



## Contactor Design for Transformational Sorbents: Application to LBNL MOF

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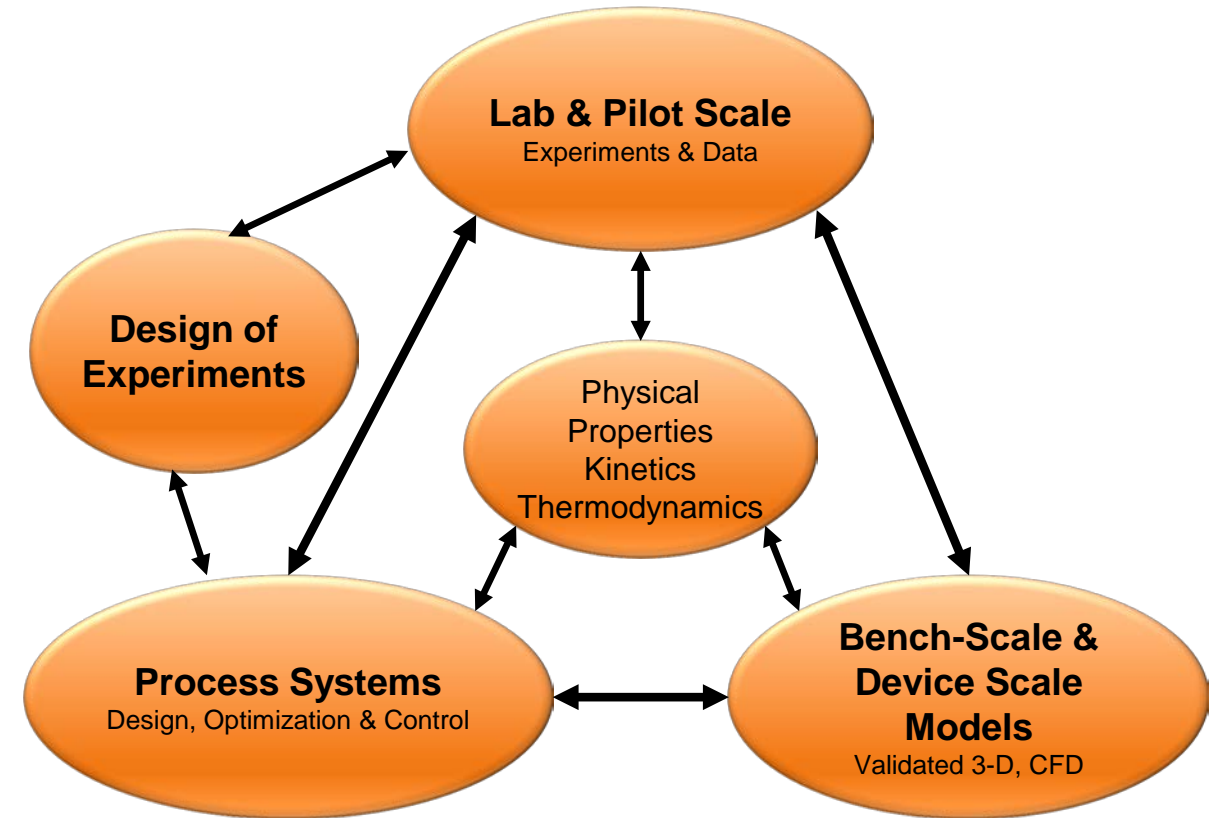


# Outline

- ❑ Exploiting transformational sorbents: LBNL MOF
- ❑ Process Modeling
- ❑ CFD Modeling
- ❑ Design of Experiments
- ❑ Upcoming/Future Works

# Exploiting Transformational Sorbents: LBNL MOF

- Complex and highly nonlinear equilibrium and kinetic characteristics
- Need to exploit the step-shaped isotherms
- Limiting mechanism is likely to be heat transfer, possibly along with mass transfer- both strongly depend on contactor type, design, and configuration
- Heat recovery from the hot solid is critical for reducing the energy penalty but can be challenging
- Lack of understanding of mass/heat transfer characteristics and hydrodynamics for different contactor types under various operating regimes
- Multiple spatial and time scales are of interest
- Strong tradeoff between CAPEX and OPEX

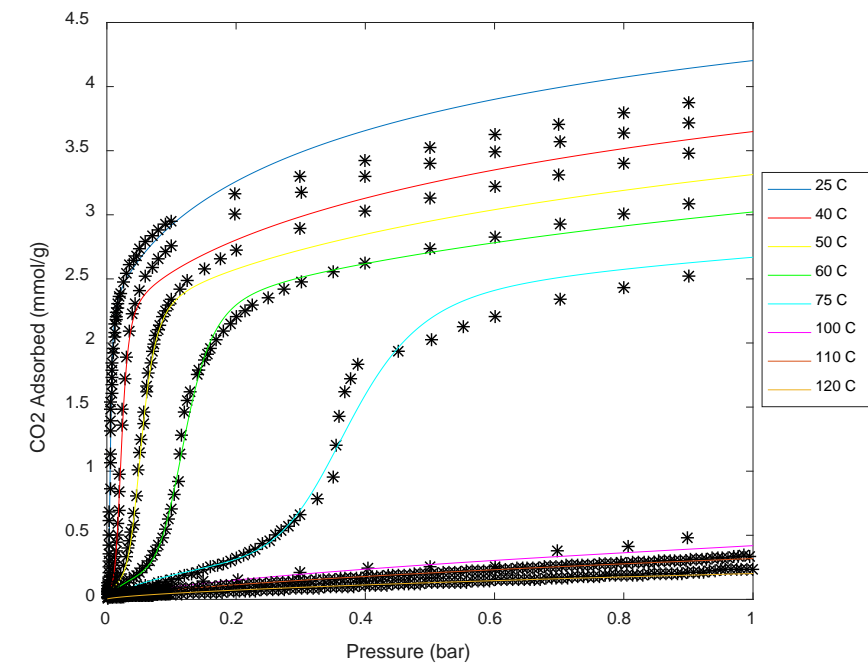


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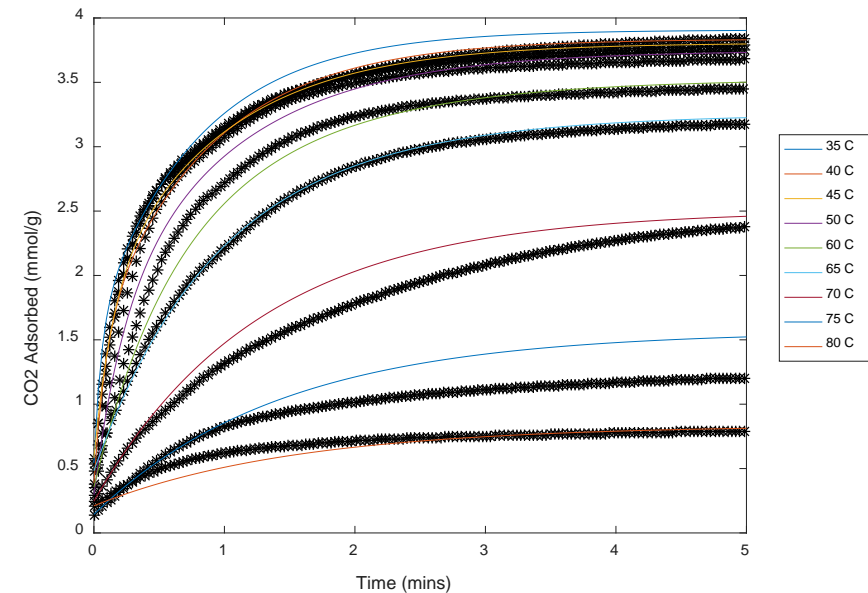
# Isotherm Model

