



Driving Innovation ♦ Delivering Results



High Throughput Computational Screening of Mixed Matrix Membranes

Samir Budhathoki, Wei Shi, Christopher E. Wilmer and Jan Steckel

Carbon Capture Technology Meeting, August 8, 2016



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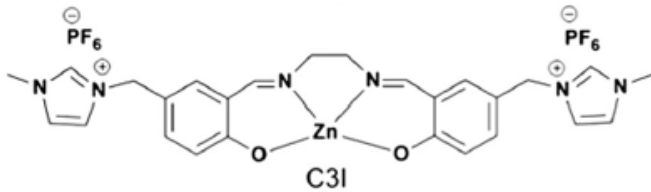
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- **Brief Mention of Other Computational Work in CO₂ Capture at NETL**
 - Catalysts: Collaboration With CAER/University of Kentucky
 - Computational Modeling of CO₂ in Physical Solvents: Bulk, Interface, Reverse Micelle
 - Computational Designing and Screening of Solid CO₂ Capture Materials
- **High-Throughput Computational Screening of Mixed Matrix Membranes**
 - Goals and Project Design
 - Hypothetical MOF Generator
 - Simulations
 - Maxwell Equation
 - Predictions of H-H-MMMs

Modeling the Catalytic Process and Foaming (with University of Kentucky)



A series of metal-organic catalysts have been developed by UKy, which increase the CO₂ absorption rate by ~30% in aq. MEA



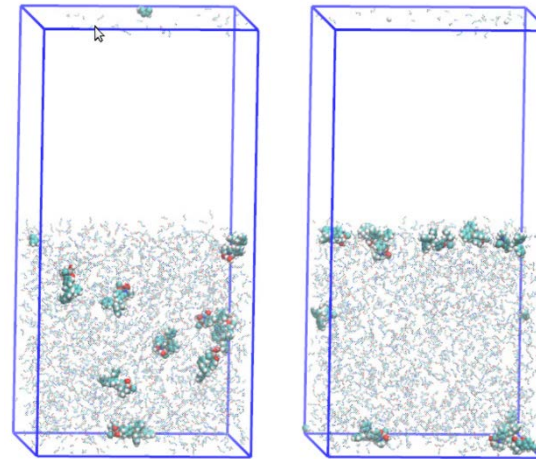
A sample catalyst



The 0.7 MWe slipstream testing facility

Molecular dynamics simulation of the interface region

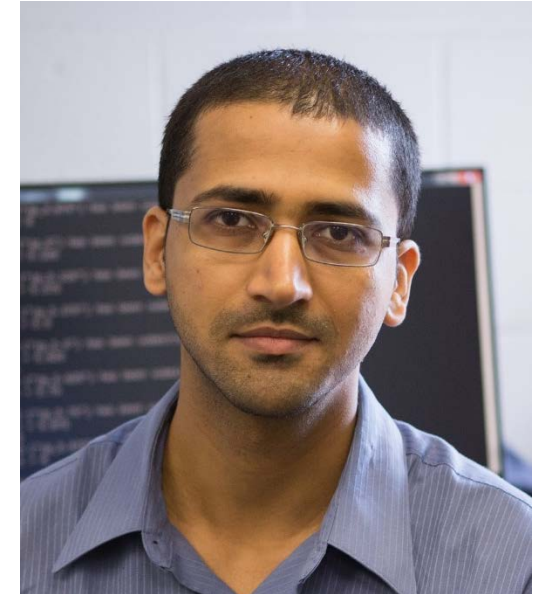
15800 water
+
2000 MEA
+
10 catalysts



Initial

Equilibrated

Catalysts concentrate at the surface. This is important in understanding foaming



Surya Prakash Tiwari

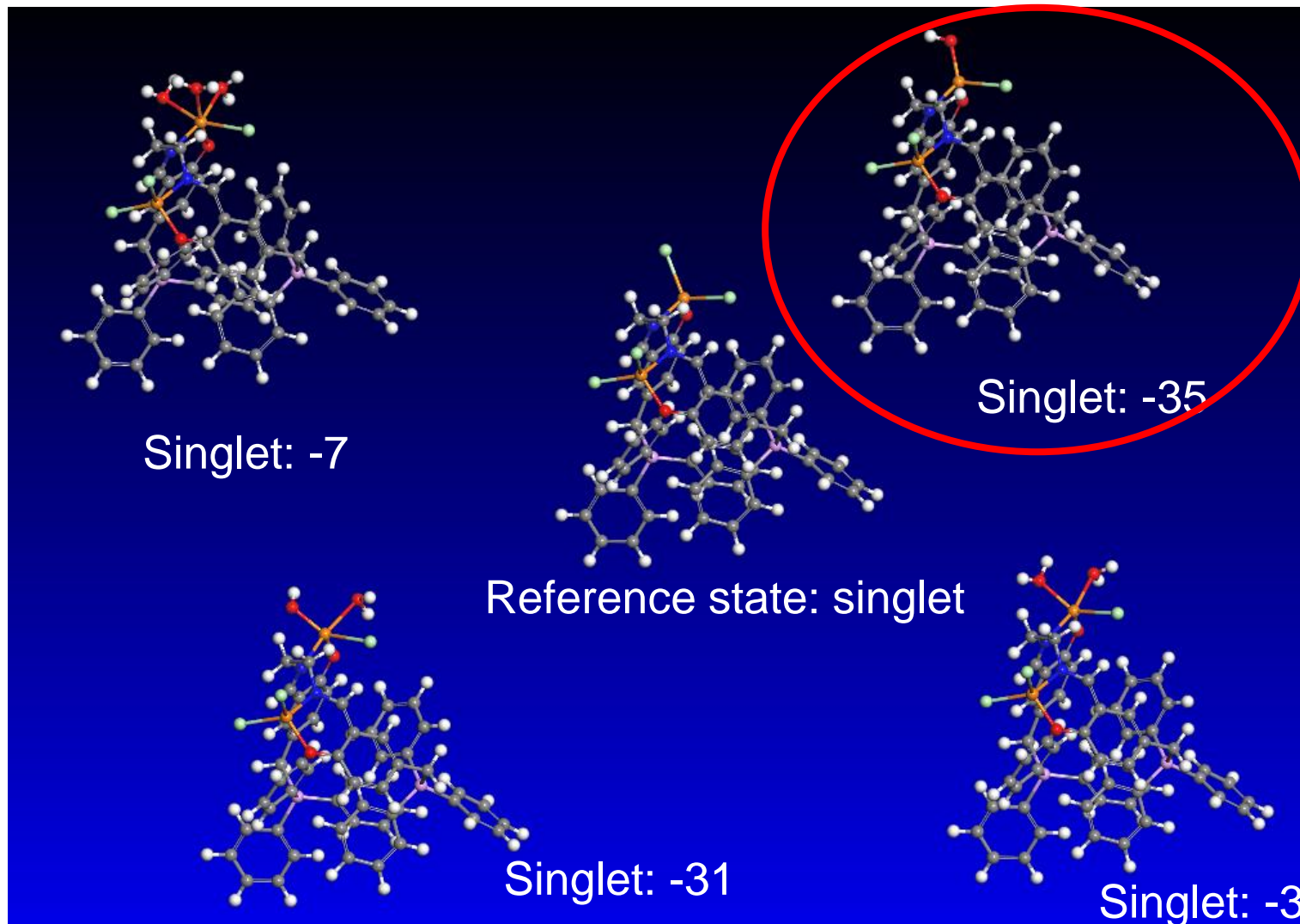
Interface properties are difficult to determine from experiment. Our goal is to use simulations to predict the extent of foaming based on solution properties: interface surface tension, density, viscosity, elasticity



