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Mechanism of Preferential Adsorption of SO₂ into Two Microporous Paddle Wheel Frameworks M(bdc)(ted)0.5

Kui Tan,[†] Pieremanuele Canepa,[‡] Qihan Gong,[§] Jian Liu,^{||} Daniel H. Johnson,[‡] Allison Dyevoich,[§] Praveen K. Thallapally,^{||} Timo Thonhauser,[‡] Jing Li,[§] and Yves J. Chabal^{*,†}

[†]Department of Materials Science & Engineering, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas 75080, United States of America [‡]Department of Physics, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27109, United States of America

[§]Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey 08854, United States of America Energy and Environment Directorate, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington 99352, United States of America

Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: The selective adsorption of a corrosive gas, SO₂, into two microporous pillared paddle-wheel frameworks $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ [M = Ni, Zn; bdc =1,4benzenedicarboxylate; ted = triethylenediamine] is studied by volumetric adsorption measurements and a combination of in situ infrared spectroscopy and ab initio density functional theory (DFT) calculations. The uptake of SO₂ in $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ at room temperature is quite significant, 9.97 mol/kg at 1.13 bar. The major adsorbed SO₂ molecules contributing to the isotherm measurements are characterized by stretching bands at 1326 and 1144 cm⁻¹. Theoretical calculations including van der Waals interactions (based on vdW-DF) suggest that two adsorption configurations are possible for these SO₂ molecules. One geometry involves an SO₂ molecule bonded



through its sulfur atom to the oxygen atom of the paddle-wheel building unit and its two oxygen atoms to the C-H groups of the organic linkers by formation of hydrogen bonds. Such a configuration results in a distortion of the benzene rings, which is consistent with the experimentally observed shift of the ring deformation mode. In the other geometry, SO₂ establishes hydrogen bonding with $-CH_2$ group of the ted linker through its two oxygen atoms simultaneously. The vdW-DF-simulated frequency shifts of the SO₂ stretching bands in these two configurations are similar and in good agreement with spectroscopically measured values of physisorbed SO_2 . In addition, the IR spectra reveal the presence of another minor species, characterized by stretching modes at 1242 and 1105 cm⁻¹ and causing significant perturbations of MOFs vibrational modes (CH_x and carboxylate groups). This species is more strongly bound, requiring a higher temperature (~150 °C) to remove it than for the main physisorbed species. The adsorption configurations of SO₂ into M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} derived by infrared spectroscopy and vdW-DF calculations provide the initial understanding to develop microporous metal organic frameworks materials based on paddlewheel secondarybuilding units for SO₂ removal in industrial processes.

KEYWORDS: metal organic frameworks, paddlewheel, sulfur dioxide, adsorption isotherm, in situ infrared spectroscopy, DFT calculations

1. INTRODUCTION

Metal organic frameworks (MOFs) are a new class of solid porous materials that are attracting great interest as a potential material for gas storage and separation because of their extraordinary surface areas and fine-tunable surface properties.^{1–3} Until now, MOFs have been widely investigated for the storage and separation of H₂, CH₄, CO₂, and hydrocarbons.³⁻⁹ Studies to explore the use for MOFs for harmful gases (e.g., SO₂, H₂S, NO) adsorption and removal are relatively sparse compared to studies on their use for hydrogen storage and carbon capture. $^{10-13}$ In the past decades, adsorption of SO_2 $\,$ into porous materials such as porous carbon, zeolites has been proposed and investigated by different techniques in order to develop industrial desulfurization process.^{14–19} Recently, Zn-MOF-74 has been found to improve the SO₂ adsorption by a factor of 3 compared to activated carbons and be the best

performing MOF among six prototypical MOFs.²⁰ Very recent breakthrough measurements showed that Mg-MOF-74 provides a better adsorption of SO₂ gas than other MOF-74 series (with Zn, Ni, Co).²¹ Indeed, MOF-74 $[M_2(dhtp), dhtp = 2,5$ dihydroxyterephthalate] compounds have hexagonal onedimensional pores containing a high density of coordinatively unsaturated open metal sites that can potentially interact with guest molecules (see Figure S1 in Supporting Information). Usually the generation of MOF structures with exposed metal sites such as MOF-74 compounds is regarded as an effective means to enhance their affinity toward gases.^{3,4} More recently, there has been an effort to develop structures that have

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cooperative multiple interactions with guest molecules that are believed to improve the adsorption capacity.^{22–24} For example, Schröder and co-workers reported a new nonamine-containing MOF complex called NOTT-300, which selectively adsorbs SO_2 to a level of 8.1 mmol/g at ambient temperature and 1.0 bar. The highlight of this finding is that OH group and C–H groups of benzene cooperatively interact with guest SO_2 molecules.²⁴

To develop the understanding of MOF-based materials for SO_2 removal, we examined SO_2 adsorption in a prototypical metal organic framework $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ [M = Ni, Zn; H₂bdc =1,4-benzenedicarboxylic; ted = triethylenediamine] and characterized the guest-host interaction by in situ infrared spectroscopy and isotherm measurements. Our results show that high SO₂ capacity uptake can be achieved even when using coordinatively saturated MOFs $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$, at levels up to 9.97 mmol/g at room temperature and 1.13 bar. Combining infrared spectroscopy and first principles calculations, the adsorption mechanism of SO2 within this class of MOFs is explored. Multipoint interactions between SO₂ molecules and MOFs are found as possible binding sites within the frameworks: SO2 interacting (i) with the O site of the paddlewheel building units through its sulfur atom and (ii) with the $C-H_x$ groups on the organic linkers through its oxygen atoms.

2. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Synthesis. A mixture of nickel(II) chloride hexahydrate (0.107 g, 0.45 mmol), H₂bdc (0.060 g, 0.36 mmol), ted (0.033 g, 0.29 mmol), and 15 mL of DMF were transferred to Teflon-lined autoclave and heated at 120 °C for 2 days. Green crystalline powder of Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} was isolated by filtering and washed three times with 10 mL of DMF. (Yield: 83.8% based on the metal) Then, the sample was heated at 120 °C again under a flow of dry N₂ for one day to remove the guest DMF molecules.