- Traditional isotherm models unable to predict experimental data
- Sips isotherms have been successfully used to model CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption on MOFs and activated carbons<sup>1,2</sup>
- Modified dual-site Sips isotherm developed taking into account both chemisorption and physisorption



# Kinetic Model

- A kinetic model is developed by considering both the physisorption and chemisorption
- Model parameters are estimated using TGA data from LBL



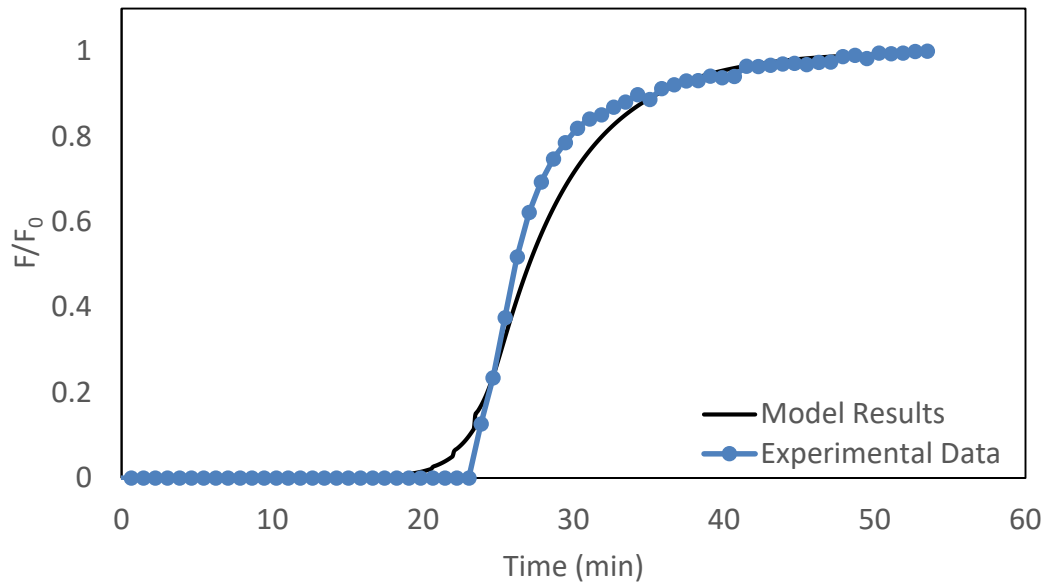
1 - Bao, Z., Yu, L., Ren, Q., Lu, X., Deng, S. Adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> on a magnesium-based metal organic framework. Journal of Colloid and Interface Science. 2011; 353, 549-556  
2 - Tzabar, N., Brake, H. Adsorption isotherm and Sips models of nitrogen, methane, ethane, and propane on commercial activated carbons and polyvinylidene chloride. Adsorption. 2016; 22, 901-914

# Axial-Flow Fixed Bed Model

- Dynamic, 1-D, non-isothermal model
- Incorporates external and internal mass transfer resistances

## Lab-Scale Model Validation

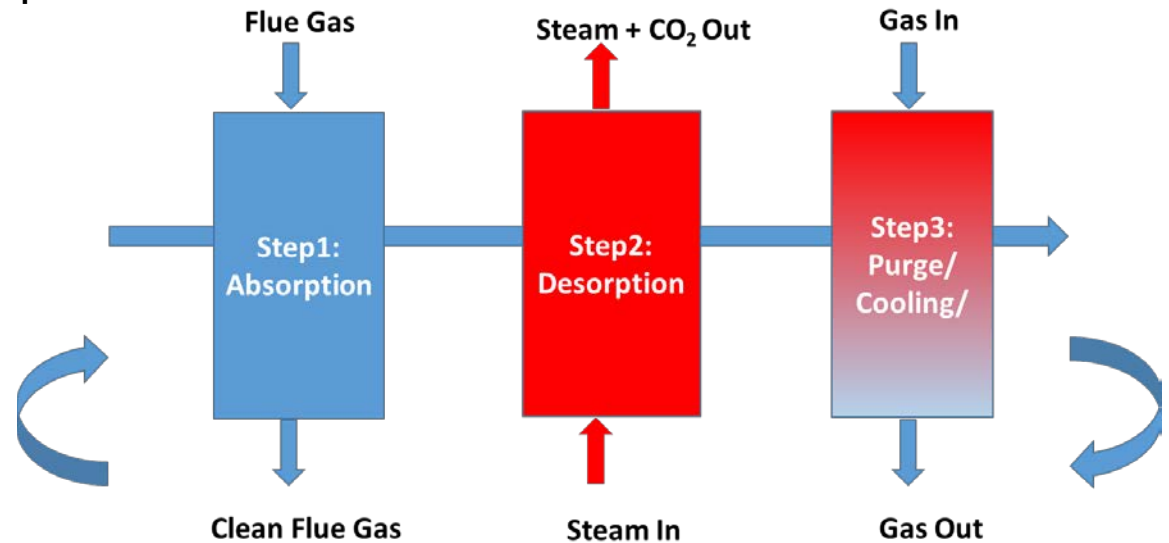
- Lab scale experimental data from LBNL for the powdered material



- **Key Observation:** Breakthrough time can increase by about 4 times for isothermal operation in comparison to adiabatic operation

## Process Scale

- Temperature swing adsorption (TSA) cycle using an embedded heat exchanger
- Sized to process flue gas from a gross 644 MWe power plant<sup>1</sup>

