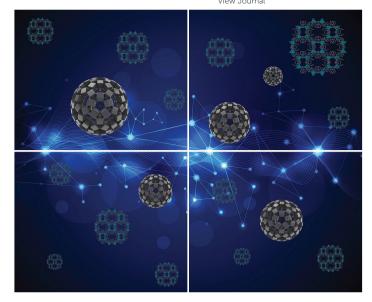
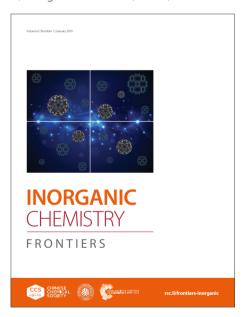
# INORGANIC CHEMISTRY

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# **REVIEW**

## Bi(III) MOFs: Syntheses, structures and applications

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Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) are favored by researchers on account of their high surface area, lofty porosity, excellent structural stability and diverse structures, and have been widely used in catalysis, sensing, adsorption, proton conduction, etc. Although the research of most MOFs has made amazing progress, the reports on Bi-based MOFs are limited. Nevertheless, because bismuth metal is non-toxic and environmentally friendly, and its radius is relatively large and has a high affinity for oxygen and nitrogen atoms, the Bi(III) MOFs with varied structure and various properties have attracted considerable attention recently. Additionally, owing to the structural advantages of Bi(III)-based MOFs, more and more interest has been aroused in the design and preparation of such MOFs, especially in the application research. Nevertheless, as far as we know, no review has concluded the latest research progress of these MOFs. We believe that a comprehensive review of the recent preparation, structures and properties of such MOFs would be very helpful for further research. Therefore, this review will summarize the preparation strategies, crystal structures and a variety of applications of bismuth-containing MOFs in the past ten years, and looks forward to the future.

#### 1. Introduction

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MOFs are crystalline porous materials that are constructed by metal ions/clusters and organic ligands. Compared to traditional porous materials like zeolite, they have quite a few advantages such as higher specific surface, higher porosity, adjustable pore size, and diverse structures.<sup>1-4</sup> Moreover, the most prominent advantage of MOFs is that their structures can be regulated and controlled during or after synthesis.<sup>5</sup> So far, MOFs have been widely used in catalysis,<sup>6,7</sup> fluorescence,<sup>8-12</sup> gas adsorption,<sup>13-15</sup> proton conduction,<sup>16-20</sup> sensors<sup>21-24</sup> and so on. In recent years, the research of MOFs has advanced rapidly, and thousands of MOFs have been synthesized. Due to its unique structural characteristics, there are many potential applications waiting for researchers to explore in depth.

Bismuth is a relatively rare heavy metal element (ranked 64th in abundance in the earth's crust). Unlike general toxic heavy metals, such as lead and mercury, it is safe and nontoxic. Researchers attribute its low toxicity to its low solubility and its inhibitory effect on bacteria. <sup>25,26</sup> So several bismuth compounds are the main ingredients in the treatment of gastric diseases, such as bismuth salicylate, colloidal bismuth citrate, and so on. Bismuth-based compounds have been adopted in pharmaceutical preparations for hundreds of years (since the eighteenth century). <sup>27-29</sup>

The electronic configuration of bismuth atom [Xe]4f145d106s26p3. Because of the weak shielding effect of 4f electrons (lanthanide shrinkage), Bi(III) compounds reveal Lewis acidity. 30,31 Under normal circumstances, bismuth is stable. During the coordination process, the three 6p electrons in the outermost layer are responsible for the formation of bonds, and bismuth usually exhibits +3 valence and has a high affinity for multidentate ligands containing oxygen and nitrogen atoms.<sup>32</sup> Additionally, bismuth metal also has catalytic activity, so bismuth complexes are often used as green catalysts. Because bismuth is non-toxic, harmless, has a larger atomic radius, a variety of coordination environments, and is relatively cheap, people began to turn their attention to the study of bismuth-based MOFs.33,34 With increasing attention to environmental issues and green chemistry, people's interest in bismuth-based MOFs has greatly increased. The Bi-based MOFs have such advantages as various structures (from zero-dimensional to three-dimensional structures), high stability, easy preparation, and the potential value in the fields of photocatalysis, medicine, etc. Thus, more and more new bismuth-based MOFs have been synthesized. Herein, this review will summarize the latest progress of such MOFs and highlight their future applications. A summary of the Bi-MOFs that appeared in this review is shown in Table 1.

#### 2. Synthesis methods of bismuth-based MOFs

#### 2.1. Hydrothermal/solvothermal synthesis

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Hydrothermal reaction is one of the most commonly used approaches for MOFs synthesis. Generally, metal salts, organic ligands and other substances that do not react or are difficult to react at room temperature are mixed uniformly in water, and then sealed in a Teflon-lined reactor for heating. Consequently, the reactor was kept at appropriate high temperature and appropriate high pressure for a period of time to make the reactants fully react, then cool down for growing single crystal products of the MOFs. The factors affecting the crystal growth mainly include reactant concentration, reactant proportion, stirring time, reaction time and so on. At present, this method is quite mature in the synthesis of bismuth MOFs. Note that because bismuth(III) is readily hydrolyzed, bismuth-containing oxides are usually substituted for bismuth salts for hydrothermal reactions. For example, in 2009, Tran et al. synthesized a 3D MOF Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>(3,5-pdc)<sub>2</sub> (denoted ARL-3) via hydrothermal reaction of Bi(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O and 3,5-H<sub>2</sub>pdc (3,5pyridine-dicarboxylic acid) at a range of temperature (130, 165 and 200°C) for 72h.35 It contains embedded 1D [Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>2+</sup> cationic chains, and has good thermal stability under 400 °C. In 2012, using Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> a 3D HO<sub>3</sub>SC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>H (1,2-ethanedisulfonate), MOF,  $Bi(O_3SC_2H_4SO_3)_{1.5}(H_2O)_2$ was hydrothermally prepared Gschwind's group.<sup>36</sup> Its structure will be described in the latter part.

The principle of solvothermal synthesis and hydrothermal synthesis is similar, only the reaction solvent is different. In the solvothermal synthesis, other solvents, such as methanol (MeOH), ethanol (EtOH), acetonitrile, etc., can also be added in addition to water. Since most organic ligands are not extremely soluble in water, organic solvents are chosen to dissolve them. Importantly, organic solvents are sometimes involved in coordination, complicating the structures of the related MOFs. For, example, In 2014, Wang et al. described the first bismuth-based MOF, **Bi-mna** through the solvothermal reaction of bismuth nitrate with 2-mercaptonicotinic acid (H<sub>2</sub>mna) and KOH in *N*, *N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) solution under 100 °C for 72 h.<sup>37</sup> In **Bi-mna**, the central bismuth atom is hexahedral and connected with four different organic ligands through sulfhydryl S, pyridine N and

carboxyl O atoms. Two spiral channels are formed along had and me axes. The authors found that **Bi-mna** can decompose organic over the light irradiation.

Note that the routine solution synthesis method is also commonly adopted in the preparation of Bi-based MOFs. The essence of this method is to mix the metal salt, organic ligands and solvent evenly, diffusing at room temperature, thus slowly growing the crystal at the phase interface. It has the advantages of mild reaction conditions and easy to obtain high-quality crystals. For example, two MOFs 2  $\infty$ [Bi(ADC)<sub>2/4</sub>(ADC)<sub>3/3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]·2H<sub>2</sub>O (Bi-ADC-**01**) and **3** ∞[Bi(ADC)<sub>2/4</sub>(ADC)<sub>3/3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>]·H<sub>2</sub>O (Bi-ADC-02) were evaporation of  $Bi(NO_3)_3 \cdot 5H_2O$ obtained through acetylenedicarboxylic acid (H<sub>2</sub>ADC) in H<sub>2</sub>O at room temperature by Busch et al. in 2012.38 Also, Roodsari et al. reported a MOF, [Bi(pcih)(µ-ONO<sub>2</sub>)(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>OH] through the branch tube method.<sup>39</sup> They used MeOH to dissolve Bi(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O and 2pyridinecarbaldehyde isonicotinoylhy-drazone (Hpcih) ligand in the two arms of the branch tube and sealed the tube. The branch arm containing the ligand was heated at 60 °C, and the other branch arm was placed at room temperature. A few days later, a single crystal was obtained in the arm at 25 °C.

#### 2.2. Microwave synthesis

The microwave synthesis applies microwave technology to make the chemicals inside the heated body perform high-frequency reciprocating motion. 40-42 Unlike traditional heating, it has uniform heating, high efficiency and low energy consumption. In 2012, a porous and catalytically active material **Bi(BTB)** was successfully prepared by M. Feyand et al. by either solvothermal synthesis or microwave synthesis. 41 The solvohermal reaction is performed in MeOH at 120 °C for 12 hours. In contrast, the mixture of bismuth(III) nitrate pentahydrate, 1,3,5-benzenetrisbenzoate (H<sub>3</sub>BTB) and CH<sub>3</sub>OH was sealed in a microwave reactor and exposed it to 120°C



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conduction.

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microwave oven for 20 minutes to produce the product. Obviously, the difference between the two is that the reaction

time is greatly shortened in microwave synthesis.

#### 2.3. Other synthetic methods

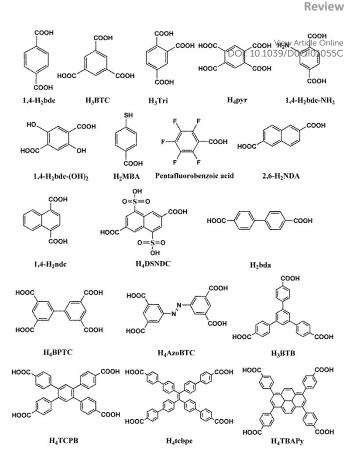
In addition to the above several widely used synthetic methods, other methods have recently emerged, such as mechanochemical synthesis,<sup>43</sup> heating reflux method,<sup>44,45</sup> sonochemical synthesis and so on.<sup>46,47</sup>

Mechanochemical method refers to the use of mechanical external forces (such as extrusion, grinding, shearing, etc.) under the condition of less or no organic solvents to apply mechanical energy to the reactants, thereby inducing changes in their physical properties and chemical reaction, which is a rapid, efficient, and solvent free method. In 2014, Two Bi-MOFs,  $(H_2Im)[Bi(1,4-bdc)_2]$  and  $[Bi(2,5-pdc)(NO_3)_2(H_2O)_2]\cdot H_2O$ (Him = imidazole;  $1,4-H_2bdc = 1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid;$ 2,5-H<sub>2</sub>pdc = 2,5-pyridinedicarboxylic acid) were successfully obtained through mechanochemical (grinding) method by Emmerling group.<sup>43</sup> Heating reflux method usually refers to the process under atmospheric pressure, oil bath heating reflux, speeds up the reaction process, the formation of products. For instance, in 2020, IRAM et al. successfully synthesized bismuth complex [Bi(bda)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>n</sub> by means of heated reflux the mixture of bismuth nitrate, biphenyl-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid (H<sub>2</sub>bda) and DMF.<sup>44</sup> The fluorescence and gas adsorption of the MOF were studied. In 2019, a new Bi-MOF, [Bi(HBTC)(Ac)] ( $H_3BTC = 1,3,5$ benzenetricarboxylic acid) was obtained by using acetic acid (HAc) as solvent by means of reflux method.<sup>45</sup> Sonochemical synthesis is similar to microwave synthesis.

