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CO₂ REDUCTION BY AMINE-MODIFIED STAR-SHAPED OR HIERARCHICALLY STRUCTURED SILICA ADSORBENTS IN THE AUTOMOBILES' EXHAUST

COURSE: THEORY TO PRACTICE - PT151300

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Abstract

This paper delves into the critical issue of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and their substantial role in global environmental challenges. Focusing on automobiles, which contribute significantly to global CO₂ emissions, we aim to systematically quantify emissions from various vehicle categories. Our approach involves a comprehensive methodology covering both CO₂ emission calculation and procedural steps for data cleaning and subsequent analysis using Python. Additionally, we explore the potential of Amine-Modified silica adsorbents to enhance CO₂ capture, offering benefits like high capacity, easy recovery, efficient absorption, and material stability. The broader context of climate change and global warming underscores the urgency for sustainable practices. The excessive release of CO₂, primarily from fossil fuels, necessitates innovative solutions like Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU) technologies to address environmental concerns and contribute to sustainable development.

This report is collaboratively prepared by a team consisting of Seyedeh Zahra Alavi, Bitu Hamidi, Anson Kalambukattu Cijo.

1.introduction

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions play a central role in discussions surrounding climate change and global environmental challenges. CO₂ is a greenhouse gas, meaning it traps heat in the Earth's atmosphere and contributes to the warming of the planet. While CO₂ is a natural component of the Earth's carbon cycle, human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, have significantly increased its concentration in the atmosphere.

Cars contribute significantly to global CO₂ emissions, with passenger vehicles accounting for around 10% of global CO₂ emissionsⁱ. A typical passenger vehicle emits about 4.6 metric tons of CO₂ per year, with gasoline vehicles producing about 400 grams of CO₂ per mileⁱⁱ. Luxury sports car brands like Bugatti, Rolls Royce, Lamborghini, and Ferrari are among the most polluting, emitting high levels of CO₂ per kilometerⁱⁱⁱ. Efforts to reduce emissions from cars include promoting fuel-efficient models, electric vehicles, and alternative transportation modes to combat climate change and improve air quality. The European Union aims to achieve a 90% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from transport by 2050, with new CO₂ emission targets set for cars and vans to accelerate emission reductions^{iv}. Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Carbon Capture and Utilization (CCU) technologies are ways for reducing CO₂ emissions. Post-combustion is a key method, extracting CO₂ from flue gases. Despite common use, aqueous amine solutions have downsides like equipment corrosion and energy inefficiencies. In this paper, our objective is to present a systematic approach for quantifying the CO₂ emissions generated by various categories of automobiles. We aim to outline a comprehensive methodology encompassing both the calculation of CO₂ emissions and the procedural steps for data cleaning and subsequent analysis by python and then working on Amine-Modified star-shaped or hierarchically structured Silica adsorbents to improve CO₂ capture. These solid adsorbents have benefits like high capacity, easy recovery, efficient absorption, and material stability, addressing the drawbacks of traditional methods.

