Simple, scalable mechanosynthesis of metal–organic frameworks using liquid-assisted resonant acoustic mixing (LA-RAM)

Hatem M. Titi,^a Jean-Louis Do,^{a,b} Ashlee J. Howarth,^b Karthik Nagapudi,^c and Tomislav Friščić^{a*}

Table of Contents

Materials and methods		
Synthesis	3	
Selected characterization data		
Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD)		
Thermal analysis data		
Fourier-transform infrared attenuated total reflectance spectroscopy (FTIR-ATR)		
Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy		
Solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (ssNMR) spectroscopy		
N ₂ sorption isotherms for surface area measurements		
References		

1. Materials and methods

All reactions were performed under an atmosphere of argon unless otherwise specified. Acetonitrile, methanol (MeOH), ethanol (EtOH), acetonitrile (CH₃CN), N,Ndimethylformamide (DMF), acetone, *iso*-propanol, and *n*-propanol were obtained from a PureSolvTM PS-400 solvent purification system. Zinc oxide, ammonium nitrate, copper(II) acetate monohydrate (Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O), zinc nitrate hexahydrate (Zn(NO₃)₂·6H₂O), cobalt(II) nitrate hexahydrate (Co(NO₃)₂·6H₂O), trimesic acid, 2-ethylimidazole (H**EtIm**) and 2-methylimidazole (H**MeIm**) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. The ligand 2vinylimidazole (H**VIm**) was synthesized according to a reported procedure.¹

1.1. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)

Solution ¹H-NMR spectra (500 MHz) were recorded on Bruker AscendTM spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported relative to DMSO-d6 (δ 2.50 ppm) for ¹H-NMR spectra. NMR samples of the commercial ZIF-8, H**EtIm**, H**MeIm**, and Zn(**EtIm**)(**MeIm**) were prepared by the addition of 200 µL of DCI and DMSO-*d*₆. The samples were sonicated until complete dissolution. The ¹H NMR data are presented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity and integration.

1.2. Solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (ssNMR)

Solid-state cross-polarization magic angle spinning (CP-MAS) ¹³C- and ¹⁵N-NMR spectra were acquired on a Varian VNMRS 400 MHz NMR spectrometer operating at 100.53 MHz for ¹³C, 40.51MHz for ¹⁵N and at 399.77 MHz for ¹H using a wide-bore 4-mm T3 double-resonance probe spinning at 13 kHz for ¹³C and 8 kHz for ¹⁵N. Cross-polarization using RAMP CP (ramped-amplitude cross-polarization) for 2 ms ¹³C and 3 ms for ¹⁵N. SPINAL-64 ¹H decoupling was performed during acquisition using a 90-kHz rf field. Recycle delays are 3s for ¹³C and 10s for ¹⁵N, as number of scans for ZIF-8 is 64 scans for ¹³C and 10000 scans for nitrogen, and for the mixed ligand was 1600 scans for ¹³C and 5200 scans for nitrogen.

1.3. Fourier-transform infrared attenuated total reflectance spectroscopy (FTIR-ATR)

Infrared spectra were obtained using a Bruker Vertex 70 FTIR spectrometer equipped with the Platinum ATR accessory. Absorption bands are reported in wavenumbers (cm⁻).

1.4. Thermal analysis

Thermogravimetric analysis and differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) data were measured on a TGA/DSC 1 (Mettler-Toledo, Columbus, Ohio, USA) instrument. TGA of SOD-Zn(**Etlm**)(**Melm**) was measured on a TGA250 (TA instruments Ltd., Delaware, USA). Samples (5 to 10 mg) were placed in alumina crucibles. All measurements were done under a 25 mL min⁻¹ stream of air, and the samples were heated from RT up to 800 °C using a constant heating ramp of 10 °C min⁻¹.

1.5. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD)

Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) data were collected on a Bruker D2 Phaser diffractometer equipped with a LYNXEYE linear position sensitive detector (Bruker AXS, Madison, WI, USA), using Ni-filtered Cu $K\alpha$ radiation.

