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(54) **Titre : DISPERSION AQUEUSE DE PARTICULES DE PIGMENT MODIFIEES HYDROPHOBIQUEMENT**

(54) **Title: AQUEOUS DISPERSION OF HYDROPHOBICALLY MODIFIED PIGMENT PARTICLES**

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The present invention relates to a composition comprising a) a stable aqueous dispersion of inorganic pigment particles hydrophobically modified with covalently bonded polysiloxane or silyl groups; and b) a polymeric anionic dispersant; wherein the hydrophobically modified inorganic pigment particles have an average particle size in the range of from 200 nm to 10 µm, and the solids content of the hydrophobically modified inorganic pigment particles is from 10 to 80 weight percent, based on the weight of inorganic pigment particles and water. The composition of the present invention provides a way to improve water resistance in coatings formulations.



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Abstract

The present invention relates to a composition comprising a) a stable aqueous dispersion of inorganic pigment particles hydrophobically modified with covalently bonded polysiloxane or silyl groups; and b) a polymeric anionic dispersant; wherein the hydrophobically modified
5 inorganic pigment particles have an average particle size in the range of from 200 nm to 10 μ m, and the solids content of the hydrophobically modified inorganic pigment particles is from 10 to 80 weight percent, based on the weight of inorganic pigment particles and water. The composition of the present invention provides a way to improve water resistance in coatings formulations.

AQUEOUS DISPERSION OF HYDROPHOBICALLY MODIFIED PIGMENT PARTICLES

Background of the Invention

Performance of water-borne paint formulations is influenced in part by the surface chemistry of the inorganic pigment used to opacify the paint. Pigments such as the widely used TiO_2 tend to be hydrophilic in their native state and therefore not particularly effective as a barrier to penetration of water and water-soluble colorants at the pigment-binder interface. For this reason, it would be advantageous to modify the surface of inorganic pigment particles to provide coatings with improved resistance to stains and corrosion.

The dispersion stability of pigment particles in the paint formulation affects the hiding efficiency of the consequent film. Pigment aggregates provide less hiding than isolated primary particles; therefore, it would be further advantageous to modify the surface of pigment particles to minimize pigment aggregation in films, thereby reducing the amount of pigment needed in the formulation.

It is known in the art to modify the surface of pigment particles with hydrophobic groups. In theory, hydrophobically modified pigment particles would be expected to improve barrier properties and more strongly associate with binder particles in a latex, thereby improving hiding. Nevertheless, in practice, formulators experience great difficulty in dispersing hydrophobically modified pigment particles in water because of their poor wettability. Accordingly, it would be an advance in the art of pigmented water-borne coatings formulations to discover a hydrophobically modified pigment that are readily dispersible in water.

Summary of the Invention

In a first aspect, the present invention is a composition comprising a) a stable aqueous dispersion of inorganic pigment particles hydrophobically modified with covalently bonded polysiloxane or silyl groups; and b) a polymeric anionic dispersant; wherein the hydrophobically modified inorganic pigment particles have an average particle size in the range of from 200 nm to 10 μm , and the solids content of the hydrophobically modified inorganic pigment particles is from 10 to 80 weight percent, based on the weight of inorganic pigment particles and water;

wherein the silyl groups are represented by $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^1)_3$; wherein each R^1 is independently $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkoxy, OH, phenyl, phenoxy, or a bond connecting the Si atom to which it is attached to the surface of an inorganic pigment particle, with the proviso that at least one R^1 is a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyoxy, phenyl, or phenoxy group; and

- 5 wherein the inorganic pigment particles comprise oxides of titanium, aluminum, silicon, iron, calcium, magnesium, zirconium, or zinc.

The composition of the present invention provides a way to improve water resistance in coatings formulations.

