

Tăng cường khả năng bắt giữ khí SO₂ của M₂(BDC)₂TED (M = Mg, V, Co, or Ni) bằng nghiên cứu tính toán

TÓM TẮT

Cùng với việc phát triển các nguồn năng lượng sạch bền vững thì bảo vệ môi trường là vấn đề hết sức cấp thiết vì không khí ngày càng ô nhiễm bởi các khí độc hại. Trong đó, khí SO₂ ảnh hưởng nghiêm trọng đến sức khỏe con người. Do đó, việc loại bỏ khí SO₂ làm sạch môi trường sống là vô cùng cấp bách. Đã có rất nhiều công nghệ khác nhau được đề xuất để giải quyết vấn đề này nhưng chưa thực sự hiệu quả. Sự nổi lên của vật liệu xốp có bề mặt riêng cực lớn và tính xốp siêu cao đã thu hút nghiên cứu bắt giữ khí SO₂. Trong đó, vật liệu khung hữu cơ kim loại rất được quan tâm trong lĩnh vực hấp phụ, tách lọc và một số ứng dụng tiềm năng khác. Trong nghiên cứu này, nhóm M₂(BDC)₂TED (M = Mg, V, Co, Ni) được chọn để nghiên cứu bắt giữ SO₂ bằng phương pháp mô phỏng. Nghiên cứu được thực hiện tại nhiệt độ phòng 298 K và áp suất đến 2,5 bar. Kết quả chỉ ra thứ tự của kim loại làm tăng dần lượng khí SO₂ hấp phụ trong M₂(BDC)₂(TED) là: Co < Ni < V < Mg. Tại 298K và 2.5 bar, lượng hấp phụ SO₂ trong Mg-MOF lớn nhất là khoảng 16 mmol/g và khoảng 13 – 14 mmol/g cho các M-MOF còn lại (M = V, Ni, Co). Nghiên cứu cũng làm sáng tỏ các yếu tố làm tăng cường hấp phụ SO₂ trong M-MOFs nói trên gồm nhiệt hấp phụ, diện tích bề mặt riêng (SSA) và thể tích rỗng (V_p). Đáng kể nhất là SSA và V_p của M-MOFs gần như làm tăng tuyến tính khả năng bắt giữ SO₂ ở nhiệt độ phòng và áp suất thấp.

Từ khóa: M₂(BDC)₂TED, Monte Carlo chính tắc lớn, Bắt giữ SO₂, Diện tích bề mặt riêng, Thể tích rỗng.

Computational study on enhancing SO₂ capture capacity of M₂(BDC)₂TED (M = Mg, V, Co, or Ni)

ABSTRACT

Along with finding and developing sustainable clean energy sources, environmental protection is highly urgent because the air is increasingly polluted by more and more toxic gases. In particular, the presence of toxic gas SO₂ seriously affects human health. Therefore, removing toxic SO₂ gas to clean the living environment is extremely urgent. Many technologies have been suggested to solve this problem but have not been effective yet. In recent years, the emergence of porous materials with ultra-large specific surface areas and ultra-high porosity has attracted the attention of scientists in SO₂ capture. Among porous materials, metal-organic frameworks are intensely interested in adsorption, separation, and other potential applications. Here, we select the porous materials M₂(BDC)₂TED (M = Mg, V, Co, Ni) to study the SO₂ capture using simulation approaches. The research was performed at room temperature 298 K and pressure under 2.5 bar. Our results show that the order of metals gradually increasing the SO₂ adsorption uptake in M₂(BDC)₂(TED) is Co < Ni < V < Mg. Specifically, at 298K and 2.5 bar, the amount of SO₂ adsorption is about 16 mmol/g for Mg-MOF, and about 13 – 14 mol/g for the M-MOF (M = V, Ni, Co). The study also elucidated the influencing factors that enhance SO₂ adsorption in M₂(BDC)₂TED, including adsorption isosteric heat, specific surface area, and pore volume. Noticeably, the specific surface areas and pore volumes of M-MOFs almost linearly enhance the SO₂ capture capability at room temperature and low pressure.

Keywords: M₂(BDC)₂TED, Grand canonical Monte Carlo, SO₂ capture, Specific surface area, Pore volume.

