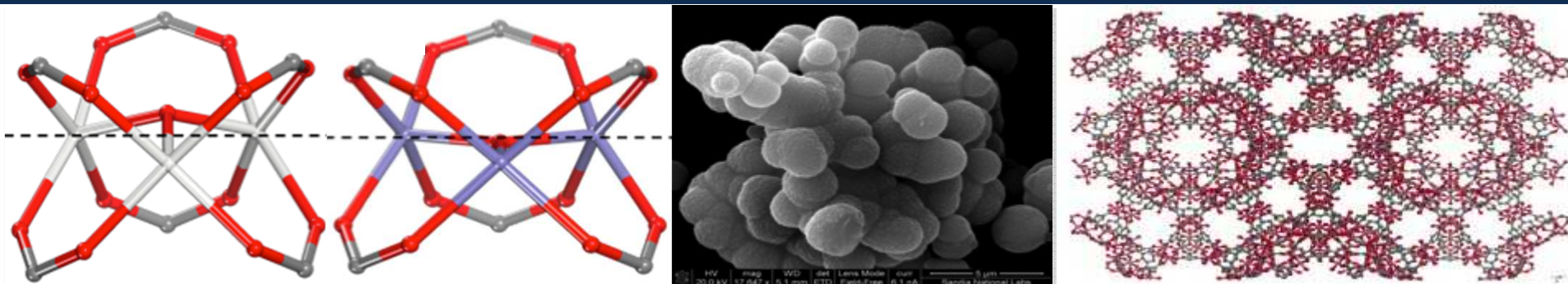


*Exceptional service in the national interest*



## Light Gas Separations with MOFs via Predictive Modeling and Tuned Synthesis

Tina M. Nenoff, Dorina F. Sava Gallis, Marie V. Parkes, Jeffery A. Greathouse, Mark A. Rodriguez, Karena W. Chapman\*

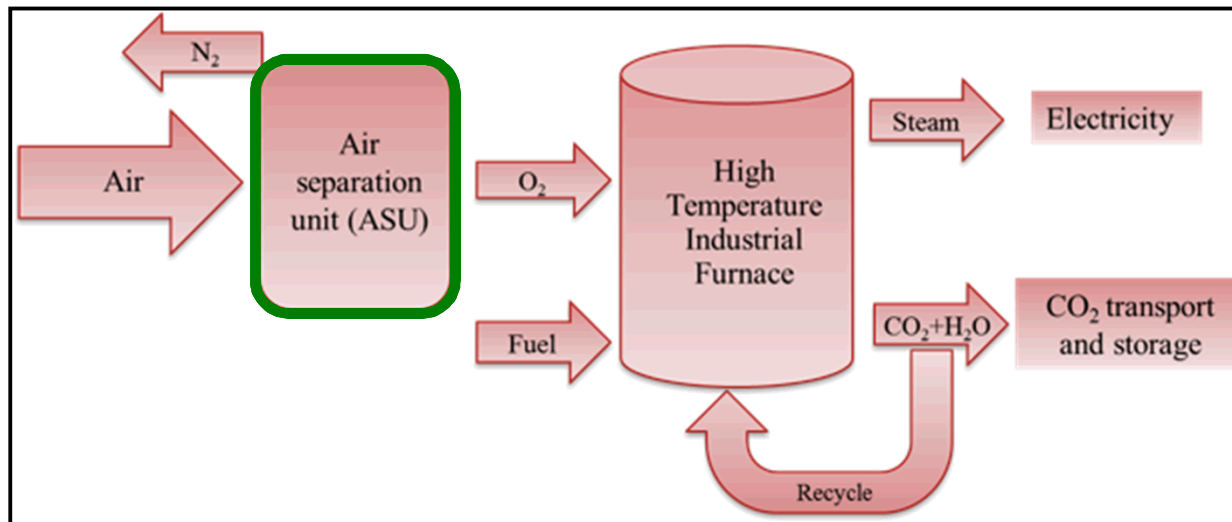
Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque NM USA

\*Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, IL USA

2016 Spring ACS Meeting,  
San Diego, CA    March 17, 2016

This work is supported by the Laboratory Directed Research and Development Program at Sandia National Laboratories. Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory managed and operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000. Work done at Argonne and use of the Advanced Photon Source, an Office of Science User Facility operated for the U.S. DOE/Office of Science by Argonne National Laboratory, was supported by the US DOE, Contract No. DE-AC02-06CH11357

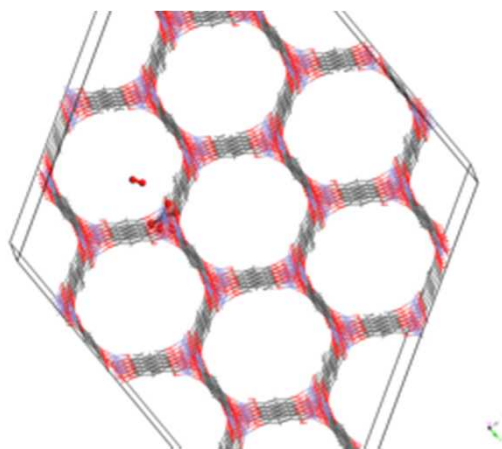
# O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> air separations with MOFs to Increase the Efficiency of the ASU



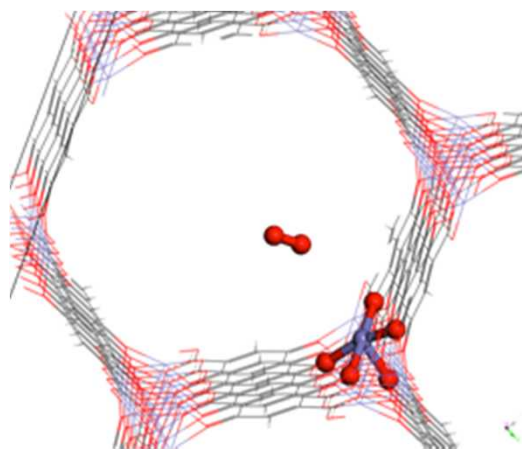
- Oxygen-enriched (oxy-fuel) combustion: burning the fossil fuel in an O<sub>2</sub> rich atmosphere results in a flue gas composed mainly of CO<sub>2</sub> and water (little or no SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions)
- The limiting factor of this technology is the efficiency of the Oxygen Purification Steps: **Cryogenic** ASU, a costly and energy intensive process (primarily compression) for 99+% purity, or **zeolites + PSA** for ~90-95% purity
- Our study is focused on new highly selective materials to increase the efficiency of this separation process

Goal: determine the O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> uptake dependency with temperature in MOFs with coordinatively unsaturated metal sites

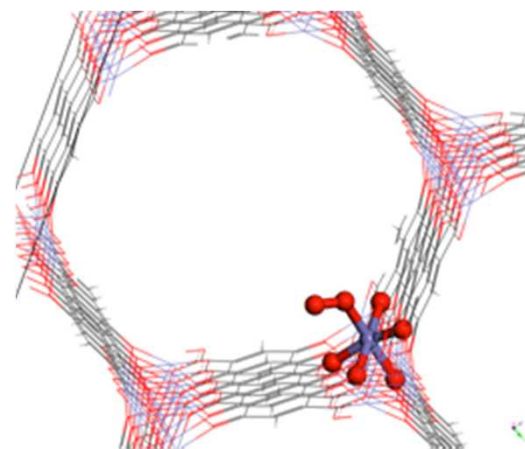
- MOFs with coordinatively unsaturated metal centers are promising materials for O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> separations
- Two prototypical MOFs from this category, **Cr<sub>2</sub>(BTC)<sub>3</sub>** (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2010**, *132*, 7856–7857) and **Fe<sub>2</sub>(DOBDC)** (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2011**, *133*, 14814–14822) both show preferential adsorption of O<sub>2</sub> over N<sub>2</sub>
- Plane wave DFT calculations were performed on periodic structures in the [Vienna Ab initio Simulation Package \(VASP\)](#)
- Binding geometries for side-on and bent O<sub>2</sub> and bent and linear geometries for N<sub>2</sub> were evaluated
- Static binding energies for O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> at 0 K



MOF with O<sub>2</sub> in pore

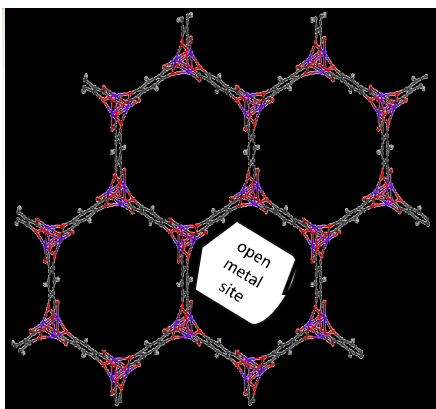


O<sub>2</sub> ready to bind to metal

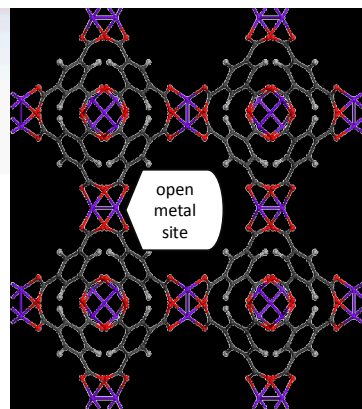


O<sub>2</sub> bound to metal

# DFT modeling of of Oxygen Adsorption in Varied Metal-Centered MOFs



$M_2(\text{dobdc})$



$M_3(\text{btc})_2$

**Plan wave density functional theory (DFT) calculations** were performed on periodic structures of each MOF in the Vienna ab initio simulation package (**VASP**) with the Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (**PBE**) functional including dispersion corrections (**DFT-D2**). Geometries were optimized and **static binding energies** ( $\Delta E_{O_2}, \Delta E_{N_2}$ ) were calculated by

$$\Delta E_{O_2} = E_{MOF+O_2} - E_{MOF} - E_{O_2}$$

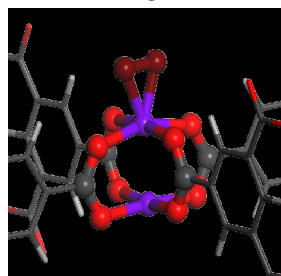
The **differences in binding energies** ( $\Delta \Delta E$ ) for oxygen and nitrogen were calculated by

$$\Delta \Delta E = -(\Delta E_{O_2} - \Delta E_{N_2})$$

MOF metal sites = separate  $O_2/N_2$  by differences in bonding & electronic properties

