## **Supporting Information**

# Direct Monofluoromethylation of *O*-, *S*-, *N*-, and *P*-Nucleophiles with PhSO(NTs)CH<sub>2</sub>F: Accelerating Effect of α-Fluorine Substitution

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### **Table of Contents**

General Methods	2
Preparation of <i>N</i> -Tosyl- <i>S</i> -fluoromethyl- <i>S</i> -phenylsulfilimine ( <b>2</b> )	.2
Preparation of <i>N</i> -Tosyl- <i>S</i> -fluoromethyl- <i>S</i> -phenylsulfoximine (1)	2
Typical Experimental Procedure for the Monofluoromethylation of $O$ -, $S$ -, $N$ -, ar $P$ -Nucleophiles with PhSO(NTs)CH <sub>2</sub> F (1)	1d .3
Typical Experimental Procedure for the Methylation of $O$ -, $S$ -, $N$ -, and $P$ -Nucleophiles with PhSO(NTs)CH <sub>3</sub> ( <b>9</b> )	.9
Competitive Reactions of PhSO(NTs)CH <sub>2</sub> F (1) and PhSO(NTs)CH <sub>3</sub> (9) with Phenol <b>3a</b> , Thiol <b>3o</b> , Imidazole <b>3u</b> , Diphenylphosphine <b>5</b> , and Acid <b>7</b>	11
Nucleophilic Trifluoromethylation of 4-Bromobenzaldehyde (13) with PhSO(NTs)CF <sub>3</sub> (11)1	2
Radical Inhibition Experiments with NuH as Substates1	2
Radical Inhibition Experiments with Sodium Phenolate as Substate	13
Monofluoromethylation of Sodium Phenolate with Reagent 1 by Added Equivalents of D <sub>2</sub> O	10 14
References	5
NMR Spectra of New Compounds1	6

### **General Methods:**

*N*-Tosyl-*S*-methyl-*S*-phenylsulfoximine<sup>1</sup> and *N*-Tosyl-*S*-trifluoromethyl-*S*-phenylsulfoximine<sup>2</sup> were prepared via the literature procedures. Unless otherwise mentioned, solvents and reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used as received. THF was distilled over sodium. CH<sub>3</sub>CN, NMP, DMF, and DMSO were distilled over CaH<sub>2</sub>. <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>19</sup>F NMR spectra were recorded on a 500 MHz, 400 MHz or 300 MHz NMR spectrometer. <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts were determined relative to internal (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>Si (TMS) at  $\delta$  0.0 or to the signal of a residual protonated solvent: CDCl<sub>3</sub>  $\delta$  7.26. <sup>13</sup>C NMR chemical shifts were determined relative to internal TMS at  $\delta$  0.0. <sup>19</sup>F NMR chemical shifts were obtained on a mass spectrometer. High-resolution mass data were recorded on a high-resolution mass spectrometer in the EI or ESI mode. Melting points (open or sealed capillaries) are reported without correction.

#### Preparation of N-Tosyl-S-fluoromethyl-S-phenylsulfilimine (2).

Under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, a mixture of PhSCH<sub>2</sub>F (364 mmol), *N*-benzyl-*N*,*N*-diethylethanaminium chloride (3 g, 13 mmol), Chloramine-T•3H<sub>2</sub>O (120 g, 427 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (250 mL) was refluxed for 3 days, after which the reaction was quenched by adding excess amount of water, followed by extraction with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic phase was washed with brine and then dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After the solution was filtered and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, the residue was recrystallized in anhydrous EtOH, giving white crystal product **2** (80 g, 71%).

#### N-Tosyl-S-fluoromethyl-S-phenylsulfilimine (2)

White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.77 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 4H), 7.70 – 7.50 (m, 3H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.37 (dd, *J* = 46.2, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 5.14 (dd, *J* = 46.9, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (s, 3H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -205.31 (t, *J* = 46.5 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  142.15, 140.86, 133.44, 130.20, 129.35, 127.01, 126.26, 94.05 (d, *J* = 231.9 Hz), 21.41. Anal. Calcd. for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>FNO<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: C, 54.00; H, 4.53; N, 4.50; Found: C, 53.88; H, 4.43; N, 4.39.

