

# Cellulose Derivatives in Food Applications

## Dow Wolff Cellulosics

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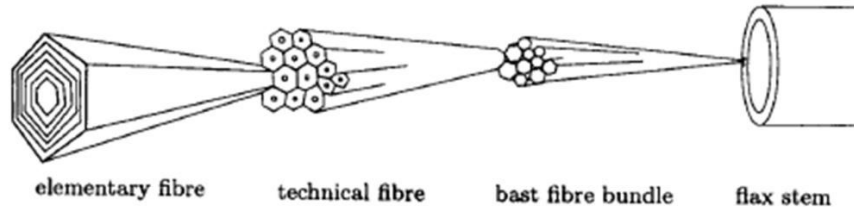
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March 2012

- **Introduction to Cellulose**
- **Food Approved Cellulose Derivatives**
  - *Key Properties*
  - *Functions*
  - *Common Applications*
- **Most Widely Used Cellulose Ethers in Food Industry**
  - Methylcellulose (MC)
  - Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose (HPMC)
  - Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose (CMC)
- **Q&A**

# What is Cellulose?

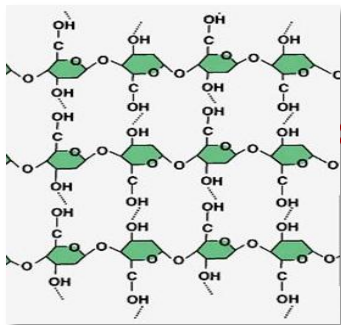


Cell walls are made up of cellulose microfibrils (~70%) in a matrix of hemicelluloses (15%), pectins (10-15%), and lignins (2-5%), with a hierarchical structure.

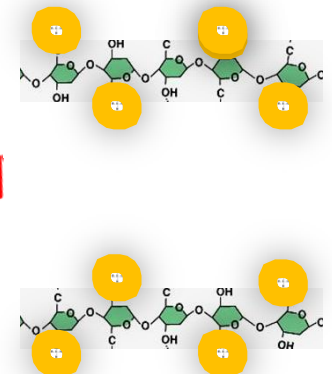
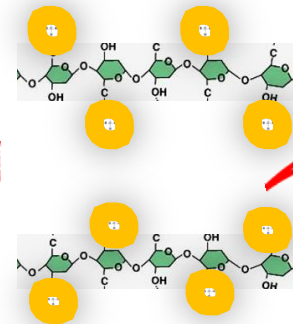
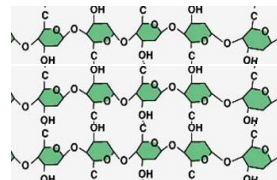
- World's most abundant naturally occurring organic substance
- Cellulose comes from plants, trees and vegetable matter
- As such, it has always been part of the human diet and a source of dietary fiber
- In its natural state, cellulose is not soluble in water (chains of cellulose are very tightly bound to each other by H-bonding)



# Cellulose Ethers



Water Insoluble



Water Soluble

- First cellulose research work begun in 1920's in Germany
- Applications in foods (USA) starting in late 1940's.
- High purity ( $\geq 95\%$  water-soluble dietary fiber)
- Non-digestible
- Non-fermentable - no gas
  - Related to form of 1,4- $\beta$ -glycosidic bonds between glucose units
- Non-allergenic
- GRAS status



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- **Q&A**

## Physically Modified Cellulose

- Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC)

## Cellulose Ethers

- Hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC)
- Ethylmethylcellulose (MEC)
- Ethylcellulose (EC)
- **Methylcellulose (MC)**
- **Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose (HPMC)**
- **Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose (CMC)**



## Properties

- **Thixotropic**
- **Shear Thinning – Reversible**
- Heat Stable
- Nonionic
- Powdered & Dispersible Grades



## Functions/Applications

- Opacifying Agent
- Foam Stabilizer
- Anti-caking agent
- Emulsifier
- Freeze Thaw Stability

*Cheese (powdered, shredded)  
Beverages, Confections,  
Salad Dressings, Sauces,  
Whipped Toppings*

\*Labeled as Microcrystalline Cellulose or Cellulose Gel



## Properties

- Nonionic
- Surface Active
- **Insoluble in Hot Water >40 C**
- **Soluble in Organic Solvents**
- **Thermoplastic**

## Functions/Applications

- Foam Stabilizer
- Film Former (Flexible)

*Whipped Toppings, Edible Coatings, Confection Glazes, Extruded Foods*

\*Labeled as Hydroxypropyl Cellulose or Modified Cellulose



## Properties

- Nonionic
- pH Stable
- **Precipitates From Solution Above 60C – (reversible upon cooling)**
- Not widely used



## Functions/Applications

- Thickening Agent
- Filler
- Anti-Clumping Agent
- Emulsifier

*Non Dairy Creams, Low Calorie Ice Creams, Whipped Toppings, Mousse*

\*Labeled as Ethylmethylcellulose, methylethylcellulose or Modified Cellulose

## Properties

- Nonionic
- **Hydrophobic**
- **Soluble in Organic Solvents**
- **Thermoplastic**

## Functions/Applications

- Film Former
- Flavor Fixative
- Limited Food Approval

*Flavor Encapsulation,  
Moisture Barrier Films,  
Fruit/Vegetable Inks*

\*Labeled as Ethylcellulose



## Properties

- **Reversible Thermal Gelation**
- Cold Water Soluble
- pH Stable
- Wide Viscosity Range

## Functions/Applications

- Binding
- Boilout Control
- Film Former
- Freeze Thaw Stability

*Formed Foods, Fillings,  
Sauces, Whipped Toppings,  
Gluten Free Baked Goods*

\*Labeled as Methylcellulose,  
Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose,  
Modified Cellulose



## Properties

- **Anionic**
- **pH Sensitive**
- **Interacts with Proteins**
- High Water Holding Capacity

## Functions/Applications

- Freeze Thaw Stability
- Protein Protection
- Thickener
- Texture Control

*Frozen Foods, Baked Goods,  
Tortillas, Soups, Sauces,  
Beverages*

\*Labeled as Sodium  
Carboxymethylcellulose or  
Cellulose Gum



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  - *Structure – Function Relationships*
  - *Common Applications*
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# Methylcellulose (MC)

## Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose (HPMC)



- Bakery, Gluten Free
- Fillings
- Sauces
- Formed/Extruded Foods
- Salad Dressings/Marinades
- Whipped toppings
- Batters/Coatings
- Meat/fish preparations
- Beverage Emulsions





# MC & HPMC – Advantages

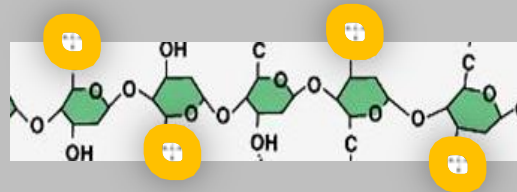
- Broad viscosity range – from very low to extremely high
  - 19 – 250,000 cPs (2 %, Brookfield)
- Always available in high quality (not dependant on harvesting)
- High degree of purity (> 99.5 %)
- Conformity of all standards for food and pharmaceutical applications
- Narrow specifications for all relevant product parameters
- Prepared from wood pulp → GMO free



- ***Reversible Thermal Gelation – (varying gel strengths)***
- Wide Viscosity Range
- Thickening
- Moisture Control (Cold Water Binding)
- Emulsification, Encapsulation & Film Formation
- Binding
- Air Entrainment & Foam Stability
- Freeze Thaw Stability
- Provides Soluble Fiber

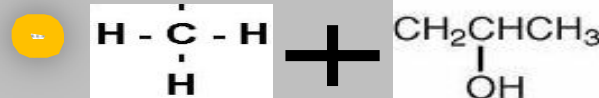
- Methylcellulose (MC)
- Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC)

Based on the substituent group



Methyl Group

**Methylcellulose (MC)**

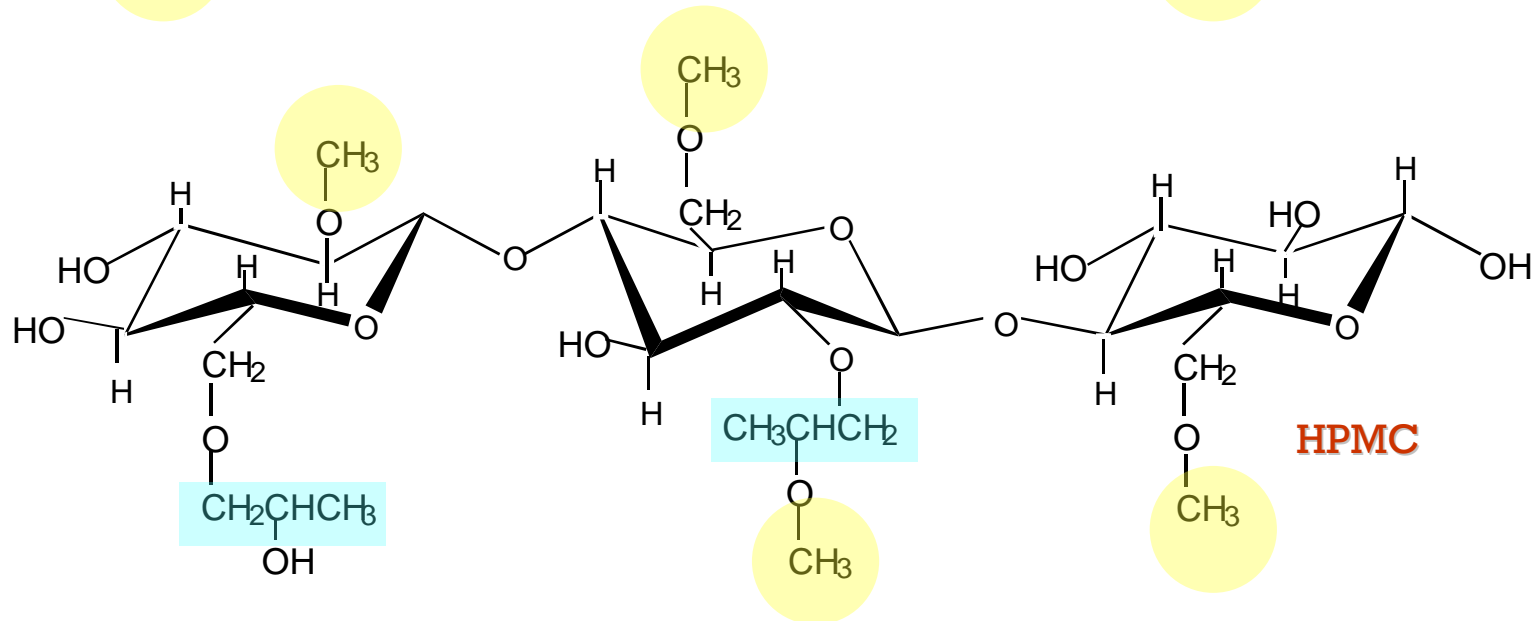
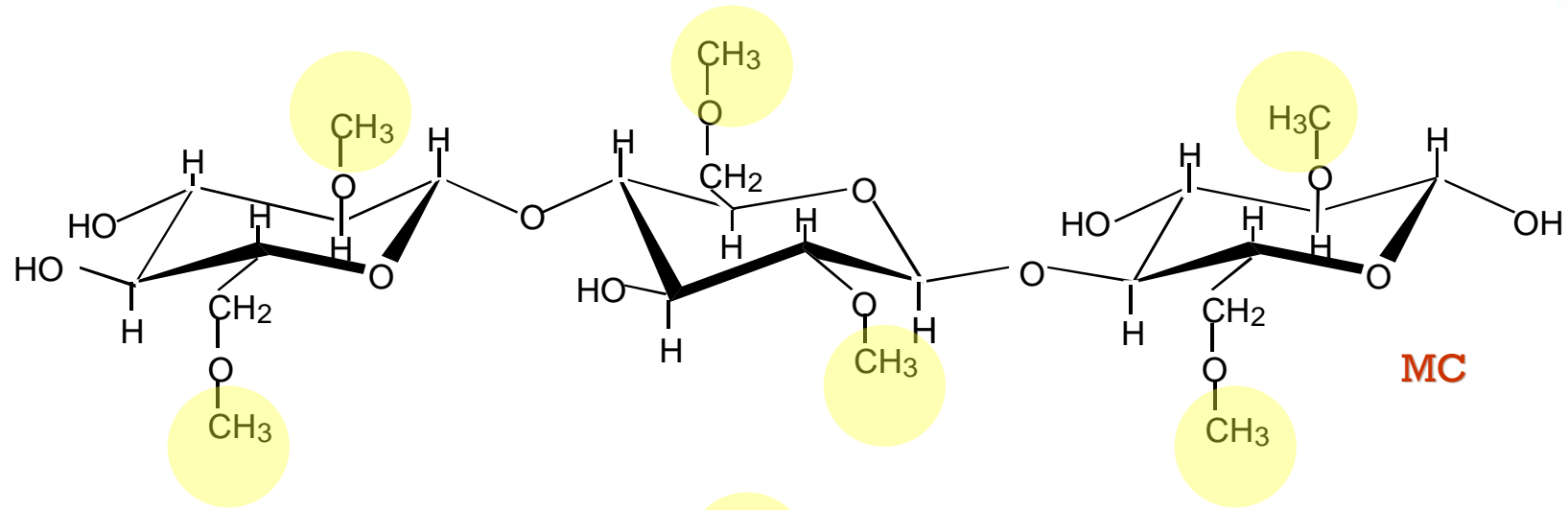


