



Noble metal composite porous silk fibroin aerogel fibers

Alexander N. Mitropoulos ^{1,2,*}, F. John Burpo ^{1,*}, Chi K. Nguyen ¹, Enoch A. Nagelli ¹, Madeline Y. Ryu ¹, Jenny Wang ¹, R. Kenneth Sims ³, Kamil Woronowicz ¹ and J. Kenneth Wickiser ¹

¹ Department of Chemistry and Life Science, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996 USA; chi.nguyen@westpoint.edu (C.N.), enoch.nagelli@westpoint.edu (E.A.N.), madeline.ryu@westpoint.edu (M.R.), jenny.wang@westpoint.edu (J.W.), kamil.woronowicz@westpoint.edu (K.W.), ken.wickiser@westpoint.edu (J.K.W.)

² Department of Mathematical Sciences, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996 USA; alexander.mitropoulos@gmail.com

³ Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996 USA; robert.sims@westpoint.edu (R.K.S.)

* Correspondence: alexander.mitropoulos@gmail.com (A.N.M.); john.burpo@westpoint.edu (F.J.B.); Tel.: +01-845-938-3900 (F.J.B.)

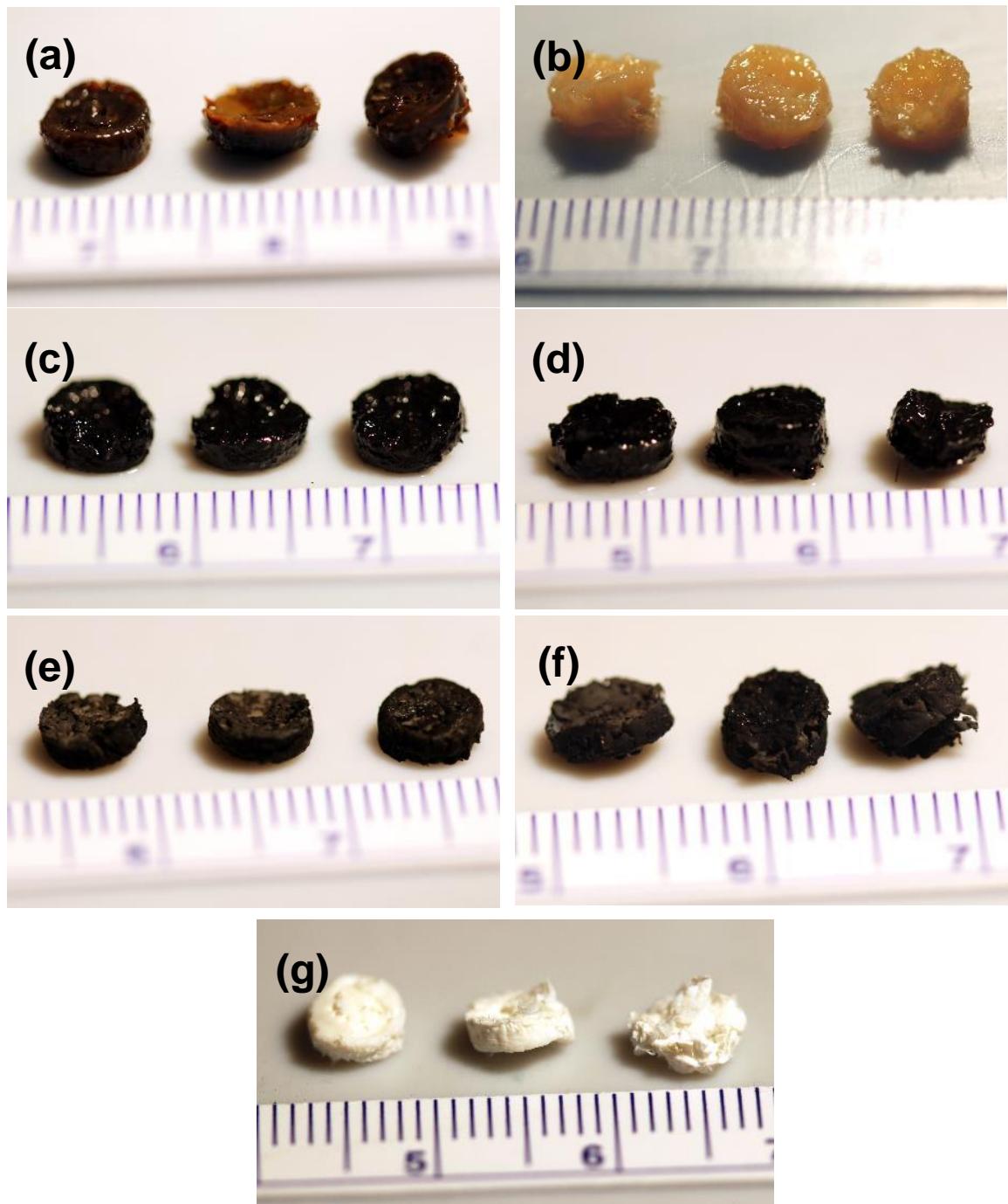


Figure 1. Aerogel synthesis process photos. Silk hydrogels equilibrated in (a) 100 mM Na₂PdCl₄ and (b) 100 mM K₂PtCl₆ (in 1:1 deionized water to ethanol solvent). (c) Hydrogel from (a) reduced with 2 M DMAB. (d) Hydrogel in (b) reduced with 2 M NaBH₄. Supercritically dried aerogels: (e) silk-palladium, (f) silk-platinum, and (e) silk only.

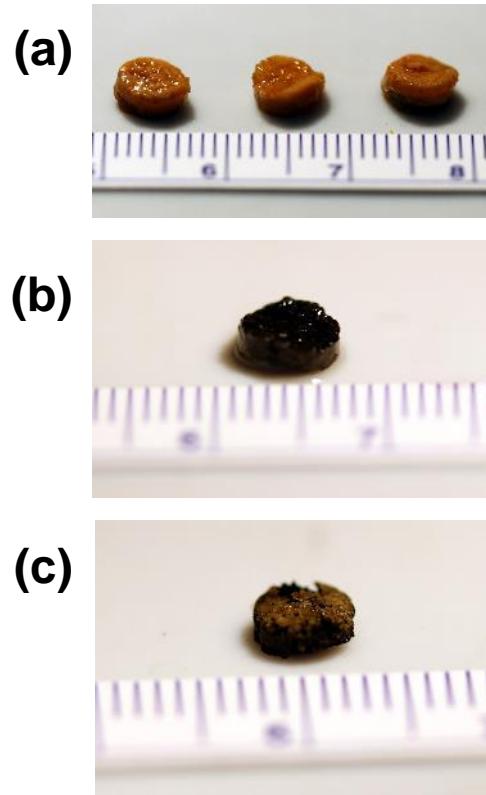


Figure 2. Aerogel synthesis process photos. Silk hydrogels equilibrated in (a) 100 mM HAuCl_4 , (b) reduced with 2 M DMAB. (c) Supercritically dried silk-Au aerogel composite.

