

# Water Harvesting with Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs)

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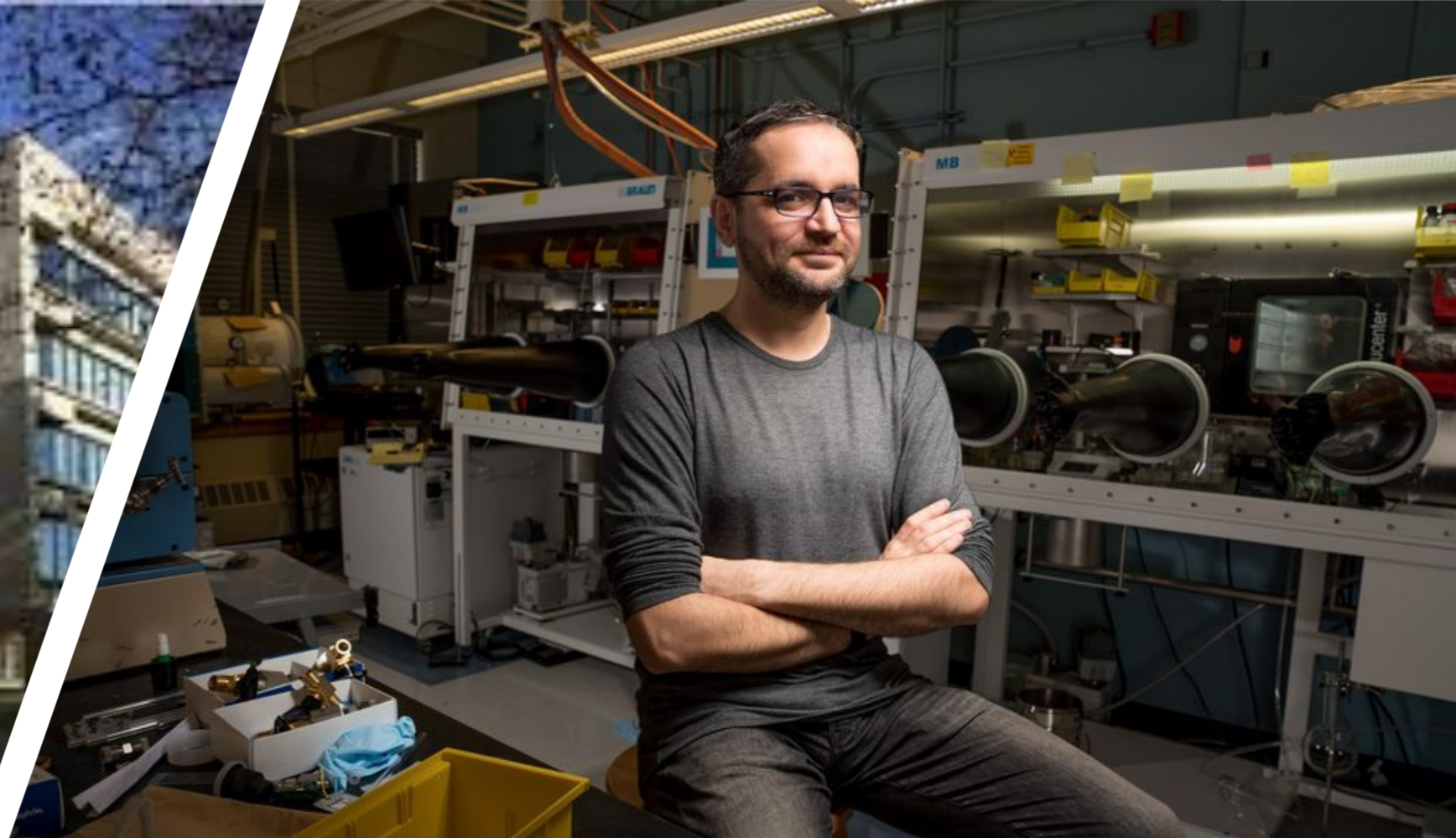
Functional Inorganic and Organic Materials

Prof. Mircea Dinca

Fellowship dates: 9/1/2022-8/31/2023

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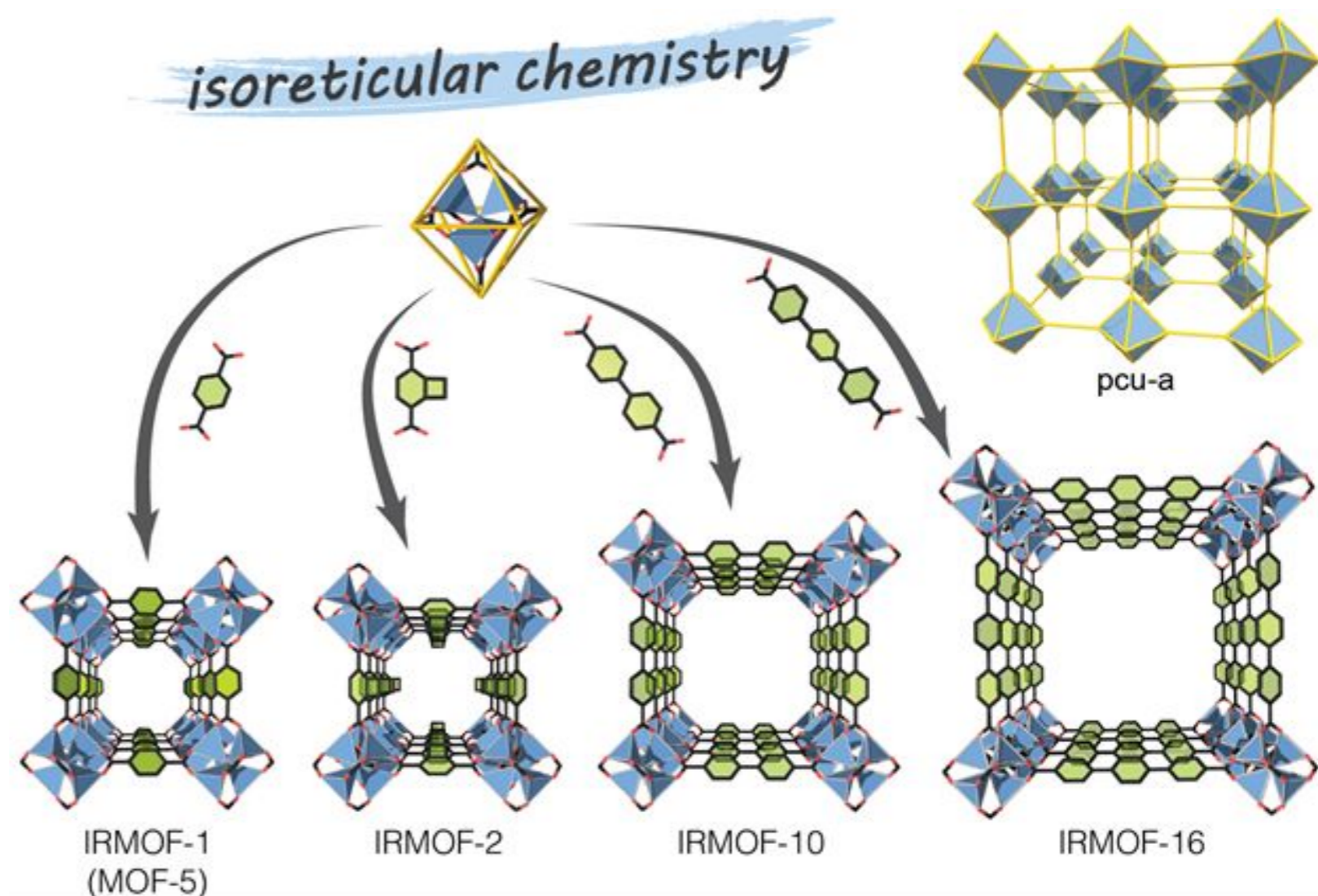




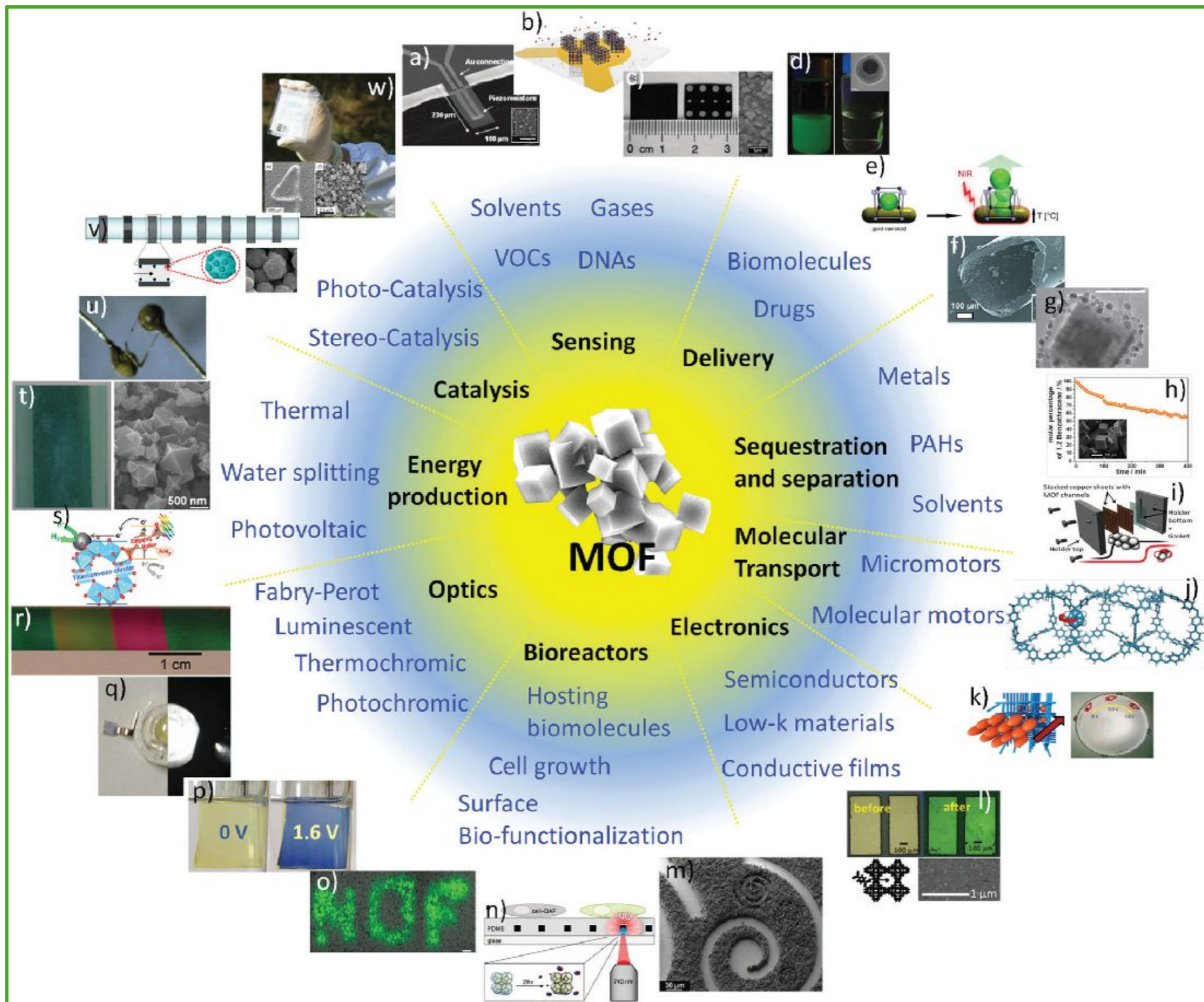
# Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs)

MOFs can be rationally designed by choosing a proper ligand and targeting a suitable cluster.

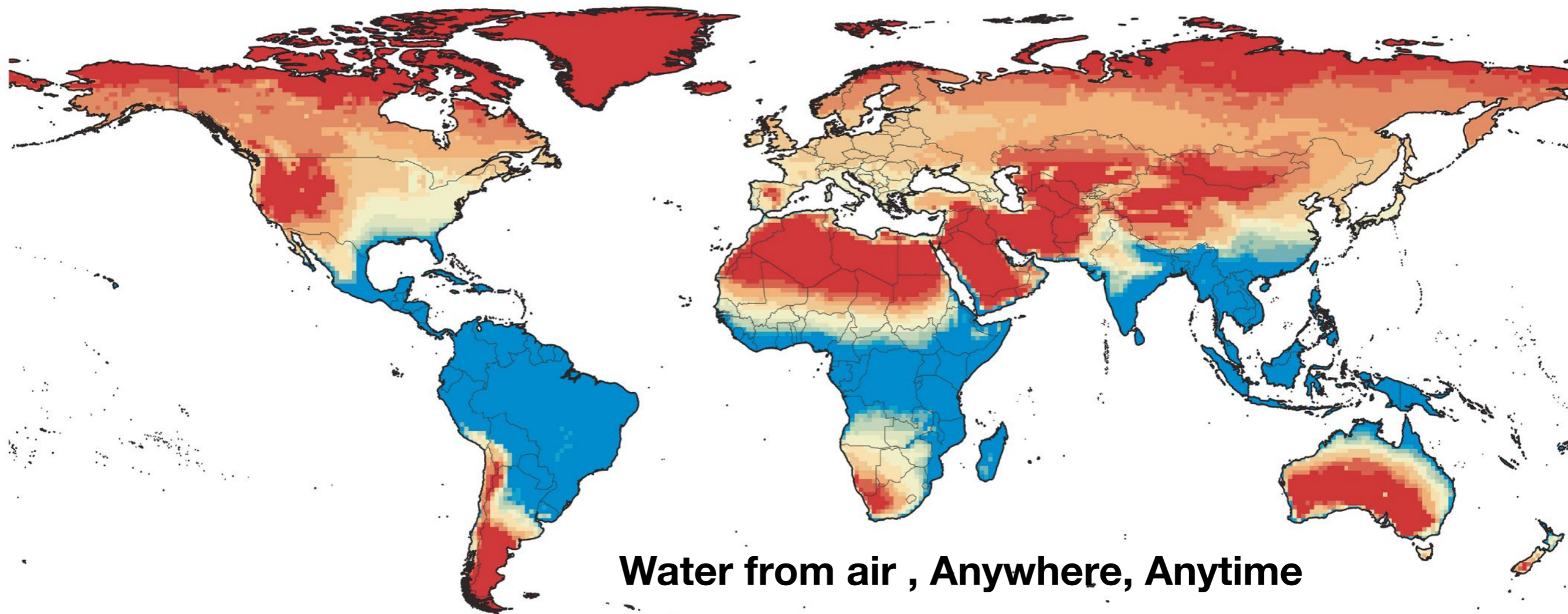
- Crystalline extended hybrid solids
- Rational Assembly (building block approach)
- Modular, can be functionalized prior or after the assembly
- Unprecedented apparent surface areas (up to 7000 m<sup>2</sup>/g)
- Controlled pore size (from ultra-micropores to mesopores up to 5nm)



# MOFs Applications



## Water insecurity necessitates new sources of clean water



**Water from air , Anywhere, Anytime**

Number of months suitable for water generation through direct cooling

0 3 6 9 12

**The areas marked in yellow to red are often water-stressed**

Hanikel, N., Prévot, M.S. & Yaghi, O.M. MOF water harvesters. *Nat. Nanotechnol.* 15, 348–355 (2020).