Methyl Group

Hydroxypropyl Group

**Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC)**

# MC & HPMC - The Chemistry



Different chemistries have differences in physical properties

- Dissolution temperature
- Gelation Temperature
- Gel Strength
- Surface Activity

Differences are caused by:

- The substituent group (Ratio of methyl/hydroxpropyl groups)
- Relative numbers of the groups (Degree of Substitution: DS)
- Average chain length of the product (Molecular Weight)

# MC & HPMC - Different Viscosities

Thick

~ 50,000 mPa.s

Medium

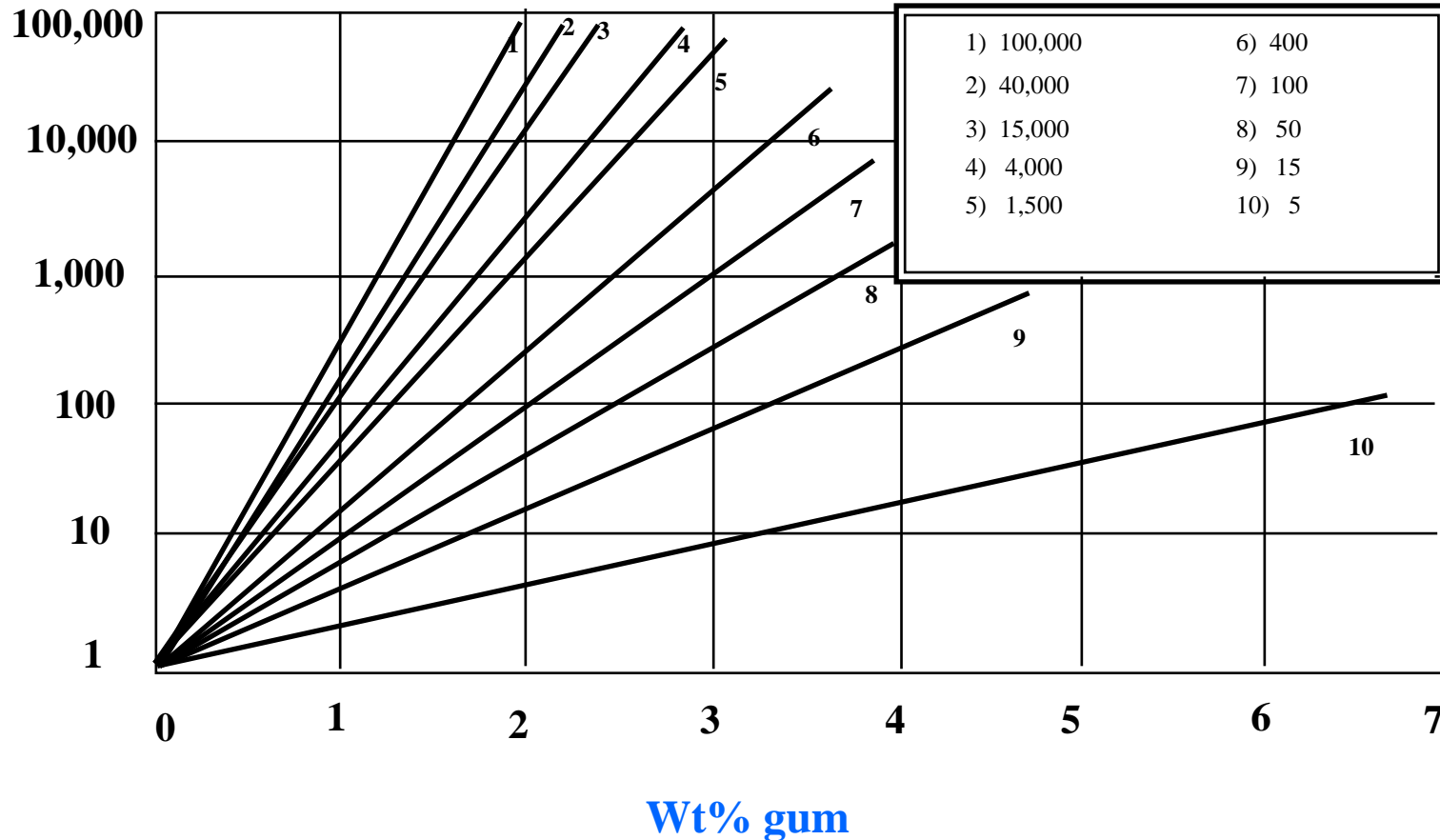
~ 4000 mPa.s



Thin

~ 50 mPa.s

Viscosity, mPa.s



- A rough rule -- For every 1% increase in concentration you will see a 8x increase in viscosity

## Effect of Concentration

- Viscosity build is not linear

## Effect of pH

- Viscosity is stable between pH = 3 and 11

## Effect of Temperature

- MUST reach set hydration temperatures to become fully functional.

## Effect of Salt and Sugar:

- May delay hydration and hinder viscosity development
- May precipitate MC & HPMC out of solution if too much salt or sugar
- May lower gelation temperature



# MC & HPMC – Effect of Temperature

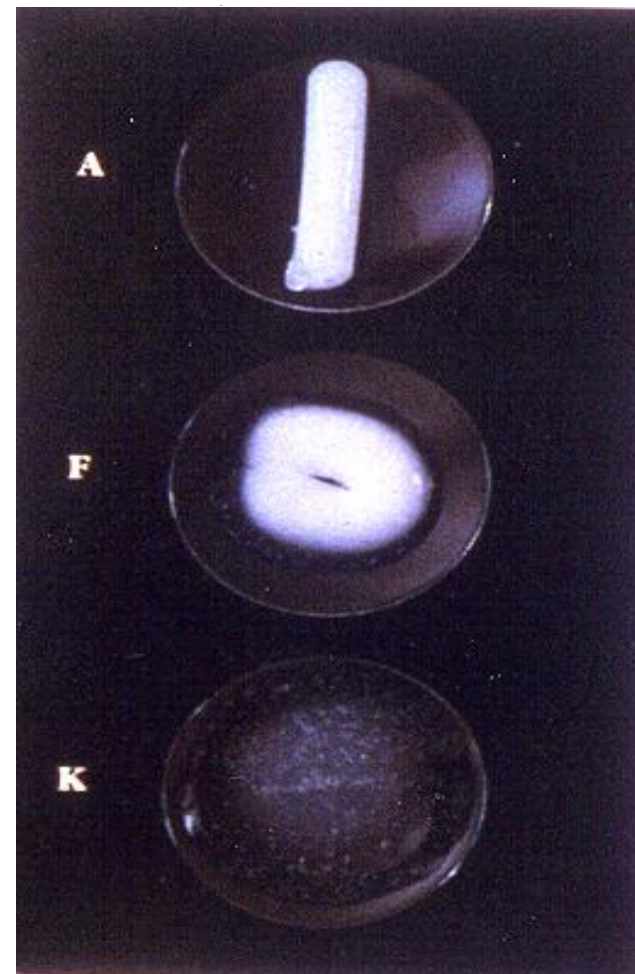
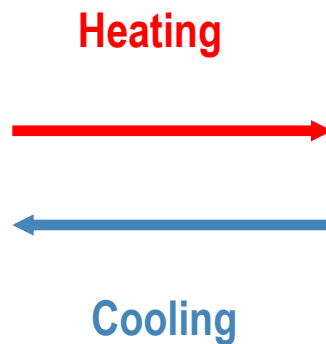
	<u>Hydration Range</u>	<u>Gelation Range</u>	<u>Gel Strength</u>
<b>High Gel MC</b>	<50° F (10° C)	100 - 114° F (38 - 44° C)	Very Firm
<b>Conv. MC</b>	<55° F (13° C)	122 - 131° F (38 - 44° C)	Firm
<b>HPMC</b>	< 77° F - 85° F (25° C - 30° C)	143 - 194° F (62° C - 90° C)	Semi-Firm - Soft

