

ELECTRONIC DEVICES CONTAINING ACENE-THIOPHENE COPOLYMERS WITH SILYLETHYNYL GROUPS

Technical Field

5 Electronic devices and methods of making electronic devices are described that include an acene-thiophene copolymer with silylethynyl groups.

Background

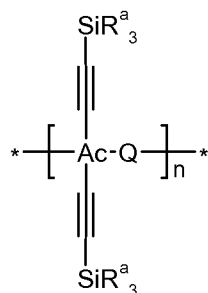
Traditionally, inorganic materials have dominated the electronic device industry.
10 For example, silicon arsenide and gallium arsenide have been used as semiconductor materials, silicon dioxide has been used as an insulator material, and metals such as aluminum and copper have been used as electrode materials. In recent years, however, there has been an increasing research effort aimed at using organic materials rather than the traditional inorganic materials in electronic devices. Among other benefits, the use of
15 organic materials may enable lower cost manufacturing of electronic devices, may enable large area applications, and may enable the use of flexible circuit supports for display backplane and integrated circuits.

A variety of organic semiconductor materials have been considered, the most common being fused aromatic ring compounds as exemplified by small molecules such as
20 pentacene-containing compounds, tetracene-containing compounds, anthracene-containing compounds, bis(acenyl)acetylene compounds, and acene-thiophene compounds. Several polymeric materials have also been considered such as regioregular polythiophenes, which are exemplified by poly(3-alkylthiophene), and polymers having fused thiophene units or bis-thiophene units. However, at least some of the polymers tend to undergo oxidation,
25 which can lead to diminished electronic device performance.

Summary of the Invention

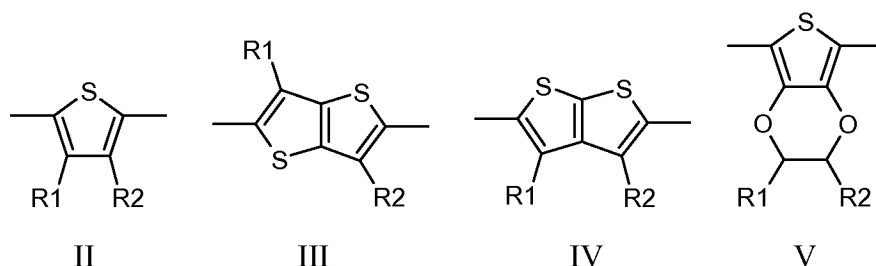
Electronic devices and methods of making electronic devices are described. More specifically, the electronic devices include an acene-thiophene copolymer with attached
30 silylethynyl groups. The copolymer can be used, for example, in a semiconductor layer or in a layer positioned between a first electrode and a second electrode.

In one aspect, an electronic device is provided that contains an acene thiophene copolymer of Formula I.



I

The acene-thiophene copolymer has attached silylethynyl groups. In Formula I, Ac is a radical of an acene having 2 to 5 fused benzene rings. The Ac group can be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from an alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, or combinations thereof. Each R^a is independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroalkyl, or hydroxyalkyl. Divalent group Q is of Formula II, III, IV, or V.



Each R1 and R2 in Formula II to V is independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, or alkenyl. Subscript n is an integer greater than or equal to 4. The asterisks indicate the locations of attachment to another group such as another repeat unit of formula –Ac(E)₂–Q– where each E is of formula –C≡C–Si(R^a)₃.

In another aspect, a method of making an electronic device is provided. The method includes providing a layer that includes the acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I.

The above summary of the present invention is not intended to describe each disclosed embodiment or every implementation of the present invention. The Detailed Description and Examples that follow more particularly exemplify these embodiments.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention may be more completely understood in consideration of the following detailed description of various embodiments of the invention in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

5 Figure 1 is a schematic representation of a first exemplary organic thin film transistor.

 Figure 2 is a schematic representation of a second exemplary organic thin film transistor.

10 Figure 3 is a schematic representation of a third exemplary organic thin film transistor.

 Figure 4 is a schematic representation of a fourth exemplary organic thin film transistor.

 Figure 5 is a schematic representation of a fifth exemplary organic thin film transistor.

15 Figure 6 is a schematic representation of a sixth exemplary organic thin film transistor.

 Figures 7A to 7D are schematic representations of various exemplary organic light emitting diodes.

 Figure 8 is a schematic representation of an exemplary photovoltaic cell.

20 The drawings are not meant to imply a certain thickness for any layer or to imply a certain relative thickness of various layers.

 While the invention is amenable to various modifications and alternative forms, specifics thereof have been shown by way of example in the drawings and will be described in detail. It should be understood, however, that the intention is not to limit the invention to the particular embodiments described. On the contrary, the intention is to
25 cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

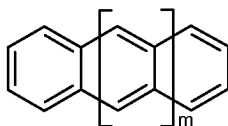
30 The present invention provides electronic devices that contain an acene-thiophene copolymer with attached silylethynyl groups. The copolymer can be present, for example, in a layer that is adjacent to a dielectric layer, a conductive layer, or combinations thereof.

More specifically, the copolymer can function as a semiconducting material in electronic devices such as an organic thin film transistor or can be positioned between two electrodes in electronic devices such as an organic photovoltaic cell or an organic electroluminescent device.

5 The present invention also provides methods of making electronic devices that contain an acene-thiophene copolymer with silylethynyl groups. The method includes providing a layer that contains the acene-thiophene copolymer with silylethynyl groups. Providing this layer often involves preparing a coating solution that contains the copolymer dissolved in a solvent, forming a solution layer from the coating solution on a
10 surface, and removing at least some of the solvent from the solution layer. The layer containing the copolymer is often formed on the surface of a substrate or on the surface of another layer in the electronic device.

As used herein, the terms “a”, “an”, and “the” are used interchangeably with “at least one” to mean one or more of the elements being described.

15 “Acene” refers to a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon group having at least 2 fused benzene rings in a rectilinear arrangement as shown by the following formula where m is an integer equal to or greater than zero.



The acene is typically selected from naphthalene, anthracene, tetracene, or pentacene.

20 The terms “acene-thiophene copolymer”, “acene-thiophene copolymer with attached silylethynyl groups”, and “acene-thiophene copolymer with silylethynyl groups” are used interchangeably to refer to a copolymer of Formula I.

 “Alkyl” refers to a monovalent group that is a radical of an alkane, which is a saturated hydrocarbon. The alkyl can be linear, branched, cyclic, or combinations thereof
25 and typically contains 1 to 30 carbon atoms. In some embodiments, the alkyl group contains 4 to 30, 1 to 20, 4 to 20, 1 to 14, 1 to 10, 4 to 10, 4 to 8, 1 to 8, 1 to 6, or 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Examples of alkyl groups include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, iso-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, cyclohexyl, n-octyl, n-heptyl, and ethylhexyl.

“Alkenyl” refers to a monovalent group that is a radical of an alkene, which is a hydrocarbon with at least one carbon-carbon double bond. The alkenyl can be linear, branched, cyclic, or combinations thereof and typically contains 2 to 30 carbon atoms. In some embodiments, the alkenyl contains 2 to 20, 2 to 14, 2 to 10, 4 to 10, 4 to 8, 2 to 8, 2 to 6, or 2 to 4 carbon atoms. Exemplary alkenyl groups include ethenyl, propenyl, and butenyl.

“Alkynyl” refers to a monovalent group that is a radical of an alkyne, a hydrocarbon with at least one carbon-carbon triple bond. The alkynyl can be linear, branched, cyclic, or combinations thereof and typically contains 2 to 30 carbon atoms. In some embodiments, the alkynyl contains 2 to 20, 2 to 14, 2 to 10, 4 to 10, 4 to 8, 2 to 8, 2 to 6, or 2 to 4 carbon atoms. Exemplary alkynyl groups include ethynyl, propynyl, and butynyl. Some alkynyl groups such as an ethynyl can be further substituted with a silyl group.

“Alkoxy” refers to a monovalent group of formula –OR where R is an alkyl group. Examples include, but are not limited to, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, and butoxy.

“Aryl” refers to a monovalent group that is a radical of an aromatic carbocyclic compound. The aryl can have one aromatic ring or can include up to 5 carbocyclic ring structures that are connected to or fused to the aromatic ring. The other ring structures can be aromatic, non-aromatic, or combinations thereof. Examples of aryl groups include, but are not limited to, phenyl, biphenyl, terphenyl, anthryl, naphthyl, acenaphthyl, anthraquinonyl, phenanthryl, anthracenyl, pyrenyl, perylenyl, and fluorenyl.

“Aralkyl” refers to an alkyl substituted with an aryl group.

“Halo” refers to a halogen group (i.e., -F, -Cl, -Br, or -I).

“Haloalkyl” refers to an alkyl that is substituted with one or more halo groups.

“Hydroxyalkyl” refers to an alkyl that is substituted with one or more hydroxy groups.

“Heteroalkyl” refers to an alkyl having one or more –CH₂– groups replaced with a thio, oxy, a group of formula –NR^b– where R^b is hydrogen or alkyl, or aryl, or a group of formula –SiR₂– where R is an alkyl. The heteroalkyl can be linear, branched, cyclic, or combinations thereof and can include up to 30 carbon atoms and up to 20 heteroatoms. In some embodiments, the heteroalkyl includes up to 25 carbon atoms, up to 20 carbon

atoms, up to 15 carbon atoms, or up to 10 carbon atoms. Thioalkyl groups and alkoxy groups are subsets of heteroalkyl groups.

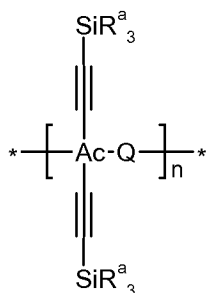
“Heteroaryl” refers to a monovalent radical having a five to seven member aromatic ring that includes one or more heteroatoms independently selected from S, O, N, or combinations thereof in the ring. Such a heteroaryl ring can be connected to or fused to up to five ring structures that are aromatic, aliphatic, or combinations thereof. Examples of heteroaryl groups include, but are not limited to, furanyl, thiophenyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl, indolyl, carbazoyl, benzoxazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, cinnolinyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, phthalazinyl, benzothiadiazolyl, benzotriazinyl, phenazinyl, phenanthridinyl, acridinyl, and indazolyl, and the like.

“Heteroaralkyl” refers to an alkyl substituted with a heteroaryl.

“Silylethynyl” refers to a monovalent group of formula $\text{-C}\equiv\text{C-Si(R}^a\text{)}_3$ where each R^a is independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, heteroalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl. These groups are sometimes referred to as silanylethynyl groups.

“Thioalkyl” refers to a monovalent group of formula -SR where R is an alkyl group.

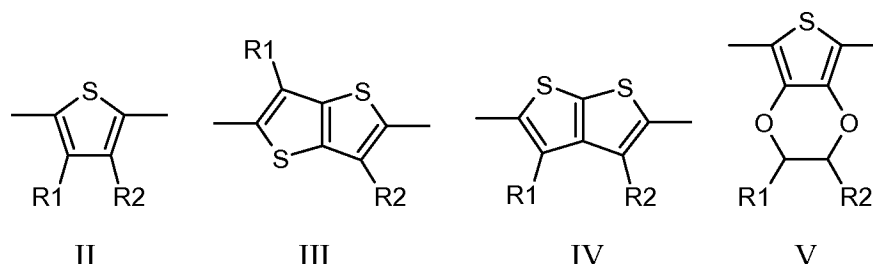
An electronic device is provided that contains an acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I.



I

The acene-thiophene copolymer has attached silylethynyl groups. In Formula I, Ac is a radical of an acene having 2 to 5 fused benzene rings. The Ac group can be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from an alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo,

haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, or combinations thereof. Each R^a is independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroalkyl, or hydroxyalkyl. Divalent group Q is of Formula II, III, IV, or V.

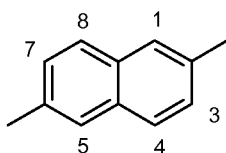


Each R_1 and R_2 in Formula II to V is independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, or alkenyl. Subscript n is an integer greater than or equal to 4. The asterisks indicate the locations of attachment to another group such as another repeat unit of formula $-\text{Ac}(\text{E})_2-\text{Q}-$ where each E is of formula $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{Si}(\text{R}^a)_3$.

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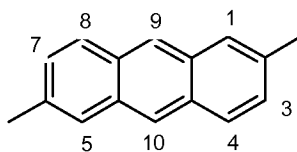
The Ac group is a radical of an acene. The acene can have two to five fused aromatic rings arranged in a rectilinear manner (i.e., naphthalene, anthracene, tetracene, or pentacene). Suitable acenes are often selected from naphthalene, anthracene, or pentacene. Acenes are commonly given a numbering sequence in which each carbon atom that is a member of only one ring is numbered. Various positions of exemplary acene-diyls (i.e., divalent radicals of an acene) are shown in the following structures for naphthylene-2,6-diyl,

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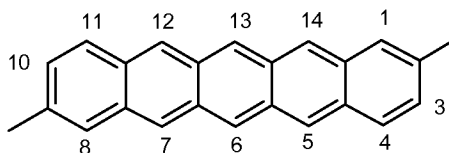


anthracene-2,6-diyl, and

20



pentacene-2,9-diyl.