A mixture of zinc(II) nitrate hexahydrate (0.245 g, 0.82 mmol), H_2bdc (0.136 g, 0.97 mmol), ted (0.073 g, 0.65 mmol), and 15 mL of DMF were transferred to Teflon-lined autoclave and heated at 120 °C for 2 days. Cubic colorless crystals of $Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ were isolated by filtering and washed three times with 10 mL of DMF. (Yield: 84.5% based on the metal) Then the sample was heated at 120 °C again under a flow of dry N_2 for 1 day to remove the guest DMF molecules.

Infrared Spectroscopy. A powder of $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ (~2 mg) was pressed onto a KBr pellet(~1 cm diameter, 1–2 mm thick) and placed into a high pressure high temperature cell purchased from Specac (product number P/N 5850c) at the focal point of the sample compartment of the infrared spectrometer (Nicolet 6700, Thermo Scientific) equipped with a liquid N₂-cooled MCT-B detector. The cell was connected to a vacuum line for evacuation. SO₂ gas was introduced into the pressure cell and all spectra were recorded in transmission between 400 and 4000 cm⁻¹ (4 cm⁻¹ spectral resolution). The pressure was determined by calibrating the SO₂ gas IR absorption at low pressures (3 Torr) with a convection gauge (KJL 285801, KurtJLeskerCo) and then using the integrated IR absorption to determine the higher pressures since there is no dependence of the internal mode dipole moment on pressure.

Adsorption Isotherm. Measurements of SO_2 uptake were performed using a volumetric system specially constructed for lowpressure experiments (see Supporting Information Figure S12). It comprises two chambers, A and B, whose volumes have been determined using helium. Chamber B is loaded with the sample and chamber A is a gas reservoir. A known amount of powder sample was placed in chamber B (volume = 4.134 cm³) with a layer of glass wool on top to prevent sudden suction of the powder sample. The sample was activated at 150 °C for 12 h with dynamic vacuum before each measurement. The activated sample weight was measured after experiment and was used to calculate the SO_2 adsorption results. The activated sample weight for $Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$, $Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$, and Mg-MOF-74 are 75.5 mg, 94.2 mg, and 95.6 mg, respectively. The activated sample was sealed in chamber B under vacuum. SO₂ (the total impurity of SO₂ gas is less than 0.1% and the water concentration is less than 0.01%) was introduced into chamber A, and then, the valve connecting chamber A and B was opened to let the gas adsorption reach equilibrium. This step was repeated as necessary to obtain the adsorption data points. As for the desorption part, a similar but reverse procedure was adopted. The chamber A was evacuated (1 \times 10 $^{-1}$ Torr), and then, the valve connecting chamber A and B was opened to let the gas desorption reach equilibrium. This step was also repeated as necessary to obtain all desorption data points. The criterion for equilibrium was that the change in pressure was less than 0.1% within 15 min. A longer equilibrium time (1 h) was used but no significant difference was observed for the pressure readings. The SO₂ quantity change was determined by the pressure change in chamber A and B. The recorded pressures were used to calculate the adsorbed amount based on basic mass balance equations. An ideal gas law was adopted and the volume of the sample was estimated to be 0.15 cm³ and need to be subtracted from the volume of chamber A in the calculations. The nonideality of SO₂ was accounted by using the compressibility factor of SO₂, which is 0.99 under our experiment conditions. The activation procedure described above was repeated before proceeding to the next cycle of SO₂ adsorption and desorption measurements. Based on our experimental observations, the $Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ can maintain its SO₂ capacity after at least five full cycles of adsorption and desorption.

DFT Calculations. The theoretical results presented in this manuscript were obtained using the van der Waals exchange and correlation functional vdW-DF^{25,26} as implemented in the Vienna Ab Initio Simulation Package, VASP.^{27–30} This functional has already been successfully applied to a number of similar studies, investigating small molecule adsorption in MOFs.^{31–35} vdW-DF is able to accurately describe the weak van der Waals forces originating from nonlocal interactions. We simulated the loading and the coadsorption of SO₂ in M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}, with M = Ni, Zn. Projector augmented-wave (PAW)^{36,37} theory combined with a plane-wave cutoff of 700 eV was used to describe the wave functions. The convergence threshold for the total energy was set to 1×10^{-8} eV, ensuring an accurate sampling of the complex potential energy surface of these MOFs. The structure of M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} interacting with SO₂ was relaxed using vdW-DF until the force criterion of 1×10^{-4} eV·Å⁻¹ was satisfied. Experimentally, the Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} structure exhibits some proton statistical disorder (previously studied by Kong et al.³⁸) resulting in a tetragonal cell with *a*, *b* = 10.93 Å, and *c* = 9.61 Å.

The Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} structure was obtained after full relaxation of the Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} where Zn atoms were replaced by Ni atoms. The optimized lattice constants for Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} are a = b = 11.15 Å and c = 9.53 Å, respectively. For Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} the magnetic moment exhibited by the Ni atoms (2 per cell) is approximately 1 μ B per Ni atom and remains entirely localized on the Ni species.

With these settings, we fully relaxed the coordinates of the MOF and the adsorbed species, for which the adsorption energies are calculated. Starting from the well-converged adsorption geometries, we simulated the IR/Raman vibrational modes of SO₂. Vibrational frequencies were obtained by diagonalizing the dynamical matrix at the Γ point using a finite difference approach with a three-point formula and a calibrated displacement of 0.005 Å. Bader charges were computed using the fast implementation of Henkelman and coworkers. ³⁹ The adsorption models and the graphic manipulation were carried out using J-ICE.⁴⁰

3. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

3.1. Adsorption Isotherms. The $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ series contains secondary-building units SBUs of two 5-coordinates metal cations bridged in a paddle wheel-type configuration (see Figure 1).^{41–44} Compared to the MOFs with coordinatively unsaturated metal sites, $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ is more readily activated and highly porous (61.3%) with large BET surface areas exceeding $1700m^2/g.^{44,45}$



Figure 1. Structure of $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ (M = Ni and Zn) viewed along the *a* and *c* axes. Each paddle wheel building unit is linked by bdc within the layer of 2D network (*xy* plane). The apical sites of metal ions in the building units are bonded by ted molecules to generate the 3D porous frameworks. The coordinative bonds between metal ions Ni²⁺, Zn²⁺ and O, N atoms of bdc, ted linkers are omitted.

