

# Fluoropolymer/GAP Block Copolyurethane Binders: Sensitivity, Mechanical Properties and Reactive Properties with Aluminum

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## Research Article

**Keywords:** solid propellant, energetic copolyurethane binder, PBFMO, drop weight test, XPS, tensile test, SEM, DSC

**Posted Date:** February 16th, 2021

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-199382/v1>

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# 1 **Fluoropolymer/GAP block copolyurethane binders: Sensitivity,** 2 **mechanical properties and reactive properties with aluminum**

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7 **Abstract:** In order to enhance the application properties of GAP in solid propellant, an energetic copolyurethane  
8 binder, (poly[3,3-bis(2,2,2-trifluoro-ethoxymethyl)oxetane] glycol-*block*-glycidylazide polymer (PBFMO-*b*-GAP)  
9 was developed. The PBFMO-*b*-GAP was prepared using poly[3,3-bis(2,2,2-trifluoro-ethoxymethyl)oxetane] glycol  
10 (PBFMO) which preparing from cationic polymerization and GAP as the raw materials, TDI as the coupling agent  
11 via a prepolymer process. The molecular structure of copolyurethane was confirmed by FT-IR, NMR, GPC. The  
12 impact sensitivity, mechanical properties and thermal behavior of PBFMO-*b*-GAP were studied by drop weight test,  
13 XPS, tensile test, SEM, DSC and TG/DTG respectively. The results proved that the introduction of fluoropolymer  
14 can evidently reduce the sensitivity of GAP based polyurethanes and enhance their mechanical behavior (the tensile  
15 strength up to 5.75MPa with a breaking elongation of 1660 %). Also, PBFMO-*b*-GAP exhibited an excellent  
16 resistance to thermal decomposition up to 200°C and good compatibility with Al and HMX. Cook-off test was used  
17 to investigate the reactive of copolyurethanes and Al, the results indicated that the copolyurethanes could react with  
18 Al efficiently and release significantly more heat. Therefore, the energetic copolyurethanes may serve as promising  
19 energetic binders for future propellant formulations.

## 20 **1.Introduction**

21 A recent trend in the field of energetic material formulations (explosives/propellants) is to replace  
22 inert binders (viz., HTPB, CTPB, HTPE, etc.) by energetic binders, which contain energetic groups

23 such as  $-N_3$  (azide), nitro (C–nitro, O–nitro (nitrate ester), N–nitro (nitramine) and difluoroamine  
24 groups, to impart additional energy to the system<sup>1-3</sup>. Among energetic polymers, glycidyl azide  
25 polymer (GAP) has been extensively studied as polymeric binders since it was first reported in a  
26 patent in 1972 by Vandenburg<sup>4,6</sup>. Due to its high density with positive heat of formation of +117.2  
27 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, high density (1.3g cm<sup>-3</sup>), low glass-transition temperature (T<sub>g</sub>=-45°C), good thermally  
28 stability, low detonation tendency, and also high burning rate ((1cm s<sup>-1</sup> at 40 atmospheres)<sup>7,8</sup>. GAP  
29 has become the hotspot in the field of energy materials by offering a unique energetic binder and  
30 plasticizer system for advanced propellants and plastic bonded explosives (PBX) for achieving  
31 higher performance<sup>9</sup>. However, traditional GAP-based binders are thermosetpolymer and usually  
32 difficult to recycled. Moreover, it also suffers from high sensitive and inferior mechanical behavior  
33 which due to their highly polarity of azide groups and poor flexibility of polymer backbone<sup>10</sup>.

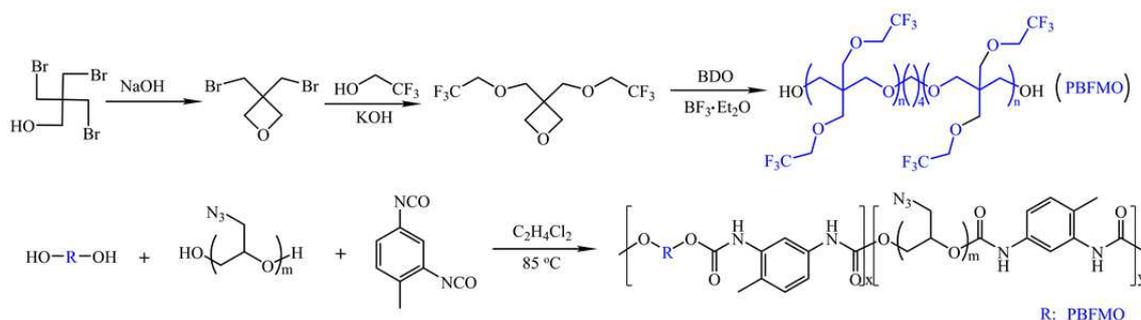
34 In order to overcome these difficulties and also to obtain a better performance, various energetic  
35 polymeric binders have been developed in the last two decades. Energetic thermoplastic elastomers  
36 (ETPE) as high performance recyclable polymeric binders have received widespread attention in the  
37 past decades<sup>11</sup>. Generally, ETPE as a multiblock copolymer consists of hard segments and soft  
38 segments. Under room temperature, the hard segments, which act as fillers and physical crosslinks,  
39 are in a crystalline state or amorphous glassy state while the soft segments are in a rubbery state that  
40 leads to the flexibility. These polymers exhibit excellent mechanical and recyclable properties owing  
41 to the phase separation between hard and soft blocks and reversibly cross-linking points<sup>12,13</sup>. Thus,  
42 development of novel ETPE has attracted extensive attentions of many researchers in recent  
43 years<sup>14,15</sup>.

44 In the past three decades, fluoropolymers have gained considerable attention in the energetic

45 material community (such as aerial infrared decoys, igniters, tracking flares, reactive binder systems,  
46 and solid fuel rocket propellants) as high explosive binders, owing to their high densities, long-term  
47 chemical stabilities, low coefficients of friction, and good compatibility with the main ingredients  
48 (oxidizers, metal fuels and plasticizer)<sup>16-18</sup>. Particularly, fluoropolymers can release high reaction  
49 energy due to their strong oxidation<sup>19-21</sup>, for instance, the magnesium, Teflon, and Viton system  
50 (MTV) as one of the well-known compositions used in decoys and flares, can release especially large  
51 specific reaction energy of  $9.4 \text{ kJ g}^{-1}$ , in comparison with TNT and RDX yield just  $3.72 \text{ kJ g}^{-1}$  and  
52  $6.569 \text{ kJ g}^{-1}$ , respectively<sup>22</sup>. Therefore, synthesis of fluorine-containing GAP based ETPE may be a  
53 promising method to improve its performance of application.

54 In this study, fluoropolymer/GAP block copolyurethane binders were synthesized via a  
55 prepolymer process by coupling together poly[3,3-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxymethyl) oxetane] glycol  
56 (PBFMO) and GAP to decrease the sensitivity, enhance the mechanical properties and also promote  
57 the reactive efficiency with Al. The chemical structure and molecular weight of copolyurethanes  
58 were characterized by FTIR, NMR, GPC. The impact sensitivity and mechanical properties of the  
59 copolyurethanes were tested by drop weight test, XPS, tensile test and SEM respectively. The  
60 thermal properties of copolyurethanes and their compatibility with Al, HMX were also described by  
61 differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), thermal gravimetric analysis (TGA). The reactivity of  
62 PBFMO-*b*-GAP/Al complex was investigated by cook-off test.

## 63 **2.Results and discussion**



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**Scheme 1.** The synthesis route of PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane

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## 2.1 Preparation of PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane

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The synthesis of PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane was done via a prepolymer process using PBFMO

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and GAP as the raw materials, TDI as the coupling agent, which was described in **Scheme 1**. The

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structure of the as-synthesized PBFMO-*b*-GAP was confirmed by FTIR and NMR. The IR spectra

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gave a first confirmation of the copolymer structure. As shown in **Figure 1**, the characteristic

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adsorption peak at  $1276\text{ cm}^{-1}$  explained the  $-\text{CF}_3$  stretching vibration of PBFMO, and the bands

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around  $1135\text{ cm}^{-1}$  accounted for the C–O group stretching vibration of PBFMO<sup>23,24</sup>. The appearance

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of strong peak at  $2093\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were attributed to  $-\text{N}_3$  from GAP and the appearance of  $3320\text{ cm}^{-1}$  was

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due to the  $-\text{NH}$  stretching vibration, the appearance of  $1726\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1531$  and  $1376\text{ cm}^{-1}$  were assigned

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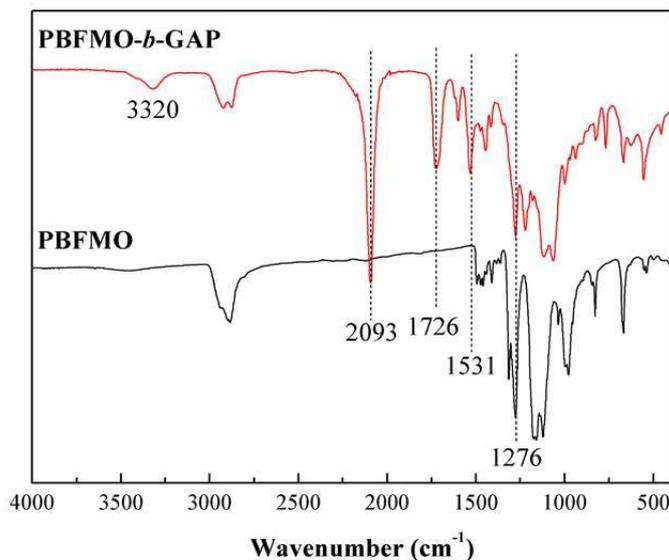
to C=O and  $-\text{NH}$  stretching bands of urethane group<sup>25,26</sup>. Therefore, such results gave strong

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evidence that the reaction of PBFMO with GAP indeed by the formation of PBFMO-*b*-GAP

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polyurethane.



