

Title: **Width Effect on CO₂ Capture by Carbide MXenes.**

Student: Marc Mayans Llorach

Date: January 2019

Supervisor/s: Dr. Francesc Viñes Solana
Departament de Ciència de Materials i Química Física.

Dr. Ángel Morales García
Departament de Ciència de Materials i Química Física

Nowadays, the global warming is an issue that mankind cannot ignore, as it is causing important changes on the Earth climate. The origin of this greenhouse effect are the raising emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), mostly coming from the use of fossil fuels such as coal and petrol. At present, new ways to fight this problem are being studied, e.g. by the reduction of CO₂ emissions of industry and the use of renewable energies. Here we focus on a particular strategy where a material collector captures the CO₂ from air. This way, the material converts the CO₂ molecule from an inert linear state to an active, adsorbed, bent molecule, triggered from a substrate charge transfer to the CO₂, eventually enabling its posterior utilization as well.

A new family of layered materials, called MXenes, have been proposed for such CO₂ capture. MXenes follow a M_{n+1}X_n in (n=1,2,3) formula, with X=C or N. The thinnest versions of M₂X stoichiometry have been proposed for the CO₂ capture based on first principles simulations. Here we extended the study to the 5- and 7- layered ones, analyzing whether the CO₂ capture capabilities are kept, studying so by Density Functional Theory (DFT) simulations.

The results, including the fundamental vibrational energy and a proper description of dispersive forces, show that these latter energies contribute stabilizing the CO₂ although the effect is mild. In general terms, when increasing the MXene width, the CO₂ still gets activated, showing a bent molecular structure, with elongated C-O bonds, and becomes negatively charged. The maximum interaction is found for the 5-layered MXenes, which point its stoichiometry and/or a particular electronic structure as possible key factors in the enhanced adsorption of CO₂ upon.

Keywords: Carbide MXenes, Density Functional Calculations, CO₂ capture, Environmental Science.