

Supplementary Information

Development of an integrated polyoxoniobate catalyst with oxygen activation and basicity as a green catalyst for efficient aerobic oxidation of aldehydes at room temperature

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1. General Information

The Fourier transform infrared (FT-IR) spectra were recorded in the 400-4000 cm^{-1} spectral region using a Nicolet IS50 spectrometer. Phase identification was performed through powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) measurements on a Rigaku MiniFlex 600 system with Cu K α radiation ($\lambda = 1.54056 \text{ \AA}$), scanning across the 2θ range of 5-50°. Thermal stability was evaluated via thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) using a Mettler Toledo TGA/SDTA 851^e thermal analyzer under ambient atmosphere, with temperature ramping from 30 °C to 800 °C at 10 °C/min. Morphological characterization and elemental distribution mapping were achieved using a Zeiss Sigma 300 field-emission scanning electron microscope (FE-SEM) equipped with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS). The gas adsorption properties (N_2) and specific surface area of $\text{Co-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$ were evaluated using a Micromeritics ASAP 2020 accelerated surface area and porosimetry analyzer. Temperature control was achieved through cryogenic bath: 77 K using liquid nitrogen. ^1H (400 MHz) and ^{13}C (100 MHz) NMR spectra were recorded using a JEOL ECZ400 (400 MHz) spectrometer and Bruker AV-400 (400 MHz). Proton chemical shifts are reported relative to the residual solvent peak (DMSO at 2.50 ppm). Carbon chemical shifts are reported relative to DMSO at 39.5 ppm. Data are represented as follows: chemical shift, multiplicity (br = broad, s = singlet, d = double, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), coupling constants in Hertz (Hz), integration. Mass spectra were recorded on a SHIMADZU GCMS-QP2050 equipped with an SH-I-5Sil MS Cap Column (30m, 0.25mm ID, 0.25 μm). H_2O was deionized. Other reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification.

2. Synthesis of Catalysts and Starting Materials

Synthesis of $[\text{Co}(\text{en})_3]_3[\text{Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8\text{O}_{28}](\text{OH})\cdot 11\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Co-Ti₂Nb₈)

The compound Co-Ti₂Nb₈ was synthesized based on the literature method.¹ A mixture of $\text{K}_7\text{H}[\text{Nb}_6\text{O}_{19}]\cdot 13\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.666 g, 0.486 mmol), $\text{Co}(\text{Ac})_2\cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.150 g, 0.612 mmol), K_2TiF_6 (0.156 g, 0.650 mmol), $\text{Li}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7$ (0.063 g, 0.371 mmol) and NaHCO_3 (0.176 g, 2.09 mmol) was added into 8.0 mL distilled water. In addition, 0.10 mL en (en = ethylenediamine) were added into the solution, stirred for 1 hour, and then transferred to a 20 mL glass bottle. It was kept at 100 °C for 3 days, and cooled to room temperature. The long yellow strip crystals Co-Ti₂Nb₈ were obtained by further washing with distilled water and then air-dried.

Synthesis of $[\text{Cu}(\text{en})_2][\text{Cu}(\text{en})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]_3[\text{TiNb}_8\text{O}_{28}]\cdot 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Cu-Ti₂Nb₈)

The compound Cu₄Ti₂Nb₈ was synthesized based on the literature method.² $\text{K}_7\text{H}[\text{Nb}_6\text{O}_{19}]\cdot 13\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.100 g, 0.073 mmol), $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2\cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.100 g, 0.414 mmol), titanium isopropoxide (0.300 mL, 0.989 mmol) were mixed in 8.0 mL H₂O. Then 0.25 mL en were added to the mixture. The mixture was transferred into a 23 mL capacity PTFE-lined autoclave and heated at 140 °C for 3 days. After cooling to room temperature, purple block-like crystals were obtained, washed with distilled water, and then air-dried.

Synthesis of $\text{Na}_8[\text{Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8\text{O}_{28}]\cdot 34\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Na-Ti₂Nb₈)

The compound Na-Ti₂Nb₈ was synthesized based on the literature method.³ Amorphous niobium pentoxide (0.350 g, 1.316 mmol) and titanium isopropoxide (0.267 g, 0.880 mmol) are combined in an 8 mL NaOH solution (0.34 M) in a 23 mL Teflon-lined Parr pressure vessel and stirred for approximately 20 min. The closed vessel is placed in an oven at 200–220 °C for 5–20 h. The product is a mixture of white powder and irregular-shaped, colorless crystals that dehydrate quickly (become cracked and translucent) when removed from the mother liquor. To obtain a pure batch of crystals, the product mixture is stirred in de-ionized water. The crystals dissolve and the white powder is filtered off. A clear solution is obtained from this treatment that contains the dissolved crystals. Slow diffusion of methanol into the solution at room temperature produces well-formed crystals.

Synthesis of $\text{Co}(\text{en})_3\text{ClSO}_4$

The compound $\text{Co}(\text{en})_3\text{ClSO}_4$ was synthesized based on the literature method.⁴ In a 200 mL beaker, sequentially add of concentrated en (2.300 mL, 16.547 mmol), concentrated HCl (2.500 mL, 29.750 mmol) and an $\text{CoSO}_4\cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ aqueous solution (0.538 M). Add 0.500 g activated carbon and stir the mixture vigorously. Then, gradually add H₂O₂ to the system until the solution turns orange-red, indicating that all divalent cobalt has been oxidized. Adjust the pH to 7.0 by adding HCl. Heat the mixture for 15 minutes. After heating, cool the mixture and filter to collect the solid. Allow the filtrate to stand for 2 days, during which orange-yellow crystals will form and can be extracted.

Synthesis of $\text{H}_2[\text{Co}(\text{en})_3]_2(\text{Nb}_6\text{O}_{19})\cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (Co-Nb₆)

A mixture of $\text{K}_7\text{H}[\text{Nb}_6\text{O}_{19}]\cdot 13\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.319 g, 0.233 mmol), $\text{CoCl}_2\cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.080 g, 0.336 mmol) was added into 8.0 mL distilled water. In addition, 0.2 mL en were added into the solution, stirred for 1 hour, and then transferred to a 20 mL glass bottle. It was kept at 80 °C for 3 days, and cooled to room temperature. The yellow square crystals were obtained by further washing with distilled water and air-dried.

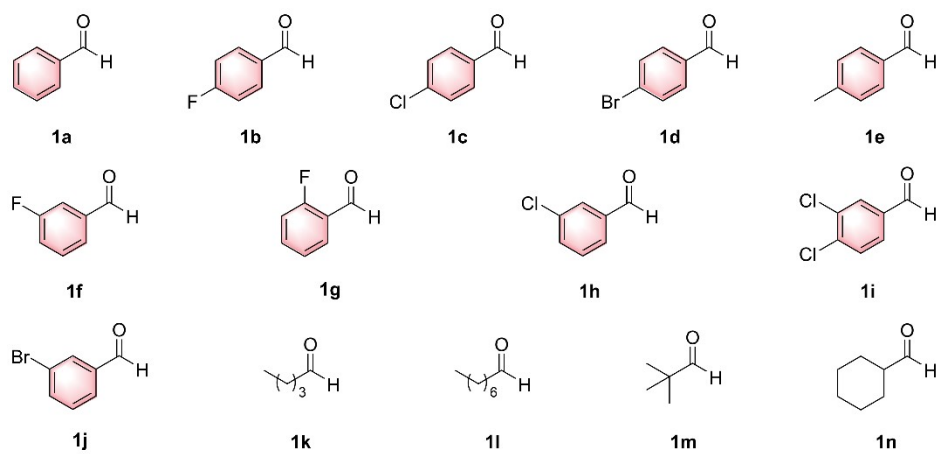
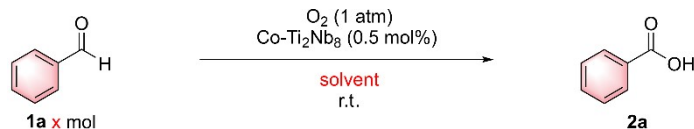


Figure S1. Reaction scope of aldehydes

3. Optimization of Reaction Conditions

Procedure A: To a 25 mL Schlenk tube, **1a**, Co-Ti₂Nb₈ (0.5 mol%, 0.005 mmol), and solvent (2.0 mL) were added under 1 atm O₂ atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at r.t. for 1 h. After the reaction mixture was tested by GC.

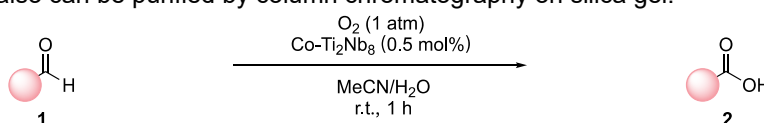
Table S1. Screening of solvents



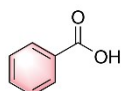
Entry	Solvent	BzH/mmol	Yield (%)
1	Toluene	1	26
2	EtOH	1	<5
3	DCM	1	43
4	Acetone	1	23
5	H ₂ O/MeCN (3:1)	1	27
6	H ₂ O/MeCN (1:3)	1	74
7	H ₂ O/Toluene	1	<5
8	H ₂ O/EtOH	1	<5
9	H ₂ O/MeCN	0.5	97
10	H ₂ O/MeCN	1	>99
11	H ₂ O/MeCN	1.5	92
12	H ₂ O/MeCN	2	82

4. The Scope of Aldehydes

Procedure B: To a 25 mL Schlenk tube, **1** (1.00 mmol), Co-Ti₂Nb₈ (0.5 mol%, 0.005 mmol) and H₂O/ MeCN (2.0 mL) were added under 1 atm O₂ atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h. Then, the reaction mixture was added 40 mg of NaOH (1.00 mmol) and stir for 5 minutes. Next, followed by 3 ml of DCM to wash the aqueous phase, repeating this step three times. Adjust the pH of the aqueous phase to 2 using 0.1 M HCl, and then wash with 5 ml of ether, again repeating this step three times. Collect the ether (a total of 15 ml) and add anhydrous sodium sulfate to remove any residual water, shaking the mixture and allowing it to stand for 20 minutes. Finally, filter out the anhydrous sodium sulfate solid and rotary evaporate the collected filtrate to obtain the product. The crude mixture also can be purified by column chromatography on silica gel.



Synthesis of compound 2a

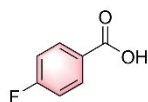


Benzoic acid (**2a**), white crystal, 121.93 mg, 99%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.48 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.95 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), (COOH is missing).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 128.7 (2C), 129.4 (2C), 130.9, 133.0, 167.6.

Synthesis of compound 2b

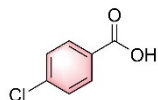


p-Fluorobenzoic acid (**2b**), white powder, 138.7 mg, 99%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.28–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.97–8.02 (m, 2H), 13.05 (br, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 115.6, 115.8, 127.4, 132.16, 132.25, 163.8, 166.3, 166.5.

Synthesis of compound 2c

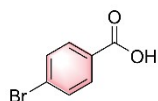


p-Chlorobenzoic acid (**2c**), white powder, 150.31 mg, 96%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.93 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 13.18 (br, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 128.7 (2C), 129.7, 131.2 (2C), 137.8, 166.5.

Synthesis of compound 2d

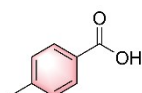


p-Bromobenzoic acid (**2d**), white powder, 180.93 mg, 90%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.86 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 13.20 (br, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 127.0, 130.0, 131.4 (2C), 131.8 (2C), 166.7.

Synthesis of compound 2e

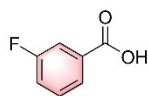


p-methylbenzoic acid (**2e**) (for 4 h), white powder, 134.81 mg, 99%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 2.34 (s, 3H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 12.82 (br, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 21.2, 128.1, 129.2 (2C), 129.4 (2C), 143.1, 167.5.

Synthesis of compound 2f

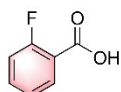


m-Fluorobenzoic acid (**2f**) (for 4 h), white powder, 125.13 mg, 90%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.44–7.93 (m, 1H), 7.52–7.58 (m, 1H), 7.63–7.66 (m, 1H), 7.77–7.79 (m, 1H), 13.26 (br, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 115.7, 115.9, 119.8, 120.0, 125.49, 125.52, 130.8, 130.9, 133.26, 133.33, 160.8, 163.3, 166.27, 166.30.

Synthesis of compound 2g

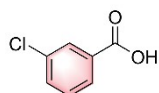


o-Fluorobenzoic acid (**2g**) (for 12 h), white powder, 90.38 mg, 65%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.28 (t, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.61 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 13.25 (br, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 116.8, 117.1, 119.2, 119.5, 134.45, 124.49, 132.0, 134.7, 134.8, 159.9, 162.5, 165.12, 165.15.

Synthesis of compound 2h

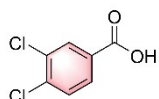


3-Chlorobenzoic acid (**2h**) (for 4 h), white powder, 128.37 mg, 82%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.53 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 1.54–1.59 (ddd, J = 8.0, 2.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.88–7.90 (m, 2H), 13.35 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 128.0, 128.9, 130.7, 132.8, 133.4, 166.1.

Synthesis of compound 2i

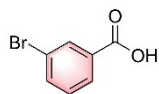


3,4-Dichlorobenzoic acid (**2i**), white powder, 160.37 mg, 84%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.75 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (dd, J = 8.4, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 8.04 (d, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), (COOH is missing).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 129.4, 131.0, 131.1, 131.5, 131.6, 135.9, 165.5.

Synthesis of compound 2j

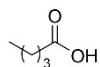


m-Bromobenzoic acid (**2j**) (for 4h), white powder, 178.90 mg, 89%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 7.43 (t, J = 8.0, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 8.0, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.0, 1H), 8.00 (s, 1H), (COOH is missing).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 122.0, 128.5, 131.0, 132.0, 133.3, 135.8, 166.3.

Synthesis of compound 2k

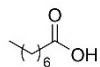


Valeric acid (**2i**), colorless oil, 101.09 mg, 99%

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 0.81 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.23 (h, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 1.43 (p, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 2.13 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), (COOH is missing).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 14.2, 22.5, 27.4, 34.2, 175.6.

Synthesis of compound 2l

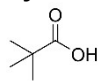


Octanoic acid (**2l**), colorless oil, 144.13 mg, 99%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 0.85 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.20–1.28 (m, 8H), 1.48 (p, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.17 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 11.96 (s, 1H),

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 13.9, 22.1, 24.6, 28.5, 28.6, 31.3, 33.7, 174.5.

Synthesis of compound 2m

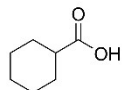


Pivalic acid (**2m**), colorless oil, 101.12 mg, 99%.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 1.10 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 27.1, 37.8, 179.5.

Synthesis of compound 2n

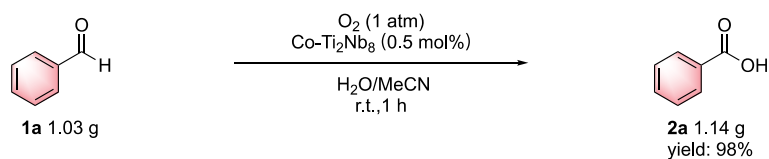


Cyclohexanecarboxylic acid (**2n**), colorless oil, 126.90 mg, 99%.

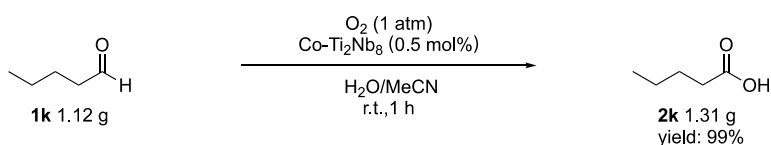
¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) δ 1.14–1.36 (m, 5H), 1.54–1.59 (m, 1H), 1.62–1.67 (m, 2H), 1.77–1.81 (m, 2H), 2.14–2.21 (m, 1H), 12.00 (s, 1H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) δ 25.2 (2C), 25.7, 29.0 (2C), 42.5, 177.0.

5. Gram-scale Reaction



Benzaldehyde (**1a**, 1.03 g, 9.706 mmol), Co-Ti₂Nb₈ (94.34 mg, 0.048 mmol, 0.5 mol%), acetonitrile (9.7 mL) and deionized H₂O (9.7 mL) were added to a 100 mL round-bottomed flask under 1 atm O₂ atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h. After the reaction, the mixture was filtered to remove catalyst. Then, the reaction mixture was added 400 mg of NaOH (10.00 mmol) and stir for 5 minutes. Next, followed by 20 ml of DCM to wash the aqueous phase, repeating this step three times. Adjust the pH of the aqueous phase to 2 using 0.1 M HCl, and then wash with 30 ml of ether, again repeating this step three times. Collect the ether (a total of 90 ml) and add anhydrous sodium sulfate to remove any residual water, shaking the mixture and allowing it to stand for 1 hour. Finally, filter out the anhydrous sodium sulfate solid and rotary evaporate the collected filtrate to obtain 1.14 g **2a**.

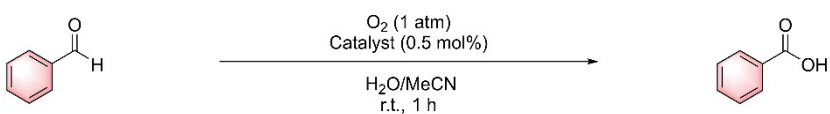


Valeraldehyde (**1k**, 1.12 g, 13.00 mmol), Co-Ti₂Nb₈ (127.75 mg, 0.065 mmol, 0.5 mol%), acetonitrile (13 mL) and deionized H₂O (13 mL) were added to a 100 mL round-bottomed flask under 1 atm O₂ atmosphere. The mixture was stirred at rt for 1 h. Then, using same processing method, 1.13 g **2k** was obtained.

6. Investigation of Reaction Mechanism

6.1. Investigation of active component of Co-Ti₂Nb₈

Table S2. Investigation the effects of different components of catalysts



Entry	Catalyst	Yield
1	Co-Ti ₂ Nb ₈	>99
2	Co(OAc) ₂	58
3	Co(en) ₃ ClSO ₄	53
4	Co-Nb ₆	>99 ^a
5	Cu-Ti ₂ Nb ₈	0
6	Na-Ti ₂ Nb ₈	0
7	Nb ₆	0

^aReaction time is 6 h. Using 1 mmol benzaldehyde. Nb₆ is KH₇Nb₆O₁₉. Solvent is 2.0 mL and the volume of ratio of H₂O and MeCN is 1:1. Yields are calculated by GC.

6.2. Investigating the basicity of different catalysts

Weigh 0.005 mmol of each catalyst and place them into six parallel glass bottles. Add 2 mL of deionized water to each bottle, stir the mixtures under air for 1 hour, and measure the pH using a pH test pen. The experimental results are presented in Table S3. According to the experimental results, the addition of CoNb₆ and Co-Ti₂Nb₈ facilitated the dissociation of H₂O, leading to an increase in the pH of the solution. This increase is likely attributed to the binding of hydrolytically separated H⁺ by niobium clusters, which act as Brønsted bases.

Table S3. Investigating the basicity of different catalysts

Entry	Catalyst	Solubility	pH
1	Co-Ti ₂ Nb ₈	insoluble	10.2
2	Co(OAc) ₂	soluble	7.2
3	Co(en) ₃ ClSO ₄	soluble	5.2
4	Co-Nb ₆	insoluble	9.4
5	Cu-Ti ₂ Nb ₈	insoluble	7.6
6	Na-Ti ₂ Nb ₈	insoluble	9.3
7	Nb ₆	soluble	11.1

Catalyst: 0.005 mmol; H₂O: 2 mL (pH = 5.5 dissolution of carbon dioxide); stir for 1 h.

