

Precise Synthesis of Poly(fluorene vinylene)s Capped with Chromophores: Efficient Fluorescent Polymers Modified by Conjugation Length and End-Groups

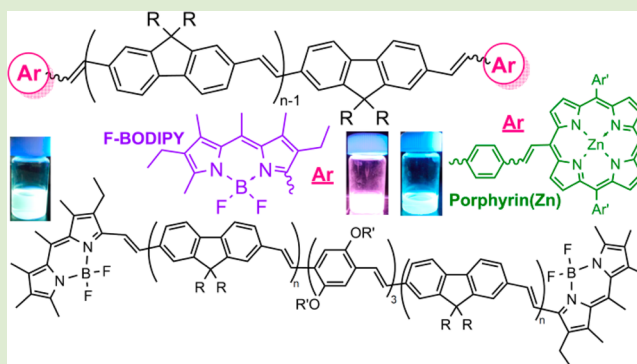
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S Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Poly(9,9-di-*n*-octylfluorene-2,7-vinylene)s containing F-BODIPY [PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂] and Zn(II)-porphyrin have been prepared by olefin metathesis of the vinyl group in the PFV chain ends followed by subsequent Wittig-type coupling. An introduction of tris(2,5-dialkoxy-1,4-phenylene vinylene) into PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂ has also been achieved. The emission properties can be modified by the PFV chain length, chromophore, and the middle segment: PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂ exhibits white-light emission with high quantum efficiency.



Organic electronics are important emerging technologies, and conjugated polymers/oligomers exemplified as poly(*p*-arylene vinylene)s are promising materials.^{1–4} The importance of synthesis of structurally regular, chemically pure materials by new advanced synthetic methods/methodology has been recognized¹ for exhibition of notable device performances (affected by the structural regularity, chemical purity, and supramolecular order).^{2,3} Precise synthesis of block copolymers has also been considered to be important in terms of their color modifications as well as formation of regular one-dimensional conjugated structures, and white polymer light-emitting diodes (WPLEDs,^{5–7} especially single polymer systems consisting of a red component into a blue polymer chain⁷) are promising materials for their potential applications in full color flat panel displays etc.,⁵ as well as for the great potential of flexibility and easy solution processing.⁶ We recently demonstrated a precise synthesis of poly(9,9-dialkylfluorene-2,7-vinylene)s (PFVs) containing oligo-(thiophene)s in both the chain ends, which exhibit unique emission properties by an energy transfer.⁸

We herein present efficient syntheses of PFVs containing chromophores at both chain ends and demonstrate that emission properties can be modified by introduction of the chromophores (end group functionality) as well as by the PFV chain length (conjugation repeat units). Through this communication, we wish to present that these polymers could be applied as highly efficient fluorescent polymers,

especially white polymer light-emitting polymers with high efficiency.⁹

Poly(9,9-di-*n*-octylfluorene-2,7-vinylene)s (PFVs) prepared by the ADMET polymerization using a Ru catalyst^{8,10} have been chosen because the resultant polymers not only possess well-defined chain ends as vinyl group, high molecular weights with uniform molecular weight distributions but also possess *defect-free* nature due to high stereoregularity (all-*trans*). An exclusive end functionalization can thus be achieved by treating the well-defined chain ends (vinyl groups) in PFVs^{8,10} with Mo-alkylidene (Mo cat.) followed by Wittig-type cleavage with aldehyde.^{8,10–13} PFVs with various M_n values (with uniform molecular weight distributions, shown in Table 1) were prepared by varying the reaction time (shown in the Supporting Information (SI)).^{8,10a}

As shown in Scheme 1, vinyl groups in the PFVs' chain ends were treated with Mo(CHCMe₂Ph)(*N*-2,6-Me₂C₆H₃)[OCMe(CF₃)₂]₂ (Mo cat., 5 equiv) to afford the "bisalkylidene" species in situ,^{8,10} and the subsequent addition of an excess amount of terephthalaldehyde afforded PFV-(PhCHO)₂.^{14,15} The reaction of PFV-(PhCHO)₂ with alkylidene species, that were prepared in situ by treatment of Zn(II)-5,15-di(4-*n*-butylphenyl)-10-vinylporphyrin with Mo cat., gave PFV-[Porphyrin(Zn)]₂ in high yields [82–89% based on PFV-(PhCHO)₂].¹⁵ Moreover,