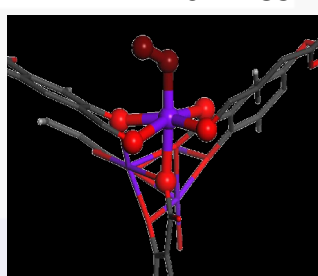
## Attention Paid to Bonding Geometries

**Side-on bonding**  
 $\angle M-X-X$   $67^\circ - 71^\circ$



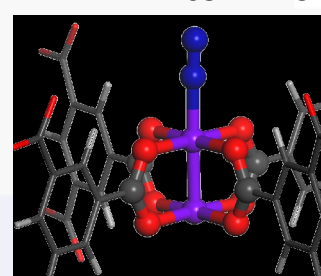
$\text{Cr}_3(\text{btc})_2(\text{O}_2)$

**Bent bonding**  
 $\angle M-X-X$   $116^\circ - 159^\circ$



$\text{Mn}_2(\text{dobdc})(\text{O}_2)$

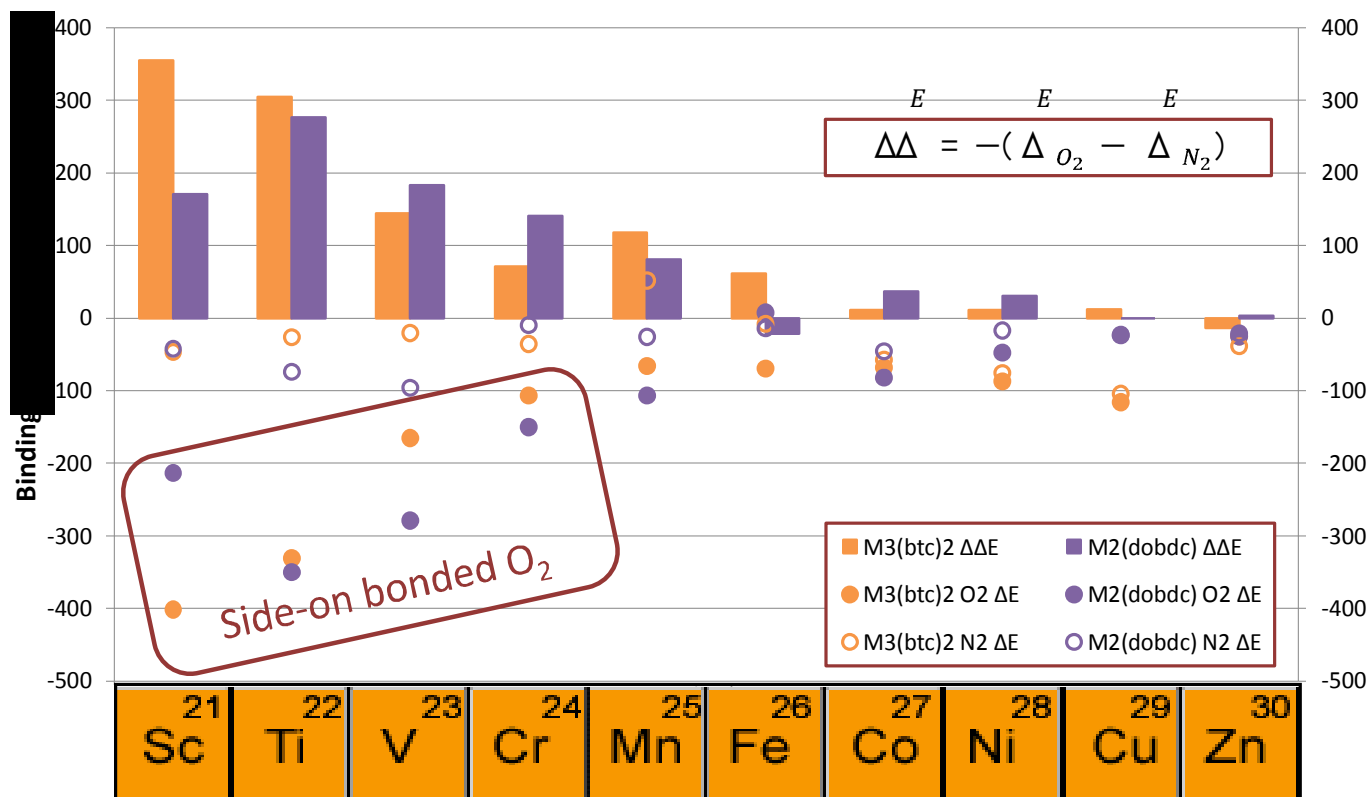
**Linear bonding**  
 $\angle M-X-X$   $165^\circ - 179^\circ$



$\text{Fe}_3(\text{btc})_2(\text{N}_2)$

# Transition to Quantum Calculations to Estimate Metal-Oxygen Binding Energy

Binding Energy Calculated as a Function of Metal Site



**Current Study:** Parkes, M.; Sava Gallis, D. F.; Greathouse, J.A.; Nenoff, T.M. "Using Ab Initio Molecular Dynamics to Examine Gas Adsorption on Open Metal Sites of M<sub>2</sub>(dobdc)" **2016**, submitted.

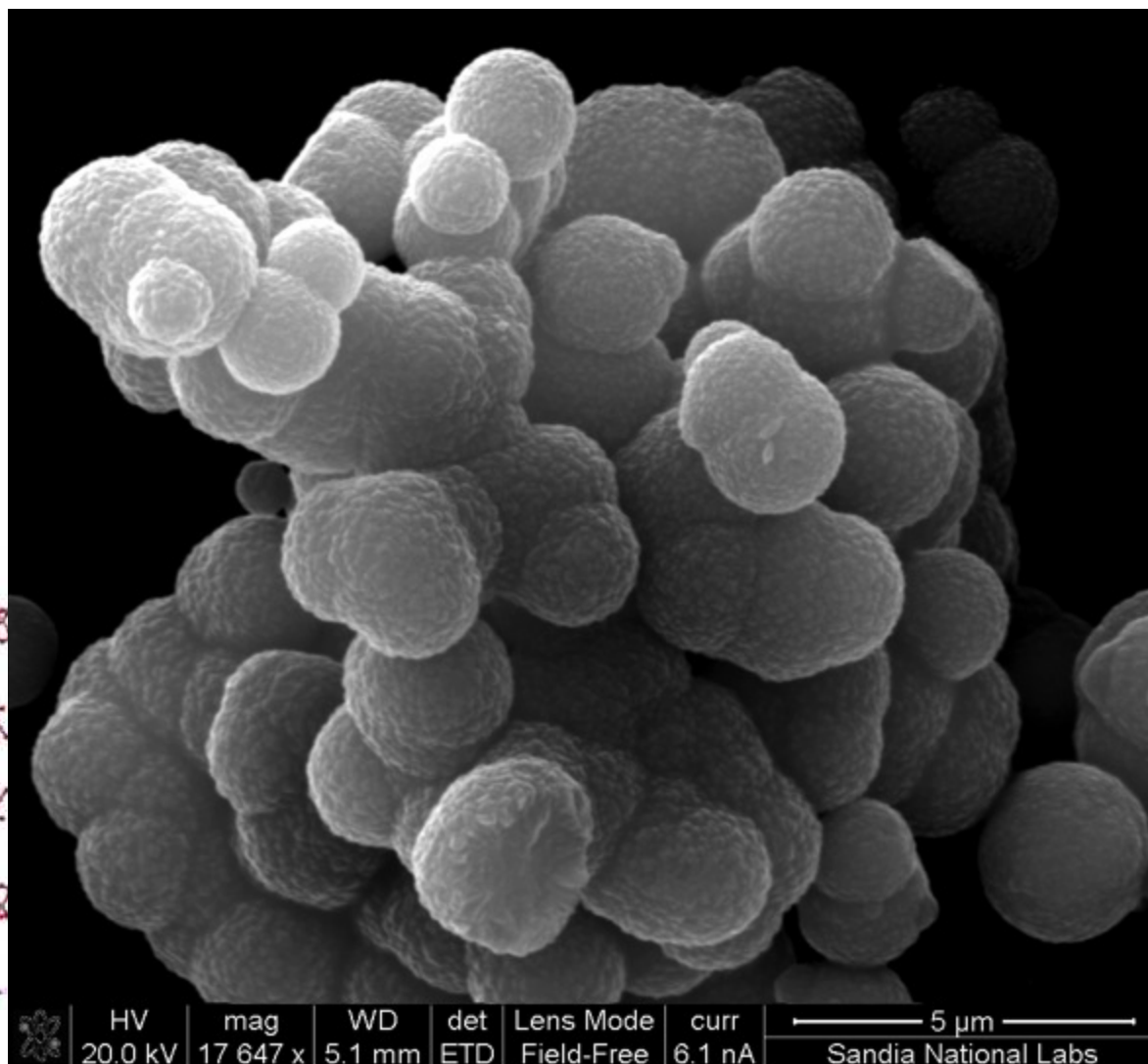
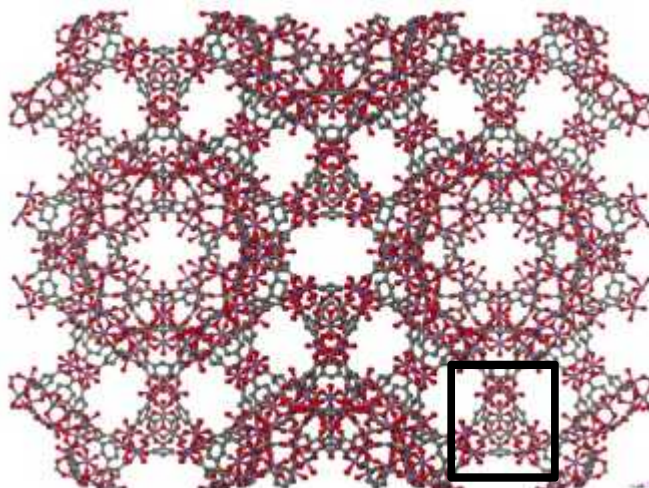


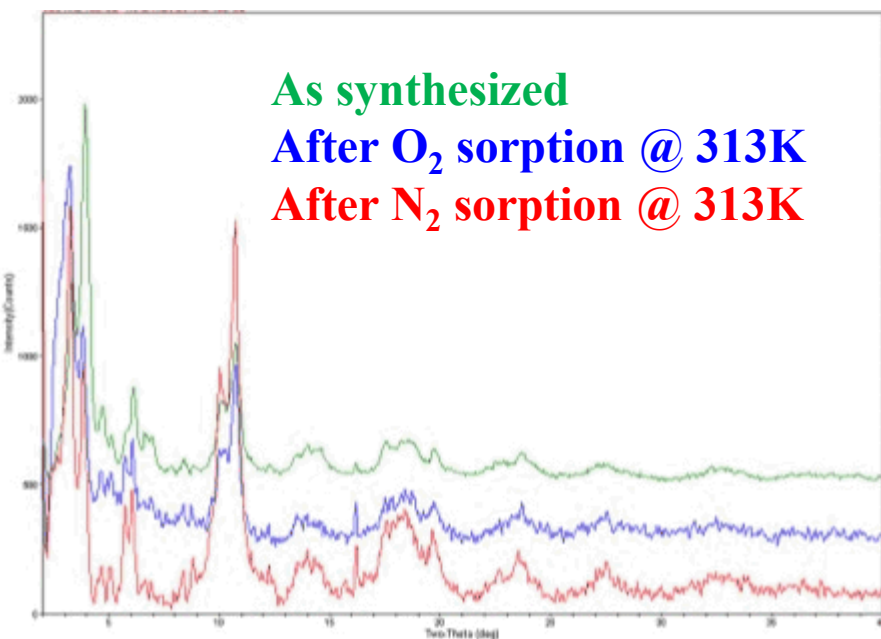
## Sc-MIL-100

### *Unique synthesis:*

Mixed  $\text{Sc}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot x\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and 1,3,5-benzetricarboxylic acid in N,N'-dimethylformamide and HCl.

