

Inkjet Optimization Yair Kipman: President

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Outline

1. Key considerations and tools for inkjet development

- Overview
- Ink Development
- Waveform Design
- Overview of Development System

2. Inkjet analysis examples:

- Drop formation
- Drop measurement
- Waveform optimization: pulse width, damping, and voltage
- Inkjet performance testing: frequency, consistency, and sustainability
- Print quality: Line/edge, bleed, text, dots, and skew/stretch
- Missing jets
- Nozzle inspection

3. Questions?

Key Considerations for Inkjet Development: Overview





Printhead

- Nozzle Geometry
- Fluid Compatibility
- Native Resolution
- Native Drop Size
- Max Firing Frequency
- Recirculating
- Greyscale
- Nozzle Coating



Substrate

- Application Requirements
- Colorfastness
- Required Durability
- Coating



Conditions

- Distance to Substrate
- Firing Frequency
- Idle Time
- Humidity
- Meniscus Pressure
- Ink Temperature



Ink Formulation

- Surface Tension
- Viscosity
- Rheology
- Particle Size
- Drying Speed
- Application Requirements



Waveform

- Voltage
- Pulse Width
- Pulse Spacing
- Rise/Fall Time
- Greyscale

Key Considerations for Inkjet Development: Printhead Selection



Key considerations for selecting a printhead:

- Must be compatible with ink type to be used: UV, solvent, aqueous, or other (metal, etc).
- Must be able to achieve desired print resolution (using multiple printheads, if needed).
- Must be able to print at required frequency.
- Must be able to jet drops of the needed size and velocity.
- Depending on ink formulation and application, may need to be recirculating.

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Key Considerations for Inkjet Development: Substrate Selection



Substrate selection is often primarily driven by the needs of the application, and is often not under the control of ink manufacturers. Nevertheless, substrate selection affects print quality. Key considerations:

- How will ink interact with this substrate? Common problems resulting from poor drop-substrate interaction include bleeding, mottle, pooling, strike through, and color-shifting.
- Could a coating improve the performance of the substrate?
- Does the printed substrate meet colorfastness and durability requirements?

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Key Considerations for Inkjet Development: Jetting Conditions



Some conditions may be under the control of the ink developer, and others are determined by the application. Many of these factors impact ink and waveform design. For example:

- A longer throw distance requires larger, faster drops.
- Long idle times require ink designs that limit latency/decap, by reducing solvent evaporation.
- Production conditions, including firing frequencies, should match test conditions.
- Ink temperature adjustments can be used to fine tune ink viscosity and surface tension.

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Key Considerations for Inkjet Development: Ink Formulation





Inkjet Ink must jet well, interact with the substrate well, and also meet the performance needs of the application. Key ink characteristics include:

- Viscosity and surface tension (should be within proper range required for the printhead to be used, usually somewhere in the range of 10-30 cPs, and 20-70 dynes/cm).
- Solids content (pigment, dye, etc).

8.2.2. plJ: Droplet Formation

Pressure drop due to surface tension

Acoustic pressure wave
Pressure drop due to viscosity

- Resistance to evaporation
- Substrate interaction
- Viscoelasticity, and other non-newtonian characteristics
- Application requirements, including longevity, durability, etc.

Key Considerations for Inkjet Development: Waveform Design

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Waveforms are usually designed in conjunction with ink. Often, an ink's jetting performance can be greatly improved by optimizing the waveform.



*Adapted from The Dynamics of the Piezo Inkjet Printhead Operation, Wijshoff (2010) **Adapted from Fundamentals of Inkiet printing: The Science of Inkiet and Droplets. SD Hoath(Ed) Wilev-VCH (2016)

Key Considerations for Inkjet Development: Waveform Design

How a Waveform Works:

*image*xpert



*Adapted from Inkjet printing of high molecular weight PVDF-TrFE for flexible electronics, Haque, Vie, Germainy & Boddaert (2015) **Adapted from Fundamentals of Inkjet printing: The Science of Inkjet and Droplets, SD Hoath(Ed) Wiley-VCH (2016) Key Considerations for Inkjet Development: Waveform Design

Greyscale:

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*Patent Drawing

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Testing Inkjet Performance JetXpert Print Station



JetXpert drop measurement system Variable print speed up to 2m/s Vacuum-secured sample Camera to inspect print quality Available with a belt or linear stage

Testing Inkjet Performance JetXpert Print Station



JetXpert drop measurement system Variable print speed up to 2m/s Vacuum-secured sample Camera to inspect print quality Available with a belt or linear stage

Testing Inkjet Performance JetXpert Print Station



Testing Inkjet Performance: Drop Formation

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Testing Inkjet Performance: Drop Measurement (Volume, Velocity, Trajectory)

