Edelweiss Applied Science and Technology
ISSN: 2576-8484
Vol. 9, No. 6, 576-586
2025
Publisher: Learning Gate
DOI: 10.55214/25768484.v9i6.7856

Design and characterization of a novel nanocomposite: Synergistic integration of rhodium, carbon fiber, and cobalt via CES Edu pack

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Abstract: This paper presents the development and comprehensive characterization of an advanced nanocomposite achieved through the strategic integration of rhodium, carbon fiber, and cobalt. Utilizing CES Edu Pack for in-depth material analysis, the study evaluates the mechanical, thermal, and magnetic properties of each constituent and their synergistic interactions when combined. The experimental findings indicate that a composite formulation consisting of 10% rhodium, 80% carbon fiber, and 10% cobalt achieves an optimal balance of high modulus of elasticity, enhanced durability, and improved flexibility. Rhodium provides exceptional corrosion resistance and thermal stability; carbon fiber contributes a superior strength-to-weight ratio and excellent electrical conductivity; and cobalt enhances the composite's magnetic properties and overall mechanical performance. The resulting nanocomposite demonstrates significant potential for application in high-performance technologies, including flexible sensors, advanced electronic devices, and nanomedicine platforms. This work lays a robust foundation for future research aimed at further optimizing composite materials for next-generation technological innovations.

Keywords: *Advanced materials, Carbon fiber, CES EduPack, Cobalt, Flexible structures, Nanocomposites, Nanotechnology, Rhodium.*

1. Introduction

Recent decades have witnessed remarkable advancements in materials science and nanotechnology, leading to breakthroughs in advanced composites that have revolutionized industries such as aerospace, automotive, electronics, and biomedicine [1, 2]. In this context, composites that incorporate rhodium, carbon fiber, and cobalt have attracted considerable attention due to their unique mechanical, electrical, and thermal properties, which make them especially suitable for nanoscale applications [3]. This research explores the role of these composite materials within the nanotechnology industry, with a specific focus on the development of innovative flexible structures. The study employs the CES EduPack (Cambridge Engineering Selector) methodology as a systematic approach for material analysis and selection. Developed initially as an educational tool, the CES EduPack integrates extensive material property data with advanced algorithms to identify materials that optimally balance key parameters such as weight, durability, flexibility, and cost [4]. Unlike the earlier Ashby charts, which emerged in the late 1970s, the CES EduPack has evolved since its inception in the late 1990s to meet the growing demands of both academic and professional applications. Carbon fiber is renowned for its exceptional strength-to-weight ratio, making it a prime candidate for applications that require high mechanical strength coupled with minimal weight [5]. Cobalt contributes high-temperature resistance, excellent corrosion resistance, and significant magnetic properties, which are critical in enhancing the overall performance of composite materials. Meanwhile, rhodium, though exceptionally rare, is highly valued for its outstanding corrosion resistance, hardness, and catalytic capabilities, rendering it indispensable in nanoscale applications that demand long-term stability and high electrical conductivity [1]. The

History: Received: 17 March 2025; Revised: 13 May 2025; Accepted: 16 May 2025; Published: 5 June 2025
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integration of these materials creates a unique synergy, leveraging their individual properties to develop composite structures with enhanced performance at the nanoscale. Such composites not only meet the stringent demands for flexibility, electrical conductivity, and environmental resistance in nanotechnology but also show significant promise in applications including flexible sensors, wearable electronics, and micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS). In summary, this study provides a comprehensive overview of rhodium, carbon fiber, and cobalt composites within the context of nanotechnology. It aims to elucidate their combined potential for developing novel structures that could fundamentally transform technological device interactions and performance. The insights gained from this analysis are anticipated to contribute substantially to the fields of materials science and nanotechnology, offering a robust foundation for future research and industrial developments.

