

# Optimized Separation of Acetylene from Carbon Dioxide and Ethylene in a Microporous Material

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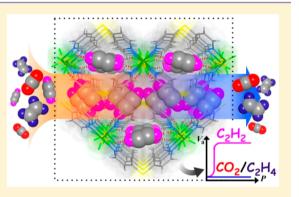
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**Supporting Information** 

**ABSTRACT:** Selective separation of acetylene  $(C_2H_2)$  from carbon dioxide  $(CO_2)$  or ethylene  $(C_2H_4)$  needs specific porous materials whose pores can realize sieving effects while pore surfaces can differentiate their recognitions for these molecules of similar molecular sizes and physical properties. We report a microporous material  $[Zn(dps)_2(SiF_6)]$  (UTSA-300, dps = 4,4'-dipyridylsulfide) with twodimensional channels of about 3.3 Å, well-matched for the molecular sizes of  $C_2H_2$ . After activation, the network was transformed to its closed-pore phase, UTSA-300a, with dispersed 0D cavities, accompanied by conformation change of the pyridyl ligand and rotation of SiF<sub>6</sub><sup>2-</sup> pillars. Strong C-H···F and  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions are found in closed-pore UTSA-300a, resulting in shrinkage of the structure. Interestingly, UTSA-300a takes up quite a large amounts of acetylene



(76.4 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>), while showing complete  $C_2H_4$  and  $CO_2$  exclusion from  $C_2H_2$  under ambient conditions. Neutron powder diffraction and molecular modeling studies clearly reveal that a  $C_2H_2$  molecule primarily binds to two hexafluorosilicate F atoms in a head-on orientation, breaking the original intranetwork hydrogen bond and subsequently expanding to open-pore structure. Crystal structures, gas sorption isotherms, molecular modeling, experimental breakthrough experiment, and selectivity calculation comprehensively demonstrated this unique metal–organic framework material for highly selective  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  separation.

# ■ INTRODUCTION

Hydrocarbon separations are very important industrial processes providing several essential feedstocks for chemical transformations. Among them, acetylene  $(C_2H_2)$  is an important source of organic chemicals including acrylic acid derivatives, vinyl compounds, and  $\alpha$ -ethynyl alcohols in the chemical industry.<sup>1</sup> C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> is mainly manufactured by the partial combustion of methane or comes from cracking of hydrocarbons, coexisting with carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) or ethylene  $(C_2H_4)$ . However, the similarities between these molecules in terms of their molecular sizes, shapes  $(3.32 \times 3.34 \times 5.7 \text{ Å}^3 \text{ for})$  $C_2H_2$ , 3.18 × 3.33 × 5.36 Å<sup>3</sup> for  $CO_2$ ),<sup>2</sup> and physical properties (boiling points of 189.3 and 194.7 K for C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>, respectively) make  $C_2H_2$  separation a great challenge. Compared with solvent extraction or cryogenic distillation, adsorptive separation using porous materials is more environmentally friendly and energy efficient and considered as a promising future separation technology.

As a new generation of porous materials, metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) and/or porous coordination polymers

(PCPs)<sup>3</sup> have diverse applications in gas storage,<sup>4</sup> separation,<sup>5</sup> sensing,<sup>6</sup> catalysis,<sup>7</sup> drug delivery,<sup>8</sup> and bioimaging,<sup>9</sup> because of their unique pore structures and surfaces.<sup>10</sup> The rational combination of metal ions/metal clusters of specific coordination geometries and organic ligands of fixed shapes has enabled us not only to design and synthesize porous MOFs of predictable topologies but also to control the pore sizes systematically to induce their different host–guest interactions/ recognitions.<sup>11</sup> Benefiting from exquisite control over pore accessibility and pore surface, MOFs show great potential in the realm of  $C_2H_2$  separation. For example, systematic tuning of pore geometry and chemistry provided SIFSIX materials with high adsorption capacity and selectivity for separation of  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  mixtures.<sup>12</sup>

Ideal porous materials for gas separation are those with suitable pore sizes and geometries for complete size-shape sieving, so they only take up smaller molecules while

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completely blocking the larger ones. Though porous MOF materials can be typically realized to exhibit certain sieving effects,<sup>13</sup> very few have been targeted to exhibit complete exclusion of one molecule from the other components based on their size or shape differences,<sup>14</sup> as demonstrated in the separation of branched paraffins from linear paraffins<sup>15</sup> and propane from propylene.<sup>16</sup> When the separating gas molecules have almost identical size and shape and similar physical properties, for example,  $C_2H_2/CO_2$ , the complete exclusion of one component over another becomes very challenging.<sup>17</sup> In fact, most reported MOFs show very similar uptake capacity and/or binding affinity for  $C_2H_2$  and  $CO_2$ <sup>18</sup> whereas only very few reported porous materials for the separation of  $C_2H_2/CO_2$ can fulfill partial sieving effect but no exclusive separation.<sup>19</sup> In order to develop microporous materials for complete sieving effects for such a challenging separation, we need to not only fine-tune the pore sizes to match the molecular sizes of these two gas molecules of about 3.3 Å but also introduce some specific sites to bind C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> molecules exclusively, which has not been revealed yet in the literature.

During our exploration on ultramicroporous MOF materials, we discovered a novel SIFSIX-MOF,  $[Zn(dps)_2(SiF_6)]$  (dps = 4,4'-dipyridylsulfide; termed as UTSA-300) with multiple potential binding sites and a pore aperture size of about 3.3 Å, which motivated us to examine its potential for gas separations. UTSA-300 exhibits a pore open-close transformation during activation/desolvation, leading to a closedpore framework UTSA-300a locked by multiple hydrogen bonds. Gas sorption studies indicate that UTSA-300a takes up quite a large amount of acetylene of 76.4 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> but negligible amounts of carbon dioxide and ethylene under ambient conditions. Direct crystallography results reveal that the anisotropic adsorption site only allows C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> to open the pore structure by forming strong host-guest interactions in a head-on orientation. As a result, UTSA-300a can have complete CO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> exclusion from the mixtures of  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  under ambient conditions, which can serve as a superior porous adsorbent for the challenging separation of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>/CO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>/C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>. Molecular modeling studies and experimental breakthroughs have exclusively supported the claim.

#### EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**Materials and Physical Measurements.** All reagents and solvents were commercially available and directly used without further purification. Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was carried out under an argon atmosphere from room temperature to 900 °C using a Shimadzu TGA-50 analyzer at a heating rate of 10 °C min<sup>-1</sup>. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns were collected using a Rigaku Ultima IV diffractometer (Cu K $\alpha$ ) at 40 kV and 44 mA with a scan rate of 8.0°/min. The Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectrum was obtained on a Nicolet iS50 FT-IR spectrometer (Thermo Scientific) at room temperature.

The gas sorption isotherms were collected on an automatic volumetric adsorption apparatus (Micromeritics ASAP 2020 surface area analyzer). Prior to the sorption measurements, the as-synthesized sample was exchanged with methanol six times and placed in a quartz tube and dried for 24 h at room temperature to remove the remnant solvent molecules, giving the activated **UTSA-300** for gas sorption analyses. To maintain the experimental temperatures, acetone–dry ice bath (195 K), ice–water bath (273 K), and water bath (298 K) were used.

Synthesis of UTSA-300 $\supset$ H<sub>2</sub>O. A methanol (10 mL) solution of ZnSiF<sub>6</sub>·xH<sub>2</sub>O (0.4 mmol, 82.8 mg) was poured into a methanol solution of dps (0.8 mmol, 150.6 mg) in a 20 mL vial and kept

undisturbed at room temperature for 12 h. Then pale yellow block crystals were collected, exchanged with methanol, and dried under vacuum, with yields of 67% based on Zn. Anal. Calcd (%) for  $C_{20}H_{24}N_4O_4F_6SiS_2Zn$  ([Zn(dps)<sub>2</sub>(SiF<sub>6</sub>)]·4H<sub>2</sub>O): C, 36.6; H, 3.7; N, 8.5. Found: C, 36.8; H, 3.5; N, 8.5. IR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3534 (m), 3423 (br, m), 3095 (w), 3040 (w), 1651 (w), 1601 (s), 1592 (vs), 1542 (m), 1490 (s), 1420 (s), 1328 (w), 1228 (m), 1217 (m), 1104 (w), 1065 (s), 1020 (s), 875 (w), 831 (vs).

