



Supporting Information

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Enantioselective Rhodium-catalyzed Addition of Arylboronic Acids to α -Ketoesters

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CONTENTS:

(A) Preparation of New α-Ketoesters.....	2
(B) General Procedure for Asymmetric Addition of Arylboronic Acids to α-Ketoesters.....	3
(C) Analytical Data for the Addition Products.....	3
(D) Hydrolysis of 6a.....	8
(E) Reduction of 6a.....	8
(F) Determination of the Absolute Configuration of 5h.....	9
(G) NMR Spectra of Products.....	10
(H) HPLC Charts of Products.....	31

General:

All reactions and manipulations were performed using standard Schlenk techniques. H₂O, Toluene, DME, EtOH, DCE were simply distilled before use. [RhCl(C₂H₄)₂]₂^[1] was prepared according to the reported procedures. Arylboronic acids were purchased from Aldrich or Shijiazhuang Tianyue Fine Chemicals Co., Ltd and used as received.

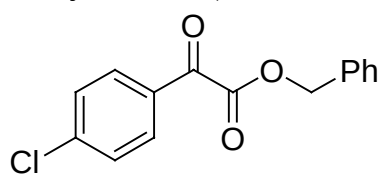
NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker-400 spectrometer, operating at 400 MHz for ¹H NMR, 100 MHz for ¹³C NMR. Chemical shifts in CDCl₃ were reported in ppm down field from internal Me₄Si and external 85% H₃PO₄, respectively. Melting points were measured on a RY-I apparatus and uncorrected. Optical rotations were determined using a Perkin Elmer 341 MC polarimeter. Elemental analyses were performed on the Yanaca CDRDER MT-3 instrument. Mass spectra were recorded on the VG-7070E spectrometer. HRMS were recorded on APEXII and ZAB-HS spectrometer. HPLC analyses were performed using a Hewlett Packard Model HP 1100 Series or Waters 2996 instruments and SFC analyses were performed on a Berger Analytix SFC instrument.

[1] R. Cramer, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1964**, 86, 217-222.

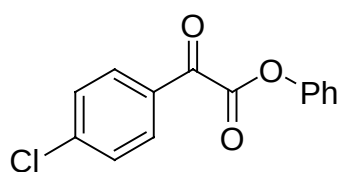
(A) Preparation of New α -Ketoesters ^[2]

Benzyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoacetate

Benzyl alcohol (5.2 mL, 50 mmol) was added slowly to freshly distilled oxalyl chloride (8.5 mL, 100 mmol) at 0 °C within 15 min and warmed up to room temperature. After 4 h, the reaction mixture was distilled under reduced pressure to give the Benzyl chloro(oxo)acetate at 95 °C /1 mmHg, yield 60%. Benzyl chloro(oxo)acetate (5.9 g, 30 mmol) in THF (10 mL) was added dropwise to stirred solution of imidazole (4.1 g, 60 mmol) in THF (30 mL) at 0 °C under N₂. After an additional 2 h of being stirred at room temperature, the mixture was filtered and the precipitate was washed with anhydrous THF (10 mL). The filtrate was cooled to -50 °C under nitrogen. The solution of 4-chlorophenyl magnesium bromide (30 mmol in 30 mL THF) was added dropwise over 30 min with stirring. The solution was allowed to come to room temperature over 3 h and poured into ice-water. The solution was extracted with ether, washed with brine and dried over MgSO₄. Removal of solvents with reduced pressure and purified by chromatography on silica gel with petrol ether/ethyl acetate (8/1) to give benzyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoacetate as White solid, 67% yield, mp 52–53 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 2H), 7.47–7.37 (m, 7H), 5.40 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 184.5, 163.0, 141.6, 134.4, 131.4, 130.9, 129.3, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 67.9. FAB-MS m/z 275 [M+H]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁ClO₃: C, 65.58; H, 4.04. Found: C, 65.28; H, 4.38.

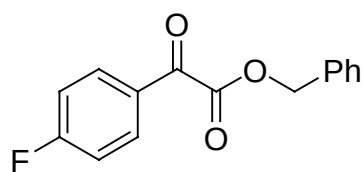


Phenyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-oxoacetate



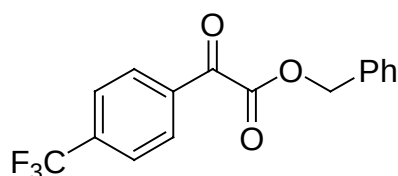
White solid, 55% yield, mp 50–52 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.07 (d, J = 11.2 Hz, 2H), 7.52–7.42 (m, 4H), 7.33–7.24 (m, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 183.7, 161.1, 149.9, 131.5, 130.7, 129.4, 126.8, 121.1. FAB-MS m/z 261 [M+H]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₄H₉ClO₃: C, 64.51; H, 3.48. Found: C, 64.66; H, 3.18.

Benzyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-oxoacetate



White solid, 62% yield, mp 40–42 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.04–8.01 (m, 2H), 7.45–7.36 (m, 5H), 7.16–7.12 (m, 2H), 5.40 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 184.7, 168.3, 165.7, 165.4, 163.4, 134.6, 133.2, 133.1, 129.2, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 116.6, 116.3, 68.1. FAB-MS m/z 259 [M+H]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₅H₁₁FO₃: C, 69.76; H, 4.29. Found: C, 69.64; H, 4.45.

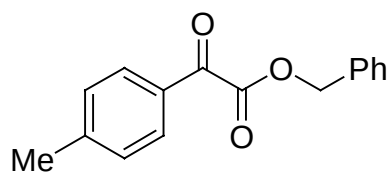
Benzyl 2-(4-(trifluoromethyl))-2-oxoacetate



White solid, 45% yield, mp 61–62 °C; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.46–7.36 (m, 5H), 5.43 (s, 2H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 184.8, 162.8, 135.4, 134.5, 130.8, 129.1, 129.0, 128.9, 126.1, 122.1, 68.3. FAB-MS m/z 309 [M+H]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₁F₃O₃: C, 62.34; H, 3.60. Found: C, 62.13; H, 3.34.

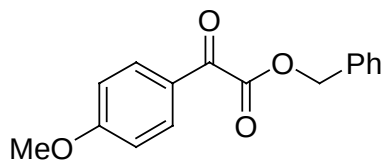
Benzyl 2-(4-methylphenyl)-2-oxoacetate

[2] J. S. Nimitz, H. S. Mosher, *J. Org. Chem.* **1981**, *46*, 211-213.



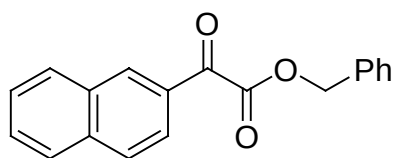
White solid, 80% yield, mp 58–60 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 7.85 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.45–7.36 (m, 5H), 7.27 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 5.40 (s, 2H), 2.42 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 186.0, 164.1, 146.5, 134.9, 130.3, 130.2, 129.8, 128.9, 128.8, 67.8, 22.1. EI-MS m/z 254 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3$: C, 75.57; H, 5.55. Found: C, 75.91; H, 5.75.

Benzyl 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-oxoacetate



Colorless oil, 76% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 7.95 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.45–7.31 (m, 5H), 6.94 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 5.39 (s, 2H), 3.87 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 184.7, 165.3, 164.2, 134.9, 132.7, 128.9, 128.7, 114.5, 113.5, 67.7, 55.8. EI-HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4$: 270.0892. Found: 270.0890.

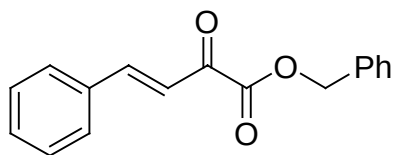
Benzyl 2-(2-naphthyl)-2-oxoacetate



Pale orange solid, 60% yield, mp 47–49 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 8.43 (s, 1H), 8.03–8.01 (m, 1H), 7.85–7.84 (m, 3H), 7.60–7.40 (m, 7H), 5.49 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 186.2, 164.1, 136.5, 134.9, 133.8, 132.4, 130.1, 130.0, 129.8, 129.4, 129.2, 129.1, 129.0, 128.7, 128.1, 127.4, 124.0, 68.0.

EI-HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3$: 290.0943. Found: 290.0942.

(*E*)-benzyl 2-oxo-4-phenylbut-3-enoate



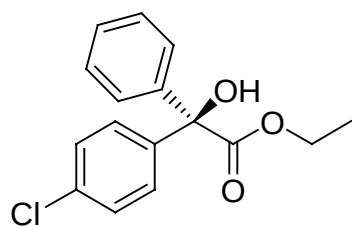
Yellow solid, 45% yield, mp 77–79 °C. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 7.82 (d, J = 16 Hz, 1H), 7.59–7.57 (m, 2H), 7.46–7.31 (m, 9H), 5.35 (s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 182.6, 162.1, 148.5, 134.7, 134.0, 131.6, 129.1, 129.0, 128.8, 128.7, 120.7, 67.9. EI-HRMS Calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_3$: 266.0943. Found: 266.0949.

(B) General Procedure for Asymmetric Addition of Arylboronic Acids to α -Ketoesters

A Schlenk tube was charged with $[\text{RhCl}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2]_2$ (1.2 mg, 0.006 mmol Rh) and (*S*)-**1c** (4.8 mg, 0.012 mmol) in nitrogen atmosphere. DCE (0.4 mL) and water (1.6 mL) were then added and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min. $\text{ArB}(\text{OH})_2$ (0.4 mmol), LiF (13 mg, 0.4 mmol) and α -ketoester (0.2 mmol) were added sequentially and the mixture was stirred for appropriate time at given temperature. The mixture was extracted with CH_2Cl_2 , and the extract was dried over MgSO_4 , concentrated. The crude product was purified by chromatography on silica gel with petrol ether/ethyl acetate. Enantiomeric excesses (ee) were determined by chiral HPLC analyses or SFC analyses.

(C) Analytical Data for the Addition Products

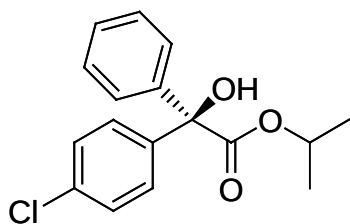
Ethyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-phenylacetate (**4a**)



Colorless oil, 96 % yield, 77 % ee. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ = –16.7 (c 2.4, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 7.40–7.29 (m, 9H), 4.35–4.28 (m, 2H), 1.27 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3): δ 174.2, 141.9, 140.4, 133.9, 128.9, 128.2, 128.1, 127.1, 80.4, 63.1, 13.9. EI-MS m/z 290 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{15}\text{ClO}_3$: C, 66.10; H, 5.20. Found: C, 66.35; H, 5.01. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-

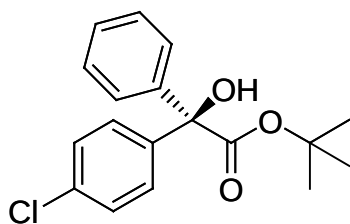
PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 230 nm; t_R = 13.31 min (minor) and 15.33 min (major).

Isopropyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-phenylacetate (4b)



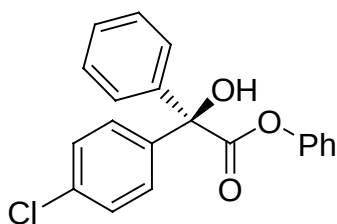
Colorless oil, 93 % yield, 80 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -15.8$ (c 2.4, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.41–7.29 (m, 9H), 5.19–5.11 (m, 1H), 4.38 (s, 1H), 1.27–1.23 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 173.7, 142.1, 140.7, 134.0, 129.1, 128.4, 128.3, 128.2, 127.4, 80.5, 71.6, 21.7. EI-HRMS Calcd for C₁₇H₁₇ClO₃: 304.0866. Found: 304.0872. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), n -hexane/ i -PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 230 nm; t_R = 14.46 min (minor) and 15.99 min (major).

***tert*-Butyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-phenylacetate (4c)**



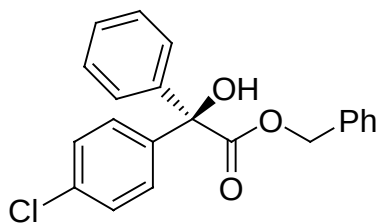
Colorless oil, 51 % yield, 70 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -12.4$ (c 0.7, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.41–7.25 (m, 9H), 4.35 (s, 1H), 1.45 (s, 9H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 173.0, 142.2, 140.8, 133.9, 128.9, 128.7, 128.2, 128.1, 128.0, 127.2, 84.3, 80.4, 27.8. EI-HRMS Calcd for C₁₈H₁₉ClO₃: 318.1023. Found: 318.1027. SFC conditions: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), sc CO₂/ i -PrOH = 90:10, P_{CO_2} = 100 bar, 2.0 mL/min, oven 40 °C, UV detector (210 nm) t_R = 8.9min (minor) and 9.5 min (major).

Phenyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-phenylacetate (4d)



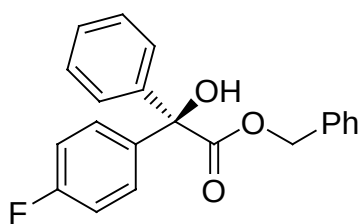
Colorless oil, 90 % yield, 72 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -16.5$ (c 2.4, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.54–7.53 (m, 4H), 7.44–7.37 (m, 7H), 7.29–7.25 (m, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.24 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 173.0, 150.6, 141.5, 140.0, 134.5, 129.8, 129.2, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 127.5, 126.8, 121.0, 81.1. EI-HRMS Calcd for C₂₀H₁₅ClO₃: 338.0710. Found: 338.0713. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), n -hexane/ i -PrOH = 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 230 nm; t_R = 22.99 min (minor) and 25.94 min (major).

Benzyl 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-phenylacetate (4e)



White solid, mp 61–62 °C, 81 % yield, 90 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -6.9$ (c 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.37–7.21 (m, 14H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 4.25 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 174.0, 141.8, 140.4, 134.8, 134.2, 129.2, 128.8, 128.8, 128.4, 128.3, 127.4, 80.8, 68.8. FAB-MS m/z 335 [M–OH]⁺. Anal. Calcd. for C₂₁H₁₇ClO₃: C, 71.49; H, 4.68. Found: C, 71.37; H, 4.97. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralcel AS column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), n -hexane/ i -PrOH = 97:3, 1.0 mL/min, 230 nm; t_R = 8.63 min (major) and 9.90 min (minor).

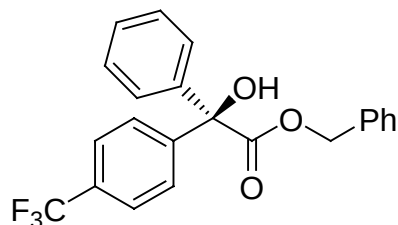
Benzyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-phenylacetate (4f)



Colorless oil, 84 % yield, 88 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -10.3$ (c 1.8, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.39–7.30 (m, 10H), 7.22–7.20 (m, 2H), 7.00–6.96 (m, 2H), 5.28 (s, 2H), 4.22 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 174.0, 164.0, 160.8, 141.8, 137.8, 134.6, 129.4, 129.3, 128.5, 128.1, 127.2, 114.9, 114.7, 80.6, 68.4. EI-

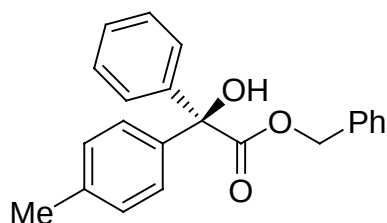
HRMS Calcd for $C_{21}H_{17}FO_3$: 336.1162. Found: 336.1158. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralcel AS column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, 1.0 mL/min, 230 nm; t_R = 10.63 min (major) and 13.68 min (minor).

Benzyl 2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-hydroxy-phenylacetate (4g)



White solid, mp 79–81 °C, 93 % yield, 91 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = -12.1$ (c 2.3, $CHCl_3$). 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.62–7.57 (m, 4H), 7.34–7.22 (m, 10H), 5.31 (s, 2H), 4.32 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 173.7, 146.7, 141.6, 134.7, 128.9, 128.8, 128.6, 128.5, 128.4, 128.2, 127.4, 125.2, 125.2, 81.0, 68.9. EI-MS m/z 386 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{22}H_{17}F_3O_3$: C, 68.39; H, 4.43. Found: C, 68.33; H, 4.21. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralcel AS column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 98:2, 1.0 mL/min, 230 nm; t_R = 9.57 min (major) and 11.89 min (minor).

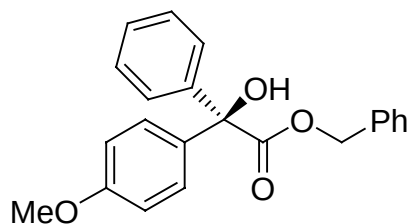
Benzyl 2-hydroxy-2-(4-methylphenyl)-phenylacetate (4h)



Colorless oil, 96 % yield, 84 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{24} = +5.7$ (c 1.2, $CHCl_3$). 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.32–6.99 (m, 14H), 5.16 (s, 2H), 4.06 (s, 1H), 2.23 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 174.4, 142.0, 139.1, 137.8, 134.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.5, 127.4, 81.0, 68.2, 21.1. FAB-MS m/z 315 [$M-OH$] $^+$. Anal. Calcd. for $C_{22}H_{20}O_3$: C, 79.50; H, 6.06. Found: C, 79.56; H, 6.15. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralcel AS column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), conditions: *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 230 nm; t_R = 11.53 min (minor) and 12.82 min (major).