The SO₂ adsorption isotherms for activated Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} and Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} were collected at 298 K. The data are shown in Figure 2. For the pressures below 0.35 bar, the SO₂ uptake in Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}



Figure 2. Adsorption isotherm of SO_2 in Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} (black), Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} (red) at room temperature for pressures up to ~1.8 bar. Solid symbol: adsorption. Empty symbol: desorption.

increases rapidly to 8.64 mol/kg, and then reaches 10.88 mol/kg at 1.73 bar. This is quite similar to the SO_2 isotherms observed in NOTT-300.24 The rapid increase observed can be attributed to the strong interaction of SO2 with the surface of the frameworks determined by spectroscopic measurements and theoretical calculations in a later section. Table 1 shows that at room temperature and around 1 bar, Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} outperforms the other reported metal organic frameworks materials in SO₂ adsorption with 9.97 mol/kg SO₂ uptake capacity, compared for instance with Mg-MOF-74, as previously shown in breakthrough measurements, found here under isotherm conditions to have 8.60 mol/kg SO_2 uptake capacity. In contrast, at low pressure (<0.20 bar), MOF-74 and NOTT-300 adsorbs more SO₂ than Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}. Comparing the uptake of different gases (CO₂, N₂, CH₄, H₂),^{44,46,47} as shown in Supporting Information Table S2 and coadsorption measurement in Supporting Information, it is found that $Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ exhibits a preferential adsorption toward SO2. The observed hysteresis during the desorption process is attributed to kinetic limitations. The SO₂ adsorption uptake in the isostructural $Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ compound is much lower than in Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}, which can be explained by the stability of M(bdc)- $(ted)_{0.5}$ [M = Ni, Zn] under SO₂. The XRD pattern (see Supporting Information Figure S3) reveals that that the crystal structure of $Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ is stable under SO₂ loading while that of Zn(bdc)-

Table 1. Comparison of SO₂ Adsorption Capacities (Uptakes in mol kg⁻¹) in Selected MOF at Room Temperature

MOF	uptake	pressure (bar)	temp. (K)	reference
Ni(bdc)(ted) _{0.5}	9.97	1.13	298	this work
	4.54	0.11	298	this work
$Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$	4.41	1.01	298	this work
Mg-MOF-74	8.60	1.02	298	this work
	6.44	0.11	298	this work
	1.94	a	293	21
NOTT-300	8.1	1	273	24
$M_3[Co(CN)_6]_2$	2.5	1	298	13
FMOF-2	2.19	1	298	12
		.		

 $^a{\rm The}$ dynamic capacity of SO_2 in Mg-MOF-74 measured by breakthrough measurement under 1000 mg m^{-3} of the feed concentration.

(ted)_{0.5} shows evidence of partial decomposition. The high thermal stability of Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} (over 400 °C as shown in Supporting Information Figure S4) makes it suitable for real world applications.

3.2. Spectroscopic Characterization of SO₂ Adsorption and Desorption in M(bdc)(ted)0.5. To unravel the nature of the interactions between SO₂ molecules and the Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} framework upon SO₂ adsorption, we performed in situ IR measurements of SO₂ adsorption at room temperature as a function of pressure. Since the SO₂ gas IR absorption at pressures above 100 Torr is prohibitively high, a different procedure was employed to study the loadings above 45 Torr (see Supporting Information Figure S6). The activated sample was exposed to the SO_2 gas and the pressure cell quickly evacuated. The IR spectra were then recorded immediately after evacuation (acquisition time = 16 s). The adsorption state could be probed because the kinetics of SO2 removal are slow enough, as shown in Figure 3. Several SO₂ associated bands, increasing as a function of initial pressure, can be identified in the IR spectra for $Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ of Figure 3 and Supporting Information Figure S7. Two sharp bands observed at 1326 cm⁻¹ and 1144 cm⁻¹, exhibit a -36 cm⁻¹ and -7cm⁻¹ red-shift, respectively (from the unperturbed values of 1362 cm⁻¹ and 1151 cm⁻¹ for the asymmetric and symmetric S=O stretch modes of SO₂ molecules).⁴⁸⁻⁵⁰ Although these frequency shifts are



Figure 3. IR absorption spectra of SO_2 adsorption into Ni(bdc)-(ted)_{0.5} as a function of SO_2 initial pressure recorded immediately after evacuation (within 16 s). All spectra are referenced to the activated (i.e., empty) MOF. Inset shows the low pressure region from bottom to top: 600 mtor, 1 Torr, 2 Torr, 3 Torr. The black lines are associated with SO_2 -related features and the red dash lines with MOF-related features arising from SO_2 induced perturbation.

typical of *physisorbed* SO_2 species,^{49,51} we will show in section 4.1 that there can be charge transfer with the MOF.

