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"1-D SiC nanostructure formation: looking into 'black box'"



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The self-propagating high temperature combustion synthesis (SHS) is an autogeneous chemical reaction in a powdered mixture of a strong reductant and an oxidant. The process, carried out in a modified calorimetric bomb, takes place under far-from-equilibrium extreme conditions so may lead to novel products of new morphology and stoichiometry. In this contribution we present production of nanocombs and 1-D silicon carbide nanofibres (see figure), formed here from different reaction mixtures, e.g., Si/PTFE (Teflon). To learn more about the reaction mechanism and its optimization - which is crucial to precisely control the process and increase its efficiency - we have to enter somehow a 'black box' reaction zone in which all intermediate processes occur. In this study we propose for the first time the spectroscopic techniques to investigate the emission which accompanies the combustion synthesis and because of that constitute potentially an important diagnostic signal. By doing so, we are able to estimate the average combustion reaction temperature and identify the excited reactive species.

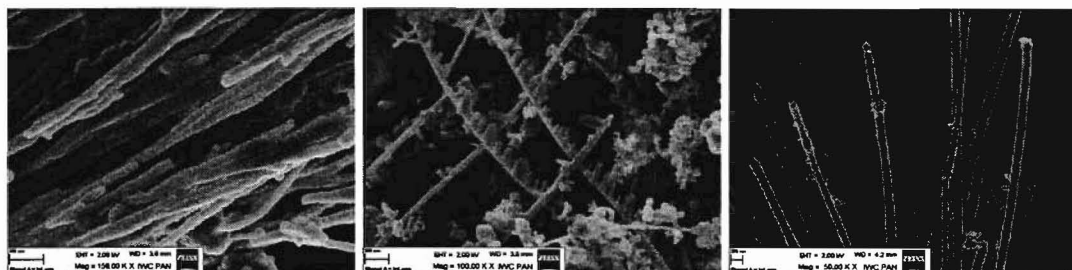


Fig.1 : Examples of products

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