Each Ac group has two covalently attached silylethynyl groups of formula $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{Si}(\text{R}^a)_3$. When the Ac group is derived from naphthalene, the two silylethynyl groups are typically attached to the same aromatic ring. When the Ac group is derived from anthracene or pentacene, the two silylethynyl groups can both be attached to the same inner aromatic ring or one silylethynyl group can be attached to each of the outer aromatic rings. As used herein, the term “inner aromatic ring” refers to an aromatic ring of an acene that is fused to two other aromatic rings. For example, the ring containing the 9 and 10 positions is referred to as the inner aromatic ring for an Ac group based on anthracene. As used herein, the term “outer aromatic ring” refers to an aromatic ring of an acene that is fused to only one aromatic ring. For example, the ring containing the 1, 2, 3, and 4 positions and the ring containing the 5, 6, 7, and 8 positions are referred to as the outer aromatic rings for an Ac group based on anthracene.

In many embodiments, it is preferable that the silylethynyl groups are attached to an inner ring of the Ac group. For example, if the Ac group is derived from anthracene, the silylethynyl groups are preferably attached at the 9 and 10 positions. The stability of the acene precursor used to prepare the copolymers can often be improved by attachment of the silylethynyl groups to an inner aromatic ring of the Ac group. With multiple inner aromatic rings, attachment of the silylethynyl groups to the inner most ring, such as at the 6 and 13 positions of an Ac group derived from pentacene, may result in the greatest stability of the acene precursor. As used herein, stability refers to resistance to oxidation and/or dimerization.

Each silylethynyl group is of formula $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{Si}(\text{R}^a)_3$ where each R^a independently is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, heteroalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl. Exemplary alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, heteroalkyl, and hydroxyalkyl groups can be linear, branched, cyclic, or a combination thereof and usually have up to 10 carbon atoms, up to 8 carbon atoms, up to 6 carbon atoms, or up to 4 carbon atoms. An exemplary aryl group is phenyl and an exemplary aralkyl is an alkyl having up to 10 carbon atoms that is substituted with a phenyl group. Exemplary heteroaryl groups often have a 5 or 6 membered unsaturated, heterocyclic ring that includes 1 or 2 heteroatoms

and an exemplary heteroaralkyl is an alkyl having up to 10 carbon atoms that is substituted with a 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl having 1 or 2 heteroatoms.

In more specific examples, each R^a is an alkyl having up to 10, up to 8, or up to 6, carbon atoms. That is, the silylethynyl group is a trialkylsilylethynyl group. Each alkyl group often has at least 1 carbon atom, at least 2 carbon atoms, or at least 3 carbon atoms. For example, in some copolymers of Formula I, the silylethynyl group is triisopropylsilylethynyl where R^a is isopropyl.

In addition to the two silylethynyl groups, the Ac group can be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from an alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, or combinations thereof. When referring to Ac substituents, the term "combinations thereof" can refer either to multiple substituents on the Ac group or to a first substituent that is further substituted with a second substituent. At least in some embodiments, the addition of one or more substituents can increase the solubility of the copolymer of Formula I in organic solvents or can improve the compatibility of the copolymer with various coating compositions.

Group Q can be attached to any position of Ac that lacks an attached silylethynyl group. The acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I lacks a bithiophene or polythiophene group. That is, any two $Ac(E)_2$ groups are separated by a group Q selected from a single group of Formula II to V. The copolymer is usually conjugated throughout the length of the copolymer. There are typically no spacer groups between two repeat units of formula $-Ac(E)_2-Q-$ in the copolymer that can disrupt the conjugation of double bonds along the backbone of the copolymer.

In many embodiments, Q is attached to an outer aromatic ring of Ac. For example, group Q can be attached at positions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 for an Ac group based on either naphthalene or anthracene and at positions 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, or 11 for an Ac group based on pentacene. When Q is attached to an outer aromatic ring of Ac and the Ac group is derived from anthracene or pentacene, the two silylethynyl groups are usually attached to an inner aromatic ring of Ac and preferably to the same inner aromatic ring.

In other embodiments, Q is attached to an inner aromatic ring of Ac. For example, group Q can be attached at positions 9 or 10 for an Ac group based on anthracene or at positions 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, or 14 for an Ac group based on pentacene. When Q is attached to an inner aromatic ring of Ac, the two silylethynyl groups are usually attached to an outer

aromatic ring of Ac. For example, one silylethynyl group can be positioned on each of the outer aromatic rings for an Ac group derived from anthracene or pentacene.

In addition to being attached to group Q and to two silylethynyl, the Ac group is attached to a fourth group such as an end group of the copolymer or another repeat unit of formula $-Ac(E)_2-Q-$ where E refers to the silylethynyl groups (i.e., the resulting copolymeric material has a subscript n equal to at least 5). If group Q in Formula I is attached to an inner aromatic ring of the Ac group, the fourth group is often attached to the same inner aromatic ring. If group Q is attached to an outer aromatic ring of the Ac group, the fourth group is often attached to the opposite outer aromatic ring. That is, group Q and the fourth group are often attached to opposite distal ends of the Ac group with the two silylethynyl groups attached to an inner aromatic ring of the Ac group.

Exemplary $Ac(E)_2$ groups include, but are not limited to, 1,4-bis(silylethynyl)naphthalene-2,6-diyl, 1,4-bis(silylethynyl)naphthalene-2,7-diyl, 9,10-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-2,6-diyl, 9,10-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-2,7-diyl, 2,6-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-9,10-diyl, 2,7-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-9,10-diyl, 6,13-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-2,9-diyl, 6,13-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-2,10-diyl, 2,9-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-6,13-diyl, or 2,10-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-6,13-diyl. Any of these groups can optionally have the Ac group substituted with an alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, or combinations thereof. The position numbers in front of the term “diyl” indicate the carbon atom where the Q group and the fourth group are attached to the Ac group.

Some more specific $Ac(E)_2$ groups include, but are not limited to, 1,4-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)naphthalene-2,6-diyl, 1,4-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)naphthalene-2,7-diyl, 9,10-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)anthracene-2,6-diyl, 9,10-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)anthracene-2,7-diyl, 2,6-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)anthracene-9,10-diyl, 2,7-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)anthracene-9,10-diyl, 6,13-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)pentacene-2,9-diyl, 6,13-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)pentacene-2,10-diyl, 2,9-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)pentacene-6,13-diyl, or 2,10-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)pentacene-6,13-diyl. Any of these groups can optionally have the Ac group substituted with an alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, or combinations thereof. The position numbers in

front of the term “diyl” indicate the carbon atom where the Q group and the fourth group are attached to the Ac group.

In some applications such as those in which the copolymers function as semiconductor materials, it may be desirable to select an Ac group that has an extended conjugation length in a linear direction (i.e., along the backbone of the copolymer). Such copolymers tend to align well with each other in the formation of stack-like structures. That is, in some applications, it is preferable that the Q group is attached to an outer aromatic ring of the acene with the two silylethynyl groups attached to an inner aromatic ring, if there is an inner aromatic ring. Exemplary Ac(E)₂ groups include, but are not limited to, 1,4-bis(silylethynyl)naphthalene-2,6-diyl such as 1,4-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)naphthalene-2,6-diyl, 9,10-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-2,6-diyl such as 9,10-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)anthracene-2,6-diyl, or 6,13-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-2,9-diyl such as 6,13-bis(trialkylsilylethynyl)pentacene-2,9-diyl. Any of these groups can optionally have the Ac group substituted with an alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, or combinations thereof.

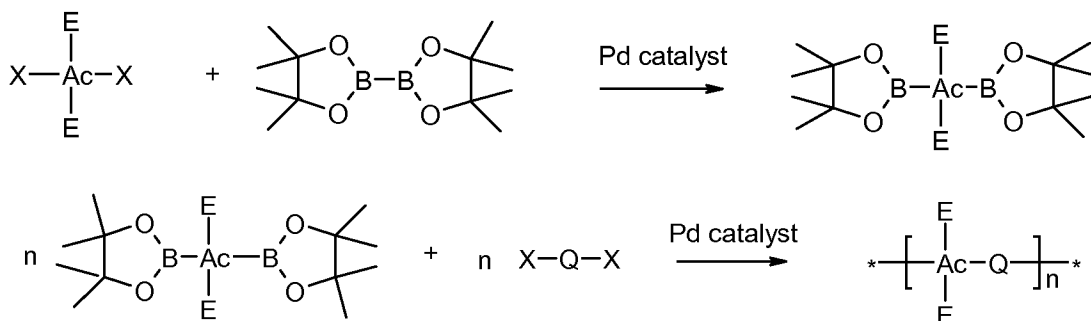
Group Q is selected from Formula II to V as described above. Each group R1 and R2 in these formulas is independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, or combinations thereof. When referring to groups R1 and R2, the term “combinations thereof” refers to a first group that is further substituted with another group.

In some embodiments of group Q, there is at least one R1 group or R2 group that contains at least 4 carbon atoms such as 4 to 30 carbon atoms, 4 to 20 carbon atoms, 4 to 16 carbon atoms, or 4 to 10 carbon atoms. More specifically, there is at least one R1 group or R2 group selected from an alkyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, an alkoxy having at least 4 carbon atoms, a thioalkyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, an aryl having at least 6 carbon atoms, an aralkyl having at least 10 carbon atoms, a haloalkyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, a heteroalkyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, an alkenyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, or combinations thereof. The selection of at least one such group can often increase the solubility of the copolymer of Formula I in common organic solvents or can often improve the compatibility of the acene-thiophene copolymer with various coating compositions.

Some exemplary copolymers have identical R1 and R2 groups selected from an alkyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, an alkoxy having at least 4 carbon atoms, a thioalkyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, an aryl having at least 6 carbon atoms, an aralkyl having at least 10 carbon atoms, a haloalkyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, a heteroalkyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, an alkenyl having at least 4 carbon atoms, or a combination thereof.

The copolymers of Formula I can be prepared using Suzuki coupling reactions such as shown in Reaction Scheme A.

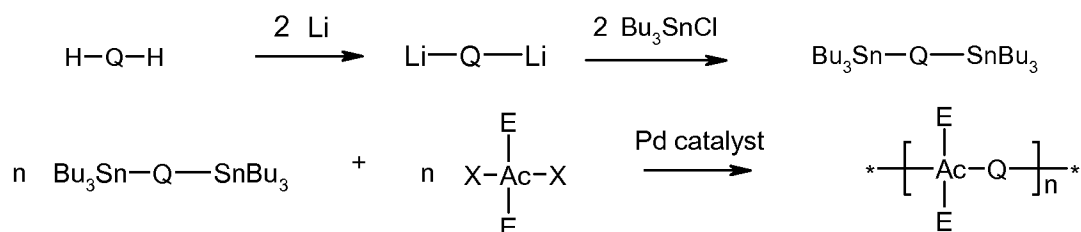
Reaction Scheme A



A dihaloacene having two attached silylethynyl groups (i.e., Ac represents the acene group, E represents the group of formula $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-\text{Si}(\text{R}^a)_3$, and X represent a halo) is initially reacted with a dioxaborolane such as bis(pinacolato)diboron to form an acene compound having two dioxaborolane groups (e.g., tetramethyldioxaborolane). The resulting acene compound is then reacted with a dihalothiophene compound (i.e., X-Q-X) to form the copolymer of Formula I. The halo groups in the second reaction can be the same or different than the halo groups in the first reaction. Both of these reactions typically take place in the presence of a palladium catalyst such as, for example, [1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene]dichloropalladium and tetrakis(triphenyl)phosphine)palladium(0). As an alternative to Reaction Scheme A, a dihalothiophene compound can be initially reacted with a dioxaborolane and then reacted using Suzuki coupling reactions with a dihaloacene having two attached silylethynyl groups. Suzuki coupling reactions are further described in the article by Ito et al., *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 42, 1159-1162 (2003) and supporting information referenced therein.

Stille coupling reactions can also be used to synthesize the copolymers of Formula I as shown in Reaction Scheme B.