Detailed Description of the Invention

- 10 In a first aspect, the present invention is a composition comprising a) a stable aqueous dispersion of inorganic pigment particles hydrophobically modified with covalently bonded polysiloxane or silyl groups; and b) a polymeric anionic dispersant; wherein the hydrophobically modified inorganic pigment particles have an average particle size in the range of from 200 nm to 10 μm , and the solids content of the hydrophobically modified inorganic pigment particles is from 10 to
15 80 weight percent, based on the weight of inorganic pigment particles and water;

wherein the silyl groups are represented by $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^1)_3$; wherein each R^1 is independently $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkoxy, OH, phenyl, phenoxy, or a bond connecting the Si atom to which it is attached to the surface of an inorganic pigment particle, with the proviso that at least one R^1 is a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyoxy, phenyl, or phenoxy group; and

- 20 wherein the inorganic pigment particles comprise oxides of titanium, aluminum, silicon, iron, calcium, magnesium, zirconium, or zinc.

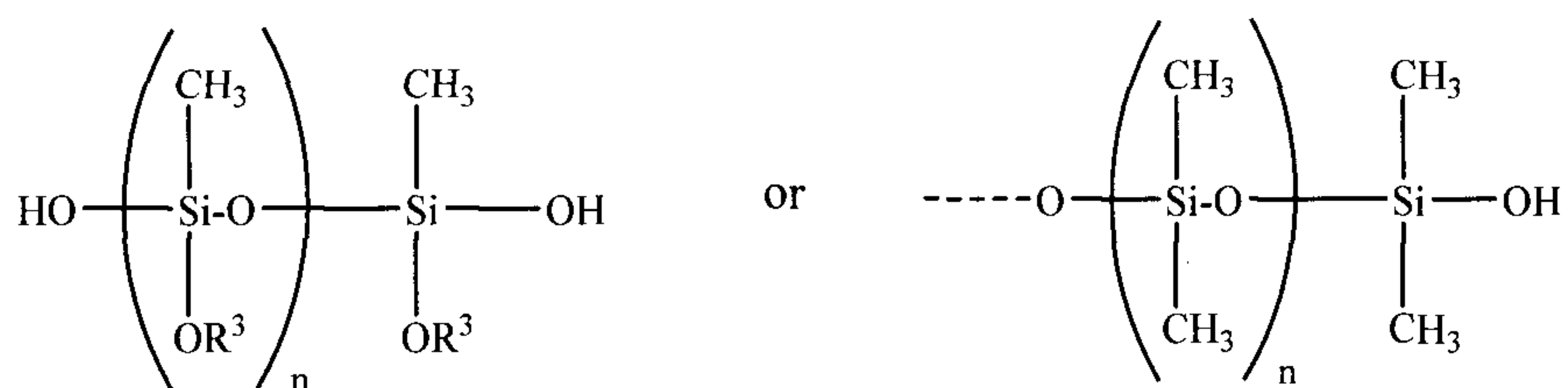
- As used herein, the term “stable aqueous dispersion of inorganic pigment particles” refers to a homogeneous dispersion of the inorganic pigment particles in water that maintains homogeneity for at least 24 hours without mixing. Homogeneity refers to a substantial absence of sediment
25 and lump formation, phase separation, creaming, syneresis, and sludge.

The term “hydrophobically modified” means that the modified pigment particles have <25% by weight water uptake relative to the unmodified pigment particles at 90% relative humidity as measured using a DVS Advantage ET Analyzer (Surface Measurement Systems).

Suitable inorganic pigment particles are those particles that are functionalized at the surface with functional groups that can covalently bond with silyl or siloxyl groups. Examples of inorganic pigments include TiO_2 , ZnO , Al_2O_3 , CaCO_3 , Fe_2O_3 , SiO_2 , and talc, with TiO_2 being particularly preferred. TiO_2 pigment particles include rutile and anatase TiO_2 , as well as TiO_2 surface treated with a variety of metal oxides and hydroxides including alumina, silica, and zirconia.

