

# SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERISATION OF NOVEL 1,2,4-TRIAZOLE CONTAINING MANGANESE-BASED METAL ORGANIC FRAMEWORKS AS EMERGING ELECTRODES FOR SUPERCAPATTERY DEVICE



VELAN A/L RAMAN

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

March 2023

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the Doctor of Philosophy

## SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERISATION OF NOVEL 1,2,4-TRIAZOLE CONTAINING MANGANESE-BASED METAL-ORGANIC FRAMEWORKS AS EMERGING ELECTRODES FOR SUPERCAPATTERY DEVICE

By

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Electrochemical energy storage (EES) technologies including batteries and supercapacitors (SCs) are essential in addressing the need for sustainable energy issues caused by the depletion of fossil fuels. Despite extensive study and substantial progress of both SCs and batteries have been carried out, individual device performance still requires further development to fulfil current commercial expectations. Batteries have high specific energy despite having low specific power. On the other hand, SCs with low specific energy prevent them from being widely used in commercial applications. Thus, this scenario sparked a new line of inquiry, by integrating the battery and SCs into a single device known as a supercapattery. This device is predicted to have outstanding performance and a long cycle life due to the combination of capacitive and battery-grade materials. However, supercapattery technology is still developing since the current focus is on the development of high-performance novel electrode materials to design supercapattery devices. Metalorganic frameworks (MOFs) have attracted a lot of attention in the field of energy storage due to their unique properties, including large specific surface areas, adjustable pore sizes and stable porous structures. Therefore, the synthesis of novel MOFs and fabrication of them as electrode materials in supercapattery devices are essential goals in current research. Three Mn(II) MOFs bonded to 1,2,4-triazoles (Htrz) ligand namely UPMOF-4 novel (MnCl<sub>2</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O with Htrz), UPMOF-5 (anhydrous MnBr<sub>2</sub> with Htrz) and UPMOF-6 (Mn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O with Htrz) were successfully synthesised solvothermally with molar ratios of 1:2 (UPMOF-4 and UPMOF-5), 1:1.5 (UPMOF-6) at 125°C (UPMOF-4), 120°C (UPMOF-5) and 110°C (UPMOF-6). These new MOFs were characterised using powder Xray diffraction (PXRD), thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM), N<sub>2</sub> physisorption analysis and the structural determination was performed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis (SCXRD). The peaks at low angles of 10° in the PXRD pattern of MOFs indicated the formation of a large unit cell of the frameworks. Thermal analysis revealed that UPMOF-4, UPMOF-5 and UPMOF-6 had high thermal stability up to 490°C, 570°C and 435°C, respectively. The N<sub>2</sub> adsorption-desorption measurements indicated the UPMOF-4, UPMOF-5 and UPMOF-6 had BET surface areas of



 $1758 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ ,  $1724 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$  and  $895 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ , respectively. The three novel MOFs were crystallised in a monoclinic system with different space groups, i.e. I2/a (UPMOF-4) and  $P2_1$  (UPMOF-5 and UPMOF-6). Topologically, the three-dimensional (3D) structure of UPMOF-4 owns a pcu network topology while UPMOF-5 and UPMOF-6 with two-dimensional (2D) structures displayed **hxl** type topology. The novel MOFs were then utilised as positive electrodes for electrochemical studies as supercapattery devices for the first time. In a threeelectrode assembly in 1 M KOH, all three MOFs manifested a decent performance by showing a battery-graded nature with specific capacities of 203.1 C/g (UPMOF-4), 160.2 C/g (UPMOF-5) and 121.1 C/g (UPMOF-6). The novel MOFs were sandwiched with activated carbon (negative electrode) to fabricate supercapattery devices. UPMOF-4 showed a good specific capacity of 174.4 C/g with promising capacity retention of 90.1% even after 2500 cycles, whereas UPMOF-5 and UPMOF-6 depicted specific capacities of 132.4 C/g and 96.28 C/g with capacity retention of 88.9% and 79.9%, respectively after 2500 cycles. The density functional theory (DFT) calculation of these three MOFs revealed that UPMOF-4 has the lowest HOMO-LUMO energy gap  $(E_{gap})$  of 0.211 eV followed by UPMOF-6 (0.777 eV) and UPMOF-5 (1.198 eV). Therefore, the good electrochemical performance of UPMOF-4 imputed to the structural stability, highly porous nature and low  $E_{gap}$ . This work indicated that all these MOFs could be emerging electrode materials for supercapattery devices.

