

Supporting Information

Ultra-Stretchable and Self-Healing Anti-Freezing Strain Sensors based on Hydrophobic Associated Polyacrylic Acid Hydrogels

Shuya Yin,^a Gehong Su,^{a,b} Jiajun Chen,^a Xiaoyan Peng,^a and Tao Zhou^{a,}*

^a State Key Laboratory of Polymer Materials Engineering of China, Polymer Research Institute, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610065, China; ^b College of Science, Sichuan Agricultural University, Ya'an, 625014, China

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +86-28-85402601; Fax: +86-28-85402465; E-mail address: zhoutaopoly@scu.edu.cn (T. Zhou)

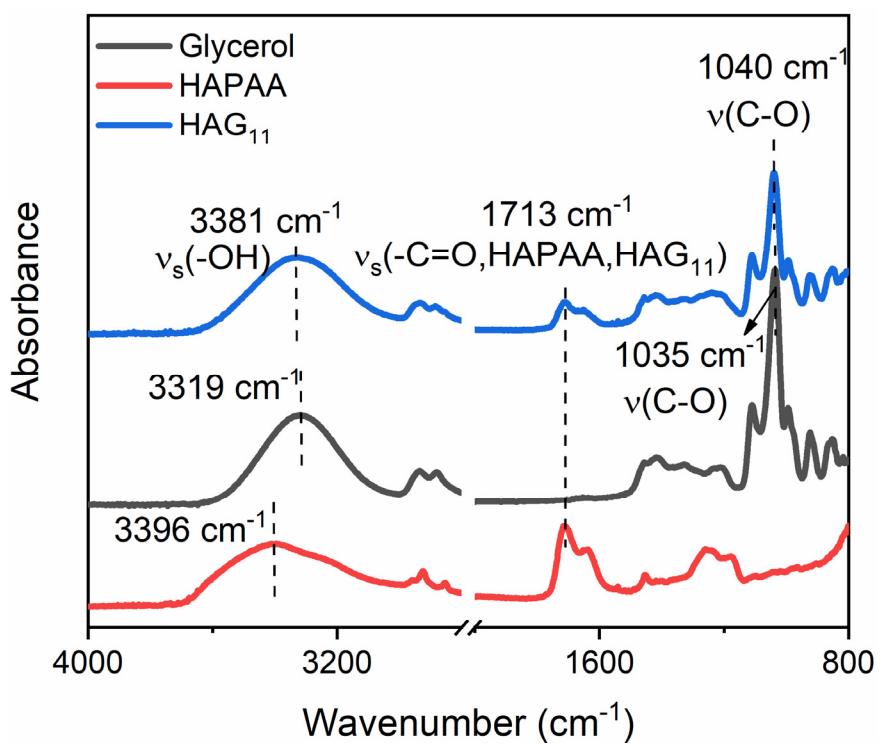


Figure S1. ATR-FTIR spectra of glycerol, HAPAA, and HAG₁₁ hydrogels.