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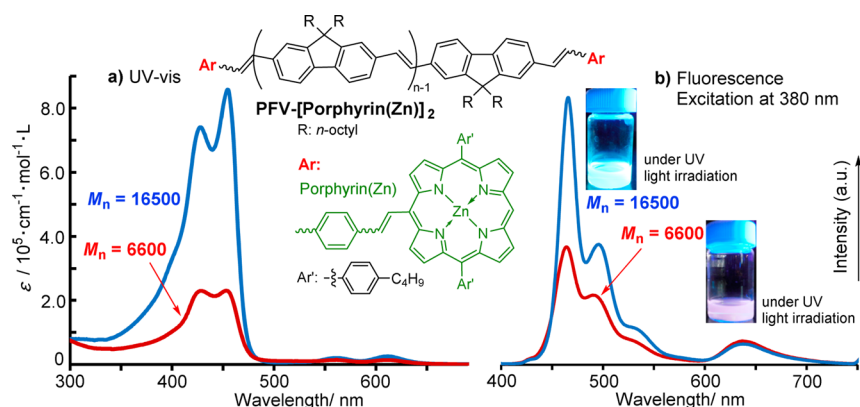


Figure 1. (a) UV-vis spectra (left) and (b) fluorescence spectra (right, excitation at 380 nm) for PFV-[Porphyrin(Zn)]₂ in THF (conc. 1.0×10^{-6} M) at 25 °C.¹⁷

as well as initiating fragment for ATRP,^{10b} etc.) into the PFV chain ends, and these results shown above strongly suggest that exclusive formations of PFV-[Porphyrin(Zn)]₂ and PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂ have been achieved by adopting this methodology.

Moreover, the resultant “bisalkylidene” species prepared in situ were treated with 3PV-CHO¹³ (0.5 equiv), and subsequent addition of F-BODIPY-CHO (excess amount) afforded triblock copolymers containing F-BODIPY moieties in both chain ends [Scheme 1, expressed as 3PV-(PFV-F-BODIPY)₂].¹⁵ The M_n value was analogous to the estimated value with uniform molecular weight distribution ($M_w/M_n = 1.50$, Table 1), and protons ascribed to oligo(phenylene vinylene) and F-BODIPY were observed in the ¹H NMR spectrum.^{15,17}

Figure 1 shows UV-vis and fluorescence spectra (in THF at 25 °C) for PFV-[Porphyrin(Zn)]₂ with different molecular weights.¹⁸ As reported previously,^{19,20} the UV-vis spectra for PFV display two absorption bands at 455 and 427 (and 400) nm that can be ascribed to π - π^* transitions (0-0, 0-1, and 0-2 transitions, respectively) of the conjugated backbone: the corresponding emission peaks at 465, 496, and 530 nm are observed in the fluorescence spectra.^{19,20} Moreover, two absorption bands attributed to Zn(II)-porphyrin (two Q bands) are observed at 560 and 610 nm, which are shifted from the original (543 and 580 nm, Table 2). The absorbance at 430 nm was affected by the PFV conjugation length probably due to an energy transfer. Similarly, the relative intensity especially at 637 nm compared to the others (attributed to emissions to PFVs) in the fluorescence spectra increased upon decrease in the M_n value (PFV conjugation units): the relative intensities were also affected by the excitation wavelength (Figures S5 and S7, SI).¹⁸ Note that the THF solutions containing PFV-[Porphyrin(Zn)]₂ displayed amethyst-white (white-pale purple, $M_n = 6600$) or pale white-blue emission ($M_n = 16500$) under UV irradiation. The facts clearly suggest that blue light emission (by PFV) can be modified by an introduction of porphyrin (chromophore), and the emission color can also be tuned by the PFV conjugation units.

