Supplementary materials

Romain Dupuis^{a,b,c}, Pierre-Louis Valdenaire (the late)^c, Roland J.-M. Pellenq^{c,d}, and Katerina loannidou^{b,c}

^a IEM and ICGM, Univ. Montpellier, CNRS, Montpellier, France; ^bLMGC, Univ. Montpellier, CNRS, Montpellier, France; ^c MIT/CNRS/Aix-Marseille Université Joint Laboratory "MultiScale Materials Science for Energy and Environment", UMI MSE2, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA; ^d International Research Laboratory, EPIDAPO, CNRS-George Washington U., Washington DC

A. Review of the models for ionic adsorption. Activated carbons (typically activated with high concentration of KOH 2 3 or steamed water at high temperature) is a special class of amorphous nanoporous carbons that have been intensively 4 used as supercapacitor electrode materials by controlling the 5 resulting nanoporosity, pore size distribution and surface chem-6 istry (functional oxygen-containing groups, (1)). Hence, the 7 texture parameters at the nanoscale can be tuned to optimize 8 the electrochemical performance of supercapacitors. Nanos-9 tructured electrodes have gained increasing popularity as the 10 manipulation of nanoporosity and surface functional groups 11 leads to an enhancement in the gravimetric capacitance in 12 supercapacitors, hence increasing the energy and power den-13 sities of carbon materials. The crucial relationship between 14 the electrode structure and the applied potentials would grant 15 the application of wider potential limits in aqueous systems 16 and therefore achieving better supercapacitor electrochemical 17 performance in terms of energy and power delivery. 18

The activation process of nanoporous carbons originally 19 20 derived from the pyrolysis of some organic precussors such 21 as saccharose, cellulose, etc) induces an increase in the overall porosity of the material by the removal of molecular size 22 fragments weakly attached to the main carbon backbone that 23 is essentially made of a percolative backbone of sp2 carbons 24 (these sp2 carbon ensure electronic conductivity of the material 25 due to weakly localized electrons). As a consequence, the acti-26 27 vation process is known to lower electronic conductivity as it populates pore surface with oxygen-containing groups (that lo-28 calize electrons) but also improves sub-nanopores connectivity. 29 This latter characteristic was shown from Hybrid-Reverse-30 Monte-Carlo simulations of the 3D texture of non-activated 31 (with a density of around 1.5 g/cc) and activated porous car-32 bons (with a density of 1 g/cc) (1). This was recently further 33 confirmed from out-of-equilibrium MD simulations of the flow 34 of hydrocarbons (2). 35

Abouelamaiem et al. (3) studied cellulose-derived/KOH 36 37 activated nanoporous carbons with different surface chem-38 istry and porous textures using polarized in-situ Raman spectroscopy to obtain information on the structural changes of 39 the activated carbons under strong electrochemical oxidation 40 and reduction conditions. Raman data were shown to be corre-41 lated to the cyclic voltammograms obtained in high anodic and 42 cathodic potentialsm conditions. The influence of the specific 43 surface area, nanoporosity and oxygen-containing functional 44 45 groups in the carbon substrate in supercapacitor applications was revealed: the conductivity, hence electrochemical per-46 formances of the KOH-activated carboneous electrodes was 47 shown to be directly related to the oxygen content (docked in 48 oxygen-containing functional groups at the pores surface, the 49 largest the oxygen content, the lower the conductivity) but 50 also to the total pore volume and the pore size distribution. 51 Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS) allows the eval-52 uation of the electronic charge transfer resistance in the carbon 53

solid texture and electrolyte movement resistance under an ap-54 plied ac potential. EIS is a non-destructive technique that has 55 been applied to study porous electrode/electrolyte interfaces 56 (4). EIS is one of the very few techniques that is sensitive to 57 material porosity in particular it allows addressing the role sub-58 nanopores in porous carbons in polarized anodic or cathodic 59 conditions when docking ions (5). Beguin et al. (6), Chmiola 60 et al. (7) and Segalini et al. (8) previously demonstrated that 61 electrodes with sub-nanopores can exhibit high specific capac-62 itance, and attributed this phenomenon to distortion/removal 63 of the ion's solvation sheath as it enters the charging pore; 64 access to these sub-nanopores was strongly voltage dependent. 65 That is, at low electrode voltages ions can be excluded from 66 subnanopores, but at higher voltages, the ion solvation sheath 67 can distort and rupture making naked ion docking possible. 68 Thus, for a porous carbon having a given pore-size distribu-69 tion starting from the subnano-range, one can expect that the 70 strong potential-dependence reflects on its impedance. More 71 specifically, we might expect an increase in measured storage 72 pore capacitance and a decrease in resistance associated with 73 ion storage in subnanopores. Suss et al. (5) indicated that 74 high-frequency semi-circle type features have been observed for 75 metal/electrolyte interfaces in the impedance Nquist plot (i.e. 76 imaginary part of measured impedance plotted as a function 77 of its real part) can be attributed to electrochemical redox 78 reactions at the metallic/electrolyte interface although porous 79 carbon electrodes are typically not associated with such so-80 called Faradaic pseudocapacitive-type ion storage mechanisms. 81 This correlates well with the findings of Abouelamaiem et 82 al who showed porous carbons do not reveal a clear Nquist 83 semicircular plot, indicating insignificant charge transfer re-84 sistances due to redox reactions on functional pores surface 85 groups above a certain potential threshold. 86