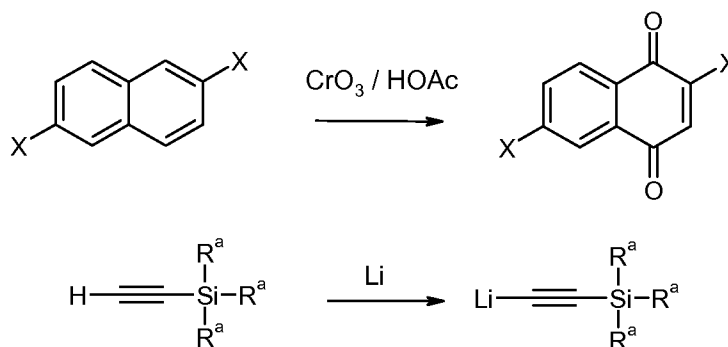
Reaction Scheme B

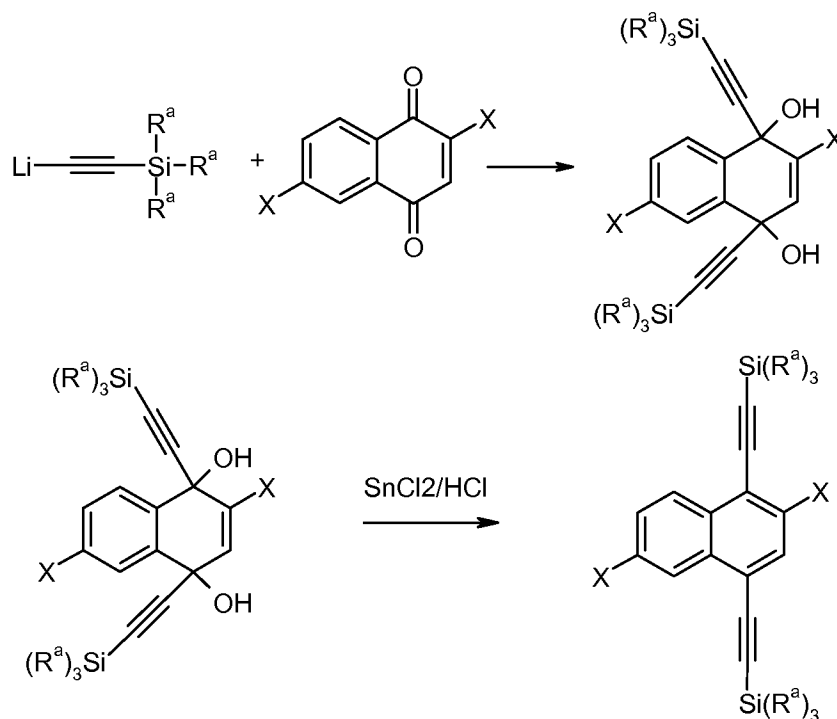


A thiophene compound can be lithiated and then reacted with a trialkylstannate such as tributyltin chloride to form a thiophene compound substituted with two trialkylstannate groups. The resulting thiophene compound can then be reacted in the presence of a palladium catalyst with a dihaloacene having two attached silylethynyl groups. As an alternative to Reaction Scheme B, an acene with two attached silylethynyl groups can be lithiated and then reacted with a trialkylstannate to form an acene substituted with two trialkylstannate groups. The resulting acene compound can then be reacted with a dihalothiophene in the presence of a palladium catalyst. Stille coupling reactions are further described in the articles Miller et al., *J. Org. Chem.*, 60, 6813-6819 (1995) and Katz et al., *Acc. Chem. Res.*, 34, 359-369 (2001).

Dihaloacenes having two silylethynyl groups can be synthesized from a dihaloacene as shown in the Example Section or as shown in Reaction Scheme C. For example, 1,4-bis(silylethynyl)-2,6-dihalonaphthalene can be synthesized starting with 2,6-dihalonaphthalene such as 2,6-dichloronaphthalene, which is commercially available from Apin Chemicals Ltd., Oxfordshire, UK.

Reaction Scheme C



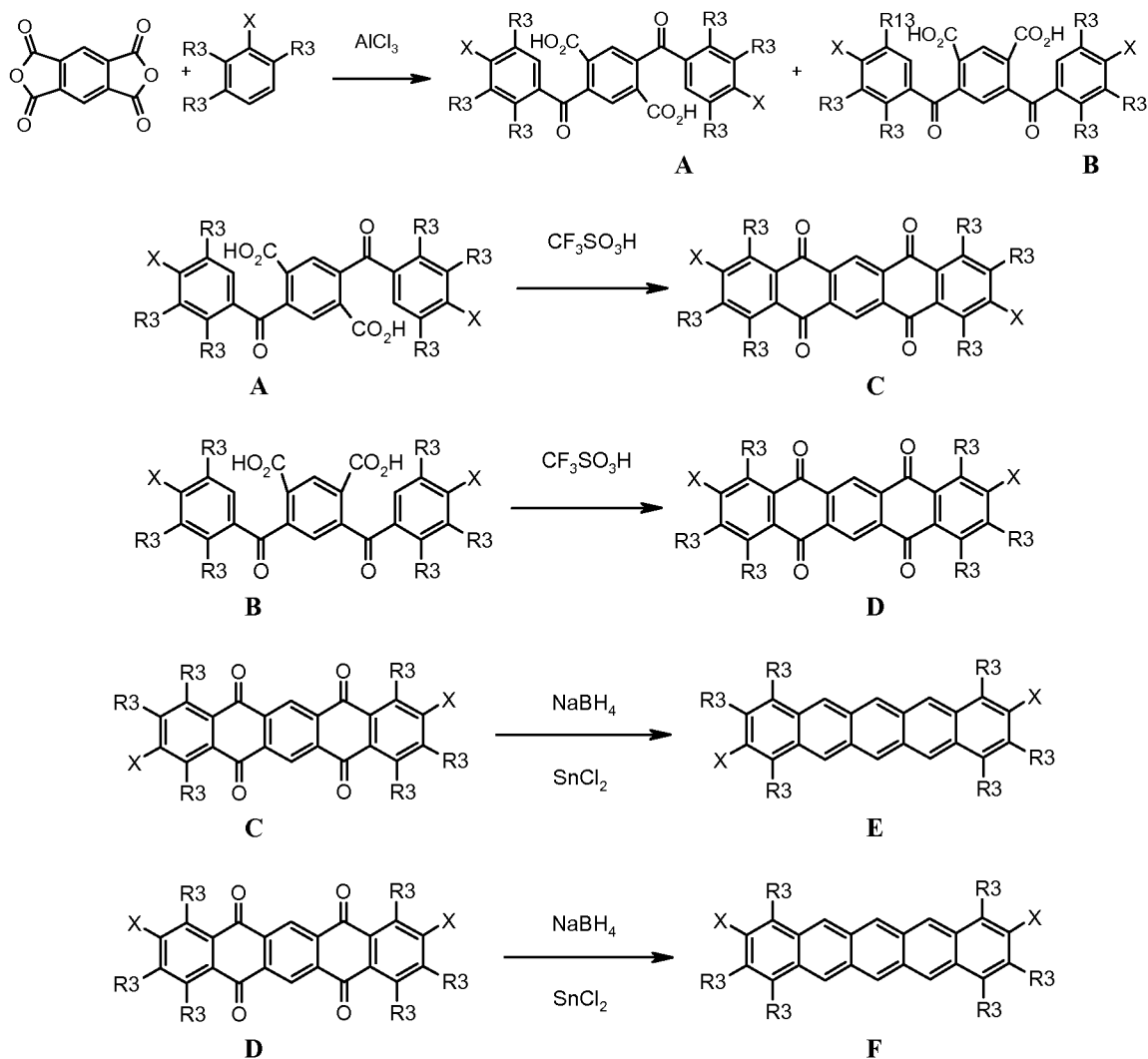


The 2,6-dihalonaphthalene can be oxidized to 2,6-dihalonaphthaquinone. The silylethynyl groups can be added by formation of a lithiated version of silylacetylene compounds followed by reaction with the 2,6-dihalonaphthaquinone. Various silylacetylene compounds are commercially available. For example, (trimethylsilyl)acetylene, (triethylsilyl)acetylene, (triisopropylsilyl)acetylene, and (tert-butyldimethylsilyl)acetylene are available from GFS Chemicals, Columbus, OH. (Dimethylphenylsilyl)acetylene, (methyldiphenylsilyl)acetylene, and (triphenylsilyl)acetylene are available from Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI. The resulting diol product can then be converted to the corresponding aromatic compound by reaction with a reducing agent such as stannous chloride.

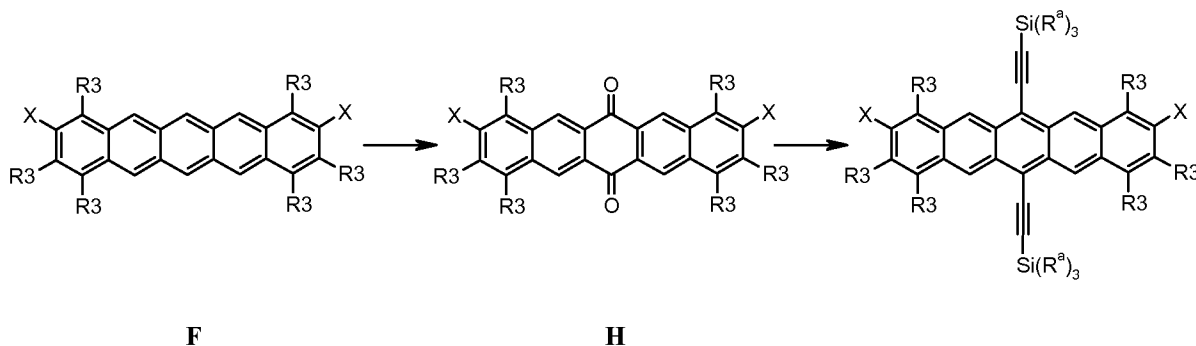
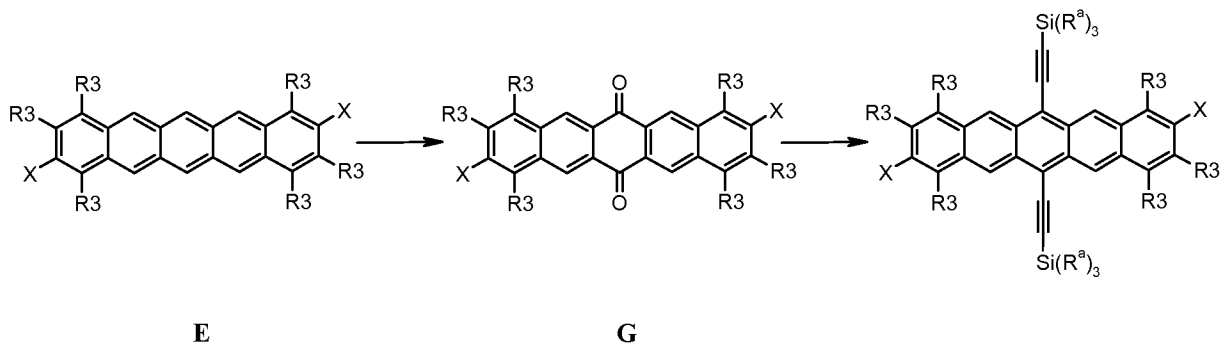
Dihalopentacenes with the halo group in the 2,9 or 2,10 positions can be synthesized as shown in Reaction Scheme D. The reaction of a halobenzene with pyromellitic anhydride under typical Friedel-Crafts conditions (e.g., AlCl_3 , which is a strong Lewis Acid) in an inert solvent or with halobenzene as solvent with heat gives the two isomeric bis(halobenzoyl)phthalic acids **A** and **B**. These isomers can be separated by fractional recrystallization, chromatography or by differences in solubility. Further reactions of the individual bis(halobenzoyl)phthalic acids **A** and **B** are carried on separately first by cyclization to the corresponding tetrones **C** and **D** using triflic acid

followed by reduction to the desired pentacenes **E** and **F** with sodium borohydride and stannous chloride. The R3 groups below are hydrogen or substituent groups.

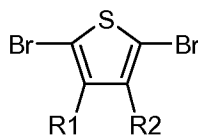
Reaction Scheme D



The resulting dihalopentacenes can be reacted to attach two silylethynyl groups using a method analogous to that shown in Reaction Scheme C. Oxidation of compounds **E** and **F** would give the corresponding quinones **G** and **H** respectively. These compounds could then be converted to derivatives with the silylethynyl groups attached at the 6 and 13 positions of the pentacene.



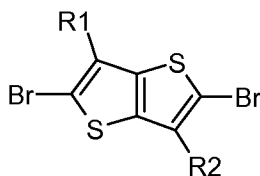
Dibromothiophene compounds of Formula IIa



IIa

can be prepared by bromination of the corresponding thiophene compound. That is, the corresponding thiophene can be reacted with a brominating agent such as N-bromosuccinimide (NBS). For example, a compound of Formula IIa with R1 and R2 equal to alkyl groups can be prepared by reacting a 3,4-dihalothiophene with two moles of a Grignard reagent containing the desired alkyl groups followed by a bromination reaction. This method is further described in the article by Vidal et al., *Chem. Eur. J.*, 6, 1663-1673 (2000).

Dihalothieno[3,2-b]thiophenes of Formula IIIa

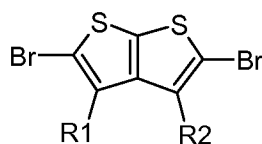


IIIa

can be prepared by bromination of the corresponding thieno[3,2-b]thiophenes. Some thieno[3,2-b]thiophenes are commercially available from Maybridge, Cornwall, UK. 3,6-dimethylthieno[3,2-b]thiophene is available from Synchem OHG, Kassel, Germany and 2,5-dibromothieno[3,2-b]thiophene is available from Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI.

