



# Article Optimization of CO<sub>2</sub> Sorption onto Spent Shale with Diethylenetriamine (DETA) and Ethylenediamine (EDA)

Asmau Iyabo Balogun <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Eswaran Padmanabhan <sup>1,2</sup>, Firas Ayad Abdulkareem <sup>1</sup>, Haylay Tsegab Gebretsadik <sup>1,2</sup>, Cecilia Devi Wilfred <sup>3</sup>, Hassan Soleimani <sup>1,2</sup>, Prasanna Mohan Viswanathan <sup>4</sup>, Boon Siong Wee <sup>5</sup> and Jemilat Yetunde Yusuf <sup>3</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Institute of Hydrocarbon Recovery (IHR), Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Seri Iskandar 32610, Perak, Malaysia
- <sup>2</sup> Geoscience Department, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Seri Iskandar 32610, Perak, Malaysia
- <sup>3</sup> Department of Fundamental and Applied Sciences, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, Seri Iskandar 32610, Perak, Malaysia
- <sup>4</sup> Department of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Engineering and Science, Curtin University Malaysia, CDT 250, Miri 98009, Sarawak, Malaysia
- <sup>5</sup> Resource Chemistry Program, Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Kota Samarahan 94300, Sarawak, Malaysia
- \* Correspondence: asmau\_20001501@utp.edu.my

Abstract: A novel technique was employed to optimize the CO<sub>2</sub> sorption performance of spent shale at elevated pressure-temperature (PT) conditions. Four samples of spent shale prepared from the pyrolysis of oil shale under an anoxic condition were further modified with diethylenetriamine (DETA) and ethylenediamine (EDA) through the impregnation technique to investigate the variations in their physicochemical characteristics and sorption performance. The textural and structural properties of the DETA- and EDA- modified samples revealed a decrease in the surface area from tens of  $m^2/g$  to a unit of  $m^2/g$  due to the amine group dispersing into the available pores, but the pore sizes drastically increased to macropores and led to the creation of micropores. The N-H and C-N bonds of amine noticed on the modified samples exhibit remarkable affinity for CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration and are confirmed to be thermally stable at higher temperatures by thermogravimetric (TG) analysis. Furthermore, the maximum sorption capacity of the spent shale increased by about 100% with the DETA modification, and the equilibrium isotherm analyses confirmed the sorption performance to support heterogenous sorption in conjunction with both monolayer and multilayer coverage since they agreed with the Sips, Toth, Langmuir, and Freundlich models. The sorption kinetics confirm that the sorption process is not limited to diffusion, and both physisorption and chemisorption have also occurred. Furthermore, the heat of enthalpy reveals an endothermic reaction observed between the CO2 and amine-modified samples as a result of the chemical bond, which will require more energy to break down. This investigation reveals that optimization of spent shale with amine functional groups can enhance its sorption behavior and the amine-modified spent shale can be a promising sorbent for  $CO_2$  sequestration from impure steams of the natural gas.

**Keywords:** amine modification; chemisorption; enhanced sorption; physisorption; spent shale; empirical model

## 1. Introduction

Carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) is the most common greenhouse gas and is recognized to be one of the driving factors of climate change and global warming. Currently, several countries promote reducing greenhouse gas emissions and safeguarding the global climate. However, anthropogenic  $CO_2$  emissions are the largest factor, contributing about 63 percent of the total temperature impact from all greenhouse gases [1,2], and emissions of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere peaked at a value of 418.19 ppm in Jan 2022 from 403 ppm in 2016 [3].



Citation: Balogun, A.I.; Padmanabhan, E.; Abdulkareem, F.A.; Gebretsadik, H.T.; Wilfred, C.D.; Soleimani, H.; Viswanathan, P.M.; Wee, B.S.; Yusuf, J.Y. Optimization of CO<sub>2</sub> Sorption onto Spent Shale with Diethylenetriamine (DETA) and Ethylenediamine (EDA). *Materials* **2022**, *15*, 8293. https://doi.org/ 10.3390/ma15238293

Academic Editor: Paula Teixeira

Received: 9 October 2022 Accepted: 31 October 2022 Published: 22 November 2022

**Publisher's Note:** MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



**Copyright:** © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/).  $CO_2$  emissions are becoming an utmost concern as a result of technological advancement and widespread demand for fossil fuels, which are attributed to global warming and air pollution. In recent decades, the development of fossil fuels from unconventional reservoirs has been widely employed due to the rapid depletion of conventional resources, and most of these unconventional reservoirs, such as shale deposits, coal-bed methane, and ultra-tight wells, have high  $CO_2$  concentrations [4,5]. During the combustion of these fossil fuels [6] to generate energy, several releases of  $CO_2$  gas into the atmosphere occur and this emission of  $CO_2$  from fuel combustion hit about 36.7 billion metric tons per year in 2019 and is estimated to rise to about 38 billion metric tons by 2030 [3]. Hence, there is an imperative need to reduce  $CO_2$  emissions and also obtain clean energy (energy free from  $CO_2$  impurities) by applying suitable strategies in developing innovative low-cost capture, sequestration, and several appropriate technologies for extensive gas separation and purification processes. One of the most common technologies widely implemented for this purpose is the "sorption process", which is defined as the deposition of molecular species in/onto the surface of a sorbent [7].

Several studies were issued to improve the sorption performance of sorbents to act as both physisorbents and chemisorbents [8,9]. This has been made possible by introducing a new functional group to the surface of the sorbents through a chemical modification process known as "functionalization" [10]. The new functional group acts as a support for the sorbent to chemically react with the sorbate, thus enhancing its sorption performance. The widely employed functional groups are the oxygen [11] and nitrogen [12] donors, with the nitrogen donor being reported over the years to be more effective due to its high affinity for  $CO_2$ . The main sources of the nitrogen donor reside in the amine group and include monoethanolamine (MEA), ethylenediamine (EDA), diethylenetriamine (DETA), tetraethylenepentamine (TEPA), triethanolamine (TEA), etc., which have been widely studied and approved due to their environmentally friendly behavior and high sorption rate during industrial usage [13]. According to Wang et al. [8], tetraethylenepentamine (TEPA) was incorporated into a coal residue through the wet impregnation method and found that at 60 °C, the modified coal increased in its quantity of  $CO_2$  sorbed from 2.68 to 3.39 mmol/g and that the partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> does not affect the sorption capacity of the modified sample. Additionally, Tejavath et al. [14] created amine-modified zeolites for CO<sub>2</sub> sorption with DETA, EDA, MEA, and TEA. They observed that the DETA-modified zeolites had the highest sorption capacity of 1.69 mmol/g at elevated temperature (75 °C) and further revealed that as amines fill the pores following functionalization, the pore volume, surface area, and other textural characteristics of the sorbent that affect the material's physisorption capability diminish. As a result, the surface area decreases. Therefore, it is more probable that chemisorption would dominate the sorption process than physisorption after functionalization [15].

However, most existing solid sorbents such as zeolite, silica gel, etc., are relatively expensive, have a short regenerative lifespan, and can easily react or interact with other chemicals [16,17]. Hence, the investigation of sustainable and cost-effective solid sorbents is paramount. Many researchers have studied the sorption behavior of geological formations such as shale [18], coal [19], and coal residues [9] for  $CO_2$  and they have shown good performance due to their abundant physicochemical properties. In addition, some studies have reported the sorption performance of spent shale (shale residue) for volatile organic compounds such as toluene, benzene [20], and phenolic compound [21] as it reduces production costs since it is widely available as waste. However, no report thus far has investigated its  $CO_2$  sorption behavior. Therefore, this research aims to investigate the effect of amine modification using diethylenetriamine (DETA) and ethylenediamine (EDA) on the sorption performance of spent shale for  $CO_2$  capture.

The objectives of this research are in three main parts. Firstly, we analyze the effect of DETA and EDA on the physicochemical characteristics of the spent shale through the use of SAP, FESEM, FTIR, TPD, and TGA analyzers. Further study on CO<sub>2</sub> sorption is conducted through the use of volumetric sorption techniques. Finally, the experimental

data collected are modulated with the two- and three-parameter isotherm and kinetic and thermodynamic models to evaluate the sorption behavior mechanism of the modified spent shale at the operating condition.

## 2. Materials

Four shale samples USQ 06, USM 3, USM 05, and US 6 from the Marcellus Formation, USA, with high percentages of TOC (total organic content) (17.9, 16.2, 13.8, and 12.1, respectively) were pyrolyzed and modified with two amine compounds to investigate their CO<sub>2</sub> sorption performances. Nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) gas was used for pyrolysis, regeneration, and purging of the samples. Diethylenetriamine (DETA) and ethylenediamine (EDA) solutions with over 99.997% purities were utilized for modification based on their abilities previously reported. CO<sub>2</sub> and helium gases of high purity were obtained for adsorption and desorption measurements, respectively. Further equipment included a water shaking bath, a PROTHERM 5-tube furnace for heating, and a mortar grinder for pulverization of the samples.

## 3. Experimentation

The four Marcellus shale samples USQ 06, USM 3, USM 05, and US 6 were cleaned and dried at 60 °C before being crushed into grain size below 0.15 mm to eliminate any impurity present. An amount of 100 g of each powdered sample was transferred into a ceramic crucible and placed in an automated PROTHERM 5-tube furnace for the pyrolysis process. The N<sub>2</sub> gas was passed into the tube furnace for 30 min to replace the air and moisture, after which its temperature was increased to 800 °C at the rate of 2 mL min<sup>-1</sup> for 4 h. The cooled char generated was designated as USQ 06\_800C, USM 3\_800C, USM 5\_800C, and US 6\_800C. Emulating the procedure employed by Almoneef et al. [22], 20 g of each char was added to 60 mL of DETA and EDA separately in conical flasks and stirred continuously in a water shaking bath for 4 h at 70 °C then filtered and washed with 120 mL of methanol. The slurry was finally dried at 80 °C for complete impregnation of the amine functional group to the surface of the samples.

XRD was employed to identify the crystallographic phases of the samples through the XRD patterns obtained under the Malvern Panalytical equipment coupled with Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.5405$  Å) at 2 $\theta$  angle = 2–70°. The BET theory, which tries to explain the adsorption process of gas molecules on a solid surface and, therein, serves as the fundamental analytical approach for calculating the specific surface area of materials [23,24], was adopted in this study to determine the pore system of all samples under the SAP equipment (ASAP2020). Their surface morphologies were visualized under the SUPRA 55VP FESEM, and Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectra were acquired using a Perkin Elmer spectrometer (model: Frontier 01) within the range of 4000–400 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

TPD was conducted by subjecting the samples to  $CO_2$  gas under the temperatureprogrammed desorption, reduction, and oxidation equipment (TPDRO model 1100). Before the measurements, the samples were heated at room temperature (28 °C) with N<sub>2</sub> gas at 20 mL min<sup>-1</sup> and held for 5 min followed by the injection of  $CO_2$  at a 40 mL min<sup>-1</sup> ramping rate from 28 °C to 75 °C, which was held for 30 min. This was followed by purging in helium gas at 10 mL min<sup>-1</sup> from 50 °C to 500 °C, held for 30 min at the peaked temperature to complete the desorption process. In addition, the decomposition kinetics of the oil shale kerogen along with the thermal stability of the samples were determined by the Perkin Elmer spectrometer (model: STA6000).

