

# Asphalt Emulsions

*“A Green Technology Comes of Age”*

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# Presentation

1. What are asphalt emulsions
2. What are the types of asphalt emulsions
3. Manufacturer of emulsions
4. Setting and breaking of emulsions

# Some Figures

- First asphalt emulsion use 1900–1910 in U.S.
- 10 million ton of asphalt emulsion worldwide
- 2–3 million ton of asphalt emulsion in USA
- 10% of asphalt used as emulsion
- 25% in France, 5–10% in U.S.A.
- Spain, France, Brazil are important



# Emulsions Surrounds us

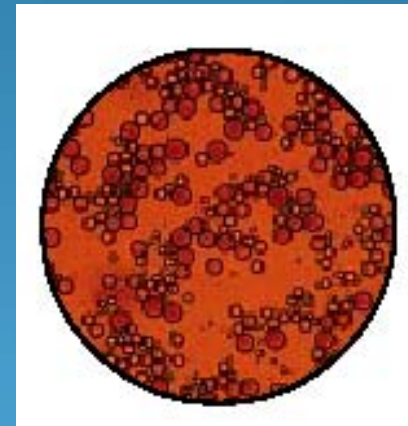




# Emulsion Basics

- Emulsions are MIXTURES of two immiscible liquids, such as oil and water, STABILIZED by an EMULSIFIER

- Emulsifier PROTECTS the droplet



How?

# Why Use Emulsions?

- ◆ Cold processes save energy
- ◆ easier handling and Storage (Low viscosity)
- ◆ safe and environmentally friendly
- ◆ low-cost on-site and in-place techniques
- ◆ water dilutable
- ◆ easily mixed with latex



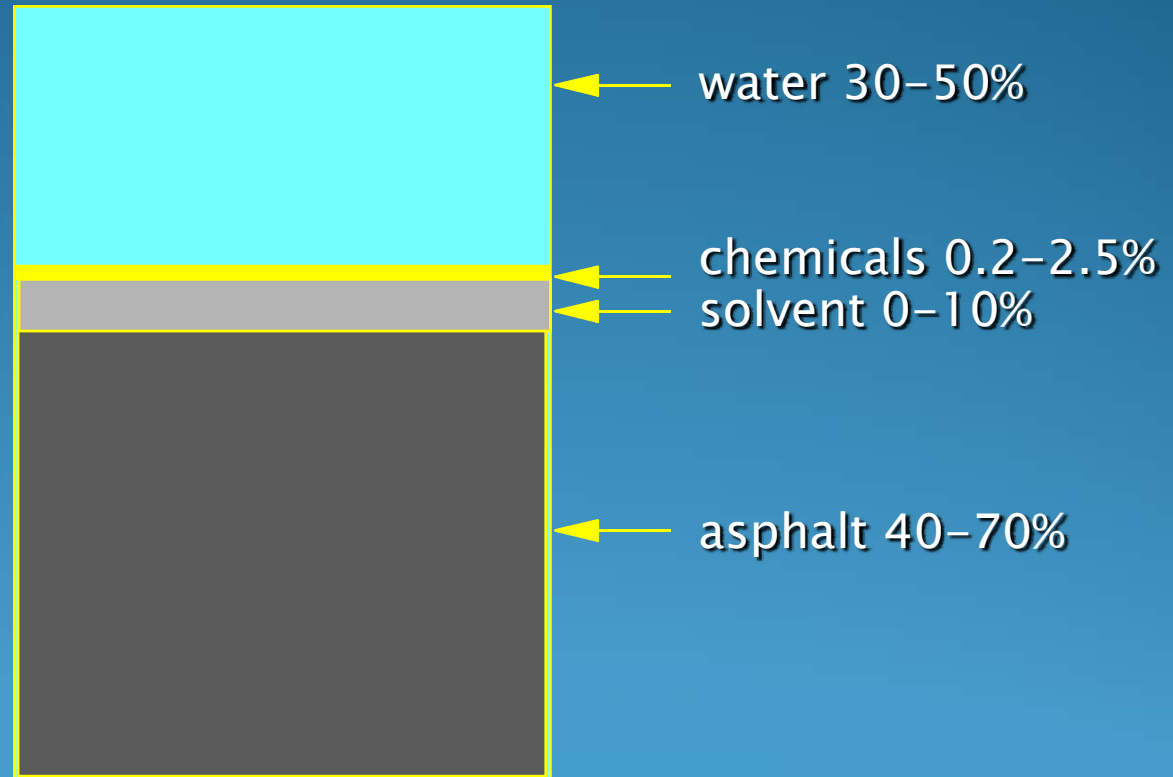
# Necessary Components

- Continuous phase - Water
- Non-continuous phase - Asphalt (dispersed phase)
- Surfactant - Emulsifying Agent
- Mechanical Energy – Shear (colloid mill)



*The emulsion is a chemically stabilized system;  
all components contribute to the stability of the  
system*

# Asphalt Emulsion composition





# Emulsion Applications



# Emulsion Stability

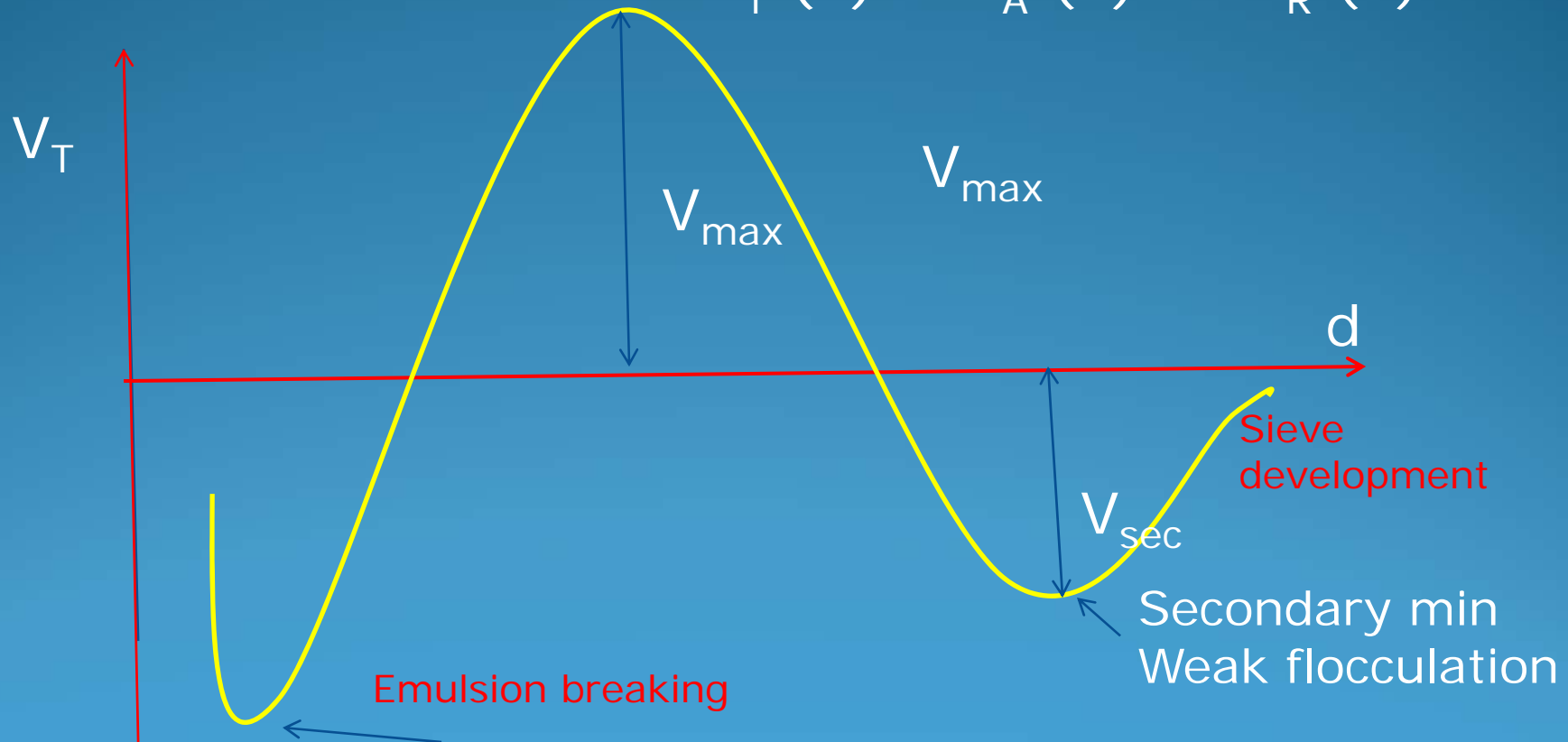
= Balance of attractive and repulsive interactions

