

EMULSIONS AND EMULSION STABILITY

Second Edition

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EMULSIONS AND EMULSION STABILITY

Second Edition

Edited by

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Preface

The revised and expanded edition of *Emulsions and Emulsion Stability* is a comprehensive treatise of different aspects of emulsions, both from a theoretical as well as a practical point of view. The book contains 19 chapters written by leading scientists in the field of emulsions. In more detail the chapters cover the following:

Dukhin's chapter covers fundamental processes, i.e. flocculation and coalescence in emulsified systems. A central aspect is to cover the time evolution of the droplet size distribution by means of the population balance equation (PBE) and based on subprocesses like droplet aggregation (both reversible and irreversible), aggregate fragmentation, droplet flocculation and droplet coalescence. In order to get an overall picture an attempt to couple these processes is undertaken.

Spontaneous emulsification is covered by Miller in his chapter. He relates the concept of self-emulsification to inversion processes and local supersaturation of oil, and a subsequent nucleation of oil droplets. The author also describes the role of a lamellar liquid crystalline phase in coating the small oil droplets and hence protecting them from coalescence. Also the formation of "nanoemulsions" is brought forward by the author.

The importance of thin liquid films in colloidal systems is presented by Platikanov and Exerowa from the famous Bulgarian school. The chapter provides a valuable insight into theory of thin films, essential properties and experimental techniques to characterize them.

Salager's chapter deals with the central question of inversion in emulsion systems. The phenomenon is presented as depending of different system variables, like formulation variables related to the equilibrium of the system, composition variables related to the quantity in proportions of the compounds (generally surfactant/cosurfactant, oil and water) and protocol variables describing the preparation of the emulsion.

Johansson and Voets elaborate further the phase inversion concept as a tool for optimization of surfactant mixtures in water/oil systems. The chapter by Johansson and Voets also deals with several technical applications of the optimized surfactant mixtures. It is by now well-known that unconcentrated emulsions have a polyhedral structure instead of the spherical structure for low internal phase volume fractions.

The chapter of Esquena and Solans takes up the topic of highly concentrated emulsions as templates for solid foams. The idea is to prepare low density foams (< 0.1 g/ml) by polymerizing the continuous phase. These macroporous foams can be based on either organic or inorganic components in the continuous phase.

Colloidal structures like emulsions and microemulsions can serve as templates for chemical reactions. One of the leading scientists in this area, Krister Holmberg gives a comprehensive survey of different organic reactions in dispersed systems. The advantage in using emulsions/microemulsions is in enhanced solubility of reactants and in huge interfacial areas.

The first chapter in the characterization session of the emulsions deals with NMR. Peña and Hirasaki give an excellent review and update of different NMR applications in this field. The chapter covers basic NMR principles, relaxation measurements based on CPMG experiments and diffusion measurements via PGSE and PGSTE experiments. The applications for emulsified systems cover a determination of droplet sizes and stability against coalescence. The chapter also gives a comprehensive analysis of the pros and cons of the technique.

The emulsion characterization continues with Andrei Dukhin's chapter about ultrasound characterization of emulsions and microemulsions. The author gives a brilliant introduction to the topic. After this he gives numerous examples on practical applications on the determination of droplet sizes on a variety of systems, in addressing dairy systems like milk and butter. The author also gives a detailed comparison of the ultrasound technique and other techniques, like scattering measurements.

The book continues with some technical emulsions. The first chapter by Moldestad et al. deals with environmental emulsions, where the authors present in detail problems with oil spills. In an oil spill there is a natural uptake of water, and the wave energy contributes to the emulsification. As a result a stable w/o emulsion will emerge. A contributing factor is also the continuous evaporation of volatile components from the crude oil. Sintef in Trondheim has significantly contributed to a better understanding of the characterization and stability of such emulsions.

Per Redelius from Nynäs gives a comprehensive introduction to the topic of bitumen emulsions. These emulsions are in wide use in what we know as asphalt on our roads. In these formulations the road surface is a result of mixing the bitumen formulation to crushed rock, combined with a binding agent giving the final colour. Alternatively, for grey surfaces, a Portland concrete is used.

