H⁺-type and OH⁻-type biological protonic semiconductors and complementary devices

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Proton conduction is essential in biological systems. Oxidative phosphorylation in mitochondria, proton pumping in bacteriorhodopsin, and uncoupling membrane potentials by the antibiotic Gramicidin are examples. In these systems, H⁺ hop along chains of hydrogen bonds between water molecules and hydrophilic residues – proton wires. These wires also support the transport of OH⁻ as proton holes. Discriminating between H⁺ and OH⁻ transport has been elusive. Here, H⁺ and OH⁻ transport is achieved in polysaccharide-based proton wires and devices. A H⁺-OH⁻ junction with rectifying behaviour and H⁺-type and OH⁻-type complementary field effect transistors are demonstrated. We describe these devices with a model that relates H⁺ and OH⁻ to electron and hole transport in semiconductors. In turn, the model developed for these devices may provide additional insights into proton conduction in biological systems.

Proton (H⁺) conduction plays a key role in nature². Examples are oxidative phosphorylation of ATP for biological energy conversion in mitochondria³⁻⁴, the light activated proton pumping of bacteriorhodopsin in Archaea⁵, proton activated bioluminescence in dinoflagellates⁶, proton activated flagella in bacteria⁷, the HVrCN1 voltage gated proton channel in mammals⁸, and the antibiotic Gramicidin⁹. In all of these systems, protons hop along proton wires⁴⁻⁶ formed by networks of hydrogen bonds between water molecules and hydrophilic residues — Grotthuss mechanism¹. These proton wires also support the transport of a proton vacancy, or proton hole, as OH⁻¹². Discriminating between H⁺ and OH⁻ transport with electrophysiological measurements is difficult because H⁺ and OH⁻ have the same Nernst potential¹¹.

Progress in bioelectronics now includes devices that mimic biological functionality and interface with biological systems¹⁴⁻¹⁶. Memristors simulate synapses for neuromorphic computing¹⁷. Silicon nanowires record and stimulate single cell potential¹⁸. Gramicidin and bacteriorhodopsin are integrated with carbon nanotubes¹⁹, silicon nanowires²⁰, and organic field effect transistors²¹ to develop biosensors with increased functionality. Ionic²² and mixed conductivity in biological²³ and organic polymers²⁴ are used to record and stimulate physiological functions, and assembled into logic circuits²⁵. Recently, edible batteries to power these devices have been developed²⁶. Following this exciting route, we have previously demonstrated proton conducting field effect transistors (H⁺-FETs) with polysaccharides that effectively mimic proton wires in ion channels²⁷. Here, we report proton-conducting devices with polysaccharide supported proton wires that are designed to preferentially conduct either H⁺ or OH⁻, as proton holes. We describe the conductivity in these devices with a model for proton semiconductivity proposed in 1958 by Eigen and de Maeyer²⁸. We demonstrate an H⁺ OH⁻ rectifying junction and H⁺-type and OH⁻-type complementary FETs. With gate control of the current, these FETs unequivocally discriminate between H⁺ and OH⁻ conductivity and indeed confirm that proton wires support conduction of OH⁻ as a proton hole.

Results

Device architecture and materials. In protonic devices (Fig. 1a), palladium hydride (PdHₓ) contacts (source and drain) inject and drain protons into and from the proton-conducting channel, effectively serving as protodes²⁷⁻²⁹. For each proton injected into the material, an excess electron is collected by the leads, which complete the circuit. The contacts and the proton-conducting channel are insulated from the back gate with a
The proton-conducting channel is either maleic-chitosan (poly (β- (1,4)-N-Maleoyl-D-glucosamine)) (Fig. 1b) or proline-chitosan (poly (β- (1,4)-N-Proline-D-glucosamine)) (Fig. 1c). These biopolymers are both derived from chitin and are of particular interest for developing future devices for bioelectronic applications. Chitin and most of its derivatives are biodegradable, nontoxic, and physiologically inert and are used in bionanotechnologies.

