Increasing the hydrogen storage capacity of IRMOF-1 via applied electric fields

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Physical vs Solid State Storage



Stetson N. An overview of U.S. DOE's activities for hydrogen fuel cell technologies. Clearwater, Florida, America, 2/27/2012.



interstitial hydrides ~100-150 g H₂/L

complex hydrides

~70-150 g H₂/L



chemical storage ~70-150 g H₂/L







111 g H₂/L

H₂ Storage in Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs)

MOF	BET m²/g	Langmuir m²/g	P(bar)	T(K)	wt%	g/l	Q _{st} (kJ/mol)
MIL-101		5500	80	298	0.43	1.84	10
			80	77	6.1	26.1	
HKUST- 1	1154	1958	50	77	3.6		4.5
			65	298	0.35		
IRMOF-6	2804	3305	45	77	4.63	31.7	

Chem. Soc. Rev. **38**, 1294 (2009)



• DOE: 40g/L, 5.5wt% (2020) 70g/L, 7.5wt% (final)

- Need Q_{st}~15-20kJ/mol
- How to increase binding?

Electric Field Controlled Physisorption



Enhancing H₂ Adsorption via Electric Fields

Polarization mediated binding



PRL 68, 2277 (1992)

2D sheets: graphene, BN, AIN, B/C/N



PNAS 107, 2801 (2010), CARBON 47, 3452 (2009), Struct Chem 22, 1039 (2011), J. Nanopart. Res. 14, 1256 (2012), Int. J. Hy. En. 37, 11842 (2012).

- Induced dipole-dipole interactions
 - \rightarrow improved binding energies.
- For fields > 0.01a.u.~5GV/m. DOE storage limits
 - can be reached.
- E=0.045 \rightarrow Optimal binding energy.

Enhancing H₂ Adsorption via Electric Fields



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Metal-Organic Frameworks as Storage Media

 $ZnO_4 + BDC = IRMOF - 1$



- \sim 5000m²/g pore surface
- nm-size communicating pores.
- <u>Small adsorption enthalpies (3-</u> <u>7kJ/mol)</u>.



Binding Energies in Electric Field: Linker



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Binding Energies in Electric Field: SBU



- E both enhance and decrease binding.
- $E_B \sim H_2$ orientation
- E=0.01a.u. ~ 20% change of E_B .

Extra: Simple Electrostatic Picture



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Relaxation of the Structure in Electric Field



• MOF atoms get polarized:

$$\delta \mathbf{r}_i = \mathbf{R}_i(\mathbf{E}) - \mathbf{R}_i$$
$$\delta \mathbf{p}_i = Z_i^* \delta \mathbf{r}_i$$

• Shell model: atom i: $q_i(\mathbf{E}) = q_i + Q_i$

dummy charge:

$$-\mathcal{Q}_{l}$$

$$Q_i = \frac{\delta |\mathbf{p}_i|}{d}$$

Adsorption Simulations



• Dipole-dipole interaction:

$$E = \frac{\mathbf{p}_1 \cdot \mathbf{p}_2 - 3(\mathbf{p}_1 \cdot \hat{r})(\mathbf{p}_2 \cdot \hat{r})}{4\pi\epsilon_0 r^3}$$

Our field is 9x smaller than 0.045a.u (PNAS 107, 2801 (2010))

$$H_2: p_1/9 \\ MOF: p_2/9$$

• →80 times less binding expected!

Larger Polarizability?



- We cannot increase E
 too much (Zener
 breakdown).
- Choose a more **polarizable** material?
- Larger pore field? $E_0 = 0.005$ $E \approx E_0 - \frac{4\pi}{3} \frac{P}{V} \approx 0.0045$

Conclusions and Further Questions



Angew. Chem., **123**, 11643 (2011).



Microporous and Mesoporous Materials, 159, 100, 2012



ACS Cent. Sci., 3 (5), 394 (2017)

- **E** cannot be too large:
 - Zener breakdown (material bandgap)
- Look for large polarizability:
 - Ferroelectric MOFs
 - Breathing MOFs?
 - Polarizable linker functions.