Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0032-3861(17)30072-1

DOI: 10.1016/j.polymer.2017.01.046

Reference: JPOL 19363

To appear in: Polymer

Received Date: 8 December 2016

Revised Date: 20 January 2017

Accepted Date: 21 January 2017

Please cite this article as: Yu X, Beharaj A, Grinstaff MW, Tsui OKC, Modulation of the effective viscosity of polymer films by ultraviolet ozone treatment, *Polymer* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.polymer.2017.01.046.

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Modulation of the Effective Viscosity of Polymer Films by Ultraviolet Ozone Treatment

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Keywords: Polymer thin films, Effective Viscosity, Nanoconfinement, Surface modification

Abstract: Nanoconfinement of a polymer film affords a reduction of the glass transition temperature (T_g) and effective viscosity (η_{eff}). Early on, Prof. Tisato Kajiyama pioneered the idea of enhanced polymer mobility at the free surface. This concept is now well established, and accounts for the T_g and η_{eff} reductions of thin polymer films. To pay tribute to Prof. Kajiyama's seminal contribution, it is fitting to report in this special issue the use of ultraviolet ozone (UVO) to chemically modify the surface of polymer films and thereby alter their dynamical properties for the first time. Specifically, we show that with a brief exposure time of only 1.0 second under typical UVO treatment conditions, the η_{eff} of polystyrene (PS) films supported by silica changes

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