INS studies of the Adsorption of Small Molecules in Metal Organics Frameworks

Timmy Ramirez-Cuesta ISIS Facility, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory STFC, UK



Diamond (Synchrotron) OLF (Central Laser facility) ISIS (Neutron and Muon Science facility)











High-resolution Spectroscopy at a Pulsed Neutron Source



Inelastic Neutron Scattering Spectroscopy





The S(Q,ω) Map



ω=0

Elastic Scattering Diff Structural Information

Diffraction

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The S(Q,ω) Map

ZnX 8.022g 1.81A 152cc nH2 T=1 K



Trajectory in (Q,ω) space



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Powder Average



Uniform sampling of the Brillouin zone

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Calculation of INS spectra, the Scattering Law

$$S^{\bullet}(\boldsymbol{Q}, \omega_{v})_{l}^{n} = y \sigma_{l} \frac{\left[\left(\boldsymbol{Q} \cdot \boldsymbol{v} \boldsymbol{u}_{l} \right)^{2} \right]^{n}}{n!} \exp \left(- \left(\boldsymbol{Q} \cdot \sum_{v} \boldsymbol{v} \boldsymbol{u}_{l} \right)^{2} \right)$$

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Di-hydrogen in Porous Materials & Surfaces

Probing the interactions of H molecules with the host material Characterization of the interaction strength

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The Theory



•H₂ ground state (J=0) parahydrogen (p-H₂) antisymmetric nuclear spin wavefunction (↑↓) and symmetric rotational wavefunction.
•The first notational state (J=1) orthology (a H) symmetric nuclear spin (a H) symmetric nuclear spin (b H).

- •The first rotational state, (*J*=1) orthohydrogen (o-H₂) symmetric nuclear spin wavefunction (↑↑) and antisymmetric rotational wavefunction.
- Transitions $p-H_2 \Leftrightarrow o-H_2$ are detected with neutrons because neutrons exchange spin states with the H₂ molecule.

In solid dihydrogen, H₂ molecules rotate equally freely about all three axes and have the rotational constant *B* with the same value that in gas phase (B=59.6 cm⁻¹). Its energy levels are:

$$E_J = J \cdot (J+1) \cdot B$$

The minimum separation between energy levels is

$$\Delta E = 2B$$



The Interactions

- •A hydrogen compound that has a value of B=29.3 cm⁻¹, H₃ would do the trick, D₂ also works.
- •A hindered H_2 rotor constrained to move in two dimensions.

The potential that governs the motion of a H_2 molecule on a surface may be expressed as

$$V(\theta,\phi,z) = K(z-z_0)^2 + \sin^2\theta \cdot (a+b\cdot\cos\phi)$$

- a > 0 the molecule is aligned to an axis (1D case).
- *a*<0 the molecule is constrained in a plane (2D case)
- The splitting between levels is 1*B* if *a* is large and negative, because the energy levels are:

$$E_{2D} = J^2 B$$



The Energy Levels



What are we expecting?



Interaction of graphite with Hydrogen



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Interaction of graphite with Hydrogen



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Character of H₂ adsorbed in a redox-active Fe-containing Metal-Organic Framework

Wendy Queen, Craig Brown, Timmy Ramirez-Cuesta







Fig 1 [001] view of Fe₂(dobdc) loaded with 2.25 D₂ / Fe²⁺. Orange, gray, red spheres represent Fe, C, and O respectively. The box contains a close up view of the framework wall, showing closest inter D₂ / D₂ and D₂ / framework interactions (drawn as dotted lines) along the channel. Three D₂ sites, determined by powder neutron diffraction, are labeled as I, II, and III in order of binding strength.



Fig 2 Excess H_2 adsorption isotherms collected for Fe2(dobdc) (green) and Fe₂(O₂)(dobdc) (black) at 77 K. Filled and open circles represent adsorption and desorption, respectively. Inset: Isosteric heats of adsorption (-Qst) plotted as a function of adsorbed H_2 for both Fe₂(dobdc) and the oxidized analog.

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Fig. 3 INS spectra recorded at 20 K for loadings of 0.5 (black), 1.0 (green), 2.25 (orange), 3.0.(blue), and 3.75 (grey) $p-H_2$ / Fe²⁺ in Fe₂(dobdc). The data were obtained following subtraction of the spectrum of the evacuated framework.

