



3D printing of cellulose: design strategies for rigid/stiff or superelastic monoliths

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Department of Wood Science

University of British Columbia

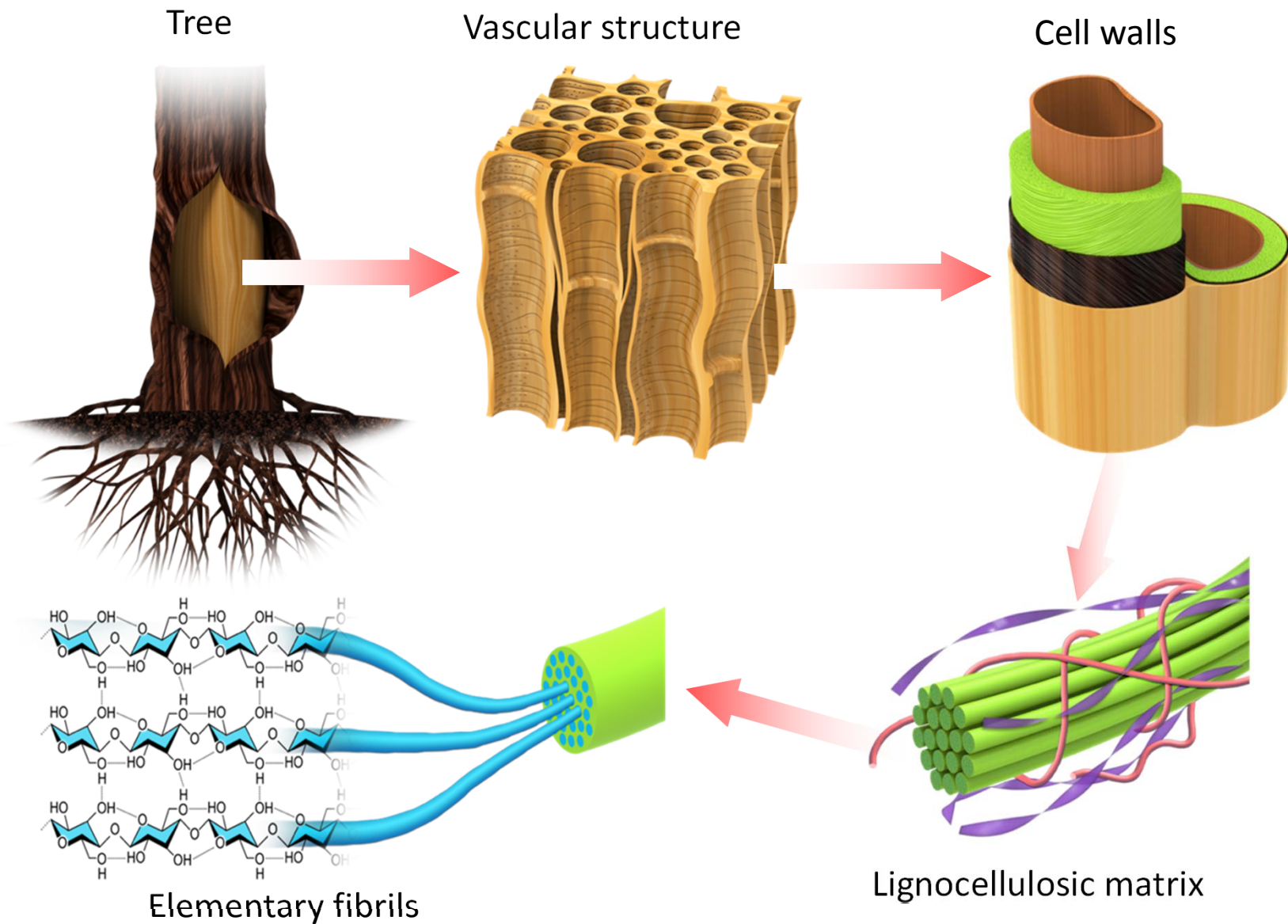
TAPPI Nano 2021 Virtual Conference
15-16 June 2021



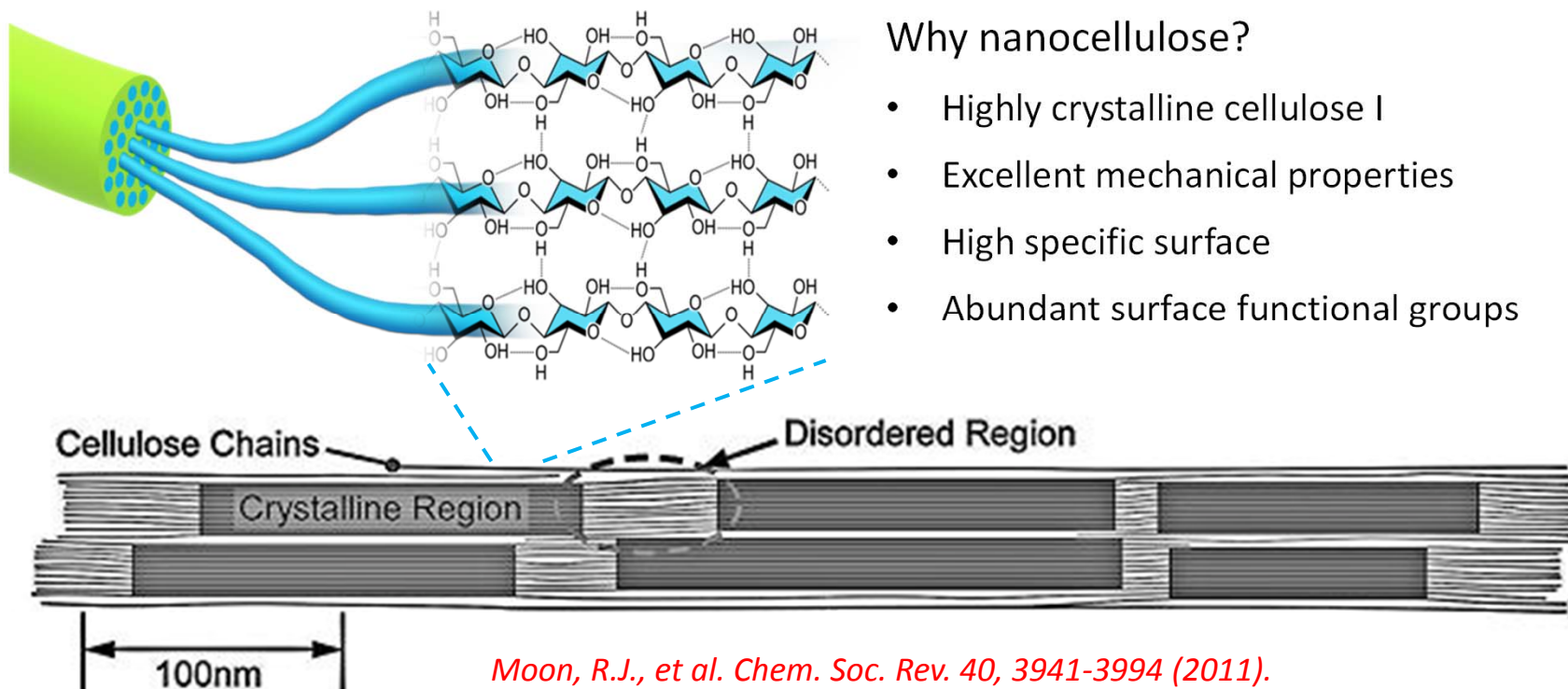
Outline

- Background
- Research interests
 - I. 3D printing of rigid/stiff monolith
 - II. 3D printing of superelastic monolith
- Acknowledgement

Hierarchical structure in trees



Nanocellulose: Nature's basic building blocks

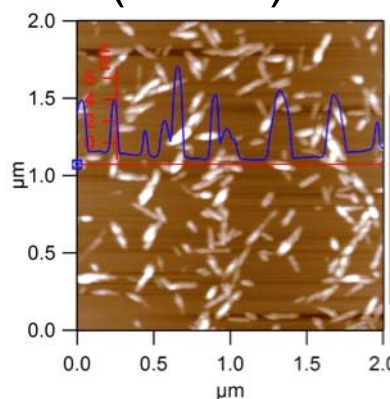


Why nanocellulose?

- Highly crystalline cellulose I
- Excellent mechanical properties
- High specific surface
- Abundant surface functional groups

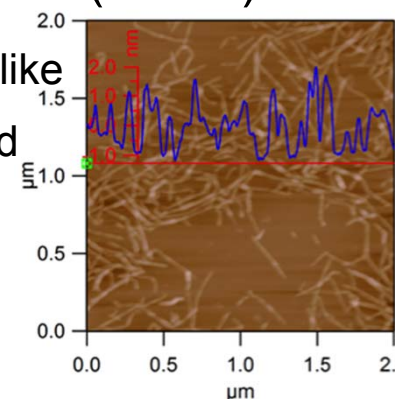
Cellulose nanocrystals (CNCs)

- Rigid rod-like
- Negatively charged
- High crystallinity
- Low Yield



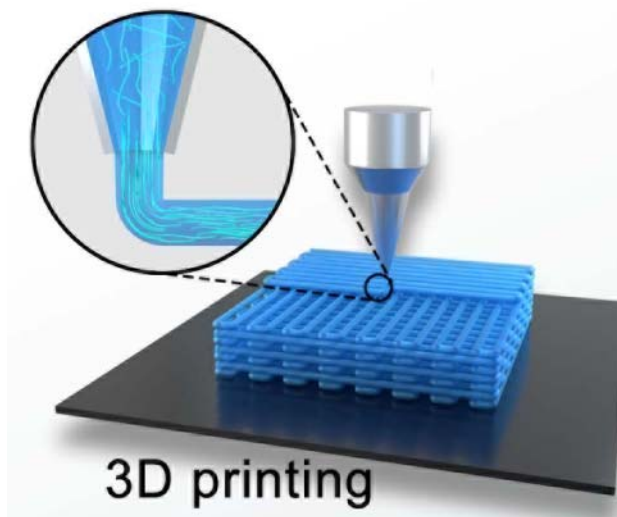
Cellulose nanofibrils (CNFs)

- Flexible spaghetti-like
- Negatively charged
- High aspect ratio
- High yield



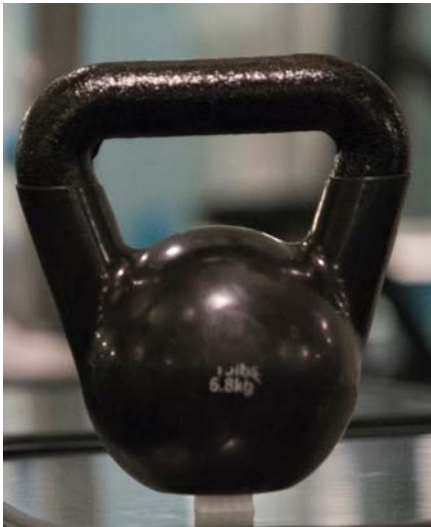
Carbohydr. Polym. 95, 32 (2013); RSC Advances. 3, 12366 (2013).

