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OPEN Optimal composition of the poly(triarylamine)-based polymer composite to maximize photorefractive performance

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A holographic display system requires the external diffraction efficiency to be greater than 10% and four orders of magnitude of sensitivity for practical usage. To achieve such requirements, the photorefractive (PR) performance of PR composite based on poly[bis(2,4,6-trimethylpheneyl)amine] (PTAA) has been investigated. In the present report, the change of the content of PTAA as a photoconductive polymer, (2,4,6-trimethylphenyl)diphenylamine (TAA) as a photoconductive plasticizer, and second trap agent bathophenanthroline (BPhen) reasonably optimized the PR response time and external diffraction efficiency. High sensitivity of 1851 cm²J⁻¹ with response time of 494 µs and external diffraction efficiency of 23.9% were achieved at 532 nm and 60V μ m⁻¹ by reducing the content of PTAA and increasing the contents of TAA and BPhen. Decreasing the amount of PTAA and increasing the contents of TAA and BPhen lowered the absorption coefficient, resulting in the high external diffraction efficiency. The narrower distribution of the electronic density of states (DOS) for PTAA/TAA (43.5/20 and 33.5/30) also contributed to the shorter PR response time of hundreds of microseconds.

Photorefractive (PR) polymer composites are prospective candidates for use in holographic three-dimensional (3D) displays that provide realistic images without special eyeglasses¹⁻⁴. PR polymer composites are superior to photopolymers in terms of image-updating capability and low cost¹. PR polymer composites basically consist of photoconductive polymers, nonlinear optical materials, sensitizer, and plasticizer⁵⁻¹⁰. PR phenomena are based on the refractive index modulation through Pockels effect due to the space charge field induced by the redistribution of the photogenerated charge carriers⁵⁻¹⁰. The degree of modulation in refractive index determines the diffraction efficiency, and the speed of the redistribution of photogenerated charge carriers (the formation speed of the space charge field) determines the rise time of optical diffraction and amplification. Brightness of holographic images are related to the high optical diffraction and the smoothness of the dynamic holographic images by the short build up time of refractive index modulation. Time response of PR polymers is in the order of milliseconds or less than millisecond which corresponds to the video rate for holographic 3D display.

Photoconductive polymers (in general, p-type semiconductors) play an important role of the hole transport. The charges induced by the sensitizers are transported along the HOMO (highest occupied molecular orbital) region of the photoconductive polymers. NLO dyes contribute to enhance the refractive index modulation by reorientation under the Pockels effect. Plasticizers decrease $T_{\rm g}$ to improve the reorientation of the NLO dyes. N-type semiconductors are used sensitizers to generate charge carriers. Sensitizers need low LUMO (lowest unoccupied molecular orbital) to sensitize in the wavelength of writing beams. PR performance of PbS nanocrystals doped PR composite has been reported¹¹. Diffraction response with wide range pulse dura-tion has been investigated for photorefractive polymers¹². In a series of research of PR composite based on poly[bis(2,4,6-trimethylpheneyl)amine] (PTAA) in our laboratory, the utilization of the self-assembled monolayer (SAM) between PR composite and indium tin oxide (ITO) electrode drastically reduced the extremely

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Figure 1. Structural formulae of the materials.

large photocurrent¹³, which contributes to the significant improvement of the diffraction response in the order of milliseconds¹⁴. The addition of the second electron trap reagent effectively reduce the photo current to achieve the time response in diffraction in the order of sub-milliseconds^{15,16}; the addition of tris-(8-hydroxyquinoline)aluminum (Alq₃) leads to the PR response of 860 μ s¹⁵, and the addition of bathophenanthroline (BPhen) leads to 397 μ s response time¹⁶, which can be compared with the recent PR sub-millisecond response time of 399 μ s¹¹. However, despite the higher internal diffraction efficiency above 70% was measured, a low external diffraction efficiency below 6% was observed because of the higher absorption coefficient of the PR composites based on PTAA¹⁶. To achieve the external diffraction efficiency greater than 10%, further optimization of each composition for the PR composites based on PTAA is required to decrease the absorption coefficient. Above all, higher external diffraction efficiency will directly improve the sensitivity of PR composites.

