

# A Joint Theory and Experimental Project in the Synthesis and Testing of Porous COFs for On-Board Vehicular Hydrogen Storage

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Project ID  
ST022

# Overview

## Timeline

Project start date: 9/1/2008  
(funded from 4/1/2009)

Project end date: 1/31/2013

Percent complete: 65%

## Budget

- Total project funding
  - DOE share: \$1.38 M
  - Contractor Share: \$405,499
- Funding received in FY11: \$284,425
- Funding for FY12: \$225 K

## Barriers

Barriers addressed

- Improved gravimetric and volumetric density of hydrogen uptake
- Improved hydrogen binding energy
- Synthetic scale up of COFs to cubic meters

## Collaborating Partner

- Co-PI: William Goddard (Caltech)
- Fraser Stoddart (NW)
- Jaheon Kim (Soongsil University)
- BASF

# Relevance

## Overall project objectives:

Develop new materials to meet DOE system H<sub>2</sub> storage targets

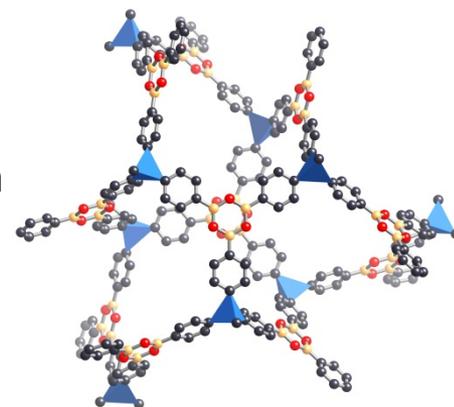
- Theoretical prediction of H<sub>2</sub> storage capacities to guide chemistry
- Synthesize lightweight crystalline porous solids for the metalation
- Measure H<sub>2</sub> uptake and adsorption enthalpy

## Lightweight crystalline porous solids:

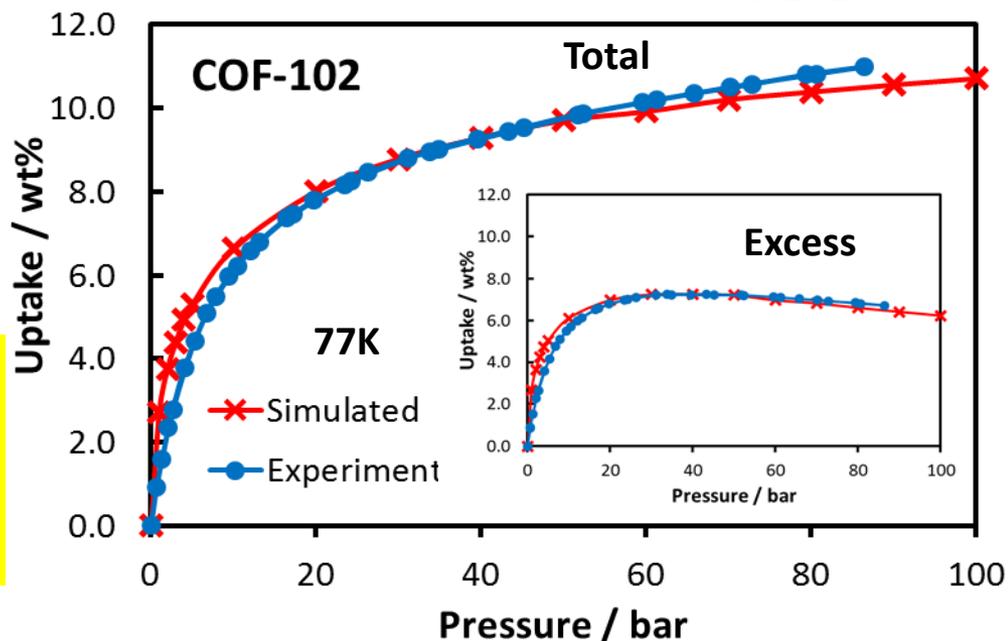
### Covalent Organic Frameworks (COFs)

- Control of structure, topology, and interpenetration
- Lightweight materials
- Design of functionalities
- Suitable for metal impregnation

Theory and experiment agree  
Thus can use Theory to identify the most promising metallated cases required to meet DOE requirements

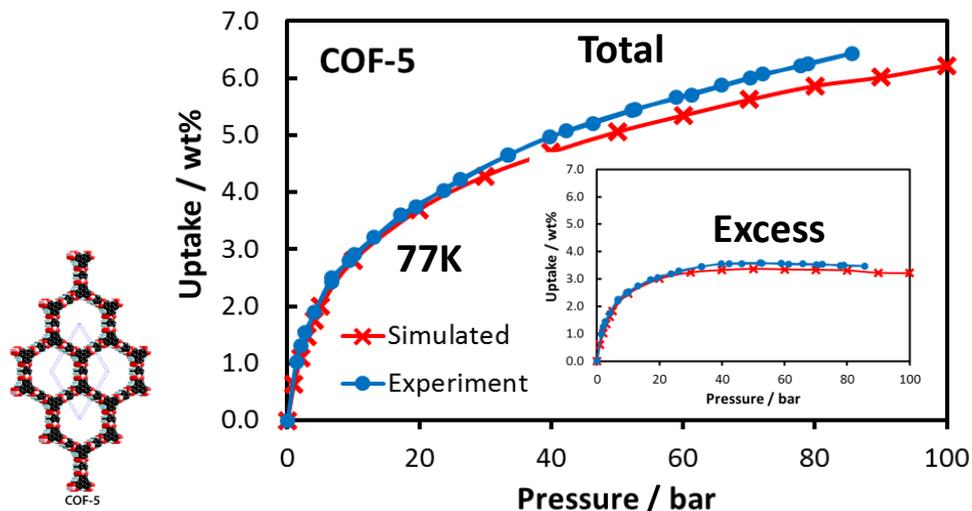


COF-102

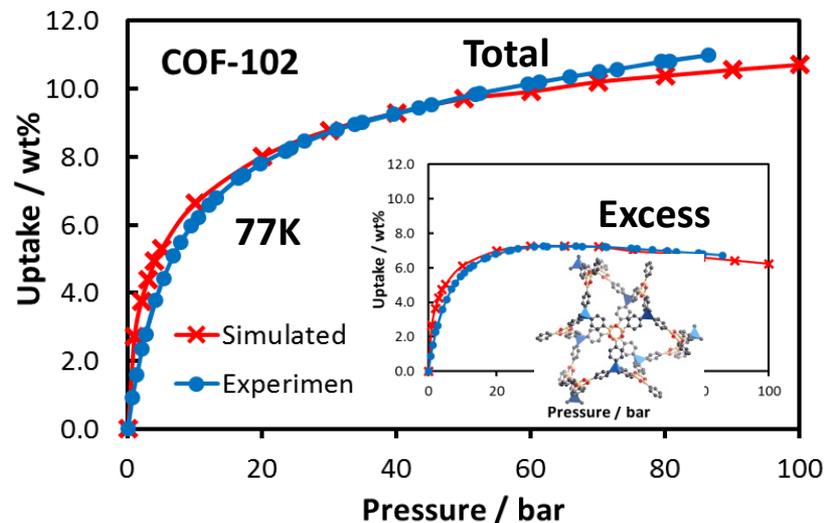


Excess and total H<sub>2</sub> uptakes in COF-102 and 103 are almost the same as that in MOF-177. However, binding energy is not high enough to meet the DOE targets. *JACS*, **2009** (exp).

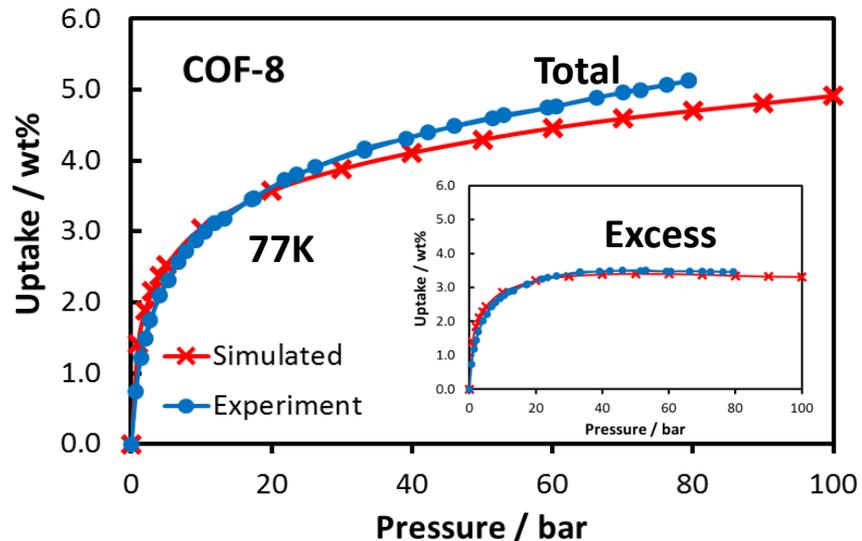
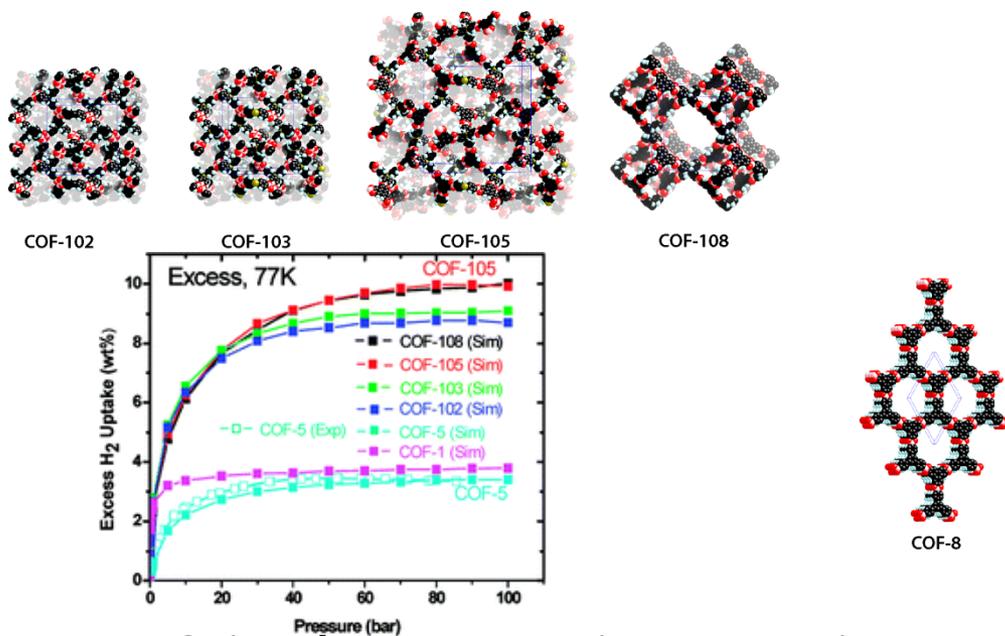
# Validation of theory by compare to Experiment: COFs



Furukawa et al, *JACS*, 2009 (exp).



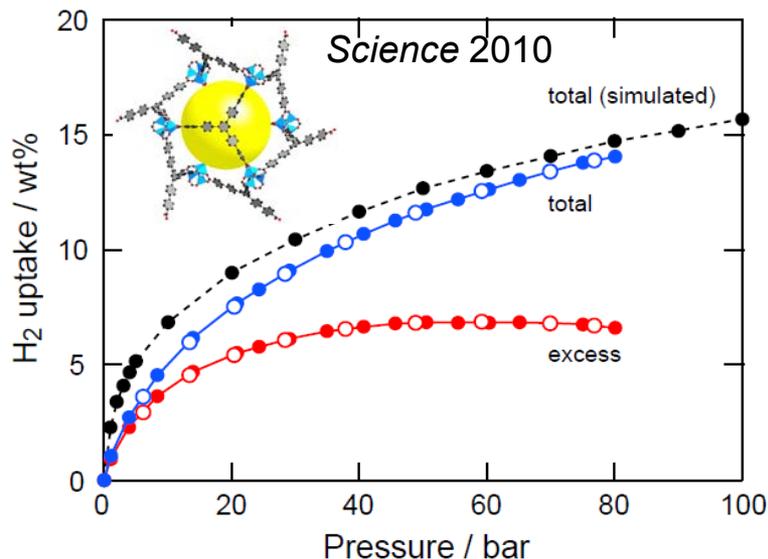
Furukawa et al, *JACS*, 2009 (exp).