Furthermore, CO<sub>2</sub> gas sorption capacity on all raw, spent, and modified spent shale samples were assessed through a volumetric technique using two reference cells with a flow rate of 600  $\pm$  0.03 mL/min (600 cm<sup>3</sup>/min) and maximum pressure of up to 8  $\pm$  0.05 MPa (78.95 atm). The setup comprised a sample cell, pressure gauge, reference cell, 3-way valve, temperature controller (thermal jacket), and heating oven, as shown in Figure 1. The pressure transferred inside the sample cell was controlled using an electrical pressure transducer (PI). The temperature inside the sample cell was measured using the

thermocouples on the sorption system. The experimental setup of the gas sorption system is demonstrated in Figure 1. The CO<sub>2</sub> sorption measurement began with the degassing process with N<sub>2</sub> gas for about 30 min to remove any volatile compounds from the surface of the shale samples followed by the injection of CO<sub>2</sub> onto each sample in the cell. The experiment was conducted in 8 sections from 1 to 8 MPa at an increment of 1 MPa per section and the equilibrium isotherms were determined at three temperatures (30 °C, 50 °C, and 70 °C) to examine the effect of increasing temperature on CO<sub>2</sub> sorption capacities of the amine-modified samples. Thus, the duration of every single section (pressure) was maintained for 2 h after the equilibrium cell remained constant, indicating that the reaction had reached an equilibrium state.



Figure 1. A schematic diagram of the volumetric sorption measurement setup.

The amount of  $CO_2$  gas injected into the sample cell was calculated based on the change in pressure, temperature, and compressibility factor using the Peng–Robinson derivatives in Equation (1):

$$n_{CO_2} = \frac{V_{CO_2}}{RT} \left( \frac{P_i}{Z_i} - \frac{P_f}{Z_f} \right)$$
(1)

where  $V_{CO_2}$  is the volume of the CO<sub>2</sub> gas injected, R is the gas constant, T is the operating temperature,  $P_i$  and  $P_f$  are the pressure at the initial and final stages, respectively, and  $Z_i$  and  $Z_f$  are the corresponding compressibility factors at the initial and final operating pressures, respectively.

All experimental results obtained from the  $CO_2$  sorption measurements were correlated and modulated with selective isotherm models that have been widely employed based on their good prediction—namely those of Langmuir, Freundlich, Sips, and Toth—to predict sorption behavior. Furthermore, kinetic models, namely pseudo-first-order, pseudosecond-order, and intraparticle diffusion models, were also employed to determine the mechanism behind the rate of sorption and the thermodynamic parameters (Gibbs free energy, enthalpy, and entropy change) to evaluate their behaviors as the temperature increases. Table 1 presents the equations of all empirical models and the parameters employed.

| Models                  | Equations   | Parameters  | References |
|-------------------------|---|---|------------|
| Langmuir                | $q_e = \frac{q_m k_L P}{1 + k_L P}$   | Maximum adsorption capacity, $q_m$ , (mmol/g)<br>Langmuir constant, $k_L$ , (1/MPa)   | [25,26]    |
| Freundlich              | $q_e = k_F P^{1/n_F}$   | Adsorption potential, k <sub>F</sub> ,<br>Adsorption intensity, n <sub>F</sub>  | [27,28]    |
| Sips                    | $q_e = \frac{q_m k_S P^{i/n_s}}{1+k_S P^{i/n_s}}$   | Maximum adsorption capacity q <sub>m</sub> , (mmol/g)<br>Sips constant, k <sub>S</sub> , (1/MPa)<br>Sips exponential, n <sub>S</sub>  | [29,30]    |
| Toth                    | $q_e = \frac{q_m P}{\left(k_T + P^{n_T}\right)^{^{1/n_T}}}$   | Maximum adsorption capacity, q <sub>m</sub> , (mmol/g)<br>Toth constant, k <sub>T</sub> , (1/MPa)<br>Toth exponential, n <sub>T</sub> | [25,31]    |
| Pseudo-first-order      | $q_t = q_e \Big(1 - e^{-k_1 t}\Big)$  | Equilibrium uptake, $q_e$ , (mmol/g)<br>Pseudo-first-order constant, $k_1$ , (min <sup>-1</sup> )                                     | [32,33]    |
| Pseudo-second-order     | $\boldsymbol{q}_t = \tfrac{\boldsymbol{q}_e^2 \boldsymbol{k}_2 t}{1 + \boldsymbol{q}_e \boldsymbol{k}_2 t}$ | Equilibrium uptake, $q_e$ , (mmol/g)<br>Pseudo-second-order constant, $k_2$ ,<br>$(q/mmol/min^{-1})$                                  | [33,34]    |
| Intraparticle diffusion | $q_t = k_I \sqrt{t} + C$  | Intraparticle diffusion constant, $k_I$ ,<br>(mmol/g·min <sup>-1</sup> )<br>Intercept, C  | [35,36]    |
| Thermodynamics          | $\Delta G^{^{\circ}}=\Delta H^{^{\circ}}-T\Delta S^{^{\circ}}$  | Enthalpy change, $\Delta$ H, (kJ/mol)<br>Entropy change, $\Delta$ S, (kJ/K)<br>Entropy change, $\Delta$ S, (kJ/K)                     | [37,38]    |

Table 1. The equations and parameters of the Empirical models employed in this study.

## 4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Mineralogical Content

The four shale samples contain clay minerals, feldspar, quartz, pyrite, and carbonate minerals (Figure 2) in both raw and spent shale samples. There are variations in the peak angles of some minerals in the treated samples, especially the clay minerals, which is a result of decomposition in their crystallinities [39]. In addition, the decomposition of some clay minerals at a higher temperature such as kaolinite to metakaolin (high-temperature kaolinite) has been reported to influence their potentiality as commercial materials due to their high reactivity [40–42].



**Figure 2.** Impact of pyrolysis on the mineralogical content of the shale samples. L–R (USQ 06, USM 3, USM 05, and US 6), Cl = clay, Q = quartz, F = feldspar, P = pyrite, and C = carbonate minerals.

However, minerals such as illite, feldspar, and quartz with little or no decomposition due to their high thermal stabilities, together with the cation exchange capacity and innersphere complexation, can still maintain their possible vital role in influencing the sorption capacity of shale [43].

#### 4.2. Porosity

Classifications of the surface area, pore volume, and pore sizes of the raw, spent, and modified spent shale are presented in Table 2. It was observed that the specific surface area of the spent shale increased drastically after pyrolysis but decreased after amine modification across all samples, as illustrated in Table 2. These changes indicate that the pyrolysis process has created more new pores and enlarged the original pores, thus increasing the surface area. This could be due to the escape of volatiles, water extraction, and mineral decomposition during the pyrolysis process [8,44]. During the amine modification, the nitrogen functional groups have impregnated the surface of the spent shale samples, thus occupying the micro- and mesopores. This led to the reduction in the surface area; however, the macropores' diameter increased. Similar findings were reported by Chen and Lu [45]. Furthermore, Figure 3 shows the N<sub>2</sub> adsorption/desorption curves for all samples at relative pressure and temperature of nitrogen. It was observed that they are quite similar. The curves have an inverted "S" form, despite some minor variances. According to the IUPAC and BET isotherm categorization system, these curves are of type II with an H<sub>2</sub> hysteresis loop, showing microporous and mesoporous structures' predominance.



**Figure 3.** Impact of various treatments on the N<sub>2</sub> Isotherm curves of Raw shale (**a**–**d**), Spent shale (**e**–**h**), DETA-modified spent shale (**i**–**l**), and EDA-modified spent shale (**m**–**p**).

| Samples          | Surface Area<br>(m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> ) | Pore Volume<br>(cm <sup>3</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> ) | Average Pore Size<br>(nm) |
|------------------|---|---|---------------------------|
| USQ 06           | 45.7949   | 0.0146  | 5.4257                    |
| USQ 06_800C      | 47.9182   | 0.0328  | 11.1047                   |
| USQ 06_800C+DETA | 8.8351  | 0.0336  | 27.6622                   |
| USQ 06_800C+EDA  | 10.0212   | 0.0526  | 20.9626                   |
| USM 3            | 31.2450   | 0.0144  | 3.0972                    |
| USM 3_800C       | 33.5156   | 0.0229  | 9.3728                    |
| USM 3_800C+DETA  | 2.6855  | 0.0107  | 35.6702                   |
| USM 3_800C+EDA   | 1.9170  | 0.0052  | 18.3595                   |
| USM 05           | 16.1194   | 0.0128  | 3.5720                    |
| USM 05_800C      | 25.6096   | 0.0417  | 18.0721                   |
| USM 05_800C+DETA | 4.8760  | 0.0144  | 40.5760                   |
| USM 05_800C+EDA  | 3.1368  | 0.0103  | 24.0906                   |
| US 6             | 4.7439  | 0.0048  | 6.0295                    |
| US 6_800C        | 6.7906  | 0.0303  | 19.1820                   |
| US 6_800C+DETA   | 3.8372  | 0.0231  | 24.0804                   |
| US 6_800C+EDA    | 2.4535  | 0.0029  | 23.1902                   |

Table 2. Variation in the pore classification after pyrolysis and amine modification processes.

It was observed in the raw samples that the branches of the adsorption curves gradually increased until relative pressure (P/P<sub>0</sub>) = 0.8, after which the curves rise steeply but cannot attain an equilibrium up to P/P<sub>0</sub> > 1.0. This indicates that the molecule of nitrogen contained in the pore condenses below its saturation pressure, a process known as "capillary condensation" [46]. This behavior shows that mesopores are present in the samples. However, the hysteresis loop of the spent shale tends to close up at P/P0 = 0.4 compared to the raw sample, confirming that new pores have been created closer than the previous pores before pyrolysis, which enables desorption of the N<sub>2</sub> molecules near the adsorption curves and also the increment in the amount of N<sub>2</sub> sorbed. Similarly, the adsorption/desorption curves of the modified samples are well-connected, revealing that the enlarged pore sizes after modification have aided the pathway of the N<sub>2</sub> molecules. However, the amount of N<sub>2</sub> sorbed by the modified samples decreases as a result of the amine group being an N<sub>2</sub> donor, which cannot adsorb more N<sub>2</sub> molecules since they are like charges (like charges repel). However, they have been reported to have a high affinity for CO<sub>2</sub> because it is an unlike charge that they can attract due to electrostatic forces [47].

These characteristics are favorable for  $CO_2$  sequestration and storage due to the smaller molecular diameter of  $CO_2$  (0.33 nm) compared to nitrogen (0.36 nm), which enables a larger number of  $CO_2$  molecules to fit into the increased macropores, mesopores, and the newly created micropores [48].