5 Other thieno[3,2-b]thiophenes can be synthesized as described in the article by Zhang et al., *Macromolecules*, 37, 6306-6315 (2004).

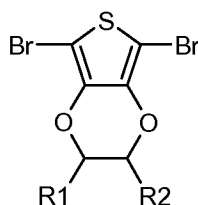
Dihalothieno[2,3-b]thiophenes of Formula IVa



IVa

10 can be prepared by bromination of the corresponding thieno[2,3-b]thiophenes. 3,4-dimethylthieno[2,3-b]thiophene is commercially available from Alfa Aesar Johnson Mathey, Ward Hill, MA. Other substituted thieno[2,3-b]thiophenes can be prepared using an analogous reaction to that described in the article by Comel et. al, *Journal of Heterocyclic Chemistry*, 38, 1167-1171 (2001).

15 Likewise, dihaloethylenedioxythiophene compounds of Formula Va



Va

can be prepared by bromination of the corresponding ethylenedioxythiophenes. The corresponding ethylenedioxythiophenes can be prepared, for example, by transesterificative cyclocondensation of commercially available 3,4-dimethoxythiophenes with geminal diols such as 2,3-butanediol, 1,2-propanediol, and the like in the presence of an acid catalyst such as p-toluenesulfonic acid. The resulting 3,4-disubstituted thiophene can then be dibrominated at the 2 and 5 positions with N-bromosuccinimide or other suitable brominating agents. This method is further described in the article by Nielson et al, *Macromolecules*, 38, 10379 (2005).

The copolymers of Formula I typically have a weight average molecular weight of at least 5,000 g/mole. In some embodiments, the weight average molecular weight is at

least 7,000 g/mole, at least 8,000 g/mole, at least 10,000 g/mole, at least 12,000 g/mole, or at least 15,000 g/mole. The weight average molecular weight can be determined using Gel Permeation Chromatography.

If desired, the purity of the copolymeric material can be increased using techniques known in the art such as additional precipitation steps or Soxhlet extraction.

Layers in an electronic device that contain the acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I often are prepared from solvent-based compositions. That is, at least some of the acene-thiophene copolymers of Formula I are soluble in a solvent. Suitable solvents for dissolution of the copolymer of Formula I include, but are not limited to, aromatic solvents such as toluene, benzene, and xylene; ethers such as tetrahydrofuran and dioxane; ketones such as methyl isobutyl ketone and methyl ethyl ketone; chlorinated solvents such as chloroform, dichloromethane, chlorobenzene, and dichlorobenzene; alkanes such as cyclohexane and heptane; and amides such as N,N-dimethylformamide and 1-methylpyrrolidone. As used herein, the term "soluble" means the copolymer can be dissolved in a solvent to provide a solution that contains at least 0.05 weight percent copolymer based on the weight of the solution. Some copolymers have a solubility of at least 0.05 weight percent, at least 0.1 weight percent, at least 0.2 weight percent, at least 0.5 weight percent, at least 1 weight percent, at least 2 weight percent, at least 3 weight percent, or at least 5 weight percent based on the weight of the solution.

Compositions that contain the acene-thiophene copolymer and a solvent can be used to provide a coating. The coating can be formed by applying the compositions to a surface such as to a surface of a substrate or to a surface of another layer in an electronic device. The coating can be applied using any suitable application technique such as, for example, spray coating, spin coating, dip coating, knife coating, gravure coating, inkjet printing, and transfer printing. The solvent can be removed from the coating after application by evaporating under ambient conditions (e.g., at about 20 °C to about 25 °C) or by drying at an elevated temperature such as a temperature up to about 80 °C, up to about 100 °C, up to about 120 °C, up to about 150 °C, or up to about 200 °C.

In some exemplary methods of preparing an electronic device, the method involves providing a first layer selected from a dielectric layer, a conductive layer, or a substrate and disposing a layer containing the acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I adjacent to the first layer. No specific order of preparing or providing is necessary; however, the layer

containing the acene-thiophene copolymer is often prepared on the surface of another layer such as the dielectric layer, the conductive layer, or the substrate. The conductive layer can include, for example, a source electrode and a drain electrode, an anode, or a cathode.

5 As used herein, the terms “disposed”, “disposing”, “deposited”, “depositing”, and “adjacent” do not preclude the presence of another layer or layers between the mentioned layers. As used herein, these terms mean that a first layer is positioned near a second layer. The first layer often contacts the second layer but a third layer or layers could be positioned between the first layer and the second layer.

10 The acene-thiophene copolymers of Formula I can function as semiconductor materials within some electronic devices. That is, the electronic device can be a semiconductor device that contains a semiconductor layer that includes the acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I. Semiconductor devices have been described, for example, by S. M. Sze in Physics of Semiconductor Devices, 2nd edition, John Wiley and
15 Sons, New York (1981). Such devices include rectifiers, transistors (of which there are many types, including p-n-p, n-p-n, and thin-film transistors), photoconductors, current limiters, thermistors, p-n junctions, field-effect diodes, Schottky diodes, and the like. Semiconductor devices can include components such as transistors, arrays of transistors, diodes, capacitors, embedded capacitors, and resistors that are used to form circuits.
20 Semiconductor devices also can include arrays of circuits that perform an electronic function. Examples of these arrays or integrated circuits include inverters, oscillators, shift registers, and logic circuits. Applications of these semiconductor devices and arrays include radio frequency identification devices (RFIDs), smart cards, display backplanes, sensors, memory devices, and the like.

25 Some of the semiconductor devices are organic thin-film transistors as shown schematically in Figures 1 to 6. Any given layer in the various thin film transistors shown in Figures 1 to 6 can include multiple layers of materials. Further, any layer can include a single material or multiple materials.

30 One embodiment of an organic thin-film transistor 100 is shown schematically in Figure 1. The organic thin-film transistor (OTFT) 100 includes a gate electrode 14, a gate dielectric layer 16 disposed on the gate electrode 14, a source electrode 22, a drain electrode 24, and a semiconductor layer 20 that is in contact with both the source electrode

22 and the drain electrode 24. The source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24 are separated from each other (i.e., the source electrode 22 does not contact the drain electrode 24) and are positioned adjacent to the dielectric layer 16. Both the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24 are in contact with the semiconducting layer 20 such that a portion of the semiconductor layer is positioned between the source electrode and the drain electrode. The portion of the semiconductor layer that is positioned between the source electrode and the drain electrode is referred to as the channel 21. The channel is adjacent to the gate dielectric layer 16. Some semiconductor devices have an optional surface treatment layer between the gate dielectric layer 16 and the semiconductor layer 20.

An optional substrate can be included in the organic thin-film transistors. For example, the optional substrate 12 can be adjacent to the gate electrode 14 as shown schematically in Figure 2 for the OTFT 200 or adjacent to the semiconductor layer 20 as shown schematically in Figure 3 for the OTFT 300. The OTFT 300 can include an optional surface treatment layer between the substrate 12 and the semiconductor layer 20.

Another embodiment of an organic thin-film transistor is shown schematically in Figure 4. This organic thin-film transistor 400 includes a gate electrode 14, a gate dielectric layer 16 disposed on the gate electrode 14, a semiconductor layer 20, and a source electrode 22 and a drain electrode 24 disposed on the semiconductor layer 20. In this embodiment, the semiconductor layer 20 is between the gate dielectric layer 16 and both the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24. The source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24 are separated from each other (i.e., the source electrode 22 does not contact the drain electrode 24). Both the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24 are in contact with the semiconducting layer such that a portion of the semiconductor layer is positioned between the source electrode and the drain electrode. The channel 21 is the portion of the semiconductor layer that is positioned between the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24. One or more optional surface treatment layers can be included in the semiconductor device. For example, an optional surface treatment layer can be included between the gate dielectric layer 16 and the semiconductor layer 20.

An optional substrate can be included in the organic thin-film transistors. For example, the optional substrate 12 can be in contact with the gate electrode 14 as shown schematically in Figure 5 for the OTFT 500 or in contact with the semiconductor layer 20

as shown schematically in Figure 6 for the OTFT 600. OTFT 600 can include an optional surface treatment layer between the substrate 12 and the semiconductor layer 20.

In operation of the semiconductor device configurations shown in Figures 1 to 6, voltage can be applied to the drain electrode 24. However, at least ideally, no charge (i.e.,
5 current) is passed to the source electrode 22 unless voltage is also applied to the gate electrode 14. That is, unless voltage is applied to the gate electrode 14, the channel 21 in the semiconductor layer 20 remains in a non-conductive state. Upon application of voltage to the gate electrode 14, the channel 21 becomes conductive and charge flows through the channel 21 from the source electrode 22 to the drain electrode 24.

10 A substrate 12 often supports the OTFT during manufacturing, testing, and/or use. Optionally, the substrate can provide an electrical function for the OTFT. For example, the backside of the substrate can provide electrical contact. Useful substrate materials include, but are not limited to, inorganic glasses, ceramic materials, polymeric materials, filled polymeric materials (e.g., fiber-reinforced polymeric materials), metals, paper,
15 woven or non-woven cloth, coated or uncoated metallic foils, or a combination thereof.

The gate electrode 14 can include one or more layers of a conductive material. For example, the gate electrode can include a doped silicon material, a metal, an alloy, a conductive polymer, or a combination thereof. Suitable metals and alloys include, but are not limited to, aluminum, chromium, gold, silver, nickel, palladium, platinum, tantalum,
20 titanium, indium tin oxide (ITO), fluorine tin oxide (FTO), antimony doped tin oxide (ATO), or a combination thereof. Exemplary conductive polymers include, but are not limited to, polyaniline, poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene)/poly(styrene sulfonate), or polypyrrole. In some organic thin film transistors, the same material can provide both the gate electrode function and the support function of the substrate. For example, doped
25 silicon can function as both the gate electrode and as the substrate.

The gate electrode in some embodiments is formed by coating a substrate surface with a dispersion that contains conductive materials such as nanoparticles that are conductive or polymeric materials that are conductive. Conductive nanoparticles include,
30 but are not limited to, ITO nanoparticles, ATO nanoparticles, silver nanoparticles, gold nanoparticles, or carbon nanotubes.

The gate dielectric layer 16 is disposed on the gate electrode 14. This gate dielectric layer 16 electrically insulates the gate electrode 14 from the balance of the

OTFT device. Useful materials for the gate dielectric include, for example, an inorganic dielectric material, a polymeric dielectric material, or a combination thereof. The gate dielectric can be a single layer or multiple layers of suitable dielectric materials. Each layer in a single or multilayer dielectric can include one or more dielectric materials.

5 The organic thin film transistors can include an optional surface treatment layer disposed between the gate dielectric layer 16 and at least a portion of the organic semiconductor layer 20 or disposed between the substrate 12 and at least a portion of the organic semiconductor layer 20. In some embodiments, the optional surface treatment layer serves as an interface between the gate dielectric layer and the semiconductor layer
10 or between the substrate and the semiconductor layer. The surface treatment layer can be a self-assembled monolayer as described in U.S. Patent No. 6,433,359 B1 (Kelley et al.) or a polymeric material as described in U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0102471 A1 (Kelley et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 6,617,609 (Kelley et al.).

 The source electrode 22 and drain electrode 24 can be metals, alloys, metallic
15 compounds, conductive metal oxides, conductive ceramics, conductive dispersions, and conductive polymers, including, for example, gold, silver, nickel, chromium, barium, platinum, palladium, aluminum, calcium, titanium, indium tin oxide (ITO), fluorine tin oxide (FTO), antimony tin oxide (ATO), indium zinc oxide (IZO), poly(3,4-
 ethylenedioxythiophene)/poly(styrene sulfonate), polyaniline, other conducting polymers,
20 alloys thereof, combinations thereof, and multiple layers thereof. Some of these materials are appropriate for use with n-type semiconductor materials and others are appropriate for use with p-type semiconductor materials, as is known in the art.

 The organic thin film transistors exemplified in Figures 1 to 3 can be prepared by a method that involves arranging multiple layers in the following order: a gate electrode; a
25 gate dielectric layer; a layer having a source electrode and a drain electrode that are separated from each other; and a semiconductor layer in contact with both the source electrode and the drain electrode. The semiconductor layer includes an acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I.

 For example, the organic thin film transistor shown schematically in Figure 1 can
30 be prepared by providing a gate electrode 14; depositing a gate dielectric layer 16 adjacent to the gate electrode 14; positioning a source electrode 22 and a drain electrode 24 adjacent to the gate dielectric layer 16 such that the source electrode 22 and the drain

electrode 24 are separated from each other; and forming a semiconductor layer 20 that is deposited on the source electrode 22, on the drain electrode 24, and in the area 21 between the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24. The semiconductor layer 20 contacts both the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24. The portion of the semiconductor layer that is positioned in the area between the source electrode and the drain electrode defines a channel.

