

## Accepted Manuscript

Thermal restraint of a bacterial exopolysaccharide of shallow vent origin

Maria Teresa Caccamo, Vincenzo Zammuto, Concetta Gugliandolo, Claire Madeleine-Perdrillat, Antonio Spanò, Salvatore Magazù



PII: S0141-8130(18)30825-0  
DOI: doi:[10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2018.03.160](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2018.03.160)  
Reference: BIOMAC 9382

To appear in:

Received date: 22 February 2018  
Revised date: 23 March 2018  
Accepted date: 26 March 2018

Please cite this article as: Maria Teresa Caccamo, Vincenzo Zammuto, Concetta Gugliandolo, Claire Madeleine-Perdrillat, Antonio Spanò, Salvatore Magazù , Thermal restraint of a bacterial exopolysaccharide of shallow vent origin. The address for the corresponding author was captured as affiliation for all authors. Please check if appropriate. Biomac(2017), doi:[10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2018.03.160](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2018.03.160)

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

## Thermal Restraint of a bacterial exopolysaccharide of shallow vent origin

Maria Teresa Caccamo<sup>1,4</sup>, Vincenzo Zammuto<sup>\*5,6</sup>, Concetta Gugliandolo<sup>5</sup>, Claire Madeleine-Perdrillat<sup>3</sup>, Antonio Spanò<sup>5</sup>, Salvatore Magazù<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

[vzammuto@unime.it](mailto:vzammuto@unime.it) Department of Earth and Marine Sciences, University of Palermo, Via Archirafi, 22, 90123 Palermo, Italy

<sup>1</sup>Dept of Mathematical and Informatics Sciences, Physical Sciences and Earth Sciences of Messina University, Viale Ferdinando Stagno D'Alcontres 31, 98166 Messina, Italy.

<sup>2</sup>Le Studium Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies, 1 rue Dupanloup 45000, Orléans, France.

<sup>3</sup>Centre de Biophysique Moléculaire (CBM)-CNRS UPR 4301 du CNRS, rue Charles Sadron, 45071 Orleans CEDEX 2 France; Laboratoire Interfaces, Confinement, Matériaux et Nanostructures (ICMN) - UMR 7374 CNRS - Université d'Orléans, 1b rue de la Férollerie, CS 40059, 45071 Orléans cedex 2, France.

<sup>4</sup>Istituto Nazionale di Alta Matematica "F. Severi" – INDAM - Gruppo Nazionale per la Fisica Matematica – GNFMV. Piazzale Aldo Moro, 5, 00185 Roma, Italy

<sup>5</sup>Dept. of Chemical, Biological, Pharmaceutical and Environmental Sciences, Messina University, Viale Ferdinando Stagno D'Alcontres 31, 98166 Messina, Italy.

<sup>6</sup>Dept. of Earth and Marine Sciences, University of Palermo, Via Archirafi, 22, 90123 Palermo, Italy

### Abstract

To dynamically characterize the thermal properties of the fructose-rich exopolysaccharide (EPS1-T14), produced by the marine thermophilic *Bacillus licheniformis* T14, the Attenuated Total Reflectance Fourier Transform Infra-Red spectroscopy was coupled to variable temperature ranging from ambient to 80 °C.

The spectra were analyzed by the following innovative mathematical tools: i) non-ideal spectral deviation, ii) OH-stretching band frequency center shift, iii) spectral distance, and iv) wavelet cross-correlation analysis.

The thermal restraint analysis revealed that the whole EPS1-T14 system possessed high stability until 80 °C, and suggested that fucose was mainly involved in the EPS1-T14 thermal stability, whereas glucose was responsible for its molecular flexibility.

Our results provide novel insights into the thermal stability properties of the whole EPS1-T14 and into the role of its main monosaccharidic units. As a new biopolymer, the thermostable EPS1-T14 could be used in traditional biotechnology fields and in new biomedical areas, as nanocarriers, requiring high temperature processes.

**Keywords:** Extremophiles, Thermal analysis, Attenuated-Total-Reflectance Infra-Red spectroscopy, Spectral distance, Wavelet cross-correlation analysis

## 1. Introduction

Biomolecules, such as complex polysaccharides and exopolysaccharides (EPSs), from extremophiles inhabiting hot environments are expected to possess unique characteristics, mainly the thermostability, useful in responding to the increasing demand of new attractive bio-products in medical and pharmaceutical applications. Thermophilic bacteria, with optimal growth at temperature ranging from 45°C to 70°C, offer interesting features for biotechnological applications, as they are able to produce their biomolecules faster than those from mesophilic and psychrophilic counterparts [1]. New thermophilic and thermotolerant bacteria, isolated from the shallow hydrothermal vents of Eolian Islands (Italy), were able to produce novel EPSs potentially useful in various applicative fields [1-4]. More recently, a novel alkalophilic and thermophilic *Bacillus licheniformis* strain T14, isolated from a submarine vent off Panarea Island (Italy), has been reported as producer of a new exopolysaccharide (EPS1-T14), by using relatively simple purification process [5]. In details, EPS1-T14, containing fructose, fucose and glucose as major monosaccharides, displayed structural characteristics (high carbohydrate content, 99% and high molecular weight, 1,000 KDa), and interesting rheological properties (*i.e.* viscoelasticity) (Tab. 1) for which it could be used as a convenient thickener in industrial products [5]. Moreover, EPS1-T14 is soluble in water, non-cytotoxic up to 400 µg ml<sup>-1</sup>, and it was also able to inhibit the cytotoxic effects of Avarol in an brine shrimp assay, and therefore, applications of the biopolymer in the development of anti-cytotoxic drugs could be envisaged [5]. Furthermore, it represents a promising exopolymer in pharmaceutical applications, as natural antiviral, immunostimulant and immunomodulator [6] and with anti-adhesive properties able to prevent biofilm formation by pathogenic bacteria [7]. Many EPSs from thermophilic bacteria have been reported to be thermostable, as determined using the thermo-gravimetric analysis (TGA) technique, with the highest thermostability registered for the exopolymer from *Geobacillus tepidamans* V246 (280 °C) [8], followed by those from *G. thermodenitrificans* B3-72 (240 °C) [9] and by EPS1-T14 from *B. licheniformis* T14, that was very stable up to 210 °C and started to decompose at 240 °C, yielding a weight loss of the half at 260 °C [5].

However, further information about the influence of the temperature on the molecular structure of EPS1-T14 are needed to address its potential use in biotechnological areas requiring high-temperature processes, such as food and cosmetic industries, and also for novel prospectives in medical and pharmaceutical applications, especially for drug delivery [10].