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Molecular Modeling of UKy Catalysts: First Principles Calculations



- DFT calculations on a series of catalysts (collaboration with Uky)
- What is the stable structure in amine solution?
- Estimates of reaction enthalpy with respect to the reference state in kcal/mol



Effects of CO₂ Physical Absorption on Solvent Properties



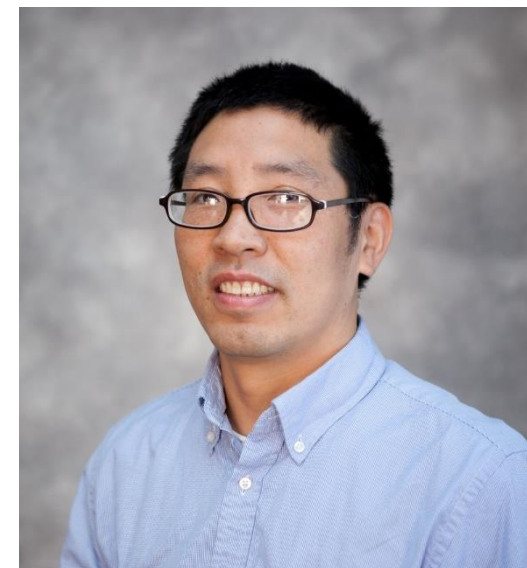
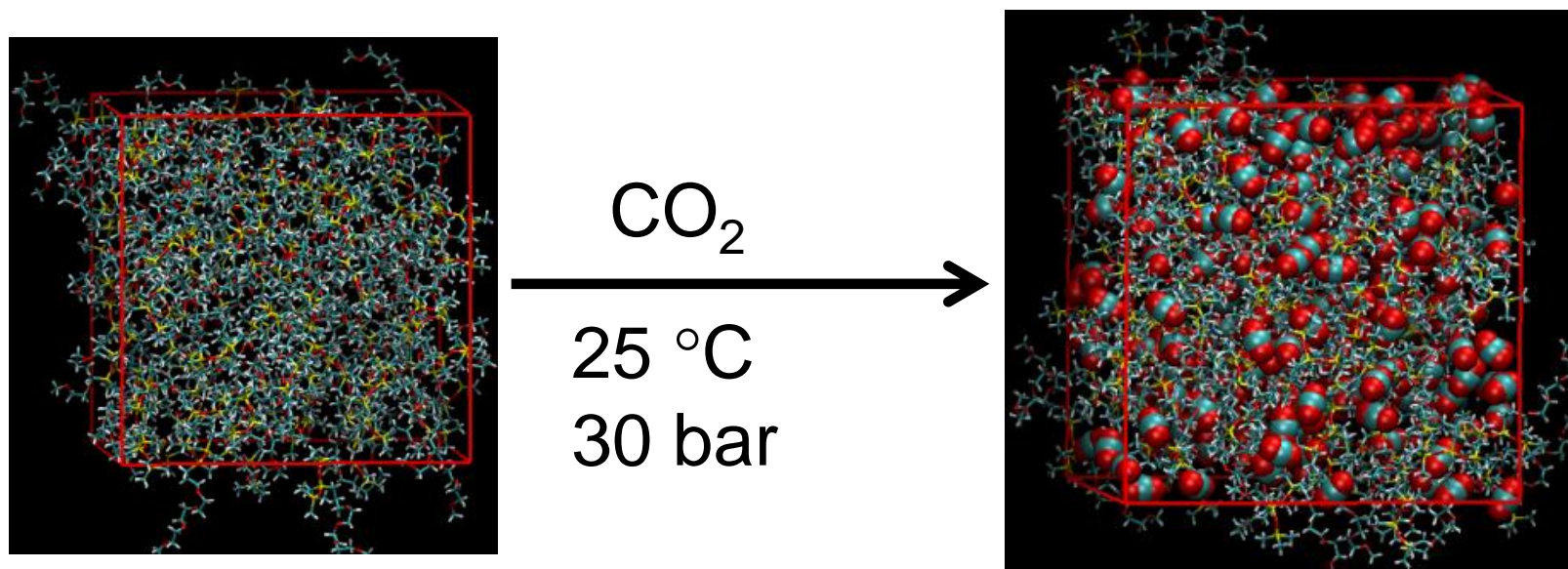
Upon CO₂ loading:

