Ultrathin Air-Stable n-Type Organic Phototransistor Array for Conformal Optoelectronics

Meiling Liu, Haiting Wang, Qingxin Tang, Xiaoli Zhao, Yanhong Tong & Yichun Liu

Development of conformal n-channel organic phototransistor (OPT) array is urgent for future applications of organic complementary circuits in portable and wearable electronics and optoelectronics. In this work, the ultrathin conformal OPT array based on air-stable n-type PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} was fabricated. The OPT array shows excellent electrical and photoelectrical performance, good device uniformity, and remains stable in electron mobility by 83% after 90 days compared to the initial values. Eventhough mobility, on-state current, off-state current, and photocurrent of PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} thin film phototransistor show slight decrease with the decreased bending radius, the device still remains the stable photosensitivity as high as 10^4 when the device is freely adhered on the 2D surfaces and 3D hemispherical sphere, which is in a class with the highest photosensitivity for perylene diimide derivatives. These results present the promising application potential of our conformable air-stable n-type PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} OPTs as the photodetection system of curved artificial compound eyes in wearable and portable electronics and optoelectronics.

Conformal organic optoelectronic devices are attracting a great deal of interest for use in wearable and portable optoelectronics such as flexible conformable displays, artificial compound eyes, artificial retina, and photoplethysmogram (PPG) sensors. They show the enormous advantages in flexibility, light weight, good conformability onto rough surfaces or nonplanar objects. Among versatile organic optoelectronic devices, organic phototransistor (OPT) is very appealing because of its outstanding advantage in the combination of light detection, light switching and signal magnification in a single device. Compared with photodiode, the phototransistor typically has higher photosensitivity and lower noise current owing to the presence of an additional gate electrode for amplified photogenerated electrical signals.

Until now, only two research groups have reported the conformal OPTs. For example, Zhao et al. developed a poly(N-alkyl diketo-pyrrolo-pyrrole dithienylthiophene (DPP-DTT) /[6,6]-phenyl-C61-butyric acid methylester (PCBM) phototransistor with thickness over 2 μm that allowed the device to be transferred directly onto human arm and finger. Recently, Chu et al. prepared a near 3-μm-thick conformal 2,7-dioctyl[1]benzothieno[3,2-b] benzothiophene (C8-BTBT)/polylactide (PLA) phototransistor that can be adhered onto a glove. So far, all reports on conformable OPTs have utilized p-channel materials, mainly due to lack of n-channel organic materials with air stability and good performance. The instability of organic radical anions in the presence of oxygen and water, or the electron traps at interfaces, is extensively believed to affect the stability of n-channel organic transistors. In fact, the development of conformable OPTs based on n-channel organic material is extremely important for the fabrication of complementary electronics and optoelectronic circuits, which provides various advantages such as high operational stability, easily controlled photoswitching voltages, high photosensitivity and responsivity. Therefore, it is urgent to develop the conformal n-channel OPTs for future applications in portable and wearable organic optoelectronics.

Herein, we present the ultrathin conformable OPT arrays on the polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) supporting layer, in which the air-stable n-type PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} thin film serves as the active layer, PMMA serves as dielectric layer, and the thickness of the entire OPT is only ~830 nm. From the view of molecular design, PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} is one of perylene derivatives that is favorable for the stability of n-channel organic transistors. PMMA is used as the dielectric of the transistor because its hydrophobic nature has been extensively shown to be favorable for good device stability.

Key Laboratory of UV Light Emitting Materials and Technology under Ministry of Education, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, 130024, P. R. China. Meiling Liu and Haiting Wang contributed equally. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Q.T. (email: tangqx@nenu.edu.cn) or Y.L. (email: ycliu@nenu.edu.cn)
Results and Discussion

Figure 1a presents the schematic illustration of a flexible conformable OPT array with bottom-gate top-contact configuration. The schematic cross-section image in Fig. 1 clearly shows the device structure of OPT. In our experiments, PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} was selected as the semiconductor active material of the n-type organic thin film transistor (OTFT), owing to its outstanding air stability and high electron transport capability. The flexible device array was peeled from Si substrate as shown in Fig. 1a. The details of fabrication process are given in Experimental Section. Figure 1b shows a 10 x 11 device array with the area size of 3 x 3 cm^2 that is adhered onto a 10-µm commercialized plastic wrap. Good flexibility can be observed and the device array is bendable and foldable. The AFM image in the inset of Fig. 1c shows that the thickness of the device is only ~830 nm. Such an ultrathin device array is extremely light, so that it can be sustained by a hair as shown in Fig. 1c. The ultrathin thickness also makes the device array well conform onto different curved objects, for example, human finger (Fig. 1d) and plant leave (Fig. 1e). The veins on the human finger and plant leave can be clearly observed, presenting the promising potential of the ultrathin OPT array for wearable and portable electronics and optoelectronics.

