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Introduction

A multifunctional double walled zirconium metal– organic framework: high performance for $CO₂$ adsorption and separation and detecting explosives in the aqueous phase†

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A rare double walled zirconium metal–organic framework, $[Zr_6O_4(OH)_4(DCPB)_6]$ 2DMF \cdot 1H₂O (JLU-Liu45, 1,3-di(4-carboxyphenyl)benzene (H₂DCPB)), was successfully constructed. Because of its high connectivity, double wall and interpenetration of the framework, JLU-Liu45 displays extraordinary chemical stability, and is able to maintain an intact framework after being immersed in acid or base solutions. Such a Zr-MOF is also a multifunctional material, which exhibits good capabilities for both $CO₂$ adsorption and separation and explosives detection in the aqueous phase. Due to the multiple weak $C-H\cdots O$ interactions and narrow pores of the framework, JLU-Liu45 displays brilliant CO₂ adsorption (116 cm³ g⁻¹, 1 bar and 273 K) and separation ability ($CO_2/N_2 = 81.4$, 1 bar and 298 K), surpassing that of state-of-the-art Zr-MOFs reported to date. Additionally, JLU-Liu45 shows high performance in detecting explosives in the aqueous phase, in which the K_{SV} value towards TNP can reach up to the 10⁵ M⁻¹ level. **PAPER**
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Zirconium metal–organic frameworks (Zr-MOFs), which have diverse structure topology, permanent porosity and tunable pore size, have received tremendous attention from both academia and industry since the discovery of the first Zr-MOF (UiO-66) in $2008¹$. The high connectivity and strong Zr–O coordination bonds endow Zr-MOFs with high stability, which can overcome the drawbacks of traditional MOF materials.²⁻⁴ The exceptional stability of Zr-MOFs results in them being considered one of the most promising candidates for application in the field of catalysis, molecular recognition, water harvesting, gas adsorption and separation.⁵–¹⁰ However, Zr-MOFs with multi-function applications have rarely been reported.

Although Zr-MOFs possess lots of advantages, the number of reported novel Zr-MOFs is relatively small, compared with other metal based MOFs. Because the charge density of $Zr(w)$ is high, which is not beneficial for ligand exchange during the crystallization process, single crystal growth and structure analysis become difficult.5,11 Among the reported Zr-MOFs, combining Zr_6 clusters and dicarboxylate ligands usually gives rise to a framework with fcu, bct, bcu and reo topologies and a single wall.^{1,12-14} However, Zr-MOFs with multiple walls and pcu topology have rarely been reported.^{15,16} These sorts of Zr-MOFs are provided with many advantages: (1) owing to the increasing of wall thickness, the stability of Zr-MOFs can be further improved; (2) due to the presence of multiple walls, the topology is unpredictable which can contribute to enriching the topology structure of Zr-MOFs; (3) multiple walls of the framework can generate multiple weak interactions between ligands. Such interactions can significantly improve the performance of Zr-MOFs in chemical sensing, gas adsorption and separation.¹⁷⁻²² In previous work, people often select linear linkers to synthesize Zr-MOFs, but it is difficult to construct multi-walled frameworks.17,18 In contrast, the V-shaped ligands have more coordination models and spatial adaptabilities which may contribute to constructing Zr-MOFs with multiple walls.

Inspired by the above facts, we utilized the V-shaped ligand and Zr_6 clusters to successfully construct a Zr-MOF $[Zr_6O_4(-)]$ OH)₄(DCPB)₆] \cdot 2DMF \cdot 1H₂O (**JLU-Liu45**, DMF = N,N-dimethylformamide, H_2 DCPB = 1,3-di(4-carboxyphenyl)benzene), which exhibits an interpenetrated 3D framework with unusual

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double walls. Because of multiple walls and interpenetration of the framework, JLU-Liu45 possesses extraordinary thermal and chemical stability. JLU-Liu45 is also a multifunctional material, which exhibits good capabilities for both $CO₂$ adsorption and separation and explosives detection in the aqueous phase. Although its BET surface area is not prominent, lower than that of majority of Zr-MOFs, $^{23-25}$ its CO₂ uptake value is impressive, which is as high as 116 cm³ g⁻¹ at 273 K. The selectivity of **JLU-**Liu45 for CO_2/N_2 exceeds that of state-of-the-art Zr-MOFs reported to date. Moreover, it also exhibits high performance for detecting explosives in the aqueous phase, in which the K_{SV} value for monitoring 2,4,6-trinitrophenol (TNP) is 2.3 \times 10⁵ M^{-1} , which exceeds those of most of the reported water stable MOFs and other types of materials.

Experimental

Safety precautions

Caution! TNP is highly explosive and should be handled carefully and in small amounts. The explosives were handled as dilute solutions using safety measures to avoid explosion.

General information

All the chemicals were of analytical grade and used without further purification. C, H, and N elemental analyses were achieved on a Vario MICRO instrument (Elementar, Germany). A Rigaku D/max-2550 diffractometer with Cu-K α radiation ($\lambda =$ 1.5418 A) was employed to collect Powder X-ray Diffraction (PXRD) data (4–40) at ambient temperature. Fluorescence spectra were collected on a Fluoromax-4 spectrophotometer at ambient temperature with a slit width and filter of 2 nm and 360 nm, respectively. A TGA Q500 thermogravimetric analyzer was used to perform the thermal gravimetric analyses (TGA) with a heating rate of 10 $^{\circ}$ C min⁻¹ in air.

