

Multivariate analysis of the 3D composites based on nickel microparticles

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ABSTRACT – REZUMAT

Multivariate analysis of the 3D composites based on nickel microparticles

This paper presents multivariate analyses of the experimental parameters obtained in the scientific experiments on eight sample fabrics of 100% cotton with electrically conductive properties and electromagnetic achieved through traditional treatments such as padding with antistatic agents, and direct printing or scraping with a polymeric paste based on nickel (Ni). Textile printing was obtained using polymers such as polyethylene glycol (PEG), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), polyacrylate, ammonium salt, carboxylic acid Copolymer polyester, and Ni microparticles. For the eight samples that have been analyzed, the morphology of the surfaces using SEM (scanning electron microscope) with magnification 2000–8000x and electronic magnification microscopy with 4x, assessed the resistance to wet rubbing and dry the resistance of the surface after treatment in the solution of alkaline and acid sweat. Also, the samples above referred have been analyzed by spectrophotometry to evaluate the transmittance, and reflectance of the electromagnetic waves. It can specify that after treatments in acid or alkaline sweat solutions, the resistance of the surface has decreased by 10^3 – 10^5 . It has been observed that for samples treated with acid or alkaline sweat, the reflectance was increased in comparison with the reflectance obtained for the original samples. The multivariate analysis provided refers to the study of some physico-chemical and optical parameters, of the samples collected, such as thickness, pH, reflectance, and transmittance.

Keywords: composites, electroconductive, textile, resistance, nickel, 3D

Analiza multivariată a compozitelor 3D pe bază de microparticule de nichel

În această lucrare sunt prezentate analize multivariate pentru parametrii experimentali obținuți în cadrul experimentelor științifice pentru opt probe de material textil din 100% bumbac, având proprietăți electroconductive și electromagnetice obținute prin tratamente clasice, cum ar fi fulardarea cu agenți antistatici, sau imprimarea directă ori raclarea unei paste polimerice pe bază de nichel (Ni). Imprimarea textilă a fost obținută prin utilizarea unor polimeri cum ar fi polietilen glicol (PEG), alcool polivinilic (PVA), poliacrilati, sare de amoniu, acid carboxilic copolimer poliester, cu conținut de microparticule de Ni. Pentru cele 8 probe a fost analizată morfologia suprafețelor utilizând SEM (microscopul de scanare electronică) cu gradul de magnifiere 2000–8000x și microscopul electronic cu grad de mărire 4x, determinându-se și rezistența la frecare umedă și uscată, rezistența de suprafață după tratamente în soluții de transpirație acidă și alcalină. De asemenea, probele mai sus menționate au fost analizate prin spectrofotometrie pentru evaluarea transmitanței și reflectanței undelor electromagnetice. Se poate specifica că rezistența de suprafață în cazul probelor tratate cu soluții de transpirație acidă sau alcalină a fost redusă cu 10^3 – 10^5 . S-a observat că pentru probele tratate cu soluții de transpirație alcalină sau acidă reflectanța a crescut în comparație cu reflectanța obținută pentru probele inițiale (martor). Analiza multivariată se referă la studierea unor parametri fizico-chimici și optici, obținuți pentru probele analizate, cum ar fi grosimea materialului, pH, reflectanța și transmitanța.

Cuvinte-cheie: compozite, electroconductiv, textile, rezistență, nichel, 3D

INTRODUCTION

The multivariate analysis represents the statistical study of experiments in which dependent variables from measurements and the relationship among multivariate measures [1] and their structure analyzed to understand the experiments. Moreover, the multiple responses to a test performed on the samples may offer valuable information concerning toxicity, permanent surface resistance, or temporary character. Also, this involves measuring the strength of relationships among various measurements (e.g. resistance to alkaline/acid sweat or to wet/dry rubbing).

Development of the products such as sensors, actuators, batteries, the based metal coating must be

defined in some aspects concerning the toxicity of the metal used and the usability in contact or not with the skin. Concerning nickel, at the European level, it is the Nickel Directive EN 1811 [2] regulating the use of nickel (Ni) in jewelry and other products that come into contact with the skin because of nickel allergy is a common cause of contact dermatitis. However, Ni is used in many everyday items, such as coins, zippers, cell phones, and eyeglass frames, and some of these items are used in the textile industry. The European Nickel Directive EN 1811 is the internationally recognized test method to determine the rate of nickel release from jewelry, spectacle frames, and other items. In the scientific literature are presented

several electrochemical tests (potential vs. time, potentiodynamic corrosion/polarization tests [3–5]) and the synthetic sweat tests.