Attractive >> Van der Waals Forces

Repulsive >>> Electrostatic forces

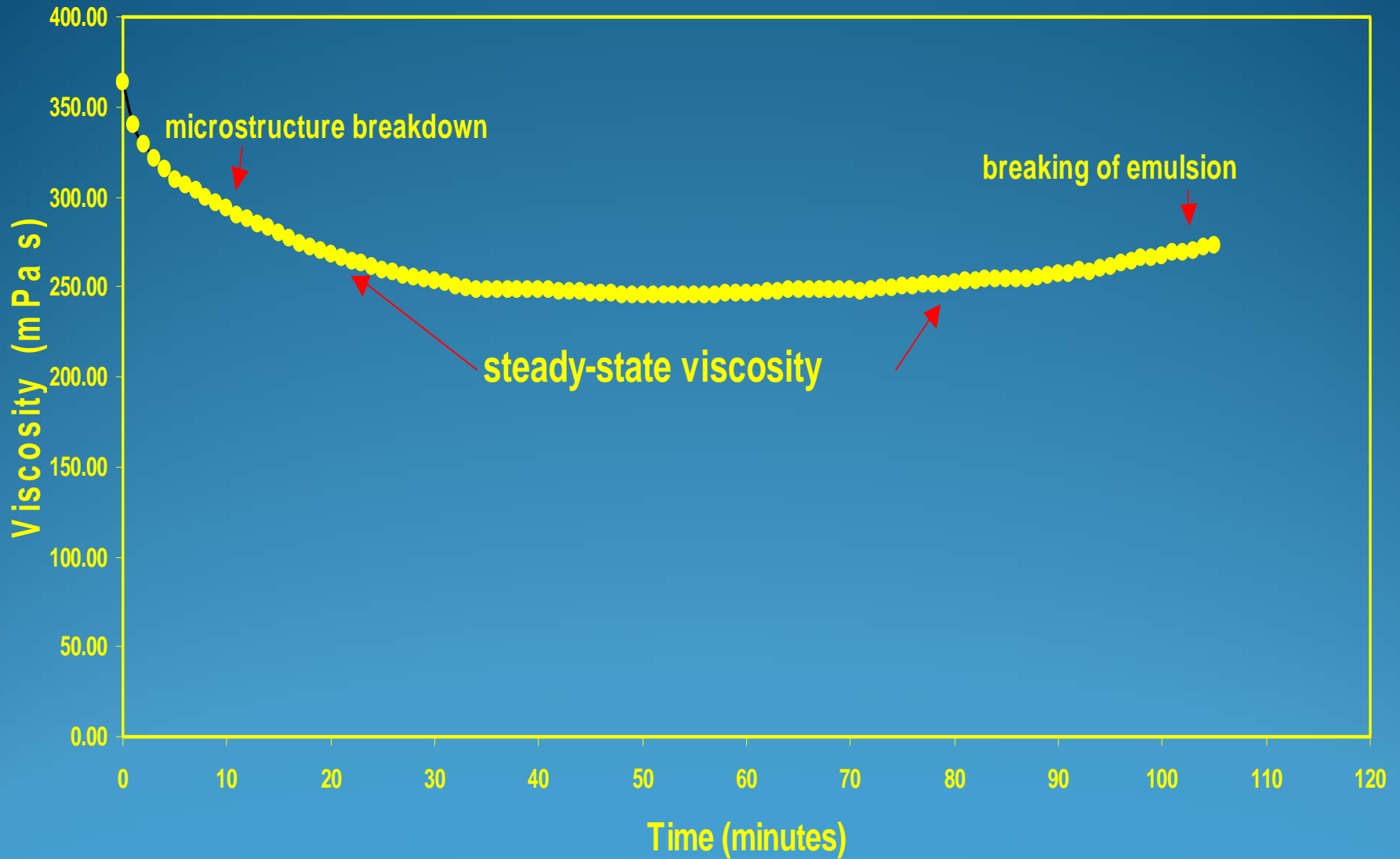
# DLVO = Derjaguin-Landau-Verwey-Overbeek THEORY developed in 1930

$$V_T(d) = V_A(d) + V_R(d)$$



Primary minimum: irreversible flocculation

# Effect of constant shear at 50 RPM and 50°C on emulsion viscosity





# Surfactants and Emulsifiers

- Surfactant = Surface Active Agent
- Emulsifier = Type of Surface active agent
- Wetting Agent = type of surface active agent

# Emulsifiers lowers energy at the interface

- Water–air or water–oil interface is high tension (energy)
- Surface Active Agent adsorbs at interface
- Lowers the tension (energy) at the interface
- Lowers the work needed to make new interface

# ***Functions of the Emulsifier***

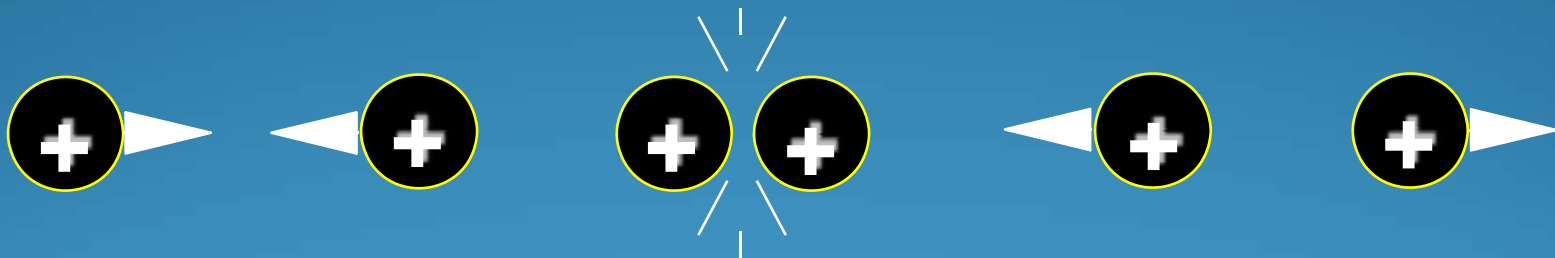
- ***Determines type of emulsion formed. i.e. O/W or W/O***
- ***Reduces energy needed to emulsify asphalt***
- ***Determines charge on emulsion droplets***
- ***Stabilizes emulsion droplets as they are formed in the colloid mill***
- ***Stabilizes the droplets during storage of the emulsion***
- ***Provides the right setting behavior***
- ***Influences the physical properties of the emulsion***
- ***Influences properties of cured road material.***

# Stabilization of Asphalt Droplets

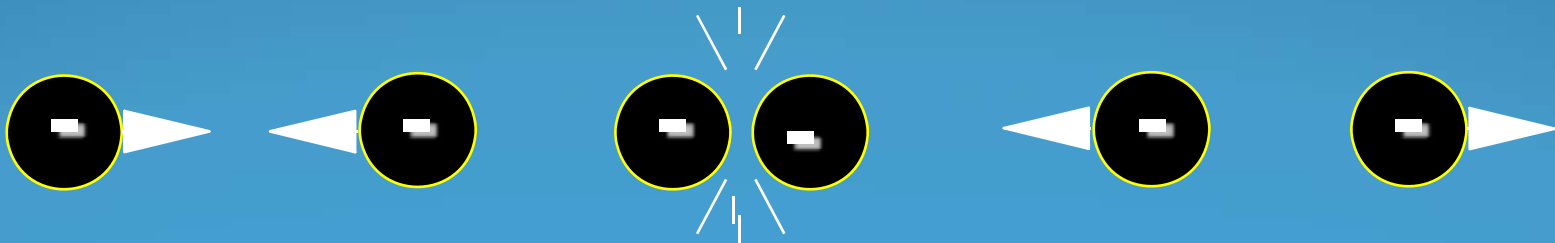
*No emulsifier-droplets can come into contact and coalesce*



