

# MefHySto

Metrology for Advanced  
Hydrogen Storage Solutions

## Final Meeting

WP4 : Metrology for Reversible Hydrogen Storage Technologies



Maximiliano Melnichuk  
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The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States

## Metrology of hydrides:

- Objective: determine thermodynamics and kinetics

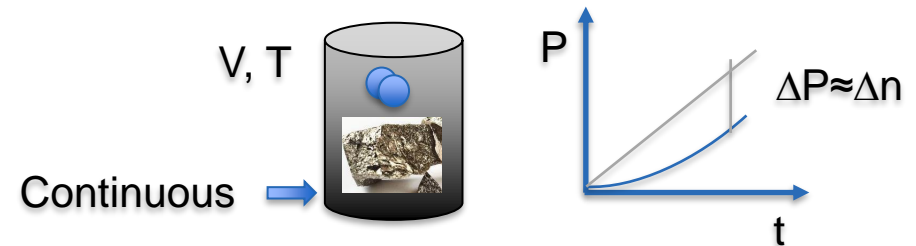
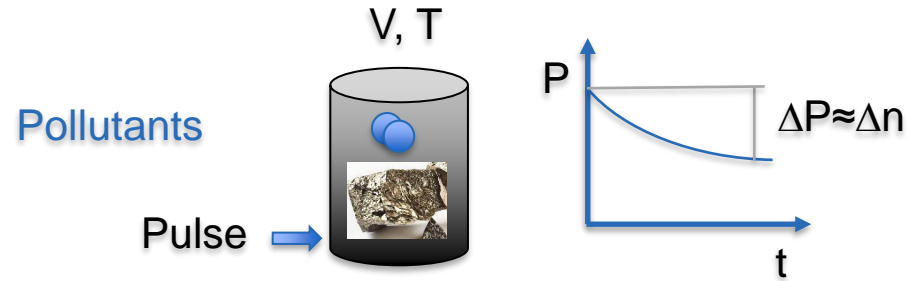
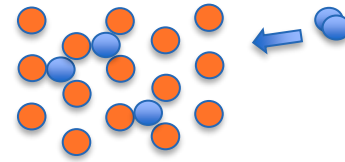
### Static methods:

- Gravimetric method: mass hydrogen/mass hydride
- Volumetric method (Sieverts): hydrogen pressure evolution because of absorption

### Dynamic method:

- Mass flow vs. time

} Thermal conductivity



## Pollutants:

- Hydrides are sensible to pollutants
- Reference standard: ISO 14687 (ISO 16111)
- Selected pollutants: N<sub>2</sub>, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O

Pollutants	Proportion of pollutant in H <sub>2</sub>		
	1x	5x	10x
N <sub>2</sub>	100μmol/mol 0,01% <b>100ppm</b>	500μmol/mol 0,05% 500ppm	1000μmol/mol 0,1% 1000ppm
CO	0,2μmol/mol 0,00002% <b>0,2ppm</b>	1μmol/mol 0,0001% 1ppm	
CO <sub>2</sub>	2μmol/mol 0,0002% <b>2ppm</b>	10μmol/mol 0,001% 10ppm	
O <sub>2</sub>	5μmol/mol 0,0005% <b>5ppm</b>	25μmol/mol 0,0025% 25ppm	
H <sub>2</sub> O	5μmol/mol 0,0005% <b>5ppm</b>	25μmol/mol 0,0025% 25ppm	

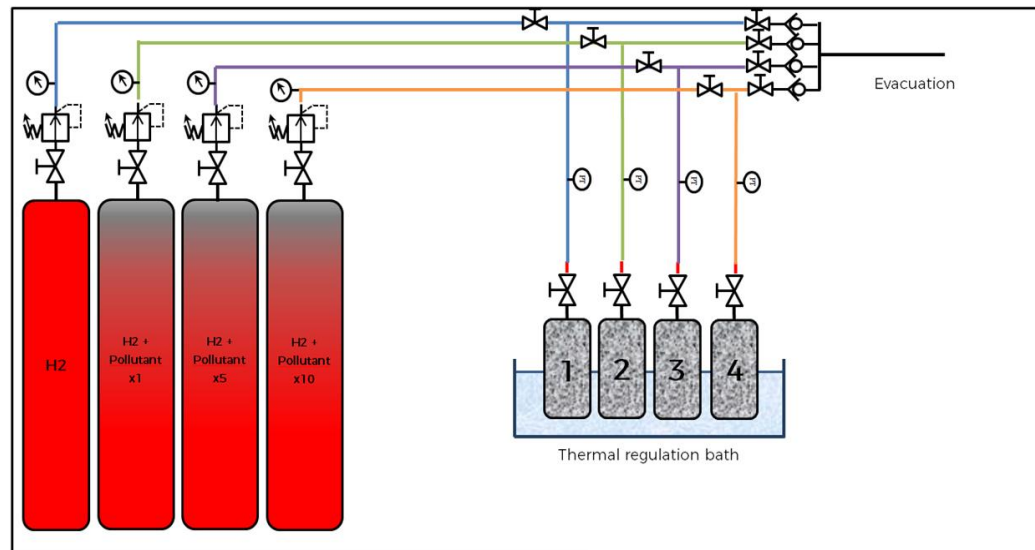
## Pollutants - methodology:

### Set-up:

- All measurement was made on the same ingot
- Maximum 50 cycles (1 month)
- Temperature regulated at 22°C

### Sampling:

- Gravimetric measurement each cycle
- PCT control curves (Sieverts) every 5 cycles



## Pollutants - methodology:



Test tank for 100 g of hydride

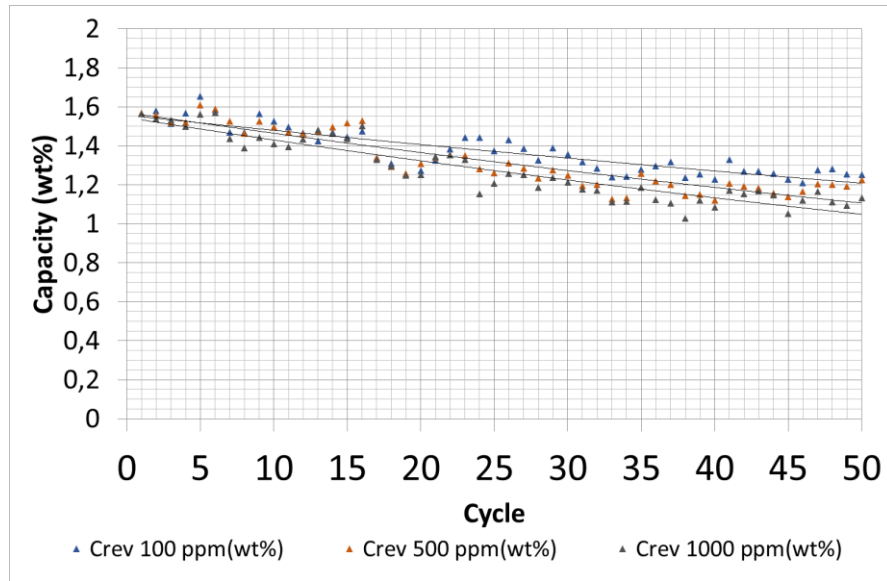


Test bench

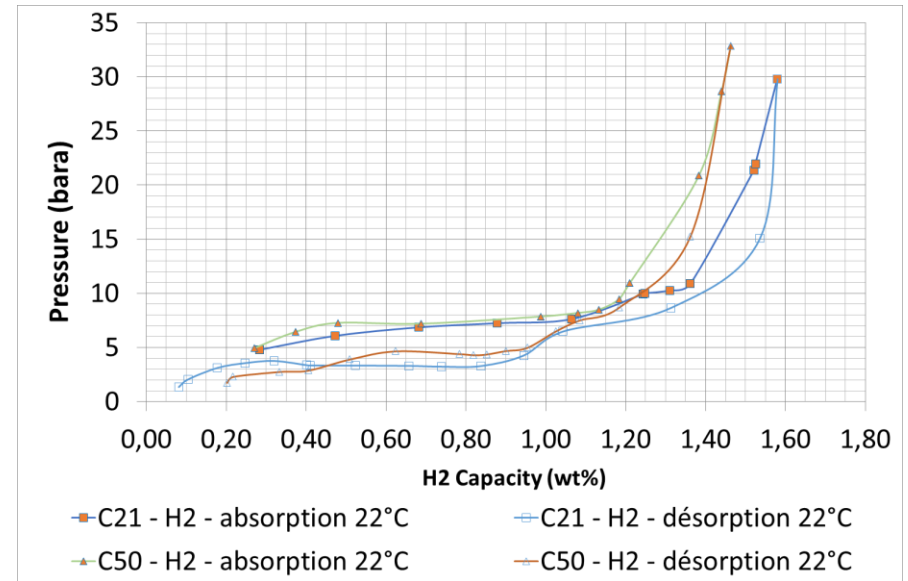


Bottles of mixture with hydrogen and pollutants

## Pollutants – results nitrogen case:



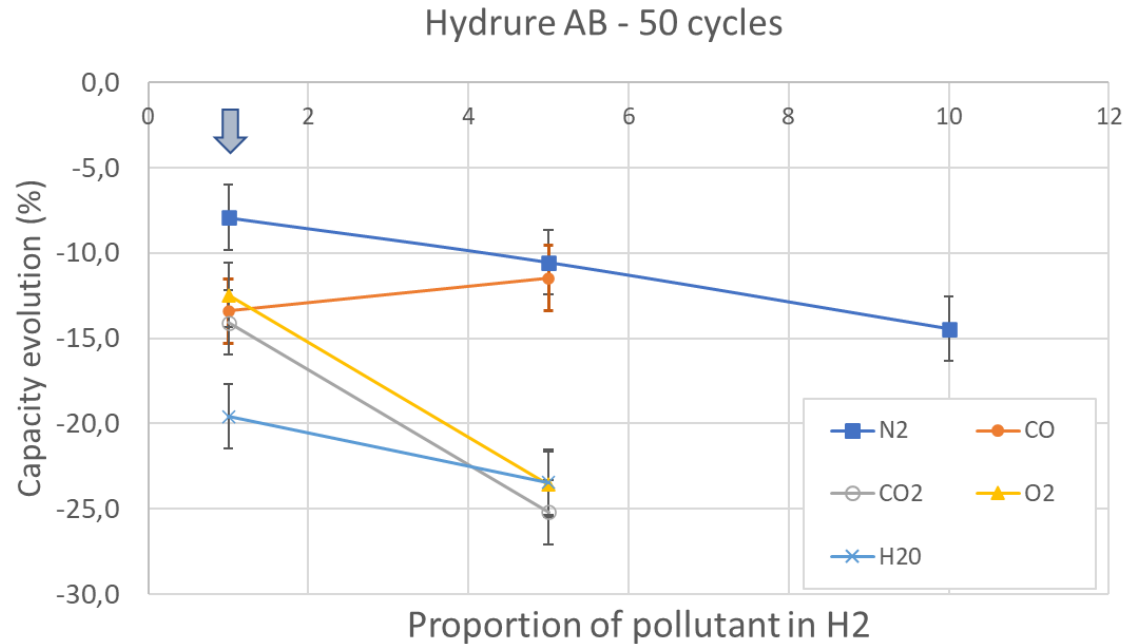
Reversible capacity under H<sub>2</sub> + N<sub>2</sub> on 50 cycles



PCT curves at 22°C – cycles 20 and 50 – N<sub>2</sub>

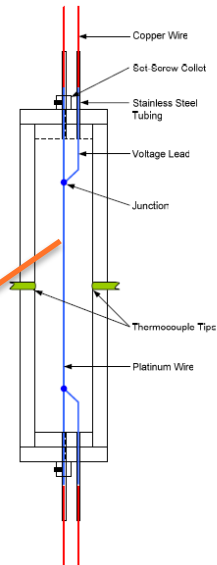
## Pollutants – summary of results:

Pollutants and proportions		Cycle 1 to 5	Cycle 46 to 50
Crev average (wt%)	H <sub>2</sub> 4.5	1,548	1,355
	N <sub>2</sub> : 100 ppm	1,576	1,255
	N <sub>2</sub> : 500 ppm	1,556	1,198
	N <sub>2</sub> : 1000 ppm	1,539	1,125
	CO: 0,2 ppm	1,492	1,106
	CO: 1 ppm	1,431	1,097
	CO <sub>2</sub> : 2 ppm	1,507	1,107
	CO <sub>2</sub> : 10 ppm	1,486	0,926
	O <sub>2</sub> : 5 ppm	1,371	1,029
	O <sub>2</sub> : 25 ppm	1,341	0,858
	H <sub>2</sub> O: 5 ppm	1,441	0,980
	H <sub>2</sub> O: 25 ppm	1,406	0,901



## Thermal conductivity:

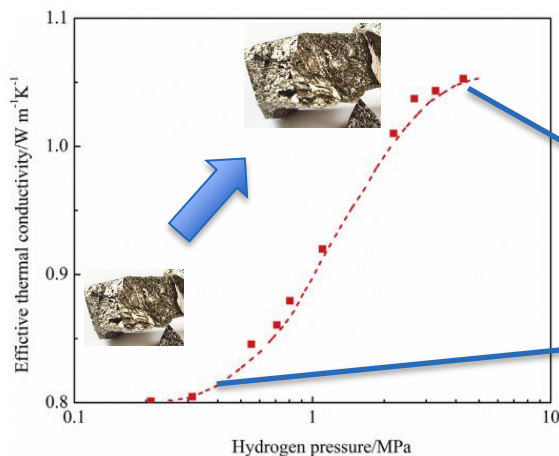
- Importance: container reaction time  $\approx$  effective thermal conductivity
- Methods to measure effective thermal conductivity of powders





