1	Supplementary Information
2	A Robust Zirconium Amino Acid Metal-Organic Framework for Proton
3	Conduction
4	Sujing Wang et al.
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- 18 Supplementary Figure 1. SEM images of MIP-202(Zr) sample with different magnifications obtained from
- 19 reaction without stirring.



- 22 Supplementary Figure 2. SEM images of MIP-202(Zr) sample with different magnifications obtained from
- reaction with stirring.





31 Supplementary Figure 3 Comparison between the experimental PXRD pattern and the calculated data obtained

³² from the DFT optimized geometry of the MIP-202(Zr) solid.









64 Supplementary Figure 6. Simulated Pore size distribution (PSD) of MIP-202(Zr) with and without the Cl⁻ ions







Supplementary Figure 7. Nitrogen adsorption isotherm comparison of MIP-202(Zr) samples before and after various chemical treatments.



Supplementary Figure 8. Pore size distribution deduced from nitrogen adsorption isotherms for MIP-202(Zr)

86 samples before and after various chemical treatments.



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96 Supplementary Figure 9. Circular dichroism (CD) spectra of (a) pure L- and D-aspartic acid in aqueous solution;

97 (b) sodium salts of pure L- and D-aspartate in aqueous solution; (c) Aqueous solution of MIP-202(Zr) samples

98 digested in NaOH solution.



Supplementary Figure 10. PXRD pattern comparison of MIP-202(Zr) samples (a) before and after various
 chemical treatments; (b) before and after proton conductivity measurement for different durations.



117 Supplementary Figure 11. TGA comparison of MIP-202(Zr) samples after various chemical treatments.



120 Supplementary Figure 12. Nyquist plots of the impedance of the anhydrous MIP-202(Zr) measured at RH = 0%121 and T = a) 363 K b) 358 K c) 353 K and d) 348 K. The filled symbols are the measured impedance data and the 122 empty symbols correspond to the fits of the data using the equivalent circuit model detailed on the left.

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135 Supplementary Figure 13. Bode representation of the conductivity versus the frequency in the logarithm scale for136 (a) the anhydrous and (b) the hydrated MIP-202(Zr).





168 Supplementary Figure 15. Corresponding Arrhenius plot of the conductivity recorded at 95 % RH for the MIP-

169	202(Zr). The	line corresponds to	the linear least-square fit	t.
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183	Supplementary Figure 16 Cluster model represents the atom types in MIP-202(Zr), for which the atomic partial
184	charges are deduced and employed in the MC simulations.



196 Supplementary Figure 17 Distribution of the adsorbed water molecules (purple dots) and Cl⁻ ions (green dots) in

197 MIP-202(Zr) averaged over the MC steps calculated at 363 K.

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205 Supplementary Figure 18 Comparison of the distributions of Cl⁻ ions in anhydrous (gold dots) and hydrated phase

206 (green dots) in MIP-202(Zr) averaged over the MC steps calculated at 363 K.

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Supplementary Figure 19 Distribution of the angles between intramolecular donor-proton vector and the
 intermolecular donor-acceptor vector when the donor-acceptor distances are less than 3.5 Å; averaged over the MC
 configurations generated for the hydrated MIP-202(Zr).





Supplementary Figure 21 Size distribution of clusters that aggregates different donor and acceptor atoms,
calculated solely based on the donor-acceptor distance.

238	We aimed to perform quantitative analysis for the clustering of water molecules within the pores
239	of MIP-202(Zr) based on the definition of a cluster as a continuous network of water molecules
240	interconnected by hydrogen bonds among themselves. The criteria to define the aggregation of the
241	water molecules in clusters were the threshold connectivity distance and the aforementioned angle
242	between the intramolecular O-H vector and the intermolecular O-O vector. The former was defined
243	as 3.2 to accurately represent the first interaction peak of the O-O RDF on liquid water; the latter
244	was kept to 37°.
245	

251 Supplementary Table 1. Comparison of linker availability and MOF preparation condition of reported highly

²⁵² proton conductive MOF ($\geq 10^{-2} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$).

