

Tailor-Made Pore Surface Engineering in Covalent Organic Frameworks: Systematic Functionalization for Performance Screening

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Imine-linked covalent organic frameworks (COFs) were synthesized to bear content-tunable, accessible, and reactive ethynyl groups on the walls of one-dimensional pores. These COFs offer an ideal platform for pore-wall surface engineering aimed at anchoring diverse functional groups ranging from hydrophobic to hydrophilic units and from basic to acidic moieties with controllable loading contents. This approach enables the development of various tailor-made COFs with systematically tuned porosities and functionalities while retaining the crystallinity. We demonstrate that this strategy can be used to efficiently screen for suitable pore structures for use as CO₂ adsorbents. The poresurface-engineered walls exhibit an enhanced affinity for CO_2 , resulting in COFs that can capture and separate CO_2 with high performance.

C ovalent organic frameworks (COFs) are an emerging class of crystalline porous polymers with pre-designable porous structure.¹ The ordered open channels found in twodimensional (2D) COFs could render them able to adsorb CO_2 . However, the COFs' dense layer architecture results in low porosity that has thus far restricted their potential for CO_2 adsorption.^{2–7} Here, we describe the use of pore surface engineering to overcome these limitations by anchoring functional groups to the pore walls to enhance the affinity of the COFs for CO_2 . This method integrates a variety of functionalities with controllable loading contents onto the pore walls, which efficiently screen for structures that are suitable for CO_2 capture.

Among various types of COFs, imine-linked COFs are stable under various conditions, making them attractive for CO_2 adsorption.^{2d,f,5,6e} However, conventional imine-linked COFs usually exhibit low CO_2 capacities. The conversion of iminelinked COFs into high-performance CO_2 -adsorption materials is highly desired but has yet to be fully explored.

We utilized a mesoporous imine-linked porphyrin COF with a low capacity for CO_2 adsorption as a scaffold (Scheme 1). We developed a three-component reaction system consisting of 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(*p*-tetraphenylamino)porphyrin and a mixture of 2,5-bis(2-propynyloxy)terephthalaldehyde (BPTA) and 2,5-dihydroxyterephthalaldehyde (DHTA) at various molar ratios ($X = [BPTA]/([BPTA] + [DHTA]) \times 100 = 0, 25, 50, 75, and 100)$ for the synthesis of four COFs with different ethynyl contents on their edges (Scheme 1, $[HC \equiv C]_X$ -H₂P-COFs, X = 25, 50, 75, and 100). Quantitative click reactions between the ethynyl units and azide compounds were performed to anchor the desired groups onto the pore walls (Scheme 1, Supporting Information). We synthesized 20 different COFs with pores functionalized with a variety of functional groups, including ethyl, acetate, hydroxyl, carboxylic acid, and amino groups; these groups ranged from hydrophobic to hydrophilic and from basic to acidic (Scheme 1, $[R]_X$ -H₂P-COFs ($[Et]_X$ -H₂P-COFs, $[MeOAc]_X$ -H₂P-COFs, $[EtOH]_X$ -H₂P-COFs, $[AcOH]_X$ -H₂P-COFs, $[EtNH_2]_X$ -H₂P-COFs)).

Infrared (IR) spectroscopy provides direct evidence for the presence of ethynyl units in $[HC\equiv C]_X$ -H₂P-COFs and functionalized groups in $[R]_X$ -H₂P-COFs (Figure S1).^{3a} Elemental analysis revealed that the actual ethynyl and functional unit contents of the COFs were close to the calculated values (Table S1). X-ray diffraction (XRD) measurements (Figure S2) revealed that $[HC\equiv C]_x$ -H₂P-COFs and H₂P-COF exhibited the same XRD pattern, thereby demonstrating that the crystal structure of H₂P-COF was retained. The pore-surface-engineered COFs also exhibited the same XRD patterns as H₂P-COF (Figure S2), indicating that the crystalline framework was retained. Scheme 1B presents the pore structures of $[HC \equiv C]_{100}$ -H₂P-COF, $[Et]_{100}$ -H₂P-COF, [MeOAc]₁₀₀-H₂P-COF, [EtOH]₁₀₀-H₂P-COF, [AcOH]₁₀₀-H₂P-COF, and [EtNH₂]₁₀₀-H₂P-COF. The porous structures of these COFs can be fully changed through the integration of different functional groups.

Nitrogen sorption isotherms were collected at 77 K to investigate the porosity of the COFs (Figure S3). The [HC \equiv C]_X-H₂P-COFs exhibited Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) surface areas of 1474, 1413, 962, 683, and 462 m² g⁻¹, corresponding to ethynyl content (*X*) of 0, 25, 50, 75, and 100, respectively (Table S2). This trend indicates that the ethynyl groups occupied the pore space. As a result, the pore volume decreased from 0.75 to 0.71, 0.57, 0.42, and 0.28 cm³ g⁻¹, respectively. Notably, these COFs contained only one type of pore in the framework (Figure S4), indicating that the ethynyl units were randomly integrated into the pore walls of [HC \equiv

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Scheme 1. (A) Schematic of Pore Surface Engineering of Imine-Linked COFs with Various Functional Groups via Click Reactions; (B) Pore Structures of COFs with Different Functional Groups (Gray, C; Blue, N; Red, O)



Figure 1. Carbon dioxide adsorption capacity of the COFs at 273 (red) and 298 K (blue) and 1 bar.

