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Commentary

Chirality Separation Based on Metal Organic Synthesis of Catalytic Rate

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DESCRIPTION

Chirality is an important element in health, and manufacturing sectors, with broad applications ranging from clinical analysis, to pharmaceutical, agrichemical, and other fine-chemical industries. For instance, the chiral compounds often exhibit distinct optical rotation or circular dichroism, and in chiral pharmaceuticals, one enantiomer is more active than the other enantiomer.

Porous solids are a class of materials with an increasing role in chiral science, technology, and industry. With decades of research and development, some key challenges have been identified. These include material synthesis and manufacturing, structure modification, establishing design principles for maximizing chir-optical activity, and efforts to broaden the scope of applications.

Covalent Organic Frameworks (COFs) are constructed using reticular chemistry with building blocks that are connected via to covalent bonds and have emerged as a new series of porous materials for multitudinous applications. In addition, these materials exhibit excellent performance in asymmetric catalysis, enantio-separation, chiral recognition and chiral optics. Despite these merits, the stability of most crystalline porous solids still limits their wide utilization in chiral science and technology. As a new type of porous material, Covalent Organic Frameworks (COFs) have emerged as a novel platform for material design and functional explorations, with potential applications such as gas storage and separation, optoelectronics, energy storage, sensing, and catalysis.

Design and synthesis

The crystallinity of Covalent Organic Framework (COF) may be affected by a complex of factors. Temperature and Reaction. The temperature can affect the reaction output; solvent: the choice of the reaction solvent is a crucial factor because it controls the solubility of the monomers and influences the dynamics of covalent bond formation; catalyst: the type and amount of catalysts can influence the reaction rate. Moreover, the reaction rate influenced by the concentration of monomers is also a key factor to synthesize Covalent Organic Framework (COF) powders with structural regularity. Although several, Covalent Organic Frameworks (COF) have recently been characterized by single-crystal X-ray diffraction.

(1) Post-synthesis: synthesis of (CCOFs) from achiral parent Covalent Organic Frameworks (COFs) by the post-synthetic modification of organic framework.

(2) Direct synthesis: synthesis of a homochiral Covalent Organic Framework (COF) from enantiopure monomers, including chiral skeleton monomers andachiral skeleton monomers with append chiral centres, as cross-linking building units.

(3) Chiral induction synthesis: synthesis of a homochiral Covalent Organic Framework (COF) from achiral organic precursors by chiral catalytic induction.

Functional porous materials such as MOFs, inorganic zeolite sand functional cages used for heterogeneous catalysis have been developed for decades. As emerging porous materials, Covalent Organic Framework (COF) exhibit an great potential to be functionalized as effective and robust heterogeneous catalysts for organo, electro, or photo-catalytic applications.

Generally, (CCOF) combine the advantages of both heterogenous catalysts and homogeneous molecular catalysts. Specifically, they can be easily separated from the reaction mixture by filtration, and the collected solid catalysts are reusable. When materials are highly porous, the diffusion rates of the substrates and the products are faster than the catalytic rate.

Applications

N,N′-Bis(salicylidene)ethylenediamine (salen) is one of the most important ligands in coordination chemistry and many metal-salen complexes are well-known privileged ligands for catalysis. Construction of salen-based materials such as silica, polymers and metal–organic frameworks has been developed.

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Separation technique for enantiomers is a great significance in the field of pharmacology and biology, because pure isomers may have different properties in biological interactions, and pharmacology and toxicology. Chromatographic techniques based on chiral stationary phases are considered to be one of the most effective methods to separate and obtain enantiopure compounds. Recently, new chiral porous materials such as metal–organic frameworks, porous organic frameworks and porous organic cages as a chiral stationary phase have attracted lots of attention. The stationary phase for chiral separation has great potential and application prospects.

CONCLUSION

In recent years, chiral science and technology, which includes synthesis, separation, structural analysis, and applications of chiral compounds, has been attracting increasing attention. There already exists a big market for chiral compounds, especially for chiral pharmaceuticals. Development of synthetic methods needed to balance the crystallographic symmetry and the asymmetry arising from chiral functionalities. As such, methods beyond solvo-thermal synthesis, including microwave-assisted reactions, room-temperature synthesis, or chemosynthesis, might be worth exploring.