**Potential solution:**

**Harvesting water from air**

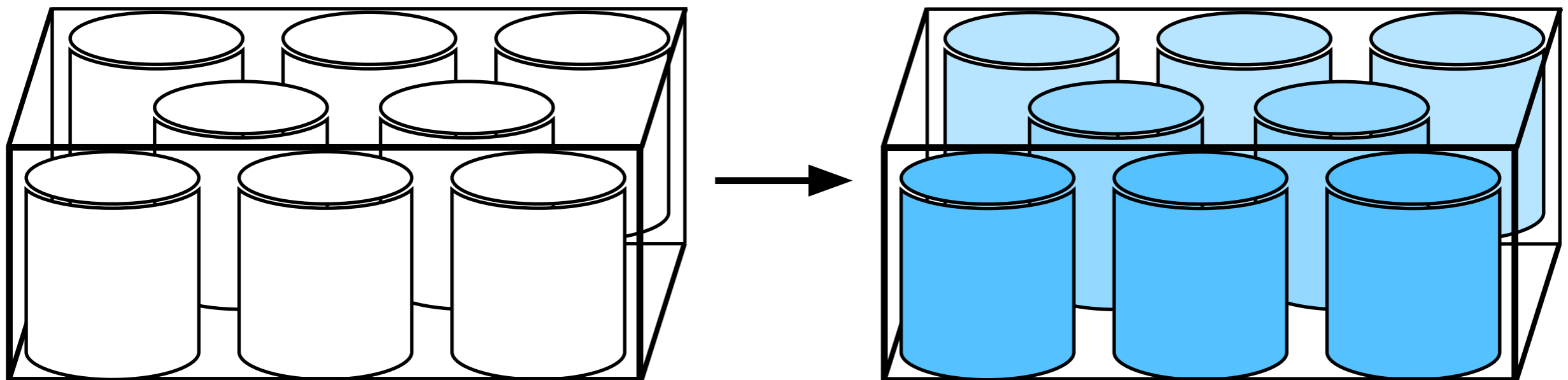
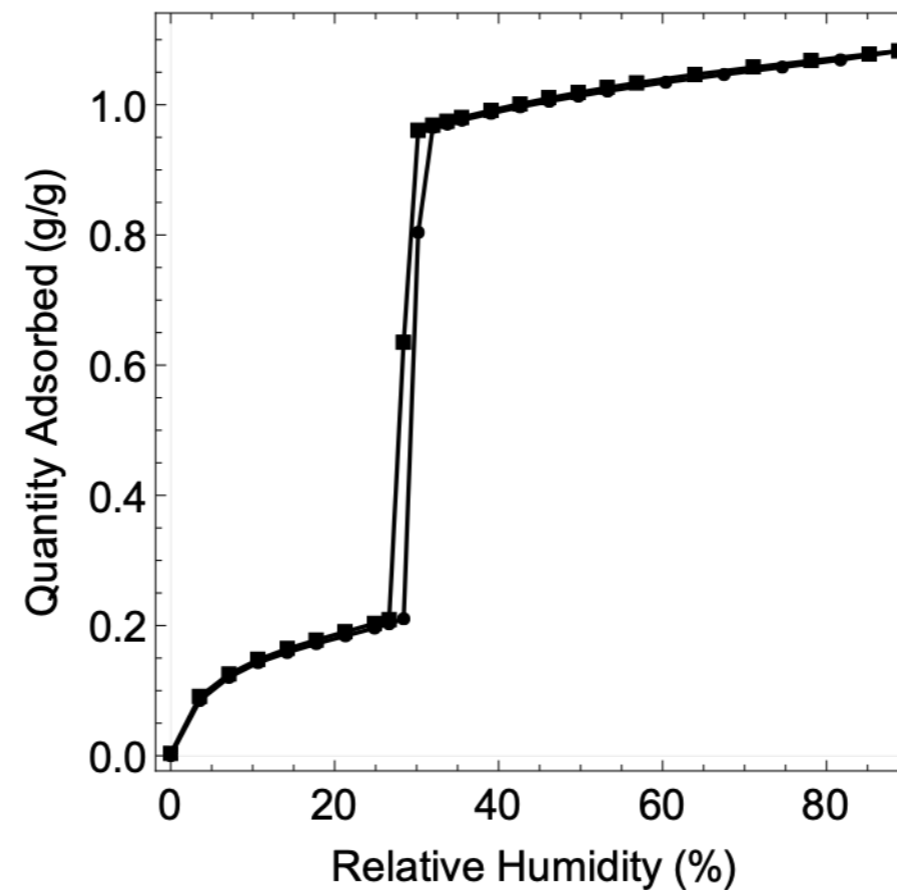
**12.900 cubic kilometers (km<sup>3</sup>)**

**of water in the air at any time**



# Sorbents with uniform micropores often have steep water uptake

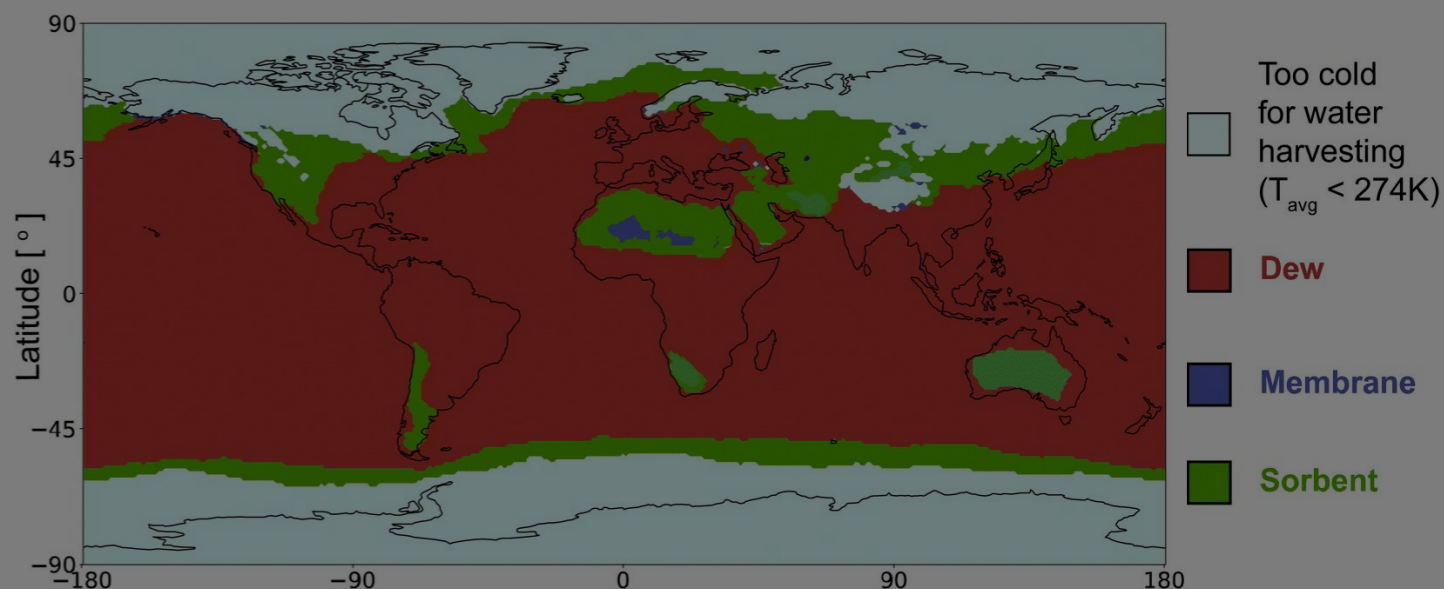
Sudden pore filling is called *capillary condensation*



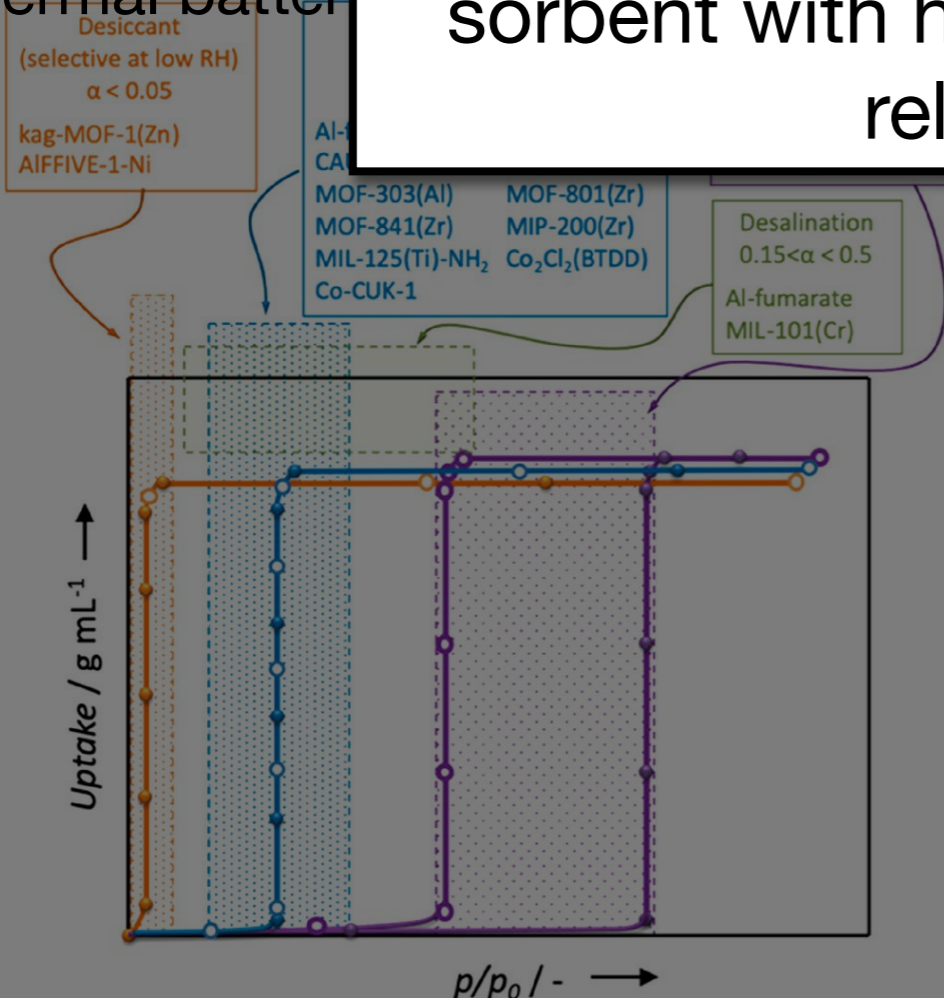
# Water sorbents can be used for a wide range of desirable applications

Applications enabled by sharp uptake operate at a variety of relative humidity

- ▶ Heat pumps (air conditioning)
- ▶ Desiccants
- ▶ Desalination
- ▶ Humidity control
- ▶ Thermal batteries



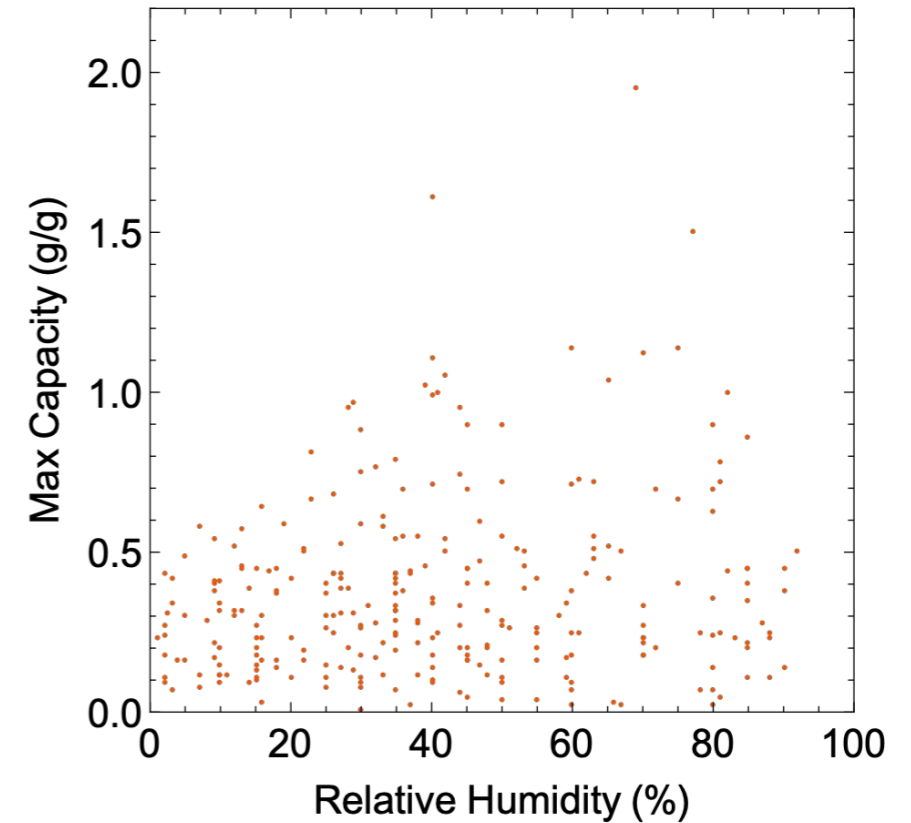
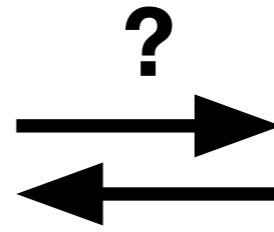
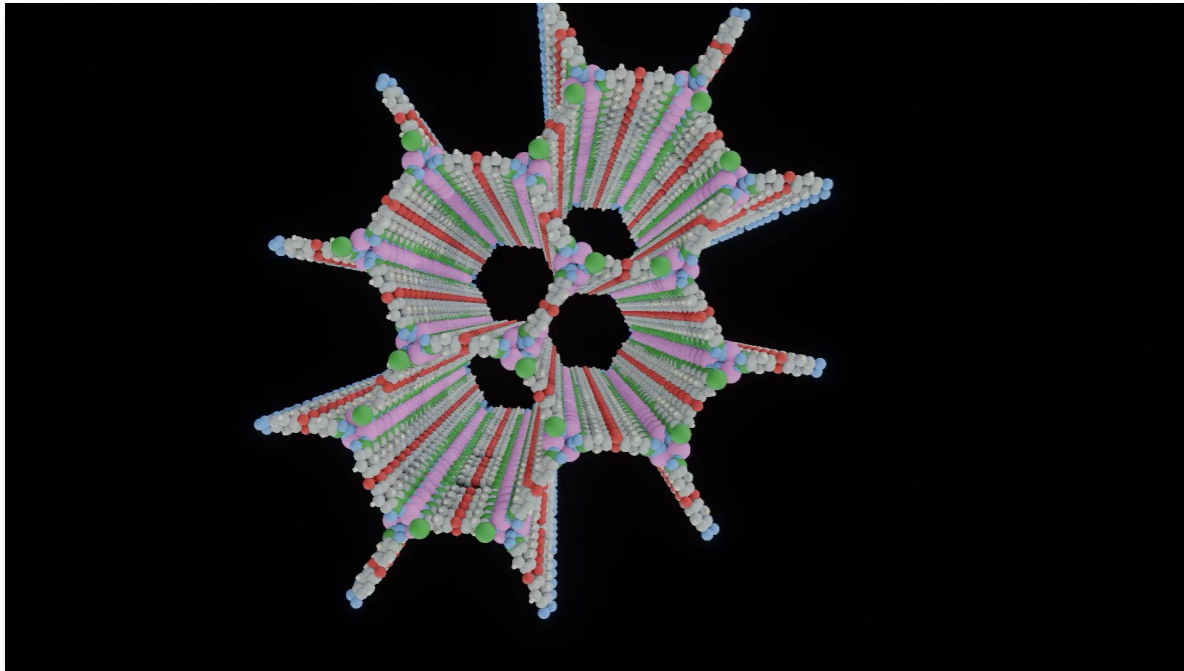
How does one design and synthesize a sorbent with high capacity at an arbitrary relative humidity?



