

## Electronic Supplementary Information

**Ni(0) or Cu(0) catalyzed cleavage of carbon-chlorine bond of 2-chloro-1,1,1-trifluoroethane (HCFC-133a) via Single Electron Transfer (SET) process**

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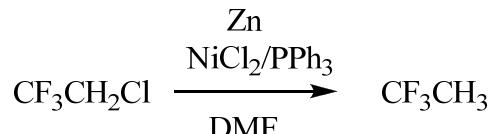
## I, General Procedure

All reactions were carried out under the N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, DMF, DMSO and MeCN were distilled prior to use. Reagents were purchased at the commercial quality and used without further purification, unless otherwise stated. 2-chloro-1,1,1-trifluoroethane(HCFC-133a) was used in the form of fresh DMF solution.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR were recorded on a Bruker 300MHz or Varian 300MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to TMS as a reference (CDCl<sub>3</sub> = 7.26 ppm) The following abbreviations are used to explain the multiplicities: s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet, br = broad. <sup>19</sup>FNMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 300 MHz or Varian 300MHz spectrometer without proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to CFCl<sub>3</sub>. <sup>13</sup>CNMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 400 MHz spectrometer with complete proton decoupling. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm relative to TMS as a reference (CDCl<sub>3</sub> = 77.0 ppm). GC/MS analysis was performed using a Agilent 7890A Network GC system coupled to a 5975C Network mass selective detector.

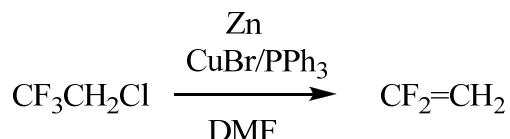
## II, Experimental Procedures

### II-1. Prepare of 1,1,1-trifluoroethane(HFC-143a) 1b



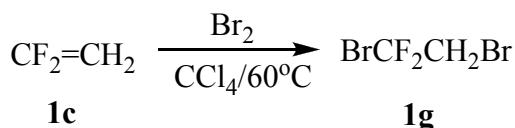
A 3 mL sealed tube was charged with zinc powder (423 mg, 6.5 mmol),  $\text{NiCl}_2$  (65 mg, 0.5 mmol) and  $\text{PPh}_3$  (530 mg, 2.0 mmol). The sealed tube was filled with nitrogen and the nitrogen purged solvent DMF (1.5 mL) was then added. The mixture was heated to 120 °C for 30min to form a brown catalyst and cooled to room temperature. The solution of HCFC-133a **1a** (5M in DMF, 1mL) was added, then the valve of the sealed tube was screwed down. The sealed mixture was stirred at 90 °C for 5h, then cooled to room temperature. The gas phase was collected using a condensate trap in the liquid nitrogen. About 400mg product was collected, which contained about 96%  $\text{CF}_3\text{CH}_3$  **1b**. The yield was about 92% based on HCFC-133a. GC-MS showed the peak: 84, 83, 69, 65, 64.  $^{19}\text{FNMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): -61.0 ppm(q,  $J = 12\text{Hz}$ ),  $^1\text{HNMR}$ : 1.87ppm(q,  $J=12\text{Hz}$ ). Spectra data reported in literature<sup>1</sup>:  $^{19}\text{F NMR}$ : -61.2ppm (q,  $J= 13.1\text{Hz}$ ).  $^1\text{H NMR}$ : 1.87ppm (q,  $J= 12.8\text{ Hz}$ ).

### II-2. Prepare of 1,1-trifluoroethane(VDF) 1c



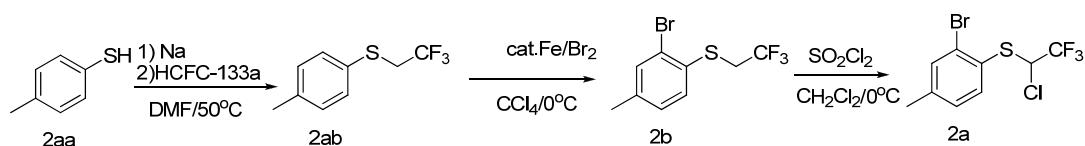
A 3mL sealed tube was charged with CuBr(72mg, 0.5mmol) and  $\text{PPh}_3$ (530mg, 2mmol). The sealed tube was filled with nitrogen and the nitrogen purged solvent DMF (1.5 mL) was then added. The mixture was heated to 100°C about 30min until it was colorless, then cooled to room temperature. Zinc powder (489mg, 7.5mmol) and the solution of HCFC-133a **1a** (5M in DMF, 1mL) was added, then the valve of the sealed tube was screwed down. The sealed mixture was heated at 150°C for 6h and cooled to room temperature. The gas phase was obtained with a gasometer. About 103mL gas (4.6mmol, converted to standard state: 273.15K, 1atm). The GC-MS showed only  $\text{CF}_2=\text{CH}_2$  **1c** was contained in the gas phase. The yield was about 92% based on HCFC-133a. GC-MS showed the peak: 64, 45, 44, 43.  $^{19}\text{FNMR}$ : ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): -81.0ppm (m),  $^1\text{HNMR}$ : 3.84ppm (dd,  $J=25, 10\text{Hz}$ ) Spectra data reported in literature<sup>2</sup>:  $^{19}\text{FNMR}$ : ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): -81.9ppm.

