

Supporting Information for

**Pore environment effects on catalytic cyclohexane oxidation in expanded Fe<sub>2</sub>(dobdc) analogues**

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## 1. General considerations.

Unless otherwise noted, all procedures were performed under an N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere using standard glove box or Schlenk techniques. *N,N*-dimethylformamide (DMF) was dried using a commercial solvent purification system designed by JC Meyer Solvent Systems and then stored over 4 Å molecular sieves. Anhydrous methanol was purchased from commercial vendors, further dried over 3 Å sieves for 24 h, and deoxygenated prior to being transferred to an inert atmosphere glove box, where it was stored over 3 Å molecular sieves. Cyclohexane, cyclohexane-d<sub>12</sub>, and acetonitrile-d<sub>3</sub> were similarly dried over 3 Å sieves, deoxygenated, and stored over 3 Å sieves in an inert atmosphere glovebox before use. Cyclohexane-d<sub>12</sub> (≥99.6 atom % D) was purchased from Sigma Aldrich. The oxidant *t*BuSO<sub>2</sub>PhIO<sup>1</sup> and the frameworks Fe<sub>2</sub>(dobdc)<sup>2</sup> and Fe<sub>2</sub>(dobpdc)<sup>3</sup> were synthesized according to previously published procedures.

C, H, and N analyses were obtained from the Microanalytical Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were obtained using a Bruker AVB-400 instrument.

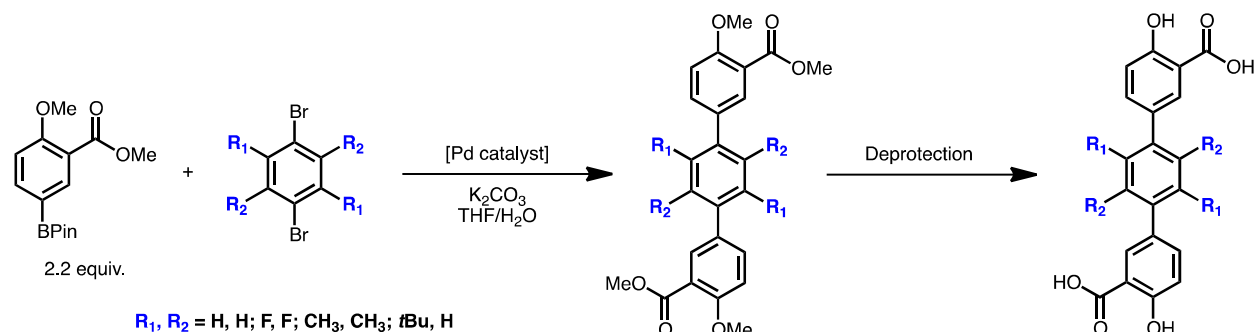
## 2. Control experiments.

*Filtration control experiments:* Post-catalysis (see general catalysis conditions in the experimental section),  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{R}})$  was removed by filtration and additional  $t\text{BuSO}_2\text{PhIO}$  (10 mg) was added to the filtrate. The resulting mixture was stirred for 1.5 h and the solution analyzed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. No additional cyclohexane oxidation products were observed after framework removal.

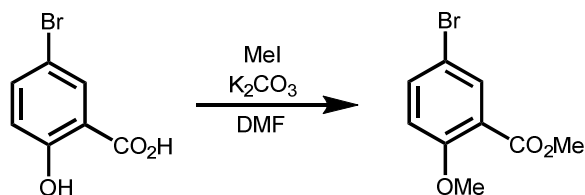
*Control experiment with  $\text{FeCl}_2$  and ligand:* A mixture of  $\text{FeCl}_2$  (2.3 mg, 0.019 mmol) and  $\text{H}_4(\text{dotpdc})$  (3.2 mg, 0.0093 mmol) was dissolved in  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  (1 mL) and exposed to cyclohexane (0.30 mL, 2.8 mmol) and  $t\text{BuSO}_2\text{PhIO}$  (25 mg, 0.073 mmol, partially dissolved slurry in 1 mL  $\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ). After vigorously stirring at room temperature for 1.5 h, the mixture was filtered through alumina and the filtrate was analyzed by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. No oxidized cyclohexane products (cyclohexanol, cyclohexanone) were observed.

*Digestion of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{R}})$ :* To make sure the framework ligands are not oxidized over the course of the reaction, particularly in the case of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3})$  and  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{tBu}})$ , digestion experiments were performed post-catalysis. Specifically, after a cyclohexane oxidation run,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{R}})$  (5.0 mg) was filtered, washed with acetonitrile, and stirred for 30 min in the presence of 3 M aqueous HCl (2 mL). This treatment dissolves the  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  cations but leaves the water-insoluble terphenyl ligand behind as a precipitate. The precipitate was filtered, washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , dried, and dissolved in  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ . Analysis by  $^1\text{H}$  NMR shows that the ligand stays intact with no evidence of oxidation (e.g. methyl group hydroxylation) (see Figure S7 and S8).

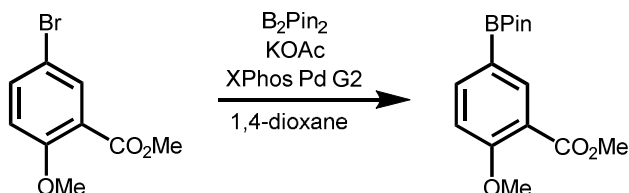
### 3. Ligand syntheses.



**Scheme 1.** General synthetic route to making  $\text{H}_4(\text{dotpdc})$ ,  $\text{H}_4(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{F}})$ ,  $\text{H}_4(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3})$ , and  $\text{H}_4(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{tBu}})$ . Note that while the first three ligands are made following identical procedures (see below for details), a slightly different palladium catalyst and deprotection conditions were used for  $\text{H}_4(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{tBu}})$  due to the increased steric bulk of the *tert*-butyl groups and their sensitivity to harsh acidic conditions.

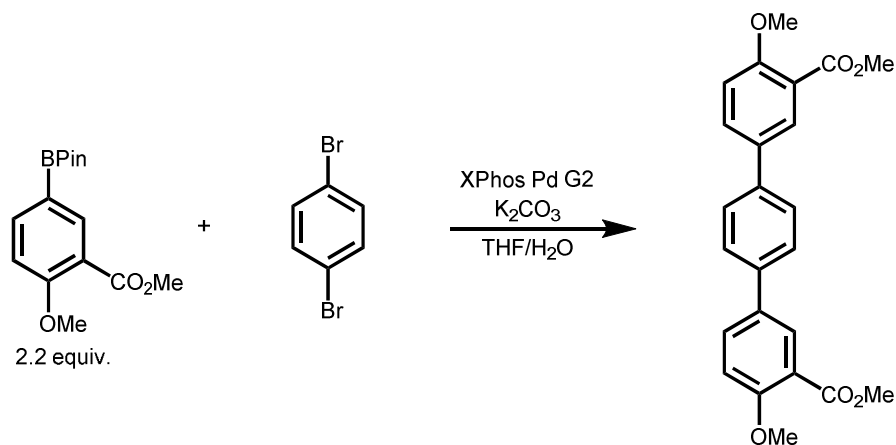


A 500 mL roundbottom flask equipped with a stir bar was charged with potassium carbonate (62.1 g, 450 mmol, 5.0 eq.) and 5-bromosalicylic acid (19.6 g, 90.0 mmol, 1.00 eq.). DMF (500 mL) was added, and the roundbottom flask was placed in a cold water bath. Iodomethane (16.8 mL, 270 mmol, 3.00 eq.) was added slowly, and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir vigorously at room temperature for 14 h. The reaction mixture was poured into ice water (2.5 L) and vigorously stirred for 10 minutes. The resulting non-homogeneous mixture was filtered to yield methyl 5-bromo-2-methoxybenzoate (16.6 g, 75% yield) as an off-white solid.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.86 (d,  $J = 3$  Hz, 1H), 7.51 (dd,  $J = 9, 3$  Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d,  $J = 9$  Hz, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.84 (s, 3H) ppm. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum is consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>4</sup>

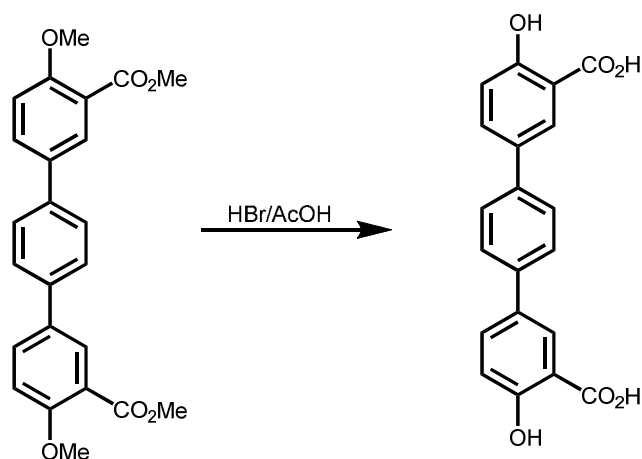


A 250 mL 3-neck roundbottom flask equipped with a stir bar and reflux condenser was charged with methyl 5-bromo-2-methoxybenzoate (10.0 g, 40.8 mmol, 1.00 eq.), bis(pinacolato)diboron (11.4 g, 44.8 mmol, 1.10 eq.), potassium acetate (12.0 g, 122 mmol, 3.00 eq.), and XPhos Pd G2 precatalyst (645 mg, 0.82 mmol, 0.02 eq.). The flask was placed under high vacuum for 5 minutes and then back-filled with nitrogen. This process was repeated a total of three times.

