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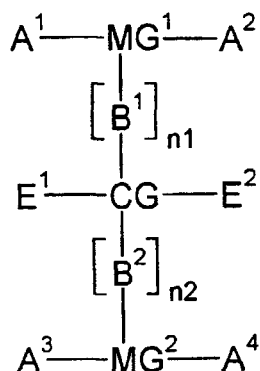
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(I)

(57) Abstract: A compound is of formula (I), in which: A¹ to A⁴, E¹ and E² each independently represent hydrogen or an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group; B¹ and B² each independently represent a single bond, an oxygen atom or an optionally-substituted hydrocarbon group; MG¹ and MG² each independently represent an optionally-substituted ring system; CG is a divalent or polyvalent chiral group. The optically active compound may be used as a doping agent for liquid crystals for a wide range of applications including solid state cholesteric filters for projection displays, circular polarisers, optical filters, etc.