## 4.3. Morphology

The raw samples in Figure 4a–d have pores of various sizes coexisting with relatively homogenous areas of lower porosity. In line with the pore structure findings from BET, pyrolysis produced a connection of pores in the spent shale samples that enhances the porosity of the materials, as observed in Figure 4e–h. The pores are responsible for the adsorption of a large volume of N<sub>2</sub> gas which results in a high surface area. Similarly, the spent shale samples show the existence of inter- and intragranular pores with sharp-edged structures that are maintained in mineral particles such as quartz and feldspar, as well as some intercrystalline pore space connected to the space formed in the clay minerals owing to dehydroxylation [43]. In addition, the modified samples and in Figure 4m–p for EDA-modified samples.



**Figure 4.** Changes in microfabric of shale after treatments. Raw shale (**a**–**d**), Spent shale (**e**–**h**), DETA-modified spent shale (**i**–**l**), and EDA-modified spent shale (**m**–**p**) at 200 nm resolution and 30 kx magnification.

The amine functional group is assumed to have filled the porous surface and enlarged the average pores present, hence appearing as an occlusion on the surface of the samples. This confirms the results of the BET in Table 2 indicating that the pores have been filled up, leading to a reduction in the surface area. Hence, the photomicrograph revealed that the spent shale and modified spent shale possess higher adsorption sites for  $CO_2$ .

## 4.4. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR)

A sharp and narrow peak was observed on all spent shale spectra (Figure 5) at  $3645 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , corresponding to the hydroxyl group (O–H) stretching on the surface of the samples. This hydroxyl group is associated with Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>, which is usually formed when a calcium-containing sample is subjected to heat [49,50]. The broad and strong O–H stretching peaks at  $3424 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 5a) and  $3420 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 5b–d), which appeared on all samples, are associated with the sample's surface affinity for atmospheric water molecules [51]. It was further observed that the modified samples display certain peaks that are typical of the amine group's C–N and N–H bonds. A weak N–H stretching bond can be seen in the modified samples at  $3515 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3347 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  on samples USQ 06 and USM 3, respectively, near the O–H stretching peak [51,52]. Similar weak and broad peaks at  $1660 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1670 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1606 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and  $1566 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  on samples USQ 06, USM 3, USM 95, and US 6, respectively, show the presence of N–H bending with an N–H wag at  $1520 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  on sample USQ 06 [51]. An asymmetric stretching at  $1353 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1360-1090 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $1519-1419 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ , and  $1090 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  correspond to the C–N stretching peak of the amine group [53]. All observed peaks are attributed to the amine functional group used in modifying the samples [53].



Figure 5. Appearance of new functional groups after the pyrolysis and amine treatments of samples (a) USQ 06, (b) USM 03, (c) USM 5, and (d) US 6.

## 4.5. Temperature-Programmed Desorption (TPD)

In the TPD curves shown in Figure 6, it can be observed that there are several adsorption and desorption peaks on each sample, which confirms the presence of active sites for  $CO_2$  sequestration. All samples showed a strong desorption peak around 450 °C to 500 °C, which corresponds to the maximum temperature ( $T_{max}$ ) at which the chemically sorbed  $CO_2$  has desorbed [48]. The DETA-modified samples exhibit the strongest desorption peaks with the highest signal strength of ten thousand mV and the highest amount of  $CO_2$  sorbed, as illustrated in Table 3. This confirms the optimum interaction of the amine group with  $CO_2$ , which will require a large amount of energy to desorb.

**Table 3.** Variations in the amount of  $CO_2$  sorbed and its corresponding signal strength with pyrolysis and amine treatments.

| Samples          | Amount of CO <sub>2</sub> Adsorbed (µmol/g) | Signal Strength (mV) |
|------------------|---|----------------------|
| USQ 06           | 40.55448                                    | 20,155.49            |
| USQ 06_800C      | 11.97817                                    | 7382.51              |
| USQ 06_800C+DETA | 210.65113                                   | 123,862.34           |
| USQ 06_800C+EDA  | 22.75174                                    | 18,739.77            |
| USM 3            | 71.57499                                    | 34,761.44            |
| USM 3 _800C      | 9.44483                                     | 5525.20              |
| USM 3 _800C+DETA | 79.32970                                    | 47,200.97            |
| USM 3 _800C+EDA  | 64.59448                                    | 42,244.61            |
| USM 05           | 21.1929                                     | 11,380.56            |
| USM 05_800C      | 7.5368                                      | 4280.87              |
| USM 05_800C+DETA | 43.2398                                     | 24,862.82            |
| USM 05_800C+EDA  | 15.3525                                     | 9206.34              |
| US 6             | 24.9426                                     | 16,312.39            |
| US 6_800C        | 18.6674                                     | 10,646.61            |
| US 6_800C+DETA   | 55.6178                                     | 33,722.83            |
| US 6_800C+EDA    | 31.5258                                     | 18,715.74            |



**Figure 6.** CO<sub>2</sub> desorption sites at maximum temperature observed on Raw shale (**a**–**d**), spent shale (**e**–**h**), DETA-modified spent shale (**i**–**l**), and EDA-modified spent shale (**m**–**p**).

## 4.6. Thermal Stability

The raw samples (Figure 7a–d) show weight loss from about 1.2 to 1.4% under conditions of room temperature to about 150 °C, which is attributed to the loss of moisture on the surface or dehydroxylation of clay minerals present in the samples [50]. Another endothermic peak is evident at about 350 °C to 450 °C and is attributed to the breakdown of hydrocarbons in the samples. In the spent shale samples (Figure 7e–h), a significant weight loss of 20.5 to 30% at 650 °C is evidenced by the DTG curve peak at 780 °C. This weight loss is related to the decomposition of the carbonate minerals in the samples. There have been suggestions that the endothermic peaks of carbonate decomposition occur at around 600 °C to 950 °C [54]. Several peaks in moisture, decompositions of amine, and carbonates at temperatures up to 150 °C, 400 °C, and 650 °C, respectively, are present on the DETA- and EDA-modified samples (Figure 7i–p) [12]. After the thermal process, over 80% of the samples remain, which confirms their thermal stability above 900 °C.



Figure 7. The thermal stabilities of Raw shale (a–d), spent shale (e–h), DETA-modified spent shale (i–l), and EDA-modified spent shale (m–p) at up to 900 °C.

## 4.7. CO<sub>2</sub> Sorption Capacity

As shown in Figure 8, as the pressure increased from 1 to 8 MPa, the sorption curves increased across all samples, suggesting that the sorption performance of all samples is similar and increases with an increase in pressure. It was further observed that the sorption performances of all raw and spent shale samples decreased as the temperature increased (Figure 8a–l). However, all modified samples (DETA and EDA) had increased sorption performances with increased temperatures. This implies that the non-modified samples obtained their maximum  $CO_2$  sorption capacity at the lowest operating temperature, 30 °C, while the modified samples obtained their maximum  $CO_2$  sorption capacity at the highest operating temperature, 70 °C. The former phenomenon is said to occur when a sorption process is dominated by a physical reaction (physisorption), whereby the molecules of the sorbate ( $CO_2$ ) occupy the pores available on the surface of the sorbent with little or no chemical bond involved and tend to diffuse easily when the temperature is increased [55]. The latter occurs when a chemical reaction (chemisorption) is involved, whereby there is a chemical bond between the sorbate and the sorbent, thus requiring a lot of heat to bind together; such reactions tend to be favorable with increased temperature [14].



Figure 8. Amount of CO<sub>2</sub> sorbed relative to the pyrolysis and amine treatments at temperatures 30 °C (a–d), 50 °C (e–h), 70 °C (i–l), and up to 8 MPa pressure.

#### 4.8. Effects of Amine Modification on Sorption Performance

Further investigation into the sorption results displayed in Figures 5–8 showed that the sorption capacity of all shale samples increased after the amine modification process, with the DETA-modified samples having the highest sorption capacity, as displayed in Figure 9.



Figure 9. Changes in the CO<sub>2</sub> sorption capacity of each sample after various treatments.

The shale sample USQ 06 had the highest sorption performance among all four samples. Based on observation, raw sample USQ 06 (Figure 8a) had a sorption capacity of 1.45 mmol/g (mmol of  $CO_2$ /g of the sample), which first increased after the pyrolysis process (as discussed in the previous section) and its spent shale sample, USQ 06\_800C, had a sorption capacity of 1.58 mmol/g, but after the amine modification, the sample USQ 06\_800C+DETA obtained 3.011 mmol/g and USQ 06\_800C+EDA obtained 2.117 mmol/g, which indicated that there was, approximately, a 100% increment in the sorption capacity of the spent shale after being modified with DETA. The EDA-modified samples also showed a higher sorption capacity but not as high as the DETA-modified samples. This is in line with Chen and Lu [45], who investigated the  $CO_2$  sorption capacity of EDA- and MEA-modified kaolinite and observed that the EDA-modified kaolinite had lower sorption behavior, which could be due to its boiling point (116 °C) being lower compared to MEA and DETA (207 °C in this study). Hence, there is a possibility for the EDA-sample to dry faster with methanol during the drying process. This trend was observed in all other samples: USM 3, USM 05, and US 6 (Figures 7 and 8). However, the high sorption performance of sample USQ 06 can be attributed to its distinguishing characteristics, which have been observed in all analyses conducted, such as high TOC, the porous system under BET, basic strength for  $CO_2$  under TPD, as well as the high  $CO_2$  uptake compared to other samples studied under the same operating conditions and analyses. In addition, the possible sorption mechanism of the amine-modified samples and  $CO_2$ , as explained by Wang et al. [8], can be expressed as follows:

$$CO_2 + RNH_2 \leftrightarrow RNH_2^+COO^-$$
 (2)

$$RNH_2^+COO^- + RNH_2 \leftrightarrow RNHCOO^- + RNH_3^+$$
(3)

where R represents hydrogen or different aliphatic carbon chains. The  $CO_2$ -amine zwitterions are created when the single pair of electrons on the amine RNH<sub>2</sub> interacts with CO<sub>2</sub>. The zwitterion is deprotonated by another free RNH<sub>2</sub>, which also produces the carbamate salt of carbamic acid and ammonium (Equation (3). These reactions take place within or between amine molecules of the same type or different types of amines [8,56]. The CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity reported in this work has been compared with related work in the literature. This comparison showed that the amine-modified spent shale in this study has a higher adsorption capacity than some other sorbents that have been reported (Table 4).

| Sorbents                  | Amine Group | CO <sub>2</sub> Sorption Capacity<br>(mmol/g) | Operating<br>Temperature (°C) | References |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------|------------|
| Spent shale               | DETA        | 3.011   | 70                            | This work  |
| Silica MCM 41             | DETA        | 1.43  | 70                            | [57]       |
| Zeolite 13X               | DETA        | 1.054   | 75                            | [14]       |
| Zeolite Z4A               | DETA        | 0.135   | 75                            | [14]       |
| Spent shale               | EDA         | 2.117   | 70                            | This work  |
| Kaolinites                | EDA         | 1.495   | 25                            | [45]       |
| Silica MCM 41             | EDA         | 1.19  | 70                            | [57]       |
| TiO <sub>2</sub> nanotube | EDA         | 1.09  | 30                            | [58]       |
| UiO-66                    | PEI         | 2.41  | 75                            | [59]       |

Table 4. Comparison with other amine-modified sorbents for CO<sub>2</sub>.

