Study on the Effects of Pulp and Coating Color Co-Binder on the Optical Brightening Agent Added Unfilled White Paper

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ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT In order to maintain a global competitive capability, paper mills are dedicated to producing products that meet the specification of their clients while having increased bulk, decreased fiber content and optimal performance. In this regard, utilizing high yield bleached chemithermomechanical pulp (BCTMP) allows for bulk and opacity increases. Incorporating the pulp, however, risks the problems of color reversion and lower brightness and whiteness because of the high lignin content in BCTMP. The problems can be ameliorated through changing stock blend, coating or adding optical brightening agent (OBA). We hope to find laboratory formulation and operational conditions in wet-end additives and coating colors that have good brightness enhancing efficacies. Thus, the paper industry may benefit from the referential values of the thesis. The experimental work mainly divided into OBA applications in wet-end addition and in coating color formulation. Wet-end addition entailed addition of various OBAs to various pulp blends and examined their effects on brightness, whiteness, CIE L*a*b* values of the resulting handsheets and OBA retention on white water quality. In the coating experiment, a typical art paper formula was adopted, and the effects of using different types and dosages of OBAs with combination of 3 different co-binder formulation on calendered and UV irradiated coated sheet brightness, whiteness and CIE L*a*b* values were examined. When BSKP and BHKP blended with 15% BCTMP and 0.05% basic violet 10 (a shading dyestuff) was added 1.5% disulpho- and tetrasulpho-OBA, respectively, the brightness of the resulting paper (90.58%GE, and 89.83%GE, respectively) and whiteness (113.85%GE, and 106.40%GE, respectively) was the highest. The CIE L*a*b* values indicate that along with increasing BCTMP content and OBA dosages, the a* and b* also increased. An inflection point was noted at OBA dosages greater than 1.5%. With increasing UV irradiation time, the brightness and whiteness of the handsheets decreased; while the CIE L*a*b* showed decreased a* and increased b* values, tending toward a hue of green-yellow tone. Light-fastness of BCTMP is poor and yellows easily upon UV irradiation. Adding color fixative agent lowered brightness and whiteness of the handsheets, but helped retention of OBA. When BCTMP content increased from 10% to 30%, retention of OBA decreased. The coefficient of absorption (k) has an inverse correlation with the brightness or whiteness of the handsheets, and it correlated positively with fluorescent intensity. When we used CMC as a co-binder in combination with di-, tetra-, or hexasulpho-OBAs in coating, a 4% hexasulpho-OBA addition gave the best resulting coated paper brightness of 90.11% and whiteness of 92.20%. When co-binders starch, CMC and soy protein were blended with OBA, their effects on the brightness and whiteness of the coated paper were less marked. When the yellowish CMC was used as co-binder, the resulting whiteness was lower than those using starch or soy protein as co-binder. Calendering decreased the brightness and whiteness of the coated paper, but for coating color using CMC as co-binder, the calendaring effect was less notable than those using starch or soy protein as co-binder. After UV irradiation, both brightness and whiteness of the coated paper decreased, but again, the coating color using CMC co-binder showed less UV effect than those using starch or soy protein. The overall experimental results suggest that disulpho-OBA was suitable for wet-end application, and an addition cap of 1.5% was the most suitable for a blend of 20% BSKP, 65% BHKP and 15% BCTMP. Hexasulpho-OBA and Distyryl biphenyl-OBA were more suited to coating application, and the optimal dosage was 4%; while the di- and tetrasulpho types hit the limit at 2% dosages. When CMC was used as co-binder, it contributed to better brightness and whiteness, also better resistance to calendaring and UV irradiation. Key words: optical brightening agent, bleached chemithermomechan- ical pulp, yellowing, brightness, whiteness, co-binder, starch, carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC), soy protein.

Keywords: optical brightening agent; bleached chemithermomechanical pulp; yellowing; brightness; whiteness; co-binder; starch; carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC); soy protein

Table of Contents

目錄 封面內頁 簽名頁 授權書 iii 中文摘要 iv 英文摘要 vi 誌謝 viii 目錄 ix 圖目錄 xiii 表目錄 xvi 第一章 前言 1.1 研究起源 1 1.2 研究動機 1 1.3 研究目的 2 第二章 背景資料 2.1 紙張黃化之原因 3 2.2 螢光增白劑 4 2.2.1 螢光增白劑增白效應 6 2.3 染料 7 2.3.1 染料與螢光增白劑的應用 10 2.4 輔助接著劑 10 2.4.1 澱粉 11 2.4.2 大豆蛋白 12 2.4.3 羧甲基纖維素 12 2.5 白視與視白度 12 2.5.1 白度 13 2.5.2 視白度 15 2.5.3 顏色表示法 16 第三章 文獻回顧 3.1 螢光增白劑在濕端配料之應用 19 3.2 螢光增白劑應用在塗料配方之應用 24 第四章 實驗規劃及方法 4.1 實驗目的 26 4.2 實驗規劃與方法 29 4.2.1 螢光增白劑在濕端配料實