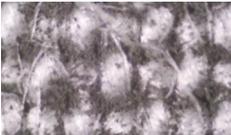
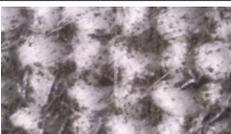
The standard, EN 1811:2011 the amendment no. 1/2015 concerning testing to the nickel [6] release allow a level of 0.11–9.35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{week}$ for post assemblies and body piercing and 0.28–0.88 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{week}$ for components in direct and prolonged contact with the skin. Several papers state that nickel migration can be identified by artificial sweat [7, 8] and, in this way, can be evaluated the exposure to trace elements through clothes [9, 10].

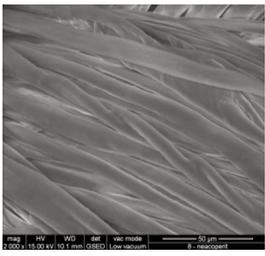
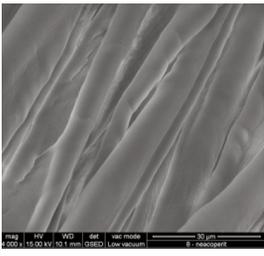
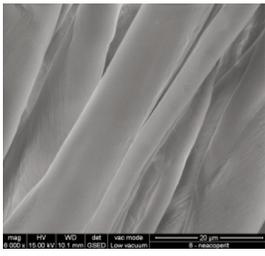
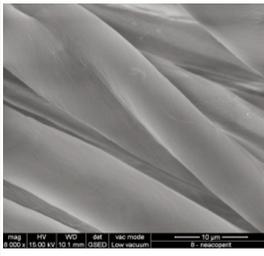
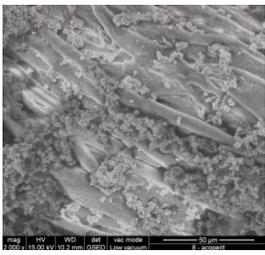
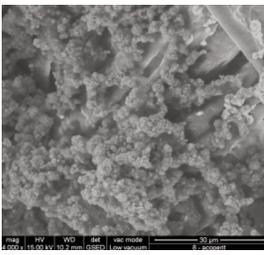
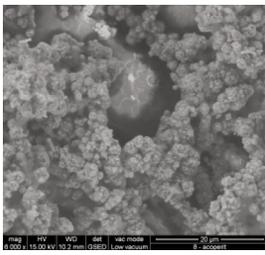
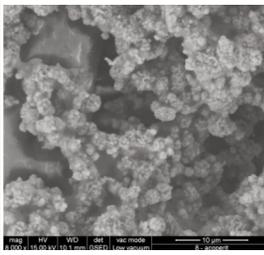
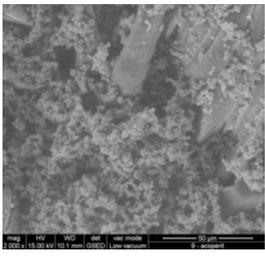
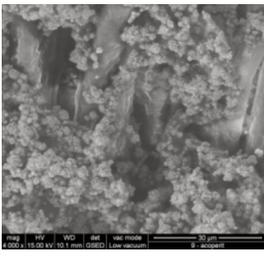
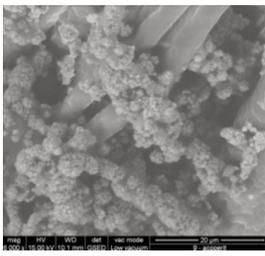
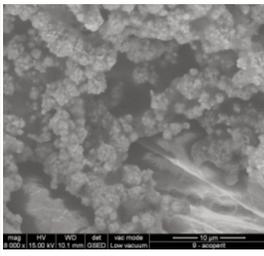
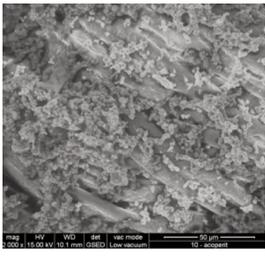
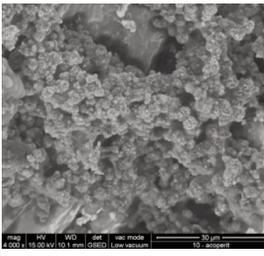
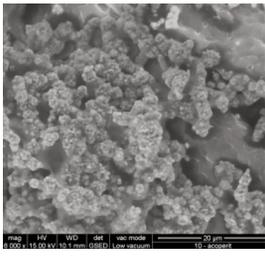
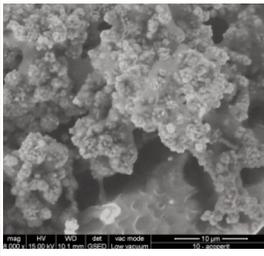
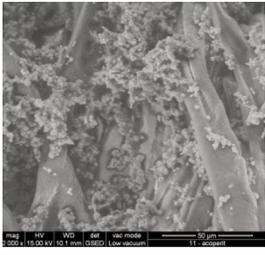
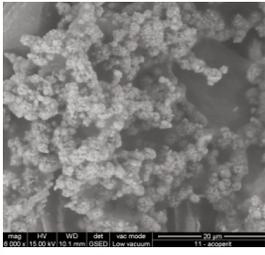
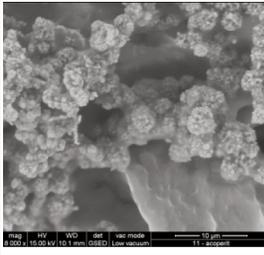
EXPERIMENTAL PART

