Chemical Science

EDGE ARTICLE

Check for updates

Cite this: Chem. Sci., 2024, 15, 3971

All publication charges for this article have been paid for by the Royal Society of Chemistry

Received 13th November 2023 Accepted 4th February 2024

DOI: 10.1039/d3sc06098e

rsc.li/chemical-science

Introduction

Stimulus-responsive materials have attracted significant attention because they can change their own molecular structure or state after receiving external stimuli such as light,¹ heat,² electricity,3,4 magnetism,5 and humidity,6 leading to significant changes in material properties. Among these, photoelectric materials can convert light energy into mechanical energy, realizing accurate remote controllable braking in a non-contact and non-invasive form,⁷⁻⁹ and offering great application prospects in biomedicine, soft robots, flexible electronic devices, and bionic systems.7,10-13 In recent years, solid-state reactions involving structural transformation have received considerable attention from researchers in the field of CPs due to their green and efficient synthesis of regionally/stereo-selectively organic molecules.14 The structural changes of molecular crystals, such as the isomerization of azobenzene,7 cyclization of diarylethenes,¹⁵ and [2 + 2] cycloaddition¹⁶⁻¹⁹ and [4 + 4] cycloaddition,^{20,21} may lead to driving behaviors such as jumping, splitting, bending, expansion, and contraction.^{10,11,22-28} The solid state [2 + 2] cycloaddition reactions of alkenes not only demonstrate great potential in the construction of the target cyclobutane and its derivatives,²⁹⁻³³ but photosalient (PS)

[2 + 2] cycloaddition and its photomechanical effects on 1D coordination polymers with reversible amide bonds and coordination site regulation[†]

Lei Wang,^a Si-Bo Qiao,^a Yan-Ting Chen,^a Xun Ma,^a Wei-Ming Wei,^a Jun Zhang, ^b Lin Du^{*a} and Qi-Hua Zhao ^{*}

Photo-responsive materials can convert light energy into mechanical energy, with great application potential in biomedicine, flexible electronic devices, and bionic systems. We combined reversible amide bonds, coordination site regulation, and coordination polymer (CP) self-assembly to synthesize two 1D photo-responsive CPs. Obvious photomechanical behavior was observed under UV irradiation. By combining the CPs with PVA, the mechanical stresses were amplified and macroscopic driving behavior was realized. In addition, two cyclobutane amide derivatives and a pair of cyclobutane carboxyl isomers were isolated through coordination bond destruction and amide bond hydrolysis. Therefore, photo-actuators and supramolecular synthesis in smart materials may serve as important clues.

phenomena may occur due to internal stress release accumulated during structural transformation.^{34–36} However, the solidstate [2 + 2] cycloaddition reaction will be constrained by several topological chemistry principles, which dictate that the distance between C=C double bonds in the reaction cannot exceed 4.2 Å and they must be arranged parallel to each other.³⁷ In addition, the anisotropy of macroscopic mechanical motion was found to be closely related to the crystallinity, free volume, and molecular orientation of the photo-responsive molecules.^{38,39} Therefore, controlling the stacking of light-responsive olefins to satisfy these topological chemical requirements, as well as designing and fabricating photo-actuated systems, remains a challenge.

As metal-organic templates, metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) are constructed by metal ions or metal clusters through organic ligand coordination. In the self-assembly process, combining the rigidity of the metal and flexibility of the organic ligand, the molecular structure can be well determined and fine-tuned through design, endowing MOFs with an advantage in controlling the solid-state [2 + 2] cycloaddition reaction.^{40,41} Recently, the rapid development of organic synthesis has been achieved by using non-covalent and reversible covalent bonds.⁴²⁻⁴⁵ By combining reversible amide bonds with metal ion coordination, the functionalization and pre-assembly of olefin ligands can be achieved for intermolecular [2 + 2] photocycloaddition.46,47 The formation of amide bonds can reversibly functionalize an olefin ligand with a pyridine group. The pyridine nitrogen atom has a strong coordination ability and can easily coordinate with metal ions. In the presence of auxiliary carboxylic acid ligands, these can be assembled into CPs with different structures, obtaining cyclobutane derivatives with different configurations through solid [2 + 2] cycloaddition.

View Article Online

View Journal | View Issue

^aKey Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry for Natural Resource, Ministry of Education and Yunnan Province, Yunnan Characteristic Plant Extraction Laboratory, School of Chemical Science and Technology, School of Pharmacy, Yunnan University, 650500, People's Republic of China. E-mail: qhzhao@ynu.edu.cn; lindu@ynu.edu.cn

^bNew Energy Photovoltaic Industry Research Center, Qinghai University, Xining 810016, People's Republic of China

[†] Electronic supplementary information (ESI) available. CCDC 1 is 2296093, 2 is 2296091 and 2a is 2296092. For ESI and crystallographic data in CIF or other electronic format see DOI: https://doi.org/10.1039/d3sc06098e