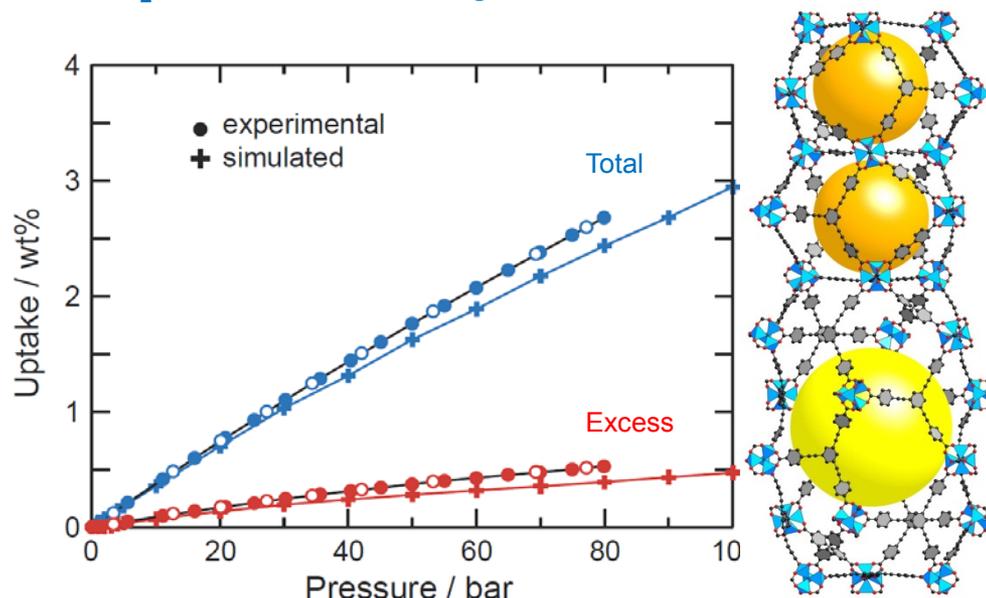
Furukawa et al, *JACS*, 2009 (exp). 4

[Experiment & Theory] S. S. Han, H. Furukawa, O. M. Yaghi, W. A. Goddard III, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 130, 35, 11580 (2008).

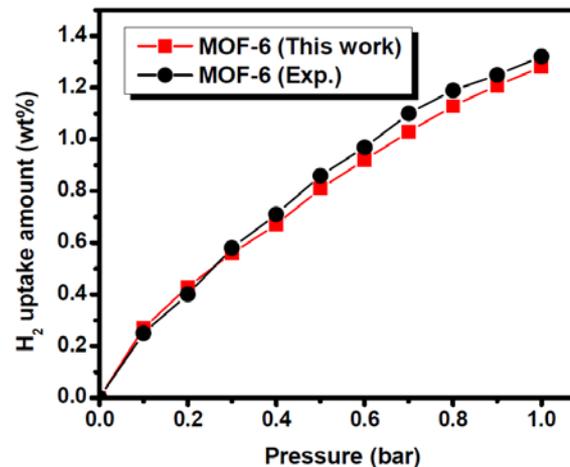
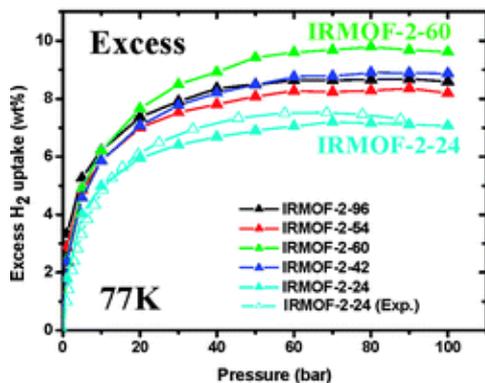
# Validation of theory by compare to Experiment: MOFs



14 wt% total hydrogen uptake in MOF-200



2.7 wt% total hydrogen uptake in MOF-210

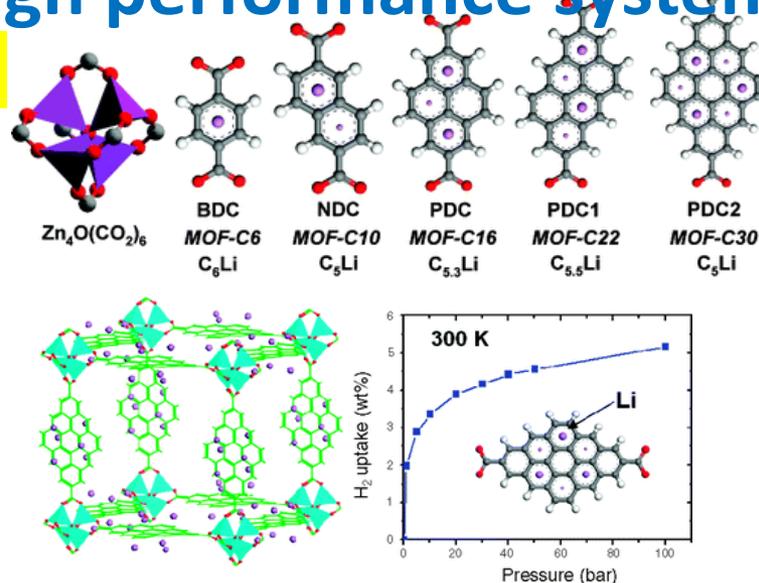
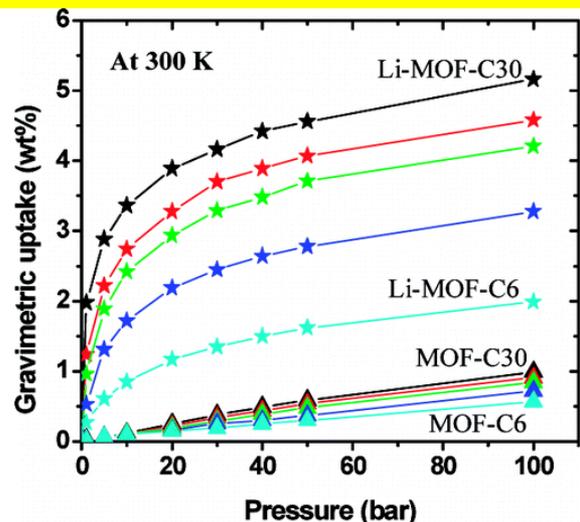


[Experiment] Wong-Foy, A. G.; Matzger, A. J.; Yaghi, O. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **128**, 3494 (2006).  
 [Theory] S. S. Han, William A. Goddard III, *J. Phys. Chem. C* **112**, 13431 (2008).

[Experiment] J. L. C. Rowsell, O. M. Yaghi, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **128**, 1304 (2006).  
 [Theory] S. S. Han, William A. Goddard III, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **129**, 8422 (2007).

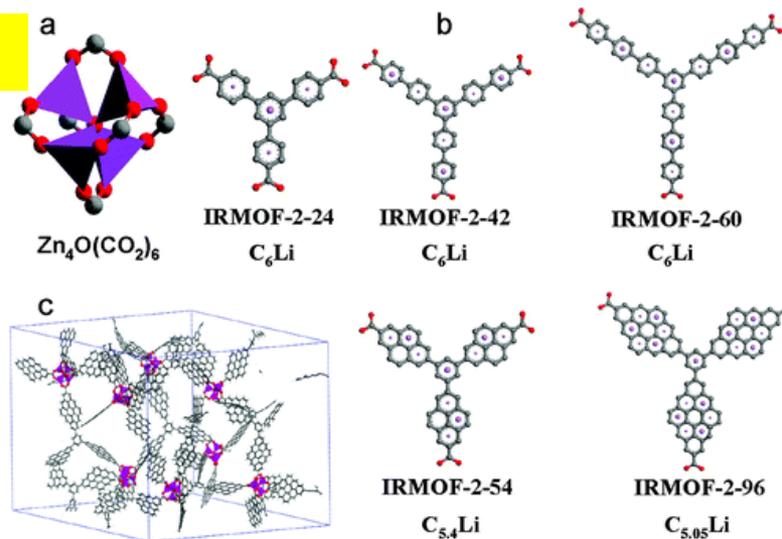
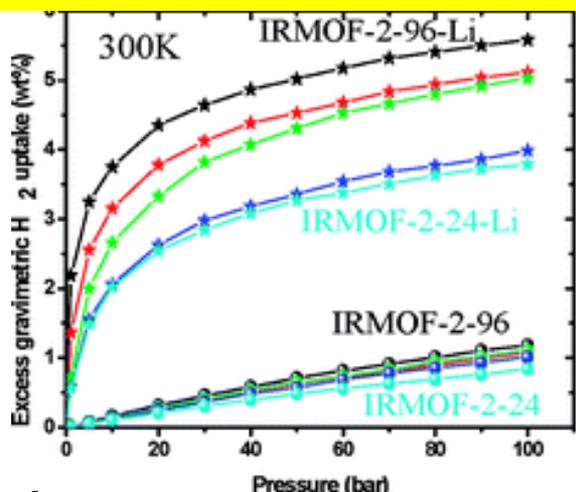
# Previous predictions of high performance systems

Li-MOF-C30 achieves over 5 wt % at 100 bar.



[Theory] S. S. Han, William A. Goddard III, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 129, 8422 (2007).

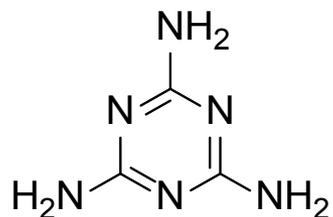
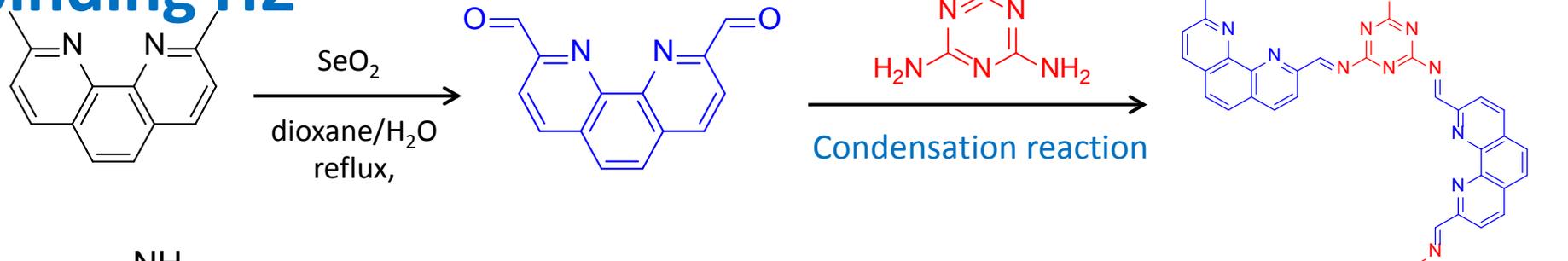
Li-MOF-C30 achieves over 5.5 wt % at 100 bar.