### Preparation of N-Tosyl-S-fluoromethyl-S-phenylsulfoximine (1).

$$\begin{array}{c|c} \mathsf{NTs} & \mathsf{NaOH, H_2O_2} & \mathsf{O}, \mathsf{NTs} \\ \mathsf{Ph}^{\mathsf{S}}\mathsf{CH_2F} & \mathsf{MeOH, H_2O, reflux, 2 h} \\ & 300 \ \textit{mmol sacle} & 75 \ \% \end{array}$$

To a solution of *N*-Tosyl-S-fluoromethyl-S-phenylsulfilimine (93.3 g, 300 mmol) in 500 mL MeOH, was added NaOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (25 g/100 mL) at rt.  $H_2O_2$  (30%, 67 mL) was added in several portions, and the solution was kept in reflux. 2 hours later, the solution was allowed to rt and extracted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ . The organic phase was washed with brine and then dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After the solution was filtered and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, the residue was recrystallized in anhydrous EtOH/EA/PE, giving colourless white crystal product (73.5g, 75%).

N-Tosyl-S-fluoromethyl-S-phenylsulfoximine (1)

O\_NTs Ph<sup>∕S′</sup>CH₂F

White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.03 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.77 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.74 (dd, J = 47.1, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 5.52 (dd, J = 47.1, 9.7 Hz, 1H), 2.41 (s, 3H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -205.84 (t, J = 46.7 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  143.42, 140.12, 135.40, 133.10, 129.81, 129.46, 129.10, 126.74, 92.79 (d, J = 227.6 Hz), 21.54. MS (ESI, m/z): 345.0 (M+NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>). Anal. calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>14</sub>FNO<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub>: C, 51.36; H, 4.31; N, 4.28; Found: C, 51.65; H, 4.53; N, 3.88.

# Typical Experimental Procedure for the Monofluoromethylation of O-, S-, N-, and P-Nucleophiles with PhSO(NTs)CH<sub>2</sub>F (1).

Under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, to a solution of [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ol (51 mg, 0.3 mmol) in 1.5 mL DMSO, was added NaH (15 mg, 60% purity, 0.375 mmol) at rt. After 30 min, *N*-Tosyl-*S*-fluoromethyl-*S*-phenylsulfoximine (128 mg, 0.39 mmol), DMSO (0.5 mL) was added successively. The solution was allowed to 80 °C, and stirred for 4 h, after which the reaction was quenched by adding excess amount of saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl aqueous solution, followed by extraction with ethyl ether. The organic phase was washed with brine and then dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After the solution was filtered and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether as eluent to give product **4a** (58 mg, 95%). In general, 4 h was used for the reaction of phenols and thiols, 6 h was used for the *P*-nucleophile,  $8\sim71$  h for *N*-nucleophiles and the reaction of acid were performed at 100°C for 12h.

4-(fluoromethoxy)biphenyl(4a)<sup>3</sup>

Ρ

White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.49 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 4H), 7.36 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 5.69 (d, J = 54.6 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -148.88 (t, J = 54.7 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 202 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100.0), 169 (55.5), 141(42.3), 115 (38.7).

1-(fluoromethoxy)-4-iodobenzene (**4b**)<sup>4</sup>



Colourless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.55 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 6.79 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 5.61 (d, *J* = 54.4 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -149.05 (t, *J* = 54.3 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 252 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100.0), 219 (35.3), 92(22.5), 64 (22.0), 63 (21.7).

1-(fluoromethoxy)-2-iodobenzene (**4c**)<sup>4</sup>

Colourless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.81 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 5.74 (d, *J* = 54.1 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -149.20 (t, *J* = 54.2 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 252 (M<sup>+</sup>).

1-(fluoromethoxy)-3-iodobenzene (4d)



Colourless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.50 – 7.41 (m, 2H), 7.11 – 7.03 (m, 2H), 5.69 (d, *J* = 54.3 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  -149.03 (t, *J* = 54.8 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  157.20, 132.75, 131.05, 125.99, 116.16, 100.50 (d, *J* = 220.1 Hz), 94.16. IR: 2956, 2924, 2854, 1460, 1377, 1261, 1096, 1020, 802 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (EI, m/z,%): 252 (M<sup>+</sup>,100.0), 77 (35.3), 92(31.9), 125 (27.0), 64 (25.2), 63(24.9), 95(19.4), 76(10.5). HRMS (EI) Calcd. for : C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>FIO: 251.9447; Found 251.9445.