**Figure 1.** FTIR spectra of (A) PBFMO and (B) PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane.

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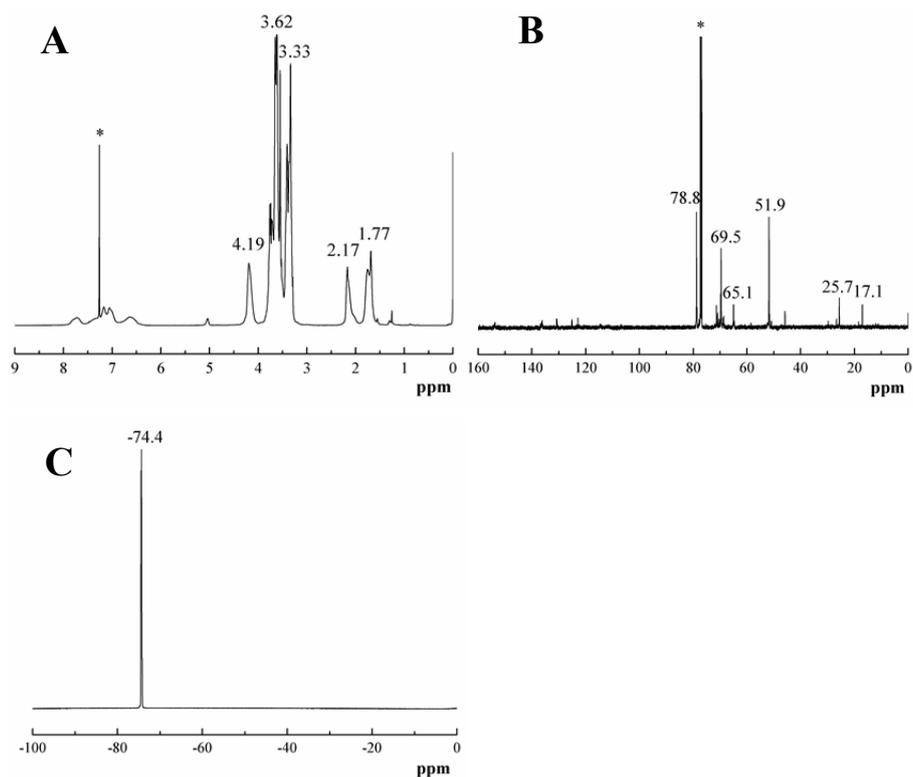
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As shown in **Figure 2A**, the signals of a broad band at 3.62 ppm attributed to methylene protons of GAP and PBFMO, and the peak appeared at 3.33 ppm was correspond to methylene protons of PBFMO side chain. The corresponding  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (**Figure 2B**) also indicated the presence of all the carbons in the GAP and PBFMO. The correspond carbons signals of methylene carbons from GAP and PBFMO appeared at 69.5 and 77.8 ppm. The signal for 51.6 ppm is attributed to the quaternary carbon atom of  $\text{C}-\text{N}_3$ <sup>27</sup>. The signal at 2.17 ppm belongs to methylene protons of the BDO which was the initiator of PBFMO and GAP, the corresponding carbon signals were appeared at 25.7 ppm. The signal at 1.77 ppm and 6.5-8 ppm were attributed to the methyl protons and methine protons on benzene rings of the TDI, respectively, and the corresponding carbons signals were appeared at 17.1 ppm and 120-135 ppm. Moreover, as shown in **Figure 2C** of  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR, the peak at -74.4 ppm was attributed to the  $-\text{CF}_3$  of the side chain<sup>28</sup>. These signal positions observed in the NMR spectra of PBFMO-*b*-GAP strictly corroborated our FTIR analysis results.



**Figure 2.** <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra (A), <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra (B) and <sup>19</sup>F-NMR spectra (C) of PBFMO-*b*-GAP in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

## 2.2 Density, Sensitivity and XPS of PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane

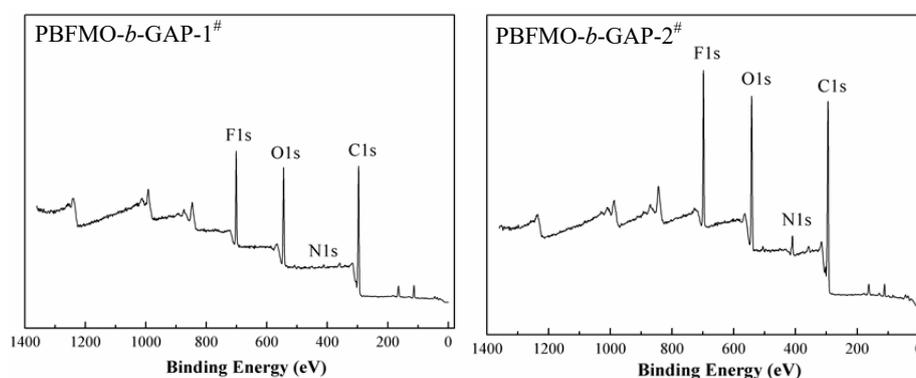
To investigate the different PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethanes, the molar ratio of PBFMO/GAP was set at 1/3, 1/9 and 1/19, during chain coupling by TDI to obtain PBFMO-*b*-GAP-1<sup>#</sup>, 2<sup>#</sup> and 3<sup>#</sup> respectively. As showed in **Table 1**, the density of PBFMO-*b*-GAP was around 1.273~1.308 g cm<sup>-3</sup>, which is higher than that of the control group (GAP based polyurethane, GAP-ETPE 1.263 g cm<sup>-3</sup>). It is well known that polymers containing -CF<sub>3</sub> group increase its density, which is seen in the present study also<sup>29</sup>. The impact sensitivity of energetic polymer gels were characterized by the drop weight test, and the results are also showed in **Table 1**. It can be seen that the sensitivity of energetic materials is reduced with the mass ratio of polymer in the gel increases. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the PBFMO/GAP molar ratio at 1/19 is markedly less sensitive than the pure GAP based polyurethane. Therefore, it appeared that the introduction of fluoropolymer may be manipulated to

106 reduce the sensitivity of very high energy composite energetic materials made in this fashion.

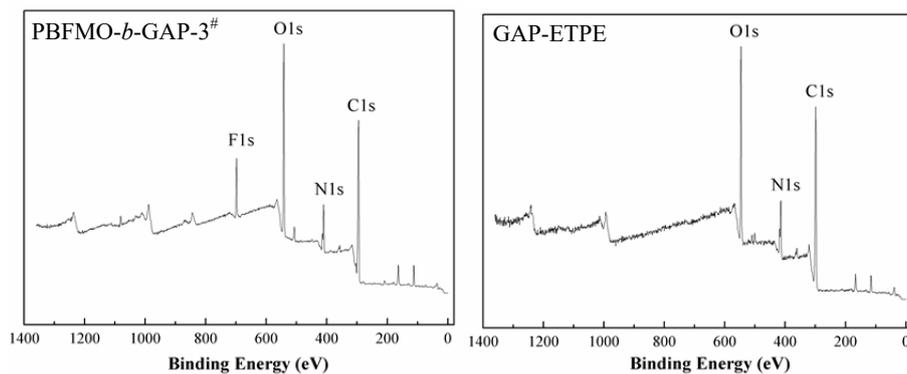
107 **Table 1.** Relative molecular mass, density and  $H_{50}$  of GAP based polyurethanes in different molar ratios

Sample	PBFMO/GAP molar ratio	$M_n$ ( $10^3 \text{ gmol}^{-1}$ )	Density ( $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ )	$H_{50}$ (cm)
PBFMO- <i>b</i> -GAP-1 <sup>#</sup>	1/3	33	1.308	>129
PBFMO- <i>b</i> -GAP-2 <sup>#</sup>	1/9	31	1.290	>129
PBFMO- <i>b</i> -GAP-3 <sup>#</sup>	1/19	30	1.273	56.2
GAP-ETPE	0	32	1.263	9.55

108 XPS was employed to detect the change of elementary composition on the elastomers surface,  
109 and provide valuable insight into the influence between sensitivity and fluorine content<sup>30</sup>. The N1s,  
110 C1s, O1s and F1s elements of XPS spectra of elastomers surface and its surface compositions  
111 expressed quantitatively as atomic weight percentages are summarized in **Figure 3** and **Table 2**,  
112 respectively. Due to the introduction of different content of PBFMO, the concentrations of F from  
113 elastomers surface increase from 0 to 13.05%, meanwhile the atomic weight percentage of N  
114 decrease from 12.16% to 1.54%. The results indicated that the increase of the F elements of the  
115 surface may decrease of the coefficients of friction of the atomic weight percentage and decrease its  
116 sensitivity.



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**Figure 3.** XPS curves of the gels prepared from GAP based polyurethanes

**Table 2.** Atomic weight percentages of XPS cruves

Sample	C (%)	O (%)	N (%)	F (%)
PBFMO- <i>b</i> -GAP-1 <sup>#</sup>	65.22	20.18	1.54	13.05
PBFMO- <i>b</i> -GAP-2 <sup>#</sup>	63.00	19.76	4.33	12.91
PBFMO- <i>b</i> -GAP-3 <sup>#</sup>	60.88	23.42	10.36	5.34
GAP-ETPE	63.8	24.04	12.16	0

### 2.3 Mechanical Properties of PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane

Mechanical properties of the PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethanes prepared from various ratio of

PBFMO/GAP prepolymers were evaluated with the universal testing machine as shown in **Figure 4**.