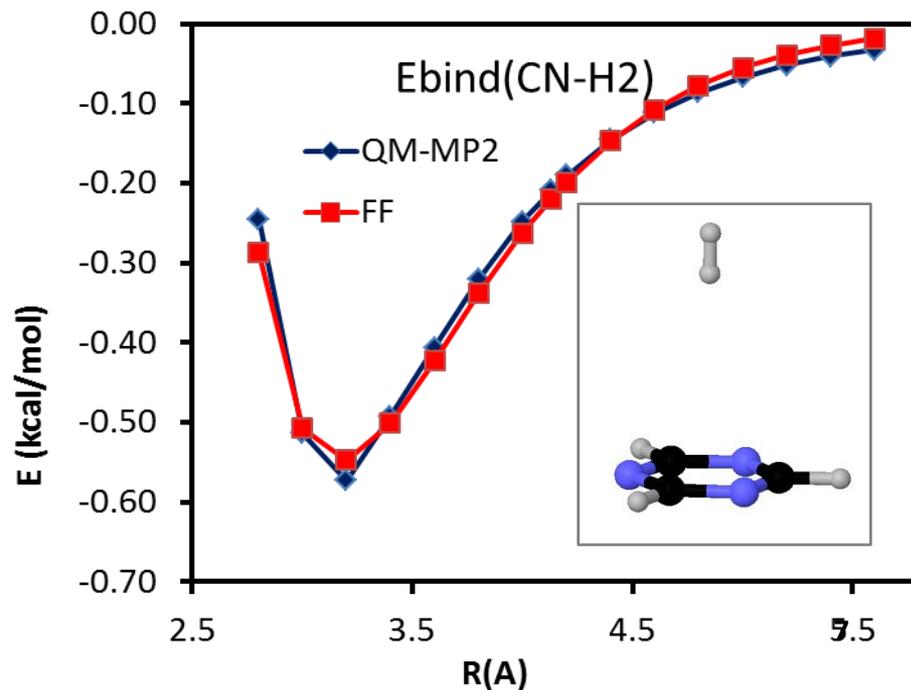
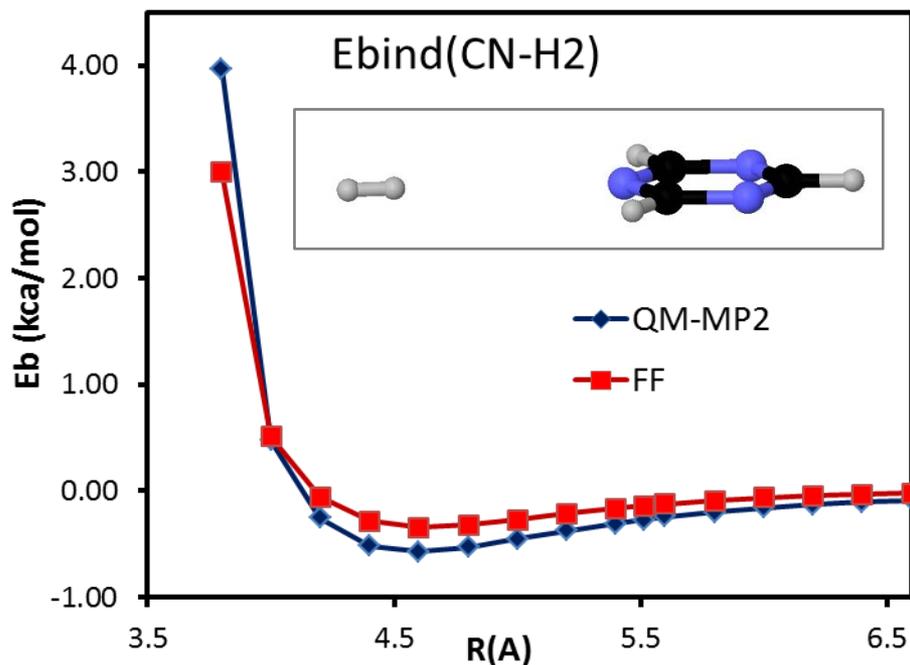
[Experiment] Wong-Foy, A. G.; Matzger, A. J.; Yaghi, O. M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 128, 3494 (2006).

[Theory] S. S. Han, William A. Goddard III, *J. Phys. Chem. C* 112, 13431 (2008).

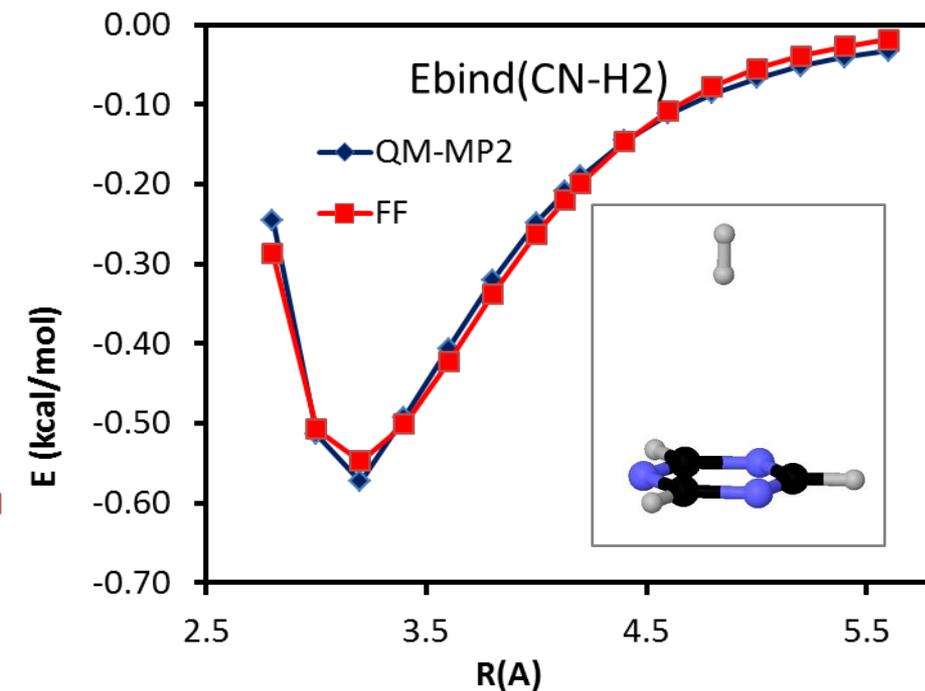
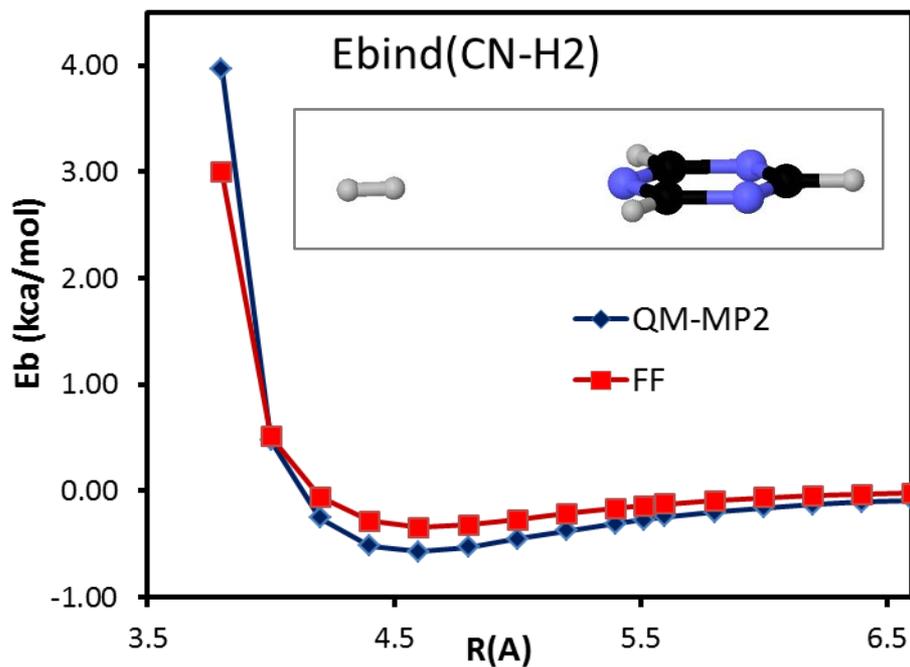
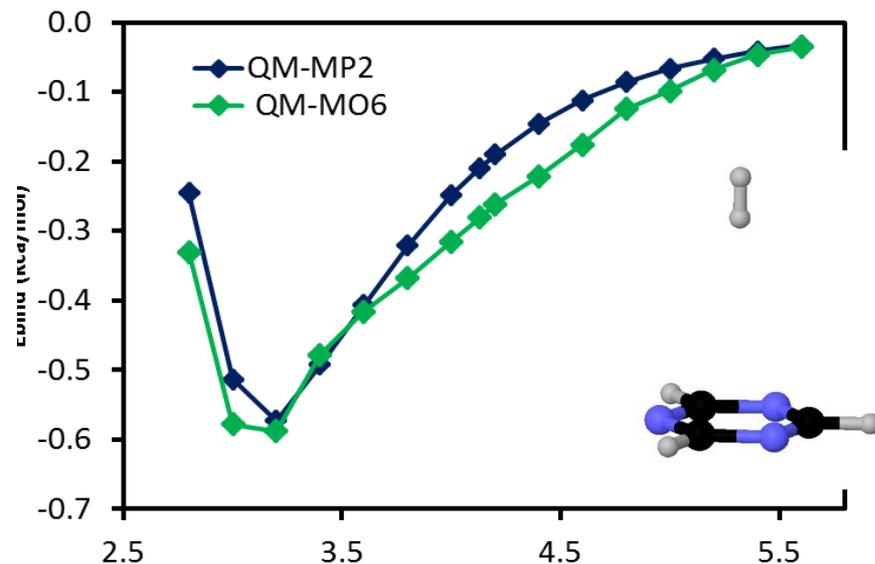
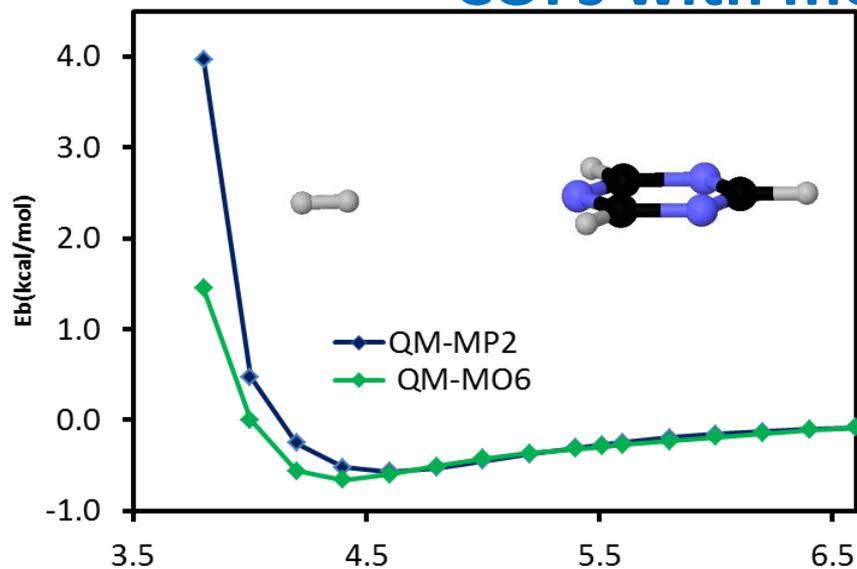
# Design of COFs with metal binding sites for binding H<sub>2</sub>



- We have constructed the FF for this class of COFs based on MP2 calculations
- We used this FF to predict promising systems.

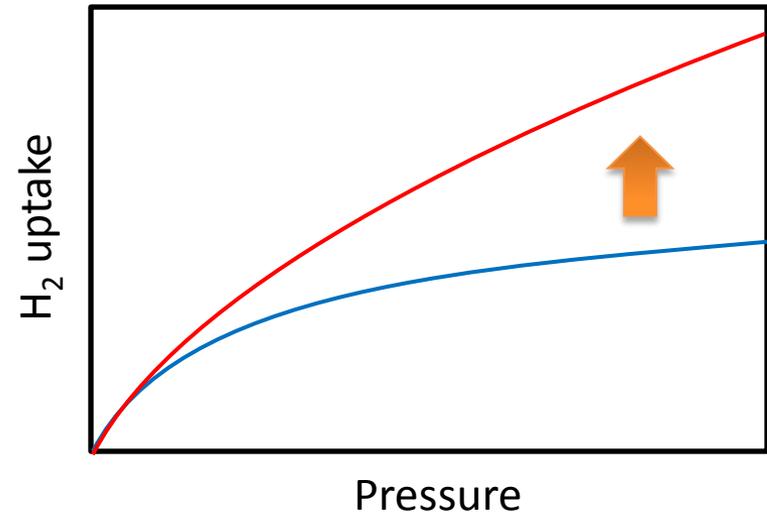
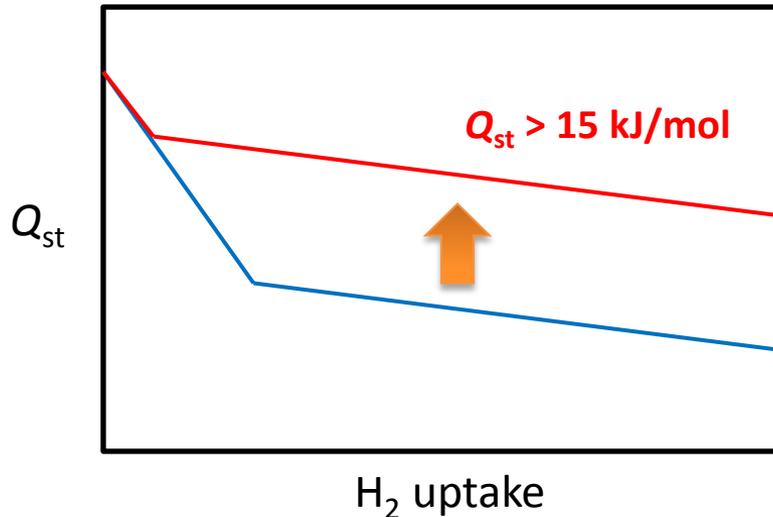


# Development of 1<sup>st</sup> principles Force Field for Designing of COFs with metal binding sites



# Strategy for achieving room temperature H<sub>2</sub> storage

How to increase binding energy (beyond the first 1-5 bar) and volumetric capacities to meet storage targets at room temperature?