3D Printing – Direct Ink Writing



ACS Nano 2021, 15, 1869–1879

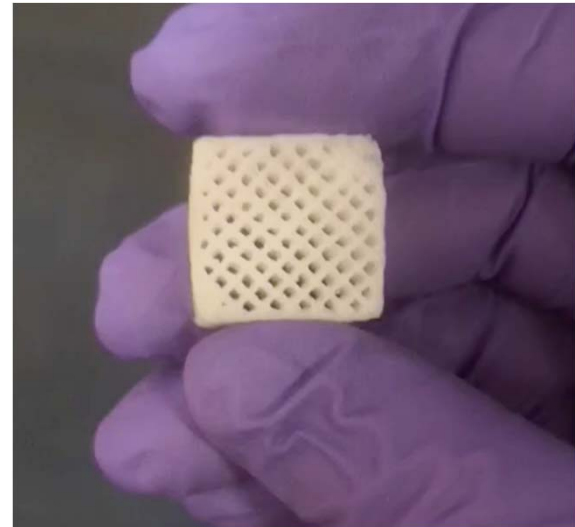
- Complex shape design;
- Customization;
- Better structure control;
- Wide materials selections;
- Flexibility;



Strong and rigid

Chem. Eng. J. 2021, 405, 126668

or

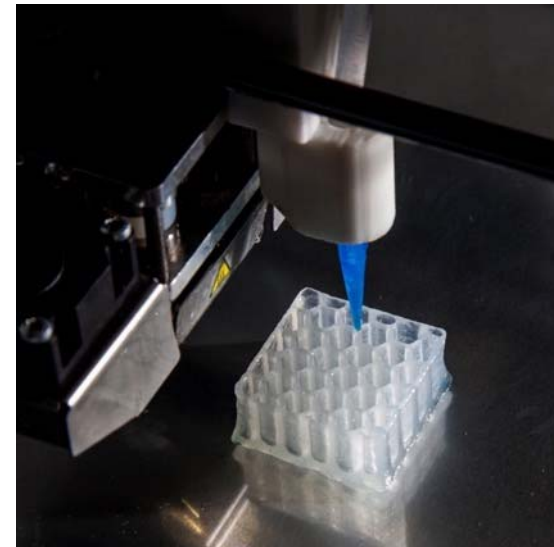
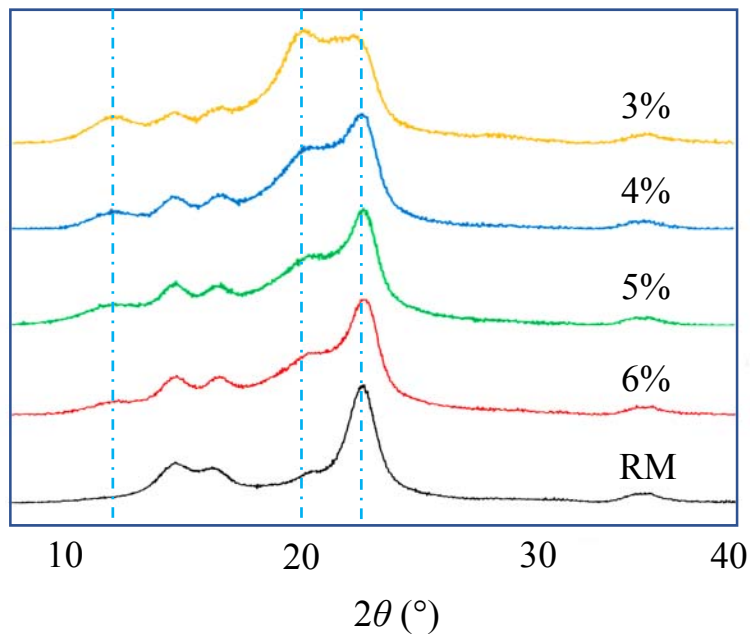
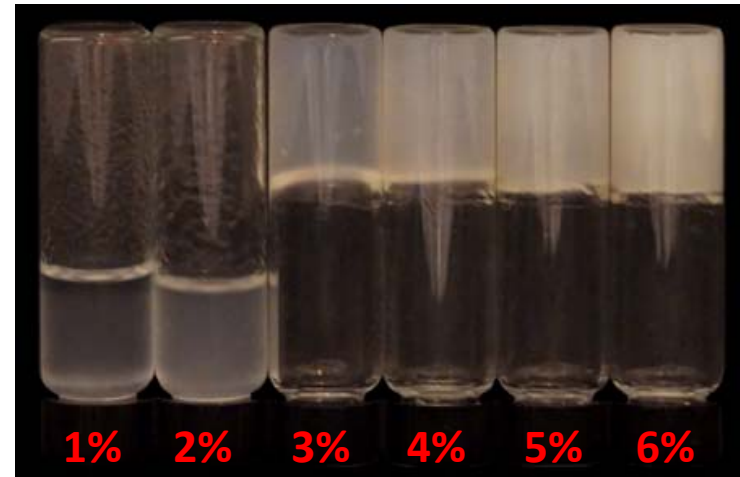


Soft and flexible

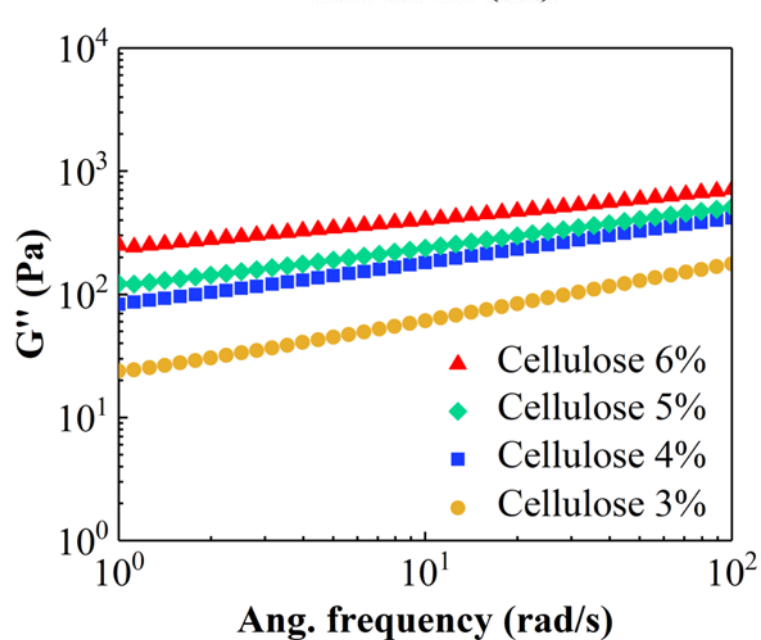
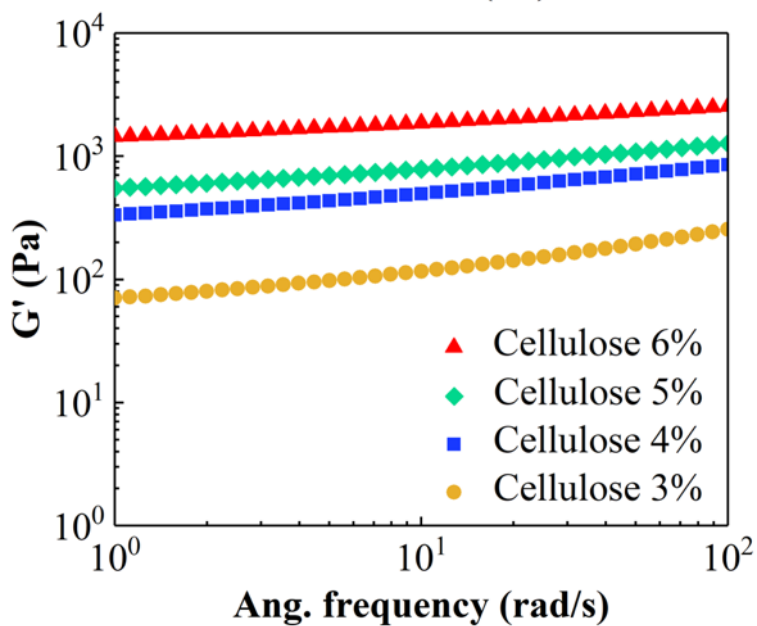
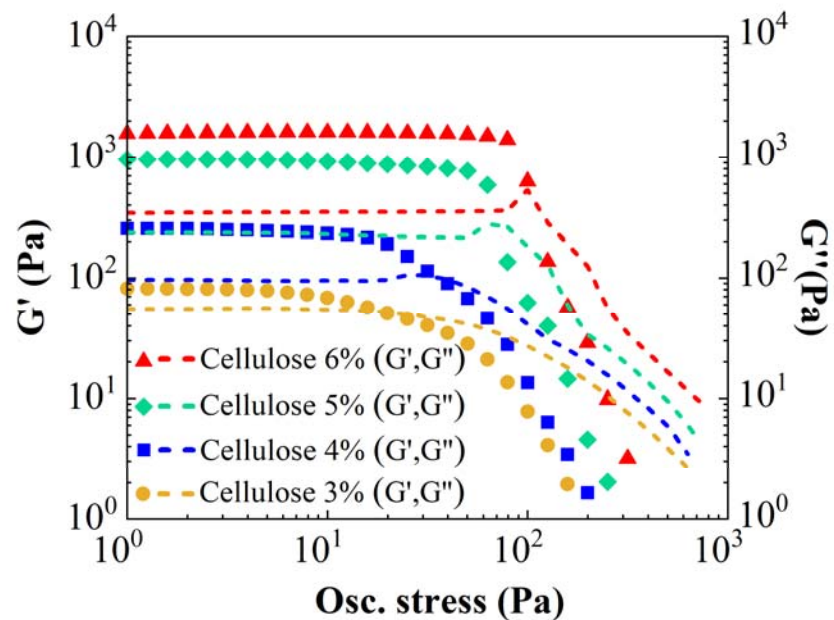
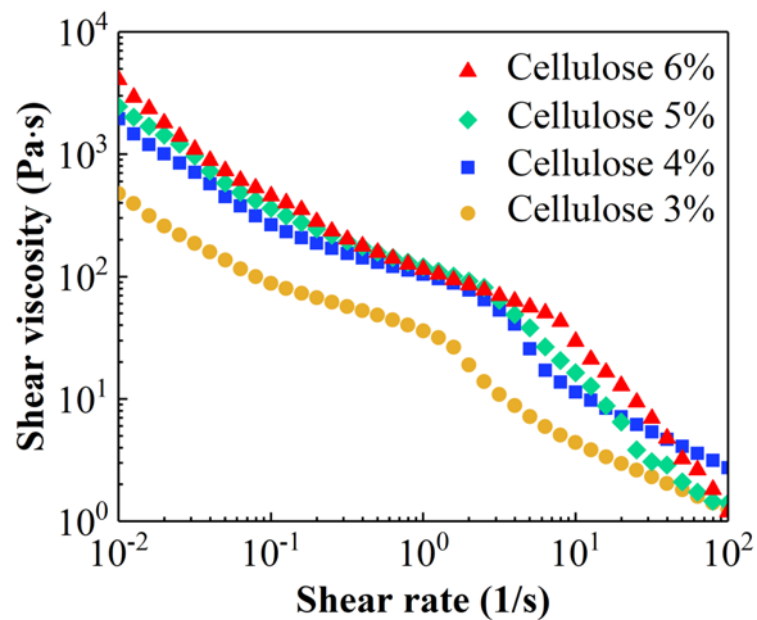
3D printing of strong and rigid structure