1.6. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM)

SEM images were recorded on a QUANTA FEG 450 electron microscope. Evacuated MOF samples were loaded on carbon tape by *via* dispersion in hexanes and were sputter-coated with 4 nm of platinum before measurement.

1.7. Surface area measurements (BET)

Nitrogen adsorption and desorption isotherm measurements were performed on a Micromeritics TriStar II Plus instrument at a temperature of 77 K.

2. Synthesis

2.1. Synthesis of SOD-Zn(MeIm)₂ (ZIF-8) and SOD-Zn(VIm)₂

A mixture of ZnO (1 mmol, 81 mg), H**MeIm** (2.1 mmol, 173 mg) or H**VIm** (2.1 mmol, 198 mg) and NH₄NO₃ (4 mg , 5 mol% with respect to zinc), and 75 μ L of MeOH were added to an 8 mL plastic vial, and the mixture oscillated for 60 minutes at 95 *g* to yield a microcrystalline product, as confirmed by PXRD. The product was washed/centrifuged at 4,500 rpm with 15 mL EtOH three times. The product was evacuated overnight at 85 °C.

2.2. Scaling-up SOD-Zn(Melm)₂ (ZIF-8)

A mixture of ZnO (5 mmol, 405 mg), H**MeIm** (10.5 mmol, 861 mg), NH₄NO₃ (20 mg), and 500 μ L CH₃CN was added to an 8 mL plastic vial. The mixture was oscillated for 60 minutes at 95 *g* to yield a microcrystalline product, as confirmed by PXRD. The product was washed/centrifuged at 4,500 rpm with 15 mL EtOH three times. The product was evacuated overnight at 85 °C.

2.3. Synthesis of ZIF-L and Co-ZIF-L

A mixture of $Zn(NO_3)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ (1 mmol, 298 mg) or $Co(NO_3)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ (1 mmol, 291 mg), H**MeIm** (8 mmol, 656 mg) and 25 µL water were added to an 8 mL plastic vial. The mixture was oscillated for 30 minutes at 30 *g* to yield a microcrystalline product, as confirmed by PXRD. The product was washed with 15 mL of water, followed by centrifugation at 4,500 rpm for 15 mins, three times.

2.4. Scale-up of ZIF-L synthesis to 25 grams

A mixture of $Zn(NO_3)_{2}\cdot 6H_2O$ (0.1 mol, 30 gram), H**MeIm** (0.8 mol, 66 gram) and 7.5 mL water was added to a 100 mL plastic vial. The mixture was placed in the RAM for 30 minutes at oscillation of 30 g to yield a microcrystalline product, as confirmed by PXRD.

The product was washed with 30 mL of water, followed by centrifugation at 4,500 rpm for 15 mins, three times.

2.5. Synthesis of SOD-Zn(EtIm)(MeIm)

A mixture of ZnO (1 mmol, 81 mg), H**EtIm** (1.05 mmol, 101 mg), H**MeIm** (1.05 mmol, 86 mg), NH₄NO₃ (4 mg, 5 mol%), and 75 μ L CH₃CN was added to an 8 mL plastic vial. The mixture was oscillated for 60 minutes at 95 *g* to yield a microcrystalline product, as evidenced by PXRD. The product was washed with 15 mL MeOH, followed by centrifugation at 4,500 rpm for 15 mins, three times. The dry product was evacuated overnight at 85 °C.

2.6. Scaling-up SOD-Zn(EtIm)(MeIm)

A mixture of ZnO (5 mmol, 405 mg), H**EtIm** (5.3 mmol, 510 mg), H**MeIm** (5.3 mmol, 435 mg) and NH₄NO₃ (20 mg) and 375 μ L CH₃CN were added to an 8 mL plastic vial. The mixture was oscillated for 60 minutes at 95 *g* to yield a microcrystalline product, as evidenced by PXRD analysis. The product was washed with 30 mL MeOH, followed by centrifugation at 4,500 rpm for 15 mins, three times. The dry product was evacuated overnight at 85 °C.

