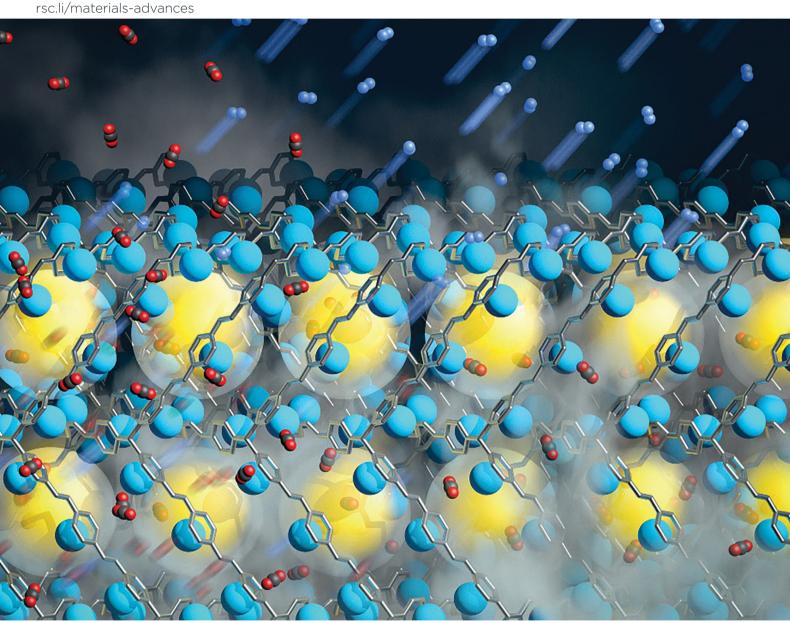
# Materials Advances

Volume 3 Number 17 7 September 2022 Pages 6659-6910



ISSN 2633-5409



#### **REVIEW ARTICLE**

# Materials Advances



REVIEW

View Article Online
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Cite this: *Mater. Adv.*, 2022, 3, 6668

Received 1st March 2022, Accepted 3rd June 2022

DOI: 10.1039/d2ma00235c

rsc.li/materials-advances

# Amine-functionalized porous organic polymers for carbon dioxide capture

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Recent developments in CO<sub>2</sub> capture using porous organic polymers (POPs) have received accrescent attention due to their sorbent properties such as high CO2 uptake capacity and selectivity, tunable chemical structure and permanent porosity. POPs are constructed using two and/or three-dimensional organic monomers (building blocks) linked to each other through covalent bonding, creating high porosity. The pore structure in POPs is exceptionally stable, which leads to their cyclable CO2 adsorption performance. However, POPs generally suffer from low CO2 uptake and selectivity due to their interaction with CO2 in physisorption limits (20-40 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>). Similar to that in other physisorbents, the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake capacity of POPs further decreases under humid conditions. Pursuant to these limitations, amine functionalization in POPs has resulted in enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> uptake performance with improved CO<sub>2</sub> selectivity over non-polar gases such as N2. More importantly, several types of amine-functionalized POPs showed that the CO2 uptake could remain intact under humid conditions such as in post-combustion flue gas. This review article covers recent developments in amine-functionalized porous organic polymers. Three main categories of amine functionalization, such as direct amine synthesis, amine impregnation and amine grafting, were investigated in detail by considering the effect of amines on the sorbent properties and CO<sub>2</sub> capture performance of POPs. The recent findings in amine-functionalized POPs were investigated including porous polymeric networks (PPNs), covalent organic frameworks (COFs), amine linked POPs, hyper-crosslinked polymers (HCPs), conjugated microporous polymers (CMPs), benzimidazole linked polymers (BILPs), porous aromatic frameworks (PAFs) and polymers of intrinsic microporosity (PIMs).

#### 1. Introduction

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a viable alternative to reduce the emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from large point sources. It holds the potential to provide significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>2</sup> CCS is nominally a two-step process where the separation of carbon dioxide from a mixed gas stream is followed by permanent storage. Of particular interest are power generation and other industrial point sources that use fossil fuels. Since nearly one-third of the anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are produced by these facilities, conventional coal and natural gas-burning power plants, as well as industrial sources, present opportunities where carbon can be removed and then permanently stored.<sup>3</sup> Coal-fired steam cycles have been the predominant electric power generation technology in the United States, but have been supplanted by natural gas-fired plants.4 Postcombustion technologies for capturing CO2 will need to be applied for both power generation and industrial sources such as cement and steel production that will continue to be a notable source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The capture step for carbon dioxide represents a major cost in the overall process.<sup>5</sup>

The removal of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from a gas stream is the most energy intensive step in the overall carbon sequestration process.<sup>6</sup> Capture techniques could be retrofitted onto existing conventional fossil fuel power plants or integrated into new power generation facilities.<sup>5</sup> Although the separation of CO<sub>2</sub> from other gas constituents can be approached using different methods, the ultimate goal is for CO2 to be concentrated into a process stream that is more amenable for further carbon sequestration treatment, including compression, transportation, and storage. The selection of technology for a given capture application depends on many factors, including the partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> in the gas stream, temperature, total system pressure, the process gas composition, the extent of CO<sub>2</sub> recovery, sensitivity to impurities, such as acid gases and particles, the purity of the recovered CO2 product, capital and operating costs of the process, and environmental impacts.8

In addition to the point source capture of CO<sub>2</sub>, there is more recent interest in capturing CO<sub>2</sub> that is already present in the

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atmosphere. This strategy of negative emission technology (NET) has led to the introduction of direct air capture (DAC).9-11 For DAC applications, CO<sub>2</sub> is present at much lower concentration levels (~400 ppm). It is anticipated that a stronger binding affinity will be required for trace capture, and hence chemisorption rather than physisorption processes will likely dominate as DAC solutions are pursued. 12

The conventional CO<sub>2</sub> removal technology that was the comparative baseline for all other CO2 capture technologies utilizes monoethanolamine (MEA) as a liquid solvent. 13 This wet scrubbing process removes the CO2 in an absorption column and then regenerates the CO2 rich solution in a vessel by heating with plant steam.<sup>14</sup> Although there have been largescale commercial demonstrations of this technology, the process has several disadvantages, such as high heat of the reaction, low working capacity, corrosivity of the solution, the susceptibility of being poisoned by minor contaminants, and, most notably, its need to be in aqueous solution. This latter results in increased energy to regenerate the spent solution, especially the sensible heating of water which is about 70 wt% of the solution. Another energy loss while regenerating the spent MEA solution includes the evaporative heat loss from vaporizing liquid water.<sup>15</sup>

Alternatively, the adsorption process is an attractive CO<sub>2</sub> capture technology because of its low energy requirement. 16-18



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Table 1 Amine functionalization strategies in POPs and the effect of the amines on the sorbent properties

	Amine functionalization methods in porous organic polymers				
	Direct synthesis	Amine grafting	Amine impregnation		
Amine type	ype Aromatic amines		Alkylamines		
Surface area	On monomers, linkers	Alkylamines On pores	In pores and surface		
CO <sub>2</sub> capture	High	Moderate to high	High		
CO <sub>2</sub> selectivity	Moderate	High	High		
CO <sub>2</sub> cyclability	High	High	Moderate		
CO <sub>2</sub> desorption energy	Low	Low to medium	High		

The adsorption is physical or chemical interaction between the adsorbate, *i.e.*, CO<sub>2</sub>, and the surface of the solid adsorbent. Desorption of CO<sub>2</sub> can be achieved by decreasing the pressure or increasing the temperature. Solid porous adsorbents have great potential due to their attractive properties such as high CO<sub>2</sub> uptake capacity, selectivity, tunable chemical structure, and adjustable porosity. In general, the porous adsorbent portfolio consists of zeolites, islica, porous carbon, ametalorganic frameworks (MOFs), and, more recently, porous organic polymers (POPs).

As a relatively new CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbent, porous organic polymers (POPs) have recently attracted a considerable amount of research attention because of their very high porosity coupled with functionality and scalability.<sup>27–29</sup> Although not as high as in MOFs, the surface area of POPs can also be extremely high.<sup>30</sup> The high porosity in POPs is stabilized by strong covalent bonding between the building blocks (monomers) of the polymer.<sup>31</sup> By contrast, in MOFs, the building blocks are connected to each other through relatively weaker coordination bonds.<sup>32</sup> Given the strong covalent bonding between the building blocks, the pore structure of POPs is exceptionally stable, resulting in stable CO<sub>2</sub> capture performance with absorption and desorption cycling.