## Thermal conductivity:

- Particularity of the hydride case
  - Conductivity of single particle vs conductivity of bulk (Suissa 1984)
  - Swelling  $\rightarrow$  effective thermal conductivity affected



Typical values: 0.1 – 1  $\text{W}/(\text{m.K})$

Absorbed: larger particles  
 $\rightarrow$  lower porosity  $\rightarrow$  higher  $\kappa_{\text{eff}}$

Desorbed: smaller particles  
 $\rightarrow$  higher porosity  $\rightarrow$  lower  $\kappa_{\text{eff}}$

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# HYDROGEN STORAGE IN METAL-ORGANIC FRAMEWORKS (MOFs)

Michael Hirscher

*MPI Intelligent Systems, Stuttgart, Germany*  
*WPI-AIMR, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan*

**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE**  
FOR INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS





## CURRENT TECHNOLOGY: HIGH PRESSURE STORAGE

### Toyota 2018 Mirai

70 MPa

5 kg H<sub>2</sub>

122.4 L

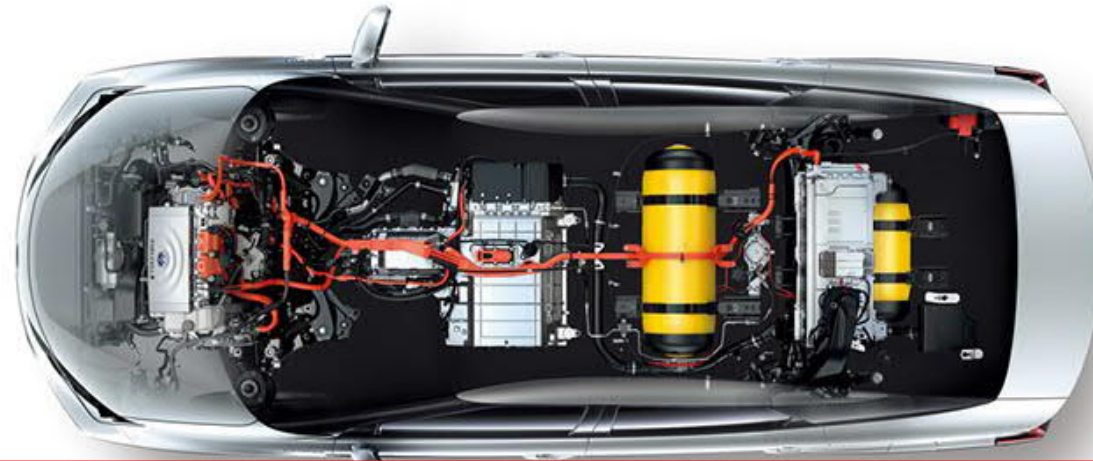
41 gH<sub>2</sub>/L

87.5 kg

5.7 wt%

500 km range

< 5 min refuelling

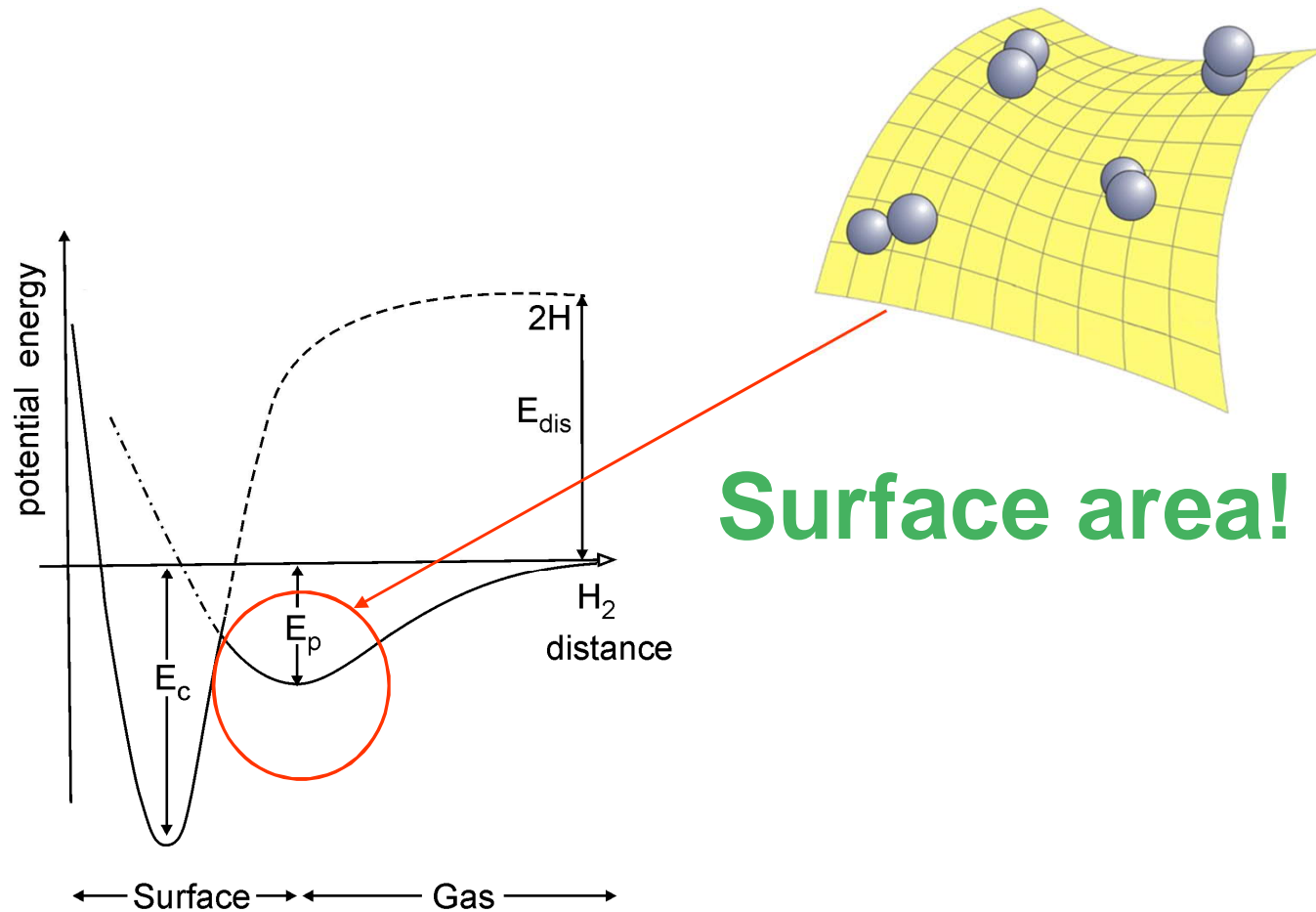


**Storage: 70 MPa, 5.7 wt% and 41 g/L**





# HYDROGEN STORAGE BY PHYSISORPTION



## Physisorption

- molecules
- van der Waals forces
- 1 – 10 kJ/mol

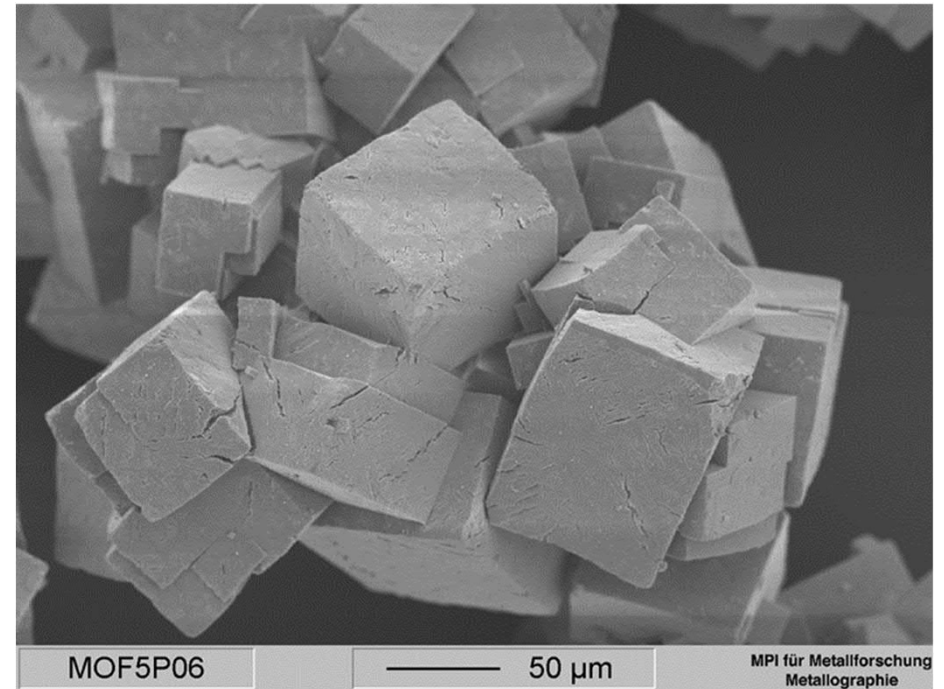
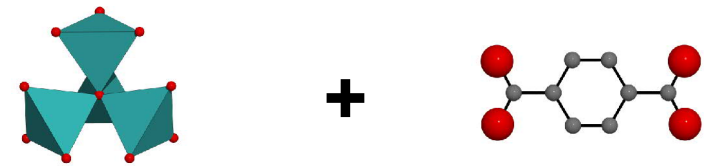
## Advantages:

- reversible
- fast kinetics
- **but**, low temp.



# METAL-ORGANIC FRAMEWORKS (MOFs)

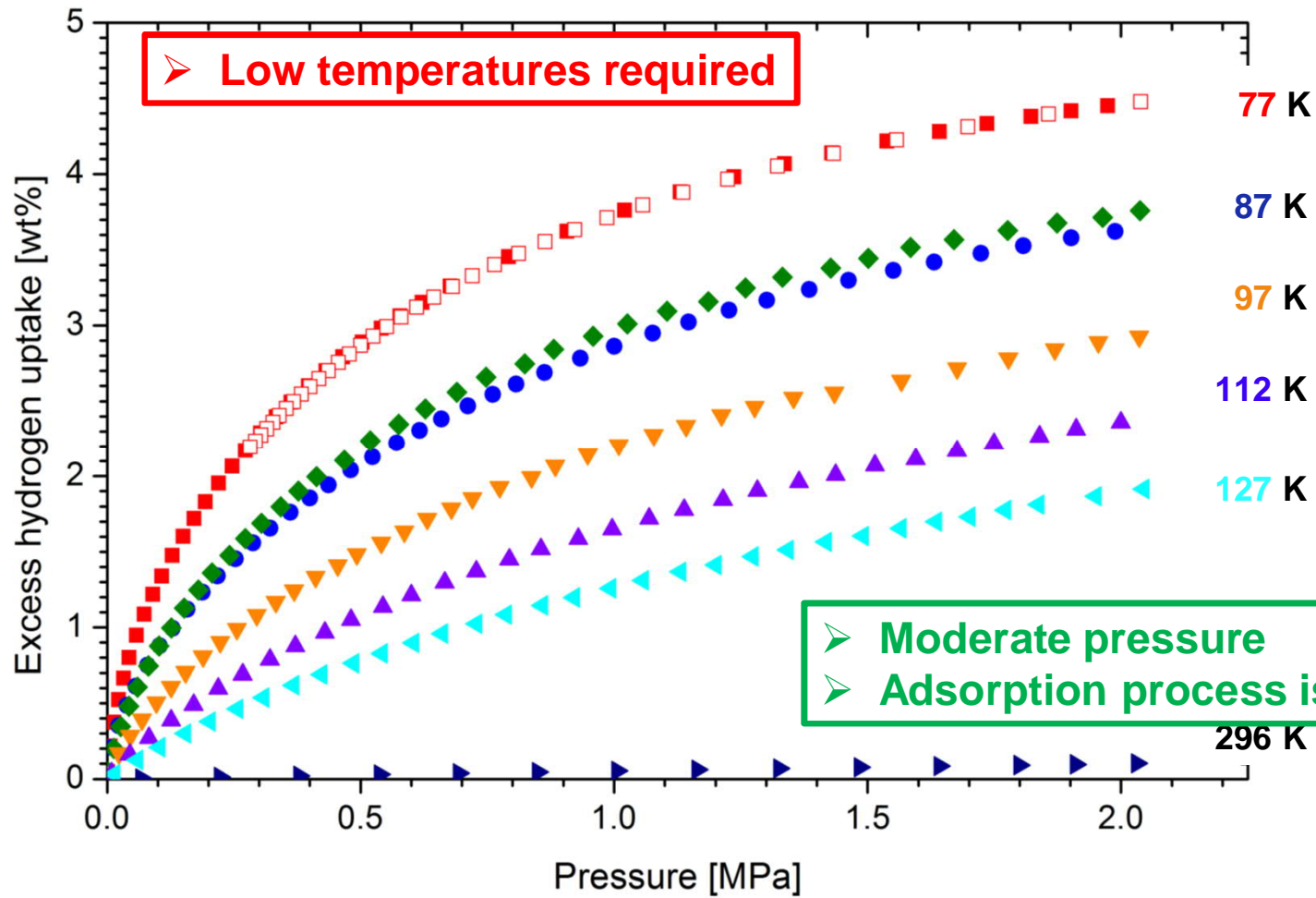
## MOF-5



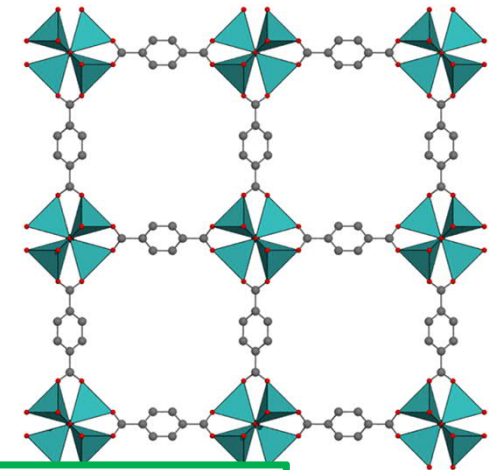
M. Eddaoudi, J. Kim, N. Rosi, D. Vodak, J. Wachter, M. O'Keeffe & O.M. Yaghi, *Science* **295** (2002) 46



