Self-healing properties of poly(methyl methacrylate) derivatives through the reversible reaction with maleimide functionalized graphene oxide

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Self-healing materials were proposed to be used as coating materials, because of the capability of healing injury. A series of poly(methyl methacrylate) derivatives were synthesized, which consisted of thermally reversible moiety furfuryl-2-(methacryloyl) ethyl carbamate(FMAECM) and photo-reversible moiety 2-cinnamoyloxyethyl methacrylate(CEMA). Also we prepared maleimide functionalized graphene oxide(mGO), which was used as a cross-linker for thermally reversible Diels-Alder reaction. The structures of intermediates, polymers and Diels-Alder reaction were confirmed by ¹H-NMR, fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, thermal gravimetric analysis and differential scanning calorimetry. Additionally, the photo reversibility and the self-healing performance of polymer were studied by pencil scratch method, optical microscopy and tensile testing. The results show that the dual self-healing effects of these polymer films were controlled by heat and photo stimuli.