2.7. Synthesis of SOD-Zn(Etlm)(Melm) by ball milling

A mixture of ZnO (1 mmol, 81 mg), H**EtIm**H (1.05 mmol, 101 mg), H**MeIm** (1.05 mmol, 86 mg), NH₄NO₃ (4mg, 5 mol%), and 75 μ L CH₃CN were added to a 15 mL stainlesssteel milling jar with two stainless-steel milling balls (1.34 gram, 7mm diameter each). The mixture was milled for 30 minutes at a frequency of 30 Hz using a Retsch MM400 shaker mill, to yield a microcrystalline product, evidenced by PXRD. The product was washed with 15 mL MeOH, followed by centrifugation at 4,500 rpm for 15 mins, three times. The dry product was evacuated overnight at 85 °C.

2.8. Synthesis of HKUST-1

A mixture of Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O (1.5 mmol, 300mg) and trimesic acid (1 mmol, 210 mg) was placed in an 8 mL plastic vial, along with either 75 μ L, 125 μ L and 150 μ L of a liquid additive (Table S1). The mixtures were oscillated at 95 *g* for 1 hour and analyzed by PXRD. Formation of clean HKUST-1 was observed with water as the liquid additive, and the product was further washed with MeOH and evacuated at 100 °C for two days.

REACTION	MILLING MEDIA	LIQUID ADDITIVE
1	-	EtOH (125 μL)
2	ten 3mm ZrO2 beads	EtOH (125 μL)
3	-	MeOH (125 μL)
4	-	CH₃CN (125 μL)
5	-	DMF (150 μL)
6	-	<i>n</i> -propanol (150 μL)
7	-	<i>iso</i> -propanol (150 μL)
8	-	EtOH (150 μL)
9	-	water (75 μL)

3. Selected characterization data

3.1. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD)



Fig. S1. Comparison of PXRD patterns for crude products of SOD-Zn(**Melm**)₂ (ZIF-8) synthesis using RAM: a) simulated pattern for the structure of ZIF-8; b) neat oscillation; c) LA-RAM with 75 μ L of MeOH ($\eta \approx 0.3 \ \mu$ L/mg); d) neat oscillation with 5 mol% NH₄NO₃; e) oscillation with ten ZrO₂ beads of 3 mm diameter; f) LA-RAM with 75 μ L of MeOH and 5 mol% NH₄NO₃ ($\eta \approx 0.3 \ \mu$ L/mg); g) LA-RAM with 75 μ L MeOH and ten 3mm ZrO₂ beads ($\eta \approx 0.3 \ \mu$ L/mg); h) LA-RAM with 75 μ L MeOH, 5 mol% NH₄NO₃ and ten 3 mm ZrO₂ beads ($\eta \approx 0.3 \ \mu$ L/mg); All mixtures contained ZnO and H**MeIm** in the respective 1:2.1 stoichiometric ration, and were oscillated at 95 *g* for 60 minutes.



Fig. S2. Comparison of PXRD patterns for SOD-Zn(**Melm**)₂ (ZIF-8) obtained by LA-RAM using different liquid additives (75 μ L, $\eta \approx 0.3 \mu$ L/mg), in presence of 5 mol% NH₄NO₃: a) simulated for ZIF-8; b) with DMF; c) with MeOH; d) with EtOH; e) with acetone and f) with CH₃CN. All mixtures contained ZnO and H**Melm** in the respective 1:2.1 stoichiometric and were oscillated at 95 *g* for 60 minutes.



Fig. S3. Comparison of PXRD patterns for SOD-Zn(**MeIm**)₂ (ZIF-8) obtained by LA-RAM with different amounts of MeOH and in presence of 5 mol% NH₄NO₃: a) simulated pattern for ZIF-8; b) LA-RAM with 50 µL MeOH ($\eta \approx 0.2 \mu$ L/mg); c) LA-RAM with 75 µL MeOH ($\eta \approx 0.3 \mu$ L/mg) and d) LA-RAM with 100 µL MeOH ($\eta \approx 0.4 \mu$ L/mg). All mixtures contained ZnO and H**MeIm** in the respective stoichiometric ratio 1:2.1 and were oscillated at 95 *g* for 60 minutes.