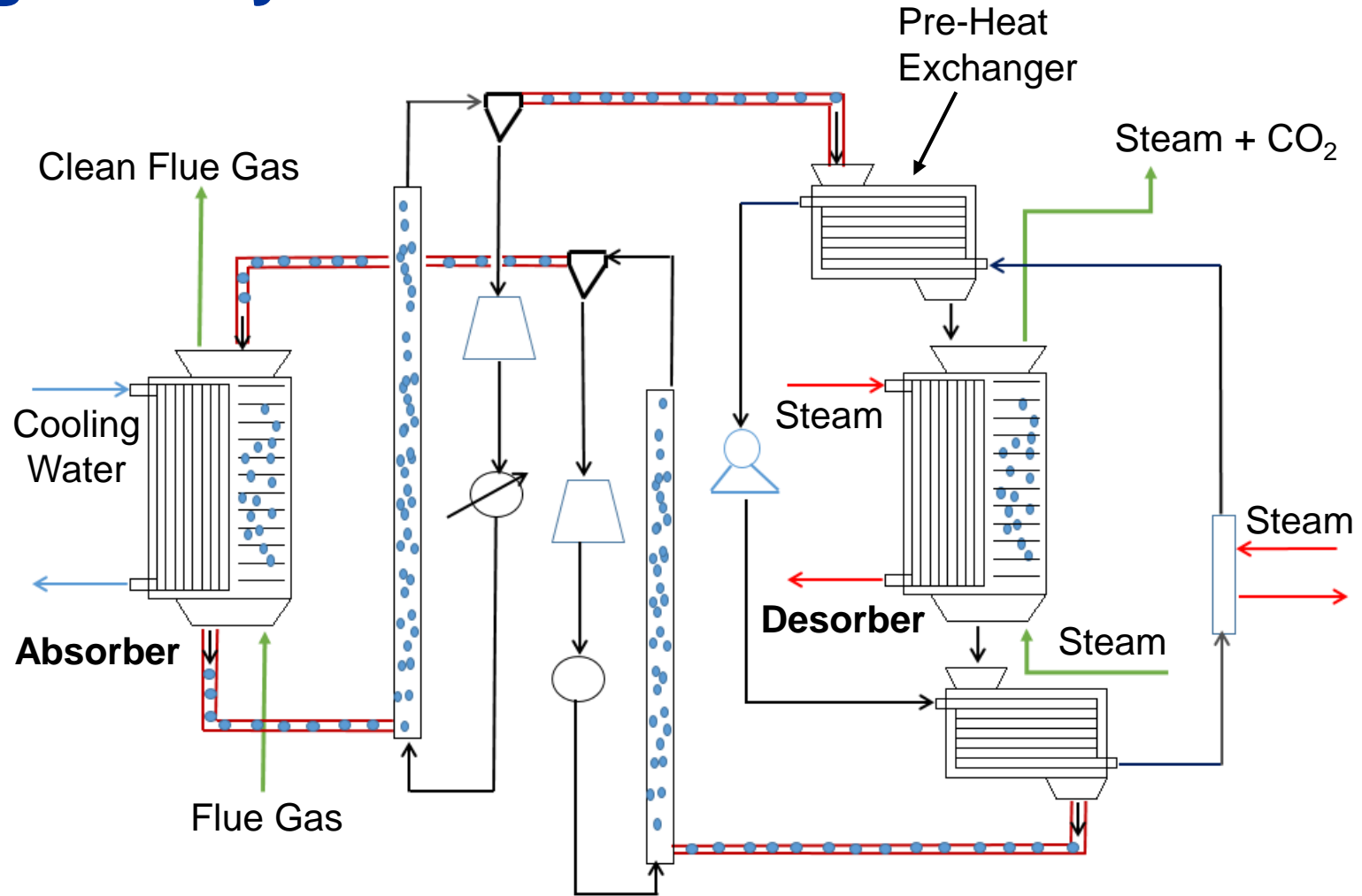


<sup>1</sup> - Fout et al., Cost and Performance Baseline for Fossil Energy Plants Volume 1. 2015. DOI: DOE/NETL-2015/1723.y



# Moving Bed Dynamic Model

- 1-D two-phase pressure-driven non-isothermal dynamic model of a moving bed reactor
- Cooling water used in the adsorber while steam used in the desorber
- An integrated process is set up by including the adsorber, desorber, and heat recovery system
- Heat exchange among gas, solid and with the embedded heat exchanger considered



# Techno-Economic Analysis

- Techno-economic analysis using equivalent annual operating cost (EAOC)

$$EAOC = \text{Capital cost} \left[ \frac{i}{(1 - (1 + i)^{-n})} \right] + \text{Yearly Operating Costs}$$

$i$  = Discount Rate

$n$  = Number of Years

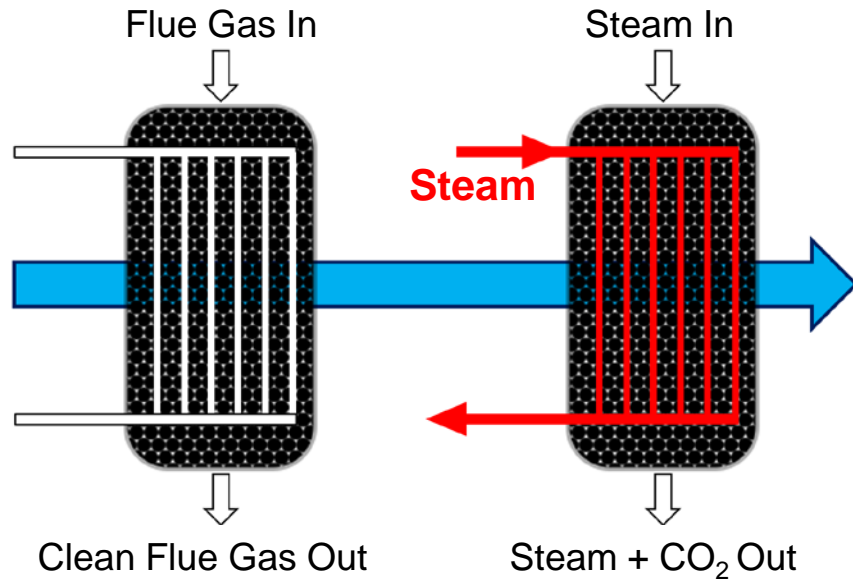
- Capital cost evaluated using Aspen Process Economics Analyzer (APEA) and standard correlations<sup>1</sup>
- Operating costs includes process utilities- steam, electricity, and cooling water
- Comparison to a traditional MEA system<sup>2</sup>

1 –Turton R, Shaeiwitz J A, Bhattacharyya D, Whiting W B, “Analysis, Synthesis, and Design of Chemical Processes”, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2018, Prentice Hall, NJ

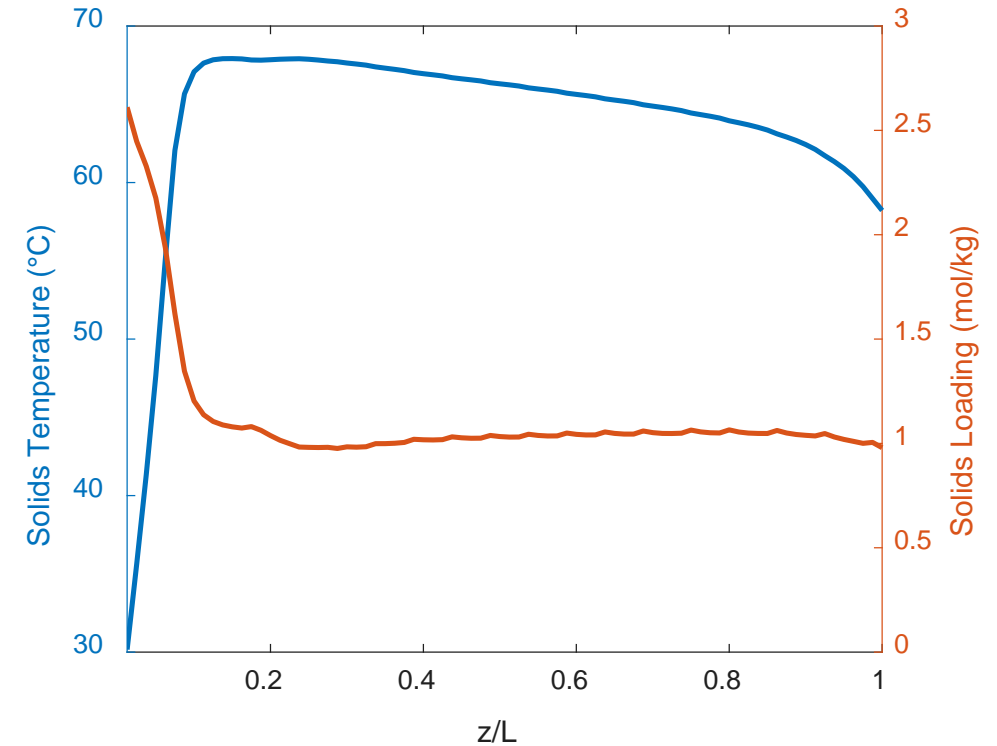
2 - Fout et al., Cost and Performance Baseline for Fossil Energy Plants Volume 1. 2015. DOI: DOE/NETL-2015/1723.y