Abstrak tesis ini dikemukankankan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagi memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah.

## SINTESIS DAN PENCIRIAN KERANGKA LOGAM-ORGANIK BERASASKAN MANGAN YANG MENGANDUNGI 1,2,4-TRIAZOL LIGAN SEBAGAI ELEKTROD BAHARU UNTUK PERANTI SUPERKAPATERI

Oleh

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Teknologi tenaga elektrokimia (EES) termasuk bateri dan superkapasitor(SC), adalah penting dalam menangani isu keperluan tenaga mampan yang disebabkan oleh kemerosotan bahan api fosil. Walaupun kajian meluas dan kemajuan besar kedua-dua SC dan bateri telah dijalankan, prestasi peranti individu masih memerlukan pembangunan lanjut untuk memenuhi keperluan komersil semasa.. Bateri mempunyai tenaga spesifik yang tinggi walaupun mempunyai kuasa spesifik yang rendah. Sebaliknya, SC dengan tenaga spesifik yang rendah menghalangnya daripada digunakan secara meluas dalam aplikasi komersial. Oleh itu, senario ini mencetuskan idea/penyelidikan baharu yang, mencadangkan penyatuan bateri dan SC ke dalam satu peranti yang dikenali sebagai superkapateri. Peranti ini diramalkan mempunyai prestasi yang cemerlang dan kitaran hayat yang panjang disebabkan oleh gabungan bahan kapasitif dan bahan gred bateri. Walau bagaimanapun, tumpuan yang terkini adalah pada pembangunan bahan elektrod baharu yang boleh berfungsi dengan baik dalam teknologi ini. Kerangka logam-organik (MOF) telah menarik perhatian dalam bidang penyimpanan tenaga kerana sifat uniknya seperti permukaan yang luas dan besar, saiz liang boleh dilaraskan dan struktur berliang yang stabil. Oleh itu, sintesis MOF baharu dan pengunaanya sebagai bahan elektrod dalam peranti superkapateri adalah matlamat penting dalam penyelidikan ini. Tiga novel Mn(II) MOF terikat dengan ligan 1,2,4-triazoles (Htrz) iaitu UPMOF-4 (MnCl<sub>2</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O dengan Htrz), UPMOF-5 (MnBr<sub>2</sub> dengan Htrz) dan UPMOF-6 (Mn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.4H<sub>2</sub>O dengan Htrz) berjaya disintesis secara solvoterma dengan nisbah molar 1:2 (UPMOF-4 dan UPMOF-5), 1:1.5 (UPMOF-6) pada suhu 125°C (UPMOF-4), 120°C ( UPMOF-5) dan 110°C (UPMOF-6). MOF baharu ini dicirikan menggunakan analisis pembelauan sinar-X (PXRD), analisis termogravimetri (TGA), mikroskop elektron pengimbasan pancaran medan (FESEM), analisis penjerapan fizikal  $N_2$  dan penentuan struktur dilakukan dengan analisis belauan sinar-X hablur tunggal (SCXRD). Puncak pada sudut rendah 10° dalam analisis PXRD menunjukkan pembentukan kerangka dengan sel unit besar. Analisis terma mendedahkan bahawa UPMOF-4, UPMOF-5 dan UPMOF-6 mempunyai kestabilan haba masing-masing yang tinggi sehingga 490°C, 570°C dan 435°C. Pengukuran penjerapan-penyahjerapan N<sub>2</sub> menunjukkan UPMOF-4, UPMOF-5 dan

