

Supplementary Information for

## Flexibility of ZIF-8 materials studied by $^{129}\text{Xe}$ NMR

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### Experimental section

- *Synthesis.* As mentioned in the acknowledgment, Dr. Aude Demessence (Institut de Recherche sur la Catalyse et l'Environnement de Lyon, Université Lyon I) has provided us with the sample. The synthesis of ZIF-8 nanoparticles was performed following the conditions previously reported by Cravillon et al. (*Chem. Mater.* 2009, **21**, 1410). A solution of Zn(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O (2.933 g, 9.87 mmol; 98% Sigma-Aldrich) in 200 mL of methanol (Aldrich, 99%) is rapidly poured into a solution of 2-methylimidazole (Hmim; 6.489 g, 79.04 mmol; 99% Aldrich) in 200 mL of methanol under vigorous stirring at room temperature. The mixture slowly turns turbid and after 1 h the nanocrystals are separated from the milky dispersion by centrifugation at 20000 rpm for 15 min. To remove the excess of unreacted acid and zinc nitrate species, ZIF-8 nanoparticles were readily redispersed in absolute ethanol and centrifuged. Three washing cycles of the redispersion in absolute EtOH/centrifugation were performed. The particles were subsequently dried under vacuum.
- *N<sub>2</sub> adsorption experiment.* The isotherms were measured at 77 K on a Micromeritics ASAP 2010 sorption after activation of the sample (ca. 130 mg) at 120°C for 12 h under primary vacuum.
- *$^{129}\text{Xe}$  NMR experiments.* Before NMR experiments, the sample was evacuated under dynamic high vacuum (less than 10<sup>-2</sup> Pa) at 150°C K overnight (heating rate 24 K/h). The variable-temperature experiments were performed using laser-polarized xenon

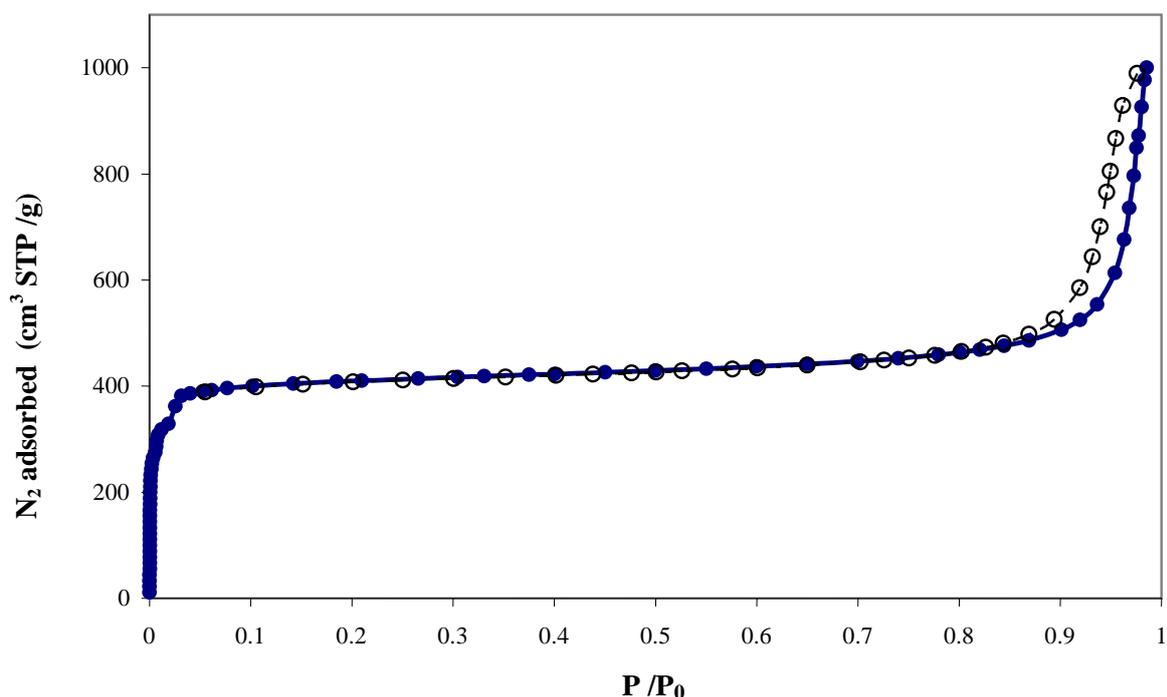
under continuous gas flow using a home-built system on a Bruker DSX 300 spectrometer between 373 and 138 K. The hyperpolarized  $^{129}\text{Xe}$  was obtained by passing gaseous  $\text{Xe}/\text{N}_2/\text{He}$  mixtures, containing 1 % or 0.1 %  $\text{Xe}$ , through a cell, heated to *ca.* 430 K, that was containing rubidium vapour irradiated by a 794 nm laser inducing the optical pumping of rubidium. Then, the gas mixture was delivered using a 1/8" plastic tubing into the powdered sample and finally released to the atmosphere via an oil bath to avoid back flow of air.

