

# Three-Dimensional Triptycene-Based Covalent Organic Frameworks with *ceq* or *acs* Topology

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Supporting Information Placeholder

**ABSTRACT:** The growth of three-dimensional covalent organic frameworks (3D COFs) with new topologies is still considered as a great challenge due to limited availability of high-connectivity building units. Here we report the design and synthesis of novel 3D triptycene-based COFs, termed JUC-568 and JUC-569, following the deliberate symmetry-guided design principle. By combining a triangular prism (6-connected) node with a planar triangle (3-connected) or another triangular prism node, the targeted COFs adopt unreported *ceq* or non-interpenetrated *acs* topology, respectively. Both materials show permanent porosity and impressive performance in the adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> (~ 98 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 273 K and 1 bar), CH<sub>4</sub> (~ 48 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 273 K and 1 bar), and especially H<sub>2</sub> (up to 274 cm<sup>3</sup>/g or 2.45 wt% at 77 K and 1 bar), which is highest among porous organic materials reported to date. This research thus provides a promising strategy for diversifying 3D COFs based on complex building blocks and promotes their potential applications in energy storage and environment-related fields.

Covalent organic frameworks (COFs), an emerging family of crystalline porous polymers, are assembled from organic reactants by reversible covalent bonds.<sup>1-5</sup> Due to their high surface area, modular nature, and good thermal/chemical stability, COF materials have attracted considerable attention in gas storage/separation,<sup>6-9</sup> organic electronics,<sup>10-14</sup> heterogeneous catalysis,<sup>15-20</sup> and some other fields.<sup>21-25</sup> Over the past decade, most of reports were focused on conjugated two-dimensional (2D) sheets, in which the abundant building blocks allowed to establish well developed synthetic strategies.<sup>5</sup> By contrast, three-dimensional (3D) COFs are still less studied due to the scant availability of appropriate molecular building units and relatively complex structure determination.<sup>4</sup> Up till now, only very limited topologies in 3D COFs have been reported,<sup>26-34</sup> such as *dia*, *ctn* and *bor*. Moreover, almost all known 3D COFs were constructed by using tetrahedral (4-connected) building blocks, including the derivatives of tetraphenylmethane, tetraphenylsilane, and adamantane, which