#### Structures of Bi(III) MOFs

#### 3.1. MOFs constructed with phenyl ligands

Usually, organic ligands act as the key role in the preparation of Bi-MOFs, which can directly affect the structures and performance of subsequent products. Therefore, in this review, we mainly describe the related MOFs in the light of the main skeleton classification of the organic compounds adopted. The schematic diagrams of these organic phenyl ligands adopted are shown in Scheme 1.



**Scheme 1** Schematic of the chemical structures of benzene ring ligands mentioned in this review.

Four Bi-MOFs, [Bi(1,4-bdc)<sub>2</sub>(DMF)]·(Hdma)·2DMF (A1), [Bi(1,4-bdc)<sub>2</sub>]·(Hdma)·DMF (A2),  $bdc)_7(HIm)]\cdot 2(Hdma)\cdot 2DMF$  (A3) and  $[Bi(1,4-bdc)_2]\cdot (Hdma)$ (A4) (Hdma = dimethylammonium cation) have been solvothermally prepared and characterized by Thirumurugan et al. in 2020.48 Except A1 is a two-dimensional structure, the others are three-dimensional frameworks. The four MOFs contain anionic frameworks and Hdma cations. In A1, the Bi3+ is bound to nine O atoms. Each Bi3+ is linked to four other Bi3+ atoms by the 1,4-bdc<sup>2-</sup> ligands resulting in a layer structure. In A2, the Bi3+ is eightfold coordinated by O atoms from four distinct 1,4-bdc<sup>2-</sup> anions. The Bi<sup>3+</sup> atoms are joined by 1,4-bdc<sup>2-</sup> anions to make up a 3D network. Different from A1 and A2, in A3, there are two kinds of Bi3+ cations: Bi(1) and Bi(2), which are both nine-coordinated. Bi(1)NO<sub>8</sub> and Bi(2)O<sub>9</sub> are linked to a dimer through three carboxyl groups. These dimers are joined through 1,4-bdc<sup>2-</sup> anions to build up a 3D structure. Similar to A3, A4 also contains two types of Bi<sup>3+</sup>: Bi(3) and Bi(4). Bi(3) is nine-coordinated locating in a Bi(3)O<sub>9</sub> polyhedron. Bi(4) is twelvefold-coordinated siting in a Bi(4)O<sub>12</sub> polyhedron. The Bi(III) atoms are joined by the organic ligands to constitute a 3D structure.

Earlier, a novel 3D Bi-MOF, (H<sub>2</sub>Im)[Bi(1,4-bdc)<sub>2</sub>] was synthesized through mechanochemical by Emmerling group.<sup>43</sup> In this MOF, there are two kinds of coordination environments

for Bi<sup>3+</sup> ions. Bi1 is twelve-coordinated and Bi2 is nine-coordinated. The connection between the 1,4-bdc<sup>2-</sup> and the bismuth polyhedron leads to a three-dimensional framework.

Burrows et al. successfully solvothermally synthesized four MOFs, [Bi<sub>2</sub>(1,4-bdc)<sub>2</sub>(dfp)<sub>2</sub>]·DMF(B1), [Bi<sub>2</sub>(1,4 $bdc)(dfp)_4(H_2O)_2]\cdot 2DMF$ (B2), [Bi<sub>2</sub>(1,4-bdc- $NH_2$ )(dfp)<sub>4</sub>( $H_2O$ )<sub>2</sub>]·2DMF (B3) and [Bi<sub>2</sub>{1,4-bdc-(OH)<sub>2</sub>}(dfp)<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]-2DMF (B4), employing 1,4-H<sub>2</sub>bdc, 2-amino-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid (1,4-bdc-NH<sub>2</sub>), 2,5-dihydroxy-1,4benzenedicarboxylic acid (1,4-bdc-(OH)<sub>2</sub>) and deferiprone (Hdfp).49 In B1, each nine-coordinated bismuth center is connected by 1,4-bdc2- ligands to build up a chain with dfp hanging on this chain. The MOFs B2, B3 and B4 are isostructural. In B2, the central bismuth atom was coordinated by a bidentate carboxylate group and two bidentate dfp ligands to form six Bi-O bonds. Additionally, there are two long Bi-O bonds in the bismuth center, one is connected to water molecules, and the other is connected to carboxylic acid groups to form a dimer.

Nguyen et al. prepared a MOF, **Bi-bdc**, by means of solvent heat and microwave-assisted heating using  $1,4\text{-H}_2\text{bdc}$  ligand lately. In the former method, bismuth nitrate and  $1,4\text{-H}_2\text{bdc}$  were dissolved in DMF (molar ratio M: L = 1:1.5) and stirred. Subsequently, the mixture was put into a vessel, heated to 120 °C, and kelp for 2 days to obtain **Bi-bdc-ST**. Microwave method can be used to reduce the reaction time. After the above reactants are mixed thoroughly, they are put into the microwave heating reactor and heated by pre-programmed heating method (reaction temperature: 120°C; Time: 60 min; the power: 400W). After the reaction, post-processing was carried out to get **Bi-bdc-MW**.

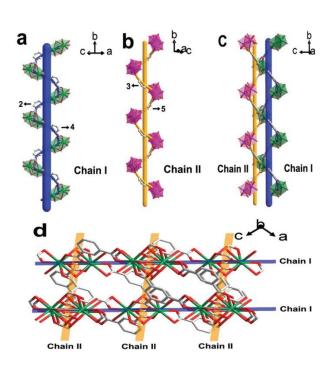
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Feyand and coworkers reported eight MOFs, Bi<sub>2</sub>(O)(Pyr)(H<sub>2</sub>O) (C1), Bi(HPyr) (C2), Bi(HPyr) (C3), Bi(Tri)(H<sub>2</sub>O) (C4), Bi(Tri) (C5),  $[(Bi(BTC)(H_2O)]\cdot H_2O$ (C6), Bi<sub>6</sub>O<sub>5</sub>(BTC)<sub>2</sub>(HBTC) (C7), Bi<sub>2</sub>(O)(OH)(HBTC)(NO<sub>3</sub>) (C8), employing three organic ligands, 1,2,4,5-benzenetetracarboxylic acid 1,2,4- $(H_4Pyr)$ , benzenetricarboxylic acid (H<sub>3</sub>Tri) and H<sub>3</sub>BTC, via Highthroughput methods.51 In C1, eight-coordinated Bi(III) atoms have two kinds of coordination environments. The formation of  $\mathrm{Bi_4O_{12}}$  units is caused by  $\mathrm{O^{2-}}$  ions coplanar with the  $\mathrm{BiO_8}$ polyhedron. In C2, the corner BiO<sub>9</sub> polyhedron is attached to the zigzag chain. The Bi-O chains were linked by aromatic rings of the organic ligands to construct a 3D framework. In C3, the coordination surrounding the Bi, edge-sharing of BiO<sub>9</sub> polyhedron leads to the formation of Bi-O-chains. These Bi-O chains are connected by ligands. In C4, the coordination environment of Bi3+ ion is composed of 7 carboxylic O atoms and one water unit. The edge sharing of the BiO<sub>8</sub> polyhedron leads to chain formation. The crystal structure of C5 is not obtained. The asymmetric unit of C6 has one Bi3+ ion, one BTC<sup>3-</sup> ion, one coordination H<sub>2</sub>O and one free H<sub>2</sub>O. The central Bi3+ ion is eightfold coordinated. Edge-sharing of two BiO<sub>8</sub> polyhedra results in Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>14</sub> dimers. The dimers through the benzene ring along b-axis lead to a 3D network. In C7, Bi3+ ions

are 7-coordinated or 9-coordinated. They are surrounded by oxygen atoms from carboxylic acids and  $0^{21}$  one of the Bi $0^{31}$  units are attached to the chain along the a-axis. In **C8**, the Bi $^{3+}$  ions form polyhedra for BiO $_6$  and BiO $_8$  and are connected with zig-zag double chains. These chains were interconnected by nitrate ions to build up a 2D sheet in the a,c-plane, which is joined by the ligands to form a three-dimensional network.

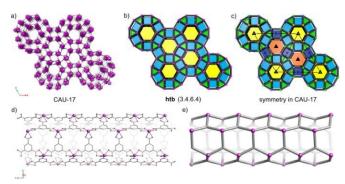
In 2018, a 1D Bi-MOF, [Bi(Pyr)<sub>0.5</sub>(2,2'-bipy)(NO<sub>3</sub>)(DMF)] (2,2'-bipy= 2,2'-bipyridine), was solvothermally prepared by Gomez et al.<sup>52</sup> Each Pyr ligand in this MOF adopts a bidentate chelation mode with four Bi centers to form a chain along the [100] direction, and the distance between adjacent Bi atoms is 6.3594(6) and 9.3852(7) Å, which are linked by weak H-bonds to make up a 3D supramolecular structure.

Wang et al. solvothermally synthesized a 3D Bi-MOF,  $([Bi(BTC)(DMF)]\cdot DMF\cdot 2CH_3OH)$  by using  $H_3BTC$  ligand,  $^{53}$  in which the two Bi atoms form a  $\{Bi_2O_{14}\}$  dimer with six carboxyl groups from six different  $BTC^{3-}$ , and the dimers are interconnected with the organic ligands to form a 3D structure. There are two types of 1D helix chains (Fig. 1a, 1b) Both two chains have right-handed and left-handed helix chains. As shown in Fig. 1c, the two helix chains share the same set of units (Fig. 1d).