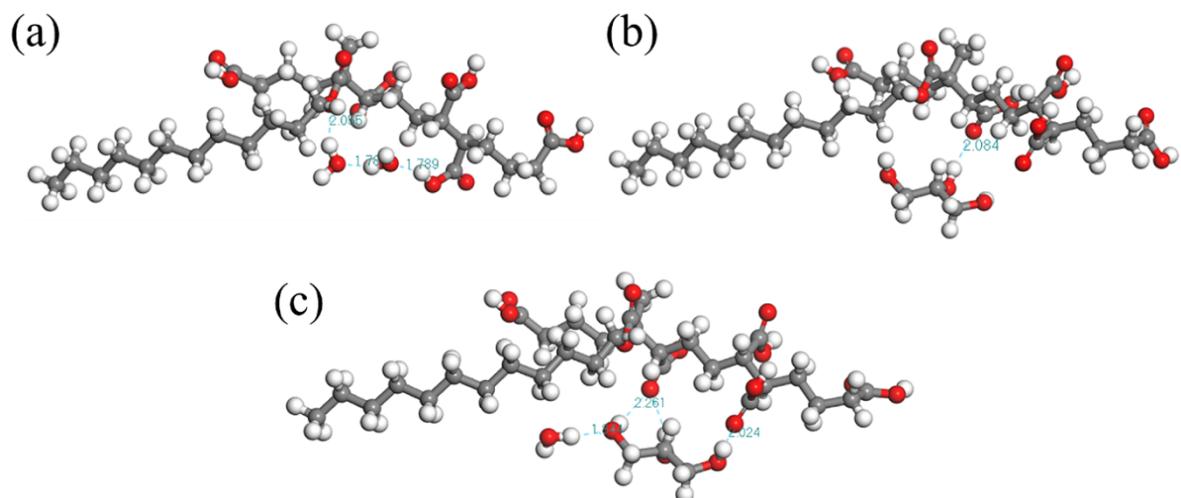


Figure S2. DFT-optimized structure of glycerol, H₂O, and HAPAA. The interaction models of (a) H₂O-HAPAA, (b) glycerol-HAPAA, and (c) H₂O-glycerol-HAPAA.

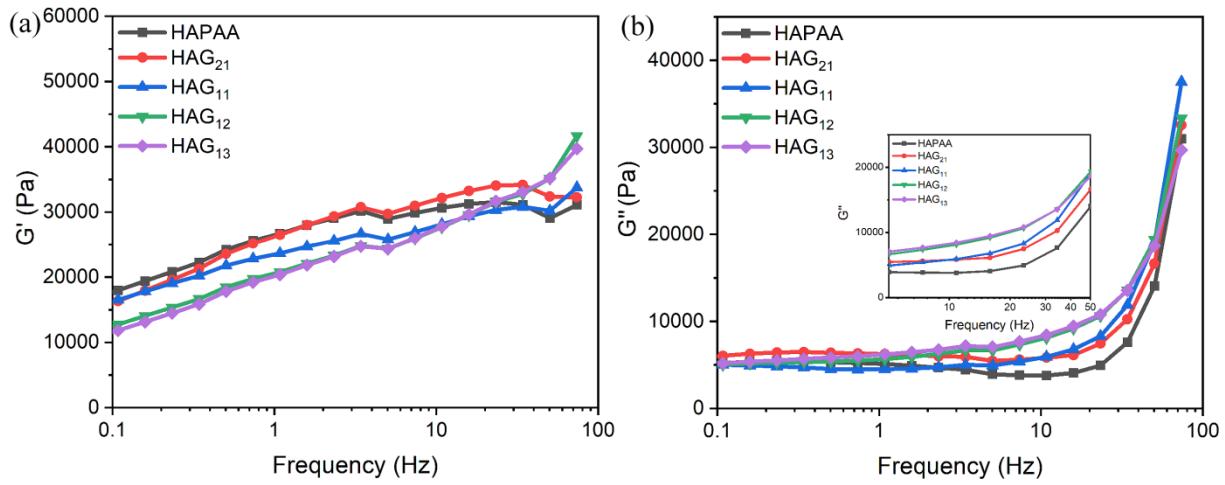


Figure S3. (a) Storage modulus (G'), and (b) the loss modulus (G'') of the HAPAA and HAG_x hydrogels.

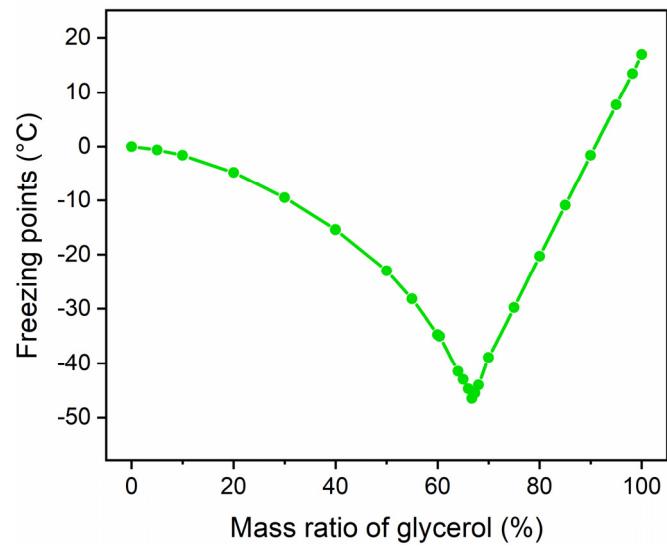


Figure S4. Relationship between the freezing points and the glycerol mass ratio in the glycerol-water mixed solutions.¹