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Testing Inkjet Performance: Drop Measurement (Volume, Velocity, Trajectory)

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expID	1.78E-02	23.45519	89.80906	4.532261	
expID	1.77E-02	23.1964	90.13292	4.539538	
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Single Pulse 88v 4us pulse width



voltage

Optimizing Inkjet Performance: Pulse Width



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Optimizing Inkjet Performance: Damping Pulse Spacing



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Testing Inkjet Performance: Measuring Nozzles Across the Head

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ExpID

Testing Inkjet Performance: Measuring Nozzles Across the Head

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*image*Xpert Testing Inkjet Performance: Sustainability

Printhead: Starfire Run Task Pitch (mm): 0.508 Missinglets Use JetXpert Motion to periodically scan the entire printhead; count and identify nozzles that are no longer jetting. O Run O Fail /Graphice/Report/Tota Status Theastar ement Name Plin. Tolerance Plac. Toleran Mean DM Deviation Minimum Maximum Medias (p.0.000) Eur. Measurement Name

Testing Inkjet Performance: Sustainability



Testing Inkjet Performance: image<mark>X</mark>pert^{*} Frequency f f/2 f/3 delay1 = 240.4 us, 1.0 pixel = 0.001148 mm *≣jet*Xpert Freqs (KHz): 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0, 11.0, 12.0, 13.0, 14.0, 15.0, 16.0, 17.0, 18.0, 19.0, 20.0

Testing Inkjet Performance: Frequency

Frequency (kHz)	drop1 radius	drop1 volume (pL)	trajectory	velocity (m/s)
1	1.80E-02	24.25241	89.97337	5.16386
2	1.82E-02	25.09501	89.99296	5.238451
3	1.84E-02	26.19967	90.07301	5.319919
4	1.85E-02	26.7219	89.97034	5.344988
5	1.88E-02	27.63136	90.02897	5.168274
6	1.89E-02	28.42394	90.07417	5.139957
7	1.92E-02	29.44158	89.99537	5.155534
8	1.92E-02	29.53142	89.96075	5.115504
9	1.94E-02	30.36416	89.97836	5.105206
10	1.93E-02	30.13937	89.94465	5.161822
11	1.94E-02	30.48748	89.92979	5.063175
12	1.99E-02	33.1057	89.93591	5.612579
13	1.95E-02	31.21084	89.91512	4.952079
14	2.03E-02	35.26918	89.88316	5.810924
15	1.96E-02	31.38365	89.82558	4.8679
16	1.90E-02	28.62666	89.9332	5.784729
17	1.96E-02	31.43763	89.97241	6.248661
18	1.96E-02	31.68546	89.96257	5.063194
19	1.95E-02	31.25376	89.95438	4.827392
20	2.04E-02	35.41389	89.96015	5.961308
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2400 DPI color

Up to size A3

Transparency option



Analyzing Print Quality



Print Quality Measurement: Line Quality/Bleed

image<mark>X</mark>pert



Print Quality Measurement: Skew/Stretch

image**X**pert



Print Quality Measurement: Text Quality



Print Quality Measurement: Dot Quality



image Xpert



Sample ID	v_bleed (mm h	_bleed (mr v	_edge_ragg h	_edge_ragg g	_quality: Ni g	g_quality: Nu	g_quality: Ar	g_quality: Pe	g_quality: Gr sl	kew	stretch	dots: Stat. Ra	dots: Stat. Ra	dots: Stat. A	dots: Stat. A	dots: Stat. Roundnes
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93v	0.621	0.668	0.014	0.01	2	1	5.66	14.517	98.316	1.005	0.993	0.054	0.014	0.925	0.043	0.982
105v	0.625	0.659	0.011	0.01	2	1	6.254	14.511	93.604	1	0.99	0.069	0.024	0.754	0.114	0.929
Print Quality Measurement: Bleed Comparison





+. Print Quality Measurement: Edge Comparison





image Print Quality Measurement: Dot Quality





Other Analysis: Missing Jets









image**X**pert

Other Analysis: Nozzle Inspection









Come visit us at booth 834



Questions?



Thank You!



