The Higher the Better? What Does Zeta Potential Tell About Design of Wetting and Dispersing Additives?

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What is zeta potential?

How do wetting & dispersing additives influence zeta potential?

When to add it to your toolbox?

Zeta Potential

Ion layers with particle (negative surface potential)





Zeta Potential Creation





Zeta Potential Side View





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pH Value and Surface Charge of Various Pigments in Water



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Clear Basecoat

based on acrylic dispersion binder reduced to approximately 10% solids



Zeta Potential Curve as a Function of Electrolyte Concentration



 \rightarrow decreasing the number of particles, Zeta Potential increases

· correlates with number of particles, not with particle size



Smaller Diffuse Layer



Larger Diffuse Layer

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Zeta Potential





Pigment affinic group



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Electrostatic stabilization

(electrostatic repulsion)

Steric stabilization (steric hindrance) Electrosteric stabilization

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Steric stabilization Elect

Electrosteric stabilization



Electrostatic stabilization (electrostatic repulsion)

Steric stabilization (steric hindrance)

Electrosteric stabilization О ВУК

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Wetting and Dispersing Additives Influence Zeta Potential

Molecular Design of W&D Additive on Zeta Potential

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Molecular Design of W&D Additive on Zeta Potential

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Conclusion: Zeta Potential for Design of W&D Additives

OPPORTUNITIES	LIMITATIONS
 Helpful technique to detect W&D additive mode of action (electrostatic vs. electro-steric) stabilization Can evaluate physical stability of electrostatically stabilized systems 	 Unable to establish correlation between zeta potential and state of dispersion Sterically stabilizing W&D additives result in low zeta potential → challenging to differentiate
 Knowledge about particle surfaces: Determine optimal coverage at the surface Adsorption behavior of differing compounds Optimization and design of W&D additive Analytical tool for process control with high reproducibility 	 No information on let-down compatibility and paint properties. Zeta potential value of a sample on its own does not tell the whole story Zeta potential should be combined with other analytical tools, such as particle size measurement and physical testing to get better understanding

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Zeta Potential Instrumentation

Device - Method

Device Quantachrome DT310 / 1201

Measuring probe: Sender and receiver pH adjustment: Titration with potassium hydroxide (1N KOH) and hydrochloric acid (1N HCI)

Electroacoustic measurement method CVI (Colloidal Vibration Current)

Ultrasound \rightarrow Particle movement \rightarrow CVI

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