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Characterization of the benzene molecule adsorbed in USY zeolite using double quantum filtered NMR spectral analysis

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Abstract

The investigations of deuteron NMR relaxation including T_1 , linewidths and double quantum filtered (DQF) spectral analyses are examined preliminary to probing the dynamics and exchange process of low-loading benzene molecules adsorbed into ultra-stable Y-type (USY) zeolite. DQF NMR is a sensitive method for the determination of the residual quadrupolar interaction resulting from the local order. The usual observed deuteron spectra of benzene- d_6 in USY retain the isotropic peak with no solid pattern over a broad temperature range. However, when observed in DQF spectra, an additional central line appears. It is evidence of the benzene in isotropic motion exchanging with the benzene situated at adsorption sites with non-vanishing quadrupolar interaction. We modified the cone model to describe the in-plane rotation around the hexad axis and the restricted wobbling motion of the benzene ring on the surface of the interaction site. The population profile of adsorbate thus determined provides useful knowledge of the site distribution in supercages of USY zeolite. Comparison with the result of NaY in terms of site distribution is also discussed briefly. © 1998 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: USY zeolite; Benzene adsorption; Residual interactions; Quadrupolar relaxation; Double-quantum filtered NMR

1. Introduction

There has been great interest in the study of the adsorption process in zeolites by using NMR relaxation techniques [1,2]. When observed in DQF spectra adsorbed benzene molecule, an additional central line appears. It is evidence of the benzene in isotropic motion exchanging with the benzene situated at adsorption sites with non-vanishing quadrupolar interaction. For the quad-

rupolar system of adsorbate molecules, the observed spectra give Lorentzian lines over a broad temperature range. Considering this fact, jump motions among the various adsorption sites may average out the residual interaction on adsorption [3,4]. However, from a physical point of view, it seems unreasonable to assume isotropic motion of the adsorbate molecule if it remains attached to the adsorption site for a significant time. We apply the theory of double quantum filtered (DQF) NMR spectroscopy as a diagnostic tool to determine the effects of the residual quadrupolar interaction resulting from the local order [5]. For

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$I=1$ spin system, the double quantum coherence vanishes in the isotropic medium, and hence observation of the DQF spectra indicates the presence of the anisotropy motion of the adsorbed molecules [5,6]¹.

In this work, we report the use of deuterium NMR relaxation studies to probe for the dynamic exchange process of benzene molecules adsorbed in USY type zeolite. It is believed that the benzene molecule interacts specifically with the adsorption sites available in the supercages of the zeolite. Therefore, low loading of zeolite with benzene is suitable as a candidate for such study. When observed in DQF spectra, an additional central line appears. It is evidence of the benzene in isotropic motion exchanging with the benzene situated at adsorption sites with non-vanishing quadrupolar interaction. In addition to the usual relaxation studies, we measured DQF NMR with different DQ creation periods for the relaxation analyses of exchange process. The motional parameters and the characteristic adsorbate distribution pertinent to the restricted dynamic model provide useful information on the adsorptive properties of the zeolite system.

2. Model

2.1. Two-site exchange model with residual quadrupolar interaction

The adsorption interaction of per-deuterated benzene in zeolite may be in turn related to a residual quadrupolar interaction ω_q of deuterium nuclei due to local order. The Hamiltonian of this interaction is given by [5]:

$$H = \omega_{q,\theta} [I_z^2 - I(I+1)] \quad (1)$$

where $\omega_{q,\theta} \equiv \omega_q(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1)/2$ is the residual quadrupolar interaction in the laboratory frame, and I_z is the z component of the spin operator with $I=1$ for deuterium nuclei. θ is the angle between the local symmetry axis of the quadrupolar inter-