The addition of 4-methylphenylboronic acid to benzyl 2-phenyl-2-oxoacetate gave product **4h** in 85% yield, 80% ee with a reverse configuration, $[\alpha]_D^{24} = -6.3$ (c 1.4, $CHCl_3$).

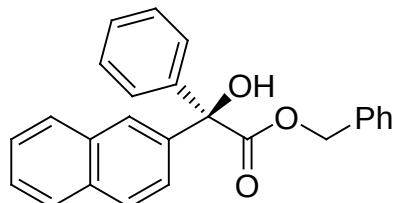
Benzyl 2-hydroxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-phenylacetate (4i)



Colorless oil, 93 % yield, 86 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{22} = +0.48$ (c 3.5, $CHCl_3$). 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.38–7.21 (m, 12H), 6.82 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 2H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 4.14 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 174.4, 159.3, 142.1, 134.9, 134.1, 128.7, 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 128.0, 127.4, 113.4, 80.8, 68.2, 55.2. EI-MS m/z 348 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{22}H_{20}O_4$: C, 75.84; H, 5.79. Found: C, 75.62; H, 5.95. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralcel AS column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, 1.0 mL/min, 230 nm; t_R = 20.72 min (minor) and 23.01 min (major).

The addition of 4-methoxyphenylboronic acid to benzyl 2-(phenyl)-2-oxoacetate gave product **4i** 80% yield, 83% ee with a reverse configuration, $[\alpha]_D^{24} = -0.44$ (c 3.4, $CHCl_3$).

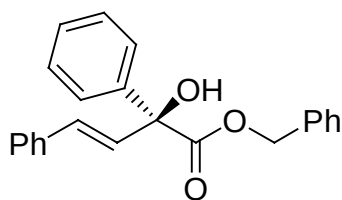
Benzyl 2-hydroxy-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-phenylacetate (4j)



Colorless oil, 78 % yield, 80 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +23.6$ (c 1.5, $CHCl_3$). 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.87–7.71 (m, 4H), 7.51–7.44 (m, 5H), 7.35–7.25 (m, 8H), 5.36 (d, J = 13.6 Hz, 2H), 4.35 (s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 174.2, 141.8, 139.2, 134.8, 132.9, 132.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 127.6, 127.5, 126.4, 126.2, 125.7, 81.2, 68.4. EI-MS m/z 368 (M^+). Anal. Calcd. for $C_{25}H_{30}O_3$: C, 81.50; H, 5.47. Found: C, 81.89; H, 5.25. HPLC conditions: Daicel

Chiralcel AS column (25 cm × 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, 1.0 mL/min, 230 nm; t_R = 12.78 min (minor) and 14.59 min (major).

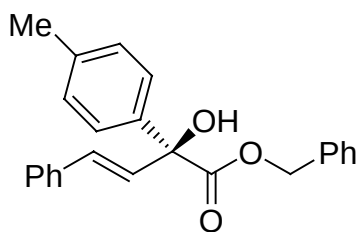
Benzyl 2-hydroxy-2-phenyl-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (6a)



White solid, mp 87–89 °C, 70 % yield, 93 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +40.9$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.42–7.25 (m, 13H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 4.03 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 174.2, 141.5, 136.5, 135.1, 130.9, 129.2, 128.9, 128.7, 128.6, 128.4, 128.3, 128.1, 127.0, 126.4, 78.7, 68.5. EI-MS *m/z* 344 (*M*⁺).

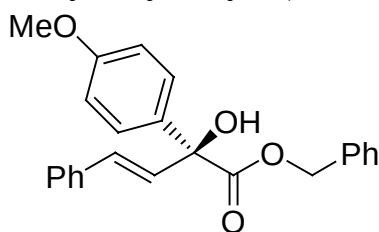
Anal. Calcd. for C₂₃H₂₀O₃: C, 80.21; H, 5.85. Found: C, 79.97; H, 6.12. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralcel AS column (25 cm × 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm; t_R = 14.57 min (major) and 19.19 min (minor).

Benzyl 2-hydroxy-2-(4-methylphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (6b)



White solid, mp 74–76 °C, 77 % yield, 93 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +27.2$ (*c* 1.8, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.45–7.27 (m, 12H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 5.28 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 4.00 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 174.1, 138.5, 137.9, 136.4, 135.0, 130.5, 129.2, 129.1, 128.5, 128.1, 127.9, 126.8, 126.1, 78.4, 68.2, 21.0. EI-MS *m/z* 358 (*M*⁺). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₄H₂₂O₃: C, 80.42; H, 6.19. Found: C, 80.63; H, 5.98. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm × 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:5, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm; t_R = 17.43 min (major) and 24.81 min (minor).

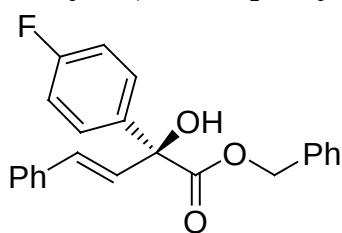
Benzyl 2-hydroxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (6c)



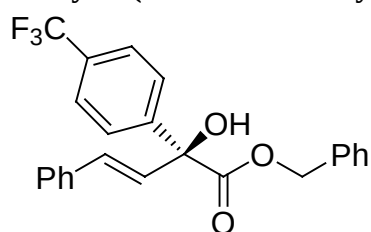
Colorless oil, 75 % yield, 90 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +23.1$ (*c* 1.7, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.37–7.29 (m, 8H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 6.78 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.29 (s, 2H), 4.09 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 174.2, 159.4, 136.4, 135.0, 133.6, 130.6, 129.3, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 127.9, 127.6, 126.9, 113.8, 78.2, 68.2, 55.3. EI-MS *m/z* 374 (*M*⁺).

Anal. Calcd. for C₂₄H₂₂O₄: C, 76.99; H, 5.92. Found: C, 76.78; H, 6.09. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralcel AS column (25 cm × 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm; t_R = 11.68 min (major) and 16.63 min (minor).

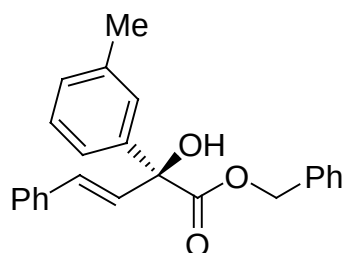
Benzyl 2-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (6d)



Colorless oil, 93 % yield, 92 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +29.2$ (*c* 1.5, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.54–7.50 (m, 2H), 7.41–7.25 (m, 10H), 7.04–7.00 (m, 2H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 6.70 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 4.04 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 174.0, 163.9, 161.5, 137.3, 136.3, 134.9, 131.1, 129.0, 128.9, 128.8, 128.5, 128.4, 128.3, 127.0, 115.5, 115.3, 78.2, 68.7. EI-MS *m/z* 362 (*M*⁺). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₃H₁₉FO₃: C, 76.23; H, 5.28. Found: C, 76.55; H, 4.84. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralcel AS column (25 cm × 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm; t_R = 7.93 min (major) and 9.67 min (minor).

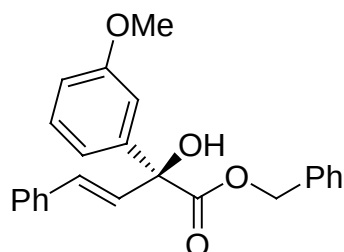
Benzyl 2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-2-hydroxy-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (6e)

Colorless oil, 61 % yield, 90 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +13.0$ (*c* 1.3, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 7.38–7.27 (m, 10H), 6.92 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.66 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 4.06 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 173.3, 145.0, 135.9, 134.5, 131.3, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 126.8, 126.7, 125.3, 125.2, 78.1, 68.7. EI-MS *m/z* 412 (*M*⁺). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₄H₁₉F₃O₃: C, 69.90; H, 4.64. Found: C, 70.25; H, 4.31. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm × 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 95:15, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm; *t*_R = 15.67 min (major) and 20.02 min (minor).

Benzyl 2-hydroxy-2-(3-methylphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (6f)

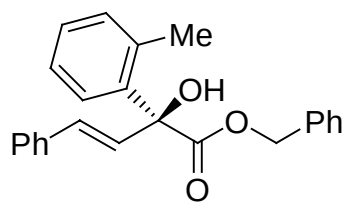
Colorless oil, 75 % yield, 91 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +22.1$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.41–7.09 (m, 14H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz, 1H), 6.71 (d, *J* = 21.2 Hz, 1H), 5.26 (s, 2H), 3.94 (s, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 174.2, 141.4, 138.3, 136.5, 135.1, 130.7, 129.2, 129.1, 128.9, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 127.1, 127.0, 123.5, 78.7, 68.4, 21.7. EI-MS *m/z* 358 (*M*⁺). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₄H₂₂O₃: C, 80.42; H, 6.19. Found: C, 80.30; H, 6.13. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm ×

0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm; *t*_R = 14.49 min (major) and 16.88 min (minor).

Benzyl 2-hydroxy-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (6g)

Colorless oil, 70 % yield, 93 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +7.0$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.34–7.10 (m, 12H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 4.03 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 174.1, 159.9, 136.5, 130.9, 129.6, 129.5, 129.3, 129.1, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 127.8, 127.0, 118.8, 114.0, 112.0, 78.6, 68.5, 55.4. EI-HRMS Calcd for C₂₄H₂₂O₄: 374.1518. Found: 374.1516. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralcel AS column (25 cm × 0.46

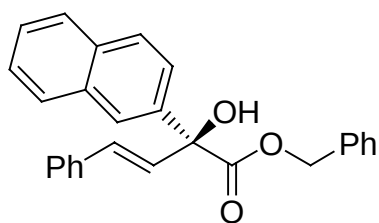
cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm; *t*_R = 12.38 min (major) and 16.30 min (minor).

Benzyl 2-hydroxy-2-(2-methylphenyl)-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (6h)

White solid, mp 101–103 °C, 92 % yield, 75 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +57.8$ (*c* 1.8, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.42–7.12 (m, 14H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.34–5.20 (m, 2H), 3.79 (br s, 1H), 2.27 (s, 3H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 175.0, 138.9, 137.6, 136.4, 135.1, 132.2, 131.7, 129.9, 129.1, 128.8, 128.7, 128.5, 128.3, 127.1, 125.8, 79.7, 68.4, 20.2. EI-MS *m/z* 358

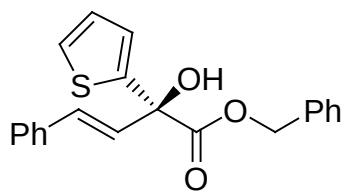
(*M*⁺). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₄H₂₂O₃: C, 80.42; H, 6.19. Found: C, 80.34; H, 6.32. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralpak AD-H column (25 cm × 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm; *t*_R = 14.86 min (major) and 23.62 min (minor).

Benzyl 2-hydroxy-2-(naphthalen-2-yl)-4-phenylbut-3-enoate (6i)



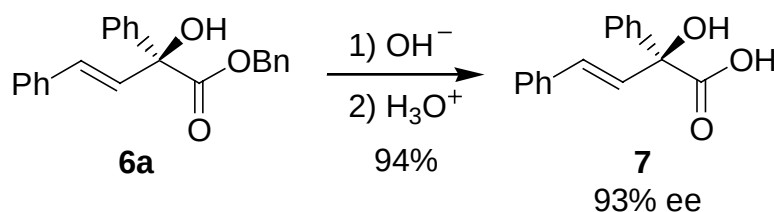
Colorless oil, 89 % yield, 90 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +19.2$ (*c* 1.2, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.84–7.78 (m, 3H), 7.64 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.50–7.28 (m, 12H), 7.01 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.30 (s, 2H), 4.13 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 174.2, 138.8, 136.5, 135.1, 133.3, 132.2, 131.2, 129.1, 128.8, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.7, 126.6, 126.4, 125.5, 124.4, 78.9, 68.6. EI-HRMS Calcd for C₂₇H₂₂O₃: 394.1569. Found: 394.1567. The ee was determined by HPLC analysis using Daicel Chiralcel AS column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), conditions: *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm; *t*_R = 13.14 min (major) and 20.03 min (minor).

Benzyl 2-hydroxy-4-phenyl 2-(thiophen-2-yl)-but-3-enoate (6j)



Colorless oil, 91 % yield, 88 % ee. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +33.0$ (*c* 1.1, CHCl₃). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.39–7.25 (m, 12H), 7.17 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.27 (s, 2H), 4.23 (s, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 173.0, 145.7, 136.0, 134.7, 130.5, 128.6, 128.1, 127.0, 126.9, 125.5, 125.0, 76.6, 68.7. EI-MS *m/z* 350 (*M*⁺). Anal. Calcd. for C₂₁H₁₈O₃S: C, 71.98; H, 5.18. Found: C, 71.53; H, 5.32. HPLC conditions: Daicel Chiralcel AS column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), *n*-hexane/*i*-PrOH = 90:10, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm; *t*_R = 9.39 min (major) and 13.88 min (minor).

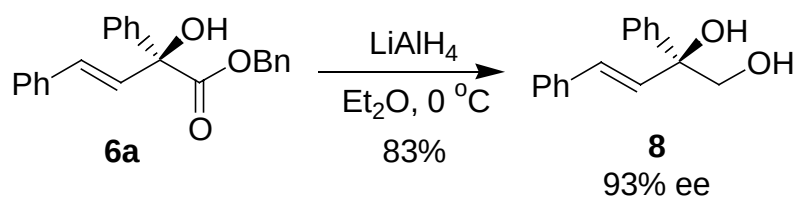
(D) Hydrolysis of 6a



Compound **6a** (0.12 g, 0.34 mmol) was hydrolyzed by refluxing in a NaOH solution (0.14 g NaOH, 2 mL H₂O, 6 mL MeOH) for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and acidified with diluted HCl acid, extracted with CH₂Cl₂. After removal of solvent the acid product **7** was obtained in 94% yield as a yellowish solid, mp 120–122 °C. $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +41.5$ (*c* 1.7, acetone). ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 7.61–7.59 (m, 2H), 7.44–7.25 (m, 8H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 177.9, 162.3, 140.6, 136.0, 131.2, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 126.9, 126.1, 78.4. ESI-MS *m/z* 253 [*M*–1][–]. Anal. Calcd. for C₁₆H₁₄O₃: C, 75.57; H, 5.55. Found: C, 75.29; H, 5.85. The ee value of acid **7** (93% ee) was determined as **6a** after esterification with benzyl bromide and Cs₂CO₃ in DMF according to reported procedure.^[3]

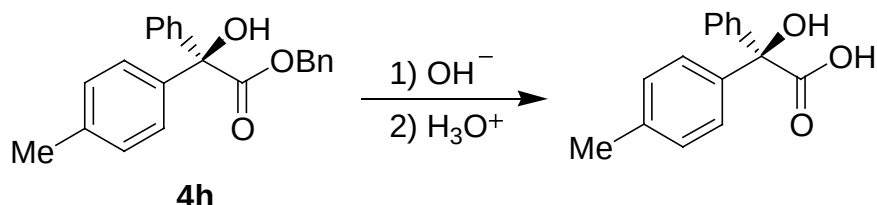
(E) Reduction of 6a

[3] J. P. Parrish, E. E. Dueno, S.-I. Kim, K. W. Jung, *Synth. Commun.*, **2000**, *30*, 2687.



To a suspension of LiAlH_4 (55 mg, 1.44 mmol) in Et_2O (10 mL) was added compound **6a** (0.25 g, 0.72 mmol) in 5 mL Et_2O at $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. The reaction mixture was stirred for 30 min, quenched carefully with water (5 mL), and extracted with ether. The extract was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 and concentrated under reduced pressure. Chromatography of crude product on silica gel with petrol ether/ethyl acetate (2/1) gave **8** in 83% yield as a white solid, mp $99\text{--}101\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = +24.5$ (c 1.7, CHCl_3). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3): δ 7.53–7.51 (m, 2H), 7.42–7.23 (m, 8H), 6.73 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H) 6.49 (d, $J = 16.0$ Hz, 1H), 3.91–3.89 (m, 2H), 2.93 (s, 1H), 1.89 (br s, 1H). The ee value (93% ee) was determined by HPLC analysis using Daicel Chiralpak OD-H column (25 cm $\times$ 0.46 cm ID), conditions: n -hexane/ i -PrOH = 80:20, 1.0 mL/min, 254 nm; $t_{\text{R}} = 11.16$ min (major) and 13.63 min (minor).