However, the non-ideality of nanoporous carbon surfaces, 87 makes fundamental understanding of the electrochemical pro-88 cesses occurring very challenging as because of topological 89 defects (compared to graphene plane hexagonal atomic ar-90 rangement) combined with chemical defects (functional oxygen-91 containing group non-sp2 carbon atoms (that are nevertheless 92 forming a percolative backbone of the porous carbon matrix 93 allowing for electronic conductivity. Very recently, Evlashin et 94 al. (9) have shown that the including heteroatoms (O and N 95 defects) into a graphene does lead to a substantial increase of 96 the capacitance. In particular, they identified carbon lacunes 97 as favorable sites for these chemical defects through partial 98 oxidation of the carbon lattice. Hartmann and Hwang (10)99 applied computational methods to evaluate the energetics of 100 the reduction (hydrogenation) and oxidation (hydroxylation) 101 reactions on pristine graphene and showed local distortion 102 of the carbon arrangement upon chemisorption of H and O 103

impurities upon polarization. Along the same line, Hussain et 104 al (11) showed using quantum DFT that nanoporous defective 105 graphene (NPG) can be used as an anode material for Li+. 106 Na+, K+, Mg2+, and Ca2+-ion docking. They calculated 107 108 structural properties, defect formation energies, metal binding 109 energies, charge analysis, and electronic structures properties. In particular, they showed that upon substitution with 110 oxygen-rich functional groups (e.g., O, OH, and COOH) and 111 doping with heteroatoms (B, N, P, and S), the ion binding 112 ability of NPG is significantly enhanced. Using nonequilibrium 113 Green's function theory in Tight Binding (TB) and Density 114 Functional Theory (DFT) schemes, G. Lee et al calculated 115 the density of state of defective oxidized graphene and showed 116 electron localization that upon substantial amounts of defects, 117 is responsible for the inferior electronic transport quality than 118 pristine graphene. Focusing on atomic partial charge distri-119 bution in graphene flakes, Maslechko et al. (12) showed that 120 only pure sp2 carbons (i.e carbons connected to 3 other carbon 121 atoms with an angle of 120 degree between them have a zero 122 atomic partial charge while all others (carbon atoms connected 123 to other elements such as H, O, N, B) do localize charge excess 124 or deficit (depending on the polarization achieved by injecting 125 or removing one electron). The unified picture that emerges 126 from the above listed theoretical works on graphene is that 127 defects of whatever form (chemical heterogeneity, H, O, N 128 etc...) or topological (carbon atoms departing from the pure 129 6 C members ring in the sp2 state of wave function hybridiza-130 131 tion) are the locations of charge accumulation or deficit upon charge injection/removal mimicking voltage polarization and 132 drive ion adsorption. 133

Based on the lessons from defective graphene and moving 134 more specifically to nanoporous ordered carbons (replica from 135 zeolites casting with pores size of 1 nm(13) and disordered 136 activated carbons (1), Delfour (14) (in French) (15) calcu-137 lated the electronic structure of these carboneous substrates 138 using a TB (with a 2nd moment approximation) approach 139 allowing to get the electron density of state, eDoS, and the 140 atomic partial charges upon supplementary electron injection 141 or upon the removal of some pristine electrons. It was found 142 that the electron conductivity of ordered carbon nanoporous 143 materials (calculated from the eDoS at the Fermi level in a 144 free electron approximation) is actually lower than that of 145 disordered nanoporous carbons and does not relate to the 146 actual material density but rather correlates with the actual 147 atomic arrangement in terms of percolative path of sp2 carbons 148 atoms through out the nanotexture that is always present in 149 disordered nanoporous (activated) carbons; non sp2 carbons 150 populate more the texture of carbon obtained from zeolite 151 casting. This result holds true in a zero-charge situation as 152 well as in charged (polarized) conditions (|0.3|e/C-atom). 153

In her TB simulations of an ordered porous carbon-based 154 155 supercapacitor (of a 1:1 electrolyte with no explicit solvent, 156 Cs+Cl- referred to here as the ionic fluid), Delfour proceeded in several steps: (i) the TB partial atomic charged calculated for 157 the polarized system with no electrolyte were frozen and used 158 in a NVT Monte-Carlo simulation of the ionic fluid adsorb-159 ing and (partially) invading the pore space from the outside 160 external space in-between the two zeolite-replicated carbon 161 electrodes (ii) the eDoS and the partial charges were then 162 recalculated. Having the ions invading the pore systems did 163 locally change the carbon atoms partial charges, typically at 164