Preparation of JLU-Liu45

Colorless rod like crystals of JLU-Liu45 were synthesized via a solvothermal reaction of $H₂DCPB$ (15 mg, 0.05 mmol), $ZrCl₄$ (13 mg, 0.05 mmol), DMF (2.0 mL) and acetic acid (0.25 mL, 0.004 mmol) at 115 °C for 48 h (yield 85%, based on H_2DCPB). Through comparing the experimental PXRD patterns and simulated patterns derived from single crystal X-ray diffraction, the purity of $JLU-Liu45$ was verified (Fig. S1†).

X-ray crystallography

A Bruker Apex II CCD diffractometer instrument was employed to collect JLU-Liu45 crystallographic data at ambient temperature. Through direct methods and refined by full-matrix leastsquares on F^2 using version 5.1, the structure of **JLU-Liu45** could be solved.²⁶ Firstly, all the metal atoms were located. Secondly, the O and C atoms of the JLU-Liu45 were determined in the difference Fourier maps. Thirdly, the H atoms of $H₂DCPB$ were determined geometrically. All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Finally, the final formula of JLU-Liu45 was defined by combining the crystallographic data and elemental and thermogravimetric analysis data. Tables S1 and S2† present the crystal data and structure refinement, selected bond lengths and angles of JLU-Liu45. Crystallographic data for JLU-Liu45 (1557570) have been deposited. Based on TOPOS 4.0, the topology information of JLU-Liu45 was also calculated.²⁷

Gas adsorption measurements

 N_2 gas adsorption measurements were carried out Micromeritics ASAP 2420, and $CO₂$ and small alkane gas measurements were performed on Micromeritics 3-Flex. Before gas adsorption measurements, the nonvolatile solvent molecules in the MOF should be removed, thus achieving full activation. Then, the samples were dried under dynamic vacuum at 30 \degree C for 2 hours. Lastly, the samples were dried again through utilizing the 'outgas' function of the Micromeritics analyzer for 1 h at 30 $^{\circ}$ C and then 9 h at 100 $^{\circ}$ C.

Computational simulation studies of $CO₂$ adsorption

Based on the Grand Canonical Monte Carlo (GCMC) simulation, the density distribution of $CO₂$ molecules was calculated at 298 K and 1 bar. The Universal Force Field (UFF) and periodic boundary conditions were also employed.²⁸ Then, the electrostatic interaction in the Zr-MOF was evaluated through the Ewald summation method. Through utilizing Lennard-Jones potentials, van der Waals interactions between $CO₂$ and Zr-MOF were also calculated. The cutoff distance was set at 18.5 A. The atom charges of the $CO₂$ molecule and the Zr-MOF structure were obtained from the density functional theory (DFT) calculations. The generalized gradient approximation (GGA) of the Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE) method was executed to treat the exchange and correlation potentials.²⁹ The double numerical basis set (DND basis set) was also employed. All the GCMC simulations and DFT calculations were performed utilizing the Material Studio software of Sorption and Dmol³ modules, respectively. Publis the state of multiple walls and interportation of the crystal data and structure refractor of both lengths of the state of

Luminescence sensing experiments

The solid-state luminescent properties of H_2 DCPB ligands and MOF samples were tested at ambient temperature. H_2DCPB ligand displays fluorescent emissions at 380 nm upon excitation at 323 nm (Fig. S18†). Compared with the free ligand, JLU-Liu45 exhibits a similar emission at 388 nm under the excitation at 323 nm. Albeit a blue-shift of 8 nm is observed between the ligand and the crystal, the result also indicates that the fluorescent property of JLU-Liu45 is mostly because of the organic linkers. Furthermore, the samples of JLU-Liu45 were dispersed in various solvents, such as DMF, N,N'-dimethylacetamide (DMA), dioxane, acetonitrile, acetone, ethanol and water, and then their fluorescent properties were further tested. The results clearly demonstrated that the fluorescent emission of JLU-Liu45 exhibits a large solvent dependence. Although the fluorescence intensity of JLU-Liu45 was decreased after it was immersed in the solvents of acetone and acetonitrile, it exhibits excellent fluorescence intensity in water (Fig. S19†). Seven organic explosives (nitrobenzene (NB), TNP, methylbenzene (MB), 4 nitrophenol (4-NP), nitromethane (NM), phenol (PHL) and 2,3dimethyl-2,3-dinitrobutane (DMNB)) were chosen to assess the ability of JLU-Liu45 for detecting organic explosives in water.

For the credibility of the experiment, all the sensing tests were carried out in water at ambient temperature. Before measurement, 2 mg JLU-Liu45 samples are dispersed in 2 mL water. Then fluorescence quenching titrations were carried out through adding the organic explosives $(1 \text{ mM}, 20 \mu L)$ additions each time) piece by piece. Based on the Stern–Volmer (SV) equation $(I_0/I) = K_{SV}[Q] + 1$, the quenching efficiency was calculated, in which the I_0 and I represent the fluorescence intensities of the samples before and after the sensing tests, and Q and K_{SV} represents the organic explosive concentration and corresponding quenching constant $(M^{-1})^{.30}$

Result and discussion

Structure of JLU-Liu45

According to the single-crystal X-ray diffraction result, JLU-**Liu45** crystallizes in the $R\bar{3}$ space group and exhibits an interpenetrated 3D framework. The V-shaped ligand should be regarded as a linear rod which connects two classical $\text{Zr}_6\text{O}_4(\cdot)$ $OH)_{4}(CO_{2})_{12}$ secondary building units (SBUs), while the Zr₆ cluster is coordinated to twelve V-shaped ligands and should be regarded as cuboctahedral geometry (Fig. 1a). Albeit the connectivity of the SBUs is in accordance with the UiO series MOFs,^{1,31–34} the single net of the framework shows that the pore

