Synthesis and Properties of Fluorinated Aromatic Poly(amide imide)s Based on 4,4'-Bis(4-amino-2trifluoromethylphenoxy)benzophenone and Various Bis(trimellitimide)s

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ABSTRACT: A CF₃-containing diamine, 4,4'-bis(4-amino-2-trifluoromethylphenoxy)benzophenone (2), was synthesized from 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone and 2-chloro-5nitrobenzotrifluoride. Imide-containing diacids (3 and $5B_a$ – $5B_g$) were prepared by the condensation reaction of aromatic diamines and trimellitic anhydride. Then, two series of novel soluble aromatic poly(amide imide)s (PAIs; $6A_a-6A_k$ and $6B_a-6B_g$) were synthesized from a diamine ($4A_a-4A_k$ or 2) with the imide-containing diacids (3 and $5B_a-5B_g$) via direct polycondensation with triphenyl phosphate and pyridine. The aromatic PAIs had inherent viscosities of 0.74–1.76 dL/g. All of the synthesized polymers showed excellent solubility in amide-type solvents, such as *N*-methyl-2-pyrrolidone and

INTRODUCTION

Aromatic polyimides are well known for their electric insulation properties and excellent thermal stability. However, their applications are limited because rigid polyimides are insoluble and infusible in their imidization form, which leads to process difficulties.^{1,2} Current or prior attempts concerning the solubility and processing of rigid-chain polymers have been made through the synthetic modification by the introduction of flexible linkages,^{3,4} molecular asymmetry, or bulky side groups^{5,6} into the backbone. These can increase the flexibility, lower the melt point or glass-transition temperature (T_g) , and improve the solubility of polymers. In addition, one of the methods is the use of copolymerization to synthesize a copolymer, such as poly(amide imide)s (PAIs), to improve the processability.⁷⁻¹² Wholly aromatic polyamides have been also noted for their high thermal and chemical resistance, high strength, and high modulus.¹³ Aromatic PAI can

N,*N*-dimethylacetamide (DMAc), and afforded transparent and tough films by DMAc solvent casting. These polymer films had tensile strengths of 90–113 MPa, elongations at break of 8–15%, and initial moduli of 2.0–2.9 GPa. The glasstransition temperatures of the aromatic PAIs were in the range 242–279°C. They had 10% weight losses at temperatures above 500°C and showed excellent thermal stabilities. The **6B** series exhibited less coloring and showed lower yellowness index values than the corresponding **6A** series. © 2006 Wiley Periodicals, Inc. J Appl Polym Sci 102: 3641–3653, 2006

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possess desirable characteristics with the merits of the polyamides and polyimides, such as high thermal stability, good mechanical properties, and easy processability.

Aromatic PAI can be synthesized in one of several common ways, such as an amide imide forming reaction based on trimellitic anhydride (TMA), which reacts either with diisocyanate to produce PAI or with thionyl chloride to synthesize TMA-chloride and then reacts with diamine to produce PAI,14-17 an imide-forming reaction from a medium of amidecontaining monomer, like polycondensation of an amide-containing diamine with dianhydride to obtain PAL,18 and the amide-forming reaction from imidecontaining monomers such as dicarboxylic acids or diamines.¹⁹ Therefore, aromatic PAI can be prepared from imide-containing monomers and aromatic diamines or dicarboxylic acids by polycondensation like prepared polyamide. The synthesis of PAI generally involves the use of TMA as a major component, where TMA is first reacted with a specific diamine or amino acid to synthesize a diimide dicarboxylic acid (DIDA) or diacid; then, DIDA is reacted with various aromatic diamines to synthesize a series of alternative copoly(amide imide)s.²⁰⁻²² It was convenient to use a method in our laboratory to probe into the molecular structure and properties.

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The PAIs show color (yellow or brown) because of their conjugated aromatic structures and/or intermolecular and intramolecular charge-transfer complex (CTC) formation. It had been reported that the processability of polyimides deriving from diamine containing the CF₃ group, that is, 4,4'-bis(4-amino-2-trifluoromethylphenoxy)benzophenone (2),²³ had been improved and were combined with good optical and mechanical properties and excellent thermal properties, but the solubility was still not good enough. In addition, the fluorinated PAIs were also shown to have better solubility and lighter color than common aromatic PAIs.²⁴ Lighter colored PAI films are of special importance, such as in orientation films in liquid crystal display devices.²⁵ Thus, the imidecontaining, 4,4'-bis(4-trimellitimide-2-trifluoromethylphenoxy)benzophenone, a DIDA (3), was synthesized from the CF₃-containing diamine (2) and TMA in this study. Fluorinated DIDA (3) was reacted with various imide-containing diacids by direct polycondensation to form aromatic PAIs (the 6A series). Moreover, the 6B series was prepared from diamine (2) and DIDA $(5B_a-5B_g)$. The solubility, optical properties, tensile properties, and thermal properties of the resultant polymers were investigated. The position of diamine (2) influenced the optical properties of the polymers. The 6B series, based on diamine 2 in the amide segments, was much lighter in color than the 6A series, with 2 in the imide segment.

