

## Supporting Information

### Adsorption of Xyloglucan onto Thin Films of Cellulose Nanocrystals and Amorphous

#### Cellulose: Film Thickness Effects

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## Provided Supporting Information

### I. Representative Data for Xyloglucan (XG) Adsorption onto Cellulose Surfaces

**Figure S1.** Representative data for the adsorption of xyloglucan solutions of varied concentration onto (A, B) 30 nm d-CNC, (C, D) 13 nm s-CNC, and (E, F) 15 nm RC films by QCM-D ( $n = 5$ ; A, C, E) and SPR (B, D, E). Symbols correspond to XG concentrations of (●)  $1 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ , (■)  $5 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ , (▲)  $10 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ , (▼)  $25 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ , (◀)  $50 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ , (▶)  $75 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ , (◆)  $100 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ , (⋈)  $250 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ , and (◆)  $500 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ .

### II. Determination of Surface Concentration ( $\Gamma$ ) by QCM-D and SPR Data

**Table S1.** Values used in the de Feijter equation to convert measured SPR data into surface excesses.

### III. Adsorption Isotherm Fitting Parameters

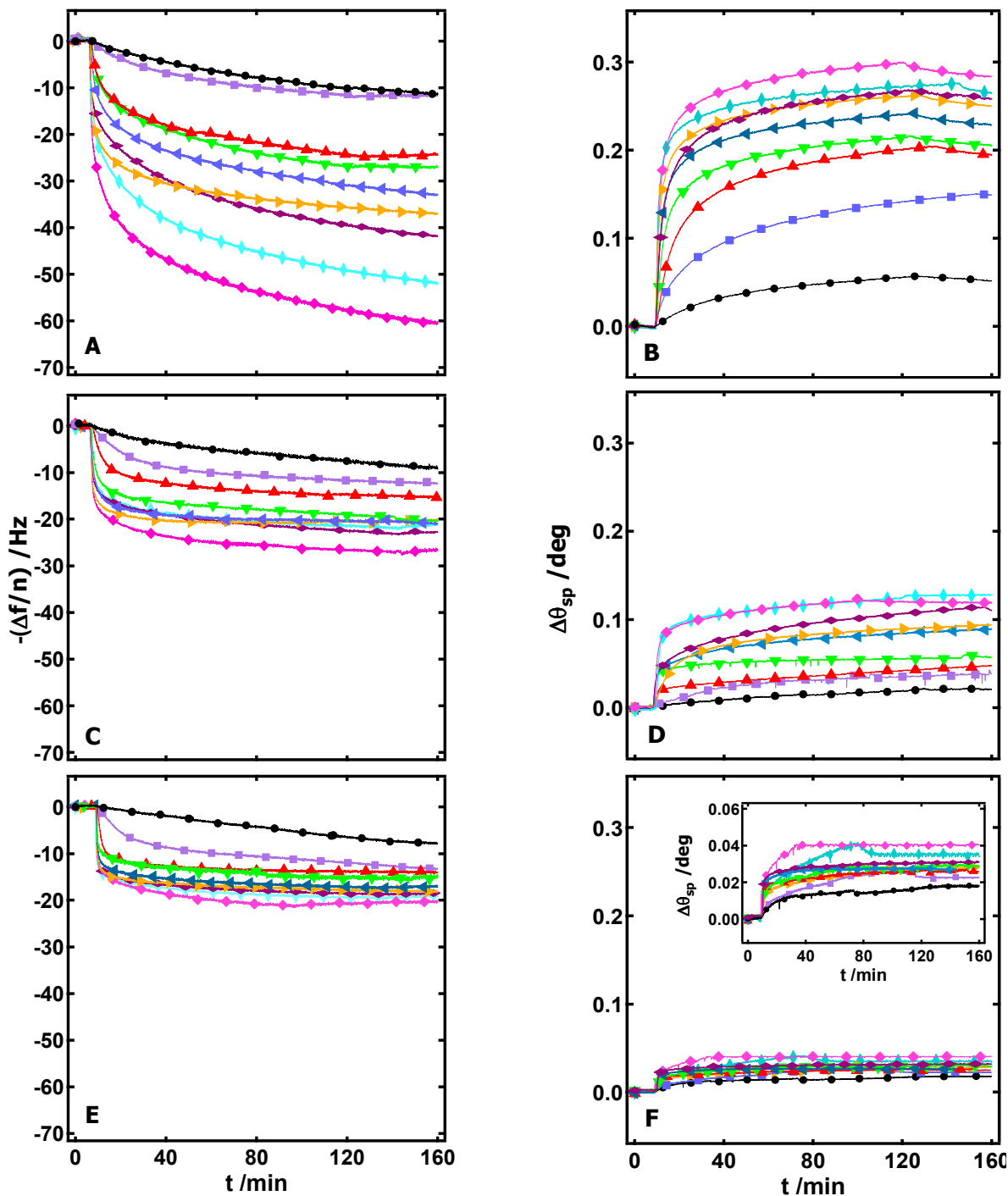
**Table S2.** Freundlich and Langmuir isotherm fitting parameters for XG adsorbed on RC, s-CNC, and d-CNC films as determined from QCM and SPR data.