1. INTRODUCTION

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is a colorless, non-flammable, and common pollutant in industrial production as well as daily life. Exposure to SO₂ may irritate the nose, throat, and eyes. Besides, SO₂ is a corrosive gas with high solubility (120 g/l) in water and can combine with water and air to form sulfuric acid, the main component of acid rain.^{1,2,3} Despite the low SO₂ content in the air, it is classified as a toxic gas and one of the six most common environmental pollutants by the US Environmental Protection Organization.⁴ Notably, significant amounts of sulfur oxides (SO_x), especially SO₂, are released into the environment after the combustion of petroleum-based fuels in internal combustion engines utilized in motorized vehicles.³ Therefore, removing or reducing the quantities of SO₂ in the atmosphere is exceptionally urgent. Among many technologies, SO₂ capture based on the adsorption mechanism has been remarkable.⁵ Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) among porous materials are an exciting alternative for SO₂ capture due to outstanding structural properties such as ultrahigh surface area, high porosity, and controllable structural characteristics.^{2,4} Therefore, SO₂ capture in nanoporous materials has attracted scientific interest. Many MOFs and other porous candidates have been studied and highly appreciated for SO₂ adsorption. Fu and co-workers showed that functionalized covalent triazine framework (CTF-CSU41)

achieved the highest uptake of SO₂ with a maximum capacity of 6.7 mmol/g (*i.e.*, 42.9 wt%) at (298 K, 0.15 bar).^{3,6} For MOFs, MOF-177 exhibited the highest SO₂ uptake with 25.7 mmol/g at (293 K, 1 bar). Some other MOFs also showed high SO₂ capture capacity, ranging from 4.8 to 17.3 mmol/g.³ Besides many other MOFs, M₂(BDC)₂(TED) or M(BDC)(TED)_{0.5} materials have been attractive for applications in capturing toxic gases (CO₂, SO₂, CH₄, NH₃, H₂S, NO_x, ...).⁴ In this research, we use simulations to find optimum M₂(BDC)₂(TED) MOFs for SO₂ capture, where M is magnesium (Mg), vanadium (V), cobalt (Co) or nickel (Ni); BDC = 1,4-Benzenedicarboxylate; TED = Triethylen-diamine or DABCO: 1.4-Diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane.⁷

2. COMPUTATIONAL PHYSICS

The research approach combines density functional theory (DFT) calculations and grand canonical Monte Carlo (GCMC) simulations. Firstly, we used DFT calculations to optimize the geometries of M₂(BDC)₂(TED) MOFs, namely M-MOFs. Secondly, GCMC simulations were used to obtain the isotherms and isosteric heat of SO₂ adsorption as well as calculate the structural characteristics of the M-MOFs.

To optimize the unit cell and extract partial atomic charges of the M-MOFs, we utilized the Vienna ab initio simulation package (VASP)^{8,9} for the van der Waals dispersion-corrected density functional

theory (vdW-DF).^{10,11} The plane-wave basis set with the cut-off energy of 700 eV for the plane-wave basis set.^{12,13} We performed the surface Brillouin-zone integrations using the Monkhorst and Pack k -point sampling technique with the $3 \times 3 \times 3$ mesh grid and the Gamma point at the center.¹⁴ The Methfessel-Paxton smearing of order 1 was used for the ions and geometry relaxation, and atomic charge calculation with the smearing width sigma of 0.1 eV.¹⁵

GCMC simulations using the RASPA code were selected to study the gravimetric uptakes of SO_2 in the M-MOFs.¹⁶ These simulations were performed in constant volume, temperature, and chemical potential at room temperature (298 K) and pressures up to 2.5 bar. The number of 300,000 MC steps were simulated for the random insertion, deletion, translation, and rotation of SO_2 molecules in the simulation box, repeated $3 \times 3 \times 3$ times of the primary unit cell along the a , b , and c lengths.