solvent volume increases by 24%,

solvent viscosity decreases by 500%

diffusivity increases by 500%,

solvent surface tension decreases by 20%



Wei Shi

Wei Shi, et al. J. Phys. Chem. C, 2016, submitted



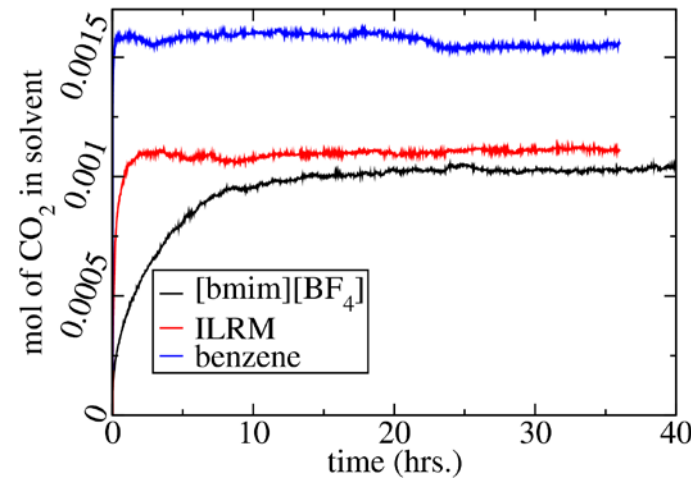
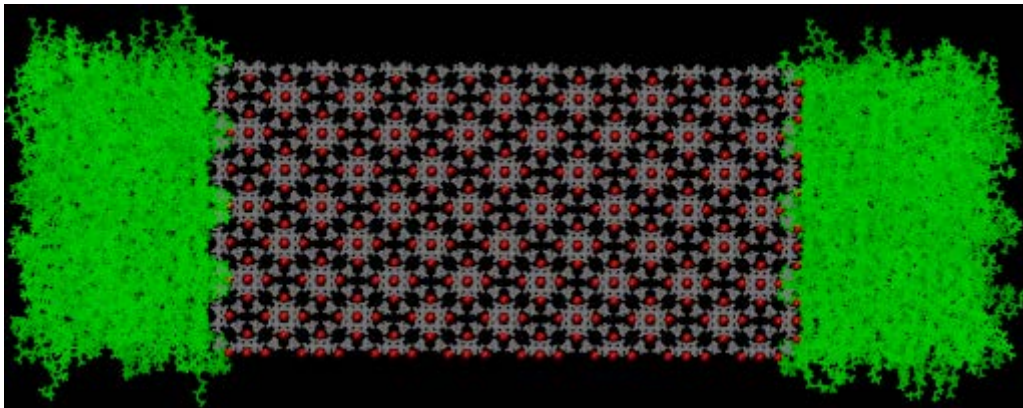
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Modelling CO₂ at Interfaces and Reverse Micelles



- **CO₂ absorption in suspension and the interface between solvent & nano-porous material [1]**
 - Interface region exhibits CO₂ loading , diffusivity and permeability significantly different from the bulk solvent
- **Significantly (10 times) improved CO₂ mass transport in ionic liquid reverse micelle: a multiscale modeling study [2]**
- **Surfactant-like catalyst behavior in aqueous amine solution for CO₂ absorption [3]**



[1] Wei Shi, et al. 2016, in prep.; [2] Wei Shi, et al. 2016, to be submitted; [3] Wei Shi, et al. 2016, in prep.



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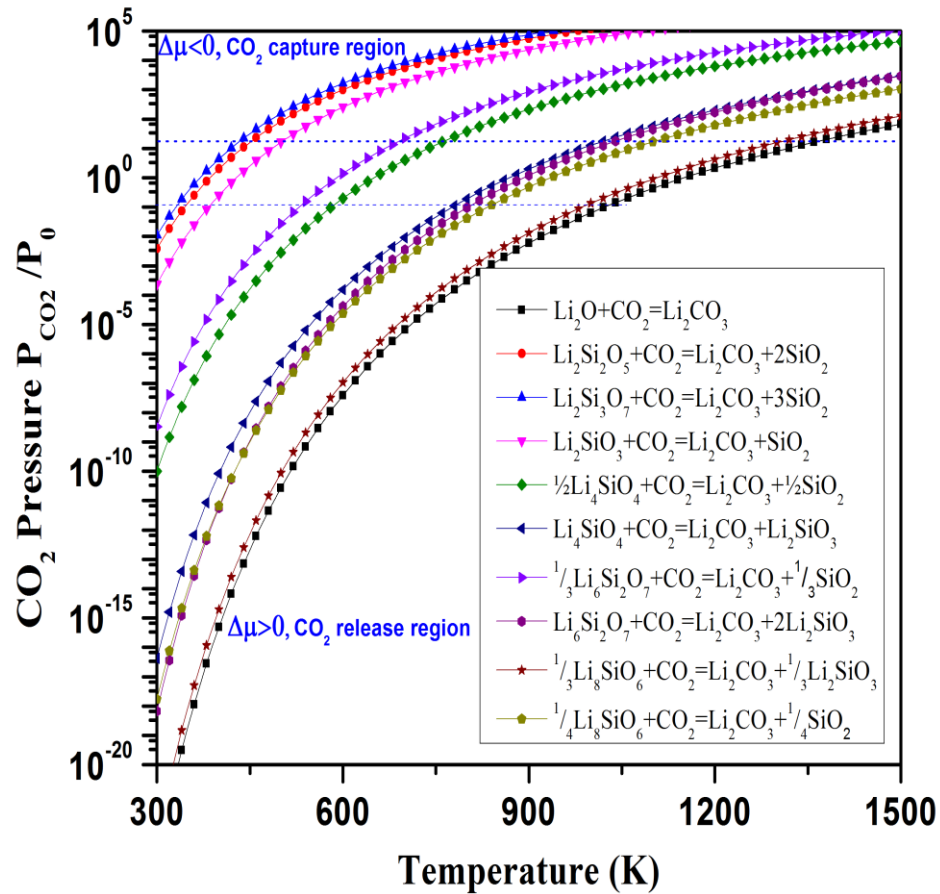
Interface region exhibits CO₂ loading , diffusivity and permeability significantly different from the bulk solvent

CO₂ absorption in suspension and the interface between solvent & nano-porous material [1]

Significantly (10 times) improved CO₂ mass transport in ionic liquid reverse micelle: a multiscale modeling study [2]

Surfactant-like catalyst behavior in aqueous amine solution for CO₂ absorption [3]

Computational Design and Screening of Solid Materials for CO₂ Capture



Solid materials are potential candidates for CO₂ sorbents. By combining database mining with *ab initio* thermodynamic calculations, we implemented a novel theoretical methodology to screen solid sorbents from known materials databank and to synthesize new materials with improved CO₂ capture capabilities for further experimental validation.

