On the Growth, Structure and Dynamics of P3EHT Crystals

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Section S.1

Multi-spin analysis of the ¹H-¹H DQ sideband pattern

Since the ¹H-¹H DQ sideband pattern in **Figure 3d** exhibits significant ¹H-¹H multi-spin characteristics as inferred from the signals at even orders of the rotor frequency, the ideal two-spin analysis is no longer sufficient, i.e. the aromatic ¹H-¹H intermolecular distance is likely longer than the 3.5 Å obtained from the optimized fit in **Figure 3d**. Zorin *et al.* has suggested to use the effective dipolar coupling as a better measure in coupled ¹H-¹H networks¹. The effective dipolar coupling evaluated for spin *j* is defined as

$$b_{rss,j} = \sqrt{\sum_{k \neq j} b_{jk}^2}$$
 * MERGEFORMAT (0.1)

with b_{jk} denoting the dipolar coupling between spin *j* and spin *k*. There is no angular dependency. The effective distance can be calculated utilizing the fact that the dipolar coupling is proportional to one over the distance cubed, r^{-3} . Based on the crystallographically refined structures, the unit cell was converted into a suitable input file ("Cell file") for MagresView² using Jmol. The two different tilt angles (θ_1 and θ_2) of the thiophene backbones relative to each other gives four unique thiophene protons within the unit cell. The effective ¹H-¹H dipolar couplings and effective distances were calculated within a sphere of radius 20 Å for each of the four thiophene protons. The convergence of the effective ¹H-¹H dipolar coupling was checked by systematically increasing the sphere radius. **Table S1** summarizes the results for the refined structures (see **Figure 2**) with an arbitrary index for the four thiophene protons.

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	Refined	$\Delta heta$ *	H1	H2	Н3	H4	Average
	Structure	(deg)	Effective	Effective	Effective	Effective	Effective
			Distance	Distance	Distance	Distance	Distance
			(Å)	(Å)	(Å)	(Å)	(Å)
	C0	31.4	4.07	4.21	3.71	3.77	3.91
	C1	27.4	3.97	4.21	3.73	3.85	3.93
	C2	28.1	3.83	3.75	4.23	4.03	3.94
	C3	-17.7	3.94	4.01	4.013	4.27	4.08
	C4	18.1	3.91	4.00	4.10	4.26	4.06

 Table S1. Effective distances for the thiophene-thiophene protons from the ¹H effective dipolar coupling

C4/2	-24.9	4.29	4.26	3.85	3.84	4.04
C5	29.3	4.20	3.94	3.79	3.68	3.88
C5/2	26.2	4.28	4.22	3.85	3.83	4.02
C7	15.2	4.05	4.09	4.24	4.31	4.17
C8	14.6	4.32	4.25	4.06	4.03	4.16

From **Table S1** it is evident that none of the refined structures includes an average effective distance corresponding to the distance determined from the ¹H-¹H DQ sideband pattern in **Figure 3d**. The lowest effective distance is 3.68 Å for H4 in C5 with an average effective distance of 3.88 Å. As stated in section 3.2, the combination of a small high-field shift with strong ¹H-¹H DQ auto-correlations strongly indicates a tilted thiophene main chain arrangement. It is therefore conducive to correlate the calculated effective distances for all refined structures with their difference in tilt angles $\Delta \theta = \theta_1 - \theta_2$ between successive pairs of thiophene main chains (see **Figure 1b**).