X-ray and Neutron Crystallography. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction data of UTSA-300 $\supset$ H<sub>2</sub>O were collected at 100(2) K using a Rigaku AFC12/Saturn 724 CCD fitted with Mo K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å). Data collection and unit cell refinement were conducted using Crystal Clear software.<sup>20</sup> Data processing and absorption correction were performed using Crystal Clear and ABSCOR,<sup>21</sup> respectively, to generate minimum and maximum transmission factors. The structure of UTSA-300 $\supset$ H<sub>2</sub>O was solved using direct methods and refined on  $F^2$  by full-matrix least-squares techniques using SHELXL.<sup>22</sup> Except for solvent molecules, all non-hydrogen atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. All hydrogen atom positions were added to their mother carbon atoms by geometry and refined by a riding model.

Powder neutron diffraction data were collected using the BT-1 neutron powder diffractometer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Center for Neutron Research. A Ge(311) monochromator with a 75° takeoff angle,  $\lambda = 2.0787(2)$  Å, and in-pile collimation of 60 min of arc was used. Data were collected over the range of 3–166.3° (2 $\theta$ ) with a step size of 0.05°. Fully activated **UTSA-300a** sample was loaded in a vanadium can equipped with a capillary gas line and a packless valve. A closed-cycle He refrigerator was used for sample temperature control. The activated **UTSA-300a** sample was measured first at the temperature of 296 K. To probe the acetylene adsorption locations, C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub> (note that deuterated acetylene was used because H has large incoherent neutron scattering cross section and thus would introduce large background in the diffraction data) was loaded into the sample at room temperature, and diffraction data were then collected on the C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>-loaded MOF samples.

Rietveld structural refinement was performed on the neutron diffraction data using the GSAS package.<sup>23</sup> Due to the large number of atoms in the crystal unit cell, the ligand molecule and the gas molecule were both treated as rigid bodies during the Rietveld refinement, with the molecule orientation and center of mass freely refined. Final refinement on the positions/orientations of the rigid bodies, thermal factors, occupancies, lattice parameters, background, and profiles converges with satisfactory R factors.

Crystallographic data and refinement information are summarized in Table S1. CCDC 1542453–1542455 contain the supplementary crystallographic data of UTSA-300 $\supset$ H<sub>2</sub>O, UTSA-300 $\supset$ C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>, and UTSA-300a, respectively. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam. ac.uk/data request/cif.

Density Functional Theory Calculations. First-principles density functional theory (DFT) calculations were performed using the Quantum-Espresso package.<sup>24</sup> A semiempirical addition of dispersive forces to conventional DFT was included in the calculation to account for van der Waals interactions.<sup>25</sup> We used Vanderbilt-type ultrasoft pseudopotentials and generalized gradient approximation (GGA) with a Perdew–Burke–Ernzerhof (PBE) exchange correlation. A cutoff energy of 544 eV and a  $2 \times 2 \times 2$  k-point mesh (generated using the Monkhosrt-Pack scheme) were found to be enough for the total energy to converge within 0.01 meV/atom. We first optimized the structure of open-pore UTSA-300. C2H2 gas molecule was then introduced to the optimized host structure at the experimentally identified adsorption site, followed by a full structural relaxation. To obtain the gas binding energy, an isolated gas molecule placed in a supercell (with the same cell dimensions as the MOF crystal) was also relaxed as a reference. The static binding energy (at T = 0 K) was then calculated using  $E_{\rm B} = E({\rm MOF}) + E({\rm C}_2{\rm H}_2) - E({\rm MOF} + {\rm C}_2{\rm H}_2)$ .

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reaction of 4,4'-dipyridylsulfide (dps) with ZnSiF<sub>6</sub> in methanol at room temperature yielded pale yellowish block-shaped crystals of  $[Zn(dps)_2(SiF_6)]$  (UTSA-300) (Figure 1a and

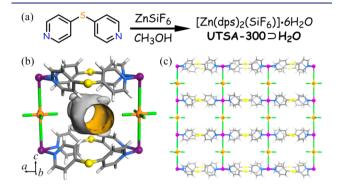
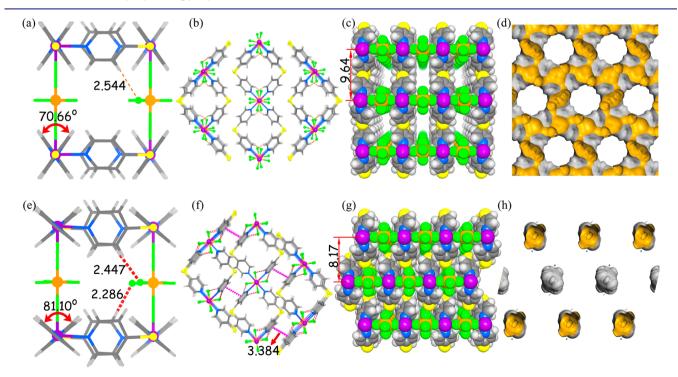


Figure 1. (a) Schematic synthesis of  $UTSA-300 \supset H_2O$ , (b) perspective views of cage unit (Zn, Si, F, S, N, and C are represented by purple, orange, green, bright yellow, light blue, and gray, respectively, and solvent molecules are omitted for clarity) and (c) coordination layer in UTSA-300.

Supporting Information Figure S1). Single-crystal X-ray diffraction reveals that UTSA-300 $\supset$ H<sub>2</sub>O crystallizes in orthorhomic *Ibam* space group and exhibits a two-dimensional pore channel. There are one Zn(II) atom (1/4 occupancy), one-quarter of a SiF<sub>6</sub><sup>2-</sup> group, one-half of a dps ligand, and one and half guest water molecules in the asymmetric unit of UTSA-300 $\supset$ H<sub>2</sub>O (Figure S2). Each Zn(II) center is coordinated octahedrally by four pyridyl N atoms from four

different dps ligands and two F atoms from two different hexafluorosilicate. All the organic ligands and  $\text{SiF}_6^{2-}$  groups are two-connected with Zn(II) atoms. Each dps ligand exhibits a typical twisted conformation, with the dihedral angle between the planes of two pyridyl rings of 79.65(5)°. Each Zn(II) atom is expanded to four adjacent Zn(II) atoms via two pairs of double-stranded dps bridges and two hexafluorosilicates, forming a pseudocubic-like cavity (Figure 1b). The interconnection of adjacent Zn atoms gives a wavy-layered network, which can be considered as the connection of infinite pseudocubic cavities via edge-sharing and face-sharing. Regarding the Zn atoms as four-connected nodes and the ligands as linkers, the network topology of UTSA-300 can be simplified as sql. The layered structures are further connected by multiple interlayer hydrogen bonds between guest water molecules and free hexafluorosilicate F atoms (F···O 2.753(1)-2.801(1) Å). The removal of water molecules might cause structural transformation as these interactions would disappear. Without consideration of these guest molecules, UTSA-300 has undulating 2D channels (void = 29.3%) across the *ab*-plane (Figure 1c), being different from typical SIFSIX materials, which usually have accessible one-dimensional channels along the metal hexafluorosilicate chains (z coordination axis).<sup>26</sup> This difference can be attributed to the conformation of dps ligand and steric hindrance, resulting the tilting of coordinated pyridyl rings (dihedral angle: 70.66(5)°) and rotation of  $SiF_6^{2-}$  (Figure S3), thus further reducing the pore size of UTSA-300. The cavity sizes in UTSA-300 are  $4.3 \times 4.3 \times 4.1$  and  $3.5 \times 3.9 \times$ 4.1 Å<sup>3</sup>, and the apertures are about 2.4  $\times$  3.3 Å<sup>2</sup> (Figure S4), which is smaller than 4.5  $\times$  4.5 Å<sup>2</sup> for SIFSIX-3-Zn<sup>27</sup> and matches well with the molecular size of  $C_2H_2$  and  $CO_2$ 



**Figure 2.** Comparison of crystal structures and channel shapes between **UTSA-300** $\supset$ **H**<sub>2</sub>**O** (a–d) and dense **UTSA-300a** (e–h); Zn, Si, F, S, N, and C are represented by purple, orange, green, bright yellow, light blue, and gray, respectively, and solvent molecules are omitted for clarity. (a,e) Perspective views of cage units in both structures, showing the titling of pydinyl ring and C–H…F interactions with highlight of angles and distances. (b,f) Top and (c,g) side views of both packing diagram with highlighted C–H…F (red),  $\pi - \pi$  (pink) interactions, and the shrinkage of interlayer distance. (d,h) Calculated pore surface.

underlying size sieving for the potential separation of these gases.