As organic electronic and optoelectronic devices towards practical applications, the success rate of large-area device fabrication and the performance distribution are the crucial factors. Here, a 10 x 11 PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} thin film phototransistor array was fabricated and its performance distribution was investigated. Figure 2a,b show the typical transfer and output characteristics of the PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} thin film devices, respectively. In a typical n-channel operating mode, a positive gate bias induces the accumulation of electron carriers at the interface between active layer and dielectric layer. To characterize operational stability of the ultra-flexible transistors, the multi-measured results are shown in Fig. 2a, which present the excellent stability with overlapped curves. And as shown in the inset of Fig. 2b, the tapping-mode atomic force microscopy (AFM) images of 5-nm PTCDI-C_{13} thin films deposited onto PMMA dielectric layer show the average grain sizes of ~600 nm. The large grain size of PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} in fabrication of n-type conformal OPT array, and the potential application of the devices for future wearable and portable electronics and optoelectronics.
organic semiconductor thin film near the channel is favorable for the high charge-carrier mobilities. As a crucial parameter, the field effect mobility was calculated by the following equation:

$$\mu = \frac{L}{W C_i} \left( \frac{\partial I_{DS}}{\partial V_{GS}} \right)^2,$$

where $L$ and $W$ are channel length and width, respectively, and $C_i$ is specific capacitance of the gate dielectric. Color map of the mobility of the OTFT array presents good uniformity, which is expressed by the spatial distribution of the transistor performance (Fig. 2c). The statistical results of Fig. 2d,e show the mobility ($\mu$) and current on/off ratio ($I_{on}/I_{off}$) distribution, respectively. Our results show device yield as high as 100%. All transistors show the mobility higher than 0.2 cm$^2$ V$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$. The average mobility is 0.444 cm$^2$ V$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$ with a standard deviation of 0.076 cm$^2$ V$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$. The highest mobility reaches 0.58 cm$^2$ V$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$ in saturation regime. This value is in class with the highest mobility for PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ transistors. The other crucial parameter, the current on/off ratio, is used to evaluate the switch and amplification characteristics of transistor. It is a promising result that the $I_{on}/I_{off}$ of our devices is focused on $10^8$. 61.8% of transistors exceed $10^8$, and the maximum $I_{on}/I_{off}$ is as high as $10^9$. For OPTs, the stable dark state is vital for practical applications. Here, the variation and distribution of electron mobility in air ambient are observed without any encapsulation layer. As shown in Fig. 2f, statistically, all 10 measured transistors remain stable in electron mobility by 83% after 90 days compared to the initial values. Therefore, the fabricated devices show the excellent uniformity with 100% success rate and good stability. According to previous reports and our results [Fig. S1], we attribute the good device stability to the molecular design of PTCDI–C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ and hydrophobic nature for the decreased trap density in PMMA dielectric. These properties can offer the basic for further study on photoelectric properties.

Figure 3 illustrates the typical photoresponse behaviors of the PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ thin film transistors in the flat state. The photoresponse characteristics of the device were measured by directly shining the monochromatic light from the top of the device as schematically shown in Fig. 3a. The PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ presents a wide range of absorption from 400 to 640 nm, mainly in the visible region (Fig. 3b). From the long wavelength edge, the bandgap of PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ is estimated to be only around 1.93–2.02 eV, which agrees well with the reference value (2.0 eV). Due to the narrow energy bandgap, these devices can be easily excited by light and a number of photogenerated charge carriers can be created under illumination. Fig. 3c,d respectively show the transfer and output characteristics of the PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ OPT in dark and under illumination with the wavelength of 489 nm (light power density: 100 μW cm$^{-2}$). The device exhibits a dramatically increase in the $I_{DS}$ under illumination due to the absorbed photogenerated carriers to boost the current. From Fig. 3c, we calculated two important parameters of OPTs, namely, photosensitivity ($P$) and photoresponsivity ($R$), based on the following fundamental equations:

