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Self-Healing Materials and their Applications for the World

Abhiram Raju [1 *], **Aji Augustine** [2] , **S Christopher Ezhil Singh** [3], **P Sridharan** [4]

[1 - 4] Department of Mechanical Engineering, Vimal Jyothi Engineering College, Kannur, Kerala, India – 670632

* *Corresponding Author: Abhiram Raju ; abhiramraju@gmail.com*

Abstract: The field of material science has seen a significant change with the production of materials that can mend themselves. These materials may boost longevity, reduce the cost of upkeep, and repair damage, potentially reinventing a wide range of different industries. By mimicking biological healing processes, self-healing concrete and asphalt can extend the lifespan of infrastructure and decrease the need for resources in construction. In transportation, self-healing polymers enhance vehicle safety and reliability by repairing structural damage. Self-healing hydrogels in healthcare offer new possibilities for regenerative medicine and long-term medical implants. Additionally, these materials contribute to environmental sustainability by extending product lifecycles. Overall, self-healing materials represent a transformative shift in construction, healthcare, and environmental sustainability, offering hope for a greener and more resilient future.
Keywords: Materials, TPE, SHP, Hearing Agent, SCFs.

1. Introduction

In the late 20th century, researchers began exploring the possibility of creating substances with intrinsic healing abilities. The development of self-healing materials, which currently constitutes an extensive subject integrating chemistry, material science and engineering, and biology, is an outcome of this curiosity. Self-healing materials have an extensive variety of possible uses, from the automotive and aerospace industries to construction and medical sectors. Uncover the global community of self-healing materials through this introduction, which addresses the fundamental concepts, functions, and varieties of self-healing materials along with the innovative techniques by which they can redeem adverse effects.

Additionally, we will discuss the potential benefits and diverse applications of these materials, as well as the challenges and limitations that researchers face in bringing them to the mainstream. The idea behind self-healing materials is to give substances the ability to repair themselves when exposed to external damage or environmental stress.

This ability is similar to the healing mechanisms in living organisms, where cells collaborate to mend wounds and regenerate damaged tissue. To achieve this level of independence, self-healing materials use various strategies that are specific to their chemical composition and intended use.

There are three main types of self-healing mechanisms:

Intrinsic Healing: This type of mechanism involves materials that have components that react when damage occurs, initiating a repair process. For instance, the material may contain microcapsules or vascular networks filled with healing agents such as resins or adhesives. In a comparable way blood vessels and arteries supply clotting agents to wounds to assist in healing, these capsules rupture and let go of the healing agent, encapsulating and securing the region of injury.

Extrinsic Healing: External stimuli which include pressure, light, or heat are crucial for extrinsic self-healing materials who initiates the healing process. These constituents frequently include additives or microstructures that adapt to these stressors by rectifying the damage. Shape-memory polymers, for starters, have a capacity to modify following damage and then return to their former form when reheated.

Autonomous Healing: Materials with the ability to autonomous regeneration possess the capacity to recognize and correct damage without the need for human assistance as well as external stimuli. Reversible chemical responses or reactive polymers that can "sense" damage and initiate a repair on their own are frequently incorporated in these materials to mimic the extraordinary ability of biological things to identify injuries and fix them.

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2. Literature Review

In D. Jaya Balakrishnan et. al[2021] outlined the ways in which materials research and study are currently heavily influenced by Self-Healing Materials (SHM). These materials have the ability to self-heal in response to impacts that result in distortions or irregular structural alterations. It goes into extensive detail about the different kinds of Self-Healing Materials and how they are used in concrete. It covers a number of topics related to SHM, covering how to use the capsule, mechanical durability, thermal analysis, and building processes.

In a comprehensive review, Daquan Sun et. al[2015] remarked about how a crucial tactic in developing sustainable infrastructure and elevating the life of asphalt surface is self-healing. The self-healing phenomena and its distinctions from certain viscoelastic reactions are examined. Additionally, it presents the evolution of self-healing pavement design. There are four potential self-healing mechanisms and corresponding models offered; a promising area of research is the continuum-style thermodynamics model.

Wataru Nakao et. al (2021) examined the advancement of self-healing materials, an innovative endeavor in material science that strives to replicate the unique characteristics of natural materials that exist in living things. Substances with healing capabilities exhibit the rare potential to self-heal damage and still execute with remarkable efficiency.

Merryn Haines-Gadd et. al (2021) addressed about the prospects of self-healing materials inspired by environmental systems and to boost product well-being whilst encouraging a circular economy. These smart materials can repair themselves when damaged, aiding in refurbishment and remanufacturing. However, limitations include persistence within the system, hybridization of materials, technology development limitations, performance, and liability. Understanding sustainability factors is crucial for developing novel self-healing compositions and creating longer-lasting products from an industrial perspective.