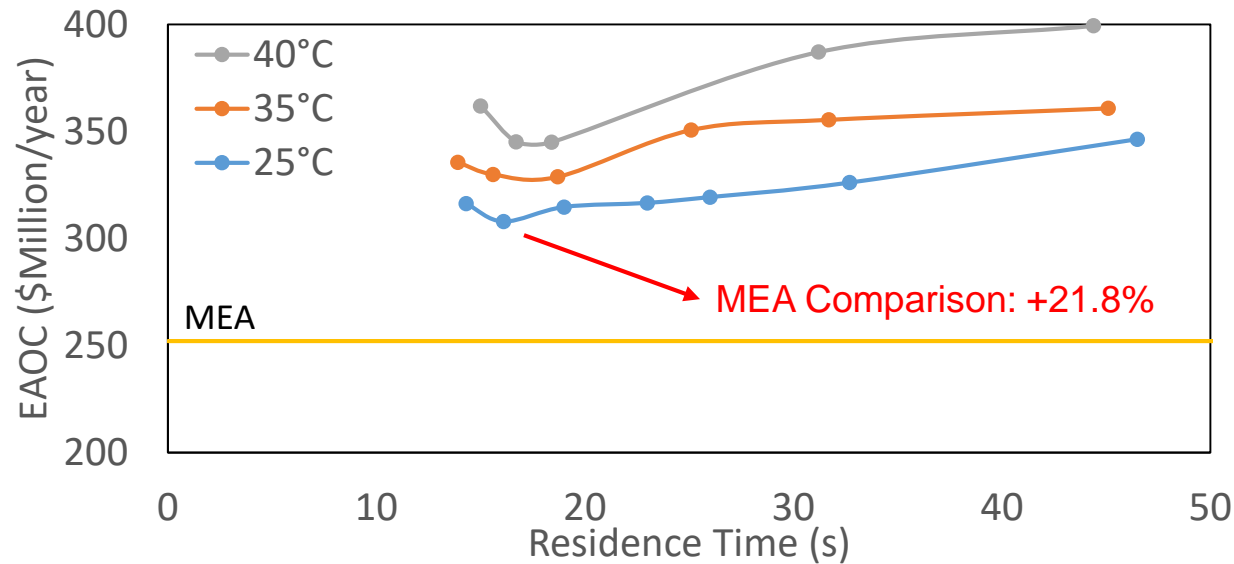
# Basic TSA Process



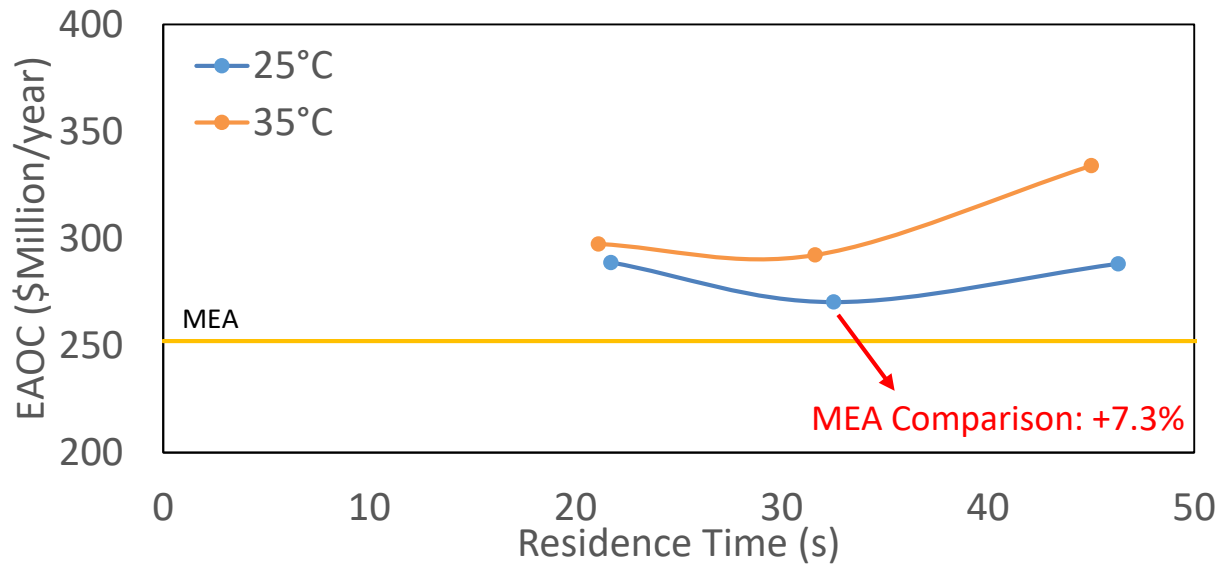
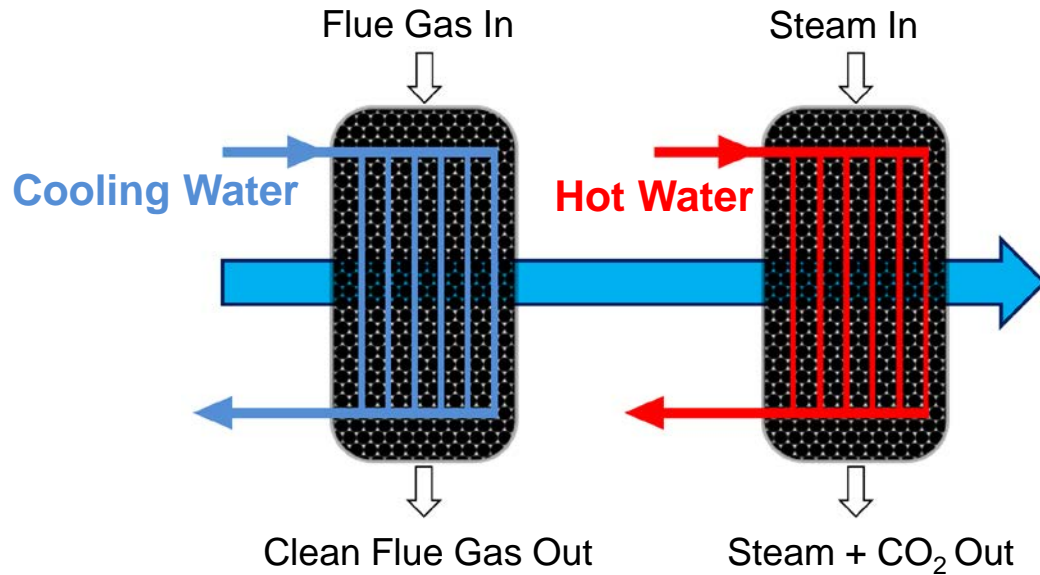
- No thermal management during adsorption results in sharp temperature spikes and low solid loadings