Extra Slides:

image**x**pert

Testing Inkjet Performance: New: Integrated Control Electronics, Ink Supply







Testing Inkjet Performance New: Vacuum Ink Collector





Measure drop trajectory in two planes simultaneously









High resolution measurements



1 Micron/pixel resolution

Multiple cameras

Testing Inkjet Performance Drop Watching JetXpert



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ImageXpert Software



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Im COLOR BLEED SO S Run SF St Color Process/Displace/Result/State Variable Statu Productional Name F on State Web Ages F on State State (and F on State State (and F on State State (and F on State State State State F on State State State F on State State State F on State State State F on State State F on State	ageXport: Messuren all 10 728-981 28-983 28-989 109-984 129-313 28-586 129-313 28-586 2-58512 2-58512 2-58512 2-58512 2-58512 2-58512 2-58512 2-58512	nent Report 6.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000 9.000	Tolerance Hi 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000	Stop 5: Tolerance 9: 69 9:



DOT QUALITY SQ 3 Run 3 F ess/Graphics/Report/Total Waiting for	ail Trigger
Measurement Name	Value
# of Dots	13.000
Dot Area Avg.	17211.400
Dot Area Stdev	1913,176
Dot Gray Avg.	6.325
Dot Gray Stdev	1.449
Axis Ratio Ava	18.763
Axis Ratio Stdev.	1.507
Roundness Avg.	0.728
Roundness Stdev.	0.093
# of Satellites	43.000
Satellite Avg. Area	211.714

image Kpert

Testing Inkjet Performance Drop Watching JetXpert



Testing Inkjet Performance Why Testing Matters



- Ink Formulation
- Waveform
- Jetting Conditions
- · Printhead

- Dot / Line / Text Quality
- Satellites / Overspray
- Color Bleed
- Banding

Testing Inkjet Performance: Why Testing Matters

- Ink Formulation
- Waveform
- Jetting Conditions
- Printhead

- Drop Volume
- Drop Velocity
- Drop Trajectory
- Satellites
- Sustainability
- Throw Distance

• Dot / Line / Text Quality

- Satellites / Overspray
- Color Bleed
- Banding

Testing Inkjet Performance Drop Watching JetXpert



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Testing Inkjet Performance Drop Watching JetXpert

1	A.	В	C	D	E	F	G	н	1	J	K	L.	M
1	Exp ID	drop1: Average Radius	drop1 volume (pl)	trajectory	velocity (m/s)	Comments							
2	explD	2.70E-02	82.59902	90.34734	2.810377					120102			
3	expID	2.69E-02	81.92004	90.26538	2.805462				Dr	op Volum	1e		
-4	explD	2.70E-02	82.51237	90.31779	2.813141								
5	expID	2.69E-02	81.86227	90.34512	2.809216		84		1.0				
6	expID	2.68E-02	80.82324	90.34123	2.810189		83.5		A North	100			
7	explD	2.70E-02	82.84831	90.25301	2.817132		03	0.0	RA A	8			8
8	expID	2.70E-02	82.39166	90.33254	2.827205		82.5	M	0 8 1		8	8	
9	expID	2.70E-02	82.85435	90.26772	2.829492		5 01 5	v 9		N SV	1A		
10	expID	0.026978	82.24663	90.23643	2.83524		8 81				XRA	9 000	
11	explD	2.68E-02	80.35029	90.37906	2.80994		8 805				. 8	8	
12	explD	2.71E-02	83.42861	90.31487	2.828665		80					7	
13	expID	2.69E-02	81.90157	90.24297	2.823571		79.5						
14	explD	2.69E-02	81.70437	90.2906	2.823064		79	-					
15	expID	2.70E-02	82.83242	90.26447	2.815511		78.5						
16	explD	2.69E-02	81.72195	90.20704	2.801593					Time			
17	explD	2.70E-02	82.0435	90.30197	2.831982		-L						
18	explD	2.69E-02	81.33885	90.24323	2.819198								
19	explD	2.70E-02	82.47418	90.2083	2.804973				12000		Discos -		
20	expID	2.70E-02	81.99509	90.3025	2.800565				Dr	op Veloci	ity		
21	expiD	2.68E-02	81.04761	90.23068	2.795382		2.00						
22	explD	2.70E-02	82.15066	90.19217	2.802033		2.00						
23	explD	2.69E-02	81.35635	90.16116	2.807508		2.84					10.0	2 6
24	explD	2.68E-02	80.75811	90.07607	2.785419		10 2.82		A V	MA /A			
25	explD	2.69E-02	81.26146	90.09369	2.801683		5	0000	r 4	V V	-		
26	explD	2.68E-02	80.53992	90.19228	2.792685		\$ 28				w v		
27	explD	0.026878	81.3354	90.08604	2.789279		5 2.78	+				- V	
28	explD	2.70E-02	82.18834	90.15737	2.796326		\$ 2.76						
29	expID	2.69E-02	81.35461	90.12866	2.789792								_
30	explD	2.69E-02	81.53654	90.0044	2.762346		2.74						
31	expID	2.69E-02	81.33968	90.24271	2.824192		2.72	<u> </u>		Time	52		_
32	expID	2.71E-02	83.51846	90.22217	2.825986					Time			
33	explD	2.70E-02	82.59348	90.32095	2.82281				1	1	1	1	
34	explD	2.71E-02	82.96806	90.20089	2.824322								