In the experiments below presented, we developed eight models using 100% cotton fabric to obtain the surface with electroconductive properties. The objective was to get materials with electro-conductive

properties using standard technologies (printing, scrapping, and padding) and nickel (Ni) microparticles. Preliminary treatments on the fabrics have been performed to obtain the antistatic (Avistat 3 P, Arristan AIR, and Aristan CPU), hydrophilic (Tubicoat 41, and Tubifast) and hydrophobic (NUVA) effect. The conductive paste based on water, Tubicoat binder, Tubivis DL 650, and micro/nanoparticles of nickel (<50 μm) was dried on the fabric surface at a temperature of 120°C for two minutes and condensation at a temperature of 140°C, for 3 minutes. For comparison, the printing with a conductive paste based on nickel performed on one side of the fabric and both sides of the fabric surface. Table 1 presents the surface analyses by electronic microscope with 4x magnification and thickness of the materials analyzed. Table 2 presents the SEM (Scanning electron microscope) analysis of the samples untreated (sample no. 0) and

Table 1

SURFACE EVALUATION OF THE EXPERIMENTAL MODELS BEFORE AND AFTER THE DRY RUBBING OPERATION			
Sample no.	Image of the textile surface – Optical microscope 4x	Image of the textile surface after dry rubbing – Optical microscope 4x	Thickness (mm)
1			0.96
2			0.98
3			0.35
4			0.36
5			0.34
6			0.36
7			0.35
8			0.35

SAMPLES TOPOGRAPHY ANALYZED BY SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY (SEM)				
No.	Image SEM magnification 2000×	Image SEM magnification 4000×	Image SEM magnification 6000×	Image SEM magnification 8000×
0 Initial sample untreated				
1 (Ni microparticles)				
3 (Ni microparticles)				
5 (Ni microparticles)				
7 (Ni microparticles)				

treated with conductive paste (samples no. 1, 3, 5 and 7). In table 2 the micro/nanoparticles deposited can be observed very well and also it can be seen as a clusterization tendency of the micro/nanoparticles. Nickel is a common cause of allergic contact dermatitis and can be found in many everyday items, such as coins, zippers, cellphones, and eyeglass frames, not only in sensor components. Taking into account these aspects, we decided to provide some preliminary tests to evaluate if the nickel microparticles from polymeric paste can migrate or no on other textile layers. To assess the resistance of the conductive coating of textiles to wet and dry rubbing, we de-

veloped an experiment that consists of rubbing the coated fabric with a dry tissue and with a wet material (figure 1). The final samples (figure 1) were optically appreciated, using greyscale and notes from 1 to 5 (table 3).

For the eight experimental models there were determined in the laboratory the resistance to acid and alkaline sweat for 4 hours at a temperature of 37°C, dry (R_d – figure 1, a) and wet (R_w – figure 1, b) rubbing resistance (wetting 98%, the frictional force 9 N) parallel to the warp direction (table 3), pH following PS-C-02, SR EN ISO 3071/2006 and surface resistance before sweat treatments (R_{si}), surface resistance

