

## Supporting information

### Formation of Supramolecular Chiral Gels from *L*-aspartic Acid-based Perylene Bisimides and Benzene Dicarboxylic Acids

Yizhi Liu, <sup>a</sup> Xinpei Gao, <sup>a</sup> Mingwei Zhao, <sup>b</sup> Fei Lu, <sup>a</sup> Liqiang Zheng <sup>\*a</sup>

*a* Key laboratory of Colloid and Interface Chemistry, Shandong University, Ministry of Education, Jinan, 250100, P. R. China

*b* School of Petroleum Engineering, State Key Laboratory of Heavy Oil Processing, China University of Petroleum (East China), Qingdao, Shandong 266580, PR China.

Table S1. Summary of the pK<sub>a</sub> values of different carboxylic acids, and the pH values and gel formation ability when mixed with APBI in water.

	pK <sub>a1</sub>	pK <sub>a2</sub>	pH	Gel formation
muriatic acid (HCl)	-8.00 <sup>a</sup>	-	5.24	No
Acetic Acid	4.76 <sup>a</sup>	-	5.61	No
Phthalic Acid (OPA)	2.98 <sup>a</sup>	5.28 <sup>a</sup>	5.70	Yes
Isophthalic Acid (IPA)	3.46 <sup>a</sup>	4.46 <sup>a</sup>	5.84	Yes
Terephthalic Acid (TPA)	3.51 <sup>a</sup>	4.82 <sup>a</sup>	5.90	No
Maleic acid (MA)	1.92 <sup>a</sup>	6.23 <sup>a</sup>	5.95	No

a. W. P. Jencks and J. Regenstein (1976) Ionization constants of acids and bases. In

*Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*. (Fasman, G.D., ed.), pp. 305-351.

Table S2. Gelation test of APBI-4K<sup>+</sup> : IPA = 1 : 2 and APBI -4K<sup>+</sup> : OPA = 1 : 2.

Benzenetricarboxylic acid	Critical concentration (wt %)	gelation (wt %)	Wt % of (g per 100 mL)	Critical gelation temperature ( C)
APBI/IPA	0.55		0.55	46
			1.11	55
			2.22	61
APBI/OPA	0.88		1.11	45
			2.22	47

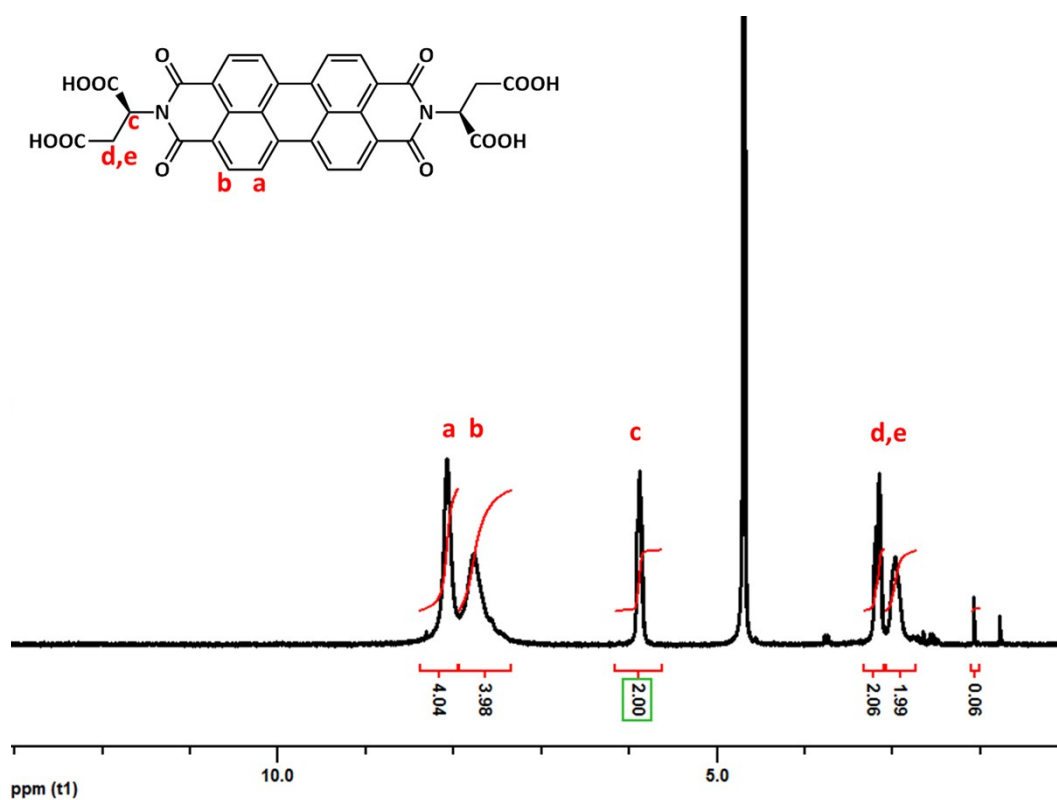


Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR data (D<sub>2</sub>O) for APBI.