- ▶ Regions of water insecurity are primed for sorbent water harvesting
- ▶ However, there is a distinct lack of sorbents that operate at 10 – 30% RH



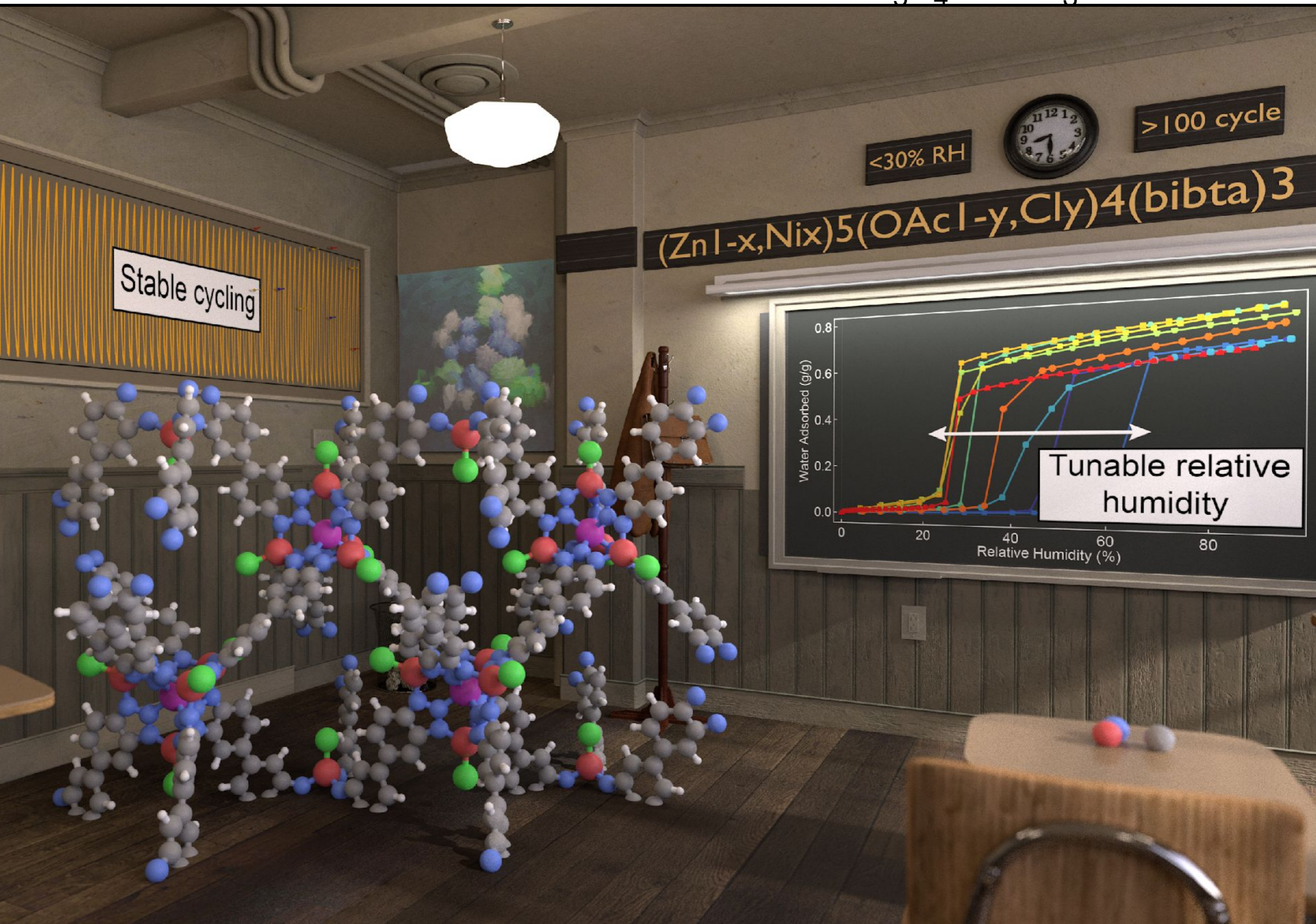
# What is the structure-function relationship?



The fundamental parameters include

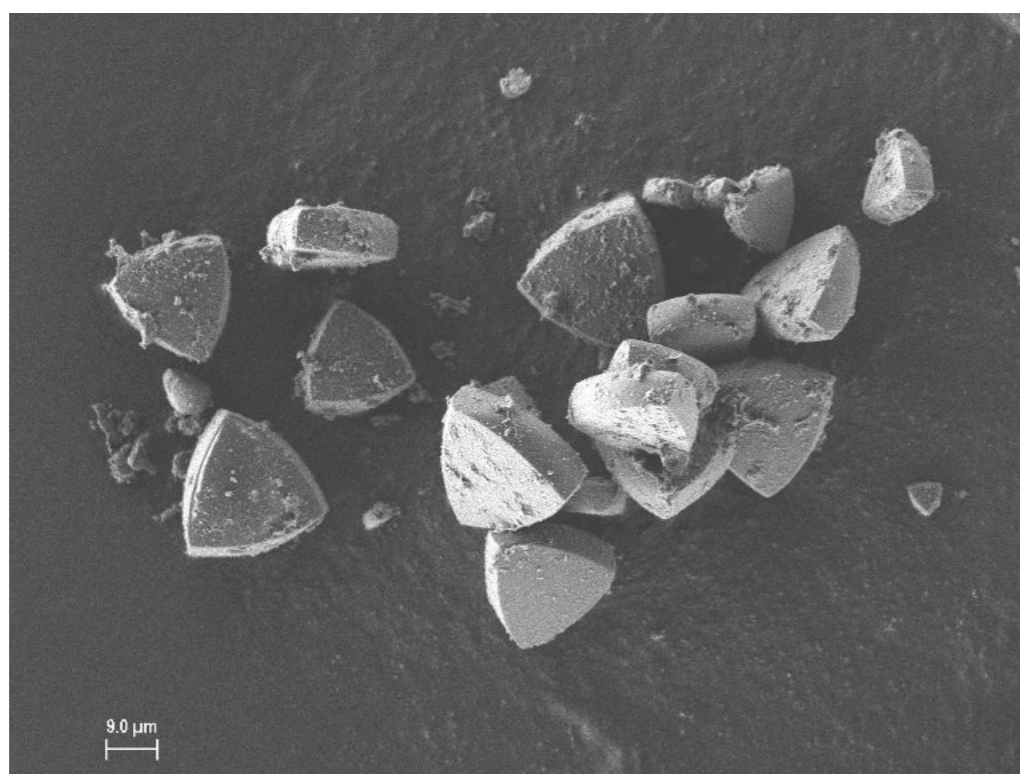
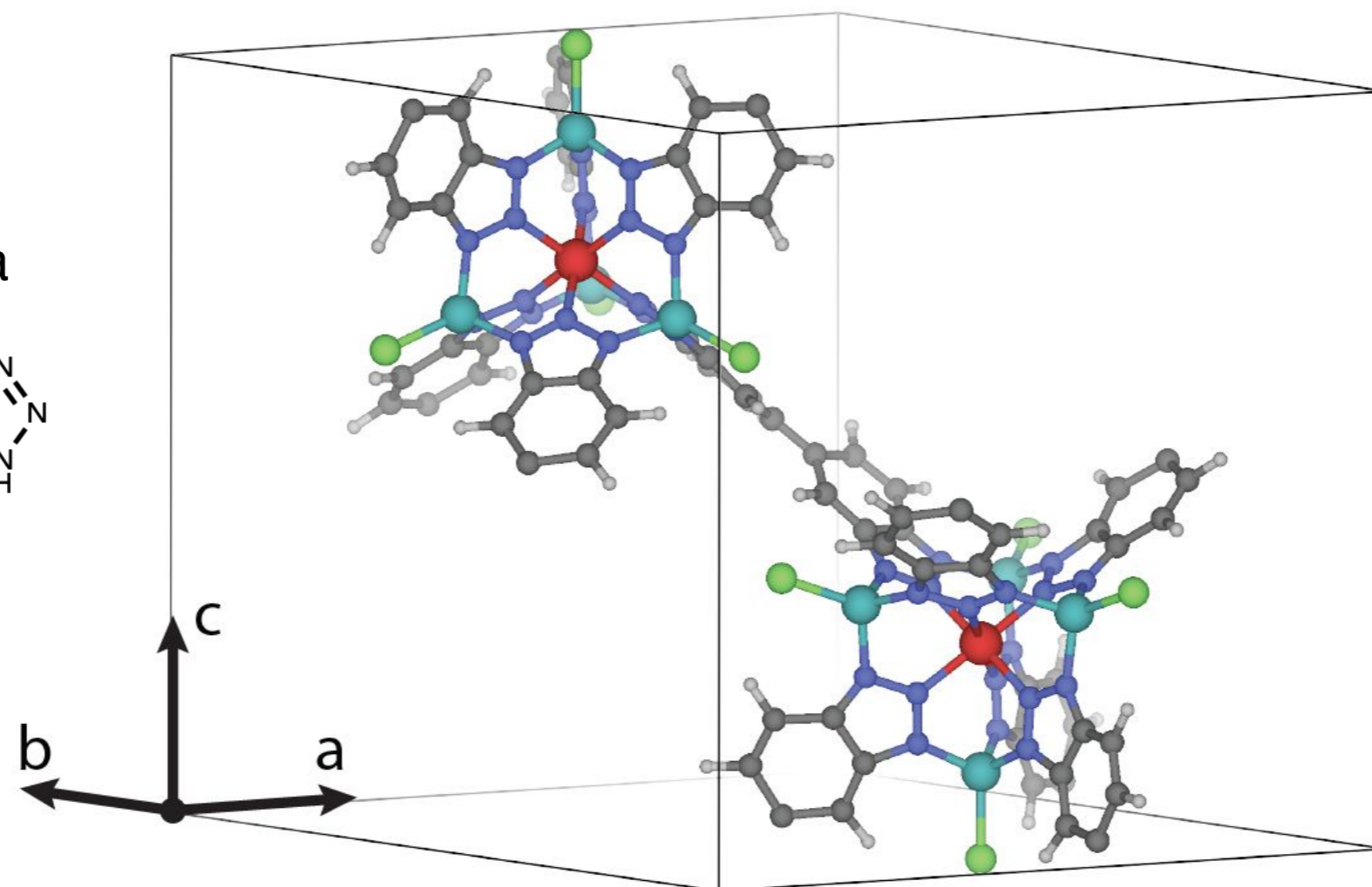
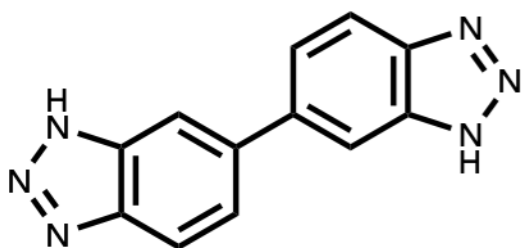
1. Relative humidity of capillary condensation
2. Working capacity
3. Relative humidity – capacity relationship
4. Hysteresis
5. Cycling stability
6. Environmental impact of the material and its synthesis
7. Costs associated with MOF synthesis and use