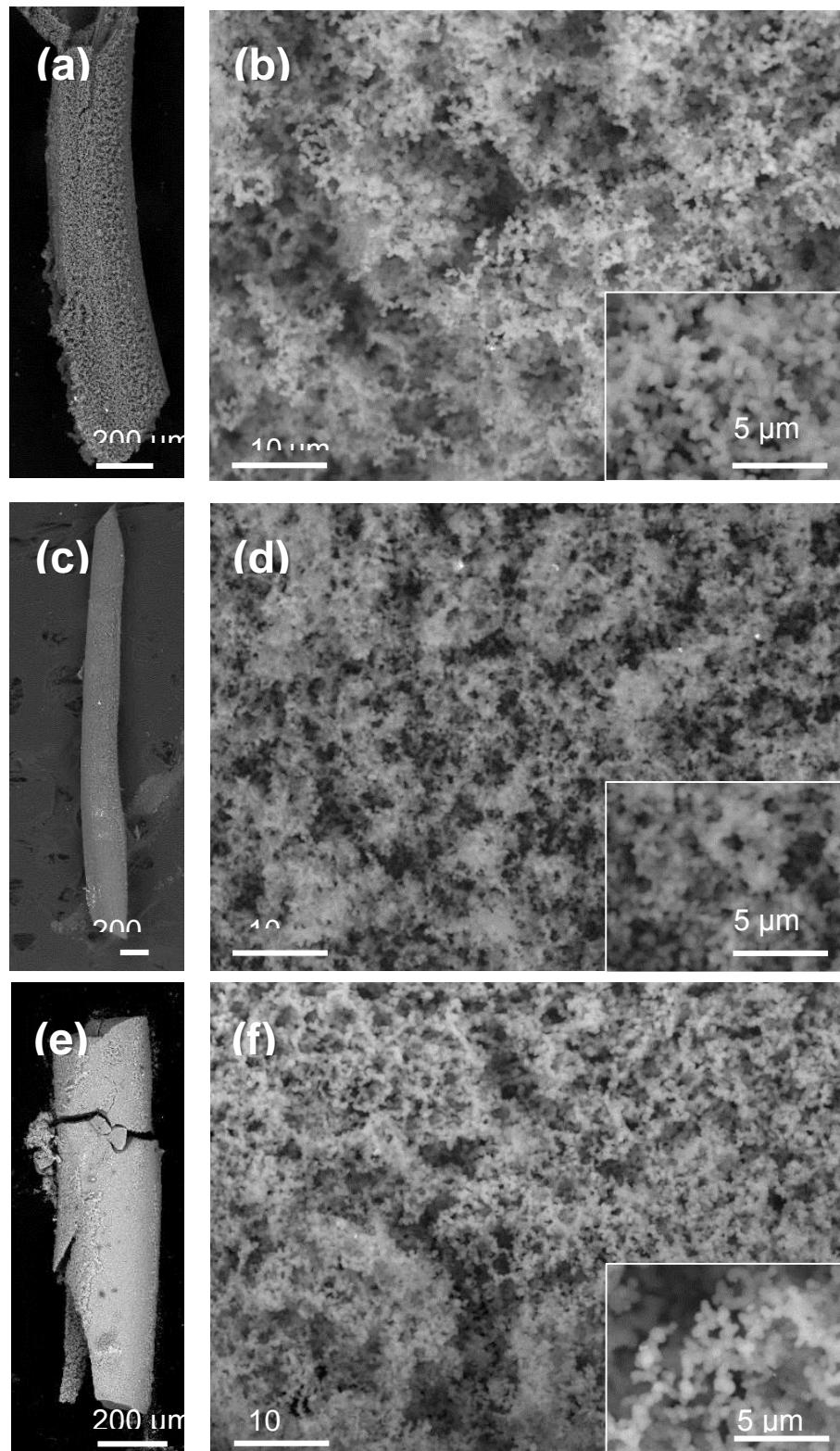


Figure 3. HFIP-silk noble metal fibers. **(a)-(b)** Silk-platinum composite aerogel fibers, **(c)-(d)** silk-palladium composite aerogel fibers, and **(e)-(f)** silk-gold composite aerogel fibers.