Material	Linker	Reaction Condition
BUT-8(Cr)	HOOC SO ₃ H	solvothermal 190 °C/24 h
	synthetic	
Fe-CAT-5	но он	solvothermal 180 °C/48 h
DOMOE10	commercial 1 g/92 € (TCI)	
PCMOFIU		solvotnermai 150 °C/72 h
$PCMOF2^{1}/_{2}$	PO ₃ HNa	solvothermal
	NaHO ₃ P PO ₃ HNa	120 °C/48 h
	synthetic	1 .1 1
$[(Me_2NH_2)_3(SO_4)]_2[(Zn_2(0x)_3)]$	он	solvothermal 160 °C/96 h
	commercial 50 g/53.1 € (Sigma) so₃H	1) M '
UIO-66-(SO3H)2	ноос но _з соон яуnthetic	1) Microwave 120 °C/40 min 2) RT oxidation
MIL-101-SO ₃ H	SO ₃ Na	solvothermal
	ноос—Соон	190 °C/24 h
TfOH@MIL-101		1) hydrothermal
H2SO4@MIL-101	ноос—соон	220 °C/6 h
H ₃ PO ₄ @MIL-101		2) RT soaking
	commercial 500 g/31 € (Sigma)	
H+@Ni2(dobdc)(H2O)2	ноос соон	1) microwave 110 °C/15 min 2) RT soaking
MID_202(7.v)	commercial 5 g/78 € (TCI)	raflux in water
MIIF - 202(Z/F)		1 h/atm.
	commercial 1 kg/67 € (Fisher)	

Supplementary Table 2. SEM-EDX results of MIP-202(Zr) samples.

Treatment	Cl/Zr ratio (atomic)
none	54/46
Reflux in EtOH	51/49
Reflux in MeOH	51/49
Reflux in water once	49/51
Soxhlet extraction with water	31/69
HCI 1M RT	55/45
HCl pH=3 RT	50/50
KOH pH=10 RT	42/58
KOH pH=12 RT	42/58

267 Supplementary Table 3. Calculated formulas of MIP-202(Zr) samples after different chemical treatments from

EDX and TGA results.

	Calculated formula	Missing linker defect
Boiling MeOH	$[Zr_6O_4(OH)_4(Aspartate)_6(HCl)_{6.24}] \cdot 18H_2O$	-
Boiling water	$[Zr_{6}O_{4}(OH)_{4}(Aspartate)_{5.76}(HCl)_{5.76}(OH)_{0.48}(H_{2}O)_{0.48}] \cdot 15H_{2}O$	4%
HCl 1M RT	$[Zr_{6}O_{4}(OH)_{4}(Aspartate)_{5.42}(HCl)_{7.33}(OH)_{1.16}(H_{2}O)_{1.16}] \cdot 17H_{2}O$	10%
HCl pH=3 RT	$[Zr_{6}O_{4}(OH)_{4}(Aspartate)_{5.59}(HCl)_{6}(OH)_{0.82}(H_{2}O)_{0.82}] \cdot 11H_{2}O$	7%
KOH pH=10 RT	$[Zr_{6}O_{4}(OH)_{4}(Aspartate)_{5.87}(HCl)_{4.34}(OH)_{0.26}(H_{2}O)_{0.26}] \cdot 13H_{2}O$	2%
KOH pH=12 RT	$[Zr_{6}O_{4}(OH)_{4}(Aspartate)_{5.84}(HCl)_{4.34}(OH)_{0.32}(H_{2}O)_{0.32}] \cdot 11H_{2}O$	3%

281	Supplementary Table	 Elemental analysis results 	ilts of MIP-202(Zr) samp	ples after di	ifferent chemical	treatments.
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		Calculated			Found	
	N%	C%	H%	N%	С%	H%
Boiling MeOH	4.16	14.28	3.78	3.61	14.74	4.20
Boiling Water	4.18	14.33	3.62	3.64	13.61	4.07
HCI 1M RT	3.79	12.99	3.79	3.07	12.05	4.30
HCl pH=3 RT	4.21	14.45	3.36	3.78	13.31	3.77
KOH pH=10 RT	4.44	15.23	3.48	3.59	13.66	4.04
KOH pH=12 RT	4.51	15.47	3.34	3.70	13.20	3.89

	T/K	Conductivity	Conductivity
		Bode representation	Nyquist representation
		/S cm ⁻¹	/S cm ⁻¹
-	348	3.8 x 10 ⁻¹³	4.1 x 10 ⁻¹³
	353	9.1 x 10 ⁻¹³	9.5 x 10 ⁻¹³
	358	2.2 x 10 ⁻¹²	2.2 x 10 ⁻¹²
	363	1.0 x 10 ⁻¹¹	9.5 x 10 ⁻¹²
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Supplementary Table 5. Conductivity of the anhydrous MIP-202(Zr) recorded at 0% RH.