# Water adsorption in a bibenzotriazole MOFs, $M_5X_4(\text{bibta})_3$

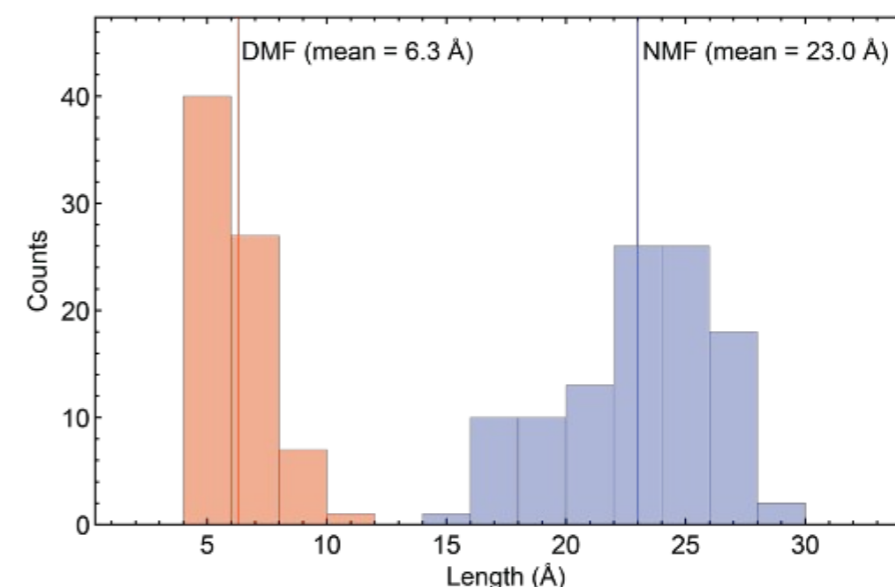


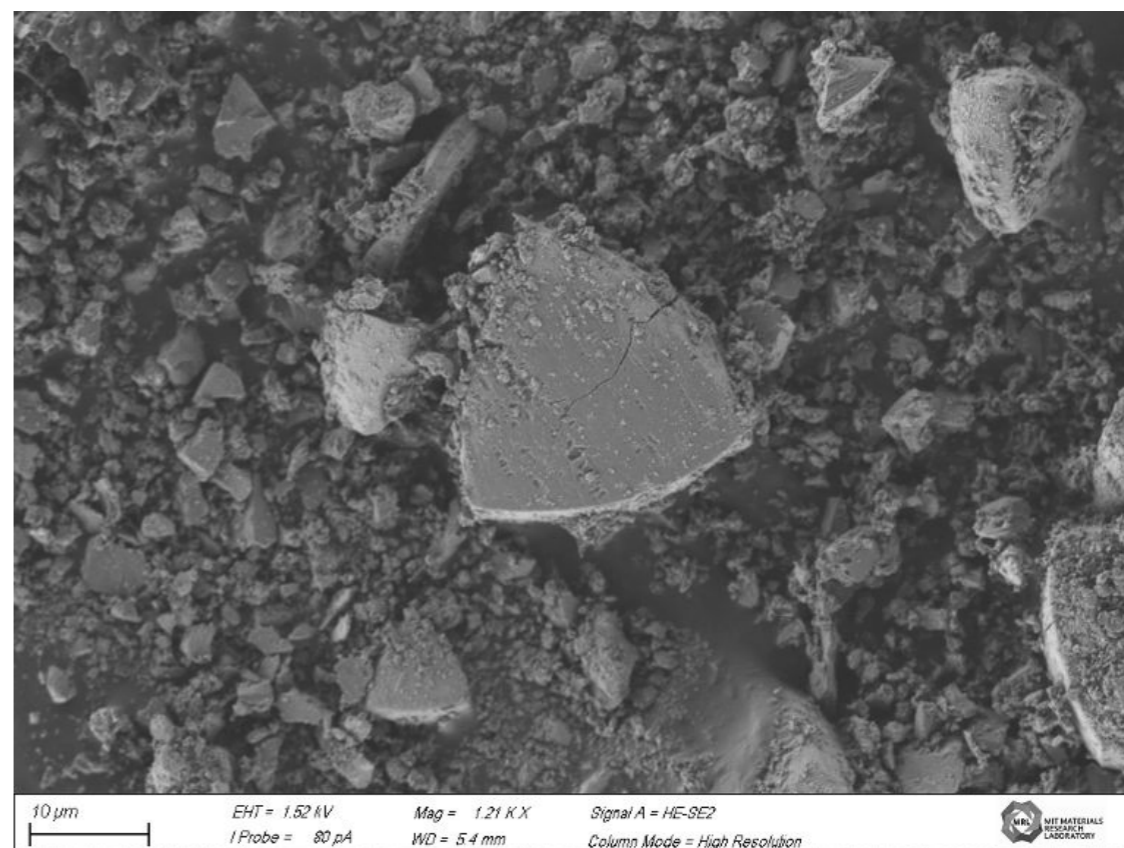
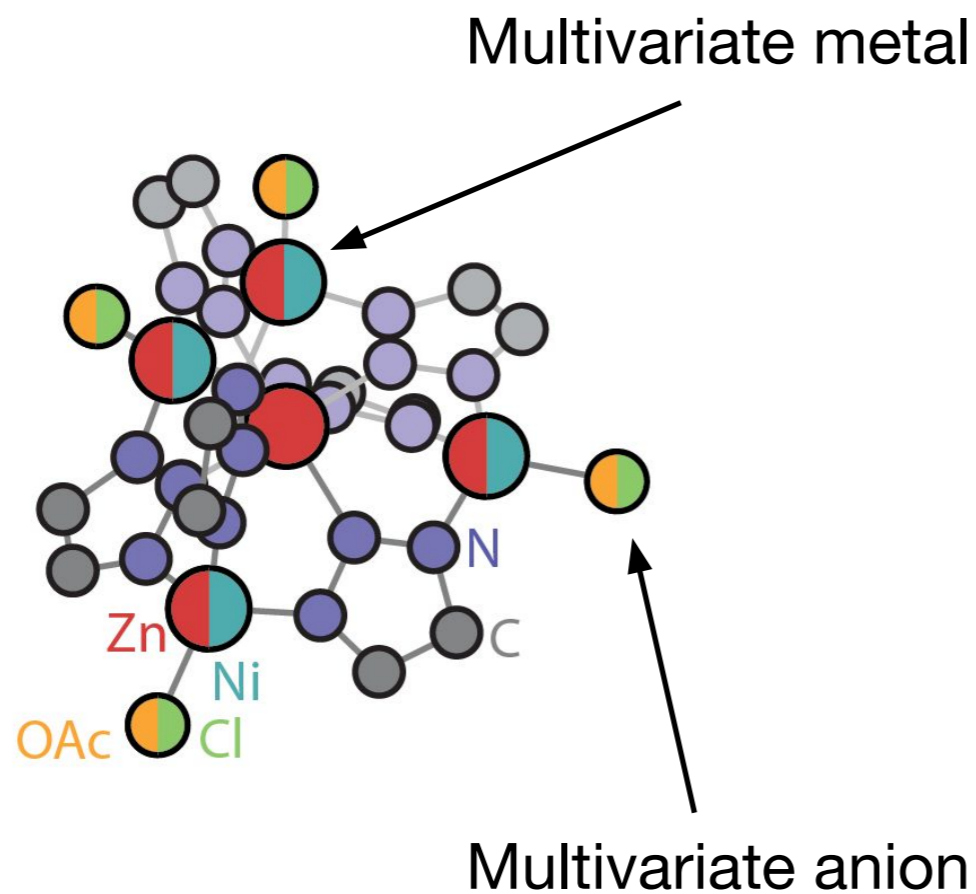
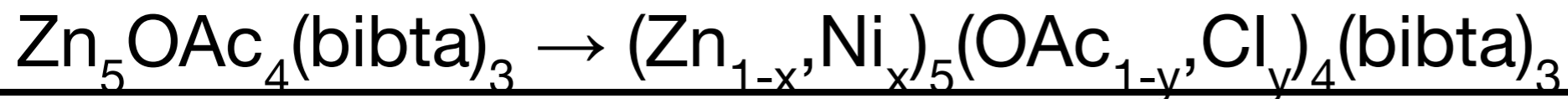
# CFA-1. A cheap modular framework

Linker: H<sub>2</sub>bibta

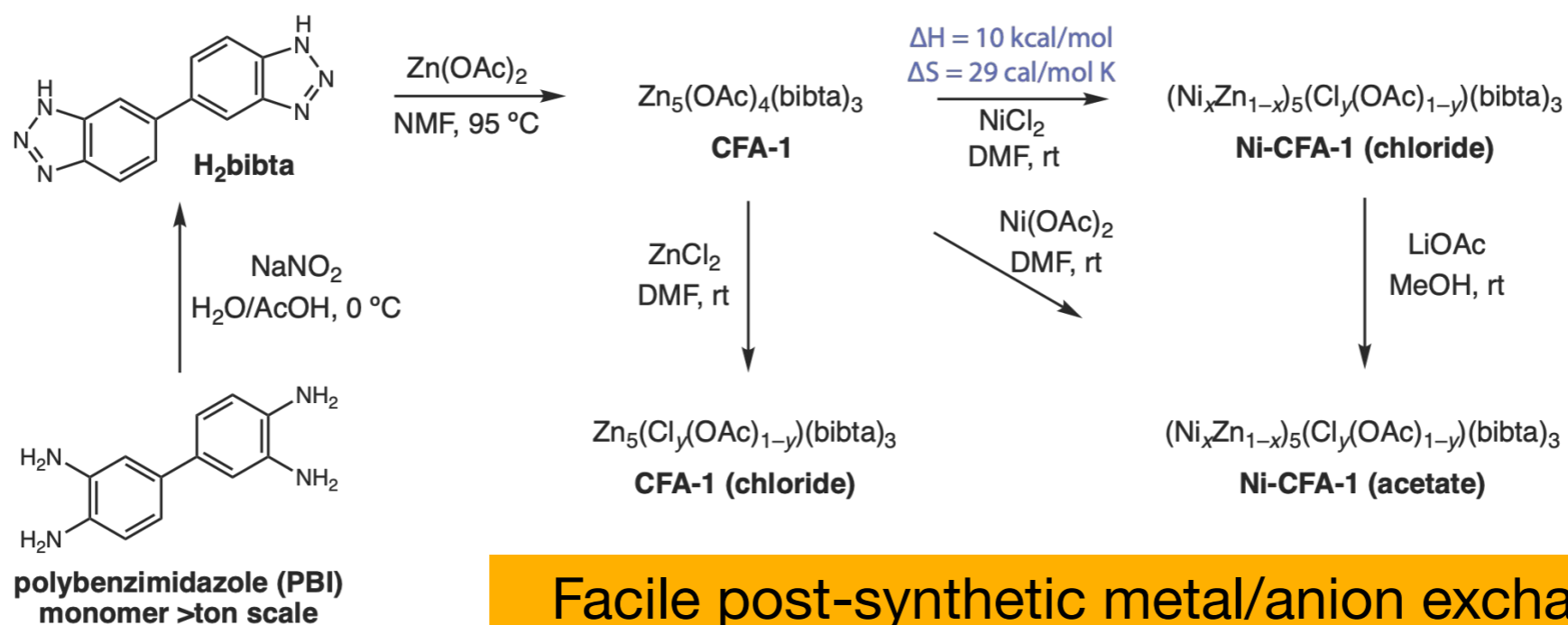


Particle size controlled by synthetic conditions

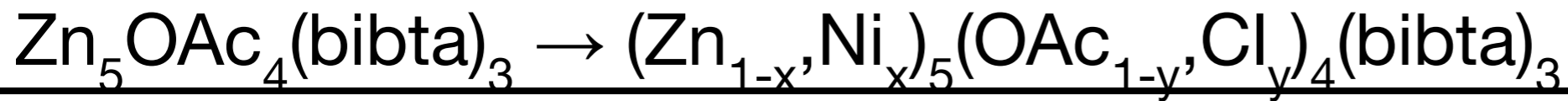




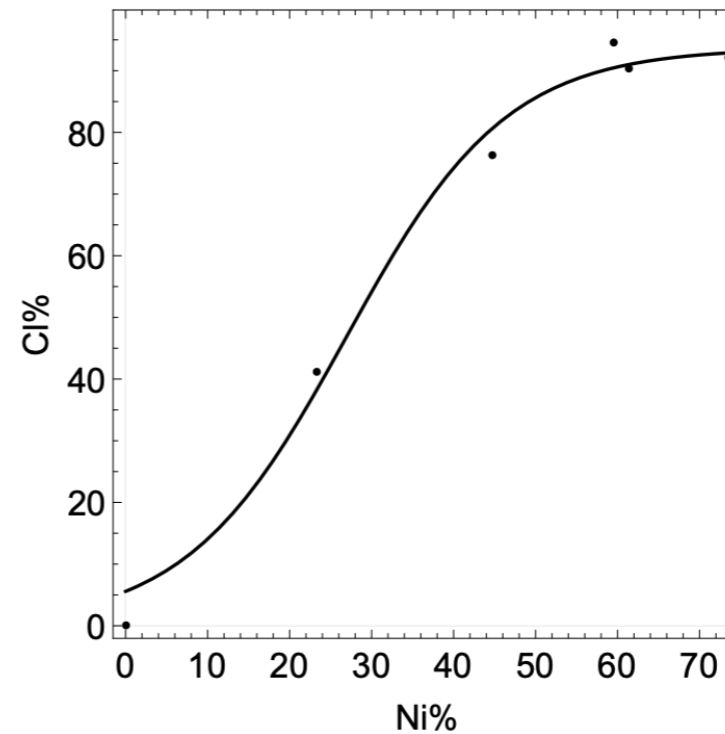
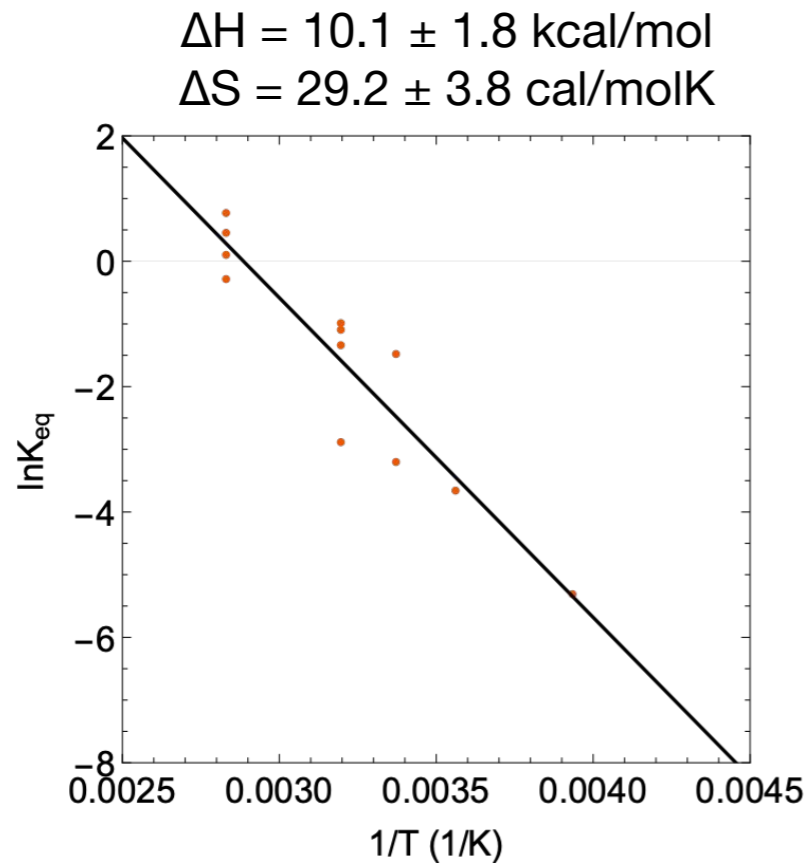
Particle remain intact after exchange



Facile post-synthetic metal/anion exchange



Quantification of post-synthetic metal exchange thermodynamics enables synthesis of arbitrary composition

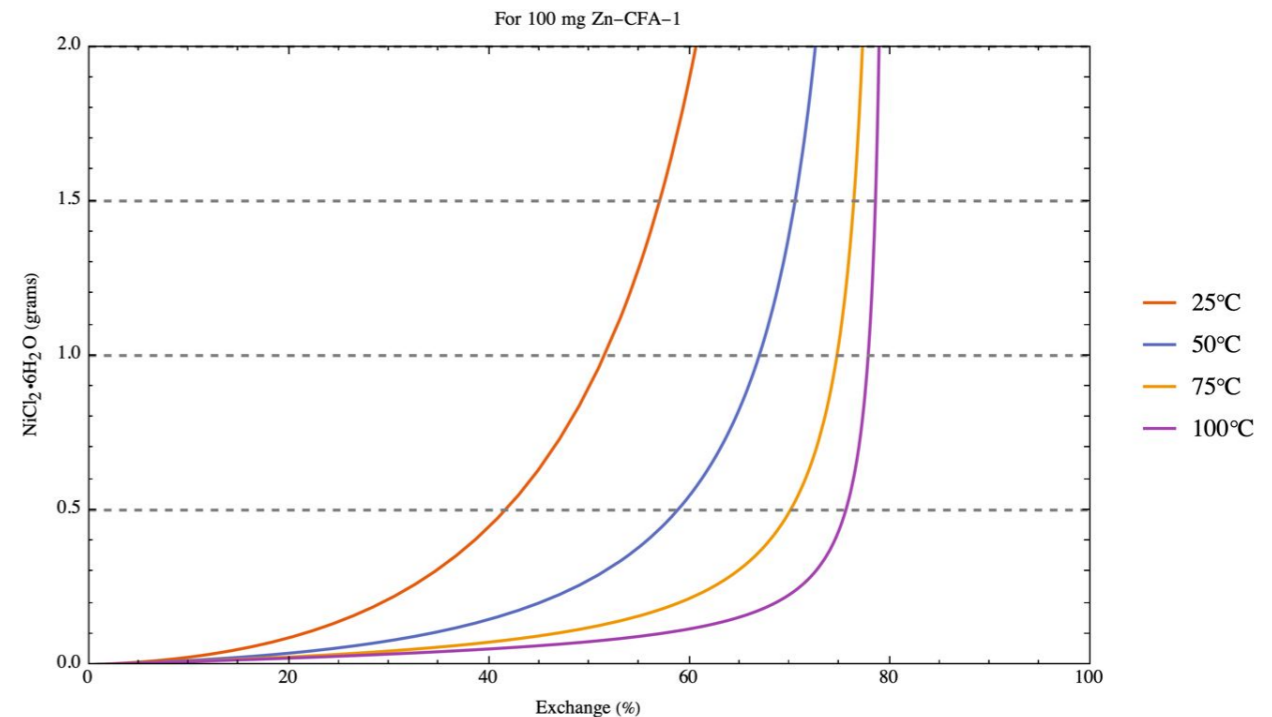


Chloride content increases monotonically with nickel content

$$\ln K_{eq} = \frac{-\Delta H}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S}{R}$$

$$K_{eq} = \frac{Z_{Ni} S_{Zn}}{Z_{Zn} S_{Ni}} = \frac{c_{Ni}^2 m_{Zn}}{c_{Ni} m_{Ni} c_{Zn} + m_{Ni} c_{Zn}^2 - c_{Ni} c_{Zn}}$$