*Cationic emulsifier-electrostatic repulsion prevents close approach of drops*

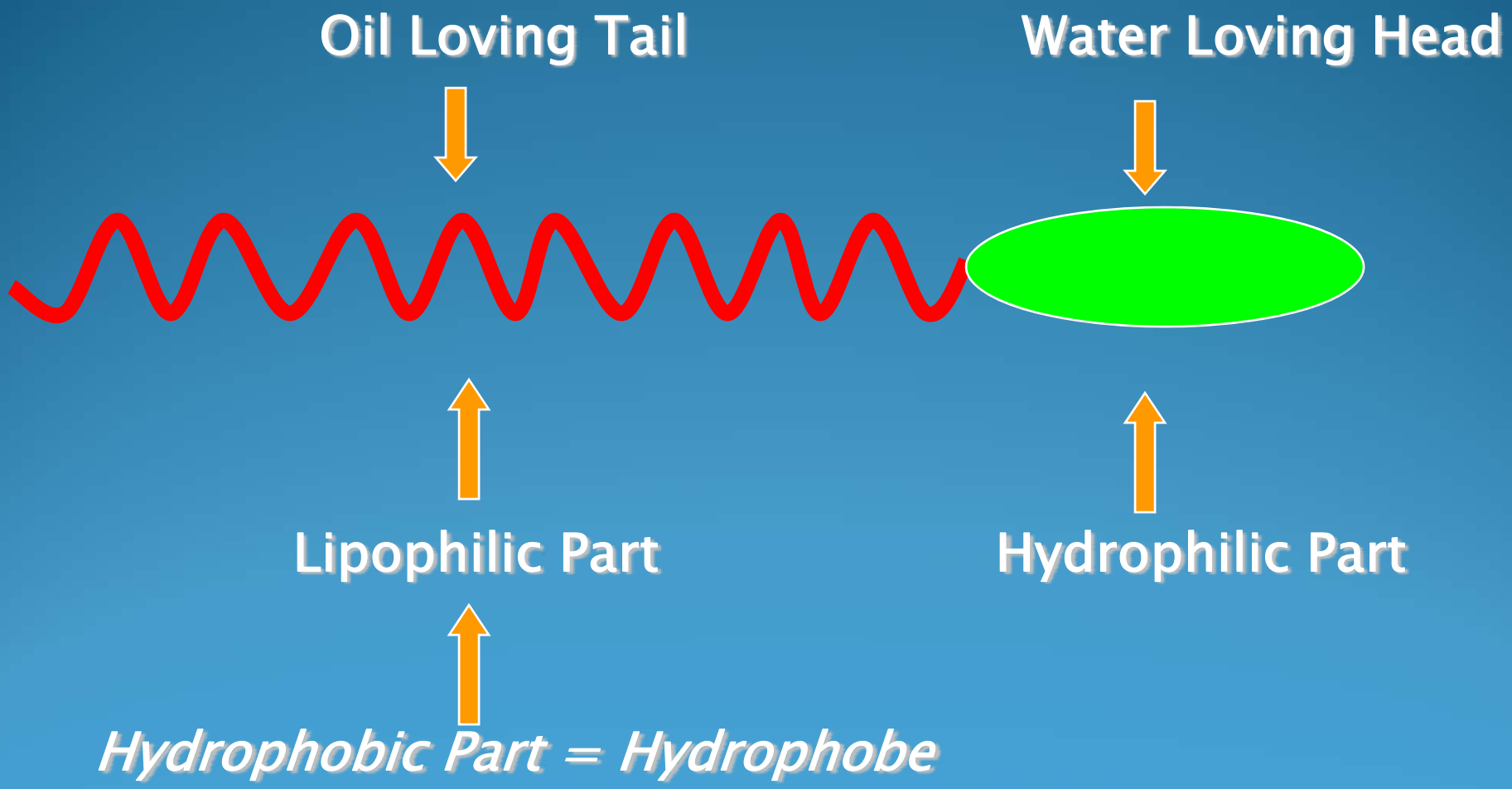


*Anionic emulsifier-electrostatic repulsion prevents close approach of drops*





# Surfactants



**If an asphalt droplet were the size of the earth, then the emulsifier head would occupy an area of 4 square miles and the hydrocarbon tail would penetrate 5 miles deep**