The changing of molecular structure is quantitatively measurable by InfraRed (IR) spectroscopy, providing a unique label-free tool for studying molecular composition and dynamics [11-14]. Among the IR techniques, the Fourier transform IR (FTIR) in the Attenuated Total Reflectance-FTIR (ATR-FTIR) mode represents a fast analytical method that permits to determine changes in molecular structure, using simultaneous analyses of multiple components from the same sample in a single instrumental measurement [15,16]. ATR-FTIR technique is widely employed to characterize the elemental structures and the molecular interactions among components in polymers [17]. Furthermore, FTIR technique is complementary to Raman scattering, inelastic neutron scattering and density function simulations, these techniques furnishing valuable information with different probe-system coupling [18-21]. Although FTIR analysis if used alone has been reported to be unable to ascertain the composition of polymorphic forms, the empowering of vibrational spectroscopy, by association with mathematical tools for the extraction of valuable information from complex evolving data, has demonstrated to be highly successful [22]. Only a few recent studies reported ATR-FTIR technique as a useful tool for monitoring the thermal behavior of pharmaceutical products [23-25].

In this work, the thermal restraint of the whole biopolymer EPS1-T14 and of its main monosaccharidic components (*i.e.* fructose, fucose and glucose) was investigated using a biophysical approach able to provide a measure of the

system sensitivity to temperature changes [26]. The Attenuated Total Reflectance Fourier Transform Infra-Red (ATR-FTIR) spectroscopy was applied over a temperature range from 20 °C to 80 °C, and each spectrum was analyzed by using innovative mathematical tools: i) non-ideal spectral deviation; ii) OH-stretching band frequency center shift; iii) spectral distance; and iv) wavelet cross-correlation analysis.

## 2. Material and Methods

### 2.1. The EPS-T14 production and characterization

The isolation of the halophilic and thermophilic *Bacillus licheniformis* T14 from a thermal fluid sample, emitted at a shallow hydrothermal vent of Panarea Island (Eolian Islands, Italy), and the production of a new exopolysaccharide (EPS1-T14) have been previously reported [5]. Briefly, characteristics of the emitted fluid were: temperature 50 °C, pH 5.42, and conductivity 42.90 mS m<sup>-1</sup>. Strain T14 grew aerobically from 25 to 60 °C and its optimal temperature occurred at 50 °C. The pH range for growth was 4–10, with optimum at pH 8. Strain T14 grew in a range 2–10 % NaCl with optimal growth at 5 %.

The exopolysaccharide was produced (366 mg l<sup>-1</sup> yield) at the beginning of the stationary growth phase of strain T14 in the minimal medium SWY (yeast extract, 0.1 %, sucrose 5 %, in seawater) after 48 h of incubation in bioreactor, under optimal growth condition (temperature 50 °C, pH 8, and NaCl 5 %) and air flow at 1 vvm. After purification, EPS1-T14 fraction displayed the highest carbohydrates content (99%), with a molecular weight estimated about 1,000 kDa (Table 1). Monosaccharide analysis revealed the presence of fructose/fucose/glucose composing the saccharide unit. NMR suggested a  $\beta$ -manno-pyranosidic configuration (Fig 1). Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was performed using a Mettler-Toledo Star System apparatus, and a sample (5 mg) was heated from 30 to 400 °C at a heating rate of 20 °C min<sup>-1</sup> under nitrogen. Measurements of viscosity ( $\eta$ ) were performed with different EPS concentrations in aqueous solution at 30 °C using a Cannon-Ubbelohde 75 suspended-level viscosimeter.

### 2.2. Experimental setup

ATR-FTIR Vertex 70V spectrometer (Bruker Optics) using Platinum diamond ATR was employed to collect spectra on EPS1-T14, fructose, fucose and glucose, in the temperatures range from 20 °C to 80 °C. All the spectra were obtained by collecting 48 scans with a resolution of 4 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the 4000 to 400 cm<sup>-1</sup> wavenumber range. The following data pre-processing procedures were applied: i) a baseline correction, in order to diminish the dissimilarities between spectra due to baseline shift; ii) a smoothing treatment, to reduce the instrumental noise; iii) a first derivative treatment, to correct baseline shift together, and a second derivative treatment, to better discriminate features associated with spectra; iv) a spectral normalization, to correct the path-length variation and to reduce the differences among single measurements [27-29].

The intramolecular OH-stretching band frequency shift evaluation and the wavelet cross-correlation analysis were performed by MATLAB 2016a software (Mathworks, Natick, USA). The spectral distance calculation was performed by Origin 9 software package (OriginLab Co., Northampton, USA).

### 2.3. Non ideal spectral deviation

In order to characterize the interaction mechanisms among the three major components of EPS1-T14, the difference between the experimental spectrum and the ideal spectrum of EPS1-T14, obtained as a weighed sum of the three component spectra, according to Eq. (1), was calculated using Eq. (2):

$$I^{ideal}(\omega) = \alpha I^{fucose}(\omega) + \beta I^{fructose}(\omega) + \gamma I^{glucose}(\omega) \quad (1)$$

where  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  represent the weight factors of the three different components, *i.e.* fructose, fucose and glucose, respectively.

$$\Delta I(\omega) = I^{experimental}(\omega) - I^{ideal}(\omega) \quad (2)$$

### 2.4. Hypsochromic frequency shift

A first and the second-order derivative spectra treatments were employed to calculate the band center frequency [30,31]. The hypsochromic shift of the band maximum to higher frequencies was used to highlight the change of H-bond crosslinks among the structural components of EPS1-T14 at increasing temperature. The thermal properties of EPS1-T14 were evaluated by analyzing the OH stretching contribution shift.

### 2.5. Spectral Distance (SD)

To investigate the temperature-induced structural rearrangements of EPS1-T14 H-bond network, the Spectral Distance (SD) of the intramolecular OH stretching band contribution was calculated in the temperature interval (from 20 °C to 80 °C) using Eq. (3):

$$SD = \{\sum_v [I(\omega, T) - I(\omega, T = 20^\circ C)]^2 \Delta\omega\}^{1/2} \quad (3)$$

where  $I(\omega)$  is the absorbance at frequency  $\omega$  and  $\Delta\omega$  is the instrumental frequency resolution.