6.3. The roles of lattice waters on the catalysts surface

All experiments were performed under standard conditions, and the corresponding yields were determined by GC. In the absence of lattice water, the Co-Nb₆ catalyst showed minimal reactivity within 6 h, while the reaction yield for Co-Ti₂Nb₈ decreased to 55% for 1 h. Upon extending the reaction time to 12 h, the yield for the Co-Nb₆-catalyzed reaction increased to 95%, whereas the yield for the Co-Ti₂Nb₈-catalyzed reaction reached 99% for 4 h. These results indicate that lattice water on the catalyst surface significantly influences the reaction rate.

Table S4. Investigating the roles of lattice waters on catalysts

Entry	Catalyst	t (h)	Yield
1	Co-Nb ₆ (with lattice H ₂ O)	1	n.r.
2	Co-Nb ₆ (with lattice H ₂ O)	6	>99
3	Co-Nb ₆ (no lattice H ₂ O)	6	n.r.
4	Co-Nb ₆ (no lattice H ₂ O)	12	95
5	Co-Ti ₂ Nb ₈ (with lattice H ₂ O)	1	>99
6	Co-Ti ₂ Nb ₈ (no lattice H ₂ O)	1	55
7	Co-Ti ₂ Nb ₈ (no lattice H ₂ O)	4	>99

Using 1 mmol benzaldehyde. Solvent is 2 mL and the volume of ratio of H₂O and MeCN is 1:1. Yields are calculated by GC. With lattice H₂O (r.t., air drying 2 days), no lattice H₂O (r.t., vacuum drying 15 h), n.r. = no reaction.

6.4. Time-dependent yield changes of the Co-Ti₂Nb₈ and CoNb₆ systems

Six parallel reactions were carried out at the different time. To a 25 mL Schlenk tube, **1a**, Co-Ti₂Nb₈ (0.5 mol%, 0.005 mmol), and solvent (2.0 mL) were added under 1 atm O₂ atmosphere. After the reaction mixture was tested by GC. Then six parallel experiments were also performed using Co-Nb₆ as catalyst. The experimental results showed that the induction time for Co-Ti₂Nb₈ was significantly shorter than that for Co-Nb₆. This may be attributed to the presence of hydroxyl groups (OH) bound to the Co in the Co-Ti₂Nb₈ structure, shortening the time of obtaining OH from lattice water.

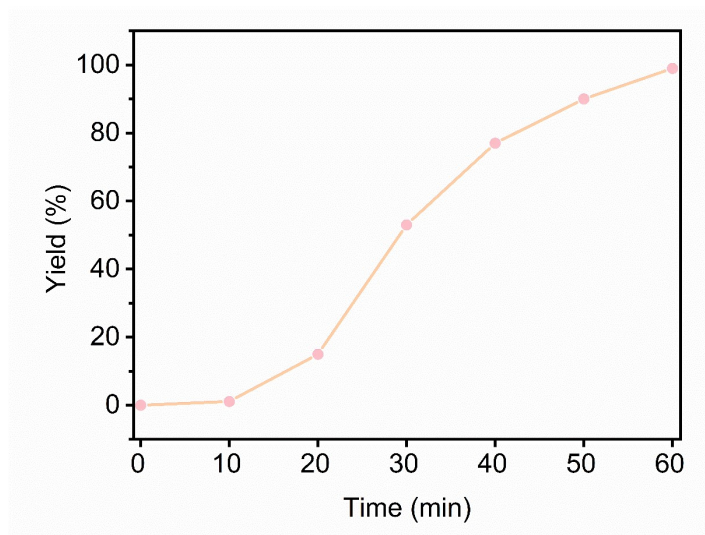


Figure S2. Time-dependent yield changes of the Co-Ti₂Nb₈.

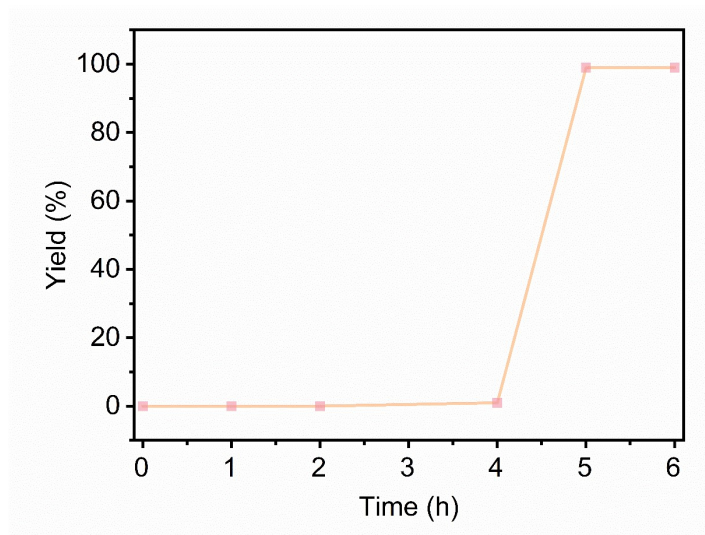


Figure S3. Time-dependent yield changes of the Co-Nb₆.

6.5. Isotope labeling experiment

In two controlled experiments, benzaldehyde (0.25 mmol), Co-Ti₂Nb₈ (0.5 mol%), and acetonitrile (0.25 mL) were added to a Schlenk tube. The difference between the experiments was the solvent used: (a) H₂O and (b) H₂¹⁸O. After 1 hour, the oxidized product **2a** and H₂¹⁸O labeled **2a** were analyzed by GC-MS.

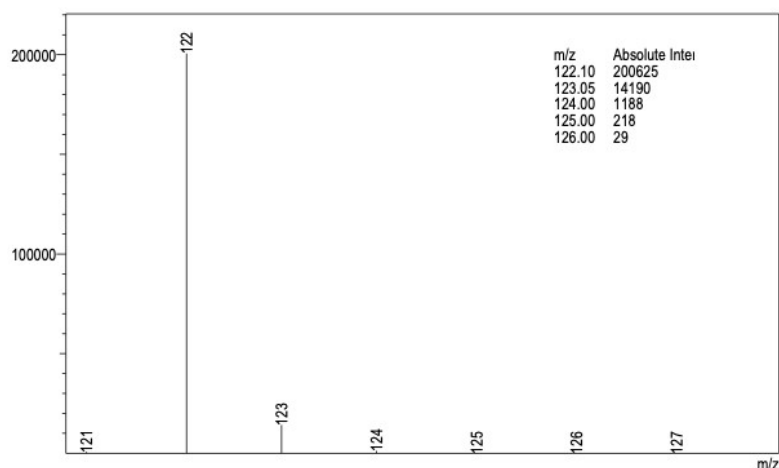


Figure S4. Mass spectrometry data of product that prepared in H₂O/MeCN.

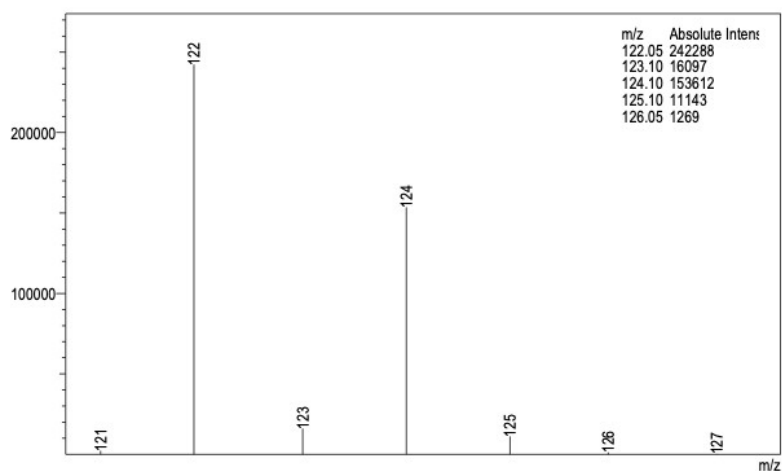


Figure S5. Mass spectrometry data of product that prepared in H₂¹⁸O/MeCN.

Table S5. Calculation of isotopic enrichment relative of product that prepared in H₂¹⁸O/MeCN

m/z	Relative Natural Abundance (%)	Observed Abundance (%)	Corrected Abundance (%)	Isotopic Enrichment Relative (%)
[M]+0	100	242288	242288	61.2
[M]+2	0.59	153612	152183	38.5
[M]+4	0.01	1269	1234	0.30

The ratio of the relative natural abundances of [M]+0, [M]+2, and [M]+4 was calculated based on the results from experiment (a). The observed abundances of [M]+0, [M]+2, and [M]+4 were obtained

from experiment (b). The corrected abundances were calculated using the following formulas:

For [M]⁺₂:

$$[M]^+_{2} = 153612 - (242288 \times 0.59) = 152183$$

For [M]⁺₄:

$$[M]^+_{4} = 1269 - (242288 \times 0.01) = 1234$$

7. Characters of Catalysts

Infrared (IR) spectra (KBr pellet) were performed on an Opus Vetex 70 FT-IR infrared spectrophotometer in the range of 400–4000 cm^{-1} . Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) patterns were recorded on a Rigaku DMAX 2500 diffractometer with Cu K_α radiation ($\lambda = 1.54056 \text{ \AA}$). Simulated PXRD pattern was derived from the Mercury Version 4.3.0 software using the X-ray single crystal diffraction data. Thermogravimetric analyses were conducted using a Mettler Toledo TGA/SDTA 851e analyzer in an N_2 -flow atmosphere with a heating rate of 10 $^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ at a temperature of 30–800 $^\circ\text{C}$. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) studies were performed in a ThermoFisher ESCALAB250 X-ray photoelectron spectrometer (powered at 150 W) using Al K_α radiation ($\lambda = 8.357 \text{ \AA}$).

Table S6. Crystal and structure refinement data of $\text{Co-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$ and $\text{Cu-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$

	Co-Ti₂Nb₈	Cu-Ti₂Nb₈
Formula	$\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{95}\text{Co}_3\text{N}_{18}\text{Nb}_8\text{O}_{40}\text{Ti}_2$	$\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{92}\text{Cu}_4\text{N}_{16}\text{Nb}_8\text{O}_{42}\text{Ti}_2$
Mr	2219.98	2347.24
Crystal size (mm^3)	$0.3 \times 0.1 \times 0.1$	$0.2 \times 0.2 \times 0.1$
Crystal system	monoclinic	triclinic
Space group	$P2_1/c$	$P-1$
a (\AA)	12.1776(4)	11.0384(14)
b (\AA)	38.7820(14)	12.372(2)
c (\AA)	14.7815(6)	15.223(3)
α (deg)	90	102.841(2)
β (deg)	100.796(4)	109.557(2)
γ (deg)	90	105.849(2)
V (\AA^3)	6857.3(4)	1703.8(8)
D_{calcd} (g/cm^3)	2.150	2.288
Z	4	2
F(000)	4396.0	2298.0
Abs coeff (mm^{-1})	2.305	2.840
Refl. Collected	62174	32377
Data/params/restraints	15898/1144/1182	12139/856/12
R_1^a	0.0830	0.0545
ωR_2^b	0.1942	0.1707
GOF on F^2	1.089	0.912
$\Delta\rho_{\text{max}}$ and $\Delta\rho_{\text{min}}$ ($\text{e}/\text{\AA}^3$)	1.48 and -1.35	2.31 and -1.25

$$^a R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|, \quad ^b \omega R_2 = \{ \sum \omega [(F_o)^2 - (F_c)^2]^2 / \sum \omega [(F_o)_2]^2 \}^{1/2}.$$

Table S7. Crystal and structure refinement data of Na-Ti₂Nb₈ and Co-Nb₆

	Na-Ti₂Nb₈	Co-Nb₆
Formula	Na ₈ Ti ₂ Nb ₈ O ₆₂	C ₁₂ H ₆₈ Co ₂ N ₁₂ Nb ₆ O ₃₅
Mr	2014.866	1616.10
Crystal size (mm³)	0.2 × 0.1 × 0.1	0.05 × 0.05 × 0.05
Crystal system	Triclinic	cubic
Space group	<i>P</i> -1	<i>Pn</i> -3 <i>m</i>
<i>a</i> (Å)	11.7788(12)	14.319(3)
<i>b</i> (Å)	12.1971(13)	14.319(3)
<i>c</i> (Å)	12.5491(12)	14.319(3)
<i>α</i> (deg)	97.816(2)	90
<i>β</i> (deg)	113.849(2)	90
<i>γ</i> (deg)	110.778(2)	90
<i>V</i> (Å³)	1457.1(3)	2935.8(18)
<i>D</i>_{calcd} (g/cm³)	2.296	1.828
<i>Z</i>	1	2
<i>F</i>(000)	940.9	1608.0
Abs coeff (mm⁻¹)	1.956	1.768
Refl. Collected	13823	8520
Data/params/restraints	5036/0/359	567/33/1
<i>R</i>₁^a	0.0306	0.0600
<i>ωR</i>₂^b	0.0939	0.1838
GOF on <i>F</i>²	1.043	1.051
<i>Δρ</i>_{max} and <i>Δρ</i>_{min} (e/Å³)	2.75 and -2.79	1.38 and -0.49

$$^a R_1 = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|, \quad ^b \omega R_2 = \{ \sum \omega [(F_o)^2 - (F_c)^2]^2 / \sum \omega [(F_o)_2]^2 \}^{1/2}.$$

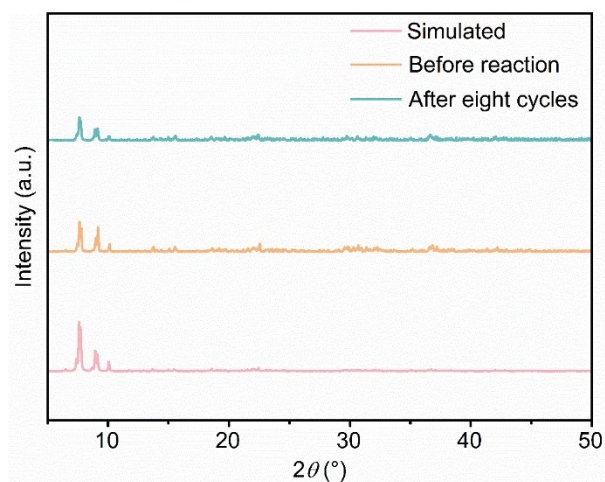


Figure S6. PXRD pattern spectra of $\text{Co-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$ and after 8 cycles.

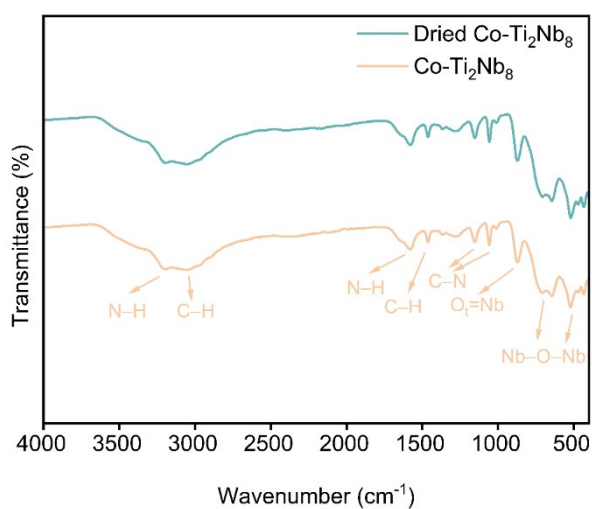


Figure S7. IR spectra of $\text{Co-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

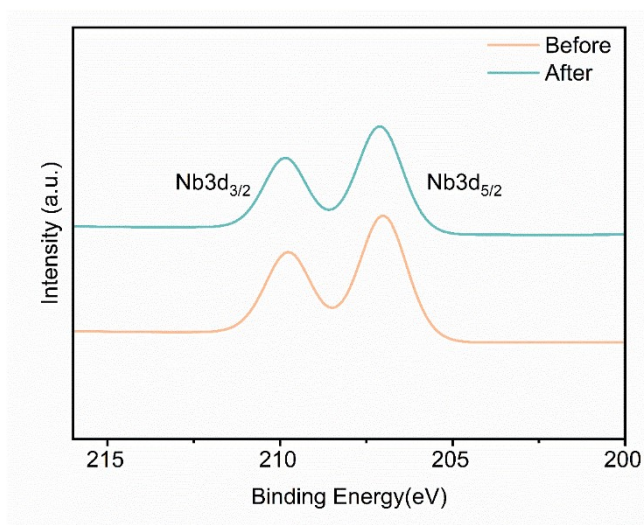


Figure S8. XPS ($\text{Al K}\alpha$) core-level spectra for Nb 3d of the before and after 8 cycles.

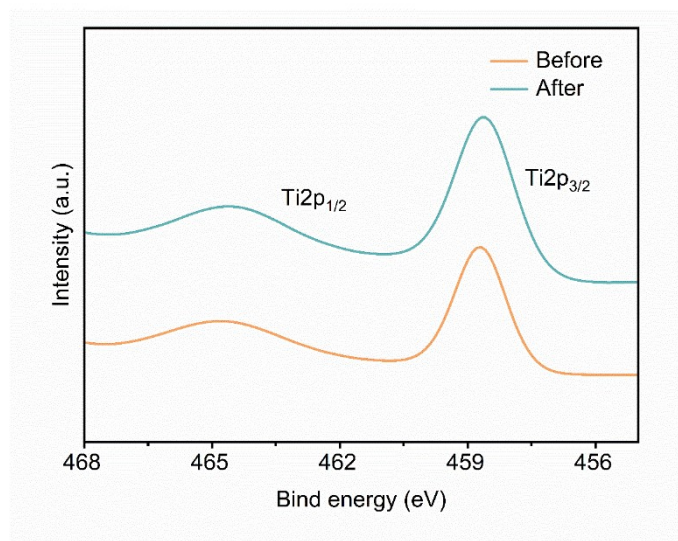


Figure S9. XPS (Al K_{α}) core-level spectra for Ti 2p of the before and after 8 cycles.

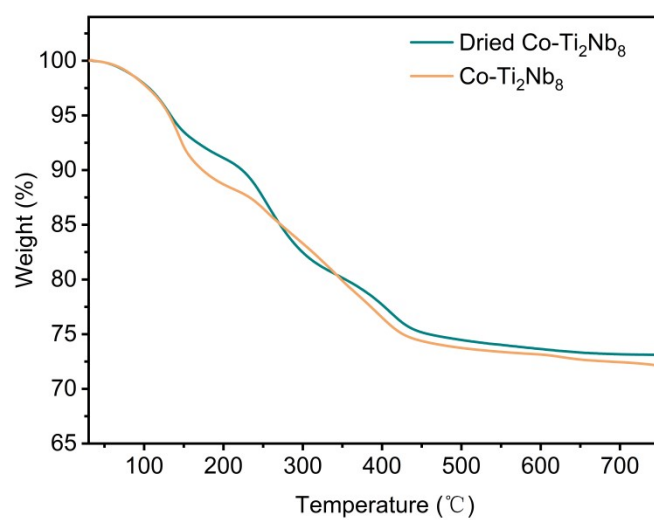


Figure S10. Thermogravimetric analysis of dried $\text{Co-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$ and $\text{Co-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

Through the thermogravimetric curve of $\text{Co-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$, it is hypothesized that 11 lattice water molecules in $\text{Co-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$ crystal.

