



(51) International Patent Classification:

C09J 129/04 (2006.01) *C09J 129/14* (2006.01)
C04B 26/04 (2006.01) *C09J 131/04* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2015/064374

(22) International Filing Date:

8 December 2015 (08.12.2015)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

62/096,758 24 December 2014 (24.12.2014) US
14/840,288 31 August 2015 (31.08.2015) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: JOINT FINISHING ADHESIVE

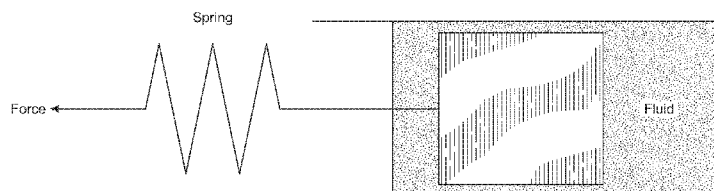


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: Provided is an adhesive composition suitable for fortifying panel joints in construction, the adhesive composition comprising a polymeric binder, filler and thickener, wherein the binder is selected from acrylic acid polymers, acrylic acid copolymers, alkyds, polyurethanes, polyesters, epoxies, and combinations thereof and wherein the viscosity of the composition is the range from 100 to 200 Bradbender Units and density is in the range from about 7.5 lbs/gal to about 10 lbs/gal. Methods of using the adhesive composition in wall assembly are provided as well.



JOINT FINISHING ADHESIVE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of priority from US Provisional Patent Application 62/096,758, filed December 24, 2014 and US Patent Application
5 14/840,288, filed August 31, 2015, the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] This invention relates to construction materials and building construction
10 methods. It provides adhesive formulations suitable for fortifying joints between abutting panels in wall and ceiling assemblies. Methods also provided for using the adhesive formulations with joint seams, joint reinforcement tape, joint reinforcement trim and framing members.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] In building construction, different types of claddings are used as panels for forming interior and exterior wall and ceiling surfaces. Typically, the claddings are in the form of boards (also referred to as panels) affixed to framing members such as in balloon framing arrangements known in the art. Examples of claddings
20 include gypsum board faced with paper, fibrous mats (e.g., fiberglass), and the like. These and other types of boards are typically cut to appropriate dimensions and then fastened to framing members, e.g., with screws, nails, or the like to form wall sections formed from multiple boards.

[0004] Two side-by-side boards disposed in the same plane will form a joint
25 seam between them on vertical walls and horizontal ceilings. To finish the seam, joint reinforcement tape is embedded in the seam, along with a layer of joint compound under the tape, and multiple coats of joint compound applied over the tape. Some boards meet at an angle such as when forming a corner.

Reinforcement bead can be utilized to hide the corner seam and to protect the
30 corner. Reinforcement bead can be directly attached to the board using fasteners, or a layer of joint compound is applied under the trim to adhere the reinforcement bead to the board. The installed reinforcement is then concealed with multiple layers of joint compound applied over the trim. Fasteners used to affix the board to

framing members must also be concealed with multiple layers of joint compound applied over them. After the various joint compound applications are dried, the resulting wall surfaces can be sanded and painted to form the desired uniform and aesthetically pleasing appearance.

- 5 **[0005]** The level of finishing as described above can vary. For example, with respect to gypsum wallboard, six (6) levels of gypsum board finish are understood in the art, ranging from zero (no treatment at all) to level five (the highest level of finish), as set forth in Gypsum Association document GA-214 and American Society for Testing and Materials (“ASTM”) C840. The level of finish generally corresponds with the number of applications of joint compound to seams, trims, and fasteners. Levels three, four, and five are typically used for occupied spaces within buildings. For single family homes, level 4 is the most common level that is implemented. Level five is less frequently used and usually requires application of a skim coat of joint compound across the entire wall surface.
- 10 **[0006]** Conventional approaches for finishing wall assemblies as described above have not been fully satisfactory. The materials conventionally used to finish wall assemblies create significant inefficiencies in the process and also require an advanced level of skill to use effectively. For example, existing joint compounds require three separate coats to be applied to fasteners as well as multiple coats applied to flat seams between boards in the same plane and to corner seams. Each coat must separately dry which introduces significant downtime in the construction process, particularly since the other construction trades ordinarily cannot work inside the building while the wall finishing occurs. Each layer of joint compound can require about a day to dry, and it typically can take about a week to install the gypsum board and finish the flat joints, fasteners, and corner trims for a typical new construction of a home of 2,400 square feet of living space (corresponding to about 10,000 square feet of board).
- 20 **[0007]** US Patent Publication US-2014-0083038-A1 describes a joint compound and wall assembly in which a joint compound can be applied in one layer only. This system eliminates the need for applying multiple coats of joint compound and decreases the time needed for wall installation.
- 25
- 30

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] This invention provides adhesive compositions useful in assembling walls during construction. In some embodiments, the adhesive composition comprises a polymeric binder, filler and thickener, wherein the binder is selected from acrylic acid polymers, acrylic acid copolymers, alkyds, polyurethanes, polyesters, epoxies, and combinations thereof and wherein the viscosity of the composition is the range from 100 to 200 Bradbender Units and density is in the range from about 7.5 lbs/gal to about 10 lbs/gal. At least in some embodiments, the adhesive composition is formulated with a binder is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl acetate (PVAc), polyvinyl alcohol (PVOH) and a combination of polyvinyl acetate with polyvinyl alcohol. In some embodiments, the amount of the binder is from 10% to 40% by weight on a solids basis of the wet composition.

[0009] At least in some embodiments, the adhesive composition comprises a filler selected from the group consisting of gelling clays, delaminating clays and any combination thereof.

[0010] In further embodiments, the filler is selected from the group consisting of kaolin clay, attapulgite clay, and any combination thereof.

[0011] In some embodiments, the filler is a combination of kaolin clay in the amount from 5% to 15% and attapulgite clay in the amount from 0.5% to 1.5% by weight.

[0012] The rheological modifier can be selected from the group consisting of hydrophobically modified ethoxylated urethanes (HEUR), hydrophobically modified alkali-swelling emulsions (HASE), styrene-maleic anhydride terpolymers (SMAT), hydroxyethyl cellulose (HEC), ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose (EHEC), methylhydroxyethyl cellulose (MHEC), carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC), hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC), alkyl hydroxypropyl cellulose ethers, hydroxypropyl methyl celluloses, xanthan gums, alginates, carrageenans, gum arabic, gum karaya, gum tragacanth, gum ghatti, guar gum, locust bean gum, tamarind gum, psyllium seed gum, quince seed gum, larch gum, pectin and its derivatives, dextrans, hydroxypropylcelluloses, and any combination thereof.

[0013] Some adhesive compositions are prepared with at least one hydroxyethyl cellulose based rheological modifier and at least one polyacrylate based associative thickener.

[0014] The adhesive composition may further comprise at least one of the following: a coloring agent, a foaming agent, a defoaming agent, a buffering agent, an anti-sedimentation agent, wetting agent, plasticizer and a dispersant.

[0015] One of the embodiments provides the adhesive composition, wherein the binder is a combination Polyvinyl Acetate/Polyvinyl Alcohol in an amount from 10% to 40% by weight, the filler is a combination of attapulgite clay in an amount from 0.5% to 1.5% by weight and kaolin clay in an amount from 5% to 15% by weight, the rheological modifier is in an amount from 0.01% to 5% by weight, and wherein the composition further comprises a thickener in an amount from 0.01% to 5% by weight, a surfactant in an amount from 0.01% to 1% and a defoamer in an amount from 0.01% to 1%.

[0016] Further embodiments provide a method for assembling a wall, the method comprising a step of installing at least one framing member; followed by hanging two gypsum boards such as the two gypsum boards abut on at least one side and create a joint seam between the abutting two gypsum boards; coating the joint seam with the adhesive composition, and applying at least one of a joint reinforcement tape and reinforcement trim over the joint seam coated with the adhesive.

[0017] In further embodiments of this method, the adhesive composition is also applied to the framing member. In yet further embodiments, can be applied to the back side of a joint reinforcement tape and/or reinforcement trim, which is then placed over and bonded to a joint seam.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] Fig. 1 depicts a schematic of Maxwell's spring and dashpot model.

[0019] Fig. 2 is a graph of viscosity rates during shear rate ramp (left) and shear rate jump (right).

[0020] Fig. 3A is a plot of storage and loss moduli in a strain sweep test. Figs. 3B-3E are plots of storage and loss moduli are plots of storage and loss modulus during a frequency sweep test.

[0021] Fig. 4 depicts response results of various adhesives to a sudden jump in shear rate from 100 1/s to 0.1 1/s. Only the viscosity at 0.1 1/s is shown.

[0022] Fig. 5 depicts storage and loss modulus results obtained during the strain sweep test and corresponding to the linear viscoelastic region of Table 3.

[0023] Fig. 6 depicts storage and loss modulus values at 10 Hz collected during the frequency sweep test (Table 3).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 **[0024]** This invention comprises an adhesive composition useful in a joint finishing process to affix and install joint reinforcement tape, trim, and/or other types of material to conceal the joint seam. This adhesive is compatible with a great variety of joint compounds and wall installation systems, including such joint compounds and wall assemblies as provided in US Paten PublicationUS-2014-
10 0083038-A1.

[0025] The adhesive composition is formulated to impart unique physical properties designed to provide rheological control as a yield stress fluid that is both a semi-solid and liquid material dependent on the shear stress conditions, a unique wet tack property during installation process, a long open time to execute a practical
15 workable range during installation, yet this adhesive provides a fast drying characteristic after installation.

[0026] The adhesive enables efficient and effective installation when delivered to the intended surface using any variety of methods such as brush, roller, spray, or other mechanical apparatus or tool used in the trades, such as an automatic taping
20 tool or manual hopper devices (commonly referred to as “banjo” or hopper coating device).

[0027] In accordance with some preferred embodiments of the present invention, a mechanical taping tool apparatus designed to accurately dispense an adhesive that is evenly distributed across the joint reinforcement tape may be employed.
25 Other methods and tools to deliver the adhesive to the wall can be also used.

[0028] The adhesive acts to mechanically bond or bind the joint reinforcement tape to abutting gypsum panels over the joint seam to resist physical separation. The adhesive further serves to assist the joint reinforcement tape in providing, in part, a crack resistant joint system by evenly distributing stress more efficiently
30 across the joint seam. The wet applied adhesive converts to a solid film through evaporation of water.