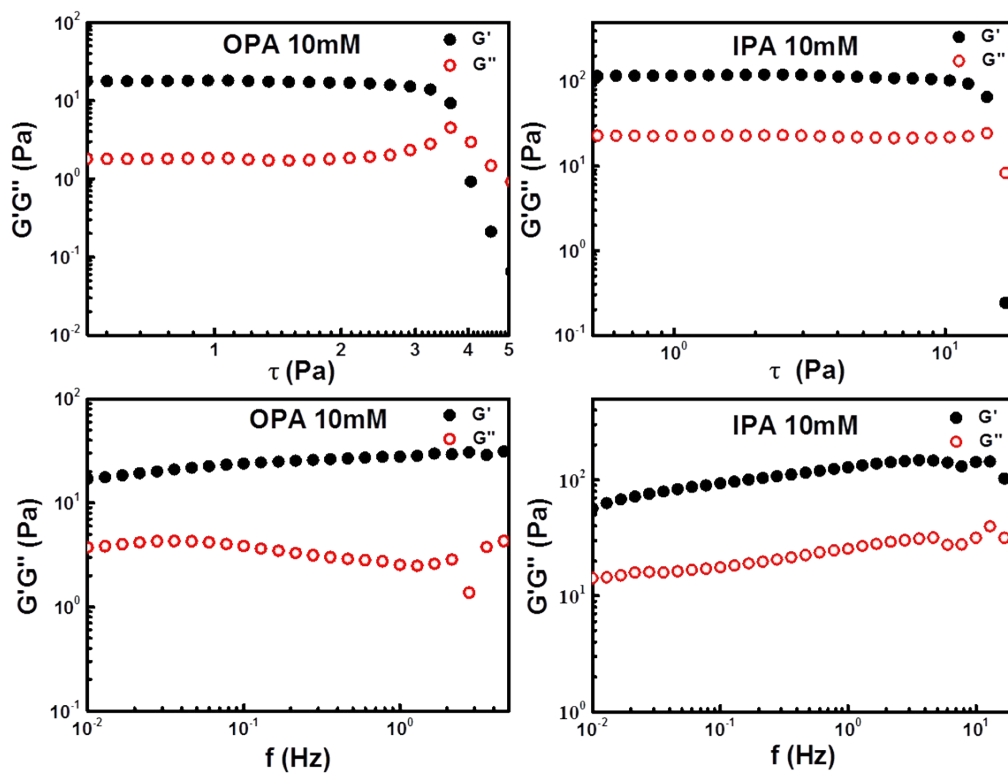


Figure S2. Oscillatory amplitude sweep and frequency sweep experiments of APBI-4K<sup>+</sup> : OPA = 1 : 2 hydrogel or APBI-4K<sup>+</sup> : IPA = 1 : 2 hydrogel.