In the present report, we optimized the ratio of the PTAA, TAA and BPhen to obtain the enhanced PR performance and achieved the higher external diffraction efficiency of 23.9% and higher sensitivity of $1851 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ J}^{-1}$ at 532 nm and 60 V μ m⁻¹ for the PR composite of PTAA/PDCST/TAA/PCBM/BPhen with weight ratio of 31.5/35/30/0.5/3. The low absorption coefficient by the optimization of the composite is the key point for higher external diffraction efficiency and thus higher sensitivity. The empirical sensitivity, containing the elements of the response time and the external diffraction efficiency, was estimated to indicate the most promising candidate of the PR composite based on PTAA as real-time 3D holographic displays.

Experiments

Preparation of materials and composites. Materials whose structural formulae are shown in Fig. 1 are used in this study. PTAA was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co., USA to use as a photoconductive polymer. PTAA was reprecipitated by dropping PTAA chloroform solution into the excess amount of hexane. Optical nonlinear dye of piperidinodicyanostyrene (PDCST) and photoconductive plasticizer of (2,4,6-trimethylphenyl) diphenylamine (TAA) synthesized in our laboratory were used¹⁴. Phenyl-C₆₁-butyric acid methyl ester (PCBM) as a sensitizer and BPhen as a second electron trap were purchased from Tokyo Kasei Co., Japan. PCBM and BPhen were used as received.

PDCST, PCBM and BPhen were mixed with a fixed ratio of 35, 0.5 and 1 by weight, respectively. The composition ratio of PTAA and TAA were changed to 53.5/10, 43.5/20, 33.5/30 and 23.5/40 by weight. PTAA, PDCST, TAA, PCBM, and BPhen were mixed in a tetrahydrofuran (THF) with stirring for 24 h. Then PR solution was cast on a stage heated at 70 °C for 24 h to obtain PR composite. The same procedure described in previous report¹⁶ was used: prior to the preparation of ITO/sample/ITO device, ITO electrodes were modified with aminopropyltrimethoxysilane (APTMS) to form SAM on a stage heated at 160 °C. Then the samples were sandwiched between two SAM modified ITO electrodes. Teflon spacer was used to adjust the thickness of PR composite film to $50 \,\mu$ m. The more detailed SAM-ITO preparation method is presented in a previous report¹³.

Measurements. Absorption spectrum of each PR composite in the UV-Vis region is recorded on a Ultraviolet/Visible/Near infrared spectrophotometer (Lambda1050, Perkin-Elmer Co., USA). The absorption coefficient α is evaluated using $\alpha = A \ln(10)/d$ with the absorbance A and the thickness d of the PR composite film.

A degenerate four-wave mixing (DFWM) technique is used to evaluate the efficiency for optical diffraction and its response time of the PR composite. *s*-Polarized beams of a are intersected in the PR composite to write PR gratings. The incidence angle of two intersecting beams normal to the PR device is 42.5° and 57.5°. The corresponding internal angles of $\theta_A = 23.42^\circ$ and $\theta_B = 29.74^\circ$ are calculated with an index of refraction, n = 1.7. Laser source is a DPSS laser (25 mW, @ 532 nm, Cobolt AB, Sweden). Laser power per unit area is 0.534 W cm⁻². To read the gratings a *p*-polarized probe beam with much weaker intensity from the same laser source is oppositely propagated through PR device. Grating information is evaluated from the diffracted signal of probe beam. A fast high-voltage amplifier (Trek model 10/10E, USA) is used to supply a rectangular high voltage at 100 Hz to the



Figure 2. UV-Vis absorption spectrum of the PTAA and TAA in THF solution.

PR composites. Two photodiode detectors are used to detect the diffracted and transmitted signals. The internal diffraction efficiency (η) is evaluated using the Eq. (1):

$$\eta(\%) = \frac{I_{\rm d}}{I_{\rm t} + I_{\rm d}} \times 100 \tag{1}$$

where I_d is the intensity of the diffracted beam and I_t is that of the transmitted beam. To estimate the response time (τ) of the optical diffraction, a time trace of η is fitted by a Kohlrausch-Williams-Watts (KWW) stretched exponential function of Eq. (2):

$$\eta(\%) = \eta_0 \left\{ 1 - \exp\left[-\left(\frac{t}{\tau}\right)^{\beta} \right] \right\}$$
(2)

where η_0 is the diffraction efficiency at the steady-state condition, *t* is the time, and β ($0 < \beta \le 1$) is a dispersion parameter deviated from a single exponential fitting related to the release time from the traps.