# REVERSIBLE THERMAL GELATION

# MC & HPMC Reversible Thermal Gelation



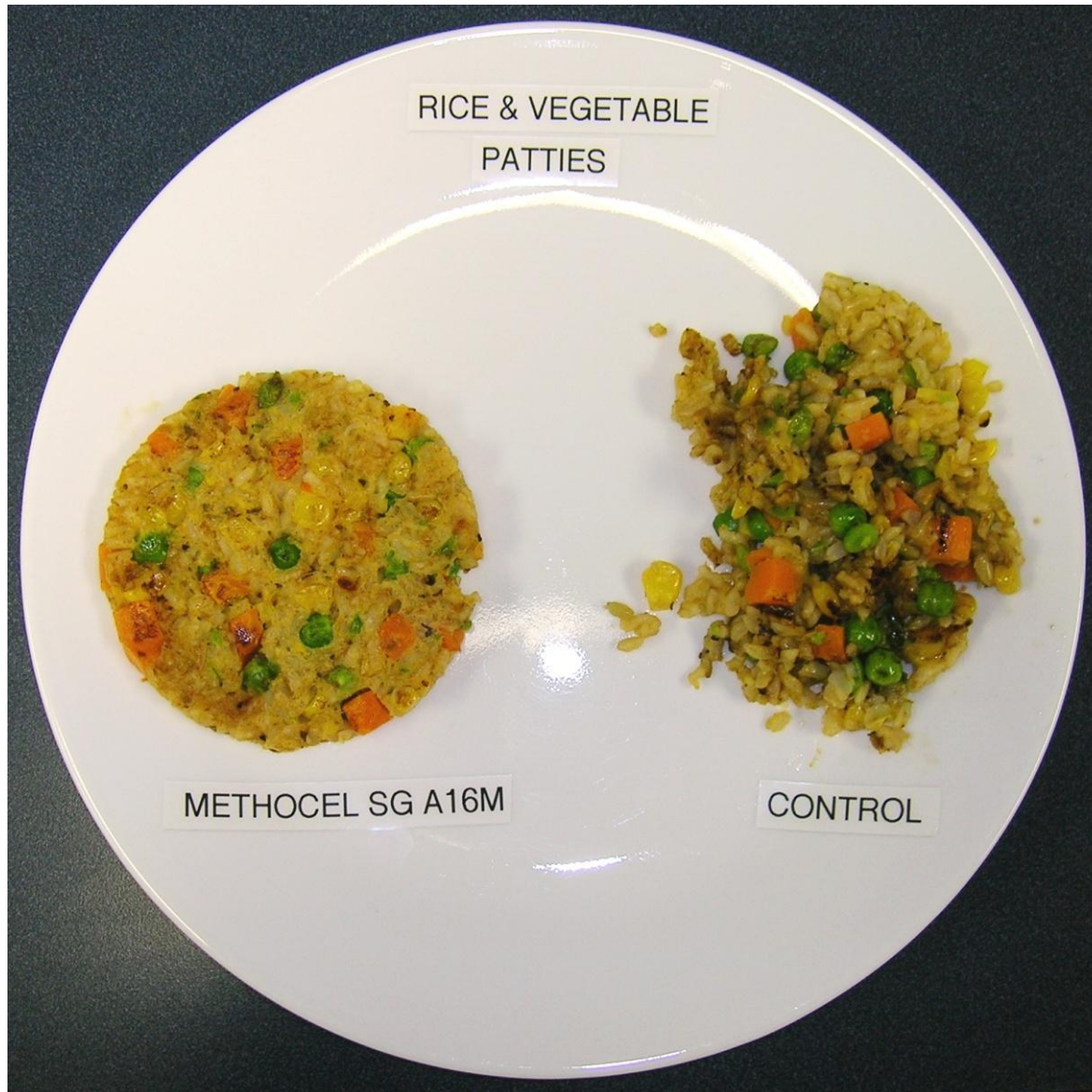
*2% MC & HPMC Solutions*

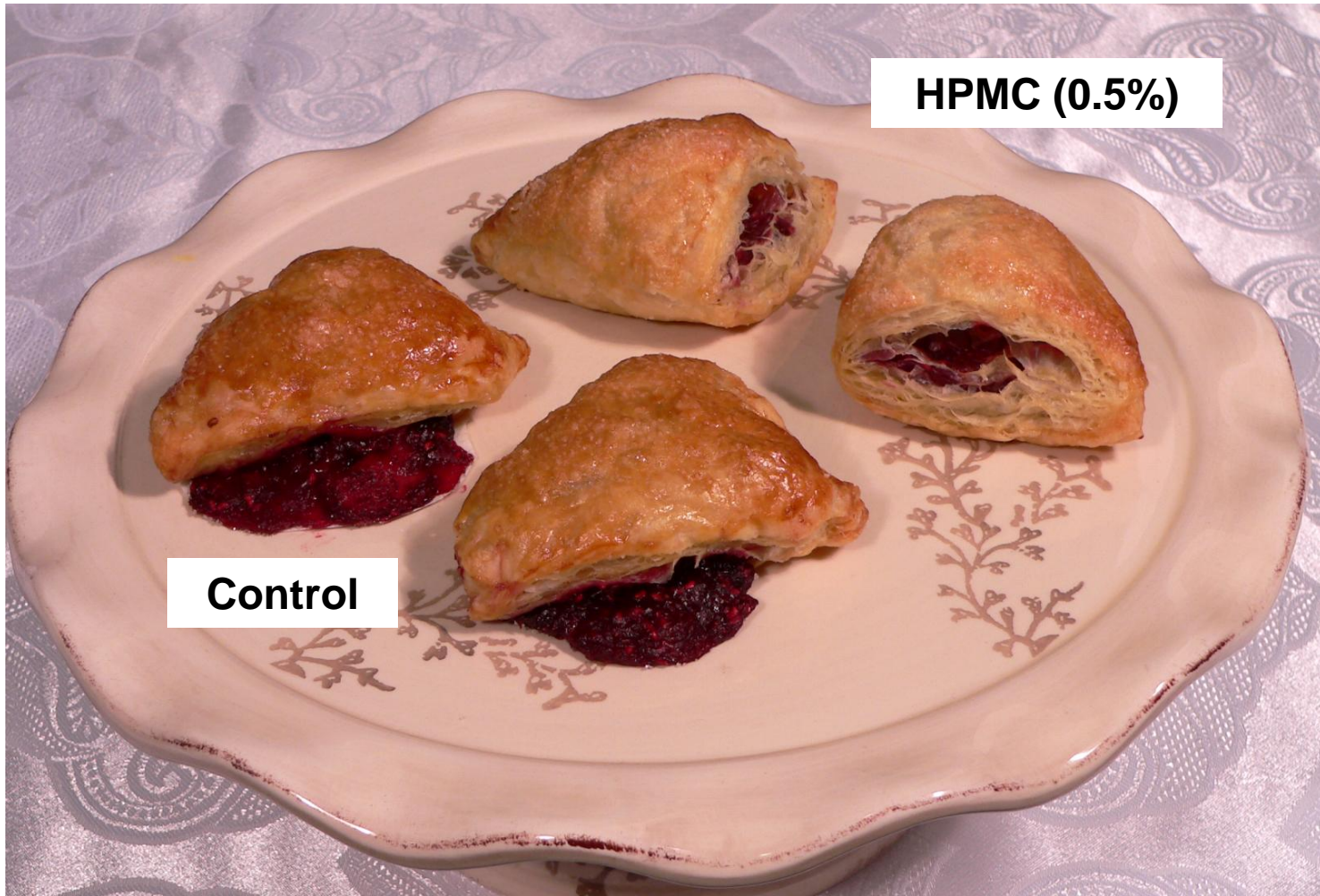


*Gels obtained by heating 2% MC and HPMC Solutions*

- Controls moisture movement
- Retains shape at high temperatures (Boil out control)
- Reduces oil uptake
- Improves coating adhesion (along with film formation)
- Works alone (no other additives necessary)

# MC & HPMC - Thermal Gelation - Binding/Shape Retention





\*Note: maximum sugar content must be less than 50%.

# MC & HPMC – Thermal Gelation – Boil Out Control

0.4% MC–vs- 0.15% Xanthan, 0.15% Guar, and starch control



**Before Baking**



**After Baking**



## In French Fry Coatings:

Most important property is gel strength → gel maintains its integrity during frying

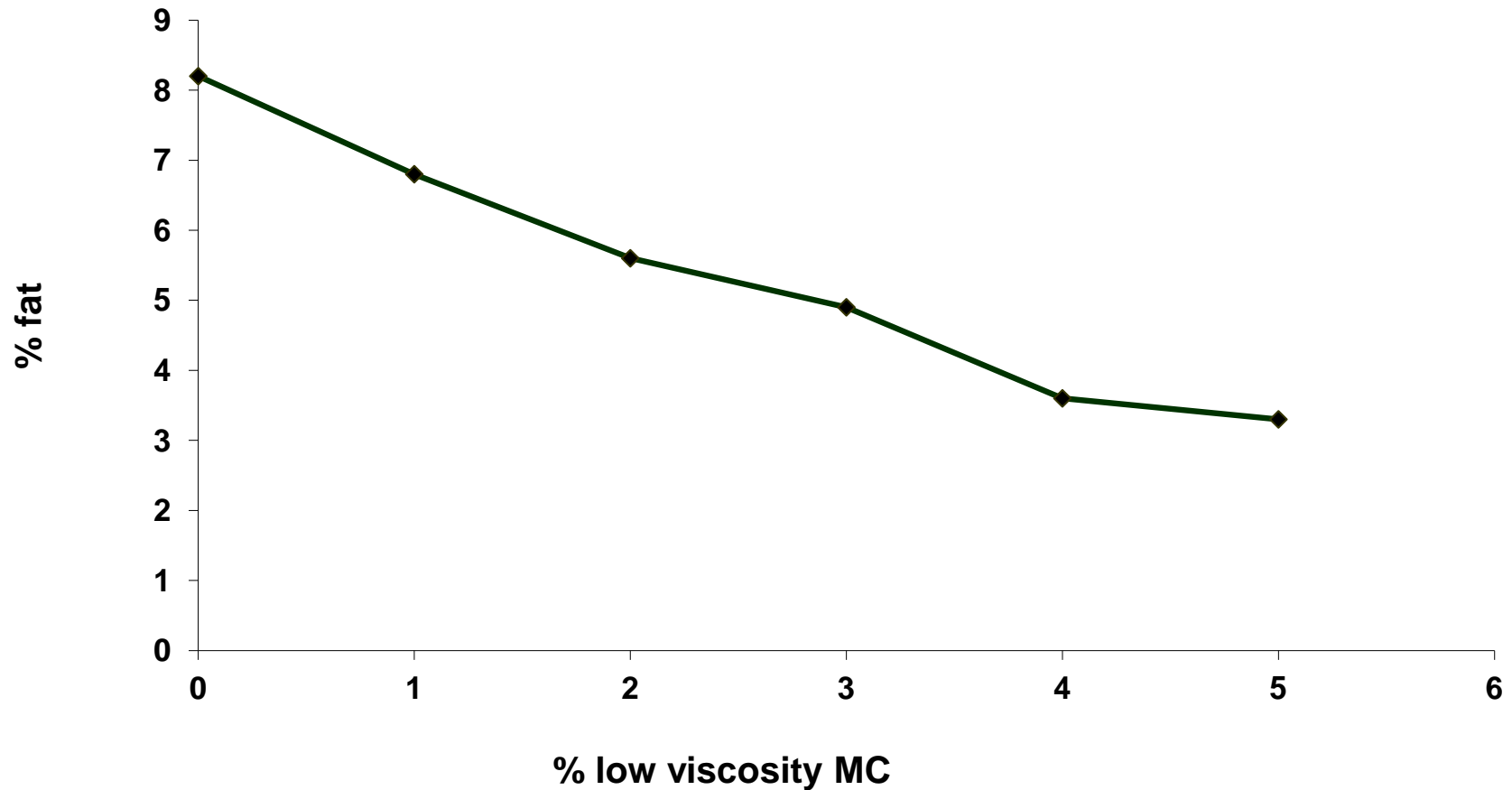
- MC has the highest gel strength of the chemistries
- Least surface active

