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Well-Controlled Thieno[3,4-c]pyrrole-4,6-(5H)-dione Based

Conjugated Polymers for High Performance Organic Photovoltaic

Cells with a Power Conversion Efficiency Exceeding 9%

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Experimental Section

Materials

All starting organic compounds were purchased from Aldrich, Alfa Aesar, or TCI Korea, and were used as received without further purification. Tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (Pd(PPh₃)₄) was purchased from Strem. PC₇₁BM was purchased from EM-index. The solvents were dried and purified by fractional distillation over sodium/benzophenone and were handled under a moisture-free atmosphere. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (Merck, Kieselgel 60 63-200 MYM SC). (6-Octylthieno[3,2-b]thiophen-2-yl)trimethylstannane^[1], 2,5-bis(trimethylstannyl)thiophene^[2], 5,5'-bis(trimethylstannyl)-2,2'-bithiophene^[3], thieno[3,4-c]furan-1,3-dione^[4], and 7-(4-bromobutyl)pentadecane^[5] were synthesized according to previously reported procedures.

Measurements

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded using a Varian Mercury Plus 300MHz spectrometer and chemical shifts were recorded in ppm units, using chloroform as the internal standard. Elemental analysis was carried out using a Vario Micro Cube at the Korea Basic Science Institute (Busan, Korea). Absorption spectra were measured using a JASCO JP/V-570. The molecular weights of the polymers were determined using gel permeation chromatography (GPC), which was calibrated with a polystyrene standard, using a Waters high-pressure GPC assembly (model M590). Thermal analyses were carried out on a Mettler Toledo TGA/SDTA 851^e under an N₂ atmosphere with a heating and cooling rate of 10 °C·min⁻¹. Cyclic voltammetry (CV) was performed on a CH Instruments Electrochemical Analyzer. The CV measurements were carried out using acetonitrile containing 0.1 M TBABF₄ as the supporting electrolyte, and Ag/AgNO₃, a platinum wire, and platinum as the reference electrode, counter electrode, and working electrode, respectively.

Two-dimensional grazing-incidence X-ray diffraction (2D-GIXD)

2D-GIXD measurements were performed under vacuum at the 3C beamline at Pohang Light Source, Korea. The samples were prepared on PEDOT:PSS-modified Si substrates under the same conditions as those used for the fabrication of solar cell devices. The wavelength of the X-ray was 0.1651 nm and the incidence angle (i.e., the angle between the critical angle of the sample and that of Si) was 0.13°. The 2D-GIXD patterns were recorded using a 2D-CCD detector (Rayonix SX165), and the X-ray irradiation time was set at 0.5–10 s, depending on the saturation level of the detector. The 2D-GIXD images from the films were analyzed based on the relationship between the scattering vector (q) and the d spacing, ($q = 2\pi/d$).

Fabrication of inverted photovoltaic devices

Inverted bulk hetero-junction (BHJ) OPV devices were fabricated with an indium tin oxide (ITO)/ZnO /polymer:PC₇₁BM/MoO₃/Ag structure. The precursor solution (0.75 M) was prepared by dissolving zinc acetate [Zn(CH₃COO)₂·2H₂O] in a solution of 2-methoxyethanol containing ethanolamine as a stabilizer. The solution was stirred at 60 °C for 30 min, in order to achieve homogeneity. The pre-cleaned ITO substrates were treated with UV–ozone. The sol-gel ZnO structure was fabricated by spin-coating the precursor solution at 2000 rpm for 40 s. The substrate was immediately annealed on a hot plate at 380 °C at a heating rate of 20 °C·min⁻¹, and was subsequently transferred to a N₂-filled glove box. The polymer/PC₇₁BM (97% chlorobenzene/3% DIO mixture) active layer was prepared. The device was solvent-annealed for 1 h at ambient temperature in a glove box; device fabrication was completed by

thermally evaporating 10 nm of MoO₃ and 100 nm of Ag as the anode under vacuum at a base pressure of 3×10^{-6} Torr. The measured effective area of the device was 0.10 cm².