UPMOF-6 mempunyai luas permukaan BET masing-masing 1758 m<sup>2</sup>/g, 1724 m<sup>2</sup>/g dan 895 m<sup>2</sup>/g. Tiga MOF baharu ini telah dihablurkan dalam sistem monoklinik dengan kumpulan ruang yang berbeza iaitu 12/a (UPMOF-4) dan P21 (UPMOF-5 dan UPMOF-6). Struktur tiga dimensi (3D) UPMOF-4 memiliki topologi rangkaian pcu manakala UPMOF-5 dan UPMOF-6 dengan struktur dua dimensi (2D) memaparkan topologi jenis hxl. MOF baharu ini seterusnya digunakan sebagai elektrod positif untuk kajian elektrokimia sebagai peranti superkapateri buat kali pertama. Di dalam sistem tiga elektrod menggunakan 1 M KOH sebagai elektrolit, ketiga-tiga MOF menunjukkan prestasi yang baik dengan menunjukkan sifat gred bateri dengan kapasitan spesifik 203.1 C/g (UPMOF-4), 160.2 C/g (UPMOF-5) dan 121.1 C/g (UPMOF-6). MOF baharu juga diapit dengan karbon aktif (elektrod negatif) untuk menghasilkan peranti superkapateri. UPMOF-4 menunjukkan kapasitan spesifik yang baik iaitu 174.4 C/g dengan pengekalan nilai kapasitan sebanyak 90.1% walaupun selepas 2500 kitaran, manakala UPMOF-5 dan UPMOF-6 mempunyai kapasitan spesifik 132.4 C/g dan 96.28 C/g dengan pengekalan kapasitan masing-masing sebanyak 88.9% dan 79.9%, selepas 2500 kitaran. Pengiraan teori fungsi ketumpatan (DFT) bagi ketiga-tiga MOF ini mendedahkan bahawa UPMOF-4 mempunyai nilai jurang tenaga HOMO-LUMO ( $E_{gap}$ ) terendah sebanyak 0.211 eV diikuti oleh UPMOF-6 (0.777 eV) dan UPMOF-5 (1.198 eV). Oleh itu, UPMOF-4 dengan prestasi elektrokimia yang baik ini boleh dikaitkan dengan kestabilan struktur, sifat berliang tinggi dan nilai  $E_{gap}$  rendah. Penyelidikan ini menunjukkan bahawa semua MOF ini boleh menjadi bahan elektrod baharu untuk peranti superkapateri.

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Activated carbon
4,4-bpy	4,4-bipyridine
B3LYP	Becke's three-parameter hybrid functional using LYP correlation functional
BDC	1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid
BET	Brunauer-Emmett-Teller
BPDC	Biphenyl-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid
BPT	Biphenyl tricarboxylic acid
BTC	1,3,5-benzenetricarbocylic acid
BTZE	1, 2-bis (tetrazol-1-yl) ethane
CCDC	Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre
CIF	Crystal information file
CTFs	Triazine-based organic frameworks
СТРҮ	4-carboxy-4, 2', 6', 4"-terpyridine
CU(INA)	MOF derived from copper acetate with isonicotinic acid
CV	Cyclic voltammetry
DEF	<i>N</i> , <i>N</i> '-diethlyformamide
DMA	N,N'-dimethlyacetamide
DMF	N,N'-dimethlyformamide
DFT	Density functional theory
EES	Electrochemical energy storage
EDLCs	Electrical double-layer capacitors
$E_{ m gap}$	Energy gap
EIS	Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy
ESR	Equivalent series resistance
FESEM	Field emission scanning microscopy
FMO	Frontier molecular orbital
GCD	Galvanostatic charging/discharging