### IV. Roughness and Aggregate Heights of Model Surfaces

**Figure S2** Representative AFM images for bare RC, s-CNC, and d-CNC films exposed to  $10 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  and  $500 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  XG. The scans are  $2 \times 2 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$  with a  $20 \text{ nm}$  z-scale.

**Table S3.** Root-mean-square (RMS) roughness and aggregate heights for RC, s-CNC, and d-CNC films before and after exposure to a  $500 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  XG solution.

## I. Representative Data for Xyloglucan (XG) Adsorption onto Cellulose Surfaces



**Figure S1.** Representative data for the adsorption of xyloglucan solutions of varied concentration onto (A, B) 30 nm d-CNC, (C, D) 13 nm s-CNC, and (E, F) 15 nm RC films by QCM-D ( $n = 5$ ; A, C, E) and SPR (B, D, E). Symbols correspond to XG concentrations of (●) 1 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>, (■) 5 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>, (▲) 10 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>, (▼) 25 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>, (◀) 50 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>, (▶) 75 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>, (◆) 100 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>, (⊕) 250 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>, and (◇) 500 mg·L<sup>-1</sup>.

## II. Determination of Surface Concentration ( $\Gamma$ ) by QCM-D and SPR Data

The surface excess,  $\Gamma_{QCM}$ , was calculated using the Sauerbrey equation (Sauerbrey, G. *Zeitschrift für Physik* **1959**, *155*, 206-222.),

$$\Gamma_{QCM} = -C \left( \frac{\Delta f}{n} \right)$$

where  $f$  is the frequency,  $n$  is the overtone ( $n = 5$  for this work), and  $C$  is the Sauerbrey constant ( $0.177 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ ). This equation was originally derived assuming rigidly attached layers in the gas phase that have the same shear modulus and density as quartz. As the QCM-D is sensitive to changes in density and viscosity of the surrounding medium, the addition of a viscous, floppy film containing associated liquid requires use of modeling (e.g. Voigt or Maxwell models) to obtain explicit  $\Gamma_{QCM}$  values for the adsorbed film. An indication of the viscous nature of an adsorbed layer is provided by changes in dissipation ( $D$ ),

$$D = \frac{E_{dissipated}}{2\pi E_{stored}}$$

where  $E_{stored}$  is the energy stored in the sensor crystal and  $E_{dissipated}$  is the energy dissipated by the viscous nature of the surrounding medium. An increase in  $D \times 10^6$  greater than 5% of the absolute scaled frequency shift ( $\Delta f/n$ ) signifies that the Sauerbrey equation may be invalid. In this work, only adsorption of XG onto RC surfaces fit this criteria. However, application of the Voigt model (Voinova, M. V.; Jonson, M.; Kasemo, B. *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*. **2002**, *17*, 835-841) resulted in an adjusted ( $\Delta f/n$ ) that was less than the spread of the data. Consequently, the Sauerbrey equation was considered to be a good approximation to determine  $\Gamma_{QCM}$ .