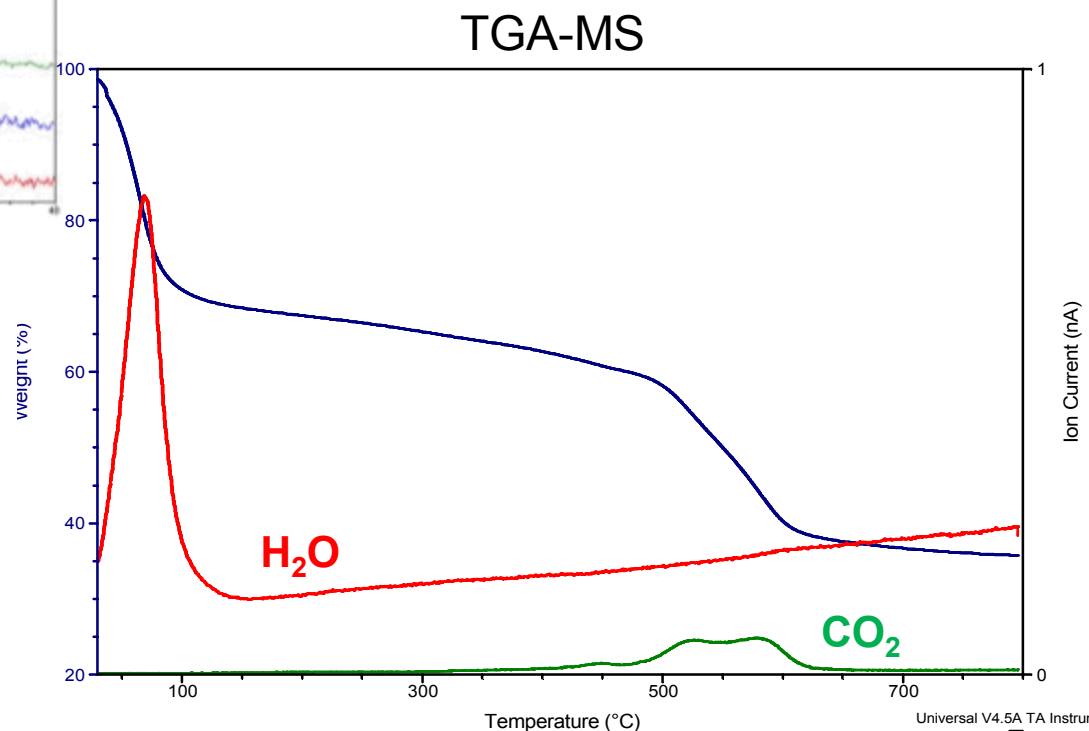
Heated to 373K overnight



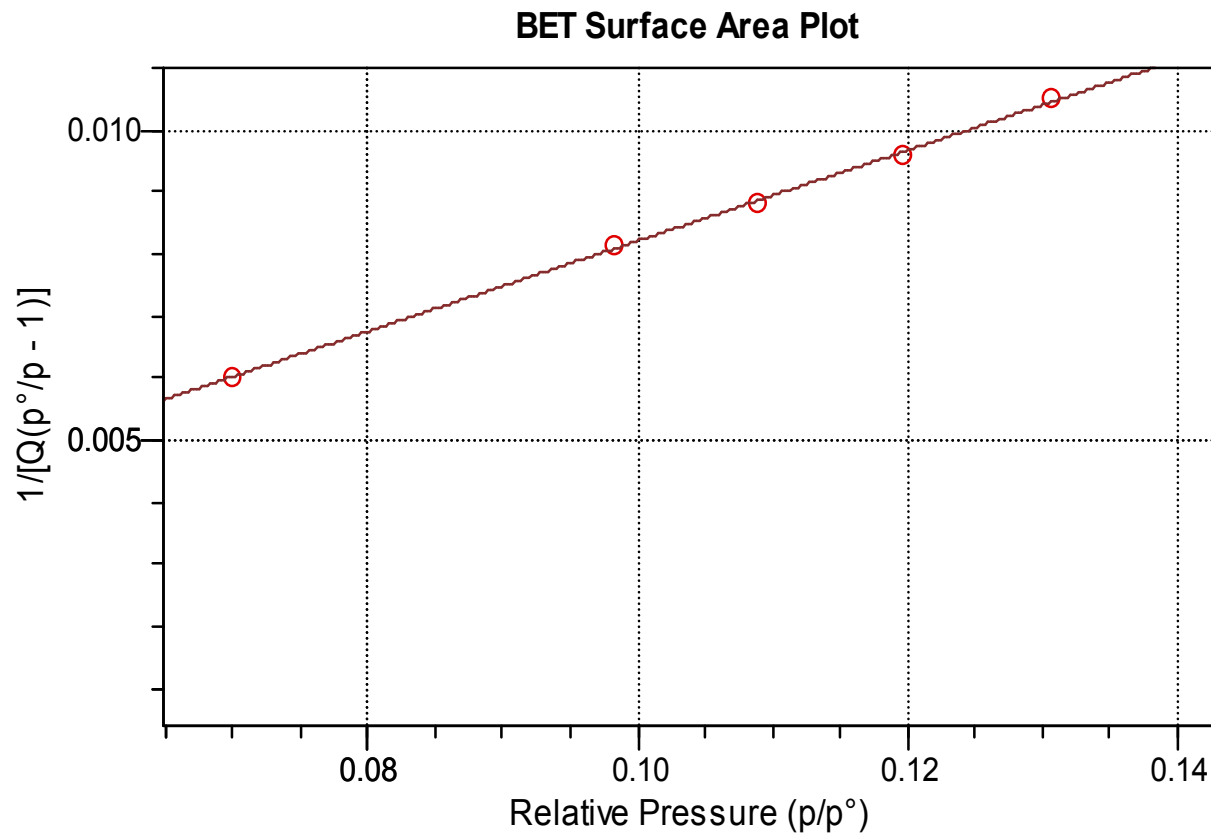


XRD

Stable MOF framework over Wide Temperature Range and with Exposure to Variety of Gases