# HYDROGEN ADSORPTION ISOTHERMS IN MOF-5



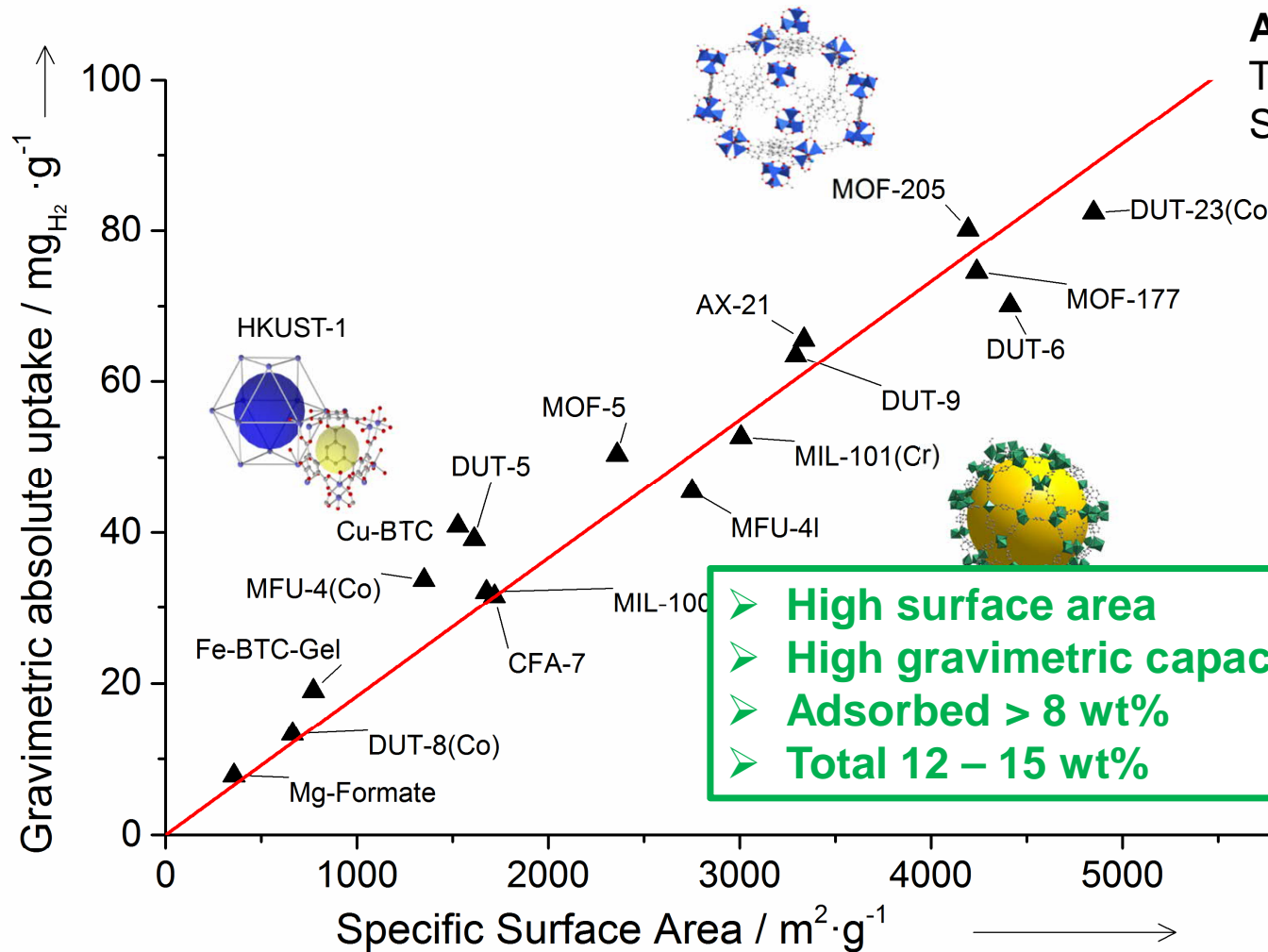
Metal-organic framework  
MOF-5



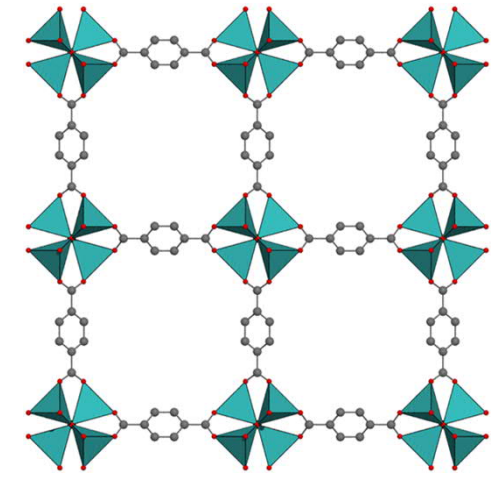


# GRAVIMETRIC CAPACITY AT 77 K AND CHAHINE'S RULE

Activated carbons R. Chahine,  
T.K. Bose, Proc. 11th WHEC  
Stuttgart, Dechema, Germany 1996



- High surface area
- High gravimetric capacity
- Adsorbed > 8 wt%
- Total 12 – 15 wt%



Metal-organic framework  
MOF-5

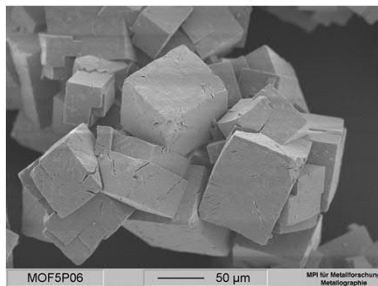
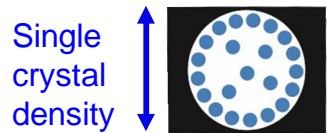
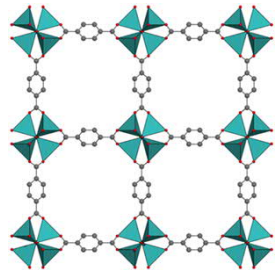
R. Balderas-Xicohtencatl, M.  
Schlichtenmayer, M. Hirscher,  
*Energy Technol.* **6** (2018) 578



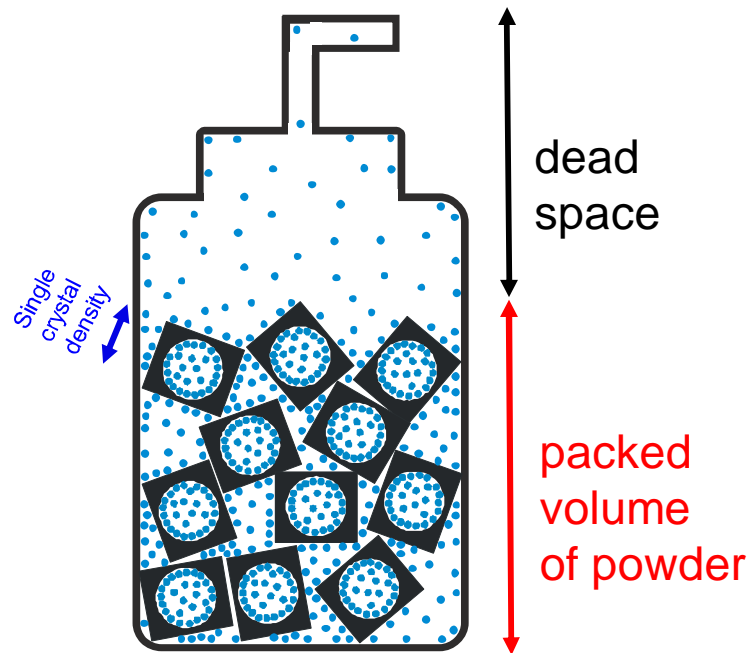


# FROM GRAVIMETRIC TO VOLUMETRIC CAPACITY DENSITY IS NEEDED

Single crystal density  
(X-ray diffraction XRD)

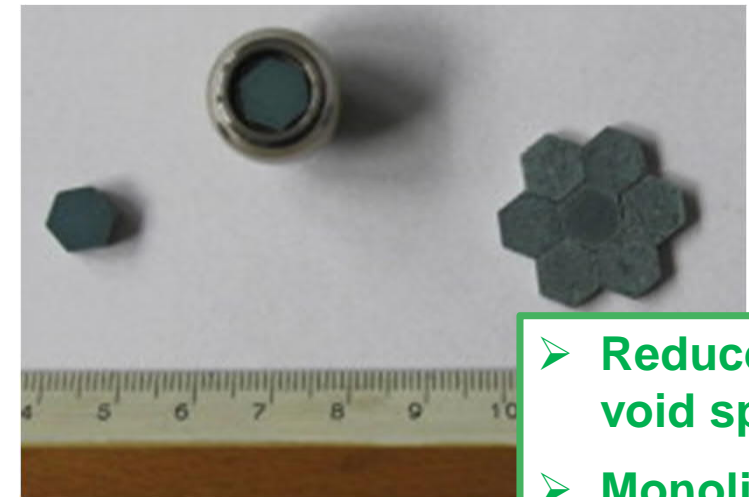


Packing density



Maurice Schlichtenmayer, Dr.rer.nat.  
thesis Universität Stuttgart, 2012

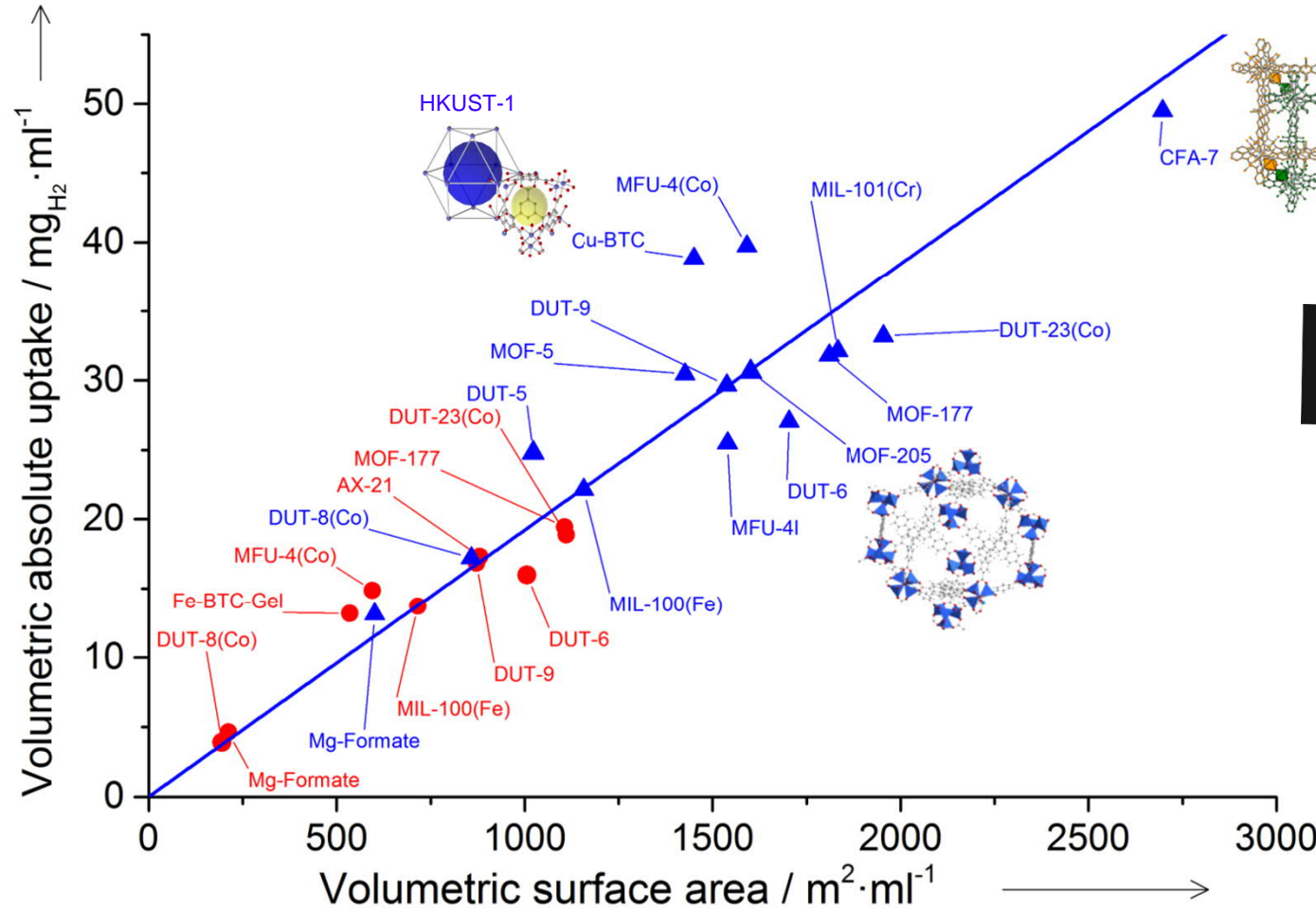
	Single crystal density	Packing density
MOF-177	0.427 g/ml	0.26 g/ml