$$P = \frac{I_{light} - I_{dark}}{I_{dark}}$$

(1)
where \( I_{ph} \) is photo-current, \( I_{light} \) is drain current under illumination, \( I_{dark} \) is drain current under dark, \( A \) is effective device area, and \( P_{inc} \) is incident illumination power density. \( P \) and \( R \) values as function of gate voltage \( (V_G) \) are plotted in Fig. 3e. When the OPTs are in the off state under low gate voltage, the highest \( I_{light}/I_{dark} \) exceeds 10^4. When transistors are turned on by applying higher \( V_G \), the \( I_{light}/I_{dark} \) decreases because of the increased dark current. And the maximum \( R \) value was calculated at 30.73 A W^{-1}. These indicate that phototransistors can utilize this gate effect to modulate \( P \) and \( R \) values according to the requirement of practical applications. In order to show the uniformity of properties of our OPTs, an OPT array of 64 transistors was fabricated (Fig. 3f). As shown in Fig. 3g,h, the color maps of the \( P \) and \( R \) of the OPT array present good uniformity with 100% yield. In all OPTs, \( P \) is higher than 10^4 and \( R \) is higher than 28 A W^{-1}. This \( P \) value is sufficiently high to be applied in in-cell touch screens and photodetectors. These results indicate potential applications of PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} in low-cost flexible organic optoelectronics.

Optical switch and signal amplifier are the critical applications for phototransistors. Therefore, the dynamic photoswitching properties of the PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} thin film phototransistor under monochromatic light irradiation were further investigated. Figure 4 shows the dynamic photoresponse behaviors of the PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} thin film phototransistors. When the incidence light is turned on, the current of the PTCDI-C_{13}H_{27} thin film
device shows the obvious increase during the switch-on state of the optical power. On the contrary, the current rapidly recovers to the original value when the light is turned off. Figure 4a gives the real-time current response to the dynamic switches with the continuously decreased light intensity from 300 to 10 μW cm⁻² with a fixed wavelength at 489 nm. A pronounced change in the current was observed under on/off switching of the light. All of the phototransistors show the clear photoresponse without any retardation effects, indicating that our PTCDI-C₁₃H₂₇ thin film phototransistor can serve as an optical switch. Further, Fig. 4b shows that the photocurrent linearly increases with the increasing incident light intensity. The remarkable increased photocurrent suggests the high photoresponse capability of our phototransistors. The photon energy is absorbed by PTCDI-C₁₃H₂₇ thin film under light excitation and a large number of photogenerated charges are generated that contribute to carrier transport. The light intensity can act as an independent variation to modulate the current. Further, the dynamic photoresponse curves of the OPTs are plotted as a function of time at different V_G (Fig. 4c) and V_SD (Fig. 4d) at a fixed irradiation (λ = 489 nm, light power density = 100 μW cm⁻²). The photocurrent increases with the increasing gate voltage and source-drain voltage on electronic signal. The gate voltage is considered to provide an efficient route for the charge dissociation in the OPT devices. Higher drain voltage effectively draws electrons to weaken the recombination of photogenerated carriers. The reproducible photoresponse function in signal amplification and photodetection provides the OPTs potential applications in cost-effective flexible organic optoelectronics.

Organic electronics and optoelectronics are considered as key components of wearable smart electronics due to their flexibility and light weight. Therefore, flexible and conformable OPTs have attracted increasing interest in this field. As shown in Fig. 1, our OPTs show good flexibility and extremely low thickness so that they can well conform onto various surfaces. Here, to show the application potential of the OPTs in wearable and portable optoelectronics, the OPT array is adhered onto the curved surfaces with different bending curvature by mechanical transferring. Figure 5 shows the typical photoresponse behaviors of the OPTs on different curved objects. The surface strain can be given by: ɛ = t/2r, where t is the thickness of the flexible OPT, and r is the radius of bending.
curvature. According to this equation, the thickness \( t \) of the device determines the degree of flexibility. Lower thickness, smaller the stress. Therefore, the extremely thin device thickness presents an outstanding advantage for conformable devices. To explore the effect of bending degree on the device performance, the different bending radius from 3.3 to 0.23 cm (3.3, 2.2, 1.7, 0.45, 0.23 cm) was employed.

When the device is bent in different directions, the bending deformation states in the conductive channel are different. It is possible that such a bending state difference will affect the device performance, since the carrier transport is limited in a few molecular layer in the channel\(^{40,41} \). In order to explore the possible effect of the adherence direction on the device performance, the OPTs were transferred onto cylindrical objects in different adherence directions, i.e., with bending surface respectively parallel and vertical to channel length, as shown in Fig. 5a1,b1. The corresponding typical transfer curves in dark with the changed bending radius are respectively shown in Fig. 5a2,b2. Figure 5a3,b3,a4,b4 respectively give the dependence of the on-state current, the off-state current, the ON/OFF current ratio, and the mobility on the bending radius. The bending radius ranges from 3.3 to 0.23 cm. Figure 5 shows the weakly decreased on-state current, off-state current, and mobility, and almost unchanged ON/OFF current ratio. Three research groups have shown the bending results of the flexible device in the two different directions\(^{42–44} \). All of them show the decreased mobility with the bending in two different directions. The mobility change in the two different bending directions in our work is in good agreement with their reports. These results confirm that the freely bending of the device in different directions at fixed bending radius does not cause the mobility difference.