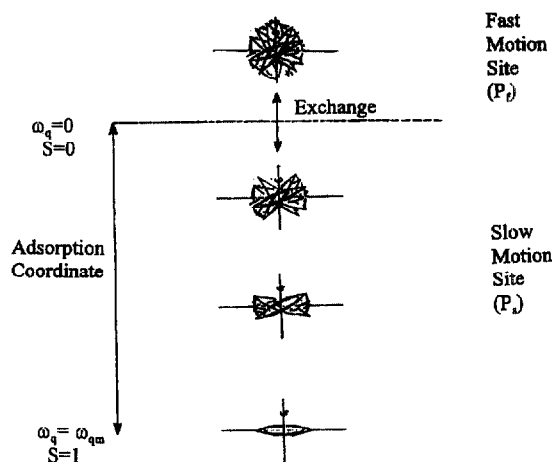


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of benzene adsorption with exchange between the fast (f) and slow (s) sites in zeolite. For s sites, an adsorption coordinate is assumed to represent the various strengths of residual adsorption interaction, which are in turn related to the residual quadrupolar interactions and also to the order parameter (S) which describes the extent of restricted wobbling motion of adsorbed benzene.

action tensor and the Zeeman field. A model with two-site exchange between a fast motion site, denoted by f , and a slow motion site, denoted by s , is assumed (see Fig. 1). The s (or f) site accounts for the adsorption (or non-adsorption) state of benzene in USY. An isotropic distribution of θ is applied to approximate the situation of the random orientational distribution of zeolite crystals in the powder sample.

DQF spectra are conventionally measured using the pulse sequence [5] $\pi/2 - \tau - \pi/2 - \delta - \pi/2 - t$ (Acq.). The effect of this pulse sequence for spin-1 nuclei in a heterogeneous system is as follows. The first $\pi/2$ pulse converts the equilibrium density matrix given by the irreducible tensor T_{10} into the transverse component T_{11} [6]. During the DQ creation period τ , residual quadrupolar interaction transfers T_{11} to T_{21} . The second $\pi/2$ pulse transfers T_{21} to T_{22} and by suitable phase cycling the contribution of the DQ coherence T_{22} is selected².

¹ There is a misprint in Eq. (32) of ref. [6]. Instead of $5\sqrt{2}/7$ as printed, the coefficient of $\langle D_{00}^{(2)} \rangle$ in $J_2(2\omega_r)$ should be corrected as $10/7$.

² The irreducible tensorial components are defined as $T_{10} \equiv I_z/\sqrt{2}$, $T_{11} \equiv I_+/2$, $T_{21} \equiv (I_z I_+ + I_+ I_z)$ and $T_{22} \equiv I_+ I_+/2$. These expressions correspond to \hat{Q}_3 , \hat{Q}_2 , \hat{Q}_6 and \hat{Q}_5 , respectively, defined in ref. [6].

The last $\pi/2$ pulse transfers T_{22} into T_{21} which is then converted into observable T_{11} by residual quadrupolar interaction in the acquisition period. In the pulse sequence $\delta=10\ \mu\text{s}$ is used to retain the T_{22} coherence after the DQF phase cycling. Hence, in the present relaxation study the evolution of related transverse components T_{11} and T_{21} at sites f and s, expressed by the superscripts, is needed in the calculation of DQ coherence and is observable by following the rate equation [7]

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} T_{11}^f \\ T_{21}^f \\ T_{11}^s \\ T_{21}^s \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -R_{11}^f - k_{fs} & 0 & k_{fs} & 0 \\ 0 & -R_{21}^f - k_{fs} & 0 & k_{sf} \\ k_{fs} & 0 & -R_{11}^s - k_{fs} & -i\omega_{q,u} \\ 0 & k_{fs} & -i\omega_{q,o} & -R_{21}^s - k_{fs} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_{11}^f \\ T_{21}^f \\ T_{11}^s \\ T_{21}^s \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

where the residual quadrupolar interaction exists in s sites only³, k_{fs} (k_{sf}) is the microscopic rate constant for transfer from site f (s) to site s (f). In addition, the detailed balancing of the exchange process demands that $P_f k_{fs} = P_s k_{sf}$, where we define P_f and P_s as the total populations in site f and site s, respectively. In Eq. (2), the relaxation rate constants for single and double quantum coherences (expressed by the first subscript of R) with different sites α ($\alpha=s$ or f) are given by $R_{11}^\alpha = C^\alpha(3J_0^\alpha + 5J_1^\alpha + 2J_2^\alpha)$ and $R_{21}^\alpha = C^\alpha(3J_0^\alpha + J_1^\alpha + 2J_2^\alpha)$ where $C^f = C^s \equiv (3/160)\chi^2$ with the same quadrupolar coupling constants $\chi \equiv e^2qQ/\hbar$ assumed for both sites [6]. The contribution of the asymmetry parameter ($\eta=0.041$) of the electric field gradient eq to the coupling constant is neglected [8]. J_n^f and J_n^s are the spectral density functions defined below for reorientational relaxation of benzene molecules in f and s sites, respectively. Starting from converting the equilibrium magnetization into transverse