### II-3. Absorption of VDF using $\text{Br}_2$



A 3mL sealed tube was charged with CuBr(72mg, 0.5mmol) and PPh<sub>3</sub>(530mg, 2mmol). The sealed tube was filled with nitrogen and the nitrogen purged solvent DMF (1.5 mL) was then added. The mixture was heated to 100°C about 30min until it was colorless, then cooled to room temperature. Zinc powder (489mg, 7.5mmol) and the solution of HCFC-133a **1a** (5M in DMF, 1mL) was added. The mixture was heated at 150°C for 6h and cooled to room temperature. The gas phase was bubbled into Br<sub>2</sub> (1.2g, 7.5mmol) in the 5mL CCl<sub>4</sub> in a 10mL schlenk tube at 60°C for 2h slowly. The mixture was washed with the saturated aqueous solution of Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and water, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The mixture was distilled at atmospheric pressure to give BrCF<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Br 0.649g (2.9mmol, 58%). <sup>19</sup>FNMR:-50.4ppm (t, J=13Hz), <sup>1</sup>HNMR: 4.03 ppm (t, J=13Hz). Spectra data reported in literature<sup>3</sup>: <sup>19</sup>FNMR:-49.1ppm (t, J=13Hz), <sup>1</sup>HNMR: 4.10ppm (t, J=13Hz).

#### II-4. Prepare of (2-bromo-4-methylphenyl)(1-chloro-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)sulfane **2a**



##### II-4-1 Prepare of p-tolyl(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)sulfane<sup>4</sup> **2ab**

A 100mL schlenk tube was charged with **2aa**(100mmol, 12.4g) and filled with N<sub>2</sub>, then nitrogen purged solvent DMF (60 mL) and sodium(106mmol, 2.44g)was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature until the sodium disappeared. The solution of HCFC-133a (150mmol, 5M in DMF) was added to the tube. The mixture was stirred at 50°C for 10h. After the reaction was over, the mixture was poured into 500mL of Et<sub>2</sub>O. The resulted solution was washed with was water, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated in a vacuo. The mixture was distilled at reduced pressure to afford **2ab**<sup>5</sup> (77mmol, 15.8g, 77%yield). <sup>19</sup>FNMR: (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): -65.8ppm (t, J=10Hz), <sup>1</sup>HNMR: 2.34ppm (s, 3H), 3.37(q, J=10Hz, 2H), 7.40(d, J=8Hz, 2H), 7.13(d, J=8Hz, 2H).

##### II-4-2 Prepare of (2-bromo-4-methylphenyl)(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)sulfane **2b**

A 50mL schlenk tube was charged with Fe power (2mmol, 0.112g) and filled with N<sub>2</sub>, then 10mL CCl<sub>4</sub> and **2ab** (20mmol, 5.12g)was added. The mixture was cooled to 0°C and Br<sub>2</sub> (23mmol, 3.68g in 5mL CCl<sub>4</sub>) was dropped slowly. The mixture was stirred vigorously at 0°C for about 2h detected by TLC. After the reaction was over, the mixture was poured into 100mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, washed with the saturated aqueous solution of Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and water, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on a silica gel column using n-hexane

as the eluent. **2b** (17.8mmol, 5.07g, 89%yield) was obtained as colorless oil.

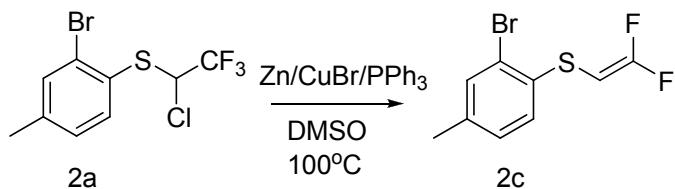
IR (KBr):2947, 2924, 1590, 1464, 1380, 1266, 1241, 1126, 1081, 848, 817, 638 cm<sup>-1</sup>.  
<sup>19</sup>FNMR (282MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): -66.3 (q, J=10Hz).  
<sup>1</sup>HNMR(400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 2.32 (s, 3H), 3.44(q, J=10Hz, 2H),7.09(d, J=8Hz,1H), 7.46- 7.48 (m, 2H).  
<sup>13</sup>CNMR(100MHz, CCl<sub>3</sub>): 140.52, 134.09, 134.06, 130.29, 128.96, 127.46, 125.42(q, J=278Hz), 37.15(q, J=33Hz), 20.66.  
MS(EI):m/z=286(M<sup>+</sup>). HRMS (EI) M<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>3</sub>SBr: 283.9482, found 283.9484.

