Charge Carrier Transporting Molecular Materials and Their Applications in Devices

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Contents

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1. Introduction

Electronic and optoelectronic devices using organic materials as active elements, for example, organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs), organic photovoltaic devices (OPVs), organic field-effect transistors (OFETs), organic photorefractive devices, and so forth, have recently received a great deal of attention from the standpoint of potential technological applications as well as fundamental science. $1-4$ The devices using organic materials are attractive because they can take advantage of organic materials such as light weight, potentially low cost, and capability of thin-film, large-area, flexible device fabrication. Photoreceptors in electrophotography using organic photoconducting materials have already established wide markets of copying and laser printers. OLEDs have also found practical applications in small displays such as mobile phones, digital camera finders, and car audios and are expected to expand their markets to flatpanel televisions and lighting in the future.

Yasuhiko Shirota graduated from Osaka University in 1963, and received his Doctor of Engineering from Osaka University in 1968. He was appointed to be Research Associate at Osaka University in 1968 and promoted to Associate Professor in 1972 and full Professor in 1986. Since 2003, he has been Professor Emeritus of Osaka University and Professor at Fukui University of Technology. His research interest covers a wide field of organic materials science including the synthesis, structures, reactions, properties, functions, and device performance of both molecular materials and polymers.

Hiroshi Kageyama obtained his B. Eng. (1992), M. Eng. (1994), and Ph.D. (1997) degrees from Osaka University. He was appointed to be Research Associate at Osaka University in 1997 and has been Assistant Professor since 2006. He is interested in charge transport in organic disordered systems.

Organic materials for use in electronic and optoelectronic devices, in particular, OPVs and OFETs, are often called organic semiconductors, which play the role of the charge carrier transport as well as the charge carrier generation or injection. In contrast to inorganic semiconductors, organic semiconductors are essentially electrical insulators. All the devices described above involve charge transport as an essential operation process and hence, require chargetransporting materials. Therefore, the development of highperformance, charge-transporting materials is a key issue for the fabrication of high-performance devices. Chargetransporting materials are mostly based on *π*-electron systems, which are characterized by properties such as light absorption and emission in the ultraviolet-to-visible wavelength region, charge-carrier generation and transport, nonlinear optical properties, and so forth. Organic chargetransporting materials include both small molecules, that is, molecular materials, and polymers, the latter of which are mainly classified into *π*-conjugated polymers and nonconjugated polymers containing pendant *π*-electron systems.

Charge transport has been a subject of interest from the standpoints of both fundamental science and technology. Early studies of charge transport in organic materials were performed on both single crystals and disordered systems, for example, polymers and molecularly doped polymers, where small organic molecules are dispersed in a polymer binder. In particular, molecularly doped polymers have been studied extensively in view of their practical applications in photoreceptors in electrophotography. The recent development of small organic molecules that readily form stable amorphous glasses, namely, amorphous molecular materials, has enabled the studies of charge transport in the amorphous glassy state of small organic molecules without any binder polymers. Charge carrier mobilities of a number of organic polycrystals have also been determined from the performance of OFETs.

This review article focuses on charge-transporting molecular materials for use in electronic and optoelectronic devices such as OLEDs, OPVs, and OFETs. First, some basic aspects of charge transport and the operation processes of OLEDs, OPVs, and OFETs are described. Then, discussion is directed to the molecular design concepts of charge-transporting molecular materials and their synthesis, properties, and applications in devices. Charge-transporting molecular materials in each device are classified on the basis of their molecular structures. The device structures and performance using charge-transporting molecular materials are also described. Finally, charge transport in molecular materials is discussed in relation to their molecular structures and the performance of devices.

2. Basic Aspects of Charge Transport

This section describes the definition of charge carrier drift mobility, experimental methods for determining charge carrier drift mobilities, and a few models proposed for charge transport in organic disordered systems.

2.1. Charge Carrier Drift Mobility

When a voltage is applied to a sample sandwiched between two electrodes, charge carriers, that is, holes and electrons, are transported across the sample under the electric field. The main concerns with charge transport are how fast and by what mechanism charge carriers are transported.

The velocity of charge carriers is proportional to the strength of the applied electric field and is expressed as eq 1:

$$
v = \mu F \tag{1}
$$

where ν is the velocity of charge carriers, F is the strength of electric field, and the proportional constant μ is the drift mobility of charge carriers, that is, the distance over which charge carriers are transported per second under the unit electric field. It should be noted that μ is dependent upon the electric field for organic disordered systems.

The charge carrier mobilities of organic materials greatly vary depending on the kind of charge carriers, namely, whether they are holes or electrons, molecular structures, and materials morphologies. Different transport mechanisms are operative depending on the aggregation states of materials, for example, crystalline and amorphous states.

2.2. Drift Mobility Measurements

The charge carrier drift mobility has been determined by several methods, which include time-of-flight (TOF) method;^{5,6}

Figure 1. Schematic diagram of apparatus for a time-of-fight method.

Figure 2. Typical transient photocurrents: (a) nondispersive; (b) dispersive. Inset: double logarithmic plot.

analysis of steady-state, trap-free, space-charge limited current (steady-state TF-SCLC method);^{5,7} analysis of dark injection space-charge-limited transient current (DI-SCLC method);⁵ analysis of the performance of OFETs (FET method);⁸ measurement of transient electroluminescence (EL) by the application of step voltage (transient EL method); $9-12$ and pulse radiolysis time-resolved microwave conductivity (PR-TRMC) technique.13 Among these methods, the TOF technique and the analysis of the performance of OFETs have been most widely employed to determine the carrier drift mobility.

The TOF method is based on the measurement of the carrier transit time (τ) , namely, the time required for a sheet of charge carriers photogenerated near one of the electrodes by pulsed light irradiation to drift across the sample to the other electrode under an applied electric field. Samples used for the measurement are either a single charge-transporting layer or double layers consisting of charge carrier generation and transport layers (CGL and CTL, respectively) sandwiched between the two electrodes, one of which is transparent. The thickness of samples is usually in the range from 5 to 20 *µ*m. The samples are prepared using vacuum evaporation, solvent cast from solution, or by pressing melt samples with two ITO electrodes. In the case of the double layer structure (Figure 1), irradiated pulsed light is transmitted through the transparent CTL and absorbed by the CGL. Copper phthalocyanine and perylenebis(dicarboximide)s can be used as CGL materials. One of the charge carriers, either holes or electrons, photogenerated in the CGL is injected into the CTL and then drifts across the CTL to the electrode. Alternatively, photogeneration of charge carriers takes place at the interface between the CGL and CTL depending upon the kind of CGL materials. When charge carriers start to drift, photocurrents flow until the charge carriers arrive at the other electrode. Figure 2 shows a typical transient

photocurrent as a function of time. The transit time (*τ*) is experimentally determined from the cusp of nondispersive photocurrent, as shown in the figure. In contrast to the nondispersive photocurrent in Figure 2a, the transient photocurrents observed for polymers and molecularly doped polymers are often dispersive without any definite cusp as shown in Figure 2b. In this case, τ is determined from the double logarithmic plots of transient photocurrents, according to the Scher-Montroll theory.¹⁴

The transit time (τ) is given by eq 2, where v is the velocity of charge carriers and *d* is the sample thickness. When eqs 1 and 2 are combined, the charge carrier drift mobility (μ) is expressed as eq 3.

$$
\tau = \frac{d}{v} \tag{2}
$$

$$
\mu = \frac{d^2}{V\tau} \tag{3}
$$

The measurement of carrier drift mobility by the steadystate TF-SCLC method is based on the analysis of current density (*J*)-applied voltage (*V*) characteristics in the dark. Generally, the $J-V$ characteristics are linear at low drive voltages, showing ohmic behavior. At high applied voltages, the *^J*-*^V* characteristics become space-charge-limited because of the injection of charge carriers from one electrode. When the contact between the electrode and the organic layer is ohmic and the current is transport-limited instead of injectionlimited, the space-charge-limited current *J* is given by eq 4, which is known as the Mott-Gurney equation,⁵

$$
J = \frac{9}{8} \epsilon \mu \frac{V^2}{d^3} \theta = \frac{9}{8} \epsilon \mu \frac{1}{d} F^2 \theta \tag{4}
$$

where ϵ and *d* are the permittivity and thickness of the sample, and θ is a factor that considers the presence of charge carrier traps, that is, the ratio of the number of free carriers to the total number of carriers. When the current flow is in agreement with SCLC, *J* should be proportional to the square of the electric field (F^2) , which is dependent upon the sample thickness. When θ is equal to 1, the current becomes trapfree SCLC. The charge carrier mobility can be evaluated from this equation on the basis of the assumption that the contact between the electrode and the organic layer is ohmic without any energy barrier for charge injection. In case the mobility data determined by other methods are available, one can calculate *J*. When the experimental value of *J* is equal to the calculated value, the contact between the organic layer and the electrode is regarded to be an ideal ohmic one.

Equation 4 applies for materials in which the mobility is independent of the electric field. Since the charge carrier mobility of organic disordered systems is usually electricfield dependent, in agreement with the Poole-Frenkel effect as described in section 2.3, eq 4 is modified as eq 5 ,¹⁵

$$
J = \frac{9}{8} \epsilon \mu_0 \exp(\beta F^{1/2}) \frac{1}{d} F^2 \theta \tag{5}
$$

where μ_0 is the mobility when $F = 0$. If the mobility is independent of the electric field, $\beta = 0$.

In the DI-SCLC method, a step voltage is applied to the sample sandwiched between two electrodes, one of which forms an ohmic contact. An ideal transient current for trapfree materials is shown in Figure 3. The current increases

Figure 3. Typical DI-SCLC.

Figure 4. Typical transient emission behavior of OLEDs.

with time, reaches the maximum at time τ_p , and then gradually decreases to a constant current, which is steadystate SCLC. τ_p is related to space-charge-free transit time τ_0 as expressed by eq 6, and the mobility can be calculated from eq 7.

$$
\tau_{\rm p} \sim 0.786 \tau_0 \tag{6}
$$

$$
\mu = \frac{d^2}{V\tau_0} \sim 0.786 \times \frac{d^2}{V\tau_p} \tag{7}
$$

The transient EL method is based on the measurement of a time delay between the application of a step voltage and the onset of emission, as shown in Figure 4. The onset of emission is determined by the arrival of the slower charge carrier of the injected carriers at the emission zone.

The determination of charge carrier drift mobilities from the performance of OFETs is described in section 3.3.

2.3. Models for Charge Transport in Organic Disordered Systems

Both band and hopping models are available. The mechanisms of charge transport in organic materials are different from those for inorganic semiconductors. While inorganic semiconductors form energy band structures, namely, valence

and conduction bands, organic materials in which only weak intermolecular interactions such as van der Waals forces are operative usually do not form energy bands. Charge carriers, that is, hole and electron, for organic materials correspond to the cation and anion radicals of a molecule. It has generally been accepted that charge transport in organic disordered systems, for example, polymers and molecularly dispersed polymers, takes place by a hopping process. That is, charge transport in organic disordered systems is understood as a sequential redox process over molecules; electrons are sequentially transferred from the anion radical of a molecule to the neutral molecule through the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) for electron transport, and electrons are sequentially transferred from a neutral molecule to its cation radical through the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) for hole transport.

Charge transport in molecular crystals generally shows the following characteristics;¹⁶ one is the mobility value being ca. 10^{-2} to 1 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, and the other is a small temperature dependence of the mobility ($\mu \propto T^{-n}$, 0 < *n* < 2). Both band and hopping models cannot satisfactorily explain this transport behavior observed for molecular crystals. On the other hand, charge transport in organic disordered systems such as polymers and molecularly dispersed polymer systems is generally characterized by the following features:¹⁷ (a) transient photocurrents are usually dispersive in contrast to nondispersive photocurrents observed for organic crystalline materials, (b) drift mobilities are much lower (e.g., 10^{-7} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for poly(*N*vinylcarbazole)17) compared to those of organic crystals (∼1 cm^2 V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for anthracene single crystal), (c) charge transport is thermally activated, and (d) charge carrier drift mobilities are electric-field-dependent. It should be noted, however, that recent studies on amorphous molecular materials have revealed that they exhibit almost nondispersive photocurrents and much higher drift mobilities ($10^{-4} \sim 10^{-2}$ $\text{cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$).

A few models have been proposed to explain the temperature and electric-field dependencies of charge carrier drift mobilities of organic disordered systems, which include the Poole-Frenkel model,^{17,18} small-polaron model,¹⁹ and disorder formalism.20

An empirical equation (eq 8), which takes into account the Poole-Frenkel model, has been presented to explain the temperature and electric-field dependencies of charge carrier drift mobilities, 17

$$
\mu = \mu_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E_0 - \beta_{\text{PF}} F^{1/2}}{k T_{\text{eff}}}\right), \quad T_{\text{eff}} = T^{-1} - T_0^{-1} \quad (8)
$$

where, E_0 , β_{PF} , *F*, *k*, T_0 , and μ_0 are the activation energy in the absence of electric field, the Poole-Frenkel coefficient, electric field, the Boltzmann constant, the temperature at which the extrapolated data of Arrhenius plots for various electric fields intersect with one another, and the mobility at T_0 , respectively. This model shows that the activation energy for charge transport is lowered by $\beta_{PF}F^{1/2}$, but does not provide any physical meanings for μ_0 and T_0 . The experimental results obtained for many organic disordered systems have been reported to fit this empirical equation well.

The small-polaron theory is based on the idea that charge carrier transport takes place via the hopping of small polarons, that is, charge carriers accompanied by the lattice deformation, between localized states, and that hopping is assisted by phonons. According to this theory, mobility is given by eq 9,

$$
\mu(F=0) = (e\rho^2/kT)P(\omega/2\pi) \exp\left[-\left(\frac{E_p}{2} - J\right)/kT\right]
$$

adiabatic regime: $P = 1$
nonadiabatic regime: $P < 1$ (9)

where, e, ω , *J*, and E_P are the elementary charge, a phonon frequency, the overlap integral, and the polaron binding energy, respectively. *P* represents the probability that charge carriers hop once energy coincidence occurs.19 The intersite distance dependence of activation energy for charge transport in molecularly doped polymer systems has been explained in terms of this model.^{19,21,22}

The disorder formalism assumes that charge transport in disordered systems takes place by hopping through a manifold of localized states subject to the fluctuations of both hopping site energy and intermolecular wavefunction overlap and that both the hopping site energy and the intermolecular distance follow the Gaussian distributions. The disorder formalism is given by eq 10,

$$
\mu = \mu_0 \exp\left[-\left(\frac{2\sigma}{3kT}\right)^2\right] \exp\left\{C\left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{kT}\right)^2 - \Sigma^2\right]F^{1/2}\right\} \quad (10)
$$

where σ and Σ are parameters that characterize the energetic and positional disorders, respectively, μ_0 represents a hypothetical mobility in the energetic disorder-free system, *F* is the electric field, and C is an empirical constant.²⁰ The charge-transport parameters involved in eq 10, μ_0 , σ , and Σ , have been obtained for a variety of amorphous molecular glasses, as described in section 6.

3. Principles and Operation Processes of Electronic and Optoelectronic Devices Involving Charge Transport

This section describes the principles and operation processes of OLEDs, OPVs, and OFETs.

3.1. Organic Light-Emitting Diodes (OLEDs)

Electroluminescence (EL) in organics was first reported using single crystals of anthracene in the 1960s.²³ However, the fabricated device required a high drive voltage of 400 V to obtain blue emission resulting from anthracene. Then, the use of vacuum-deposited anthracene thin films led to a significant reduction of drive voltage.²⁴ In 1987, a doublelayer OLED using thin films of 1,1-bis{4-[di(*p*-tolyl)amino] phenyl}cyclohexane (TAPC) as a hole-transporting material and tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum $(Alq₃)$ as an emitting material sandwiched between transparent indium tin oxide (ITO) and an alloy of magnesium and silver was reported to exhibit a luminance of over 1000 cd m^{-2} at a drive voltage of ca. 10 V.25,26 Subsequently, a single-layer OLED using a thin film of poly(*p*-phenylene vinylene), ITO/polymer/Ca, was reported in 1990.²⁷ These two reports have triggered extensive research and development of OLEDs from the standpoints of both fundamental science and potential technological applications for full-color, flat-panel displays and lighting. Furthermore, the recent finding of triplet emitters has led to remarkable improvements in the EL quantum efficiency. $28-30$ OLEDs are characterized by low drive voltage, high brightness, full-color emission, rapid response, and easy fabrication of large-area, thin-film devices.

Figure 5. Operation principles of OLEDs.

OLEDs are current-driven devices that utilize emissions from the electronically excited states of molecules. The operation of OLEDs involves charge injection from the anode and the cathode into the adjacent organic layers, transport of injected charge carriers through the organic layers, exothermic recombination of holes and electrons to generate electronically excited states of molecules, which are often called excitons, followed by their deactivation by the emission of either fluorescence or phosphorescence, which is taken out of the device as EL (Figure 5).