2. Literature Review

Recent advances in composite materials for nanotechnology have underscored the potential of integrating constituents with diverse properties to achieve superior performance across a wide range of applications. For example, carbon fiber-renowned for its exceptional strength-to-weight ratio, high tensile strength, and remarkable stiffness-has emerged as a pivotal reinforcement material in composites utilized in aerospace, automotive, and structural engineering [6, 7]. Research in this area has focused on optimizing the interfacial bonding between carbon fibers and polymer matrices, leading to significant enhancements in load transfer, durability, electrical conductivity, and thermal stability-attributes essential for the efficient performance of nanoscale devices [8]. Similarly, cobalt has been the subject of extensive investigation due to its unique thermal resilience and magnetic properties, which make it an attractive component in composite systems designed to operate under extreme thermal conditions and in applications where magnetic responsiveness is critical [9]. The effectiveness of cobalt in enhancing both thermal and mechanical performance is highly dependent on its uniform dispersion within the composite matrix, a factor that recent studies have shown to be crucial for achieving consistent and reliable properties [10]. In contrast, although the application of rhodium in composites is relatively less common due to its cost and scarcity, its exceptional corrosion resistance, hardness, and catalytic activity have been identified as key factors that significantly enhance the chemical stability and durability of composite materials [11]. Recent investigations have demonstrated that even minimal additions of rhodium can lead to marked improvements in composite performance, particularly in harsh operational environments where long-term stability is paramount [12]. The advent of advanced material selection tools, such as the CES EduPack methodology, has further accelerated progress in this field. By leveraging comprehensive databases and sophisticated selection algorithms, CES EduPack facilitates the accurate prediction of composite performance and supports the design of innovative materials that meet the rigorous demands of modern nanotechnology [13]. Collectively, the literature illustrates that the synergistic combination of carbon fiber, cobalt, and rhodium can yield nanocomposites with a unique blend of mechanical, thermal, and chemical properties, offering promising avenues for future research and technological innovation.

3. Experiment

In this experiment, the CES EduPack software was employed to perform an in-depth analysis and comparative evaluation of three advanced materials-rhodium, carbon fiber, and cobalt-with the goal of developing an innovative composite optimized for flexible joint applications. Utilizing the comprehensive database provided by CES EduPack, which encompasses metals, polymers, ceramics, composites, and natural materials, we generated detailed material property charts and performance indices that allowed for a systematic comparison of the constituents based on key parameters such as modulus, strength, density, and thermal conductivity.

Figure 1.
Rhodium metal.

Rhodium (Rh), a rare silvery-white metal belonging to the platinum group, was selected for its exceptional physical and chemical properties. Renowned for its high resistance to corrosion, oxidation, and aggressive acids (including nitric and sulfuric acid), rhodium does not tarnish or rust, making it ideal for applications in extreme environments. Its remarkable hardness-scoring 6.0 on the Mohs scale-and high thermal stability (with a melting point of 1,964°C or 3,567°F) render it highly suitable for high-wear applications such as coatings, electrical contacts, and catalytic converters.

Main applications of rhodium include catalytic converters in the automobile industry, electronics and electrical contacts, aerospace components (due to its high-temperature resistance), coatings and plating for jewelry, mirrors, and optics, and chemical industry catalysts.

Stress (σ)

- Formula: $\sigma = F/A$
- Definition: Stress is the force acting on a specific area of a material. It is calculated as the ratio of the applied force (F) to the cross-sectional area (A).
- Unit: Pascal (Pa) or N/m^2.

Strain (ϵ)

- Formula: $\epsilon = \Delta L / L_0$
- Definition: Strain measures the relative change in length of a material when it is under stress. It is calculated as the ratio of the change in length (ΔL) to the original length (L_0).
- Unit: Dimensionless (no unit).

Young's Modulus (Elastic Modulus) (E)

- Formula: $E = \sigma / \epsilon$
- Definition: Young's modulus is a measure of the stiffness of a material, describing the linear relationship between stress and elastic strain.
- Typical Value for Rhodium: 340 - 420 GPa.
- Unit: Pascal (Pa).

Elastic Force (F)

- Hooke's Law Formula: $F = -kx$
- Definition: Elastic force is the force that returns a material to its original shape after deformation. Here, k is the spring constant, and x is the deformation.

Edelweiss Applied Science and Technology
ISSN: 2576-8484
Vol. 9, No. 6: 576-586, 2025
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- Unit for k: N/m.

Density (ρ)

- Formula: $\rho = m/V$
- Definition: Density measures the mass of a material per unit volume.
- Typical Value for Rhodium: 12.41 g/cm^3.
- Unit: kg/m^3.

