# Density Functional Theory (DFT) Study on $\alpha, \alpha$-Bis(2-benzothiophen-1-yl)-4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4$b^{\prime}$ ]dithiophene Derivatives for Optoelectronic Devices 

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## ABSTRACT

Bis(2-benzothiophen-1-yl)-4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4-b']dithiophene derivatives comprised of three series; bis(2-thienyl)-4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4-b]dithiopene (BTDT), diphenyl-4Hcyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4-b]dithiophene (DPDT) and bis(2-benzothiophen-1-yl)-4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4-b]dithiophene (BBDT) have been studied using Density Functional Theory (B3LYP/6-31G**). In each series, molecules with $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridge exhibited the lowest band gap; for instance in BBDT series, the energy band gap could be arranged as 2.29, 2.23 and 1.66 eV for $\mathrm{CH}_{2}, \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ and $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridge respectively. The low band gaps calculated for BBDT-C=S (1.66 eV) and BTDT-C=S (1.82 eV) could facilitate photo-excited electron transfer as one the criteria for a molecule to be used in photovoltaic devices. Also, the results showed that longest UV-vis absorption wavelength was observed for molecules with $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridge, i.e. $1013.66,874.75$ and 1097.66 nm for BTDT, DPDT and BBDT respectively. The polarizability $\left(\alpha_{0}\right)$ valves calculated for the molecules follow as $-\mathrm{CH}_{2}<\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}<\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridge in each series, indicating that the higher the polarizability ( $\alpha_{0}$ ) valve the longer the $\lambda_{\text {max }} \mathrm{nm}$ and the lower the energy band gap. The magnitude of the molecular hyperpolarizability $\beta_{0}$ showed that molecular structures with $-\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ bridge could be best NLO material in each series.

Keywords: $\alpha, \alpha$-bis(2-benzothiophen-1-yl)-4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4-b']dithiophene; electronic properties, NLO, DFT

## INTRODUCTION

Since the discovery of organic $\pi$-conjugated molecules, polythiophenes have become one of the most interesting research topics in the fields of chemistry physics and materials science as most promising materials for the optoelectronic device technology, such as LEDs, p-channel transistors (TFTs), and solar cell [1-10]. The eligibility of oligothiophenes ( $\pi$-center) for potential property modulator is associated with the role of sulfur d-orbitals that mix well with aromatic p-orbitals [11,12]. However, polythiophenes are highly amorphous; oligothiophenes are not amorphous and can be synthesized as well defined compounds. Recently, many researchers have become interested in synthesizing short-chain optoelectronic compounds based on oligothiophenes [13-18]. This has led to modeling of low molecular weight thiophene based molecules using various theoretical methods to design thiophene derivatives with superior quality as optoelectronic molecules [17, 19-21]. One of such research was the study

[^0][^1]of some bridged oligothiophene octamers with bridges containing electron-accepting groups [22-25] and bridged dithiophene S-oxide analogues [26-28].

Therefore, in this work, the structure and electronic properties of bis(2-benzothiophen-1-yl)-4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4-b]dithiophene (BBDT), diphenyl-4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4b]dithiophene (DPDT) and bis(2-thienyl)-4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4-b]dithiophene (BTDT) derivatives with $\mathrm{CH}_{2}, \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}, \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ bridge are examined. These light weight molecules are modeled in order to modulate the band gap which is one of the intrinsic properties of conducting materials.


Figure 1. Schematic structure and atomic numbering of studied molecules: $\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{CH}_{2}, \mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$,
$\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ and $\mathrm{A}=$ thiophene, 2-benzothiophene or benzene

## EXPERIMENT

## Computational methods

The equilibrium geometries and the frequencies for all the studied molecules were fully optimized at density functional theory (Beckes's three-parameter hybrid functional [29]) employing the Lee, Yang and Parr correlation functional B3LYP [30]). The basis set 6-31G** was used for all atoms in the calculations. Single point energy calculations were performed on the optimized geometries of these molecules at DFT level of theories. The absorption transitions were calculated from the optimized geometry in the ground state $\mathrm{S}_{0}$ using TD-B3LYP/6-31G**. The convergence criteria for the energy calculations and geometry optimizations used in the density functional methods were default parameters in the Spartan 14 program [31].