Testing Inkjet Performance Wetting Camera



image<mark>X</mark>pert^{*}

Testing Inkjet Performance Stage for Head Scanning

Abort Pause missing_nozzles	Go Step Skip 122 × # TH1 (6 OR TH1) 255 THEN TH10	1000 March 1				
		JetXpert Wetting Basic Standard Advanced Motion Tasks				
		Printhead: SClass : Run Task Pitch (mm): 0.508				
		Missing Jets 2 Edit Task				
0						
	Pa	O Rein O Fail Process/Graphics/Report/Tital Valling for Trappr Into Presentational Valling for Trappr Into Presentation Value Normal Min Telerance New Taking				
		eil Measurement Name Mean 184 Deviation Plainnum Maximum				

Testing Inkjet Performance **Scanning Frequencies**



image**x**pert

Testing Inkjet Performance Print Quality Inspection



1 Micron/ pixel resolution

- Multiple cameras
- Spectrophotometer
- Glossmeter
- 18"x18" XY travel

image**x**pert

Testing Inkjet Performance Print Quality Inspection

		ImageXp	pert: Measurem	ent Report				-		4		
Pass Dot Li ic/Process/Grapt	ine SQ 1 Run hics/Report/Total O	0 Fail /130/590/46/7	'65 msec				эк	in the				
Status Dots: / Dots: / Dots: 5 Dots: 5 Dots: 5 Dots: 1 Dots: 9 Satell Satell	Measurement Nam Number of Parts Average Area (um Stat. Gray Avera Stat. Gray Avera Stat. Gray Stdev Stat. Axis Ratio Stat. Axis Ratio Stat. Roundness Stat. Roundness Stat. Roundness Stat. Roundness	ne (um^2) ge Average Stdev Average Stdev Parts ea (um^2)	Value 10.000 1006,800 61.364 68.107 2.007 0.794 0.101 0.801 0.084 22.000 40.182	Nominal (Min. Tolerance	Max. Tolera	nce			1	1	· · · · · · · · · ·
line: f line: f left_ec right_ line_d	RMS Line Width (StDev Line Width dge: RMS Deviati dge: RMS Deviat istance (um)	um) (um) on (um) ion (um)	24.864 5.570 6.865 7.665 645.684							l		
			*		×	*				1		
?	9		•	•		×	3		l an di ntence (um)			
•	4	* ? *	*	*	9		•		1			
and the second								 •	11			

SINGLE EVENT IMAGING

Each image is of a single drop, rather than averaging or summing images of several drops.



Single Event



5 Drop Aggregate

SHORT EXPOSURE TIME

The further a drop travels while being imaged, the greater the blur.





750 ns

1750 ns



2750 ns

DOUBLE STROBE METHOD

The most accurate way to measure velocity of a single drop at a single moment in time.

Pass	Default Drops SQ	40 Run O Fail				Stop
<u>Status</u>	Measuremen drop1: Average Rad drop1 volume (pl) trajectory velocity (m/s)	it Name It us	Value 0.022 45.201 89.161 3.839	Nominal	Min. Tolerance	Max. Tolerance
Fail 40 40 40 40	Measuremen drop1: Average Rad drop1 volume (pl) trajectory velocity (m/s)	<u>vt Name</u> Rus	Mean 0.021 37.995 89.136 3.494	Std. Deviation 0.002 8.458 0.040 0.407	Minimum 0.019 27.004 89.058 2.601	Maximum Ø.022 45.468 89.216 3.839
			0			
	•		drop 1			

DOUBLE STROBE METHOD



SINGLE STROBE METHOD



Single strobe method calculates that the drop has travelled 124um in 20us and reports a velocity of 6.2m/s (incorrect)

DOUBLE VS. SINGLE

Comparison of Velocity Measurement Consistency



Data captured using a Dimatix S Class Printhead with XL50 Model Fluid






Supported Inkjet Printheads

Integrated equipment for all printheads on the market



	Xaar
	Dimatix
Drivers and software	Konica Minolta
Ink supply (gravity and recirculating)	Xerox
Printhead mechanical mounts	Ricoh
Integration into JetXpert system	Kyocera
	Seiko
	Etc.



Option: Latency measurement

Study the effects of latency to maximize open time and minimize recovery time



74



Automatically capture drops at different delay settings in a single image





Measure image quality attributes



Dot quality Line quality Mottle Dimensions Color Text quality