**Fig. 1** 1D helix chains (a) chain I, (b) chain II and (c) the two chains share the same set of units; (d) the assembly of chains I and II with an angle of 96.915°. Bi: green in (a, c and d); purple in (b, c); C: light grey; O: red, chain I: blue; chain II: yellow. Reproduced with permission from ref. 53. Copyright 2015, The Royal Society of Chemistry.

Review



**Fig. 2** Crystal structure of **CAU-17**. Reproduced with permission from ref. 40. Copyright 2016, American Chemical Society.

reported porous MOF, Inge group {CAU-17, [Bi(BTC)(H<sub>2</sub>O)]·2H<sub>2</sub>O·CH<sub>3</sub>OH CAU (Christian-Albrechts-Universität)} with unprecedented topological complexity by means of microwave synthesis.<sup>40</sup> In this MOF, a great number of framework units exist in the asymmetric unit {9 Bi(III) cations, 9 BTC $^{3-}$  anions and 9 coordination H<sub>2</sub>O units}. Each nine-coordinated Bi(III) atom is bound to eight O atoms form the BTC3- ligands and one O atom form a coordinated H<sub>2</sub>O, and shares four O atoms with two adjacent Bi(III) atoms forming the spiral rods. These rods are joined by BTC3- anions to form an intricate 3D framework (Fig. 2). The spiral chain, pore distribution, periodic network and topological structure in the MOF are analyzed and discussed in detail. Obviously, this is a typical example of a complicated structure constructed from simple building blocks, which deserves further study.

Consequently, Köppen group conducted more attempts on the synthesis of CAU-17 in 2018, and the results showed that CAU-17 was not only rapidly generated, but also further transformed into a dense phase with the extension of the reaction time.<sup>54</sup> With the increase of reactant concentration, CAU-17 can be transformed another MOF, Bi(HBTC)(NO<sub>3</sub>)(CH<sub>3</sub>OH)·CH<sub>3</sub>OH.

Ye and coworkers hydrothermally prepared another 3D MOF,  $\{[Bi(BTC)(H_2O)_2]\cdot H_2O\}_n$ . The central Bi is bound to nine O atoms, both of them from the coordination water and the others from four BTC<sup>3-</sup> anions, forming a distorted monocapped square antiprism. Three Bi(III) ions and BTC<sup>3-</sup> anion are linked into a ring with size of 7.95 × 9.89 Å.

A new Bi-MOF, [Bi(BTC)(H<sub>2</sub>O)]·H<sub>2</sub>O was prepared through hydrothermal synthesis, and doped it with Eu<sup>3+</sup>.<sup>58</sup> This MOF contains a dimer {Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>18</sub>}, which is connected with each other through BTC<sup>3-</sup> anions to form a 3D framework with two kinds of channels having dimensions of 12.449 × 8.553 Å and 7.970 × 8.838 Å.

Savage group solvothermally prepared a MOF,  $[Bi_2(BPTC)_{1.5}(H_2O)_2]$ -3.5DMF-3H<sub>2</sub>O (NOTT-220-solv) by employing biphenyl-3,3',5,5'-tetracarboxylic acid (H<sub>4</sub>BPTC).<sup>60</sup> It exhibits a neutral and non-interpenetrated framework built by binuclear {Bi<sub>2</sub>} cores and tetracarboxylate units. Note that this reaction results in two similar structures (namely  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  phases), except that the coordination environment of the

central bismuth atom is slightly different. **NOTT-220** solvois highly porous structure bearing three distinct ብቶጀትና የዕብ ከቅሮቲ መርሰብ ከተመደረ channels through binding of the ligands to the {Bi<sub>2</sub>} nodes.

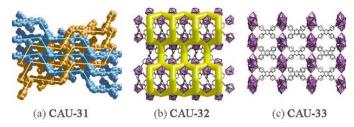
In 2016, Deibert team used 4', 4''', 4'''', 4'''' '''-(ethene-1, 1, 2, 2-tetrayl) tetrakis [(1,1'-biphenyl)-4-carboxylic acid] (H<sub>4</sub>tcbpe) to solvothermally synthesize a 3D MOF **K[Bi(tcbpe)(DMF)<sub>2</sub>]-xDMF (LMOF-401)**.<sup>61</sup> The central Bi is bound to four carboxyl groups of four tcbpe ligands, and DMF also participates in the coordination. The K<sup>+</sup> forms a one-dimensional helical chain connecting the Bi-tcbpe networks by carboxyl oxygen and solvent oxygen.

In the same year, a fluorine-containing 2D MOF,  $[Bi(OOCC_6F_5)_3(2,2'-bipy)(H_2O)_2](Bi-FMOFs)$  was presented by Kong et al. using  $C_6F_5COOH$  (pentafluorobenzoic acid) ligand. 62 In its structure, the central nine-coordinated Bi(III) sited in a polyhedral  $BiN_2O_7$ , in which two N atoms are from 2,2'-bipy, six oxygens come from the carboxyl groups of three  $C_6F_5COO$ -ligands and one water molecule.

Stock's group successfully prepared six Bi  $[Bi_6O_6(OH)_2(H_2O)_4(DSNDC)]$  (D1),  $[Bi_2(OH)_2(DSNDC)]$  (D2), [Bi<sub>8</sub>O<sub>7</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>(DSNDC)<sub>2</sub>](D3),  $[Bi_7O_5(OH)_3(H_2O)_4(DSNDC)_2]\cdot 4H_2O$ (D4), [Bi<sub>2</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>(DSNDC)(H<sub>2</sub>DSNDC)](D5),  $[Bi_6O_4(OH)_4(H_2O)_{12}(H_2DSNDC)_3]\cdot xH_2O$  (D6) with 4,8-disulfonyl-2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid (H<sub>4</sub>DSNDC) in 2018 through high-throughput methods.63 In situ PXRD of synchrotron radiation was used to investigate the reaction conditions. In D1, Bi3+ ions are seven (Bi1) or eight (Bi2, Bi3) coordinated. The Bi-O polyhedra are linked by edges and surfaces to consitute infinite iD Inorganic building units (IBUs). Each carboxylate and sulfonate unit coordinates to a single Bi3+ ion (Bi2) from four different IBUs, allowing each IBUs to connect to the other eight IBUs to construct a dense 3D CP. In D2, each ligand is connected to eight Bi3+ ions, both of which are chelated with carboxyl, and three of which are bonded by each sulfonic acid group. These dimeric units are shared by the edges in the cambium in the ab plane. The naphthalene ring is connected to two-dimensional IBU to form dense three-dimensional CP. In **D3**, a  $\{Bi_{16}O_{14}(OH)_4\}$  cluster is formed, and a one-dimensional IBUs is formed along a-axis by combining two water molecules with the other two clusters. In D4, Bi1, Bi3 and Bi4 are coordinated by eight oxygen atoms, and Bi2 and Bi5 are coordinated by 10 and 11, respectively. O2- and OH- ions bridge seven Bi3+ cations. Each of the IBUs is bound to eight ligands and is connected to the other 12 IBUs through them. In D5, Bi<sup>3+</sup> ions coordinate with an oxygen atom of a H<sub>2</sub>O, an OH<sup>-</sup>, a chelating carboxylic acid group, and four different sulfonic acid groups. Each sulfonic acid group connects two Bi3+ ions along the a-axis to a chain. Naphthalene rings connect each of these chains to the other six chains to construct a 3D framework with 1D channels. In D6, the {Bi<sub>6</sub>O<sub>4</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub>} clusters can be formed.

In 2018, Köppen et al. reported three MOFs, [Bi<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>TCPB)(TCPB)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]·xH<sub>2</sub>O (CAU-31),

(Hdma)[Bi(TCPB)(H2O)]·xH2O (CAU-32) and [Bi<sub>4</sub>(O)<sub>2</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>TCPB)(TCPB)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]·xH<sub>2</sub>O(CAU-33) using Bi(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O and 1,2,4,5-tertrakis-(4-carboxyphenyl)benzene (H<sub>4</sub>TCPB).<sup>64</sup> Note that the three MOFs were prepared by the same starting material but under different solvent conditions (MeOH, MeOH /DMF and DMF/toluene for CAU-31, CAU-32 and CAU-33, respectively), which denotes that the solvent effect is prominent in this reaction system. CAU-31 contains three Bi3+ ions chelated by three carboxylic acids forming a sheet. These 2D sheets show inclined interpenetration, building up a rare 3D interlocking structure (Fig. 3a). CAU-32 is a three-dimensional skeleton structure of negative ions constructed by Bi3+ ions chelated with four carboxyl units and one water unit, showing a three-dimensional channel system (Fig. 3b). The IBUs of CAU-33 is a bismuth oxide bar extending along c-axis. The bar is joined by H2TCPB2- and TCPB4- ions to build up a three-dimensional framework (Fig. 3c). Two 1D diamond channels parallel to the rod along the c-axis are formed, with diameters of 9.5  $\times$  4.6 and 4.4  $\times$  4.1 Å, respectively.



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**Fig. 3** (a) Inclined interlocking of layers in **CAU-31**. (b) The 3D channel system of **CAU-32**. (c) Crystal structure of **CAU-33**. Reproduced with permission from ref. 64. Copyright 2018, American Chemical Society

A novel Bi-MOF, [(Hdma)Bi(1,4-ndc)<sub>2</sub>(DMF)]<sub>n</sub>·nDMF (E1) was solvothermally synthesized by Lu et al. by adopting 1,4-H<sub>2</sub>ndc (1,4-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid).<sup>65</sup> Each 1,4-ndc<sup>2-</sup> ligand is connected to the Bi<sup>3+</sup> ion in  $\mu_2$  coordination to form a layer. These layers can be constructed a 3D supramolecular structure across hydrogen bonds. The solvent DMF and Hdma cations are present in the voids.

In 2019, Vilela et al. reported a high-proton conductive Bi-MOF, [Bi<sub>4</sub>(HAzoBTC)<sub>2</sub>(AzoBTC)(OH)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub>]·7H<sub>2</sub>O (IEF-2).<sup>66</sup> IEF-2 was hydrothermally synthesized by using a multi-carboxyl ligand 3,3′,5,5′-azobenzenetetracarboxylic acid (H<sub>4</sub>AzoBTC). Free carboxyl groups exist in the structure, and hydrogen bonds are formed between free water and free carboxyl groups. In addition, other carboxyl groups and water molecules also form a large number of H-bonds, which establishes the structural basis for proton conduction.

