Electronic Supplementary Information

A linear D-π-A based hole transport material for high performance rigid and flexible planar organic-inorganic hybrid perovskite solar cells

Haeun Kwon§a, Saripally Sudhaker Reddy§a, Veera Murugan Arivunithiª, Hyunjung Jinª, Ho-Yeol Parkª, Woosum Choª, Myungkwan Song*ª, and Sung-Ho Jin*ª

ªDepartment of Chemistry Education, Graduate Department of Chemical Materials, and Institute for Plastic Information and Energy Materials, Pusan National University, Busan, 46241, Republic of Korea
E-mail: shjin@pusan.ac.kr

ªMaterials Center for Energy Convergence, Surface Technology Division, Korea Institute of Materials Science (KIMS), 797 Changwondaero, Sungsan-Gu, Changwon, Gyeongnam 642-831, Republic of Korea
E-mail: smk1017@kims.re.kr

§These authors contributed equally to this work.
Materials and Methods:

All reagents and chemicals were used without any additional purification unless stated otherwise. Using distillation process over sodium/benzophenone under an inert atmosphere, THF was dried and purified. Each step of the reactions was monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC). $^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury Plus 300 MHz spectrometer in CDCl$_3$ using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. JASCO V–570 and Hitachi F–4500 fluorescence spectrophotometers were utilized to measure the UV–Vis absorption and as fluorescence spectra. Also, steady state photoluminescence (PL) spectra and time-resolved transient PL decays of the samples were measured. Thermal analyses were conducted on a Mettler Toledo TGA/SDTA 851e, DSC 822e analyzer under an inert atmosphere at a heating rate of 10 °C min$^{-1}$. CV studies were carried out with a CHI 600C potentiostat (CH Instruments), which was equipped with a platinum disc as the working electrode, a platinum wire as the counter electrode, and a Ag/AgCl as the reference electrode, at a scan rate of 100 mV s$^{-1}$ in a 0.1 M solution of tetrabutylammonium perchlorate (TBAP) as the supporting electrolyte in CH$_2$Cl$_2$. The density functional theory (DFT) study was performed with B3LYP functional and 6-311+G** basis sets using a suite of Gaussian 09 programs. To calculate the mobility, we used the Mott–Gurney law as follows,

$$J = \frac{9}{8} \mu \varepsilon_o \varepsilon_r \frac{V^2}{L^3}$$

where $\mu$, $\varepsilon_o$, $\varepsilon_r$, $V$, and $L$ are the hole mobility, free space permittivity, dielectric constant, applied voltage, and thickness of the HTM film, respectively. The OSC performance was measured under simulated AM 1.5G illumination with an irradiance of 100 mWcm$^{-2}$ (Oriels Sol AAA™ Class models 94043A). The irradiance of the sunlight-simulating illumination was calibrated using a standard Si photodiode detector fitted with a KG5 filter. The $J$–$V$ curves
were measured automatically using a Keithley 2400 Source Meter measurement unit. The $J-V$ curves were measured by reverse (forward bias (1.2 V) to short circuit (0 V)) or forward (short circuit (0 V) to forward bias (1.2 V)) scans. For the measurement hysteresis of $J-V$ curves, the forward and reverse scan rate was set to 200 ms/10 mV as a standard condition and was varied from 100 ms/10 mV to 1000 ms/10 mV. $J-V$ curves for all devices were measured by masking the active area with a 0.11 cm$^2$ metal mask. The stability tested PSCs and IOSCs were not encapsulated and were stored in atmosphere with humidity of 28±2.2% and at room temperature without light illumination.

**Experimental Section**

**Synthesis:**

Synthesis of $4''$-bromo-N,N-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-4-amine (1). A mixture of (4-(bis(4-methoxyphenyl)amino)phenyl)boronic acid (1 g, 2.86 mmol) and 4,4'-dibromo-1,1'-biphenyl (1.07 g, 3.44 mmol) were dissolved in 40 mL dry toluene and add 2M Na$_2$CO$_3$ solution and purge 15 min. After purging, added Pd(PPh$_3$)$_4$ (0.33 g, 0.029 mmol) and stirred under N$_2$ atmosphere at 110 °C for 24 h. After the reaction, the mixture was cooled to RT, the reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with CH$_2$Cl$_2$. The combined organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na$_2$SO$_4$ and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using hexane:EtOAc (4:1) as eluent. (yield: 52.18%). $^1$H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): δ 7.70-7.57 (m, 6H), 7.52-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.11-7.02 (m, 4H), 6.87 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 6.84 (d, 4H), 3.82 (s, 6H).