An overlay of stress-strain curves of PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethanes shown in **Figure 4**, showed an

initial linear deformation, subsequent extension and ultimately lead to the failure. It is clearly that the

tensile strength of PBFMO-*b*-GAP increase from 2.9 to 5.75 MPa along with the increase of PBFMO

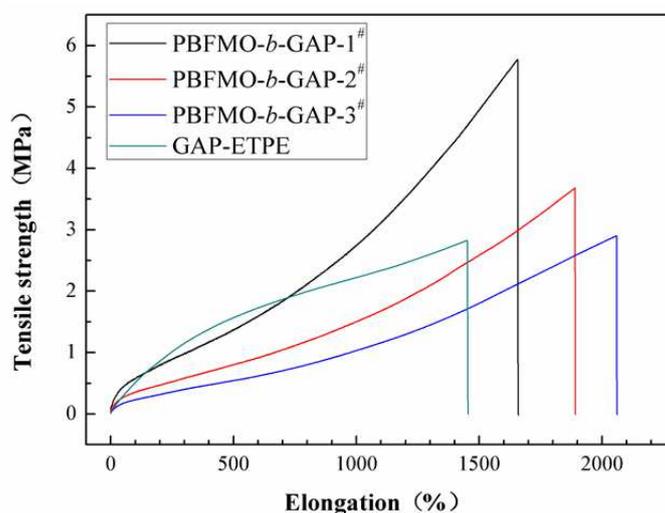
content, meanwhile the elongation at break decrease from 2056% to 1660%. In general, the

crosslinking density is a dominant factor to determining mechanical performances for

network-structured materials, higher crosslinking density results in higher tensile strength and

Young's modulus, and lower elongation at break. In this work, PBFMO works as a hard segment in

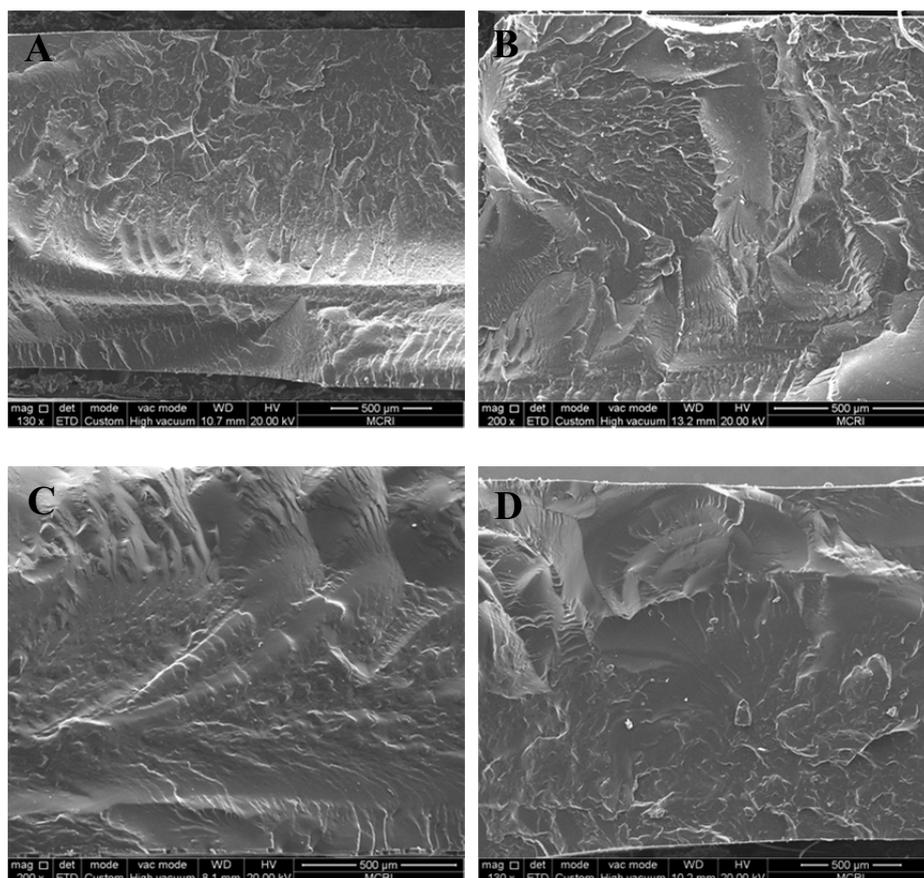
131 PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethanes, under room temperature, it aggregate with each other to form  
132 physical cross-linking points. The results reveal that the PBFMO could be competent for hard  
133 segment in GAP based polyurethanes to increase their mechanical behavior.



134

135 **Figure 4.** Tensile testing of polymer samples prepared from PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane.

136 To get some insight of the observed enhancement of the mechanical properties of the  
137 PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane, the fractured surfaces of the elastomers films with various molar  
138 ratio of GAP/PBFMO were studied by SEM. As shown in **Figure 5**, with an increase in the molar  
139 ratio of GAP/PBFMO, the wrinkle and ravines of the fractured surfaces were more and more obvious  
140 while the fractured stripes became deeper. It is well known that phase separation exists between the  
141 soft and hard segments, and the hard segments aggregate with each other to form physical  
142 cross-linking points throughout the soft segments, resulting in good mechanical properties. The  
143 phenomenon might be ascribed to the fact that structural heterogeneity in the films gradually  
144 aggravated with an increase of crosslinking densities. It may reveal that the introduction of PBFMO  
145 uniformly improved the phase separation of gel prepared from PBFMO-*b*-GAP, and resulted in good  
146 mechanical properties<sup>31</sup>. Consideration of PBFMO-*b*-GAP-1<sup>#</sup> which possessing the best tensile  
147 strength and sufficient elongation at break, was selected in the next experiment.

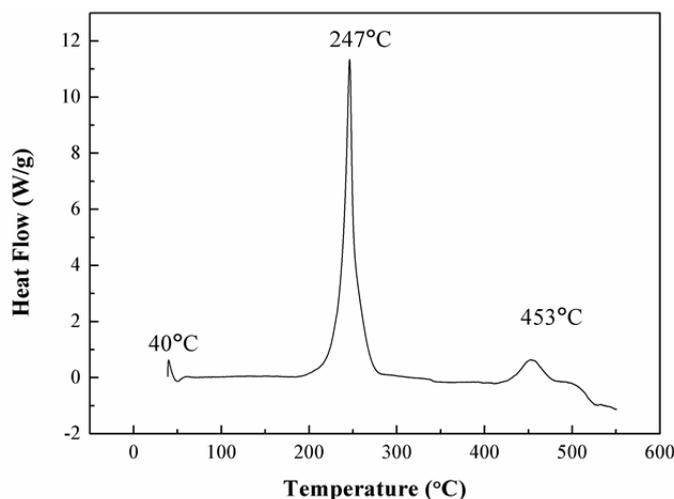


**Figure 5.** SEM images for the fracture surface of the gels prepared from (A) PBFMO-*b*-GAP-1<sup>#</sup>, (B) PBFMO-*b*-GAP-2<sup>#</sup>, (C) PBFMO-*b*-GAP-3<sup>#</sup> and (D) GAP-ETPE.

## 2.4 Thermal decomposition

It is well known that the thermal stability of energetic binders plays an important role in the preparation, processing, storage, and application of energetic material<sup>32,33</sup>. Thus, DSC and TGA were applied to study the thermal decomposition behavior of PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane. The DSC curve of the PBFMO-*b*-GAP is presented in **Figure 6**, and the DSC curve of PBFMO-*b*-GAP showed four exothermic peaks. The first exothermic peak at 40 °C was the melting point of PBFMO, the second exothermic peak at 247 °C was caused by the decomposition of side chain azide groups on PBFMO-*b*-GAP to give nitrogen molecules, and the other two peaks at 453 and 504 °C were due to PBFMO-*b*-GAP main chain decomposition. The TGA and DTG traces of PBFMO-*b*-GAP were

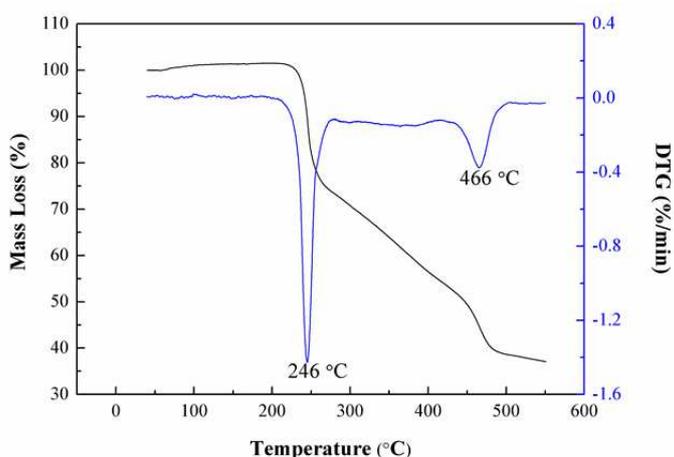
161 showed in **Figure 7**, and display two distinct regions of weight loss. The first sharp weight loss of  
162 around 25% with respect to the total was at 246 °C, which was corresponding to the stripping of the  
163 azide groups of the side chain which in correspondence of the same phenomena of DSC. It is seen  
164 from the TGA curve that after the sharp step does not level and shows a gradual weight loss. The  
165 phenomenon is superposed to an incipient degradation of the polymer chains. In any case, both DSC  
166 and TGA confirm that the PBFMO-*b*-GAP start to decompose/degrade at high temperature, thus  
167 showing a satisfactory thermal stability.