Partial cellulose dissolution

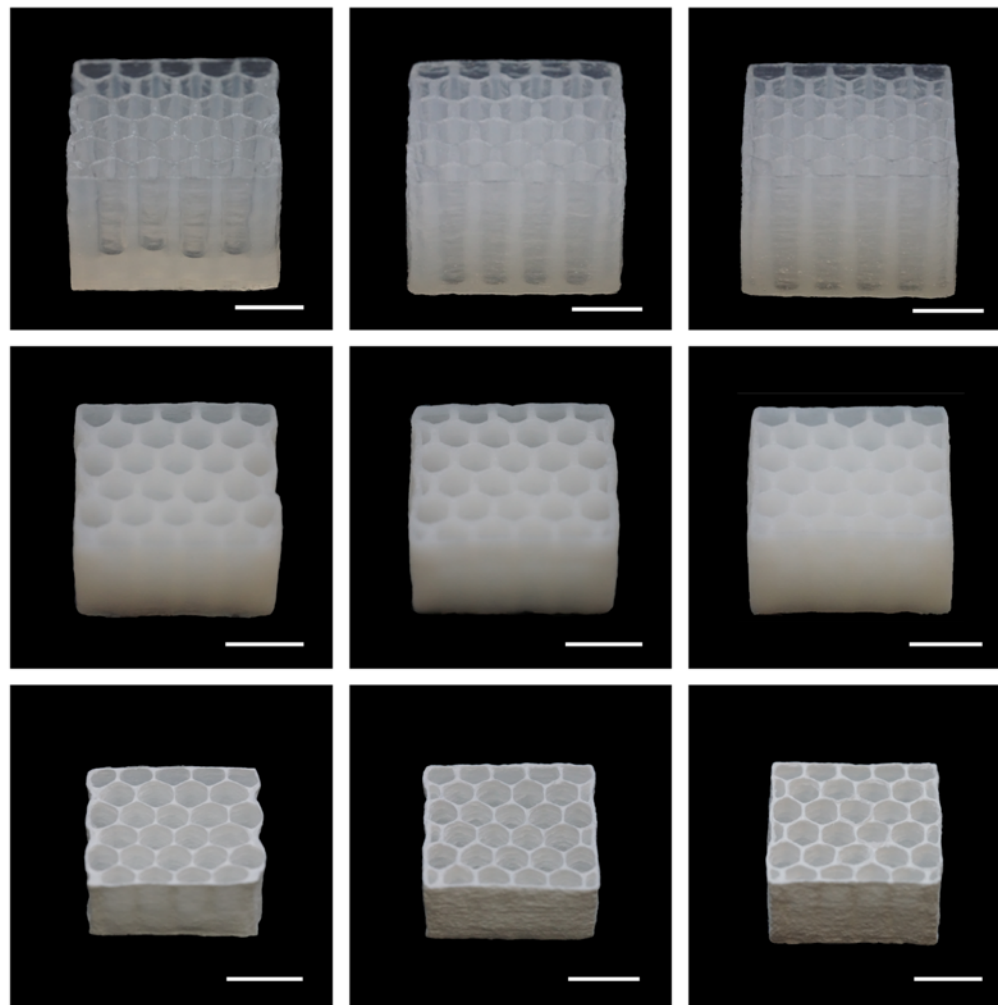
- Whatman filter paper
- 7 wt% NaOH
- 12 wt% Urea
- -12 °C
- Blending for 15 min



Rheological properties



Regeneration and freeze-drying

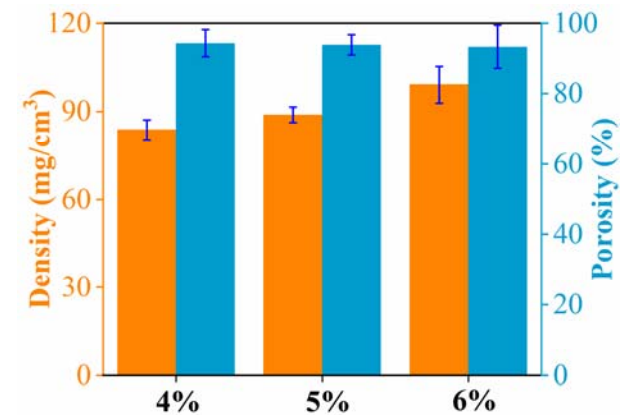
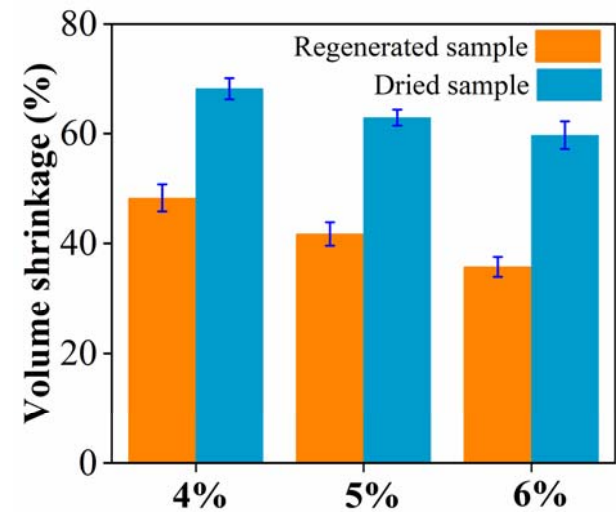


4%

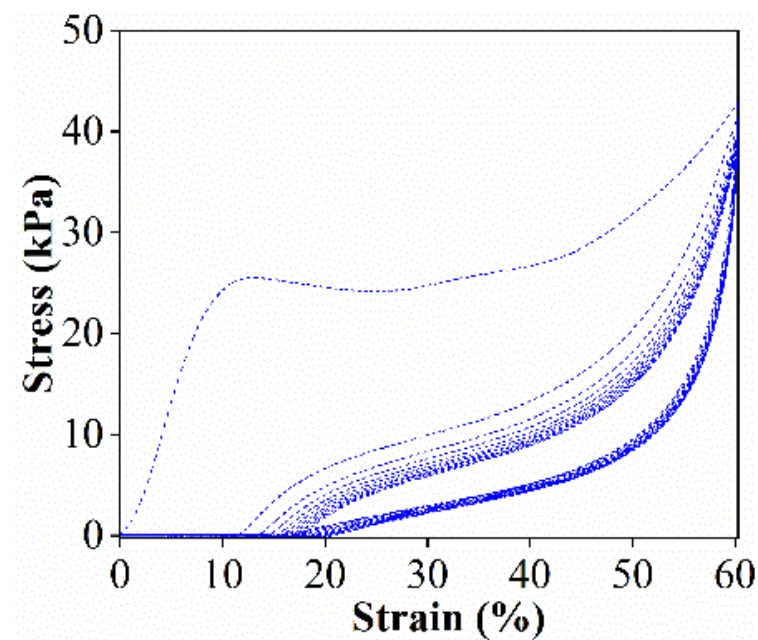
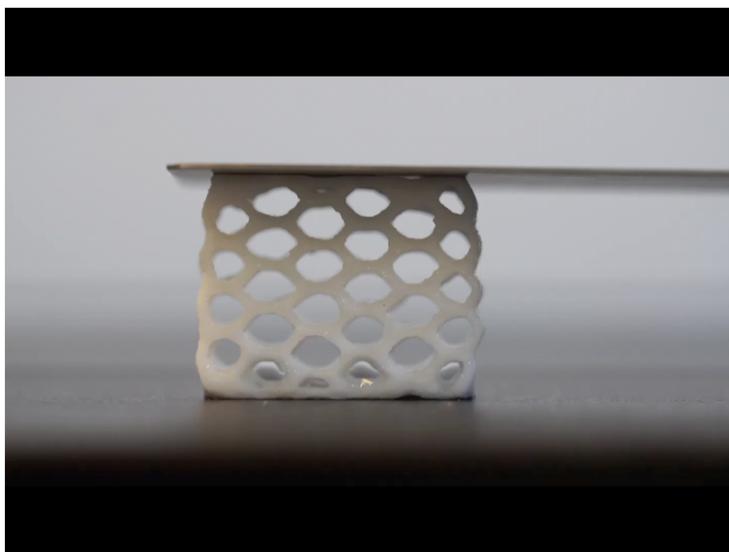
5%

6%

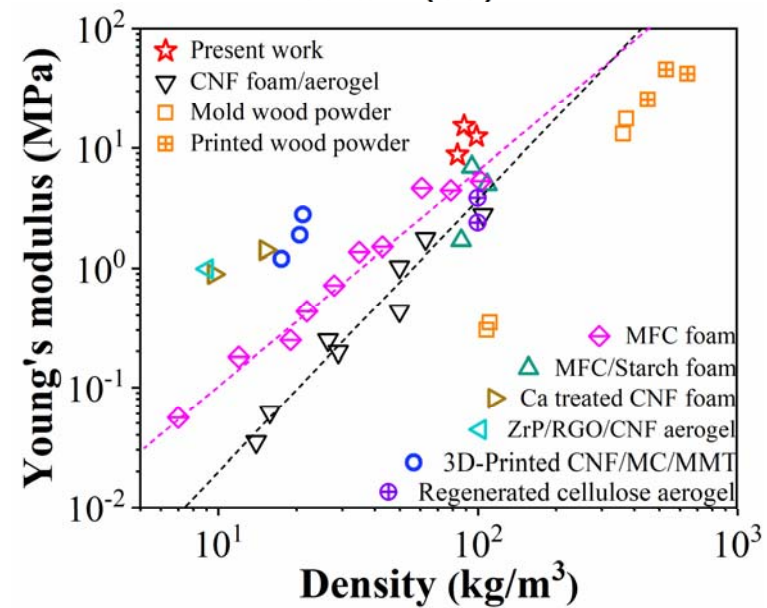
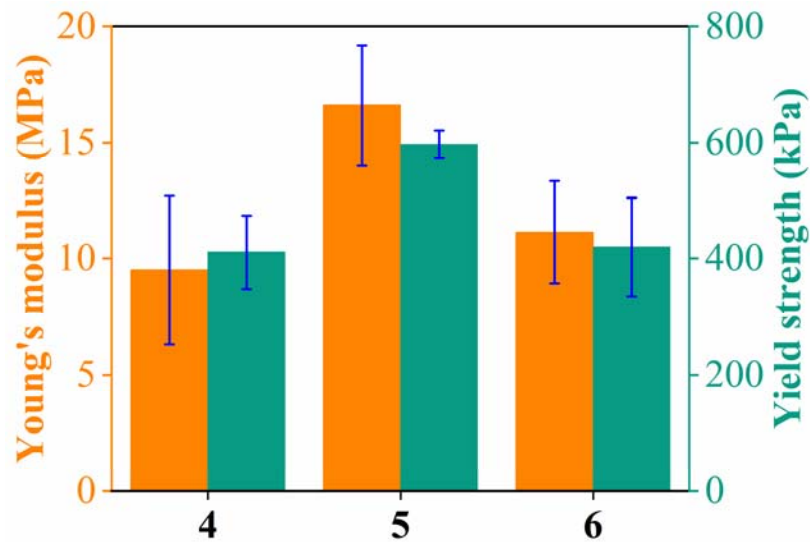
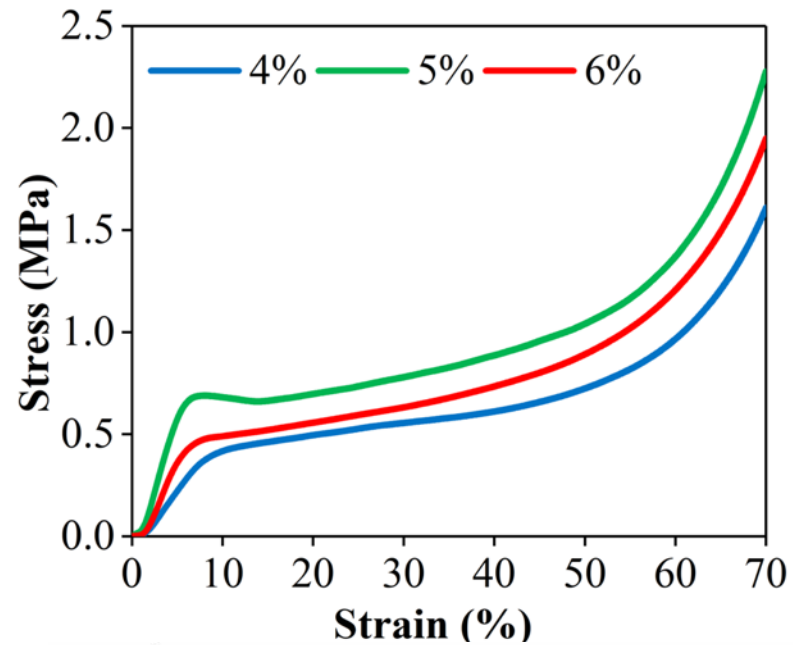
Scale bar = 1 cm