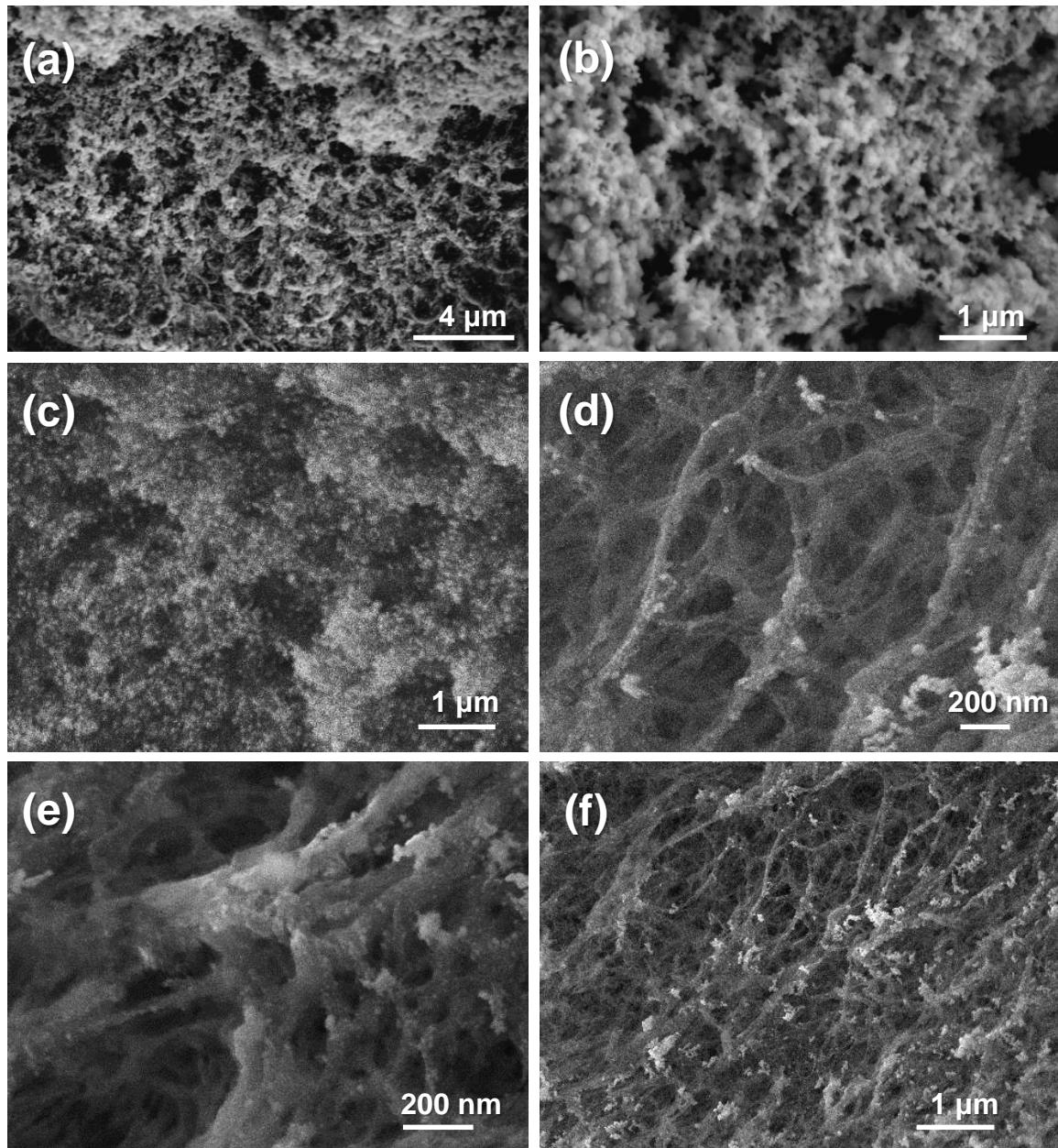


Figure 4. Scanning electron microscope images of (a)-(c) silk-gold composite fibers, and (d)-(f) silk-platinum composite aerogels.