The interactions between atoms of SO_2 gas and the MOFs were described by (i) the Coulombic or electrostatic interactions with its cut-off radius of 13 Å, and (ii) the van der Waals interactions with the simple Lennard-Jones (LJ) model with the LJ cut-off radius of 20 Å.^{17,18} The cut-off radius and other parameters were carefully checked before performing the GCMC simulation. The partial charges of atoms of the M-MOFs were extracted from the density-derived electrostatic and chemical (DDEC6) atomic charges method, listed

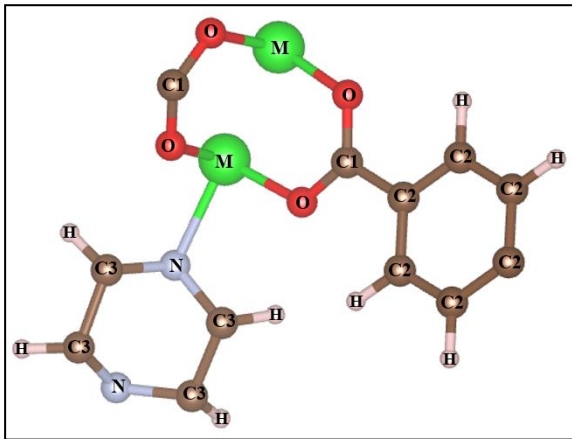


Figure 1. The symbol for atomic types with different charges of M-MOFs.

Table 1, with the symbols for the atoms shown in Figure 1.^{19–22} The qualities of the LJ potential well depth and diameter were determined by the Lorentz–Berthelot combining rules, one of the

most common types of mixing rules for unlike atoms.^{23,24} The parameters for σ_i and ϵ_i (i refers to the atoms like Fe, H, C, O in the M-MOFs or S, O in SO_2) were selected from the generic force fields for MOFs in the RASPA software package.^{16,25}

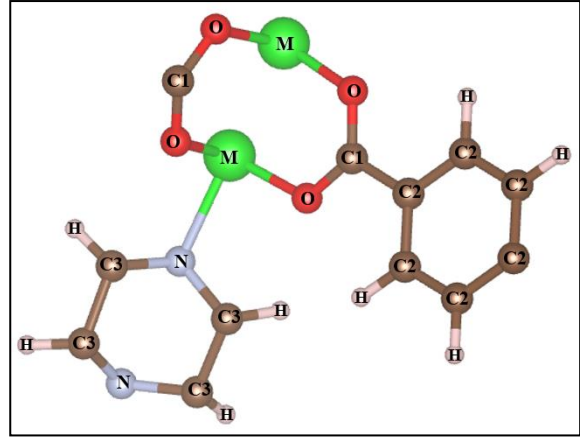


Figure 1. The symbol for atomic types with different charges of M-MOFs.

Table 1. The LJ (ϵ , σ) and charge parameters (q) for atomic types of M-MOFs and SO_2 .

M-MOFs	Atomic types	LJ parameters		q (e)
		ϵ/k_B (K)	σ (Å)	
M = Mg	C1			0.739
	C2	47.856	3.472	-0.073
	C3			0.011
	H	7.648	2.846	0.088
	N	38.949	3.262	-0.362
	O	48.158	3.033	-0.721
	Mg	55.857	2.691	1.385
M = V	C1			0.627
	C2	47.856	3.472	-0.073
	C3			-0.012
	H	7.648	2.846	0.076
	N	38.949	3.262	-0.174
	O	48.158	3.033	-0.574
	V	8.051	2.801	0.926
M = Co	C1			0.613
	C2	47.856	3.472	-0.071
	C3			-0.025
	H	7.648	2.846	0.076
	N	38.949	3.262	-0.099
	O	48.158	3.033	-0.491
	Co	7.045	2.558	0.573
M = Ni	C1			0.636
	C2	47.856	3.472	-0.071
	C3			-0.025
	H	7.648	2.846	0.079
	N	38.949	3.262	-0.118
	O	48.158	3.033	-0.539
	Ni	7.548	2.524	0.660
SO_2 ^{25,26}	O	58.725	3.198	-0.201
	S	189.353	3.410	0.402

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Optimization of the unit cell of $M_2(BDC)_2(TED)$