Fig. 1 Structural analysis of JLU-Liu45: (a) topology simplification of the H₂DCPB ligand and the 12-connected Zr_6 cluster; (b) double layers of the pore wall and single net of the framework; (c) polyhedral view of the interpenetrated net; (d) helixes with opposite handedness along the c axis. $C = \text{grey}$; $O = \text{red}$; $Zr = \text{dark green}$ (hydrogen and guest molecules interspersed in the structure are omitted for a succinct packing).

walls of JLU-Liu45 are constructed through one pair of V-shaped ligands (Fig. 1b). Analyzing from the perspective of topology, the whole structure of JLU-Liu45 should be classified as a framework with pcu topology, in virtue of the presence of a double wall (Fig. 1c and S3†). To the best of our knowledge, the combination of Zr_6 clusters and dicarboxylate ligands usually gives rise to fcu, bct, bcu and reo topologies with a single wall (Fig. S4†). It has rarely been reported that a porous Zr-MOF constructed from a dicarboxylate ligand and exhibits pcu topology with a double wall.15,16 Although the interpenetration reduces the porosity of the framework, it still possesses onedimensional triangle channels with a side length of 5 Å , considering van der Waals radius along the c axis (Fig. 1d and $S5\dagger$). Viewing along the c axis, two types of helical chains, which are comprised of two nets of the framework with left and righthanded helical directions, can also be observed in the framework of JLU-Liu45 (Fig. 1d). The structure of JLU-Liu45 is similar to that of BUT-66 (ref. 16) which shows excellent capture of trace aromatic volatile organic compounds in ambient air, while JLU-Liu45 exhibits good capabilities for both $CO₂$ adsorption/separation and explosive detection in the aqueous phase. Published Chemistry A

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Gas adsorption and separation ability

To confirm the permanent porosity of **JLU-Liu45**, N_2 adsorption measurements were performed at 77 K. They display a fully reversible type-I isotherm characteristic, which indicates that JLU-Liu45 is a microporous material. The Langmuir and Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) surface areas of JLU-Liu45 are estimated to be 1101 and 971 m^2 g^{-1} , respectively. Pore size distributions of JLU-Liu45 were calculated by the DFT method based on the N_2 adsorption isotherm, revealing a distinct peak at 5.5 A, in full agreement with the crystallographic structure determination considering the van der Waals radius (Fig. S6†).

Fig. 2 (a) CO_2 adsorption isotherms of JLU-Liu45; (b) Q_{st} of CO_2 for JLU-Liu45; (c) based on the IAST method, $CO₂/N₂$ gas adsorption selectivity for JLU-Liu45 is predicted at 298 K and 100 kPa; (d) transient breakthrough simulations for separation of the $15/85$ CO₂/N₂ mixture in JLU-Liu45 at 100 kPa and 298 K. The y-axis is dimensionless concentrations at the exit, normalized with respect to the inlet concentrations.

In light of the small pores and multiple adsorption sites created by the interpenetration of the framework, JLU-Liu45 may be considered an excellent candidate for $CO₂$ adsorption and separation. To corroborate our assumption, the $CO₂$ adsorption ability of the activated samples was investigated. As depicted in Fig. 2a, JLU-Liu45 display high capability for $CO₂$ adsorption, in which its $CO₂$ adsorption capacities are 116 and 66 cm³ g⁻¹ at 273 and 298 K (1 bar), respectively. In comparison with other Zr-MOFs, its BET surface area is not prominent, but $CO₂$ uptake values at 273 and 298 K are impressive, which are comparable to many OMS or LBS decorated Cu-MOFs, such as MAF-35 and rht-MOF-7,³⁵⁻³⁷ and surpass many reported Zr-MOFs (Table S6†).³⁸⁻⁴³ To further understand CO_2 adsorption properties of JLU-Liu45, the isosteric heat (Q_{st}) of adsorption was calculated based on the adsorption isotherms at 273 and 298 K. The $Q_{\rm st}$ value of **JLU-Liu45** is about 34 kJ $\rm mol^{-1},$ which is higher than those of most reported Zr-MOFs, such as BUT-10, BUT-11 and UiO-67 (Fig. 2b and Table S6†).³⁸⁻⁴³ Moreover, some small alkanes were also selected to estimate its gas adsorption properties (Fig. S11–13† and Table S7†).

The excellent $CO₂$ adsorption ability found in JLU-Liu45 prompted us to further estimate the practical separation ability of JLU-Liu45 for CO_2 over CH₄ and N₂. Different gas mixtures of $CO₂/CH₄$ (0.5/0.5 and 0.05/0.95) and $CO₂/N₂$ (0.1/0.9 and 0.15/ 0.85) were theoretically calculated by the ideal adsorbed solution theory (IAST) model. By using the dual-site Langmuir– Freundlich equation, the model fits the adsorption isotherm at 298 K very well $(R^2 > 0.9999)$ (Fig. S14a and c†).⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶ The fitting parameters are used to predict multicomponent adsorption with IAST. The selectivity values of JLU-Liu45 for $CO₂$ over $CH₄$ are 7.0 and 8.2 at 298 K and 1 bar (Fig. S14b†), which surpass many MOFs with high ability for the separation of $CO₂$ over $CH₄$ under the same conditions (Table S9 \dagger).⁴⁷⁻⁵⁰

Importantly, the selectivity values for $CO₂$ over $N₂$ are 74.2 and 81.4 (Fig. 2c), surpassing those of state-of-the-art Zr-MOFs reported to date and much higher than those of most stable MOFs (Table S8†).⁵¹⁻⁵⁵ Additionally, its separation performance for the industrially important small hydrocarbons were also calculated by the method of IAST (Fig. S15†).