C]_X-H₂P-COFs (X = 25, 50, and 75). The pore size decreased from 2.5 to 2.3, 2.1, 1.9, and 1.6 nm as the X value was increased from 0 to 25, 50, 75, and 100, respectively (Table S2).

Compared to $[HC \equiv C]_{x}$ -H₂P-COFs, the $[Et]_{x}$ -H₂P-COFs with the same X value exhibited more explicit decrease in their BET surface areas, pore volumes, and pore sizes (Figure S3, Table S2). These decrease resulted from the occupation of the pores by longer chains that were integrated via pore surface engineering (Scheme 1B). For example, for [Et]₂₅-H₂P-COF, [Et]₅₀-H₂P-COF, [Et]₇₅-H₂P-COF, and [Et]₁₀₀-H₂P-COF, the BET surface areas were 1326, 821, 485, and 187 $m^2 g^{-1}$, and the pore volumes were 0.55, 0.48, 0.34, and 0.18 cm³ g⁻¹, respectively. The pore surface engineering steadily decreased the pore size from a mesopore to supermicropores, allowing the systematic tuning of the pore sizes from 2.2 to 1.9, 1.6, and 1.5 nm. Such fine adjustments of the pore size have not been achieved via direct polycondensation. Upon pore-wall engineering with ester, hydroxyl, carboxylic acid, and amino groups, the BET surface areas, pore volumes, and pore sizes of the resulting $[MeOAc]_{X}$ -H₂P-COFs, $[EtOH]_{X}$ -H₂P-COFs, $[AcOH]_{X}$ -H₂P-COFs, and [EtNH₂]_X-H₂P-COFs exhibited similar tendencies to decrease compared to those of the $[Et]_{X}$ -H₂P-COFs.

The systematic integration of functional groups, in combination with a significant decrease in the pore size, makes the resulting COFs attractive for CO₂ adsorption (Figures S5 and S6). $[HC \equiv C]_X$ -H₂P-COFs with the X values of 0, 25, 50, 75, and 100 exhibited CO₂ capacity of 38, 29, 26, 24, and 20 mg g^{-1} , respectively, at 298 K and 1 bar; these capacities increased to 72, 54, 48, 43, and 39 mg g^{-1} at 273 K and 1 bar (Figure 1). These results indicate that the [HC \equiv $C]_{x}$ -H₂P-COFs are conventional COFs with low adsorption capacities. We observed that the capacity for CO₂ adsorption was highly dependent on the structures of the functional groups. Upon the introduction of ethyl units onto the pore walls, the resulting $[Et]_X$ -H₂P-COFs (X = 25, 50, 75, and 100) exhibited CO₂ adsorption capacities similar to those of the $[HC \equiv C]_{x}$ -H₂P-COFs under otherwise identical conditions (Figure 1). By contrast, when the functional groups were changed to ester units, the [MeOAc]_x-H₂P-COFs exhibited enhanced CO₂ adsorption capacities. [MeOAc]₅₀-H₂P-COF exhibites the highest capacity among the [MeOAc]_X-H₂P-COFs, with CO₂ adsorption capacities of 47 and 88 mg g^{-1} at 298 and 273 K, respectively (Figure 1). These values are 1.6fold greater than those of the best-performing $[Et]_x$ -H₂P-COFs. Notably, the introduction of carboxylic acid groups greatly enhanced the capacity. The capacities of [AcOH]25-H₂P-COF, [AcOH]₅₀-H₂P-COF, [AcOH]₇₅-H₂P-COF, and $[AcOH]_{100}$ -H₂P-COF were 50, 64, 58, and 50 mg g⁻¹ at 298 K and 94, 117, 109, and 96 mg g⁻¹ at 273 K, respectively (Figure 1). The integration of hydroxyl groups similarly enhanced the adsorption. For example, [EtOH]₅₀-H₂P-COF exhibited capacities of 71 and 124 mg g⁻¹ at 298 and 273 K, respectively, which are 2.3- to 2.4-fold greater than the capacities of [HC=C]₂₅-H₂P-COF. Surprisingly, pore surface engineering with the amino groups led to an overall enhancement of CO2 adsorption (Figure 1). The capacities of [EtNH₂]₂₅-H₂P-COF, [EtNH₂]₅₀-H₂P-COF, [EtNH₂]₇₅- H_2P -COF, and $[EtNH_2]_{100}$ - H_2P -COF were 60, 82, 67, and 52 mg g⁻¹ at 298 K and 116, 157, 133, and 97 mg g⁻¹ at 273 K, respectively. [EtNH₂]₅₀-H₂P-COF exhibited the highest adsorption capacity, which was almost 3-fold greater than those of [Et]₅₀-H₂P-COF and [HC≡C]₅₀-H₂P-COF.