magnetization, we have $T_{11}^f(0) = P_f T_{11}(0)$ and $T_{11}^s(0) = P_s T_{11}(0)$. Without losing generality, $T_{11}(0)$ may correlate with the equilibrium magnetization M_0 [$M_0 \equiv \sqrt{2}T_{10}(0)$] as $T_{11}(0) = M_0/2$ after applying an initial $\pi/2$ pulse. The DQF spectra are simulated using the above formulation for T_{21}^f and T_{21}^s evolving throughout the DQ creation period τ and the subsequent results $T_{21}^f(\tau)$ and $T_{21}^s(\tau)$ are used as the initial condition for evolution of observable $[T_{11}^f(t) + T_{11}^s(t)]$ in the acquisition period. This equation is also used to calculate $[T_{11}^f(t) + T_{11}^s(t)]$ for single quantum spectra. Analogous simulations of the spectra were described elsewhere [7]. In the calculation of T_{10} , the time evolution of the longitudinal components follows the rate equation [6]

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} T_{10}^f \\ T_{10}^s \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -R_{10}^f - k_{fs} & k_{sf} \\ k_{fs} & -R_{10}^s - k_{sf} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T_{10}^f \\ T_{10}^s \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

where R_{10}^f and R_{10}^s are the longitudinal relaxation rates for site f and site s, respectively, as defined by $R_{10}^\alpha = 2C^\alpha(J_1^\alpha + 4J_2^\alpha)$.

2.2. Residual quadrupolar interaction in adsorptive process

The position with maximum ω_q , denoted by ω_{qm} , may be defined as the benzene molecule adsorbed in the adsorption site with maximum strength of interaction. Moreover, the motion associated with ω_{qm} involves in-plane motion around the hexad axis only, while there is no wobbling motion of the ring normal. Thus, from both the experimental evidence and the symmetry arguments resulting from the fast internal motion around the hexad axis, the quadrupolar interaction of perdeuterated benzene molecules in this case reduces to half of the value obtained for rigid stationary benzene [3]. Hence we take $\omega_{qm} = (1/2)\omega_{q0}$ where $\omega_{q0} = (3/4)\chi$. Experimentally, ω_{qm} may be determined from the edge splitting of the solid pattern of adsorbed benzene and we obtain $\omega_{qm}/2\pi = 67$ kHz at 130 K.

It should be noted that there exists a difference in adsorbate population along the adsorption coor-

³ The simulation of spectra from the Liouville equation represented by the density operator with exchange process is described. As shown in ref. [6], the representation of the Liouville operator on the basis of $[T_{11}^s, T_{21}^s]$ corresponding to the residual quadrupolar interaction [cf. Eq. (1)] is given by $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & i\omega_{q,e} \\ i\omega_{q,o} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. This result with relaxation and exchange formulation is incorporated in Eq. (2).

dinate as a consequence of exchange and migration of adsorbate among various sites in the supercage. A probability distribution may be represented suitably in an exponential form $f(\omega_q) = N \exp(-\omega_q/\omega_{qc})$ where ω_{qc} characterizes a correlation frequency for resident sites in ω_q space. Beyond this value the population of adsorbate molecules decreases significantly and N is a normalization factor for $f(\omega_q)$. It should be noted that all the calculated results are averaged over the adsorbate distribution.

2.3. Spectral density function for benzene in fast motion sites

In order to match the central peak widths of the DQF spectra, the motional narrowing conditions are required for τ_f which is defined as the tumbling correlation times of benzene in f site. Hence we have $J_n^f \approx 2\tau_f$. The simulated results are insensitive to these two values as long as their magnitudes are kept of the order of less than 10^{-10} s.