[0029] Embodiments include several adhesive base formulations that could be dispensed through tool(s). In preferred embodiments of the present invention, a stable, low yield stress fluid imparts a hysteresis characteristic. The adhesive

exhibits a desired strain sweep that imparts the rheological behavior from a shear thinning fluid with rapid recovery to a semi-solid state. The composition of the adhesive is a low solids, high shrinkage, water based latex dispersion.

[0030] The adhesive imparts certain other physical properties and provides significant open time and workability of 30 minutes or more to enable practical installation under typical jobsite construction conditions, yet when the adhesive sets into place following the taping operation dries or cures in about 10 minutes or less after installation. A benefit to providing a rapid dry/cure property enables faster completion of a joint finishing system.

[0031] The adhesive possesses a resistance softening or re-emulsifying when rewet with water and/or other aqueous based materials.

[0032] The adhesive formulation acts as a bonding agent or binding glue and this composition is also suitable for application in areas exposed to higher humidity.

[0033] The adhesive can be applied to framing members to minimize the number of fasteners used to hang a board. The adhesive can also be used to facilitate application of joint reinforcement tape and reinforcement trim. In some embodiments, the adhesive is applied on the back side of joint reinforcement tape which is then placed over and bonded to a joint seam of two adjacent boards. In other embodiments, the adhesive is applied on the back side of a reinforcement trim which is then placed over and bonded with the adhesive to a joint seam of two adjacent boards.

[0034] The adhesive can be applied with any joint reinforcement tape or reinforcement trim including those that comprise, consist of, or consist essentially of paper face comprising non-swelling synthetic paper facing material and a backing. For example, the facing material can be laminated to a sturdy, rust-resistant material designed to impart superior long term corner angle joint reinforcement that exceeds the minimum performance requirements established in ASTM C1047-10a (Standard Specification for Accessories for Gypsum Wallboard and Gypsum Veneer Base) for crack resistance and chipping, resulting in corner vertex that remains straight during normal building movement and/or displacement and daily wear-and-tear. In some embodiments, the backing comprises metal such as galvanized steel and/or other backing material having the aforesaid desired properties, including, for example, composite laminate structure, layered paper, thermoplastic, thermoset,

carbon fiber, polyester, polycarbonate, spun polyolefin, natural or synthetic fiber, woven material, and the like.

[0035] In another aspect, the invention provides a method of treating a wallboard assembly of two adjacent boards joined by a seam. The method comprises,
5 consists of, or consists essentially binding a joint tape with the adhesive to a wallboard and applying at least one coat of a joint compound composition over the joint tape.

[0036] The adhesive comprises a polymeric binder, filler and thickener. Suitable binders are selected from acrylic acid polymers, acrylic acid copolymers, alkyds,
10 polyurethanes, polyesters, epoxies, and combinations thereof.

[0037] Particularly preferred binders include polyvinyl acetate (PVAc), polyvinyl alcohol (PVOH) and a combination of polyvinyl acetate with polyvinyl alcohol.

[0038] In some embodiments, the binder generally can be any suitable film-forming resin (or combinations thereof) capable of forming a solid film and binding
15 solid materials to the surface to which the joint compound composition is applied. For example, the binder can be an acrylic acid polymer and/or acrylic acid copolymer in some embodiments. The binder is in the form of an aqueous emulsion in some embodiments, with suitable latex emulsion media including, but not limited to, acrylics, such as, for example, vinyl acrylics and styrenated acrylics. In some
20 embodiments, suitable binder materials include acrylic latex, vinyl-acrylic, vinyl acetate, polyurethane, and/or combinations thereof.

[0039] The binder can be included in the adhesive composition in any suitable amount. For example, the binder can be included in an amount from about 5 wt.% to about 100 wt.% by weight (on a solids basis) of the wet composition, such as
25 from about 10 wt.% to about 50 wt.%, from about 10 wt.% to about 40 wt.%, from about 20 wt.% to about 50 wt.%, from about 20 wt.% to about 80 wt.%, from about 30 wt.% to about 70 wt.%, from about 40 wt.% to about 60 wt.%, etc.

[0040] Suitable binders include at least one of the following binder or a combination at least two of such binders available from Celanese, Inc.: RESYN 107
30 (polyvinyl acetate/dextrin), DUR-O-SET E-130 (polyvinyl acetate/polyvinyl alcohol), RESYN SB-321 (polyvinyl acetate/HEC), TurCOR 3025 (polyvinyl acetate/ polyvinyl alcohol). Other suitable binders include SELVOL 09-325 (polyvinyl alcohol) and SELVOL 21-205 (polyvinyl alcohol) available from Sekisui, Inc.

[0041] The adhesive comprises at least one filler. Suitable fillers include clay fillers. Suitable clay fillers include gelling clays, delaminating clays and any combination thereof. Suitable gelling clays include attapulgite clay. Suitable delaminating clays include kaolin clay. In some embodiments only a gelling clay is used. In other embodiments only a delaminating clay is used. In further embodiments, a combination of at least one gelling clay and at least one attapulgite clay is used.

[0042] The total amount of clay in the adhesive formulation varies. In some embodiments up to about 40 wt.% of clay can be included. In some embodiments, the clay can be present, for example, in an amount of up to about 35 wt.%, up to about 30 wt.%, up to about 25 wt.%, up to about 20 wt.%, up to about 15 wt.%, up to about 10 wt.%, up to about 5 wt.%, or up to about 1 wt.% added based on the weight of the wet composition. Each of the aforementioned endpoints can have a lower limit, e.g., ranging from 1 wt.%, 5 wt.%, 10 wt.%, 15 wt.%, 20 wt.%, 25 wt.%, 30 wt.%, or 35 wt.%, as numerically appropriate.

[0043] In some embodiments, the clay is kaolin clay. In other embodiments, the clay is attapulgite clay. In further embodiments, the clay is a combination of kaolin clay and attapulgite clay. The total amount of clay may be in the range 1-40 wt%, 1-30 wt%, or 1-20 wt%. The total amount of kaolin clay may be in the range 5-30 wt%, 5-20 wt%, or 5-15 wt%. The total amount of attapulgite clay may be in the range 1-10 wt%, 1-5 wt%, 1-2.5 wt%, or 0.5-1.5 wt%.

[0044] The adhesive formulation further comprises a rheological modifier. Suitable rheological modifiers include, but are not limited to, cellulosic and associative thickeners, including but limited to, hydrophobically modified ethoxylated urethanes (HEUR), hydrophobically modified alkali-swellaable emulsions (HASE), and styrene-maleic anhydride terpolymers (SMAT), and/or combinations thereof. Exemplary cellulosic rheological modifiers include, but are not limited to, cellulose ethers such as hydroxyethyl cellulose (HEC), ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose (EHEC), methylhydroxyethyl cellulose (MHEC), carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC), hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC), and/or other cellulose ethers having a molecular weight between about 1000 and 500,000 daltons, e.g., alkyl hydroxypropyl cellulose ethers, hydroxypropyl methyl celluloses, as well as xanthan gums, sodium alginates and other salts of alginic acid, carrageenans, gum arabic (mixed salts of arabic acid), gum karaya (an acetylated polysaccharide), gum

tragacanth (a complex mixture of acidic polysaccharides), gum ghatti (the calcium and magnesium salt of a complex polysaccharide), guar gum (a straight chain galactomannan) and its derivatives, locust bean gum (a branched galactomannan), tamarind gum, psyllium seed gum, quince seed gum, larch gum, pectin and its derivatives, dextrans, and hydroxypropylcelluloses, or any combination thereof.

[0045] The rheological modifier can be included in any suitable amount, e.g., to achieve a desired viscosity. In some embodiments, the rheological modifier is included in an amount from about 0.01% to about 15%, by weight of the wet composition, such as from about 0.01% to about 10%, from about 0.01% to about 5%, from about 0.1% to about 5%, from about 0.1% to about 3%, from about 0.1% to about 2%, or from about 0.1% to about 1%. The joint compound typically comprises from about 0.01 wt.% to about 10 wt.%, about 0.1 wt.% to about 5.0 wt.%, and/or about 0.10 wt.% to about 3.0 wt.% of the cellulosic thickener. An exemplary hydroxyethylcellulose rheological modifier includes NATROSOL® (Ashland, Inc.).

[0046] The adhesive composition may further comprise an associative thickener. Such suitable associative thickeners include acidic acrylate copolymers (cross-linked) of ethyl acrylate and methacrylic acid, and acrylic terpolymers (cross-linked) of ethyl acrylate, methacrylic acid, and nonionic urethane surfactant monomer. The adhesive composition can comprise from about 0.01 wt.% to about 10 wt.%, from about 0.01 wt.% to about 5 wt.%, from about 0.1 wt.% to about 5.0 wt.%, and/or about 0.1 wt.% to about 3 wt.% of the associative thickener. Useful associative thickeners include a hydrophobically modified crosslinked polyacrylate powder marketed under the CARBOPOL® trade name (Lubrizol, Inc.).

[0047] In some embodiments, the adhesive composition comprises at least one hydroxyethyl cellulose based rheological modifier and at least one polyacrylate based associative thickener. In some embodiments, the adhesive composition comprises at least one hydroxyethyl cellulose based rheological modifier in the amount from 0.01 to 20 wt%, and at least one polyacrylate based associative thickener in the amount from 0.01 to 20 wt%.

[0048] The adhesive composition also comprises at least one surfactant. For example, in some embodiments, the surfactant can be a surfactant having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) from about 3 to about 20, such as from about 4 to about 15 or from about 5 to about 10. The surfactant can be present in any

suitable amount, such as from about 0.001% to about 15% by weight of the wet composition, such as from about 0.001% to about 10%, from about 0.001% to about 5%, or from about 0.01% to about 0.5%.

[0049] The adhesive composition may further comprise at least one dispersant.

Suitable dispersants include amine based dispersants such as a multifunctional amine marketed under the AMP® trade name (Angus, Inc.).

[0050] The adhesive composition may further comprise at least one humectant. Any suitable humectants can be included, such as, for example, sorbitol derivatives, polyhydric alcohols, including but not limited to glycols such as ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol (DEG), triethylene glycol, propylene glycol, di-propylene glycol, and/or tri-propylene glycol, glycerol or any combination thereof. If included, the humectants can be included in an amount from about 0.001% to about 15% by weight of the wet composition, such as from about 0.001% to about 10%, from about 0.01% to about 5%, or from about 0.001% to about 3%.