According to the reported literature, transient breakthrough simulations were performed using the simulation methodology to further evaluate the separation performance of JLU-Liu45 for $CO₂$ over CH₄ and N₂.^{56,57} We investigated the transient breakthrough simulations for separation of (50/50 and 5/95) $CO₂/CH₄$ and (15/85 and 10/90) $CO₂/N₂$ mixtures in a fixed bed packed with JLU-Liu45 operating at 298 K under 1 bar. Typically, the longer the CO₂ molecules remain trapped within the bed, the more efficient the gas separation is. As shown in Fig. 2d and S16, \dagger the breakthrough time is 122 and 158 for CO₂/CH₄, and 165 and 175 for $CO₂/N₂$, respectively. The values are excellent among the simulated MOFs, so the breakthrough results also indicate that JLU-Liu45 is suitable for the selectivity of $CO₂$.

To explain the remarkable $CO₂$ capture and the commendable isosteric heat value, Grand Canonical Monte Carlo (GCMC) simulations were carried out to investigate the interactions between $CO₂$ molecules and activated JLU-Liu45 by using the sorption module of Materials Studio.^{28,29} The simulated

Fig. 3 (a) Simulation snapshot for $CO₂$ molecules in the JLU-Liu45 framework. Three $CO₂$ binding sites and the closed binding distances were analyzed from the snapshot: (b) inside the cage; (c) on the top of the Zr center; (d) in the triangle channel of the JLU-Liu45 framework.

adsorption amount for JLU-Liu45 at 298 K under 1 bar is 22 $CO₂$ per cage, which is close to the experimental value $(23 \text{ CO}_2 \text{ per})$ cage). The preferential $CO₂$ adsorption sites given by the simulation are shown in Fig. 3a. The high $CO₂$ capture and the commendable isosteric heat value can be ascribed to the following reasons: (1) the $CO₂$ molecule can locate in the small cage of the framework formed by two interpenetrated nets of **JLU-Liu45**, in which the multiple weak $C-H\cdots O$ interactions between the CO₂ molecule and H₂DCPB ligands with short H \cdots O distances of 2.958–3.272 Å enhance the CO_2 adsorption ability (Fig. 3b); (2) the double wall in the framework of JLU-Liu45 could form small pockets which are suitable for the adsorption of $CO₂$ molecules. As depicted in Fig. 3c, the short C-H \cdots O distances of 2.477, 2.907 and 2.975 A in such pockets promote the assembly of the multiple weak C-H \cdots O interactions between the $CO₂$ molecule and the H₂DCPB ligand; (3) in spite of the interpenetration reducing the pore dimensions, the triangle pore size is suitable for the $CO₂$ molecule (Fig. 3d). Meanwhile, more adsorption sites could be created by the framework interpenetration. Therefore, the GCMC result indicates that the high $CO₂$ adsorption capacity and Q_{st} values are due to the multiple host-guest C-H \cdots O interactions and the narrow pores formed by the interpenetration of the framework.

Luminescence sensing of explosives in the aqueous phase

Although many MOFs have been explored for detecting explosives since the first example was reported by Li et al.,⁵⁸ most of

them are limited in use because of their poor water stability. Benefitting from the excellent water stability and non-toxic $Zr(w)$ metal centers, JLU-Liu45 may be a good candidate for monitoring the target nitro explosives in the aqueous phase. Inspired by the above facts, we attempted to explore the fluorescent sensing properties of JLU-Liu45 to detect a series of nitro explosives, including NB, TNP and 4-NP. For comparison, a series of aromatics and aliphatic organic explosives such as NM, PHL, MB and DMNB were also tested. As shown in Fig. 4a and c, JLU-Liu45 exhibits fast and high fluorescence quenching efficiencies after the addition of 20 μ L 1 mM TNP and 4-NP aqueous solutions. Fluorescence quenching can also be clearly observed for NB, but the other aliphatic nitro and non-nitroaromatics compounds exert minor effects on the fluorescence intensity of JLU-Liu45 (Fig. S20–24†). The quenching efficiencies of JLU-Liu45 follow the sequence of TNP > 4-NP > NB > PHL $>$ DMNB $>$ NM $>$ MB (Fig. S24†). To illustrate the fluorescence quenching mechanism of JLU-Liu45, its electron transfer mechanism was calculated by DFT calculation. According to previous reports, MOFs are a kind of large molecule, in which the valence and conduction-band energy levels can be

Fig. 4 The emission spectra for JLU-Liu45 after titration with TNP (a) and 4-NP (c) in H_2O for 1 minute, respectively (1 mM, 20 μ L addition each time); inset images represent the SV plots of corresponding organic explosives. The SV plots for JLU-Liu45 with TNP (b) and 4-NP (d) in the low concentration region. (e) Stern–Volmer plots of selected nitroaromatics and non-nitroaromatics in JLU-Liu45.