D.G. Bekaset. al (2015) highlighted how the successful outcomes of self-healing systems in determining and addressing damage is what has caused an upsurge in interest in these technologies in recent years. Multiple initiatives have been undertaken to put together these systems and bring together them into massive production operations while maintaining the best possible property-cost balance. It presents the scientific research in three categories: materials and systems, experimental methods to examine properties, and self-healing efficiency. It prioritizes on polymeric systems and their composites.

Toshio Osada et. al (2020) put forward an updated theoretical kinetic model for strength recuperation in composites which involves a healing agent (HA) that is based upon self-healing. Based on multidimensional measurement results, the model utilizes two crack-gap filling exemplars: tip-to-mouth and bridging. By projecting the upper and lower strength constraints of healed composites, statistical analysis and nonlinear elastic fracture mechanics may make it feasible to design self-healing ceramic components for a wide variety of purposes.

Brijesh Mishra et. al (2020) emphasized the recent substantial advances in shape memory polymers and their prospective applications in a wide range of sectors notably electronics, applied science, medicine, and textiles. It illustrates the study currently underway on materials with reversible shape-changing properties comprised of carbon nanotube-filled conducting polymer compound composites. While exchangeable bonds withstand permanent shape changes, the elastic features that define these materials facilitate the recovery of transitory shapes.

Nan Wen et. al (2021) commented regarding materials that demonstrate the capacity to rejuvenate themselves, sometimes fully or partially, returning their original practicality after being disrupted. The most significant difference between the materials' extrinsic and intrinsic mechanisms is their incorporation of a healing agent all throughout the self-healing process. It also protects the mechanical and self-healing characteristics that define intrinsic self-healing materials and presents an overview of microvascular, hollow fiber, and microcapsule innovations based on extrinsic mechanisms.

Michael W Keller et al. (2018) highlighted about major advancements in the making of materials that can restore themselves in responding to external influences, similar to living organisms. These materials can detect physical damage and initiate a self-repair response, with two main categories: intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic self-healing occurs through built-in mechanisms, while extrinsic self-healing involves an added phase or structure. Both types of materials undergo a basic cycle of recovery from damage, with damage acting as the trigger for healing.

Sumit Sharma et. al (2019) Self-healing synthetic materials are in high demand due to their ability to retain their properties and functions over time. Chemically driven, physical, and physicochemical processes may be employed to manufacture these materials. Shape effect of memory, interchain diffusion, separation of phases, and superparamagnetic nanoparticles are a few instances of physical self-healing mechanisms. Chemical self-healing strategies comprise supramolecular interactions, active reactions induced through radicals that

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are free, and dynamic bonds of covalent bonds.

Aftab Aslam Parwaz Khan et. Al (2020) explained the ability of polymeric materials to repair damage and restore their properties. Documentation concerning the variation between a system parameter's standard and actual measurements must be provided for this process. Self-mending materials have been generated which mimic natural materials and offer self-mending characteristics for engineering applications. These elements are inspired by biological structures. Innovative concepts for materials that heal themselves have been developed as a consequence of recent research, covering a variety of material classes including metals, solid materials, polymers, and composites of polymer.

Jing Xie et. al (2022) emphasized the significance of self-healing processes in synthetic materials for retaining their characteristics for the duration of their useful lives. Chemical-based, physical, and physical-chemical approaches are used in these operations. Shape memory effects, superparamagnetic nanoparticles, interchain dispersion, and phase differentiation are examples of physical self-healing processes. Molecular interactions, free radical-induced responses and flexible covalent bonds all have been involved in chemical self-healing processes.

Yuichiro Kobayashi et. al(2019) established the increasing interest in functional materials for social sustainability which possess stimuli-responsive and self-healing properties. One interesting method for creating these materials is the supramolecular synthesis of small-molecule monomeric units via interactions that are not covalent. These materials' molecular selectivity as well as reversibility allow them to perform specialized roles. Large molecular weight monomeric components have also been produced through supramolecular polymerization; several outstanding instances of one non-covalent relationship are shown here.

Tahani Musa et. al (2021) described the potential applications using smart materials for architecture and building technological advances. Their objective is to construct living spaces that are flexible and have fewer adverse consequences. They investigated the many benefits that smart material systems provide architects and constructors, in addition to how they affect the building process.

Yongjing Wang et. al (2020) identified an approach for allowing carbon composites with fiber reinforcement (CFRCs) to rebuild themselves following structural component damage. Through a built-in circulatory system, epoxy-based repair treatments that make up Short Carbon Fibres (SCFs) were automatically utilized for cracks. Reestablishing contact with the structural carbon filaments can be performed by coordinating the SCFs that are in the released agents in a confined electric field.