The CO<sub>2</sub> uptake capacity of POPs is much higher than that of conventional polymers.<sup>33</sup> On the other hand, POPs generally suffer from low CO<sub>2</sub> uptake and selectivity compared to chemical sorbents and solvents due to their relatively weak interaction with CO<sub>2</sub> (within physisorption limits, 20–40 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>).<sup>34</sup> The CO<sub>2</sub> uptake capacity of POPs further decreases under humid conditions. The recent developments have shown that amine functionalization in POPs drastically increases the CO<sub>2</sub> capture performance with improved CO<sub>2</sub> selectivity over non-polar gases such as N<sub>2</sub>.<sup>35,36</sup> Furthermore, some amine-functionalized POPs demonstrated that the CO<sub>2</sub> capture capacity could remain high under humid conditions such as in post-combustion flue gas and direct air capture.<sup>37–39</sup>

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In this review article, we present a concise evaluation of recent developments in amine-functionalized porous organic polymers. Three types of amine functionalization are reviewed: direct amine synthesis, amine grafting, and amine impregnation (Table 1). In the literature, direct amine synthesis, also classified as pre-synthetic functionalization, is amine functionalization during the polymer synthesis. Thus, either the monomer and/or the linker contains amine functionality. Amine grafting, on the other hand, entails the post-synthetic functionalization of sorbents through covalent bonding. Amine impregnation is the physical blending of the sorbent with an amine to boost the  $\rm CO_2$  uptake capacity and lacks any chemical bonds.

The recent findings in amine-functionalized POPs are examined including porous aromatic frameworks (PAFs),<sup>40</sup> covalent organic frameworks (COFs),<sup>41</sup> amine linked POPs,<sup>42</sup> hypercrosslinked polymers (HCPs),<sup>43</sup> conjugated microporous polymers (CMPs),<sup>44</sup> benzimidazole linked polymers (BILPs),<sup>45</sup> and polymers of intrinsic microporosity (PIMs).<sup>46</sup> The polymer structure and property relationship was investigated for CO<sub>2</sub> capture applications *via* experimental and computational studies, with properties summarized for a large variety of POPs (Table 2).

#### Amine functionalization in porous aromatic frameworks

Porous aromatic frameworks (PAFs) are one of the most studied classes of porous polymers. 47,48 The polymer structure of PAFs is constructed from rigid aromatic monomers, which are linked to each other by a cross coupling reaction. The high surface area and porosity can be created within PAFs by the targeted topology design of the monomers (building blocks).49 For example, PAF-1 was synthesized by homocoupling of 3-dimensional tetrahedral monomers with a very high surface area of  $5640 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$ . The high porosity of PAFs has been utilized in many different applications as well as in CO2 capture applications. 50 For CO<sub>2</sub> capture, the porosity in PAFs presents a prodigious opportunity to reach high CO2 uptake capacity in a given volume. In addition to the porosity and surface area, the pore functionality also plays an important role to increase the CO<sub>2</sub> affinity of the sorbent.<sup>51</sup> Accordingly, PAFs have been functionalized using various amine groups for advanced CO2 capture.47

Zhou et al. have developed several amine-functionalized PAFs, which are also referred to as porous polymeric networks

Table 2 Summary of the amine functionalization method, amine type, surface area, pore size CO<sub>2</sub> uptake, CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity and heats of adsorption properties in selected POPs

Porous organic polymer	Amine functionalization method	Amine type/ concentration	$\begin{array}{c} SA_{BET} \\ \left(m^2 \ g^{-1}\right) \end{array}$	Pore size (nm)	CO <sub>2</sub> uptake (mmol g <sup>-1</sup> )	CO <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub> selectivity	$\Delta H_{\rm CO2}$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Ref.
Porous aromatic frame PAF-33-NH <sub>2</sub>	eworks (PAFs) Direct synthesis	Aromatic amine	370	_	0.33	79.8	32.9	89
PEI (40 wt%) ⊂ PAF-5	Amine impregnation	Polyethylenimine/40 wt%	40.3	_	0.15 bar, 298 K 2.6	1200	68.7	58
PPN-6-SO <sub>3</sub> NH <sub>4</sub>	Amine grafting	$SO_3NH_4$	593		0.15 bar, 298 K 1.78 0.15 bar, 298 K	196	40	90
PPN-6-DETA	Amine grafting	Alkylamine (DETA)	555		3.08 0.15 bar, 298 K	442	55	52
PPN-125-DETA	Amine grafting	Alkylamine (DETA)	229		1.43 0.15 bar, 298 K	_	62	55
Covalent organic frame	eworks (COFs)							
ILCOF-1	Direct synthesis	Imine	2723	2.3	29.3 40 bar, 298 K	_	18.3	68
ГрРа-1	Direct synthesis	Keto-enamine	535	1.25	3.48 1 bar, 273 K			69
COF-JLU2	Direct synthesis	Azine	410	0.96	4.93 1 bar, 273 K	77	31	91
EtNH2]75-H2P-COF	Amine grafting	Ethylamine	568	1.6	3.6 1 bar, 273 K	_	20.8	72
FCTF-1-600	Direct synthesis	Triazine	_	_	1.76 0.1 bar, 273 K	77	31	92
Amine linked porous o								
BILP-10	Direct synthesis	Imidazole	787	0.73	0.73 0.15 bar, 273 K	57	38.2	79
TBILP-1	Direct synthesis	Imidazole, triazine	330	0.55	0.55 0.15 bar, 273 K	63	35	80
SNW-1	Direct synthesis	Melamine	821	0.67	0.67 0.15 bar, 273 K	50	35	77
ΓΝΡ-4	Direct synthesis	Triazole	1348	0.66	2.87 1 bar, 298 K	27	36.5	84
COP-97A	Amine impregnation	Polyethyleneimine	118	_	1.74 0.15 bar, 298 K	965	_	87
Hyper crosslinked poly	mers (HCPs)							
xPEI@XAD-4-pc		Polyethyleneimine/30 wt%	334	9.89	3.24 0.1 bar, 298 K	1103	53.01	93
HCP-MAAMs	Direct synthesis	$\mathrm{NH}_2$	298	2	1.56 0.15 bar, 273 K	104	35	94
xTEPA@PDVBpc	Amine impregnation	Tetraethylenepentamine/ 30 wt%	330	6.44	3.11 0.1 bar, 298 K	_	_	95
PBTP-(x)-DETA	Amine grafting	Diethylenetriamine (DETA)	600	4	2.27 0.15 bar, 298 K	1064	35	37
Conjugated microporo CMP-1 NH2	us polymers (CMPs) Direct synthesis	$\mathrm{NH}_2$	710	_	0.96	14.6	29.5	96 and 97
NaNO <sub>3</sub> @CMP-PTPA	Direct synthesis	NH	1028	_	1 bar, 298 K 3.6	_	_	98
NCMP-I	Direct synthesis	NH	945	2	1 bar, 273 K 1.43	_	38	99
NCMPIII	Direct synthesis	NH	593	2	1 bar, 298 K 0.4	_	28	99
КСМР-М3	Amine grafting	$\mathrm{NH}_2$	1321	_	1 bar, 298 K 0.52	_	28	100
POP (2)	Amine grafting	NH <sub>2</sub> and NH	485	_	0.15 bar, 298 K 0.27 0.15 bar, 298 K	155	50	101
Polymers of intrinsic n 21 wt% PEI-PIM-1		Polyethyleneimine/21 wt%	_	_	1.24	_	_	102
PIM-1-C3-TA	Amine impregnation	TAEA/15 wt%	_	_	0.15 bar, 298 K 1.62	_	_	103
PIM-1-AO-deta	Amine impregnation		_	_	0.15 bar, 298 K 1.75	_	_	104
	1 .0				0.15 bar, 298 K			

Table 2 (continued)

Porous organic polymer	Amine functionalization method	Amine type/ concentration	$SA_{BET}$ $(m^2 g^{-1})$		CO <sub>2</sub> uptake (mmol g <sup>-1</sup> )	CO <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub> selectivity	$\Delta H_{\rm CO2}$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> )	Ref.
Computationally designed porous organic polymers								
TrzPOP-1	Direct synthesis	Triazine, secondary amine	995	_	3.53 1 bar, 298 K	27	29	105
TrzPOP-2	Direct synthesis	Triazine, secondary amine	868	_	4.52 1 bar, 298 K	72	34	105

(PPNs).<sup>35</sup> Specifically, PPN-6 has been studied intensively due to its very high surface area of 4023 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>. PPN-6 was post-synthetically functionalized (grafted) via alkyl amines such as diethylenetriamine (DETA) (Fig. 1A).<sup>52</sup> The amine groups were yielded from a reaction of amines with the intermediate methyl halide groups in PPN-6. The amine functionalization in PPN-6 resulted in porosity loss in the polymer. However, the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake performance of PPN-6-CH<sub>2</sub>-DETA was reported to be at least 15 fold larger (3.08 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K 0.15 bar) compared to the unfunctionalized polymer (PPN-6). Intriguingly, the CO<sub>2</sub> capture capacity was reported to be stable over many adsorption–desorption cycles. This stability can be attributed to the covalently bonded DETA in PPN-6, which impedes the amines leaching from the polymer.