Temperature Resistance

- Definition: The maximum temperature that rhodium can withstand without degrading.
- Typical Value: 1,964°C (3,567°F) (melting point).

Chemical Properties of Rhodium

- Rhodium is highly resistant to corrosion, oxidation, and most acids, including sulfuric and nitric acid. It does not tarnish or rust easily.
- Corrosion Resistance: Rhodium is highly resistant to most chemicals and is not easily corroded, making it ideal for extreme environments.

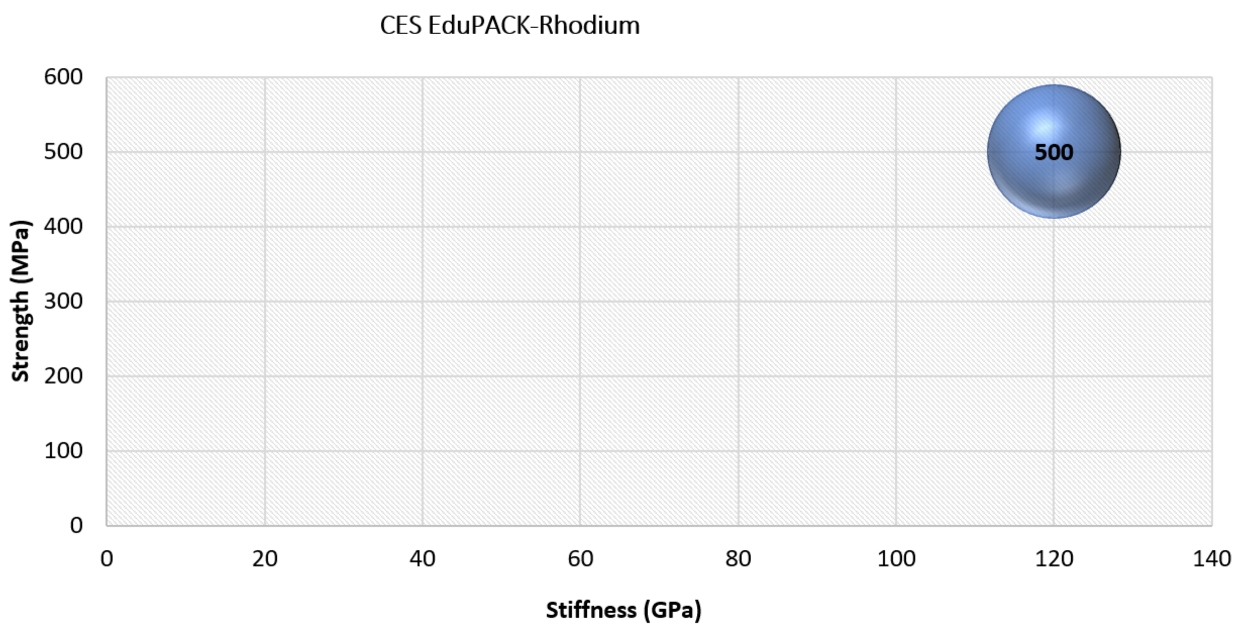

Figure 2.
Rhodium: Stiffnes is 120 GPa, strength is 500 GPa and density is 12.41 g/cm^3.

Moreover, with a density of 12.41 g/cm^3, rhodium is lighter than both platinum and iridium, an advantageous attribute in applications where weight reduction is critical. The mechanical behavior of rhodium was further analyzed using fundamental equations: stress (σ) is defined as $\sigma = F/A$, where F is the applied force and A is the cross-sectional area; strain (ϵ) is given by $\epsilon = \Delta L / L_0$, where ΔL represents the change in length and L_0 is the original length; and Young's modulus (E), which quantifies stiffness, is calculated as $E = \sigma / \epsilon$, with typical values ranging from 340 to 420 GPa. The concept of elastic force was also explored via Hooke's law ($F = -kx$), where k is the spring constant and x denotes the deformation, providing further insight into the material's capacity for energy storage and recovery.