Because the rigid skeletons of 2D and 3D CPs exert significant limitations on the amplification of microscopic motion to crystal macroscopic motion, most photoreactive CPs reported in the literature are 1D.^{19,48-50} In this work, two pyridinamide olefin ligands, namely. (2E)-N-3-Pyridinyl-3-(2-thienyl)-2-propenamide (3-ptpa) and (2E)-N-4-Pyridinyl-3-(2-thienyl)-2-propenamide (4ptpa), were designed by combining reversible amide bonds with pyridine N coordination site regulation. Two 1D CPs {[Cd(3ptpa) (MeOip)· $(H_2O)_2$]· H_2O_n (1, MeOip = 5-methoxyisophthalic acid) and $\{ [Cd_2(4-ptpa)_4(MeOip)_2] \cdot 0.3H_2O \cdot 0.8ACN \}_n$ (2) were synthesized through a solvothermal reaction under the same conditions. CP1/CP2 underwent a [2 + 2] cycloaddition reaction under UV light and demonstrated photomechanical effects. In addition, through coordination bond cracking and amide bond hydrolysis, we isolated two pyridinamide cyclobutane derivatives N1,N3-di(pyridin-3-yl)-2,4-di(thiophen-2-yl) cvclobutane-1,3-dicarboxamide (L1) and N1,N2-di(pyridin-4-yl)-3,4-di(thiophen-2-yl)cyclobutane-1,2-dicarboxamide (L₃), as well as two isomeric cyclobutane carboxyl derivatives 2,4di(thiophen-2yl)cyclobutane-1,3-dicarboxylic acid (L_2) and 3,4di(thiophen-2-yl)cyclobutane-1,2-dicarboxylic acid (L4) (Scheme 1). After studying the photomechanical behavior of CP1/CP2, we fabricated an optical driving system, which combined CP1/CP2 with PVA through hydrogen bonding. This could amplify the mechanical stress and achieve the display of macroscopic kinetic behavior. This was the first example of constructing an optical driving material by self-assembly using olefin amide ligands, providing valuable clues for the preparation of CPbased optical driving materials.

Results and discussion

Structure description and [2 + 2] cycloaddition

SCXRD analysis showed that **1** was crystallized in the triclinic system $P^{\bar{1}}$ space group with a 1D chain structure, and the asymmetric unit had a {[Cd(3-ptpa) (MeOip)·(H₂O)₂]·H₂O} unit. The Cd²⁺ ion consisted of a [CdNO₅] coordination configuration of a hexagonal twisted octahedron. The coordination atoms consisted of one N proton on **3-ptpa**, five O atoms from two MeOip²⁻ ligands, and two water molecules (Fig. 1a). The MeOip²⁻ ligand adopted the μ_2 · η^1 : η^1 , η^1 coordination mode (Scheme S3 III, Fig. S2a[†]), where the adjacent Cd²⁺ ions were joined by the MeOip²⁻ ions to form an infinite diffusion 1D chain extending along the *a*-axis (Fig. 1b), where the distance of the Cd²⁺ ions between the adjacent chains was 5.951 Å (Fig. S1a[†]).

The **3-ptpa** ligands on the 1D chain between the adjacent layers were arranged head-to-tail, where the distance between the thiophene vinylolefin bond centers was 3.946 Å (Fig. 1c). This distance and orientation of the olefin pairs met the Schmidt topochemical criteria for the [2 + 2] cycloaddition reactions under UV light. In addition, the 1D CP was predicted to undergo photodimerization of the **3-ptpa** ligand and transform into a 1D double-stranded stepped polymer under UV light.

The photoreactivity of 1 was studied using a custom 400 W high pressure Hg lamp photoreactor ($\lambda_{max} = 365$ nm), and the reaction process was detected by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy. The ¹H-NMR spectra showed that the cyclobutane protons gradually



Scheme 1 Carboxy-cyclobutane isomers were synthesized stereoselectively by a method that combined a reversible amide bond and the selfassembly of CPs by solid-state [2 + 2] cycloaddition reactions.



Fig. 1 Crystal structure of 1: (a) coordination environment of the Cd^{2+} ion. Symmetry operations: (i): 1 + x, y, z. (b) 1D $[Cd(MeOip)]_n$ chain. (c) 2D supramolecular structure. The hydrogen atoms and non-coordinated solvent molecules are omitted.

appeared at 4.24 and 4.51 ppm, and the olefin signal gradually disappeared from the olefin signals at 6.58 and 8.61 ppm, respectively. Using the pyridine proton labeled as (h') as a reference, after 15 h of UV irradiation, the conversion rate reached 89% (Fig. S3b†).

A single crystal of **1** was irradiated by UV light and converted into $[Cd_2(L_1) (MeOip)_2(H_2O)_4]_n$ (**1a**) in a single-crystal to singlecrystal manner (Fig. 2). Due to the weak diffraction of the **1a** crystal for SCXRD analysis, the structure determination was performed by quantum mechanics calculation. This showed that **1a** was in the triclinic Pi space group, with one $[Cd_2(L_1)$ $(MeOip)_2(H_2O)_4]$ in the asymmetric unit. The central atom of **1a**, namely the Cd^{2+} ion, was pentacentate, which formed a twisted triangular bipyramidal $[CdNO_4]$ coordination configuration with one N atom (**L**₁ molecule) and four O atoms (two MeOip²⁻ and two water molecules). The acquisition of **1a** confirmed the head-to-tail photodimerization of the ligand.