驗之應用 29 4.2.2 螢光增白劑在塗料配方實驗之應用 37 第五章 實驗結果與討論 5.1 螢光增白劑在濕端配料之應用 43 5.1.1 BCTMP不同添加量對手抄紙白度與視白度之影響 44 5.1.2 不同類型螢光增白劑對含不同添加量BCTMP手抄紙白度之影響 44 5.1.3 不同類型螢光增白劑對含不同添加量BCTMP手抄紙視白度之影響 46 5.1.4 含BCTMP不同添加量與不同類型螢光 增白劑手抄紙之CIE L*a*b*顏色值 47 5.1.5 不同類型螢光增白劑對含15% BCTMP手抄紙CIE L*a*b*顏色值之影響 49 5.1.6 UV光照射對添加含不同量BCTMP之螢光增白手抄紙白度之影響 50 5.1.7 UV光對含不同類型螢光增白劑及15% BCTMP手 抄紙白度及視白度之影響 52 5.1.8 不同類型螢光增白劑與不同量固色劑添加對手抄紙白度之影響 53 5.2 白度、不透明度與 吸收係數之計算 57 5.2.1 不同類型螢光增白劑對含15% BCTMP手抄紙白度、視白度及吸收係數之影響 58 5.3 UV光檢測白 水中螢光增白劑之含量 61 5.3.1 螢光增白劑在手抄紙中保留率與白度之關係 62 5.3.2 螢光增白劑比例對螢光強度與白度影 響 63 5.3.3 BCTMP不同添加量對螢光增白劑保留率與手抄紙白度之影響 64 5.3.4 固色劑對螢光增白劑在手抄紙中之保留率 與其白度之影響 65 5.4 螢光增白劑在塗料配方之應用 66 5.4.1 塗料性質 66 5.4.2 含不同型態螢光增白劑量之塗佈紙之白度 與視白度 67 5.4.3 輔助接著劑對含螢光增白劑塗佈紙之白度與視白度之影響 68 5.4.4 輔助接著劑對含六磺酸螢光增白劑塗 佈紙之白度與視白度影響 70 5.4.5 壓光對含輔助接著劑與螢光增白劑塗佈紙白度之影響 71 5.4.6 壓光對含輔助接著劑與螢 光增白劑的塗佈紙視白度之影響 73 5.4.7 含不同型熊螢光增白劑塗佈紙之CIE L*a*b*顏色值 75 5.5 手抄紙塗佈試驗 76 5.5.1 照射UV光對各試紙白度與視白度的影響 77 5.5.2 照射UV光對各試紙CIE 顏色L*a*b*顏色值的影響 78 5.6 經濟效益評估 79 第六章 結論與建議 6.1 結論 83 6.2 建議 88 參考文獻 89 附錄-1 濕端實驗 92 附錄-2 固色劑對光學性質之影響 100 附錄-3 UV 光檢測白水中螢光增白劑含量 115 附錄-4 吸收係數與散射係數 129 附錄-5 PCD實驗數據 141 附錄-6 塗料物性與塗料配製 144 附錄-7 塗佈紙之光學性質 150 附錄-8 手抄紙塗佈之光學性質 157 圖目錄 圖2.1 二磺酸基螢光增白劑結構式. 4 圖2.2 四 磺酸基螢光增白劑結構式. 5 圖2.3 六磺酸基螢光增白劑結構式. 5 圖2.4 DSBP螢光增白劑結構式 6 圖2.5 酸性染料結構式. 8 圖2.6 鹽基染料結構式. 8 圖2.7 直接性染料結構式. 9 圖2.8 顏料性染料結構式. 10 圖2.9 TAPPI白度測量方法 13 圖2.10 TAPPI不透明度測試原理 15 圖2.11 三度空間色度座標. 17 圖2.12 CIE L*a*b*表色系統 18 圖4.1 實驗流程圖. 28 圖4.2 二磺酸 與四磺酸螢光增白劑之檢量線. 34 圖4.3 R0、R 與C0.89關係圖 36 圖4.4 塗料配製程序. 