

Benton County Preservation Round Table  
February 16<sup>th</sup> 2016

**UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES IN  
EMULSIONS AND THE MANUFACTURING  
PROCESS.**

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# Topics.

- ▣ What is an asphalt emulsion?
- ▣ Emulsion classifications and common uses
- ▣ Emulsion chemistry
- ▣ Emulsion specifications and performance
- ▣ Emulsion Stability.

# What is a emulsion?

## ▣ Solution

- A homogeneous mixture of two substances
- Individual molecules of one substance (solute) are surrounded by molecules of the other substance (solvent)
- Examples:
  - Water (humidity) in air
  - Table salt in water
  - Metal alloys

# What is an emulsion?

- ▣ Colloid or emulsion
  - A homogeneous mixture of two insoluble substances
  - Particles of one substance (dispersed phase) are surrounded by molecules of the other substance (continuous phase)

# What is a emulsion?

## ▣ Colloid or emulsion

- A homogeneous mixture of two insoluble substances
- Particles of one substance (dispersed phase) are surrounded by molecules of the other substance (continuous phase)
- Examples:
  - ▣ Smoke or fog (ash particles or water droplets)
  - ▣ Milk, butter, mayonnaise (fats)
  - ▣ Asphalt!

# What is a emulsion?

## ▣ Asphalt

- Composed of crystalline particles generally classified as “asphaltenes”
- Asphaltenes are suspended in an oily liquid continuous phase generally classified as “maltenes”
- The balance of composition determines asphalt physical properties such as rheology

# What is a emulsion?

- ▣ Why emulsify asphalt?
  - Viscosity reduction and safer use at lower temperatures
  - Change from “oil based” to “water based” system
  - Reduced energy use, worker exposure, burn hazard and job site odor
  - Properly formulated emulsion systems provide long term performance benefits

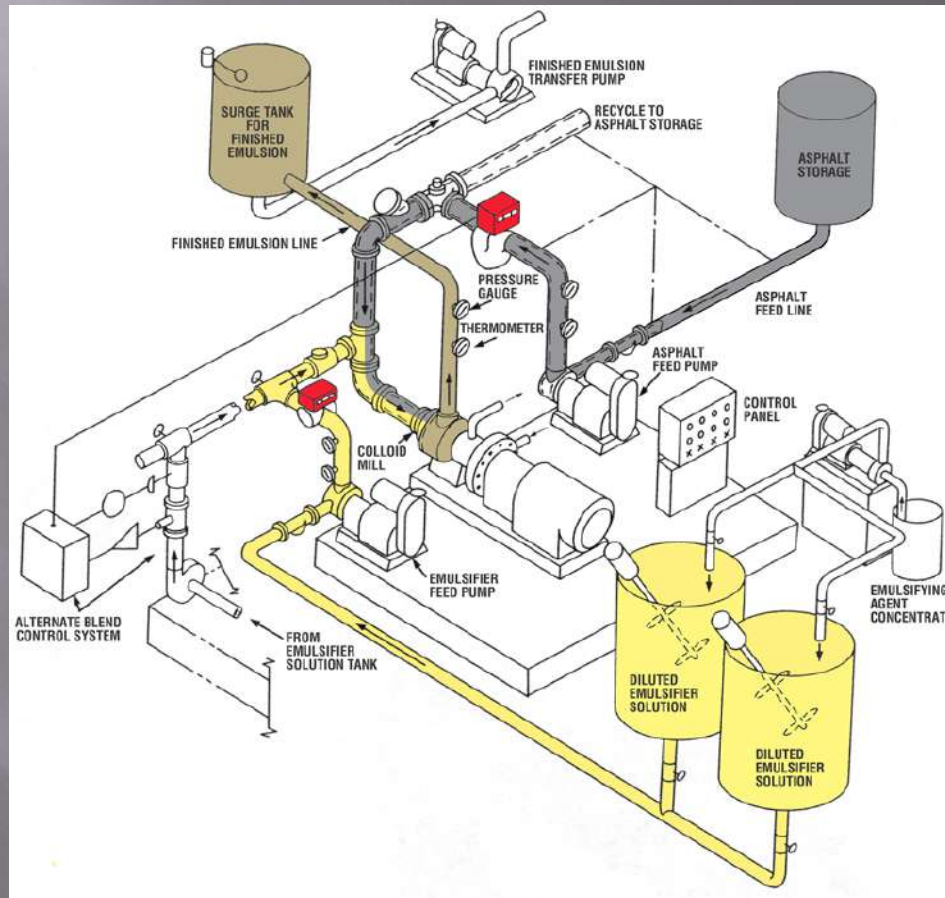


# What is a emulsion?

- ▣ Asphalts Soft pen, Hard pen
- ▣ Emulsifiers
- ▣ Chemical Activators
- ▣ Additives
- ▣ Polymers



# What is an emulsion?



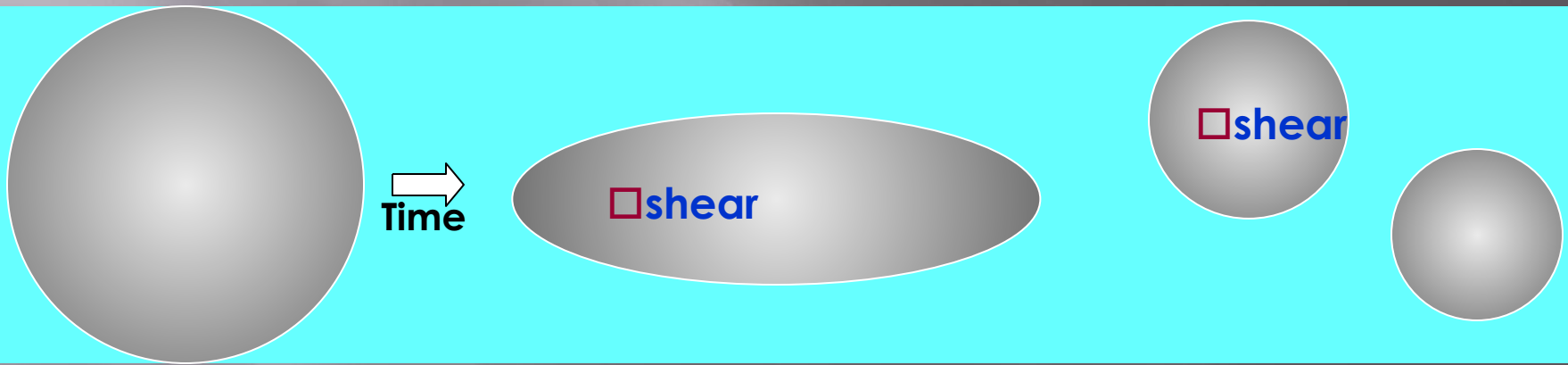
# What is a emulsion?