- Heterogeneity always reduce delivery amount of H<sub>2</sub>.
- Assuming that 40 g H<sub>2</sub>/L is stored through one-to-one binding in MOF-5, 207 H<sub>2</sub> binding sites are necessary per unit cell (= correspond to 6.3 wt% H<sub>2</sub> uptake).
- But there are only 328 C, O, and Zn (non-hydrogen) atoms per MOF-5 unit cell.
- If each phenyl group in MOF-5 hold two metal Li and if each Li bind 4.3 H<sub>2</sub> molecules, we can achieve 40 g/L (= 6.0 wt%) uptake.

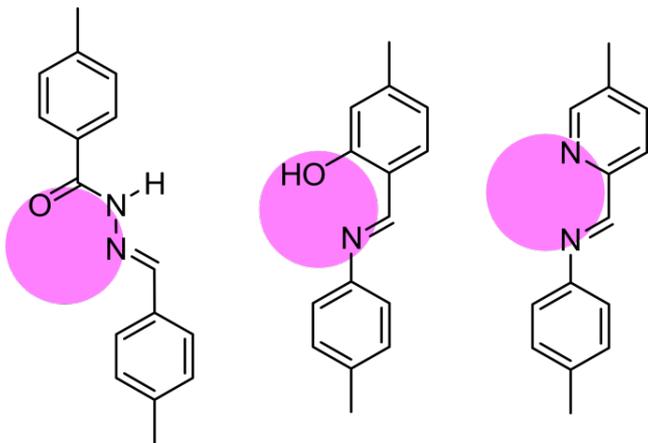
**Need Materials with multiple H<sub>2</sub> adsorption sites (but not too strong)  
achieve 300K binding**

# Approach: Create multiple hydrogen binding sites by metalation of COFs

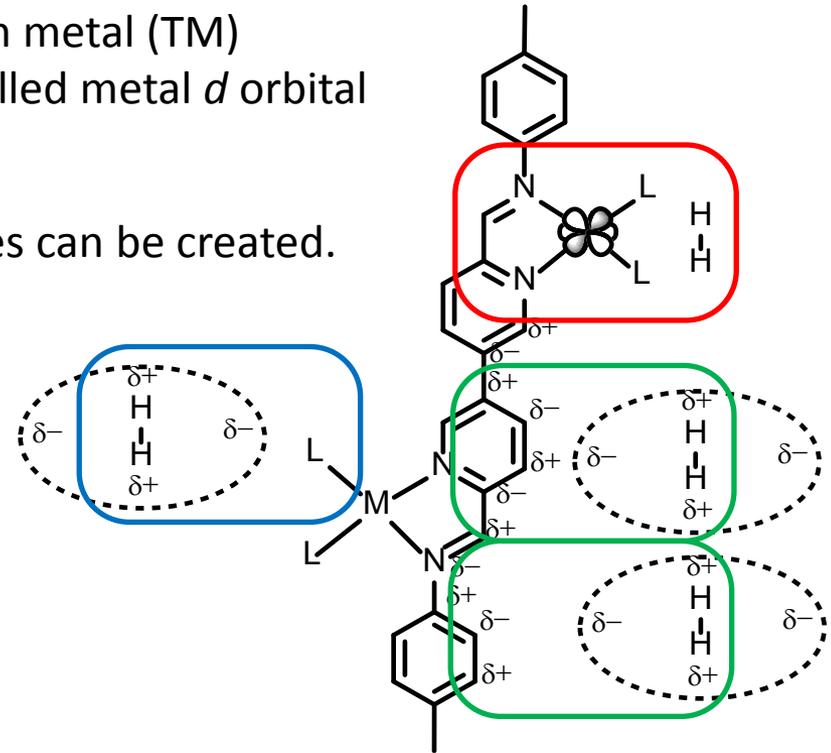
H<sub>2</sub> is a weak Lewis base that can bind to transition metal (TM) because of the *back bonding* of electron from a filled metal *d* orbital to the antibonding orbital of H<sub>2</sub>.

By metalating organic linkers multiple binding sites can be created.

- Estimate binding energy of H<sub>2</sub>
- Effect of the oxidation state of TM
- Effect of the leaving groups (L)



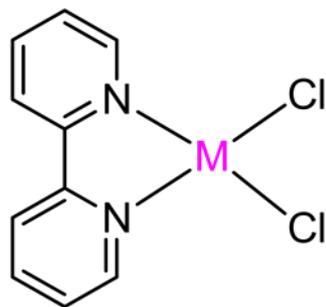
These units are ideal for binding metals controllably



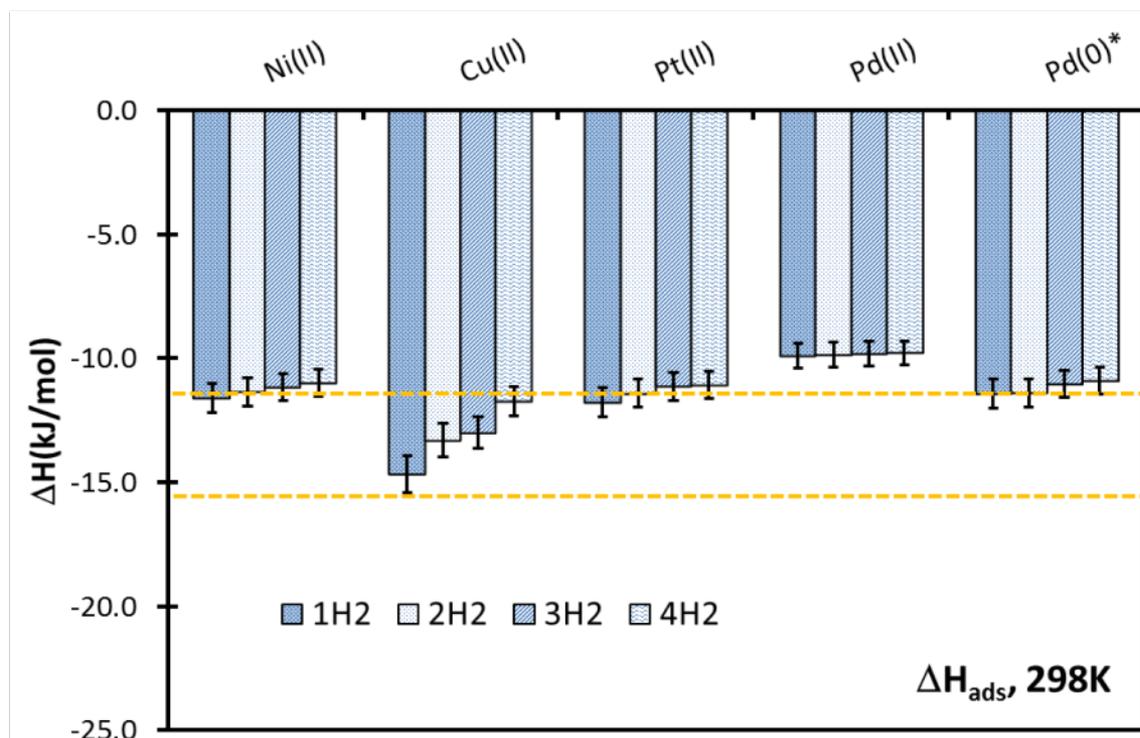
Interaction	Charge - Quadrupole	Dispersive	Orbital interaction
Typical values (kJ/mol)	3.5 <sup>a</sup>	5-6 <sup>b</sup>	20-160 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> PCCP, **2006**, 8, 1357-1370. <sup>b</sup> Langmuir, **2006**, 107, 1688-1700. <sup>c</sup> Chem. Rev., **2007**, 107, 4152-4205.

# Accomplishments: found cases in which Binding energy is nearly the same after adsorption of 4 H<sub>2</sub> molecules



2,2'-bipyridine



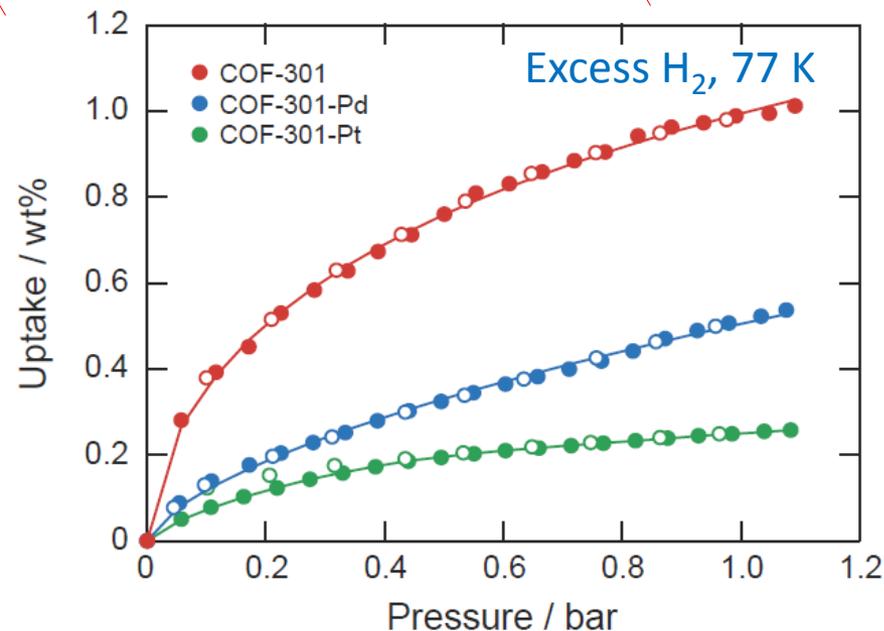
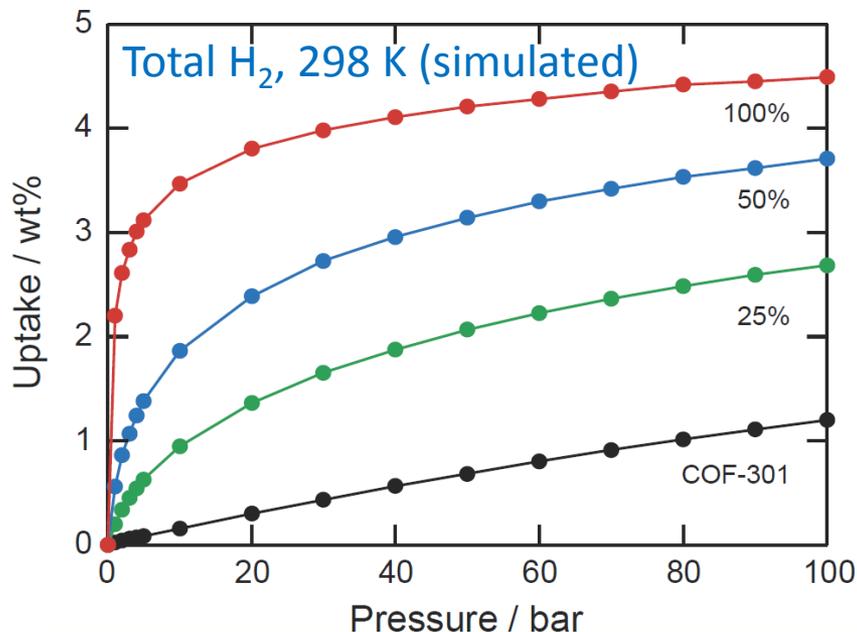
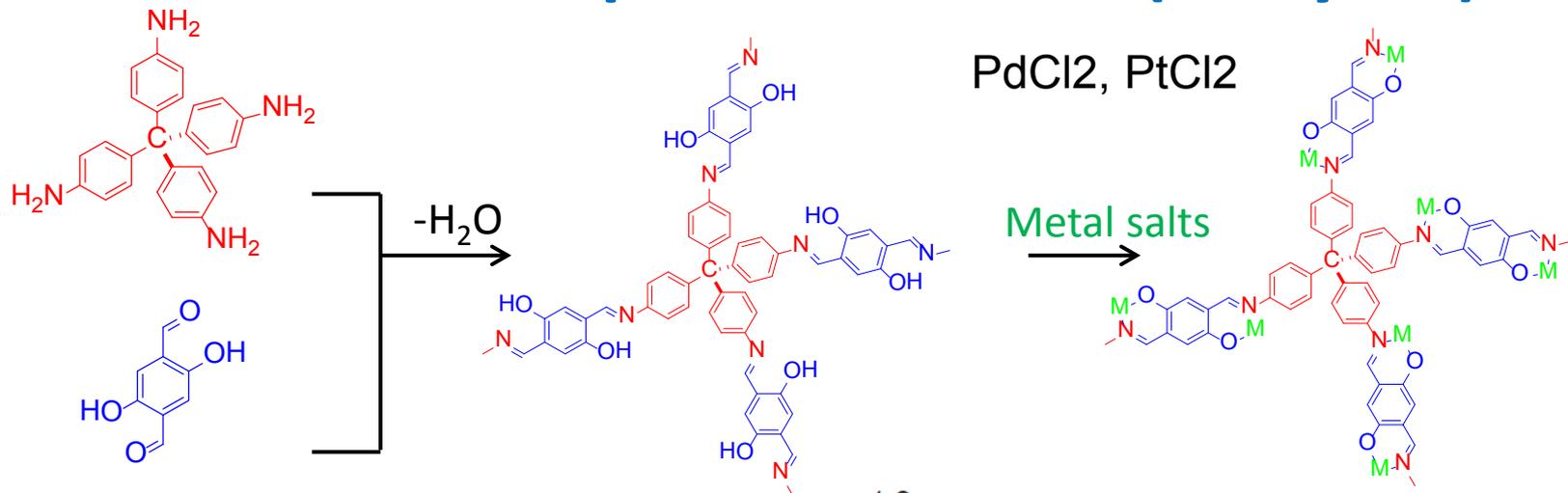
## Accomplishments (this year):