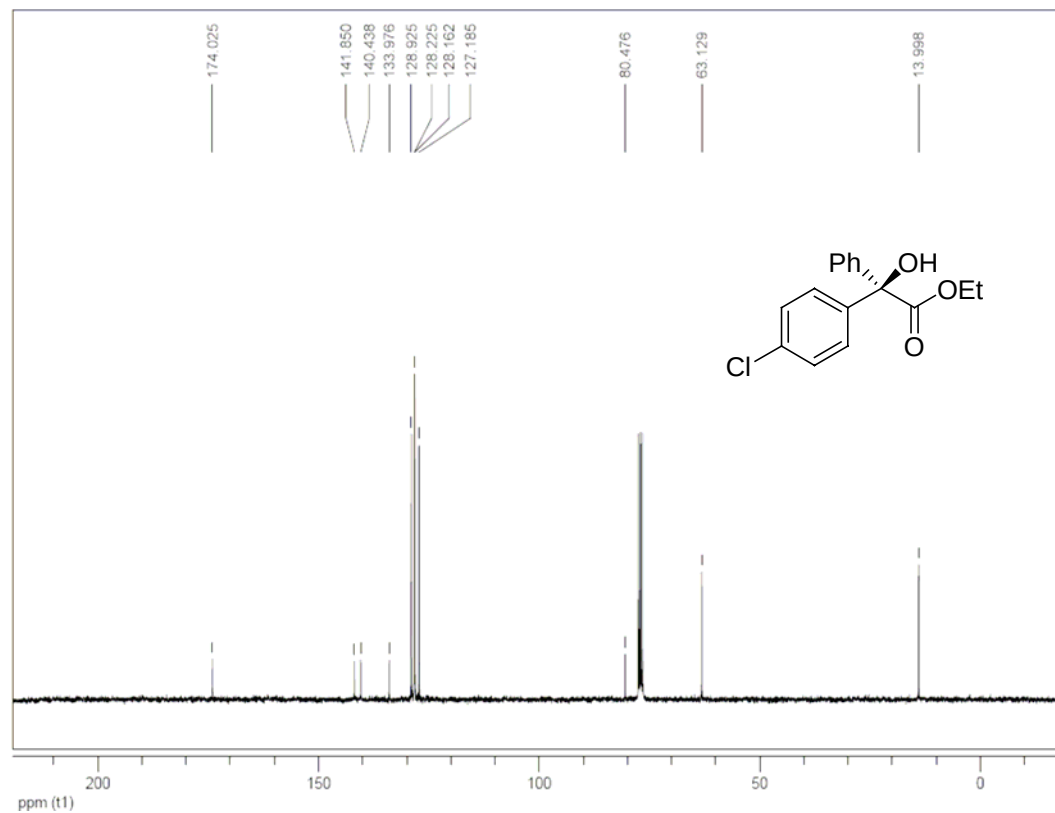
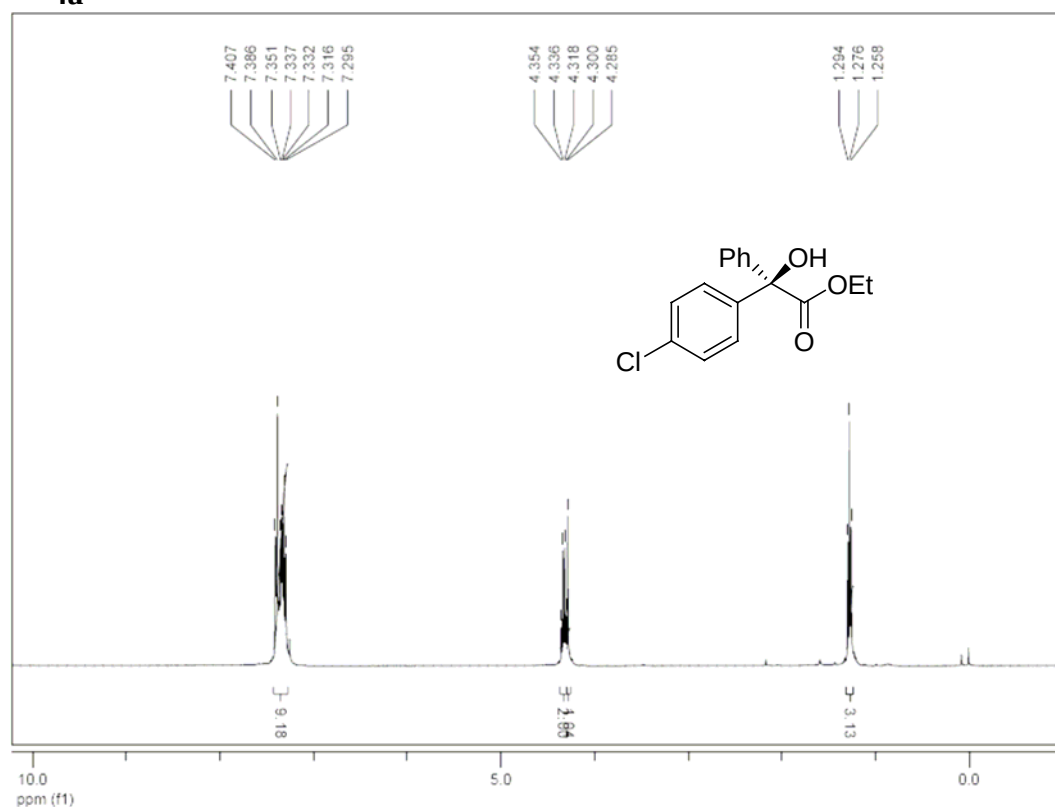
(F) Determination of the Absolute Configuration of **4h**



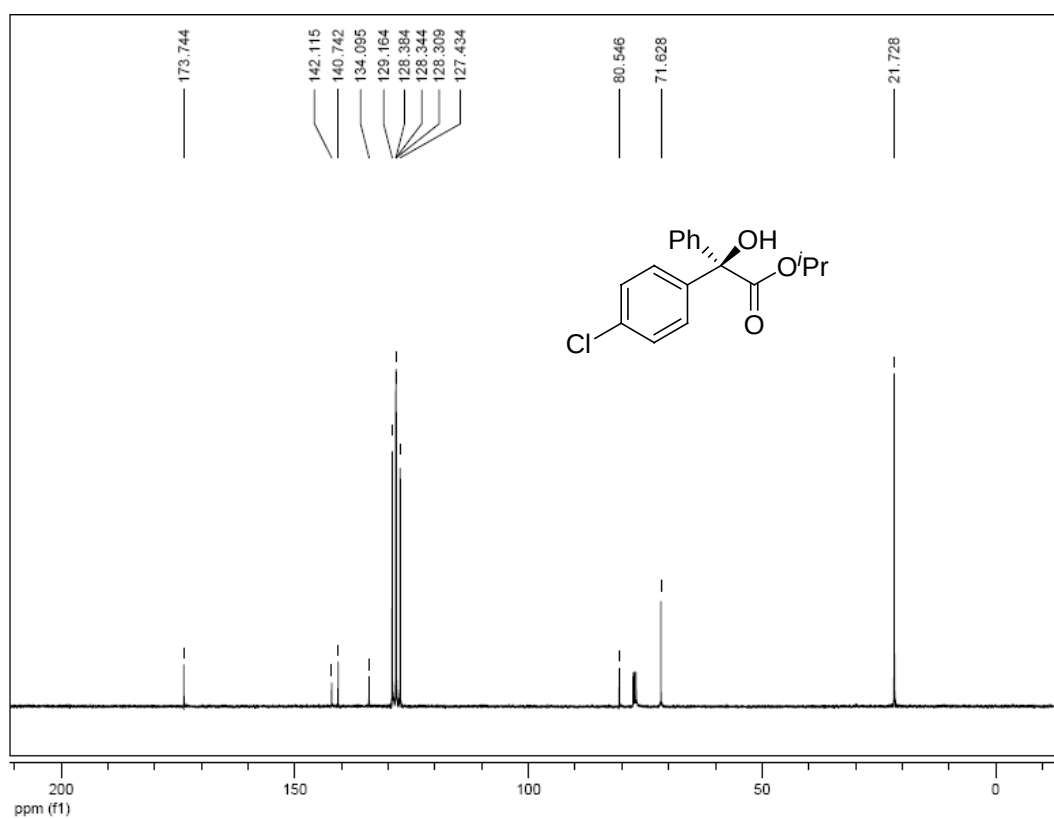
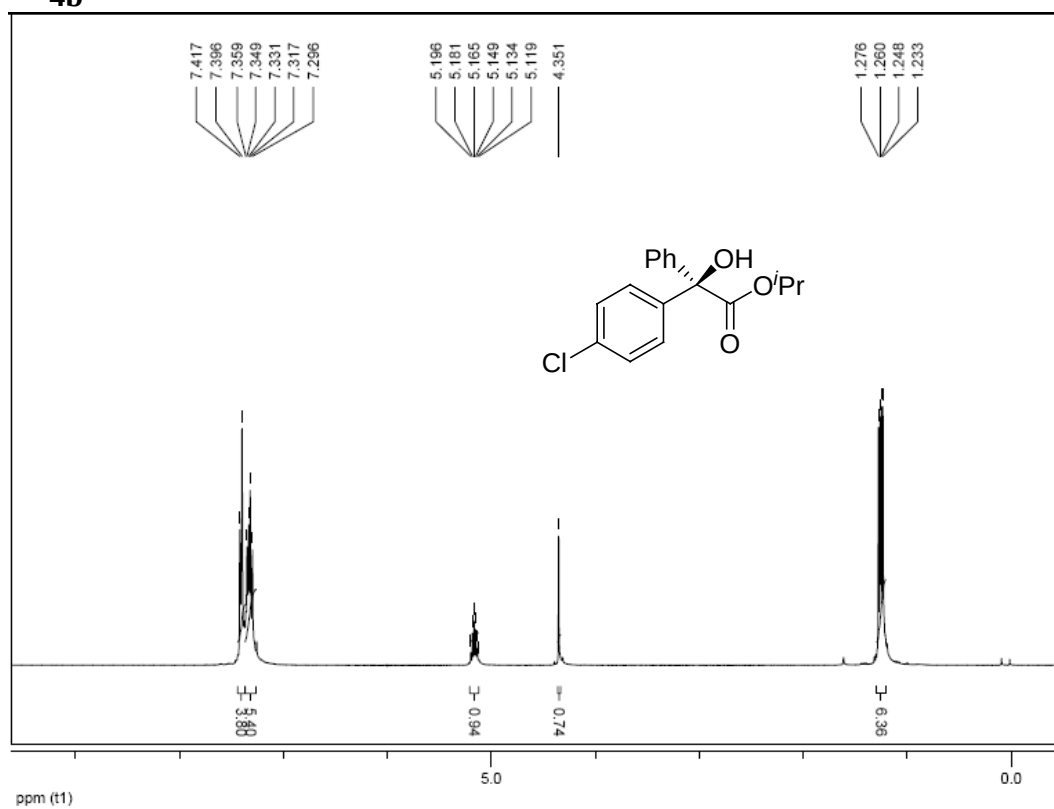
Compound **4h** was hydrolyzed by the procedure described in D to give 2-hydroxy-2-phenyl-2- p -tolylacetic acid, mp $120\text{--}122\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{19} = +1.9$ (c 5.0, 546 nm, EtOH). The absolute configuration was determined to be R by comparing with reported data ($[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{19} = -2.4$ (c 5.0, 546 nm, EtOH for S configuration). ref: A. I. Meyers, J. Slade, *J. Org. Chem.* **1980**, 45, 2912–2914.

(G) NMR Spectra of Products

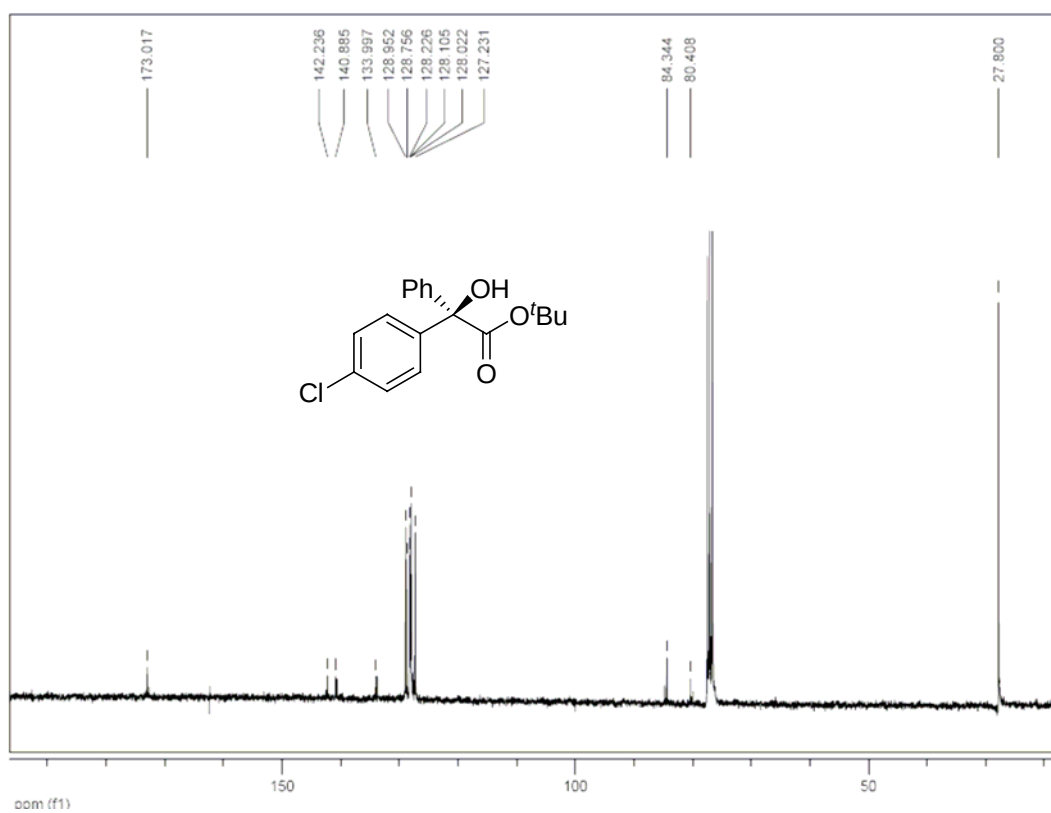
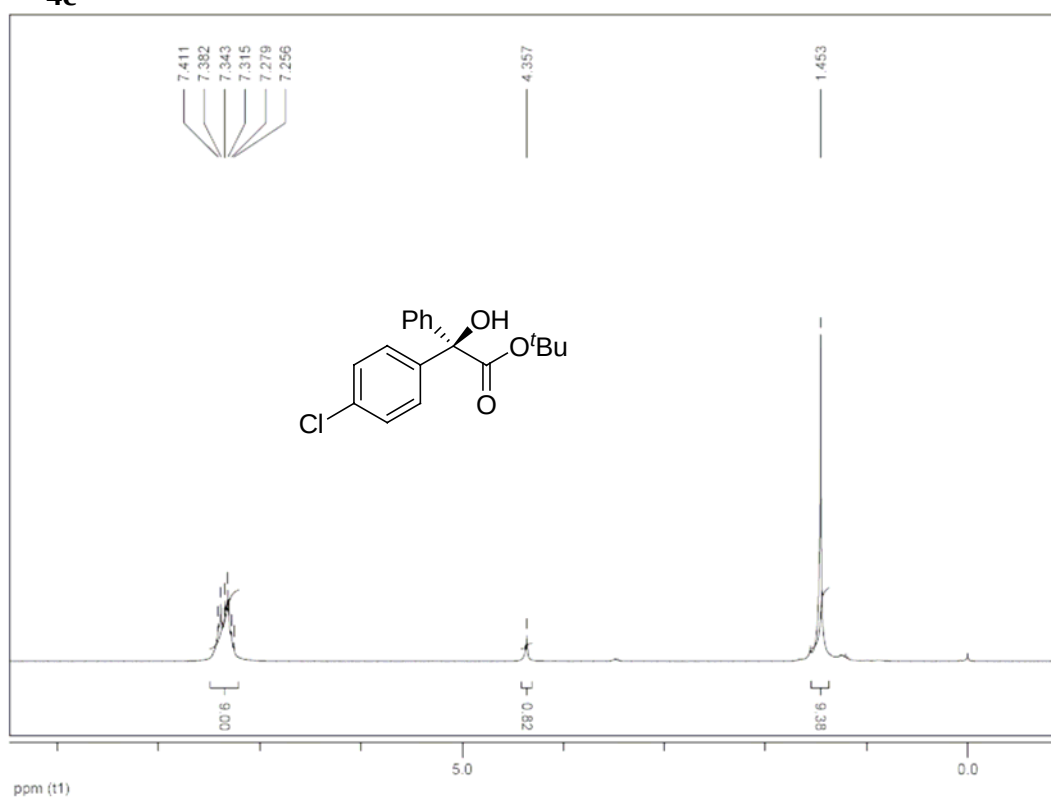
4a