MC will also gel at the lowest temperature

- Ensures film is formed prior to fat being absorbed

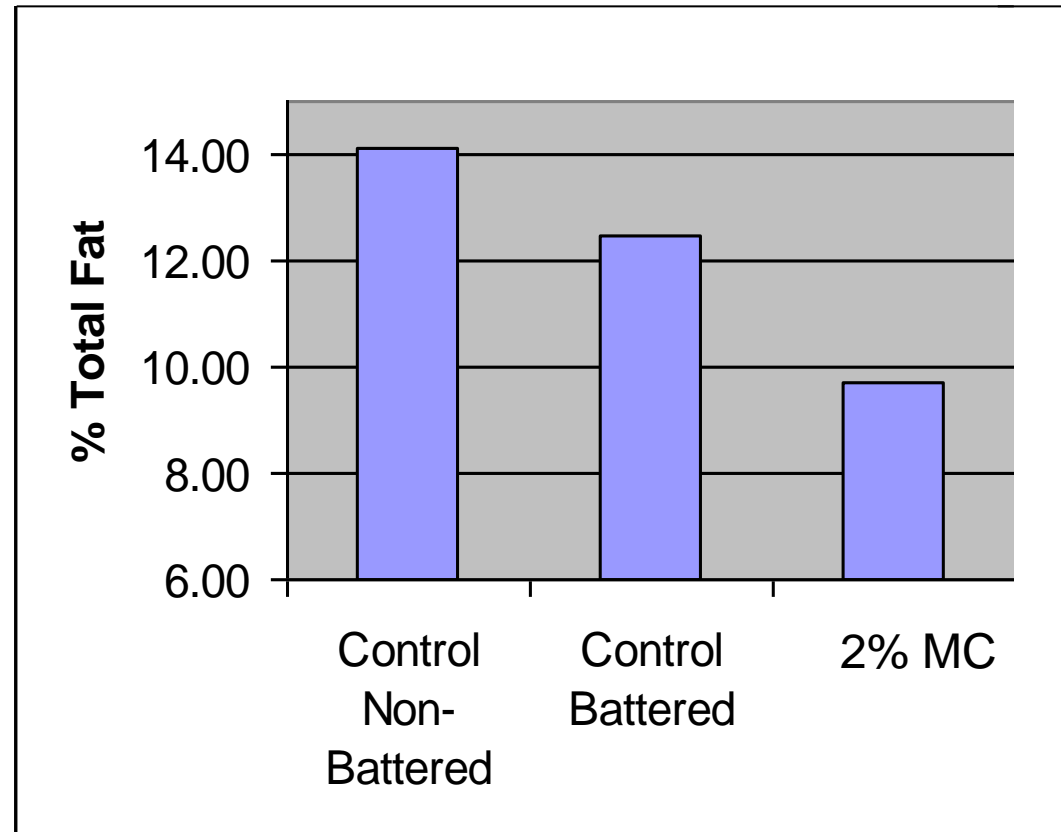


## Fat Uptake Reduction With Increasing Methylcellulose Solution Strength



## Fat Reduction in French Fry Batters

- Achieves ~30% reduction in fat
- Will enable a “**Reduced Fat**” claim in retail markets
- Note that the batter alone does provide some barrier function~11%



## Cinnamon Buns



**A4M Reverse Emulsion 09/26/11**

Ingredient	Grams	Weight %
Butter	50.00	19.23
<i>METHOCEL A4M</i>	2.00	0.77
Hot Water	48.00	18.46
Brown Sugar	150.00	57.69
Cinnamon	10.00	3.85
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>260.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Control 09/26/11**

Ingredient	Grams	Weight %
Butter	100.00	38.46
Brown Sugar	150.00	57.69
Cinnamon	10.00	3.85
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>260.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Methylcellulose be used to improve the juiciness and mouthfeel of an already lean beef patty (without adding extra fat)

## Formulation

- 88.4% Lean beef (90% fat free)
- 10.0% Cold water (<40F)
- 1.2% **Methylcellulose**
- 0.4% Salt



**Total fat:** 10% fat (from meat) (**11.3g fat per ¼ lb patty**)

Store bought patty = **20% (22.6g fat per ¼ lb patty) = 50% fat reduction**

# FILM FORMATION

# Surface Activity - 1% Gum Solutions

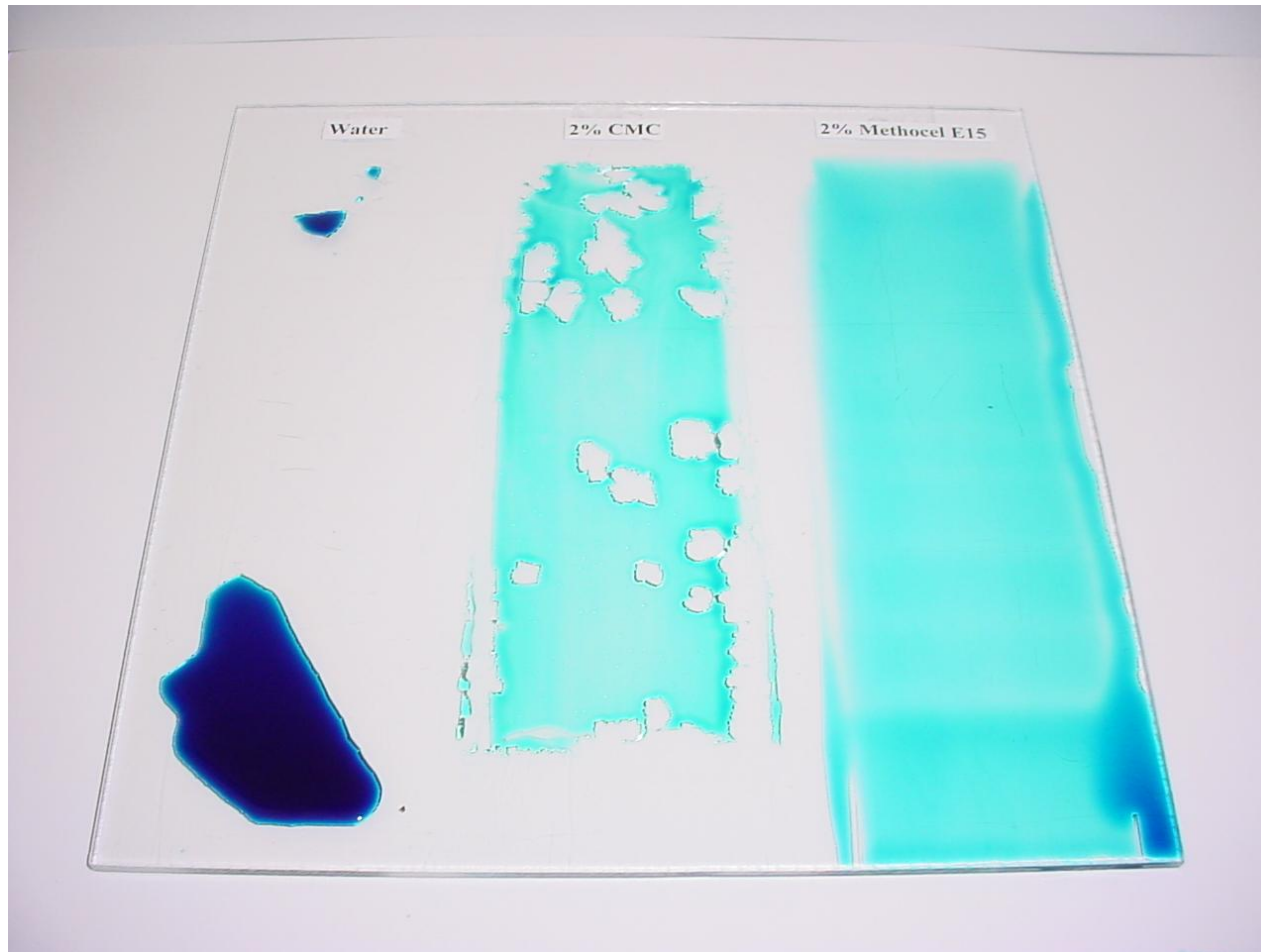
Chemistry	Surface Tension (Dynes/cm)
Water	72
Xanthan	69
CMC	68
Na Alginate	62
PG Alginate	58
MC	53-59
HPMC	45-55

Chemistry	Surface Activity
MC	Least
HPMC	Most

N. Sakar – CRI Report #823965, 1982

- Improved adhesion of coatings
- Reduced oil pick up (also a function of thermal gelation)
- Increased “hold time” under heat lamp
- Reduced runoff in oven
- Reduced browning

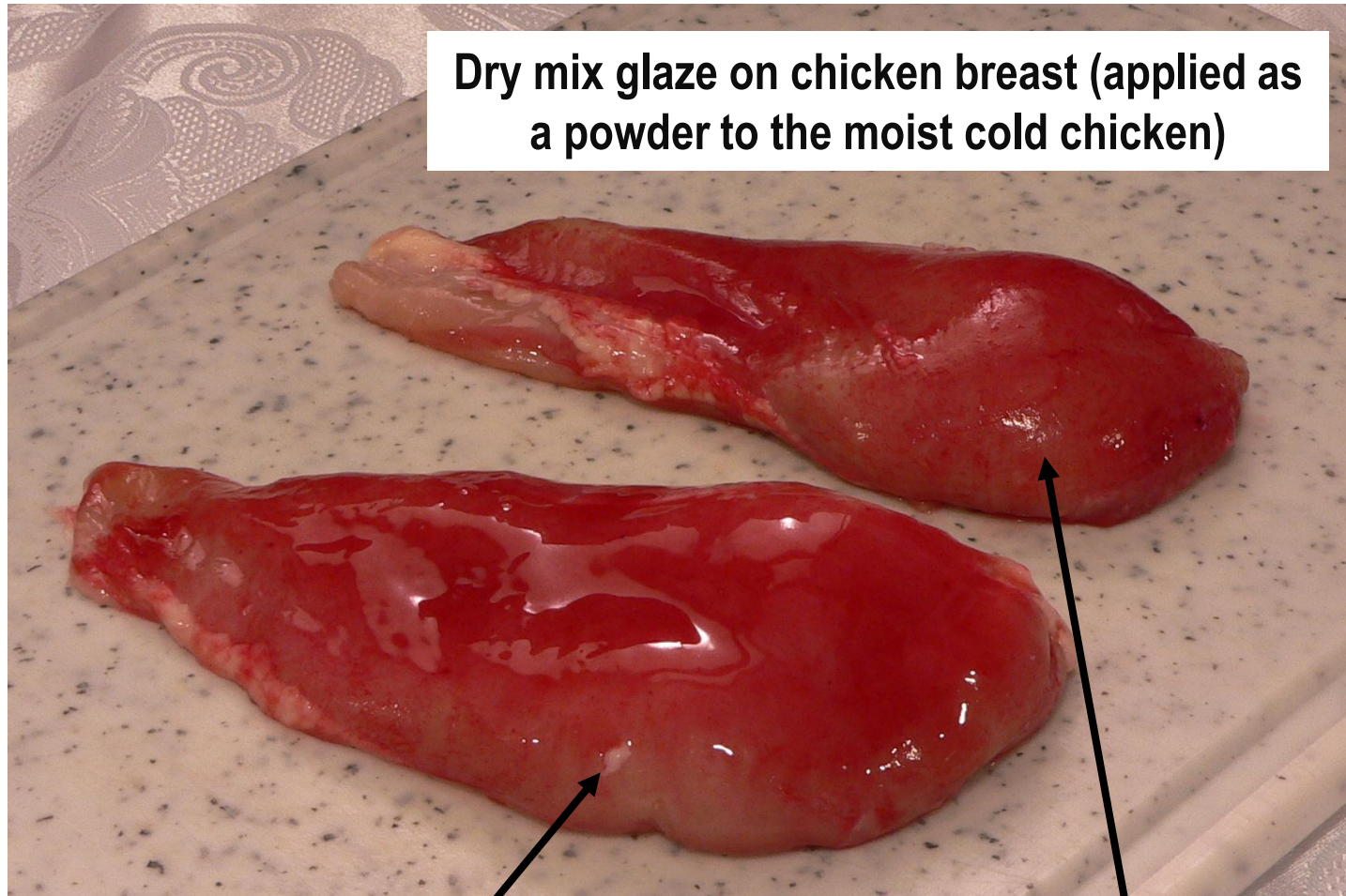




MC & HPMC are very surface active



Tri-colored/tri-flavored film for a coating, as an insert between layers, encapsulation, etc