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials

2-Chloro-5-nitrobenzotrifluoride (Acros) and 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone (Acros) were used as received. TMA (Wako, Osaka, Japan) was used without previous purification. The diamines, including 4,4'-oxydianiline (**4A**_a, TCI; Tokyo Kasei Kogyo Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan), *m*-phenylenediamine (**4B**_a, TCI), 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane (4A_b, TCI), 4,4'-diaminodiphenyl sulfide (4A_c and 4B_b, TCI), *o*-tolidine (4B_c, TCI), 4,4'-diaminobenzanilide(4A_d, TCI), 3,4'-oxydianiline (4B_d, Teijin, Ltd., Tokay), 1,4-bis(4-aminophenoxy)benzene (4Ae and 4Be, TCI), 1,3-bis(4-aminophenoxy)benzene (4Af and $4B_{f}$, TCI), 4,4'-bis(4-aminophenoxy)biphenyl (4A_h, Chariskev), 2,2-bis[4-(4-aminophenoxy)phenyl] sulfone (4A_i, TCI), 2,2-bis[4-(4-aminophenoxy)phenyl] propane (4A_i and 4B_g, Chariskev), and 2,2-bis[4-(4aminophenoxy)phenyl]hexafluoropropane (4Ak, Chariskev), were used as received. 1,2-Bis(4-aminophenoxy) benzene (4Ag) was synthesized according the literature.²⁶ Others, including N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP; Fluka), N,N-dimethylformamide (DMF; Fluka), N,Ndimethylacetamide (DMAc; Fluka, St. Gallen, Switzerland), pyridine (Py; Wako), triphenyl phosphite (TPP, TCI), and tetrahydrofuran (THF), were used as received.

Synthesis of diamine 2

Diamine 2 was prepared according the literature, as shown in Scheme 1.23 4,4'-Dihydroxybenzophenone (32 g, 0.15 mol) and 2-chloro-5-nitrobenzotrifluoride (67 g, 0.3 mol) were first dissolved in 80 mL of DMAc in a 300-mL flask with stirring. After the mixture was completely dissolved, potassium carbonate (0.15 mol) was added to it in one portion, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min and then heated at 100°C for 12 h. The obtained mixture was poured into 400 mL of methanol–water (volume ratio = 10:1) to give a solid, which was collected, washed thoroughly with methanol and hot water, and dried *in vacuo* at 60°C. The crude product was recrystallized from DMF-methanol to give fine, pale cream crystals of dinitro compound 1 (87 g, 98%). Then, to a suspension solution of the purified compound 1 (60 g, 0.10 mol) and 10% Pd/C (0.2 g) in ethanol (150 mL), hydrazine monohydrate (10 mL) was added at 70°C within 30 min. After this addition, the mixture was



heated at reflux temperature for 6 h. The reaction solution was filtered hot to remove Pd/C, and the filtrate was then distilled to remove the solvent. The obtained mixture was poured into water to precipitate white- to cream-colored crystals, which were dried *in vacuo* at room temperature to give diamine **2** (46 g, 87%; mp = 152-153°C).

Dinitro compound 1

¹H-NMR [500 MHz, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)- d_6 , δ]: 8.57, 8.56 (2H, d, H_a); 8.51–8.54 (2H, dd, H_b); 7.92–7.95 (4H, dt, H_e); 7.39–7.42 (4H, dt, H_d); 7.38, 7.34 (2H, d, H_c). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , δ): 193.3 (C¹²), 158.8 (C⁴), 157.7 (C⁷), 142.6 (C¹), 134.1 (C¹⁰), 132.4 (C⁹), 130.1 (C²), 123.4 (C⁶, quartet, ³ $J_{C-F} = 5$ Hz), 122.15 (C¹¹, quartet, ¹ $J_{C-F} = 273$ Hz), 120 (C⁵, quartet, ² $J_{C-F} = 32$ Hz), 119.9 (C³), 119.7 ppm (C⁸).



Dinitro Compound 1

Diamine compound 2

¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, δ): 7.74–7.77 (4H, dt, H_e); 7.03, 7.01 (2H, d, H_c); 7.01, 6.99 (4H, d, H_d); 7.00 (2H, d, H_a); 6.89–6.91 (2H, dd, H_b). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆, δ): 193.1 (C¹²), 162.0 (C⁷), 146.6 (C⁴), 140.8 (C¹), 132.0 (C⁹), 131.3 (C¹⁰), 124.0 (C³), 123.4 (C¹¹, quartet, ¹*J*_{C-F} = 272 Hz), 121.9 (C⁵, quartet, ²*J*_{C-F} = 30 Hz), 120.1 (C²), 115.8 (C⁸), 110.8 (C⁶, quartet, ³*J*_{C-F} = 5 Hz).