Fig. S4. Comparison of PXRD patterns for SOD-Zn(**Melm**)₂ (ZIF-8) obtained by LA-RAM using different amounts of MeOH and in presence of 5 mol% NH₄NO₃: a) simulated pattern for ZIF-8; b) LA-RAM with 50 µL MeOH ($\eta \approx 0.2 \mu$ L/mg); c) LA-RAM with 75 µL MeOH ($\eta \approx 0.3 \mu$ L/mg) and d) LA-RAM with 100 µL MeOH ($\eta \approx 0.4 \mu$ L/mg). All mixtures contained ZnO and H**MeIm** in the respective stoichiometric ratio 1:2.1 and were oscillated at 75 *g* for 60 minutes.



Fig. S5. Comparison of PXRD patterns for the synthesis of SOD-Zn(**Melm**)₂ (ZIF-8) by LA-RAM at different times: a) simulated for ZIF-8; b) 5 minutes; c) 10 minutes; d) 15 minutes; e) 20 minutes; f) 25 minutes; g) 30 minutes; h) 35 minutes; i) ZnO reactant. All reactions were performed at 95 *g* and contained a stoichiometric 1:2.1 mixture of ZnO and H**Melm**, 75 μ L MeOH and 5 mol% NH₄NO₃ ($\eta \approx 0.3 \mu$ L/mg).



Fig. S6. Comparison of the PXRD patterns: a) SOD-Zn(**VIm**)₂ obtained by LA-RAM of a 1:2.1 stoichiometric mixture of ZnO and H**MeIm** with 75 μ L MeOH and 5 mol% NH₄NO₃; b) simulated pattern for SOD-Zn(**VIm**)₂. The reaction was oscillated for 60 minutes at 95 *g*.



Fig. S7. Comparison of PXRD patterns for attempted synthesis of SOD-Zn(**MeIm**)₂ (ZIF-8) by LA-RAM at 30 *g*, with 75 μ L MeOH and 5 mol% NH₄NO₃ ($\eta \approx 0.3 \mu$ L/mg): a) simulated for ZIF-8; b) simulated for ZIF-L; c) H**MeIm** reactant; d) ZnO reactant and e) reaction mixture after 60 minutes oscillation.



Fig. S8. Selected PXRD patterns for attempted synthesis of ZIF-L: a) simulated for ZIF-8; b) simulated for ZIF-L; c) ZnO reactant; d) H**MeIm** reactant; e) mixture of ZnO and H**MeIm** in the respective stoichiometric ratio 1:2.1, along with 5 mol% of NH₄NO₃ and 75 μ L MeOH, after 5 minutes at 30 g ($\eta \approx 0.3 \mu$ L/mg); f) mixture of ZnO and H**MeIm** in the respective stoichiometric ratio 1:8, with 75 μ L water, after 30 minutes at 30 g; g) mixture of Zn(OAc)₂·2H₂O and H**MeIm** in respective stoichiometric ratio 1:8, with 75 μ L water, after 30 minutes at 30 g.



Fig. S9. Example PXRD patterns for attempted synthesis of ZIF-L from $Zn(NO_3)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ and H**MeIm** in respective stoichiometric ratio 1:3.5 by LA-RAM with 25 µL water: a) simulated for ZIF-8; b) simulated for ZIF-L and c) reaction mixture after 30 minutes at 30 *g*.



Fig. S10. PXRD patterns for ZIF-L prepared by LA-RAM: a) simulated for ZIF-L (CSD code IWOZOL) and b) product obtained at 25 gram scale.



Fig. S11. PXRD patterns for Co-ZIF-L synthesized by LA-RAM: a) simulated pattern of ZIF-L (CSD code IWOZOL); b) product obtained after 30 minutes at 30 *g* using Co(NO₃)₂·6H₂O and H**MeIm**, in respective stoichiometric ratio 1:8, in the presence of 25 mL of water. The measured PXRD pattern is of poor quality due to strong fluorescence of the cobalt-containing product in Cu*K*_α radiation.