Xiao group solvothermally synthesized a new 3D Bi-MOFs, **Bi-TBAPy** by employing 1,3,6,8-tetrakis(p-benzoic acid)pyrene ( $H_4TBAPy$ ) ligand in 2019.<sup>70</sup> In this MOF, the central Bi atom coordinates with eight O atoms of the organic ligands. A Hdma coordinates with Bi atoms as a counter ion to maintain charge

In 2019, Guan and coworkers made another 3D structure, **Bi(TBAPy)**, by solvothermal synthesis,  $^{71}$  in which the central Bi is coordinated with eight oxygen from four TBAPy $^{4-}$  ligands, forming a BiO $_8$  double-cap triangular prism. The four BiO $_8$  centers shared the organic ligand cambium and were joined to construct a 3D framework through the ligand TBAPY $^{4-}$ . Along the b-axis there is a large channel of about  $16.3 \times 11.6$  Å.

As described early, Feyand et al. found that in the preparation of Bi(BTB) (CAU-7),  $^{41}$  the microwave method could shorten the reaction time and the addition of DMF was conducive to the growth of large rod-like crystals. The center Bi is allocated to create a  $BiO_9$  threefold capped trigonal prisms.  $BTB^{3-}$  connects chains along the c direction to a slightly twisted cellular network with a 1D channel about 1 nm. The results of TG and TD-XRPD showed that CAU-7 remained stable under 380 °C.

In this part, by describing the structures of Bi-MOFs constructed with phenyl ligands, we discovered that all ligands contain carboxylate groups, and most of the central bismuth atoms coordinate with carboxyl oxygen to form novel, complex multi-dimensional structures.

#### 3.2. MOFs constructed by heterocyclic ligands

In addition to the benzene-containing ligands mentioned above, heterocyclic ligands were also employed and displayed strong coordination ability and various coordination modes. Their chemical structures are denoted in Scheme 2.

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Scheme 2 The chemical structures of heterocyclic ligands mentioned in this review.

Pyridine dicarboxylic acid ligands are good building blocks and are commonly used in the preparation of Bi(III) MOFs. Wibowo group hydrothermally prepared a 2D MOF, Bi<sub>3</sub>(μ<sub>3</sub>- $O_{2}(2,5-pdc)_{2}(2,5-hpdc)(H_{2}O)_{2}$  in 2010.<sup>74</sup> The asymmetric unit includes three  $\text{Bi}^{\text{3+}}\text{,}$  two  $\mu_{\text{3}}\text{-O}$  ligands, three dicarboxylate ligands, and one coordinated and one uncoordinated H<sub>2</sub>O units. The Bi<sub>6</sub>O<sub>4</sub> clusters are connected by organic ligands to construct a sheet. Moreover, these layers are joined through H-bonds to form a 3D supramolecular structure.

Lately, three MOFs, Bi(2,5-pdc)(2,5-Hpdc)(H<sub>2</sub>O) (F1),  $K_4Bi(2,5-pdc)_3(2,5-Hpdc)(H_2O)_{3.3}$  (F2), and  $(Hdma)_3Bi(2,5-pdc)_3(2,$ pdc)<sub>2</sub>(2,5-Hpdc)<sub>2</sub> (F3) were hydrothermally/ solvothermally prepared by Wibowo et al. 75 In F1, a zigzag chain is formed by connecting the central bismuth with the surrounding ligands, which is then bridged by H-bonds to constitute a 3D structure. As for F2, it is an interesting anion layer structure and is the first example of Bi-based clusters fabricating an anionic sheet of [Bi(2,5-pdc<sup>2-</sup>)<sub>3</sub>(2,5-Hpdc<sup>-</sup>)]<sup>4-</sup> with counter ions locating in the interlayers. F3 is a supramolecular molecule. In the asymmetric element of F3, including one anionic bismuth complex, [Bi(2,5pdc)<sub>2</sub>(2,5-Hpdc)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>, and three dimethylammonium cations. The anionic bismuth units, [Bi(2,5-pdc)<sub>2</sub>(2,5-Hpdc)<sub>2</sub>]<sup>3-</sup> balanced by three Hdma cations are formed 1D chains that extend along aaxis by H-bonds between O(3A)-H(3A)---O(16) from the monoprotonated ligand. Followed by using 2,5-H₂pdc, they reported MOF,  $Bi(2,5-pdc)_2(H_3O^+)(H_2O)_{0.83}$ .<sup>76</sup> asymmetric unit contains a bismuth ion, one 2,5-pdc2- ligand and some solvent molecules. The coordination sphere of BiO<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub> is completed by O and N atoms from the four 2,5-pdc<sup>2</sup>creating a slightly distorted double-hat octahedron. The layered structure formed by four 2,5-pdc<sup>2-</sup> ligands and the central atom Bi, extending in the a-, b-direction of the crystal, and resulting in six-membered and three-membered rings with an overall arrangement related to the Kagomé topology.

After one year, the same group reported a 3D MOF, Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>(2,5-pdc).<sup>77</sup> It is the first polar, non-centrosymmetric 3D MOF with asymmetric ligands. The MOF includes  $Bi_2O_2$  chains that are linked into a 3D framework via the 2,5-pdc<sup>2-</sup> anions. On the Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> chains, the central Bi cations exhibit several kinds of coordination surroundings, Bi(1)O<sub>5</sub>N, Bi(2)O<sub>6</sub>, Bi(1)O<sub>5</sub>N and  $Bi(2)O_6$ .

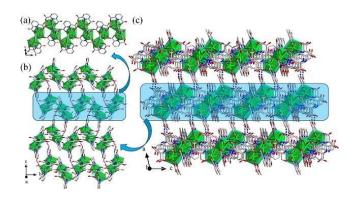
Emmerling's group used 2,5-H<sub>2</sub>pdc to obtain a 1D Bi MOF,  $[Bi(2,5-pdc)(NO_3)_2(H_2O)_2]\cdot H_2O$ .<sup>43</sup> The asymmetric unit contains one Bi<sup>3+</sup> atom, one 2,5-pdc<sup>2-</sup> unit, two nitrate anions and three H<sub>2</sub>O units. The central Bi<sup>3+</sup> ion is nine-fold coordinated forming a BiO<sub>8</sub>N polyhedron. The monodentate coordination anion nitrate connects the complex to the adjacent Bi3+ cation, forming a one-dimensional chain of Bi<sup>3+</sup> cation.

Thirumurugan group solvothermally synthesized six MOFs, [Bi(2,6-pdc)<sub>3</sub>]·3(Hdma) (G1), [Bi(2,6-pdc)<sub>3</sub>]·3(Hdma)·2H<sub>2</sub>O (G2), [Bi(2,6-pdc)<sub>2</sub>(DMF)]·(Hdma) Bi(2,6-pdc)(2,6-(G3),

pdcme)(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) (G4), [LiBi(2,6-pdc)<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)]·2(Hdma) (G5), and  $\text{Li}_5 \text{Bi}(2,6\text{-pdc})_4 (\text{H}_2 \text{O})_2 (\text{G6}) (2,6\text{-H}_2 \text{pdc} = 2,6\text{-py}) + \text{pdiv}_6 + \text{$ acid; 2,6-Hpdcme = 6-methyl-oxycarbonyl pyridine 2carboxylate) by varying the ratio of metal salt to ligand, 78 the type of solvent and different acid-base conditions. In G1, the infinite 2D H-bonding sheets are stacked involving  $\pi\text{-}\pi$ interactions between neighbor pyridine units. In G2, each Bi(III) atom is joined to four Hdma cations and two Hdma dimers to build up a H-bonded layer. In G3, there are two 2,6-pdc anions (-1 and -2). The two 2,6-pdc anions are tridentate chelated with a Bi3+ cation by the carboxylic acid group and the pyridine nitrogen. The 2,6-Hpdc anion is also monodentate with another Bi3+ across the carboxylic acid to form a dimeric  $[Bi_2(2,6-pdc)_4(DMF)_2]^{2-}$  anion. In **G4**, 2,6-pdcme monoanion was synthesized from 2,6-H<sub>2</sub>pdc and methanol in situ. The coordination sphere around the central bismuth cation is BiN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>. The 2,6-pdc<sup>2-</sup>, 2,6-pdcme cations and Bi<sup>3+</sup> cations are connected by monodentate or tridentate manner to form a neutral dimer with eight unmatched carboxylic oxygens. For G5, it is a 1D bimetallic compound. The bismuth unit was bridged by two Li<sup>+</sup> cations through two 2,6-Hpdc<sup>-</sup> anions to build up a chain with Bi(2,6-pdc)<sub>3</sub> unit and Li<sup>+</sup> ions alternately arranged. Two such parallel chains are linked to a lithium tetrahedron from one chain to the other via the 2,6-pdc<sup>2-</sup> anion, thus forming a stepped one-dimensional chain structure. For G6, it's a 3D bimetallic compound. The Bi3+ atom is ninecoordinated by six O atoms and three N atoms of three organic ligands.

Consequently, Sushrutha and coworkers reported three MOFs,  $[pip][Bi(2,6-Hpdc)(2,6-pdc)]\cdot H_2O$  (H1), [Bi(HIDC)IDC)](H2) and  $[Bi(\mu_2-OH)(3,4-pdc)]$  (H3) (pip = piperazine; 4,5-H<sub>2</sub>IDC 4,5-Imidazole dicarboxylic acid; 3,4-H<sub>2</sub>pdc = 3,4pyridinedicarboxylic acid).<sup>79</sup> In **H1**, carboxyl free oxygen can interact weakly with adjacent bismuth ions to form a chain structure through 2,6-Hpdc ligands. In **H2**, The central Bi3+ ion is eight coordinated, which forms BiO<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub> distorted bicappedtrigonal prismatic geometry. The bismuth centers form a Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dimer through the  $\mu_3$ -O, which produces the bilayer arrangement. The asymmetric unit of H3 is composed of one  $Bi^{3+}$ , one 3,4-pdc and one  $\mu_2$ -hydroxyl. The Bi centers are linked by μ<sub>2</sub>-hydroxyl O atoms to form Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dimeric units. The dimes are bridged by carboxylic acid groups to fabricate a 3D structure through the connection of pyridine nitrogen and other carboxylic acid groups.