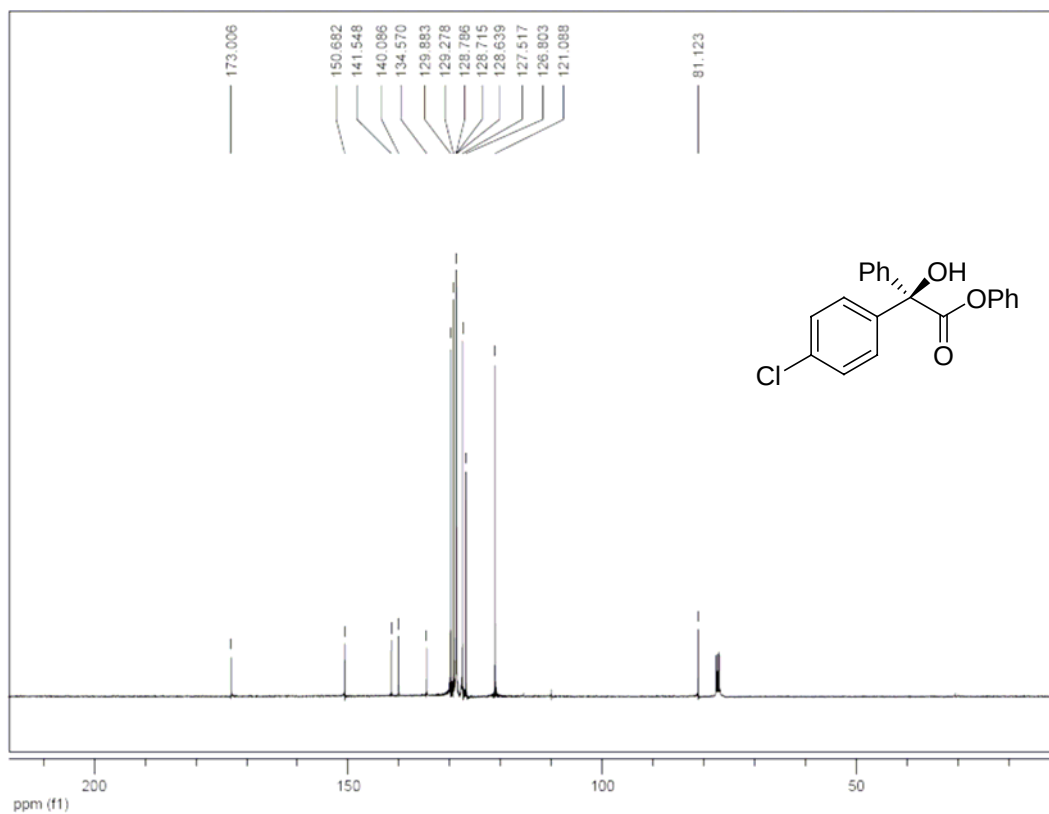
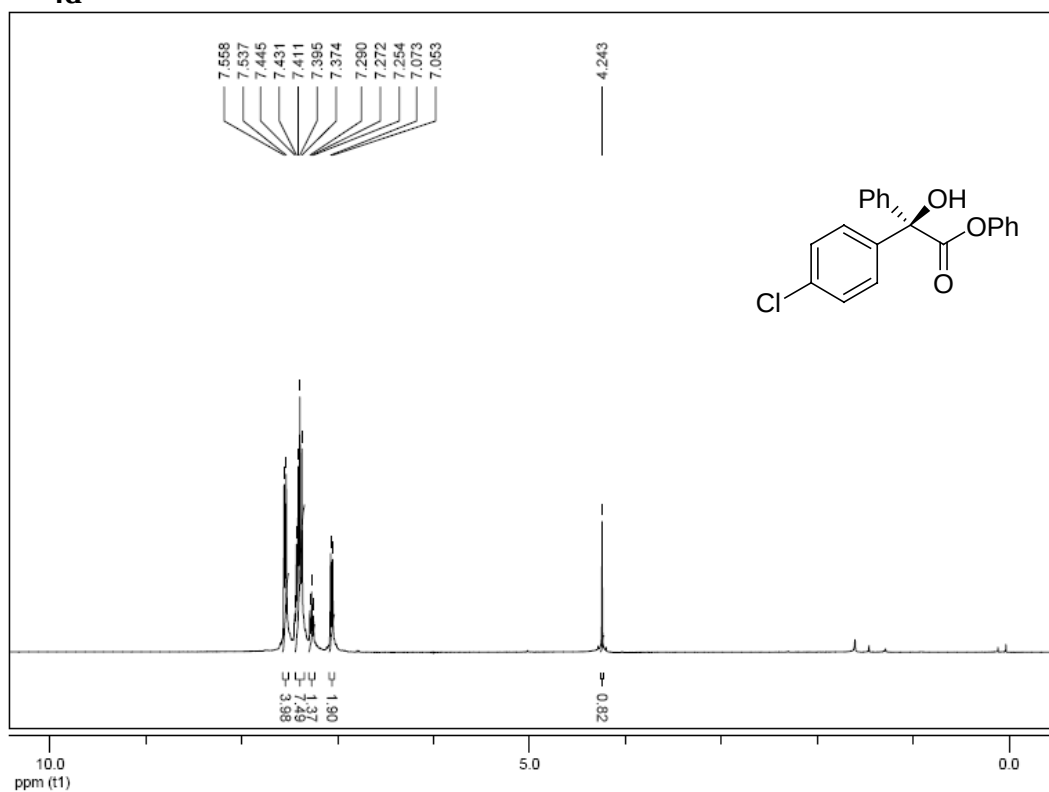
4b



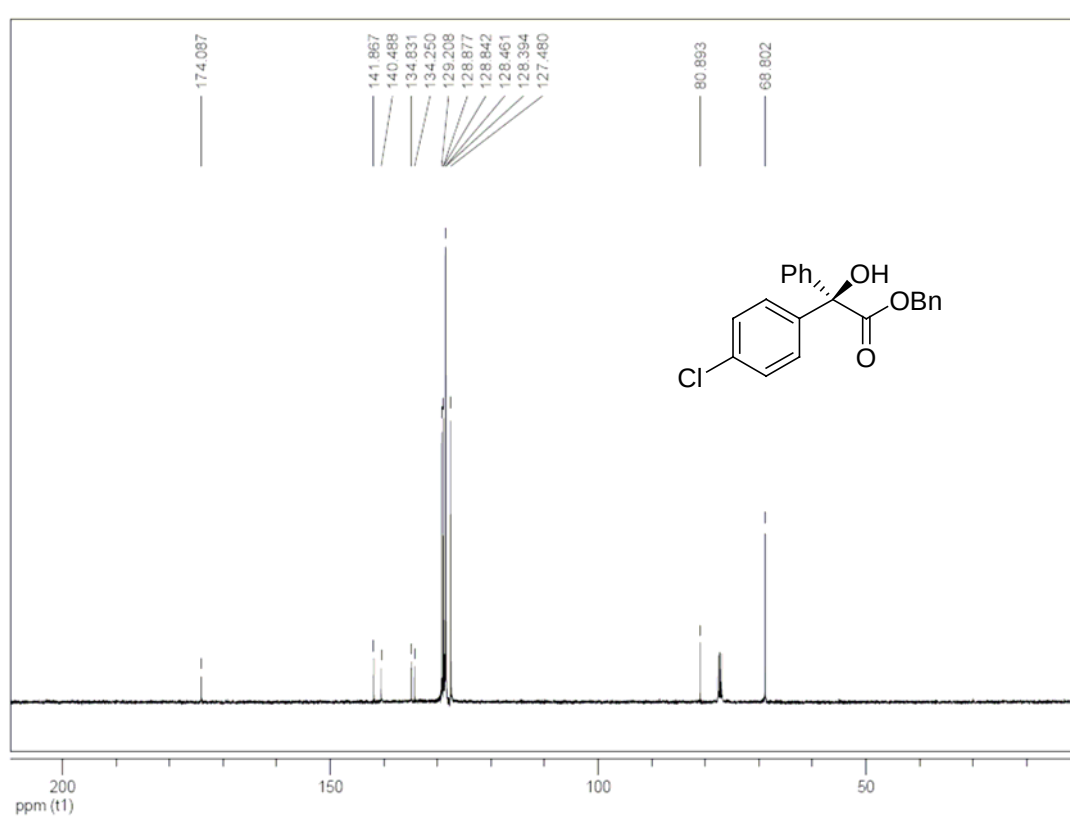
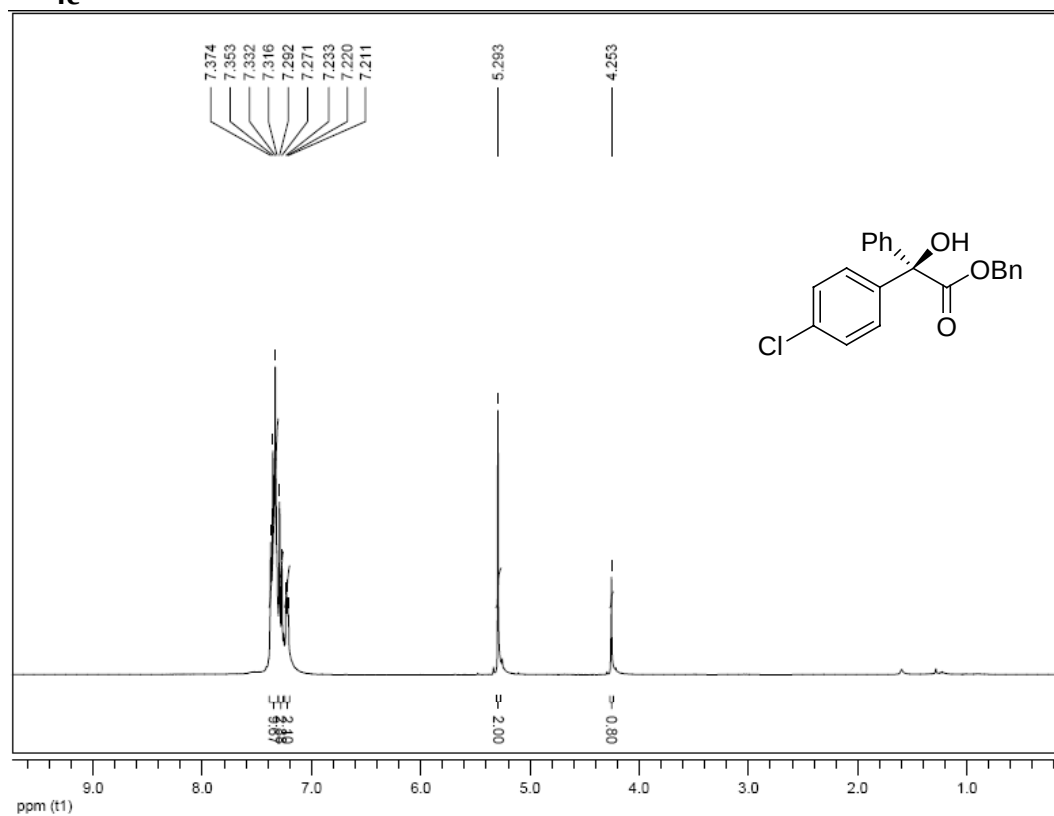
4c



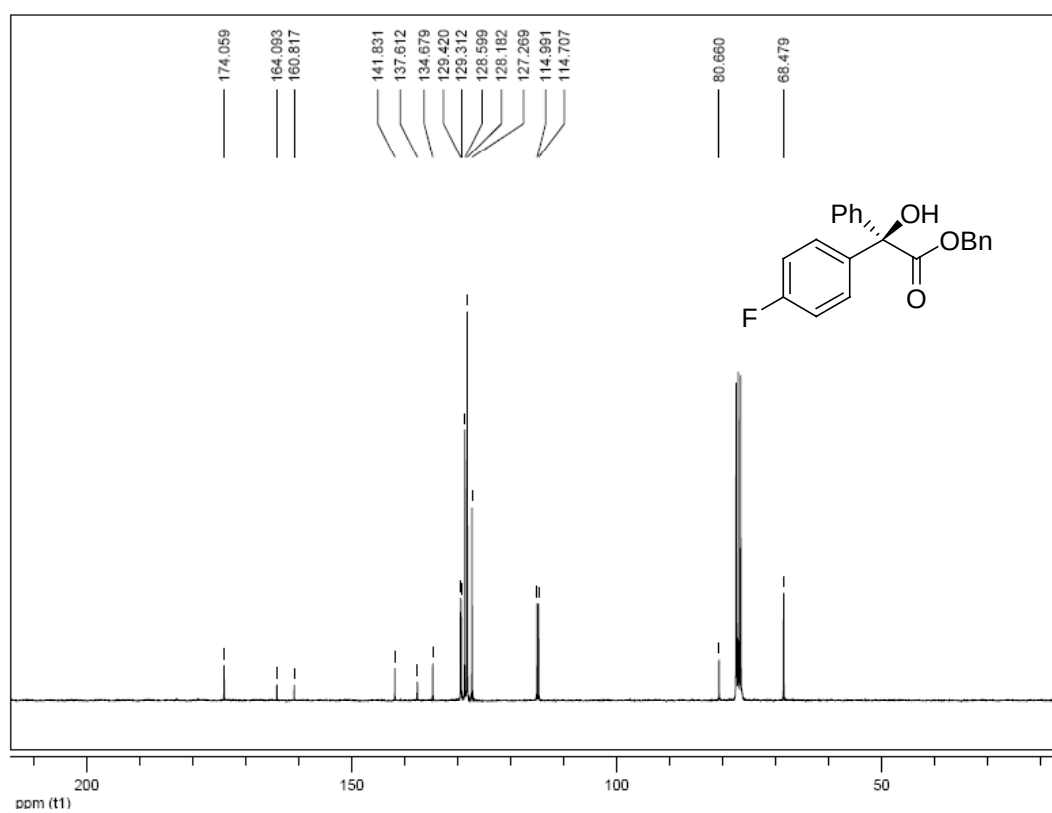
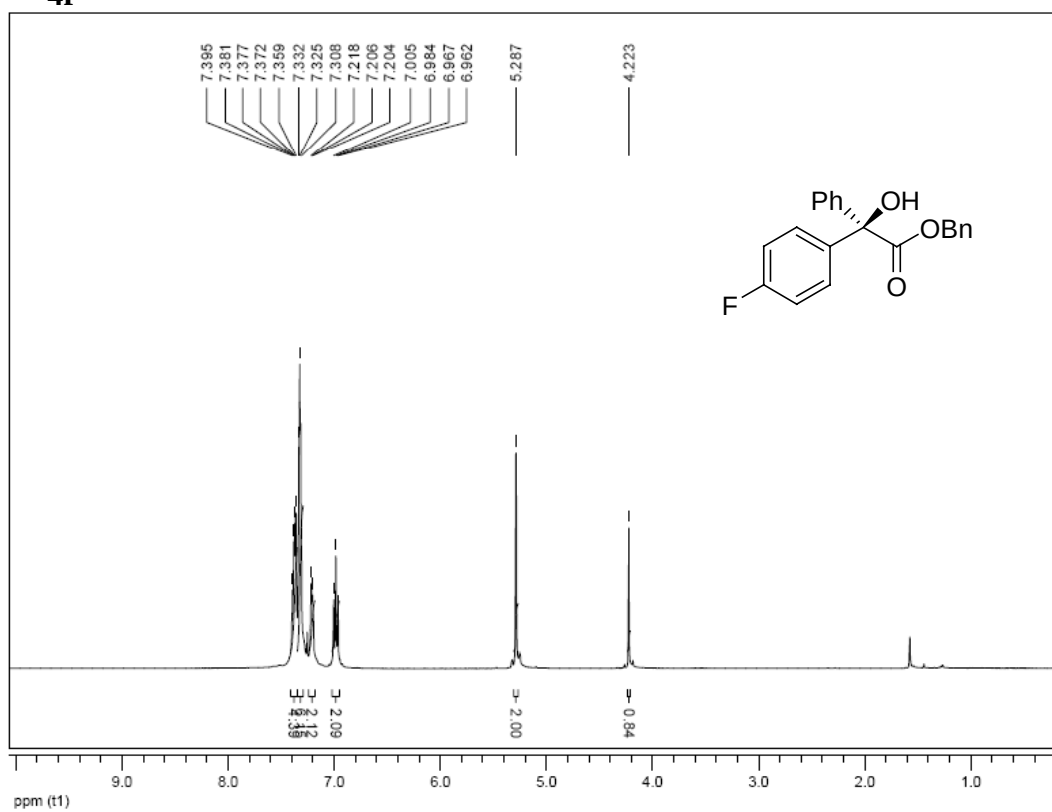
4d