- The binding energy for third and fourth H<sub>2</sub> near the metal site was estimated.
- Similar binding energy ( $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}$ ) is observed for the first row transition metals and Pd.
- We found  $\Delta H_{\text{ads}}$  is nearly the same even after 4 H<sub>2</sub> molecules are adsorbed.
- 30 to 40 H<sub>2</sub> can bind to the linker + MCl<sub>2</sub> moiety, if there is enough space.

## Approach:

- Need to design new COF materials, which can provide enough space to confine H<sub>2</sub> without losing metal density per volume.

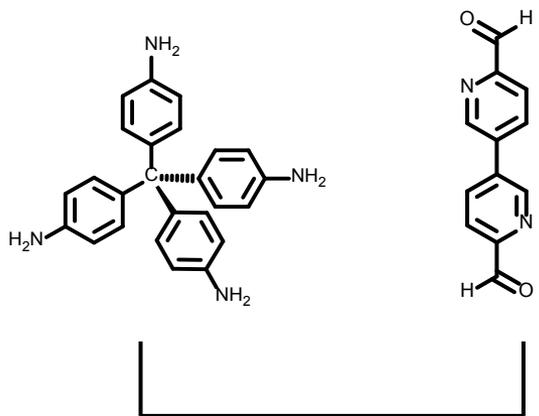
# Our first attempts on COF-301 (last year)



- Metalated materials maintain reduced porosity
- Experimental H<sub>2</sub> uptake was much smaller than predicted one, because of unreacted metal salts in pores

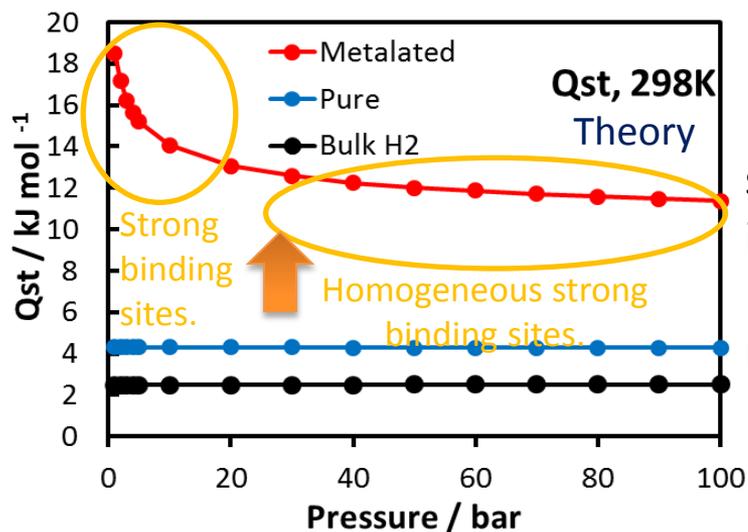
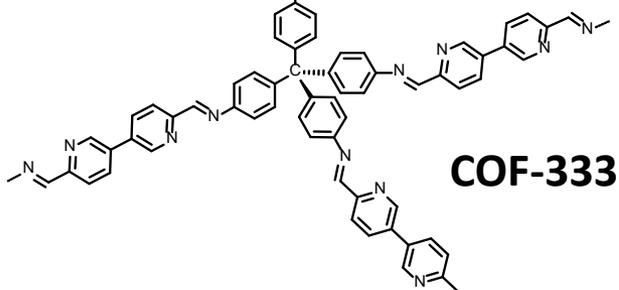
# New approach: functionalization of COF-300

Theory

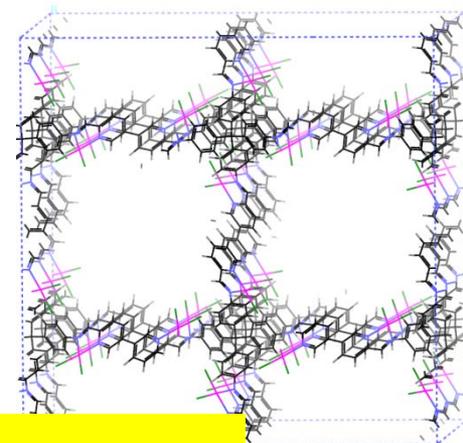
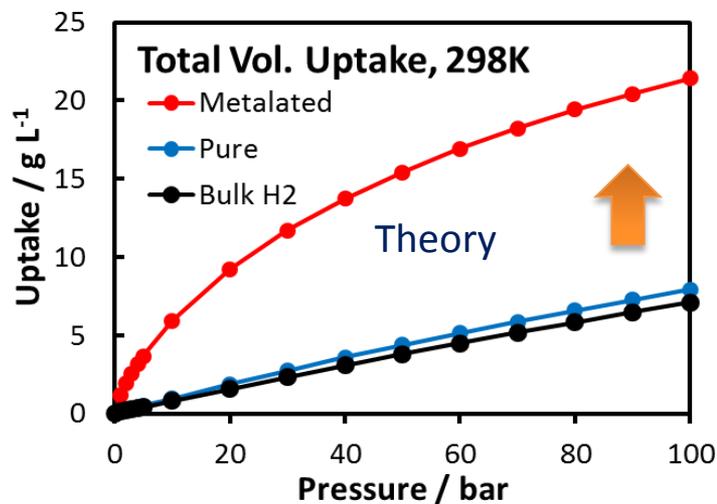
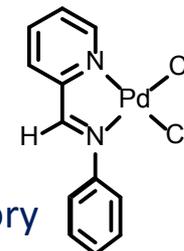


Experimental synthesis started this year.

**3.2 wt% total (2.4 excess) RT H<sub>2</sub> uptake in COF-333-PdCl<sub>2</sub>**



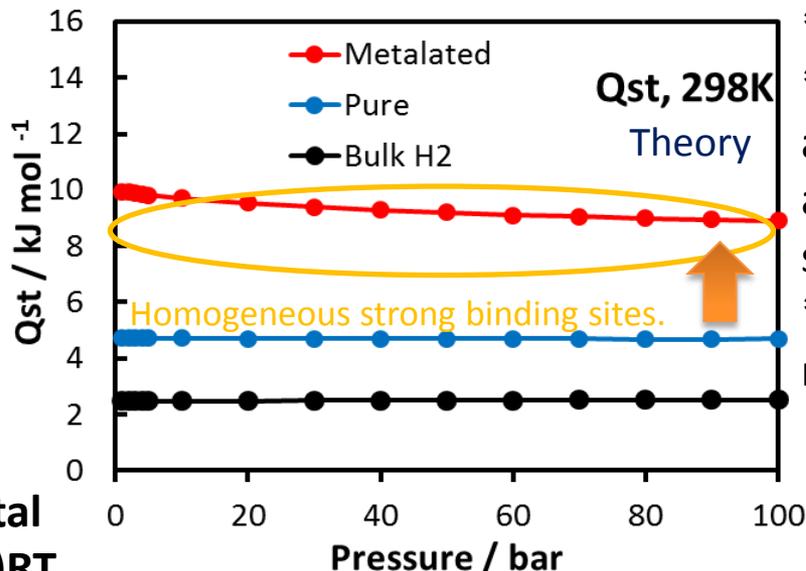
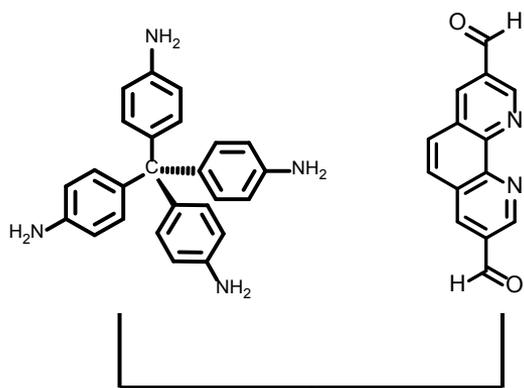
\*Multiple sites.  
\*Stronger binding sites where the PdCl<sub>2</sub> is exposed to the pore  
\*Higher Q<sub>st</sub> for the metalated framework.



- Higher initial  $Q_{st}$  is expected compared to COF-330.
- Metalation increases by ~300% in the volumetric capacity and by ~50% in the gravimetric capacity because of higher density of metals in the structure.

# New approach: functionalization of COF-300

Theory

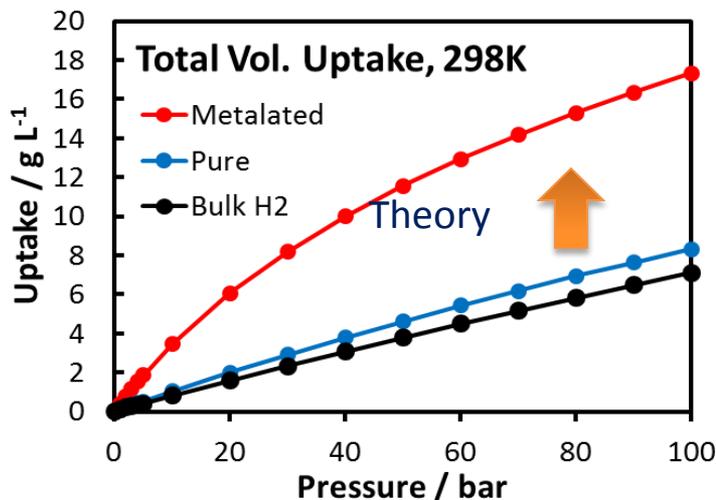


\*Multiple sites.  
\*The metalated sites are not very accessible and the Qst improves slightly.  
\*Higher Qst for the metalated framework.