represented by the molecular orbital mode.³⁸ When the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) of the analyte is lower than the conduction-band energy of MOFs, the electrons will transfer from the MOFs to the analyte, thus leading to fluorescence quenching. With a lower LUMO of the analyte, the electrons will more easily transfer from MOFs to the analyte. As illustrated in Fig. S33,† the LUMO energy of TNP is the lowest among all selected organic explosives. Therefore, the electrons of JLU-Liu45 can easily transfer to TNP, thus giving the highest quenching efficiency. However, the quenching efficiency of other organic explosives is not in accordance with the LUMO energies, which suggests that electron transfer is not the only reason for the quenching efficiency. Then, the energy transfer mechanism was also investigated. As depicted in Fig. S34,† the overlapping between the emission spectrum of JLU-Liu45 and the absorption spectrum of TNP is the largest among all selected organic explosives. Therefore, the energy can be easily transferred from JLU-Liu45 to TNP, thus resulting in the highest quenching efficiency. The overlapping proportion between the emission spectrum of JLU-Liu45 and the absorption spectra of organic explosives follows the sequence of TNP, 4-NP, NB, PHL, DMNB, NM, and MB, which is in accordance with their quenching efficiency. Based on the above results, the excellent quenching efficiency of JLU-Liu45 for detecting TNP can be ascribed to a synergistic effect of electron transfer and energy transfer. After five cycles of repeated fluorescent measurements, the fluorescence intensity and the PXRD patterns of the materials exhibit little change which further indicates its excellent recyclability (Fig. S26 and S27†). As depicted in Fig. 4b and d, the SV plots for detecting TNP and 4-NP are nearly linear initially, while on further increasing the concentration, the plots latterly deviate from linearity, which can be attributed to the self-absorption effect.¹⁵ On the other hand, the other aliphatic nitro and non-nitroaromatic compounds produce a linear plot (Fig. S20–24†). It is commendable that the K_{SV} value of **JLU-Liu45** for detecting TNP is about 2.3 \times 10⁵ M⁻¹, which exceeds those of many reported water stable MOFs (Table S10[†]).^{59–63} Then the selectivity of **JLU-Liu45** towards TNP and 4-NP was further studied (Fig. S28–32†). The results demonstrate that even in the presence of other aliphatic nitro and nonnitroaromatic compounds, JLU-Liu45 exhibits outstanding selectivity towards 4-NP and TNP. Put and of Materials Chemistry A

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Conclusion

In summary, the judicious choice of V-shape ligand results in an interpenetrated Zr-MOF (JLU-Liu45) that not only possesses double walls but also displays extraordinary thermal and chemical stability. Benefitting from the small pores and adsorption sites which are the result of interpenetration, JLU-Liu45 exhibits brilliant $CO₂$ adsorption and separation ability. On the other hand, it also exhibits high performance for detecting TNP in the aqueous phase. Consequently, JLU-Liu45 is a multifunctional Zr-MOF, which is potentially useful in monitoring water quality along with $CO₂$ capture and separation. The groundbreaking preparation of double walled ZrMOFs affords new directions for the construction of novel Zr-MOFs.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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Electronic Supplementary Information

A Multifunctional Double Walled Zirconium Metal-Organic

Framework: High Performance of CO² Adsorption and

Separation, Detecting Explosives in Aqueous Phase

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1. XRD and TGA characterization of JLU-Liu45

Fig. S1 PXRD patterns of JLU-Liu45 for simulated, as-synthesized and CH₃CN solvent exchanged sample.

Fig. S2 TGA curves of **JLU-Liu45** for the as-synthesized and activated sample.

2. Structure description of JLU-Liu45

Fig. S3 Double walled building blocks assembled by two $Zr_6O_4(OH)_4(CO_2)_{12}$ SBUs and two C2symmetric V-shaped H₂DCPB ligands (a); the 12-c building blocks with double wall can be simplified to a 6-c node and form the 6-c network with pcu topology (b). (Color scheme: carbon = grey; oxygen = red; zirconium = dark green).

Fig. S4 Representative network topologies in reported Zr-MOFs constructed by dicarboxylate ligands.

Fig. S5 (a) The formation of 3D interpenetrated framework; (b), (c) and (d) space-filling representations of the structure of **JLU-Liu45** viewed along the [100], [010] and [001] directions, respectively, and the dimension of triangle windows about 5 Å considering the van der Waals radius.

3. Stability test of JLU-Liu45

The thermal and chemical stability of **JLU-Liu45** was examined. The thermal stability was assessed by thermo gravimetric analysis (TGA) under an atmospheric environment. The high decomposition temperature which can reach up to 550 $^{\circ}$ C reveals the notable thermal stability of the **JLU-Liu45** material. On the other hand, to estimate the chemical stability of the framework, the as-synthesized **JLU-Liu45** samples were immersed in HCl and NaOH aqueous solutions with a pH range from 0 to 11, and different organic solutions at room temperature for 48 h. The PXRD patterns were completely maintained from the harsh chemical environment. Although slight differences of the peak strength can be observed, the N_2 adsorption measurement of the samples after stability test demonstrated that **JLU-Liu45** exhibited excellent chemical stability. PXRD patterns for **JLU-Liu45** sample before and after measuring the water adsorption isotherm also indicate its water stability. Because of the following reasons, **JLU-Liu45** exhibits commendable stability: (1) Zr^{4+} has high charge density, polarizes the O atoms of the carboxylate groups to form strong Zr-O bonds with significant covalent character. (2) Double walled framework can improve the stability of the material. (3) Interpenetration framework can minimize the empty space and further enhance the stability of the material. In conclusion, **JLU-Liu45** is highly robust and deserves further exploring in practical applications.

Fig. S6 (a) PXRD patterns and (b) N_2 isotherms of **JLU-Liu45** after immersed in aqueous solutions with different pH values at room temperature for 48 h and the corresponding pore size distribution curve calculated using DFT method (insert).