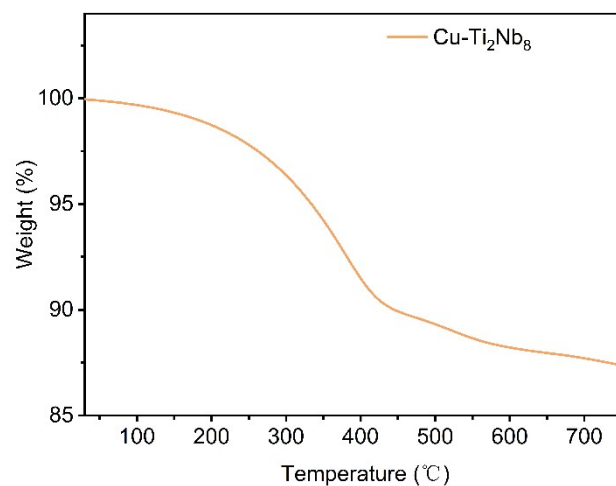


Figure S11. Thermogravimetric analysis of Cu-Ti₂Nb₈

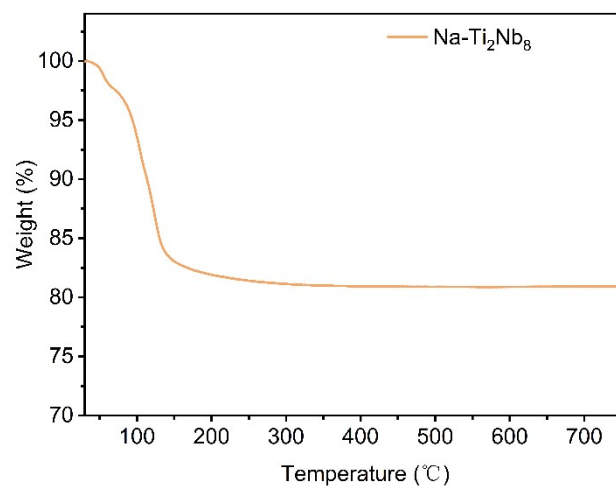


Figure S12. Thermogravimetric analysis of Na-Ti₂Nb₈.

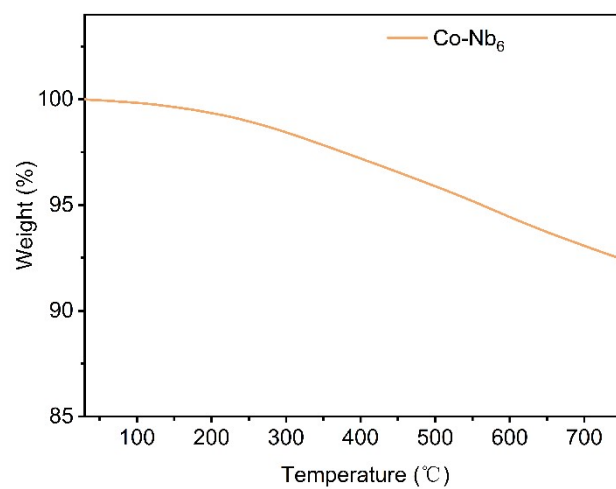


Figure S13. Thermogravimetric analysis of Co-Nb₆.

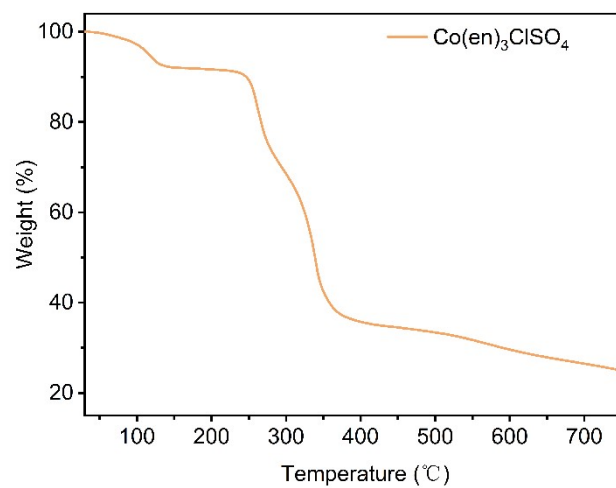


Figure S14. Thermogravimetric analysis of $\text{Co(en)}_3\text{ClSO}_4$.

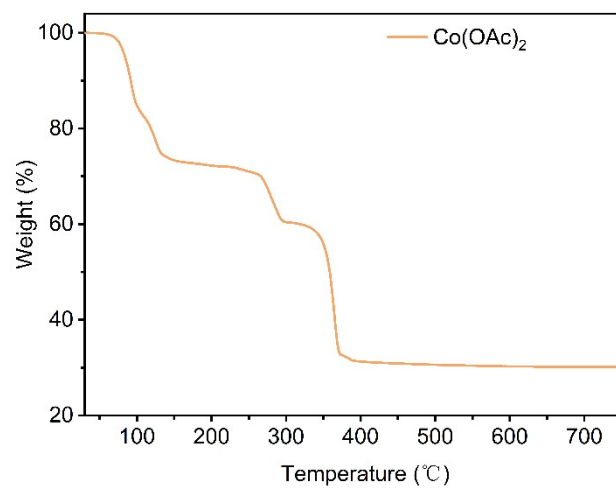


Figure S15. Thermogravimetric analysis of Co(OAc)_2 .

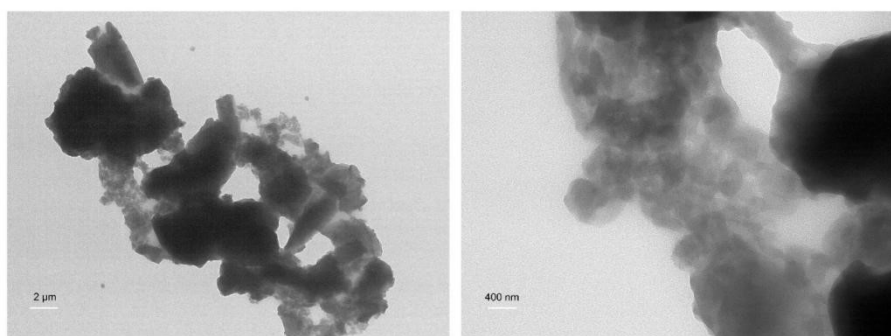


Figure S16. TEM images of $\text{Co-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

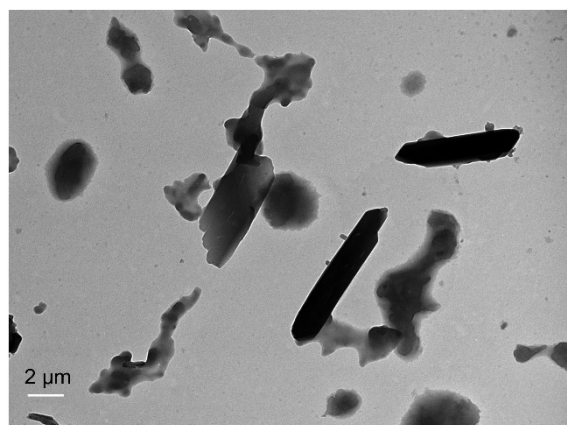


Figure S17. TEM images of Cu-Ti₂Nb₈.

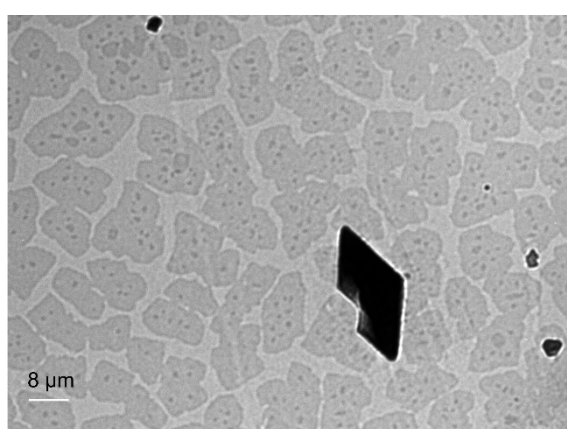


Figure S18. TEM images of Na-Ti₂Nb₈.

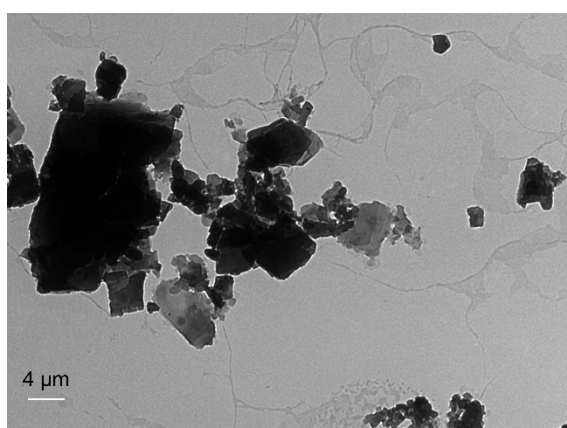


Figure S19. TEM images of Co-Nb₆.

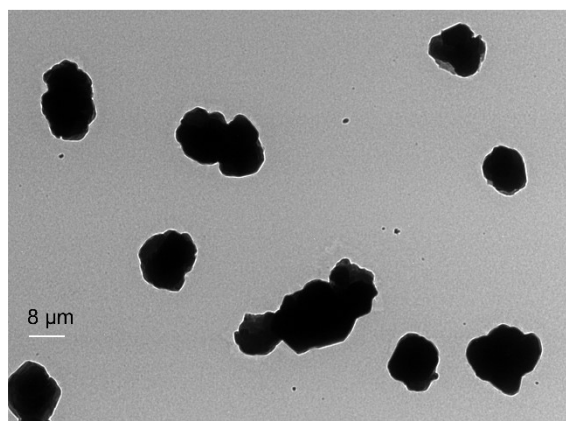


Figure S20. TEM images of $\text{Co(en)}_3\text{ClSO}_4$.

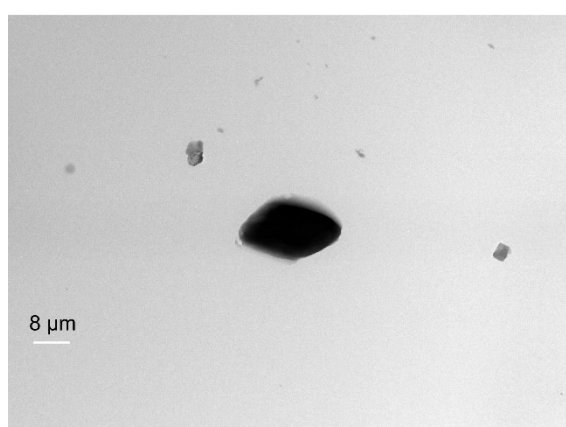


Figure S21. TEM images of Co(OAc)_2 .



Figure S22. SEM images of $\text{Co-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

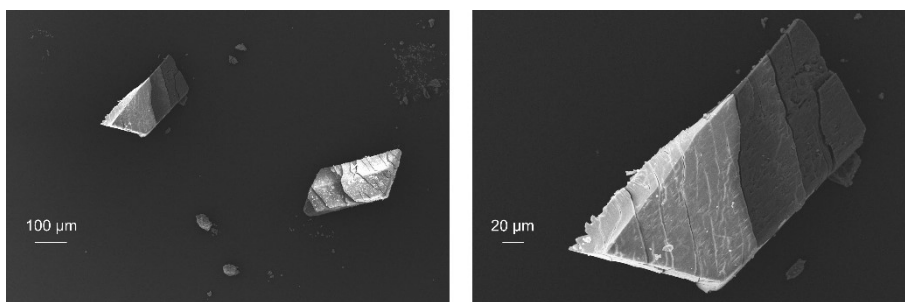


Figure S23. SEM images of $\text{Cu-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

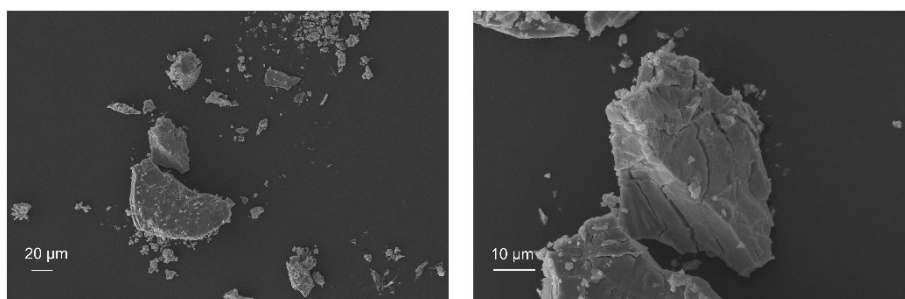


Figure S24. SEM images of $\text{Na-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

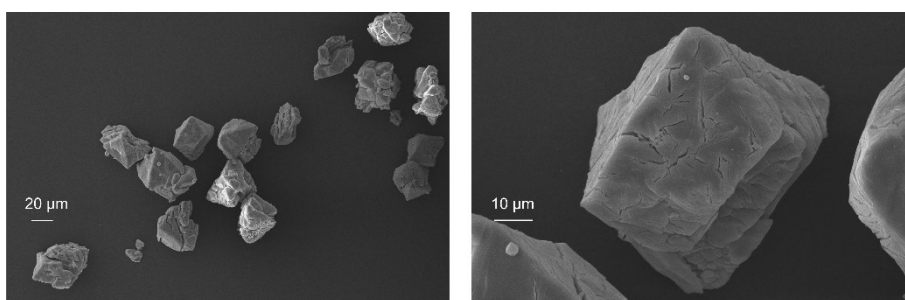


Figure S25. SEM images of Co-Nb_6 .

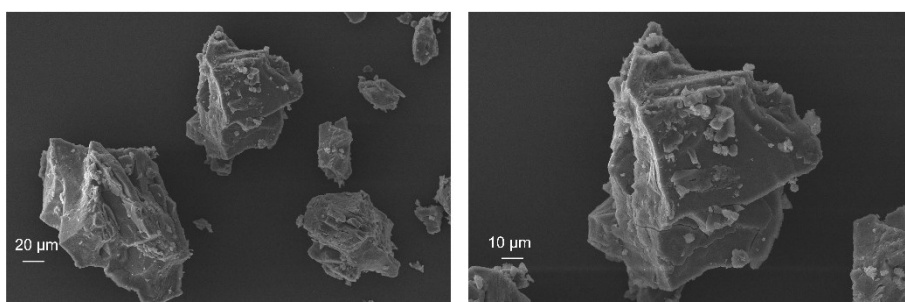


Figure S26. SEM images of $\text{Co(en)}_3\text{ClSO}_4$.

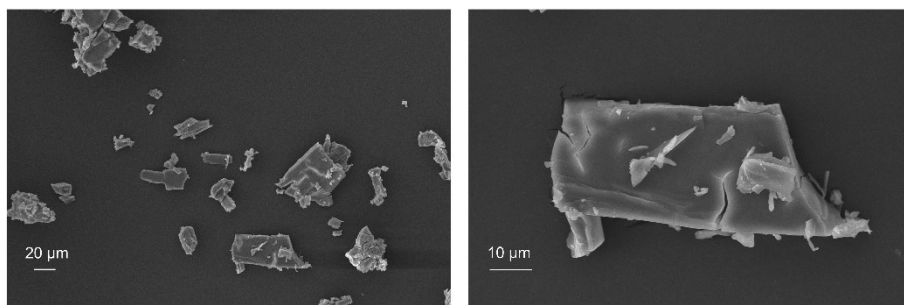


Figure S27. SEM images of $\text{Co}(\text{OAc})_2$.

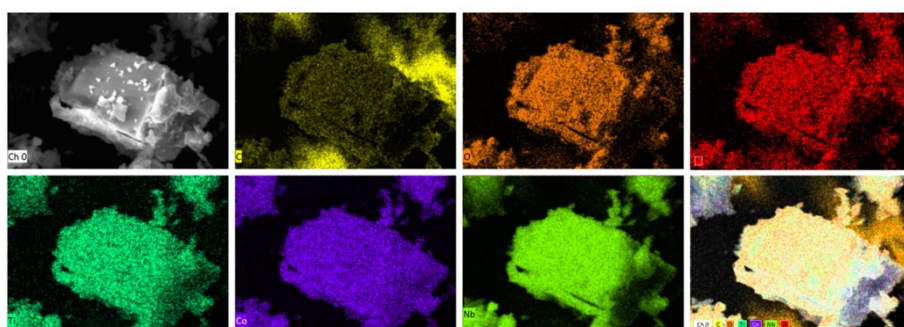


Figure S28. EDS elemental mapping images of C, O, N, Ti, Co and Nb of $\text{Co-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

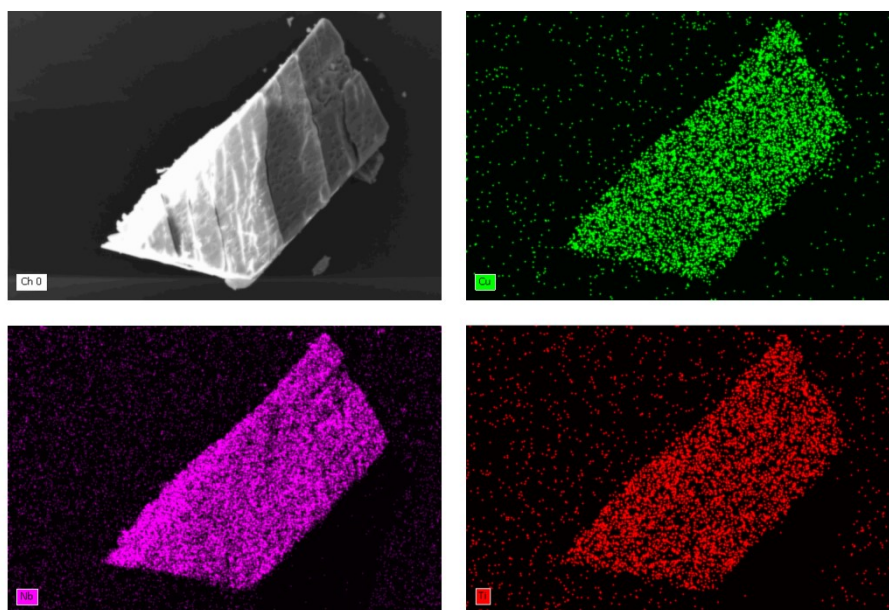


Figure S29. EDS elemental mapping images of Cu, Nb and Ti of $\text{Cu-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

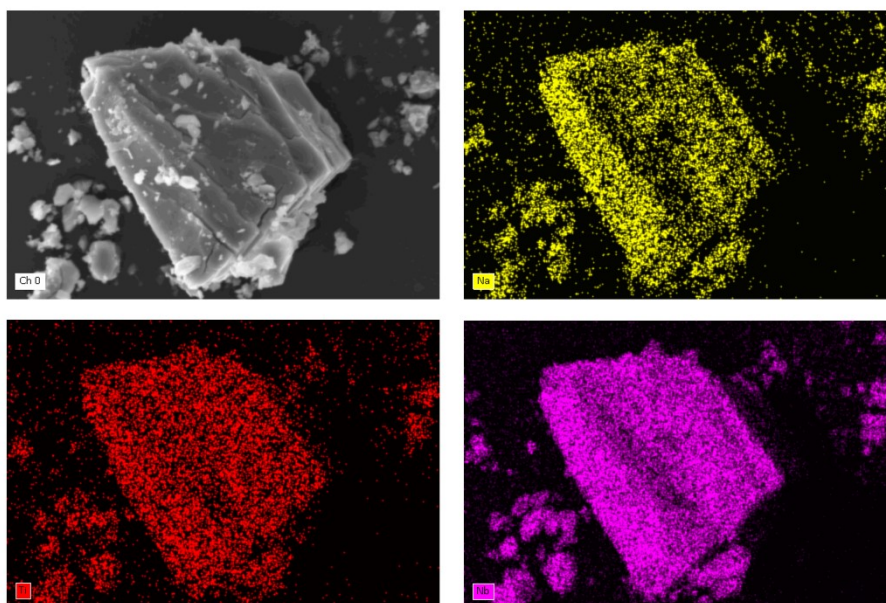


Figure S30. EDS elemental mapping images of Na, Nb and Ti of Na-Ti₂Nb₈.

