

Structure and Electrical Properties of Unsubstituted Oligothiophenes End-Capped at the β -Position

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The relationship between molecular structure, molecular packing in bulk, film structure, and electrical characteristics were investigated for the unsubstituted oligothiophene pentamer and hexamer, both of which have terminal thiophene units linking at the β -position (βnT ; $n = 5, 6$). To reveal the molecular geometry and molecular packing of βnT s, X-ray single-crystal analysis was carried out. For the electrical characterization, organic field-effect transistors (OFETs) based on the βnT thin films were fabricated at various substrate temperatures. Film structure was investigated by X-ray diffraction and atomic force microscopy. Highest field-effect mobility of OFET was $0.050 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for $\beta 6T$ at a substrate temperature of $120 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and $0.020 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for $\beta 5T$ at a substrate temperature of $90 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, which are slightly smaller than those of α -oligothiophene isomers with the same number of thiophene rings. $\beta 6T$ OFET characteristics depend on the film morphology such as grain size, while the dependence of $\beta 5T$ OFET on the morphology is slight. The different behavior of $\beta 6T$ and $\beta 5T$ can be interpreted by their different molecular orientation with respect to the film surface.

Introduction

Organic thin film devices have been actively investigated for the past several decades in anticipation of fascinating characteristics of organic materials such as being lightweight and having flexibility and excellent processability. Several organic devices such as organic photoconductors, liquid crystal displays, and organic electroluminescent (EL) devices have already been used on a commercial basis. Research studies aiming at practical device application have also started for organic transistors.

Basic characteristics of organic field-effect transistors (OFETs) out of organic semiconductor thin films have been investigated since the 1980s.^{1,2} Recently, OFETs with their mobility approaching that of polysilicon and amorphous silicon have been reported.³ Moreover, integrated circuits and active matrix displays using OFETs have been reported.^{4,5}

However, many problems in performance and durability are still left unsolved.

To put the OFETs development into the more practical phase, approaches from several viewpoints are indispensable: (1) development of new materials with high performance, (2) device design, and (3) processing technology. Materials development includes not only the syntheses of new compounds but also control of molecular packing and orientation because the performance of organic compounds in thin films originates from the solid state where the molecules are packed in a certain manner. A detailed understanding is needed for the relationship between various factors such as structure (chemical structure, molecular packing, structure of thin films, and so on) and physical properties.

Oligothiophenes are promising materials for OFET because of their high mobility, chemical stability, and ease of chemical modification.⁶ Various substituted oligothiophenes have been newly synthesized and applied to OFETs. Garnier et al. improved solubility as well as hole mobility of sexithiophene by introducing two hexyl groups at both edges of the molecule (5,5'-dihexyl- α -sexithiophene, DH6T).⁷

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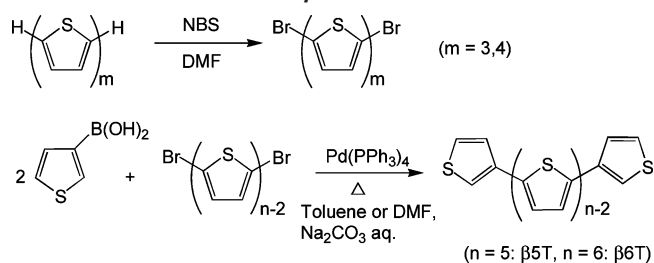
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Letizia et al. reported an n-type oligothiophene derivative by introducing fluorinated substituents.⁸ Kunugi et al. reported a solution-processable ambipolar OFET based on fullerene (C60)-attached oligothiophene.⁹ Videlott-Ackermann et al. reported the improvement of device durability by employing a styryl unit as a terminal substituent.¹⁰

Unsubstituted α -oligothiophenes, the simplest compounds among numerous thiophene-based derivatives, have been intensively studied^{11–26} since Horowitz et al. demonstrated high hole mobility of α -sexithiophene.¹¹ Until now, many investigations have been reported such as X-ray single-crystal structure analyses,^{12–18} structure-physical properties relationship of thin films including the effect of oligomerization degree,^{19–22} and dependence on the fabrication process such as substrate temperature and evaporation rate.^{21–26} These results provide rich insights into structure-physical properties relationship of thiophene-based materials.

In our previous work, we investigated the correlation between the parity of ring number, crystal structure, and OFET characteristics of unsubstituted α -oligothiophenes.^{17,22} In single crystals, quinquethiophene (α -5T) and septithiophene (α -7T) tend to pack in the less ordered manner compared to the oligomers with even number of thiophene rings. The evaporated thin films of α -5T and α -7T fabricated at relatively low substrate temperature contain two polymorphs coexisting. The charge mobility of such films is relatively low, indicating that the lack of order in molecular packing affects, though indirectly, the FET performance of the thin film.

Scheme 1. Chemical Structure and Synthetic Scheme of βn Ts



In this work, we have synthesized a hexamer and a pentamer of unsubstituted oligothiophene with both the terminal thiophene rings linking at the β -position, i.e., structural isomers of unsubstituted α -oligothiophenes (Scheme 1, here abbreviated as βn Ts, where n represents the number of thiophene rings in a molecule). Due to the change of the linking site, the orientation of sulfur and carbon atoms at the outermost thiophene rings is different from the case of α -oligothiophenes, which will affect their molecular packing, and consequently, the physical properties such as charge mobility. Using this new series of compounds, we have investigated in detail the structure-physical properties relationship concerning OFET performance.