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**Figure 6.** DSC curve of PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane.



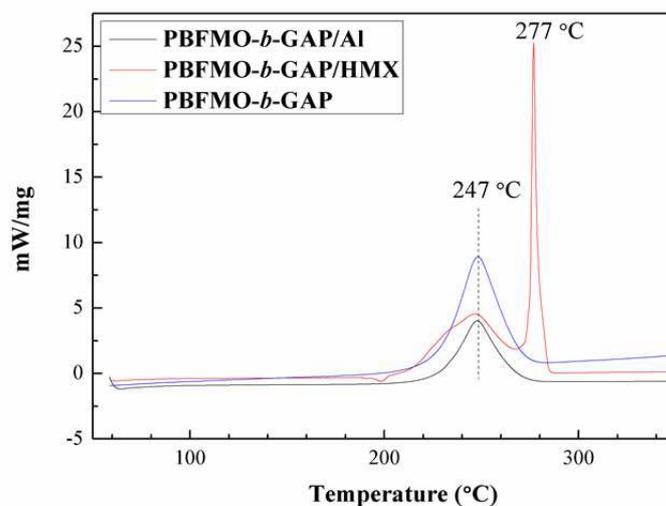
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**Figure 7.** TG/DTG curves of PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane.

## 172 2.5 Compatibility testing

173 Compatibility is an important safety and reliability index used to evaluate the production, application  
174 and storage of energetic materials<sup>34,35</sup>. Usually, compatibility can be evaluated from DSC curves by  
175 studying the effect of the contact material on the exothermic decomposition temperature of the  
176 explosives. In this study, DSC curves were used to determine the compatibility of PBFMO-*b*-GAP  
177 with the main energetic components, such as HMX and Al. Typical DSC curves of binary systems  
178 PBFMO-*b*-GAP/HMX, PBFMO-*b*-GAP/Al were shown in **Figure 8**. According to the standards of  
179 compatibility, the binary systems PBFMO-*b*-GAP/HMX and PBFMO-*b*-GAP /Al had good  
180 compatibilities because their  $\Delta T_p$  values were all less than 2 °C. It indicated that PBFMO-*b*-GAP  
181 could be safely used in HMX based propellant.



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183 **Figure 8.** DSC curves of PBFMO-*b*-GAP, PBFMO-*b*-GAP/HMX complex and PBFMO-*b*-GAP/Al complex.

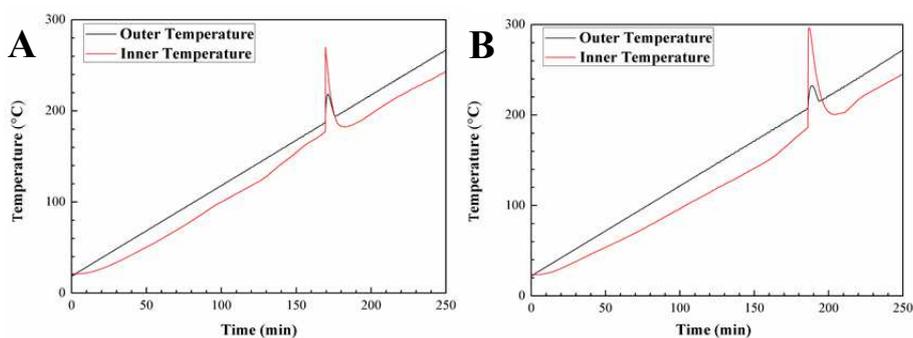
## 184 2.6 Cook-off test

185 The cook-off experiments were used to study the thermal performance of PBFMO-*b*-GAP and Al<sup>36-38</sup>.

186 As shown in **Figure 9**, the cook-off curves showed initial linear calefactive and impetuously

187 calefactive ultimately lead to linear calefactive again. The impetuously calefactive of inner

188 temperature can be contribute to the samples start to exothermic decomposition, the release gas  
189 reactive with Al and give more exothermal. Generally, the integral of outer and inner temperature  
190 curves can evaluate the heat release due to the reaction between elastomers and Al. In this work, the  
191 integral of PBFMO-*b*-GAP/Al compositions showed a remarkable increase than the control group. It  
192 implied that the PBFMO-*b*-GAP can efficiently react with Al and release significantly more heat<sup>39</sup>.



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194

**Figure 9.** Cook-off curves of GAP-ETPE/Al (A) and PBFMO-*b*-GAP/Al (B)

### 195 3. Conclusions

196 In conclusions, a copolyurethane binder, PBFMO-*b*-GAP, was synthesized on GAP as a soft  
197 segment and TDI extended PBFMO as hard segment. From FT-IR, NMR, and GPC results, the  
198 PBFMO-*b*-GAP was synthesized successfully via a prepolymer process. The drop weight test and  
199 XPS results indicated that the introduction of fluoropolymer can evidently reduce the sensitivity of  
200 PBFMO-*b*-GAP polyurethane. The PBFMO-*b*-GAP showed an enhanced tensile strength of 5.75  
201 MPa with a breaking elongation of 1660%, and the tensile strength of PBFMO-*b*-GAP films  
202 increased with an increase of the PBFMO content. The DSC and TGA-DTG curves indicated that  
203 PBFMO-*b*-GAP have adequate resistance to thermal decomposition up to 200°C and begin to  
204 decompose gradually at about 230°C, and also have a good compatibility with Al and HMX.  
205 Cook-off results implied the PBFMO-*b*-GAP can effectively react with Al and release relatively

206 more quantity of heat. All these results indicated that PBFMO-*b*-GAP might serve as a potential  
207 energetic binder in propellant formulations.

## 208 **4. Methods**

209 **Materials** GAP with molecular weight of  $3500 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$  and hydroxy value of 0.9% was provided  
210 from the Liming Chemical Engineering Research and Design Institute of Luoyang.  
211 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol, 2,2-bisbromomethyl-3-bromo-propan-1-ol, butane diol (BDO),  $\text{BF}_3$ -etherate  
212 and dibutyltindilaurate (DBTDL) were purchased from J&K scientific Ltd. (Shanghai). Toluene  
213 diisocyanate (TDI), N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF), dichloromethane (DCM) and ethanol were  
214 supplied by Chengdu Kelong Chemical Reagents Company. 1,2-dichloroethane was obtained from  
215 Chengdu Jinshan Chemical Reagent Company. BDO and  $\text{BF}_3$ -dimethyl ether were distilled under  
216 reduced pressure prior to use. All solvents for the reactions were analytical grade and were dried  
217 before use.

218 **Synthesis of [3,3-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxymethyl)oxetane] glycol (BFMO)** As shown in  
219 **Scheme 1**, BFMO was synthesized according to the literature procedure in two steps<sup>40</sup>. First step was  
220 the synthesis of 3,3-bisbromomethyloxetane (BBMO). A mixture of  
221 2,2-bisbromomethyl-3-bromo-propan-1-ol, NaOH, TBAB and DCM was stirred at 40 °C for 8 h.  
222 And then, the organic layer was separated, dried with  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and concentrated at atmospheric  
223 pressure to remove DCM. The residue was distilled under reduce pressure and the fraction of 94°C/4  
224 mmHg was collected to give the purified BBMO as a colorless liquid (yield, 70%). Second step was  
225 the conversion of BBMO to BFMO, a typical compound synthesis are described below. BBMO,  
226 2,2,2-trifluoroethanol, KOH and phase-transfer catalyst TBAB were charged into 100 mL  
227 three-necked round-bottom flask. The reaction mixture was stirred at 85 °C for 24 h. After the

228 reaction, the organic phase was separated, washed with distilled water and dried over anhydrous  
229 MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The BFMO was obtained by distillation and the fraction of 86 °C/4 mm Hg was collected  
230 (yield, 81.6%).

231 **Polymerization of PBFMO** The PBFMO was synthesized through cationic ring-opening  
232 polymerization of BFMO. A typical reaction procedure was as follows: BDO, BF<sub>3</sub>-etherate and dried  
233 methylene chloride were charged into a three necked flask fitted with a thermometer under argon and  
234 left stirred for 1 h. BFMO was added into the mixture drop by drop within a period of 8 h, and the  
235 reaction mixture was then left under stirred for an additional 24 h. After then, the reaction was  
236 stopped by the addition of 1% sodium bicarbonate solution. The organic phase was washed with  
237 distilled water and concentrated by vacuum evaporation to acquire a white, wax polymer PBFMO  
238 (yield, 92.4%). GPC analysis:  $M_n = 6840 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ , PDI=1.22 (polystyrene standards).

239 **Synthesis of PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane** PBFMO-*b*-GAP copolyurethane was synthesized  
240 via a prepolymer process using PBFMO and GAP as raw materials, TDI as coupling agent. A typical  
241 reaction procedure was as follows: Exactly GAP, PBFMO, and freshly distilled 1,2-dichloroethane  
242 were placed in a 250 mL four-neck flask equipped with a condenser, mechanical stirrer and  
243 thermometer under high purity argon (99.99%) and then heated to 60°C. TDI and DBTDL was then  
244 dissolved in 20 mL 1,2-dichloroethane and added dropwise into the reaction solution. After stirring  
245 for an additional 2 h, the reaction mixture was poured into 400 mL ethanol. The polymer was  
246 precipitated and separated out, dried in vacuum at 50°C for 24 h to obtain PBFMO-*b*-GAP  
247 copolyurethane (yield, 97%).