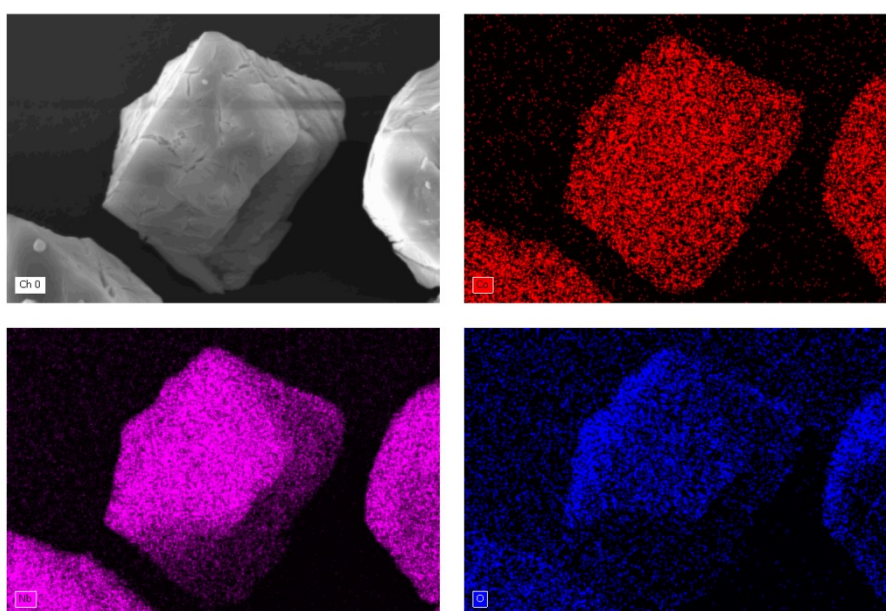


Figure S31. EDS elemental mapping images of Co, Nb and O of Co-Nb₆.

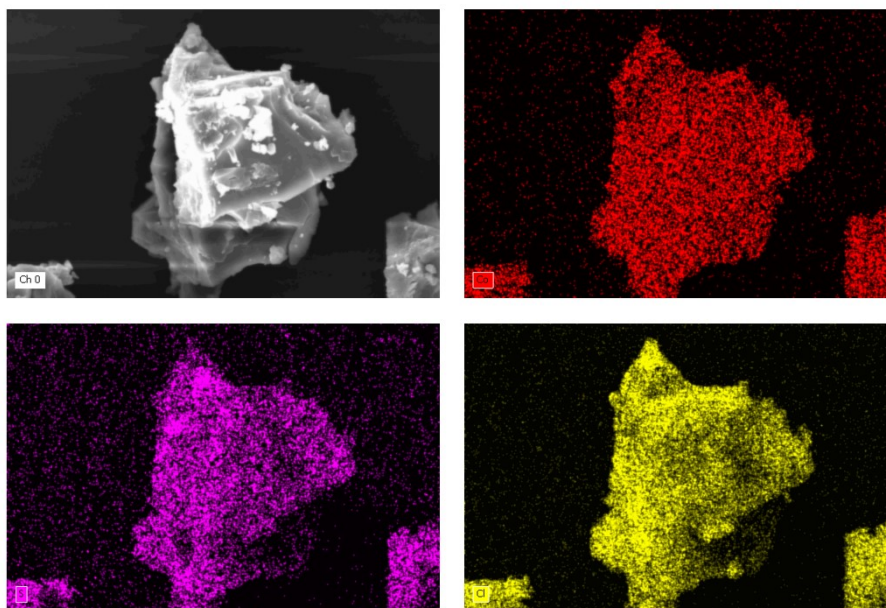


Figure S32. EDS elemental mapping images of Co, S and Cl of $\text{Co(en)}_3\text{ClSO}_4$.

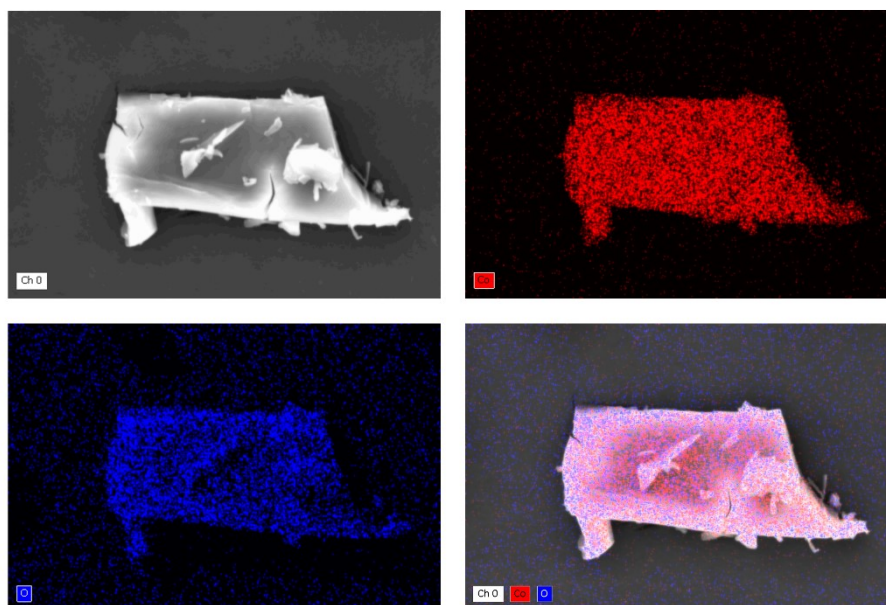
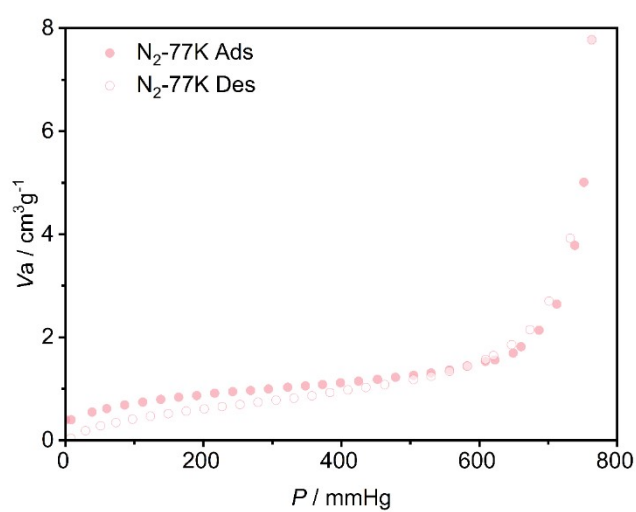
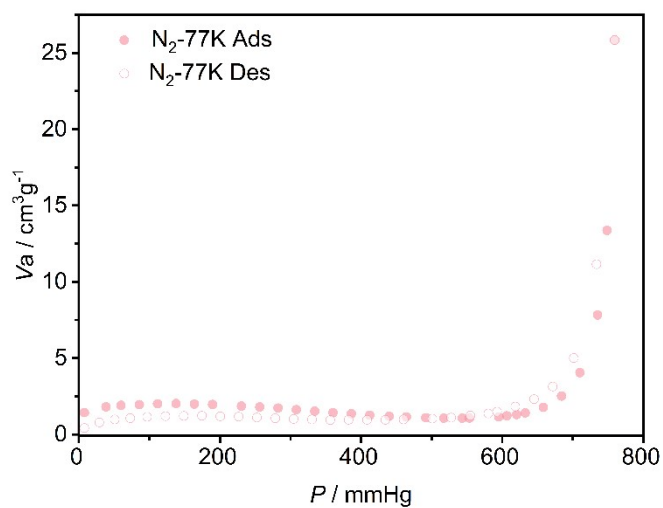


Figure S33. EDS elemental mapping images of Co and O of Co(OAc)_2 .

Table S8. BET surface area of catalysts

Catalysts	BET surface area (m ² /g)
Co-Ti ₂ Nb ₈	2.96
Cu-Ti ₂ Nb ₈	5.22
Na-Ti ₂ Nb ₈	2.72
Co-Nb ₆	5.07
Co(en) ₃ ClSO ₄	2.41
Co(OAc) ₂	5.25

Note: measured at 77K.

**Figure S34.** The nitrogen adsorption curve of Co-Ti₂Nb₈ was measured at 77K.**Figure S35.** The nitrogen adsorption curve of Cu-Ti₂Nb₈ was measured at 77K.

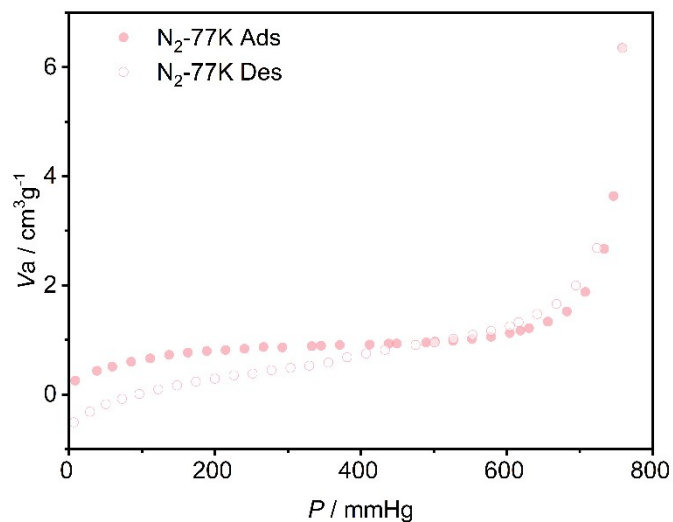


Figure S36. The nitrogen adsorption curve of Na-Ti₂Nb₈ was measured at 77K.

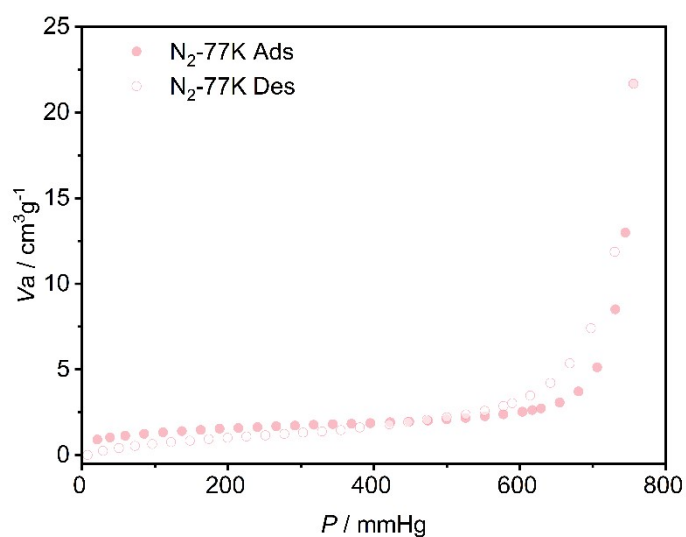


Figure S37. The nitrogen adsorption curve of Co-Nb₆ was measured at 77K.

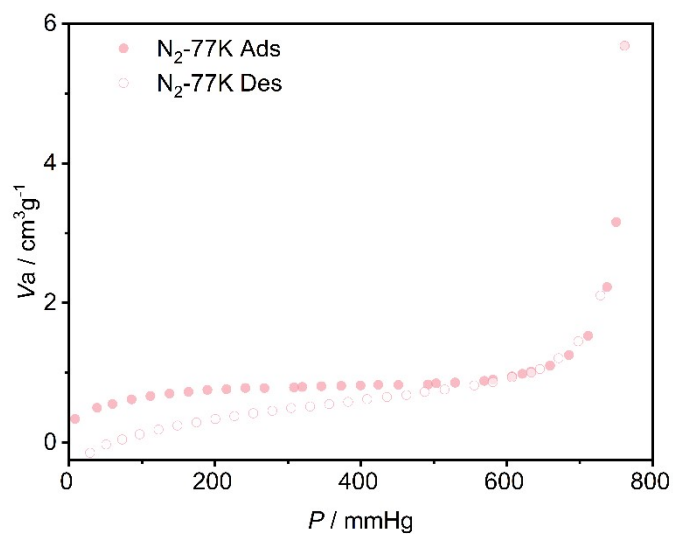


Figure S38. The nitrogen adsorption curve of Co(en)₃ClSO₄ was measured at 77K.

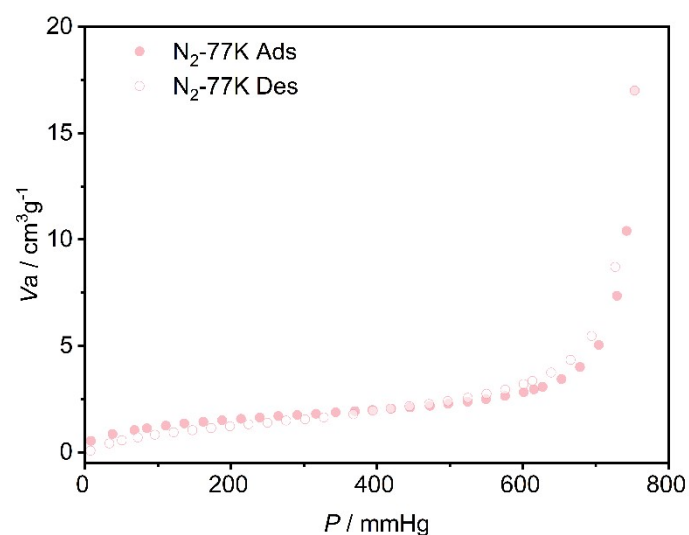


Figure S39. The nitrogen adsorption curve of $\text{Co}(\text{OAc})_2$ was measured at 77K.

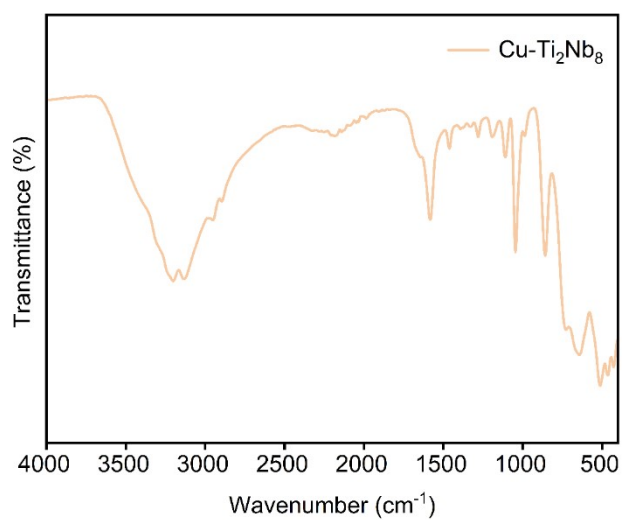


Figure S40. IR spectrum of $\text{Cu-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

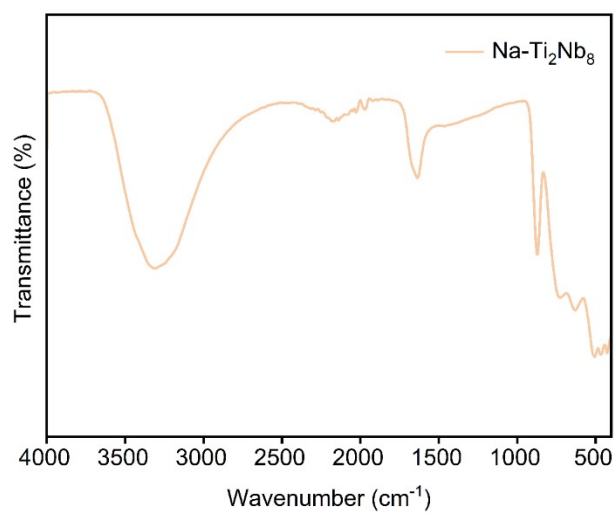


Figure S41. IR spectrum of $\text{Na-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

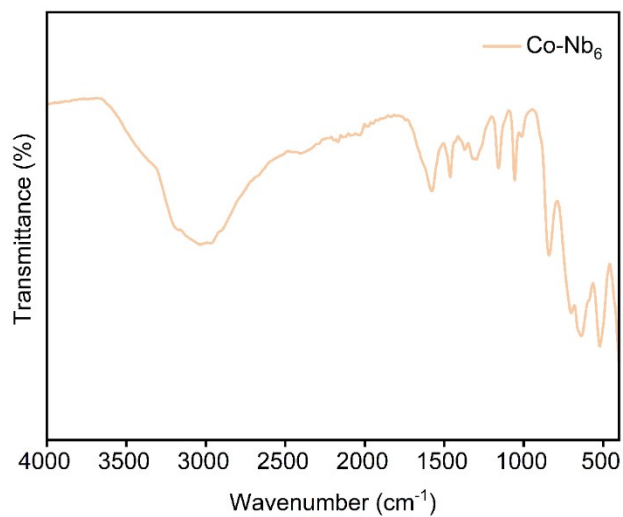


Figure S42. IR spectrum of Co-Nb_6 .

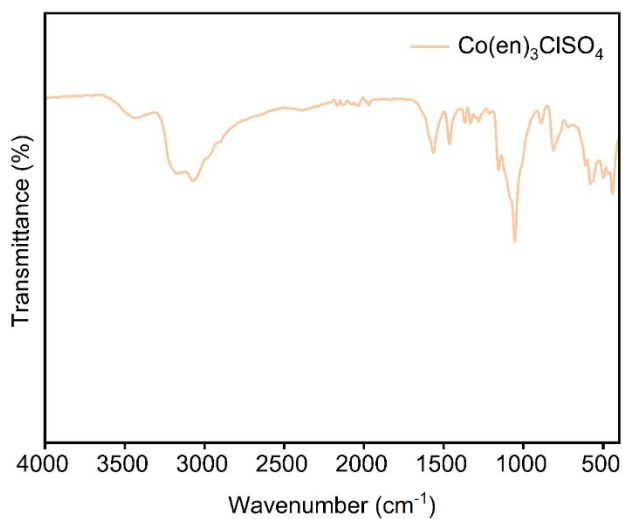


Figure S43. IR spectrum of $\text{Co(en)}_3\text{ClSO}_4$.

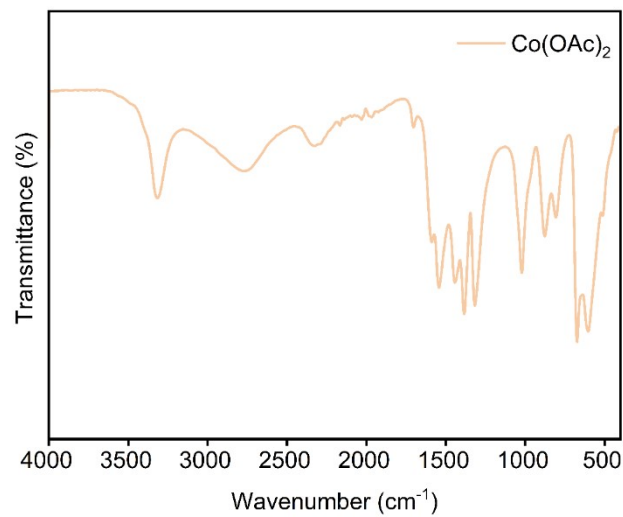


Figure S44. IR spectrum of $\text{Co}(\text{OAc})_2$.

