Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Organic Chemistry Frontiers. This journal is © the Partner Organisations 2015

Supplementary Information for

Highly efficient and practical hydrogenation of olefins catalyzed by in

situ generated iron complex catalysts

Na Guo, Meng-Yang Hu, Ye Feng and Shou-Fei Zhu*

State Key Laboratory and Institute of Elemento-Organic Chemistry, Collaborative

Innovation Center of Chemical Science and Engineering, Nankai University, Tianjin

300071, China

Email: sfzhu@nankai.edu.cn

Table of Contents

1. General Information	S2
2. Preparation and Analyses of Fe-L8 Complexes	
3. Typical Procedure of Olefins Hydrogenation	S5
4. ¹ H NMR Spectra and GC Charts of Hydrogenation Products	S6
5. References	S40

1. General Information

a. Materials

All manipulations were carried out using standard Schlenk, high-vacuum and glovebox techniques. THF, Et₂O, DME, 1,4-dioxane, and toluene was distilled from sodium benzophenone ketyl prior to use. FeCl₂ (99.99%) and LiAlH₄ were purchased from Alfa Aesar and Admas, respectively, and used as received. Styrene, 4-methoxystyrene, 1-hexene, 1-octene, vinylcyclohexane, allylbenzene, 2-phenyl-1-propene, 1,1-diphenylethylene, 2-methyl-3-phenyl-1-propene, cyclohexene, 2-octene (Z/E = 1:4), N,N-dimethylallylamine were purchased from Acros, Alfa Aesar, TCI, or Strem. Other alkenes were prepared by Wittig olefination from corresponding ketone. All alkenes were distilled over LiAlH₄ or CaH₂ before use. THF- d_8 was purchased from Aldrich under an atmosphere of argon and stored in glovebox. $FeCl_2-L1$,¹ $Fe(bipy)Cl_2$,² Fe(phen)Cl₂,² FeCl₂-L4,³ FeCl₂-L7,⁴ FeCl₂-L8⁵ and FeCl₂-phosphines⁶ were prepared according to the reported procedures.

b. Analytical Methods

NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker AV 400 spectrometer at 400 MHz (¹H NMR) and 101 MHz (¹³C NMR). Chemical shifts (δ values) were reported in ppm down field from internal Me₄Si (¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR). ³¹P NMR chemical shifts were referenced to an external H₃PO₄ standard. Data for ¹H NMR are recorded as follows: chemical shift (δ , ppm), multiplicity (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, quint = quintuplet, m = multiplet or unresolved, br = broad, coupling constant (s) in Hz, integration). Conversions were assayed by gas-chromatography (GC) by comparison to authentic samples or by ¹H NMR analyses. The GC analyses were performed on an Agilent 7890A instrument equipped with an interCap-1 capillary column (30 × 0.25 × 0.25 cm).

2. Preparation and Analyses of Fe-L8 Complexes

FeCl₂-L8:⁵ FeCl₂ (63 mg, 0.5 mmol, 1 equiv), 6-di-*tert*-butylphosphinomethyl-2, 2'-bipyridine (L8) (157 mg, 0.55 mmol, 1.1 equiv) and THF (5 mL) were added to a 10 mL Schlenk tube filled with N₂. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h and then the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was redissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (2 mL), then Et₂O (10 mL) was added to the solution and solids precipitated. After filtered, the residue was washed with Et₂O and dried under vacuum to afford the red solids (175 mg, 79% yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -14.82 (s, 1H), 0.87 (s, 1H), 9.29 (s, 1H), 14.05 (s, 18H), 24.51 (s, 2H), 52.65 (s, 1H), 53.01 (s, 1H), 77.25 (s, 1H), 80.75 (s, 1H). **Fe-L8-(H)₂:** In an argon filled glovebox, to the mixture of FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol) and LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 1 mL THF-*d*₈ was introduced and the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 min. Then the resulting dark red solution was detected through NMR. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, THF-*d*₈) δ -18.92 (d, *J*_{PH} = 20 Hz, 2H), 1.08 (d, *J*_{PH} = 8.0 Hz, 18H), 3.29 (br, 2H), 6.0 (br, 1H), 6.23 (br, 1H), 6.41 (br, 1H), 6.72 (br, 1H), 6.88 (m, 2H), 9.73 (br, 1H). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, THF-*d*₈) δ 134.06. ²⁷Al NMR(104 MHz, THF-*d*₈) δ 99.32 (br).