The surface excess,  $\Gamma_{SPR}$ , was calculated using the equation by de Feijter et al. (J. A. De Feijter, J. Benjamins, F. A. Veer, *Biopolymers* **1978**, *17*, 1759),

$$\Gamma_{SPR} = \frac{L(n_a - n_s)}{dn/dc} = \frac{\Delta\theta}{d\theta/dL} \frac{(n_a - n_s)}{dn/dc}$$

where  $\theta_{sp}$  is the irreversibly bound adsorbate,  $n_a$  is the refractive index of the adsorbate,  $n_s$  is the refractive index of the solvent,  $d\theta/dL$  is the change in surface plasmon angle with thickness as modeled by the Fresnel equations, and  $dn/dc$  is the refractive index increment (Table S1).

**Table S1.** Values used in the de Feijter equation to convert measured SPR data into surface excesses.

Parameter	Value
$n_a$ (BSA)	1.45 <sup>a</sup>
$n_s$ (water)	1.328 <sup>b</sup>
$d\theta/dL$	0.043 deg·nm <sup>-1</sup> <sup>a</sup>
$dn/dc$	0.137 cm <sup>3</sup> ·g <sup>-1</sup> <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Kaya, A.; Du, X.; Liu, Z.; Lu, J. W.; Morris, J. R.; Glasser, W. G.; Heinze, T.; Esker, A. R. *Biomacromolecules* **2009**, *10*, 2451.

<sup>b</sup> Eicher, L. D.; Zwolinski, B. J. *J. Phys. Chem.* **1971**, *75*, 2016.

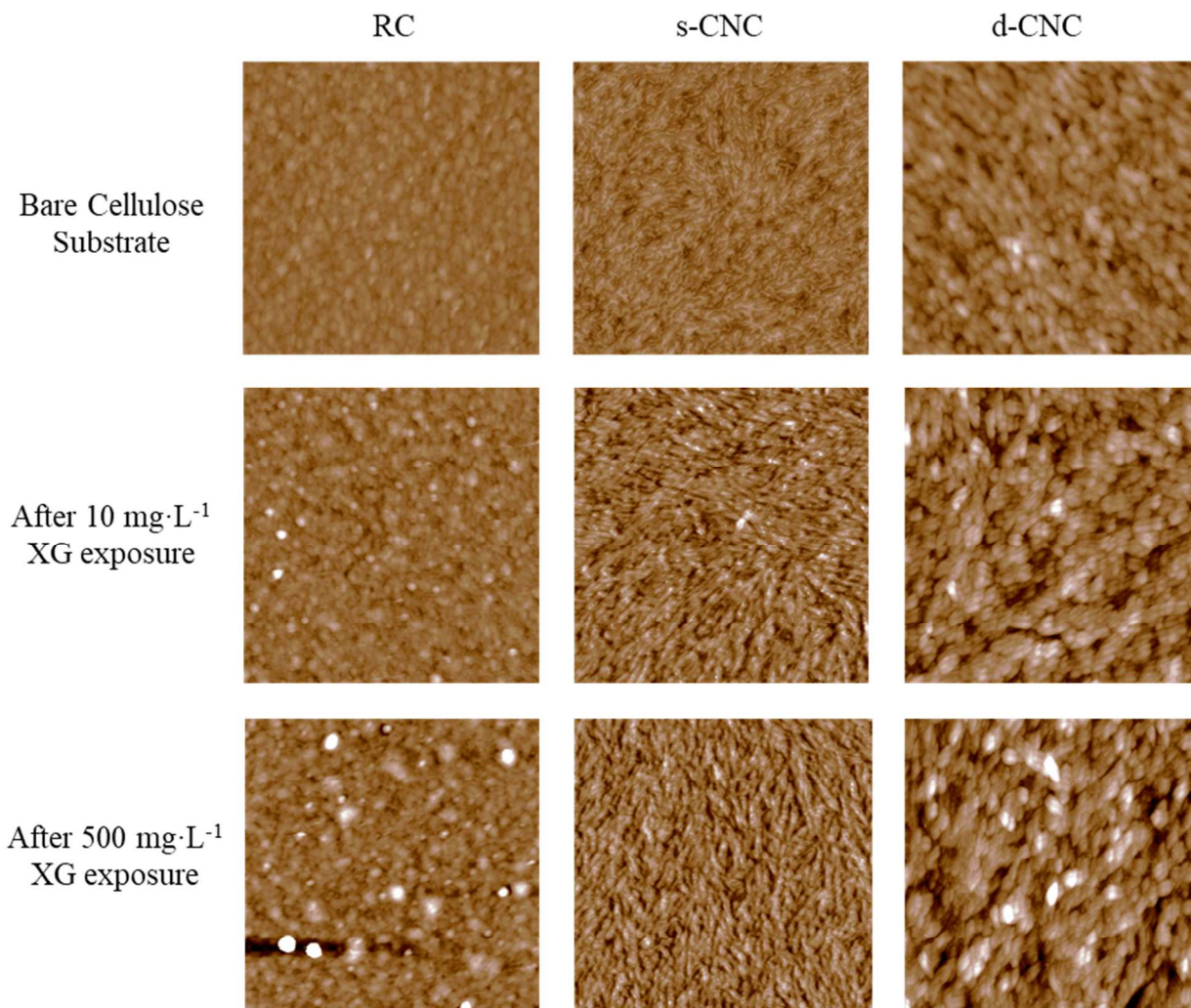
<sup>c</sup> Determined by differential refractometry. See experimental details of main paper.