T/K	Conductivity	Conductivity
	Bode representation	Nyquist representation
	/S cm ⁻¹	/S cm ⁻¹
 298	2.9 x 10 ⁻³	2.8 x 10 ⁻³
303	3.6 x 10 ⁻³	3.2 x 10 ⁻³
313	4.5 x 10 ⁻³	4.0 x 10 ⁻³
323	5.4 x 10 ⁻³	4.7 x 10 ⁻³
333	6.6 x 10 ⁻³	6.0 x 10 ⁻³
343	8.5 x 10 ⁻³	7.5 x 10 ⁻³
353	1.0 x 10 ⁻²	1.0 x 10 ⁻²
363	1.1 x 10 ⁻²	1.1 x 10 ⁻²

Supplementary Table 6. Conductivity of MIP-202(Zr) recorded at 95% RH.

Atom type	Charge (e)
H1	0.365
H2	0.205
H3	0.300
H4	0.183
C1	0.574
C2	-0.158
C3	-0.285
Ν	-0.295
01	-0.552
02	-0.798
03	-1.031
Cl	-0.700
Zr	2.003

Supplementary Table 7 Atomic partial charges of MIP-202(Zr) atom types.

Atom type Zr O C N Cl
Zr O C N Cl
O C N Cl
C N Cl
N Cl
Cl
Н

Supplementary Table 8 LJ potential parameters for the atoms of MIP-202(Zr).

(* (***)	
ε/k _B (K)	q (e)
- ()	1 < /
03 200	0.0000
95.200	0.0000
0.000	0 5564
0.000	0.5564
0.000	-1 1128
0.000	-1.1120
26.000	0.4000
36.000	-0.4820
0.000	0 9640
0.000	0.2040
	ε/k _B (K) 93.200 0.000 0.000 36.000 0.000

342 Supplementary Table 9. LJ Potential parameters and partial charges for the adsorbate molecules

356 Supplementary Note 1

357 Structure solution

The crystal structure of MIP-202 was solved using our newly developed software based on the 358 AASBU strategy we described elsewhere. The geometry optimizations at the DFT level were 359 performed using the Quickstep module¹ of the CP2K program^{2,3} employing the Gaussian Plane 360 Wave (GPW) formalism. The general gradient approximation (GGA) to the exchange-correlation 361 functional according to Perdew-Burke-Ernzerhof (PBE)⁴ was used in combination of Grimme's 362 DFT-D3 semi-empirical dispersion corrections.^{5,6} Triple- ζ plus valence polarized Gaussian-type 363 basis sets (TZVP-MOLOPT) were considered for all atoms, except for the Zr metal centers, where 364 double- ζ plus valence polarization functions (DZVP-MOLOPT) were employed.⁷ The interactions 365 between core electrons and valence shells of the atoms were described by the pseudopotentials 366 derived by Goedecker, Teter, and Hutter (GTH).⁸⁻¹⁰ The auxiliary plane wave basis sets were 367 truncated at 400 Ry. 368

369 Monte Carlo simulations

The MC calculations were performed in the NVT ensemble at 90 °C with a simulation box of 8 370 conventional unit cells $(2 \times 2 \times 2)$ containing 24 Cl⁻ and loaded with 51 H₂O molecules per unit 371 cell as determined by the thermogravimetric analysis. The interactions between the guest water 372 molecules and the MOF structure were described by a combination of site-to-site Lennard-Jones 373 (LJ) contributions and Coulombic terms. A mixed set of universal force field (UFF)¹¹ and 374 DREIDING force field¹² parameters were adopted to describe the LJ parameters for the atoms in 375 the inorganic and organic part of the framework. The water molecules were described by the 376 TIP4P/2005 potential model¹³ corresponding to a microscopic representation of four LJ sites. 377 Following the treatment adopted in other well-known force fields,^{14,15} the hydrogen atoms of the 378

hydroxyl (µ₃OH group of inorganic nodes) and NH₃ functional groups (in the aspartic acid ligands) 379 interact with the adsorbate water molecules only via the Coulombic potential, consistent with the 380 strategy we validated in previous studies.^{16,17} Short-range dispersion forces were truncated at a 381 cutoff radius of 12 Å while the interactions between unlike force field centers were treated by 382 means of the Lorentz-Berthelot combination rule. The long-range electrostatic interactions were 383 handled using the Ewald summation technique. Hence, 2×10^8 Monte Carlo steps have been used 384 for both equilibration and production runs. These MC calculations were performed using the 385 Complex Adsorption and Diffusion Simulation Suite (CADSS) code.¹⁸ To gain insight into the 386 arrangement of the water guests in MIP-202, the guest-guest and guest-host radial distribution 387 functions (RDFs), the density probability distributions for all of the guests and Cl⁻ ions, and the 388 number of hydrogen bonds, size of the water clusters were calculated by averaging over hundreds 389 of configurations generated during the MC simulations. 390