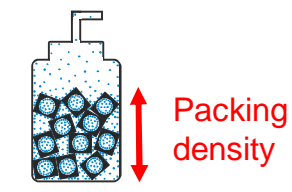
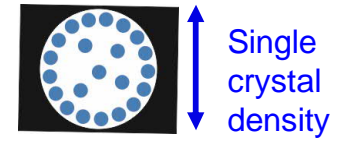
Hydrogen cryo-adsorption by hexagonal prism monoliths of MIL-101 G. Blanita, I. Coldea, I. Misan, D. Lupu, *Int. J. Hydr. Energy* **30** (2014) 17040



# VOL. H<sub>2</sub> UPTAKE AT 77 K / VOL. SURFACE AREA



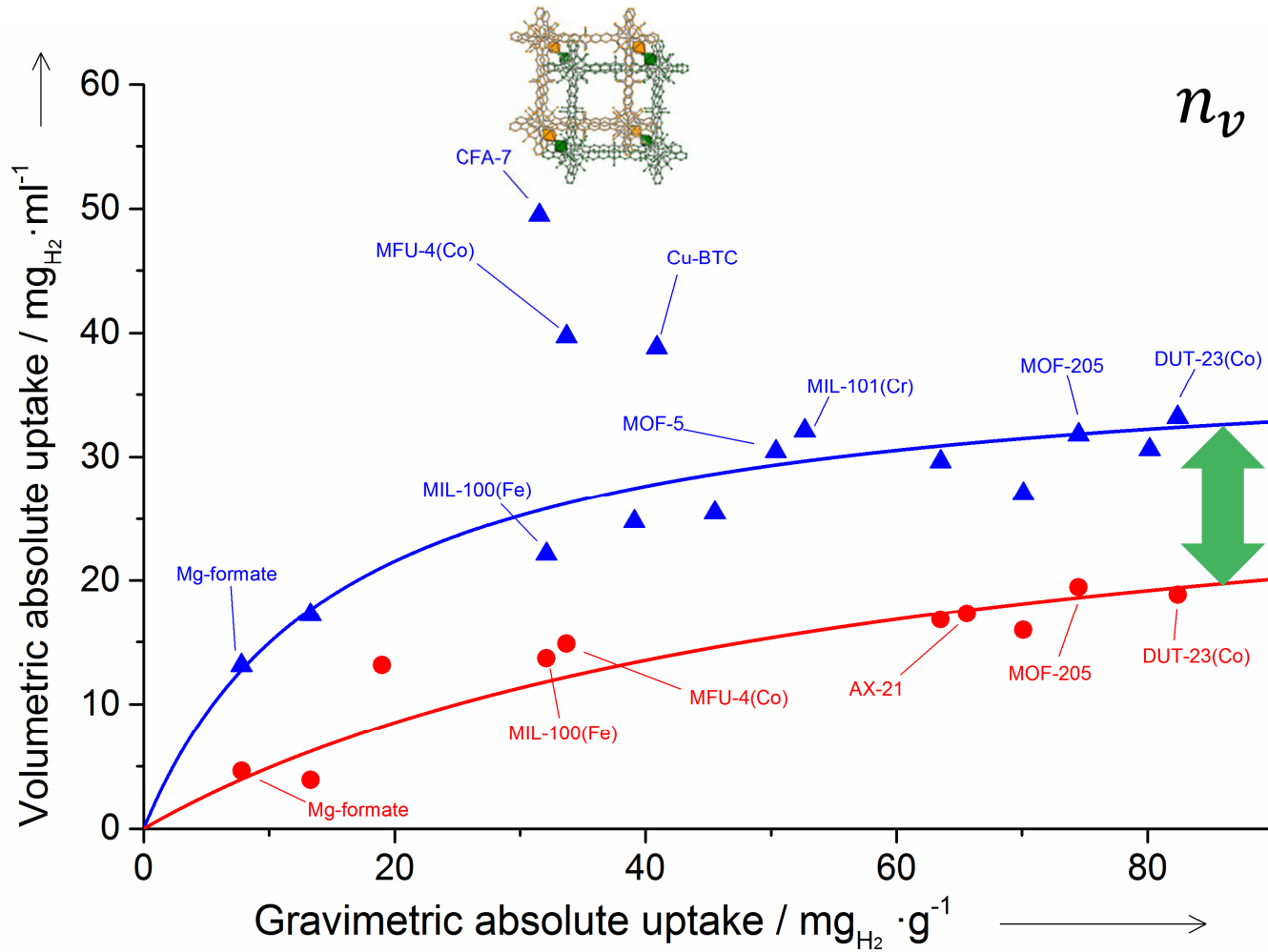
R. Balderas-Xicohtencatl, P. Schmieder, D. Denysenko, D. Volkmer, M. Hirscher, *Energy Technol.* **6** (2018) 510



R. Balderas-Xicohtencatl, M. Schlichtenmayer, M. Hirscher, *Energy Technol.* **6** (2018) 578



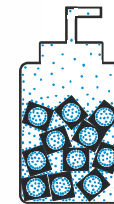
# VOLUMETRIC vs GRAVIMETRIC H<sub>2</sub> UPTAKE AT 77 K



$$n_v = \frac{n_g}{\frac{\alpha}{K} \cdot n_g + V_0}$$



approx. factor 2



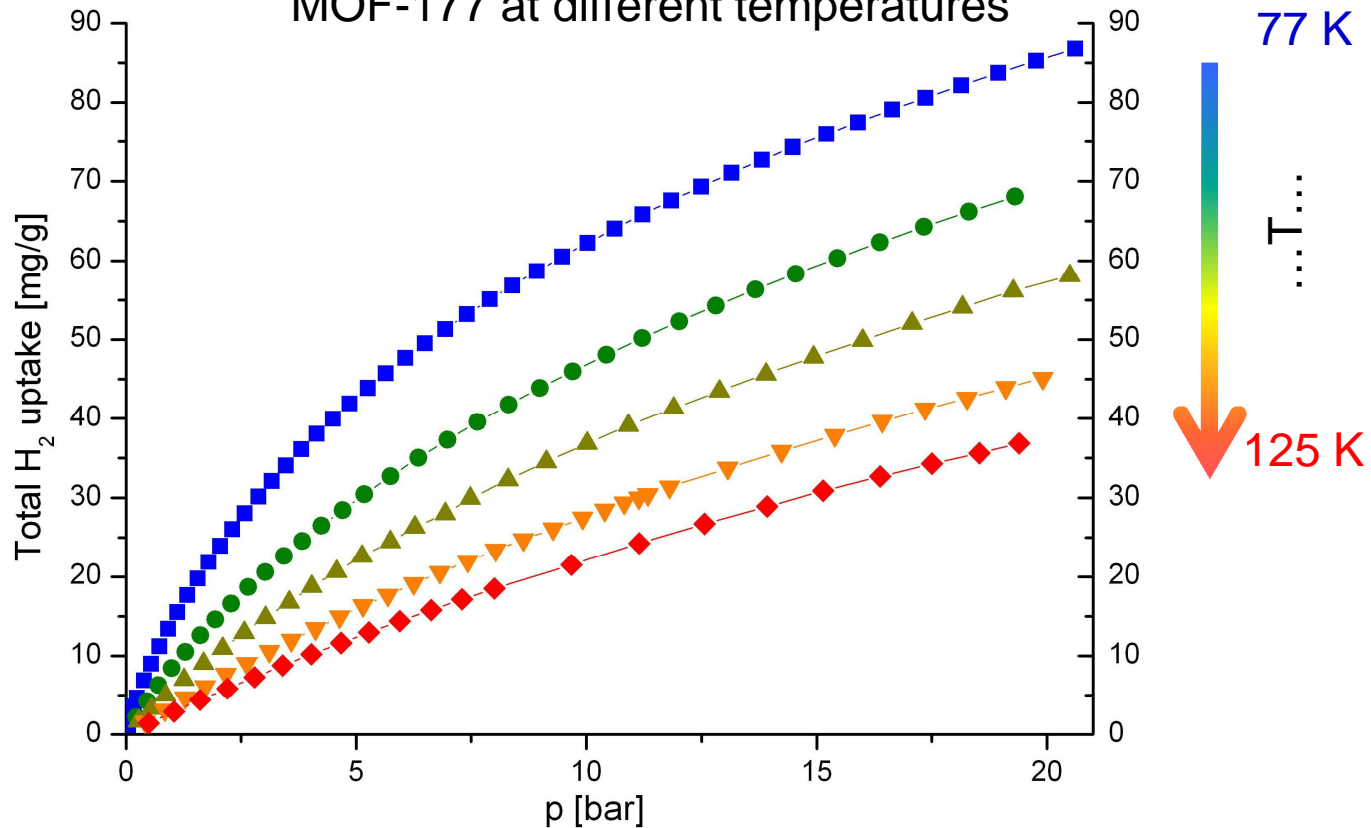
- **Compaction**
- **Pelletizing**
- **Monoliths**

R. Balderas-Xicohtencatl, M. Schlichtenmayer, M. Hirscher, *Energy Technol.* **6** (2018) 578



# HYDROGEN USABLE (WORKING/DELIVERABLE) CAPACITY

MOF-177 at different temperatures



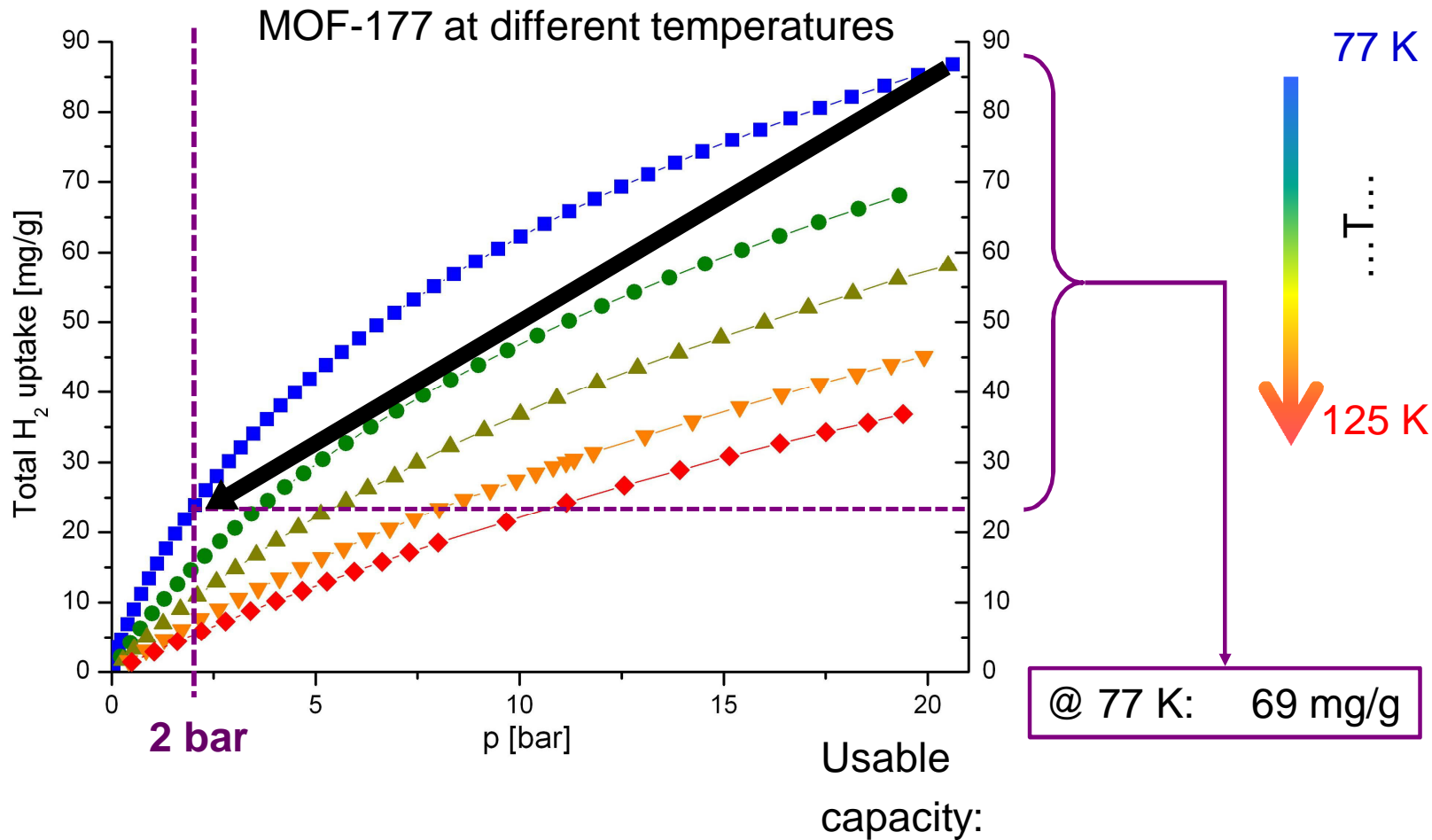
Maurice Schlichtenmayer,  
2011 MRS Spring Meeting,  
San Francisco