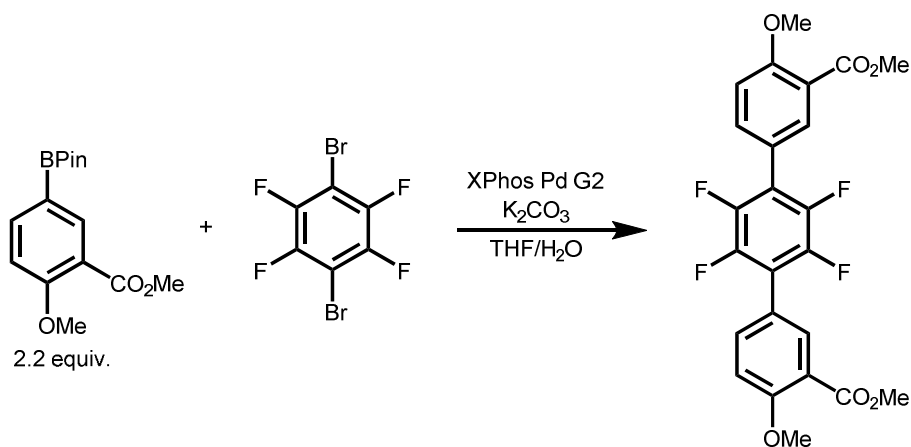
Next, degassed 1,4-dioxane (80 mL) was added via syringe, and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at reflux for 14 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and the 1,4-dioxane was removed *in vacuo*. The crude product was partitioned between CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (150 mL) and water (150 mL). The phases were separated, and the aqueous layer was further extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered through celite, eluting with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (300 mL), and concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting light brown solid was triturated with cold hexanes (50 mL), filtered, and washed with additional cold hexanes (2 x 25 mL) to yield methyl 2-methoxy-5-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzoate (9.86 g, 83% yield) as a fluffy white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.22 (s, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, J = 8 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.87 (s, 3H), 1.33 (s, 12H) ppm. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum is consistent with that reported in the literature.<sup>5</sup>



A 50 mL 3-neck roundbottom flask equipped with a stir bar and reflux condenser was charged with methyl 2-methoxy-5-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzoate (1.29 g, 4.40 mmol, 2.20 eq.), 1,4-dibromobenzene (472 mg, 2.00 mmol, 1.00 eq.), and XPhos Pd G2 (79 mg, 0.10 mmol, 0.05 eq.). The flask was placed under high vacuum for 5 minutes and then back-filled with nitrogen. This process was repeated a total of three times. Next, degassed THF (8 mL) and degassed aqueous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.5M, 16 mL, 8 mmol, 4 eq.) were added via syringe, and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at reflux for 14 h, during which time a gray solid precipitated from solution. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and the reaction mixture was poured into cold water (75 mL). The non-homogenous solution was filtered, and the precipitate was washed thoroughly with cold water (3 x 10 mL). The resulting gray solid was dissolved in hot CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL). The solution was filtered through celite, eluting with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (300 mL), and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield a brown solid. This solid was triturated with cold methanol (20 mL), filtered, and washed with cold methanol (2 x 5 mL), to yield dimethyl 4,4'-dimethoxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylate (769 mg, 95% yield) as an off-white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.09 (d, J = 2 Hz, 2H), 7.74 (dd, J = 9, 2 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (s, 4H), 7.07 (d, J = 9 Hz, 2H), 3.96 (s, 6H), 3.93 (s, 6H) ppm.

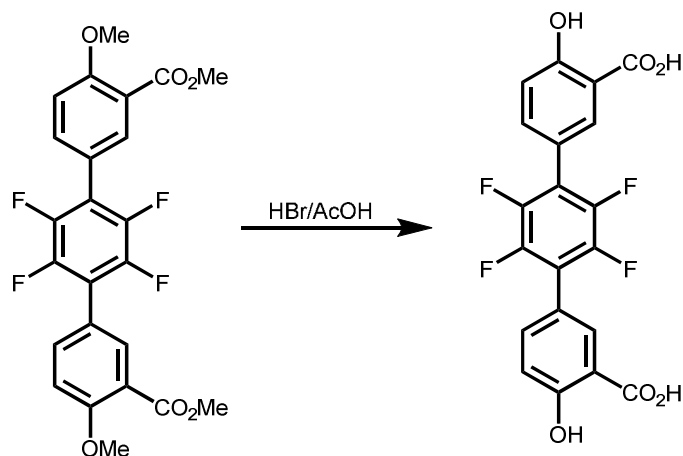


A 100 mL roundbottom flask equipped with a stir bar and reflux condenser was charged with dimethyl 4,4''-dimethoxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylate (760 mg, 1.87 mmol, 1.00 eq.). HBr (75 mL) and AcOH (75 mL) were added, and the nonhomogenous reaction mixture was allowed to stir at reflux for 48 h. During this time, the starting material dissolved, the reaction mixture turned orange, and a white solid precipitated from solution. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, poured into cold water (200 mL), and filtered. The precipitate was washed with cold water (2 x 50 mL) to yield **H<sub>4</sub>(dotpdc)** (4,4''-dihydroxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylic acid) (608 mg, 93%) as an off-white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 14.0 (bs, 2H), 11.3 (bs, 2H), 8.08 (s, 2H), 7.88 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.70 (s, 4H), 7.08 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 172.2, 161.1, 138.1, 134.2, 131.1, 128.2, 127.1, 118.3, 113.8 ppm. Anal. Calc. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 68.57; H, 4.03. Found: C, 68.28; H, 4.26.

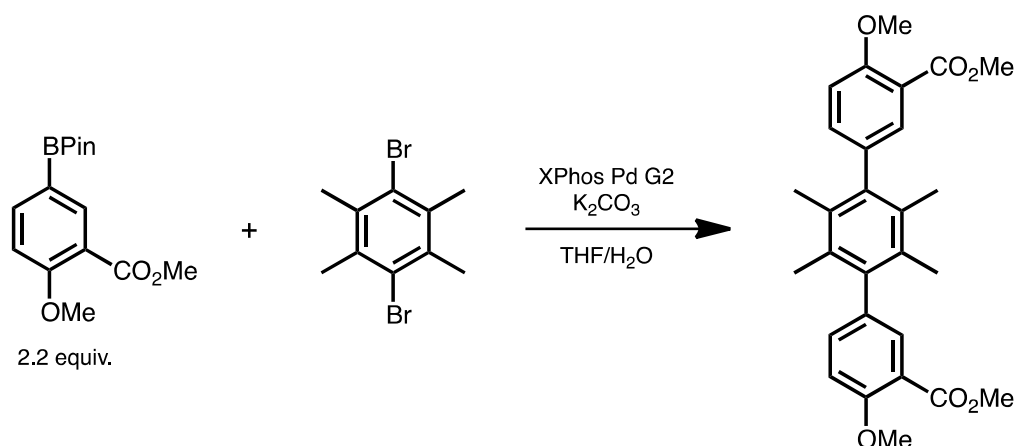


A 50 mL 3-neck roundbottom flask equipped with a stir bar and reflux condenser was charged with methyl 2-methoxy-5-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzoate (1.29 g, 4.40 mmol, 2.20 eq.), 1,4-dibromo-2,3,5,6-tetrafluorobenzene (616 mg, 2.00 mmol, 1.00 eq.), and XPhos Pd G2 (79 mg, 0.10 mmol, 0.05 eq.). The flask was placed under high vacuum for 5 minutes and then back-filled with nitrogen. This process was repeated a total of three times. Next, degassed THF (8 mL) and degassed aqueous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.5M, 16 mL, 8 mmol, 4 eq.) were added via syringe, and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at reflux for 14 h, during which time a gray solid precipitated from solution. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room

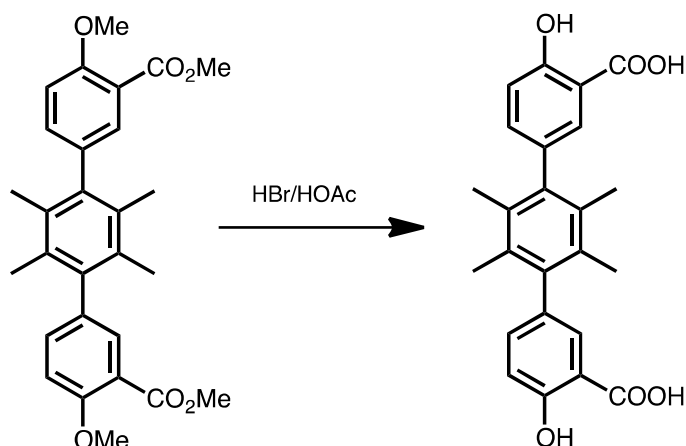
temperature, and the reaction mixture was poured into cold water (75 mL). The non-homogenous solution was filtered, and the precipitate was washed thoroughly with cold water (3 x 10 mL). The resulting gray solid was dissolved in hot CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL). The solution was filtered through celite, eluting with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (300 mL), and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield a yellow solid. This solid was triturated with cold methanol (20 mL), filtered, and washed with cold methanol (2 x 5 mL), to yield dimethyl 2',3',5',6'-tetrafluoro-4,4''-dimethoxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylate (613 mg, 64% yield) as an off-white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.86 (d, J = 2 Hz, 2H), 7.82 (dd, J = 9, 2 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d, J = 9 Hz, 2H), 3.59 (s, 6H), 3.81 (s, 6H) ppm; <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ -143.9 ppm.