[0051] The adhesive composition has a pH in the range from about 7.0 to about 12. In some embodiments, the adhesive composition has a pH in the range from about 8.0 to about 12. In some embodiments, the adhesive composition has a pH in the range from about 9.0 to about 12.

[0052] A variety of basic materials may be used in the adhesive composition to adjust the pH as needed. Such basic compounds include, but are not limited to ammonia, caustic soda (sodium hydroxide), tri-ethylamine (TEA), and 2-amino-2-methyl-1 propanol (AMP). In various embodiments, the adhesive composition comprises about 0.001 wt.% to about 10 wt.%, about 0.01 wt.% to about 0.5 wt.%, and/or about 0.01 wt.% to about 0.50 wt.% of the alkaline/basic material.

[0053] In some embodiments, the adhesive composition further comprises a biocide in any suitable amount, e.g., from about 0% to about 5% by weight of the wet composition, such as from about 0.05% to about 2%, from about 0.1% to about 1.5%, from about 0.1% to about 1%, or from about 0.1% to about 4%. If included, in some embodiments of the adhesive composition, the biocide comprises a bactericide and/or a fungicide. An illustrative useful bactericide is marketed under the MERGAL 174 ® trade name (TROY Chemical Corporation). An illustrative useful fungicide is marketed under the FUNGITROL® trade name (International Specialty Products, New Jersey), or any combination thereof.

[0054] The adhesive composition may further comprise at least one of the following: a coloring agent, a foaming agent, a defoaming agent, a buffering agent, an anti-sedimentation agent, wetting agent, plasticizer and a dispersant.

[0055] The adhesive composition is formulated to have a viscosity when wet from about 100 Brabender units (BU) to about 700 BU, such as from about 100 BU to about 600 BU, about 100 BU to about 500 BU, about 100 BU to about 400 BU, about 100 BU to about 300 BU, about 100 BU to about 200 BU, about 130 BU to about 700 BU, about 130 BU to about 600 BU, about 130 BU to about 500 BU, about 130 BU to about 400 BU, about 130 BU to about 300 BU, about 130 BU to about 200 BU, about 150 BU to about 700 BU, about 150 BU to about 600 BU, about 150 BU to about 500 BU, about 150 BU to about 400 BU, about 150 BU to about 300 BU, or about 150 BU to about 200 BU. The viscosity is measured according to ASTM C474-05, Section 5 using a CW Brabender viscometer with a Type-A Pin, sample cup size of 1/2 pint with a 250 cm-gm cartridge Brabender Torque-Head and an RPM of 75.

[0056] The adhesive composition is formulated to have a density when wet from about 2 lbs/gal to about 20 lbs/gal, such as from about 2 lbs/gal to about 17 lbs/gal, from about 2 lbs/gal to about 15 lbs/gal, from about 2 lbs/gal to about 10 lbs/gal, from about 2 lbs/gal to about 7.5 lbs/gal, from about 5 lbs/gal to about 20 lbs/gal, from about 5 lbs/gal to about 15 lbs/gal, from about 5 lbs/gal to about 10 lbs/gal, or from about 7.5 lbs/gal to about 10 lbs/gal.

[0057] The adhesive composition provides many advantages such as it can flow through an automatic taping tool and it contributes only minimally to the dry film thickness. There is no swelling or lifting upon re-wet or when exposed to cyclic humid conditions. There is a sufficient open time for repositioning. The adhesive composition does not dry on tools and it is easy to clean up with water. The adhesive composition is compatible with joint compounds and it does not negatively affect the drying time and gloss/sheen of regular primer/finish coatings.

[0058] In some embodiments, the adhesive composition is formulated with at least the following ingredients as provided below.

Table 1. Adhesive Composition

Ingredient	Wt %
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Polyvinyl Acetate/Polyvinyl Alcohol Binder	10-40
Attapulgate Clay Filler	0.5-1.5
Kaolin Clay Filler	5-15
Rheological Modifier	0.01-5
Thickener	0.01-5
Surfactant	0.01-1
Defoamer	0.01-1

[0059] The adhesive composition of Table 1 is formulated with water to achieve the density in the range from about 7.5 lbs/gal to about 10 lbs/gal and viscosity in the range from 100-200 Brabender Units.

- 5 **[0060]** Additional components, include but are not limited to, a coloring agent, dispersant, humectant and a biocide are added. The pH of the adhesive composition is adjusted to be in the range 7-10.

[0061] The following seven adhesive formulations were prepared as described below in Table 2.

10 **Table 2. Joint Finishing Adhesive Compositions (C1-C7)**

Ingredient	C1(lbs)	C2(lbs)	C3(lbs)	C4(lbs)	C5(lbs)	C6(lbs)	C7(lbs)
Water	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Clay	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Surfactant	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Rheological Modifier	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Dispersant	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
PVAc/Dextrin Binder	200						
PVOH Binder 1		200					
PVOH binder 2			200				
PVAc/PVOH Binder				200			

PVAc/HEC					200		
PVOH binder 3						200	
PVAc/PVOH binder							200

[0062] Each of the seven formulations (C1 through C7) were compared in a paper bonding test. In this test, each adhesive sample was applied on a piece of a wallboard, and joint paper tape was applied over it, followed by the application of a joint compound over the tape. The samples were allowed to dry overnight. The bonding strength of each of the adhesive formulations was evaluated by pulling out the bonded joint paper tape from the wallboard.

[0063] It was unexpectedly discovered that formulations C1, C4 and C7 perform the best, while formulation 3 has failed the test.

[0064] Rheological characterization of the adhesive composition can be achieved by conducting various tests such as shear rate ramp, shear rate jump, strain sweep and frequency sweep. These tests were employed to characterize the rheological properties of the present joint finishing adhesive compositions.

[0065] As can be appreciated from Figs. 2- 6, the present adhesive composition formulated in accordance with Table 1 (shown as IC in Figs. 2-6) has a relatively fast response time to sudden changes in shear rate as well as has a unique combination of a high storage modulus and a low loss modulus.

[0066] As shown in Fig. 2, the controlled shear rate ramping test illustrates that the adhesive composition IC recovers its full viscosity much more rapidly than the other two highly viscous adhesives used in test for a comparative purpose.

[0067] As shown in Fig. 3A, the strain sweep test illustrates that the adhesive composition IC possesses a combination of both high storage modulus and low loss modulus.

[0068] As shown in Figs. 3B-3E, the frequency sweep testing illustrates that the adhesive composition IC has a storage modulus between the highly elastic and very low elastic fluids, while imparting a loss modulus similar to the low viscosity group comparative compositions.

Example 1. Rheological Characterization of the Adhesive Composition

[0069] Rheological characterization of adhesive materials was conducted using parallel plate geometry with a 40 mm smooth peltier plate and a 1 mm gap on a TA Instruments G2 Ares Rheometer. Different tests were used to characterize the materials, namely shear rate ramp, shear rate jump, strain sweep, and frequency sweep test.

[0070] The shear rate ramp test ramped approximately from 0.2 1/s to 400 1/s and then from 400 1/s to 0.2 1/s. The duration of each ramp was 120 s.

[0071] The shear rate jump test held a constant shear rate of 100 1/s for 60 s then jumped to 0.1 1/s for 60 s.

[0072] The strain sweep varied the strain from 0.5% to 1000% at an angular velocity of 1 1/s over duration of approximately 450 s.

[0073] The frequency sweep varied the frequency from 0.1 1/s to 600 1/s at a strain of 1% over duration of approximately 500 s.

[0074] A shear rate ramp varies the shear rate, $\dot{\gamma}$, acting on the material over several orders of magnitude. As the shear rate is changed the resulting shear stress, σ , is measured. In this case the materials are non-Newtonian and are fitted using the power law model,

$$\sigma = K(\dot{\gamma})^n$$

[0076] where K is the consistency index and n is the behavior index. It is similar to the Newtonian model, $\sigma = \mu\dot{\gamma}$, when the Newtonian viscosity is defined as

$$\mu = K(\dot{\gamma})^{n-1}$$

[0078] The consistency index can be thought of in the typical usage of the word consistency, that is a material can have a thick (large K value) or thin (small K value) consistency. The behavior index gives a measure of how shear thinning or thickening a fluid is. If the behavior index is less than 1 then fluid is shear thinning and if greater than 1, shear thickening. The further away from 1 the index is the more prevalent the type of behavior. If the index is 1 then the material is considered

Newtonian. When plotting the shear rate vs viscosity on log log graph, the consistency index is the height of the curve and the behavior index is the slope of the curve.

[0079] Fluids which are known to have some structure are often subjected to a shear rate jump test. A shear rate jump test is conducted by changing the shear rate by a relatively large amount and noting the response of the fluid. The shear rate ramp and shear rate jump differ in that a ramp gradually changes the shear rate whereas the jump changes the shear rate by several orders of magnitude instantaneously. This test is useful in identifying any hysteresis or thixotropic behavior. Hysteresis occurs when the present viscosity measurement is influenced by the shear rate history of the fluid. Thixotropy occurs when the viscosity changes in time at a constant shear rate.

[0080] With respect to viscoelastic fluids, the Maxwell model uses a spring and dashpot in series to describe a viscoelastic fluid, as shown in Fig. 1. A viscoelastic fluid has an elastic response to stress denoted as the storage modulus, G' , and a viscous response to stress denoted as the loss modulus, G'' . Using the spring and dashpot model, the strength of the spring or the viscosity of the fluid can dictate how the system will respond when stressed. For example, if the spring is weak and the viscosity of the fluid is high then when force is applied the spring will easily stretch and the dominant resistance will come from the dashpot moving through the highly viscous fluid. On the other hand, if the fluid has a low viscosity and the spring is very stiff then when force is applied then the dominant resistance will come from the spring. The storage and loss moduli, or elastic and viscous components, are measured using oscillatory rheometry.

[0081] A strain sweep varies the amount of strain on the fluid across several orders of magnitude while keeping the angular velocity of the spindle constant. Using the Maxwell model, a strain sweep would be analogous to oscillating the spring to different lengths but at a constant speed. The purpose of performing an oscillatory strain sweep is to identify the linear viscoelastic (LVE) region. Within this region the elastic and viscous components react to the stress applied. Once a specific strain is reached then the storage modulus, or elastic component, begin to decrease in magnitude. Again relating to the example the amount of strain outside the linear viscoelastic region would be like having the spring fully stretched so that there is no longer any elastic response.