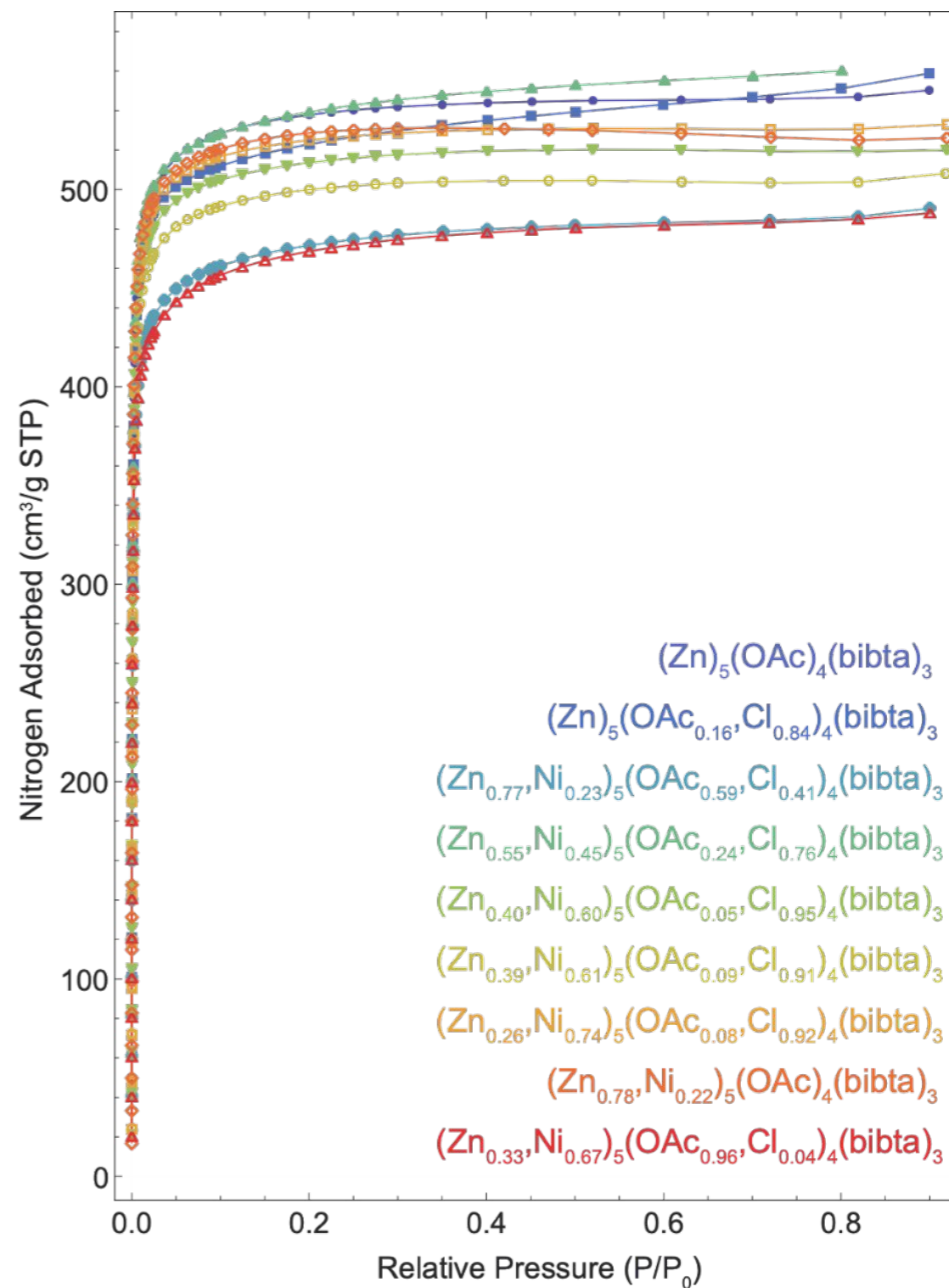
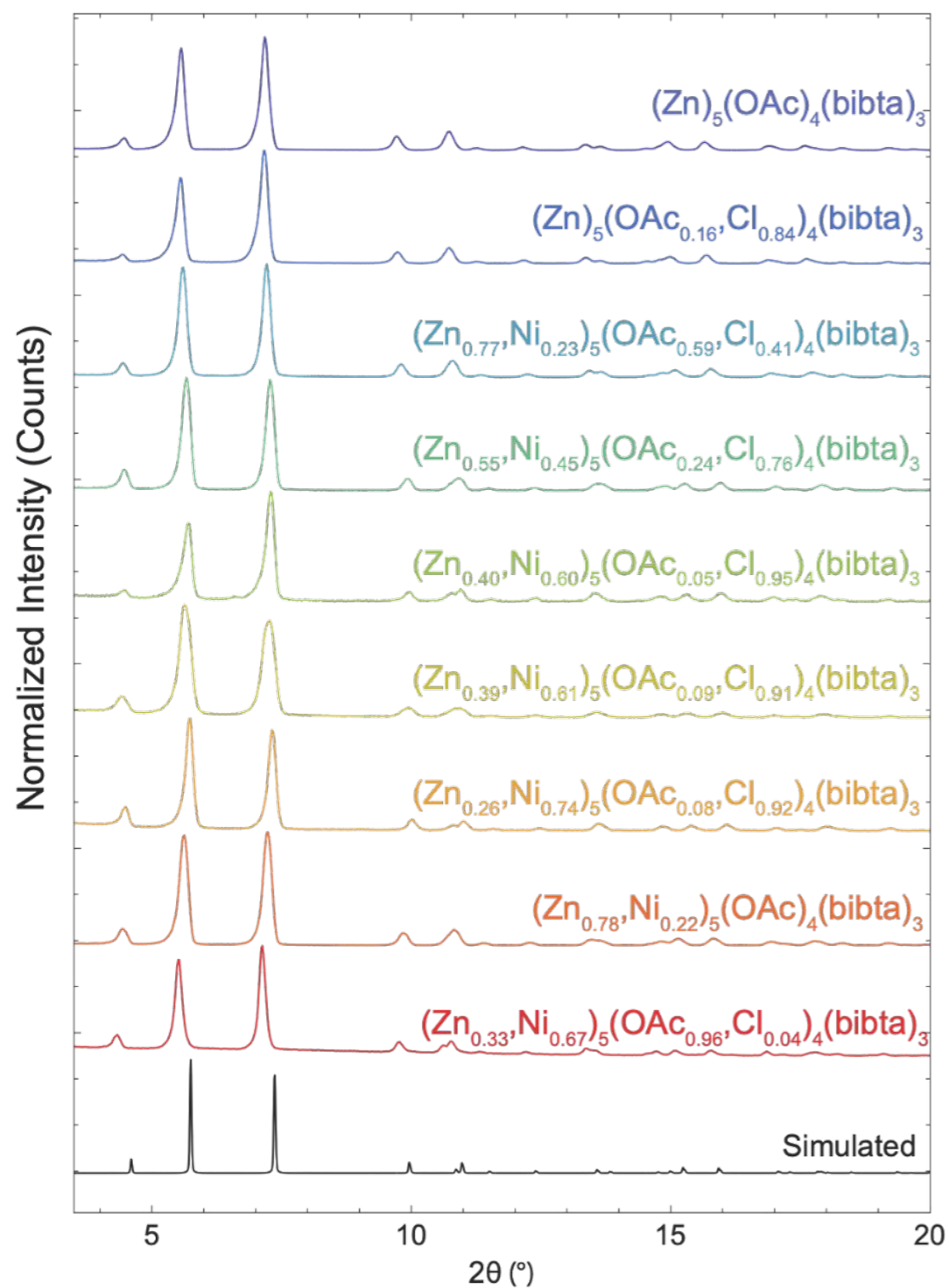
$c_M$  = moles of metal in the MOF  
 $m_M$  = moles of metal in the original solution



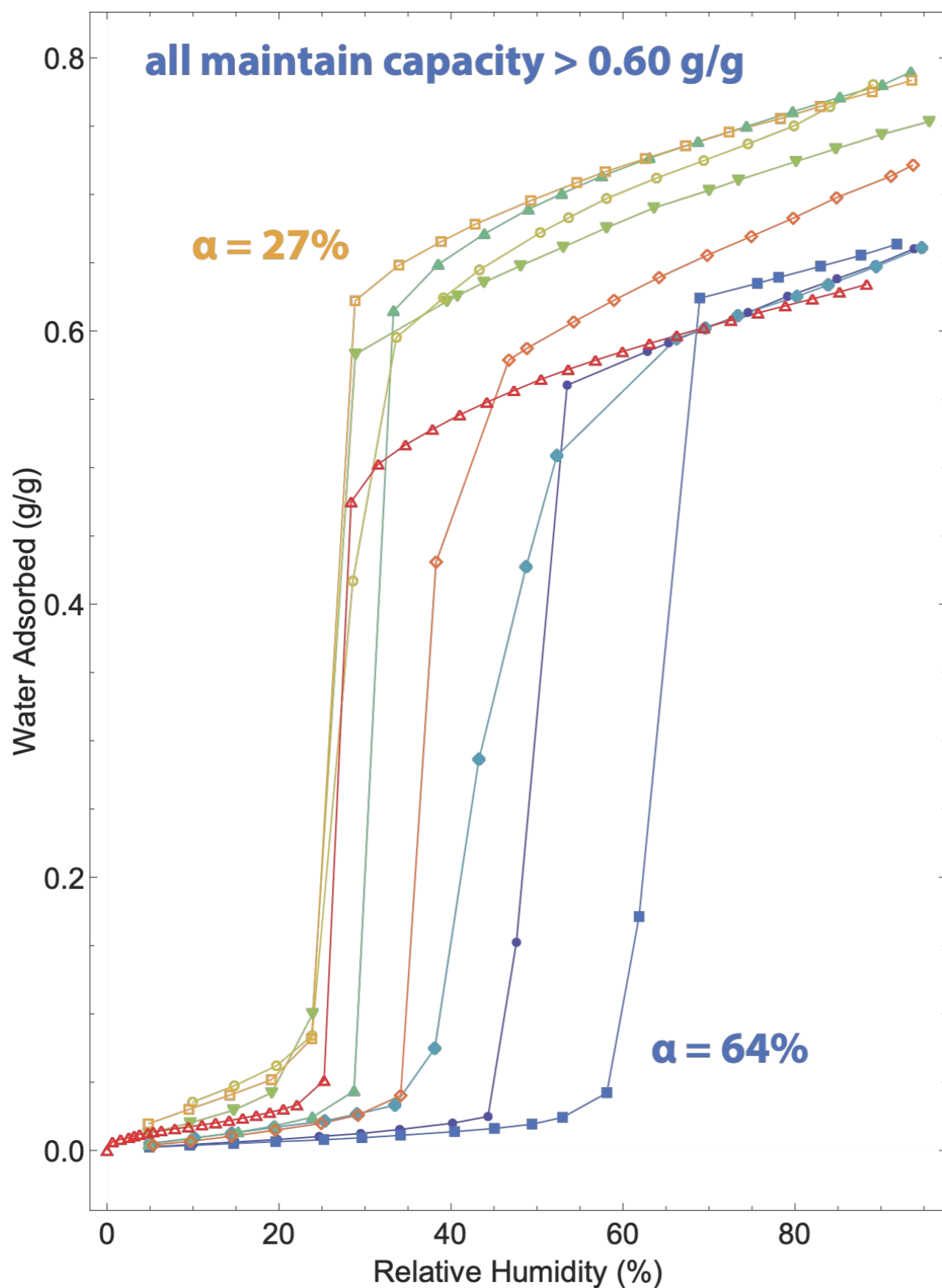
$\Delta H$  and  $\Delta S$  provide guidelines for synthetic design

# Post-synthetic exchanged material retains porosity and structure of parent

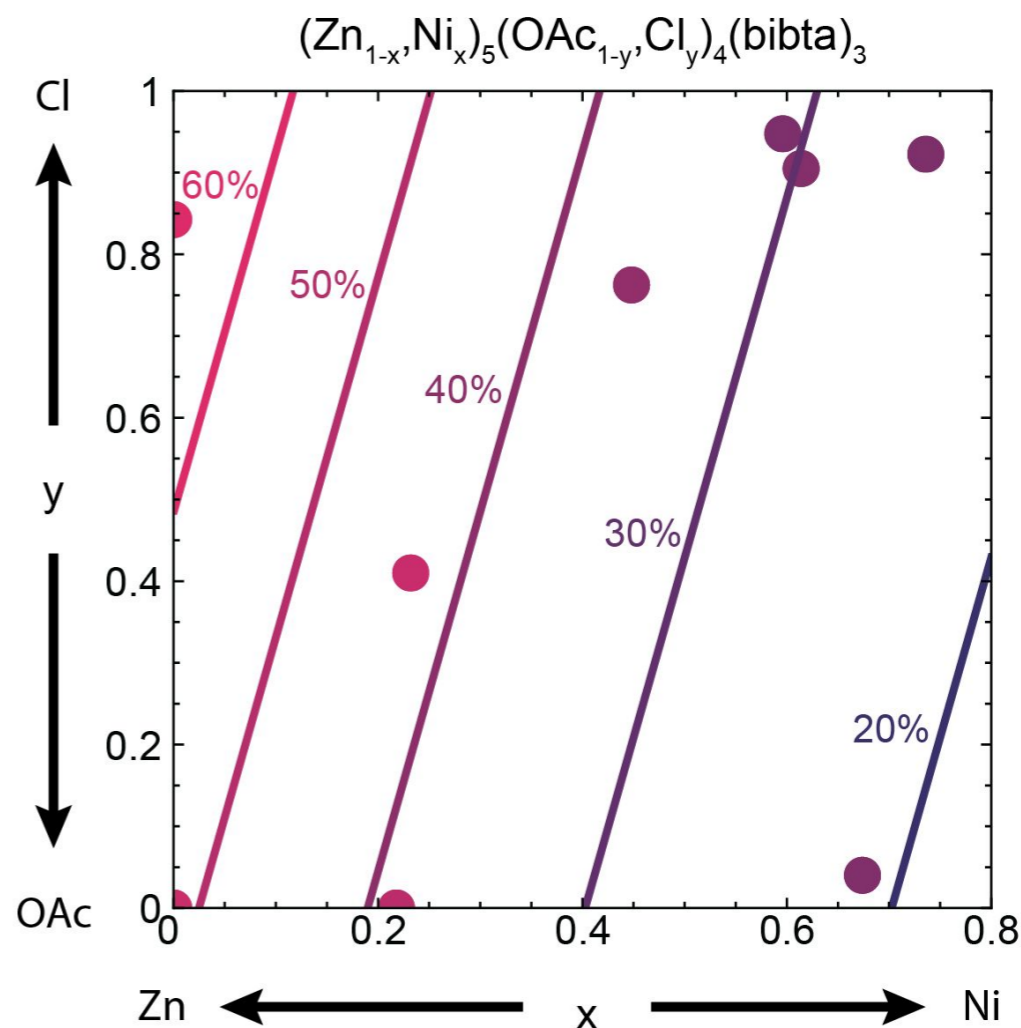
Experimentally, we manage to access to 0–74% Ni (all Td metal sites), 0–95% Cl