The luminous power efficiency (L_{eff}) [lm W^{-1}] is defined as eq 11,

$$
L_{\rm eff} = \frac{\pi L}{J V} \tag{11}
$$

where *L* is the luminance [cd m⁻²], and *J* and *V* are the current density $[A \, m^{-2}]$ and applied voltage [V] needed to obtain the luminance. The external quantum efficiency (Φ_{ext}) of EL is defined as the number of photons emitted per number of injected charge carriers and is expressed as eq 12,31

$$
\Phi_{\text{ext}} = \frac{\pi L \int \frac{F'(\lambda)\lambda}{hc} d\lambda}{\int F'(\lambda)K_{\text{m}} y(\lambda) d\lambda} \div \frac{J}{e}
$$
(12)

where λ is the wavelength, *e* is elementary charge [C], *h* is the Planck constant [J s], c is the velocity of light $[m s⁻¹]$, $F'(\lambda)$ is the EL spectrum, K_m is the maximum luminous efficacy, and $y(\lambda)$ is the normalized photopic spectral response function.

The main factors that determine L_{eff} and Φ_{ext} are as follows: efficiency of charge carrier injection from the anode and the cathode at low drive voltage, charge balance, spin multiplicity of the luminescent state, photoluminescence (PL) quantum yield, and extraction of the emission out of the device. Therefore, Φ_{ext} is understood as the value multiplied by these factors: $\Phi_{ext} = \alpha \Phi_{re} \Phi_{spin} \Phi_{em}$, where α is the light extraction factor, Φ_{re} represents the recombination probability of injected holes and electrons, namely, the ratio of the number of injected minority charge carriers used for recombination to the total number of injected charge carriers, Φ_{spin} is the generation probability of either electronically excited singlet or triplet state, which is 0.25 and 0.75 for the singlet and triplet formation, respectively, and Φ_{em} is the PL

Figure 6. Structure of multilayer OLEDs.

quantum yield from either the electronically excited singlet or the triplet state. When fluorescent emitters are employed, only 25% of the generated excitons are utilized. However, when phosphorescent emitters are used, an internal quantum efficiency up to 100% can be achieved in principle since the phosphorescent emitters, which are usually doped in a host material, can capture both singlet and triplet excitons generated by the recombination of injected holes and electrons.28,32

To attain high quantum efficiency for EL, it is necessary to achieve efficient charge injection from both the anode and the cathode into the adjacent organic layers at low drive voltage, good charge balance, and confinement of the injected charge carriers within the emitting layer to increase the probability of the desired emissive recombination. The insertion of hole-transport and electron-transport layers between the electrodes and the emitting layer reduces the energy barriers for the injection of charge carriers from the electrodes into the emitting layer by a stepwise process, resulting in efficient charge injection and charge balance. That is, charge carriers injected from the electrodes into the adjacent charge-transport layers are transported through the charge-transport layers and then injected into the emitting layer. The hole- and electron-transport layers can also act as electron- and hole-blocking layers, respectively, thus, confining the electrons and holes within the emitting layer and preventing them from escaping to the adjacent carriertransport layers. A structure of multilayer OLEDs consisting of the emitting and hole- and electron-transport layers sandwiched between the ITO anode and the metal cathode is shown in Figure 6.

The performance of OLEDs, therefore, depends upon various materials functioning in specialized roles such as charge-injection and -transporting, charge-blocking, and emission. Generally, materials for use in OLEDs should meet the following requirements: (a) Materials should possess suitable ionization potentials and electron affinities, that is, well-matched energy levels for the injection of charge carriers from the electrodes or the organic layer into the adjacent organic layers. (b) They should be capable of forming smooth, uniform thin films without pinholes. (c) They should be morphologically and thermally stable. (d) In addition to these general requirements, materials should meet further

specialized needs depending upon the roles that they play in devices, for example, hole transport, electron transport, charge blocking, and light emission.

3.2. Organic Photovoltaic Devices (OPVs)

Solar energy has a great potential as a clean and inexhaustible new energy source. Solar cells are devices that directly convert light energy into electrical energy. Devices for such photoelectric conversion with organic photoactive materials are mainly classified into photoelectrochemical cells and photovoltaic devices. Photoelectrochemical cells consist of two electrodes immersed in an electrolyte solution containing a redox couple. Dye-sensitized organic solar cells using nanocrystalline, porous $TiO₂$, on which an organic dye is adsorbed, and I_3^-/I^- redox species in solution or gels have been a topic of current intensive research and development because of the high conversion efficiencies reaching 10%.^{33,34}

Organic solid-state photovoltaic devices (OPVs) consist of thin films of organic photoactive materials sandwiched between two metal electrodes. Both Schottky-type and *pn*heterojunction cells have been studied. In Schottky-type cells, a single-layer organic photoactive material is sandwiched between two dissimilar electrodes to form a Schottky barrier in the organic layer at the interface with the metal electrode. On the other hand, *pn*-heterojunction cells are typically based on the double layers of organic thin films, where the organic/ organic interface plays an important role in the performance, the electrodes simply providing ideally ohmic contacts with the organic layers. Generally, higher quantum yields for the photogeneration of charge carriers have been attained for *pn*-heterojunction cells compared with Schottky-type devices because of electron donor-acceptor interactions between the two kinds of organic semiconductors, that is, *p*-type and *n*-type organic semiconductors. *P*-type and *n*-type organic semiconductors generally mean electron-donating and -accepting organic materials, respectively. The main driving force for the photogeneration of charge carriers in *pn*heterojunction devices is the chemical potential at the organic donor/organic acceptor interface.

Studies on OPVs performed before the mid 1980s showed very low power conversion efficiencies. In 1986, it was reported that a bilayer *pn*-heterojunction cell consisting of copper phthalocyanine (CuPc) and a perylene pigment sandwiched between the ITO and Ag electrodes gave a power conversion efficiency as high as 0.95% for simulated AM2 white light at 75 mW $\text{cm}^{-2.35}$ Extensive studies have since been performed on OPVs, resulting in significant improvements in the power conversion efficiency, as described in section 5.2.

The performance of OPVs is evaluated by power conversion efficiency (η) and fill factor (FF). They are defined as eqs 13 and 14,

$$
\eta = \frac{(VJ)_{\text{max}}}{I} \tag{13}
$$

$$
FF = \frac{(VJ)_{\text{max}}}{V_{\text{OC}}J_{\text{SC}}}
$$
 (14)

where I , V_{OC} , and J_{SC} are the incident light power, the open circuit voltage, and the short-circuit current, respectively (Figure 7). The equivalent circuit of OPVs is shown in Figure 8, where R_s is a series resistance, R_{sh} is a shunt resistance,

Figure 7. Typical $J-V$ curves of OPVs: (a) in dark; (b) under illumination.

Figure 8. Equivalent circuit of OPVs.

Figure 9. Operation processes of *pn*-heterojunction OPVs.

and I_{ph} is a photocurrent. The observed current (I_{obs}) is given by eq 15,

$$
I_{\rm obs} = I_0 \left[\exp \left\{ \frac{q(V - I_{\rm obs}R_{\rm s})}{nkT} \right\} - 1 \right] + \frac{V - I_{\rm obs}R_{\rm s}}{R_{\rm sh}} - I_{\rm ph} \tag{15}
$$

where I_0 is the reverse saturated dark current, q is the elementary charge, *V* is the cell voltage, *n* is the diode ideal factor, and *k* is the Boltzmann constant.

The mechanisms for the operation of OPVs have been interpreted in terms of the energy band model applied for inorganic semiconductor PV devices, which may not be applicable to molecular organic solids with well-localized energy levels. The basic operation processes of *pn*-heterojunction OPVs are as follows (Figure 9): (a) light absorption by organic semiconductors to form excitons, (b) diffusion of excitons, (c) charge carrier generation and separation at the organic/organic interface, (d) charge transport through the

Figure 10. Structures of OFETs: (a) top contact configuration; (b) bottom contact configuration.

organic layers, and (e) charge collection at both electrodes. These processes are just the opposite to those of OLEDs, namely, (a) charge injection from the electrodes into the organic layers, (b) charge transport through the organic layers, (c) charge recombination to form excitons, (d) emission from excitons, and (e) light extraction out of devices.

3.3. Organic Field-Effect Transistors (OFETs)

Organic field-effect transistors (OFETs) are expected to be a promising technology for large-area, low cost, and flexible electronics for applications in displays, sensors, and memories.36 In addition, they have an advantage over silicon FETs in that the processing temperature is lower. Since the reports on OFETs using polythiophene³⁷ and phthalocyanine38 appeared, there have been extensive studies on OFETs using oligothiophenes and other numerous kinds of organic semiconductors. The recent finding of high performance for CuPc- and pentacene-based OFETs has directed the studies of this field to a new stage of research and development.

OFETs consist of conductors, that is, source, drain, and gate electrodes, an insulator, that is, a gate dielectric, and an organic semiconductor as an active element. The materials used as the gate dielectric are either inorganic dielectric materials, for example, $SiO₂$, or organic dielectric materials such as insulating organic polymers. Two types of structures, that is, top-contact and bottom-contact electrode configurations, have been adopted for the fabrication of OFETs (Figure 10). When there is no voltage application to the gate electrode, only small currents flow between the source and drain electrodes; this state is referred to as the off-state of transistor. When negative voltage, for example, is applied to the gate electrode, hole carriers in the organic semiconductor layer become accumulated at the interface with the gate dielectric, and hence, hole transport takes place from the source to the drain electrode; this state corresponds to the on-state of transistor. This type of device is called a *p*-channel device. Likewise, application of positive voltage

to the gate electrode causes electron transport in the case of *n*-channel devices. Since the so-called organic semiconductors are essentially electrical insulators, charge carriers in organic semiconductors are usually supplied by injection from the source electrode into the organic layer. The current flow (I_{SD}) can be modulated by the magnitude of both the gate voltage (V_G) and the source/drain voltage (V_{SD}) .

The current that flows from the source to the drain electrode (I_{SD}) under a given V_G increases almost linearly with the increasing V_{SD} and gradually becomes saturated as shown in Figure 11. The current (I_{SD}) is given by eq 16,

$$
I_{\rm SD} = \frac{C_{\rm i} W \mu_{\rm FET}}{L} \left[(V_{\rm G} - V_{\rm T}) V_{\rm SD} - \frac{V_{\rm SD}^2}{2} \right] \tag{16}
$$

where, μ_{FET} is the field-effect mobility of the charge carrier, L is the channel length, W is the channel width, C_i is the capacitance per unit area of the gate dielectric, and V_T is the threshold voltage. The current I_{SD} in the linear and saturation regions are given by eqs 17 and 18, respectively.

$$
I_{\text{SD,linear}} = \frac{C_{\text{i}} W \mu_{\text{FET}}}{L} (V_{\text{G}} - V_{\text{T}}) V_{\text{SD}} \tag{17}
$$

$$
I_{\rm SD, sat} = \frac{C_{\rm i} W \mu_{\rm FET}}{2L} (V_{\rm G} - V_{\rm T})^2
$$
 (18)

The field-effect mobility (μ_{FET}) can be determined from the slope of the linear plots of $(I_{SD,sat})^{1/2}$ versus V_G , according to eq 18. The performance of OFETs is evaluated by μ _{FET}, V_T , and the on/off ratio of I_{SD} . Not only organic semiconductors, but also the gate dielectric materials greatly affect the device performance.³⁹

4. General Aspects of Charge Carrier Transporting Molecular Materials

Charge-transporting materials often function as emitting materials in OLEDs. Likewise, charge-transporting materials in OPVs play a role of the photogeneration of charge carriers in addition to charge transport. Thus, a number of chargetransporting materials have dual functions, for example, charge transport and light emission in OLEDs, and charge carrier photogeneration and transport in OPVs. In fact, materials in OLEDs often function as either hole-transporting or electron-transporting light emitters.

4.1. Classifications and Characterization

Both small organic molecules and polymers have been used as charge-transporting materials in the devices described above. Usually, vacuum deposition and spin-coating methods are used for small molecules and polymers, respectively, for the preparation of thin films.

Molecular materials are classified into single crystals, polycrystals, liquid crystals, and amorphous glasses according to their organization states. As device performance is highly dependent on materials' morphology, control over materials' morphology is of crucial importance in materials science and practical applications.

Charge-transporting materials are classified into hole- and electron-transporting materials depending upon the kind of charge carriers transported. Since the properties of chargetransporting materials used in OLEDs, OPVs, and OFETs greatly affect the device performance, the design and

Figure 11. Schematic of $I_{SD}-V_{SD}$ curves of OFETs. V_G increases in the order of (a) \rightarrow (b) \rightarrow (c) \rightarrow (d) \rightarrow (e).

synthesis of high-performance, charge-transporting materials are of great importance for the development of highperformance devices.

4.1.1. Crystalline, Liquid Crystalline, and Amorphous **Materials**

Charge-transporting materials with different morphologies have been used depending upon the kind of devices. Generally, organic crystalline materials exhibit larger charge carrier mobilities than those of organic amorphous materials. Devices using organic single crystals, for example, EL²³ and OFETs,40,41 have been reported; however, the single-crystal growth on the plane of a large-area substrate for device applications is not easy. Polycrystalline materials have been used mostly in OFETs and OPVs. The grain size, grain boundaries, and molecular orientations affect the device performance. Amorphous materials have advantages over crystalline materials in device fabrication because of their good processability, transparency, and isotropic and homogeneous properties. Amorphous molecular materials have recently constituted a new class of organic materials for use in various applications, in particular, OLEDs.^{1b,d} Liquid crystalline materials have also been studied for emitters or a host matrix for emitters in OLEDs to obtain polarized emission from the devices.⁴²⁻⁴⁶

4.1.2. Hole-Transporting and Electron-Transporting **Materials**

Hole-transporting materials are those that accept hole carriers with a positive charge and transport them. Likewise, electron-transporting materials are those that accept electron carriers with a negative charge and transport them. Therefore, materials which have low ionization potentials together with low electron affinities usually function as hole-transporting materials, whereas materials which have high electron affinities together with high ionization potentials usually function as electron-transporting materials. In other words, charge-transporting materials with electron-donating and -accepting properties usually serve as hole- and electrontransporting materials, respectively. It should be noted, however, that there are a number of materials that exhibit ambipolar character, that is, materials that can transport both holes and electrons, as described in sections 5 and 6. In addition to the role of charge transport, hole- and electrontransporting materials used in OLEDs play a role of facilitating hole and electron injection from the anode and the cathode, respectively, into the emitting layer by a **Chart 1. Examples of Crystalline Materials for Electronic and Optoelectronic Devices**

stepwise process. Hole- and electron-transporting materials also play the role of blocking electrons and holes, respectively, from escaping from the emitting layer in OLEDs.

4.1.3. Role of Hole Blocking Played by Electron-Transporting Materials in OLEDs

When materials with hole-transporting properties are used as emitters in OLEDs, the presence of an electron-transport layer with an effective hole-blocking ability is required to facilitate electron injection from the cathode into the emitting layer and to block hole carriers from escaping from the emitting layer. However, some electron transporters do not necessarily function well as effective hole blockers.

An effective approach for the fabrication of OLEDs using emitters with hole-transporting properties is the use of an additional hole-blocking layer inserted between the emitting and electron-transport layers, where the electron-transporting and hole-blocking layers play the roles of facilitating electron injection from the cathode and blocking holes from escaping from the emitting layer to confine holes within the emitting layer, respectively. The materials for use as the hole-blocking layer in OLEDs should have both weak electron-accepting properties to be able to accept electrons and electrontransporting properties. Such materials are referred to as holeblocking materials.

4.1.4. Characterization of Charge-Transporting Materials

The key characteristics of charge-transporting materials are charge carrier drift mobility, solid-state ionization potential or anodic oxidation potential, electron affinity or cathodic reduction potential, and optical band gap. The methods for the measurement of charge carrier drift mobility are described earlier in section 2.2. The glass-transition temperature (Tg) is also an important factor in evaluating the thermal stability of amorphous molecular materials, which can be measured by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC).

The ionization potential and the electron affinity of organic materials are determined directly by ultraviolet photoelectron spectroscopy (UPS) and inverse photoelectron spectroscopy. The ionization potential or oxidation potential and the electron affinity or reduction potential correspond to the HOMO and LUMO energy levels of a molecule, respectively. The LUMO energy level can also be estimated from the ionization potential or oxidation potential and the optical band gap. The oxidation and reduction potentials are determined by cyclic voltammetry for solution. The solidstate ionization potential, which is lowered by the polarization energy (ca. 1.7 eV for organic molecules) relative to the gasphase ionization potential, has been correlated with the oxidation potential: $E_{\text{HOMO}} = -(4.8 + qV_{\text{CV}})$, where *q* is the elementary charge, and V_{CV} is the oxidation potential

versus Fc (ferrocene)/ Fc^+ (ferrocenium cation) reference electrode determined by solution-based cyclic voltammetry.⁴⁷ Recently, the following relationship between the solid-state ionization potential and the oxidation potential (vs Fc/Fc^+ reference electrode) has been reported: $E_{\text{HOMO}} = -(1.4 \pm$ $(0.1) \times (qV_{\text{CV}})$ – (4.6 ± 0.08) eV.⁴⁸ The ionization potentials or oxidation potentials of materials give information on the strength of electron-donating properties and how much of the energy barriers exist for the injection of holes from the ITO electrode into an adjacent hole-transport organic layer in OLEDs. Likewise, the electron affinities or reduction potentials of materials give information on the strength of electron-accepting properties and the energy barriers for the injection of electrons from the cathode into an adjacent electron transport layer in OLEDs. The HOMO/LUMO energy levels of organic materials are also of essential importance in discussing efficiencies of the photogeneration of charge carriers and open-circuit voltages in OPVs, and charge injection in OFETs.