Another important conclusion, that focuses on the relation between the effective thiophene-thiophene proton distances and the difference in tilt angle $\Delta \theta$ between pairs of successive thiophene main chains $(\theta_1 - \theta_2)$, obtained from the crystallographic refinement (see Figure 1b). This analysis shows that none of the structures from the crystallographic refinement produces an effective thiophene-thiophene proton distance that is short enough; the closest thiophene-thiophene distance is observed for C5 (3.88 Å) followed by C0 (3.91 Å). Correlating $\Delta\theta$ and the effective distance for all structures yields $\Delta\theta \sim 54^\circ$ required for the short distance of 3.5 Å determined in Figure 3d. This angle is clearly not in agreement with the GIXD experiments above and may be considered as the upper limit for $\Delta \theta$, i.e., the thiophene-thiophene distance (dipole-dipole coupling) is underestimated (overestimated) due to multi-spin effects. Thus, the effective thiophenethiophene distance measured from Figure 3d (in the main manuscript) is on this basis estimated to be 4.0±0.3 Å (cf. Figure 31 in Ref. 6). The analysis further indicates that difference in tilt angles $\Delta \theta$ between successive pairs of thiophene main chains is at least 15° and up to 50°, in agreement with the small high-field shift of ~0.3 ppm for the thiophene protons (Figure 3) and the results from GIXD (see Figure 1b). The relatively small high-field shift is consistent with the protons being subject to ring-current effects from only one aromatic system: close proximity to two such systems would induce a larger shift, while the large π - π distance obtained from GIXD would suggest a smaller high-field shift in parallel backbones.



Figure S1: Correlation of $|\Delta \theta|$ for the refined structures and calculated effective distance between the thiophene protons.

Based on the correlation in **Figure S1** (neglecting the influence of the sliding distance δ), a $\Delta\theta$ of ~54° (marked by the full red circle in Figure S1) represents the difference in tilt angle that is necessary to produce a P3EHT structure with the effective distances observed in the ¹H-¹H DQ sideband pattern. This angle is beyond those that obtained from GIXD and is unrealistic, considering the effective volume required by the bulky 2-ethylhexyl side chains. Thus, the determined distance from NMR is clearly underestimated and influenced by ¹H-¹H multi-spin effects, which most likely comes from the modulated proton density of the side chains. This leads to varying ¹H-¹H internuclear distances between the thiophene protons and those of the 2-ethylhexyl sidechains; however, due to the amorphous nature of these regions, no exact structure is available, prohibiting the exact modeling and quantification of the multi-spin effects. Thus, the ¹H-¹H dipole-dipole couplings among sidechains themselves and those to the thiophene protons causes a perturbation of the observed ¹H-¹H dipole-dipole coupling, leading to an increase in the observed dipolar coupling as compared to a pure two-spin system.

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Section S.2

This supplementary material aims to explain the spectral assignment proposed for P3EHT shown in **Figure 4** in the main manuscript. **Figure S2** shows the ¹³C{¹H} CP/MAS NMR (contact time of 1 ms and employing sample rotation frequency of 14 kHz) spectrum of P3EHT with the position of the peaks in the ppm scale. We observe 12 peaks (the same number of carbons in the polymer's repetitive unit), our problem is to assign this peaks to each individual carbon. We observe, however, three distinct regions on the spectrum: from 5 to 20 ppm we have the region usually related to the side-chain CH₃ groups, from 20 to 50 ppm we have peaks usually related to the thiophene carbons.



Figure S2. ¹³C CPMAS spectrum of P3EHT employing 1ms of contact time and 14kHz of rotation frequency. The position of the peaks on the ppm scale is shown close to each peak.

On a typical CPMAS experiment we polarize the abundant ¹H nuclei through a $\pi/2$ pulse and transfer this polarization to the rare ¹³C through the application of a "contact pulse". This cross polarization, on the other hand, is mediated through the heteronuclear interaction between the two nuclei species. In this way, CPMAS is not usually a quantitative technique, because the intensity of the lines dependent on the proton environment of the carbon and do not represent the relative quantity of a given isochromat as is commonly the case of directly excited nuclei. We can, however, use this property of the cross-polarization to help us with the assignment.



Figure S3. a)¹³C CPMAS spectrum of P3EHT employing 1ms (red) and 100µs (black) of contact time and 6kHz of rotation frequency. b) ¹³C spectrum employing the dipolar dephasing pulse sequence. c) Dipolar dephasing pulse sequence.