the vicinity of the external surface. A self-consistency scheme 165 was used to periodically update the atomic partial charges and 166 obtain a charge distribution consistent with the modification 167 of the potential achieved through the modification of atomic 168 levels. The method used to achieve self-consistence calculates 169 the electronic structure eDoS of the whole system (carbon 170 and ions) after MC equilibration. This involves performing a 171 complete TB calculation, which is computationally extremely 172 heavy and also requires the introduction of new Slater pa-173 rameters to characterize the atomic levels and jump integrals 174 associated with all species. The proximity of the ions will mod-175 ify the charge distribution of the carbon atoms, and in return 176 their own charge, requiring the above outlined self-coherent 177 treatment. Such procedure allows the conservation of the 178 charge of the ions and the update of the charge on the carbon 179 atoms. (iii) a new MC simulation was then be restarted with 180 the updated charges, and so on... until the distribution at 181 the start and at the end of the simulation are identical (hence 182 achieving self-consistence). Delfour's work showed that the 183 amount of docked ions in electrodes nanopores did not change 184 much upon this self-consistent scheme i.e the amount on ions 185 docked in both electrodes at the first step remains almost 186 constant. It was also shown that the eDoS remains essentially 187 the same when comparing that of the system with its pores 188 loaded with ions to the one calculated for the polarized system 189 with no ionic liquid. However, the electronic conductivity 190 (in the free electron approximation) did show a noticeable 191 increase with a larger number of states at the Fermi level due 192 to presence of ions. Applying the same computational scheme 193 to disordered porous carbons (with smaller pores compared 194 to zeolite templated carbons), Delfour did show that only the 195 nanopores in close connection with the external surface were 196 actually occupied by ions with a penetration depth of typically 197 1 nm. 198

The present work builds upon these theoretical results ob-199 tained from quantum methods that take electrons explicitly 200 and uses the departure from the perfect sp2 carbon state to 201 locate (topological and chemical) defects and attribute them 202 a charge excess or deficit of charge depending on the polar-203 ization. Therefore, we modified the constant charge method: 204 the electrostatic field generated by the matrix defects (here 205 non sp2-carbon atoms and edge hydrogen species) will drive 206 ion adsorption on the electrode external surface as well as in 207 its nanopore. This is a key improvement with regard to the 208 standard constant charge (CC) approach that gives all sub-209 strate atoms the same charge. It is also an improvement with 210 respect to the constant voltage (CV) approach that assumes a 211 perfectly conducting substrate hence accumulating/depleting 212 charges only on the atoms at the pore and external surfaces 213 with no regards to the intrinsically defective nature of porous 214 carbons as electrode material. As carbon atoms at the ex-215 ternal or pore surface are necessary defective according to 216 our approach, they will localize charge excess/deficit. In this 217 sense our approach is consistent with the CV approach. The 218 neglect of substrate charge adjustment upon ion docking some-219 what inclines our method to predicting to be more accurate 220 toward the first instant of ions docking although Delfour's TB 221 calculation show rather insignificant change in ions docking 222 through the charge regulation process. Our approach also 223 allows locating charges excess/deficit in the electrode core that 224 is makes it also consistent with the standard CC method. In 225

sum, our computational scheme to describe a supercapacitor in 226 functioning conditions implements the advantages of both CC 227 and CV traditional scheme while enabling (i) the ion docking 228 in sub nanopores (as shown by experimental evidence) and 229 230 (ii) without excess adsorption of ions leading to unphysical 231 situations where all ions of giving sign localize at the middle of the oppositely polarized electrode (see Fig. S 2). 232

1. Methods 233

The simulations has been done in a box of 52x52x105 Å³ using 234 periodic boundary conditions has been used. The temperature 235 has been controlled using a Nose-Hoover thermostat set at 236 300K with a temperature damping parameter of 100fs. 237

A voltage has been applied to the system in order to sim-238 ulate the adsorption of ions inside the electrodes. Several 239 methods has been used to apply the charge differential on the 240 two electrodes. First, we have used the constant voltage (CV) 241 method developed for metallic surfaces (16-18), which has been 242 recently recommended for studying EDL supercapacitors(19). 243 In this method, the charges are attributed to electrode atoms 244 and are recalculated along the dynamics. This method has 245 been widely used to study EDL with electrolytic solution(19)246 and metallic systems(20). Secondly, we have used the con-247 stant charge (CC) method which consists in adding a small 248 positive or a negative charge ΔE to all atoms of each elec-249 trode. This method is cheaper but is generally considered less 250 reliable. However, it has been shown that it can be useful 251 for sub-nanometer space(21) Amongst the main drawbacks 252 of the constant charge method is that it does not adapt the 253 charges locally when the electrolytes are adsorbed. Finally, 254 we have used a new method that we have developed that is 255 called chemically driven charge localization (CDCL) in which 256 we distribute the charges according to the presence of defects 257 in the system. 258

Recently, it has been shown that when imposing a voltage 259 by imposing constant charges in the electrodes could lead to 260 unrealistic increase in the temperature (19). To our eyes, this 261 is a major issue that has to be tested. We have simulated 262 a trajectory in the NVE ensemble in order to sample the 263 evolution of the temperature over time using the constant 264 charge method. After an equilibration of the model 1 during 265 50 ps at 300K in the NVT ensemble, the temperature has 266 been recorded during a run in the NVE ensemble. In a recent 267 work, Merlet et al. (19) observed an abnormal temperature 268 269 increase using the CC scheme. Note that after analysing the 270 trajectory, we did not observe any significant increase in the temperature (see Figure). The main differences between our 271 systems and the system studied in Merlet et al. (19) is that we 272 have simulated a water-based solution and that we have not 273 placed the electrodes at the edge of the box. The increase in 274 temperature that was observed in the literature is most likely 275 due to a macroscopic field that has not been cancelled out. 276