A 100 mL roundbottom flask equipped with a stir bar and reflux condenser was charged with dimethyl 2',3',5',6'-tetrafluoro-4,4''-dimethoxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylate (478 mg, 1.00 mmol, 1.00 eq.). HBr (50 mL) and AcOH (50 mL) were added, and the nonhomogenous reaction mixture was allowed to stir at reflux for 48 h. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, poured into cold water (100 mL), and filtered. The precipitate was washed with cold water (2 x 50 mL) to yield **H<sub>4</sub>(dotpdc)<sup>F</sup>** (2',3',5',6'-tetrafluoro-4,4''-dihydroxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylic acid) (287 mg, 68%) as an off-white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.98 (s, 2H), 7.81 (d, J = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.16 (d, J = 9 Hz, 2H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 171.3, 161.7, 143.7 (dm, J = 241 Hz), 136.9, 132.0, 117.8, 117.4, 113.5 ppm (a <sup>13</sup>C resonance for the biphenyl carbon on the central ring could not readily be observed due to the poor solubility of this compound in DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> and the weak signal strength of this resonance resulting from C-F coupling); <sup>19</sup>F NMR (376 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ -144.0 ppm. HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z: [M - H]<sup>-</sup> Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>9</sub>O<sub>6</sub>F<sub>4</sub> 421.03411; Found 421.0330.



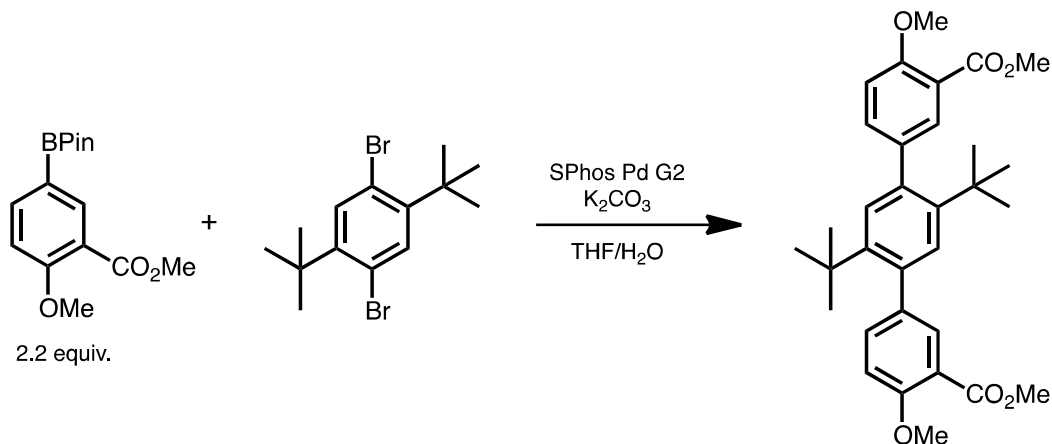
A 50 mL 3-neck roundbottom flask equipped with a stir bar and reflux condenser was charged with methyl 2-methoxy-5-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzoate (1.11 g, 3.77 mmol, 2.20 eq.), 1,4-dibromo-2,3,5,6-tetramethylbenzene (500 mg, 1.72 mmol, 1.00 eq.), and XPhos Pd G2 (68 mg, 0.09 mmol, 0.05 eq.). The flask was placed under high vacuum for 5 minutes and then back-filled with nitrogen. This process was repeated a total of three times. Next, degassed THF (8 mL) and degassed aqueous  $K_2CO_3$  (0.5M, 14 mL, 7 mmol, 4 eq.) were added via syringe, and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at reflux for 14 h, during which time a gray solid precipitated from solution. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and the reaction mixture was poured into cold water (75 mL). The non-homogenous solution was filtered, and the precipitate was washed thoroughly with cold water (3 x 10 mL). The resulting gray solid was dissolved in hot  $CH_2Cl_2$  (100 mL). The solution was filtered through celite, eluting with  $CH_2Cl_2$  (300 mL), and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield a brown solid. This solid was triturated with cold methanol (20 mL), filtered, and washed with cold methanol (2 x 5 mL), to yield dimethyl 4,4''-dimethoxy-2',3',5',6'-tetramethyl-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylate (610 mg, 76% yield) as an off-white solid.  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ):  $\delta$  7.62 (dd, 2H), 7.26 (m, 2H, under  $CDCl_3$  peak), 7.07 (d,  $J$  = 9 Hz, 2H), 3.98 (s, 6H), 3.88 (s, 6H) ppm.



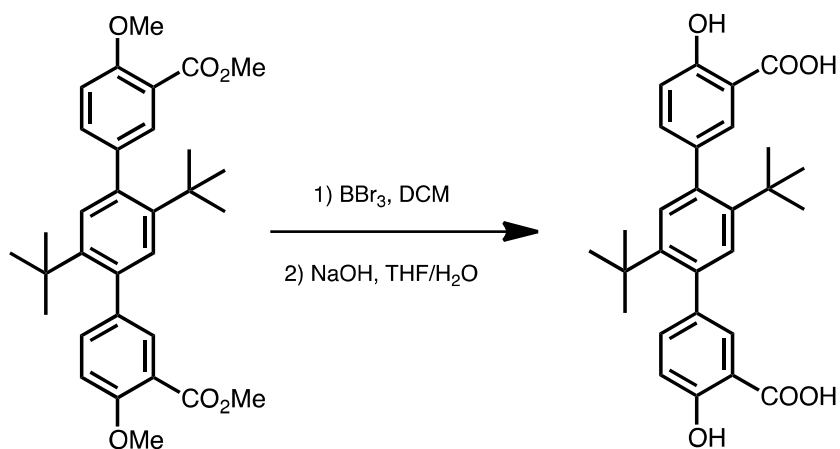
A 100 mL roundbottom flask equipped with a stir bar and reflux condenser was charged with 4,4''-dimethoxy-2',3',5',6'-tetramethyl-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylate (420 mg, 0.91 mmol, 1.00 eq.). HBr (40 mL) and AcOH (40 mL) were added, and the nonhomogenous reaction mixture was allowed to stir at reflux for 48 h. During this time, the starting material dissolved,



the reaction mixture turned orange, and a white solid precipitated from solution. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, poured into cold water (200 mL), and filtered. The precipitate was washed with cold water (2 x 50 mL) to yield **H<sub>4</sub>(dotpdc)<sup>CH<sub>3</sub></sup>** (4,4''-dihydroxy-2',3',5',6'-tetramethyl-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylic acid) (309 mg, 84%) as an off-white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 7.48 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 9, 2 Hz, 2H), 1.89 (s, 12H) ppm; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>): δ 171.9, 159.8, 139.6, 136.6, 132.7, 131.6, 130.4, 117.3, 113.0 18.0. Anal. Calc. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: C, 70.92; H, 5.46. Found: C, 70.65; H, 5.70.



A 50 mL 3-neck roundbottom flask equipped with a stir bar and reflux condenser was charged with methyl 2-methoxy-5-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)benzoate (0.466 g, 1.56 mmol, 2.20 eq.), 1,4-dibromo-2,5-ditert-butylbenzene (250 mg, 0.72 mmol, 1.00 eq.), and SPhos Pd G2 (26 mg, 0.04 mmol, 0.05 eq.). Note that the ligand SPhos was used rather than XPhos due to its slightly smaller size. The flask was placed under high vacuum for 5 minutes and then back-filled with nitrogen. This process was repeated a total of three times. Next, degassed THF (16 mL) and degassed aqueous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.5M, 6 mL, 3 mmol, 4 eq.) were added via syringe, and the reaction mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for 24 h, then 60 °C overnight. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, and the reaction mixture was poured into cold water (75 mL). The non-homogenous solution was filtered, and the precipitate was washed thoroughly with cold water (3 x 10 mL), methanol (3 x 10 mL), and hexanes (3 x 10 mL). The resulting gray solid was dissolved in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (100 mL). The solution was filtered through celite, eluting with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (300 mL), and concentrated *in vacuo* to yield dimethyl 2',5'-di-tert-butyl-4,4''-dimethoxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylate (220 mg, 59% yield) as a white solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.78 (d, *J* = 2 Hz, 2H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 9, 2 Hz, 2H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 9 Hz, 2H), 3.97 (s, 6H), 3.89 (s, 6H), 1.14 (s, 18H) ppm.