The purity of the bulk products was confirmed by comparison of the simulated and experimental PXRD patterns (Figure S5) and further supported by elemental analysis and thermogravimetric analysis. TGA reveals that UTSA-300⊃H<sub>2</sub>O lost all guest water molecules at 120-130 °C with a weight loss of 14.9% (Figure S6), consistent with theoretical value (15.6%) from X-ray crystallography. We found that the guest molecules in UTSA-300 >H<sub>2</sub>O can also be easily removed at room temperature under high vacuum, which gave an activated phase of UTSA-300a showing a different PXRD pattern with obvious shifts from the as-synthesized one (Figure S5). Though dramatic structural transformation during the activation of UTSA-300 makes it impossible to maintian single-crystallinity, we were still able to solve and locate the atoms from the low quality single-crystal data (Figure S7). Fortunately, based on this structural model, the guest-free structure UTSA-300a was successfully solved by Rietveld refinement from high-quality neutron powder diffraction (NPD) data (Figure S8). Crystallography analyses reveal that the space group changes from *Ibam* (No. 72) to P2/n (No. 13) during the phase transformation. A shrinkage of the network with interlayer distance decreasing from 9.64 to 8.17 Å was observed, although the coordination modes and connections between metal nodes and linkers are the same as the as-synthesized one (Figure 2). Significantly, compared to the synthesized structure, stronger hydrogen bonding between one pyridyl ring of the dps ligand and all F atoms of  $\text{SiF}_6^{2-}$  (H…F 2.286–2.447 Å, C–H…F 3.214-3.370 Å) formed, accompanied by a larger tilting of the other pyridyl ring and rotation of  $SiF_6^{2-}$  (Figure 2a,e). It should be noted that here are two configurations of  ${\rm SiF_6}^{2-}$  groups in the as-synthesized structure. However, after guest removal, all  $SiF_6^{2-}$  groups rotated to only one configuration, showing complete overlap from top view of the ZnSiF<sub>6</sub> chain (Figure 2b,f). Thus, the crystallographic axis along the ZnSiF<sub>6</sub> chain in guest-free UTSA-300a is only one-half of the as-synthesized one, as the rotation of its  $SiF_6^{2-}$  group is restricted. The dps ligand exhibits a more twisted conformation (the dihedral angle between two pyridyl planes is 86.44°), thus blocking all the apertures of the pseudocubic cavity. The conformation change of the ligand allows the formation of interlayer  $\pi - \pi$  stacking (Figure 2f), giving a dense structure (closed-pore phase, UTSA-**300-cp**) with dispersed 0D cavities  $(2.6 \times 3.9 \times 4.3 \text{ Å}^3, \text{ void} =$ 14.7%, Figures 2h and S9). Detailed comparison of the calculated pore size distributions (PSD) also shows that the distribution at around 3.3 Å disappears in closed-pore UTSA-300a (Figure S10), corresponding to the aperture blocking, which highlights the potential of using selective gate effect for separation. PXRD pattern shows that UTSA-300a is stable in air (Figure S11).

The porosity of **UTSA-300a** was first checked by N<sub>2</sub> (77 K) and CO<sub>2</sub> (195 K) adsorption (Figure 3a). For N<sub>2</sub>, no appreciable adsorption could be observed due to the large kinetic diameter of N<sub>2</sub> (3.64 Å) compared to the aperture size (3.3 Å). In contrast, the CO<sub>2</sub> sorption isotherms exhibit stepwise type (around  $P/P_0 = 0.08$ ) with a hysteresis, which can be attributed to molecular clustering followed by pore filling, suggesting **UTSA-300a** can be expanded to open-pore state. **UTSA-300a** has a BET surface area of 311 m<sup>2</sup>/g (Langmuir surface area of 444 m<sup>2</sup>/g) and a total pore volume of 0.16 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> (Figure S12). This measured pore **UTSA-300a** (calculated to

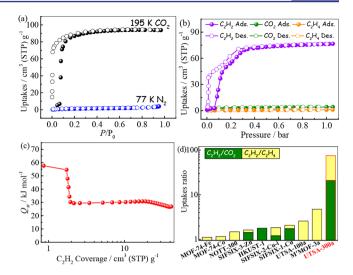


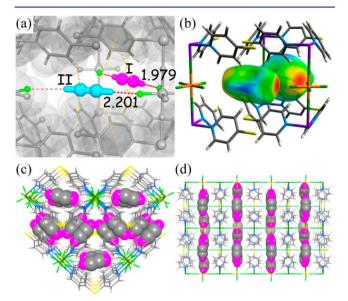
Figure 3. (a) Low-temperature  $N_2$  and  $CO_2$  sorption isotherms for UTSA-300a. (b)  $C_2H_2$ ,  $CO_2$ , and  $C_2H_4$  sorption isotherms for UTSA-300a at 273 K. (c) Adsorption enthalpies of  $C_2H_2$ . (d) Comparison of uptakes ratio among representative MOFs.

be 0.09 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>) but slightly lower than the as-synthesized one of 0.22 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>, suggesting the pore opening during gas adsorption, and there are some small pores that are inaccessible for CO<sub>2</sub> (Figure S10), which matches with the corresponding structure.

The unique pore chemistry and pore geometry associated with suitable pore aperture size (about 3.3 Å) prompted us to evaluate the C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption performance of UTSA-**300a**. Hence, low-pressure  $C_2H_2$ ,  $CO_2$ , and  $C_2H_4$  sorption data from 273 to 298 K were collected (Figures 3b and S13). As expected, UTSA-300a takes up a large amount of  $C_2H_2$  (3.41 mmol  $g^{-1}$ , 76.4 cm<sup>3</sup>  $g^{-1}$ ) at 1 bar and 273 K, which is comparable to 3.86 mmol  $g^{-1}$  (86.4 cm<sup>3</sup> cm<sup>-3</sup>) in SIFSIX-3-Zn.<sup>12</sup> However, to our big surprise, UTSA-300a adsorbs negligible amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> (0.18 mmol  $g^{-1}$ , 4.1 cm<sup>3</sup>  $g^{-1}$ ) and  $C_2H_4$  (0.04 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>, 0.92 cm<sup>3</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>) at the same condition, which is less than any other MOF materials with considerable uptake of  $C_2H_2$ .  $^{12,19a,26,28}$  Compared with other MOFs,  $^{12,19a,28,29}$  the uptake ratios of  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/$ C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> for UTSA-300a at 1 bar are very high and up to 19 and 83 (Figure 3d and Table S2), suggesting potential application to address the challenging separation of these gases under ambient condition. Further, no obvious C2H4 uptake can be observed even at 195 K (Figure S14). Therefore, for the insufficient C2H4 adsorption, it can be attributed to complete size exclusion because its kinetic diameter (4.2 Å) is obviously larger than the aperture size of UTSA-300 (3.3 Å) rather than structural flexibility.<sup>30</sup> However, the significantly different adsorption behavior for  $C_2H_2$  and  $CO_2$  under ambient conditions is really unusual considering their identical kinetic diameters (3.3 Å). Multiple sorption measurements were consequently conducted carefully, and nothing different but the same result was found (Figures S15-S20).

To structurally understand the unique sorption behavior, we performed high-resolution NPD measurements to establish the structure of the  $C_2H_2$  binding sites. Considering the flexibility implied by the stepwise sorption isotherms, NPD data of UTSA-300 $\supset C_2D_2$  were collected at room temperature on two different  $C_2D_2$ -loaded samples. After  $C_2D_2$  loading, the diffraction pattern (particularly peak positions) changed

dramatically (Figure S21), suggesting that adsorption induced a significant structural transformation of the host framework. Due to the asynchronous and/or incomplete transformation, it is difficult to get the intermediate structure from the low  $C_2D_2$  loading data as it cannot be indexed to a single phase (Figures S21 and S22). Fortunately, the structure of UTSA-300 $\supset$ C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub> can be well-defined from high-quality NPD data of high-loading [Zn(dps)<sub>2</sub>(SiF<sub>6</sub>)]·3.57C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub> (Figure 4 and Figures S23 and



**Figure 4.** Neutron diffraction crystal structure of  $UTSA-300 \supset C_2D_2$  showing (a) preferential binding sites for  $C_2D_2$  molecules (sites I and II) and their close contacts with the framework. (b) Hirshfeld surface (*d*<sub>1</sub>) displaying C-D...F interactions (red area). (c,d) Top and side views of  $C_2D_2$  adsorbed packing diagram;  $C_2D_2$  molecules are shown in a CPK model.