277 We would like to draw the attention on the fact that the constant potential method, in our simulations, the charge 278 density was high at the edges of the electrodes (see Fig. 4(a)), 279 a result that did not depend on the Gaussian width parameter. 280 In comparison to the constant charge method, there is an 281 important difference in term of charge distribution. We have 282 found that due to these different schemes, the ions are not 283 adsorbed on the same sites. In the case of constant potential 284 method, we only have ions adsorbed on the surface or in the 285



Fig. S 1. Evolution of the temperature over time showing no drift using the CC scheme and the CDCL scheme using $delta_a = 0.02$

skin of the electrodes, where the charges are large, whereas 286 in the other method ions are adsorbed all along the profile 287 of the electrodes (including inside pores). In the literature, 288 the constant potential method has been shown to be able to 289 adsorb ions inside carbon electrodes(22). However, the pore 290 size distribution being different than ours, this is most likely 291 adsorption in large pores(23). In pores of about 1-2 nm, the 292 pore walls will be densely charged in the constant potential 293 method as it is for the surface of the electrodes that will attract 294 ions inside the electrodes (24). 295

In our carbon-based systems, the charge should not be 296 delocalized as it is in metals. Recently, Deschamps et al. (25) 297 has shown experimentally that ions are being adsorbed inside 298 the nanopores in nanoporous materials. A result that could 299 not be reproduced by the constant voltage method, because 300 of the charge distribution favoring adsorption on at the skin 301 of the electrodes. Thus, the charge distribution given by the 302 constant potential method is not realistic. The drop in the 303 charge excess is about 0.2 e/atom if we compare the charges of 304 carbon atoms at the surface of the electrode and in the middle. 305 Also, in a large centered region, the charges are almost null, 306 which leads to a majority of carbon atoms not interacting 307 with the ions of the system. The same results were obtained 308 applying the constant charge method only on the carbon atoms 309 belonging to the skin of the electrode. 310

As observed in the literature (19), we have noted that in the constant charge method the dynamics of ions was quicker than the constant potential method. The former method does not add any computation time since the charges are fixed. Thus, the computational cost of the constant charge method is significantly reduced compared to constant potential method. 316 However, in the constant charge simulations, the ions are being 317 adsorbed to the center of the electrodes Fig. 4(b), and no ions remain at the surface.

In order to estimate the energy variation due to the ad-320 sorption of ions in the pore network, we have calculated the 321 differential of energy between the initial configuration (with 322 no adsorption) and the same configuration having one ion 323 adsorbed in the electrode. The energy of the adsorption is 324 about 0.083 eV, which is small compared to the bond energy 325

311

312

313

314

315

318

319



Fig. S 2. Snapshots of adsorption sites at the highest polarization. Carbon atom of around the ions are colored in orange and the aromatic rings are colored depending on their number of members. In the constant voltage method, ions are adsorbed only at the surface of the electrodes (top). In the constant charge method, ions are adsorbed both inside only deeply inside the electrode (center). In the CDCL method, the ions are adsorbed inside and on the external surface of the electrodes.

of the bonds of the system. Therefore, the presence of ions in the electrodes should have a weak influence on the charge localisation. Moreover, if the ions are adsorbed with the hydration shell the ion charge should be screened by the water molecules.

We have found that in the constant potential method, 331 which adapts the charges locally as the ions are adsorbed, the 332 charge variation of a carbon atom is negligible compared to 333 a system in which no ions are adsorbed. In fact, in these 334 supercapacitors, we do not have chemical reactions during 335 the charge. Therefore, the presence of nearby ions should 336 not completely change the charge distribution of atoms in the 337 electrode. 338

In the chemistry driven charge localisation scheme (CDCL), 339 the charges are attributed depending on the number of mem-340 bers in the aromatic ring and depending on the angle made 341 with a carbon atom and its nearest neighbors Fig. 3. More 342 explicitly, we attribute an additional charge (positive for the 343 anode and negative for the cathode) to atoms making an an-344 gle far from the ideal angle for sp2 carbon (about 120°). A 345 smoothing has been used to attribute a smaller charge the 346



Fig. S 3. Angular distribution function of the C-C-C angles.