[0082] A frequency sweep varies the amount of angular velocity, or shear rate, on the fluid while keeping the amount of strain constant. The appropriate amount of strain corresponds to the linear viscoelastic region. There are several pieces of information that can be obtained from a frequency sweep, however, this work only focuses on the magnitude of the storage and loss modulus.

[0083] Comparative rheological tests were conducted on the present adhesive composition (IC) formulated in accordance with Table 1 in comparison to several other adhesives and glues such as CF1 (vinyl acetate homopolymer emulsion), CF2 (polyvinyl acetate adhesive), CF3 (pre-mixed polyvinyl acetate and clay adhesive), CF4 (latex-type joint compound), and CF5 (polyurethane adhesive).

[0084] The adhesives were analyzed and compared in shear rate ramp, shear rate jump, strain sweep, and frequency sweep tests as described above.

[0085] Fig. 2 reports viscosity values measured during the shear rate ramp (left) and shear rate jump (right) for CF1-CF5 in comparison to IC.

[0086] Fig. 3A reports data on storage and loss modulus obtained during the strain sweep test. Figs. 3B-3E report data on storage and loss modulus obtained during the frequency sweep test.

[0087] Rheological properties of IC in comparison to CF1-CF5 were then calculated. The behavior index and consistency index were found by fitting the power law equation to the first ramp. The hysteresis area was calculated by taking the area between the down and up ramp. All other values were approximated from graphs of Figs 3A-3E. These properties are reported in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Rheological Properties Of The Joint Finishing Adhesive (IC)

Material	Behavior Index, n	Consistency Index, K (Pa s ⁿ)	Hysteresis Area (Pa s/s)	Rapid shear change	LVER Mod G' (Pa)	LVER Mod G'' (Pa)	Freq. sweep: G' at 10Hz (Pa)	Freq. sweep: G'' at 10Hz (Pa)
CF1	0.32	13.88	77	N/A	100	20	175	60
CF2	0.91	7.3	6	No effect	1.1	8	16	74
CF3	0.43	16.14	12	O(1 to 100)	80	20	96	30

CF4	0.25	261.32	-1014	O(10 to 1000). Longer rebuild	1000	800	8800	3800
CF5	0.25	406.92	5226	O(10 to 1000). Very long rebuild	2000	600	7900	4100
IC	0.2	213.5	2530	5 to 500. stable recovery	800	100	800	140

[0088] The response of IC to a sudden jump in shear rate from 100 1/s to 0.1 1/s was also studied in comparison to CF1-CF5. This data is reported in Fig. 4 where only the viscosity in the range at 0.1-1/s is shown.

5 **[0089]** Fig. 5 reports storage and loss modulus values collected during the strain sweep test corresponding to the linear viscoelastic region (Table 1), while Fig. 6 reports storage and loss modulus values at 10 Hz collected during the frequency sweep test (Table 1).

10 **[0090]** The shear rate ramp test shows that IC has a shear thinning behavior comparable with CF4 and CF5 since all three have highly shear thinning behavior and have a consistency index on the order of 100.

15 **[0091]** However, the shear rate jump test reveals a difference between IC and both CF4 and CF5 by maintaining a steady viscosity within 15 seconds of the rapid change in shear rate. In Figure 4, CF4 and VF5 show both a response to the rapid change in shear but then also have a continuous increase in viscosity for at least 60 s afterwards. This means that IC recovers its full viscosity much more rapidly than the other two highly viscous adhesives.

20 **[0092]** The strain sweep test characterizes the materials according to the stress released through elasticity (storage modulus) and viscous dissipation (loss modulus). CF1, CF2, and CF3 (first group) all have low values for both the storage and loss modulus compared to CF4 and CF5 (second group).

[0093] However, IC has high storage modulus similar to the second group, but a low loss modulus similar to the first group.

[0094] This combination of high storage modulus and low loss modulus makes IC formulation unique and different compared to the other adhesives tested.

5 **[0095]** The frequency sweep shows that IC has a storage modulus between the highly elastic and very low elastic fluids but has a loss modulus similar to the low viscosity group.

[0096] This supports the conclusion that IC has a relatively fast response time to sudden changes in shear rate as well as has a unique combination of a high
10 storage modulus and a low loss modulus.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An adhesive composition comprising a polymeric binder, filler and rheological modifier, wherein the rheological modifier is in an amount from about 0.01% to about 15%, by weight of the wet composition,
wherein the binder is selected from acrylic acid polymers, acrylic acid
5 copolymers, alkyds, polyurethanes, polyesters, epoxies, and combinations thereof, wherein the amount of the binder is from 10% to 40% by weight on a solids basis of the wet composition;
wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of gelling clays, delaminating clays and any combination thereof and wherein the amount of the filler
10 is from 1% to 40% by weight;
and wherein the viscosity of the composition is the range from 100 to 200 Bradbender Units and density is in the range from about 7.5 lbs/gal to about 10 lbs/gal.
2. The adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein the binder is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl acetate (PVAc), polyvinyl alcohol (PVOH) and a combination of polyvinyl acetate with polyvinyl alcohol.
3. The adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of kaolin clay, attapulgite clay, and any combination thereof.
4. The adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein the filler is a combination of kaolin clay in the amount from 5% to 15% and attapulgite clay in the amount from 0.5% to 1.5% by weight.
5. The adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein the rheological modifier is selected from the group consisting of hydrophobically modified ethoxylated urethanes (HEUR), hydrophobically modified alkali-swella-
5 ble emulsions (HASE), styrene-maleic anhydride terpolymers (SMAT), hydroxyethyl cellulose (HEC), ethylhydroxyethyl cellulose (EHEC), methylhydroxyethyl cellulose (MHEC), carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC), hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC), alkyl hydroxypropyl cellulose ethers, hydroxypropyl methyl celluloses, xanthan gums,

alginates, carrageenans, gum arabic, gum karaya, gum tragacanth, gum ghatti, guar gum, locust bean gum, tamarind gum, psyllium seed gum, quince seed gum, larch gum, pectin and its derivatives, dextrans, hydroxypropylcelluloses, and any combination thereof.

6. The adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises at least one hydroxyethyl cellulose based rheological modifier and at least one polyacrylate based associative thickener.
7. The adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises at least one surfactant having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) from about 3 to about 20.
8. The adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein the pH of the composition is adjusted to be in the range from 7.0 to 12.0.
9. The adhesive composition of claim 1, wherein the binder is a combination Polyvinyl Acetate/Polyvinyl Alcohol in an amount from 10% to 40% by weight, the filler is a combination of attapulgite clay in an amount from 0.5% to 1.5% by weight and kaolin clay in an amount from 5% to 15% by weight, the rheological modifier is in an amount from 0.01% to 5% by weight, and wherein the composition further comprises a polyacrylate based associative thickener in an amount from 0.01% to 5% by weight, a surfactant in an amount from 0.01% to 1% and a defoamer in an amount from 0.01% to 1%.
10. A method for assembling a wall, the method comprising:
 - installing at least one framing member;
 - hanging two gypsum boards such as the two gypsum boards abut on at least one side and create a joint seam between the abutting two gypsum boards;
 - coating the joint seam with the adhesive composition of claim 1; and
 - applying at least one of a joint reinforcement tape and reinforcement trim over the joint seam coated with the adhesive.

