ISIS@MACH ITALIA

Science and Technology Facilities Council
ISIS Neutron and Muon Source

Experiment Proposal

Experiment number GP2024032

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Experiment title	Bacterial cellulose/graphene oxide hybrids: morphological characterization by SEM FEI
MRF Instrument	**SEM FEI**
Access Route	Direct Access
Science Areas	Biology and Bio-materials
Sponsored Grant	None
Grant Title	-
Start Date	-
Similar Submission?	-
Industrial Links	-

Days requested: 3
Previous GP Number: -
DOI: -
Sponsor: -
Grant Number: -
Finish Date: -

Non-Technical Abstract

In this activity, we have realized hybrid bacterial/cellulose graphene aerogels, by production of bacterial cellulose in presence of graphene oxide.
After reduction of the graphene oxide phase to reduced graphene oxide (rGO), the realized materials present very interesting properties in terms of electrical conductivity. Moreover, aerogels also present piezoresistive properties under compression, thus being interesting bioderived systems for possible use as sensors.
Nevertheless, to optimize the performance of the materials, a careful morphological characterization is needed, to evaluate the effective distribution of the rGO phase in the bacterial cellulose based aerogel. Owing that, the aim of the proposal is to study, by using the instrument suite of IM@IT, the morphology of bacterial cellulose/graphene derivative hybrids. In particular, SEM FEI will provide info about assembling and distribution of graphene derivatives and bacterial cellulose nanofibers in the aerogels.

Publications -

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E-platform: No

Instruments	**Days Requested:**
Access Route	**Previous RB Number:**
Science Areas	**DOI:**
Sponsored Grant	**Sponsor:**
Grant Title	**Grant Number:**
Start Date	**Finish Date:**
Similar Submission?	
Industrial Links	

Sample record sheet

Principal contact Dr Gennaro Gentile, IPCB CNR, ITALY
MRF Instrument **SEM FEI** **Days Requested:** 3
Special requirements:

SAMPLE

Material	4 bacterial cellulose aerogels	bacterial cellulose/GO aerogels	-
Formula	cellulose	cellulose/graphene oxide	-
Forms	Solid	Liquid	
Volume	1 cc	1 cc	
Weight	0.1 g	0.1 g	
Container or substrate	-	-	-
Storage Requirements	-	-	-

SAMPLE ENVIROMENT

Temperature Range	- K	- K	-
Pressure Range	- mbar	- mbar	-
Magnetic field range	- T	- T	-
Standard equipment	None	None	-
Special equipment	N/A	N/A	-

SAFETY

Prep lab needed	Yes	Yes	-
Sample Prep Hazards	No	No	-
Special equip. reqs	-	-	-
Sensitivity to air	Yes	Yes	-
Sensitivity to vapour	Yes	Yes	-
Experiment Hazards	No	No	-
Equipment Hazards	-	-	-
Biological hazards	No	No	-
Radioactive Hazards	No	No	-
Additional Hazards	-	-	-
Additional Details	-	-	-
Sample will be	Disposed by IS	Disposed by IS	-

Bacterial cellulose/graphene oxide hybrids: morphological characterization by SEM FEI

1. Background and Context

Cellulose is one of the most abundant polymers on Earth and represents an intriguing building block for the production of functional materials from renewable non-fossil carbon sources [1].

Amongst different types of cellulose, bacterial cellulose (BC), also known as microbial cellulose, is a biodegradable, natural cellulose that is synthesized by bacteria. The diameter of BC fibers is 20–100 nm. Bacterial cellulose has high water retention due to being very hydrophilic and having a high surface area to mass ratio. It also has great mechanical strength, exhibits high crystallinity, and is relatively inexpensive to produce [2].

Nanocellulose/graphene derivative hybrids are gaining an even growing attention due to its unique physiochemical properties and giant potentials as renewable smart nanomaterials, opening up to the realization of novel advanced functional materials for multi-sensing applications [3]. However, integrating inorganic functional two-dimensional carbon materials in nanocellulose is not a simple step, when a precise control of the dispersion of the graphene phase in the nanocellulose structure is desired.

In this activity, we have realized hybrid bacterial/cellulose graphene aerogels, by production of bacterial cellulose in presence of graphene oxide.

After reduction of the graphene oxide phase to reduced graphene oxide (rGO), the realized materials present very interesting properties in terms of electrical conductivity. Moreover, aerogels also present piezoresistive properties under compression, thus being interesting bioderived systems for possible use as sensors.

Nevertheless, to optimize the performance of the materials, a careful morphological characterization is needed, to evaluate the effective distribution of the rGO phase in the bacterial cellulose based aerogel. Owing that, the aim of the proposal is to study, by using the instrument suite of IM@IT, the morphology of bacterial cellulose/graphene derivative hybrids. In particular, SEM FEI will provide info about assembling and distribution of graphene derivatives and bacterial cellulose nanofibers in the aerogels.

2. Proposed experiment

The bacterial cellulose/graphene derivative hybrids will be prepared by University of Naples. The following characterization will be performed:

Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM/TEM) (Unit CNR-IPCB): to obtain more insights into the morphology of the aerogels and the spatial distribution of graphene derivatives and bacterial cellulose.

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3. Summary of previous experimental proposals or characterisation

No previous experiments have been carried out on these samples

4. Justification of experimental time requested

We have requested the SEM FEI equipment available at IPCB CNR to evaluate the morphology of bacterial cellulose/graphene derivative hybrid aerogels.

It is proposed to measure n. 8 samples (4 pristine bacterial cellulose aerogels and 4 hibrids containing graphene derivatives.

For SEM analysis, aerogels will be placed on aluminium stubs and sputter coated with Au/Pd. SEM analysis should be performed at suitable acceleration voltage using secondary electron detectors. After discussion with the instrument scientist, we request 3 days of SEM FEI beam time, for a fully and thorough morphological characterization of the materials. The foreseen beam time accounts set up and for the data collection on the samples.

References

[1] D Wang (2019) A critical review of cellulose-based nanomaterials for water purification in industrial processes. Cellulose 26:687–701. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10570-018-2143-2

[2] V Raghavendran, E Asare, and I Roy, Bacterial cellulose: Biosynthesis, production, and applications. Advances in Microbial Physiology, Volume 77, 2020 Elsevier Ltd. ISSN 0065-2911. https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.ampbs.2020.07.002

[3] A Brakat, H Zhu (2021). Nanocellulose-Graphene Hybrids: Advanced Functional Materials as Multifunctional Sensing Platform. Nano-Micro Letters, 13, 94.