1-bromo-4- (fluoromethoxy)benzene  $(4e)^4$ 



Colourless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.68 (d, *J* = 54.4 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -148.96 (t, *J* = 54.4 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 204 (M<sup>+</sup>, 29.8), 56 (100), 57 (53.7), 152 (42.7), 122 (36.5).

1-chloro-4-(fluoromethoxy)benzene (4f)<sup>4</sup>

OCH<sub>2</sub>F

Colourless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.29 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 5.68 (d, *J* = 54.4Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -148.82 (t, *J* = 54.5 Hz).

*1-tert-butyl-4-(fluoromethoxy)benzene*  $(4g)^3$ 



Colourless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.34 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 5.70 (d, *J* = 54.9 Hz, 2H), 1.31 (s, 9H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -148.39 (t, *J* = 54.9 Hz). MS (EI, m/z, %): 182 (M<sup>+</sup>, 17.1), 167 (100%).

(fluoromethoxy)benzene  $(4h)^5$ 

Volatile compound. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  -151.8 (t, J = 55 Hz).

1-(fluoromethoxy) naphthalene  $(4i)^3$ 



Colourless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.30 – 8.12 (m, 1H), 7.92 – 7.77 (m, 1H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.54 – 7.48 (m, 2H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (d, *J* = 54.4 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -148.68 (t, *J* = 54.5 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 176 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100.0), 91 (70.8).

(2-(fluoromethoxy)ethyl)benzene(4j)

<sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, DMSO): δ -150.9 (t, J = 55 Hz). No <sup>19</sup>F NMR of compound **4j** was reported in the literature. Based on the fact that the <sup>19</sup>F NMR signals of aryl monofluoromethyl ethers in this study are at -148 ~ -152 ppm and the coupling constants are ranging from 54-55 Hz, we assign the signal at -150.9 (t, J = 55 Hz) as that of compound **4j** (trace amount of **4j** was observed by <sup>19</sup>F NMR in our reaction).

 $(fluoromethyl)(phenyl)sulfane(4k)^{3}$ 

SCH<sub>2</sub>F

Unstable compound, which decomposes gradually during or after the silica gel column chromatography. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  -181.8 (t, *J* = 52 Hz).

 $(fluoromethyl)(4-nitrophenyl)sulfane (4l)^{3}$ 

Yellow solid.<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.20 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.84 (d, J = 52.2 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -184.70 (t, J = 52.2 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 187 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 157 (43.6), 108 (36.4), 69 (26.3), 45 (21.6).

(4-bromophenyl)(fluoromethyl)sulfane(4m)

Unstable compound, which decomposes gradually during or after the silica gel column chromatography. <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  -186.3 (t, J = 52 Hz). No <sup>19</sup>F NMR of compound **4m** was reported in the literature. Based on the fact that the <sup>19</sup>F NMR signals of aryl monofluoromethyl sulfanes in this study are mostly around -184 ~ -187 ppm and the coupling constants are ranging from 50~52 Hz, we assign the signal at -186.3 (t, J = 52 Hz) as that of compound **4m**.

 $(2,6-dichlorophenyl)(fluoromethyl)sulfane (4n)^{3}$ 



Colourless liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.44 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.26 (t, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (d, *J* = 52.1 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -185.38 (t, *J* = 52.1 Hz). MS (EI, m/z): 210 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 177 (89.7), 142 (77.9), 212 (67.4), 179 (57.9), 144 (29.1), 107(19.6), 69(14.5).

2-(fluoromethylthio)benzo[d]thiazole (4o)<sup>3</sup>

White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.97 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.81 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.36 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (d, J = 51.0 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -186.46 (t, J = 51.0 Hz). MS (EI, m/z, %): 135 (M<sup>+</sup>-SCH<sub>2</sub>F, 100), 199 (M<sup>+</sup>, 89.4), 108 (59.4), 166 (58.1), 179(35.0).

*1-tert-butyl-5-(fluoromethylthio)-1H-tetrazole*  $(4p)^3$ 



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  6.21 (d, J = 50.0 Hz, 2H), 1.75 (s, 9H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -187.76 (t, J = 50.0 Hz). MS (EI, m/z, %): 190 (M<sup>+</sup>, 9), 57 (100).

2-(fluoromethylthio)pyridine  $(4q)^6$ 



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.52 (s, 1H), 7.58 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (s, 1H), 6.15 (d, J = 51.7 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -187.32 (t, J = 51.6 Hz). MS (EI, m/z, %): 143 (M<sup>+</sup>, 31.5), 79 (100).