#### II-4-3 Prepare of ((2-bromo-4-methylphenyl)(1-chloro-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)sulfane<sup>6</sup> **2a**

A 10mL schlenk tube was filled with N<sub>2</sub>, then 7mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and **2b** (10mmol, 2.86g) was added. The mixture was cooled to 0°C and SO<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>(10.5mmol, 1.31g in 3mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) was dropped slowly. The mixture was stirred vigorously at 0°C for about 2h detected by TLC. After the reaction was over, the mixture was poured into 80mL CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, washed with washed with the saturated aqueous solution of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and water, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on a silica gel column using n-hexane as the eluent. **2a** (9.1mmol, 2.91g, 91% yield) was obtained as the colorless oil.

IR (KBr):2969, 2952, 1590, 1463, 1380, 1315, 1260, 1208, 1176, 1116, 830, 809, 786, 673 cm<sup>-1</sup>.  
<sup>19</sup>FNMR (282MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): -72.7 (d, J=7Hz).  
<sup>1</sup>HNMR (400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 2.38 (s, 3H), 5.38(q, J=7Hz, 1H), 7.17(d, J=8Hz,1H), 7.55- 7.60 (m, 2H).  
<sup>13</sup>CNMR (100MHz, CCl<sub>3</sub>): 142.61, 136.76, 134.94, 129.43, 129.24, 127.08, 122.92(q, J=280Hz), 64.23(q, J=34Hz), 20.90.  
MS (EI):m/z=320(M<sup>+</sup>). HRMS (EI) M<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>3</sub>SBr: 317.9092, found 317.9094.

#### II-4-4: The cleavage C-Cl of ((2-bromo-4-methylphenyl)(1-chloro-2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)sulfane **2a** using Cu(0) catalyzation



A 10mL schlenk tube was charged with CuBr(7.2mg, 0.1mmol) and PPh<sub>3</sub>(104mg, 0.4mmol). The sealed tube was filled with nitrogen and the nitrogen purged solvent DMSO (4 mL)was then added. The mixture was heated to 100°C about 30min until it was colorless. Zinc powder (195mg, 3mmol) and **2a**(2mmol, 0.64g) was added. The mixture was heated at 100°C for 1.5h detected by TLC. After the reaction was over, the mixture was poured into 30mL Et<sub>2</sub>O, washed with water, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The

solvent was removed and the residue was purified by flash chromatography on a silica gel column using n-hexane as the eluent. **2c** (1.76mmol, 0.466g, 88% yield) was obtained as straw yellow oil.

IR (KBr):3062, 2922, 1705, 1463, 1381, 1315, 1260, 1208, 1176, 1116, 1023, 961, 809, 786, 673, 536 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>19</sup>FNMR (282MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): -74.3 (d, J=13Hz, 1F), -77.9(dd, J=20, 13Hz, 1F).

<sup>1</sup>HNMR (300MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 2.30 (s, 3H), 5.11(d, J=20Hz, 1H), 7.07-7.14(m, 2H), 7.37 (s, 1H).