# What is a emulsion?

Molten asphalt and  
emulsifier solution  
go in...

Rotor →

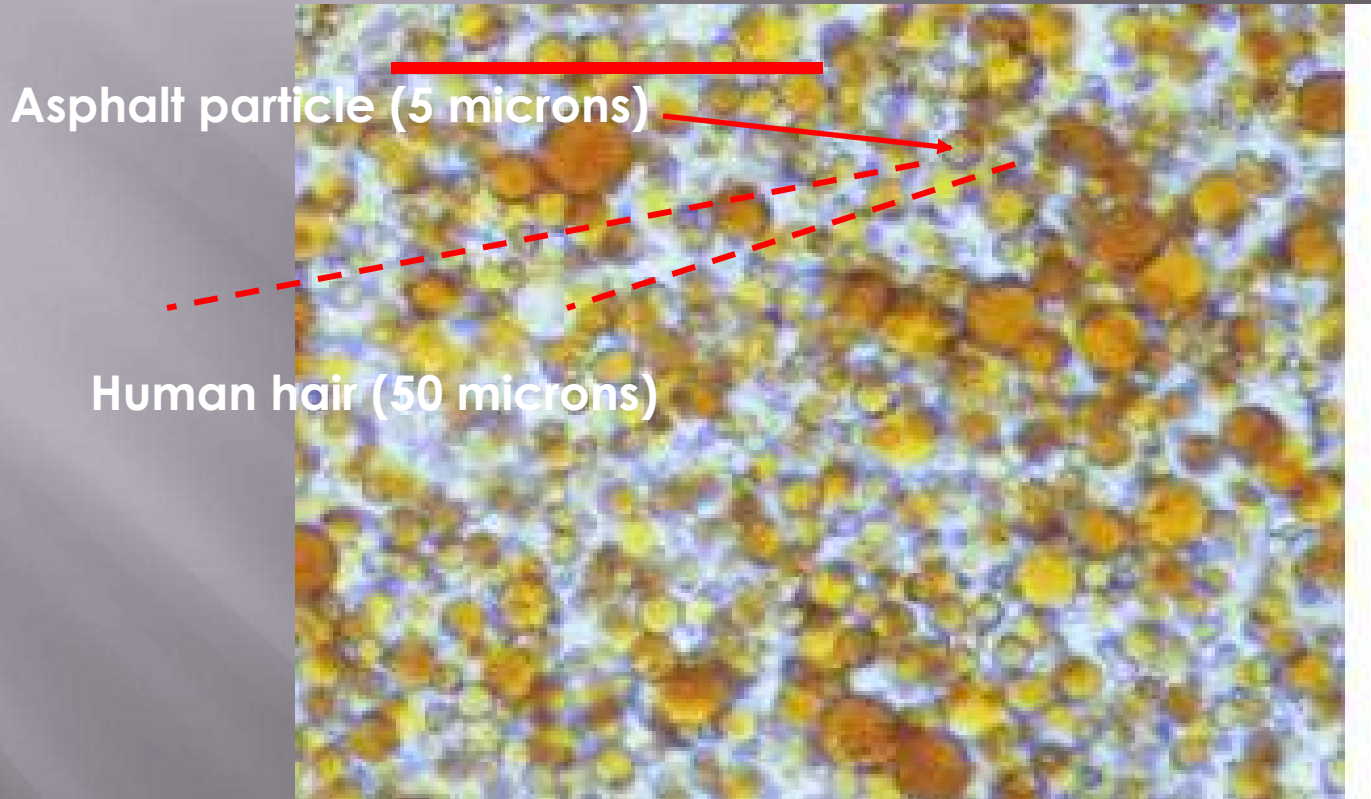


Stator

# What is a emulsion?

# What is a emulsion?

# What is a emulsion?



# What is a emulsion?

- ▣ Average 3-7 microns diameter
- ▣ Asphalt is usually 57-70% of the emulsion
- ▣ 1 gram of asphalt will form more than 10 billion particles
- ▣ The total surface area of 1 gram of asphalt is 1-2 m<sup>2</sup>
- ▣ One drop of emulsifier would stabilize as much as 100 billion particles or 10-20 m<sup>2</sup> of asphalt particle surface area

# Emulsion Classifications

- ▣ Cationic
- ▣ Anionic
- ▣ Nonionic (usually treated as a subset of the anionic classification)



# Emulsion Classifications

- ▣ Each classification is based on the electrical charge on the asphalt particles' surface
- ▣ The particle charge is determined by the emulsifier and the water pH

# Emulsion Classifications

## □ Cationic

- Definition - having a positive electrical charge
- The emulsifier has a positive charge
- Since the emulsifier coats the asphalt particle surface, all of the particles have a positive charge

# Emulsion Classifications

## ▣ Anionic

- Definition - having a negative electrical charge
- The emulsifier has a negative charge
- Therefore, all of the asphalt particles have a negative charge

# Emulsion Classifications

## ▣ Nonionic

- Definition - having no electrical charge
- The emulsifier has very little or no charge
- The asphalt particles also have little or no charge
- Particles are protected by a viscous layer formed by the emulsifier

# Emulsion Classifications

- ▣ Common Cationic Classifications
- ▣ CRS, CMS, CQS, and CSS
- ▣ Each classification will have a suffix such as “-1” or “-2” (emulsion viscosity) and/or an “h” (asphalt base hardness)
- ▣ Examples: CRS-2, CQS-1h, CSS-1
- ▣ Other designations: P=polymer (solid or latex)  
LM=latex polymer, s=solvent, many others...

# Emulsion Classifications

- ▣ Common Anionic Classifications
- ▣ RS, HFRS, MS, HFMS, QS, and SS
- ▣ Each classification will have a suffix such as “-1” or “-2” (emulsion viscosity) and/or an “h” (asphalt base hardness)
- ▣ Examples: HFRS-2, SS-1h
- ▣ Other designations: P=polymer (solid or latex)  
LM=latex polymer, s=solvent, many others...