In order to extract further quantitative information on the whole EPS1-T14 thermal stability, for the SD versus temperature data fit, the following Eq. (4) has been applied:

$$SD(T) = A \left( 1 - \frac{1}{1 + e^{-B(T-T_0)}} \right) + (C - DT) \quad (4)$$

Where  $A$  represents the sigmoid amplitude, whose inverse  $A^{-1}$  is connected to the thermal restraint.  $B$  is the sigmoid steepness;  $T_0$  represents the temperature value of the sigmoid inflection point and, finally,  $C-DT$  takes into account the low temperature vibrational contribution.

### 2.6. Wavelet Cross-Correlation Analysis

In order to quantitatively evaluate the correlation degree among the registered spectra at different scales, a Wavelet Cross-Correlation (XWT) analysis between the different couples of spectra was performed [26,32-36].

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Attenuated Total Reflectance Fourier Transform Infra-Red (ATR-FTIR) spectroscopy

The spectra obtained by means of ATR-FTIR technique on EPS1-T14 and on its main components (*i.e.* fructose, fucose and glucose) (Fig. 2), according to the peak wavenumber assignment (Table 2), showed the following main features: i) an intense band in the region between  $950\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1200\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , corresponding to the  $\text{C-O}$ ,  $\text{C-CH}$  stretching and to the  $\text{-CO}$  and  $\text{C-O-C}$  bending of the glycoside ring [37]; ii) bands related to the  $\text{C-CH}$ ,  $\text{O-CH}$  stretching and  $\text{-CO}$  stretching in the  $1300\text{ cm}^{-1}$  -  $1450\text{ cm}^{-1}$  spectral region, [38]; iii) a broad and intense band in the region between  $2500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3600\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which is composed by several bands ascribed to the OH stretching of the polymer glycoside ring, and to the OH stretching of free water and of water involved in hydrogen bonds [39,40].

The only detectable change in the reported spectra (Fig 2) is relative to the temperature effects in the region around  $3000\text{-}3500\text{ cm}^{-1}$  of EPS1-T14 (Fig 2a), and in the region around  $1700\text{-}2000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  of fructose, fucose, glucose (Fig 2 b-d). In detail, the spectrum of EPS1-T14 (fig.2 a) in the region  $1700\text{-}2000\text{ cm}^{-1}$  shows a lower thermal variation in respect with that of glucose (fig.2 d), but similar to that of fructose (fig.2 b) and fucose (fig. 2c). These observations demonstrate that the thermal restraint of EPS1-T14 mainly depends from fructose than glucose.

#### 3.2. Non ideal spectral deviation

The EPS1-T14 ideal spectrum, reconstructed starting from the spectra of its main constituents, is shown in Fig. 3. The spectral deviation, *i.e.* the difference between the experimental spectrum and the ideal spectrum is reported in Fig. 4, where marked deviations from the ideal behavior are registered in the whole investigated spectral range. Such a circumstance suggests that remarkable interactions take place among the constituents. In particular, although in the  $1800\text{cm}^{-1}$  to  $2800\text{cm}^{-1}$  spectral range the evaluated ideal spectrum is almost coincident to the experimental one, remarkable differences occur in the OH-stretching region, which is connected with the system H-bond network.

The non-ideal spectral deviation revealed that the real spectrum of EPS1-T14 is not the simple sum of its components, but it seems to acquire new properties and different responses at increasing temperature. This different thermal behavior could be ascribed to the interaction of its three main monosaccharidic components (*i.e.* fructose, fucose and glucose), that contribute differently to create the complex unique matrix of EPS1-T14.

#### 3.3. Hypsochromic frequency shift

The 3D-FTIR spectra of EPS1-T14 in the  $3000 < \Delta\omega < 3600\text{ cm}^{-1}$  range, as a function of temperature are reported in Fig. 5a. The EPS1-T14 OH stretching band frequency shift, in the temperature range, changes from  $3271\text{ cm}^{-1}$  to  $3313\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Furthermore, this registered hypsochromic frequency shift changes linearly (5) with the increasing of the temperature, as shown in Fig. 5b. In order to fit the data the following Eq. (5) was employed:

$$\omega(T) = A + BT \quad (5)$$

The thermal restraint determined by hypsochromic frequency center shift was equal to 1.49.

The spectral analyses (hypsochromic frequency center shift and spectral distance) convey coherent information on the thermal evolution of EPS1-T14, both showing that the whole biopolymer was stable at the maximum value of the tested temperature ( $80\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). The high resistance of the biopolymer at the increasing temperature could be explained by

the increasing H-bounded connectivity. Since the frequency center linearly shifted with the increasing temperature, we may suppose that all the rheological properties (*i.e.* viscosity, density, etc) of EPS1-T14 could be maintained at 80 °C.

### 3.4. Spectral Distance (SD)

Spectral distance analysis of the spectra of EPS1-T14 at increasing temperatures showed a sigmoid trend, with an inflection point at T=50 °C (Fig. 6). The SD versus temperature behavior followed a logistic function trend allowing to extract quantitative information on the relaxation amplitude, as well as on its temperature localization.

### 3.5. Wavelet Cross-Correlation

The analysis by wavelet tools revealed different pathways of EPS1-T14 and its components (Fig. 7), where the shaded region indicates the Cone Of Influence (COI). This advanced investigation indicated that the spectrum of fucose is more closely correlated to that of the whole EPS1-T14, whereas glucose is the less correlated. This finding suggests that fucose plays a key role in the EPS1-T14 structure, and it may be also involved in the biological properties of the exopolysaccharide. The fucose-containing polysaccharides have an increased market value, because fucose is one of the rare sugars difficult to be obtained, and it is also involved in numerous biological activities, such as antioxidant, immune-stimulator and anti-aging agent [41,42]. Fucoidan is the most well-known fucose-rich polysaccharide produced by brown seaweeds, and used in many human activities [43]. Based on results previously obtained using TGA analysis, the decomposition temperature of EPS1-T14 (240 °C) appears higher than that of fucoidan (210 °C) [44]. For its thermal stability and thermal restraint, EPS1-T14 could be more cooking stable than other fucose polysaccharides, such as fucoidan, actually commercially available as nutritional supplements [45]. However, to our knowledge, no data on the thermal behavior of fucoidan have been until now reported for further comparison.

The thermal characterization is also required in the drug deliveries system, a novel pharmaceutical field that allows to use lower doses of drugs and to develop drug or food carriers. Indeed, polymeric nanoparticles can be fabricated from polysaccharides, due to their low bio-toxicity and high adaptability [20]. Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose [46], pectin [47], chitosan [48] and xanthan gum [10] are among polysaccharides until now studied for delivering drugs, nutrients and bioactive substances. Nowadays, chitosan is the most characterized polysaccharide in the field of drug and food deliveries, however its uses are still limited, due to its relatively lower thermal stability (below 40 °C), as spectroscopically determined [49]. For its physicochemical properties and thermo-stability EPS1-T14 could be also considered as useful biopolymer for nanoparticle composites.