 $benzyl(fluoromethyl)sulfane(4r)^{3}$ 

Ph SCH<sub>2</sub>F

Unstable compound, which decomposes gradually during or after the silica gel column chromatography.<sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, DMSO):  $\delta$  -188.0 (t, *J* = 52 Hz).

1-(fluoromethyl)-2-phenyl-1H-imidazole (4s)<sup>3</sup>



Yellow liquid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.83 – 7.62 (m, 2H), 7.60 – 7.41 (m, 3H), 7.20 (s, 2H), 5.89 (d, J = 52.7 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -157.08 (t, J = 52.7 Hz). MS (EI, m/z, %): 176 (M<sup>+</sup>).

1-(fluoromethyl)-2-phenyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4t)



White solid. 128-129°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.88 – 7.77 (m, 3H), 7.60 – 7.48 (m, 4H), 7.43 – 7.32 (m, 2H), 6.12 (d, J = 53.6 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -161.78 (t, J = 53.6 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  154.14, 143.09, 135.43, 130.57, 129.54, 129.06, 128.95, 124.06, 123.83, 120.38, 109.53, 81.74 (d, J = 198.6 Hz). IR: 3048, 1925, 1616, 1525, 1479, 1458, 1380, 1368, 1252, 1080, 977, 818, 780, 745, 701, 592, 430. MS (EI, *m/z*, %): 226 (M<sup>+</sup>, 87.95), 225 (100). HRMS(EI, *m/z*): m/z calcd. For C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>11</sub>FN<sub>2</sub> 226.0906, found 226.0909.

1-(fluoromethyl)-5,6-dimethyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (4u)



White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.91 (s, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 6.11 (d, J = 53.7 Hz, 2H), 2.41 (s, 3H), 2.38 (s, 3H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -163.07 (t, J = 53.7 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  142.66, 142.38, 133.58, 132.45, 131.67, 120.77, 109.69, 81.76 (d, J = 200.6 Hz), 20.52, 20.22. MS (EI, m/z, %): 178 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 163 (69.4), 177(58.5).

1-(fluoromethyl)-5-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**4va**)<sup>3</sup> 1-(fluoromethyl)-6-nitro-1H-benzo[d]imidazole (**4vb**)<sup>3</sup>



Yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.76 (s, 1H), 8.52 (s, 1H), 8.32 – 8.29 (m, 3H), 8.23 (s, 1H), 7.94 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.9 Hz, 1H), 6.26 (d, *J* = 52.5 Hz, 2H), 6.24 (d, *J* = 52.8 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl3):  $\delta$  -164.78 (t, *J* = 52.5 Hz), -165.23 (t, *J* = 52.5 Hz). MS (EI, *m*/*z*, %): 195 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100.00), 165(33.28).

1-(fluoromethyl)-1H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazole (4wa)



White solid. Mp: 106-107 °C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.13 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.71-7.56 (m, 2H), 7.47 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.60 (d, J = 52.5 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -167.84 (t, J = 52.5 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  146.31, 132.72, 128.83, 124.88, 120.33, 109.02, 83.36 (d, J = 204.2 Hz). IR (film): 3026, 2922, 1617, 1455, 1278, 1171, 989, 766, 616, 427 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (EI, m/z, %): 151(M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 122(77.4). HRMS (EI, m/z): calcd. For C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>FN<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 151.0546, Found 151.0544.

#### 2-(fluoromethyl)-2H-benzo[d][1,2,3]triazole (4wa)

White solid. Mp: 40-41°C. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.91 (dd, J = 6.7, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (dd, J = 6.7, 3.0 Hz, 2H), 6.54 (d, J = 50.4 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -168.74 (t, J = 50.4 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  145.46, 127.98, 118.80, 90.31 (d, J = 208.7 Hz). IR (film): 3048, 2994, 1560, 1455, 1339, 1273, 1019, 858, 750 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS (EI, m/z, %): 151 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100). HRMS (EI, m/z): calcd. For C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>FN<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 151.0546, Found 151.0543.