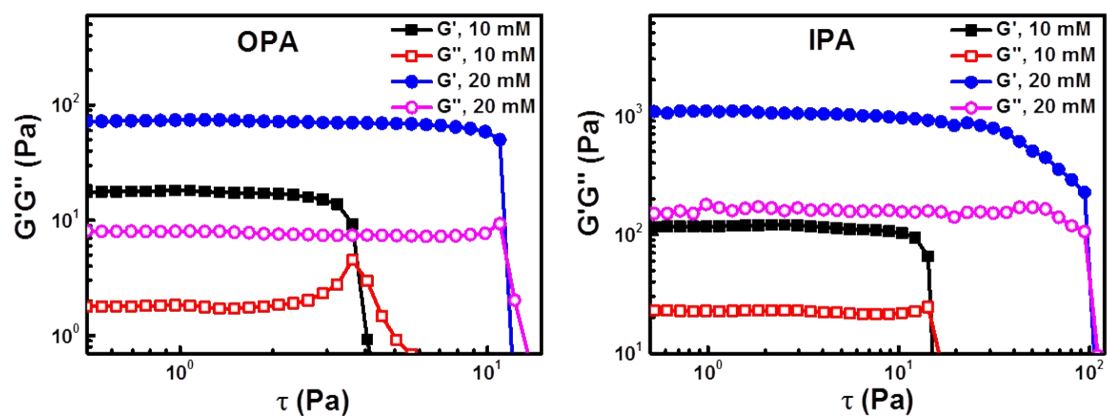


Figure S3. Oscillatory amplitude sweep experiments of APBI-4K<sup>+</sup> : OPA = 1 : 2 hydrogel or APBI-4K<sup>+</sup> : IPA = 1 : 2 at different concentrations.

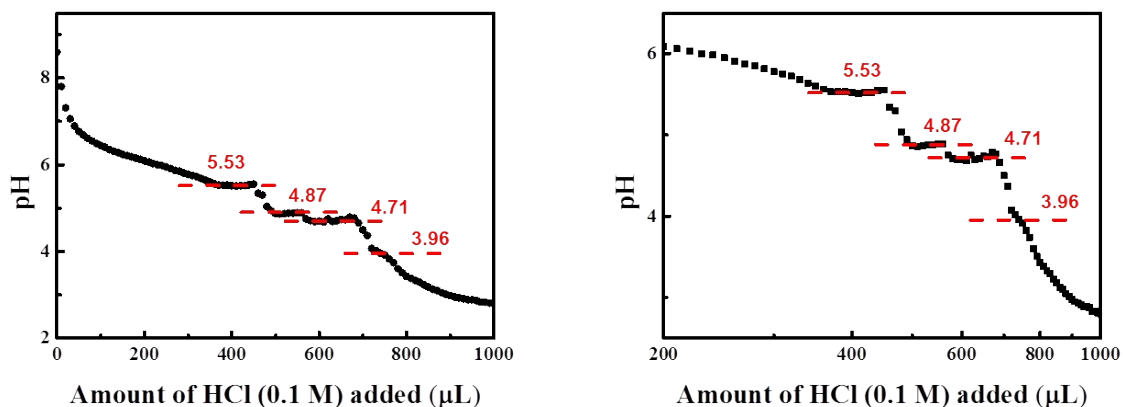


Fig. S4 Change in pH upon the addition of 0.1 M HCl in a solution of APBI-4K<sup>+</sup> (a) on a linear scale and (b) on a log time scale.