# Emulsion Classifications

- Why do we have different classifications?
  - Producing an emulsion that is stable for storage or handling is easy...
  - ...but emulsions must be designed to break at exactly the right time in the construction process and perform well over the long-run

# Emulsion Classifications

Rapid Set

Medium Set

Quick Set

Slow Set

Spray Grade  
Emulsions

Mixing  
Grade  
Emulsions



# Emulsion Classifications

- ▣ Spray grade emulsions (rapid and medium sets)
- ▣ Designed to be marginally stable
- ▣ The chemical additives and dosages are chosen to allow reasonable handling stability, but easy destabilization
- ▣ Break with mild destabilizing effects
- ▣ Environmental exposure and/or on contact with flat surfaces

# Emulsion Classifications

- ▣ Spray grade applications
- ▣ Chip seals
- ▣ Cape seals (the chip portion only)
- ▣ Tack coats
- ▣ Fog seals
- ▣ Prime coats

# Emulsion Classifications

- ▣ Mixing grade emulsions (medium, quick and slow sets)
- ▣ Designed to be significantly more stable
- ▣ The chemical additives and dosages are chosen to allow good handling stability and designed destabilization
- ▣ Break with strong destabilizing effects
- ▣ Exposure to high aggregate fines, pH shifts, or challenging environment

# Emulsion Classifications

- ▣ Mixing grade applications
- ▣ Slurry seals
- ▣ Micro-surfacing
- ▣ Cape seals (the slurry portion only)
- ▣ Cold mixes (solvent and solventless)
- ▣ Base stabilization, full depth reclamation, recycling, virgin aggregate intermediate and wearing courses, and patch mixes
- ▣ Emulsion based warm mixes

# Emulsion Classifications

- ▣ Mixing grade emulsions in spray applications
- ▣ Tack coats and fog seals – diluted for weeks, pumped multiple times
- ▣ Chip seals – where dense graded or dusty aggregates are used
- ▣ Prime coats – emulsion stability needed to allow penetration into the base

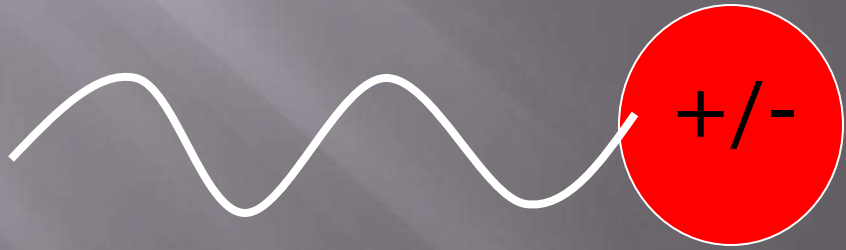
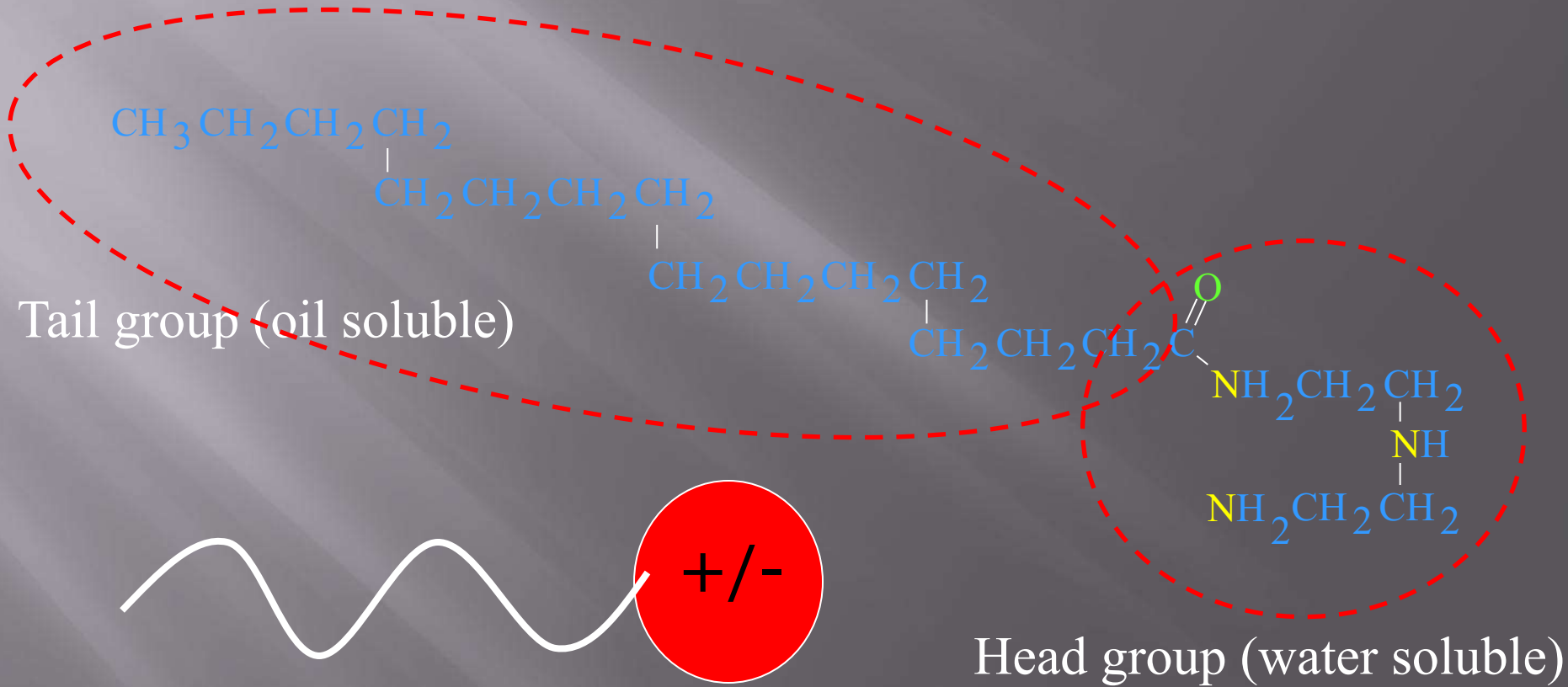
# Emulsion Classifications

- ▣ General emulsifier chemical structures
- ▣ “Salt” formation
- ▣ Surface activity of emulsifiers