According to the literature, the coordination mode of the CPs changes due to the different locations of the coordination site.^{51,52} As shown in Scheme S3,[†] H₂MeOip exhibited multiple coordination modes and deprotonation types.⁵³ After studying the structure of **1**, we aimed to control the position of pyridine N in the ligand **3-ptpa**, reduce steric hindrance, and change the coordination mode between H₂MeOip and the Cd²⁺ ions. This



Fig. 2 The single crystal structure of photoreactive and photoactive 1D CP1 and dimerized 1D CP1a shows the structural transformation.

allowed for the bridging of the Cd²⁺ ions on the adjacent chains, shortening the distance between two Cd²⁺ ions and resulting in a structure with the olefinic ligands arranged in-phase. Therefore, we successfully synthesized a less hindered ligand, 4-ptpa, by replacing 3-aminopyridine with 4-aminopyridine. Under identical experimental conditions, we obtained another yellow block-shaped crystal { $[Cd_2(4-ptpa)_4(MeOip)_2] \cdot 0.3H_2O \cdot 0.8ACN$ } (2). SCXRD analysis showed that 2 crystallized in the triclinic system *P*i space group with a 1D chain structure. Its asymmetric unit had a { $[Cd_2(4-ptpa)_4(MeOip)_2] \cdot 0.3H_2O \cdot 0.8ACN$ } unit, and the Cd²⁺ ion had a hexagonal twisted octahedral [CdN₂O₄] coordination configuration. The coordination atoms consisted of two N atoms on two 4-ptpa ligands and four O atoms on three MeOip^{2^-} ligands (Fig. 3a). As expected, the MeOip ligands in 2 used the μ_3 - η^1 : η^1 , η^1 , η^1 outer three-toothed bridged mode (Scheme S3 II, Fig. S2b[†]), with the non-chelating ends of the two MeOip ligands forming an anti-synchronously bridged [Cd2(- $MeOip_{4}$ dimer unit that continuously diffused to form a 1D double-stranded step polymer with a distance of 3.864 Å between the adjacent Cd²⁺ ions (Fig. S1b[†]). In the 1D chain of 2, the adjacent 4-ptpa ligands were arranged in a head-to-head fashion, where the distance between the thiophene vinylolefin bond centers was 3.751 Å. This provided the conditions for the [2 + 2] cycloaddition reaction to occur (Fig. 3c).

The single crystal of **2** was irradiated with a 400 W highpressure Hg ($\lambda_{max} = 365$ nm) lamp, and samples were obtained at regular intervals and tested by ¹H-NMR. The ¹H-NMR spectra showed that the cyclobutane protons gradually appeared at 4.23 and 4.50 ppm, and the olefin signal gradually disappeared from the olefin signals at 6.62 and 7.77 ppm, respectively. Using the pyridine proton labeled as (h') as a reference, after 12 h of UV irradiation, the conversion rate reached 98% (Fig. S5b†).

The fitting results of C=C double bond conversion in 1/2 with UV irradiation time showed that $\ln(C/C_0)$ had a linear relationship with irradiation time under 298 K irradiation, with C_0 and C representing the percentage/concentration of the C=C



Fig. 3 Crystal structure of 2: (a) coordination environment of the Cd^{2+} ion. Symmetry operations: (i): 1 - x, 1 - y, -z, (ii): -x, 1 - y, 1 - z. (b) 1D $[Cd_2(MeOip)_4]_n$ chain. (c) 2D supramolecular structure. The hydrogen atoms and non-coordinated solvent molecules are omitted.

double bond before irradiation and at any irradiation time. This demonstrated that the [2 + 2] cycloaddition reactions of **1** and **2** exhibited first-order kinetics at 298 K, with rate constants of $1.47 \times 10^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$ and $8.03 \times 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1}$, respectively (Fig. S4c and d, S5c and d†).

The single crystal of **2** was irradiated by UV light for 12 h, and the solid-state [2 + 2] cycloaddition reaction occurred in the form of single crystal to single crystal, resulting in { $[Cd(L_3) (MeOip)]$ · 1.25H₂O_{*n*} (**2a**) (Fig. 4). SCXRD analysis showed that **2a** was also crystallized in the $P\bar{i}$ space group of the triclinic system, with a { $[Cd(L_3) (MeOip)]$ ·1.25H₂O} unit in the asymmetric unit. The structure of **2a** consisted of a one-dimensional chain structure



Fig. 4 The single crystal structure of photoreactive and photoactive 1D CP2 and dimerized 1D CP2a shows the structural transformation.

similar to 2. The difference was that in the latter, a pair of 4-ptpa ligands was replaced by their corresponding solid-state [2 + 2] photodimerization reaction product L_3 .