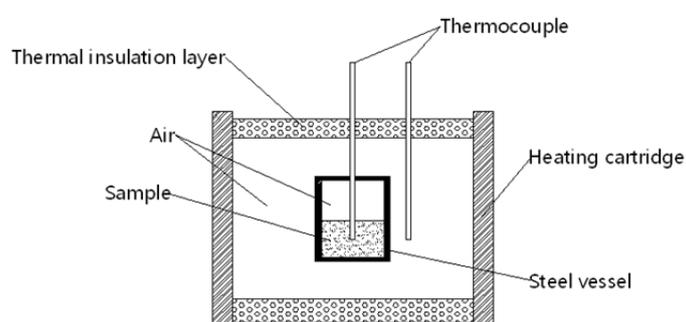
248 **Measurements** FTIR spectra were measured on a Bruker Tensor 27 instrument (KBr pellet) in the  
249 range of 4000–400 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker 500

250 MHz instrument with  $\text{CDCl}_3$  as the solvent and tetramethylsilane as the internal standard. GPC was  
251 conducted on a Waters GPC, using tetrahydrofuran and polystyrene standards as the mobile phase  
252 and for calibration, respectively. A method of drop hammer impact sensitivity test for big-bill  
253 explosive was developed. The weight of the hammer was 5 kg and the drop height was between 0 ~  
254 1.29 m. The size of big-bill explosive was  $\phi 20 \text{ mm} \times 5 \text{ mm}$  and its weight was 2.8 g. XPS analysis  
255 was performed using a Sigmaprobe instrument (ThermoElectron Corp., UK) equipped with a  
256 nonmonochromatic Al KR ( $h\nu = 1486.6 \text{ eV}$ ) source at a power of 300W. Mechanical properties of all  
257 the elastomers films were measured on an AG-X Plus testing machine (Shimadzu, Japan) with a  
258 tensile rate of  $50 \text{ mm min}^{-1}$ . The testing films were cut into strips with a width of 10 mm and a  
259 distance between testing marks was 30 mm, and kept at 0% humidity for 7 days before measurement.  
260 A mean value of five replicates from each film was taken. SEM observation was carried out on a  
261 VEGA 3 LMU scanning electron microscope (TESCAN, Czech Republic). All the elastomers films  
262 were frozen in liquid nitrogen, snapped and sputtered with gold until photographed. Differential  
263 scanning calorimetry (DSC) equipped with a TA instruments DSC Q1000 and Thermogravimetric  
264 analysis (TGA) equipped with a SDT Q600 TGA instrument (TA Instruments) were used to  
265 thermally characterize the samples, which were ramped between 25 and  $500^\circ\text{C}$  at a heating rate of  
266  $10^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$ .

267 The special equipment for slow cook-off test used in the research was designed by Institute of  
268 Chemical Materials, and its schematic diagram was shown in [Scheme 2](#). The equipment has a power  
269 of 1500 W, and the heating rate of the heating cartridge wall was set at  $1^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$ , and the  
270 temperature range from the room temperature to  $250^\circ\text{C}$ . In the slow cook-off test, we put  
271 PBFMO-*b*-GAP/Al complex samples hemisphere in test set-up and heated by the electric heating

272 cord, meanwhile the equal heating components of PBFMO-*b*-GAP was heated with an intelligent  
273 temperature controller to adjust the heating rate. Samples were well sealed, and the thermocouples  
274 were utilized to obtain their temperature vs time curves. Those experimental results were  
275 synthetically analyzed to the reactivity of the PBFMO-*b*-GAP/Al complex under slow heating  
276 stimulation.

277



278

279 **Scheme 2.** Schematic geometry of cook-off test

280

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## 366 **Acknowledgements**

367 The authors gratefully acknowledge the financial support from the China Postdoctoral  
368 Science Foundation (2016M592851).

## 369 **Author contributions**

370 Conceptualization, M.X. and X.L.; Methodology, M.X., X.L. and H.M.; Investigation, M.X.;  
371 Resources, X.L. Q.Z. and H.M.; Writing—original draft preparation, M.X.; Writing—review and  
372 editing, M.X., Q.Z. and H.M.; Supervision, M.X., N.L. and Z.G.; Funding acquisition, M.X.

## 373 **Competing interests**

374 The authors declare no competing interests.

375

# Figures

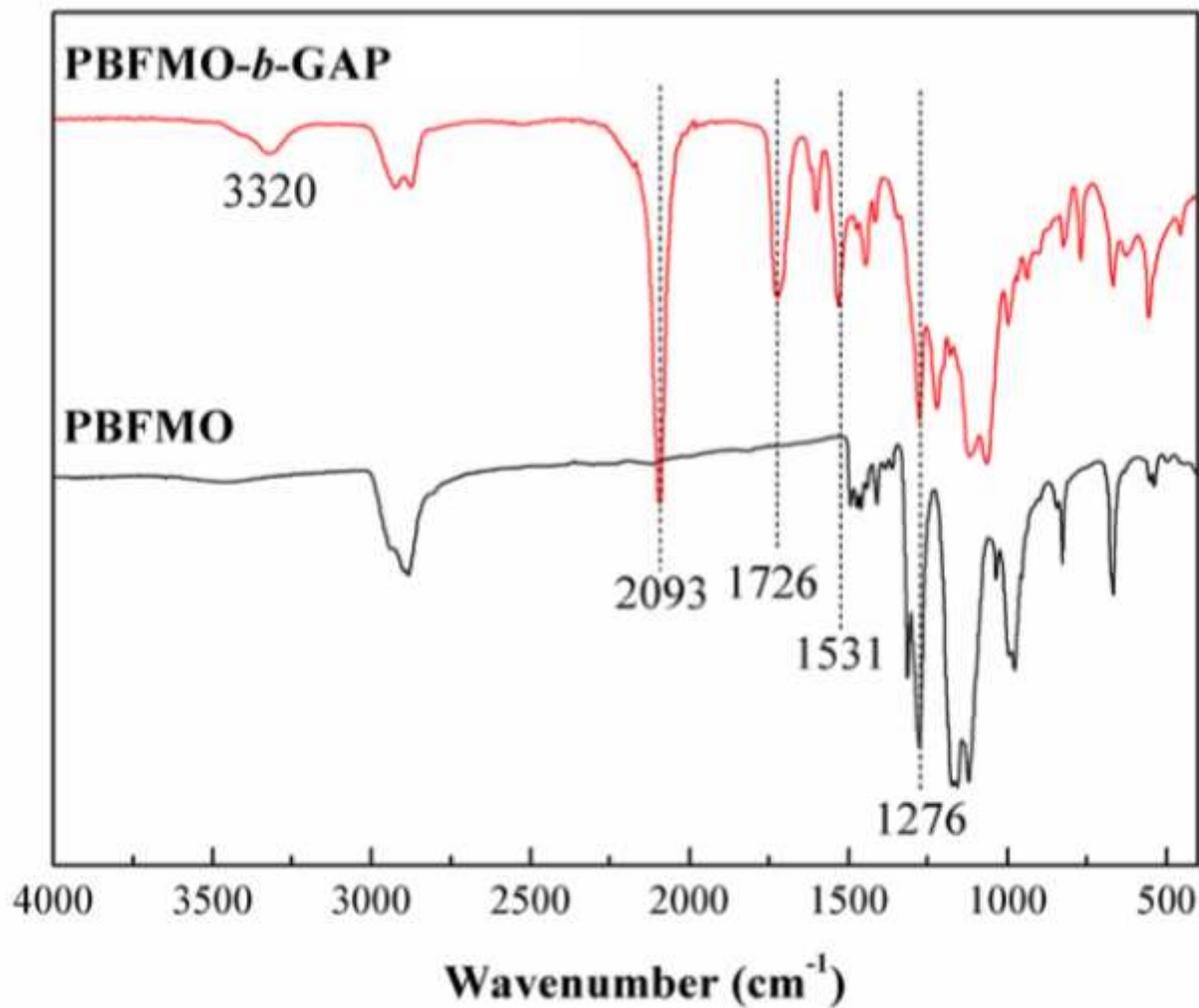


Figure 1

FTIR spectra of (A) PBFMO and (B) PBFMO-b-GAP copolyurethane.