# Emulsifier

- ▣ An oil soluble part (Lipophilic)
- ▣ A water soluble part (Hydrophilic)
- ▣ Some characteristic that allows the molecule to protect the surface of the asphalt droplet
- ▣ Electrical charge...
- ▣ ...or no charge, but large size

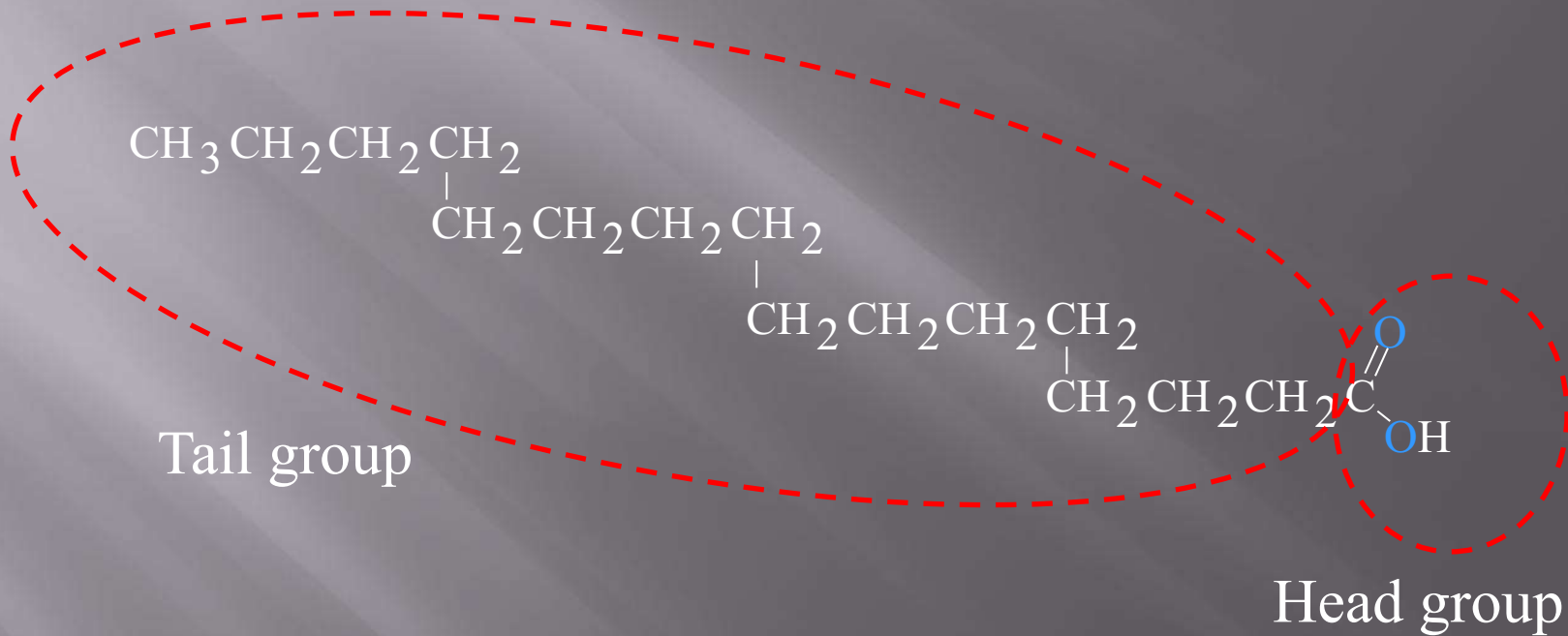
# Emulsifier



“Short hand” picture

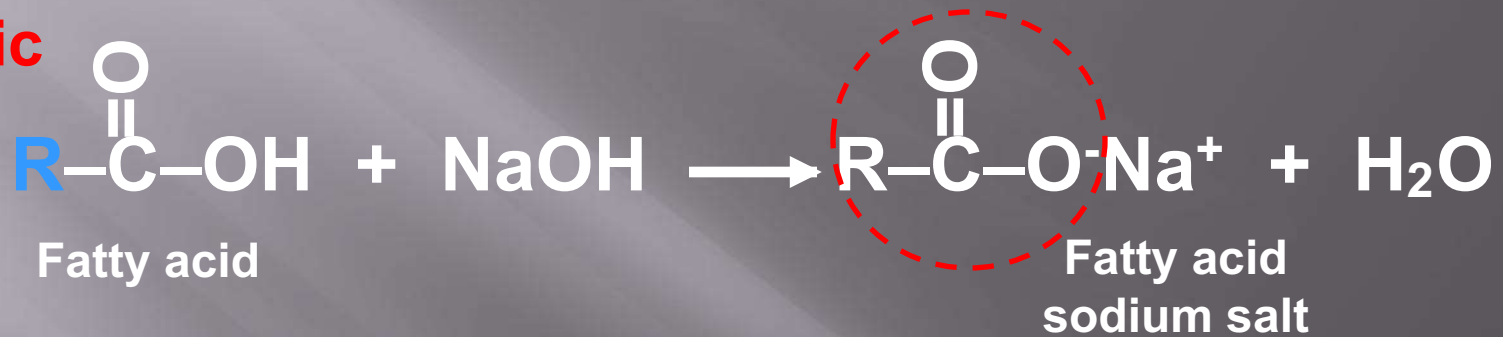


# Anionic Emulsifier Molecule



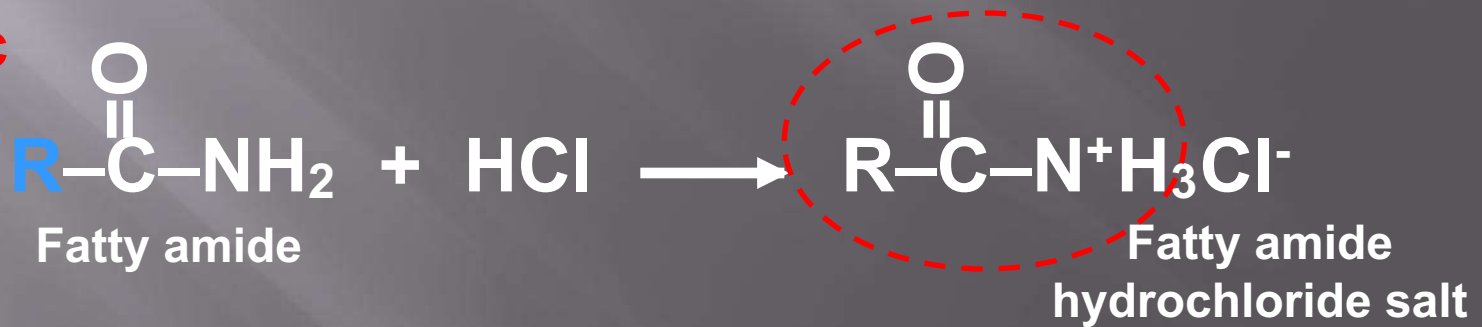