Huang et al. successfully synthesized a 1D MOF, Bi₂(2,6-Hpdc)<sub>2</sub>(2,6-pdc)<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O using 2,6-H<sub>2</sub>pdc through hydrothermal process.80 The asymmetric unit of this MOF consists of two Bi, two mono-protonated 2,6-Hpdc<sup>-</sup> ligands, two 2,6-pdc<sup>2-</sup> ligands and two water units. 2,6-pdc2- ligands link two Bi to form a dual-core unit, and through 2,6-Hpdc connection into a 1D chain (Fig. 4a). The H-bonds (C5-H5A...O15) between two chains result in a 2D sheet (Fig. 4b). Moreover, 3D structure is formed by H-bonds (C18-H18A...O6) (Fig. 4c).



**Fig. 4** (a) 1D chain of Bi<sub>2</sub>(2,6-Hpdc)<sub>2</sub>(2,6-pdc)<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O. (b) 2D layer via H-bonds interactions. (c) The 3D supramolecular structure. Reproduced with permission from ref. 80. Copyright 2016, Elsevier.

Two MOFs, {[Bi<sub>2</sub>(Hbpp)(bpp)( $\mu$ -I)<sub>2</sub>I<sub>6</sub>](Hbpp)·CH<sub>3</sub>OH}<sub>n</sub> (I1) and [Bi(Hbpp)(Br<sub>4</sub>)] (I2) [bpp = 1,3-di(pyridin-4-yI)propane], were synthesized by Morsali group using the branch tube method. <sup>46</sup> In I1, the central bismuth atom is six-coordinated and sites in a distorted octahedron. Two iodine atoms bridge two bismuth atoms. Bismuth in I2 is also hexacoordinated, and the central bismuth atom forms a BiBr<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub> polyhedron with a one-dimensional chain structure.

Continuously, Liu group presented three MOFs, (Hdma)[Bi(3,5-pdc)(1,4-bdc)]·2DMF (J1), (Hdma)[Bi(2,5-TDC)<sub>2</sub>]·1.5DMF (J2), [Bi(bda)<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O]·xGuest (J3), using four symmetric simple ligands 3, 5-H<sub>2</sub>pdc (3,5-pyridinedicarboxylic acid), 1,4-H<sub>2</sub>bdc, 2,5-H<sub>2</sub>TDC (2,5-thiophenedicarboxylic acid), H<sub>2</sub>bda by solvent-thermal method.<sup>81</sup> In **J1**, each 3,5-pdc<sup>2-</sup> connects three Bi, forms a 2D layer through two carboxyl groups and a nitrogen, and then forms a 3D structure through 1,4-bdc<sup>2-</sup>. In J2, there are two types of pore size  $5 \times 6$  and  $6 \times 6$ Å. In the 2D structure of J3,  $11 \times 11$  Å channel (not including van der Waals radius) can be observed.

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Using pyridine tricarboxylate ligand, pyridinetricarboxylic acid (H<sub>3</sub>PTC), four MOFs, [Bi(PTC)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>] (K1),  $(H_3O)[Bi_2(PTC)(HPTC)_2(H_2O)_2]$  (K2),  $\alpha$ -[Bi(PTC)] (K3),  $\beta$ -[Bi(PTC)] (K4) were reported by Rhauderwiek et al.84 by a highthroughput hydrothermal process in 2018. K1 is a layered structure. These layers are linked by H-bonds between carboxyl units and coordinated H<sub>2</sub>O. In **K2**, the two centers Bi<sup>3+</sup> constitute BiNO<sub>7</sub> and BiN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> polyhedra respectively, and the completely protonated PTC3- connects them. The same layered structures like K1, there are four kinds of hydrogen bonds among these layers. K3 and K4 are all three-dimensional, and K4 is a polycrystalline form of K3. In K3, the IBU consists of a PTC<sup>3-</sup> connected BiNO<sub>7</sub> edge shared dual-core unit. **K4**, IBU is composed of BiNO<sub>8</sub> dimers with shared edges, which are connected into a one-dimensional chain and formed into a 3D structure by PTC<sup>3-</sup> connection.

Adopting triazine-2,4,6-triyl-tribenzoic acid ( $H_3$ TATB), two Bi-MOFs,  $Bi_2(O)(OH)(TATB)]\cdot H_2O$  (CAU-35) and [Bi(TATB)]·DMF·6 $H_2O$  (CAU-7-TATB) were synthesized by ligand and high-throughput method.<sup>42</sup> CAU-35 was

solvothermally synthesized for 5 days in a H<sub>2</sub>O/DMF solution minutes in a CH<sub>3</sub>OH/DMF solution. The authors calculated and solved the structures of the two MOFs by PXRD data. In CAU-**35**, BiO<sub>7</sub> IBUs bridged by organic ligands to form a sheet, then these sheets are linked by intermolecular H-bonds. The structure of CAU-7-TATB is similar to CAU-35. The biggest difference is the different size of the pore contained. Through the amino functionalization of H<sub>3</sub>TATB, 2-(4-Carboxy-3aminophenyl)-4,6-bis(4-carboxyphenyl)-1,3,5-triazine (H<sub>3</sub>TATB-NH<sub>2</sub>) was obtained, and CAU-7-TATB-NH<sub>2</sub> was synthesized by the same method as CAU-7-TATB, which is an analogue of CAU-7. As shown in Scheme 3, acetic anhydride, pentanhydride, succinic anhydride, phthalic anhydride and 1, 3-propane sultanone were used to modify CAU-7-TATB-NH<sub>2</sub>, and a series of functional Bi-MOFs were obtained.

**Scheme 3** Post-synthetic modification of **CAU-7-TATB-NH<sub>2</sub>** with the respective anhydrides and 1,3-propane sultone. Degree of conversion in %. Reproduced with permission from ref. 42. Copyright 2017, American Chemical Society.

Other types of heterocyclic ligands, such as thiophenyl carboxylic acid ligands, also exhibit flexible coordination capabilities. For example, three MOFs, Hpy[Bi(TDC)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)]·1.5H<sub>2</sub>O (L1)

 $(Hpy)_3[Bi_2(TDC)_4(HTDC)(H_2O)]\cdot 0.74H_2O$  (L2),

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(Hpy)<sub>2</sub>[Bi(TDC)<sub>2</sub>(HTDC)]·0.36H<sub>2</sub>O (L3), were synthesized by Adcock et al. using 2,5-thiophenedicarboxylic acid (H2TDC), Hpy (pyridine) by normal temperature volatilized method.85 In L1, center Bi3+ is nine coordinated with four TDC2- of eight O atoms and one O atom of a water molecule. Two TDC2- ligands bridged bismuth metal centers along [-1 1 0] to construct a sawtooth chain, with Bi. Bi separation of 10.814 (4) Å. Hbonding and  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions between adjacent thiophene ring stable the compound. The structure of L2 has two central Bi ions (Bi1, Bi2). Bi1 is coordinated with ten O atoms of five ligands, and Bi2 is connected with nine O atoms of three TDC2-, one HTDC1- ligand and one H2O. Similar to L1, Bi1 and Bi2 are joined by one ligand, with Bi··Bi separation of 10.771 (11) Å. In L3, Bi is connected with another Bi through ligand to form a chain structure similar to **L1**, **L2**. There exist  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interactions between HTDC- thiophene ring and pyridine ring.

Consequently, Iram et al. prepared four Bi-MOFs,  $[Bi(HMMTA)_3]_n (M1), [Bi(2, 6-NDA)_3]_n (M2), [Bi(DMP)_3]_n (M3),$ [Bi(MBA)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>n</sub> (M4) by conventional solution method adopting ligands: 2-mercapto-3-methyl-4-thiazoleacetic (H<sub>2</sub>MMTA), 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid (2, 6-H<sub>2</sub>NDA), 4mercaptobenzoic acid  $(H_2MBA)$ and 4,6-dihydroxy-2mercaptopyrimidine  $(H_2DMP).^{86}$ Nitrogen adsorption experiments (77K) showed that, they are all mesoporous materials, and the estimated BET specific surface area is M1 > M3 > M4 > M2.

Recently, García-Sánchez group employed dithieno[3,2-b:2',3'd]thiophene-2,6-dicarboxylic acid (H<sub>2</sub>DTTDC) solvothermally Bi-MOF, prepare new [Bi<sub>12</sub>(DTTDC)<sub>24</sub>]·12(Hdma)·4DMF·2H<sub>2</sub>O (IEF-5).<sup>87</sup> The skeleton of IEF-5 consists of inorganic secondary building block (SBU) [Bi<sub>3</sub>(-COO)<sub>12</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>(Fig. 5a). Each inorganic SBU is joined by six adjacent SBU through paired parallel ligands to form a pcu type network (Fig. 5b). There are two interpenetrating networks in IEF-5, between which DMF and H<sub>2</sub>O units are located (Fig. 5c). The ligand DTTDC<sup>2-</sup> is used as a hole transport connector for photoelectric catalytic applications.

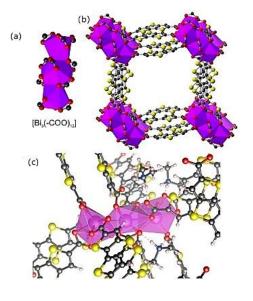


Fig. 5 (a) The structure of the SBU [Bi<sub>3</sub>(-COO)<sub>12</sub>]<sup>3-</sup>. (b) Each SBU connecting with other six ones, forming a pcu-type network. (c) Representation of the simulated interaction of the HDMA with the framework atoms. Reproduced with permission from ref. 87. Copyright 2020, American Chemical Society.

In one word, the MOFs constructed by heterocyclic ligands are different from the phenyl ligands described in the previous part. The extra N, S and other atoms on the heterocyclic ring can greatly enhance the coordination activity. In addition to the various functional groups on the heterocyclic ligand, its own heteroatom is a good active site for metal coordination. This also leads to more complex and diverse Bi-MOFs structure.

#### 3.3. MOFs constructed by aliphatic hydrocarbon Ligands

Although Bi-based MOFs constructed by aliphatic hydrocarbon ligands are limited, we also summarize them briefly. The chemical structures of aliphatic hydrocarbon ligands mentioned in this review are listed in Scheme 4.

Scheme 4. The chemical structures of aliphatic hydrocarbon ligands mentioned in this review.

A 3D MOF, Bi(O<sub>3</sub>SC<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>1.5</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub> was hydrothermally synthesized by Gschwind's group,36 in which the central Bi atom is connected to the other three bismuth atoms by the organic ligands toconstruct a three-dimensional skeleton with a very minor cavity (Fig. 6).