OPV devices

The thickness of the active layer was measured using a KLA Tencor Alpha-step IQ surface profilometer. The current density–voltage (J–V) characteristics of the polymer photovoltaic cells were determined by illuminating the cells with simulated solar light (AM 1.5G) at an intensity of 100 mW/cm² using an Oriel 1000 W solar simulator. Electronic data were recorded using a Keithley 236 source-measure unit. All characterization measurements were carried out under ambient conditions. The illumination intensity was calibrated using a standard Si photodiode detector from PV Measurements Inc., which was calibrated at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). The external quantum efficiency (EQE) was measured as a function of wavelength (from 300~1100 nm) using a Xenon Short Arc Lamp as the light source (McScience K3100 EQX). The light source was calibrated using a Si reference photodiode. The measurements were carried out after masking all but the active cell area of the fabricated device, and the measurements were conducted under ambient conditions.

Fabrication of hole-only devices

The hole mobility of the active layer was determined by applying the space charge limited current (SCLC) model to the J-V measurement data. Hole-only devices were fabricated on pre-patterned ITO substrates. After cleaning the ITO with an aqueous detergent, deionized water, acetone, and 2-propanol, the ITO was treated with UV-ozone for 15 min. A 30 nm thick PEDOT/PSS (Clevios P VP AI4083) layer was spin-coated on the substrate from an

aqueous dispersion. The coated substrate was then baked at 120 °C for 60 min. Subsequently, a solution of the copolymer in chlorobenzene was spin-cast on the PEDOT/PSS layer to form a layer with a thickness of \sim 100 nm, and the samples were dried for 6 h at room temperature under vacuum. Finally, 10 nm of MoO₃ and 100 nm of Ag were thermally evaporated as the anode in vacuo at a base pressure of 3 × 10⁻⁶ Torr. The SCLC method was employed to measure the hole-only mobility of the polymer/PC₇₁BM blend using a device with the following structure: ITO/PEDOT:PSS/polymer:PC₇₁BM/MoO₃/Ag. The hole mobilities were calculated using the following equation:

$$J_{SCLC} = (9/8)\varepsilon_r \varepsilon_0 \mu (V^2/L^3)$$

where J is the current density, ε_r is the dielectric constant of the polymers, ε_o is the permittivity of vacuum, μ is the hole mobility, L is the thickness of the blend films, and $V = V_{appl} - V_{bi}$, where V_{appl} and V_{bi} are the applied potential and built-in voltage resulting from the difference in the work functions of the anode and cathode, respectively.



Scheme S1. Reagents and conditions: (i) Phthalimide potassium salt, DMF, 90 °C, 16 h; (ii) hydrazine, MeOH, 80 °C, 12 h; (iii) 5-hexyltridecyl-1-amine, toluene, 100 °C, overnight; (iv) NBS, H₂SO₄, trifluoroacetic acid, 12 h; (v) trimethyl(6-octylthieno[3,2-b]thiophen-2-yl)stannane, Pd(pph₃)₂Cl₂, DMF, 150 °C, 12 h; (vi) NBS, DMF, 8 h.



Scheme S2. Synthesis and chemical structures of polymers.

Synthesis of monomers and polymers

Synthesis of 2-(5-hexyltridecyl)isoindoline-1,3-dione (1) In a 250-mL flask, 7-(4-bromobutyl)pentadecane (15.0 g, 0.043mol), phthalimide potassium salt (9.6 g, 0.051 mol), and 200 mL of DMF were mixed and stirred at 90 °C for 16 h. The reaction was terminated by adding 100 mL of water. The crude product was obtained following extraction using hexane. Yield: 13.8 g (75%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.83–7.81 (m, 2H), 7.69–7.67 (d, 2H), 3.65 (t, 2H), 1.67–1.57 (m, 1H), 1.34–1.28 (m, 30H), 0.85 (m, 6H).