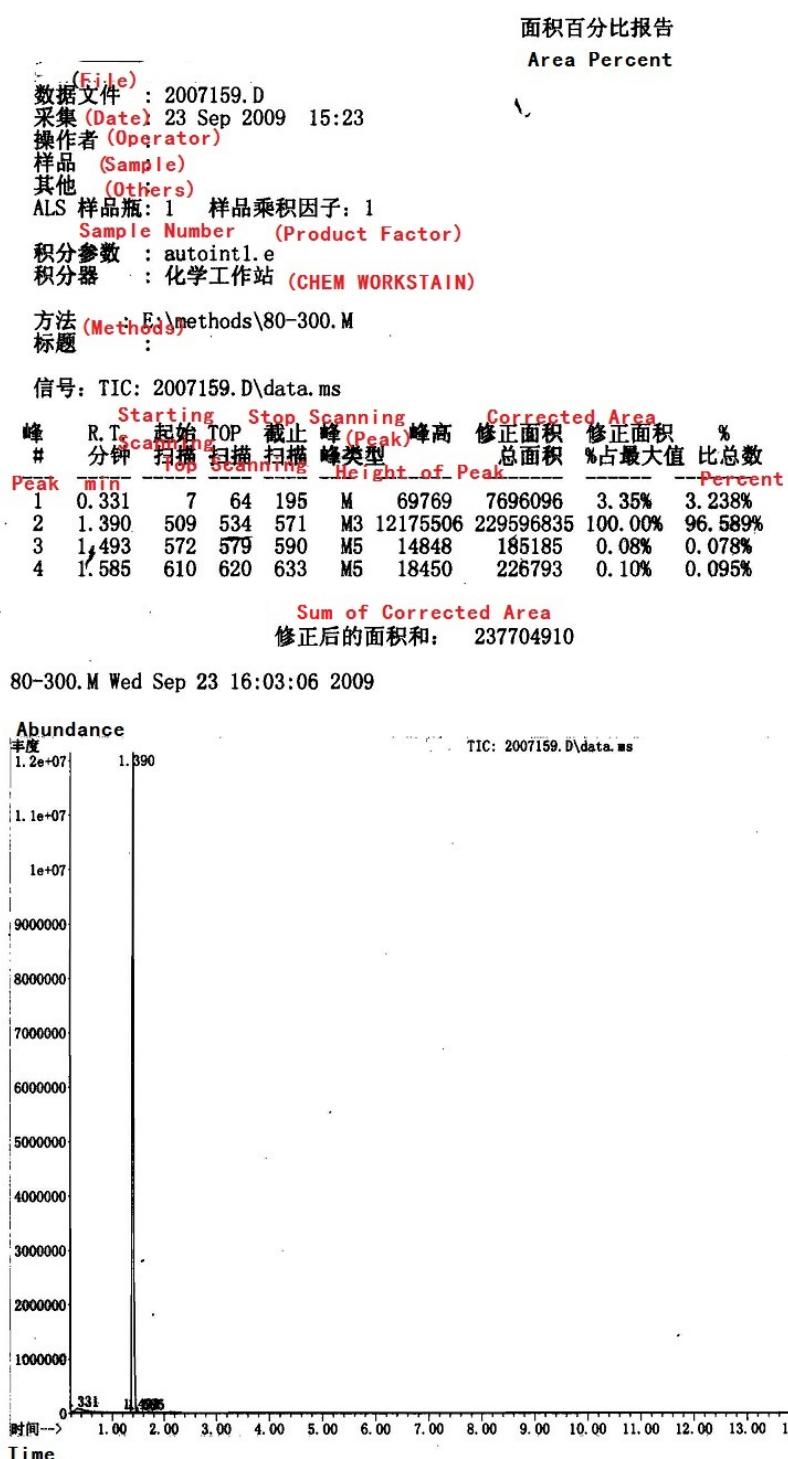
<sup>13</sup>CNMR (100MHz, CCl<sub>3</sub>): 159.52(dd, J=300, 295Hz) , 137.74, 133.61, 132.96, 128.85, 127.69, 121.88, 72.71(dd, J=33, 20Hz), 20.53.

MS (EI): m/z=266(M<sup>+</sup>). HRMS (EI) M<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>8</sub>F<sub>3</sub>SBr: 263.9420, found 263.9423.