Diamine Compound 2

Synthesis of DIDA

DIDA, 4,4'-bis(4-trimellitimide-2-trifluoromethy-phenoxy)benzophenone (3) was obtained from TMA, and other DIDAs $(5B_a-5B_g)$ were synthesized in an analogous procedure, as shown in Scheme 2. For example, the synthesis of DIDA (3) was performed

as following: 10.65 g (20 mmol) of fluorinated diamine **2** was dissolved in 60 mL of NMP, and 7.69 g (40 mmol) of TMA was added with stirring at room temperature for 1 h. Then, 20 mL of toluene was added, and the mixture was heated with reflux for 6 h until 0.72 mL of water was distilled azeotropically. After the complete removal of water, the residual toluene was distilled off under reduced pressure. The mixture was left to cool by filtration and 40 mL of methanol was added for one night to induce crystallization. Then, methanol was used to wash the products; the products were dried at 120°C and heated at 200°C for 1 h *in vacuo* to give 16.90 g of pale yellow powder (yield = 96%, mp = 302–303°C):

IR (KBr, cm⁻¹): 3500–2500 (carboxylic acid —OH); 1781, 1729 (imide C=O); 1097, 727 cm⁻¹ (imide ring C—N). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , δ): 8.44, 8.43 (1H, H_b); 8.32 (1H, H_a); 8.11, 8.10 (1H, H_c); 8.04 (1H, H_d); 7.90, 7.89 (1H, H_h); 7.86–7.88 (1H, H_e); 7.48, 7.46 (1H, H_f); 7.31, 7.29 (1H, H_g). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , δ): 193.2 (C¹⁹), 173.9 (C¹), 165.8–166.1 (C^{2,2'}), 159.6 (C¹⁵), 152.7 (C¹²), 136.7 (C⁶), 135.6 (C³), 134.8 (C⁸), 133.4 (C⁵), 133.0 (C⁹), 132.4 (C¹⁷), 132.0 (C¹⁸), 127.9 (C⁴), 126.3 (C¹⁰, quartet, ³ $J_{C-F} = 5$ Hz), 123.9 (C⁷), 23.5 (C¹⁴), 121.8 (C²⁰, quartet, ¹ $J_{C-F} = 271$ Hz), 121.5 (C¹³), 120.8 (C¹¹, quartet, ² $J_{C-F} = 31$ Hz), 118.3 (C¹⁶). ANAL. Calcd for C₄₅H₂₂N₂O₁₁F₆ (880.67): C, 61.37%; H, 2.52%; N, 3.18%. Found: C, 60.50%; H, 2.61%; N, 3.74%.

Other DIDAs $(5B_a-5B_g)$ were synthesized in an analogous procedure.

Synthesis of PAIs $(6A_a - 6A_k \text{ and } 6B_a - 6B_g)$

The synthesis of $6A_c$ was a typical procedure. A mixture of 0.216 g (1.000 mmol) of $4A_c$, 0.880 g (1 mmol) of diacid 3, 0.24 g of CaCl₂, 1.4 mL of Py, 0.6 mL of TPP, and 3 mL of NMP was heated with stirring at 100°C for 4 h. At the end of the reaction, the obtained polymer solution was trickled into stirred methanol. The yellow stringy polymer was washed thoroughly with hot water and methanol, collected by filtration, and dried at 100°C under reduced pressure. The inherent viscosity (η_{inh}) of $6A_c$ was 1.37 dL/g. All of the other PAIs were synthesized with similar methods:

IR (film): 1779 (asymmetric C=O stretch); 1724 (symmetric. imide C=O stretch); 1654 (amide N-H); 1145, 723 cm⁻¹ (imide ring deformation). ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , δ , ppm): 10.75 (2H, d, H_k); 8.55 (2H, s, H_f); 847, 8.45 (2H, d, H_h); 8.15, 8.13 (2H, d, H_g); 8.03 (1H, s, H_a); 7.88 (4H, s, H_e); 7.86 (2H, s, H_b); 7.85 (4H, d, H_i); 7.47, 7.45 (2H, d, H_c); 7.36 (4H, d, H_j); 7.28, 7.26 (4H, d, H_d). ¹C-NMR (125 MHz, DMSO- d_6 , δ , ppm): 193.2 (C¹¹), 166.2, 166.1 (C^{24,24'}), 163.5 (C¹⁹), 159.4 (C⁷), 152.5 (C⁴), 140.1 (C¹⁵), 138.1 (C¹⁸), 134.4 (C²⁰), 133.8 (C¹⁰), 133.5 (C¹³), 132.9 (C²³), 132.3 (C²²), 131.7 (C¹⁶),



Scheme 2

131.3 (C²¹), 129.9 (C¹⁷), 127.9 (C¹), 126.3 (C¹⁴), 123.7 (C²), 122.3 (C³), 121.5 (C⁶), 121.7 (C¹², quartet, ${}^{1}J_{C-F} =$ 270 Hz), 121.4 (C⁹), 120.7 (C⁵ quartet, ${}^{2}J_{C-F} =$ 31 Hz), 118.1 (C⁸; shown later in Fig. 3).

Others were prepared by a similar method, and the condition of PAIs synthesis are listed in Table I.