37 圖5.1 BCTMP添加量對白度與 視白度之影響 44 圖5.2 不同型態螢光增白劑比例對含不同添加量BCTMP手抄紙白 度之影響. 45 圖5.3 不同型態螢光增白劑 比例對含BCTMP手抄紙視白度影響 .47 圖5.4 不同類型螢光增白劑添加量對含BCTMP手抄紙CIE L*a*b* 值之影響 49 圖5.5 不同類型螢光增白劑對含BCTMP手抄紙CIE L*a*b*顏色值 之影響. 50 圖5.6 UV光不同照射時間對含不同BCTMP量及不同 類型螢光增 白劑手抄紙之白度影響. 51 圖5.7 UV光照射對含15% BCTMP及螢光增白劑添加1.5%手抄紙 白度及視白度之影 響. 52 圖5.8 UV光照射對含BCTMP及螢光增白劑添加15% 手抄紙之 CIE L*a*b*顏色值影響. 53 圖5.9 不同類型螢光增白劑 與不同量固色劑添加對含15 % BCTMP 手抄紙白度之影響. 54 圖5.10 不同型態螢光增白劑添加量對含不同量BCTMP手抄 紙之 白度及吸收係數之影響. 59 圖5.11 不同型態螢光增白劑添加量對含15% BCTMP手抄紙之白 度及吸收係數之影響. 60 圖5.12 二磺酸類螢光增白劑不同添加量與保留率及手抄紙白度之關係. 62 圖5.13 二磺酸類螢光增白劑對手抄紙螢光強度與 白度之影響. 63 圖5.14 BCTMP不同添加量對保留率與白度之影響. 64 圖5.15 固色劑對保留率與白度之影響. 65 圖5.16 不同 型態螢光增白劑及濃度對塗佈紙白度與視白度之影響.67圖5.17澱粉對含不同型態螢光增白劑塗佈紙白度與視白度之影響 .68 圖5.18 CMC對含不同型態螢光增白劑塗佈紙白度與視白度之影 響. 69 圖5.19 大豆蛋白對含不同型態螢光增白劑塗佈紙 白度與視白度之 影響. 69 圖5.20 不同輔助接著劑對含螢光增白劑塗佈紙白度與視白度之影 響. 70 圖5.21 壓光對含澱粉輔助 接著劑於不同型態螢光增白劑的塗佈紙 白度之影響. 71 圖5.22 壓光對含CMC輔助接著劑於不同型態螢光增白劑的塗佈 紙 白度之影響. 72 圖5.23 壓光對含大豆蛋白輔助接著劑於不同型態螢光增白劑的塗 佈紙白度之影響. 72 圖5.24 壓光對含澱粉 輔助接著劑於不同型態螢光增白劑的塗佈紙 視白度之影響. 73 圖5.25 壓光對含CMC輔助接著劑於不同型態螢光增白劑的 塗佈 紙視白度之影響. 74 圖5.26 壓光對含大豆蛋白輔助接著劑於不同型態螢光增白劑的塗 佈紙視白度之影響. 74 圖5.27 含 不同型態螢光增白劑之塗佈紙之CIE L*a*b*顏色值 75 圖5.28 各試紙之白度與視白度變化. 77 圖5.29 UV光照射對各試紙白 度的變化 78 表目錄 表3.1 螢光增白劑在濕端配料之應用文獻及重要試驗結果. 22 表3.1 螢光增白劑在濕端配料之應用文獻 及重要試驗結果(續). 23 表3.2 螢光增白劑在塗佈配方之應用文獻及重要試驗結果. 25 表4.1 總實驗變數與測試項目. 27 表4.2 配料種類與配比. 29 表4.3 螢光增白劑與青蓮配比. 30 表4.4 固色劑添加比例. 30 表4.5 散射係數比(k/s)之反射比函數 38 表4.7 輔助接著劑添加比例. 38 表4.8 螢光增白劑添加比例. 39 表5.1 含不同量固色劑之二磺酸類 螢光增白紙白水之PCD 55 表5.2 含不同量固色劑之四磺酸類螢光增白紙白水之PCD 56 表5.3 含不同螢光增白劑手抄紙之吸 收係數與散射係數. 58 表5.4 塗料之性質. 66 表5.5 塗料性質. 76 表5.6 各種試?之吸收係數與散射係數. 76 表5.7 原料單價表. 80 表5.8 漿料配比成本及白度. 81 表5.9 抄造達白度88 %GE手抄紙之成本與白度 82

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