Supporting Information for

Self-Contained Photoacid Generator for Super Acid Based on Photochromic Terarylene

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1.1 Experiments

1.1.1 General

Compounds were synthesized according to the reaction procedures as showed in Scheme S1. Their chemical structures were confirmed by ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (75 MHz) spectroscopy on JEOL JNM-ECP400 and JNMAL300 spectrometers, respectively. High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) analyses were performed on a JEOL JMS-700 mass spectrometer. Separative HPLC was performed on a JASCO LC-2000 Plus Series. Absorption spectra in solution were studied with a JASCO V-670 spectrophotometer. Quantum yields were measured with QYM-01 photoreaction quantum yield evaluation system ($\lambda = 313 \text{ nm}$).¹

1.1.2 Synthesis



Scheme S1. Synthetic scheme of PAGQ-CF₃

Compounds 4, 5, 6 and 7 were synthesized as described in the literature. [2,3,4]

Synthesis of 7-methoxyquinoline (1)



100 mL 3-neck flask was charged with sodium m-nitrobenzenesulfonate (3.9g, 17.3 mmol) and methanesulfonic acid (10 mL) stirred at room temperature. Then $FeSO_4$ ·H₂O (0.2 g, 0.8 mmol) and 3-methoxyaniline (3.09 mL, 27.5 mmol) were added to the mixture. The mixture was heated to 118-125 °C. After that glycerol (6.3 g, 68.8 mmol) was added to the mixture. Then the mixture was heated up to 135 °C and keep at this temperature for 16 h (monitored by TLC analysis). After the reaction the mixture cool to room temperature and 10 M NaOH solution was added to mixture to dilute the viscous mixture. Then the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 7:3) to get compound 1 (4.2 g, 48 %) as yellow oil.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, TMS, CDCl₃) δ : 3.96 (s, 3H), 7.19-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.43(sd, 1H), 7.68-7.71 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 8.06-8.09 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 8.83-8.85 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz). ESI-HRMS: calcd for C₁₀H₁₀NO⁺ [M+H]⁺ 160.07624; found 160.07621.

Synthesis of 8-bromo-7-methoxyquinoline (2)



100mL 3-neck flask was charged with compound **1** (4.2 g, 26.4 mmol), and NBS (5.7 g, 31.68 mmol). Dichloromethane (60 mL) was added to the mixture and the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for a while under argon gas atmosphere. Then the mixture was stirred at room temperature for overnight (monitored by TLC analysis). After the reaction, Na₂S₂O₃ aq. was added to the mixture and extracted with dichloromethane. Then the organic layer was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) to get compound **2** (5.9 g, 93.1 %) as colorless solid. ¹H-NMR (300 MHz, TMS, CDCl₃) δ : 4.09 (s, 3H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.81-7.84 (d, 1H, *J* = 9 Hz), 8.12-8.15 (d, 1H, *J* = 9 Hz), 9.03-9.04 (d, 1H, *J* = 3 Hz). EI-HRMS: calcd for C₁₀H₈BrNO⁺ [M]⁺ 236.97893; found 236.97833.

Synthesis of 8-(benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-7-methoxyquinoline (8)



500 mL 3-neck flask was charged with benzo[*b*]thiophene boronic acid (1.64 g, 9.21 mmol), compound **2** (1.46 g, 6.15 mmol), Na₂CO₃ (0.98 g, 9.24 mmol), water (75 mL) and dimethoxyethene (150 mL). After degased for 30 min Pd(PPh₃)₄ was added to the mixture and then the mixture was heated up to 75-85 °C and keep at this temperature for 24 h (monitored by TLC analysis). After the reaction the mixture was cooled to room temperature and water was added to mixture. Then the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 3:1) to get compound **8** (1.61 g, 90 %) as brown solid.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, TMS, CDCl₃) δ : 3.85 (s, 3H), 7.23-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.48(s, 1H), 7.50-7.51 (d, 1H, J = 3 Hz), 7.91-7.94 (d, 2H, J = 9 Hz), 8.14-8.18 (d, 1H, J = 12 Hz), 8.80-8.82 (d, 1H, J = 6 Hz).

EI-HRMS: calcd for C₁₈H₁₃NOS⁺ [M]⁺ 291.0718; found 291.0705.