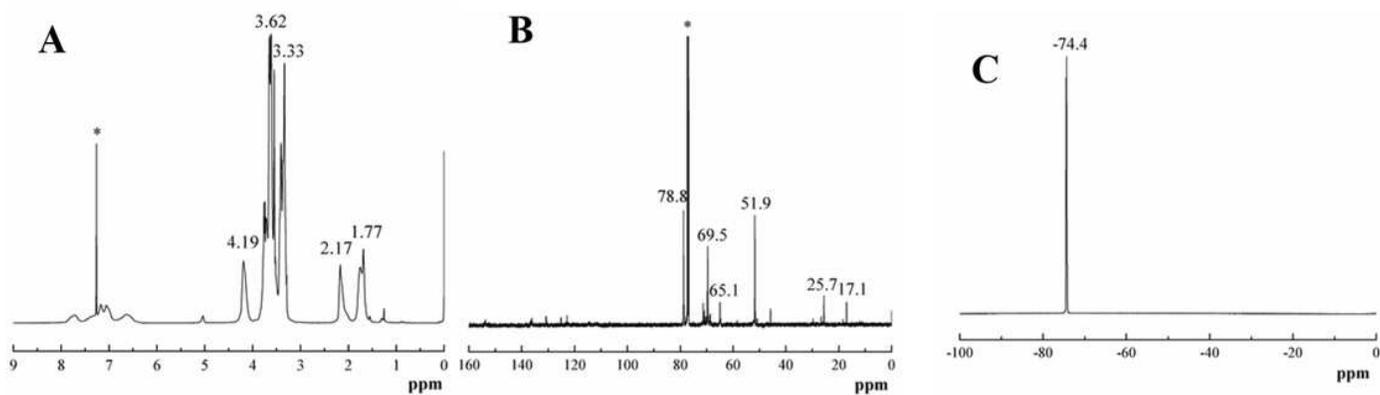


Figure 2

H-NMR spectra (A),<sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra (B) and<sup>19</sup>F-NMR spectra (C) of PBFMO-b-GAP in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

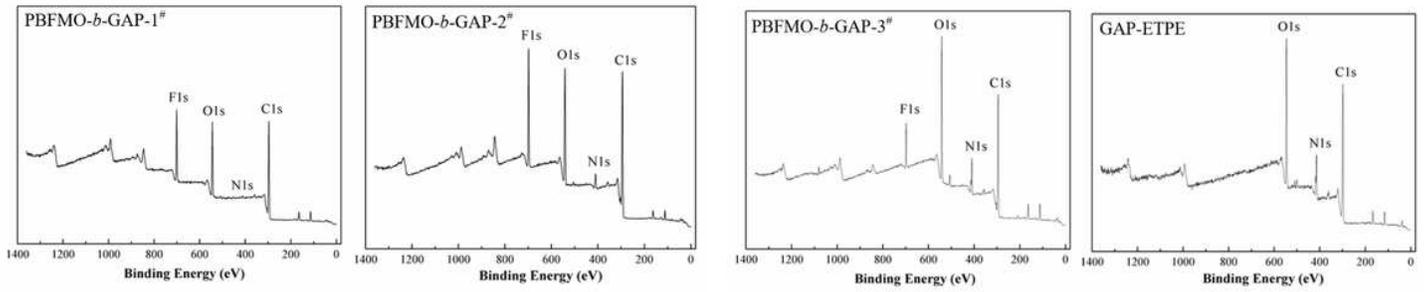


Figure 3

XPS curves of the gels prepared from GAP based polyurethanes

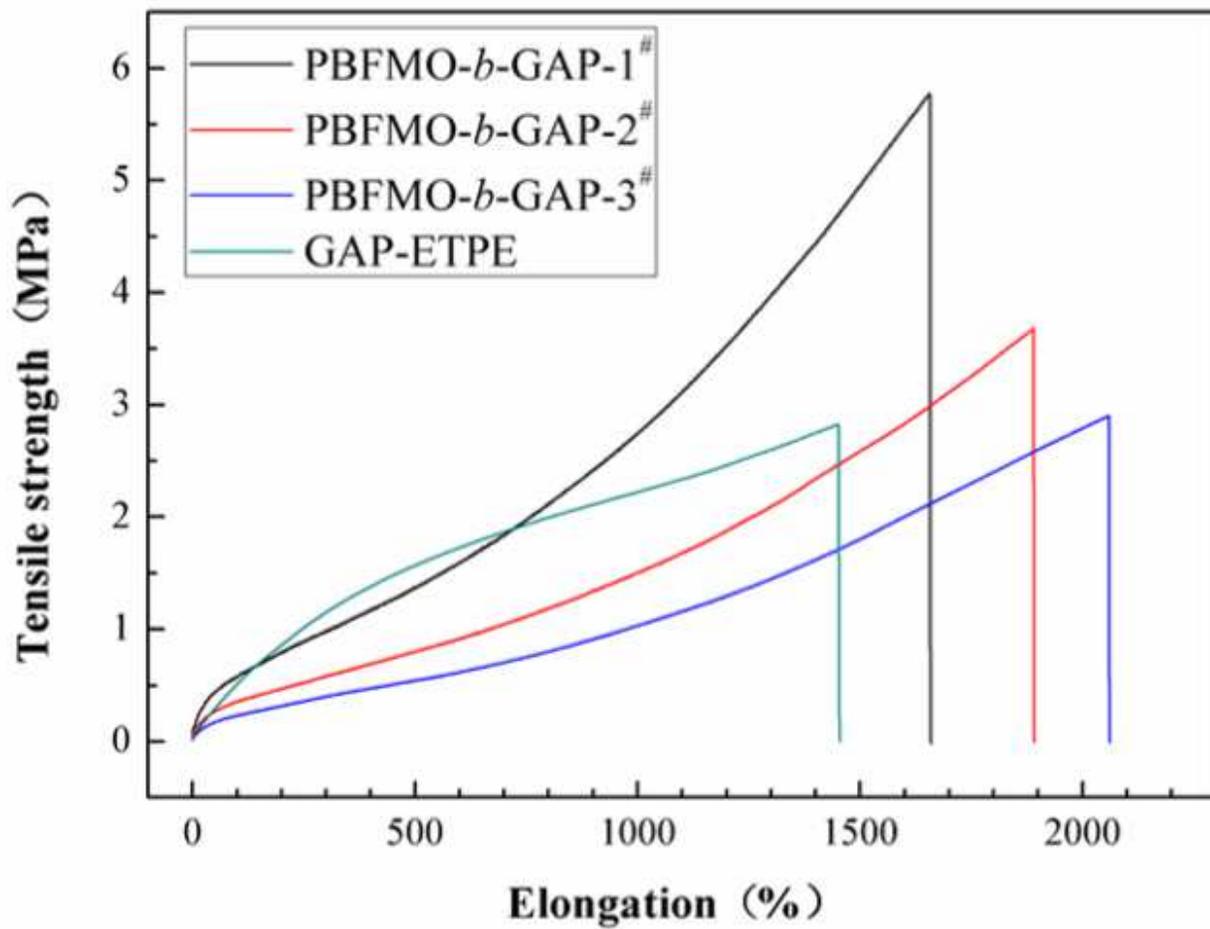
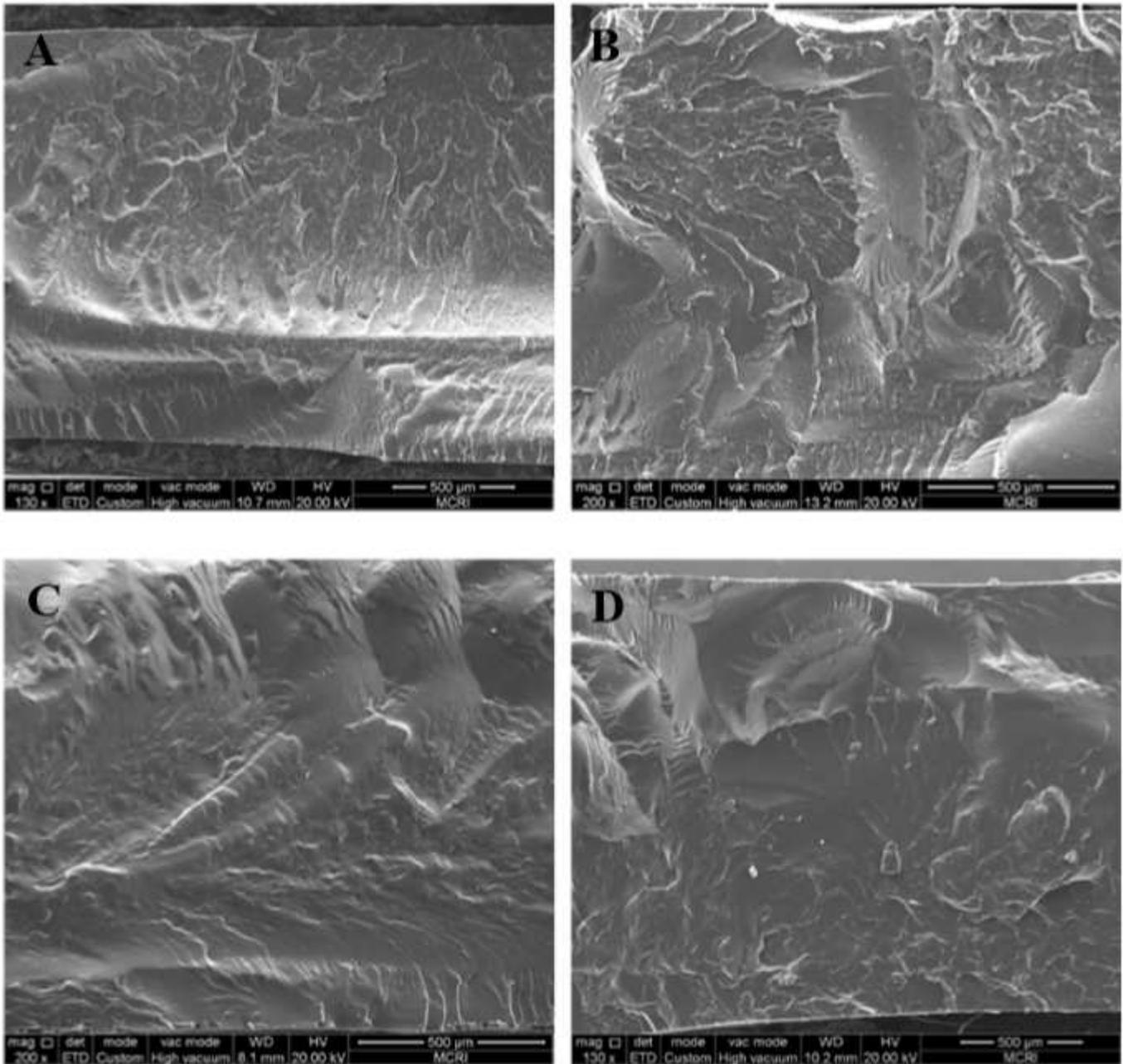


Figure 4

Tensile testing of polymer samples prepared from PBFMO-b-GAP copolyurethane.