Experimental Section

Materials. 2,2':5',2'':5'',2'''-Quaterthiophene, 2,2':5',2''-terthiophene, 3-thiopheneboronic acid, and tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) were purchased from Aldrich and used without further purification. Other chemicals were purchased from Wako Chemicals Co. and used as received. 5,5'''-Dibromo-2,2':5',2'':5'',2'''-quaterthiophene and 5,5'''-dibromo-2,2':5',2'':5'',2'''-terthiophene was synthesized following the literature.²⁷

Synthesis of 3,2':5',2'':5'',2'''-5''',2''''-5''''-3''''-Sexithiophene (β 6T). The synthetic scheme of the compound is shown in Scheme 1. To 75 mL of dimethylformamide (DMF) in a three-necked flask were added 0.28 g (2.2 mmol) of 3-thiopheneboronic acid, 0.49 g (1.0 mmol) of 5,5'''-dibromo-2,2':5',2'':5'',2'''-quaterthiophene, and 0.12 g (0.10 mmol) of tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0). After 10 min of nitrogen bubbling, 0.55 g (5.2 mmol) of Na_2CO_3 in 3 mL of H_2O was added. The mixed solution was refluxed for 2.5 h. The brown precipitate was filtered and washed with pure water. The crude product was sublimed twice to give 0.12 g (0.24 mmol) of orange crystals. Yield: 24%. mp: 346–348 °C. Elemental analysis: Calcd for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{14}\text{S}_6$: C, 58.26; H, 2.85; S, 38.89%. Found: C, 58.50; H, 2.72; S, 38.88%.

Synthesis of 3,2':5',2'':5'',2'''-5''',3''''-Quinquethiophene (β 5T). The synthetic scheme of the compound is shown in Scheme 1. To 80 mL of DMF in a three-necked flask were added 0.78 g (6.1 mmol) of 3-thiopheneboronic acid, 1.0 g (2.5 mmol) of 5,5'''-dibromo-2,2':5',2'':5'',2'''-terthiophene, and 0.29 g (0.25 mmol) of tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0). After 10 min of nitrogen bubbling, 1.0 g (9.4 mmol) of Na_2CO_3 in 3 mL of H_2O was added. The mixed solution was refluxed for 7.5 h. The precipitate was filtered and washed with pure water. The crude product was sublimed twice to give 0.28 g (0.69 mmol) of yellowish-orange crystals. Yield: 27%. mp: 312–314 °C. Elemental analysis: Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{12}\text{S}_5$: C, 58.22; H, 2.93; S, 38.85%. Found: C, 58.54; H, 2.75; S, 38.26%.

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Table 1. Structure Determination Summary

	$\beta 6T$	$\beta 5T$
formula	$C_{24}H_{14}S_6$	$C_{20}H_{12}S_5$
fw	494.77	412.65
temp [K]	183(2)	203(2)
cryst syst	monoclinic	monoclinic
space group	$P2(1)/c$	$P2(1)/c$
a [Å]	22.447(2)	7.6053(5)
b [Å]	7.7159(7)	41.913(3)
c [Å]	5.9918(6)	11.0306(7)
α [deg]	90	90
β [deg]	91.434(2)	90.078(1)
γ [deg]	90	90
V [Å ³]	1037.4(2)	3516.1(4)
Z	2	8
ρ_{calcd} [Mg m ⁻³]	1.584	1.559

X-ray Single-Crystal Analysis. Large enough single crystals were obtained by subliming the crude compounds using the glassware previously reported.¹⁷ Diffraction data were collected on a Bruker Smart Apex diffractometer with Mo K α radiation. The data reduction was carried out with SAINTPLUS V6.22.²⁸ Semiempirical absorption correction was applied with SADABS.²⁹ The structure determination was done with direct methods and refinements with full-matrix least-squares on F^2 with SHELXTL Version 6.12.³⁰ Hydrogen atoms were added using the riding model with the isotropic displacement parameters 1.2-fold of the equivalent U_{ij} of the corresponding carbon atoms. The graphics were performed using PLATON.³¹

Band Structure Calculation. The band calculation was carried out using the program and the parameter reported by Mori et al.³² The procedure to approximate the band structures is as shown below:^{33,34}

(1) The molecular orbitals of a single molecule were calculated by extended Hückel method using the molecular geometry obtained by X-ray single-crystal analyses.

(2) As a p-type organic semiconductor, the intermolecular overlap (S) was calculated at the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) level.

(3) Transfer integrals (t) were estimated using the equation $t = ES$, where E is the HOMO energy level. This equation is same as that generally used in the extended Hückel method to obtain resonance integrals. A constant value of $E = -10$ eV was employed for both $\beta 6T$ and $\beta 5T$ because the HOMO energies estimated for the two compounds deviate only slightly from each other.

(4) With use of the standard tight-binding approximation, the band structure of the HOMO was calculated.

Since the interest of charge transport is focused on the directions perpendicular to the long molecular axis, the band calculation was carried out along the reciprocal lattice vectors of the shortest and the second shortest crystallographic axes.