Synthesis of 8-(2-bromobenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)-7-methoxyquinoline (9)



100 mL 2-neck flask was charged with compound **8** (1.45 g, 4.97 mmol), NBS (2.3 g, 12.92 mmol) and 30 mL THF. The mixture was stirred at 0 °C a while and then attired at room temperature for overnight (monitored by TLC analysis) under argon gas atmosphere. After the reaction, water was added to mixture. Then the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1) to get compound **9** (1.3 g, 71 %) as brown solid.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, TMS, CDCl₃) δ : 3.89 (s, 3H), 7.05-7.08 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 7.15-7.21 (t, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 7.26-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.49-7.52 (d, 2H, J = 9 Hz), 7.77-7.80 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 7.96-7.99 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 8.16-8.19 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 8.80-8.82 (d, 1H, J = 6 Hz). ESI-HRMS: calcd for C₁₈H₁₃BrNOS⁺ [M+H]⁺ 369.99012; found 369.99044. Synthesis of 4-(3-(7-methoxyquinolin-8-yl)benzo[*b*]thiophen-2-yl)-2-phenylthiazole (PAGQ-OMe)



300 mL 3-neck flask was charged with 8-(2-bromobenzo[*b*]thiophen-3-yl)-7-methoxyquinoline (1.3 g, 3.5 mmol), compound 7, 2-phenyl-4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2dioxaborolan-2-yl)thiazole (1.878 g, 6.54 mmol), PPh₃ (0.468 g, 1.79 mmol), K₃PO₄ aq. (2 M, 30 mL), and 1,4-dioxane (80 mL). The mixture was degassed by using argon gas for 30 min. Then Pd(PPh₃)₄ was added to the mixture and the heated up to 110 °C for 24 h. After the reaction the mixture was cool to room temperature. Then some water was added to the mixture and the mixture was extracted with AcOEt. The organic layer was dried with anhydrous MgSO₄. After the solvent was evaporated, the crude product was purified with silica-gel column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1) to afford compound **PAGQ-OMe** (0.66 g, 42 %) as light yellow solid.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, TMS, CDCl₃) δ : 3.76 (s, 3H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 7.04-7.07 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 7.16-7.22 (t, 1H, J = 18 Hz), 7.22-7.34 (m, 4H), 7.39-7.42 (m, 3H), 7.51-7.54 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 7.88-7.93 (m, 1H), 8.00-8.03 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 8.18-8.21 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 8.75-8.77 (d, 1H, J = 6 Hz).

¹³C-NMR (300 MHz, TMS, CDCl₃) δ: 166.42, 158.45, 151.81, 150.78, 148.42, 141.75, 139.27, 136.11, 135.37, 133.56, 130.16, 129.94, 129.00, 127.70, 126.78, 124.61, 124.17, 124.00, 123.38, 122.52, 120.40, 119.45, 114.70, 113.50, 56.81.

ESI-HRMS: calcd for $C_{27}H_{18}N_2OS_2^+$ [M+H]⁺ 451.09388; found 451.09339.

Synthesis of 8-(2-(2-phenylthiazol-4-yl)benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)quinolin-7-ol (PAGQ-OH)



20 mL 2-neck flask was charged with compound PAGQ-OMe(150 mg, 0.33 mmol) and CH_2Cl_2 (8 mL) under argon gas atmosphere. After the flask was covered with aluminium

foil, BBr₃ (1.7 mL, 1.65 mmol) was added to the mixture dropwise. Then the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 days (monitored by TLC analysis). Then brine was added to the mixture and extracted with CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layer was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate. After the solvent was removed, the crude product **PAGQ-OH** was used directly without any purification.

Synthesis of 8-(2-(2-phenylthiazol-4-yl)benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)quinolin-7-yl trifluoromethanesulfonate (PAGQ-CF₃)



20 mL 2-neck flask was charged with crude compound PAGQ-OH, and CH_2Cl_2 (10 mL) under argon gas atmosphere. Then the mixture was cooled to 0 °C, and NEt₃ (0.5 mL), trifluoro-methanesulfonyl chloride (0.26 mL, 1.0 mmol) were added to the solution in sequence. Then the mixture was stirred at 0 °C for 3 h. After the reaction, the mixture was extracted with brine and CH_2Cl_2 and the organic layer was dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate. After the solvent removed, the crude product was purified by silica gel chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 4:1). The final compound was further purified by reverse phase HPLC by using acetonitrile as eluent to afford compound PAGQ-CF₃ (50 mg, 34 %) as light yellow solid.

¹H-NMR (300 MHz, TMS, CDCl₃) δ : 6.22 (s, 1H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 7.04-7.07 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 7.20-7.23 (t, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 7.35-7.38 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 7.42-7.47 (m, 4H), 7. 91-7.96 (m, 4H), 8.17-8.20 (d, 1H, J = 9 Hz), 8.73-8.75 (d, 1H, J = 6 Hz).

¹³C-NMR (300 MHz, TMS, CDCl₃) δ: 167.51, 155.29, 151.37, 149.45, 148.53, 141.08, 139.65, 136.28, 133.17, 130.61, 130.14, 129.15, 126.83, 125.42, 124.78, 124.10, 123.80, 122.62, 119.41, 119.32, 116.89, 115.31.

