Tunable Organic Photocatalysts for Visible Light-Driven Hydrogen Evolution

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ABSTRACT: Photocatalytic hydrogen production from water offers an abundant, clean fuel source, but it is challenging to produce photocatalysts that use the solar spectrum effectively. Many hydrogen-evolving photocatalysts are active in the ultraviolet range, but ultraviolet light accounts for only 3% of the energy available in the solar spectrum at ground level. Solid-state crystalline photocatalysts have light absorption profiles that are a discrete function of their crystalline phase, and that are not always tunable. Here, we prepare a series of amorphous, microporous organic polymers with exquisite synthetic control over the optical gap in the range 1.94–2.95 eV. Specific monomer compositions give polymers that are robust and effective photocatalysts for the evolution of hydrogen from water in the presence of a sacrificial electron donor, without the apparent need for an added metal co-catalyst. Remarkably, unlike other organic systems, the best performing polymer is only photoactive under visible rather than ultraviolet irradiation

**INTRODUCTION**

Many studies have focused on inorganic semiconductors as photocatalysts for hydrogen production from water using ultraviolet (UV) or visible light.1-3 Organic semiconductors are much less explored, but they are intriguing because of their diverse synthetic modularity, which allows their electronic and structural properties to be tailored. Conjugated linear poly(*p*-phenylene)s4,5 can catalyze hydrogen evolution, but they are only modestly active under UV irradiation and their performance under visible light is very poor. In 2009, Antonietti and co-workers reported an organic photocatalyst for hydrogen evolution based on graphitic carbon nitride (g-C3N4).6 The quantity of hydrogen evolved for native g-C3N4 was low, but this was significantly improved upon addition of platinum as a co-catalyst. Copolymerization routes to carbon nitrides were shown to dramatically increase the rate of hydrogen production, again using platinum as a co-catalyst.7-9 Carbon nitrides are visible light photocatalysts but, like polyphenylenes, they are most active in the UV.6,9 Microstructure appears to influence activity in carbon nitrides: for example, mesoporosity was shown to significantly increase the amount of hydrogen evolved.10,11 Related organic polymers, such as a poly(triazine imide) doped with 4-amino-2,6-dihydroxypyrimidine12 and a heptazine-based network,13 are also effective photocatalysts for hydrogen evolution. In all of these cases, platinum was added as a co-catalyst, in combination with a sacrificial electron donor. Other modifiers can be used; for example, Ag2S-modified14 and polypyrrole-modified15 carbon nitrides were recently reported. The rates of hydrogen evolution for these organic solids are lower than for some inorganic photocatalysts, but improved rates can be achieved by using a liquid-assisted grinding approaches,16 sol-gel syntheses,17 or by controlling the degree of polymerization and the proton concentration.18

Other than carbon nitrides and linear poly(*p*-phenylene)s, there are few examples of organic polymers that act as photocatalysts for hydrogen evolution from water. A small number of nitrogen-containing polymers have been studied, such as poly(azomethines),19 where the optical gap could be tuned to some extent by choice of monomer. Likewise, a hydrazone-based covalent organic framework showed significant hydrogen evolution.20 Very recently, a porous organic push-pull polymer exhibited visible-light-induced hydrogen production from water when prepared as a composite with titanium dioxide.21 Again, these systems all required the addition of a platinum co-catalyst.

A well-known advantage of organic polymers is that copolymers can be produced over a continuous range of monomer compositions, thus achieving systematic control over physical properties. This continuous tunability is distinct, for example, from crystalline inorganic solids, which often exist as discrete phases with specific physical properties. For example, we demonstrated the fine-tuning of pore size in conjugated microporous polymers (CMPs) by statistical copolymerization.22 Others showed that the fluorescence of microporous polymers can be varied by copolymerization strategies.23 Copolymerization was also used to prepare polymers with tunable gas sorption properties.24 Of particular relevance here, we were able to tune the optical gap for pyrene-based CMPs by statistical copolymerization.25

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

We now report the synthesis of a library of CMP networks via statistical copolymerization and show that the adsorption/emission spectra, and hence the optical gap, can be tuned over a wide range in a continuous fashion. These polymer networks exhibit high levels of porosity of up to 1700 m2 g-1, and they can be used, without the addition of additional metal co-catalysts or photosensitizers, for the photocatalytic generation of hydrogen from water in the presence of a sacrificial electron donor. The materials are stable for several catalytic cycles without any obvious photodegradation. Some copolymers are exclusively active under visible light, rather than UV light, which we believe is unique for organic photocatalysts.