### III. Adsorption Isotherm Fitting Parameters

**Table S2.** Freundlich and Langmuir isotherm fitting parameters for XG adsorbed on RC, s-CNC, and d-CNC films as determined from QCM and SPR data.

	$K_F$ (L·mg <sup>-1</sup> )		$1/n_f$		$\Gamma_m$ (mg·m <sup>-2</sup> )		$K_L$ (L·m <sup>-2</sup> )	
	QCM	SPR	QCM	SPR	QCM	SPR	QCM	SPR
<b>RC</b>	2.01 ± 0.07	0.33 ± 0.02	0.10 ± 0.01	0.14 ± 0.02	-	-	-	-
<b>s-CNC</b>	-	-	-	-	4.8 ± 0.2	2.3 ± 0.2	0.09 ± 0.04	0.07 ± 0.01
<b>d-CNC</b>	3.2 ± 0.1	2.2 ± 0.3	0.19 ± 0.01	0.17 ± 0.03	-	-	-	-

#### IV. Roughness and Aggregate Heights of Model Surfaces



**Figure S2.** Representative AFM images for bare RC, s-CNC, and d-CNC films exposed to 10  $\text{mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  and 500  $\text{mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  XG. The scans are 2 x 2  $\mu\text{m}$  with a 20 nm z-scale.

**Table S3.** Root-mean-square (RMS) roughness and aggregate heights for RC, s-CNC, and d-CNC films before and after exposure to a 500  $\text{mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$  XG solution.

		<b>RMS Roughness (nm)</b>	<b>Aggregate Height (nm)</b>
<b>RC</b>	Bare	$1.56 \pm 0.01$	$9 \pm 2$
	After XG	$3.8 \pm 0.9$	$20 \pm 12$
<b>s-CNC</b>	Bare	$2.3 \pm 0.3$	-
	After XG	$2.3 \pm 0.3$	-
<b>d-CNC</b>	Bare	$3.04 \pm 0.04$	$9 \pm 1$
	After XG	$3.5 \pm 0.1$	$11 \pm 2$