SiO₂ (100 nm) dielectric layer. The proton-conducting channel is either maleic-chitosan (poly (β- (1,4)-N-Maleoyl-D-glucosamine)) (Fig. 1b) or proline-chitosan (poly (β- (1,4)-N-Proline-D-glucosamine)) (Fig. 1c). These biopolymers are both derived from chitin and are of particular interest for developing future devices for bioelectronic applications. Chitin and most of its derivatives are biodegradable, nontoxic, and physiologically inert and are used in bionanotechnologies. Maleic-chitosan and proline-chitosan include several hydrophilic groups that participate in hydrogen bonding with water condensed from a humid atmosphere (20% w/w MC and 15% w/w PC at 75% RH) (SI). The resulting chains of hydrogen bonds form proton wires along which protons hop according to the Grotthuss mechanism (Fig. 1d). A proton wire supports H⁺ conduction via the exchange of a covalent bond on a hydronium ion with the hydrogen bond of a neighbouring water molecule (Fig. 1d). Successive events occurring in the same direction result in the effective transfer of a H⁺ and the associated positive charge along the chain. The same mechanism also supports the transport of OH⁻ as a proton hole (Fig. 1e).

A model for proton (H⁺) and proton hole (OH⁻) conductivity. In 1958, Eigen and de Maeyer proposed a phenomenological description of proton conductivity in ice analogous to electron conductivity in a semiconductor. Ice is a water hydrogen bonded system that is made of proton wires similarly to protein membranes and the hydrated biopolymers used in this work. A proton wire without any H⁺ or OH⁻ charged defects does not conduct unless an excess charge is injected from the contacts (Fig. 2a). The charge carriers (protons) are distributed between a “valence band” (H⁺ bonded H₂O) and a “conduction band” (excess protons fluctuating in hydrogen bonds). Protons are not delocalized along the proton conduction band, but are separated by potential barriers (Fig. 2a). These barriers represent potential barrier for the proton to transfer from one molecule to the next. The height depends on the precise molecular structure, and is typically of the order of 100 meV. We define the protonic “band gap” as the energy required to create a H⁺ (proton) and OH⁻ (proton hole) pair in the proton wire (Fig. 2b). We derive this energy from the Gibb’s Helmholtz equation and the dissociation constant of water (K_w) as:

\[ E_{\text{gap}} = \Delta G^0 = -k_B T \ln K_w = 0.83 \text{ eV} \] (1)

This value for the protonic “band gap” is similar to the activation energy measured for proton conducting biopolymers, and remarkably close to the band gap of traditional electronic semiconductors such as Si, Ge, and Sn. Not unlike Si and Ge, the conductivity of most intrinsic biological protonic conductors at room temperature is low.

To increase the conductivity of the proton wire, doping is used to introduce H⁺ and OH⁻ (proton hole) charge carriers. An acidic functionality in the hydrogen bond network (Fig. 2c) donates an H⁺ to the proton wire “conduction band” in the same way a group V (P, As) impurity donates an electron in the Si conduction band. We derive the position of the H⁺ donor state respect to the “conduction band” by substituting \( K_w \) with \( K_n \) (acid dissociation constant) in eq. 1. For maleic-chitosan (pKₐ 3.2), \( E_a = 0.18 \text{ eV} \). A basic functionality in the hydrogen bond network (Fig. 2d) accepts a H⁺ to create an OH⁻ proton hole in the proton “valence band” in the same way a...
An H⁺-type and OH⁻-type junction. As part of their model that compares H⁺-type and OH⁻-type protonic semiconductors with electronic semiconductors, Eigen and de Mayer proposed a H⁺-OH⁻-type junction in ice with acid and base dopants\(^n\). Similarly, here we measure the properties of maleic-chitosan (H⁺-type) and proline-chitosan (OH⁻-type) junction devices with proton conducting contacts under 75% RH (Fig. 3). When a potential difference between the contacts is applied (V\(_{MP}\)), the measured current (I\(_{MP}\)) shows asymmetric characteristics as expected (Fig. 3a). The dependence of I\(_{MP}\) on V\(_{MP}\) in the H⁺-OH⁻ junction is easily described with the semiconductor model (Fig. 3b and 3c). At first contact, the gradient in \(\mu^{c/+}\) drives the diffusion of H⁺ into the proline-chitosan and OH⁻ into the maleic-chitosan until equilibrium is reached. The charge carriers recombine at the junction as H₂O and create a depletion region with an associated contact potential V\(_0\). A forward bias (+ve on H⁺ side) applied between source and drain reduces the contact barrier e(V\(_0\)-V\(_{MP}\)) and thermionic emission of H⁺ into OH⁻ side and vice versa occurs.