A. Charge distribution in the constant voltage method. $\ensuremath{\mathrm{The}}$ 348 charge distribution in the constant voltage method shows that 349 only the carbon atoms at the edge of the electrodes are charged 350 (Fig. 4(a)). This explains why in the trajectories, we observe 351 that the ions are adsorbed only at the external surface of the 352 electrodes (Fig. S 2). Moreover, we have observed that the 353 presence of ions at the surface (Fig. 4(b)) does not significantly 354 modify the attributed charge to the carbon atom. 355

B. Radial distribution function. The radial distribution func-356 tions for C-O, C-Cl and C-Na show that ions and water 357 molecules can be adsorbed in small pores of a minimum size 358 of about 5nm. Before applying the electric field, we have 359 observed that water molecules have entered the pore network 360 but ions remains on the outside of the electrodes. The carbon 361 material has a hydrophobic nature, which is reflected by the 362 first C-water peak being localised at about 3.1Å. Ions in this 363 system are adsorbed at a closer distance to the edges of the 364 pores (about 2.1 Å). Therefore, ions will tend to lose their 365 hydration shell before entering into smaller pores. 366

C. Capacitance. The specific capacitance has been calculated as following: $C_s = Q/(m * U)$ where Q(C) is the total charge adsorbed in the electrodes, U(V) is the voltage and m(g) is the mass of the electrodes. 370

D. Number of ions adsorbed in the constant charge method. Unexpectedly, we have noticed that in the constant charge method if the charges are uniformly distributed, it is necessary to apply a larger charge to the carbon atoms than in the case of a heterogeneous distribution. This result is certainly linked to how the ions are escaping their hydration shell. This is in agreement with the results discussed in the main text, in



Fig. S 4. (a) Charge attributed to carbon atoms for a constant voltage of 10V depending on their position relative to the center of the electrode. The electrode is 30 Å wide, in 2/3 of the electrodes the attributed charge is close to zero. The average value is -0.01 e. (b) Evolution of charge attributed to a carbon atom on the surface of the anode during the simulation (with adsorption in black and without adsorption in red). The adsorption of ions does not modify the average value of the charge but induces small fluctuations around it.

particular with the fact that we do not observe adsorption of
ions inside the electrodes when we use the constant potential
method, in which all the surface of the electrodes is charged
and does not force the ions to leave their hydration shell.

Ions that are being adsorbed in the constant charge method (with a uniform distribution) are diffusing to the center of the electrodes Fig. 4(b) and have a fast dynamics compared to the two other methods presented in the manuscript.

To compute this energy we compared the total energy, after a minimization, between the initial system and the system after adsorption. This corresponds to the energy of adsorption for a system at constant mass. In the case of adsorbing a single ion in the constant charge method using a non-uniform distribution of additional charges, we have calculated that the energy of adsorption is only 8kJ/mol (0.083 eV).

Moreover, we have calculated the energy of adsorption in the constant charge method (with a uniform charge distribution). Fig. S 8 illustrates this energy for each simulation at different



Fig. S 5. Radial distribution function for the C-O_w after absorption.



Fig. S 6. Number of ions adsorbed in the constant charge method (homogeneous distribution).

voltage. We notice that the second system with ionic fluid has 396 a linear energy storage function of the number of adsorbed 397 ions. Note that, we also performed simulations with different 398 distances between the electrodes and did not notice evolution 399 for both, capacitance and stored energy. This corresponds 400 to a uniform and constant charge method. In this method, 401 the adsorption energy is much higher than in the non-uniform 402 distribution case. This is due to the fact that the constant 403 charge method can lead to unrealistic results in which all ions 404 are adsorbed close the the center of the electrode and therefore 405 in more constrained pores, as mentioned previously. 406

E. Adsorption video (attached separately). The video shows 407 the adsorption of chloride and sodium ions (orange and blue 408 spheres respectively) in the electrodes. In the beginning, the 409 full simulation box is shown, composed by the two carbon 410 electrodes, water, chloride and sodium ions. The electrodes 411 are colored based on the local carbon charges based on the 412 CDCL method. For visualization reason, we depict the high 413 charge (0.02 e) in red, low charge (between 0 and 0.02 e) in 414 green and no charge in gray. The first part of the video zooms 415 into the positive electrode and shows the dynamics of chloride 416 desolvation and adsorption. The water molecules are blurred 417 out for easier visualization of the ions and carbon network. 418 The second part zooms into the negative electrode and shows 419



Fig. S 7. Number of oxygen in the solvation shell of sodium ions during the adsorption at Δ_e =0.02 e in the constant charge method. The snapshot represents a sodium ion after adsorption inside the electrode. This sodium ion was originally surrounded only by H2O. C, Na, O, H are represented in light blue, dark blue, red, white, respectively. Oxygen of the initial solvation shell before adsorption are represented bigger.



Fig. S 8. Relative energy due to the adsorption of ions for different voltage. These energies are computed after an energy minimization of the final configuration of MD runs. Squares represent simulations with only the sodium ions compensating the fiber charge. Circles represent simulations with 20 sodium and 20 chloride additional ions.

the dynamics of sodium desolvation and adsorption. The video correspond to a maximum charge $\Delta_q = 0.02$ e.