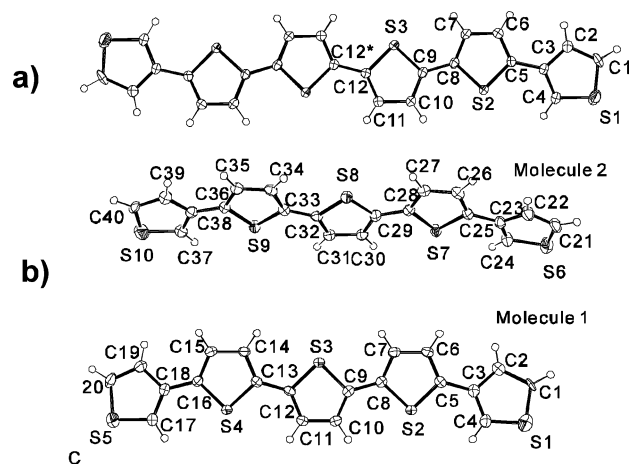


Figure 1. Molecular structures of βnT s with atomic numbering scheme. Displacement ellipsoids are drawn at the 50% probability level. (a) $\beta 6T$; (b) $\beta 5T$. There are two crystallographically independent molecules in a unit cell of $\beta 5T$.

Film Preparation. Oligothiophene films were deposited on a substrate surface by thermal evaporation at a base pressure of 10^{-6} Torr and a deposition rate of ca. 0.03 nm s⁻¹. During the evaporation, the substrate was held at controlled temperatures ($\beta 5T$: 25, 50, 90, and 130 °C; $\beta 6T$: 25, 120, and 180 °C). The resulting film thickness was approximately 100 nm.

Thin Film Characterization. The structure of deposited oligothiophene films was investigated by X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis which was carried out on a Rigaku RU-300 using 2θ - θ scan method with focused Cu K α radiation. The film morphology was investigated by atomic force microscopy (AFM), which was carried out on a Molecular Imaging equipped with a NanoScope IIIa controller using the contact mode.

Device Fabrication and Characterization. Top contact type OFETs were constructed on highly doped n-type silicon wafers covered with 300 nm thick silicon dioxide with a capacitance per unit area (C_{ins}) of 10 nF cm⁻². Prior to the deposition of oligothiophenes, the surface of the silicon dioxide was treated with 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexamethyldisilazane. The oligothiophenes were deposited on the treated substrate surfaces under the above-mentioned conditions. To complete the devices, we evaporated gold source-drain electrodes on top of the oligothiophene films through a shadow mask, defining the channel length of $L = 20$ μm and channel width of $W = 5$ mm. The OFET devices were characterized using computer-controlled two-source measure units (Keithley 6430 and 2400 sourcemeters) under vacuum ($<10^{-6}$ Torr) at room temperature. The mobility (μ) and the threshold voltage (V_T) were calculated in a saturation regime (drain voltage is $V_D = -50$ V) using the equation $I_D = (WC_{\text{ins}}/2L)\mu(V_G - V_T)^2$ where I_D is the source-drain current and V_G is the gate voltage.

Results and Discussion

X-ray Single-Crystal Analysis. Both $\beta 6T$ and $\beta 5T$ formed large enough single crystals for X-ray analysis by sublimation using the apparatus described earlier.¹⁷ The structural data are summarized in Table 1. The molecular geometry of $\beta 6T$ with atomic numbering scheme is shown in Figure 1a. The molecules exhibit flat orientation with relatively small dihedral angles between the neighboring thiophene rings. The dihedral angle at the outermost position is larger than those of inner ones. The majority of sulfur atoms at the terminal thiophene rings face the same direction (syn conformation) as the sulfur atoms of their neighboring

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(33) To ensure our calculation procedure, we also calculated the band structure of the HOMO of the α -6T high-temperature polymorph and compared the results with those of Haddon et al.³⁴ The shape of the HOMO band was similar to their results while the energy level and the bandwidth were different. The qualitative discrepancies may be due to the difference in the calculation program and parameters.

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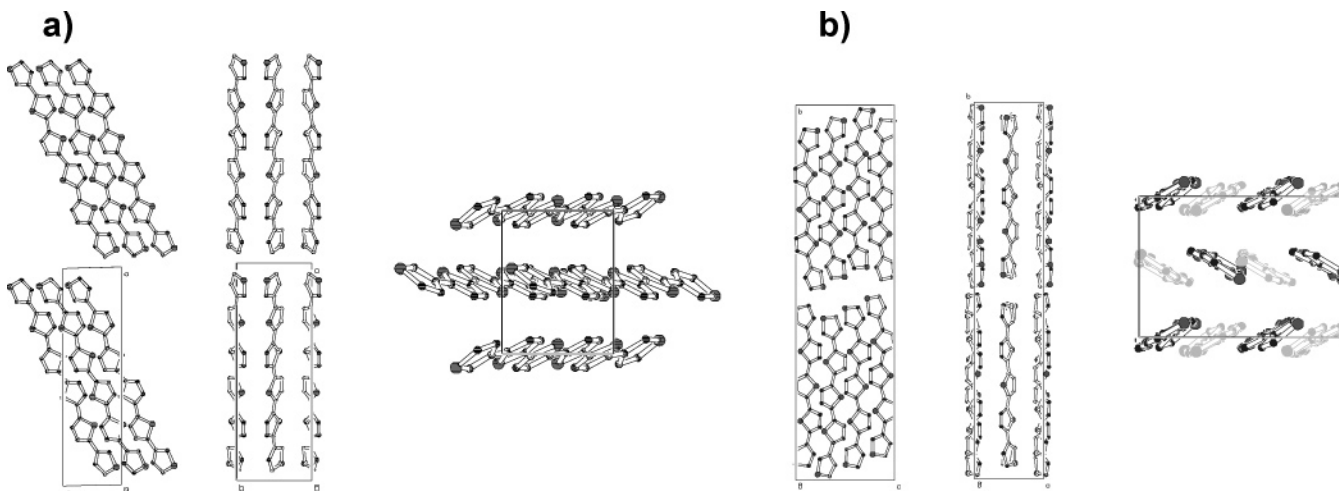


Figure 2. Packing diagrams of β_n Ts viewed from three crystallographic axes. (a) β_6 T; (b) β_5 T.