In the chapter by Sjöblom et al. the focus is on experimental techniques for characterization of crude oils. There seems to be a need for better and systematic needs to characterize crude oils and predict flow assurance related problems on a sound basis. Problems in relation to production and processing are water-in-oil and oil-in-water emulsions, foams and deposits. These problems (often resulting in shut-in periods) can be related to the properties of the crude oils and hence a detailed characterization is needed. In addition there is also a need to extend the characterization to elevated pressures and temperatures to cover subsea and downhole conditions.

Acid crude oils are covered by C. Hurtevent et al. in their chapter. These crude oils cause production and maintenance problems due to both formation of water-in-oil emulsions and deposits in the form of calcium naphthenates. Obviously different naphthenic acids are responsible for emulsion formation and precipitation, respectively. This is the background to intense research in the field of isolation, separation and characterization of individual acids from the family occurring in crude oils worldwide.

Li et al. present the topic of chemical flooding and related to this the problem of w/o emulsions. Central themes in the chapter are the connection between characterization of Chinese crude oils and the prediction of emulsion stability.

Electrocoalescence as a unit process is presented in detail by Lundgaard et al. The treatment is very thorough and built on a fundamental understanding of droplet-droplet interactions in different electrical fields. Also some practical aspects of the installment of electrocoalescence are discussed by the authors.

Separation technology is also the topic of the next chapter by Ernst Hansen. He deals with numerical simulation of fluids in offshore gravity separations. The chapter deals with both batch and continuous separation, together with the effect of different inlet configurations. It is obvious that CFD (computational fluid dynamics) can provide valuable information about the flow conditions in a separator tank.

Friedemann continues with the same topic of fluid behavior in confined offshore separators. The author also extends the discussion to subsea solutions. This chapter also emphasizes the need for a detailed fluid characterization in order to gain a better understanding of the underlying mechanisms of the emulsion problems and how to treat these. The chapter presents a variety of models for the separation performance.

The problems with production water are emerging and there are huge quantities that are produced and need to be cleaned. In this context droplet sizes and droplet size distributions are essential in the treatment.

Hemmingsen et al. present video microscopy as a technique to monitor on-line the DSD in product lines from the separator. In this context one needs a technique that can be adopted to higher pressures. The DVM technique gives representable DSDs and seems to fulfill the essential requirements for on-line instrumentation.

A central question for processing offshore is to develop on-line instrumentation to follow for instance the demulsification process. The last chapter in the book deals with conductivity measurements as an alternative to such instrumentation. The chapter is written by van Dijk et al. The authors provide convincing data for the DEMCOM technique.

The revised and expanded edition of *Emulsions and Emulsion Stability* serves as a comprehensive treatise of the emulsion phenomenon. We have tried to cover fundamental and basic aspects, experimental characterization, technical systems and, finally, separation technology and examples on on-line instrumentation. I hope that the readers will enjoy this potpourri and that they gain new insight and knowledge that can be implemental both in academia and industry.

To my co-authors, I want to express my deepest gratitude for their contributions. I am very touched by the scientific level of all the chapters and also how the chapters are updated with modern references.

Finally, I do hope that the scientific community will appreciate our efforts to move the frontiers forward in the field of emulsion science.

Enjoy the reading!

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The Editor

Johan Sjöblom has been professor in surface and colloid chemistry, and head of the Ugelstad Laboratory at the Norwegian University of Technology and Sciences (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway, since January 2002. Previously, he was a professor at the University of Bergen between 1988 and 1999, and chief researcher at Statoil's R&D Center between 1998 and 2001. Dr Sjöblom has also served as adjunct professor of colloid chemistry and materials science at Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York, and at the Technical University of Helsinki from 1992 to 1999.

Dr Sjöblom is the editor of nine books and the author or co-author of more than 260 professional papers. He has also supervised 28 PhD students and 35 MSc students. He is editor-in-chief for *Journal of Dispersion Science and Technology* and a member of the advisory board of *Micro- and Macroporous Materials*, and was a board member of *Colloids and Surfaces* between 1993 and 2003.

Dr Sjöblom is a member of the American Chemical Society, the Norwegian Chemical Society, the Finnish Chemical Society, and an elected member of the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences and the Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences in Finland. He received his PhD degree (1982) in physical chemistry from Åbo Akademi, Finland, and has been an industrial consultant in colloid chemistry since 1980.

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