	H <sub>2</sub> tfbdc	2,3,5,6-tetrafluoroterephthalic acid
	HKUST-1	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, MOF made of copper nitrate and 1,3,5-benzenetricarbocylic acid
	Hdatrz	Guanazole (3,5-diamino-1,2,4-triazole
	НОМО	Highest occupied molecular orbital
	Htrz	1,2,4-triazole
	Hxl net	Hexagonal network topology
	IRMOF	Isoreticular metal-organic frameworks
	LUMO	Lowest unoccupied molecular orbital
	MIL-53	MOD derived from scandium and oxygen (ScO <sub>6</sub> ) nodes with BDC
	MIL-68	MOF derived from ferum nitrate and benzene 1,4-dicarboxylic acid
	MIL-101	MOF made from chromium nitrate and 1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid
	MIL-88B-NH <sub>2</sub>	MOF containing chromium ion and amino-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid
	Mn-LMOF	Layered manganese-organic framework
	Mn-MOFs	Manganese-organic frameworks
	MOFs	Metal-organic frameworks
	MOF-5	MOF made from Zinc nitrate and 1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid
	MOF-74	MOF made from magnesium nitrate and 2,5-dihydroxyterephthalic
	MTBS	Methyl tributyl ammonium methyl sulfate
	NMP	N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone
	OCP	Open circuit potential
	PCU net	Primitive cubic topology network
	PCs	Pseudocapacitors
0	PCN-6	MOF containing zinc nitrate and 4,4-biphenyldicarboxylic acid
	PXRD	Powder X-ray Diffraction
	PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene
	SCXRD	Single crystal X-ray diffraction
	SC	Supercapacitors
	SCN	Thiocyanate ions
	TGA	Thermogravimetric analysis

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TIPA	Tris(4imidazolylphenyl)amine
XPS	X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy
ZIF-8	Zeolitic Imidazolate Framework-8; MOF made from zinc nitrate and imidazole
Zn-BTC	MOF derived from zinc acetate and 1,3,5-benzenetricarbocylic acid



 $\bigcirc$ 

### **CHAPTER 1**

#### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Research Background

Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) are a rapidly emerging unique type of crystalline porous materials in reticular chemistry that describe the linking of molecular building blocks by strong bonds to develop extended crystalline structures (Yaghi, 2019). In relation to this, MOFs or porous coordination polymers are self-assembled from the inorganic metal cluster and organic bridging ligands via strong covalent bonds (**Figure 1.1**).

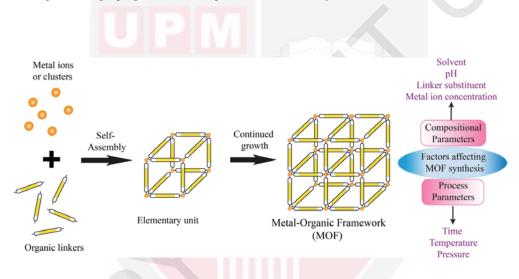


Figure 1.1: Synthesis and factors affecting the formation of MOFs (Sharanyakanth and Radhakrishnan, 2020).

The structures of MOFs are also influenced by several factors related to synthetic and process parameters (**Figure 1.1**), including changes in pH, temperature, choice of solvent, metal ion and organic linker (Sharanyakanth and Radhakrishnan, 2020). MOFs are typically synthesised in mild settings using either a standard approach (above room temperature) or a non-conventional method (below or at room temperature). Microwave, electrochemical, mechanochemical, ultrasonic, and high-throughput syntheses are some of the additional methods used to make MOFs.

In MOF chemistry, the functionality of ligands plays a key role in order to access a broad range of promising applications in which the newly synthesised MOFs can provide a platform to integrate various chemical functionalities in many useful applications (Chen and Wu, 2018). A predominant feature of MOFs is that their framework structure, pore environment, and functionality can be fined controlled by the choice of metal and organic

linkers. In particular, organic linkers are the essential units of coordination polymers regardless of their synthetic routes or strategies.

The flexibility and versatility of organic ligands have also been recognised as the key value of coordination polymers. In this context, the N-donor linkers namely azoles, fivemembered aromatic nitrogen heterocycles are increasingly used to design and synthesise new families of coordination polymers (Zhang *et al.* (2012). Generally, these ligands including imidazole, pyrazole, triazole and tetrazole (**Figure 1.2**) are promising because easy to be synthesised, mostly soluble in common organic solvents and readily bind to 3dmetals (Bai *et al.*, 2011). Among these, the most-versatile azole ligands are triazoles, (Bai *et al.*, 2011) the aromatic heterocyclic five-membered ring with three nitrogen atoms that exhibit in symmetric and asymmetric structures namely 1,2,4-triazole and 1,2,3-triazole.