M. Schlichtenmayer et al., *Int. J. of Hydrogen Energy* **36**  
(2011) 586

M. Schlichtenmayer and M.  
Hirscher, *Appl. Phys. A* **122**  
(2016) 379



# USABLE CAPACITY BY PRESSURE SWING AT CONSTANT $T$



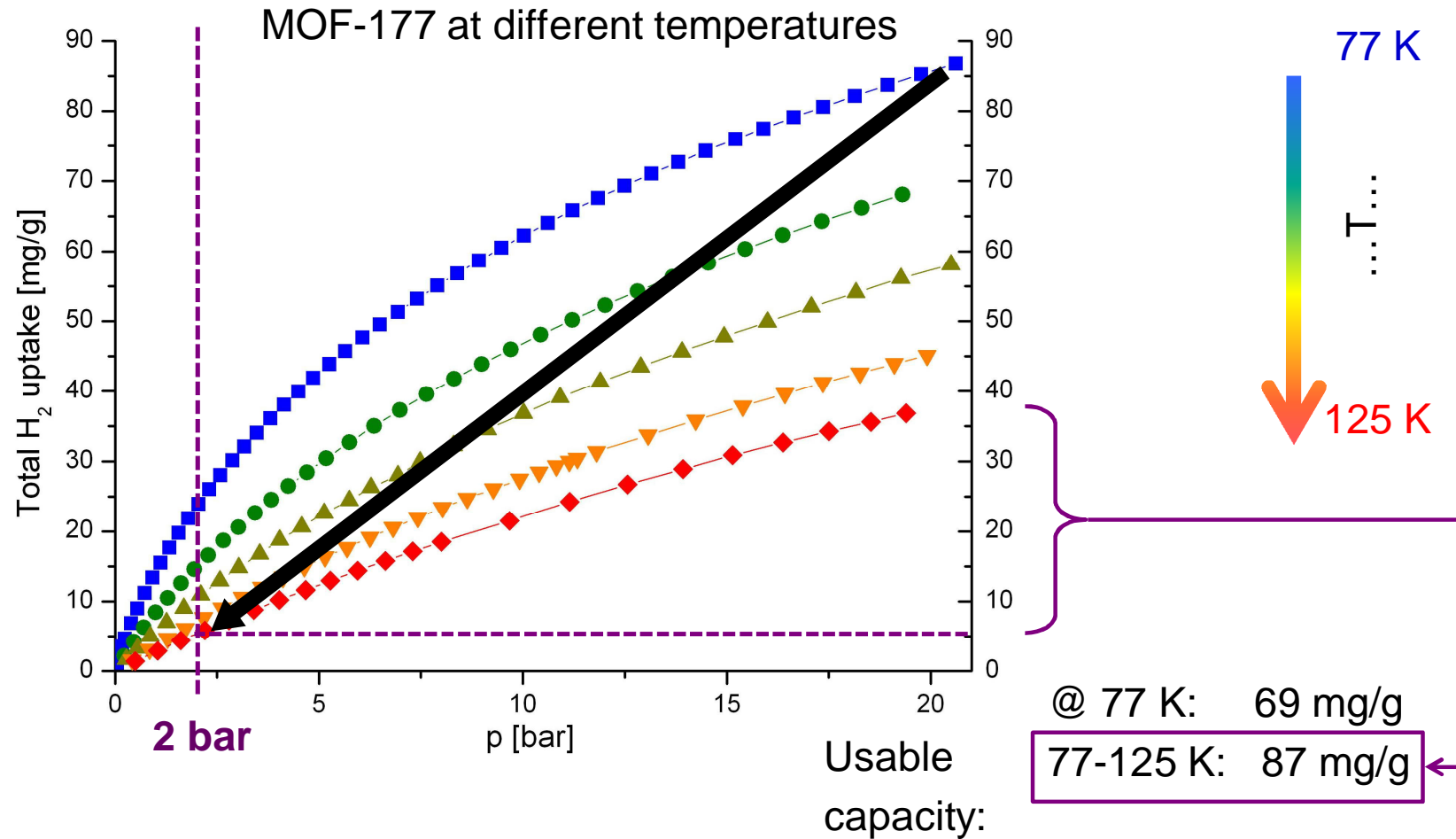
Maurice Schlichtenmayer,  
2011 MRS Spring Meeting,  
San Francisco

M. Schlichtenmayer et al., *Int. J. of Hydrogen Energy* **36**  
(2011) 586

M. Schlichtenmayer and M.  
Hirscher, *Appl. Phys. A* **122**  
(2016) 379



# COMBINED TEMPERATURE AND PRESSURE SWING



Maurice Schlichtenmayer,  
2011 MRS Spring Meeting,  
San Francisco

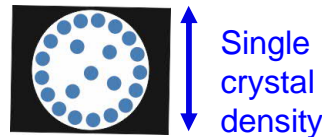
M. Schlichtenmayer et al., *Int. J. of Hydrogen Energy* **36**  
(2011) 586

M. Schlichtenmayer and M.  
Hirscher, *Appl. Phys. A* **122**  
(2016) 379



# COMBINED TEMPERATURE AND PRESSURE SWING

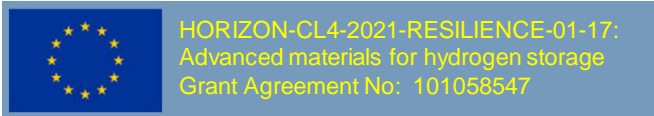
**Balancing volumetric and gravimetric uptake in highly porous materials for clean energy** Z. Chen et al. O.K. Farha, *Science* **368** (2020) 297  
 "... best deliverable hydrogen capacities (**14.0 wt %**, **46.2 g/L**) under a combined temperature and pressure swing (**77 K/100 bar** → **160 K/5 bar**)."



**Fine-Tuning a Robust Metal–Organic Framework toward Enhanced Clean Energy Gas Storage** Z. Chen et al. O.K. Farha, *JACS* **143** (2021) 18838  
 "MFU-4l-Li displays one of the best volumetric deliverable hydrogen capacities of **50.2 g/L** under combined temperature and pressure swing conditions (**77 K/100 bar** → **160 K/5 bar**) while maintaining a moderately high gravimetric capacity of **9.4 wt %**."



Novel metal organic framework adsorbents for efficient storage of hydrogen  
 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026



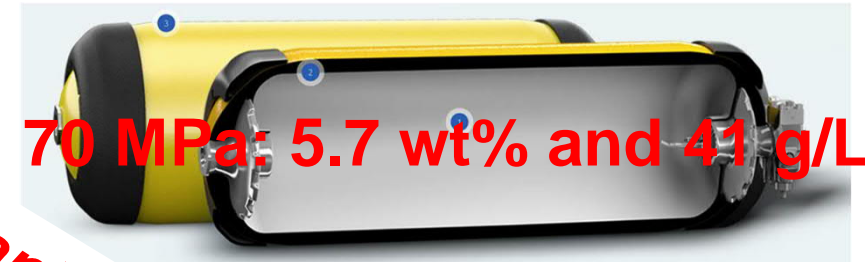
Optimal MOF performance & properties targets		<sub>mono</sub> Sorb performance targets
Usable H <sub>2</sub> capacity	>10 (wt%), >50(g/L)	Usable H <sub>2</sub> capacity: >9 (wt%), >45(g/L)
BET Area	>5000 m <sup>2</sup> /g, >2500 m <sup>2</sup> /cm <sup>3</sup>	<sub>mono</sub> Sorb production targets (TRL 5)
Crystal density	d <sub>c</sub> >0.4 g/cm <sup>3</sup>	>10 kg, < 20 €/kg
Porosity	ε >75%	MOST-tank target (TRL 5)
Pore size	1.5 nm < w < 2.5 nm	500 g H <sub>2</sub> , ~10 L, ~8-10 kg of <sub>mono</sub> Sorb,
Total Pore Volume	TPV>2 cm <sup>3</sup> /g	operating between <b>100 bar@80K and 5 bar@160K</b>



## SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

### Hydrogen storage by physisorption on MOFs

- ❑ Fast kinetics and excellent reversibility
- ❑ Upscaled production demonstrated
- ❑ Reduced pressure < 10 MPa  
→ cost reduction but low temperature required
- ❑ Large specific surface area 4500 - 5000 m<sup>2</sup>/g  
Upper limit for surface basically reached
- ❑ High gravimetric storage capacity at 77 K and < 5 MPa  
excess ~ 8 wt%, total 12 – 15 wt%
- ❑ Volumetric absolute capacity at 77 K  
powder 20 g/L → monoliths 40 g/L  
H<sub>2</sub> molecules → limit density of liquid H<sub>2</sub>
- ❑ Temperature and pressure swing → 50 g/L  
(77 K/10 MPa → 160 K/5 MPa)



*Thank you for your attention!*

### Future concepts

- ❑ Increase volumetric capacity  
→ monoliths  
→ interpenetrated structures



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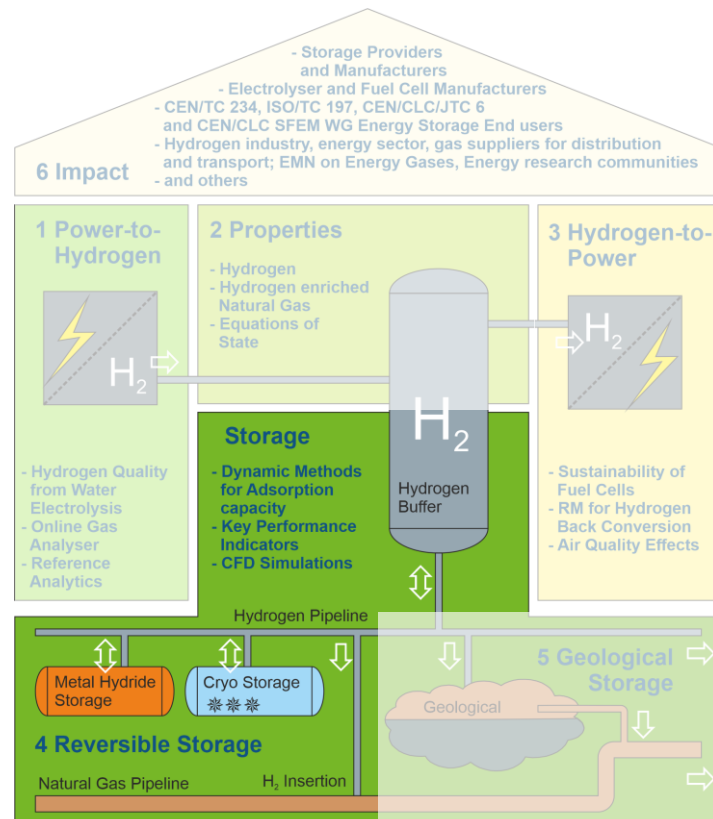
## WP 4: Metrology for Reversible Hydrogen Storage Technologies (Metal Hydride Storage, Cryo Storage)

**Establishment of validated protocols** for experimental at hydrogen ad/absorption; **determination of relevant thermodynamic properties**

Task 4.1: Design and development of a device to measure effective **thermal conductivity**

Task 4.2: Develop dynamic methods for hydrogen ad/absorption capacity and **influence of pollutants**

Task 4.3: Develop **reference materials** and reference methods for hydrogen ad/absorption capacity



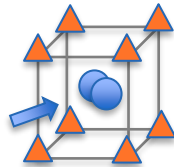
## Introduction:

- Hydrogen storage
  - Gas (high pressure or high volume)
  - Liquid (-252 °C, boil-off)
  - Combined with solid materials

H<sub>2</sub> adsorption

Physical interaction

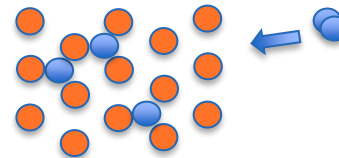
Porous materials



H absorption

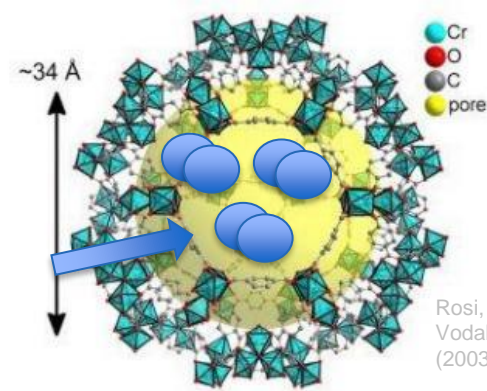
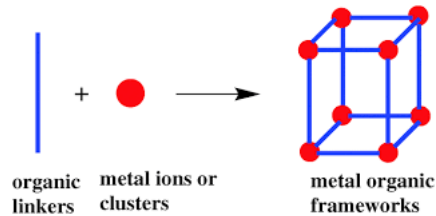
Chemical interaction

Bulk materials



## Introduction:

- Hydrogen storage by adsorption (« H<sub>2</sub> cages »)