Synthesis of 5-hexyltridecan-1-amine (2) A mixture of 2-(5-hexyltridecyl)isoindoline-1,3dione (10.0 g, 0.024 mol), hydrazine (3.09 g, 0.096 mol), and 100 mL of MeOH was refluxed for 12 h. To the mixture, 100 mL of 10% KOH was added and the mixture was extracted with 200 mL of methylene dichloride. The product was obtained after the solvent was evaporated. Yield: 6.67 g (82%).¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ: 2.68 (t, 2H), 1.52 (m, 1H), 1.30–1.01 (m, 30H), 0.85 (m, 6H).

Synthesis of 5-(5-hexyltridecyl)-4H-thieno[3,4-c]pyrrole-4,6(5H)-dione (3) Thieno[3,4-c]furan-1,3-dione (3.0 g, 0.0194 mol) and 5-hexyltridecan-1-amine (6.6 g, 0.0232 mol) were mixed in 300 mL of toluene. After the mixture was stirred for 24 h at 100 °C, the solvent was completely removed. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using hexane/dichloromethane (1:1) as the eluent; subsequently, the product was recrystallized from hexane. Yield: 7.5 g (73%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 7.79 (s, 2H), 3.59 (t, 2H), 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.23–1.18(m, 30H), 0.86 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 165.1, 145.2, 138.5, 40.2, 39.8, 38.5, 37.1, 36.2, 35.1, 33.3, 32.3, 30.5, 29.8, 29.6, 28.3, 27.0, 26.8, 26.3, 25.9, 25.1. 22.7, 14.1. Anal. Calc. for C₂₅H₄₁N: C, 71.55; H, 9.85; N, 3.34. Found: C, 71.48; H, 9.92; N, 3.28.

Synthesis of 1,3-dibromo-5-(5-hexyltridecyl)-4H-thieno[3,4-c]pyrrole-4,6(5H)-dione (4)

N-bromosuccinimide (5.30 g, 0.030 mol) was added to a mixture of **3** (5.0 g, 0.012 mol), sulfuric acid (30 mL), and trifluoroacetic acid (100 mL); the mixture was stirred for 12 h. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using hexane/dichloromethane (1:1) as the eluent; the product was subsequently recrystallized from ethanol. Yield: 4.9 g (76%).¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 3.58 (t, 2H), 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.23-1.19 (m, 30H), 0.87 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 170.3, 155.1, 142.5, 41.3, 40.2, 39.3, 38.2, 37.1, 36.4, 34.8, 33.3, 31.7, 30.2, 29.1, 28.6, 27.9, 27.3, 27.0, 26.3, 25.2. 23.1, 16.3. Anal. Calc. for C₂₅H₃₉N: C, 52.00; H, 6.81; N, 2.43. Found: C, 51.84; H, 6.93; N, 2.54.

Synthesis of 5-(5-hexyltridecyl)-1,3-bis(6-octylthieno[3,2-b]thiophen-2-yl)-4H-thieno[3,4c]pyrrole-4,6(5H)-dione (5) Trimethyl(6-octylthieno[3,2-b]thiophen-2-yl)stannane (5.39 g, 0.012 mol) was added to a stirred solution of **4** (3.00 g, 0.005 mol) and bis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(II) dichloride (95 mg, 0.06 mmol) in DMF (50 mL). The mixture was refluxed overnight. The resulting mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate and brine. The organic layer was washed with sodium bicarbonate and brine, and then dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The solvent was removed and the crude product was purified via column chromatography with hexane as the eluent to yield **5** (2.5 g, 58%) as a light orange solid. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.30 (s, 2H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 3.66 (t, 2H), 2.69 (t, 4H), 1.73-1.70 (m, 5H), 1.41-1.23 (m, 50H), 0.97-0.86 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 169.1, 160.3, 140.2, 137.5, 127.3, 123.1, 122.8, 122.0, 121.3, 40.2, 39.8, 39.2, 38.9, 38.4, 38.0, 37.8, 37.4, 35.2, 34.7, 34.1, 33.3, 32.9, 31.5, 30.5, 30.1, 29.9, 29.3, 29.2, 28.5, 28.1, 27.4, 25.6, 24.9, 24.5, 22.7, 12.5. Anal. Calc. for C₅₃H₇₇N: C, 69.15; H, 8.43; N, 1.52. Found: C, 68.98; H, 8.51; N, 1.61.

