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Bifunctional MOFs in Heterogeneous Catalysis

Srinivasan Natarajan* and Krishna Manna

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ABSTRACT: The ever-increasing landscape of heterogeneous catalysis, pure and applied, utilizes many different catalysts. Academic insights along with many industrial adaptations paved the way for the growth. In designing a catalyst, it is desirable to have *a priori* knowledge of what structure needs to be targeted to help in achieving the goal. When focusing on catalysis, one needs to cope with a vast corpus of knowledge and information. The overwhelming desire to exploit catalysis toward commercial ends is irresistible. In today's world, one of the requirements of developing a new catalyst is to address the environmental concerns. The well-established heterogeneous catalysts have microporous structures (<25 Å), which find use in many industrial processes. The metal–organic framework (MOF) compounds, being pursued vigorously during the last two decades, have similar microporosity with well-defined pores and channels. The MOFs possess large surface area and assemble to delicate structural and compositional variations either during the preparation or through postsynthetic modifications (PSMs). The MOFs, in fact, offer excellent scope as simple Lewis acidic, Brönsted acidic, Lewis basic, and more importantly bifunctional (acidic as well as



basic) agents for carrying out catalysis. The many advances that happened over the years in biology helped in the design of many good biocatalysts. The tools and techniques (advanced preparative approaches coupled with computational insights), on the other hand, have helped in generating interesting and good inorganic catalysts. In this review, the recent advances in bifunctional catalysis employing MOFs are presented. In doing so, we have concentrated on the developments that happened during the past decade or so.

KEYWORDS: Metal-organic frameworks, Lewis acid catalysis, Lewis basic catalysis, Bifunctional catalysis, Multifunctional catalysis, Tandem reactions, Deacetalization-Knoevenagel condensation reactions, CO_2 fixation reactions, Nanoparticle supported MOFs

1. INTRODUCTION

Catalysis has been so widely woven into the fabric of life that the practice and pursuit of the subject transcends across different disciplines of science and engineering. The canvas of catalysis has been large and continuously growing over the years. It may be noted that there has been considerable success in discovering newer catalysts compared to obtaining greater insights over the known ones.^{1–3}

For carrying out efficient catalysis and understanding the catalytic process, two different strategies exist toward the design of solid catalysts. In one approach, the individual steps for the overall reaction are considered and optimized, and the second approach focuses on the location of the active site within the structure. For one of the goals of preparing new compounds that could be potential catalysts, one needs to look for maximum surface area, precise catalytic reaction centers, and good activity, selectivity, and durability. The desiderata of designing a new catalyst need to encompass the following: (i) to be able to operate under mild conditions that are environmentally benign; (ii) reasonable freedom from restrictions imposed by diffusional considerations of molecules (reactants and products); (iii) possession of well-defined and specially separated reaction centers; and (iv) the scope to probe the mechanistic understanding of the catalytic action.

In the area of catalysis, the idea that the catalyst possesses bifunctional or multifunctional character is a desired property. There have been studies toward the multifunctional behavior of catalysts, especially those involving zeolites and mesoporous compounds.⁴ It is becoming clear that in seeking to create compounds with good surface areas and catalytic activity one needs to have solids that have pore diameters in the microporous region (\sim 20 Å).

Aluminosilicate zeolites have been the backbone of the study of catalysts and the science of catalysis over many decades. These compounds possess porosity in the microporous range of 4–20 Å. The discovery of metal–organic frameworks (MOFs) in the late 90s and its subsequent developments appear have caught the imagination of the catalyst community.^{5–10} The attractive features of many MOF compounds toward catalysis are as follows: (i) they permit free flow of reactants and products through the channels

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Table 1. MOFs with Different Lewis Acidic Functionalities and Their Utilities toward Catalysis^a

Sr. No.	MOF Compound	Lewis acidic metal site	Labile solvent	Catalytic reaction	Ref
1	Zr ₄ -fBDC and Zr ₄ -fBPDC	Zr ⁴⁺	H ₂ O	Arene C–H Iodination	258
2	Zr ₂ OTf-BTB	Zr^{4+}	-	Povarov Reactions	259
3	$[Zn_2(TBIB)_2(HTCPB)_2]$ ·9DMF·19H ₂ O	Zn ²⁺	-	Cycloaddition of CO_2 Friedländer Reaction	260
4	MOF-525, PCN-222 and PCN-224	Zr ²⁺ , Mn ²⁺ , Zn ²⁺	-	Cycloaddition of CO ₂	261
5	M-NU-1008	$M = Zr^{4+}, Hf,$ Th, Ce ³⁺	H_2O	Cycloaddition of CO ₂	262
6	ZIF-8	Zn ²⁺	-	Epoxide Hydroxylation	263
7	$Tb(BTC)(H_2O)_3(DMF)_{1.1}$	Tb ³⁺	H_2O , DMF	Synthesis of β -Aminoalcohols	264
8	$Er(BTC)(H_2O) \cdot (DMF)_{1.1}$	Er ³⁺	H ₂ O, DMF	Hantzsch Coupling and Tetrahydro-4H- Chromene Synthesis	265
9	$[Ba_2(BDPO)(H_2O)]$ ·DMA	Ba ²⁺	H ₂ O	Cycloaddition of CO ₂	266
10	NH ₂ -MIL-101/PAN	Cr ³⁺	-	Friedel-Crafts Acylation of Anisole	267
				Esterification reaction	
11	Cu(II)-MOF	Cu ²⁺	H_2O	Cycloaddition of CO ₂	268
12	$Zr_6O_4(OH)_4(OAc)_{2.4}[M(P^NN^NP)X]_{2.4}[M = Pd, Pt]$	Zr ⁴⁺ , Pd(I), Pt(I)	-	Hydroamination of <i>o</i> -Alkynyl Aniline	269
13	$[Zn_2(iso)_2(bpy)_2]$	Zn ²⁺	DMF	Cycloaddition of CO ₂	270
14	[Zn(BPBA)Cl]·5H ₂ O	Zn ²⁺	H ₂ O	Cyclization of <i>ortho</i> -Substituted Diaminonaphthalene to Naphthimidazole	58
15	Ce-doping MIL-88A(Fe)	Ce ³⁺ , Fe ³⁺	-	Catalytic Ozonation	271
16	Pd(II)/UIO-66 (Zr), Pd(II)/MIL-101 (Cr) and Pd(II)/MOF-5 (Zn)	Pd ²⁺ , Cr ³⁺ , Zn ²⁺	H ₂ O	CO Esterification to Dimethyl Carbonate	272
17	UiO-66	Zr ⁴⁺	H ₂ O	Aldose Sugars to Polyhydroxyalkyl and C- Glycosyl Furans	273
18	$[Cd_3(BDC)_3(OPP)(DMF)_2]$ ·2DMA	Cd ²⁺	DMF	Hantzsch Reaction	274
19	Cu-BTC(MOF-199)	Cu ²⁺	-	Aerobic Oxidative Synthesis of Imines	275
20	MIL-101(Fe,Sc)	Fe ³⁺ , Sc ³⁺	-	Glucose to 5-Hydroxymethyl Furfural	276
21	Al-ITQ-Br, Al-ITQ-NO ₂ , L-MOF-EB L-MOF-AB	Fe ³⁺ , Al ³⁺	-	Oxidation of Thiophenol to Diphenyldisulfide	277
22	[Eu(tctb)(H ₂ O)]	Eu ³⁺	H_2O	Diamines to Benzimidazoles	278
23	$[M_6(TATAB)_4(DABCO)_3(H_2O)_3] \cdot 12DMF \cdot 9H_2O$	$M = Co^{2+}, Ni^{2+}$	H ₂ O	Chemical Fixation of CO ₂	279
24	MixUMCM-1-NH ₂ .	Zn ²⁺	-	Aldol–Tishchenko Reaction	280
25	$[In_3(NIPH)_3(HNIPH)(OH)_2] \cdot 4H_2O$	In ³⁺	-H ₂ O	Multicomponent Strecker Reactions	281
26	$[Mn_2(TDP)(H_2O)_2]\cdot 3H_2O\cdot 3DMF$	Mn ²⁺	-H ₂ O	Chemical Fixation of CO ₂	282
27	$ \begin{array}{l} [Cu_6(TADIPA)_3(DABCO)(H_2O)_2(DMF)_2]\cdot 13H_2O \\ [Cu_6(TADIPA)_3(H_2O)_6]\cdot 16H_2O\cdot 8DMF \end{array} \end{array} $	Cu ²⁺	-H ₂ O, DMF, DMA	Chemical Fixation of CO ₂	283
	$[H_3O][Cu_6(TPTA)_3(DMA)_4(COO)]\cdot 12H_2O\cdot 7DMA$				
	$[Cu_{6}(C_{17}O_{9}N_{2}H_{8})_{3}(C_{6}H_{12}N_{2})(H_{2}O)_{2}(DMF)_{2}]\cdot 3DMF\cdot 8H_{2}O$				
28	UiO-66-TA	Zr ⁴⁺	-H ₂ O	Hydrogenation of Cinnamaldehyde	284
29	MIL-101(Cr)-LP	Cr ³⁺	-	Reduction of Imine	285
30	MIL-101(Cr) MOF	Cr ³⁺	-	glucose to fructose	286
31	$ \begin{bmatrix} Zn_3(Hbtc)_2(atz)_2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot CH_3CN \cdot 2CH_3OH \\ \begin{bmatrix} Co_3(Hbtc)_2(atz)_2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot H_2O \cdot 2DMF $	Zn ²⁺ Co ²⁺	-	Coupling of CO ₂ and Epoxides	287
32	$[Zn(bix)]{V_2O_6}(V-Zn-MOF$	Zn^{2+}	-	Cyanosilylation Reaction of Aldehydes	288
33	[Dy ₃ (data) ₃ ·2DMF]·DMF	Dy ³⁺	DMF	Chemical Fixation of CO ₂	155
34	Cu-MOF	Cu ²⁺	-	Catalytic CO ₂ Fixation	289
35	$[Cd(bpp)(L)(H_2O)]$ ·DMF	Cd ²⁺	-H ₂ O	Strecker Reaction	290
36	Cr-UiO-66-CAT	Zr^{4+}	-	Oxidation of Alcohols to Ketones	85

^aH₂fBDC = 2,3,5,6-tetrafluoro-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid; H₂fBPDC = 2,2',3,3',5,5',6,6'-octafluoro-4,4'-biphenyldicarboxylic acid; TBIB = 1,3,5-tri(1*H*-benzo[*d*]imidazol-1-yl)benzene); H₃TCPB = 1,3,5-tris(4'-carboxyphenyl-)benzene; BTC = 1,3,5-benzenetricarboxylate; DMF = *N*,*N*-dimethylformamide; PAN = polyacrylonitrile; P^NN^NP = 2,6-(HNPAr₂)₂C₅H₃N; Ar = p-C₆H₄CO₂⁻; X = Cl⁻, I⁻; iso = isophthalic acid; bpy = 4,4-dipyridyl; BPBA = 3,5-bis(4-oxo-4H-pyridin-1-yl)-benzoate; OPP = *N*,*N*'-(oxybis(4,1-phenylene))bis(1-(pyridin-4-yl)methanimine); H₂BDC = terephthalic acid; H₃tctb = tris(*p*-carboxylic acid)tridurylborane; H₃TATAB = 4,4',4''-s-triazine-1,3,5-triyl-tri-*p*-aminobenzoic acid; DABCO = 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane; BDC = 1,4-benzenedicarboxylate; ABDC = 2-amino-1,4-benzenedicarboxylate, btb = 4,4',4'',-benzene-1,3,5-triyl-trisbenzoic acid; H₂NIPH = 5-nitroisophthalic acid; H₄TPTA = 1,1',3',1''-terphenyl-3,3'',5,5'-tetracarboxylic acid; H₄CBDA = 5,5'-(carbonylbis(azanediyl)) diisophthalic acid; TA = terephthalic acid; LP = Lewis pair; bix = 1,4-bis(imidazole-1-ylmethyl)benzene; 2,5-data = 2,5-diamino-terephthalate; H₂L = 5-(1-oxo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-yl)isophthalic acid; H₂L = 4,4'-(dimethylsilanediyl)bis-benzoic acid; bpp = 1,3-bis(4-pyridyl)propane.