TABLE I Synthesis of PAIs

	Reagent ^a					
Polymer	NMP (mL)	CaCl ₂ (g)	Py (mL)	TPP (mL)	Additional NMP (mL)	$\begin{array}{c} \eta_{inh} \\ \left(dL/g \right)^{b} \end{array}$
$\begin{array}{c} 6A_a\\ 6A_b\\ 6A_c\\ 6A_d\\ 6A_e\\ 6A_f\\ 6A_g\\ 6A_h\\ 6A_i\\ 6A_j\\ 6A_k\\ 6B_a\\ 6B_b\\ 6B_b\\ 6B_b\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.4 \\ 1.1 \\ 1.2 \\ 1.1 \\ 2.8 \\ 1.2 \\ 1.2 \\ 1.2 \\ 1.2 \\ 1.2 \\ 1.2 \\ 1.4 \\ 4 \\ 4 \\ 4 \\ 4 \\ 4 \\ 4 \\ 4 \\ 4 \\ 4 \\$	0.22 0.22 0.24 0.22 0.25 0.24 0.25 0.24 0.25 0.23 0.25 0.24 0.3 0.27	$\begin{array}{c} (.1.2) \\ 1.4 \\ 1.4 \\ 1.4 \\ 1.3 \\ 1.4 \\ 1.5 \\ 1.5 \\ 1.4 \\ 1.3 \\ 1.5 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{array}$	0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6	0 2.2 1.8 2.8 0 2.4 0 1.2 2.3 0.6 2.0 8 8 6	$\begin{array}{c} ((21)' g) \\ 0.78 \\ 0.94 \\ 1.37 \\ 0.96 \\ 0.78 \\ 1.00 \\ 0.74 \\ 0.82 \\ 0.79 \\ 0.83 \\ 0.99 \\ 0.88 \\ 1.06 \\ 1.16 \end{array}$
$ \begin{array}{c} 6B_{d} \\ 6B_{e} \\ 6B_{f} \\ 6B_{g} \end{array} $	4 4 3.7 4	0.24 0.24 0.25 0.26	1 1 1 1	0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6	6 6 1.3 4	1.29 1.76 1.09 1.08

^a The polymerizations were carried out with 1 mmol of each monomer at 100° C.

^b Measured at a polymer concentration of 0.5 g/dL in DMAc at 30° C.

Film preparation

A solution of the polymer was made by the dissolution of about 0.45 g of the PAI in 5 mL of DMAc to afford an approximate 10 wt % solution. The homogeneous solution was poured into a glass culture dish 9 cm in diameter, which was placed in a 110°C oven overnight to evaporate the solvent and to form a solid film and was then sequentially heated to 200°C and held at that temperature for 1 h. Polymer films were self-stripped off from the glass surface by soaking in water. The polymer films were further dried *in vacuo* at 160°C for 12 h.

Measurements

IR spectra were recorded on a Horiba FT-720 Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometer. Elemental analyses were run on a Heraeus VarioEL-III CHN analyzer. ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker AV-500 Fourier transform NMR spectrometer. η_{inh} 's were determined at a 0.5 g/dL concentration with an Ubbelohde viscometer at 30°C. Weight-average molecular weights $(M_w's)$ and number-average molecular weights $(M_n's)$ were obtained via gel permeation chromatography (GPC) on the basis of polystyrene calibration with a Waters 2410 apparatus and with THF as the eluent. The color intensity of the polymers was evaluated on a Macbeth color-eve colorimeter. Measurements were performed for the films at an observational angle of 10° and with a Commission International de l'clairage (CIE)-D illuminant. A CIE L*a*b* color difference equation was used. Ultraviolet-visible (UV-vis) spectra of the polymer films were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-1601 UV-vis spectrophotometer. T_{g} of the polymer were measured on TA Instruments DSC 2010 in flowing nitrogen 40 cm³/min at a heating rate of 15°C/min. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was conducted with a TA Instruments TGA 2050. Measurements were carried out on 9-11-mg film samples heated in flowing nitrogen or air (90 cm³/ min) at a heating rate of 20°C/min. The mechanical properties of the films were measured on an Instron model 1130 tensile tester with a 5-kg load cell at a crosshead speed of 5 cm/min on strips approximately 30-60 µm thick and 0.5 cm wide with a 2-cm gauge length. An average of at least five individual determinations was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis of DIDA

Fluorinated DIDA **3** was synthesized as shown in Scheme 2. DIDA **3** was synthesized by the ringopening addition of fluorinated diamine **2** and TMA at a 1 : 2 molar rate at room temperature in NMP to yield the intermediate diamide tetraacid; this was followed by intramolecular cyclodehydration by toluene–water azeotropic distillation. After distillation of toluene, the DIDA/NMP solution was obtained, and this was then cooled, washed with methanol, and vacuum-dried at 200°C for 2 h to give the yellow crystalline products.

DIDA 3 was confirmed by elemental analysis, IR, ¹H, and ¹³C-NMR spectroscopy. The FTIR characteristic absorptions of DIDA 3 are shown in Figure 1. As the diacid was prepared, the characteristic absorption bonds of carboxylic acid were observed at 2500-3500 and 1654 cm⁻¹ (C=O of carboxylic acid), and imide rings were observed at 1781, 1729, 1382, 1097, and 727 cm⁻¹. In the ¹H-NMR spectrum (Fig. 2), H_b and H_a adjacent to carboxylic acid and the imide ring resonated at farthest downfield because of the inductive effect and resonance; H_f and H_g ortho-oriented to aromatic ether shifted to the upfield. All of the ¹³C atoms of DIDA 3 showed 20 main signals (Fig. 2), and there were three quartets because of the heteronuclear ¹³C-¹⁹F coupling. The large quartet centered at about 121 ppm was due to the one-bond C-F (C^{20}); its coupling constant was 271 Hz. The CF₃-attached carbon (C^{11}) also showed a clear quartet centered at about 119.8 ppm with a smaller coupling constant of 31 Hz due to two-bond C-F coupling. In addition, C^{10} (ortho to the CF₃ group) also had its resonance split by the three fluorines (three-bond coupling); its coupling constant was 5 Hz. The previous results show that DIDA 3 was synthesized successfully.