## 4. Conclusion

The fructose-rich exopolysaccharide EPS1-T14, produced by the marine thermophilic *Bacillus licheniformis* T14, has been previously reported to possess interesting physicochemical properties and biological activities, as anti-cytotoxic, antiviral, immunostimulant, and antibiofilm agent, that make it potentially useful in different biotechnological applications.

Since thermostability represents a prerequisite in applicative areas that require high temperature processes, in this study the structural changes of EPS1-T14 at increasing temperatures have been monitored by using the ATR-FTIR spectroscopic technique, coupled with innovative tools (non-ideal spectral deviation, hypsochromic frequency center shift, spectral distance and wavelet cross correlation analysis). The thermal restraint analysis revealed that the whole EPS1-T14 system possessed high stability until 80 °C, and suggested that fucose was mainly involved in the EPS1-T14 thermal stability, whereas glucose was responsible for its molecular flexibility.

Our findings provide new insights on the thermal stability of EPS1-T14, enabling us to consider it as a promising biopolymer useful for traditional biotechnological areas, including food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical applications, and novel biomedicine areas that require high-temperature processes, such as drug delivery system and nanoparticle composites.

### **Funding**

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors

### **Conflict of interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT



## References

- [1] C. Gugliandolo, V. Lentini, A. Spanò, T.L. Maugeri, New bacilli from shallow hydrothermal vents of Panarea Island (Italy) and their biotechnological potential, *J. Appl. Microbiol.* 112 (2012) 1102–1112.
- [2] T.L. Maugeri, C. Gugliandolo, D. Caccamo, A. Panico, L. Lama, A. Gambacorta, B. Nicolaus, A halophilic thermotolerant *Bacillus* isolated from a marine hot spring able to produce a new exopolysaccharide, *Biotechnol. Lett.* 24 (2002) 515–519.
- [3] T.L. Maugeri, C. Gugliandolo, D. Caccamo, E. Stackebrandt, Three novel halotolerant and thermophilic *Geobacillus* strains from shallow marine vents, *Syst. Appl. Microbiol.* 25 (2002) 450–455.
- [4] B. Nicolaus, A. Panico, M.C. Manca, L. Lama, A. Gambacorta, T.L. Maugeri, A thermophilic *Bacillus* isolated from an Eolian shallow hydrothermal vent, able to produce exopolysaccharides, *Syst. Appl. Microbiol.* 23 (2000) 426–432.
- [5] A. Spanò, C. Gugliandolo, V. Lentini, T.L. Maugeri, G. Anzelmo, A. Poli, B. Nicolaus, A novel EPS-producing strain of *Bacillus licheniformis* isolated from a shallow vent off Panarea Island (Italy), *Curr. Microbiol.* 67 (2013) 21–29.
- [6] C. Gugliandolo, A. Spanò, V. Lentini, A. Arena, T.L. Maugeri, Antiviral and immunomodulatory effects of a novel bacterial exopolysaccharide of shallow marine vent origin, *J. Appl. Microbiol.* 116 (2014) 1028–1034.
- [7] A. Spanò, P. Laganà, G. Visalli, T.L. Maugeri, C. Gugliandolo, *In vitro* antibiofilm activity of an exopolysaccharide from the marine thermophilic *Bacillus licheniformis* T14, *Curr. Microbiol.* 72 (2016) 518–528.
- [8] M. Kambourova, R. Mandeva, D. Dimova, A. Poli, B. Nicolaus, G. Tommonaro, Production and characterization of a microbial glucan, synthesized by *Geobacillus tepidamans* V264 isolated from Bulgarian hot spring, *Carbohydr. Polym.* 77 (2009) 338–343.
- [9] A. Arena, C. Gugliandolo, G. Stassi, B. Pavone, D. Iannello, G. Bisignano, T.L. Maugeri, An exopolysaccharide produced by *Geobacillus thermodenitrificans* strain B3-72: antiviral activity on immunocompetent cells, *Immunol. Lett.* 123 (2009) 132–137.
- [10] W. Xu, W. Jin, Z. Li, H. Liang, Y. Wang, B.R. Shah, B. Li, Synthesis and characterization of nanoparticles based on negatively charged xanthan gum and lysozyme, *Food. Res. Int.* 71 (2015) 83–90.
- [11] C. Branca, S. Magazù, F. Migliardo, P. Migliardo, Destructuring effect of trehalose on the tetrahedral network of water: A Raman and neutron diffraction comparison, *Phys. A* 304 (2002) 314–318.
- [12] C. Branca, S. Maccarrone, S. Magazù, G. Maisano, S.M. Bennington J. Taylor, Tetrahedral order in homologous disaccharide-water mixtures, *J. Chem. Phys.* 122 (2005) 174513.
- [13] P. Ballone, M. Marchi, C. Branca, S. Magazù, Structural and vibrational properties of trehalose: A density functional study, *J. Phys. Chem. B* 104 (2000) 6313–6317.
- [14] S. Magazù, F. Migliardo, M.T.F. Telling, Structural and dynamical properties of water in sugar mixture, *Food Chem.* 106 (2008) 1460–1466.
- [15] M. Deepa, N. Sharma, S.A. Agnihotry, R. Chandra, FTIR Investigation on ion–ion interaction in liquid and gel polymeric electrolytes- LiCF<sub>3</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>-PC-PMMA, *J. Mater. Sci.* 37 (2002) 1759–1765.
- [16] S. Magazù, E. Calabrò, S. Campo, FTIR spectroscopy studies on the bioprotective effectiveness of trehalose on human hemoglobin aqueous solutions under 50 Hz electromagnetic field exposure, *J. Phys. Chem. B* 114 (2010) 12144–12149.
- [17] R.H. Barker, R. Dagher, D.M. Davidson, J.K. Marquis, Review article: tolevamer, a novel toxin-binding polymer: overview of preclinical pharmacology and physicochemical properties. *Aliment. Pharmacol. Ther.* 24 (2006) 1525–1534.
- [18] L. Hennet, V. Cristiglio, J. Kozaily, I. Pozdnyakova, H.E. Fischer, Bytchkov A, J.W.E. Drewitt, M. Leydier, D. Thiaudière, S. Gruner, S. Brassamin, D. Zanghi, G.J. Cuello, M. Koza, S. Magazù, G.N. Greaves, D.L. Price, Aerodynamic levitation and laser heating: Applications at synchrotron and neutron sources, *Eur. Phys. J. Spec. Top.* 196 (2011) 151–165.
- [19] S. Magazù, F. Migliardo, M.T. Caccamo, Innovative wavelet protocols in analyzing elastic incoherent neutron scattering, *J. Phys. Chem. B* 116 (2012) 9417–9423.
- [20] S. Magazù, F. Migliardo, B.G. Vertessy, M.T. Caccamo, Investigations of homologous disaccharides by Elastic Incoherent Neutron Scattering and Wavelet Multiresolution Analysis, *Chem. Phys.* 424 (2013) 56–61.
- [21] N. Marchese, A. Cannuli, M.T. Caccamo, C. Pace, New generation non-stationary portable neutron generators for biophysical applications of Neutron Activation Analysis. *BBA - General Subjects* 1861 (2017) 3661–3670.
- [22] F. Migliardo, S. Magazù, M.T. Caccamo, Infrared, Raman and INS studies of poly-ethylene oxide oligomers. *J. Mol. Struct.* 1048 (2013) 261–266.
- [23] N.L. Calvo, R.M. Maggio, T.S. Kaufman, A dynamic thermal ATR-FTIR/chemometric approach to the analysis of polymorphic interconversions: Cimetidine as a model drug. *J. Pharm. Biomed. Anal.* 92 (2014) 90–97.
- [24] F. Migliardo, M.T. Caccamo, S. Magazù, Elastic incoherent neutron scatterings wavevector and thermal analysis on glass-forming homologous disaccharides, *J. Non Cryst. Solids* 378 (2013) 144–151.
- [25] F. Migliardo, M.T. Caccamo, S. Magazù, Thermal analysis on bioprotectant disaccharides by elastic incoherent neutron scattering, *Food Biophys.* 9 (2014) 99–104.