Other alkylamines including ethylenediamine (EDA) and triethylenetetramine (TETA) have also been incorporated in PPNs (Fig. 1A) and a similar trend in CO<sub>2</sub> uptake enhancement was also observed. Studies have pointed out that the selection of the alkylamine plays a significant role in tuning the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake in PPNs as well as in other sorbents such as MOFs. The example, triamines such as tris(2-aminoethyl)amine (TAEA) showed a higher CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity compared to diamines (EDA) at a low partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub>, which may be advantageous in low concentration CO<sub>2</sub> capture applications such as DAC.

One of the major drawbacks of PAFs is the cost of polymerization and scalability. The reaction protocol is heavily dependent on the use of expensive heterogeneous catalysts. <sup>54</sup> PPN-125 has been alternatively offered with a relatively cost-efficient preparation method, circumventing the use of expensive catalysts. <sup>55</sup> Post-synthetic functionalization of PPN-125 with DETA yielded a good  $\rm CO_2$  adsorption capacity for PPN-125-DETA, despite a lowered surface area of 229 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>. The  $\rm CO_2$  absorption/desorption cycling of PPN-6-CH<sub>2</sub>-DETA did not result in any notable reduction in the  $\rm CO_2$  uptake capacity.

In another study, PPN-6 has been functionalized with amine groups using acid-base interaction between the polymer and amines. First, the polymer was functionalized using a sulfonic acid (PPN-6-SO3H). In the second step, PPN-6-SO3H was treated with amines to afford PPN-6-NH4. The acid-base interaction concept between the polymer and amines could be applied to many other future PAFs. PAF-1 was also functionalized using alkylamines and the dramatic CO<sub>2</sub> uptake improvement was recorded over the non-functionalized PAF-1 at a low partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub>. In PAF-1, the amine groups were created by deprotection of phthalimidomethyl groups which were intermediately placed in PAF-1.

The amine impregnation method has also been adopted in PAFs. Polyethylene amine (PEI) was impregnated in PAF-5, resulting in a depletion of the porosity but with a dramatic

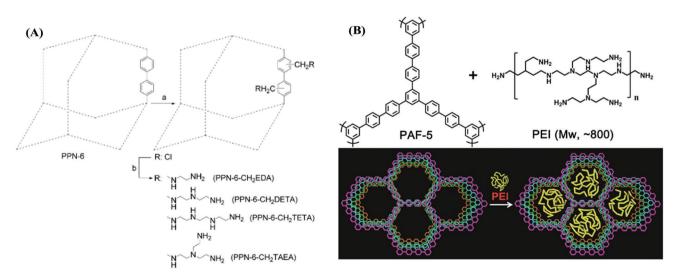


Fig. 1 (A) Post-synthetic amine functionalization of PPN-6. (B) Amine (PEI) impregnation in PAF-1. Reproduced with permission from ref. 52 and 58, respectively.

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Fig. 2 Post-synthetic functionalization of NPOF-4 with amines. Reproduced with permission from ref. 60

increase in the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity and CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity (Fig. 1B and Table 2).58

Besides PAFs and PPNs, several other types of other POPs have been also synthesized by cross-coupling reactions and then post-synthetically functionalized using amines.<sup>59</sup> For example, Islamoglu et al. reported a nanoporous organic framework (NPOF-4) by the coupling reaction of the adamantane based monomer (TAPA) (Fig. 2).60 NPOF-4 shows lower surface area compared to PAF-1 and PPN-4. However, polymerization does not entail the use of an expensive catalyst. In addition, the amine functionalization method of NPOFs showed that benzene groups in PAFs can be easily nitrated and subsequently aminated.

# 3. Amine functionalization in covalent organic frameworks and amine linked porous organic polymers

Covalent organic frameworks (COFs) are a highly studied class of POPs for CO<sub>2</sub> capture and other applications.<sup>61</sup> In general, COFs are synthesized by a dynamic equilibrium reaction from aromatic monomers with 2D and/or 3D topology.<sup>62</sup> The rigid and multidimensional monomers and reversibility of the reaction deliver high porosity and the crystalline polymer structure of COFs, respectively. Given their crystalline structures, control over the functional groups can be very precise in COFs. 63,64

Amine functionalization in COFs has been achieved through the direct amine synthesis method (Table 1). Pioneered by Yaghi, imine-linked COFs have been the frontrunner COF in CO<sub>2</sub> capture. 65 In imine-linked COFs, the amine functionality (-C=N- bonds) is yielded by the Schiff base polycondensation reaction between aryl aldehyde and arylamine monomers.<sup>66</sup> The high surface area coupled with the imine functionality results in high CO<sub>2</sub> capture capacity at high CO<sub>2</sub> pressure.<sup>67</sup> For example, Rabbani et al. reported an imine-linked COF, ILCOF-1 (Fig. 3), exhibiting a very high surface area of 2723 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> and a remarkable CO<sub>2</sub> uptake capacity of 29.3 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K and 40 bar (Table 2).68

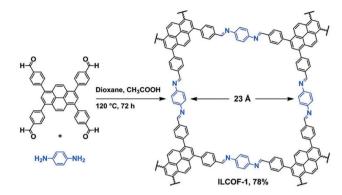
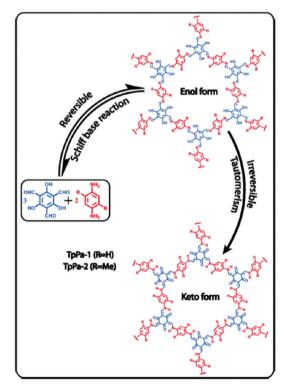


Fig. 3 Synthetic scheme of the imine linked COF (ILCOF-1). Reproduced with permission from ref. 68.

The reduction of imine linked COFs has also been demonstrated as an alternative route to increase the low concentration CO2 uptake in COFs. Accordingly, TpPa-1 and TpPA-2 were synthesized by the polycondensation reaction of 1,3,5triformylphloroglucinol (Tp) with p-phenylenediamine (Pa-1) and 2,5-dimethyl-p-phenylenediamine (Pa-2) (Fig. 4).<sup>69</sup> In this reaction, irreversible proton tautomerism converted imine groups into stronger Lewis basic secondary amine groups.

Another series of amine functional COFs is covalent triazine frameworks (CTFs). The cyclotrimerization of various benzonitrile monomers has rendered many of the CTFs reported to date. The small pore size favors the interaction of CO<sub>2</sub> with triazine sites in CTFs.



Synthesis of TpPA-1 and TpPA-2 and the reduction of imine groups to amines by enol keto tautomerism. Reproduced with permission from ref. 69.

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Fig. 5 Post-synthetic amine functionalization of COFs using click chemistry between ethynyl units and azide compounds yielding the ethylamine functionalized COF,  $[EtNH_2]100-H2P-COF$ . R =  $EtNH_2$ . Reproduced with permission from ref. 72.

Therefore, CO2 selectivity over other inert gases such as N2 is usually high in CTFs.

Another example of direct amine functionalization in COFs was introduced using a mixed monomer approach including the amine-functionalized monomer (DtATH).71 The amine functionalized COF, named amine-coCOF-OH, showed an improved CO<sub>2</sub> capture capacity compared to the parent COF, coCOF-OH. COFs have also been post-synthetically functionalized, so-called "grafted", with amine groups. Click chemistry was implemented between ethynyl units and azide compounds yielding the ethylamine functionalized COF, [EtNH2]100-H2P-COF], with a high  $CO_2$  capacity (80 cc g<sup>-1</sup> at 273 K and 1 bar) (Fig. 5).<sup>72</sup> Consequently, the amine functionalization resulted in surface area and pore size reductions in COFs. Conversely, the CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity was reported to increase. The chemical and pore stabilities of COFs are essential factors for practical carbon capture applications.<sup>73</sup> As a result, research has been concentrated on triazine and imine-based COFs where the pore stability is stronger compared to other COFs such as boron-linked COFs.<sup>74</sup> On the other hand, the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake under humid conditions is also an important parameter which has not been explored in most COF studies to date.71

Apart from imine linked COFs, numerous amorphous iminelinked POPs were introduced with imine functionality as well.<sup>75</sup>

180 °C. 72 hours Polyethylenimines - PEIs (n = 800 or 25000)

Fig. 6 COP-19 synthesis and polyethylenimine impregnation in COP-19. Reproduced with permission from ref. 87.

Compared to mesoporous imine-linked COFs (such as ILCOF-1), the surface area and pore size in imine-linked POPs were calculated to be smaller.<sup>76</sup> Therefore, low concentration CO<sub>2</sub> uptake applications such as in post-combustion flue gas was considered more suitable for these POPs rather than high-pressure CO<sub>2</sub> capture. For example, the porous organic polymer SNW-1 was synthesized by the polycondensation reaction of the relatively simple monomers melamine and terepthalaldehyde.<sup>77</sup> In addition to the simple preparation method, SNW-1 possesses a high surface area and 40 wt% nitrogen content. Dual amine functionality (triazine and amine) in SNW-1 leads to high CO2 uptake capacity at relatively low pressure (Table 2).