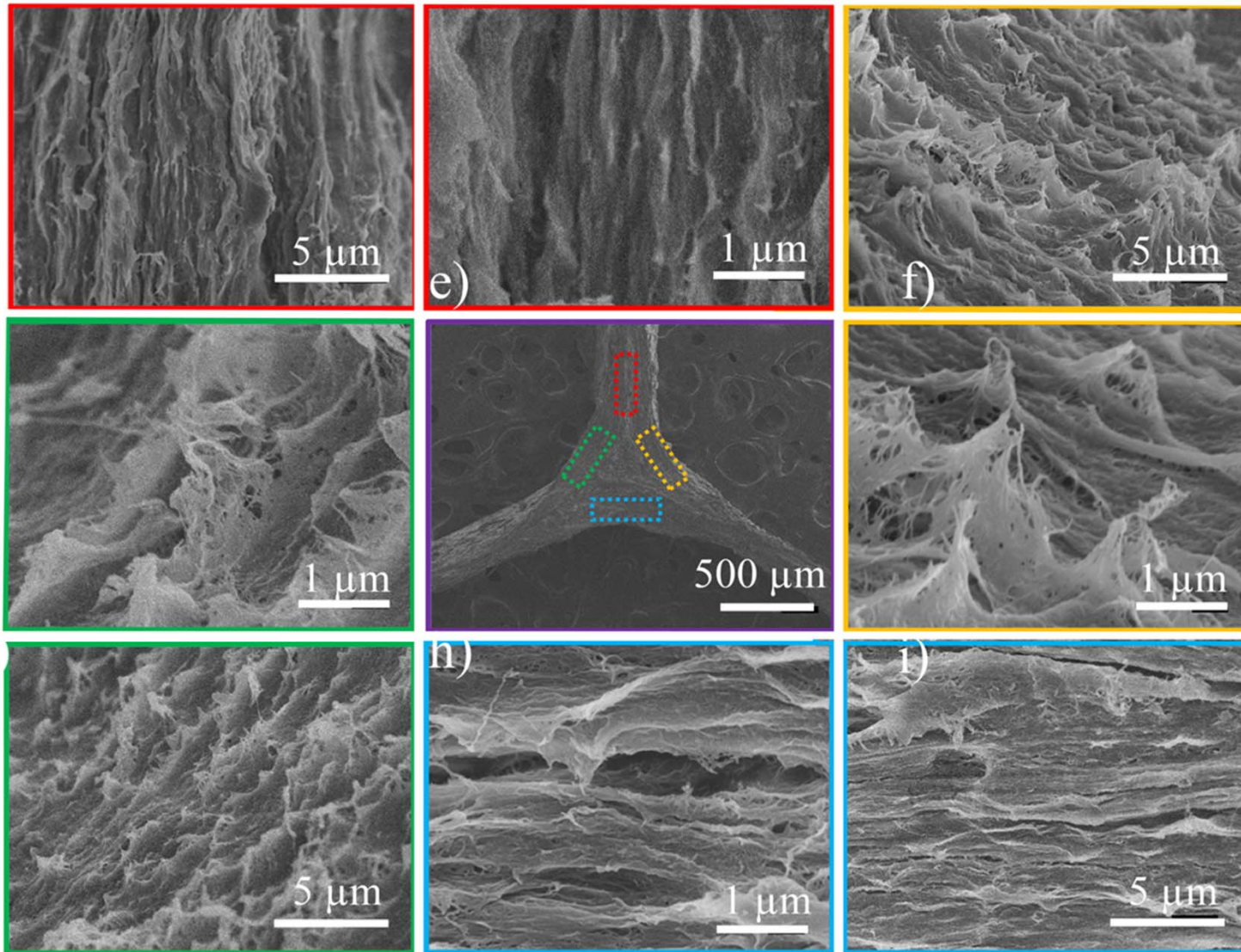
Wet resilient performance



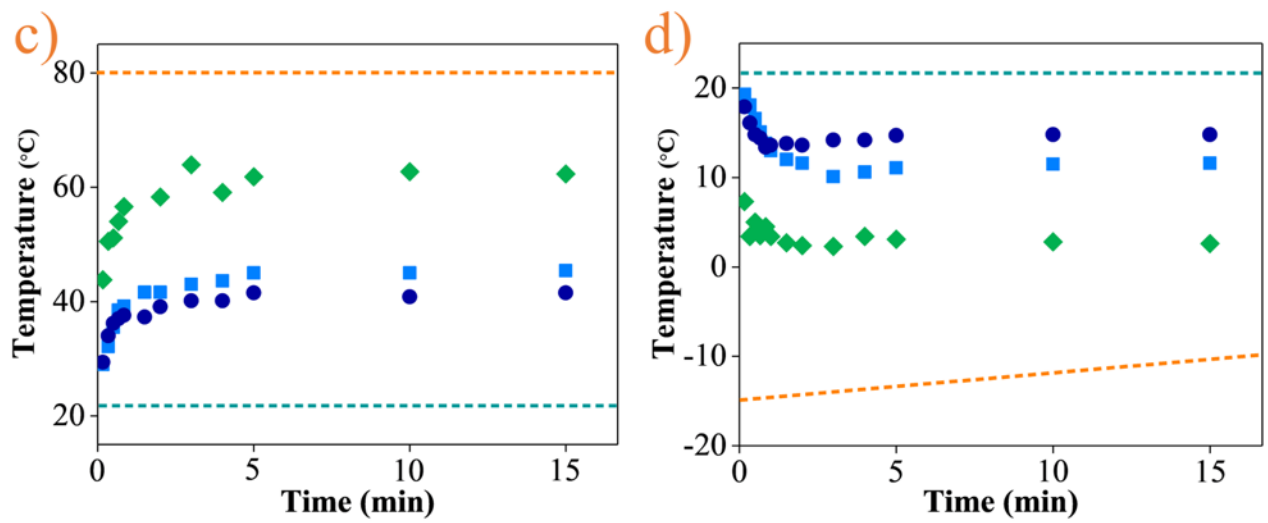
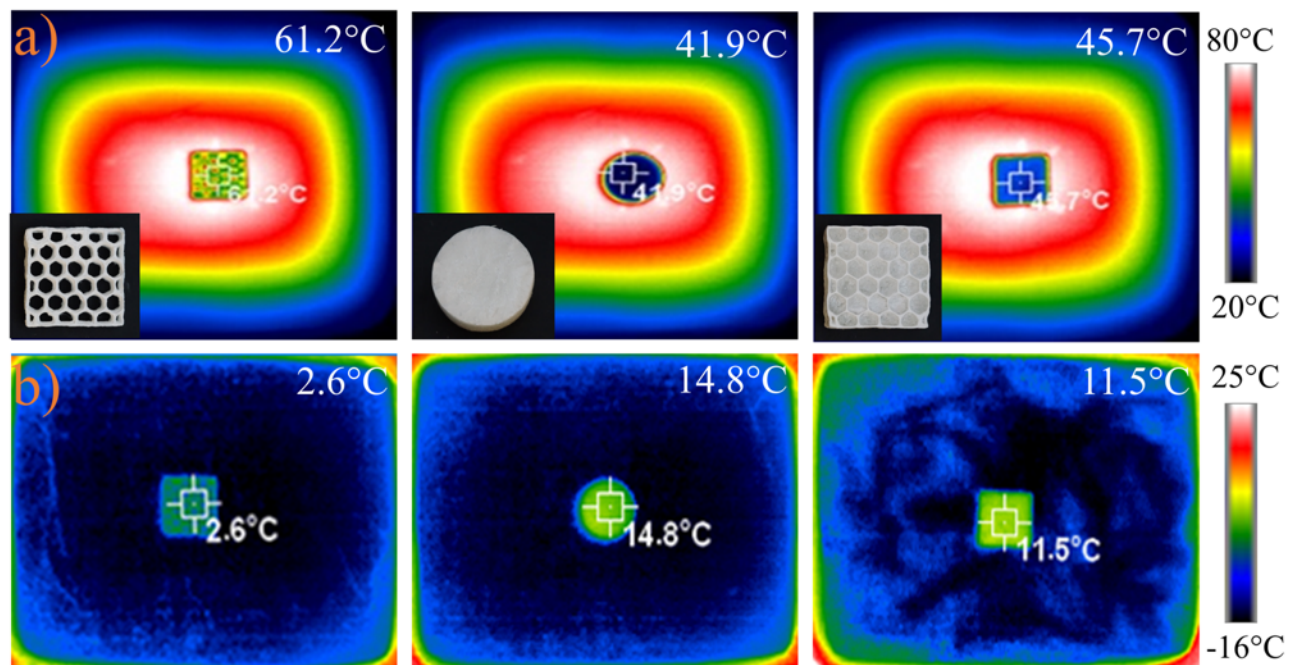
Dried rigid performance