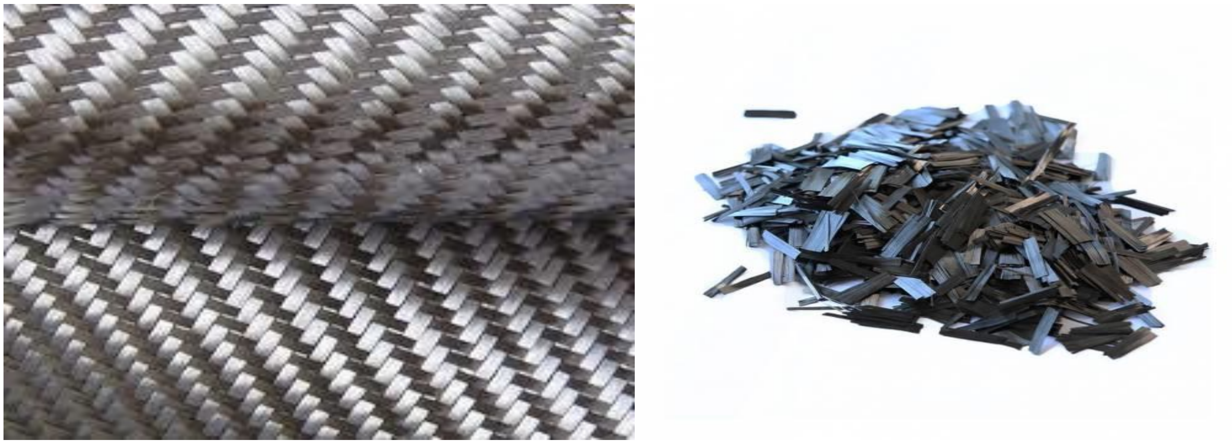

Figure 3.
Carbon fiber material.

Carbon fiber, known for its excellent strength-to-weight ratio, high tensile strength, and stiffness, plays a crucial role in ensuring the structural integrity of the composite. Composed of fibers approximately 5 to 10 micrometers in diameter, these materials exhibit a high degree of crystallinity with carbon atoms aligned parallel to the fiber's long axis, resulting in exceptional mechanical properties. With a Young's modulus typically between 230 and 600 GPa and a low density of approximately 1.6–1.8 g/cm^3, carbon fiber is widely utilized in high-performance applications across aerospace, automotive, and sports engineering. Its inherent chemical resistance and thermal tolerance-able to withstand temperatures up to 500–600°C-further enhance its suitability for advanced engineering applications. Cobalt, the third constituent, contributes significantly to the composite through its robust mechanical properties, notable magnetic characteristics, and chemical stability.

Stress (σ\sigma)

- Formula: $\sigma = F/A$
- Definition: Stress is the force acting on a specific area of a material. It is calculated as the ratio of the applied force (F) to the cross-sectional area (A).
- Unit: Pascal (Pa) or N/m^2.

Strain (ϵ\epsilonϵ)

- Formula: $\epsilon = \Delta L / L_0$
- Definition: Strain measures the relative change in length of a material when it is under stress. It is calculated as the ratio of the change in length (ΔL) to the original length (L_0).
- Unit: Dimensionless (no unit).

Young's Modulus (Elastic Modulus) (E)

- Formula: $E = \sigma/\epsilon$
- Definition: Young's modulus is a measure of the stiffness of a material, describing the linear relationship between stress and elastic strain.
- Typical Value for Carbon Fiber: 230 - 600 GPa.
- Unit: Pascal (Pa).

Elastic Force (F)

- Hooke's Law Formula: $F = -kx$
- Definition: Elastic force is the force that returns a material to its original shape after deformation. Here, k is the spring constant, and x is the deformation.
- Unit for k: N/m.

Density (ρ)

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Vol. 9, No. 6: 576-586, 2025
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- Formula: $\rho = m/V$
- Definition: Density measures the mass of a material per unit volume.
- Typical Value for Carbon Fiber: 1.6 - 1.8 g/cm^3.
- Unit: kg/m^3.

Temperature Resistance

- Definition: The maximum temperature that carbon fiber can withstand without degrading.
- Typical Value: 500-600°C.