Benzimidazole-linked polymers (BILPs) are another type of amine (imidazole) linked POPs. 78 BILPs such as polybenzimidazoles (PBIs) already found in industrial applications. However, compared to conventional PBIs, the surface area in BILPs is very high and the polymer structure is highly microporous.<sup>79</sup> The amine functionality in BILPs consists of secondary and tertiary amines in the imidazole linker. The high CO2 uptake selectivity over nitrogen was reported in BILPs such as BILP-10 and TBILPs for post-combustion CO<sub>2</sub> capture.80 Similar to SNW-1, triazine functionalities were incorporated in BILPs (TBILPs) through the monomer. On the other hand, triptycene based BILP-12 showed potential for high pressure CO<sub>2</sub> capture applications such as natural gas purification and landfill gas capture, with high CO<sub>2</sub> uptake.80

Similar to TBILPs, carbazole and triazine based porous organic polymers were also studied as bifunctional POPs.81 Porous polycarbazoles are high surface area (as high as 2220 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>) adsorbents structured from an amine containing (carbazole) polymer backbone.82 With the combination of triazine, the CO2 affinity in the sorbent (TSP-2) showed a CO2 affinity of 30.2 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> with a CO<sub>2</sub> uptake capacity of 2.6 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> and a CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity of 24.81

Triazole-linked POPs are also amine-functionalized by direct synthesis.83 Click chemistry between azide and alkynyl functionalized monomers shows a facile reaction route to create a library of different triazole-based POPs. Given the high basicity of amines (in triazole), the high binding affinity for CO2 (34.8-38.5 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) was reported for polymers such as TNP-4.84

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New azo-linked covalent organic polymers (azo-COPs) have been reported by Yavuz and Coskun.85 The synthesis of Azo COPs is based on the facile and catalyst-free polycondensation reaction between arylamines and aryl nitro functionalized monomers. The nitrogen-rich linker of azo-COPs coupled with a high surface area (729 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>) resulted in a CO<sub>2</sub> uptake capacity of 1.52 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 1 bar and 298 K for azo-COP-2. More intriguingly, the CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity of azo-COP-2 was reported to be 109.6 which was attributed to the "nitrogen phobic" nature of the azo groups linking the monomers of the POP.

Another type of COP, COP-122, was also reported by the same group. 86 This time, the industrial monomers acrylonitrile (AN) and divinylbenzene (DVB) were employed in suspension polymerization with a radical initiator. COP-122 offers a costefficient preparation method with great potential for scalability. Equally important, it also contains alkyl nitrile functional groups. Accordingly, the nitrile groups were post-synthetically reduced into alkylamines in the presence of boranes. Compared to neat COP-122, the reduced polymer, COP-122-G1, showed over five-fold higher CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity. Also, the heat of adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> was doubled to 98 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> after the reduction.

The amine impregnation method was used in COPs as well.87 COP-19 was an amine impregnated sorbent sharing the same polymer structure with the aforementioned polymer, SNW-1 (Fig. 6). Several different polyethyleneimine loadings were studied in COP-19. Higher amine loading in COP-19 drastically improved the CO2 uptake and CO2/N2 selectivity (Table 2). However, an increased level of amine impregnation was found to be blocking the pores of the polymer, resulting in a lower surface area. Similar to the reported amine impregnated sorbents,88 higher amine loading in COP-19 resulted in lower CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption kinetics. Therefore, amine loading was optimized at 24.1 wt% polyethyleneimine in COP-19 (COP-97b) to achieve high CO2 uptake with good kinetics. COP-97b also showed higher CO<sub>2</sub> uptake performance under humidity conditions which is applicable to post-combustion flue gas.

## 4. Amine functionalization hypercrosslinked polymers (HCPs)

Hyper-crosslinked polymers (HCPs) have been developed rapidly over the past two decades and have been extensively studied for CO<sub>2</sub> capture. 106,107 HCPs consist of polymer chains thar are crosslinked and are made from light elements (C, H, N, and O). Their advantages are moderate synthetic conditions, inexpensive monomers and reagents, easy functionalization, microporosity and high surface area, robust structures, and good thermal and chemical stabilities. 108,109 HCPs can be prepared via the Friedel-Crafts reaction from (i) the crosslinking of polystyrene-type precursors in their swollen state, 110,111 (ii) onestep self-polycondensation, 112,113 and (iii) external crosslinking strategies. 109,114-116 Using these methodologies, HCPs can be tailored into efficient porous adsorbents with customized porosity and functionalities for CO<sub>2</sub> capture applications. Recently, the HCPs prepared by the solvent knitting method showed a Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) surface area of 3002 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>. A pore volume of 1.53 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> and porous structures ranging from ultramicropores to mesopores (0.5 to 3.8 nm) were reported. 117 HCPs generally have a hydrophobic surface that is not favored for polar adsorbates such as CO<sub>2</sub>. <sup>118</sup> This limitation can be overcome by introducing polar nucleophilic amine groups. 119 Similar to other sorbents, the amine groups have been incorporated in HCPs by direct amine synthesis. 120-123 amine grafting 106,124,125 and amine impregnation. 126,127

Fayemiwo et al. investigated a series of amine-functionalized HCPs (HCP-MAAMs) for low-pressure CO2 capture such as from coal-fired power plant flue gas.94 The synthesis of HCPs is based on the co-polymerization of methacrylamide (MAAM) and ethylene glycol dimethacrylate (EGDMA) using azobisisobutyronitrile (AIBN) as an initiator (Fig. 7). The HCPs with a MAAM-to-EGDMA molar ratio (S) from 0.3 to 0.9 were (directly) amine-functionalized and exhibited a high affinity towards CO<sub>2</sub> at low pressures. At a CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure of 0.02-0.15 bar, the  $CO_2/N_2$  selectivity increased (Table 2). The isosteric heats of the adsorption  $(Q_{st})$  properties of HCPs were calculated to be as high as 35 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, resulting in an electrostatic interaction of CO2 molecules with the amine moieties. The CO2 adsorption capacity was reduced by increasing the ratio of MAAM-to-EGDMA due to lower surface areas. The HCP with S = 0.3 had a maximum CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption of 1.56 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 273 K that may be further improved using amine-based cross-linkers of N,Nmethylenebis(acrylamide). The cycle stability of the CO2 capacity for the HCP with S = 0.6 was tested under adsorption conditions of 298 K and 0.15 bar CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure and desorption conditions of 393 K and N2. The CO2 adsorption capacity was reduced by 1.9% over five cycles. Further studies are needed to gain a full understanding of the cycle stability.

Nitrogen-rich HCPs, triptycene based nitrogen-rich HCPs (TNHCPs), 118 polytriphenylamine HCPs (PTPAs) 228 and octaphenylcyclotetrasiloxane (OPCTS) based nitrogen-rich HCPs (ONHCPs)<sup>129</sup> were also investigated. The TNHCPs were synthesized by crosslinking commercially available nitrogen-rich heterocycles such as isomeric pyrazine, pyridazine and pyrimidine with triptycene molecules. On the other hand, PTPAs were prepared using trisfunctionalized crosslinkers (trimethyl orthoformate, trimethyl orthoacetate, triethyl orthoacetate, and triisopropyl orthoformate) via a FeCl3-promoted one-step oxidative coupling reaction and

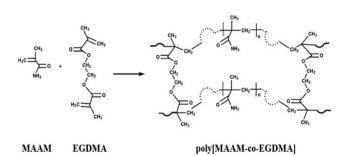


Fig. 7 Synthesis of amine-functionalized HCP-MAAMs polymerization of MAAM and EGDMA. Reproduced with permission from ref. 94.

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Fig. 8 Synthesis of PEI-functionalized hyper-crosslinked polymers by co-polymerization of methacrylamide (MAAM) and ethylene glycol dimethacrylate (EGDMA). Reproduced with permission from ref. 93.

Friedel-Crafts alkylation. In a different route, the synthesis of ONHCPs involved two steps: the polymer was prepared using OPCTS as the organic-inorganic hybrid monomer, an amine containing monomer like cyanuric chloride (CC) as the crosslinker, and AlCl<sub>3</sub> as the catalyst through the Friedel-Crafts reaction. By changing the CC content, the porosity of the polymer, and the N content, the porosity of the ONHCPs was significantly enhanced, which is preferred for the physical adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub>. All three HCPs exhibited large surface areas, high porosity and high CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity. Compared to the HCP-MAAM, the HCPs with N in the backbone of the polymer showed the lower CO2 adsorption capacity and selectivity for CO2 at low CO2 pressures.