The dramatic change in the adsorption of CO₂ upon pore surface engineering is related to the interactions between functional groups and CO₂. The nonpolar ethynyl and ethyl groups interact weakly with CO2, resulting in their poor adsorption capacity. By contrast, the polar ester units could interact with CO₂ via dipole interactions and thus improve the affinity of the COF for CO2. The enhanced capacities of $[AcOH]_{x}$ -H₂P-COFs and $[EtOH]_{x}$ -H₂P-COFs resulted from the dipole and hydrogen bonding interactions of carboxylic and hydroxyl units with CO₂. The amino groups can form acidbase pairs with CO2, leading to a significant enhancement in CO₂ adsorption. COFs with the same functional groups show two different tendencies with respect to CO₂ adsorption. The first class is the $[Et]_X$ -H₂P-COFs, in which the pore walls have fewer interactions with CO2 and thus exhibit a simple decrease in CO₂ adsorption capacity with X values because of their decreased surface areas and pore volumes. The second class consists of the [MeOAc]_X-H₂P-COFs, [AcOH]_X-H₂P-COFs, $[EtOH]_{x}$ -H₂P-COFs, and $[EtNH_{2}]_{x}$ -H₂P-COFs, which all interact strongly with CO₂ and exhibit maximal capacities at X = 50. This behavior is the result of a balance between the two contradictory effects of enhanced affinity and decreased porosity on adsorption. This type of perturbation indicates that precise pore surface engineering is a key component of capturing CO_2 with COFs.

To elucidate the nature of the CO_2 adsorption, we calculated the isosteric heat of adsorption (Q_{st}) from the CO₂ adsorption isotherm curves collected at pressures as high as 1 bar and at temperatures of 273 and 298 K (Table S2). Interestingly, the $Q_{\rm st}$ value increased in the order of $[\rm HC\equiv C]_x-\rm H_2P-\rm COFs \approx$ $[Et]_{X}$ -H₂P-COFs < $[MeOAc]_{X}$ -H₂P-COFs < $[AcOH]_{X}$ -H₂P- $COFs < [EtOH]_{X}-H_2P-COFs < [EtNH_2]_{X}-H_2P-COFs$ (Table S2). For example, $[HC\equiv C]_{X}$ -H₂P-COFs and $[Et]_{X}$ -H₂P-COFs had Q_{st} values of 15.3-16.8 kJ mol⁻¹. The Q_{st} values of $[MeOAc]_X$ -H₂P-COFs were higher, ranging between 16.4 and 17.8 kJ mol⁻¹. More significant enhancements in the Q_{st} values were observed for [AcOH]_X-H₂P-COFs and [EtOH]_X-H₂P-COFs; these COFs had Q_{st} values of 17.7-18.8 and 18.2-19.3 kJ mol⁻¹, respectively. $[EtNH_2]_{X}$ -H₂P-COFs exhibited the highest Q_{st} values, which ranged from 20.4 to 20.9 kJ mol⁻¹. These results indicate that the COFs with the strongest affinity for CO₂ were those with pore walls that were functionalized with amino groups; those groups facilitated the adsorption of CO₂ and contributed to the enhanced CO₂ adsorption performance (ideal adsorbed solution theory (IAST) calculations of selectivity, see Figure S7).

To evaluate the gas adsorption capability of adsorbents under kinetic flowing gas conditions (CO_2/N_2 mixture containing 15% CO_2 and 85% N_2 , 298 K, 100 kPa), we performed breakthrough simulations using a precise methodology established by Krishna and Long (Supporting Information, Tables S4 and S5, Figures S8 and S9).⁸ These simulations accurately reflect the separation ability of a pressure-swing adsorption (PSA) process, which is an energetically efficient method for industrial-scale capture. Figure 2A shows a



Figure 2. (A) Fixed-bed adsorber for COFs. Flue-gas breakthrough profiles of (B) $[HC\equiv C]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF and (C) $[EtNH_2]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF at 298 K. (D) Comparison of %CO₂ at the adsorber outlet at 298 K (blue curve, $[HC\equiv C]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF; red curve, $[EtNH_2]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF). (E) Comparison of CO₂ capture productivity at 298 K (blue circle, $[HC\equiv C]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF; red circle, $[EtNH_2]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF).

schematic of a packed-bed absorber. Figure 2B,C presents typical breakthrough curves for [HC≡C]₅₀-H₂P-COF and $[EtNH_2]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF, respectively, where the x-axis is dimensionless time, τ , which is defined as the division of actual time t by the characteristic time $L\varepsilon/\mu$ (Supporting Information). [EtNH₂]₅₀-H₂P-COF exhibited a breakthrough time of 25, which was much longer than that of $[HC\equiv C]_{50}$ - H_2P -COF (7). Figure 2D compares the breakthrough characteristics of the two COFs in terms of CO₂ concentration (mol%) at the absorber outlet, which is depicted as a function of dimensionless time when the operation was performed at a total pressure of 100 kPa. [EtNH₂]₅₀-H₂P-COF (red curve) had a breakthrough time much longer than that of $[HC \equiv C]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF (blue curve). Longer breakthrough times are desirable for greater CO₂ capture. For a quantitative evaluation, we arbitrarily chose the required outlet gas purity as <0.05 mol % CO₂. Using this purity specification, we determined the breakthrough times, τ_{break} for the COFs. Based on the material balance on the absorber, we determined the amount of CO_2 captured during the time interval $0-\tau_{\text{break}}$. Figure 2E shows the

plot of the number of millimoles of CO₂ capture per liter of adsorbent during the time interval $0 - \tau_{break}$ against the τ_{break} . Notably, $[EtNH_2]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF (red circle) exhibited superior CO₂ productivity (90 mmol L⁻¹) compared to $[HC\equiv]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF (blue circle; 21 mmol L⁻¹).

