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Efficient Microwave Welding of Polypropylene Using Graphite Coating as Primers Xuefei Sun^a, Guangming Wu^a, Jianxiang Yu^{a,*}, Chunnuan Du^a

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ABSTRACT: Graphite coating was created on PP interface for an efficient microwave welding process. The graphite powder(GP) can significantly absorb microwave energy and transform into a large amount of heat upon the electromagnetic absorbent, leading to a sharp increase in temperature that can rapidly melt the interface of PP substrates and form a new structure where the GP was covered. The welding area of PP/GC samples obtained by microwave irradiation exhibited uniform surface appearance and high electric conductivity. Meanwhile, the PP/GC/PP samples showed high interfacial strengths, which were influenced by the duration of microwave welding, the size and content of GP in solder. And the bonding stress under optimal condition was about 2.17MPa, which demonstrated great potential in plastic bonding and material processing.

Keywords: Welding; Graphite powder; Interfaces; Welding strength; Conductive polymer_____

1. Introduction

Microwave is a kind of short wavelength electromagnetic wave, with the range of 30cm-1mm in air [1]. Microwave has been widely employed in material processing and information transmission for several decades' development. In addition, the study of microwave joining of ceramic materials has been relatively matured since 1980s and widely reported to achieve the effective welding in several parts [2-4]. Carbon materials can largely absorb microwave energy and partially convert to heat with a sharp increase of temperature [5,6]. In terms of microwave energy loss mechanism,

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