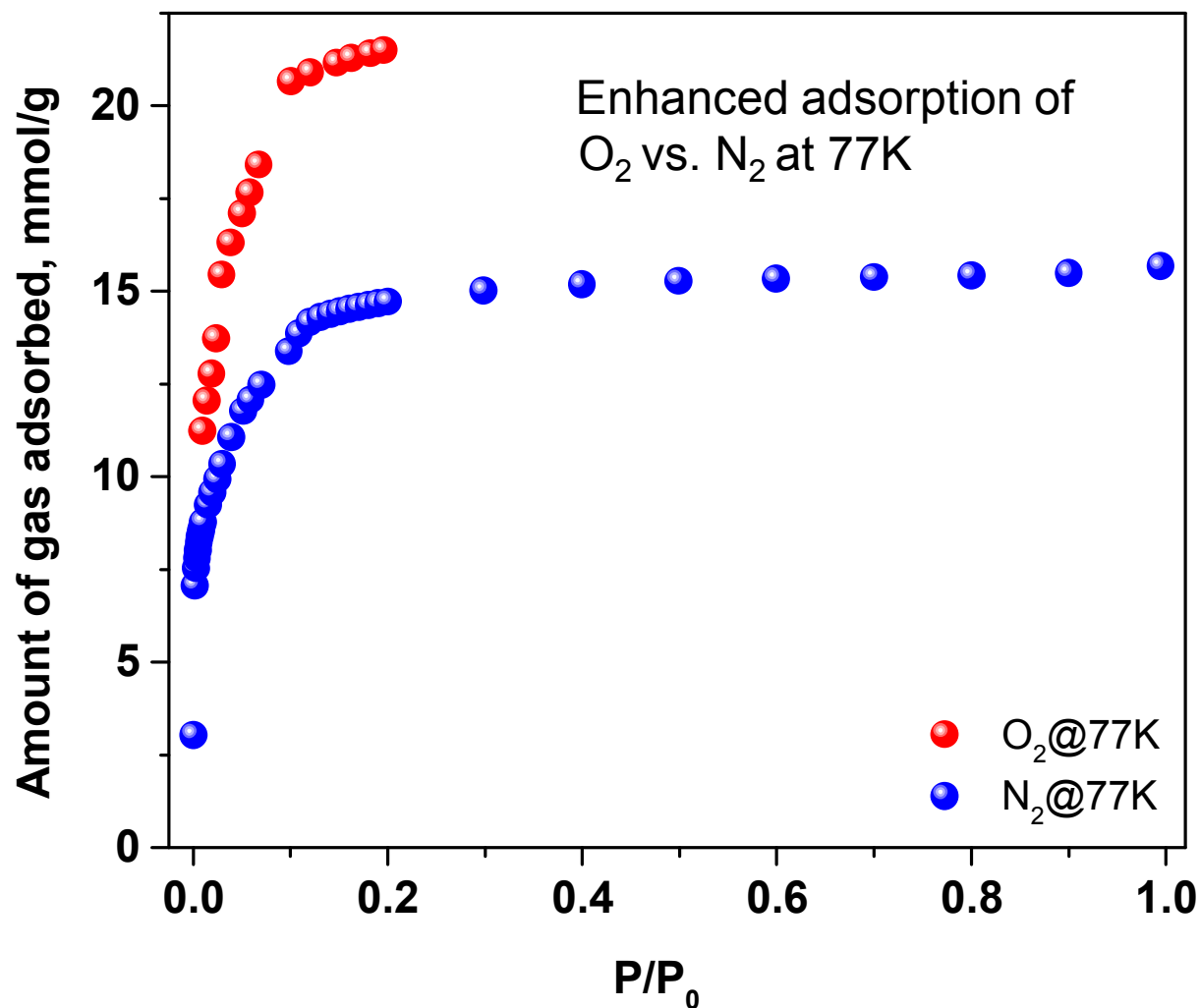


Universal V4.5A TA Instrum



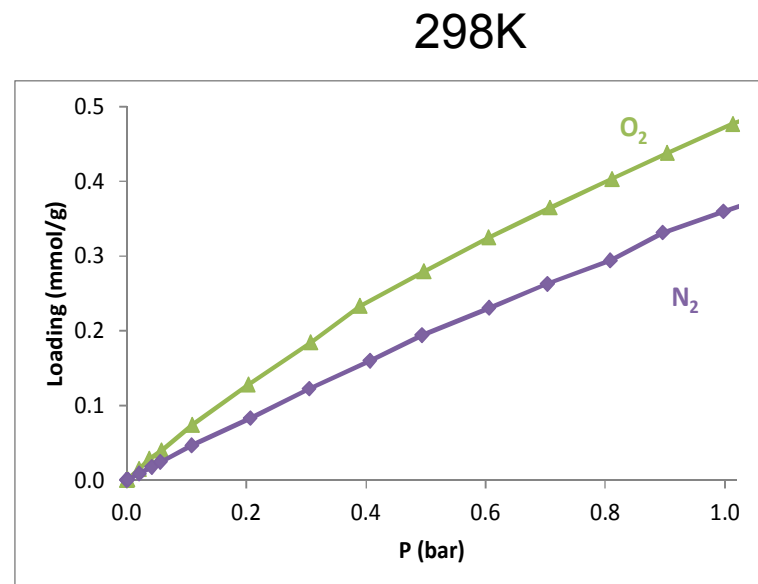
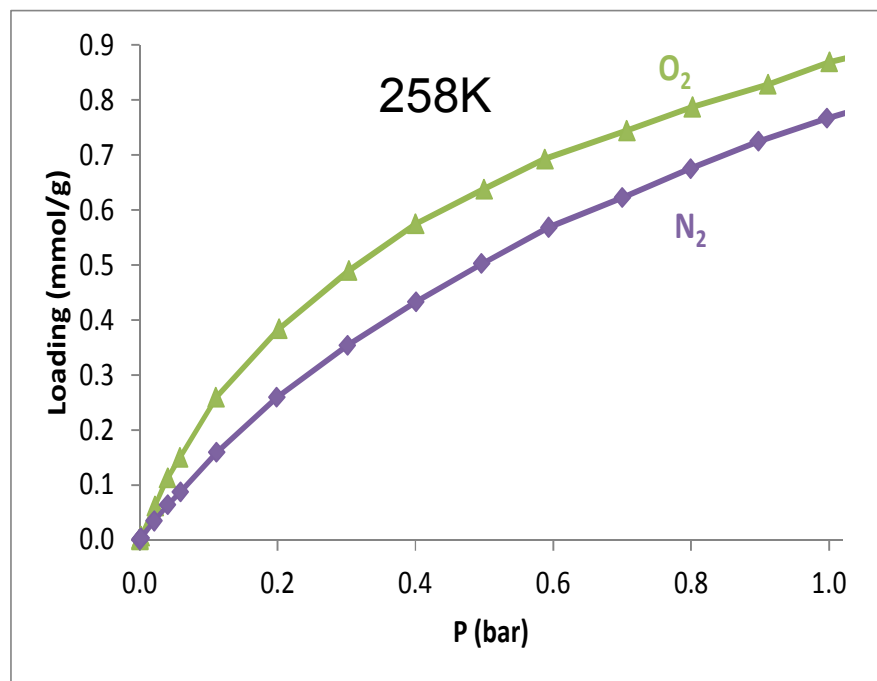
BET surface area:  $1321.7194 \pm 24.4623 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$





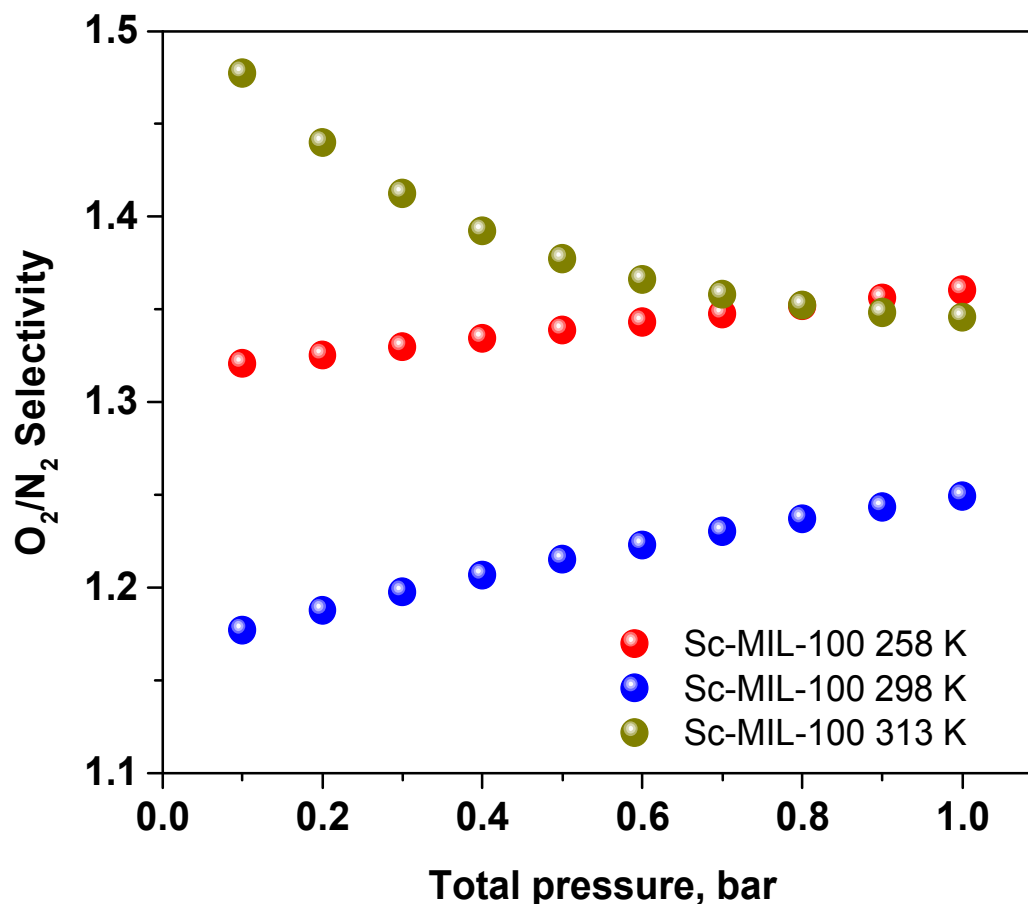
*How does Sc-MIL-100 behave at more realistic operational temperatures?*

- **Grand Canonical Monte Carlo (GCMC) Simulations**
- Pure gas ( $N_2$  or  $O_2$ ) adsorption over pressure range 0 - 1 bar.
- Temperature range matched with experiment: 258 K, 298 K, 313 K.
- Grand canonical ensemble (constant chemical potential, temperature, volume) using the Towhee code (Martin, *Mol. Sim.* **2013**, 39, 1212).
- Gas-gas and MOF-gas interaction energies include van der Waals and electrostatic interactions.
- Framework atoms kept at their crystallographic coordinates.



Preferred  $O_2$  uptake but  $O_2/N_2$  selectivity increases between 258K and 298K

# Simulations of Competitive Gas Adsorption: based on GCMC data, 298K

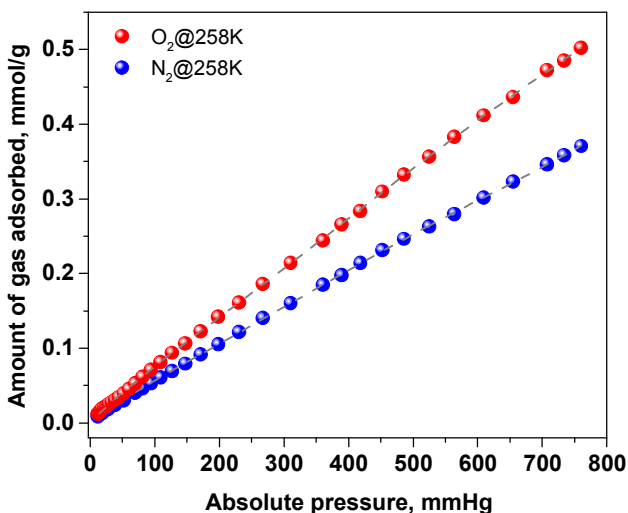


Ideal Adsorbed Solution Theory (IAST) used to calculate mixture adsorption and  $O_2/N_2$  selectivity for **20:80 mixture ( $O_2:N_2$ )**.

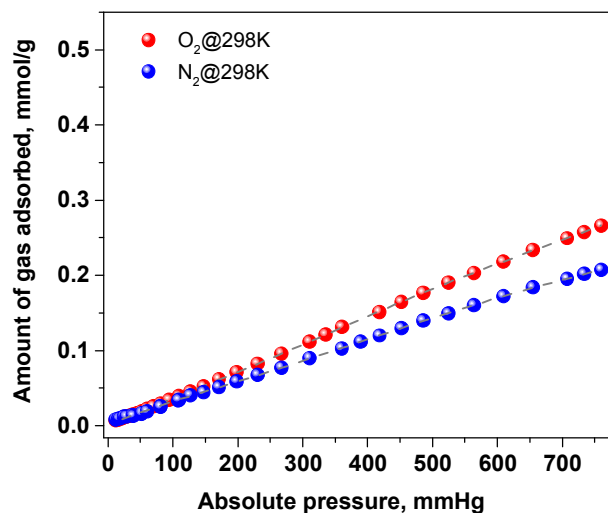
# Sc-MIL-100: Enhanced Quantity of O<sub>2</sub> vs N<sub>2</sub> Adsorbed over Wide Temperature Range (at least to 313K)

— Fit using the virial eq.

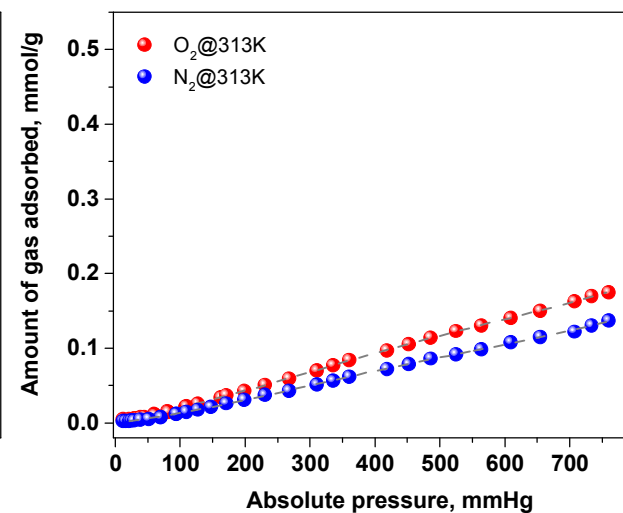
O<sub>2</sub> vs. N<sub>2</sub> @258K



O<sub>2</sub> vs. N<sub>2</sub> @298K



O<sub>2</sub> vs. N<sub>2</sub> @313K

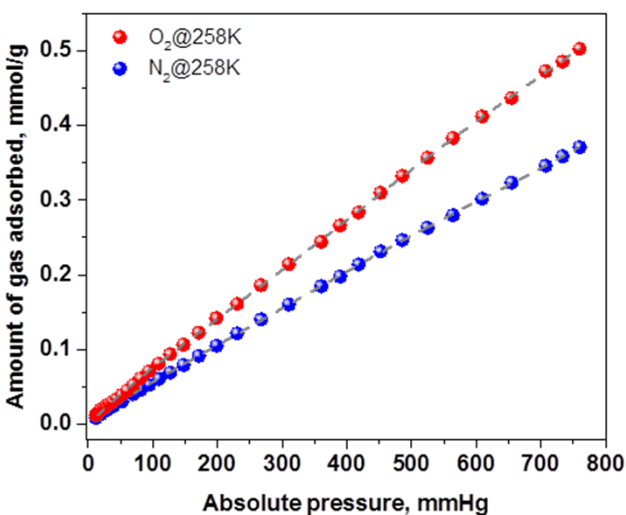


Isotherm trends mimic those predicted by GCMC

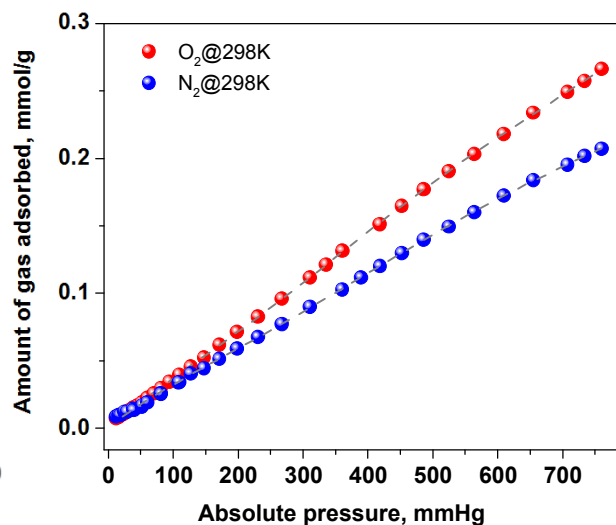
# Sc-MIL-100: Enhanced Quantity of O<sub>2</sub> vs N<sub>2</sub> Adsorbed over Wide Temperature Range (at least to 313K)

— Fit using the virial eq.

