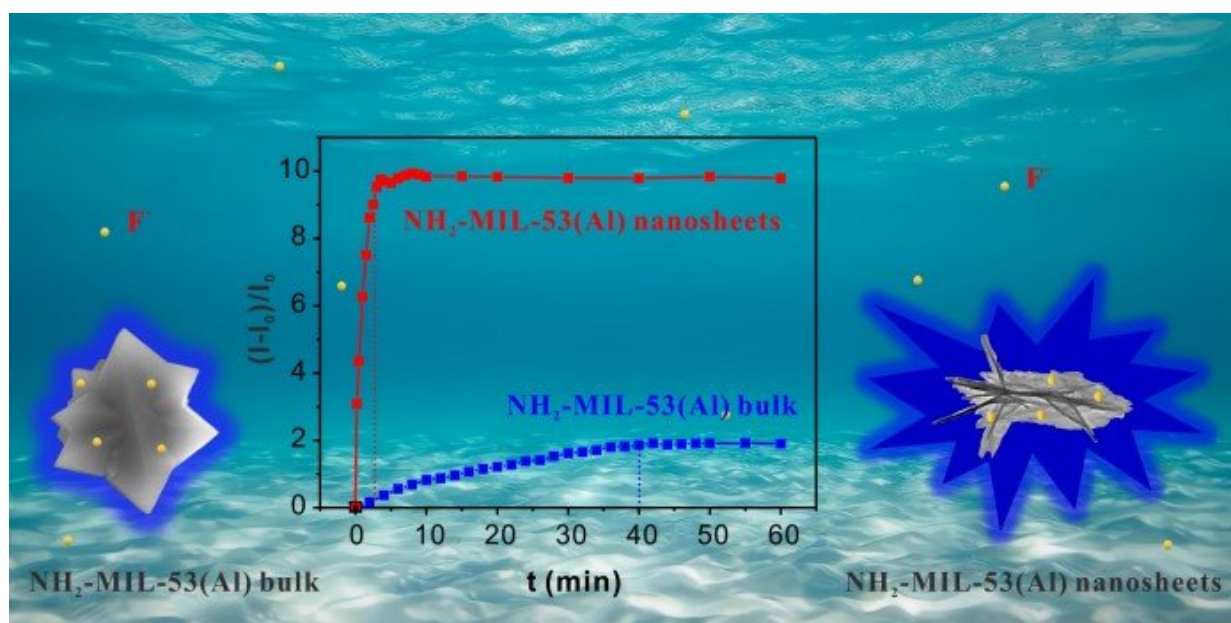


The advantage of 2D metal-organic framework nanosheets in sensing applications

July 26 2021, by Zhang Nannan



Graphical abstract. Credit: LI Xixuan

In recent years, fluorescent metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) have been demonstrated as a promising strategy for constructing sensors. However, most of the research studies on fluorescent MOF sensors have focused on the design and synthesis of three-dimensional (3D) MOF crystals on the order of micrometers and have not exerted the best detection performance of MOF structures. Two-dimensional (2D) MOF

nanosheets have the potential to break the limitations of 3D MOFs in sensitivity, response speed etc, due to the ultra-thin morphology, larger specific surface area and more exposed active sites.

In a study published in *Dalton Transactions*, a team led by Prof. Xu Weihong from the Hefei Institutes of Physical Science (HFIPS) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) reported a [comparative study](#) about the detection performance of fluorescent 2D metal-organic framework (MOF) nanosheets and 3D bulky MOFs, highlighting the advantages of 2D versions.

In this work, fluorescent 2D NH₂-MIL-53(Al) nanosheets were developed as a fluoride detection sensor. By comparing it with a 3D bulk counterpart, the researchers found it exhibited excellent fluorescence stability, and high selectivity towards fluoride in water through the fluorescence-enhanced sensing behavior.

"The response speed of the nanosheets was as short as 10 seconds," said Prof. Xu, "limit of detection was lower, and linear detection ranges towards fluoride was wider. All performances were better than those of their bulk counterpart."

Additionally, a [sensing mechanism](#) was investigated based on the transformation of the NH₂-MIL-53(Al) [framework](#) that induced the release of fluorescent ligands resulting in an exceptionally enhanced fluorescence.

More information: Zixuan Li et al, Fluoride sensing performance of fluorescent NH₂-MIL-53(Al): 2D nanosheets vs. 3D bulk, *Dalton Transactions* (2021). [DOI: 10.1039/D1DT00666E](https://doi.org/10.1039/D1DT00666E)

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