Average particle size of the inorganic pigment particles is defined by the average particle size determined using a Malvern Zetasizer Nano Particle Size Analyzer. Preferably, the average particle size of the inorganic pigment particles is from 240 nm to 5 μm , more preferably to 1 μm , more preferably to 500 nm, and most preferably to 400 nm.

The hydrophobically modified pigment particles are modified with covalently bonded polysiloxane groups or silyl groups. The polysiloxane hydrophobe comprises a $-\text{O}-(\text{Si}(\text{R}^2)_2-\text{O})_n-\text{Si}(\text{R}^2)_2-\text{O}-$ backbone, wherein n is 1 to 1350, preferably 1 to 100, and wherein each R^2 is independently a bond connecting the polysiloxane group to the pigment particle or a side group which is preferably OH, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkoxy, or phenyl. If none of the R^2 groups are bonds connecting the siloxane group to the pigment particle, then at least one of the end-group oxygen atoms is attached to the surface of the pigment particle. The endgroup oxygen atoms may otherwise be attached to H or any other endgroup. Examples of suitable endgroups include $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $-\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{OCH}_2\text{OH}$, and glycidyl ether of $-(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{OCH}_2\text{OH}$. Examples of suitable polysiloxanes are polydimethylsiloxanes. Preferred polysiloxane groups are represented by either of the following structures:



where each R^3 is H or a bond to the surface of the pigment particle, with the proviso that at least one R^3 is a bond to the surface of the pigment particle; n is from 1 to 100; and the dotted line represents a bond to the surface of the pigment particle.

Preferred silyl groups are C_1 - C_{18} alkylsilyl groups, which may be linear or branched mono-, di-,
 5 or trialkylsilyl groups; preferred C_1 - C_{18} -alkylsilyl groups are C_1 - C_8 -alkylsilyl groups, more preferably C_1 - C_4 -alkylsilyl groups. Examples of suitable C_1 - C_8 alkylsilyl groups include methylsilyl, dimethylsilyl, trimethylsilyl, ethylsilyl, diethylsilyl, triethylsilyl, *n*-propylsilyl, di-*n*-propylsilyl, tri-*n*-propylsilyl, *n*-butylsilyl, di-*n*-butylsilyl, tri-*n*-butylsilyl, *t*-butylsilyl, di-*t*-butylsilyl, tri-*t*-butylsilyl, ethyldimethylsilyl, *n*-propyldimethylsilyl, *n*-butyldimethylsilyl,
 10 *t*-butyldimethylsilyl, and *n*-octyldimethylsilyl.

Other examples of suitable silyl groups are mono-, di-, and triphenylsilyl groups, as well as alkylphenylsilyl groups such as C_1 - C_4 alkylphenylsilyl, di- C_1 - C_4 alkyl-phenylsilyl, and diphenyl- C_1 - C_4 alkylsilyl groups.

Silylation is conveniently carried out by contacting an alkylsilyl halide such as trimethylsilyl
 15 chloride with the pigment particles, preferably TiO_2 , preferably, but not necessarily in the presence of a promoter/co-reactant such as hexamethyldisilazane. Hydrophobic modification of the surface of the inorganic pigment particles can also be achieved by contacting a polyalkylhydrosiloxane or a polyalkylsiloxane with pigment particles, preferably TiO_2 . A preferred polyalkylhydrosiloxane is a polymethylhydrosiloxane.

20 The polymeric anionic dispersant, which is a polymer functionalized with more than one anionic group, promotes the formation of a stable aqueous dispersion of the pigment particles. As distinct from surfactants, polymeric anionic dispersants comprise a plurality of anionic groups, preferably at least 5 anionic groups per molecule. Mechanistically, dispersants interact with the inorganic pigment at the water-pigment interface; in contrast, surfactants interact with the oil-
 25 water or air-water phase. Consequently, surfactants lower the air-water or oil-water surface tension whereas dispersants do not significantly lower surface tension.