Apart from the aforementioned rigid monomers, low-cost coal tar with nitrogen groups was utilized to generate HCPs through a one-step Friedel-Crafts reaction. 130 The maximum BET surface area of the prepared HCPs could reach up to 929 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>. Owing to the high affinity between the heteroatoms on the coal-tar building blocks and the CO2 molecules, the adsorption capacity of CTHPs towards CO2 reached up to 14.2 wt% with a CO<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub> selectivity of 32 (at 1 bar, 273 K). Later, another carbon source, waste polystyrene, was transformed into HCPs using 1,2-dichloroethane. 131 Organosolv lignin separated from wood (renewable resource) was developed for HCPs by the reaction with formaldehyde dimethyl acetal (FDA). These low-cost HCPs may have potential in mass production and practical use. Liu et al. developed amine-functionalized HCPs (PEI@XAD-4-pc) by synthesizing the HCP (XRD-4-pc) through a Friedel-Crafts reaction of a commercial polystyrene resin (XAD-4) and subsequently functionalizing it with polyethyleneimine (PEI  $M_{\rm n}$  = 600) (Fig. 8). 93 PEI@XAD-4-pc featured enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption compared to other carbon based HCPs because of the strong interaction between CO2 and PEI. The CO2 adsorption capacity increased from 1.14 to 3.24 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> with a higher ratio of PEI (increased from 10 to 30 wt%) in the HCP. The higher PEI loading (over 30 wt%) in the sorbent significantly decreased the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake capacity. The CO<sub>2</sub> diffusion into the inner pores was reduced due to the excess amine functionalities. The CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity was 1103 for 30 wt% PEI in XAD-4-pc at 10 °C and 0.02 bar CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure. The heat of adsorption of 30 wt% PEI@XAD-4-pc was calculated to be 53 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>.

The CO<sub>2</sub> capacity of 30 wt% PEI in XAD-4-pc (3.24 mmol  $g^{-1}$ ) is 1.7 times higher than that of 30 wt% PEI in XAD-4 (1.87 mmol  $g^{-1}$ ). This may be attributed to the large surface area and higher pore volume of XAD-4-pc (1239 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> and 1.87 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>) compared to the porosity of XRD-4 (852  $\text{m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1}$  and 1.18  $\text{cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1}$ ).

Several other types of molecular amines such as triethylenetetramime (TEPA) were also impregnated in HCPs. For example; TEPA functionalized HCP (TEPA@PDVBpc) was prepared by wet impregnation of TEPA on PDVBpc that was synthesised by a Friedel-Crafts alkylation reaction of polydivinylbenzene (PDVB). 95 PDVBpc showed a higher surface area (1369 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>) and pore volume (1.27 cm $^3$  g $^{-1}$ ) compared to the PDVB (672 m $^2$  g $^{-1}$  and 0.58 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>). In line with the other amine functionalized sorbents, the large surface area and pore volume properties were found to be beneficial for the loading of amines and adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub>. <sup>133</sup> The CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity of 30TEPA@PDVBpc (30 wt% TEPA loading) was 3.11 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K with 10 vol% CO<sub>2</sub> at 1 bar and 2.6 times higher than that of 30TEPA@PDVB. The stability of 30TEPA@PDVBpc was tested in five cycles of CO2 adsorption at 298 K and 0.1 bar CO2 with desorption at 75 °C. After the five cycles, the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity decreased by 7.4% compared to the first cycle. This may be because a proportion of TEPA was vaporized or decomposed during the desorption process. DETA and TETA were also loaded on PDVBpc to investigate the impact of the different amine species on the adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub>. The CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacities (at 0.1 bar and 298 K) of three different amines loaded on the PDVBpc of 30TEPA@PDVBpc, 30TETA@PDVBpc and 30DETA@PDVBpc increased with the length of the amine chain (30TEPA@PDVBpc > 30TETA@PDVBpc > 30DETA@PDVBpc).

The impact of the TEPA@PDVBpc loading (10 to 50 wt%) on the CO2 adsorption capacity was studied because the chemical adsorption is mainly determined by the number of accessible amine groups in the adsorbent. To simply quantify the density of amine groups in the adsorbent, an elemental analysis of nitrogen (N) (wt% or mmol  $g^{-1}$ ) was conducted. The amine efficiency was calculated using the molar ratio of the adsorbed  $CO_2$  to the amine groups in the adsorbent. The  $CO_2$  adsorption capacity and amine efficiency significantly increased from 1.0 mmol  $g^{-1}$  and 0.35 (mmol CO<sub>2</sub>/mmol N) to 3.11 mmol  $g^{-1}$ and 0.46 (mmol CO<sub>2</sub>/mmol N) as the TEPA content increased

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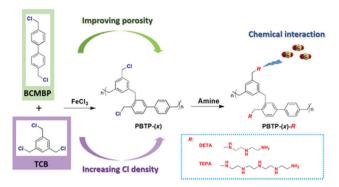


Fig. 9 Synthesis of porous organic copolymers (PRTP-(x))alkylamine-functionalised hyper-crosslinked polymers (PBTP-(x)-R) by postsynthetic grafting. Reproduced with permission from ref. 37.

from 10 wt% to 30 wt%, respectively. The TEPA content further increased to 50 wt% and the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity and amine efficiency significantly decreased to 0.61 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> and 0.06 (mmol CO<sub>2</sub>/mmol N), respectively. This was attributed to the excess TEPA blocking the pore channels and preventing CO2 molecules from reaching internal amine groups.

Yang et al. reported a series of novel amine functionalized HCPs prepared by the amine grafting method.<sup>37</sup> First, porous organic copolymers (PBTP-(x)) were synthesised via Friedel-Crafts alkylation using FeCl<sub>3</sub> as a catalyst, which is the common catalyst choice in HCPs. The copolymers were subsequently functionalized using alkylamines DETA and TEPA, labelled as PBTP-(x)-DETA and PBTP-(x)-TEPA, respectively (Fig. 9). The molar ratio (x) of BCMBP-to-TCB significantly impacted both the porosity and Cl content of the copolymers. As the ratios varied from 1:4, 1:2, to 2:1, the BET surface areas (970, 1160, and 1600 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>) and total pore volumes of the copolymers increased, and Cl contents decreased due to the lower Cl content of BCMBP. In the copolymers with a higher Cl content, the amine functionality level increased, improving the CO2 uptake and  $CO_2/N_2$  selectivity. The PBTP-(x)-DETA at x = 1:2and 1:4 exhibited a higher CO2 adsorption capacity than the PBTP-(x)-TEPA at the same x despite the higher amine content of the latter. This might be attributed to the higher surface area of PBTP-(x)-DETA. Hence, adsorbents with DETA amine groups displayed higher amine efficiencies than their counterparts with TEPA groups.<sup>38</sup> PBTP-(x)-TEPA had higher CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity than PBTP-(x)-DETA because a significant reduction of N<sub>2</sub> accessible pores in PBTP-(x)-TEPA probably offsets the effect of their lower CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity.

Overall, PBTP-(1:4)-DETA is a promising sorbent candidate considering its high CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity (2.27 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>), large CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity (1064) and fast adsorption kinetics (5.8 min to reach 90% of saturation capacity) (at 298 K and 0.15 bar CO<sub>2</sub>). Ten adsorption (298 K)-desorption (393 K) cycles were conducted with and without water vapor at 0.2 bar CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> under dynamic flow conditions were performed on the sorbents. The CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption performance remained intact during the dry and humid cycles, showing good stability. 134 In addition, the accumulation of water in the sorbent was insignificant over the

cycles due to the hydrophobic nature of the PBTP-(x) support. In this study, two representative MOFs of HKUST-1 and Ni2 dobdc (Ni-MOF-74)<sup>135</sup> were synthesized and tested by repetitive cycling under humid conditions. PBTP-(1:4)-DETA outperformed HKUST-1 Ni<sub>2</sub> dobdc (Ni-MOF-74). HKUST-1 had a lower CO<sub>2</sub> working capacity. Ni<sub>2</sub> dobdc (Ni-MOF-74) decreased in CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption over 10 cycles.

The Jiang group designed and synthesized a nitrogen-rich HCP (FCDTPA) based on the knitting N,N,N',N'-tetraphenylbiphenyl-4,4'-diamine (DTPA) monomer. 136 Carbonized materials were obtained by the pyrolysis of FCDTPA with/without potassium hydroxide at high temperatures. The carbon materials with potassium hydroxide activation (FCDPA-k-x) exhibited higher surface areas and enhanced CO2 adsorption capacity compared to the carbon materials without potassium hydroxide activation (FCDPA-x). The activated carbon material of FCDPA-k-700 showed a high surface area of 2065 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> and a CO<sub>2</sub> uptake of 6.51 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 1.13 bar and 273 K compared to the precursor of FCDTPA  $(871 \text{ m}^2 \text{ g}^{-1} \text{ and } 2.82 \text{ mmol g}^{-1}).$ 