Because the *tert*-butyl groups are not stable under refluxing HBr/HOAc, alternative conditions were used to remove the methyl protecting groups. A 100 mL schlenk flask equipped with a stir bar was charged with 2',5'-di-*tert*-butyl-4,4''-dimethoxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylate (220 mg, 0.42 mmol, 1.00 eq.) and 50 mL of DCM. The solution was vigorously stirred and cooled to  $-78^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and  $\text{BBr}_3$  was added dropwise (1M solution in DCM, 5.1 mL, 5.1 mmol, 12 eq.) under an argon atmosphere. The reaction was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. The excess  $\text{BBr}_3$  was quenched with water, and the resulting white precipitate was washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3 x 50 mL). A small amount of methyl ester (~30%) still present in the material was subsequently hydrolyzed by stirring the material in 10 mL of THF and 10 mL of 1M NaOH at  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$  overnight. The solution was neutralized using HCl, the THF removed *in vacuo*, and the white precipitate washed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (3 x 50 mL) to afford **H<sub>4</sub>(dotpdc<sup>Bu</sup>)** (2',5'-di-*tert*-butyl-4,4''-dihydroxy-[1,1':4',1''-terphenyl]-3,3''-dicarboxylic acid) (150 mg over two steps, 76%).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ):  $\delta$  7.64 (d,  $J = 2$  Hz, 2H), 7.43 (dd,  $J = 9$ , 2 Hz, 2H), 7.02 (s, 2H), 6.99 (d,  $J = 8$  Hz, 2H), 1.10 (s, 18H) ppm;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ):  $\delta$  171.8, 159.9, 144.1, 139.2, 136.9, 135.3, 130.7, 126.4, 118.0, 116.2, 35.4, 32.3. Anal. Calc. for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_6$ : C, 72.71; H, 6.54. Found: C, 72.39; H, 6.76.

#### 4. Powder X-ray diffraction data collection and analysis.

*Sample preparation and data collection:* For all powder X-ray diffraction measurements, 1.0 mm diameter borosilicate capillaries were packed with sample (to roughly 8–10 mm in height) inside an N<sub>2</sub>-filled glovebox. For high-resolution powder X-ray diffraction data, samples were then attached to custom designed gas cells, brought out of the glovebox, evacuated, and flame-sealed. Acetonitrile-solvated Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc)·2MeCN, Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>F</sup>)·2MeCN, Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>CH<sub>3</sub></sup>)·2MeCN, and Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>tBu</sup>)·2MeCN were collected on Beamline 17-BM-B ( $\lambda$  = wavelength of 0.72768 Å) at the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory. High-resolution powder X-ray diffraction patterns of activated (desolvated) Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc) and Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>F</sup>) were collected at Beamline 17-BM-B. For characterization of frameworks post-catalysis, the capillaries were temporarily sealed under N<sub>2</sub> with silicone grease and then flame-sealed. The resulting powder X-ray diffraction patterns were collected using a Bruker AXS D8 Advance diffractometer equipped with CuK $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda$  = 1.5418 Å).

*General data analysis:* The powder data analysis (pattern indexing, profile fitting, Pawley refinement, and crystal structure model) was performed with the program TOPAS-Academic V4.125. Specifically, a standard peak search, followed by indexing via the Single Value Decomposition approach allowed the determination of approximate unit cell dimensions. Precise unit cell dimensions were determined by performing a structureless Pawley refinement in TOPAS-Academic (see Figures S1–S4). Structural models (assuming frameworks adopt the same structural connectivity as the M<sub>2</sub>(dobdc) series) were constructed in *Materials Studio* (*Materials Studio* v. 8, Accelrys Software Inc.) and optimized using the *Forcite* module, which were then used to perform Rietveld refinements of powder X-ray diffraction patterns of activated Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc) and Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>F</sup>) in TOPAS-Academic.

*Structure solution and Rietveld refinement of activated Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc) and Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>F</sup>):* A structural model of Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc) was constructed in *Materials Studio* based on expansion from the reported Fe<sub>2</sub>(dobdc) crystal structure, which was then used to perform a Rietveld refinement of the experimental Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc) powder pattern in TOPAS-Academic V4.1. In this refinement, the instrumental and sample parameters were freely refined. A single refined isotropic thermal parameter was assigned to the Fe atom. A single refined isotropic thermal parameter was assigned to the majority of atoms of the dotpdc<sup>4-</sup> ligand, with the exception of the atoms of the central phenyl ring, which had a separately refined isotropic thermal parameter. The atomic positions could not be refined, as the X-ray diffraction pattern did not have enough detail to allow for accurate determination of light atoms. While the powder X-ray diffraction pattern was not of high enough quality to allow for ab initio solution of the structure of Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc), the resulting calculated diffraction pattern for the constructed structural model is in agreement with the experimental diffraction pattern (Figure S5). This agreement lends us to believe that the structural model is in fact a fair approximation of the structure of Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc). The structure solution and Rietveld refinement of Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>F</sup>) was performed in a similar manner (Figure S5).

## 5. Mössbauer data collection and analysis.

Iron-57 Mössbauer spectra were obtained at 100 K with a constant acceleration spectrometer and a cobalt-57 rhodium source. Prior to measurements the spectrometer was calibrated at 295 K with  $\alpha$ -iron foil. Samples were prepared inside an N<sub>2</sub>-filled glove box and contained 20 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> of sample ( $\sim$ 3 to 4 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> of iron) diluted with boron nitride. All spectra were fit with Lorentzian quadrupole doublets using the WMOSS Mössbauer Spectral Analysis Software ([www.wmoss.org](http://www.wmoss.org)).<sup>6</sup>

## 6. Kinetic isotope effect determination.

The kinetic isotope effect was determined via competition experiments between  $C_6H_{12}$  and  $C_6D_{12}$ . For each framework, three separate reactions were run using different initial ratios of  $C_6H_{12}$  and  $C_6D_{12}$  (1:1, 1:2, or 1:5 molar ratios of  $C_6H_{12}:C_6D_{12}$ ). The general catalytic conditions were used, and after the reaction the ratio of cyclohexanol to  $[D_{11}]$ -cyclohexanol was determined by GC-MS. A small amount of protio cyclohexanone was also produced (no  $[D_{10}]$ -cyclohexanone was observed), and quantified using GC-MS and  $^1H$  NMR. The ratio of protio to deuterated products ( $[P_H]/[P_D]$ ) was plotted against the initial  $C_6H_{12}/C_6D_{12}$  ratio, and the kinetic isotope effect was taken as the slope of the best-fit line (see Figure S9 and Table S4).

## 7. Supplementary tables.

**Table S1.** Unit cell parameters of acetonitrile-solvated  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}) \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{F}}) \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3}) \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$ , and  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{tBu}}) \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$ , determined via Pawley fitting of powder X-ray diffraction data.

	$\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}) \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$	$\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{F}}) \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$	$\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3}) \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$	$\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{tBu}}) \cdot 2\text{MeCN}$
<b>Space group</b>	$R\bar{3}$	$R\bar{3}$	$R\bar{3}$	$R\bar{3}$
$a / \text{\AA}$	49.685(8)	49.693(3)	49.53(1)	49.358(9)
$c / \text{\AA}$	6.925(5)	6.887(1)	7.085(6)	7.166(6)
$V / \text{\AA}^3$	14806(11)	14727(3)	15050(15)	15118(14)
$R_{\text{exp}}$	1.119	1.168	1.024	0.922
$R_{\text{wp}}$	2.535	1.628	2.987	2.647
$R_{\text{p}}$	1.328	1.091	2.013	1.763
<b>Wavelength (<math>\text{\AA}</math>)</b>	0.727680	0.727680	0.727680	0.727680
<b>Temperature</b>	298 K	298 K	298 K	298 K

**Table S2.** Unit cell parameters of desolvated Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc) and Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>F</sup>) (activated under vacuum at 180 °C), determined via Pawley fitting of powder X-ray diffraction data.