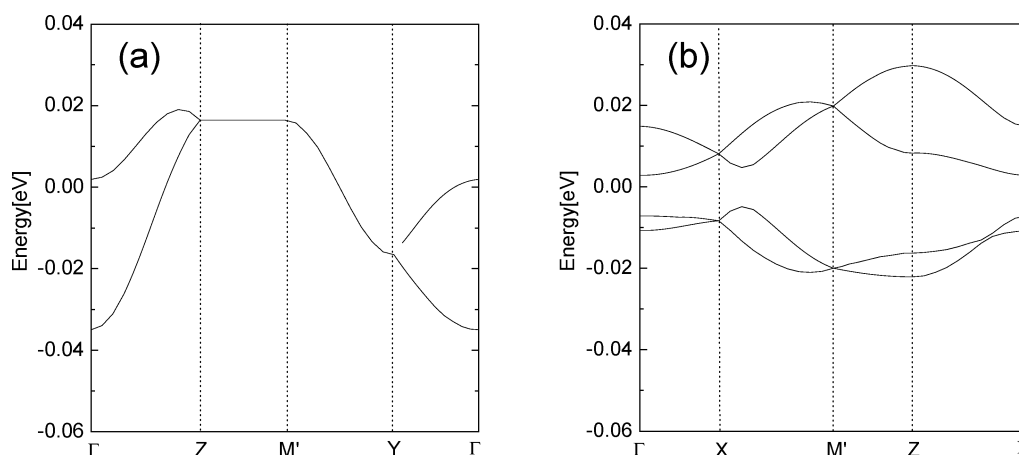


Figure 3. HOMO band structure of oligothiophenes calculated by transfer integrals: (a) β_6 T: $\Gamma = (0, 0, 0)$, $Z = (0, 0, \pi/c)$, $M' = (0, \pi/b, \pi/c)$, and $Y = (0, \pi/b, 0)$. (b) β_5 T: $\Gamma = (0, 0, 0)$, $X = (\pi/a, 0, 0)$, $M' = (\pi/a, 0, \pi/c)$, and $Z = (0, 0, \pi/c)$.

inner thiophene rings, although a small disorder of syn and anti conformation was suggested (small portion of S1 locates at C1 position). The molecule possesses the center of symmetry at the middle of the molecule.

Figure 1b shows the molecular geometry of β_5 T. There are two crystallographically independent molecules in an asymmetric unit whose conformations do not deviate much from each other. The feature of the molecular conformation is similar to that of β_6 T, except for the lack of center of symmetry.

Figure 2a shows the packing diagram of β_6 T. The molecules are packed into herringbone structure, which is also commonly observed for unsubstituted α -oligothiophenes^{12–18} and other π -conjugated compounds.^{35,36} Molecules are aligned with their longer molecular axis parallel to one another and inclined from the lattice plane (b – c plane). This feature, together with lattice parameters (monoclinic, $a = 22.447$ Å, $b = 7.716$ Å, $c = 5.992$ Å, $\beta = 91.43^\circ$, $Z = 2$) are close to those of the low-temperature phase of α -6T (monoclinic, $a = 44.708$ Å, $b = 7.851$ Å, $c = 6.029$ Å, $\beta = 90.76^\circ$, $Z = 4$).¹⁵

On the other hand, β_5 T exhibited a different packing manner (Figure 2b). The molecular long axis is almost perpendicular to the lattice plane (a – c plane). Such a packing is seldom and has been reported for some thiophene-phenylene co-oligomers by Hotta et al.^{37,38} According to their investigation, a compound with its molecular long axis bent at the middle (i.e., a compound with C_v symmetry) tends to show the perpendicular orientation.

Band Structure Calculation. Band structure calculation out of single-crystal structure data provides intrinsic electronic property of molecular materials and is thus informative for molecular design. Since oligothiophenes often function as a p-type semiconductor (hole carrier), we focused on the HOMO bands (Figure 3). 0 eV of the vertical axis corresponds to the HOMO energy level of an isolated molecule. The horizontal axes of each diagram are taken so that the herringbone geometries of the two compounds are comparable; i.e., the band structure of the right-hand side of each diagram corresponds to the packing direction where the herringbone angles are smaller than 90° (more π – π overlap).

β_6 T exhibits large dispersion at Γ , exhibiting well-developed two-dimensional band structure. The feature of