LABORATORY TESTS – RESISTANCE TO ACID AND ALKALINE SWEAT, RESISTANCE WET AND DRY RUBBING, RESPECTIVE THE REPORT [R/T]											
Sample	Acid sweat	Alkaline sweat	R_d	R_w	R_{si} (Ω)	R_{SAL} (Ω)	R_{SAC} (Ω)	$pH_{initial}$	$pH_{samples}$	[R/T]	δ (mm)
1	4-5	4-5	4	2-3	10^{12}	10^8	10^9	8.3	8.6	18.71	0.96
2	4-5	4-5	-	-	10^{12}	10^8	10^7	7.09	8.6	14.06	0.98
3	4-5	4-5	3	1-2	10^{12}	10^8	10^9	6.546	6.231	16.93	0.35
4	4-5	4-5	-	-	10^{12}	10^8	10^9	6.502	6.203	22.42	0.36
5	4-5	4-5	2	1-2	10^{12}	10^8	10^8	6.5	6.6	16.73	0.34
6	4-5	4-5	-	-	10^{12}	10^8	10^8	6.5	6.6	19.40	0.36
7	4-5	4-5	3-4	2	10^{12}	10^8	10^8	6.5	7.2	22.83	0.35
8	4-5	4-5	-	-	10^{12}	10^7	10^8	6.5	6.98	20.23	0.36

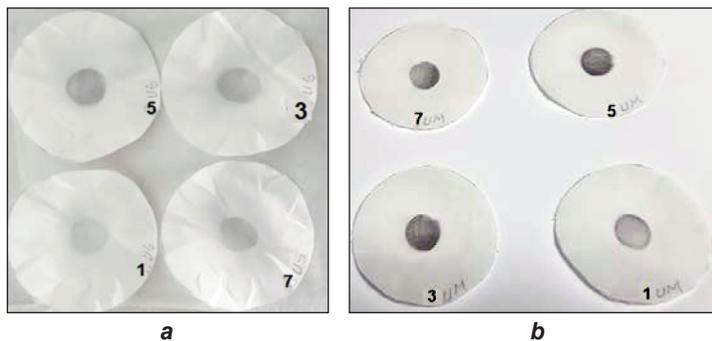


Fig. 1. Resistance to dry and wet rubbing:
a – dry rubbing; b – wet rubbing

after alkaline sweat treatment (R_{SAL}), surface resistance after acid sweat treatment (R_{SAC}). From table 3 it can be observed a reduction to 10^4 – 10^5 Ω of surface resistance after alkaline sweat treatment, respective with 10^3 – 10^5 Ω after acid sweat treatment, and the insulator fabric becomes a material with excellent antistatic properties. This preliminary evaluation will help us in future support decisions to decide on which type of electrodes (skin contact or not) can be used in this fabric based on nickel coating.

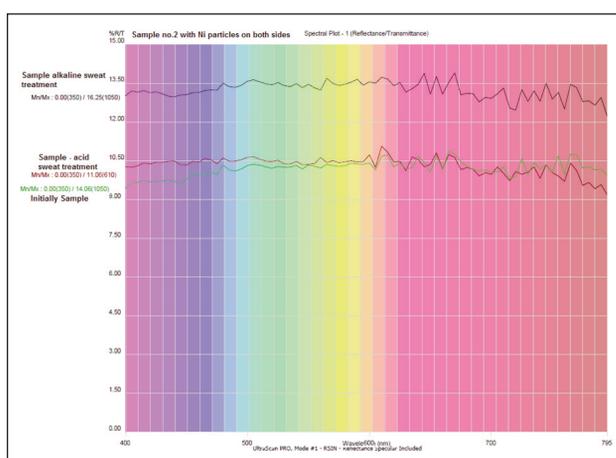


Fig. 2. Spectral plot sample no. 2 (both sides coating)

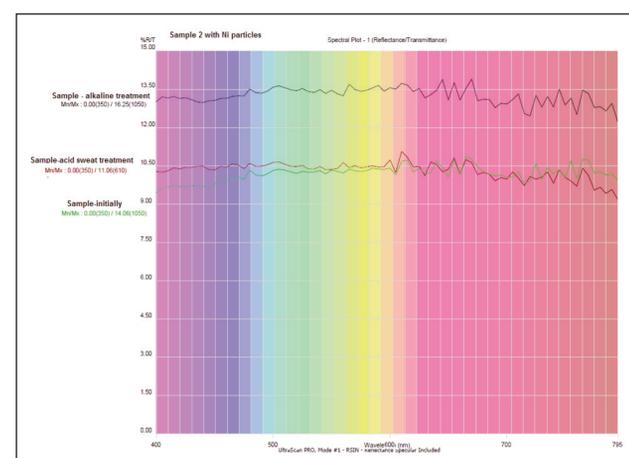


Fig. 3. Spectral plot sample no. 2 one (one side coating)

Spectrophotometry is the method that measures the degree of absorption of light by a chemical substance by measuring the intensity of the light as a beam of light is directed through the chemical substance. The spectrophotometer Hunterlab UltraScan PRO is used for research and quality control for solid opaque, clear, transparent liquid films. The UltraScan PRO measures with precision the reflectance and transmittance, noise in the transmission, and color of the reflected and transmitted.