S24). Detailed comparison reveals that the crystal symmetry changes back to *Ibam*, and the coordination network is fully restored to its original state (open-pore phase, UTSA-300-op) of the as-synthesized structure, which implies the pore is opened by C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>. With the help of Fourier difference analysis and Rietveld refinements, the C2D2 binding sites were successfully located in UTSA-300 $\supset$ C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>. Two C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub> binding sites can be identified from the data (denoted as sites I and II), as shown in Figure 4a. The  $C_2D_2$  occupancies were determined by free structural refinement to be 0.87(1) and 0.461(8) at sites I and II, respectively. In open-pore UTSA-300, dispersed  $C_2D_2$ molecules are bound through strong C-D...F hydrogen bonding and van der Waals (vdW) interactions with the pyridyl rings of the dps ligand, the same as the acetylene binding in SIFSIX MOFs.<sup>12</sup> On site I, located inside the pseudocubic cavity, the only C2D2 molecule is symmetrically bound to two terminal F atoms of different SiF<sub>6</sub><sup>2-</sup> units (D…F 1.979(27) Å, C-D…F 3.039(29) Å), accompanied by multiple vdW interactions between  $C_2D_2$  and the pyridyl rings (3.775 (24) Å) (Figure 4b). In contrast, on site II, the  $C_2D_2$  molecule is asymmetrically bound to one close F atom (D…F 2.201(37) Å, C-D…F 3.281(37) Å) together with a weaker interaction with another F atom (D…F 2.895(38) Å, C-D…F 3.946(38) Å) and forms considerable vdW potential overlap to aromatic rings (C…C 3.311(16) and 3.524(18) Å). The shorter C…F hydrogen bond and higher occupancy for site I indicate its higher binding energy. Notably, by forming new interactions,

the loading of the  $C_2D_2$  molecule broke the original hydrogen bond inside the closed-pore **UTSA-300a**, accompanied by the inversion of distorted ligand conformation and subsequent rearrangement of interlayer stacking, which results in a fully expanded framework. This open-pore phase was then stabilized by  $C_2H_2$  through strong host–guest interactions.

Based on the restored network structure, we can gain a further insight on the C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> adsorption mechanism in UTSA-300a. We conducted detailed first-principles dispersioncorrected density functional theory (DFT-D) calculations.<sup>28</sup> We found that the optimized  $C_2H_2$  binding configurations are consistent with the experimental results from NPD data (Figure S25). The primary binding site locates at site I, at which dual C-H…F hydrogen bonding notably occurs between C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> and  $SiF_6^{2-}$  (H…F 1.832 Å, C–H…F 2.783 Å). The secondary binding site (at site II) exhibits a weak C-H…F hydrogen bonding (H…F 2.192 Å, C-H…F 3.134 Å). For the two binding sites, the DFT-D calculated static binding energy  $(E_{\rm B})$ is ~56.8 and ~51.7 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The binding affinity for  $C_2H_2$  in UTSA-300a is comparable to the strongest calculated C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> binding strength in SIFSIX materials (~52.9 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> in SIFSIX-2-Cu-i).<sup>12</sup> Clearly, the electrostatic potential (negative) generated around  $SiF_6^{2-}$  induces the C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> molecule to primarily bind in a head-on orientation inside a pseudocubic cage, resulting the breaking of the original intranetwork hydrogen bonding and subsequent expansion to open-pore structure. In contrast, due to opposite molecular quadrupole moment (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, 20.5 × 10<sup>-40</sup> C m<sup>2</sup>; CO<sub>2</sub>, -13.4 × 10<sup>-40</sup> C  $m^2$ ),<sup>31</sup> electrostatic repulsion between F sites and O atoms will form if  $CO_2$  takes the same binding orientation (Figure 5). The

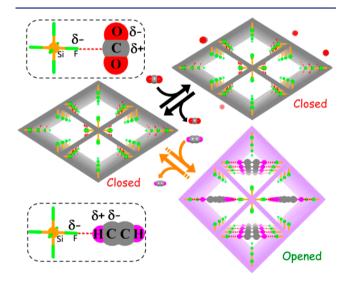


Figure 5. Schematic adsorption mechanism for  $CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2$  with different interactions under ambient conditions.

optimal sorption site for  $CO_2$  is a different parallel orientation along metal hexafluorosilicate chains,<sup>32</sup> which cannot break the original hydrogen bond under ambient conditions to open the closed-pore structure. The intranetwork hydrogen bonding is still relatively weak, so it can be broken under harsh conditions (lower temperatures and/or higher relative pressures), which has been commonly observed in flexible or dynamic MOFs.<sup>19a,33</sup> Here, suitable pore size and geometry maximize the sieving effect of **UTSA-300a**. Moreover, benefiting from strong host–guest interactions between  $C_2H_2$  (donor) and F sites (acceptor), the network structure can finally remain open. These results from binding calculations are fully consistent with the high isosteric heats ( $Q_{st}$ ) of  $C_2H_2$ , as observed experimentally in UTSA-300a, and also explain well the unusual  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  selectivity of UTSA-300a. Based on pure component isotherms at 273 and 298 K, the experimental adsorption enthalpy ( $Q_{st}$ ) of  $C_2H_2$  in UTSA-300a is evaluated by using the Clausius–Clapeyron equation (Figure 3c). The obtained  $Q_{st}$  value for  $C_2H_2$  is 57.6 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, obviously bigger than that in other SIFSIX materials (up to 41.9 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>).<sup>12</sup> This result indicates superior affinity of UTSA-300a toward  $C_2H_2$ . Notably, smaller  $Q_{st}$  of about 30 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> was observed at high  $C_2H_2$  loading, consistent with gradual expansion of network structure (energy consumed) during adsorption.

Next, to predict the potential of **UTSA-300a** in separation of the challenging  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  mixtures, the calculation was performed with the commonly used approach based on the ideal adsorbed solution theory (IAST, Figures S26–S33, Table S3). As expected, the simulated adsorption selectivities for the  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  binary equimolar mixtures are up to 743 and >10<sup>4</sup> at 298 K and 100 kPa, respectively, which is higher than those for any other MOF materials.<sup>12,19,29</sup> Even higher selectivies of >10<sup>4</sup> were found at 273 K for both mixtures, as indicated by their isotherms. These highly pressure-dependent selectivities suggest that separation of these mixtures is feasible when it is performed under pressures above the gated opening pressure. The results fully support the potential in practical separation of  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  at ambient pressure.

To evaluate the  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  separation performances of **UTSA-300a** in practical adsorption processes, we carried out experimental breakthrough studies in which equimolar gas mixtures were flowed over a packed column of activated **UTSA-300a** solid with a total flow of 2 mL min<sup>-1</sup> at 298 K (Figures S34 and S35). The results in Figure 6 (also

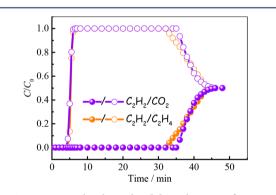


Figure 6. Experimental column breakthrough curves for equimolar  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  (purple) and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  (orange) mixtures (298 K, 1 bar) in an adsorber bed packed with UTSA-300a.  $C_0$  is the total concentration of gases at outlet.

Figure S36) indeed demonstrate that UTSA-300a is highly efficient for these challenging separations of  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  mixtures. For  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  separation, gas chromatography data revealed that the outlet effluent gas during initial purges contains only  $CO_2$  (purity >99.9%), and this continues until  $C_2H_2$  starts breaking through because its uptake capacity in **UTSA-300a** has been reached. Similar results can also be observed for the  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  mixture, and the outlet  $C_2H_4$  purity is also up to >99.9%. For both gas mixtures, high-purity  $C_2H_2$  (>99%) can be obtained during the final regeneration stage. Notably, the breakthrough curves for both gas mixtures

are almost the same (elution times >30 min), suggesting the same  $C_2H_2$  capture capacities for UTSA-300a to these mixtures, which demonstrates that the molecular exclusion of CO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> works well even under dynamic gas mixture flow. Further studies for UTSA-300a with larger gas flow (see Figures S37 and S38) also show excellent separation performance toward challenging  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  mixtures.

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In summary, we have realized a novel porous metal-organic framework UTSA-300 toward recognition of a specific gas molecule from its very similar impurity. In principle, fine-tuning of pore size in MOFs can gain a sieving effect for gas separation, which is particularly effective for molecules with different sizes and shapes. To further separate much more challenging molecules with very similar sizes and physical properties, we unexpectedly reveal a unique approach to utilize a size-matched pore with strong binding sites and dynamic pore structures to bind targeted molecules for the highly selective gas separation. The size match and orientation binding mode have enlarged the tiny difference between C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>, leading to their diametrically different adsorption capacities. The recognition mechanism for gas molecules is well supported by direct crystallography studies in which the anisotropic adsorption site within the framework only allows C2H2 to open the pore structure by forming strong host-guest interactions. This approach is likely applicable to other gas mixtures, which will facilitate the design and implementation of novel porous MOF materials for other important gas separations.