**Figure 5**

SEM images for the fracture surface of the gels prepared from (A) PBFMO-b-GAP-1#, (B) 150 PBFMO-b-GAP-2#, (C) PBFMO-b-GAP-3# and (D) GAP-ETPE.

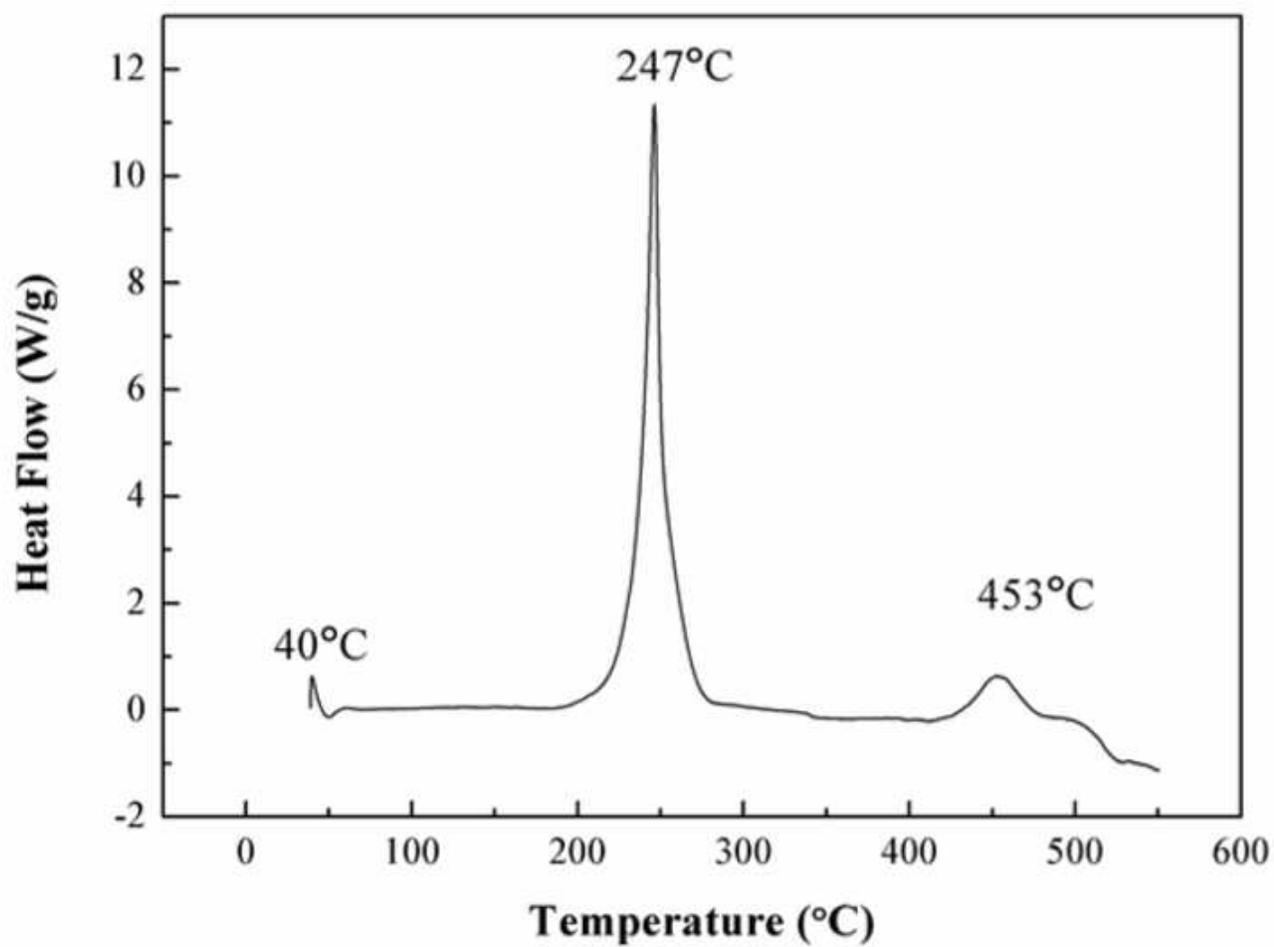


Figure 6

DSC curve of PBFMO-b-GAP copolyurethane.

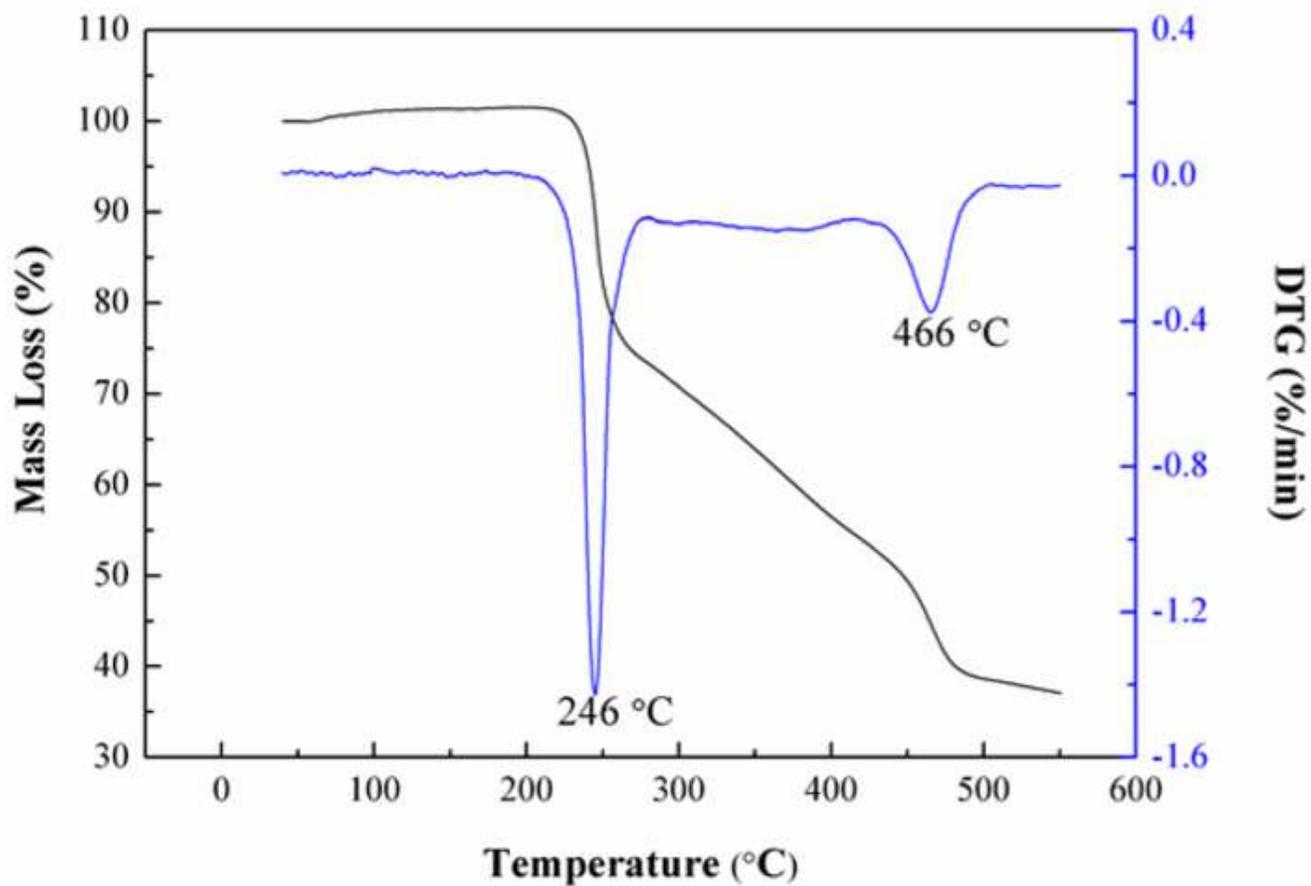


Figure 7

TG/DTG curves of PBFMO-b-GAP copolyurethane.