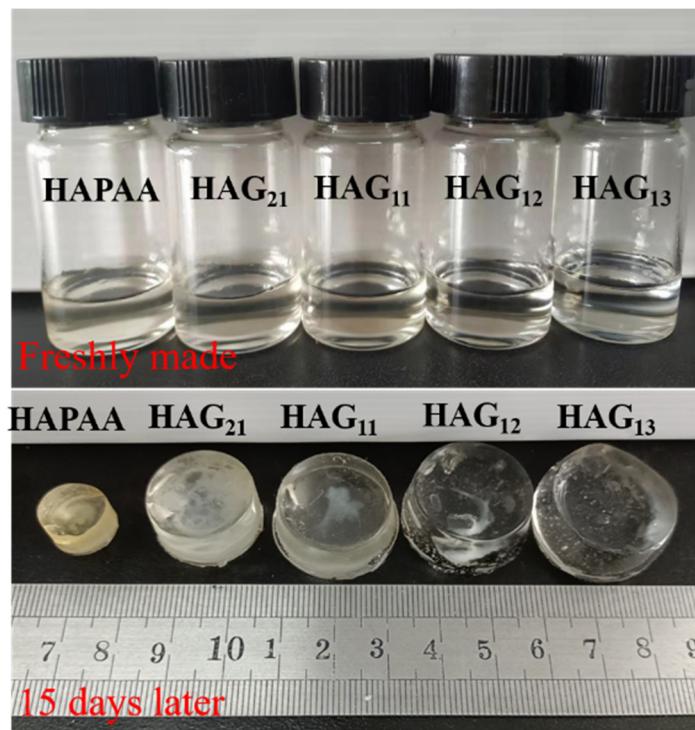


Figure S5. Comparison of the freshly prepared HAPAA and HAG_x hydrogels (top) and after a storage time of 15 days (bottom).

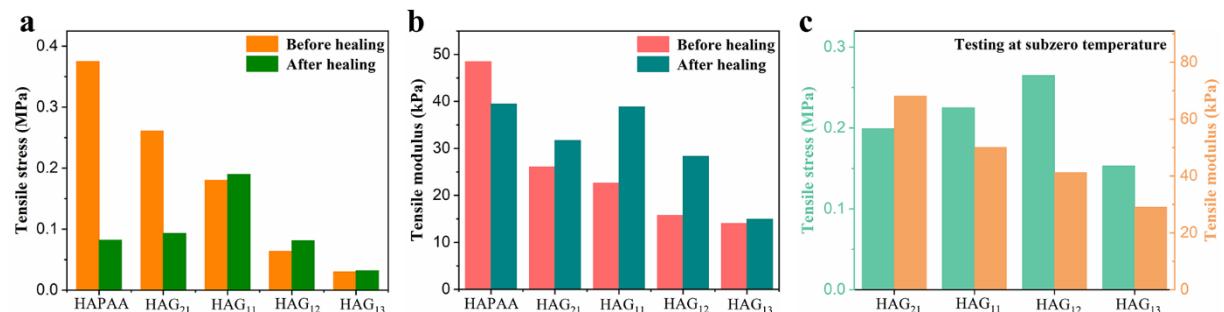


Figure S6. (a-b) The tensile stress and (b) modulus of HAPAA and HAG_x hydrogels before and after self-healing (RT, 24 h). **(c)** The tensile stress and modulus of HAPAA and HAG_x hydrogels at subzero temperature.



Figure S7. Circuits comprised of the HAG₁₁ hydrogel and a green LED light: **(a)** original, **(b)** cutting off and being contacted immediately, **(c)** self-healing for 6 h.

Table S1. Compositions of the HAPAA hydrogel and HAG_x hydrogels

| Samples | AA(g) | LMA(g) | CTAB(g) | H ₂ O(g) | Glycerol(g) | APS(mg) | H ₂ O/Glycerol (wt/wt) |
|-------------------|-------|--------|---------|---------------------|-------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| HAPAA | 2.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 7.00 | 0 | 1 | -- |
| HAG ₂₁ | 2.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 4.67 | 2.33 | 1 | 2:1 |
| HAG ₁₁ | 2.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 1 | 1:1 |
| HAG ₁₂ | 2.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 2.33 | 4.67 | 1 | 1:2 |
| HAG ₁₃ | 2.5 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.75 | 5.25 | 1 | 1:3 |