 $(fluoromethyl)diphenylphosphine oxide (6)^7$ 

$$Ph^{-P}_{-CH_2F}$$

White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.83 – 7.78 (m, 4H), 7.61 – 7.57 (m, 2H), 7.53 – 7.49 (m, 4H), 5.16 (dd, *J* = 47.1, 3.4 Hz, 2H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -241.81 (q, 47.4 Hz). MS (ESI, *m*/*z*, %): 235(M+H<sup>+</sup>).

fluoromethyl 4-methoxybenzoate  $(8)^8$ 



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.07 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.93 (d, J = 51.0 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -156.99 (t, J = 51.0 Hz). MS (EI, m/z, %): 135 (100.00), 184(M<sup>+</sup>, 36.70).

# Typical Experimental Procedure for the Methylation of O-, S-, N-, P-Nucleophiles with PhSO(NTs)CH<sub>3</sub> (9)

Under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, to a solution of [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ol (85 mg, 0.5 mmol) in 2.5 mL DMSO, was added NaH (25 mg, 60% purity, 0.625 mmol) slowly at rt. After 30 min, *N*-Tosyl-*S*-methyl-*S*-phenylsulfoximine (201 mg, 0.65 mmol), DMSO (0.5 mL) was added successively. The solution was allowed to 80 °C, and stirred for 4 h, after which the reaction was quenched by adding excess amount of saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl aqueous solution, followed by extraction with ethyl ether. The organic phase was washed with brine and then dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After the solution was filtered and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether as eluent to give product (3 mg, 3%). When the reaction was performed at 120 °C for 6 h, 75% yield was given.

# Table S-1. Direct Methylation of Some $O_{-}$ , $S_{-}$ , $N_{-}$ , $P_{-}$ Nucleophiles with PhSO(NTs)CH<sub>3</sub> (9)

NuL	1) NaH, DM	1) NaH, DMSO, rt, 0.5 h 2) <b>9</b> , DMSO, T, t		O NTs	
Nur	2) <b>9</b> , DMSC			10 Ph	Ph <sup>/O</sup> <sup>C</sup> H <sub>3</sub> 9
Entry	NuH	T (⁰C)	t (h)	Product	Yield (%) <sup>a</sup>
1	OH	80	4	10a	3
2	Ph 3a	120	6	10a	75
3	N SH	80	4	10b	10
4	S 30	120	6	10b	73
5	$\sim$	80	8.5	10c	8 <sup>b</sup>
6	N N	120	6	10c	79 <sup>b</sup>
	3u				
7	Ph <sub>2</sub> PH <b>5</b>	80	6	10d	28 <sup>c</sup>
	çоон				
8		100	12	10e	12
9		120	6	10e	69
	ÓMe				

<sup>a</sup> Isolated yield. <sup>b</sup> Mixtures of **10c** and remained **3u** was obtained, and the yield of **10c** was calculated based on the ratio of **10c/3u**. <sup>c</sup> H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (30%, 0.1mL) was added to quench the reaction, and the yield refers to the isolated yield of Ph<sub>2</sub>POCH<sub>3</sub>.

4-methoxy-1,1'-biphenyl  $(10a)^9$ 

White solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.54 (t, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 4H), 7.41 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 1H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H). MS (EI, *m*/*z*, %): 184 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100.00).

2-(methylthio)benzo[d]thiazole(10b)<sup>10</sup>

Colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.87 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.28(d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 2.79 (s, 3H). MS (EI, m/z, %): 181(M<sup>+</sup>, 100.00).

1,5,6-trimethyl-1H-benzo[d]imidazole(10c)



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.75 (s, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.15 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H). MS (EI, *m*/*z*, %): 160(M<sup>+</sup>, 100.00).

methyldiphenylphosphine  $oxide(10d)^{11}$ 

MeO

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.78 – 7.61 (m, 4H), 7.56 – 7.37 (m, 6H), 2.00 (d, *J* = 13.2 Hz, 3H). MS (EI, *m*/*z*, %): 216(M<sup>+</sup>, 36.32), 215(M-H<sup>+</sup>, 100.00).

methyl 4-methoxybenzoate $(10e)^{12}$ 



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.99 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, J = 8.9 Hz, 2H), 3.88 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H). MS (EI, m/z, %): 166(M<sup>+</sup>, 34.13), 135(M-OMe<sup>+</sup>, 100.00).

# Competitive Reactions of PhSO(NTS)CH<sub>2</sub>F (1) and PhSO(NTS)CH<sub>3</sub> (9) with Phenol 3a, Thiol 3o, Imidazole 3u, Diphenylphosphine 5, and Acid 7.