with METHOCEL

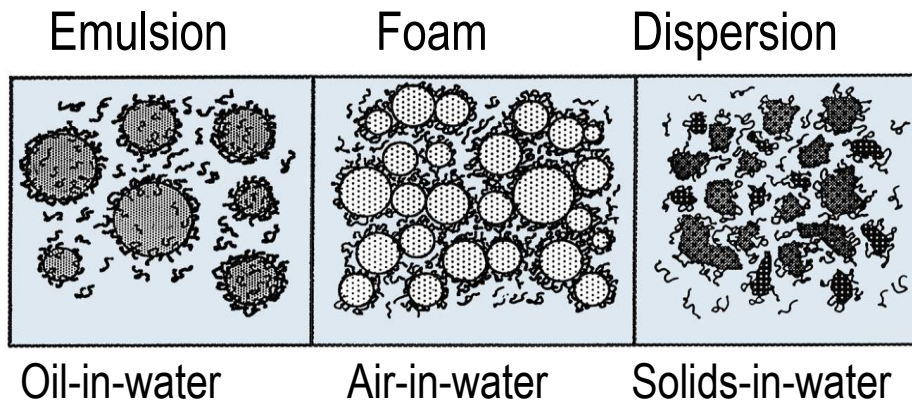
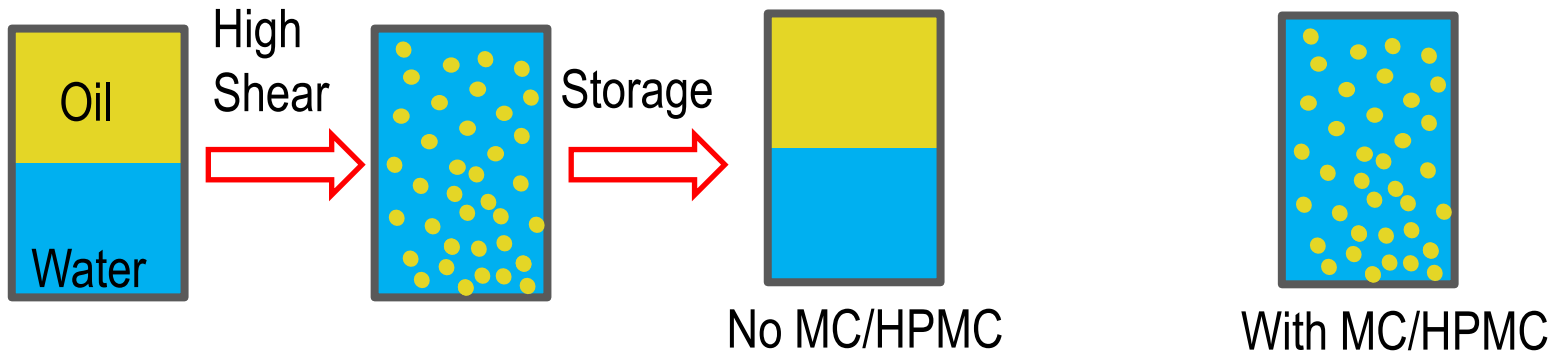
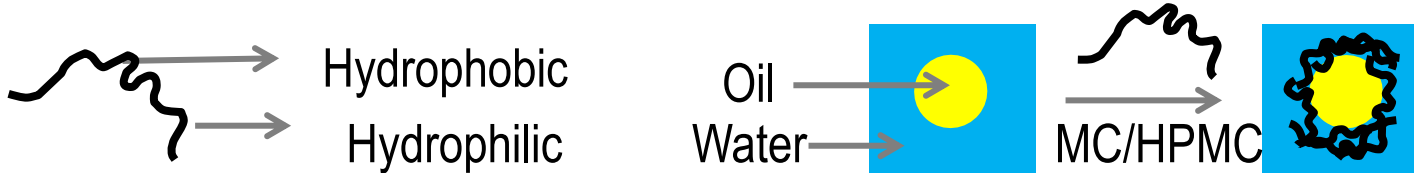
and

without METHOCEL

# FOAM STABILITY

# Surface Activity of MC & HPMC

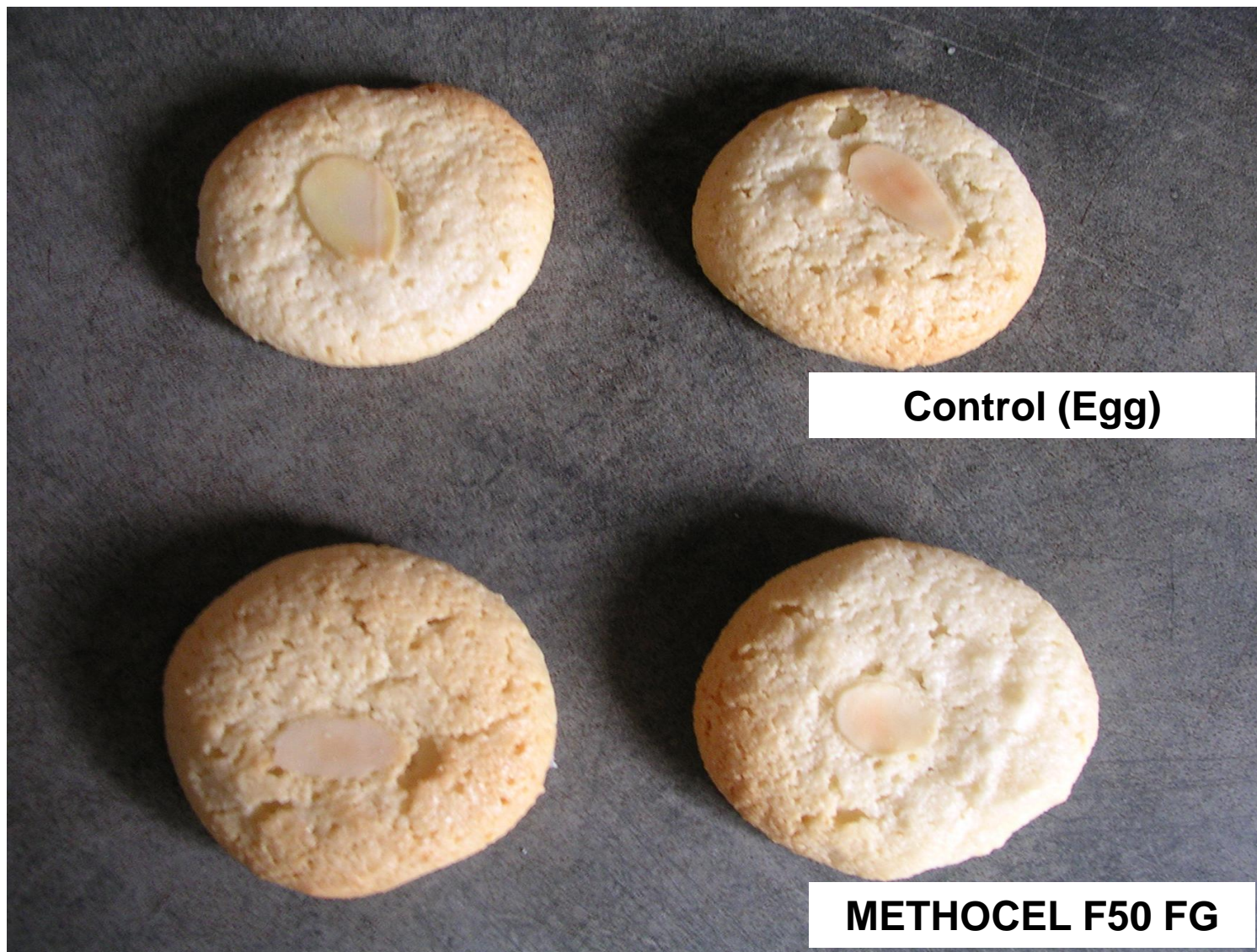
MC & HPMC stabilize emulsions, foams and dispersions by both decreasing the surface tension and increasing the viscosity



## Eggless Meringue



# MC & HPMC – Foam Stability



# Moisture Control



- MC & HPMC reabsorb moisture when food cools after heating and retains moisture during shelf storage.
- Cold moisture migration – in chilled and frozen storage (ice crystal control)
- **Where cold moisture migration control might be used?**
  - Baked goods (reduce staling)
  - Frozen doughs and batters (Cookie, Brownie, Rolls & Bread)
  - Frozen Cakes and Muffins
  - Fillings on dough based substrates



## Use of Multiple Properties

# MC & HPMC – Using Multiple Properties

## Gluten Replacement

### ✓ Gel Strength

*Weaker Gel to ensure the bread can rise*

### ✓ Medium Viscosity

*Needs to be able to thicken dough  
Too thick - Will not raise during proving or baking & difficult to work with*

### ✓ Gelation Temp

*Higher Gelation Temp (70-90 °C) - to gel later during the baking process*

**HPMC**

### ✓ Surface Activity

*Enhances and stabilizes air pocket structure in dough*



## In Reformed Potato Products:

- Make mash **formable** in the cold (**viscosity control**)
- **Maintain shape** when fried and re-cooled (**thermal gelation & viscosity**)
- Dramatically **reduce bursting** leading to improved yields and better safety (**thermal gelation, moisture management**)
- Make mash slippery reducing starch damage during extrusion
- **Reduce oil uptake** (**thermal gelation, film formation**)



## *In Predusts:*

- Increases **Batter Pick-up** (Viscosity)
- **Manages moisture** migration (thermal gelation, film formation)
- Prevents **batter blow-offs** (thermal gelation, film formation)

## *In Batters:*

- **Reduced fat uptake** (thermal gelation, film formation)
- Increases “**hold time**” (thermal gelation, film formation)
- Preserves **crispiness** in oven reconstituted products (film formation)



## How to Incorporate MC & HPMC in Food Systems

- Dry Blending (flour, sugar, salt, spices, etc.)  
7:1 Dispersant/MC or HPMC 😊
- Food Oils (soy, corn, canola, cottonseed)  
5:1-8:1 Oil/MC or HPMC 😊
- Other Liquids (corn syrup, HFCS, glycerin) 😊
- Hot Processing Steps 😊 😊
- Direct Cold Water 😞