COFs with highly functionalized pore wall structures are difficult to obtain via direct polycondensation reactions. The systematic pore surface engineering of COFs enables the tailormade covalent docking of a variety of different functional groups with controlled loading contents to the pore walls. The surface engineering of the pore walls profoundly affects the surface area, pore size, pore volume, and pore environment. As demonstrated for CO₂ adsorption, pore surface engineering is a high throughput and efficient method for achieving both enhanced adsorption capacities and improved separation capabilities. Notably, this approach is not limited to the present COF and is widely applicable to many other previously reported COFs. We envisage that pore surface engineering might be a general strategy for screening for COF materials that satisfy the multiple requirements of CO₂ capture in industriallevel flow-gas applications.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

Materials and method, simulations, Tables S1– S5, and Figures S1–S9. The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/ jacs.5b04300.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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Supporting Information

Tailor-Made Pore Surface Engineering in Covalent Organic Frameworks: Systematic Functionalization for Performance Screening

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Section A. Methods

Fourier transform Infrared (FT IR) spectra were recorded on a JASCO model FT IR-6100 infrared spectrometer. UV-Vis-IR diffuse reflectance spectrum (Kubelka-Munk spectrum) was recorded on a JASCO model V-670 spectrometer equipped with integration sphere model IJN-727. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) data were recorded on a Rigaku model RINT Ultima III diffractometer by depositing powder on glass substrate, from $2\theta = 1.5^{\circ}$ up to 60° with 0.02° increment. Elemental analysis was performed on a Yanako CHN CORDER MT-6 elemental analyzer. Nitrogen sorption isotherms were measured at 77 K with a Bel Japan Inc. model BELSORP-mini II analyzer. Before measurement, the samples were degassed in vacuum at 120 °C for more than 10 h. By using the non-local density functional theory (NLDFT) model, the pore volume was derived from the sorption curve. ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL model JNM-LA400 NMR spectrometer, where the chemical shifts (δ in ppm) were determined with a residual proton of the solvent as standard.

Section B. Materials and synthetic procedures

n-Butanol, *o*-dichlorobenzene (*o*-DCB), anhydrous acetone (99.5%), and tetrahydrofuran were purchased from Wako Chemicals. 1,4-Phthalaldehyde (PA) was purchased from TCI. Free-base 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(*p*-tetraphenylamino) porphyrin (H₂P) was prepared from *p*-nitrobenzaldehyde using a literature procedure.^{S1} 2,5-Dihydroxyterephthalaldehyde (DHTA) and 2,5-bis(2-propynyloxy) terephthalaldehyde (BPTA) were synthesized according to a reported method.^{S2,S3}

[HC≡C]_X-H₂P-COFs. An *o*-DCB/BuOH (0.5 mL / 0.5 mL) mixture of H₂P (0.022 mmol, 14.9 mg) and DHTA/BPTA (total 0.044 mmol) at different molar ratios of 100/0, 75/25, 50/50, 25/75, and 0/100 in the presence of acetic acid catalyst (3 M, 0.1 mL) in a Pyrex tube (10 mL) was degassed by three freeze–pump–thaw cycles. The tube was sealed off by flame and heated at 120 °C for 3 days. The precipitate was collected via centrifuge, washed with THF for 6 times, and washed with acetone 3 times. The powder was dried at 120 °C under vacuum overnight to give the corresponding COFs in isolated yields of 80%, 72%, 69%, 86%, and 80% for the [HC≡ C]₀-H₂P-COF, [HC≡C]₂₅-H₂P-COF, [HC≡C]₅₀-H₂P-COF, [HC≡C]₇₅-H₂P-COF, and [HC≡

C]₁₀₀-H₂P-COF, respectively.

[R]_X-H₂P-COFs. A toluene/*n*-butanol (0.8 mL / 0.2 mL) mixture of [HC=C]₂₅-H₂P-COF (20 mg) in the presence of CuI (2 mg) and DIPEA (40 μ L) in a Pyrex tube (10 mL) was added with azide compounds. The tube was degassed via three freeze–pump–thaw cycles and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The precipitate was collected via centrifuge, washed with ethanol 5 times, and dried at room temperature under vacuum, to produce [R]₂₅-H₂P-COF as a deep brown solid in quantitative yield. The ethynyl groups were quantatively reacted with the azide units as evident by the IR spectra. The click reaction of [HC= C]_X-H₂P-COFs (X = 50, 75, and 100) with azides compounds were performed according to this method under otherwise same conditions.

