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SURFACE CHARACTERIZATION OF CONDUCTIVE LIGNOCELLULOSE COMPOSITES

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This paper is concerned with surface characterization of composite materials based on lignocellulosic (LC) matrix filled with electrolytic copper powder and chemically obtained silver powder. Volume fractions of metal fillers in composite materials and tested samples were varied in the range of 1.6-29.8% (v/v). Characterization included examination of the influence of particle size and morphology on the conductivity and percolation threshold of the composites using IS and AFM. The packaging effect and more pronounced interpartical contact with dendritic copper powder particles lead to "movement" of percolation threshold, which for the particles $<45 \mu\text{m}$ and highest processing pressure of 27 MPa was 7.2% (v/v). IS response of the composites showed existence of electrical conductive layers, each having different resistivity that increases towards interior of the composite.

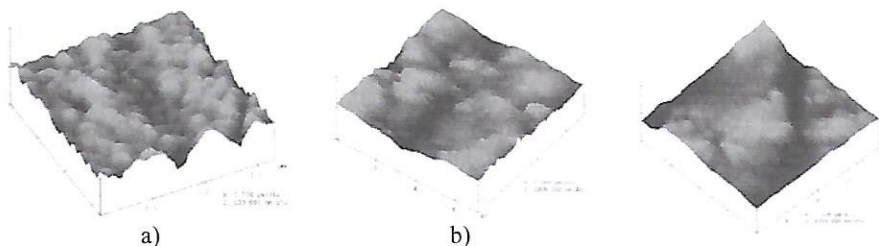


Figure 1. 3D AFM images of a) LC-Cu and b) LC-Ag composites surfaces.

Figure 2. 3D AFM image of LC surface.

AFM measurements (Figure 1) show the existence of silver and copper conductive pathways throughout the composites volumes. Copper powder has more developed surface area than chemically obtained silver powder. Hence, the end of dendritic arms is more pronounced on the surface. This feature can be observed on Figure 1a, where roughness of the sample is greater than on Figure 1b. Figure 1b presents AFM image of the LC-Ag composite surface after breaking. Figure 2 presents Surface of LC matrix without the presence of conductive filler. It can be observed that the surface and its roughness differs from the composite ones. All of the conductive pathways are formed in 3D in a pure random order.

Keywords: lignocellulosic (LC) matrix, copper powder, silver powder

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