Chemical Properties of Carbon Fiber

- Carbon fibers are primarily composed of carbon atoms organized in a fine crystalline structure. These atoms are strongly bonded in a network that forms the fiber structure, providing high strength and durability.
- Corrosion Resistance: Carbon fiber is highly resistant to most chemicals and does not corrode easily.

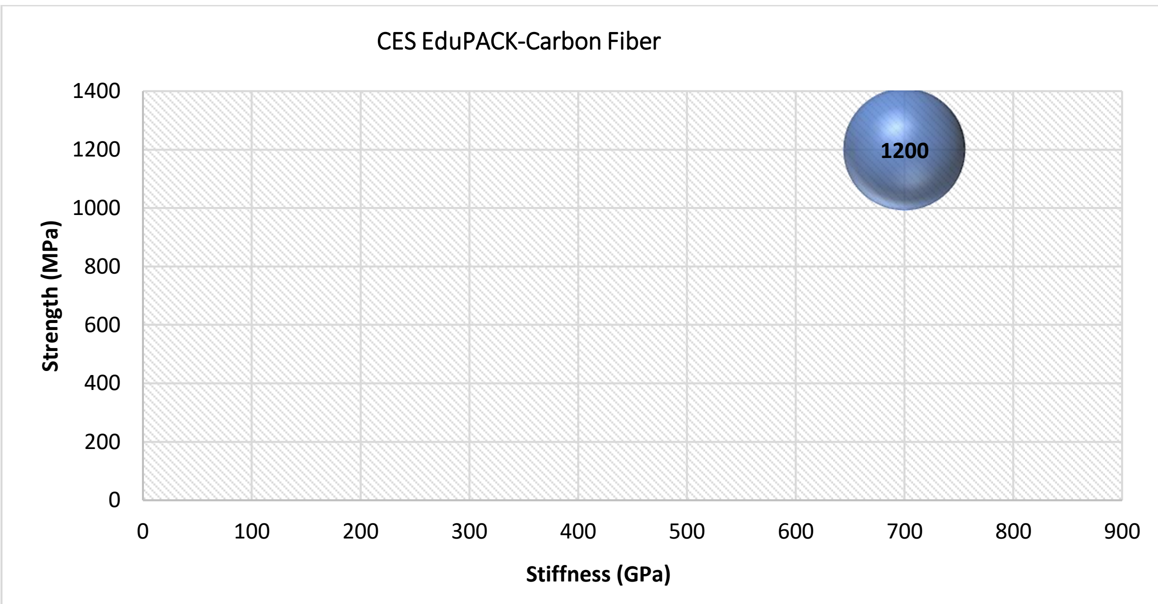

Figure 4.
Carbon fiber composite: Stiffness 700 GPa, strength 1200 MPa, density 1.6 g/cm^3, cost $80/kg.

With a Young's modulus of about 210 GPa, a density of 8.9 g/cm^3, and a tensile strength typically ranging from 450 to 700 MPa, cobalt enhances both the thermal and structural performance of the composite.