Figure 1.2: N-donor heterocyclic azole linkers.

The triazole ring is a useful organic heterocyclic molecule made up of two carbon atoms and three nitrogen atoms in a diunsaturated five-membered ring structure. The relative positions of the three nitrogen atoms differ between two sets of isomers. Each of them has two tautomers (**Figure 1.3**) that differed by which hydrogen bonded to the nitrogen (Nasri *et al.*, 2021). This linker has been comprehensively studied due to the multiple binding capacities that allow for more-rigid coordination much like metal carboxylate cluster chemistry (Bai *et al.*, 2011). In coordination chemistry, the derivatives of 1,2,4-triazoles are extensively studied (Aromí *et al.*, 2011). Thus, the synthesis of metal-1,2,4-triazole frameworks has attracted great attention over the last few years due to the possibility of obtaining a wide variety of aesthetically appealing MOF structures that could also be of great interest in porous materials fields for some applications (Gangu *et al.*, 2016).

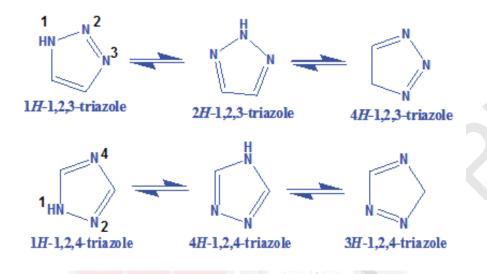


Figure 1.3: The tautomers of 1,2,3-triazole and 1,2,4-triazole (Nasri et al., 2021).

Electrochemical energy storage (EES) technologies are mostly categorised as batteries and supercapacitors (SCs) and are based on electrochemical processes or electrostatic interactions to store energy. Despite extensive studies and substantial advances in the development of both technologies (SCs and batteries), the performance of individual devices continues to fall short of commercial expectations (Gu and Yushin, 2014, Numan *et al.*, 2021). Therefore, SCs and batteries are merged to assemble the device that can give high specific energy and high specific power, respectively. A two-terminal device known as a "supercapattery" can be created by joining a capacitive electrode and a battery electrode (Chen, 2016). Supercapattery is predicted to have a long cycle life and remarkable energy storage performance due to the combination of capacitive and battery-grade materials (Numan *et al.*, 2021). On the other hand, MOFs have extended frameworks, with potential porosity, and display high specific surface areas. Due to their features, MOFs are receiving great attention to be used as electrodes in energy storage devices, (Li *et al.*, 2019b, Mohanadas *et al.*, 2021) and a few successful works using MOFs in the assembly of supercapattery devices have been recently reported.

In view of this, the investigation of the metal-1,2,4-triazole framework in the field of electrochemistry is quite recent but expanding. Although few reports have mentioned triazoles are electrochemically inactive (Fischer *et al.*, 2020) but incorporating them with electro-active metal may enhance the electrochemical properties (Norková *et al.*, 2011). Moreover, it is well known that modulating the structure of linkers will crucially enhance the charge transfer inside of the framework (Behera *et al.*, 2009) and fabricating the MOFs with conductive properties will immensely improve electron conduction, due to most of the MOFs with insulating character (Allendorf *et al.*, 2011, Behera *et al.*, 2009, Jahan *et al.*, 2010, Zhang *et al.*, 2019) limit them from being used as electrode materials or electrocatalysts. Thus, this research focused on the synthesis of novel Mn-MOFs by incorporating 1,2,4 triazole as a linker to examine their electrochemical performance.