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

## Geometries

The schematic structure of the studied molecules with numbering displayed in Figure 1 are in three series namely BBDT-X, DPDT-X and BTDT-X (where X is the bridge). The geometries of these molecules calculated at B3LYP/6-31G** are shown in Table 1. The effect of X and A on the $\pi$-center geometry (i.e. 4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4-b]dithiophene) would be discussed separately for proper understanding. In the Table 1, both X and A have effect on the $\pi$-center geometry, although X has profound much effect. For a particular X , say $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$, the geometries of BBDT and BTDT are similar but quite different from that of DPDT. The major differences observed in bond lengths for both BBDT and BTDT are S-C, $\mathrm{C}_{4}-\mathrm{C}_{5}$ and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{A}$ bonds. For instance, $\mathrm{C}_{1}-\mathrm{S}_{1}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5}-\mathrm{S}_{2}\right), \mathrm{C}_{4}-\mathrm{C}_{5}$ and $\mathrm{C}_{1}-\mathrm{A}$ are $1.776 \AA(1.727 \AA), 1.438 \AA$ and $1.446 \AA$ for BBDT and $1.772 \AA(1.725 \AA), 1.435 \AA$ and $1.445 \AA$ for BTDT. However, in terms of bond angles and dihedral angles, there are no significant differences in their bond angles of these molecules, though BBDT differs in dihedral angles compared to others. In general, the $\pi$-center of BBDT$\mathrm{CH}_{2}$, BTDT- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ and DPDT- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ are more planar than other molecules (Table 1).

## Electronic properties

The highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO), lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) and HOMO-LUMO band gaps are shown in Figure 2. The band gaps for BBDT series are $2.29 \mathrm{eV}, 1.66 \mathrm{eV}$ and 2.23 eV for BBDT- $\mathrm{CH}_{2}, \mathrm{BBDT}-\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ and BBDT- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ respectively.

For DPDT series, the band gaps are $3.33 \mathrm{eV}, 2.08 \mathrm{eV}$ and 2.69 eV for DPDT- $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$, DPDT- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ and DPDT- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ respectively. In case of BTDT series, the band gaps are $2.95 \mathrm{eV}, 1.82 \mathrm{eV}$ and 2.46 eV for $\mathrm{BTDT}-\mathrm{CH}_{2}$, BTDT- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ and BTDT- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ respectively. Furthermore, there is destabilization of the HOMO and LUMO in the molecules with $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ and $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridges which led to lowering of band gaps compared to $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ bridge. This could be linked to the electronwithdrawing effect of $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ and $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ bridges. In each series, molecule with $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridge has lowest band gap. Therefore, the band gaps could be arranged in order $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}<\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}<\mathrm{CH}_{2}$. The BBDT molecules have the overall lowest band gaps (Figure 2). The calculated band gaps values for BBDT-C=S and BTDT-C=S lie within compounds employed in solar cells, i.e. band gap $<$ 1.9 eV ) [32] and optical compounds [33,34]. Also, the LUMO energy levels of the these molecules are sufficiently higher than the conduction band edge of $\mathrm{TiO}_{2}(-4.0 \mathrm{eV},[35])$ and PCBM ( $-3.7 \mathrm{eV}[36,37]$ ), this could facilitate photo-excited electron transfer from these molecules to $\mathrm{TiO}_{2}$ (or to PCBM) as one the criteria for a molecule to be used in photovoltaic devices. Figure 3 shows the frontier orbitals of the studied molecules, It is observed that the HOMOs are $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}$ bonding and $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ anti-bonding while the LUMOs are $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{C}$ bonding and $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{C}$ anti-bonding. The HOMO spreads over the entire molecule, however LUMO are essentially on $\pi$-center with contribution from lone pair electrons for $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ and $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridge.

