Supporting Information

Iridium(I) complexes with bidentate NHC ligands as catalysts for dehydrogenative directed C-H silylation

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1. General remarks

Unless indicated otherwise, all reactions requiring an inert atmosphere set up in an argon-filled glove box. All solvents were distilled and degassed prior to use. $[Ir(cod)Cl]_2$ (CAS: 12148-71-9) was purchased from Fluorochem. Every silanes was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Several starting materials were synthesized according to modified literature procedures (*vide infra*). Silica gel chromatography was performed with Sigma-Aldrich's silica gel high-purity grade, pore size 60Å, 230-400 mesh particle size, 40-63 µm particle size. Products were visualized using a 254 nm UV lamp on TLC plates unless otherwise noted. NMR spectra were acquired on 400 MHz Bruker instruments at the Laboratoire de Chimie de Coordination, Toulouse. Chemicals shifts were reported relative to residual solvent peaks (CDCl₃ = 7.26 ppm for ¹H and 77.2 ppm for ¹³C; C₆D₆ = 7.16 ppm for ¹H and 128.1 ppm for ¹³C). Coupling constants are reported in Hertz (Hz). Abbreviations are used as follows: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, m = multiplet, dd = doublet of doublet, ddd = doublet of doublet, dt = doublet of triplet, td = triplet of doublet, br = broad. NMR yields were determined by ¹H NMR spectroscopy with mesitylene as an internal standard unless otherwise noted. Mass spectrometric analyses and elemental analyses were performed at Institut de Chimie de Toulouse. Single-crystal X-ray diffraction measurements were recorded on a Bruker Kappa APEX II diffractometer.

2. Synthesis of Ir-NHC complexes



Figure S1. Synthesis of complexes 2a-2c.

In a dry round-bottomed flask were placed an equivalence of corresponding silver complex^[1] (which is considered as a dimer), $[Ir(cod)Cl]_2$ (1 equiv.) and CH_2Cl_2 (0.0077 M). The mixture was stirred for 24 h under Ar atmosphere excluding from the light. Next, CH_2Cl_2 was removed under reduced pressure. Then, acetone was added, and the mixture was filtered through a celite pad using acetone as eluent. Then the filtrate was re-filtered over a microfilter. Then acetone was evaporated, and the complex was washed twice with pentane. The titled complex was obtained after removal of volatiles.



Complex **2a** (orange solid, 87% yield). ¹**H NMR** (400MHz, C₆D₆) δ 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.70 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 5.77 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 5.02 (dd, J = 9.6, 6.3 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (td, J = 7.6, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (td, J = 7.8, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (td, J = 6.9, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (ddd, J = 13.5, 9.6, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (ddd, J = 13.6, 9.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 2.22 – 2.16

(m, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.95 – 1.85 (m, 1H), 1.77 – 1.67 (m, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.34 – 1.12 (m, 2H), 1.05 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 171.8, 171.7, 139.1, 136.9, 136.3, 134.4, 129.2, 128.8, 122.2, 121.2, 85.0, 83.6, 66.7, 51.5, 48.6, 48.0, 36.3, 33.1, 30.2, 28.1, 25.7, 23.3, 22.7, 21.0, 19.1, 17.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₆H₃₆N₂O₂Ir [M+H]⁺: *m/z* 601.2406 found 601.2408. **Optical rotation** : $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -36$ (CH₂Cl₂, 1.10⁻³ mol.L⁻¹).



Complex **2b** (orange solid, 79 % yield). ¹**H NMR** (400MHz, C₆D₆) δ 6.71 (s, 1H), 6.67 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (s, 1H), 5.77 (d, J = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (td, J = 7.6, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (td, J = 7.8, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 4.36 (d, J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (dt, J = 10.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 3.32 (td, J = 6.9, 2.3 Hz, 1H), 2.20 (td, J = 6.9, 3.2 Hz, 1H), 2.23 – 2.14 (m, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.12 –

2.06 (m, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 1.92 – 1.83 (m, 1H), 1.77 – 1.65 (m, 3H), 1.69 (s, 3H), 1.46 (d, J = 6.7 Hz, 3H), 1.34 – 1.25 (m, 1H), 1.22 – 1.14 (m, 1H), 0.88 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, C₆D₆) δ 171.1, 171.0, 139.1, 136.8, 136.3, 134.3, 129.2, 128.9, 122.9, 121.1, 84.9, 83.4, 74.9, 51.2, 48.7, 37.5, 36.2, 33.2, 30.1, 28.2, 21.0, 20.2, 19.4, 19.1, 17.3. HRMS (ESI) calcd for C₂₅H₃₄N₂O₂Ir [M+H]⁺: *m/z* 587.2250 found 587.2256. **Optical rotation** : $[\alpha]_{D}^{23} = -30$ (CH₂Cl₂, 1.10⁻³ mol.L⁻¹).