The strength of our method is to screen complex sorbent materials for which thermodynamic properties are not available.

Hundreds of solid materials have been investigated.

Now, we are working on screening of multi-components, substituted, doped, and mixed materials to search for good CO₂ sorbents.



Yuhua Duan



High Throughput Computational Screening of Mixed Matrix Membranes



In this project, we have used atomistic simulations in order to predict the properties of a database of hypothetical metal organic frameworks. These properties have been combined with the experimentally measured properties for polymers in order to make predictions, using the Maxwell Equation, about hypothetical mixed matrix membranes. The overall goal is to discover novel mixed matrix membranes that could be useful for CO₂ capture processes.



NETL's *Joule Supercomputer* <https://hpc.netl.doe.gov/>



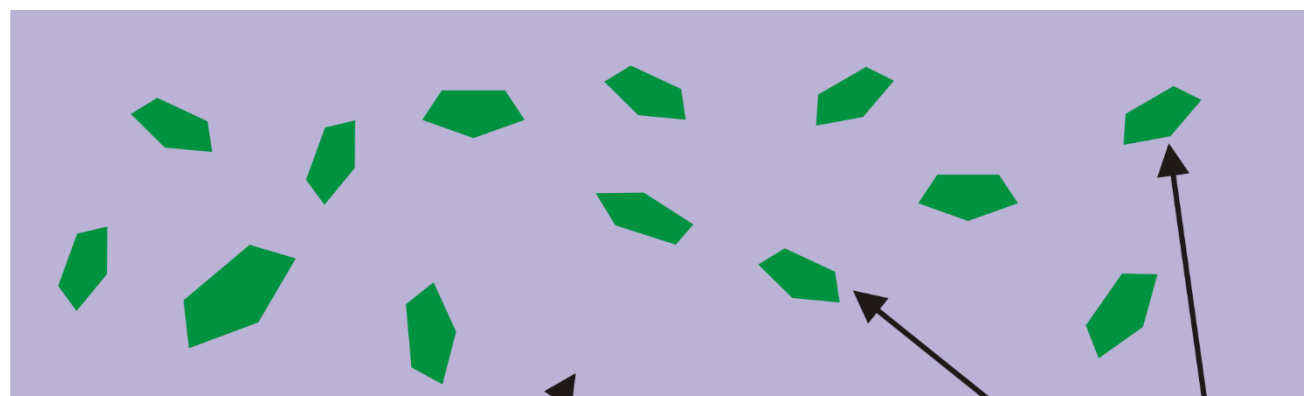
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Mixed Matrix Membranes

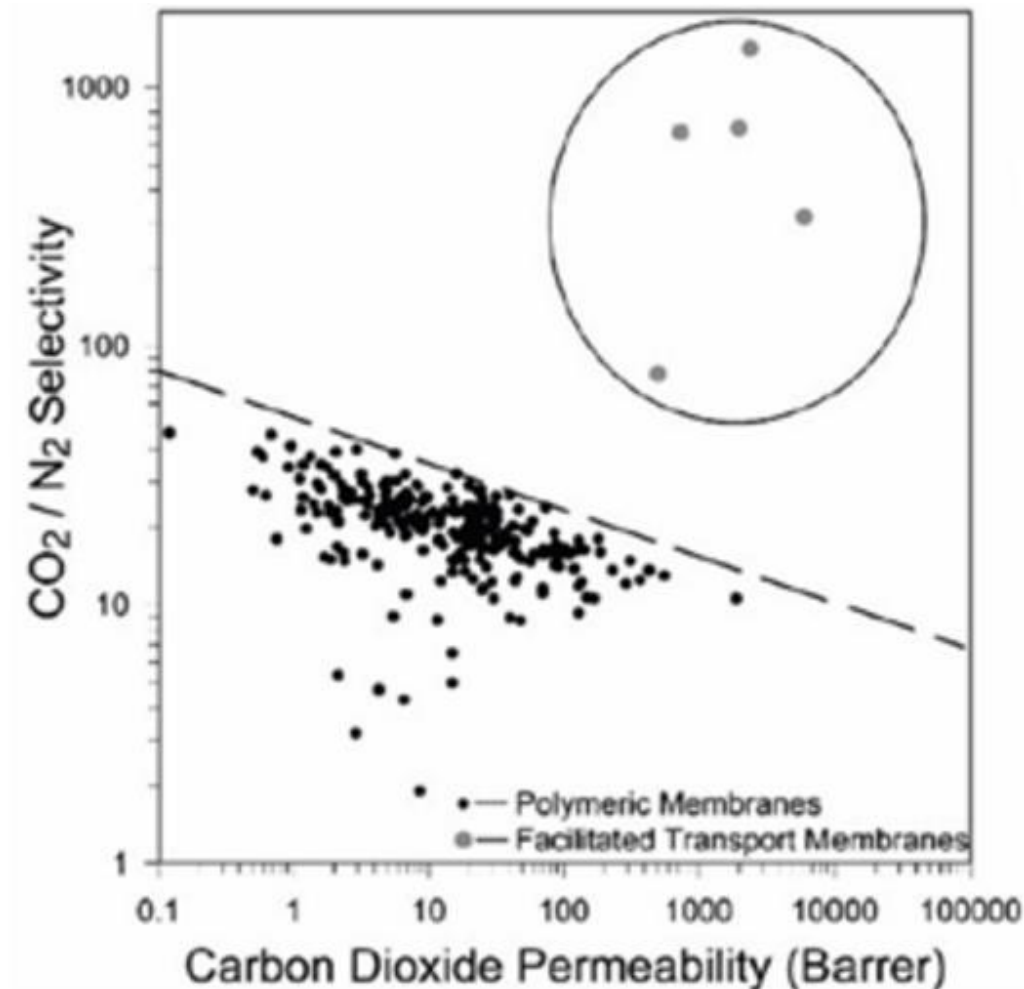
Why do we want to predict properties of MMMs?