2.4. Spectral density function for benzene in slow motion sites

The spectral density functions for site s with consideration of residual quadrupolar interaction are defined by [6]:

$$\begin{aligned} J_0^s &\equiv J_0^s [1 + (10/7)\langle D_{00}^{(2)} \rangle + (18/7)\langle D_{00}^{(4)} \rangle - \langle D_{00}^{(2)} \rangle^2] \\ J_1^s &\equiv J_1^s [1 + (5/7)\langle D_{00}^{(2)} \rangle - (12/7)\langle D_{00}^{(4)} \rangle] \\ J_2^s &\equiv J_2^s [1 - (10/7)\langle D_{00}^{(2)} \rangle + (3/7)\langle D_{00}^{(4)} \rangle] \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where $D_{00}^{(n)}$ are the Wigner rotation matrix elements with the orientation relative to the laboratory frame, and $\langle \dots \rangle$ means taking the average over the coordinates of in-plane and wobbling motions. The cone model of Brainard and Szabo [9] is invoked, but with minor modification to consider the residual interaction and hence to facilitate the calculation of the spectral density functions J_n^s of

the adsorbed benzene molecule. It is given by [9,10]⁴:

$$\begin{aligned} J_n^s &\equiv 2 \left\{ \frac{3}{4} S^2 \frac{4D_i}{(4D_i)^2 + (n\omega_0)^2} \right. \\ &\quad + \frac{3}{4} (1-S^2) \frac{4D_i + 2D_w/(1-S^2)}{[4D_i + 2D_w/(1-S^2)] + (n\omega_0)^2} \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{4} (1-S^2) \frac{6D_w/(1-S^2)}{[6D_w/(1-S^2)]^2 + (n\omega_0)^2} \right\} \quad (5) \end{aligned}$$

where ω_0 is the Larmor frequency of deuterium nuclei. It is convenient to define the correlation times for the internal rotation and the wobbling motion as $\tau_i \equiv 1/4D_i$ and $\tau_w \equiv 1/(6D_w)$, respectively. The wobbling motion is assumed to be within a cone with the director normal to the adsorption site (see Fig. 1). The distribution of the cone may be expressed by an order parameter S given by $S \equiv \langle D_{00}^{(2)} \rangle_s$ where the average over the wobbling motion is defined in the frame s of an adsorptive site. With this model the second and third terms in Eq. (4) may be readily evaluated as $\langle D_{00}^{(2)} \rangle = S D_{00}^{(2)}(\theta)$ and $\langle D_{00}^{(4)} \rangle = \langle D_{00}^{(4)} \rangle_s D_{00}^{(4)}(\theta)$, where axial symmetry of the adsorption interaction and site distribution are assumed. To evaluate the $\langle D_{00}^{(4)} \rangle_s$ term in terms of S , an isotropic distribution within a cone angle of β with the director is invoked. Brainard and Szabo obtained $S = \cos \beta (1 + \cos \beta)$. We then yield $\langle D_{00}^{(4)} \rangle_s = S [(7/2) S - 7(1 + 8S)^{1/2} + 1]$. Hence with this model one may evaluate the spectral density functions for site s. Furthermore, it should be noted that τ_i and τ_w are used in an averaged sense, i.e. their magnitudes remain the same irrespective of the variation of S along the adsorption coordinates at a given temperature.

2.5. Order parameter and residual quadrupolar interaction

Since both the S and ω_q parameters share the same degree of randomness after averaging by the same wobbling motion, one may relate S

⁴ Comparing Eq. (22) with Eq. (15) in ref. [10], one may derive Eq. (5) of the present work by leaving out the terms related to the overall reorientation motion.

to the residual quadrupolar anisotropy ω_q by $S = \omega_q/\omega_{qm}$. The pictorial description of the order parameter and related motions along the adsorption coordinate is depicted in Fig. 1. Furthermore, the adsorbate distribution function may be expressed in terms of S_c with the definition $S_c = \omega_{qc}/\omega_{qm}$.

3. Experimental

USY zeolite (Si/Al=40) and NaY zeolite (Si/Al=2.5) used were supplied and characterized by PQ Zeolites, Holland. The sample in 10 mm NMR tube containing C_6D_6 with an average loading of 0.5 benzene molecule per supercage was carefully prepared and sealed in a vacuum system. The sample was then kept at 353 K for 12 h to ensure a homogeneous distribution of adsorbate within the zeolite. The $^2D T_1$ and linewidth measurements were performed on Bruker MSL-500 and MSL-300 spectrometers operating at 76.78 MHz (11.75 T) and 46.07 MHz (7.05 T), respectively. The DQF spectra were displayed at 76.78 MHz only.