Figure 2 shows UV-vis and fluorescence spectra (in THF at 25 °C) for the resultant PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂ with different molecular weights.¹⁸ The absorption bands at 550 and 592 nm, which were shifted from that in the ordinary F-BODIPY analogues (519 nm, Table 2),^{16,21} were observed in addition to three absorption bands attributed to PFV (at 455, 427, and 400 nm):^{19,20} the relative absorbance in these bands was affected by the M_n value (PFV conjugation length). It seems likely that the observed large shift (550, 592 nm from 519 nm) in the UV-vis

Table 2. Summary of Optical Properties

product (M_n) ^a	absorption ^b		fluorescence ^c		Φ_{PL} ^d /%
	λ_{max} /nm	λ_{max} /nm	λ_{max} /nm	λ_{max} /nm	
PFV-[Porphyrin(Zn)] ₂ (6600)	427, 451, 560, 610	465, 493, 531, 637	12		
PFV-[Porphyrin(Zn)] ₂ (16500)	426, 453, 560, 611	468, 495, 534, 637	17		
PFV-(F-BODIPY) ₂ (8400)	428, 451, 550, 592	468, 498, 537, 614	89		
PFV-(F-BODIPY) ₂ (29500)	428, 452, 547, 591	476, 497, 535, 613	89		
3PV-(PFV-F-BODIPY) ₂	428, 452	476, 497, 535, 613	69		
PFV	427, 455	465, 496, 530	99 ^e		
Porphyrin(Zn)	410, 543, 580	590, 637			
F-BODIPY ^f	519	540			

^aDetails are shown in Table 1. ^bUV-vis spectra in THF (conc. 1.0×10^{-6} M) at 25 °C. ^cFluorescence spectra in THF (conc. 1.0×10^{-6} M) at 25 °C, excitation wavelength at 460 m. ^dPhotoluminescence quantum yield (Φ_{PL}) in THF (excitation wavelength at 460 nm) at 25 °C. ^eCited from ref 20. ^fSpectra are shown in the SI.

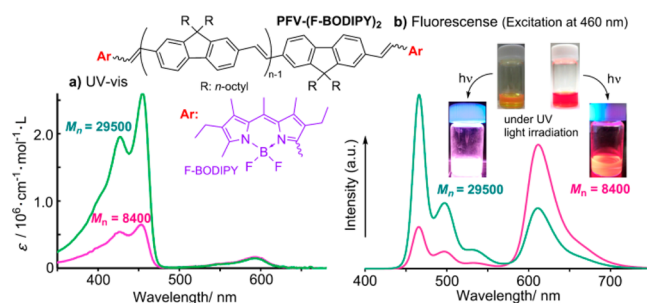


Figure 2. (a) UV-vis spectra (left) and (b) fluorescence spectra (right, excitation at 380 nm) for PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂ in THF at 25 °C (conc. 1.0×10^{-6} M).¹⁷

spectrum would be due to an increase in the conjugation around F-BODIPY by connecting to PFV. A new broad emission band ($\lambda_{max} = 613$ –614 nm) which is different from that in F-BODIPY itself^{16,21} was observed in the fluorescence spectra: no significant differences in the intensities were observed even by varying the excitation wavelength (Figures S5 and S8, SI, excitation at 380 or 460 nm),¹⁸ although the ratios in intensities of these λ_{max} values were influenced by the PFV conjugation length (M_n values, Figure 2 and Figure S6, SI).¹⁸ The intensities of a broad emission band at 613–614 nm

were affected by the PFV conjugation length, probably due to influence of an energy transfer (from PFV to BODIPY under these excitation conditions). In contrast, significant differences were not observed in the fluorescence spectra of PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂ with relatively high molecular weights ($M_n = 22\,000$ and $29\,500$, Figure S6, SI).¹⁸

Note that the white-orange light emission of the THF solutions containing PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂ ($M_n = 8400$) under UV irradiation can be tuned to “white-light emission” by varying the PFV conjugation units ($M_n = 29\,500$). The facts clearly suggest that blue-light emission (by PFV) can be modified to the white-light emission by an introduction of functionality (F-BODIPY), and the emission property can also be tuned by varying the PFV conjugation units.²² Moreover, as shown in Table 2, these polymers displayed remarkably high photoluminescence quantum yields ($\Phi_{PL} = 89\%$). The facts should be noteworthy because white-light-emitting diodes (WLEDs) have received considerable interest due to their potential applications,^{5–7} as described in the introduction.