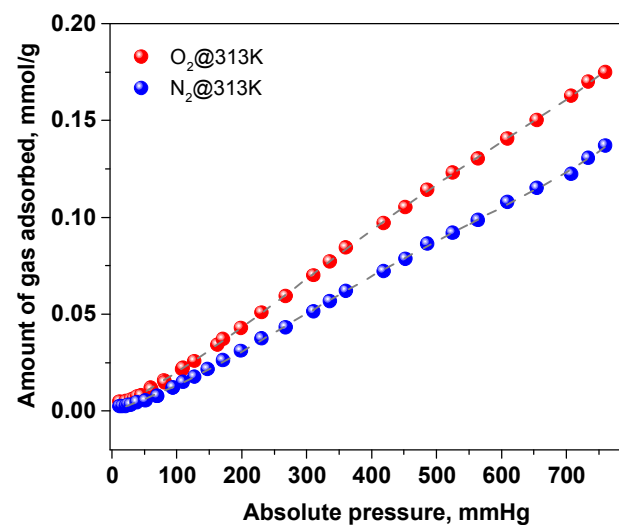
O<sub>2</sub> vs. N<sub>2</sub> @258K



O<sub>2</sub> vs. N<sub>2</sub> @298K



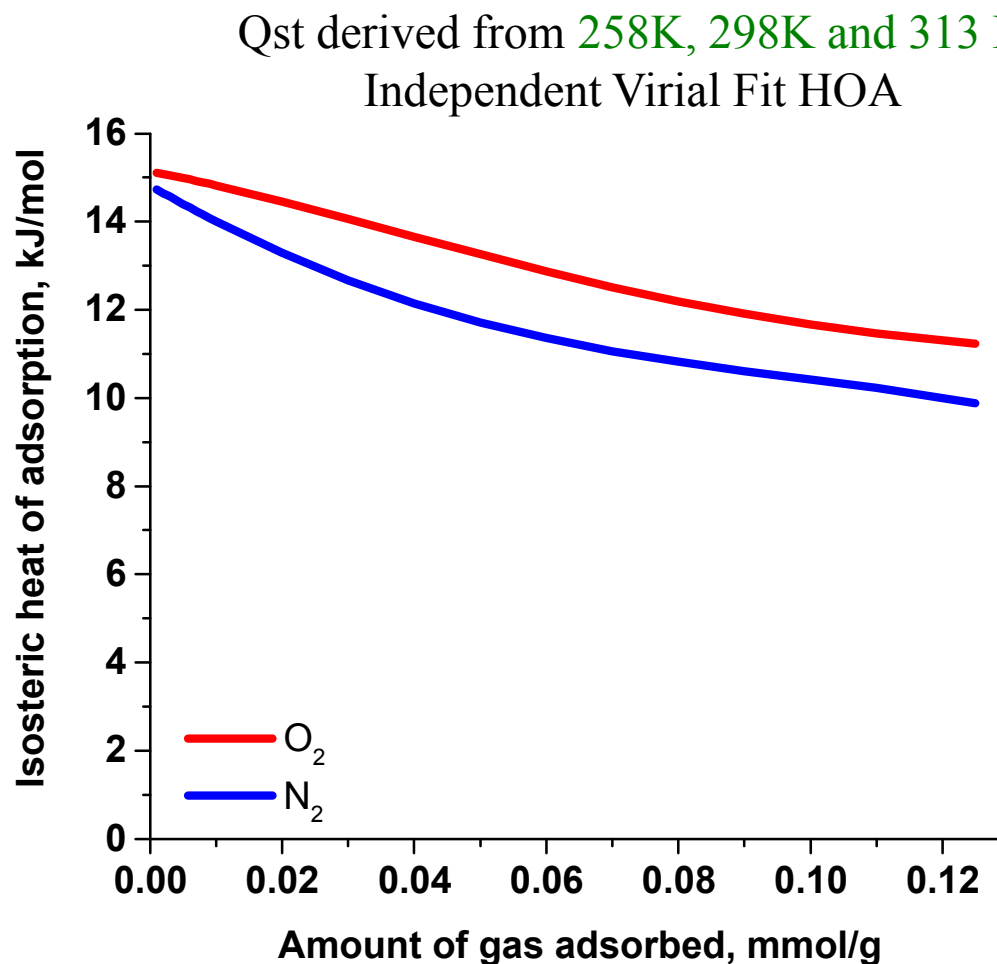
O<sub>2</sub> vs. N<sub>2</sub> @313K



Isotherm trends mimic those predicted by GCMC

# Sc-MIL-100: Isosteric Heat of Adsorption (kJ/mol)

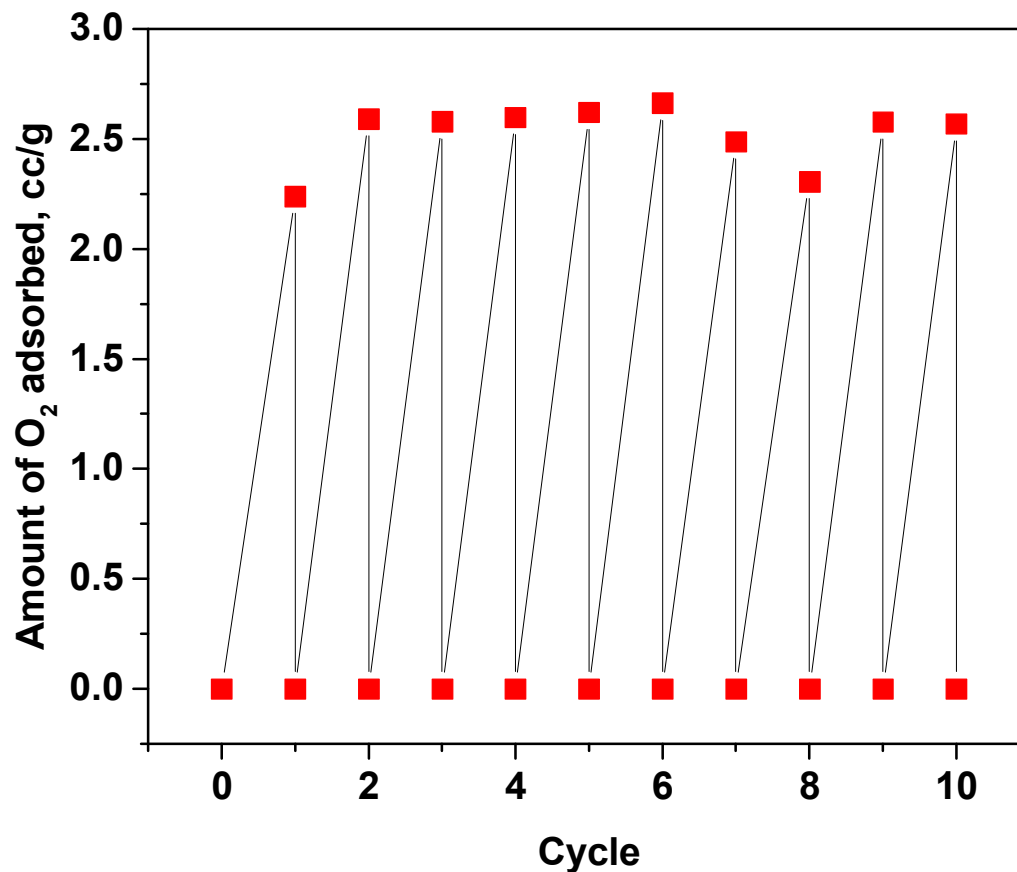
## Higher Binding Energy in SMOF-8 for O<sub>2</sub> vs N<sub>2</sub>





# Sc-MIL-100 Performance:

$\text{O}_2$  adsorption and Desorption over 10 cycles, 298 K, 1 atm

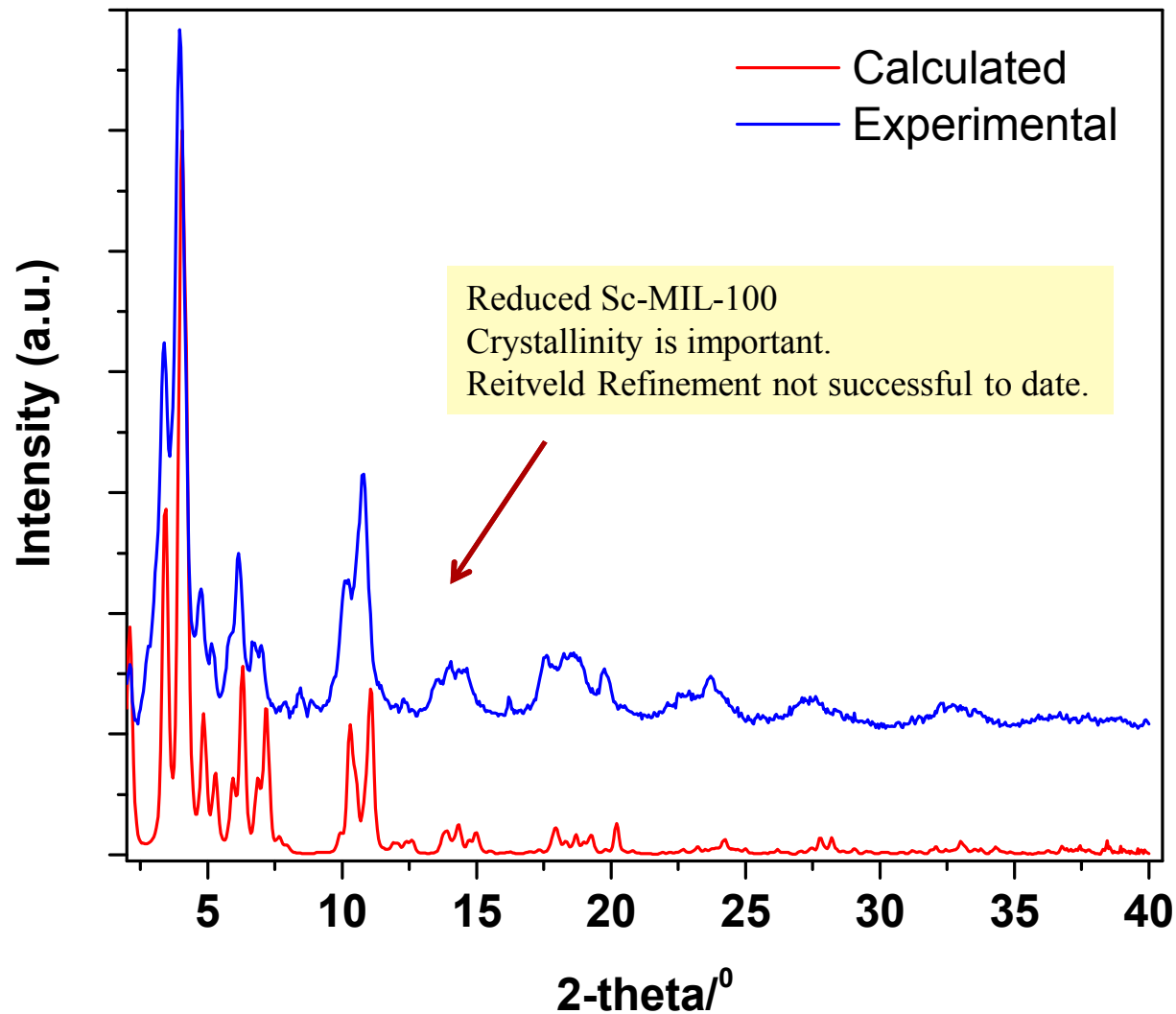


What about the structure is making Sc-MIL-100  $\text{O}_2$  strongly sorbing?