391 Atomic partial charge calculations

Single point energy calculations and Mulliken population analysis¹⁹ were performed to extract the partial charges for each atom type of the MIP-202(Zr) framework using DMol3 code. These calculations were based on the PBE functional and the double numerical basis set containing polarization functions (DNP).²⁰

396 Pore size distribution calculations

The methodology reported by Gelb and Gubbins²¹ was used to calculate the pore size distributions (PSD) of the MIP-202 structures, as shown in Supplementary Figure 6. In these calculations, the van deer waals parameters of the framework atoms were adopted from the DREIDING¹² force field except for Zr atom, for which the parameters were taken from the niversal force field (UFF)¹¹ as they are not available in the former.

402 Supplementary Note 2

403 The data collection and refinement parameters of MIP-202(Zr) single crystal structure are 404 indicated as following:

405

406	Crystal data	
407	$C_{24}H_{42}N_6O_{32}Zr_6$	$Dx = 1.728 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$
408	$Mr = 1473.95 \text{ g.mol}^{-1}$	Synchrotron radiation, $\lambda = 0.70846$ Å
409	Cubic, Pn-3	$\mu = 1.13 \text{ mm}^{-1}$
410	a = 17.826 (2) Å	T = 100 K
411	$V = 5665 (2) \text{ Å}^3$	Needle, colorless
412	Z = 4	$0.03\times0.01\times0.01~mm$
413	F(000) = 2896	
414		
415	Data collection	
416	PROXIMA 2A - Synchrotron SOLEIL	1509 reflections with $I > 2\sigma(I)$
417	diffractometer	Rint = 0.170
418	Radiation source: synchrotron	θ max = 24.7°, θ min = 1.6°
419	φ scan	$h = -20 \rightarrow 19$
420	36542 measured reflections	$k = -20 \rightarrow 20$
421	1627 independent reflections	$l = -20 \rightarrow 20$
422		
423	Refinement	
424	Refinement on F^2	Hydrogen site location: inferred from
425	Least-squares matrix: full	neighbouring sites
426	$R[F^2 > 2\sigma(F^2)] = 0.140$	H-atom parameters constrained
427	$wR(F^2) = 0.352$	$w = 1/[\sigma^2(F_0^2) + (0.1172P)^2 + 197.4568P]$
428	<i>S</i> = 1.15	where $P = (Fo^2 + 2Fc^2)/3$

 (Δ/σ) max = 0.007

 $\Delta \rho$ max = 2.63 e.Å⁻³

 $\Delta \rho \min = -4.17 \text{ e.} \text{\AA}^{-3}$

- 429 1627 reflections
- 430 91 parameters
- 431 23 restraints
- 432

433 Supplementary Note 3

434 Combined analysis of EDX, TGA and elemental analysis results

In order to calculate the possible amount of structural defect generation and the corresponding
structure formulas of the samples after different chemical treatments, a combined analysis of EDX,
TGA and elemental analysis results was carried out as below:

438 The ideal formula for the MIP-202(Zr) is $[Zr_6O_4(OH)_4(Aspartate)_6(HCl)_6] \cdot nH_2O$. There are three 439 possibilities of structural defects generated: 1) missing linker; 2) missing inorganic SBU and 3) 440 both organic and inorganic moieties are missing. TGA data support that the organic parts are always less or equal to the ideal ratio for all the samples involved, which excludes the second and 441 the third possibilities of defects. In this case, only missing linker defect will be taken into 442 443 consideration for calculation. When one aspartate linker is missing, there must be two pairs of -OH/H₂O to complete the coordination vacancy and balance the charge instead. The amount of 444 trapped HCl also could be varied along treatments under different conditions. Thus the formula of 445 the MIP-202(Zr) sample after treatment turns to be: 446

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$[Zr_6O_4(OH)_4(Aspartate)_x(HCl)_y(OH/H_2O)_{12-2x}]\cdot nH_2O$

in which y could be calculated from EDX result while x and n could be deduced from TGA data.
Then the calculated CHN percentages obtained from the resulting formula could be compared with
the experimental ones in order to check the accuracy of the aforementioned calculation.