### 5. Conjugated microporous polymers (CMPs)

Conjugated microporous polymers (CMPs) are unique porous materials that combine extended  $\pi$ -conjugation with a permanently microporous skeleton.<sup>137</sup> The number of studies has been growing since its discovery in 2007 because of attractive properties such as the conjugation, high porosity, tunable chemistry, and good chemical and thermal stabilities. 138 CO2 adsorption by CMPs has been of interest because the adsorption capacity and selectivity of CMPs can be improved by synthetic control over structure properties such as surface area, pore size, pore volume and functional groups.96 The functionalization of CMPs using amine functional groups have enhanced the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacities. 139 In general, the amine groups have been incorporated in CMPs by direct amine synthesis, 140-142 and amine grafting.101 CMPs are typically synthesized via the palladiumcatalyzed Sonogashira-Hagihara polymerization of terminal alkynes and/or aryl halides.143 For example, Dawson et al. have reported amine-functionalized CMPs (CMP-1-NH2) by the Sonogashira-Hagihara palladium cross-coupling reaction of 1,3,5triethynylbenzene with 2,5-dibromoaniline (Fig. 10).96 The amine groups in the CMP-1-NH2 increased the isosteric heats of the adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> from 26 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> to 29.5 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> compared to the unfunctionalized CMP-1 (Table 2). Accordingly, CMP-NH<sub>2</sub> showed higher CO2/N2 selectivity than CMP-1. For enhancing the CO<sub>2</sub> sorption at lower pressures, increasing the surface area may not be the correct strategy but factors like the isosteric heats of adsorption are more likely to dominate both the sorption and the energy penalty for sorbent regeneration. 144,145

Following the amine functionalized CMP (CMP-1-NH2), Ratvijitvech et al. reported the post-synthetic modification of amines into amides with different alkyl chains (CMP-1-AMDn, n = 0-4) (Fig. 10). 146 As the alkyl chain length in the amide was increased, the BET surface areas and pore volumes of the Materials Advances

Fig. 10 Step (i): Synthesis of CMP-1-NH<sub>2</sub>: Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, Cul, DMF, NEt<sub>3</sub>, 100 °C, 24 h under a N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Step (ii): Post-synthetic modification using anhydrides, n = 0.4 and 8 (i.e., C1–C5 and C9): 24 h, 30 °C. Reproduced with permission from ref. 96.

CMP-1-AMDn were decreased, which resulted in a reduction of the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake and selectivity.

Chen et al. used the addition of simple inorganic salts with different sized cations or anions (NaNO3 and NaF) to improve the BET surface area and porosity of the polytriphenylamine functionalized polymer, CMP-PTPA, that was synthesized by the Buchwald-Hartwigh (BH) cross-coupling reaction (Fig. 11).98 The addition of salts may act similarly to the addition of porogen, helping in adjusting and optimizing the Hansen solubility parameters (HSPs) of solvents for the growing polymer. The solvents that are compatible with the polymer networks could contribute to phase separation at a much later stage during polymerization, thus producing a polymer with lower average pore diameters and a larger surface area. The surface areas of the N-rich CMP were significantly gradually decreased by increasing the ionic radius of salts. Ions with smaller radii have a greater influence on the permanent dipole interaction and the hydrogen-bonding interactions of the solvent by adjusting the polarity and hydrogen bonding of the solvents, thus resulting in a more effective adjustment of the compatibility of the HSPs with the polymer. The addition of NaNO3 increased the surface area of CMP-PTPA eighteen times from 58 to 1028 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> which led to improved CO<sub>2</sub> uptake by five times from 0.7 to 3.48 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 273 K at 1 bar. With the addition of salts, the pore size distributions were narrowed to the micropore range from the broader distribution of micropores, mesopores, and macropores in the neat polymers. The addition of NaF increased the total pore volume, the micropore volume and ultramicropore volume in the polymers. The salts affected the porosity of CMP-PTPA by changing the Hansen solubility parameters (HSPs) of solvents used in the polymerization of CMPs without changing the chemical structure of the polymer.

Mu et al. synthesized N-rich CMPs (NCMPs) by palladiumcatalyzed Sonogashira-Hagihara cross-coupling condensation of 1,3,5-triethynylbenzene and bis(4-bromophenyl)amine. 99 The results showed that the choice of reaction solvents had a major influence on the porosity of NCMPs. NCMP-I (0.61% N) using toluene as a solvent resulted in a specific surface area of 945 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> and a pore volume of 0.55 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> (45% micropores). NCMP-III (1.63% N) using 1,4-ioxane as a solvent had a surface area of 593 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> and a pore volume of 0.96 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> (6% micropores). The CO<sub>2</sub> uptake at 289 K at 1 bar for NCMP-I (1.42 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>) was higher than that of the NCMP-III (0.4 mmol  $g^{-1}$ ). The isosteric heats of adsorption of NCMP-I and NCMP-III were 23-38 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> and 21-28 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.

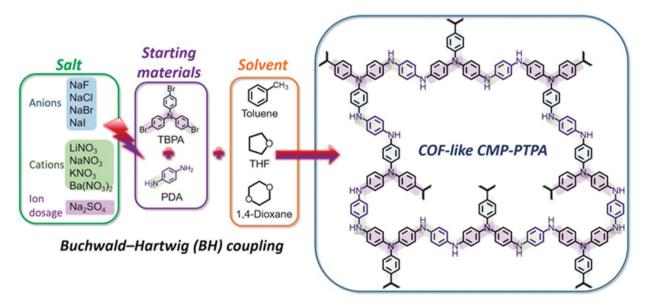


Fig. 11 Synthesis of salt-tunable CMP-PTPA by Buchwald-Hartwogj (BH) cross-coupling. Reproduced with permission from ref. 146.

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Bao et al. synthesized amine functional CMPs (NCMPs) containing pyridine units and amine groups by the Sonogashira-Hagihara cross-coupling reaction using 1,3,5-triethynylbenzene and 2-amino-3,5-di-bromopyridine as monomers. 143 The molar ratio of the ethynyl monomer during the polymerization significantly affected the morphology, BET surface areas, and pore volumes of the resulting NCMP networks. When the molar ratio of ethynyl-to-halogen functionalities was 5:1, tubular-shaped NCMPs (NMCP-3) with a diameter of 100-200 nm were obtained. The BET surface areas and total pore volumes of the resulting polymers were increased with the increase of the molar ratios (1, 3, 5 and 9) of ethynyl in the networks. For NCMP-3, the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake was calculated as 1.04 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K and 1 bar.

Wang et al. synthesized N-rich CMPs with azo-fused structures (azo-CMPs) via palladium-catalyzed Suzuki or Sonogashira crosscoupling reaction from diamino-grafted or azo-fused monomers. 147 The azo-fused polymers with a rigid conformation showed an enhanced surface area up to 1146 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> compared with the diamino-grafted polymers. Azo-CMP1 had the highest surface area among the reported polymers and exhibited a CO2 uptake of 3.72 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> (1.13 bar and 273 K) with a CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity of 42.1 at 273 K. The highly N<sub>2</sub>-phobic nature of -N=N- functional groups can be attributed to the high  ${\rm CO_2}$  selectivity over  ${\rm N_2.}^{148}$  The results showed that the polymer with higher micropore surface area has higher CO2 adsorption. 148 All of the polymers show high isosteric heats of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption (~30 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) because the incorporation of nitrogen atoms into the skeleton of the conjugated microporous polymers led to an enhanced interaction between the pore wall and CO<sub>2</sub> molecules. Due to the high surface area, good physicochemical stability, and high CO2 sorption performance, these nitrogen-rich polymer networks are promising candidates for applications in CO<sub>2</sub> capture technologies. 149

Liu et al. developed a post knitting method to increase the surface area and CO2 uptake of CMPs. 100 CMPs were knitted using two different cross-linkers via a Friedel-Crafts reaction to prepare CMP-based HCPs with reconstructed nanopores (KCMPs). The KCMPs showed higher surface areas and increased CO<sub>2</sub> uptake compared to the corresponding CMPs. In the dichloromethane (DCM) knitted KCMP-Ms, KCMP-M3 with NH<sub>2</sub> groups had a surface area of 1321 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> and a CO<sub>2</sub> uptake of 2.54 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K and 1 bar, which was 16 times and 4.5 times higher than the corresponding CMPs. KCMP-M3 exhibited the highest CO<sub>2</sub> uptake of 0.52 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 198 K and 0.15 bar even with the lowest surface area of 1321 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> compared to other KCMP-Ms without NH2 groups.

Guillerm et al. reported deliberate amine grafting (aldehyde conversion to imine) via a one-step post-synthetic modification process. 101 First, the POP (1) was synthesized by the Sonogashira-Hagihara coupling of tri-connected 1,3,5-triethynylbenzene (TEB) and 2.6-dibromo-4-trimehynylbenzaldehyde (Br<sub>2</sub>TMSBA). The amine functionalized POP (2) was prepared by grafting ethylenediamine to the POP (1). The POP (2) had a surface area of 485 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>, which was 25% lower compared to the POP (1) as expected. Its CO<sub>2</sub> uptake was 0.27 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 0.15 bar and 0.95 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 1 bar CO<sub>2</sub> at 298 K, which was higher than that POP (1) (0.15 mmol  $g^{-1}$  at 0.15 bar and 0.78 mmol  $g^{-1}$  at 1 bar). The isosteric heat of POP (2) increased to 50 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> from the 30 kJ  $\text{mol}^{-1}$  of POP (1). As expected, the CO<sub>2</sub> selectivity of POP (2) was 155 and higher than the 14 of POP (1). Therefore, the amine grafting enhanced the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption properties.