Examples of suitable dispersants include salts of a) a homopolymer or a copolymer of a carboxylic acid monomer; b) a copolymer of maleic anhydride and diisobutylene; c) a copolymer of styrene and maleic anhydride; d) carboxymethyl cellulose; and e) a homopolymer or

copolymer with a plurality of sulfate, sulfonate, phosphate, or phosphonate groups, or combinations thereof, attached to the polymer or copolymer backbone.

Suitable carboxylic acid monomers include acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, or itaconic acid, or a combination thereof as well as anhydrides of carboxylic acid monomers, such as methacrylic anhydride and maleic anhydride. Acrylic acid is a preferred carboxylic acid monomer.

Examples of monomers suitable to form carboxylic acid functionalized copolymers include nonionic acrylate or methacrylates such as ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, and benzyl methacrylate, and combinations thereof.

Suitable counterions for the dispersants include Li^+ , Na^+ , K^+ , and NH_4^+ counterions, as well as alkanolamines such as 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol. The dispersant is preferably used at a concentration in the range of from 0.1, more preferably from 0.2, most preferably from 0.3 to 5, more preferably to 3, and most preferably to 2 weight percent based on the weight of the pigment particles.

Commercial examples of salts of polyacrylic acids and copolymers thereof include TAMOL™ 945, TAMOL 1124, TAMOL 681, TAMOL 2002 Dispersant (supplied as the polyacid and subsequently neutralized), and TAMOL 2011 Dispersants. (TAMOL is a Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company or its Affiliates). Commercial examples of salts of copolymers of maleic anhydride and diisobutylene include TAMOL 731A and TAMOL 165 Dispersants; WALOCEL™ C USP/EP and WALOCEL CRT 40000 Carboxymethyl Cellulose Sodium Salts are commercial examples of salts of carboxymethyl cellulose. (WALOCEL is a Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company or its Affiliates). SMA 1440H Dispersant is a commercial example of a salt of a copolymer of styrene and maleic anhydride; and ACUMER™ 2100 and 3100 Dispersants are commercial examples of polymers containing sulfonate groups. (ACUMER is a Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company or its Affiliates.)

The weight average molecular weight (M_w) of the dispersant is preferably in the range of from 2000 Daltons to 300,000 Daltons, more preferably to 200,000 Daltons as measured by size exclusion chromatography using polyacrylic acid standards ranging in molecular weight from 216 g/mol to 1,100,000 g/mol.

The solids content of the inorganic pigment particles is preferably from 20, more preferably from 40, and most preferably 60 weight percent to 80 weight percent, based on the weight of the water and the pigment particles.

5 The stable aqueous dispersion of hydrophobically modified inorganic pigment particles is preferably prepared with less surfactant than dispersant, and preferably comprises a substantial absence of surfactant, which is useful for reducing foaming during processing of the pigment dispersion with other components used in the manufacture of coatings formulations. As used herein “substantial absence of surfactant” means that the stable aqueous dispersion of hydrophobically modified inorganic pigment particles comprises less than 0.2, preferably less
10 than 0.1, more preferably less than 0.05, and most preferably less than 0.01 weight percent surfactant, based on the weight of the pigment particles.

The polymeric anionic dispersant is also capable of dispersing the inorganic pigment particles without chemically binding to the hydrophobically modified pigment particles.

15 The composition of the present invention is suitable for coatings formulations, which includes a binder and additional water (for example, a latex), and preferably one or more additional materials including defoamers, surfactants, solvents, thickeners, extenders, coalescents, biocides, and colorants. The composition provides coating compositions with improved water-resistance over pigment particles that are not hydrophobically modified, as demonstrated by the following examples.