The organic thin film transistor shown schematically in Figure 2 can be prepared by providing a substrate 12; depositing a gate electrode 14 on the substrate 12; depositing a gate dielectric layer 16 adjacent to the gate electrode 14 such that the gate electrode 14 is positioned between the substrate 12 and the gate dielectric layer 16; positioning a source electrode 22 and a drain electrode 24 adjacent to the gate dielectric layer 16 such that the two electrodes are separated from each other; and forming a semiconductor layer 20 adjacent to the source electrode 22, the drain electrode 24, and in the area 21 between the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24. The semiconductor layer 20 contacts both the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24. The portion of the semiconductor layer that is positioned in the area between the source electrode and the drain electrode defines a channel.

The organic thin film transistor shown schematically in Figure 3 can be prepared by providing a substrate 12; forming a semiconductor layer 20 adjacent to the substrate 12; positioning a source electrode 22 and a drain electrode 24 adjacent to the semiconductor layer 20 opposite the substrate 12 such that the source electrode 22 and drain electrodes 24 are separated from each other; depositing a gate dielectric layer 16 adjacent to the source electrode 22, the drain electrode 24, and a portion of the semiconducting layer 20 between the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24; and depositing a gate electrode 14 adjacent to the gate dielectric layer 16. Both the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24 contact the semiconductor layer 20. A portion of the semiconductor layer is positioned between the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24. This portion of the semiconductor layer defines a channel.

The organic thin film transistors shown schematically in Figures 4 to 6 can be prepared by a method that involves arranging multiple layers in the following order: a gate electrode; a gate dielectric layer; a semiconductor layer containing the acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I; and a layer having a source electrode and a drain electrode that

are separated from each other, wherein the semiconductor layer contacts both the drain electrode and the source electrode. In some embodiments, a surface treatment layer can be positioned between the gate dielectric layer and the semiconductor layer. A substrate can be positioned adjacent to the gate electrode or adjacent to the layer containing the source electrode and the drain electrode.

For example, the organic thin film transistor shown schematically in Figure 4 can be prepared by providing a gate electrode 14; depositing a gate dielectric layer 16 adjacent to the gate electrode 14; forming a semiconductor layer 20 adjacent to the gate dielectric layer 16 (i.e., the gate dielectric layer 16 is positioned between the gate electrode 14 and the semiconducting layer 20); and positioning a source electrode 22 and a drain electrode 24 adjacent to the semiconductor layer 20. The source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24 are separated from each other and both electrodes are in contact with the semiconductor layer 20. A portion of the semiconductor layer is positioned between the source and drain electrodes.

The organic thin film transistor shown schematically in Figure 5 can be prepared by providing a substrate 12, depositing a gate electrode 14 adjacent to the substrate 12, depositing a gate dielectric layer 16 adjacent to the gate electrode 14 such that the gate electrode 14 is positioned between the substrate 12 and the gate dielectric layer 16; forming a semiconductor layer 20 adjacent to the gate dielectric layer 16; and positioning a source electrode 22 and a drain electrode 24 adjacent to the semiconductor layer 20. The source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24 are separated from each other and both electrodes are in contact with the semiconductor layer 20. A portion of the semiconductor layer 20 is positioned between the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24.

The organic thin film transistor shown schematically in Figure 6 can be prepared by providing a substrate 12; positioning a source electrode 22 and a drain electrode 24 adjacent to the substrate such that the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24 are separated from each other; forming a semiconductor layer 20 that contacts the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24; and depositing a gate dielectric layer 16 adjacent to the semiconductor layer opposite the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24; and depositing a gate electrode 14 adjacent to the gate dielectric layer 16. A portion of the semiconductor layer 20 is positioned between the source electrode 22 and the drain electrode 24.

The acene-thiophene copolymers of Formula I can be used in other types of electronic devices such as electronic devices in which the copolymer is positioned in a layer between a first electrode (e.g., anode) and a second electrode (e.g., cathode). Exemplary electronic devices include, but are not limited to, organic photovoltaic cells and organic electroluminescent devices such as organic light emitting diodes.

Organic photovoltaic cells and organic electroluminescent devices include many common components such as an anode, a cathode, and a material positioned between the anode and cathode. However, the operational concepts of these two types of devices are reversed. In an organic electroluminescent device, light is emitted as the result of charge transport between the two electrodes. An electron is introduced at a first electrode having a low work function (i.e., the cathode) and a hole is introduced at a second electrode having a high work function (i.e., the anode). In the organic emissive element positioned between the two electrodes, the electron and hole recombine and emit light. Conversely, in a photovoltaic cell, charge transport between the two electrodes results from the exposure of the active layer to light. The active layer, which is positioned between two electrodes, adsorbs light that passes through one of the electrodes. The absorption of light causes the formation of an exciton (i.e., an excited electron-hole pair) that is subsequently dissociated into an electron and a hole that migrate towards opposite electrodes.

Organic electroluminescent (OEL) devices such as organic light emitting diodes include an organic emissive element positioned between two electrodes (i.e., an anode and a cathode). The organic emissive element of an organic electroluminescent device usually includes at least one light emitting layer that includes an electroluminescent material. Other layers can also be present in the organic emissive element such as a hole transport layers, electron transport layer, hole injection layer, electron injection layer, hole blocking layer, electron blocking layer, buffer layer, and the like. In addition, photoluminescent materials can be present in the light emitting layer or other layers in the organic emissive element, for example, to convert the color of light emitted by the electroluminescent material to another color. These and other such layers and materials can be used to alter or tune the electronic properties and behavior of the layered OEL device. For example, the additional layers can be used to achieve a desired current/voltage response, a desired device efficiency, a desired color, a desired brightness, and the like.

Figures 7A to 7D illustrate examples of different OEL device (for example, an organic light emitting diode) configurations. Each configuration includes a substrate 30, an anode 32, a cathode 34, and a light emitting layer 36. The configurations of Figures 7C and 7D also include a hole transport layer 38 and the configurations of Figures 7B and 7D include an electron transport layer 40. The layer or layers positioned between the two electrodes conduct holes from the anode or electrons from the cathode, respectively. The acene-thiophene copolymer can be in a light emitting layer, a hole transport layer, or a combination thereof. Within any layer, the acene-thiophene copolymer may be present alone or in combination with other materials.

In some organic emissive elements, the acene-thiophene copolymer is present in a light emitting layer. The acene-thiophene copolymer can be used alone or in combination with one or more materials in the light emitting layer. For example, the copolymers can function as a host material or as a dopant material within a light emitting layer.

As used herein, the term "dopant" refers to a material that is capable of being excited by a transfer of energy from a host material. The excited dopant emits light. The dopant is typically present in an amount less than 50 weight percent, less than 40 weight percent, less than 20 weight percent, less than 10 weight percent, or less than 5 weight percent based on the weight of material in the light emitting layer. The dopant is typically present in an amount of at least 0.1 weight percent, 0.2 weight percent, 0.5 weight percent, or 1 weight percent based on the weight of material in the light emitting layer.

When the acene-thiophene copolymer is used as a dopant in the light emitting layer, it can be combined with host materials such as, for example, a charge transfer material. The charge transfer material is often a hole transfer material such as a diamine derivative, a triarylamine derivative, or a combination thereof. Exemplary diamine derivatives include, but are not limited to, N,N'-bis(3-methylphenyl)-N,N'-bis(phenyl)benzidine (TPD), N,N'-bis(2-naphthyl)-N,N'-bis(phenyl)benzidine (beta-NPB), and N,N'-bis(1-naphthyl)-N,N'-bis(phenyl)benzidine (NPB). Exemplary triarylamine derivative include, but are not limited to, 4,4',4''-Tris(N,N-diphenylamino)triphenylamine (TDATA) and 4,4',4''-Tris(N-3-methylphenyl-N-phenylamino)triphenylamine (MTDATA). Still other host materials include electron transfer materials such as, for example, 9,10-di(2-naphthyl)anthracene (ADN) and

oxadiazole compounds such as 1,3-bis[5-(4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl]benzene and 2-(biphenyl-4-yl)-5-(4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole.

As used herein, the term “host” refers to a material that is capable of transferring energy to a dopant to form an excited dopant that emits light. The host material is typically present in an amount of at least 50 weight percent, at least 60 weight percent, at least 80 weight percent, or at least 90 weight percent based on the weight of material in the light emitting layer.

When the light emitting layer contains a host material and a dopant, the excited state of the host material is typically at a higher energy level than the excited state of the dopant so that energy can be transferred from the host material to the dopant. The excited host material typically emits light of a shorter wavelength than the excited dopant. For example, host material that emits blue light can transfer energy to a dopant that emits green or red light and a host material that emits green light can transfer energy to a dopant that emits red light but not to a dopant that emits blue light.

When the acene-thiophene copolymer is present in a light emitting layer of an organic emissive element, other light emitting materials can be present in the same light emitting layer or in different light emitting layers. Some light emitting layers have a small molecule (SM) emitter, a small molecule emitter doped polymer, a light emitting polymer (LEP), a small molecule emitter doped light emitting polymer, a blend of light emitting polymers, or a combination thereof. The emitted light from the organic emissive element can be in any portion of the visible spectrum depending on the composition of the electroluminescent composition in the light emitting layer or layers.

Suitable LEP materials are typically conjugated polymeric or oligomeric molecules that preferably have sufficient film-forming properties for solution processing. As used herein, “conjugated polymers or oligomeric molecules” refer to polymers or oligomers having a delocalized π -electron system along the polymer backbone. Such polymers or oligomers are semiconducting and can support positive or negative charge carriers along the polymeric or oligomeric chain.

Exemplary LEP materials include poly(phenylenevinylenes), poly(paraphenylenes), polyfluorenes, other LEP materials now known or later developed, and copolymers or blends thereof. Suitable LEPs can also be doped with a small molecule emitter, dispersed with fluorescent dyes or photoluminescent materials, blended with

active or non-active materials, dispersed with active or non-active materials, and the like. Examples of suitable LEP materials are further described in Kraft, et al., *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 37, 402-428 (1998); U.S. Patent Nos. 5,621,131; 5,708,130; 5,728,801; 5,840,217; 5,869,350; 5,900,327; 5,929,194; 6,132,641; and 6,169,163; and PCT Patent
5 Application Publication No. 99/40655.

LEP materials can be formed into a light emitting structure, for example, by casting a solvent solution of the LEP material on a substrate and evaporating the solvent to produce a polymeric film. Alternatively, LEP material can be formed *in situ* on a substrate by reaction of precursor species. Suitable methods of forming LEP layers are described in
10 U.S. Patent No. 5,408,109. Other methods of forming a light emitting structure from LEP materials include, but are not limited to, laser thermal patterning, inkjet printing, screen printing, thermal head printing, photolithographic patterning, spraying, and extrusion coating.

Suitable SM electroluminescent materials include charge transporting, charge
15 blocking, and semiconducting organic or organometallic compounds. Typically, SM materials can be vacuum deposited or coated from solution to form thin layers in a device. In practice, multiple layers of SM materials are typically used to produce efficient organic electroluminescent devices since a given material generally does not have both the desired charge transport and electroluminescent properties.

Exemplary SM materials include N,N'-bis(3-methylphenyl)-N,N'-
20 diphenylbenzidine (TPD) and metal chelate compounds such as tris(8-hydroxyquinoline) aluminum (Alq3). Other SM materials are disclosed in, for example, C.H. Chen, et al., *Macromol. Symp.* 125, 1 (1997); Japanese Laid Open Patent Application 2000-195673; U.S. Patents Nos. 6,030,715; 6,150,043; and 6,242,115; and PCT Patent Applications
25 Publication Nos. WO 00/18851 (divalent lanthanide metal complexes), WO 00/70655 (cyclometallated iridium compounds and others), and WO 98/55561.

The anode 32 and cathode 34 are typically formed using conducting materials such as metals, alloys, metallic compounds, conductive metal oxides, conductive ceramics, conductive dispersions, and conductive polymers, including, for example, gold, silver,
30 nickel, chromium, barium, platinum, palladium, aluminum, calcium, titanium, indium tin oxide (ITO), fluorine tin oxide (FTO), antimony tin oxide (ATO), indium zinc oxide (IZO), poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene)/poly(styrene sulfonate), polyaniline, other

conducting polymers, alloys thereof, combinations thereof, and multiple layers thereof. The anode 32 and the cathode 34 can be single layers of conducting materials or they can include multiple layers. For example, an anode or a cathode may include a layer of aluminum and a layer of gold, a layer of calcium and a layer of aluminum, a layer of
5 aluminum and a layer of lithium fluoride, or a metal layer and a conductive organic layer.

A typical anode for an organic electroluminescent device is indium-tin-oxide (ITO) sputtered onto a transparent substrate such as plastic or glass. Suitable substrates include, for example, glass, transparent plastics such as polyolefins, polyethersulfones, polycarbonates, polyesters such as polyethylene naphthalate (PEN), polyarylates, and
10 polymeric multilayer films, ITO coated barrier films such as the Plastic Film Conductor available from 3M (St. Paul, MN), surface-treated films, and selected polyimides.