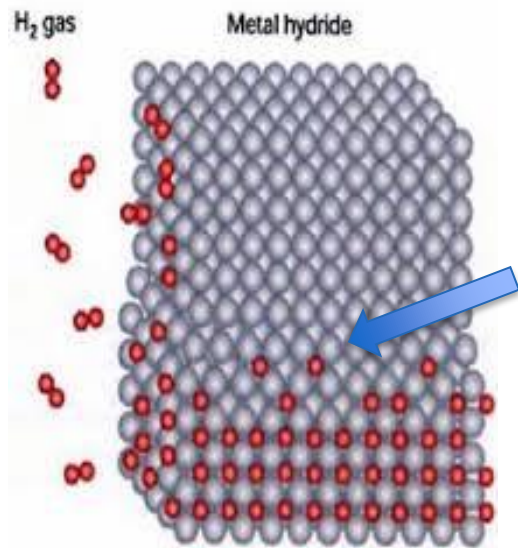


Rosi, N.L., Eckert, J., Eddaoudi, M.,  
Vodak, D.T., O'Keefe, M., Yaghi, O.M.  
(2003) Science, 300, 1127

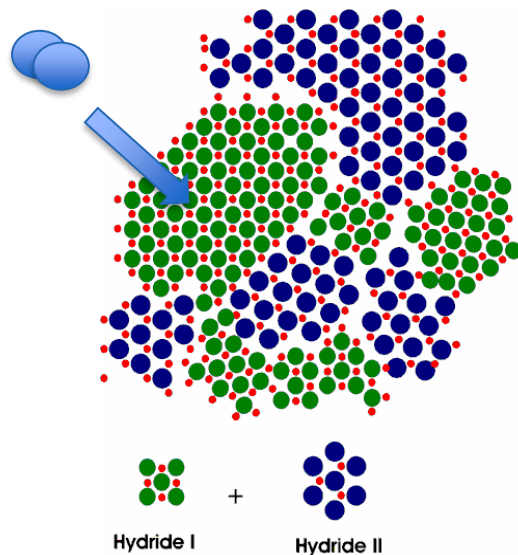
**Metal-organic  
frameworks (MOF)**

## Introduction:

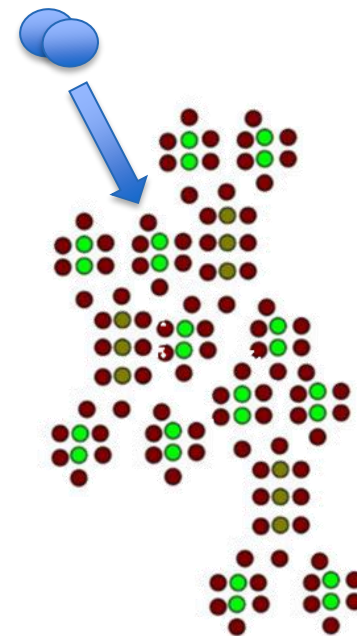
- Hydrogen storage by absorption (« H sponge »)



Metallic bounding



Covalent bounding



Ionic bounding

## Metal hydride main features:

- Reversible absorption-desorption
- Phase change: volume expansion
- Large operational pressure and temperature conditions
- Low gravimetric density
- Sensible to gases (→ [pollutans study](#))
- Production:
  - Chemical synthesis
  - Ball milling
  - Melting



Cast

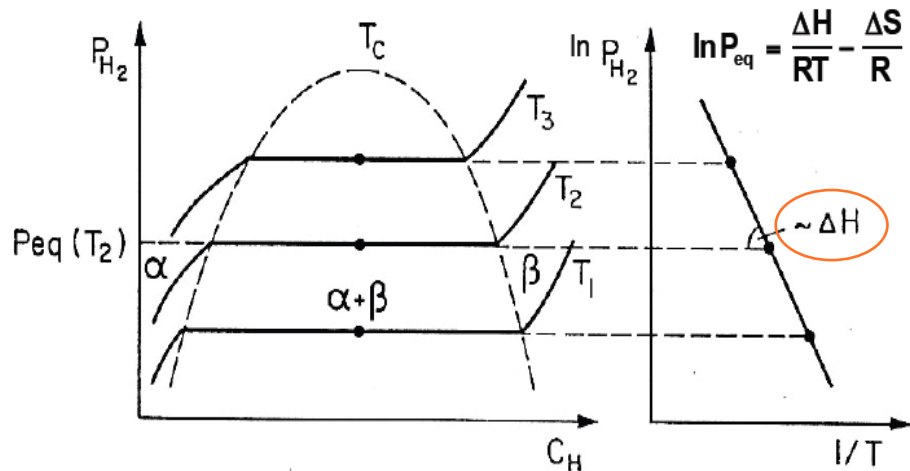


Crush

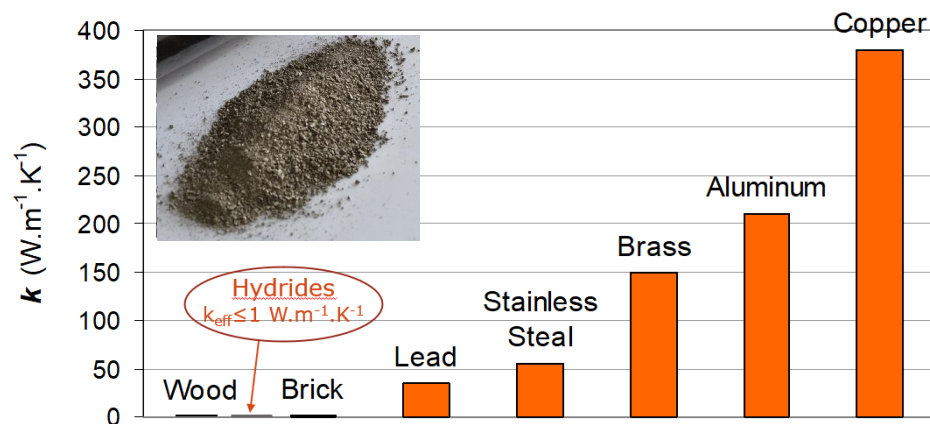
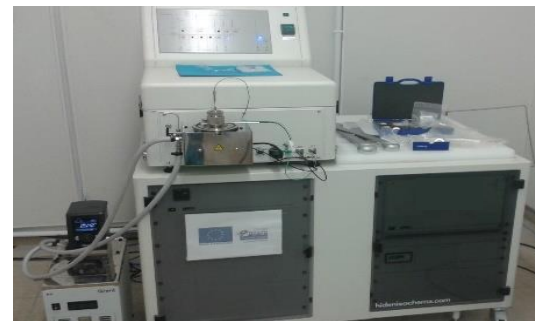


## Metal hydride characterisation:

- Kinetics
- Thermodynamics
- Thermal properties (→ conductivity study)

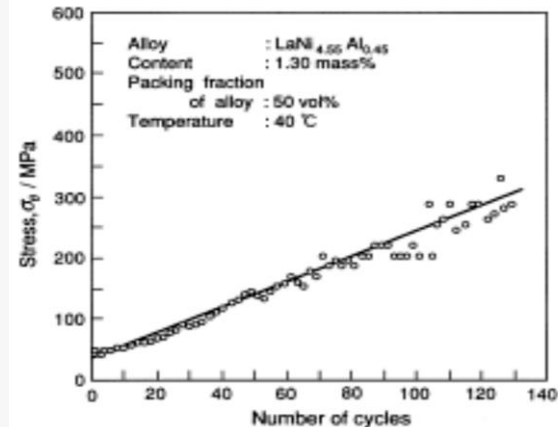
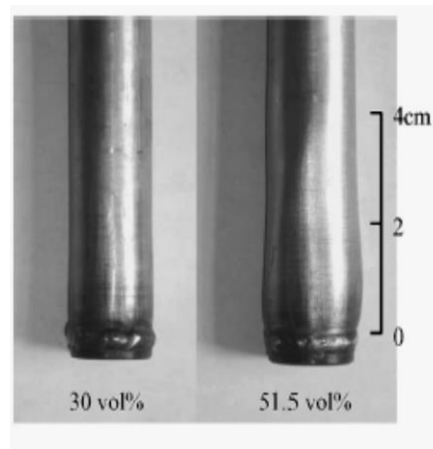
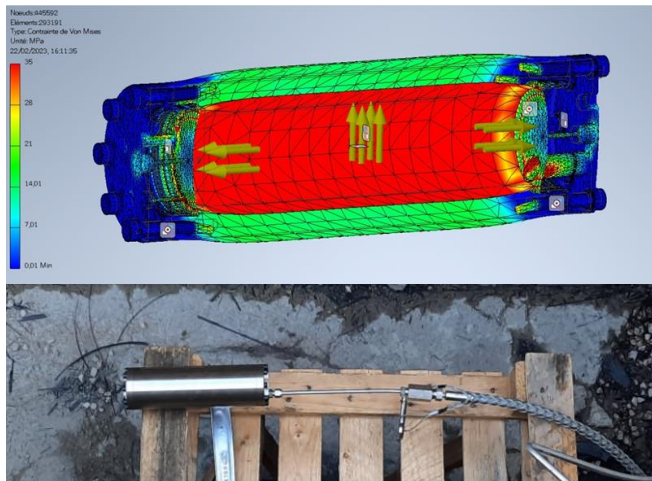
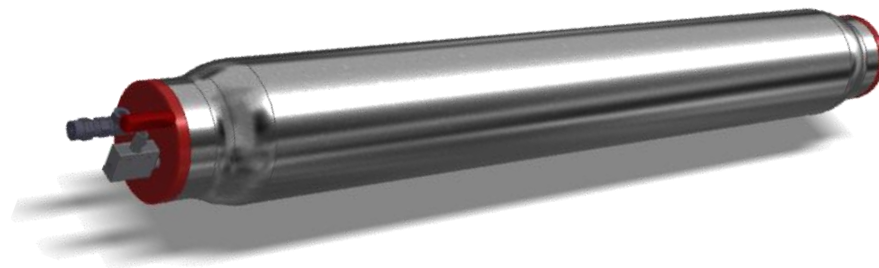


## Sieverts device



## Hydride containers:

- ISO 16111 (suggested H<sub>2</sub> minimal quality)
- Need of filtering
- Thermal and mechanical issues

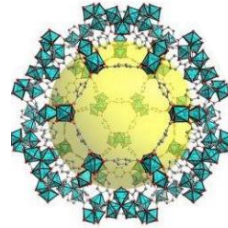




## Summary:

- Hydrogen can be ab(d)sorbed by solids
- Hydrides are sensible to gases
- There is a large range of possible pressure and pressure conditions
- Thermal and mechanical aspects should be considered for container design

Pollutants



Thermal conductivity



# MefHySto

Metrology for Advanced  
Hydrogen Storage Solutions

## Final Meeting

WP4 : Metrology for Reversible Hydrogen Storage Technologies



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The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States



# Development of reference materials and methods for hydrogen ad/absorption capacity

Michael Hirscher



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## REPRODUCIBILITY AS A CORNERSTONE OF SCIENCE

Karl Popper, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, Hutchinson, London, 1959

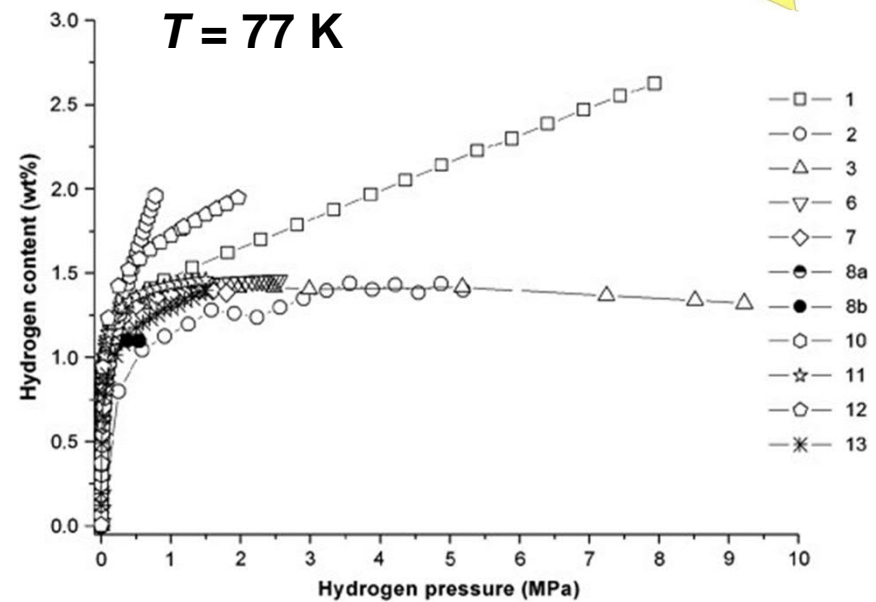
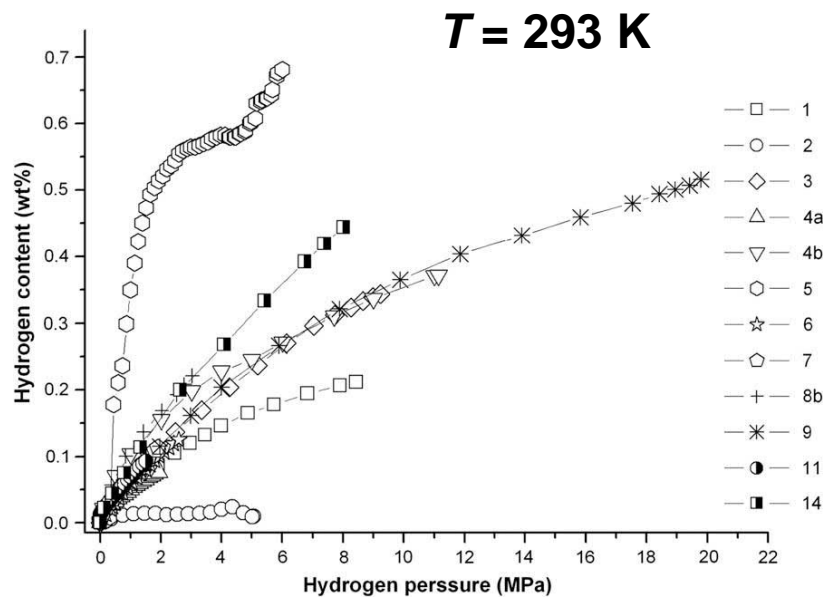
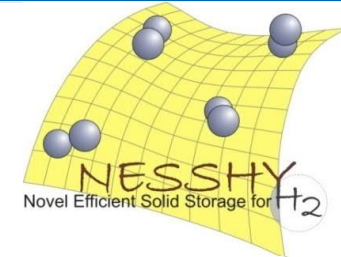
Darren P. Broom and Michael Hirscher, *Energy Environ. Sci.* **9** (2016) 3368