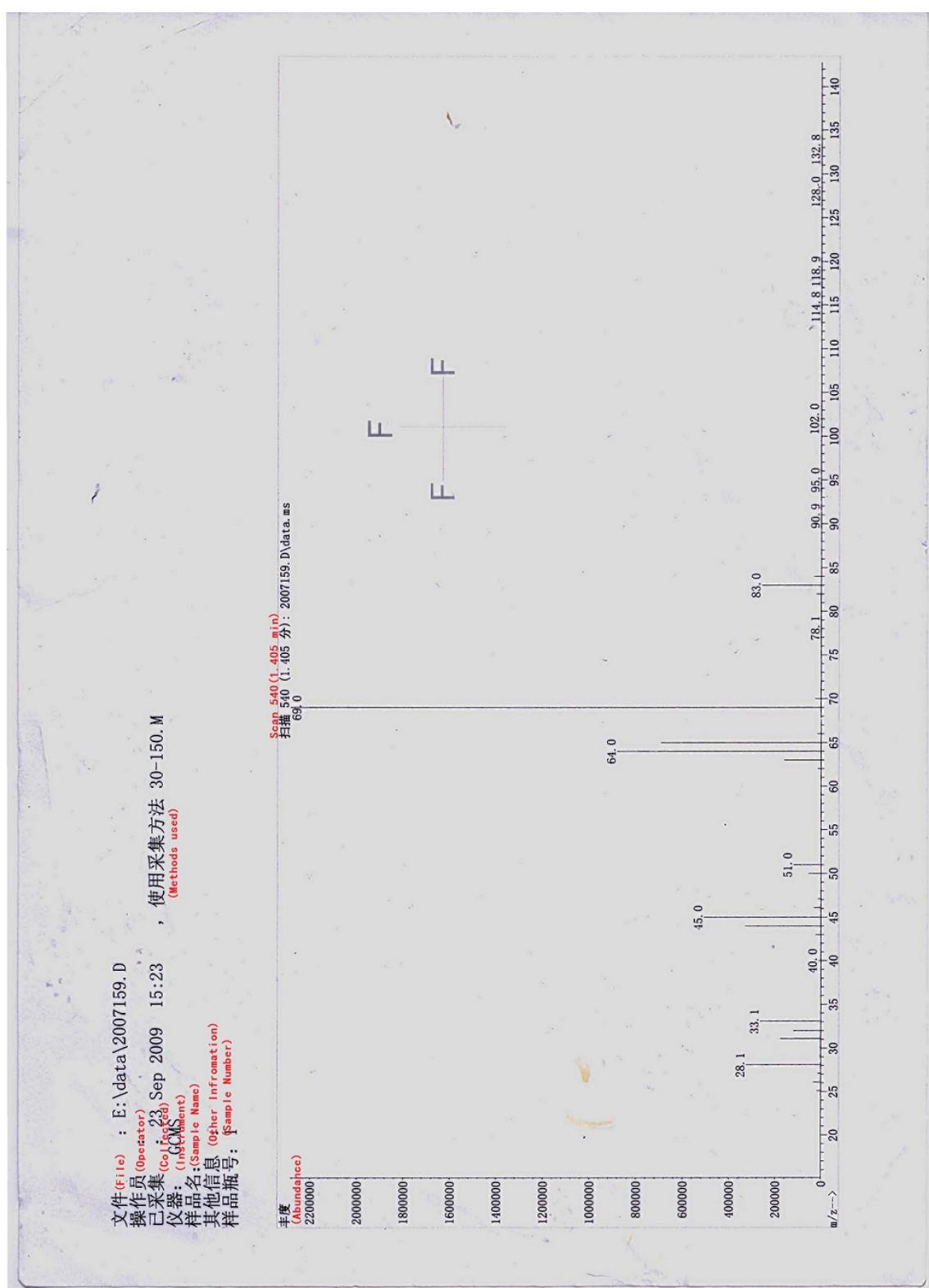
### III. Reference

- 1, Tanuma, T.; Ohnishi, K.; Okamoto, H.; Morikawa, S. *J. Fluorine Chem.* **1996**, *76*, 45.
2. Prakash, G. K. Surya; Hu, Jinbo; Olah, George A. *J.Org.Chem.* **2003**, *68*, 4457 .
3. Fokin, A. V.; Studnev, Yu. N.; Rapkin, A. I.; Chilikin, V. G.; Verenikin, O. V. Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR , **1985**, 601.
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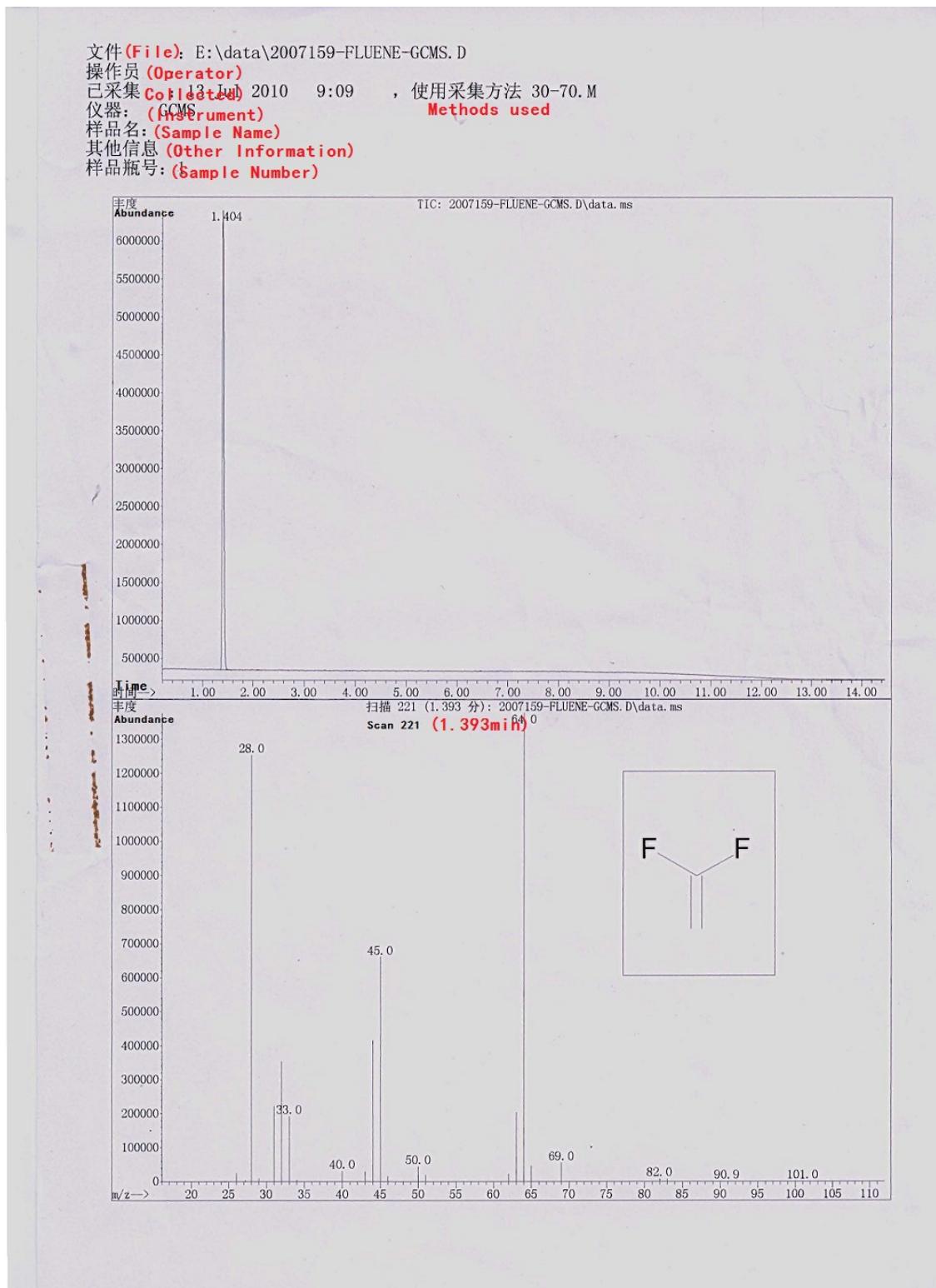
#### IV. GC-MS spectral for HFC-143a and VDF



Gas phase product of Ni(0) catalytic system

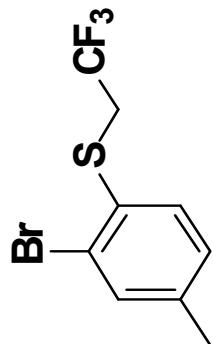
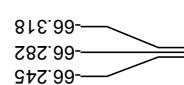


Mass Spectra of HFC-143a



GC/MS spectra of Cu(0) catalytic system

V. Spectral Data for new compounds



Aug 28 2011

USER: [x] : CDCl<sub>3</sub>

SOLVENT : CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Experiment = 2pul