Fifteen polymer networks were synthesized using Pd(0)-catalyzed Suzuki-Miyaura polycondensation26 of 1,4-benzene diboronic acid (1) and/or 1,3,6,8-tetraboronic pinacol ester of pyrene (3) and/or 1,2,4,5-tetrabromobenzene (2) and/or 1,3,6,8-tetrabromopyrene (4) (Figure 1, Table 1).

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**Figure 1.** Synthesis of conjugated copolymer photocatalysts. Suzuki-Miyaura polycondensation produced a library of statistical copolymers with varying ratios of benzene and pyrene (Table 1).

All of the polymers are insoluble in organic solvents and they were characterized by FT-IR spectroscopy and by elemental analysis (see Supporting Information, ESI). Thermogravimetric analysis indicated that the polymers are thermally stable in air up to 300 °C (Figure S-4 and Figure S-5, ESI). Powder X-ray diffraction showed that all materials are amorphous. The polymers were porous to nitrogen at 77 K and give rise to Type-I sorption isotherms, indicating microporosity (pores < 2 nm; Figures S-6–S-10). The apparent Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (SABET) surface areas range from 600 to 1700 m2 g-1 (Table 1). Polymers CP-CMP127 and CP-CMP1025,28 were both synthesized previously; all other networks in the series are first reported here. CP-CMP15 has the same nominal structure as our earlier polypyrene network,25 but the synthetic protocol is different (Suzuki-Miyaura coupling instead of Yamamoto coupling). As a result, the absorption on-set and the photoluminescence maximum for CP-CMP15 are both blue-shifted, suggesting that the polymer microstructure obtained using the Suzuki-Miyaura protocol is subtly different. The UV-visible reflectance spectra (Figure 2a) show a red-shift in the optical absorption edge from 420 to 640 nm with increasing of pyrene content when going from CP-CMP1 to CP-CMP15. These data show that it is possible to fine-tune the optical properties in the CMP networks, and hence the optical gap (Table 2), over a broad range by adjusting the molar ratio of the monomers (Fig. 2, top).

Table 1. Monomer feed ratios for the copolymerization reactions and apparent Brunauer-Emmett-Teller surface areas of the copolymers. The structures of monomers 1–4 are shown in Figure 1.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Copolymer | Relative molar monomer ratio | | | | *SA*BET / m2 g-1 [a] | | |
|  | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | |  |
| CP-CMP1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | 597 |
| CP-CMP2 | 2 | 0.99 | 0 | 0.01 | | 682 |
| CP-CMP3 | 2 | 0.95 | 0 | 0.05 | | 710 |
| CP-CMP4 | 2 | 0.90 | 0 | 0.10 | | 684 |
| CP-CMP5 | 2 | 0.80 | 0 | 0.20 | | 734 |
| CP-CMP6 | 2 | 0.60 | 0 | 0.40 | | 726 |
| CP-CMP7 | 2 | 0.50 | 0 | 0.50 | | 839 |
| CP-CMP8 | 2 | 0.40 | 0 | 0.60 | | 1056 |
| CP-CMP9 | 2 | 0.20 | 0 | 0.80 | | 762 |
| CP-CMP10 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | 995 |
| CP-CMP11 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.05 | 1 | | 770 |
| CP-CMP12 | 1.6 | 0 | 0.2 | 1 | | 957 |
| CP-CMP13 | 1 | 0 | 0.5 | 1 | | 1710 |
| CP-CMP14 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.8 | 1 | | 1525 |
| CP-CMP15 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | 1218 |

[a] Apparent BET surface area, *SA*BET, calculated from the N2 adsorption isotherm.

Time-dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT) cluster calculations (see ESI), using an approach reported previously,29 suggest that the red-shift in the UV-visible spectra with increasing pyrene incorporation is driven by a change in the character of the orbitals contributing to the excitations responsible for the absorption on-set. The highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) of a pyrene-containing system lies higher in energy than its phenylene equivalent. Equally, the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) of a pyrene-containing system lies lower in energy than its phenylene equivalent. Hence, upon increasing incorporation of pyrene, the low-energy excitations are dominated by pyrene contributions, and the absorption on-set shifts to higher wavelengths.

