Supporting Information:

Ligand-Metal Secondary Interaction in Phosphine-Sulfonate Palladium and Nickel Catalyzed Ethylene (Co)Polymerization

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1. Experimental

General

All manipulations of air and moisture sensitive materials were performed under a dry N₂ atmosphere using a glove-box or standard Schlenk techniques. Ethylene gas was purified by passing through an Agilent oxygen/moisture trap. Solvents (tetrahydrofuran, toluene, hexanes) and deuterated solvents were dried before use. Other chemicals were purchased from J&K Chemical, Energy Chemical and Nine Ding Chemistry Shanghai Co. Ltd. and were used as received. *N*-(2-bromophenyl) carbazole,¹ 1-(2-bromophenyl)-2,5-Pd(TMEDA)Me₂,³ dimethylpyrrole,² PdMeCl(COD)⁴ and trans-[(PPh₃)₂Ni(Cl)Ph]⁵ were prepared using literature mehods. Nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H, ¹³C and ³¹P NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were referenced to residual deuterated solvent resonance or tetramethylsilane signal (0 ppm). ³¹P NMR chemical shifts were referenced to an external 85% H₃PO₄ (aq.) standard. Elemental analyses were performed using a VarioELIII. Mass spectra were recorded on a Thermo LTQ Orbitrap XL (ESI⁺). X-ray Diffraction data were collected at 298(2) K on a Bruker Smart CCD area detector with graphitemonochromated Mo K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). Molecular weight and molecular weight distribution of the polymer were determined by gel permeation chromatography (GPC) with a PL-220 equipped with two Agilent PLgel Olexis columns at 150 °C using o-dichlorobenzene as a solvent, and the calibration was made using polystyrene standard and are corrected for linear polyethylene by universal calibration using the Mark–Houwink parameters of Rudin: $K = 1.75 \times$ 10^{-2} cm³/g and R = 0.67 for polystyrene and K = 5.90×10^{-2} cm³/g and R = 0.69 for polyethylene.⁶

Preparation of L1. At 0 °C, ⁿBuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 8 mL, 20 mmol) was added slowly to a solution of anhydrous benzenesulfonic acid (1.58 g, 10 mmol) in THF (25 mL). The suspension was stirred for 1 h before the addition of a solution of PhPCl₂ (0.87 mL, 20.0 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at -78 °C. *N*-(2-bromophenyl) carbazole (5.06 g, 20 mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (40 mL) under nitrogen and cooled to -78 °C. *ⁿ*BuLi (2.5 M in hexanes, 8 mL, 20 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting solution was stirred for 1 h at -78 °C before added

into the solution of lithium [chloro(phenyl)phosphino]benzenesulfonate. The mixture was stirred for 1 h at -78 °C, and warmed room temperature and stirred for 24 h. The volatiles were removed, and the residue was taken up in distilled water. The mixture was acidified with concentrated HCl/H2O solution, and extracted three times with CH₂Cl₂. The extracts were combined, dried over MgSO₄, and concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂/ether at room temperature. The resulting white powder was filtered and dried to give the desired ligand L1. Yield: 82%. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.38 (t, J = 6 Hz, 1H), 8.00 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.90-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.83 (d, J = 4 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.68 (m, 4H), 7.57-7.55 (m, 1H), 7.34 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.23 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.13-7.05 (m, 4H), 6.94 (br, 2H), 6.63 (d, J = 8Hz, 1H). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 3.70. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 140.28 (d, J = 5 Hz), 139.97 (s), 136.44 (s), 136.35 (s), 135.93 (d, J = 2 Hz), 135.51 (d, J = 3 Hz), 134.58 (s), 134.45 (s), 133.61 (d, J = 2 Hz), 132.42 (s), 132.30 (s), 130.74 (s), 130.65 (s), 130.27 (s), 130.14 (s), 129.72 (s), 129.58 (s), 129.54 (s), 129.41 (s), 129.34 (s), 127.64 (s), 125.58 (s), 123.46 (s), 123.39 (s), 121.55 (s), 120.77 (s), 120.27 (s), 120.01 (s), 111.37 (d, J = 1 Hz), 109.51 (s). ESI-MS (m/z): Anal. Calcd. for C₃₀H₂₂NO₃PS: 507.1058, found: 508.1131 ([M+H]+).