Figure 2 | Energy diagram representation of conduction in hydrogen bonded proton wire. (a) A wire with no H⁺ or OH⁻ defect does not conduct. The band gap is defined as the energy required to create a H⁺ OH⁻ pair (proton-proton hole) and is derived from the \(E_{gap}^{+} = \Delta G_{a}^{+} = -k_BT \ln K_a\). (b) For an intrinsic proton wire, the proton chemical potential \(\mu_{H^+}\) is in the middle of the bandgap. The H⁺ is not completely delocalized along the conduction quasi band. Hopping barriers of approximately 100 meV (need to be overcome for conduction to occur. (c) An acid donates a H⁺ into the conduction band of a proton wire to yield a H⁺-type protonic conductor. \(E_a = \Delta G_a^{+} = -k_BT \ln K_a\). (d) A base accepts a H⁺ to create a OH⁻ (proton hole) in the valence band of a proton wire to yield a OH⁻-type protonic conductor. \(E_a = \Delta G_a^{-} = -k_BT \ln K_a\). The proline base \(pK_a\) (\(-\log K_a\)) is dependent of the difference in \(E_{a}^{H^+} - E_{a}^{OH^-}\). For both H⁺-type and OH⁻-type the proton chemical potential is \(\mu_{c}^{c/+} = eV_0 + \mu_0 + k_BT \log a_{H^+}\) where \(a_{H^+}\) is the activity of H⁺.

Figure 3 | H⁺-OH⁻ junction. (a) Red trace- Experimental data for IV characteristics of a H⁺ OH⁻ junction formed by maleic chitosan and proline chitosan. The curve shows the expected nonlinearity. Black dots - data from simulations for the same junction using the semiconductor model. (b) When a H⁺ doped and OH⁻ doped material are placed into contact OH⁻ diffuse into the H⁺ region and H⁺ diffuse into the OH⁻ region until the \(\mu_{H^+}\) on both sides is the same. H⁺ and OH⁻ recombine in the depletion region. A contact potential V\(_0\) occurs across the junction and is dependent of the difference in \(\mu_{H^+}\) of both sides. (c) A forward bias (+ve on H⁺ side) applied between source and drain reduces the contact barrier e(V\(_0\)-V\(_{MP}\)) and thermionic emission of H⁺ into OH⁻ side and vice versa occurs.
reverse biased junction. This model is used to simulate the junction characteristics (Fig. 3a). We treat the maleic-chitosan and the proline-chitosan as n-type and p-type electronic semiconductors (switching the sign of the charge carriers) with a band gap of 0.8 eV. The number of H⁺ donated by the maleic-groups (Fig. 1b) in the proton “conduction band” is derived from the H⁺-FETs (Fig. 4). In turn, the number of OH⁻ proton holes created by the proton-base in the proton “valence band” (Fig. 1c) is derived from the OH⁻-FETs (Fig. 4). The contribution to the charge carrier doping of the unreacted –NH₂ in chitosan (Fig. 1b and c) can be neglected. The dissociation of these amines (pkb = 7.5) is low compared to the dissociation of the proline and the maleic groups. The mobility data for the charge carriers is derived from the H⁺-FET and OH⁻-FET devices (Fig. 4). In the forward bias region, the overall shape of the curve matches the shape of the experimental data well for a minority carrier recombination time of 1 μs. This recombination time is remarkably close to the recombination time of H⁺/OH⁻ in neutral water (35 μs) and appropriately smaller because of higher H⁺/OH⁻ concentration in the devices. Despite the applied voltages being below electrolysis levels, the increased back bias current may be due to field-induced water splitting at the contacts as previously observed in bipolar ion-exchange membranes. To appropriately