For example, the EDX result of the boiling MeOH washed sample is Cl/Zr=51/49 (atomic ratio), thus y=6.24 in this case (Supplementary Table 2). In the corresponding TGA curve (Supplementary Fig. 11a), a weight loss of 15.9% before 100 °C was ascribed to the removal of guest water molecules. The final weight percentage of 35.5% at 800 °C corresponds to the ZrO₂ residue after burning the MOF sample in oxygen. Thus a weight loss of 48.6% was signed to the decomposition of the MOF and releasing the organic part. Thereby, the sample formula was calculated to be $[Zr_6O_4(OH)_4(Aspartate)_6(HCl)_{6.24}] \cdot 18H_2O$. The calculated CHN percentages from this formula are C 14.28%, H 3.78% and N 4.16%, in a good agreement with the experimental data (C 14.74%, H 4.20% and N 3.61%).

460 The same calculation was carried out for all the samples tested and their corresponding formulas are listed in Supplementary Table 3. In general, the calculated CHN percentages are in an 461 acceptable error range in comparison with the experimental ones, suggesting that those calculated 462 463 formulas are reasonable. Refluxing the pristine MIP-202(Zr) sample in water generates 4% of missing linker defect. Acid treatments result in increased amount of missing linker defect. Weak 464 bases play an important role in removing trapped HCl molecules rather than making missing linker 465 466 defect. Therefore, the presence of structural defect and removal of trapped HCl could be responsible for the increased uptakes in their corresponding nitrogen adsorption isotherms when 467 compared with that of the pristine sample. 468

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476 Supplementary Note 4

477 AC impedance measurements

478 Bode and Nyquist representations

In the Bode diagram, the real part of the measured *ac* conductivity ($\sigma_{ac}(\omega,T)$) typically results from the superposition of three contributions: the Maxwell Wagner Sillars response $\sigma_{MWS}(\omega,T)$, the diffusion conductivity $\sigma_{dc}(T)$ and the polarization conductivity $\sigma_{pol}(\omega,T)$ (**Equation 1**):

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$$\sigma_{ac}(\omega,T) = \sigma_{MWS}(\omega,T) + \sigma_{dc}(T) + \sigma_{pol}(\omega,T), \qquad (1)$$

where ω is the electrical field angular frequency and T is the temperature. The diffusion conductivity corresponds to long-range redistribution of charges, i.e. ionic or electron transport, while the polarization contribution arises from local rearrangement of charges or dipoles causing dipolar reorientation and thus resulting in the intrinsic bulk polarization. Maxwell Wagner Sillars (MWS) polarization is due to the accumulation of charges at the sample/electrodes interface and also depends on extrinsic parameters, such as the sample shape.

The Bode plots of the anhydrous and hydrated MIP-202(Zr) recorded at 363 K are illustrated in 489 Supplementary Figs. 13a and 13b, respectively. The conductivity profiles of both solids are in 490 491 sharp contrast, evidencing the water-mediated proton conductor behavior of MIP-202(Zr). The 492 anhydrous material response is mainly dominated by the conductivity increase with frequency corresponding to the polarization contribution, associated with the local rearrangements of NH₃⁺ 493 and/or Cl⁻ species. The low frequency conductivity plateau due to the long-range displacement of 494 charges is only observable for the higher temperature range, with values corresponding to that of 495 an insulator ($\sigma < 10^{-11}$ S.cm⁻¹, Supplementary Table 5). The signal decrease at very low frequency 496 illustrates the Maxwell Wagner Sillars response due to the accumulation of charges at the 497

sample/electrodes interface and consequently indicates the ionic features of the conductivity. Being opposite, the conductivity recorded at 95% RH is drastically different: the apparent conductivity plateau is centered around 10^{-3} - 10^{-2} S.cm⁻¹ (Supplementary Table 6) and is accompanied by the Maxwell Wagner Sillars response responsible for the conductivity falling at lower frequency, whereas the polarization contribution is no more observable in the so-studied frequency range.

For comparison, the Nyquist plot of the anhydrous and hydrated MIP-202(Zr) were also considered. The bulk resistance was deduced directly from the impedance plot extrapolation in the case of the hydrated sample or from the fitting of the Nyquist plot using equivalent circuit models for the anhydrous material (Supplementary Fig. 12). Conductivity (σ /S.cm⁻¹) was calculated considering $\sigma = 1/R \times l/S$, where l and S are the sample thickness (cm) and surface (cm²), respectively, and R is the bulk resistance of the sample (Ω).

510 Conductivity values deduced from the Bode diagram and the Nyquist representation are 511 comparable (Supplementary Tables 5 and 6), supporting that both methods can be equally 512 considered.

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