Kraft pulps from Eucalyptus and Pinus radiata - raw materials for nanocellulose production and novel bioapplications

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Outline

□ Kraft pulp fibres morphology

- Eucalyptus and Pinus radiata
- □ Nanocellulose production
 - Chemical pre-treatments
- □ Characteristics of nanocellulose
 - Based on bleached and unbleached fibres

□ Printing

Functionalization and 3D printing





Kraft pulp fibres

□ Morphology

Advanced microscopy and image analysis



Eucalyptus

Pinus radiata



Kraft pulp fibres

□ Morphology

Advanced microscopy and image analysis



Eucalyptus

Pinus radiata



Wood nanocellulose





Characterisation

- Proper utilization of a given fibrillated material and its properties requires an extensive understanding of the chemical and structural components and their morphology
- □ But how are nanocelluloses characterised?
 - ➤ Nano-characterisation?



Images from the PFI advanced nano-characterisation training course 2012



Chinga-Carrasco,, Averianova, Kondalenko, Garaeva, Petrov Leinsvang Karlsen. Micron 56:80-84, 2014

Optical quantification

□ Samples for structural assessments

- Suspensions/casting, 0.2 %
- Grammage 20 g/m2
- Drying 3-5 days





Optical quantification

Digital images of nanocellulose films

Acquired with a conventional desktop scanner



Eucalyptus P. RadiataEucalyptus P. RadiataEucalyptus P. RadiataEucalyptus P. RadiataNo pretreatmentTempoNo pretreatmentTempo3 passes3 passes5 passes5 passes



Optical quantification

Light transmittance measured with scanners

- The higher the fibrillation the higher the light transmittance
- Residual fibres clearly observed in digital images





Chinga-Carrasco, Micron 48: 42-48, 2013

□ The yield depends on the fiber type





Nanofibrils are revealed by nano-characterization methods

- AFM
- Chemical pre-treatment yields an homogeneous surface





Nano-porous structures

- FE-SEM Quantification of nanofibril width and porosity
- Resolution, 1 nm. Surfaces without coating!



Microscopy and Microanalysis 17(4): 563-571 (2011).

Mechanical

TEMPO pretreatment

PF





□ Cellulose nanofibrils from *P. radiata*, used as reinforcement in paper filled with CaCO₃





Characteristics of nanocellulose films Based on bleached and unbleached pulp fibres





Lignin-containing fibres yield a higher nanofibrillation

- Form smoother films
- Are less hydrophilic

	Contact angle	LP-roughness (µm)	
	(degrees)		
Unbleached, 3 passes	61 ±4	0.33 ±0.07	
Bleached, 3 passes	40 ±3	0.56 ±0.08	and and and a
Unbleached, 5 passes	58 ±3	0.26 ±0.06	5 ^{ml} 6 ^{ml} 605 ^{kb}
Bleached, 5 passes	38 ±2	0.63 ±0.05	Cot 605 62
Unbleached			cot G2 000
carboxymethylation, 2 passes	74 ±4	0.24 ±0.05	G2'
Bleached carboxymethylation, 2			
passes	54 ±3	0.16 ±0.01	



Lignin-containing fibres yield a higher nanofibrillation

- Form dense films with low oxygen permeability
- But the chemical-pretreatment has a larger effect on bleached fibres







- Lignin-containing fibres yield a higher nanofibrillation
 - Form stronger films
 - But the chemical-pretreatment has a larger effect on bleached fibres

Series	Tensile strength (MPa)	Elongation (%)	
Unbleached, 3 passes	145 ±13	12.2 ±1.6	
Bleached, 3 passes	118 ±10	12.3 ±1.2	
Unbleached, 5 passes	163 ±16	13.9 ±3.3	For col cos
Bleached, 5 passes	137 ±18	17.8 ±1.2	Col Cos Ga
Unbleached carboxymethylation, 2			Con 62/ Con
passes	162 ±31	9.9 ±4.8	62'
Bleached carboxymethylation, 2 passes	239 ±25	17.1 ±7.5	



□ Nanocellulose films

 The more fibrillated the material is the higher the strength







Chinga-Carrasco, Kuznetsova, Garaeva, Leirset, Galiullina, Kostochko, Syverud. J. Nanoparticle research 14:1280 (2012)

Biomedical applications

- Nanocellulose from wood has potential in wound dressings
- □ The assessment of biocompatibility requires direct contact with living tissue
 - Cytotoxicity and biocompatibility
 - Requires ultrapure nanocellulose materials
 - LPS levels lower than 100 endotoxin units/g

\Box LPS < 50 EU/g

□ Non-cytotoxic material



Biomedical applications

□ Microbiological testing

- A set of nanocellulose materials have been tested, including
 - Neat nanocellulose
 - Chemically-pretreated nanocellulose
- Nanocellulose may impair bacterial growth
- Further studies are being performed to explore the bacteriananocellulose interactions and biofilm formation



Functionalization by printing

□ Nanocellulose films

- high oxygen barrier properties
- Strong
- Translucent
- Smooth
- Surface modification by printing

Great potential for adding functionality



Conductive structures printed on nanocellulose surfaces



Hydrogels

□ Nanocellulose can be modified to form functional structures

3D bioprinting of nanocellulose constructs



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Rees, Powell, Chinga-Carrasco, Gethin, Syverud, Hill, Thomas BioMed Research International. Article ID 925757 2014.

Hydrogels

□ Nanocellulose can be modified to form functional structures

- 3D bioprinting of nanocellulose constructs
- Tailor-made biocomposites for wound healing





Hydrogels

Macro-porous structures can be created through cryogelation and cross-linking



The gels are elastic and spongyRegain the shape



Conclusions

- A set of structural and chemical characterization methods have been established
- Various chemical pre-treatments have been applied to tailor-make the nanofibril morphology and surface chemistry
- New printing techniques have been demonstrated to functionalize nanocellulose
- Nanocellulose has great potential for biomedical applications





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