First, we constructed a unit cell based on experimental and computational works for $Ni_2(BDC)_2(TED)$ (BDC = Benzene dicarboxylate, and TED = Triethylenediamine) (Figure 2).^{4,27} We optimized all ions and the size of the unit cells. Then, we replaced Ni with other bivalent metals such as Mg, V, and Co, which often appear in MOFs and greatly influence gas adsorption. The results obtained for the unit cells are listed in Table 2 and compared with the experimental data for $M = Ni$,²⁷ showing that these optimal results show reliability with 1.61%, 1.57%, and 4.81% for a (or b), c lengths, and the cell volume. The unit cell volume (V_{M-MOF}) of the M-MOFs also does not change much, and they are in slightly increasing order: $V_{Co-MOF} < V_{V-MOF} \approx V_{Ni-MOF} < V_{Mg-MOF}$.

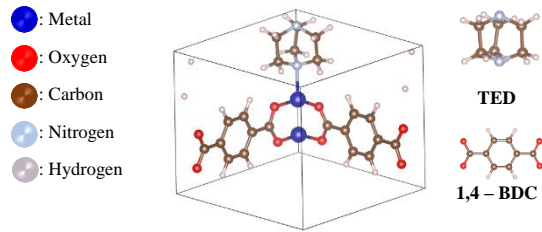


Figure 2. A primary unit cell of M-MOFs ($M = Mg, V, Co$ or Ni).

Table 2. The optimized parameters of the unit cell of the $M_2(BDC)_2TED$ structures, compared with other works.

$M_2(BDC)_2TED$	Lattice constant (\AA)		Volume of unit cell (\AA^3)
	$a = b$	c	
$M = Mg$	10.98	9.39	1130
$M = V$	10.96	9.37	1125
$M = Co$	10.90	9.31	1113
$M = Ni$	10.97	9.38	1128
$M = Ni$ (exp. data) ²⁸	11.15	9.53	1185
Error compared exp. data (%)	1.61	1.57	4.81

3.2. The SO_2 capture capability of $M_2(BDC)_2TED$ MOFs

The SO_2 adsorption isotherms are shown in Figure 3 for both excess and absolute uptakes at pressures up to 2.5 bar. The results show these two uptakes are nearly similar for SO_2 on the M-MOFs ($M = Mg, V, Co$, or Ni) at low pressure under 2.5 bar. The adsorption uptakes for all metals are listed in Table 3. Our data are also compared to other ones. Compared to MOF-177, the best SO_2 capture to date, M-MOFs strongly adsorb SO_2 at low pressure below 0.5 bar.¹ On the contrary, above 0.5 bar, MOF-177 shows an outstanding uptake compared to our M-MOFs and other MOFs.¹

The adsorption tendency in Mg-MOF is more substantial than in Ni-MOF, which is consistent with the experimental data of Kui Tan et al. at the same temperature and pressure conditions (0.11 bar, 298 K),²⁷ and V. B. López-Cervantes et al (Table 3).^{29,30} In this work, we study the adsorption capacity of M-MOFs for SO_2 up to a pressure of 2.5 bar because researching at high pressures is unnecessary, and the results achieved only change a little.¹⁷ The results show that Mg-MOF has the strongest adsorption of SO_2 , followed by V-MOF, Ni-MOF, and Co-MOF. Here, Mg-MOF adsorbs superiorly compared to the remaining M-MOFs ($M = V, Ni, Co$). At 2.5 bar and 298 K, the the best uptakes reach for Mg-MOF with $n_{exc} = 15.82$ mmol/g, $n_{abs} = 15.92$ mmol/g, followed by V-MOF ($n_{exc} = 13.77$ mmol/g, $n_{abs} = 13.85$ mmol/g), Ni-MOF ($n_{exc} = 13.46$ mmol/g, $n_{abs} = 13.54$ mmol/g), and Co-MOF ($n_{exc} = 13.00$ mmol/g, $n_{abs} = 13.08$ mmol/g).