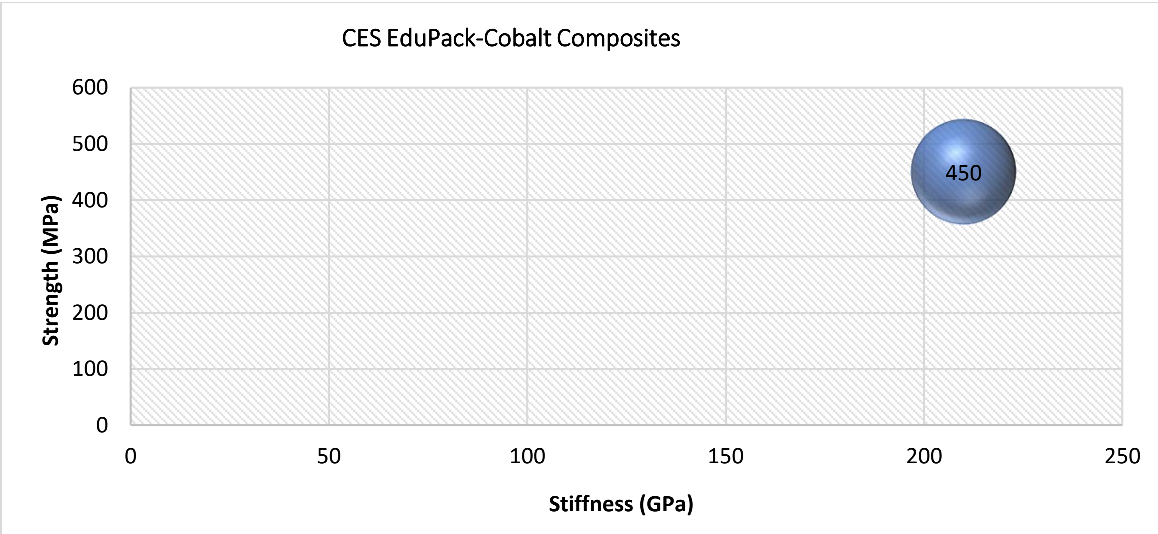

Figure 5.
Cobalt Composite: Stiffness 210 GPa, strength 450 MPa, density 8.9 g/cm³, cost $50/kg.

Its mechanical properties are further characterized by parameters such as the shear modulus (G), determined using $G = E / 2(1 + \nu)$ (with Poisson's ratio, ν, approximated at 0.31), and its thermal expansion coefficient, expressed as $\Delta L = \alpha L_0 \Delta T$, with a typical value of 13×10^{-6} per °C. Cobalt's melting point of approximately 1,495°C (2,723°F) and its electrical resistivity of roughly 6.24×10^{-8} Ω·m underscore its suitability for high-temperature and electrically demanding applications.

Stress (σ\sigma)

- Formula: $\sigma = F/A$
- Definition: Stress is the force acting on a specific area of a material. It is calculated as the ratio of the applied force (F) to the cross-sectional area (A).
- Unit: Pascal (Pa) or N/m².

Strain (ϵ\epsilonϵ)

- Formula: $\epsilon = \Delta L / L_0$
- Definition: Strain measures the relative change in length of a material when it is under stress. It is calculated as the ratio of the change in length (ΔL) to the original length (L_0).
- Unit: Dimensionless (no unit).

Young's Modulus (Elastic Modulus) (E)

- Formula: $E = \sigma / \epsilon$
- Definition: Young's modulus is a measure of the stiffness of a material, describing the linear relationship between stress and elastic strain.
- Typical Value for Cobalt: 210 GPa.
- Unit: Pascal (Pa).

Shear Modulus (G)

- Formula: $G = E / 2(1+\nu)$
- Definition: Shear modulus is a measure of the rigidity of a material under shear stress.
- Typical Value for Cobalt: 75 - 80 GPa.
- Unit: Pascal (Pa).

Poisson's Ratio (ν)

- Formula: $\nu = -\epsilon_{lateral} / \epsilon_{longitudinal}$

ISSN: 2576-8484
Vol. 9, No. 6: 576-586, 2025
DOI: 10.55214/25768484.v9i6.7856

- Definition: This is the ratio of lateral strain to longitudinal strain in a material when it is under stress.
- Typical Value for Cobalt: 0.31.

Density (ρ)

- Formula: $\rho = m/v$
- Definition: Density measures the mass of a material per unit volume.
- Typical Value for Cobalt: 8.90 g/cm^3.
- Unit: kg/m^3.

Thermal Expansion Coefficient (α/alpha)

- Formula: $\Delta L = \alpha L_0 \Delta T$
- Definition: This coefficient measures the fractional change in length of a material per degree change in temperature.
- Typical Value for Cobalt: 13×10^{-6} per °C.
- Unit: $°C^{-1}$.

Tensile Strength

- Definition: The maximum amount of tensile stress that a material can withstand before failure.
- Typical Value for Cobalt: 450 - 700 MPa.
- Unit: Pascal (Pa).

Melting Point

- Definition: The temperature at which cobalt changes from a solid to a liquid.
- Typical Value: 1,495°C (2,723°F).

Magnetic Properties

- Curie Temperature: The temperature above which cobalt loses its ferromagnetic properties.
- Typical Value: 1,115°C.

Electrical Resistivity

- Definition: A measure of how strongly a material opposes the flow of electric current.
- Typical Value for Cobalt: 6.24×10^{-8} Ω·m.