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Thermal Stability of porous structures **AI MIL 53** Collaboration: Craig Brown, Timmy Ramirez-Cuesta



Al-MIL 53 opening





Figure 2. (Left panel) Inelastic neutron scattering spectra of MIL-53(AI) measured at room temperature for the HT phase (solid circles) and the prodominantly LT phase (open circles, labeled "Quench"). (Right panel) Simultaneously measured diffraction patterns of the HT and LT phases with the largest d-spacing reflections noted for each phase. Error bars indicate one standard deviation of the counting statistics.



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JACS, 2008, 130 (35) 11813

MIL-53 AL, closed structure



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INS of MIL-53 AL



Figure 5. The comparison of the vibration frequency of MIL-53 at the LT phase obtained by the DFT calculation and the neutron scattering experiments. The solid cycle represent the results measured by an **February 21** inelastic neutron scattering instrument, and the thick line is obtained with the DFT calculation.

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What drives the phase transition?

- Look at all the modes in the solid (Gamma point)
- Found the most anharmonic
- Solution of the Schrödinger equation
- Negative modes
- Also seen in Cu BTC (Angewandte Chemie International Edition, 49 (2010) 585)



PES for the anharmonic mode Closed Structure



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Energy Levels for the anharmonic modes Open Structure






Microporous Al-MOF NOTT-300



Martin Schroeder, Sihai Yang, Sam Callear Timmy Ramirez-Cuesta



Microporous Al-MOF NOTT-300



1D pore channels

Pore size 6.5x6.5 Å²

Pore volume 0.40 cc/g

Specific surface area 1800 m²/g

H_2 in NOTT-300



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H₂ in NOTT-300



H₂ does not interact with OH groups

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CO₂ in NOTT-300



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Strong affinity to CO_2 and SO_2 But not to N_2 and O_2

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CO₂ in NOTT-300 Modelling



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CO₂ in NOTT-300 Modelling





CO₂ in NOTT-300 Modelling





Unstable structures Negative Modes





Unstable structures **Negative Modes**



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the end of the end of

A binding site to behold

ENZYME DESIGN Reprogramming reactivity

RNA CATALYSIS onsequences of compartmentalization

MATERIALS CHARACTERIZATION Catalysts singled out nature chemistry

Selectivity and direct visualization of carbon

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 23 SEPTEMBER 2012 | DOI: 10.1038/NCHEM.145

dioxide and sulfur dioxide in a decorated porous host

Sihai Yang¹*, Junliang Sun², Anibal J. Ramirez-Cuesta³, Samantha K. Callear³, William I. F. David^{3,4}, Daniel P. Anderson¹, Ruth Newby¹, Alexander J. Blake¹, Julia E. Parker⁵, Chiu C. Tang⁵ and Martin Schröder¹*

Understanding the mechanism by which porous solids trap harmful gases such as CO₂ and SO₂ is essential for the design of new materials for their selective removal. Materials functionalized with aming groups dominate this field, largely because of their potential to form carbamates through H_N($\hat{\alpha}$)—C($\hat{\alpha}$)>O₂ interactions, thereby trapping CO₂ covalently. However, the use of these materials is energy-intensive, with significant environmental impact. Here, we report a non-amine-containing porous solid (NOTT-300) in which hydroxyl groups within pores bind CO₂ and SO₂ selectively. In situ powder X-ray diffraction and inelastic neutron scattering studies, combined with modelling, reveal that hydroxyl groups bind CO₂ and SO₂ through the formation of O=(C)= $O(\hat{\alpha}$)—H($\hat{\alpha}$)>O hydrogen bonds, which are reinforced by weak supramolcular interactions with C-H atoms on the aromatic rings of the framework. This offers the potential for the application of new 'easy-on/easy-off' capture systems for CO₂ and SO₂ that carry fewer economic and environmental penalties.

The efficient removal of CO₂ and SO₂ represents a major challeage in the development of the 'low-carbon conomy'. At present, solutions of organic amine are widely used to costs associated with the substantial energy input required for the regeneration of the amine solutions, as well as their highly corrosive nature, significantly limit their long-term application³². Powerful drivers therefore exist to develop efficient strategies to remove CO₂ using alternative materials that simultaneously demonstrate high adsorption capacity, high selectivity and high rates of regeneration at an economically viable cost.

