## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for

# Porosity regulation of metal-organic frameworks for high proton conductivity by rational ligand design: mono- versus disulfonyl-4,4'biphenyldicarboxylic acid 

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## 1. The FT-IR and ${ }^{\mathbf{1}} \mathrm{HNMR}$ spectra of $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{~L}$



Fig. S1 FT-IR spectra of $\mathbf{H}_{3} \mathbf{L}$.


Fig. S2 ${ }^{1} \mathrm{HNMR}$ spectrum of $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{3}} \mathbf{L}$
2. Molecular structures of MOFs 1-3


Fig. S3 Asymmetric unit of $\mathbf{1}$ (H and disordered atoms are omitted for clarity).


Fig. S4 Asymmetric unit of 2 (H and disordered atoms are omitted for clarity).


Fig. S5 Asymmetric unit of $\mathbf{3}$ (H and disordered atoms are omitted for clarity).

## 3. The FT-IR spectra of MOFs 1-3



Fig. S6 FT-IR spectra of $\mathbf{1}$.


Fig. S7 FT-IR spectra of 2.


Fig. S8 FT-IR spectra of $\mathbf{3}$.

## 4. The PXRD patterns of MOFs 1-3



Fig. S9 Experimental and simulated powder X-ray diffraction patterns of MOFs 1-3.


Fig. S10 Experimental and simulated PXRD patterns of $\mathbf{2}$ and after 72h AC impedance measurements.


Fig. S11 Experimental PXRD patterns of $\mathbf{2}$ and after water immersion.

## 5. The thermogravimetric analysis of MOFs 1-3



Fig. $\mathbf{S 1 2}$ TGA curve for $\mathbf{1}$


Fig. $\mathbf{S 1 3}$ TGA curve for $\mathbf{2}$


Fig. S14 TGA curve for $\mathbf{3}$

## 6. Crystal structure determination

Table S1 Crystallographic data for MOFs 1-3

| MOFs | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Empirical formula | $\mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{49} \mathrm{EuN}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{23} \mathrm{~S}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{49} \mathrm{GdN}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{23} \mathrm{~S}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}_{32} \mathrm{H}_{49} \mathrm{TbN}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{23} \mathrm{~S}_{2}$ |
| Formula weight | 1045.83 | 1051.11 | 1052.79 |
| Crystal system | Orthorhombic | Orthorhombic | Orthorhombic |
| Space group | Pnnn | Pnnn | Pnnn |
| $a(\AA)$ | $14.1253(17)$ | $14.1306(15)$ | $14.1106(8)$ |
| $b(\AA)$ | $17.038(2)$ | $17.0415(18)$ | $17.1352(9)$ |
| $c(\AA)$ | $22.649(3)$ | $22.636(2)$ | $22.4486(12)$ |
| $V\left(\AA^{3}\right)$ | $5450.9(12)$ | $5450.9(10)$ | $5427.8(5)$ |
| $Z$ | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| $\left.D_{\mathrm{c}}(\mathrm{g} \cdot \mathrm{cm})^{-3}\right)$ | 1.096 | 1.103 | 1.109 |
| $\mu\left(\mathrm{~mm}^{-1}\right)$ | 1.275 | 1.341 | 1.428 |
| $F(000)$ | 1808.0 | 1812.0 | 1816.0 |
| Crystal size $\left.(\text { mm })^{3}\right)$ | $0.25 \times 0.15 \times 0.10$ | $0.25 \times 0.13 \times 0.10$ | $0.25 \times 0.13 \times 0.10$ |
| $\theta$ Range $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | $1.496-24.998$ | $1.496-24.998$ | $1.495-25.048$ |
| Reflections collected | 36995 | 36891 | 36784 |
| Independent reflections | $4826\left[R_{\text {int }}=0.044\right]$ | $4826\left[R_{\text {int }}=0.0268\right]$ | $4825\left[R_{\text {int }}=0.0407\right]$ |
| Reflections observed | $[I$ | 3087 | 3331 |
| $2 \sigma(I)]$ |  |  | 3064 |
| Data/restraints $/$ parameters | $4826 / 360 / 321$ | $4826 / 216 / 323$ | $4825 / 372 / 321$ |
| Goodness-of-fit on $F^{2}$ | 1.090 | 1.082 | 1.099 |
| $R / w R_{2}[I>2 \sigma(I)]$ | $0.0624 / 0.2249$ | $0.0597 / 0.2134$ | $0.0629 / 0.2261$ |
| $R / w R_{2}($ all data $)$ | $0.0889 / 0.2503$ | $0.0783 / 0.2381$ | $0.0905 / 0.2502$ |
| Max., Min. $\Delta \rho\left(\mathrm{e} \cdot \AA^{-3}\right)$ | $1.325,-0.906$ | $2.156,-0.820$ | $2.001,-0.866$ |
|  |  |  |  |