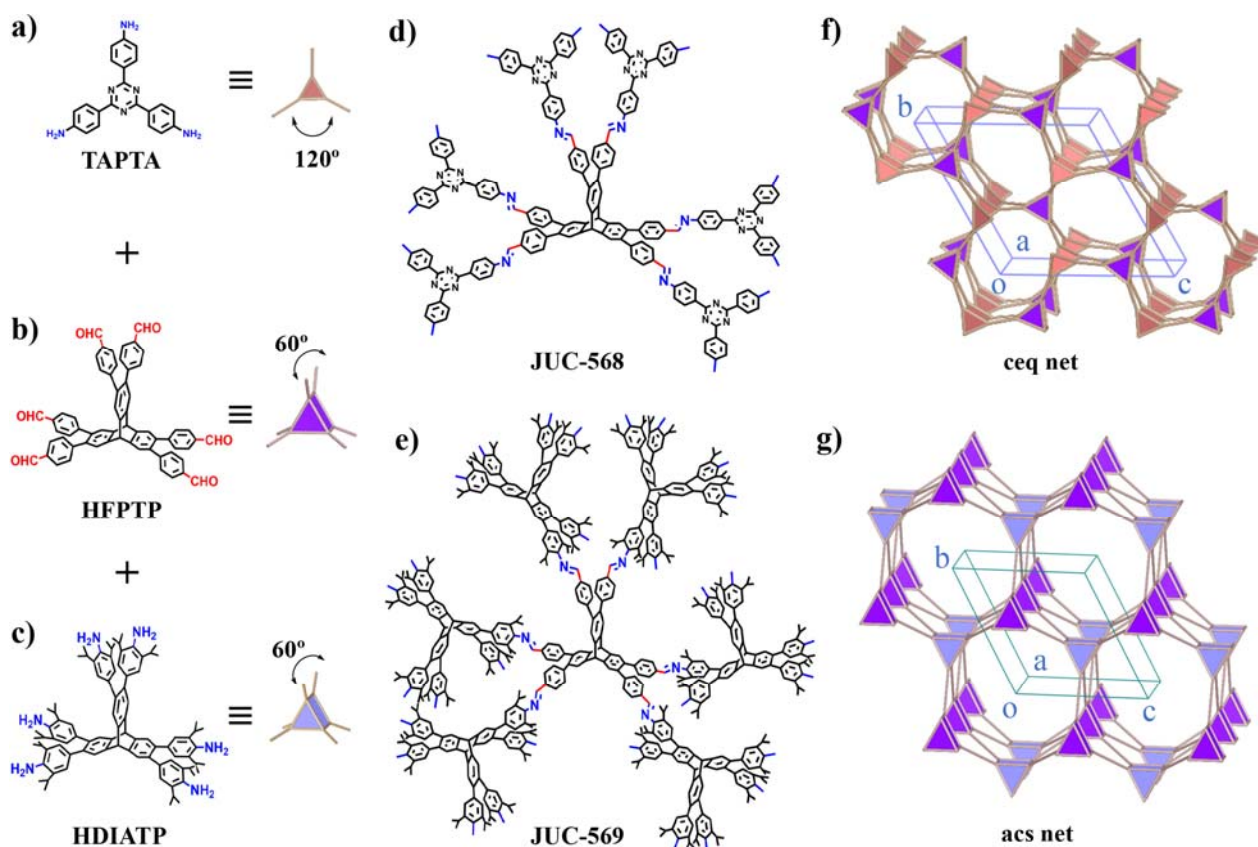
has greatly confined the structural diversity and functionalization of 3D COFs.

Despite the above issues, 3D COFs are considered as an exciting platform for practical applications due to their unique features,<sup>4</sup> e.g., inter-connective porous structures, high specific surface areas, and easily accessible active sites. In principle, the employment of high-connectivity building units, such as triangular prism (6-connected) monomers, can set up new architectures in 3D COFs, proved by several cases that appeared recently. For example, we synthesized the first 3D large-pore COF, JUC-564, with *stp* topology constructed from a triptycene-based triangular prism monomer, which has the largest pore (43 Å) among 3D COFs and record-breaking low density (0.108 g cm<sup>-3</sup>) in porous crystalline materials to date.<sup>35</sup> Subsequently, Cooper and co-workers also reported the first cage-based 3D COF, 3D-CageCOF-1, which is fabricated by an organic cage molecule as a triangular prism node and adopts a 2-fold interpenetrated *acs* topology.<sup>36</sup> It must be noted, however, that except for a few successful examples, 3D COFs using high-connectivity monomers still remain largely unexplored.

Herein we report the design and synthesis of new 3D COFs, termed JUC-568 and JUC-569 (JUC = Jilin University China), based on triptycene derivatives with a triangular prism node. By combining the triptycene-based monomer with a planar triangle (3-connected) node, JUC-568 shows a *ceq* topology. Besides, from the assembly of two similar triangular prism building units, JUC-569 adopts a non-interpenetrated *acs* topology. To the best of our knowledge, this study represents the first example of COFs with *ceq* or non-interpenetrated *acs* topology, which effectively expands the structural varieties of 3D COFs. More importantly, owing to the high crystallinity and permanent porosity, these triptycene-based COFs demonstrate an impressive performance in the capture of CO<sub>2</sub> (~ 98 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 273 K and 1 bar) and CH<sub>4</sub> (~ 48 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 273 K and 1 bar), and particularly H<sub>2</sub> (up to 274 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 77 K and 1 bar), which is higher than those from porous organic materials reported so far.