	Fe <sub>2</sub> (dotpdc)	Fe <sub>2</sub> (dotpdc <sup>F</sup> )
<b>Space group</b>	$R\bar{3}$	$R\bar{3}$
$a / \text{\AA}$	49.86(2)	49.88(4)
$c / \text{\AA}$	6.84(1)	6.84(2)
$V / \text{\AA}^3$	14730(30)	14730(50)
$R_{\text{exp}}$	0.471	0.323
$R_{\text{wp}}$	1.343	2.992
$R_{\text{p}}$	0.939	1.841
<b>Wavelength (<math>\text{\AA}</math>)</b>	0.727680	0.727680
<b>Temperature</b>	298 K	298 K

**Table S3.** Mössbauer parameters for acetonitrile-solvated frameworks  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}) \cdot 2\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{F}}) \cdot 2\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3}) \cdot 2\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , and  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{t\text{Bu}}) \cdot 2\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$ , collected at 100 K.

	$\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc})$	$\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{F}})$	$\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3})$	$\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{t\text{Bu}})$
$\delta$ (mm/s)	1.267(3)	1.271(3)	1.264(2)	1.259(2)
$ \Delta E_{\text{Q}} $ (mm/s)	2.505(5)	2.468(5)	2.413(6)	2.546(4)
$\Gamma$ (mm/s)	0.39(1)	0.39(1)	0.31(1)	0.31(1)



**Table S4.** Results of C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub> and C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>12</sub> competition experiments.  $[P_H]/[P_D]$  is the molar ratio of protio to deuterated products.

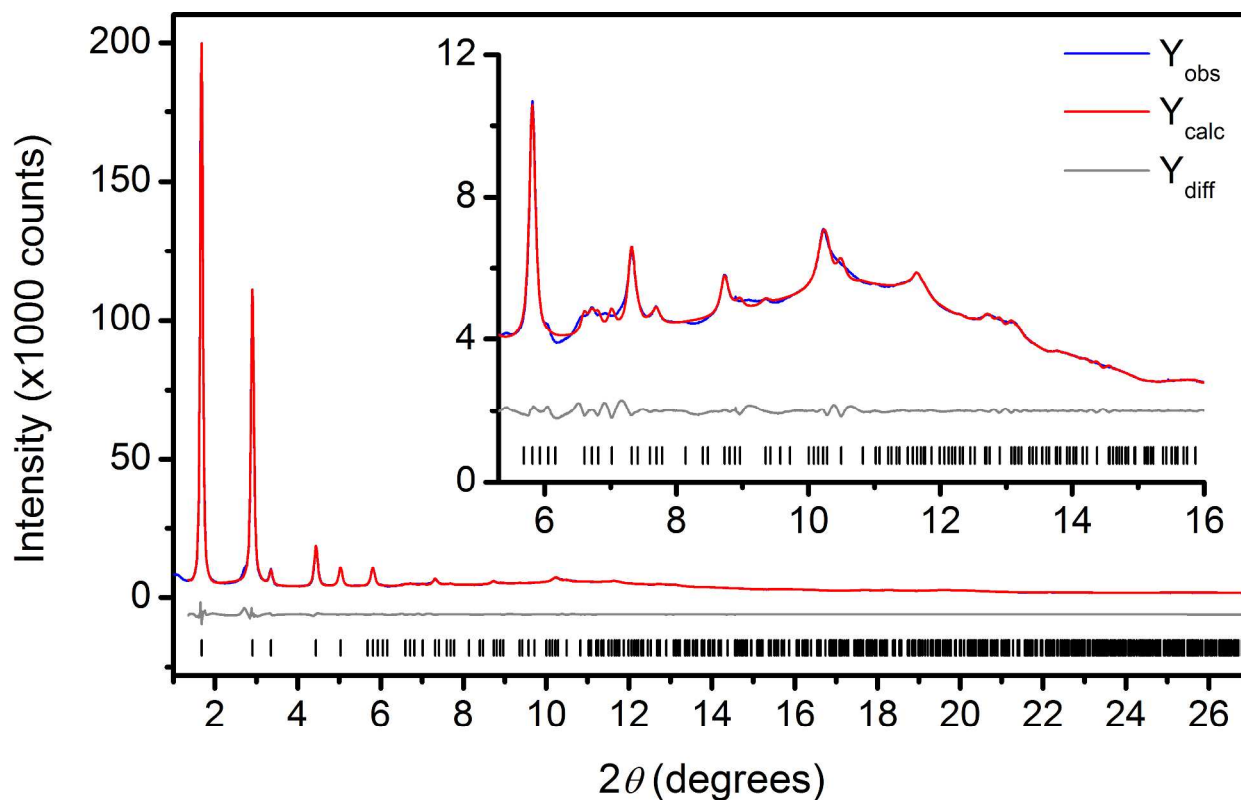
$[C_6H_{12}]/[C_6D_{12}]$	<b>Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc)</b>	<b>Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>F</sup>)</b>	$[P_H]/[P_D]$	
			<b>Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>CH<sub>3</sub></sup>)</b>	<b>Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>tBu</sup>)</b>
<b>0.2</b>	3.6	2.7	2.3	2.3
<b>0.5</b>	7.5	6.9	7.1	7.2
<b>1</b>	15.6	14.3	15.9	15.3

**Table S5.** Single-site Langmuir-Freundlich parameters for cyclohexane gas adsorption on DMF-solvated  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}) \cdot 2\text{DMF}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{F}}) \cdot 2\text{DMF}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3}) \cdot 2\text{DMF}$ , and  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{tBu}}) \cdot 2\text{DMF}$ .

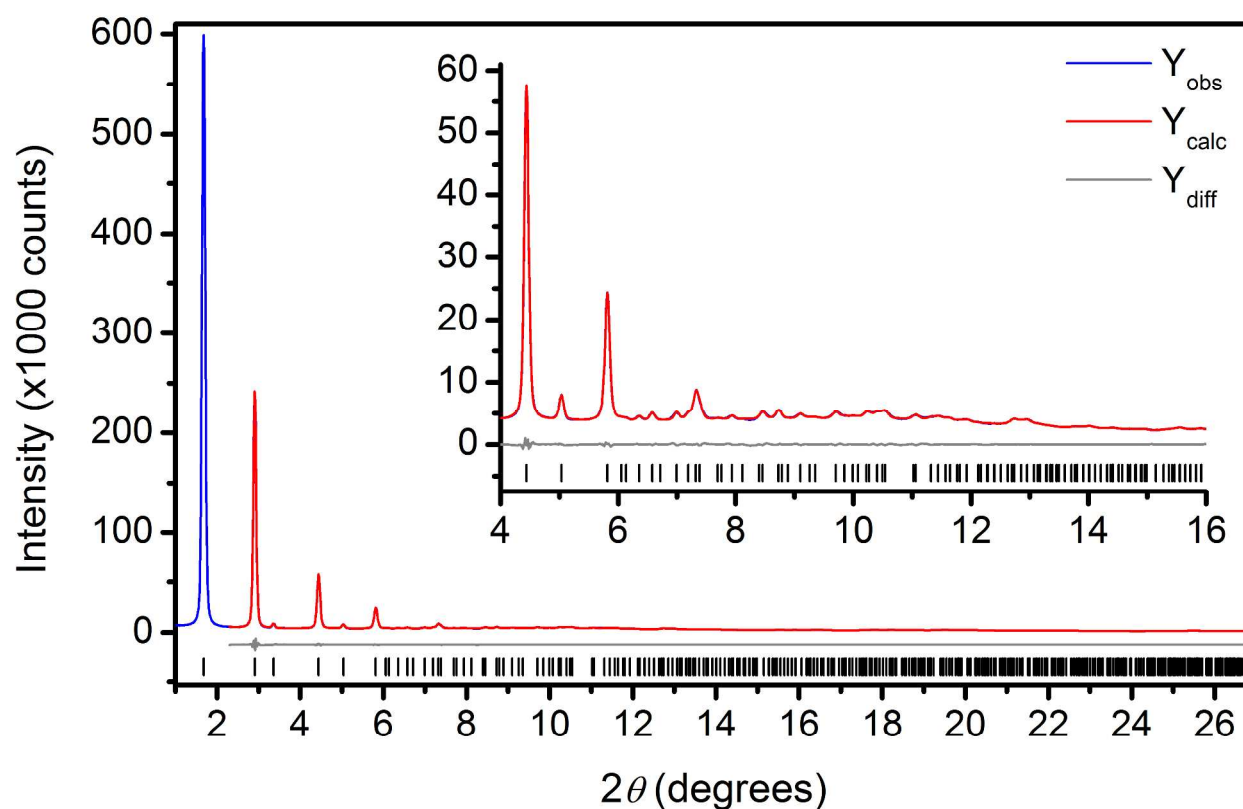
$$n = \frac{n_{\text{sat},1} b_1 P^{v_1}}{1 + b_1 P^{v_1}}$$