2.Data Collection and Initial Analysis

2.1 Explanation of Dataset on Vehicle-Related Carbon Dioxide Emissions

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Make	Model	Vehicle Class	Engine Size(L)	Cylinders	Transmission	Fuel Type	Fuel Consumption	Fuel Consumption	Fuel Consumption	Fuel Consumption	CO2 Emissions(g/l)	
2	ACURA	ILX	COMPACT	2	4	A55	Z	9.9	6.7	8.5	33	196	
3	ACURA	ILX	COMPACT	2.4	4	M6	Z	11.2	7.7	9.6	29	221	
4	ACURA	ILX HYBRID	COMPACT	1.5	4	A47	Z	6	5.8	5.9	48	156	
5	ACURA	MDX 4WD	SUV - SMALL	3.5	6	A56	Z	12.7	9.1	11.1	25	255	
6	ACURA	MDX AWD	SUV - SMALL	3.5	6	A56	Z	12.1	8.7	10.6	27	244	
7	ACURA	RLX	MID-SIZE	3.5	6	A56	Z	11.9	7.7	10	28	230	
8	ACURA	TL	MID-SIZE	3.5	6	A56	Z	11.8	8.1	10.1	28	232	
9	ACURA	TL AWD	MID-SIZE	3.7	6	A56	Z	12.8	9	11.1	25	255	
10	ACURA	TL AWD	MID-SIZE	3.7	6	M6	Z	13.4	9.5	11.6	24	267	
11	ACURA	TSX	COMPACT	2.4	4	A55	Z	10.6	7.5	9.2	31	212	
12	ACURA	TSX	COMPACT	2.4	4	M6	Z	11.2	8.1	9.8	29	225	
13	ACURA	TSX	COMPACT	3.5	6	A55	Z	12.1	8.3	10.4	27	239	
14	ALFA ROMEO	4C	TWO-SEATER	1.8	4	A46	Z	9.7	6.9	8.4	34	193	
15	ASTON MARTIN	DB9	MINICOMPACT	5.9	12	A6	Z	18	12.6	15.6	18	359	

This dataset records information on the variations in a vehicle's CO₂ emissions based on different features. It has been sourced from the official open data website of the Canadian Government and represents a compiled version, incorporating data spanning a 7-year period. The dataset comprises a total of 7385 rows and 12 columns. Some features are represented by abbreviations, and these abbreviations are listed in table 1.

Table 1: abbreviations

Model 4WD/4X4 = Four-wheel drive AWD = All-wheel drive FFV = Flexible-fuel vehicle SWB = Short wheelbase LWB = Long wheelbase EWB = Extended wheelbase	Transmission A = Automatic AM = Automated manual AS = Automatic with select shift AV = Continuously variable M = Manual 3 - 10 = Number of gears
Fuel Consumption City and highway fuel consumption ratings are shown in litres per 100 kilometres (L/100 km) - the combined rating (55% city, 45% hwy) is shown in L/100 km and in miles per gallon (mpg)	
CO₂ Emissions The tailpipe emissions of carbon dioxide, measured in grams per kilometer, encompass both city and highway driving.	

2.2 Simple Linear Regression (SLR) on Carbon dioxide emission of vehicles

Incorporating Simple Linear Regression (SLR) into our analysis focuses on unraveling the relationship between a specific factor, such as engine size or cylinders, and the associated carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles. This statistical method will provide us with a predictive equation, offering insights into how changes in the chosen factor correspond to alterations in carbon emissions. In simpler terms, it allows us to understand and quantify the influence of certain vehicle features on carbon dioxide output, aiding in predictive modeling and decision-making processes. The Python code for this analysis has been executed, explained and is available in this link:

<https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1uAQxBEsHuU7bQISUa3pfECWmzB42R23m?usp=sharing>



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extracting carbon dioxide from flue gases after combustion, is the easiest to implement and is commonly used as an upgrade to existing facilities. Figure 1 provides a categorization of carbon dioxide capture technologies. The most popular method involves absorbing carbon dioxide using aqueous amine solutions, known for high efficiency but accompanied by drawbacks such as equipment corrosion, inefficient absorbent regeneration, and notable energy losses.

To address these issues, scholars are increasingly exploring the synthesis of amine-modified solid adsorbents like Amine-Modified star-shaped or hierarchically structured Silica adsorbents for CO₂ capture. This approach offers advantages such as high adsorption capacity, easy recovery and handling, efficient absorption in humid conditions, and material stability. Figure 2 illustrates various types of CO₂ adsorbents and their adsorption capacity based on adsorption temperature.

