New cellulose chemicals for surfactant (and thermoplastic) applications

5.11.2018Christiane LaineIndustry meet CERESMarketplace Pitch



Block Copolymers in surfactant applications

Polymeric surfactants

- Characteristic molecular self-assembly behavior in solutions, at interfaces and in bulk, generating nanoscale structures of different shapes
- Typical applications are:
 - Emulsion stabilization
 - Viscosity modifiers
 - Enhanced oil recovery
 - Coatings and films
- Typical examples
 - Polyvinyl alcohol
 - Cellulose ethers
 - Acrylic latex

The structure has an influence on the behavior displayed in solution and at the air/water interface:



Some properties of cellulose and hemicellulose derivatives

Etherified cellulose MHPC, EC, MeC, HPC:

Applications in cosmetics, food and chemical industry:



http://celluloseether.com/what-is-cellulose-ether/

Esterified hemicelluloses decrease the surface tension in aqueous solution, the effect depends on the substituent



Foam and emulsions can be formed from the etherified grades with aliphatic group (alkoxyhydroxypropylated)





Nypelö, T., Laine, C., Aoki, M., Tammelin, T., Henniges, U., Etherification of wood-based hemicelluloses for interfacial activity, Biomacromolecules 2016, 17, 1894–1901, DOI: 10.1021/acs.biomac.6b00355.



Topics for research in FinnCERES

Study of the self-assembly behaviour of cellulose and hemicellulose derivatives from current methods

- Foaming and emulsion properties have been demonstrated and utilized
- Correlation to the structure of the polysaccharides need to be studied
 - Distribution of the substituents dependent on reaction conditions and substituents?
 - Self-assembly behaviour

Development of methods to steer the homogenity/heterogenity of the substitution



• Some approaches have been reported

Hypotheses:

- Tailoring of properties will open new application fields
- The degree of substitution can be decreased.
- The full scale in molecular weight can be utilized by cellulose and hemicelluloses