The absorption peaks, oscillation strength and percentage of the molecular orbitals involved in transition calculated for BTDT, BBDT and DPDT at TD-B3LYP/6-31G** are displayed in Table 2. The oscillator strength values (O.S), a parameter that shows the probability of the transition (i.e. corresponding to a fraction of negative charges, electrons) which accomplishes the transition in question (oscillate) reveals that $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ bridge molecules have the highest probability of electrons transition from ground state to the excited state. Therefore, oscillator strength (OS) values $<0.005$ are considered to be transition arising from low absorption bands in this paper. For BTDT series, BTDT-CH2 has two strong absorption (i.e. $>0.005 \mathrm{O} . \mathrm{S}$ ) at 270.85 and 413.51 nm arising from HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (91\%) and HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (97\%) respectively; the longest $\lambda_{\max }$ with highest O.S is characterized as $\pi-\pi^{*}$ transition arising from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO. For BTDT-C=S, three strong absorption peaks are identified at 370.21, 392.42 and 1013.66 nm with O.S values of $0.7145,0.6385$ and 0.0478 respectively. The absorption peak with highest O.S is characterized as $\pi-\pi^{*}$ and $n-\pi^{*}$ transitions arise from HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (73\%) and HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 ( $21 \%$ ); 392.42 nm peak arises from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (64\%), HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (20\%) and HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (11\%) and 1013.66 nm peak arises from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO ( $97 \%$ ). For BTDT-C=O, 317.60, 363.64 and 613.57 nm are three absorption peaks with O.S higher than 0.005 arising from HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO ( $70 \%$ ) and HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 ( $16 \%$ ) for 317.60 nm absorption peak, HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 ( $89 \%$ ) for 363.64 nm absorption peak characterized as $\pi-\pi^{*}$ transition and 613.57 nm absorption peak from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (93\%) (Table 2a).

Table 1. Selected geometries of the studied molecules at B3LYP/6-31G** level: Bond length $(\AA)$, bond angle and dihedral angle $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$

|  | $\mathrm{A}=$ Thiophene |  |  | A = 2-Benzothiophene |  |  | A = Benzene |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Bond length | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ | $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ | $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ | $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ |
| $\mathrm{C}_{1}-\mathrm{S}_{1}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6}-\mathrm{S}_{2}\right)$ | 1.774 | 1.777 | 1.772 | 1.774 | 1.778 | 1.776 | 1.775 | 1.777 | 1.770 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{4}-\mathrm{S}_{1}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5}-\mathrm{S}_{2}\right)$ | 1.714 | 1.715 | 1.725 | 1.715 | 1.714 | 1.727 | 1.714 | 1.715 | 1.727 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{1}-\mathrm{C}_{2}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6}-\mathrm{C}_{7}\right)$ | 1.377 | 1.381 | 1.383 | 1.383 | 1.385 | 1.383 | 1.378 | 1.382 | 1.380 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{2}-\mathrm{C}_{3}\left(\mathrm{C}_{7}-\mathrm{C}_{8}\right)$ | 1.412 | 1.410 | 1.409 | 1.414 | 1.410 | 1.409 | 1.412 | 1.407 | 1.411 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{3}-\mathrm{C}_{4}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5}-\mathrm{C}_{8}\right)$ | 1.388 | 1.382 | 1.385 | 1.391 | 1.389 | 1.385 | 1.388 | 1.381 | 1.384 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{4}-\mathrm{C}_{5}$ | 1.452 | 1.454 | 1.435 | 1.451 | 1.455 | 1.438 | 1.452 | 1.454 | 1.440 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{3}-\mathrm{X}\left(\mathrm{C}_{8}-\mathrm{X}\right)$ | 1.479 | 1.506 | 1.516 | 1.479 | 1.508 | 1.515 | 1.478 | 1.507 | 1.515 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{1}-\mathrm{A}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6}-\mathrm{A}\right)$ | 1.459 | 1.458 | 1.445 | 1.464 | 1.463 | 1.446 | 1.465 | 1.464 | 1.465 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{1} \mathrm{~S}_{1} \mathrm{C}_{4}\left(\mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6}\right)$ | 91.21 | 91.34 | 90.80 | 91.40 | 91.34 | 90.86 | 91.28 | 91.42 | 90.97 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{1} \mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{3}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{C}_{8}\right)$ | 112.63 | 113.65 | 113.07 | 112.71 | 113.98 | 113.15 | 112.76 | 112.95 | 113.13 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{C}_{4}\left(\mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{C}_{5}\right)$ | 113.37 | 113.78 | 113.00 | 113.45 | 113.64 | 113.06 | 113.34 | 113.62 | 113.13 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{C}_{5}\left(\mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{C}_{4}\right)$ | 108.64 | 109.56 | 109.35 | 108.63 | 109.34 | 109.26 | 108.62 | 109.40 | 109.24 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{XC}_{8}$ | 104.61 | 103.73 | 101.80 | 104.59 | 103.76 | 101.80 | 104.57 | 103.86 | 101.78 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{1} \mathrm{~S}_{1} \mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{C}_{5}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{C}_{4}\right)$ | 0.56 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.76 | 0.00 | 0.93 | 0.51 | 0.00 | 0.41 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{1} \mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{X}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{X}\right)$ | 178.26 | 179.96 | 180.00 | 179.99 | 180.00 | 177.01 | 178.94 | 180.00 | 179.20 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{C}_{5}\left(\mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{C}_{4}\right)$ | 178.63 | 179.84 | 180.00 | 179.89 | 180.00 | 177.16 | 179.47 | 180.00 | 179.76 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{1} \mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{C}_{4}\left(\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{C}_{5}\right)$ | 0.30 | 0.03 | 0.00 | -0.05 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.02 | 0.00 | -0.06 |
| $\mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{XC}_{8}\left(\mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{XC}_{3}\right)$ | -0.18 | 0.21 | 0.00 | 0.22 | 0.00 | 0.34 | -0.38 | 0.00 | -0.45 |
| $\mathrm{S}_{1} \mathrm{C}_{4} \mathrm{C}_{3} \mathrm{X}\left(\mathrm{S}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{5} \mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{X}\right)$ | -179.14 | -179.9 | 180.00 | 179.45 | 180.00 | -178.54 | -179.63 | 180.00 | -179.75 |
| $\mathrm{S}_{1} \mathrm{C}_{1} \mathrm{C}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{3}\left(\mathrm{~S}_{2} \mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{C}_{7} \mathrm{C}_{8}\right)$ | 0.12 | -0.10 | 0.00 | 0.57 | 0.00 | 0.59 | -0.35 | 0.00 | 0.36 |



Figure 2. Frontier molecular orbital energy diagram


Figure 3. The contour plots of HOMO and LUMO orbitals BTDT, BBDT and DPDT series


Figure 3. The contour plots of HOMO and LUMO orbitals BTDT, BBDT and DPDT series (continued)

Table 2a. Calculated absorption peaks, oscillation strength and Molecular orbitals (MOs) involved in transition calculated for BTDT at TD-B3LYP/6-31G**

| $\lambda_{\text {max }}(\mathrm{mn})$ | OS | MOs involved in transition |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ |  |  |
| 270.85 | 0.0058 | HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (91\%) |
| 289.75 | 0.0022 | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (57\%) |
|  |  | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (30\%) |
| 290.77 | 0.0012 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2 (73\%) |
| 352.92 | 0.0012 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (61\%) |
|  |  | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (37\%) |
| 413.51 | 1.8681 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (97\%) |
| $\mathbf{C}=\mathbf{S}$ |  |  |
| 369.43 | 0.0011 | HOMO-5 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (53\%) |
|  |  | HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (46\%) |


| 370.21 | 0.7145 | HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (73\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 ( $21 \%$ ) |
| 392.42 | 0.6385 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (64\%) |
|  |  | HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (20\%) |
|  |  | HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (11\%) |
| 1013.66 | 0.0478 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (97\%) |
| $\mathrm{C}=0$ |  |  |
| 316.82 | 0.0020 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2 (59\%) |
|  |  | HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (23\%) |
| 317.60 | 0.1944 | HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (70\%) |
|  |  | HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (16\%) |
| 363.64 | 1.1390 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (89\%) |
| 613.57 | 0.2513 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (93\%) |

Table 2b. Calculated absorption peaks, oscillation strength and Molecular orbitals (MOs) involved in transition calculated for BBDT at TD-B3LYP/6-31G**

| $\lambda_{\text {max }}(\mathbf{m n})$ | OS | MOs involved in transition |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| $\mathbf{3 0 9 . 8 7}$ | 0.0301 | $\mathbf{C H}_{\mathbf{2}}$ |
|  |  | $\begin{array}{l}\text { HOMO-2 } \rightarrow \text { LUMO (48\%) } \\ \text { HOMO } \rightarrow \text { LUMO+4 (21\%) } \\ \text { HOMO } \rightarrow \text { LUMO+2 (11\%) }\end{array}$ |
|  |  |  |
| HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (10\%) |  |  |$)$

All transitions are from low absorption band in BBDT series. For BBDT- $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$, the 349.02 nm absorption peak (with 0.1348 O.S value) arises from HOMO+1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1(79\%) and HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (19\%); 374.20 nm absorption peak (with 0.1874 O.S value) arises from
$\mathrm{HOMO} \rightarrow \mathrm{LUMO}+2(79 \%)$ and 491.72 nm with highest O.S value is characterized as $\pi-\pi^{*}$ transition arise from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO ( $97 \%$ ). For BBDT-C=S, the 464.23 nm absorption peak (with highest O.S value) is characterized as $\pi-\pi^{*}$ transition arising from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 ( $95 \%$ ); 484.48 nm absorption peak is from HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO ( $97 \%$ ) and 1097.66 nm (the longest absorption peak) is from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (97\%). For BBDT-C=O, 389.60, 413.60, 451.32 and 671.35 nm absorption peaks are from HOMO-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (88\%), HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO +2 (74\%), HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (91\%) and HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (92\%) respectively. The 451.32 nm absorption peak with highest $\mathrm{O} . \mathrm{S}$ value is characterized as $\pi-\pi^{*}$ transition (Table 2b).

Table 2c. Calculated absorption peaks, oscillation strength and Molecular orbitals (MOs) involved in transition calculated for DPDT at TD-B3LYP/6-31G**

| $\lambda_{\text {max }}(\mathbf{m n})$ | OS | MOs involved in transition |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{2 8 1 . 1 1}$ | 0.0020 | $\mathbf{C H}_{\mathbf{2}}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 9 0 . 9 3}$ | 0.0061 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+4 (68\%) |
| $\mathbf{2 9 7 . 8 4}$ | 0.0132 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+3 (87\%) |
| $\mathbf{3 1 4 . 2 1}$ | 0.0033 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+2 (83\%) |
|  |  | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (72\%) |
| $\mathbf{3 7 7 . 9 8}$ | 1.7160 | HOMO-1 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (24\%) |
|  |  | C=SOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (97\%) |
| $\mathbf{3 4 2 . 6 9}$ | 1.2243 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (48\%) |
|  |  | HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (24\%) |
| $\mathbf{3 6 0 . 4 3}$ | 0.0486 | HOMO-7 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (58\%) |
|  |  | HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (65\%) |
| $\mathbf{3 6 9 . 8 5}$ | 0.0449 | HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (32\%) |
|  |  | HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (41\%) |
| $\mathbf{8 7 4 . 7 5}$ | 0.0371 | HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (35\%) |
|  |  | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (23\%) |
| $\mathbf{3 0 0 . 9 2}$ | 0.5375 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (97\%) |
| $\mathbf{3 1 0 . 7 8}$ | 0.1001 | HOMO-5 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (84\%) |
| $\mathbf{3 3 8 . 6 7}$ | 0.9251 | HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (82\%) |
| $\mathbf{5 6 8 . 6 3}$ | 0.2094 | HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (86\%) |

For DPDT series, DPDT- $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ has three strong absorption peaks at 290.93, 297.84 and 377.98 nm . The 290.93 nm absorption peak arises from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO +3 ( $87 \%$ ), 297.84 nm absorption peak from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO +3 ( $83 \%$ ) and 377.98 nm absorption peak (with highest O.S value) arises from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO ( $97 \%$ ) is characterized as $\pi-\pi^{*}$ transition. For DPDT-C=S, all transitions arising from low absorption bands; the 342.69 nm absorption peak is from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (48\%), HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO ( $24 \%$ ) and HOMO-7 $\rightarrow$ LUMO ( $58 \%$ ); 360.43 nm absorption peak arises from HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (65\%) and HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (32\%); 369.85 nm peak is from HOMO-4 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (41\%), HOMO-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO $(35 \%)$ and HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 ( $23 \%$ ) and the longest absorption wave-length ( 874.75 nm ) arises from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (97\%). DPDT-C=O also shows strong absorptions for all
transitions (i.e. $>0.005$ O.S), the $300.92,310.78,338.67$ and 568.63 nm absorption peaks are from HOMO-5 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (84\%), HOMO-3 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (82\%), HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO+1 (86\%) and HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (94\%) respectively. Therefore, the absorption peak with highest O.S value arising from HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO +1 is characterized as $\pi$ - and $n-\pi *$ transitions (Table 2 c ). All molecules are shifted to longer wavelength compared to molecules with $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ bridge and molecules with $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridge have the longest $\lambda_{\text {max }}$.

## Polarizability and Nonlinear properties

The Polarizability $(\alpha)$, hyperpolarizability $(\beta)$ and the electric dipole moment $(\mu)$ of BTDT, BBDT and DPDT series are calculated at B3LYP/6-31G** to determine non-linear optical (NLO) properties of the studied molecules, the strength of molecular interactions as well as the cross-sections of different scattering and collision processes [38, 39] in an applied electric field based on the finite-field approach [40]. The total static dipole moment $\mu$, the mean polarizability $\left(\alpha_{0}\right)$, the anisotropy of the polarizability $(\Delta \alpha)$ and the mean first hyperpolarizability $\left(\beta_{0}\right)$ using the $\mathrm{x}, \mathrm{y}, \mathrm{z}$ components they are defined as equation below.

$$
\begin{gathered}
\mu=\left(\mu_{\mathrm{x}}^{2}+\mu_{\mathrm{y}}^{2}+\mu_{\mathrm{z}}^{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
\alpha_{0}=\frac{\alpha_{\mathrm{xx}}+\alpha_{\mathrm{yy}}+\alpha_{\mathrm{zz}}}{3} \\
\Delta \alpha=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left[\left(\alpha_{x x}-\alpha_{y y}\right)^{2}+\left(\alpha_{y y}-\alpha_{z z}\right)^{2}+\left(\alpha_{z z}-\alpha_{x x}\right)^{2}+6 \alpha_{x z}^{2}+6 \alpha_{x y}^{2}+6 \alpha_{y z}^{2}\right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
\beta_{0}=\left(\beta_{\mathrm{x}}^{2}+\beta_{\mathrm{y}}^{2}+\beta_{\mathrm{z}}^{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
\beta_{\mathrm{x}}=\beta_{\mathrm{xxx}}+\beta_{\mathrm{xyy}}+\beta_{\mathrm{xzz}} \\
\beta_{\mathrm{y}}=\beta_{\mathrm{yyy}}+\beta_{\mathrm{xxy}}+\beta_{\mathrm{yzz}} \\
\beta_{\mathrm{z}}=\beta_{\mathrm{zzz}}+\beta_{\mathrm{xxz}}+\beta_{\mathrm{yyz}} \\
\beta_{0}=\left(\beta_{\mathrm{x}}^{2}+\beta_{\mathrm{y}}^{2}+\beta_{\mathrm{z}}^{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}
\end{gathered}
$$

The dipole moment $\mu$, mean polarizability ( $\alpha_{0}$ ), anisotropy of the polarizability $(\Delta \alpha)$ and the mean first hyperpolarizability ( $\beta_{0}$ ) for bis(2-benzothiophen-1-yl)-4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4b]dithiophene (BBDT), diphenyl-4Hcyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4-b]dithiophene (DPDT) and bis(2-thienyl)-4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4-b]dithiophene (BTDT) derivatives are listed in Table 3. The magnitude and direction of dipole moment ( $\mu$ ) of a monomer or light weight organic molecules have been considered as one of the parameters for their selection for electro-polymerization, electrochemical properties and solvent interactions [41,42]. Thus, the calculated values of the electric dipole moment of the studied molecules listed in Table 3 revealed that $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ and $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridges are electron withdrawing in nature. The comparative size of the dipole moment vectors for the molecules is as follows: $-\mathrm{CH}_{2}<\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}<\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ in each series.

The calculated mean polarizability $\left(\alpha_{0}\right)$ values are $4.15 \times 10^{-23}, 4.47 \times 10^{-23}$ and $4.13 \times 10^{-23}$ esu for BTDT- $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$, BTDT-C=S and BTDT-C $=\mathrm{O} ; 5.78 \times 10^{-23}, 6.23 \times 10^{-23}$ and $5.99 \times 10^{-23}$ esu
for BBDT- $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$, BBDT-C=S and BBDT-C=O; $3.78 \times 10^{-23}, 4.43 \times 10^{-23}$ and $4.22 \times 10^{-23}$ esu for BPDT- $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$, BPDT-C=S and BPDT-C=O respectively. The polarizability ( $\alpha_{0}$ ) valves for the molecules are as follows: $-\mathrm{CH}_{2}<\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}<\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridge in each series, indicating that polarizability $\left(\alpha_{0}\right)$ is directly proportional to absorption wavelength and inversely proportional to the energy band gap. Thus the higher the polarizability valve the longer the $\lambda_{\max } \mathrm{nm}$ and the lower the energy band gap (Tables 2 and 3 ). The first hyperpolarizability ( $\beta_{0}$ ) valves are $4.84 \times 10^{-30}, 3.91 \times 10^{-30}$ and $6.56 \times 10^{-30}$ esu for BTDT- $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$, BTDT- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ and BTDT-C=O; $4.52 \times 10^{-30}, 4.60 \times 10^{-30}$ and $6.67 \times 10^{-30}$ esu for BBDT- $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$, BBDT-C $=\mathrm{S}$ and BBDT-C=O; $1.53 \times 10^{-30}, 4.00 \times 10^{-33}$ and $5.46 \times 10^{-30}$ esu for BPDT- $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$, BPDT-C=S and BPDT-C=O respectively. The magnitude of the molecular hyperpolarizability $\beta_{0}$, which is one of dominant key factors in a nonlinear optical (NLO) system shows that molecular structures with $\mathrm{X}=$ ( $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ ) could be best NLO material in each series.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Authors declare no competing interests.

## CONCLUSION

In this work, three series of symmetrical molecules containing 4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4b]dithiophene as $\pi$-center are studied at B3LYP/6-31G** level of calculations. The results showed that the geometries of the $\pi$-center of the studied molecules are affected by both A and X , although the effect of X is more pronounced. The HOMO and LUMO are destabilized in $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ and $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridges which result in blue shifting in the absorption spectrum. In each series, molecules with $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ bridge presented lowest band gaps and longest wave lengths, therefore BBDT- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ and BTDT- $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ could be employed in solar cells (i.e. band gap $<1.9 \mathrm{eV}$ ) and optical devices. However, the valves of molecular hyperpolarizability $\left(\beta_{0}\right)$ calculated show that molecules with $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ bridge could be best suitable as NLO material.

Table 3. The electric dipole moment $\mu$ (au), the average polarizability $\alpha_{0}\left(1 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{u}=0.1482 \times 10-{ }^{24} \mathrm{esu}\right)$ and the first hyperpolarizability $\beta_{0}(1 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{u}=$ $8.6393 \times 10-{ }^{33}$ esu esu) for $\alpha, \alpha$-bis(2-benzothiophen-1-yl)-4H-cyclopenta[2,1-b,3;4-b']dithiophene derivatives