Section C. Fitting of pure component isotherms

The salient properties of two different COFs ($[HC=C]_{25\%}$ -H₂PCOF and $[EtNH_2]_{25\%}$ -H₂PCOF) are specified in Table 1. The potential of these COFs are evaluated for the separation of CO₂/N₂ mixtures that is relevant for CO₂ capture from flue gases. For our evaluations, we assume the CO₂/N₂ mixtures to contain 15% CO₂, and 85% N₂, following the earlier work of Mason et al.^{S4}

The experimentally measured excess loadings of CO_2 , and N_2 , obtained at different temperatures, were first converted to absolute loadings before data fitting. The procedure for converting to absolute loadings is the same as described in the Supporting Information accompanying the paper of Wu et al.^{S5} For the purpose of converting to absolute loadings, the pore volumes used are specified in Table S4. The isotherm data for CO_2 were fitted with the 1-site Langmuir model:

$$q = q_{sat} \frac{bp}{1+bp} \tag{1}$$

with T-dependent parameter b

$$b_{A} = b_{0} \exp\left(\frac{E}{RT}\right) \qquad (2)$$

The 1-site Langmuir *T*-dependent parameters for adsorption of CO₂ are provided in Table S5. Table S6 provides the *T*-dependent Langmuir parameters for N₂ in different materials.

Section D. Isosteric heat of adsorption

The isosteric heat of adsorption, $Q_{\rm st}$, defined as

$$Q_{st} = RT^2 \left(\frac{\partial \ln p}{\partial T}\right)_q \tag{3}$$

was determined using the pure component isotherm fits using the Clausius-Clapeyron equation.

The $Q_{\rm st}$ values are summarized in Table S2.

Section E. IAST calculations

The selectivity of preferential adsorption of component 1 over component 2 in a mixture containing 1 and 2, perhaps in the presence of other components too, can be formally defined as

$$S_{ads} = \frac{q_1/q_2}{p_1/p_2}$$
(4)

In equation (4), q_1 and q_2 are the *absolute* component loadings of the adsorbed phase in the mixture. These component loadings are also termed the uptake capacities. In all the calculations to be presented below, the calculations of q_1 and q_2 are based on the use of the Ideal Adsorbed Solution Theory (IAST) of Myers and Prausnitz.^{S6} The accuracy of the IAST calculations for estimation of the component loadings for several binary mixtures in a wide variety of zeolites, and MOFs has been established by comparison with Configurational-Bias Monte Carlo (CBMC) simulations of mixture adsorptions.^{S7-S12}

The IAST calculations of the component uptakes for $15/85 \text{ CO}_2/N_2$ mixtures at 198 K are shown in Figure S9a and S9b.

Section F. Simulation methodology for transient breakthrough in fixed bed absorbers

The separation of CO₂/N₂ mixtures is commonly carried out in fixed bed absorbers in which the separation performance is dictated by a combination of three separate factors: (a) adsorption selectivity, (b) uptake capacity, and (c) intra-crystalline diffusivities of guest molecules within the pores. Transient breakthrough simulations are required for a proper evaluation of MOFs; the simulation methodology used in our work is described in earlier publications.^{S13,S14} A brief summary of the simulation methodology is presented below.

Assuming plug flow of an *n*-component gas mixture through a fixed bed maintained under isothermal conditions (see schematic in Figure 4a), the partial pressures in the gas phase at any position and instant of time are obtained by solving the following set of partial differential equations for each of the species *i* in the gas mixture.^{S12}

$$\frac{1}{RT}\frac{\partial p_i(t,z)}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{RT}\frac{\partial \left(v(t,z)p_i(t,z) \right)}{\partial z} - \frac{\left(1 - \varepsilon \right)}{\varepsilon} \rho \frac{\partial \overline{q_i(t,z)}}{\partial t}; \quad i = 1,2,\dots,n$$
(5)

In equation (5), *t* is the time, *z* is the distance along the adsorber, *r* is the framework density, *e* is the bed voidage, *v* is the interstitial gas velocity, and $\overline{q}_i(t,z)$ is the *spatially averaged* molar loading within the crystallites of radius r_c , monitored at position *z*, and at time *t*.

At any time *t*, during the transient approach to thermodynamic equilibrium, the spatially averaged molar loading within the crystallite r_c is obtained by integration of the radial loading profile

$$\bar{q}_{i}(t) = \frac{3}{r_{c}^{3}} \int_{0}^{t_{c}} q_{i}(r,t) r^{2} dr$$
 (6)

For transient unary uptake within a crystal at any position and time with the fixed bed, the radial distribution of molar loadings, q_i , within a spherical crystallite, of radius r_c , is obtained from a solution of a set of differential equations describing the uptake

$$\frac{\partial q_i(r,t)}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(r^2 N_i \right)$$
(7)

The molar flux N_i of component *i* is described by the simplified version of the Maxwell-Stefan equations in which both correlation effects and thermodynamic coupling effects are considered to be of negligible importance^{S15}

$$N_i = -\rho D_i \frac{\partial q_i}{\partial r} \qquad (8)$$

Summing equation (6) over all *n* species in the mixture allows calculation of the *total average* molar loading of the mixture within the crystallite

$$\bar{q}_{i}(t,z) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \bar{q}_{i}(t,z)$$
 (9)