**Figure 4 | H⁺ and OH⁻ transistors.** (a) (b) Plots of I_D for different V_GS for a maleic chitosan H⁺-FET and a proline chitosan OH⁻-FET with PdHₓ contacts. Device dimensions: length 8.6 μm, width 3.5 μm, height 82 nm for (a) and 9.6 μm, width 28 μm, height 200 nm for (b). The small deviation of I_D from zero at V_GS = 0 is likely due to hysteresis as previously observed for these types of devices, (c) (d) Schematics of H⁺ and OH⁻ transistor capacitative charge carrier n⁰⁺ and n⁰⁻ modulation. (e) n⁰⁺ = n⁰⁺ - C_GV_GS/et. From simulations of dQ/dV_GS, C_G = 3.85 × 10⁻¹⁰ F m⁻². (f) Plots of σ for σ as function of V_GS and linear fit for the device in (a) and (b) respectively. For cross σ and charge density calculations the cross sectional area of the devices was derived from AFM and the cross sections were approximated to a rectangle with t = 66 nm for (a) and t = 166 nm (b) with the same widths as the actual devices. From the fit, μ <sub>in</sub> = ± σ<sub>in</sub> (C <sub>G</sub>)⁻¹ and n <sub>0</sub> = σ<sub>in</sub> |V_GS=0| (C <sub>G</sub>)⁻¹.
simulate the experimental conditions, we scale the current in a 1 × 1 μm² junction by several fold, but not by the exact amount required to recreate exactly a junction with 1 × 1 cm² contacts. The H⁺-type OH⁻-type junction is assembled from pre-formed components and results in a device with overall poor physical contact. This poor physical contact effectively reduces the area of the junction and the area of the contacts. Despite these shortcomings, the junction devices show the expected rectifying behaviour, which is qualitatively matched by the simulations.

Complementary bioprotonic field effect transistors. We analyse the output characteristics of complementary protonic-FET devices. In a protonic-FET type device (Fig. 1a), the source-drain protonic current, $I_{DS}$, recorded as a function of drain-source bias, $V_{DS}$ is controlled by changing the potential of the back gate electrode, $V_{GS}$. As previously reported²⁷, for the maleic-chitosan H⁺-FET (Fig. 4a), a negative $V_{GS}$ results in a higher source-drain current for the same $V_{DS}$ while a positive $V_{GS}$ almost turns $I_{DS}$ off. This $V_{GS}$ dependence of $I_{DS}$ is consistent with an FET with positive charge carriers (H⁺). This type of electric field modulation of H⁺ has also been demonstrated in Nafion based field-effect devices⁴⁰. In turn, the proline-chitosan OH⁻-FET shows the opposite $V_{GS}$ dependence. A negative $V_{GS}$ almost turns the device off and a positive $V_{GS}$ results in higher $I_{DS}$ (Fig. 4b). This $V_{GS}$ dependence of $I_{DS}$ is consistent with an FET with negative charge carriers (OH⁻). Both kinds of devices show current saturation for higher $V_{DS}$ and corresponding $I_{DS}$. This saturation may be due to charge accumulation at the contacts and the formation of a barrier for higher $I_{DS}$ as previously discussed²⁷. Further investigation of the contact barrier for the devices is required to confirm this hypothesis.