Figure S3a shows ¹³C CPMAS spectra of P3EHT employing two different contact times. We observe that the peak at 131 ppm polarizes faster (i.e. this peak has already reached its maximum for a contact time of 100 μ s) than the other peaks on the thiophene region. This shows that this peak must be related to the only protonated carbon on the thiophene ring (C4). Also, the intensity of the lines for the CH₂/CH side-chain carbons are greater for the 100 μ s spectrum, which can be related to the presence of molecular mobility in the kHz region, i.e. dynamics that lowers the relaxation time of the rotating frame (T₁_ρ). In fact, by following the build-up curves of polarization (i.e. how the intensities of the lines vary with contact time) we can get both hydrogen T_{1ρ} as well as the carbon build-up time T_{CH}. The equation used to fit the data was:

$$\frac{S(t)}{S_0} = \left(\frac{1}{1 - \frac{T_{CH}}{T_{1\rho}}}\right) [1 - exp^{[to]}(-\frac{\left(1 - \frac{T_{CH}}{T_{1\rho}}\right)t}{T_{CH}})exp^{[to]}(-\frac{t}{T_{CH}})]$$
(1)

Table S2 shows the obtained hydrogen $T_{1\rho}$ as well as carbon T_{CH} and T_1 values as obtained by the usual Torchia pulse sequence.¹

Table S2. $T_{1\rho}$ hydrogen values, T_{CH} for some lines on the P3EHT CPMAS spectrum and carbon T_1 values.

(ppm)	$T_{1\rho}$ (ms)	T _{CH} (μs)	T ₁ (s)
131	0.82 ± 0.03	16 ± 3	9.3 ± 2.0
40	0.63 ± 0.07	24 ± 3	1.8 ± 0.4
33.6	0.59 ± 0.03	23 ± 3	1.1 ± 0.3
29	0.59 ± 0.05	32 ± 5	0.62 ± 0.02
23.4	0.76 ± 0.03	41 ± 7	0.63 ± 0.04
14.4	1.01 ± 0.02	1798 ± 100	1.7 ± 0.1
11	0.77 ± 0.03	411 ± 35	1.0 ± 0.1

The hydrogen $T_{1\rho}$ the values tend to be very similar due to spin diffusion. We obtained, however, longer T_{CH} values for the peak at 24 ppm than for the peak at 40 ppm. This leads us to believe that the peak at 40 ppm is related to a carbon on a more rigid side-chain segment than the one at 24 ppm. Also, the thiophene 131 ppm carbon show a T_1 of about 10 s, the side-chain carbons, on the other hand showed T_1 values ranging from 0.6 s to 2 s. This is consistent with the presence of molecular motion with rate in the MHz region for the side-chain.

Figure S3b shows a "Dipolar Dephased" spectrum. The Dipolar Diphase pulse sequence is shown on **Figure S3c.** Basically, after the contact pulses (CP) the spins are

free to evolve under the effect of the dipolar interaction during a time period t_1 . The π pulse on the carbon channel in tune with the sample rotation period (t_r) refocuses the chemical shift so that the spectrum becomes modulated only due to the dipolar coupling during t_1 . The technique aims to cancel or lower the intensity of the lines corresponding to strongly bounded ¹³C-¹H. As can be seen from the results, the sequence suppressed completely the peak at 131 ppm and the peaks of the side-chain CH/CH₂, however these peaks were suppressed gradually less from the region of 40 ppm to the region of 20 ppm, this is in complete agreement with the conclusion that the peak at 131 ppm is the protonated thiophene carbon and that the peak at 40 ppm is related to a less mobile side-chain carbon than the one at 23.4 ppm.