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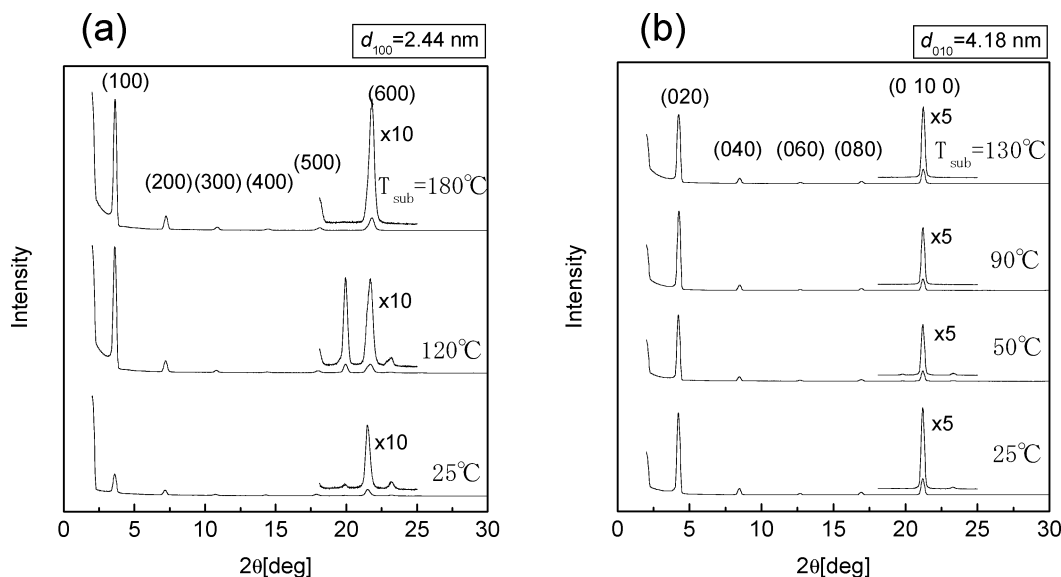


Figure 4. X-ray diffraction patterns of (a) $\beta 6T$ and (b) $\beta 5T$ films (thickness of ca. 100 nm) fabricated at various substrate temperatures (T_{sub}).

the band is similar to that of $\alpha 4T$ ¹³ and $\alpha 6T$.¹⁶ The largest bandwidth is calculated to be 0.054 eV. On the other hand, $\beta 5T$ exhibits more complicated structure because of the existence of four molecules in a two-dimensional asymmetric unit cell. The band is split into four and displays two pairs with a gap in between. The largest bandwidth is calculated to be 0.052 eV between the highest and the lowest levels and 0.027 eV between the highest and the second highest levels. The larger value of $\beta 6T$ over those of $\beta 5T$ suggests the more enhanced hole mobility of $\beta 6T$.

Molecular Packing in Thin Films. Figure 4 shows the XRD patterns of $\beta 6T$ and $\beta 5T$ films deposited at various substrate temperatures. In the XRD results of $\beta 6T$ (Figure 4a), diffractions corresponding to the (h 0 0) plane of a single crystal were observed up to the sixth. In the case of $\beta 5T$ film (Figure 4b), diffractions corresponding to the (0 k 0) plane of a single crystal were observed up to the tenth (even number only). These results indicate the well-ordered and layer-by-layer film growth, where the molecular long axis standing perpendicularly on the substrate. The d -spacing of the (h 0 0) plane in the $\beta 6T$ film and (0 k 0) plane in the $\beta 5T$ film are calculated to be $d_{100} = 2.44$ nm and $d_{010} = 4.18$ nm, respectively. The positions of (h 0 0) peaks for $\beta 6T$ and (0 k 0) peaks for $\beta 5T$ did not depend on the substrate temperature. In both films, weak diffraction peaks were observed at around $2\theta = 20^\circ$ and 23° . Based on the indexing of simulated powder diffraction patterns using single-crystal analysis results (see Supporting Information), these peaks are assigned to be the diffraction originating from crystal domains with different orientations in which molecular long axis lies on the substrate. The above shows the existence of crystalline domains in which the molecular long axis lies on the substrate, although their small intensity indicates that such crystalline portion is small.

In the case of $\beta 6T$ films, the larger diffraction intensity of (h 0 0) was obtained for the film fabricated with higher substrate temperature. In other words, high substrate temperature induces a highly crystallized film. The d -spacing of the (h 0 0) plane in the $\beta 6T$ film ($d_{100} = 2.44$ nm) is

larger than that of a single crystal ($d_{100} = 2.24$ nm), indicating the existence of a different polymorph with the molecular long axis standing on the molecular layer more vertically compared with that of a single crystal.

On the other hand, intensities of (0 k 0) diffraction of $\beta 5T$ films were independent of the substrate temperature. It means that highly crystallized films are deposited even at low substrate temperature. The d -spacing of the (0 k 0) plane in the $\beta 5T$ film ($d_{010} = 4.18$ nm) equals that of $\beta 5T$ single crystal. Therefore, $\beta 5T$ film exhibits the same polymorph as that of a single crystal, with the molecular long axis standing perpendicularly on a molecular layer and a substrate.

Film Morphology. Figure 5 shows the AFM images of $\beta 6T$ and $\beta 5T$ films deposited at various substrate temperatures. Flat, well-developed platelet domains were observed for all the images except for the case of the films prepared at 25 °C (Figures 5a and 5d). Such flat domains have often been observed for the evaporated films of small molecules with highly anisotropic shape, where their molecular long axis tends to stand with respect to the film surface.^{4,12,24–26,39,40} The AFM observations for $\beta 6T$ and $\beta 5T$ films are therefore consistent with the above-mentioned XRD results with dominant sequential peaks corresponding to the d -spacing of the molecular long axis.