4.2. Crystalline Molecular Materials

4.2.1. Representative Classes of Crystalline Materials

Representative classes of organic crystals for use in electronic and optoelectronic devices include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, macrocycles such as phthalocyanines, fused heterocyclic aromatic compounds, oligothiophenes, oligoarylenes, oligoarylenevinylenes, fullerenes, perylene pigments, and so forth. Violanthrone, a low-molecular-weight model for graphite, was first studied as an electrically conducting molecular material,⁴⁹ and perylene was studied as an electron donor component for conducting chargetransfer complexes.50 Pentacene (**1**) and related condensed aromatic hydrocarbons have recently attracted attention as a new class of promising materials for use in OFETs.⁵¹ The molecular structures of such representative classes of crystalline materials are shown in Chart 1.

Metal- and metal-free phthalocyanines, for example, CuPc (**2**), are typical *p*-type organic semiconductors for use in OLEDs, OPVs, and OFETs. Phthalocyanines are known to take up different crystalline morphologies: solvent vapor exposure treatment transforms the morphology from one crystalline form into another crystalline form, as exemplified by zinc phthalocyanine $(ZnPc)^{52}$ and magnesium phthalocyanine (MgPc).53 Titanyl phthalocyanine (TiOPc (**3**)) also assumes several crystalline forms, which has been widely used as a charge carrier generation material in electrophotographic photoreceptors for laser printers. Perylene pigments (5) and C_{60} are typical examples of *n*-type organic semiconductors and have been used for OPVs.

Oligothiophenes with well-defined structures (**4**), which are highly crystalline in nature, constitute a new class of

Scheme 1. Synthetic Routes of Oligothiophenes

Coupling reactions

Cyclization reactions

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}\n\sqrt{3} & \sqrt{2} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} \\
\sqrt{3} & \sqrt{2} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} \\
\sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} \\
\sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} \\
\sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} \\
\sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3} & \sqrt{3}\n\end{array}
$$

organic *π*-electron systems for various potential applications. They also serve as model compounds for electrically conducting polythiophenes. A number of unsubstituted and alkyl-substituted oligothiophenes with varying conjugation lengths have been synthesized. Oligothiophenes with long conjugation lengths, for example, 16-, 20-, and 27-mers, are expected to serve as molecular wires.⁵⁴⁻⁵⁶ In addition, cyclic oligothiophenes⁵⁷ and selenium analogues of oligothiophenes^{58,59} have also been synthesized. Although oligothiophenes are highly crystalline, amorphous molecular materials containing oligothiophenes have been designed and synthesized. $60-63$ There have been extensive studies on the molecular and crystal structures, and optical, electrochemical, and electrical properties of oligothiophenes^{$64-76$} and their applications in OPVs,⁷⁷ OLED_s, and OFETs.⁷⁸⁻⁸¹

Some crystalline materials, for example, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and phthalocyanines, form thin films with amorphous nature by vacuum deposition on substrates kept at moderate to low temperatures. However, these initially amorphous thin films are readily transformed into polycrystalline films upon solvent vapor exposure. The examples are given by TiOPc, 82,83 perylene pigment, 83,84 tris- $(8$ -quinolinolato)aluminum $(Alg₃)$, 85 and so forth. These amorphous thin films are distinguished from amorphous molecular materials described later in that the definite glasstransition phenomena have not been observed, whereas amorphous molecular materials exhibit well-defined Tg's and readily form smooth, uniform amorphous thin films by spin coating from solution as well as vacuum deposition.

4.2.2. Synthesis of Oligothiophenes

Oligothiophenes with well-defined structures have been synthesized by the C-C coupling reactions of bromosubstituted oligothiophenes with thiophen-2-yl magnesium bromide $86,87$ or thiophen-2-yl boronic acid in the presence of transition metal complexes as catalysts. The C-C coupling reactions of oligothiophenes using *n*-butyllithium in the presence of $CuCl₂$ also produce oligothiophenes with an extended π -conjugation.⁸⁸ The cyclization reactions of butanediones or butadiynes have also been employed for the synthesis of oligothiophenes.^{89,90} A few synthetic routes of oligothiophenes are described in Scheme 1.

4.3. Amorphous Molecular Materials

Small organic molecules generally tend to crystallize very readily, and hence, they usually exist as crystals below their melting temperatures. However, recent extensive studies have revealed that small organic molecules can also form stable amorphous glasses above room temperature if their molecular structures are properly designed. Small organic molecules that readily form stable amorphous glasses above room temperature are referred to as amorphous molecular glasses or amorphous molecular materials.⁹¹ They constitute a new class of functional organic materials for various applications.^{1b,d} Several new concepts for photo- and electroactive molecular materials have been presented, which include electrically conducting amorphous molecular materials,⁹² photochromic conducting amorphous molecular materials,⁹³ amorphous molecular resists,94 and amorphous molecular materials for use in a variety of electronic, optoelectronic, and photonic devices. Amorphous molecular materials have found successful applications as materials for OLEDs. Photochromic amorphous molecular materials have potential applications for image formation and molecular memories.^{95,96} Azobenzenebased photochromic amorphous molecular materials have been shown to form photoinduced surface relief gratings.^{97,98} Amorphous molecular resists have been demonstrated to be promising candidates for future nanolithography.^{94,99,100}

4.3.1. Characteristic Features of Amorphous Molecular **Materials**

Usually, amorphous molecular materials are obtained as polycrystals by recrystallization from solution. They readily form amorphous glasses when the melt samples are cooled on standing in air or rapidly cooled with liquid nitrogen. Some compounds have been obtained as amorphous glasses despite attempted recrystallization from solution. The forma-

 6 (TDATA) : R=H 7 (o -MTDATA) : R= o -CH₃ $8(m-MTDATA):$ $R=m-CH_3$ 9 (p-MTDATA) : $R=p-CH_3$

17 (o -TTA) : o -Ph 18 $(m-TTA): m-Ph$ 19 $(p-TTA): p-Ph$

10 (o -MTDAB) : R= o -CH₃ 11 $(m\text{-}MTDAB):R=m\text{-}CH_3$ 12 (p -MTDAB) : R= p -CH₃

13 (TDAPB) : R=H 14 (o -MTDAPB) : R= o -CH₃ 15 $(m\text{-}MTDAPB)$: R=m-CH₃ **16** (*p*-MTDAPB) : $R=p$ -CH₃

21 (BMA-1T) : $n=1$ 22 (BMA-2T) : n=2

 $23 (BMA-3T): n=3$

30 (MTBDAB)

29

Amorphous molecular materials are characterized by the following features.^{1b,d} They take up several different organization states, such as single crystal, polycrystal, isotropic liquid, supercooled liquid, and amorphous glass. Amorphous molecular glasses are in the state of thermodynamic nonequilibrium, and hence, they tend to undergo structural

31

Chart 3. Examples of Structural Modifications of TDATA, TDAB, and TDAPB

relaxation, exhibiting well-defined Tg's. Amorphous molecular glasses tend to crystallize on heating above their Tg's, frequently exhibiting polymorphism.^{1b,101-103} Amorphous glasses show isotropic and homogeneous properties without grain boundaries. They are characterized by the presence of free volume and disorder in both molecular distance and orientation. Like polymers, amorphous molecular materials readily form uniform amorphous thin films by themselves by vacuum deposition and spin coating from solution. They contrast polymers in that they are pure materials with welldefined molecular structures and definite molecular weights without any distribution. They can be purified by column chromatography, followed by recrystallization from solution or by vacuum sublimation.

The stability of amorphous glasses greatly differ depending on the molecular structures of materials. Certain materials form very stable amorphous glasses that do not undergo any crystallization even upon heating above Tg's. The absence of grain boundaries in amorphous films allows uniform contact between organic/metal electrode and organic/organic layers. The isotropic and homogeneous properties of amor-

phous molecular materials prevent $\pi-\pi$ stacking of π -electron systems. These characteristic features of amorphous molecular materials provide advantages for device applications.

4.3.2. Molecular Design and Representative Classes of Amorphous Molecular Materials

Several guidelines for the molecular design of amorphous molecular materials have been presented,^{1b} which include nonplanar molecular structures $91,101$ as evidenced by X-ray crystal structure analysis,^{1b,103} existence of different conformers,101-¹⁰³ incorporation of bulky and heavy substituents,104,105 and the enlargement of molecular size.106 The latter two guidelines also serve as the ones for increasing Tg's and for enhancing the stability of the amorphous glassy state. The introduction of structurally rigid moieties to form nonplanar molecules is another important guideline for increasing Tg's.92,107

Nonplanar molecular structures are responsible for the glass formation; however, all the compounds with nonplanar molecular structures do not necessarily lead to glass forma-

Chart 4. Spiro and Related Compounds and Tetraarylmethanes

Scheme 2. Synthesis of *p***-TTA**

 $A = Ni(dppp)Cl₂$, THF, reflux $B = Pd(PPh_3)₄$, toluene, 2N K₂CO₃, PTC, 50-80 °C

tion. For example, triphenylamine and 1,3,5-triphenylbenzene with nonplanar molecular structures instantly crystallize instead of forming amorphous glasses even when their melt samples are rapidly cooled with liquid nitrogen. Likewise, 1,3,5-tris(diphenylamino)benzene (TDAB) with a nonplanar structure also instantly crystallizes even when its melt sample is rapidly cooled with liquid nitrogen.¹⁰¹ On the other hand, the incorporation of aryl substituents into the triphenylamine or 1,3,5-triphenylbenzene moiety allows the formation of amorphous glasses, as exemplified by tri(biphenyl-4-yl)amine (TBA) ,^{108,109} tri(*p*-terphenyl-4-yl)amine (*p*-TTA (19)),¹⁰⁸ and 1,3,5-tri(biphenyl-4-yl)benzene (TBB).¹¹⁰ The incorporation of an alkyl or halogeno substituent into TDAB also permits the formation of amorphous glasses.^{101,105} They form amorphous glasses when the melt samples are rapidly cooled with liquid nitrogen. These results imply that not only nonplanar molecular structures, but also the existence of different conformers are responsible for the formation of amorphous

glasses. One approach for the existence of different conformers is to make nonplanar molecules unsymmetrical by the introduction of substituents.

4.3.2.1. Typical Key Compounds for Amorphous Molecular Glasses. On the basis of the above-mentioned molecular design concepts, a variety of amorphous molecular materials have been created. Typical key compounds that readily form amorphous glasses are *π*-electron starburst molecules, for example, families of 4,4′,4′′-tris(diphenylamino) triphenylamine (TDATA $(6-9)$),^{91,92,111} 1,3,5-tris(diphenylamino)benzene (TDAB (10-12)),^{101,112} and 1,3,5-tris^{[4-1} (diphenylamino)phenyl]benzene (TDAPB (**13**-**16**)).113 Tris- (oligoarylenyl)amines, for example, tri(terphenylyl)amines $(o₁, m₁, and p-TTA (17-19)),¹⁰⁸ and diarylaminophenylal$ dehyde arylhydrazones, for example, 4-diphenylaminobenzaldehyde diphenylhydrazone (DPH (20)),¹¹⁴ constitute other families of amorphous molecular materials. Oligothiophenes are very crystalline in nature; however, oligothiophenes end-

capped with a triarylamine group, α,ω-bis[bis(4-methylphen-
yl)aminophenyl]oligothiophenes (BMA-nT (21-24)), readily yl)aminophenyl]oligothiophenes (BMA-nT (21-24)), readily
form amorphous glasses.^{60-62,115} Spiro compounds, for example, spiro-4Φ (**25**), spiro-8Φ (**26**), and spiro-10Φ (**27**),116 tetraarylmethane derivatives, for example, **28**, ¹¹⁷ and macrocycle-based compounds, for example, **29**, ¹¹⁸ are also important classes of amorphous molecular materials. Oligo- (diphenylsilane)s have also been found to show morphologies with amorphous nature, exhibiting interesting even-odd effects; while the oligo(diphenylsilane)s with even number of silicon atoms tend to readily crystallize, those with the odd numbers of silicon atoms form amorphous glasses.¹¹⁹ The enlargement of molecular size leads to dendrimers with higher Tg's, as exemplified by 1,3,5-tris[4-bis(4-methylphenyl)aminophenyl-4-diphenylaminophenylamino]benzene (MT-BDAB (**30**)) and **31**. 106,120,121 The structures of these compounds are shown in Chart 2.

4.3.2.2. Structural Modifications of the Key Compounds. A variety of structural modifications of the key compounds in Chart 2 have been made. One is the replace**Scheme 3. Synthesis of** *m***-MTDATA**

Scheme 4. Synthesis of TDAB

Scheme 5. Synthesis of TDAPB

Scheme 6. Synthesis of Spiro Compound

ment of the phenyl group by thienyl, pyridyl, biphenylyl, naphthyl, fluorenyl, phenanthryl, and oxadiazolyl groups. Another is the replacement of the diphenylamino group by the carbazolyl, benzocarbazolyl, or phenothiazinyl group. The central core structures of triphenylamine, benzene, and 1,3,5 triphenylbenzene have also been replaced by triazine and 1,3,5-triphenyltriazine moieties.

Examples of such structural modifications of the TDATA, TDAB, and TDAPB families are shown in Chart 3. The replacement of the diphenylamino group in TDATA by the biphenylyl, carbazolyl, or phenothiazinyl group afforded 4,4′,4′′-tris[biphenyl-4-yl(3-methylphenyl)amino]triphenyl-

amine (*p*-PMTDATA (**32**)),122 4,4′,4′′-tri(*N*-carbazolyl)triphenylamine (TCTA (**33**)),107 and 4,4′,4′′-tri(*N*-phenothiazinyl) triphenylamine (TPTTA (34)).⁹² The introduction of structurally rigid biphenylyl, carbazolyl, and phenothiazinyl groups significantly increased Tg's.92,107,122 The replacement of the phenyl group in TDAB and TDAPB by the thienyl or pyridyl group afforded 1,3,5-tris(phenyl-2-thienylamino)benzene (α -TPTAB (**35**)), 1,3,5-tris(phenyl-3-thienylamino)benzene (*â*-TPTAB (36) , 103 40, and 44.¹²³ The replacement of the benzene core in TDAB and TDAPB by the triazine core gave **41–43**, and **45**.^{123,124} A few examples of spiro and related compounds for example B3 (**46**) and T3 (**47**) 125,126 and compounds, for example, B3 (46) and T3 (47) ,^{125,126} and tetraarylmethanes, for example, **48**¹²⁷ and **49**, ¹²⁸ are shown in Chart 4.

The Tg's, the oxidation potentials determined by cyclic voltammetry (CV), and the solid-state ionization potentials (IPs) which are determined by UPS or estimated from the CV data and the electron affinities (EAs) of the compounds shown in Chart 2-4 are listed in Table 1.

Scheme 7. Synthesis of Tetraphenylmethanes

4.3.3. Synthesis of Several Classes of Amorphous Molecular Materials

Cross-coupling reactions of aromatic compounds, for example, Grignard coupling reaction, Ullmann coupling reaction, Suzuki coupling reaction, and palladium-catalyzed amination reaction, are frequently employed for the synthesis of *π*-electron-based charge-transporting materials.

p-TTA and its analogues have been synthesized either by the Grignard coupling reaction of tris(4-iodophenyl)amine with a Grignard reagent derived from 4-bromobiphenyl in THF in the presence of $NiCl₂(dppp)¹⁰⁸$ or by the Suzuki coupling reaction of tris(4-iodophenyl)amine with corresponding arylboronic acids in toluene in the presence of Pd catalyst^{129} (Scheme 2).

m-MTDATA has been synthesized by the Ullmann coupling reaction between tris(4-iodophenyl)amine and 3-methylphenyl(phenyl)amine91 or by the Pd-catalyzed amination reaction¹³⁰ (Scheme 3).

The synthesis of TDAB and its derivatives has been performed by the reaction of 1,3,5-trihydroxybenzene (phloroglucinol) with aniline in the presence of iodine under reflux to give 1,3,5-tris(phenylamino)benzene, followed by the Ullmann coupling reaction with iodobenzenes in decalin.¹⁰¹ The Pd-catalyzed amination reaction between 1,3,5-tribromobenzene and 3-methylphenyl(phenyl)amine also gives TDAB¹³⁰ (Scheme 4).