# Structure-Property Relationship Understanding of Sc-MIL-100

## Oxygen Selectivity

High Energy Synchrotron X-ray, APS/ANL



# Structure-Property Analysis: *Pair Distribution Function (PDF) Analysis*

The PDF,  $G(r)$ , is related to the **probability** of finding an atom at a distance  $r$  from a reference atom. It is the Fourier transform of the total structure factor,  $S(Q)$ .

$$G(r) = 4\pi r \rho_0 [\underbrace{g(r)}_{\text{probability}} - 1] = (2/\pi) \int Q [\underbrace{S(Q)}_{\text{structure factor}} - 1] \sin(Qr) dQ$$

The structure factor,  $S(Q)$ , is related to coherent part of the diffraction intensity

$$S(Q) = 1 + \underbrace{[I^{coh}(Q) - \sum c_i |f_i(Q)|^2]}_{\substack{\text{diffraction intensity} \\ \text{(corrected)}}} / |\sum c_i f_i(Q)|^2$$

Apply corrections for background, absorption, Compton & multiple scattering

Use of high energy X-rays and large area detectors key to structure resolution

Does it matter which synchrotron?

*Yes. Only higher energy storage rings produce significant fluxes of high energy X-rays*

High energy X-rays are a unique strength of the *Advanced Photon Source* (in the western hemisphere)

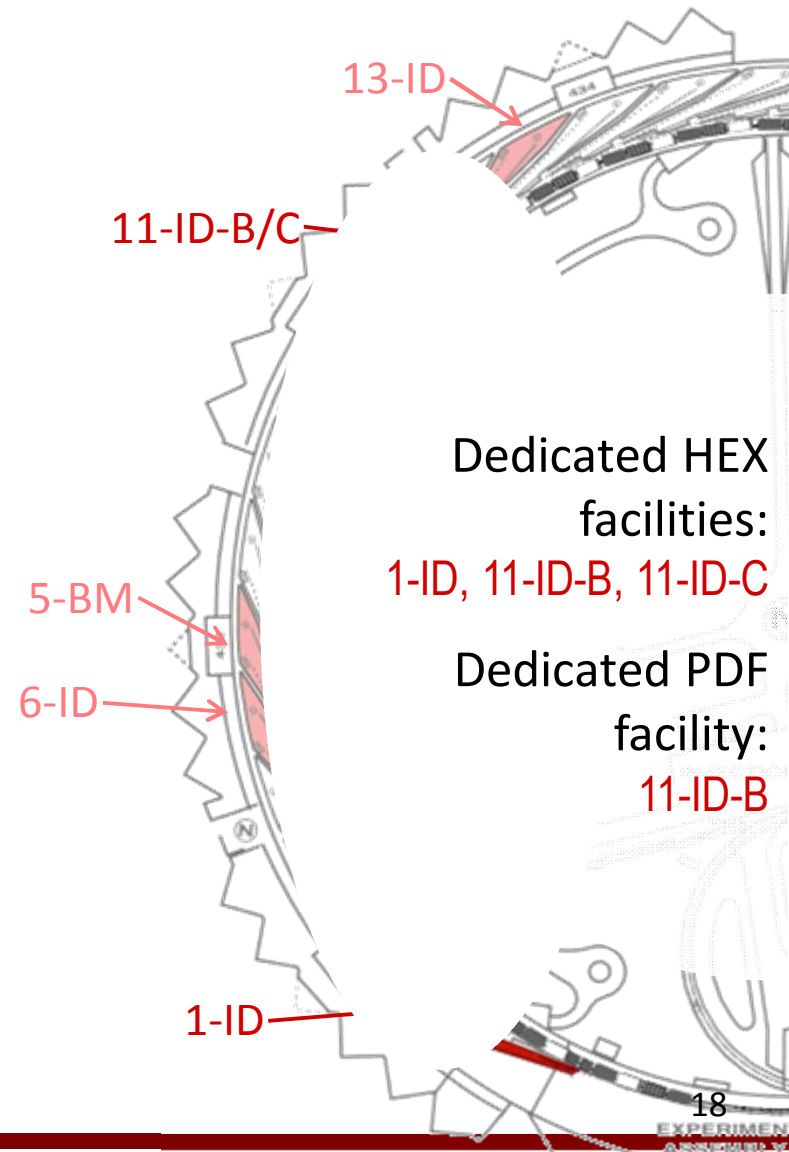
- 3 dedicated high energy beam lines
- 1 dedicated PDF beamline

APS 11-ID-B: Dedicated PDF facility

- 58 or 90KeV high energy X-rays
- typical wavelengths = 0.1 - 0.2Å

For our experiments:

$Q > 20\text{\AA}^{-1}$ ;  $\text{CuK}_{\alpha}$  to  $2\Theta = 180$  results in  $Q_{\text{max}} = 8\text{\AA}$



Dedicated HEX facilities:

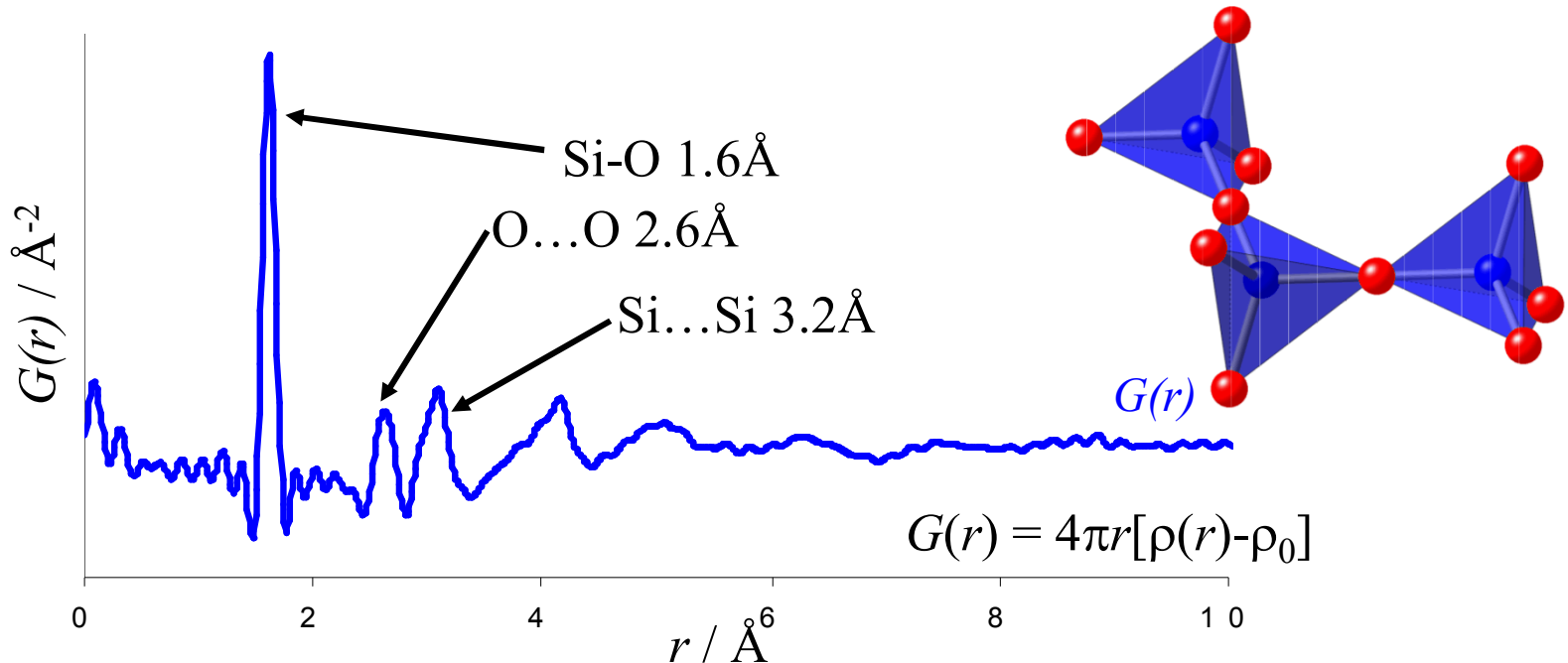
1-ID, 11-ID-B, 11-ID-C

Dedicated PDF facility:

11-ID-B

# PDF: Insight Into Short Range Structural Order eg., Amorphous SiO<sub>2</sub> (Glass)

- a weighted histogram of ALL atom-atom distances

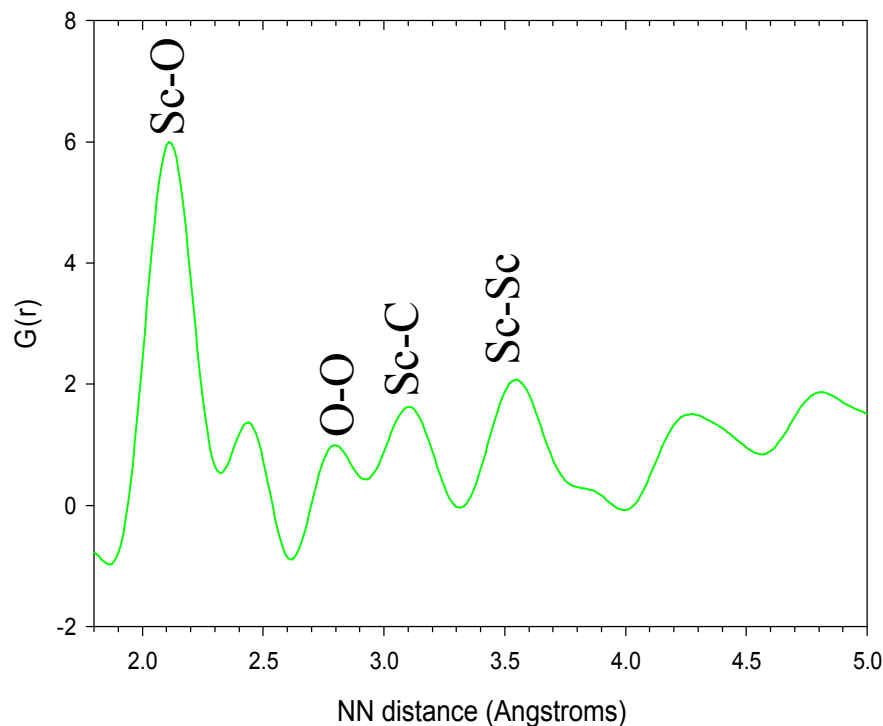


Peak position	↔	Bond length / distance
Peak area	↔	Coordination #, scattering intensity
Peak width	↔	Disorder, bond angle distribution
Peak $r_{max}$	↔	Particle size, coherence