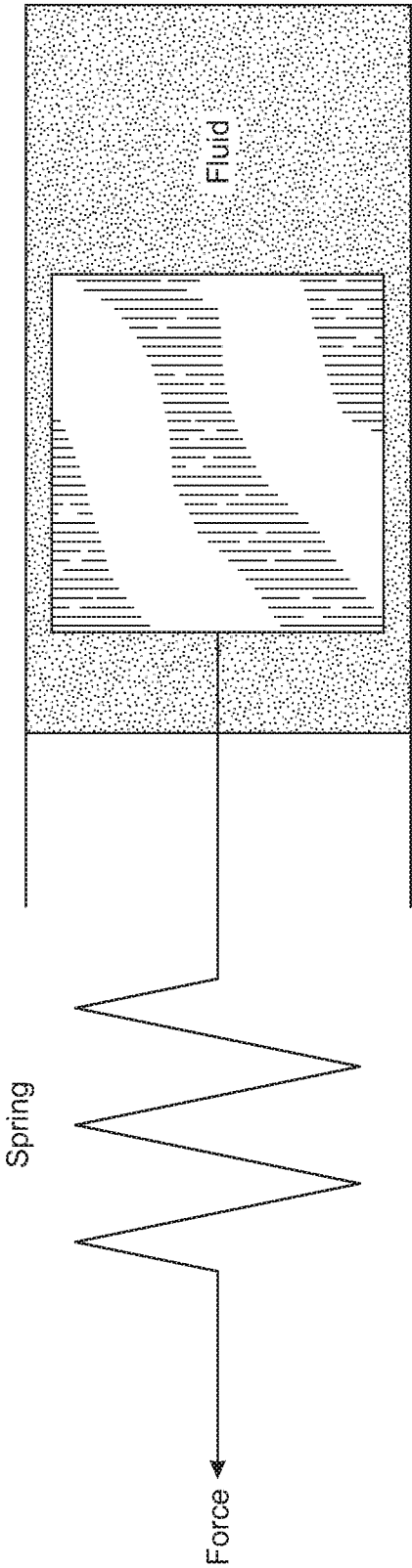


Fig. 1

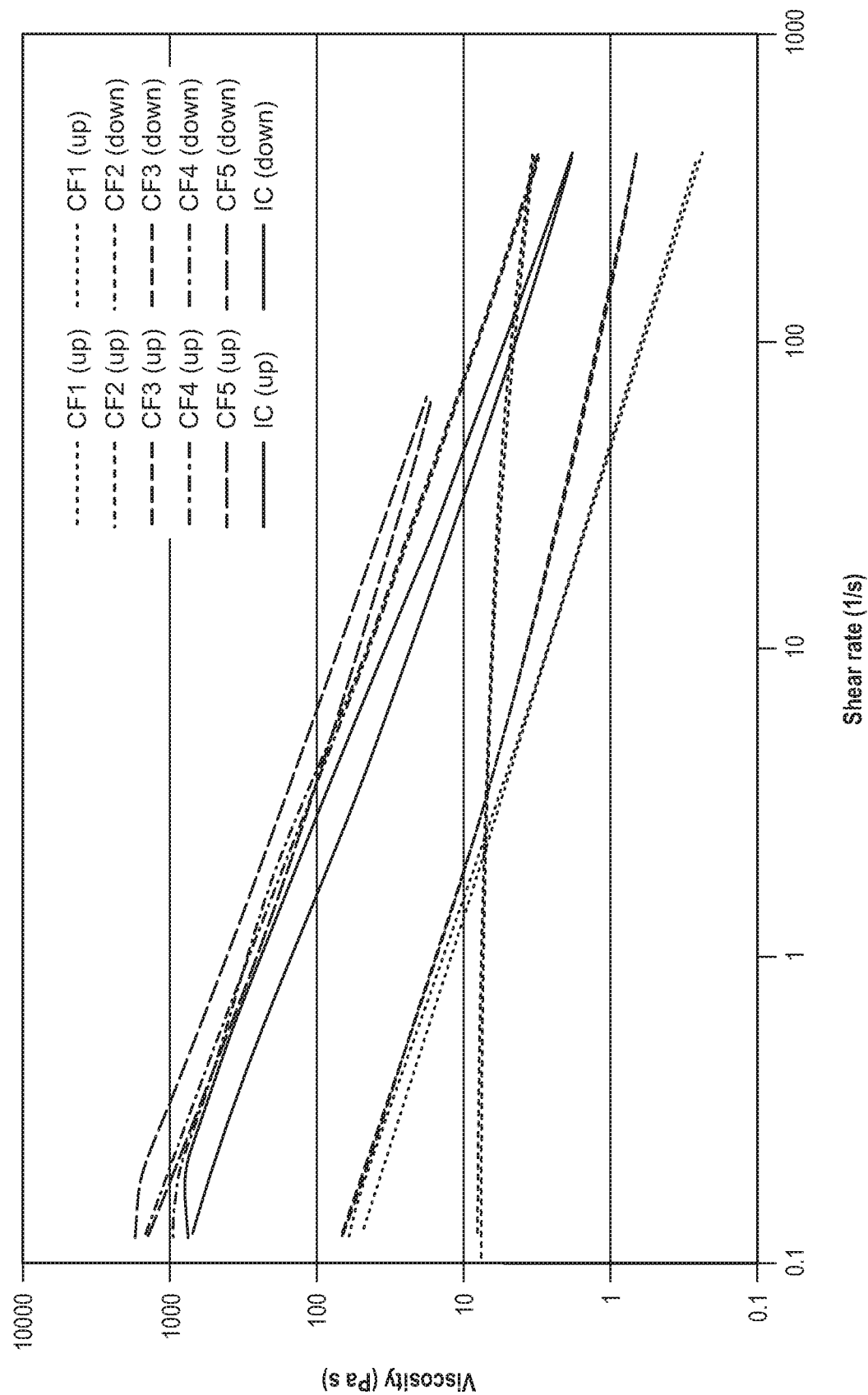


Fig. 2

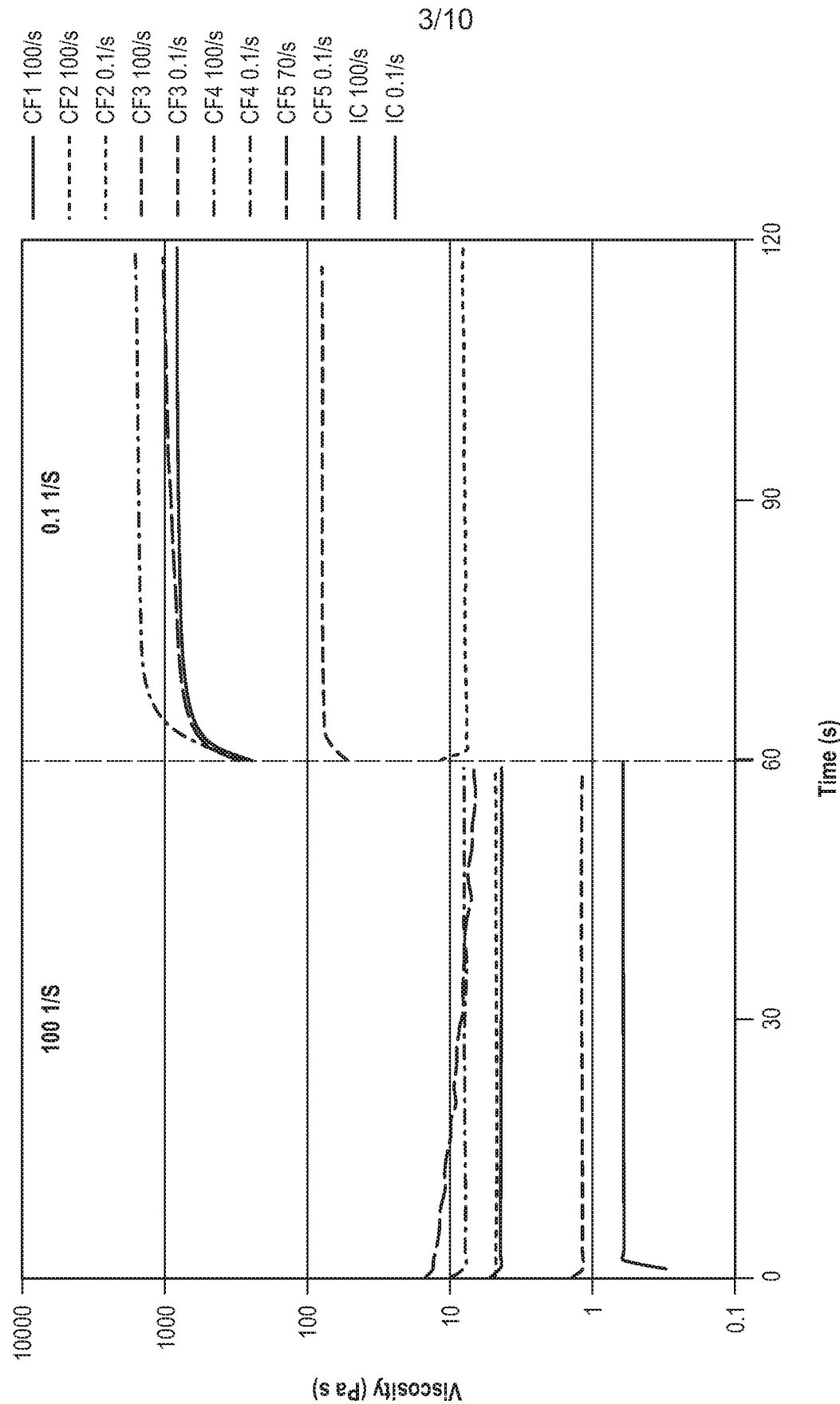


Fig. 3A

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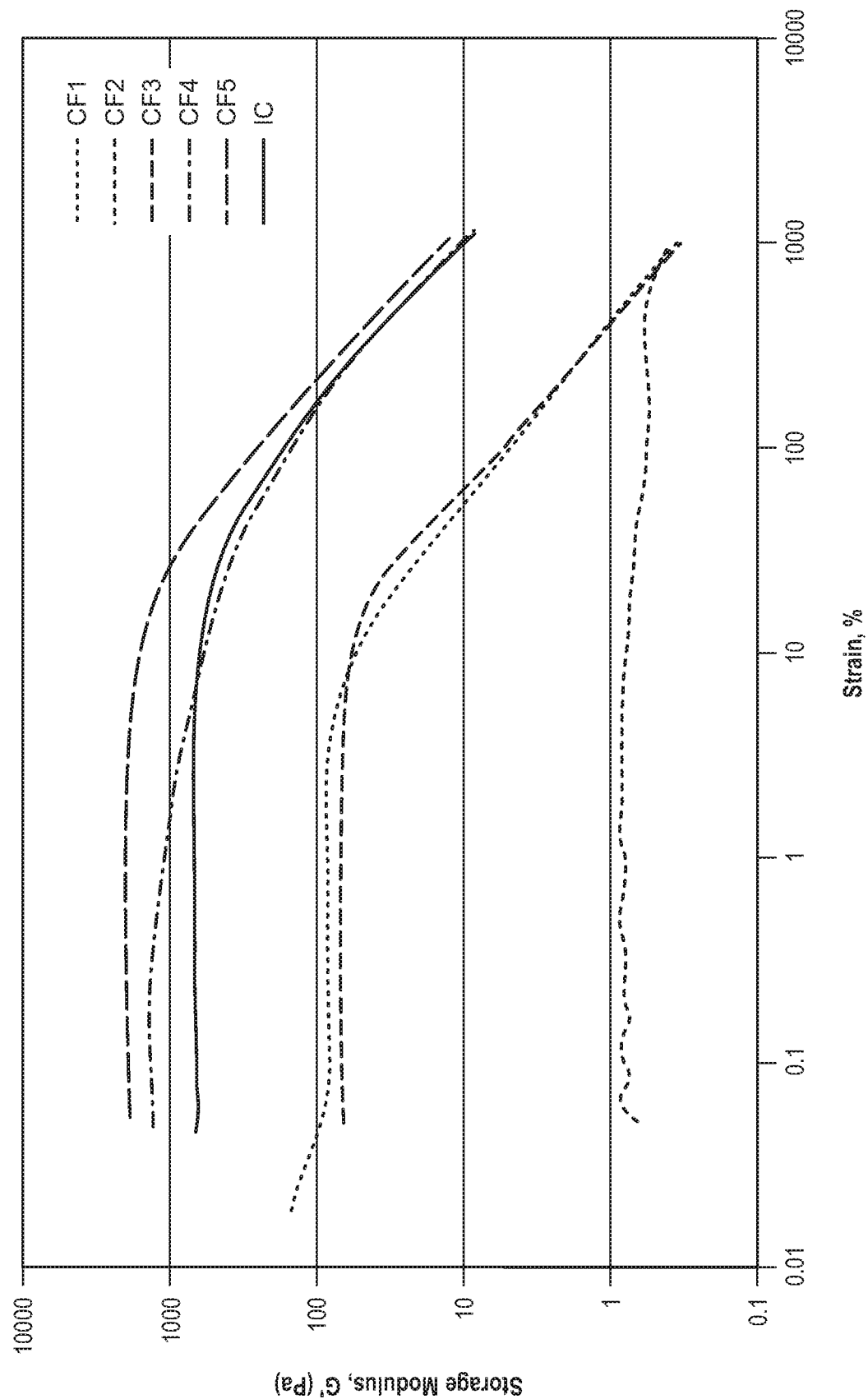