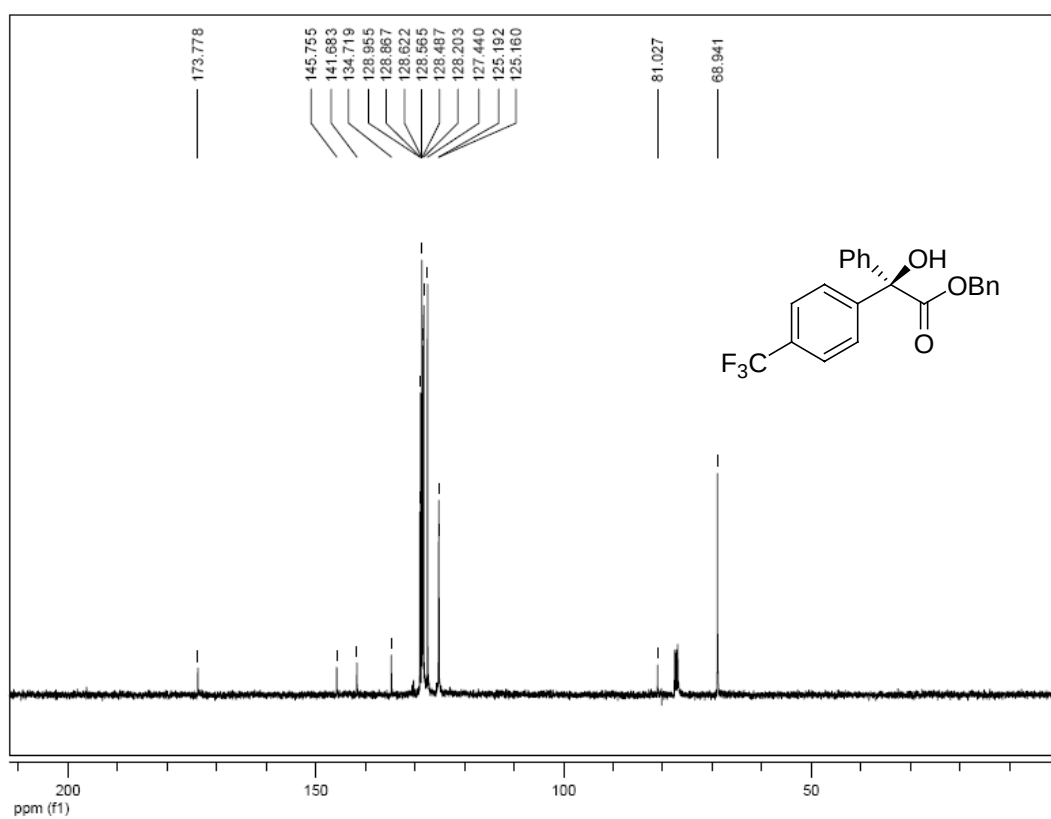
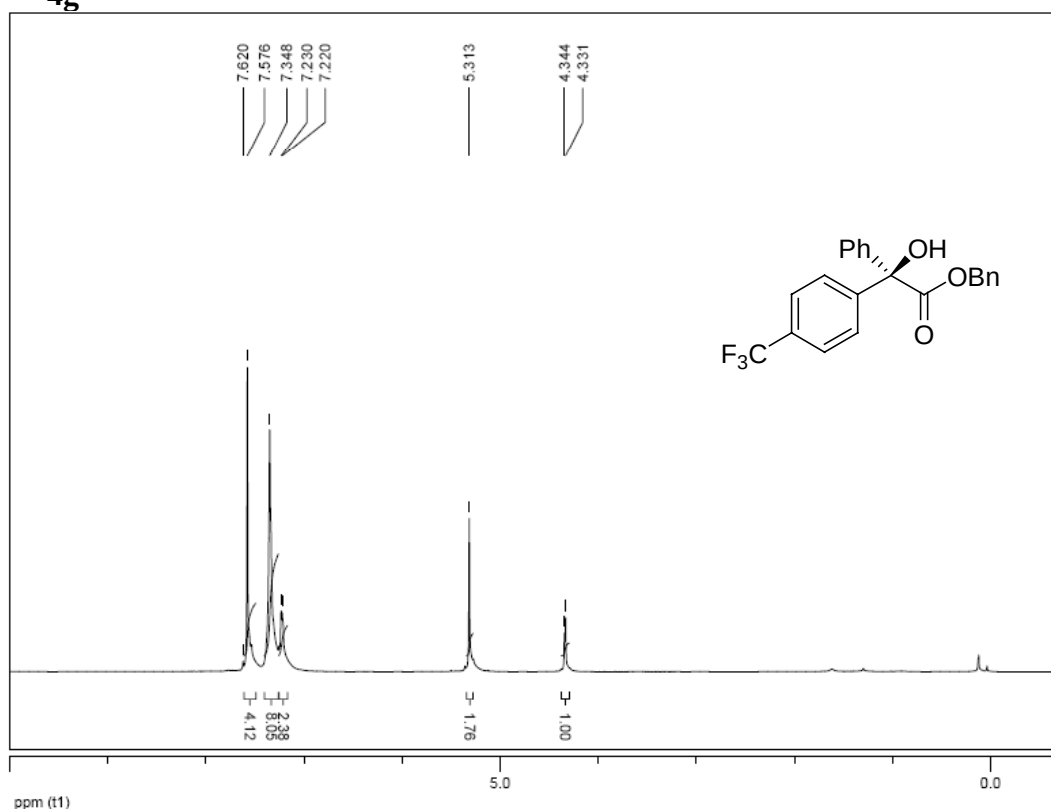
4e



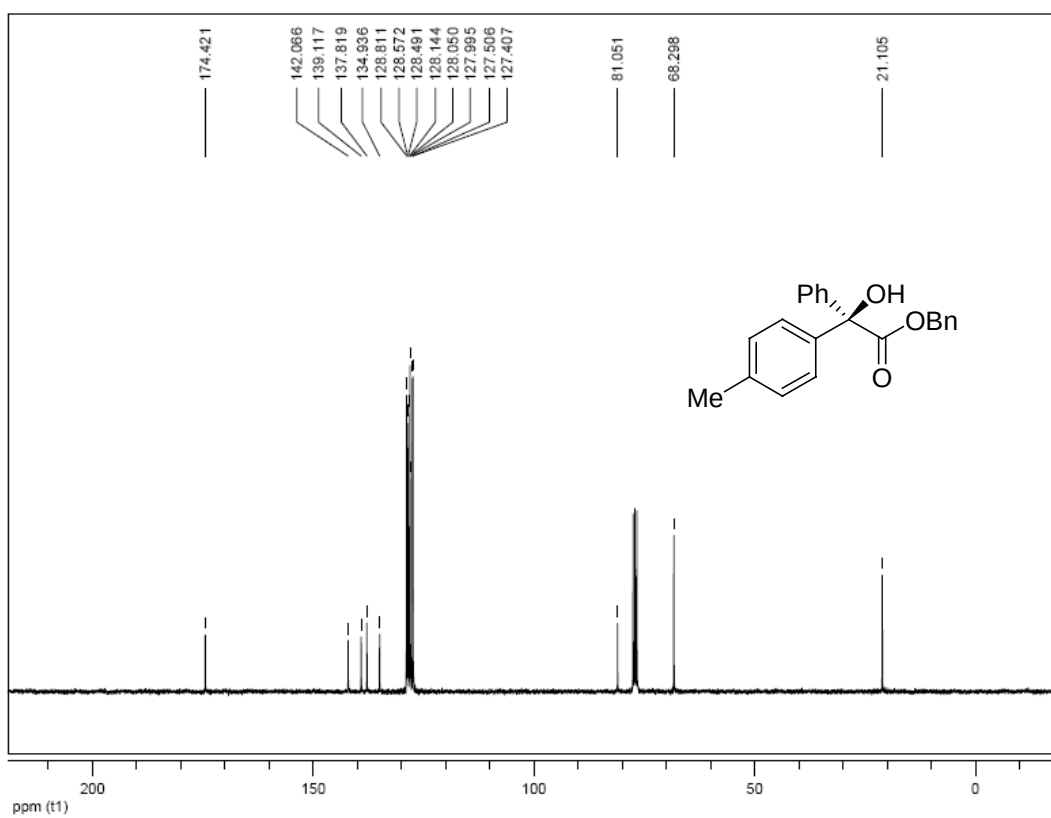
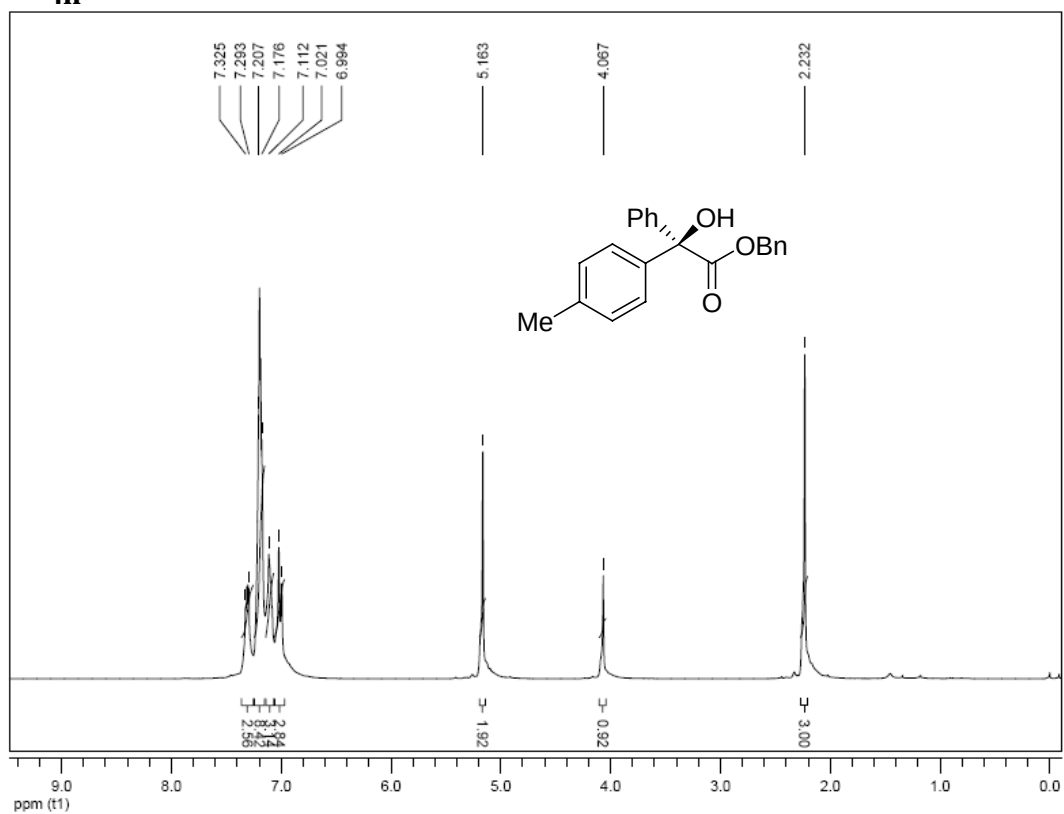
4f



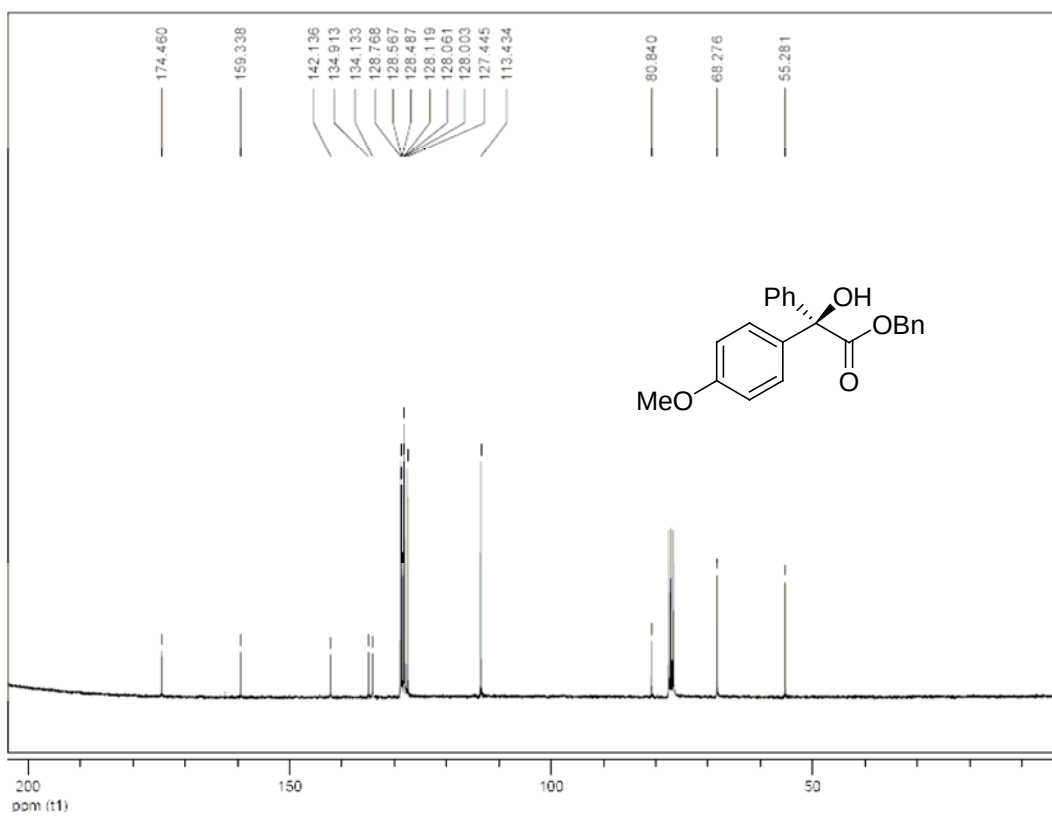
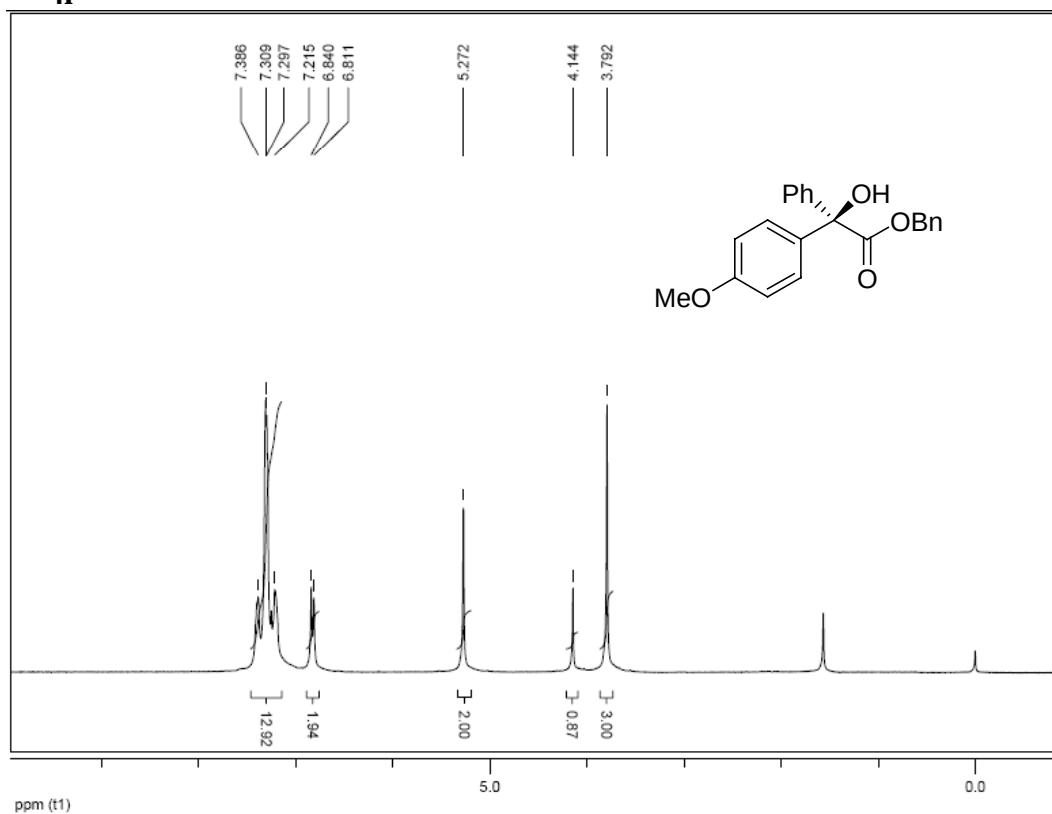
4g



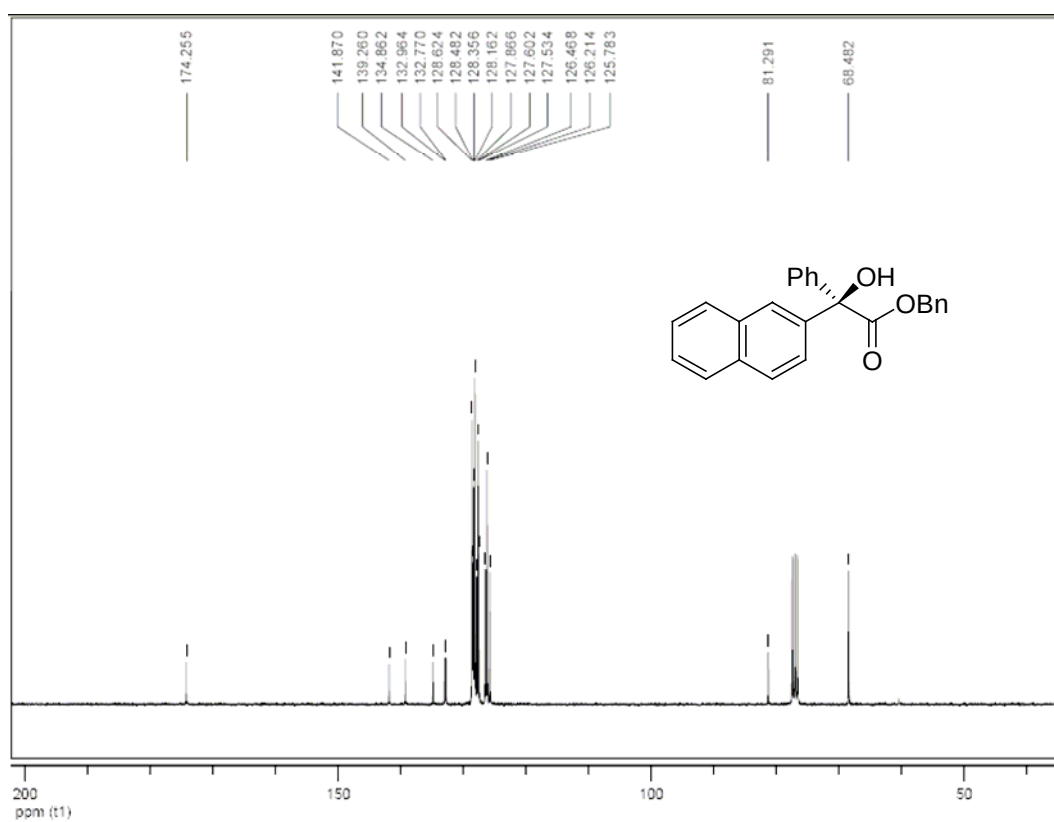
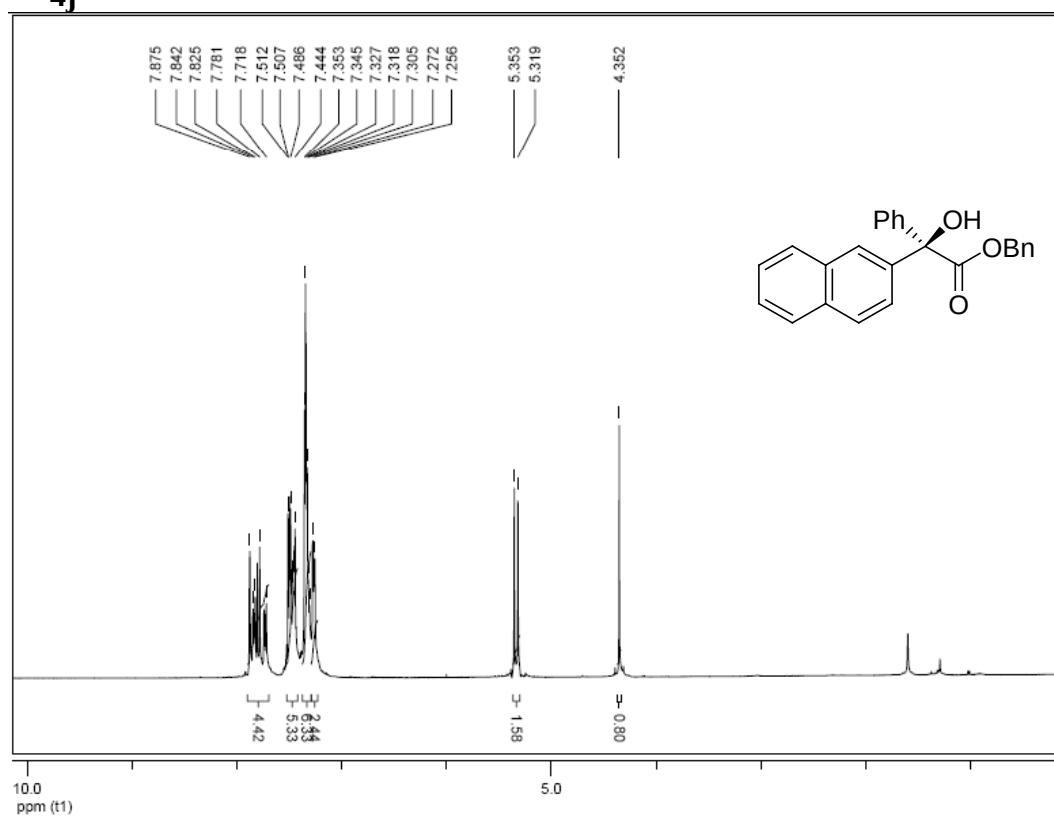
4h