# Salt Formation

**Anionic**

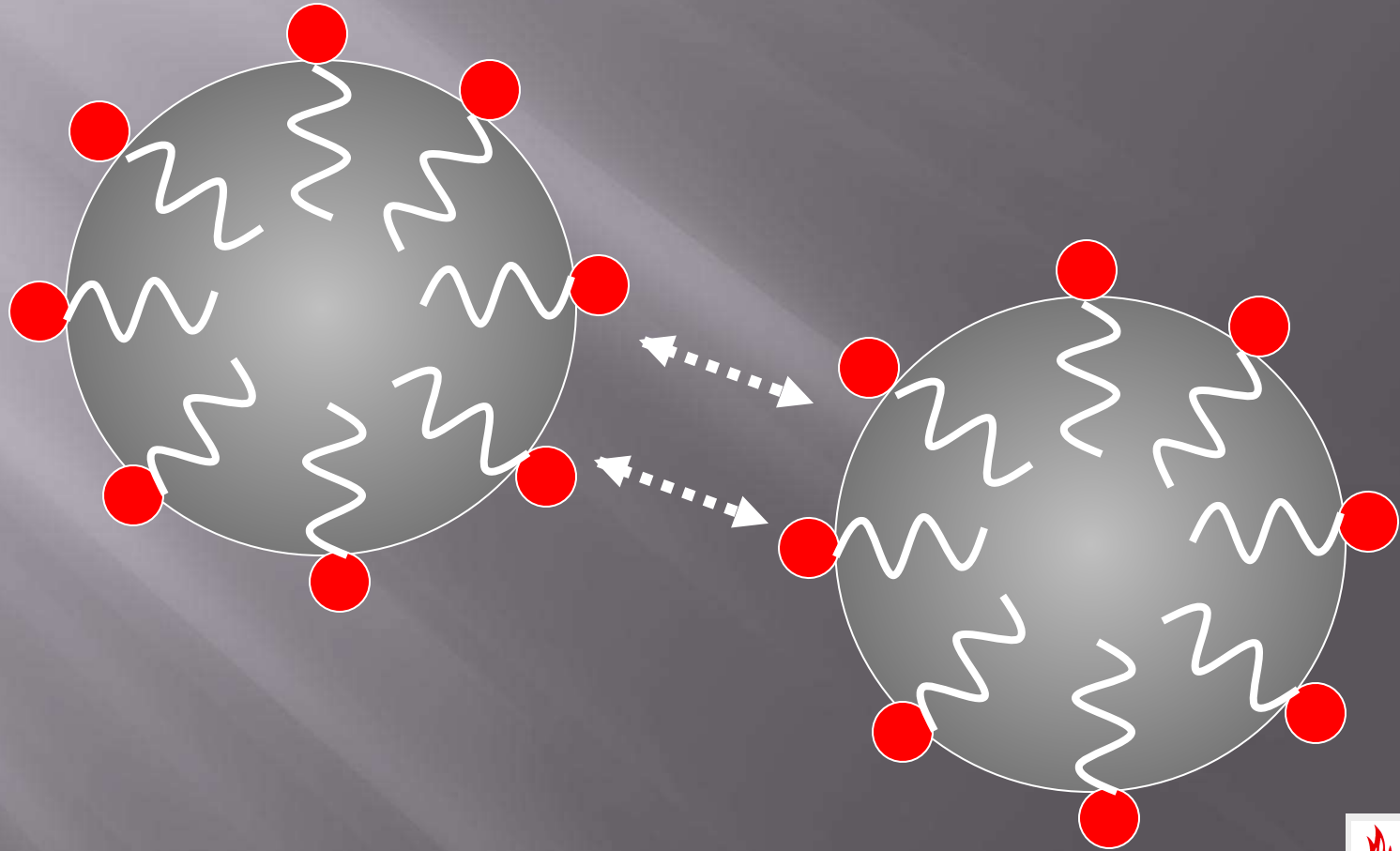


“R” = Hydrocarbon tail

**Cationic**



# Emulsifier



# Emulsifier

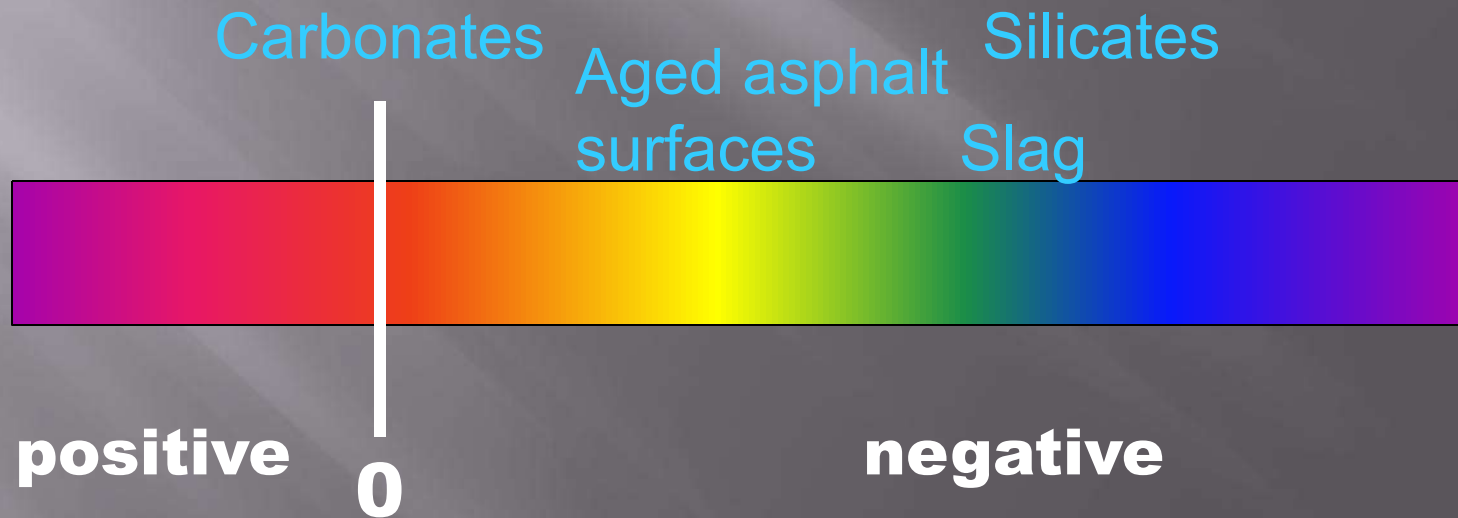
- ▣ “Application” usually refers to spraying the emulsion onto surfaces or mixing them with aggregates
- ▣ To understand emulsion performance, we need to know more about aggregate or other surfaces