Since the proximity to the more rigid backbone of the molecule should be the primary factor for the side-chain segments to become less mobile we assign the peak at 40 ppm to the thiophene attached C_{α} . For the same reason the peaks closer to the CH₃ region(23.4 ppm, 25.7 ppm, 29 ppm) should be related to carbons on the tip of the side-chains (C η , C θ , C ε).

To go further we decided to employ the *Heteronuclear Correlation* (HETCOR) pulse sequence, **Figure S4a**. This sequence gives us a 2D correlation map with the ¹³C in one dimension and the ¹H in the other, by looking at the intensity of the peaks on this map we can infer which ¹³C are interacting to which ¹H of the sample.² Due to the magnitude of the homonuclear ¹H-¹H dipole interaction, 15 kHz of spinning frequency (the maximum achievable by our spectrometer) is usually not enough to obtain high-resolution solid state ¹H spectra. However, since during t₁ we employ Lee-Goldburg decoupling, we can obtain some resolution on the ¹H dimension.³ **Figure S4b** shows the 2D HETCOR correlation map for the side chain region of P3EHT. We have enough resolution to differentiate between the CH₃, CH₂ and CH groups which tell us that the peak at 33.6 ppm is most likely related to the only side chain CH group: C_β.



Figure S4. a) HETCOR pulse sequence employed, the 35° pulses are used to prepare the spins for the application of the LG decoupling. b) 2D HETCOR correlation map for the side-chain carbons of P3EHT.

With this in mind, we propose the assignment shown in **Figure S5** (Figure 4 in the main manuscript) for the ¹³C NMR spectra of P3EHT.





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Section S.3

This supplementary material aims to further clarify the *Dipolar Chemical Shift Correlation* and DFMSE NMR techniques employed on the article: "**On the growth, dynamics and structure of P3EHT crystals**".

Dipolar Chemical Shift Correlation (DIPSHIFT)

DIPSHIFT is a powerful technique to shed light into segmental molecular mobility. The pulse sequence employed is shown on **Figure S6a**. First we must excite the nuclei we want to observe by some method. In the Figure the sequence begins with the transfer of polarization from the abundant ¹H the to the rare ¹³C by CP; however, direct polarization can be employed. After excitation the magnetization is free to evolve during a time t_1 , for which the homonuclear dipolar coupling between the ¹H is suppressed by the application of Lee-Goldburg decoupling.¹ The π pulse on the ¹³C channel refocus the chemical shift interaction so that the signal at t_2 is modulated solely by the heteronuclear dipolar interaction during t_1 . Incrementing this delay (from zero to a rotor period - t_r) on subsequent experiments modulates each line on the high-resolution spectrum with the typical form shown on **Figures S6b**.



Figure S6. a) DIPSHIFT pulse sequence. b) Model modulation imposed by the DIPSHIFT pulse sequence on the intensity of the protonated peaks on the spectrum as a function of t_1 from 0 to a rotor period (t_r), the maxima create the standard DIPSHIFT curve (on blue), the depth of this curve at half the rotor period gives us the residual ¹³C-¹H dipolar coupling.

By comparing the experimental depth of the DIPSHIFT curves with simulations we are able to obtain the magnitude of ¹H-¹³C dipolar coupling for every CH group on the sample. The dipolar coupling is highly sensitive on the presence of molecular motion on the segment of the CH group in question.² Motions with rates from 10⁴ to 10⁷ Hz average the ¹H-¹³C coupling and change the shape of the DIPSHIFT curves, this allows us to measure the averaged (residual) dipolar coupling $\langle \delta_{CH} \rangle$. The experimental DIPSHIFT curves for all the carbons of P3EHT are shown on **Figure S7**, the solid lines are the simulated curves employed to determine the residual dipolar coupling, in (a) cross polarization (CP) was employed as the excitation method, while in (b) the method of excitation was direct polarization (DP). By comparing the averaged dipolar coupling to a rigid limit (the dipolar coupling in the absence of motion - δ_{CH} , that is to be obtained for some specific rigid sample, in our case we calculated this limit as being 21.5kHz for the CH group on the organic crystal Alanine), order parameters (S) can be obtained to quantify the degree of motion - **Equation 1**. S varies from zero to one, zero being the situation of fast isotropic motion and one representing the complete absence of motion.

$$S = \frac{\langle \delta_{CH} \rangle}{\delta_{CH}} \tag{1}$$

In the case of P3EHT the order parameters calculated for all protonated carbons are shown on **Table S3** for two different excitation methods.