Framework	Temperature (°C)	$n_1$ (mmol/g)	$b_1$ (bar <sup>-1</sup> )	$v_1$
<b>Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc)</b>	25	3.08	1.48 x 10 <sup>4</sup>	1.27
	35	3.14	6.80 x 10 <sup>3</sup>	1.27
	45	3.30	3.24 x 10 <sup>3</sup>	1.27
<b>Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>F</sup>)</b>	25	2.90	6.91 x 10 <sup>5</sup>	1.63
	35	2.98	2.17 x 10 <sup>5</sup>	1.62
	45	3.02	8.20 x 10 <sup>4</sup>	1.62
<b>Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>CH<sub>3</sub></sup>)</b>	25	2.77	8.78 x 10 <sup>5</sup>	1.55
	35	2.72	3.06 x 10 <sup>5</sup>	1.55
	45	2.71	1.09 x 10 <sup>5</sup>	1.55
<b>Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>tBu</sup>)</b>	25	2.13	1.36 x 10 <sup>7</sup>	1.60
	35	2.11	4.44 x 10 <sup>6</sup>	1.60
	45	2.04	1.40 x 10 <sup>6</sup>	1.59

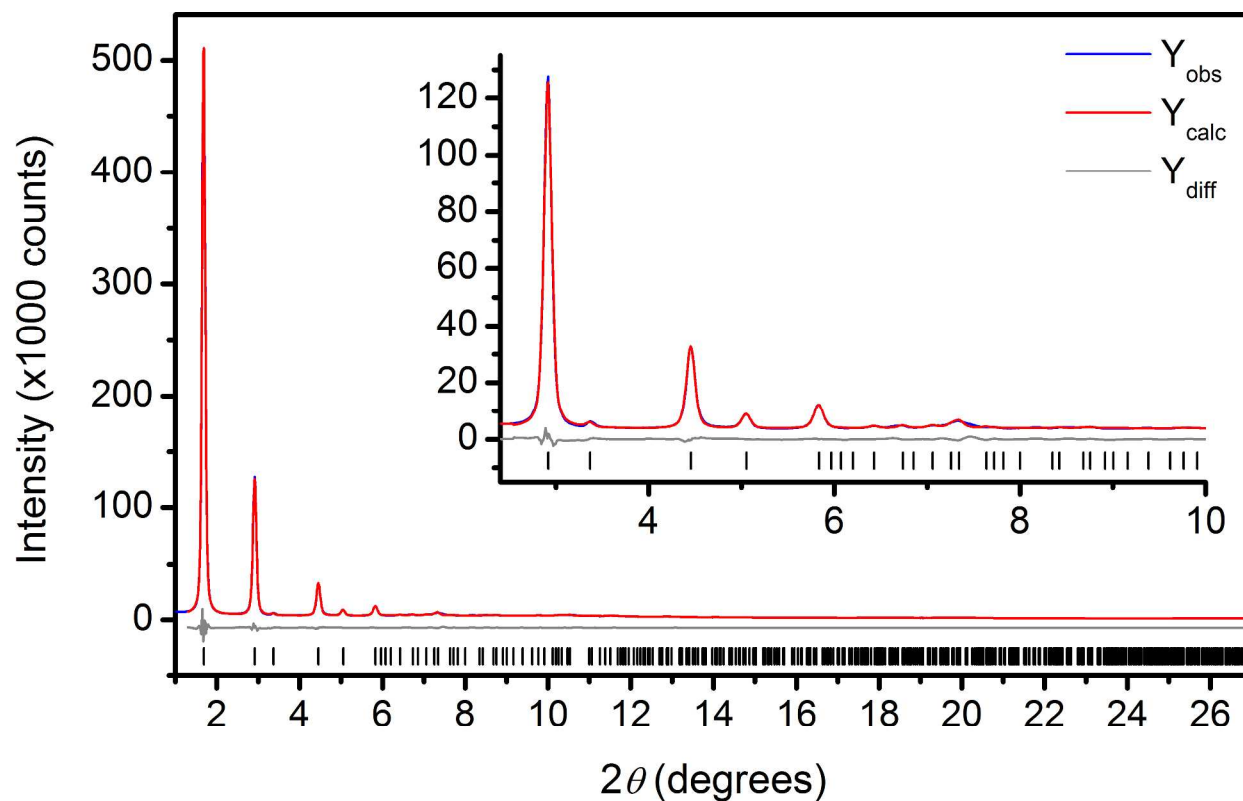
## 8. Supplementary figures.



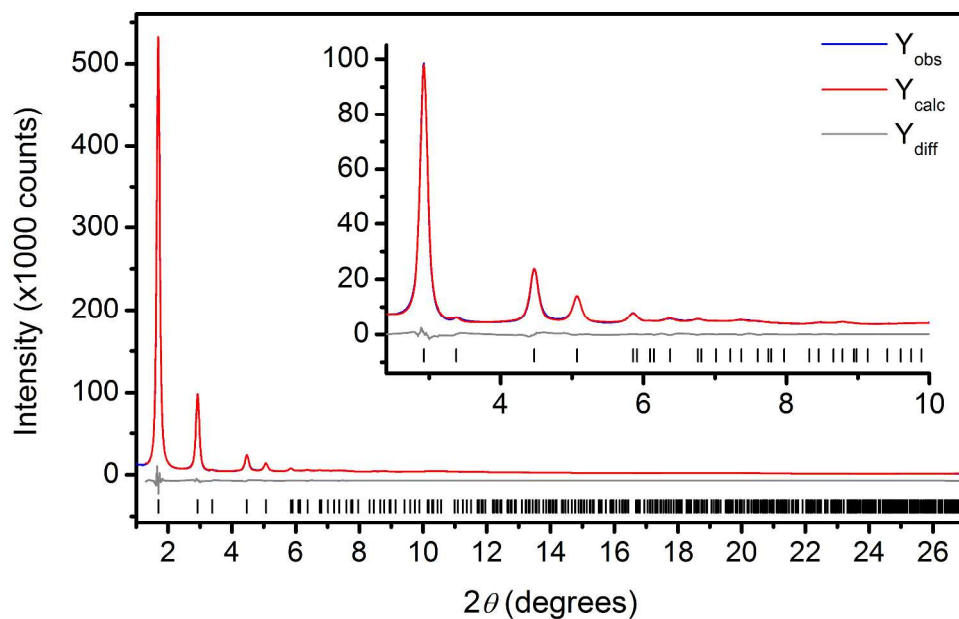
**Figure S1.** Pawley fit of acetonitrile-solvated  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}) \cdot 2\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  from  $1.4^\circ$  to  $27^\circ$ . The powder X-ray diffraction pattern of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}) \cdot 2\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  was taken at APS Beamline 17-BM at 298 K with a wavelength of  $0.727680 \text{ \AA}$ . Blue, red, and gray lines represent experimental data, calculated fits, and the difference between the two, respectively; black tick marks represent calculated Bragg peak positions. The inset shows a portion of the high angle region at a magnified scale.



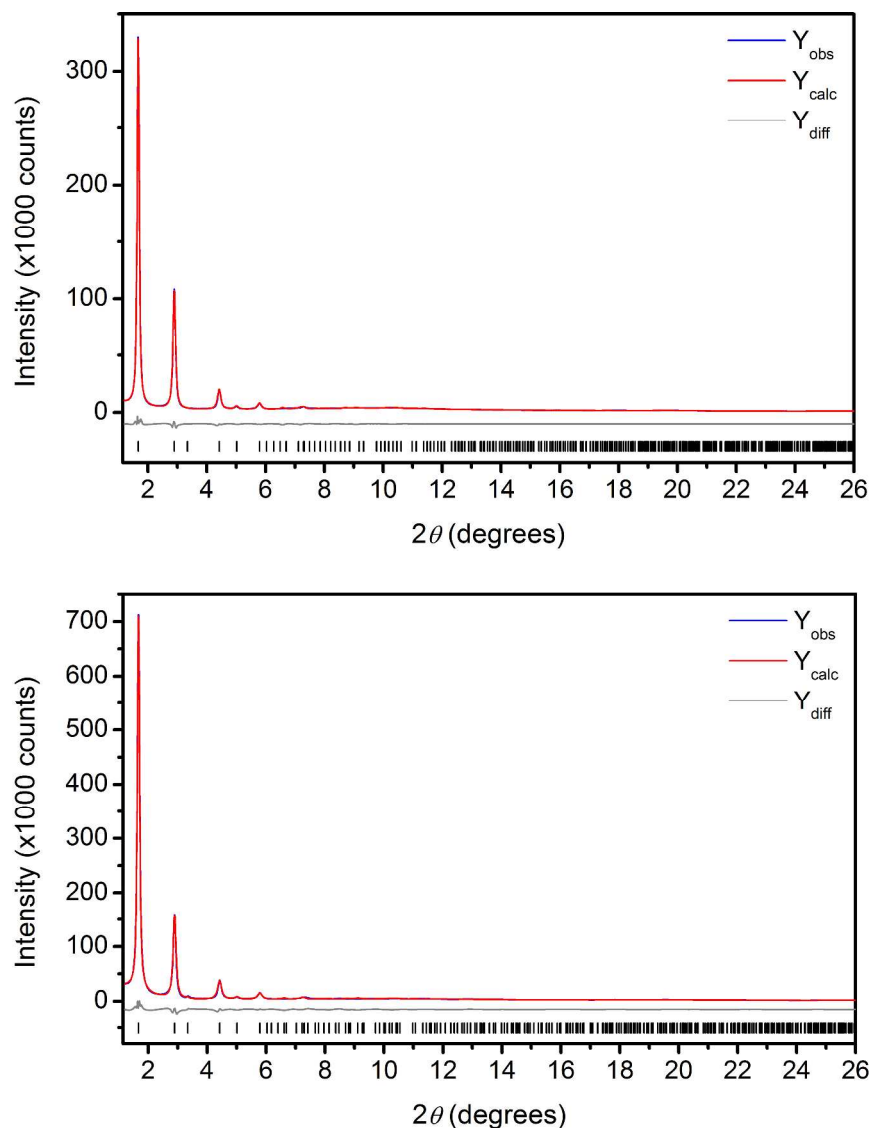
**Figure S2.** Pawley fit of acetonitrile-solvated  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{F}}) \cdot 2\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  from  $2.3^\circ$  to  $27^\circ$ . The experimental powder pattern of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{F}}) \cdot 2\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  was taken at APS Beamline 17-BM at 298 K with a wavelength of  $0.727680 \text{ \AA}$ . Blue, red, and gray lines represent experimental data, calculated fits, and the difference between the two, respectively; black tick marks represent calculated Bragg peak positions. The inset shows a portion of the high angle region at a magnified scale. The first peak was not refined, as the intensity of the peak was inaccurate due to oversaturation.