- [26] M.T. Caccamo, S. Magazù, Multiscaling Wavelet analysis of Infrared and Raman data on polyethylene glycol 1000 aqueous solutions, *Appl. Spectrosc.* 50 (2017) 130–136.
- [27] H.M. Al-Qadiri, N.I. Al-Alami, M. Lin, M. Al-Holy, A.G. Cavinato, B.A. Rasco, Studying of the bacterial growth phases using fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and multivariate analysis, *J. Rapid Methods Autom. Microbiol.* 6 (2008) 73–89.
- [28] R. Davis, L.J. Mauer, Fourier Transform Infrared (FT-IR) Spectroscopy: a rapid tool for detection and analysis of foodborne pathogenic bacteria. In A. Méndez-Vilas (Eds.), *Current research, technology and education topics in Applied Microbiology and Microbial Biotechnology*, Formatex Research Center Publisher 2010, pp.1582–1594.
- [29] R. Gautam, S. Vanga, F. Ariese, S. Umapathy, Review of multidimensional data processing approaches for Raman and infrared spectroscopy, *EPJ Techn. Instrum.* 2 (2015) 8.
- [30] M. Gallignani, R.A. Rondóna, J.F. Ovalles, M.R. Brunetto, Transmission FTIR derivative spectroscopy for estimation of furosemide in raw material and tablet dosage form, *Acta Chim. Sinica* 4 (2014) 376–383.
- [31] Z. Lee, K. Carder, R. Arnone, M. He, Determination of primary spectral bands for remote sensing of aquatic environments, *Sensors (Basel)* 7 (2007) 3428–3441.
- [32] M.T. Caccamo, S. Magazù, Tagging the oligomer-to-polymer crossover on EG and PEGs by infrared and Raman spectroscopies and by wavelet cross-correlation spectral analysis. *Vib. Spectrosc.* 85 (2016) 222–227.
- [33] A. Grinsted, J.C. Moore, S. Jevrejeva, Application of the cross wavelet transform and wavelet coherence to geophysical time series, *Nonlinear. Process. Geophys.* 11 (2004) 561–566.
- [34] H. Li, T. Nozaki, Wavelet cross-correlation analysis and its application to a plane turbulent jet, *JSME Int. J. Ser B-40* (1997) 58–66.
- [35] S. Magazù, F. Migliardo, B.G. Vertessy, M.T. Caccamo, Investigations of homologous disaccharides by Elastic Incoherent Neutron Scattering and Wavelet Multiresolution Analysis. *Chem. Phys.* 424 (2013) 56–61.
- [36] D. Veleza, R. Montagne, M. Araujo, Cross-Wavelet bias corrected by normalizing scales. *J. Atmos. Oceanic Technol.* 29 (2012) 1401–1408.
- [37] J.P. Coates, The interpretation of Infrared Spectra: published reference sources. *Appl. Spectrosc. Rev.* 31 (1996) 179–192.
- [38] H.A. Szymanski., R.E. Erickson. *Infrared Handbook*, revised ed., Plenum Publishing Corp., New York, N.Y. 10011, 1970.
- [39] S. Magazù, G. Maisano, P. Migliardo, H.D. Middendorf, V. Villari, Hydration and transport properties of aqueous solutions of  $\alpha$ -D-trehalose. *J. Chem. Phys.* 109 (1998) 1170–1174.
- [40] S.E. Pagnotta, M.A. Ricci, F. Bruni, S. McLain, S. Magazù, Water structure around trehalose. *Chem. Phys.* 345 (2008) 159–163.
- [41] F. Freitas, V.D. Alves, M.A.M. Reis, Advances in bacterial exopolysaccharides: from production to biotechnological applications. *Trends. Biotechnol.* 29 (2011) 388–398.
- [42] P. Cescutti, A. Kallioinen, G. Impallomeni, R. Toffanin, P. Pollesello, M. Leisola, T. Eerikäinen, Structure of the exopolysaccharide produced by *Enterobacter amnigenus*. *Carbohydr. Res.* 340 (2005) 439–447.
- [43] B. Li, F. Lu, X. Wei, R. Zhao, Fucoidan: structure and bioactivity, *Molecules* 13 (2008) 1671–1695.
- [44] P.S. Saravana, Y.J. Cho, Y.B. Park, H.C. Woo, B.S. Chun, Structural, antioxidant, and emulsifying activities of fucoidan from *Saccharina japonica* using pressurized liquid extraction, *Carbohydr. Polym.* 153 (2016) 518–525.
- [45] N.C. Moroney, M.N. O’Grady, S. Lordan, C. Stanton, J.P. Kerry, Seaweed polysaccharides (laminarin and fucoidan) as functional ingredients in pork meat: an evaluation of anti-oxidative potential, thermal stability and bioaccessibility, *Mar. Drugs* 13 (2015) 2447–2464.
- [46] C. Chang, L. Zhang, Cellulose-based hydrogels: Present status and application prospects. *Carbohydr. Polym.* 84 (2011) 40–45.
- [47] C. Chittasupho, M. Jaturanpinyo, S. Mangmool, Pectin nanoparticle enhances cytotoxicity of methotrexate against hepG2 cells. *Drug Delivery* 20 (2013) 1–9
- [48] A. Pramanik, D. Laha, P. Pramanik, P. Karmakar, A novel drug “copper acetylacetonate” loaded in folic acid-tagged chitosan nanoparticle for efficient cancer cell targeting, *J. Drug Target* 22 (2014) 23–33.
- [49] E. Szymański, K. Winnicka, Stability of chitosan a challenge for pharmaceutical and biomedical applications, *Mar. Drugs* 13 (2015) 1819–1846.

