Supporting Information

Cation exchange in an anionic Metal-organic Framework enhancing propylene/propane separation

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Table S1 ICP analysis results of 1.K.

Table S2 Summary of the adsorption capacity of C_3H_6 and C_3H_8 , as well as C_3H_6/C_3H_8 (50/50) selectivity in some MOFs.

References

S1 General description of 1

According to reported literature, **1** crystallizes in the orthorhombic space group Fddd and has a 3D anionic framework built with triangle clusters [Cu₃(μ_3 -OH)] and 4pyrazolecarboxylate, showing ultramicroporous channels with aperture size of 6.3 × 6.8 Å (**Fig. S1**). Because of the negative charge of the framework ([Cu₃(μ_3 -OH)(pyc)₃]⁻), an extra free dimethylamine cation is needed to counterbalance, yielding a formula of [Me₂NH₂][Cu₃(μ_3 -OH)(pyc)₃] for **1**. Previous studies showed that the free Me₂NH₂⁺ ions can be exchanged by Li⁺ ions to improve the pore volume and H₂ uptake.

S2 Supplementary methods

1 Ideal Adsorbed Solution Theory Calculations

1.1 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model

The selectivity was calculated to evaluate the C_3H_6/C_3H_8 and C_2H_4/C_2H_6 separation performance based on the IAST method. Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich model was used to fit the C_3H_8 or C_3H_6 adsorption isotherms obtained at 273 K and 298 K.

$$q = A_1 \frac{b_1 x^{c_1}}{1 + b_1 x^{c_1}}$$
(S1)

Where *q* is the quantity adsorbed(mmol/g), and A_1 is the saturation loadings for adsorption sites *A* (mmol/g). b_1 represents the constant (kPa^{-c}), and *x* represents the pressure of bulk gas at equilibrium with adsorbed phase (kPa). The c_1 represents the Freundlich exponent.

1.2 IAST calculations

IAST calculations of C_3H_6/C_3H_8 (50/50, v/v) adsorption at 298 K were performed by

$$S_{abs} = \frac{\frac{q_{C3H6}}{q_{C3H8}}}{\frac{p_{C3H6}}{p_{C3H8}}}$$
(S2)

Similarly, the IAST selectivity for C_2H_4/C_2H_6 (50/50, v/v) adsorption at 298 K was defined as

$$S_{abs} = \frac{\frac{q_{C2H4}}{q_{C2H6}}}{\frac{p_{C2H4}}{p_{C2H6}}}$$
(S3)

where q is the uptake quantities in the mixture, and p is the corresponding mole fraction used in the feed gas mixture.

2 Isosteric heat of adsorption

At 273 K and 298 K ,the Virial equation comprising of the temperature-independent parameters a_i and b_j was employed to calculate the enthalpies of adsorption for C_3H_6 and C_3H_8 in 1 and 1·K.

$$\ln P = \ln N + \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=0}^{m} a_i N_j + \sum_{j=0}^{n} b_j N_j$$
(S4)

Here, P is the pressure expressed in kPa, N is the amount absorbed in mmol g⁻¹, k is the temperature in K, a_i and b_j are Virial coefficients, and m as well as n represent the number of coefficients required to adequately describe the isotherms. The values of the Virial coefficients a_0 through a_m were then used to calculate the isosteric heat of absorption using the following expression:

$$Q_{st} = -R \sum_{i=0}^{m} a_i N_i \tag{S5}$$

 Q_{st} represents the coverage-dependent isosteric heat of adsorption (kJ mol⁻¹) and R is the universal gas constant. Based on the adsorption isotherms measured by Micromeritics 3Flexanalyzer, the heat enthalpy of C₃H₆, C₃H₈, C₂H₄ and C₂H₆ for samples were determined at 273 K and 298 K as well as 0-100 kPa.

3 Breakthrough Experiments

Breakthrough experiments for the C_3H_6/C_3H_8 mixtures and C_2H_4/C_2H_6 were performed in a homemade apparatus at 298 K. In the separation experiment, sample 1 (0.88 g for cycle test) and 1·K (0.631 g for cycle test) samples were packed into a stainless-steel column, followed by activating at 373 K for 12 h under the Helium flow of 20 mL min⁻¹. Then, the adsorption column was dropped to 298 K, followed by introducing the equimolar C_3H_6/C_3H_8 gas mixtures. The raw mixed gas flow rate was maintained at 1 mL min⁻¹. The gas chromatograph monitored the effluent gas by a thermal conductivity detector (TCD).

The C_3H_6 purity (c) is defined by the peak area of C_3H_6 , we calculated C_3H_6 purity according to the following equation:

$$c = \frac{C_i(C_3H_6)}{C_i(C_3H_6) + C_i(C_3H_8)}$$
(S6)

where C_i (C₃H₆) and C_i (C₃H₈) represent the peak areas of component C₃H₆ and C₃H₈ in a single injection.