³¹P NMR of Fe-L8-(H)₂



²⁷Al NMR of Fe-L8-(H)₂



3. Typical Procedure of Olefins Hydrogenation



To a high-pressure autoclave charged with FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol) and a stir bar, 1 mL of the THF was introduced. The mixture was stirred under an argon atmosphere at ambient temperature for 1 min to generate a black-red solution. Alkene (5 mmol) was then added into the resulted solution. The autoclave was purged four times with hydrogen and finally pressurized to 30 atm. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until the consumption of hydrogen stopped (judged by the pressure reduction). The autoclave was depressurized. The residue was dissolved in Et₂O and filtered through a short plug of celite. All hydrogenation products are known, identified by GC-MS and ¹H NMR, and the conversions were determined by ¹H NMR and GC analysis. For the hydrogenation of styrene, the quantitative yield was observed by GC method with dodecane as an internal standard. For other substrates, the reactions are very clean, and only desired products are determined through GC and ¹H NMR analyses of crude reaction mixtures.

entry	Time (min)	Conv. (%)	$TOF(h^{-1})$
1	1	62.9	37,740
2	2	86.6	25,980
3	3	99.96	19,992

Table S1 The TOFs of the hydrogenation of styrene at various conversion states

4.¹H NMR Spectra and GC Charts of Hydrogenation Products

Ethylbenzene (from styrene)

Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), styrene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 5 min, 100% conversion to ethylbenzene. The quantitative yield was observed by GC method with dodecane as an internal standard. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.24 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H, CH₃), 2.65 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H, CH₂), 7.14-7.23 (m, 3H, Ar-H), 7.25-7.30 (m, 2H, Ar-H).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 5.545 min for styrene and t = 5.174 min for ethylbenzene.





1-Ethyl-4-methylbenzene (from 4-methylstyrene)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 4-methylstyrene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 10 min, 100% conversion to 1-ethyl-4-methylbenzene. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.22 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 2.32 (s, 3H; CH₃), 2.62 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H; CH₂), 7.07-7.11 (m, 4H; Ar-H).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 11.505 min for 4-methylstyrene and t = 10.430 min for 1-ethyl-4-methylbenzene.





1-Ethyl-3-methylbenzene (from 3-methylstyrene)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 3-methylstyrene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 15 min, 100% conversion to 1-ethyl-3-methylbenzene. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.23 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 2.33 (s, 3H; CH₃), 2.62 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H; CH₂), 7.01-7.15 (m, 3H; Ar-H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H; Ar-H).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 7.206 min for 3-methylstyrene and t = 6.701 min for 1-ethyl-3-methylbenzene.





1-Ethyl-2-methylbenzene (from 2-methylstyrene)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 2-methylstyrene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 15 min, 100% conversion to 1-ethyl-2-methylbenzene. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.21 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 2.30 (s, 3H; CH₃), 2.63 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H; CH₂), 7.05-7,15 (m, 4H; Ar-H).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 7.555 min for 2-methylstyrene and t = 7.340 min for 1-ethyl-2-methylbenzene.





1-tert-Butyl-4-ethylbenzene (from 4-tert-butylstyrene)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 4-*tert*-butylstyrene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 5 min, 100% conversion to 1-*tert*-butyl-4-ethylbenzene. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.24 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 1.31 (s, 9H; CH₃), 2.63 (q, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H; CH₂), 7.14 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H; Ar-H), 7.32 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H; Ar-H).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 16.343 min for 4-*tert*-butylstyrene and t = 15.581 min for 1-*tert*-butyl-4-ethylbenzene.





1-Ethyl-4-methoxybenzene (from 4-methoxystyrene)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 4-methoxystyrene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 3 min, 100% conversion to 1-ethyl-4-methoxybenzene. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.21 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 2.60 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H; CH₂), 3.78 (s, 3H; CH₃), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H; Ar-H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H; Ar-H).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 12.153 min for 4-methoxystyrene and t = 11.652 min for 1-ethyl-4-methoxybenzene.





1-Chloro-4-ethylbenzene (from 4-chlorostyrene)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, $FeCl_2$ -L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 4-chlorostyrene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 6 h, 98% conversion to 1-chloro-4-ethylbenzene. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.21 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 2.62 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H; CH₂), 7.11-7.22 (m, 2H; Ar), 7.23-7.25 (m, 2H; Ar).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 9.264 min for 4-chlorostyrene and t = 8.658 min for 1-chloro-4-ethylbenzene.





n-Hexane (from 1-hexene)

Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 1-hexene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 20 min, 100% conversion to *n*-hexane. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6H; CH₃), 1.23-1.30 (m, 8H; CH₂).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 45 °C holds for 10 min, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 6.974 min for 1-hexene and t = 7.262 min for *n*-hexane.





n-Octane (from 1-octene)

 \sim

Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 1-octene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 30 min, 96% conversion to *n*-octane. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6H; CH₃), 1.24-1.30 (m, 12H; CH₂).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 7.392 min for 1-octene, t = 7.547 min for *n*-octane and t = 7.680 min for isomer of 1-octene .





Ethylcyclohexane (from vinylcyclohexane)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), vinylcyclohexane (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 20 min, 100% conversion to ethylcyclohexane. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.83-0.89 (m, 5H; CH₃, CH₂), 1.13-1.22 (m, 6H; CH₂), 1.65-1.73 (m, 5H; CH₂, CH).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 7.889 min for vinylcyclohexane and t = 8.024 min for ethylcyclohexane.