The anode material coating the substrate is electrically conductive and may be optically transparent or semi-transparent. In addition to ITO, suitable anode materials include indium oxide, fluorine tin oxide (FTO), zinc oxide, vanadium oxide, zinc-tin
15 oxide, gold, platinum, palladium, other high work function metals, and combinations thereof.

Optionally, the anode can be coated with a buffer layer to help provide a flat surface and to modify the effective work function of the anode. The buffer layer typically has a thickness up to 5000 Angstroms, up to 4000 Angstroms, up to 3000 Angstroms, up
20 to 1000 Angstroms, up to 800 Angstroms, up to 600 Angstroms, up to 400 Angstroms, or up to 200 Angstroms. The buffer layer often has a thickness of at least 5 Angstroms, at least 10 Angstroms, or at least 20 Angstroms. The buffer layer can be vapor coated or solution coated.

Suitable buffer layers can be an ionic polymer such as poly(3,4-oxyethyleneoxy thiophene)/poly(styrene sulfonate), polyaniline emeraldine, or an acid doped polypyrrole. Other suitable buffer layers include those described in U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0004433A1, incorporated herein by reference, that include (a) a hole transport
25 material having triarylamine moieties and (b) an electron acceptor material. Suitable hole transport material can be a small molecule or a polymeric material. Exemplary hole transport material include, but are not limited to, 4,4',4''-tris(N,N-
30 diphenylamino)triphenylamine (TDATA), 4,4'',4''-tris(N-3-methylphenyl-N-phenylamino)triphenylamine (MTDAA), 4,4',4''-tris(carbazole-9-yl)triphenylamine

(TCTA), and 4,4',4''-tris(N-naphthyl)-N-phenylamino)triphenylamine (2-TNATA).

Exemplary electron transport materials that can be included in such a buffer layer include, but are not limited to, tetracyanoquinodimethane (TCNQ), tetrafluoro-tetracyanoquinodimethane, tetracyanoethylene, chloranil, 2-(4-(1-methylethyl)phenyl)-6-phenyl-4H-thiopyran-4-ylidene)-propanedinitrile-1,1-dioxide (PTYPD), and 2,4,7-trinitrofluorene.

Typical cathodes include low work function metals such as aluminum, barium, calcium, samarium, magnesium, silver, magnesium/silver alloys, lithium, lithium fluoride, ytterbium, and of calcium/magnesium alloys. The cathode can be a single layer or multiple layers of these materials. For example, the cathode can include a layer of lithium fluoride, a layer of aluminum, and a layer of silver.

The hole transport layer 38 facilitates the injection of holes from the anode into the device and their migration towards the recombination zone. The hole transport layer 38 can further act as a barrier for the passage of electrons to the anode 32. In some examples, the acene-thiophene copolymer can be used in the hole transport layer. In other examples, the hole transport layer 38 can include, for example, a diamine derivative, such as N,N'-bis(3-methylphenyl)-N,N'-bis(phenyl)benzidine (TPD), N,N'-bis(2-naphthyl)-N,N'-bis(phenyl)benzidine (beta-NPB), and N,N'-bis(1-naphthyl)-N,N'-bis(phenyl)benzidine (NPB); or a triarylamine derivative, such as, 4,4',4''-tris(N,N-diphenylamino)triphenylamine (TDATA), 4,4',4''-tris(N-3-methylphenyl-N-phenylamino)triphenylamine (MTDATA), 4,4',4''-tri(N-phenoxazinyl)triphenylamine (TPOTA), and 1,3,5-tris(4-diphenylaminophenyl)benzene (TDAPB).

The electron transport layer 40 facilitates the injection of electrons from the cathode into the device and their migration towards the recombination zone. The electron transport layer 40 can further act as a barrier for the passage of holes to the cathode 34. In some examples, the electron transport layer 40 can be formed using the organometallic compound such as tris(8-hydroxyquinolato) aluminum (Alq3) and biphenylato bis(8-hydroxyquinolato)aluminum (BALq). Other examples of electron transport materials useful in electron transport layer 260 include 1,3-bis[5-(4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl]benzene; 2-(biphenyl-4-yl)-5-(4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole; 9,10-di(2-naphthyl)anthracene (ADN); 2-(4-biphenyl)-5-(4-t-butylphenyl)-

1,3,4-oxadiazole; or 3-(4-biphenyl)-4-phenyl-5-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-1,2,4-triazole (TAZ).

Other layers such as, for example, additional hole injection layers containing, for example, porphyrinic compounds like copper phthalocyanine (CuPc) and zinc phthalocyanine; electron injection layers containing, for example, alkaline metal oxides or alkaline metal salts; hole blocking layers containing, for example, molecular oxadiazole and triazole derivatives such as 2-(4-biphenyl)-5-(4-t-butylphenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole (PBD), 2,9-dimethyl-4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthraline (BCP), biphenylato bis(8-hydroxyquinolato)aluminum (BAIq), or 3-(4-biphenyl)-4-phenyl-5-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-1,2,4-triazole (TAZ); electron blocking layers containing, for example, N,N'-bis(1-naphthyl)-N,N'-bis(phenyl) benzidine (NPB), or 4,4',4''-tris(N-(3-methylphenyl)-N-phenylamino)triphenylamine (MTDATA); or the like can also be present in organic emissive element. In addition, photoluminescent materials can be present in these layers, for example, to convert the color of light emitted by the electroluminescent material to another color. These and other such layers and materials can be used to alter or tune the electronic properties and behavior of the layered OEL device, for example, to achieve one or more features such as a desired current/voltage response, a desired device efficiency, a desired color, a desired brightness, a desired device lifetime, or a desired combination of these features.

Figure 8 schematically illustrates an exemplary photovoltaic cell, which is another type of electronic device that can contain the acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I. An active layer 54 is positioned between an anode 52 and a cathode 56. One of the electrodes can be disposed adjacent to one of an optional substrate. For example, the anode 52 can be positioned adjacent to a substrate 50. At least one of the electrodes is transparent or semi-transparent. If the transparent or semi-transparent electrode is adjacent to a substrate, the substrate is typically transparent or semi-transparent as well. The substrate 50, anode 52, and cathode 56 can be the same as those described above for an organic electroluminescent device. Either electrode or substrate can include multiple layers of material. For example, an anode can include a first layer of ITO and a second layer of a conductive polymer such as poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene)-poly(styrene sulfonate).

The active layer usually contains a semiconductor material. The acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I can be in the active layer. In many embodiments, the active layer includes both an electron donor material and an electron acceptor. In such active layers, the acene-thiophene copolymer functions as an electron donor material. Exemplary
5 electron acceptor materials include, for example, fullerene derivatives such as [6,6]-phenyl-C₆₁-butyric acid methyl ester (PCBM), [70]PCBM, single-wall carbon nanotubes (SWNTs), nanocrystal CdSe particles or tetrapods, poly(2,5,2',5'-tetrahexyloxy-7,8'-dicyano-di-*p*-phenylene vinylene) (CN-PPV), cyano-poly(2-methoxy-5-(2-ethyl-hexyloxy)-1,4-phenylvinylene) (MEH-CN-PPV), poly(oxa-1,4-phenylene-(1-cyano-1,2-
10 vinylene)-(2-methoxy-5-(3,7-dimethyloctyloxy)-1,4-phenylene)-1,2-(2-cyanovinylene)-1,4-phenylene) (PCNEPV), 3,4,9,10-perylenetetracarboxylic bis-benzimidazol (PTCBI), and poly(2,5-diheptyloxy-*p*-phenylene vinylene) (HO-PPV).

The foregoing describes the invention in terms of embodiments foreseen by the inventors for which an enabling description was available, notwithstanding that
15 insubstantial modifications of the invention, not presently foreseen, may nonetheless represent equivalents thereto.

Examples

All reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further
20 purification unless otherwise noted.

n-Octadecyltrichlorosilane (OTS) and 1,1,1,3,3,3-Hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) were obtained from Alfa Aesar (Ward Hill, MA). Toluene was distilled from Na. Heavily doped *p*-type silicon wafers (100) having 100 nm thermally grown oxide (Silicon Valley Microelectronics, Inc.) were used as substrates.

Sodium carbonate, tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0), tin (II) chloride, bis(pinacollato)diboron, 2,5-dibromothiophene, and 2,5-dibromo3-hexylthiophene were
25 purchased from Aldrich (Milwaukee, WI); ALIQUAT 336 (a phase transfer catalyst), *n*-butyl lithium, and [1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene]dichloropalladium complex with dichloromethane
30 were obtained from Alfa Aesar (Ward Hill, MA); and triisopropylsilylacetylene was purchased from GFS Chemicals (Columbus, OH). Hexane and tetrahydrofuran (THF)

were distilled over sodium. The following starting materials were prepared using published procedures as follows:

2,6-dibromoanthraquinone was prepared from commercially available 2,6-diaminoanthraquinone (Sigma Aldrich) as described by Ito et al., *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 42, 1159-1162 (2003). After sublimation, it was further purified by recrystallization from DMF.

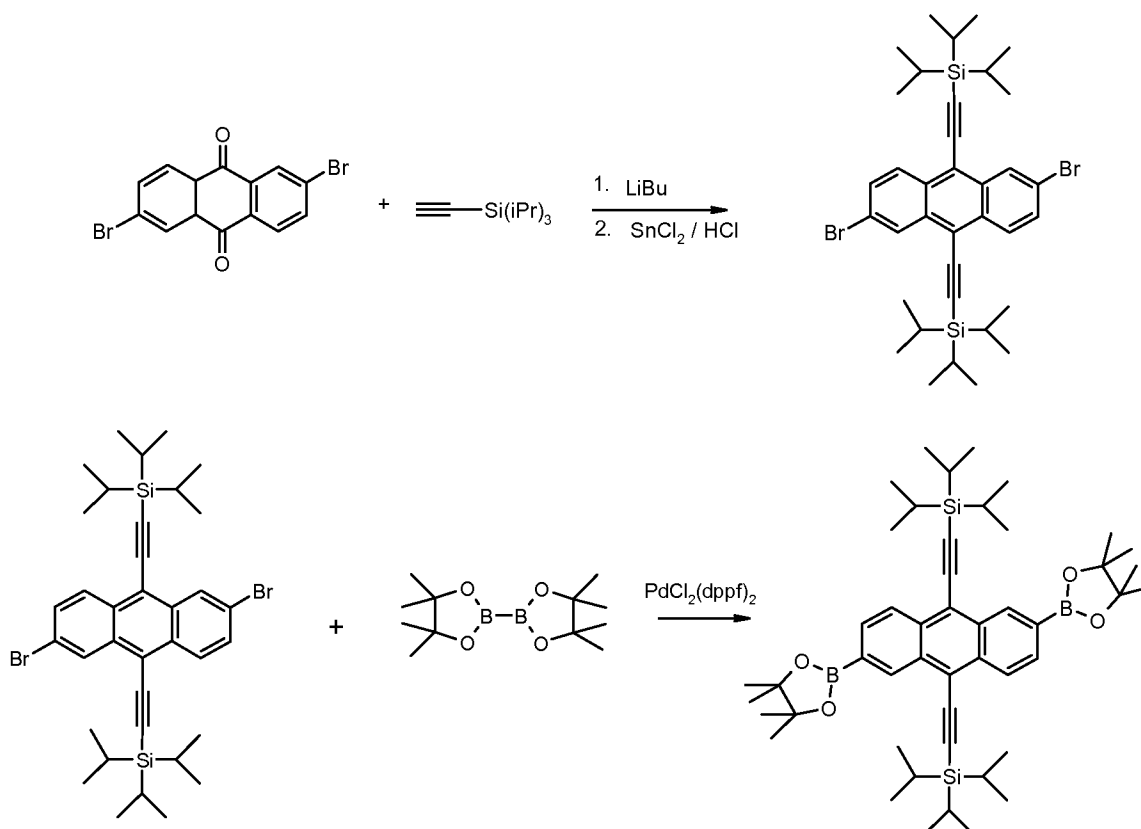
2,5-dibromo-3,4-dihexylthiophene was prepared from commercially available 3,4-dibromothiophene (Alfa Aesar) as described by Vidal et al., *Chem. Eur. J.*, 6, 1663-1673 (2000).

2,5-Dibromo-3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene was prepared from commercially available 3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene (EDOT, Bayer, Leverkusen, Germany) as described by Sotzing et al., *Chem. Mater.*, 8, 882-889 (1996).

2,5-Dibromo-3,6-dinonylthieno[3,2-b]thiophene was prepared by bromination of 3,6-dinonylthieno[3,2-b]thiophene using N-bromosuccinimide. 3,6-Dinonylthieno[3,2-b]thiophene was obtained from 3,4-dibromothiophene in a multistep synthesis as described by Zhang et al., *J. Macromolecules*, 37, 6306-6315 (2004).