**Table 1** Characteristics of EPS1-T14 from *B. licheniformis* strain T14 [5].

<b>EPS1-T14</b>	
Carbohydrate (%/v)	99
Protein (%/v)	1.2
Uronic acid (%/v)	0.5
Molecular weight	1000 kDa
Monosaccharide composition (ratio of relative proportion)	Fructose/fucose /glucose/galactosamine/mannose (1.0:0.75:0.28:tr:tr)
Saccharide repeating unit	Trisaccharide
Anomeric configuration	$\beta$ -manno pyranoside
Specific viscosity	0.58 $\eta$
Thermogravimetical analysis	240 °C
Brine shrimp assay	Positive

**Table 2** Peak wavenumbers ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) assigned

Wavenumber ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	Assignment
3264	-OH
2923	-C-C-C-H stretch
1320	C-CH and O-CH stretch
1245	-CO stretch
1106	C-C C-O stretch
1060	C-O-C bend

**Figure Legends**

**Fig. 1.**  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (a) and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (b) spectra of EPS1-T14 from *Bacillus licheniformis* strain T14 [5].

**Fig. 2.** ATR-FTIR spectra of whole EPS1-T14 a) and its main monosaccharidic components: b) fructose, c) fucose and d) glucose in the  $400 < \Delta\omega < 4000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  spectral range for positive thermal scans from 20 to 80 °C.

**Fig. 3.** Ideal spectrum of EPS1-T14 reconstructed from the spectra of its main constituents, obtained using ATR-FTIR in the  $400 < \Delta\omega < 4000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  spectral range at 25 °C.

**Fig. 4.** Difference spectrum obtained by subtracting ideal spectrum to experimental spectrum of EPS1-T14.

**Fig. 5.** Hypsochromic frequency shift: a) 3D FTIR spectra of EPS1-T14 in the  $3000 < \Delta\omega < 3600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  range, as a function of temperature and intensity, and b) the center frequency of OH stretching band of EPS1-T14, as a function of temperature. Black dots: experimental data.

**Fig. 6.** Spectral Distance of the intramolecular OH stretching bands of the EPS1-T14 at the increasing temperature.

**Fig. 7.** Wavelet Cross Correlation between the whole EPS1-T14 and a) fructose, b) fucose and c) glucose at 25 °C.

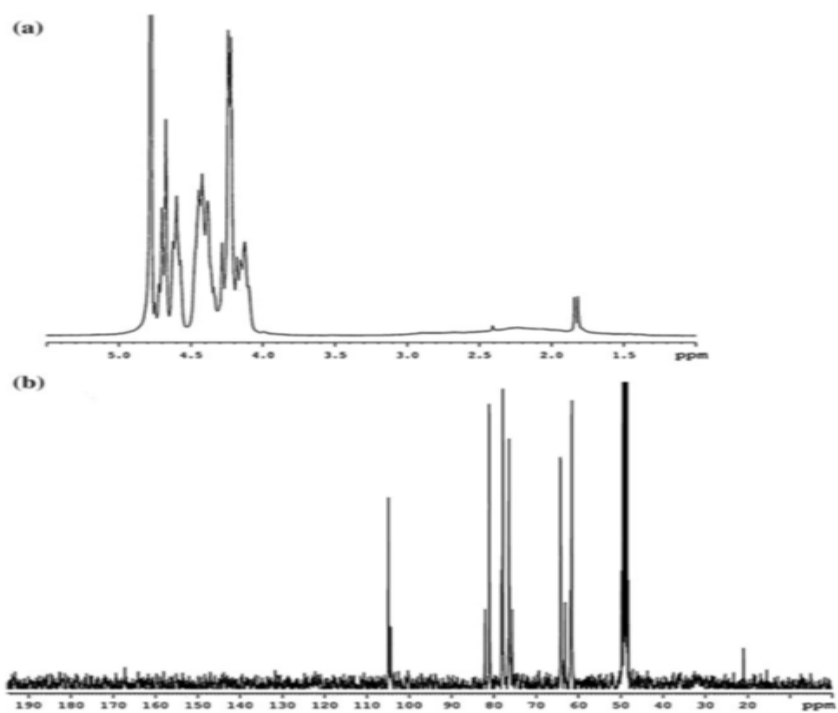


Fig. 1.

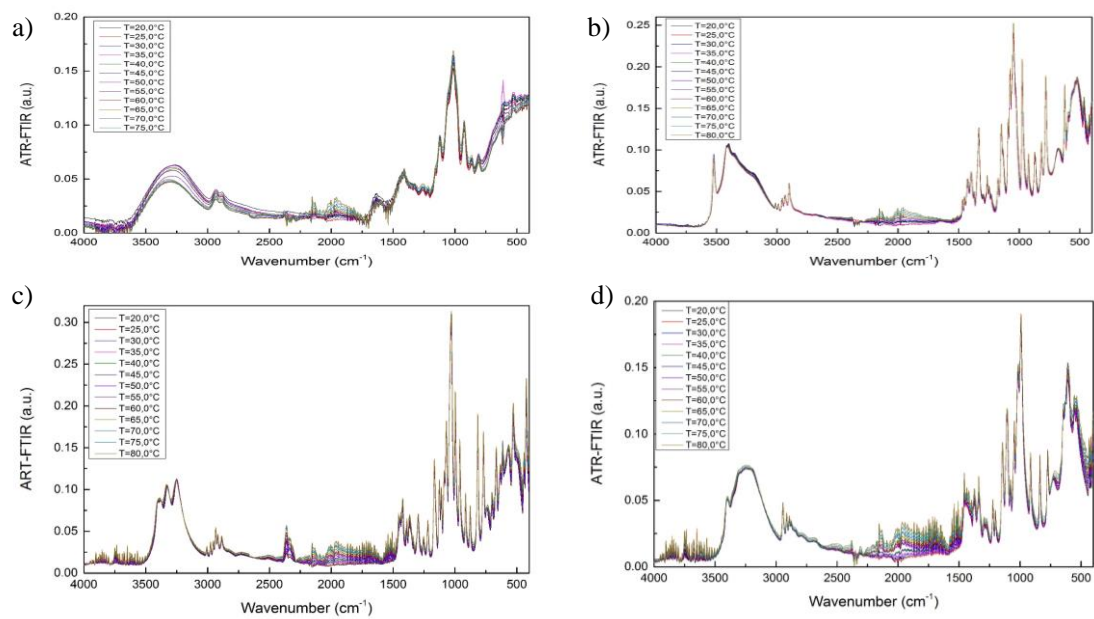


Fig. 2.

