

**SYNERGISTIC ADVANCEMENTS IN SUSTAINABLE
COATING TECHNOLOGIES: POLYURETHANE
MICROENCAPSULATION OF SOYBEAN OIL FOR
AUTONOMOUS SELF-HEALING AND
ANTICORROSIVE PAINTS**

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Department of Material Science & Engineering

Faculty of Engineering

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

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Thesis/Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
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Declaration of supervisor

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis/dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other University or Institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text. I retain the right to use this content in whole or part in future works (such as articles or books).

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The above candidate has carried out research for the Masters thesis/dissertation under my supervision. I confirm that the declaration made above by the student is true and correct.

Name of the supervisor: Mr. S.V. Udayakumara

Signature of the supervisor:

Date:

Dedication

To my academic teachers for their guidance and inspiration and to my colleagues in industry, for their invaluable insights and collaboration.

To my parents, and spouse for their unwavering support and encouragement,
Thank you for helping me reaches this milestone.

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Abstract

The objective of this thesis was to develop and characterize a sustainable, self-healing polyurethane (PU) coating containing microencapsulated soybean oil for improved anti-corrosion performance applicable particularly in automotive topcoats. Soyabean oil microcapsules were synthesized with phases of 100 μm to 7000 μm based on the interfacial polymerization and particle size was confirmed via scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Microencapsulation technique was successfully able to generate spherical microcapsules however the particle size was difficult to control. The largest of the microcapsules exceeded the required final dry film thickness of $>250\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, resulting in an uneven coating appearance. This made it visually unappealing and compromised the need for a smooth finish, which is critical in automotive applications.

The self-healing capacity was tested by introducing microcapsules into PU-based paint at the content of 3, 5 and 7% wt of base pigmented PU composite on steel substrate. Optical microscopy assessments of X-shaped scratches at 1 and 7 days revealed that healing efficacy enhanced with higher concentration of microcapsules while excessive dosages caused surface roughness. The self-healing function and the surface properties of the coating were at odds with each other, showing that these properties need to be optimally dosed for high-finish applications.

Corrosion resistance was assessed in a Neutral Salt Spray (NSS) test (ISO 9227) for 72, 168 and 240 hours, showing that increasing the dosage of microcapsules resulted in a significant decrease in the formation of rust and improved the corrosion resistance. Cross-hatch cross cut tape adhesion testing demonstrated consistent adhesion performance between all samples regardless of content, showing that incorporation of microcapsules does not appear to negatively impact adhesion.

The results from this investigation highlight the utility of microencapsulated soybean oil for sustainable mitigation in PU coatings, which could lead to future self-healing automotive topcoats with potential corrosion protection properties. The results pave way for future efforts to focus on controlling the particle size and optimizing loading, which shall target simultaneous improvements in functional properties as well as aesthetic quality of protective coatings.

Keywords: Self-healing coatings, Polyurethane (PU) coatings, Microencapsulation, Soybean oil, Corrosion resistance, Auto-motive topcoats.

Table of contents

Declaration of supervisor	i
Dedication	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
Table of contents	v
List of figures	viii
List of tables	x
List of abbreviations	xi
List of appendices	xii
CHAPTER 1, INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Problem Statement	2
1.3 Aim of the research	2
1.4 Research gap.....	3
1.5 Objectives of the Study	3
1.6 Research hypothesis	3
1.6.1 Main Hypothesis:	3
1.6.2 Sub-Hypotheses:	4
1.7 Scope of the thesis	4
CHAPTER 2, LITRATRE REVIEW	6
2.1 Corrosion cost and industry challenges	6
2.2 Traditional coating method & challenges	7
2.3 Self-healing coatings.....	8
2.4 Healing Agents (Core material)	10
2.4.1 Selection of Healing Agent and Challenges	11
2.4.2 Drying oils.....	12
2.4.3 Soybean oil.....	15

2.5 Encapsulation techniques.....	15
2.6 Coating system and formulating	17
2.7 Summary and conclusion of Literature review	18
CHAPTER 3, EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE.....	20
3.1 Materials.....	20
3.2 Methodology	21
3.2.1 Encapsulation of Soybean Oil.....	21
3.2.2 Formulation and Preparation of PU Top Coat	23
3.2.3 Preparation of testing samples	25
3.3 Tests and Characterizations	26
3.3.1 Characterization of Microcapsules	26
3.3.2 Tests for Wet film Thickness (WFT) and Solid Content.....	27
3.3.3 Tests for drying time	28
3.3.4 Optical analysis	28
3.3.5 Gloss Level Measurement.....	29
3.3.6 Cross Cut-Tape Test	29
3.3.7 Neutral Salt Spray (NSS) test	30
CHAPTER 4, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....	32
4.1 Synthesis and Characterization of Microcapsules	32
4.2 Formulation of PU Topcoat	36
4.3 Properties of PU Topcoat.....	37
4.3.1 Solid Content Analysis	37
4.3.2 Wet Film Thickness (WFT)	38
4.3.3 Dry Film Thickness (DFT)	39
4.3.4 Tests for drying time	39
4.3.4 Optical Analysis of X-Cut Area.....	40
4.3.5 Gloss Level Test	43
4.3.6 Cross-Hatch Adhesion Test	44
4.3.7 Salt Spray Test	47
4.4 Sustainability Aspects of the Study	49