F. Lammps input file (attached separately). Input files con-422 taining the atomic structure (with different charges) and the 423 LAMMPS script files for the adsorption simulation can be 424 downloaded. The required files for the run are Dataset S1.txt 425 (lammps control file), Dataset S2.txt (atomic structure file), 426 427 Dataset S3.txt (lammps parameters file) and Dataset S4.txt (COMPASS parameters file). Dataset S5.txt (0V), Dataset 428 S6.txt (0.5V), Dataset S7.txt (1V) can be used as replacement 429 of the file Dataset S2.txt to modify the applied voltage. 430

431 G. Charge distribution in defective carbon structures.
432 Charge distribution has been calculated on a defective ac433 tivated carbon at the HF/6-31G* level using Gaussian09 and
434 the charge analysis has been performed using the restrained
435 electrostatic potentials scheme using Multiwfn(26). The charge

distribution indicates that the charges are localised on defects $_{436}$ and sp2 carbon atoms have a very low charge (< 0.05 q). $_{437}$

id	element	х	у	z	q	67	С	-6.143908	-3.416923	-1.011516	0.0244227
1	С	4.299796	-4.142917	5.229243	-0.0743127	68	С	3.093597	-4.114578	3.555494	0.195528
2	С	6.643128	-4.507595	0.526798	-0.154622	69	С	-2.047970	0.523390	6.064492	0.0727877
3	С	-2.138801	1.618836	1.239787	0.0832421	70	С	-2.828291	-3.776247	-3.085233	0.134207
4	С	-1.156318	-2.683266	4.772633	-0.0817598	71	С	-4.772343	-0.828766	5.549429	-0.0712529
5	С	4.466240	0.641500	-1.492439	0.00621236	72	С	-5.022267	1.607703	-2.315115	-0.0792141
6	С	-6.074999	0.860151	-1.634895	0.0109579	73	С	-0.241222	2.027047	-2.602819	0.192181
7	C	-1.708458	-2.131140	3.722047	0.042429	74	C	-1.518711	2.119316	-2.872809	-0.162665
8	С	4.718697	4.867323	1.221724	0.140688	75	С	-8.330337	-1.669544	-0.335980	-0.109918
9	C	-3.903971	-0.565541	-1.126613	0.0663379	76	C	-1.177188	-5.283220	-1.259003	-0.00114732
10	C	4.340655	-1.628168	-0.433674	0.316721	77	Ċ	-0.890012	1.664337	1.560270	-0.085172
11	C	-3.417630	0.693617	0.939497	0.121225	78	C	1.414043	-3.285093	5.011952	-0.0319324
12	C	-3.503384	6.756493	-0.999810	0.0287224	79	c	4.695266	-0.947133	3.367467	0.0117983
13	C	0.059000	7 387177	1 551828	-0.0736012	80	C	0 729641	-2 839025	-1 202602	-0.00856987
14	C	9.062146	1.255448	-3.389133	-0.0441805	81	c	-5.710241	0.723243	-0.141270	0.249559
15	C	-0.686608	-2 822746	-1 287651	0 0052174	82	C	-2 080827	-6 535093	-3 772460	0 185049
16	Ĉ	6 218504	5 235974	-0 466860	0.0113979	83	c	-3 609754	2 125947	1 644991	0 158431
17	C	-4 249559	0 419542	-0 231850	-0 142877	84	C	-0.871155	1 265614	5 804389	-0.0640832
18	C	-3 646302	-0 436461	1 860371	-0.0959815	85	c	1 987964	-2 787074	-0.846168	0.0184603
19	Č	4 079919	-4 970856	3 110892	-0 170907	86	c	6 505695	-2 476425	-1 690434	0.0920447
20	C	-1 712135	-1 879359	-1 874777	-0.0255749	87	c	7 263531	0 730019	-1.352165	-0.0963569
21	Č	-6.048993	-1.980522	-1 013763	0.0372031	88	c	9 529633	3 563543	-0.611918	0 134593
22	C C	-7 992005	-1.380297	3 652047	-0 146297	89	c	-7 409134	2 543143	0.363181	-0 108174
23	C C	1 097220	8 022259	0.895975	-0.0508669	90	c	-3 912798	1 186921	-3 121179	0.0412204
24	Ċ	0.997259	1 6177/3	-2 502079	-0 196213	Q1	ĉ	5 651123	-2 271642	-0 575928	-0 1/106/
25	C C	-6 950734	-1 344416	-0.155139	0.17816	91	c	-8 532747	0.689642	-0.373320	0.0125/11
26	C C	8 085739	-0.440580	-0.105109	-0.00652712	03	c	-0.332747	2 947386	-0.002000	0.0123411
20	C	0.005/03	4 997264	0 162271	0.1028/1	04	c	4 966290	4 062428	1 252225	0.0200400
28	Ċ	-1 440578	-3 977302	-0.753018	-0.123041	94	c	-4.000200	1 875664	-0.063218	0.120000