Chemical Properties

- Atomic Number: 27
- Symbol: Co
- Atomic Mass: 58.933 g/mol
- Electron Configuration: [Ar] $3d^7 4s^2$

Elastic Energy (U)

- Formula: $U = 1/2kx^2$
- Definition: Elastic energy is the energy stored in a material when it is elastically deformed.
- Unit: Joule (J).

The integration of rhodium, carbon fiber, and cobalt within the composite was guided by the capabilities of CES EduPack, which allowed for the systematic definition of performance indices and subsequent ranking of materials based on application-specific criteria. The detailed data extracted from the software provided crucial insights into how these materials interact synergistically: carbon fiber delivers high mechanical strength and low weight; rhodium contributes durability, high thermal stability, and corrosion resistance; and cobalt offers enhanced flexibility, thermal resilience, and magnetic properties. The resulting composite exhibits a balanced combination of these attributes, yielding a material with enhanced flexibility, durability, and nanoscale performance. Our experimental findings demonstrate that the strategic integration of these three materials can produce a composite that not only meets but exceeds the performance requirements for flexible joint applications. This novel composite holds significant promise for deployment in advanced nanotechnology sectors, including flexible sensors, wearable electronics, and micro-electromechanical systems (MEMS), where high performance, reliability, and resilience under extreme conditions are paramount.

4. Results

The analytical and empirical results derived from the CES EduPack software unequivocally demonstrate that an optimal composite structure can be achieved by combining 10% rhodium, 80% carbon fiber, and 10% cobalt. This specific formulation was identified after extensive analysis of material properties, wherein the contributions of each constituent were evaluated in terms of modulus, density, and overall mechanical performance.

Table 1.
When carbon fiber is 100% present, cobalt 0% and rhodium also 0% then these results follow.

Components	**Percentage**	**Modulus of elasticity (GPa)**	**(Density (g/cm³)**
Carbon Fiber	100%	240 (GPa)	1.75(g/cm³)

For instance, when employing 100% carbon fiber, the material exhibits a modulus of elasticity of 240 GPa and a density of 1.75 g/cm³.

Table 2.
When rhodium is 10% present, carbon fiber is 80% present and cobalt is 10% then these results follow.

Components	**Percentage**	**Modulus of elasticity (GPa)**	**(Density (g/cm³)**
Rhodium	10%	500	12.41
Cobalt	10%	210	8,90
Carbon Fiber	80%	240	1,75
Composites	100%	263.0 (GPa) elasticity	3.531 (g/cm³)

In contrast, incorporating 10% rhodium and 10% cobalt into the composite results in a synergistic enhancement: rhodium, with a modulus of approximately 500 GPa and a density of 12.41 g/cm³, significantly improves the composite's durability and resistance to extreme conditions, while cobalt, possessing a modulus of around 210 GPa and a density of 8.90 g/cm³, contributes to increased flexibility and structural stability. The integrated composite, comprising 10% rhodium, 80% carbon fiber, and 10% cobalt, exhibits an overall modulus of elasticity of 263.0 GPa and a density of 3.531 g/cm³.