We explain the $I_{DS}$ modulation from $V_{GS}$ in these devices with the gradient channels approximation

$$I_{DS} = \pm \mu_{lin} C_G \frac{W}{L} (V_{GS} - V_{TH}) V_{DS}$$

(2)

(+$ for a negative charge carrier and - for a positive charge carrier, $\mu_{lin}$ = mobility in the linear regime, $C_G = gate capacitance per unit area, W = device width, L = device length, $V_{TH}$ = threshold gate voltage at which conduction occurs). A few modifications are required to eq. 2 to take into account that in our accumulation mode devices we cannot reach the $V_{TH}$ at which the channel is completely depleted of charge carriers. We first rewrite eq. 2 as

$$I_{DS} = \pm \mu_{lin} C_G \frac{V_{GS} V_{DS}}{t}$$

(3)

($I_{DS} =$ source drain current density, $C_G V_{GS}/t =$ charge carrier per unit volume induced by the gate, $\varepsilon_{DS} = V_{DS}/L =$ electric field along the device channel) and compare it to

$$I_{DS} = \sigma \varepsilon_{DS} = \varepsilon_{lin} n e_{DS}$$

(4)

($\sigma =$ channel conductivity, $n =$ charge carriers per unit volume, $e =$ elementary charge). We then modify $n$ to take into account for the H⁺ ($n_0 H^+$) or OH⁻ ($n_0 OH^-$) from acid and base doping already in the channel at $V_{GS} = 0$. This modification results in

$$n_{H^+} = n_0 H^+ - \frac{C_G V_{GS}}{\varepsilon t}$$

(5)

for H⁺-FET and

$$n_{OH^-} = n_0 OH^- + \frac{C_G V_{GS}}{\varepsilon t}$$

(6)

for OH⁻-FET respectively (Fig. 4c and Fig. 4d). For an intrinsic semiconductor, these modifications can be used by simply setting $n_0 = 0$. $V_{TH}$. In this case the voltage at which the photochemical potential of the intrinsic semiconductor is shifted enough to afford injection of charge carriers into one of the bands, should be included back in eq. 2. Using equation 5 and equation 6, equation 3 becomes

$$I_{DS} = \varepsilon_{lin} H^+ \left( n_0 H^+ - \frac{C_G V_{GS}}{\varepsilon t} \right) e_{DS}$$

(7)

for H⁺-FET and

$$I_{DS} = \varepsilon_{lin} OH^- \left( n_0 OH^- + \frac{C_G V_{GS}}{\varepsilon t} \right) e_{DS}$$

(8)