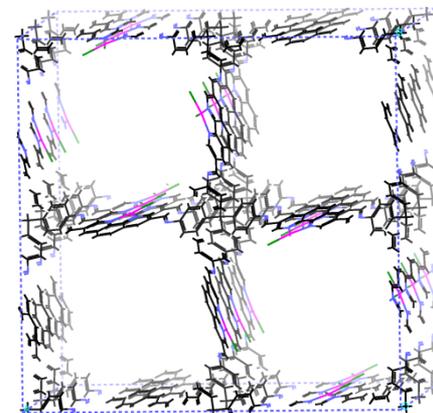
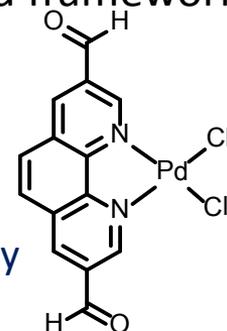
Experimental synthesis started this year.

**3.1 wt% total (2.2 excess) RT H<sub>2</sub> uptake in COF-330-PdCl<sub>2</sub>**

**COF-330**

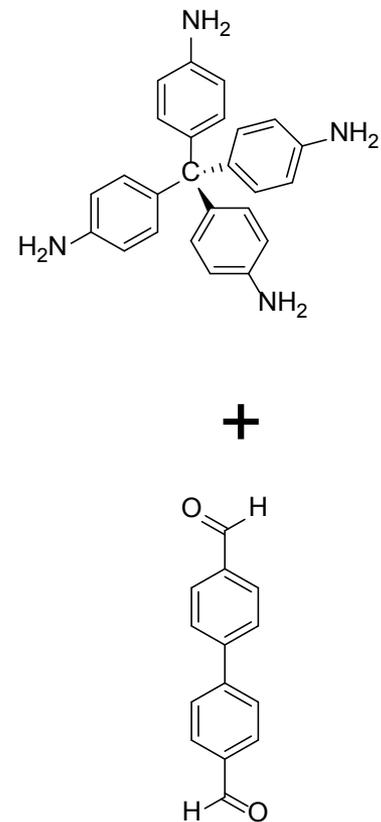
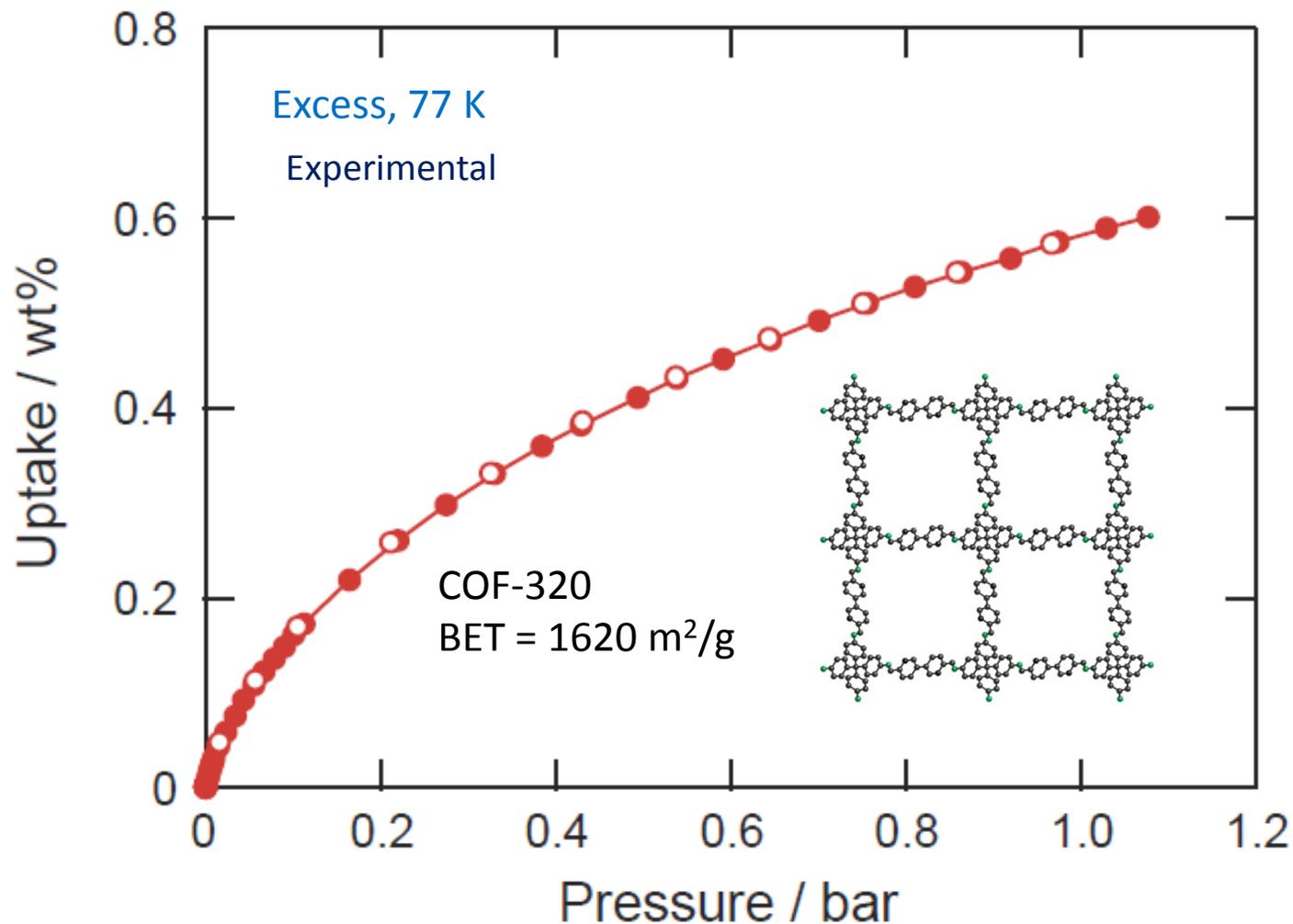


Theory



Metalation of phenanthroline moieties increases by 200% in the volumetric capacity and by 50% in the gravimetric capacity to the pristine material.

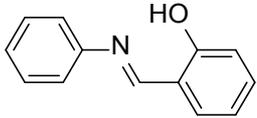
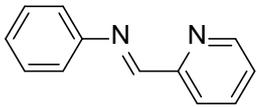
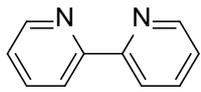
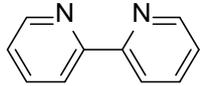
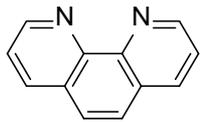
# Preliminary excess H<sub>2</sub> uptake by COF-320 at 77 K



COF-320  
Experimental

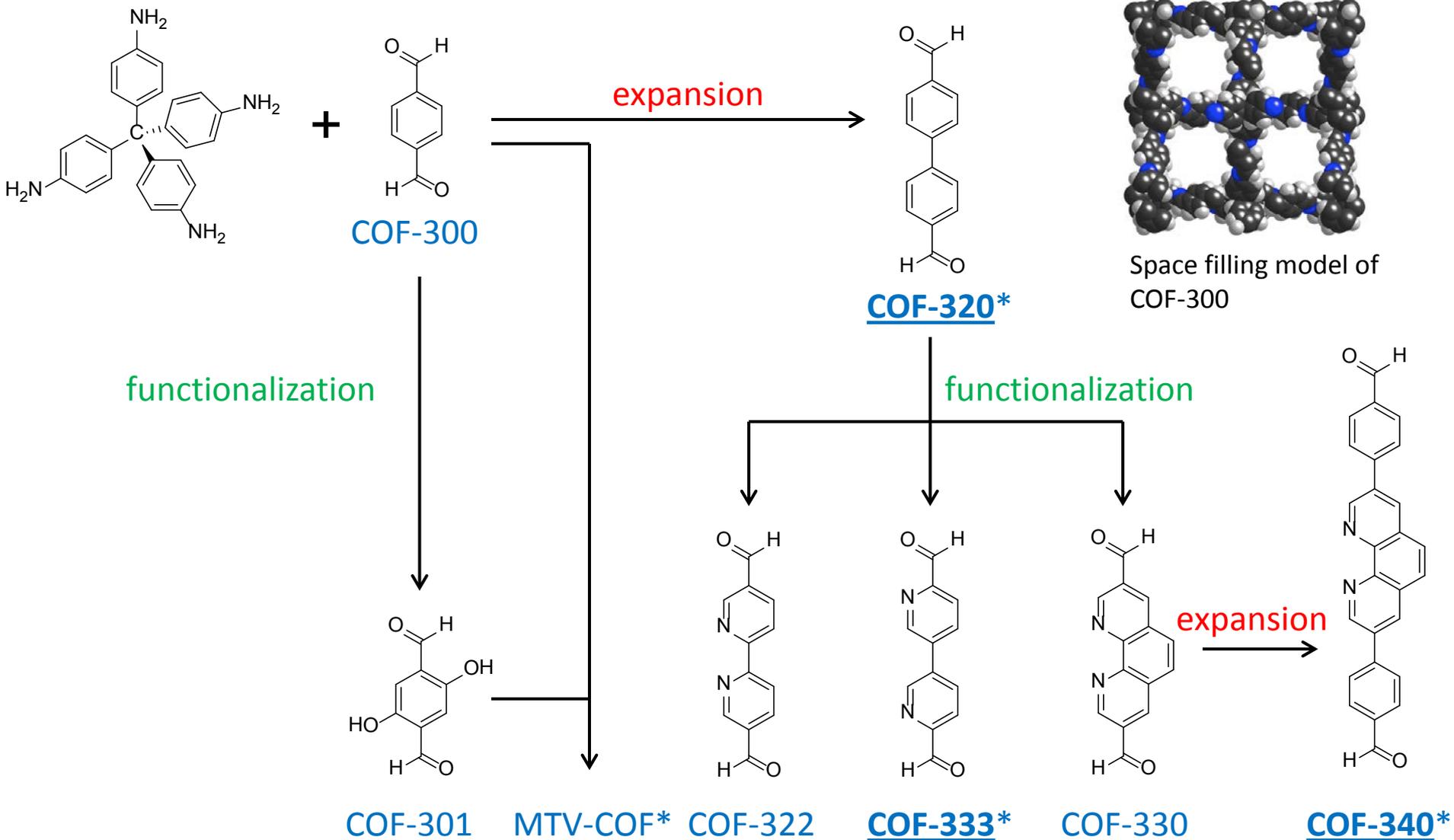
BET area of COF-320 is larger than COF-300 and 301, but H<sub>2</sub> uptake is smaller than these materials. Activation procedures must be optimized.

## Literature: Large open pores are key to successful metalation

Compound	Metal binding site	Pore size	Metals impregnated	Porosity	Ref
COF-301		6 Å	PdCl <sub>2</sub> PtCl <sub>2</sub>	Significant SA drop	AMR 2011
UMCM-1 derivative		20 Å	PdCl <sub>2</sub>	ca. 60%	JACS 2008
MOF-253		8 Å	Cu(BF <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> PdCl <sub>2</sub>	Significant SA drop	JACS 2011
MOF-267		7 Å	Only low metalation yield	–	Unpublished
New MOF		12 Å	Cu(BF <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> PdCl <sub>2</sub>	ca. 50%	Unpublished

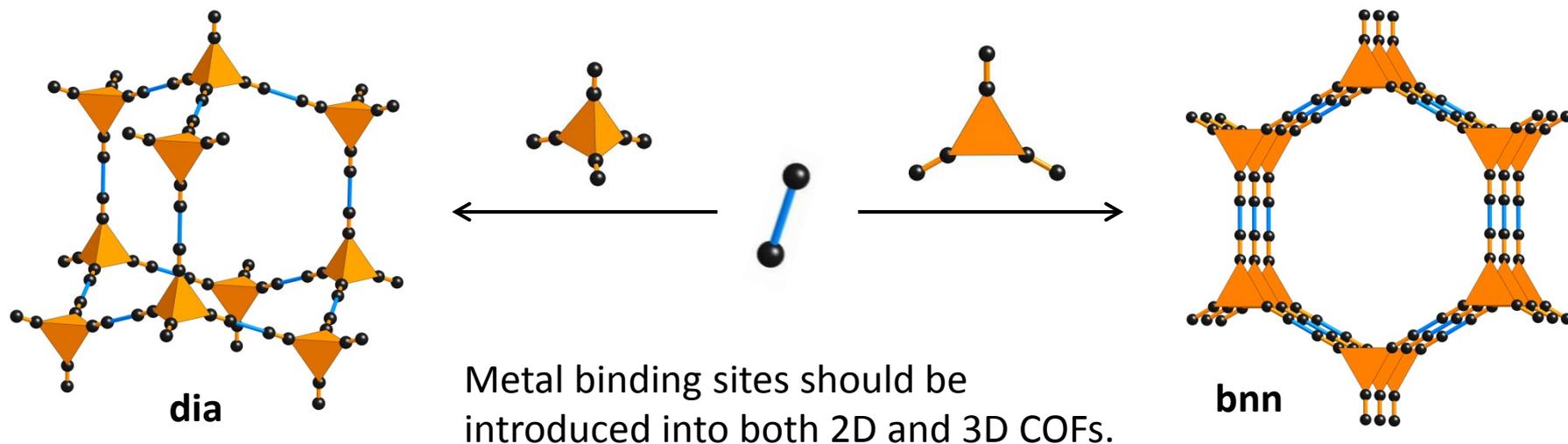
Larger pore diameter should be important for successful metalation reactions when binding constants are large enough to allow the metalation.