Preparation of L2. At 0 °C, "BuLi (2.5 M, 20 mL, 50 mmol) was slowly added to a solution of benzenesulfonic acid (3.95g, 25 mmol) in THF (100 mL). The suspension was stirred for 1 h before the addition of a solution of PhPCl₂ (3.4 mL, 25 mmol) in THF (20 mL) at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred for another 2 h at 25 °C to yield lithium [chloro(phenyl)phosphino]benzenesulfonate. 1-(2-Bromophenyl)-2,5-dimethylpyrrole (6.25g, 25mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (100 mL) under nitrogen. After cooling to -78 °C, "BuLi (2.5 M in hexane, 4 mL, 10 mmol) was added dropwise. The resulting solution was stirred for 1 h at -78 °C before adding to the lithium [chloro(phenyl)phosphino]benzenesulfonate at -78 °C. The mixture was stirred for another 24h at room temperature. THF was removed under vacuum, and the residue was washed with CH₂Cl₂ and ether. The product was sensitive to air, and was used directly for subsequent reactions. Yield: 69%. ¹H NMR (400MHz, DMSO-d⁶): δ 7.88 (br, 1H), 7.30-7.26 (m, 1H), 7.17 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.11-6.98 (m, 8H), 6.95-6.93 (m, 3H), 5.55 (s, 2H), 1.63 (s, 2H), 1.53 (s, 2H). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, DMSO-d⁶): -18.71. ¹³C NMR (162 MHz, DMSO-d⁶): 152.50 (d, J = 26 Hz), 148.13 (s), 141.83 (d, J = 25Hz), 140.47 (d, J = 20 Hz), 138.61 (d, J = 17 Hz), 134.97 (s), 134.73 (s), 134.39 (s),

129.42 (s), 129.14 (s), 128.93 (s), 128.64 (s), 128.59 (s), 128.11 (s), 128.05 (s), 127.77 (s), 127.56 (s), 125.60 (s), 105.31 (d, J = 10 Hz), 13.60 (d, J = 7 Hz), 12.49 (d, J = 2 Hz).MALDI-TOF-MS (m/z): Anal. Calcd. for C₂₄H₂₁NO₃PSLi: 441.1140, found: 441.1260.

Preparation of Pd1. Ligand L1 (0.5 mmol) was suspended in 1,4-dioxane (4 mL). Pd(TMEDA)Me₂ (132 mg, 1.05 eq) was added at room temperature. Then the solution was stirred at -5 °C for 8 h and the solution became turbid. The resulting white precipitate was filtered, washed with diethyl ether and dried under reduced pressure. The solid was dissolved in DMSO (4 mL) at room temperature. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure at 80 °C. After the removing DMSO, the resulting solid was dispersed in diethyl ether, and isolated by filtration to yield an off-white solid. Yield: 75%. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (br, 1H), 8.01 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (br, 1H), 7.70-7.52 (m, 3H), 7.44-7.33 (m, 7H), 7.25-7.13 (m, 4H), 6.88-6.86 (m, 1H), 6.69 (br, 1H), 2.67 (s, 6H), -0.22 (s, 3H). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 23.52. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 143.13 (d, J = 5 Hz), 142.70 (s), 142.24 (s), 134.59 (d, J = 12 Hz), 134.09 (d, J = 7 Hz), 133.26 (s), 132.10 (d, J = 4 Hz), 131.09 (s), 130.77 (s), 129.84 (s), 129.18 (s), 128.61 (s), 128.54 (s), 128.44 (s), 128.41 (s), 128.37 (s), 126.49 (s), 125.96 (s), 125.86 (s), 125.44 (s), 124.36 (d, J = 2 Hz), 124.02 (s), 120.30 (s), 120.23(s), 120.15 (s), 120.09 (s), 120.01 (s), 112.65 (d, J = 10 Hz), 111.08 (s), 41.11 (s), 0.13 (s).Anal. Calcd. for C₃₃H₃₀NO₄PPdS₂: C, 56.13; H, 4.28; N, 1.98 Found: C, 56.02; H, 4.33; N, 2.03.

Preparation of Ni1. A suspension of ligand L1 (0.5 mmol) and Na₂CO₃ (159mg, 1.5 mmol) in 15 ml CH₂Cl₂ was stirred for 8 h at room temperature. Solid *trans*-[(PPh₃)₂Ni(Cl)Ph] (347mg, 0.5 mmol) was added in small portions. The reaction was stirred for 8 h at room temperature. The resulting orange mixture was filtered over Celite and the volatiles were removed under vacuum. Toluene (3 mL) was added to the orange residue to afford a slurry, then hexanes (20 mL) were added and the mixture was stirred for 2 h. The precipitate was recovered by filtration, washed with hexanes (3 x 10 ml) and dried under vacuum to yield an off-white solid. Yield: 62%. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.19 (dd, J = 12 Hz, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.84 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.70-7.52 (m, 5H), 7.48-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.39-7.28 (m, 12H), 7.19-7.09 (m, 6H), 7.07-6.94 (m, 5H), 6.69-6.63 (m, 2H), 6.56 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 2H), 6.44 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.37 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1