Complex **2c** (orange solid, 79 % yield). ¹**H** NMR (400MHz, C₆D₆) δ 6.69 (s, 1H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 6.46 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.92 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 4.87 (td, J = 7.6, 3.3 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (td, J = 7.8, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.16 (td, J = 7.0, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 2.40 (td, J = 7.5, 3.7 Hz, 1H), 2.12 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 2.10 – 2.06 (m, 1H), 2.09 (s, 3H), 2.05 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 2.03

(s, 3H), 1.96 - 1.87 (m, 1H), 1.84 - 1.78 (m, 1H), 1.76 (s, 3H), 1.68 - 1.58 (m, 2H), 1.40 - 1.33 (m, 1H), 1.29 - 1.23 (m, 1H). ¹³**C NMR** (101 MHz, C_6D_6) δ 171.8, 171.5, 139.1, 136.5, 136.4, 134.8, 129.2, 129.0, 121.3, 120.7, 85.4, 84.6, 62.9, 51.2, 49.4, 35.7, 33.7, 29.8, 28.5, 22.7, 21.0, 18.9, 17.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $C_{23}H_{30}N_2O_2$ Ir [M+H]⁺: m/z 559.1937 found 559.1942. **Optical rotation** : $[\alpha]_D^{23} = -18$ (CH₂Cl₂, 1.10^{-3} mol.L⁻¹).

3. Substrates synthesis.



Figure S2. Preparation of compound 3.

Compounds **3** were prepared according to the reported procedure in the literature.^[2] To a solution of corresponding 2-bromopyridines (2 mmol, 1 equiv.) or 1-chloroisoquinoline (2 mmol, 1 equiv.) in toluene (7 mL), ethanol (1.5 mL), and H₂O (7 mL) was added Na₂CO₃(7.4 equiv.) followed by Pd(PPh₃)₄ (3mol%) and corresponding boronic acid (1.3 equiv.) under argon in a 50 mL Schlenk tube. The reaction mixture was refluxed at 120°C for overnight, and then cooled to room temperature. To the reaction mixture was added aqueous NH₄Cl (15 mL), extracted by EtOAc for three times, dried over MgSO₄, and evaporated in vacuum to afford the crude product, which was further purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel with *n*-pentane/EtOAc to give the corresponding substrates.



Figure S3. Substrates for silvlation.

Compounds (**3a**) (CAS : 1008-89-5), **3b** (CAS: 5957-90-4), **3c** (CAS: 4357-28-2), **3d** (CAS : 203065-88-7), **3e** (CAS : 4467-06-5), **3f** (CAS: 80635-92-3), **3g** (CAS: 1215556-50-5), **3h** (CAS: 446302-06-3), **3i** (CAS: 452342-99-3), **3j** (CAS: 80635-91-2), **3k**, **3l** (CAS: 52947-17-8), **3m** (CAS: 7127-19-7), **3n** (CAS: 24665-41-6), **3o** (CAS: 7431-45-0), **3p** (62882-00-2), were previously reported. Zolimidine^[3] (CAS: 1222-57-7) and diazepam^[4] (CAS: 439-14-5) were prepared according to reported procedures.

4. Optimization studies



Figure S4. Optimization studies.

In a glove box, in a dry Schlenk tube was placed the Ir-catalyst (5 mol%), hydrogen acceptor (3 equiv.), 2-phenylpyridine (1 equiv.), silane (3 equiv.) and solvent (1mL). The tube was sealed with a screw cap. Outside the glove box, the mixture was stirred at the indicated temperature for 16h. After cooled down, the mixture was concentrated under reduce pressure and dried under vacuum. To the residue was added 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene (as an internal standard) and 0.5 mL of CDCl₃. Then the aliquot was analyzed by ¹H NMR to measure the NMR yield.