Fig. 3B

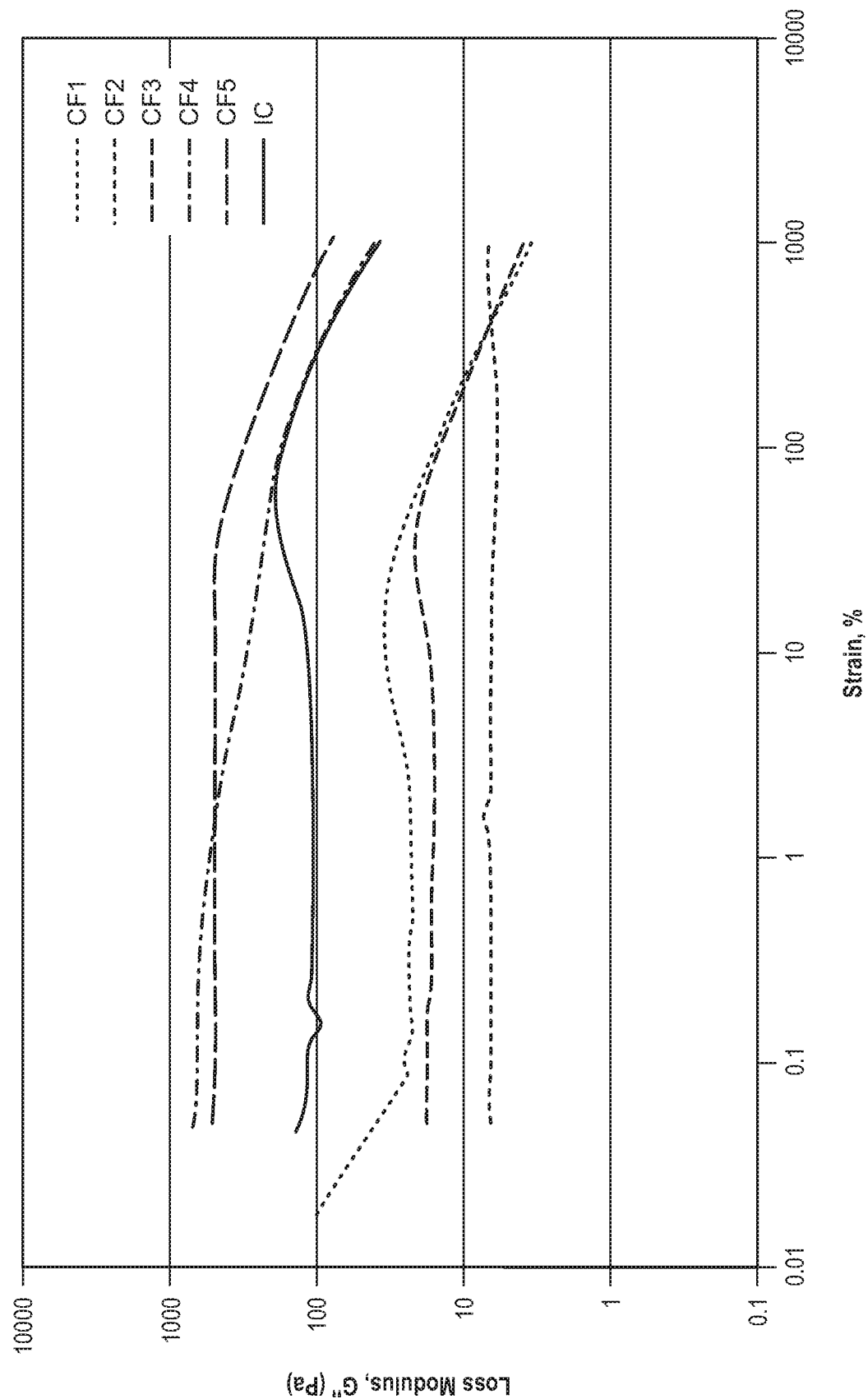


Fig. 3C

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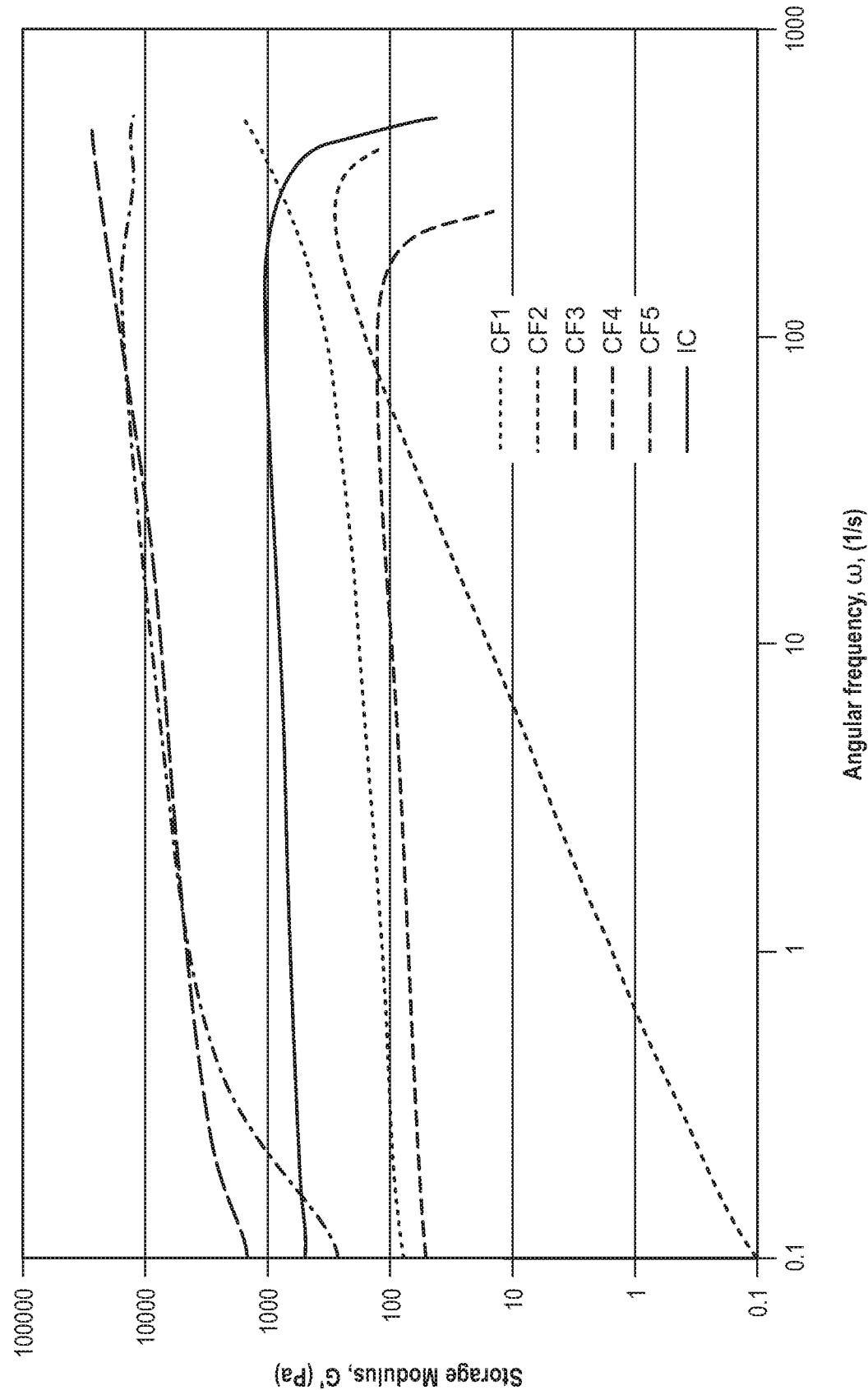


Fig. 3D

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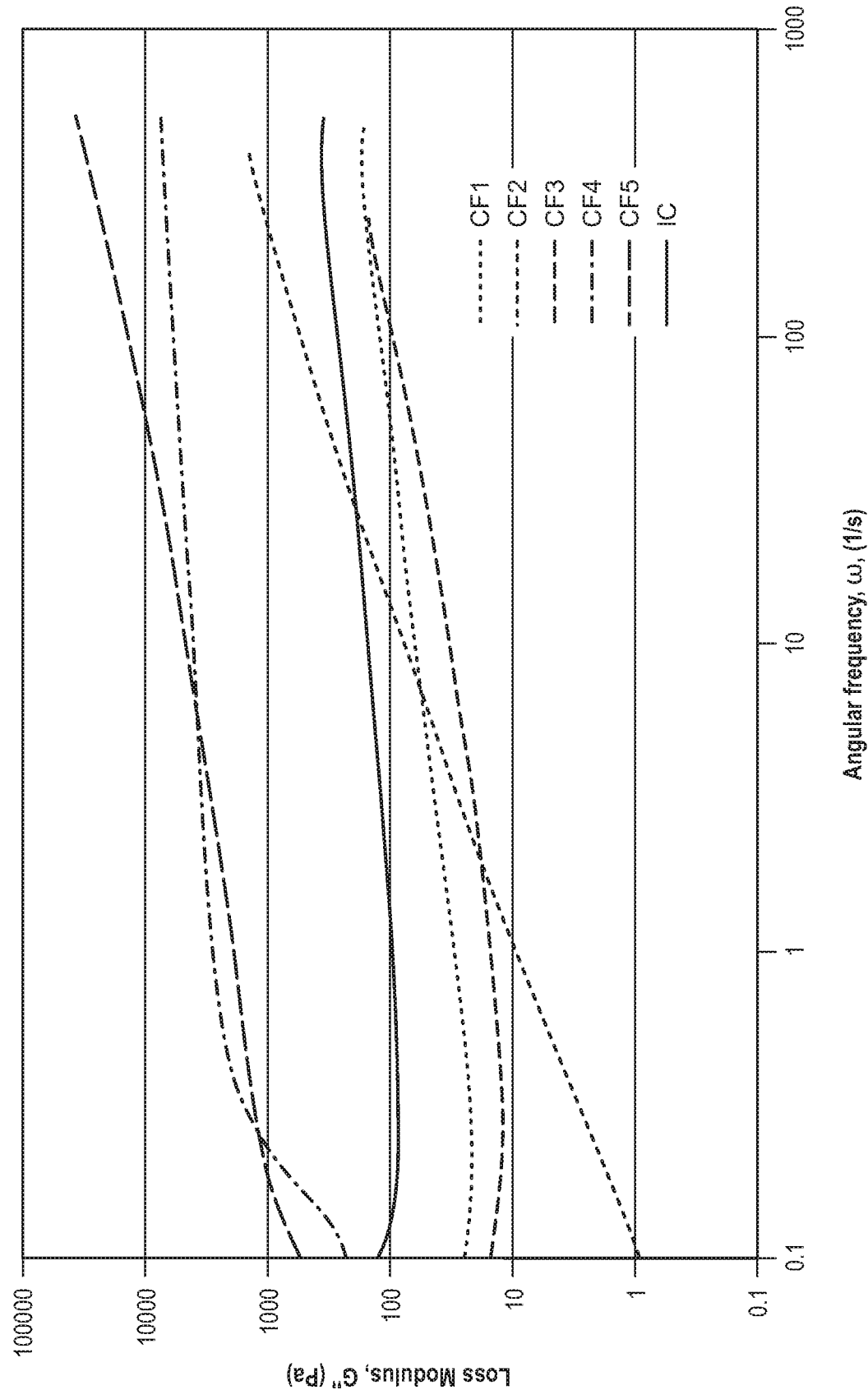