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Fig. S8 PXRD patterns of **JLU-Liu45** for as-synthesized and the sample immersed in different organic solutions at room temperature for 48 h.

Fig. S9 Water adsorption isotherm of **JLU-Liu45** (experimental condition: $T = 298$ K, $P = 1$ bar; N₂ carrier gas). PXRD patterns (insert graph) for **JLU-Liu45** sample before and after measuring the water adsorption isotherm.

4. Gas adsorption and separation studies

Fig. S10 The CO₂ adsorption isotherm for **JLU-Liu45** at 195 K under 1 bar.

Fig. S11 The CH₄ isotherms for **JLU-Liu45** at 273 and 298 K under 1 bar and Q_{st} of CH₄ for **JLU-Liu45**.

Fig. S12 The C₂H₆ isotherms for **JLU-Liu45** at 273 and 298 K under 1 bar and Q_{st} of C₂H₆ for **JLU-Liu45**.

Fig. S13 The C_3H_8 isotherms for **JLU-Liu45** at 273 and 298 K under 1 bar and Q_{st} of C_3H_8 for **JLU**-**Liu45**.

5. Calculation procedures of selectivity from IAST

The measured experimental data is excess loadings (q^{ex}) of the pure components N₂, CO₂, CH₄, C₂H₆ and C_3H_8 for **JLU-Liu45**, which should be converted to absolute loadings (*q*) firstly.

$$
q = q^{ex} + \frac{pV_{pore}}{ZRT}
$$

Here Z is the compressibility factor. The Peng-Robinson equation was used to estimate the value of compressibility factor to obtain the absolute loading, while the measure pore volume 0.38 cm³ g⁻¹ is also necessary.

The dual-site Langmuir-Freundlich equation is used for fitting the isotherm data at 298 K.

$$
q = q_{m_1} \times \frac{b_1 \times p^{1/n_1}}{1 + b_1 \times p^{1/n_1}} + q_{m_2} \times \frac{b_2 \times p^{1/n_2}}{1 + b_2 \times p^{1/n_2}}
$$

Here p is the pressure of the bulk gas at equilibrium with the adsorbed phase (kPa), *q* is the adsorbed amount per mass of adsorbent (mol kg⁻¹), q_{m1} and q_{m2} are the saturation capacities of sites 1 and 2 (mol kg-1), b_1 and b_2 are the affinity coefficients of sites 1 and 2 (1/kPa), n_1 and n_2 are the deviations from an ideal homogeneous surface.

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

$$
S = \frac{q_1/q_2}{p_1/p_2}
$$

 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. We calculate the values of q_1 and q_2 using the Ideal Adsorbed Solution Theory (IAST) of Myers and Prausnitz.

Fig. S14 CO₂, CH₄ and N₂ adsorption isotherms at 298 K along with the dual-site Langmuir Freundlich (DSLF) fits (a and c); gas mixture adsorption selectivity are predicted by IAST at 298 K and 100 kPa for **JLU-Liu45** (b and d).

Fig. S15 CH₄, C₂H₆ and C₃H₈ adsorption isotherms at 298 K along with the dual-site Langmuir Freundlich (DSLF) fits (a); gas mixture adsorption selectivity are predicted by IAST at 298 K and 100 kPa for **JLU-Liu45** (b).

6. Transient breakthrough of mixtures in fixed bed adsorbers

The performance of industrial fixed bed adsorbers is dictated by a combination of adsorption selectivity and uptake capacity. For a proper evaluation of the separation performance, we performed transient breakthrough simulations using the simulation methodology described in the literature. For the breakthrough simulations, the following parameter values were used: length of packed bed, $L = 0.3$ m; voidage of packed bed, $\varepsilon = 0.4$; superficial gas velocity at inlet, $u = 0.04$ m/s. The transient breakthrough simulation results are presented in terms of a *dimensionless* time, τ, defined by dividing

$$
\underline{\mathit{L}\varepsilon}
$$

the actual time, *t*, by the characteristic time, u

Notation

 c_i molar concentration of species *i* in gas mixture at exit of adsorber, mol m⁻³

- c_{i0} molar concentration of species *i* in gas mixture at inlet of adsorber, mol m⁻³
- *L* length of packed bed adsorber, m

t time, s

 u superficial gas velocity in packed bed, m s^{-1}

Greek letters

Fig. S16 Transient breakthrough simulations for separation of 50/50 and 5/95 (a and b) CO_2/CH_4 , 15/85 and 10/90 (c and d) CO2/N² mixtures containing. The total inlet pressure is 100 kPa. The *y*-axis is the dimensionless concentrations at the exit, normalized with respect to the inlet concentrations.

7. Computational simulation studies of CO² adsorption

Fig. S17 Density distribution of the center-of-mass of CO_2 molecules in one unit cell of **JLU-Liu45** framework at 298 K and 1 bar simulated by GCMC method (a and b).

8. Detection of selected nitroaromatics

Fig. S18 Solid-state photoluminescent spectra of **JLU-Liu45** and free H2DCPB ligand excited at 323 nm at room temperature.

Fig. S19 Photoluminescent spectra of **JLU-Liu45** dispersed in different solvents excited at 323 nm.

Fig. S20 a) Effect on the emission spectra of **JLU-Liu45** dispersed in water upon the incremental addition of 200 μL (1 mM, 20 μL addition each time) aqueous solution of DMNB. b) SV plot of DMNB.