# Tunable water sorption



Critical pressure – composition obey the derived thermodynamic relationship



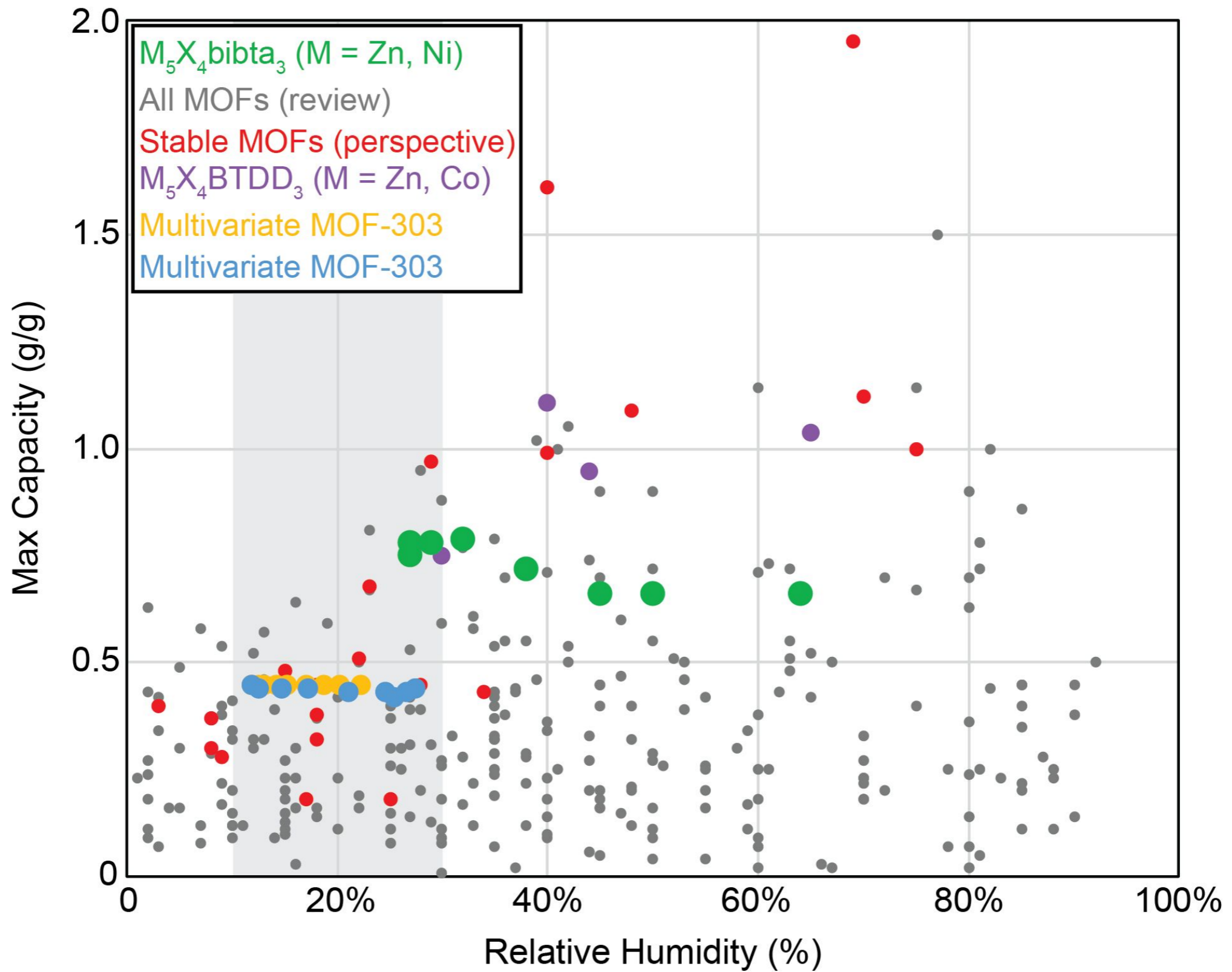
$$\ln \frac{P}{P_{sat}} = \frac{V}{ArkT} \Delta G_{in}$$

$$\Delta G_{Ni} < \Delta G_{Zn}$$

$$\Delta G_{OAc} < \Delta G_{Cl}$$

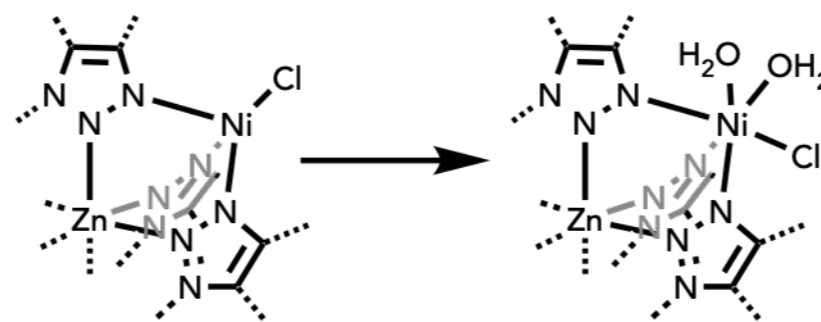
$$\Delta G_{int} = x\Delta G_{Ni} + (1-x)\Delta G_{Zn} + v\Delta G_{Cl} + (1-v)\Delta G_{OAc} + \Delta G_{back}$$

The capacity of  $(\text{Zn}_{1-x}\text{Ni}_x)_5(\text{OAc}_{1-y}\text{Cl}_y)_4(\text{bibta})_3$  is remarkably high

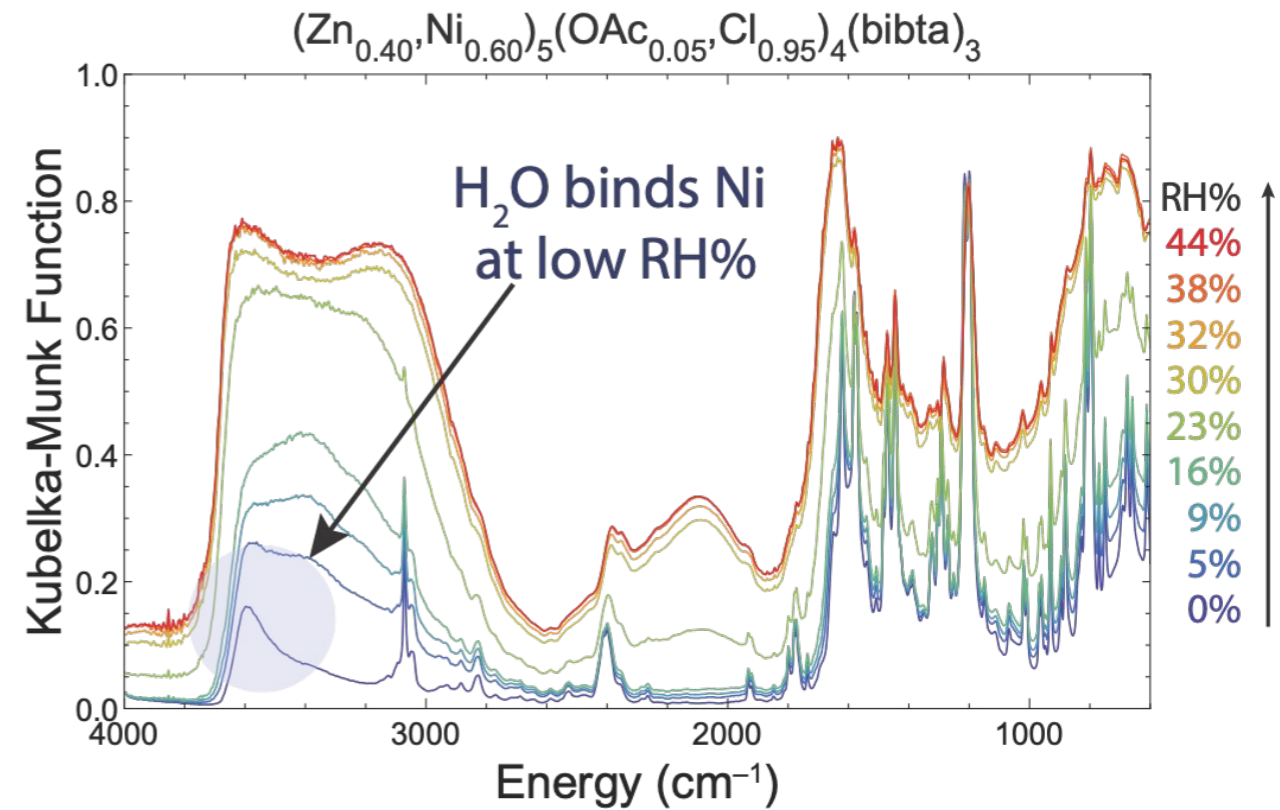
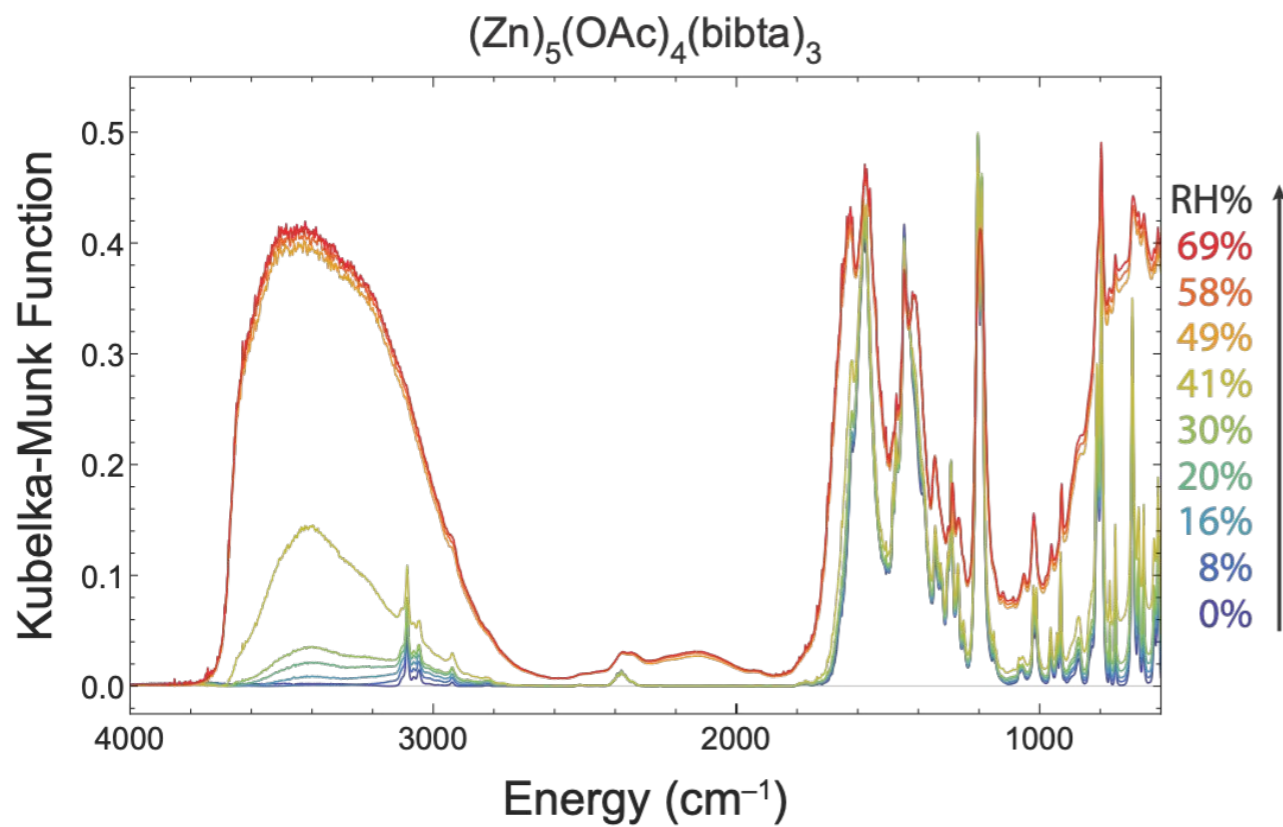
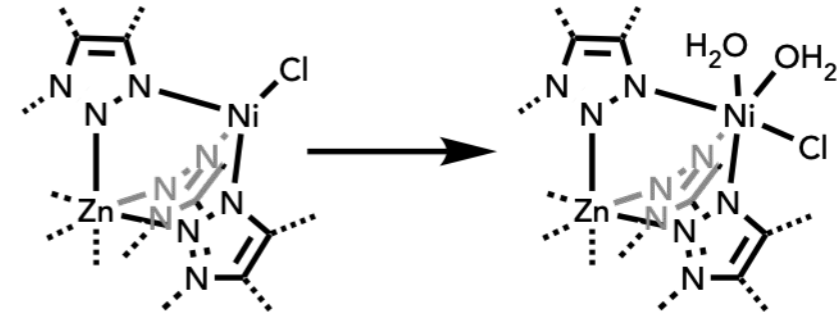
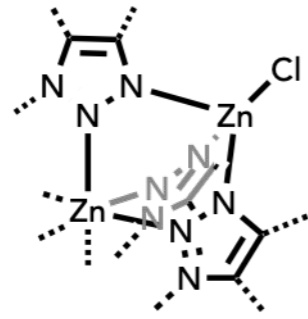