Synthesis of 1,3-bis(5-bromo-6-octylthieno[3,2-b]thiophen-2-yl)-5-(5-hexyltridecyl)-4Hthieno[3,4-c]pyrrole-4,6(5H)-dione (6) Bromosuccinimide (0.97 g, 0.005 mol) was added to a stirred solution of 5 (2.00 g, 0.002 mol) in DMF (150 mL) in the dark. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight. A bright orange precipitate formed and the mixture was filtered and the precipitate was thoroughly washed with methanol. The solid was then washed once with cold diethyl ether and purified via flash chromatography to give 2.30 g (80%) of **6**. ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 8.20 (s, 2H), 3.64 (t, 2H), 2.68 (t, 4H), 1.70-1.65 (m, 5H), 1.32-1.22 (m, 50H), 0.88-0.83 (m, 12H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ : 170.1, 165.2, 145.1, 140.8, 130.2, 128.2, 125.3, 124.6, 122.2, 41.3, 40.9, 39.9, 39.1, 38.8, 38.0, 37.6, 37.2, 36.3, 35.1, 34.9, 34.2, 33.3, 32.1, 31.6, 30.4, 30.1, 29.3, 29.0, 28.2, 27.9, 27.2, 26.7, 25.3, 24.2, 23.1, 13.1. Anal. Calc. for C₅₃H₇₅N: C, 59.03; H, 7.01; N, 1.30. Found: C, 58.78; H, 7.21; N, 1.28.

General polymerization procedure

The two copolymers were synthesized by Stille coupling polymerization, as shown in Scheme 2. 2,5-Bis(trimethylstannyl)thiophene, 5,5'-bis(trimethylstannyl)-2,2'-bithiophene, and **6** were synthesized using procedures previously reported. Tetrakis-(triphenylphosphine)palladium in 4 mL anhydrous toluene and 1 mL DMF was stirred at 110 °C overnight, following which an excess of 2-bromothiophene and tripropyl(thiophen-2-yl)stannane (the end-capper) dissolved in 1 mL of anhydrous toluene was added and stirred for 12 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to approximately 50 °C and 200 mL of methanol was added slowly with vigorous stirring. The polymer fibers were collected by filtration and were re-precipitated from methanol and acetone. The polymers were then purified further by washing for 1 day with acetone in a Soxhlet apparatus, to remove oligomers and catalyst residues. The polymers were then subjected to column chromatography using chloroform as the eluent; subsequently, the polymers were re-precipitated from chloroform/methanol several times. The resulting polymers were soluble in common organic solvents.

Poly{2,5-bis-thiophene-alt-1,3-bis(6-octylthieno[3,2-b]thiophen-2-yl)-5-(5-hexyltridecyl)-**4H-thieno[3,4-c]pyrrole-4,6(5H)-dione**} (**PT-ttTPD**) 2,5-Bis(trimethylstannyl)thiophene 0.49 with (526 mg, (200 mg, mmol) was mixed 6 1.0 equiv), tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (16 mg, 2.6 µmol), toluene (4 mL), and DMF (1 mL). The polymer yield was 48%. Anal. Calc. for C₅₇H₇₇N: C, 68.42; H, 7.76; N, 1.40. Found: C, 68.38; H, 7.92; N, 1.35. M_n = 85 000, PDI = 2.4. T_d = 323 °C.