## 4.9. CO<sub>2</sub> Sorption Isotherm Models

The two-parameter isotherm models of Langmuir and Freundlich and the threeparameter models of Sips and Toth were employed in validating the sorption equilibrium behavior of CO<sub>2</sub> on the raw, spent, and modified spent shale samples. The experimental data obtained for each sample at the operating temperatures of 30 °C, 50 °C, and 70 °C were all fitted to the four models and their non-linear plots are shown in Figures 10-13for samples USQ 06, USM 3, USM 05, and US 6, respectively. Each isotherm model's parameters have values obtained from the plots and correlation coefficient constant "R<sup>2</sup>" displayed in Table 5. It was observed that the Langmuir model gave good compliance with the  $CO_2$  sorption experimental data of all shale samples with  $R^2$  values ranging from 0.96 to 0.99 (DETA-modified samples having 0.99). This assumes that the CO<sub>2</sub> molecules have occupied the surface of the shale samples steadily until the entire surface has a monolayer coverage [60]. Furthermore, the values of equilibrium constant  $k_L$  increased as the temperature increased, which indicated an increase in the binding forces of the  $CO_2$ molecules on the shale surface as there is acceleration in the mobility of the molecules when the temperature is increased. The values of Langmuir's maximum sorption capacity  $(q_m)$  of the DETA- and EDA-modified samples increase with elevated temperature, which implies that the accelerated molecules attach to the corresponding amine group due to the attractive bond but easily disperse away on the non-modified samples as there is no amine group leading to the lower values of  $q_m$  [60].

The Freundlich model also has a good fit with the experimental data but the  $R^2$  values range from 0.93 to 0.99. Compared to the Langmuir model, the modified samples have  $R^2$ values below 0.99 but greater than 0.9, which means that they also support a multilayer coverage of sorbate pore filings that further act as an active site for more sorbates [61], while the Sips and Toth models have the best fit with experimental data ( $R^2$  ranging from 0.98 to 1). The dimensionless heterogeneity factor (n-values) for both models were opposite, which confirms that they agree with the same phenomena. The n-values of the Sips model are greater than unity, while those of the Toth model are less than unity, which implies that they support heterogeneous coverage [61,62]. Hence, based on the isotherm models employed, all samples support monolayer, multilayer, and heterogeneous types of sorption, which indicates that they can actively sequestrate CO<sub>2</sub> at elevated PT conditions when chemically modified with amine functional groups.



Figure 10. Prediction of the sorption behavior of USQ 06 variants with Isotherm models at temperatures 30 °C (a–d), 50 °C (e–h), 70 °C (i–l), and up to 8 MPa pressure.



Figure 11. Prediction of the sorption behavior of USM 3 variants with Isotherm models at temperatures 30 °C (a–d), 50 °C (e–h), 70 °C (i–l), and up to 8 MPa pressure.



Figure 12. Prediction of the sorption behavior of USM 05 variants with Isotherm models at temperatures 30 °C (a–d), 50 °C (e–h), 70 °C (i–l), and up to 8 MPa pressure.



Figure 13. Prediction of the sorption behavior of US 6 variants with Isotherm models at temperatures 30 °C (**a**–**d**), 50 °C (**e**–**h**), 70 °C (**i**–**l**), and up to 8 MPa pressure.

## 4.10. Sorption Kinetics

All experimental data were evaluated with three kinetic models, namely pseudofirst-order, pseudo-second-order, and intraparticle diffusion models, to determine the rate of sorption between CO<sub>2</sub> and the raw, spent, and modified spent shale at operating temperatures of 30 °C, 50 °C, and 70 °C. The parameters of each model, along with their correlation coefficient constant R<sup>2</sup>, obtained from the correlation plots in Figures 14–17 for samples USQ 06, USM 3, USM 05, and US 6, respectively, are illustrated in Table 6.



Figure 14. The prediction of sorption rate mechanism on USQ 06 variants at 30 °C (a–d), 50 °C (e–h), and 70 °C (i–l).



Figure 15. The prediction of sorption rate mechanism on USM 3 variants at 30 °C (a–d), 50 °C (e–h), and 70 °C (i–l).



Figure 16. The prediction of sorption rate mechanism on USM 05 variants at 30 °C (a-d), 50 °C (e-h), and 70 °C (i-l).



Figure 17. The prediction of sorption rate mechanism on US 6 variants at 30 °C (a–d), 50 °C (e–h), 70 °C (i–l), and up to 8 MPa pressure.

| Temperature | Isotherm<br>Models | Parameters   | USQ 06                               | USQ<br>06_800C                       | USQ<br>06_800C+<br>DETA              | USQ<br>06_800C+<br>EDA               | USM 3                                | USM<br>3_800C                        | USM<br>3_800C+<br>DETA               | USM<br>3_800C+<br>EDA                | USM<br>05                            | USM<br>05_800C                       | USM<br>05_800C+<br>DETA              | USM<br>05_800C+<br>EDA               | US 6                                 | US<br>6_800C                         | US<br>6_800C+<br>DETA                | US<br>6_800C+<br>EDA                 |
|-------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|             | Langmuir           | q <sub>m</sub><br>k <sub>L</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup>                   | 3.1468<br>0.1189<br>0.9809           | 2.994<br>0.161<br>0.984              | 4.2526<br>0.1012<br>0.9918           | 2.8950<br>0.1176<br>0.9797           | 2.3283<br>0.1820<br>0.9840           | 3.3388<br>0.1660<br>0.9924           | 5.6865<br>0.0600<br>0.9911           | 4.7109<br>0.0750<br>0.9892           | 2.3251<br>0.0585<br>0.9947           | 1.2833<br>0.2169<br>0.9989           | 1.2873<br>0.2396<br>0.9949           | 1.2072<br>0.0183<br>0.9967           | 3.4617<br>0.0315<br>0.9928           | 3.3317<br>0.0458<br>0.9976           | 0.8891<br>0.3975<br>0.9994           | 1.1713<br>0.1905<br>0.9831           |
|             | Freundlich         | k <sub>F</sub><br>n <sub>F</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup>                   | 0.3720<br>0.6960<br>0.9646           | 0.474<br>0.625<br>0.965              | 0.4398<br>0.7164<br>0.9728           | 0.4996<br>0.6057<br>0.9556           | 0.4092<br>0.6006<br>0.9633           | 0.4233<br>0.6756<br>0.9802           | 0.3469<br>1.2291<br>0.9845           | 0.3572<br>1.2811<br>0.9775           | 0.1451<br>0.7891<br>0.9922           | 0.2825<br>0.5172<br>0.9938           | 0.3087<br>0.4935<br>0.9981           | 0.2323<br>0.5505<br>0.9981           | 0.1124<br>0.8820<br>0.9909           | 0.1640<br>0.8186<br>0.9976           | 0.3128<br>0.3797<br>0.9988           | 0.2284<br>0.6057<br>0.9699           |
| 30 °C       | Sips               | q <sub>m</sub><br>k <sub>S</sub><br>n <sub>S</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup> | 1.6585<br>0.1224<br>1.9802<br>0.9993 | 1.8823<br>0.1712<br>1.7426<br>0.9968 | 2.5264<br>0.1312<br>1.4686<br>0.9973 | 1.8152<br>0.1781<br>1.8803<br>0.9986 | 1.4872<br>0.1863<br>1.8205<br>0.9988 | 2.0460<br>0.1531<br>1.5566<br>0.9995 | 2.4544<br>0.0926<br>1.6207<br>0.9989 | 2.1537<br>0.1031<br>1.7304<br>0.9998 | 1.3076<br>0.0859<br>1.3001<br>0.9959 | 1.0192<br>0.2304<br>1.3430<br>0.9999 | 3.8935<br>0.0080<br>1.9929<br>0.9981 | 3.6484<br>0.0651<br>1.5502<br>0.9982 | 1.1479<br>0.0658<br>1.5028<br>0.9963 | 5.4818<br>0.0289<br>0.9184<br>0.9977 | 1.0948<br>0.3377<br>0.7622<br>0.9997 | 0.7276<br>0.1282<br>2.2823<br>0.9981 |
| -           | Toth               | q <sub>m</sub><br>k <sub>T</sub><br>n <sub>T</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup> | 1.4672<br>0.1887<br>0.1814<br>0.9962 | 1.6056<br>0.2045<br>0.1804<br>0.9999 | 1.8955<br>0.1719<br>0.2072<br>0.9998 | 1.6299<br>0.2161<br>0.2165<br>0.9975 | 1.3316<br>0.2166<br>0.2314<br>0.9985 | 1.7244<br>0.1832<br>0.2883<br>0.9993 | 1.8103<br>0.1553<br>0.1450<br>0.9990 | 1.8086<br>0.1590<br>0.2241<br>0.9965 | 0.7322<br>0.1485<br>0.0857<br>0.9986 | 0.9551<br>0.2212<br>0.5585<br>0.9999 | 2.5651<br>0.2959<br>0.1133<br>0.9980 | 3.3605<br>0.0800<br>0.1922<br>0.9982 | 0.6787<br>0.1425<br>0.0031<br>0.9993 | 15.660<br>0.0117<br>0.1929<br>0.9977 | 1.1875<br>0.5347<br>0.1626<br>0.9997 | 0.6738<br>0.2055<br>0.1242<br>0.9998 |
|             | Langmuir           | q <sub>m</sub><br>k <sub>L</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup>                   | 2.7916<br>0.1268<br>0.9688           | 2.9096<br>0.1548<br>0.9830           | 5.2520<br>0.1375<br>0.9983           | 3.6873<br>0.1372<br>0.9844           | 2.2180<br>0.1925<br>0.9791           | 2.8348<br>0.2203<br>0.9945           | 4.4594<br>0.1142<br>0.9825           | 6.8522<br>0.0889<br>0.9764           | 0.9700<br>0.2322<br>0.9733           | 1.7003<br>0.0969<br>0.9366           | 1.6110<br>0.5076<br>0.9965           | 0.8750<br>0.0206<br>0.9787           | 0.9399<br>0.2048<br>0.9757           | 1.4498<br>0.1352<br>0.9444           | 5.6694<br>0.5199<br>0.9979           | 1.4087<br>0.7411<br>0.9986           |
|             | Freundlich         | k <sub>F</sub><br>n <sub>F</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup>                   | 0.3481<br>0.6865<br>0.9684           | 0.4434<br>0.6350<br>0.9644           | 0.5793<br>0.6623<br>0.9577           | 0.5029<br>0.6610<br>0.9680           | 0.3897<br>0.6015<br>0.9667           | 0.4489<br>0.6238<br>0.9812           | 0.3315<br>0.8577<br>0.9687           | 0.3315<br>0.8577<br>0.9687           | 0.2245<br>0.5048<br>0.9564           | 0.1670<br>0.7273<br>0.9205           | 0.6616<br>0.3314<br>0.9994           | 0.1786<br>1.0687<br>0.9768           | 0.1949<br>0.5357<br>0.9599           | 0.2008<br>0.6449<br>0.9255           | 0.1190<br>0.9039<br>0.9982           | 0.7238<br>0.2524<br>0.9950           |
| 50 °C       | Sips               | q <sub>m</sub><br>k <sub>S</sub><br>n <sub>S</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup> | 1.4371<br>0.1026<br>2.3015<br>0.9979 | 1.7763<br>0.1617<br>1.8012<br>0.9973 | 2.4413<br>0.1419<br>1.8780<br>0.9974 | 2.1656<br>0.1484<br>1.7827<br>0.9976 | 1.3823<br>0.1741<br>1.9547<br>0.9979 | 1.9437<br>0.1892<br>1.4939<br>0.9997 | 2.3584<br>0.1229<br>1.9011<br>0.9985 | 2.1712<br>0.0627<br>2.1510<br>0.9973 | 0.6120<br>0.0918<br>2.9886<br>0.9996 | 0.7087<br>0.0238<br>3.6559<br>0.9995 | 4.1557<br>0.0161<br>2.9373<br>0.9994 | 1.7473<br>0.0517<br>1.8211<br>0.9877 | 0.5750<br>0.0977<br>2.7519<br>0.9994 | 0.7228<br>0.0375<br>3.4513<br>0.9975 | 4.7208<br>0.0025<br>1.9137<br>0.9982 | 1.2901<br>0.6912<br>1.3975<br>0.9990 |
|             | Toth               | q <sub>m</sub><br>k <sub>T</sub><br>n <sub>T</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup> | 1.2991<br>0.1961<br>0.1163<br>0.9943 | 1.5259<br>0.2023<br>0.1700<br>0.9997 | 2.1001<br>0.1951<br>0.1489<br>0.9989 | 1.8420<br>0.1947<br>0.1790<br>0.9992 | 1.2443<br>0.2188<br>0.1924<br>0.9977 | 1.7199<br>0.1981<br>0.3951<br>0.9991 | 2.0341<br>0.1856<br>0.1710<br>0.9974 | 1.7881<br>0.1598<br>0.0656<br>0.9930 | 0.5918<br>0.2189<br>0.0032<br>0.9999 | 0.6845<br>0.1866<br>0.0468<br>0.9740 | 3.6442<br>0.2226<br>0.1027<br>0.9993 | 1.1819<br>0.1445<br>0.2125<br>0.9911 | 0.5471<br>0.2180<br>0.1217<br>0.9808 | 0.7004<br>0.1966<br>0.2017<br>0.9870 | 4.0584<br>0.0030<br>0.8642<br>0.9980 | 1.2766<br>0.5161<br>0.6396<br>0.9990 |