Porous metal-organic framework (MOF) complexes4 are a subclass of coordination polymers that show great promise for gas storage and separation because of their high surface area and tunable functional pore environment⁵⁻¹⁰. Within the field of gas capture, there is particular emphasis on optimizing the interactions between the MOF hosts and the adsorbed gas molecules, leading to the discovery of new functional materials with better capture properties11,12. Accordingly, the identification of preferred adsorption sites within a pore structure and the direct visualization of binding interactions represent important methodologies for understanding the mechanisms for the selective capture of CO2 and SO2. In situ single-crystal diffraction has been used previously to determine the locations of CO₂ within an amine-functionalized MOF, providing an invaluable² structural rationale for its high binding energy¹³⁻¹⁵. However, it is critical to the success of this technique that the MOF complex retains a high degree of crystallinity upon inclusion and removal of guest molecules. This is usually dif-ficult to achieve, particularly for those MOFs that feature extra-large pore cavities16. Furthermore, static crystallographic studies cannot

provide insights into the dynamics of the crystal lattice and gas molecules upon gas loading. Here, we report the novel application of in situ inelastic neutron scattering (INS) combined with density functional theory (DFT) calculations to permit direct visualization of the dynamics of the binding interaction between adsorbed XO₂ (X=C, S) molecules and a metal-hydroxyl-functionalized porous solid (NOTT-300) exhibiting high chemical and thermal stability, as well as high selectivity and uptake capacity for CO₃ and SO₂. In addition, in situ high-resolution powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) has been used to probe the preferred binding sites for both CO₂ and SO₃. Doc.

ARTICLES

These complementary experiments using dynamic and static techniques lead to the same conclusion: the active hydroxyl groups within the pore channels interac directly with CO₂ and SO₂ through the formation of A1-OHL-OD=C(S)=O hydrogen bonds, supplemented by weaker phenyl C-H-O=C(S)=O supramolecular contacts surrounding the pore (Fig. 1).

Results and discussion

Synthesis and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) characterization. The solvated framework complex [Al₂(OH)₂(C₄₆O₄H₂)(H₂O)₆ (NOTT-300-solvate) was prepared by hydrothermal reaction of H₄L¹ (biphenyl-33',55'tetracarboxylic acid) and Al(NO₃)₂/9H₂O in water containing HNO₃, and was isolated as a microcrystalline material TEM images confirmed that the crystal have a uniform morphology (~1 µm plates; Supplementary Fig. S7). Compared to traditional methods for the production of MOF materials, the synthetic conditions developed here for NOTT-300-solvate can be viewed as constituting agreen synthesis', not only because no organic

¹School of Chamidry, University of Nattingham, University Park, Nattingham, NG 7280, UK, ¹College of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering, Pelving University, Beijng 10097, China, ¹St Schällty, Ruhmerbolt Applicata Laboratory, Chithon, Ordfordhime, CNII OOX, UK, ¹Onganic Chemistry Laboratory, University of Oxford, South Parks Boad, CNX 300, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, UK, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, Didoot, Oxfordshire, CNXI ODX, ¹Ohannord Light Source, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, ¹Ohannord Light Source, ¹Oha

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Conclusions

- INS is a technique ideally suited to study hydrogen containing materials.
- The rotational line of hydrogen can be use to determine the interaction of the hydrogen molecule with porous materials and the nature of the adsorption site.
- Zeolites and MOF's show a very strong interaction with molecular hydrogen. For some applications they may be tailored as hydrogen storage materials.
- INS can look at the adsorption of non-hydrogenous materials when the substrate contains hydrogen by the changes induced by the adsorbed species
- Computer modelling is crucial in understanding the experimental results.
- When the experiments match the experiment, the conclusions from theory can be trusted.
- The stability of structures depends on the quantum nature of the motion, this can be important at low frequency modes



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Acknowledgements

ISIS/STFC Keith Refson Bill David Martin Owen Jones Sam Callear Laurent Chapon Jon Taylor Silvia Imberti

Reading University Philip Mitchell

Warwick University Richard Walton

AJ (Tiphty) Ramirez-Cuesta University of Versailles Frank Millage

CNR (Italy) Danielle Colognesi Marco Zoppi Alessandra Gianassi

NIST Craig Brown



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 February 21, 2013

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