20	C	1 525227	5.051048	2 / 197/6	0.0000020	90	c	2 017754	6 19/265	0.000210	0.0303403
29	Ċ	0.057371	1 521886	2.410740	0.120477	90 97	c	-2.917734	-2 100811	-2 889953	0.079102
21	C	5.062166	2 191706	1 647777	0.0726554	00	c	2 405004	2 1 8 2 0 2 0	4 162082	0.0203207
22	C	1 201850	6 404176	2 026550	0.126242	00	c	4 169420	2 000027	3 110/02	0.14625
32	Ċ	4.391030	1 456966	2 106477	0.120242	100	c	0 12/6/2	0 959/99	1 893674	0.14033
24	C	4.130478	0 117541	0.251240	0.0700914	100	c	4 240257	0.333433	4.093074 5.014155	0.142095
25	C	2 226084	5 624014	1 051764	0.0704006	101	c	10 452026	1 278142	0.816500	0.140762
35	C C	4 126257	3.034014	0.700699	-0.0794090	102	c	4 051447	2 500717	2 560900	0.149702
27	C	2 217282	2 461265	0.722000	0.150610	103	c	6 087206	-3.322717	2.009090	0.124033
20	C C	6 100571	2.401303	-0.337833	0.139019	104	c	-0.007290	2 064027	2.010331	-0.301949
20	C C	2 111502	2.103231	1 670204	0.0743140	105	c	-2.00194J	E 219502	1 470500	0.0491032
40	C	2 400745	7 749212	1 200111	0.0303410	100	c	3 996956	4 245677	0.205211	0.105025
40	C C	2.499743	0.000247	0.511060	0.0200974	107	c	-3.0000000	-4.343077	0.303211	-0.123072
41	C C	4.342713	-0.022347	2.311203	-0.0535251	100	c	-2.497190	-2.401241	0.754141	-0.00017007
42	C C	-4.070340 5.044665	0.510400	-2.033701	0.0379000	110	c	-7.409095	-3.003490 5.010721	2 422464	0.141651
43	C	4 002216	4 064470	2 157459	0.0071024	110	c	2.037000	1 595095	1 606260	0.141031
45	C	4.032310	4.004475	0.071744	0.0151499	110	c	5 421607	4 440283	0.202722	0.0100142
45	C	4.103731	1 2022/1	1 762080	0.01/36/2	112	c	6 407462	4.442303	0.202722	0.0109142
40	C	7 050875	0.846127	2 709559	0.149541	11/	c	0.256240	0.678881	1 202061	0.11000
47	C C	2 066022	-0.040137	5 060052	0.149341	114	c	5.031400	4 425057	2 220845	0.112/22
40	C	5 867074	0.000491	1 965790	0.121969	116	c	2 640608	1 202756	0.002700	0.111909
49 50	C	2 65/059	2 600480	0.002605	0.131000	117	c	5.075701	2 009612	0.202085	0.0721224
51	C	4 850774	7 501496	2 026476	0.112145	110	c	2 478807	0.625656	-0.292900	0.0490700
50	C C	-4.009774	7.501490	-3.020470	-0.0134399	110	c	3.470007	1 450700	2 591607	-0.207032
52	C C	4 605009	-7.024330 E 024020	-4.495007	-0.10299	100	c	-3.431203	-1.409799	-3.361007	-0.0751500
55	C C	-4.023220	0 100000	-2.291900	0.0001227	120	c	0.000055	-3.222379	0.405320	0.160074
54	C C	2.079131	-0.120800	-0.304776	-0.0601337	100	C C	2.222000	1.100125	-2.415459	0.100007
55	C C	5.031995	-0.030140	-3.070230	0.293193	100	c	7.204595	-1.300033	-2.556526	-0.104013
50	C C	0.020007	-2.030727	4.021270	-0.01/4910	120	C C	-3.302003	-0.060150	-3.004469	-0.0102249
5/	C C	9.090041	2.063309	-2.469970	0.00117905	124	C	-4.606715	-0.162154	2.607965	0.27430
50	C C	-2.734271	-2.102769	4 700005	0.0640009	120	C C	4.490403	0.237291	1.370340	-0.105723
29	C C	4.959663	-3.126999	4.730025	0.0566635	120	C	-4.03/300	0.000040	3.052674	0.0627006
0U 61		4.100933	2.13/18/	1 010507	0.0152415	12/		1.90/912	1.021331	-0.001000	0.0949649
01		-1.438442	0.009140	-1.01250/	-0.111321	128		3.311407	4.00/034	2.910980	0.0009416
0∠ 62	C	0.0/2385	1.232407	3.034404	-0.209144	129		0.200201 7.500494	0.099544	-3.03/960	0.0090294
03 ⊊4		0.0000000	-0.008403	-3.090428	-0.238298	130		7.300484	2.200295	0.0000/0	-0.00503805
04 65		-2.324//2	-2.323880	-3.132911	0.109445	131	н	-3.396405	4.1/8446	1.000000	0.0328366
60		0.020///	-0.00/009	1.290033	-0.0463828	132		4.400421	-2.29/0/9	1.900626	
00	U	9.001629	2.303159	-1.200510	-0.0932886	133	П U	1./00213	1.210000	3.010003	0.091/001
						134		-4.30/1/8	3.050010	-3.0004/5	0.0204738
						135	п	0.090429	3.3/9210	-0.050171	0.0200834