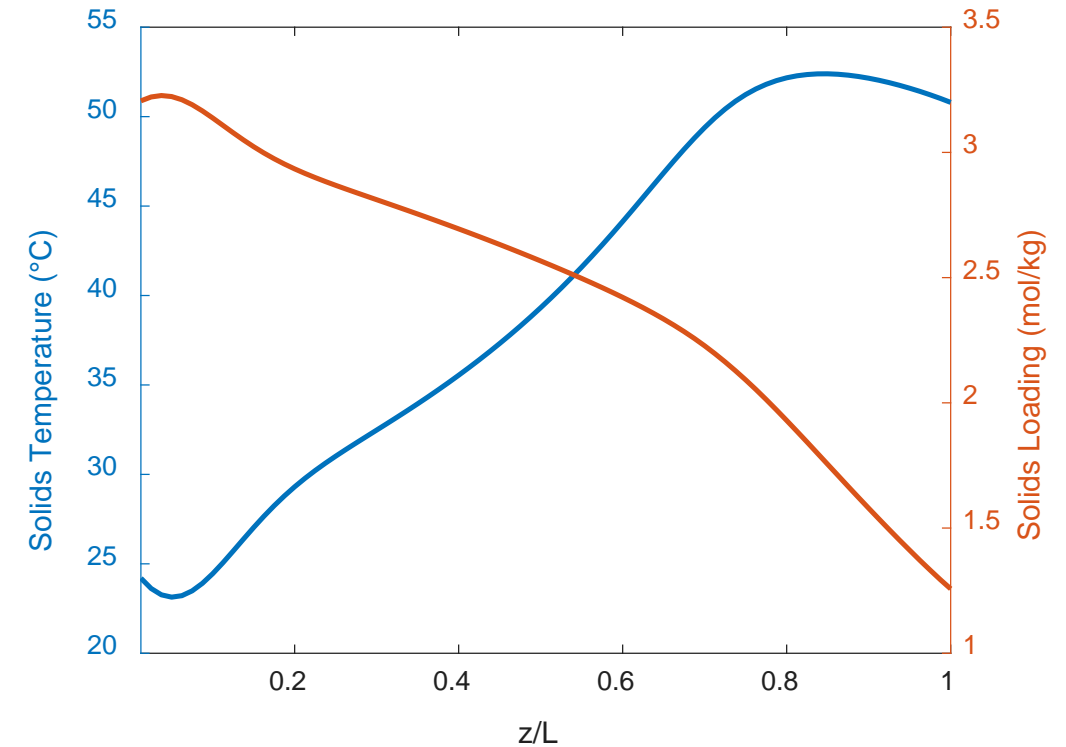
Temperature and loading profiles at end of adsorption step for a specific basic TSA process case



# Modified TSA Process



Increase in average bed loading:  
133%

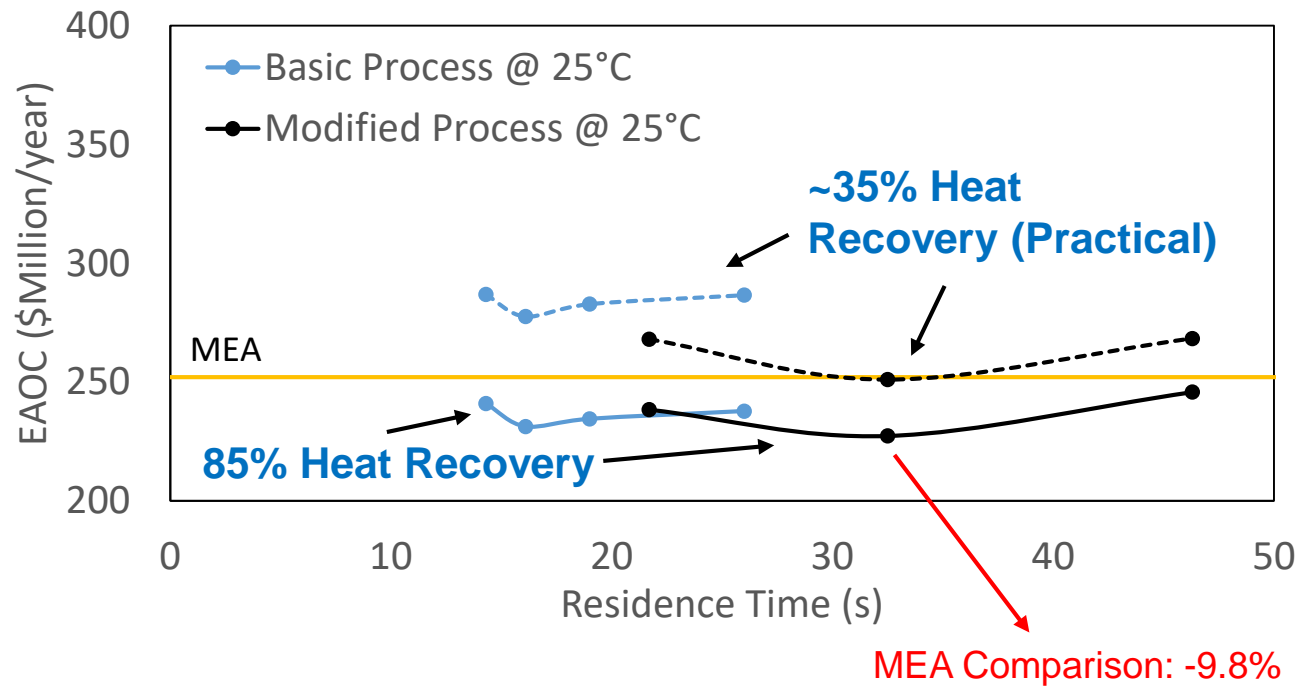


Temperature and loading profiles at end of adsorption step for a specific modified TSA process case

# Modified TSA Process with Heat Recovery

## Heat Recovery

- Utilizing remaining sensible heat at the end of desorption
- MEA systems can achieve about 85% heat recovery which may not be feasible for a gas-solid system