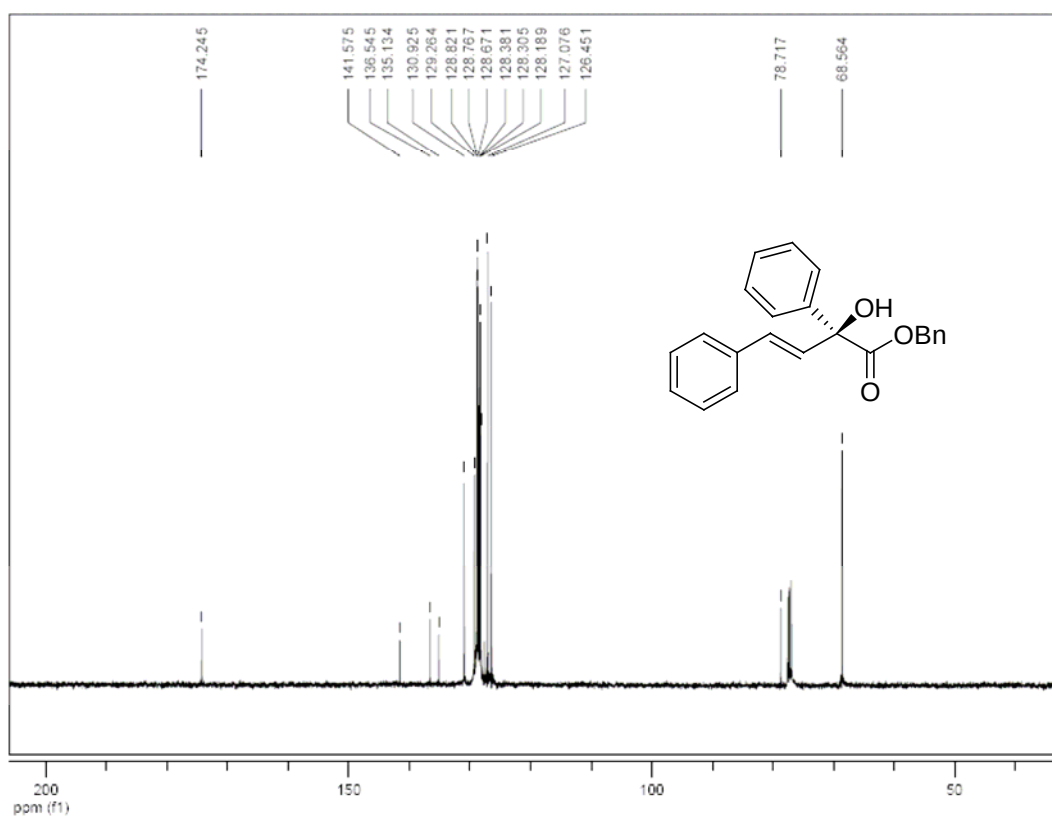
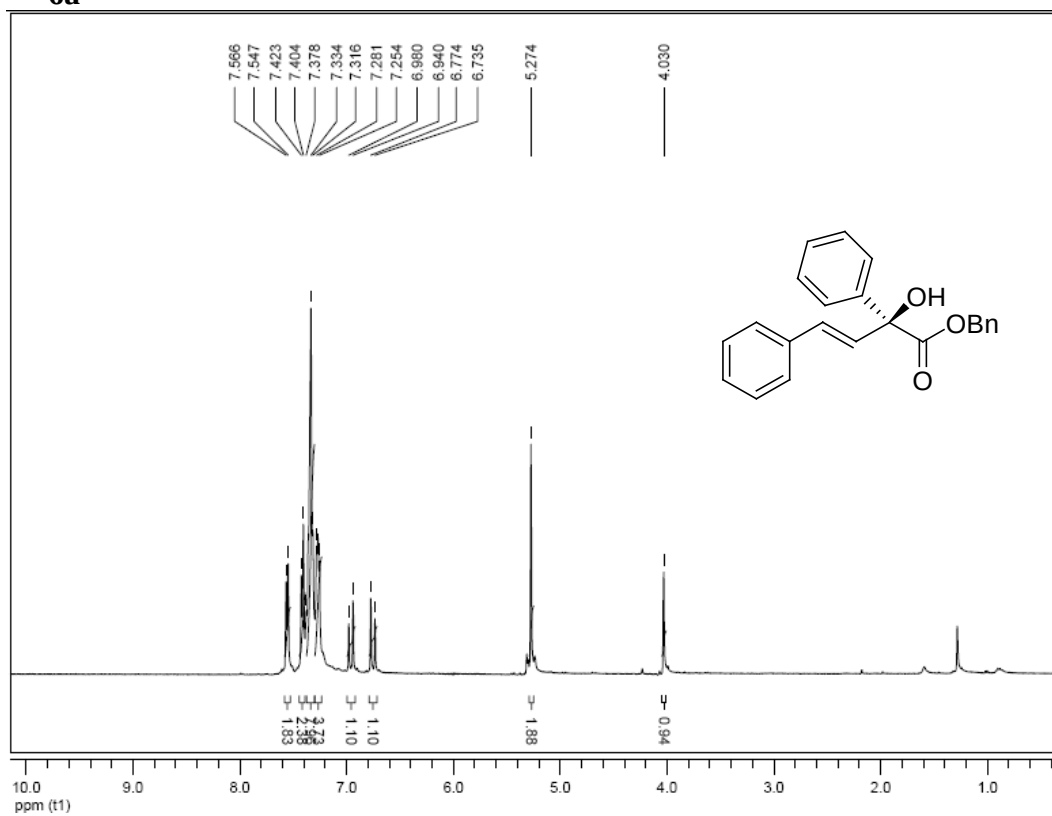
4i



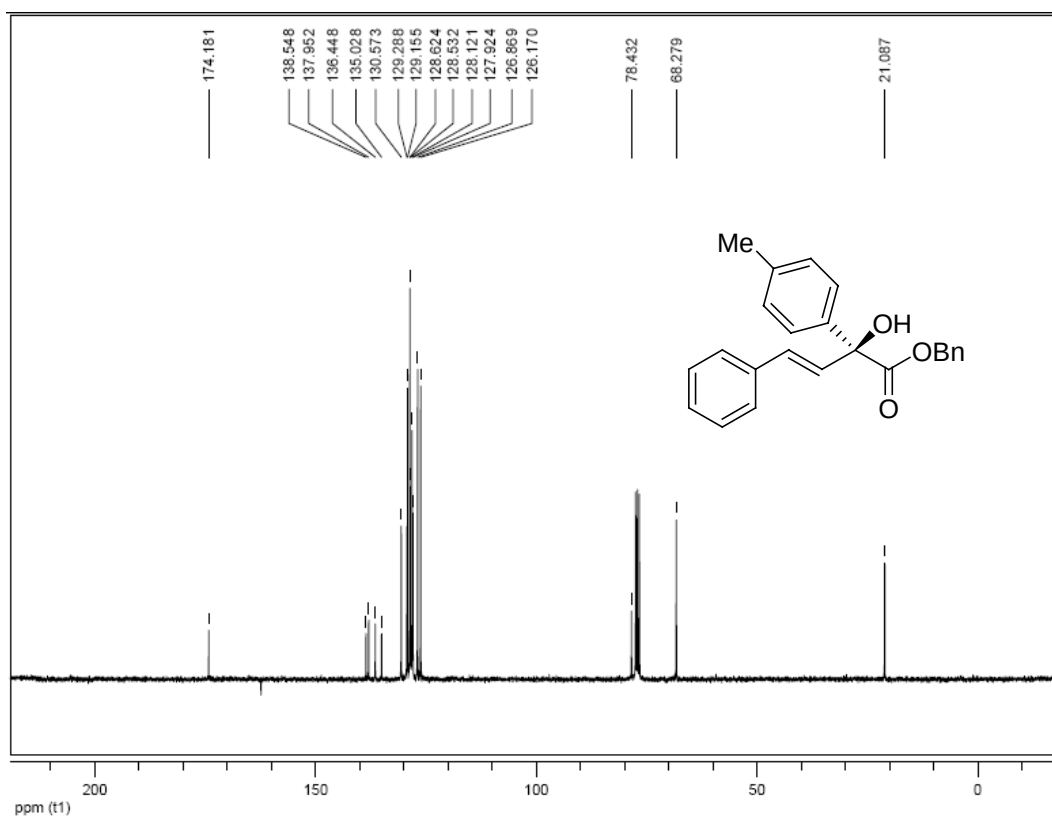
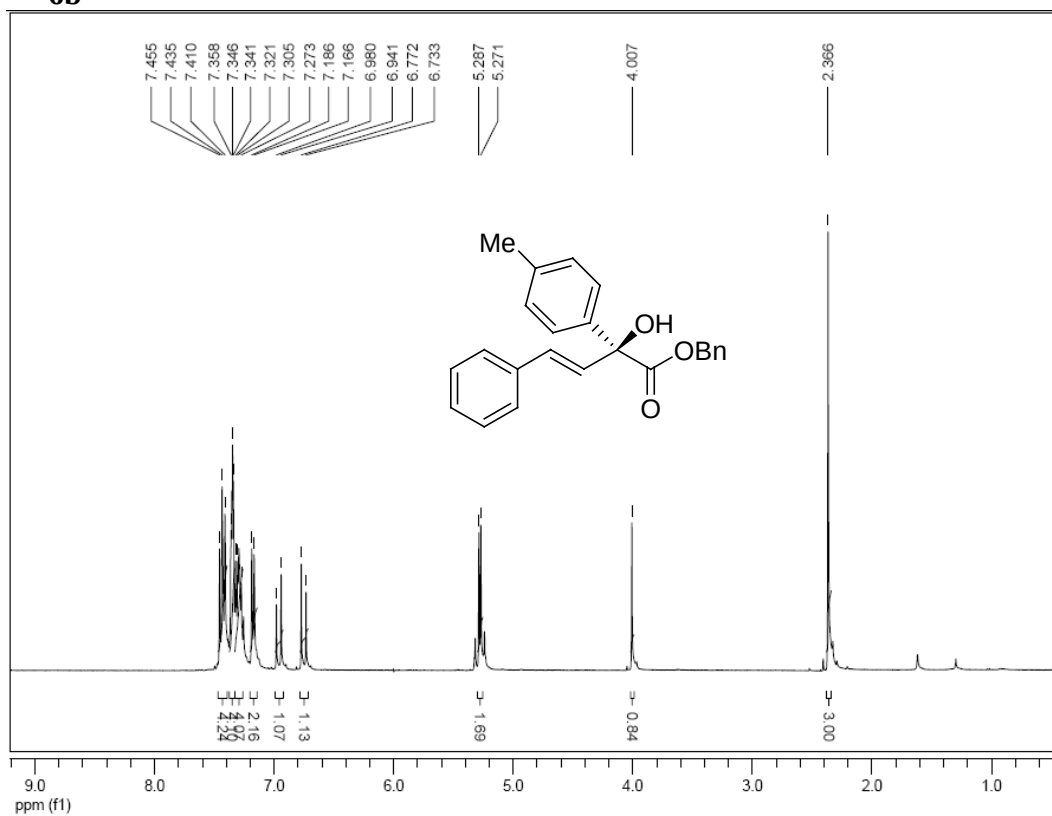
4j



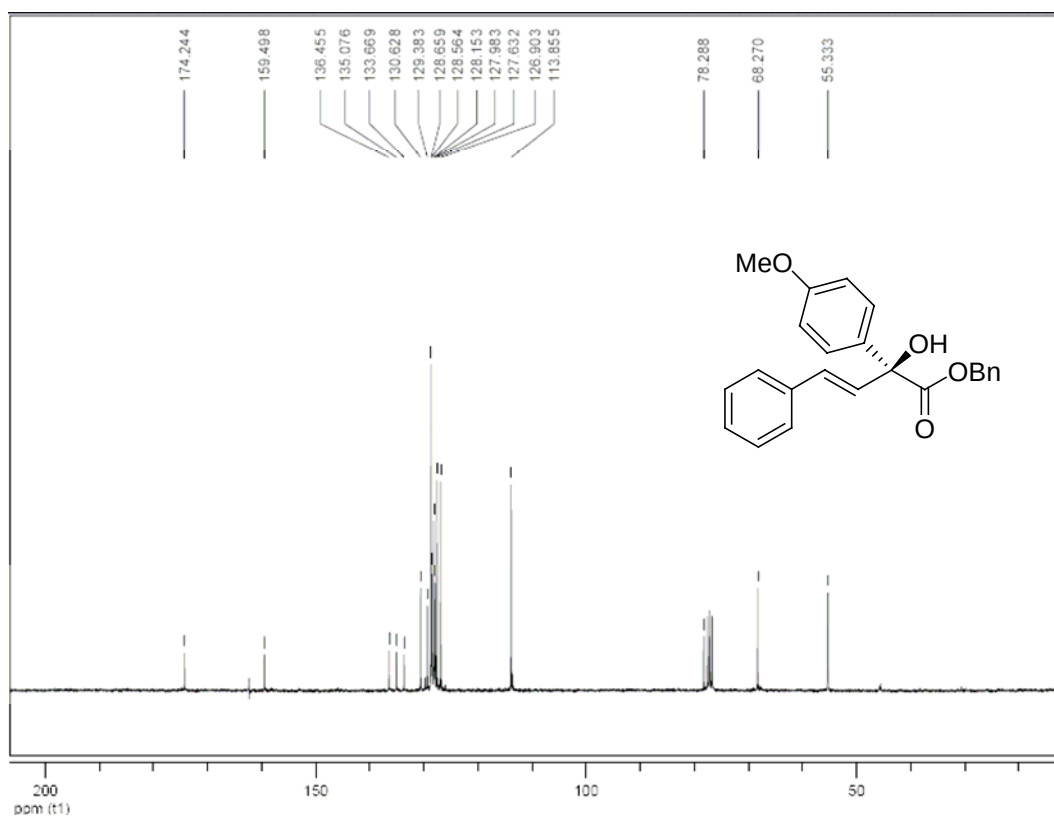
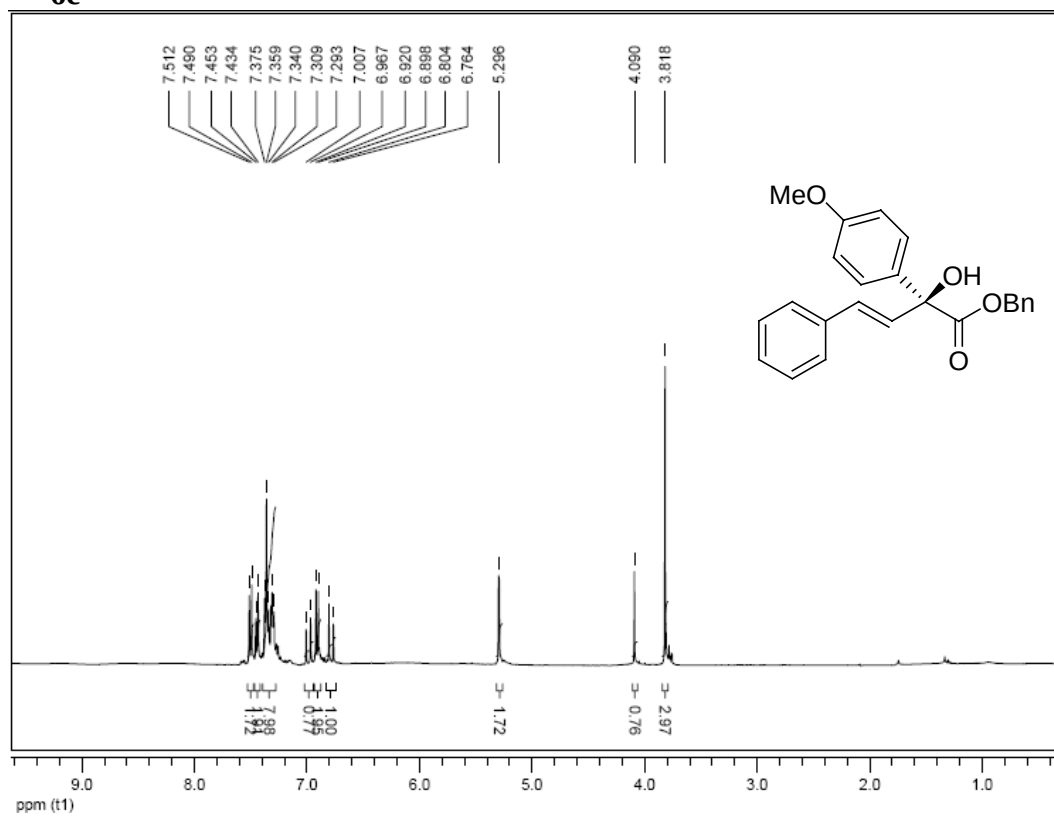
6a



