

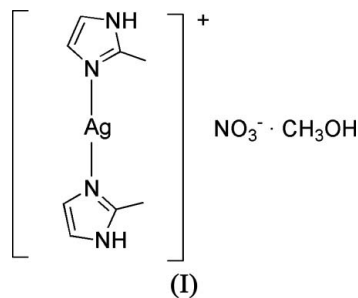
Jin Liu,<sup>a</sup> Xiao-Yu Su,<sup>a</sup> Wen-Hai Wang,<sup>a</sup> Zhi-Hua Mao<sup>b\*</sup> and Ru-Gang Xie<sup>a\*</sup><sup>a</sup>Department of Chemistry, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610064, People's Republic of China, and <sup>b</sup>Centre for Testing and Analysis, Sichuan University, Chengdu 610064, People's Republic of China

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**Key indicators**Single-crystal X-ray study  
 $T = 294$  K  
Mean  $\sigma(\text{C}-\text{C}) = 0.009$  Å  
 $R$  factor = 0.042  
 $wR$  factor = 0.111  
Data-to-parameter ratio = 14.3For details of how these key indicators were automatically derived from the article, see <http://journals.iucr.org/e>.**Bis(2-methyl-1*H*-imidazole)silver(I) nitrate methanol solvate**The title complex,  $[\text{Ag}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_6\text{N}_2)_2]\text{NO}_3 \cdot \text{CH}_3\text{OH}$ , features a mononuclear cation in which the  $\text{Ag}^{\text{I}}$  atom is coordinated in a linear fashion by two N atoms derived from the 2-methylimidazole ligands. The cations, anions and methanol molecules are linked by hydrogen bonds into a chain structure.

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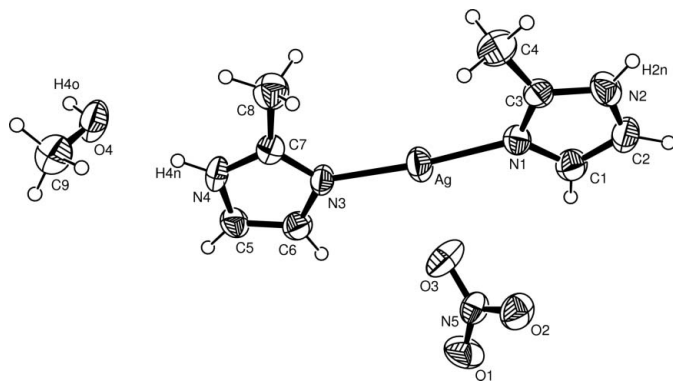
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**Comment**Imidazole and its derivatives have important biochemical functions, *e.g.* histidine as a metal ion-binding site plays an essential role in metalloenzymes (Sundberg *et al.*, 1977). Several supramolecular complexes containing 2-methylimidazole and metal salts have been prepared in recent years. Owing to their interesting architectures, they have potential applications in materials science (Huang *et al.*, 2004, 2006). In this paper, we report the crystal structure of the title compound, (I).The Ag atom of the cation in (I) (Fig. 1) is coordinated by two 2-methylimidazole ligands. The Ag–N bond distances are 2.078 (4) and 2.084 (5) Å, values that agree well with those in related Ag complexes (Wang *et al.*, 2004). The Ag...O3 separation is 2.807 (6) Å, suggesting the existence of a weak interaction between these atoms. This Ag...O interaction could be responsible for the deviation of the N1–Ag–N3 angle of 174.7 (2)° from the ideal value of 180°.

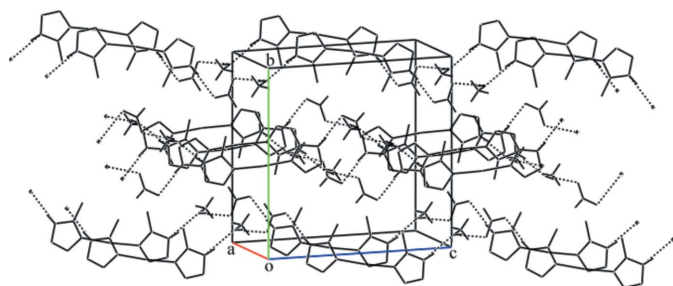
The nitrate anion and methanol molecule play important roles in connecting the cations through hydrogen bonds, which are detailed in Table 1. These lead to the formation of a chain motif, as shown in Fig. 2.