**Figure S3.** Pawley fit of acetonitrile-solvated  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3}) \cdot 2\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  from  $1.3^\circ$  to  $27^\circ$ . The experimental powder pattern of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3}) \cdot 2\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  was taken at APS Beamline 17-BM at 298 K with a wavelength of  $0.727680 \text{ \AA}$ . Blue, red, and gray lines represent experimental data, calculated fits, and the difference between the two, respectively; black tick marks represent calculated Bragg peak positions. The inset shows a portion of the high angle region at a magnified scale.

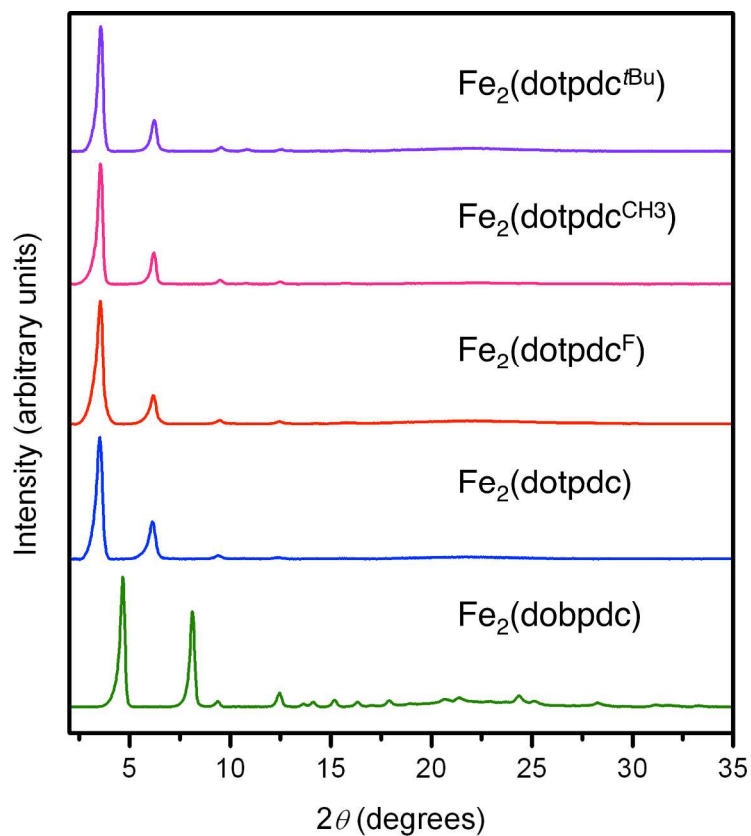


**Figure S4.** Pawley fit of acetonitrile-solvated  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{tBu}}) \cdot 2\text{CD}_3\text{CN}$  from  $1.3^\circ$  to  $27^\circ$ . The experimental powder pattern of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{tBu}})$  was taken at APS Beamline 17-BM at 298 K with a wavelength of  $0.727680 \text{ \AA}$ . Blue, red, and gray lines represent experimental data, calculated fits, and the difference between the two, respectively; black tick marks represent calculated Bragg peak positions. The inset shows a portion of the high angle region at a magnified scale.



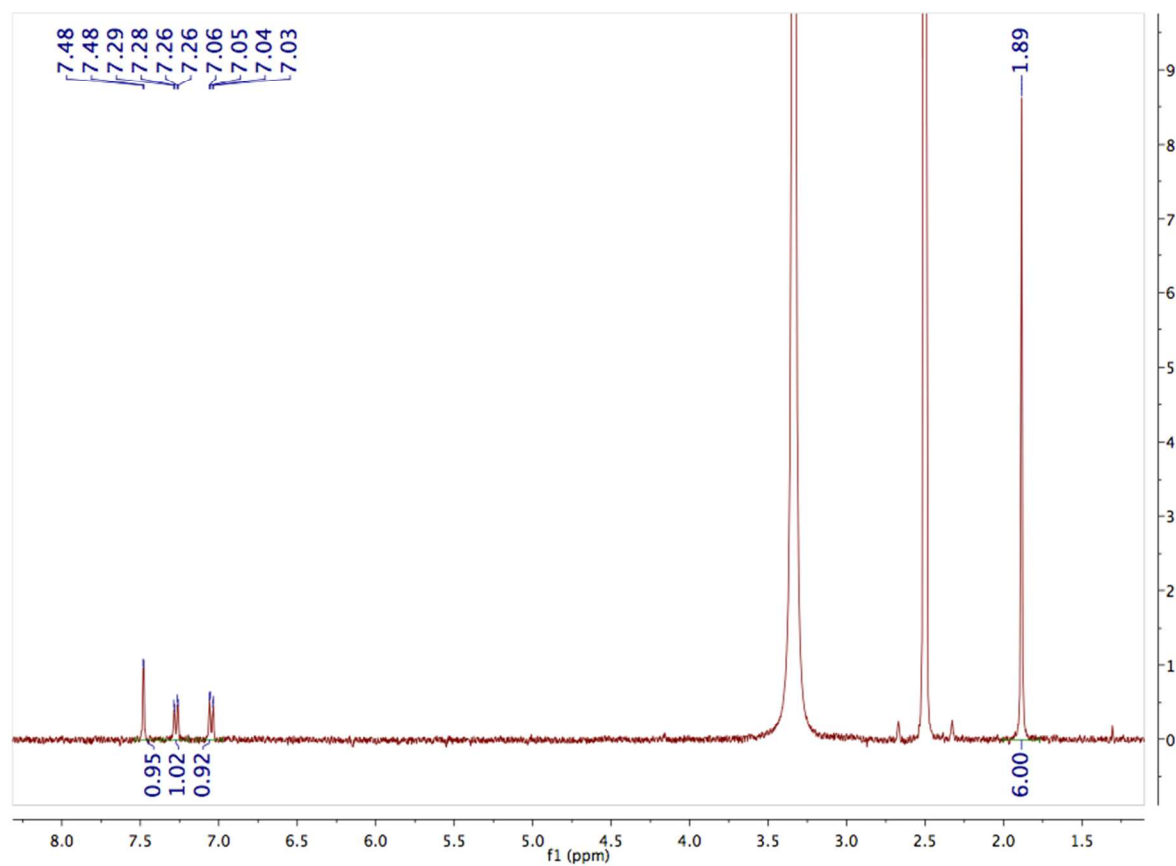
**Figure S5.** *Top:* Rietveld refinement of activated Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc) at 298 K from 1.2° to 26°. Blue and red lines represent the observed and calculated diffraction patterns, respectively. The gray line represents the difference between observed and calculated patterns, and the black tick marks indicate calculated Bragg peak positions. Figures-of-merit (as defined by TOPAS):  $R_{wp} = 3.76\%$ ,  $R_p = 3.76\%$ ,  $R_{Bragg} = 1.41\%$ ,  $GoF = 2.66$ . The wavelength was 0.727680 Å.

*Bottom:* Rietveld refinement of activated Fe<sub>2</sub>(dotpdc<sup>F</sup>) at 298 K from 1.2° to 26°. Blue and red lines represent the observed and calculated diffraction patterns, respectively. The gray line represents the difference between observed and calculated patterns, and the black tick marks indicate calculated Bragg peak positions. Figures-of-merit (as defined by TOPAS):  $R_{wp} = 6.34\%$ ,  $R_p = 6.83\%$ ,  $R_{Bragg} = 2.59\%$ ,  $GoF = 6.12$ . The wavelength was 0.727680 Å.