Table S2. The comparison of the HAG₁₁ hydrogel with other antifreeze stretchable hydrogels in mechanical strength

| Materials | Antifreeze temperature (°C) | Stretchability (%) | Tensile Strength (MPa) | Self-healing | Refs. |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| PVA (EG) | -40 | 1000 | 1.5 | Yes (freeze thawing) | ² |
| PAMPS/PAAm (EG/LiCl) | -80 | 225 | 0.57 | No | ³ |
| PAAm (CaCl ₂) | -54 | 450 | 0.12 | No | ⁴ |
| PAAm/PVA (EG) | -40 | -- | -- | No | ⁵ |
| PAAm/casein (LiCl) | -20 | 1450 | 0.16 | No | ⁶ |
| PVA-TA@talc (EG) | -30 | 700 | 0.6 | No | ⁷ |
| PVA-PAA (EG) | -25 | 550 | 0.025 | No | ⁸ |
| PAA-PANI (Glycerol) | -26 | 1000 | 0.035 | Yes | ⁹ |
| PAA-PAAm (Glycerol) | -20 | 600 | 0.075 | No | ¹⁰ |
| HAG ₁₁ (Glycerol) | -70 | 4000 | 0.18 | Yes | This work |

Table S3. Interaction energies in H₂O-HAPAA, glycerol-HAPAA, and glycerol-H₂O-HAPAA by DFT calculations.

| Interaction pair | Interaction energy (Ha) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| H ₂ O-HAPAA | -0.02013 |
| Glycerol-HAPAA | -0.00994 |
| Glycerol-H ₂ O-HAPAA | -0.02651 |

References

1. Lane, L. B., Freezing Points of Glycerol and Its Aqueous Solutions. *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry* **1925**, *17*, 924-924.
2. Rong, Q.; Lei, W.; Chen, L.; Yin, Y.; Zhou, J.; Liu, M., Anti-Freezing, Conductive Self-Healing Organohydrogels with Stable Strain-Sensitivity at Subzero Temperatures. *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.* **2017**, *56*, 14159-14163.
3. Lou, D.; Wang, C.; He, Z.; Sun, X.; Luo, J.; Li, J., Robust Organohydrogel with Flexibility and Conductivity across the Freezing and Boiling Temperatures of Water. *Chem. Commun.* **2019**, *55*, 8422-8425.
4. Morelle, X. P.; Illeperuma, W. R.; Tian, K.; Bai, R.; Suo, Z.; Vlassak, J. J., Highly Stretchable and Tough Hydrogels Below Water Freezing Temperature. *Adv. Mater.* **2018**, *30*, 1801541.
5. Liao, H.; Guo, X.; Wan, P.; Yu, G., Conductive Mxene Nanocomposite Organohydrogel for Flexible, Healable, Low-Temperature Tolerant Strain Sensors. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* **2019**, *29*, 1904507.
6. Wu, X.; Liao, H.; Ma, D.; Chao, M.; Wang, Y.; Jia, X.; Wan, P.; Zhang, L., A Wearable, Self-Adhesive, Long-Lastingly Moist and Healable Epidermal Sensor Assembled from Conductive Mxene Nanocomposites. *J. Mater. Chem. C* **2020**, *8*, 1788-1795.
7. Guan, L.; Yan, S.; Liu, X.; Li, X.; Gao, G., Wearable Strain Sensors Based on Casein-Driven Tough, Adhesive and Anti-Freezing Hydrogels for Monitoring Human-Motion. *J. Mater. Chem. B* **2019**, *7*, 5230-5236.
8. Ge, G.; Yuan, W.; Zhao, W.; Lu, Y.; Zhang, Y.; Wang, W.; Chen, P.; Huang, W.; Si, W.; Dong, X., Highly Stretchable and Autonomously Healable Epidermal Sensor Based on Multi-Functional Hydrogel Frameworks. *J. Mater. Chem. A* **2019**, *7*, 5949-5956.
9. Ge, G.; Lu, Y.; Qu, X.; Zhao, W.; Ren, Y.; Wang, W.; Wang, Q.; Huang, W.; Dong, X., Muscle-Inspired Self-Healing Hydrogels for Strain and Temperature Sensor. *ACS Nano* **2020**, *14*, 218-228.
10. Han, L.; Liu, K.; Wang, M.; Wang, K.; Fang, L.; Chen, H.; Zhou, J.; Lu, X., Mussel-Inspired Adhesive and Conductive Hydrogel with Long-Lasting Moisture and Extreme Temperature Tolerance. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* **2018**, *28*, 1704195.