Add MC or HPMC to hot system

- MC or HPMC won't hydrate in hot conditions
  - Product (dips/soups/etc) will stay thin during hot HTST or UHT; thicken upon cooling
- 
- Improves pumpability of hot filled products
  - Better efficiency of heat transfer during processing – lower processing time
  - Less burn on



## Methylcellulose has a synergistic effect when used in combination with modified waxy maize starches

- ❖ Reduce MC and starch levels – save on cost
- ❖ Fewer calories
- ❖ Increased hot cling
- ❖ Greater hot viscosity
- ❖ Less “starchy” mouthfeel in sauces

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# Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose (CMC)



- Gluten-free and conventional breads
- Pancakes, wraps, tortillas
- Cakes and cookies: Dough and dry mixes
- Bakery creams, fruit preparations
- Glazes, coatings and toppings of bakery products
- Dairy products
- Soups, sauces, dressings, marinades
- Beverages and Wine
- Meat Products

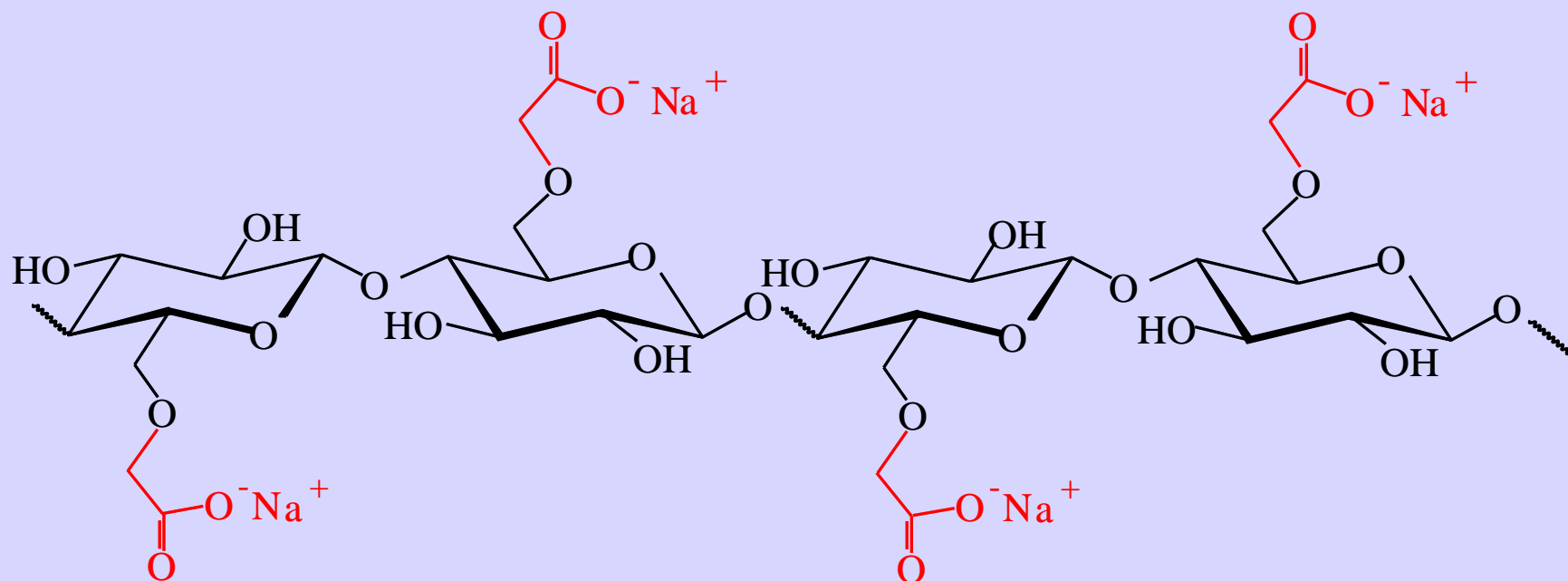
- Broad viscosity range – from very low to extremely high
  - 30 – 60,000 cPs (2 %, Brookfield)
- Always available in high quality (not depending on harvesting)
- High degree of purity (> 99.5 %)
- Conformity of all standards for food and pharmaceutical applications
- Narrow specifications for all relevant product parameters
- Prepared from wood pulp → GMO free

- Absolutely odorless and tasteless (e.g. Guar smells like beans)
- Absolutely clear and transparent solutions in water (unique in the world hydrocolloids)



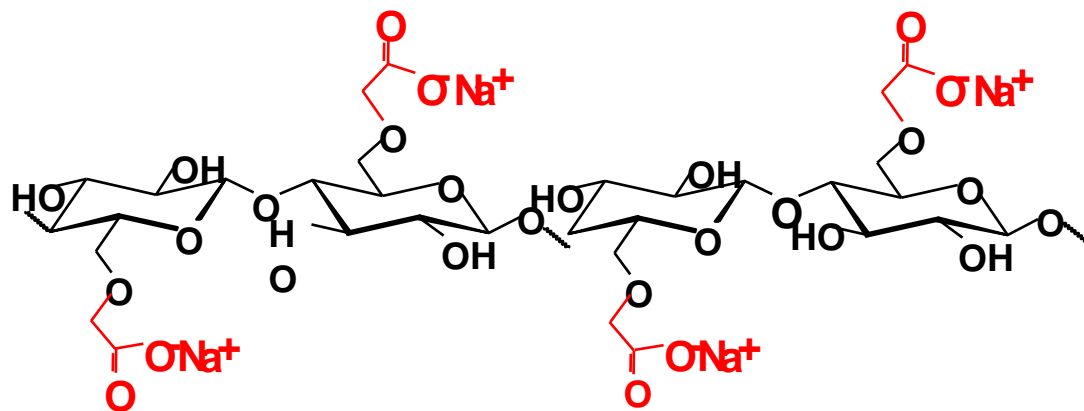
- Soluble in Cold and Hot Water
- Thickener
- Increased Plasticity and Elasticity (improved machinability)
- Freeze Thaw Stability
- High Water Binding
- Emlulsifier
- Protein protection
- Compatible With Other Hydrocolloids





# CMC - Production

- CMC products are tailor made
- Main product characteristics are controlled by:
  - *degree of polymerisation (DP)*
  - *degree of substitution*  $\Rightarrow$  *DS*
  - *particle size*



**Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose (CMC)**



## DP = (Average Chain Length)

- Is controlled by the manufacturing process raw material (cellulose) source
- **Determines the viscosity** development of the CMC
- Range includes grades from low to extremely high viscosity



**DS  $\Rightarrow$  Average Number of CM-groups per Glucose Unit**

**Impact of increasing DS**

**0.7**



**0.9**

- Higher gloss
- Smoother flow behavior, less pseudoplastic
- Clearer solutions (no fibers)
- Higher stability in low water content products
- Higher salt tolerance

## Powdered Grades

- Will Clump if attempt to put directly into solution
- Requires dry blending agent

## Granular Grades

- Goes into solution without clumping
- Takes longer to hydrate

## Instantized Grades

- Very good dispersibility in cold water
- Fast viscosity build up
- No lumping

## Effect of Concentration

- Viscosity build is not linear (doubling will increase viscosity 6-10X)

## Effect of Heat

- With increasing temperature the viscosity of the CMC solution decreases (reversible)
- At temperatures above 90C (194 F) **all CMC grades are thin flowing.**

## Effect of Shear

- The higher the shear, the greater the thinning effect.
- Reverses and builds back viscosity after shear is removed

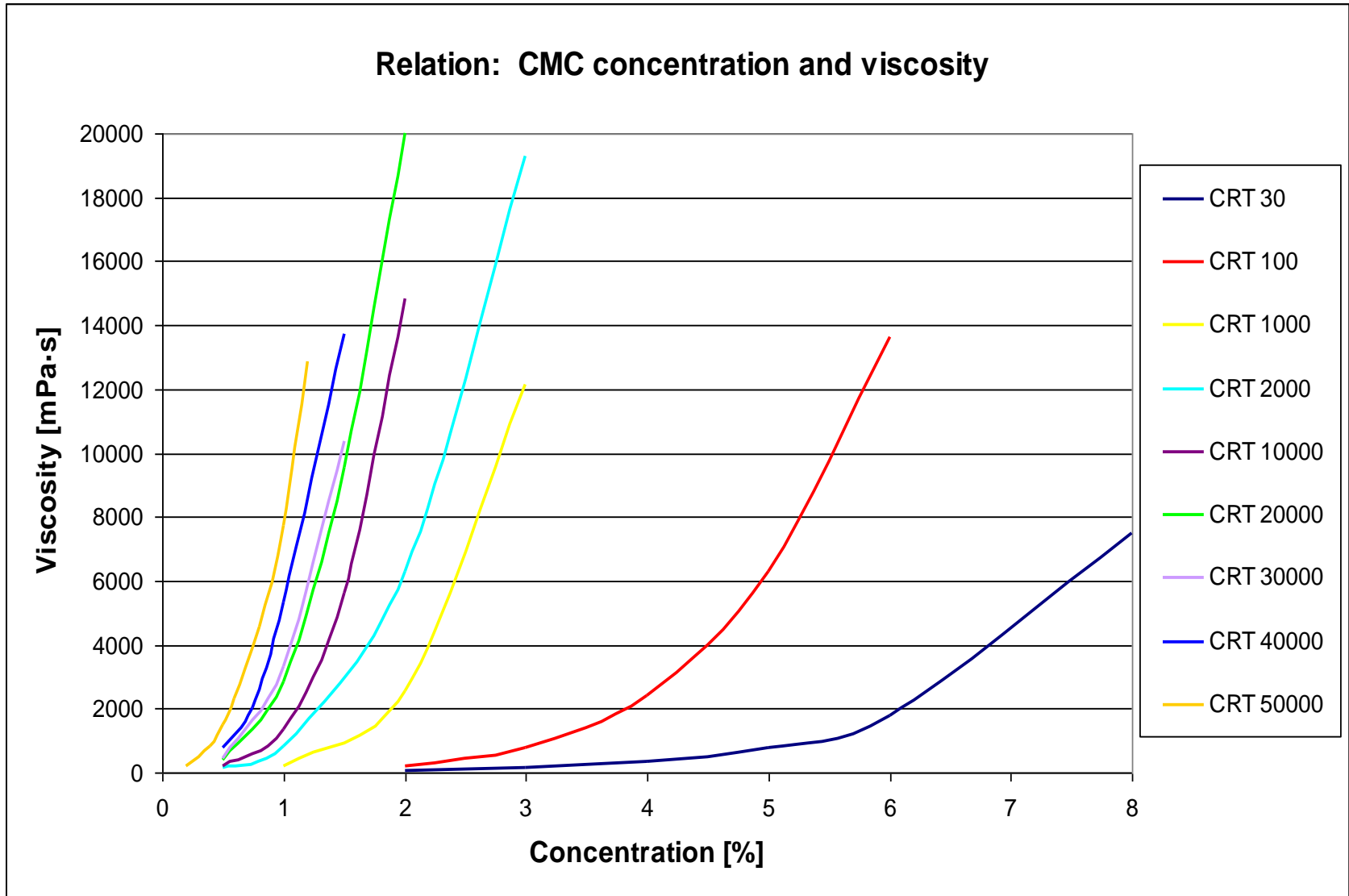
## Effect of Salt Concentration

- Viscosity decreases as salt concentration increases

## Effect of pH

- Maximum viscosity between pH 6.5 - 8.5
- Viscosity falls on each side of that range