Peak	RetTime	Туре	Width	Area	Height	Area
#	[min]		[min]	[pA*s]	[pA]	8
1	8.024	BB	0.0382	2054.60449	850.40735	1.000e2

Propylbenzene (from allylbenzene)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), allylbenzene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, 15 min, 100% conversion to propylbenzene. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.94 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 1.62-1.68 (m, 2H; CH₂), 2.58 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H; CH₂), 7.15-7.18 (m, 3H; Ar-H), 7.25-7.29 (m, 2H; Ar-H).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 6.580 min for allylbenzene and t = 6.825 min for propylbenzene.





 Peak RetTime Type
 Width
 Area
 Height
 Area

 # [min]
 [min]
 [pA*s]
 [pA]
 %

 ----|-----|

 -----|

 1
 6.825
 BB
 0.0654
 3.54163e4
 6734.84131
 1.000e2

Isopropylbenzene (from 2-phenyl-1-propene)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 2-phenyl-1-propene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, 50 °C, 1 h, 100% conversion to isopropylbenzene. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.25 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6H; CH₃), 2.86-2.95 (m, 1 H; CH), 7.14-7.32 (m, 5 H; Ar-H).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 10.814 min for 2-phenyl-1-propene and t = 8.879 min for isopropylbenzene.





Isobutylbenzene (from 2-methyl-3-phenyl-1-propene)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 2-methyl-3-phenyl-1-propene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 1.5 h, 100% conversion to isobutylbenzene. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.90 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 6H; CH₃), 1.81-1.89 (m, 1H; CH), 2.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H; CH₂), 7.13-7.19 (m, 3H; Ar-H), 7.23-7.29 (m, 2H; Ar-H).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 10.390 min for 2-methyl-3-phenyl-1-propene and t = 10.219 min for isobutylbenzene.







Ethane-1,1-diyldibenzene (from 1,1-diphenylethylene)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 1,1-diphenylethylene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, 2 h, 50 °C, rt, 78% conversion to ethane-1,1-diyldibenzene. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.64 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 4.15 (q, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H; CH), 7.17-7.33 (m, 10H; Ar-H)



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 16.838 min for 1,1-diphenylethylene and t = 16.542 min for ethane-1,1-diyldibenzene.





Cyclohexane (from cyclohexene)

Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), cyclohexene (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, 50 °C, 1 h, 40% conversion to cyclohexane. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.43 (s, 12 H).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C holds for 10 min, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 9.182 min for cyclohexene and t = 8.700 min for cyclohexane





n-Octene (from 2-octene)

 $\frown \frown \frown \frown$

Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), 2-octene (Z/E = 1:4, 5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, 50 °C, 5 h, 80% conversion to *n*-octane. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 6H; CH₃), 1.24-1.32 (m, 12 H; CH₂).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C ramps 10 °C/min to 100 °C, ramps 3 °C/min to 120 °C, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 7.504 min and t = 7.666 min for 2-octene (Z/E mixture) and t = 7.448 min for *n*-octane and isomers of the substrate.





N,*N*-dimethyl-*n*-propylamine (from *N*,*N*-dimethylallylamine)



Reaction conditions: general procedure, FeCl₂-L8 (0.005 mmol), LiAlH₄ (0.025 mmol), N,N-dimethylallylamine (5 mmol), 1 mL THF, 30 atm H₂, rt, 6 h, 100% conversion to N,N-dimethyl-*n*-propylamine. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.90 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 3H; CH₃), 1.42-1.54 (m, 2H; CH₂), 2.19-2.23 (m, 8H; CH₃ + CH₂).



GC conditions: interCap-1 column, injector temp. 230 °C, detector temp. 250 °C, 50 °C holds for 10 min, ramps 10 °C/min to 300 °C, N₂ fluency 1.0 mL/min. t = 7.948 min for *N*,*N*-dimethylallylamine and t = 8.195 min for *N*,*N*-dimethyl-*n*-propylamine.





5. References:

- 1 B. L. Small, M. Brookhart and A. M. A. Bennett, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1998, 120, 4049.
- 2 G. Ricci, D. Morganti, A. Sommazzi, R. Santi and F. Masi, J. Mol. Catal. A: Chem., 2003, 204–205, 287.
- 3 (a) V. C. Gibson, R. K. O'Reilly, D. F. Wass, A. J. P. White and D. J. Williams, *Dalton Trans.*, 2003, 2824; (b) J. Y. Wu, B. Moreau and T. Ritter, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2009, 131, 12915.
- 4 J. Zhang, M. Gandelman, D. Herrman, G. Leitus, L. J. W. Shimon, Y. Ben-David and D. Milstein, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 2006, **359**, 1955.
- 5 (a) L. Zhang, D. Peng, X. Leng and Z. Huang, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2013, 52, 3676;
 (b) T. Zell, R. Langer, M. A. Iron, L. Konstantinovski, L. J. W. Shimon, Y. Diskin-Posner, G. Leitus, E. Balaraman, Y. Ben-David and D. Milstein, *Inorg. Chem.*, 2013, 52, 9636.
- 6 D. J. Evans, P. B. Hitchcock, G. J. Leigh, B. K. Nicholson, A. C. Niedwieski, F. S. Nunes and J. F. Soares, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 2001, **319**, 147.