When the substrate temperature was increased, the grain sizes of $\beta 6T$ and $\beta 5T$ films grew larger. In the images of the films prepared at excessively high substrate temperature ($\beta 6T$: 180 °C; $\beta 5T$: 130 °C), large grain boundaries and cracks were observed. Similar correlation of film morphology and substrate temperature has been reported for other organic materials such as α -oligothiophenes^{22–24} and pentacene.^{39,40} Apart from the platelet domains, needle-like crystals coexist in the films prepared under certain conditions. Since the minor XRD peaks at around $2\theta = 20^\circ$ and 23° were observed only for the films that contain the needle-

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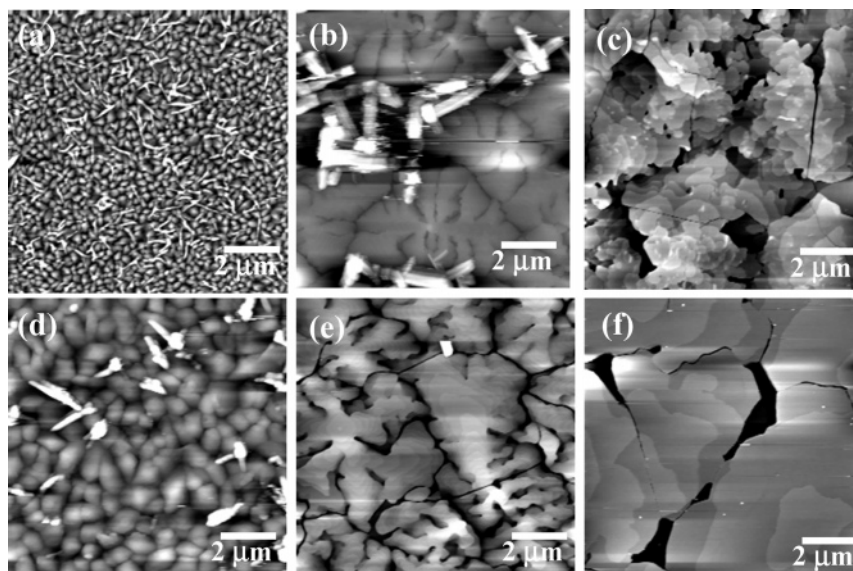


Figure 5. AFM images ($10\ \mu\text{m} \times 10\ \mu\text{m}$) of films (thickness of ca. 100 nm) fabricated at various substrate temperatures. (a) $\beta 6\text{T}$, fabricated at $25\ ^\circ\text{C}$; (b) $\beta 6\text{T}$, fabricated at $120\ ^\circ\text{C}$; (c) $\beta 6\text{T}$, fabricated at $180\ ^\circ\text{C}$; (d) $\beta 5\text{T}$, fabricated at $25\ ^\circ\text{C}$; (e) $\beta 5\text{T}$, fabricated at $90\ ^\circ\text{C}$; (f) $\beta 5\text{T}$, fabricated at $130\ ^\circ\text{C}$.