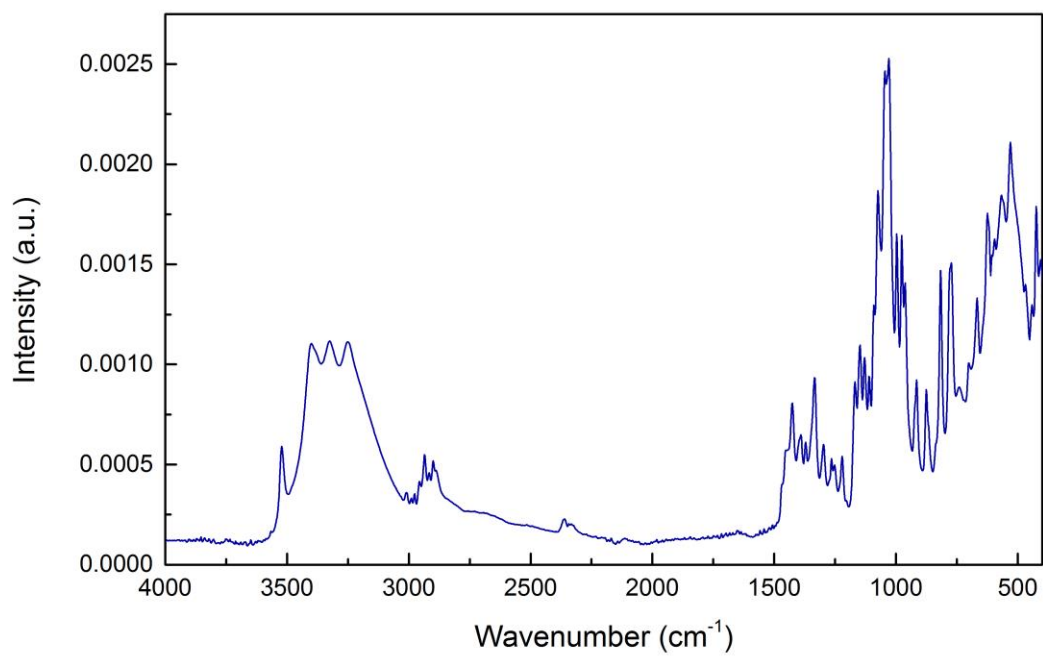


Fig. 3.

ACCEPTED MAN



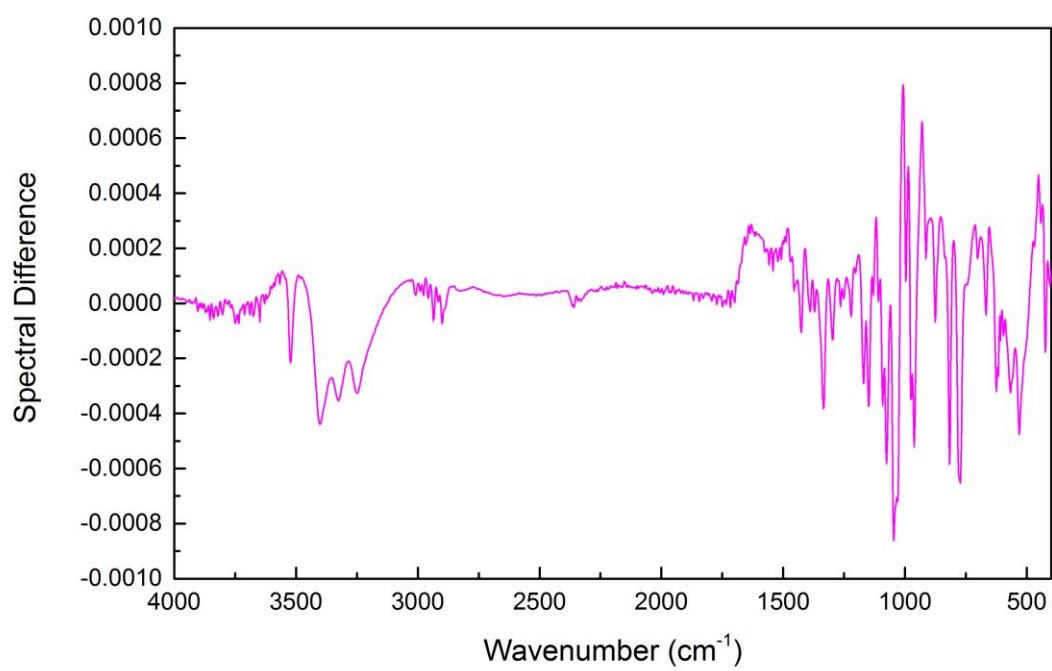
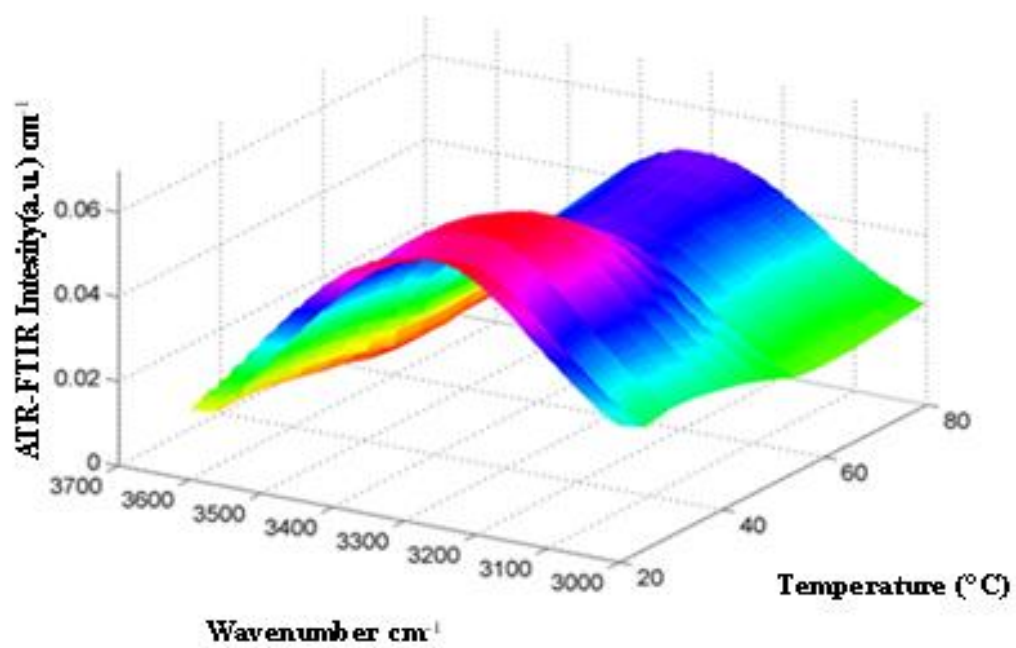