## ASSOCIATED CONTENT

#### **S** Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/jacs.7b03850.

Crystallographic data, additional structural plot, TG curves, PXRD, multiple cycle sorption isotherm, NPD data for Rietveld refinement, results of density functional theory calculations, dual Langmuir–Freundlich isotherm model fitting, isosteric heat of adsorption calculation, IAST calculations of adsorption selectivities, and column breakthrough test setup with procedures and measurements (PDF)

Crystallographic data for UTSA-300 $\supset$ H<sub>2</sub>O (CIF) Crystallographic data for UTSA-300a (CIF) Crystallographic data for UTSA-300 $\supset$ C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub> (CIF)

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#### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# **Supporting Information**

# Optimized Separation of Acetylene from Carbon Dioxide and Ethylene in a Microporous Material

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Figure S1. Optical image of as-synthesized UTSA-300.

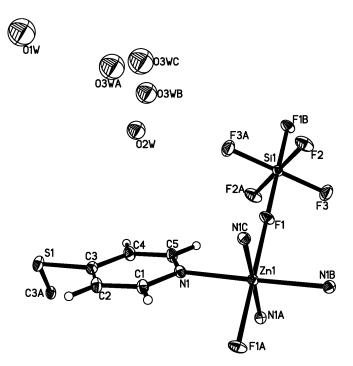


Figure S2. The coordination environments in as-synthesized UTSA-300 (see details in supplementary crystallographic data and Table S1).

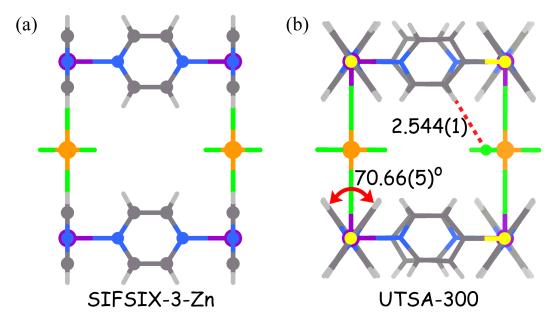


Figure S3. Comparison of the cage units between SIFSIX-3-Zn (a) and as-synthesized UTSA-300 (b).

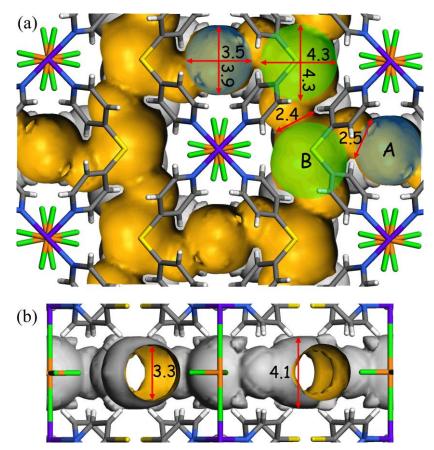


Figure S4. Pore geometry and dimensions of as-synthesized UTSA-300.

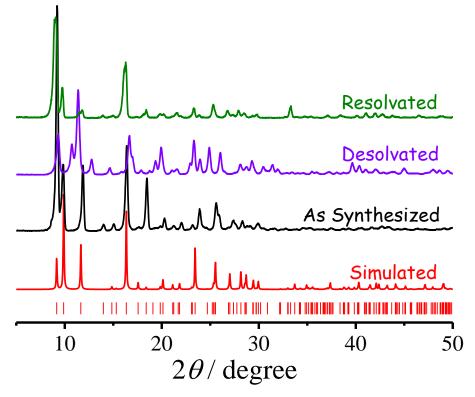


Figure S5. PXRD patterns of UTSA-300.

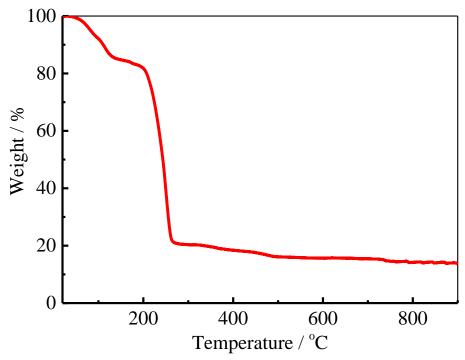
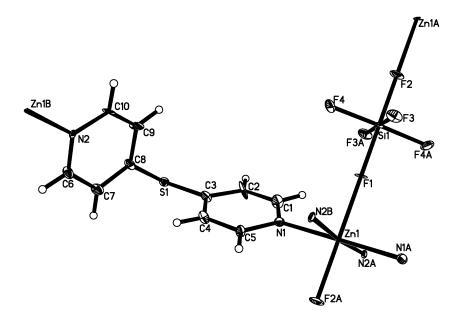
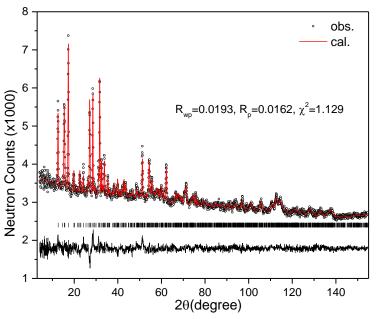


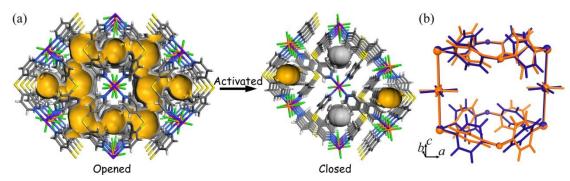
Figure S6. TGA curve of UTSA-300⊃H<sub>2</sub>O.



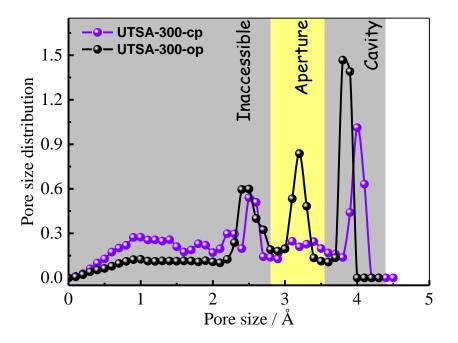
**Figure S7**. Single crystal X-ray diffraction data of activated **UTSA-300a**. Crystal data: C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>16</sub>F<sub>6</sub>N<sub>4</sub>S<sub>2</sub>SiZn, monoclinic, space group *P*2/*n* (No. 13), *a* = 10.1298(10), *b* = 7.5694(9), *c* = 16.625(2) Å,  $\beta$  = 103.041(12)°, *V* = 1241.9(3) Å<sup>3</sup>, *Z* = 2, *T* = 150 K. 14671 reflections measured, 6904 unique (*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.1989) used in all calculations. The final agreement index *R*<sub>1</sub> was 0.2656 for 3842 independent significant [*I* > 2  $\sigma$  (I)] absorption corrected data and 156 parameters, [*wR*<sub>2</sub> = 0.5937 for all data], GOF = 1.724. Highest peak of residual electron density is 6.57 eÅ<sup>-3</sup> (0.66 Å from Zn1) and deepest hole is -8.024 eÅ<sup>-3</sup> (1.29 Å from C5).



**Figure S8**. Experimental (circles), calculated (line), and difference (line below observed and calculated patterns) neutron powder diffraction profiles for **UTSA-300a**, measured at 296 K. The ligand molecules were kept as rigid bodies during the Rietveld structural refinement. Vertical bars indicate the calculated positions of Bragg peaks. Goodness of fit data are shown in insets.



**Figure S9**. (a) Porosity change during transformation from as-synthesized **UTSA-300** to desolvated one, and (b) their corresponding cage units (indigo and orange, respectively).



**Figure S10**. Pore size distribution (PSD) of close and open phases of **UTSA-300**. PSD was calculated using the well-known method by Gubbins et al.<sup>S1</sup> The van der Waals diameters of the framework atoms were adopted from the Cambridge Crystallographic Center.

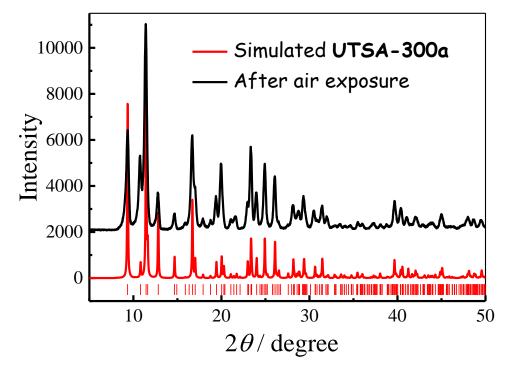


Figure S11. PXRD patterns of UTSA-300a.