A combination band, $\nu_{as}+\nu_{s}$, is observed at 2462 cm⁻¹. Two other bands appear at 1242 cm⁻¹ and 1105 cm⁻¹, most easily seen in the low pressure range (see inset of Figure 3), which are substantially more red-shifted compared to the gas phase values $(-120 \text{ and } -53 \text{ cm}^{-1})$ respectively) than these of the previous bands discussed above. SO2 adsorption also induces significant changes to the frameworks vibrational modes: (1) a blue shift of the $\nu_{as}(COO)$ mode from 1639 cm⁻¹ to 1695 cm⁻¹ ($\Delta \nu$ = +56 cm⁻¹) and of the $\nu_{\rm s}$ (COO) mode from 1433 cm⁻¹ to 1472 cm⁻¹ ($\Delta \nu = +39$ cm⁻¹), and (2) a decrease in intensity of $\nu_{as}(CH_2)$, $\nu_s(CH_2)$ and $\nu(CH)$ modes at 2874 cm⁻¹, 2938 cm⁻¹, and 3076 cm⁻¹, respectively. Furthermore, the CH₂ rocking mode and benzene ring deformation mode σ_{12} are red-shifted by ~ -8 cm^{-1} (from 830 and to 822 cm^{-1}) and $\sim -12 cm^{-1}$ (from 744 cm^{-1} to 732 cm⁻¹, respectively). The δ (COO) mode, initially at 810 cm⁻¹ shifts to 778 cm⁻¹ ($\Delta \nu = -32$ cm⁻¹). These changes increase with SO₂ adsorption. The frameworks vibrational modes assignment is summarized in Supporting Information Table S3.

Figure 4 shows the evolution of SO_2 in Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} after a loading at 286 Torr. Upon evacuation at room temperature, the



Figure 4. IR absorption spectra recorded 0.5 min, 0.5 h, and 5 h after evacuation at room temperature after loading SO₂ at 286 Torr, and then after at 150 °C for additional 3 h. All spectra are referenced to the activated (i.e., empty) MOF. The vertical black lines are associated with SO₂-related features and the red dash or dot lines with MOF-related features arising from SO₂-induced perturbations.

physisorbed species characterized by modes at 1326 cm⁻¹ and 1144 cm⁻¹ gradually desorbs. In contrast, the two bands at 1242 cm⁻¹ and 1105 cm⁻¹ remain relatively strong, indicating that another more strongly bound SO₂ species is present in the frameworks.

In coadsorption experiments of CO₂ and SO₂ in Supporting Information Figure S9, we found that the presence of this other SO_2 species can decrease the CO2 adsorption. The complete removal of this species required heating to 150 °C, as shown in the top spectrum in Figure 4. In the differential spectra, the perturbed benzene ring stretching bands ν_{18a} , ν_{19b} , ν_{19a} modes, benzene ring deformation modes σ_{12} , ν (COO), ρ (CH₂) of ted linkers are partially recovered after the removal of the dominant, less strongly bound SO₂ molecules upon evacuation at room temperature. Comparison of Figures 4 and 5 indicates that the weakly bound SO2 (characterized by modes at 1326 cm⁻¹ and 1144 cm⁻¹) causes the σ_{12} mode to blue shift by 4 cm⁻ while the more strongly bound SO₂ characterized by modes at 1242 cm⁻¹ and 1105 cm⁻¹ causes the σ_{12} mode red shift to 732 cm⁻¹. The perturbation of the ν (COO), ν (CH₂), δ (COO) bands, and the benzene deformation mode σ 12 are removed after this latter species, characterized by modes at 1242 cm⁻¹ and 1105 cm⁻¹, has desorbed at elevated temperatures.



Figure 5. Differential spectra recorded during evacuation. The reference for all spectra is obtained at the very beginning of the evacuation process (i.e., within 0.5 min). The inset shows the physisorbed SO_2 in the frequency region of 1050 to 1380 cm⁻¹.

3.3. Perturbation with D₂O, SO₂, and CO₂. To elucidate the nature of the perturbation of the MOF structure (i.e., phonons), we examined the effect of adsorption of *other* molecules (water and carbon dioxide) into the Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} frameworks on the IR absorption spectra (Figure 6). For water, D₂O is used instead of H₂O



Figure 6. Perturbation of MOFs vibrational modes: IR absorption spectra of SO₂, D₂O, CO₂ adsorption into Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} recorded right after exposure following (a) 16 Torr SO₂, (b) 6 Torr D₂O, and (c) 16 Torr CO₂. All spectra are referenced to the activated (i.e., empty) MOF.

to avoid the interference of the $\beta(D_2O)$ (scissor) mode in the range 1600–1700 cm⁻¹. We find that the perturbation effect induced by SO₂ adsorption is significantly different from incorporation of water molecules into the M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} frameworks and it is dependent on the adsorbed species. As previously observed and discussed,³⁵ the $\nu_{as}(COO)$ and $\nu_s(COO)$ modes, initially at ~1620 cm⁻¹ and ~1430 cm⁻¹, red shift to 1567 cm⁻¹ and 1365 cm⁻¹ upon introduction of the water molecules. The red shift is due to hydrogen bonding between D₂O and the carboxylate group in the paddlewheel building units. In the case of CO₂, there is little perturbation of the host, which is consistent with the fact that CO₂ is known to be weakly physically absorbed into M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}.⁵¹ The response of the benzene ring deformation mode σ_{12} , $\delta(COO)$, is specific to each guest-molecule adsorption into the frameworks: σ_{12} blue shift to 756 cm⁻¹ upon

exposure to water vapors; SO₂ adsorption causes a more pronounced red shift of the δ (COO) mode than water molecules.

4. DISCUSSION

The infrared results indicate that SO_2 adsorbs into the $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ frameworks in two different ways, distinguished by their frequency shifts, effect on the host spectrum and bonding strengths. From the desorption isotherms shown in Figure 2 and the IR absorption spectra in Figure 4, we conclude that the major species is weakly adsorbed SO_2 , characterized by modes at 1326 cm⁻¹ and 1144 cm⁻¹. In addition, we observe that some minor species persists in the framework upon evacuation and can block access to other molecules such as CO_2 as indicated in Figure 4 and Supporting Information Figure S9. Upon the removal of this more strongly bound SO_2 species, the CO_2 uptake can be recovered, confirming that these SO_2 species inhibit the adsorption of incoming CO_2 molecules.