- MOFs: good selectivity – but expensive, difficult to implement.
- Polymeric membranes – better price, implementation, trade-off.
- In mixed matrix membranes, a small amount of an inorganic filler is introduced into the polymer in order to improve selectivity without sacrificing permeability.



Polymer Matrix

Inorganic Filler (MOF)



Screening Strategy



We are at this stage currently



~137,000 hypothetical MOFs:

Geometrical analysis

Brief atomistic simulations

MOF atoms held at fixed positions

Top 5%:

Higher accuracy atomistic simulations

“The 1%”:

Flexible Force Field generation

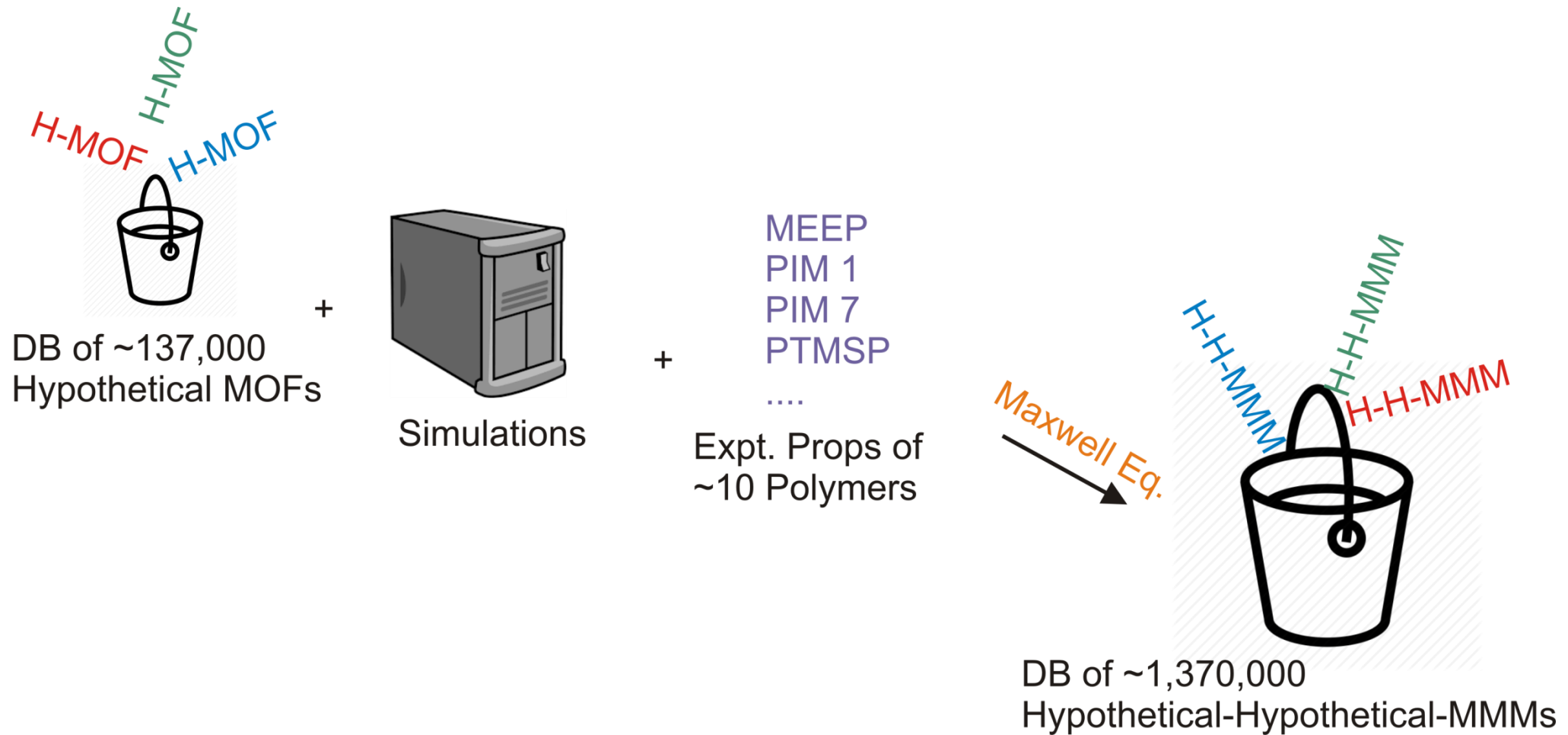
Density Functional Theory

Molecular modeling of polymer

Model for the interface region



Sketch of the Project