4.5 Limitations of the study	49
4.6 Summary of the chapter	49
CHAPTER 5, CONCLUSIONS	51
CHAPTER 6, RECOMENDATIONS	53
Reference List	54
Appendix A: Technical Data sheet of Soya Bean Oil	58
Appendix B: Technical Data Sheet of Cobalt Octoate 12%.....	59
Appendix C: Technical Data Sheet of Desmodur L-75.....	60
Appendix D: Technical Data Sheet of ETERAC 7315-XS-60.....	61
Appendix E: Guideline formulation for PU Clear coat	62
Appendix F: Classification of adhesion test results for cross-cut tape test (ASTM D3359 Test Method B).....	63

List of figures

Figure 2.1: Base Coat (Paint) Scratch on car.....	7
Figure 2.2: Scheme of the self-healing process.....	10
Figure 2.3: S.R. Whit's explanation for the autonomic healing concept.....	10
Figure 2.4: Chemical structure of different fatty acids including saturated fatty acids, monounsaturated fatty acids, and polyunsaturated fatty acids.....	13
Figure 3.1: The schematic diagram illustrating the preparation of polyurethane (PU) microcapsules through interfacial polymerization.....	21
Figure 3.2: The figure illustrating the stirrer arrangement for the emulsification process.....	22
Figure 3.3: Reaction setup showing the emulsion system being stirred with temperature control.....	22
Figure 3.4: Formation of microcapsules during dropwise addition of ETERAC 7315-XS-60 Mixture.....	23
Figure 3.5: This figure shows the microcapsules at different stages of processing following polymerization.....	23
Figure 3.6: Different stages of preparation of component A.	25
Figure 3.7: Prepared curing agent Component B.	25
Figure 3.8: The schematic diagram illustrates the comprehensive overview of sample preparation and associated testing requirements.....	26
Figure 3.9: Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) image of prepared microcapsules.....	27
Figure 3.10: WFT Using a Calibrated WFT Gauge in Accordance with ASTM D4414.....	27
Figure 3.11: Painted sample with an X-shaped cross-cut made using a sharp knife.....	28
Figure 3.12: Gloss Measurement of Painted Samples Using ASTM D523 Standard.....	29
Figure 3.13: Cross-Cut Tape Test (ASTM D3359 Method B).	30
Figure 3.14: Cross-Cut Tape Test placed in the Neutral Salt Spray (NSS) test chamber for exposure as per ISO 9227.....	30
Figure 4.1: Reaction scheme for polyurethane microcapsule shell formation where TMP and L-75 react to form a cross-linked.....	33
Figure 4.2: SEM image of microcapsules at 55X magnification	34
Figure 4.3: SEM image of microcapsules at 100X magnification.....	34
Figure 4.4: SEM image of microcapsules at 150X magnification.....	35
Figure 4.5: SEM image of microcapsules at 55X magnification, with particle sizes of individual capsules denoted.....	36
Figure 4.6: Graphical Representation of Solid Content (%) for Control and Microcapsule-Modified PU Topcoat Samples.....	37
Figure 4.7: Optical Images of X-Cross Cut Areas for All Samples before and after 7 Days.....	42

Figure 4.8: Visual Results of ASTM D3359 Test Method B with Percentage of Removed Paint for Each Sample.....	46
Figure 4.9: Salt spray test results for PU top coatings and self-healing coatings.....	48

List of tables

Table 2-1: The cost of corrosion studies undertaken by specific countries.....	6
Table 2-2: Illustrated the typical fatty acid compositions of selected oils.....	13
Table 2-3: Guideline formulation for polyurethane (PU) clear Top coat using ETERAC 7315-XS-60.....	18
Table 2-4: Summary of Key Findings from Literature review on Self-Healing and Anticorrosive Coatings using drying oils.	19
Table 3-1: Formulation of 2K White Pigmented Polyurethane (PU) Top Coat Components A and B.....	24
Table 4-1: Solid Content (%) of Control and Microcapsule-Modified PU Topcoat Samples.....	37
Table 4-2: Average Wet Film Thickness (WFT) for each sample during application.....	38
Table 4-3: Calculated Dry Film Thickness (WFT) for each sample after cured.....	39
Table 4-4: showing drying time results (Touch dry and hard dry).....	40
Table 4-5: Gloss measurement results for the control sample and samples with varying concentrations of microcapsules.....	44

List of abbreviations

PU	: Polyurethane
DCPD	: dicyclopentadiene
UF	: urea-formaldehyde
PUF	: polyurea-formaldehyde
POTS	: perfluorooctyl triethoxysilane
IPDI	: isophorone diisocyanate
SEM	: Scanning Electron Microscopy
GNP	: Gross National Product
GDP	: Gross Domestic Product
UV	: Ultra Violet
SDBS	: sodium dodecyl benzene sulfonate
TO	: Tung oil
LO	: Linseed Oil
SBO	: Soya bean Oil
GA	: Gum Arabic
TMMP-TMTGE	:Trimethylolpropanetris3-mercaptopropionate-trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether
DETA	: diethylenetriamine
TMP	: trimethylolpropane
TDS	: Technical Data Sheet
CMC	: Carboxymethyl Cellulose
EtOAc	: Ethyl Acetate
NSS	: Neutral Salt Spray
IPDI	: isophorone diisocyanate
ASTM	: American Standard for Testing Materials
WFT	: Wet Film Thickness
DFT	: Dry Film Thickness

List of appendices

Appendix A: Technical Data sheet of Soya Bean Oil.....	58
Appendix B: Technical Data Sheet of Cobalt Octoate 12%	59
Appendix C: Technical Data Sheet of Desmodur L-75.....	60
Appendix D: Technical Data Sheet of ETERAC 7315-XS-60.....	61
Appendix E: Guideline formulation for PU Clear coat.....	62
Appendix F: Classification of adhesion test results for cross-cut tape test (ASTM D3359 Test Method B).....	63