Figure 1 FTIR spectra of diimide-diacid 3 and PAIs $6A_c$ and $6B_d$.

Synthesis of the polymers

Aromatic PAIs $(6A_a-6A_k \text{ and } 6B_a-6B_g)$ containing trifluoromethyl groups were synthesized from diamine $(4A_a-4A_k \text{ or } 2)$ and the imide-containing diacids (3 or $5B_a-5B_g$) by the direct polycondensation procedure with TPP/Py as condensing agents (Scheme 3). To understand the influence on the physical properties of the position of diamine 2 in PAIs, diamine (2) was also synthesized with TMA to produce DIDA (3). Isomeric PAI 6A, which has diamine 2 in the imide segments, were synthesized by 3 and aromatic diamines $4A_a-4A_k$ (Scheme 3).

The synthesis conditions and η_{inh} 's of these aromatic PAIs ($6A_a-6A_k$ and $6B_a-6B_g$) are summarized in Table I. η_{inh} values of the polymers could be obtained with a higher initial reaction concentration and added an additional amount of NMP to the highly viscous reaction medium before the formation of swollen gel. η_{inh} values for $6A_a-6A_k$ and $6B_a-6B_g$ ranged from 0.78–1.76 dL/g, indicating a moderateto high-molecular-weight polymer.

A typical IR spectrum is shown in Figure 1. The IR spectrum of $6A_c$ showed characteristic absorptions for



Figure 2 ¹H and ¹³C spectra of diimide-diacid **3** in DMSO- d_6 .

the imide ring at 1779 and 1724 cm⁻¹ due to the asymmetrical and symmetrical carbonyl stretching vibration and at 1145 and 723 cm⁻¹, due to ring deformation, and the amide ring at 3297 and 1656 cm⁻¹. The IR spectrum for **6B**_d, which exhibited characteristic absorptions for the imide ring at 1779 and 1725 cm⁻¹, ring deformation at 1133 and 725 cm⁻¹, and the absorption of an amide group, appeared at 3072 (N—H stretch) and 1677 (C=O stretch) cm⁻¹.

The typical ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra of $6A_c$ are shown in Figure 3. The aromatic protons of $6A_c$ were in the region 7.28–8.44 ppm. H_d shifted to a higher field due to the electron-donating property of

the ether group, and H_f close to the imide ring appeared at the farthest downfield. The ¹³C-NMR of **6A**_c showed 24 main signals, and the number of C was still consistent with the structure. The large quartet centered at about 122 ppm was due to the one-bond $C-F(C^{12})$; its coupling constant was 270 Hz. The CF₃attached carbon (C⁵) also showed a clear quartet centered at about 121 ppm with a smaller coupling constant of 31 Hz due to two-bond C-F coupling. C¹¹ of the ketone group and C^{24,24'} of the carbonyl group were evidenced in the downfield.

The results of the elemental analysis are listed in Table II, which shows that the PAIs had slight



moisture absorption because of their amide groups. The observed values were corrected by the elimination of the amount of absorbed water, and the corrected values were in good agreement with the calculated ones. From the GPC data (Table II), the M_w and M_n values of polymer dissolving in THF were available in the ranges 4.0×10^4 to 7.5×10^4 and 6.4×10^4 to 10.0×10^4 , respectively, relative to standard polystyrene, and one of the GPC curve is shown in Figure 4. The polydispersity indices (PDIs) of these polymers were in the range 1.30–1.61. The aforementioned results, including FTIR, elemental analysis, and NMR spectra (see the Experimental section), show that the **6A** and **6B** series were synthesized successfully.

Properties of the polymers

The solubility of the aromatic PAIs $(6A_a-6A_k \text{ and } 6B_a-6B_g)$ polymers is shown in Table III. Polymers $(6A_a-6A_k \text{ and } 6B_a-6B_g)$ could be dissolved at room temperature in amide type solvents, such as NMP,



Figure 3 ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra of PAI **6A**_c in DMSO-*d*₆.

DMAc, and DMF. Thus, these polymers could be solution (DMAc) cast into polymer films easily. Most of the polymers were also soluble in *m*-cresol, Py, and THF except $6A_d$. Because $6A_d$ contained more amide groups, they made the hydrogen bond between polymer chains stronger. The solubility of polymers was very different in dioxane and was based on the polymer's structure. Aromatic PAIs, such as $6A_h$, $6B_a$ and $6B_c$, with more rigid structures were insoluble in dioxane. $6A_j$ – $6A_k$ and $6B_g$ revealed good solubility in diox-

ane due to the bulky substituent group in the side chain or backbone, which could reduce the interaction between the polymer chains to enhance solubility. However, all polymers were not soluble in CH_2Cl_2 . When the **6A** and the **6B** series were compared, there were only slightly different solubilities in dioxane and CH_2Cl_2 .