**asphalt droplet  
diameter 3/1000 mm**

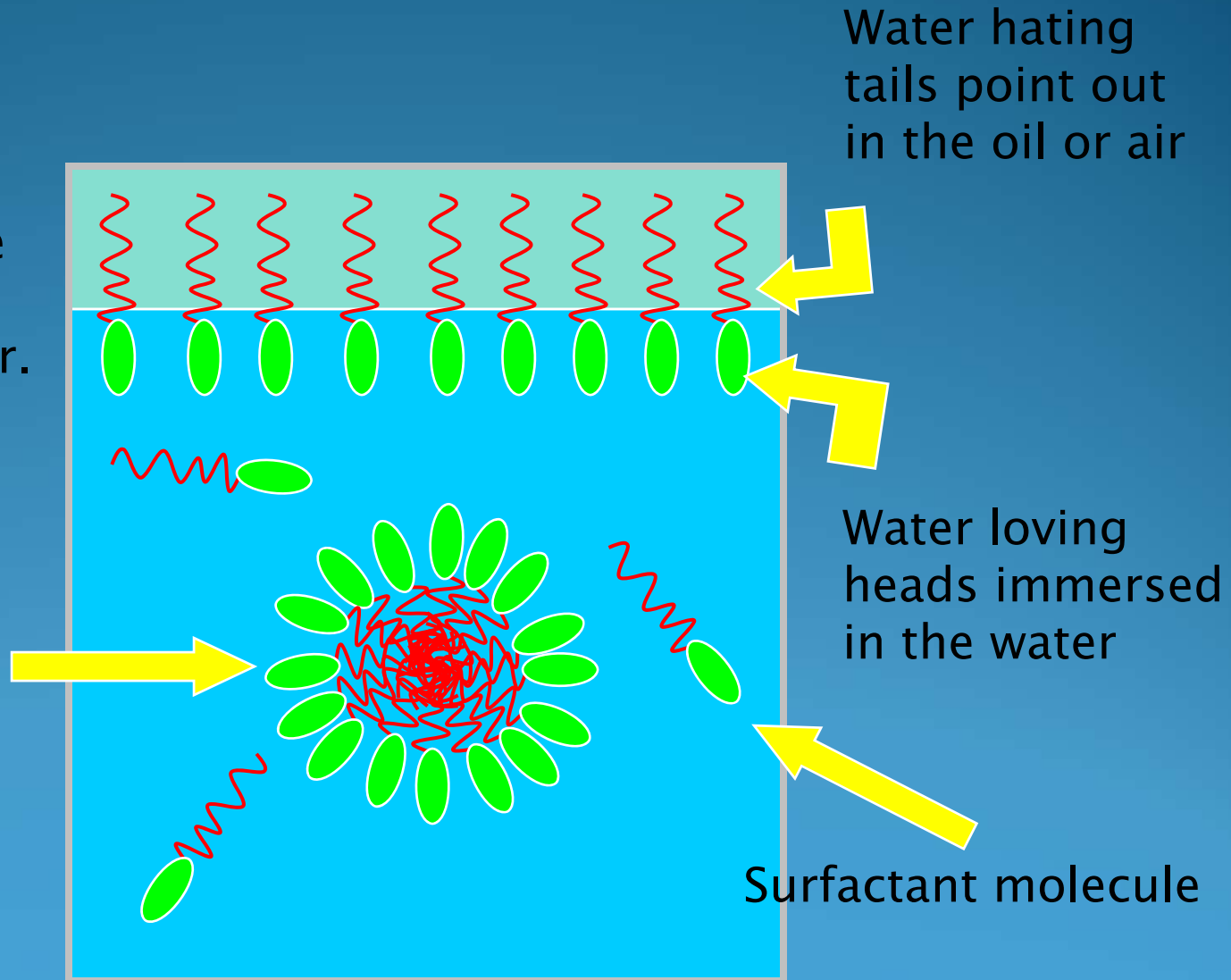


**emulsifier length  
3/1 000 000 mm**

# Surfactants at Water–Oil interface

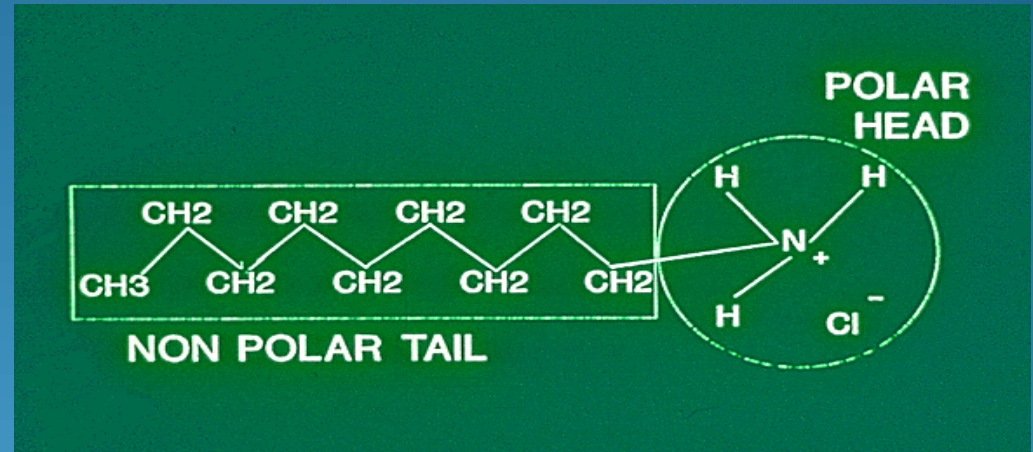
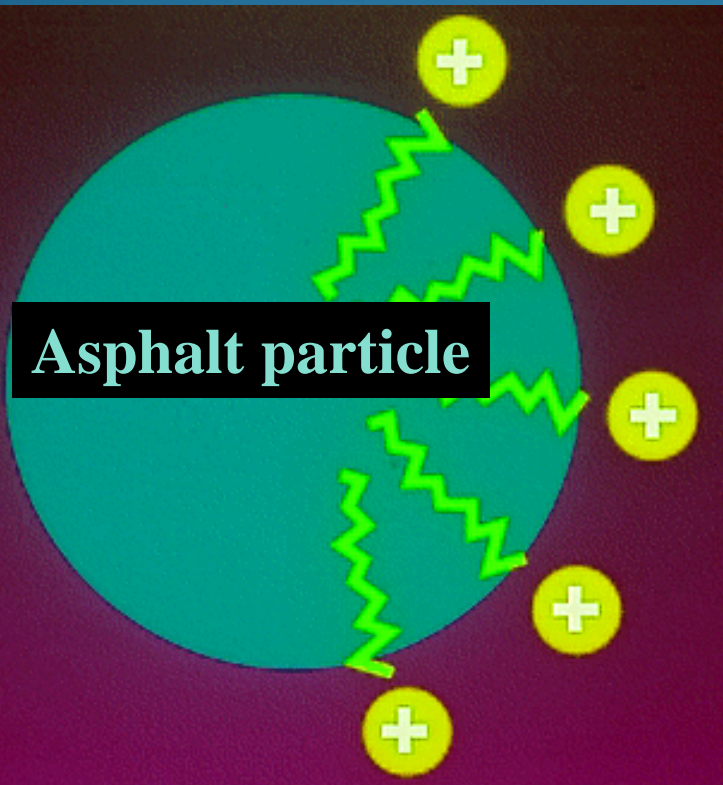
There is an equilibrium between surfactants at the interface and those in the water.

When the concentration of surfactants in the water reach the “CMC” then micelles start to form



# Emulsifiers stabilize particles

## -cationic example:

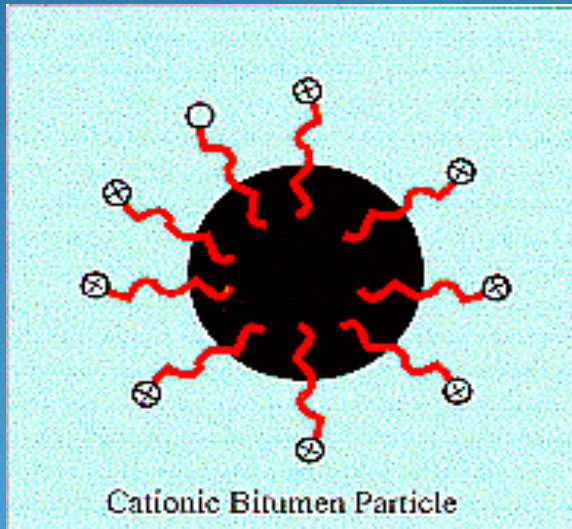


Positively charged emulsifier

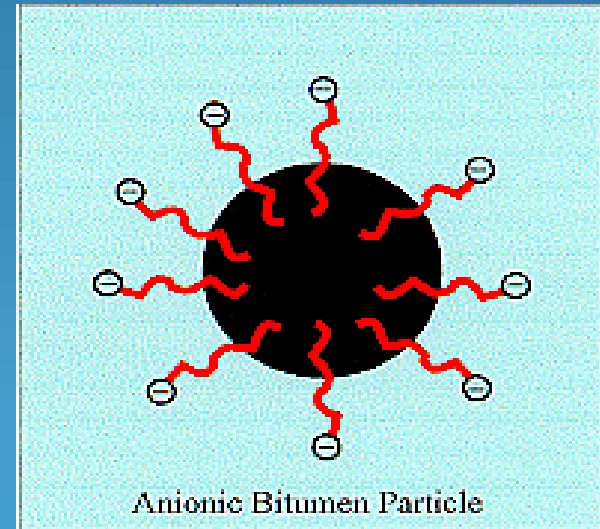


# Popular Emulsion types

Cationic



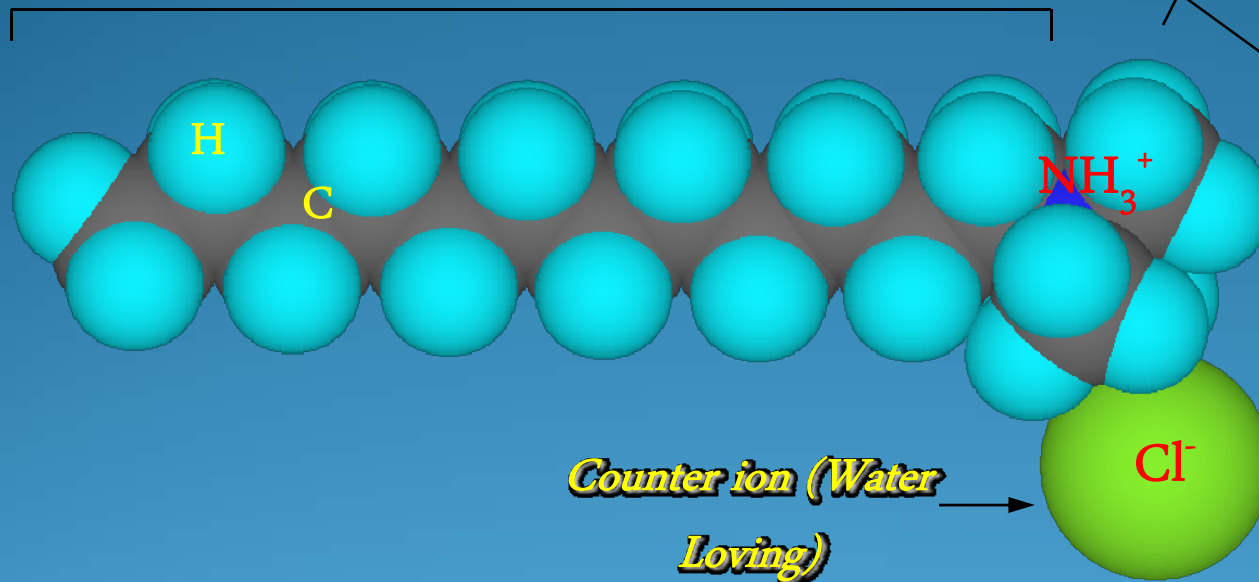
Anionic



# Cationic Emulsifier

Head Group (Water Loving)

Hydrocarbon Chain (Oil Loving)

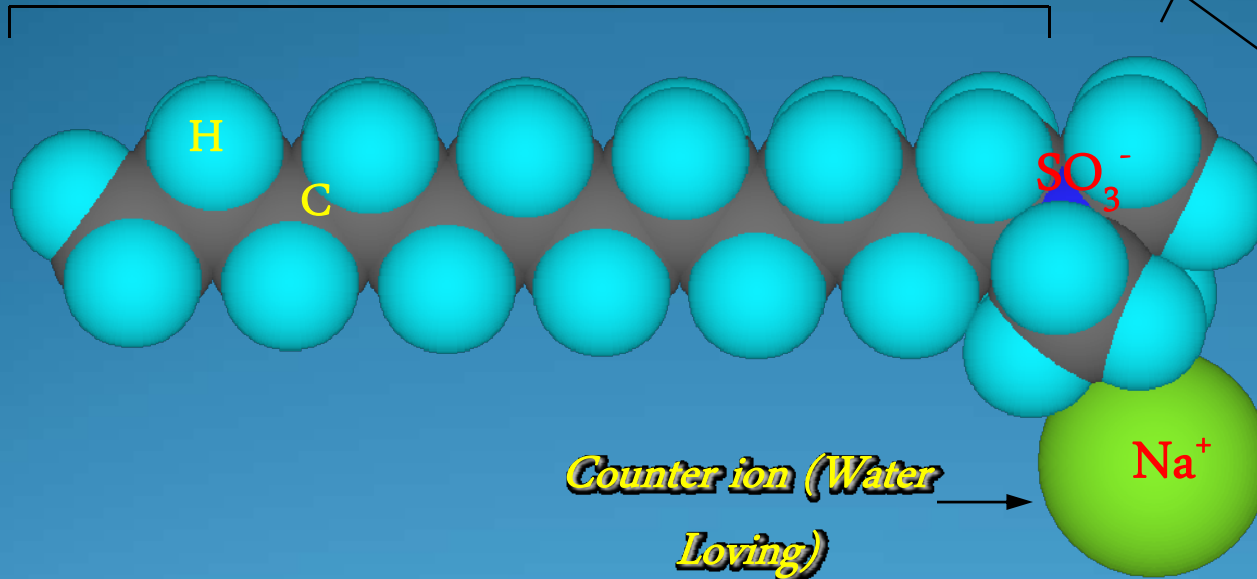


Counter ion (Water Loving)