Table S2 Selected bond lengths $(\AA)$ and angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ for 1-3

| 1 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Eu1-O1 | 2.414(5) | Eu1-O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 2.477(6) |
| Eu1-O2 ${ }^{\text {ii }}$ | $2.313(5)$ | Eu1-O4 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 2.487 (5) |
| 2 |  |  |  |
| Gd1-O1 | 2.413(4) | Gd1-O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 2.468(5) |
| Gd1-O2 $2^{\text {ii }}$ | 2.311(4) | Gd1-O4 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 2.485 (4) |
| 3 |  |  |  |
| Tb1-O1 | 2.373(5) | Tb1-O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 2.455(5) |
| $\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 2^{\text {ii }}$ | $2.289(5)$ | Tb1-O4 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 2.458 (5) |
| 1 |  |  |  |
| O2-Eu1-O2 ${ }^{\text {ii }}$ | 107.2(3) | O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$-Eu1-O3 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 95.0(3) |
| O2-Eu1-O1 | 80.70(18) | O2-Eu1-O4 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 156.86(18) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {iii }}$-Eu1-O1 | 81.03(19) | $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {ii }}-\mathrm{Eu} 1-\mathrm{O} 4{ }^{\text {i }}$ | 78.71(18) |
| O2-Eu1-O1 ${ }^{\text {iii }}$ | 81.03(19) | O1-Eu1-O4 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 78.14(17) |
| O2 ${ }^{\text {iii-Eu1-O1 }}{ }^{\text {iii }}$ | 80.70(18) | $\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iii- }}$ - ${ }^{\text {a }} 1-\mathrm{O} 4{ }^{\text {i }}$ | 122.10(17) |
| O1-Eu1-O1 ${ }^{\text {iii }}$ | 149.0(2) | O3i-Eu1-O4 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 52.45(17) |
| O2-Eu1-O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 147.94(18) | $\mathrm{O} 3{ }^{\text {iv}}-\mathrm{Eu} 1-\mathrm{O} 4{ }^{\text {i }}$ | 77.61(18) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {ii }}$-Eu1-O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 87.42(19) | O2-Eu1-O4 $4^{\text {iv }}$ | 78.71(18) |
| O1-Eu1-O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 130.58(18) | $\mathrm{O} 2^{\text {ii- }}$ - ${ }^{\text {a }} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {iv }}$ | 156.86(18) |
| O1 ${ }^{\text {iii-Eu1-O3 }}{ }^{\text {i }}$ | 73.20(19) | O1-Eu1-O4 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 122.10(17) |
| O2-Eu1-O3 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 87.42(19) | O1 ${ }^{\text {iii-Eu1-O4 }}{ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 78.14(17) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2^{\text {ii }}-\mathrm{Eu} 1-\mathrm{O}^{\text {iv }}$ | 147.94(18) | O3 ${ }^{\text {i-Eu1-O4 }}{ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 77.61(18) |
| O1-Eu1-O3 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 73.20(19) | O3 ${ }^{\text {iv }}-\mathrm{Eu} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {iv }}$ | 52.45(17) |
| O1 $1^{\text {iii-Eu1-O3 }}{ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 130.58(18) | O4-Eu1-O4 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 104.9(2) |
| 2 |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Gd} 1-\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {ii }}$ | 106.7(2) | O3 ${ }^{\text {- }}$ Gd1-O3 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 95.2(3) |
| O2-Gd1-O1 | 81.13(16) | $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Gd} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {i }}$ | 156.78(15) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {iii }}$-Gd1-O1 | 81.13(16) | $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {iii }}-\mathrm{Gd} 1-\mathrm{O} 4{ }^{\text {i }}$ | 79.03(15) |
| O2-Gd1-O1 $1^{\text {iii }}$ | 81.13(16) | O1-Gd1-O4 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 78.14(14) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {iii }}$-Gd1-O1 $1^{\text {iii }}$ | 80.57(15) | $\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iii }}-\mathrm{Gd} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {i }}$ | 122.08(14) |
| O1-Gd1-O1 $1^{\text {iii }}$ | 149.1(2) | O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$-Gd1-O4 $4^{\text {i }}$ | 52.60(14) |
| O2-Gd1-O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 147.97(14) | O3 ${ }^{\text {iv}}-\mathrm{Gd} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {i }}$ | 77.49(15) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {ii }}-\mathrm{Gd} 1-\mathrm{O} 3^{\text {i }}$ | 87.54(16) | O2-Gd1-O4 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 79.03(15) |
| O1-Gd1-O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 130.72(15) | $\mathrm{O} 2^{\text {iii-Gd1-O4 }} 4^{\text {iv }}$ | 156.78(15 |
| $\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iii- }}$-Gd1-O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 72.98(16) | O1-Gd1-O4 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 78.14(14) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Gd} 1-\mathrm{O} 3^{\text {iv }}$ | 87.54(16) | $\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iiii-Gd1-O}} 4^{\text {iv }}$ | 122.08(14 |
| $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {iii-Gd1-O3 }}{ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 147.97(15) | O3-Gd1-O4 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 77.49 (15) |
| O1-Gd1-O3 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 72.98(16) | $\mathrm{O} 3^{\text {iv }}-\mathrm{Gd} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {iv }}$ | 52.60(14) |
| $\mathrm{Ol}^{\text {iii- }}$-Gd1-O3 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 130.72(14) | O 4 - $\mathrm{Gd} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {iv }}$ | 104.7(2) |
| 3 |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 2^{\text {ii }}$ | 107.2(3) | O3 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ - $\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O}^{\text {iv }}{ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 94.6(3) |
| O2-Tb1-O1 | 80.12(19) | $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4{ }^{\text {i }}$ | 156.19(18) |