Synthesis of N,N-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-4''-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-4-amine (2). A mixture of the compound (1) (1 g,
1.86 mmol) and bis(pinacolato)diboron (0.71 g, 2.80 mmol) were dissolved in 30 mL 1,4-dioxane and added CH₃COOK (0.27 g, 2.80 mmol) and purged 15 min. Then, added Pd(dppf)Cl₂ (0.014 g, 0.019 mmol) and stirred under N₂ atmosphere at 85 °C for 3 days. After the reaction the mixture was cooled to RT, the reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with CH₂Cl₂. The combined organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using hexane: EtOAc. (yield: 49.72 %). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.90 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.65 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 6H), 7.44 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.0 (m, 6H), 6.85 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 3.80 (s, 6H), 1.36 (s, 12H).

4.1.1 Synthesis of 4-bromo-N’-(4-(hexyloxy)benzoyl)benzohydrazide (bh). A mixture of 4-(hexyloxy)benzoyl chloride (1.85 mL, 8.30 mmol) and NMP (50 mL) was stirred at 0 °C, and a solution of 4-bromobenzhydrazide (1.78 g, 8.30 mmol) in 20 mL pyridine was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at 40 °C for 4 h, after which the reaction mixture was poured into 200 mL distilled water. The precipitated product of 4-bromo-N’-(4-(hexyloxy)benzoyl)benzohydrazide was collected by filtration. (yield: 89.08%). ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 10.50 (s, 1H), 10.36 (s, 1H), 7.88-7.83 (m, 4H), 7.72 (d, J = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, J = 9 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 1.69 (d, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 1.37-1.28 (m, 6H), 0.85 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃, δ): 165.72, 165.45, 161.94, 132.03, 129.96, 129.79, 126.07, 124.81, 114.57, 68.14, 31.42, 28.97, 25.59, 22.52, 14.37.

Synthesis of 2-(4-bromophenyl)-5-(4-hexyloxy)phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole(3). A mixture of 4-bromo-N’-(4-(hexyloxy)benzoyl)benzohydrazide (1 g, 2.38 mmol) in 20 mL POCl₃ was stirred at 120 °C for 7 h. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was poured into ice water. The precipitate was collected by filtration and washed twice with de-ionized water to afford a
white powder of 2-(4-bromophenyl)-5-(4-(hexyloxy)phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole. (yield: 90.90%). $^1$H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 8.04-7.96 (m, 4H), 7.65 (d, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 7.00 (d, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 4.01 (t, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 1.80 (t, J = 6 Hz, 2H), 1.4 (m, 2H), 1.34 (m, 4H), 0.90 (m, 3H). $^{13}$C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl$_3$, $\delta$): 164.75, 163.33, 162.06, 132.34, 128.69, 128.17, 126.11, 122.97, 115.83, 114.97, 68.27, 31.54, 29.06, 25.66, 22.59, 14.04.

Synthesis of 4'''-(5-(4-(hexyloxy)phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl)-N,N-bis(4-methoxyphenyl)-[1,1':4',1''':4'',1'''-quaterphenyl]-4-amine (TPA-BP-OXD). A mixture of the compound (6) (0.35 g, 0.60 mmol) and (4) (0.3 g, 0.72 mmol) were dissolved in 40 mL dry toluene and add 2M Na$_2$CO$_3$ solution and purged for 15 min, then added Pd(PPh$_3$)$_4$ (0.007 g, 0.006 mmol) and stirred under N$_2$ atmosphere at 110 °C for 24 h. After the reaction, the mixture was cooled to RT, the reaction mixture was poured into water and extracted with CH$_2$Cl$_2$. The combined organic layer was dried with anhydrous Na$_2$SO$_4$ and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified by column chromatography using hexane: EtOAc as eluent. (yield: 55.0%). $^1$H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$): $\delta$ 8.21 (d, J= 9 Hz, 2H), 8.08 (d, J=9 Hz, 2H), 7.81 (d, J= 9 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (s, 4H), 7.71-7.64 (m, 4H), 7.48 (d, J = 9Hz, 2H), 7.09 (m, 4H), 7.03 (d, J= 9 Hz, 4H), 6.86 (d, J = 9Hz, 4H), 4.04 (t, J= 6 Hz, 2H), 3.81 (s, 6H), 1.85-1.78 (m, 2H), 1.49 (m, 2H), 1.37 (m, 4H), 0.92 (m, 3H). $^{13}$C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl$_3$, $\delta$): 164.60, 163.98, 161.97, 143.67, 140.54, 138.52, 128.68, 127.51, 127.46, 127.43, 127.30, 126.84, 116.13, 114.97, 114.69, 68.28, 55.49, 31.55, 29.09, 25.67, 22.59, 14.04. MS (FAB+): m/z (100%): calcd for C$_{52}$H$_{47}$N$_3$O$_4$, 778.3567; found, 778.3642. Anal. calcd for C$_{52}$H$_{47}$N$_3$O$_4$: C, 80.28; H, 6.09; N, 5.40; O, 8.23; found: C 80.21; H, 6.14; N, 5.38; O, 8.29.

