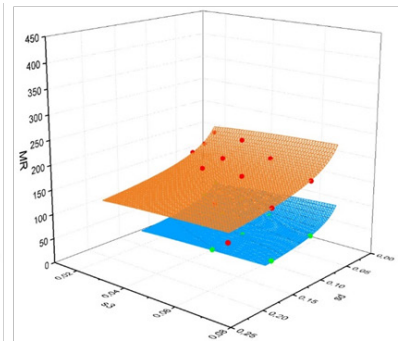


Figure 12c - Subgrade 3

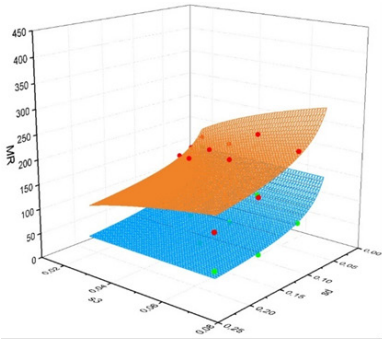


Figure 13a- Subgrade 4

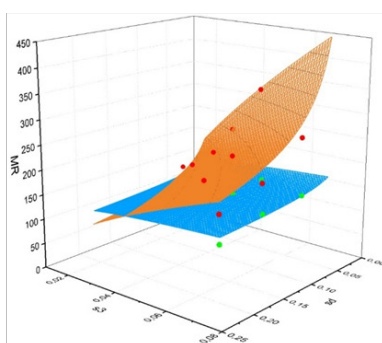


Figure 13b - Subgrade 5

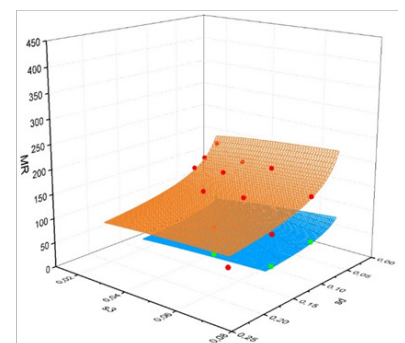


Figure 13c - Subgrade 6

| Soil | Medium Modulus | Model Dependent on Confining stress | | | Model Dependent on Deviator stress | | | Composite Model | | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | R^2 | K_1 | K_2 | K_3 | R^2 | |
| Subgrade 1 | Wot | 193,6 | 128,0 | -0,1 | 0,12 | 109,1 | -0,2 | 0,68 | 168,6 | 0,18 | -0,2 | 0,76 |
| | Wot±2% | 105,3 | 48,24 | -0,2 | 0,25 | 44,80 | -0,3 | 0,86 | 65,28 | 0,16 | -0,3 | 0,90 |
| Subgrade 2 | Wot | 154,4 | 53,59 | -0,3 | 0,35 | 57,22 | -0,3 | 0,86 | 77,68 | 0,08 | -0,3 | 0,87 |
| | Wot±2% | 52,8 | 34,95 | -0,1 | 0,05 | 24,46 | -0,2 | 0,53 | 33,47 | 0,32 | -0,5 | 0,92 |
| Subgrade 3 | Wot | 166,9 | 93,86 | -0,1 | 0,29 | 95,82 | -0,2 | 0,79 | 121,4 | 0,06 | -0,2 | 0,80 |
| | Wot±2% | 53,7 | 29,84 | -0,1 | 0,13 | 20,43 | -0,3 | 0,87 | 30,43 | 0,21 | -0,4 | 0,97 |
| Subgrade 4 | Wot | 173,3 | 202,3 | 0,0 | 0,02 | 131,5 | -0,1 | 0,16 | 287,8 | 0,31 | -0,2 | 0,61 |
| | Wot±2% | 79,3 | 12,91 | -0,5 | 0,46 | 17,29 | -0,5 | 0,92 | 13,27 | 0,0 | -0,6 | 0,98 |
| Subgrade 5 | Wot | 204,4 | 620,2 | 0,35 | 0,43 | 220,2 | 0,0 | 0,01 | 856,0 | 0,65 | -0,2 | 0,75 |
| | Wot±2% | 138,6 | 159,8 | 0,05 | 0,09 | 129,8 | -0,0 | 0,05 | 186,8 | 0,14 | -0,0 | 0,58 |
| Subgrade 6 | Wot | 137,3 | 48,76 | -0,3 | 0,33 | 53,44 | -0,3 | 0,82 | 73,71 | 0,08 | -0,3 | 0,81 |
| | Wot±2% | 41,9 | 48,66 | 0,05 | 0,01 | 24,59 | -0,1 | 0,34 | 50,83 | 0,38 | -0,3 | 0,78 |

Tabela 3 - Table 17 – Models applied in each soil

resilience modulus.

Due to the fact that subgrades 3 and 6 did not complete the last applied stress test, the graphical representation of the composite model was reduced, as shown in Figures 12c and 13c. Furthermore, the behavior of the two soils is analogous for both moisture content, both the 3D representation of the 3D composite model and the percentage of resilience modulus reduction (67% and 69%).

Table 17 presents a compilation of all coefficients for all models. For the composite model, the k_1 obtained was higher for all soils at optimum moisture content. The k_2 obtained was less than 0.65, and the temperature variation did not significantly change the coefficient. The k_3 calculated for all soils was negative. With subgrade 4 Wot and subgrade 5 Wot \pm 2%, the exception value of r^2 for the composite model was ≥ 0.75 , showing a good framework.

CONCLUSIONS

The main objective of this article was to verify, through resilience modulus tests, the influence of moisture on soil behavior. It is concluded that, in general terms, the gain of 2% of moisture in the soil of the BR-319 generates an average reduction of 55%. Subgrade 5 however, showed a smaller reduction, of 32% due to a greater amount of silt and clay and a greater optimum moisture content compaction.

The confining stress dependent model was unsuitable for this type of soil, due to the low presence of sand and the great influence of the fine fraction on soil behavior. The stress-deviation-dependent model showed a higher r^2 , but in some cases, the r^2 was less than 0.34, as in subgrade 5.

The composite model, used in MeDiNa, proved to be the most satisfactory for the soil at both moisture levels, with an average value of 0.81.

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