**Experimental**

Silver(I) nitrate (0.5 mmol, 0.085 g) and 2-methylimidazole (1 mmol, 0.082 g) were dissolved in a mixed solvent of ethyl acetate (8 ml) and methanol (8 ml). After allowing the solution to stand in air for 2 d, colourless block-shaped single crystals suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained by slow evaporation of the solvent.



**Figure 1**  
The asymmetric unit of (I), showing 40% probability displacement ellipsoids and the atomic numbering.



**Figure 2**  
The crystal packing in (I), viewed approximately down the *a* axis. Dashed lines indicate hydrogen bonds. H atoms have been omitted for clarity.

**Crystal data**

[Ag(C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>6</sub>N<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>]NO<sub>3</sub>·CH<sub>4</sub>O  
*M<sub>r</sub>* = 366.14  
 Monoclinic, *P*<sub>2</sub><sub>1</sub>/*c*  
*a* = 7.205 (5) Å  
*b* = 13.857 (3) Å  
*c* = 13.978 (4) Å  
 β = 90.74 (4)°  
*V* = 1395.4 (11) Å<sup>3</sup>

*Z* = 4  
*D<sub>x</sub>* = 1.743 Mg m<sup>-3</sup>  
 Mo Kα radiation  
 μ = 1.46 mm<sup>-1</sup>  
*T* = 294 (2) K  
 Block, colourless  
 0.20 × 0.20 × 0.18 mm

**Data collection**

Enraf–Nonius CAD-4  
 diffractometer  
 ω/2θ scans  
 Absorption correction: none  
 2937 measured reflections  
 2545 independent reflections

1380 reflections with *I* > 2σ(*I*)  
*R*<sub>int</sub> = 0.015  
 θ<sub>max</sub> = 25.4°  
 3 standard reflections  
 every 300 reflections  
 intensity decay: 1.1%

**Refinement**

Refinement on *F*<sup>2</sup>  
*R*[*F*<sup>2</sup> > 2σ(*F*<sup>2</sup>)] = 0.042  
*wR*(*F*<sup>2</sup>) = 0.111  
*S* = 0.97  
 2545 reflections  
 178 parameters

H-atom parameters constrained  
*w* = 1/[σ<sup>2</sup>(*F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup>) + (0.0562*P*)<sup>2</sup>]  
 where *P* = (*F*<sub>o</sub><sup>2</sup> + 2*F*<sub>c</sub><sup>2</sup>)/3  
 (Δ/σ)<sub>max</sub> < 0.001  
 Δρ<sub>max</sub> = 0.68 e Å<sup>-3</sup>  
 Δρ<sub>min</sub> = -1.11 e Å<sup>-3</sup>

**Table 1**

Hydrogen-bond geometry (Å, °).

<i>D</i> —H... <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> —H	H... <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> ... <i>A</i>	<i>D</i> —H... <i>A</i>
N2—H2N...O2 <sup>i</sup>	0.86	2.02	2.879 (7)	172
N4—H4N...O4	0.86	1.95	2.795 (7)	169
O4—H4O...O1 <sup>ii</sup>	0.82	2.13	2.943 (7)	170

Symmetry codes: (i)  $-x + 2, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{1}{2}$ ; (ii)  $-x + 1, y + \frac{1}{2}, -z + \frac{3}{2}$

All H atoms were placed in idealized positions, with C—H = 0.93–0.96 Å, N—H = 0.86 Å and O—H = 0.82 Å, and with a common refined *U*<sub>iso</sub>(H) = 0.124 (11) Å<sup>2</sup> for methyl H and 0.044 (6) Å<sup>2</sup> for the remaining H atoms. The deepest hole is located 0.07 Å from atom Ag1.

Data collection: *DIFRAC* (Gabe & White, 1993); cell refinement: *DIFRAC*; data reduction: *NRCVAX* (Gabe *et al.*, 1989); program(s) used to solve structure: *SHELXS97* (Sheldrick, 1997); program(s) used to refine structure: *SHELXL97* (Sheldrick, 1997); molecular graphics: *ORTEP-3 for Windows* (Farrugia, 1997) and *MERCURY* (Version 1.2; Bruno *et al.*, 2002); software used to prepare material for publication: *SHELXL97*.

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