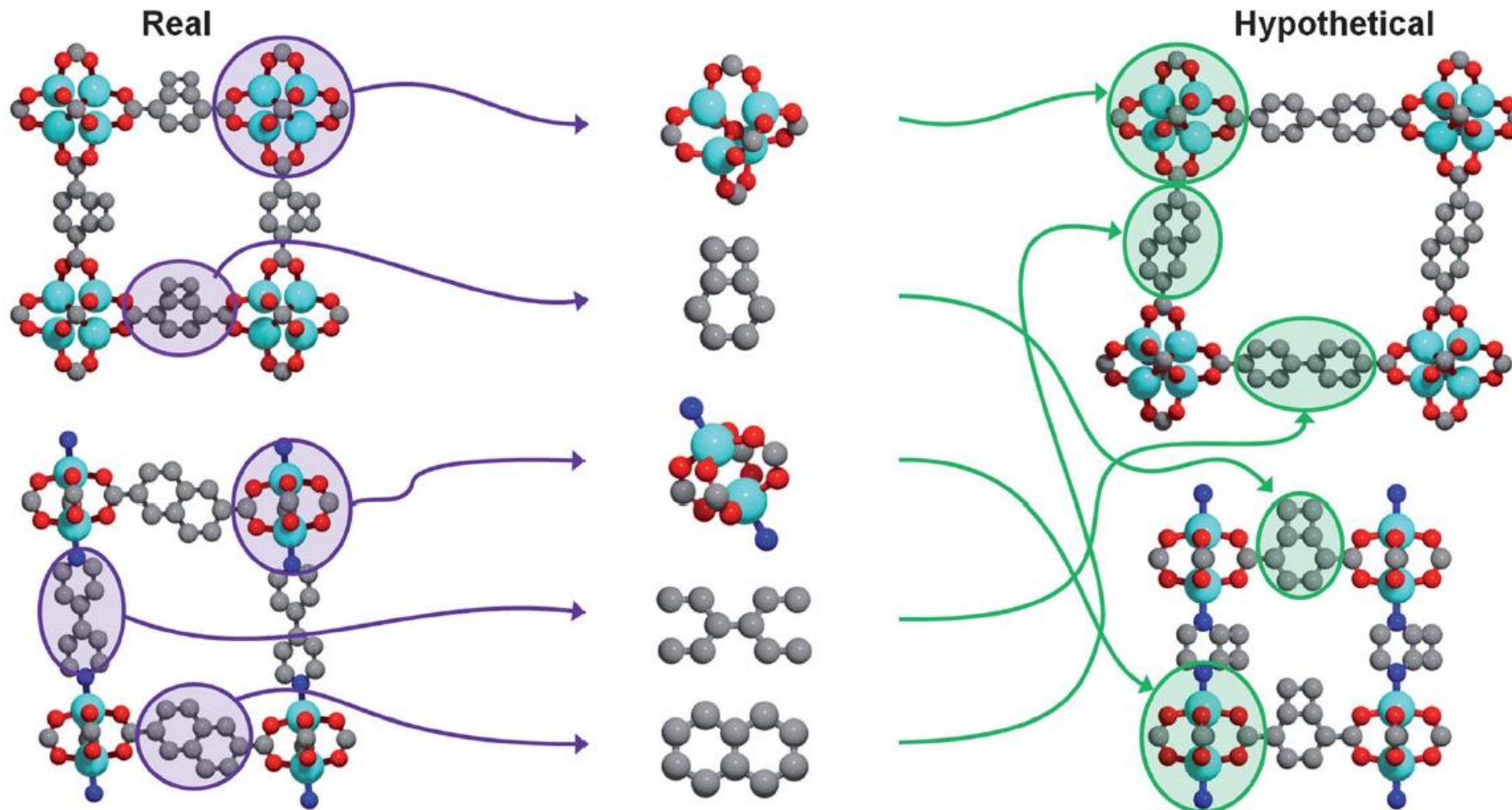
Creation of the Hypothetical MOF Database



DB of ~137,000
Hypothetical MOFs



Creation of the Hypothetical MOF Database



Existing MOFs deconstructed into a library of building blocks (metal centers and organic ligands). The building blocks are re-assembled to create hypothetical MOFs



Christopher E. Wilmer

C. E. Wilmer, M. Leaf, C. Y. Lee, O. K. Farha, B. G. Hauser, J. T. Hupp and R. Q. Snurr, *Nat. Chem.*, 2012, 4, 83–89.



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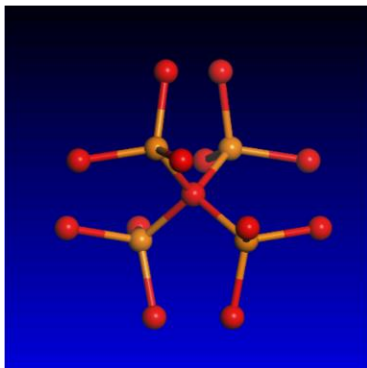
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Hypothetical MOF Generation

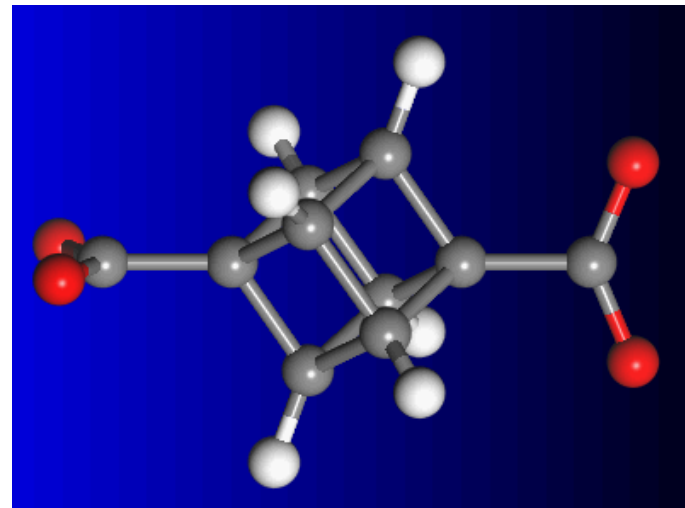
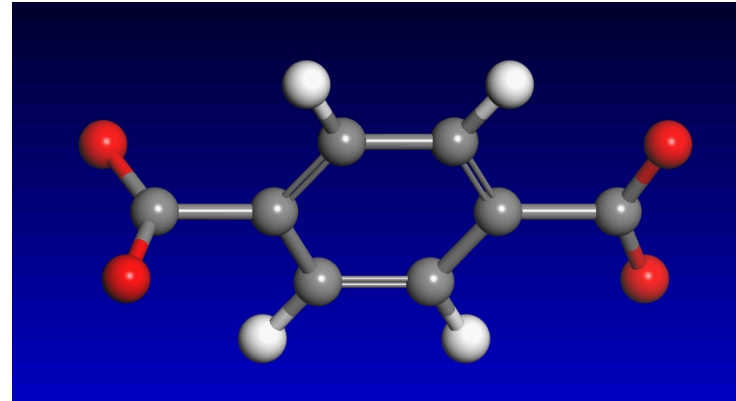