Pulse length = 6.167 usec

Recycle delay = 1.500 sec

NA = 16

Solvent = CDCl<sub>3</sub>

PTSwId = 32768

F1 = 292.307831 MHz

F2 = 300.054321 MHz

SW1 = 64935.07 Hz

AT1 = 0.50 sec

Hz per Pt fSD = 1.98 Hz

SW2 = 1.00 Hz

Hz per Pt 2DdD = 1.00 Hz

O1 = -23988.1973 Hz

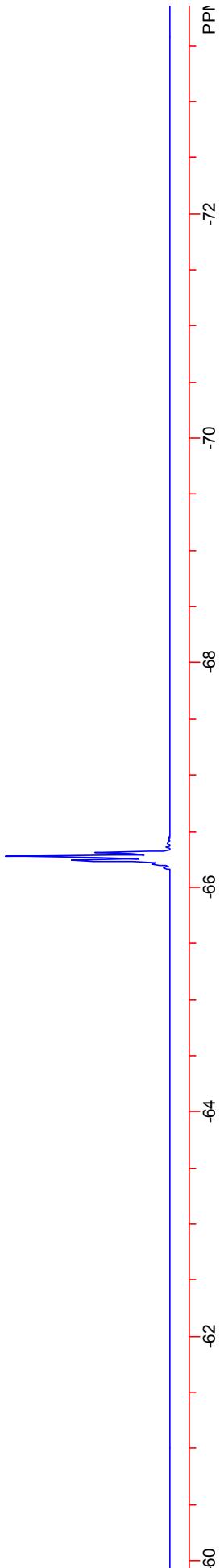
O2 = -0.5000 Hz

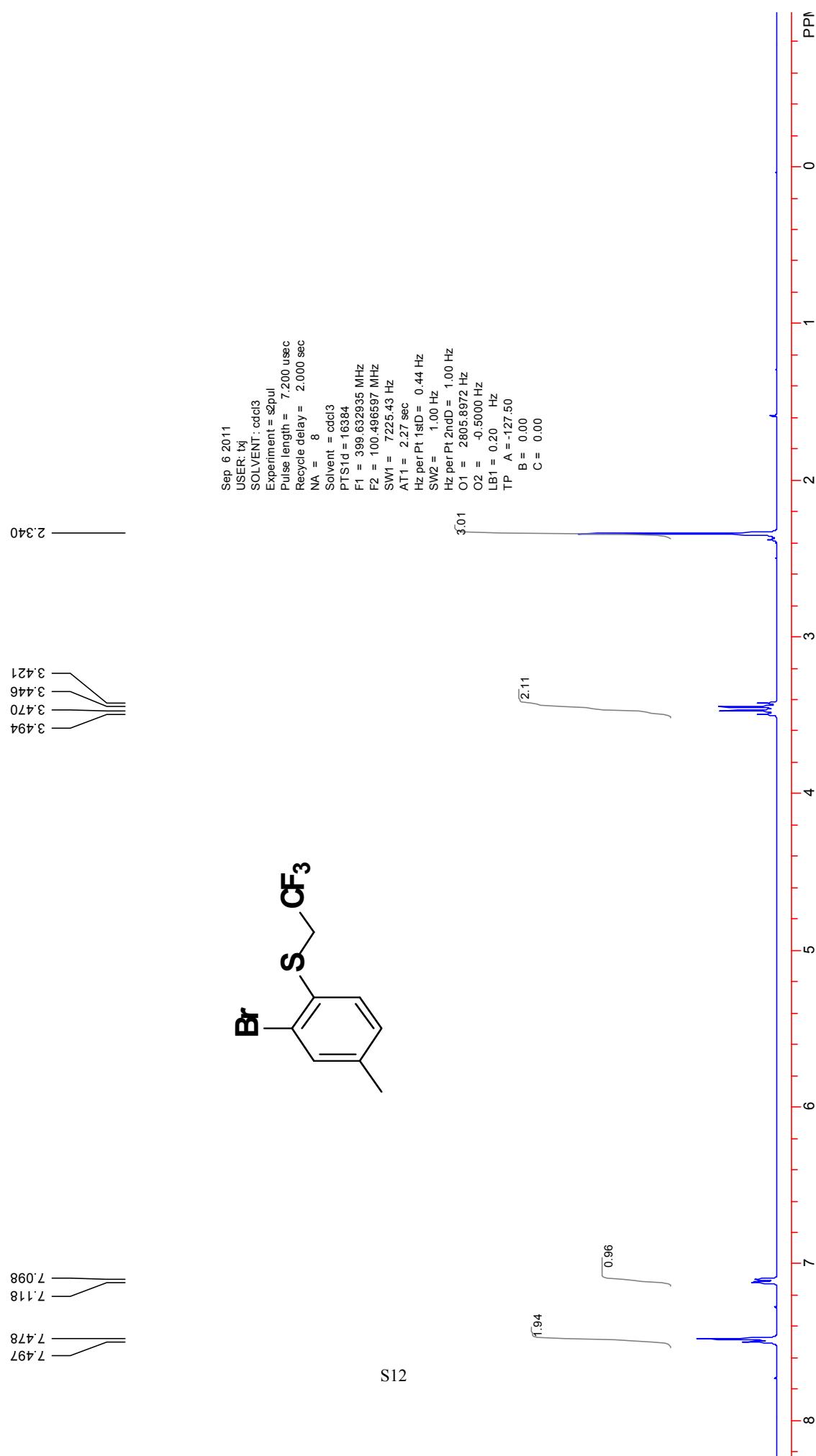
LB1 = 1.00 Hz

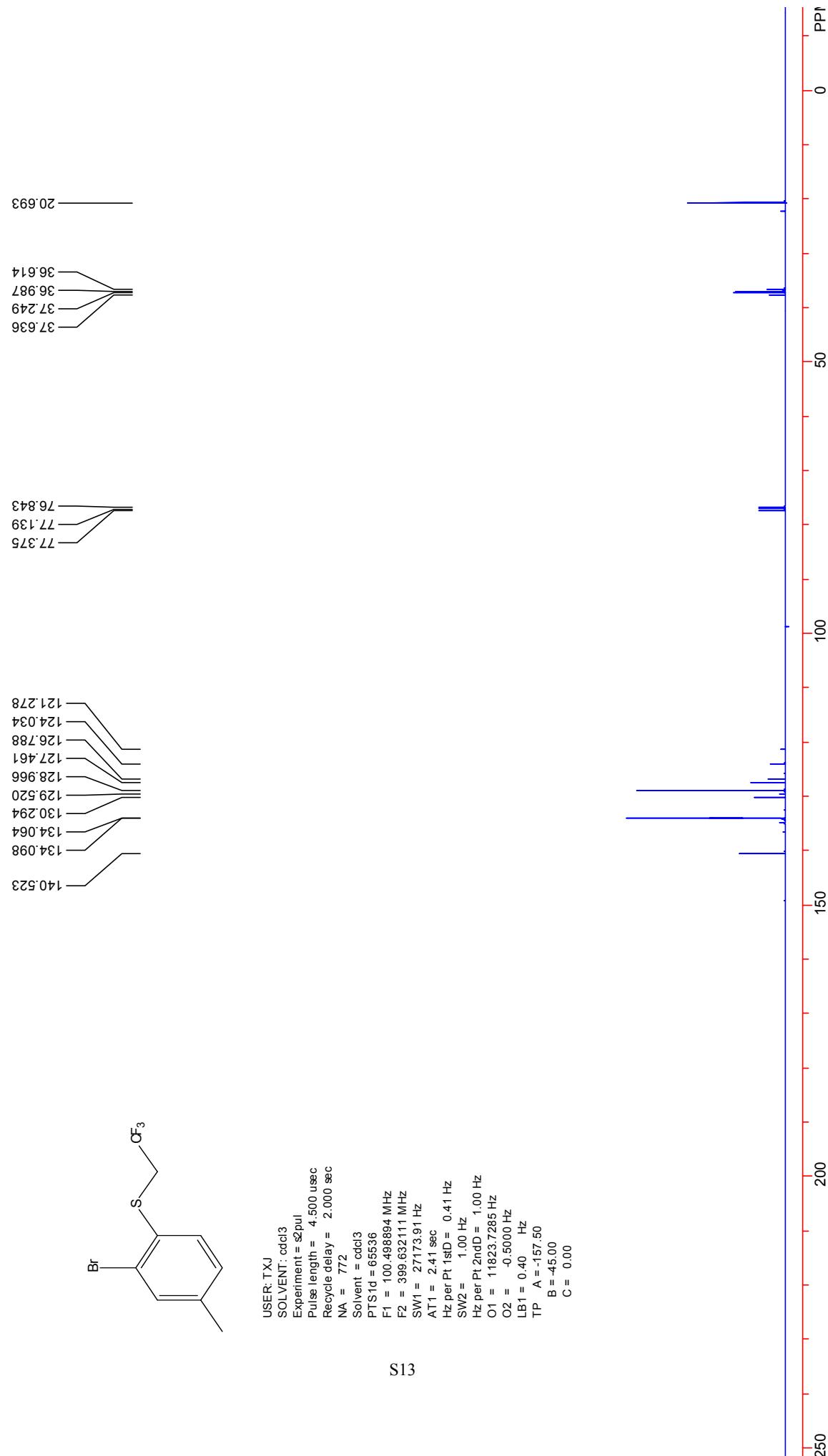
TP A = 92.69

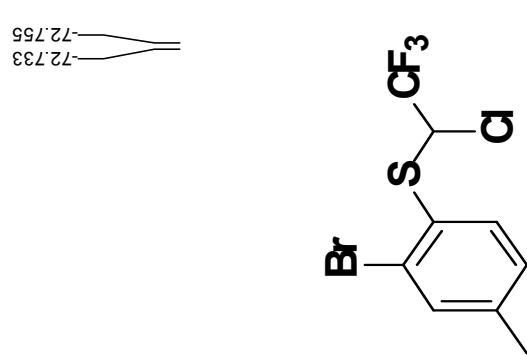
B = -104.06

C = 0.00









Aug 28 2011  
USER: TXJ  
SOLVENT: CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
Experiment = 2D�<sub>pul</sub>  
Pulse length = 6.167 usec  
Recycle delay = 1.500 sec  
NA = 16  
Solvent = CDCl<sub>3</sub>  
PTSwd = 32768  
F1 = 282.307831 MHz  
F2 = 300.064321 MHz  
SW1 = 64935.07 Hz  
AT1 = 0.50 sec  
Hz per PT 1stD = 1.98 Hz  
SW2 = 1.00 Hz  
Hz per PT 2ndD = 1.00 Hz  
O1 = -23998.1973 Hz  
O2 = -0.5000 Hz  
LB1 = 3.00 Hz  
TP A = 112.50  
B = 22.50  
C = 0.00