Fig. 4.

ACCEPTED MAN

a)



b)

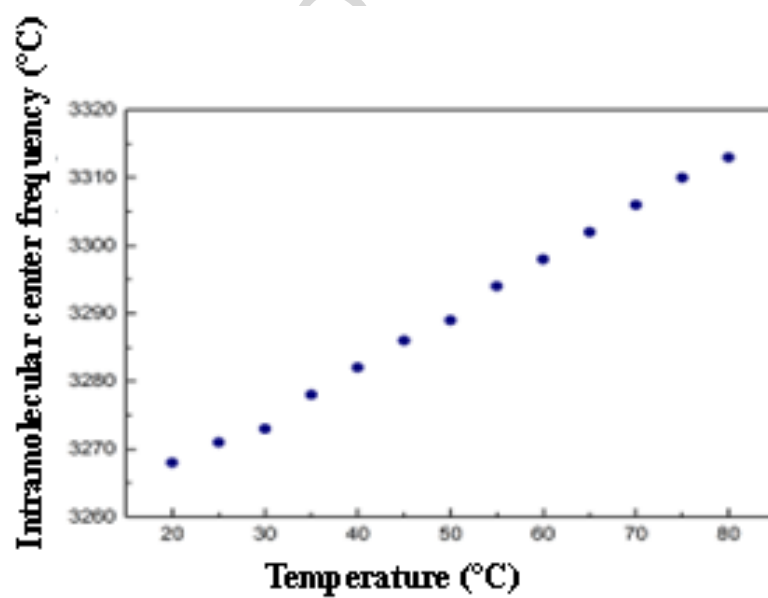


Fig. 5.

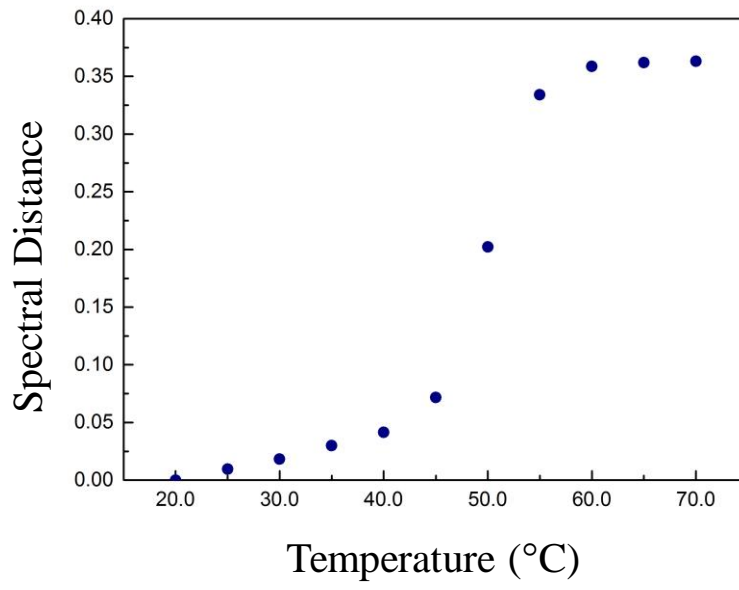


Fig. 6.

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

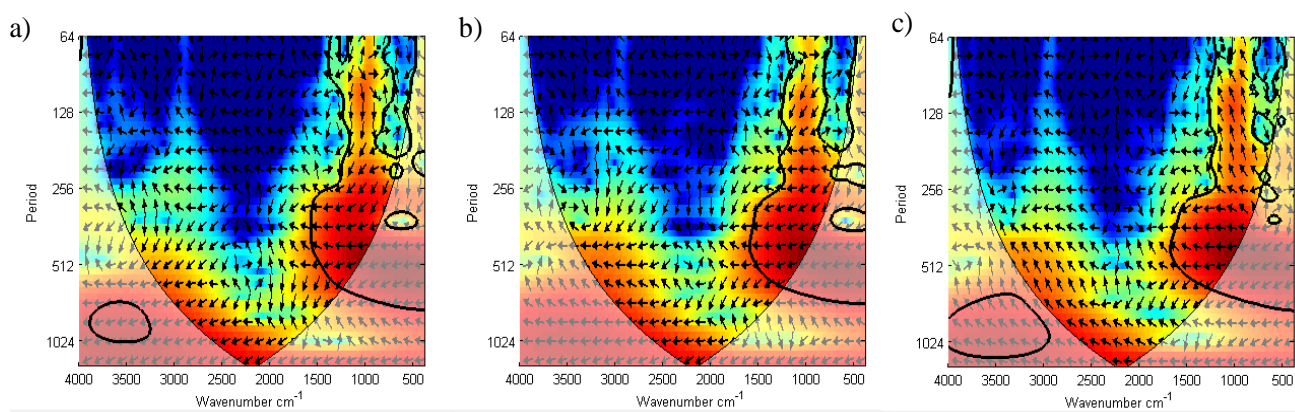


Fig. 7.

*Highlights*

- The thermal properties of exopolysaccharide (EPS1-T14) were analyzed by ATR-FTIR
- The spectra were evaluated by innovative mathematical tools
- The OH-stretching frequency shift revealed that the EPS1-T14 was stable at 80 °C.
- The wavelet cross-correlation showed that fucose is involved in the EPS1-T14 stability.
- The EPS1-T14 could be considered as a promising biopolymer for biotechnology.

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT