

# Supporting Information

## *Interplay of C–H...F and halogen bonding interactions for tunable room-temperature phosphorescence in iododiphenylacetylene systems*

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### Contents

|   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. Experimental                                   | S-1  |
| 2. <sup>1</sup> H and <sup>19</sup> F NMR spectra | S-3  |
| 3. PL spectra                                     | S-5  |
| 4. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction               | S-8  |
| 5. Quantum chemical calculation                   | S-15 |

## 1. Experimental

### Materials and Methods

The  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR (400 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR (100 MHz) spectra were obtained using a Bruker AVANCE III 400 NMR spectrometer in a chloroform-*d* ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) solution. The chemical shifts were reported in parts per million (ppm) using residual protons in the NMR solvent. The  $^{19}\text{F}$ -NMR (376 MHz) spectra were obtained using a Bruker AVANCE III 400 NMR spectrometer in a  $\text{CDCl}_3$  solution with  $\text{CFCl}_3$  ( $\delta_{\text{F}} = 0$  ppm) as the internal standard. All chemicals, including the solvents, were of reagent grade and purified as typical prior to use. Column chromatography was conducted on silica gel (Fujifilm Wako Pure Chemical Corporation, Wakogel<sup>®</sup> 60 N, 38–100  $\mu\text{m}$ ), and thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel TLC plates (Merck, Silica gel 60F<sub>254</sub>).

### General procedure of the Sonogashira cross-coupling reaction

The phenylacetylene derivative, aromatic iodide (1.2 eq.),  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_2$  (5 mol%),  $\text{PPh}_3$  (5 mol%),  $\text{CuI}$  (10 mol%), and  $\text{Et}_3\text{N}$  were placed in a flask, and the suspended solution was stirred overnight at 60 °C. Following reaction completion, the resulting precipitate was separated using atmospheric filtration. The filtrate was poured into a saturated aqueous  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  solution, and the crude product was extracted thrice using  $\text{AcOEt}$ . The collected organic layer was dried over anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$  and separated using atmospheric filtration. The filtrate was evaporated under vacuum and subjected to silica-gel column chromatography to obtain the desired products.

### Preparation of 1-iodo-4-(phenylethynyl)benzene (2a)

Yield: 43% (white solid);  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.25–7.27 (m, 2H), 7.35–7.37 (m, 3H), 7.51–7.54 (m, 2H), 7.68–7.71 (m, 2H). The NMR data were consistent with the spectral data described in the previous literature.<sup>[1]</sup>

### Preparation of 1-iodo-4-((4-methoxyphenyl)ethynyl)benzene (2b)

Yield: 32% (white solid);  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  3.83 (s, 3H), 6.88 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.23 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H), 7.67 (d,  $J = 8.4$  Hz, 2H). The NMR data were consistent with the spectral data described in the previous literature.<sup>[2]</sup>

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[ 1 ] H. Li, D. R. Powell, T. K. Firman and R. West, *Macromolecules*, 1998, **31**, 1093–1098. <https://doi.org/10.1021/ma971126s>

[ 2 ] M. Irfan, I. Sumra, M. Zhang, Z. Song, T. Liu and Z. Zeng, *Dyes Pigm.*, 2021, **190**, 109272. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dyepig.2021.109272>

**Preparation of 1,2,4,5-tetrafluoro-3-iodo-6-(phenylethynyl)benzene (2c)**

Yield: 26% (white solid);  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.37–7.43 (m, 3H), 7.59–7.61 (d,  $J = 8.9$  Hz, 2H);  $^{19}\text{F-NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  –121.65 to –121.73 (m, 2F), –136.08 to –136.16 (m, 2F). The NMR data were consistent with the spectral data described in the previous literature.<sup>[3]</sup>

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[3] J. C. Collings, J. M. Burke, P. S. Smith, A. S. Batsanov, J. A. K. Howard and T. B. Marder, *Org. Biomol. Chem.*, 2004, **2**, 3172–3178. <https://doi.org/10.1039/b411191e>

## 2. $^1\text{H}$ and $^{19}\text{F}$ NMR spectra

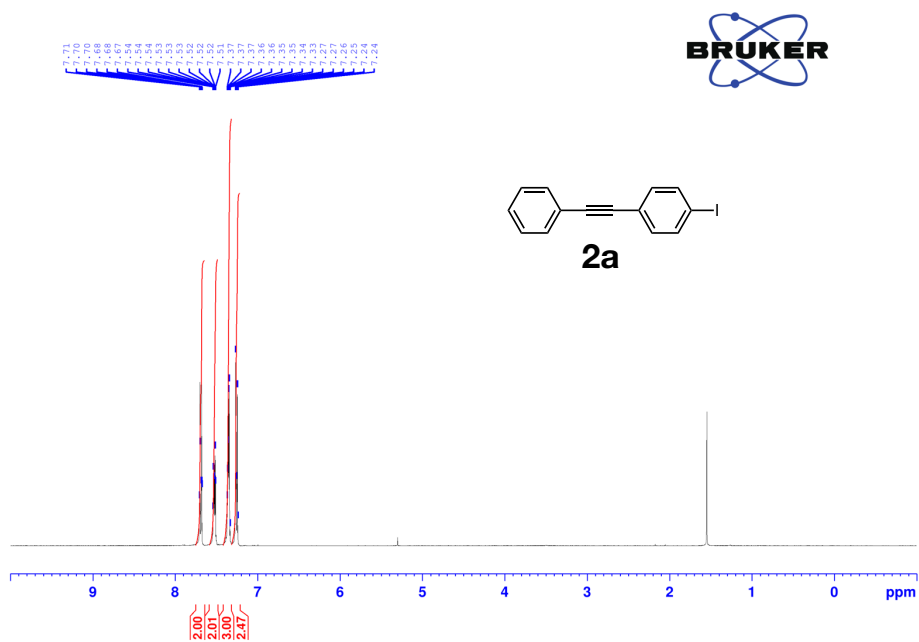


Fig. S1  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2a**.

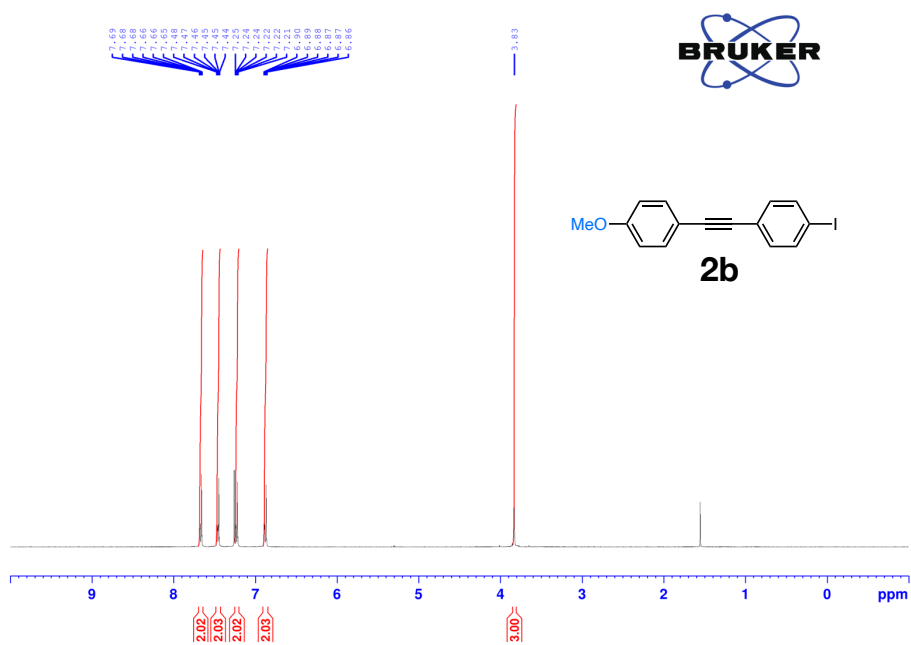


Fig. S2  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2b**.

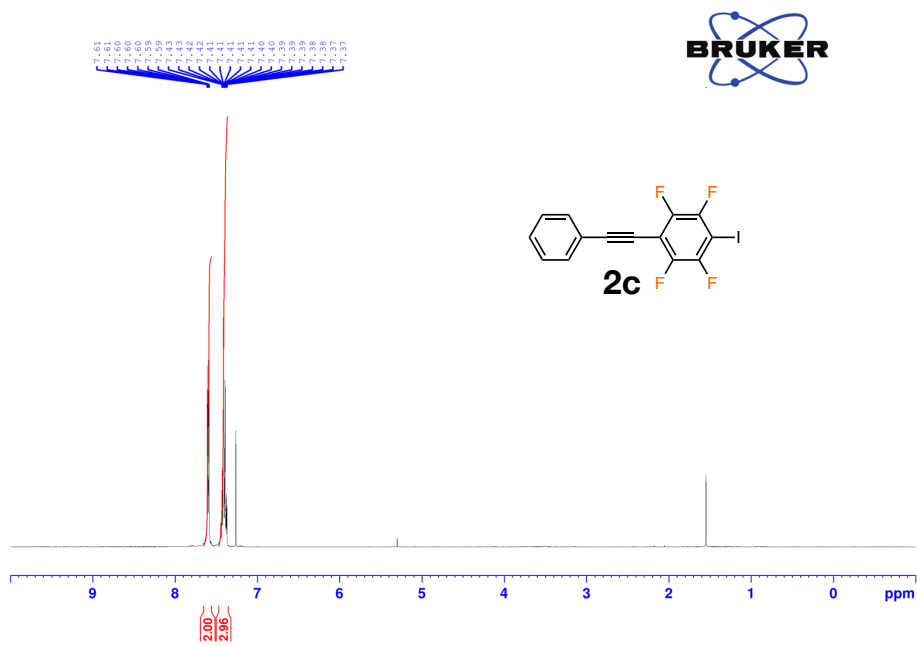


Fig. S3 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2c**.

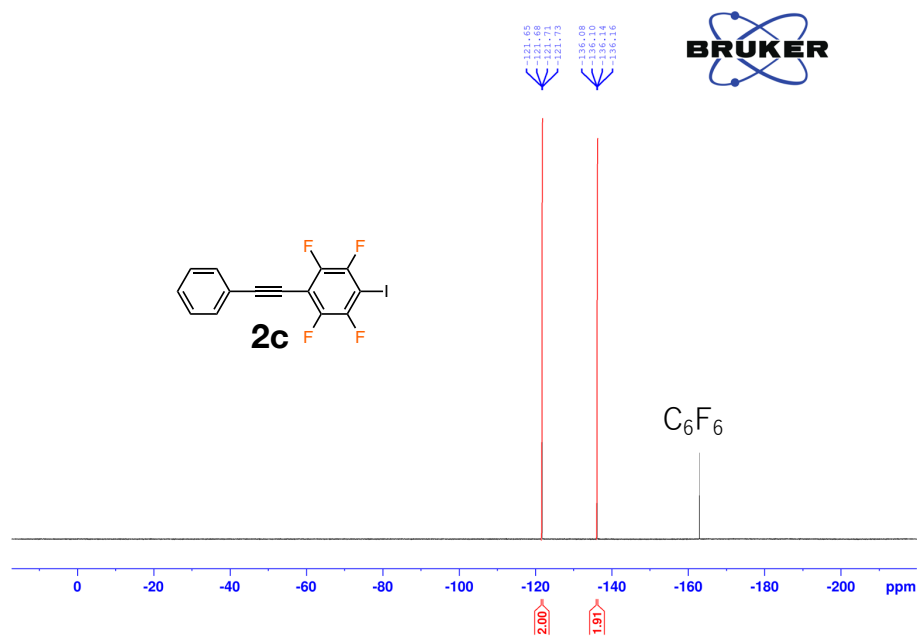
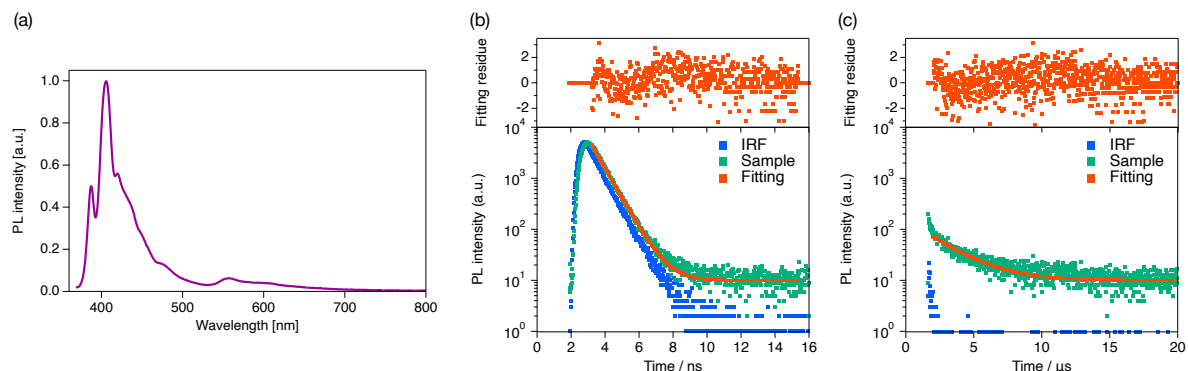
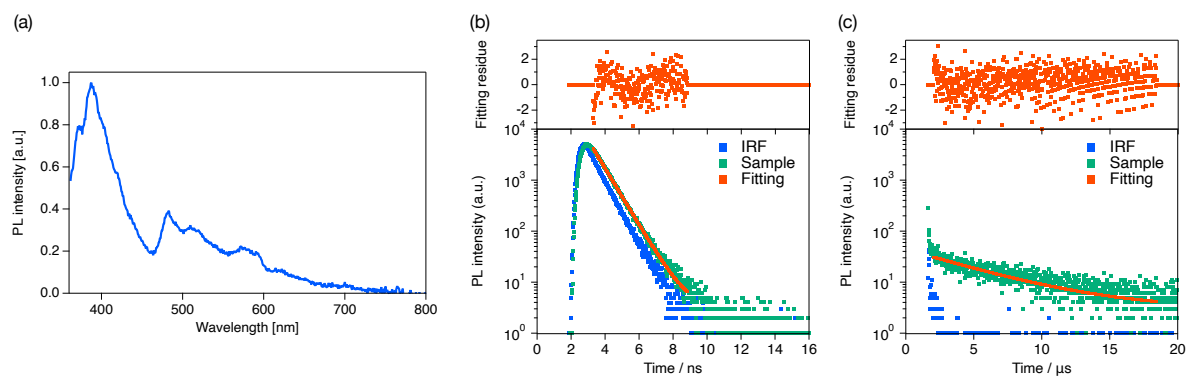


Fig. S4 <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectrum of **2c**.

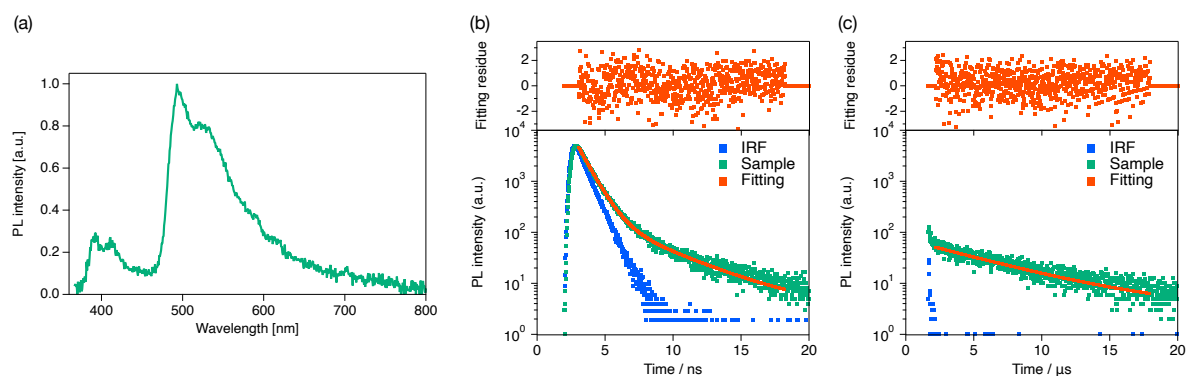
### 3. PL spectra



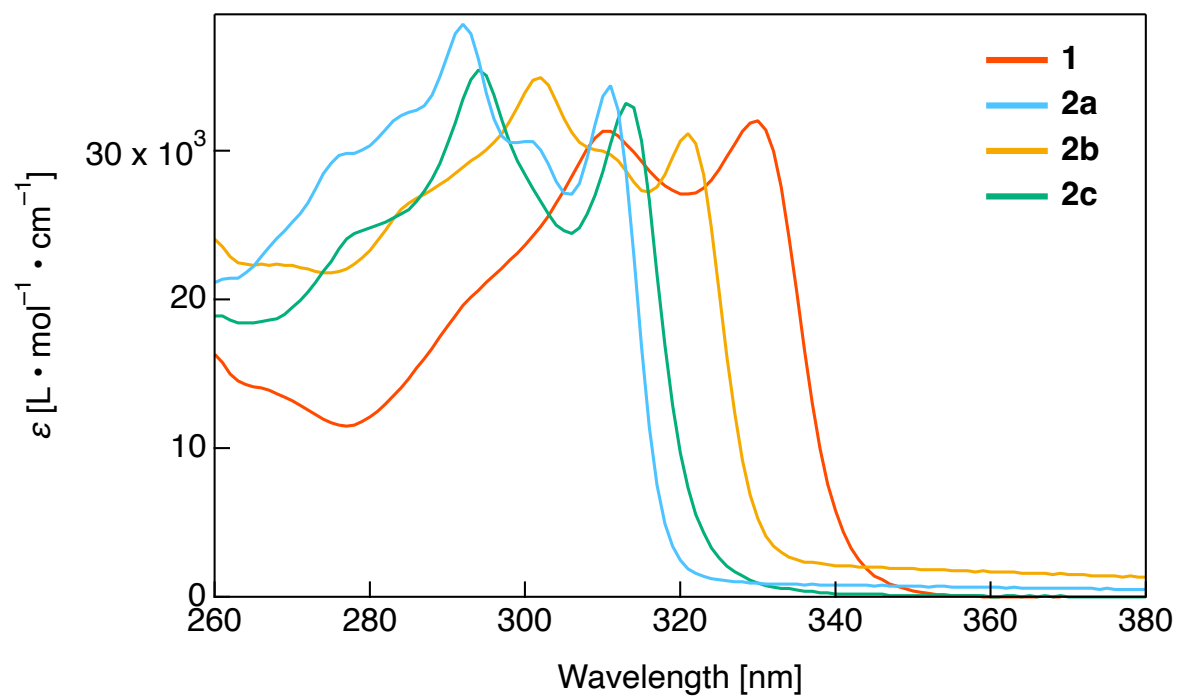
**Fig. S5** PL profiles of **2a** (a) PL spectra, (b) PL decay curve monitored at 387 nm, (c) PL decay curve monitored at 559 nm with 350 nm excitation.



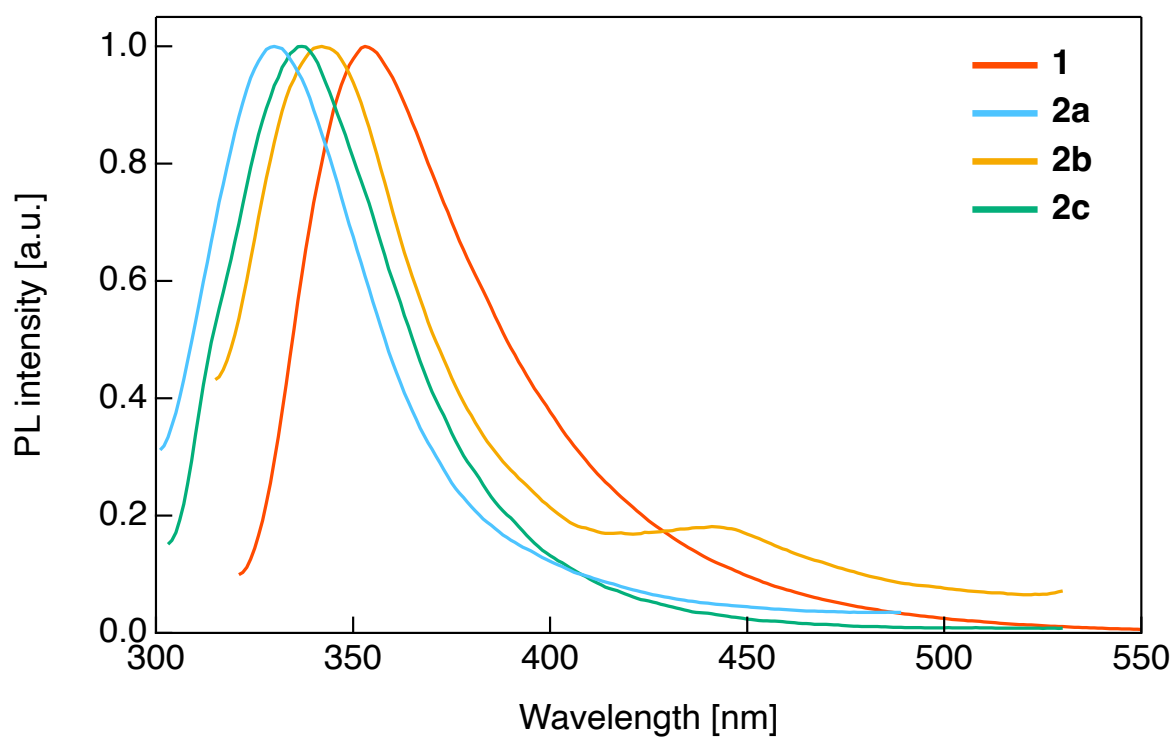
**Fig. S6** PL profiles of **2b** (a) PL spectra, (b) PL decay curve monitored at 387 nm, (c) PL decay curve monitored at 581 nm with 350 nm excitation.



**Fig. S7** PL profiles of **2c** (a) PL spectra, (b) PL decay curve monitored at 392 nm, (c) PL decay curve monitored at 493 nm with 350 nm excitation.



**Fig. S8** UV/vis absorption spectra of **1**, **2a–c** in  $10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$   $\text{CCl}_4$  solution.



**Fig. S9** PL spectra of **1**, **2a–c** excited at absorption maxima in  $10^{-5} \text{ mol L}^{-1}$   $\text{CCl}_4$  solution.

**Table S1** Photophysical properties of **1**, **2a–c** in  $10^{-5}$  mol L $^{-1}$  CCl $_4$  solution.

|           | $\lambda_{\text{abs}}$ [nm] ( $\epsilon$ [L mol $^{-1}$ cm $^{-1}$ ]) | $\lambda_{\text{PL}}$ [nm] <sup>a</sup> | $\Phi_{\text{PL}}$ <sup>b</sup> |
|-----------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | 311 (31.3), 330 (32.0)  | 353                                     | 0.03                            |
| <b>2a</b> | 292 (38.5), 311 (34.4)  | 330                                     | 0.02                            |
| <b>2b</b> | 302 (34.9), 321 (31.2)  | 342                                     | 0.02                            |
| <b>2c</b> | 294 (35.4), 313 (33.2)  | 337                                     | 0.02                            |

a: excited at  $\lambda_{\text{abs}}$ , b: calculated using an integrating sphere.

## 4. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction

### A Note on the Space Group Assignment for Compound 2a

The crystal structure of **2a** was previously reported in the space group *Pnma* (CCDC 1415296, 1575576). However, the diffraction data collected for the single crystal in this study did not satisfy the systematic absence conditions required for *Pnma*.

The *Pnma* space group requires systematic absences for *0kl* reflections when *k+l* is odd and for *hk0* reflections when *h* is odd. In our dataset, several reflections violating these conditions were clearly observed with significant intensities ( $I > 2\sigma(I)$ ). Representative examples are listed below:

- **Observed reflections violating *Pnma* conditions:**
  - (0 4 1) ( $I/\sigma(I) = 44.5$ ) (violates  $k+l=2n$  rule)
  - (0 2 3) ( $I/\sigma(I) = 32.1$ ) (violates  $k+l=2n$  rule)
  - (1 2 0) ( $I/\sigma(I) = 28.7$ ) (violates  $h=2n$  rule)
  - (5 2 0) ( $I/\sigma(I) = 20.8$ ) (violates  $h=2n$  rule)

The definitive presence of these reflections proves that the *n*- and *a*-glide planes, which are essential symmetry elements of *Pnma*, are absent in our crystal. Therefore, higher symmetry space groups were ruled out, and the space group *P2* was determined to be the most appropriate choice consistent with the observed diffraction data.

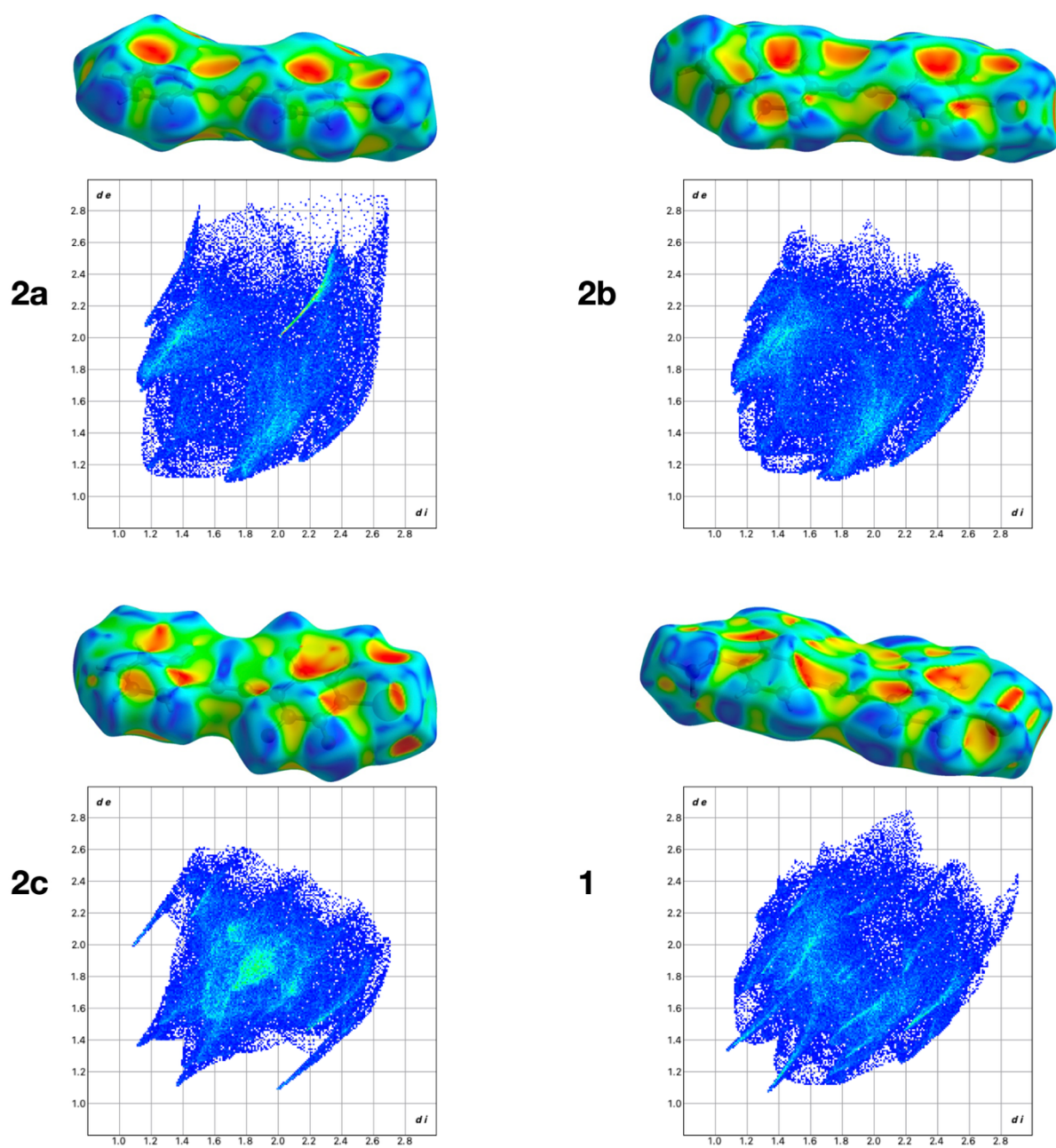
**Table S2** Observed intensities for reflections of compound **2a** that should be systematically absent in the *Pnma* space group.

| h | k | l | violated condition for <i>Pnma</i> | $Int_{obs}$ | $\sigma(Int_{obs})$ | $Int_{obs}/\sigma(Int_{obs})$ |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0 | 4 | 1 | $k + l = \text{odd}$               | 14437.95    | 324.50              | 44.49                         |
| 0 | 2 | 3 | $k + l = \text{odd}$               | 8416.20     | 262.44              | 32.07                         |
| 1 | 2 | 0 | $h = \text{odd}$                   | 581.28      | 20.29               | 28.65                         |
| 5 | 2 | 0 | $h = \text{odd}$                   | 2547.56     | 122.24              | 20.84                         |

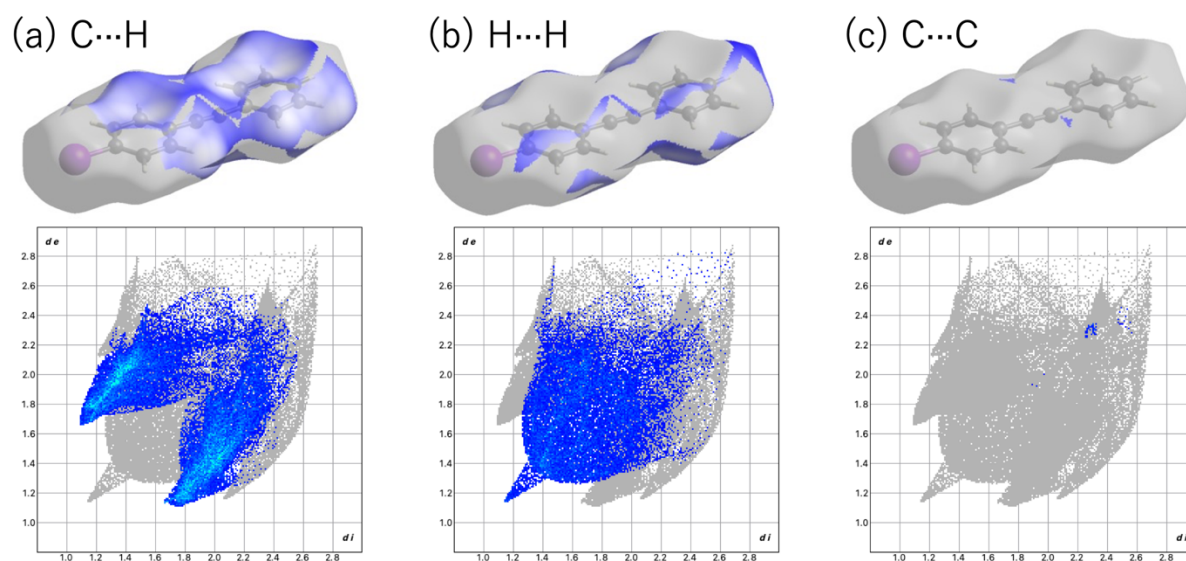
h, k, l are the Miller indices of the reflection.  $Int_{obs}$  is the observed intensity,  $\sigma(Int_{obs})$  is its standard uncertainty, and  $Int_{obs}/\sigma(Int_{obs})$  is the resulting signal-to-noise ratio.

**Table S3** Crystallographic data of **2a**, **2b**, and **2c**.

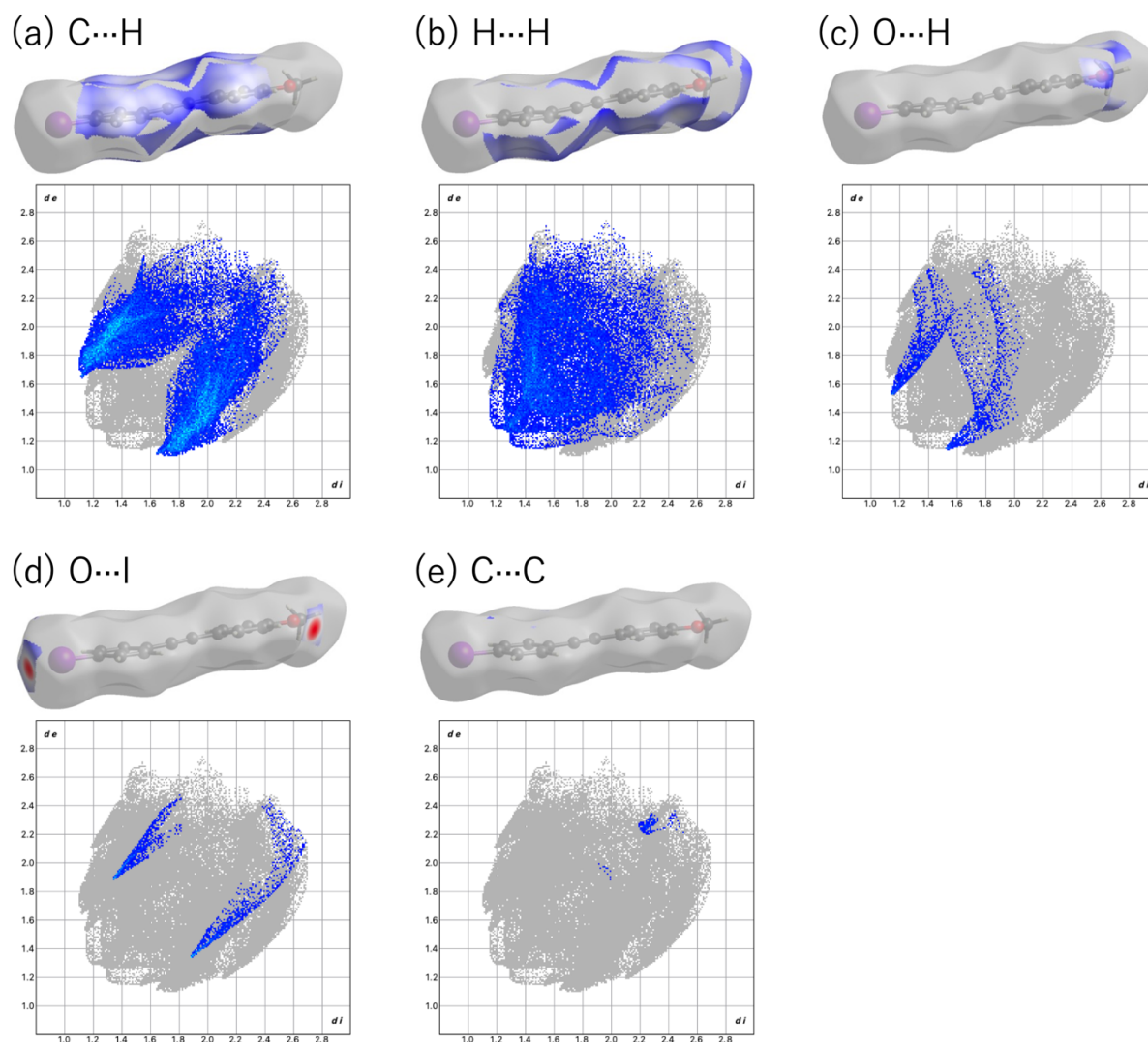
|  | <b>2a</b>                        | <b>2b</b>                              | <b>2c</b>                                       |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Chemical formula                               | C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>9</sub> I | C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>11</sub> IO     | C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>5</sub> F <sub>4</sub> I |
| <i>M<sub>r</sub></i>                           | 304.11                           | 334.14                                 | 376.08  |
| Crystal system, space group                    | Monoclinic, <i>P2</i>            | Orthorhombic, <i>Pca2</i> <sub>1</sub> | Monoclinic, <i>P2</i> <sub>1</sub> / <i>n</i>   |
| Temperature (K)                                | 298                              | 298                                    | 298   |
| <i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)             | 7.5797(4), 5.9809(4), 5.2204(3)  | 6.1455 (2), 7.4012 (3), 28.5289 (11)   | 12.9207 (9), 5.0801 (4), 19.1219 (11)           |
| $\beta$ (°)                                    | 91.697(4)                        | 90                                     | 94.046 (6)                                      |
| <i>V</i> (Å <sup>3</sup> )                     | 2365.6 (2)                       | 1297.61 (8)                            | 1252.00 (15)                                    |
| <i>Z</i>                                       | 8                                | 4                                      | 4   |
| Radiation type                                 | Mo <i>K</i> $\alpha$             | Mo <i>K</i> $\alpha$                   | Mo <i>K</i> $\alpha$                            |
| Crystal size (mm)                              | 0.50 × 0.31 × 0.19               | 0.45 × 0.37 × 0.20                     | 0.59 × 0.32 × 0.14                              |
| $R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)]$ , $wR(F^2)$ , <i>S</i> | 0.065, 0.199, 1.03               | 0.025, 0.066, 1.05                     | 0.035, 0.096, 1.06                              |



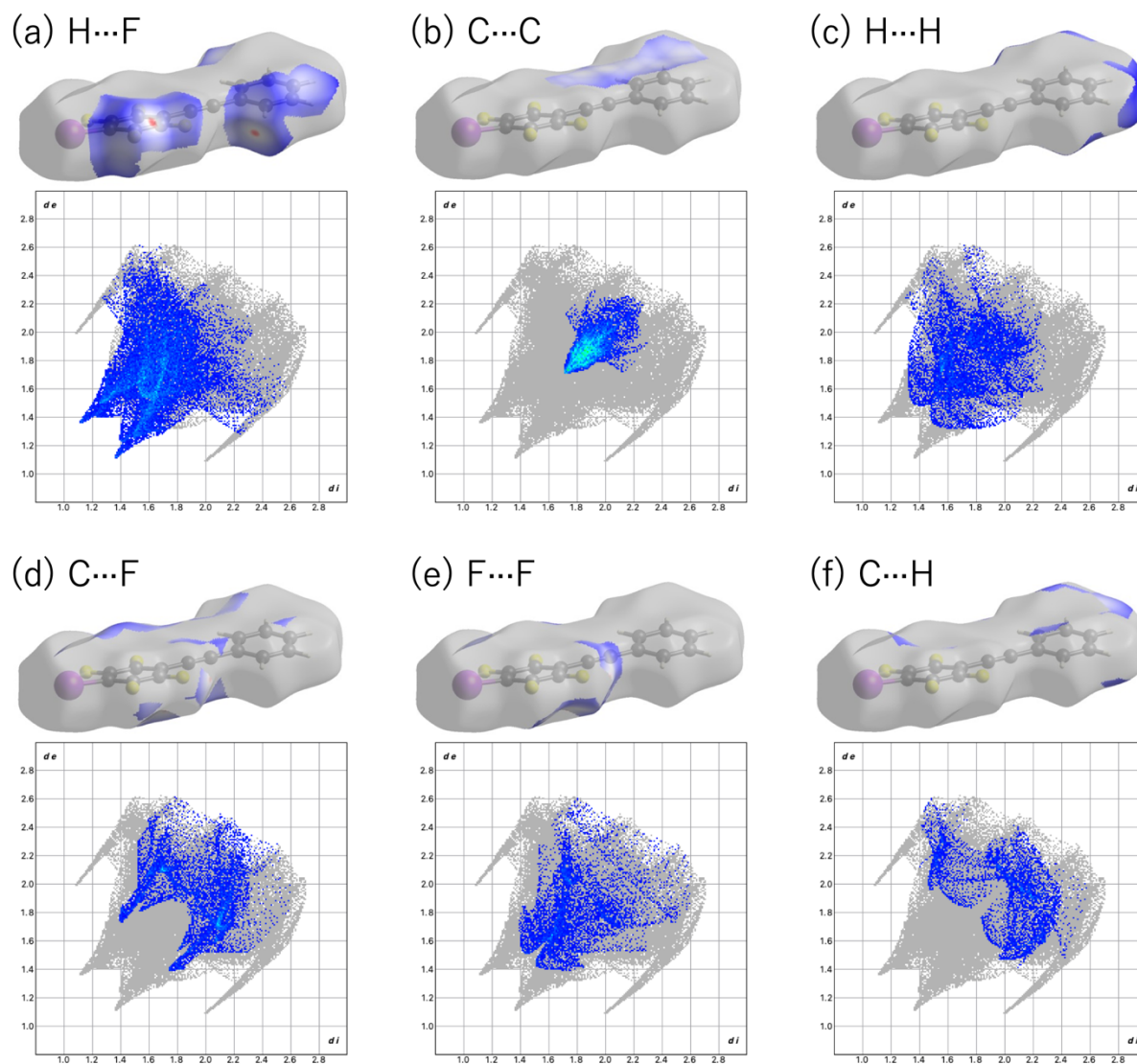
**Fig. S10** Hirshfeld surface analysis for compounds **1**, **2a–c**. For each compound, the shape index (top) and the full 2D fingerprint plot (bottom) are shown.



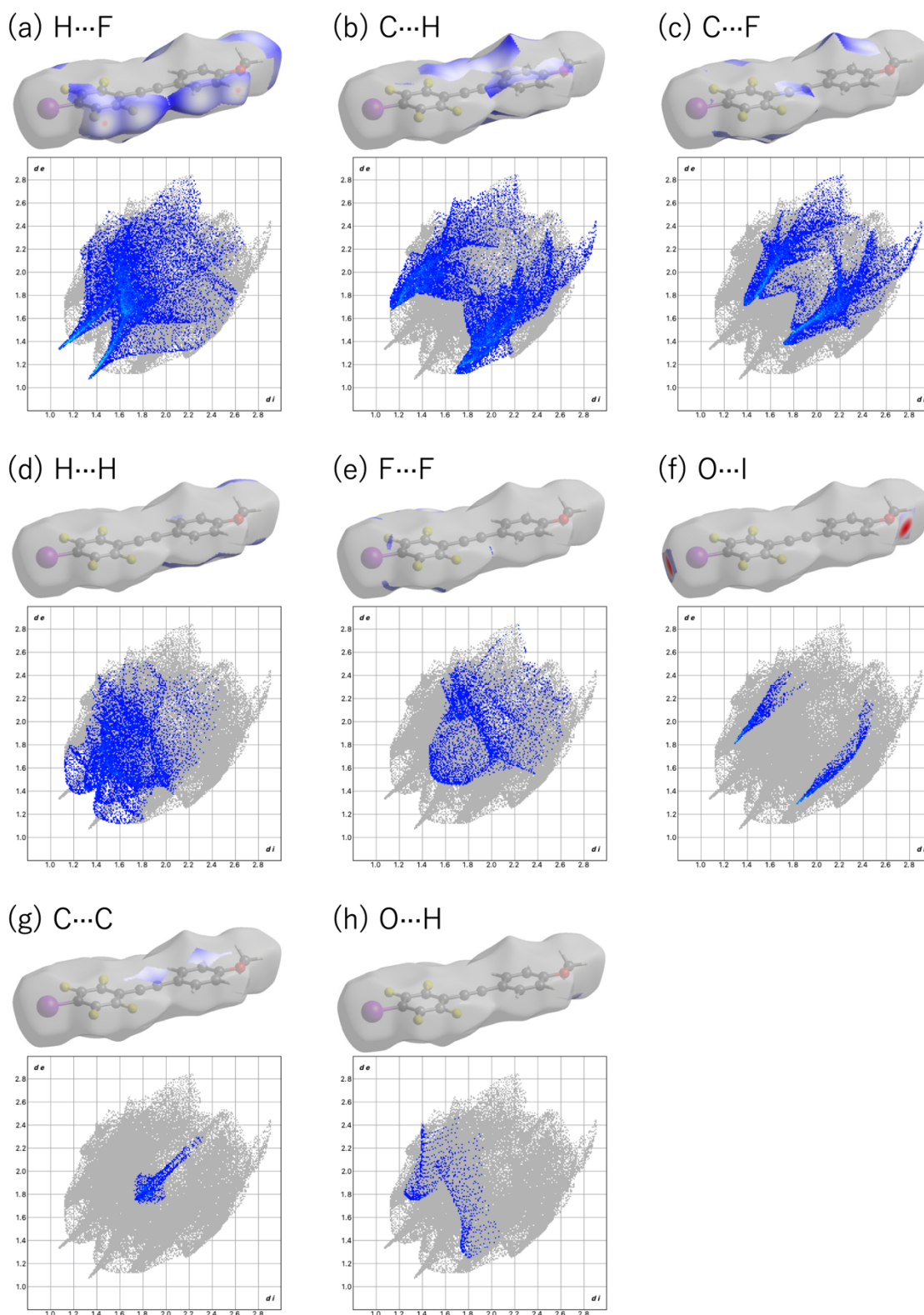
**Fig. S11** Decomposed 2D Hirshfeld fingerprint plots for compound **2a**, illustrating the contributions from the principal intermolecular contacts: (a) C...H, (b) H...H, and (c) C...C. The Hirshfeld surfaces above each plot are mapped with  $d_{\text{norm}}$  to highlight the areas corresponding to each specific contact.



**Fig. S12** Decomposed 2D Hirshfeld fingerprint plots for compound **2b**, illustrating the contributions from the principal intermolecular contacts: (a) C...H, (b) H...H, (c) O...H, (d) O...I, and (e) C...C. The Hirshfeld surfaces above each plot are mapped with  $d_{\text{norm}}$  to highlight the areas corresponding to each specific contact.



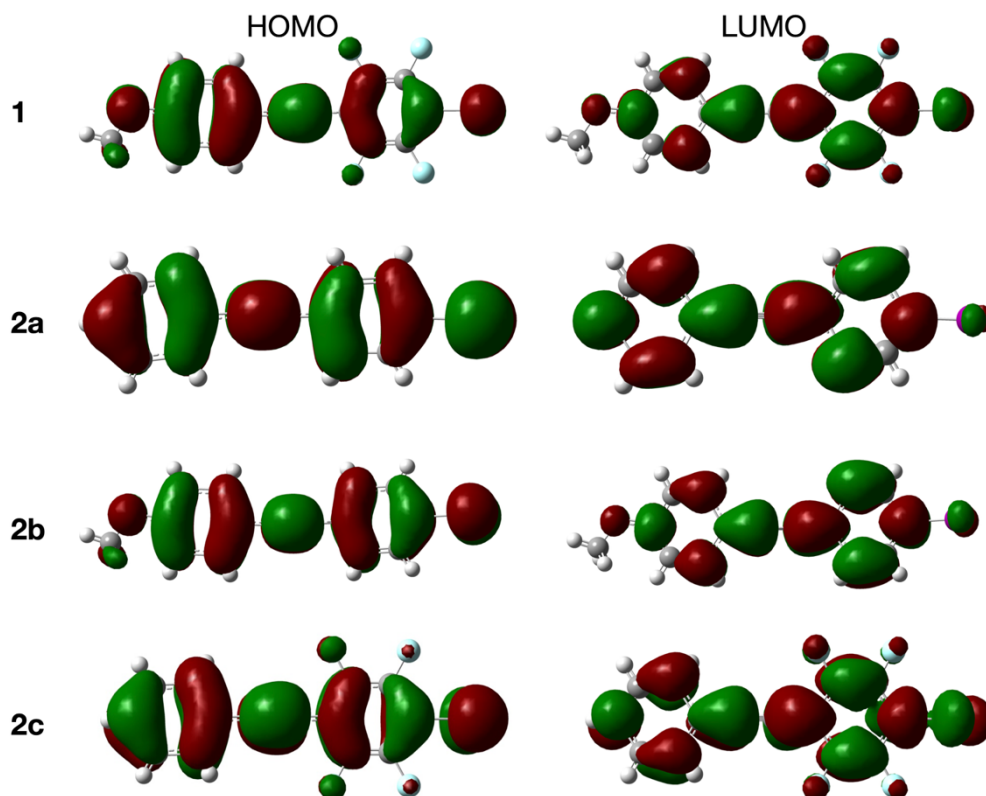
**Fig. S13** Decomposed 2D Hirshfeld fingerprint plots for compound **2c**, illustrating the contributions from the principal intermolecular contacts: (a) H...F, (b) C...C, (c) H...H, (d) C...F, (e) F...F, and (f) C...H. The Hirshfeld surfaces above each plot are mapped with  $d_{\text{norm}}$  to highlight the areas corresponding to each specific contact.



**Fig. S14** Decomposed 2D Hirshfeld fingerprint plots for compound **1**, illustrating the contributions from the principal intermolecular contacts: (a) H...F, (b) C...H, (c) C...F, (d) H...H, (e) F...F, (f) O...I, (g) C...C, and (h) O...H. The Hirshfeld surfaces above each plot are mapped with  $d_{\text{norm}}$  to highlight the areas corresponding to each specific contact.

## 5. Quantum Chemical calculation

Using the Gaussian 16 software package (Revision C.01),<sup>[4]</sup> geometry optimisations were performed with the B3LYP and 6-31+G(d) basis set.



**Fig. S15** Calculated frontier molecular orbitals (HOMO and LUMO) for compounds **1**, **2a**, **2b**, and **2c**. The orbitals were obtained from single-point DFT calculations at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level, using the molecular geometries extracted from their single-crystal X-ray structures.

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[4] M. J. Frisch, G. W. Trucks, H. B. Schlegel, G. E. Scuseria, M. A. Robb, J. R. Cheeseman, G. Scalmani, V. Barone, G. A. Petersson, H. Nakatsuji, X. Li, M. Caricato, A. V. Marenich, J. Bloino, B. G. Janesko, R. Gomperts, B. Mennucci, H. P. Hratchian, J. V. Ortiz, A. F. Izmaylov, J. L. Sonnenberg, D. Williams-Young, F. Ding, F. Lipparini, F. Egidi, J. Goings, B. Peng, A. Petrone, T. Henderson, D. Ranasinghe, V. G. Zakrzewski, J. Gao, N. Rega, G. Zheng, W. Liang, M. Hada, M. Ehara, K. Toyota, R. Fukuda, J. Hasegawa, M. Ishida, T. Nakajima, Y. Honda, O. Kitao, H. Nakai, T. Vreven, K. Throssell, J. A. Montgomery Jr., J. E. Peralta, F. Ogliaro, M. J. Bearpark, J. J. Heyd, E. N. Brothers, K. N. Kudin, V. N. Staroverov, T. A. Keith, R. Kobayashi, J. Normand, K. Raghavachari, A. P. Rendell, J. C. Burant, S. S. Iyengar, J. Tomasi, M. Cossi, J. M. Millam, M. Klene, C. Adamo, R. Cammi, J. W. Ochterski, R. L. Martin, K. Morokuma, O. Farkas, J. B. Foresman and D. J. Fox, Gaussian16, revision, C. 01, *Gaussian Inc.*

**Table S4** Calculated frontier orbital energy levels and energy gaps ( $\Delta E$ ) for compounds **1** and **2a–c**, obtained from DFT calculations on their single-crystal geometries.

|           | HOMO / eV | LUMO / eV | $\Delta E$ / eV |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| <b>1</b>  | -6.118    | -1.982    | 4.136           |
| <b>2a</b> | -6.119    | -1.623    | 4.496           |
| <b>2b</b> | -5.753    | -1.493    | 4.260           |
| <b>2c</b> | -6.556    | -2.173    | 4.383           |