## 6. Amine functionalization in polymers of intrinsic microporosity (PIMs)

Polymers of intrinsic microporosity (PIMs) are a unique class of porous polymers. Virtually, all other POPs covered here are crosslinked polymers in which two or three-dimensional monomers create the porosity and high surface area. 150 Whereas, in PIMs, the monomers are bulky, contorted, and onedimensional.151 The inefficient packing of these monomer chains creates the porosity in PIMs rather than the usual case of monomer crosslinking. 152 PIMs have the advantage of being processable into films, fibers, or other morphologies while maintaining the porosity. 153 Accordingly, the focus in the literature has been on the membrane applications of PIMs including gas and liquid separation. 154 Recent studies, however, have shown that processible polymers can be advantageous as solid sorbents, for example to reduce the reactor pressure drop. 155 PIMs are less likely to be considered for use as a CO<sub>2</sub> capture sorbent, on the other hand, because the polymer weakly binds to CO<sub>2</sub> in the physisorption range. 156 There have been several amine functionalization studies for PIMs, mostly to functionalize PIM-1 with primary and secondary amine moieties. However, the amine functionalities were utilized in membrane formation rather than as solid sorbents. 157 Recently, PIM-1 was impregnated with polyethyleneimine in the solid sorbent form. 102 Various concentrations of amines were loaded into PIM-1 solution and the subsequent solvent removal afforded PIM-1-PEI sorbents. Compared to neat PIM-1, a very high CO<sub>2</sub> capture capacity (1.24 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> at 0.15 bar and 298 K) was observed with the polyethyleneimine impregnated PIMs. 102 Several sorbent geometries such as fibers and monoliths have been demonstrated. In one study, PIM-1 was processed into hollow fibers from various PIM-1/solvent dope solutions (Fig. 12). 158 Then, polyethyleneimine was impregnated into the PIM-1 fiber post-fabrication. The results showed that the increased PEI content resulted in a higher CO<sub>2</sub> uptake in the PIM-1 sorbents. However, increased PEI loading in the sorbents can also worsen the kinetics of CO2 adsorption.

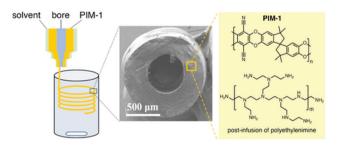


Fig. 12 Shaping PIM-1 into hollow fiber sorbents and polyethylene impregnation in PIM-1. Reproduced with permission from ref. 158

0 H<sub>3</sub>C CH<sub>3</sub> OH OH

Fig. 13 Post-synthetic functionalization of PIM-1 with amidoxime and alklyamines (DETA). Reproduced with permission from ref. 104.

In another study, PIM-1 was first functionalized with carboxylic acid and amide to increase the interaction of PIM-1 with the guest amine groups. 103,159 In the following step, the acid functionalized PIM-1 (PIM-1-C) was impregnated with molecular amines such as TAEA, yielding an acid-base and hydrogen bonding interaction between the amine and the functionalized PIM-1. A control study in which the acid functionalization step was omitted showed that neat PIM-1 was not able to bind strongly to amines by the same impregnation method, resulting in amine leaching. PIM-1-C-TA had a high  $CO_2$  uptake (1.62 mmol  $g^{-1}$  at 0.15 bar and 298 K) which was retained for several cycles under humid conditions. More recently, PIM-1 with amidoxime functionality (PIM-1-AO) was utilized to bind molecular amines such as diethylenetriamine by strong hydrogen bonding and weak acidbase reaction (Fig. 13). 104 The DETA impregnation in PIM-1-AO resulted in a high  $CO_2$  uptake (1.75 mmol  $g^{-1}$  at 0.15 bar and 298 K). PIM-1-AO-DETA loaded with CO2 was regenerated after heating to 80  $^{\circ}$ C. The low regeneration temperature for PIM-1-AO-DETA can be attributed to relatively low amine loading (<15%) in the polymer.

Besides PIMs, there have been reports on other types of processible polymer sorbents such as cellulose acetate<sup>160</sup> and matrimid.<sup>161</sup> However, these polymers are not categorized as a porous organic polymer because the porosity in these polymers is predominately macroporous (>50 nm). Also, the porosity in the polymers is usually created by a template method during fabrication, whereas, in PIMs, the porosity is a material property of the rigid and contorted monomers. Consequently, the surface areas of these conventional polymers are not comparable with those of PIMs. Nevertheless, these polymers can serve as a "molecular basket" for immobilizing amines and perform as CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbents, which is the scope of another review article.<sup>162</sup>

# 7. Computationally designed amine functionalized porous organic polymers

There are a limited number of computational studies on a mine functionalized porous organic frameworks for  ${\rm CO_2}$  capture. Jiang et al. 163 designed new functional porous aromatic frameworks (PAFs) by incorporating functional groups such as -NH<sub>2</sub>, -OCH<sub>3</sub>, and -CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>- in PAF-1 and investigated their separation efficiencies of CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> mixtures using the grand-canonical Monte Carlo (GCMC) simulation. Pure gas isotherms showed that CO<sub>2</sub> sorption and selectivity over N<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and  $H_2$  decreased in the order -CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>- PAF-1 > -OCH<sub>3</sub>-PAF-1 >  $-NH_2$ -PAF-1 > PAF-1 at 298 K and pressure up to 1 bar. The same trend was observed for mixed gas isotherms for 15:85 mixtures of CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub> at 298 K and pressures up to 1 bar. Similarly, Lu et al. 164 investigated the CO2 adsorption and separation properties of four alkyl amine functionalized triphenylaminebased covalent organic frameworks (TPAC-xC-NH<sub>2</sub>, x = 1-4) using the GCMC simulation. The computed CO2 isotherms at 273 K and 298 K up to 1 bar showed that increasing the alkylamine chain length (x = 2-4) in TPA-COFs led to an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption, reduction in N<sub>2</sub> adsorption, and consequently enhanced CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity. Furthermore, isosteric heat analysis showed that narrow pores in TPA-COFs due to long alkylamines led to a higher CO<sub>2</sub>adsorbent interaction. And coulomb/non-coulomb interaction analysis showed the CO2-TPAC-xC-NH2 interaction to be dominant over CO<sub>2</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub> interaction.

Ab initio quantum chemical calculations and atoms in molecule (AIM) analysis 165 methods were used to explore the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption mechanism in a series of triazine-based porous organic polymers (TrzPoP): TrzPOP-1, TrzPoP-2 and TrzPop-3. TrzPOP-1 contains only a triazine moiety and secondary amine linkages while TrzPoP-2 and TrzPOP-3 contain additional phenolic -OH groups. The investigation confirmed the existence of strong N-H-O and O-H-O hydrogen-bonding interactions between the TrzPOPs and CO2 molecules along with weak N-C, O-C and C-H-O interactions. The presence of a large number of weak interactions was attributed to the higher CO<sub>2</sub> uptake in the series of TrzPOPs. However, a larger number of phenolic-OH and N-rich surfaces in TrzPOP-2 and TrzPOP-3 were found to be directly responsible for the higher CO2 uptake and CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity than TrzPOP-1. Vogiatzis et al. 166 screened functionalized calix[4]arenes for their CO2-philicity.

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Axial 2 -CI -он -SH 6 -CH 7 -NH 8 — Pyridyl - Methoxyphenyl

Fig. 14 Calculated CO<sub>2</sub> interaction energies of functionalized calixarenes. All energies are given as a difference from the interaction energy of the unfunctionalized calixarenes (-6.82 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>). Reproduced with permission from ref. 166.

12 -OCH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>

-OCH2CH2NH2

13

The structures were constructed by automated, high-throughput structure generation through directed modifications to a molecular scaffold. In total, 13 different functional groups were chosen for the study, of which 10 were placed at 4 different sites (para, axial, equatorial and bottom) of a calix[4] arene structure, and the remaining larger 3 functional groups were placed at the para position to generate 40 different structures (Fig. 14). Overall, 41 different structures were considered including functionalized calix[4] arene. Density functional theory (DFT) and symmetry-adapted perturbation theory (SAPT) were applied to compute the CO2 interaction energy for the set of 41 calix[4] arenes. It was found that the top performing structures, the ones with the largest CO<sub>2</sub> interaction energy, had functional groups at the para-site, and the top four functional groups were found to be methoxypyridine, methoxyphenyl, methoxyamine, and ethoxyamine, respectively. Methoxyamine functionalized calix[4] arene was found to be more promising because the terminal amino group led to the formation of a molecular cage via hydrogen bonds, which led to the increased CO<sub>2</sub>-interaction compared to the thoroughly studied tert-butyl functional group.