The color intensities of the polymer were determined by the polymer structure. If a monomer has color or colored byproducts that are not eliminated

		Elemental analysis (%) ^a		s (%) ^a	GPC data ^a			
Polymer	Formula (M_w)		С	Н	Ν	$M_n \times 10^4$	$M_w imes 10^4$	M_w/M_n
6A _a	$(C_{57}H_{30}N_4O_{10}F_6)_n$	Calcd	65.52	2.89	5.36	3.97	6.39	1.61
	$[(1044.88)_n]$	Found	63.67	2.90	5.37			
6A _b	$(C_{58}H_{32}N_4O_9F_6)_n$	Calcd	66.80	3.09	5.37	7.01	9.79	1.40
	$[(1042.90)_n]$	Found	64.59	3.0	5.44			
6A _c	$(C_{57}H_{30}N_4O_9F_6)_n$	Calcd	66.54	2.94	5.45	7.25	9.66	1.33
	$[(1028.88)_n]$	Found	65.68	2.95	5.46			
$6A_d$	$(C_{58}H_{31}N_5O_{10}F_6)_n$	Calcd	66.99	2.92	6.53	_	—	
	$[(1071.90)_n]$	Found	64.59	2.82	6.62			
6A _e	$(C_{63}H_{34}N_4O_{11}F_6)_n$	Calcd	66.55	3.01	4.93	5.00	7.45	1.50
	$[(1136.97)_n]$	Found	65.02	2.90	4.93			
$6A_{f}$	$(C_{63}H_{34}N_4O_{11}F_6)_n$	Calcd	66.55	3.01	4.93	5.55	7.88	1.42
	$[(1136.97)_n]$	Found	65.10	3.03	4.95			
6A _g	$(C_{63}H_{34}N_4O_{11}F_6)_n$	Calcd	66.55	3.01	4.93	6.80	9.34	1.37
	$[(1136.97)_n]$	Found	64.80	3.05	4.98			
6A _h	$(C_{69}H_{38}N_4O_{11}F_6)_n$	Calcd	68.32	3.16	4.62	_	—	
	$[(1213.07)_n]$	Found	67.58	3.09	4.67			
6A _i	$(C_{69}H_{38}N_4O_{13}F_6S)_n$	Calcd	64.89	3.00	4.39	5.01	7.22	1.44
	$[(1136.97)_n]$	Found	63.02	3.07	4.27			
6Aj	$(C_{72}H_{44}N_4O_{13}F_6)_n$	Calcd	67.19	3.45	4.35	4.91	7.17	1.46
	$[(1287.15)_n]$	Found	67.13	3.46	4.42			
$6A_k$	$(C_{71}H_{38}N_4O_{11}F_{12})_n$	Calcd	63.12	2.83	4.15	5.32	8.14	1.53
	$[(1351.08)_n]$	Found	64.26	2.90	4.32			
6B _a	$(C_{51}H_{26}N_4O_9F_6)_n$	Calcd	64.29	2.75	5.88	—	—	
	$(952.78)_n$]	Found	63.46	2.77	5.91			
6B _b	$(C_{57}H_{30}N_4O_9F_6S_1)_n$	Calcd	64.53	2.85	5.28	6.00	9.61	1.60
	$[(1060.94)_n]$	Found	62.51	2.90	5.31			
6B _c	$(C_{59}H_{34}N_4O_9F_6)_n$	Calcd	67.05	3.24	5.30	6.52	9.20	1.41
	$[(1056.93)_n]$	Found	67.75	3.26	5.18			
6B _d	$(C_{57}H_{30}N_4O_{10}F_6)_n$	Calcd	65.52	2.89	5.36	7.58	9.96	1.31
	$[(1044.88)_n]$	Found	64.04	3.12	5.48			
6B _e	$(C_{63}H_{34}O_{11}F_6)_n$	Calcd	66.55	3.01	4.93	5.24	7.78	1.48
	$[(1136.97)_n]$	Found	64.98	3.06	4.94			
6B _f	$(C_{63}H_{34}N_4O_{11}F_6)_n$	Calcd	65.55	3.01	4.93	5.42	7.76	1.43
	$[(1136.97)_n]$	Found	65.07	3.10	4.98			
6Bg	$(C_{72}H_{44}N_4O_{11}F_6)_n$	Calcd	68.93	3.53	4.46	4.65	7.30	1.57
	$[(1255.15)_n]$	Found	67.51	3.55	4.52			

TABLE II Elemental Analysis and GPC Data for PAIs

^a With respect to a polystyrene standard and with THF as the eluent ($6A_d$, $6A_h$, and 6Ba were insoluble in THF).

fully, the polymers show color. The CTC formation between polymer chains through steric hindrance also influences the color intensities of the polymer. A lowering of the formation of the CTC between alternating electron-donor (diamine) and electronacceptor (dianhydride) moieties provides polyimides with lighter colors.^{27,28} The color coordinates of these polymers are given in Table IV. In this case, we based our judgment of the degree of yellowness on the yellowness index (b^*) value.