It is imperative to capture CO₂ emissions from cars because of their substantial role in climate change and air pollution. The transportation sector, particularly cars, significantly contributes to CO₂ emissions, emphasizing the necessity to adopt carbon capture technologies to alleviate their environmental impact. One effective approach involves utilizing Amine-Modified star-shaped or hierarchically structured Silica adsorbents for capturing CO₂ in the exhaust emissions from cars.^{v, vi}

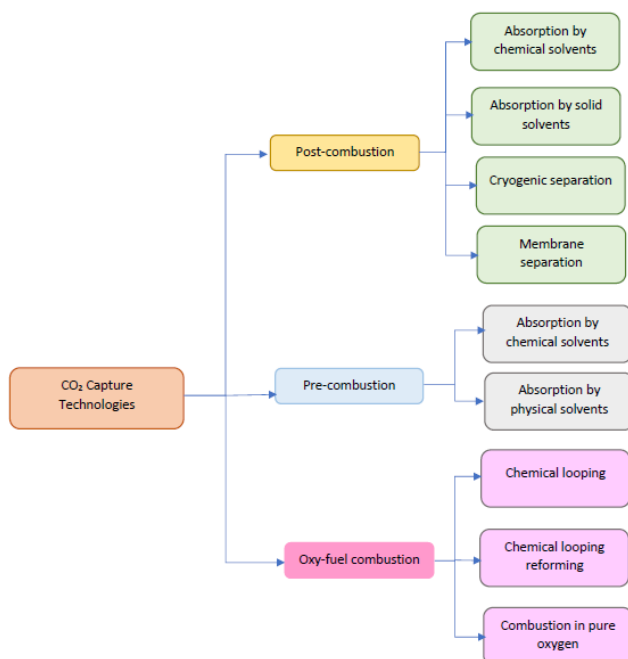


Fig. 1. CO₂ capture technologies

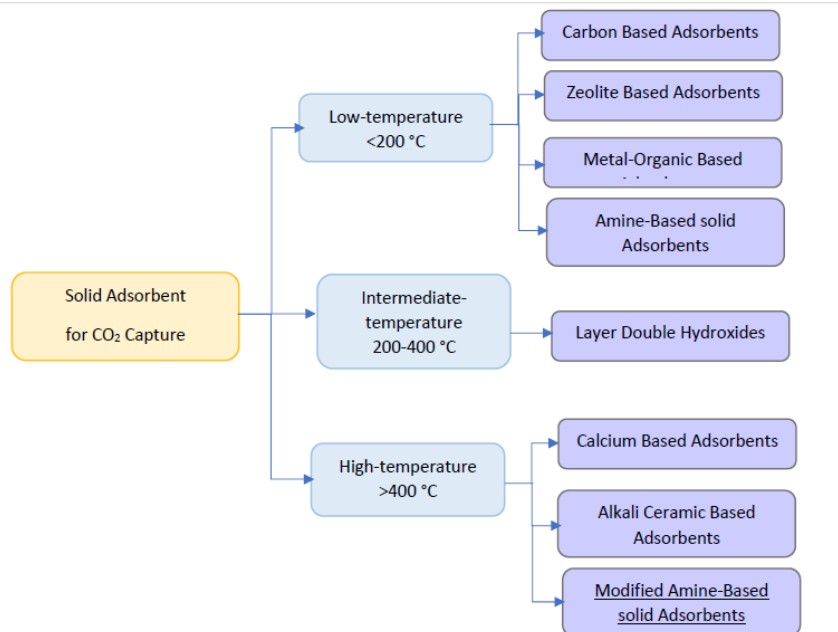


Fig. 2. Type of CO₂ adsorbents

4. Methodology for Reducing CO₂ Emissions in Vehicles

Highlighting the significance of capturing CO₂ emissions from cars is emphasized by the substantial impact of the transportation sector on worldwide carbon emissions. Carbon dioxide is recognized as a key contributor to global warming, and the share of carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles is approximately 65%, surpassing other emission sources. Given the impending strict emission standards, it is imperative to address this issue effectively.^{vii}