**UV_PL_Photos.tifFigure 2.** Statistical copolymerization allows continuous tuning of the photophysical properties in the photocatalysts. Photographs (top) of the 15 copolymers CP-CMP1 to CP-CMP15, imaged under irradiation with UV light (λexc. = 365 nm); (a) UV-visible absorption spectra of the copolymers measured in the solid state (intensities normalized); (b) Photoluminescence spectra of the copolymers, also measured in the solid state (λexc. = 360 nm) and also normalized (Absolute quantum yields can be found in the Table S-1). A systematic red-shift is observed as the pyrene monomer incorporation is increased.

The photoluminescence spectrum for CP-CMP1, which contains no pyrene, is blue, with a maximum characteristic emission at 445 nm.27 By contrast, the emission for the copolymers with pyrene units (CP-CMP2 through CP-CMP10) show a gradual red-shift from a bluish-green emission at 465 nm (CP-CMP2) to a saturated green/yellow emission at 534 nm (CP-CMP10), and further to a red emission at 588 nm for CP-CMP15 (Figure 2b). We suggested before29 that pyrene CMPs contain cyclic structures, or rings, and that ring-strain manifests itself as a red-shift in the emission spectrum. Recently, Colina and co-workers30 independently came to the same conclusions about the topology and strained nature of pyrene CMPs in their structural modelling work. Hence, the gradual red-shift can probably be explained, as for the shift in the absorption on-set, by the incorporation of the pyrene chromophore itself, coupled with an increase in ring strain down the copolymer series, especially beyond CP-CMP10 (see ESI).

Photocatalytic hydrogen evolution experiments were carried out with these CMPs in the presence of a sacrificial electron donor. Unlike for most previously reported polymer systems, diethylamine and not triethanolamine was selected because it showed the highest photocatalytic activity among a range of sacrificial reagents tested (Figure S-19). This might be due to better wettability or swelling of the polymer network in the water/diethylamine mixture. For CP-CMP10 swelling of the polymer network in the presence solvents has been reported27

All of the CMPs showed steady hydrogen production under illumination with visible light (λ > 420 nm, Table 2), with a gradual increase in the hydrogen evolution rate from CP-CMP1 to CP-CMP10; that is, as the optical gap of the polymer decreased. However, for polymers with even smaller optical gaps (*i.e.*, CP-CMP11 through CP-CMP15), a sudden drop in the photocatalytic performance was observed (Figure 3).

Table 2. Photophysical properties and hydrogen evolution rates for the polymer photocatalysts.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Copolymer | λem  / nm [a] | Optical gap[b] / eV | Total H2 evolved[c] / μmol | H2 evolution rate[c]  / μmol h-1 |
| CP-CMP1 | 445 | 2.95 | 5 | 1.0 ± 0.1 |
| CP-CMP2 | 465 | 2.69 | 8 | 1.4 ± 0.1 |
| CP-CMP3 | 474 | 2.61 | 11 | 1.8 ± 0.2 |
| CP-CMP4 | 483 | 2.54 | 14 | 2.4 ± 0.1 |
| CP-CMP5 | 498 | 2.53 | 17 | 3.0 ± 0.2 |
| CP-CMP6 | 512 | 2.50 | 15 | 2.6 ± 0.2 |
| CP-CMP7 | 517 | 2.47 | 17 | 2.9 ± 0.2 |
| CP-CMP8 | 523 | 2.42 | 35 | 6.0 ± 0.6 |
| CP-CMP9 | 528 | 2.38 | 69 | 10.9 ± 0.1 |
| CP-CMP10 | 534 | 2.33 | 100 | 17.4 ± 0.9 |
| CP-CMP11 | 535 | 2.24 | 11 | 2.0 ± 0.2 |
| CP-CMP12 | 547 | 2.10 | 8 | 1.4 ± 0.2 |
| CP-CMP13 | 558 | 2.07 | 6 | 1.0 ± 0.1 |
| CP-CMP14 | 566 | 1.96 | <0.5 | <0.1 |
| CP-CMP15 | 588 | 1.94 | <1 | 0.2 ± <0.1 |

[a] Photoluminescent emission peak of polymer recorded in the solid state; [b] Calculated from the on-set of the absorption spectrum, see discussion in the computational section of the ESI; [c] Reaction conditions: 100 mg polymer was suspended in 100 mL diethylamine/water solution (20 vol. %), irradiated by 300 W Xe lamp (λ > 420 nm visible filter) for 6 hours.