Entry	Silane	H ₂ -acceptor	Solvent	Catalyst	Temp.	NMR
	(3 equiv.)	(3 equiv.)		(5 mol%)	(°C)	Yield
1	Et ₃ SiH	norbornene	Toluene	2a	120°C	49%
2	Et ₃ SiH	norbornene	Toluene	2a	90°C	< 5%
3	Et ₃ SiH	norbornene	THF	2a	80°C	14%
4	Et ₃ SiH	norbornene	Me-THF	2a	90°C	8%
5	Et ₃ SiH	norbornene	neat	2a	120°C	36%
6	(OEt) ₃ SiH	norbornene	Toluene	2a	120°C	n.r.
7	Et ₂ MeSiH	norbornene	Toluene	2a	120°C	< 5%
8	Me ₂ PhSiH	norbornene	Toluene	2a	120°C	64%
9	MePh ₂ SiH	norbornene	Toluene	2a	120°C	82%
10	Ph ₃ SiH	norbornene	Toluene	2a	120°C	74%
11	Et ₃ SiH	1,5-cod	Toluene	2a	120°C	10%
12	Et ₃ SiH	neohexene	Toluene	2a	120°C	40%
13	Et ₃ SiH	norbornadiene	Toluene	2a	120°C	22%
14	MePh ₂ SiH	norbornene	Toluene	2b	120°C	72%
15	MePh ₂ SiH	norbornene	Toluene	2c	120°C	74%
16	MePh ₂ SiH	norbornene	Toluene	[Ir(cod)Cl] ₂	120°C	49%
17	MePh ₂ SiH	norbornene	Toluene	(IMes)Ir(cod)Cl ^[5]	120°C	16%
18	Et ₃ SiH	norbornene	Toluene	2a	30°C	n.r.
19	Et ₃ SiH	norbornene	Toluene	-	120°C	n.r.
20	Et ₃ SiH	-	Toluene	2a	120°C	n.r.

Table S1. Optimization studies

5. Scope of substrates



Figure S5. Substrate scope studies.

General procedure: In a glove box, in a dry Schlenk tube was placed **2a** (5 mol%), substrate **3** (0.2 mmol, 1.0 equiv.), norbornene (3 equiv.), silane (3 equiv.) and toluene (1mL) were added respectively. The tube was closed with a screw cap. Outside the glove box, the mixture was stirred at 120°C for 16h. After cooled down, the mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure and dried under vacuum. To the residue was added mesitylene or trimethoxybenzene (as internal standard) and 0.5 mL of CDCl₃. Then the aliquot was analyzed by ¹H NMR to measure the NMR yield. The crude mixture was purified by column chromatography on silica gel to isolate the corresponding silylated product **4**.

Characterization of compound 4a-4x



Compound 4a was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 98/2) as colorless oil (49% NMR yield, 47% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.64 (d, *J* = 4.1 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45 – 7.36 (m, 4H), 7.28 – 7.25 (m, 1H), 0.83 (t, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 9H), 0.55 (q, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 162.0, 148.6, 148.0, 136.5,

136.3, 136.1, 129.2, 128.7, 127.3, 123.4, 122.1, 7.8, 4.6. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -3.4. The data were consistent with the previous literature.^[6]



Compound 4b was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 95/5) as colorless oil (64% NMR yield, 59% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.49 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (td, J = 7.7, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.40 (m, 5H), 7.38 – 7.33 (m, 2H), 7.27 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.13 (ddd, J = 7.4, 4.9, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 0.36 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 160.6, 148.4, 147.2, 141.0, 137.4, 136.9, 136.3, 133.8, 129.3, 128.7, 128.3,

127.6, 127.5, 122.9, 122.0, -0.2. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -8.8. The data were consistent with the previous literature.^[6]



Compound 4c was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) as beige solid (82% NMR yield, 71% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.24 (d, J = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 7.70 (d, J = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.47 – 7.41 (m, 5H), 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 7H), 7.02 (ddd, J = 7.4, 4.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 0.63 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.2, 148.0, 146.9, 139.7, 138.9, 136.2, 135.5, 134.8, 129.7, 128.4, 128.1, 127.8, 127.6, 122.1,

122.8, -1.2. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -13.2. The data were consistent with the previous literature.^[6]



Compound 4d was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 95/5) as colorless solid (74% NMR yield, 68% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.94 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.56 (td, *J* = 7.6, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48 – 7.45 (m, 7H), 7.36 – 7.32 (m, 1H), 7.29 – 7.19 (m, 10H), 6.76 (dd, *J* = 7.0, 5.3 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 156.1, 147.1, 145.4, 140.6, 139.5, 136.4, 135.7, 133.8, 130.1, 128.5, 128.1, 127.3, 126.7, 122.1, 120.0.

²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -21.1. The data were consistent with the previous literature.^[6]



Compound 4e was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 88/12) as beige solid (94% NMR yield, 87% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 7.71 – 7.68 (m, 1H), 7.65 – 7.63 (m, 1H), 7.49 – 7.43 (m, 6H), 7.33 – 7.28 (m, 5H), 7.04 – 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.95 (ddd, J = 7.2, 5.5, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 0.70 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.2, 158.2, 147.6, 140.1, 139.0, 137.6, 136.3, 134.7, 129.1, 128.3, 127.6, 124.9, 121.4,

121.1, 114.7, 55.1, -1.0. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -14.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{24}NOSi]^+$ $[M+H]^+$: *m/z* 382.1627, found 382.1627.