The corresponding typical transfer curves under illumination with the changed bending radius are respectively shown in Fig. 6a1,b1. Figure 6a2,b2 respectively give the dependence of photocurrent, dark current, and photosensitivity on the bending radius. Eventhough the photocurrent and dark current of the PTCDI-C\(_{13}\)H\(_{27}\) thin film phototransistor show the slight decrease with the decreased bending radius, the device still remains the stable photosensitivity as high as 10\(^4\). From our experiments, it can be concluded that the bending of the device weakly affects the mobility but almost does not affect the photosensitivity. The photosensitivity of the device on curved surfaces remains almost unchanged as their flat state, showing the high operational stability of our ultrathin OPTs under bending conditions (Fig. 5a2,b2). Further, it is found that the thickness of the semiconductor layer from 30 to 60 nm did not show the obvious mobility change for our devices (Fig. 5a2,b2). This result is similar to the previous reports\(^{45} \). Our device thickness is ~830 nm. Here, the bending strain is mainly determined by the insulator thickness (~380 nm) and the supporting layer thickness (~350 nm) according to \( \varepsilon = t/2r \). Therefore, the thickness change of the semiconductor layer (30 and 60 nm) does not affect the device performance dramatically (Fig. 5a2,b2).

Figure 6c1,c2 shows the potential applications of our conformal PTCDI-C\(_{13}\)H\(_{27}\) thin film phototransistor array as the photodetection system of curved artificial compound eye\(^{46} \). Curvilinear photodetector array enables a wide-angle field of view, which is one of essential components of the curved artificial compound eyes to realize panoramic perception\(^{46,47} \). Figure 6c1 presents the compound eyes of a real dragonfly. As the photoreceptive component of curved compound eye camera, it is essential that the photo detectors with a large-scale array remain high conformability onto the curved sphere\(^{5} \). The right-bottom inset of Figure 6c1 shows our PTCDI-C\(_{13}\)H\(_{27}\) thin film phototransistor array well adhered onto a hemispherical lens \( r = 0.64 \text{ cm} \) with close contact, and Figure 6c2 shows its color map of the photosensitivity \( P \). The highest \( P \) value exceeds 10\(^4\), and the average value is 1.9624 \( \times 10^4 \) with a standard deviation of 0.0382 \( \times 10^4 \). Our obtained \( P \) value is very appealing among \( n \)-type OPTs. Table 1 summarizes the photosensitivity of the reported \( n \)-type OPTs. For comparison, the photosensitivity values of our flat and conformal devices on 2D cylinder and 3D hemisphere, are also shown in Table 1. Compared
with the previously reported results, our ultrathin flat device shows the photosensitivity as high as $2.8 \times 10^4$ under illumination of only 100 $\mu$W cm$^{-2}$. This value is higher than most of reported results, and is in a class with the highest photosensitivity for perylene diimide derivatives as shown in Table 123,34,36,37,40–44. Furthermore, the previously reported n-type OPTs were fabricated on the rigid SiO$_2$/Si, glass, or flexible PET, and all measurements were carried on the flat state. In comparison, our device not only shows the performance on bending surfaces, but also shows the photosensitivity over $2 \times 10^4$. Such a high performance at bending state also presents promising application potential of our conformable air-stable n-type PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ OPTs in wearable and portable optoelectronics. It is worth mentioning that this photoresponse parameter keeps nearly unchanged as it flat state. That is to say, our phototransistor arrays have high photosensitivity, good uniformity, and high stability on 3D curved surface, indicating a wide variety of novel applications such as bionic eye that is not possibly realized on planar rigid supporting.