### 1.2 Problem Statement

The depletion of natural fossil fuels intensifies the search for renewable and sustainable energy conversion and storage technologies. The figures for the use of fossil fuels to meet human requirements are at an all-time high, combined with environmental concerns; therefore, reliance on fossil fuels is predicted to fall in the following years. As a result, scientists working on renewable energy resources are eager to develop a new approach to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels while yet meeting the demands of the modern world. There are two primary rivals, supercapacitors and batteries that require special attention from researchers in order to alleviate the worrying situation (Faisal *et al.*, 2021). SC also known as ultracapacitors have high specific power, fast charge-discharge long service life compared to batteries including environmental protection (Zhi *et al.*, 2013). The supercapacitors are mainly divided into electrical double-layer capacitors (EDLCs) and pseudocapacitors (PCs) depending on their operating mechanism in energy storage (Zhang *et al.*, 2021).

In comparison to other energy storage technologies, batteries have an unusually high specific energy which qualifies them for commercial application in a variety of electronic devices (Faisal *et al.*, 2021). However, because of the battery's poor specific power hindered it usage in high-speed electronic devices. SCs, unlike batteries, are recognised for their high specific power, which allows them to be used in rapid-response systems. However, there is a problem with this technology's poor specific energy (Yuan *et al.*, 2012). Recently, a new approach has been developed to overcome the limitations of both systems. This new technology is developed by combining the advantages of both technologies into a single device, which is referred to as a supercapattery (Iqbal *et al.*, 2020a). The supercapattery is a combination of an SC and a battery that can be used in a variety of electrical devices. The two energy storage techniques that occur in supercapattery are dependent on the electrode material utilised. Mostly, carbonaceous materials are employed as electrodes in EDLC-type SCs and store charges in the electrolyte via the surface of the electrode material to produce an electrical double-layer structure and no chemical reaction takes place during charging and discharging (Jiang and Liu, 2019).

In battery-grade materials, the energy is collected at the active surfaces of electrodes, where reversible, rapid redox reactions occur, and the electrode materials are made up of conducting polymers and a wide range of transition metal complexes. The supercapattery, which combines two storage methods in one device, is created by using one electrode from each technology.(Faisal *et al.*, 2021, Iqbal *et al.*, 2020a). Supercapattery has attracted a lot of interest due to its special abilities to produce high specific power from the supercapacitor side and high specific energy from the counterpart. This technology has a specific power and specific energy than batteries, a longer cycle life, and is more stable. (Faisal *et al.*, 2021).

Generally, MOFs, metal oxides and conductive polymers are suitable materials for electrodes because of their exclusive redox-active (Calbo *et al.*, 2019) properties and available oxidation state (Athouël *et al.*, 2008). These interesting features lead us to favourably choose Mn as the metal centre for this synthesis work. In essence, the position of Mn as a transition metal in the periodic table with five unpaired electrons leads to the

most oxidation states including the highest oxidation state +7 in the whole periodic table (Muñoz-Páez, 1994). This novel property of Mn makes it significantly redox-active which could achieve superior electrochemical performance, especially in faradic redox reactions of electrochemical energy storage devices. For instance, manganese oxide-based electrode materials have been intensely studied on their electrochemical performance due to Mn has of the most noteworthy number of different oxides, most of which have unique tunnel structures that empowers bulk redox reactions (Hu *et al.*, 2018). Interestingly, the five stable oxidation states of Mn provide plenty of chances for redox reactions including the ion exchange between the manganese oxide and electrolytes (Wang *et al.*, 2012). According to the standard calculation method (Mathieu Toupin, 2004), the manganese oxide (MnO<sub>2</sub>) showed a high theoretical capacitance of 1370 F/g within a wider potential window of 1 V (Zhi *et al.*, 2013). These evidently support that manganese-based electrodes are promising in electrochemical applications namely in supercapacitors.

Thus, attracted by these extraordinary features of manganese and 1,2,4-triazole. Herein, we report the synthesis of novel Mn-1,2,4-triazole frameworks, crystal structures and their electrochemical behaviour in conventional three-electrode configuration and supercapattery device assembly. To the best of our knowledge, this will be the first Mn-MOFs derived from 1,2,4-triazole tested for electrochemical studies namely supercapattery.