for OH⁻-FET. To calculate $\mu_{lin}^{H^+}$, $\mu_{lin}^{OH^-}$, $n_0 H^+$, and $n_0 OH^-$ we plot $\frac{\partial I_{DS}}{\partial V_{DS}} = \sigma$ as a function of $V_{GS}$ (Fig. 4e and 4f). $\mu_{lin}^{H^+}$, $\mu_{lin}^{OH^-}$ are derived from the gradient of the linear fit and $n_0 H^+$ and $n_0 OH^-$ are derived from the intercept (Fig. 4e and 4f). From the devices, $\mu_{lin}^{H^+} = (5.3 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-3} \text{cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ and $\mu_{lin}^{OH^-} = (4.0 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-3} \text{cm}^2 \text{V}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$. The mobility for H⁺ is remarkably close to the mobility for H⁺ in diluted acidic solutions¹¹ and in hydrated semiconducting polymers¹⁰, and is slightly higher than H⁺ mobility of Nafion (0.87 × 10⁻⁶ cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹) proton exchange membranes widely used in fuel cells⁴⁻². Matching the H⁺ mobility in water solutions is important for potential future biological applications where the H⁺ are transferred in liquid. For basic solutions, the mobility of OH⁻ is lower than H⁺ and reported as 1.96 × 10⁻⁵ cm² V⁻¹ s⁻¹. Our OH⁻-type devices show a mobility that is in reasonable agreement with this value, but is five-fold lower than expected. A few factors may contribute to the lower than expected OH⁻ mobility. The proline chitosan in the OH⁻-FET contains less water (15% w/w) than the maleic-chitosan in the H⁺-FET (20% w/w). This lower water content results in a smaller number of pathways, or proton wires, for the OH⁻ to conduct. Maleic chitosan forms self-assembled nanofibers while proline chitosan forms an amorphous film on the substrate (Fig. S5). The more ordered morphology of the maleic chitosan also likely contributes to the higher proton mobility in the H⁺-FET respect to the OH⁻-FET. In our analysis, we have neglected the effects of contacts. It is conceivable that the contact between the PdHₓ and the proton-conducting channels is affected by the difference in photochemical potentials. From the data for the PdHₓ reversible electrodes in acidic solutions¹⁰, one infers qualitatively that the photochemical potential of the PdHₓ is closer to the photochemical potential of the H⁺-type maleic chitosan and is significantly higher than the photochemical potential of the OH⁻-type proline chitosan. PdHₓ is thus more likely to form a better protonic contact (Ohmic) with maleic-chitosan, while a potential barrier at the PdHₓ-proline-chitosan contact may occur. This barrier is similar to a Schottky barrier that occurs between a metal with low work function and a p-type electronic semiconductor. This potential explanation, however, requires further investigation and will be addressed in future work. With the values of the mobility, we extrapolate $n_0 H^+ = (8.0 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-7} \text{cm}^{-3}$ and $n_0 OH^-$ = (4.0±0.1) × 10⁻⁷ cm⁻³ for the devices. Data from the devices confirms that the acid doped maleic chitosan behaves like a H⁺ doped protonic semiconductor and that the base doped proline chitosan behaves like an OH⁻ doped protonic semiconductor. The semiconductor doping model can be considered a reasonable phenomenological description for proton transport in doped proton wires measured with our devices. It is difficult to quantitatively estimate the expected doping concentration in the materials from the strength and concentration of the maleic acid groups and the proline base groups in the polymers (Fig. 1). Challenges include difficulty in predicting the influence of local dielectric environment in the hydrated solid state and ionic concentration on the strength of acid and base dissociation⁴⁵. Further work is needed to generalize this model to intrinsic semiconductors to take into account the turn on voltage, $V_{TH}$. For this work, devices with higher gate capacitance capable of turning on the intrinsic devices at a reasonable $V_{TH}$ are required.
**Methods**

Maleic chitosan and proline chitosan. Maleic chitosan was prepared following a previously published protocol. Proline chitosan was synthesized following a well-established reaction mechanism as described in details in the SI. Chitosan powders (medium molecular weight, degree of deacetylation = 0.75 – 0.85, Sigma Aldrich) and proline (Sigma Aldrich) were used as received. The maleic chitosan and proline chitosan channel and not from water condensed on the top of the mold with a pair of tweezer. Films were dried in ambient air for 8 hrs and removed carefully from the mold. Films were prepared from a 2 mL of 3.5 wt% aqueous solutions drop cast onto a Teflon mold. Photolithography and lift-off was used to define the contacts. Pd metal thick Pd was evaporated on top of the Cr. The proline chitosan and maleic chitosan films were sandwiched by two Pd contacts to form a junction device. The H\(^-\)FETs films were modelled as Ohmic protonic contacts (no barrier) to the source and drain were modelled as Ohmic protonic contacts (no barrier) to the polysaccharide-based device.