Motivated by continuing problems in the literature but also due to lack of a clear overview (newcomers must work hard to untangle the story)

- Carbon nanostructures (nanotubes and nanofibres)
- BN nanotubes and conducting polymers
- MOFs (e.g. MOF-5) and hydrogen storage by spillover
- Some studies containing irreproducible data are still being cited regularly

# Round Robin Analysis of Hydrogen Storage Capacity

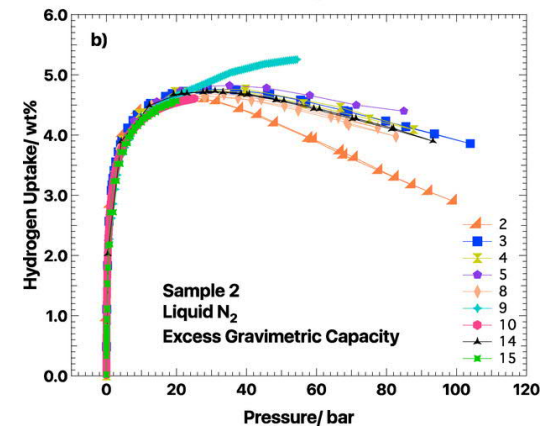
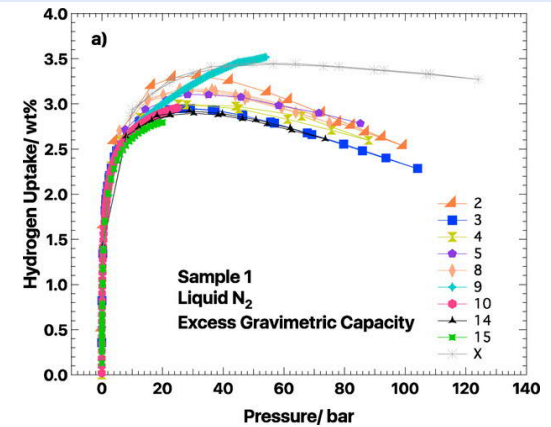
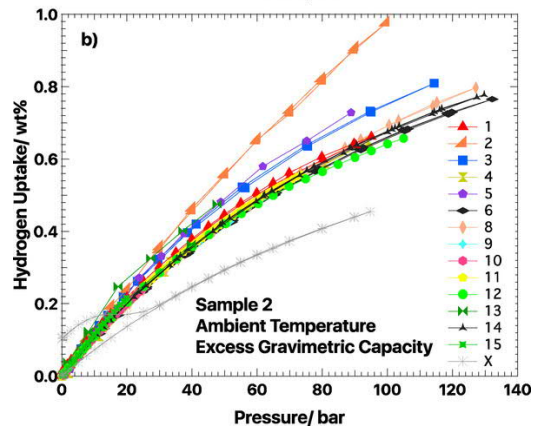
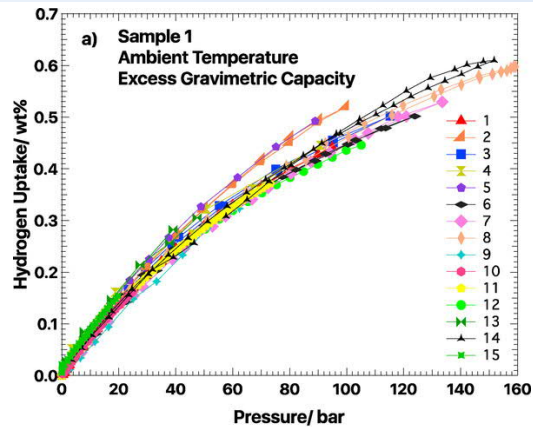
**A Round Robin characterisation of the hydrogen sorption properties of a carbon based material**, C. Zlotea, P. Moretto, T. Steriotis, *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* **34** (2009) 3044



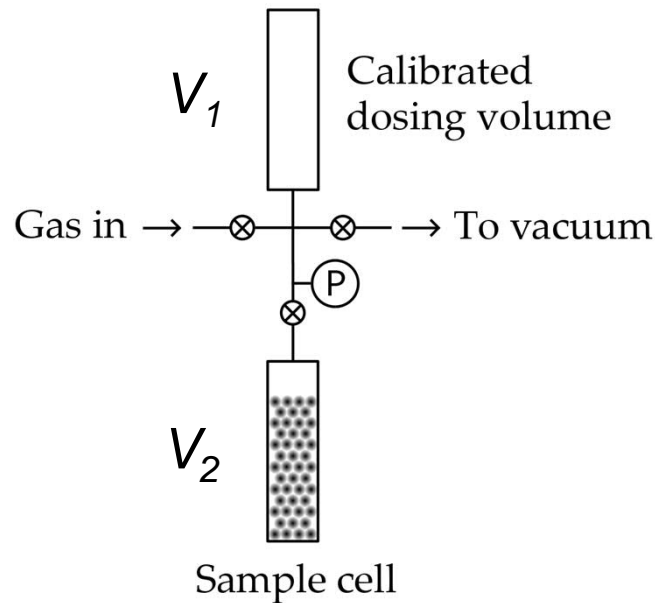
# International Laboratory Comparison

## An International Laboratory Comparison Study of Volumetric and Gravimetric Hydrogen Adsorption Measurements

Katherine E. Hurst et al.  
*ChemPhysChem* **20** (2019) 1997



## Manometric (Sieverts) Technique



Volume  $V_1$  is filled to a pressure  $P_i$  while the sample cell is held at vacuum

The connecting valve is then opened to dose gas to the sample, and the final pressure,  $P_f$ , measured

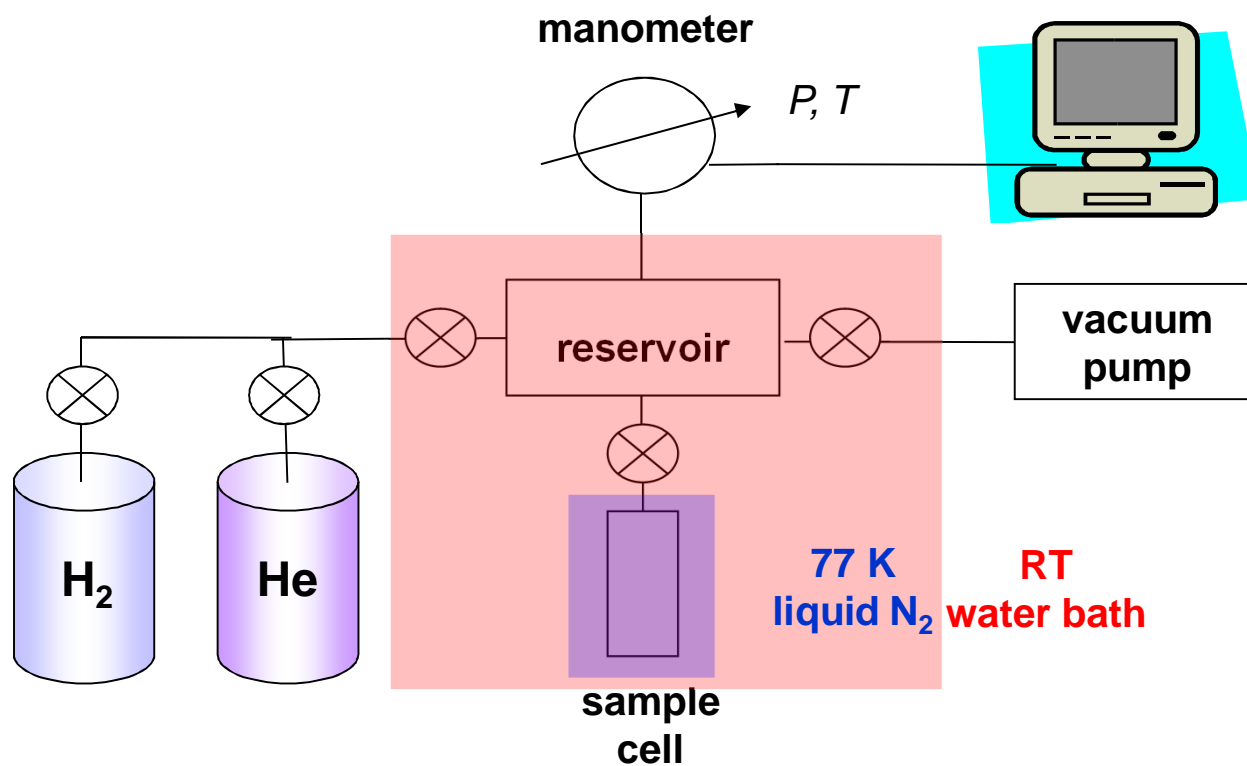
The number of moles sorbed is then given by,

$$\Delta n = \frac{P_i V_1}{Z_{P_i, T} R T} - \frac{P_f (V_1 + V_2)}{Z_{P_f, T} R T}$$

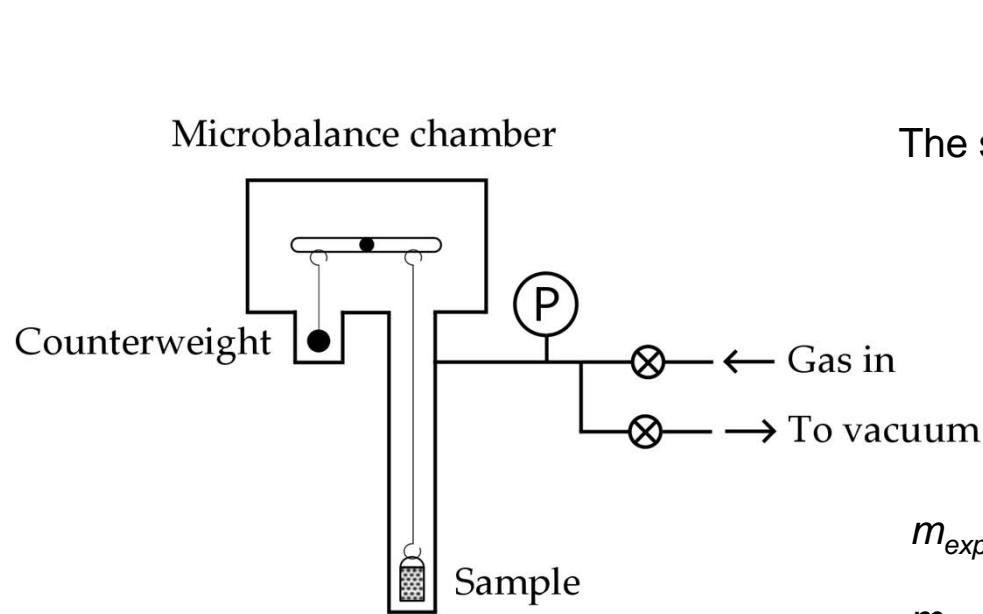
where  $Z_{i, T}$  and  $Z_{f, T}$  are the gas compressibility factors at  $P_i$  and  $P_f$ , respectively, and  $V_2$  is the dead volume of the sample cell

To determine an entire isotherm, this dosing and measurement process is then repeated for each data point

# Manometric (Sieverts) Technique







The sorbed quantity is given by,

$$m_H = m_{\text{exp}} - m_{\text{solid}} + \rho_g \left( \frac{m_{\text{solid}}}{\rho_{\text{solid}}} \right)$$