Fabrication of flexible and rigid i-PSCs:

The TPA-BP-OXD solution (10 mg/mL CB) was spin-cast on top of the commercial PET/ITO
electrode. The films were annealed at 80 °C for 5 min in glove box. PbI$_2$ (461 mg), CH$_3$NH$_3$I (159 mg) and DMSO (78 mg, molar ratio 1:1:1) was mixed in DMF solution (600 mg) at room temperature with stirring for 1 h in order to prepare a CH$_3$NH$_3$I·PbI$_2$·DMSO adduct solution. The transparent CH$_3$NH$_3$I·PbI$_2$·DMSO adduct film was heated at 65 °C for 1 min and 100 °C for 1 min in order to obtain a dense CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_3$ film (~300 nm). The PC$_{61}$BM (20 mg/1 mL CB, ~100 nm) were spin-coated on MAPbI$_3$ layer at 1000 rpm for 40 sec. Then ZnO NPs solution was spin-coated onto PC$_{61}$BM layer at 3000 rpm for 20 sec. Finally, a ~120-nm-thick Ag electrode was deposited by thermal evaporation. The similar conditions were carried out for rigid based i-PSCs. The HTM was spin-coated on rigid ITO substrate. Other layers were deposited according to the above mentioned flexible i-PSCs. The optimized thickness of the HTM for flexible i-PSCs is about 40 nm. The obtained results are summarized in the below Table S1.

Table S1. The photovoltaic performance of flexible i-PSCs based on dopant-free HTM with optimized thickness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thickness</th>
<th>$J_{sc}$ (mA/cm$^2$)</th>
<th>$V_{OC}$ (V)</th>
<th>FF (%)</th>
<th>PCE$_{max}$ (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>30 nm</td>
<td>19.76</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>60.09</td>
<td>12.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>40 nm</td>
<td>18.81</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>67.14</td>
<td>12.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 nm</td>
<td>18.71</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>67.15</td>
<td>12.85</td>
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Fig. S1. Synthetic route of intermediate 3.
Fig. S2 Temperature dependent UV-vis absorption spectra of TPA-BP-OXD in chlorobenzene solution.
Fig. S3 UV-vis absorption spectra of TPA-BP-OXD in chlorobenzene solution with different concentrations.
Fig. S4. Normalized PL spectra of TPA-BP-OXD.
**Fig. S5** Optimized molecular geometry of TPA-BP-OXD.
Fig. S6. (a) Device architecture of a hole-only devices and (b) corresponding $J-V$ plots of the hole-only devices based on TPA-BP-OXD.
**Fig. S7.** (a) Steady state PL spectra and (b) time-resolved transient PL decays of MAPbI$_3$-based perovskite film, PEDOT:PSS/MAPbI$_3$ and TPA-BP-OXD/MAPbI$_3$. 
Fig. S8. AFM topography images (10 μm × 10 μm) of HTMs, and corresponding HTMs with perovskite.
Fig. S9. (a) Recombination resistance ($R_{\text{rec}}$). (b) Hole conductivity ($\sigma_{\text{HTM}}$) of the HTMs extracted from the EIS measurements under dark state.
**Fig. S10** $^1$H NMR spectrum of 1 (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$).
Fig. S11 $^1$H NMR spectrum of 2 (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$).
Fig. S12 $^1$H NMR spectrum of bh (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$).
Fig. S13 $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of bh (75 MHz, CDCl$_3$).
Fig. S14 $^1$H NMR spectrum of 3 (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$).
Fig. S15 $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of 3 (75 MHz, CDCl$_3$).
Fig. S16 $^1$H NMR spectrum of TPA-BP-OXD (300 MHz, CDCl$_3$).
Fig. S17 $^{13}$C NMR spectrum of TPA-BP-OXD (75 MHz, CDCl$_3$).
**Fig. S18** HRMS (FAB+) spectrum of TPA-BP-OXD.