4. Results and discussion

The experimental and calculated T_1 and linewidth obtained at two fields are listed in Table 1. Except for the T_1 data for the USY system at 76.78 MHz and 210 K, the calculated results agree excellently with the experimental ones. Field

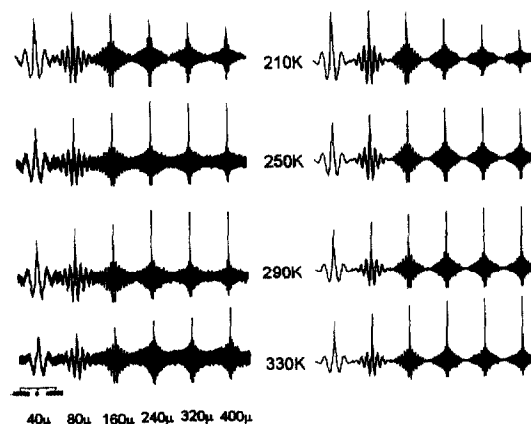


Fig. 2. Experimental (left) and simulated (right) 2D double quantum filtered spectra of a C_6D_6/USY sample at the various temperatures cited. The spectral width of every measurement is ± 41667 Hz. The corresponding DQ creation period τ is 40, 80, 160, 240, 320, and 400 μs , respectively.

dependence is observed in T_1 data but not observed in linewidths and DQF spectra. One may attribute the dispersion to the non-motional narrowing condition of wobbling motions. Fig. 2 shows the experimental DQF spectra together with their corresponding simulations at various temperatures cited. It is found that within a short creation period ($\tau \sim 40 \mu s$) the DQF spectra are sensitive to the variation of P_s and S_c only, but for longer creation periods they are sensitive to the τ_w value as well. The obtained parameters are listed in Table 2. It is believed that the adsorption site of benzene in USY is located at an OH group in the supercage since the Lewis acidity of hydroxyl

Table 1
Experimental and calculated $^2D T_1$ and full linewidth of C_6D_6/USY sample at half-height measured at 46.07 MHz and 76.78 MHz

Temperature (K)	T_1 (ms)				$\Delta\nu_{1/2}$ (Hz)			
	46.07 MHz		76.78 MHz		46.07 MHz		76.78 MHz	
	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.	Calc.	Exp.
210	44	39	52	73	1580	1690	1525	1600
250	37	33	57	57	596	540	587	571
290	37	35	61	58	228	230	201	219
330	45	51	69	76	148	150	136	141

10% error is expected in experimental T_1 and linewidths.

Table 2

The parameters used in the fitting of T_1 , linewidths and DQF spectra of C_6D_6/USY

Temperature (K)	P_s	S_c	τ_i (ns)	τ_w (ns)	$k_{fs} \times 10^{-2}$ ($k_{sf} \times 10^{-2}$) (s^{-1})
210	0.92	1.10	0.11 ± 0.01	70 ± 5	46.0 (4.0)
250	0.80	1.39	0.08 ± 0.01	16 ± 2	23.5 (5.9)
290	0.68	1.67	0.06 ± 0.02	7.5 ± 1	8.5 (4.0)
330	0.60	5.00	0.04 ± 0.03	4.5 ± 3	4.6 (3.1)

10% error is expected in k_{fs} and k_{sf} and 5% error in P_s and S_c .