Our strategy for preparing 3D COFs with new topologies is based on the considered symmetry-guided design principle. A triptycene derivative, 2,3,6,7,14,15-hexa(4'-formylphenyl) triptycene (HFPTP, Figure 1b), can perfectly act as a highly

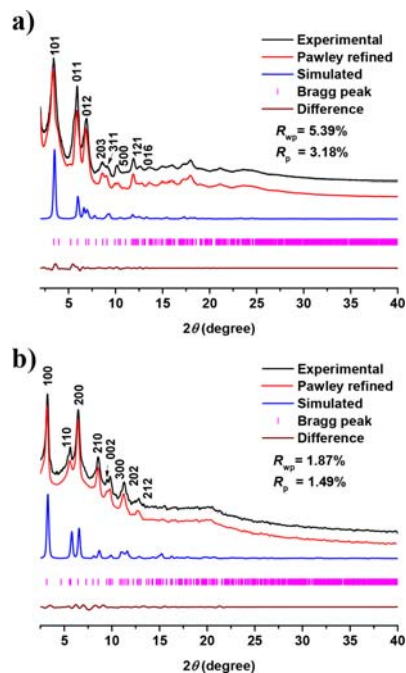
**Scheme 1. Schematic representation of the strategy for preparing 3D triptycene-based COFs<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup>Molecular structures of TAPTA (a) as a planar triangle (3-connected) node as well as HFPTP (b) and HDIATP (c) as triangular prism nodes (6-connected) building units. Two 3D triptycene-based COFs, denoted as JUC-568 (d) and JUC-569 (e), are constructed by the condensation reaction of HFPTP and TAPTA or HDIATP. An expanded [6 + 3] connected network (**ceq** topology) in JUC-568 (f), and an expanded [6 + 6] connected network (**acs** topology) in JUC-569 (g).

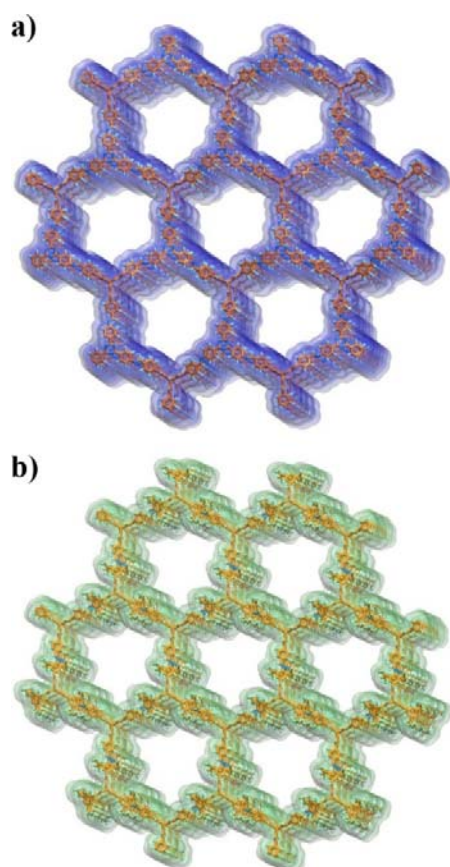
symmetrical triangular prism node. After analyzing the Reticular Chemistry Structure Resource (RCSR) database,<sup>37</sup> we found that only one possible topology (**acs**) is available for such a 6-connected node. At the same time, there are multiple feasible topologies for the combination of 6-connected and 3-connected build units, such as **ceq**, **sab** and **dag**. Therefore, the condensation of HFPTP and a planar triangle (3-connected) monomer, 2,4,6-tris(4-aminophenyl)-1,3,5-triazine (TAPTA, Figure 1a), leads to an expanded [6 + 3] connected network (JUC-568, Figure 1d). Considering their link angles ( $60^\circ$  for HFPTP and  $120^\circ$  for TAPTA), the targeted material is more likely to form the **ceq** topology (Figure 1f). Furthermore, to construct a pure 6-connected framework, another triangular prism monomer, 2,3,6,7,14,15-hexa(3',5'-diisopropyl-4'-amino) triptycene (HDIATP, Figure 1c) was also designed. JUC-569 (Figure 1e) can be obtained from the combination of two triangular prism monomers, HFPTP and HDIATP, with the same 6-connected node and link angle of  $120^\circ$ , which tends to a non-interpenetrated **acs** topology (Figure 1g).

