

## MS30 Advanced porous materials : MOFs, COFs, SOFs....and what else?

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Multivariate frameworks and the eye of the beholder

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### Abstract

Multivariate frameworks are reticular structures where specific sites can host chemically different building block alternatives. Or... are they?

The ever-astounding diversity of reticular structures such as metal–organic frameworks (MOFs) entered new territories since chemists started to explore the synthesis of crystalline MOFs with aperiodic composition.<sup>1</sup> Most importantly, short-range sequences of functionalities in these so-called ‘multivariate’ frameworks were found to confer functions otherwise unachievable.<sup>2</sup> While the resulting enthusiasm drives the pursuit of better synthetic control and the search for new functional behaviours, crystallographers and structural chemists might wonder: What precisely is multivariation? Is it limited to composition? How can we classify multivariate frameworks according to sensible and useful criteria?<sup>3</sup>

This contribution will delve into these still largely unanswered questions, thereby highlighting another prominent issue in reticular chemistry: How can we characterize framework multivariation? Our recent research on single-crystal total scattering of MOFs offered some insights on how all these questions could be addressed, leading to a renewed viewpoint on reticular materials and their structural understanding.

### References

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2. Q. Liu, H. Cong, H. Deng, "Deciphering the Spatial Arrangement of Metals and Correlation to Reactivity in Multivariate Metal–Organic Frameworks". *Journal of the American Chemical Society* 138, 13822–13825 (2016).
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