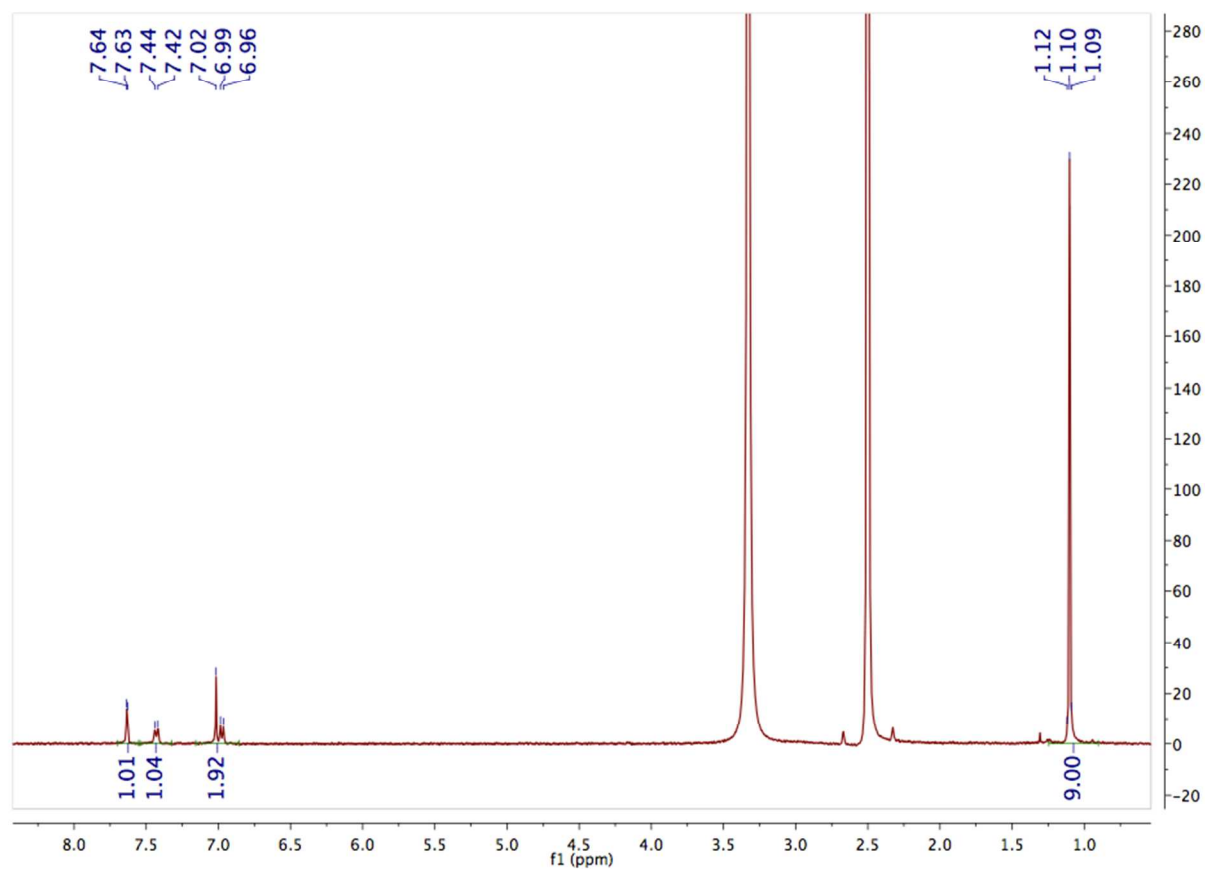


**Figure S6.** Powder X-ray diffraction patterns of the biphenyl and terphenyl  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dobpdc})$  analogues after a catalytic cyclohexane oxidation run. While the frameworks change color from yellow/green to red brown, indicative of oxidation of the  $\text{Fe}(\text{II})$  centers to  $\text{Fe}(\text{III})$ , no loss in crystallinity is observed. The wavelength was  $1.5418 \text{ \AA}$ .

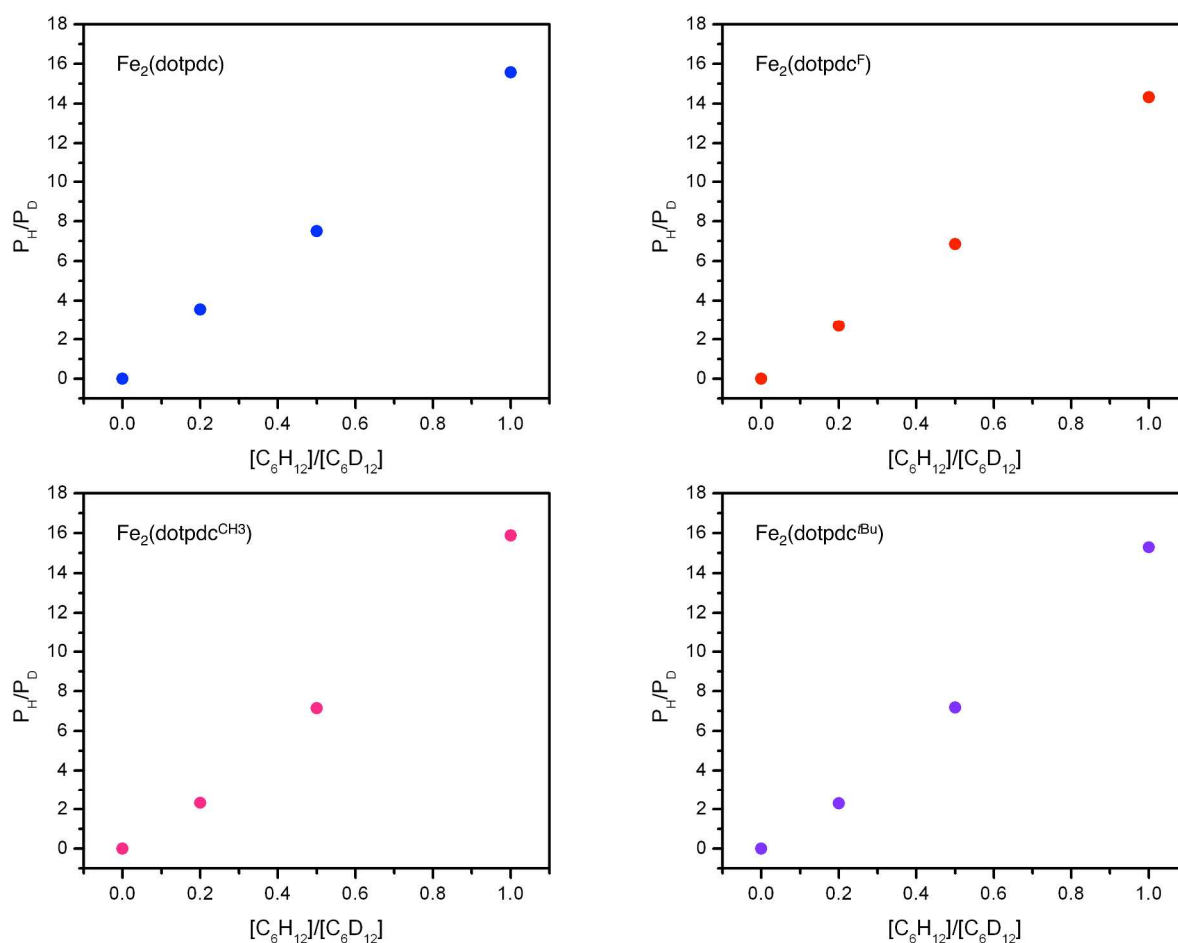




**Figure S7.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of  $\text{H}_4(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3})$  post-catalysis ( $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ). Acid digestion of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3})$  and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis of the ligand after a cyclohexane oxidation run suggests that the ligand is not hydroxylated or otherwise oxidized over the course of the reaction.



**Figure S8.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of  $\text{H}_4(\text{dotpdc}^{t\text{Bu}})$  post-catalysis ( $\text{DMSO-d}_6$ ). Acid digestion of  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{t\text{Bu}})$  and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR analysis of the ligand after a cyclohexane oxidation run suggests that the ligand is not hydroxylated or otherwise oxidized over the course of the reaction.



**Figure S9.** Kinetic isotope effect determination for  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc})$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{F}})$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{CH}_3})$ , and  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{dotpdc}^{\text{tBu}})$ . The ratio of protio to deuterated products,  $[P_{\text{H}}]/[P_{\text{D}}]$ , was plotted versus the initial  $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}]/[\text{C}_6\text{D}_{12}]$  ratio. The slope obtained from fitting these points to a line is the KIE, which was determined to be 15.4(5), 14.4(2), 16.1(8), and 15.5(6) for  $\text{R} = \text{H}$ ,  $\text{F}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3$ , and  $\text{tBu}$ , respectively.

## 9. References.

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