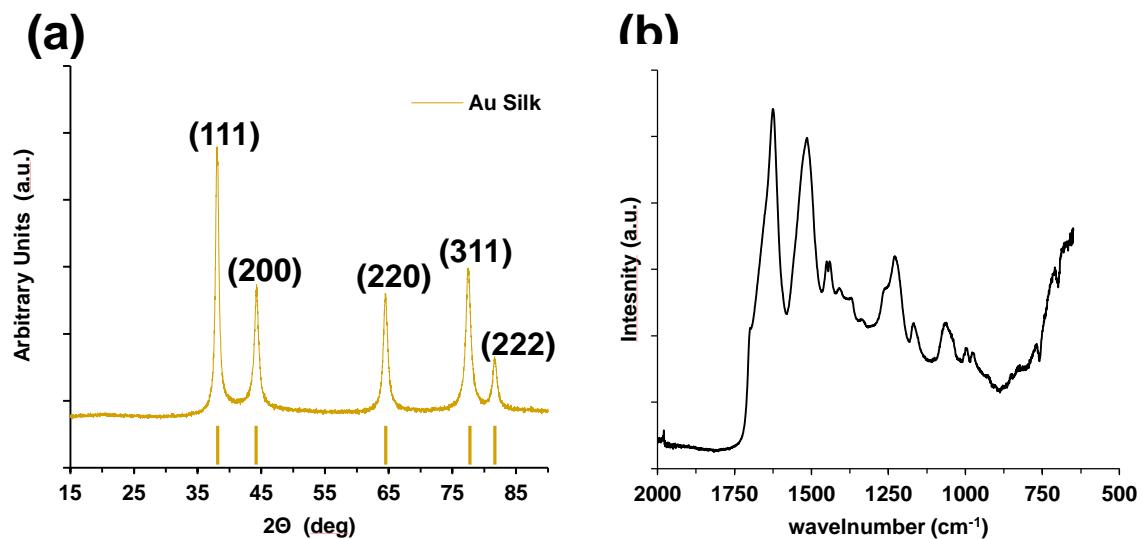


Figure 5. (a) X-ray diffraction (XRD) spectra for silk-gold aerogels with peaks indexed to JCPDS reference 01-071-4614 for gold (gold lines). (b) Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) absorption spectra for silk-gold fiber aerogels.

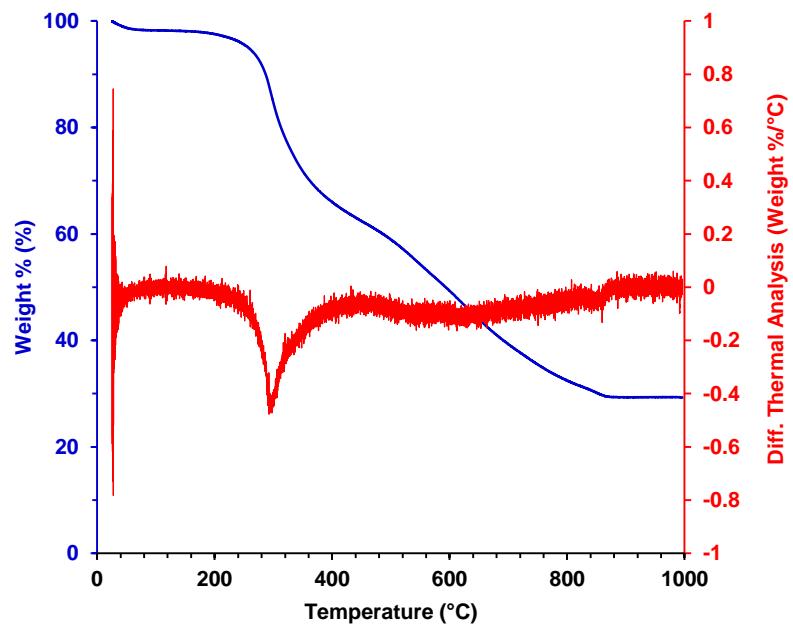


Figure 6. Thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA) – silk gold aerogel composite.