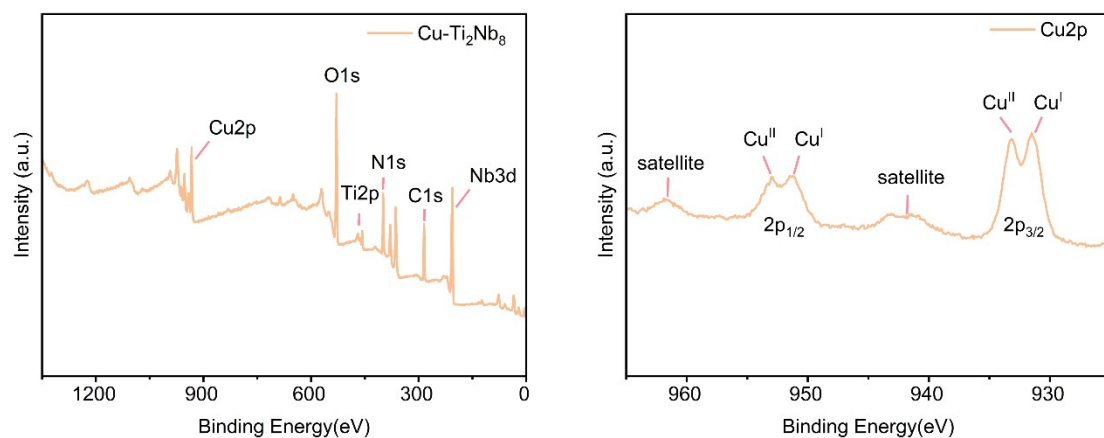


Figure S45. The XPS spectra of $\text{Cu-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

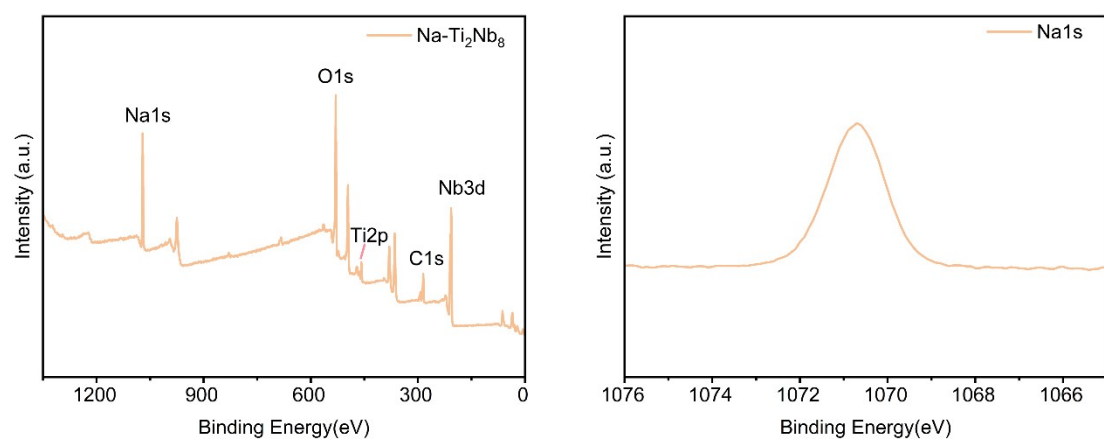


Figure S46. The XPS spectra of $\text{Na-Ti}_2\text{Nb}_8$.

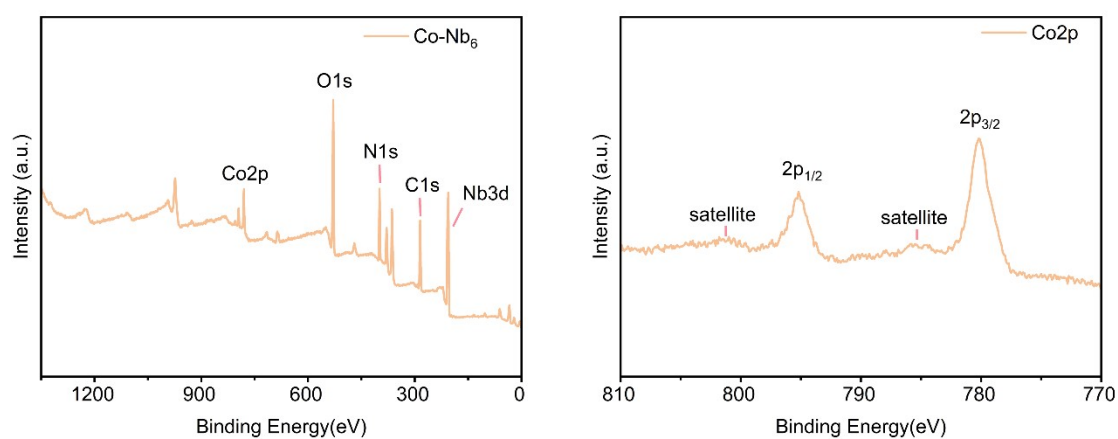


Figure S47. The XPS spectra of Co-Nb_6 .

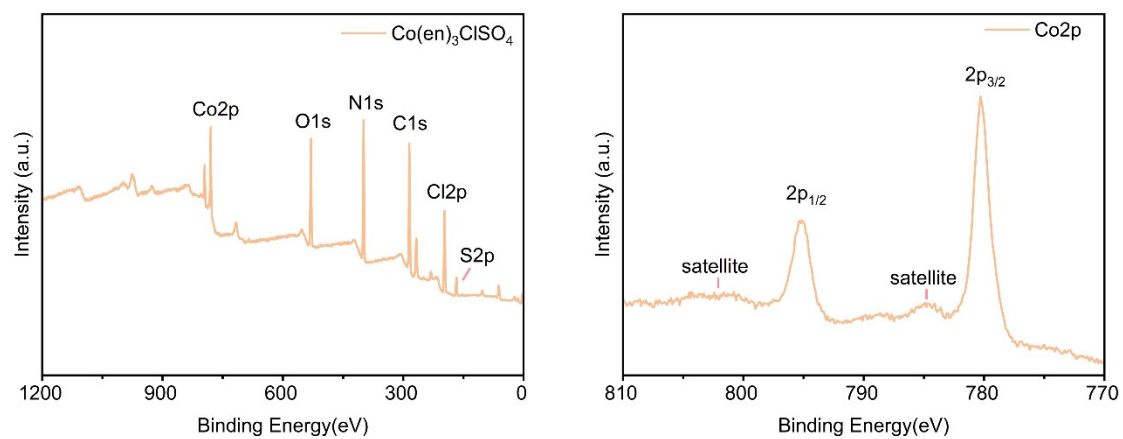


Figure S48. The XPS spectra of $\text{Co(en)}_3\text{ClSO}_4$.

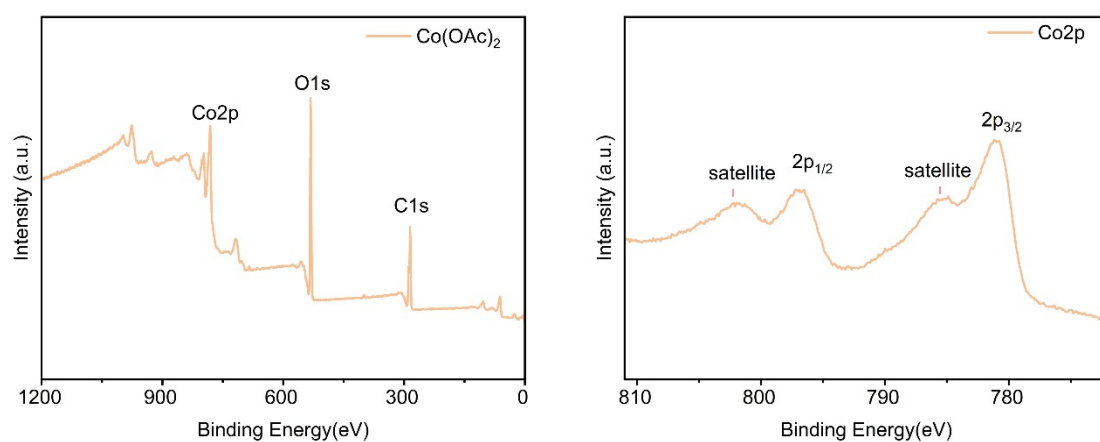


Figure S49. The XPS spectra of Co(OAc)_2 .

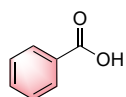
8. Calculation Section

First-principles DFT simulations were performed using the VASP package. The electron exchange-correlation (XC) energies were treated by the generalized gradient approximation (GGA) in the Perdew Burke Ernzerhof (PBE) scheme.⁵ In addition, the projection enhanced wave (PAW) pseudopotential was used to describe the ion nucleus and valence electron interactions.⁶ A kinetic energy cutoff of 400 eV was chosen as the plane wave basis set. To focus solely on the interactions between the oxygen molecules and the active sites, we simplified the calculations and reduced the computational load by extracting the Co-Ti₂Nb₈ dimer as the computational model. Under the premise of immobilizing the niobium-oxo cluster components, the adsorption of oxygen and its interaction with the cobalt complex active center were optimized, with the forces fell below 0.01 eV Å⁻¹. The integration over the reciprocal space was performed using a Monkhorst model with a Γ -point. The atomistic structures and the difference charge densities are illustrated using VESTA.⁷ The version of the Bader program used for Bader charge analysis is v1.05.⁸

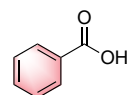
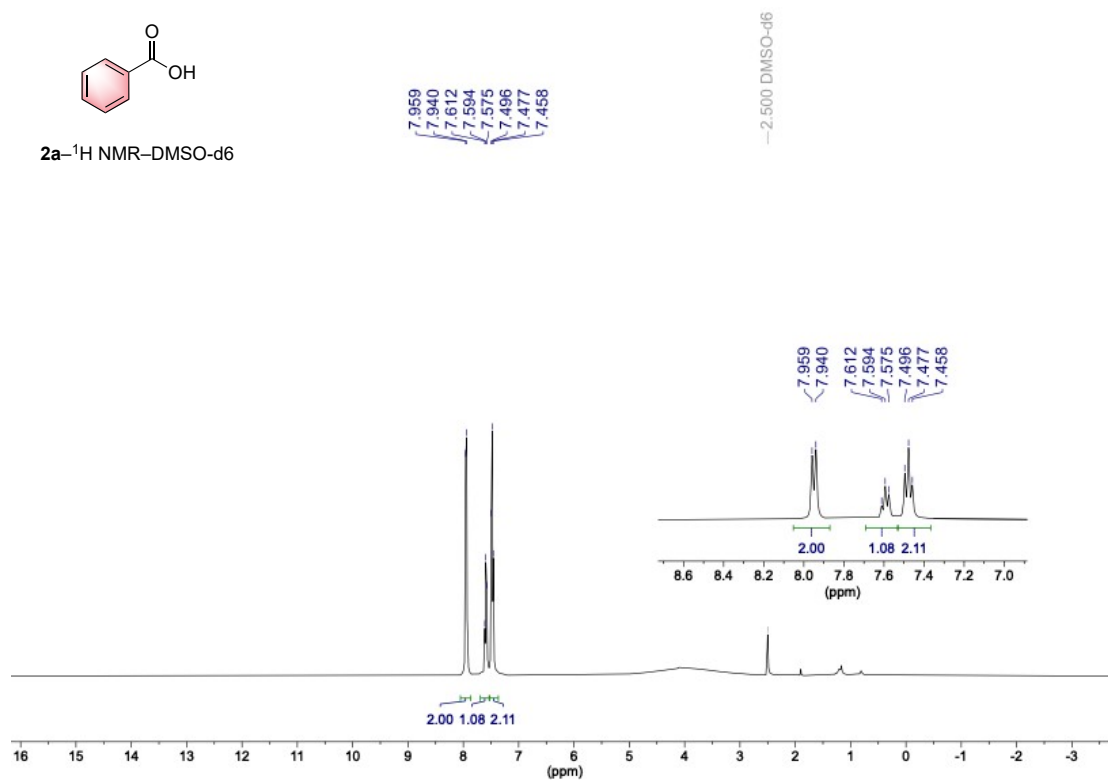
9. References

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6. a) P. E. Blochl. *Phys. Rev. B* **1994**, *50*, 17953–17979; b) G. Kresse, D. Joubert, *Phys. Rev. B* **1999**, *59*, 1758–1775.
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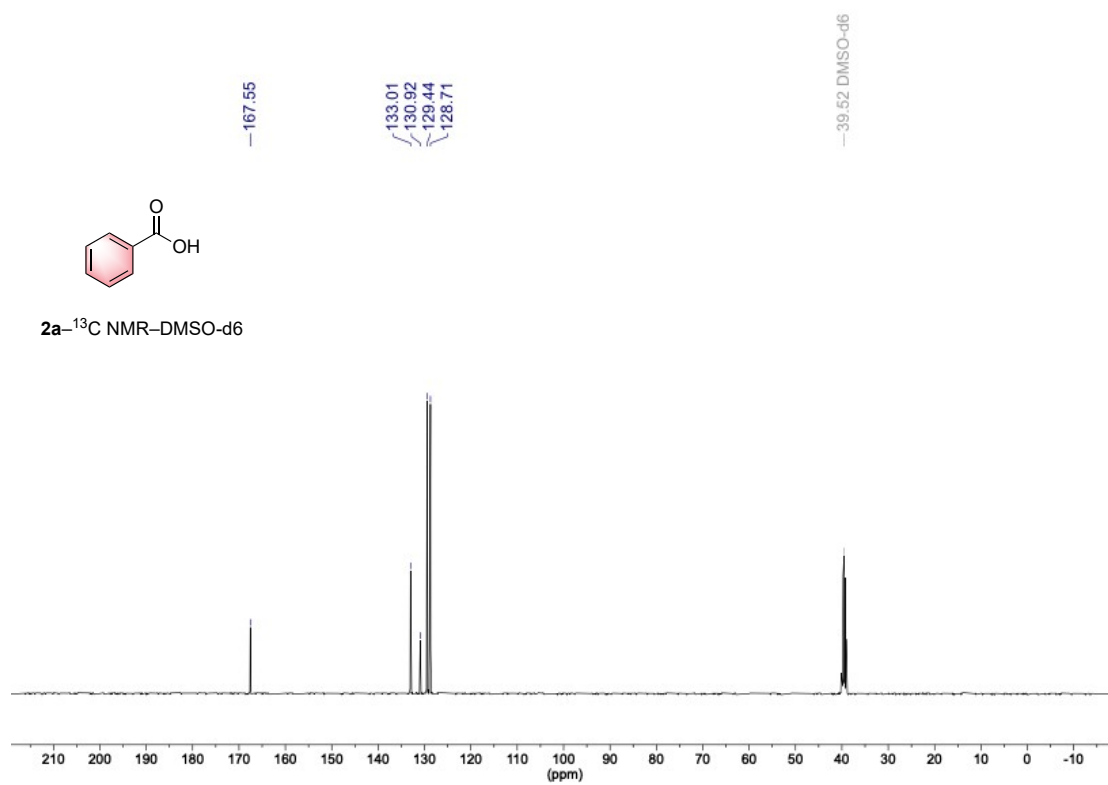
10. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectra



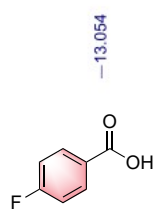
2a- ^1H NMR-DMSO-d₆



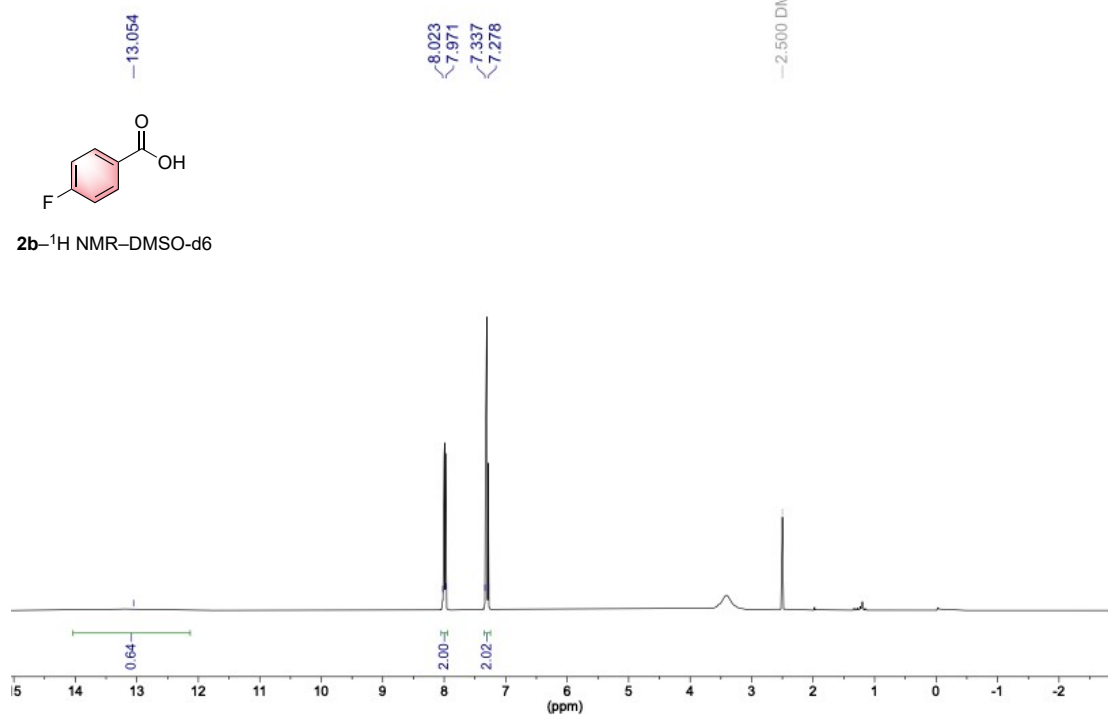
2a- ^{13}C NMR-DMSO-d₆



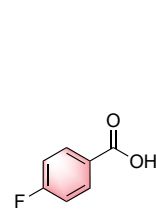
single_pulse



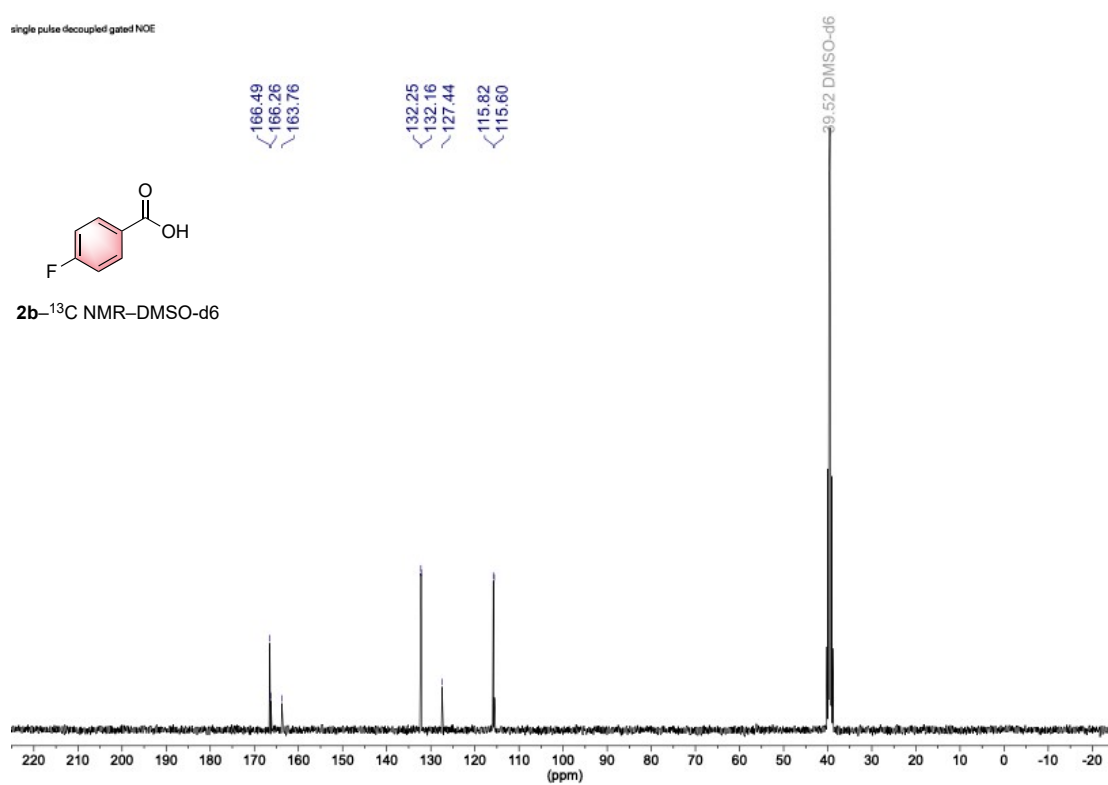
2b- ^1H NMR-DMSO-d₆

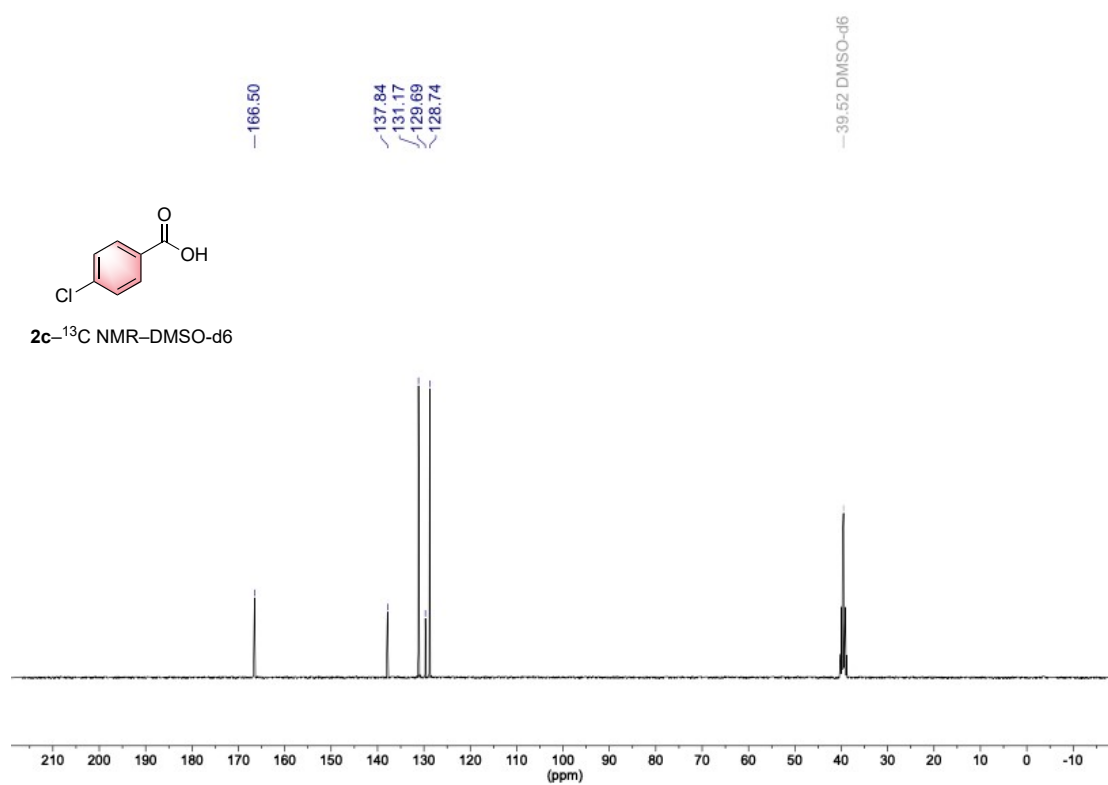
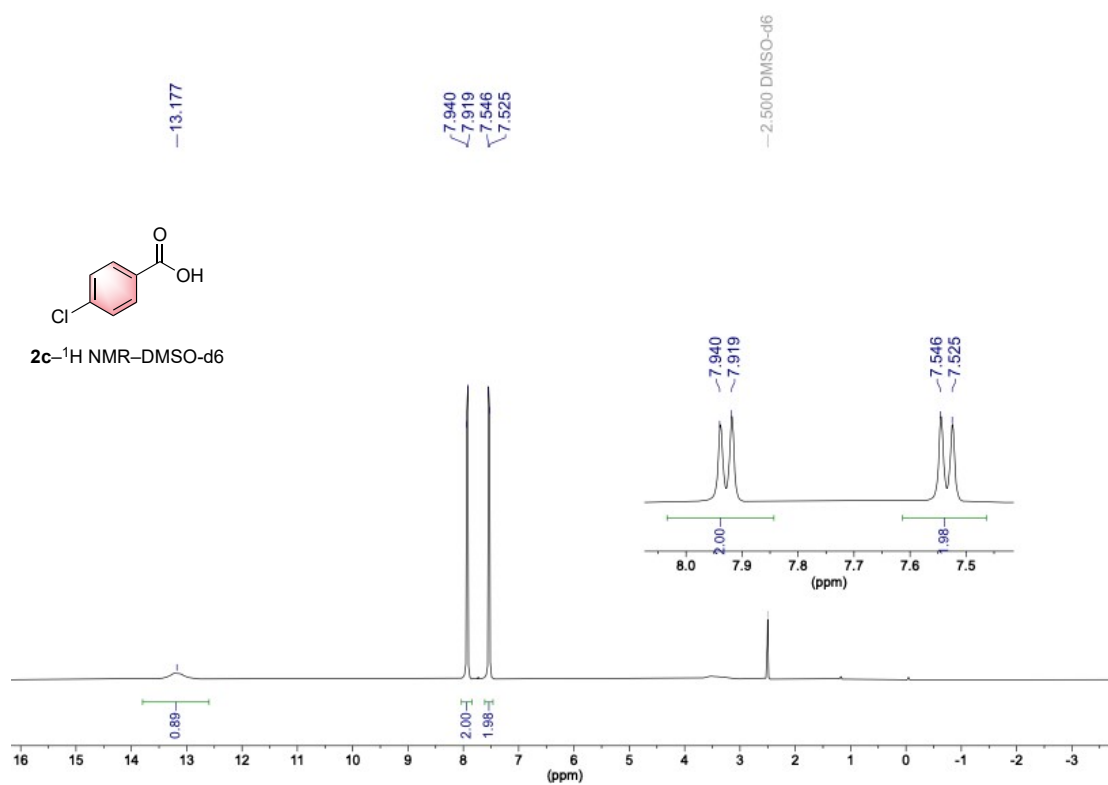


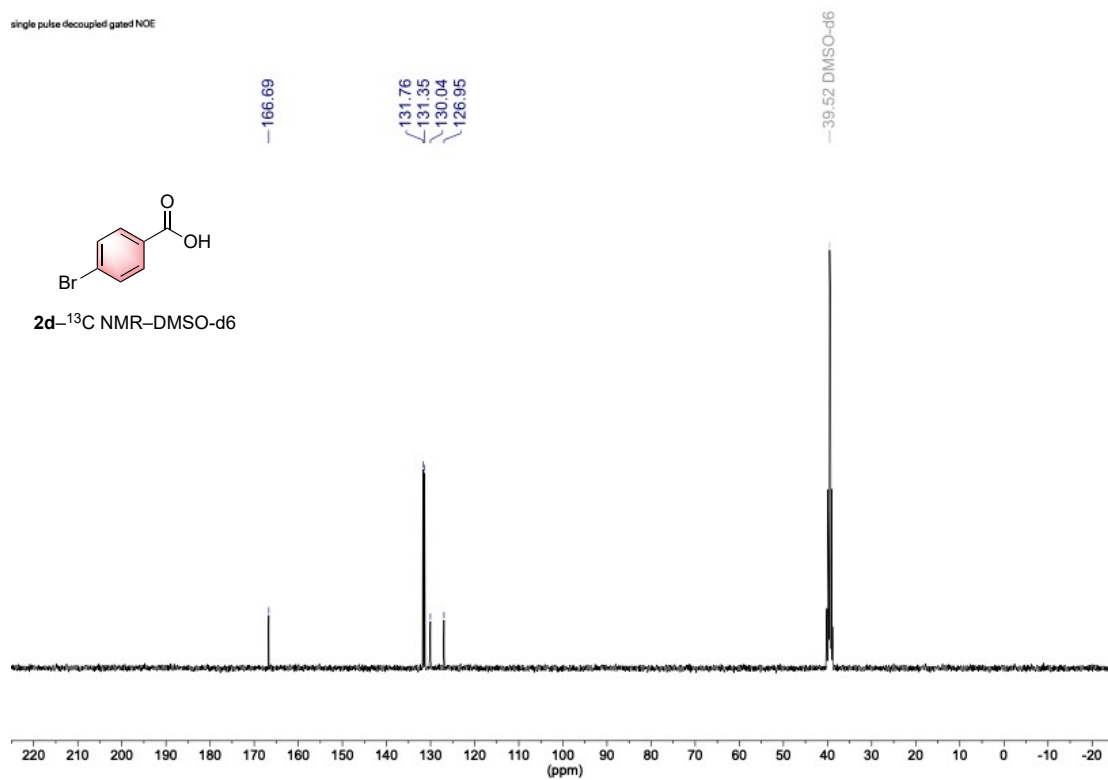
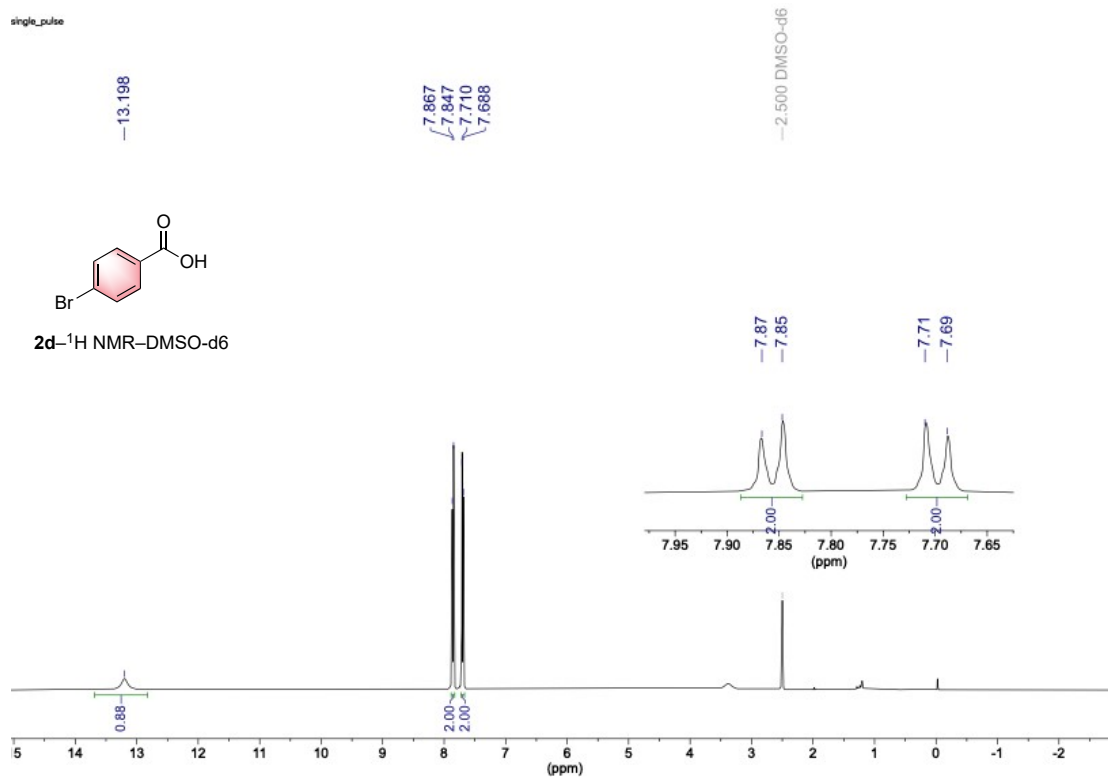
single pulse decoupled gated NOE