**Table 5.** The values of isotherm parameters obtained from the curve fit of experimental data at 30 °C, 50 °C, and 70 °C.

| Tab | le | 5. | Cont. |
|-----|----|----|-------|
|     |    |    |       |

| Temperature | Isotherm<br>Models | Parameters   | USQ 06                               | USQ<br>06_800C                       | USQ<br>06_800C+<br>DETA              | USQ<br>06_800C+<br>EDA               | USM 3                                | USM<br>3_800C                        | USM<br>3_800C+<br>DETA               | USM<br>3_800C+<br>EDA                | USM<br>05                            | USM<br>05_800C                       | USM<br>05_800C+<br>DETA              | USM<br>05_800C+<br>EDA               | US 6                                 | US<br>6_800C                         | US<br>6_800C+<br>DETA                | US<br>6_800C+<br>EDA                 |
|-------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|             | Langmuir           | q <sub>m</sub><br>k <sub>L</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup>                   | 2.0506<br>0.1624<br>0.9629           | 2.6476<br>0.1640<br>0.9717           | 7.7024<br>0.1847<br>0.9934           | 4.5870<br>0.1786<br>0.9880           | 2.5956<br>0.2213<br>0.9848           | 3.1293<br>0.2661<br>0.9803           | 21.5549<br>0.12045<br>0.9787         | 8.7837<br>0.0912<br>0.9787           | 0.7137<br>0.6861<br>0.9995           | 1.0172<br>0.2604<br>0.9980           | 2.6067<br>0.8830<br>0.9832           | 3.0228<br>0.0902<br>0.9981           | 0.4319<br>0.4179<br>0.9983           | 0.9626<br>0.3412<br>0.9932           | 3.9817<br>0.9871<br>0.9996           | 4.0993<br>1.9553<br>0.9977           |
|             | Freundlich         | k <sub>F</sub><br>n n <sub>F</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup>                 | 0.6335<br>0.3210<br>0.9371           | 0.4224<br>0.6257<br>0.9486           | 0.6651<br>0.7534<br>0.9851           | 0.5419<br>0.6924<br>0.9745           | 0.3150<br>0.6875<br>0.9698           | 0.3630<br>0.6984<br>0.9945           | 0.4237<br>0.9545<br>0.9760           | 0.3564<br>0.8809<br>0.9725           | 0.1379<br>0.5511<br>0.9967           | 0.2606<br>0.4748<br>0.9915           | 0.5031<br>0.8249<br>0.9927           | 0.2954<br>0.4165<br>0.9975           | 0.1577<br>0.3669<br>0.9922           | 0.3049<br>0.4108<br>0.9835           | 0.3735<br>0.3971<br>0.9973           | 0.1539<br>0.0277<br>0.9979           |
| 70 °C       | Sips               | q <sub>m</sub><br>k <sub>S</sub><br>n <sub>S</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup> | 1.1501<br>0.1152<br>1.4378<br>0.9974 | 1.5684<br>0.1449<br>1.0682<br>0.9948 | 4.0715<br>0.1166<br>1.5432<br>0.9998 | 2.5937<br>0.1374<br>1.7088<br>0.9988 | 1.4499<br>0.1350<br>1.7917<br>0.9981 | 1.6667<br>0.1220<br>1.9135<br>0.9971 | 3.6019<br>0.0467<br>2.1491<br>0.9972 | 2.5032<br>0.0604<br>2.1114<br>0.9980 | 0.6570<br>0.1954<br>1.0788<br>0.9995 | 0.7898<br>0.2578<br>1.5107<br>0.9999 | 5.0901<br>0.0019<br>1.8175<br>0.9927 | 3.5758<br>0.0784<br>1.0663<br>0.9981 | 0.3587<br>0.3783<br>1.5924<br>1      | 0.7327<br>0.2627<br>1.9436<br>0.9987 | 2.9451<br>0.1069<br>1.1750<br>0.9999 | 2.6598<br>0.3492<br>1.0305<br>0.9979 |
|             | Toth               | q <sub>m</sub><br>k <sub>T</sub><br>n <sub>T</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup> | 1.0642<br>0.2137<br>0.1174<br>0.9931 | 1.3868<br>0.2079<br>0.1019<br>0.9991 | 3.2494<br>0.1604<br>0.2539<br>0.9991 | 2.1644<br>0.1840<br>0.1993<br>0.9992 | 1.2215<br>0.1871<br>0.1685<br>0.9989 | 1.4096<br>0.1868<br>0.1225<br>0.9988 | 2.8616<br>0.1454<br>0.0714<br>0.9986 | 2.0524<br>0.1549<br>0.0921<br>0.9917 | 0.6222<br>0.1922<br>0.8181<br>0.9996 | 0.7510<br>0.2462<br>0.4822<br>1      | 4.2664<br>0.0360<br>0.102<br>0.9919  | 4.6906<br>0.0662<br>0.7288<br>0.9982 | 0.3507<br>0.3264<br>0.5039<br>0.9999 | 0.7083<br>0.2739<br>0.3436<br>0.9990 | 2.4255<br>0.1239<br>0.5726<br>0.9999 | 1.2324<br>0.0132<br>0.0155<br>0.9977 |

All data have a high correlation coefficient constant with pseudo-first-order and pseudo-second-order models, which confirms their best curve fit as shown in the plots ( $R^2$  ranging from 0.96 to 0.999). This indicates that the shale samples are in agreement with both physisorption and chemisorption in a similar performance to their monolayer, multilayer, and heterogeneous behavior confirmed by the isotherm models. Furthermore, it was observed that the intraparticle diffusion model does not fit well with experimental data ( $R^2$  as low as 0.91), and also that the intercept C does not pass through the origin in all cases, which indicates that the rate of sorption is not limited to the diffusion of CO<sub>2</sub> through the pores but also seems to be associated with some external bodies of reaction [63]. Therefore, the sorption mechanism of the CO<sub>2</sub> on the modified spent shale can be attributed to both physisorption and chemisorption and not predominantly particle diffusion or chemical reaction.

#### 4.11. Thermodynamic Studies

The insight into thermodynamic parameters such as standard Gibbs free energy  $(\Delta G^{\circ})$ , standard enthalpy change  $(\Delta H^{\circ})$ , and standard entropy change  $(\Delta S^{\circ})$  are essential to understanding the influence of temperature on the interaction of  $CO_2$  with sorbents; their related equations are presented in Table 1. Gibbs free energy change is a functional criterion for spontaneity, and determines whether the sorption process is spontaneous or non-spontaneous. If the value of  $\Delta G^{\circ}$  is a negative quantity, then sorption has occurred spontaneously at the given temperature. Hence, for significant sorption to occur, the Gibbs free energy ( $\Delta G^{\circ}$ ) must be negative. As illustrated in Table 7, the  $\Delta G^{\circ}$  values obtained at all temperatures are negative for all raw, spent, and modified spent shale samples USQ 06, USM 3, USM 05, and US 6. In addition, the negative values of  $\Delta G^{\circ}$  decrease with an increase in temperature for all raw and spent shale samples. This indicates that the sorption process is favorable at a lower temperature. However, the values increase with an increase in temperature for DETA- and EDA-modified samples across all four shale samples, which indicates that the sorption process is favorable at higher temperatures [64]. Hence, amine modification of the samples promotes the sorption of CO<sub>2</sub> at higher temperatures (reservoir conditions). The  $\Delta H$  and  $\Delta S$  were obtained from the slope and intercept of the Van 't Hoff plots of ln (k) vs. 1/T, respectively, [38] as shown in Figure 18.