From 2013 to 2022, there has been an observed increase in CO₂ emissions, as indicated in Figure 3. From 2013 to 2022, there has been an observed increase in CO₂ emissions, as indicated in Figure 3. To anticipate CO₂ emissions for 2023 and 2024, we plan to use Python based on the data available on "www.kaggle.com." Subsequently, we aim to implement Amine-Modified star-shaped or hierarchically structured Silica solid adsorbents, taking into account essential parameters for effective adsorption in vehicle exhaust. This specific adsorbent is a type of synthesized amine-modified solid adsorbent designed to capture and diminish CO₂ emissions. Consequently, we can compare the levels of CO₂ emissions with and without the application of this adsorbent to assess the reduction achieved.

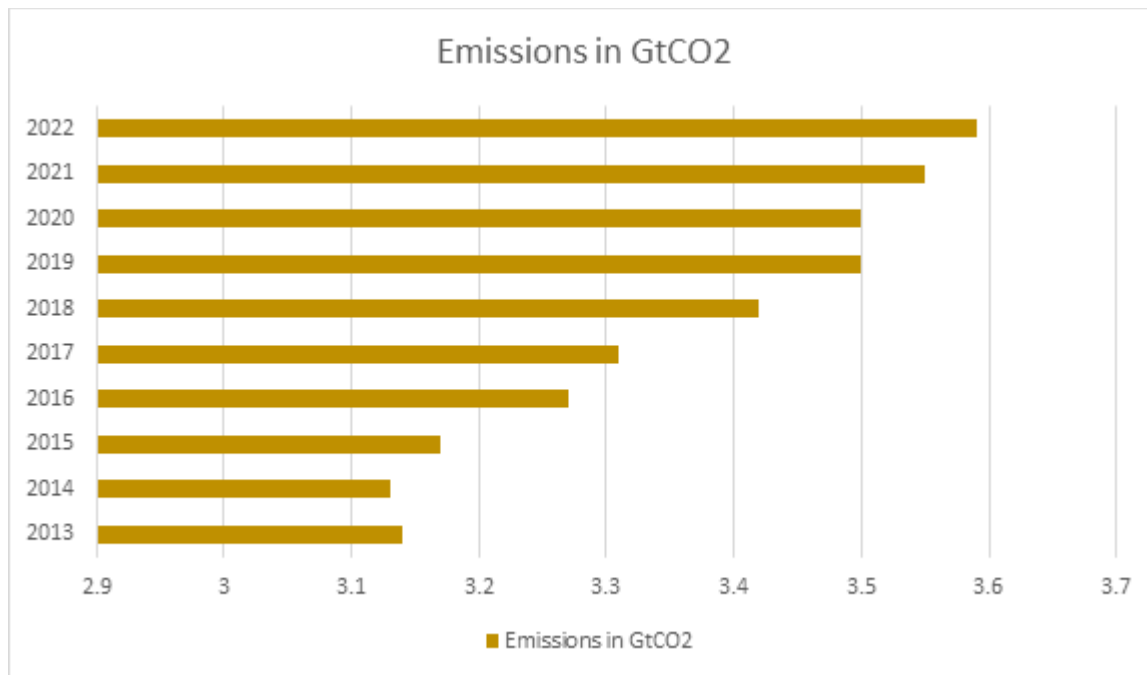


Fig. 3: CO₂ emissions from cars and vans worldwide from 2013-2022

In this experiment, a specified quantity of silica adsorbents, modified with amines and designed in either a star-shaped or hierarchically structured configuration, will be introduced into the exhaust systems of diverse types of vehicles. The primary objective is to diminish and capture CO₂ emissions. Subsequently, an analysis of the experimentally calculated CO₂ emission and reduction for the years 2023-2024 will be conducted. This innovative technology holds the potential to transform emissions reduction practices across various modes of transportation, including trucks, trains, planes, and boats, by establishing a connection between vehicles and CO₂ distribution infrastructure, enabling the capture of carbon emissions at the source. The technology operates by capturing CO₂ emissions from car exhausts through a process known as adsorption. Amines, organic compounds with the ability to chemically react with CO₂, enhance the adsorption capabilities of silica, making them particularly adept at selectively capturing CO₂ from sources with low concentrations, such as vehicle exhaust and flue gas. The adsorption process involves the following sequential steps:

- **Adsorption Process:** As the exhaust gas, containing CO₂, traverses through the adsorbent, a chemical reaction with CO₂ occurs, enabling the adsorbent to selectively capture the CO₂ from the gas stream.
- **Storage or Utilization:** The captured CO₂ can be stored for subsequent disposal or utilized in various industrial processes, thereby contributing to emissions reduction.

- **Regeneration:** Once the adsorbent reaches saturation, regeneration becomes imperative to restore its capacity. This involves desorbing the captured CO₂ molecules, typically achieved through processes such as heating, vacuum treatment, or purging with inert gases ^{viii}.

To evaluate high-performing amine-modified star-shaped or hierarchically structured silica adsorbents for CO₂ capture in car's exhaust, consider the following key parameters:

1. **Selection of Materials:** Choose appropriate silica materials with star-shaped, hierarchically, or mesoporous structures, such as MCM-41, HMS, or SBA-15, recognized for their expansive surface area and adjustable pore sizes. Additionally, opt for suitable amine molecules, including polyethylenimine (PEI), tetraethylenepentamine (TEPA), or monoethanolamine (MEA), based on their reactivity and efficiency in capturing CO₂.
2. **Surface Area Consideration:** The elevated surface area of adsorbents in car exhaust facilitates an augmented presence of active sites, enhancing the potential for CO₂ adsorption.
3. **Pore Size Impact:** The size of pores in Amine-Modified star-shaped or hierarchically structured Silica adsorbents is a key determinant of their CO₂ adsorption capability and efficiency. An optimal pore size and volume enable the effective diffusion of CO₂ molecules into the star-shaped or hierarchically structured matrix. Smaller pores generally result in greater CO₂ adsorption capacities, attributed to intensified interactions between CO₂ molecules and the internal surface of the adsorbent. However, smaller pores may concurrently raise mass transfer resistances, placing a limitation on the adsorption rate. Although smaller pores contribute significantly to CO₂ adsorption, larger pore volumes enhance the permeation of CO₂ molecules throughout the adsorbent matrix, promoting mass transfer and elevating overall adsorption performance. Therefore, determining an optimal pore size range is crucial for achieving a balance between high adsorption capacities and swift adsorption kinetics. Consequently, the selection of an ideal pore size can be guided by experimental testing involving varying pore sizes of adsorbents.^{ix}
4. **Amine Loading Importance:** The quantity of amine loading stands as a pivotal factor when assessing amine-modified star-shaped or hierarchically structured silica adsorbents for CO₂ adsorption in car exhaust systems. The concentration of amine groups present on the surface of the silica material significantly influences the CO₂ adsorption capacity. Through the optimization of amine loading, researchers can enhance the adsorption performance of star-shaped or hierarchically structured silica adsorbents, leading to heightened CO₂ capture

efficiency and overall effectiveness in reducing emissions from car exhausts. Research indicates that increased amine loading is associated with a higher CO₂ adsorption capacity.

5. **Temperature and Pressure Influence:** Elevated temperatures and pressures typically augment the adsorption kinetics and capacity of CO₂ for amine-based adsorbents, attributed to heightened molecular mobility and reaction rates. Research has demonstrated that at higher temperatures and pressures, both the adsorption capacity and rate increase, consequently enhancing the efficiency of CO₂ capture.^x
6. **Regeneration Strategy:** The adsorbent should be easily regenerated without significant loss of CO₂ adsorption capacity. there are several approaches aimed at maintaining the adsorbent's CO₂ adsorption capacity without significant loss (Kawamoto, 2021)^{xi}. Some of these methods include:

- 6.1 **Thermal Desorption:** Heating the adsorbent to release the CO₂ molecules, followed by cooling to restore the original structure and functionality.