Fig. 3E

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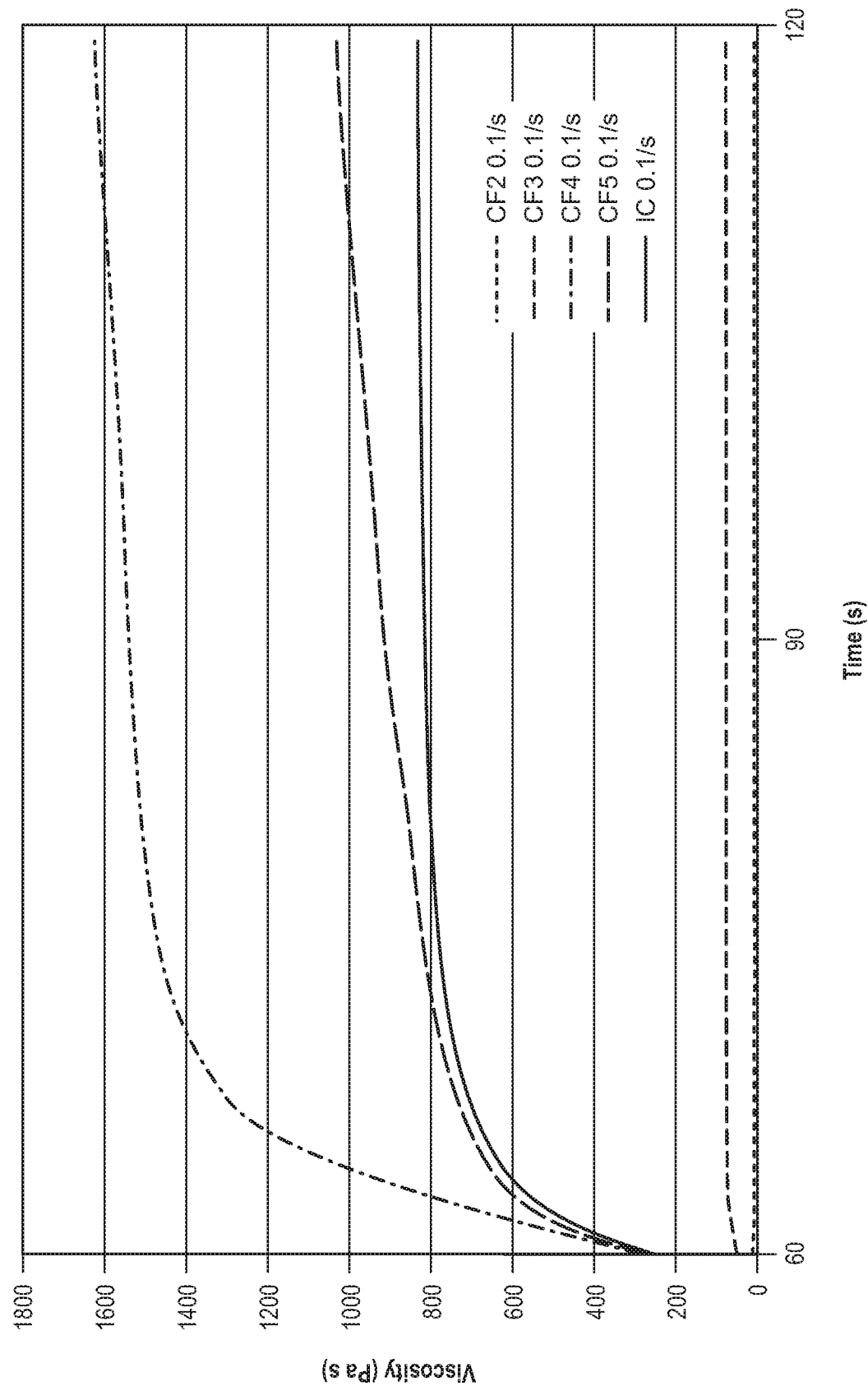


Fig. 4

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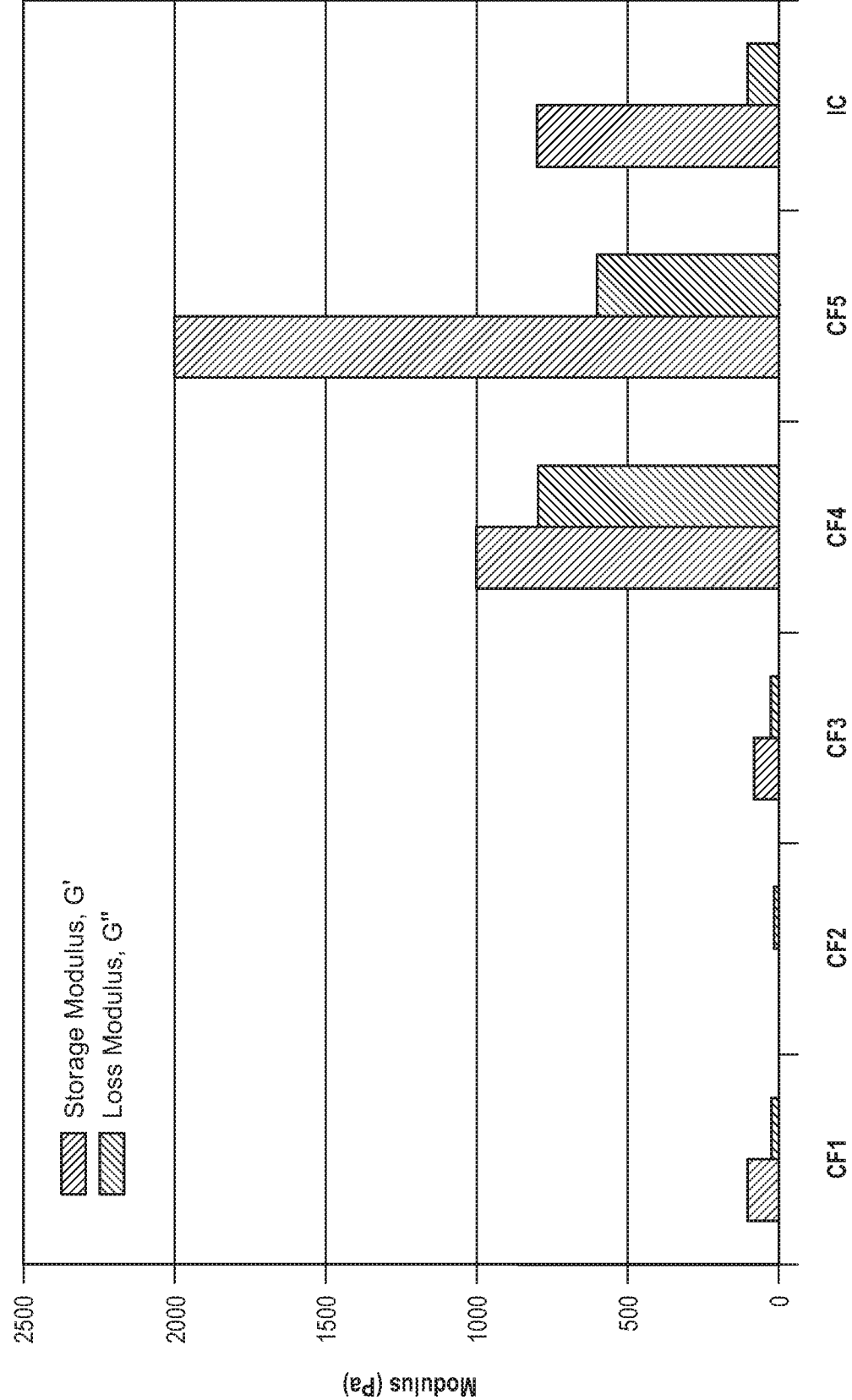