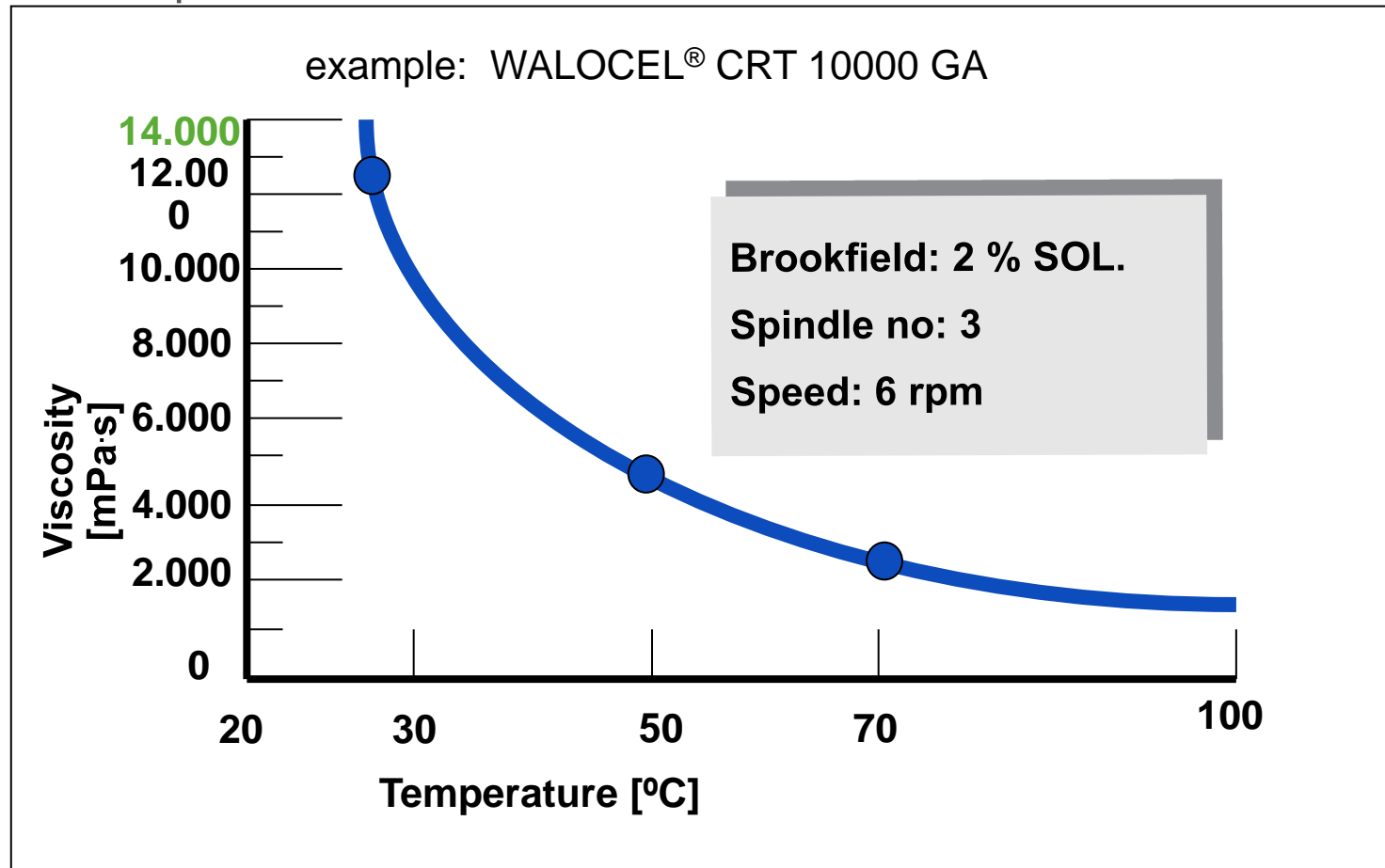
# CMC - Viscosity



# CMC - Heat Impact

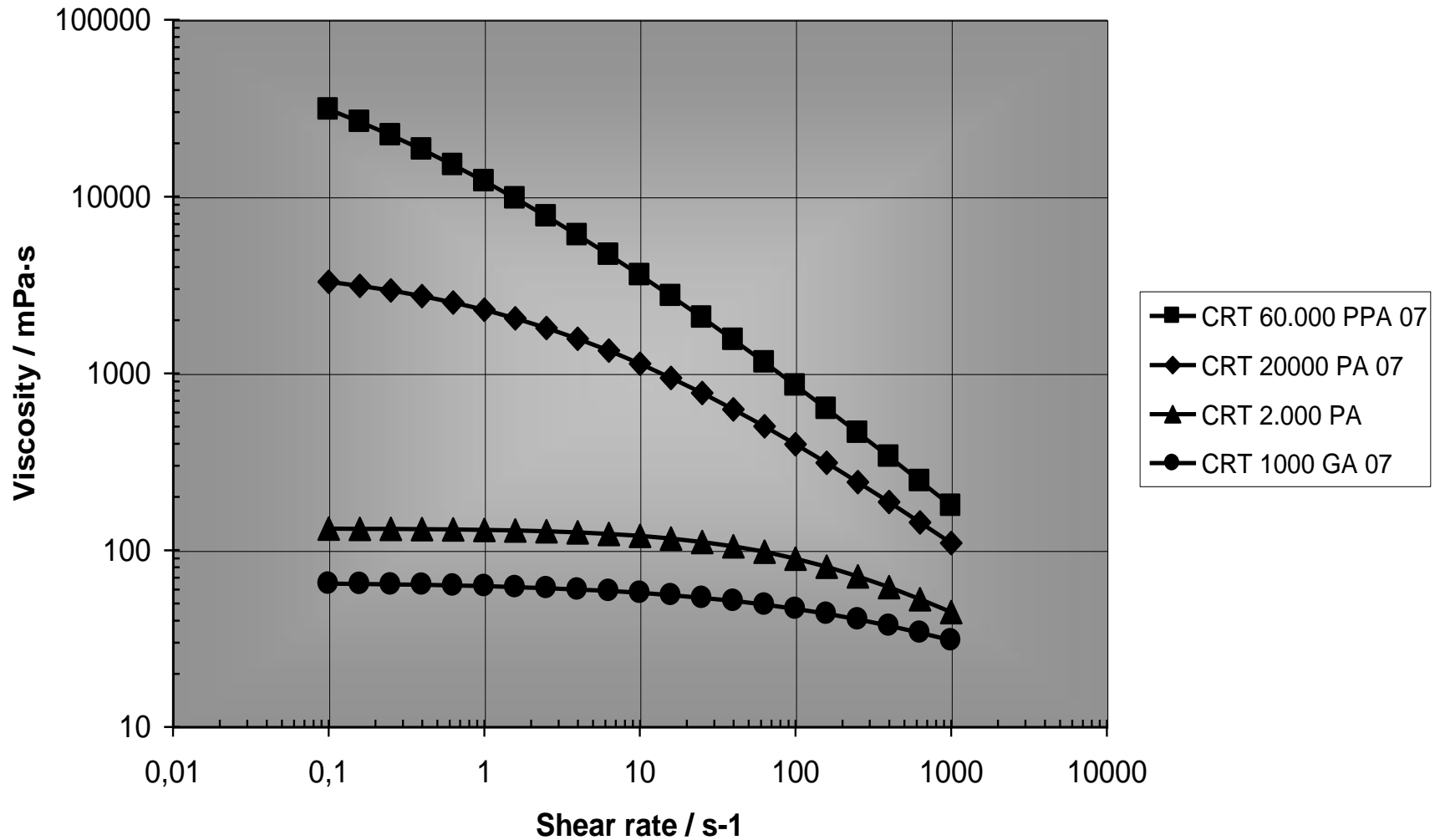
The viscosity decreases during heating process.

→ Reversible Process – viscosity increase again by decreasing the temperature!



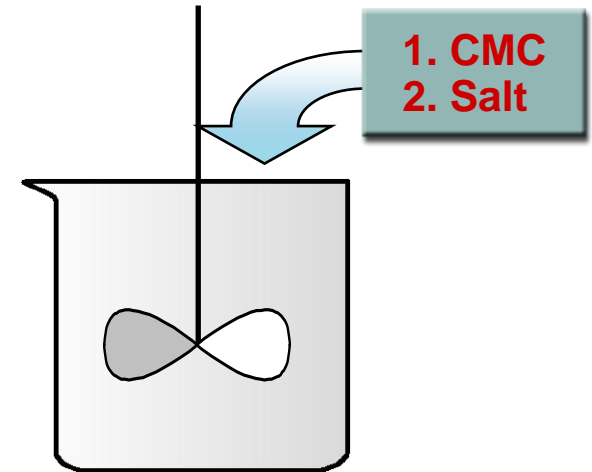


## Aqueous CMC-Solutions, Concentration 1.0 % by weight



## General behavior in the presence of salts:

- Tolerance is limited
- Viscosity decreases with increasing salt levels
- Higher DS CMCs are more stable than lower