20 Experimental

Intermediate Example 1 – Preparation of TiO₂ Particles Hydrophobically Modified with Chlorotrimethylsilane

25 In a dry 100-mL Schlenk flask under argon, of Ti-Pure R-706 TiO₂ (R-706, 12 g) was treated first with chlorotrimethylsilane (10 mL) followed by hexamethyldisilazane (15 mL). The flask was sonicated for 1 min, immersed in an oil bath at 120 °C, and stirred under reflux for 18 h. After cooling to room temperature, the solid was isolated by centrifugation (10 min at 14,000 rpm) and subsequently washed by redispersing via sonication and vortexing in 75 mL of acetone (twice), methanol (once), and water (twice). The solid was dried on a freeze dryer and ground

with a mortar and pestle, yielding a fine white powder that was resistant to wetting. Yield = 11.15 g.

Intermediate Example 2 – Preparation of TiO₂ Particles Hydrophobically Modified with Butyldimethylchlorosilane

- 5 The procedure was carried out substantially as described for Intermediate Example 1 except that the Ti-Pure R-706 TiO₂ was scaled to 4 g, and butyldimethylchlorosilane (10 mL) and anhydrous pyridine (1 mL) were used instead of chlorotrimethylsilane and hexamethyldisilazane.

Intermediate Example 3 – Preparation of TiO₂ Particles Hydrophobically Modified with Octyldimethylchlorosilane

- 10 The procedure was carried out substantially as described for Intermediate Example 1 except that octyldimethylchlorosilane (25 mL) and anhydrous pyridine (2 mL) were used instead of chlorotrimethylsilane and hexamethyldisilazane.

Intermediate Example 4 - Preparation of TiO₂ Particles Hydrophobically Modified with Polydimethylsiloxane

- 15 In a dry 100-mL Schlenk flask equipped with a magnetic stir bar, R-706 (12 g) was combined with polydimethylsiloxane (60 mL, MW = 550 g/mol) to form a suspension. The suspension was stirred and sonicated for 3 min, followed by heating at 120 °C for 18 h with stirring. The suspension was cooled to room temperature and the solid was isolated by centrifugation, then washed by redispersing via sonication and vortexing in 75 mL hexane (twice), acetone (once),
20 and water (twice). The solid was dried under vacuum. Yield = 11.80 g.

Intermediate Example 5 – Preparation of TiO₂ Particles Hydrophobically Modified with Polymethylhydrosiloxane

- In a 250-mL Schlenk flask, R-706 (50 g) was combined with polymethylhydrosiloxane (25 mL, MW = 1700-3200 g/mol) and toluene (175 mL) to form a suspension, which was sonicated for
25 2 min then stirred with a mechanical stirrer (Ika RW 20) for 18 h. The solid product was isolated by centrifugation, then washed by redispersion, sonication, and vortexing in 75 mL hexane (three times). The solid was dried *in vacuo*. Yield = 48.90 g.

Intermediate Example 6 – Preparation of TiO₂ Particles Hydrophobically Modified with Chlorotrimethylsilane

The procedure was carried out substantially as described for Intermediate Example 1 except that Ti-Pure R-931 (R-931, 12 g) was used instead of R-706.

5 Qualitative Demonstration of Hydrophobicity

None of the hydrophobically modified particles wetted spontaneously when added to water. R-706 (200 mg in each case) spontaneously immersed in water (5 mL), demonstrating the wettability of this untreated hydrophilic pigment. In contrast, the hydrophobically modified materials did not penetrate the surface of the water and instead floated on the surface.

10 Example 1 – Preparation of Stable Aqueous Dispersion of Intermediate Example 1

The dispersion stability of pigment particles was determined by examining particle sedimentation under centrifugal force. 1 mg/mL suspensions of the unmodified and hydrophobically modified pigments were prepared in both aqueous pH 8 HEPES buffer solution and unbuffered pH 8 water by vortexing and sonication for 5 min in an Elmasonic S10-H
15 sonicator, then equilibrated by stirring for 18 h. After equilibration, the samples were sonicated for another 5 min. Dynamic light scattering verified the dispersion contained primary particles and not aggregates. 1.3 mL of the stock solution was transferred to a 1.5 mL Eppendorf tube and centrifuged at 1500 G for 90 s. 700 µL of the supernatant was carefully transferred to a cuvette, and light transmittance at 310 nm was measured using a SpectraMax M2 UV-Vis Absorption
20 spectrometer.