(pores) and cages; (ii) they have spatially distributed distinct catalytic sites; and (iii) they create the possibility for performing shape-selective, enantioselective, and regioselective reactions. The MOFs offer ease of synthesis coupled with a diverse range of compositional variations, which would be desirable toward heterogeneous catalysis. The MOFs offer the

following advantages: (i) The MOF structures are flexible (breathable) and expand and contract by external stimuli;^{11–14} (ii) the metal as well as the ligand that forms the structures can be replaced by postsynthetic modifications to render them attractive toward many physical and chemical properties;^{15–21} (iii) the organic ligands are amenable for manipulations to create specific functionality in the compounds, which would be desirable toward organocatalysis;^{22–30} and (iv) MOFs can provide hydrophilic and hydrophobic environments which can be exploited toward specific catalysis.^{31–35}

There have been many catalytic studies that were carried out employing MOFs. In most of the studies, the metal sites were always exploited for their Lewis-acidic behavior.^{24,36–38} Most of the earlier attempts toward catalysis employing MOFs were predominantly Lewis acid catalysis only.^{39–42} Brönsted acid catalysis was also attempted employing MOFs.^{43,44} Over the years it has been shown that the organic ligands in MOFs also catalyze many reactions, especially acting as a Lewis base.^{45–48} As the MOFs possess both the Lewis acidic as well as basic centers, bifunctional catalysis was attempted.^{49–52}

The bifunctional MOFs offer advantages toward studying the cascade reactions. The cascade/domino/tandem reactions^{53,54} utilize at least two consecutive reactions and involve different chemical functionality available within the compound. The cascade process involves a set of reactions where the product(s) of the reaction(s) is consumed in a subsequent reaction. In these reactions, the isolation of intermediates is not required and the reaction(s) proceeds in a stepwise manner. The cascade reaction requires different catalytically active sites distributed over a large surface area and in a periodic manner. The MOFs with their large surface area with good pore size distribution and availability of functional groups would be ideally suited for such reactions.^{55–57}

In this review, we focus on the recent developments on MOFs that offer multifunctionality toward heterogeneous catalysis. We have specifically given closer attention to the developments toward catalytic reactions that have been performed employing MOFs during the past decade or so. In this task, there may be a few oversights, which are not intentional.

2. GENERATION OF FUNCTIONALITY IN MOFS

Most of the MOF compounds possess Lewis acidity due to the metal centers—the strength of the acidity depends on the size of the metal ions, the oxidation state, and its coordination preferences. In addition to this, it may be possible to create acidity in MOFs by suitable postsynthetic modifications. Here, we outline a few such scenarios:

2.1. Lewis Acid Functionality

The acidity can be classified as Brönsted acid or Lewis acid the former is the stronger acid compared to the latter. The MOFs that were explored toward acid catalysis are tabulated in Table 1. Lewis acidity in MOFs generally refers to an accessible metal site, with a low coordination number, which is also known as a coordinatively unsaturated metal site (CU). The coordinatively unsaturated metal sites can be achieved *in situ* by the removal of labile ligands bonded to the metal, which usually are the solvent molecules. A Zn MOF, {[Zn(BPBN)-Cl]·5H₂O}_n (BPBN = 3,5-bis(4-oxo-4H-pyridin-1-yl)-benzonitrile) (Figure 1a) has been synthesized and has been utilized for the synthesis of naphthimidazole from 2,3-diaminonaphthalene and DMF at 120 °C with good yield (Figure 1b). The



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1H naphthol[2.3-d]imidazole

Figure 1. (a) 3D structure of the $[Zn(BPBN)Cl] \cdot SH_2O$ MOF. (b) Synthesis of naphthimidazole in the presence of heterogeneous catalyst. Reproduced with permission from ref 58. Copyright 2020 Elsevier.

NH₂

naphthalene 2. 3 diamine

tetrahedrally coordinated Zn center acts as Lewis acid site and facilitates this reaction.⁵⁸ UiO-66 (UiO = University of Oslo) is one of the MOFs which was studied toward the Lewis acid catalytic reaction. Zr-MOFs provide unsaturated metal sites, which could be exploited as Lewis acid centers in catalytic reactions. The open metal sites generally act as electron pair acceptors and accelerate the reaction process.⁵⁹ Most of the earlier studies exploiting the Lewis acid functionality concentrated on cyanosilylation of imines.⁶⁰ These are typically low temperature reactions, and in most cases the yield is >95%. Recently, lanthanide centers were explored as possible Lewis acid catalytic centers in the compound, $[La_{2/3}(qptca)_{1/2}]$ (qptca = 1,1':4',1'':4'',1''':4''',1''''-quinque-phenyl]-2,2'',2'''',5''-tetracarboxylic acid), toward the Friedel-Crafts reaction. The alkylation of indole and pyrrole with β -nitrostyrene with a wide substrate scope gave the desired product with high yield and recyclability.

As an example of unusual Lewis acidity in MOFs, the example of easily modifiable nature of the ligand was exploited in preparing Pd-mono(thiocatecholato) units inside the MOF UiO-66.⁸⁵ This modified MOF exhibited excellent regiose-lectivity toward the sp² carbon, oxidation of alcohols to ketones, etc.^{85,86} A more interesting approach is to replace the ligand, which expands the MOF, allowing for enhanced catalytic activity.⁸³ In this work, C₂ symmetry ligands were exchanged for C₃ symmetric, which causes defects in the overall structure, paving the way for better Lewis acid activity.⁸⁷

2.2. Brönsted Acid Functionality

In the traditional framework compounds of aluminosilicate zeolites, metal phosphates, etc. Brönsted acidity was generated by manipulating the structure by having elements of different valencies.^{88–90} The charge compensating protons have been found to have strong Brönsted acid character. In MOFs, such a possibility is difficult to achieve, as the framework contains metal centers with fixed valences and organic ligands. There are examples of MOF compounds where elements of mixed

Scheme 1. Schematic Showing How the Additional Functionality Is Used in Generating Brönsted Acidity in MOFs: (a) Direct Synthesis; (b) via Postsynthetic Modification



Fable 2. MOFs with Brönsted Acidi	y and the Associated Catalysis	a
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Sr. No.	MOF	Brönsted acidic site	Catalytic reaction	Ref
1	PTA⊂MIL-101(Al)-NH ₂	$H_{3}[PW_{12}O_{40}] \cdot nH_{2}O$	Glucose Dehydration to 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural	62
2	H ₃ PW ₁₂ O ₄₀ @Zr-MOF	-SO ₃ H	Levulinic Acid to γ -Valerolactone	63
3	[(CH ₂ COOH) ₂ IM]HSO ₄ @H-UiO-66	[(CH ₂ COOH) ₂ IM]HSO ₄	Biodiesel Synthesis	64
4	PO ₄ /NU(eq) and PO ₄ /NU(half)	-PO ₄	Glucose to 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural	65
5	MIL-101(Cr)-SO ₃ H	-SO3H	Cross-Dehydrogenative Coupling of C–H Bonds	66
6	CoFe ₂ O ₄ /MIL-88B(Fe)-NH ₂ /(Py-Ps)PMo	-SO ₃ H	Transesterification	67
7	MIL-101(Cr)-NH-CO-Pr-COOH	-COOH	Synthesis of Quinazolin-(4H)-1-one	68
8	MOF-808-SO ₄	-SO ₄	Dimerization of Isobutene (2-Methyl-1-propene)	69
9	$[Zr_6O_4(OH)_{5.6}(C_9H_3O_6)_2(HCOO)_{0.18}(SO_4)_{2.1}](H_2O)_2$	-OH	Isobutene Dimerization	70
10	Hf-MOF-808	μ ³ -OH	Meerwein–Ponndorf–Verley Reduction	71
			Styrene Oxide Ring-Opening	
			α -Pinene Oxide Isomerization	
11	MIL-100(Cr) and MIL-100(Fe)	-H ₂ O-CO	Acetalization of Benzaldehyde with Methanol	72
12	PCN-222(Ni)-SO ₄	SO4 ²⁻	Tandem Semisynthesis of Artemisinin	73
13	Zr-MOF-808-S	OH^-/H_2O	Glycerol Dehydration	74
14	Al-MIL-53-RSO ₃ HAl-MIL-53-ArSO ₃ H	-SO ₃ H	[4 + 2] Cycloaddition Reaction	75
15	UiO-66 (Zr, Hf), Zr-BTC	μ_3 -OH	Cycloaddition Reaction	76
16	MIL-100(Fe) (Lys-PM ₂)	Lys-PM ₂	Conversion of Glucose to Levulinic Acid	77
17	[BSO ₃ HMIm][HSO ₄](IRMOF-3)	[BSO ₃ HMIm][HSO ₄]	Bligh–Dyer Method for Biodiesel Production	78
18	MIL-101(Cr)-SO ₃ H	-SO ₃ H	Methanolysis of Styrene Oxide	79
19	$Cr_3(\mu_3-O)(H_2O)_3(NDC(SO_3H_{5/6})_2)_3(BUT-8(Cr)-SO_3H$	-SO ₃ H	Esterification Reaction	80
20	MIL-IMAc-Br ⁻	Br ⁻	Cycloaddition of CO ₂	81
21	$(H_4SiW_{12}O_{40})$ (POM@MOF)	$H_4SiW_{12}O_{40}$	Glucose into 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural	82
22	MIL-(Cr)-101-SO ₃ H	SO ₃ H	Catalytic Conversion of Glucose	83
23	UiO-66(SO ₃ H) ₂	SO ₃ H	Synthesis of Dihydro-2-oxypyrrole Derivatives	84

^{*a*}PTA = phosphotungstic acid; Py-Ps = pyridine with 1,3-propanesultone; H₄TADIPA = 5-5'-(1H-1,2,4-triazole-3,5-diyl) diisophthalic acid; Lys = lysine functionalized phosphotungstic acid; [BSO₃HMIm][HSO₄] = 1-butylsulfonate-3-methylimidazolium bisulfate; NDC(SO₃H)₂²⁻ = 4,8-disulfonaphthalene-2,6-dicarboxylatlate); IMAc = 1H-imidazole-1-acetic acid.

valency exist as part of the structure.^{91,92} The Brönsted acidity in many MOFs, however, appears to arise out of the nonbonded acidic groups of the ligands (Scheme 1).^{43,72} The MOFs, thus, provide the versatility of having both the Lewis acidic as well as Brönsted acidic functionality within the same MOF.^{68,93–95} The many catalytic reactions that have been carried out employing Brönsted acid functionality in MOFs are listed in Table 2. In MIL-(Cr)-101-SO₃H, the Cr³⁺

ions act as a Lewis acidic and the -SO₃H groups act as the Brönsted acidic centers for the catalytic conversion of glucose.⁸³

The acidic stability of the MOFs was exploited in generating new Brönsted acidity through postsynthetic modifications in UiO-66(SH)₂.⁹⁶ In this study, UiO-66(SH)₂ was modified by treatment with H_2O_2 and H_2SO_4 to form UiO-66(SO₃H)₂,

Table 3. MOFs with Different Basic Functionalities and Their Utility toward Catalysis^a

Sr. No.	MOF Compound	Ligand responsible for basicity	Catalytic reaction	Ref
1	$[Cd(C_{16}H_{10}N_2O_8S)(H_2O)]$	-NH	Knoevenagel Condensation	110
2	$[(Nd_2(TATMA)_2 \cdot 4DMF \cdot 4H_2O]_n$	-N	Knoevenagel Condensation	111
3	$[H_2N(CH_3)_2] \cdot [Zn_4(L)_{1.5}(ad)_3(H_2O)_2)] \cdot 4DMF$	-NH ₂	Knoevenagel Condensation	112
4	$\{[Zn_2(D-CAM)_2(L)]\cdot MeOH\cdot 2H_2O\}_n$	-NH	Ring-Opening of Spiro- Epoxyoxindoles	113
5	$Co_2(bdda)_{1.5}(OAc)_1 \cdot 5H_2O$	-NH	Henry Reactions	114
6	$[Zn(OBA)(BPDB)_{0.5}]_n$ ·2DMF	-N	Knoevenagel Condensation	115
7	$[Y_3(\mu_3-O)_2(\mu_3OH)(H_2O)_2(BTCTBA)_2] \cdot 2[(CH_3)_2NH_2] \cdot 5DMF \cdot C_6H_5Cl \cdot 4H_2O$	С=О-N-Н	Knoevenagel Condensation	116
8	[Zn ₂ (hfipbb) ₂ (4-bpdh)]·0.5DMF and [Zn ₂ (hfipbb) ₂ (4-bpdb)]·2DMF	- <i>N</i> =N-	Knoevenagel Condensation	117
9	UiO-67-BPY@UiO-66	-N _{bpy}	Knoevenagel Condensation	118
10	$[Zn_2(3-tpom)(L)_2] \cdot 2H_2O$	-0	Strecker Reaction	119
11	$[Cu_2(L)(H_2O)_2] \cdot (3DMF)(4H_2O)$	-N	Henry Reactions	120
12	$[(CH_3)_2NH_2^+]_2[Zn_3((\mu_3-O))(L)_2(H_2O)]\cdot 4DMF\cdot 2H_2O$	-NH ₂	Chemical Fixation of CO ₂	121
			Biginelli Reactions	
13	$[Cu_2(L)(H_2O)_2] \cdot (5DMF)(4H_2O)$	-NH ₂	Biginelli Reactions	122
14	$[CoL(H_2O)_3]$ ·2NO ₃	-N	Knoevenagel Condensation	123
15	UiO-67@Fe	-N _{bpy}	Morita–Baylis–Hillman Reaction	124
16	ZIF-8, ZIF-67	-N _{im}	Knoevenagel Condensation	125
17	MIL-125-NH ₂	-NH ₂	Plasticizers Syntheses	126
18	SB-Cu1	-N	N-Arylation	127
19	NH ₂ cCo-PYI1 and NH ₂ cCo-PYI2	-NH ₂	Aldol and Knoevenagel	128

"Nic = nicotinamide; pic = picrate; $H_3dcp = 3,5$ -pyrazoledicarboxylic acid; DMA = N,N-dimethylacetamide; ad = adenine; $H_4L = 5,5'-(1,3,6,8-tetraoxobenzo phenanthroline-2,7-diyl)bis-1,3-benzenedicarboxylic acid; <math>H_3TATMA = 4,4,4''$ -s-triazine-1,3,5-triyltri-*m*-aminobenzoate; L = N'-(pyridin-4-ylmethylene)isonicotinohydrazide; bdda: <math>4,4'-[benzene-1,4-diylbis(methylidenenitrilo)] dibenzoic acid); $H_3BTCTBA = 4,4',4''-[1,3,5-benzenetriyltris(carbonylimino)]trisbenzoic acid; 4-bpdb = 1,4-bis(4-pyridyl)-2,3-diaza-1,3-butadiene; 4-bpdh = 2,5-bis(4-pyridyl)-3,4-diaza-2,4-hexadiene; <math>H_2L$ = dicarboxylic acid; L = 4-(trifluoromethyl)bis-benzoic acid; 3-tpom = tetrakis(3-pyridyloxymethylene)methane; $H_4L = 5,5'-(piperazine-1,4-diyl)$ diisophthalic acid; L = 4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline, 1-bromo-3,5-dimethylbenzene; L = tris(4-(4H-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)phenyl)-amine; PYI = pyrrolidine-2-yl-imidazole.

which was later found to be a good catalyst for synthesis of dihydro-2-oxypyrrole derivatives.⁸⁴

2.3. Basic Functionalities in MOFs

It has been well established that Lewis acidities are much easier to generate in MOFs. In many of the traditional framework compounds, the basic functionality is generated when the extra-framework protons are the Brönsted acid sites and the framework oxygens and their conjugate form the basic sites.^{97,98} In addition, alkali and alkaline earth exchanged zeolites are also designated as basic.