Fig. S21 a) Effect on the emission spectra of **JLU-Liu45** dispersed in water upon the incremental addition of 200 μL (1 mM, 20 μL addition each time) aqueous solution of NB. b) SV plot of NB.

Fig. S22 a) Effect on the emission spectra of **JLU-Liu45** dispersed in water upon the incremental addition of 200 μL (1 mM, 20 μL addition each time) aqueous solution of MB. b) SV plot of MB.

Fig. S23 a) Effect on the emission spectra of **JLU-Liu45** dispersed in water upon the incremental addition of 200 μL (1 mM, 20 μL addition each time) aqueous solution of PHL. b) SV plot of PHL.

Fig. S24 a) Effect on the emission spectra of **JLU-Liu45** dispersed in water upon the incremental addition of 200 μL (1 mM, 20 μL addition each time) aqueous solution of NM. b) SV plot of NM.

Fig. S25 The fluorescence quenching efficiency for different analytes.

Fig. S26 Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns of **JLU-Liu45** after the detection of antibiotics and nitroaromatics.

Fig. S27 Reproducibility of the quenching ability of **JLU-Liu45** dispersed in water in the presence of 1 mM aqueous solution of TNP.

Fig. S28 Tracked emission spectra of **JLU-Liu45** upon the addition of 1 mM aqueous solution of a) MB b) NM followed by 1 mM aqueous solution of TNP, respectively (20 μL addition each time).

Fig. S29 Tracked emission spectra of **JLU-Liu45** upon the addition of 1 mM aqueous solution of a) DMNB b) PHL followed by 1 mM aqueous solution of TNP, respectively (20 μL addition each time).

Fig. S30 Tracked emission spectra of **JLU-Liu45** upon the addition of 1 mM aqueous solution of a) MB b) NM followed by 1 mM aqueous solution of 4-NP, respectively (20 μL addition each time).

Fig. S31 Tracked emission spectra of **JLU-Liu45** upon the addition of 1 mM aqueous solution of a) DMNB b) PHL followed by 1 mM aqueous solution of 4-NP, respectively (20 μL addition each time).

Fig. S32 The selective detection of 4-NP a) and TNP b) on **JLU-Liu45** in the presence of PHL, MB, NM or DMNB in water.

Fig. S33 DFT-calculated HOMO-LUMO energy profiles of MB, PHL, NM, 4-NP, NB, DMNB and TNP (from left to right).

Fig. S34 Spectral overlap between normalized absorption spectra of selected organic explosives and the normalization emission spectrum of **JLU-Liu45**.

9. Tables

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinement for **JLU-Liu45**

Compound	JLU-Liu45
formula	$C_{126}H_{92}N_2O_{35}Zr_6$
formula weight	2741.34
temp(K)	296(2) K
wavelength (A)	0.71073 Å
crystal system, space group	Trigonal, R-3
a(A)	30.487(4)
b(A)	30.487(4)
c(A)	15.094(3)
$V(\AA^3)$	12150(3)
Z, D_c (Mg/m ³)	6, 1.124
F(000)	4146
θ range (deg)	1.34 to 25.08°
reflns collected/unique	26385/4804
R_{int}	0.0339
data/restraints/params	4804/48/259
GOF on F^2	1.069
R_1 , w R_2 (I>2 $\sigma(I)$)	$R_1 = 0.0413$, $wR_2 = 0.1226$
R_1 , w R_2 (all data)	$R_1 = 0.0478$, $wR_2 = 0.1279$

Table S2. Selected bond lengths [Å] and angles [º] for **JLU-Liu45**.

Symmetry transformations used to generate equivalent atoms:

#1 y,-x+y,-z #2 -x+y,-x,z #3 x-y+1/3,x-1/3,-z+2/3 #4 -x+1/3,-y+2/3,-z+2/3 #5 x-y,x,-z #6 y+1/3,-x+y+2/3,-z+2/3

Table S3 Force fields parameters of the GCMC simulations.

Atom	σ(A)	ϵ/k_B (K)
Zr	2.783	34.691
\mathcal{C}	3.473	47.813
Ω	3.033	48.115
Η	2.846	7.642

Table S4 Atomic partial charges of JLU-Liu45 for the GCMC simulations.

Zr-MOFs	surface BET	$CO2$ uptake	$CO2$ uptake	$Q_{\rm st}$ values	Ref.
	area $(m^2 g^{-1})$	$(273 \text{ K}, \text{cm}^3 \text{ g}^{-1})$	(298 K)	$(kJ \text{ mol}^{-1})$	
JLU-Liu45	971	116	66	34	This work
BUT-10	1310	92	53.5	$22\,$	$\mathbf{9}$
BUT-11	1848	89	50.6	26	9
UiO-67	2505	N.A.	22.9	16	9
493-MOF-	820	97	60	25	10
TATB					
493-MOF-BA	1265	78	50	23	10
493-MOF-NA	1199	85	56	20	10
LIFM-28np	940	29.0	N.A.	22	$11\,$
LIFM-79	1689	76.3	~1	32	11
LIFM-77	1619	81.0	~144	34	11
PCN-56	3741	~1	\sim 37a	20	\mathfrak{Z}
PCN-57	2572	~ 50	\sim 33 ^a	22	\mathfrak{Z}
PCN-58	2185	$~1$ –63	$~10^a$	24	\mathfrak{Z}
PCN-59	1279	~1	~ 42 ^a	32	$\overline{3}$
NU-1000	2320	N.A.	$~10^{\circ}$	17	12
SALI-9	870	N.A.	${\sim}18^{\rm b}$	34	12
SALI-1'	1600	N.A.	~234 ^b	21	12
$CPM-99(H2)$	N.A.	73	~ 50	N.A.	13
$CPM-99(Zn)$	N.A.	60	\sim 35	N.A.	13
$CPM-99(Co)$	N.A.	61	$~-42$	N.A.	13
$CPM-99(Fe)$	1030	76	~145	N.A.	13
MOF-892	1431	-41	\sim 22	24	14
MOF-893	558	~140	\sim 21	31	14
JLU-MOF50	1101	69	35	25	15
JLU-MOF58	3663	49	28	19	16
Corrole-MOF-1	2545	76	46	N.A.	17
PCN-138	1261	63	41	N.A.	18
MIP-203-F	430	61	46	32	19
MIP-203-S	no	36	15	34	19
MIP-203-M	380	48	36	33	19

