Supplementary Materials

## Effective Reduction of Volumetric Thermal Expansion of Aromatic Polyimide Films by Incorporating Inter-chain Crosslinking

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Figure S1. Mid-IR-ATR spectra of (a) PPD-PI and (b) MPD-PI films cured at different temperatures.



**Scheme S1.** Structures of model compounds used for the DFT calculation to estimate the packing coefficients before and after crosslink reactions. (**a**) Model-A (before crosslinking) and (**b**, **c**) Model-B and -C (after crosslink reactions which formed a fused naphthalene or a biphenyl structures).

## • Calculation of intrinsic birefringence $(\Delta n^0)$ using anisotropic molecular polarizability $(\alpha_{ll}$ and $\alpha_{\perp})$

**Table S1** shows the molecular polarizabilities ( $\alpha_{11}$ ,  $\alpha_{22}$ ,  $\alpha_{33}$ ), intrinsic refractive indices parallel and perpendicular to the molecule long axis ( $n^{0}_{//}$ ,  $n^{0}_{\perp}$ ), the intrinsic birefringence ( $\Delta n^{0}$ ) and van der Waals volume ( $V_{vdw}$ ) of Model-A, -B, and -C. The values of  $\alpha_{11}$ ,  $\alpha_{22}$ ,  $\alpha_{33}$  were obtained from the DFT calculations, and those of  $n^{0}_{//}$ ,  $n^{0}_{\perp}$  were obtained based on the following equations by using experimental average refractive index ( $n_{av}$ ), in which the  $n_{avs}$  of Model-A, -B, and -C were assumed as same as that of PPD-300.

$$n_{//}^{0} = \left[\frac{\alpha_{//}}{\alpha_{\rm av}}(n_{\rm av}^{2} - 1) + 1\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$
(S1)

$$n_{\perp}^{0} = \left[\frac{\alpha_{\perp}}{\alpha_{\rm av}}(n_{\rm av}^{2} - 1) + 1\right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$
(S2)

$$\alpha_{//} = \alpha_{11}, \alpha_{\perp} = \frac{\alpha_{22} + \alpha_{33}}{2}, \alpha_{av} = \frac{\alpha_{11} + \alpha_{22} + \alpha_{33}}{3}$$
(S3)

The  $\Delta n^{\circ}$  is given by

$$\Delta n^{\circ} = n_{//}^0 - n_{\perp}^0 \tag{S4}$$

**Table S1.** Calculated values of average molecular polarizability ( $\alpha_{av}$ ), principal values of polarizability tensor ( $\alpha_{11}$ ,  $\alpha_{22}$ ,  $\alpha_{33}$ ), van der Waals volume ( $V_{vdw}$ ),  $\alpha_{av}/V_{vdw}$  values, intrinsic refractive indices parallel and perpendicular to the molecule long axis ( $n^{0}_{//}$ ,  $n^{0}_{\perp}$ ), and intrinsic birefringence ( $\Delta n^{0}$ ) of Model-A, -B, and –C. The calculation procedures were reported elsewhere.[13]

Model	<b>Q</b> av (ų)	(α11, (Å <sup>3</sup> )	<b>Q</b> 22, (Å <sup>3</sup> )	α33) (Å <sup>3</sup> )	Vvdw (Å <sup>3</sup> )	αav/ Vvdw	$n^0_{av}$	n <sup>0</sup> //	$n^0 \bot$	$\Delta n^0$
Α	52.7	90.0	44.6	23.3	330.1	0.160	1.743	2.118	1.515	0.602
В	54.5	90.2	47.0	26.3	350.6	0.155	1.715	2.052	1.514	0.539
С	53.5	68.2	53.3	39.0	378.8	0.141	1.633	1.767	1.560	0.208



Figure S2. Calculated far-IR absorption spectra of the model depicted in Fig. 3(a).



**Figure S3.** Calculated vibration modes of representative far-IR absorption peaks of the model depicted in Fig. 3(a).



Figure S4. Calculated far-IR absorption spectra of model compounds for PPD-PI and MPD-PI.



**Figure S5.** Calculated vibration modes of representative far-IR absorption peaks of the models depicted in Fig. S4.