The amounts of polymer used have not been optimized and therefore all experiments were performed using either 100 mg or 25 mg of catalyst with a fixed ratio of the catalyst amount to volume of water / sacrificial reagent. For comparison, commercial graphitic carbon nitride and poly(*para*-phenylene) were tested with sacrificial reagents and co-catalysts previously employed in literature, using exactly the same set-up as the polymers in this study (see ESI).

Time-dependent DFT cluster calculations31,32 (see ESI) suggested that these CMP materials should have a significant thermodynamic driving force (2–3 V) for the proton reduction half-reaction. As the absorption on-set is red-shifted in the series CP-CMP1 to CP-CMP15, photons in a larger part of the visible spectrum are able to generate electrons that can reduce protons. Hence, one might reasonably expect that the rate of hydrogen production under visible light would increase down the series, and indeed theory agrees with experiment for the series from CP-CMP1 to CP-CMP10. The dramatic drop in hydrogen production for polymers in the series beyond CP-CMP10 (Figure 3) suggests that dark, non-radiative electron-hole recombination in the pyrene-rich materials might become dominant, thus losing most electrons through recombination.

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**Figure 3.** The rate of photocatalytic hydrogen production can be correlated with the optical gap in the polymers. Data shown for networks CP-CMP1 to CP-CMP15 (black squares) and analogous linear polymers (discussed below), P16 to P18 (open squares); all measurements relate to 100 mg catalyst in water containing 20 vol. % diethylamine as an electron donor under filtered, visible irradiation (λ > 420 nm, E < 2.95 eV).

An alternative, kinetic explanation for the peak hydrogen production in CP-CMP10 is that the barrier for electron-transfer between the polymers and the protons increases with increasing pyrene content, thus reducing the amount of hydrogen evolved. We are not at this point able to distinguish between these explanations.

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**Figure 4.** Photocatalytic hydrogen evolution is repeatable over multiple cycles and is mainly caused by visible light, not by UV. (a) Time course of hydrogen production for CP-CMP10 (100 mg) from water containing 20 vol. % diethylamine as an electron donor under visible light (λ > 420 nm, black symbols). The reaction was degassed every 6 hours (dashed line). Open diamonds represent an experiment where a CP-CMP10 (25 mg) suspension was treated with carbon monoxide before the experiment. (b) Time course of H2 production for CP-CMP10 (100 mg) under visible light (λ > 420 nm). The reaction was then degassed and continued under UV light (U-340 filter), whereupon the rate of H2 evolution is almost 30 times lower.

A typical time course for hydrogen production using the CP-CMP10 catalyst under visible-light irradiation (λ > 420 nm) is shown in Figure 4a. The reaction was allowed to proceed for a total of 24 hours with intermittent degassing of the reaction mixture every 6 hours. Continuous hydrogen evolution was observed over the entire time course, even when the reaction was continued for a total of more than 100 hours, without significant decline in activity (Figure S-20). The total amount of hydrogen evolved equates to four times the amount of catalyst employed, indicating that the reaction proceeds photocatalytically. Furthermore, FT-IR, UV-Vis and photoluminescence spectra of the polymer network before and after the reaction showed no obvious signs of photodegradation and the surface area of the catalyst is also retained (Figure S-21 and S-22, S-23). Control experiments, finally, showed that no reaction occurs in the dark, neither at room temperature nor at 45 °C. No hydrogen evolution was observed in the absence of the polymer or when using pure diethylamine without water.