ESI-HRMS: calcd for C₂₇H₁₈N₂OS₂Na⁺ [M+Na]⁺ 591.00946; found 591.00920.

1.1.3 Photolithography study of SU-8

The photolithography was performed on the glass slide. To increase the adhesion strength, the slide was previously washed with ethanol/acetone solution (v/v = 1:1, filtered 10 times with syringe filter HP020AN which bore diameter is 0.20 µm).

Diethyl glycol diethyl ether (DGDE) was used as solvent which can dissolve the PAG very well. The concentration of SU-8 in the solvent is 25 wt % and the PAG is 10 wt % relative to the SU-8. SU-8 films were prepared by spin-coating of the mixture of SU-8 and PAG on glass slides (600rpm/s for 20s) by using a spin coater. The spin-coated film on the glass slide was soft baked on a hotplate at 65 °C for 3 min followed by second bake at 90 °C for 7 min to remove the excess solvent. Then the film was exposed to the UV light (λ =365 nm, 22mW cm⁻²) with a photomask for 20 min and post-baked at 65 °C for 3 min and 90 °C for 2 min. After slowly cooling to the room temperature, the SU-8 sample was developed in SU-8 developer for 1 min and rinsed with isopropanol, and dried with blowing nitrogen. The image was detected with SEM.

1.1.4 Photoinduced Cationic Polymerization of propylene oxide

The sample tube was charged with propylene oxide monomer and photoacid generator **PAGQ-CF₃** (0.2 mol%) sealed with rubber septum, and then degassed with argon gas prior to irradiation. After the deaerated sample was irradiated upon UV light for a given time, the mixture was diluted with CHCl₃ and characterized with MALDI-MS. A series of mass peaks with the interval in m/z of 58 clearly demonstrated the successful progress of photoinduced cationic polymerization of propylene oxide by the newly developed **PAGQ-CF₃**.



Figure S1. ¹H and ¹³C-NMR of compound **PAGQ-OMe** in CDCl₃.



1.2 Trial to introduce trifluoromethanesulfonyl acid



Scheme S2. Dimeric structure was prepared from the identical procedure according to **PAGQ-CF₃**. This dimeric structure was confirmed by mass spectrum and X-ray analysis.²



ESI-HRMS: calcd for C₅₄H₃₂N₂O₂S₆ 932.07880; found 932.07889.

Figure S3. ORTEP drawing of the dimeric compound, showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids. Gray: carbon, yellow: sulfur, blue: nitrogen.

Table S1. Crystanographic parameters and refinement details for dimeric structure.					
formula	$C_{54}H_{32}N_2O_2S_6$	V(Å ³)	5178.32(19)		
formula weight	933.22	Ζ	4		
crystal system	Monoclinic	ρ (gcm ³)	1.503		
space group	$P2_{1}/c$ (#14)	T (K)	123		
a (Å)	13.2024(3)	refl. measured	70934		
b (Å)	13.1341(3)	refl. unique	9471		
c (Å)	29.9533(19)	$R_{I}(I \geq 2\sigma(I))$	0.0906		
α (deg)		w R_2 (all data)	0.2542		
β (deg)	64.445(7)				
γ (deg)		CCDC No.	CCDC 1528071		

Table S1. Crystallographic parameters and refinement details for dimeric structure

1.3 Photoreaction of PAGQ-OMe



Figure S4. Absorption spectral change of **PAGQ-OMe** upon UV (313 nm) irradiation in hexane ($c = 5.1 \times 10^{-5}$ M, left. Inset: keep in dark for 30 min after 30 s irradiation) and in methanol ($c = 4.9 \times 10^{-5}$ M, right).

1.4 Photoreaction of PAGQ-CF₃



Figure S5. UV-Vis absorption spectral change of **PAGQ-CF**₃ in hexane (c = 1.98×10^{-5} M, left), CHCl₃ (c = 2.56×10^{-5} M, middle) and in methanol (c = 2.20×10^{-5} M, right) upon UV irradiation (λ = 313 nm).



Figure S6. Acid elimination reaction detected by pH paper. (Left: pH paper wetted by **PAGQ-CF**₃ acetonitrile solution without UV irradiation; Right: color change of pH paper after UV irradiation.)

1.5 Acid Releasing Process of PAGQ-CF₃(CF) After UV Irradiation



Figure S7. Absorption spectral changes of **PAGQ-CF**₃ after one minute UV irradiation ($\lambda = 313$ nm) in toluene (c = 1.91 × 10⁻⁵ M, left) and in CHCl₃ (c = 2.21 × 10⁻⁵ M, right).