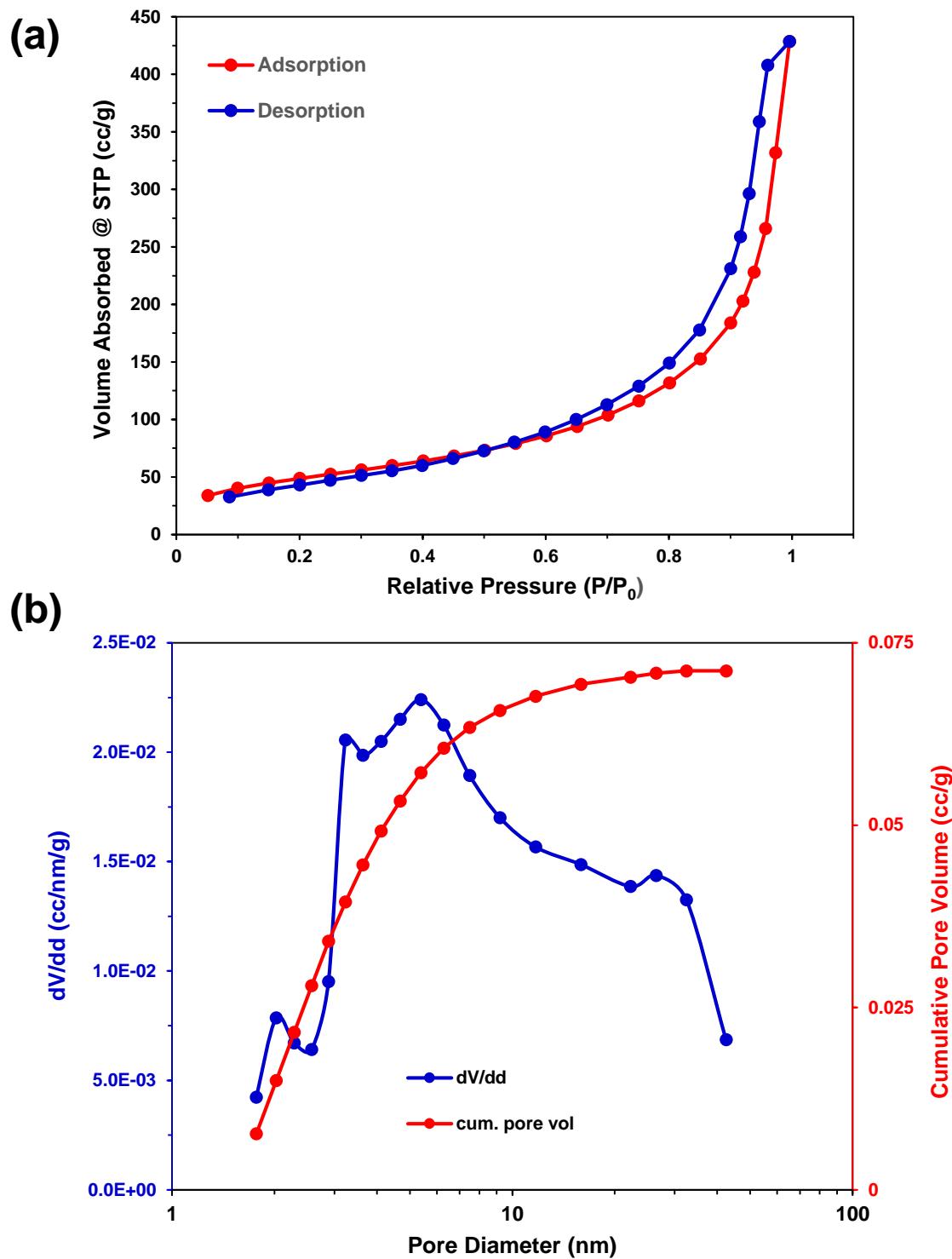


Figure 7. Silk-Au composite aerogel (a) nitrogen adsorption-desorption isotherm, and (b) pore size distribution with cumulative pore volume.