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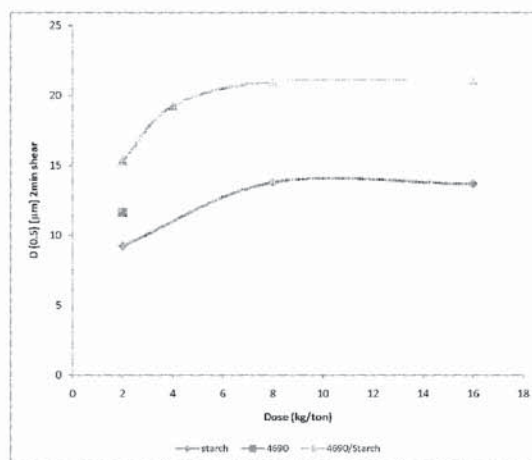
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(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR TREATING FILLER IN PAPERMAKING

Figure 1



(57) Abstract: Method of papermaking comprises: treating filler with a starch and a flocculant to form a filler floc; combining the filler floc with the cellulose fiber stock; and forming a paper mat from the combination of filler floc and cellulose fiber stock. The method have been found to result in larger particle sizes for the filler flocs, improved shear stability, and improved sheet strength in the paper mat.