Cellulose alignment during printing

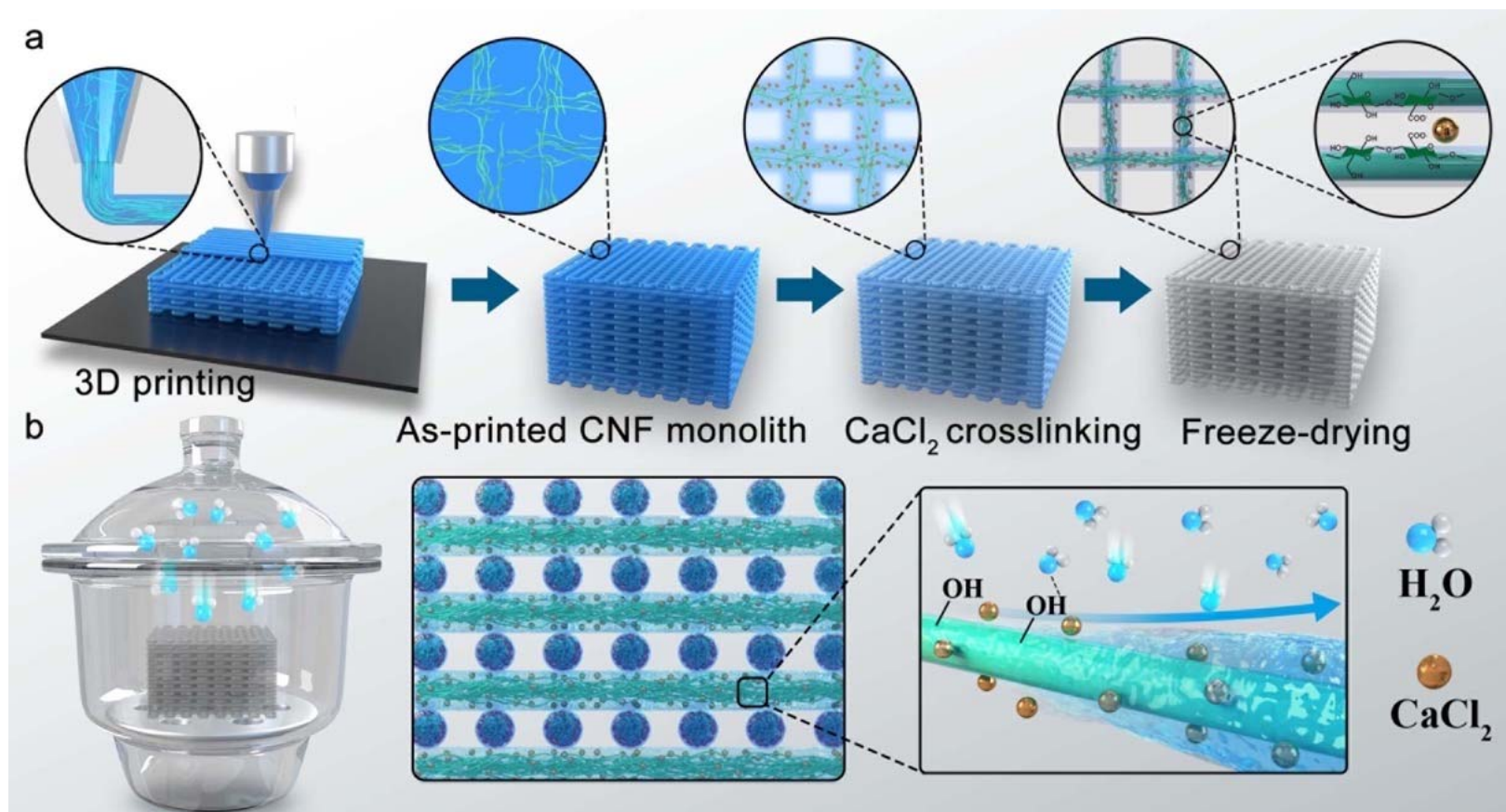


Thermal insulation performance

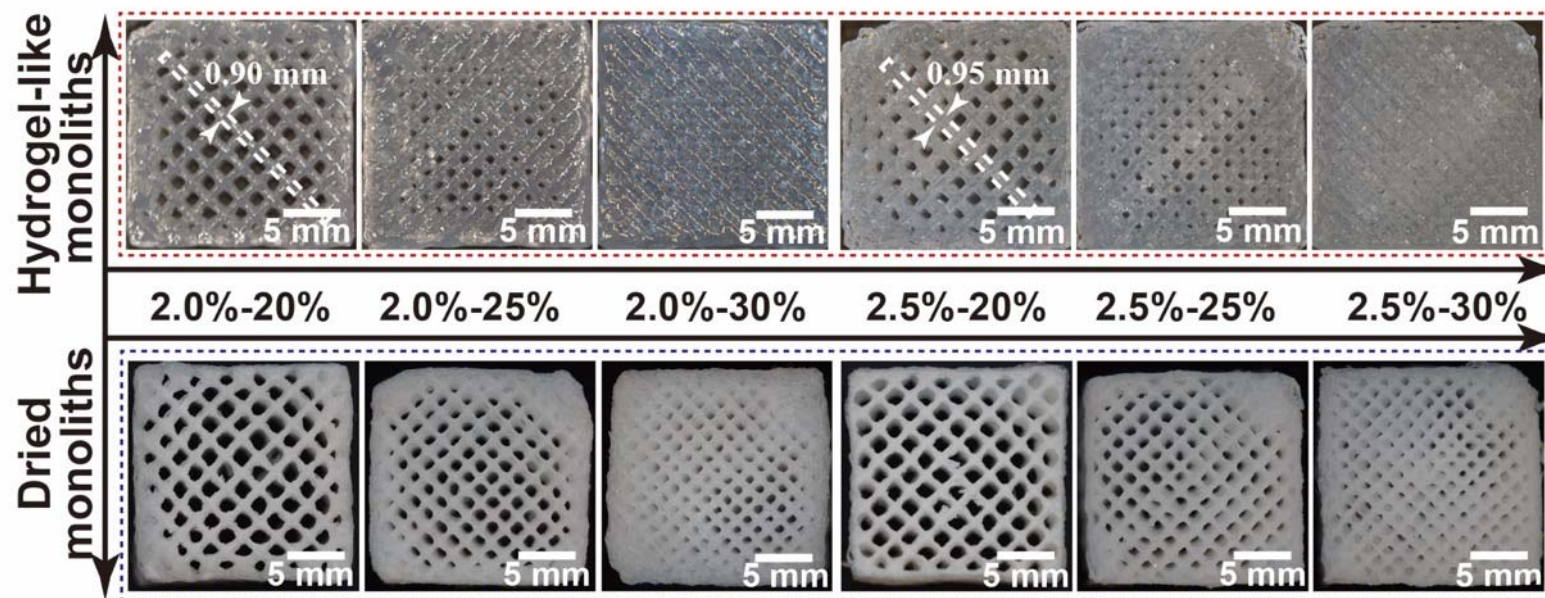
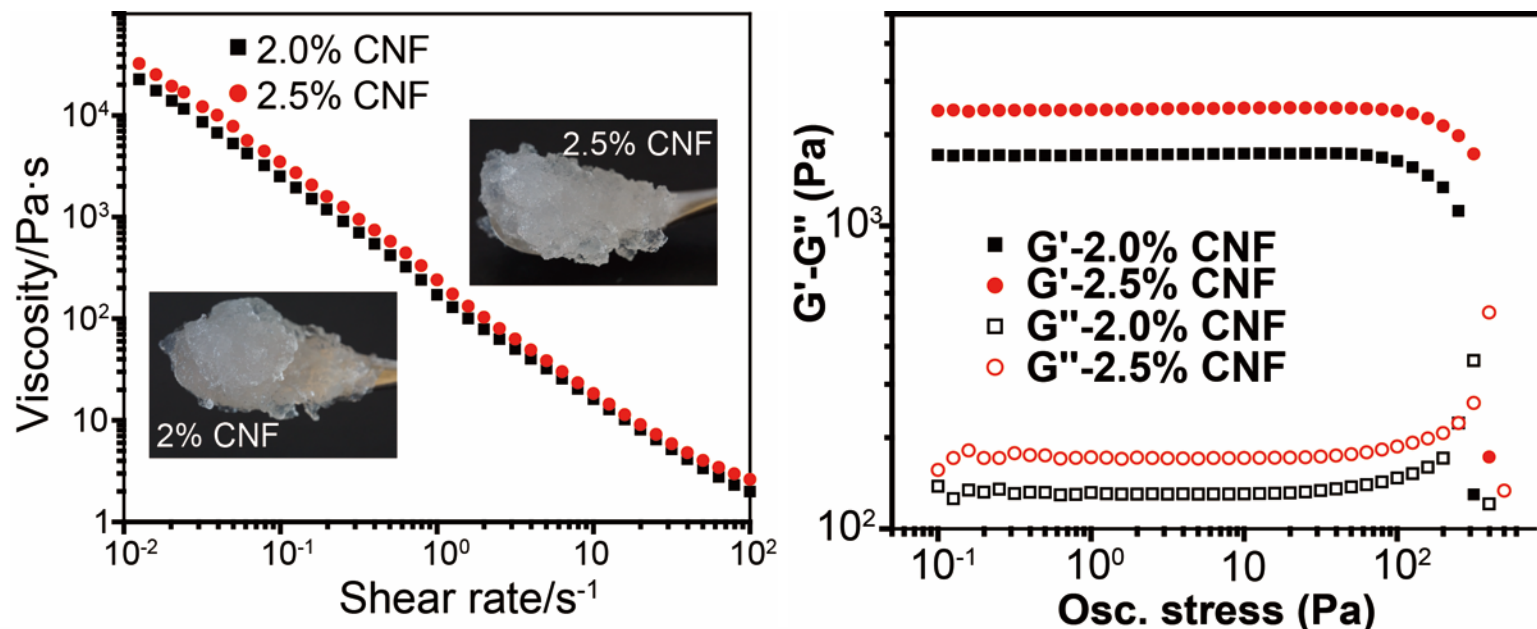


(- -) Background temperature, (- -) Room temperature, (♦) Open honeycomb, (●) CNF aerogel, (■) CNF filled honeycomb.

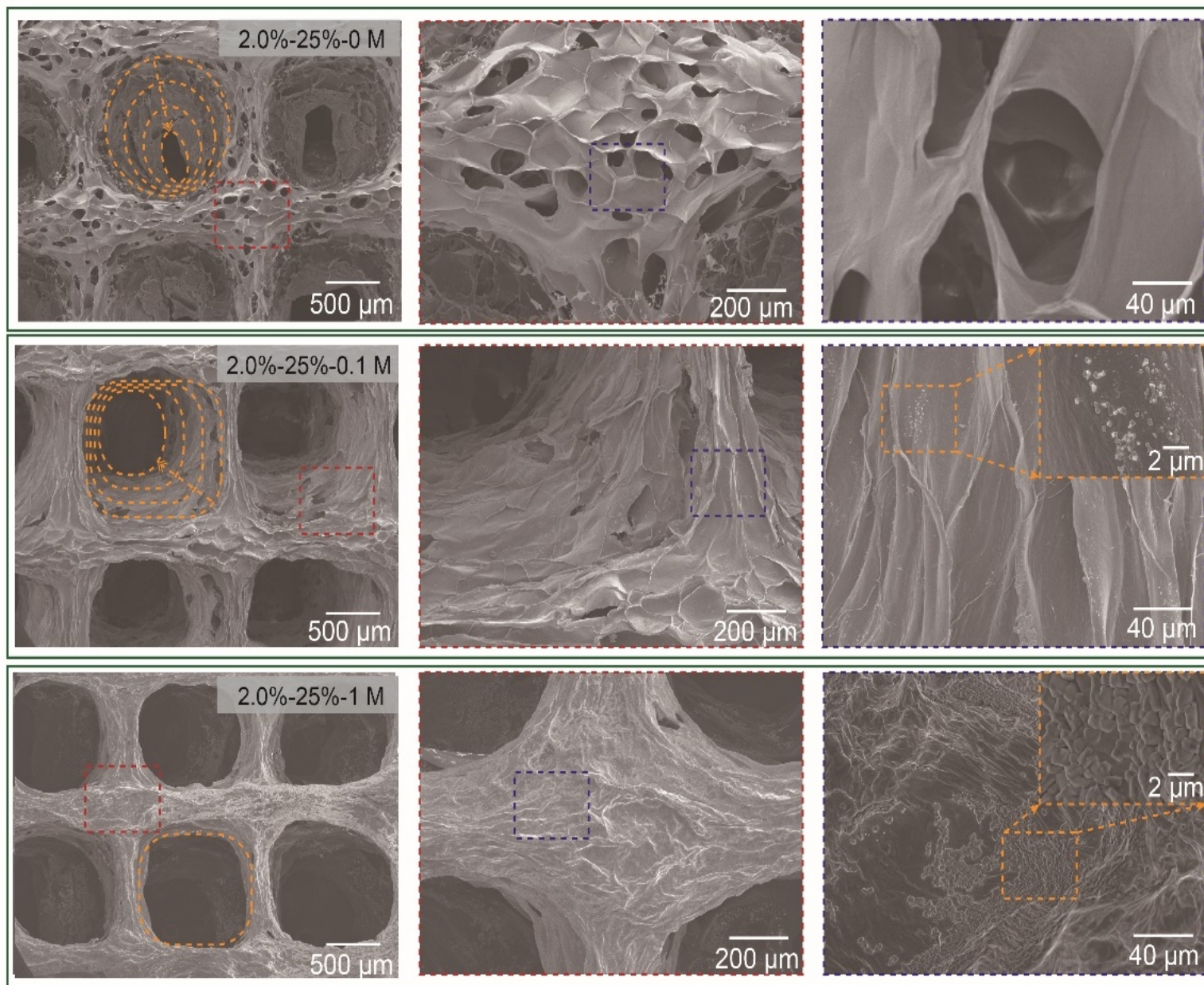
3D printing of soft and flexible structure