TDAPB has been synthesized by the Ullmann coupling reaction of 1,3,5-tris(4-iodophenyl)benzene with diphenylamine in decalin in the presence of copper powder and potassium hydroxide.113 1,3,5-Tris(4-iodophenyl)benzene has been prepared either by the iodonation of 1,3,5-triphenylbenzene with iodine and $H₅IO₆$ in acetic acid or by the acidcatalyzed cyclization of *p*-iodoacetophenone in methanol/ dioxane¹³¹ (Scheme 5).

Spiro compounds have been synthesized by the reaction of biphenyl-2-ylmagnesium bromide with 9-fluorenone, followed by intramolecular dehydration reaction (Scheme 6).132 Tetraphenylmethanes have been synthesized by palladium-catalyzed coupling reactions (Scheme 7).¹²⁸

5. Charge Carrier Transporting Molecular Materials for Electronic and Optoelectronic Devices

While polycrystalline materials have been studied mostly for use in OPVs and OFETs, amorphous molecular glasses have been used in OLEDs.

Figure 12. Multilayer OLEDs consisting of hole-injection and -transport layers, electron-transport, and emitting layers.

5.1. Amorphous Molecular Materials for Organic Light-Emitting Diodes (OLEDs)

Amorphous molecular materials have been proven to be excellent materials for use in OLEDs. They form uniform, smooth amorphous thin films without pinholes, allowing uniform contact with the metal electrodes and between organic layers because of their isotropic and homogeneous properties.

Chart 6. Hole-Transporting Materials: Modified TDATAs

Charge-transporting amorphous molecular materials should have either high electron or hole (or both) drift mobilities to be capable of transporting charge carriers through them. Charge carriers, holes and electrons, which correspond to the cation and anion radicals of molecules, should be stable. Therefore, hole-transporting materials should undergo reversible anodic oxidation to form stable cation radicals. On the other hand, electron-transporting materials should undergo reversible cathodic reduction to form stable anion radicals. In addition, they should be morphologically and thermally stable and should not be easily crystallized.

Emitting materials emit either fluorescence or phosphorescence. Phosphorescence-based OLEDs attain higher EL quantum efficiencies than fluorescence-based OLEDs because the probability of the formation of the electronically excited triplet state resulting from the recombination of holes and electrons is 75% as compared with 25% for the formation of the electronically excited singlet state. Charge-transporting materials can be commonly used regardless of the kind of emitters.

5.1.1. Hole-Transporting Materials

An important requirement for high-performance OLEDs is efficient charge injection from the anode and the cathode at low drive voltage. A hole-transport layer is used for attaining efficient hole injection from the anode, which is usually a thin, transparent layer of ITO. Hole-transporting materials, namely, materials with relatively low solid-state ionization potentials are used as the hole-transport layer. Often a double hole-transport layer structure (Figure 12) is employed to more readily facilitate hole injection from the ITO into the emitting layer, where materials with very low

Chart 7. Hole-Transporting Materials: TDAB Family

solid-state ionization potentials and higher ionization potentials are used as the first hole-transport layer (HTL1) in contact with the ITO anode and as the second hole-transport layer (HTL2), respectively. Hole carriers are injected in a stepwise process from the anode to the HTL1, from the HTL1 to HTL2, and then from the HTL2 to the emitting layer. The energy barriers for hole injection are lowered by the use of this double hole-transport layer structure. The HTL1 is referred as a hole-injection buffer layer.

Most of the hole-transporting materials contains triarylamine moieties in their molecular structures. They are used either as HTL1 in contact with the ITO electrode or as HTL2, depending on their ionization potentials or oxidation potentials. Hole-transporting materials with very low solid-state ionization potentials, for example, *m*-MTDATA (8),^{111,133-135} CuPc (2) , 136 and an electrically conducting polymer, poly-(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene) doped with poly(4-styrene sulfonate) (PEDOT:PSS),¹³⁷ have been widely used as a holeinjection buffer layer (HTL1) in OLEDs.

The analysis of the current density-voltage characteristics for the hole-only device using *m*-MTDATA showed that the *m*-MTDATA/ITO interface is capable of providing TF-SCLC, and that *m*-MTDATA forms nearly an ohmic contact with the ITO electrode.¹³⁸⁻¹⁴⁰ The contact between the ITO and CuPc has also been understood as ohmic.141 It has been reported that when the energy barrier height is lower than ca. 0.3 eV, the metal/organic interface can be treated as the ohmic contact according to computer simulation.^{142,143} It has been shown that PEDOT:PSS coated on the ITO layer forms an ohmic contact with *m*-MTDATA and a quasi-ohmic contact with α -NPD from the analysis of $J-V$ and DI-SCLC characteristics.144

Numerous hole-transporting amorphous molecular materials that serve either as HTL1 or as HTL2 have been

developed. They can be classified into the following categories on the basis of the structures of the central cores. Some charge-transporting materials function as host materials for phosphorescent emitters.

5.1.1.1. TDATA Family: Star-Shaped Compounds with a Triphenylamine Central Core. In addition to TDATA (**6**) and *m*-MTDATA (**8**) in Chart 2, their analogues with higher Tg's have been developed, which include *p*-PMT-DATA (32),¹²² 4,4',4"-tris[1-naphthyl(phenyl)amino]triphenylamine (1-TNATA (**50**)),^{133,145} and 4,4',4"-tris[2-naphthyl-(phenyl)amino]triphenylamine (2-TNATA (51)),¹³³ 4,4',4"tris[bis(4′-*tert*-butylbiphenyl-4-yl)amino]triphenylamine (*t*-Bu-TBATA (**52**)),146 and 4,4′,4′′-tris[9,9-dimethylfluoren-2 yl(phenyl)amino]triphenylamine (TFATA (53)).¹⁴⁷ These materials of the TDATA family are characterized by very low solid-state ionization potentials of ca. 5.1 eV ,¹¹¹ good quality of amorphous films, and optical transparency in the visible light wavelength region. They are thermally more stable than *m*-MTDATA. Like *m*-MTDATA, these materials have also been proven to function as a thermally stable hole injection buffer layer (HTL1) in OLEDs.133,145 The structures of these compounds are shown in Chart 5.

5.1.1.2. Structurally Modified TDATAs. The diphenylamino group in TDATA has been replaced by carbazolyl, phenothiazinyl, phenoxazinyl, and dibenzocarbazolyl groups to give TCTA (**33**)107 and TPTTA (**34**)92 in Chart 3, 4,4′,4′′- $tri(N$ -phenoxazinyl)triphenylamine (TPOTA (54)),¹⁴⁸ and TDCTA (**55**).149 The replacement of the diphenylamino group in TDATA by a carbazolyl or a dibenzocarbazolyl group linked at its 9-position raises the ionization potential relative to the parent TDATA and significantly increases the Tg as a result of the rigid structure, as exemplifed by TCTA (**33**) and TDCTA (**55**). Other examples of modified TDATAs are given by **56**, ¹⁵⁰ TPTE(S) (**57**),151 **58**, ¹⁵⁰ and **59**. ¹⁵² TPOTA functions as HTL1, and other compounds with higher ionization potentials serve as materials for HTL2. The structures of these compounds are shown in Chart 6.

TCTA (**33**) with a relatively large HOMO-LUMO energy gap has been shown to function not only as a holetransporting material, $107,153$ but also as a good host material for a green phosphorescent dopant.¹⁵⁴

5.1.1.3. TDAB Family: Star-Shaped Compounds with Benzene as a Central Core. The TDAB family that functions as hole-transporting amorphous molecular materials include **60**, ¹⁵⁵ **61**, ¹⁵⁵ **62**, ¹⁵⁵ 1,3,5-tri(*N*-carbazolyl)benzene (TCB (**63**)),156 1,3,5-tris[*N*-(4-diphenylaminophenyl)phenylamino]benzene (*p*-DPA-TDAB (**64**)),104 1,3,5-tris[*N*-(4′ methylbiphenyl-4-yl)-*N*-(4-diphenylaminophenyl)amino]benzene (MTDBB (65)),¹⁰⁶ 66,¹²⁰ 67,¹²⁰ 68,¹²⁰ and 1,3,5-tris[2-(9-ethyl-3-carbazolyl)ethenyl]benzene (TECEB (**71**)).157 TCB (**63**) has been further functionalized with the diarylamino group at the 3- and 6-positions of the carbazole ring to give

Chart 9. Hole-Transporting Materials: Tris(oligoarylenyl)amines

69 and **70**. ¹⁵⁸ Related to TCB (**63**), 1,3-di(*N*-carbazolyl) benzene (mCB) has been used as a host material for blue phosphorescent dopant.159 The structures of these compounds are shown in Chart 7.

5.1.1.4. TDAPB Family: Star-Shaped Compounds with a 1,3,5-Triphenylbenzene Central Core. Charge-transporting amorphous molecular materials of the TDAPB family include methyl-substituted TDAPB (14–16),¹¹³ 72,¹⁶⁰ 4,4',4"-
tris^[9] 9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl(phenyl)aminoltriphenylbentris[9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl(phenyl)amino]triphenylbenzene (TFAPB (**73**)), 4,4′,4′′-tris[9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl(4 methylphenyl)amino]triphenylbenzene (MTFAPB (**74**)), 4,4′,4′′-tris[bis(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)amino]triphenylbenzene (TBFAPB (75)),¹⁶¹ 2,7,12-tris^{[9},9-dimethylfluoren-2yl(phenyl)amino]-5,5,10,10,15,15-hexamethyltruxene (TFATr (**76**)),1d and 2,7,12-tris(5,5,10,10,15,15-hexamethyltruxen-2 yl)-5,5,10,10,15,15-hexamethyltruxene (TTrTr (**77**)).1d The structurally rigid truxene-based hole-transporting amorphous molecular materials, TFATr (**76**) and TTrTr (**77**), exhibit very high Tg's above 200 °C.^{1d,162} They are used as materials for HTL2.^{1d} The compound 72 has been used as a host material for a phosphorescent dopant.¹⁶⁰ The structures of these compounds are shown in Chart 8.

5.1.1.5. Tris(oligoarylenyl)amines. A variety of tris(oligoarylenyl)amines have been developed (Chart 9).^{108,109,129,163} The compounds BPAPF (**84**) ¹⁶⁴ and tris(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)amine $(TFA (85))$ ¹⁶⁵ are also included in this category for convenience. Among these, TBA (**78**), *p*-TTA (**19**), and their sulfur and selenium analogues, **⁷⁹**-**82**, have been found to exhibit very high hole drift mobilities of \sim 10⁻² cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹.¹⁶³ Other tris(oligoarylenyl)amines have also been synthesized and used as materials for OPVs, which are described in section 5.2. *p*-TTA emits violet-blue to blue fluorescence.166

5.1.1.6. TPD Family: *N***,***N***,***N*′**,***N*′**-Tetraarylbenzidines.** TPD (**86**)167 dispersed in polycarbonate has been put into practical use as a CTL for photoreceptors in electrophotography. TPD has also been used as a hole transporter in Alq3 based OLEDs.168

As TPD lacks thermal and morphological stability and tends to readily crystallize,¹⁶⁹ a variety of structural modifications of TPD have been made by replacing the phenyl group in the phenyl(3-methylphenyl)amino group in TPD by the naphthyl, biphenylyl, phenanthryl, fluorenyl, and carbazolyl groups. The developed materials include α -NPD (**87**),136 *N*,*N*′-di(9-phenanthryl)-*N*,*N*′-diphenyl-[1,1′-biphenyl]- 4,4′-diamine (PPD (**92**)),170 4,4′-di(*N*-carbazolyl)biphenyl (CBP (**91**)),171 *N*,*N*′-di(biphenyl-2-yl)-*N*,*N*′-diphenyl-[1,1′ biphenyl]-4,4'-diamine $(o-BPD (88))$,¹²² *N,N*'-di(biphenyl-3-yl)-*N*,*N*′-diphenyl-[1,1′-biphenyl]-4,4′-diamine (*m*-BPD (89)),¹²² *N,N'*-di(biphenyl-4-yl)-*N,N'*-diphenyl-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4′-diamine (*p*-BPD (**90**)),122 *N*,*N*,*N*′,*N*′-tetrakis(9,9 dimethylfluoren-2-yl)-[1,1′-biphenyl]-4,4′-diamine (FFD (93)),¹⁴⁷ and 97 and 98.¹⁵⁸ The central biphenyl moiety is also replaced by a fluorenyl moiety to give TPF (94) ,¹⁷² NPF (95) ,¹⁷² and *N*,*N'*-bis(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)-*N*,*N'*-diphenyl-9,9-dimethylfluorene-2,7-diamine (PFFA (**96**)).173 A dimeric compound of TPD, TPTE (**99**),174 and a similar compound **100**¹⁷⁵ have also been developed. CBP has been widely employed as a host material for phosphorescent dopants.^{29,154,176-180} TPD and α -NPD emit intense violet-blue and blue florescence with high quantum efficiencies. Chart 10 shows the structures of these compounds.

5.1.1.7. Oligothiophenes End-Capped with Triarylamines. Oligothiophenes are crystalline in nature; however, thiophene and oligothiophenes end-capped with triarylamine, for example, BMA-nT $(21-24)$ in Chart $2,60,61$ $2,5-bis(2-$

Chart 10. Hole-Transporting Materials: TPD Derivatives

{4-[bis(4-methylphenyl)amino]phenyl}thiophen-5-yl)furan $(BMA-TFT (101))$,¹⁸¹ and α , ω -bis{4-[*N*,*N*-bis(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)amino]phenyl}oligothiophenes (BFA-nT (**102**, **103**)),182 readily form amorphous glasses. The compounds of the BMA-nT and BFA-nT families undergo reversible anodic oxidations and cathodic reductions. Noteworthy is that the oxidation and ionization potentials of BMA-nT are approximately the same regardless of the *π*-conjugation length of oligothiophenes. $\overline{61,115}$ They function as holetransporting emitting materials, and the emission color can be tuned by varying the conjugation length of oligothiophenes.62,182 These results indicate that the ionization potential is mainly governed by the triarylamine moiety, whereas the electron affinity is affected by the conjugation length of oligothiophenes. The structures of BMA-nT and BFA-nT are shown in Chart 11.

5.1.1.8. *N***,***N***,***N*′**,***N*′**-Tetraaryl Arylenediamines.** Aromatic and heteroaromatic compounds such as benzene, naphthalene, anthracene, oligothiophenes, and so forth have been functionalized with bis(diarylamino) groups to give *N*-naphthyl- N , N' , N' -triphenyl-1,4-phenylenediamines ($DN_{\alpha}P$ (**104**), $TN_{\beta}P$ (**105**)), *N*,*N*′-dinaphthyl-*N*,*N*′-diphenyl-1,4-phenylenediamines $(N_{\alpha}N_{\alpha}P (106), N_{\beta}N_{\alpha}P (107)),$ 1,5-bis(diarylamino)naphthalene derivatives (115),¹⁸³ 9,10-bis(diarylamino)anthracenes (PPA (**116**), TPA (**117**), ^R-NPA (**118**), *^â*-NPA (**119**)),184 and α , ω -diarylaminooligothiophenes (A-nT (120), 121).¹⁸⁵⁻¹⁸⁷

 α -NPA was synthesized from 9,10-dibromoanthracene and *N*-phenyl-1-naphthylamine in *o*-xylene in the presence of palladium catalyst. The HOMO and LUMO energies of 9,- 10-bis(diarylamino)anthracene are ca. $5.5-5.6$ and $3.1-3.3$ eV, respectively. The diarylamino group has also been replaced by the carbazolyl group to give 1-(*N*-carbazolyl)- 4-diarylaminobenzenes (DCP (108), TCP (109), N_{α} CP (110), N*â*CP (**111**)),171 **112**, ¹⁸⁸ **113** and **114**, 158,188 and **122** and **123**. ¹⁵⁸ The compounds of this family possess relatively low ionization potentials. The structures of these compounds are shown in Chart 12.

5.1.1.9. Compounds with a Central Carbazole Core. The central core structure of triphenylamine in the TDATA family can be replaced by carbazole, which can be easily substituted with the aryl and diarylamino groups at its 3-, 6-, and 9-positions to make amorphous molecular materials. 3,6-Bis(*N*,*N*-diphenylamino)-9-phenylcarbazole (**124**) was synthesized by the Ullmann coupling reaction of 3,6-diiodo-9-phenylcarbazole with diphenylamine in the presence of anhydrous potassium carbonate, copper powder, and 18 crown-6 in *o*-dichlorobenzene.

The incorporation of the arylamino group attached to the 3- and 6-positions of the central carbazole ring enables glass formation and significantly reduces the ionization potential through π -conjugation, as exemplified by the compounds **¹²⁴**-**127**. 189,190 The amorphous molecular materials with the

Chart 11. Hole-Transporting Materials: *π***-Electron Systems End-Capped with Triarylamines**

central carbazole core, **126** and **127**, are characterized by high Tg's of ca. 180 °C. The structures of these compounds are shown in Chart 13.