The external diffraction efficiency η_{ext} is evaluated using Eq. (3) with the internal diffraction efficiency η , absorption coefficient α , thickness of sample device *d*, and the internal angle of beam A θ_{A} :

$$\eta_{\rm ext} = \exp\left(-\frac{\alpha d}{\cos\theta_{\rm A}}\right)\eta\tag{3}$$

The empirical sensitivity S is calculated using Eq. (4) with the external diffraction efficiency η_{ext} , the response time τ , and the laser intensity I (in the present case, $I = 0.534 \text{ Wcm}^{-2}$):

$$S = \frac{\sqrt{\eta_{\text{ext}}}}{I\tau} \tag{4}$$

A current flow on the light illumination (photocurrent) was recorded by a current monitor in a Trek 610E high-voltage amplifier when a DFWM signal was measured.

Results and Discussion

Optimization of the plasticizer content for PR composite based on PTAA. A photorefractive rise time of $397 \,\mu s$ and a high diffraction efficiency of 73% were successfully achieved by inducing a second electron trap BPhen in PR composite based on PTAA¹⁶. However, the low external diffraction efficiency of 6% was caused by the high absorption coefficient of the composite. The external diffraction efficiency is an important parameter for evaluating the device performance. As shown in equation (3), the external diffraction efficiency is significantly influenced by the absorption coefficient at the reading wavelength of the probe beam. The UV-Vis spectrum of the PTAA and TAA in THF solution is shown in Fig. 2. TAA is a monomeric unit of PTAA and functions as a photoconductive plasticizer in the PR composites. PTAA has a broad absorption spectrum below 550 nm, whereas TAA does not have any absorption in the visible region. The wavelength of the writing beam is $532 \,\mathrm{nm}^{16}$. Therefore, the content of PTAA significantly influences the absorption coefficient of the PR composites based on PTAA.

The UV-Vis absorption spectra of the composites of PTAA/TAA (63.5-X/X) are shown in Fig. 3. With reduced content of PTAA (with increasing content of TAA), the absorption coefficient at 532 nm was largely decreased. Figure 4 shows the photograph of each composite after one day of storage in the room temperature of 23 °C. As can be seen in Fig. 4(a-c), the PTAA-based composites show enough clear to see the letters behind them. On the other hand, the PTAA/TAA (23.5/40) sample in Fig. 4(d) becomes opaque because of a phase separation caused



Figure 3. UV-Vis absorption spectra of PR composites based on PTAA.

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vwxyzabc
(a) PTAA/TAA = $53.5/10$ (b) PTAA/TAA = $43.5/20$ (cdefghijklm
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vxyzabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzabcdefghijklmmopqrstuvwxyzabcdefghijkl
vxyzabcd bc ibcdefghijk
(c) PTAA/TAA = 33.5/30 c (d) PTAA/TAA = 23.5/40 bcdefghijk
/xyzabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzabcdefghijk

Figure 4. Photograph of PTAA-based PR composites after one day of storage in the room temperature of 23 °C: (a) PTAA/TAA = 53.5/10, (b) PTAA/TAA = 43.5/20, (c) PTAA/TAA = 33.5/30, and (d) PTAA/TAA = 23.5/40.

by dye aggregation in the sample after one day of storage. The main cause of dye aggregation was the low content of polymer component in the composite.

The plots of photocurrent with the electric field is shown in Fig. 5. The photocurrent is found to decrease with decreasing the content of PTAA. Dielectric breakdown occurred at $25 \text{ V} \mu m^{-1}$ via the dye aggregation in the PTAA/TAA (23.5/40) PR composite.

Diffraction responses are significantly affected by the space charge formed under an intersected optical illumination with applied electric field. To understand the optical diffraction dynamics, the response time profile of the diffraction is investigated as the light or the electric field is turned on. In former report¹⁵, we measured the response times by using both methods. Generally, the former method was considered to be suitable, however, within 20% difference of the response times was found.

Then, the response dynamics were evaluated from the continuous measurements of the diffraction efficiency by turning on and off the rectangular electric field (from 0 to $60 \text{ V} \mu m^{-1}$) at 100 Hz. The plots of the diffraction efficiencies with time are shown for the PR composites with changing the PTAA/TAA ratio between 53.5/10, 43.5/20, and 33.5/30 by wt in Fig. 6. Other weight ratio of PDCST/PCBM/BPhen is fixed 35/0.5/1. The rise and decay of the diffraction efficiency by turning on and off the applied rectangular field are directly related to the presence and absence of space charge field, respectively. Figure 7 shows the build up time profile of the optical



Figure 5. Plots of photocurrent as a function of applied field for PTAA PR composites of PTAA/PDCST/TAA/PCBM/BPhen (53.5/35/10/0.5/1: squares, 43.5/35/20/0.5/1: circles, 33.5/35/30/0.5/1: triangles, 23.5/35/40/0.5/1: inverted triangles).