Compound 4f was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 92/8) as beige solid (99% NMR yield, 90% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (ddd, *J* = 4.9, 1.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (ddd, *J* = 7.9, 7.2, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.38 (m, 5H), 7.30 – 7.22 (m, 6H), 7.00 – 6.96 (m, 2H), 6.92 (ddd, *J* = 7.2, 4.9, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.65 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.6, 158.3, 147.6,

140.2, 138.9, 137.4, 136.2, 134.7, 129.1, 128.3, 127.5, 125.2, 121.4, 121.1, 115.5, 63.3, 14.9, -0.9. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -14.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{26}NOSi]^+$ [M+H]⁺ : *m/z* 396.1785, found 396.1784.



Compound 4g was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) as beige solid (92% NMR yield, 76% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.25 (ddd, J = 4.9, 1.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.80 – 7.75 (m, 3H), 7.53 (td, J = 7.6, 1.8 Hz 1H), 7.46 – 7.42 (m, 5H), 7.36 – 7.27 (m, 6H), 7.05 (ddd, J = 7.5, 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 0.69 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 157.9, 150.3, 148.3, 138.5, 137.2, 136.5, 135.2 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 134.7, 129.6 (q, J = 31.3 Hz), 128.8,

128.3, 127.8, 126.5 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 124.5 (q, J = 273.7 Hz), 122.7, 122.3, -1.2. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) -12.6. ¹⁹F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.7. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{21}NF_{3}Si]^{+}$ [M+H]⁺ : m/z 420.1399, found 420.1395.



Compound 4h was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) as beige solid (99% NMR yield, 81% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.16 (ddd, J = 4.9, 1.8, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.57 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 6H), 7.30 – 7.22 (m, 8H), 6.94 (ddd, J = 7.4, 4.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 0.61 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.0, 147.9, 144.1, 139.9, 139.7, 137.3, 136.1, 135.2, 134.8, 130.4, 128.3, 128.0, 127.5, 121.8, 121.7, 21.5, -0.9.

²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -13.5. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{25}H_{24}NSi]^+$ [M+H]⁺ : *m/z* 366.1670, found 366.1672.



Compound 4i was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) as beige solid (96% NMR yield, 90% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.11 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.46 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.34 – 7.27 (m, 8H), 7.12 (s, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 2.31 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 0.55 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.1, 147.9, 147.0, 144.6, 139.7, 139.4, 137.1, 135.1, 134.8, 130.4, 128.4, 128.1, 127.5,

123.3, 122.8, 21.5, 21.1, -1.2. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -13.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C₂₆H₂₆NSi]⁺ [M+H]⁺ : *m/z* 380.1835, found 380.1838.



Compound 4j was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) as beige solid (92% NMR yield, 81% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.17 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 7.81 – 7.75 (m, 3H), 7.54 – 7.50 (m, 6H), 7.44 – 7.40 (m, 2H), 7.36 – 7.30 (m, 7H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 6.88 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 0.9 Hz, 1H), 2.22 (s, 3H), 0.66 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.6, 147.9, 147.2, 146.1, 140.9, 139.9, 139.6, 137.6, 136.0, 134.8, 134.1, 128.9, 128.5, 128.2, 127.6, 127.4, 127.1, 123.2, 123.1, 21.1, -1.3. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -13.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C₃₁H₂₈NSi]⁺ [M+H]⁺ : *m/z*

442.2009, found 442.1991.



Compound 4k was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) as beige solid (95% NMR yield, 90% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.41 (m, 4H), 7.31 – 7.23 (m, 6H), 7.13 (s, 1H), 6.99 – 6.94 (m, 2H), 6.77 (d, *J* = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.31 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 0.56 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101MHz, CDCl₃) δ 158.5, 158.4, 147.6, 147.1, 140.0,

139.4, 137.3, 134.8, 129.2, 128.4, 127.6, 125.0, 122.6, 122.6, 115.5, 63.4, 21.2, 14.9, -1.2. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -14.0. **HRMS (ESI)** calcd for $[C_{27}H_{28}NOSi]^+$ [M+H]⁺ : *m/z* 410.1940, found 410.1947.



Compound 4I was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 92/8) as beige solid (95% NMR yield, 83% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.14 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.72 – 7.70 (m, 3H), 7.41 – 7.39 (m, 4H), 7.34 – 7.28 (m, 6H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.88 (dd, *J* = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 0.56 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) 157.9, 150.7, 148.2, 147.5, 138.3, 137.1, 135.0 (q, *J* = 3.7 Hz), 134.7, 129.5 (q, *J* = 32.2 Hz), 128.9, 128.4, 127.8, 126.5 (q, *J* = 3.5 Hz), 124.5 (q, *J* = 273.7 Hz), 123.7, 123.7, 21.1, -1.6. ²⁹Si

NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -12.5. ¹⁹**F NMR** (376 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -62.6. **HRMS (DCI-CH₄)** calcd for $[C_{26}H_{23}NF_3Si]^+ [M+H]^+ : m/z 434.1552$, found 434.1555.



