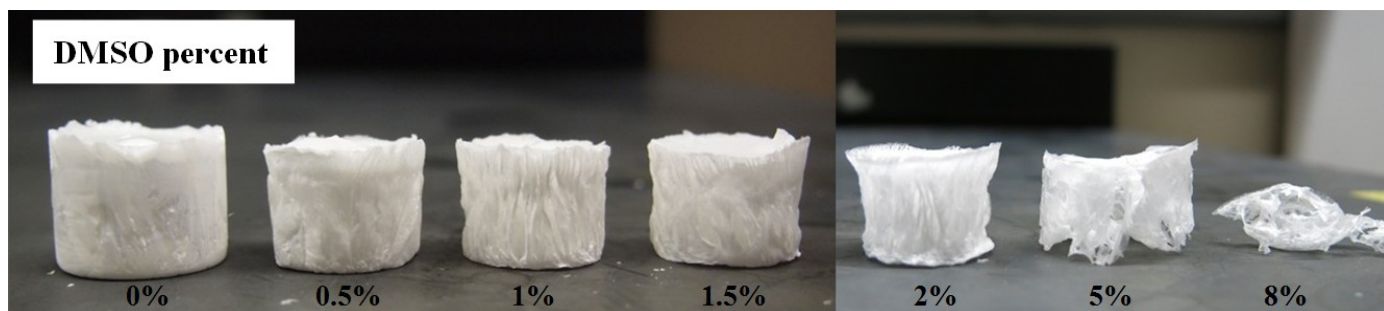


Electronic Supplementary Information

Figure 1: Photograph of the CNW foams with different DMSO content in solvent.



Experimental: Preparation of cellulose nanowhiskers

The cellulose nanowhiskers were prepared by sulfuric acid hydrolysis of a bleached softwood pulp based on a literature procedure. In brief, 60.00 g (oven dried weight) of the pulp was mixed with 600 mL of 64% (w/w) H_2SO_4 solution under continuous stirring at 45°C for 45 min. The hydrolysis reaction was terminated by adding excess (10-fold) of distilled water followed by the removal of acidic solution through successive centrifugation (12,000 rpm, 10 min) until the supernatant turned turbid. The sediment was collected and dialyzed using dialysis membrane tubings (MWCO: 12-14 kDa) against tap water until the pH of the solution became neutral. After dialysis, the mixture was sonicated in an ice bath for 10 min and centrifuged (10,000 rpm, 5 min). The cloudy supernatant containing nanowhiskers was collected and the remaining sediment was again mixed with distilled water, sonicated, and centrifuged to obtain additional nanowhiskey. This procedure was repeated till the supernatant was clear.