} **Structural  
Modeling**

*Application to Nanoporous Materials to Examine Short Range Interactions*

d-Pair Distribution Function (d-PDF)



Peaks shifted to longer distances  
Consistent with larger Sc incorporation  
(vs. Cr-MIL-100)

d-PDF peak analysis

Bond	NN distance (Å)	Area	FWHM (Å)
<b>Sc-O</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.19</b>
O-O	2.81	0.3	0.22
Sc-C	3.08	0.8	0.26
Sc-Sc	3.53	0.5	0.24

- Oxo-centered trimers at nodes of MIL-100 framework inferred from M-O and M...M distances
- Narrow Sc-O peak = narrow Distribution of bond lengths
- Single M-O bond length (M-O( $\mu_3$ ) or M-O (carboxylate)), suggests **M-O-M angle of 113°** << 120° of a planer trimer



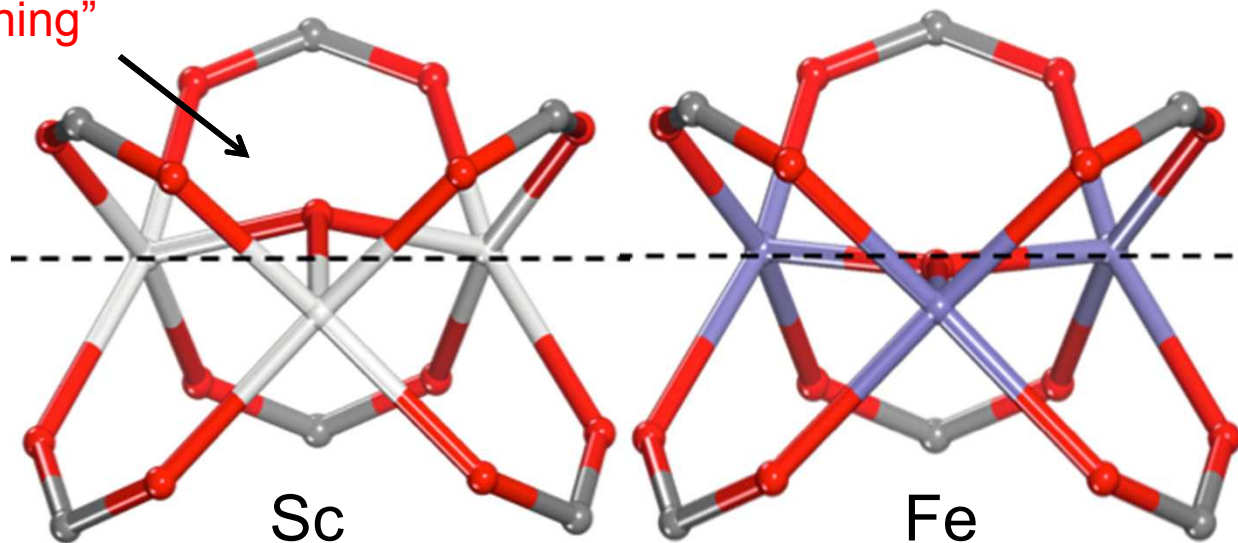
# Sc-MIL-100: Structure-Property relationship evaluated.

## Preferred O<sub>2</sub> sorption – Large Sc Distorts Cluster

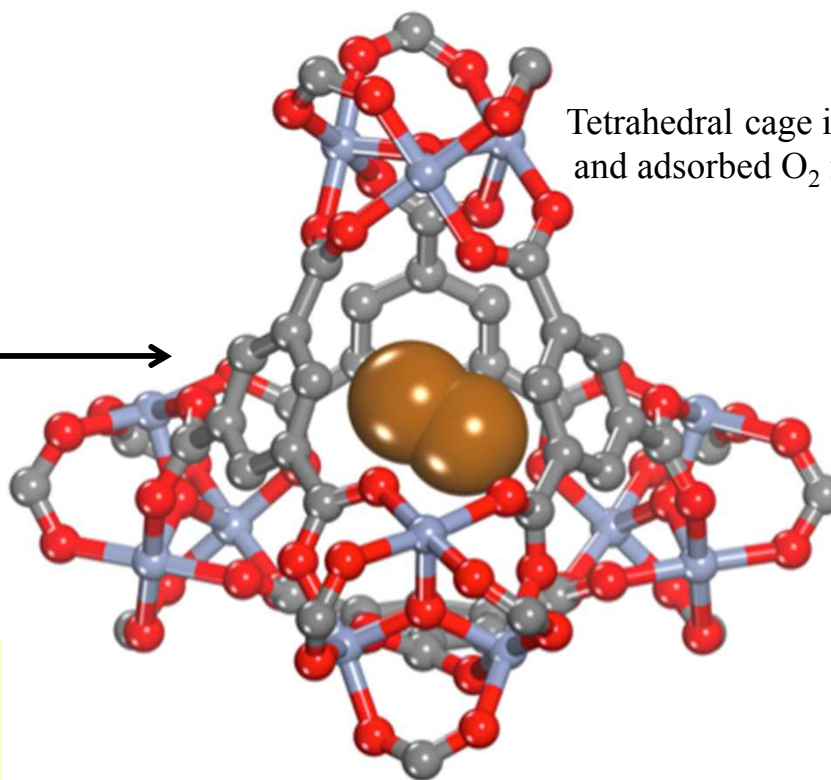
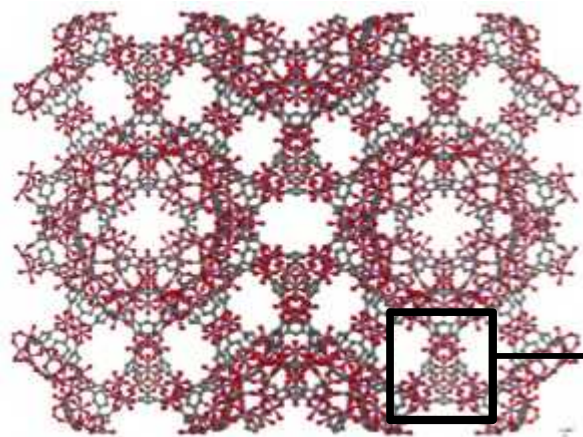
Large size of Sc atom requires **out of plane distortion** in the ozo trimer of the O( $\mu_3$ ) atom.

Resultant “**puckering**” of trimer and “bending” of ligand is  
probable route for enhanced O<sub>2</sub> sorption / insertion in Sc-MIL-100

“tulip opening”



Rietveld refinement unit cell for Sc-MIL-100:  $a = 74.518(31) \text{ \AA}$ ,  $R = 10.7\%$



Tetrahedral cage in the MIL-100 framework and adsorbed O<sub>2</sub> molecule (large spheres).

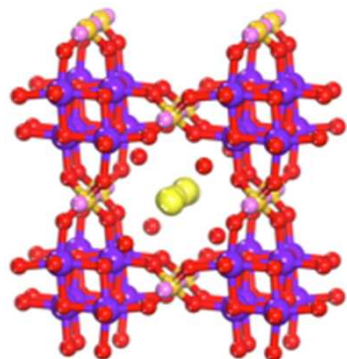
GCMC-equilibrated configurations:  
Cage and pore occupancy  
as determined at 298K and 1 bar

P (bar)	Gas	# in Cage	# in Pore	Total
1	N <sub>2</sub>	21	27	48
1	O <sub>2</sub>	47	20	67

- Successfully synthesized partially substituted  
Co-, Fe- and Mn- analogues of Cu-BTC
- Assessed the effect on metal substitution on the O<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity at both cryogenic and close to room temperature ranges
- For the Co-, Mn- and original Cu-BTC, O<sub>2</sub> preferentially adsorbs over N<sub>2</sub> at 77K. **However**, the trend is reversed at 298K, where N<sub>2</sub> preferentially adsorbs over O<sub>2</sub>
- Based on predictive modeling, we studied early transition metal metal-center MOFs for enhanced O<sub>2</sub> sorption.
- **Sc-MIL-100**: Early transition metal MOFs show preference for O<sub>2</sub> vs N<sub>2</sub> over wide temperature range (up to at least 313K), as confirmed by isosteric heats of adsorption.
- **On-going Steps**: Data transfer to *Technoeconomic Analysis* and *Burner Design* for Oxyfuel combustion applications; higher TRL testing



# Novel SNL Separations and Waste Forms: Technologies for Environment and Energy Applications



R&D100 1996

*JACerS*, 2009, 92(9), 2144

*JACerS*, 2011, 94(9), 3053

*Solvent Extr. & Ion Exch.*, 2012, 30, 33

**CST, Cs<sup>+</sup> removal from  
water to Pollucite Waste Form**

US Patents 6,479,427; 6,110,378

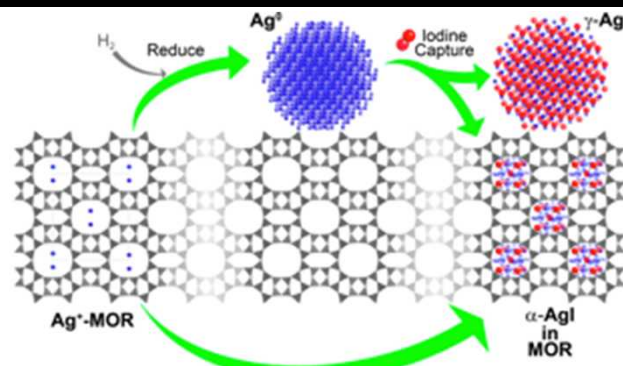
**I<sub>2</sub>/ZIF-8, Isolation  
to Waste Form**

*JACS*, 2011, 133(32), 12398

US Patent filed 2012

*JACS* 2013, 135, 16256

**Fundamental Research to  
Applied to Commercial Products  
Design the Separation Material  
To Develop the Waste Form**



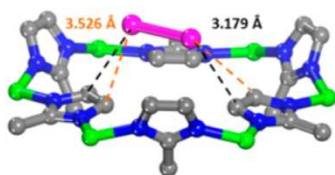
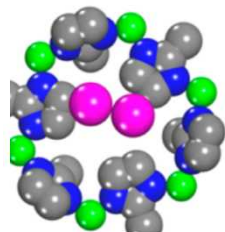
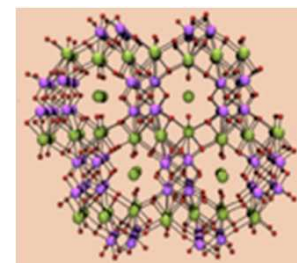
**Ag-MOR**