# Aggregate

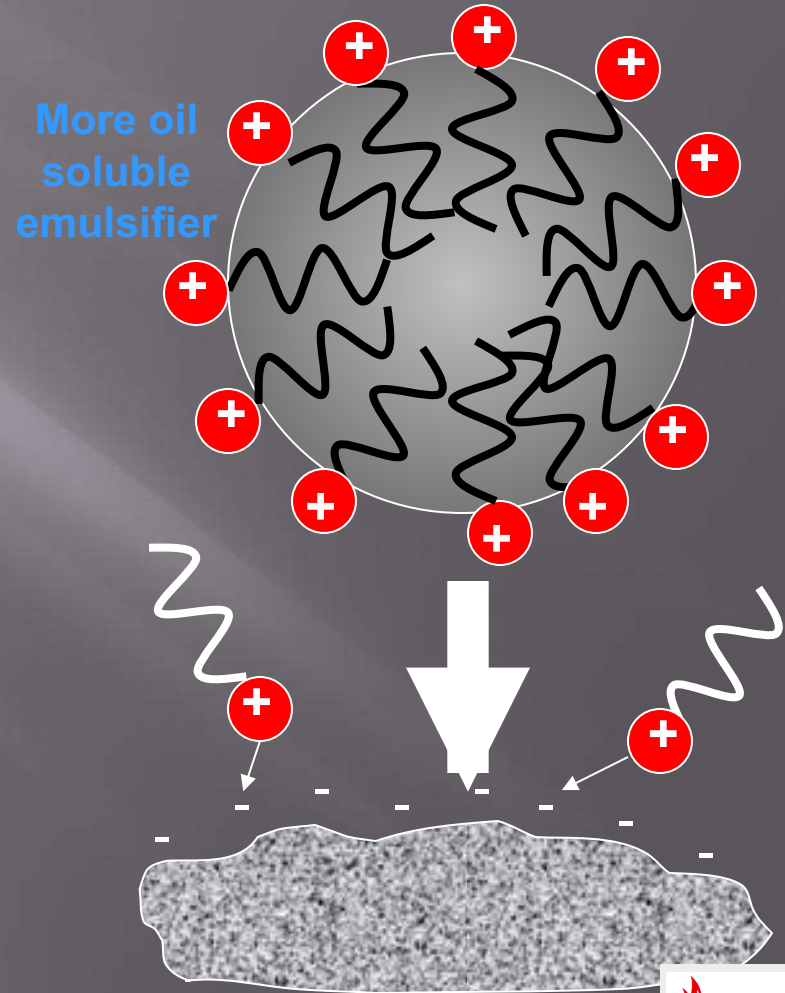
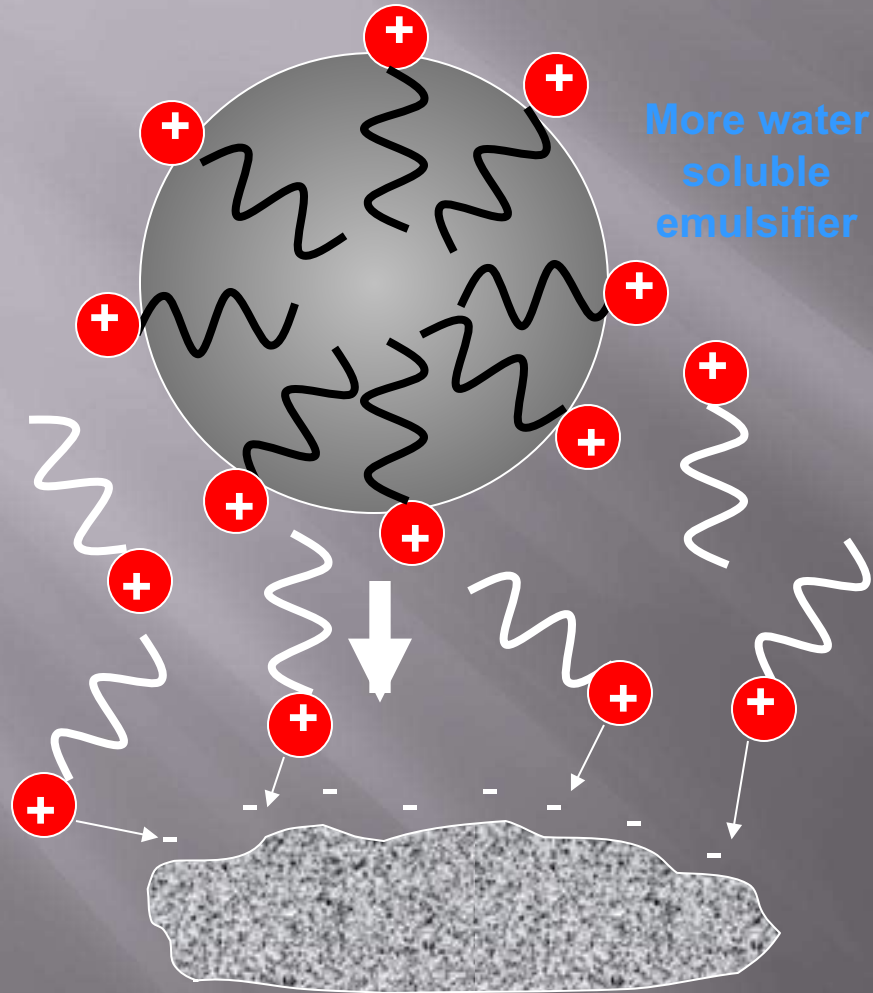
- ▣ Minerals have surface charges
- ▣ The charges on the asphalt particles interact with the stone's charges
- ▣ "Opposites attract" – longer life
- ▣ Silicates and slag – generally “-”
- ▣ Limestones – generally 0 or “+”