5.1.1.10. Aryl Hydrazones. Arylaldehyde and arylketone hydrazones, for example, DPH (**20**), 4-diphenylaminoacetophenone diphenylhydrazone (M-DPH (**128**)), 4-diphenylaminobenzaldehyde methylphenylhydrazone (DPMH (**129**)), 9-ethylcarbazole-3-carbaldehyde diphenylhydrazone (ECH (**130**)), 3-acetyl-9-ethylcarbazole diphenylhydrazone (M-ECH (**131**)), and 9-ethylcarbazole-3-carbaldehyde methylphenylhydrazone (ECMH (**132**)), constitute one class of amorphous molecular materials which are capable of transporting holes.¹¹⁴ The stability of the amorphous glassy state is greatly dependent on their molecular structures.¹¹⁴ Other aryl hydrazone compounds include **¹³³**-**136**¹⁹¹ and **¹³⁷**, 192 where arylhydrazone moieties are incorporated into the central triphenylamine core or 1,3-dicarbazolylcyclobutane core (Chart 14).

5.1.1.11. Spiro Compounds. Examples of spiro compounds that function as hole-transporting amorphous molecular materials are provided by 138, 139,¹⁹³ spiro-TAD (**140**),194 spiro-*m*-TTB (**141**),194 OMeTAD (**142**),195,196 and spiro-CARB (143).¹¹⁶ 9-Fluorene-type trispirocyclic compound (TX-F6S (**144)**) have also been synthesized and used as thermally stable hole-transporting materials in OLEDs¹⁹⁷ (Chart 15).

5.1.1.12. Other Hole-Transporting Materials. Compounds without the diarylamino or the carbazolyl group, for example, HPCzI (**145**),¹⁹⁸ **146**,¹⁹⁹ **147**,¹⁹⁹ and PF6 (**148**),^{199,200} have also been shown to play a role in hole transport in OLEDs (Chart 16).

The Tg's, oxidation potentials, solid-state ionization potentials, and electron affinities of hole-transporting amorphous molecular materials shown in Charts 5-16 are summarized in Table 2.²⁰¹⁻²¹¹

5.1.2. Electron-Transporting and Hole-Blocking Materials

Like the hole-transport layer, the electron-transport layer is used for attaining efficient electron injection from the metal cathode, which is usually low work-function metals such as calcium, magnesium, and aluminum. As was described in section 5.1, electron-transporting materials for use in the electron-transport layer in OLEDs should fulfill several requirements. They should have high electron drift mobilities to transport electrons. They should meet the energy level matching the electron injection from the cathode. The cathodic reduction processes of electron-transporting materials should be reversible to form stable anion radicals. In addition, they should form homogeneous thin films with morphological and thermal stability. The electron-transport layer in OLEDs plays a role in hole blocking as well as acceptance and transport of electrons.

In case electron-transporting materials lack effective holeblocking ability, an independent hole-blocking material is used together with a suitable electron transporter that facilitates electron injection from the cathode. Hole-blocking materials should fulfill several requirements. They should have weak electron-accepting and -transporting properties. Their anion radicals should be stable. They should possess proper energy levels of HOMO and LUMO to be able to block holes from escaping from the emitting layer into the electron-transport layer but to pass on electrons from the electron-transport layer to the emitting layer. In other words, the difference in the HOMO energy levels between the emitting material and the hole-blocking material should be much larger than that in their LUMO energy levels. In

Chart 12. Hole-Transporting Materials: *N***,***N***,***N*′**,***N*′**-Tetraaryl Arylenediamine**

Chart 13. Hole-Transporting Materials: Compounds with a Central Carbazole Core

addition, they should not form any exciplexes with emitting materials having electron-donating properties.

Electron-transporting materials contain electron-withdrawing moieties in the molecule. Heteroaromatic rings, for example, pyridine (**149**), triazine (**150**), 1,3,4-oxadiazole (**151**), triazole (**152**), and silacyclopentadiene (silole (**153**)), dimesitylboranes (**154**), and triarylboranes (**155**) comprise electron-withdrawing moieties in electron-transporting materials (Chart 17). Therefore, a definite concept for the molecular design of electron-transporting amorphous molecular materials is to incorporate these electron-withdrawing moieties at the 1,3,5-positions of the central benzene core or at the *o*-, *m*-, or *p*-position of the central 1,3,5-triphenylbenzene core to form nonplanar molecules. An electron-

withdrawing dimesitylboryl group can be incorporated into other π -conjugated systems to create a different class of electron-transporting amorphous molecular materials.

Recent advances in electron-transporting materials have been reviewed.²¹²⁻²¹⁴ Here, electron-transporting materials are classified into the following categories on the basis of the central structural units.

5.1.2.1. Tris(8-quinolinolato)aluminum (Alq3) and Boron-Containing Complexes. Alq₃ (156 in Chart 18), which is well-known as a green emitter, has been widely used as an excellent electron transporter and as a host material for green to red fluorescence-emissive dopants in OLEDs. It has been reported that Alg_3 takes up different polymorphs.⁸⁵ The vacuum-deposited Alq₃ thin films are of amorphous nature;²¹⁵ however, the initially amorphous thin film of $Alq₃$ readily crystallizes on exposure to solvent vapor.85 Boron-containing complexes such as BPh_2q (157) and $B(2\textrm{-}benzothienyl)_{2}q$ (**158**) have also been reported as candidates for electron transporters.216,217 They emit fluorescence, but form exciplexes with α -NPD.^{216,217}

5.1.2.2. Oxadiazole-Containing Oligo(arylene)s and Oligo(arylenevinylene)s. 2-(Biphenyl-4-yl)-5-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole (*t*-Bu-PBD (**159**)) has been widely used as an electron transporter in OLEDs;¹⁶⁸ however, this compound readily crystallizes. Other oxadiazole-contain**Chart 14. Hole-Transporting Materials: Compounds with Aryl Hydrazone Moieties**

Chart 15. Hole-Transporting Materials: Spiro Compounds

Chart 16. Hole-Transporting Materials without Diarylamino Groups

ing compounds include 3-bis[5-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)-1,3,4 oxadiazol-2-yl]benzene (OXD-7 (160)),³¹ 161, and 162.²¹⁸ A 2,5-diaryl-1,3,4-triazole derivative (TAZ (**163**)) has also been reported to serve as an electron transporter.²¹⁹ 4,7-Diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline (BPhen (**164**)) doped with lithium has been reported to serve as an electron transport $er^{220-223}$ (Chart 18).

5.1.2.3. Compounds with a Benzene or Triazine Central Core. In accordance with the molecular design concept of the incorporation of electron-withdrawing pyridine, oxadiazole, quinoxaline, and benzimidazole at the 1,3,5-positions of the central benzene core, the following compounds have been synthesized and used as electron transporters in OLEDs. They include 1,3,5-tris(4-*tert*-butylphenyl-1,3,4-oxadizolyl) benzene (TPOB (**165**)),^{133,224,225} 1,3,5-tris(3-phenylquinoxalin-2-yl)benzene (TPQ (166)),²²⁶ and a benzimidazole derivative (TPBI (**167**)).227 1,3,5-Tris(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2 yl)benzene (TFB (168)) acts as a hole-blocking material.²²⁸ The central benzene core has also been replaced by a triazine central core to give 2,4,6-tris[di(2-pyridyl)amino]-1,3,5 triazine (**169**)123 and TRZ2-4 (**170**-**172**)229 (Chart 19).

5.1.2.4. Compounds with a 1,3,5-Triphenylbenzene or 2,4,6-Triphenyltriazine Central Core. Electron-transporting amorphous molecular materials with a central core of 1,3,5 triphenylbenzene or 2,4,6-triphenyltriazine have been developed. The examples are provided by 1,3,5-tris{4-[di(2 pyridyl)amino]phenyl}benzene (**44**),123 2,4,6-tris{4-[di(2 pyridyl)amino]phenyl}-1,3,5-triazine (45),¹²³ 173,²³⁰ 1,3,5tris[5-(dimesitylboryl)thiophen-2-yl]benzene (TMB-TB (**174**)),231 1,3,5-tri(4-biphenylyl)benzene (TBB (**175**)), 1,3,5-tris(4-fluorobiphenyl-4′-yl)benzene (F-TBB (**176**)), 1,3,5-tris[4-(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)phenyl]benzene (TFPB (**177**)),228,232 **178**, ²³³ and **179**²³³ (Chart 20).

TMB-TB functions as an electron transporter with better hole-blocking character than that of $Alq₃$.²³¹ The materials of the 1,3,5-triarylbenzene family, TBB (**175**), F-TBB (**176**), TFPB (**177**), **178**, and **179**, act as hole-blocking materials in

a These compounds do not form amorphous glasses. *b* Reduction potentials of these compounds are as follows: BFA-1T (-2.47 V vs Ag/AgNO₃ $(0.01 \text{ mol dm}^{-3})$ in THF); BFA-2T (-2.26 V vs Ag/AgNO₃ (0.01 mol dm⁻³) in THF).

Chart 17. Electron-Withdrawing Moieties in Electron-Transporting Materials

combination with other electron-transporting materials, for example, Alq3, in OLEDs, permitting blue or blue-violet emission.228,232 The compounds **44** and **45** with electrontransporting properties serve as blue-emitting materials.¹²³

Chart 18. Electron-Transporting Materials: Alq3, 2,5-Diaryl-1,3,4-oxadiazoles, and Triazoles

They have been prepared by the Ullmann coupling reation of 1,3,5-tris(4-bromophenyl)benzene or 2,4,6-tris(4-bromophenyl)-1,3,5-triazine with di(2-pyridyl)amine in the presence of potassium carbonate and copper sulfate.¹²³

5.1.2.5. Compounds with a Tetraphenylmethane Central Core. Electron-transporting amorphous molecular materials with four 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl groups attached to the tetraphenylmethane central core, OMEOXD (180), CF₃OXD (**181**), and TBUOXD (**182**),234 have been developed (Chart 21).

5.1.2.6. *π***-Electron Systems End-Capped with a Dimesitylboryl Group.** Boron-containing oligothiophenes such as 2,5-bis(dimesitylboryl)thiophene (BMB-1T (**183**)), 5,5′ bis(dimesitylboryl)-2,2′-bithiophene (BMB-2T (**184**)), and 5,5′′-bis(dimesitylboryl)-2,2′:5′,2′′-terthiophene (BMB-3T (**185**)) have been synthesized. BMB-2T and -3T undergo reversible cathodic reductions, exhibiting two sequential cathodic and the corresponding anodic waves to generate the radical anion and dianion species.⁶³ They have also been characterized by UPS.^{115,235} BMB-nT ($n = 1, 2$, and 3) have **Chart 20. Electron-Transporting Materials: Compounds with a 1,3,5-Triphenylbenzene or 2,4,6-Triphenyltriazine Central Core**

stronger electron-accepting properties than those of Alq₃.^{63,115,235} Electron-transporting BMB-2T emits intense blue emission.¹¹⁰ It also functions as a host matrix for emitters.²³⁶ The compound **186** is also an electron-transporting emitter, and bright white light emission has been obtained from a single layer of its spin-coated film.237 The structures of these compounds are shown in Chart 22.

5.1.2.7. Triarylboranes. The compounds of a triarylborane family, tris(2,3,5,6-tetramethylphenyl)borane (TPhB (**187**)), tris(2,3,5,6-tetramethylbiphenyl-4-yl)borane (TBPhB (**188**)), tris(2,3,5.6-tetramethyl-1,1′:4′,1′′-terphenyl-4-yl)borane (TTPhB

(**189**)), and tris[2,3,5,6-tetramethyl-4-(1,1′:3′,1′′-terphenyl-5′-yl)phenyl]borane (TTPhPhB (**190**)), have been developed and used as hole-blocking materials in combination with Alq3 as an electron transporter²³⁸ (Chart 23).

5.1.2.8. Silole Derivatives. Silacyclopentadiene derivatives have constituted an important class of electron-transporting materials, which include 2,5-di(2-pyridyl)-1,1-dimethyl-3,4 diphenylsilacyclopentadiene (PySPy (**191**)),239,240 2,5-di- (biphenyl-3-yl)-1,1-dimethyl-3,4-diphenylsilacyclopentadiene (PPSPP (**192**)),241,242 2,5-bis(6-phenylpyridin-2-yl)-1,1 dimethyl-3,4-diphenylsilacyclopentadiene (PPySPyP (193)),²⁴⁰

Chart 21. Electron-Transporting Materials: Compounds with a Tetraphenylmethane Central Core

Chart 22. Electron-Transporting Materials: *π***-Electron Systems End-Capped with Two Dimesitylboryl Groups**

2,5-bis[3-(2-pyridyl)phenyl]-1,1-dimethyl-3,4-diphenylsilacyclopentadiene (PyPSPPy (194)),²⁴⁰ 2,5-bis(2,2'-bipyridin-6-yl)-1,1-dimethyl-3,4-diphenylsilacyclopentadiene (PyPySPy-Py (**195**)),240-²⁴³ and 9-silafluorene-9-spiro-1′-(2′,3′,4′,5′ tetraphenyl)-1'*H*-silacyclopentadiene (ASP (196)).²⁴² They also function as good emitters. PyPySPyPy has been characterized by UPS.244-²⁴⁶ Molecular orbital calculations has been performed on **191**, **192**, and **195**. ²⁴⁷ The structures of these compounds are shown in Chart 24.

5.1.2.9. X-Shaped Compounds with a 1,2,4,5-Tetraphenylbenzene Core. X-Branched oligophenylenes, **¹⁹⁷**-**202**, have been synthesized by the palladium-catalyzed Suzuki cross-coupling reaction of 1,2,4,5-tetrakis(*p*-iodophenyl)benzene with the corresponding phenylboronic acid. The HOMO and LUMO energy levels of these X-branched oligophenylenes were estimated to be in the range of 5.9-6.5 and $2.4-3.3$ eV, respectively.²⁴⁸ These compounds have been used as hole-blocking materials for obtaining blue emission. Like BMB-nT, 2,3,5,6-tetra(2-pyridyl)pyrazine (TPP (**203**)) serves as an electron injection material in OLEDs.²⁴⁹ The structures of these compounds are shown in Chart 25.

5.1.2.10. Spiro Compounds and Others. Electrontransporting amorphous molecular materials with a spiro center, **204-207**, have been reported (Chart 26).^{210,218,250,251} TBPSF (**204**) functions as an emitter.

The Tg's, reduction potentials, solid-state ionization potentials, and electron affinities of electron-transporting

Chart 23. Electron-Transporting Materials: Triarylboranes

amorphous molecular materials shown in Charts 18-26 are listed in Table 3.

5.1.3. Ambipolar Charge-Transporting Materials

As will be discussed in sections 5.3 and 6, chargetransporting materials are suggested to have the properties of ambipolar transport in nature so long as they accept both hole and electron carriers. Generally, hole- and electrontransporting materials readily accept holes and electrons, respectively, but do not readily accept electrons and holes, respectively. However, molecules containing both the electrondonating and -accepting moieties exhibit ambipolar character, readily accepting both holes and electrons. These materials usually function as materials for the emitting layer in OLEDs. Since the emitting layer in OLEDs acts as the recombination center for holes and electrons injected from the anode and cathode, respectively, materials for use in the emitting layer should accept both hole and electron carriers, and transport them. That is, the emitting materials should have bipolar character, permitting the formation of both stable cation and anion radicals. The emitting materials should have high luminescence quantum efficiencies. In addition to these requirements, they should be capable of forming smooth, uniform thin films with thermal and morphological stability. The use of emitting materials that fulfill these requirements is expected to lead to enhanced performance and improved durability of devices.

BMA-nT (**21**-**24**)60-62,181,252 and BFA-nT (**102**, **¹⁰³**)182 in Chart 11 have ambipolar character and function as good emitters in OLEDs. These compounds undergo reversible anodic oxidations and cathodic reductions. The central oligothiophenes in BMA-nT are thought to play a role in electron acceptance. The HOMO energy levels of BMA-nT $(n =$ 1∼4) were almost the same regardless of the conjugation length of oligothiophene, as determined by cyclic voltammetry and UPS.¹¹⁵ The π -conjugation length of oligothiophenes mainly affected the LUMO energy levels, tuning the emission color from blue to green, yellow, and orange.

187 (TPhB)

188 (TBPhB)

189 (TTPhB)

190 (TTPhPhB)

Chart 24. Electron-Transporting Materials: Silole Derivatives

2,6-Bis{4-[*N*,*N*-bis(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)amino] phenyl}pyridine (BFA-Py (**208**)),253 4,7-bis{4-[bis(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)amino]phenyl}-2,1,3-benzothiadiazole (BFA-BT (**209**)),1d,253 9,10-bis{4-[*N*,*N*-bis(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)amino]phenyl}anthracene (BFA-An (210)),^{1d,253} and R-{4-[bis(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)amino]phenyl}-*ω*-(dimesitylboryl)oligothiophenes (FlAMB-nT (**211**-**214**))254,255 have also provided definite examples of ambipolar emitting

materials that meet all the requirements described above. All these compounds were found to readily form stable amorphous glasses with well-defined Tg's, as characterized by DSC, XRD, and IR and Raman spectroscopy.^{256,257} They exhibited intense fluorescence with relatively high fluorescence quantum yields. They undergo both reversible anodic oxidations and cathodic reductions to permit the formation of stable cation and anion radicals. The results of cyclic voltammetry of the FlAMB-nT ($n = 0$ ∼3) family showed that the oxidation potentials gradually decreased and the reduction potentials became increasingly more positive with the increasing conjugation length of the central thiophene unit. The π -conjugation length of the central oligothiophenes finely control the HOMO and LUMO energy gap and hence the emission color. The HOMO and LUMO energy levels of the BFA family greatly depended on the kinds of the central π -electron system. The emission color of the materials of the BFA family changed from blue to red, depending upon the kind of the central π -electron system.