**Typical Experimental Procedure:** Under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, to a solution of 5,6-dimethyl-1Hbenzo[*d*]imidazole (**3u**) (73 mg, 0.5 mmol) in 3 mL DMSO, was added NaH (25 mg, 60% purity, 0.625 mmol) at rt. After 30 min, compound **1** (213 mg, 0.65 mmol) and compound **9** (201 mg, 0.65 mmol) was added successively. The solution was allowed to 120 °C, and stirred for 4 h, after which the reaction was quenched by adding excess amount of saturated NH<sub>4</sub>Cl aqueous solution, followed by extraction with ethyl ether. The organic phase was washed with brine and then dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After the solution was filtered and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, the residue was solved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, PhCF<sub>3</sub> (25 mg) was added as standard to determine the yield of product **4u**. And then, the CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> was evaporated under vacuum, the residue was solved in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. The total yield and the ratio of monofluoromethylation product to methylation product was determined according to the analysis of the characteristic peak (N-CH<sub>2</sub>F and N-Me). In all cases, monofluoromethylation product. The results reveal that  $\alpha$ -fluorinated sulfoximine **1** has higher reactivity than the non-fluorinated sulfoximine **9** under the current conditions.

# Table S-2 Competitive Reactions of PhSO(NTS)CH<sub>2</sub>F (1) and PhSO(NTS)CH<sub>3</sub> (9) with Phenol 3a, Thiol 3o, Imidazole 3u, Diphenylphosphine 5, and Acid 7.

NuH	1) NaH, DMSO, rt, 0.5 h		O_NTs	O NTs
	2) <b>1</b> , <b>9</b> , DMSO, T, 6 h	<b>4 10</b>	Ph <sup>_S</sup> `CH <sub>2</sub> F 1	Ph <sup>- S</sup> CH <sub>3</sub> 9
Entry	NuH	T (°C)	Yield <b>(4+10)</b>	4/10
1	Ph OH 3a	<b>a</b> 120	89	145/1
2	SH 3	<b>D</b> 120	99	90/10
3	HNN 3	<b>,</b> 120	92	97/3
4	Ph <sub>2</sub> PH 5	80	98	89/11
5	MeO-COOH	120	95	100/1

Nucleophilic Trifluoromethylation of 4-Bromobenzaldehyde (13) with  $PhSO(NTs)CF_3$  (11).



Under  $N_2$  atmosphere, to a solution of 4-bromobenzaldehyde (56 mg, 0.3 mmol) and PhSO(NTs)CF<sub>3</sub> (164 mg, 0.45 mmol) in DMF (3 mL), was added PhONa (70 mg, 0.6 mmol) in DMF (1.5 mL) slowly at 0°C in 3 min. After 6.5 h, the reaction was quenched by adding excess amount of water, followed by extraction with ethyl ether. The organic phase was washed with water, brine and then dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After the solution was filtered and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, the residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography using petroleum ether as eluent to give product **14** (38 mg, 50%).

1-(4-bromophenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroethanol (14)<sup>13</sup>



Colourless oil. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  7.55 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.36 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.28 – 4.65 (m, 1H), 2.61 (d, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H). <sup>19</sup>F NMR (282 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  -78.39 (d, J = 6.5 Hz). MS (EI, m/z, %): 77 (100.00), 254(M<sup>+</sup>, 0.96), 256( 0.96).

#### **Radical Inhibition Experiments with NuH as Substates**

*Experimental procedure for the reaction of* [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ol (**3***a*) and PhSO(NTs)CH<sub>2</sub>F (**1**) with 1,4-dinitrobenzene as the radical inhibitor:

Under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, NaH (60% purity, 25 mg, 0.625 mmol) was added to the solution of [1,1'-biphenyl]-4-ol (85 mg, 0.5 mmol) in DMSO (2 mL). 0.5 h later, sulfoximine 1 (213 mg, 0.65 mmol) and1,4-dinitrobenzene (89 mg, 0.5 mmol) was added simultaneously followed by adding DMSO (1 mL). After stirring for 4 h at 80°C, the reaction mixture was detected by <sup>19</sup>F NMR by using PhCF<sub>3</sub> as the internal standard. The results are shown in the table below. The reaction was quenched by adding excess amount of water, followed by extraction with ethyl ether. The organic phase was washed with water, brine and then dried over anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub>. After the solution was filtered and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum, the residue was subjected to silica gel (v/v=100/1) column chromatography using PE/EA eluent as to give 4-(4-nitrophenoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl (114 mg, 78%).