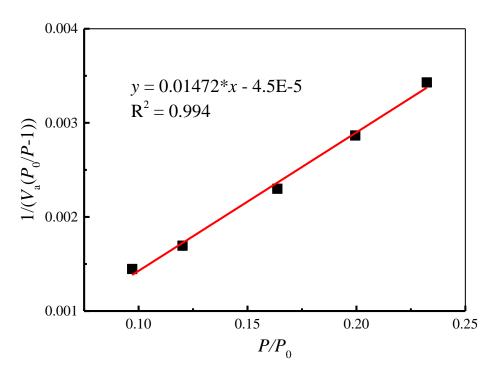


Figure S12. BET calculation based on  $CO_2$  adsorption isotherm of UTSA-300a at 195 K.

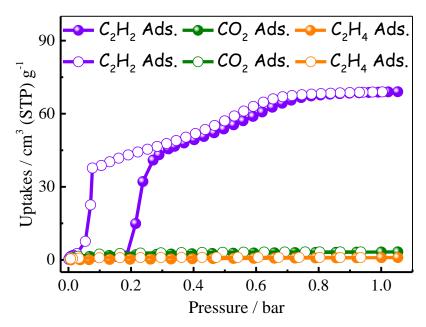


Figure S13. C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> sorption isotherms for UTSA-300a at 298 K.

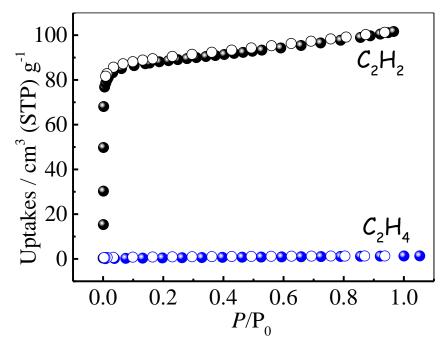


Figure S14. C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> sorption isotherms for UTSA-300a at 195 K.

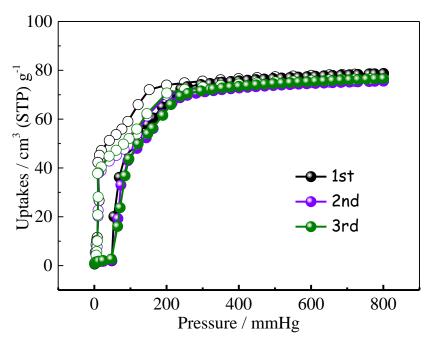


Figure S15. Multiple cycles of  $C_2H_2$  sorption measurements for UTSA-300a at 273 K.

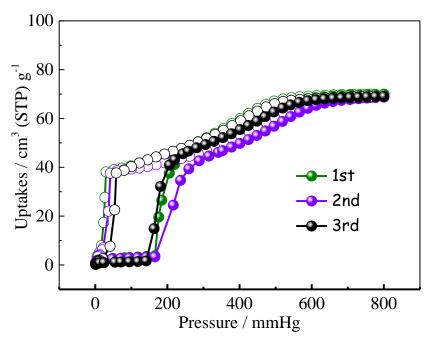


Figure S16. Multiple cycles of  $C_2H_2$  sorption measurements for UTSA-300a at 298 K.

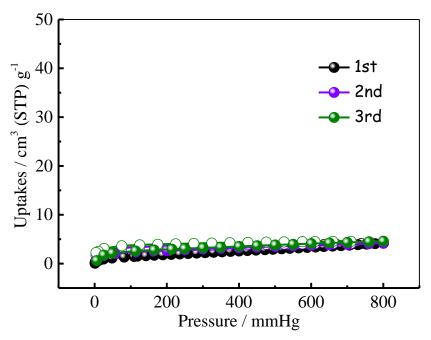


Figure S17. Multiple cycles of CO<sub>2</sub> sorption measurements for UTSA-300a at 273 K.

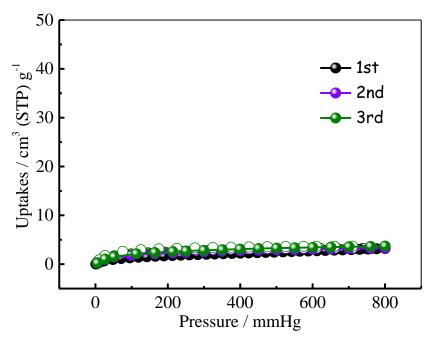


Figure S18. Multiple cycles of CO<sub>2</sub> sorption measurements for UTSA-300a at 298 K.

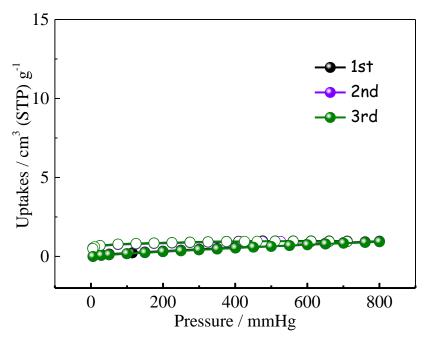


Figure S19. Multiple cycles of  $C_2H_4$  sorption measurements for UTSA-300a at 273 K.

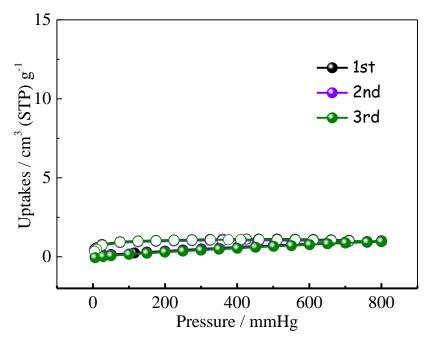


Figure S20. Multiple cycles of  $C_2H_4$  sorption measurements for UTSA-300a at 298 K.

# **Neutron diffraction**

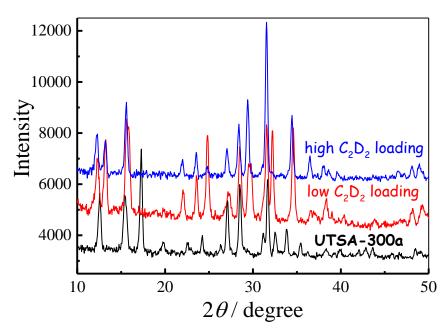
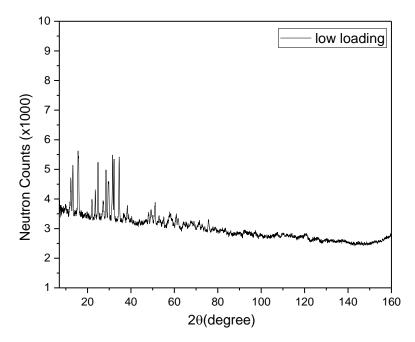
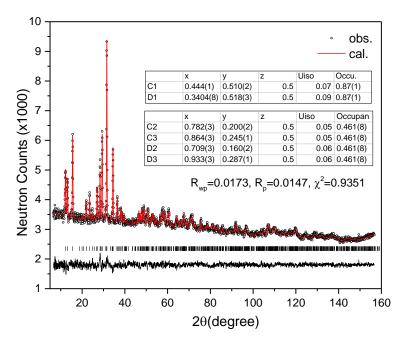


Figure S21. Measured neutron powder diffraction data for UTSA-300a loaded with  $C_2D_2$ .



**Figure S22**. Neutron powder diffraction data for **UTSA-300a** loaded with  $C_2D_2$  (equilibrated at 296 K and 0.35 bar) measured at 296 K.



**Figure S23**. Rietveld refinements of the neutron powder diffraction data for **UTSA-300a** loaded with  $C_2D_2$  (equilibrated at 296 K and 0.8 bar) measured at 296 K. The ligand molecules and the  $C_2D_2$  molecules were kept as rigid bodies during the refinement. Experimental (circles), calculated (line), and difference (line below observed and calculated patterns) neutron powder diffraction profiles are shown. Vertical bars indicate the calculated positions of Bragg peaks. Goodness of fit data are shown in insets.

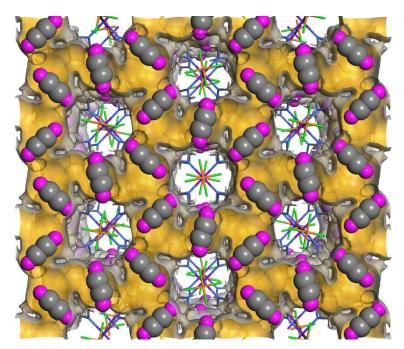


Figure S24. Packing diagram of UTSA-300⊃C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>.