The precursor 2,6-bis-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-9,10-bis-[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]anthracene was synthesized according to Reaction Scheme 1, as described in Preparatory Examples 1 and 2.

Reaction Scheme 1



5 **Preparatory Example 1 - Synthesis of 2,6-dibromo-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)-ethynyl]anthracene**

Triisopropylsilylacetylene (12.32 g, 67.5 mmol) and dry hexane (140 mL) were added under a dry nitrogen blanket to an oven-dried round bottom flask (1 L). Butyl lithium (2.7 M in hexane, 14.5 mL, 39.2 mmol) was added dropwise under dry nitrogen through a syringe to the mixture. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. To this colorless solution, dry THF (300 mL) and 2,6-dibromoanthraquinone (5.49 g, 15.0 mmol) were added under dry nitrogen. The solution turned red immediately and the 2,6-dibromoanthraquinone dissolved in minutes. The mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight and the solution became dark red. Deionized (DI) water (6.0 mL) was added, the color changed to light red, and a white precipitate appeared. Tin (II) chloride (8.088 g, 42.6 mmol) in HCl (18 mL, 10%) aqueous solution was then added. The mixture was heated to 60 °C for 2 hours and then cooled to room temperature. The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. DI water (100 mL) was added to the mixture which

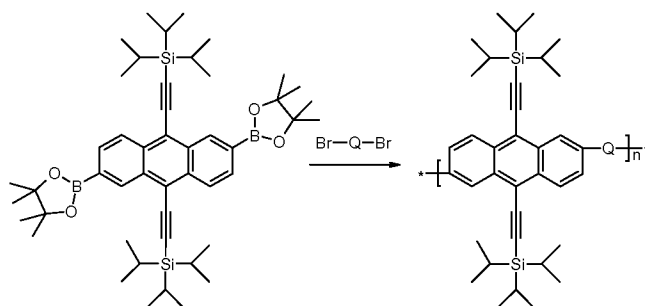
was then extracted with hexane (100 mL $\times$ 3). The hexane solution was washed with DI water until neutral. It was concentrated and purified through a column chromatography (silica gel / hexane, R_f = 0.7). A bright yellow solid (8.55 g, yield: 82%) was obtained as the product. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3). δ ppm 8.797-8.802 (d, 2H, J = 2.0 Hz), 8.431-8.454 (d, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.647-7.674 (dd, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz, J = 2.0 Hz), 1.259 (s, 36H), 1.247 (s, 6H).

Preparatory Example 2 - Synthesis of 2,6-bis-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]anthracene

2,6-dibromo-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]anthracene (5.225 g, 7.5 mmol) from Preparatory Example 1, bis(pinacolato)diboron (4.763 g, 18.8 mmol), KOAc (2.940 g, 30.0 mmol), and CHCl_3 (100 mL) were charged to a 250 ml flask under dry nitrogen. A yellow solution with suspended KOAc was obtained. The suspension was degassed to remove traces of oxygen. [1,1'-bis(diphenylphosphino)ferrocene]dichloropalladium (0.205 g) was then added under dry nitrogen. The solution turned orange. The mixture was stirred at 70 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 3 days and then cooled to room temperature. It was washed with DI water (100 mL $\times$ 3) and dried over MgSO_4 . The solvent was removed by rotary evaporation. The solid residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, CHCl_3) and recrystallized from ethyl acetate. Orange needle crystals were obtained (3.20 g, yield 55%) as the product. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3). δ ppm 9.250-9.254 (dd, 2H, J = 0.8 Hz, J = 0.8 Hz), 8.579-8.603 (dd, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz, J = 0.8 Hz), 7.901-7.926 (dd, 2H, J = 8.8 Hz, J = 1.2 Hz), 1.384 (s, 24H), 1.288 (s, 36H), 1.279 (s, 6H).

A Suzuki coupling reaction was used to synthesize the acene-thiophene copolymers of Preparatory Examples 3 to 7, as shown in Reaction Scheme 2.

Reaction Scheme 2



The Br-Q-Br compounds were 2,5-dibromo-3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene (Preparatory Example 3), 2,5-dibromo-3-hexylthiophene (Preparatory Example 4), 2,5-dibromo-3,4-dihexylthiophene (Preparatory Example 5), 2,5-dibromothiophene (Preparatory Example 6), and 2,5-dibromo-3,6-dinonylthieno[3,2-b]thiophene (Preparatory Example 7).

Preparatory Example 3 - Synthesis of poly(3,4-ethylenedioxy-2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene)

A 250 mL Schlenk flask was charged with 2,6-bis-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]anthracene (1.552 g, 2.00 mmol), 2,5-dibromo-3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene (0.600 g, 2.00 mmol), sodium carbonate (1.060 g, 10.0 mmol), ALIQUAT 336 (0.241 g), distilled water (10 mL), and toluene (100 mL). The mixture was degassed three times under nitrogen using a Schlenk line to remove oxygen. Tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (0.025 g, 0.02 mmol) was then added under dry nitrogen flow. After degassing one more time, the mixture was stirred under dry nitrogen at 90 °C for 46 hours. To end cap the copolymer, additional 2,6-bis-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]anthracene (0.015 g) was added, followed 24 hours later by bromobenzene (0.5 mL). The solution was stirred another 24 hours and cooled to room temperature. The toluene solution was separated and washed with DI water (150 mL × 3). It was then filtered to remove traces of solid impurity. The filtrate was added to MeOH (350 mL) with vigorously stirring. The red precipitate was collected by filtration and was then washed with MeOH (via Soxhlet extraction) for 24 hours. A red solid (1.39 g, yield: approximately 100%) was obtained as the product. Mw = 11,000 g/mol. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃). δ ppm 8.91-9.30 (br, 2H), 8.49-8.91 (br, 2H), 7.75-8.31 (br, 2H), 4.19-4.71 (br, 4H), 1.12-1.15 (br, 42H).

Preparatory Example 4 - Synthesis of poly(3-hexyl-2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene)

A 250 mL Schlenk flask was charged with 2,6-bis-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]anthracene (1.552 g, 2.00 mmol),
5 2,5-dibromo-3-hexylthiophene (0.652 g, 2.00 mmol), sodium carbonate (1.060 g, 10.0 mmol), ALIQUAT 336 (0.241 g), distilled water (10 mL), and toluene (100 mL). The mixture was degassed three times under dry nitrogen using a Schlenk line to remove oxygen. Tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (0.030 g, 0.02 mmol) was then added under dry nitrogen flow. After degassing one more time, the mixture was stirred under dry
10 nitrogen at 90 °C for 48 hours. Additional 2,6-bis-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]anthracene (0.015 g) was added and the reaction was stirred for 15 hours, and followed with the addition of bromobenzene (80 µL (microliter)). The reaction mixture was stirred another 24h and cooled to room temperature. The red toluene solution was separated and washed with DI water (100 mL ×
15 4). It was then filtered to remove traces of solid impurity. The filtrate was concentrated and added to MeOH (300 mL) with vigorously stirring. The red precipitate was collected by filtration and was then washed with MeOH (via Soxhlet extraction) for 24 hours. A red solid (1.24 g, yield: 88%) was obtained as the product. Mw = 11,600 g/mol. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃). δ ppm 8.89-9.06 (br, 1H), 8.78-8.87 (br, 1H), 8.62-8.74 (br, 2H), 7.88-8.01
20 (br, 1H), 7.74-7.86 (br, 1H), 7.52-7.65 (br, 1H), 2.82-3.03 (br, 2H), 1.69-1.84 (br, 2H), 1.08-1.50 (br, 48H), 0.71-0.90 (br, 3H).

Preparatory Example 5 - Synthesis of poly(3,4-dihexyl-2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene)

25 A 250 mL Schlenk flask was charged with 2,6-bis-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]anthracene (3.909 g, 5.04 mmol), 2,5-dibromo-3,4-dihexylthiophene (2.121 g, 5.17 mmol), sodium carbonate (2.65 g, 25.0 mmol), ALIQUAT 336 (1.0 g), distilled water (10 mL), and toluene (100 mL). The mixture was degassed three times under nitrogen using a Schlenk line to remove oxygen.
30 Tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (0.125 g, 0.10 mmol) was then added under a dry nitrogen flow. After degassing one more time, the mixture was stirred under dry nitrogen at 90 °C for 72 hours. It was then cooled to room temperature. The red toluene

solution was separated and washed with DI water (150 mL $\times$ 3). It was then filtered to remove traces of solid impurity. The filtrate was added to MeOH (350 mL) with vigorous stirring. The red precipitate was collected by filtration and was then washed with MeOH (via Soxhlet extraction) for 24 hours. A red solid (3.53 g, yield: 89%) was obtained as the product. Mw = 36,300 g/mol. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3). δ ppm 8.81-8.90 (br, 2H), 8.61-8.76 (br, 2H), 7.71-7.87 (br, 2H), 2.68-3.05 (br, 4H), 1.46-1.63 (br, 4H), 1.09-1.40 (br, 54H), 0.69-0.84 (br, 6H).

Preparatory Example 6 - Synthesis of poly(2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-

bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene)

A Schlenk flask (250 mL) was charged with 2,6-bis-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]anthracene (0.3888 g, 0.50 mmol), 2,5-dibromothiophene (0.121 g, 0.50 mmol), sodium carbonate (0.265 g, 2.50 mmol), ALIQUAT 336 (0.118 g), distilled water (3 mL), and toluene (30 mL). The mixture was degassed three times under nitrogen using a Schlenk line to remove oxygen. Tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (0.016 g, 0.01 mmol) was then added under dry nitrogen flow. After degassing one more time, the mixture was stirred under dry nitrogen at 90 °C for 48 hours. It was cooled to room temperature. The red toluene solution was separated and washed with DI water (150 mL $\times$ 3). It was then filtered to remove traces of solid impurity. The filtrate was added to MeOH (200 mL) with vigorously stirring. The red precipitate was collected by filtration and was then washed with MeOH (via Soxhlet extraction) for 24 hours. A red solid (0.28 g, yield: 91%) was obtained as the product. Mw = 8,500 g/mol. ^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3). δ ppm 8.10-9.00(br, 4H), 7.50-8.00 (br, 2H), 7.00-7.50 (br, 2H), 0.93-1.96 (br, 42H).

Preparatory Example 7 - Synthesis of poly(3,6-dinonyl-2,5-thieno[3,2-*b*]thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene)

A 100 mL Schlenk flask was charged with 2,6-bis-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]anthracene (0.233 g, 0.30 mmol), 2,5-dibromo-3,6-dinonylthieno[3,2-*b*]thiophene (0.165 g, 0.30 mmol), sodium carbonate (0.159 g, 1.5 mmol), ALIQUAT 336 (0.096 g), distilled water (1.5 mL), and toluene (30 mL). The mixture was degassed three times under dry nitrogen using a Schlenk line to

remove oxygen. Tetrakis(triphenylphosphine)palladium(0) (0.009 g) was then added under dry nitrogen flow. After degassing one more time, the mixture was stirred under dry nitrogen at 90 °C for 45 hours. It was cooled to room temperature. The red toluene solution was separated and washed with DI water (100 mL × 3). It was then filtered to remove traces of solid impurity. The filtrate was concentrated and added to MeOH (200 mL) with vigorously stirring. The red precipitate was collected by filtration and was then washed with MeOH (via Soxhlet extraction) for 24 h. A red solid (0.105 g, yield: 38%) was obtained as the product. Mw = 13,100 g/mol. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃). δ ppm 8.78-8.95 (br, 2H), 8.54-8.77 (br, 2H), 7.70-7.97 (br, 2H), 2.58-3.17 (br, 4H), 1.68-2.00 (br, 4H), 1.03-1.50 (br, 66H), 0.68-0.90 (br, 6H).

Examples 1 to 5 - Thin Film Transistors

Preparation of OTS-treated substrates:

Silicon wafers were ultrasonically cleaned in isopropanol for 30 min. After drying under a dry nitrogen flow, they were immersed in an n-octadecyltrichlorosilane toluene solution (0.1% v/v) under dry nitrogen at room temperature for 20 hours. Afterwards they were rinsed with CHCl₃, dried under dry nitrogen, and stored in dry nitrogen before film deposition.

Preparation of HMDS-treated substrates:

Silicon wafers were ultrasonically cleaned in isopropanol for 30 min. After drying under a dry nitrogen flow, they were exposed to 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexamethyldisilazane vapor under dry nitrogen at room temperature in a closed container for 20 hours. They were stored in dry nitrogen before film deposition.

Fabrication of thin film transistors

Poly(3,4-ethylenedioxy-2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene) (Example 1), poly(3-hexyl-2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene) (Example 2), poly(3,4-dihexylthiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene) (Example 3) in heptane solutions (approximately 0.4 wt %) and poly(2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene) (Example 4), poly(3,6-dinonyl-2,5-thieno[3,2-*b*]thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene) (Example 5) in THF solutions (approximately 0.8 wt %) were knife coated on silicon wafers, OTS-treated silicon wafers

or HMDS-treated silicon wafers respectively. After air-drying, gold source/drain electrodes (60 nm thick) were patterned through a polymer shadow mask using thermal evaporation method. A channel length (L) of 107 micrometers and a channel width (W) of 1000 micrometers were used.