Figure 6. Left: continuous measurement of diffraction efficiency by turning on and off rectangular applied electric field (from 0 to 60 V μ m⁻¹) at 100 Hz for the PR composites of PTAA/PDCST/TAA/PCBM/BPhen (solid squares: 53.5/35/10/0.5/1, solid circles: 43.5/35/20/0.5/1, solid triangles: 33.5/35/30/0.5/1 by wt.). Right: Extracted profile for one cycle response.

diffraction with time in the logarithmic scale. The obtained optical diffraction curve from the building up region to the saturation region is fitted well by a stretched exponential function of KWW with τ of 422 µs and β =0.98.

The PR quantities and absorption coefficients of the PR composites based on PTAA are summarized in Table 1. The diffraction efficiencies were 16.8, 73.3, and 66.5% for the PTAA/TAA (53.5/10), PTAA/TAA (43.5/20), and PTAA/TAA (33.5/30), respectively. The PR response times were measured to be 1578, 397 and 422 μ s for the PTAA/TAA (53.5/10), PTAA/TAA (43.5/20), and PTAA/TAA (33.5/30), respectively. The diffraction efficiency and response time of the PTAA/TAA (43.5/20) are comparable to those for the PTAA/TAA (33.5/30). However, the external diffraction efficiency of the PTAA/TAA (33.5/30) was measured to be 12.1%, which is twice that of PTAA/TAA (43.5/20). This high external diffraction efficiency is caused by the low absorption coefficient of the PTAA/TAA (33.5/30). The resulting sensitivity, including the parameters of external diffraction efficiency and response time, was calculated to be 1541 cm²J⁻¹ for PTAA/TAA (33.5/30). The short response time and the high external diffraction efficiency resulted in the high sensitivity.

Photorefractive response time. In previous report, we have discussed that the photorefractive response time can be predicted from the photoconductivity using the relation of



Figure 7. The build up time profile of the optical diffraction with time in the logarithmic scale for the PR composite of PTAA/PDCST/TAA/PCBM/BPhen with weight ratio of 33.5/35/30/0.5/1. Solid curve is the fitted KWW plots with τ of 422 µs and β = 0.98.

PTAA/TAA (wt%)	lpha (cm ⁻¹)	Δn	$\Gamma(\mathrm{cm}^{-1})$	$\eta / \eta_{ m ext}$ (%)	au (µs)/ eta	S (cm ² J ⁻¹)
53.5/10	625	$1.28 imes10^{-3}$	63	16.8/0.6	1578/0.93	89
43.5/20	462	$3.13 imes10^{-3}$	156	73.3/5.9	397/0.54	1145
33.5/30	313	$2.90 imes10^{-3}$	215	66.5/12.1	422/0.98	1541
23.5/40	223			-*		

Table 1. PR quantities and absorption coefficient for the PR composites based on PTAA with various contents of TAA. *Dielectric breakdown below 25 $V\,\mu m^{-1}$.

PTAA/TAA (wt%)	$E_0 (V \mu m^{-1})$	<i>I</i> _p (μA)	J _{ph} (μA cm ⁻²)	$\sigma_{\rm ph}({\rm nScm^{-1}})$	$arphi_{ m ph}$	$\eta_{ m p}$	G	$T_{\rm i}({\rm cm}^{-3})$	E_q (Vµm ⁻¹)	au (µs)	$ au_{ m G}$ (µs)	$N_{\rm c} ({\rm s}^{-1} {\rm cm}^{-3})$
53.5/10	60	86	3927	6.54	0.0063	0.0256	0.245	9.48×10^{14}	2.3	1578	47	$6.0 imes10^{17}$
43.5/20	60	53	2420	4.03	0.0046	0.0158	0.290	8.00×10^{14}	1.9	397	77	$2.0 imes10^{18}$
33.5/30	60	36	1644	2.74	0.0046	0.0107	0.428	$5.42 imes10^{14}$	1.3	422	113	$1.3 imes10^{18}$

Table 2. Parameters related to the photocurrent and PR properties in the PR composites based on PTAA with various contents of TAA.



