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► Background and Purpose

Outline

- Biodegradable polymers
- ≻Shape memory polymers
- Materials and Experimental Procedures
- Crystallinity of composites
- Shape memory effect of composites
- ➤Conclusions

Background Biodegradable polymers



Polyesters: Poly L-lactide (PLLA), Poly glycolic acid, Poly e-caprolactone (PCL) y Poly Ethyelene glycol







Application:

- ≻An alternative to non-degradable polymers,
- ➢ Hard tissue engineering, bone fixing,
- Controlled drug delivery systems,
- ≻Surface-eroding systems,







Shape memory polymers (SMP)s can rapidly change their shapes from a temporary shape to their permanent shapes under appropriate stimulus such as: Temperature,



Background

shape memory polymers



Application :
> Surgical sutures and adhesives,
> Tissue engineering,
> Controlled drug delivery systems,
> Surface-eroding polymers,







Background

Poly L-lactide (PLLA), Poly ε-caprolactone (PCL)



PLLA and PCL are linear aliphatic thermoplastic polyesters, which has good mechanical properties, thermal plasticity, and shape memory effect.

PCL is flexible, soft, tough and has a lower melting point (60 °C), while PLLA is rigid, hard, brittle and has a higher melting temperature(178~182 °C).

The blend of these polymers possessed properties partly like that of PLLA and partly like that of PCL.







Degradation time for Biodegradable polymers: 6 months to 2 years
 Degradation time for Conventional plastics: 500 – 1000 years

Purpose



To improve the mechanical properties of PLLA, fabrication of PLLA composites was considered.

Four main system requirements for effective reinforcement.

- 1- Large aspect ratio,
- 2- Good dispersion,
- 3-Alignment,
- 4- Interfacial stress transfer

Reinforcement Materials: Alumina, Glass, Glass fiber, Boron, Silicon carbide, Clay, Carbon, Carbon fiber, Carbon Nanotubes,



Because of their unique mechanical properties, CNTs are considered to be ideal candidates for PLLA reinforcement.



1.00um

y322-01 15.0kV 8.9mm x30.0k SE(U)

Synthesis methods:

Electric arc-discharge, Laser ablation, Catalytic decomposition of gaseous hydrocarbons

neat pMWCNTs (a),

purified pMWCNTs (b)

pristine MWCNTs have some agglomerated MWCNTs and bundled MWCNTs

After purification, Most of agglomerated MWCNTs, bundled MWCNTs, carbon nanofibers, amorphous carbon and metallic catalysis nanoparticles are removed

(d) 3wt%MWCNT/PLLA/PCL8020

Crystallization

Schematic representation for growth of spherulites in polymer thin films.

Crystallization behavior of polylactide at 110°C

The series images refer to crystallization behavior of PLLA at 110 $^{\circ}$ C.

schematic representation of arrangement of polymer chains for creation of lamellaes and spherulites.

PLLA/PCL9010

PLLA

PLLA/PCL8020

PLLA/PCL7030

PLLA/PCL6040

0.5% MWCNTs

PLLA/PCL8020

1% MWCNTs

(CTP)

2% MWCNTs

3% MWCNTs

Ref: J. Macromol. Sci. B. Phy. 2003, B42(3 & 4): 479~488

carbon fiber graft polymer

Nucleation point of large spherulites are entangled and aligned MWCNT-g-PLLAs. orientation of grafted PLLA chains on the sidewall of MWCNTs accelerate the crystallization of matrix PLLA chains

PLLA: two peaks at 2θ=17° and 19.3° PCL: two peaks at 2θ=21.3° and 23.7°

Shape memory analysis

Scheme of shape memory effect analysis under tensile test device.

L0: original length,

L1: strained at Th, L2: deformed length at TI after load removal,

L3 = final length at Th

L0 \rightarrow Heating at Th and Tensile Stress load

> Scheme of typical SMP thermo mechanical cycles showing the shape memory effect and the recovery stress

1- PCL behaves as a polymeric plasticizer and enhances the flexibility of PLLA, while the MWCNTs enhance the mechanical strength of compounds.

2- Addition of MWCNTs to the blends increases the mechanical strength. The strain at break is effectively lower by the addition of MWCNTs to blend, and this is followed by increase in the strength at break.

3- MWCNTs in the composites increase the shape recovery ratio and decrease the shape fixity ratio.