Fig. S12. PXRD patterns for attempted synthasis of ZIF-L by ball milling: a) simulated for ZIF-L (CSD code IWOZOL) and b) product of ball milling a mixture of $Zn(NO_3)_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ and H**MeIm** in the respective stoichiometric ratio 1:8, in the presence of 25 µL water, for 30 minutes at 25 Hz. Milling was done using two stainless steel balls of 7 mm diameter.



Fig. S13. PXRD patterns for scaling-up of the ZIF-8 synthesis to 1 gram: a) simulated for ZIF-8 and b) washed and evacuated sample, obtained on 1.2 gram scale by LA-RAM in the presence of NH₄NO₃ and CH₃CN as the liquid additive ($\eta \approx 0.3 \mu$ L/mg), after 60 minutes at 95 g.



Fig. S14. Comparison of PXRD patterns for LA-RAM reactions containing ZnO and different ratios of H**MeIm** and H**EtIm**. Simulated for reference ZIFs with a) SOD- (CSD code VELVOY) and b) RHO-topology (CSD code MECWOH). Reaction mixtures after 60 minutes at 95 *g* for the H**MeIm**:H**EtIm** stoichiometric ratios: c) 0.15:1.95; d) 0.35:1.75 and e) 1.05:1.05. All reactions were performed in presence of 5 mol% NH₄NO₃ and 75 μ L CH₃CN as the liquid additive ($\eta \approx 0.3 \mu$ L/mg), with the relative stoichiometric ratio of ZnO to total imidazoles always 1:2.1.



Fig. S15. PXRD patterns for SOD-Zn(**EtIm**)(**MeIm**) obtained by RAM: a) simulated for ZIF-8 and b) a washed and evacuated sample synthesized by LA-RAM of a mixture of ZnO, H**MeIm** and H**EtIm** in the relative stoichiometric ratio 1:1.05:1.05, in presence of 75 μ L CH₃CN and 5 mol% NH₄NO₃ ($\eta \approx 0.3 \mu$ L/mg), at 95 g for 60 minutes.



Fig. S16. PXRD patterns scaling-up of the synthesis of SOD-Zn(**Etlm**)(**Melm**) to 1 gram: a) simulated for ZIF-8 and b) a washed and evacuated sample of SOD-Zn(**Melm**)(**Etlm**) obtained on 1.2 gram scale by LA-RAM in the presence of NH₄NO₃ and CH₃CN as the liquid additive ($\eta \approx 0.3 \mu$ L/mg). The reaction was performed by at 95 *g* for 60 minutes.



Fig. S17. Comparison of PXRD patterns for products of attempted HKUST-1 synthesis by LA-RAM of Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O and trimesic acid in stoichiometric ratio 3:2 by LA-RAM in the presence of different liquid additives: a) simulated for the MOF structure (CSD code FIQCEN); b) with 125 µL EtOH ($\eta \approx 0.25 \mu$ L/mg); c) with 125 µL EtOH and ten ZrO₂ beads of 3 mm diameter ($\eta \approx 0.25 \mu$ L/mg); d) with 125 µL MeOH ($\eta \approx 0.25 \mu$ L/mg); e) with 125 µL CH₃CN ($\eta \approx 0.25 \mu$ L/mg); f) with 150 µL DMF ($\eta \approx 0.29 \mu$ L/mg); g) with 150 µL *n*-propanol ($\eta \approx 0.29 \mu$ L/mg); h) with 150 µL *i*-propanol ($\eta \approx 0.29 \mu$ L/mg); i) Cu(OAc)₂·H₂O reactant and j) trimesic acid reactant. All reaction mixtures obtained after 60 minutes at 95 *g*. Formation of HKUST-1 was observed in all cases, but quantitative conversion was observed only with water as the additive (see manuscript, Figure 4).

3.2. Thermal analysis data



Fig. S18. Comparison of TGA thermograms for washed and evacuated samples of ZIF-8 obtained by LA-RAM (75 μ L MeOH, in presence of 5 mol% NH₄NO₃) at 95 *g* for different times (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 mins).