**I<sub>2</sub>(g) capture &  
mechanisms**

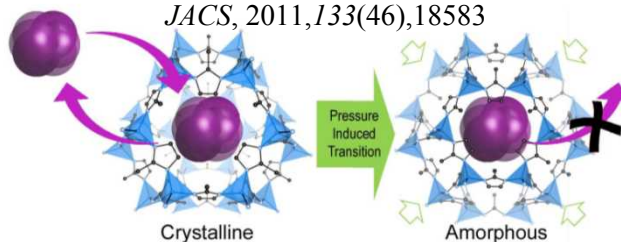
*JACS*, 2010, 132(26), 8897

*J Phys Chem Letters*, 2011,  
2, 2742

**SOMS, Sr<sup>2+</sup> getter,  
1-step to Perovskite WF**  
*JACS*, 2002, 124(3), 1704  
US Patent 7,122,164



**MOF Amorphization for Gas Storage**  
*JACS*, 2011, 133(46), 18583

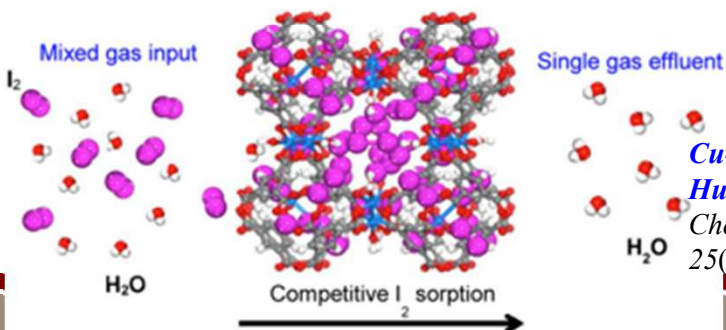
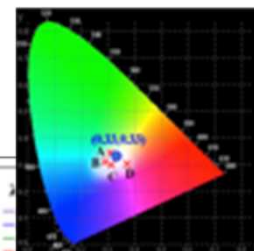
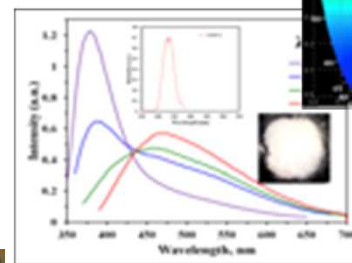


**MOFs**

**White Light PL**

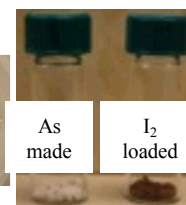
*JACS*, 2012,

134 (9), 3983



**Cu-BTC: I<sub>2</sub> from  
Humid Gas Stream**

*Chem. Mater.* 2013,  
25(13), 2591



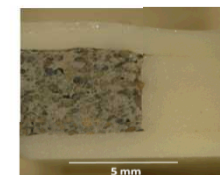
**Binder Free MOF  
Pelletization**

US Patent 2015  
9,117,560

**Universal Core-Shell Iodine  
Glass Waste Form & Getter**

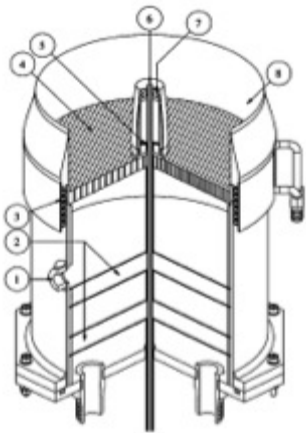
*JACerS*, 2011, 94(8), 2412

US Patent 8,262,950; 2012





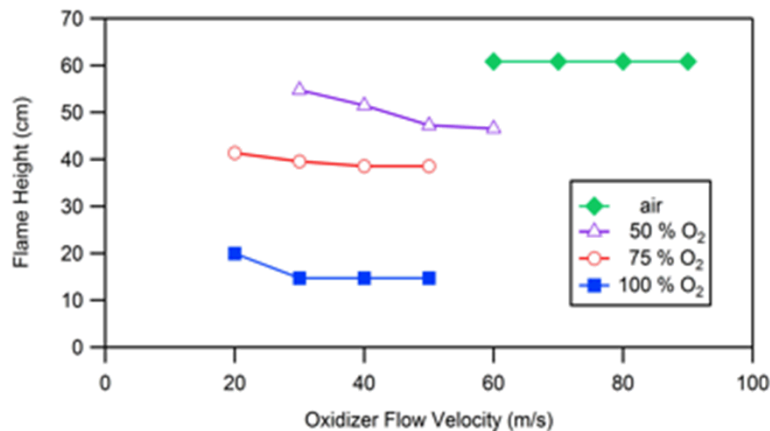
# Coupling of Burner design and Oxy-fuel Combustion to Radiant Heat Transfer



Balloon number	Description
1	Flashback over-pressure sensing port
2	Glass bead filled cavity
3	Cooling water coil
4	Cooling perforated baffle plate
5	Pike mixer feed exit
6	Central jet exit
7	Pike perforated baffle plate
8	Cooling collar



- Newly designed and constructed burner with smaller diameter inside tube for  $\text{CH}_4$  into oxidizer jet flow
- Allows either premixed or non-premixed methane-air flame
- Designed specifically for pure  $\text{O}_2$  and enriched  $\text{O}_2$  stream as determined by gas separations data from MOFs and economic life cycle analyses



LDRD calculated/predicted flame heights when using a 1/8", 0.020 wall stainless steel tube to deliver methane to the Dunn burner.

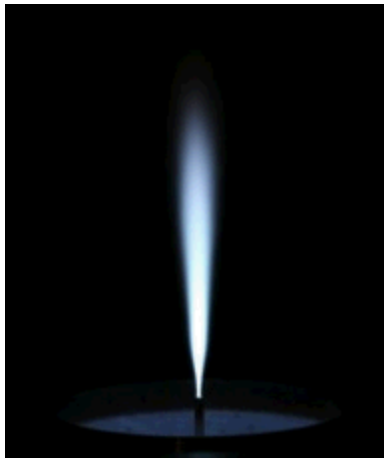
The volumetric flow of methane is always equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the flow of oxygen, to maintain stoichiometric combustion conditions.



# Preliminary Investigation of Oxygen-Enriched NG Flames

Performed preliminary testing performed with oxidizers of pure oxygen and with 50% O<sub>2</sub> in N<sub>2</sub>, using an overall equivalence ratio of 1, with a constant methane flow

- Velocity (Re) of oxidizer flow is 50% lower when using pure O<sub>2</sub>, making for taller flame (slower mixing)
- Soot formation is enhanced when using pure O<sub>2</sub> (higher temperatures, slower mixing)



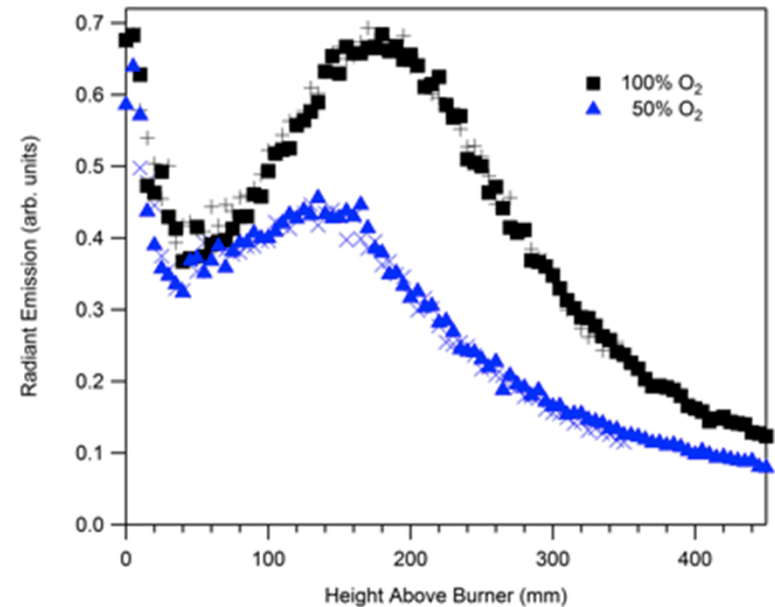
50% O<sub>2</sub> in N<sub>2</sub>



100% O<sub>2</sub>

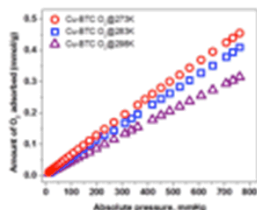
Radiant emission measurements have been performed along the flame centerline

- Data for 100% O<sub>2</sub> shows significantly more thermal radiation
- Flame temperatures are higher when using pure O<sub>2</sub> (more radiation from flame products)
- Some soot is formed in the 100% O<sub>2</sub> flame

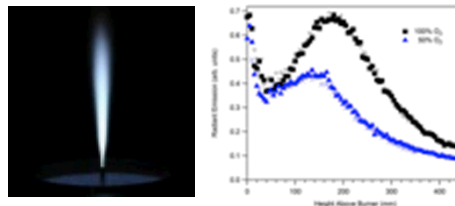


# Systems Analysis of MOF-based Air Separation

MOF adsorption  
isotherms ( $N_2$  &  $O_2$ )  
(from MOF team)



Optimal  $O_2:N_2$  ratio  
for combustion  
(from combustion team)



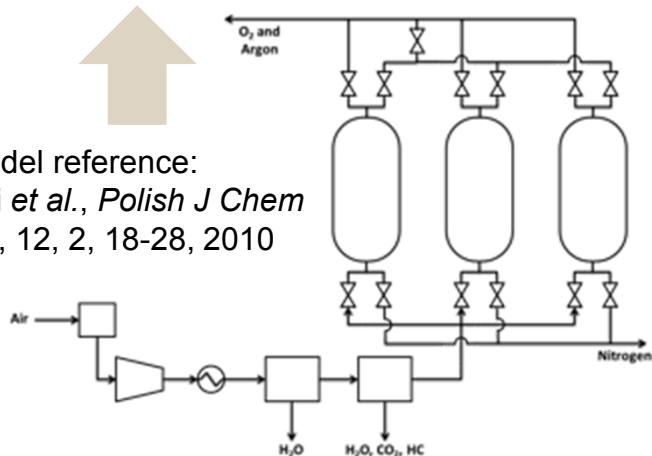
*Can MOF-based  
PSA reduce energy  
consumption by 5%  
vs. conventional PSA  
air separation?*

Construct and  
validate model of  
PSA process

Adjust PSA model  
parameters to yield  
desired  $O_2:N_2$  ratio

Estimate energy  
consumption based  
on PSA parameters

PSA model reference:  
Beeyani *et al.*, *Polish J Chem  
Technol*, 12, 2, 18-28, 2010



Key PSA model  
parameters:

- Vessel dimensions
- Operating pressures
- Cycle time
- Feed rate

PSA energy consumption is  
dominated by compressor(s)  
→ Operating pressures and  
flow rates are primary  
drivers