Figure 6. Photoresponse performance of the conformal PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ phototransistor array on different curved objects. (a1,a2,b1,b2) Typical photograph and schematic images (inset), typical transfer characteristics under illumination, $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$, and $I_{\text{light}}/I_{\text{dark}}$ of the device at strain bending parallel and vertical to channel length, respectively. The bending radius is from 3.3 to 0.23 cm. (c1) Optical microscopy image of the compound eyes from a real dragonfly eye. The right-bottom optical microscopy image in the inset shows a real device array adhered on a hemisphere lens with the bending radius of 0.64 cm. (c2) Photosensitivity mapping with a 3 × 3 OPT array as shown in the inset of Figure c1. The wavelength of illumination is 489 nm and light power density is 100 $\mu$W cm$^{-2}$.
as substrate for ultra-flexible OPTs. These substrates were cleaned, subsequently were modified by a self-assembling octadecyltrichlorosilane (OTS) layer (Acros, 95%). The typical bottom-gate top-contact configuration was realized by annealing under vacuum. Second, 30-nm-thick gold (Au) was thermally deposited as bottom-gate electrode and served as source and drain electrodes. The flexible conformal OPT device array was obtained by mechanically peeling the whole device array from the Si substrate with a hollowed-out 3 M tape (Scotch) in the help of a tweezer. All experiments were conducted on the lab instrument.

### Methods

**OTFT Fabrication.** Materials preparation and device fabrication: Heavily doped silicon wafers were used as substrate for ultra-flexible OPTs. These substrates were cleaned, subsequently were modified by a self-assembled octadecyltrichlorosilane (OTS) layer (Acros, 95%). The typical bottom-gate top-contact configuration was employed for the fabrication of OPTs. First, the aqueous solution of PVA was spin-coated on a Si substrate, followed by annealing under vacuum. Second, 30-nm-thick gold (Au) was thermally deposited as bottom-gate electrode. Third, the polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) solution in anisole was spun on the top of Au gate electrode and served as source and drain electrodes. The flexible conformal OPT device array was obtained by mechanically peeling the whole device array from the Si substrate with a hollowed-out 3 M tape (Scotch) in the help of a tweezer. All experiments were conducted on the lab instrument.

**OTFT Measurements.** The electrical and photoelectrical properties of the phototransistor were measured by using a semiconductor parameter analyzer (Keithley 4200 SCS). The field-effect mobility ($\mu$) and current on/off ratio ($I_{on}/I_{off}$) were extracted from the transfer characteristic curves. In the saturation regime, the mobility was calculated by the following equation: $\mu = C_{ox} W / 2 L (V_{GS} - V_T)^2$. For the photoelectrical properties of PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ devices, a xenon lamp (HSX-UV300, NBeT) was employed as a light source, and the illumination intensity was measured by an optical power meter (No.1918-R, Newport). The light was illuminated from the top side of the device. And all devices were characterized in ambient atmosphere at room temperature.

### References

1. Liu, Y. Q. et al. Three-Component Integrated Ultrathin Organic Photosensors for Plastic Optoelectronics. *Adv. Mater.* 28, 624–630 (2016).
2. Liu, Y. Q. et al. A Retina-Like Dual Band Organic Photosensor Array for Filter-Free Near-Infrared-to-Memory Operations. *Adv. Mater.* 1701772 (2017).
3. Chu, Y. et al. Printable and Flexible Phototransistors Based on Blend of Organic Semiconductor and Biopolymer. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 27, 1604163 (2017).

| Semiconductor Material | State(Substrate) | P | Light Source (nm) | Intensity (µW cm$^{-2}$) | Ref. |
|------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----|
| PDI-C$_n$ | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | $^{30}$10$^9$ | 580 | 7.06 | 14 |
| BPE-PTCDI | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | $^{30}$10$^9$ | green | 113000 | 23 |
| PTCDI-C$_8$H$_{17}$ | flat(PET) | $^{30}$10$^9$ | 532 | 22200 | 23 |
| PDI-CN2 | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | $^{30}$10$^9$ | white light | 5060 | 23 |
| BPE-PTCDI/rGO | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | $>10$ | 640 | 17600 | 31 |
| PTCDI-C$_8$ | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | $>100$ | - | 10000 | 31 |
| EH PDI | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | 63.82 | 525 | 91060 | 43 |
| Fl6CuPc(thin-film) | flat(BPDA-ODA) | 300 | white light | 5660 | 33 |
| Fl6CuPc | flat(glass) | 79 | white light | 5980 | 27 |
| NDRI(2OD)(4tBuPh)-DTYM2 | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | 1.1 × 10$^9$ | white light | 5060 | 31 |
| PTCDI-C$_{13}$ | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | 2.2 × 10$^9$ | 489 | 107 | 43 |

Table 1. Summary of performance of n-type organic phototransistor. (*a*) Thin film, (*b*) multifil, (*c*) monofil, (*d*) average value at different bending radius.$^{18-20}$

