

## Back-calculating Pavement Structures

**FWD Deflection Survey:** The structural condition of in-service airfield pavements, either remaining life or strength of the pavement is deduced from the FWD response, inducing a test load which allows to model a pavement. The assessment of the structural condition, non destructive testing by means of falling weight deflectometer (FWD), GPR measurements, targeted coring and material testing is common practice. FWD, like GPR impulse Radar, is truly an in-situ test that evaluates a pavement without material disturbance or modification.

**Back-Calculation:** The condition of the pavement is deduced from the response in terms of vertical displacements due to the impact of an FWD load, simulating actual traffic loads. Measured deflections are translated into stresses or strains by back-calculating the pavement structure. For flexible pavements that is the determination of the distinct layer moduli of constructed layers and the subgrade *from known layer thickness*'. For rigid pavements the slab support conditions, i.e. the foundation parameters at the *slab's edge* are back-calculated taking the slab thickness and resonance Young's modulus of the concrete as input. It is essential that accurate pavement layer thickness must be used in the back-calculation process. Layer thickness are used to back calculate elastic moduli of distinct pavement layers and subgrade. It does not work vice versa. From the graphs the importance of accurate layer information is demonstrated. It can be depicted, that the input thickness' have a dominant effect on the back calculated moduli. Hence on the pavement life too, which is deduced from these moduli.

**Pavers version 3.00**  
Project: www.aperio.nl  
Description: ASPHALTIC THICKNESS 200 MM

**MULTILAYER**  
Number of layers: 3  
Fr [%]: Wesley

Layer	E [Mpa]	v [-]	H [mm]
As	7500	0.35	200
Bs	300	0.35	200
Sg	100	0.35	

Ev/Eh: 1.00

**LOAD**  
Force (F): 100 kN  
Radius (r): 150.0 mm

**DEFLECTIONS**

	X	0	300	600	900	1200	1500	1800	2100	2400	SCI	Lack
SurMod		591	179	114	99	97	93	97	99	103	D1-D3	of fit %
Dmeas		630	520	410	315	241	200	160	135	113	220	
Dcalc		629	524	410	317	248	197	161	135	116	219	
Delta-%		-0.1	0.8	-0.1	0.7	2.8	-1.3	0.8	0.2	2.8	-0.3	2.4

**Pavers version 3.00**  
Project: www.aperio.nl  
Description: ASPHALTIC THICKNESS 150 MM

**MULTILAYER**  
Number of layers: 3  
Fr [%]: Wesley

Layer	E [Mpa]	v [-]	H [mm]
As	12466	0.35	150
Bs	608	0.35	200
Sg	100	0.35	

Ev/Eh: 1.00

**LOAD**  
Force (F): 100 kN  
Radius (r): 150.0 mm

**DEFLECTIONS**

	X	0	300	600	900	1200	1500	1800	2100	2400	SCI	Lack
SurMod		591	179	114	99	97	93	97	99	103	D1-D3	of fit %
Dmeas		630	520	410	315	241	200	160	135	113	220	
Dcalc		629	527	409	316	247	197	161	135	116	220	
Delta-%		-0.2	1.4	-0.3	0.2	2.3	-1.6	0.6	0.0	2.7	-0.1	2.4

**Impulse Radar & Targeted Core Drilling:** The number of required cores is decreased significantly when impulse radar survey data are available. Therefore, it is recommended practice that some coring is carried out to determine layer thickness' for accurate back-calculation of the layer module and determining strength of pavement layers by laboratory testing.