| A | Thiophene |  |  | Benzothiophene |  |  | Benzene |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\qquad$ | $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ | $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ | $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{S}$ | $\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{O}$ |
| $\mu_{\mathrm{x}}$ | $2.10 \times 10^{-5}$ | $-6.15 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-2.67 \times 10^{-4}$ | $2.60 \times 10^{-4}$ | $-7.00 \times 10^{-6}$ | $-2.50 \times 10^{-5}$ | $2.87 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-2.17 \times 10^{-3}$ | $2.00 \times 10^{-6}$ |
| $\mu_{\mathrm{y}}$ | -0.17 | 1.04 | 1.59 | 0.22 | 0.86 | 1.27 | 0.45 | 0.09 | -1.36 |
| $\mu_{\mathrm{z}}$ | $-3.00 \times 10^{-6}$ | $-6.15 \times 10^{-3}$ | $-7.13 \times 10^{-5}$ | -0.30 | -0.43 | -0.80 | 0.13 | -0.14 | $1.00 \times 10^{-6}$ |
| $\mu$ (Debye) | 0.44 | 2.64 | 4.04 | 0.95 | 2.43 | 3.82 | 1.18 | 2.19 | 3.45 |
| $\alpha_{x x}$ | 570.58 | 523.15 | 535.449 | 706.64 | 683.12 | 705.05 | 481.72 | 513.85 | 562.02 |
| $\alpha_{x y}$ | $-5.50 \times 10^{-3}$ | -1.39 | -0.09 | 0.35 | -0.02 | -0.02 | -0.42 | 0.20 | $-0.02$ |
| $\alpha_{y y}$ | 233.72 | 302.41 | 229.14 | 356.84 | 408.41 | 367.27 | 202.53 | 314.22 | $257.82$ |
| $\alpha_{x z}$ | 0.01 | 0.71 | 0.65 | -0.41 | 0.02 | 0.010 | -0.07 | -0.08 | 0.02 |
| $\alpha_{\mathrm{yz}}$ | $-1.43 \times 10^{-4}$ | 1.80 | 0.09 | 1.60 | 3.26 | 12.13 | -13.45 | -15.36 | $-2.18 \times 10^{-4}$ |
| $\alpha_{z z}$ | 36.51 | 79.50 | 72.36 | 106.90 | 169.92 | 124.94 | 80.32 | 67.70 | $35.14$ |
| $\Delta \alpha$ | 467.76 | 384.21 | 407.96 | 521.79 | 444.84 | 505.09 | 357.13 | 388.00 | $458.11$ |
| $\alpha_{0}$ (esu) | $4.15 \times 10^{-23}$ | $4.47 \times 10^{-23}$ | $4.13 \times 10^{-23}$ | $5.78 \times 10^{-23}$ | $6.23 \times 10^{-23}$ | $5.99 \times 10^{-23}$ | $3.78 \times 10^{-23}$ | $4.43 \times 10^{-23}$ | $4.22 \times 10^{-23}$ |
| $\beta_{\mathrm{xxx}}$ | -3.43 | 56.19 | 3.62 | -40.80 | 7.19 | 11.21 | 34.49 | -12.83 | 1.57 |
| $\beta_{\text {xyy }}$ | 2.33 | -9.49 | 7.06 | 14.16 | 7.50 | 7.72 | 2.58 | 6.81 | 4.56 |
| $\beta^{\text {xzz }}$ | -4.92 | -9.29 | 0.97 | -1.98 | -7.04 | -4.24 | -3.89 | -4.54 | -7.83 |
| $\beta_{\text {yyy }}$ | -30.33 | 75.82 | -2.56 | 123.73 | -42.12 | -105.20 | -67.71 | -112.79 | -37.17 |
| $\beta_{y x x}$ | -534.08 | -406.84 | -738.61 | -211.91 | 250.53 | 39.44 | 254.20 | 145.58 | 685.17 |
| $\beta_{y z z}$ | 4.43 | -35.80 | -18.28 | 17.88 | -22.32 | -24.86 | -21.22 | 4.06 | -15.98 |
| $\beta_{z x x}$ | -0.01 | -15.66 | -1.73 | -628.83 | 655.49 | 877.58 | 92.51 | 64.61 | -0.01 |
| $\beta_{\text {zyy }}$ | -0.00 | 2.81 | 0.05 | 41.31 | -86.80 | -42.51 | -13.18 | -17.93 | $0.00$ |
| $\beta_{z z z}$ | 0.52 | -6.71 | 0.00 | 66.67 | -69.62 | -68.90 | -23.70 | $-2.56$ | 0.14 |
| $\beta_{\mathrm{x}}$ | -6.03 | 37.40 | 11.66 | -28.61 | 7.641 | 14.68 | 33.18 | -10.57 | -1.70 |
| $\beta_{y}$ | -559.98 | -366.82 | -759.45 | -70.31 | 186.09 | -90.63 | 165.27 | 36.85 | 632.02 |
| $\beta_{z}$ | 0.51 | -19.57 | -1.68 | -520.85 | 499.07 | 766.17 | $55.63$ | $44.12$ | 0.14 |
| $\beta_{0}(\mathrm{au})$ | 560.01 | 369.24 | 759..54 | 526.35 | 532.61 | 771.65 | $177.51$ | $58.44$ | $632.02$ |
| $\beta_{0}(\mathrm{esu})$ | $4.84 \times 10^{-30}$ | $3.19 \times 10^{-30}$ | $6.56 \times 10^{-30}$ | $4.52 \times 10^{-30}$ | $4.60 \times 10^{-30}$ | $6.67 \times 10^{-30}$ | $1.53 \times 10^{-30}$ | $4.00 \times 10^{-33}$ | $5.46 \times 10^{-30}$ |

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