International Conference on Nanotechnology for Renewable Materials

Impact of coagulant solvent polarity on porous morphology evolution in cellulose xero gels



12-16 JUNE 2023 • VANCOUVER, B.C. CANADA

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Xerogels From Cellulose





Longitudinal microtome slices



Take home: The crystalline phase is Impacted

Actors in the dance







Hydrophobic orientation



Multibody interactions...

Could use some theoretician help...(Fred?)

About 70% of cellulose is hydrophobic by volume

Cotton does not have lignin (thank goodness)

Solvent Polarity impact porosity



Solvent Polarity shows some impact on how the cellulose comes back together

Purely from a surface area point of view and porosity and pore diameter distribution

iGC surface energy



Take a look at 5% fractional surface coverage





Ka is the Lewis acid constant: How well an atom can accept a free pair of electrons. Electron acceptor

Kb is the Lewis base constant: How well an atom can donate a free pair of electrons: Electron donator



Glucose repeat unit





More hydrophilic surface

More hydrophobic or surface

Need some solid state NMR to confirm the actual morphology.... (Coming soon, hopefully....)

iGC vs Hansen solubility parameters



There is some trend.....



BET surface area and XPS versus hydrophilicity



There is a trend in BET surface area with surface hydrophilicity

The carbon/oxygen ration from xps shows a general ROUGH trend with hydrophilicity

A lot less mobility in polymer chain



Hydrophilic orientation



Hydrophobic orientation





More hydrophilic surface



More hydrophobic or surface

From the lonic liquid's perspective



Raman

A6

C13

1600

1440

Solution NMR

ppm

DFT predicted vs experiment

Single ion pair



Possible arrangement by DFT



Minimized geometry

DFT in vacuum B3LYP 631G*

Absorption and desorbance of water



Absorbance (a.u.)

QCM results for hydration and dehydration



For Fun



Not a single crystal......

Hypothesis of process



● = IL cation ● = IL anion ● = residual water ● = coagulation solvent 🚰 = IL crystal