PXRD, thermal analysis and UV-VIS absorption spectrum

The resulting four crystals (1-2a) were tested by PXRD to verify their purity. By comparing the PXRD data simulated by the crystal data with the PXRD data measured by the experiment, we found that the PXRD pattern was consistent with the simulation of single crystals, indicating that the four crystals have high purity and crystallinity (Fig. S3[†]). TGA of the four samples was conducted from room temperature to 800 °C to examine their thermal stability. For 1 and 1a, the mass loss from the start to 158 °C and 225 °C was 10.27% and 4.26%, respectively, which was consistent with the removal of 3.5H₂O molecules (calc., 10.53%) and 2.5H₂O molecules (calc., 3.93%), respectively, per formula unit. 1 and 1a collapsed from 270 °C and 263 °C. respectively. For 2, the mass loss was 3.6% at 259 °C, which was consistent with the mass of one H2O molecule and one ACN molecule (calc., 3.7%), while for 2a, the mass loss was 2.34% at 175 °C, which was fairly consistent with the mass of one water molecule (calc., 2.34%). The dehydrated solids started to decompose at 290 °C and 223 °C respectively. These results indicated that 1-2a exhibited high thermal stability (Fig. S28⁺).

The solid-state optical absorbance of the ligand and synthesized **1-2a** was studied using the solid-state UV-visible light absorption spectra at room temperature, indicating that **1-2a** had the largest UV-vis absorption peaks at 293, 209, 291, and 210 nm (Fig. S29†). According to the solid diffuse reflection data, the Kubelka–Munk equation was used to calculate the energy band gap (E_g) values of **1-2a**. As shown in Fig. S30,† the E_g

values of **1-2a** were 3.06, 3.52, 3.10, and 3.15 eV, and the increase in E_g confirmed the conversion from **1**/2 to **1a**/2**a**.

Separation of cyclobutane derivatives

To obtain the cyclobutane derivatives, **1a** and **2a** were subjected to alkaline conditions, the coordination bonds around the CP metal center were broken, and a pair of cyclobutanylamide dimer L_1 and L_3 molecules was separated. The amide bonds were easily reduced to carboxylic groups through a hydrolysis reaction, thus, **1a** and **2a** were stirred and filtered under acidic conditions, and the filtrate was condensed and returned to obtain the cyclobutanyl carboxylic dimer L_2 and L_4 molecules. The ¹H-NMR, ¹C-NMR, IR, and mass spectrometry results showed that the cyclobutane derivatives exhibited high purity (Fig. S8–S17, S23–S26†).

Photosalient effects

The PS effect was observed when the single crystals of 1 and 2 were irradiated by UV light. The thicker crystals split, While the thinner crystals rolled, flipped, moved, and jumped (Fig. 5, Movies S1 and S2[†]). The main reason for the burst and movement of these single crystals was the stress caused by the structural transformation of the crystals in the ring addition reaction. The fragmentation of single crystal 1 occurred under ultraviolet light, and the resulting photoproduct 1a tended to form a powder, and only weak diffraction data was produced. After many attempts, the cell parameters of photoproducts 1b and 1c at 15 s and 30 s under 365 nm UV light were obtained (Fig. S33[†]). The transformation of 1 to 1b and 1c was mainly expansion along the c axis (0.41%, 1.38%), which was accompanied by expansion of the unit cell volume from 1106 Å³ to 1112 Å³ (0.45%) and 1121 Å³ (1.35%) (Table S6[†]). For single crystal 2, the unit cell volume of 2 was almost twice that of 2a due to the enhanced crystal symmetry caused by the photocyclization. The asymmetric unit in 2a could be thought of as half of the asymmetric unit in 2. The unit cell volume of 2a was accompanied by a shrinkage of about 4.32% compared to 1/2 of the unit cell volume of single crystal 2 (Table S6†). The release of stress caused by the expansion and contraction of the unit cell volume causes the fragmentation and movement of the crystal.

In general, the inorganic and crystalline materials were brittle compared to the soft materials and were unlikely to play a useful technical role in isolation, making it still necessary to transform and amplify the microscopic changes that accompanied the photoinduced stress into macroscopic mechanical behavior in the system.^{50,54} Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) had abundant OH groups, which could interact with the carbonyl group of the CPs by forming O-H…O hydrogen bonds (Fig. 6a, S27†). In this work, we employed a mixed matrix membrane strategy to combine the photoresponsive crystals of 1 and 2 with polymer PVA to enhance the photomechanical properties.48,49,55 The PXRD pattern of 1-PVA/2-PVA matched the combined pattern of PVA and 1/2, maintaining the crystallinity of 1/2 (Fig. S35[†]). The SEM images showed that the 1-PVA/2-PVA particles (after grinding) still retained the shape of the crystals (Fig. S31 and S32[†]). The SEM image of the surface or cross section of 1-PVA/2-PVA films and the EDS images indicated that the particles of 1 and 2 were uniformly dispersed in the PVA matrix (Fig. 6b, S31 and S32[†]).