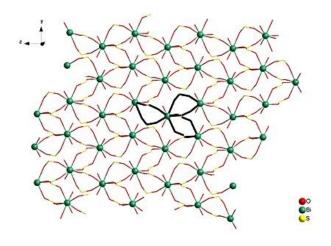


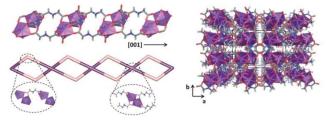
Fig. 6 The framework of  $Bi(O_3SC_2H_4SO_3)_{1.5}(H_2O)_2$ . Reproduced with permission from ref. 36. Copyright 2012, Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute.

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As mentioned in the previous part, **Bi-ADC-01** and **Bi-ADC-02**<sup>38</sup> were prepared by solution synthesis method. Each Bi(III) atom in **Bi-ADC-01** is nine-coordinated by four O atom of two chelating carboxylate units, three O atoms of three monodentate carboxylate units and two O atoms of two  $H_2O$  units, which is further joined by  $ADC^{2-}$  ligands to form a layered structure. Using the similar starting materials in preparation of **Bi-ADC-02**, only the concentration of  $H_2ADC$  is lower. A 3D structure of **Bi-ADC-02** was obtained. In this compound, a  $H_2OC$  polyhedron was formed, which was joined by  $H_2OC$  anions to build up a 3D framework.

By employing iminodiacetic acid ( $H_2IDA$ ), Gomez et al. presented a Bi-MOF, [Bi(IDA)(IDAH)], which was prepared through solvothermal method.<sup>52</sup> In this MOF, the IDAH ligand connected the SBU along the [001] direction to form a ribbon chain. In addition, IDAH ligand connects two Bi centres to form the dimeric SBUs, and the three-dimensional supramolecular structure is constructed by strong H-bonding and  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interaction (Fig. 7).



**Fig. 7** Polyhedron and simplified representation of the chains (left) and crystal packing of **[Bi(IDA)(IDAH)]** (right). Reproduced with permission from ref. 52. Copyright 2018, The Royal Society of Chemistry.

#### 3.4. MOFs constructed by ring ligands

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The schematic diagram of the ring-containing ligands is shown in Scheme 5.

**Scheme 5** The chemical structures of ring-based ligands mentioned in this review.

In 2012, three novel Bi-based MOFs, [Bi(H₃dhbqd)(H₂dhbqd)]·2.5DMF (N1) 3,6-dihydroxy-2,5-benzoquinone-1,4-dicarboxylic acid (H₄dhbqd), dimethyl 3,6-

dihydroxy-2,5-benzoquinone-1,4-dicarboxylate [Bi2(mdhbqd)(ox)2(DMF)4] (N2) and [Bi2(mdhbqd)2(ox)(DMF)4] (N3), were prepared by Zhang and coworkers by in situ generated anilate ligands (Scheme 6).88 In N1, the central Bi (III) atom coordinates with eight O atoms of four aniline ligands. Each oxygen atom connected two Bi(III) cations to generate a diamond-like network. DMF molecules occupy the 2D channels along the a- and b-axes. The asymmetric unit of N2 contains a bismuth, half mdhbqdc ligand, two half oxalates and two DMF. The center Bi(III) (BiO<sub>8</sub>) displays triangular dodecahedral geometry. Similarly, in N3, the central bismuth atom is coordinated by eight O atoms from two mdhbqdc ligands, one ox and two DMF units. In the presence of nitric acid, the formation of N2 is acidified into carboxylic acid, while N3 is partially acidified. This is the first observation of the in-situ oxidation of H<sub>4</sub>dhbqdc and H<sub>2</sub>mdhbqdc by dmchddc. Proposed mechanism for the formation of H<sub>2</sub>mdhbqdc, H<sub>4</sub>dhbqdc and oxalic acid were presented by the authors.

**Scheme 6** Synthetic conditions for **N1-3.** Reproduced with permission from ref. 88. Copyright 2012, Royal Society of Chemistry.

In 2018, Vilela group synthesized a 2D Bi MOF by hydrothermal method using  $H_2L$  (camphor acid), [Bi(L)(HL)], denotes IEF-1.<sup>89</sup> IEF-1 has good thermal stability at 240°C. The center Bi<sup>3+</sup> is coordinated with three  $L^{2-}$  and one HL<sup>-</sup>.

[Bi<sub>2</sub>(mdhbqdc)<sub>2</sub>(ox)(DMF)<sub>4</sub>]

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Another L-based MOF, Bi<sub>4</sub>Na<sub>4</sub>L<sub>8</sub>(EtOH)<sub>3,1</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3,4</sub> was synthesized by Wibowo et al.<sup>77</sup> In this MOF, the coordination spheres of the four Bi(III) ions, Bi(1)O<sub>6</sub>, Bi(2)O<sub>7</sub>, Bi(2)O<sub>7</sub>, and Bi(4)O<sub>6</sub>, are hemidirected polyhedra of nido penta-gonal bipyramid, capped nido pentagonal bipyramid, capped nido pentagonal bipyramid, and capped nido octahedron, respectively. The surroundings around the four Na<sup>+</sup> ions,  $Na(1)O_6$ ,  $Na(2)O_6$ ,  $Na(3)O_6$  and  $Na(4)O_4$ , forming irregular octahedra, irregular monocapped square pyramids, and irregular tetrahedra.  $Bi_4Na_4L_8(EtOH)_{3.1}(H_2O)_{3.4}$  contains a zigzag chain extending along the z-direction. Nevertheless, when rotated  $90^{\circ}$  around the (-) y-axis, it is clear that this is actually a 2D structure because the bridging ligand connects the chain along the y-direction. These sheets are stacked on top of each structure in the x-axis. Na+ ions complete the three-dimensional framework by linking these layers.

Babaryk group synthesized a MOF,  $Bi_2O_2(C_4O_4)$  by hydrothermal method using  $H_2C_4O_4$  (square acid) lately, which was expressed as IEF-3.90 The photochemical behavior of IEF-3 is similar to that of  $\alpha$ -Al $_2O_3$ , an N-type semiconductor that absorbs ultraviolet light. Electron enrichment of IEF-3 may be due to electron donor behavior of square anions. This fact has important implications for the modulability of molecular semiconductor properties and opens interesting new avenues for the application of photochemistry. In particular,  $[Bi_2O_2]^{2+}$  semiconductors can be designed and modified by using functional substituents.

In general, both aliphatic hydrocarbon and ring ligands bear O-containing functional units, such as carboxyl, hydroxyl and ester groups, which can participate in coordination with bismuth ions, thus contributing to the formation of polytropic structures of Bi-MOFs.

#### 4. Applications of Bi(III) MOFs

#### 4.1. Catalytic

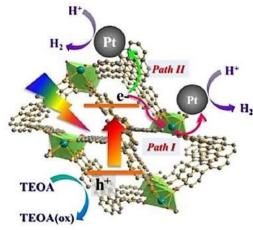
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Bismuth-based materials are more appropriate candidates for catalysis. Nevertheless, a little attention has been paid to Bibased MOFs in terms of catalysts. Nguyen et al. used Bi-bdc for photocatalytic degradation of RhB.50 The experimental results illustrated that the photocatalytic activity of Bi-bdc-MW was higher than that of Bi-bdc-ST, and the degradation of RhB reached 99.44% after 360 min of lighting. The high photocatalytic activity may be due to its layered structure, high specific surface area and oxygen deficiency, as well as good electron hole separation. Also, Ye and coworkers utilized  $\{[Bi(BTC)(H_2O)_2]\cdot H_2O\}_n$  for photocatalytic degradation of methyl orange (MO), and the photocatalysis effect was the best under acidic (pH=3) conditions with a content of 0.60 g·L<sup>-1</sup> (reaching equilibrium in about one hour).56 Huang group found that  $Bi_2(2,6-Hpdc)_2(2,6-pdc)_2\cdot 2H_2O$  is a good material to degrade RhB (97%, UV irradiation 120min) and MB (91%, UV

irradiation 120 min) under UV irradiation.<sup>80</sup> Such ricresults proved that Bi-MOFs have the potential 10 Fb/D officient photocatalytic degradation of organic dyes.

Besides, Wang and coworkers reported that **([Bi(BTC)(DMF)]·DMF·2CH\_3OH** could photocatalyze water to produce oxygen, <sup>53</sup> and produce oxygen (about 880  $\mu$ L·h<sup>-1</sup>) under ultraviolet and visible light irradiation.

Xiao et al. conducted an in-depth study on the photocatalytic hydrogen production performance of Bi-TBAPy, and the results demonstrated that Bi-TBAPy had good stability and hydrogen production capacity.<sup>70</sup> The optimal hydrogen evolution rate of this MOF with load of 2.0 wt% Pt was 140 μmol· h-1·g-1. As denoted in Fig. 8, first, under light conditions, the MOF absorbs light to produce electron and hole. Consequently, excited electrons are consumed across two pathways. In one pathway, electrons are transferred to nearby Bi<sup>3+</sup> ions through the LMCT mechanism, and after that transferred to the cocatalyst. In another approach, the excited electrons are directly transferred to the Pt particles. Then, the deposited Pt serves as an active site for the catalytic hydrogen production of H<sub>2</sub>O, and the light-generated holes are concurrently consumed by the sacrificial reagent TEOA (triethanolamine). Their research provides new ideas and directions for the application design and operation of Bi-MOFs in photocatalysis.



**Fig. 8** Proposed mechanism of photocatalytic H<sub>2</sub> evolution over Bi-TBAPy. Reproduced with permission from ref. 70. Copyright 2019, Elsevier.

In 2020, Zhang group adopted solvothermal synthesis to obtain a MOF, Bi(BTC)(DMF), and explored its electrochemical reduction of  $CO_2$ . The average Faraday efficiency of formic acid was 93.0% after continuous electrolysis for 12 hours. In the same year, Lamagni et al. used another Bi-MOFs **CAU-7** for photocatalytic reduction of  $CO_2$ . They discovered that Faradaic efficiency was as high as 95(3)% when **CAU-7** derived materials selectively reduced  $CO_2$  at 770 mV overvoltage. In addition, in mass activity, it is superior to most Bi-based catalysts reported recently and can reach 158(11) A·g<sup>-1</sup> under 770 mV overvoltage (comparable to the best Sn-based electrocatalyst). The **CAU-7** derivative material catalyzed the

reduction of  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  to formate, and its own structure changed to form bismuth-based nanoparticles. Although the structure of **CAU-7** has changed, as a former catalyst, **CAU-7** forms a metal active center evenly distributed in the organic network structure, which opens a new way for the development of various kinds of high quality active metal-based materials.