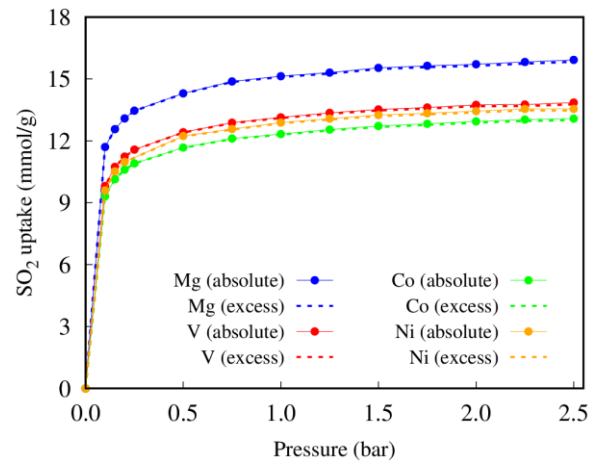


Figure 3. Absolute and excess isotherms of SO_2 on $M_2(BDC)_2(TED)$ at 298 K, where dashed lines and solid lines refer to absolute and excess uptakes.

Table 3. Absolute and excess SO_2 uptakes on $M_2(BDC)_2(TED)$ at 298 K and the pressures under 2.5 bar.

M-MOFs	SO_2 uptakes at 298 K, (mmol/g)		
	0.1 bar	1 bar	2.5 bar
$M = Mg$	11.69	15.13	15.92
$M = V$	9.80	13.13	13.85
$M = Co$	9.31	12.32	13.07
$M = Ni$	9.59	12.88	13.54
$M = Ni$ ¹⁷	13.6 (50 bar)		
$M = Mg$ ²⁷	6.44 (0.11 bar)	8.60 (1.02 bar)	
$M = Ni$ ²⁷	4.54 (0.11 bar)	9.97 (1.13 bar)	
Mg(II)-MOF ²⁹	19.5		
Ni(II)-MOF ³⁰	12.5		
MOF-177 ^{1,29}	1.3	25.7 (maximum, 293 K, 0.97 bar)	-

3.3. Effect of structural characteristics and isosteric heat on the SO₂ adsorption of M₂(BDC)₂(TED)

To explain the reason Mg increases the ability to capture SO₂ based on the adsorption mechanism compared to other metals, we analyze the factors that have a substantial impact on the gas adsorption of MOFs, which are the structural characteristics (specific surface area and pore volume) and adsorption isosteric heat.

Isosteric heat of adsorption, Q_{st} , is an essential factor required to describe the thermal performance of adsorptive systems.³¹ The Q_{st} of SO₂ for the M-MOF series calculated in low pressures under 1.0 kPa are presented in Figure 4. The results show that Q_{st} tends to increase as pressure increases. However, the values change little in the low-pressure region. At higher pressures, the Q_{st} value of SO₂ for M-MOFs is most significant for Mg-MOF, rising from 42.03 kJ/mol to 47.97 kJ/mol. Meanwhile, other M-MOFs increase slightly with pressure. Specifically, uptakes of SO₂ in V-MOF: 40.61 – 44.73 kJ/mol, Co-MOF: 40.93 – 45.37 kJ/mol, and Ni-MOF: 40.78 – 44.94 kJ/mol.

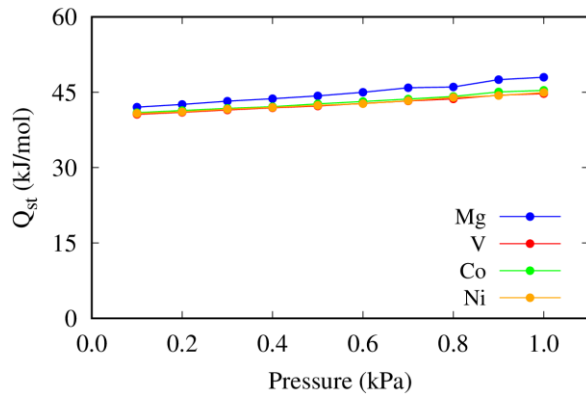


Figure 4. Isosteric heats of SO₂ adsorption for M-MOFs vs the pressure.

The Q_{st} value of SO₂ adsorption is in the order V-MOF \approx Ni-MOF \approx Co-MOF < Mg-MOF, exhibiting that SO₂ adsorption on Mg₂(BDC)₂(TED) is the most noticeable as analyzed above.