Dispersion measurements were carried out on unmodified R-706 and Intermediate Example 1 in 0.25 mM pH 8 aqueous HEPES solution using TAMOL™ 1124 Dispersant, polyacrylic acid (M_w = 15,000), and carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt (M_w = 90,000), at concentrations of 50, 5, and 0.5 weight percent, based on the weight of the pigment particles. With no dispersant
25 present, R-706 and Intermediate Example 1 formed sediment readily under centrifugation, while the supernatant exhibited >90% light transmittance. This finding demonstrated that both the modified and unmodified pigments were unstable in the absence of a polyanionic dispersant. In the presence of each of the anionic dispersants tested, less sedimentation was observed,

indicating that the polyanion stabilized the dispersion. These tests are believed to be the first demonstration of the stabilization of hydrophobically modified pigment particles in water using a dispersant.

Examples 2-5 – Preparation of Stable Aqueous Dispersions of Intermediate Examples 2-5

- 5 The procedure of Example 1 was substantially followed except that only TAMOL™ 1124 Dispersant (TAMOL 1124) and carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt (NaCMC, $M_w = 90,000$) were evaluated at 0.5 weight percent, based on the weight of the pigment. The effects of sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (NaCMC) and TAMOL 1124 Dispersant (TAMOL 1124) on the stability of the aqueous dispersions of unmodified R-706 and the hydrophobically modified
- 10 R-706 of Intermediate Examples 1-5 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Dispersion Stability of Unmodified and Hydrophobically Modified R-706 with Dispersant

Pigment	Dispersant (% Transmittance ^a)	
	NaCMC	TAMOL 1124
R-706	43	29
Int. Ex. 1	13	13
Int. Ex. 2	14	13
Int. Ex. 3	27	17
Int. Ex. 4	55	13
Int. Ex. 5	19	18

^a light transmittance at 310 nm of a 1 mg/mL suspension in 0.25 mM pH 8 HEPES buffer after centrifugation for 90 s at 1500 G.

- 15 The data show that all aqueous dispersions of hydrophobically modified pigment particles showed greater stability than the unmodified pigment particles in all but one instance. The low % Transmittance of the supernatants of the aqueous dispersions prepared from Intermediate Examples 1 and 2 demonstrate the advantages of short-chain alkyl groups; additionally, the acrylic acid based dispersant provided consistently better stability, especially for the pigment
- 20 particles modified with polydimethyldisiloxane (Int. Ex. 4).

Example 6 – Preparation of a Stable Aqueous Dispersion of Intermediate Example 6

The procedure of Examples 2-4 was substantially followed and the results are shown in Table 2.

R-931 refers to the unmodified Ti-Pure R-931 TiO₂.

Table 2 - Dispersion Stability of Unmodified and Hydrophobically Modified R-931 with

5 Dispersant

Pigment	Dispersant (% Transmittance ^a)	
	NaCMC	TAMOL 1124
R-931	73	68
Int. Ex. 5	52	46

Viscosity of High Concentration Aqueous Dispersions of Hydrophobically Modified Inorganic Pigment Particles

High concentration inorganic pigment particle dispersions were prepared by combining R-706 or Intermediate 1 (3 g) with water (3 mL) and TAMOL™ 1124 Dispersant (30 uL, 50 % aqueous) in an 8-mL plastic vial equipped with a Teflon coated magnetic stir bar. The contents of the vial were vortexed extensively and adjusted to pH 9 with 4 M aqueous sodium hydroxide. The dispersion was transferred to a 50-mL zirconia crucible containing five 1-cm zirconia grinding stones and milled on a Fritsch Pulverisette 7 classic at 250 rpm for 20 min. The final pH of the dispersions was 8.8. The viscosities of the dispersions were measured on a cone and plate viscometer with a 40-mm cone with a 2° angle. The gap size was set to 50 µm, and viscosities (η in Pa·S) were evaluated versus shear rates (s⁻¹) for R-706, with and without TAMOL 1124 Dispersant, as well as R-706 hydrophobically modified with chlorotrimethylsilane, with and without TAMOL™ 1124 Dispersant. The viscosities at a shear rate of 182 s⁻¹, which approximates the shear rate at which dispersions are mixed and poured, are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Viscosity/Shear Rate Profile of Dispersions