Catia Correia et. al (2021) explained how the central nervous system (CNS) struggles to regenerate after injuries or diseases due to its limited capacity for growth and inhibitory environment. Current therapies, such as drugs and rehabilitation, basically prevent the expansion of the disorder. Bio constructs assisted by tissue engineering provide a flexible approach to nerve tissue rehabilitation. The CNS has repair capabilities with the help of developments in adhesive as well as self- healing substances, promoting recovery without needles or sewing. These materials can control inflammation and protease activity.

Olusola Olaitan Ayeleru et. Al (2022) explained how polymer composites are susceptible to failure due to cracks, which can lead to catastrophic failure. Detecting and repairing these cracks is challenging, and Technology capable of treat itself has been initiated to assist with this problem. After breaking down, self-healing materials possess the ability to repair themselves by triggering an autonomic recovery response. The numerous categories of self-healing polymeric substances, their traits and qualities, and the capacity for self-healing of microcapsules are covered.

Md. Wasikur Rahman et. Al (2021) discussed Self-healing polymers (SHPs) are a category of responsive materials that can be utilized for restoring damage-related losses in an assortment of industries, particularly automotive, aerospace, paint & coat, construction, technology, medical care, and textiles. They developed these materials with a range of properties and applications. The study reviews the scope and prospects of SHPs' applications, highlighting their versatility across different sectors. It is essential to conduct more research to ensure the easy application of SHPs for human civilization and other living creatures.

Yan Cheng et. Al (2019) highlighted the increasing utilization of self-healing materials in the fabrication of rechargeable storage devices for energy, especially intelligent energy storage devices. Because of their ability to self-heal, these gadgets are capable of handling repeated folding distortions and automatically replace defective pieces, prolonging their useful life. With a particular focus on electrodes and electrolytes, it provides appraisals of new developments and applications in self-healing storage of electricity solutions.

Moshuqi Zhu et. Al (2020) discussed how bio-based polymers are increasingly being developed as a substitute for petroleum-based polymers due to the exhaustion of fossil resources and rising oil prices. It investigates technological advances in bio-based,

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self-healing materials with a particular focus on biomass. The fundamental self-healing mechanisms, manufacturing procedures, and potential applications of biologically produced self-healing materials, such as sensors and batteries for energy devices, are covered.

Munmun Priyadarsini et. Al (2020) scrutinized the unique physicochemical qualities of self-healing materials, which allow them to naturally mend fractures or damage to tissues induced on by aging or accidents. These compounds are useful to medicine and are right now the subject of much research. Autonomic or non-autonomic self-healing devices may depend on stimuli from outside such as light or heat. Elastomers and other self-healing materials find significant applications in the business and industrial domains. Self-healing composites function as an effective healer by creating an outside stimulus to start the process.

Bo Liang et. al (2021) investigated the connection between asphalt composites' durability under fatigue and self-healing abilities, with a particular emphasis on the former. The performance of self-healing molecules is affected by both internal and outside elements, such as humidity, temperature, and induction conditions, as well as its internal properties which includes molecular structure, asphalt mobility, viscoelasticity, and thixotropy. He contends that self-healing capability can be boosted by changing the chemical makeup of asphalt materials, guaranteeing spontaneous structure creation, and modifying preparation techniques. Such measures will ultimately aid in the establishment of long-lasting pavement structures.

Aiswarya S et. Al (2022) illustrated how a number of reasons, including its special elasticity, processing ability, and physio-mechanical attributes, a thermoplastic elastomer (TPE) serves as a remarkable engineering polymeric substance with important industrial uses. However, as a result of their biphasic structure, TPEs' self-healing abilities remain largely unidentified. The objective of this article is to create revolutionary supramolecular polymeric frameworks using dynamic non-covalent interactions in order to create next-generation self-healing thermoplastic compounds.

Junsu Park et. al (2021) explained how polymer wastes pose significant environmental problems, including pollution and resource depletion. Despite their versatility, these materials require long degradation times and are often made from petroleum, which is limited. To reduce waste and prevent petroleum depletion, self-healing materials have been developed as an effective strategy.

Mahsa Akbari Kenari et. Al (2022) examined Intelligent materials that can rectify themselves, either entirely or partially, such as cracks, and are anticipated to keep their initial characteristics are commonly referred to as self-healing materials. These materials, which have been effectively applied in the field of chemistry, mechanics, and material engineering, are derived from biological systems. By independently fixing any kind of outside damage, self-healing materials can assist improve its reliability, durability, and safety.

3. Result and Discussion

An extraordinary development in materials science, self-healing substances have the potential to completely reinvent a number of different industries, from aerospace to construction. These materials exhibit unique properties that allow them to autonomously repair damage, restoring their structural integrity and functionality.

The primary mechanisms involved in self-healing include microcapsules, vascular systems, and intrinsic healing. Microcapsule-based systems rely on tiny capsules embedded within the material, which allow for repair by breaking down and discharging polymers or healing compounds into the affected area. Recent studies have made significant progress in enhancing the efficiency and scalability of microcapsule-based self-healing materials.