# **Density-functional theory calculations**

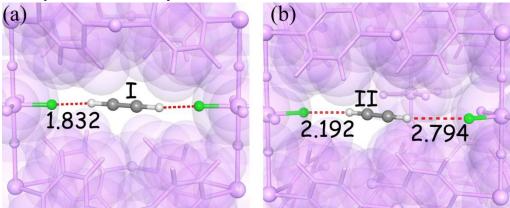


Figure S25. DFT-D optimized C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> adsorption sites of UTSA-300a.

# Calculation of isosteric heat of adsorption (Qst).

The Clausius-Clapeyron equation was employed to calculate the enthalpies of  $C_2H_2$  adsorption:

$$\frac{\partial(\ln P)}{\partial(1/T)} = -\frac{Q_{st}}{R}$$

Where P is the pressure, T is the temperature, R is the universal gas constant.

**IAST Calculation**. In order to calculate the selective sorption performance of UTSA-300a toward the separation of binary mixed gases, the fitting of the single-component  $C_2H_2$ ,  $CO_2$ , and  $C_2H_4$  adsorption isotherms was carried out based on the dual-site Langmuir-Freundlich (DSLF) model. The fitting parameters of the DSLF equation are displayed in Table S3. Adsorption isotherms and gas selectivities of mixed  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  (50/50, v/v) and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  (50/50, v/v) at 273 and 296 K for UTSA-300a were predicted using the ideal adsorbed solution theory (IAST). The results are shown in Fig. S26-27.

Dual-site Langmuir-Freundlich (DSLF) model is listed as below:

$$N = N_1^{\max} \times \frac{b_1 p^{1/n1}}{1 + b_1 p^{1/n1}} + N_2^{\max} \times \frac{b_2 p^{1/n2}}{1 + b_2 p^{1/n2}}$$

Where p (unit: kPa) is the pressure of the bulk gas at equilibrium with the adsorbed phase, N (unit: mol/kg) is the adsorbed amount per mass of adsorbent,  $N_1^{\text{max}}$  and  $N_2^{\text{max}}$  (unit: mmol/g) are the saturation capacities of two different sites,  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  (unit: 1/kPa) are the affinity coefficients of these sites, and  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  represent the deviations from an ideal homogeneous surface.

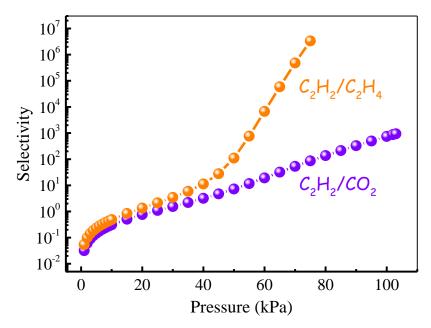
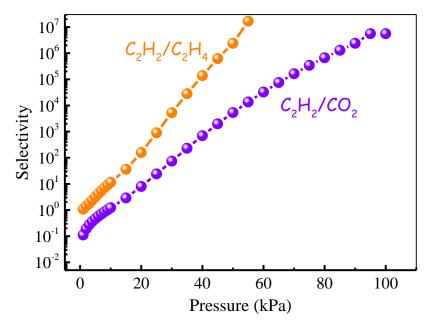


Figure S26. IAST adsorption selectivities of  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  in their equimolar mixtures at 298 K.



**Figure S27.** IAST adsorption selectivities of  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  in their equimolar mixtures at 273 K.

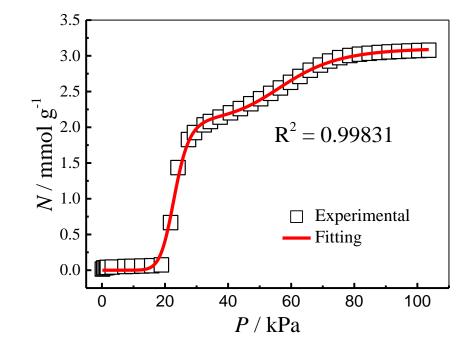


Figure S28. DSLF fitting of the  $C_2H_2$  sorption data at 298 K and 1 bar for UTSA-300a.

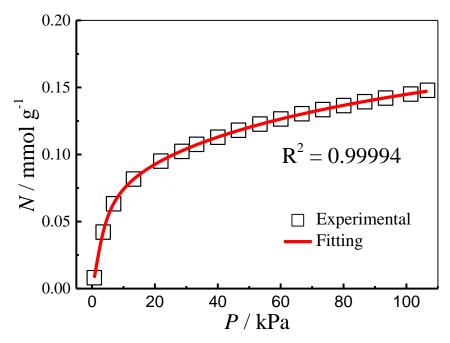


Figure S29. DSLF fitting of the  $CO_2$  sorption data at 298 K and 1 bar for UTSA-300a.

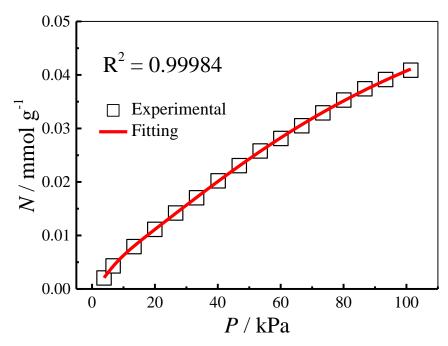


Figure S30. DSLF fitting of the  $C_2H_4$  sorption data at 298 K and 1 bar for UTSA-300a.

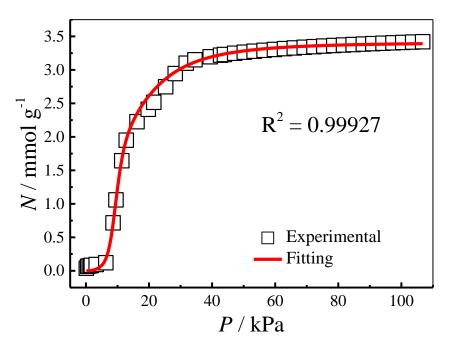


Figure S31. DSLF fitting of the  $C_2H_2$  sorption data at 273 K and 1 bar for UTSA-300a.

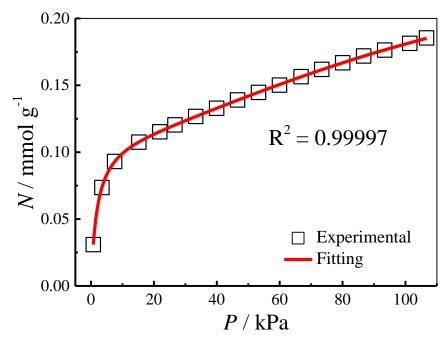


Figure S32. DSLF fitting of the  $CO_2$  sorption data at 273 K and 1 bar for UTSA-300a.

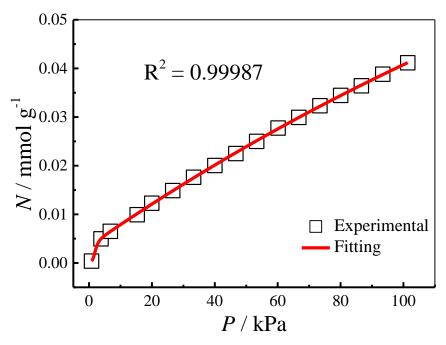


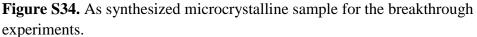
Figure S33. DSLF fitting of the  $C_2H_4$  sorption data at 273 K and 1 bar for UTSA-300a.

# Breakthrough separation experiments and procedures

The breakthrough experiments were carried out in dynamic gas breakthrough set-up.<sup>S2-S4</sup> A stainless steel column with inner dimensions of  $\phi 4 \times 150$  mm was used for sample packing. Microcrystalline sample (2.499 g) with particle size of 220–320 mm (Figure S34) obtained via sieving was then packed into the column. The column was placed in a temperature controlled environment (maintained at 273 or 298 K).

The mixed gas flow and pressure were controlled by using a pressure controller valve and a mass flow controller (Figure S35). Outlet effluent from the column was continuously monitored using gas chromatography (GC-2014, SHIMADZU) with a thermal conductivity detector (TCD). The column packed with sample was firstly purged with He flow (100 mL min<sup>-1</sup>) for 6 h at room temperature 298 K. The mixed gas flow rate during breakthrough process is 2 or 6 mL min<sup>-1</sup> using 50/50 (v/v)  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$ . After the breakthrough experiment, the sample was regenerated under vacuum.