- 6.2 **Chemical Regeneration:** Applying chemical agents to remove the adsorbed CO₂, such as washing with water or acid solutions.

- 6.3 **Combination of thermal and chemical treatments:** A hybrid approach that involves both heating and chemical treatment to achieve better regeneration results.

Research endeavors have concentrated on formulating effective regeneration methods for Amine-Modified star-shaped or hierarchically structured Silica adsorbents, with the goal of reducing the depletion of CO₂ adsorption capacity and sustaining long-term stability. It is imperative to scrutinize the most suitable regeneration conditions tailored to each particular adsorbent to guarantee its enduring and sustainable performance in capturing CO₂ emissions from car exhausts.

5. Calculation and Experiments

We would like to use Python to predict the amount of CO₂ emission in 2023 and 2024 based on the available data in different years. Then, the amount of CO₂ emission with considering Amine-Modified Silica adsorbent will be calculated and compared with the predicted amount.

Calculation of required surface area:

For the calculation of required surface area using the BET (Brunauer–Emmett–Teller) equation, which is commonly used for porous materials like MCM-41. The formula for calculating the BET surface area is as follows:

$$S_{\text{BET}} = \frac{6}{C} \sum \frac{v_i}{\left(\frac{P_i}{P_0}\right) \left(1 - \left(\frac{P_i}{P_0}\right)\right)} \quad (1)$$

Where:

- S_{BET} = BET surface area
- C = constant related to the adsorbate used
- n_i = amount of gas adsorbed at pressure
- P_i = equilibrium pressure
- P_0 = saturation pressure
- n = number of data points

For a particular Amine-Modified star-shaped or hierarchically structured Silica adsorbent, such as amine-functionalized MCM-41, experimental information regarding gas adsorption under varying pressures can be gathered. Employing the BET equation and determining the constant C through fitting this data enables the calculation of the adsorbent's surface area. This approach offers valuable insights into the material's adsorption capacity and efficiency concerning the capture of CO_2 emissions in car exhausts.

Calculation of the CO_2 concentration and CO_2 captured volume:

Calculation of the concentration of CO_2 outlet of the cars' exhaust, CO_2 captured volume by the adsorbent can be expressed as:

$$Q_{\text{ads}} = \frac{(F \times (C_{\text{in}} - C_{\text{out}})) \times t}{M} \quad (2)$$

$$V_{\text{CO}_2} = F \times (C_{\text{in}} - C_{\text{out}}) \times t \quad (3)$$

Where:

- Q_{ads} is the adsorption capacity ($\text{mmol CO}_2/\text{g}$). (should be considered $\leq 5.5 \text{ mmol/g}$)
- F is the total flow rate (mmol/minute). (it can be considered as an assumption based on typical amount or experimental data)
- C_{in} is the concentration of CO_2 entering the cars' exhaust (vol\%). (it can be considered as an assumption based on typical amount or experimental data based on analyzer)
- C_{out} is the concentration of CO_2 outlet of the cars' exhaust (vol\%). (will calculate)
- t is the time at which C_{out} reaches its maximum (assumption)
- M is the weight of the adsorbent (g) (assumption)
- V_{CO_2} is volume of CO_2 captured (m^3). (already calculated)

This equation can be utilized to compute the necessary weight of the adsorbent and the volume of captured CO₂, making certain assumptions about the CO₂ adsorption capacity of the amine-based adsorbent. These assumptions are derived from measured flow rates, concentration variations, and the time needed for the process.