| $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {iii }}$-Tb1-O1 | 80.90(19) | $\mathrm{O} 2^{\mathrm{ii}}-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\mathrm{i}}$ | 78.49(18) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iii }}$ | 80.9(2) | $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {i }}$ | 77.99(18) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {iii }}-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iii }}$ | 80.12(19) | $\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iii }}-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {i }}$ | 122.88(18) |
| $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iii }}$ | 147.7(3) | O3i-Tb1-O4 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 52.82(18) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 3^{\text {i }}$ | 148.32(18) | $\mathrm{O} 3^{\text {iv }}-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4{ }^{\text {i }}$ | 77.71(18) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {iii }}$ - $\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 3^{\text {i }}$ | 87.36(19) | $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4{ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 78.49(18) |
| $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 3^{\text {i }}$ | 130.79(18) | $\mathrm{O} 2^{\text {iii }}-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {iv }}$ | 156.19(18) |
| $\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iiii- }}$ - ${ }^{\text {l }} 1-\mathrm{O3}^{\text {i }}$ | 73.94(19) | $\mathrm{O} 1-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {iv }}$ | 122.88(18) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O3}^{\text {iv }}$ | 87.36(19) | $\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iiii }}-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {iv }}$ | 77.99(18) |
| $\mathrm{O} 2{ }^{\text {iii }}-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 3^{\text {iv }}$ | 148.32(18) | $\mathrm{O} 3{ }^{\text {i }}$ - $\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4{ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 77.71(18) |
| O1-Tb1-O3 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 73.9(2) | $\mathrm{O}^{3 \mathrm{iv}}-\mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4^{\text {iv }}$ | 52.82(18) |
| $\mathrm{O} 1^{\text {iii- }} \mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O}^{\text {iv }}$ | 130.79(18) | $\mathrm{O} 4{ }^{\text {i }} \mathrm{Tb} 1-\mathrm{O} 4{ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 105.9(3) |

Symmetry codes: (i) $1 / 2+x, 1-y, 1 / 2+z$; (ii) $1 / 2-x, y, 3 / 2-z$; (iii) $x, 1 / 2-y, 3 / 2-z$; (iv) $1 / 2+x, 1 / 2-y, 1-z$.