An easier approach toward the generation of Lewis basicity is feasible in MOFs compared to the traditional framework of zeolites and aluminophosphates. In this approach, the functionality of organic ligands plays an important role in creating the basicity to the structure. More importantly the Lewis basic sites are spatially separated and, in a sense, can be considered as a single basic site, similar to the acid site, which many researchers have exploited.^{99,100}

Thus, in MOFs the -NH₂ group plays a crucial role as the Lewis basic site. In addition, researchers have also used nonbonded carboxyl (-COO⁻) and similar units as Lewis bases.¹⁰¹ The Lewis basic sites in MOFs and their utility toward catalysis are listed in Table 3. For example, IRMOF-1 (commonly known as MOF-5) is constructed from the Zn²⁺ ions and ligand BDC, while replacement of BDC with NH₂-BDC yields IRMOF-3, which exhibits Lewis basic behavior toward the Knoevenagel condensation reaction.^{102,103} A range of metals viz., Zn,⁴⁷ Zr,¹⁰⁴ Al,¹⁰⁵ Ti,¹⁰⁶ and Cu¹⁰⁷ were employed for the preparation of MOFs with NH₂–BDC, which were found to be useful in base catalyzed Knoevenagel

condensation reactions. ZIFs (zeolite imidazolate frameworks), which were formed by assembling Zn metal and imidazole linker, provide high stability, high surface area as well as sufficient basicity, arising out of the N atoms of the imidazole have been exploited toward base catalysis.¹⁰⁸ Such ZIF compounds were also found to be good catalysts toward Knoevenagel condensation reaction at room temperature with \sim 99% yield.¹⁰⁹

3. MULTIFUNCTIONAL CATALYTIC CENTERS IN MOFS

From the above descriptions, it is clear that forming bifunctional catalytic sites in MOFs is facile. The metal sites can provide the Lewis acidity, and the Lewis basic sites can be generated from the carboxylate units, specific functional groups in the ligand. The acid-base pair can be spatially well separated and in the precise location to facilitate bifunctional catalysis.^{45,129-131} The bifunctionality available in MOFs can be utilized in multiple ways: (i) in organic reactions involving multiple steps without separation and purification of the intermediates in each step;¹³² (ii) in catalyzing multiple reactions simultaneously involving more than one reaction pathway; (iii) in promoting tandem catalysis involving reactions that proceed sequentially; and (iv) in catalyzing acid-base reactions. The bifunctionality in MOFs toward catalysis can be achieved by the following: (i) coordinatively unsaturated metal sites for Lewis acid functionality along with a suitable ligand that offers Lewis basic functionality; (ii) use of multifunctional ligands either during the formation of the MOFs or through postsynthetic modifications; and (iii)

Table 4. MOFs with Bi-/Multifunctionality and Their Use in Catalysis^a

Sr. No.	MOF Compound	Reactive site	Catalytic reaction	Ref
1	MIL-101(Cr)-N(CH ₂ PO ₃ H ₂) ₂	Cr(III) Phosphonates, -NH ₂	Synthesis of N-Amino-2-Pyridone and Pyrano [2,3-c] Pyrazole Derivatives	139
2	$[Zn_2(TCA)(BIB)_{2.5}] \cdot (NO_3)$	Zn (II), N _{TCA}	Cycloaddition of CO ₂	140
3	$[Mn_2(DPP)(H_2O)_3] \cdot 6H_2O$	Mn (II), -N _{pyridine}	Cycloaddition of CO ₂	141
4	$\label{eq:constraint} \begin{split} & [\text{Zn}(1,4\text{-NDCA})(3\text{-BPDB})_{0.5}]\cdot(\text{DMF})(\text{MeOH}) \\ & [\text{Cd}_4(1,4\text{-NDCA})_4(3\text{-BPDB})_4]\cdot2(\text{DMF}) \end{split}$	Zn(II)Cd(II), -N=N-	Friedländer Reaction	142
			Michael Addition	
5	$[M_3(5-CFIA)_2(8H_2O)]\cdot H_2O$	Cd(II), Mn(II), -NH	Aldol Condensation	143
			β -Enamination Reactions	
6	$[Zn(HL)_2]$	Zn (II), -N _{triazole}	Knoevenagel Condensation	50
7	$[Zn_{15}(L-NH_2)_6(HL-NH_2)_6(LNA)_4(HLNA)_2(\mu_3-OH)_2]$	Zn(II), -NH ₂	Knoevenagel Condensation	144
8	SulP1/SulP2-MOF-808(Hf)	Hf(IV), Phosphonate	Reductive Amination and Hydroaminomthylation Reactions	145
9	ED/MIL-101(Cr)	Cr (III), -NH ₂	Hantzsch Condensation Reaction	146
10	Zn-Bp-BTC MOF	Zn(II), -N _{bipyridine}	Knoevenagel Condensation	147
			Multicomponent Reaction	
			Benzimidazole Synthesis	
11	Lysine - (Zr)MOF-808	Zr(IV),- NH ₂	Henry Condensation and Friedel/Crafts Type Alkylation	148
12	$C_{32}H_{40}Fe_{2}N_{2}S_{4}Zn$	Zn(II), -NH ₂	One Pot Synthesis of Chromene and Imidazopyrimidine Derivatives	149
13	$Co/Ni_2(BTC)(OH)(4-TPT)_2(H_2O) \cdot (DMA)_{0.5}(H_2O)_2$	Co(II)Ni(II), N _{pyridyl}	Oxidation–Knoevenagel Cascade Reaction	150
14	Cu ₃ TATAT	Cu(II), -NH, N	Aerobic Oxidation/Knoevenagel Condensation	151
15	Hf/Zr MOF-808	Hf(IV)Zr(IV) Defective -OH	Tandem N-Alkylation of Amines with Benzyl Alcohol	152
16	PMoV ₂ @DETA-MIL-101	Cr(III)PMoV ₂ , -NH ₂	Aerobic Oxidation-Knoevenagel One-Pot Reaction	153
17	CuI@UiO-67-IM	CuI	One-Pot Azide–Alkyne Cycloaddition	154
18	$[Dy_3(data)_3 \cdot 2DMF] \cdot DMF, NH_2 - TMU - 73$	Dy(III), -NH ₂	Solvent-Free Conversion of CO ₂ to Cyclic Carbonates	155
19	Co-NDTz and Co-NDPhTz	Co(II), -N _{tetrazole}	Tandem Oxidation and CO ₂ Conversion Reactions	156
20	[Cu ₂ Br ₂ (pypz)]"·nH ₂ O	Cu(II), Br ⁻	Homocoupling of Arylboronic Acids and Epoxidation of Olefins	157
21	[Cd(PBA)(DMF)]·DMF	Cd(II), -NH	Cyanosilylation and Hydroboration	158
22	Ni-DDIA	Ni(II)-COOH	Biginelli Reaction	94
23	MIL-101(Cr)-NH-CO-Pr-COOH	Cr(III)-COOH	Synthesis of Quinazolin-(4H)-1-one Derivatives	68
24	MIL-101(Cr)-SO ₃ H	Cr(III)-SO ₃ H	Hydrogenation of Imines	159
25	Arg ₂ PTA/ZIF-8	Zn ²⁺ , -N _{imidazole}	Production of Biodiesel from Insect Lipid	160

^{*a*}Abbreviations: data = 2,5-data = 2,5-diamino-terephthalate; MA = melamine; ED = ethylene diamine; DPP = 2,6-di(2,4-dicarboxyphenyl)-4-(pyridine-4-yl)pyridine; H₈L = tetraphenylsilane tetrakis-4-phosphonic acid; H₃TCA = tricarboxy triphenyl amine; BIB = 1,3-bis(imidazol-1-ylmethyl)benzene; H₄L = 2,6-di(2,4-dicarboxyphenyl)-4-(pyridine-4-yl)pyridine); Bp = 4,4'-bipyridine; BTC = 1,3,5-benzene tricarboxylate; H₂L_{NA} = 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylic acid; H₂L-NH₂ = 2,2'-diamino[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid; CSMCRI-10 = Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute; BuPh₃P = (4-bromobutyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide; SIPA = 5-sulfoisopthalic acid; ABPY = 4,4'-azopyridine; 5-CFIA = 5-(carboxyformamido)isophthalic acid; BDC = 1,4-benzenedicarboxylate; A = acid; B = base; (BINDIH₄) = *N*,*N'*-bis(5-isophthalic acid)naphthalenediimide; DATRZ = 3,5-diamino-1,2,4-triazole; pypz = bis[3,5-dimethyl-4-(4'-pyridyl)pyrazol-1-yl] methane; PBA = 5-(4-pyridin-3-yl-benzoylamino)isophthalic acid; H2NDTz = 2,6-naphthaleneditetrazole; H2NDPhTz = 2,6-bis(4-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)phenyl)naphthalene; Arg = Arginine.

incorporation of metal nanoparticles within the MOF structure (Scheme S1). These techniques are popular in generating bifunctional MOF compounds, and there are other techniques that may also be utilized to generate bifunctionality in MOFs. The number of MOF compounds with bifunctionality has grown rapidly in recent years. This is not surprising, as the initial efforts during the development of MOFs were toward establishing newer framework compounds and exploring their physical properties.^{133–136} The emphasis on the utility of MOFs toward catalysis involving both the acidic as well as basic functionalities is summarized in Table 4. In addition to preparing MOFs with bifunctionality by careful choice of the ligands, it is also possible to generate bifunctionality by carrying out postsynthetic modifications. Examples of bi- or

multifunctionality through postsynthetic modifications (PSMs) have been known.^{137,138} The PSM allows better control on the structure and fine-tuning of the functionality toward a particular catalytic activity.

3.1. Examples of Catalysis Involving Acidic and Basic Centers

As listed in Table 4, there have been a number of studies involving bifunctionality in MOFs. In this section, we focus on a few select examples that characterize the bifunctionality in a MOF compound. The examples utilize both the acidic as well as basic functionality toward catalysis, but these reactions are carried out independently and not as tandem catalytic reactions. The tandem catalytic studies are dealt with separately.



Figure 2. (a) View of the structure of the MOF $[Cd_3(C_{10}H_4O_7N_1)_2(8H_2O)]$ ·H₂O with Cd centers (Lewis acidic) and an -NH moiety (Lewis basic). (b) Schematic of the possible reaction pathway for the base catalyzed aldol condensation reaction. (c) Schematic of the acid catalyzed enamine formation involving the Cd center. Reproduced with permission from ref 143. Copyright 2023 American Chemical Society.