Calculate Percentage Reduction:

Divide the CO₂ captured using the adsorbent by the CO₂ emitted without the adsorbent, and multiply by 100 to get the percentage reduction:

$$\% \text{ Reduction} = \frac{\text{CO}_2 \text{ Captured}}{\text{CO}_2 \text{ Emitted without adsorbents}} \times 100$$

This evaluation provides insight into the effectiveness of Amine-Modified star-shaped or hierarchically structured Silica adsorbents in capturing CO₂ emissions from car exhausts. It should mention that the accuracy of the results depends on the quality and reliability of the experimental data gathered.^{xii, xiii}

Conclusion

The utilization of Amine-Modified star-shaped or hierarchically structured Silica solid adsorbents for the capture of CO₂ emissions from car exhausts presents a promising strategy to alleviate the significant impact of the transportation sector on climate change and air pollution. Crucial factors influencing effective adsorption encompass material selection, surface area, pore size, amine loading, temperature and pressure, and the regeneration strategy. The BET equation proves useful in determining the required surface area of the adsorbent. Simultaneously, the concentration of CO₂ in the outlet of cars' exhausts and the volume of captured CO₂ enable the calculation of the achieved percentage reduction. By optimizing these parameters, researchers can enhance the adsorption capabilities of the adsorbents, resulting in heightened CO₂ capture efficiency and overall effectiveness in curbing emissions from car exhausts.

Testimony and contribution

My experience in programming, especially with Python, modestly contributed to the project's success. I aimed for professionalism through dedication, a sense of responsibility, and adherence to high standards, fostering a collaborative and smoothly progressing environment.

Partnering with Zahra Alavi on this experimental project was an enriching experience. Zahra's understanding of Python, coupled with her dedication and scientific enthusiasm, proved instrumental in the project's success. I am confident that Zahra will not only continue to excel but also make significant contributions to the field in future endeavors.



ⁱ <https://earth911.com/business-policy/which-car-brands-emit-the-most-carbon-dioxide/>

ⁱⁱ <https://247wallst.com/special-report/2023/07/19/the-worst-new-cars-for-humans-and-the-environment/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.pollutionsolutions-online.com/news/air-clean-up/16/breaking-news/what-are-the-most-polluting-cars/42314>

^{iv} <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jimgorzdelany/2021/02/24/dirty-bakers-dozen-the-13-environmentally-meanest-vehicles-for-2021/?sh=58d9c460165b>

^v Di Zhang, Y. Z. (2024). CaO-based adsorbents derived from municipal solid waste incineration Bottom ash for CO₂ capture.

^{vi} María Erans, A. A. (2023). Amine-bridged periodic mesoporous organosilica adsorbents for CO₂ capture.

^{vii} S. Mohankumar, B. D. (2020). Capture of CO₂ from Automobile Exhaust by Using Physical Adsorption Technique.

^{viii} Rossella Girimonte, F. T. (2022). Amine-Functionalized Mesoporous Silica Adsorbent for CO₂ Capture in Confined-Fluidized Bed: Study of the Breakthrough Adsorption Curves as a Function of Several Operating Variables

^{ix} V. Zelenák, M. B. (2008). Amine-modified ordered mesoporous silica: Effect of pore size on carbon dioxide capture.

^x Yihe Miao, Z. H. (2021). Operating temperatures affect direct air capture of CO₂ in polyamine-loaded mesoporous silica.

^{xi} Kawamoto, K. (2021). Adsorption characteristics of the carbonaceous adsorbents for organic compounds in a model exhaust gas from thermal treatment processing.

^{xii} Rodrigo Serna-Guerrero, Y. B. (2010). Modeling CO₂ adsorption on amine-functionalized mesoporous silica: 1. A semi-empirical equilibrium model.

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^{xiii} Rossella Girimonte, F. T. (2020). Adsorption of CO₂ on Amine-Modified Silica Particles in a Confined-Fluidized Bed.

(2023). Retrieved from How to calculate co₂ adsorption capacity?:

https://www.researchgate.net/post/How_to_calculate_co2_adsorption_capacity