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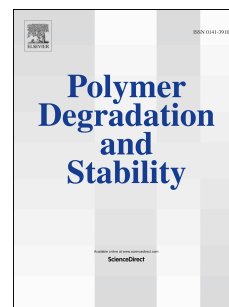
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The Effect of Ultraviolet Radiation on Ultrasonic Properties of Polyurea

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Abstract

Polyurea is used in military and civilian applications where exposure to the sun is commonly of long duration, which can deteriorate its mechanical performance to suboptimal levels. This study reports on the ultrasonic properties of polyurea as a function of ultraviolet radiation exposure duration and temperature. Six sets of samples were continuously exposed to ultraviolet radiation for different durations up to 15 weeks. Control samples were also tested that did not receive UV exposure. The ultrasonic properties were measured using high-frequency contact ultrasound transducers in pitch-catch configuration. All exposed samples exhibited significant color changes from transparent yellow to opaque light brown. Changes of color were observed as early as 3 weeks of UV exposure. Nonetheless, crazing was only observed in samples of 6, 9, 12, and 15 weeks of continuous exposure. The size of the surface cracks increased as the duration of exposure continued. The effect of extended UV radiation on the acoustic properties was noted to be minimal, where elastic and shear moduli decreased monotonically after an initial increase during the first 3 weeks of exposure. The attenuation properties were measured at 23°C and 40°C. The p-wave attenuation did not show any notable change, while the s-wave attenuation monotonically decreased as the temperature and UV exposure duration increased.

Keywords: Polyurea; Artificial weathering; Ultraviolet radiation; Ultrasonic properties.

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