The MOF $[M_3(C_{10}H_4O_7N_1)_2(8H_2O)] \cdot H_2O$ (M = Cd, Mn), was explored toward the formation of the β -enaminoester (Lewis acid catalyzed), and the -NH moiety present in the ligand was exploited toward the Claisen-Schmidt reactions (Lewis base catalyzed) (Figure 2a).¹⁴³ The Claisen-Schmidt reaction is a classic base catalyzed aldol condensation reaction involving an aromatic aldehyde and a ketone forming conjugated β -hydroxy carbonyl compounds. The uncoordinated -NH group acts as the basic center and catalyzes the Claisen–Schmidt reaction (Figure 2b). The formation of β enaminoesters is acid catalyzed, and the Cd²⁺ center acts as the Lewis acidic center and catalyzes the reaction between ethyl acetoacetate and aniline (Figure 2c).¹⁴³ A two-dimensional (2D) MOF, [Cd(PBA)(DMF)]·DMF (Cd-PBA), (H₂PBA = 5-(4-pyridin-3-yl-benzoylamino)-isophthalic acid), was found to be a catalyst for the base catalyzed (the N from the pyridine acts as the base center) Knoevenagel condensation reaction and the Lewis acid catalyzed (Cd centers) cyanosilylation of various aldehydes with trimethylsilyl cyanide.¹⁵⁸

There are many reports in the literature where only one of the functional groups (usually the Lewis basic functionality) was investigated toward catalytic studies. As mentioned earlier, in all the MOFs, the metal centers always act as Lewis acid centers. In most of the cases, it appears that the reaction of choice for the Lewis base catalyzed reaction is the Knoevenagel condensation (Table 3).

3.2. Tandem/Cascade Reaction

The chemical industries, generally, look to eliminate the number of steps in a chemical reaction process. Another impediment in many reactions is the need to isolate intermediates for further processing. Tandem/cascade reactions provide a possible alternative to reduce the need to isolate the intermediates and in that way also reduce the

number of steps.^{161,162} To carry out such tandem reactions, it is necessary to have different catalytically active centers, preferably distributed uniformly, across the surface of the compound. It is even more important if the reaction requires both the acidic as well as basic functionalities. There is a need to replace multistep as well as salt forming chemical reactions. The approach that provides some success is the tandem reaction, where multiple reactions are combined in a sequential way to yield a single product. This approach is also known as "one-pot", "domino", and cascade reactions.⁵³ There are many advantages in employing "tandem" reactions: (i) good atom economy; (ii) reduction of the formation of chemical wastes; (iii) reduction in the consumption of energy; (iv) no need to isolate any intermediates; etc. The tandem catalyses are known as concurrent tandem catalysis $(CTC)^{53,163}$ and auto tandem catalysis (ATC).¹⁶⁴ One of the important criteria in carrying out the tandem catalytic reactions is the compatibility of the catalyst toward the reactants, intermediates, and solvents. In addition, it is preferable to have the catalytically active centers separated spatially and in a periodic manner. It would be an added advantage if the catalyst can also host both acidic as well as basic catalytic centers. From the arguments as well as the descriptions above, the MOFs have positioned themselves to be an excellent candidate to investigate the multistep tandem/ cascade reactions. The many cascade reactions that have been carried out using MOFs are summarized in Table 5. In this section, we provide select examples of such reactions. The reaction that was most studied as tandem reactions in MOFs is the deacetalization (acid catalyzed) followed by Knoevenagel condensation (base catalyzed).

3.2.1. Deacetalization–Knoevenagel Tandem Reac-tion. The functionalization of Cr-MIL-101, with amino and sulfo groups, through postsynthetic modifications, allowed the one-pot deacetalization–Knoevenagel tandem reaction.¹⁶⁵ The

Reaction conditions	DMSO- d_6 (2 mL), catalyst (100 mg), 50 °C, 24 h toluene (1.5 mL), O ₂ 1 atm,100 °C	DMSO, 50 °C, 48 h, 0.5 mol % HNUST-8	0.5 mol % catalyst, DMSO, 50 °C, 48 h	1 mol % of catalyst 1 or 2, DMF (0.5 mL), 80 $^{\circ}$ C, 3 h	2 mL of toluene, and 5 mg of Pd/Cz-MOF-253–800, 80 $^\circ\text{C}$ 17 h, 150 psi H_2	100 °C, 3 h in the Pickering emulsions consisting of water (3 mL)–toluene (2 mL) MOFs (50 mg)	2 mol % catalyst, 4 h, 60 $^{\circ}$ C, solvent free	catalyst (30 mg) and 2.0 mL tetrahydrofuran at 30 $^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$ for 0.5 h	ethanol (0.3 mL), catalyst (20 mg), RT, 4 h	1.0 mol %, based on the {Cd} center, DMSO 50 mL, 5 h, 70 $^\circ\mathrm{C}$	0.3 mol %, DMSO 3 mL, 6h, 70 $^{\circ}$ C	ethanol (0.3 mL) and catalyst (15 mg) 10 h, 60 $^\circ\mathrm{C}$	solvent free, catalyst 0.3 g, 5 h at 110 $^\circ \mathrm{C}$	d_3 -acetonitrile, 0.1 mol % catalyst, 24 h, 60 °C	CDCl ₃ (1.5 mL), catalyst, 55 $^{\circ}$ C, 24 h, 100 mg	30 mg catalyst, 12 h, 4 mL ethanol, 65 $^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$	1.0 mol % catalyst, 5 mL (DMSO) 4 h 70 °C	DMSO, 5 mL. 8h, 60 °C, 1 mol % catalyst	20 mg, 70 $^{\circ}\text{C},$ 12 h, DMSO (4 mL)
Products	2-benzylidenemalononitrile 2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-(4-nitrobenzylidene) malononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile	2-benzylidenemalononitrile
Reactants	BDA and MN BA and MN	BDA and MN	BDA and MN	BDA and MN	BD and MN	BDA and MN	BDA and MN	p-nitro BD and MN	BD, MN	BDA, MN	BDA, MN	BDA, MN	BDA, MN	BDA, MN	BDA, MN	BDA, MN	BDA, MN	BDA, MN	BDA, MN
Reactive site	Yb ³⁺ Dy ³⁺ Sm ³⁺ , -NH ₂ Ru ²⁺ , Zn ²⁺	Cu ²⁺ , acylamide	Cu ²⁺ , acylamide	Zn ²⁺ , – NH	Al ³⁺ , N	Zn ²⁺ , O ²⁻ , N ⁻ , -OH, -NH ₂	Cd ²⁺ , -N=N-NH ₂	Au, Zn ²⁺ , -N-	Hf, N ₂ H ₃	Cd^{2+} , $N_{pyridine}$	Zn^{2+} , $N_{pyridine}$	Zr^{4+} , -NH ₂	Al ³⁺ , -NH ₂	Cu^{2+} , - NH_2	Zr^{4+} , -NH ₂	Cr ³⁺ , -NH-NH ₂	Zn^{2+} , Ba^{2+} , -COOH, $N_{pyridine}$	Zn ²⁺ , In ³⁺ , –COOH, N _{pyridine}	Cr ³⁺ , Zn ²⁺ , -C=N
MOF compound	Yb-BDC-NH ₂ Dy-BDC-NH ₂ Sm-BDC-NH ₂ 3.1% Ru/UiO-66	HNUST-8	9-LSNNH	$[Zn_{5}(L)_{4}(OH)_{2}(H_{2}O)_{4}]_{n}\cdot 8n(DMF)\cdot 4n(H_{2}O)$	Cz-MOF-253-800	ZIF-8,UiO-66(Zr)-NH ₂ ,MIL-101(Cr)-NH ₂)	CSMCRI-15	H-ZIF-8/Au@mSiO2	Hf-UiO-66-N ₂ H ₃	NUC-29	NUC – 53	$UiO-67-(NH_2)_2$	IRA900(x OH)-MIL-101(AI)-NH ₂	Cu(ABDC)(DMF)	$Zr_{12}BDC-NH_2$	MIL-101(Cr)@PMF	[(CH ₃) ₂ NH ₂] ₂ [BaZn(TDP)(H ₂ O)]·DMF· 5H ₂ O, (NUC-51)	$(Me_2NH_2)[InZn(TDP)(OH_2)]$ -4DMF-4H ₂ O (NUC-42)	MIL-101(Cr)@MOF-867

Table 5. Summary of Tandem Deacetalization–Knoevenagel Reaction Employing Bifunctional MOFs^a

Sr. No.

(azanediyl))bis[1,1'-biphenyl]-3,5-dicarboxylic acid; MOPBB = (5-methoxy-isophthaloyl)-bis(azanediyl)]diisophthalic acid; 1,4-BDC = 1,4-benzené dicarboxylate; BD = benzaldehyde; H₃TCA = 4,4,4-tri- carboxytriphenylamine; DPA = (E)-1,2-di(pyridin-4-yl)diazene; 2-MeIm = 2-methylimidazole; 2- H₂BDC-N₂H₃ = hydrazinyl-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid; H₆TDP - 2,4,6-tris(2,4-tris(4,4))))))))^aAbbreviations: BA = benzyl alcohol, MN = malononitrile; $BDC-NH_2 = 2$ -aminobenzenedicarboxylate; BDA = benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal; PDBAD = 4', 4'''-((pyridine-3, 5-dicarbonyl)bisdicarboxyphenyl)pyridine; ABDC = 2,2'-diamino-[1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid; PMF = polymelamine formaldehyde.

Ref general mechanistic pathway involves the acidic (Cr or SO₃H) center to polarize the oxygen atom of the benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal to form benzaldehyde, which also increases the electrophilicity of the C center. The basic site helps in the nucleophile attack on the -C=O carbon, aiding the formation of the final product. The main outcome of this study appears to be the formation of the ammonium functionality, through proton transfer from the sulfonic acid to the amino group, which acts as the catalytic site. This approach of forming a zwitterionic form in a MOF could be an important development and would pave the way forward to carry out tandem reactions.¹⁶⁵ The use of 5-sulfoisopthalic acid as the primary linker and 4,4'-azopyridine (I) and 1,4-bis(4-pyridyl)-2,3-diaza-1,3-butadiene (II) as the secondary linkers along with Cd²⁺ ions resulted in two different MOFs.¹⁶⁶ Both the compounds were explored toward the one-pot tandem deacetalization-Knoevenagel condensation reactions due to the presence of Lewis acidic (Cd metal centers) as well as basic (azine, free pyridine, and uncoordinated sulfo oxygens) sites. This highlight of the study is in identifying the formation of aldehyde (Lewis acidic) as slower compared to the Knoevenagel reaction (Lewis basic). In the tandem reaction, the aldehyde formed by the Lewis acid catalysis was immediately consumed in the subsequent Knoevenagel reaction, which facilitates the forward reaction due to Le Chatelier's principle.¹⁶⁶ A detailed time dependent study clearly outlines the relative merits of the Lewis acidic as well as basic sites in the two-component stepwise cascade reaction (Figure 3).

The direct synthesis route was adapted in the preparation of PCN-700, where the Brönsted acidity was achieved by introducing H₂TPDC-(COOH)₂ [(1,1',4',1"-terphenyl)-2,2",4,4"-tetracarboxylic acid] and the basicity by introducing $H_2BDC-NH_2$ (2-aminoterephthalic acid) in the framework (Figure 4).¹⁶⁷ The modified compound, PCN-700-AB, was found to be a good catalyst toward the one-pot tandem reaction of benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal into benzylidene malononitrile. The spatial distribution of the acidic and basic sites in PCN-700-AB was found to effectively catalyze this cascade reaction. When the acidic sites were blocked by making an ester-CH₃ group in the same MOF, PCN-MB (Figure S1), the tandem reaction yields were poorer.¹⁶⁷ This clearly establishes the need to have both the acidic as well as the basic functionalities in the same compound for this reaction. A general scheme for this tandem reaction is given in Scheme 2.

3.2.2. Other Tandem Reactions. Though the deacetalization-Knoevenagel reaction was the dominant cascade reaction investigated over many MOFs, there are other tandem reactions that have been explored as well (Table 6). For example, Cr-MOF (MIL-101-Cr) $(Cr_3(F)(H_2O)_2O[(O_2C)_2))$ $C_6H_4(CO_2)$ was modified by PSM to generate MIL-101-SO₃H-NH₂, which was found to be a good catalyst toward the one-pot tandem catalytic reaction.^{168,169} The modified MOF was prepared through a postsynthetic route by sulfonation of the framework with chlorosulfonic acid in dichloromethane.¹⁷⁰ This compound was found to exhibit catalytic activity toward a three-component condensation reaction between aromatic aldehydes, resorcinol, and malononitrile in aqueous medium, forming 2-amino-4H chromene by the Knoevenagel condensation reaction followed by the Michael reaction (Figure S2).¹⁷⁰ The unmodified MOF, MIL-101-Cr, was found to give a lower yield of the desired product, and increased acidity by



Figure 3. Kinetic study for the one-pot tandem deacetalization— Knoevenagel reaction with I (a) and II (b) as a heterogeneous catalyst (solvent-free condition). Adapted with permission from ref 166. Copyright 2018 American Chemical Society.

grafting $-SO_3H$ to the framework gave improved catalytic activity for the overall reaction (Scheme S2).