To study the photomechanical properties, the composite film $(0.5 \times 2.0 \text{ cm})$ was exposed to a 365 nm UV lamp, and photomechanical deformation was recorded. As shown in Fig. 6d and S36,[†] when the 1-PVA film is irradiated with UV light, it rapidly backlights by $\sim 90^{\circ}$ within 32 s. For 2-PVA (Fig. 6e, S37[†]), the backlight bending occurred under ultraviolet light, and the bending Angle was about 66° after 24 s. The photo-responsive behavior of 1-PVA/2-PVA was attributed to the photodimerization of CP1/CP2. The more pronounced bending of 1-**PVA** was possibly due to the fact that [2 + 2] cycloaddition of the olefin ligand in CP1 occurred between the adjacent chains, with greater energy transition than the reaction on the same chain in CP2. To further understand the kinematics and mechanism of lithographic deformation, a camera (8 K, 30 fps) was used to record a series of photomechanical deformation images. By fitting the variations of the **1-PVA/2-PVA** bending angle (φ) with



Fig. 5 Optical images of crystals 1 (a) and 2 (b) before and after ultraviolet light irradiation.



Fig. 6 (a) Schematic diagram of hydrogen bond crosslinking networks in CPs and PVA substrates (b) scanning electron microscopy (SEM) image of the 1-PVA (left) and 2-PVA (right) membrane cross-section. (c) Indication of the bending angle φ in the schematic structure. Time-dependent photomechanical deformation of 1-PVA (d) and 2-PVA (e) upon exposure to 365 nm light.

UV irradiation time (t), we found that the bending process of the **1-PVA/2-PVA** film could be expressed by functions $\varphi = 90.51(1 - 1)$ $\exp(-t/7.82)$) and $\varphi = 67.73(1 - \exp(-t/6.55))$, respectively (Fig. S38[†]).⁵⁶ For a deeper understanding of the bending deformation behaviors of membranes, atomic force microscopy (AFM) was used to probe the 1-PVA/2-PVA and 1-PVA/2-PVA surfaces irradiated by UV light. The mean square roughness of the 1-PVA surface was 182 nm, however, the mean square roughness of the 1-PVA surface after illumination was approximately 564 nm (Fig. S39[†]). After illumination, the mean square roughness of the 2-PVA surface changed from 151 nm before illumination to 182 nm (Fig. S40[†]). The roughness demonstrated by the AFM image reflected the deformation of 1/2 of the crystal, due to UV light exposure. This composite film provided an effective strategy for realizing the macroscopic amplification of micromotion, with significance in the field of mechanical microdevices and robots.

Conclusions

In summary, we combined reversible amide bonds, pyridine N coordination site regulation, and CP self-assembly to obtain two 1D photo-responsive CPs. Photomechanical bursts, jumping and

movement of the crystal were achieved through [2 + 2] cycloaddition. Two cyclobutane amide derivatives and a pair of cyclobutane carboxyl isomers were isolated through coordination bond destruction and amide bond hydrolysis. In addition, the combination of photo-responsive crystals and PVA polymers could transform photoinduced stress into controllable largescale shape film motion, providing important clues for the design of smart material photo-actuators. Moreover, we determined that this method could also be applied to the construction of functionalized cyclobutane derivatives, and the amide bonds could also be replaced by other reversible covalent bonds, allowing us to obtain more types of cyclobutane derivatives, which is critical for organic and supramolecular synthesis.

Data availability

All article related data can be found in ESI.†

Author contributions

Conceptualization: Q. Zhao, L. Du, L. Wang; data curation: L. Wang, S. Qiao; formal analysis: J. Zhang, L. Wang, X. Ma, Y.

Chen; writing – original draft: L. Wang, S. Qiao; writing – review & editing: Q. Zhao, L. Du, L, J. Zhang.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Acknowledgements

This work was financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 22061047), The Ten Thousand Talent Plans for Young Top-Notch Talents of Yunnan Province (No. YNWR-QNBJ-2019-088), The Postgraduate Research and Innovation Foundation of Yunnan University (No. KC-22221941) and the Project of Yunnan Characteristic Plant Screening and R&D Service CXO Platform (2022YKZY001).