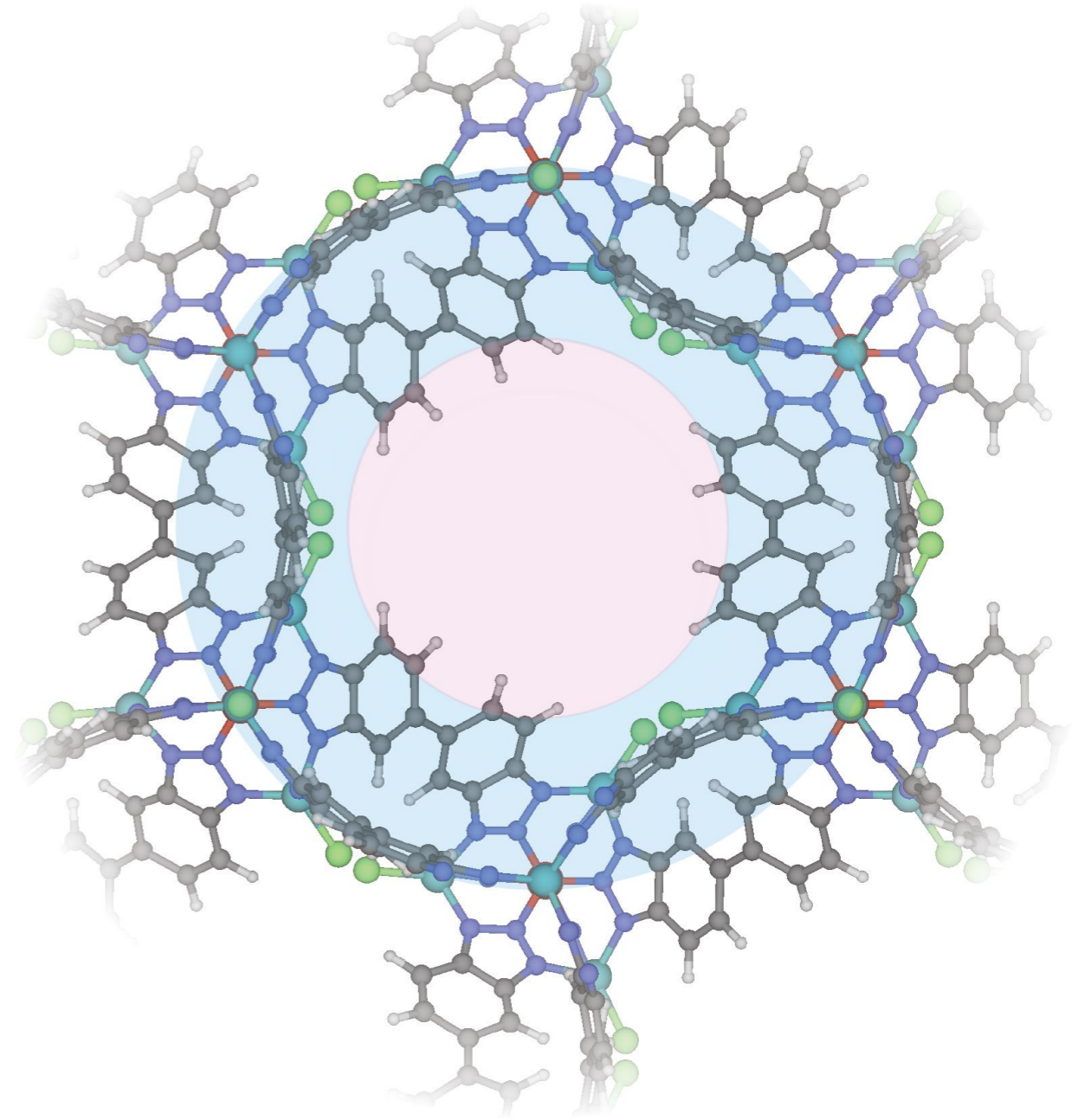
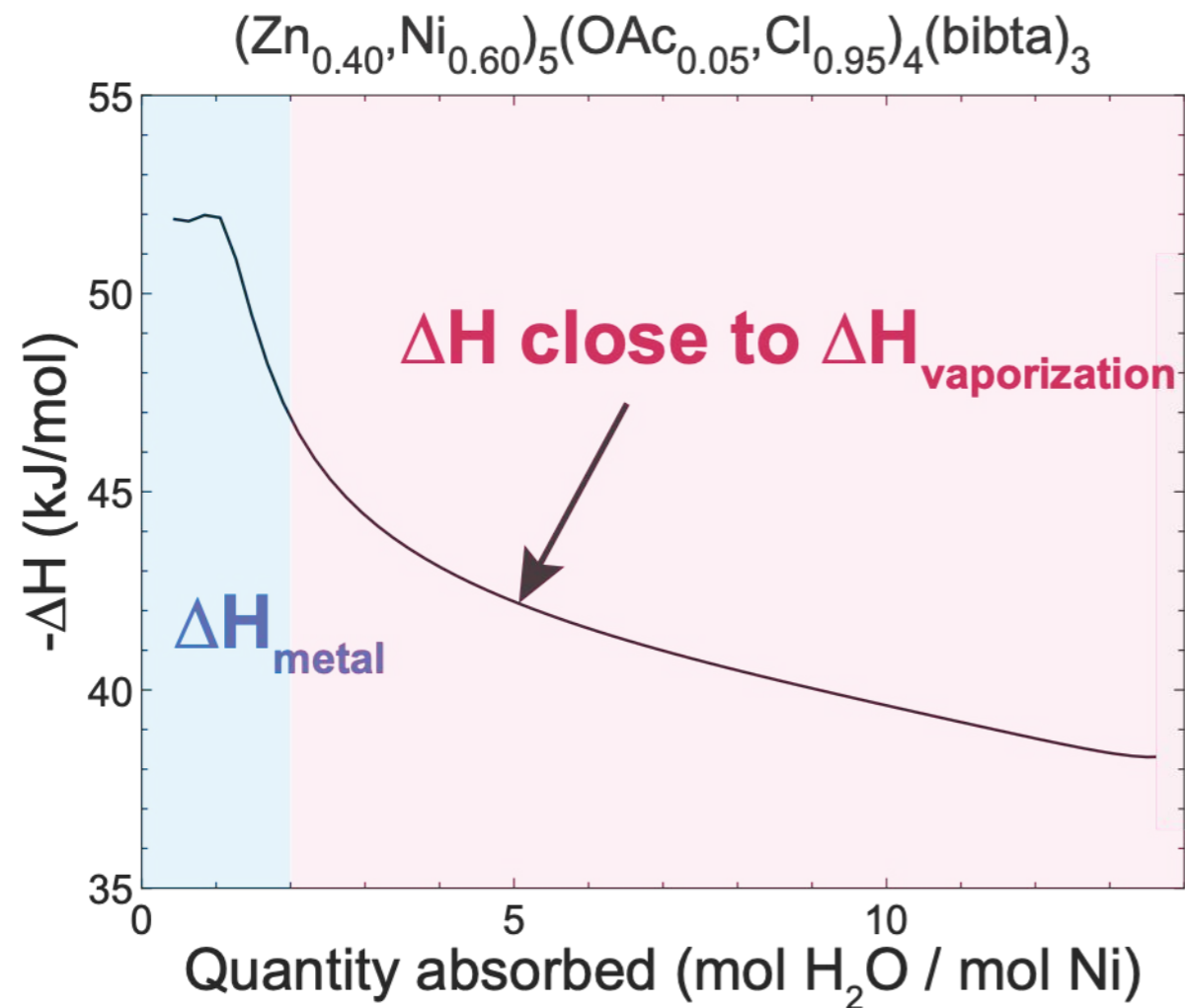
# Colorimetric change upon water sorption



# Coordination to water at low relative humidity seeds condensation



# Coordination to water at low relative humidity seeds condensation

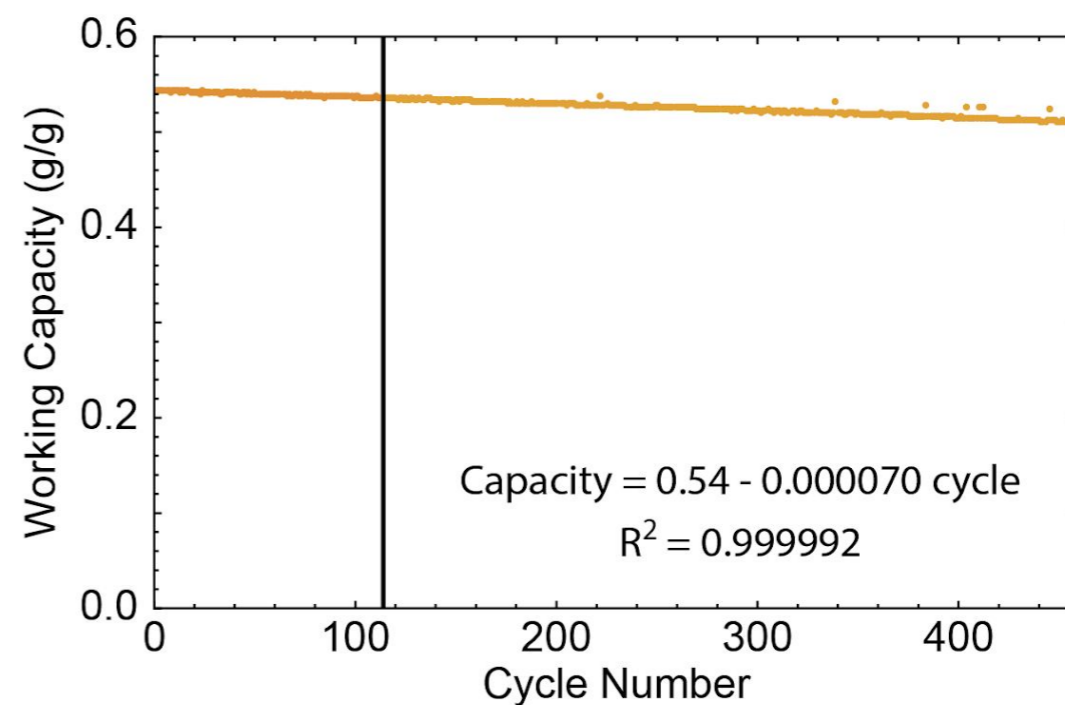
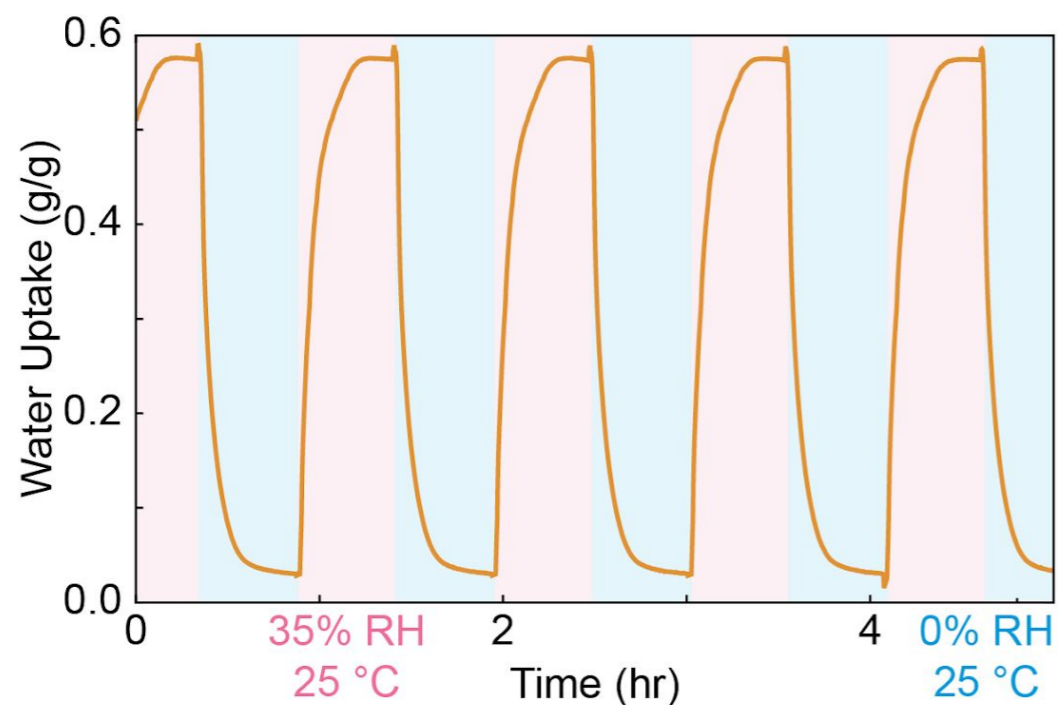
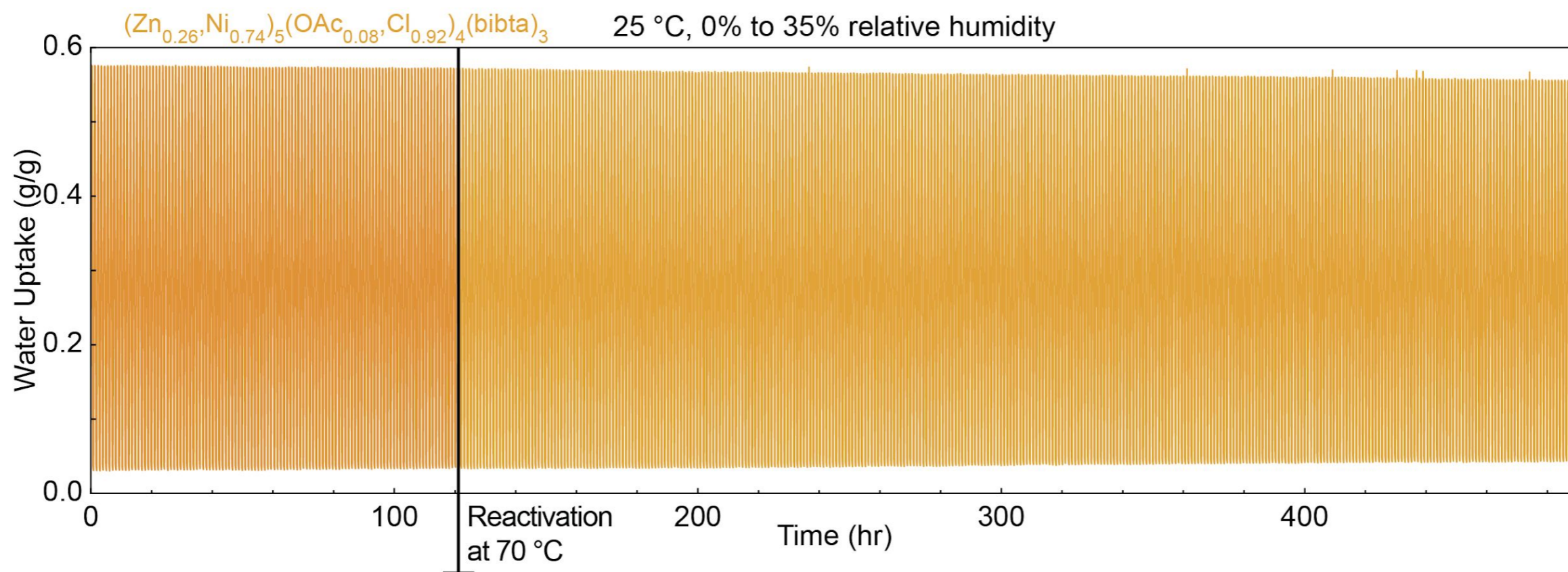


Monolayer adsorption,  
2 mol/mol  
52 kJ/mol

Bulk adsorption,  
> 2 mol/mol  
~40 kJ/mol

# Highly stable to cycling

minimal loss, 5.7% in working capacity after more than 450 cycles



# Summary

We introduced a promising class of new adsorbent

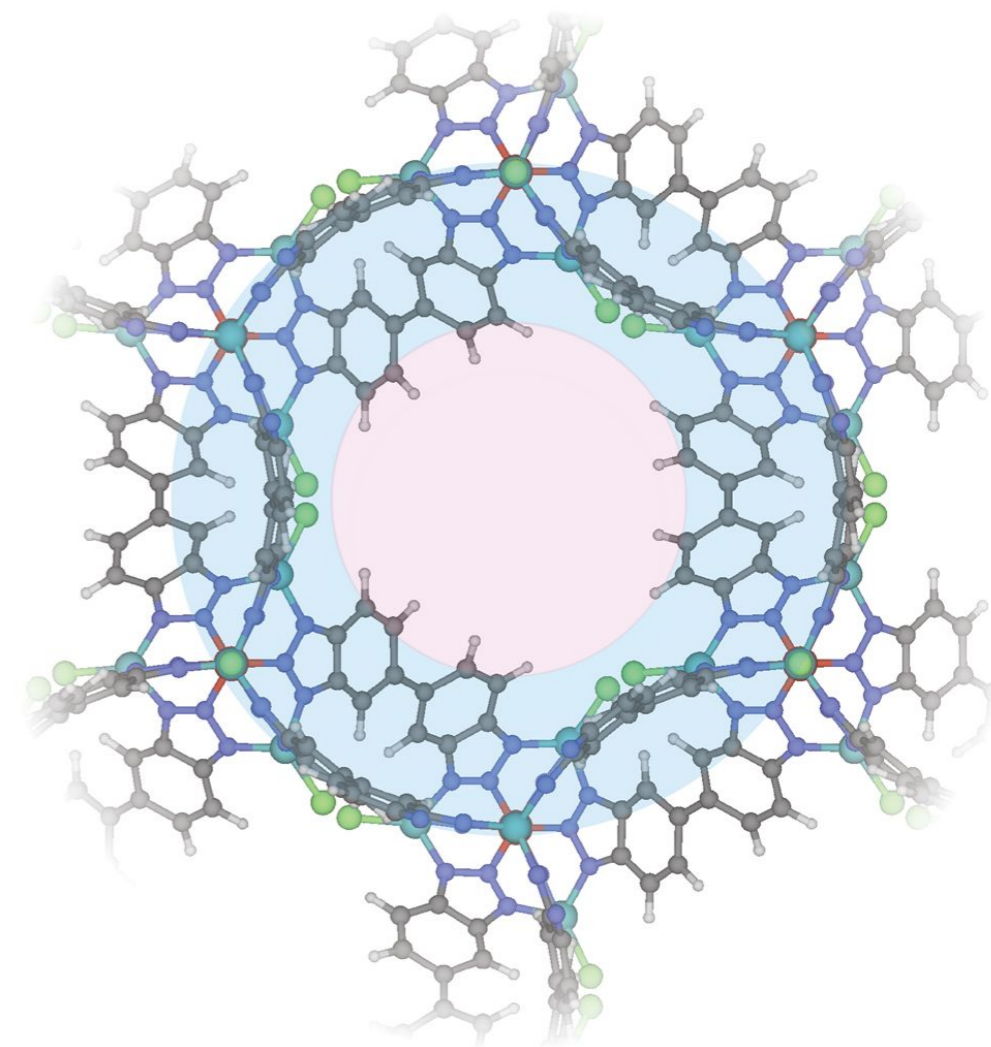
compositions characterized by their high-water capacity, particularly at low relative humidity levels (<30%)