Fig. S19. Comparison of residues from TGA of washed and evacuated samples of ZIF-8 obtained by LA-RAM (75 μ L MeOH, in presence of 5 mol% NH₄NO₃) at 95 *g* for different times (5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 mins). Theoretically expected ZnO residue is indicated by the red dashed line.



Fig. S20. TGA thermogram of a sample of washed and evacuated SOD-Zn(VIm)₂. The residue is 34.6% (expected 32.3 %)



Fig. S21. TGA thermogram of a washed and evacuated sample of ZIF-L. The residue is 28.0% (expected 27.8%).



Fig. S22. TGA thermogram of ZIF-L obtained in 25 gram scale, the compound was washed with water and kept at 70 °C for dryness. The residue is 27.4% (expected 27.8 %).



Fig. S23. TGA thermogram of a washed and evacuated sample of Co-ZIF-L. The residue is 32.7% (calculated 30.6% based on Co_3O_4).



Fig. S24. TGA thermogram of a scale up (5 fold, \approx 1.2 g) reaction of SOD-Zn(**Melm**)₂ after being washed and evacuated, the residue found 35.3% (calc. 35.5%).



Fig. S25. TGA thermogram of washed and evacuated SOD-Zn(EtIm)(MeIm), Exp: 34.9% (Calc: 33.7%)



Fig. S26. TGA thermogram of washed and evacuated SOD-Zn(EtIm)(MeIm) for 5 fold reaction ca. 1 gram, the residue found 34.0% (Calc: 33.7%)



Fig. S27. TGA thermogram of HKUST-1 prepared by LA-RAM with water, after washing evacuation, residue found 34.1% (expected 32.4%).











Fig. S31. FTIR-ATR spectrum of the mixed-ligand MOF SOD-Zn(EtIm)(MeIm), after washing and evacuation.



Fig. S32. FTIR-ATR spectrum of HKUST-1 prepared by LA-RAM using water as the liquid additive.



3.4. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy

Fig. S33. ¹H-NMR spectrum of a washed and evacuated sample of SOD-Zn(**EtIm**)(**MeIm**) prepared by LA-RAM, after dissolution in DCI and DMSO-*d*₆. The integration of signals indicates the stoichiometric ratio **MeIm**:**EtIm** of ca. 50:50.



Fig. S34. ¹H-NMR spectrum of a washed and evacuated sample of SOD-Zn(**EtIm**)(**MeIm**) prepared by ball milling, after dissolution in DCI and DMSO- d_6 . The integration of signals indicates the stoichiometric ratio **MeIm**:**EtIm** of ca. 60:40.

3.5. Solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (ssNMR) spectroscopy



Fig. S35. Solid state ¹⁵N-NMR spectrum of ZIF-8 (black) and SOD-Zn(**EtIm**)(**MeIm**) (blue) products of RAM after washing and evacuation. The ¹⁵N-NMR spectrum of SOD-Zn(**EtIm**)(**MeIm**) is broader and indicated by shoulder for a different Zn-N environment of imidazoles.





Fig. S36. Nitrogen desorption and adsorption isotherms run at 77K for ZIF-8 prepared by LA-RAM.



Fig. S37. Nitrogen desorption and adsorption isotherms run at 77K for SOD-Zn(VIm)₂ prepared by LA-RAM.



Fig. S38. Nitrogen desorption and adsorption isotherms run at 77K for ZIF-L.



Fig. S39. Nitrogen desorption and adsorption isotherms run at 77K for Co-ZIF-L.

References:

 Titi, H. M.; Marrett, J. M.; Dayaker, G.; Arhangelskis, M.; Mottillo, C.; Morris, A. J.; Rachiero, G. P.; Friščić, T.; Rogers, R. D. Hypergolic Zeolitic Imidazolate Frameworks (ZIFs) as Next Generation Solid Fuels: Unlocking the Latent Energetic Behavior of ZIFs. *Sci. Adv.* **2019**, *5*, No. eaav9044.