Figure S7. DIPSHIFT curves for the P3EHT carbons for two excitation methods: a) Cross Polarization (CP) and b) Direct Polarization (DP).

Table S3. Order parameters for the carbons of P3EHT for two excitation methods: cross polarization (CP) and direct polarization (DP).

	S (CP)	S (DP)
C4	0.83 ± 0.02	-

	0.53 ± 0.02	0.49 ± 0.02
$C_{\beta/\delta}$	0.55 ± 0.02	0.39 ± 0.03
$\dot{\mathbf{C}}_{\mathbf{\epsilon}}$	0.36 ± 0.01	0.29 ± 0.01
C _{θ/n}	0.32 ± 0.01	0.24 ± 0.01
CH ₃ -h	0.18 ± 0.02	0.16 ± 0.01
CH ₃ -e	0.16 ± 0.02	0.13 ± 0.03

Dipolar Filtered Magic-Sandwich Echo (*DFMSE*)

Although at low-field we do not have enough resolution to distinguish between chemical groups, the ¹H low-field FID is highly sensitive on the overall rigidity of the sample thus carrying important information about the sample's bulk, furthermore, unlike high-resolution NMR spectra, it can be quickly obtained. **Figure S8a** shows the usual ¹H FID at low field for conjugated polymers. The signal can usually be decomposed on a fast-decaying (Gaussian) fraction (related to the more rigid segments) and a slow-decaying (stretched-exponential) fraction (related to the more mobile segments). The DFMSE pulse sequence aims to separate these two contributions to the FID. The pulse sequence employed is shown in **Figure S8b**.



Figure S8. a) The 1H signal can be decomposed on a fast-decaying rigid fraction (Gaussian) and a low-decaying mobile fraction (stretched exponential). b) The DFMSE pulse sequence, the signal after the dipolar filter comes solely from the slow-decaying exponential fraction, the MSE pulse train is employed to overcome the experimental dead time.

The DFMSE experiment consists of a Goldmann-Shen type dipolar filter with duration t_{filter} followed by a mixed Magic Sandwich Echo sequence, i.e. the Goldman Shen filter suppresses ¹H signals whose decay time are faster than the filter time. This is due to the stronger ¹H-¹H dipolar couplings in the solid fraction, causing a total dipolar dephasing of such signals in ~30 µs. Thus, if the filter time t_{filter} is longer than ~30 µs, the dipolar filter sequence suppresses signals arising from ¹H nuclei in rigid segments. In

other words, the filter promotes a selection of the signal arising from mobile segments. Because the mixed-MSE sequence is able to refocus the signal of both rigid and mobile segments, at very short filter times t_{filter} (~1 µs), the ¹H signal obtained after the DFMSE sequence contains contributions from both rigid and mobile segments. On the other hand, if the filter time is increased to values higher than ~40 µs, the ¹H signal arises only from mobile components. Notice that for a molecular segment to be seen as mobile in the DFMSE experiments its motion rate should be higher than the inverse of the filter time, i.e., $k > 1/t_{filte}r$, which for a typical filter time of 40 µs gives k > 20 kHz. Therefore, at very low temperatures where all molecular segments are rigid within this frequency scale, the corresponding ¹H signal will be completely suppressed and the intensity of the MSE echo will vanish.