Poly{5,5'-bis-2,2'-bithiophene-alt-1,3-bis(6-octylthieno[3,2-b]thiophen-2-yl)-5-(5-

hexyltridecyl)-4H-thieno[3,4-c]pyrrole-4,6(5H)-dione}(PBT-ttTPD)5,5'-bis(trimethylstannyl)-2,2'-bithiophene (200 mg, 0.40 mmol) was mixed with 6(438 mg, 1.0equiv), tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium (14 mg, 2.6 μ mol), toluene (4 mL), and DMF(1mL). The polymer yield was 35%. C₆₁H₇₉N: C, 67.67; H, 7.35; N, 1.29. Found: C, 67.52; H,7.52; N, 1.20. M_n = 70 000, PDI = 2.8. T_d = 325 °C.



Figure S1. Thermogravimetric analysis of the copolymers.

Polymer	M_n	PDI	T_d	$\lambda_{max, abs}$	λ_{max}	λ_{edge}	Optical	НОМО	LUMO
	(g/mol) ^[a]		$({}^{o}C)^{[b]}$	(nm)	(nm)	(nm)	E_{g}^{opt}	(eV) ^[e]	(eV) ^[f]
				Solution	Film ^[c]	Film ^[c]	(eV) ^[d]		
PT-ttTPD	85,000	2.4	323	518	567	708	1.75	-5.65	-3.90
PBT-ttTPD	70,000	2.8	325	522	572	720	1.72	-5.54	-3.82

Table S1. Molecular, optical, and electrochemical properties of conjugated polymers.

 $^{[a]}M_n$ and PDI of the polymers were determined by gel permeation chromatography using a polystyrene standard in CHCl₃.

^[b]Temperature at 5% weight loss at a heating rate of 10 °C min⁻¹ under nitrogen.

^[c]Polymer film on a quartz plate by spin-casting from chloroform at 1500 rpm for 30 s.

^[d]Calculated from the absorption band edge of the copolymer films, $E_g = 1240 / \lambda_{edge}$.

^[e]HOMO energy levels were determined from the $E_{ox/onset}$ of the first oxidation potential of ferrocene, -4.7eV.

[f] LUMO = E_g^{opt} + HOMO (eV).



Figure S2. *J*–*V* curves for ITO/ZnO/PT-ttTPD:PC₇₁BM (1.0:1.3) (CB solvent processed with 3 vol% DIO)/MoO₃/Ag configuration with different active layer spin rate. (b) EQE spectra of the OPVs based on PT-ttTPD:PC₇₁BM (1.0:1.3) with different active layer spin rates.

Table S2. Comparison of the photovoltaic properties of the OPVs based on PT-ttTPD:PC₇₁BM (1.0:1.3) with different active layer thicknesses under an illumination of AM 1.5 G, 100 mW cm⁻².

Polymer	Spin rate	V _{OC}	$J_{ m SC}$	FF	PCE
	[rpm]	[V]	[mA/cm ²]	[%]	[%]
	1300	0.86	14.50[13.35] ^[a]	66	8.23
PT-ttTPD : PC ₇₁ BM	1400	0.85	14.67[13.48] ^[a]	67	8.30
(CB/3vol%DIO)	1500	0.86	13.66[12.59] ^[a]	68	7.93
(1.0 : 1.3 w/w ratio)	1600	0.85	13.56[12.48] ^[a]	68	7.91

^[a] Calculated from the EQE spectra.



Figure S3. *J*–*V* curves for ITO/ZnO/PT-ttTPD:PC₇₁BM (1.0:1.5) (CB solvent processed with 3 vol% DIO)/MoO₃/Ag configuration with different active layer spin rate. (b) EQE spectra of the OPVs based on PT-ttTPD:PC₇₁BM (1.0:1.5) with different active layer spin rates.

Table S3. Comparison of the photovoltaic properties of the OPVs based on PT-ttTPD:PC₇₁BM (1.0:1.5) with different active layer spin rates under an illumination of AM 1.5 G, 100 mW cm⁻².

Polymer	Spin rate	V_{OC}	$J_{ m SC}$	FF	PCE
	[rpm]	[V]	[mA/cm ²]	[%]	[%]
	1300	0.85	14.42[13.27] ^[a]	68	8.32
PT-ttTPD : PC ₇₁ BM	1400	0.86	15.30[13.65] ^[a]	70	9.21
(CB/3vol%DIO)	1500	0.85	14.64[13.40] ^[a]	69	8.54
(1.0:1.5 w/w ratio)	1600	0.86	13.84[12.73] ^[a]	69	8.22

^[a] Calculated from the EQE spectra.