The synthesis of JUC-568 was carried out by the solvothermal reaction of HFPTP (22.0 mg, 0.025 mmol) and TAPTA (17.7 mg, 0.05 mmol) in a mixture of dioxane, mesitylene and acetic acid, with heating at  $120^\circ\text{C}$  for 3 days; while JUC-569 was obtained by suspending HFPTP (22.0 mg, 0.025 mmol) and HDIATP (32.3 mg, 0.025 mmol) in a mixture of *o*-dichlorobenzene, *n*-butanol and acetic acid under  $120^\circ\text{C}$  for 3 days. The as-synthesized COFs were insoluble in water or common organic solvents, such as hexane,



**Figure 1.** PXRD patterns of JUC-568 (a) and JUC-569 (b).

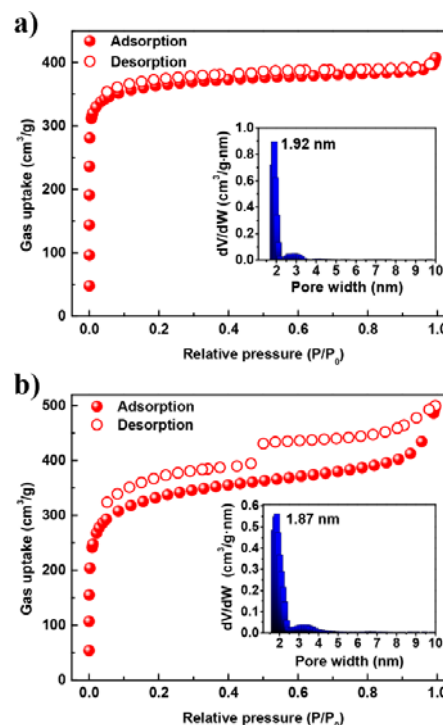
acetone, *N,N*-dimethylformamide, ethanol, and tetrahydrofuran. The morphologies of both COFs were characterized by scanning electron microscopy (SEM, Figures S1 and S2). Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectra displayed new peaks at 1598  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for JUC-568 and 1625  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for JUC-569, which are typical characteristics of C=N bond. At the same time, the depletion of peaks ascribed to C=O stretching vibration (1699  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for HFPTP) and N-H stretching vibration ( $\sim 3323$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for TAPTA and  $\sim 3403$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$  for HDIATP) confirmed that aldehyde and amine groups had been transformed (Figures S3 and S4). Solid-state  $^{13}\text{C}$  cross-polarization magic-angle-spinning (CP/MAS) NMR spectroscopy indicated that the presence of carbons from imine groups by the peaks at 158 ppm for JUC-568 and 162 ppm for JUC-569 (Figures S5 and S6). Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) showed that both COFs had high thermal stability ( $\sim 450$   $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Figures S7 and S8).