Fig. 5

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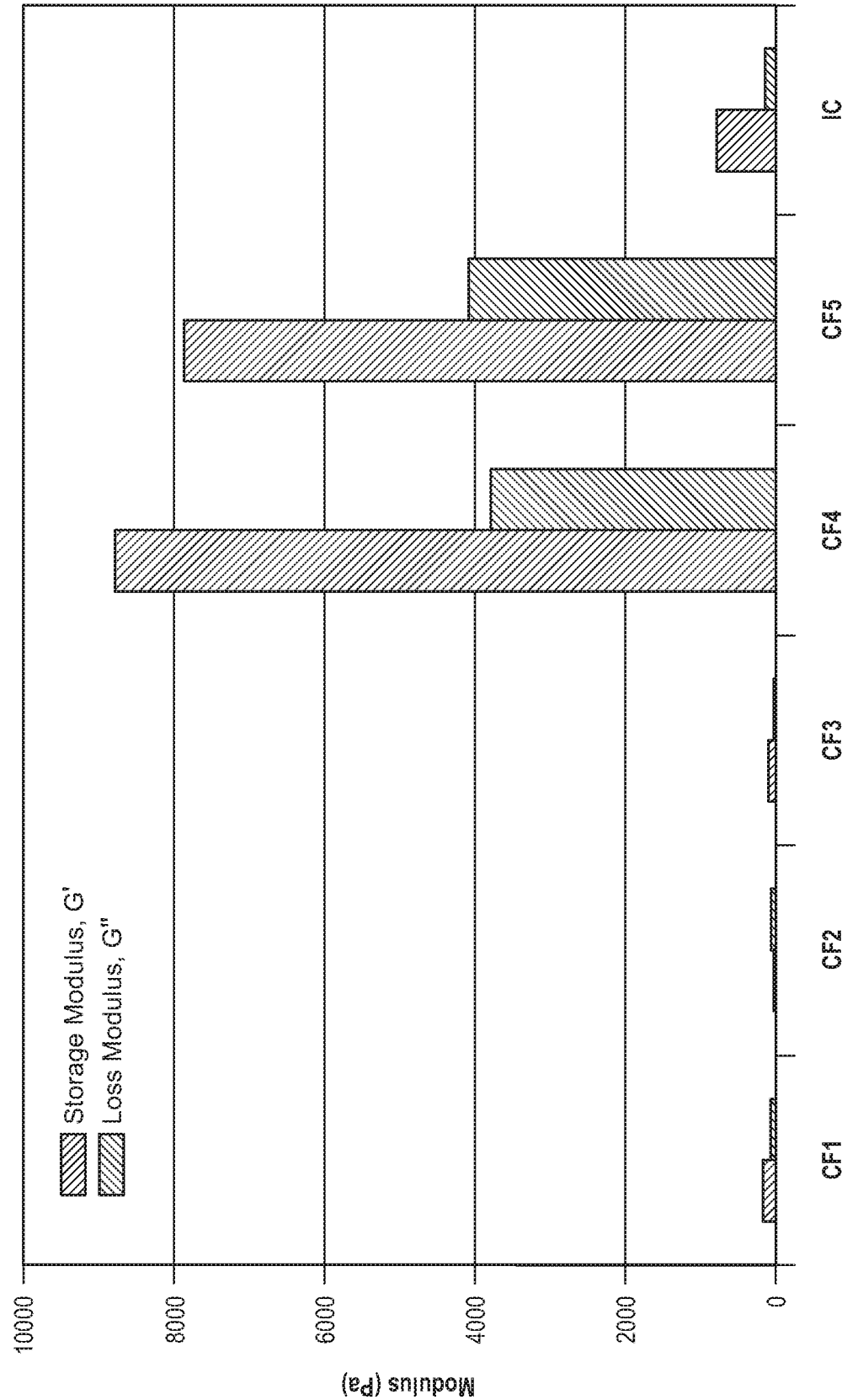


Fig. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2015/064374

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. C09J129/04 C04B26/04 C09J129/14 C09J131/04 ADD.		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C09J C04B		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 791 159 A (DULANEY DONALD C [US] ET AL) 13 December 1988 (1988-12-13) column 4, line 14 - column 5, line 15; example 1	1-4,8
X	----- EP 0 445 653 A1 (RHEOX INT [US]) 11 September 1991 (1991-09-11)	1-5,10
Y	examples 1-5	2,8,9
X	----- US 2006/160921 A1 (RAGONE PIETRO J [US] ET AL) 20 July 2006 (2006-07-20)	1,3-7,10
Y	example 8	2,8,9

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☒ See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 15 March 2016	Date of mailing of the international search report 23/03/2016	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Schmidt, Helmut	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2015/064374

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4791159	A	13-12-1988	NONE

EP 0445653	A1	11-09-1991	BR 9100716 A 29-10-1991
		CA 2035120 A1 07-09-1991	
		DE 69115305 D1 25-01-1996	
		EP 0445653 A1 11-09-1991	
		JP H04220486 A 11-08-1992	
		MX 173582 B 16-03-1994	
		US 5112400 A 12-05-1992	
		ZA 9100564 A 30-10-1991	

US 2006160921	A1	20-07-2006	AR 054674 A1 11-07-2007
		BR PI0519743 A2 10-03-2009	
		CA 2503293 A1 20-07-2006	
		EP 1848765 A1 31-10-2007	
		US 2006160921 A1 20-07-2006	
		US 2009071369 A1 19-03-2009	
		WO 2006078266 A1 27-07-2006	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/US2015/064374	International filing date (day/month/year) 08.12.2015	Priority date (day/month/year) 24.12.2014
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC INV. C09J129/04 C04B26/04 C09J129/14 C09J131/04		
Applicant UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☒ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:  European Patent Office P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Date of completion of this opinion see form PCT/ISA/210	Authorized Officer Schmidt, Helmut Telephone No. +31 70 340-0	
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Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed.
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. ☐ This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, this opinion has been established on the basis of a sequence listing:
 - a. ☐ forming part of the international application as filed:
 - ☐ in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
 - ☐ on paper or in the form of an image file.
 - b. ☐ furnished together with the international application under PCT Rule 13ter.1(a) for the purposes of international search only in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
 - c. ☐ furnished subsequent to the international filing date for the purposes of international search only:
 - ☐ in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file (Rule 13ter.1(a)).
 - ☐ on paper or in the form of an image file (Rule 13ter.1(b) and Administrative Instructions, Section 713).
4. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that forming part of the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>9</u>
	No: Claims	<u>1-8, 10</u>
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	<u>1-10</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-10</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

1 **Re Item V**

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1.1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 US 4 791 159 A (DULANEY DONALD C [US] ET AL) 13
December 1988 (1988-12-13)

D2 EP 0 445 653 A1 (RHEOX INT [US]) 11 September 1991
(1991-09-11)

D3 US 2006/160921 A1 (RAGONE PIETRO J [US] ET AL) 20 July
2006 (2006-07-20)

2 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1-8 and 10 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

2.1 Subject matter of claim 1 is an adhesive composition comprising a polymeric binder, filler and rheological modifier, wherein the rheological modifier is in an amount from about 0.01 % to about 15%, by weight of the wet composition, wherein the binder is selected from acrylic acid polymers, acrylic acid copolymers, alkyds, polyurethanes, polyesters, epoxies, and combinations thereof, wherein the amount of the binder is from 10% to 40% by weight on a solids basis of the wet composition; wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of gelling clays, delaminating clays and any combination thereof and wherein the amount of the filler is from 1 % to 40% by weight; and wherein the viscosity of the composition is the range from 100 to 200 Brabender Units and density is in the range from about 7.5 lbs/gal to about 10 lbs/gal.

Subject matter of claim 10 is a method of assembling a wall

2.2 The example of D1 discloses an adhesive of PVA (24.54 parts), attapulgate clay (1.2 parts) and cellulose thickener (0.3 parts). Polyvinylalcohol protective colloid and pH adjustment with ammonia are also disclosed. Column 4, lines 14-68 discloses mixtures of clays with preferred attapulgate,. The example also discloses surfactant, defoamer and anionic dispersant

Consequently D1 takes away the novelty of claims 1-4 and 8

- 2.3 The examples of D2 disclose joint adhesives polyvinylalcohol 2%, cellulose and hectorite thickener 0.5% and attapulgite clay 1.0%.
- Consequently D2 discloses the subject matter of claims 1-5 and 10
- 2.4 Example 8 of D3 discloses joint adhesive compositions of polyacrylic latices/emulsions 30%, attapulgite clay 0.30% and other clay 1,50%. Cellulose thickener is added via the slurry of examples 1 and 2. Surfactant, HLB values [0016] and polyacrylate thickeners [0011] are also disclosed.
- Consequently D3 discloses the subject matter of claims 1, 3-7 and 10
- 3 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1-10 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.
- 3.1 The subject matter of dependant claim 9 is an adhesive composition of
- a binder of a combination Polyvinyl Acetate/Polyvinyl Alcohol in an amount from 10% to 40% by weight,
- a filler of a combination of attapulgite clay in an amount from 0.5% to 1.5% by weight and kaolin clay in an amount from 5% to 15% by weight,
- a rheological modifier in an amount from 0.01 % to 5% by weight,
- a polyacrylate based associative thickener in an amount from 0.01 % to 5% by weight,
- a surfactant in an amount from 0.01 % to 1 % and
- a defoamer in an amount from 0.01 % to 1 %.
- 3.2 D3 is regarded as being the prior art closest to the subject-matter of claim 9.
- 3.3 Distinguishing feature to D9 is that the amount of polyacrylate thickener is not disclosed.
- 3.4 There is no evidence for a technical effect based on the claimed ranges of thickener.
- 3.5 The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as to provide an alternative adhesive for filling wall joints.
- 3.6 Paragraph [0011] of D3 discloses the addition of polyacrylate thickeners. These compounds are very well known additives in the field of building material adhesives and the optimisation of the amount of addition is expected knowledge of a man skilled in the field.

- 3.7 The solution proposed in claim 9 of the present application therefore cannot be considered to involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

4 **Re Item VII**

Certain defects in the international application

- 4.1 The units "Bradbender" and lbs/gal employed in claim 1 are not recognised in international practice contrary to the requirements of Rule 10.1(d) PCT.
- 4.2 All non SI units used in the description have to be supplied with corresponding SI values.
- 4.3 The description contains numerous occurrences of "about" in combination with ranges, "incorporated by reference" and "and the like" which are references to undefined subject matter or subject matter outside the invention disclosed in the application and therefore are not allowed.
- 4.4 Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in D1-D3 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.

5 **Re Item VIII**

Certain observations on the international application

- 5.1 The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because claims 1 are not clear.
- 5.2 Claim 1 does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT because the matter for which protection is sought is not clearly defined. The claim attempts to define the subject-matter in terms of the result to be achieved, which merely amounts to a statement of the underlying problem, without providing the technical features necessary for achieving this result.
- The result to be achieved is the viscosity and the density. In such a slurry, the viscosity and density can easily be adjusted by additional water and filler. Every builder knows that.
- 5.3 The term "wet composition"] used in claim 1 is vague and unclear and leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical feature to which it refers, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claim unclear, Article 6 PCT.

For a wet composition, the amount of water has to be disclosed.

- 5.4 In claim 7 the standard of measurement of the HLB value is not disclosed.
- 5.5 Subject matter of claim 1 is a composition containing acrylic acid polymers, acrylic acid copolymers, alkyds, polyurethanes, polyesters, epoxies used as binders..

Subject matter of claim 2 dependant on claim 1 is a composition containing PVA and PVOH used as binders.

PVA and PVOH are not part of the list of polymers of claim 1.