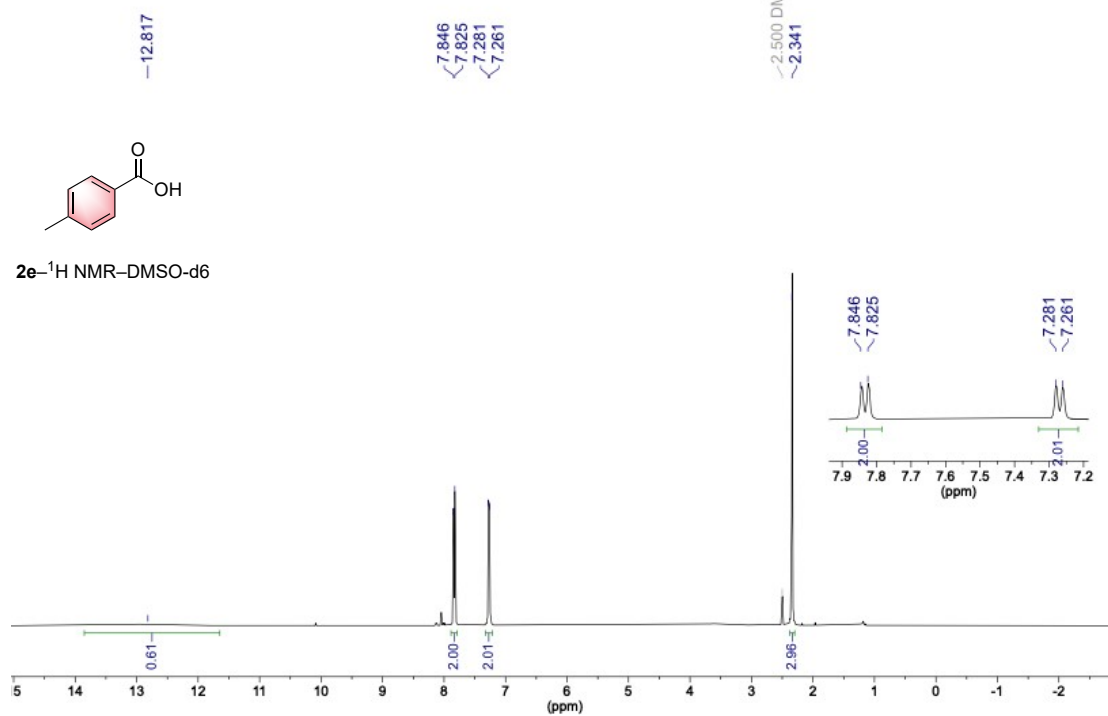
2b- ^{13}C NMR-DMSO-d₆



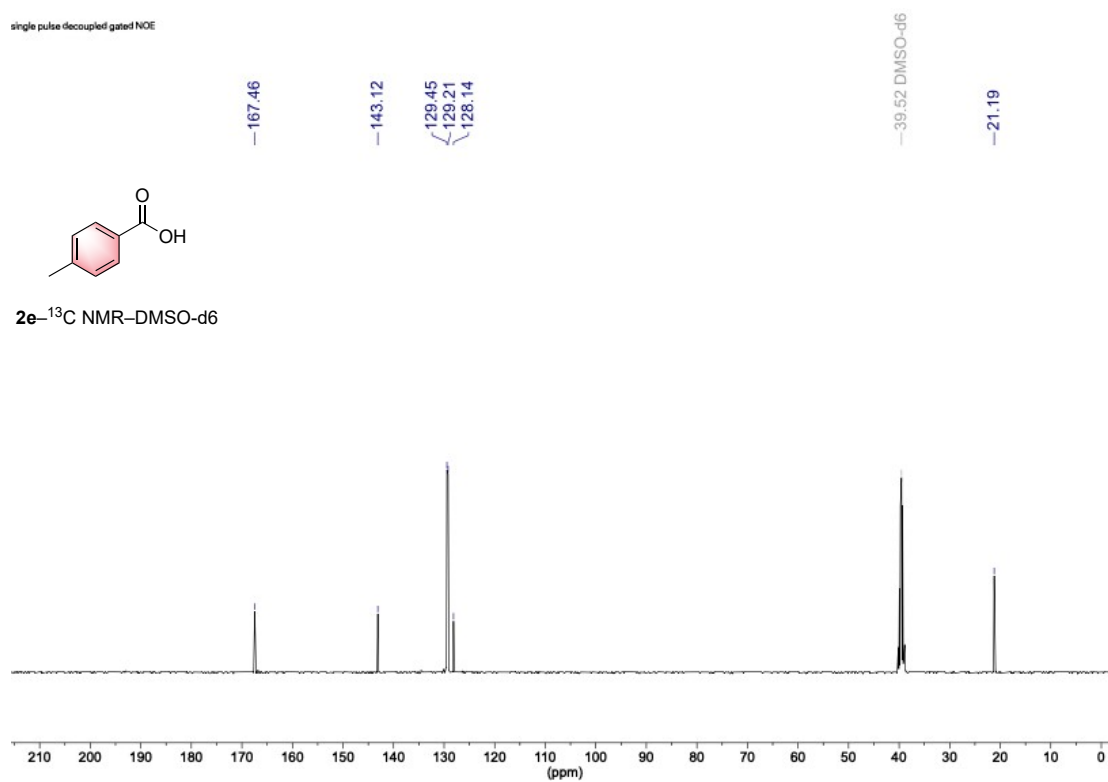




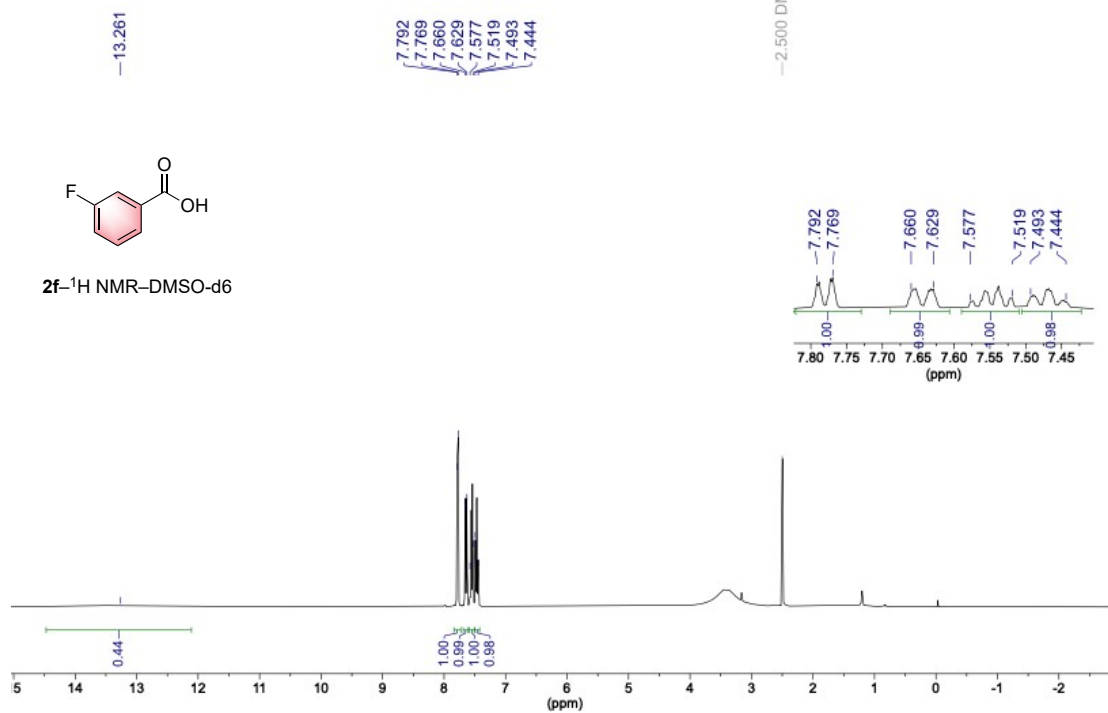
single_pulse



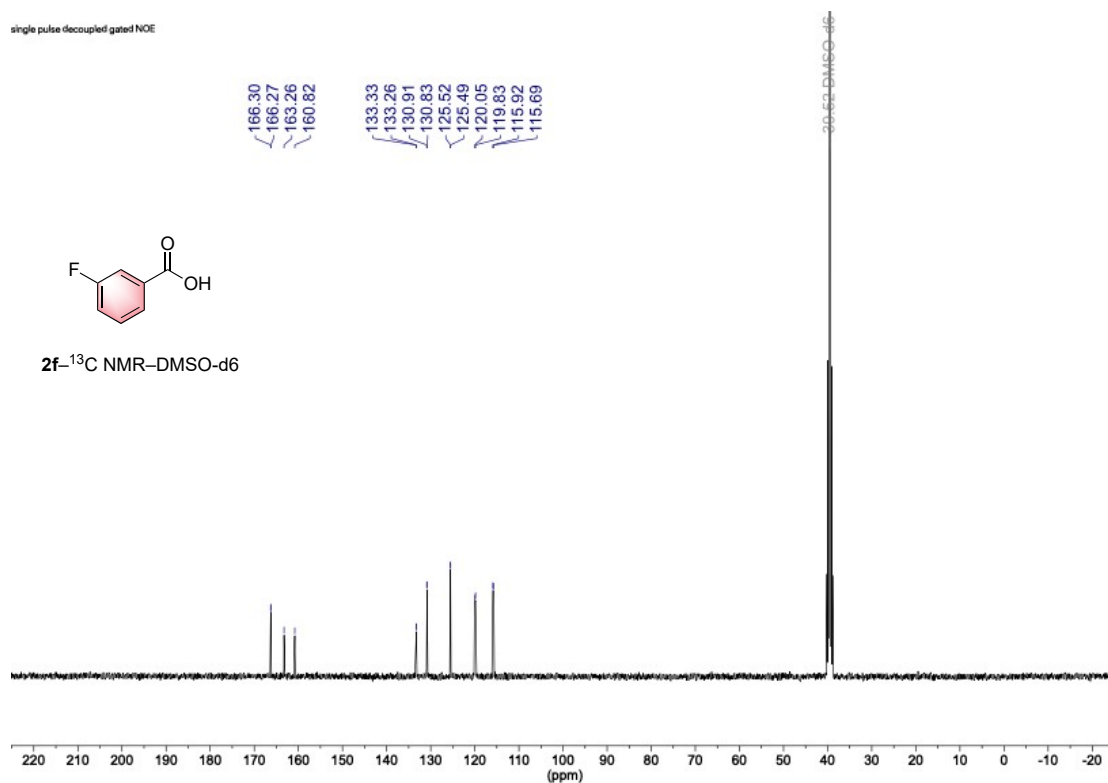
single pulse decoupled gated NOE

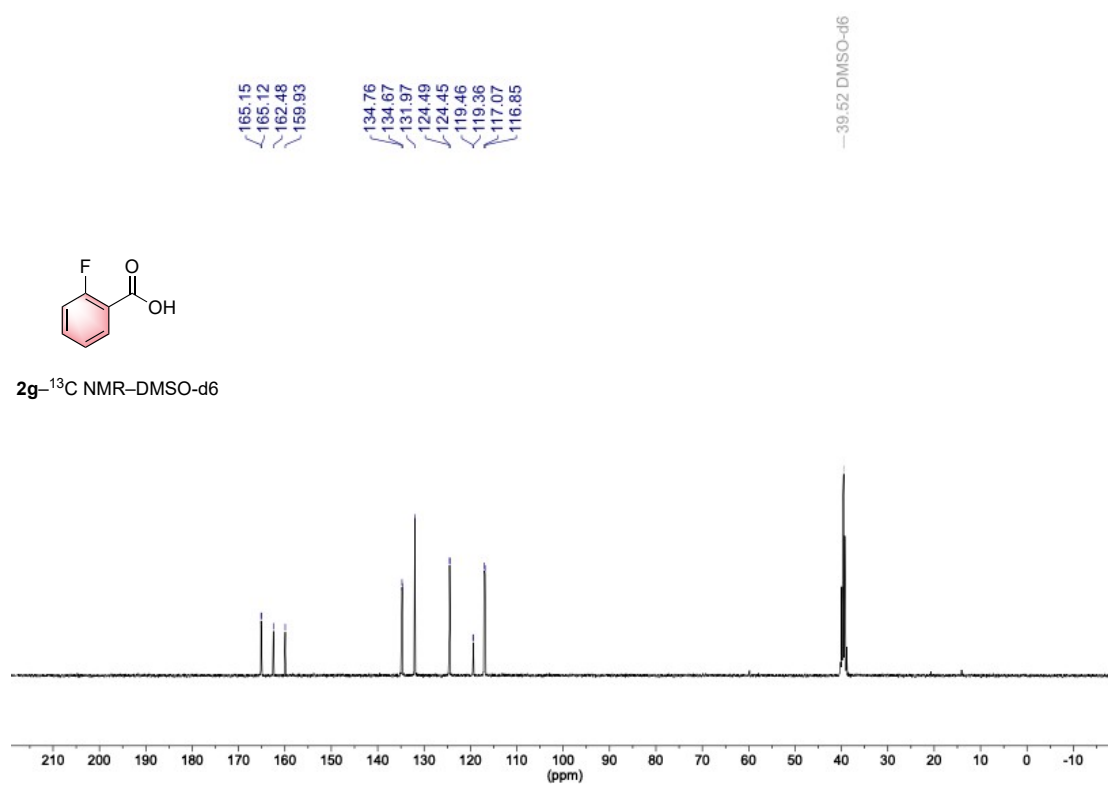
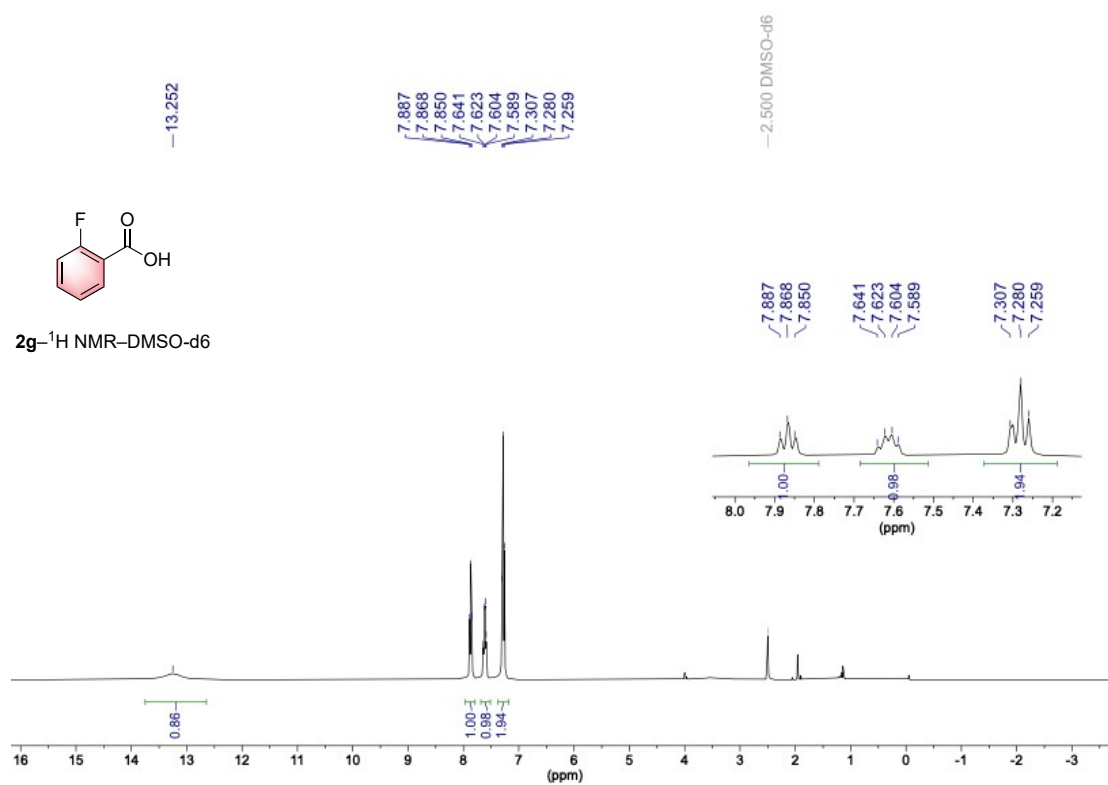