The MOF $Hf_6(\mu_3-O)_4(\mu_3-OH)_4(HCO_2)_6((O_2C)_3C_6H_3)_{6/3}$ [MOF-808(Hf)], (Figure 5a) was modified postsynthetically to give rise to a bifunctional catalyst for the reductive amination of ketones. The compound MOF-808(Hf) was exchanged to incorporate sulfonated phenylphosphines without oxidation to give a ligand attached with the MOF (Figure 5b). This ligand (SulP1/-MOF-808(Hf), Figure 5b) complexes with Ir and Rh to give a bifunctional catalyst (SulP1/-MOF-808(Hf-Ir)), containing both the metal-phosphine complexes and the Lewis acidic framework (Hf metal sites). The metalated MOF is a good example of having possible a homogeneous catalyst anchored over a heterogeneous host, which helps in the tandem reductive amination and hydro aminomethylation reactions. The catalytic tandem reaction of functionalized acetophenones with benzyl amine derivatives under 50 bar of H₂ at 90 °C gave the product N-(cyclopentylmethyl)aniline with good yield (>90%). The formation of the product involves Lewis acid catalysis of the aldehyde addition to the amines, forming the corresponding imines, which are reduced further by the Ir/Rh centers (Figure 5c).¹⁴⁵ This work is reminiscent of the anchoring of chiral homogeneous noble metal catalysts within mesoporous MCM-41 toward superior performance in allylic amination and other reactions.²

A chromium MOF, OMS-MIL-101(Cr) (OMS = open metal site), was reacted with ethylene diamine, which creates basic centers in addition to the Cr acidic centers (Figure



Figure 4. Structures of PCN-700, PCN-700-B, and PCN-700-AB. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Reproduced with permission under a Creative Commons CC-BY 3.0 from ref 167. Copyright 2019 CCS Chemistry.





^{*a*}LA = Lewis acidic site; LB = Lewis basic site.

6a).¹⁴⁶ This catalyst was useful toward multicomponent Hantzsch reactions. The condensation between aromatic aldehydes, dimedone, β -ketoesters, and ammonium acetate gave the product polyhydroquinoline with good yield (>98%) (Figure 6b).¹⁴⁶ The mechanism proceeds via the activation of the aryl halides over the acidic Cr³⁺ sites, and the -NH₂ group helps in activating the β -ketoesters.¹⁴⁶ The grafting of lysine (2,6-diamino-hexanoic acid) to (Zr)MOF-808 allowed exploration of the multifunctionality by carrying out two sequential reactions: (i) Henry condensation (base catalyzed) and (ii) Friedel/Crafts type alkylation (acid catalyzed) in one-pot solvent-free conditions.¹⁴⁸ In this cascade reaction, both

grafted basic sites (aliphatic amino groups) and framework acid sites (coordinatively unsaturated Zr sites) were employed.

A detailed kinetic study indicated that the former step is slower than the later (Figure S3). The combination of naphthalene dicarboxylic acid as the primary ligand and 1,4bis(3-pyridyl)-2,3-diaza-1,3-butadiene (3-BPDB) as the secondary ligand gave three-dimensional structures of Zn and Cd. The Lewis acid character (Zn/Cd center) was employed toward the condensation of amino benzaldehyde and ketones (Friedländer reaction). The Lewis basic character (-N=N-) was used for the three-component condensation that involves Knoevenagel and Michael reactions.¹⁴² In this study, a cascade

Reaction name	Sr. No.	MOF compound	Reactive site	Reactants	Product	Conditions	Ref
Multicomponent Hanstch Reaction	-	OMS-MIL-101(Cr)	Cr, NH ₂ ,	aromatic aldehydes, dimedone, β -ketoesters ammonium acetate	methyl 2,7,7-trimethyl-5-oxo-4-phenyl- 1,4,5,6,7,8-hexahydroquinoline-3- carboxylate	4 mol % of cat, EtOH	146
	7	MIL-101(Cr)- N(CH ₂ PO ₃ H ₂) ₂	Cr -NH ₂ , -OH, -PO ₃ , -OH, O ⁻	ethyl cyanoacetate or ethyl acetoacetate, hydrazine hydrate, malononitrile, aldehydes	N-amino-2-pyridone and pyrano [2,3-c] pyrazole	5–10 mol % cat.	139
Chromene Synthesis	ŝ	Zn-Bp-BTC MOF	N, 0 ⁻ , -OH	benzaldehyde, malononitrile, and active methylene dimedone	2-amino-4H-chromene	0.06 mmol cat., ethanol	147
	4	zinc(II)-L1/L2/L3/L4	Zn, $-NH_2$	aldehyde malononitrile 1,3-diketone	chromene	EtOH (2 mL), RT, 2 h, air	149
Henry Condensation– Fridel Craft Alkylation	s	(Zr)MOF-808	Zr, lysine	benzaldehyde, nitromethane, indole	1-(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)-1H-indene	25 mg cat, 30 $^{\circ}$ C	148
Oxidation–Knoevenagel Cascade Reaction	9	M ₂ (BTC)(OH)(4- TPT) ₂ (H ₂ O)·(DMA) 0.5(H ₃ O) Ni ₃ (BTC) ₂ (4- TPT) ₂ (H ₂ O) ₆ ·1.5H2O	Co, Ni, N	benzyl alcohol malononitrile	benzylidene	0.25 mmol % cat, air, 400 µL CH ₃ CN, n-dodecane, 12 h, 353 K	150
	4	Cu ₃ TATAT	Cu, N	benzyl alcohol malononitrile	benzylidene	8 mol % cat., TEMPO (0.5 equiv), 5 mL CH ₃ CN, 75 °C, 1 atm O ₂ , 12 h	151
	8	H ₅ PMo ₁₀ V ₂ O ₄₀ @ MIL-101	Mo, V, Cr	benzyl alcohol malononitrile	benzylidene	0.5 mol % cat., toluene (1 mL) O_2 , sealed, 120 °C, 24 h	153
Oxidation-imine Formation	6	SulP1MOF-808(Hf)-Ir/Rh	Rh/IrPO ₃ , Hf	ketone, benzyl amine	N-(cyclopentylmethyl)aniline	1.5 mol % catalyst in 5 mL toluene under 50 bar of $\rm H_2$ at 90 °C for 24 h	145
	10	Zr/Hf-MOF-808	Zr/Hf, defect -OH	aniline, benzyl alcohols	N,1-diphenylmethanimine	$T = 120 ^{\circ}$ C, 0.6 mmol of catalyst and o -xylene as solvent, 2 h	152
Knoevenagel Condensation– hydrogenation	11	IY-SO ₃ H/Rh@S-ZIF-8	-SO ₃ H, Zn, N	<i>p</i> -nitrobenzaldehyde, malononitrile	2-(4-aminobenzylidene) malononitrile	toluene (5 mL), 30 °C, 2 h; 2 MPa H_2, 80 °C, 12 h	221
a PDFAEMA = nolv[(2-i	diethv	Jamino)ethyl methacrylate:	IV = Inteorated	$\text{volk: } H_{T}TATAT = S_{1}S_{1}S_{1}^{*} = (1,3,5,\text{triazine-})$	2.4.6-trivl)tris(azanedivl)triisonhthalate:	AP = 2-aminonvridine: $BTC = 1.3.5$ -her	anazu

^{*a*}PDEAEMA = poly[(2-diethylamino)ethyl methacrylate; IY = Integrated yolk; H₆TATAT = 5,5',5''-(1,3,5-triazine-2,4,6-triyl)triisophthalate; AP = 2-aminopyridine; BTC = 1,3,5-benzene tricarboxylate; Bp = 4,4'-bipyridine; *N*-ferrocenylmethyl-*N*-butyl dithiocarbamate (**L1**); *N*-ferrocenylmethyl-*N*-ethylmorpholine dithiocarbamate (**L2**); *N*-ferrocenylmethyl-*N*-2.(diethylamino)-ethylamino)-ethylamine dithiocarbamate (**L3**); *N*-4-methoxybenzyl-*N*-3-methylpyridyl dithiocarbamate (**L4**).

Table 6. Summary of Other Cascade Reactions Employing Bifunctional $MOFs^a$

(a)

(b)





Figure 5. (a) Structure of MOF-808. (b) Schematic of the postsynthetic exchange of sulfonated phosphines for formate groups on MOF-808(Hf). (c) Scheme for the reductive amination reaction. Reproduced with permission from ref 145. Copyright 2018 John Wiley and Sons.

reaction of two distinct base catalyzed mechanisms has been investigated. Anchoring CuI over modified UiO-67 was found to be a good catalyst for the azide–alkyne cycloaddition reaction.¹⁵⁴ The mechanism involves mediated alkyne interactions followed by the azide reaction forming the triazole derivatives. It is a different approach, as metal salts have been anchored over the MOFs instead of simple metal nanoparticles.

In a recent work, for the first time, a 4-step cascade reaction was carried out using the same strategy of spatially separated Lewis acid and base functionality in [Zn₂(SDBA)(3-ATZ)] (SDBA = 4,4'-sulfonyldibenzoic acid; 3-ATZ = 3-amino 1,2,4triazole) (Figure 7a).¹⁷¹ The different steps that were studied involve deacetalization (Lewis acid catalyzed), Henry, and Michael reactions (Lewis base catalyzed) (Scheme 3). This reaction was possible due to the presence of additional basic sites in the MOFs (primary amine, -NH₂, and sulfonyl oxygen atoms). The four-step reaction consists of the following: the first reaction is the formation of an aldehyde (B) from the benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal (A) (Lewis acid catalyzed); the second reaction is between the nitroalkane and the aldehyde, forming (Henry reaction) 2-nitro-1-phenyl ethanol (C) (Lewis base catalyzed); the third reaction is the dehydration of (C) to give trans β -nitrostyrene (D) (Lewis base catalyzed); and finally reaction between nitromethane and (D) gives (1,3dinitropropan-2-yl)benzene (E) (Scheme 3). The time dependent study clearly indicates that the dehydration of 2nitro-1-phenyl ethanol to trans- β -nitrostyrene was the rate



Figure 6. (a) Schematic illustration for the preparation of ED/MIL-101(Cr). (b) Plausible mechanism for MIL-101(Cr)- NH_2 catalysis of the Hantzsch reaction. Reproduced with permission from ref 146. Copyright 2018 John Wiley and Sons.

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Figure 7. (a, b) Connectivity between the Zn-ATZ layers through the acid ligand (SDBA) in I and II. (c, d) Time dependent study of the one-pot tandem four-step deacetalization–Henry–Michael reactions for I and II. Reprinted with permission from ref 171. Copyright 2023 American Chemical Society.

Scheme 3. Summary of the Four-Step Cascade Reaction Involving the Deacetalization-Henry-Michael Reaction^a



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Figure 8. (a) Structure of MOF highlighting the acidic and basic centers. (b) Schematic of the oxidation–Knoevenagel condensation reaction. Reproduced with permission from ref 150. Copyright 2021 Royal Society of Chemistry.

limiting step and that the Le Chatlier's principle was in action for the reaction to proceed in the forward reaction. It is clearly a good example where the bifunctionality of the MOF was exploited toward a cascade reaction that involved multiple steps. The number of steps (3) in the base catalyzed reactions is more compared to that of the acid catalyzed one in this cascade reaction. The presence of the primary -NH₂ group, which is a strong base, helped in this reaction¹⁷¹ (Figure 7b). **3.2.3.** Oxidation–Knoevenagel/Amination Cascade Reaction. The compounds $M(BTC)(OH)(4-TPT)_2(H_2O) \cdot (DMA)_{0.5}(H_2O)_2$ (H₃BTC = 1,3,5-tribenzoic acid; 4-TPT = 2,4,6-tris(4-pyridyl)-1,3,5-triazine; M = Co, Ni) and Ni₃(BTC)₂(4-TPT)₂(H₂O)₆·1.5H₂O have terminal H₂O molecules coordinated to the metal centers (Co/Ni) which can be removed by heating (Figure 8a).¹⁵⁰ This creates an open coordination site at the metal center, which can act as Lewis acidic center. The secondary ligand 4-TPT can be the Lewis basic center. The compounds were found to be good catalysts for the oxidation of benzyl alcohol to benzaldehyde (acid catalyzed) followed by reaction with malononitrile to give benzilidine malononitrile (base catalyzed) (Figure 8b).¹⁵⁰ A similar reaction was also carried out over the Cu₃TATAT MOF (H₆TATAT = 5,5',5''-(1,3,5-triazine-2,4,6-triyl) tris-(azanediyl)triisophthalate) compound.¹⁵¹

The use of Zr/Hf-MOF-808 toward the synthesis of secondary amines was established by reacting anilines and benzyl alcohols. This reaction does not require any additional base and/or external H_2 .¹⁵² The reaction proceeds through the deprotonation of the alcohol by the metal center followed by the dehydrogenation to form benzaldehyde, which reacts with the amino group of the aniline, forming the final benzylaniline product (Scheme 4). There are some important observations

Scheme 4. Possible Mechanism for the N-Alkylation Reaction of Aniline with Benzyl Alcohol to Form the N-Benzylaniline $Product^a$



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in this reaction. The presence of a defective -OH group in the Hf-cluster metal center enhances the acidity and helps in the formation of benzaldehyde in the first step. The captured proton at the defective -OH group site also aids in the formation of the final product by reacting with the imine nitrogen formed through the condensation of the aldehyde and amine (Scheme 4). This is an interesting strategy where the proton is captured initially and later released during the final step to give the desired product.