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

The overall goals of this research are to synthesise and structurally characterise new manganese-based metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) with 1,2,4-triazole linker and study their supercapattery performance. The following are the research's specific objectives:

- 1. To synthesise and characterise new Mn-MOFs containing 1,2-4-triazole linker using physicochemical, computational analysis and spectroscopic techniques namely, single crystal X-ray Diffraction (SCXRD) analysis, powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) analysis, thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM), X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) and N<sub>2</sub> physisorption analysis.
- 2. To evaluate the electrochemical performance of new Mn-MOFs in three-electrode configuration and supercapattery device assembly.
- 3. To compare the electrochemical performance of newly synthesised Mn-MOFs with the aid of density functional theory (DFT) calculations and BET surface area.

### 1.4 Research Scopes

The scope of this study is divided into several sections; the first section focuses on the synthesis of new Mn-MOFs with 1,2,4-triazole linkers. Numerous parameters were investigated to optimise the synthesis conditions and obtain the high-quality crystals. These parameters included the metal-ligand molar ratio, the reaction temperature, the duration of the reaction, and the type and volume of the reaction solvents. The compounds were then characterised using powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) to determine the crystal lattice.

Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) was used to determine the compound's thermal stability, while field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM) was used to study the morphology of the synthesised MOFs. Finally, the Mn-MOFs' surface area and pore volume were determined using  $N_2$  physisorption analysis.

The second section is concerned with the elucidation and structural investigation of the new Mn-MOFs. One such non-destructive analytical technique, known as single crystal X-ray diffraction (SCXRD), was used to obtain detailed information on crystalline substances' internal lattice, including unit cell dimensions and lengths of bonds, bond angles and the details of site-ordering in each crystal. The single crystal refinement data generated by X-ray analysis was interpreted and solved using OLEX2 crystallographic software to obtain the crystal structure. The hydrogen atoms were refined using independent and constrained refinement techniques. Due to their disordered distribution in the structures' voids, it was impossible to refine the lattice solvent molecules; therefore, the electron density at the voids was subtracted from the reflection data using the SQUEEZE procedure, which was implemented in the PLATON software package. Then, to examine the structural characteristics of the newly synthesised Mn-MOFs concerning their network structure (net) topology the TOPOS 4.0 Professional Software were used. Identifying the bridging nodes between ligands and metals was necessary to determine the simplified net topology, which would provide a better understanding of the structural features of the complicated structures. The MOFs were then utilised as electrodes to study their electrochemical behaviour in a conventional three-electrode configuration. Finally, the novel Mn-MOFs were assembled into supercapattery devices to evaluate their supercapattery performance. There were several limitations on this research particularly to obtain good quality crystals for the Mn-MOFs which are suitable for SCXRD analysis, sometimes it was influence by the humidity of environment which limits the formation of crystals.

### 1.5 Research hyphothesis

A few hypotheses have been made:

- 1. The conventional solvothermal route can minimise solubility problems of organic linkers namely 1,2,4-triazole and is able to generate larger Mn-MOF crystals which are suitable for SCXRD analysis.
- 2. Incorporating anions such as F<sup>-</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, Br<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>, NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> during the synthesis of Mn-MOFs can provide an interesting architecture of frameworks and anticipated to improve the electrochemical performance by encouraging charge accumulation and electron transfer between manganese and electrolytes.
- 3. As battery-type electrodes, Mn-MOFs can be used to assemble supercapattery devices, which are anticipated to have a promising electrochemical performance because Mn can provide some opportunities for redox reactions due to its five stable oxidation states.

## 1.6 Organisation of thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters and the chapters are organised as follows. Chapter 1 of this research describes the introduction of this research which contains the background of the research, problem statement, objectives and scope of the study. Chapter 2 comprises of design and synthesis of MOFs, crucial aspects of MOFs, the chemistry of 1,2,4-triazoles and the utilisation of MOFs in electrochemical studies were described. The materials and experimental procedures for Mn-MOFs synthesis and electrochemical studies are elaborated in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 demonstrates the facile synthesis, structural elucidation, and electrochemical performances of three novel Mn-MOFs namely UPMOF-4, UPMOF-5 and UPMOF-6 as electrodes in supercapattery device assembly. Finally, the conclusion and recommendations for future works are described in Chapter 5.



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