The CO<sub>2</sub> sorption mechanism in the amine functionalized polymer of intrinsic microporosity (PIM-1) was investigated using molecular dynamics simulation and quantum mechanics (QM). Molecular dynamics simulations were performed to obtain the radial distribution function, g(r), the local probability density of finding one atom at distance r from another atom. The radial distribution function between PIM-1 and CO2 molecules showed a strong peak at about 3 Å from the amino groups, a sign that there is a strong interaction between the amine groups and polarized C=O bonds of the CO<sub>2</sub> molecules. In contrast, the radial distribution function between the dioxane-O functional groups of PIM-1 and CO2 was smoother, indicating a weak interaction. The interaction energy between the amine-PIM-1 monomer and CO2, N2 and CH4 molecules was computed by quantum mechanics methods, which showed that the CO2amine had an interaction energy of about -2 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, which was in the range of weak hydrogen bonding. N2 and CH4 did not interact significantly with the monomer, which is proof of the selective interaction between the amine group in PIM-1 and CO<sub>2</sub>. Hamouz et al. 167 recently synthesized a novel porous organic

polymer, KFUPM-5, via the acid catalyzed polycondensation of polar aromatic monomers, melamine and pyrrole with pformaldehyde as the cross-linking agent, and investigated its efficacy for the selective adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S for natural gas sweetening. They used quantum chemical reactivity descriptors, AIM topology analysis, and reduced density gradient (RDG) isosurface analysis to elucidate the adsorption mechanism of H<sub>2</sub>S in a vacuum and CO<sub>2</sub> in a vacuum and aqueous environments (Fig. 15). The quantum chemical reactivity descriptors, energy of the highest occupied molecular orbital (EHOMO), energy of the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (ELUMO), band gap  $(\Delta E)$ , electronegativity  $(\chi)$ , global hardness  $(\eta)$  and dipole moment  $(\mu)$  were estimated for the polymer under vacuum and aqueous conditions. Under aqueous conditions, there was no notable difference in the chemical reactivity descriptors except for the dipole moment, suggesting that the van der Waals attracting power power of the polymer is enhanced in the presence of water molecules. Furthermore, the condensed Fukui analysis identified the adsorption sites of CO2 and H2S to be centered in melamine carbon atoms and pyrrole carbon atoms of KFUMP-5. The electron density and Laplacian electron density were computed at several bond critical points (BCPs) between KFUPM-5 and gas molecules using AIM topology analysis. Higher electron density and Laplacian density, which correspond to a greater interaction strength, were obtained for C-N and O-C interactions between CO2 and KFUMP-5, and S-H, H-N and H-C interactions between H<sub>2</sub>S and KFUMP-5.

An examination of CO2 adsorption in an aqueous environment showed an increase in the electron density and Laplacian electron density values suggesting the enhancement of the interaction between CO2 and the polymer and a consequent increase in the adsorption capacity. RDG analysis was performed to visualize the interaction regions between the polymer and gas molecules. It showed that the gas-polymer interaction is predominantly van der Waals, which is in agreement with the chemical reactivity descriptor and the AIMS topology analyses.

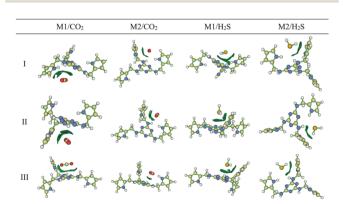


Fig. 15 The reduced density gradient (RDG) isosurface analyses of KFUPM-5 core unit (P1) interactions with gas molecules. The blue regions correspond to a strong hydrogen bond; the red regions indicate strong steric effects, while the green regions describe strong van der Waals interactions. M1 and M2 represent the most electrophilic and nucleophilic atoms in the polymer unit. Reproduced with permission from ref. 167.

Simulation studies have mostly focused on quantifying the interaction strength between the CO2 molecules and amine functionalized POPs, and in a few cases computing CO2 adsorption isotherms. The majority of the functionalized POPs reviewed above have aromatic amines, which interact with CO<sub>2</sub> through hydrogen bonding and van der Waals interaction. However, it is well known that alkyl amines have a superior CO<sub>2</sub> sorption capacity compared with aromatic amines because CO<sub>2</sub> sorption in alkyl amines occurs through a chemical reaction in which CO<sub>2</sub> is adsorbed as a carbamate (primary and secondary amines) or bicarbonate (tertiary amines). Since alkyl amine functionalized POPs are garnering a lot of interest, it is imperative that computational research on these types of materials should also focus on the reaction mechanism between CO2 and the adsorbent. Additionally, no computational studies have been performed to investigate the gas diffusion in these classes of PoPs. Diffusion is important for understanding the kinetics of adsorption and desorption of gases in such materials, which is another avenue where the computational modelling could play a major role in advancing the research.

#### 8. Conclusion

Porous organic polymers have shown great potential in carbon capture applications and are the subject of increasing research activities, although they are yet to find their way into commercial use for this purpose. Versatile synthetic methods and functional groups studied to date have provided a large opportunity to create different types of POPs with various sorbent properties. Here, we have covered the recent literature on POPs for carbon capture. We have observed that microporosity and high surface area make POPs a strong candidate. However, as physical sorbents, amine functionalization is critical for this application of POPs. Multiple methods were reviewed for this, including direct amine synthesis, amine grafting, and amine impregnation.

Each classification of POP has unique features, with a few noted here in brief summary. COFs have been studied extensively and are known for high porosity and crystalline polymer structures which are amenable to imine functionalization. Triazine and imine functionalized COFs have excellent pore stability, making them suitable for adsorption/desorption cycling in practical applications. Several COFs have been reported with a very high CO<sub>2</sub> capacity, such as TpPa-1 and [EtNH<sub>2</sub>]75-H<sub>2</sub>P-COF. However, the chemical stability of COFs should be further studied under industrial conditions, including humidity. For POPs that were prepared by direct synthesis, including COFs, the focus to date has been on aromatic amines which have a lower CO<sub>2</sub> affinity at low concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> compared to alkyl amines. Therefore, future studies may consider the incorporation of amines with a higher Lewis basicity.

The PPN type POPs were grafted with alkylamines such as DETA and TAEA using the post-synthetic amine functionalization method. This has the advantage of strong covalent bonding with amines, which is a potential solution to the amine leaching problem often associated with amine-based sorbents. The major

drawback of PPNs and PAFs could be their high-cost synthesis, which should be altered with more cost-efficient reaction methods to be considered for widespread commercial use. The HCP class of POPs, on the other hand, could offer scalable and less expensive sorbent preparation. Compared to PAFs and PPNs, the surface area range in HCPs is relatively smaller. However, some of the HCPs such as PBTP-(x)-DETA can reach high CO<sub>2</sub> uptake capacity and high CO<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> selectivity at low CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.

PIMs are also noteworthy because of their unique morphology, consisting of bulky, contorted, one-dimensional monomers which lead to inefficient packing and high porosity. Interestingly, they can be cast into films, fibers, pellets, or other shapes without the use of binder materials. This feature can be exploited to reduce the pressure drop in reactor systems as compared with powder sorbents, which is a major factor in the cost of capture. By contrast, non-processible sorbents are usually loaded into unreactive polymeric or ceramic substrate materials, which can drastically reduce the CO2 adsorption capacity. While other solution processible polymers have been studied as sorbents, they lack the inherent porosity of PIMs. Recent studies have shown that the acid and amidoxime functionalization of PIMs combined with amine functionalization leads to a strong interaction with CO2 and cycle stability. This set of properties is very promising for CO2 capture applications.

Amine-functionalization strategies of POPs covered in this review are important to boost the CO<sub>2</sub> capture using POPs. In addition to the high CO<sub>2</sub> uptake, future studies should also focus on faster CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption and desorption cycles without high energy. High amine loadings in POPs could increase the CO<sub>2</sub> uptake performance. However, it can also cause longer adsorption and desorption cycles because of smaller mass and heat transfer in the sorbent media. At this point, the amine type, size and concentration in POPs should be optimized accordingly for the future POP candidates.

Another important consideration in the amine functionalization is the selection of an amine type. Primary amines are mostly incorporated in the sorbents due to their higher CO<sub>2</sub> affinity compared to the secondary and tertiary amines. On the other hand, secondary and tertiary amines can be advantageous to be used as their stabilities over oxidation are higher compared to primary amines. For all degrees of amines, alkylamines showed drastically higher CO<sub>2</sub> uptake capacity and selectivity than aromatic amines in POP functionalization studies.

Lastly, other sorbent properties such as amine stability, scalability and processibility must be considered for future studies to compete with the best performing sorbents. Processible and scalable POPs such as PIMs are a promising class of POPs as they can be shaped into sorbent geometries such as fibers and pellets. In terms of high porosity and amine stability, amine grafted PPNs also show great potential moving forward to the widespread use of POPs in carbon capture. In the past decade, many new amine functionalized POPs have been studied and reported in the ever-growing literature on CO<sub>2</sub> capture. There is significant potential to commercialize POPs for CO<sub>2</sub> capture applications using a comprehensive approach considering all necessary sorbent properties discussed in this review.

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#### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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