The encapsulation of polyoxometalate $H_5PMo_{10}V_2O_{40}$ (PMoV₂) into the cages of an alkylamine-modified MIL-101 was employed for the aerobic oxidation–Knoevenagel one-pot tandem reaction (Scheme S3). The main observation in this reaction is that it does not use any noble metals for the aerobic oxidation of the alcohols.¹⁵³

Scheme 5. Co-MOF-74@Cu-MOF-74 Derived Bifunctional Co-C@Cu-C for One-Pot Production of 1,4-Diphenyl-1,3butadiene from Phenylacetylene^a



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3.3. Anchoring Metal Nanoparticles toward Catalysis

The development of metal nanoparticles during the 90s and the associated advancements in nanoscience provide an important opportunity to explore multifunctionality in MOFs.¹⁷²⁻¹⁷⁴ It may be noted that the use of well distributed supported metal catalysis (e.g., Pd or Pt in Al₂O₃, SiO₂, zeolites, and mesoporous silica) is one of the earlier examples of bifunctional catalysts.¹⁷⁵⁻¹⁷⁷ Many of the supported catalysts are useful toward the "spillover" reactions involving hydrogen.¹⁷⁸ The noble metal and the support influence the electronic state of the metal along with its precise morphology. Today, it has been possible to prepare noble metal nanoparticles with controlled sizes and shapes,¹⁷⁹⁻¹⁸² which may be of importance in heterogeneous catalysis. The noble metal nanoparticles can be stabilized by anchoring the particles through suitable functional groups-most notably the thiol (-SH) functionality. The usefulness of noble metal centers for diverse catalytic reactions has been known over many decades.^{183–187} Many of these earlier reactions are homogeneous catalytic reactions, where the recyclability of the catalyst would be difficult. In recent years, it has been possible to prepare atom precise metal nanoclusters and assemble them into extended structures.¹⁸⁸⁻¹⁹² In addition, the ease of functionalizing the ligands that can be used in the preparation of MOFs opens up an interesting possibility toward anchoring metal nanoparticles at precise locations within the MOFs. The MOFs provide reasonable thermal and chemical stability and pore and channel sizes which can be gainfully employed to explore the usefulness of metal nanoparticles toward catalytic reactions. This approach would be similar to carrying out the homogeneous reactions within heterogeneous surroundings. Catalytic reactions of this nature were attempted by anchoring organometallic complexes directly into the mesoporous compounds, notably on MCM-41 and related ones.¹⁹³⁻

Most of the MOFs possess Lewis acidity, and the functional ligand provides the necessary additional reactive center (either Bronsted acidic or basic). These MOFs are already bifunctional and the anchoring of metal nanoparticles adds to the

Table 7. Nanoparticle Loaded MOFs and Their Utility in Catalysis^a

Sr. No.	MOF compound	Reactive site	Nanoparticle	Catalytic reaction	Ref
1	Au@ZIF-8	Zn ²⁺ /-N _{im}	Au	hydrogenation of n-hexene	311
2	nFe ₃ O ₄ @Pd/ZIF-8@ZIF-8	$Zn^{2+}/-N_{im}$	Fe ₃ O ₄ /Pd	hydrogenation of styrene	312
3	UiO-66-biguanidine/Pd	Zr ⁴⁺ /-NH ₂	Pd	Suzuki–Miyaura coupling	313
4	Ag@UiO-66-SH	Zr ⁴⁺ /-NH ₂	Ag	three-component A ³ coupling	314
5	AgPd@MIL-125-NH ₂ -PDA	Cr ³⁺ /-NH ₂	Ag-Pd	Suzuki coupling reaction	315
				hydrogenation of aldehyde	
6	MOF-Pd NPs	Cu ²⁺ /-NH ₂	Pd	aerobic oxidation of benzyl alcohol	316
7	Pt@UiO-66-NH ₂	$Zr^{4+}/-NH_2$	Pt	synthesis of nitrones	173
8	Au-NP/Ni-Cu MOF	Ni^{2+}/Cu^{2+}	Au	chemical degradation of Rhodamine B	317
9	Au@Cu(II)-MOF	Cu ²⁺ /-N	Au	oxidation-condensation reactions	198
10	Co-MOF-74@Cu-MOF-74	Co^{2+}/Cu^{2+}	CoCu	1, 4-diphenyl-1,3-butadiene from phenylacetylene	209
11	Pd(0)@UiO-68-AP	Zr ⁴⁺ /-N	Pd	oxidation–Knoevenagel condensation	215
12	Au/NH ₂ -UiO-66	$Zr^{4+}/-NH_2$	Au	tandem reaction	216
13	Pd-Au@Mn(II)-MOF	Mn(II)/N	Pd-Au	alcohol to imines	217
14	Al-ITQ-SO ₃ H/Pd	Al(III), SO ₃ H	Pd	oxidation-acetalization	219
15	IY-SO ₃ H/Rh@S-ZIF-8	Zn(II)SO ₃ H	Rh	Knoevenagel condensation-hydrogenation reaction	221
16	Pd@UiO-66(Hf)	Hf(IV)	Pd	Hantzsch reaction	318
17	Pd@NH2-UiO-66	$Zr(IV)/-NH_2$	Pd	Suzuki coupling/asymmetric aldol condensation	224
18	Ni@ZrOF	$Zr(IV)/ -NH_2$	Ni	chemical fixation of CO ₂	319
19	Au@[$Zn_{14}(L)_6(O)_2(H_2O)_3$]	Zn(II)	Au	chemical fixation of CO ₂	249
20	Ag(I)@MOF-NHC	Zn(II)/-N	Ag	chemical fixation of CO ₂	250
21	Pt@MOF-5, Pt@UiO-66, Pt@UiO-66-NH ₂	$Zr(IV)/-NH_2$	Pt	biomass valorization	320
22	[Zn(4-bpdh)]3DMF	-N	Pd	Sonogashira coupling reaction	321
23	Ag/UiO-66	Zr^{4+}	Ag	3,4-dihydropirimidin-2(1H)-one synthesis	322
24	Au/MOF-199	Cu ²⁺	Au	A ³ -coupling reaction	323
25	metal/UiO-66	Zr^{4+}	Pt, Pd, Ru	oxidation of volatile organic compound	324
26	Pd(0)@UiO-68-AP	Zr, -NH	Pd	oxidation–Knoevenagel cascade reaction	215
27	Au@NH ₂ -UiO-66	Zr, -NH ₂	Au	oxidation–Knoevenagel cascade reaction	216
28	Pd-Au@Mn(II)-MOF	Mn, N _{pyr}	Pd, Au	oxidation-imine/acetal formation cascade reaction	217
29	Pd@MIL-101	Cr, N	Pd	oxidation-imine/acetal formation cascade reaction	218
30	Pd@Al-MOF	Al, –SO ₃ H	Pd	oxidation-imine/acetal formation cascade reaction	219
31	Pd@PDEAEMA-g-UiO-66	Zr, -NH ₂	Pd	Knoevenagel condensation-hydrogenation	220
32	Pd/MIL-101-SO ₃ H	-SO ₃ H	Pd	hydrogenation esterification cascade reaction	222
33	Pd@UiO-66(Hf)	Zr	Pd	hydrogenation esterification cascade reaction	223
ODM-				N hatana malia ambana 4 ha dh 26 hia(4 marid	1-1) 2 4

^{*a*}OPNs = organic polymer networks; PDA = polydopamine; AP = aminopyridine; NHC = *N*-heterocyclic carbene; 4-bpdh = 2,5-bis(4-pyridyl)-3,4-diaza-2,4-hexadiene.

existing functionality. The main advantages of anchoring the metal nanoparticles are their small (nano) size and the availability of periodically placed metals over the surface of the MOFs, which would be useful toward many heterogeneous catalytic reactions. Much of the earlier work on such type of nanoparticle anchored MOFs was termed "ship in a bottle" catalysts.^{196,197} The usefulness of this approach was shown by anchoring Au nanoparticles in a MOF, Au@Cu(II)-MOF, toward a tandem oxidation-Knoevenagel condensation reaction that involves the conversion of benzyl alcohol to benzylidene malononitrile with good yield, conversion, and selectivity.¹⁹⁸ Similarly, Pd@Ni-MOF was shown to be a good catalyst toward Suzuki coupling of aryl chlorides.¹⁹⁹ It is notable that many reactions involving Suzuki coupling are carried out by employing aryl bromides and iodides and that the presence of Pd nanoparticles uniformly distributed in a heterogeneous environment (Pd@Ni-MOF) converts the aryl chlorides with good yield as well as recyclability.¹⁹⁹ Many studies of this nature have been known in the literature.²⁰⁰⁻²⁰⁵ The important nanoparticle loaded MOFs and their utility in heterogeneous catalytic studies are listed in Table 7.

As discussed above, anchoring of noble metal particles supported over the MOFs was found to be dominant in many

catalytic reactions. There have been attempts at synthesizing 3d metal nanoparticles, at the expense of the MOF framework, by anchoring them over carbonized MOFs.²⁰⁶⁻²⁰⁸ It has been shown that MOFs when heated in an inert atmosphere (Ar atmosphere) or under vacuum at elevated temperatures form carbon with the metals distributed over the carbon. This carbonization process, in general, results in the formation of different forms of carbon such as amorphous carbon, graphitized carbon, or a mixture of both. Depending on the composition of the MOFs, the resulting metal nanoparticles can be either single nanoparticles or bimetallic nanoparticles supported over the amorphous carbon. It has been known that amorphous carbon can act as a good support toward many catalytic reactions.²⁰⁹⁻²¹⁴ The bimetals supported over the carbonized MOFs can be exploited toward catalytic reactions where the differences in the catalytic activity of the different metals would be important.

This strategy was employed toward the preparation of Co-Cu bimetallic nanoparticles supported on carbon (Co-C@Cu-C) by pyrolyzing Co/Cu-MOF-74.²⁰⁹ This bimetallic catalyst was found to be a good catalyst for the conversion of phenylacetylene to 1,4-diphenyl-1,3-butadiene. This reaction involves C–C coupling as well as hydrogenation reactions, and



Figure 9. (a) Schematic of synthesis of Pd@PDEAEMA-g-UiO-66 through PSM. Yellow balls: Pd nanoparticles. (b) Knoevenagel condensation followed by hydrogenation cascade reactions over the Pd@PDEAEMA-g-UiO-66 catalyst. Reproduced with permission from ref 220. Copyright 2017 American Chemical Society.

the reaction proceeds over the Co centers. The possible mechanism for this cascade reaction is given in Scheme 5. Phenylacetylene is initially activated by metallic Cu NPs, forming Cu⁺-phenylacetylide complex on the surface of Cu NPs. The metallic Co NPs in Co-C@Cu-C help in the dissociation of NaBH₄ to form Co-BH₃ and CoH, which act as the active species for the hydrogenation of the phenylacetylene. The proposed mechanism also involves the migration the hydrides on Co nanoparticles to diffuse to interact with the adsorbed Cu⁺-phenylacetylide complex. The remaining hydrides in BH₃(*i*-PrO)⁻ dissociate over the metallic Co NPs, which helps in the spillover of hydrogen to react with the adsorbed Cu⁺-phenylacetylide complex. The *in situ* formed complex between CuI-phenylacetylide dimerizes to form 1, 4-diphenyl-1,3-butadiene.

The pyrolysis of a cobalt MOF, $[C_0(C_{14}H_8O_6)(C_{10}H_8N_2)]$ - $2H_2O$ (C_3H_7NO) , results in Co supported on amorphous/ graphitized carbon. The Co nanoparticles were shown to be a good green catalyst for the selective reduction of nitroarenes to amines in the presence of the hydrazine as a hydrogen source.¹⁹⁹ The Co metal particles supported on the carbon matrix help in the decomposition of hydrazine to produce the hydrogen in situ. The hydrogen spillover helps in the reduction of nitroaromatics to the aniline derivatives. The examples clearly support the spillover effect in employing metal nanoparticles toward hydrogenation reactions. A mixed precursor containing Cu, Co, and Ni introduced into MIL-101 was reduced in situ with NH₃BH₃ to give Cu@Co@Ni NPs inside MIL-101 pores. The compound Cu@Co@Ni/ MOF catalyzes nitroarene hydrogenation in the presence of NH₃BH₃, which supplies the necessary hydrogen for the reaction.²