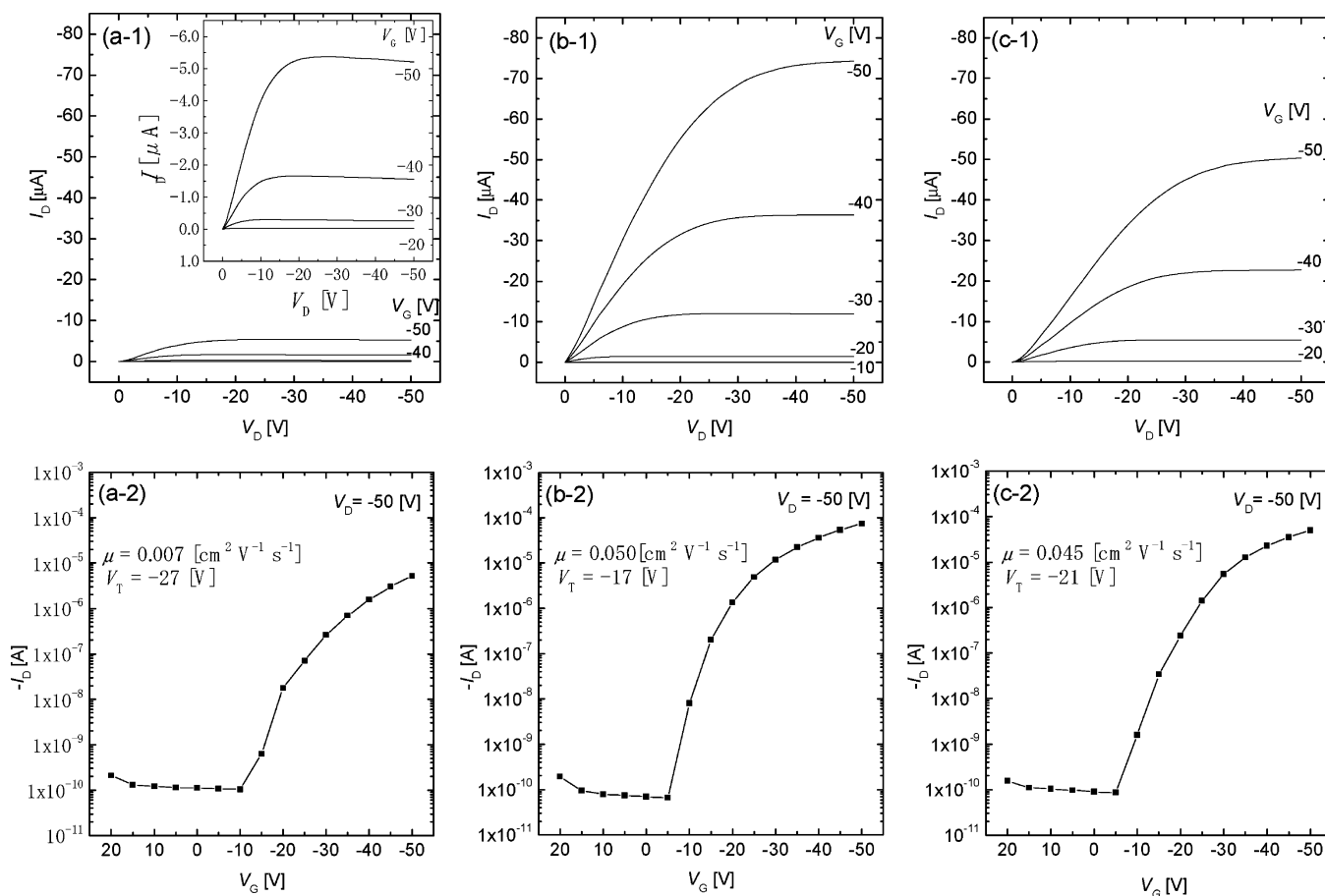


Figure 6. OFET characteristics of $\beta 6\text{T}$ films fabricated at various substrate temperatures: (a) $25\ ^\circ\text{C}$; (b) $120\ ^\circ\text{C}$; (c) $180\ ^\circ\text{C}$. The inset of (a-1) represents the magnification.

like crystals, these minor crystalline domains are deduced to be the domains where the long molecular axis lies flat on the film surface.

Field-Effect Transistor Characteristics. Figures 6 and 7 show the OFET characteristics of $\beta 6\text{T}$ and $\beta 5\text{T}$ films fabricated at various substrate temperatures, respectively. All the films exhibited p-type characteristics whose mobility

values are within 7×10^{-3} to $5 \times 10^{-2}\ \text{cm}^2\ \text{V}^{-1}\ \text{s}^{-1}$. The I_d - V_d curves show well-expressed plateau (saturation regime) at high drain voltage region and a strong increase of the drain current with increasing gate voltage. Table 2 shows the summary of OFET properties of $\beta 6\text{T}$ and $\beta 5\text{T}$ films fabricated at various substrate temperatures. For comparison, OFET properties of pentamer, hexamer, and heptamer of

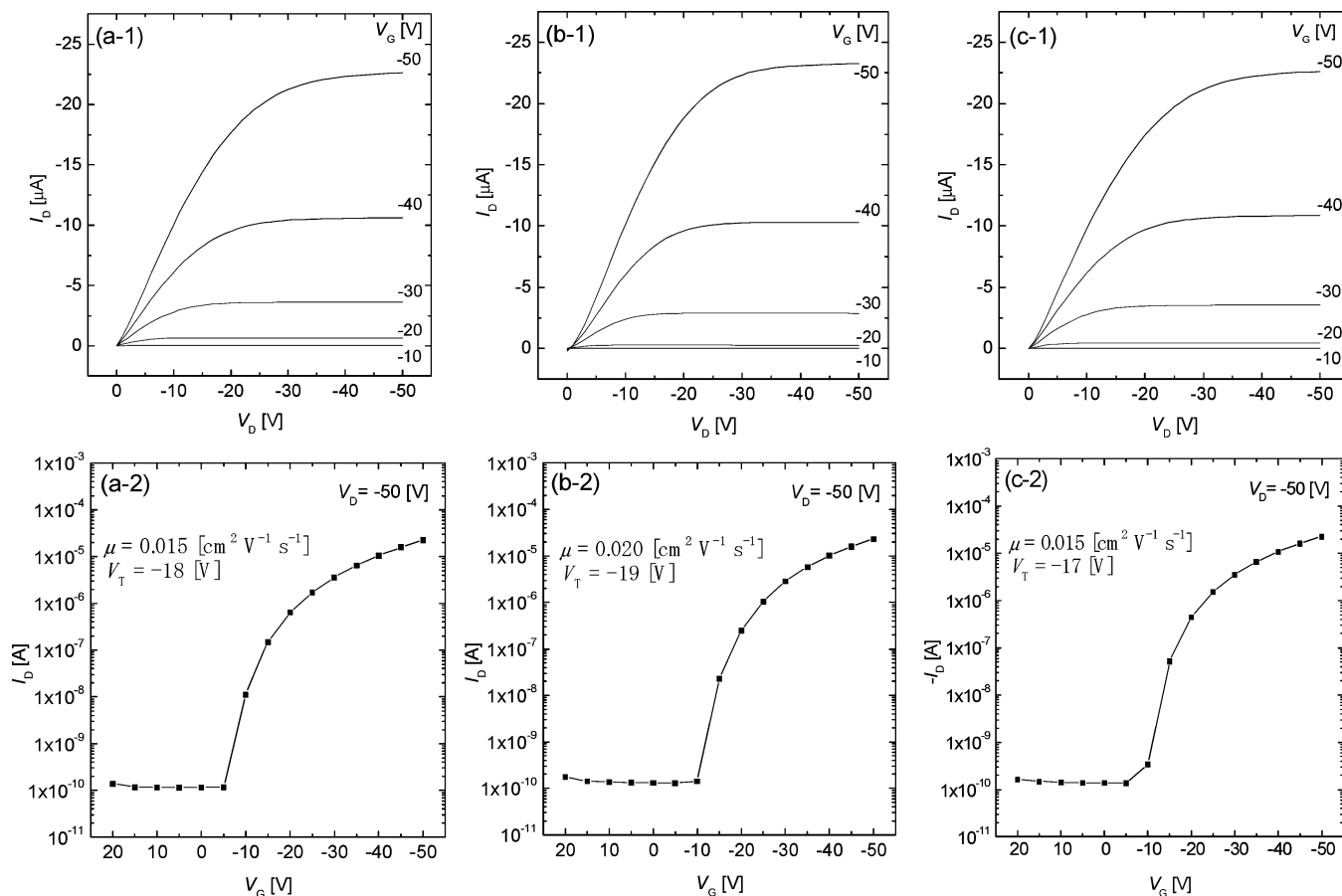


Figure 7. OFET characteristics of $\beta 5T$ films fabricated at various substrate temperatures: (a) 25 °C; (b) 90 °C; (c) 130 °C.

