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

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#### 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



•H<sub>2</sub> ground state (J=0) parahydrogen (p-H<sub>2</sub>) 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) (b

- •The first rotational state, (*J*=1) orthohydrogen (o-H<sub>2</sub>) 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 H<sub>2</sub> molecule.

In solid dihydrogen, H<sub>2</sub> 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<sup>-1</sup>). 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<sup>-1</sup>, H<sub>3</sub> would do the trick, D<sub>2</sub> 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 H<sub>2</sub> adsorbed in a redox-active Fe-containing Metal-Organic Framework

Wendy Queen, Craig Brown, Timmy Ramirez-Cuesta







**Fig 1** [001] view of Fe<sub>2</sub>(dobdc) loaded with 2.25 D<sub>2</sub> / Fe<sup>2+</sup>. Orange, gray, red spheres represent Fe, C, and O respectively. The box contains a close up view of the framework wall, showing closest inter D<sub>2</sub> / D<sub>2</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> / framework interactions (drawn as dotted lines) along the channel. Three D<sub>2</sub> 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 Fe<sub>2</sub>(O<sub>2</sub>)(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 Fe<sub>2</sub>(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)  $p-H_2$  / Fe<sup>2+</sup> in Fe<sub>2</sub>(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 Å<sup>2</sup>

Pore volume 0.40 cc/g

Specific surface area 1800 m<sup>2</sup>/g

## $H_2$ in NOTT-300



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## H<sub>2</sub> in NOTT-300



H<sub>2</sub> does not interact with OH groups

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## CO<sub>2</sub> 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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## CO<sub>2</sub> in NOTT-300 Modelling

![](_page_41_Figure_1.jpeg)

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## CO<sub>2</sub> in NOTT-300 Modelling

![](_page_42_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_3.jpeg)

## CO<sub>2</sub> in NOTT-300 Modelling

![](_page_43_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_3.jpeg)

## Unstable structures Negative Modes

![](_page_44_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_3.jpeg)

## Unstable structures **Negative Modes**

![](_page_45_Figure_1.jpeg)

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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

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#### dioxide and sulfur dioxide in a decorated porous host

Sihai Yang<sup>1</sup>\*, Junliang Sun<sup>2</sup>, Anibal J. Ramirez-Cuesta<sup>3</sup>, Samantha K. Callear<sup>3</sup>, William I. F. David<sup>3,4</sup>, Daniel P. Anderson<sup>1</sup>, Ruth Newby<sup>1</sup>, Alexander J. Blake<sup>1</sup>, Julia E. Parker<sup>5</sup>, Chiu C. Tang<sup>5</sup> and Martin Schröder<sup>1</sup>\*

Understanding the mechanism by which porous solids trap harmful gases such as CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> 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( $\hat{\alpha}$ )>O<sub>2</sub> interactions, thereby trapping CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> selectively. In situ powder X-ray diffraction and inelastic neutron scattering studies, combined with modelling, reveal that hydroxyl groups bind CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> through the formation of  $O = C(S) = O(\hat{\alpha}) - H(\hat{\alpha})^{-1}O$  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 CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> that carry fewer economic and environmental penalties.

The efficient removal of CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> 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 application<sup>32</sup>. Powerful drivers therefore exist to develop efficient strategies to remove CO<sub>2</sub> 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 environment<sup>5-10</sup>. 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 CO<sub>2</sub> within an amine-functionalized MOF, providing an invaluable<sup>2</sup> structural rationale for its high binding energy<sup>13-15</sup>. 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 XO<sub>2</sub> (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 CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>. In addition, in situ high-resolution powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) has been used to probe the preferred binding sites for both CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>.

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These complementary experiments using dynamic and static techniques lead to the same conclusion: the active hydroxyl groups within the pore channels interaci directly with CO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> 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 [Al<sub>2</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub>(C<sub>46</sub>O<sub>4</sub>H<sub>2</sub>)(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub> (NOTT-300-solvate) was prepared by hydrothermal reaction of H<sub>4</sub>L<sup>1</sup> (biphenyl-33',55'tetracarboxylic acid) and Al(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>/9H<sub>2</sub>O in water containing HNO<sub>3</sub>, 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

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![](_page_46_Picture_19.jpeg)

## 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

![](_page_47_Picture_9.jpeg)

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![](_page_49_Picture_1.jpeg)

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NIST Craig Brown

![](_page_50_Picture_8.jpeg)

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