

#### Diffusion non-Fickienne dans des nanocomposites polylactide/nanocristaux de cellulose

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# **NON-FICKIAN DIFFUSION IN POLYLACTIDE/ CELLULOSE NANOCRYSTALS** NANOCOMPOSITES

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## Introduction

Nanocomposites are an opportunity to increase the performance of polymer membranes by fine-tuning their morphology. In particular, the understanding of the contribution of the polymer matrix/nanofiller interface to the overall transport properties is key to design membranes with tailored selective and adsorptive properties. In that aim, cellulose nanocrystals (CNC)/polylactide (PLA) nanocomposites were fabricated with interfaces, which were ensuring the compatibility between the components. A detailed analysis of the mass transport behaviour of different permeants in CNC/PLA nanocomposites was carried out. In that aim a model based on the inverse method was developed able to discriminate Fickian and polymer relaxation driven mass transport phenomena. The water vapour caused significant swelling of the CNC, which created a preferential pathway for mass transport. CNC surface grafting could attenuate this phenomenon and decrease the water transport rate. Anisole, an aromatic organic vapour, became reversibly trapped at the specifically designed CNC/PLA interface, but without any swelling or creation of an accelerated pathway. This caused the decrease of the overall mass transport rate. The latter finding could open a way to the creation of materials with specifically designed barrier properties by designing nanocomposites interfaces with specific interactions towards permeants.

### **Objective**

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#### Investigation of Fickian and non Fickian mass transport phenomena in

## Materials and Methods

PLA NatureWorks 4060D

Cellulose Nanocrystals (CNC)



## Surface grafting of CNC





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	Mag = 100.00 K X Signa	IA = STEM	Greno	oble INP - CMTC
	EHT = 5.00 kV WD =	⊧ 6.7 mm	Dat	e :14 Nov 2011

Sample	l (nm)*	d (nm)*	DS
CNC	155 ± 43	17 ± 5	-
CNC-g-PhAA	131 ± 36	10 ± 2	0.3
CNC-g-BzAA	145 ± 52	13 ± 3	0.5

#### Water vapour and aroma sorption kinetics

Water vapour sorption



UltraBalance<sup>14</sup>

fumidity probe

25°C

25°C

CNC powder

Adsorption-desorption

Thickness < 60µm

Anisole activity 0.9 (5 days)

**Aroma sorption** 



# Electronic microbalance



40°C&0%RH Anisole activity 0.2 CNC powder Adsorption

**40°C** & 0% RH Anisole activity 0.2 (5 days) Thickness < 60µm Adsorption



# Adsorption A special sample holder was developed. **Identification of transport parameters sorpition** 3 BZAA 6% 0 8 16 24 32 40 48 56 64 Time (Hours) 8 16 24 32 40 48 56 64 72 80 Time (Hours)

0 + i i i i i i i i 0 0 8 16 24 32 40 48 56 64 72 80 Time (Hours)				
	CNC (wt%)	D x 10 <sup>-</sup> <sup>12</sup> (m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	m <sub>eq,F</sub> (wt%)	τ <b>(h)</b>
PLA	0	5.6	0.0050	18.7
PLA/CNC	2	3.6	0.0061	19.8
PLA/CNC	6	2.6	0.0055	4.1
PLA/CNC-g- PhAA	2	4.2	0.0048	
PLA/CNC-g- PhAA	6	2.2	0.0059	
PLA/CNC-g- BzAA	2	5.3	0.0049	

		CNC	$D \times 10^{-15}$	m <sub>eg F</sub> (wt%)	m <sub>r</sub>	_120h
			Time (h)			
	С		50	100	150	(Ref. 2)
	0			-+-+		(Pof 2)
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(B/f	0.03	△ — — △ BZAA 2 ■ — — ■ PHAA 6 ● — — — ● PHAA 2 ▽ — — ▽ CNC 69 □ — — □ CNC 29 ○ — — ○ PLA	2% 5% 2% % %	200 - gunua 00000000000000000000000000000000000		

	CNC (wt%)	D x 10 <sup>-15</sup> (m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	m <sub>eq,F</sub> (wt%)	m <sub>r_120h</sub> (wt%)
PLA	0	3.2 ± 1.6	2.6 ± 0.2	0.7
PLA/CNC	2	1.6 ± 0.8	1.4 ± 0.2	0.6
PLA/CNC	6	3.7 ± 1.8	0.4 ± 0.2	0.6
PLA/CNC-g- PhAA	2	11 ± 6	0.6 ± 0.2	2.2
PLA/CNC-g- PhAA	6	3.9 ± 2.0	0.6 ± 0.2	1.0
PLA/CNC-g- BzAA	2	2.5 ± 1.3	1.2 ± 0.2	0.9



#### **References and Acknowledgement**

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PLA/CNC-g-3.0 0.0053 BzAA



#### Conclusion

The inverse model successfully allowed for the separation of Fickian and polymer relaxation related mass transfer in PLA/CNC nanocomposites. Fickian mass transport behaviour showed that the CNC exhibited only a small tortuosity effect to be expected from CNC and surface-grafted CNC. The analysis of the polymer relaxation controlled mass transport regime showed that water swelled the CNC charges, which significantly increased the water solubility in the system and produced a preferential pathway for water transport through the nanocomposites with small relaxation times. The surface grafting of CNC successfully attenuated the effect, but without completely eliminating it. The CNC grafted with benzyl acetic acid had apparently a specific effect on anisole, which seemed to yield no swelling of CNC and decrease the polymer relaxation.

## CONTACT

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