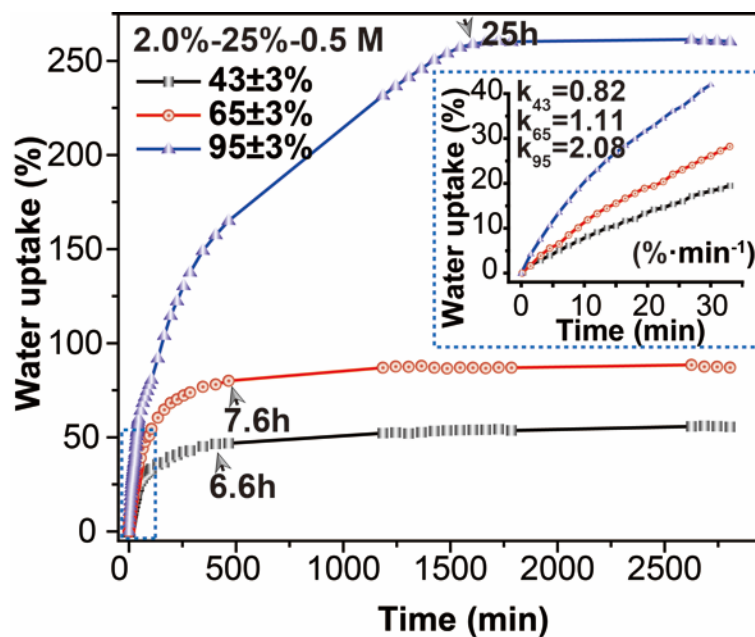
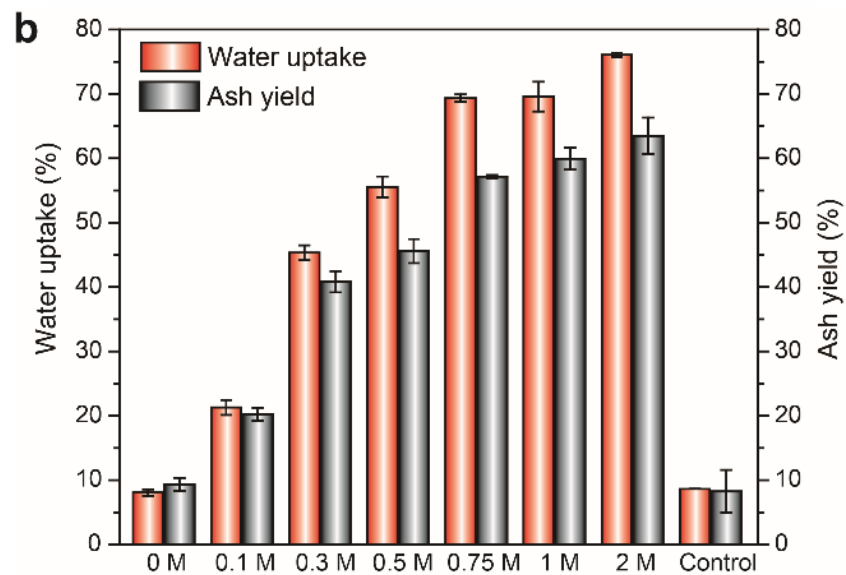
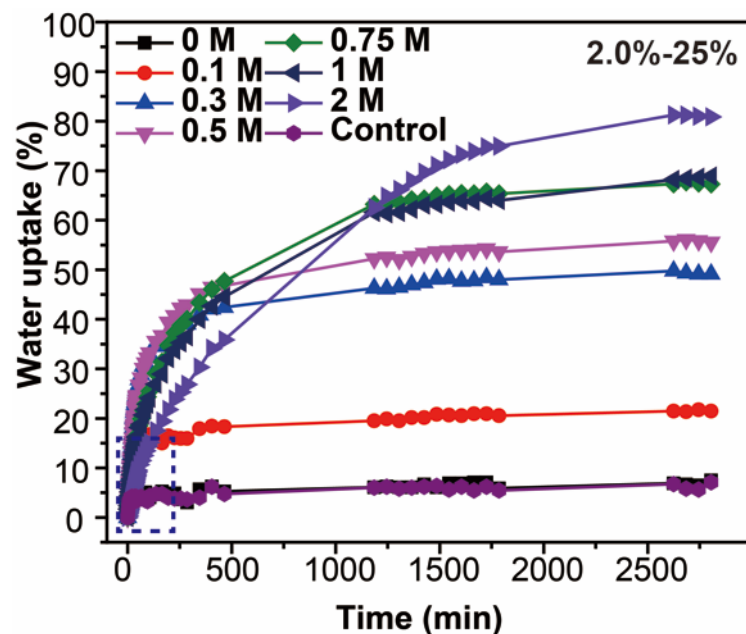
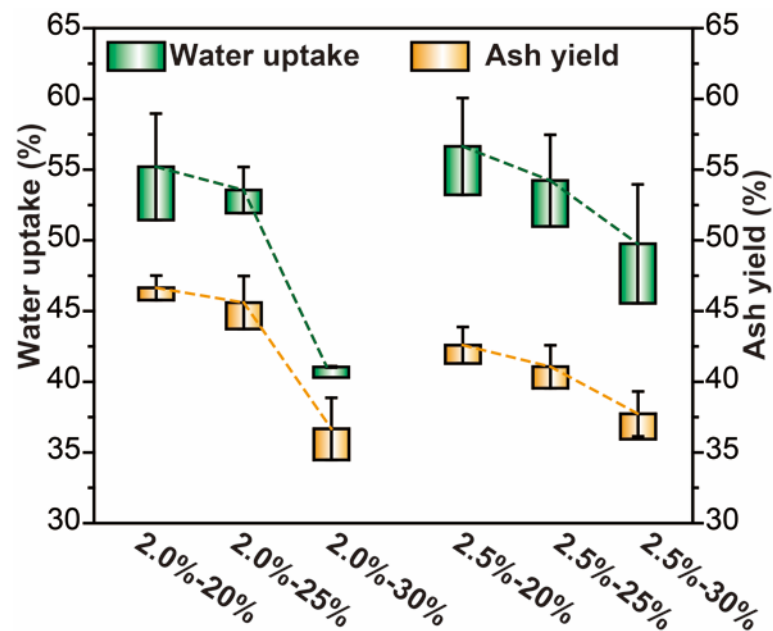
3D printing of soft and flexible structure