Typically 2000 to 4000 scans, with a repetition time of 1 s, were recorded. The spectra were recorded every 2 to 5 K after the sample was allowed to equilibrate during a few tens of minutes.

The chemical shifts are referenced to that of gaseous xenon extrapolated to zero pressure (0 ppm).

- *X-ray diffraction.* The X-ray powder diffraction pattern of the ZIF-8 sample has been measured using a Bruker D8 ADVANCE equipped with a LynxEye detector with  $\text{Cu K}\alpha$  radiation ( $\text{K}\alpha_1 = 1.540600$  and  $\text{K}\alpha_2 = 1.544390$ ). The acquisition was performed in Bragg-Brentano mode with a variable-divergence slot.

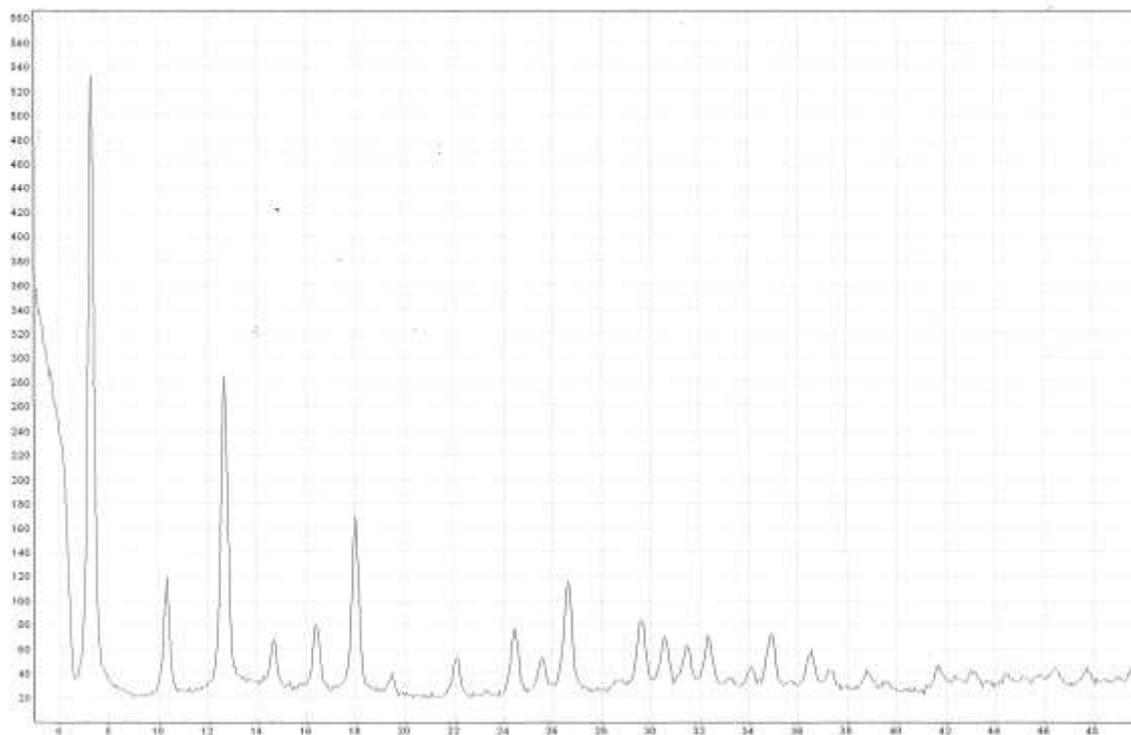
### Nitrogen sorption at 77 K



Adsorption: full symbols; desorption: empty symbols.

The Langmuir and BET surface area of the ZIF-8 sample are 1830  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ . and 1100  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , respectively.

## X ray diffraction



## Heat of adsorption

The isosteric heat of adsorption were determined from the Xe adsorption isotherms (shown in Figure 3 of the Communication) using Van't Hoff relationship.