Samples no. 2 and no. 8, were tested using a spectrophotometer UltraScan Pro to see if

occur some modification in light reflectance (equation 1)/transmission (equation 2) [R/T] and light absorption (equation 3). Figure 2 presents the spectral plot for sample no. 2 and figure 3 presents spectral plot [R/T] for sample no. 8:

$$T = e^{-\tau} = 10^{-A} \quad (1)$$

where T is the optical depth and A – the absorbance.

$$q(y) = G_r(y)/G_i(y) \quad (2)$$

where G_r is the reflected radiation and G_i – the incident radiation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The multivariate technique in MATLAB analyzed the experimental data, and we developed the mathematical model (equation 3) based on experimental data obtained for reflectance/transmittance ([R/T]), pH and textile material thickness (δ). Figure 4 presents the 3D representation of the reflectance/transmittance ([R/T]) of the samples obtained by printing method in the function of the thickness (δ) and pH using MATLAB software and multivariate analysis of the reflectance/transmittance ([R/T]) according to the thickness (δ) and pH:

$$z = f(x,y) \Leftrightarrow z = a + b*x*y + c*x^7*y + d*x^6*y^6 + e*y^7*x^5 + f*y^6*x + g*x^2*y^5 \quad (3)$$

where $z = [R/T]$, $x = \delta$, $y = \text{pH}$, $a = -573.5$, $b = 368.6$, $c = 5272$, $d = -0.3134$, $e = 0.02756$, $f = 0.01535$ and $g = -0.4938$.

Also, have been analyzed how well it fits the experimental variables (pH and δ) in determining the values of the [R/T] by the R-squared R^2 (equation 4), the sum of squared errors SSE (equation 5), and root mean square error RMSE (equation 6) The coefficient of determination is $R^2 = 0.99$ shows that 99% of the values of the z are determined by the variables x and y :

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - f_i)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2} \Leftrightarrow R^2 = 0.99 \quad (4)$$

$$SSE = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \Leftrightarrow SSE = 0.0329 \quad (5)$$

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(\hat{y}_i - y_i)^2}{n}} \Leftrightarrow RMSE = 0.1814 \quad (6)$$

By analyzing the correlation between R/T and thickness (δ) and pH, we observed that R/T is an inverse proportionality relationship with the thickness (equation 7) and pH (equation 8), and this means that the reducing of the nickel layer thickness will generate a lower value for R/T:

$$\text{Correlation (R/T, pH)} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -0.24967 \\ -0.24967 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Correlation (R/T, } \delta) = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & -0.52347 \\ -0.52347 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \quad (8)$$

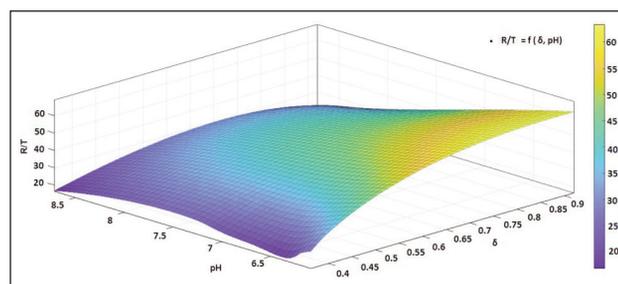


Fig. 4. 3D representation of the reflectance/transmittance ([R/T]) according to the thickness (δ) and pH

CONCLUSIONS

We can conclude that the experimental models 1–8 have specific values to insulating materials ($R_s > 10^{12} \Omega$). Still, the solutions used for acid and alkaline sweat can influence the material effectiveness in reflecting radiant energy and efficiency in transmitting radiant energy. Besides, the surface resistivity and indirectly, the surface conductivity of the textile is influenced by acid/alkaline sweat treatments. Moreover, as a result of treatment with alkaline or acid sweat solutions, the surface resistance of the samples analyzed has been reduced, proving an excellent antistatic character (10^7 – $10^8 \Omega$) and reflectance/transmittance increased. The transmittance and reflectance of the textile coated with a polymeric paste based on nickel are affected by the thickness [11–13] of the polymeric layer. Besides, the pH can influence the reflecting and transmitting radiation through the metallic layer deposited on the textile surface. A potential application of nickel printing, using both inks or paste, can be the developing of flexible composite electrodes [14–16].

Also, the correlation between R/T and δ , pH is harmful, and this means that the increase of the δ or pH values will generate the reduction of the R/T values.

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