Figure S4. *J*–*V* curves for ITO/ZnO/PT-ttTPD:PC₇₁BM (1.0:1.7) (CB solvent processed with 3 vol% DIO)/MoO₃/Ag configuration with different active layer spin rates. (b) EQE spectra of the OPVs based on PT-ttTPD:PC₇₁BM (1.0:1.7) with different active layer spin rates.

Table S4. Comparison of the photovoltaic properties of the OPVs based on PT-ttTPD:PC₇₁BM (1.0:1.7) with different active layer spin rates under an illumination of AM 1.5 G, 100 mW cm⁻².

Polymer	Spin rate	V_{OC}	$J_{ m SC}$	FF	PCE
	[rpm]	[V]	[mA/cm ²]	[%]	[%]
	1300	0.85	13.52[12.43] ^[a]	69	7.89
PT-ttTPD : PC ₇₁ BM	1400	0.85	13.47[12.41] ^[a]	70	7.96
(CB/3vol%DIO)	1500	0.86	13.13[12.04] ^[a]	70	7.83
(1.0:1.7 w/w ratio)	1600	0.84	13.51[12.44] ^[a]	67	7.60

^[a] Calculated from the EQE spectra.



Figure S5. *J*–*V* curves for ITO/ZnO/PBT-ttTPD:PC₇₁BM (1.0:1.5) (CB solvent processed with 3 vol% DIO)/MoO₃/Ag configuration with different active layer thicknesses.

Table S5. Comparison of the photovoltaic properties of the OPVs based on PBT-ttTPD:PC₇₁BM (1.0:1.5) with different active layer thicknesses under an illumination of AM 1.5 G, 100 mW cm⁻².

Polymer	Thickness	V _{OC}	$J_{ m SC}$	FF	PCE
	[nm]	[V]	[mA/cm ²]	[%]	[%]
	110	0.78	10.76	53	4.44
DDT #TDD . DC DM	106	0.78	10.84	54	4.57
$(CD/2m^{10}/DD)$	103	0.77	10.67	57	4.69
(CB/3V01%DIO)	95	0.77	10.67	58	4.75
(1.0:1.5 w/w ratio)	80	0.77	10.75	57	4.77
	78	0.77	10.81	58	4.84
	75	0.78	10.56	62	5.05



Figure S6. (a-b) Field-dependent hole mobilities of neat polymer and polymer: $PC_{71}BM$ blend films calculated from the hole-only devices by fitting *J*-*V* curves in the SCLC regime.

Table S6. Calculated hole mobilities of the pure polymer or polymer/ $PC_{71}BM$ (1:1.5 w/w, processed with 3 vol% DIO) system under the optimized conditions using the SCLC method.

Active layer	Solvent	Thickness	$\mu_h^{[a]}$	
		(nm)	(cm ² V ⁻¹ s ⁻¹)	
PT-ttTPD Neat State	СВ	121	3.31 x 10 ⁻³	
PT-ttTPD Blend State	CB/3vol%DIO	163	1.78 x 10 ⁻³	
DRT ttTDD Neat State	CB	128	108 x 10-4	
I DI-u II D Weat State	CD	120	4.70 X 10	
PBT-ttTPD Blend State	CB/3vol%DIO	164	3.78 x 10 ⁻⁵	

^[a]Hole-only devices with the following structure: ITO/PEDOT:PSS/polymer or polymer: $PC_{71}BM$ (1:1.5 w/w)/MoO₃/Ag.



Figure S7. ¹H NMR spectrum of 3.



Figure S8. ¹H NMR spectrum of 4.



Figure S9. ¹H NMR spectrum of 5.



Figure S10. ¹H NMR spectrum of 6.

Reference

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