S3 Supplementary figures



Fig. S1 Partial Enlarged view of the 1 along the crystallographic c-axis.



Fig. S2 PXRD patterns for 1 (a) and $1 \cdot K$ (b) under various conditions.



Fig. S3 TGA curves for 1 and 1·K.



Fig. S4 SEM images (a,b) ,EDS analysis and elemental mapping (c) of 1.



Fig. S5 SEM images (a,b), EDS analysis and elemental mapping (c) of $1 \cdot K$.



Fig. S6 Pore size distribution for 1 and $1 \cdot K$ using data measured with N₂ at 77 K.



Fig. S7 The BET and Langmuir plots for 1 (a ,b) and $1 \cdot K$ (c ,d) obtained from the N₂ adsorption isotherm at 77 K.



Fig. S8 (a) C₃H₆ and C₃H₈ adsorption isotherms for 1 and 1·K at 273 K. (b-c) C₂H₄ and

 C_2H_6 adsorption isotherms for 1 and $1\cdot K$ at 273 K and 298 K.



Fig. S9 Virial fittings (lines) of C_3H_6 adsorption isotherms (symbols) for 1·K at 273 K and 298 K.



Fig. S10 Virial fittings (lines) of C_3H_8 adsorption isotherms (symbols) for 1·K at 273 K and 298 K.



Fig. S11 Virial fittings (lines) of C_3H_6 adsorption isotherms (symbols) for 1 at 273 K and 298 K.



Fig. S12 Virial fittings (lines) of C_3H_8 adsorption isotherms (symbols) for 1 at 273 K and 298 K.



Fig. S13 Virial fittings (lines) of C_2H_4 adsorption isotherms (symbols) for 1·K at 273 K and 298 K.



Fig. S14 Virial fittings (lines) of C_2H_6 adsorption isotherms (symbols) for 1·K at 273 K and 298 K.



Fig. S15 Virial fittings (lines) of C₂H₄ adsorption isotherms (symbols) for 1 at 273 K

and

298

Κ.



Fig. S16 Virial fittings (lines) of C_2H_6 adsorption isotherms (symbols) for 1 at 273 K and 298 K.



Fig. S17 Comparison of Q_{st} of **1** and **1** · **K** for C_2H_4 and C_2H_6 .



Model	LFUser (User)
Equation	A1*b1*x^c1/(1+b1*x^c1)
Plot	В
A1	3.28829 ± 0.04722
b1	1.95531 ± 0.12733
c1	0.45531 ± 0.02034
Reduced Chi- Sqr	0.00464
R-Square (COD)	0.99222
Adj. R-Square	0.99168

Fig. S18 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_3H_6 isotherm of $1 \cdot K$

at 273 K.



Fig. S19 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_3H_6 isotherm of $1 \cdot K$

at 298 K.



Model	LFUser (User)	
Equation	A1*b1*x^c1/(1+b1*x^c1)	
Plot	В	
A1	2.93874 ± 0.07316	
b1	1.27308 ± 0.09588	
c1	0.42987 ± 0.02642	
Reduced Chi-Sqr	0.00497	
R-Square (COD)	0.9875	
Adj. R-Square	0.98661	

Fig. S20 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_3H_8 isotherm of $1 \cdot K$

at 273 K.



Fig. S21 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C₃H₈ isotherm of 1·K

at 298 K.



Model	LFUser (User)	
Equation	A1*b1*x^c1/(1+b1*x^c1)	
Plot	В	
A1	2.10059 ± 0.0383	
b1	0.68378 ± 0.02111	
c1	0.41054 ± 0.01291	
Reduced Chi-Sqr	3.38283E-4	
R-Square (COD)	0.99768	
Adj. R-Square	0.99752	

Fig. S22 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_3H_6 isotherm of 1

at 273 K.



Model	LFUser (User)	
Equation	A1*b1*x^c1/(1+b1*x^c1)	
Plot	D	
A1	1.88818 ± 0.03832	
b1	0.43437 ± 0.01106	
c1	0.46937 ± 0.01383	
Reduced Chi-Sqr	2.19789E-4	
R-Square (COD)	0.99834	
Adj. R-Square	0.99822	

Fig. S23 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_3H_6 isotherm of 1 at 298 K.



Model	LFUser (User)	
Equation	A1*b1*x^c1/(1+b1*x^c1)	
Plot	В	
A1	1.7088 ± 0.02225	
b1	0.73019 ± 0.01657	
c1	0.43056 ± 0.01079	
Reduced Chi-Sqr	1.52131E-4	
R-Square (COD)	0.9984	
Adj. R-Square	0.99829	

Fig. S24 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_3H_8 isotherm of 1 at 273 K.



Model	LFUser (User)	
Equation	A1*b1*x^c1/(1+b1*x^c1)	
Plot	D	
A1	1.42986 ± 0.01183	
b1	0.48853 ± 0.00545	
c1	0.54551 ± 0.00879	
Reduced Chi-Sqr	5.42528E-5	
R-Square (COD)	0.99938	
Adj. R-Square	0.99933	

Fig. S25 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_3H_8 isotherm of 1 at 298 K.