Moreover, Köppen and coworkers selected **CAU-17** as the heterogeneous catalyst to catalyze the ring-opening of ethylene oxide.<sup>54</sup> The results revealed that it could convert phenyl ethylene oxide to 2-methoxy-2-phenylethanol with high selectivity. And, through the study of acetal reaction and esterification reaction, Sushrutha et al. noted that **[pip][Bi(2,6-Hpdc)(2,6-pdc)]·H<sub>2</sub>O** has higher catalytic activity for similar organic reaction.<sup>79</sup>

In general, MOFs based on bismuth have catalytic activity and can be used as promising candidates for high-efficiency catalysts.

#### 4.2. Fluorescence

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In addition to be used as a catalyst, Bi-MOFs have also been extensively studied for its own fluorescence properties. Feyand and coworkers carried out fluorescence properties and doping experiments on Bi<sub>2</sub>(O)(Pyr)(H<sub>2</sub>O) (C1), Bi(HPyr) (C2), Bi(HPyr) (C3).<sup>51</sup> At the excitation wavelength of 254/366 nm, C1 and C2 exhibit doughty blue luminescence and C3 has pale green luminescence. Similar structures can be seen in C2 and C3, but with different fluorescence characteristics. However, the structures of C1 and C2 are different, but the fluorescence properties are the same.

In 2018, Xu et al. prepared  $Eu^{3+}$  or  $Tb^{3+}$  single-doped and codoped compounds based on **CAU-17**, and conducted detailed luminescence performance studies (Fig. 9).<sup>57</sup> It was found that  $Eu^{3+}$  or  $Tb^{3+}$  mono-doped Bi complexes have high sensing properties for  $Fe^{3+}$  and  $Cr_2O_7^{2-}$  ions, and have significant solvent-dependent luminescence response to certain organic pollutants. This further proves that Ln-functionalized MOFs are promising candidates for designing new luminescent materials and sensors.

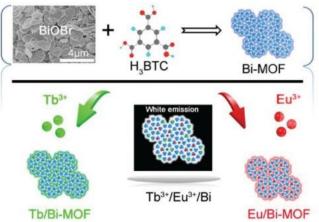


Fig. 9 Schematic diagram of the synthesis of Eu/Tb ion functionalized Bi-MOF from the BiOBr precursor for luminescence applications from ref. 57. Copyright 2018, Royal Society of Chemistry.

[(Hdma)Bi(1,4-ndc)<sub>2</sub>(DMF)]<sub>n</sub>·nDMF (E1) was doped with Eu<sup>3+</sup> (E2), Tb<sup>3+</sup> (E3), Sm<sup>3+</sup> (E4), Dy<sup>3+</sup> (E5), and investigated by photoluminescence (PL) and cathode ray luminescence (CL).<sup>65</sup> The results displayed that doping rare earth can effectively improve the CL performance of the complex, among which Eu<sup>3+</sup> doped E2 is expected to be an excellent CL scintillation material in FED electronic devices of field emission display.

Photoluminescence, biological imaging and fluorescence sensing were performed on the **Bi(TBAPy)** by Guan group.<sup>71</sup> Studies illustrated that **Bi(TBAPy)** had low toxicity and a unique fluorescence behavior towards biothiol units (Cysteine; Glutathione; Homocysteine), which could specifically detect biothiol molecules.

Wibowo et al. examined the fluorescence performance of  $Bi(2,5\text{-pdc})(2,5\text{-Hpdc})(H_2O)$  (F1).<sup>75</sup> The emission spectrum of F1 ( $\lambda$ ex = 369 nm, emits green light with a maximum peak at 533 nm and a broad shoulder at 570 nm) is red-shifted in comparison to that of the as-received 2,5-H<sub>2</sub>pdc ligand ( $\lambda$ ex = 390 nm, emits pale-green light with a maximum emission around 518 nm). Also, fluorescence studies on  $Bi(2,5\text{-pdc})_2(H_3O^+)(H_2O)_{0.83}$  have shown when excited at 340 nm, it emitted pale blue light with maximum peak at 481 nm and a broad shoulder at 513 nm.<sup>76</sup> It is likely due to LMCT and/or  $^1P_1 \rightarrow ^1S_0$  and  $^3P_1 \rightarrow ^1S_0$  transitions of  $S^2$  electrons of  $S^{13+}$ .

Thirumurugan group has conducted the fluorescence performance of Bi(2,6-pdc)(2,6-pdcme)(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) (G4), [LiBi(2,6-pdc)<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)]-2(Hdma) (G5) and Tb<sup>3+</sup>, Eu<sup>3+</sup> co-doped compounds.<sup>78</sup> The emission spectra of the undoped compounds G4 and G5 showed a broad peak centered at ~427/456 nm due to intra-ligand luminescence (n  $\leftarrow$   $\pi^*$ )/( $\pi$   $\leftarrow$   $\pi^*$ ) or charge transfer transitions. G4a (5 mol% Tb and 5 mol% Eu) and G5a (5 mol% Tb and 5 mol% Eu) revealed excitation spectra with a maximum band at 279 and 370 nm for G4a and at 292 and 335 nm for G5a.

(Hdma)[Bi(3,5of The luminescence properties pdc)(bdc)]-2DMF (J1) and its rare earth doped (Tb<sup>3+</sup>, Eu<sup>3+</sup>, Dy<sup>3+</sup> doped during synthesis) compounds were explored by Liu group.<sup>81</sup> J1 emitted blue light ( $\lambda$ ex = 313 nm). Tb<sup>3+</sup>, Eu<sup>3+</sup> and Dy<sup>3+</sup> doped **J1** emitted strong green, red and blue light at 330 nm, respectively. The detection of nitro explosives (TNP= 2,4,6-trinitrophenyl; 2,4-DNP = 2,4-dinitrophenol; 4-NP = 4nitrophenol) with J1 as fluorescent probe was further studied. When J1 is excited at 313 nm, it shows strong emission at 414 nm. However, fluorescence quenching can be observed by adding TNP, 2,4-DNP and 4-NP, and then J1 can be used as a fluorescent probe to detect nitro explosives.

Rhauderwiek et al. performed fluorescence studies on four MOFs,  $[Bi(PTC)(H_2O)_2]$  (K1),  $(H_3O)[Bi_2(PTC)(HPTC)_2(H_2O)_2]$  (K2),  $\alpha$ -[Bi(PTC)] (K3),  $\beta$ -[Bi(PTC)] (K4).<sup>84</sup> K3 and K4 have no fluorescence properties. K1 emits yellow light under UV light, with a maximum emission wavelength of 570 nm (excitation

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wavelength of 343 nm), while **K2** emission band is located at 483 nm (excitation wavelength of 347 nm). Within the range of blue-green spectrum, **K1** and **K2** show spectral differences, which may be related to the different coordination environments.

Adcock and coworkers have investigated the fluorescence properties of the lanthanide-ions doped compounds of Hpy[Bi(TDC)2(H2O)]-1.5H2O (L1) (Hpy)<sub>2</sub>[Bi(TDC)<sub>2</sub>(HTDC)]·0.36H<sub>2</sub>O (L3).85 The specific operation method is as follows:  $Hpy[Bi_{1-x}In_x(TDC)_2(H_2O)]\cdot 1.5H_2O$  ( $Bi_{1-x}In_x$ -= Nd, Sm, Eu, Tb, Dy, L1)  $[Bi_{0.99}Eu_{0.01}(TDC)_2(HTDC)(Hpy)_2](Bi_{0.99}Eu_{0.01}-L3)$  were prepared by adding rare earth nitrate solution in the process of L1, L3 synthesis. The rare earth doping proportion of L1, L3 was determined by ICP-MS. After lanthanide doping, they showed different fluorescent properties, which provided a new perspective on the development of Bi-MOFs design strategies that can be doped with rare earths as photoluminescent materials or fluorescent probes.

Four complexes,  $[Bi(HMMTA)_3]_n$  (M1),  $[Bi(2, 6-NDA)_3]_n$  (M2),  $[Bi(DMP)_3]_n$  (M3),  $[Bi(MBA)_3]_n$  (M4) all emitted blue light.<sup>86</sup>

In a word, these Bi-MOFs showed varied fluorescence characteristics and fluorescence recognition ability, which is worth further study.

#### 4.3. Biology and medicine

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Due to the low toxicity of such MOFs, there is great concern about their application in biology and medicine. For instance, Burrows et al. conducted drug release for deferiprone and against H. pylori (strain SS1) studies on [Bi<sub>2</sub>(1,4-bdc)(dfp)<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]-2DMF (B2), [Bi<sub>2</sub>(1,4-bdc-(OH)<sub>2</sub>)(dfp)<sub>4</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub>]-2DMF (B4).<sup>49</sup> The results demonstrated that B2, B4 released deferiprone quickly under acid or phosphate buffered saline (PBS) treatment. And, B2, B4 also showed excellent antibacterial activity, inhibiting the reproduction of H. pylori. In this potential double-acting mode, both the ligand and the metal center play different biological roles, which have broad implications for other systems.

Gomez group found that Bi(Pyr)<sub>0.5</sub>(2,2'-bipy)(NO<sub>3</sub>)(DMF)] with a strong antibacterial effect on Escherichia coli, Salmonella typhimurium and Pseudomonas aeruginosa.<sup>52</sup>

Fairen-Jimenez's and coworkers first used Bi-MOF **CAU-7** as DDSs (Drug Delivery Systems) for the delivery of the anticancer drugs sodium DCA (dichloroacetate) and  $\alpha\text{-CHC}$  ( $\alpha\text{-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid).}^{73}$  The results denoted that DCA can reach 33% load on CAU-7 and 9% load on  $\alpha\text{-CHC}$ . DCA and  $\alpha\text{-CHC}$  were released at 17 and 31 days, respectively, and showed better anticancer efficacy than free drugs.

Iram et al. performed antibacterial research on M1, M2, M3 and M4, 86 and the results displayed that M1, M3 and M4 showed higher antibacterial activity to bacillus cereus.

Although Bi-MOF shows excellent antibacterial properties and can be used in medicine, biology, etc, the related

#### 4.4. Adsorption

Ouyang and coworkers first reported the use of **CAU-17** to selectively adsorb  $SeO_3^{2-}$  from aqueous solution.<sup>55</sup> It exhibits excellent  $SeO_3^{2-}$  selectivity, ultra-high adsorption capacity of 255.3 mg/g, and relatively mild working conditions (pH 4-11).

