

Supporting information

for

# Smart Composite Hydrogel with pH-, Ionic strength- and Temperature-induced Actuation

by

Jiaojiao Shang and Patrick Theato

## 1. Determination of the parameters for the preparation of hydrogel

**Table S1.** The water content of the prepared hydrogels

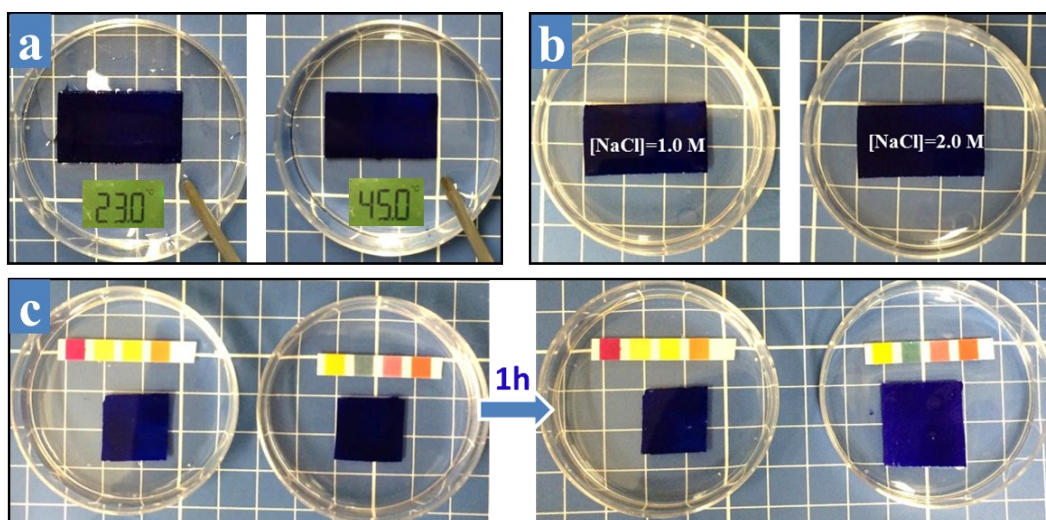
Prepared Hydrogels	PNIPAm hydrogel	PAA hydrogel	Composite hydrogel (g)	PNIPAm/PAA composite hydrogel (l)	Bilayer hydrogel (n)
Water contents (wt%)	617±51	642±43	478±37	189±23	278±32

The water contents were calculated as the equation: Water content (wt%)=[(W<sub>1</sub>-W<sub>0</sub>)/W<sub>0</sub>] $\times$ 100%, where W<sub>0</sub> and W<sub>1</sub> represent the weights of the dry and the water-swollen hydrogel, respectively. Each value is a mean of five determinations.

**Table S2.** The parameters of AA solution used to prepare optimum hydrogels

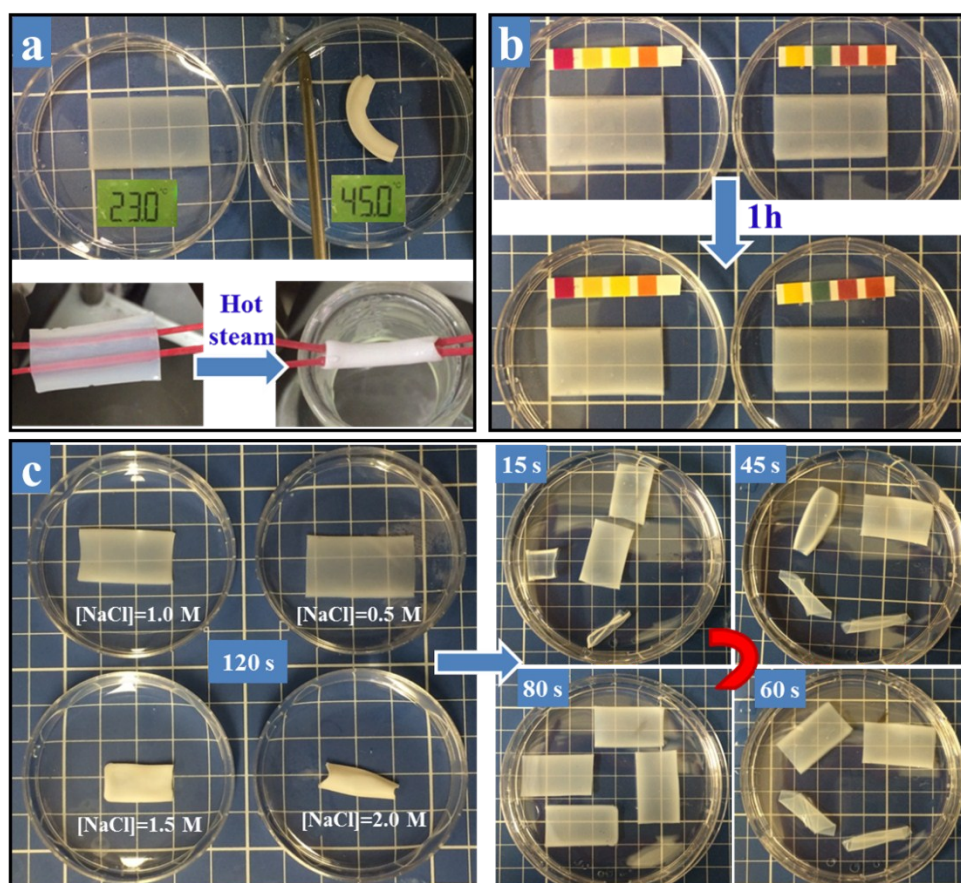
AA solution				Prepared homogeneous hydrogel
Volume (mL)	Concentration of AA (wt %)	Concentration of MBA (wt %)	Concentration of V-50 (wt %)	Thickness (μm)
5	1.5	0.6	0.6	873±15
5	1.0	0.6	0.6	467±18
5	0.7	0.6	0.6	403±8
7.5	1.5	1	1	1343±11
7.5	1.0	1	1	920±15
7.5	0.7	1	1	714±9
10	1.5	1	1	1990±7
10	1.0	1	1	1340±11
10	0.7	1	1	1050±13
7.5	1.5	2	2	1256±8
7.5	1.0	2	2	893±15
7.5	0.7	2	2	642±14

## 2. Demonstration of the responsiveness of homogeneous PAA hydrogel



**Figure S1.** Photo images of blue dyed PAA hydrogel: immersing hydrogel into solution with different temperature (a), concentration of NaCl (b) and pH of 2 and 11 (c).

## 3. Demonstration of the responsiveness of homogeneous PNIPAm hydrogel



**Figure S2.** Photographs of homogeneous PNIPAm hydrogel before and after stimulations at 45°C and hot steam (a), variations of pH (b) and Ionic strength (c).