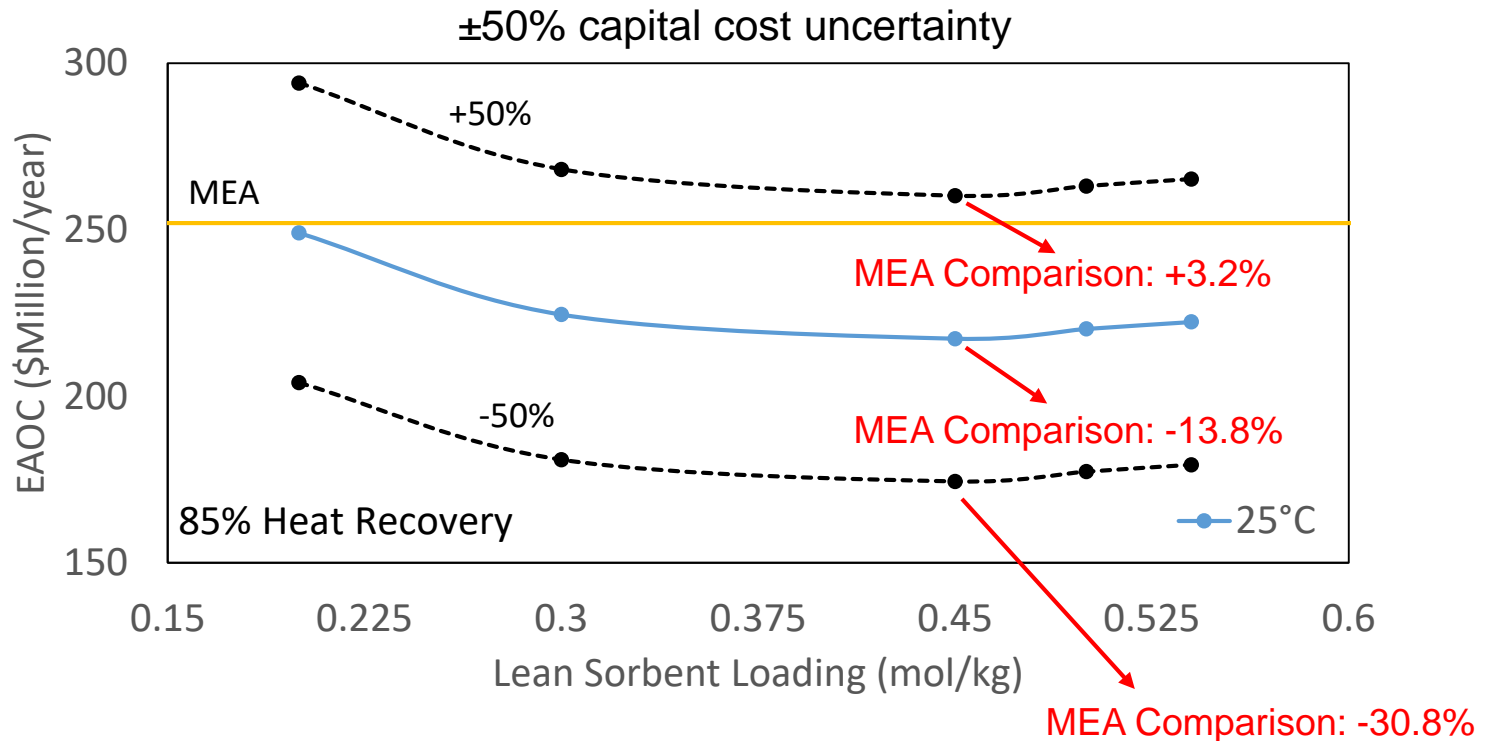
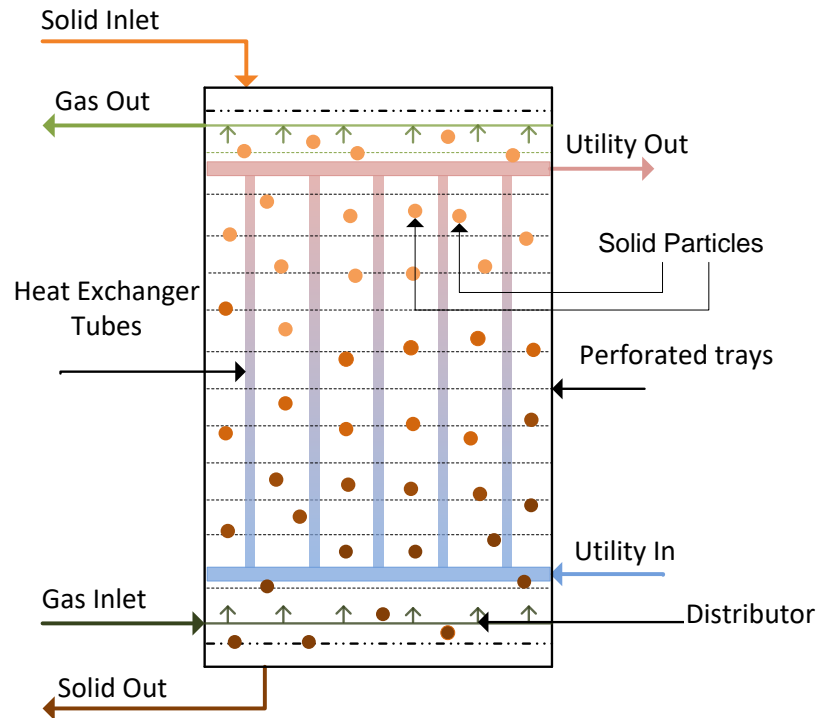


| Energy Requirements                                | Basic TSA Process Using Steam | Modified TSA Process with Cold/Hot Water in Integrated HE* |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Sensible Heat (MJ/kg CO <sub>2</sub> )             | 0.76                          | 0.39   |
| Reaction Energy (MJ/kg CO <sub>2</sub> )           | 1.48                          | 1.48   |
| Total Regeneration Energy (MJ/kg CO <sub>2</sub> ) | 2.24                          | 1.87   |

\*For lowest EAOE cases with practical heat recoveries

# Moving Bed Analysis

- Capital cost uncertainty
  - $\pm 50\%$  to account for uncertainties in the moving bed process equipment



# Process Modeling Highlights

- Techno-economic analysis shows potential to improve when compared to traditional MEA system
  - **Fixed bed system**: cooling during adsorption and 35% heat recovery result in similar EAOC as the MEA system
  - **Fixed bed system**: cooling during adsorption and 85% heat recovery result in 10% decrease in EAOC compared to the MEA system
  - **Moving bed system**: For the nominal cost, about 14% decrease in EAOC compared to the MEA system can be achieved. If the capital cost is lower by 50%, then 30% reduction in EAOC may be possible.