The main idea of detecting the onset temperature of the molecular motion using the DFMSE is that at low temperatures, where all segments are rigid, no signal is observed. As the temperature increases, some segments gain mobility and their signals are not filtered out by the dipolar filter anymore. As a result, the corresponding intensity of the dipolar filtered MSE echo I_{DFMSE} increases until reaching a condition that all segments start moving with a rate faster than the inverse of the frequency of the H-H dipolar coupling frequency. However, the signal also decays as function of temperature due to both Curie law and instrumental imperfections. Both effects can be corrected by normalizing the DF-MSE echo intensity by the full MSE echo (without the dipolar filter)

$$I_{nDF-MSE} = \frac{I_{DF-MSE}}{I_{MSE}}$$

in order to obtain the normalized intensity, i.e., I_{MSE} . Thus, the increase of the normalized intensity at certain temperatures directly indicates the onset of fast regime motions.

As illustrated for a two phase system (for instance a semi-crystalline polymer) in the cartoon in **Figure S9**, the onset of fast motion (red segments) in different phases occurs at different temperatures, leading to a typical pattern with intensity upturns, where each intensity upturn indicates the onset of a molecular relaxation. At low temperature, all segments of the system are rigid (blue segments, first part), resulting in absence of ., $I_{nDF} - MSE$ signal. As the temperature increases, part of the segments (red segments, intermediate part) gain mobility, for example due to a glass transition or another local relaxation process, and an increase in the $I_{nDF} - MSE$ is observed. Finally, at higher temperatures, molecular motion on the remaining rigid part may also take place, so all segments become mobile (red segments, last part) presenting maximum I_{nDF} – *MSE* amplitude. Note also that the temperature where the intensity upturn occurs is proportional to the activation energy of the corresponding process. In summary, this type of analysis allows separating distinct dynamics processes in a sample based on their onset temperatures, i.e. activation energies.



Figure S9. Model result for the normalized intensity of the filtered signal (DFMSE) as a function of the temperature, the onset temperatures of the dynamic process are shown as sudden changes in the curve.

Crystallization

As described on the main manuscript, we followed the crystallization process *in situ* by following changes in the CPMAS high-resolution ¹³C NMR spectra. The intensity of the peaks related to selected carbons of P3EHT as a function of the crystallization time is shown in **Figure S10**. We observe substantial increase in the peak related to the protonated backbone carbon (C₄) and to the thiophene-attached C_a while the peaks related to aliphatic end-of-chain carbons almost doesn't change.



Figure S10. Intensity of the CPMAS ¹³C peaks as a function of crystallization time for the different carbons on P3EHT (as referenced in **Figure S4**).

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Section S.4

Extraction of the rate of aggregate extension L

The average aggregate lengths (l) can be calculated using the excitonic bandwidths that are extracted from fitting optical absorption spectra of P3EHT to the Spano model^{3–5}. In **Figure S11** below we plot l as a function of time for recrystallizing P3EHT films of different thicknesses. By applying linear fits to the data for short crystallization times where impingement effects are minimized, we can calculate the rate of aggregate extensions L reported in **Table 3** of the main manuscript.



Figure S11. Plots of aggregate lengths (markers) as a function of time and linear fits (dotted lines) at short crystallization times. The slopes of the linear fits represent the rate of aggregate extension L.

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Section S.5

Traditional vs. Extended Avrami model

In Figure S12 below we graphically compare fits of the ¹H DF-MSE to the Traditional

Avrami and 1D Extended Avrami models. Clearly, both models fit the data well and

show that the 1D Extended Avrami model can be reliably used to extract key nucleation parameters of crystallizing polymer systems.



Figure S12. Plots of the normalized ¹H DF-MSE intensities acquired using the ¹H DF-MSE experiments for P3EHT as a function of time after being quenched from the melt to 30 °C, 40 °C and 50 °C. Blue and red lines represent fits to the Traditional Avrami and 1D Extended Avrami models, respectively.