Compound 4m was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 92/8) as beige solid (98% NMR yield, 92% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.18 (d, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 – 7.48 (m, 1H), 7.47 – 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 7H), 7.16 (ddd, *J* = 7.6, 1.6, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (s, 1H), 6.86 (ddd, *J* = 5.0, 1.5, 0.7 Hz, 1H), 2.43 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 0.51 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (101MHz, CDCl₃) δ 159.4, 148.0, 147.5, 147.1, 139.6, 139.5, 138.7, 134.9, 131.6, 129.3, 128.5, 128.4, 127.6, 123.8, 123.0, 21.5, 21.0, -1.6. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 13.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{26}H_{26}NSi]^+$ [M+H]⁺ : *m/z* 380.1835, found 380.1839.



Compound 4n was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) as beige solid (93% NMR yield, 80% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.31 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.66 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.59 – 7.53 (m, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 7.45 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.37 – 7.31 (m, 2H), 7.29 – 7.27 (m, 4H), 7.19 – 7.14 (m, 2H), 7.11 – 7.07 (m, 4H), 0.42 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101

MHz, CDCl₃) 161.0, 148.7 (q, *J* = 1.9 Hz), 145.0, 141.3, 140.3, 136.2, 135.7, 134.7, 134.1, 131.6, 129.9, 129.0, 128.0, 127.5, 127.4, 126.9, 126.7, 121.1, 120.7, 120.7 (q, *J* = 258.6 Hz), -2.5. ¹⁹F NMR (376)

MHz, CDCl₃) δ -57.6 ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -11.2. HRMS (DCI-CH₄) calcd for $[C_{29}H_{23}NOF_3Si]^+ [M+H]^+$: *m/z* 486.1501, found 486.1510.



Compound 4o was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 86/14) as beige solid (85 % NMR yield, 82% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.39 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 8.30 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 8.18 (dd, J = 7.9, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.55 – 7.48 (m, 3H), 7.39 (d, J = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 7.32 – 7.27 (m, 5H), 7.17 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 7.09 – 7.05 (m, 4H), 4.37 (q, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.37 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 0.47 (s, 3H). ¹³C

NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.7, 161.4, 150.9, 141.3, 138.8, 137.7, 136.2, 136.0, 134.8, 130.2, 130.0, 129.9, 129.4, 128.8, 127.5, 127.4, 127.3, 126.9, 126.7, 120.7, 61.2, 14.4, -2.2. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -11.3. **HRMS (ESI)** calcd for [C₃₁H₂₈NO₂Si]⁺ [M+H]⁺ : *m/z* 474.1894, found 474.1889.



Compound 4p was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) as beige solid (99% NMR yield, 93% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 1H), 7.53 – 7.50 (m, 4H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 3H), 7.36 – 7.32 (m, 6H), 3.70 (t, *J* = 9.7 Hz, 2H), 3.50 (t, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 2H), 0.95 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9, 138.1, 137.9, 136.3, 134.9,

134.7, 130.1, 129.5, 129.3, 128.9, 127.8, 67.2, 54.6, -1.7 ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -10.4. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{22}H_{22}NOSi]^+$ [M+H]⁺ : *m/z* 344.1471, found 344.1471.



Compound 4q was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 50/50) as beige oil (81% NMR yield, 69% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.83 – 7.81 (m, 1H), 7.64 (dd, *J* = 6.1, 2.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.43 (m, 4H), 7.33 – 7.4332 (m, 3H), 3.93 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 2H), 3.68 (t, *J* = 9.5 Hz, 2H), 0.59 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.0, 139.8, 138.2, 136.4, 134.4,

133.6, 130.0, 129.3, 129.2, 128.5, 127.6, 67.3, 54.7, -0.3. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -7.1. HRMS (DCI-CH₄) calcd for [C₁₇H₂₀NOSi]⁺ [M+H]⁺ : m/z 282.1314, found 282.1324.



Compound 4r was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 70/30) as beige solid (91% NMR yield, 82% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.58 – 7.56 (m, 6H), 7.50 (td, J = 7.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.43 – 7.33 (m, 11H), 7.47 – 7.37 (m, 4H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.6, 139.2, 136.2, 136.0, 135.2, 134.2, 130.3, 129.8, 129.4, 129.0, 127.7, 67.0,

54.4. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -13.9. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{27}H_{24}NOSi]^+$ $[M+H]^+$: m/z 406.1627, found 406.1626.