# Surface Properties of Rocks

- ▣ Surface charge measurements (Zeta potential) show that general mineral categories fall in two zones
- ▣ This affects the rock's interaction with asphalt emulsions



# The Emulsifier - Performance

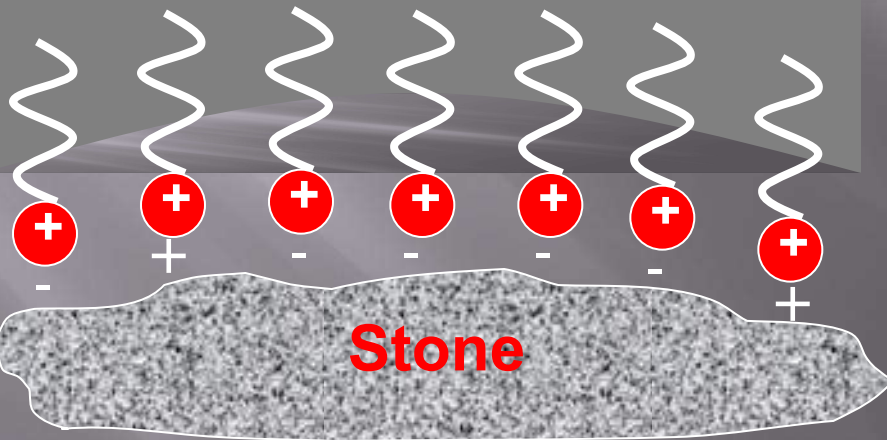


# Adhesion – Silicate Mineralogy (Granite, Trap Rock, Basalt, Slag...)

## Cationic Emulsion

Opposite charge interaction  
produces a tight bond

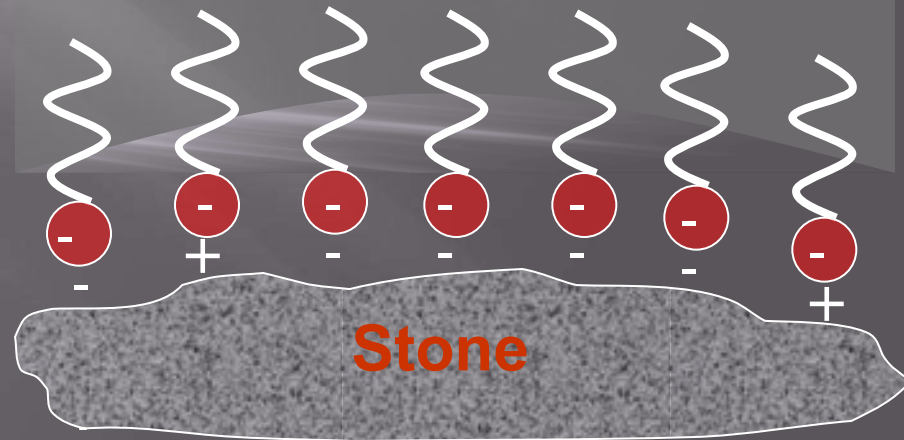
**Asphalt film**



## Anionic Emulsion

Similar charge interaction  
produces a weak bond

**Asphalt film**



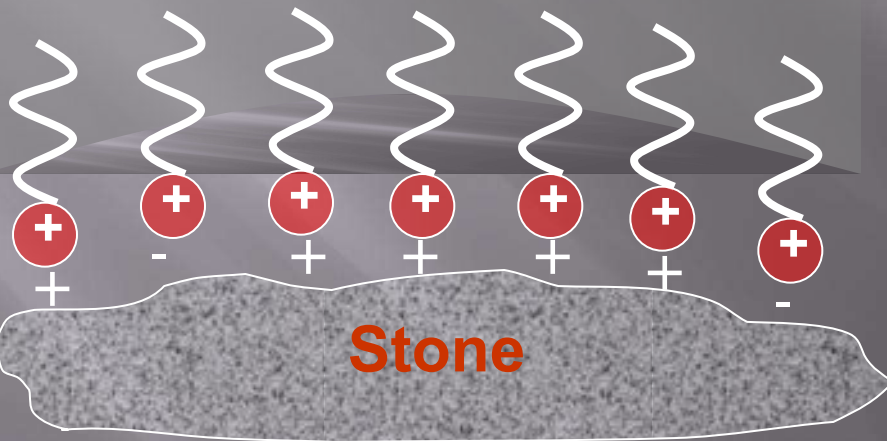


# Adhesion – Carbonate Mineralogy (Limestone, Dolomite...)

## Cationic Emulsion

Similar charge interaction  
produces a weak bond

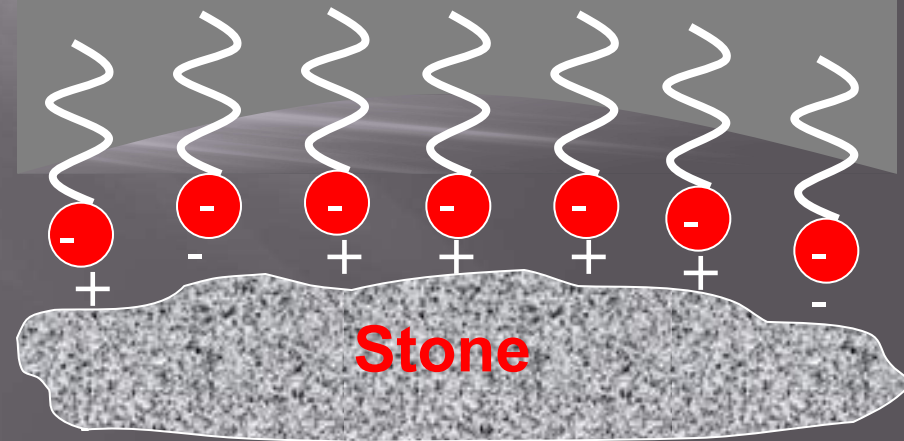
Asphalt film



## Anionic Emulsion

Opposite charge interaction  
produces a tight bond

Asphalt film