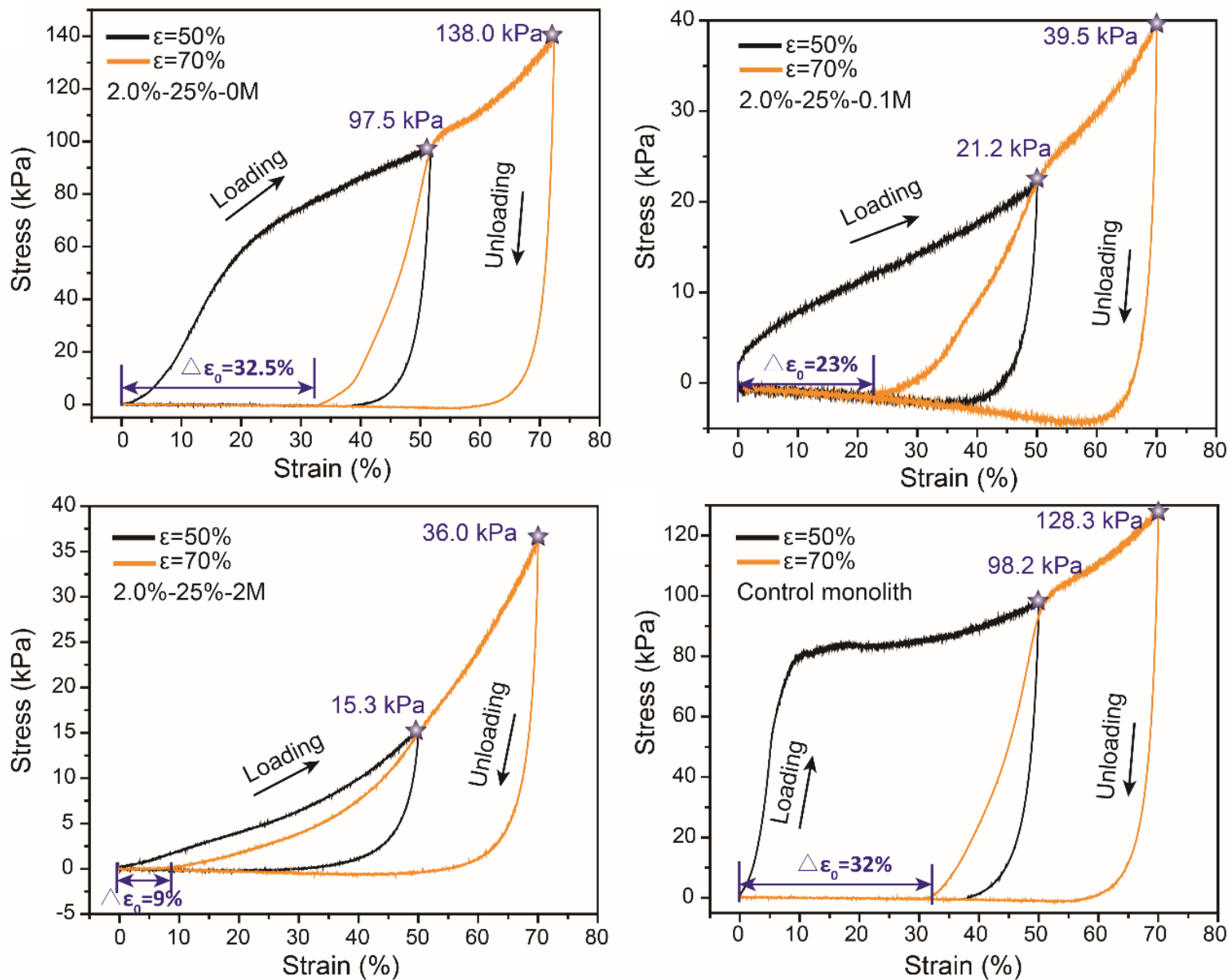
CaCl₂ crosslinking



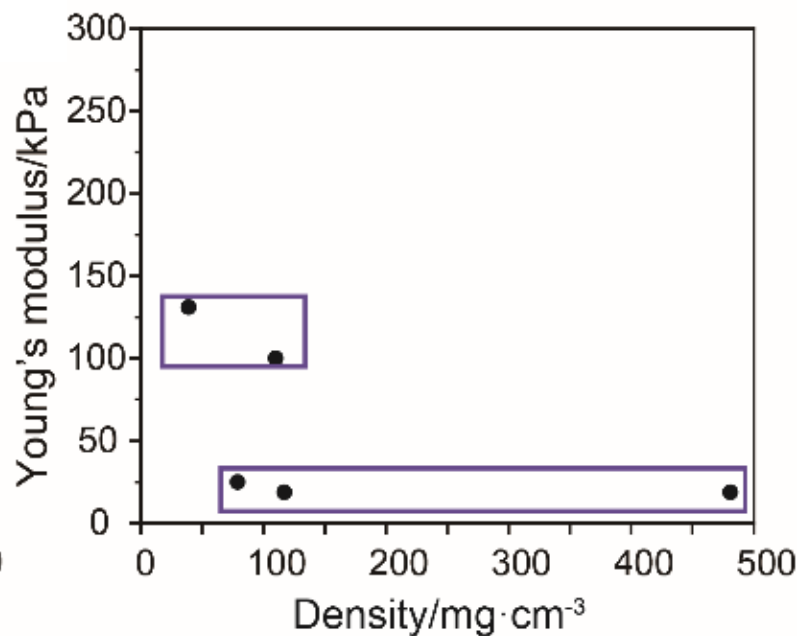
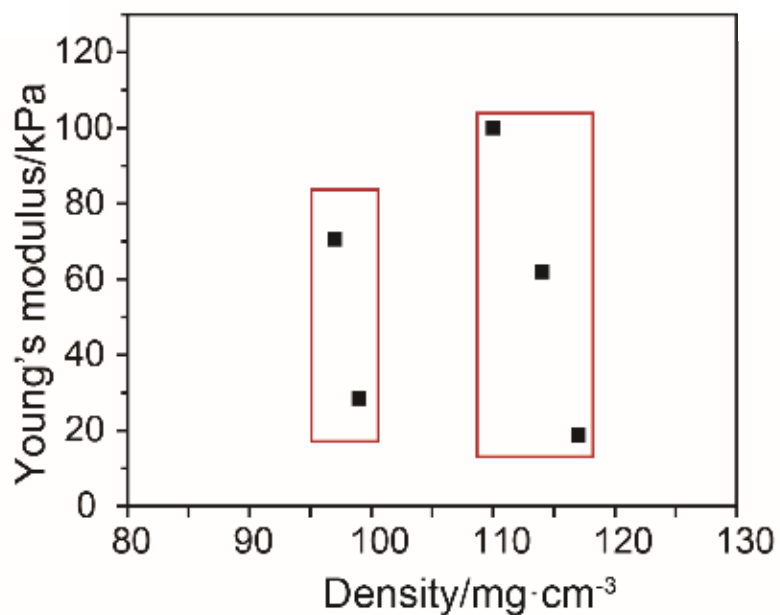
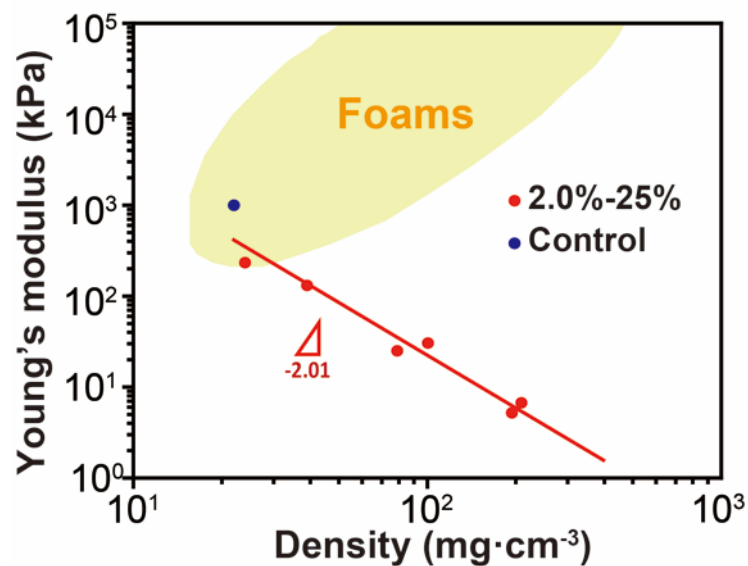
CaCl₂ induced water absorption



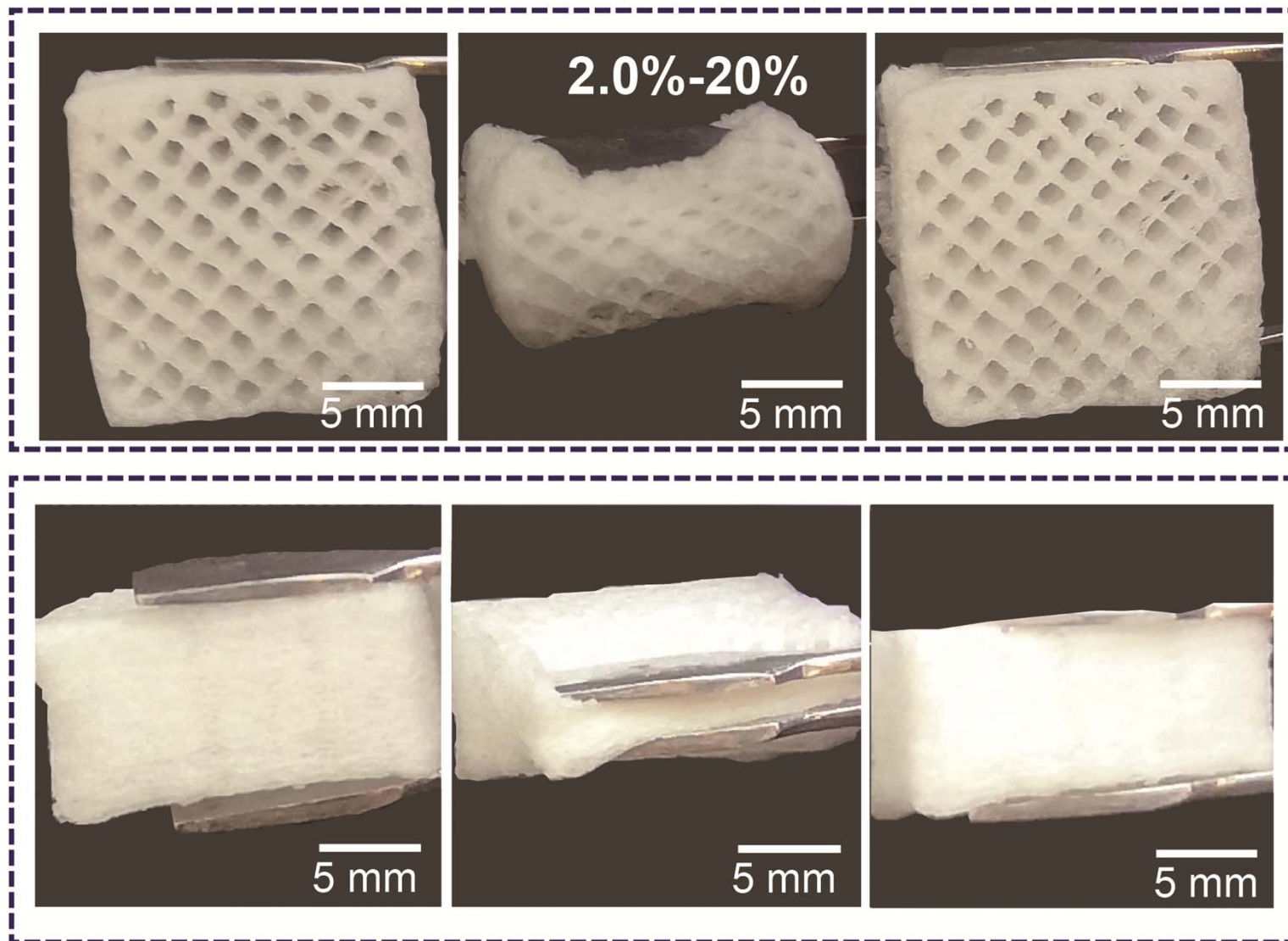
Cyclic compressive stress-strain response



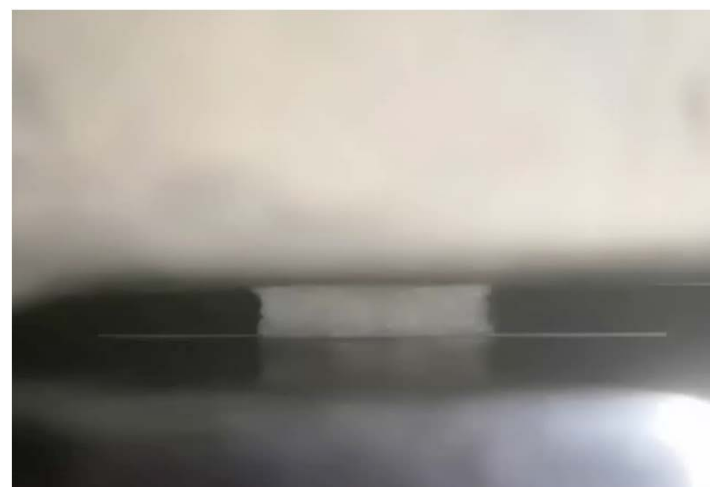
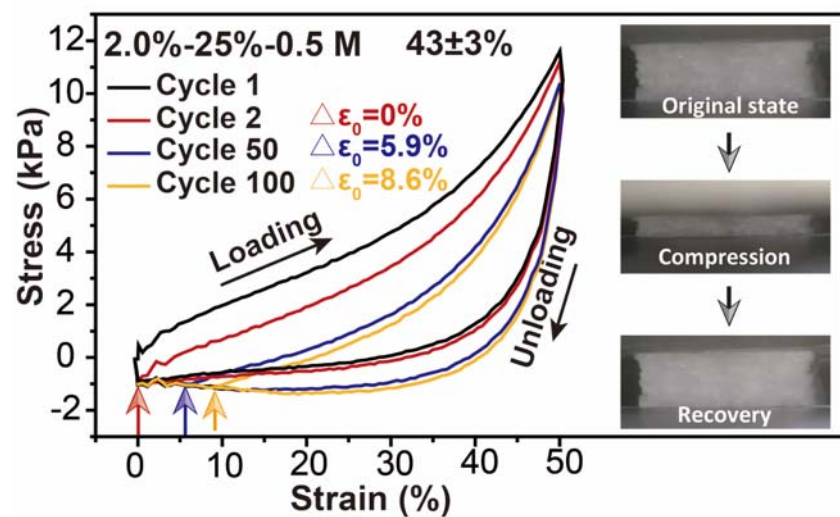
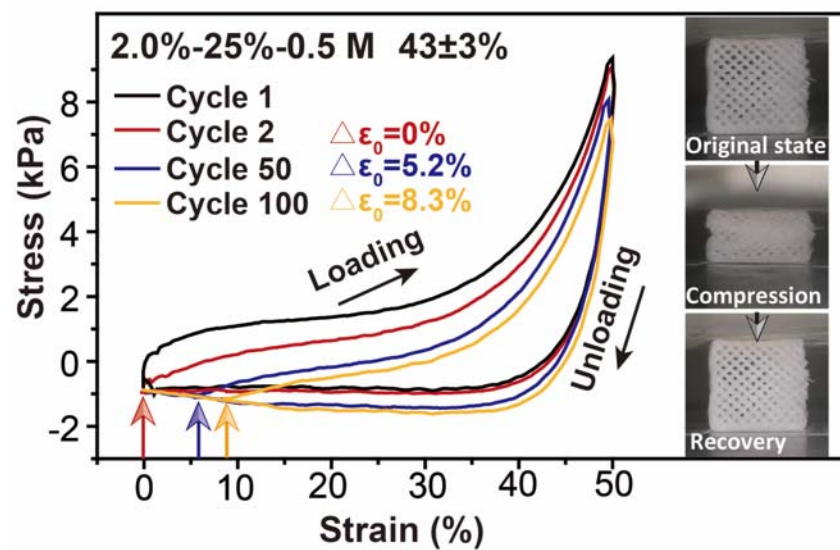
Mechanical properties