**Figure 2.** Extended structures of JUC-568 (a) and JUC-569 (b) viewed along *c*-axis.

The crystalline structures of 3D triptycene-based COFs were verified by the powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) in conjunction with structural simulations (Figure 1). After a geometrical energy minimization by the Materials Studio software package,<sup>38</sup> the unit cell parameters were acquired with  $a = 49.570$   $\text{\AA}$ ,  $b = 50.541$   $\text{\AA}$ ,  $c = 15.618$   $\text{\AA}$  and  $\alpha = \beta = 90^{\circ}$ ,  $\gamma = 120^{\circ}$  for JUC-568 based on a **ceq** net, while the unit cell parameters of JUC-569 with a non-interpenetrated **acs** net were  $a = b = 31.110$   $\text{\AA}$ ,  $c = 18.468$   $\text{\AA}$  and  $\alpha = \beta = 90^{\circ}$ ,  $\gamma = 120^{\circ}$ . Moreover, the experimental PXRD patterns were accomplished by full profile pattern matching (Pawley) refinement. Peaks at 3.43, 5.92, 6.82, 8.65, 9.08, 10.21, 11.86 and 12.70 $^{\circ}$  for JUC-568 belong to the (101), (011), (012), (203), (311), (500), (121) and (016) Bragg peaks of the space group *Pm* (No. 6), and peaks at 3.24, 5.61, 6.47, 8.55, 9.48, 9.87, 11.30 and 12.84 $^{\circ}$  for

JUC-569 correspond to the (100), (110), (200), (210), (002), (300), (202) and (212) Bragg peaks of the space group *P-6* (No. 174). The calculated results can well match those experimental ones with good agreement factors ( $R_p = 3.18\%$  and  $\omega R_p = 5.39\%$  for JUC-568;  $R_p = 1.49\%$  and  $\omega R_p = 1.87\%$  for JUC-569). In addition, we also tried alternative structures with different topologies, such as **sab** and **dag** net for JUC-568; however, there was a significant difference between the experimental and simulated PXRDs (Figures S9-11). In consideration of all these results, the obtained COFs were proposed to have the expected networks, **ceq** topology for JUC-568 and **acs** topology for JUC-569. Both COF materials show microporous cavities with  $\sim 1.98$  nm for JUC-568 and  $\sim 1.94$  nm for JUC-569 viewed along the *c*-axis (Figure 2).

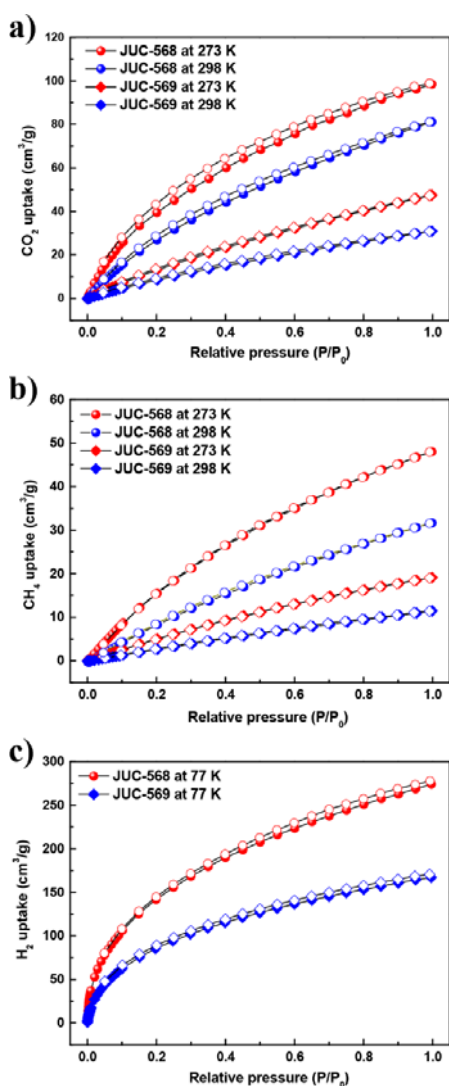


**Figure 3.**  $\text{N}_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherms for JUC-568 (a) and JUC-569 (b) at 77 K. Inserts: corresponding calculated pore-size distribution.