| Temperature | Kinetic<br>Models           | Parameters   | USQ<br>06                     | USQ<br>06_800C                | USQ<br>06_800C+<br>DETA       | USQ<br>06_800C+<br>EDA        | USM 3  | USM<br>3_800C  | USM<br>3_800C+<br>DETA        | USM<br>3_800C+<br>EDA         | USM<br>05  | USM<br>05_800C              | USM<br>05_800C+<br>DETA    | USM<br>05_800C+<br>EDA        | US 6                          | US<br>6_800C                | US<br>6_800C+<br>DETA                                      | US<br>6_800C+<br>EDA          |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
|             | Pseudo-<br>First-<br>Order  | k <sub>1</sub><br>q <sub>e</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup> | 0.0034<br>1.9211<br>0.9755    | 0.0033<br>1.9653<br>0.9860    | 0.0025<br>2.6050<br>0.9952    | 0.0037<br>1.9793<br>0.9841    | 0.0028<br>1.1726<br>0.9729                                 | 0.0017<br>2.4869<br>0.9965                                 | 0.0016<br>3.2340<br>0.9928    | 0.0018<br>2.8463<br>0.9840    | 0.0096<br>0.7225<br>0.9967                                 | 0.0088<br>0.9297<br>0.9999  | 0.0110<br>0.9412<br>0.9952 | 0.0058<br>0.9625<br>0.9983    | 0.0020<br>1.5237<br>0.9923    | 0.0072<br>1.0955<br>0.9998  | 0.0132<br>0.6784<br>0.9957                                 | 0.0066<br>0.8639<br>0.9793    |
| 30 °C       | Pseudo-<br>Second-<br>Order | K <sub>2</sub><br>q <sub>e</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup> | 0.0007<br>3.0374<br>0.9720    | 0.0008<br>2.9446<br>0.9824    | 0.0004<br>4.1958<br>0.9939    | 0.0009<br>2.9782<br>0.9792    | 0.0006<br>3.4843<br>0.9819                                 | 0.0003<br>4.1026<br>0.9957                                 | 0.0002<br>5.6202<br>0.9921    | 0.0002<br>4.8769<br>0.9828    | 0.0089<br>0.9621<br>0.9948                                 | 0.0055<br>1.3012<br>0.9989  | 0.0082<br>1.2299<br>0.9895 | 0.0028<br>1.4576<br>0.9980    | 0.0004<br>2.6893<br>0.9922    | 0.0034<br>1.6044<br>0.9989  | 0.0168<br>0.8396<br>0.9993                                 | 0.0035<br>1.3123<br>0.9753    |
|             | Intraparticle<br>diffusion  | K <sub>I</sub><br>C<br>R <sup>2</sup>              | $0.0782 \\ -0.1597 \\ 0.9408$ | $0.0752 \\ -0.1152 \\ 0.9614$ | 0.0903<br>-0.1931<br>0.9650   | 0.0815<br>-0.1259<br>0.9527   | 0.0667<br>-0.0499<br>0.9512                                | $\begin{array}{c} 0.0706 \\ -0.1774 \\ 0.9641 \end{array}$ | $0.0879 \\ -0.2468 \\ 0.9473$ | $0.0841 \\ -0.2412 \\ 0.9381$ | 0.0412<br>0.0086<br>0.9844                                 | 0.0539<br>-0.0053<br>0.9930 | 0.0554<br>0.0225<br>0.9680 | $0.0469 \\ -0.0202 \\ 0.9893$ | $0.0400 \\ -0.0521 \\ 0.9487$ | 0.0593<br>-0.0219<br>0.9904 | 0.0406<br>0.0352<br>0.9779                                 | $0.0451 \\ -0.0213 \\ 0.9583$ |
|             | Pseudo-<br>First-<br>Order  | $\begin{array}{c} k_1 \\ q_e \\ R^2 \end{array}$   | 0.0032<br>1.6707<br>0.9726    | 0.0021<br>2.2510<br>0.9835    | 0.0040<br>2.5635<br>0.9836    | 0.0044<br>2.1302<br>0.9920    | 0.0044<br>1.3809<br>0.9754                                 | 0.0038<br>1.7495<br>0.9984                                 | 0.0035<br>2.5677<br>0.9836    | 0.0024<br>2.7355<br>0.9812    | 0.0089<br>0.6958<br>0.9847                                 | 0.0121<br>0.7432<br>0.9965  | 0.0101<br>1.4417<br>0.9866 | 0.0205<br>1.1881<br>0.9985    | 0.0081<br>0.6618<br>0.9857    | 0.0103<br>0.7686<br>0.9699  | 0.0115<br>1.0083<br>0.9991                                 | 0.0071<br>0.9224<br>0.9519    |
| 50 °C       | Pseudo-<br>Second-<br>Order | K <sub>2</sub><br>q <sub>e</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup> | 0.0008<br>2.5822<br>0.9669    | 0.0004<br>3.6919<br>0.9810    | 0.0007<br>3.8523<br>0.9786    | 0.0011<br>3.0945<br>0.9873    | 0.0018<br>1.9386<br>0.9665                                 | 0.0012<br>2.4936<br>0.9957                                 | 0.0006<br>3.9648<br>0.9798    | 0.0003<br>4.5572<br>0.9789    | 0.0069<br>0.9933<br>0.9789                                 | 0.0113<br>0.9777<br>0.9925  | 0.0048<br>1.9034<br>0.9795 | 0.0213<br>1.3595<br>0.9969    | 0.0062<br>0.9655<br>0.9808    | 0.0085<br>1.0343<br>0.9668  | 0.0089<br>1.2783<br>0.9960                                 | 0.0034<br>1.4222<br>0.9757    |
| _           | Intraparticle<br>diffusion  | $\begin{matrix} K_{I} \\ C \\ R^{2} \end{matrix}$  | $0.0651 \\ -0.1381 \\ 0.9347$ | $0.0710 \\ -0.1709 \\ 0.9464$ | $0.1098 \\ -0.1742 \\ 0.9520$ | $0.0932 \\ -0.1154 \\ 0.9648$ | 0.0574<br>0.0484<br>0.9355                                 | 0.0698<br>0.0731<br>0.9781                                 | 0.1052<br>0.1987<br>0.9517    | 0.0946<br>0.2534<br>0.9414    | $\begin{array}{c} 0.0407 \\ -0.0082 \\ 0.9634 \end{array}$ | 0.0467<br>0.0155<br>0.9763  | 0.0822<br>0.0306<br>0.9568 | 0.0729<br>0.1396<br>0.8987    | $0.0376 \\ -0.0123 \\ 0.9652$ | 0.0452<br>0.0066<br>0.9230  | 0.0583<br>0.0433<br>0.9705                                 | $0.0508 \\ -0.0367 \\ 0.9181$ |
|             | Pseudo-<br>First-<br>Order  | k <sub>1</sub><br>q <sub>e</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup> | 0.0044<br>1.1997<br>0.9601    | 0.0039<br>1.6097<br>0.9840    | 0.0020<br>5.1254<br>0.9919    | 0.0031<br>2.8421<br>0.9903    | 0.0028<br>1.6461<br>0.9860                                 | 0.0032<br>1.7326<br>0.9879                                 | 0.0028<br>4.0597<br>0.9987    | 0.0013<br>4.5482<br>0.9792    | 0.0079<br>0.4917<br>0.9990                                 | 0.0105<br>0.7432<br>0.9996  | 0.0097<br>1.7214<br>0.9938 | 0.0051<br>1.6364<br>0.9942    | 0.0137<br>0.3384<br>1         | 0.0136<br>0.7103<br>0.9957  | 0.0056<br>1.9045<br>0.9975                                 | 0.0017<br>3.4086<br>0.9941    |
| -70 °C      | Pseudo-<br>Second-<br>Order | K <sub>2</sub><br>q <sub>e</sub><br>R <sup>2</sup> | 0.0021<br>1.6850<br>0.9688    | 0.0013<br>2.2954<br>0.9766    | 0.0014<br>8.7602<br>0.9909    | 0.0004<br>4.4892<br>0.9877    | 0.0007<br>2.6131<br>0.9830                                 | 0.0009<br>2.5937<br>0.9834                                 | 0.0003<br>6.4875<br>0.9980    | 0.0001<br>8.3234<br>0.9785    | 0.0089<br>0.7021<br>0.9989                                 | 0.0088<br>1.0168<br>0.9979  | 0.0042<br>2.2220<br>0.9890 | 0.0015<br>2.4831<br>0.9954    | 0.0324<br>0.4287<br>0.9986    | 0.0163<br>0.8819<br>0.9876  | 0.0015<br>2.7832<br>0.9963                                 | 0.0002<br>5.9639<br>0.9943    |
|             | Intraparticle<br>diffusion  | K <sub>I</sub><br>C<br>R <sup>2</sup>              | $0.0503 \\ -0.0509 \\ 0.9120$ | $0.0655 \\ -0.0754 \\ 0.9492$ | 0.1577<br>-0.3949<br>0.9482   | 0.1090<br>-0.2194<br>0.9590   | $\begin{array}{r} 0.0611 \\ -0.1293 \\ 0.9524 \end{array}$ | $0.0660 \\ -0.1169 \\ 0.9588$                              | 0.1451<br>-0.2690<br>0.97147  | 0.1076<br>-0.3512<br>0.9221   | 0.0276<br>-0.0056<br>0.9950                                | 0.0459<br>0.0028<br>0.9907  | 0.0932<br>0.0557<br>0.9647 | $0.0758 \\ -0.0482 \\ 0.9867$ | 0.0216<br>0.0129<br>0.9780    | 0.0429<br>0.0404<br>0.9417  | $\begin{array}{r} 0.0902 \\ -0.0484 \\ 0.9849 \end{array}$ | 0.0767<br>-0.0958<br>0.9518   |

**Table 6.** The sorption kinetics' parameters obtained from the experimental data at 30  $^{\circ}$ C, 50  $^{\circ}$ C, and 70  $^{\circ}$ C.



**Figure 18.** Van 't Hoff plots based on the  $CO_2$  sorbed on Raw shale (a-d), Spent shale (e-h), DETA-modified spent shale (i-l), and EDA-modified spent shale (m-p).

| Thermodynamic<br>Parameters               | USQ<br>06 | USQ<br>06_800C | USQ<br>06_800C+<br>DETA | USQ<br>• 06_800C+<br>EDA | USM<br>3 | USM<br>3_800C | USM<br>3_800C+<br>DETA | USM<br>3_800C+<br>EDA | USM<br>05 | USM<br>05_800C | USM<br>05_800C+<br>DETA | USM<br>• 05_800C+<br>EDA | US<br>6 | US<br>6_800C | US<br>6_800C+<br>DETA | US<br>6_800C+<br>EDA |
|---|-----------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ΔG° (kJ/mol)@ 30 °C                       | -123.42   | -127.66        | -131.75                 | -128.07                  | -113.1   | 2-125.56      | -127.82                | -127.36               | -76.69    | -85.26         | -92.00                  | -83.58                   | -78.62  | -90.30       | -73.52                | -69.38               |
| ∆G° (kJ/mol)@ 50 °C                       | -121.83   | -131.87        | -157.36                 | -145.20                  | -117.8   | 31-129.43     | -151.78                | -141.69               | -67.16    | -84.28         | -118.46                 | -107.11                  | -60.41  | -86.39       | -106.51               | -95.58               |
| $\Delta G^{\circ} (kJ/mol)@~70~^{\circ}C$ | -120.24   | -136.09        | -182.97                 | -162.33                  | -122.5   | 60-133.30     | -175.74                | -156.02               | -57.63    | -83.29         | -144.92                 | -130.64                  | -42.20  | -82.48       | -139.50               | -121.78              |
| $\Delta H^{\circ}$ (kJ/mol)               | -147.53   | -63.83         | 426.29                  | 327.50                   | -42.03   | 6 -66.94      | 235.16                 | 89.72                 | -221.05   | -100.23        | 308.82                  | 272.90                   | -354.46 | 5-149.48     | 256.22                | 131.41               |
| $\Delta S^{\circ} (kJ/K)$                 | -0.079    | -0.210         | 1.280                   | 0.856                    | -0.234   | 0.1934        | 1.197                  | 0.7164                | -0.476    | -0.049         | 1.322                   | 1.176                    | -0.910  | -0.195       | 1.649                 | 1.309                |

**Table 7.** Thermodynamic parameters obtained from the experimental data at 30 °C, 50 °C, and 70 °C.

From the values displayed in Table 6, it is observed that the  $\Delta H$  values were negative for non-modified samples, which confirms an exothermic (physisorption) reaction between the CO<sub>2</sub> and the sorbent [22], while positive values were obtained for the amine-modified samples, which indicates an endothermic reaction. An endothermic reaction occurs when a large amount of energy is required to desorb an adsorbate  $(CO_2)$  during a sorption process. Invariably, the amine modification has created a chemical bond between the sorbate and sorbents that requires a large amount of energy to break down [65]. It was further observed that the heat of sorption,  $\Delta H$ , is noticeably higher for the modified samples, which reveals the existence of highly active sites on the surface of sorbents supporting the sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub>. Similarly, negative values of  $\Delta S$  were obtained for the non-modified samples, which is representative of an associative mechanism of sorption. This implies that there is a decreased disorder at the  $CO_2$ -sorbent interface, causing the  $CO_2$  molecules to escape from the sorbent surface, thus reducing the amount of  $CO_2$  sorbed. Further, the amine-modified samples had positive  $\Delta S$  across all samples, which indicates a dissociative mechanism, i.e., there is an increase in the randomness of the  $CO_2$  molecules, hence the increased translational entropy at the interface [66].