It should also be noted that the triblock copolymer, 3PV-(PFV-F-BODIPY)₂, showed the white-light emission (Figure 3

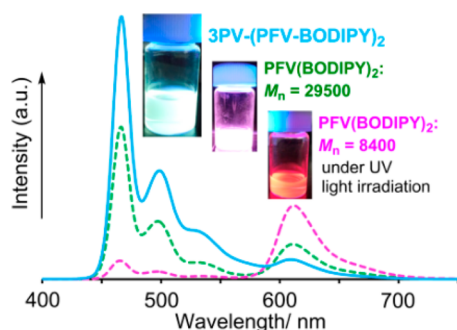


Figure 3. Fluorescence spectra (excitation at 460 nm) for PFV-(BODIPY)₂ and 3PV-(PFV-F-BODIPY)₂ in THF at 25 °C (conc. 1.0×10^{-6} M).¹⁷

and Figures S9 and S10, SI), although the photoluminescence quantum yield ($\Phi_{PL} = 69\%$), the emission intensity ($\lambda_{max} = 613\text{--}614$ nm), and the absorbance at 550 and 592 nm decreased from PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂.¹⁸ The fact thus suggests a possibility that the emission property can be modified by an introduction of the middle segment.

We have communicated that a precise, exclusive synthesis of conjugated polymers (PFVs) containing chromophores at the chain ends has been achieved by adopting olefin metathesis followed by Wittig-type coupling. In particular, white-light-emitting polymers with high quantum efficiency, PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂ and 3PV-(PFV-F-BODIPY)₂, have been prepared by adopting this methodology, and the emission properties can be tuned by introductions of the end groups, conjugation units, and middle segment. We highly believe that the present method should be highly promising for obtainment of polymers with the desired emission properties.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Experimental details for synthesis and identification of polymers and organic compounds, selected ¹H NMR spectra (in CDCl₃ at 25 °C), additional UV–vis and fluorescence spectra of the resultant polymers, and summary of CIEs. This

material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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(15) Syntheses of PFV-[Porphyrin(Zn)]₂, PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂, and PV-(PFV-F-BODIPY)₂ including their identifications are shown in the Supporting Information.

(16) Detailed synthetic procedures including their identifications are shown in the Supporting Information. (a) F-BODIPY (8-methyl) was prepared by an analogous method for synthesis of the 8-decyl analogue: Nagai, A.; Miyake, J.; Kokado, K.; Nagata, Y.; Chujo, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 15276. (b) Oxidation of 8-iodophenyl analogue by DDQ, see: Haefele, A.; Zedde, C.; Retailleau, P.; Ulrich, G.; Ziesel, R. *Org. Lett.* **2010**, *12*, 1627.

(17) For synthesis of 3PV-(PFV-F-BODOPY)₂, “bisalkylidene” species, prepared by reaction of the vinyl groups in PFV with Mo catalyst (5 equiv), were isolated by washing with *n*-hexane because the Mo catalyst is highly soluble in *n*-hexane. Then, 0.5 equiv of 3PV-CHO (in toluene) was added into the toluene solution containing the “bisalkylidene” species. The method can provide efficient synthesis of various end-functionalized block copolymers. The results were partly introduced at *20th International Symposium on Olefin Metathesis and Related Chemistry* (ISOMXX, P18, July, 2013, Nara, Japan). Estimation of the M_n values, $M_{n(\text{calcd})} = 25\,300$ [on the basis of $M_{n(\text{GPC})}$: corrected value]; $M_{n(\text{NMR})} = 23\,400$ (integration ratio), and the data shown in the SI.

(18) Additional UV-vis and fluorescence spectra of the resultant polymers are shown in the SI.

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(22) CIE values (under excitation of 460 nm) of PFV-[Porphyrin(Zn)]₂, PFV-(F-BODIPY)₂, and PV-(PFV-F-BODIPY)₂ are shown in the SI. These values were somewhat different from those expected in the samples with white-light emission, but the results clearly indicate that these values can be modified by the PFV conjugation length, end group, and middle segment. It thus seems

likely that the observed white light would be a consequence of emissions under UV light irradiation (mixture of several excitation wavelengths).