Vascular systems, designed to replicate the circulatory systems in living organisms, consist of channels carrying healing agents like blood. Recent studies aim to optimize the design of these systems to make them more durable and efficient.. These innovative materials combine the healing capabilities of vascular systems with structural integrity, making them ideal for high-stress environments. The conceptual framework underlying these types of materials is the dispersion of healing agents inside the material through the use of microcapsules.

The capsules burst when they get cracked, distributing the chemicals into the affected area facilitating repair. Vascular composites that can restore themselves might revolutionize the aviation, building, and transportation sectors by cutting maintenance costs and boosting the life of machines and structures.

Certain materials have the ability to heal themselves when damaged, a process known as intrinsic healing. This is made possible by the reversible nature of specific chemical bonds in the material. These connections break apart and then reconstruct when damage occurs, helping the material to be repaired itself. The main objective of the most recent studies has consisted of to create new compounds with enhanced intrinsic healing abilities. Self-healing polymers containing dynamic covalent bonds are one example of this type of substance; they can go through numerous healing cycles without considerably affecting their mechanical traits.

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Given their numerous functions and constantly being investigated, self-healing substances are becoming more and more prominent. They have proven to be beneficial in various sectors, including aerospace and aviation. By improving the longevity and safety of aircraft components, self-healing materials help reduce maintenance costs and increase aircraft reliability. Advancements have made it possible to use these materials in aircraft composites, which are vital for manufacturing lightweight and durable components.

The incorporation of self-healing materials in automobile coatings and structures could result in a big impact on the automobile sector. These materials might decrease maintenance costs, lessen the effects of corrosion, and extend the service life of vehicles, particularly in the context of electric and autonomous vehicles, where durability and performance are of utmost importance. They offer a cost-effective solution to maintenance and repair expenses, while simultaneously enhancing the safety, reliability, and longevity of vehicles. They can help reduce maintenance expenses and extend the lifespan of vehicles by mitigating the impact of wear and tear. This is especially beneficial for electric and autonomous vehicles, where durability and performance are crucial factors.

The integration of self-healing materials in infrastructure projects, such as bridges, buildings, and roads, is becoming increasingly common in construction and infrastructure. Researchers have been focusing on developing self-healing concrete and protective coatings that can withstand environmental factors and reduce maintenance costs. This advancement has the potential to improve the durability of critical infrastructure, leading to longer lifespan and reduced need for repair and maintenance.

The introduction of self-healing materials has shown its potential in prolonging the service life and durability present-day consumer electronics, which include wearables and smartphones. The integration of self-healing coatings on surfaces and screens of such devices has considerably mitigated the impact of scratches and damages, thereby rendering them resistant to wear and tear. This advancement has enabled manufacturers to offer more reliable and long-lasting products, which in turn has translated into higher customer satisfaction and loyalty.

Although self-healing materials improve the life of medical instruments, implants, and prosthetic devices, they have the potential to completely alter the field of healthcare. Researchers may now safely integrate materials into the human body thanks to their investigation of biocompatible self-healing polymer compounds. This extends the life of various technology, implants, and prosthetics and decreases the need for conventional replacements. Promising outcomes in the sector of self-repairing substances for healthcare have been described by recent investigations.

Whenever compared to its application, the consumption of self-healing materials establishes concerns about ethics, particularly in situations in which increased monitoring or breaches of privacy could occur. Recent advances in the manufacturing of ecologically friendly, self-healing materials and their possibilities for recycling. These materials are being investigated as part of a broader shift towards sustainability and the development of more sustainable materials. It is important that any potential negative consequences of self-healing materials are carefully considered in order to ensure that they are used in a responsible and ethical manner.

The reliability of self-healing mechanisms is an essential consideration, particularly in critical applications such as aerospace and healthcare. It has been directed towards improving the predictability and efficacy of self-healing processes to enhance their reliability. These efforts have yielded significant progress towards developing more reliable self-healing mechanisms, which are crucial for ensuring the smooth functioning of complex systems. By increasing the reliability of these mechanisms, we can minimize the risk of downtime, system failures, and other related issues.

4. Conclusion

Self-healing materials can revolutionize various industries by making products more durable, longer-lasting, and less costly to maintain. These materials also promote sustainability by minimizing waste and the need for frequent replacements. They can be used in diverse fields such as aerospace, automotive, and more. However, the field faces challenges such as research complexity, regulatory barriers, and ongoing studies. The seminar calls for interdisciplinary cooperation among researchers, industry professionals, and academics to advance the field. Self-healing materials can also provide significant cost savings, which enhances economic sustainability. Ethical and safety issues are also important. Public awareness is vital for making informed decisions. It emphasizes the importance of collective efforts from researchers, industry experts, and the wider community to harness the full potential of self-healing materials.

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