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# Multiphase Flow Modeling

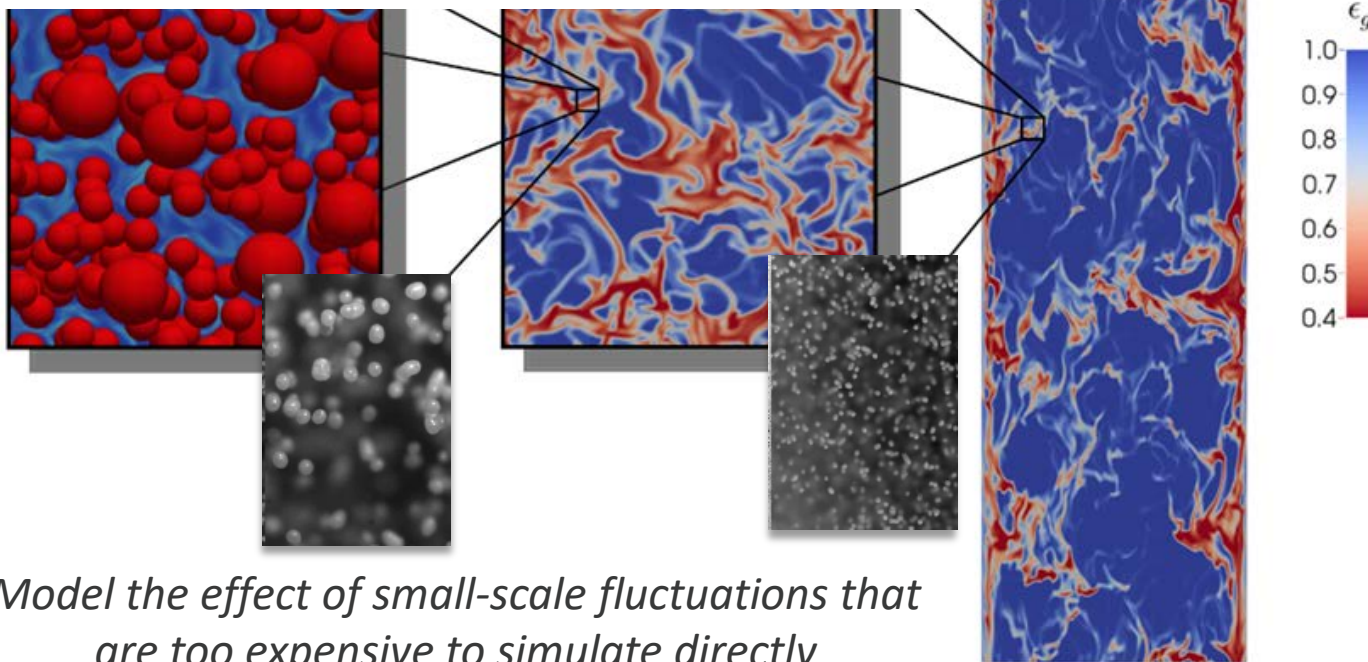
Why CFD for MOF?

*Efficiency of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption will depend on overall flow distribution and local inhomogeneity*

Micro Scale  
particles in gas  
(~100's microns)

Meso Scale  
particle clusters  
(~ mm's to meters )

Device Scale  
large flow structures in  
a CFB (~10's meters)

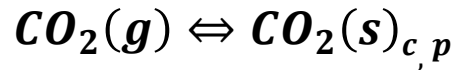


*Model the effect of small-scale fluctuations that are too expensive to simulate directly*

*Use MFIX to predict 3-D distributions in volume fraction, temperature and species concentration*

- 1) <https://mfix.netl.doe.gov/experimentation/>
- 2) Shaffer, F., et al., NETL MFSW, 2010. Image: Streamers, clusters, particles in CFB

# Chemistry and Mass Transfer



$$\mathcal{R}_{g,CO_2} = -\sum \mathcal{R}_{m,CO_2,\alpha}$$

$$\mathcal{R}_{m,CO_2,\alpha} = \varepsilon_m \rho_m X_{m,MOF} \frac{dn_\alpha}{dt}$$

$$\frac{dn_\alpha}{dt} = k_{ov,\alpha} (n_\alpha^*(P, T) - n_\alpha) \quad \alpha = c, p$$

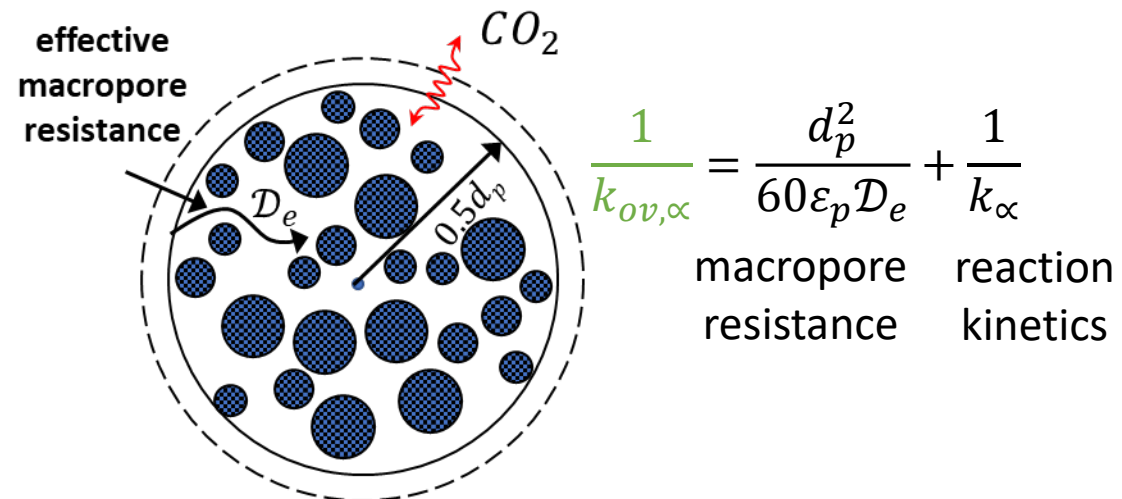


Fig. spherical porous adsorbent particle

## Isotherm model for $n_\alpha^*(P, T)$ based on WVU sub-model

- dual-Sips isotherm model for chemical/physical adsorption : parameterized with equilibrium data