The imide-containing isomeric PAIs (the **6A** and **6B** series) were deeper colored (a larger b^* value) due to the intermolecular CTC formation. The values of the parameter b^* of the **6B** series was between 33.9 and 51.4, whereas the value of the parameter b^* of the **6A** series was between 54.5 and 85.4. By comparing the b^* value of the **6B** polymers with their analogous **6A** series, the b^* values of the **6B**

polymers was apparently lower than those of the corresponding 6A polymers. Polymers such as $6A_{e}$ – $6A_{f}$ and isomeric $6B_{e}$ – $6B_{f}$ were synthesized by the same monomer but via a different process (as shown in Scheme 3) and exhibited different coloration. The polymer structure of 6B had a lower intermolecular CTC effect than the isomeric 6A; this led to the polymers of 6B showing a lighter color than the polymers of 6A (as shown in Fig. 5).

Moreover, the color intensities of the polymers could also be elucidated from the cutoff wave number (λ_0) observed in the UV–vis absorption spectra. When the λ_0 value was close to UV regions (200–400 nm), the color of the polymers was lighter. Although the λ_0 values of the **6A** and **6B** series were higher than 400 nm, the results conformed to the *b** values. The **6B** series showed lower λ_0 values and higher transmittance than the **6A** series; this showed that



Figure 4 GPC curve of the PAI 6A_c.

the **6B** series was indeed lighter colored than the **6A** series. Moreover, **6B**_f had better optical properties than **6B**_e because the metastructure reduced the CTC formation (as shown in Fig. 6).

The thermal properties of all of the polymers was evaluated by TGA and differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) measurements. The results are summarized in Table IV. Quenching from an elevated temperature of about 400°C to room temperature in air gave predominantly amorphous samples so that the T_g values of all the polymers could be easily

revealed in the subsequent DSC scans. The T_g values of aromatic PAIs ($6A_a-6A_k$ and $6B_a-6B_g$) were in the range 242–279°C, which followed the decreasing order of the chain flexibility and steric hindrance of the polymers backbones. In general, the incorporation of a less symmetric *m*-phenylene unit leads to a decrease in T_g . For example, the polymers of $6A_e$ and $6B_{er}$ which contained parasubstituted phenylene rings, had higher T_g values than did the analogous polymers of $6A_f$ and $6B_{fr}$ which contained metasubstituted phenylene rings units, respectively.

Solubility of PAIs ^a										
	Solvent									
Polymer	Amide-type solvent (NMP, DMAc, and DMF)	DMSO	<i>m</i> -Cresol	Ру	Dioxane	THF	CH ₂ Cl ₂			
6A _a	++	++	++	++	_	++	_			
6A _b	++	++	++	++	—	++	_			
6A _c	++	++	++	++	—	++	_			
$6A_d$	++	++	_	—	—	_	-			
6A _e	++	++	++	++	++	++	-			
$6A_{f}$	++	++	++	++	++	++	-			
$6A_g$	++	++	++	++	++	++	+			
6A _h	++	++	++	++	_	_	-			
$6A_i$	++	++	++	++	_	++	_			
6Aj	++	++	++	++	++	++	++			
$6A_k$	++	++	++	++	++	++	++			
6B _a	++	+	++	++	_	_	-			
6B _b	++	++	++	++	_	++	-			
6B _c	++	++	++	++	_	++	-			
6B _d	++	++	++	++	_	++	-			
6B _e	++	++	++	++	S	++	-			
6B _f	++	++	++	++	+	++	-			
6Bg	++	++	++	++	++	++	_			

TABLE III

^a The qualitative solubility was determined with 10 mg of the polymer in 1 mL of the solvent. ++ = soluble at room temperature; + = soluble on heating; - = insoluble even on heating.

TABLE IV

Color Coordinates of the PAIs							
Polymer	Film thickness (µm)	<i>b</i> *	a*	L*	Cutoff wavelength (nm)		
$\begin{array}{c} 6A_a\\ 6A_b\\ 6A_c\\ 6A_d\\ 6A_e\\ 6A_f\\ 6A_g\\ 6A_h\\ 6A_i\\ 6A_j\\ 6A_k\\ 6B_a\\ 6B_b\\ 6B_c\\ 6B_d\\ 6B\\ 6B\\ 6B\\ 6B\\ 6B\\ 6B\\ 6B\\ 6B\\ 6B\\ 6B$	69 55 55 47 45 58 49 49 64 41 45 63 52 52 52 73 63	71.5 58.1 84.4 77.5 72.8 65.7 69.5 71.9 54.5 72.4 62.8 51.4 33.9 50.1 37.9 43.3	$\begin{array}{r} -9.4 \\ -7.4 \\ 7.2 \\ 4.0 \\ -0.5 \\ 2.5 \\ 2.7 \\ -4.0 \\71 \\ -9.0 \\ -9.3 \\ -2.5 \\ -4.5 \\ -0.2 \\ -6.1 \\ -81 \end{array}$	93.2 92.3 86.5 85.2 85.8 82.6 83.5 89.4 92.0 92.5 93.3 86.0 92.4 86.4 93.0 94.1	$\begin{array}{c} 445\\ 424\\ 460\\ 448\\ 437\\ 434\\ 438\\ 436\\ 420\\ 433\\ 423\\ 418\\ 420\\ 407\\ 411\\ 409 \end{array}$		
6B _f 6B _g	58 53	36.3 35.5	-8.3 -8.6	93.9 95.1	409 408		

The color parameters were calculated according to a CIE $L^*a^*b^*$ color equation, with paper as the standard. L^* is lightness: 100 means white, whereas 0 implies black. A positive a^* value means a red color, whereas a negative a^* indicates a green color. A positive b^* value means a yellow color, whereas a negative b^* value implies a blue color.

