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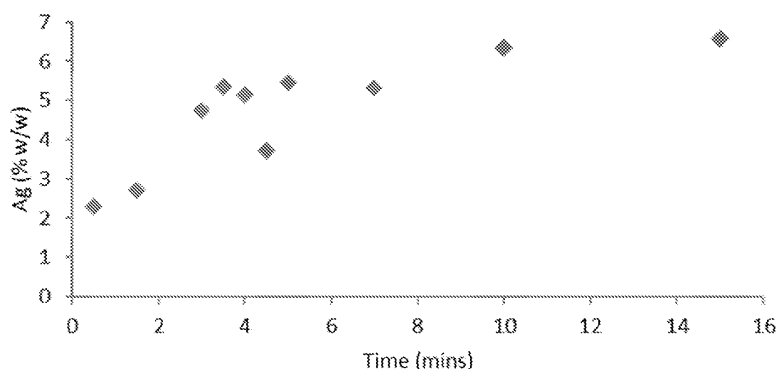


FIGURE 1

(57) Abstract: A method of producing a solution of polymer-coated metal nanoparticles comprising mixing a first aqueous alkaline solution with an aqueous polymer solution to form an aqueous alkaline polymer solution and mixing with an aqueous solution of a metal salt to form a solution of polymer-coated metal nanoparticles. A further method of producing cellulose fibres impregnated with the metal nanoparticles comprises swelling the fibres and mixing the fibres with the solution of polymer-coated metal nanoparticles.

[Continued on next page]

WO 2023/017240 A1

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