The compounds, AODF $(216)^{258}$ and CzOxa $(217)^{259}$ are examples of materials containing an electron-withdrawing 1,3,4-oxadiazole group and an electron-donating dimethylamino or *N*-phenylcarbazolyl group. Bis(4-(*N*-(1-naphthyl) phenylamino)phenyl)fumaronitrile (NPAFN (218))²⁶⁰ and *N*-methyl-bis{4-[*N*-(1-naphthyl)-*N*-phenylamino]phenyl} maleimide (NPAMLMe (219))²⁶¹ with electron donoracceptor moieties provide the examples of red-emitting amorphous molecular materials. Emissive donor-acceptor molecules based on phenoxazine and quinoline as donor and acceptor moieties, 10-methyl-3,7-bis(4-phenylquinolin-2-yl)-

Chart 25. Electron-Transporting Materials: Compounds with a 1,2,4,5-Tetraphenylbenzene Core

Chart 26. Electron-Transporting Materials: Spiro Compounds

^a These compounds do not form amorphous glasses. *^b* These compounds do not show glass transition phenomena, but form smooth films. *^c* Oxidation potentials of these compounds are as follows: Alq₃ (0.75 V vs Fc/Fc⁺ in DMF),⁴⁸ TFB (1.25 V vs Ag/Ag⁺ (0.01 mol dm⁻³) in CH₂Cl₂),²²⁸ TBB $(1.32 \text{ V} \text{ vs } \text{Ag/Ag}^+(0.01 \text{ mol dm}^{-3}) \text{ in } \text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2)$,²²⁸ F-TBB (1.29 V vs Ag/Ag⁺ (0.01 mol dm⁻³) in CH₂Cl₂),²²⁸ and TFPB (1.25 V vs Ag/Ag⁺ (0.01 mol dm⁻³) in $CH₂Cl₂$, ²²⁸

10*H*-phenoxazine (BPQ-MPO (**220**)) and 10-phenyl-3,7-bis- (4-phenylquinolin-2-yl)-10*H*-phenoxazine (BPQ-PPO (**221**)), have also been synthesized.²⁶² Single-layer OLEDs have been developed using ambipolar materials, such as a dibenzothiophene *S*,*S*-dioxide derivative containing a diphenylaminophenyl group $(222)^{263}$ and a boron-containing com-

 $227: R = 2,2'-pyridin-6-yl$

pound containing hole-transporting, electron-transporting, and emitting components ((dppy)BTPA (223)).²⁶⁴ A novel class of amorphous molecular materials, spirosilabifluorenes, **²²⁴**-**227**, forms transparent and stable amorphous glasses with high Tg's above 200 °C. The electronic absorption spectra of these compounds show a significant bathochromic shift relative to those of the corresponding carbon analogues as a result of $\sigma^* - \pi^*$ conjugation. They exhibit violet-blue emission peaking at 398∼415 nm.265

In phosphorescence-based OLEDs, charge-transporting materials with large optical band gaps, such as CBP

(91),^{29,154,176-180} TCTA (33),¹⁵⁴ and compound 72,¹⁶⁰ have been used as host materials for phosphorescent dopants. The host material in the emitting layer serves as a recombination center for holes and electrons to generate the electronically excited states, followed by both singlet-singlet and triplettriplet excitation energy transfer from the host to the dopant, and hence, host materials possess ambipolar transport properties.

The molecular structures of ambipolar charge-transporting materials are shown in Chart 27, and the Tg's, oxidation and reduction potentials, solid-state ionization potentials, and

Table 4. Glass-Transition Temperatures (Tg's), Oxidation and Reduction Potentials, Ionization Potentials (IPs), and Electron Affinities (EAs) of Ambipolar Charge-Transporting Amorphous Molecular Materials

	Tg			IP	EA		
compound	$(^{\circ}C)$	oxidation potential	reduction potential	(eV)	(eV)	ref	
Compounds Containing Electron-Donating and Electron-Accepting Moieties							
208 (BFA-Py)	173	0.57 V vs Ag/AgNO ₃ (0.01 mol	-2.61 V vs Ag/AgNO ₃ (0.01 mol			253	
		dm^{-3}) in CH ₂ Cl ₂	dm^{-3}) in THF				
209 (BFA-BT)	145	0.56 V vs Ag/AgNO ₃ (0.01 mol	-1.72 V vs Ag/AgNO ₃ (0.01 mol			253	
		dm^{-3}) in THF	dm^{-3}) in THF				
210 (BFA-An)	185	0.56 V vs Ag/AgNO ₃ (0.01 mol	-2.26 V vs Ag/AgNO ₃ (0.01 mol			253	
		dm^{-3}) in CH ₂ Cl ₂	dm^{-3}) in THF				
211 (FIAMB-0T)	129	0.36 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂	-2.51 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in THF			255	
212 (FIAMB-1T)	124	0.31 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂	-2.17 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in THF			255	
213 (FIAMB-2T)	127	0.28 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂	-2.11 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in THF			255	
214 (FIAMB-3T)	131	0.27 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂	-2.03 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in THF			255	
215	157	0.592 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂		5.07	2.18	158	
217 (CzOxa)				6.22	3.13	259	
218 (NPAFN)	109					260	
219 (NPAMLMe)	120			5.8	$3.7 \sim 3.8$	261	
220 (BPO-MPO)	137	0.71 V vs SCE in C_6H_6/CH_3CN	-2.02 V vs SCE in C ₆ H ₆ /CH ₃ CN	5.1	2.4	262	
221 (BPQ-PPO)	149	0.79 V vs SCE in C_6H_6/CH_3CN	-2.00 V vs SCE in C_6H_6/CH_3CN	5.2	2.4	262	
222	123	0.553 V vs Fc/Fc+ in CH ₂ Cl ₂ /DMF	-1.935 V vs Fc/Fc+ in CH ₂ Cl ₂ /DMF	5.35	2.61	263	
223 ((dppy)BTPA)				5.3	2.9	264	
224	203	1.09 V vs Ag/AgCl (0.01 mol dm ⁻³)		5.79		265	
		in CH ₃ CN:THF					
225	203	1.17 V vs Ag/AgCl $(0.01 \text{ mol dm}^{-3})$	-2.24 V vs Ag/AgCl (0.01 mol dm ⁻³)	5.87	2.46	265	
		in $CH_3CN:THF$	in $CH_3CN:THF$				
226	228	1.11 V vs Ag/AgCl $(0.01 \text{ mol dm}^{-3})$	-2.42 V vs Ag/AgCl (0.01 mol dm ⁻³)	5.81	2.28	265	
		in CH ₃ CN:THF	in CH ₃ CN:THF				

electron affinities of ambipolar charge-transporting amorphous molecular materials are summarized in Table 4.

5.1.4. Interactions at the Interface between the Hole-Transport Layer and the Electron-Transport Layer

Electron donor-acceptor interactions between hole- and electron-transporting layers in multilayer OLEDs sometimes lead to the formation of exciplexes at the solid interface between organic/organic layers. Since amorphous molecular materials form homogeneous thin films without any grain boundaries, they are suitable for studying solid-state exciplex formation.

The direct contact between the hole-transporting materials of the TDATA family and electron-transporting emitter Alq3 results in the formation of exciplexes at the interface.^{266,267} OLEDs consisting of the two layers of *m*-MTDATA or 2-TNATA and Alq₃ emit yellow light at low drive voltages and green light at high drive voltages. While the green emission originates from Alq₃, the yellow emission results from the contribution of the exciplex emission. Thus, the two emission colors can be reversibly switched by varying the drive voltage.²⁶⁶ Exciplex formation in OLEDs has been observed for a number of combinations of hole- and electrontransporting amorphous molecular materials.225,241,259,268-²⁷⁰

The intensity of the exciplex emission is usually lower than that of the single component emission. From the viewpoint of the EL efficiency, formation of exciplexes should be avoided, and hence, attention has been directed to avoid exciplex formation in organic EL devices. The exciplex formation can be prevented by the insertion of a thin layer of a suitable material between the two layers that form an exciplex.^{110,270} The other way is to use the material as a dopant.²⁷¹

On the other hand, the utilization of intense exciplex emission is one approach for obtaining desired emission color.259,269 Highly efficient exciplex emission has been observed from OLEDs based on hole-transporting α -NPD or TPD and electron-transporting silole derivatives, PPSPP or PyPySPyPy.²⁴¹ A luminance of 100 cd m^{-2} has been obtained at a drive voltage of 4.5 V, and an EL quantum

efficiency of 3.4% has been achieved at 100 A m^{-2} for the combination of PPSPP and α -NPD.²⁴¹ Exciplexes have also been exploited to tune the emission color^{225,266,268} and to obtain white light.272-²⁷⁶

5.1.5. Device Structures and Performance

Multilayer OLEDs using Alq₃ with or without emissive dopants as an emitting layer and various kinds of chargetransporting materials as charge-transport layers have been fabricated, and their performance has been examined. Typical device structures are as follows: ITO/HTL/Alq3/metal and ITO/HTL1/HTL2/Alq3/metal. An alloy of magnesium and silver or aluminum is often employed as the cathode. When aluminum is used as the cathode, a very thin layer $(1 nm)$ of lithium fluoride (LiF) is inserted between the cathode and the electron-transport layer to facilitate electron injection from the Al cathode.²⁷⁷

Multilayer OLEDs consisting of an emitting layer of Alq₃, a hole-injection layer (HTL1) of *m*-MTDATA, and a holetransport layer (HTL2) of TPD or α -NPD exhibited higher luminous efficiency and significantly enhanced operational stability than those of the corresponding double-layer devices without the hole-injection layer $(HTL1)$.^{111,133–135} The increase in the electrical conductivity of a hole-injection buffer layer material *m*-MTDATA by doping with iodine or 2,3,5,6 tetrafluoro-7,7,8,8-tetracyanoquinodimethane (F4TCNQ) has been shown to lead to significant reductions of drive voltage and the enhancement of external quantum efficiency for Alq₃based OLEDs relative to the corresponding device using the

Table 5. Examples of Performance of OLEDs

Table 5 (Continued)

undoped hole-injection buffer layer.²⁷⁸⁻²⁸⁰ The results show that the hole current dominates in these devices and that the use of doped *m*-MTDATA facilitates not only hole injection from the ITO electrode, but also electron injection from the cathode into Alq3 probably due to the formation of a steeper electric field in the Alq₃ layer.²⁸⁰

Likewise, BMB-nT (**183**-**185**), TPP (**203**), and PySPy (**191**) function as an electron-injection layer that facilitates electron injection from the MgAg cathode into the $Alg₃$ layer. Multilayer OLEDs using BMB-2T or BMB-3T as an electron-transporting material, Alq₃ as an electron-transporting emissive material, and m -MTDATA and α -NPD as holetransporting materials, ITO/*m*-MTDATA (30 nm)/ α -NPD (20 nm)/Alq₃ (30 nm)/BMB-nT ($n = 2$ and 3) (20 nm)/MgAg, emitted bright green light originating from Alq₃, exhibiting approximately $1.1-1.2$ times higher luminous and quantum efficiencies and 1.6-1.8 times higher maximum luminance than those of the corresponding OLED without the BMBnT layer, ITO/*m*-MTDATA (30 nm)/α-NPD (20 nm)/Alq₃ (50 nm)/MgAg.63 The comparison of the performance between two devices, ITO/TPD (50 nm)/Alq₃ (15 nm)/PySPy (191) (30 nm)/MgAg and ITO/TPD (50 nm)/Alq₃ (50 nm)/ MgAg, showed that the use of PySPy (**191**) as the electroninjection layer resulted in ca. 1.3 times higher luminous efficiency.²³⁹ A high current density of 100 mA cm⁻² at less than 10 V and the external quantum efficiency of 1.0% have been obtained for a device using α -NPD as a hole-transport layer, Alq₃ as an electron-transporting emitting layer, and a thin layer (10 nm) of TPP (**203**) as an electron-injection layer sandwiched between ITO and MgAg electrodes, ITO/ α -NPD (50 nm)/Alq3 (50 nm)/TPP (10 nm)/MgAg.249

As was described earlier, various kinds of thermally stable charge-transporting amorphous molecular materials have been developed. In the 1990s, charge-transporting materials with Tg's over 130 °C have been created. The examples are provided by TCTA (33),¹⁰⁷ TPTTA (34),⁹² Spiro-8Φ (26),¹¹⁶ *t*-Bu-TBATA (**52**),146 TPOTA (**54**),148 **173**, ²³⁰ and so forth. In the 2000s, materials with Tg's above 200 °C have been created, as exemplified by B3 (46) , 125 T3 (47) , 125 48 , 127 TDCTA (55),¹⁴⁹ TFATr (76),^{1d} TTrTr (77),^{1d} **224**∼**226**,²⁶⁵ and so forth. The use of charge-transporting materials with high Tg's permitted the fabrication of thermally stable, Alq₃based OLEDs.107,133,145,146,281

When materials other than $\text{Al}q_3$ have been used as an emitting layer, Alq₃ (156) and TPBI (167) have been used frequently as an electron-transport layer. OLEDs using BMA-

 nT and FIAMB-nT as emitters and Alq₃ as an electron transporter gave multicolor emission depending on the conjugation length of the central oligothiophene.^{61,255} The compounds T3 (**47**) and THPF (**228**) emit intense blue fluorescence. An OLED, ITO/TCTA (**33**) (40 nm)/THPF (**228**) (40 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq3 (20 nm)/LiF/Al, has been reported to emit pure blue EL with chromaticity coordinates at $(0.18, 0.09)$ and a maximum efficiency of 1.27 cd A⁻¹.²⁸² Some devices exhibit external EL quantum efficiencies close to or over the theoretical limit (5%) for a fluorescent emitter with a PL quantum yield close to unity. High-performance blue EL (external quantum efficiency of 5.3%, luminance of ∼14 000 cd m⁻²) has been reported for a device ITO/ PEDOT:PSS/TCTA (**33**) (40 nm)/T3 (**47**) (30 nm)/TPBI (30 nm)/LiF/Al.¹⁵³ An OLED using β -NPA (119) as an emitter; ITO/*m*-MTDATA (20 nm)/*â*-NPA (40 nm)/TPBI (50 nm)/ MgAg, has been reported to emit green light at 530 nm and exhibit high performance with a maximum external quantum efficiency of 3.68%, a current efficiency of 14.79 cd A^{-1} , a power efficiency of 7.76 $\text{Im } W^{-1}$, and a maximum brightness of 64 991 cd m^{-2} .¹⁸⁴ A double-layer device using holetransporting emitter **126** and TPBI as an electron-transport layer emitted green light with a turn-on voltage of 5 V, and an external quantum efficiency of 1.5% at 5 V and a luminous efficiency of 2.5 lm W^{-1} at 5 V.¹⁹⁰

An electron-transporting material with better hole-blocking ability than that of Alq3, TPOB (**165**), enabled blue emission from BMA-1T in OLEDs.⁶² The use of electron transporter with a better hole-blocking ability, TMB-TB (**174**), also permitted blue emission from *p*-TTA in OLEDs.231 In case electron transporters do not function well as hole blockers, hole-blocking materials are inserted between the electrontransport layer and the emitting layer. Bathocuproine (BCP) has been reported to function as a hole-blocking material.²⁸³ BCP has also been used as an exciton-blocking layer in OLEDs.284 However, it forms exciplexes with a number of hole-transporting materials to give new emissions at longer wavelength regions.285

The compounds of the triarylbenzene family,^{228,232} triarylboranes,²³⁸ fluoro-substituted phenylene compounds, and X-shaped compounds with a 1,2,4,5-tetraphenylbenzene core,²⁴⁸ have been shown to serve as effective hole-blocking materials. High-performance blue- and blue-violet-emitting organic EL devices have been developed by the use of these hole-blocking materials and TPD, *N*,*N*-bis(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)aniline (F₂PA), *p*-TTA, and α-NPD as blue-violet and blue emitters.^{228,232,238} For example, a device, ITO/*m*- MTDATA (50 nm)/TPD (20 nm)/F-TBB (10 nm)/Alq₃ (20 nm)/MgAg, exhibited blue violet emission with a turn-on voltage of 4.0 V and an external quantum efficiency of 1.40%.232 BMB-2T (**184**) with a larger ionization potential than that of $Alq₃$ has also been used as an effective holeblocking material.⁶³ Tetraarylsilanes have been reported to function as effective hole-blocking materials or host materials for phosphorescent dopants.²⁸⁶⁻²⁸⁸ 9,9'-Diaryl-4,5-diazafluorene has also been reported to act as a hole-blocking electrontransporting material.251