References

- 1 J. Deng, J. Li, P. Chen, X. Fang, X. Sun, Y. Jiang, W. Weng, B. Wang and H. Peng, Tunable Photothermal Actuators Based on a Pre-programmed Aligned Nanostructure, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2016, **138**, 225–230.
- 2 W. A. Phillip, Thermal-energy conversion: under pressure, *Nat. Energy*, 2016, 1, 1–2.
- 3 C. Lu, Y. Yang, J. Wang, R. Fu, X. Zhao, L. Zhao, Y. Ming, Y. Hu, H. Lin, X. Tao, Y. Li and W. Chen, Highperformance graphdiyne-based electrochemical actuators, *Nat. Commun.*, 2018, **9**, 752.
- 4 M. Acerce, E. K. Akdogan and M. Chhowalla, Metallic molybdenum disulfide nanosheet-based electrochemical actuators, *Nature*, 2017, **549**, 370–373.
- 5 R. M. Erb, J. J. Martin, R. Soheilian, C. Pan and J. R. Barber, Actuating Soft Matter with Magnetic Torque, *Adv. Funct. Mater.*, 2016, **26**, 3859–3880.
- 6 Y. Hu, Z. Li, T. Lan and W. Chen, Photoactuators for Direct Optical-to-Mechanical Energy Conversion: From Nanocomponent Assembly to Macroscopic Deformation, *Adv. Mater.*, 2016, **28**, 10548–10556.
- 7 P. Commins, D. P. Karothu and P. Naumov, Is a Bent Crystal Still a Single Crystal?, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2019, **58**, 10052–10060.
- 8 M. Chen, B. Yao, M. Kappl, S. Liu, J. Yuan, R. Berger, F. Zhang, H. J. Butt, Y. Liu and S. Wu, Entangled Azobenzene-Containing Polymers with Photoinduced Reversible Solid-to-Liquid Transitions for Healable and Reprocessable Photoactuators, *Adv. Funct. Mater.*, 2019, **30**, 1906752.
- 9 D. D. Han, Y. L. Zhang, J. N. Ma, Y. Q. Liu, B. Han and H. B. Sun, Light-Mediated Manufacture and Manipulation of Actuators, *Adv. Mater.*, 2016, **28**, 8328–8343.
- 10 P. Naumov, S. Chizhik, M. K. Panda, N. K. Nath and E. Boldyreva, Mechanically Responsive Molecular Crystals, *Chem. Rev.*, 2015, **115**, 12440–12490.

- 11 E. Ahmed, D. P. Karothu and P. Naumov, Crystal Adaptronics: Mechanically Reconfigurable Elastic and Superelastic Molecular Crystals, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2018, 57, 8837–8846.
- 12 H. Ko and A. Javey, Smart Actuators and Adhesives for Reconfigurable Matter, *Acc. Chem. Res.*, 2017, **50**, 691–702.
- 13 S. Ikejiri, Y. Takashima, M. Osaki, H. Yamaguchi and A. Harada, Solvent-Free Photoresponsive Artificial Muscles Rapidly Driven by Molecular Machines, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2018, **140**, 17308–17315.
- 14 S. Y. Yang, X. L. Deng, R. F. Jin, P. Naumov, M. K. Panda, R. B. Huang, L. S. Zheng and B. K. Teo, Crystallographic snapshots of the interplay between reactive guest and host molecules in a porous coordination polymer: stereochemical coupling and feedback mechanism of three photoactive centers triggered by UV-induced isomerization, dimerization, and polymerization reactions, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2014, **136**, 558–561.
- 15 D. Kitagawa, K. Kawasaki, R. Tanaka and S. Kobatake, Mechanical Behavior of Molecular Crystals Induced by Combination of Photochromic Reaction and Reversible Single-Crystal-to-Single-Crystal Phase Transition, *Chem. Mater.*, 2017, **29**, 7524–7532.
- 16 M. F. Wang, Y. Mi, F. L. Hu, Z. Niu, X. H. Yin, Q. Huang, H. F. Wang and J. P. Lang, Coordination-Driven Stereospecific Control Strategy for Pure Cycloisomers in Solid-State Diene Photocycloaddition, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2020, **142**, 700–704.
- 17 W.-J. Gong, Z.-Y. Yang, Y.-X. Hong, D. Liu, Z. Niu, P. Braunstein and J.-P. Lang, Tetraolefin stereospecific photodimerization and photopolymerization in coordination polymers, *Sci. China: Chem.*, 2022, 65, 1867– 1872.
- 18 M. F. Wang, Y. Mi, F. L. Hu, H. Hirao, Z. Niu, P. Braunstein and J. P. Lang, Controllable multiple-step configuration transformations in a thermal/photoinduced reaction, *Nat. Commun.*, 2022, 13, 2847.
- 19 Z. Y. Yang, X. Sang, D. Liu, Q. Y. Li, F. Lang, B. F. Abrahams, H. Hou, P. Braunstein and J. P. Lang, Photopolymerization-Driven Macroscopic Mechanical Motions of a Composite Film Containing a Vinyl Coordination Polymer, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2023, **62**, e202302429.
- 20 T. Nishiuchi, K. Kisaka and T. Kubo, Synthesis of Anthracene-Based Cyclic pi-Clusters and Elucidation of their Properties Originating from Congested Aromatic Planes, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2021, **60**, 5400–5406.
- 21 K. Chen, J. Wang, Y. Feng, H. Liu, X. Zhang, Y. Hao, T. Wang, X. Huang and H. Hao, Multiple stimuli-responsive flexible crystal with 2D elastic bending, plastic twisting and photoinduced bending capabilities, *J. Mater. Chem. C*, 2021, 9, 16762–16770.
- 22 S. Hayashi and T. Koizumi, Elastic Organic Crystals of a Fluorescent pi-Conjugated Molecule, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2016, **55**, 2701–2704.
- 23 P. Gupta, D. P. Karothu, E. Ahmed, P. Naumov and N. K. Nath, Thermally Twistable, Photobendable,

Elastically Deformable, and Self-Healable Soft Crystals, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2018, **57**, 8498–8502.