To determine the origin of all adsorbed species, we first turn to the literature. Previous experimental and theoretical studies of SO₂ interaction with metal oxide such as MgO and ZnO suggest that SO₂ readily reacts with exposed O sites at surfaces to form SO₃ and in some cases SO₄ species.^{52–54} According to this picture, it is likely that SO₂ molecules preferentially interact with the oxygen site of the paddlewheel building units by Lewis acid—base interaction. For such an interaction, perturbations of the ν_s (COO) bands are expected, as observed in the IR spectra (see section 3.2). However, other sites may also be occupied leading to other types of interactions. For instance, the "strong" perturbations of the linker bands such as ν (CH_x), ν_{18a} , ρ (CH₂), and σ_{12} indicate the possible interaction of SO₂ molecules with the benzene rings and the ted moieties in the frameworks as well.

While the modes associated with the dominant species at 1326 cm⁻¹ and 1144 cm⁻¹ correspond to physisorbed SO₂ according to the isotherms, the other two bands at 1242 cm^{-1} and 1105 cm⁻¹ are clearly associated with more strongly bound SO₂ species, with frequencies more similar to previously observed values for sulfate species and chemisorbed SO₃ on MgO surfaces.^{50,55,56} It would therefore be tempting to suggest that SO₂ is oxidized into SO₄ species within the Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} framework by a so-called η^1 -S bridge configuration,^{52,54,56} wherein SO₂ is attached via the S atom to two oxygen atoms of the paddle wheel building units (Lewis adduct formation), as shown in Supporting Information Figure S11. However, the spectroscopic results in Figure 3 and 4 suggest that SO₂ interacts instead the ted organic linker since the appearance of the bands at 1242 and 1105 cm⁻¹ is correlated with a decrease in intensity of $\nu_{as}(CH_2)$, $\nu_s(CH_2)$ modes of the ted group.

To determine whether this interaction involves the ted group, two other isotypical metal organic frameworks without ted linker, but based on the same paddlewheel building units, $Zn(ndc)(bpee)_{0.5}$ and $Zn(ndc)(bpy)_{0.5}$ were studied, where [ndc = 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylate, bpee = 1,2-bis(4-pyridyl) ethylene, and bpy = bipyridine](see Figure 7).^{57,58} For these MOFs, bpee and bpy link the two-dimensional networks $Zn_2(ndc)_2$ to generate 3D pillared structures similar to $Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$. Since the bpy and bpee linkers are planar linkers in contrast to the 3-D ted linker, there should be less steric hindrance for SO₂ molecules to interact with the paddlewheel units, if the formation of a Lewis carboxylate-SO₂ bonding were in fact stable, in $Zn(ndc)(bpe)_{0.5}$, and $Zn(ndc)(bpy)_{0.5}$. Importantly, no feature associated with



Figure 7. IR absorption spectra of SO₂ adsorption into activated $Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$, $Zn(ndc)(bpee)_{0.5}$, and $Zn(ndc)(bpy)_{0.5}$ at the pressure of 23 Torr, 20 Torr, 24 Torr recorded immediately after evacuation (within 16 s). All spectra are referenced to the activated (i.e., empty) MOF.

strongly bound species were observed in the spectra of SO₂-loaded Zn(ndc)(bpee)_{0.5}, and Zn(ndc)(bpy)_{0.5}, ruling out the formation of SO₄ type species (with O–O distance ~2.4–2.5 Å) in paddlewheel units, possibly due to large O–O distances (~2.7- 2.8 Å) in the carboxylate groups of the unit.^{41,42,59}

These results suggest that the interaction with the ted linker may be strong enough to induce the shifts observed in the SO₂ vibrational spectrum, 1242 and 1105 cm⁻¹, and to lead to a higher binding energy, as shown in Figure 4 and Figure 7. We have therefore examined such possibilities using first principles calculations that are useful to determine the binding energies associated with selected binding sites of SO₂ molecules within the Ni/Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} and to calculate the associated vibrational spectrum of both SO₂ and the MOF ligand modes, as described in section 4.1.

 $Ni/Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ offer several potential binding sites associated with the nature of their building block. However, their potential energy surface (PES) is complex, presenting many adsorptions "pockets". To guide the construction of initial and realistic adsorption geometries, we initially assumed that the interaction of SO_2 with MOFs structure was similar to what occurs when SO_2 is adsorbed on simpler systems such MgO and ZnO surfaces.^{52,54} This assumption is justified by the fact that oxygen atoms surrounding the metals sites of MOFs $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ "recreate" the chemical environment found on these surfaces. Theoretical and experimental evidence of the adsorption of SO₂ on MgO and ZnO surfaces suggests that SO₂ interacts strongly with its sulfur atom with the oxygen sites exposed at the surface, leading us to design an initial model of interaction where the sulfur atoms of SO_2 bind with the oxygen atoms of the bdc units (model SO_2 –O-bdc). However, due to the complexity of PES of the $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$, we also considered three other possible initial adsorption sites, based on the complementarity electrostatic principle of Lewis-donors and acceptors. In general, S in SO₂ acts as an acceptor, and the functionalities on the linker as the donors. This has led us to select adsorption geometries (i.e., models) where SO_2 is in contact with (i) the benzene ring of the bcd units (model SO_2 benzene), (ii) with the nitrogen atom of the ted group (model SO_2 -N-ted), and (iii) the C-H groups of the ted linkers by establishing strong hydrogen bond (SO-H-C) with several



Figure 8. Snapshot of four initial adsorption configuration models used to investigate possible interactions of SO₂ in Zn, Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}. (a) SO₂–O–bdc, (b) SO₂–benzene, (c) SO₂–CH₂–ted, and (d) SO₂–N–ted. Dashed lines represent the shorter contacts for SO₂ with the surrounding groups available on the linker unit.

such C–H groups that are fully accessible in the MOF channel of the model SO_2 –CH₂-ted system.

4.1. Adsorption Energy and Charge Analysis. The fundamental quantity that governs the adsorption properties of SO₂ within the MOF is the adsorption energy ΔE , referred to thereafter as binding energy:

$$\Delta E = E_{\rm MOF+G} - E_{\rm MOF} - E_{\rm G} \tag{1}$$

Here, $E_{\text{MOF+G}}$, E_{MOF} and E_{G} and are the total energies of the fully relaxed MOF + SO₂, MOF alone, and SO₂ in gas phase, respectively. Knowledge of the vibrational frequencies (section 4.2) of these systems becomes useful in the calculation of the zero-point energy (ZPE), ΔE_{ZPE} , the thermal correction $\Delta H(T)$, and entropy contribution ΔS . $\Delta H(T)$ allows for a more accurate comparison to measured heats of adsorption and is calculated considering the vibrational contribution (taking into account the rotational and translational degrees of freedom for the molecule in gas phase) to the adsorption energy.