The interstitial gas velocity is related to the superficial gas velocity by

$$v = \frac{u}{\varepsilon} \tag{10}$$

In industrial practice, the most common operation uses a step-wise input of mixtures to be separated into an absorber bed that is initially free of adsorbents, i.e. we have the initial condition

$$t = 0; \quad q_i(0, z) = 0$$
 (11)

At time t = 0, the inlet to the absorber, z = 0, is subjected to a step input of the *n*-component gas mixture and this step input is maintained till the end of the adsorption cycle when steady-state conditions are reached.

$$t \ge 0; \quad p_i(0,t) = p_{i0}; \quad u(0,t) = u_0$$
 (12)

where u_0 is the superficial gas velocity at the inlet to the absorber.

The breakthrough characteristics for any component is essentially dictated by two sets of parameters: (a) The characteristic contact time $\frac{L}{v} = \frac{L\varepsilon}{u}$ between the crystallites and the surrounding fluid phase, and (b) $\frac{D_i}{r_c^2}$, that reflect the importance of intra-crystalline diffusion limitations. It is common to use the dimensionless time, $\tau = \frac{tu}{L\varepsilon}$, obtained by dividing the actual time *t*, by the characteristic time, $\frac{L\varepsilon}{u}$ when plotting simulated breakthrough curves.^{S14}

If the value of $\frac{D_i}{r_c^2}$ is large enough to ensure that intra-crystalline gradients are absent and the entire crystallite particle can be considered to be in thermodynamic equilibrium with the surrounding bulk gas phase at that time *t*, and position *z* of the adsorber

$$\overline{q}_i(t,z) = q_i(t,z)$$
(13)

The molar loadings at the *outer surface* of the crystallites, i.e. at $r = r_c$, are calculated on the basis of adsorption equilibrium with the bulk gas phase partial pressures p_i at that position z and time t. The adsorption equilibrium can be calculated on the basis of the IAST. The assumption of

thermodynamic equilibrium at every position z, and any time t, i.e. invoking Equation (13), generally results in sharp breakthroughs for each component. Sharp breakthroughs are desirable in practice because this would result in high productivity of pure products. Essentially, the influence of intra-crystalline diffusion is to reduce the productivity of pure gases. For all the breakthrough calculations reported in this work, we assume negligible diffusion resistances for all materials and we invoke the simplified Equation (13).

Section G. Notation

b_{A}	dual-Langmuir-Freundlich constant for species <i>i</i> at adsorption site A, Pa^{-v_i}
ci	molar concentration of species i in gas mixture, mol m ⁻³
c_{i0}	molar concentration of species i in gas mixture at inlet to adsorber, mol m ⁻³
L	length of packed bed adsorber, m
N	number of species in the mixture, dimensionless
$N_{\rm i}$	molar flux of species <i>i</i> , mol $m^{-2} s^{-1}$
p_{i}	partial pressure of species <i>i</i> in mixture, Pa
p_{t}	total system pressure, Pa
$q_{ m i}$	component molar loading of species i , mol kg ⁻¹
$\overline{q}_i(t)$	<i>spatially averaged</i> component molar loading of species <i>i</i> , mol kg ⁻¹
r _c	radius of crystallite, m
R	gas constant, 8.314 J mol ⁻¹ K ⁻¹
t	time, s
Т	absolute temperature, K
и	superficial gas velocity in packed bed, m s ⁻¹
v	interstitial gas velocity in packed bed, m s ⁻¹
Greek l	etters
е	voidage of packed bed, dimensionless
r	framework density, kg m ⁻³

au time, dimensionless

Subscripts

- i referring to component
- i_{break} referring to breakthrough
- t referring to total mixture

Section H. Supporting Tables

COFs		С%	Н%	N%
	Calcd.	76.95	4.25	11.97
[HC≡C] ₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	77.36	4.88	10.87
	Calcd.	77.76	4.14	11.52
[HC=C] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	76.86	4.63	10.92
	Calcd.	78.4	4.19	11.08
[HC=C] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	76.92	4.84	10.87
	Calcd.	78.99	4.22	10.68
[HC=C] ₇₅ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	77.23	4.92	9.41
	Calcd.	79.54	4.26	10.31
[HC≡C] ₁₀₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	77.92	4.86	9.62
	Calcd.	80.95	4.25	10.43
[Et] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	78.96	4.82	9.21
	Calcd.	81.29	4.13	11.17
[Et] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	78.76	5.02	9.97
	Calcd.	81.87	4.02	11.24
[Et] ₇₅ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	79.34	4.67	11.22
	Calcd.	82.11	82.11 3.85	
[Et] ₁₀₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	78.82	4.62	10.79
	Calcd.	74.05	4.37	10.79
[EtOH] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	72.42	4.66	9.46
	Calcd.	71.76	4.34	9.85
[EtOH] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	69.92	4.68	8.88
	Calcd.	69.84	4.31	9.05
[EtOH]75-H2P-COF	Found	68.74	4.88	8.34
	Calcd.	68.21	4.29	8.37
LEIOH J100-H2P-COF	Found	64.43	5.17	7.02
[EtNH ₂] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	Calcd.	72.25	4.32	11.68

Table S1. Elemental analysis results of $[HC\equiv C]_X$ -H₂P-COFs and $[R]_X$ -H₂P-COFs.