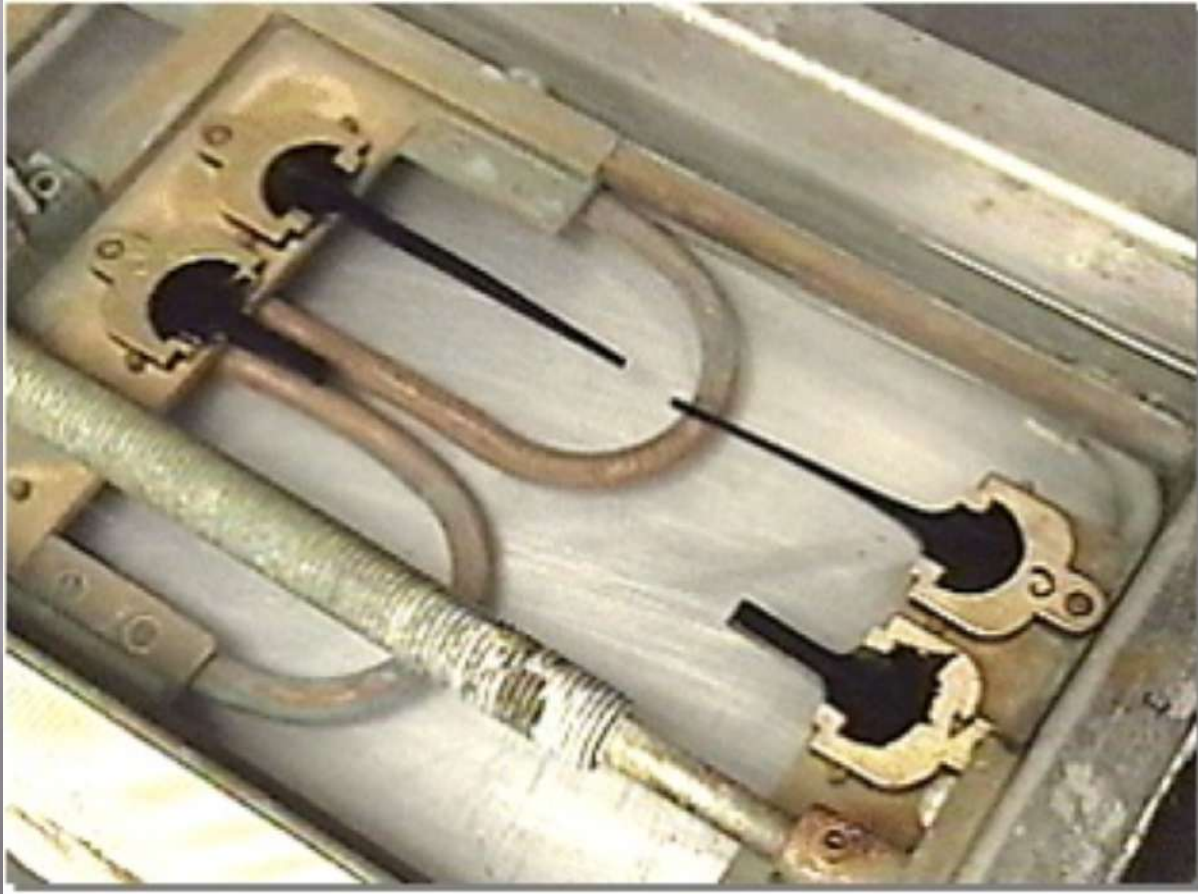
# Softening Point Test



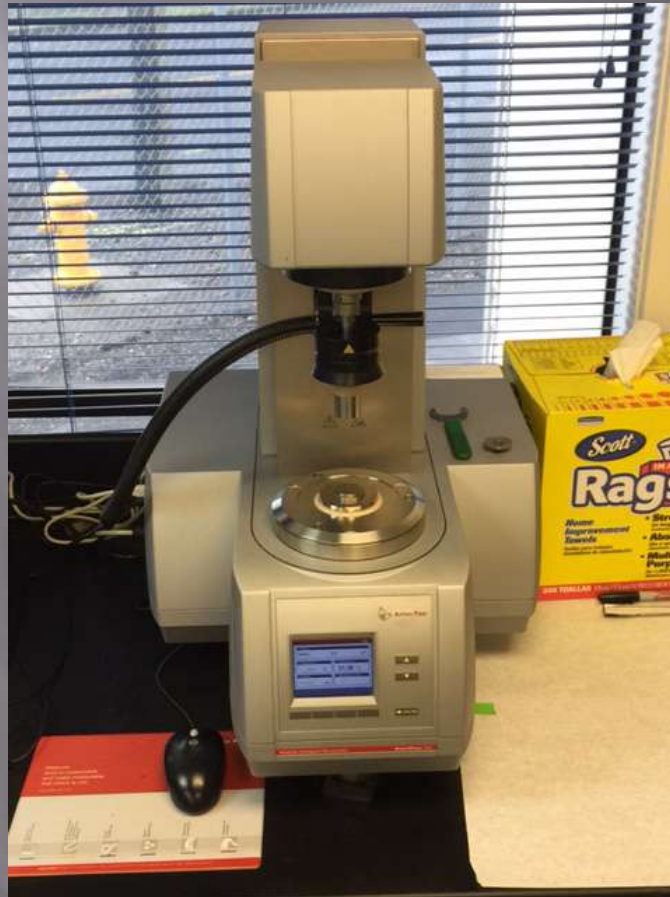
# Penetration Test



# Elastic Recovery Test



# Possible Future Test?



# Emulsions

Emulsion	90-1S	CSS	CRS-2	CRS-2P	CQS	MSE
<u>Orig Properties</u>						
Viscosity @77°F SFS		<u>30-90</u>			<u>30-90</u>	<u>30-90</u>
Viscosity @122°F SFS	390		100-400	100-400		
20 Mesh Sieve	1.0 Max	1.0 Max	1.0 Max	1.0 Max	1.0 Max	1.0 Max
Cement Mixing		Max 2.0%			Max 2.0%	
Particle charge	Negative	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Demulsibility	Min 40%		Min 40%	Min 40%		
<u>Distillation</u>						
Res by Distillation %	67	62	67	67	62	65
Pen 77°F	125	105	115	110	60	48
Float Test	1300 sec					
Ductility at 77°F	Min 40	Min 40	Min 40	Min 40	Min 40	Min 40
Elastic Recovery @50°F	30%		0	55%	0	65%
Softening point °F	123	100	100	115	105	143
% Torsional Recovery	18	0	0	23	0	35

**Thank You!**

**Questions??**