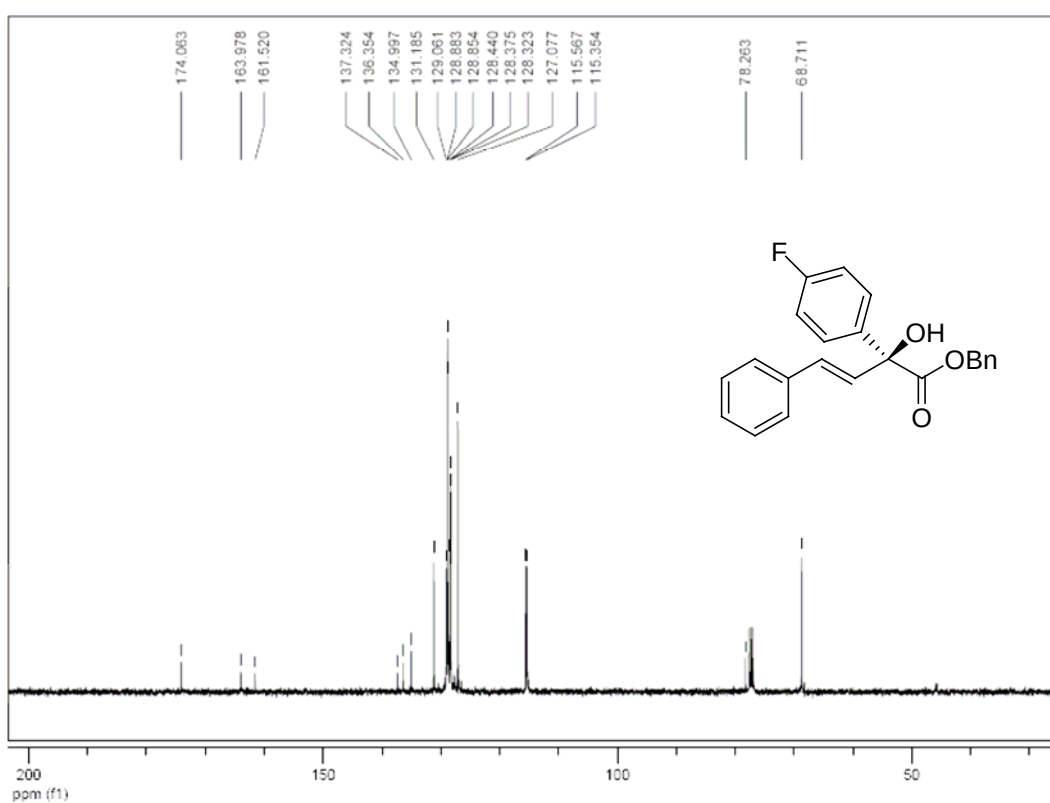
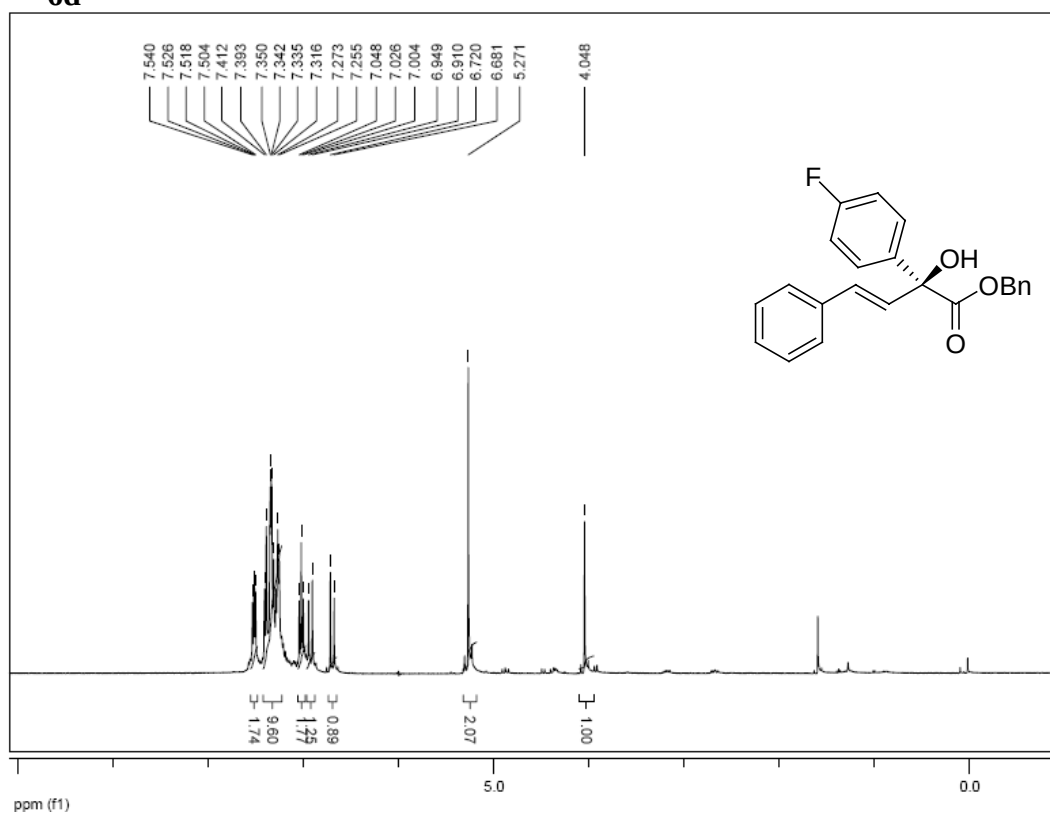
6b



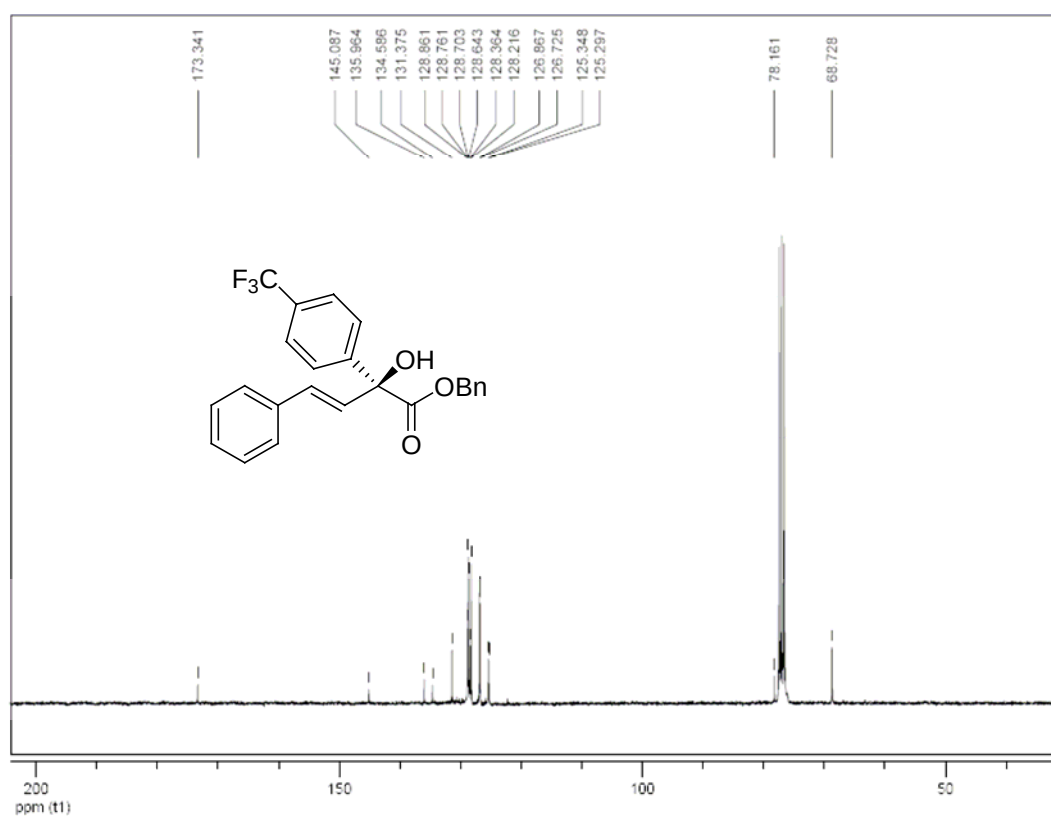
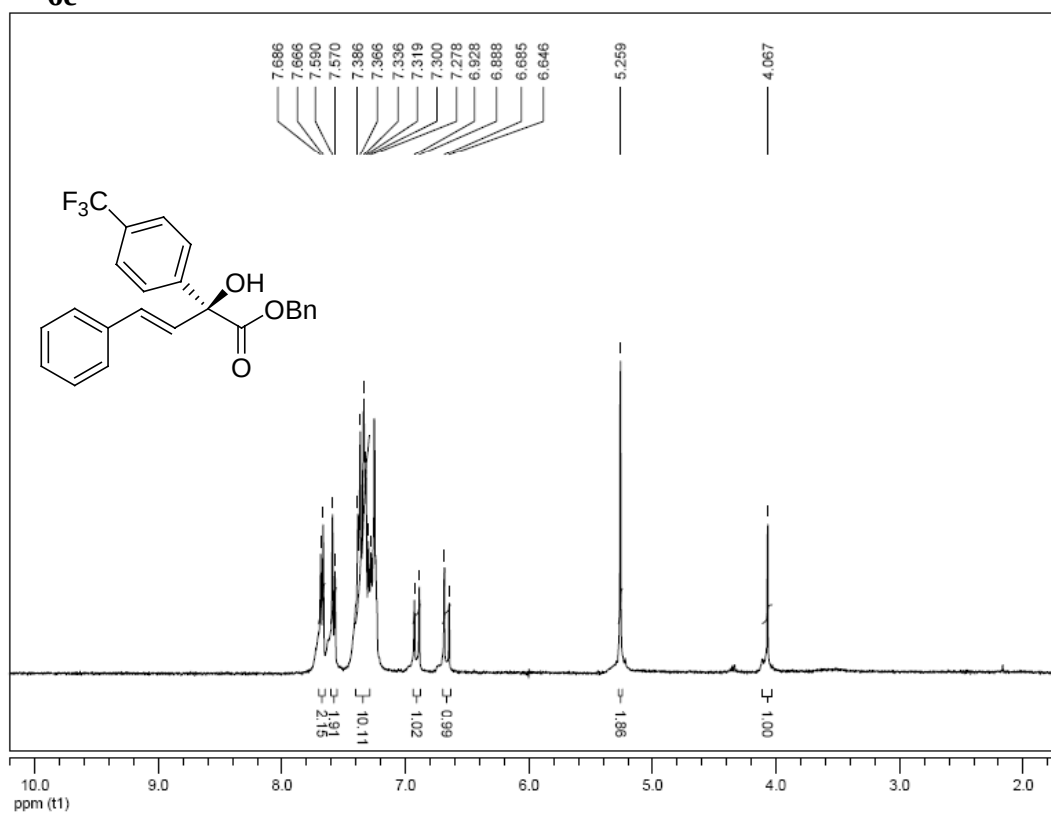
6c



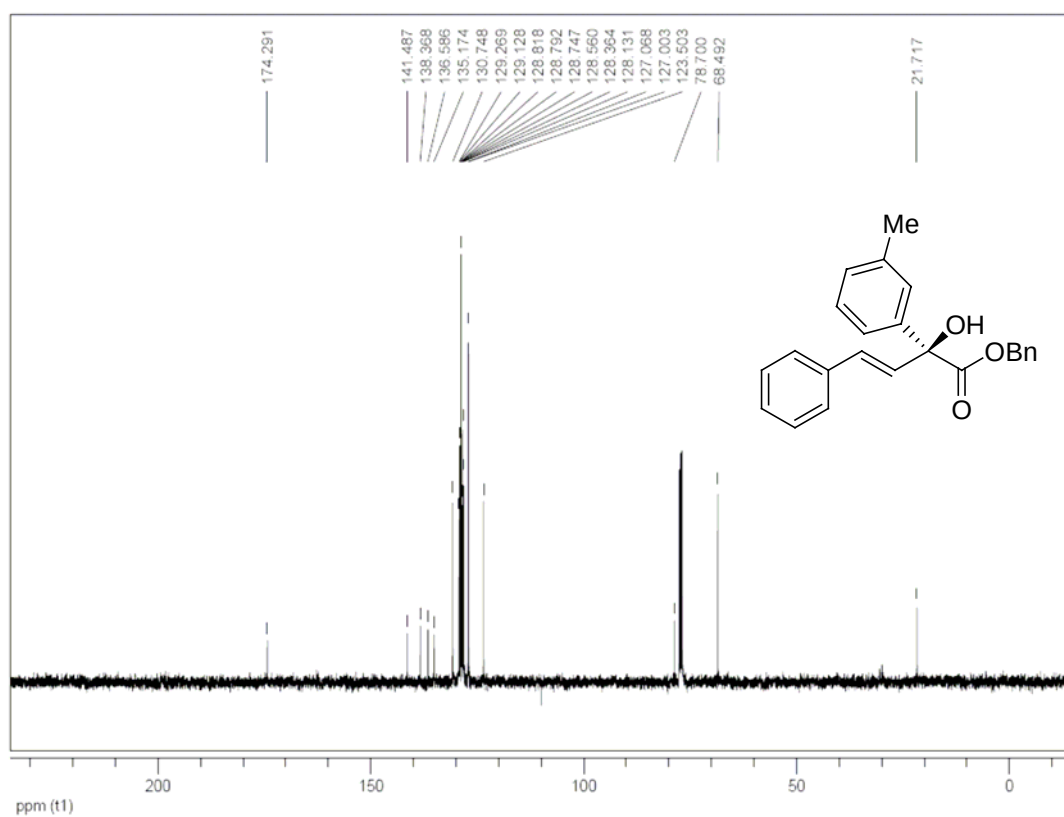
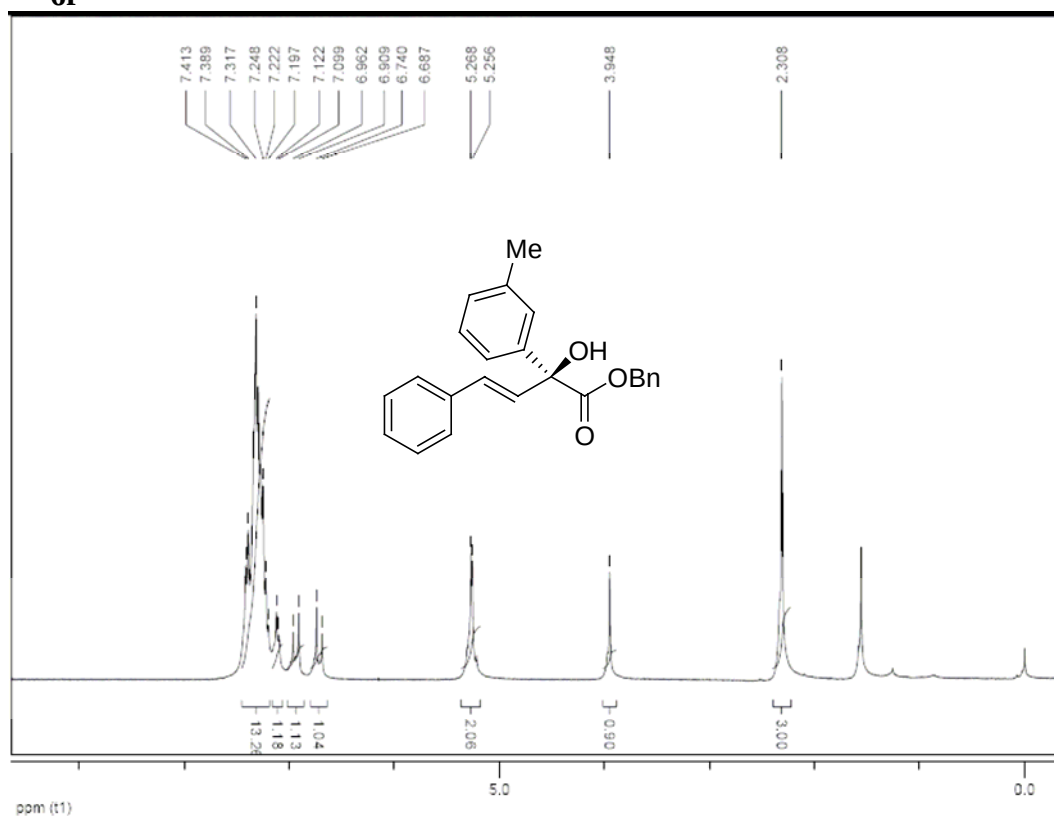
6d