Sun et al. uncovered that  $[Bi(BTC)(H_2O)] \cdot H_2O$  had excellent detection ability for iron(III) ion (detection limit: 1.59  $\mu$ M) and  $Cr_2O_7^{2-}$  (detection limit: 1.64  $\mu$ M). See Savage group researched the gas adsorption properties of [Bi2(BPTC)1.5] (NOTT-220a). The results illustrated that it had a good adsorption of gravimetric gas, 14.1 and 8.2 wt % at 195 and 293 K for CH<sub>4</sub> at 20 bar, 40.7 and 37.9 wt % at 273 and 293 K for CO<sub>2</sub>.

Köppen and his colleagues carried out adsorption experiments on three MOFs, CAU-31- CAU-33.  $^{64}$  CAU-31 and -32 did not show N<sub>2</sub> absorption, and the Isotherm of Type I of CAU-33 (77 K) was observed. They also conducted exploratory experiments on their stability, and the three complexes had good thermal and chemical stability.

Thirumurugan et al. did the adsorption experiments on  $N_2$ ,  $H_2$  and  $CO_2$  of  $[Bi(2,6-pdc)_3]\cdot 3(Hdma)\cdot 2H_2O$  (G2),  $Bi(2,6-pdc)(2,6-pdcme)(CH_3OH)$  (G4),  $[LiBi(2,6-pdc)_3(H_2O)]\cdot 2(Hdma)$  (G5) and  $Li_5Bi(2,6-pdc)_4(H_2O)_2$  (G6).<sup>78</sup> They all have a good adsorption of  $CO_2$ . G6 reveals the best adsorption performance with a maximum value of 140 cc  $g^{-1}$  (~6 mmol  $g^{-1}$ ) of  $CO_2$ . The  $H_2$  sorption isotherms indicate a significantly higher uptake (3.1 wt% at 760 Torr) for G5. The approximate  $CO_2/N_2$  selectivities on volumetric uptake at 275 K and 600 Torr are 2, 1.7, 60 and 23 for G2, G4, G5 and G6 respectively.

In 2018, the lead ion adsorption of **CAU-7-TATB** was investigated by Zhang et al.,<sup>82</sup> which had highly selective for lead ions. So **CAU-7-TATB** can be used as a new type of lead ion adsorbent. Lately, Zhang et al. used this MOF to selectively oxidize alcohols.<sup>83</sup>

In summary, we briefly summarized the syntheses, structures and application of Bi-based MOFs that have been reported in recent years. We found that Bi-based MOFs have the following unique advantages. First of all, Bi-MOFs exhibit good chemical stability, which provides a prerequisite for their wide application. Secondly, because bismuth has a large radius, and high affinity for oxygen and nitrogen atoms, the central Bi(III) atom always has high coordination number, which is conducive to the formation of complicated structural MOFs. Thirdly, Bi-MOFs indicated various applications, such as being used as the catalytic materials for high-efficiency photocatalysis, as a carrier for drug transport, for the treatment of certain diseases; doping with lanthanides for optical applications etc. Nevertheless, the research of Bi-MOFs is still in its infancy, and it needs more in-depth research by researchers.

#### 5. Conclusions

Due to the low toxicity and environmental friendliness of Bi atom, more and more Bi-based MOFs have been reported. However, the relevant research is still very limited, research scope needs to be further deepened and expanded. The following points need to be paid special attention: First, from perspective of the existing Bi(III) MOFs, functionalization of organic ligands has a great impact on the subsequent structures. More attention should be paid to organic ligands with sulfonic acid and phosphate groups carrying multiple oxygen atoms and organic ligands with multiple nitrogen atoms such as imidazole, triazole, tetrazazole, etc. Secondly, because coordination of bismuth ion is easy to be affected by external conditions, the emerging microwave, mechanochemistry and sonochemistry methods should be more adopted to prepare more complicated MOFs. Third, based on the abound structures and high stability of Bi-MOFs, their application should be expanded, such as in the field of energy acting as proton conductors and so on. Finally, the application of such MOFs in drug delivery, especially in cancer treatment, heavy metal removal and chemical sensors, needs to be deepened. Therefore, we have reasons to believe that in future research, Bi-based MOFs will surely come out on top.

#### Conflicts of interest

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There are no conflicts to declare.

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**Table 1.** A summary of the Bi-MOFs that appeared in this review.

MOFs	Synthetic method	Structure	Property	Ref.
Bi <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (3,5-pdc) <sub>2</sub>	Hydrothermal synthesis	3D	Thermal stability	35
Bi(O <sub>3</sub> SC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> SO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>1.5</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub>	Hydrothermal synthesis	3D	<del></del>	36
Bi-mna	Solvothermal synthesis	3D	Photocatalytic	37
[Bi(BTC)(H <sub>2</sub> O)]·2H <sub>2</sub> O·CH <sub>3</sub> OH (CAU-17)	Microwave synthesis	3D		40
Bi(BTB) (CAU-7)	Solvothermal synthesis and microwave synthesis	3D	Organocatalysis	41
Bi₂(O)(OH)(TATB) (CAU-35)	Solvothermal synthesis	3D		42
[Bi(TATB)]·DMF·6H <sub>2</sub> O (CAU-7-TATB)	Microwave synthesis	3D		42
CAU-7-TATB-NH <sub>2</sub>	Microwave synthesis	3D 3D	Post-modified	42
(H <sub>2</sub> Im)[Bi(1,4-bdc) <sub>2</sub> ]	Mechanochemical synthesis	3D	——	43
[Bi(2,5-pdc)(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]·H <sub>2</sub> O	Mechanochemical synthesis	1D		43
[Bi(bda) <sub>3</sub> ] <sub>n</sub>	Reflux method		Luminescent	44
[Bi(HBTC)(Ac)	Reflux method	2D		45
[Bi(1,4-bdc) <sub>2</sub> (DMF)]·(Hdma)·2DMF	Solvothermal synthesis	2D		48
[Bi(1,4-bdc) <sub>2</sub> ]·(Hdma)·DMF	Solvothermal synthesis	3D		48
[Bi <sub>4</sub> (1,4-bdc) <sub>7</sub> (HIm)]·2(Hdma)·2DMF	Solvothermal synthesis	3D	Luminescent	48
[Bi(1,4-bdc) <sub>2</sub> ]·(Hdma)	Solvothermal synthesis	3D	Luminescent	48
$Bi_2(1,4-bdc)_2(dfp)_2]\cdot DMF$	Solvothermal synthesis	1D	Antibacterial activity	49
[Bi2(1,4-bdc)(dfp)4(H2O)2]-2DMF	Solvothermal synthesis	1D	Antibacterial activity	49
$[\mathrm{Bi}_2(1,4\text{-}\mathrm{bdc}\text{-}\mathrm{NH}_2)(\mathrm{dfp})_4(\mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O})_2]\cdot 2\mathrm{DMF}$	Solvothermal synthesis		Antibacterial activity	49
$[\mathrm{Bi}_2\{1,4\text{-bdc-}(\mathrm{OH})_2\}(\mathrm{dfp})_4(\mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O})_2]\cdot 2\mathrm{DMF}$	Solvothermal synthesis		Antibacterial activity	49
Bi-bdc-ST	Solvothermal synthesis		Photocatalytic	50
Bi-bdc-MW	Microwave synthesis		Photocatalytic	50
Bi2(O)(Pyr)(H2O)	Hydrothermal synthesis	2D	Luminescence	51
Bi(HPyr)	Hydrothermal synthesis	3D	Luminescence	51
Bi(HPyr)	Hydrothermal synthesis	3D	Luminescence	51
Bi(Tri)(H₂O)	Hydrothermal synthesis	3D	Luminescence	51
Bi(Tri)	Hydrothermal synthesis		Luminescence	51
[(Bi(BTC)(H <sub>2</sub> O)]·H <sub>2</sub> O	Hydrothermal synthesis	3D	Luminescence	51
Bi <sub>6</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (BTC) <sub>2</sub> (HBTC)	Hydrothermal synthesis	3D	Luminescence	51
Bi₂(O)(OH)(HBTC)(NO₃)	Hydrothermal synthesis	3D	Luminescence	51
$[Bi(Pyr)_{0.5}(2,2'-bipy)(NO_3)(DMF)]$	Solvothermal synthesis	1D	Luminescent and catalytic	52
[Bi(IDA)(IDAH)]	Solvothermal synthesis	1D	Luminescent and catalytic	52
([Bi(BTC)(DMF)]·DMF·2CH₃OH	Solvothermal synthesis	3D	Photocatalytic	53
CAU-17	Microwave synthesis	3D	Heterogeneous catalysis	54
CAU-17	Solvothermal synthesis	3D	Selective Capture of SeO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	55
$\{[Bi(BTC)(H_2O)_2]\cdot H_2O\}_n$	Hydrothermal synthesis	3D	Photocatalytic degradation of MO	56
Eu@Bi-MOF, Tb@Bi-MOF and Eu/Tb@Bi-MOF (Bi-MOF, CAU-17)	Solvothermal synthesis	3D	White-light emission and fluorescence sensing	57
[Bi(BTC) (H <sub>2</sub> O)]·H <sub>2</sub> O	Hydrothermal synthesis	3D	Detection of Fe <sup>3+</sup> and Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> <sup>2-</sup> ions	58
Bi(BTC)(DMF)	Solvothermal synthesis	2D	Electrocatalytic reduction	59
[Bi <sub>2</sub> (BPTC) <sub>1.5</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub> ]·3.5DMF·3H <sub>2</sub> O (NOTT-220-solv)	Solvothermal synthesis	3D	Gas adsorption	60

MOFs

Structure

**Property** 

Synthetic method

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 $[Bi_{12}(DTTDC)_{24}]\cdot 12(Hdm)\cdot 4DMF\cdot 2H_2O$  (IEF-5)

87

Photoelectrocatalytic

3D

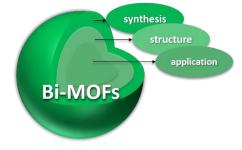
Solvothermal synthesis

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### Bi(III) MOFs: Syntheses, structures and applications

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The synthesis methods, structures and applications in catalysis, adsorption, fluorescence, etc. of Bi(III)-based MOFs were reviewed.