Table S6. CO₂ adsorption capacities and Q_{st} values in reported Zr-MOFs at 273 K and 1 bar.

 $\mathrm{^{a}at}$ 296 K, $\mathrm{^{b}at}$ 293 K.

Compound		N_2^a		CO ₂ ^a		CH ₄ ^a		
	77 K	298 K	195 K	273 K	-298 K	273 K	298 K	
JLU-Liu45 256			216	116	66	27	16	
Compound		$C_2H_6^a$		$C_3H_8^a$			H_2O	
	273 K	298 K	273 K	298 K 298 K				
JLU-Liu45 85		65	74	63			0.16 mg/mg	

Table S7. Gas adsorption data for **JLU-Liu45**.

 a Gas uptake in cm³ g⁻¹.

Table S8. Comparison of CO₂/N₂ (0.15/0.85) selectivity of **JLU-Liu45** with other stable MOFs.

Zr-MOFs	$CO2/N2$ selectivity	Ref.
JLU-Liu45	81.4	This work
MIL-101	12.6	20
$MIL-125-NH2$	27.0	$21\,$
MIL-68-Al	37.0	22
ZIF-68	18.0	23
ZIF-69	20.0	23
ZIF-70	17.0	23
ZIF-79	23.0	23
$ZIF-81$	24.0	23
ZIF-95	18.0	24
$UiO-66(Br)$	25.1	25
$UiO-66(NO2)$	26.4	25
UiO-66	13.4	25
UiO-67	9.4	9
BUT-10	18.6	9
BUT-11	31.5	9
BUT-11(AcOH)	24.1	26
LIFM-77	34.7	11
LIFM-79	25.2	11
LIFM-28np	5.5	11
MIP-203-F	15	19
MIP-203-S	34	19
MIP-203-M	51	19
$UiO-66(Zr)-(OH)2$	66	27
UiO-66(Zr)-(OAc) ₂	42.5	27
$UiO-66(Zr)-(OPr)2$	39.1	$27\,$
Opt-UiO-66(Zr)-(OH) ₂	44.5	28
$UiO-66-NH2$	32.3	29
UiO-66(Zr)-(COOH) ₂	35.4	30
75PEI@meso-UiO-66-0.2Cu	59.4	31
UiO-66(Zr)-(COOK) ₂	69.3	32
$UiO-66(Zr)-(COONa)2$	58.0	32

MOFs material	$CO2/CH4$ selectivity	Ref.
JLU-Liu45	7.0	This work
MOF-177	0.9	33
$ZIF-8$	1.4	33
Cu ₃ (BTC) ₂	2.3	33
NOTT-125	4.8	34
FJI-C1	5.9	35
$ZJNU-59$	6.0	36
NOTT-122	6.4	37
$ZJNU-40$	6.6	38
$ZJNU-69$	7.1	39
$BSF-1$	7.5	40
MFM-126	11.7	41
SNIFSIX-1-Cu	12.1	42

Table S9. Comparison of CO₂/CH₄ (0.5/0.5) selectivity of **JLU-Liu45** with other MOFs materials.

Table S10. Comparison of detection ability of **JLU-Liu45** towards TNP in the water with other materials.

Material	Quenching constant (K_{SV}) for TNP	Ref.
JLU-Liu45	2.3×10^5 M ⁻¹	This work
$UiO-67@N$	2.9×10^4 M ⁻¹	43
$[Eu_3(L)_3(HCOO)(\mu_3-OH)_2(H_2O)]$ x(solv)	2.1×10^4 M ⁻¹	44
UiO-68 $@NH2$	5.8×10^4 M ⁻¹	45
BUT-12	3.1×10^5 M ⁻¹	5
BUT-13	5.1×10^5 M ⁻¹	5
$[Cd(NDC)L]_2 \cdot H_2O$	3.7×10^4 M ⁻¹	46
$[Zn_4(DMF)(Ur)_2(NDC)_4]$	10.8×10^4 M ⁻¹	47
$[Zn_8(ad)_4(BPDC)_6O\cdot2Me_2NH_2]$ G	4.6×10^4 M ⁻¹	48
$[Zn(NDC)(H_2O)]n$	6×10^4 M ⁻¹	49
$[Cd(NDC)_{0.5}(PCA)]$ xG	3.5×10^4 M ⁻¹	50
In-ADBA	1.3×10^5 M ⁻¹	51
$[Tb_2(H_2L)_3(H_2O)_2]$ 21H ₂ O	1.5×10^4 M ⁻¹	52
$[Cd2(tdz)2(4,4'-bpy)2]$ 6.5H ₂ O	4.9×10^4 M ⁻¹	53
TFPC-NDA-COF	2.5×10^5 M ⁻¹	54

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