single_pulse

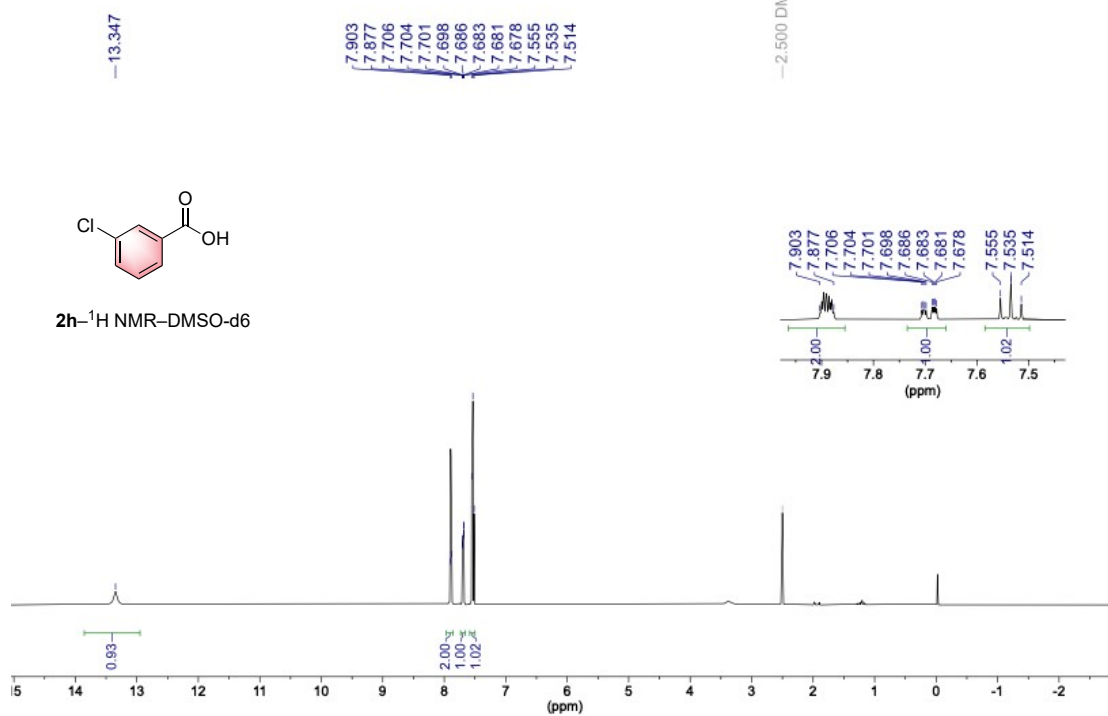


single pulse decoupled gated NOE

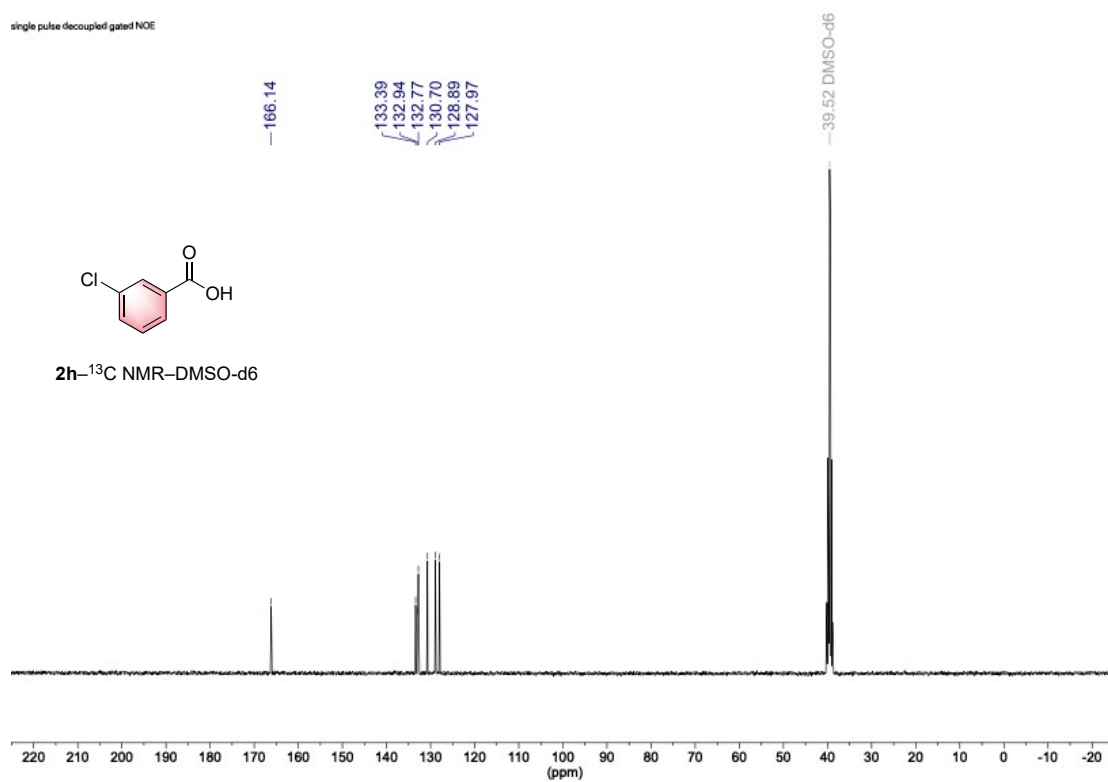




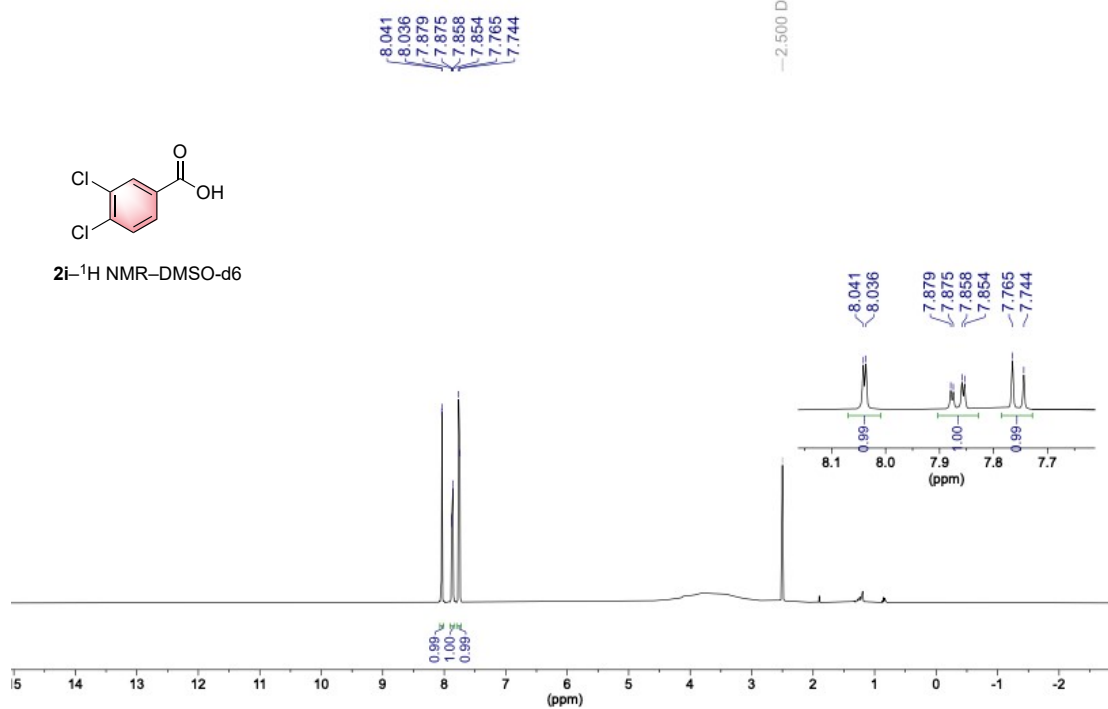
single_pulse



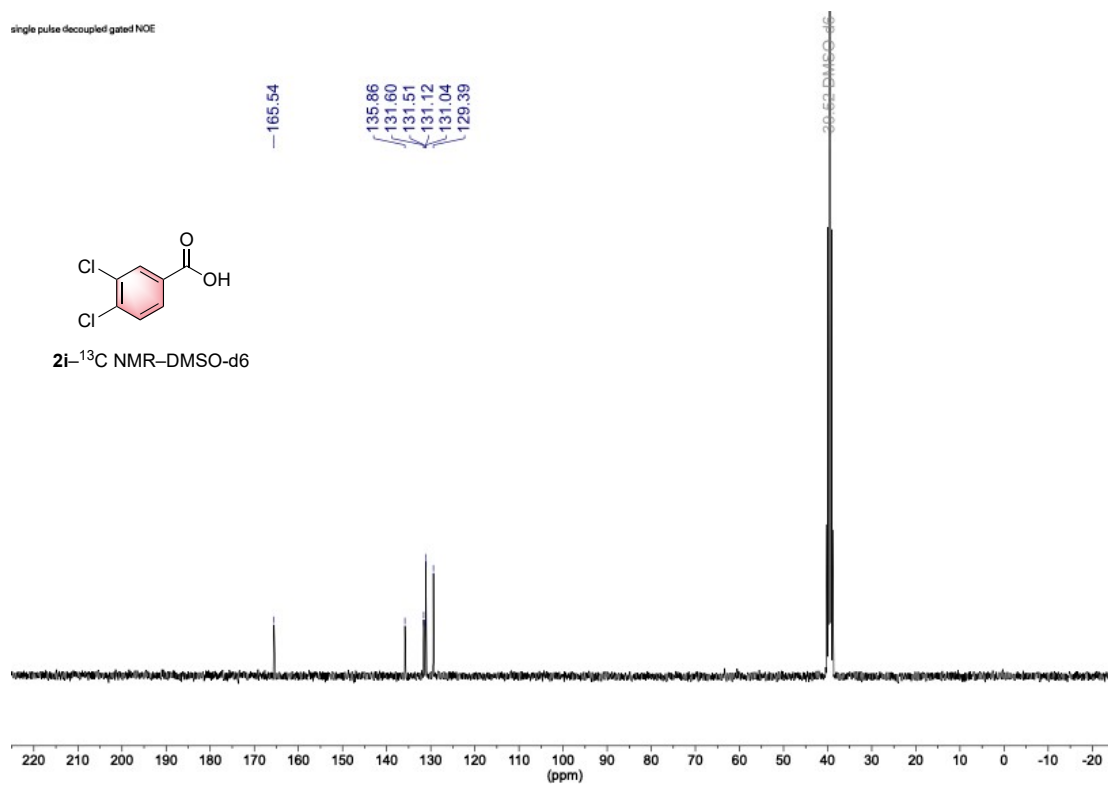
single pulse decoupled gated NOE



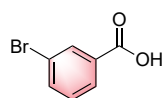
single_pulse



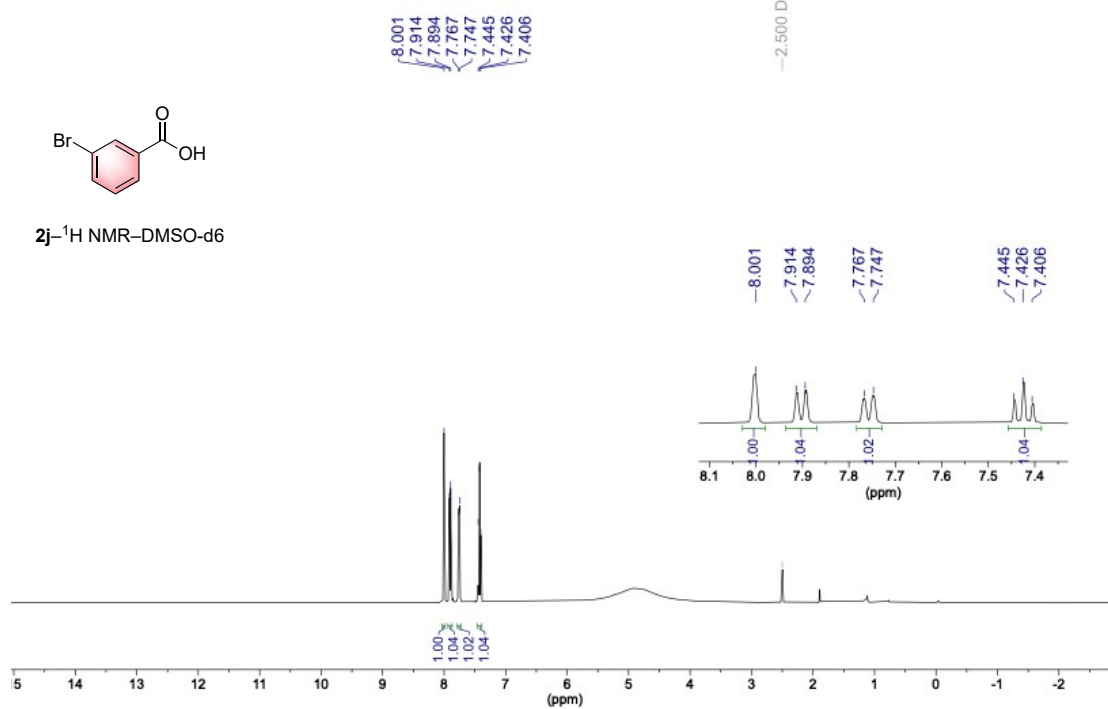
single pulse decoupled gated NOE



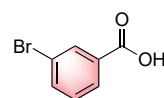
single_pulse



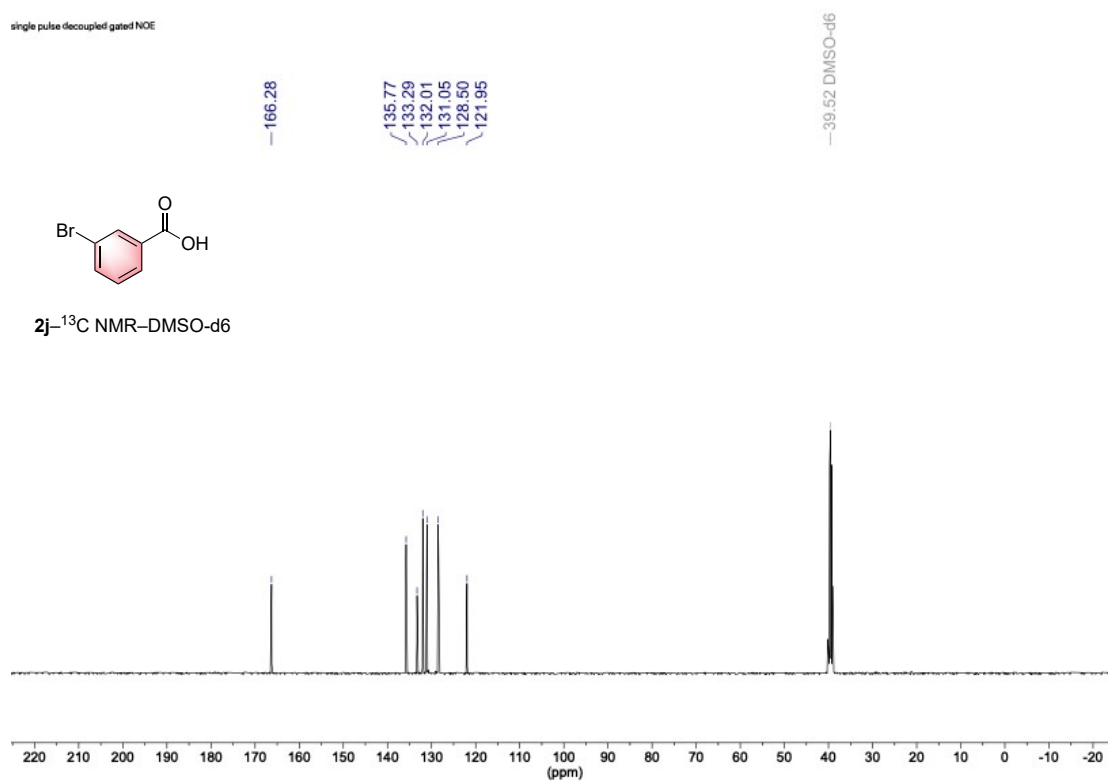
2j-¹H NMR-DMSO-d6



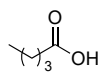
single pulse decoupled gated NOE



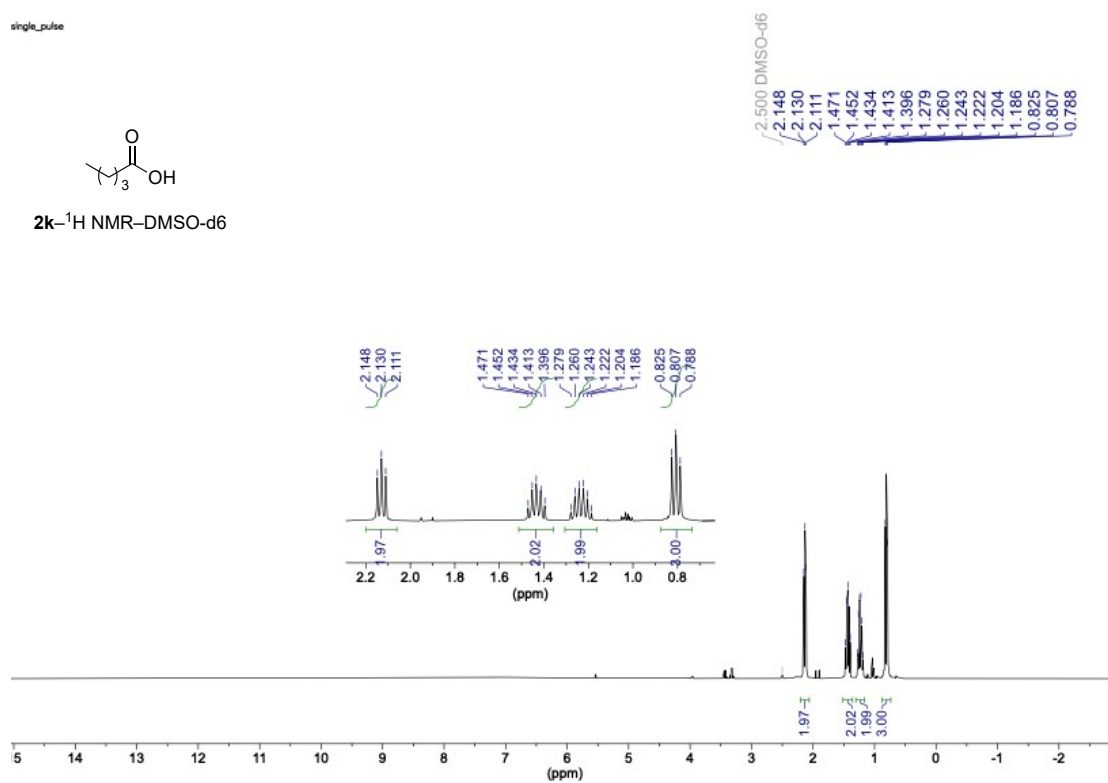
2j-¹³C NMR-DMSO-d6



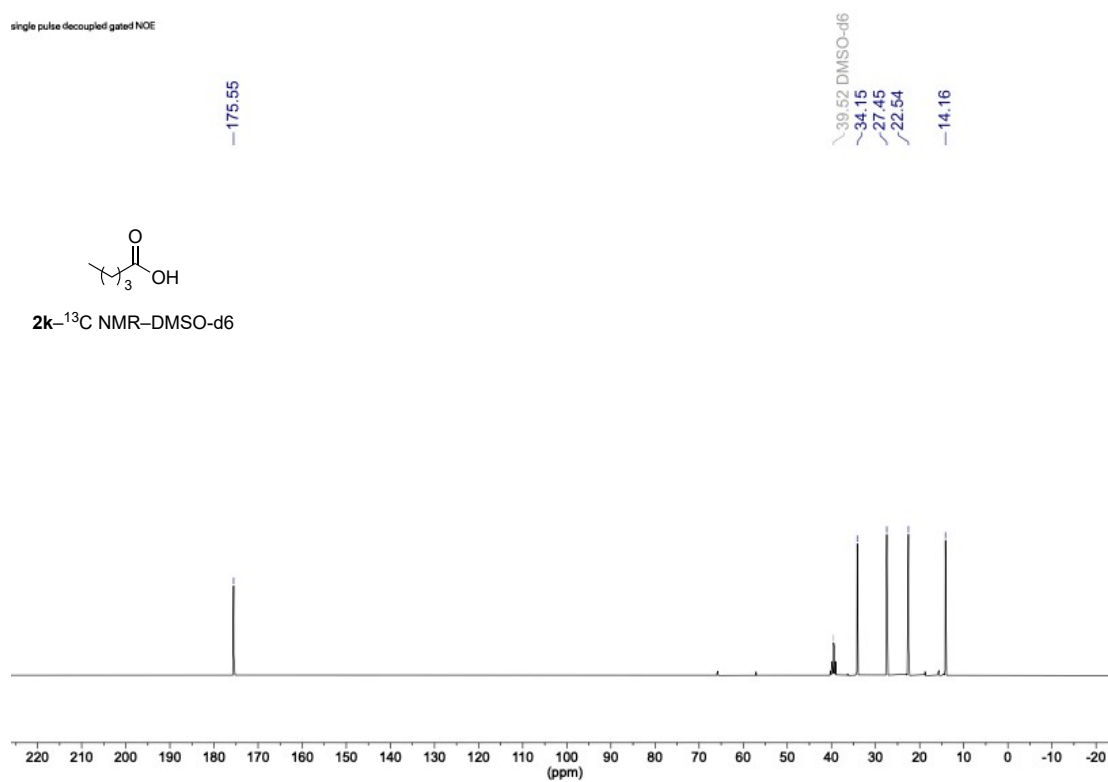
single_pulse



2k-¹H NMR-DMSO-d₆



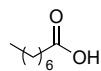
single pulse decoupled gated NOE



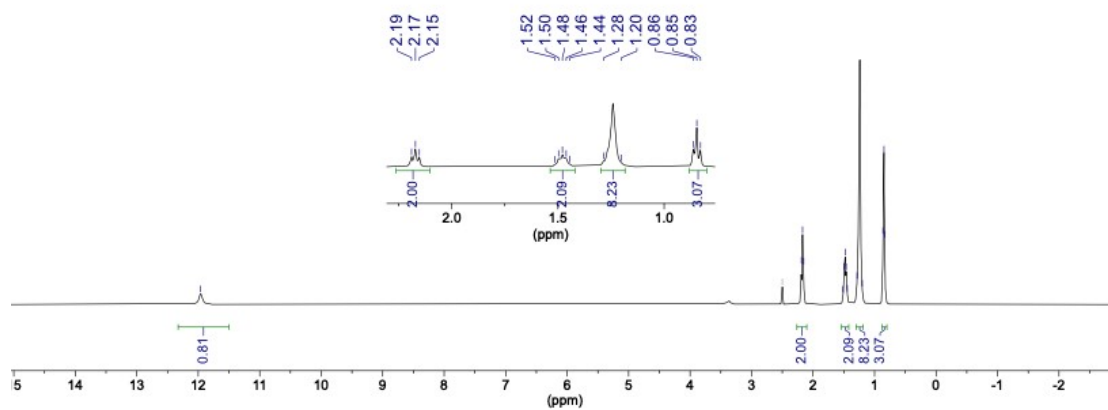
2k-¹³C NMR-DMSO-d₆

single_pulse

—11.96

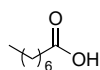


2I-¹H NMR-DMSO-d6

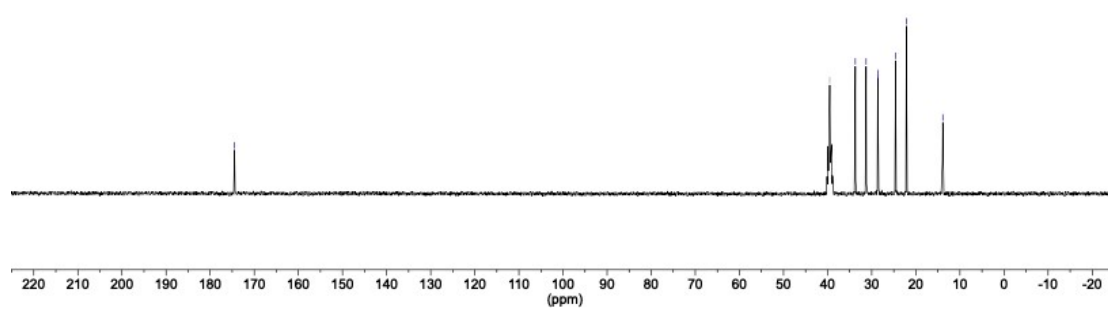


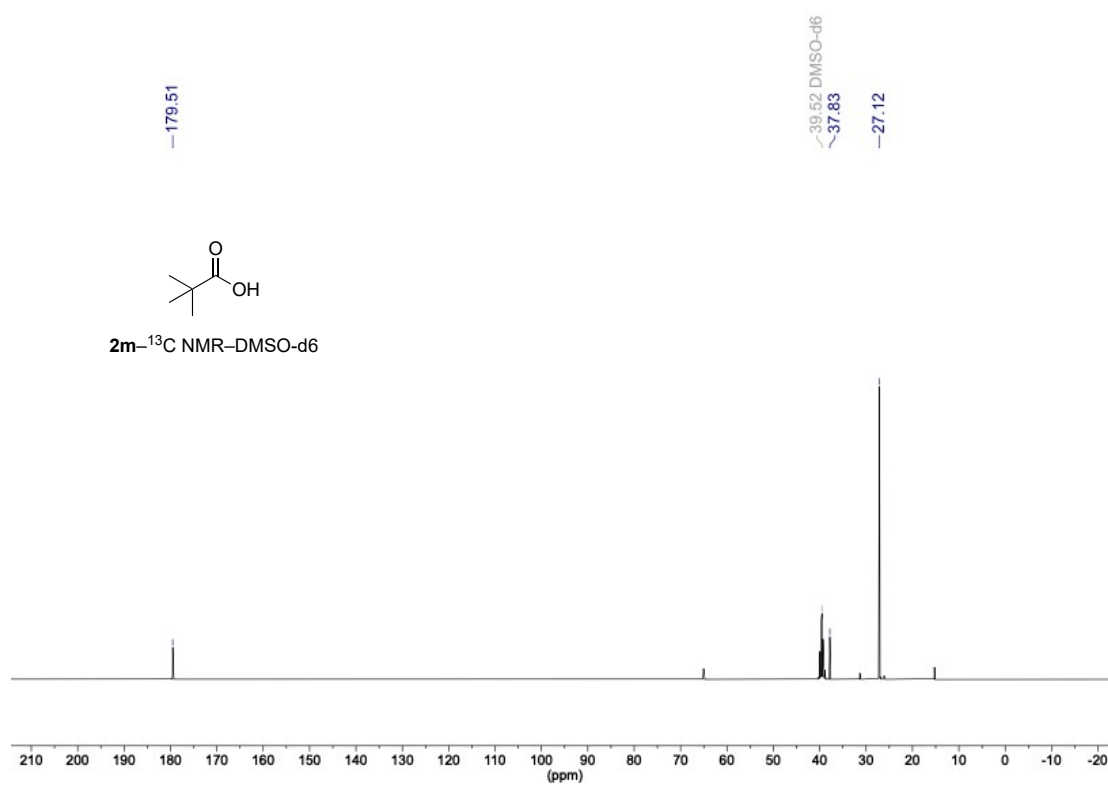
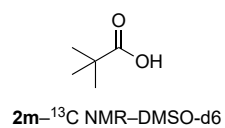
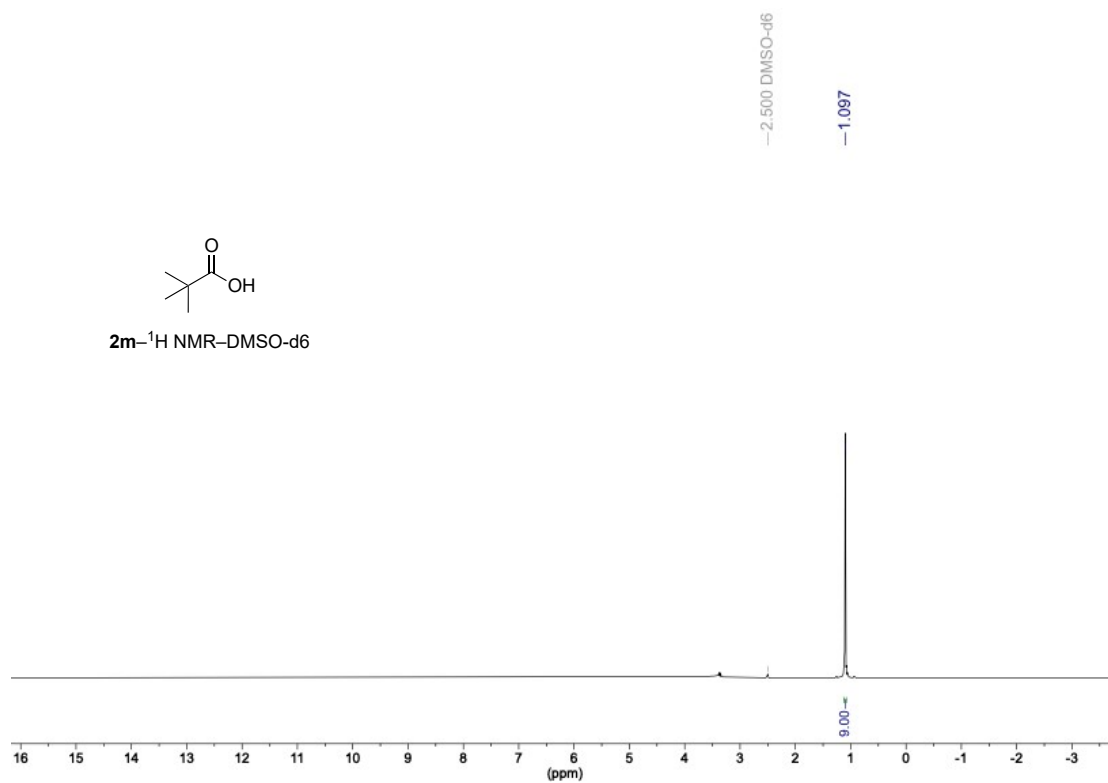
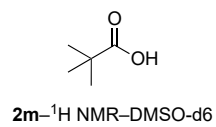
single pulse decoupled gated NOE

—174.48



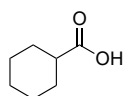
2I-¹³C NMR-DMSO-d6



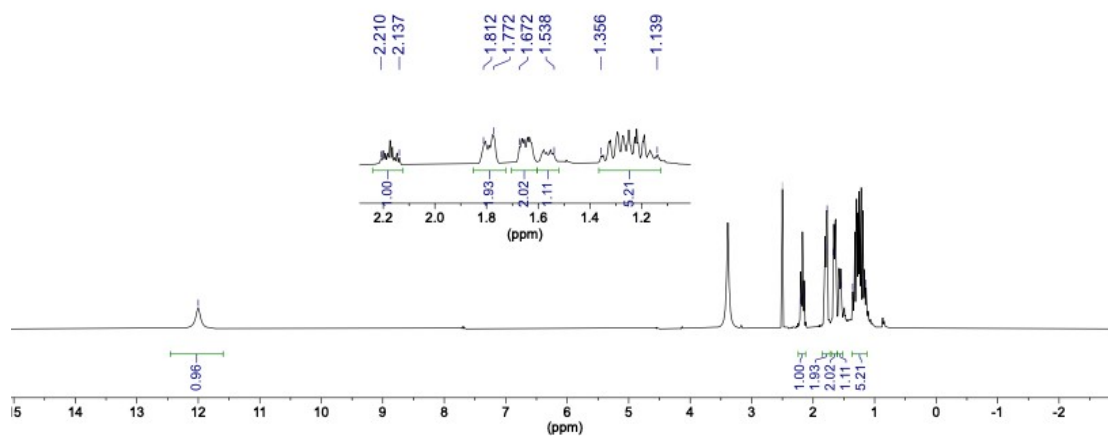


single_pulse

12.001

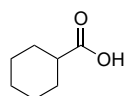


2n-¹H NMR-DMSO-d₆



single pulse decoupled gated NOE

176.83



2n-¹³C NMR-DMSO-d₆