3.3.1. Cascade Reactions Involving Anchored Nanoparticles. A bifunctional Pd(0)@UiO-68-AP catalyst, prepared using the postsynthetic approach, catalyzes aerobic oxidation of benzyl alcohol by the Pd NPs followed by reaction with malononitrile via the Knoevenagel condensation, forming benzilidine malononitrile.²¹⁵ The oxidation of the benzyl alcohol is promoted by the Pd catalyst whereas the Knoevenagel condensation is facilitated by the basic nitrogen center.²¹⁵ A similar reaction was also carried out employing Au nanoparticles anchored over NH₂-UiO-66,²¹⁶ for the selective oxidation of primary alcohols in tandem with Knoevenagel condensation reactions. A Mn(II) MOF, (MnL₂)·2CH₃OH (L = 4,4,4-trifluoro-1-(4-(pyridin-4-yl)phenyl)butane-1,3-dione), with Pd-Au bimetallic alloy nanoparticles (Pd-Au@Mn(II)-MOF) was employed as a bifunctional heterogeneous catalyst for the one-pot tandem synthesis of imines from benzyl alcohols and aniline (Figure S4). The oxidation reaction was catalyzed by nanoparticles, and the imine formation was due to the N-containing ligand.²¹⁷ Similar reactions have also been carried out with Pd nanoparticles (NPs) encapsulated in MIL-101.²¹⁸ An aluminum MOF, Al-ITQ-SH, having thiol units was used to anchor Pd nanoparticles, and the thiol moieties were converted into sulfonic groups (Brønsted acid).²¹⁹ This compound catalyzes a one-pot, two-step oxidation-acetalization reaction where the oxidation of benzyl alcohol into benzaldehyde under an O2 atmosphere was catalyzed by Pd nanoparticles, followed by the acetalization of aldehydes employing the Brönsted acid functionality. A Pd NP loaded and pH-switchable polymer-grafted UiO-66-MOF, Pd@ PDEAEMA-g-UiO-66, (PDEAEMA = poly[(2-diethylamino)ethyl methacrylate]), was employed toward a biphasic Knoevenagel condensation-hydrogenation cascade reaction using different atmospheres (Figure 9a). The Knoevenagel condensation step was carried out under air atmosphere, whereas the hydrogenation reaction was carried out in hydrogen atmosphere (Figure 9b).²²⁰

A bifunctional composite compound with a macro-/ microporous ZIF-8 shell and rhodium nanoparticles anchored over sulfonated cross-linked polystyrene was prepared to carry out the Knoevenagel-hydrogenation reaction.²²¹ The reactants containing the aldehyde and malononitrile in toluene solvent under a pressure of hydrogen (2 MPa) gave the benzilidene malononitrile product in near ~100% yield. The composite catalyst was found to be robust with negligible leaching of the anchored Rh nanoparticles.²²¹ Another reaction that utilizes nanoparticle supported over MOFs is the hydrogenation-esterification reaction. The hydrogenation is catalyzed by the noble metal nanoparticles, and the Scheme 6. Scheme of the Cascade Reaction Process from FA to ETF^a



^aReproduced with permission from ref 222. Copyright 2019 Royal Society of Chemistry.

esterification reaction is catalyzed by the acidic sites. The compound MIL-101-SO₃H was appended with Pd nanoparticles to give Pd/MIL-101-SO₃H.²²² This compound was active to convert furoic acid (FA) (biomass derived) into value chemicals such as ethyl tetrahydro-2-furoate (ETF). The FA was esterified with ethanol, forming ethyl furoate (EF), which was hydrogenated to give ETF (yield = 100%, selectivity >99%) (Scheme 6). A similar reaction has also been attempted over Pd@UiO-66(Hf).²²³

The use of bifunctionality was shown elegantly by adding an L-proline functionality to -NH₂-UiO-66, which also had Pd nanoparticles through PSM. This modified MOF was shown to be a chiral catalyst toward Suzuki coupling (Pd centered) followed by asymmetric aldol condensation (N centered). The reaction between 1,4-bromobenzaldehyde and phenylboronic acid in EtOH-H₂O was catalyzed by Pd@NH₂-UiO-66(pro) and K₂CO₃ at 80 °C.²²⁴

As described above, the overall activity of the MOFs has been enhanced by having the nanoparticles. Though most of the studies concentrated on noble metals, there have been efforts toward other transition metals as well. As can be noted, in most of the cases one finds a good synergistic and cooperative effect between the metal nanoparticles and the overall functionality of the MOFs. The reactions, in a way, replicate many of the well-established and known organometallic catalyses in these compounds. This effort paves the way for carrying out homogeneous catalysis under a heterogeneous environment. It is likely that many other reactions would also be attempted in the future to reap the benefits of having well dispersed nanomaterials in bifunctional MOFs. This approach really makes the MOF compounds truly multifunctional.

3.4. Fixation of Atmospheric CO₂

One of the important issues of concern is the control of CO_2 in the atmosphere. CO_2 has been designated as an important greenhouse gas, and it is desirable to convert it to other useful chemicals.^{225–230} There have been attempts to convert the CO_2 under atmospheric conditions, both through the catalytic route^{231–233} as well as electrochemically.^{234–236} The intense research, over the years, has involved conversion of CO_2 into cyclic carbonate, carboxylation, reductive N-functionalization of various amines with CO_2 to furnish N-formyl compounds, and carboxylative cyclization of propargyl amines and alcohols.^{237–241} In many of these attempts, organometallic compounds, nanoparticle grafted compounds, and others have been explored.²⁴² There have been considerable efforts toward fixing CO_2 at atmospheric pressures employing MOFs, notably bifunctional ones. Some of the important studies toward the fixation of CO_2 employing MOFs are listed in Table 8.

Tetra(4-pyridyl)porphyrin (H₂TPyP) was employed along with 4,4'-oxybis(benzoic acid) (H₂OBA) to form a 2D compound, $[Zn_2(C_{40}H_{24}N_8)_{0.5}(C_{14}H_8O_5)(DMA)](DMA)-(H_2O)_6$.²⁴³ The Zn²⁺ ions were ion-exchanged with the Cu²⁺ in a postsynthetic modification, and the Cu compound was employed for the cyclic carbonate formation reaction with tetra-*n-tert*-butylammonium bromide (TBAB) as a cocatalyst, which gave cyclic carbonates with high yield.²⁴³

A plausible reaction mechanism for the cycloaddition of CO₂ to cyclic carbonates using bifunctional MOFs is given in Scheme 7. The zirconium-phosphonate MOF $Zr(H_4L)$ ($H_8L =$ tetraphenylsilane tetrakis-4-phosphonic acid) was shown to be a good catalyst toward the CO₂/epoxide coupling reaction. The presence of a Brønsted acid (protonated phosphonate) along with the Lewis acidic (Zr metal) functionality helped in catalyzing the reaction forming cyclic carbonates (Figure S5).²⁴⁴ Å copper MOF, $[Cu(2,5-BPTA)(bpy)(H_2O)]$ (2,5-BPTA = 2,5-bis(prop-2-yn-1-yloxy)terephthalic acid and bpy = 4,4'-bipyridine, Figure 10a), was shown to catalyze CO_2 to cyclic carbonates in the presence of TBAB as a cocatalyst.²⁴⁵ The Cu²⁺ ions acts as the Lewis acid centers to polarize the epoxide oxygen and increase the electrophilicity of the carbon. The Br⁻ from the TBAB helps in the ring opening of the epoxides. The Cu²⁺ acts as the center for the subsequent binding of CO2 with the ring opened epoxide along with the elimination of the Br⁻ by ring closing, forming the cyclic carbonates (Figure 10b).²⁴⁵ As noted in Table 8, the number of examples of the conversion of CO₂ to cyclic carbonates are many. It appears that the presence of stronger acidic sites along with basic sites helps toward catalyzing this reaction. Lanthanide MOFs (Ln = Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Yb; NTB = 4,4',4''-nitrilotribenzoic acid; NMP = N-methylpyrrolidone) have also been shown to effectively catalyze the CO_2 conversion.²⁴⁶ The compounds catalyze the reaction between CO₂ and epichlorohydrin in the presence of *n*-Bu₄NBr as the cocatalyst with a yield of 97%.²⁴⁶

In many of the cycloadditions of CO_2 to epoxide, a cocatalyst is generally employed. The role of the cocatalysts such as TBAB, in the cycloaddition of CO_2 , is to enhance the catalytic activity by participating during the ring opening step. A zeolitic imidazole framework-78 (ZIF-78) was found to be a good catalyst (Figure 11) toward the CO_2 /propylene oxide (PO) cycloaddition, forming propylene carbonate (PC) in the

Table 8. Summary of Atmospheric CO₂ Fixation over MOFs^a

Sr. No.	MOF	Reactive site	Reactant	Product	Reaction conditions	Ref
1	(I^{-}) Meim-UiO-66	7r ⁴⁺ I ⁻	FCH	4-(chloromethyl)-1 3-diovolan-2-one	0.1 MP ₂ 120 °C 24 h	248
2	MIL-IL(A)	Cr^{3+} Br ⁻	SO	4-nhenyl-1 3-dioxolan-2-one	2 MPa 110 °C 2 h	325
-	MIL-IL(B)	01) 21	00	· priority 1,0 alcalorari 2 one	21111,110 0,21	020
3	MIL-IMAc-Br ⁻	Cu ²⁺ -COOH, Br ⁻	ECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	0.5 MPa, 60 °C, 24 h	81
4	Mg-MOF-74	Mg ²⁺ , Co ²⁺ , OH	SO	4-phenyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	2 MPa, 100 °C, 4 h	326, 327
	Co-MOF-74					
5	UiO-66-NH ₂	Zr ⁴⁺ , NH ₂	SO	4-phenyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	2.0 MPa, 100 °C, 4 h	328
6	BIT-101	Zn ²⁺ , COO	РО	4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	3 MPa, 160 °C, 24 h	329
	BIT-102					
	BIT-103					
7	1-NH2	CONH, NH ₂	ЕСН, РО	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolna-2-one-4- methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	0.1 MPa, 90 °C, 50 h, 3 MPa, 100 °C, 6 h	330
8	UMCM-1-NH ₂	Zn_4O , NH_2	РО	4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1.2 MPa, 120 °C, 24 h	331
9	Zn-TATAB	Zn ²⁺ , NH	ECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 atm, 100 °C, 16 h	332
10	Co/Ni-TATAB	Co ²⁺ , Ni ²⁺ , NH	ECHECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 bar, 80 °C, 15 h	279
11	Zn-BTC-2MeIm	Zn^{2+} , 2MeIm	ECH, PO	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	3.0 MPa, 100 °C, 6 h	333
12	Co(tp)(bpy) MOF-508a	Co ²⁺ , Zn ²⁺ , free pyridine N	ECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 MPa, 100 °C, 8 h	334
13	$(Me_2NH_2)_2 \cdot [Zn_8(Ad)_4(DABA)_6O] \cdot 7D - MF n$	Zn ²⁺ , Ad, and NH ₂	ECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 bar, 100 °C, 24 h	335
14	ZIF-8	Zn^{2+} , Im	ECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	7 bar, 100 °C, 4 h	336
15	ZIF-90	Zn^{2+} , CHO	РО	4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	2 MPa, 120 °C, 8 h	337
16	CZ-ZIF	Zn ²⁺ /Co ²⁺ , HmIm	ECHPO	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	7 bar, 100 °C, 4 h	338
17	ZIF-67	Co ²⁺ , HmIm	ECHPO	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	10 bar, 120 °C, 6 h	339
18	Ti-ZIF	Ti ⁴⁺ , Im	SO	4-phenyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1.72 bar, 100 $^\circ\text{C},$ 8 h	340
19	MIL-101-P(<i>n</i> -Bu) ₃ BrMIL-101-N(n Bu) ₃ Br	Cr ³⁺ , Br ⁻	РОРО	4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	2.0 MPa, 80 °C, 8 h	341
20	F-ZIF-90	Zn ²⁺ , I ⁻	AGE	4-((allyloxy)methyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2- one	1.17 MPa, 120 °C, 6 h	342
21	IL-ZIF-90	Zn ²⁺ , I ⁻	РО	4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1.0 MPa, 120 °C, 3 h	343
22	ZnTCPP⊂(Br)Etim-UiO-66	Zn ²⁺ , Br ⁻	AGE	4-((allyloxy)methyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2- one	1 bar, 140 °C, 14 h	344
23	Salen-Co(23%)⊂(Br [−])Etim-UiO- 66	Co ³⁺ , Br ⁻	SO	4-phenyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	0.1 MPa, 120 °C,12 h	345
24	UiO-67-IL	Zr^{4+} , Br^{-}	ECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 atm, 90 °C, 12 h	346
25	FJI-C10	Cr^{3+}, Br^{-}	ECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 bar, 80 °C, 12 h	347
26	IL@MIL101-SO ₃ H(4)	Cr^{3+} , Br^{-}	ECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 atm, 90 °C, 24 h	348
27	MIL-101-IMBr-6	Cr^{3+} , Br^{-}	PO	4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	0.8 MPa, 80 °C, 4 h	349
28	IL/MIL-101-NH ₂	-COOH, NH_2	PO	4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1.3 MPa, 120 °C, 1 h	350
29	polyILs@MIL-101	Cr^{3+} , Br	50 DO	4-phenyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 bar, 70 °C, 48 h	351
30 21	MIL-101-IP	Cr, $Dr7n^{2+} Co^{2+} Br^{-}$	PO SO	4-metnyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 atm, 25 C, 48 n	352
32	E-IRMOE-3-2d	Zn , Co , Di	POPOPO	4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	$2 \text{ MP}_2 140 ^{\circ}\text{C} \cdot 15 \text{ h}$	354
52	F-IRMOF-3-4d	$2n_40, -n_2, n_3$	101010	+-inethyl-1,5-cloxolait-2-one	2 WI a, 140 C, 1.5 II	334
	F-IRMOF-3-6d					
33	F-IRMOF-3(MeI)	Zn-OH, I⁻	AGE	4-((allyloxy)methyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2- one	1.2 MPa, 120 °C, 6 h	355
	F-IRMOF-3(BuI)			• ••• •		
34	MIL-101-tmzOH-Br	Cr ³⁺ , OH ⁻ , Br ⁻	ECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 MPa, 80 °C, 2 h	356
35	2MeIm@Co-BTC-x	Co ²⁺ , MeIm	ECHECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	3.0 MPa, 90 °C, 5 h, 3.0 MPa, 90 °C, 7 h	357
36	Cr-MIL-101-[BuPh ₃ P]Br	Cr ³⁺ , Br ⁻	ECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 MPa, 80 °C, 2 h	358
37	$[TMPyPMn(I)]^{4+}(I^{-})_4 @ZIF-8$	Zn ²⁺ , Mn ²⁺ , I ⁻	ECH	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	1 bar, 100 °C, 36 h	359
38	[Zn(II)NMeTPyP] ⁴⁺ [I ⁻] ₄ @PCN- 224	Zn^{2+}, I^{-}	ECHPO	4-(chloromethyl)-1,3-dioxolan-2-one-4- methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-one	0.8 MPa, 90 °C, 24 h	360