### 5. Conclusions

Four spent shale samples were modified with DETA and EDA and applied successfully in the sorption of  $CO_2$  at elevated temperature and pressure. The pore system of the spent shale increased from abundant mesopores to macropores, as the N<sub>2</sub> group in the DETA and EDA enlarges pores. The evidence of the N–H and C–N bonds associated with the amine functional groups was revealed from the FTIR spectra and enhanced the sorption performance of the spent shale by about 100%. The equilibrium sorption analyses demonstrated that the sorption performance of the modified samples supports monolayer, multilayer, and heterogeneous coverage with the sorption kinetics confirming that the sorption process is not limited to diffusion, and both physisorption and chemisorption also occurred. An endothermic reaction was observed between the  $CO_2$  and amine-modified samples as a result of the chemical bond, which will require a large amount of energy and heat to break down. These results reveal that optimization of  $CO_2$  on spent shale with amine functional groups can enhance the sorption behavior of the spent shale, thus validating it as a promising sorbent for  $CO_2$  sequestration from impure steams of natural gas.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, A.I.B., E.P. and F.A.A.; data curation, A.I.B.; formal analysis, A.I.B. and J.Y.Y.; funding acquisition, E.P. and H.T.G.; investigation, A.I.B., E.P. and F.A.A.; methodology, A.I.B.; project administration, E.P., H.T.G., C.D.W., H.S., P.M.V. and B.S.W.; resources, E.P. and F.A.A.; software, A.I.B.; supervision, E.P., F.A.A., H.T.G., C.D.W., H.S., P.M.V. and B.S.W.; validation, A.I.B., E.P., F.A.A., H.T.G., C.D.W., H.S., P.M.V. and B.S.W.; validation, A.I.B., E.P., F.A.A., H.T.G., C.D.W., H.S., P.M.V.; visualization, A.I.B. and J.Y.Y.; writing—original draft, A.I.B.; writing—review and editing, E.P., F.A.A., H.T.G., C.D.W., H.S., P.M.V., B.S.W. and J.Y.Y. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

**Acknowledgments:** This research is supported by the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (Ministry of Higher Education, FRGS/1/2020/TK0/UTP/02/19) awarded to Eswaran Padmanabhan and Haylay Tsegab Gebretsadik.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### Nomenclature

| m²/g   | Meter squared per gram |
|--------|------------------------|
| ppm    | Part per million       |
| mmol/g | Millimole per gram     |
| λ      | Wavelength             |
| nm     | Nanometer              |
| θ      | Theta                  |
| mL/min | Milliliter per minute  |

| MPa              | MegaPascal                       |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| atm              | Atmospheric condition            |
| n <sub>CO2</sub> | Amount of CO <sub>2</sub>        |
| $V_{CO_2}$       | Volume of CO <sub>2</sub>        |
| Pi               | Initial Pressure                 |
| P <sub>f</sub>   | Final Pressure                   |
| Zi               | Initial Compressibility Factor   |
| $Z_{f}$          | Final Compressibility Factor     |
| q <sub>e</sub>   | Equilibrium uptake               |
| q <sub>m,</sub>  | Maximum adsorption capacity      |
| k <sub>L</sub> , | Langmuir constant                |
| k <sub>F</sub> , | Adsorption potential             |
| n <sub>F</sub>   | Adsorption intensity             |
| $k_{\rm S}$      | Sips constant                    |
| n <sub>S</sub>   | Sips exponential                 |
| k <sub>T</sub>   | Toth constant                    |
| n <sub>T</sub>   | Toth exponential                 |
| qt               | Equilibrium uptake at time t     |
| $k_1$            | Pseudo-first-order constant      |
| k <sub>2</sub>   | Pseudo-second-order constant     |
| k <sub>I</sub>   | Intraparticle diffusion constant |
| С                | Intercept                        |
| $\Delta G$       | Gibbs free energy                |
| $\Delta H$       | Enthalpy change                  |
| $\Delta S$       | Entropy change                   |
| $P/P_0$          | Relative Pressure                |

## References

- 1. Sayari, A.; Belmabkhout, Y.; Serna-Guerrero, R. Flue gas treatment via CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption. Chem. Eng. J. 2011, 171, 760–774. [CrossRef]
- Ross, D.J.; Bustin, R.M. The importance of shale composition and pore structure upon gas storage potential of shale gas reservoirs. Mar. Pet. Geol. 2009, 26, 916–927. [CrossRef]
- Lan, X.; Tans, P.; Sweeney, C.; Andrews, A.; Jacobson, A.; Crotwell, M.; Dlugokencky, E.; Kofler, J.; Lang, P.; Thoning, K. Gradients of column CO<sub>2</sub> across North America from the NOAA global greenhouse gas reference network. *Atmos. Chem. Phys.* 2017, 17, 15151–15165. [CrossRef]
- 4. Soeder, D.J. Fossil Fuels and Climate Change. In Fracking and the Environment; Springer: Cham, Switzerland, 2021; pp. 155–185.
- 5. Rani, S.; Padmanabhan, E.; Prusty, B.K. Review of gas adsorption in shales for enhanced methane recovery and CO<sub>2</sub> storage. *J. Pet. Sci. Eng.* **2019**, *175*, 634–643. [CrossRef]
- 6. Ritchie, H.; Roser, M. CO<sub>2</sub> and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Our World Data. 2020. Available online: https://ourworldindata.org/ co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions (accessed on 2 October 2022).
- Balogun, A.I.; Abdulkareem, F.A.; Irfan, S.A.; Padmanabhan, E. The Effective Process Parameters of CO<sub>2</sub> Adsorption on Peninsular Malaysia Shale Samples. In Proceedings of the SPE/AAPG/SEG Asia Pacific Unconventional Resources Technology Conference, Virtual, 16–18 November 2021.
- Wang, X.; Zeng, W.; Guo, Q.; Geng, Q.; Yan, Y.; Hu, X. The further activation and functionalization of semicoke for CO<sub>2</sub> capture from flue gases. *RSC Adv.* 2018, *8*, 35521–35527. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- Wang, X.; Zeng, W.; Liu, W.; Cao, X.; Hou, C.; Ding, Q.; Lü, Y. CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption of lignite chars after one-step KOH activation. *New* J. Chem. 2020, 44, 13755–13763. [CrossRef]
- 10. Wang, N.; Chen, J.; Wang, J.; Feng, J.; Yan, W. Removal of methylene blue by Polyaniline/TiO<sub>2</sub> hydrate: Adsorption kinetic, isotherm and mechanism studies. *Powder Technol.* **2019**, *347*, 93–102. [CrossRef]
- Zhao, Z.; Cui, X.; Ma, J.; Li, R. Adsorption of carbon dioxide on alkali-modified zeolite 13X adsorbents. Int. J. Greenh. Gas Control 2007, 1, 355–359. [CrossRef]
- 12. Wang, X.; Guo, Q. CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption behavior of activated coal char modified with tetraethylenepentamine. *Energy Fuels* **2016**, *30*, 3281–3288. [CrossRef]
- 13. Hu, X.E.; Liu, L.; Luo, X.; Xiao, G.; Shiko, E.; Zhang, R.; Fan, X.; Zhou, Y.; Liu, Y.; Zeng, Z. A review of N-functionalized solid adsorbents for post-combustion CO<sub>2</sub> capture. *Appl. Energy* **2020**, *260*, 114244. [CrossRef]
- 14. Tejavath, V.; Kasarabada, V.; Gonuguntla, S.; Perupoga, V.; Nandury, S.V.; Bojja, S.; Pal, U. Technoeconomic Investigation of Amine-Grafted Zeolites and Their Kinetics for CO<sub>2</sub> Capture. *ACS Omega* **2021**, *6*, 6153–6162. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