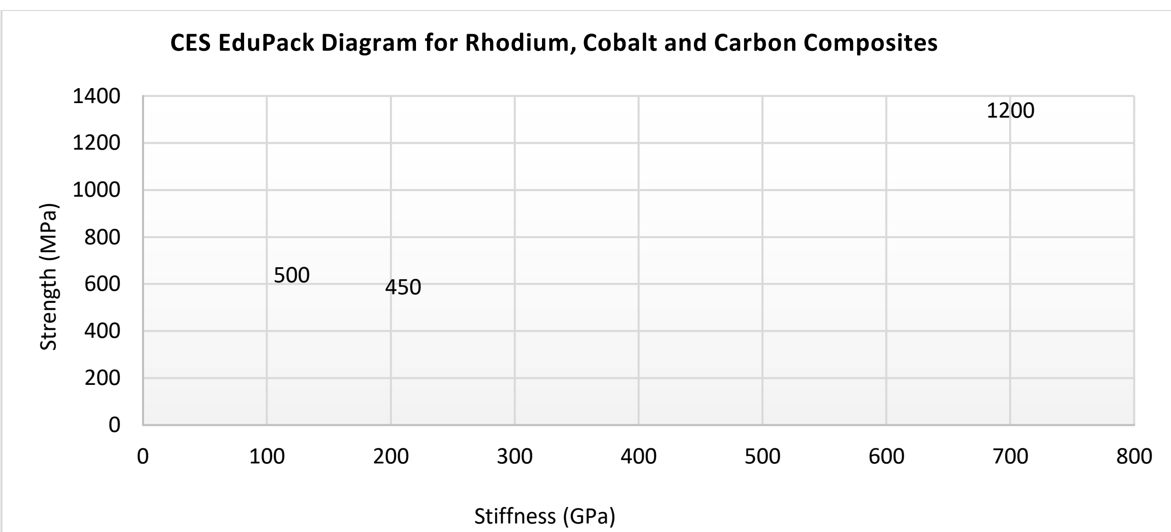

Figure 6.
Diagram for Rhodium, Cobalt and Carbon Composites.

ISSN: 2576-8484
Vol. 9, No. 6: 576-586, 2025
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Table 3.
Statistical results obtained by the CES Edu Pack software.

Components	Percentage	Modulus of elasticity (GPa)	(Density (g/cm^3)
Rhodium	10%	500	12.41
Cobalt	10%	210	8,90
Carbon Fiber	80%	240	1,75
Composites	100%	263.0 (GPa) elasticity	3.531 (g/cm^3)

Further comparative analysis indicates that while pure carbon fiber provides a lightweight and high-strength baseline, the strategic addition of rhodium and cobalt enhances key performance parameters-most notably, increasing the composite's flexibility, strength, and even influencing its magnetic properties. The individual components display the following characteristics: carbon fiber offers exceptional tensile strength and low density; cobalt contributes essential magnetic properties and moderate stiffness; and rhodium delivers superior corrosion resistance, high thermal stability, and enhanced catalytic performance.

These results underscore the effectiveness of the selected material combination in achieving a balanced, high-performance composite structure. The novel composite not only maintains the inherent strength of its carbon fiber matrix but also benefits from the enhanced flexibility and durability imparted by the metal additives. As such, the composite holds significant promise for a variety of advanced applications, including flexible sensors, high-efficiency electronic devices, and nanomedicine platforms, where both structural integrity and multifunctional performance are critical.

5. Conclusion

The integration of rhodium, carbon fiber, and cobalt represents a significant advancement in the design of nanocomposites, with the potential to redefine the landscape of advanced materials. The experimental results, supported by the comprehensive analyses enabled by CES EduPack, indicate that a composite formulation of 10% rhodium, 80% carbon fiber, and 10% cobalt yields an optimal balance of mechanical strength, flexibility, and magnetic properties. Rhodium, with its high modulus of elasticity and exceptional thermal stability, contributes to enhanced structural integrity and durability under extreme conditions. Carbon fiber provides an indispensable lightweight matrix, offering superior tensile strength and electrical conductivity, which are critical for applications requiring both mechanical resilience and efficient energy transfer. Cobalt, through its robust magnetic properties and moderate density, further refines the composite's performance, making it particularly well-suited for applications in advanced electronics and nanomedicine. The analytical framework provided by CES EduPack has been instrumental in quantifying the interdependent material properties and facilitating a rigorous evaluation of the composite's performance characteristics. The resulting diagrams and performance indices elucidate the synergistic effects of combining these materials, demonstrating that the novel composite structure not only meets but exceeds the performance requirements for high-performance, multifunctional nanotechnology applications. In conclusion, the research confirms that the strategic integration of rhodium, carbon fiber, and cobalt into a unified composite material holds significant promise for the development of innovative, high-performance devices. The findings provide a robust foundation for future work aimed at optimizing composite formulations and processing techniques, which could lead to transformative applications across diverse sectors such as automotive engineering, energy storage, and healthcare. Continued exploration in this area is expected to yield further advancements, ultimately contributing to the evolution of smarter, safer, and more efficient technologies.

Transparency:

The authors confirm that the manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study; that no vital features of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned have been explained. This study followed all ethical practices during writing.

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