1.6 Photoreaction of PAGQ-CF₃ at High Temperature



Figure S8. UV-Vis absorption spectral change of **PAGQ-CF₃** in DMSO (c = 2.04×10^{-5} M) upon UV irradiation (λ = 313 nm) at 60 °C (left) and 90 °C (right);



Figure S9. UV-Vis absorption spectral change of **PAGQ-CF₃** in toluene (c = 2.45×10^{-5} M) upon UV irradiation (λ = 313 nm) at 60 °C (left) and 90 °C (right);

1.7 Absorption Spectral Change of 1c



Figure S10. UV-Vis absorption spectral change of 1c in toluene.

1.8 Degradation Process of PAGQ-CF₃(CF).



Figure S11. Absorption degradation tendency of PAGQ-CF₃(CF) at 564 nm after one minute UV irradiation ($\lambda = 313$ nm) in toluene.



Figure S12. Decay line of peak absorbance (564 nm) by acid releasing process from PAGQ- $CF_3(CF)$ in toluene.

1.9 X-ray Crystallography Analysis of 1c.



Figure S13. ORTEP drawing of **1c**, showing 50% probability displacement ellipsoids. Gray: carbon, yellow: sulfur, blue: nitrogen.

Table S2. Crystallographic parameters and refinement details for 1c.					
formula	$C_{26}H_{14}N_2S_2$	V(Å ³)	1847.65(7)		
formula weight	418.53	Z	4		
crystal system	Monoclinic	ρ (gcm ³)	1.504		
space group	P2 ₁ /c (#14)	T (K)	123		
a (Å)	11.6887(2)	refl. measured	25095		
b (Å)	16.7383(3)	refl. unique	3381		
c (Å)	9.49897(18)	$R_1(I \ge 2\sigma(I))$	0.0334		
a (deg)		w R_2 (all data)	0.0851		
β (deg)	96.182(7)				
γ (deg)		CCDC No.	CCDC 1523529		

2.0 DFT Calculation



Figure S14. Optimized structures of **PAGQ-CF₃**, **PAGQ-CF₃**(**CF**) and **1c** by DFT method with ∞ B97XD/6-31G(d) functional and (dashed line is non-covalent interactions).

2.1 Quantum Yields and Photophysical Properties of PAGQ-OMe, PAGQ-CF3 and 1c

Table S3. Photophysical properties of PAGQ-OMe, PAGQ-CF ₃ and 1c.				
Compd.	λ_{Abs} / nm ($\epsilon \times 10^{-4}$ / M ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹)	Φ^d		
PAGQ-OMe	310 (5.28), ^{<i>a</i>} 309 (5.64), ^{<i>b</i>} 307 (5.96) ^{<i>c</i>}	$0.61,^a 0.52,^b 0.47^c$		
PAGQ-CF ₃	311 (6.86), ^{<i>a</i>} 310 (7.00) ^{<i>b</i>} , 309 (7.10) ^{<i>c</i>}	$0.47,^a 0.41,^b 0.36^c$		
1c	294 (5.52), ^{<i>a</i>} 310 (5.62), ^{<i>a</i>} 322 (6.06), ^{<i>a</i>} 361 (2.59), ^{<i>a</i>} 402 (0.48), ^{<i>a</i>} 293 (6.18), ^{<i>b</i>} 308 (6.19), ^{<i>b</i>} 321 (6.68), ^{<i>b</i>} 360 (2.98), ^{<i>b</i>} 402 (0.54), ^{<i>b</i>}	_		

[a] Measured in toluene; [b] in chloroform; [c] in methanol;

[d] Apparent quantum yield for ring-cyclization reaction of **PAGQ-OMe** and for the photoacid generation of **PAGQ-CF**₃.

2.2 ¹H-NMR Study of PAGQ-CF₃ with UV Irradiation



Figure S15. ¹H-NMR spectral change of **PAGQ-CF**₃ with UV irradiation in DMSO-d₆. (For these ¹H-NMR measurements, the acid could be released from the **PAGQ-CF**₃(**CF**) immediately in DMSO at r.t., thus **PAGQ-CF**₃(**CF**) could not be detected by ¹H-NMR.)



Figure. S17. SEM image (a) of a photopattern fabricated by a chemically amplified photoresist system containing **PAGQ-CF₃** and SU-8 (b).

2.5 Reference:

[1] T. Sumi, Y. Takagi, A. Yagi, M. Morimoto and M. Irie, *Chem. Commun.*, 2014, **50**, 3928-3930.

[2] R. Li, T. Nakashima, R. Kanazawa, O. Galangau and T. Kawai, *Chem. Eur. J.*, 2016, **22**, 16250-16257.

[3] T. Nakashima, K. Tsuchie, R. Kanazawa, R. Li, S. Iijima, O. Galangau, H. Nakagawa, K. Mutoh, Y. Kobayashi, J. Abe and T. Kawai, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2015, **137**, 7023-7026.