Compound 4s was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 95/5) as beige solid (39% NMR yield, 27% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 – 7.56 (m, 1H), 7.48 (td, *J* = 7.3, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 – 7.42 (m, 4H), 7.41 – 7.37 (m, 1H), 7.37 – 7.27 (m, 6H), 7.17 (dd, *J* = 7.9, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 5.59 (s, 1H), 2.08

(s, 3H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 0.54 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.9, 145.6, 139.8, 138.5, 136.8, 135.4, 135.1, 130.2, 129.1, 127.7, 127.6, 127.6, 105.9, 13.4, 11.7, -3.5. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ - 11.8. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{24}H_{25}N_2Si]^+ [M+H]^+$: *m/z* 369.1787, found 369.1783.



Compound 4t was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 90/10) as beige solid (98% NMR yield, 85% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.46 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 8.41 (d, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.38 (m, 7H), 7.30 – 7.23 (m, 5H), 6.88 (t, *J* = 4.9 Hz, 1H), 0.92 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.1, 156.1, 144.1, 140.4, 139.2, 136.7,

134.4, 129.9, 129.7, 129.1, 128.2, 127.6, 118.9, -0.5. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -7.0. HRMS (DCI-CH₄) calcd for $[C_{23}H_{21}N_2Si]^+$ [M+H]⁺ : m/z 353.1474 found 353.1472.



Compound 4u was obtained after column chromatography (pentane/Et₂O = 80/20) as beige solid (65% NMR yield, 50% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.89 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.44 (m, 4H), 7.42 – 7.31 (m, 6H), 7.03 (dd, *J* = 8.5, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H),

3.74 (s, 3H), 0.93 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 191.2, 163.2, 141.9, 136.5, 135.1, 134.9, 134.1, 129.5, 128.1, 124.7, 114.3, 55.4, -2.1. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -9.6. HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C₂₁H₂₁O₂Si]⁺ [M+H]⁺ : *m/z* 333.1311, found 333.1314.



Compound 4v was obtained after column chromatography was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/E₂OAc = 80/20) as white solid (77% NMR yield, 72% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.61 – 7.49 (m, 1H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.41 – 7.35 (m, 1H), 7.34 – 7.19 (m, 7H), 7.19 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 4.27 (d, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (s, 1H),

2.70 (d, J = 11.1 Hz, 1H), 0.97 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 169.8, 169.4, 145.0, 142.5, 139.43, 139.0, 138.1, 134.8, 134.0, 131.4, 131.1, 130.5, 129.8, 129.4, 129.1, 128.6, 127.7, 122.5, 55.5, 35.0, -1.4. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -12.7. HRMS (ESI) calcd for $[C_{29}H_{26}N_2OClSi]^+$ [M+H]⁺ : m/z 481.1499, found 481.1503.



Compound 4w was obtained after column chromatography (pentane/acetone = 70/30) as beige solid (33% NMR yield, 31% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 8.07 - 7.96 (m, 2H), 7.85 (dd, J = 8.0, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.77 (dt, J = 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.46 - 7.35 (m, 5H), 7.33 - 7.22 (m, 6H), 7.16 - 7.06 (m, 2H), 6.69 (td, J = 6.8, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (s, 3H),

0.66 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 147.2, 145.3, 144.6, 138.9, 138.3, 137.0, 136.3, 134.8, 130.4, 129.2, 128.2, 127.8, 125.6, 124.9, 117.8, 112.7, 111.6, 44.5, -2.0. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -10.1. HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C₂₇H₂₅N₂O₂Si]⁺ [M+H]⁺ : *m/z* 469.1406, found 469.1407.



Compound 4x was obtained after column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc = 95/5) as beige oil (45% NMR yield, 38% isolated yield). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.77 (dd, J = 4.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 8.03 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 7.51 – 7.49 (m, 5H), 7.33 – 7.23 (m, 8H), 7.16 (dd, J = 7.1, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 3.39 (s, 2H), 0.29 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 148.7, 146.8, 139.0, 137.3, 136.1,

134.9, 129.2, 128.6, 128.5, 127.7, 126.2, 124.4, 120.8, 19.2, -4.2. ²⁹Si NMR (80 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -7.0. HRMS (ESI) calcd for [C₂₃H₂₂NSi]⁺ [M+H]⁺ : *m/z* 340.1513, found 340.1517.



6. Kinetic isotopic effect



Figure S6. Determination of KIE.

In a glove box, J-Young NMR tube was added **3a** or **d**₅-**3a** (0.1 mmol, 1 equiv.), iridium catalyst **2a** (5 mol%), norbornene (3 equiv.), HSiMePh₂ or DSiMePh₂ (3 equiv.) and toluene- d_{δ} (0.5 mL). Then, the NMR tube was closed with a J-Young valve. Outside the glove box, the mixture was heated at 120 °C. The conversion was monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy every 10 minutes.



Figure S7. Monitoring of the reaction between 2-phenylpyridine- $d_5(d_5-3a)$ and HSiMePh₂.