1H), 6.24 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 13.90 (d, J = 282 Hz), -0.46 (d, J = 282 Hz). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, *d*⁶-DMSO) δ 141.51 (s), 141.36 (d, J = 1Hz), 140.13 (s), 134.55 (s), 134.16 (s), 133.94 (s), 133.18 (s), 133.03 (s), 131.99 (s), 131.43 (d, J = 9 Hz), 129.43 (s), 129.26 (s), 128.87 (s), 128.83 (s), 128.76 (s), 128.64 (s), 128.61 (s), 128.58 (s), 128.50 (s), 128.34 (s), 128.29 (s), 128.23 (s), 128.14 (s), 128.02 (d, J = 2Hz), 127.95 (s), 127.65 (s), 127.54 (d, J = 1Hz), 127.36 (s), 126.62 (s), 125.57 (s), 125.25 (s), 124.87 (s), 122.92 (s), 122.46 (s), 119.56 (s), 119.35 (s), 119.21 (s), 119.02 (s), 113.60 (d, J = 5Hz), 110.20 (s). Anal. Calcd. for C₅₄H₄₁NO₃P₂NiS: C, 71.70; H, 4.57; N, 1.55. Found: C, 71.62; H, 4.68; N, 1.52.

Preparation of Pd2. At room temperature, a 25 mL Schlenk tube was charged with 0.5 mmol PdMeCl(COD), 0.5 mmol L2 and 20 mL CH₂Cl₂. The solution was stirred for 10 min, and 156 mg (2.0 mmol, 2 equiv) of DMSO was added. The solution was further stirred for 10 min and was filtered through a syringe filter. The solution was evaporated, and the resulting solid was washed with ether. The solid was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL), and 3 equiv. of AgBF₄ was added. The solution was stirred for 10 min and was filtered through a syringe filter. The solvent was removed. The resulting solid was washed with ether and hexanes, and dried under vacuum to give Pd2. Yield: 52%. ¹H NMR (400MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.14 (br, 1H), 7.56-7.53 (m, 1H), 7.45-7.36 (m, 7H), 7.17 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.52-6.47 (m, 1H), 6.08 (br, 1H), 5.66 (br, 1H), 2.68 (br, 6H), 2.38 (br, 3H), 1.36 (br, 3H), 0.51 (br, 3H). ³¹P NMR (162 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 21.21. ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, d⁶-DMSO): 148.96 (d, J = 14 Hz), 142.52(d, J = 9 Hz), 135.94 (d, J = 7 Hz), 134.62 (s), 134.50 (s), 134.01 (d, J = 2 Hz), 131.89 (d, J = 6 Hz), 131.81 (s), 130.86 (d, J = 1 Hz), 130.40 (s), 129.62 (s), 129.52 (s), 129.34 (s), 129.09 (s), 128.59 (s), 128.33 (s), 128.22 (s), 128.00 (d, J = 8 Hz), 127.23 (d, J = 8 Hz), 107.27 (s), 106.63 (s), 40.43 (s), 14.31 (s), 13.06 (s). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₇H₃₀NO₄PPdS₂: C, 51.15; H, 4.77; N, 2.21 Found: C, 51.09; H, 4.85; N, 2.17.

Procedure for ethylene homopolymerization. Polymerizations were performed in a Biotage Endeavor housed in a nitrogen-filled glovebox with eight parallel reactors and an overhead stirrer. In a typical experiment, the reaction vessels were charged with desired amount of catalyst in DCM (0.2 mL) and toluene (3

mL). The vessel was heated to 80 °C and allowed to equilibrate for 5 min. With rapid stirring, the vessel was pressurized and maintained at 8.0 atm of ethylene. After 1h, the pressure vessel was vented and the polymer was precipitated in methanol and dried at 50 °C for 24 h under vacuum. Polymer-branching (B) density was determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy. B = $1000 \times (2/3) \times (I_{CH3})/(I_{CH2+CH}+I_{CH3})$. CH₃ (m, 0.77–0.95 ppm); CH₂ and CH (m, ~1.0–1.45 ppm).. For the low molecular weight polymers and oligomers, chain end groups were excluded. The branches were calculated according to the following equation.^{7,8}

$$\frac{Branches}{1000C} = \frac{2 \times 1000 \times I_{CH}}{\frac{2 \times I_{CH_3}}{3} + I_{CH_2 + CH} + I_{CH} + I_{CH_2, allyl} + 2 \times (I_{CH_2, vinyl} + I_{CH_2, vinylene})}$$