# New approach: Successful isorecticular pore expansion and functionalization of COF-300



\* Synthesis of these COF materials started this year.

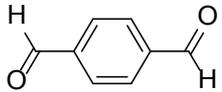
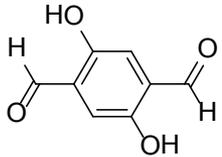
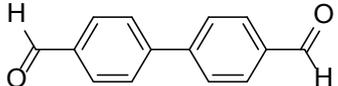
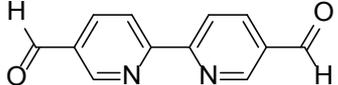
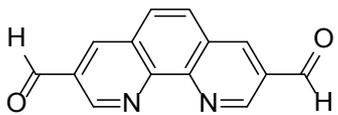
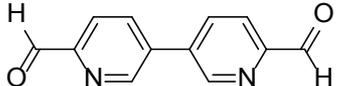
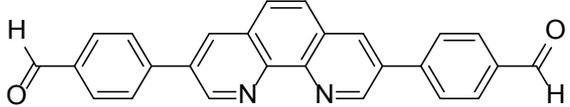
# Accomplishments: Gram scale synthesis of organic links (1)



Structure	Link for COF- <i>n</i>	Synthetic steps	Scale available
	2D COFs 3D COFs	Commercially available	> 10 gram scale
	3D COFs (dia)	3 steps	gram scale*

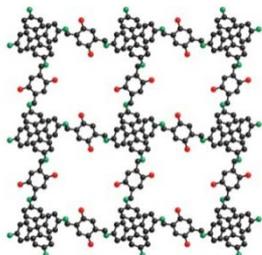
\*Large scale synthesis was achieved this year.

# Accomplishments: Gram scale synthesis of organic links (2)

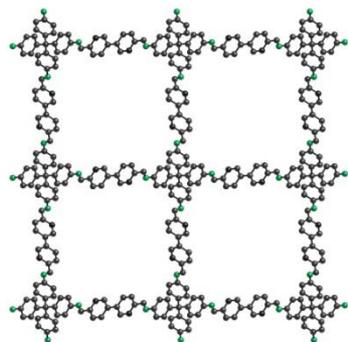
Structure (≡  )	Link for COF- <i>n</i>	Synthetic steps	Scale available
	<b>COF-300</b>	Commercially available	> 10 gram scale
	<b>COF-301</b>	1 steps	gram scale
	<b>COF-320</b>	Commercially available	> 10 gram scale
	<i>COF-322</i>	1 step (based on a literature)	n/a
	<i>COF-330</i>	Developing synthetic conditions	n/a
	<b>COF-333</b>	2 steps	gram scale*
	<b>COF-340</b>	3 steps	gram scale*

\*Large scale synthesis was achieved this year.

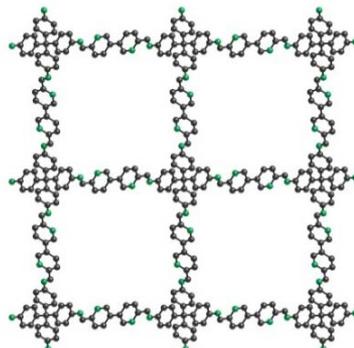
# Successful synthesis of MOFs with expanded links



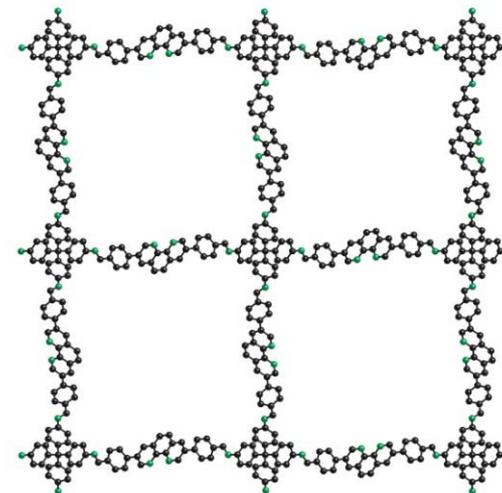
COF-301



COF-320



COF-333



COF-340

COF- <i>n</i>	Pore size (Å)	Metal binding site	Status	References
COF-300	8	n/a	Expt	JACS 2009
COF-301	6	Iminophenol	Expt and Calc	AMR 2011
COF-320	12	n/a	Expt	<b>AMR 2012</b>
COF-322	12	Bipyridine	Not started	
COF-330	12	Phenanthroline	Calc	<b>AMR 2011</b>
COF-333	12	Iminopyridine	Expt and Calc	<b>AMR 2011</b>
COF-340	19	Phenanthroline	Expt	<b>AMR 2011</b>

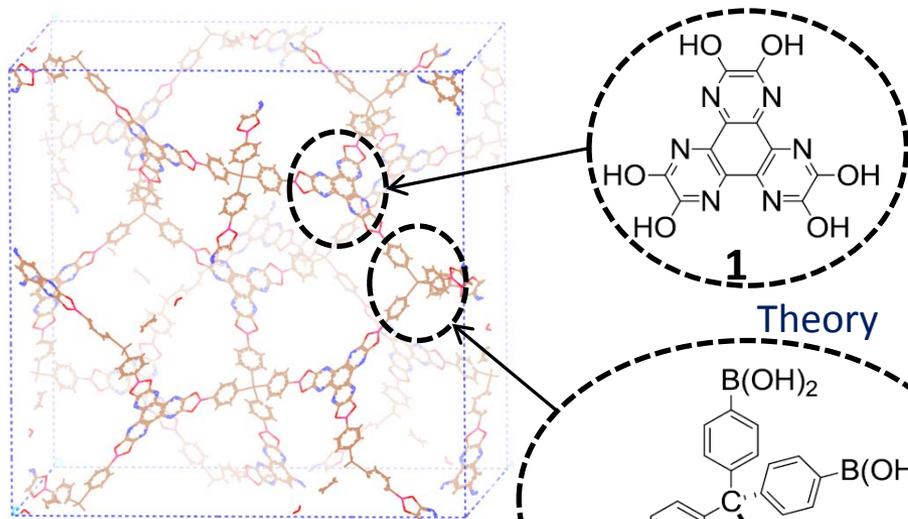
Metal binding sites are introduced through the condensation reaction and/or by use of linkers with phenanthroline/bipyridine units.

# Summary of porosity data of COFs

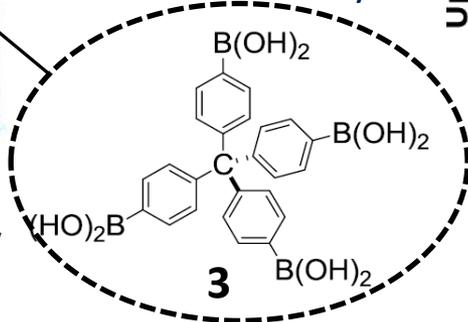
COF- <i>n</i>	Experimental		Simulation		References
	BET SA (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	Excess H <sub>2</sub> uptake at 1 bar and 77 K (wt%)	Total H <sub>2</sub> uptake at 100 bar and 298 K (wt%)	Initial Q <sub>st</sub> (kJ/mol)	
COF-300	1360	1.1	n/a	n/a	JACS 2009
COF-301	840	1.0	1.2	6.0	AMR 2011
COF-320	1620	0.6	In progress	In progress	<b>AMR 2012</b>
COF-330	n/a	n/a	2.2	4.7	<b>AMR 2012</b>
COF-333	In progress	In progress	2.4	4.3	<b>AMR 2012</b>
COF-340	In progress	In progress	In progress	In progress	<b>AMR 2012</b>
COF-330-Pd*	n/a	n/a	3.1	9.9	<b>AMR 2012</b>
COF-333-Pd*	n/a	n/a	3.2	18.5	<b>AMR 2012</b>

\* Doubly interpenetrating structures were used for both calculations.

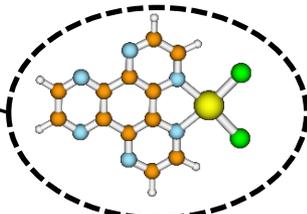
# New Approach: Hexa-azatriphenylene COFs



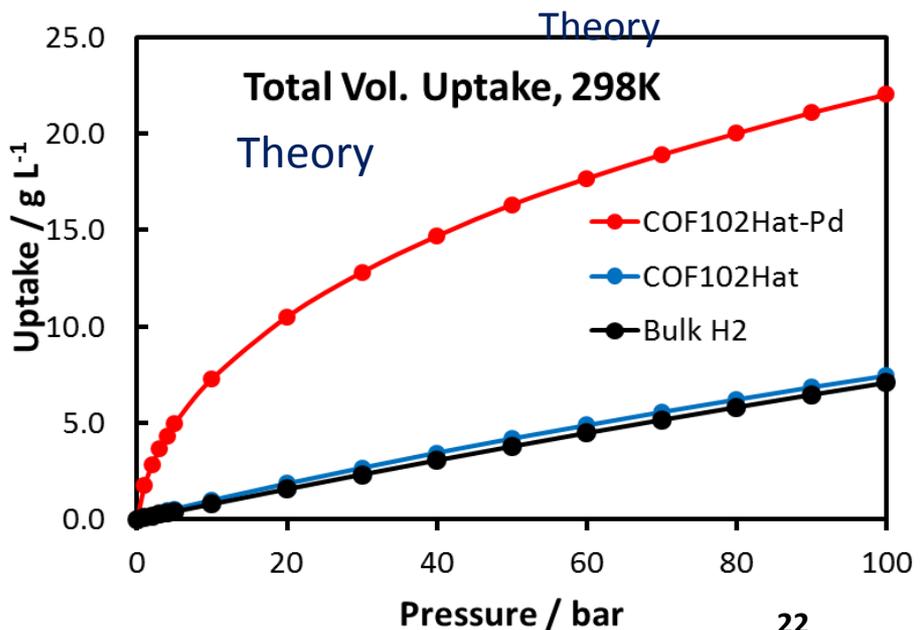
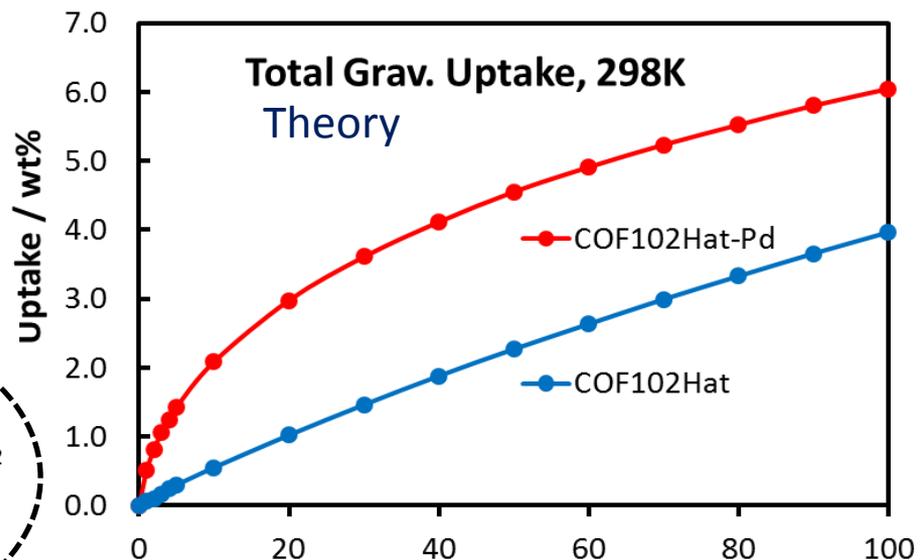
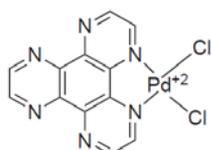
Theory