Unlike most examples in the literature, we added no additional noble metal co-catalysts to catalyze the hydrogen evolution. The polymers were, however, prepared *via* palladium-catalyzed Suzuki-Miyaura reactions. We therefore hypothesized that residual palladium metal in the polymers might assist in catalyzing the proton reduction. On measuring the residual metal contents, CP-CMP10 was found to contain a smaller amount of residual palladium than many of the other polymers in the series (0.42 wt. %), despite displaying the highest rate of hydrogen evolution (Figure S-24). This suggests that residual metal is not the sole cause of the maximum hydrogen evolution activity in CP-CMP10. Likewise, when CP-CMP15 was synthesized again but using a palladium-free Yamamoto-protocol (CP-CMP15Y, Figure S-38), an equivalent photocatalytic performance was observed (0.2 µmol h-1) compared to the network synthesized using Suzuki-Miyaura polycondensation.24 None of these results suggest that residual palladium has a significant effect on the rate of hydrogen evolution, but this does not eliminate the possibility that it plays a role in CMP-CMP10 and the other more active photocatalysts. As a direct control experiment, a palladium-free equivalent of CP-CMP10 was prepared (CP-CMP10Y), again using the nickel-catalyzed Yamamoto-protocol. However, in this case the optical properties of CP-CMP10Y were markedly different from those of the Suzuki-Miyaura product, CP-CMP10, and a much lower rate of hydrogen evolution was observed for CP-CMP10Y (0.3 µmol h-1; Figure S-39). This low activity could be rationalized by the optical gap for CP-CMP10Y (2.04 eV; c.f., Fig. 3), and this again illustrates that polymer microstructure can affect absorption/emission spectra. It is unclear, therefore, whether the large drop in photocatalytic activity in CP-CMP10Y with respect to CP-CMP10 is a result of the absence of palladium or its optical properties, or both. We note that CP-CMP14 and CP-CMP15 have similar optical gaps to CP-CMP10Y, and equally low photocatalytic activities (Fig. 3), despite having measurable palladium contents (0.73 and 0.40 wt. %). However, CP-CMP14 and CP-CMP15 are also significantly more pyrene-rich than CP-CMP10Y, and this might lead to subtle microstructural differences, such as ring formation, which could influence charge separation and charge transport. As such, the photocatalytic activity for the polymers may not be a simple function of optical gap and palladium content alone.

To further probe the effect of metal co-catalysts, we tested the hydrogen evolution performance for CP-CMP10 loaded post-synthesis with platinum, using the widely-used method of photocatalytic deposition from H2PtCl6.6,12,19,20,33 However, attempted loading of CP-CMP10 with 3 wt. % platinum seems to be inefficient and the system showed no improvement in hydrogen evolution rate (Figure S-42)34 TEM images seem to indicate that no Pt nanoparticles have been formed during the deposition of Pt as CP-CMP10. The synthesized sample and the Pt-loaded sample seem to contain the same amount of dense metal-particles which are probably the aforementioned Pd nanoparticles (Fig S-43).35 Overall, we see no correlation between photocatalytic activity and metal loading for the polymers in this series (Figure S-24). Hence, it appears that the polymers are effective photocatalysts without any additional metal co-catalyst, and that the rate of hydrogen evolution correlates more strongly with the optical gap than with the residual palladium content. Also a carbon monoxide poisoning experiment (Fig. 4a) did not result in any change to the catalytic activity.

Batch-to-batch and repeat measurements on a sample of CP-CMP10 indicated an average hydrogen evolution rate of 17.4 ± 0.9 μmol h-1. The value is significantly higher than observed for poly(azomethine) networks loaded with 3 wt. % Pt co-catalyst (0.7 μmol h-1)19 and graphitic carbon nitride with 3 wt. % Pt co-catalyst (6.5 μmol h-1 and 10.7 μmol h-1).6,9,34 The rate is similar to other recent reports for carbon nitrides,8,16 although lower than some reports for mesoporous carbon nitrides10 and related materials.12,20 Direct comparison between different datasets, however, is difficult because of variations in the reaction setup,36 and indeed the reported values for carbon nitride itself vary significantly from study to study.6,10,12,34 We note again, however, that other reports involve the addition of around 3 wt. % metal co-catalysts post-synthesis to achieve good hydrogen evolution rates.34

Perhaps the most important feature of our polymers is their photocatalytic activity under visible light. Graphitic carbon nitride is also active under visible light (>420 nm), but it is far more active under UV irradiation.9 This presents a challenge for the effective utilization of the natural solar spectrum, where only 3% or so of the available energy is in the UV range. By contrast, our polymers are mainly active in the visible. For CP-CMP10, replacement of the >420 nm filter with a 710-315 nm filter resulted in a very similar rate of hydrogen production, indicating that UV light with wavelengths lower than 420 nm contributes little to the photocatalysis. Moreover, by using a filter that only transmits UV light (U-340; 270–400 nm, see Figure S44 for transmission characteristics), hydrogen was evolved at a rate of just 0.6 μmol h-1 (Figure 4b). Hence, CP-CMP10 appears to be a true visible light photocatalyst. To our knowledge, this visible light bias is unique among organic photocatalysts for hydrogen evolution.