"Abbreviations: ECH = epichlorohydrin; PO = propylene oxide; SO = styrene oxide; AGE = allyl glycidyl ether; dhtp = 2,5-dihydroxyterephthalate; NH_2 -BDC = 2-aminoterephthalate; aip = 5-aminoisophthalic acid; NIP = 5-nitroisophthalic acid; L = N4,N4'-di(pyridine-4-yl) biphenyl-4,4'-dicarboxamide; Im = imidazole; BTC = 1,3,5-benzene tricarboxylate; HmIm = 2-methylimidazole; ICA = imidazole 2-carboxaldehyde; TATAB = 4,4',4"-s-triazine-1,3,5-triyl-tri-*p*-aminobenzoic acid; DABCO = 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]-octane; MIL = Materials Institute Lavoisier; UiO = University of Oslo; BIT = Beijing Institute of Technology; Hip = 5-hydroxyisophthalic acid; Bpy = 4,4'-bipyridine; BTB = 1,3,5-tris(4-carboxyphenyl)benzene; DMF = *N*,*N'*-dimethylformamide; Ad = adeninate; DABA = 2,2'-dimethyl- 4,4'-azobenzoate; 2-MeIm = 2-

Table 8. continued

methylimidazole; ZIF = zeolitic imidazolate framework; 2-F-BIM = 2-(furan-2-yl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole; TCPP = 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(4-carboxyphenyl)porphyrin; IL = ionic liquid; ICA = imidazole-2-carboxyaldehyde; Etim = ethyl imidazolium; polyILs = poly(ionic liquids); IP = ionic polymer; MeI = methyl iodide; BuI = butyl iodide; IRMOF = isoreticular metal-organic framework; IMAc = 1H-imidazole-1-acetic acid; PCN = Porous coordination network; Zn(II)NMeTPyP = 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(1-methylpyridinium-4-yl) zinc(II) porphyrin; [(Etim-H₂BDC)⁺(Br)] = 2-(3-ethyl-imidazol-1-yl)-terephthalic acid; ImBDC = 2-(imidazole-1-yl)terephthalate; salen-Co(III) - N,N'-bis(3-carboxylsalicylidene)-1,2-cyclohexanediamino cobalt(III) acetate; [BuPh3P]Br = 4-(bromobutyl)triphenylphosphonium bromide; MPImBr = 1-methyl-3-propylimidazolium bromide; HmIm = 2-methylimidazole; 2-Br-BDC = 2-bromoterephthalate; L = (Br) allylium-2-bp functionalized biphenyl dicarboxylic acid.





^{*a*}LA = Lewis acid; LB = Lewis base; \overline{X} = halide ions.

absence of any cocatalyst. The compound ZIF-78 exhibits a strong basic framework due to the presence of imidazolate (-N) linkers with the Zn centers providing the Lewis acidity. This reaction, however, was carried out at an elevated temperature and pressure.²⁴⁷ The mechanism involves the formation of an adduct with propylene oxide and the Lewis acid centers, which is followed by the ring opening. The Lewis basic -NH groups attack on the O⁻ ion, and CO₂ forms the cyclic carbonates (Scheme 8)

To date, several examples of heterogeneous bifunctional MOF catalysts have been established. The quaternary ammonium, phosphonium, imidazolium, triazolium, or pyridinium functionalized linkers can be successfully introduced as pendant groups on organic linkers, while preparing the MOFs. This would eliminate the need to use the cocatalyst during the cycloaddition of CO_2 to carbonates. A N-containing ligand was introduced by the postsynthetic modification on UiO-66 to result in UiO-66-Py (pyridine) and UiO-67-Bpy (bipyridine) (Figure S6). N-Alkylation of the bipyridine and pyridine centers converts the neutral framework into an ionic one (R = Me, Et, nPr, iPr; X = I, Br, Cl) and gives rise to bifunctional behavior. This modified MOF catalyzes the cycloaddition of propylene oxide to CO₂, with yields of ~99% (Figure S6).⁵¹ A halide functionalized bifunctional imidazolium (Im) zirconium metal-organic framework (Zr-MOF), (I⁻)Meim-UiO-66, was shown to be an efficient and recyclable heterogeneous catalyst for the cycloaddition of CO_2 with epoxides without the use of cocatalysts (Figure S7). The presence of ionic I^- in the structure acts as the Lewis base, and the Brønsted-acid (Zr- $OH/Zr-OH_2$) helps in the formation of cyclic carbonate with 100% conversion of styrene oxide.²⁴⁸

The use of 2,6-di(1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)naphthalene (H₂NDTz) and 2,6-bis(4-(1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)phenyl)naphthalene (H₂NDPhTz) with cobalt gave two cobalt MOFs, which catalyze the epoxidation—carboxylation of styrene with CO₂ in tandem fashion. The control experiments revealed the synergic effect between the oxidant and the MOF, as ~4% of styrene oxide was obtained in the absence of catalyst. This work highlights the utility of nitrogen-rich heterocycles in MOFs for efficient development of bifunctional catalysts.¹⁵⁶

In addition to utilizing the Lewis acidic and basic sites of MOFs toward CO₂ fixation, it has been shown that the use of metal nanoparticles also catalyzes such reactions. Gold nanoparticles anchored over the MOF $[Zn_{14}(L)_6(O)_2(H_2O)_3]$ (L = 2,6-bis(2',5'-dicarboxylphenyl)pyridine) were employed toward the cycloaddition of CO₂ with epoxides with TBAB as the cocatalyst (Scheme 9).²⁴⁹ A bifunctional catalyst having Ag(I) ions grafted onto N-heterocyclic carbene (NHC) sites in a MOF was found to be good catalyst for the efficient fixation of CO₂ with propargyl alcohols. The availability of catalytically



Figure 10. (a) 2D layer of the $[Cu(2,5-BPTA)(bpy)(H_2O)]$ MOF. (b) Possible mechanism for the formation of cyclic carbonate. Reproduced with permission from ref 245. Copyright 2023 American Chemical Society.



Figure 11. (a) Structure of ZIF-78, (b) Lewis acidic Zn center and Lewis basic N (Im) center. Reproduced with permission from ref 247. Copyright 2017 Elsevier.

Scheme 8. Proposed Catalytic Mechanism for the CO_2/PO Cycloaddition Reaction Using the ZIF-78 Heterogeneous Catalyst^a



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active alkynophilic Ag(I) and CO₂-philic NHC sites in the 1D pores of the MOF helped in the fixation of CO₂ with propargyl alcohols (Scheme 10).²⁵⁰ Silver nanoparticles immobilized on MOFs were shown to effectively catalyze the carboxylation of terminal alkyne with CO₂ to the corresponding carboxylic ester employing a porphyrin-based compound, $[Zn_3(C_{40}H_{24}N_8)-(C_{20}H_8N_2O_4)_2(DEF)_2](DEF)_3$ (DEF = *N*,*N*-diethyl-formamide).²⁴² In this reaction Cs₂CO₃ acts as the cocatalyst. CO₂ fixation was achieved in a modified ZIF-90 compound where the carboxylate functionality provided the necessary catalytic reactive center. The catalytic activity of the modified ZIF-90-C was found to be ~100% at 50 °C for the fixation of CO₂ in the presence of PhSiH₃ as the H-donor and morpholine.^{238,251}

The number of catalytic reactions described and discussed here is indicative of the potential that the MOFs provide as a catalyst. The examples given in this review are to highlight the utility of MOFs toward a particular reaction. For more detailed discussion about the catalytic reactions and their possible

Scheme 9. Tentative Mechanism for CO_2 Cycloaddition with Epoxides^{*a*}



^{*a*}TBAB = Bu_4NBr . Reproduced with permission from ref 249. Copyright 2019 American Chemical Society.

mechanism, readers may need to look at the original references.

4. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The modern world is driven by the need to have clean technology where wastages are minimized. In the area of applied catalysis, the emergence of zeolites with precise and quantifiable Brönsted acidity more or less replaced the need to have corrosive ligand acids (such as HF, H₂SO₄, etc.) toward alkylations and isomerization of hydrocarbons.²⁵² The strategy to design new optimal catalyst, from the available knowledge of framework structures, with uniform pore/channel size having well dispersed catalytically active sites may require insights from computational design. Such an approach is likely to gain pace, and designer catalysts for a particular reaction would be feasible in the future. The flexible and ever ready synthetic chemist may be adept toward this new reality to reap the benefits. For the brighter side, as it is known in enzyme catalysis, "the placement of appropriate reactive groups in the right environment" may be enough for a designed catalyst.²⁵³

The many examples presented in this article already provide the needed enthusiasm to pursue the design strategy actively. Scheme 10. Proposed Mechanism for the Coupling of CO_2 with Propargylic Alcohol Catalyzed by Ag(1)@MOF-NHC^a



^aReproduced with permission from ref 250. Copyright 2022 Royal Society of Chemistry.

The dual functionality that provides both the acidic as well as basic sites is unique to MOFs, as these can be achieved with reasonable ease. In addition, the "ship in a bottle" type catalysts are another facet of MOF compounds, where the electronic behavior of the participating moieties can be fine-tuned to achieve better catalytic behavior. MOF catalysis can be considered to be another variant of inorganic enzyme catalysis.²⁵⁴ Normally enzymes have a well-defined catalytic site (cavity) and molecular selectivity (shape and regio- or enantioselectivity). In MOFs, one finds the same features as exemplified in this article.

As highlighted in this article, many MOFs are useful in the synthesis of fine chemicals. The lack of stability at elevated temperatures and pressures would hinder the usage of MOFs in oil refining, petrochemical synthesis, etc. The development of MOFs as industrial catalysts needs to overcome the following requirements: (1) reproducibility and large-scale synthesis; (2) processability as extruded pellets and membranes; (3) quantifications of relative acidities; and (4) lack of quantifiable hydrophobicity and hydrophilicity. The number of MOFs that are stable and amenable to structural manipulations are limited to ZIFs, UiO, and the MIL family of compounds.^{255,256} There is considerable scope to expand this for catalysis.

The areas where MOFs can be useful could be in converting biomass as feedstocks in the synthesis of sugars and related products.²⁵⁷ Exploration of MOFs as supports and as composite materials also requires more attention. The structural defects that may be inherent in many MOFs need to be studied carefully, as some of the structural defects could be important for the overall catalytic activity. These are just a few of the aspects that may be worth investigating in the future so as to arrive at more robust and functional catalysts that are based on MOFs.

In addition, the use of computational approaches, especially in making newer and designer MOFs, would be beneficial. The various studies with respect to the MOF chemistry and structures indicate that they are on firm and sturdy foundations. This would be a boon for further growth in heterogeneous catalysis.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Data Availability Statement

The data underlying this study are available in the published articles and its Supporting Information.

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsorginorgau.3c00033.

Generation of different functionality in the MOF (Scheme 1), bifunctional modification of MOF-101 (Scheme S2), synthetic process of PMoV₂@DETA-MIL-101 (Scheme S3), structure of PCN-700-MB and the steps in the synthetic procedure for the conversion of PCN-700 to PCN-700-MB (Figure S1), MIL-101(Cr)-SO₃H catalyzed one-pot three component condensation reaction (Figure S2), simplified model of two consecutive reactions $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$ for the calculation of kinetic rate constants (Figure S3), synthesis of Mn(II) MOF and Pd-Au@Mn(II) MOF (Figure S4), coordination environment in $Zr(H_4L)$ with thermal ellipsoids set at 50% probability (Figure S5), syntheses of ionic UiO-67-Bpy (bipyridine) and UiO-66-Py (pyridine) (Figure S6), syntheses of Meim-UiO-66 and (I⁻)Meim-UiO-66 via reticular chemistry and by a PSM method, respectively (Figure S7) (PDF)

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

Srinivasan Natarajan – Framework Solids Laboratory, Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560012, India; ⊙ orcid.org/0000-0002-4942-0968; Email: snatarajan@iisc.ac.in

Author

Krishna Manna – Framework Solids Laboratory, Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560012, India

Complete contact information is available at: https://pubs.acs.org/10.1021/acsorginorgau.3c00033

Author Contributions

CRediT: Srinivasan Natarajan conceptualization, writingreview & editing; Krishna Manna writing-original draft.

Notes

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