# Anionic Emulsifier

*Head Group (Water Loving)*

*Hydrocarbon Chain (Oil Loving)*



# Typical Emulsifier Structures



**Hydrocarbon tail with 12-20 carbons**

**hydrophilic head  
group**

**counter ion**



**Cl<sup>-</sup>**



**2Cl<sup>-</sup>**



**none**



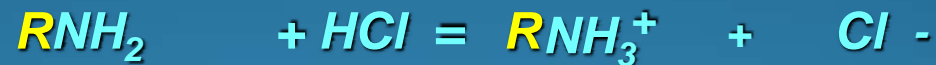
**Na<sup>+</sup>**



**Na<sup>+</sup>**

**R = long chain hydrocarbon**

## ***Cationic Soaps are prepared from amines and acid***



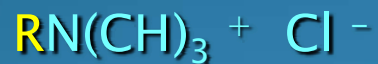
*insoluble neutral form + acid = soluble cationic 'soap'*



*insoluble neutral form + acid = soluble cationic 'soap'*

***R = Hydrocarbon chain***

## Some charged emulsifiers do not need pH adjustment



soluble quaternary amine



soluble olefin sulphonate

***rapid-setting:***

*reactive emulsion sets quickly even with unreactive aggregates*

***medium-setting:***

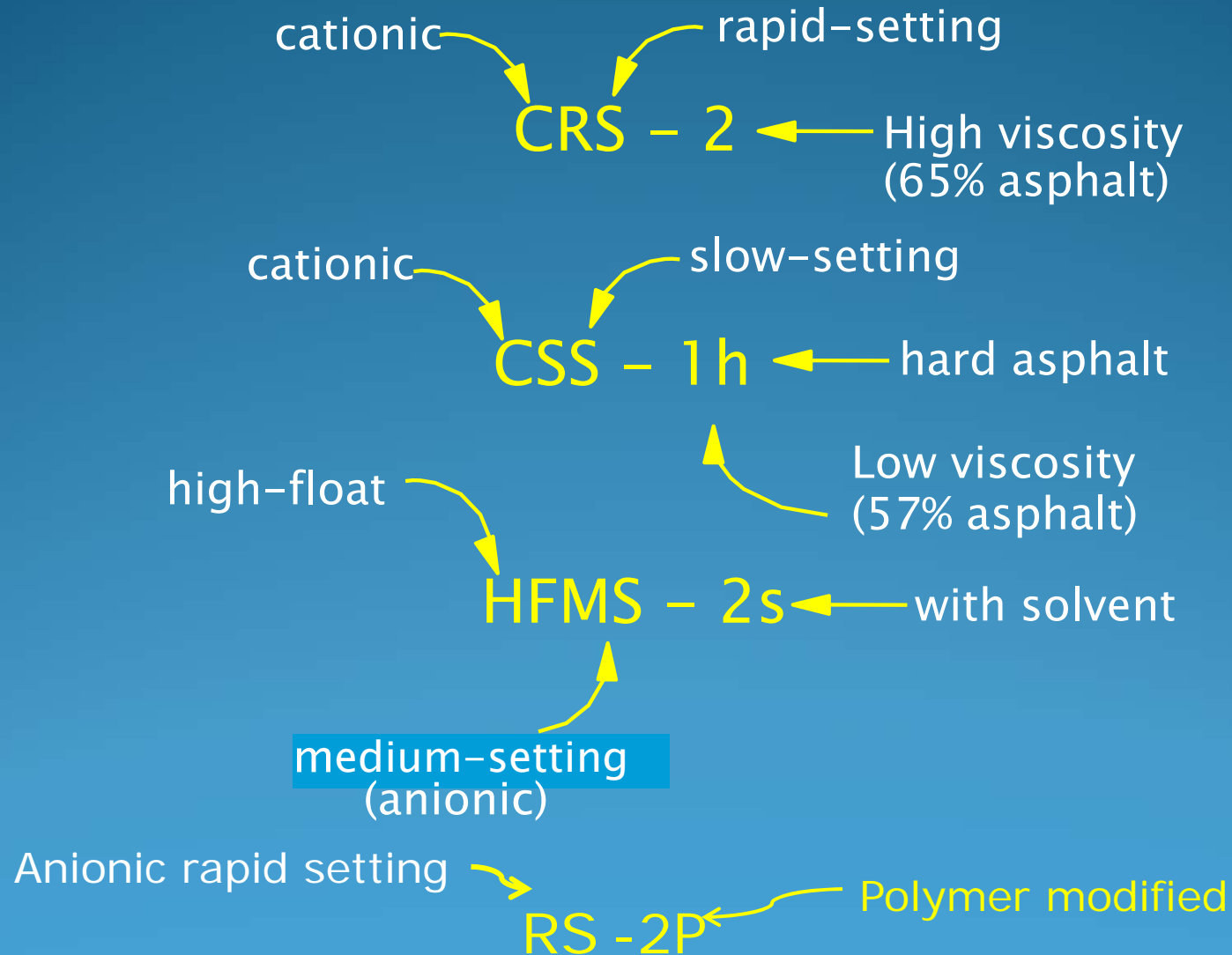
*medium reactive emulsion which can be mixed with open graded aggregates with low fines content*

***slow-setting:***

*low reactive emulsion which can be mixed with reactive aggregates with high fines content*



# Naming of Emulsions(ASTM)



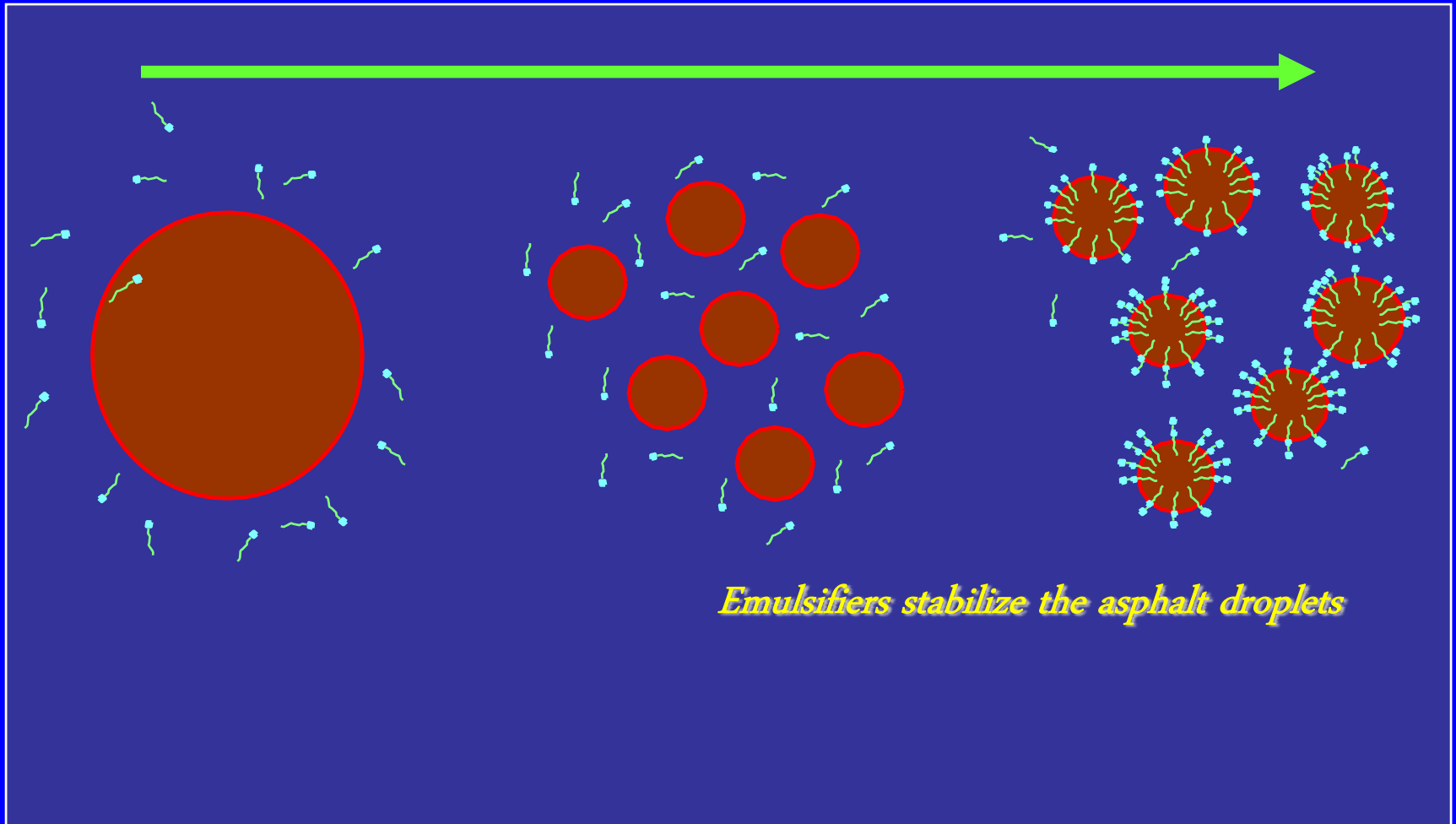
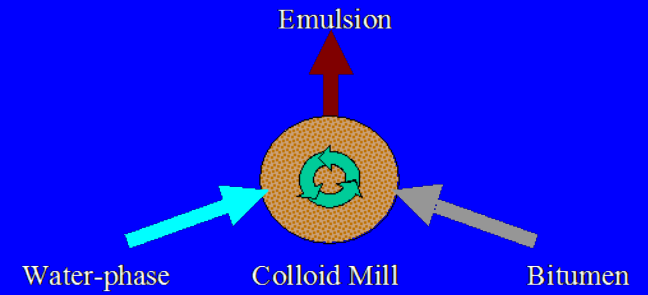
# Emulsions are classified according to Setting Rate and Particle Charge