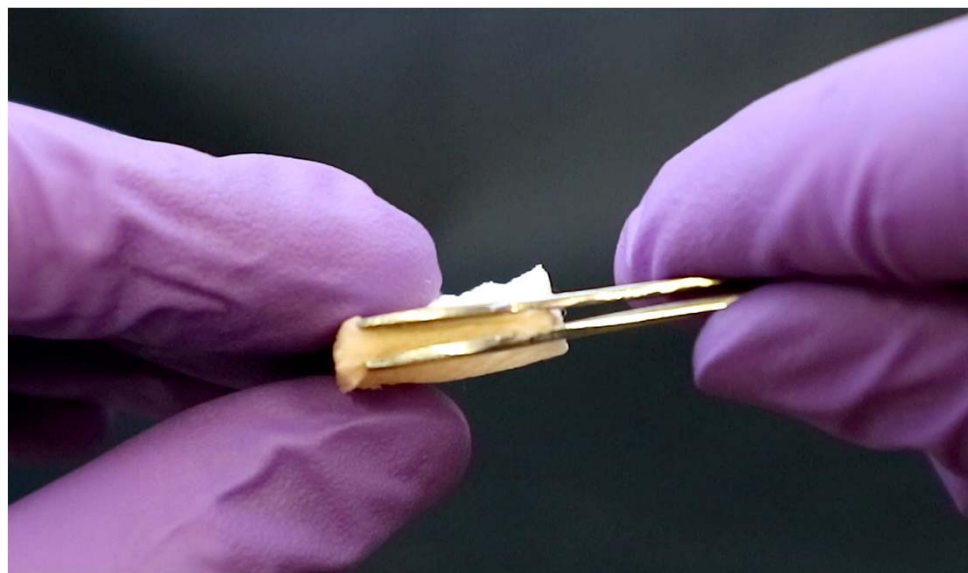
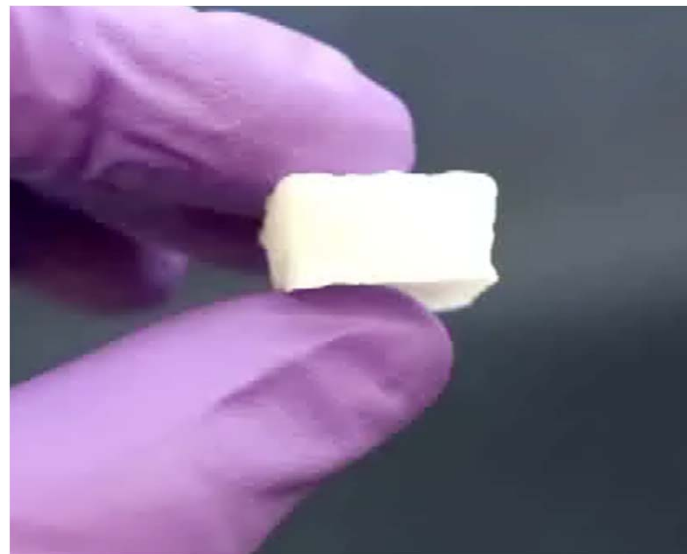
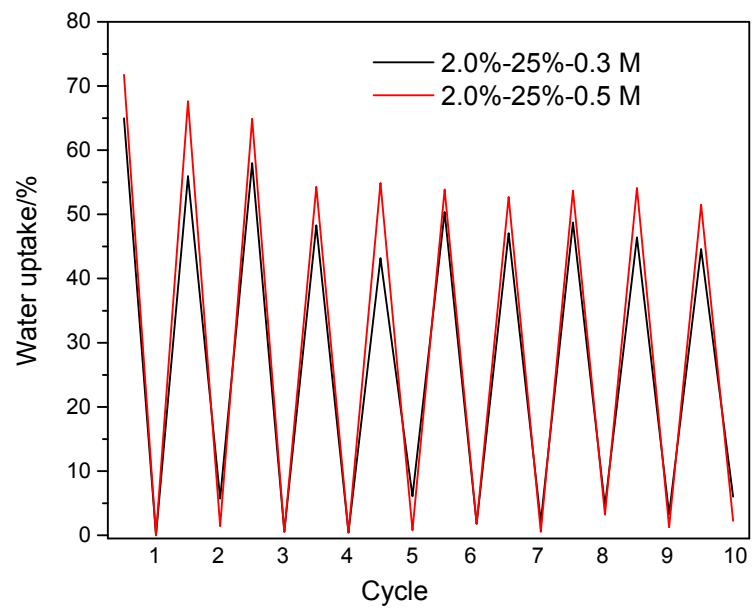
Shape recovery



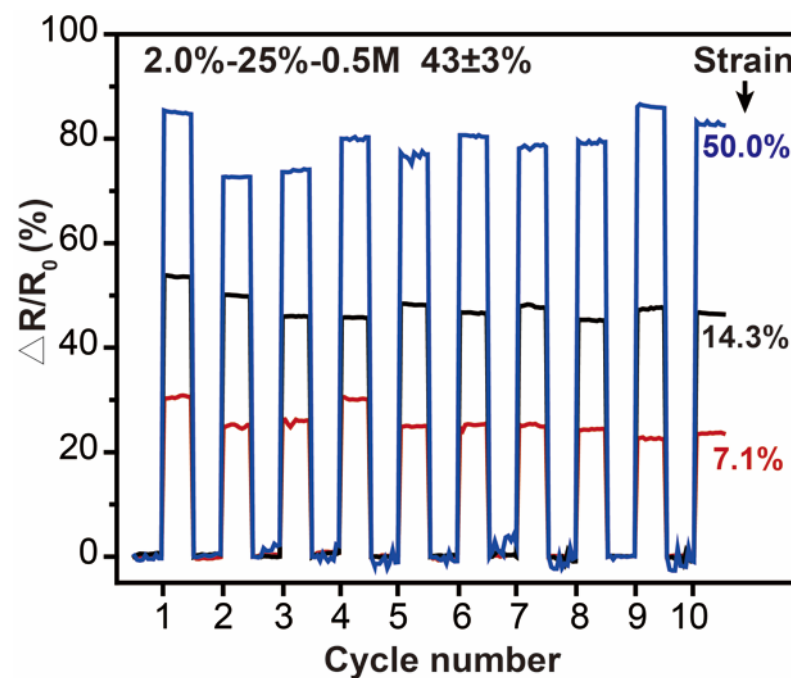
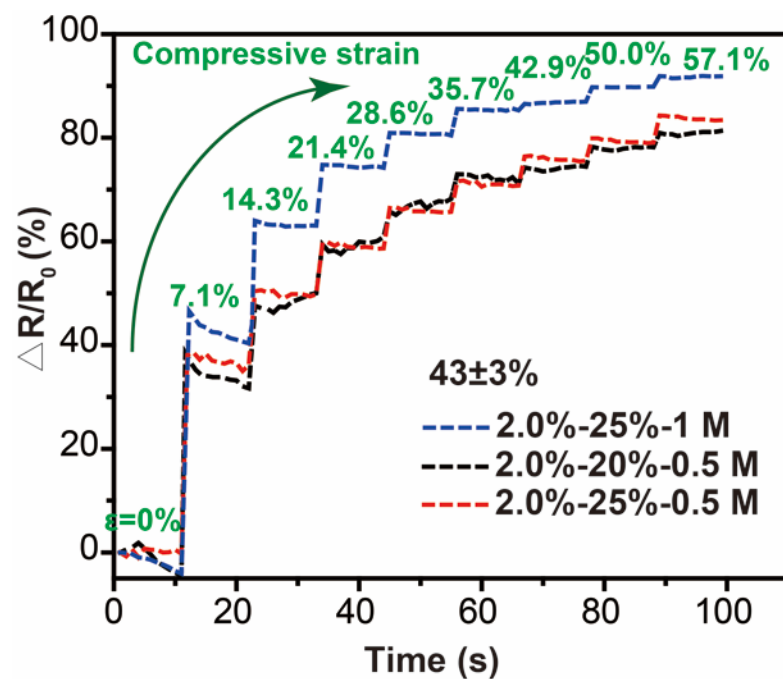
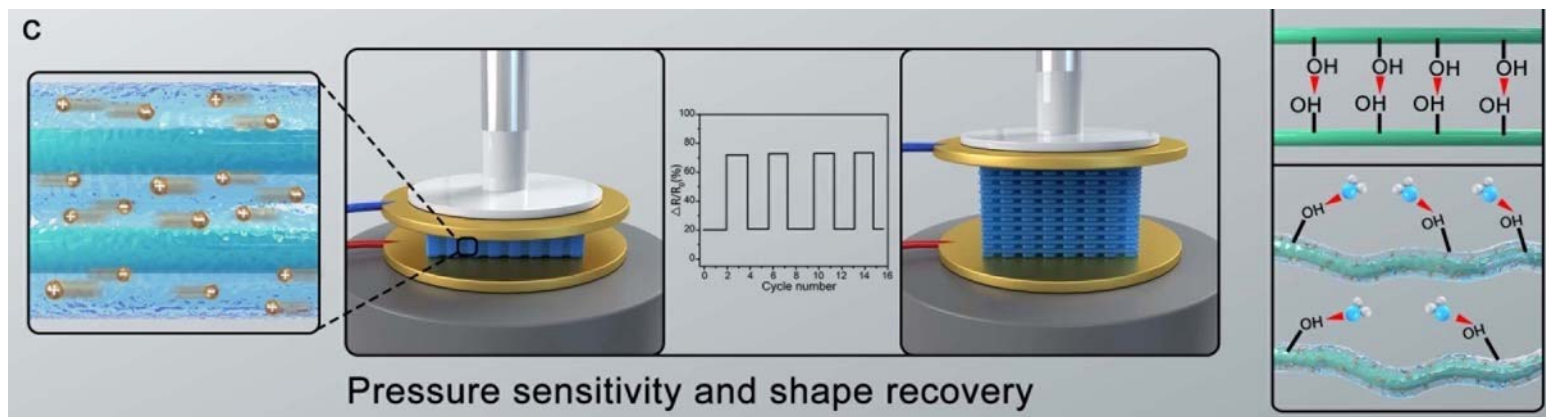
Shape recovery



Long-term stability



Ionic conducting and strain sensor



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Yeling Zhu

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Acknowledgement



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Thank you for your attentions!

Questions?

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