where $\tau_{\rm G}$ is the build-up time to establish the steady-state space-charge field^{15,16}. Here $\varepsilon_{\rm r}$ is a dielectric constant, and ε_0 is permeability in vacuum. The trap density $T_{\rm i}$ at initial stage in Schildkraut's model¹⁷ is related to the internal photocurrent efficiency $\varphi_{\rm ph}$ (*E*) as

$$\sigma_{\rm ph}(E) = G\eta_{\rm p} \tag{6}$$

where *G* is the gain factor for photoconductivity, $G = \frac{\varepsilon_F \varepsilon_0 E_0 \, ^{15,18}}{eLT_i}$. Here E_0 is the applied electric field, *e* is the elementary charge, and *L* is the thickness of the PR sample. $\varphi_{\rm ph}(E)$ is also defined as $\varphi_{\rm ph}(E) = \frac{I_{\rm ph}h\nu}{eI_0\alpha L} = \frac{\sigma_{\rm ph}E_0h\nu}{eI_0\alpha L}$, where $I_{\rm ph}$ is the photocurrent per unit area, $\sigma_{\rm ph}$ is the photoconductivity, *h* is the Planck constant, ν is the optical frequency of the illuminated light, I_0 is the light intensity, and α is the absorption coefficient^{15,16,18,19}. The detailed procedures were described in previous reports^{15,16}.

Table 2 summarizes the value of $\varphi_{\rm ph}$ calculated. With the $\varepsilon_{\rm r}$ of 3.5 and the $T_{\rm i}$ value of 8.00 × 10¹⁴ cm^{-3 16}, $\eta_{\rm p}$ is estimated for the PR composite of PTAA/TAA (43.5/20). Assuming that $\eta_{\rm p}$ is proportional to $I_{\rm p}$ ($J_{\rm ph}$) and doesn't not exceed a unity, the trap densities of $T_{\rm i}$ are estimated at 9.48 × 10¹⁴ cm⁻³ for PTAA/TAA (53.5/10) and 5.42 × 10¹⁴ cm⁻³ for PTAA/TAA (33.5/30). The calculated $\eta_{\rm p}$, G, $T_{\rm i}$, $E_{\rm q}$, and $\tau_{\rm G}$ are summarized for each sample in Table 2.



Figure 8. Hole-hopping mechanism of PTAA-based PR composite: (**a**) composite with high content of PTAA; (**b**) composite with low content of PTAA. The CT complex between PTAA and BPhen is omitted for simplification.

Here, the measured response τ is much slower than $\tau_{\rm G}$. For the estimation of $\tau_{\rm G}$, all charge carriers optically generated contribute to fill the traps $\tau_{\rm G} = \frac{T_{\rm i}}{\left[\frac{\alpha \eta_{\rm P} f_0}{h_{\nu}}\right]^{20}}$. However, for the present PR polymer composites, this assumption of the present PR polymer composites.

τ

tion is rarely valid; thus, we introduce the reasonable relation of

$$=\frac{T_{\rm i}}{N_{\rm c}}\tag{7}$$

in previous report¹⁶. Here, $N_{\rm C}$ is the total number of charge carriers trapped per unit volume. Evaluation of $N_{\rm C}$ for three PTAA-based PR composites is as follows; $N_{\rm C}$ (PTAA/TAA (53.5/10)) $< N_{\rm C}$ (PTAA/TAA (33.5/30)) $< N_{\rm C}$ (PTAA/TAA (43.5/20)). The present evaluation of $N_{\rm C}$ means that higher PTAA content leads to lower trap density, which will contradict the common understanding for trap density in polymers. The trap density in polymers is commonly understood to be higher than that for a low molecular weight monomeric unit compound, i.e., the trap density of the PR composite with higher content of PTAA will be higher. However, the present results show that PTAA/TAA (53.5/10) has lower $N_{\rm C}$. Thus, another reasonable explanation should be considered.