	+ve	-ve	Application
<i>rapid-setting</i>	<i>CRS</i>	<i>RS</i>	<i>chip-seal</i>
<i>medium-setting</i>	<i>CMS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>open-graded mix</i>
<i>slow-setting</i>	<i>CSS</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>dense-graded mix</i>

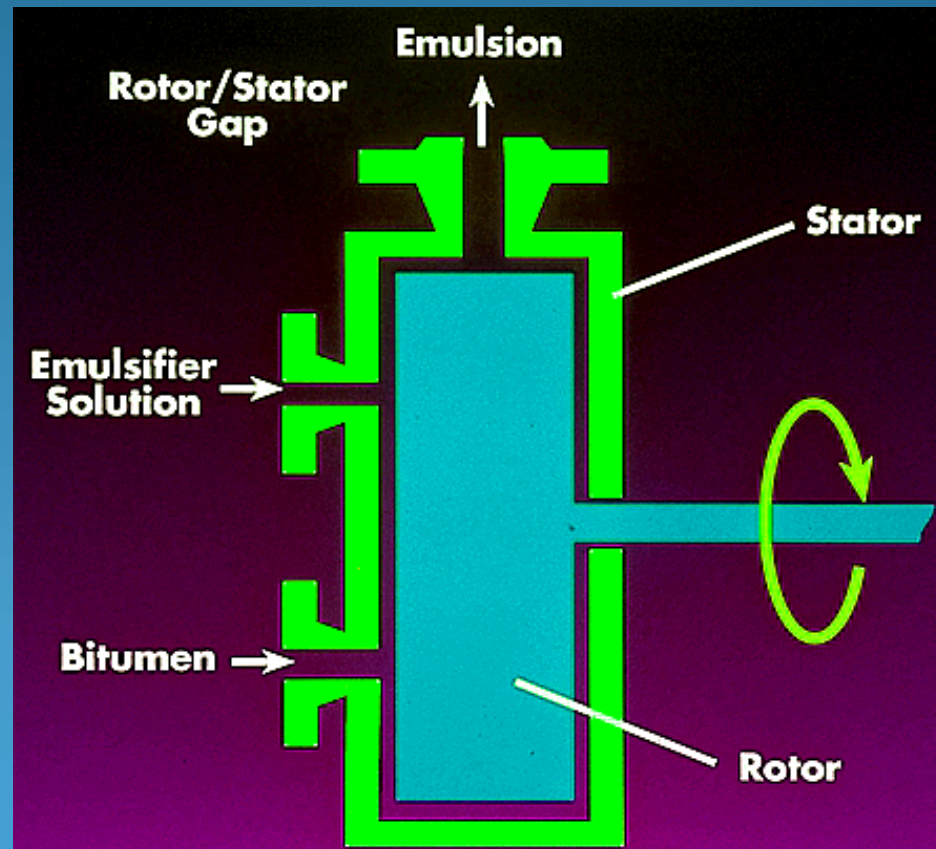
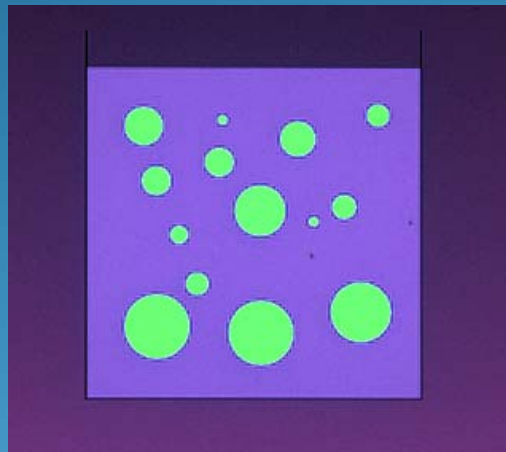
# ***Manufacture of Asphalt Emulsions***