The permanent porosity and specific surface areas of 3D triptycene-based COFs were determined by  $\text{N}_2$  adsorption measurements at 77 K. As can be seen in Figure 3, both COFs showed a sharp increase at low pressure (below 0.1  $P/P_0$ ), which reveals their microporous nature. The presence of textural mesopores in JUC-569 led to the isotherm inclination in the 0.8-1.0  $P/P_0$  range. Slight desorption hysteresis was observed, which is a consequence of the agglomeration of COF crystals.<sup>39</sup> The Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) specific surface areas were 1433  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$  for JUC-568 and 1254  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$  for JUC-569, respectively (Figures S9-12). The non-local density functional theory (NLDFT) was used to calculate the pore-size distribution, and both COFs showed microporous cavities with  $\sim 1.92$  nm for JUC-568 and  $\sim 1.87$  nm for JUC-569 (inserts in Figure 3), which are in good agreement with the pore sizes predicted from their crystal structures ( $\sim 1.98$  nm for JUC-568 and  $\sim 1.94$  nm for JUC-569).

Furthermore, the uptakes of  $\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}_2$  under one atmosphere were studied to expand the potential of 3D triptycene-based COFs in the greenhouse gas capture and energy storage. As

shown in Figure 4, JUC-568 had higher adsorption capacity of CO<sub>2</sub> (98 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 273 K and 81 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 298 K), CH<sub>4</sub> (48 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 273 K and 32 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 298 K) and H<sub>2</sub> (274 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 77 K) than JUC-569 (CO<sub>2</sub>: 47 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 273 K and 31 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 298 K, CH<sub>4</sub>: 19 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 273 K and 11 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 298 K, and H<sub>2</sub>: 167 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 77 K). Remarkably, the H<sub>2</sub> storage capacity (274 cm<sup>3</sup>/g or 2.45 wt%) of JUC-568 at 1 bar and 77 K is superior to those of porous organic materials (POMs) reported to date (Table S1), such as PPN-3 (1.58 wt%),<sup>40</sup> PAF-1 (1.66 wt%),<sup>41</sup> SPT-CMP1 (1.72 wt%),<sup>42</sup> and DL-COF-1 (2.09 wt%),<sup>43</sup> which can be attributed to the unique shape of triptycene as a rigid, fused-ring skeleton and three-fold symmetry building unit.<sup>44</sup>



**Figure 4.** The uptakes of CO<sub>2</sub> (a), CH<sub>4</sub> (b) and H<sub>2</sub> (c) for JUC-568 and JUC-569 measured at different temperatures.

In summary, we have developed two 3D triptycene-based COFs, JUC-568 and JUC-569, with unreported **ceq** or non-interpenetrated **acs** topology, respectively. Remarkably, JUC-568 possesses a permanent porosity and impressive performance in the uptakes of CO<sub>2</sub> (98 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 273 K and 1 bar) and CH<sub>4</sub> (48 cm<sup>3</sup>/g at 273 K and 1 bar), and more importantly H<sub>2</sub> (274 cm<sup>3</sup>/g or 2.45 wt% at 77 K and 1 bar), which is highest among porous organic materials reported so far. Thus, this work offers a new strategy for constructing 3D

COFs from high-connectivity building blocks and facilitates their future applications in energy storage and environment protection.

### Supporting Information

Methods and synthetic procedures, SEM, FTIR, solid state <sup>13</sup>C NMR, TGA, BET plot, and unit cell parameters. This material is available free of charge via the internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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#### Author Contributions

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#### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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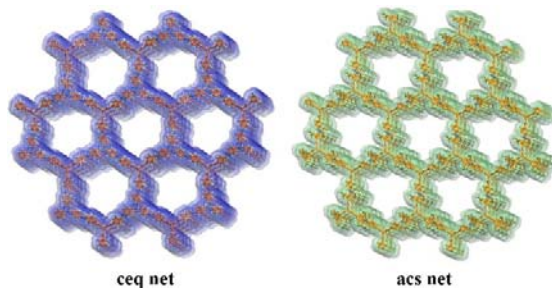
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