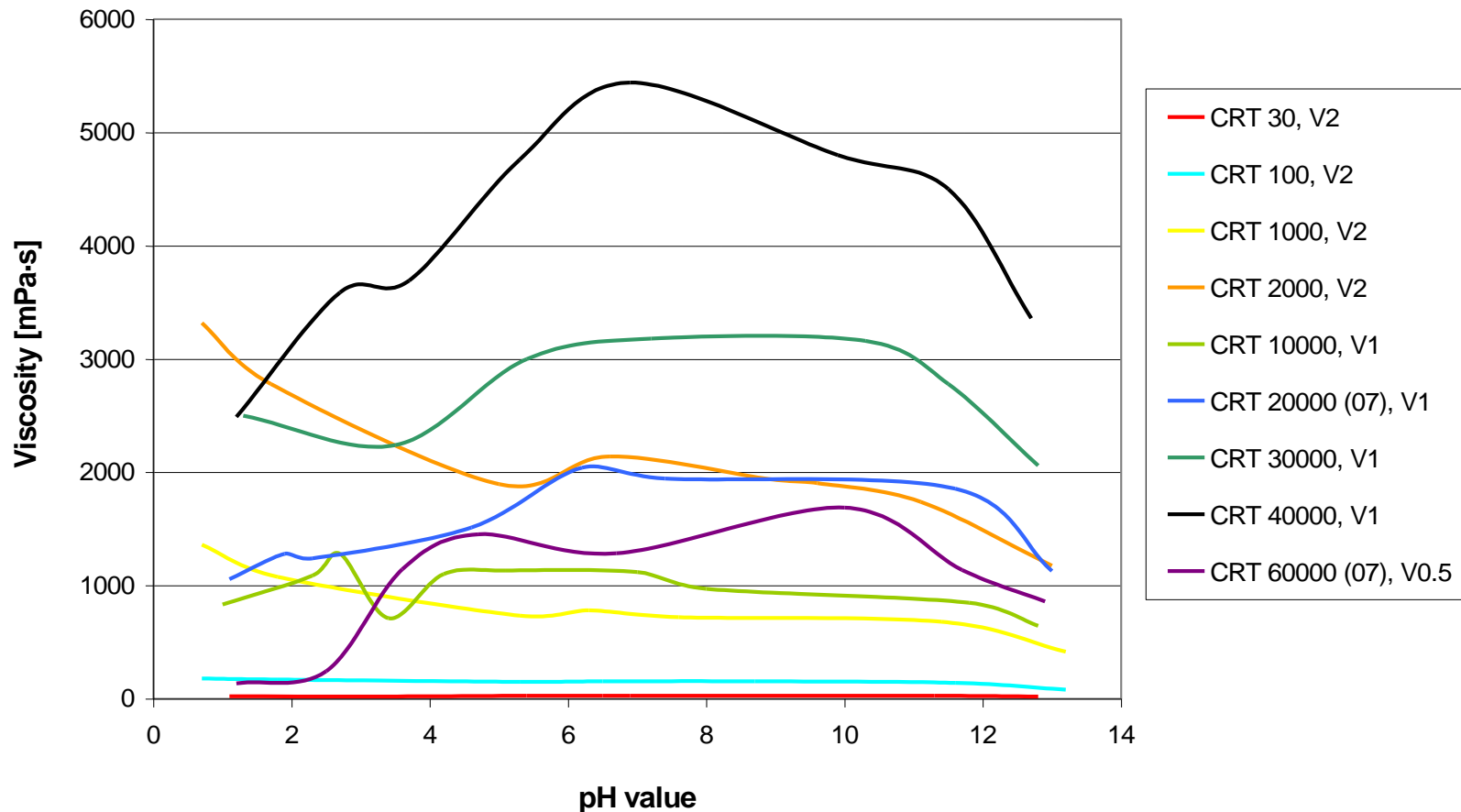


## The moment of salt (e.g. table salt) addition is important

- Dissolved CMC is more stable against salts than CMC which is integrated in salt water
- The viscosity development of CMC is suppressed due to salt water

# CMC - Effect of pH on Viscosity

- Maximum viscosity between pH 6.5 - 8.5
- Insoluble at pH  $\leq 3$  (free acid form)
- Strong viscosity decrease at pH < 6
- Slight viscosity drop at pH > 9

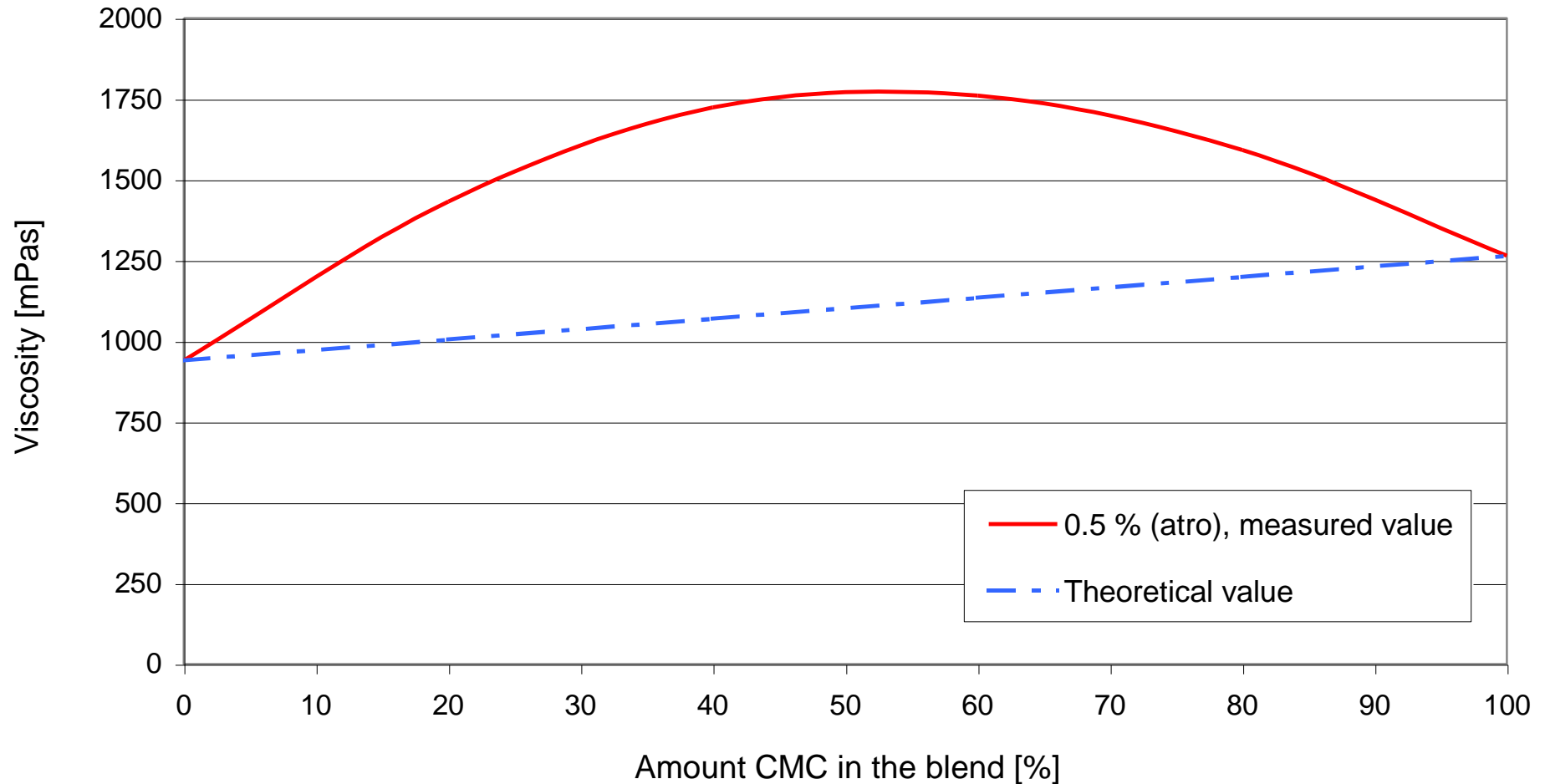


# Synergistic Combinations of CMC With Other Hydrocolloids

# CMC + Guar $\Rightarrow$ Viscosity increase

## Synergism CMC - Guar without shear stress

Walocel CRT 60000 PA 07 - Guar 5000, concentration: 0.5 % in sum



⇒ Improved stability and functionality

## **Synergism of blends (50 : 50)**

- Improved heat resistance compared to pure CMC
- Increased cold functionality compared to pure LBG
- Viscosity win (10 % at low shear)
- Good shear stability

⇒ Improved stability and functionality

**"Synergism" between CMC and classic gelformers such as  $\kappa$ -Carrageenan, Agar, Starch ...)**

- ⇒ Improved gel quality
- ⇒ Prolonged stability
- ⇒ No / less syneresis
- ⇒ Increased elasticity

# CMC - Overview on Food Applications





**Thickener, Viscosifier (e.g. beverages, soups, dressings, sauces)**

→ *Gives viscosity to aqueous solutions*



**Texturizer (e.g. beverages, fruitpreparation)**

→ *Improves body and mouthfeel, keeps consistency stable over storage time*



**Improve elasticity and plasticity  
(e.g. extruded products, bakery products)**

→ *Good machinability / simplified post-processing*



## **Crystallisation control (e.g. ice cream, frozen dough products)**

- *Slows down the crystallisation speed, reduced crystal growth/size*
- *Delayed retrogradation of amylose (anti staling agent)*



## **Waterbinding (e.g. meat products, bakery products)**

- *Prevents water loss, suppressed syneresis*
- *Prolonged freshness*



## **Mouthfeel enhancer (e.g. fat-reduced products like fresh cheese preparations, soups, sauces, beverages)**

- *Simulates a "fatty" mouth feel, improved creaminess*



## Protein protection (e.g. fresh cheese, acidified dairy drinks)

→ *CMC protects proteins against the effects of acid and heat*



## Stabilizer (e.g. soups, dressings, sauces)

→ *Keeps molecules stable and suspends particles*



## "Emulsifier" (e.g. spreadable cheese, dressings)

→ *Stabilizes hydrophilic and lipophilic components, support of classic emulsifiers*

## Gelling support (e.g. fresh cheese preps, desserts)

→ *CMC improves the quality of gels and supports gel-forming hydrocolloids*



## Foam stabilization

→ *Fixing of foams, constant density, prolonged stand-up*

## Partial replacement of traditional additives

→ *Fat and oil*

→ *Proteins (Proteins from milk/whey, meat, soy, wheat)*

→ *Sugar and lactose*



## Guar Gum

- Guar provides thickening, texturizing, moisture-binding and freeze-thaw stability
- 70-80% of guar gum is being used oilfield applications
  - ✓ Gum gum supply short of demand by ~25% in 2012
- Current prices roughly \$7/lb
- 1% viscosity = 3500 – 5000 cPs
  
- **CMC is a suitable, cost effective replacement**
  - ✓ 40,000 or 50,000 viscosity grade – 1:1 replacement
  - ✓ Synergy: 20/80 & 35/65 Guar/CMC offers a 2x viscosity gain vs expected value

# Guar Replacement with CMC

Properties	Guar gum	Cellulose gum
<b>Cold and hot water soluble</b>	√	√
<b>Dissolution time</b>	Medium - Fast	Fast
<b>Solution Transparency</b>	Cloudy	Clear
<b>Flavor</b>	Beany	Neutral
<b>Viscosity range</b>	5000 -7000 @1%	30 to 50,000 @ 2%
<b>Viscosity w/Shear</b>	Shear Thinning	Shear Thinning
<b>Viscosity w/Heat</b>	Heat Thinning	Heat Thinning
<b>Synergy</b>	Xanthan	Guar, MC
<b>pH Stability</b>	5 – 7, loss below 3.5	Loss below 3.2
<b>Moisture Holding</b>	Good	Good
<b>Freeze Thaw Stability</b>	√	√
<b>Ionic</b>	Non Ionic	Ionic
<b>Milk Interaction</b>	Not Known	Protective

# CMC - Incorporation Methods

Procedure	Physical Form			Recommended Preparation
	Granular Type (GA)	Powder Type (PA)	Fine Powder Type (PPA)	
Separate Solution	+	-	-	High speed mixer should be used and CMC grades should be added slowly to aqueous solution. The dissolution time is about 30 – 60 minutes.
Dry Blend Mixture	-	+	+	Premix CMC grades with other powder ingredients of the formulation to avoid agglomeration or lumps.
Dispersion in organic solvents or oil	+	+	+	CMC grades are dispersed in organic solvents/oil. The CMC dispersion is then added to water while stirring

A close-up photograph of a person's hands, palms up, holding a mound of fine, white, powdery substance. The hands are positioned centrally, and the powder is piled in the center of the palms. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue or grey.

**Thanks for your kind attention !**  
**QUESTIONS??**

[www.dow.com/dowwolff/en/](http://www.dow.com/dowwolff/en/)