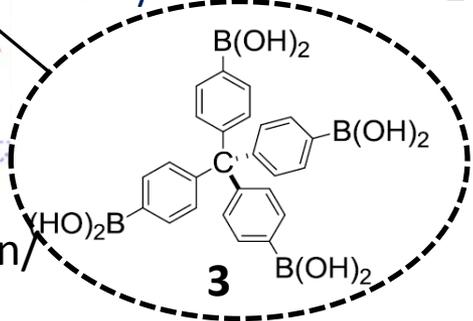
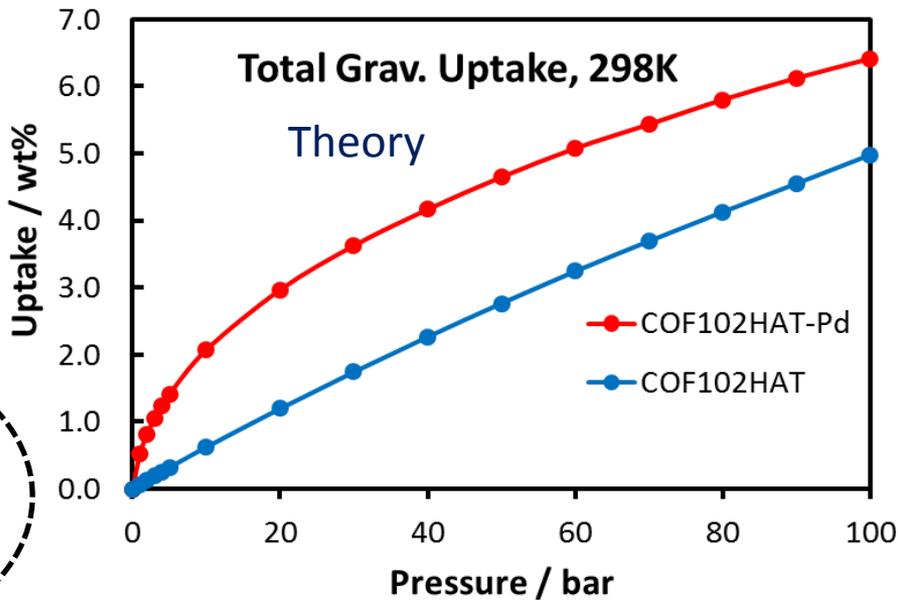
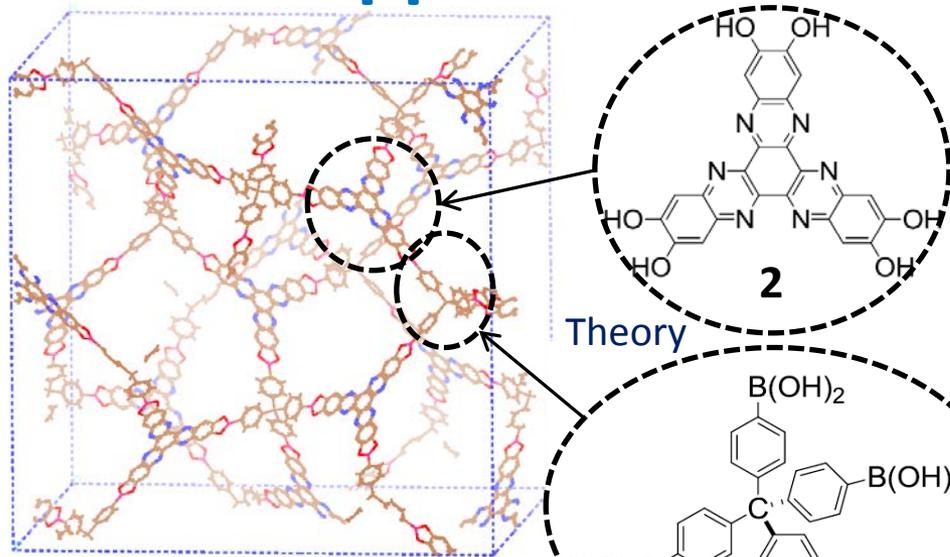
COF102-Hat



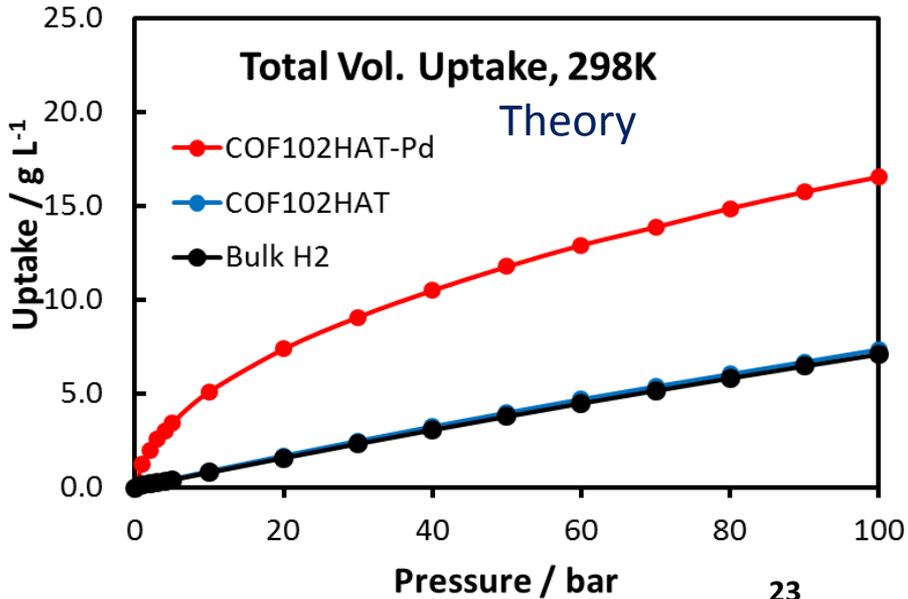
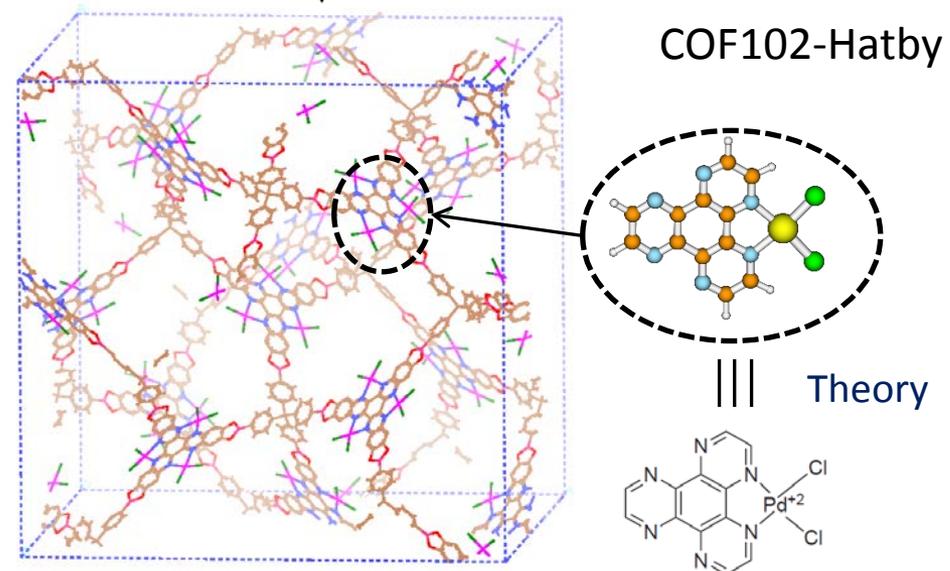
Theory



# New Approach: Hexaazatriphenylene COFs



**2+3** ↓ Metalation/  
**COF102-Hatb-Pd** Pd



[Theory] JL Mendoza-Cortes, H. Furukawa, OM Yaghi, WA Goddard III, *In preparation*. (2012).

# Summary

## UCLA team

- Synthesized new air stable COFs through imine condensation (COF-320 and 340)
- Performed metalation experiments of COFs (MTV-COF, phenanthroline-MOF/COFs)
- Synthesized two low density COFs with triptycene unit (0.15-0.21 g/cm<sup>3</sup>)
- Summary: synthesized COFs which are amenable to functionalization and in accordance to the predicted ones. If we metalate these, we expect room temperature storage (4 wt% total H<sub>2</sub> uptake).

## Caltech team

- Metalation of phenanthroline moieties COF-330-PdCl<sub>2</sub>. Increases by 200% in the volumetric capacity and by 50% in the gravimetric capacity to the pristine material) leads to 3.1 wt% total (2.2 excess)RT H<sub>2</sub> uptake
- COF-333-PdCl<sub>2</sub>. Metalation increases by ~300% in the volumetric capacity and by ~50% in the gravimetric capacity because of higher density of metals in the structure). Leads to 3.2 wt% total (2.4 excess)RT H<sub>2</sub> uptake
- Predicted binding energy with all first row transition metals to identify best candidates
- COF-42, and 43 Calculated surface area of and predicted their H<sub>2</sub> isotherms (298 K, up to 100 bar)
- COF-Hat and COF-Hatby predicted H<sub>2</sub> isotherms both reach at least 6 wt% total (at least 4 wt% excess at 298 K, up to 100 bar).

**Technology transfer/collaborations:** Active relationship with collaboration partners and BASF (organic synthesis, material design, structural analysis) .

# Review criterion

## The GO/NO-GO criteria (September 2012)

Metalated COFs will be prepared. Target  $Q_{st}$ : 15 kJ/mol, target total H<sub>2</sub> uptake at 80 bar and room temperature: 4 wt% and 30 g/L.

To achieve room temperature hydrogen storage, we carried out systematic survey using both experiment and theory

- Designed and prepared low density COFs with potential metal binding sites.
- High throughput screening of H<sub>2</sub> binding energy with organic linkers and metals using quantum chemistry based Force Field
- identified metalated candidates that promise to approach DOE volumetric targets.
- Have not yet been successful in synthesizing these most promising targets, but hopeful of near term success

# Work to be performed

## Full characterization of new COFs (e.g. COF-320, 333, 340)

Recently prepared COFs will be fully characterized, including degree of interpenetration and stability.

- [Exp] Complete standard characterization (XRD, NMR, IR, EA, porosity tests, stability)
- [Exp] Large scale synthesis of organic links to prepare large quantity of COF samples.
- [Exp] Optimize the activation conditions for the best surface area.  $H_2$  isotherms and  $Q_{st}$  data will be compared to the predicted data.

## Metalation of COFs (e.g. COF-340, 42, and 43)

Based on the prediction by theory, promising TM will be impregnated into COFs

- [Theory] Predict effect of counter anions
- [Theory and Exp] Use weakly coordinating anions, such as  $BF_4^-$ ,  $CF_3SO_3^-$  and  $PF_6^-$ , which could be removed to create exposed metal surface.
- [Theory and Exp] Characterize metalated materials (metal binding fashion, surface area,  $H_2$  uptake,  $Q_{st}$ )
- [Theory] Develop the vdW-FF for the entire row of early transition metals from our current results
- [Theory] use 2PT approach to calculate phase diagram for  $H_2$  inside the pores  $H_2$  including counter anions. Also get diffusion coefficients
- [Exp] Optimize the metalation condition and loading amount for high-pressure  $H_2$  tests at room temperature.
- [Exp] High-pressure  $H_2$  isotherms will be measured using best performers.