Model	LFUser (User)	
Equation	A1*b1*x^c1/(1+b1*x^c1)	
Plot	В	
A1	3.53072 ± 0.02869	
b1	0.3575 ± 0.00471	
c1	0.72825 ± 0.01304	
Reduced Chi-Sqr	0.00103	
R-Square (COD)	0.99887	
Adj. R-Square	0.99881	

Fig. S26 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_2H_4 isotherm of $1 \cdot K$ at 273 K.



LFUser (User)	
A1*b1*x^c1/(1+b1*x^c1)	
D	
3.36107 ± 0.02946	
0.15083 ± 0.00159	
0.78199 ± 0.01007	
3.42477E-4	
0.9996	
0.99958	

Fig. S27 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_2H_4 isotherm of $1 \cdot K$ at 298 K.



Model	LFUser User)	
Equation	A1*b1*x^c1/(1+b1*x^c1)	
Plot	В	
A1	3.10265 ± 0.02924	
b1	0.30019 ± 0.00543	
c1	0.81192 ± 0.01836	
Reduced Chi-Sqr	0.00138	
R-Square (COD)	0.99814	
Adj. R-Square	0.99804	

Fig. S28 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_2H_6 isotherm of $1 \cdot K$ at 273 K.



Model	LFUser (User)	
Equation	A1*b1*x^c1/(1+b1*x^c1)	
Plot	D	
A1	2.81076 ± 0.02288	
b1	0.12928 ± 0.00174	
c1	0.87445 ± 0.01199	
Reduced Chi-Sqr	3.25436E-4	
R-Square (COD)	0.99952	
Adj. R-Square	0.99949	

Fig. S29 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_2H_6 isotherm of $1 \cdot K$ at 298 K.



Fig. S30 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_2H_4 isotherm of 1 at 273 K.

Model	LFUser (User)	
Equation	A1*b1*x^c1/(1+b1*x^c1)	
Plot	D	
A1	2.18406 ± 0.03134	
b1	0.06558 ± 6.96526E-4	
c1	0.664 ± 0.00511	
Reduced Chi-Sqr	1.90573E-5	
R-Square (COD)	0.99989	
Adj. R-Square	0.99988	

Fig. S31 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C_2H_4 isotherm of 1 at 298 K.

Fig. S32 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C₂H₆ isotherm of 1

Fig. S33 Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich (L-F) model fitting for C₂H₆ isotherm of **1** at 298 K.

Fig. S34 IAST selectivities of 1 and $1 \cdot K$ for equimolar C_2H_4/C_2H_6 at 298 K.

Fig. S35 Outlet C₃H₆ (red) and C₃H₈ (blue) compositions of the adsorption-desorption

cycle in the breakthrough experiment for 1 (a) and $1 \cdot K$ (b)

Fig. S36 The single dynamic breakthrough curves of 1 (a) and $1 \cdot K$ (b) with equimolar C_2H_4/C_2H_6 gas mixtures at 298 K and 100 kPa. (c) Cycling stability of $1 \cdot K$.

S4 Supplementary tables

Sample	K (µg/mL)	Cu (µg/mL)	Zn (µg/mL)	Cu : K (% at. / % at.)
1·K	2.62	13.1	/	3:1

Table S1 ICP analysis results of 1·K.

Table S2 Summary of the adsorption capacity of C_3H_6 and C_3H_8 and C_3H_6/C_3H_8

No	MOFs	C ₃ H ₆ uptake (cm ³ g ⁻¹)	C ₃ H ₈ uptake (cm ³ g ⁻¹)	IAST selectivity (50/50)	Conditions	Refs
1	CuBTC	179.20	152.32	/	323K, 100kPa	1
2	KAUST-7	32.00	1.20	/	298K, 100kPa	2
3	Zn ₂ (dobdc)	140.90	122.30	3.89	318K, 100kPa	3
4	Mg ₂ (dobdc)	167.10	134.40	5.55	318K, 100kPa	3
5	NJU-Bai8	60.48	1.34	4.60	298K, 20kPa	4
6	GeFSIX-2-Cu-i	60.26	40.54	4.00	298K, 100kPa	5

(50/50) selectivity in some MOFs.

7	SiFSIX-2-Cu-i	59.36	37.41	4.50	298K, 100kPa	5
8	Ni-NP	79.97	47.71	10.5	298K, 100kPa	6
9	MAF-23-0	30.2	22.4	8.80	298K, 100kPa	7
10	HIAM-301	70.784	0.67	150	298K, 100kPa	8
11	JNU-3a	58.60	48.0	513	303K, 100kPa	9
12	NTU-85-WNT	10.15	0.06	1570.3	298K, 100kPa	10
13	1	33.8	27.7	2.20	298K, 100kPa	This work
14	1·K	64.5	53.0	4.38	298K, 100kPa	This work

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