# *Emulsifiers in Emulsion*

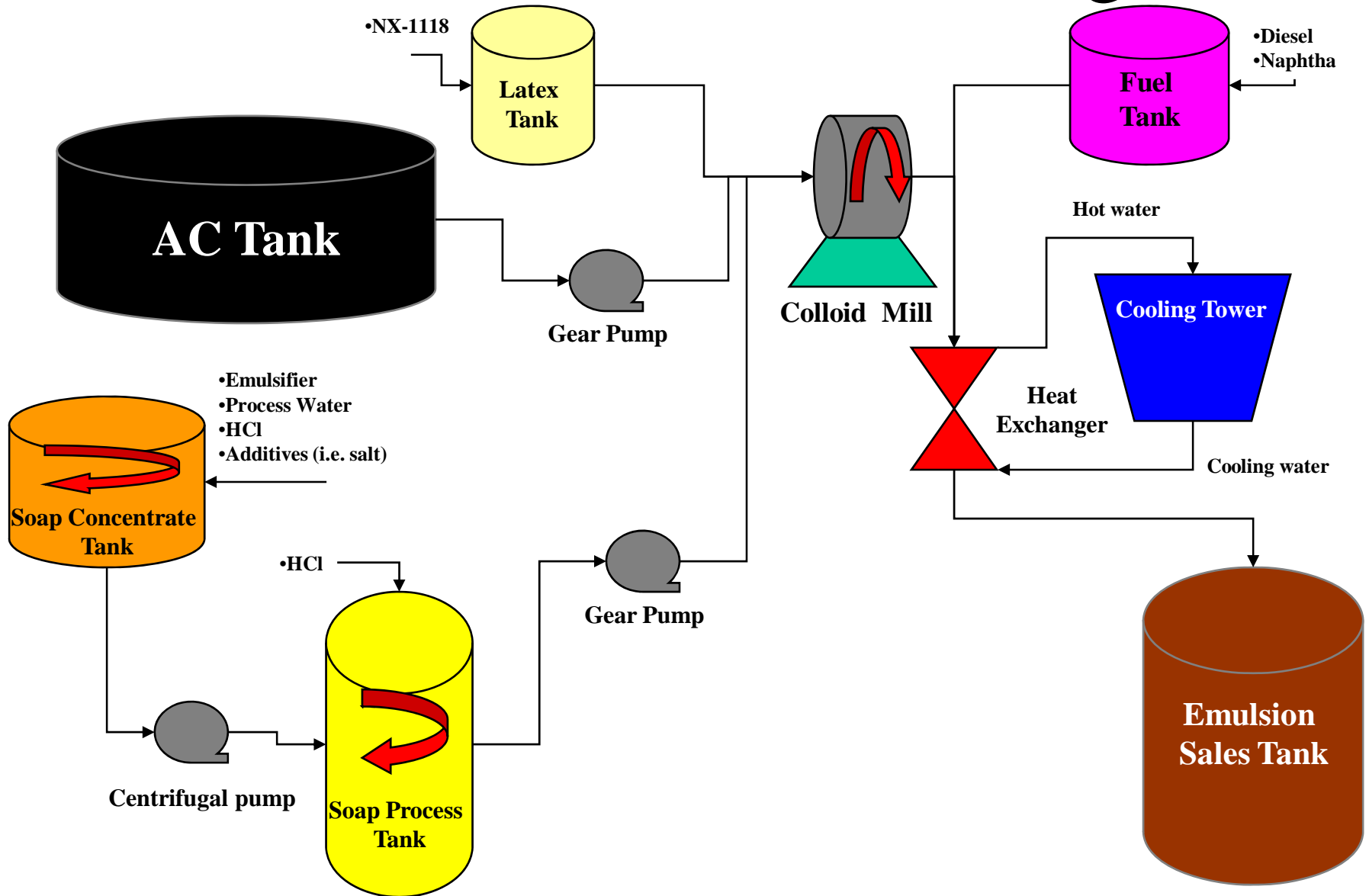
## *Manufacture*



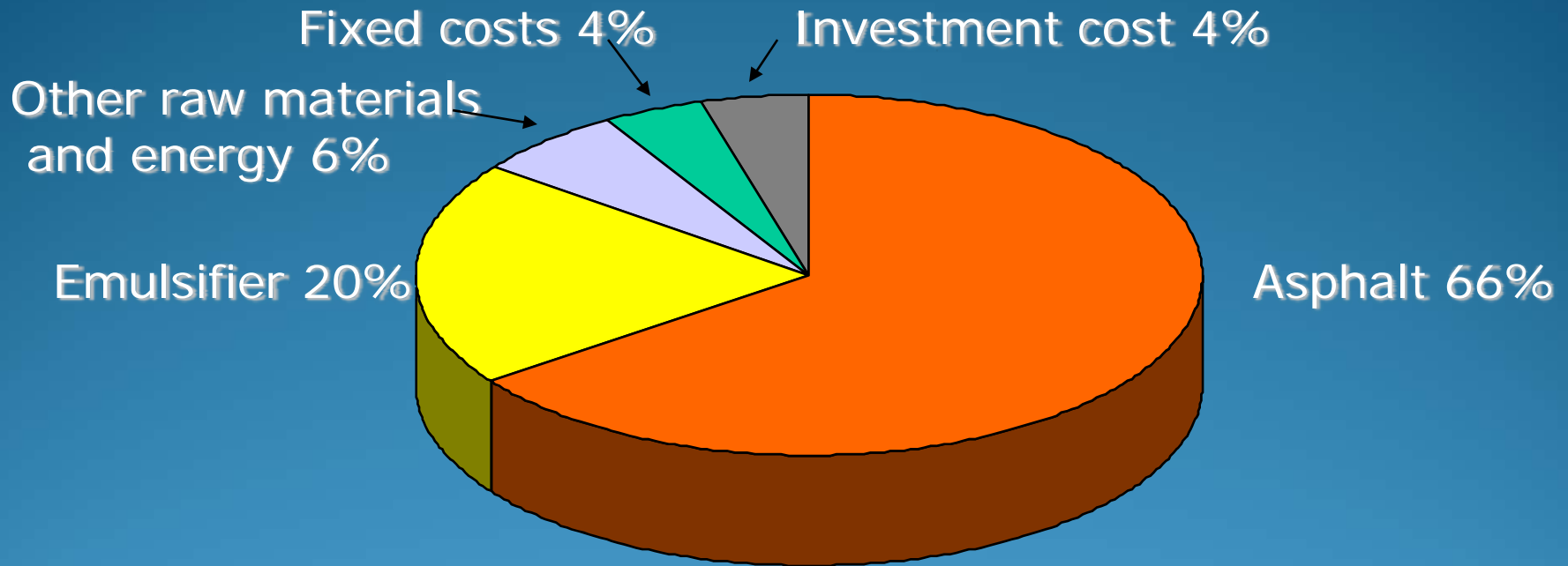
# Disperse asphalt in water & chemical under high energy



# An Emulsion Process Diagram



# Cost Contributions per Ton of Emulsion



- Accurate flow control minimizes excess asphalt
- Inline water heating saves energy
- Innovative chemical dosage system reduces chemical waste