In the present case, a total number of hopping sites of TAA monomeric units per unit volume in the PR composite of PTAA/TAA is constant at 1.6×10^{21} cm⁻³ for three PR composites of PTAA/TAA (53.5/10, 43.5/20, 33.5/30). On one hand, the total number of hopping sites is calculated using composite density, molecular weight of TAA, total weight percentages of PTAA and TAA, and Avogadro's number. On the other hand, the energy distribution of each hopping site will be significantly affected by the numbers of the components of TAA and PTAA. The energy distribution of hopping sites in polymer is commonly wide compared to the corresponding monomeric low molecular weight compound. Thus, the electronic density of state (DOS) of hopping sites becomes wider for the polymer-rich PR composite. In a former study by our laboratory²¹, narrower DOS led to the shorter response time, whereas wider DOS led to the longer response time for the PR composite of poly(4-(diphenylamino)benzyl acrylate) (PDAA) and (4-(diphenylamino)phenyl)methanol (TPAOH). PDAA is photoconductive polymer, and TPAOH is a monomeric unit of PDAA that functions as a photoconductive plasticizer, i.e., the decrease of PDAA content led to narrower DOS bandwidth. The narrower DOS distribution results in the faster charge transport and shorter response time. The similarity between PTAA/TAA and PDAA/TPAOH assumes that the same phenomenon occurs in the PR composite based on PTAA/TAA. The predicted energy distribution of hopping sites for the PR composite based on PTAA/TAA is shown in Fig. 8. A higher content of PTAA in the case of PTAA/TAA (53.5/10) results in a wider distribution of DOS, leading to the slower response of diffraction. In contrast, the lower content of PTAA in the case of PTAA/TAA (43.5/20) and PTAA/TAA (33.5/30) gives a narrower distribution of DOS, leading to the faster response of diffraction. The PR diffraction response of PTAA/ TAA (43.5/20) and PTAA/TAA (33.5/30) was nearly equivalent; thus, 20 wt% of TAA is sufficient for forming a narrower distribution of DOS in PTAA/TAA PR composite.

Optimizing the content of BPhen. For further optimization of the PR composites based on PTAA/TAA, the effect of the BPhen content on PR performances is investigated. In former report¹⁶ on PR composites based on PTAA, by inducing BPhen as the second electron trap, a sub-millisecond PR response with decreasing photocurrent was achieved. By adding a higher content of BPhen and decreasing the content of PTAA, lower absorption coefficient and photocurrent is expected, leading to higher external diffraction efficiency.

The PR parameters and related quantities of the composites are summarized when the content of BPhen is changed from 1 to 5 wt% in Table 3. Increasing the content of BPhen, the absorption coefficient and the photocurrent of PR composites are decreased. The obtained results of $\eta_{\text{ext}} \tau$ and S are plotted as a function of BPhen content in Fig. 9. η_{ext} is increased with increasing content of BPhen, and longer τ was measured. A maximum

BPhen content (wt%)	lpha (cm ⁻¹)	<i>I</i> _p (μA)	Δn	$\eta\left(\eta_{\mathrm{ext}} ight)$ (%)	au (µs)/ eta	$S(cm^2 J^{-1})$
1	313	36	2.90×10^{-3}	66.5 (12.1)	422/0.98	1541
3	205	22	3.12×10^{-3}	73.1 (23.9)	494/0.98	1851
5	191	14	3.14×10^{-3}	73.7 (26.0)	573/0.98	1664

Table 3. PR parameters and absorption coefficient and photocurrent in the PR composites based on PTAA with various contents of BPhen.



Figure 9. Plots of external diffraction efficiency, response time, and sensitivity as a function of BPhen content under a rectangular applied field at a frequency of 100 Hz (from 0 to 60 V μ m⁻¹).

sensitivity of $1851 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ J}^{-1}$ is calculated for the PR composite of PTAA/PDCST/TAA/PCBM/BPhen with weight ratio of 31.5/35/30/0.5/3.

Conclusion

We have investigated the effects of the composition of each component of PTAA, PDCST, TAA, PCBM, and BPhen on the PR performance, especially the external diffraction efficiency and the sensitivity. By optimizing the contents of TAA and BPhen, higher PR performances were achieved: response time of 494 μ s, external diffraction efficiency of 23.9%, and sensitivity of 1851 cm²J⁻¹ at 60 V μ m⁻¹ for the PR composite of PTAA/PDCST/TAA/PCBM/BPhen with weight ratio of 31.5/35/30/0.5/3. The high external diffraction efficiency was caused by the reduction of the absorption coefficient of the PR composite based on PTAA by decreasing the contents of PTAA and BPhen. The small content of PTAA also contributed to the short response time by forming a narrower DOS distribution.

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Author Contributions

K.M. planned the research and did the experiments. N.T. directed and coordinated the research. I.N. measured absorption spectra. K.V.T.K. made PR samples. N.T., K.M., K.K., and W.S. discussed the research results. K.M. and N.T. wrote the manuscript.

Additional Information

Competing Interests: The authors declare no competing interests.

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