Figure S8. ¹H NMR spectroscopy monitoring of the reaction with d_5 -3a and HSiMePh₂.

The monitoring of the reaction with d_5 -3a revealed that D-H exchange occurred before C-Si bond formation. After about 50% D/H exchange at *ortho*-positions of d_5 -3a (induction period of 10 minutes), the silylation reaction took place with similar reaction rate than with 2-phenylpyridine (3a).



Figure S9. Monitoring of the reaction between 2-phenylpyridine (3a) and HSiMePh₂.



Figure S10. Monitoring of the reaction between 2-phenylpyridine (3a) and DSiMePh₂.

7. Radical scavenger experiment



Figure S11. Radical scavenger experiment.

In a glove box, in a dry Schlenk tube was placed the catalyst 2a (5 mol%), norbornene (3 equiv.), 2-phenylpyridine (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.), HSiMePh₂ (3 equiv.), radical scavenger (0.5 equiv.) and toluene (1mL). Then, the tube was sealed with a screw cap. Outside the glove box, the mixture was stirred at 120°C for 16h. After cooled down, the mixture was concentrated under reduce pressure and dried under vacuum. To the residue were added 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene (as an internal standard) and 0.5 mL of CDCl₃. Then the aliquot was analyzed by ¹H NMR which reveal the NMR yield.

8. Mercury test



Figure S12. Mercury poisoning test.

In a glove box, in a dry Schlenk tube was placed the catalyst **2a** (5 mol%), norbornene (3 equiv.), 2-phenylpyridine (0.2 mmol, 1 equiv.), HSiMePh₂ (3 equiv.), Hg (5 equiv.) and toluene (1mL). Then, the tube was sealed with a screw cap. Outside the glove box, the mixture was stirred at 120°C for 16h. After cooled down, the mixture was concentrated under reduce pressure and dried under vacuum. To the residue were added 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene (as an internal standard) and 0.5 mL of CDCl₃. Then the aliquot was analyzed by ¹H NMR which reveal the NMR yield.

9. NMR spectra

¹H NMR spectrum for **2a**



¹³C NMR spectrum for **2a**



¹³C NMR spectrum for **2b**



¹³C NMR spectrum for **2c**









²⁹Si NMR spectrum for **4b**

---8.8











²⁹Si NMR spectrum for **4d**

---21.1



¹³C NMR spectrum for **4e**











 13 C NMR spectrum for **4g**



 $^{19}\mathrm{F}$ NMR spectrum for $4\mathrm{g}$



¹³C NMR spectrum for **4h**

















 ^{29}Si NMR spectrum for 4k



¹³C NMR spectrum for **4**l



¹⁹F NMR spectrum for **4**l



¹³C NMR spectrum for **4m**











S40









¹³C NMR spectrum for **4p**







²⁹Si NMR spectrum for **4q**

---7.1





¹³C NMR spectrum for **4r**





 ^{29}Si NMR spectrum for 4s



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²⁹Si NMR spectrum for 4u



^{13}C NMR spectrum for 4v



180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 f1 (ppm)



S53

²⁹Si NMR spectrum for **4w**

---10.1













10. Crystallographic Data

Data were collected on a Bruker Kappa Apex II diffractometer equipped with a 30 W air-cooled microfocus source using MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) for **2a**, **2b** and **2c**, and on a Rigaku Oxford Diffraction Gemini diffractometer using CuK $_{\alpha}$ radiation ($\lambda = 1.54184$ Å) for **4o**. Cooling devices were used to collect the data at low temperature (101(2) – 187(2) K). Phi and Omega scans were performed for data collection, an empirical absorption correction was applied and the structures were solved by intrinsic phasing method (ShelXT).^[7] All non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically by means of least-squares procedures on F² with ShelXL.^[8] All the hydrogen atoms were refined isotropically at calculated positions using a riding model. For **2a** and **2c**, the SQUEEZE^[9] function of PLATON was used to remove the electron density contribution of the highly disordered solvent molecules from the models.