# ***Setting and Curing of Asphalt Emulsions***

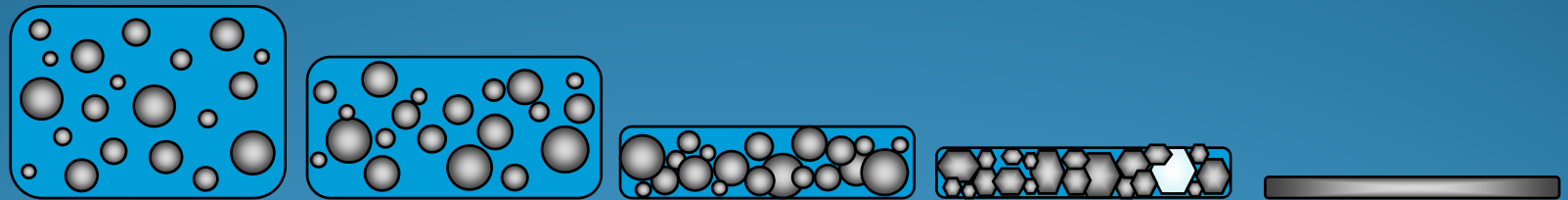
## ***Breaking and Curing***

***Breaking/Setting: Emulsion is destabilized and no longer can be diluted in water***

***Curing: Water and solvent is lost from the system and the final properties of the residual asphalt are reached***

# ***Breakdown of the Emulsion***

## ***Evaporation of Water***

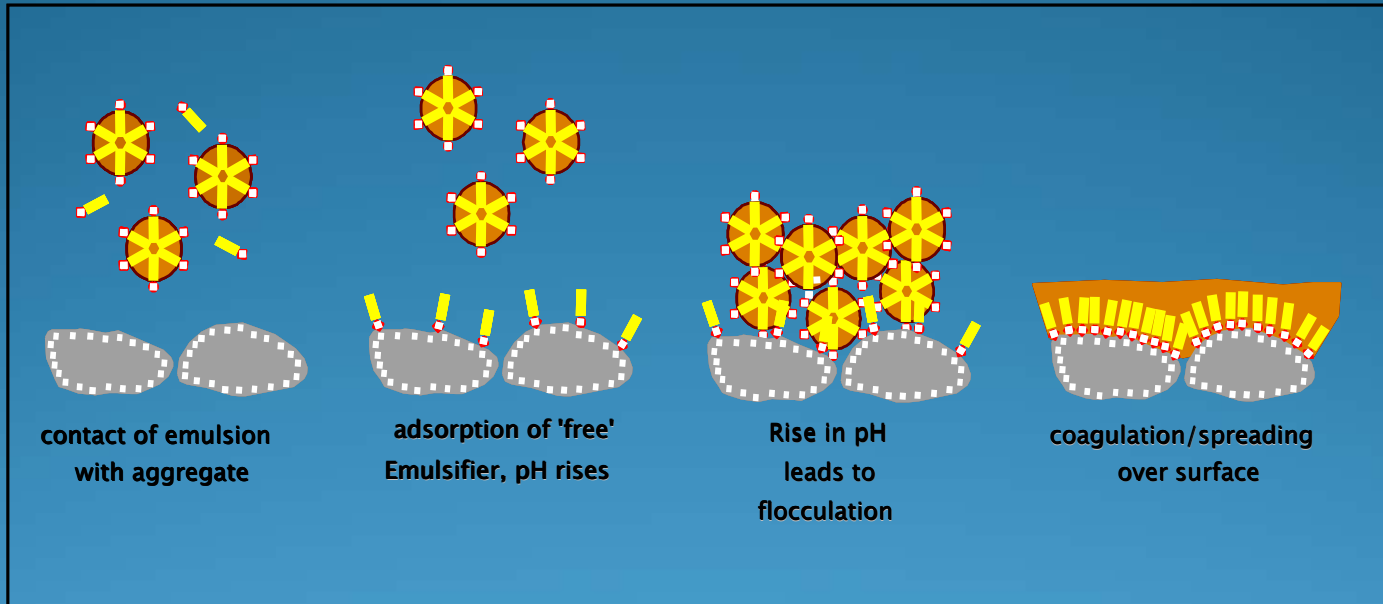


- ***Evaporation of water forces droplets together and eventual coalescence***

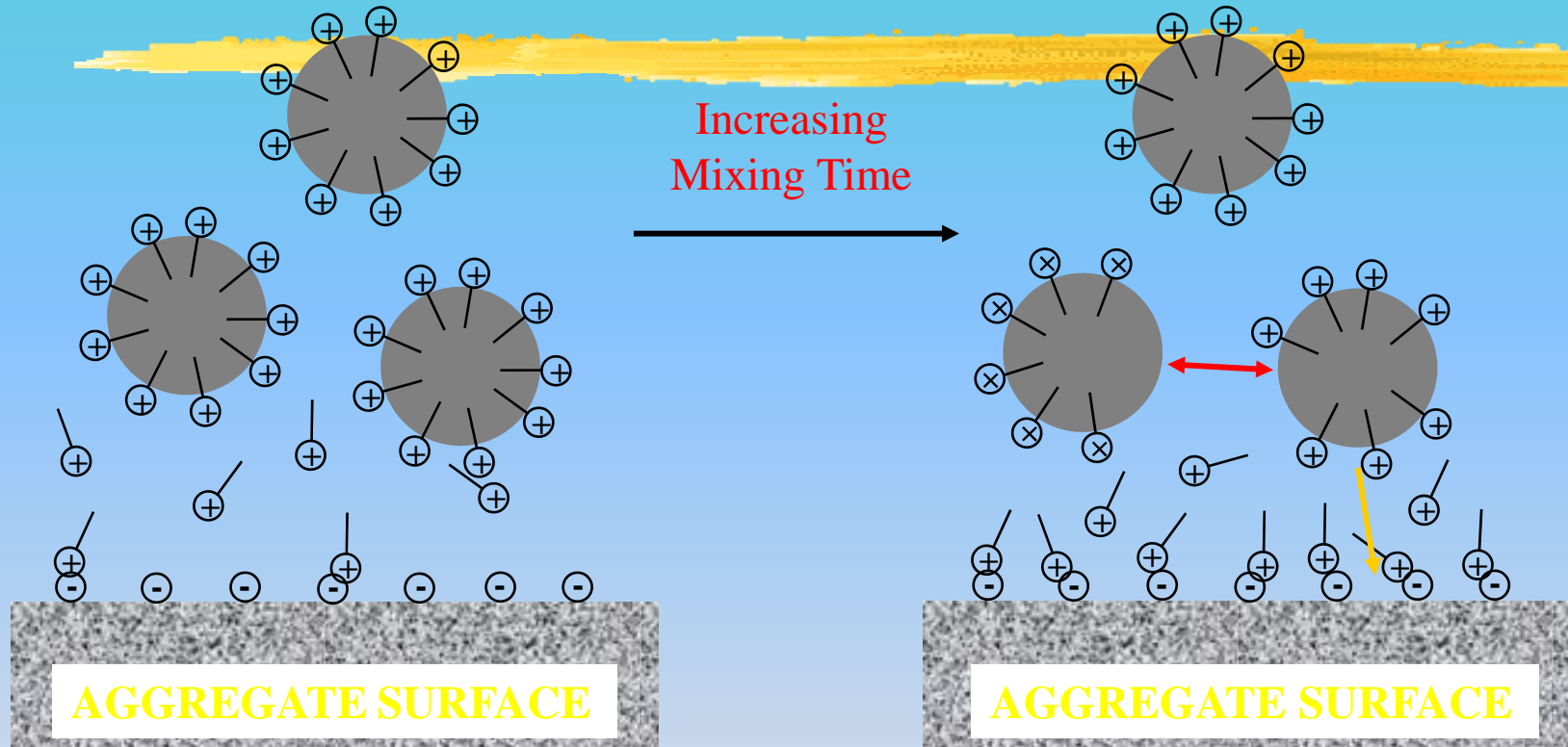
# ***Factors Affecting Breaking and Curing***

- ***Aggregate reactivity***
  - ***surface area, surface charge, surface chemistry***
  - ***filler chemistry e.g. cement, lime***
- ***Temperature, humidity, wind speed***
- ***Emulsion reactivity***
  - ***emulsifier chemistry, concentration***
  - ***other additives***
  - ***asphalt viscosity***
- ***Mechanical treatment e.g. compaction***

# Possible Stages in the Setting of a Cationic Asphalt Emulsion



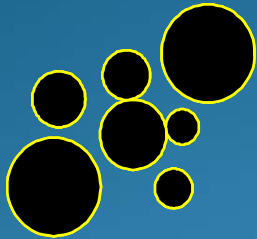
# Interaction of Cationic Emulsion with Aggregate



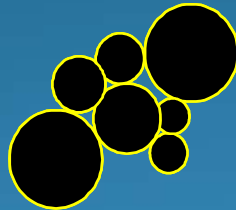
Equilibrium between interfacial and bulk emulsifier concentrations upset by introduction of charged aggregate.

Adhesion of emulsifier to aggregate surface causes a decrease in bulk and interfacial concentrations. Droplets begin homo- and hetero-flocculation.

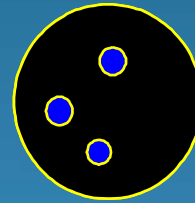
# Breakdown of the Emulsion Flocculation and Coalescence



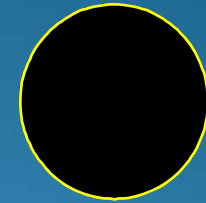
Emulsion Droplets  
Charge on droplets prevents close approach



Flocculation  
Close approach of droplets leads to adhesion between droplets. Water is squeezed out



Coalescence  
Water drains between droplets and surfactant film breaks down, Droplets fuse, trapping some water



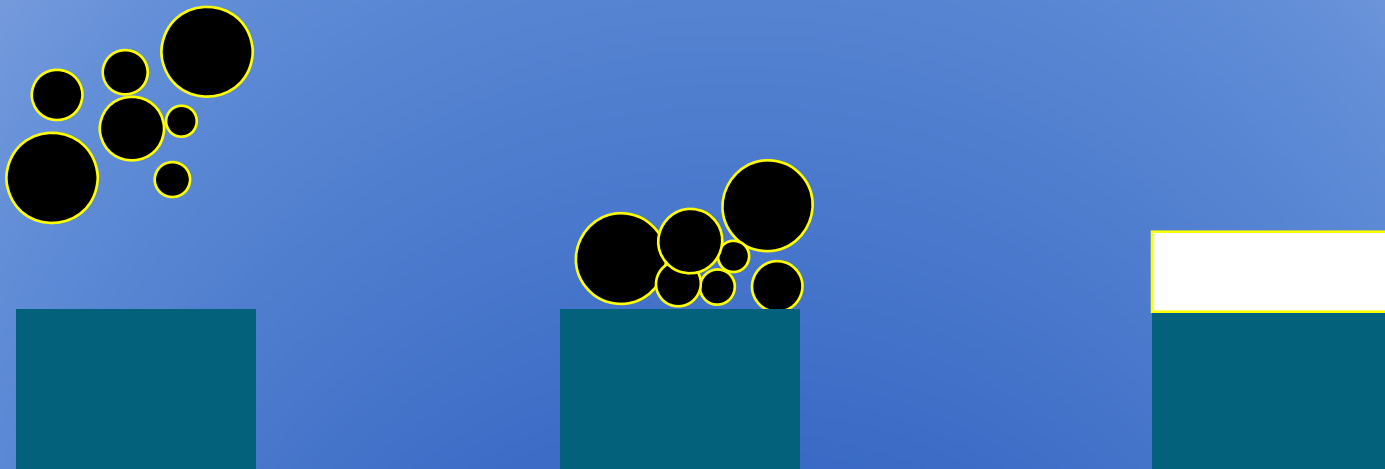
Coalescence  
Trapped water diffuses out.

Setting

Curing



# *Breakdown of the Emulsion Flocculation and Coalescence*



- *Flocculation and coalescence in contact  
with aggregate*

# What's on the horizon for asphalt emulsion technology?

Application of rheological type tests

Faster curing spray seals

Cold-pour crack sealant

Use of emulsions for warm mix

High residue emulsion

Solvent free emulsions-penetrating prime coat

# Studies and Resources

- Manual for Emulsion-Based Chip Seals for Pavement Preservation-NCHRP #14-7 (end:2-13-2009)
- Good Roads Cost Less: UTAH DOT Office of Research (2007)
- Asphalt Emulsion Technology, TRB Circular, EC102, August,2006
- Asphalt Emulsion Technology, TRB Circular , EC-122  
*Review of Asphalt Emulsion Residue Procedures, October, 2007*  
*Basic Asphalt Emulsion Manual, AEMA & Asphalt Institute (see [www.aema.org](http://www.aema.org) )*
- Putting Fog and Rejuvenator Seals to the Test:  
Helen King, in BETTER ROADS , January,2008