Some electron-transporting materials, for example, BMB- $2T(184)$, ⁶³ compound 186 , ²³⁷ silole derivatives, ^{242, 289} and so forth, exhibit intense photoluminescence, serving also as emitting materials in OLEDs. It has been reported that a device, ITO/TPD (50 nm)/2PSP (20 nm)/PyPySPyPy (30 nm)/MgAg (100 nm), exhibits blue-green emission with an external EL quantum efficiency of 4.8%.²⁸⁹

Host materials for phosphorescent dopants in phosphorescence-based OLEDs usually function as the recombination center for holes and electrons. In some systems, phosphorescent dopants directly accept holes and electrons from the adjacent organic layer. A device using *m*-MTDATA as a hole injection buffer layer and CBP doped with *fac*-tris(2-phenylpyridine)iridium $(Ir(ppy3))$ has been reported to exhibit peak external quantum and power efficiencies of $12.0 \pm 0.6\%$ and 45 ± 2 lm W⁻¹, respectively. It is shown that Ir(ppy)₃ directly accept holes from the *m*-MTDATA layer and that directly accept holes from the *m*-MTDATA layer and that electrons are injected into and transported by the CBP layer. Thus, the Ir(ppy) $_3$:CBP layer exhibits ambipolar transport.²⁹⁰

There are a few reports stating that high performance of OLEDs stems from high charge carrier drift mobilities. A device using 2PSP (**229**) as an emitting layer, TPD (**86**) as a hole-transport layer, and PyPySPyPy (**195**) as an electrontransport layer emits blue-green light originating from 2PSP, exhibiting very high performance, as described above. A significant reduction of drive voltage for this device relative to the corresponding device using $Alq₃$ in place of Py-PySPyPy, ITO/TPD/2PSP/Alq3/MgAg, has been attributed to a higher mobility of PyPySPyPy relative to Alq₃.²⁸⁹ An OLED consisting of α -NPD (87) as a hole-transport layer, PPSPP (**192**) as an emissive layer, and PyPySPyPy (**195**) as an electron-transport layer, ITO/α-NPD/PPSPP/PyPySPyPy/ MgAg, exhibits efficient exciplex emission formed between α -NPD and PPSPP. A higher performance of this device than that of a device without the PyPySPyPy layer, ITO/α -NPD/ PPSPP/MgAg, is attributed to a higher electron mobility of PyPySPyPy compared to that of PPSPP.²⁴¹ It has been reported that doping of C_{60} in a hole-transport layer using TDAPB derivative (**72**) resulted in efficient hole injection and low drive voltage at high luminance for a phosphorescence-based OLED using CBP as a host material. The increase in the hole mobility from 1.0×10^{-4} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹

for the undoped TDAPB derivative to 5.1×10^{-4} cm² V⁻¹ s^{-1} for the TDAPB derivative: C_{60} is responsible for the enhancement of performance.²⁹¹

The performance of OLEDs depends on the combination of materials. Combinatorial fabrication of OLEDs has been

Chart 30. Reported Materials for OPVs p-Type Organic Semiconductors

239 (MNTDATA)

240 (MB-TTPA)

Chart 30. (Continued)

n-Type Organic Semiconductors

Ambipolar Organic Semiconductor

shown to be a powerful tool for screening materials and configurations, and for studying their basic properties.²⁹²

The molecular structures of emitting materials used for the fabrication of OLEDs described above, THPF (**228**)282 and 2PSP (229),^{242,289} are shown in Chart 28. Table 5 lists the performance of OLEDs.

5.2. Molecular Materials for Organic Photovoltaic Devices (OPVs)

OPVs have been a focus of considerable research in the last two decades because of their light weight, large-area, flexible device fabrication, potentially low cost, and the ease of materials design based on the molecular level. To develop high-performance OPVs, it is necessary to overcome several problems encountered with organic materials, such as small exciton diffusion lengths, low quantum yields for photogeneration of charge carriers, low charge carrier drift mobilities, and high bulk resistance. Early studies on OPVs afforded poor power conversion efficiencies, but significant improvements in the power conversion efficiency of OPVs have been achieved in the last several years by the use of suitable materials and the implementation of new device structures.293 One is a *pn*-heterojunction structure consisting of the double layers of *p*-type and *n*-type organic semiconductors, that is, electron-donating and -accepting organic materials, sandwiched between two electrodes.³⁵ This device structure favors photogeneration of charge carriers by electron donoracceptor interactions at the interface between *p*-type and *n*-type organic semiconductors. This concept has been extended to bulk *pn*-heterojunction structures, namely, the incorporation of a mixed layer of either electron-donating

polymer and electron-accepting small molecule294-²⁹⁶ or electron-donating and -accepting small molecules.297-³⁰¹ The enhancements of donor-acceptor interactions that result in the increase in charge carrier generation efficiencies and the formation of the transport paths for holes and electrons are important requirements for the attainment of high power conversion efficiencies. Therefore, morphology control to permit hole and electron transport is of essential importance in bulk *pn*-heterojunction devices.302,303 Other strategies for increasing power conversion efficiencies include the insertion of an exciton-blocking layer to prevent exciton quenching at the metal cathode and at the same time to prevent damages of the photoactive layer caused by the evaporation of metal cathodes,304,305 doping for reducing the bulk resistivities of materials,^{306,307} and the introduction of tandem cell structures.³⁰⁷⁻³⁰⁹ A tandem structure with a thin layer of silver inserted between the two *pn*-heterojunction cells, electrode/donor/ acceptor/Ag/donor/acceptor/electrode, exhibits a doubled V_{OC} relative to the corresponding single *pn*-heterojunction cell.308

Both small organic molecules and polymers have been studied for use as photoactive materials in OPVs. As for small organic molecules, polycrystalline materials have been preferentially used in OPVs. Among small molecules, phthalocyanines, for example, CuPc (**2**), as *p*-type organic semiconductors, fullerenes, C_{60} (231) and [6,6]-PCBM (232),^{294,310} and perylene tetracarboxylic diimides, for example, **5** and PTCBI (**230**), as *n*-type organic semiconductors, have been found to be most promising candidates for molecular materials for the fabrication of high-performance *pn*-heterojunction photovoltaic cells (Chart 29). BCP has been used as an exciton blocker in OPVs.^{304,305}

Table 6. Glass-Transition Temperatures (Tg's), Oxidation and Reduction Potentials, Ionization Potentials (IPs), and Electron Affinities (EAs) of Crystalline and Amorphous Molecular Materials for OPVs

compound		Tg (C)	oxidation potential	reduction potential	IP (eV)	EA(eV)	ref
2 (CuPc)			0.98 V vs SCE				325
			1.22 V vs NHE	-0.6 V vs NHE			326
					4.7		136
					5.0	3.3	204
					4.8		205
					5.2	3.6	206
					5.3	3.6	315
$5 (R = CH_3)$					6.8	4.6	327
					6.1		328
230 (PTCBI)					6.2	4.2	206
					6.2	4.5	308
$231 (C_{60})$					6.2 6.2	4.5 4.5	324 315
					6.2	4.5	321
					6.38	3.78	329
					6.1	4.5	330
232 ([6,6]-PCBM)					6.1	3.7	331
239 (MNTDATA)		134	0.31 V vs Ag/Ag ⁺ (0.01 mol dm ⁻³)				319
240 (MB-TTPA)		161	0.66 V vs Ag/Ag ⁺ (0.01 mol dm ⁻³)				319
233	$n=1$		0.29 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂	-1.43 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂			311
	$n = 2$		0.24 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂	-1.44 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂			
	$n = 3$		0.22 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂	-1.43 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂			
234			0.53 V vs Ag/AgCl in CH ₂ Cl ₂				312
235			0.47 V vs Ag/AgCl in CH ₂ Cl ₂				312
236			0.62 V vs Ag/AgCl in CH ₂ Cl ₂				313
237			0.87 V vs Ag/AgCl in CH ₂ Cl ₂	-1.25 V vs Ag/AgCl in CH ₂ Cl ₂			313
238			0.93 V vs Ag/AgCl in CH_2Cl_2				314
242				-0.88 V vs Ag/Ag ⁺ in CH ₃ CN			332
243 (PDI-C9)		76		-1.11 V vs Fc/Fc ⁺ in CH ₂ Cl ₂	5.82	3.69	333

Many other compounds have been developed for use in OPVs (Chart 30). One family of photoactive organic materials is *p*-TTA derivatives, for example, $233-237$.³¹¹⁻³¹³ A
new π -conjugated system in which three linear oligothionew *π*-conjugated system in which three linear oligothiophene chains are connected to a central planar and rigid trithienobenzene core (**238**) has also been synthesized (Chart 30).³¹⁴ The search for new materials that respond to near-IR wavelength light remains to be a subject of challenge.³¹⁵ A photovoltaic cell using amorphous TiOPc and a perylene pigment (PTCBI) as photoactive materials, ITO/PTCBI/ TiOPc/Au, exhibited lower performance than that of the corresponding device using polycrystalline CuPc;³¹⁶ however, the cell using α -crystalline TiOPc obtained from the amorphous phase upon exposure to solvent vapor responded to near-IR light.316

Amorphous molecular materials have also been studied for materials in OPVs. A Schottkey-type device using *m*-MTDATA (**8**) sandwiched between the ITO and aluminum electrodes has been reported.91 A bilayer device using *m*-MTDATA (8) as an electron donor and Alq₃ (156) as an electron acceptor showed both PV and EL properties.317 It was found that PV performance was significantly enhanced for a trilayer device with a thin layer of a mixture of m -MTDATA and Alq₃ inserted between the two layers. It is shown that strong exciplex emission in an OLED is a good indicator of efficient charge transfer at the organic interface. *m*-MTDATA doped with F4TCNQ has been used as a holetransport layer in bulk heterojunction OPVs based on CuPc and ZnPc and C_{60} as *p*-type and *n*-type organic semiconductors.309,318 As *m*-MTDATA responds only to near-UV light, photosensitivity is extended to visible light by the introduction of intramolecular charge transfer. 4,4′,4′′-Tris[4-nitrophenyl(4-methylphenyl)amino]triphenylamine (MNTDATA (**239**)) and 4,4′,4′′-tris[5-(dimesitylboryl)thiophen-2-yl]triphenylamine (MB-TTPA (**240**)) show electronic absorption

bands extending to the wavelength of visible light.³¹⁹ The structural modification of BMA-nT (**21**-**24**) gives **²⁴¹**, where the thiophene unit is replaced by an benzothiophene group.320 The electronic absorption of this compound is expanded to the visible wavelength region. A highperformance pn -heterojunction device using α -NPD (87) and C₆₀ (231), ITO/PEDOT:PSS (30 nm)/ α -NPD (10 nm)/C₆₀ (48 nm)/MgAg (170 nm), has recently been reported to exhibit a conversion efficiency of 1% under AM1.5 illumination at 97 mW cm^{-2} .³²¹

At present, high-conversion efficiencies of 2.5∼5.0% under AM1.5 illumination have been attained for the cells using CuPc and C_{60} . 304, 305, 322 A power conversion efficiency of 5.0% has been reported for the device, ITO/CuPc (15 nm)/ $CuPc:C₆₀$ (10 nm) mixture/ $C₆₀$ (35 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Ag (100 nm).322 Polycyclic aromatic compounds such as tetracene and pentacene have also been reported to serve as *p*-type organic semiconductors for OPVs. *pn*-Heterojunction devices using tetracene and pentacene (**1**) as *p*-type semiconductors and C_{60} (231) as an *n*-type semiconductor, ITO/ PEDOT:PSS/tetracene (80 nm)/ C_{60} (30 nm)/BCP (8 nm)/Al (100 nm) and ITO/pentacene (45 nm)/ C_{60} (50 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Al, have been reported to exhibit power conversion efficiencies of 2.3 and 2.7% under AM1.5 illumination at 100 mW cm-² , respectively.323,324

The Tg's, oxidation and reduction potentials, ionization potentials and electron affinities of materials for OPVs are listed in Table $6.325-333$ The performance of OPVs with various cell structures and molecular materials is summarized in Table 7.334,335

Hole-transporting amorphous molecular materials have been used in dye-sensitized, organic solar cells using nanocrystalline $TiO₂$ to transport hole carriers from the dye cation radical to the counter electrode instead of using the I^{3-}/I^- redox species.^{195,336}

Table 7. Examples of Performance of OPVs*^a*

^a P3HT: poly(3-hexylthiophene).

5.3. Molecular Materials for Organic Field-Effect Transistors (OFETs)

5.3.1. Molecular Materials for OFETs and Device Performance

OFETs using a variety of organic semiconductors have been fabricated, and their performance has been examined. The target performance for practical applications should be similar to or over the performance of amorphous siliconbased FETs. That is, field-effect mobilities (μ_{FET}) should be greater than \sim 1 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, and the on/off ratio should be larger than 10⁶. Since organic semiconductors are essentially electronic insulators as already described in section 1, holes and electrons are generally injected from the source electrode into the *p*- and *n*-type organic semiconductors and transported toward the drain electrode. Organic materials with electron-donating and -accepting properties, that is, *p*- and *n*-type organic semiconductors, form *p*- and *n*-channels,

respectively, in OFETs. In cases where materials can allow efficient injection of both holes and electrons from the source electrode, they exhibit ambipolar character.

Crystalline materials, single crystals and polycrystals, have been used mostly for OFETs. The representative materials recently studied for the fabrication of OFETs are CuPc (**2**) and pentacene (**1**). Transistor performance is highly dependent on the morphology of CuPc.^{337} The μ_{FET} values of polycrystalline CuPc have been determined to be ∼10⁻² cm² V^{-1} s⁻¹.^{337,338} The μ _{FET} values determined for single crystals of CuPc are 10^{-1} ~1 cm² V⁻¹ s^{-1,339-341} On the other hand, the μ _{FET} value of a nonplanar metal phthalocyanine, for example, TiOPc, has been reported to be 10^{-5} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹,³⁴² which is 3∼5 orders of magnitude smaller than those of planar CuPc. Notably, TiOPc acts as an *n*-channel material in vacuo and as a *p*-channel material in the air (μ _{FET} = 9 \times 10^{-6} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for electrons; $\mu_{\text{FET}} = 1 \times 10^{-5}$ cm² V⁻¹

Chart 31. Reported Materials for OFETs

a. Oligothiophenes and their analogues

255

b. Phenylene-thienylene oligomers

c. Oligoarylenevinylenes

248

Chart 31. (Continued)

d. Oligofluorenes

270

JOODS

 $\mathbf{1}$

IJ لمرس

 $\mathbb{C} \mathfrak{I}$

273

277

283 $(F_{16}CuPc)$

Chart 31. (Continued)

i. Fused heterocyclic aromatic compounds

 C_8H

294

 $56H_{13}$

 $8H_{17}$

Chart 31. (Continued)

312

 317 (spiro- α -NPD)

n. N, N, N', N'-Tetraarylbenzidines

o. Spiro compounds

314 (DDB)

 s^{-1} for holes).³⁴² The μ _{FET} of laterally grown nonplanar vanadyl phthalocyanoine (VOPc) has been reported to be ca. 5×10^{-3} cm² V⁻¹ s^{-1,343} OFETs using crystalline</sup> pentacene have been reported to exhibit very high mobilities of ~1.0 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ and high on/off ratios of ca. 10^{8,51} A μ_{FET} value of 20 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ has been obtained for an OFET using a single crystal of rubrene.³⁴⁴

A number of organic compounds have been studied for use in OFETs. They are classified into oligothiophenes and their analogues,^{40,345–359} phenylene—thienylene oligomers,^{360–364}
oligoarylenevinylenes,^{365–367} oligofluorenes,³⁶⁸ polycyclic aromatic compounds, 51,344,369–385 macrocycles, 38,337–343,386–390 fullerenes, $391-402$ perylene dyes, $403-406$ fused heterocyclic aromatic compounds, $407-414$ tetrathiafulvalene derivatives, $415-417$ a thiadiazole derivative, ⁴¹⁸ tris(oligoarylenyl)amines, ^{129,312} compounds with a 1,3,5-triarylbenzene central core, $419,420$ N , N , N' , N' -tetraarylbenzidines,²¹¹ and spiro compounds.²¹¹ Most of these compounds act as *p*-channel materials. The introduction of electron-withdrawing fluorine atom into *p*-channel materials, for example, CuPc, converts the original *p*-channel to an *n*-channel material. Generally, OFETs using *p*-type organic semiconductors are much more stable than those using *n*-type organic semiconductors.

The structures of compounds for OFETs are shown in Chart 31. The performance of OFETs using these materials are summarized in Tables $8-10$.