- Yang, H.; Xu, Z.; Fan, M.; Gupta, R.; Slimane, R.B.; Bland, A.E.; Wright, I. Progress in carbon dioxide separation and capture: A review. J. Environ. Sci. 2008, 20, 14–27. [CrossRef]
- 16. Lee, S.-Y.; Park, S.-J. A review on solid adsorbents for carbon dioxide capture. J. Ind. Eng. Chem. 2015, 23, 1–11. [CrossRef]
- Hao, G.-P.; Li, W.-C.; Lu, A.-H. Novel porous solids for carbon dioxide capture. *J. Mater. Chem.* 2011, 21, 6447–6451. [CrossRef]
  Lu, C.; Ma, L.; Xiao, S.; Guo, J.; Feng, Q. Effect of Acidification Pretreatment on the Deep Shale Mechanical Parameters of
- Longmaxi-Wufeng Formation in China. In Proceedings of the AAPG ACE 2018, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, 20–23 May 2018.
- 19. Meng, M.; Qiu, Z.; Zhong, R.; Liu, Z.; Liu, Y.; Chen, P. Adsorption characteristics of supercritical CO<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub> on different types of coal and a machine learning approach. *Chem. Eng. J.* **2019**, *368*, 847–864. [CrossRef]
- 20. Li, Y.; Chen, J.; Sun, Y. Adsorption of multicomponent volatile organic compounds on semi-coke. Carbon 2008, 46, 858–863.
- 21. Gao, X.; Dai, Y.; Zhang, Y.; Fu, F. Effective adsorption of phenolic compound from aqueous solutions on activated semi coke. *J. Phys. Chem. Solids* **2017**, *102*, 142–150. [CrossRef]
- Almoneef, M.; Jedli, H.; Mbarek, M. Experimental study of CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption using activated carbon. *Mater. Res. Express* 2021, *8*, 65602. [CrossRef]
- 23. Masel, R.I. Principles of Adsorption and Reaction on Solid Surfaces; John Wiley & Sons: New York City, NY, USA, 1996; Volume 3.
- 24. Foo, K.Y.; Hameed, B.H. Insights into the modeling of adsorption isotherm systems. *Chem. Eng. J.* **2010**, *156*, 2–10. [CrossRef]
- 25. Majd, M.M.; Kordzadeh-Kermani, V.; Ghalandari, V.; Askari, A.; Sillanpää, M. Adsorption isotherm models: A comprehensive and systematic review (2010–2020). *Sci. Total Environ.* **2021**, *812*, 151334. [CrossRef]
- 26. Sun, R.; Li, J.; Li, H.; Jin, B.; Li, Z.; Zhang, T.; Zhu, X. Mechanistic insights into ball milling enhanced montmorillonite modification with tetramethylammonium for adsorption of gaseous toluene. *Chemosphere* **2022**, *296*, 133962. [CrossRef]
- Qiu, H.; Vijver, M.G.; He, E.; Peijnenburg, W.J. Predicting copper toxicity to different earthworm species using a multicomponent Freundlich model. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2013, 47, 4796–4803. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- 28. Ng, C.; Losso, J.N.; Marshall, W.E.; Rao, R.M. Freundlich adsorption isotherms of agricultural by-product-based powdered activated carbons in a geosmin–water system. *Bioresour. Technol.* **2002**, *85*, 131–135. [CrossRef]
- 29. Tzabar, N.; ter Brake, H. Adsorption isotherms and Sips models of nitrogen, methane, ethane, and propane on commercial activated carbons and polyvinylidene chloride. *Adsorption* **2016**, *22*, 901–914. [CrossRef]
- 30. Melouki, R.; Ouadah, A.; Llewellyn, P.L. The CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption behavior study on activated carbon synthesized from olive waste. *J.* CO<sub>2</sub> *Util.* **2020**, *42*, 101292. [CrossRef]
- Özkaya, B. Adsorption and desorption of phenol on activated carbon and a comparison of isotherm models. J. Hazard. Mater. 2006, 129, 158–163. [CrossRef]
- 32. Lagergren, S.K. About the theory of so-called adsorption of soluble substances. Sven. Vetenskapsakad. Handingarl 1898, 24, 1–39.
- 33. Revellame, E.D.; Fortela, D.L.; Sharp, W.; Hernandez, R.; Zappi, M.E. Adsorption kinetic modeling using pseudo-first order and pseudo-second order rate laws: A review. *Clean. Eng. Technol.* **2020**, *1*, 100032. [CrossRef]
- Baharudin, L.; Severinsen, I.; Yip, A.C.; Golovko, V.B.; Watson, M.J. Kinetics and constraints of CO oxidation over hexameric copper nanocluster catalyst supported on carboxyl-functionalised MWCNT at high temperatures. *Chem. Eng. J.* 2020, 389, 124399. [CrossRef]
- Wu, F.-C.; Tseng, R.-L.; Juang, R.-S. Initial behavior of intraparticle diffusion model used in the description of adsorption kinetics. *Chem. Eng. J.* 2009, 153, 1–8. [CrossRef]
- 36. Malash, G.F.; El-Khaiary, M.I. Piecewise linear regression: A statistical method for the analysis of experimental adsorption data by the intraparticle-diffusion models. *Chem. Eng. J.* **2010**, *163*, 256–263. [CrossRef]
- Chowdhury, S.; Mishra, R.; Saha, P.; Kushwaha, P. Adsorption thermodynamics, kinetics and isosteric heat of adsorption of malachite green onto chemically modified rice husk. *Desalination* 2011, 265, 159–168. [CrossRef]
- 38. Saha, P.; Chowdhury, S. Insight into adsorption thermodynamics. Thermodynamics 2011, 16, 349–364.
- 39. Qin, L.; Bao, S.; Zhang, Y.; Yuan, Y.; Luo, Y. Effect of two thermal activation methods on shale residue based geopolymer. *Mater. Lett.* **2021**, *298*, 130005. [CrossRef]
- Unuabonah, E.I.; Nöske, R.; Weber, J.; Günter, C.; Taubert, A. New micro/mesoporous nanocomposite material from low-cost sources for the efficient removal of aromatic and pathogenic pollutants from water. *Beilstein J. Nanotechnol.* 2019, 10, 119–131. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- Unuabonah, E.I.; Agunbiade, F.O.; Alfred, M.O.; Adewumi, T.A.; Okoli, C.P.; Omorogie, M.O.; Akanbi, M.O.; Ofomaja, A.E.; Taubert, A. Facile Synthesis of New Amino-functionalized Agrogenic Hybrid Composite Clay Adsorbents for Phosphate Capture and Recovery from Water. J. Clean. Prod. 2017, 164, 652–663. [CrossRef]
- Unuabonah, E.I.; Kolawole, M.O.; Agunbiade, F.O.; Omorogie, M.O.; Koko, D.T.; Ugwuja, C.G.; Ugege, L.E.; Oyejide, N.E.; Günter, C.; Taubert, A. Novel Metal-doped Bacteriostatic Hybrid Clay Composites for Point-of-Use Disinfection of Water. *J. Environ. Chem. Eng.* 2017, *5*, 2128–2141. [CrossRef]
- Ionescu, C.; Höck, V.; Simon, V. Effect of the temperature and the heating time on the composition of an illite-rich clay: An XRPD study. *Stud. Universt. Babes-Bolyai Phys.* 2011, 56, 70.
- 44. Han, X.; Kulaots, I.; Jiang, X.; Suuberg, E.M. Review of oil shale semicoke and its combustion utilization. Fuel 2014, 126, 143–161. [CrossRef]
- 45. Chen, Y.-H.; Lu, D.-L. Amine modification on kaolinites to enhance CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption. J. Colloid Interface Sci. 2014, 436, 47–51. [CrossRef]
- 46. Bustin, R.M.; Bustin, A.M.; Cui, A.; Ross, D.; Pathi, V.M. Impact of shale properties on pore structure and storage characteristics. In Proceedings of the SPE Shale Gas Production Conference, Fort Worth, TX, USA, 16 November 2008.

- 47. Wang, X.; Zeng, W.; Zhang, H.; Li, D.; Tian, H.; Hu, X.; Wu, Q.; Xin, C.; Cao, X.; Liu, W. The dynamic CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption of polyethylene polyamine-loaded MCM-41 before and after methoxypolyethylene glycol codispersion. *RSC Adv.* **2019**, *9*, 27050–27059. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- Abdulkareem, F.A.; Radman, A.; Faugere, G.; Sathiavelu, S.; Irfan, S.A.; Padmanabhan, E. Petro-physical properties of Marcellus shale samples and their impact on CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption: Equilibrium, kinetics, and empirical modeling study. *J. Nat. Gas Sci. Eng.* 2020, *81*, 103423. [CrossRef]
- 49. Liang, Z.; Wang, Q.; Dong, B.; Jiang, B.; Xing, F. Ion-triggered calcium hydroxide microcapsules for enhanced corrosion resistance of steel bars. *RSC Adv.* **2018**, *8*, 39536–39544. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- 50. Shahraki, B.; Mehrabi, B.; Dabiri, R. Thermal behavior of Zefreh dolomite mine (Central Iran). *J. Min. Metall. B: Metall.* 2009, 45, 35–44. [CrossRef]
- 51. Nandiyanto, A.B.D.; Oktiani, R.; Ragadhita, R. How to read and interpret FTIR spectroscope of organic material. *Indones. J. Sci. Technol.* 2019, 4, 97–118. [CrossRef]
- 52. Choudhary, R.; Koppala, S.; Swamiappan, S. Bioactivity studies of calcium magnesium silicate prepared from eggshell waste by sol–gel combustion synthesis. J. Asian Ceram. Soc. 2015, 3, 173–177. [CrossRef]
- 53. Bahadur, A.; Shoaib, M.; Saeed, A.; Iqbal, S. FT-IR spectroscopic and thermal study of waterborne polyurethane-acrylate leather coatings using tartaric acid as an ionomer. *e-Polymers* **2016**, *16*, 463–474. [CrossRef]
- Williams, P.T.; Ahmad, N. Investigation of oil-shale pyrolysis processing conditions using thermogravimetric analysis. *Appl. Energy* 2000, *66*, 113–133. [CrossRef]
- 55. Cychosz, K.A.; Thommes, M. Progress in the physisorption characterization of nanoporous gas storage materials. *Engineering* **2018**, *4*, 559–566. [CrossRef]
- 56. Zhai, Y.; Chuang, S.S. The nature of adsorbed carbon dioxide on immobilized amines during carbon dioxide capture from air and simulated flue gas. *Energy Technol.* **2017**, *5*, 510–519. [CrossRef]
- 57. Liu, Z.; Teng, Y.; Zhang, K.; Chen, H.; Yang, Y. CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption performance of different amine-based siliceous MCM-41 materials. *J. Energy Chem.* **2015**, *24*, 322–330. [CrossRef]
- 58. Song, F.; Zhao, Y.; Ding, H.; Cao, Y.; Ding, J.; Bu, Y.; Zhong, Q. Capture of carbon dioxide by amine-loaded as-synthesized TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes. *Environ. Technol.* **2013**, *34*, 1405–1410. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- 59. Xian, S.; Wu, Y.; Wu, J.; Wang, X.; Xiao, J. Enhanced dynamic CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity and CO<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub> selectivity on polyethylenimine-impregnated UiO-66. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* **2015**, *54*, 11151–11158. [CrossRef]
- 60. Czepirski, L.; Balys, M.R.; Komorowska-Czepirska, E. Some generalization of Langmuir adsorption isotherm. *Internet J. Chem.* **2000**, *3*, 1099–8292.
- 61. Kalam, S.; Abu-Khamsin, S.A.; Kamal, M.S.; Patil, S. Surfactant adsorption isotherms: A review. ACS Omega 2021, 6, 32342–32348. [CrossRef]
- 62. Kumar, K.V.; Gadipelli, S.; Howard, C.A.; Kwapinski, W.; Brett, D.J. Probing adsorbent heterogeneity using Toth isotherms. J. Mater. Chem. A 2021, 9, 944–962. [CrossRef]
- 63. Gao, X.; Zhai, X.; Wang, Z.; Fu, F.; Li, W. Effective adsorption of phenol from aqueous solutions on activated semi-coke. *J. Mater. Sci.* **2015**, *50*, 4200–4208. [CrossRef]
- 64. Myers, A. Thermodynamics of adsorption in porous materials. AIChE J. 2002, 48, 145–160. [CrossRef]
- Sun, R.; Shen, L.; Wang, S.; Bai, H. CO conversion over LaFeO<sub>3</sub> perovskite during chemical looping processes: Influences of Ca-doping and oxygen species. *Appl. Catal. B: Environ.* 2022, 316, 121598. [CrossRef]
- Yen, P.-S.; Deveau, N.D.; Datta, R. Dissociative adsorption, dissolution, and diffusion of hydrogen in liquid metal membranes. A phenomenological model. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 2018, 57, 1607–1620. [CrossRef]