

Non-linear Analysis of Deformation Behavior of HA/PLCL Porous Bio-composites

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INTRODUCTION

- Bioceramics such as hydroxyapatite (HA) are extensively used in the scaffold development for the reconstructive treatment of bone defects.
- However, their low mechanical properties have become problems in real surgical situation.
- In this study, HA based scaffold incorporating PLCL biodegradable polymer was developed to enhance the mechanical properties of pure HA scaffold.
- In order to predict the mechanical behaviour of the composite scaffold, two theoretical models were developed and analyzed.

Model I

The material is assumed to have non-linear deformation using the Hollomon's equation:

$$\sigma = F \varepsilon^n$$

The loading-point displacement δ of a bending beam is given by:

$$\delta = KP^{1/n} \left[\begin{array}{l} n(L-x)^{(2n+1)} \\ + (2n+1)L^{(n+1)/n}x \\ - nL^{(2n+1)/n} \end{array} \right]$$

where,

$$K = \left[\frac{n(n+2)2^n}{(n+1)(2n+1)H^{n+2}BF} \right]^{1/n}$$

Model II

The material is assumed to have elastic-plastic deformation:

Elastic deformation ($0 \leq P \leq P_y$):

$$\delta_e = \frac{PL^3}{6EI}$$

Plastic deformation ($P \geq P_y$):

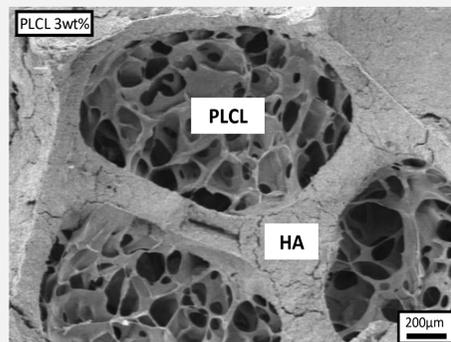
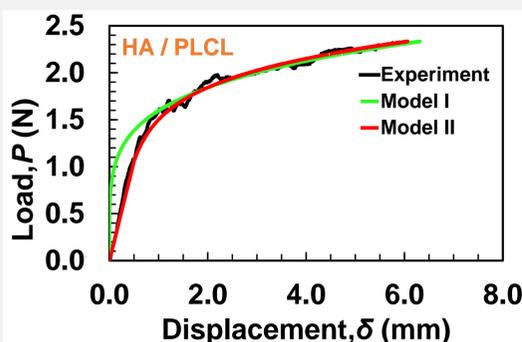
$$\delta_p = KP^{1/n} \left[\begin{array}{l} n(L-x)^{(2n+1)} \\ + (2n+1)L^{(n+1)/n}x \\ - nL^{(2n+1)/n} \end{array} \right] + \delta_y$$

where,

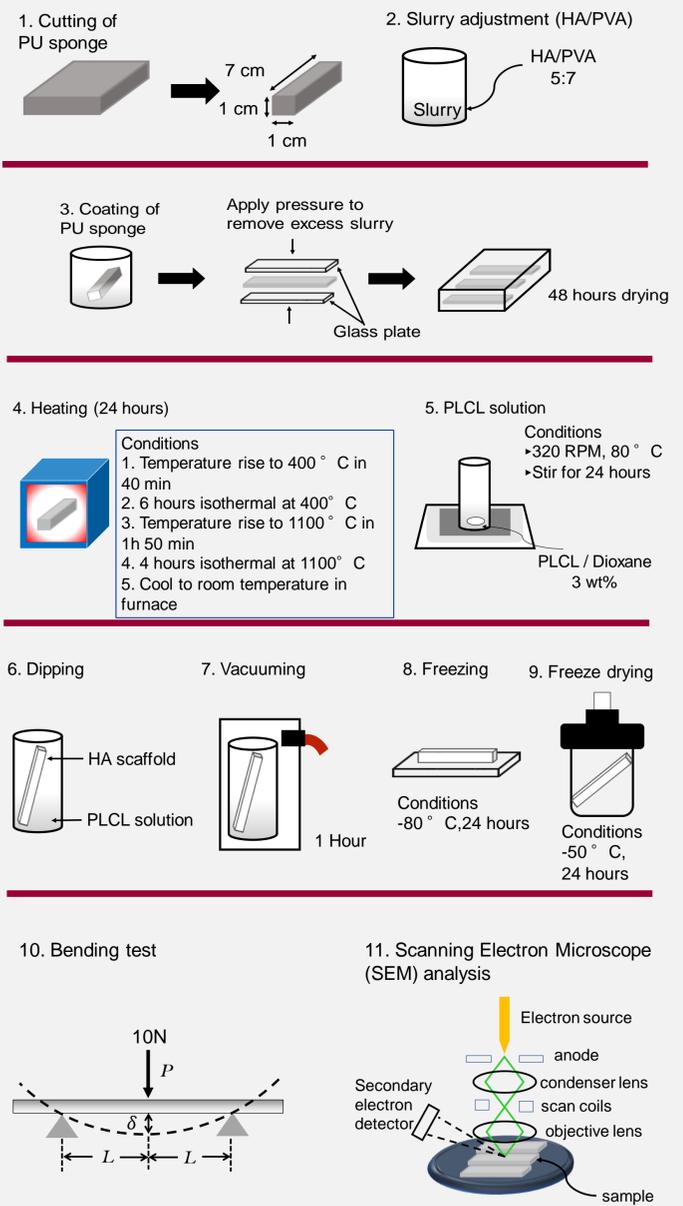
$$K = \left[\frac{n(n+2)2^n}{(n+1)(2n+1)H^{n+2}BF} \right]^{1/n}$$

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

- The introduction of PLCL polymer phase into the HA frame structure has provided ductility, thus preventing the entire structure from catastrophic fracture passing the yield load.
- The scaffold produced two types of well-developed interconnecting pore structure, i.e. (i) initial pore created by HA material and (ii) honeycomb-like PLCL pore formed during the freeze-drying process.
- The scaffold was able to provide porosity and average outer pore size more than 80% and 400 μ m, respectively, which is ideal for cell adhesion and nutrient transport.
- The morphological structure of HA/PLCL shows two layers of interconnecting pores where the addition of polymer has enhanced the mechanical properties by providing ductility.
- HA/PLCL material is observed to have elastic-plastic deformation where Model II depicts better accuracy compared to Model I with 92.96% and 88.18%, respectively.



METHODS AND MATERIALS



CONCLUSION

- The structural stability of brittle HA and its mechanical properties has been improved by introducing PLCL polymer
- It is confirmed that the HA/PLCL scaffold exhibits elastic-plastic deformation.
- The strain hardening coefficients invoked in both models have become significant to address the non-linearity.
- Model II shows higher accuracy when compared to Model I and may be useful in predicting the stress-strain behavior of a non-linear deformation of a material.

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