**Discussion**

In summary, we have demonstrated H\(^-\)OH\(^+\) rectifying junctions and H\(^-\)-type and OH\(^-\)-type complementary field effect transistors with polysaccharide-based semiconductor proton wires. These devices confirm that proton wires support the conductivity of OH\(^-\) as proton holes. We describe the conductivity in these devices with a model in which H\(^+\) (protons) and OH\(^-\) (proton holes) are equivalent to electrons and holes in semiconductors. This model was originally proposed by Eigen and de Maeyer and refined by us to include band gap calculations and effects of doping on the protocovalent potential. The mobility for H\(^+\) and OH\(^-\) in our devices \(\mu_{\text{H}} = (5.3 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}\) and \(\mu_{\text{OH}} = (0.40 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-2} \text{cm}^2\text{V}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}\), are in good and reasonable agreement with what has been previously reported for the same species in other hydrogen-bonded systems. The on-off ratio of these devices is low (\(\sim 3-4\)). Avenues for improvement include using thinner gate dielectrics and high k gate dielectrics.

**Simulations**

Electrical properties of the H\(^-\)-OH\(^+\) junction were obtained by solving Poisson’s equation and the electronic (H\(^+\) and hole (OH\(^-\))) continuity equations in a 1 \(\mu\)m square cross section of the 200 \(\mu\)m long junction (100 \(\mu\)m maleic chitosan and 100 \(\mu\)m proline chitosan) using a CAD tool (ATLAS, Silvaco). \(\Phi (\text{F} = 5.1 \text{ eV})\) source and drain were modelled as Ohmic protonic contacts (no barrier) to the material. We replaced the properties of silicon with those of the channel material: Maleic chitosan and proline chitosan have \(\tau_{\text{e-h}} = 11.8\) and band gap \(E_{\text{g}} = 0.8 \text{ eV}\). Charge density was estimated from the semiconductor model and mobility was estimated from the H\(^+\) and OH\(^-\) devices. Minority carrier recombination constant was derived from H\(^+\) OH\(^-\) recombination as 1\(\mu\)s, and included in simulations throughout activating Shockley-Read-Hall (SRH) recombination model. The gate capacitance of the H\(^-\)FETs was calculated as previously described. The capacitance was estimated by the simple equation of \(\Delta Q/\Delta V\), where \(\Delta Q\) and \(\Delta V\) represent the variations of the interface charge and gate, respectively.

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**Author contributions**

M.R. designed the research; Y.D., E.J. and C.Z. performed research (experiments); A.F.R. and M.P.A. designed and performed research (simulations); Y.D., J.J. and B.H. contributed new reagents/analytical tools; Y.D., E.J. and M.R. analysed the data; M.R. wrote the manuscript and all authors read and edited the manuscript.

**Additional information**

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ERRATUM: H⁺-type and OH⁻-type biological protonic semiconductors and complementary devices

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The incorrect version of the Supplementary Information file was inadvertently published with this Article. This version contained typographical errors and an additional section 'Charge carrier concentration estimate' not relevant to this article. In the figure legend of Figure S3, “Proline chitosan measured with: PdHₓ contacts in 5% H₂ (blue), Au contacts in 5% H₂ (magenta), Pd contacts in N₂ (black).” should read “Proline chitosan measured with: PdHₓ contacts in 5% H₂ (blue), Au contacts in 5% H₂ (black), Pd contacts in N₂ (magenta).”

In addition, in the section 'H⁺-FET and OH⁻-FET channel morphology’ the sentence “Maleic chitosan (Fig. S4 a) was composed of selfassembled nanofibers on the substrate, and proline chitosan (Fig. S4 b) showed an amorphous film structure.” should read “Maleic chitosan (Fig. S5 a) was composed of selfassembled nanofibers on the substrate, and proline chitosan (Fig. S5 b) showed an amorphous film structure.”

These errors have been corrected in the Supplementary Information that now accompanies the Article.
Corrigendum: H⁺-type and OH⁻-type biological protonic semiconductors and complementary devices

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The original version of this Article contained a typographical error in the spelling of the author Anita Fadavi Roudsari, which was incorrectly given as Anita Fadavi Rousdari. This has now been corrected in both the PDF and HTML versions of the Article, as well as the Erratum that also accompanies this Article.