	η (Pa·S) Shear Rate 182 s^{-1}
R-706	1.4×10^{-2}
R-706 + TAMOL 1124	5.5×10^{-3}
Int. Ex. 1	2.0×10^{-1}
Int. Ex. 1 + TAMOL 1124	6.9×10^{-3}

The data show that stable aqueous dispersions of hydrophobically modified pigment particles can be obtained at high concentrations using polyanionic dispersants.

Measurement of Stain Resistance of a Paint

- 5 Paints were formulated in accordance with Table 4. The formulation has a pigment volume concentration (PVC) of 13.7 %. The latex refers to a 50/49/1 by weight butyl acrylate/styrene/methacrylic acid latex having 36% solids and an average particle size of 122 nm as measured by a Malvern Nano-ZS Zetasizer. Pigment refers to either R-706 or Intermediate 1, and TRITON X-100 refers to TRITON™ X-100 Surfactant (A Trademark of The
- 10 Dow Chemical Company or its Affiliates).

Table 4 – Paint Formulation with Modified and Unmodified Pigments

Component	Mass (g)	Vol. (mL)	Wt. %	Vol. %
R-706	0.380	0.089	15.2	13.7
Int. Ex. 1	0.380	0.089	15.2	13.7
Latex	0.599	0.565	23.9	86.3
TAMOL 1124	0.010	0.010	0.4	
TRITON X-100	0.053	0.050	2.1	
Water	1.461	1.461	58.4	
Total	2.503	2.150	100	100

Table 5 illustrates stain and tear resistance for coatings from paint formulations with modified and unmodified pigment. Paints were applied to a substrate and allowed to dry. Stains were created by adding a few drops of coffee on the coating and wiping of residual coffee with a tissue

after standing for 15 min. A 1-10 scale is used with 1 indicating no staining and 10 indicating complete staining or browning.

Table 5 – Coffee Stain Resistance Comparison of Paints

Paint #	Pigment	Stain Value	Tearing?
1	R-706	3	Y
2	Int. Ex. 1	1	N

The results show that paints with unmodified pigment were more susceptible to tearing and less resistant to staining than the paint with the hydrophobically modified pigment.

Claim

1. A composition comprising a) a stable aqueous dispersion of inorganic pigment particles hydrophobically modified with covalently bonded polysiloxane or silyl groups; and b) a polymeric anionic dispersant; wherein the hydrophobically modified inorganic pigment particles
5 have an average particle size in the range of from 200 nm to 10 μ m, and the solids content of the hydrophobically modified inorganic pigment particles is from 10 to 80 weight percent, based on the weight of inorganic pigment particles and water;
- wherein the silyl groups are represented by $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^1)_3$; wherein each R^1 is independently C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy, OH, phenyl, phenoxy, or a bond connecting the Si atom to which it
10 is attached to the surface of an inorganic pigment particle, with the proviso that at least one R^1 is a C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy, phenyl, or phenoxy group; and
- wherein the inorganic pigment particles comprise oxides of titanium, aluminum, silicon, iron, calcium, magnesium, zirconium, or zinc.
2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the inorganic pigment particles are hydrophobically
15 modified with $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^1)_3$ groups, wherein the inorganic pigment particles are TiO_2 , ZnO , Al_2O_3 , CaCO_3 , Fe_2O_3 , SiO_2 , or talc.
3. The composition of Claim 2 wherein each R^1 is independently a C_1 - C_8 -alkyl group.
4. The composition of Claim 3 wherein the polymeric anionic dispersant is a salt of a) a homopolymer or copolymer of a carboxylic acid monomer; b) a copolymer of maleic anhydride
20 and diisobutylene; c) a copolymer of styrene and maleic anhydride; d) carboxymethyl cellulose; or e) a homopolymer or copolymer with a plurality of sulfate, sulfonate, phosphate, or phosphonate groups, or combinations thereof, attached to the polymer or copolymer backbone; and wherein the M_w of the dispersant is in the range of 2000 to 300,000 Daltons.
5. The composition of Claim 4 wherein the pigment particles are TiO_2 particles having an
25 average particle size in the range of from 200 nm to 400 nm, and wherein each R^1 is independently C_1 - C_4 -alkyl.