	NII I	1) NaH (1.25 equ	uiv), 0.5	5h		
	NUL	2) PhSO(NTs) <mark>C</mark> additive (1 equ				
entry	NuH	additive	T (°C)	t (h)	yield (%)	unreacted <b>1</b> (%) <sup>e</sup>
1	3a	nitrobenzene	80	4	72	47
2 <sup>b</sup>	3a	1,4-dinitrobenzene	80	4	0	120
3 <sup>c</sup>	3a	benzoquinone	80	4	5	110
4	3a	benzoquinone	80	8	35	94
5	30	benzoquinone	80	4	7	120
6	3u	benzoquinone	80	8.5	0	71
7	5	benzoquinone	80	6	20	60
8	7	benzoquinone	100	12	52	54
9 <sup>d</sup>	3a	benzoquinone	120	6	25	ND

<sup>*a*</sup> Yield was determined by <sup>19</sup>F NMR. <sup>*b*</sup> 4-(4-nitrophenoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl was isolated in 78% yield. <sup>*c*</sup> **3a** was recovered in 87% yield. <sup>*d*</sup> **9** was used instead of **1**, the yield of methylation product refers to the isolated yield, and the yield of remained **9** was not determined (ND). <sup>*e*</sup> 130% of **1** (based on the amount of NuH) was added as starting material.

4-(4-nitrophenoxy)-1,1'-biphenyl<sup>14</sup>



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz,CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  8.21 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.64 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.06 (d, J = 9.1 Hz, 2H). MS (EI, m/z, %): 291(M<sup>+</sup>, 100).

#### **Radical Inhibition Experiments with Sodium Phenolate as the Substate**

Under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, compound **1** (127 mg, 0.39 mmol), and additive (0.3 mmol) was added to the sodium phenolate (35 mg, 0.3 mmol) in DMSO (3 ml). After stirring for 4 h at 80 °C, the reaction mixture was detected by <sup>19</sup>F NMR. The results are shown in the table below. When no additive was added, PhOCH<sub>2</sub>F was obtained in 95% yield. When nitrobenzene was added as a radical scavenger, the yield decreased to 68%, and when benzoquinone was added, a yield of 16% was given, when 1,4-dinitrobenzene was added, no monofluoromethylation product was afforded.

PhONa	O_NTs + Ph <sup>-</sup> S <sup>-</sup> CH <sub>2</sub> F 1 (1.3 equiv )	additive 1 equiv	SO → PhOCH <sub>2</sub> F , 4 h
entry	additive	yield (%) <sup>a</sup>	recoverd 1 (%)
1	nu <b>li</b>	95	31
2	nitrobenzene	68	55
3	benzoquinone	16	114
4	1,4-dinitrobenzene	e 0	128

 Table S-3. Radical Inhibition Experiments with Sodium Phenolate as the

 Substate

<sup>a</sup> Yield was determined by <sup>19</sup>F NMR by using PhCF<sub>3</sub> as standard

# Monofluoromethylation of Sodium Phenolate With Reagent 1 By Added 10 Equivalents of D<sub>2</sub>O:

Under N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, compound **1** (127 mg, 0.39 mmol), and D<sub>2</sub>O (54 µl, 3 mmol) was added to the sodium phenolate (35 mg, 0.3 mmol) in DMSO (3 ml). After stirring for 4 h at 80°C, the reaction mixture was detected by <sup>19</sup>F NMR: PhOCH<sub>2</sub>F: -149.4 (t, J = 52.4 Hz), 45% yield; PhOCHDF: -150.1 (dt, J = 54.0, 8.0 Hz), 30% yield; PhOCHDF: -150.7 (heptet, 8.2 Hz), 10% yield; PhSO(NTs)CH<sub>2</sub>F: -210.6 (t, J = 45.1 Hz), 32% yield; PhSO(NTs)CHDF -211.0 ~ -211.3 (m), a mixture of two diastereoisomers, 11% yield; PhSO(NTs)CD<sub>2</sub>F: -211.5 ~ -211.7 (m), 1% yield. Although excess D<sub>2</sub>O was added, non-deuterated product PhOCH<sub>2</sub>F was given as the major product, indicating that monofluorocarbene mechanism is not likely to be the major pathway for the current monofluoromethylation reaction.



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### NMR Spectra of New Compounds





























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