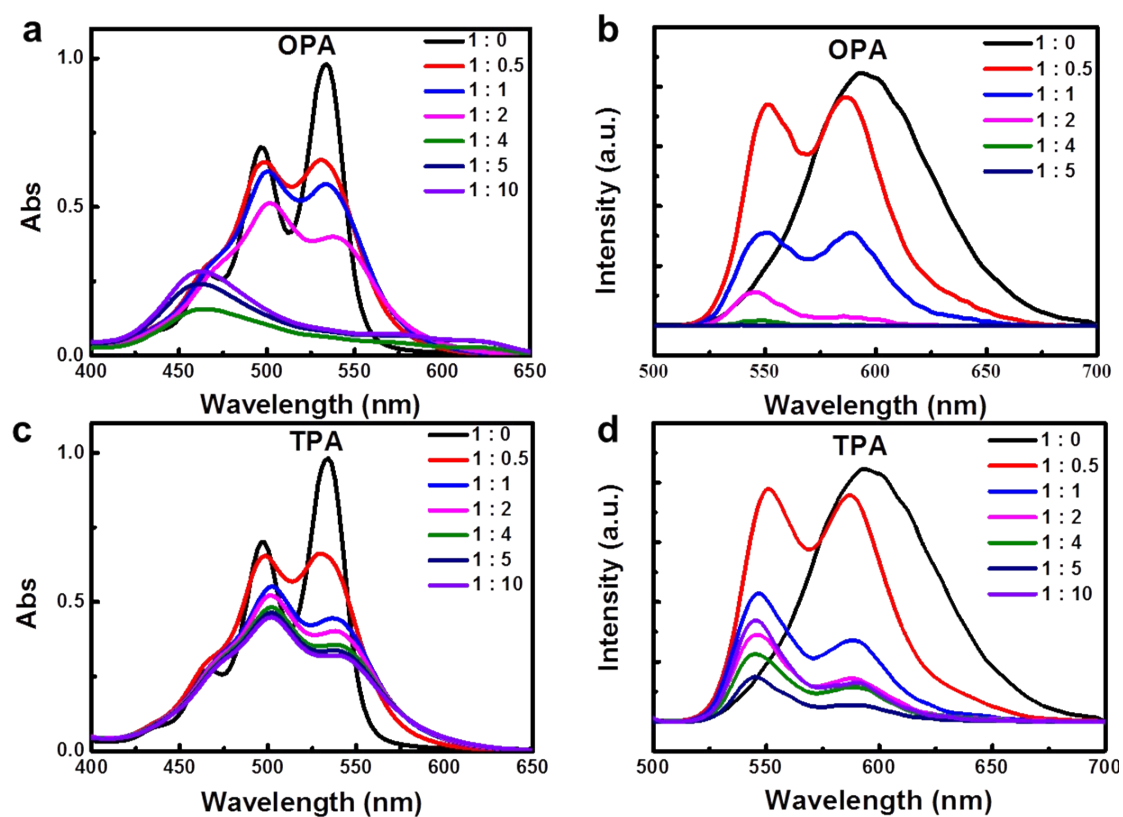


Figure S5. Absorption spectra of APBI-4K<sup>+</sup> in the presence of OPA a) or TPA c) with different molar ratios APBI-4K<sup>+</sup>/OPA, APBI-4K<sup>+</sup>/TPA. Fluorescence spectra of APBI-4K<sup>+</sup> in the presence of OPA b) or TPA d) with different molar ratios APBI-4K<sup>+</sup>/OPA, APBI/TPA.

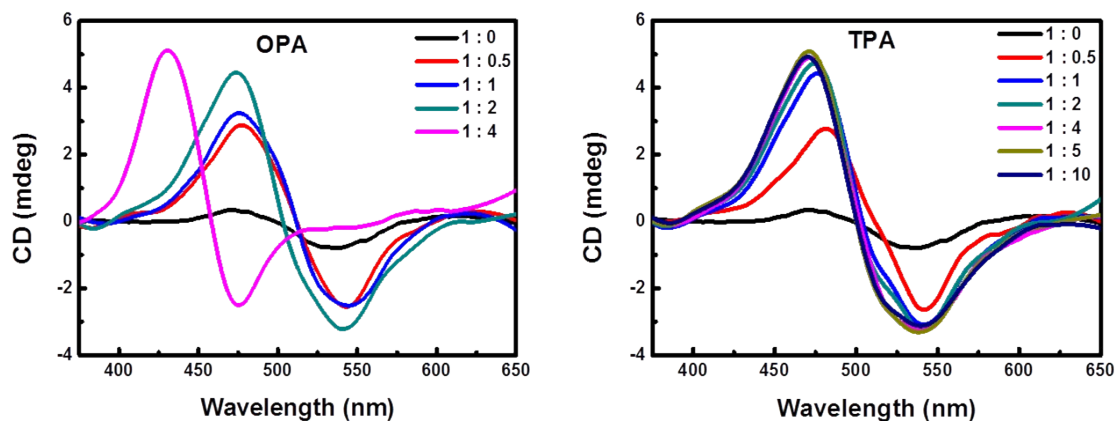


Figure S6. CD spectra of APBI-4K<sup>+</sup> in the presence of OPA a) or TPA b) with different molar ratios APBI-4K<sup>+</sup>/OPA, APBI-4K<sup>+</sup>/TPA.