6. The composition of Claim 5 wherein the polymeric anionic dispersant is a salt of:

a) a homopolymer of acrylic acid; or

b) a copolymer of acrylic acid and one or more nonionic acrylates or methacrylates selected from the group consisting of ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate,

5 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, and benzyl methacrylate; or

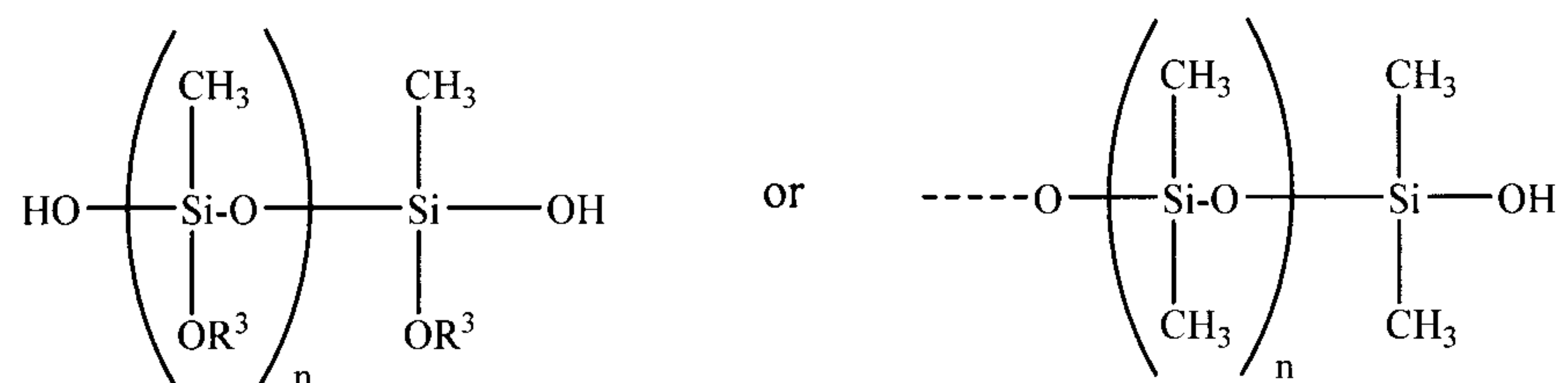
c) carboxymethyl cellulose; and wherein

each R¹ is methyl;

wherein the solids content of the inorganic pigment particles is from 60 to 80 weight percent, based on the weight of the water and the pigment particles.

10 7. The composition of Claim 6 which comprises a substantial absence of a surfactant.

8. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the inorganic pigment particles are hydrophobically modified with siloxane groups represented by either of the following structures:



15 where each R³ is H or a bond to the surface of the pigment particle, with the proviso that at least one R³ is a bond to the surface of the pigment particle; n is from 1 to 100; and the dotted line represents a bond to the surface of the pigment particle.

9. The composition of Claim 1 to 6, and 8 which further includes a binder, additional water, and one or more components selected from the group consisting of defoamers, surfactants, solvents, thickeners, extenders, coalescents, biocides, and colorants.