We also performed studies on oxygen evolution to probe whether full water splitting is possible with the CP-CMP1 and CP-CMP10. However, no O2 was detected under the conditions used. (TD-)DFT-calculations also show that the system lacks driving-force for oxidation of water (see ESI)

Three linear copolymer analogues of CP-CMP10 were synthesized to study the effect of polymer nanostructure on optical properties and on photocatalytic activity (Figure 5). Polymer P16 contains, exclusively, 1,3-substituted pyrene monomer units, while P17 contains only 1,6-linked monomers; P18 has, like CP-CMP10, a statistical mixture of both 1,3- and 1,6-substituents.

C:\Users\ssprick\Desktop\untitled.tif**Figure 5.** Structures of linear copolymer analogues of the CP-CMP10 network.

The absorption on-set for P16 is blue-shifted by 74 nm with respect to CP-CMP10; likewise, P17 is blue-shifted by 41 nm (Figure S-14). The emission maxima are also blue-shifted by 69 nm and 35 nm, respectively, for P16 and P17. The absorption on-set of the statistical copolymer, P18, lies between that of P16 and P17. We believe that these absorption shifts are further evidence for structural elements, such as rings,29 which can form in the network, CP-CMP10, but not in the linear three polymers.

Polymers P16 and P18 showed modest BET surface areas, comparable with other intrinsically porous linear CMPs,37 while P17 was effectively non-porous, perhaps suggesting that the 1,3-pyrene linkages contribute to contortion in the polymer chains, and hence inefficient packing and porosity. When tested as photocatalysts, P16 produced a neglectable amount of hydrogen under visible light (>420 nm). P17 and P18 have average hydrogen evolution rates of 5.0 ± 0.4 μmol h-1 and 3.8 ± 3 μmol h-1 under visible light, but when the >420 filter was replaced with a 315-710 nm filter, a significantly higher rate of 11.7 ± 1.1 μmol h-1 and 5.7 ± 0.5 μmol h-1 were observed. The changes in photocatalytic activity with respect to the CP-CMP10 network can be explained by the differences in the absorption profiles of the various polymers. Both for CP-CMP10 and P17, the use of filters that remove light at wavelengths higher than the polymer absorption maximum significantly reduces the photocatalytic performance (see S-52-S-53).

The good photocatalytic activity of P17 under combined UV and visible light indicates that a low BET surface area (13 m2 g-1) is not necessarily a limiting factor for the performance of these polymers. In fact, no direct correlation between photocatalytic performance and surface area was found for this series of photocatalysts (Figure S-55). In general, however, the ability to introduce a large, distributed interface with water should be an advantage in designing improved organophotocatalysts, both in terms of optimizing mass transport and in allowing strategies such as the introduction of dopants in the micropores. High surface areas should also be an advantage in other heterogeneous photocatalysis applications.38,39

**CONCLUSIONS**

In conclusion, the optical gap in a series of microporous copolymers was fine-tuned over a broad range (1.94–2.95 eV) by varying monomer composition. This optical gap determines the efficiency of the copolymers as photocatalysts for hydrogen evolution. Unlike most hydrogen-producing photocatalysts, certain copolymers are active under visible light, and UV light contributes little to the photocatalytic activity, possibly because higher energy excited states are diverted into pathways that are not suitable for hydrogen generation. These polymers do not require the deposition of an additional metal co-catalyst and deliberate ‘poisoning’ of the polymer with carbon monoxide does not affect the H2 evolution rate. Our modular, chemical strategy has parallels with the chemical synthesis of graphene nanomaterials,40 and synthetic control over electronic structure and microporosity should facilitate the design of improved photocatalysts for overall water splitting in the future.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Full synthetic details and analysis for the polymers, TGA, FTIR, gas sorption, UV/PL spectra, TEM data, further photocatalysis data, and (TD-)DFT calculations. This information is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org/.

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