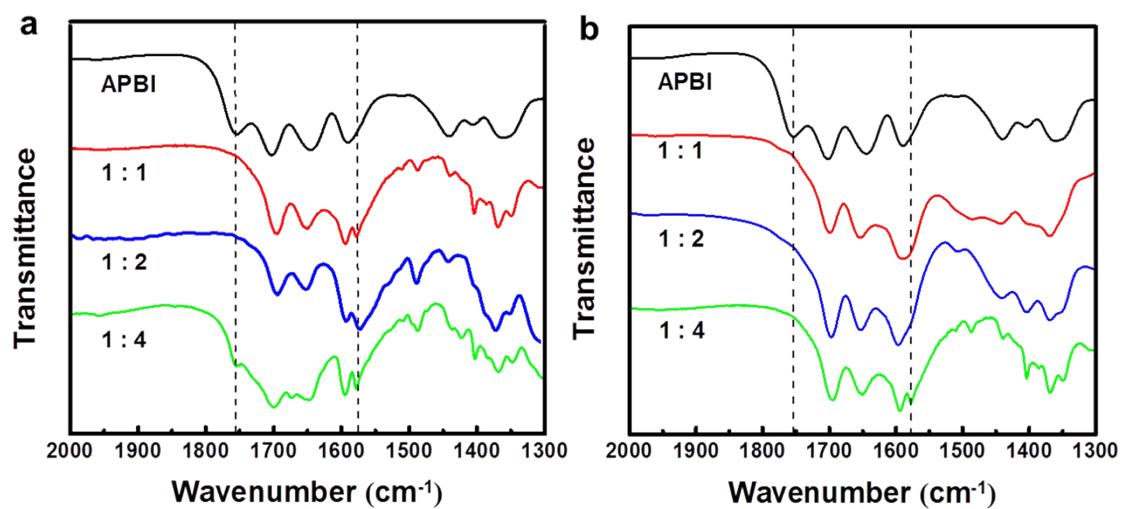


Figure S7. FT-IR spectra of APBI and a) APBI-4K<sup>+</sup>/OPA, b) APBI-4K<sup>+</sup>/TPA with different molar ratios.

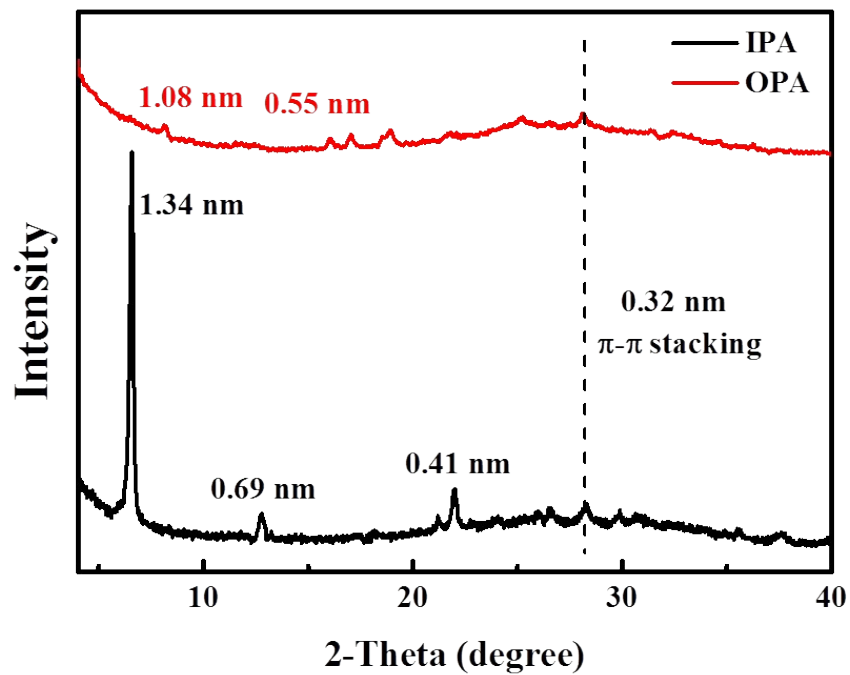


Fig. S8 The XRD pattern of the freeze-dried gels of APBI-4K<sup>+</sup>/IPA and APBI-4K<sup>+</sup>/OPA.

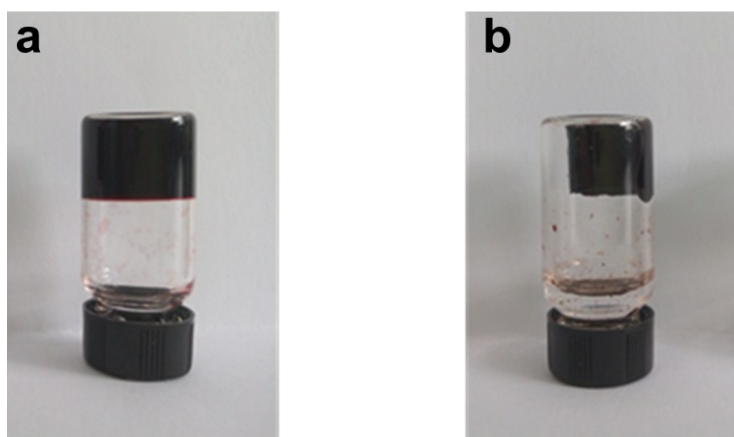


Fig. S9 The gels formed with APBI and different concentrations of GdL (a 5 mg/mL; b 10 mg/mL).