The thermal stability of the polymers was characterized by TGA. The temperatures at 10% weight loss (T_{10} 's) in nitrogen and air atmospheres were determined from the original thermograms and are also tabulated in Table V. The T_{10} of PAIs ($6A_a-6A_k$ and $6B_a-6B_g$ - stayed in the range 517–550°C in nitrogen and 486–533°C in air, respectively. These imide-containing polymers had higher T_{10} values due to the incorporation of the thermally stable imide group in the main chain. Compared the isomers of 6A and 6B, the T_{10} values of 6B were higher than 6A, such as $6B_b > 6A_c$ and $6B_g > 6A_j$, as shown in



Figure 5 Comparison of the b^* value between PAIs in the **6A** and **6B** series.



Figure 6 UV–vis spectra of the PAI films $6A_e-6A_f$ and $6B_e-6B_f$. [Color figure can be viewed in the online issue, which is available at www.interscience.wiley.com.]

Figure 7. This indicated that the **6B** series showed better thermal stability than the **6A** series. Moreover, the chair yields of all these polymers at 800°C were above 48%.

All of the polymers were cast into transparent and flexible films from polymer solutions of DMAc. The results are summarized in Table VI. For aromatic PAIs ($6A_a-6A_k$ and $6B_a-6B_g$), these films had tensile strengths of 90–113 MPa, elongations at break of 8–

TABLE V Thermal Properties of PAIs

		T ₁₀ ((°C) ^b	
Polymer	$T_g (^{\circ}C)^a$	In N ₂	In air	Char yield (%) ^c
6A _a	266	525	515	53.2
6A _b	270	527	502	54.6
6A _c	268	522	508	60.4
$6A_d$	271	513	504	59.6
6A _e	252	534	522	55.8
6A _f	246	543	522	58.9
$6A_{g}$	246	539	509	57.5
6A _h	257	550	523	61.6
6A _i	264	537	512	56.0
6A _i	274	517	500	55.5
6A _k	258	541	533	56.3
6B _a	279	531	516	56.1
6B _b	254	533	516	56.9
6B _c	254	518	486	60.2
6B _d	260	529	534	56.8
6B _e	265	536	522	57.1
6B _f	242	532	532	57.9
6Bg	252	527	517	55.8

^a Midpoint of the baseline shift in the second heating DSC trace with a heating rate of 15°C/min under a nitrogen atmosphere. ^b Recorded by thermogravimetry at a heating rate of

^b Recorded by thermogravimetry at a heating rate of 20°C/min under a nitrogen atmosphere.

^c Residual weight percentage at 800°C under a nitrogen atmosphere.

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Figure 7 TGA curves of PAIs $6A_c$ and $6B_b$. [Color figure can be viewed in the online issue, which is available at www. interscience.wiley.com.]

16%, and initial moduli of 2.1–2.9 GPa (Table VI). Most of $6A_a-6A_k$ and $6B_a-6B_g$ showed a clear yield point on their stress–strain curve, and they had strengths at a yield of 95–118 MPa. $6B_c$ had a higher tensile strength and initial modulus, which revealed good tensile properties with hard and strong characters. Also, most of the tensile strengths are increased

TABLE VITensile Properties of the PAI Films^a

	-			
Polymer	Strength at yield (MPa)	Strength at break (MPa)	Elongation at break (%)	Initial modulus (GPa)
6A _a	96 97	90 93	15 11	2.1
$6A_c$	95	92	11	2.2
6A _d 6A	106 95	105 93	16 10	2.5 2.2
6A _f	95	94	8	2.3
6A _g 6A _b	_	97 95	9 8	2.1 2.2
6A _i		92	9	2.0
6A _j 6A _k	98 101	94 100	11 11	2.1 2.2
6B _a		91 01	8	2.2
6В _b 6В _c	96 118	113	9	2.3 2.9
6B _d	109	105	12	2.5
6B _e 6B _f	107	104	14 15	2.2 2.1
6Bg	_	112	10	2.3

^a The films were cast via the slow evaporation of polymer solutions in DMAc.

as the η_{inh} 's increased; for example, $6B_e-6B_f$ showed higher tensile strengths than their isomers $6A_e-6A_f$. As shown by these results, these polymers all possessed good tensile properties with hard, strong, and tough mechanical characteristics.

CONCLUSIONS

A series of high-molecular-weight aromatic PAIs $(6A_a-6A_k \text{ and } 6B_a-6B_g)$ were obtained by the direct polycondensation reaction of a light-colored and CF₃-containing diamine (2) and various diacids. These polymers exhibited better solubility than common aromatic PAIs through the introduction of the bulky CF₃ group in the polymer chains to reduce the packing efficiency. They were all soluble in the amide-type solvents. Most of the polymer films displayed yield points and had higher tensile strengths. In comparison with the isomeric **6A** series, **6B** PAIs exhibited less color together with good thermal and tensile properties.

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