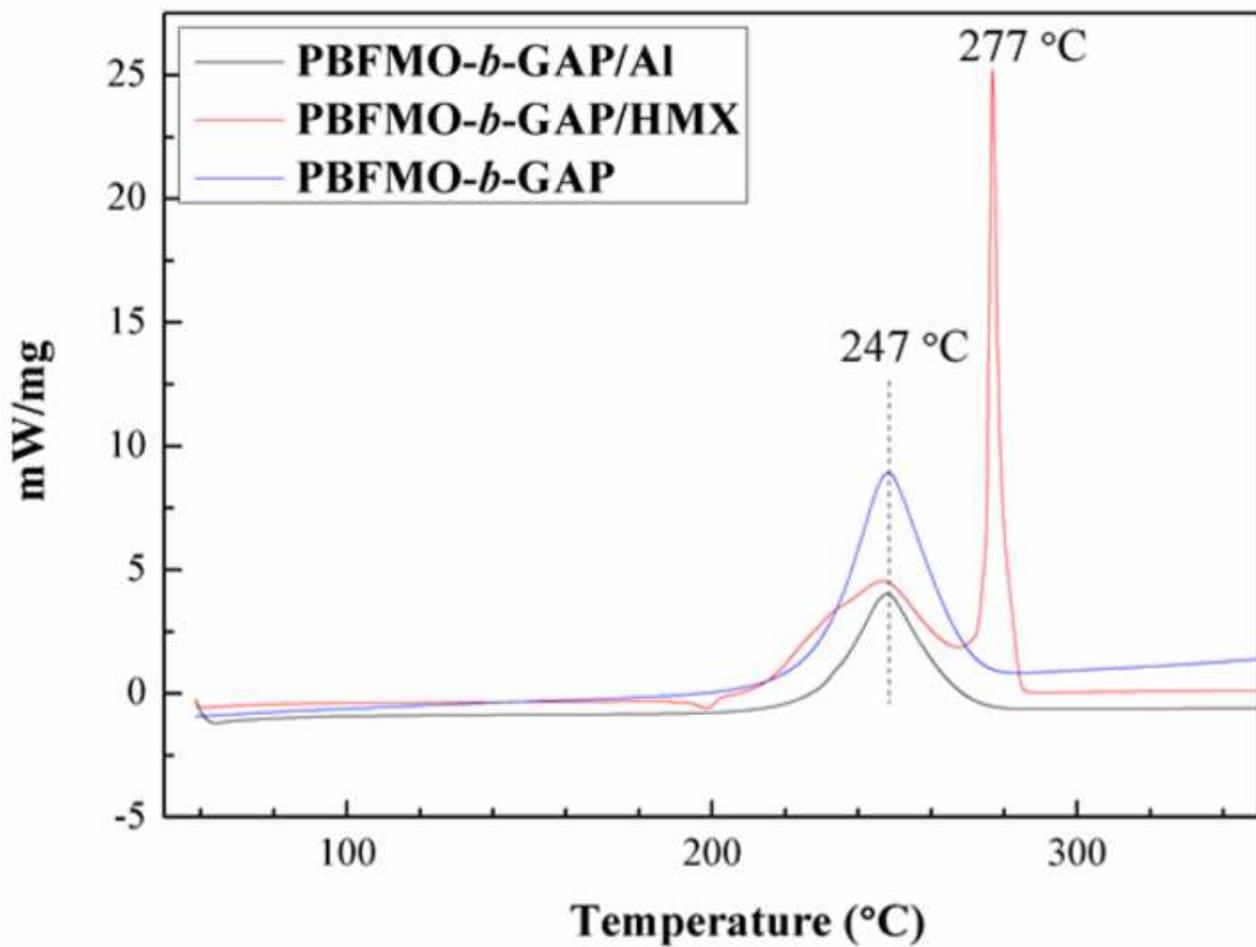


Figure 8

DSC curves of PBFMO-*b*-GAP, PBFMO-*b*-GAP/HMX complex and PBFMO-*b*-GAP/Al complex.

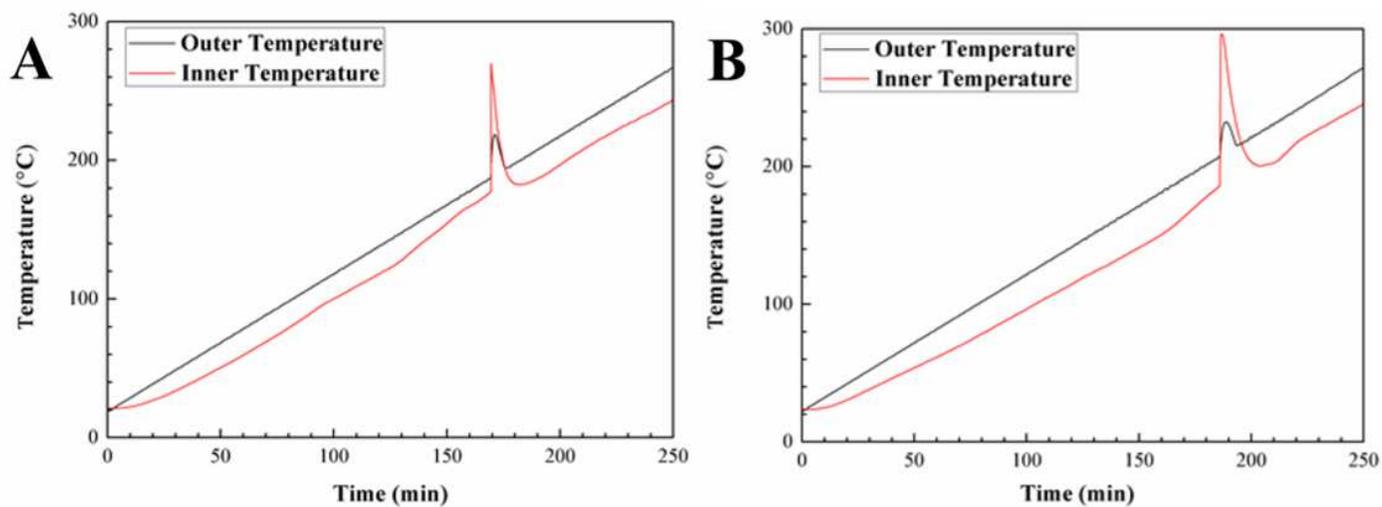


Figure 9

Cook-off curves of GAP-ETPE/Al (A) and PBFMO-b-GAP/Al (B)

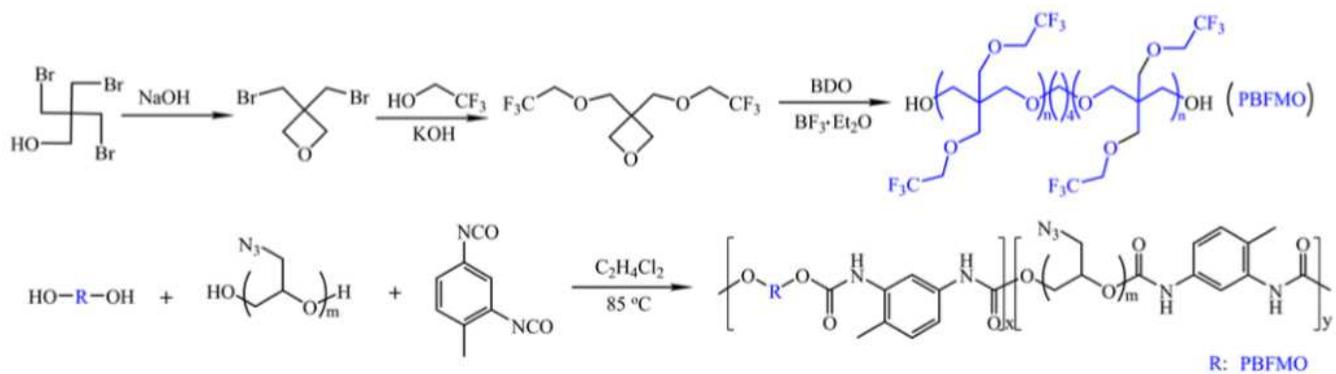


Figure 10

The synthesis route of PBFMO-b-GAP copolyurethane

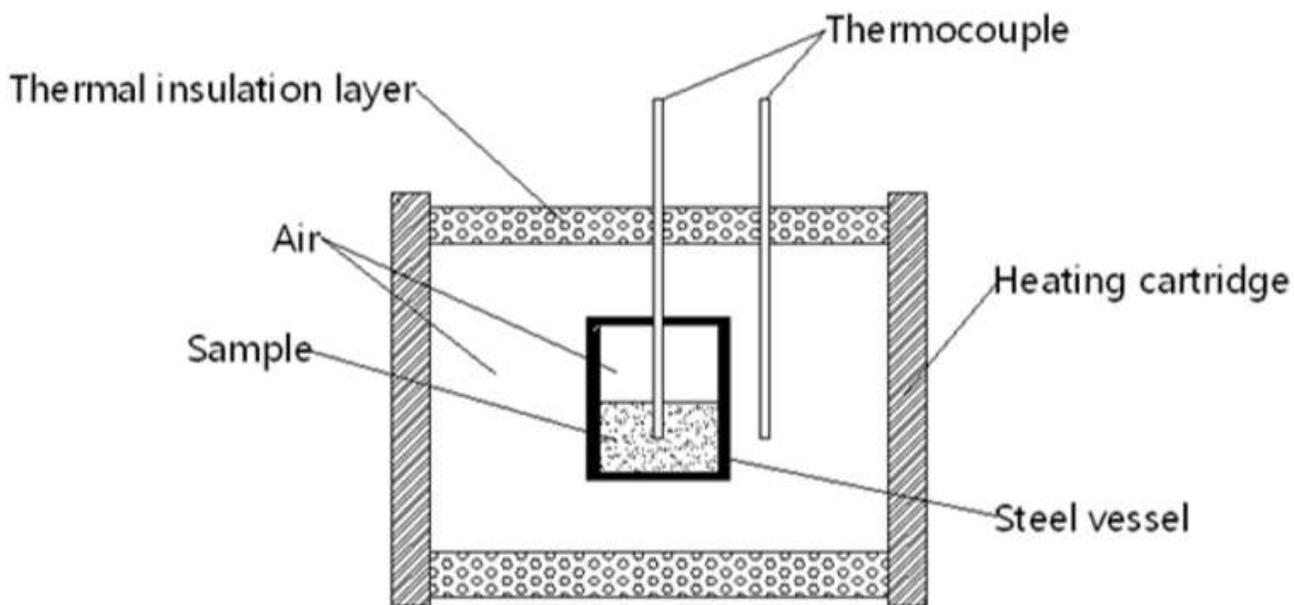


Figure 11

Schematic geometry of cook-off test