10.1. Crystal structure of 2a (CCDC No. 2223880)

	C10 C4 N1 C15 C14 C15 C14 C15 C14 C16 C14 C14 C16 C14 C14 C16 C14
Empirical formula	C26 H35 Ir N2 O2 C21
Formula weight	599.78 C22 C26 C25
Temperature	110(2) K
Wavelength	0.71073 A
Crystal system, space group	Orthorhombic, C 2 2 21
Unit cell dimensions	<pre>a = 14.3819(10) A alpha = 90 deg. b = 27.2526(18) A beta = 90 deg. c = 26.1453(17) A gamma = 90 deg.</pre>
Volume	10247.5(12) A^3
Z, Calculated density	16, 1.555 Mg/m^3
Absorption coefficient	5.234 mm^-1
F(000)	4768
Crystal size	0.200 x 0.120 x 0.080 mm
Theta range for data collection	1.494 to 25.101 deg.
Limiting indices	-17<=h<=16, -32<=k<=32, -31<=1<=31
Reflections collected / unique	101612 / 9138 [R(int) = 0.0668]
Completeness to theta = 25.242	99.9 %
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
Data / restraints / parameters	9138 / 666 / 729
Goodness-of-fit on F^2	1.110
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]	R1 = 0.0434, WR2 = 0.1014
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0479, $wR2 = 0.1144$
Absolute structure parameter	0.006(4)
Largest diff. peak and hole	3.402 and -1.466 e.A^-3

10.2. Crystal structure of 2b (CCDC No. 2223881)



C25 H33 Ir N2 O2

Empirical formula Formula weight Temperature Wavelength Crystal system, space group Unit cell dimensions

Volume Z, Calculated density Absorption coefficient F(000) Crystal size Theta range for data collection Limiting indices

```
Reflections collected / unique
Completeness to theta = 25.242
Refinement method
Data / restraints / parameters
Goodness-of-fit on F^2
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]
R indices (all data)
Absolute structure parameter
Largest diff. peak and hole
```

```
585.75
101(2) K
0.71073 A
Monoclinic, P 21
 a = 8.9043(5) A
                  alpha = 90 deg.
 b = 14.2370(8)A beta = 105.794(3)deq.
 c = 9.2991(5) A
                   gamma = 90 deg.
1134.35(11) A^3
2, 1.715 Mg/m^3
5.909 mm^-1
580
0.080 x 0.040 x 0.040 mm
2.276 to 32.577 deg.
-13<=h<=13, -21<=k<=21,
 -14<=1<=14
57318 / 8278 [R(int) = 0.0762]
100.0 %
Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
8278 / 7 / 276
1.072
R1 = 0.0298, wR2 = 0.0545
R1 = 0.0379, wR2 = 0.0571
-0.019(5)
1.277 and -1.723 e.A^-3
```

10.3. Crystal structure of 2c (CCDC No. 2223879)



C23 H29 Ir N2 O2

Empirical formula Formula weight Temperature Wavelength Crystal system, space group Unit cell dimensions

Volume Z, Calculated density Absorption coefficient F(000) Crystal size Theta range for data collection Limiting indices

```
Reflections collected / unique
Completeness to theta = 25.242
Refinement method
Data / restraints / parameters
Goodness-of-fit on F^2
Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)]
R indices (all data)
Absolute structure parameter
Largest diff. peak and hole
```

```
557.70
110(2) K
0.71073 A
Monoclinic, P 21
  a = 15.482(3) A
                     alpha = 90 deq.
  b = 10.1564(17)A beta = 105.727(6)deg.
  c = 17.192(3) A
                     gamma = 90 \text{ deg.}
2602.1(8) A^3
4, 1.424 Mg/m^3
5.148 mm^-1
1096
0.080 x 0.060 x 0.040 mm
2.072 to 25.681 deg.
-18<=h<=18, -11<=k<=12,
  -20<=1<=20
47529 / 9712 [R(int) = 0.0887]
 99.8 %
Full-matrix least-squares on F^2
9712 / 1 / 491
0.996
R1 = 0.0356, wR2 = 0.0633
R1 = 0.0465, wR2 = 0.0670
-0.022(7)
1.149 and -0.885 e.A^-3
```

10.4. Crystal structure of 40 (CCDC No. 2226158)



C31 H27 N O2 Si Empirical formula Formula weight 473.63 Temperature 187(2) K Wavelength 1.54184 A Crystal system, space group Triclinic, P -1 Unit cell dimensions a = 8.3354(2)A alpha = 94.463(2) deg. b = 12.1900(2)A beta = 108.394(2) deg.c = 13.0443(3) A gamma = 96.839(2) deg.Volume 1239.35(5) A^3 Z, Calculated density 2, 1.269 Mg/m^3 1.058 mm^-1 Absorption coefficient F(000) 500 0.4 x 0.36 x 0.2 mm Crystal size Theta range for data collection 3.598 to 71.376 deg. Limiting indices -8<=h<=10, -14<=k<=14, -15<=1<=15 Reflections collected / unique 32341 / 4750 [R(int) = 0.0384]Completeness to theta = 67.68499.8 % Refinement method Full-matrix least-squares on F^2 Data / restraints / parameters 4750 / 0 / 318 Goodness-of-fit on F^2 1.032 Final R indices [I>2sigma(I)] R1 = 0.0414, wR2 = 0.1083R1 = 0.0432, wR2 = 0.1102R indices (all data) Largest diff. peak and hole 0.442 and -0.348 e.A^-3

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