The hypothetical MOF generation program starts by selecting building blocks of three types from its library:

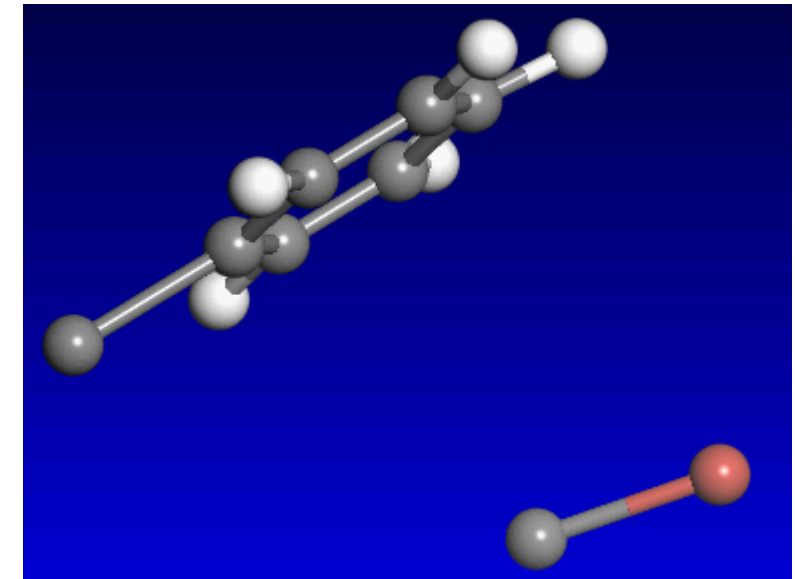
1: Metal Center



2: Organic Linkers

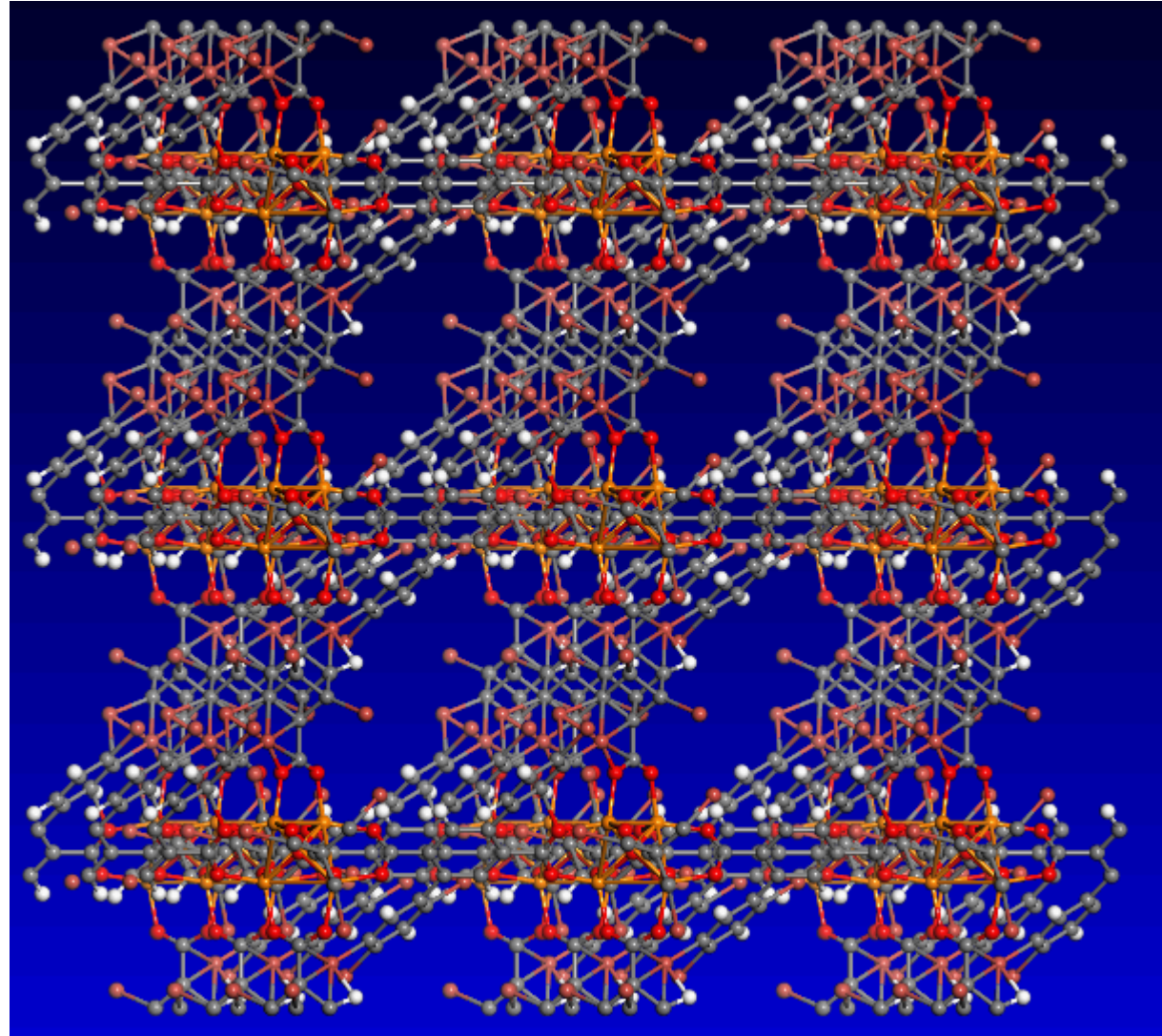


3: Functional Groups



The building blocks are combined using simple geometrical rules in order to create the periodic, 3D structure of a hypothetical MOF →

Building Blocks Combined to Create “Jeff”, a Hypothetical MOF





Simulations

- **Geometrical Characterization (Zeo++)** →
 - Largest cavity diameter (LCD)
 - Pore limiting diameter (PLD)
 - Surface area
- **MC Calculations** → **Gas Adsorption**
 - MOF atomic positions held fixed
 - Atomic charges calculated via EqEq Method
 - UFF force field for MOF atoms
 - TraPPE force field for gases
- **MD Simulations** → **Diffusivity**
 - Force field parameters as in MC Calculations
 - Velocity autocorrelation function used to calculate diffusivity



Samir Budhathoki

Maxwell Equation: Predicting Properties of MMMs



MEEP
PIM 1
PIM 7
PTMSP
....