5.3.2. Organic Light-Emitting Field-Effect Transistors (OLETs)

Very recently, OLETs have been developed. OLETs are a novel class of bifunctional organic optoelectronic devices which combine the switching function of OFETs and the light-emission function of OLEDs in a single device. The progress in OLETs has been reviewed.⁴²¹ Both holes and electrons are injected from the source and drain electrodes, respectively, into the organic semiconductor plane at the interface with the dielectric to generate an exciton through the recombination of injected holes and electrons. Light emission from an OFET was demonstrated for a device using vacuum-evaporated tetracene polycrystalline film as an organic semiconductor, gold as the source and drain electrodes, and $SiO₂$ as a dielectric. The light emission was localized near the drain electrode due to unipolar character of tetracene, namely, better hole-transporting properties.422 Ambipolar OLETs have been developed by the use of a bulk heterojunction layer consisting of the coevaporated thin films of α -quinquethiophene (α -5T) as a holetransporting material and *N*,*N*′-ditridecylperylene-3,4,9,10 teytracarboxylic diimide (P13) as an electron-transporting material.423 OLETs based on two-component layered structures have also been realized, which consist of a 5,5′′′ d ihexyl- α -quaterthiophene (DH4T) layer in contact with the dielectric and a P13 layer on the DH4T layer. Balanced

Table 8 (Continued)

^a PMMA, poly(methylmethacylate); PVP, poly(vinylphenol); HMDS, hexamethyldisilazane; OTS, octadecyltrichlorosilane; PS, poly(αmethylstylene); MPTMS, (3-mercaptopropyl)trimethoxysilane; PVA, poly(vinylalcohol); PET, poly(ethylene terephthalate); FDT, 3,3,4,4,5,5,- 6,6,7,7,8,8,9,9,10,10,10-heptadecafluoro-1-decanethiol; MBE, molecular beam epitaxial growth; OMBD, organic molecular beam deposition; precursor, a method for preparing thin films via precursor films.

ambipolar transport and mobility values as large as 3×10^{-2} cm^2 V⁻¹ s⁻¹ have been achieved for the latter device.⁴²⁴

6. Charge Transport in Molecular Materials

6.1. General Aspects

Charge transport is greatly affected by the organization state of molecular materials. The charge carrier drift mobilities of organic single crystals, for example, anthracene, are in the range from 10^{-2} to 1 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, depending on the transport direction in a single crystal. 425 The mobilities of a C_{60} single crystal have been reported to be 1.7 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for holes and $0.5 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for electrons, as determined by the TOF method.426 The mobility values tend to increase with increasing purity of materials. Very high mobilities of 400 and 20 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for holes and electrons, respectively, as determined by the TOF method, have been reported for a highly purified naphthalene single crystal.⁴²⁷

Charge carrier drift mobilites of a number of polycrystalline molecular materials have been determined from the performance of OFETs, as listed in Tables $8-10$. They are

^a HMDS, hexamethyldisilazane; OTS, octadecyltrichlorosilane; PVA, poly(vinylalcohol); PVP, poly(vinylphenol); ODT, 1-octadodecanethiol; LLIP, liquid-liquid interfacial precipitation method.

in the range from 10^{-4} to 1 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹. Studies of charge transport in liquid crystalline materials have recently advanced, and drift mobilities up to \sim 1 cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ have been attained.^{7,428-430} As will be described in section 6.2 . 6.5., charge carrier drift mobilities of amorphous molecular materials, which have been determined mainly by the TOF method, are in the range from 10^{-6} to 10^{-2} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹.

6.2. Comparison of Mobilities Measured by Different Methods

As is described in section 2.2., several methods are available for the measurement of carrier drift mobilities. The thickness of samples for the measurement is different depending upon the method. The question is whether these different methods give almost the same mobility values. It has been reported that mobility values are different depending on the thickness of samples especially for low-mobility dispersive materials.^{196,431} Comparative studies of charge transport using different techniques have been made for certain classes of materials, for example, *m*-MTDATA,138,144,432 OMeTAD,196 α -NPD,^{144,211} Alq₃,⁴³³ CuPc,³⁸⁸ and so forth.
The hole mobilities of m-MTDATA and

The hole mobilities of m -MTDATA and α -NPD determined by the DI-SCLC method have been shown to be in excellent agreement with those determined by the TOF method.144 Room-temperature mobilities of OMeTAD (**142**) measured by three independent methods, TOF, DI-SCLC, and steady-state TF-SCLC methods, have been shown to agree well over a range of sample thicknesses from 4 *µ*m to 135 nm.196 The plots of the logarithm of electron mobilities of Alq3 measured by the transient EL and TOF methods as a function of the square root of the electric field have been shown to be on the same line, and hence, the results measured by the two methods are in good agreement with each other.⁴³³ Comparison of the hole mobility data of CuPc by the TOF and FET methods shows that they gave almost the same results; $\mu_{\text{FET}} = (0.94 - 1.3) \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $\mu_{\text{TOF}} =$ $(1.5-2.0) \times 10^{-3}$ cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹.³⁸⁸ Likewise, mobility data
for *m*-MTDATA determined by the TOF and FET methods for *m*-MTDATA determined by the TOF and FET methods were almost the same.⁴³² On the other hand, μ _{FET} values of TPTPA (81) , TTB (315) , TPD, and α -NPD were approximately 2 orders of magnitude smaller than those determined by the TOF method.211,432

6.3. Hole Transport in Amorphous Molecular Materials

Drift mobilities of a number of hole-transporting amorphous molecular materials have been determined by the TOF technique.1b,1d,432,434,435 Amorphous molecular glasses have

been found to exhibit mostly nondispersive transient photocurrents. Their hole drift mobilities greatly vary from 10^{-6} to 10^{-2} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ depending upon molecular structures. It should also be noted that charge carrier drift mobilities depend upon the purity of samples, generally increasing with increasing purity.

Materials of the family of arylhydrazones, for example, DPH (**20**), M-DPH (**128**), DPMH (**129**), ECH (**130**), M-ECH (**131**), and ECMH (**132**), have been reported to exhibit room-temperature hole drift mobilities in the range from 10^{-6} to 10^{-4} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ at an electric field of ca. 10⁵ V cm-¹ . 114,209,434,436,437 One order of magnitude difference in the hole drift mobility has been observed between DPH $(2.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})$ and ECH $(3.7 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1})$ s^{-1}).⁴³⁴

Materials of the TDATA family, which have been proven to serve as good hole-injection buffer layer in multilayer OLEDs, for example, *m*-MTDATA,^{91,111,133} 1-TNATA,¹³³ p -PMTDATA (32),¹²² and TFATA,¹⁴⁷ exhibit relatively low hole drift mobilities of the order of 10^{-5} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹.^{122,138,147}

The drift mobilities of TPD (86) and α -NPD (87) , which have been widely used as good hole-transporting materials in OLEDs, have been reported to be 1.0 \times 10⁻³ and 8.8 \times 10^{-4} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹.^{167,438} The TPD analogues with higher Tg's above 100 °C, for example, *p*-BPD (90),²⁰⁷ PFFA (96),¹⁷³ and FFD (93),^{147,173} also exhibit high mobilities of 1.0 \times 10^{-3} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ or greater.^{147,173,207}

A new class of hole-transporting amorphous molecular materials, *N*,*N*-bis(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)aniline (F₂PA),²²⁸ 4-[bis(9,9-dimethylfluoren-2-yl)amino]biphenyl (F₂BPA),¹⁶⁵ and TFIA (85) , 165 functions as good hole-transporting materials. F_2PA also functions as a good host material for a phosphorescent iridium complex in OLEDs.228 These materials of the triarylamine family exhibit high mobilities exceeding 5.0×10^{-3} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹.⁴³²

Among amorphous molecular materials, thiophene- and selenophene-containing tris(oligoarylenylamine)s, TTPA (**79**), TSePA (**80**), TPTPA (**81**), and TPSePA (**82**), exhibit the

highest mobilities of 1.0×10^{-2} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ at an electric field of 1.0×10^5 V cm⁻¹ at room temperature.¹⁶³

The hole mobility of the TDAPB family, 1,3,5-tris[*N*,*N*′ bis(4,5-methoxyphenyl)aminophenyl]benzene, has been shown to increase when C_{60} was doped.⁴³⁹ The hole mobility of C_{60} -doped TDAPB was 9.0×10^{-4} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ compared with 1.0×10^{-4} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for nondoped TDAPB. A furancontaining oligoarylene (PF6 (**148**) in Chart 16) has been reported to exhibit a room-temperature hole mobility over 10^{-3} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ under high electric field.²⁰⁰

Table 11 lists charge carrier mobilities of hole-transporting amorphous molecular materials.440-⁴⁴³

6.4. Electron Transport in Amorphous Molecular Materials

As compared with extensive studies on hole transport, there have been fewer studies on electron transport. While hole-transporting amorphous molecular materials show μ_{TOF} values up to 10^{-2} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, the mobilities of electrontransporting amorphous molecular materials are usually orders of magnitude lower. The electron-transporting materials often exhibit dispersive transient photocurrents due to extrinsic carrier trapping.

Electron transport in amorphous films of $Alg₃$ have been studied in detail by the TOF method.444-⁴⁴⁶ Nondispersive photocurrent transients have been observed for carefully prepared Alq3 films; however, exposure of the films to an ambient atmosphere or oxygen resulted in highly dispersive transport. $444-446$ It was concluded that oxygen acts as an extrinsic dopant and induces electron traps in Alq₃.⁴⁴⁵ Transient photocurrents became dispersive when Alq₃ was exposed to H_2O vapor, but when the H_2O -treated sample was annealed, a nondispersive TOF signal was recovered.⁴⁴⁵ The mobility has been found to obey the Poole-Frenkel model.444 The reported electron drift mobilities are in the range from 1.2×10^{-6} to 6.7×10^{-5} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹. The hole mobilities of Alq₃ has been shown to be at least 2 orders of $\overline{}$

Table 12. Examples of Charge Carrier Mobilites of Electron-Transporting Amorphous Molecular Materials

compound	mobility $\rm (cm^2 V^{-1} s^{-1})$	temp. (K)	electric field $(V cm-1)$	method	ref
		Alq ₃ , 2,5-Diaryl-1,3,4-oxadiazoles, and Triazoles			
156 (Alq ₃)	5×10^{-5}		1×10^6	EL	9
	2×10^{-8} (h)	293	4×10^5	TOF	448
	1.4×10^{-6}				
	$(0.3{\sim}2) \times 10^{-4}$ ^a		$(2.5{\sim}5) \times 10^{5}$	TOF	449
	$(0.04 \sim 1) \times 10^{-5 a}$	294	$(0.5 \sim 1.4) \times 10^6$	TOF	444
	6.7×10^{-5}	rt.	2.3×10^{5}	TOF	438
	$(0.5 \sim 1) \times 10^{-5 a}$		$(0.4 \sim 1.2) \times 10^6$	EL	12
	1.2×10^{-6}		5.5×10^{5}	TOF	243
	4.7×10^{-6}		1×10^6	SCLC	450
159 (t-Bu-PBD)	1.9×10^{-5}		1×10^6	SCLC	450
	1.9×10^{-6}	rt	7.5×10^{5}	TOF	451
	$(50 \text{ wt } %$ in PC)				
	$2 \sim 4 \times 10^{-5}$ ^a		$(1 \sim 1.7) \times 10^6$	EL	452
$160 (OXD-7)$	2.1×10^{-5}		1×10^6	SCLC	450
			Electron-Transporting Materials with a Central Benzene Core		
165 (TPOB)	1.2×10^{-6}	273	7×10^5	TOF	453
	$(50 \text{ wt } %$ in PC)				
	$(0.25 \sim 1.7) \times 10^{-5}$ ^a		$(0.5{\sim}1.2) \times 10^6$	EL	12
167 (TPBI)					
		Silole Derivatives			
195 ($PyPySPyPy$)	2.0×10^{-4}		6.4×10^{5}	TOF	243
		Fullerene			
232 ([6,6]-PCBM)	2.0×10^{-7}	rt		SCLC	454
^{<i>a</i>} Estimated from the figures.					

Chart 32. Phosphorescent Emitters with Ambipolar Transport

magnitude less than electron mobility under identical preparation and measurement conditions.447 BPhen (**164**) shows an electron mobility of 2.4 \times 10⁻⁴ cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ at an electric filed of 3×10^5 V cm⁻¹.²²¹ A silole derivative, PyPySPyPy (**195**), has been reported to exhibit nondispersive and airstable electron transport with a high mobility of 2.0×10^{-4} $\text{cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$. 243

Charge carrier mobilities of electron-transporting materials^{9,12,243,438,444,448-454} are listed in Table 12.

6.5. Ambipolar Transport in Amorphous Molecular Materials

Charge-transporting materials are thought to possess ambipolar transport character if they can readily accept both holes and electrons. Usually, unipolar transport, namely, either hole or electron transport, has been observed for a number of charge-transporting materials in the measurement of carrier drift mobilities.

Both hole and electron mobilities have been determined for some materials. Phosphorescent emitters such as **318** and **319** (Chart 32) have been reported to show ambipolar transport with higher hole mobilities than electron mobilities.455 The compounds B3 (**46**) and T3 (**47**) exhibit hole and electron transport. These materials show nondispersive transients even in air for both hole and electron transport and a high electron mobility of over 10^{-3} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for T3 (47) and a high hole mobility of 4×10^{-3} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹ for B3 (**46**).125,126

6.6. Relationship between Charge Carrier Mobilities and Molecular Structures

Although many papers on charge transport have appeared in recent years, there have been few reports that discuss the correlation between molecular structures and carrier drift mobilities.

It is useful to discuss charge-transport parameters, which have been obtained by the analysis of the electric-field and temperature dependencies of charge carrier drift mobilities in terms of the disorder formalism. The charge transport parameters based on the disorder formalism are summarized in Table 13. With regard to the materials of the TDATA family, which exhibit mobilities of 10^{-5} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, μ_0 is of the order of 10^{-3} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, and σ is in the range from 0.097 to 0.092 eV. For DPH with a mobility of 10^{-4} cm² V^{-1} s⁻¹, μ_0 was still of the order of 10^{-3} cm² V^{-1} s⁻¹, but *o* decreased to 0.079 eV. For the materials of the triarylamine and tris(oligoarylenyl)amine families with mobilities greater than 5.0×10^{-3} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, μ_0 was found to be of the order of 10^{-1} cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹, and σ was in the range from 0.075 to 0.063 eV. These results clearly show that the significant increase in μ_0 accompanied by the decrease in σ is responsible for high mobilities.

The substitution position of a phenyl group in tri(terphenyl-4-yl)amine (*o*-, *m*-, and *p*-TTA (**17**, **18**, **19**)) and *N*,*N*′-di- (biphenylyl)-*N*,*N*′-diphenyl-[1,1′-biphenyl]-4,4′-diamines (*o*-, *m*-, and *p*-BPD (**88**, **89**, **90**)) has been found to exert a significant influence on the hole drift mobility.²⁰⁷ The mobilities of *p*-substituted molecules (*p*-TTA and *p*-BPD) are more than 1 order of magnitude higher than those of the *m*-substituted molecules (*m*-TTA and *m*-BPD). Chargetransport parameters reveal that the energetic disorder *σ* for the *p*-isomers is smaller than that for the *m*-isomers. It is thought that a smaller conformational change due to bond rotation for the *p*-isomers results in a smaller energetic disorder. These results suggest that reducing the conformational change resulting from bond rotation serves as a

Table 13. Examples of Charge-Transport Parameters Based on the Disorder Formalism

molecular design concept for higher mobility. A significant difference in the hole drift mobility between triphenylamine and *N*-ethylcarbazole moieties has been found for DPH and $ECH.²²$

7. Outlook

Organic electronics and optoelectronics are newly emerging fields of science and technology that cover chemistry, physics, and materials science. Electronic and optoelectronic devices using organic materials are attractive because of the materials characteristics of light weight, potentially low cost, and capability of large-area, flexible device fabrication. Such devices as OLEDs, OPVs, and OFETs involve charge transport as a main process in their operation processes, and therefore, require high-performance charge-transporting materials.

This review article focuses on charge-transporting molecular materials for use in OLEDs, OPVs, and OFETs. We have tried to arrange a vast number of charge-transporting materials in order by classifying them on the basis of their molecular structures. Molecular design concepts for chargetransporting molecular materials and their charge-transport

properties are discussed. Both the basic aspects of charge transport and the operation processes of the above-mentioned devices are also described.

Control of materials morphology is of essential importance in materials science and practical applications. Like crystals and liquid crystals, amorphous molecular glasses have recently constituted an important class of organic functional materials. The relation between materials morphologies and properties and device performance is a subject of interest for further studies. A significant progress has been made on charge transport in amorphous molecular materials, but the relationship between molecular structures and charge carrier drift mobilities remains to be investigated. The materials which have been put to practical applications are few in number. For practical applications in devices, not only the performance, but also other factors, for example, facile synthesis, purifications, low cost, stability, toxicity, device durability, and so forth, have to be solved.

A future progress will be directed toward a deeper understanding of materials chemistry and device physics, development of new devices including memories and sensors, fabrication of flexible devices, and integration of mulifunctions in a single device.

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