► The hydrophilicity of  $M_5X_4(\text{bibta})_3$  can be controlled by post-synthetic metal/anion exchange

► Cycling stability increases by exchange from Zn to  $\Gamma$

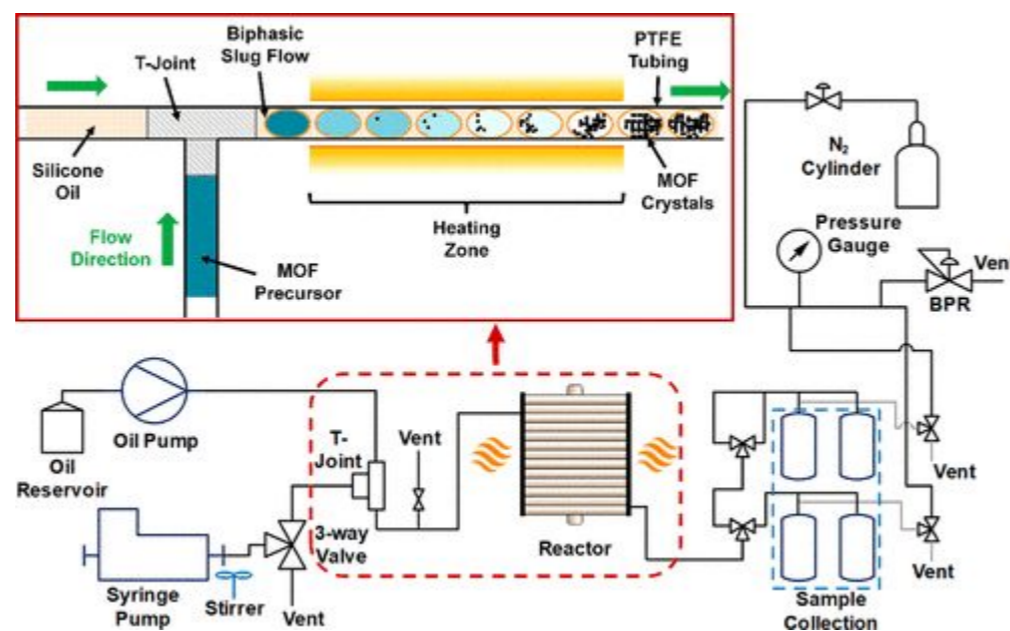
► The nickel exchanged frameworks are stable over

500 cycles with minimal loss in capacity



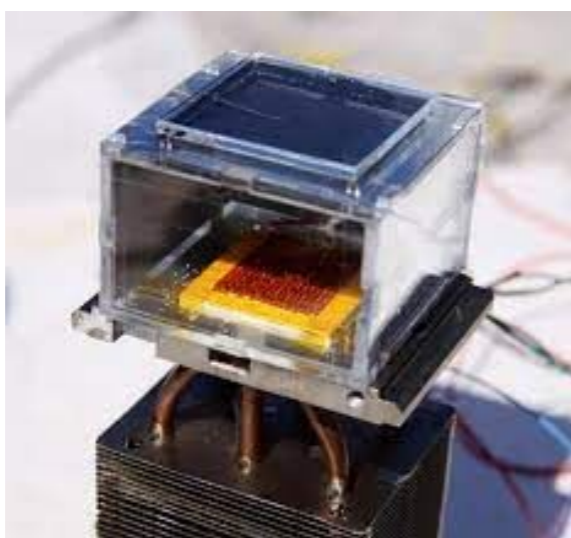
# What's next!!!

- ▶ Optimization of flow synthesis in progress: with Roman lab



- ▶ Altering relative humidity with other anions

- ▶ Device level study of materials: in collaboration Wang lab at MIT



## Tunable low–relative humidity and high–capacity water adsorption in a bibenzotriazole metal-organic framework

Dalal Alezi<sup>§†‡</sup>, Julius J. Oppenheim<sup>†‡</sup>, Patrick J. Sarver<sup>†‡</sup>, Andrei Iliescu<sup>†</sup>, Bhavish Dinakar<sup>a</sup>, Mircea Dincă<sup>†\*</sup>

<sup>§</sup>Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

<sup>†</sup>Department of Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, United States

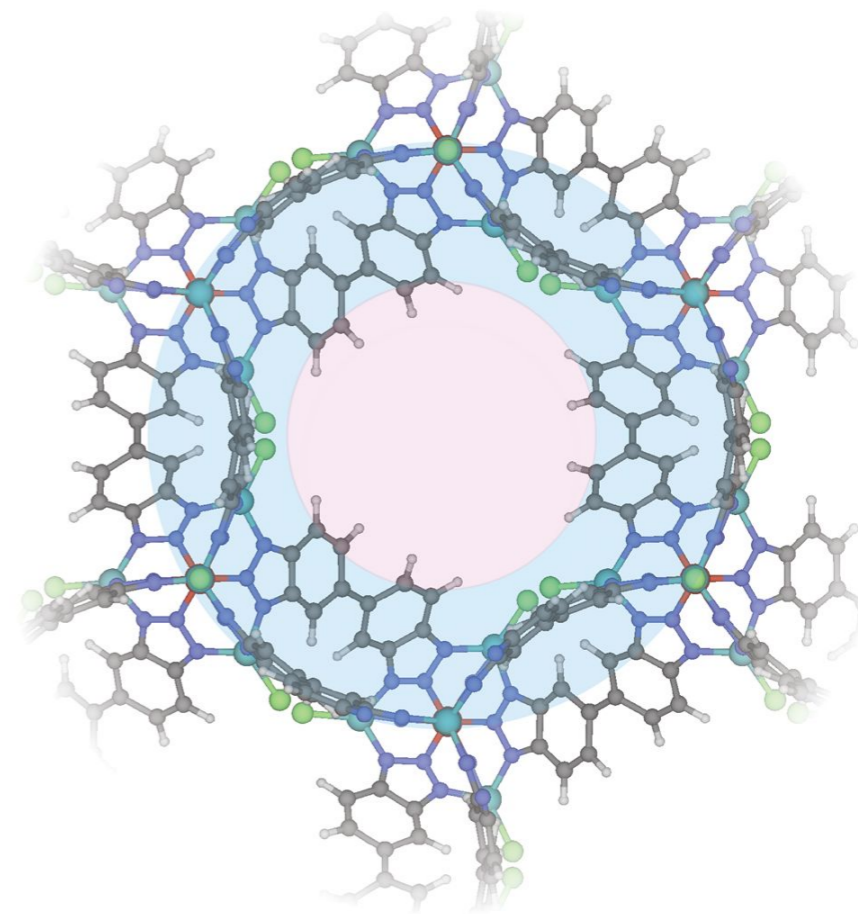
<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, United States

<sup>‡</sup>These authors have contributed equally

*KEYWORDS: Metal-organic framework, water sorption, post-synthetic exchange, atmospheric water harvesting*

**Submitted**

**Patent filed** " Sorbents for the Tunable Capture and Release of Water" Dalal Alezi, Julius J. Oppenheim, Patrick J. Sarver, Andrei Iliescu, Mircea Dincă. MIT-25178-PR



## Cooperative Interactions with Water Drive Hysteresis in a Hydrophilic Metal-Organic Framework

Julius Oppenheim<sup>‡</sup>, Ching Hwa Ho<sup>§</sup>, Dalal Alezi<sup>⊥</sup>, Justin Andrews<sup>‡</sup>, Tianyang Chen<sup>‡</sup>, Bhavish Dinkar<sup>a</sup>, Francesco Paesani<sup>§</sup>, Mircea Dincă<sup>‡</sup>

<sup>‡</sup>Department of Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, United States

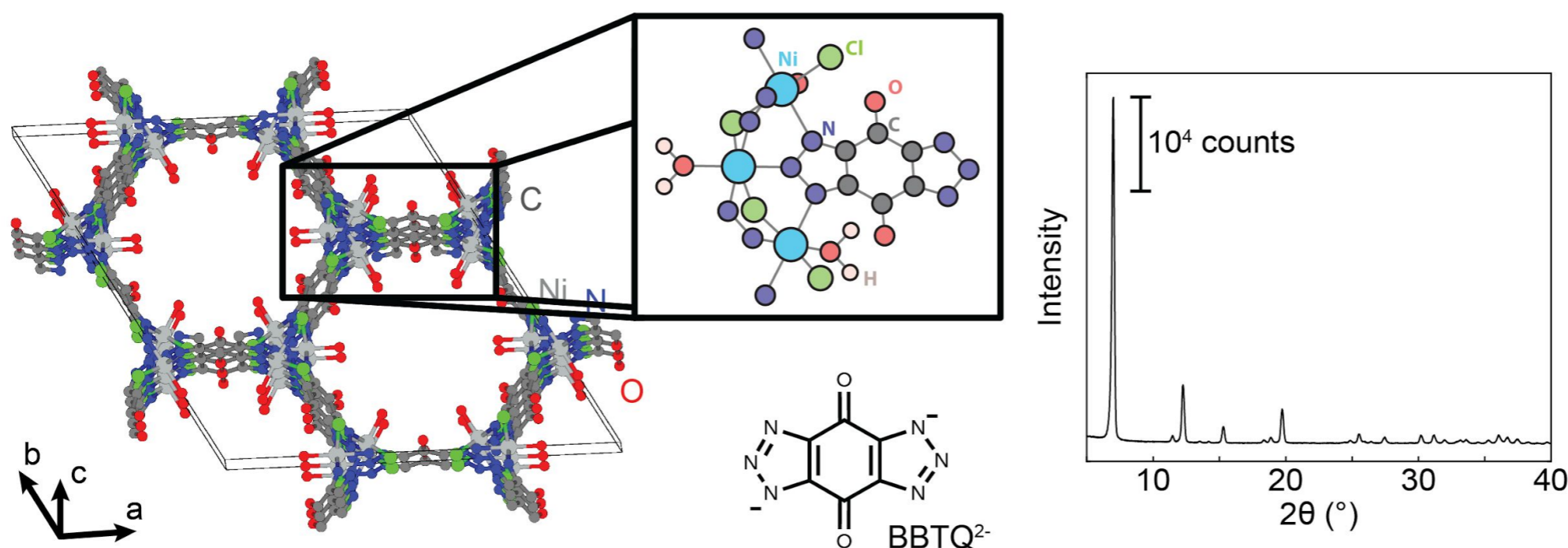
<sup>§</sup>Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California 92037, United States

<sup>a</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, United States

<sup>⊥</sup> Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

KEYWORDS. Metal-organic frameworks, sorption, water, hysteresis

Submitting soon





# Professional developments

## ▪ Teaching

**MIT's Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program, MIT**

## ▪ Professional development

- **Certified ChatGPT Expert, Blockchain Council**
- **McKinsey Forward program, McKinsey & company**
- **Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Business Strategy Program, MIT Sloan**
- **Cybersecurity Leadership for Non-Technical Executives, MIT Sloan**
- **Mindfulness and wellbeing: Search Inside Yourself, MIT**



Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program



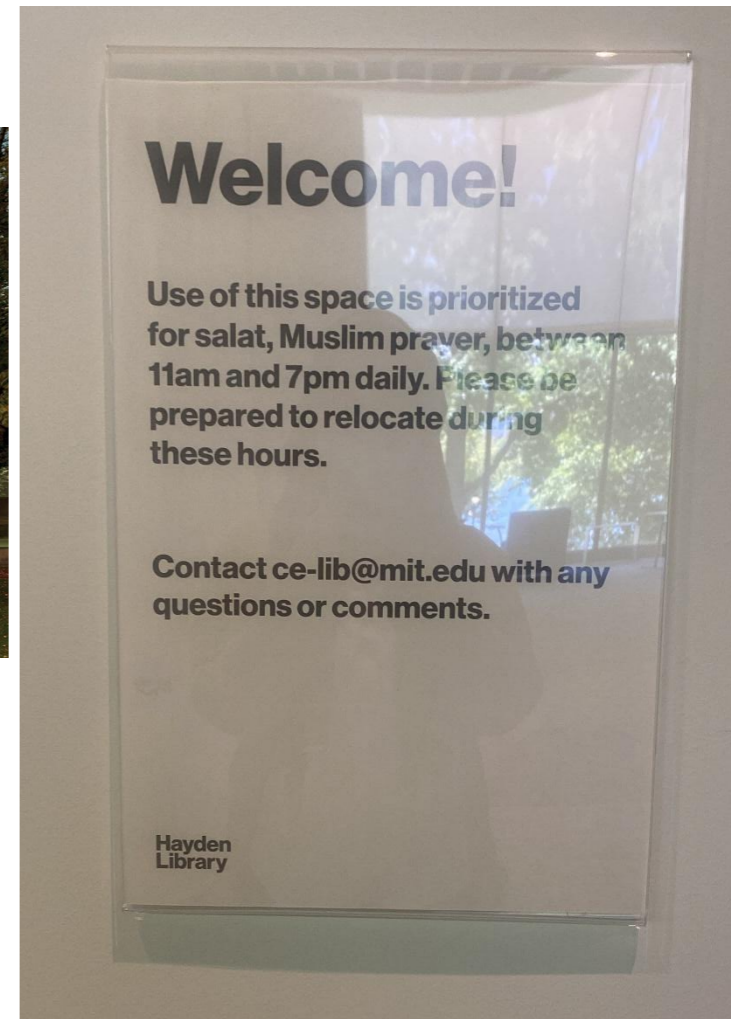


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A photograph of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) building, featuring a prominent portico with columns and a large dome in the background. The scene is framed by bare tree branches against a blue sky with light clouds. A text overlay is positioned on the left side of the image.

Thanks for  
**Listening!**  
Question?