Expt. Props of
~10 Polymers

Maxwell Eq.

A black arrow pointing from the text "Maxwell Eq." towards the bucket illustration.

DB of ~1,370,000
Hypothetical-Hypothetical-MMMs



Maxwell Equation: Predicting Properties of MMMs



- Incorporation of a filler material into a membrane will change the behavior of gas permeation through the composite membrane.
- The behavior of gas permeation through the composite may be predicted by application of the Maxwell equation.
- (The theory was developed for predicting the dielectric behavior of composite materials.)

Maxwell Equation

$$P_{eff} = P_c \left[\frac{P_d + 2P_c - 2\varphi_d(P_c - P_d)}{P_d + 2P_c + \varphi_d(P_c - P_d)} \right]$$

P_{eff} – the effective permeability of the MMM

P_c – the permeability of the continuous phase

P_d – the permeability of the dispersed phase

φ_d – the volume fraction of the dispersed phase

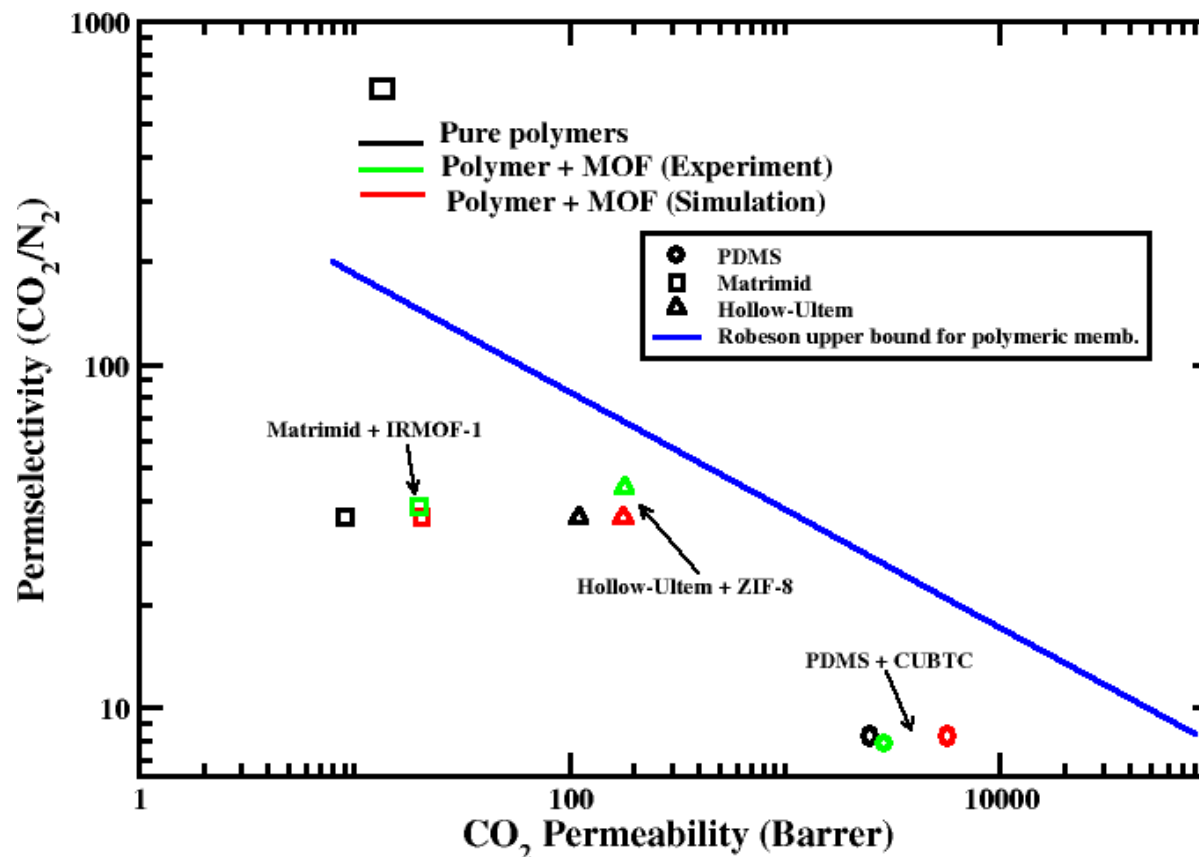
$$\alpha_{ideal}^{i/j} = \frac{(P_{eff})_i}{(P_{eff})_j}$$

R.H.B. Bouma, A. Checchetti, G. Chidichimo, E. Drioli, J. Membrane Science, **128**, 141, 1996.

Seda Keskin and David S. Sholl, En. & Env. Sci., **3**, 343, 2010.



MMM Comparison: Predicted vs. Expt.



Dai, Y.; Johnson, J. R.; Karvan, O.; Sholl, D. S.; Koros, W. J., *J. Mem. Sci.* 401-402, **2012**, 76-82 (Ultem-hollow-fiber + ZIF-8)

Car, A.; Stropnik, C.; Peinemann, V. K. *Desal.* 200, **2006**, 424-426 (PDMS + CUBTC)

Perez, E. V.; Balkus Jr, K. J.; Ferraris, J. P.; Musselman, I. G. *J. Mem. Sci.* 328, **2009**, 165-173 (Matrimid + IRMOF-1).



Molecular Organic Frameworks