In summary, we fabricated the conformal n-type OPT array based on air-stable PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ and PMMA dielectric. The ultrathin thickness of devices only at ~830 nm makes the transistor array realize good adherence onto different curved objects. Large-area OPT array shows excellent electrical properties in dark state with the mobility as high as 0.58 cm$^2$ V$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$, the extremely high on/off ratio over 10$^5$, and high stability in air atmosphere. When the OPT is transferred onto cylindrical objects with the surfaces bent respectively parallel and vertical to channel length, it is found that the performance changes, including on-state current, off-state current, ON/OFF ratio, and mobility, are similar although the conductive channel region presents the different bending deformation. With the decreased bending radius on different curved surfaces, both the dark current and light current of the conformal device present the weak decrease. However, the synchronous decrease of the dark and light current makes the photosensitivity remain unchanged and still remain at $>10^4$ when the device is adhered on the objects with different curved radius. These results not only show the good photosensitivity consistency when our device array is freely adhered on the curved objects, but also the good uniformity of the optoelectronic performance and the high photosensitivity upon illumination as weak as 100 µW cm$^{-2}$ present the promising application potential of our conformable air-stable n-type PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ OPT array, for example, as the photodetection system of the curved artificial compound eyes for wide-angle field of view.

| PDI-CN2 | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | 5 | white light | 22200 | 23 |
| BPE-PTCDI | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | $^{30}$10$^9$ | green | 113000 | 23 |
| PTCDI-C$_8$H$_{17}$ | flat(PET) | $^{30}$10$^9$ | 532 | 22200 | 23 |
| PDI-CN2 | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | $^{30}$10$^9$ | white light | 5060 | 23 |
| BPE-PTCDI/rGO | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | $>10$ | 640 | 17600 | 31 |
| PTCDI-C$_8$ | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | $>100$ | - | 10000 | 31 |
| EH PDI | flat(SiO$_2$/Si) | 63.82 | 525 | 91060 | 43 |
| Fl6CuPc(thin-film) | flat(BPDA-ODA) | 300 | white light | 5660 | 33 |
| Fl6CuPc | flat(glass) | 79 | white light | 5980 | 27 |

In summary, we fabricated the conformal n-type OPT array based on air-stable PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ and PMMA dielectric. The ultrathin thickness of devices only at ~830 nm makes the transistor array realize good adherence onto different curved objects. Large-area OPT array shows excellent electrical properties in dark state with the mobility as high as 0.58 cm$^2$ V$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$, the extremely high on/off ratio over 10$^5$, and high stability in air atmosphere.