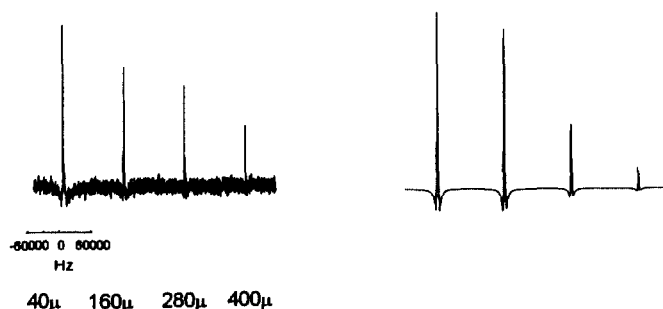


Fig. 3. Experimental (left) and simulated (right) 2D double quantum filtered spectra of C_6D_6/NaY sample at 310 K at 76.78 MHz. The spectral width is ± 62485 Hz. The corresponding DQ creation period τ is 40, 160, 280, and 400 μs , respectively. $T_1 = 72 \pm 7$ ms and $\Delta\nu_{1/2} = 3082 \pm 308$ Hz are used in simulation to get the following parameters: $P_s = 0.98$, $S_c = 4.48 \times 10^{-3}$, $\tau_i = 50$ ns, $\tau_w = 180$ ns, $k_{fs} = 1.51 \times 10^3 s^{-1}$, and $k_{sf} = 31 s^{-1}$.

hydrogen favours the formation of H-bonding with π -electrons of the benzene ring [11]. Based on the Si/Al ratio of the USY sample, the average number of OH groups per supercage of our USY sample is calculated to be 0.57. However, one cannot be sure whether the locations of the hydroxyls are in the supercage or in the sodalite cage. As with the loading of 0.5 benzenes per supercage in our sample, the adsorption site is oversaturated with benzene. Therefore, the obtained P_f value and the narrow linewidths of the central component of DQF spectra can be rationalized by the presence of a considerable benzene distribution in the unbounded f state. Owing to a small number of adsorption sites in the supercage, the adsorbate molecules experience an orderly directed quadrupolar interaction or a significant strength of residual ω_q interaction. Therefore, a large S_c in the adsorbate distribution may be expected and the resulting effect shows the wiggling pattern observed in the DQF spectra. In the case of C_6D_6/NaY , the tetrahedrally arranged S_{II} and 12-ring window sites for benzene adsorption [12] may result in a small

S_c , and hence a double quantum spectrum without complicated wiggling in the wing is obtained in accordance with simulation as shown in Fig. 3.

The increasing of k_{sf} and the decreasing of P_s , τ_i and τ_w with temperature reflects the fact that benzene becomes much more mobile within USY frameworks. The magnitude of τ_i varies from 4×10^{-11} s to 1.1×10^{-10} s in the temperature range 330 K to 210 K. The correlation times are about two orders slower than the free diffusion values calculated from $\sqrt{I/kT}$ where I is the moment of inertia around the hexad axis of C_6D_6 . From molecular dynamics calculations in liquid benzene, it is evident that it gives an in-plane correlation time of about 0.1 ps at 312 K; about twice that of any in-plane C_2 axis [13]. Hence the τ_i process of adsorbed benzene is significantly hindered as compared to the motions either in liquid benzene or in gas state. It is also found that the τ_i process in USY yields a lower activation energy than τ_w does (~ 5 kJ mol $^{-1}$ vs. 13 kJ mol $^{-1}$). We attribute the small activation energy to the effect of decoupling from another

motion mode and also to the optimal environment for in-plane rotation of benzene molecules. Also, it is interesting to know that in the present case the wobbling motion is more than two orders slower than the in-plane motion. The effect of interacting forces, which appears in the surrounding adsorption site, may account for the slowing down of the wobbling motion.

In accordance with our analysis of DQF spectra at 330 K, the results are not as satisfactory as comparative studies at lower temperatures. The effect may correlate with the intercage diffusion of the adsorbate occurring in USY and also the intracage motion with increasing temperature [14]. The reverse temperature trend found in k_{sf} and S_c values may be due to the effect of intercage diffusion.

5. Conclusion

The 'isotropic' behavior apparent in a single quantum spectrum does not reflect the absence of residual adsorption interactions in the adsorptive process. The traditional methods of analyzing NMR relaxation of adsorbate in zeolite system have not taken the exchange process and the adsorbate distribution into account. The in-plane rotation of adsorbed benzene molecules with low activation energy reflects a small host-guest effect of the isolated adsorption site. The wobbling motion represents a more realistic physical picture of benzene dynamics and the strength of site interaction. Furthermore, results of S_c values may be used to differentiate the nature of adsorption

sites in the supercage of different faujasites. Further details of the theory and its application to different types of zeolites with various adsorbate loadings will be reported elsewhere.

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