We begin by discussing the binding energies and other relevant quantities for monoadsorption cases of SO_2 molecules within $Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ framework as detailed above, and Figure 8 shows these initial alternative adsorption models.

The adsorption of SO₂ molecules on the groups presented by the MOF follow the trend: SO₂–N-ted (-5 kJ mol^{-1}) > SO₂– benzene (-22 kJ mol^{-1}) > SO₂–CH₂-ted (-61 kJ mol^{-1}) \geq SO₂–O-bdc (-66 kJ mol^{-1}).

The initial configuration of SO_2 interacting with the nitrogen atom of the ted group evolves quite dramatically during the structural optimization, resulting in the complete desorption of the SO_2 molecule from the ted unit back into the MOF channel. The small adsorption energy observed (-5 kJ mol^{-1}) originates from the weak interactions of SO_2 with the surrounding linkers groups rather than with N. This situation has been expected since the crammed chemical environment of the ted group, and specifically the poor accessibility to the N atoms from the MOF-channel (see Figure 8d).

The model of the SO₂ molecule on the benzene site was investigated by both calculations (see section S11 in the Supporting Information) and the experimental work of Taleb-Bendiab et al.,⁶⁰ which show that the binding energy for this configuration is $\Delta E_{\rm b}$ (theory) = -22 kJ mol⁻¹ and $\Delta E_{\rm b}$ (exp) = -18 kJ mol⁻¹, respectively, that is, much less than for SO₂ in the other configurations SO₂-CH₂-ted and SO₂-O-bdc. Note that the calculations were done for Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}, but very similar results are expected for the iso-structural Ni(bdc)-(ted)_{0.5}, since the bonding does not involve the metal ions.

The Bader charge analysis of Table 2 suggests that in the cases of SO_2 -O-bdc and SO_2 -benzene, the sulfur atom of

Table 2. Bader Charges (in Units of the Electronic Charge) of Sulfur in SO_2 and the Adsorbing Group (Grp) before (as B) and after (as A) the Adsorption^{*a*}

	SO ₂			MOF-atom			
model	В	А	Δe	Grp	В	А	Δe
-O- bdc	+2.85	+1.73	-1.11	0	-1.19	-1.08	0.10
-CH ₂ - ted	+2.85	+2.07	-0.79	H^b	-0.06	-0.09	-0.03
-benz.	+2.85	+2.72	-0.14	C^{c}	0.05	0.05	0.00

 ${}^{a}\Delta e$ is the absolute difference between charges. ${}^{b}SO_{2}$ is pointing with its oxygen atoms on H atoms of the CH₂-ted group see Figure 8c. "The charges on carbon atoms of the benzene were averaged.

 SO_2 always acts as acceptor, while the MOF-unit groups (i.e., benzene, or O) act as donors. This situation changes for the SO_2-CH_2 -ted model where the hydrogen bonds are between O atoms of the SO_2 molecule and the H atoms of the CH_2 group of the ted unit (see Figure 8c).

The charge analysis of Table 2 shows that the "charge transfer" from the MOF toward the SO₂ molecule is correlated with the adsorption energy by assisting the electron-deficiency of sulfur. For instance, the sulfur atom in the SO₂–O–bdc and -CH₂-ted configurations almost changes its oxidation state during adsorption on the oxygen atom of the bdc group, suggesting a bonding mechanism stronger than typical physisorption. However, the binding energy $(-66 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})$ is still in the range that is typically associated with physical adsorption. In contrast, SO₂ adsorption on the benzene rings leads to a small variation in the molecule and MOF charges, a clear indication of a weak van der Waals interaction that is consistent with lower calculated binding energy (-22 kJ mol⁻¹) and the shallow binding energy profile (see section S11 in the Supporting Information). Note that the Bader analysis is an intuitive (but not unique) way of repartitioning the electron charge density, similar to other charge analyses and therefore can only be used to draw qualitative conclusions.⁶¹

Initially, we postulated that the strongly bound species, characterized by the modes at 1242 and 1105 cm⁻¹ in Figures 3, 4, and 5, could be associated with the geometry shown in Figure 8c with SO₂ located next to the ted CH₂ group. However, the binding energy calculated from the SO₂-CH₂- ted model $(-61 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1})$ is too low, even slightly less than

that of the SO_2 -O-bdc model in Figure 8a, which is not consistent with the measured elevated desorption temperature (150 °C). The frequencies of ν_{as} and ν_{s} mode of SO₂ molecules in this configuration also exhibit a modest red-shift of -31 and -20 cm^{-1} , much less than the observed frequency shifts of the strongly bound species (see section 4.2). Therefore, the theoretical calculations cannot shed light on the binding configuration of the strongly bound SO₂. The spectroscopic results in Figure 7 clearly show that this adsorption state is associated with the ted linker because its CH₂ stretching modes are significantly perturbed. Interestingly, the inclusion of this strongly bound species brings in significant modifications to carboxylate and CH_x vibrational modes of the MOF (as shown in section 3.2, section 3, and Supporting Information Figure S8). Further extensive additional theoretical and experimental studies necessary to fully understand this interaction are beyond the scope of this work. They will involve the preparation of more isotypical MOFs containing ted linkers, which is important to explore more binding geometries with different expected SO₂ interactions with the ted group.