When the OPT is transferred onto cylindrical objects with the surfaces bent respectively parallel and vertical to channel length, it is found that the performance changes, including on-state current, off-state current, ON/OFF ratio, and mobility, are similar although the conductive channel region presents the different bending deformation. With the decreased bending radius on different curved surfaces, both the dark current and light current of the conformal device present the weak decrease. However, the synchronous decrease of the dark and light current makes the photosensitivity remain unchanged and still remain at $>10^4$ when the device is adhered on the objects with different curved radius. These results not only show the good photosensitivity consistency when our device array is freely adhered on the curved objects, but also the good uniformity of the optoelectronic performance and the high photosensitivity upon illumination as weak as 100 µW cm$^{-2}$ present the promising application potential of our conformable air-stable n-type PTCDI-C$_{13}$H$_{27}$ OPT array, for example, as the photodetection system of the curved artificial compound eyes for wide-angle field of view.
4. Zhao, N. et al. Flexible Organic/Inorganic Hybrid Near-Infrared Photodetector with Improved Sensitivity and Stability. *Adv. Mater.* 1700975 (2017).
5. Rogers, J. A. et al. Digital cameras with designs inspired by the arthropod eye. *Nature* 497, 95–99 (2013).
6. Huang, J. et al. Photosensitive and Flexible Organic Field-Effect Transistors Based on Interface Trapping Effect and Their Application in 2D Imaging Array. *Adv. Sci.* 3, 1500435 (2016).
7. Oh, J. H. et al. Flexible Organic Phototransistor Array with Enhanced Responsivity via Metal–Ligand Charge Transfer. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 8, 7291–7299 (2016).
8. Bao, Z. N. et al. Significant Enhancement of Infrared Photodetector Sensitivity Using a Semiconducting Single-Walled Carbon Nanotube/PC61BM Phototransistor. *Adv. Mater.* 27, 759–765 (2015).
9. Iyer, P. K. et al. Photosensitive organic field effect transistors: the influence of ZnPc morphology and bilayer dielectrics for achieving a low operating voltage and low bias stress effect. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* 18, 32602–32609 (2016).
10. Dong, H. L. et al. Recent advances in polymer phototransistors. *Polymer* 6, 7933–7944 (2015).
11. Jung, D. Y. et al. A new mussel-inspired polydopamine phototransistor with high photosensitivity: signal amplification and light-controlled switching properties. *Chem. Commun.* 50, 1458–1461 (2014).
12. Kim, Y. H. et al. Low-voltage-driven oxide phototransistors with fast recovery, high signal-to-noise ratio, and high responsivity fabricated via a simple defect-generating process. *Sci. Reports.* 6, 31991 (2016).
13. Wang, I. et al. High-Performance Thermally Stable Organic Phototransistors Based on P3CTPT/PC61BM for Visible and Ultraviolet Photodetection. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 25, 3138–3146 (2015).
14. Yang, Y. et al. Ultrahigh and Broad Spectral Photodetectivity of an Organic–Inorganic Hybrid Phototransistor for Flexible Electronics. *Adv. Mater.* 27, 6885–6891 (2015).
15. Chen, H. et al. Solution-Grown Organic Single-Crystal Field-Effect Transistors with Ultrahigh Response to Visible- and Deep UV Signals. *Adv. Electron. Mater.* 1, 1500136 (2015).
16. Huang, J. S. et al. Detecting 100 fW cm⁻² Light with Trapped Electron Gated Organic Phototransistors. *Adv. Mater.* 29, 1603969 (2017).
17. Liu, Y. C. et al. Highly photosensitive thiocarocene single crystal microplate transistors via optimized dielectric. *Org. Electron.* 16, 171–176 (2015).
18. Zhan, X. et al. n-Type Organic Semiconductors in Organic Electronics. *Adv. Mater.* 22, 3876–3892 (2010).
19. Alonso, A. M. et al. Bisthiadiazole-Fused Tetraazapentacenequinone: An Air-Stable Solution-Processable n-Type Organic Semiconductor. *Org. Lett.* 17, 5902–5905 (2015).
20. Iyer, P. K. et al. Large-Scale Molecular Packing and Morphology-Dependent High Performance Organic Field-Effect Transistor by Symmetrical Naphthalene Diamide Attached with Methyl Cyclohexane. *J. Phys. Chem. C.* 119, 12772–12779 (2015).
21. Richard, H. E. et al. General observation of n-type field-effect behaviour in organic semiconductors. *Nature* 434, 10 (2005).
22. Tobin, J. M. et al. Tuning Orbital Energetics in Arylene Diimide Semiconductors Materials Design for Ambient Stability of n-Type Charge Transport. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 129, 15259–15278 (2007).
23. Oh, J. H. et al. High-Performance Phototransistors Based on Single-Crystalline n-Channel Organic Nanowires and Photogenerated Charge-Carrier Behaviors. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 23, 629–639 (2013).
24. Pyo, S. et al. Light Sensing in a Photosensitive, Organic-Based Complementary Inverter. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 3, 1451–1456 (2011).
25. Kim, Y. et al. Efficient Deep Red Light-Sensing All-Polymer Phototransistors with a p-type/n-type Conjugated Polymer Bulk Heterojunction Layers. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 9, 14983–14989 (2017).
26. Chan, E. P. et al. High Tg Cyclic Olefin Copolymer Gate Dielectrics for N,N’-Ditridecyl Perylene Diimide Based Field-Effect Transistors: Improving Performance and Stability with Thermal Treatment. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 20, 2611–2618 (2010).