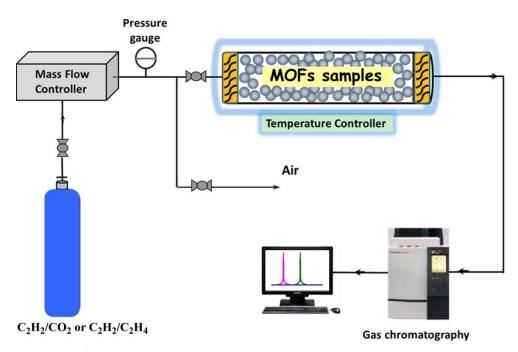
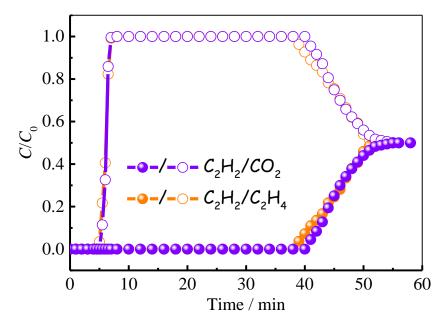
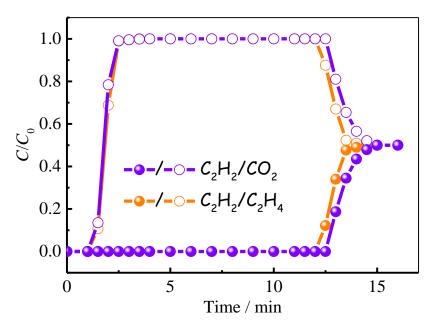


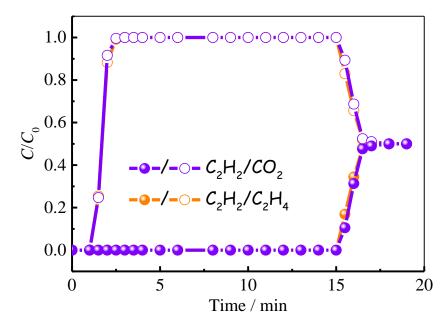
Figure S35. Schematic illustration of the apparatus for the breakthrough experiments.



**Figure S36.** Experimental column breakthrough curves for equimolar  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  (purple) and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  (orange) mixtures (273 K, 1 bar, gas flow: 2 mL/min) in an adsorber bed packed with **UTSA-300a**.



**Figure S37.** Experimental column breakthrough curves for equimolar  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  (purple) and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  (orange) mixtures (298 K, 1 bar, gas flow: 6 mL/min) in an adsorber bed packed with **UTSA-300a**.



**Figure S38.** Experimental column breakthrough curves for equimolar  $C_2H_2/CO_2$  (purple) and  $C_2H_2/C_2H_4$  (orange) mixtures (273 K, 1 bar, gas flow: 6 mL/min) in an adsorber bed packed with **UTSA-300a**.

Complex	UTSA-300⊃H <sub>2</sub> O	UTSA-300a	UTSA-300⊃C <sub>2</sub> D <sub>2</sub>
Formula.	$C_{20}H_{16}F_6N_4O_6S_2SiZn$	$C_{20}H_{16}F_6N_4S_2SiZn$	$C_{23.57}H_{16}D_{3.57}F_6N_4S_2SiZn$
F.W.	679.99	583.95	634.00
Crystal system	Orthorhombic	Monoclinic	Orthorhombic
Space group	Ibam	P2/n	Ibam
a /Å	10.092(4)	10.1521(8)	10.1705(9)
b /Å	19.277(8)	7.6071(7)	19.358(2)
c /Å	15.171(6)	16.7738(24)	15.272(1)
$\alpha/^{o}$	90	90	90
eta/°	90	102.987(11)	90
$\gamma^{ m o}$	90	90	90
volume/Å <sup>3</sup>	2951(2)	1262.3(3)	3006.8(6)
Ζ	4	2	4
$D_{ m cald}/ m g~ m cm^{-3}$	1.530	1.562	1.401
$\mu$ / mm <sup>-1</sup>	1.092	/	/
F000	1368	/	/
$R_1^a I > 2\theta$	0.0891	$R_{\rm p}^{\ c} = 0.0162$	$R_{\rm p}^{\ c} = 0.0146$
$wR_2^bI > 2\theta$	0.2062	$R_{\rm wp}{}^{\rm d} = 0.0193$	$R_{\rm wp}{}^{\rm d} = 0.0172$
$R_1^a$ (all data)	0.0969	/	/
$wR_2^b$ (all data)	0.2116	/	/
GOF	1.167	/	/

Table S1. Crystal data and structure refinements of UTSA-300 – H2O, UTSA-300a

 ${}^{a}R_{1} = \Sigma |F_{o}|F_{c}| / \Sigma |F_{o}|, {}^{b}R_{w2} = [\Sigma w (F_{o}^{2} - F_{c}^{2})^{2} / \Sigma w (F_{o}^{2})^{2}]^{1/2}.$ 

and UTSA-300⊃C<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub>.

 ${}^{c}R_{p} = \Sigma |cY^{sim}(2\theta_{i}) - I^{exp}(2\theta_{i}) + Y^{back}(2\theta_{i})|/\Sigma |I^{exp}(2\theta_{i})|.$ 

 ${}^{d}R_{\rm wp} = \{w_{\rm p}[cY^{\rm sim}(2\theta_i) - I^{\rm exp}(2\theta_i) + Y^{\rm back}(2\theta_i)]^2 / \Sigma w_{\rm p}[I^{\rm exp}(2\theta_i)]^2 \}^{1/2}, \text{ and } w_{\rm p} = 1/I^{\rm exp}(2\theta_i).$ 

MOFs	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> (cm <sup>3</sup> /g, STP)	CO <sub>2</sub> (cm <sup>3</sup> /g, STP)	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> (cm <sup>3</sup> / g STP)	VC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> /VCO <sub>2</sub>	VC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> /VC <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	Condition	Ref
[Cu <sub>2</sub> (pzdc) <sub>2</sub> (pyz)]	42	4	/	10.5	/	270 K, 4.5 kPa	S5
MAF-2	70	19	/	3.68	/	298 K, 100 kPa	<b>S</b> 6
HKUST-1	201	113	/	1.78	/	~298 K, 100 kPa	<b>S</b> 7
Mg(HCOO) <sub>2</sub>	66	45	/	1.47	/	298 K, 100 kPa	<b>S</b> 8
UTSA-74-Zn	108.2	70.9	/	1.53	/	296 K, 100 kPa	S9
[Mn <sub>3</sub> (bpy) <sub>3</sub> ][Mn(CN) <sub>6</sub> ] <sub>2</sub>	71	/	5.4	/	13.3	283 K, 100 kPa	S10
M'MOF-3a	42.6	/	9.0	/	4.73	296 K, 100 kPa	S11
SIFSIX-1-Cu	190.4	107.9	92.1	1.74	2.07	298 K, 100 kPa	S12
SIFSIX-2-Cu-i	90.0	108.4	49.1	1.21	1.84	298 K, 100 kPa	S12
SIFSIX-3-Zn	81.5	57.0	50.2	1.43	1.62	298 K, 100 kPa	S12
UTSA-100a	95.6	/	37.2	/	2.57	296 K, 100 kPa	S11
NOTT-300	142	/	95.9	/	1.48	293 K, 100 kPa	S11
MOF-74-Co	183	/	157	/	1.16	296 K, 100 kPa	S11
[Mn(bdc)(dpe)]	7.3	46.8	/	0.156	/	273K, 91 kPa	S13
MOF-74-Fe	152.3	/	136.6	/	1.11	313 K, 100 kPa	S11
LITS A 2000	68.9	3.25	0.92	21	75	298 K, 100 kPa	This
UTSA-300a	76.5	4.06	0.92	19	83	273K, 100 kPa	work

**Table S2.** Summary of the adsorption uptakes, selectivities and heat of adsorption data for  $C_2H_2$ ,  $CO_2$  and  $C_2H_4$  in various MOFs (reorganized from ref S11-S13).

Adsorbates	$N_1^{\max}$	$b_1$	$1/n_1$	$N_2^{\max}$	$b_2$	$1/n_2$
	(mmol/g)	(kPa <sup>-1</sup> )		(mmol/g)	(kPa <sup>-1</sup> )	
UTSA-300a						
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> (273 K)	1.57132	2.68341E-8	7.67816	1.84047	7.07776E-4	2.51459
CO <sub>2</sub> (273 K)	0.11806	0.49533	0.96151	0.15062	3.28404E-4	1.68553
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> (273 K)	0.00357	0.04567	4.27267	0.19369	0.00218	1.01872
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> (298 K)	2.124	3.82688E-14	9.83515	0.98607	2.07481E-12	6.6095
CO <sub>2</sub> (298 K)	0.05292	0.11784	1.76735	0.21584	0.02958	0.70021
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> (298 K)	0.06618	0.001	1.52186	0.00603	0.02878	1.87926

Table S3. Equation parameters for the DSLF isotherm model.

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