	Found	70.86	5.01	9.74
	Calcd.	71.77	4.24	11.86
[EtNH ₂] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	70.26	5.27	9.89
[EtNH ₂] ₇₅ -H ₂ P-COF	Calcd.	71.53	4.16	12.02
	Found	69.15	5.26	10.64
	Calcd.	71.34	4.09	12.34
[EtNH ₂] ₁₀₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	69.75	5.17	11.24
	Calcd.	77.94	4.32	11.38
[MeOAc] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	75.43	5.02	10.62
	Calcd.	77.34	4.26	11.02
[MeOAc] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	75.74	4.89	9.74
	Calcd.	76.95	4.18	10.92
[MeOAC] ₇₅ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	74.76	5.02	9.03
	Calcd.	76.69	4.13	10.77
[MeOAc] ₁₀₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	74.68	5.37	9.74
	Calcd.	81.36	4.32	10.86
[AcOH] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	79.52	5.16	9.64
	Calcd.	80.11	3.91	10.61
[ACOH] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	78.31	5.03	9.61
	Calcd.	78.46	3.76	10.42
[ACOH] ₇₅ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	76.34	4.36	9.44
	Calcd.	75.77	3.34	10.23
[ACOH] ₁₀₀ -H ₂ P-COF	Found	73.61	4.71	9.52

COL	$\frac{S_{BET}}{(m^2 g^{-1})}$	Pore size (nm)	Pore volume (cm ³ g ⁻¹)	CO_2 uptake (mg g ⁻¹)		$Q_{ m st}$
COFS				273 K	298 K	(kJ mol ⁻¹)
[C≡C] ₀ -H ₂ P-COF	1474	2.5	0.75	72	38	17.2
[C≡C] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	1431	2.3	0.71	54	29	16.8
[C≡C] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	962	2.1	0.57	48	26	16.5
[C≡C] ₇₅ -H ₂ P-COF	683	1.9	0.42	43	24	15.7
[C≡C] ₁₀₀ -H ₂ P-COF	426	1.6	0.28	39	20	15.3
[Et] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	1326	2.2	0.55	55	29	15.5
[Et] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	821	1.9	0.48	46	25	15.3
[Et] ₇₅ -H ₂ P-COF	485	1.6	0.34	41	23	15.6
[Et] ₁₀₀ -H ₂ P-COF	187	1.5	0.18	38	21	15.3
[MeOAc] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	1238	2.1	0.51	84	42	16.4
[MeOAc] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	754	1.8	0.42	88	47	17.1
[MeOAc] ₇₅ -H ₂ P-COF	472	1.5	0.31	82	42	16.7
[MeOAc] ₁₀₀ -H ₂ P-COF	156	1.1	0.14	65	34	17.8
[AcOH] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	1252	2.2	0.52	94	50	17.7
[AcOH] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	866	1.8	0.45	117	64	17.8
[AcOH] ₇₅ -H ₂ P-COF	402	1.5	0.32	109	58	18.3
[AcOH] ₁₀₀ -H ₂ P-COF	186	1.3	0.18	96	50	18.8
[EtOH] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	1248	2.2	0.56	92	50	18.2
[EtOH] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	784	1.9	0.43	124	71	19.7
[EtOH] ₇₅ -H ₂ P-COF	486	1.6	0.36	117	63	19.2
[EtOH] ₁₀₀ -H ₂ P-COF	214	1.4	0.19	84	44	19.3
[EtNH ₂] ₂₅ -H ₂ P-COF	1402	2.2	0.58	116	60	20.4

Table S2. Porosity, CO₂ uptake, and Q_{st} value of [HC=C]_X-H₂P-COFs and [R]_X-H₂P-COFs.

[EtNH ₂] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	1044	1.9	0.50	133	67	20.9
[EtNH ₂] ₇₅ -H ₂ P-COF	568	1.6	0.36	157	82	20.8
[EtNH ₂] ₁₀₀ -H ₂ P-COF	382	1.3	0.21	97	52	20.9

Table S3. Salient properties of $[HC=C]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF and $[EtNH_2]_{50}$ -H₂P-COF (The crystal framework densities, required in the breakthrough simulations, are estimated as (bulk density)/(one-bed porosity) with the assumption that the bed porosity is 0.4.).

	Bulk density	$S_{ m BET}$	Pore volume	Pore size
COFs	$(g \text{ cm}^{-3})$	$(m^2 g^{-1})$	$(\text{cm}^3 \text{g}^{-1})$	(nm)
[HC=C] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	0.24	683	0.42	1.91
[EtNH ₂] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	0.27	568	0.36	1.56

Table S4. One-site Langmuir parameters for adsorption of CO_2 in COFs (The experimentallymeasured excess loadings were first converted to absolute loadings before data fitting.).