27. Dawen, L. et al. Air-stable solution-processed n-channel organic thin film transistors with polymer-enhanced morphology. *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 106, 183301 (2015).
28. Cheng, H. L. et al. Improved air stability of n-channel organic thin-film transistors with surface modification on gate dielectric. *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 93, 103310 (2008).
29. Yu, G. et al. Improvements in Stability and Performance of N,N-Dialkyl Perylene Diimide-Based n-Type Thin-Film Transistors. *Adv. Mater.* 21, 1631–1635 (2009).
30. Yang, H. et al. Complementary photo and temperature cured polymer dielectrics with high-quality dielectric properties for organic semiconductors. *J. Mater. Chem. C.* 22, 19940–19947 (2012).
31. Paolo, S. et al. High-Performance Phototransistors Based on PDIF-CN2 Solution-Processed Single Fiber and Multifiber Assembly. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 8, 9829 (2016).
32. Liu, X. et al. Transparent ambipolar organic thin film transistors based on multilayer transparent source-drain electrodes. *Appl. Phys. Lett.* 109, 063301 (2016).
33. Liu, Y. et al. Electronic and optoelectronic properties of zinc phthalocyanine single-crystal nanobelts transistors. *Org. Electron.* 30, 158–164 (2016).
34. Samori, P. et al. Tuning the Photodetector in Organic Field-Effect Transistors. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 134, 2429–2433 (2012).
35. Tang, F. et al. Light sensing in photosensitive, flexible n-type organic thin-film transistors, *J. Mater. Chem. C.* 2, 626 (2014).
36. Mukherjee, B. et al. Large photoresponse from a small molecule: Application in photodetector and pseudo-transistor. *Optik* 126, 1258–1262 (2015).
37. Pyo, S. et al. Control over Multifunctionality in Optoelectronic Device Based on Organic Phototransistor. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 6, 1614–1620 (2010).
38. Yang, Y. et al. Boosting Responsivity of Organic–Metal Oxynitride Hybrid Heterointerface Phototransistor. *ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces* 8, 14665–14670 (2016).
39. Liu, Y. Q. et al. Substrate-Free Ultra-Flexible Organic Field-Effect Transistors and Five-Stage Ring Oscillators. *Adv. Mater.* 25, 5455–5460 (2013).
40. Shizuo, T. et al. Surface-energy-dependent field-effect mobilities up to 1 cm²/Vs for polymer thin-film transistor. *J. Appl. Phys.* 105, 024316 (2009).
41. Kilwon, C. et al. Effect of the Phase States of Self-Assembled Monolayers on Pentacene Growth and Thin-Film Transistor Characteristics. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 130, 10556–10564 (2008).
42. Shizuo, T. et al. Free-Standing Organic Transistors and Circuits with Sub-Micron Thicknesses. *Scientific Reports* 6, 27450 (2017).
43. Wei, H. et al. High-mobility flexible pentacene-based organic field-effect transistors with PMMA/PVP double gate insulator layers and the investigation on their mechanical flexibility and thermal stability. *RSC Adv.* 5, 95273–95279 (2015).
44. Wei, H. et al. The mechanical bending effect and mechanism of high performance and low-voltage flexible organic thin-film transistors with a cross-linked PVP dielectric layer. *J. Mater. Chem. C.* 2, 2998–3004 (2014).
45. Paul, H. et al. A Growth and Morphology Study of Organic Vapor Phase Deposited Perylene Diimide Thin Films for Transistor Applications. *J. Phys. Chem. C.* 114, 2730–2737 (2010).
46. Ko, H. C. et al. A hemispherical electronic eye camera based on compressible silicon optoelectronics. *Nature* 454, 748–753 (2008).
47. Jung, I. et al. Dynamically tunable hemispherical electronic eye camera system with adjustable zoom capability. *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA* 108, 1788–1793 (2011).
48. Oh, J. et al. Photoinduced Charge-Carrier Dynamics of Phototransistors Based on Perylene Diimide/Reduced Graphene Oxide Core/Shell p–n Junction Nanowires. Adv. Optical Mater. 3, 241 (2014).
49. Ersoz, M. et al. Solution processed white light photodetector based N, N′-di(2-ethylhexyl)-3,4,9,10-perylene diimide thin film phototransistor. Thin Solid Films 569, 22–27 (2014).
50. Pyo, S. et al. Flexible N-channel organic phototransistor on polyimide substrate. Synthetic Metals 161, 143–147 (2011).
51. Wang, J. et al. High-performance n-type organic thin-film phototransistors based on a core-expanded naphthalene diimide. Appl. Phys. Lett. 103, 053301 (2013).

Acknowledgements
This work is supported by NSFC (51322305, 61574032, 61376074, 91233204, 51703020), 111 Project (B13013), Project funded by China Postdoctoral Science Foundation (2016M601361), Open Project of Key Laboratory for UV-Emitting Materials and Technology of Ministry of Education (130028696), Northeast Normal University Institute of Physics Discipline Construction Projects (111715014), The Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (2412017QD008).

Author Contributions
Q.T., Y.T. and Y.L. designed the experiment. M.L. performed the experiments. Y.T., H.W., M.L. and X.Z. co-wrote the manuscript. M.L. and H.W. contributed equally. All authors discussed the results and contributed to the interpretation of data as well as to the editing of the manuscript.

Additional Information
Supplementary information accompanies this paper at https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-35062-7.
Competing Interests: The authors declare no competing interests.

Publisher’s note: Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article’s Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article’s Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.

© The Author(s) 2018