H. Desorption. After 1 ns of unloading (starting from a config-440 uration obtained after loading the electrodes with $\Delta_q = 0.01e$ 441 (0.5V), ions are kept inside the electrode. We observe that the 442 number of Cl⁻ ions trapped in the system is bigger than the 443 444 number of Na⁺.





Fig. S 9. Snapshot showing Na^+ and CI^- ions that are being trapped in the porous structure after 1 ns of unloading. For clarity, only ions at a distance less than 3 ${\rm \AA}$ to the carbon atoms are shown.

- 1. J Pikunic, et al., Structural modeling of porous carbons: Constrained reverse monte carlo 445 446 method. Langmuir 19, 8565-8582 (2003).
- 447 2. A Obliger, FJ Ulm, R Pellenq, Impact of nanoporosity on hydrocarbon transport in shales' 448 organic matter. Nano Lett. 18, 832-837 (2018) PMID: 29337576.
- 449 3. D Ibrahim Abouelamaiem, et al., New insights into the electrochemical behaviour of porous 450 carbon electrodes for supercapacitors. J. Energy Storage 19, 337-347 (2018).
 - 4 BA Mei, O Munteshari, J Lau, B Dunn, L Pilon, Physical interpretations of nyquist plots for edlc electrodes and devices. The J. Phys. Chem. C 122, 194-206 (2018).
- 453 5 ME Suss, et al., Impedance-based study of capacitive porous carbon electrodes with hierar-454 chical and bimodal porosity. J. Power Sources 241, 266-273 (2013).
- 455 F Béguin, V Presser, A Balducci, E Frackowiak, Carbons and electrolytes for advanced su-6. 456 percapacitors. Adv. Mater. 26, 2219-2251 (2014).
- 457 7. J Chmiola, et al., Anomalous increase in carbon capacitance at pore sizes less than 1 nanometer. Science 313, 1760-1763 (2006).
- 459 J Segalini, B Daffos, P Taberna, Y Gogotsi, P Simon, Qualitative electrochemical impedance 8 460 spectroscopy study of ion transport into sub-nanometer carbon pores in electrochemical dou-461 ble layer capacitor electrodes. Electrochimica Acta 55, 7489-7494 (2010).
- 462 SA Evlashin, et al., Role of nitrogen and oxygen in capacitance formation of carbon nanowalls. 463 The J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 11, 4859–4865 (2020) PMID: 32515198
- 464 10. G Hartmann, GS Hwang, First-principles description of electrocatalytic characteristics of graphene-like materials. The J. Chem. Phys. 153, 214704 (2020). 465
- 466 11. T Hussain, E Olsson, K Alhameedi, Q Cai, A Karton, Functionalized two-dimensional nanoporous graphene as efficient global anode materials for li-, na-, k-, mg-, and ca-ion 467 468 batteries. The J. Phys. Chem. C 124, 9734-9745 (2020).
- 469 12. A Maslechko, T Verstraelen, TS van Erp, E Riccardi, Multiscale partial charge estimation on 470 graphene for neutral, doped and charged flakes. Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys. 20, 20678-20687 471 (2018)
- 472 13. T Roussel, et al., Experimental and atomistic simulation study of the structural and adsorption 473 properties of faujasite zeolite-templated nanostructured carbon materials. The J. Phys. Chem. C 111, 15863-15876 (2007). 474

14. L Delfour, Thesis - Simulation d'un supercondensateur à l'échelle atomique. (2011). 15. C Bichara, et al., Structure and properties of nanoscale materials; theory and atomistic com 475

476

477

478

479

482

483

487

494

495

496

497

- puter simulation. Int. J. Nanotechnol. 9, 576-604 (2012).
- 16. Z Wang, Y Yang, DL Olmsted, M Asta, BB Laird, Evaluation of the constant potential method in simulating electric double-layer capacitors. The J. Chem. Phys. 141, 184102 (2014).
- 17. SK Reed, PA Madden, A Papadopoulos, Electrochemical charge transfer at a metallic elec-480 trode: A simulation study. The J. Chem. Phys. 128, 124701 (2008) 481
- 18. TB Gingrich, M Wilson, On the ewald summation of gaussian charges for the simulation of metallic surfaces. Chem. Phys. Lett. 500, 178-183 (2010).
- 19 C Merlet, et al., Simulating supercapacitors: Can we model electrodes as constant charge 484 surfaces? The J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 4, 264-268 (2013) PMID: 26283432. 485 486
- 20. SK Reed, OJ Lanning, PA Madden, Electrochemical interface between an ionic liquid and a model metallic electrode. The J. Chem. Phys. 126, 084704 (2007).
- 21 J Yang, et al., Reliability of constant charge method for molecular dynamics simulations on 488 edics in nanometer and sub-nanometer spaces. ChemElectroChem 4, 2486-2493 (2017). 489
- 22. M Simoncelli, et al., Blue energy and desalination with nanoporous carbon electrodes: Ca-490 pacitance from molecular simulations to continuous models. Phys. Rev. X 8, 021024 (2018). 491
- N Ganfoud, et al., Effect of the carbon microporous structure on the capacitance of aqueous 492 23 supercapacitors. Energy Storage Mater. 21, 190 - 195 (2019) 493
- 24. M Salanne, et al., Efficient storage mechanisms for building better supercapacitors. Nat. Energy 1, 16070 (2016).
- M Deschamps, et al., Exploring electrolyte organization in supercapacitor electrodes with 25 solid-state NMR. Nat. Mater. 12, 351-358 (2013).
- T Lu, F Chen, Multiwfn: A multifunctional wavefunction analyzer. J. Comput. Chem. 33, 580-26 498 592 (2012). 499

451

452

458