Moreover, we also research the influence of specific surface area (SSA) and pore volume (V_p) on the adsorptive ability of SO₂ on the M-MOFs. The SSA values are smaller than many other MOFs, but the pore volume is relatively large, as detailed in Table 4. The SSA and pore volume of the M-MOFs are in increasing order Co < Ni < V < Mg. This tendency is consistent with H. Xiang's work for M(BDC)(TED)_{0.5} with M is Ni and Co.³²

Table 4. The specific surface area and the pore volume of M₂(BDC)₂(TED), compared to another research.

M-MOFs	This work		H. Xiang ³²	
	SSA (m ² /g)	V_p (cm ³ /g)	SSA (m ² /g)	V_p (cm ³ /g)
M = Mg	1930.95	0.87	-	-
M = V	1727.18	0.78	-	-
M = Co	1627.58	0.74	1708	0.619
M = Ni	1686.09	0.76	1905	0.757

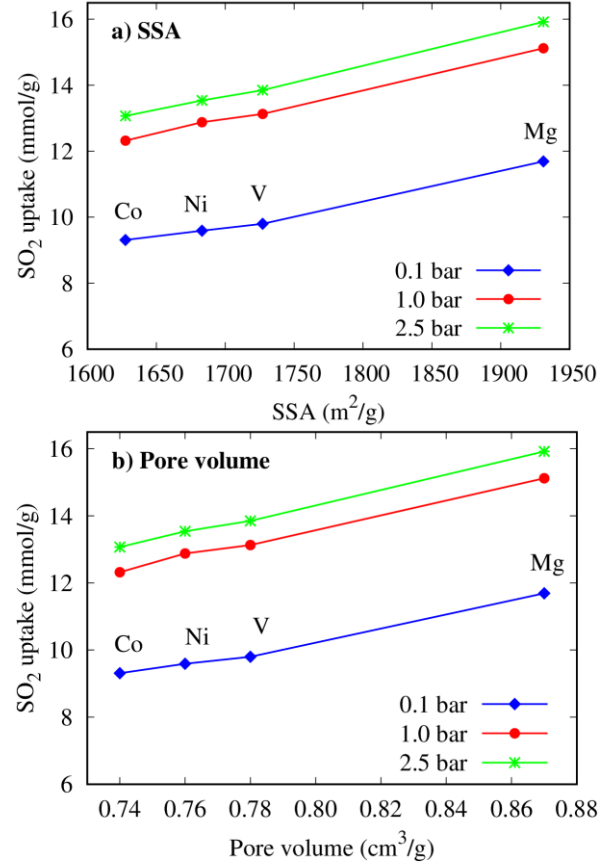


Figure 5. The correlation between the uptakes and (a) the specific surface area (SSA), (b) pore volume (V_p) of M₂(BDC)₂(TED) at 298 K.

The results in Figure 5 express that the amounts of SO₂ adsorption increase almost entirely linearly with SSA and V_p . Among them, the M-MOF with M = Mg is outstanding, which explains the most excellent SO₂ adsorption into Mg₂(BDC)₂(TED). Therefore, these two structural characteristics (V_p and SSA) have a powerful impact on the ability to capture SO₂ on MOFs at room temperature.

4. CONCLUSION

After optimizing the structure for Ni(BDC)(TED), we replaced the metal to obtain optimized geometries for M(BDC)(TED), with M being Mg, V, and Co by calculations based on vdW-DF. Unit cell volumes are in ascending order of Co < V \approx Ni < Mg.

The order of metals increasing the SO₂ adsorption uptakes on M₂(BDC)₂(TED) is Co < Ni < V < Mg. At 298K and 2.5 bar, SO₂ uptakes are about 16 mmol/g for Mg-MOF ($n_{exc} = 15.82$ mmol/g, $n_{abs} = 15.92$ mmol/g)

and about 13 – 14 mol/g for the M-MOF (M = V, Ni, Co).

Our work also elucidates the factors that enhance the amounts of SO₂ adsorption in M₂(BDC)₂TED, including the adsorption isosteric heat, specific surface area, and pore volume. Remarkably, the specific surface areas and pore volumes of M-MOFs almost linearly enhance the SO₂ capture at room temperature and low pressure.

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