Table 2. Field-Effect Mobility, Threshold Voltage, and On–Off Ratio of OFETs Based on Oligothiophene Films

compound	substrate temperature [°C]	field-effect mobility (μ) [$\text{cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$]	threshold voltage (V_T) [V]	on-off ratio ($I_{\text{ON}}/I_{\text{OFF}}$)
$\beta 6T$ (this work)	25	0.007	-27	10^5
	120	0.050	-17	10^5
	180	0.045	-21	10^5
$\beta 5T$ (this work)	25	0.015	-18	10^5
	50	0.015	-20	10^5
	90	0.020	-19	10^5
	130	0.015	-17	10^5
$\alpha 7T^{22}$	200	0.13		
$\alpha 6T^{22}$	120	0.08		
$\alpha 5T^{22}$	90	0.05		

α -oligothiophene (αnT ; $n = 5, 6, 7$) films fabricated at high substrate temperature²² are also shown in Table 2. Both $\beta 6T$ and $\beta 5T$ show smaller values of hole mobility compared with their αnT isomers.

OFET characteristics of $\beta 6T$ film depended on the substrate temperature (Figure 6). The OFET fabricated at 25 °C showed mobility $\mu = 0.007 \text{ cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ and threshold voltage $V_T = -27 \text{ V}$. OFET fabricated at 120 °C exhibited improved property: $\mu = 0.050 \text{ cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ and $V_T = -17 \text{ V}$. Together with the XRD and AFM observations, it can be deduced that better crystallinity and larger grains of the film prepared at higher temperature enable faster carrier transport. Similar phenomena have been reported for thin films of other organic semiconductors such as α -oligothiophenes^{21–24} and pentacene.³⁹ OFET properties at a substrate temperature of 180 °C were worse compared with that at 120 °C: the values are $\mu = 0.045 \text{ cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ and $V_T = -21 \text{ V}$. The results

indicate that grain boundaries and cracks caused by excessively high substrate temperature block the carrier transport in the film.

In the case of $\beta 5T$, OFET characteristics did not depend much on the substrate temperature despite the difference in film morphology depending on the substrate temperature (Figure 7). The optimized mobility value of $0.020 \text{ cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ was obtained at a substrate temperature of 90 °C where large grains were observed. The deviation of mobility, however, is not very large: the mobility is $0.015 \text{ cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ at 25 and 50 °C where grains are small and $0.015 \text{ cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ at 180 °C where large grains were observed.

Usually, film morphology strongly affects OFET performance, while $\beta 5T$ film is not the case. We consider that the uncommon crystal structure of $\beta 5T$ results in the independence on the film morphology. The metastable polymorph observed for $\beta 6T$ film may prevent the formation of highly crystallized film. Moreover, boundaries of domains in which the azimuthal direction of the molecular long axis is different from one another (Figure 8a) may impede the carrier transport. In contrast, $\beta 5T$ films show the same polymorph as that in a single crystal with the long molecular axis standing perpendicularly on the substrate. In other words, $\beta 5T$ films can grow in a thermodynamically stable state, which is advantageous for the growth of a highly crystallized film. Moreover, the long molecular axis exhibits complete uniaxial orientation, which may enable the smooth carrier transport at grain boundaries (Figure 8b).

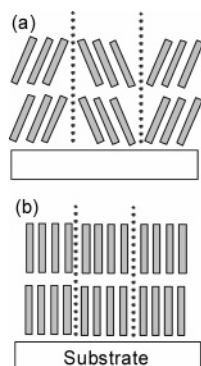


Figure 8. Grain boundary models of (a) $\beta 6T$ and (b) $\beta 5T$.

Conclusion

Using unsubstituted oligothiophene pentamer and hexamer with both terminal thiophene units linking at the β -position (βnT ; $n = 5, 6$), we have investigated the relationship between molecular structure, molecular packing in bulk, film structure, and electrical characteristics using X-ray single-crystal analysis, XRD, AFM, and OFET fabrication and characterization. X-ray single-crystal analysis revealed uncommon molecular packing geometry of $\beta 5T$ where the molecular long axis is almost perpendicular to the lattice

plane (a - c plane). On the other hand, $\beta 6T$ shows common molecular packing geometry that is often observed for many rodlike organic semiconducting molecules such as pentacene and α -oligothiophenes. $\beta 5T$ films grow up while maintaining the same crystal structure as a single crystal, while the $\beta 6T$ films grow up in an original crystal phase. $\beta 6T$ and $\beta 5T$ function as p-type organic semiconductors. Highest field-effect mobility of OFET was $0.050 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for $\beta 6T$ at a substrate temperature of $120 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and $0.020 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ for $\beta 5T$ at a substrate temperature of $90 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. The OFET characteristics of $\beta 6T$ depended on the substrate temperature, while those of $\beta 5T$ were independent of the substrate temperature. It can be considered that such a feature of $\beta 5T$ originates in its uncommon crystal structure.

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Supporting Information Available: Crystallographic information in CIF format; simulated powder XRD patterns. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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