$$I_{CH} = \frac{I_{CH_3}}{3} - \frac{I_{CH_2, vinyl}}{2} - I_{CH_2, vinylene}$$

Procedure for copolymerization of ethylene with polar comonomers. In a typical experiment, the reaction vessels were charged with desired amount of catalyst and comonomer (for MA and AA, 20 mg of BHT, i.e. butylated hydroxytoluene, was added) in DCM (0.2 mL) and toluene (3 mL). The vessels were heated to 80 °C and allowed to equilibrate for 5 min. With rapid stirring, the vessel was pressurized and maintained at 8.0 atm of ethylene. After 1 h, the pressure vessel was vented and the polymer was precipitated in ethanol and dried at 50 °C for 24 h under vacuum. The incorporation ratio was calculated by ¹H NMR analysis.

2. X-ray Crystallographic Studies



Table S1 Crys	stal data an	d structure re	finement for	Pd1
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Entry	Pd1
Formula	C ₃₃ H ₃₀ N O ₄ P Pd S ₂
Formula weight	706.07
Temperature[K]	298(2)
λ (Mo-K α)[Å]	0.71073
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	P -1
a[Å]	10.1100(9)
b[Å]	12.7449(11)
c[Å]	14.2331(12)
α[°]	85.456(2)
β[°]	75.6790(10)
γ[°]	87.617(3)
Volume[Å ³]	1770.9(3)
Z	2
$D(calc)[g \cdot cm^{-3}]$	1.324
$\mu[mm^{-1}]$	0.721
F(000)	720
θ min-max (°)	2.238 -27.095
h	-12→12
k	-15→10
l	-16→16
Reflections collected	8768
Reflections unique	6129
R(int)	0.0864
Data / restraints / parameters	6129 /0 / 382
Final D indiana [I>2-(I)]	$R_1 = 0.0864$
Final K indices [1~20(1)]	$wR_2 = 0.1419$
R indices (all data)	$R_1 = 0.1870$
	$wR_2 = 0.1555$
GOF on F ²	1.062

3. NMR spectra of ligands and catalysts.



Figure S2 ³¹P NMR of L1.







Figure S4 ESI-MS of L1.



10 20 Ó -10 -20 -30 60 -40 -90 50 40 30 -50 -60 -70 -80

Figure S6 ³¹P NMR of L2-Li.

70















Figure S10 ³¹P NMR of Pd1.



Figure S12 ¹H NMR of Ni1.



Figure S14 ¹³C NMR of Ni1.









Figure S16 ³¹P NMR of Pd2.



Figure S17 ¹³C NMR of Pd2.

4. ¹H NMR Spectra of Polymers



Figure S19 ¹H NMR of the polymer (table 1, entry 2).













Figure S23 ¹H NMR of the polymer (table 1, entry 8).



Figure S24 ¹H NMR of the copolymer (table 2, entry 1).



Figure S25 ¹H NMR of the copolymer (table 2, entry 2).



Figure S26 ¹H NMR of the copolymer (table 2, entry 3).



Figure S27 ¹H NMR of the copolymer (table 2, entry 4).



Figure S28 ¹H NMR of the copolymer (table 2, entry 5).



Figure S29 ¹H NMR of the copolymer (table 2, entry 6).



Figure S30 ¹H NMR of the copolymer (table 2, entry 7).

















5. GPC of Polymers





Figure S35 GPC of the polymer (table 1, entry 1).

Figure S36 GPC of the polymer (table 1, entry 2).







Figure S39 GPC of the polymer (table 1, entry 6).





Figure S41 GPC of the polymer (table 2, entry 2).



Figure S42 GPC of the polymer (table 2, entry 3).





Figure S44 GPC of the polymer (table 2, entry 5).



Figure S45 GPC of the polymer (table 2, entry 6).



Figure S46 GPC of the polymer (table 2, entry 7).



Figure S47 GPC of the polymer (table 2, entry 8).



Figure S48 GPC of the polymer (table 2, entry 9).



Figure S49 GPC of the polymer (table 2, entry 10).



Figure S50 GPC of the polymer (table 2, entry 11).

6. DSC of Polymers



Figure S52 DSC of the polymer (table 1, entry 2).



Figure S53 DSC of the polymer (table 1, entry 3).



Figure S54 DSC of the polymer (table 1, entry 4).



Figure S56 DSC of the polymer (table 1, entry 6).



Figure S58 DSC of the polymer (table 1, entry 8).







Figure S62 DSC of the polymer (table 2, entry 4).



Figure S64 DSC of the polymer (table 2, entry 6).



Figure S66 DSC of the polymer (table 2, entry 8).



Figure S68 DSC of the polymer (table 2, entry 10).



Figure S69 DSC of the polymer (table 2, entry 11).

7. References

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