In order to fully investigate the loading capabilities of $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ and the MOF structure perturbation, we have progressively adsorbed an increasing number of SO₂ molecules (1–8 molecules) until the available oxygen atoms are completely saturated. Here, we explore the effect of loading only for the most stable adsorption case, that is, SO₂–O–bdc and SO₂–CH₂–ted. The MOF Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} structure displays 8 oxygen atoms originating from bdc linkers (see red atoms at the center of Figure 8b). In Table 3, we report the

Table 3. Adsorption Energies ΔE (in kJ mol⁻¹) of SO₂ in Zn, Ni (bdc)(ted)_{0.5}^{*a*}

loading	ΔE	ΔE_{ZPE}	ΔH_{298}	ΔS	S-O*	$\Delta \phi$		
Model SO ₂ -CH ₂ -ted Zn(bdc)(ted) _{0.5}								
1/8	-61	-58	-68	-218	2.56 ^b			
	N	10del SO ₂ -	O-bdc Zn(bdc)(ted) _{0.}	5			
1/8	-66	-64	-70	-220	2.84	-43		
2/8	-66	-62	-68	-223	2.87	-40		
4/8	-66	-64	-70	-221	2.99	-44		
6/8	-71	-69	-75	-226	3.07	-48		
8/8	-78	-71	-77	-227	3.16	-49		
Model SO ₂ –O–bdc Ni(bdc)(ted) _{0.5}								
2/8	-77	-75	-81	-228	2.90	-46		

^{*a*} ΔE is also corrected by the ZPE and thermal contribution ΔH at 298 K. Entropies, $\Delta S \text{ J} \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$, are also reported. For the SO₂-O-bdc model S-O is the averaged intermolecular bond-length OOS-O-(bdc) in Å, whereas $\Delta \phi$ is the variation of the torsion angle, in degrees, shown in Figure 8. ^{*b*}*S-O bond length becomes O-H for SO₂-CH₂-ted model (see Figure 8c).

adsorption energies (with relative contribution) along with relevant bond-lengths and structural parameters of the most relevant adsorption geometries, that is, $SO_2-O-bdc$ and SO_2-CH_2 -ted.

Table 3 shows that SO₂ binds strongly with the oxygen atoms in the Ni and Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} structures, which is expected to affect the frequencies of ν (COO) modes as observed in Figure 5. Figure 9 highlights the limited configurations surrounding the metal sites in M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} available for SO₂ adsorption. Figure 9 also shows the formation of hydrogen bonds between the oxygen atoms of SO₂ and the hydrogen on the benzene ring of the linkers. The magnitude of



Figure 9. Top-view of $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ (a) before and (b) after the absorption of SO₂ molecules. (c) Enlargement of the adsorption area for SO₂, where dashed lines show the interaction of S with O atoms (see bond length S–O in Table 2) of the MOF and hydrogen bonds. The structural deformation upon SO₂ absorption is highlighted by the gray plane in a, b, and ϕ is the torsion angle.

the distortion imposed by SO₂ on the MOF structure can be monitored by following the variation of the angle ϕ of Table 3. The large distortion imposes dramatic changes in the linker structure, affecting their vibrational frequencies as observed experimentally in the ring deformation mode σ_{12} and other ring stretching mode ν_{18a} , ν_{19b} , ν_{19a} shift in Figure 5.

In Figure 8c, SO₂ also forms hydrogen bonds with the CH₂ group of the ted linker through its two oxygen atoms, as evidenced by the close distance (2.56 Å) between O and H atoms shown in Figure 8c and Table 3. This is an interesting binding geometry since the ted linkers provide a chelating site for the guest SO₂ molecules. The experimentally observed perturbation of the ρ (CH₂) mode shown in Figure 5 are consistent with the interaction between SO₂ and CH₂ (see section 3.2).

The calculated adsorption energies are large for M(bdc)-(ted)_{0.5}, and they increase with loading. However, the calculated decrease of ΔE with the molecular loading could be an artifact of the increasing intermolecular interactions, caused by the finite size of the cell adopted. For such reasons, our analysis of the absorption of SO₂ in Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} is only restricted to a representative model for two SO₂ per unit cell (2/8). The binding energies for this latter MOF are similar to those of $Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$.

The above adsorption energy calculations, combined with the later IR frequencies simulation, suggest that the infrared bands at 1326 and 1144 cm⁻¹ species could be due to SO₂ trapped in either SO₂-CH₂-ted or SO₂-O-bdc configurations since their adsorption energies and IR frequency shift as calculated in the next section are similar. The observation that the benzene ring deformation modes σ_{12} and stretching modes of ν_{18a} , ν_{19b} , ν_{19a} are affected by this weakly bound SO₂ additionally confirms the existence of the second configuration (SO₂-O-bdc) shown in Figure 8a.

4.2. Simulation of IR Spectra. We further discuss the effect of adsorption on the IR frequency modes of SO₂. The theoretical analysis concerns the vibrational modes of SO₂ and the MOF in gas-phase and once adsorbed into $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ (M = Zn, Ni), respectively, as reported in Table 4. The

Table 4. Simulated IR Vibrational Frequencies (in cm⁻¹) for SO₂ in Gas-Phase and Within $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} (M = Ni, Zn)^a$

SO ₂ -gas			$M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$			
	exp.	cal.	Ni	Zn (SO ₂ –O- bdc)	Zn (SO ₂ -CH ₂ - ted)	
$\nu_{\rm as}$	1362 ^b	1256	1217 (-39)	1224 (-32)	1225 (-31)	
$\nu_{\rm s}$	1151 ^b	1073	1053 (-20)	1057 (-16)	1053 (-20)	
δ	497 ^c	498	491 (-7)	501 (+3)	497 (-1)	

^{*a*}Experimental frequencies value for the SO₂ gas-phase are also reported. In brackets, we report the frequency shifts with respect to those calculated for the gas-phase. ^{*b*}This work (see section 3.2). ^{*c*}Ref 62.

frequency calculations presented here are only performed for specific configurations: 2 SO₂/8 sites of loading for M(bdc)-(ted)_{0.5} (M = Zn, Ni) (see Table 2). The analysis focuses initially on the SO₂ frequency shifts observed when the first molecule is introduced in the MOF channel. According to the irreducible representation of SO₂, C_{2v} , there are three expected vibrational modes: that is, two stretching modes (asymmetric and symmetric) and one bending mode.