- 24 S. Saha and G. R. Desiraju, Crystal Engineering of Hand-Twisted Helical Crystals, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2017, **139**, 1975–1983.
- 25 D. Kitagawa, H. Tsujioka, F. Tong, X. Dong, C. J. Bardeen and S. Kobatake, Control of Photomechanical Crystal Twisting by Illumination Direction, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2018, **140**, 4208– 4212.
- 26 T. Seki, T. Mashimo and H. Ito, Anisotropic strain release in a thermosalient crystal: correlation between the microscopic orientation of molecular rearrangements and the macroscopic mechanical motion, *Chem. Sci.*, 2019, **10**, 4185–4191.
- 27 K. Omoto, T. Nakae, M. Nishio, Y. Yamanoi, H. Kasai, E. Nishibori, T. Mashimo, T. Seki, H. Ito, K. Nakamura, N. Kobayashi, N. Nakayama, H. Goto and H. Nishihara, Thermosalience in Macrocycle-Based Soft Crystals via Anisotropic Deformation of Disilanyl Architecture, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2020, **142**, 12651–12657.
- 28 M. Jin, S. Yamamoto, T. Seki, H. Ito and M. A. Garcia-Garibay, Anisotropic Thermal Expansion as the Source of Macroscopic and Molecular Scale Motion in Phosphorescent Amphidynamic Crystals, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2019, **58**, 18003–18010.
- 29 Q. Chu, A. J. E. Duncan, G. S. Papaefstathiou, T. D. Hamilton, M. B. J. Atkinson, S. V. S. Mariappan and L. R. MacGillivray, Putting Cocrystal Stoichiometry to Work: A Reactive Hydrogen-Bonded "Superassembly" Enables Nanoscale Enlargement of a Metal-Organic Rhomboid via a Solid-State Photocycloaddition, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2018, 140, 4940–4944.
- 30 F. L. Hu, Y. Mi, C. Zhu, B. F. Abrahams, P. Braunstein and J. P. Lang, Stereoselective Solid-State Synthesis of Substituted Cyclobutanes Assisted by Pseudorotaxane-like MOFs, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2018, 57, 12696–12701.
- 31 F. Hu, W. Hao, D. Mucke, Q. Pan, Z. Li, H. Qi and Y. Zhao, Highly Efficient Preparation of Single-Layer Two-Dimensional Polymer Obtained from Single-Crystal to Single-Crystal Synthesis, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2021, **143**, 5636–5642.
- 32 I. E. Claassens, L. J. Barbour and D. A. Haynes, A Multistimulus Responsive Porous Coordination Polymer: Temperature-Mediated Control of Solid-State [2+2] Cycloaddition, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2019, 141, 11425–11429.
- 33 R.-R. Zhu, T. Wang, L. Zhao, L. He, F. Gao, L. Du and Q.-H. Zhao, Synthesis of carboxy-cyclobutane isomers combining an amide bond and self-assembly of coordination polymers in the solid state: controlling the reaction site of [2+2] cycloaddition by introducing a substituent group, *Inorg. Chem. Front.*, 2021, **8**, 1997–2007.
- 34 R. Medishetty, S. C. Sahoo, C. E. Mulijanto, P. Naumov and J. J. Vittal, Photosalient Behavior of Photoreactive Crystals, *Chem. Mater.*, 2015, 27, 1821–1829.
- 35 E. Hatano, M. Morimoto, T. Imai, K. Hyodo, A. Fujimoto,R. Nishimura, A. Sekine, N. Yasuda, S. Yokojima,S. Nakamura and K. Uchida, Photosalient Phenomena that

Mimic Impatiens Are Observed in Hollow Crystals of Diarylethene with a Perfluorocyclohexene Ring, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2017, **56**, 12576–12580.

