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CONDUCTIVE PATHWAYS IN ELECTROCONDUCTIVE BIODEGRADABLE POLYMER MATRIX COMPOSITES

Miroslav M. Pavlović, Marijana Pantović, Milana Zarić, Vladimir Panić, Jasmina Stevanović, Miomir G. Pavlović

e-mail: mpavlovic@tmf.bg.ac.rs

University of Belgrade, ICTM-CEH, Njegoševa 12, Belgrade, Serbia

The results of experimental studies of the properties of composite materials based on lignocellulosic (LC) and poly(methylmetacrylate) matrices filled with electrolytic copper powder are presented. Volume fractions of metal fillers in composite materials and tested samples were varied in the range of 0.5-29.8%(v/v). Characterization included examination of the influence of particle size and morphology on the conductivity and percolation threshold of the composites using SEM and AFM. Presence of three dimensional conductive pathways was confirmed.

EDS measurements (Figure 1) show the existence of copper conductive pathways throughout the composites volumes. Due to the packaging effect and more pronounced interparticle contact with smaller, highly porous, highly dendritic particles with high values of specific area lead to "movement" of percolation threshold towards lower filler content. This feature can be observed on both on Figure 1 and Figure 2. Figure 2 presents AFM image of the PMMA and LC composite surfaces after breaking. These pathways are formed in 3D in a pure random order.









Figure 1. EDS images of the composite sample prepared at percolation threshold. White dots represent Cu. (left) LC-Cu and (right) PMMA-Cu composite

Figure 2. 3D AFM images of the PMMA (left) and LC (right) composite filled with copper powder at percolation threshold

The results showed that the shape and morphology of the copper powder, and filler at all, play a significant role in the phenomenon of electrical conductivity of the prepared samples and the appearance percolation threshold. The particles with highly developed free surface and dendritic and highly branched structure, such as galvanostatically obtained copper powder particles can easier form interparticle contacts at lower filler volume fractions than particles with more regular surface.

When two different matrices are compared, slight advantage can be given to PMMA since the percolation threshold is at lower value. However, lignocellulose is biodegradable, green matrix, and it comes from abundant, sustainable resource, and it can be used for green composite production.

Key words: lignocellulosic (LC) matrix, poly(methylmetacrylate) matrix,

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It is well known the xerogels, are highly depende crystallinity and morphology deposition parameters (kind temperature, pressure, etc.). T powerful tool for control and

In the present contri on the formation and electron xerogels (NH₄)_xV₂O₅·nH₂O deposition method based or explored two synthetic appro acidification via hydrolysis system single phase of (NH concentration of NH₄VO₃ (C2H5)2SO4, however, single NH₄VO₃ solution, whereas a (NH₄)_{0.15}V₂O₅·H₂O and NI transmittance variance (ΔT) same deposition time in the and degree of coverage (NH₄)_xV₂O₅·nH₂O exhibit values of ΔT up to 50 % application in electrochromic

Key words: electrochromisi

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