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Utilizing Resonant Acoustic Mixing to Combine HKUST-1 with Activated Carbon for Hydrogen Adsorption Applications

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Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) have emerged as highly promising candidates for hydrogen storage due to their adaptable porosity, large surface area, and the possibility to functionalize them for particular applications [1]. Incorporating carbon-based materials into the MOF matrix has proven effective in increasing specific surface area of the resulting composite material, thereby enhancing its adsorption capacity [2]. This study focuses on assessing the impact of introducing a commercial activated carbon (AC, MSC 30 from Kansai Coke and Chemicals Co., Ltd.) into the HKUST-1 matrix. This assessment involves comprehensive analysis of textural properties, thermal stability, water affinity, and H_2 uptake.



Fig. 1. a) Schematic representation of the synthesis process; b) Ar isotherms at 87K and, theoretical vs experimental S_{NLDFT} (insert); c) Pore volumes and, theoretical vs experimental mesopore volume (insert); d) Total H₂ uptake at 77K and theoretical vs experimental total H₂ uptakes (insert)

Incorporating varying weight percentages of AC into HKUST-1 enhanced the textural characteristics of the resultant composite materials by increasing the mesopore volume. The total H_2 uptake increased by 3.7% and 6.8% with the addition of 5 and 7 wt.%, respectively, of AC, surpassing the theoretical H_2 capacities. These theoretical capacities were calculated by considering the mass percentages of HKUST-1 and AC, assuming a linear additive effect. The heightened H_2 uptake is ascribed to the higher mesopore volume in the composites.

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