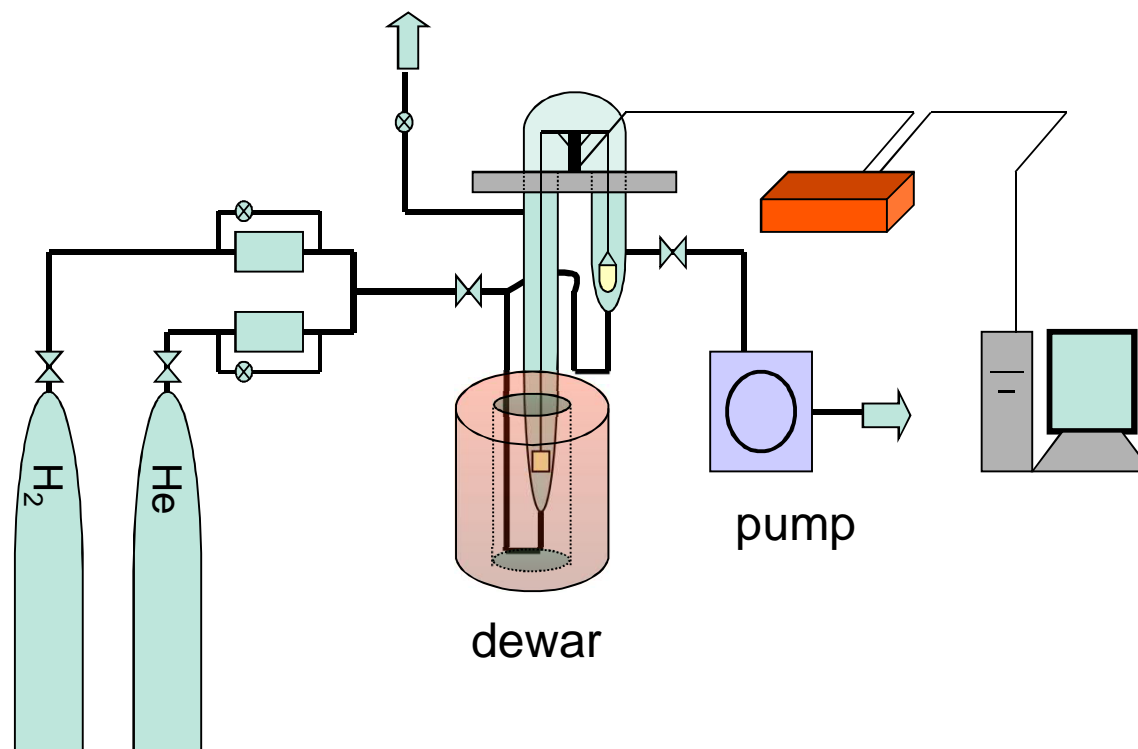
buoyancy correction

$m_{\text{exp}}$  is the experimentally-measured mass

$m_{\text{solid}}$  is the mass of the solid under vacuum

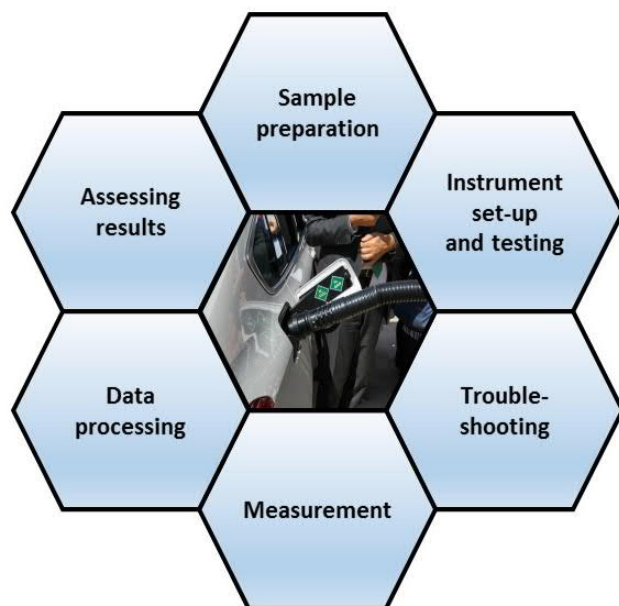
$\rho_g$  and  $\rho_{\text{solid}}$  are the densities of the gas and the solid

# Gravimetric Technique



# Improving Reproducibility in Hydrogen Storage Material Research

Darren P. Broom and M. Hirscher,  
*ChemPhysChem* **22** (2021) 2141



## Sample preparation

Synthesis and purification  
↓  
Characterization  
↓  
Is the sample pure enough?  
↓  
Is enough sample available?

## Instrument set-up and testing

Calibrate instrument  
↓  
Perform blank scans  
↓  
Validate using reference materials  
↓  
Is the instrument sensitive enough  
for available sample size?

## Troubleshooting

Is the H<sub>2</sub> gas supply pure enough?  
↓  
Are there leaks in the instrument?  
↓  
Are all devices properly calibrated?  
↓  
Is temperature stable enough?

## Measurement

Is the sample too small?  
↓  
Is it fully activated?  
↓  
Are there too many isotherm points?  
↓  
Are the equilibration times long  
enough?

## Data processing

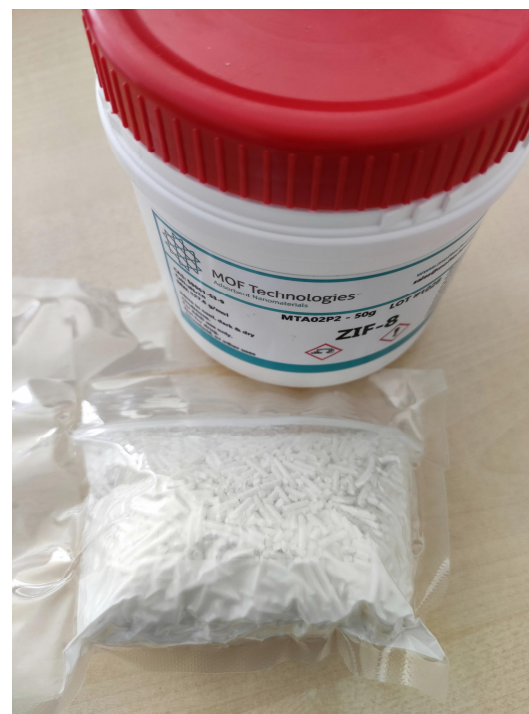
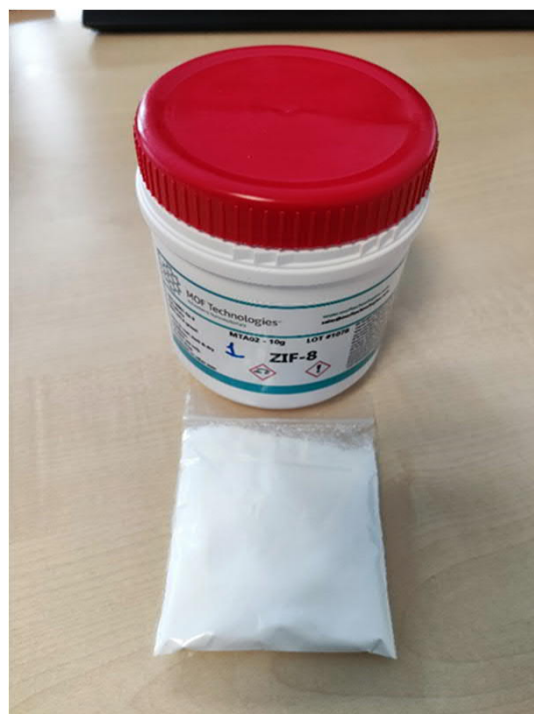
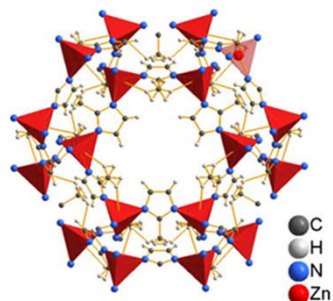
Is the dry sample mass correct?  
↓  
Is the sample density correct?  
↓  
Is the equation of state accurate  
enough?  
↓  
Is the hydrogen storage capacity  
defined properly?

## Assessing results

Is the isotherm shape physically  
reasonable?  
↓  
Are the isotherms repeatable?  
↓  
Is there any unexpected hysteresis?  
↓  
Do the sorption/desorption  
isotherms cross?

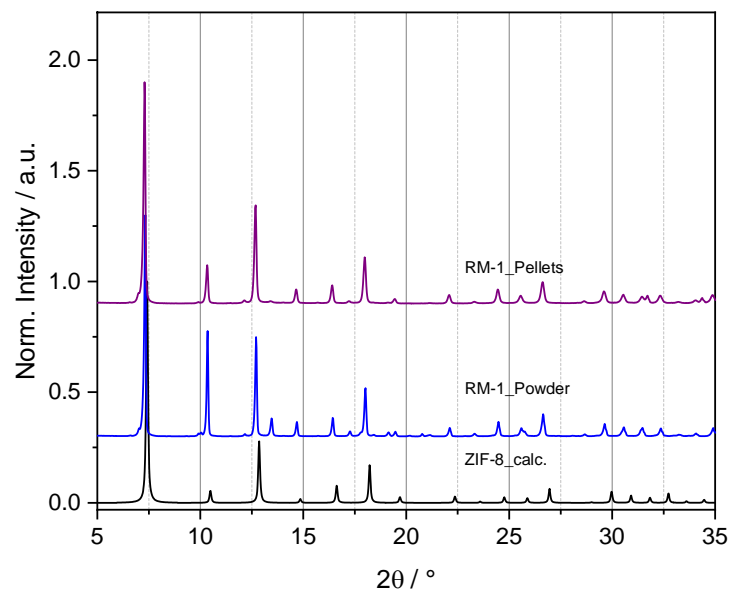
## ZIF-8 powder and pellets

Zeolitic Imidazolate Framework-8 (ZIF-8) is a porous metal-organic framework with high thermal and mechanical stability



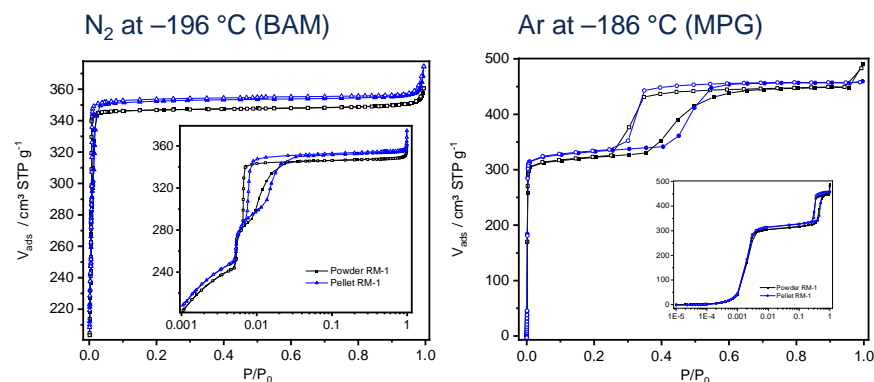
# Structure Comparison: Powder / Pellets

X-Ray diffraction to compare crystallinity



The crystal phase does not change after packing powders into pellets

Adsorption-desorption experiments to compare porosity



Sample	$A_{BET}$ (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	Pore volume (cm <sup>3</sup> /g)
RM-1 Powder	1115	0.54
RM-1 Pellets	1142	0.55

Slight increase (2 %) of porous properties after pelletizing

# Interlaboratory Comparison Study

Interlaboratory comparison of hydrogen cryoadsorption of a reference material  
H<sub>2</sub>Cryoads.RM  
Protocol and Report Forms

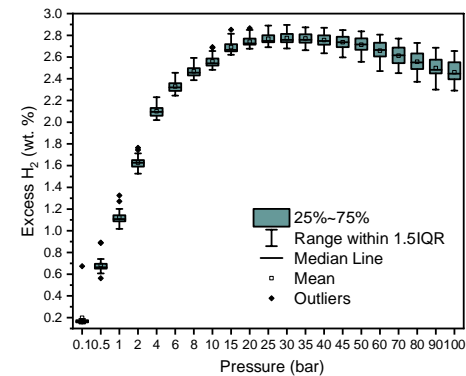
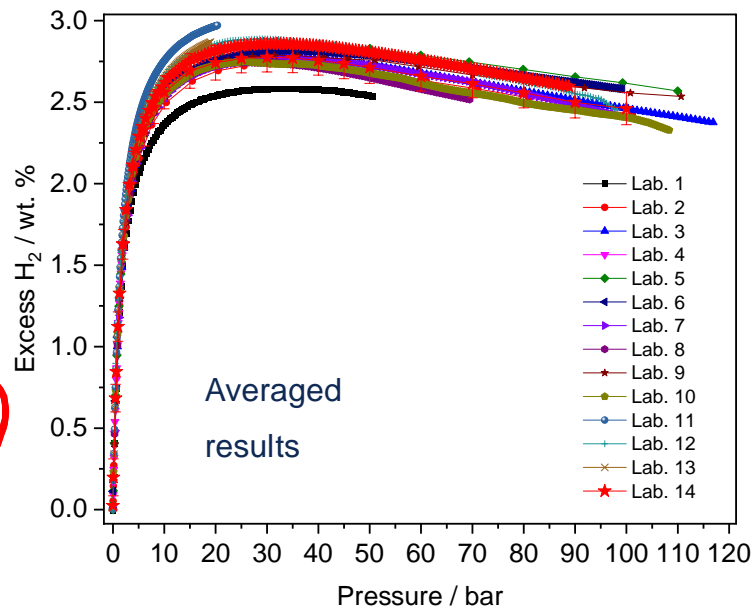
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Bundesanstalt für  
Materialprüfung  
und -prüfung

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Michael Heuser, Rafael Bickner, Xianbin Cao

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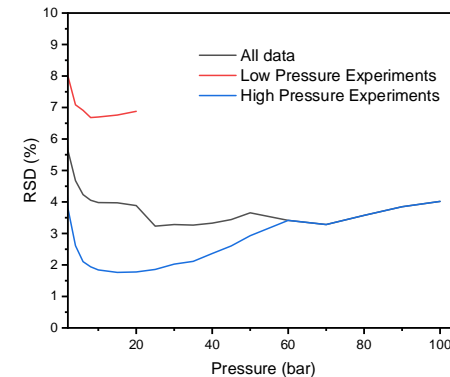
**Posters 2  
and 3**



Low dispersion of data among measurements (max. 4 % between 2 – 80 bar)

Higher RSD (relative standard deviation) at very low and high pressures:

- Low-pressure reading accuracy
- Lower hydrogen uptake



RM-1 was analysed by 14 laboratories from 10 participants with proven experience in the measurement of H<sub>2</sub> uptake at -196 °C



**Thanks for your attention**

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