- 36 T. Takeda, M. Ozawa and T. Akutagawa, Jumping Crystal of a Hydrogen-Bonded Organic Framework Induced by the Collective Molecular Motion of a Twisted pi System, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2019, **58**, 10345–10352.
- 37 R. Sassi, R. R. Bond, A. Cairns, D. D. Finlay, D. Guldenring,
 G. Libretti, L. Isola, M. Vaglio, R. Poeta, M. Campana,
 C. Cuccia and F. Badilini, PDF-ECG in clinical practice:
 a model for long-term preservation of digital 12-lead ECG
 data, J. Electrocardiol., 2017, 50, 776–780.
- 38 W. Jiang, D. Niu, H. Liu, C. Wang, T. Zhao, L. Yin, Y. Shi, B. Chen, Y. Ding and B. Lu, Photoresponsive Soft-Robotic Platform: Biomimetic Fabrication and Remote Actuation, *Adv. Funct. Mater.*, 2014, 24, 7598–7604.
- 39 Y. X. Shi, H. H. Chen, W. H. Zhang, G. S. Day, J. P. Lang and H. C. Zhou, Photoinduced Nonlinear Contraction Behavior in Metal-Organic Frameworks, *Chemistry*, 2019, 25, 8543– 8549.
- 40 S.-L. Chen, Y. Mi, F.-L. Hu, D. J. Young and J. Lang, Pore-Directed Solid-State Selective Photoinduced E–Z Isomerization and Dimerization within Metal–Organic Frameworks, *CCS Chem.*, 2023, 5, 1225–1232.
- 41 M. F. Wang, Y. H. Deng, Y. X. Hong, J. H. Gu, Y. Y. Cao, Q. Liu, P. Braunstein and J. P. Lang, In situ observation of a stepwise [2+2] photocycloaddition process using fluorescence spectroscopy, *Nat. Commun.*, 2023, 14, 7766.
- 42 V. Ramamurthy, S. Jockusch and M. Porel, Supramolecular Photochemistry in Solution and on Surfaces: Encapsulation and Dynamics of Guest Molecules and Communication between Encapsulated and Free Molecules, *Langmuir*, 2015, **31**, 5554–5570.
- 43 P. E. Danjou, G. De Leener, D. Cornut, S. Moerkerke, S. Mameri, A. Lascaux, J. Wouters, A. Brugnara, B. Colasson, O. Reinaud and I. Jabin, Supramolecular assistance for the selective demethylation of calixarenebased receptors, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2015, **80**, 5084–5091.
- 44 A. Inthasot, M. D. Dang Thy, M. Lejeune, L. Fusaro, O. Reinaud, M. Luhmer, B. Colasson and I. Jabin, Supramolecular assistance for the selective monofunctionalization of a calix[6]arene tris-carboxylic acid-based receptor, *J. Org. Chem.*, 2014, **79**, 1913–1919.
- 45 L. MacGillivray, G. Papefstathiou, T. Friščic, D. B. Varshney and T. D. Hamilton, *Top. Curr. Chem.*, 2005, **248**, 201–221.
- 46 E. Elacqua, P. Kaushik, R. H. Groeneman, J. C. Sumrak, D. K. Bucar and L. R. MacGillivray, A supramolecular protecting group strategy introduced to the organic solid state: enhanced reactivity through molecular pedal motion, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2012, **51**, 1037–1041.
- 47 S. Boz, M. Stohr, U. Soydaner and M. Mayor, Protectinggroup-controlled surface chemistry-organization and heatinduced coupling of 4,4'-di(tert-butoxycarbonylamino) biphenyl on metal surfaces, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2009, 48, 3179–3183.
- 48 Y. Chen, C. Yu, X. Zhu and Q. Yu, Photomechanical effects based on a one-dimensional Zn coordination polymer

crystal driven by [4 + 4] cycloaddition, *Dalton Trans.*, 2023, 52, 12194–12197.

- 49 Y. R. Chen, M. Z. Jia, J. Q. Pan, B. Tan and J. Zhang, Photomechanical behavior triggered by [2 + 2] cycloaddition and photochromism of a pyridiniumfunctionalized coordination complex, *Dalton Trans.*, 2022, **51**, 6157–6161.
- 50 C. Cao, X. R. Xue, Q. Y. Li, M. J. Zhang, B. F. Abrahams and J. P. Lang, Phase Transition-Promoted Rapid Photomechanical Motions of Single Crystals of a Triene Coordination Polymer, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2023, **62**, e202306048.
- 51 H.-L. Wang, J.-F. Ai, Y.-F. Wang, S. Yu, Y.-L. Li, Z.-H. Zhu and H.-H. Zou, In Situ Reaction and Coordination Site Regulation to Form Binuclear Dysprosium Complexes with Different Connections and Magnetic Properties, *Cryst. Growth Des.*, 2022, **22**, 4680–4688.
- 52 A. M. Swarbrook, R. J. Weekes, J. W. Goodwin and C. S. Hawes, Ligand isomerism fine-tunes structure and

stability in zinc complexes of fused pyrazolopyridines, *Dalton Trans.*, 2022, **51**, 1056–1069.

- 53 X. X. Fan, H. Y. Wang, B. Zhang, X. Q. Kang, J. Z. Gu and J. J. Xue, Six metal-organic architectures from a 5methoxyisophthalate linker: assembly, structural variety and catalytic features, *RSC Adv.*, 2023, **13**, 23745–23753.
- 54 Y. Yue, Y. Norikane, R. Azumi and E. Koyama, Light-induced mechanical response in crosslinked liquid-crystalline polymers with photoswitchable glass transition temperatures, *Nat. Commun.*, 2018, **9**, 3234.
- 55 J. Troyano, A. Carne-Sanchez and D. Maspoch, Programmable Self-Assembling 3D Architectures Generated by Patterning of Swellable MOF-Based Composite Films, *Adv. Mater.*, 2019, **31**, e1808235.
- 56 Y. X. Shi, W. H. Zhang, B. F. Abrahams, P. Braunstein and J. P. Lang, Fabrication of Photoactuators: Macroscopic Photomechanical Responses of Metal-Organic Frameworks to Irradiation by UV Light, *Angew Chem. Int. Ed. Engl.*, 2019, **58**, 9453–9458.