COEs	$q_{ m sat}$	b_0	E
COFS	$(mol kg^{-1})$	(Pa ^{-v})	$(kJ mol^{-1})$
[HC = C] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	18	3.82×10^{-10}	16.5
[EtNH ₂] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	15	3.14×10 ⁻¹⁰	20.9

Table S5. One-site Langmuir parameters for N_2 in different materials.

COFs	$q_{ m A,sat}$ (mol kg ⁻¹)	<i>b</i> _{A0} (Pa ⁻¹)	$E_{\rm A}$ (kJ mol ⁻¹)
[HC≡C] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	2	3.28×10 ⁻⁹	13.8
[EtNH ₂] ₅₀ -H ₂ P-COF	2	8.4×10 ⁻⁰⁹	11

Section I. Supporting Figures.





Figure S1. FT-IR spectra of $[HC=C]_X$ -H₂P-COFs, $[Et]_X$ -H₂P-COFs, $[MeOAc]_X$ -H₂P-COFs, $[AcOH]_X$ -H₂P-COFs, $[EtOH]_X$ -H₂P-COFs and $[EtNH_2]_X$ -H₂P-COFs (X = 0, 25, 50, 75, and 100).



Figure S2. The XRD patterns of (a) $[HC=C]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (b) $[Et]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (c) $[MeOAc]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (d) $[AcOH]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (e) $[EtOH]_X-H_2P-COFs$, and (f) $[EtNH_2]_X-H_2P-COFs$ (orange : X = 0, black: X = 25, red: X = 50, blue: X = 75, and green: X = 100).



Figure S3. Nitrogen sorption isotherm curves of (**a**) $[HC=C]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**b**) $[Et]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**c**) $[MeOAc]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**g**) $[AcOH]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**h**) $[EtOH]_X-H_2P-COFs$, and (**i**) $[EtNH_2]_X-H_2P-COFs$ at 77K (orange: X =0, red: X = 25, blue: X = 50, green: X = 75, black: X = 100). BET surface areas of (**d**) $[HC=C]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**e**) $[Et]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**f**) $[MeOAc]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**j**) $[AcOH]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**k**) $[EtOH]_X-H_2P-COFs$, and (**l**) $[EtNH_2]_X-H_2P-COFs$.



Figure S4. Pore size and pore volume distribution files for (**a**-**d**) $[HC=C]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**e**-**h**) $[Et]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**i**-**l**) $[MeOAc]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**m**-**p**) $[AcOH]_X-H_2P-COFs$, (**q**-**t**) $[EtOH]_X-H_2P-COFs$, and (**u**-**x**) $[EtNH_2]_X-H_2P-COFs$ (from left to right, X = 25, 50, 75, and 100).



Figure S5. CO₂ sorption curves of (**a**) $[HC=C]_X-H_2P$ -COFs, (**b**) $[Et]_X-H_2P$ -COFs, (**c**) $[MeOAc]_X-H_2P$ -COFs, (**d**) $[AcOH]_X-H_2P$ -COFs, (**e**) $[EtOH]_X-H_2P$ -COFs, and (**f**) $[EtNH_2]_X-H_2P$ -COFs at 273 K (orange: X =0, black: X = 25, red: X = 50, blue: X = 75, green: X = 100).



Figure S6. CO₂ sorption curves of (**a**) $[HC=C]_X-H_2P$ -COFs, (**b**) $[Et]_X-H_2P$ -COFs, (**c**) $[MeOAc]_X-H_2P$ -COFs, (**d**) $[AcOH]_X-H_2P$ -COFs, (**e**) $[EtOH]_X-H_2P$ -COFs, and (**f**) $[EtNH_2]_X-H_2P$ -COFs at 298 K (orange: X =0, black: X = 25, red: X = 50, blue: X = 75, green: X = 100).



Figure S7. Calculations using Ideal Adsorbed Solution Theory (IAST) of Myers and Prausnitz⁶ for CO₂/N₂ adsorption selectivity for a binary CO₂/N₂ gas mixture maintained at isothermal conditions at 298 K. In these calculations the partial pressures of CO₂ and N₂ are taken to be $p_1/p_2=15/85$ (blue: [EtNH₂]₅₀-H₂P-COF; black: [HC=C]₅₀-H₂P-COF).



Figure S8. The fitted CO₂ (**a** and **c**) and N₂ (**b** and **d**) isotherm curves (black: 273K, red: 298K) of (**a**, **b**) [HC=C]₅₀-H₂P-COF and (**c**, **d**) [EtNH₂]₅₀-H₂P-COF.



Figure S9. Calculations using ideal adsorbed solution theory (IAST) of Myers and Prausnitz for uptakes of CO₂ and N₂, expressed as moles per kg of adsorbent, in equilibrium with a binary CO₂/N₂ gas mixture maintained at isothermal conditions at 298 K (black: [HC=C]₅₀-H₂P-COF, red: [EtNH₂]₅₀-H₂P-COF). In these calculations the partial pressures of CO₂ and N₂ are taken to be p_1/p_2 =15/85.

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