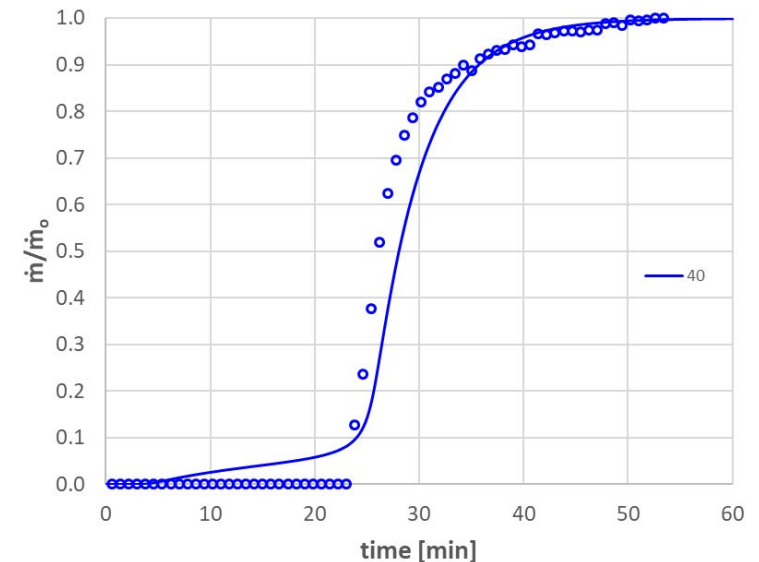
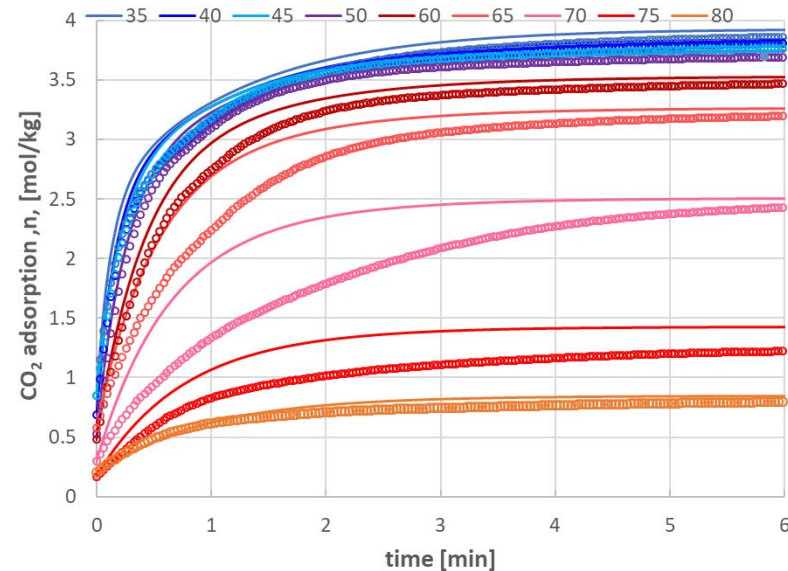
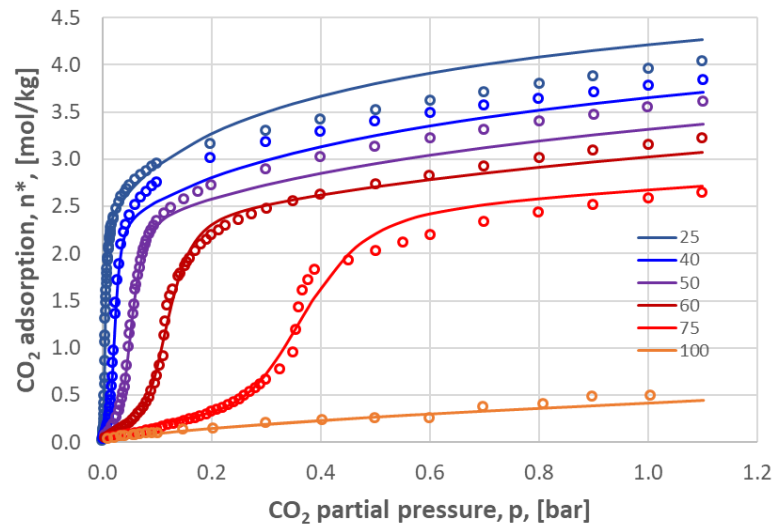
## Mass transfer model for $k_{ov,\alpha}$ based on WVU sub-model\*

- **reaction kinetics** : term introduced by WVU and parameterized with TGA data
- **macropore diffusion resistance** : parameterized with breakthrough data (molecular diffusion + Knudsen diffusion)
- **gas-film resistance** : neglected; looking to incorporate this term (separately like process model as opposed to within LDF)
- **micropore diffusion resistance** : neglected

\*Similar to the Linear Driving Force model of Farooq/Ruthven (1990)

# CFD Modeling Highlights

- ✓ 1. Incorporated chemistry, heat (preliminary) and mass transfer into CFD framework for diamine appended MOF : dmpn-Mg<sub>2</sub>(dobpdc)  
**Approach: CFD-TFM** that includes adsorption isotherm and kinetics for CO<sub>2</sub> transfer and corresponding density changes.
- ✓ 2. Verified model with expected sub-model predictions and validated with data from LBNL: equilibrium isotherms, TGA and breakthrough experiments



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# Design of Experiments for Sorbent Modeling and Characterization

**Problem Statement:** What experimental designs maximize useful information collection to:

- Create predictive models of sorbent processes and ultimately reduce uncertainty in technoeconomic optimization.
- Discern between proposed mechanisms to accelerate scientific understanding.

## Accomplishments:

- U. Notre Dame joined CCSI<sup>2</sup> team in May 2019.
- Shared models from WVU to ND, creating software for parameter estimation.

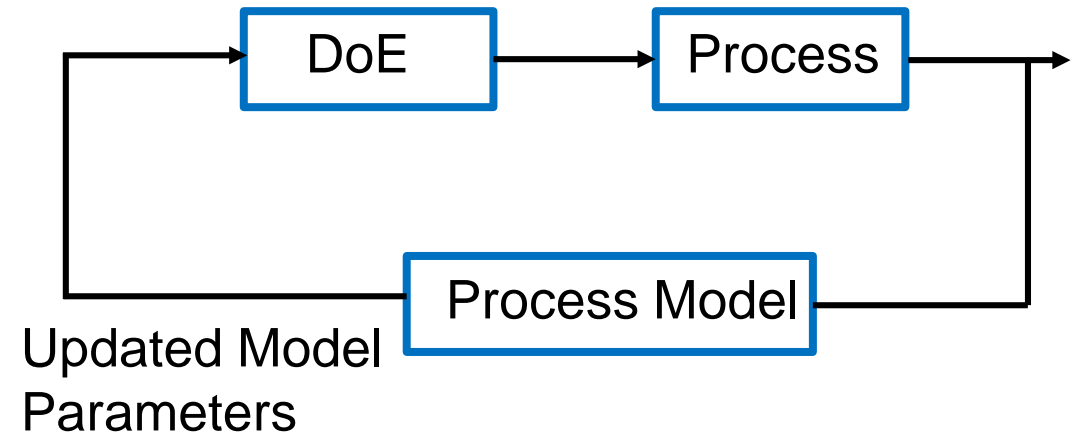
$$\frac{\partial C_{s,i}}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 D_{ma} \frac{\partial C_{s,i}}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{(1 - \varepsilon_p)}{\varepsilon_p} \rho_s \frac{\partial q_i}{\partial t}$$

$$\frac{1}{D_{ma}} = \tau \left( \frac{1}{D_{k,i}} + \frac{1}{D_{g,i}} \right)$$

$$D_{k,i} = C_1 r_{pore} \left( \frac{T_s}{M_{w,i}} \right)^{C_2}$$

Parameters to be estimated

Local temperature inside particles cannot be measured



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# Upcoming/Future Works

## Process Modeling

- Further development of the kinetic model considering species other than  $\text{CO}_2$
- Development of the mass transfer and heat transfer model using data from the shaped particles
- Radial flow fixed bed model development and optimization
- Rotary packed bed model development and optimization
- Bubbling/circulating fluidized bed model development and optimization

## CFD Modeling

- Simulate/investigate contactor (packed/fluidized) performance under different conditions
- Finish extending to PIC-CFD & investigate  $O(m)$  pilot scale adsorber
- Continue model refinement
- Add new sub-models as available : additional species mass transfer ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{N}_2$ )
- Incorporate gas-side mass transfer resistance : separately or part of LDF

## Design of Experiments

- Complete identifiability analysis based on existing experimental capabilities
- Compute optimal experimental designs

# Acknowledgements

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