From Table 4, it is clear that the computed IR frequencies of the SO₂ gas-phase are underestimated. To determine if such a discrepancy is due to the pseudopotential (PS) employed, we performed a similar calculation using a "harder" PS, which increases the computational cost, but we observed only a marginal change of the absolute frequency values (about +20 cm⁻¹).

Nevertheless, the quantity of interest here is the frequency shift upon SO₂ adsorption within the MOF structure, which is more accurately determined than the absolute frequencies. Table 4 shows that the SO₂ vibrational modes experience a shift once in the M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} structure. In both SO₂–O–bdc and SO₂–CH₂–ted configurations, the molecular adsorption leads to similar red-shifts of the stretching modes, ν_3 and ν_1 , as shown in Table 4, a clear indication that those bonds are weakened due to the SO₂ interaction with the MOF. The bending modes are not affected much after the adsorption of SO₂. Experimentally, for Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}, two sharp bands are observed at 1326 cm⁻¹ and 1144 cm⁻¹, respectively, corresponding to ~–36 cm⁻¹ and ~–7 cm⁻¹ red-shifts (from the unperturbed value at 1362 cm⁻¹ and 1151 cm⁻¹) of the asymmetric and symmetric S=O stretch modes of the SO₂ molecules (see section 3.2). Although the absolute theoretical values underestimate the values of the frequencies observed experimentally, the red shifts are in good agreement with the experimental measurements (see Table 4). As a guide for future interpretation, we report in Supporting Information Figure S14 the computed frequencies in form of the spectra, where only stretching modes are shown.

We also investigated the effect of the SO_2 adsorption on the vibrational modes of the MOF framework. Note that a full symmetry analysis of each mode associated with the MOF as well as a full description of each mode become extremely challenging; we therefore limit the discussion of Table 5 to the

Table 5. Simulated IR Vibrational Frequencies (in cm⁻¹) for SO₂ in Gas Phase and within $Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}^{a}$

Zn(bcd)ted _{0.5}						
Grp	т	M(bcd)ted _{0.5}	SO ₂ –O-bdc	SO ₂ -CH ₂ -ted		
CH (bdc)	ν	3053	3069 (+16)	3066 (+13)		
CH ₂ (ted)	$\nu_{\rm as}$	3036	3040 (+4)	3043 (+7)		
CH_2 (ted)	$\nu_{\rm s}$	2996	3001 (+5)	3002 (+6)		
COO(bdc)	$\nu_{\rm as}$	1549	1561 (+12)	1560 (+11)		
COO(bdc)	δ	849	846 (-3)	848 (-1)		
CH ₂ (ted)	ρ^{b}	821	829 (+8)	823 (+2)		
COO(bdc)	δ_{oop}	788	788 (0)	789 (+1)		
		Ni(bcd)t	ted _{0.5}			
Grp		m N	1(bcd)ted _{0.5}	SO ₂ –O–bdc		
CH(bdc)		ν	3050	3072 (+22)		
CH ₂ (ted)		$\nu_{\rm as}$	3030	3040 (+10)		
CH_2 (ted)		$\nu_{\rm s}$	2988	2991 (+3)		
COO(bdc)		$\nu_{\rm as}$	1519	1530 (+11)		
COO(bdc)		δ	863	860 (-3)		
CH_2 (ted)		ρ^{b}	829	835 (+6)		
COO(bdc)		$\delta_{ m oop}$	777	778 (+1)		

"In brackets we report the frequency shifts with respect to those calculated for the bare MOF. Grp refers to the vibrating group, whereas *m* for modes." ${}^{b}\rho$ is the bending mode out of plane.

frequency modes that are detected experimentally (see section 3.2). Furthermore, the conclusions derived from the frequency calculations of the model SO_2-CH_2 -ted segment of the $Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ framework are assumed to carry over for $Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ as well.

Table 5 shows that our calculations slightly overestimate the experimental CH stretching modes, while underestimate the COO asymmetric and symmetric frequencies (see section 3.2). In general, the shift of the calculated vibrational modes is quite small. Most of vibrational modes investigated are strongly affected both in intensity and peak position by the adsorption of a strongly bound species with modes at 1242 and 1105 cm⁻¹ (see section 3.2), making it difficult to analyze the measured peak position change induced by the more weakly adsorbed SO₂ (with modes at 1326 and 1144 cm⁻¹). The differential spectra in Figure 5 show that the perturbations of bdc and ted modes are partially released upon desorption of this more weakly bound species, providing indirect evidence for SO₂ interaction with the functional groups of organic linkers.

5. CONCLUSION

In this work, we have shown that the metal organic framework $Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ adsorbs a large quantity of polluting SO_2 gas [9.97 mol kg⁻¹] at 1.13 bar at room temperature. The high uptake capacity can be attributed to multiple interactions of

 SO_2 molecules within the framework units. These include the interaction of sulfur atoms with paddlewheel metal oxygen carbon units of the secondary building unit and oxygen atoms of SO_2 with the C-H, CH₂ of organic linkers, as observed by infrared spectroscopy and supported by ab initio DFT calculations. The IR data also point to another configuration of SO_2 that is more strongly bound to the organic linker ted, and can be removed at higher temperature (~150 °C) without destroying the frameworks structure. These findings are important to develop frameworks based on paddlewheel building units for the efficient capture of SO_2 .

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

Mg-MOF-74 crystal structure and adsorption and desorption isotherm of SO₂, PXRD pattern of $M(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}$ and TG profiles, Infrared spectra of Ni(bdc)(ted)_{0.5} and its vibrational assignments, different gas adsorption capacities in Ni(bdc)-(ted)_{0.5}, IR spectra of SO₂ adsorption into Zn(bdc)(ted)_{0.5}. Coadsorption experiment of CO₂ and SO₂, binding energy curve, and simulated IR spectra. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Corresponding Author

*Phone: 1-972-883-5751. E-mail: chabal@utdallas.edu.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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