Table S3 Hydrogen-bonding geometry $\left(\AA,{ }^{\circ}\right)$ for 2

| D-H $\cdots \mathrm{A}$ | d(D-H) | $\mathrm{d}(\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{A})$ | $\mathrm{d}(\mathrm{D} \cdots \mathrm{A})$ | $\angle \mathrm{D}-\mathrm{H} \cdots \mathrm{A}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| N1-H1A $\cdots$ O4 | 0.89 | 2.26 | 2.893(10) | 128 |
| N1-H1B $\cdots{ }^{\text {O }}{ }^{\text {i }}$ | 0.89 | 1.85 | 2.604(3) | 141 |
| O1W-H1WA $\cdots$ O7 | 0.85 | 2.53 | $3.352(5)$ | 163 |
| O1W-H1WB $\cdots{ }^{\text {O }}{ }^{\text {ii }}$ | 0.85 | 2.92 | 3.751 (5) | 169 |
| O1W-H1WC…O7A ${ }^{\text {iii }}$ | 0.85 | 2.96 | 3.734(6) | 154 |
| O1WA-H1WD $\cdots$ O6 | 0.85 | 2.19 | 3.009(2) | 161 |
| O1WA-H1WE $\cdots$ O5 ${ }^{\text {i }}$ | 0.85 | 2.50 | 3.123(4) | 131 |
| O1WA-H1WF $\cdots$ O1WA ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 0.85 | 2.39 | 3.230 (7) | 170 |
| C15-H15C $\cdots$ O4 | 0.96 | 2.48 | 3.004(2) | 115 |
| C16-H16C $\cdots \pi^{\text {i }}$ | 0.96 | 2.67 | 3.598(3) | 162 |
| C6-H6 $\cdots \pi^{\text {v }}$ | 0.93 | 3.24 | 3.943(2) | 134 |

Symmetry codes: (i) $1 / 2-x, y, 1 / 2-z$; (ii) $1 / 2-x, 1 / 2-y, z$; (iii) $x-1 / 2, y-1 / 2,1-z$; (iv) $x$, $1 / 2-y, 1 / 2-z$; (v) $-x, 1-y, 1-z$.

## 7. Proton conductivity measurement



Fig. S15 Temperature-dependent Nyquist plots of $\mathbf{2}$ under 30\% RH


Fig. S16 Temperature-dependent Nyquist plots of 2 under $40 \%$ RH


Fig. S17 Temperature-dependent Nyquist plots of $\mathbf{2}$ under 50\% RH


Fig. S18 Arrhenius plot of 2 at $30-60 \%$ RH

Table S4 Proton conductivities for $\mathbf{2}$ at various RH and temperature

| $\mathrm{T}\left({ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ | $30 \% \mathrm{RH}$ | $40 \% \mathrm{RH}$ | $50 \% \mathrm{RH}$ | $60 \% \mathrm{RH}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $1.06 \times 10^{-5}$ | $2.32 \times 10^{-5}$ | $1.16 \times 10^{-4}$ | $2.35 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| 35 | $1.84 \times 10^{-5}$ | $3.75 \times 10^{-5}$ | $1.70 \times 10^{-4}$ | $3.80 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| 45 | $2.28 \times 10^{-5}$ | $8.76 \times 10^{-5}$ | $2.65 \times 10^{-4}$ | $6.20 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| 55 | $4.04 \times 10^{-5}$ | $1.38 \times 10^{-4}$ | $5.32 \times 10^{-4}$ | $1.01 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| 65 | $5.23 \times 10^{-5}$ | $2.63 \times 10^{-4}$ | $8.04 \times 10^{-4}$ | $2.31 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| 75 | $8.06 \times 10^{-5}$ | $4.50 \times 10^{-4}$ | $1.38 \times 10^{-3}$ | $3.80 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| 85 | $1.45 \times 10^{-4}$ | $7.28 \times 10^{-4}$ | $2.51 \times 10^{-3}$ | $5.22 \times 10^{-3}$ |
| 95 | $3.22 \times 10^{-4}$ | $1.06 \times 10^{-3}$ | $5.62 \times 10^{-3}$ | $8.83 \times 10^{-3}$ |