5 Characterization of organic thin film transistors

Thin film transistors were characterized under ambient conditions using a Hewlett Packard Semiconductor Parameter Analyzer (Model 4145A, available from Hewlett Packard Corporation, Palo Alto, CA) by sweeping the gate voltage (V_g) from +10 V to -40 V, while keeping the drain voltage (V_d) at -40 V. A linear fit to the $I_d^{1/2} - V_g$ trace
10 permitted the extraction of the saturation mobility and the threshold voltage (V_t). A linear fit to the $I_d - V_g$ trace allowed the current on/off ratio to be calculated.

For Example 1, poly(3,4-ethylenedioxy-2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl) ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene), the semiconducting layer of the thin film transistor was knife coated onto a HMDS-treated silicon wafer. The charge mobility was
15 $8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^2/\text{Vs}$ with an on/off ratio of 10^3 . The threshold voltage (V_t) was -16 V and the subthreshold slope (S) was 2.3 V/decade. For Example 2, poly(3-hexyl-2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene), the semiconducting layer of the thin film transistor was knife coated onto an OTS-treated silicon wafer. The charge mobility was $7 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^2/\text{Vs}$ with the on/off ratio of 10^3 . The V_t and S were -8 V and 1.4 V/decade
20 respectively. For Example 3, poly(3,4-dihexyl-2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene), the semiconducting layer of the thin film transistor was knife coated onto a silicon wafer (no treatment). The charge mobility was $2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2/\text{Vs}$ with an on/off ratio of 10^3 . The V_t and S were -11 V and 0.9 V/decade respectively. For Example 4, poly(2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene), the semiconducting layer of the thin film transistor was knife coated onto
25 a HMDS-treated silicon wafer. The charge mobility was $2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2/\text{Vs}$ with an on/off ratio of 10^3 . The V_t and S were -8 V and 1.5 V/decade respectively. For Example 5, poly(3,6-dinonyl-2,5-thieno[3,2-b]thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene), the semiconducting layer of the thin film transistor was knife coated onto a
30 HMDS-treated silicon wafer. The charge mobility was $1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2/\text{Vs}$ with an on/off ratio of 10^2 . The V_t and S were -22 V and 1.4 V/decade respectively.

Examples 6 to 8 – Photovoltaic Cells

Fabrication of thin film photovoltaic cells

Three thin film photovoltaic cells were fabricated as follows: ITO/glass substrates with a resistance of 25 ohm/square were obtained from Thin Film Devices (Anaheim, CA) and were ultrasonically cleaned successively in a soap solution, deionized water, acetone, and then isopropanol. The clean substrates were dried in a nitrogen gas stream.

A conducting polymer coating solution was prepared as follow by mixing together one part of Solution I and two parts of Solution II. Solution I was prepared by adding sorbitol to 1.3 weight percent solution of poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene)-poly(styrenesulfonate) (PEDOT-PSS) in water. The concentration of sorbitol was 3 weight percent based on the weight of the solution. Solution II contained 32 weight percent water, 3.7 weight percent N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, 0.3 weight percent TERGITOL TMN-6, and 64 weight percent (SOL-IJ-G-SI) solvent, which is a mixture of ethylene glycol, glycerol, and ethanol. The conducting polymer coating solution was spin coated on top of the cleaned ITO/glass substrates at 1000 revolutions per minute for 50 seconds. The resulting sample was pre-baking at 100 °C for 2 minutes and curing at 165 °C for 15 minutes in nitrogen. The coating thickness was approximately 100 nanometers.

For Example 6, a solution was prepared that contained 1.6 weight percent of the electron donor semiconductor poly(3-hexyl-2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis-[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene). The electron donor semiconductor was first dissolved in chlorobenzene, filtered through a 0.45 micron syringe filter and then added to 1.6 weight percent of the electron acceptor semiconductor [6,6]-phenyl-C₆₁-butyric acid methyl ester (PCBM) in the electron donor solution. The mixed solution was then magnetically stirred for a few more days. For Example 7 and 8, the solutions were prepared the same way as Example 6, except the electron donor semiconductor used was different. The electron donor semiconductor used for Example 7 was poly(3,4-dihexyl-2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene) and for Example 8 was poly(3,4-ethylenedioxy-2,5-thiophene-*alt*-9,10-bis[(triisopropylsilyl)ethynyl]-2,6-anthracene).

The well-mixed solution blends were then spin-coated on top of PEDOT/PSS coated ITO/glass substrates at a spin speed of 800 revolutions per minute for 50 seconds. The three samples were then baked on a hot plate at a temperature of 110 °C for 30

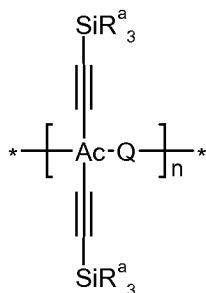
minutes in nitrogen environment, followed by further baking at about 140 °C for 1.5 hours to form microscale, interpenetrating donor-acceptor networks. An average coating thickness of about 225 nanometers was obtained. Finally, the samples were loaded in a vacuum chamber covered by a shadow mask with 2 millimeter diameter circular hole arrays. Calcium (20 nanometers) and then aluminum (80 nanometers) were evaporated onto the active layer to form 2 millimeter diameter circular cathode arrays.

Device Performance Characteristics

Photocurrent measurements were made using a Keithley multimeter model 197A (Cleveland, OH). The light source was a 3M 9200 overhead projector. The power density of the 3M 9200 projector lamp was about 40 to 60 mW/cm². The photovoltaic cell was exposed from a distance of about 2 cm from the projector lamp. The resistance between the anode and cathode was first measured to make sure that no shorting occurred. A resistance of greater than 1,000 mega ohms (10⁶ ohms) was measured for Example 6, greater than 30 mega ohms was measured for Example 7, and greater than 20 mega ohms was measured for Example 8. When exposed to the projector lamp, the photocurrent density for Example 6 was about 8 μA/cm², for Example 7 was 2 μA/cm², and for Example 8 was about 70 μA/cm².

We claim:

1. An electronic device comprising an acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I



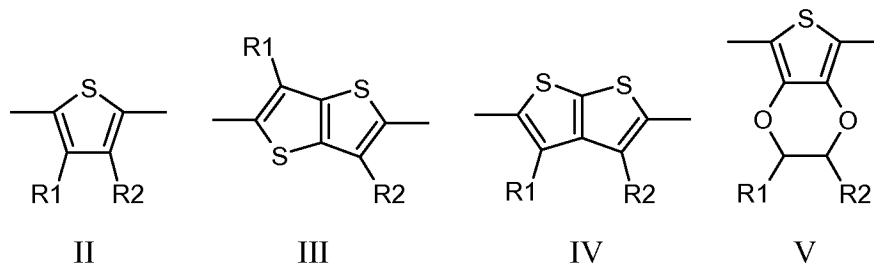
I

wherein

Ac is a radical of an acene having 2 to 5 fused benzene rings, wherein Ac can be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from an alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, or combinations thereof;

R^a is each independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroalkyl, or hydroxyalkyl;

Q is a divalent group of Formula II, III, IV, or V;



R1 and R2 are each independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, or alkenyl; and n is an integer greater than or equal to 4.

2. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein Ac is selected from naphthalene, anthracene, tetracene, or pentacene.

3. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein a divalent group of formula -Ac(E)₂- where each E equal to a silylethynyl group of formula -C≡C-Si(R^a)₃ is selected from 1,4-bis(silylethynyl)naphthalene-2,6-diyl, 1,4-bis(silylethynyl)naphthalene-2,7-diyl, 9,10-

bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-2,6-diyl, 9,10-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-2,7-diyl, 2,6-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-9,10-diyl, 2,7-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-9,10-diyl, 6,13-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-2,9-diyl, 6,13-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-2,10-diyl, 2,9-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-6,13-diyl, or 2,10-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-6,13-diyl.

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4. The electronic device of claim 3, wherein the divalent group of formula-Ac(E)₂- is selected from 1,4-bis(silylethynyl)naphthalene-2,6-diyl, 9,10-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-2,6-diyl, or 6,13-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-2,9-diyl.

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5. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the copolymer of Formula I is present in a semiconductor layer.

6. The electronic device of claim 5, wherein the electronic device comprises an organic thin film transistor.

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7. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the copolymer of Formula I is present in layer between a first electrode and a second electrode.

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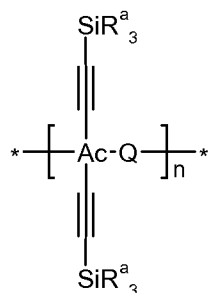
8. The electronic device of claim 7, wherein the electronic device is a photovoltaic cell.

9. The electronic device of claim 7, wherein electronic device comprises an organic electroluminescent device and the copolymer of Formula I is present in a hole transport layer within the organic electroluminescent device.

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10. The electronic device of claim 7, wherein the electronic device comprises an organic electroluminescent device and the copolymer of Formula I is present in a light emitting layer within the organic electroluminescent device.

11. A method of preparing an electronic device, the method comprising providing a copolymeric layer comprising an acene-thiophene copolymer of Formula I



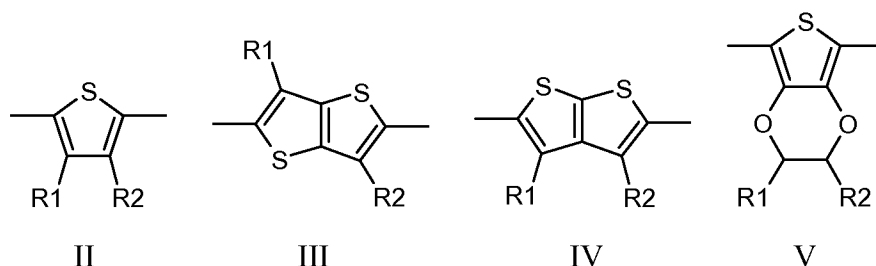
I

5 wherein

Ac is a radical of an acene having 2 to 5 fused benzene rings, wherein Ac can be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from an alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, or combinations thereof;

10 R^a is each independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroalkyl, or hydroxyalkyl;

Q is a divalent group of Formula II, III, IV, or V;



15 R1 and R2 are each independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, halo, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, heteroalkyl, or alkenyl; and n is an integer greater than or equal to 4.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein providing the copolymeric layer comprises preparing a coating solution comprising the acene-thiophene copolymer and a solvent, wherein the acene-thiophene copolymer is present in an amount of at least 0.05 weight percent based on the weight of the coating solution; forming a solution layer from the coating solution; and removing at least some of the solvent from the solution layer.

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13. The method of claim 11, further comprising providing a first layer adjacent to the copolymeric layer, the first layer comprising a conducting layer or a dielectric layer.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein electronic device is an organic thin film transistor and the method further comprises arranging multiple layers in the following order:

a gate electrode;
a gate dielectric layer;
a semiconductor layer comprising a comprising the copolymeric layer; and
a layer comprising a source electrode and a drain electrode, wherein the source electrode and the drain electrode are separated from each other and wherein the semiconductor layer contacts both the drain electrode and the source electrode.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein electronic device is an organic thin film transistor and the method further comprises arranging multiple layers in the following order:

a gate electrode;
a gate dielectric layer;
a layer comprising a source electrode and a drain electrode, wherein the source electrode and the drain electrode are separated from each other;
a semiconductor layer in contact with both the source electrode and the drain electrode, the semiconductor layer comprising the copolymeric layer.

16. The method of claim 11, further comprising positioning the copolymeric layer between a first electrode and a second electrode.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the electronic device comprises a photovoltaic cell and the method further comprises positioning the copolymeric layer between an anode and a cathode.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein electronic device comprises an organic electroluminescent device and the method further comprises positioning the copolymeric layer between an anode and a cathode.

5 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the organic electroluminescent device comprises a hole transport layer comprising the copolymeric layer.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the organic electroluminescent device comprises a light emitting layer comprising the copolymeric layer.

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21. The electronic device of claim 10, wherein a divalent group of formula $-Ac(E)_2-$ where each E equal to a silylethynyl group of formula $-C\equiv C-Si(R^a)_3$ is selected from 1,4-bis(silylethynyl)naphthalene-2,6-diyl, 1,4-bis(silylethynyl)naphthalene-2,7-diyl, 9,10-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-2,6-diyl, 9,10-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-2,7-diyl, 2,6-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-9,10-diyl, 2,7-bis(silylethynyl)anthracene-9,10-diyl, 6,13-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-2,9-diyl, 6,13-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-2,10-diyl, 2,9-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-6,13-diyl, or 2,10-bis(silylethynyl)pentacene-6,13-diyl.

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