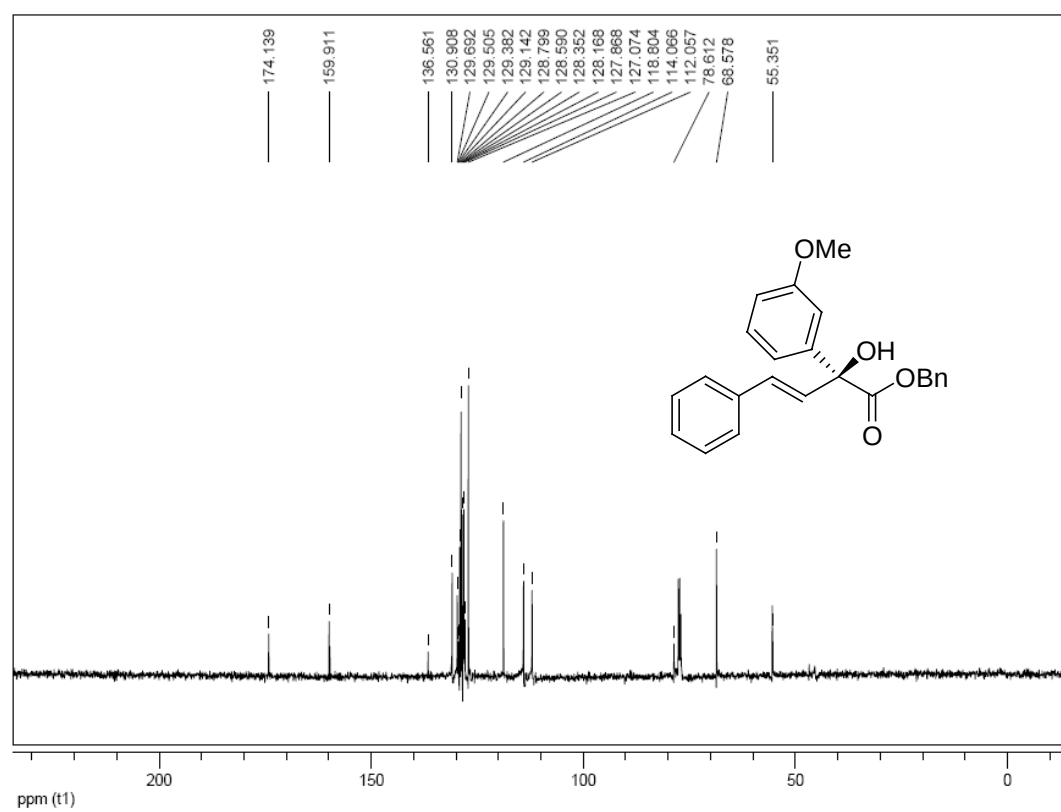
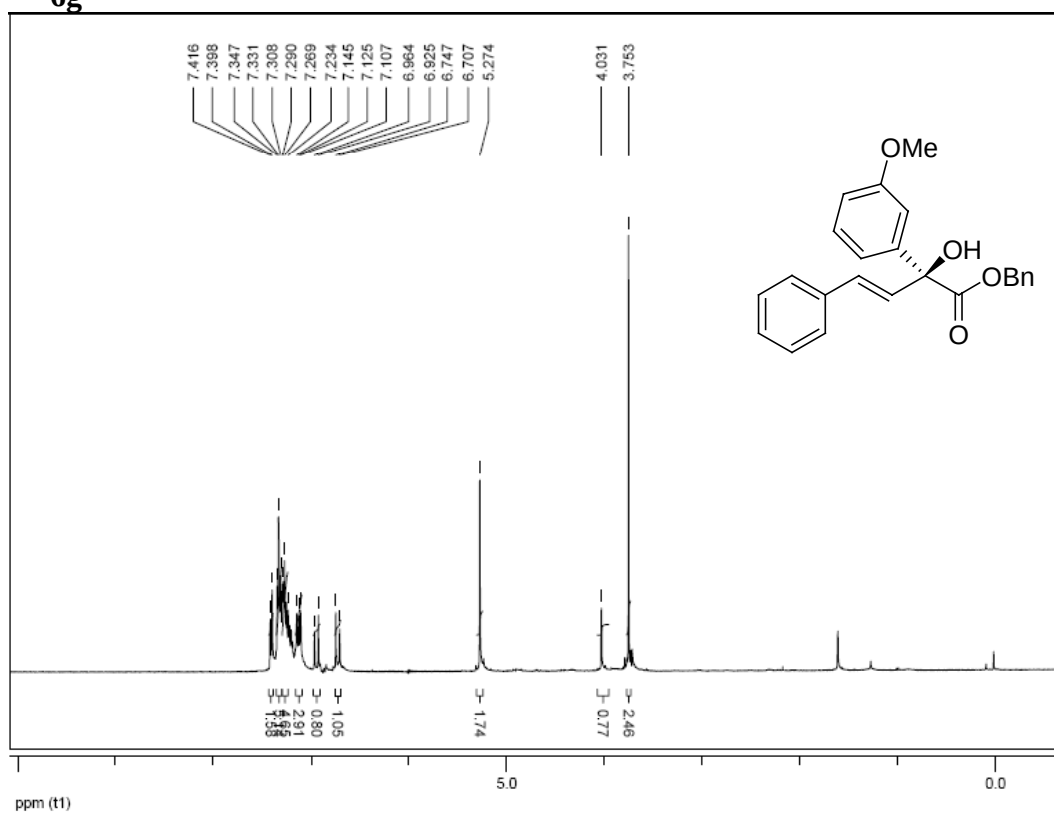
6e



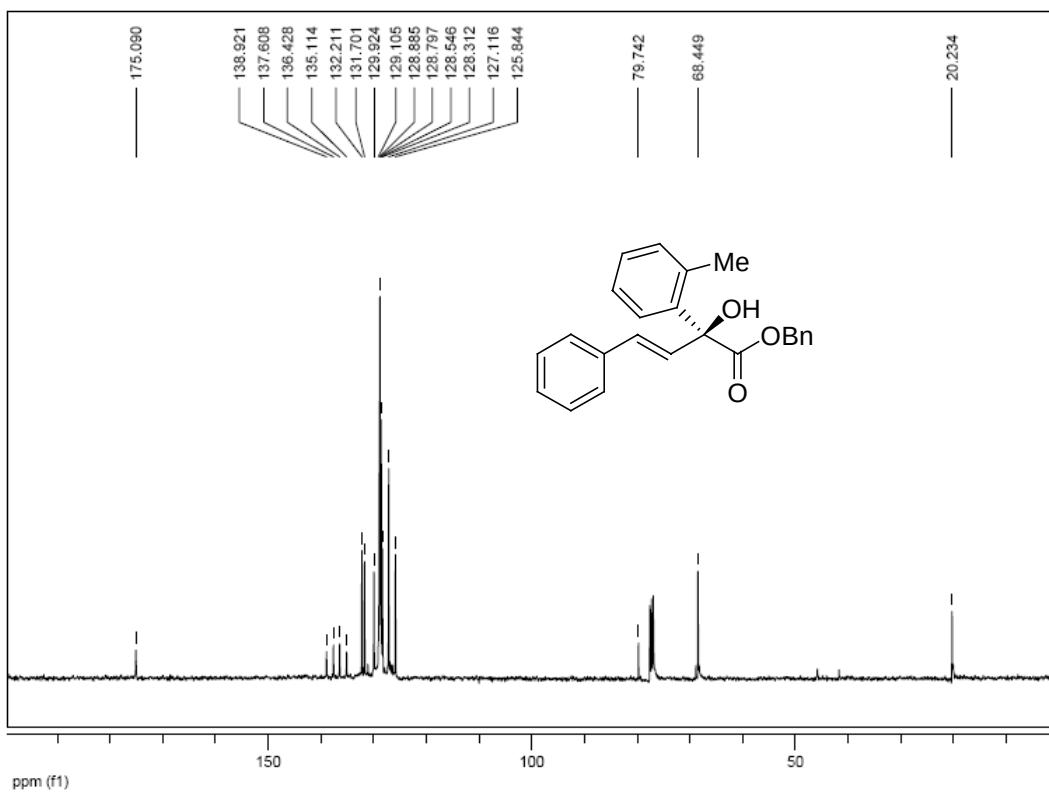
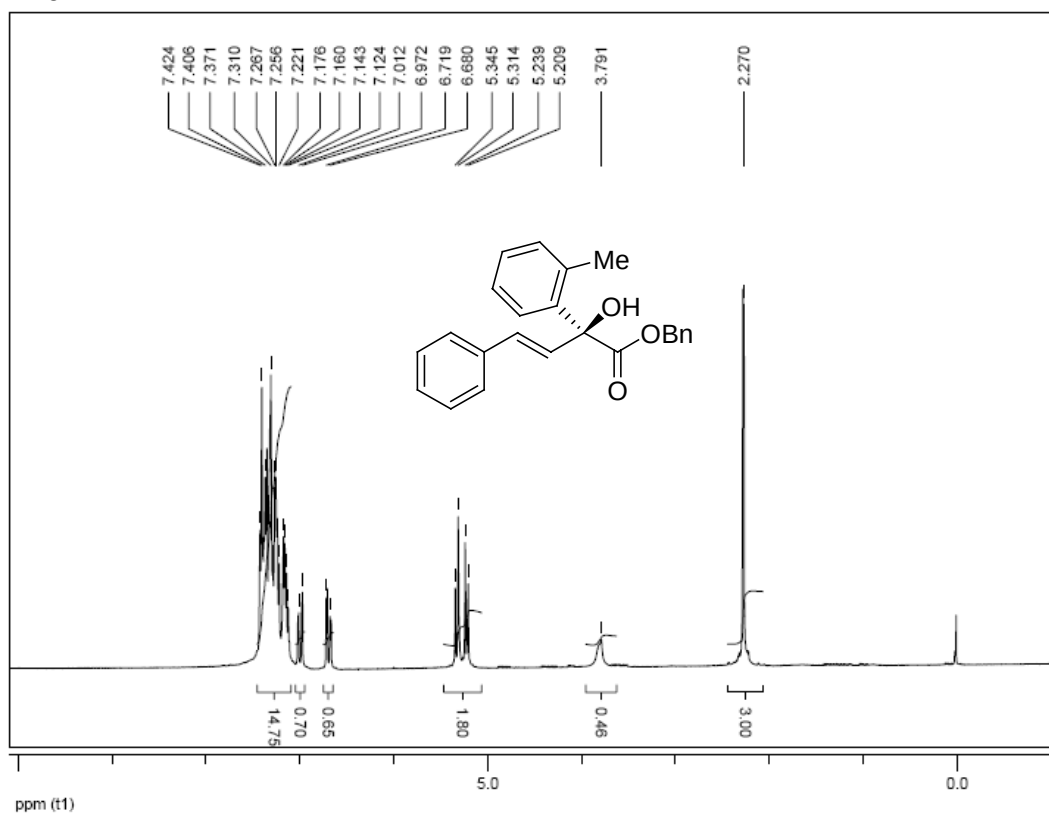
6f



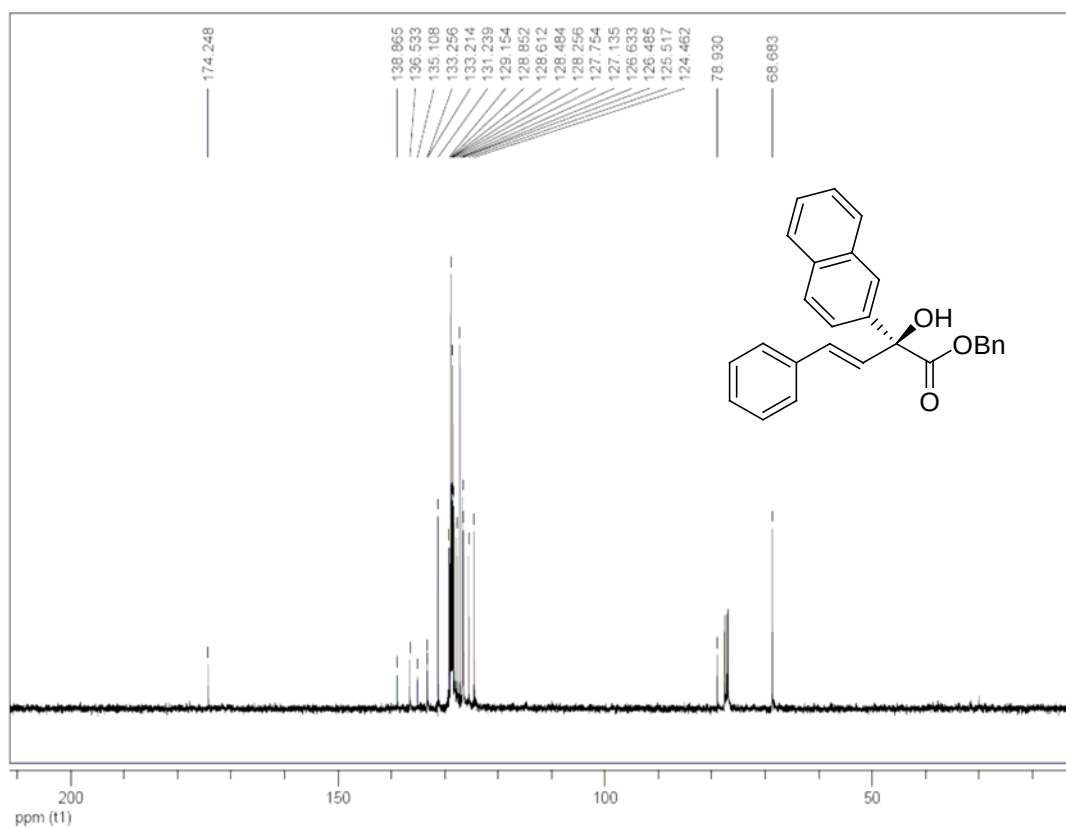
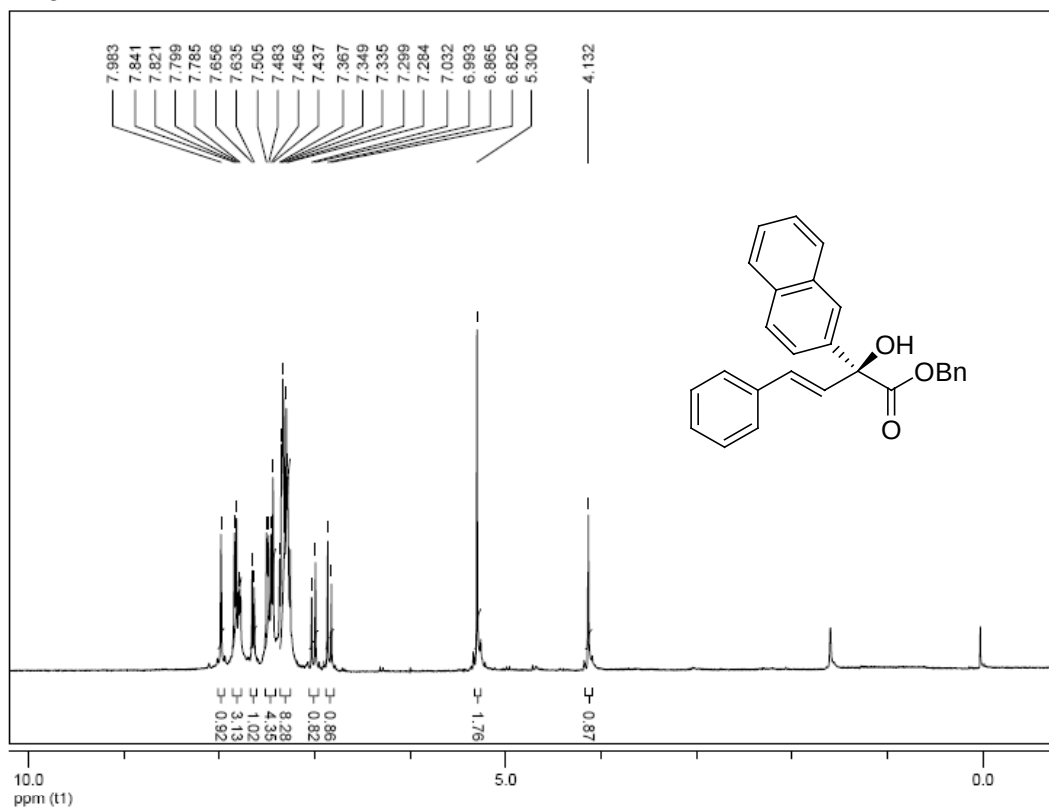
6g



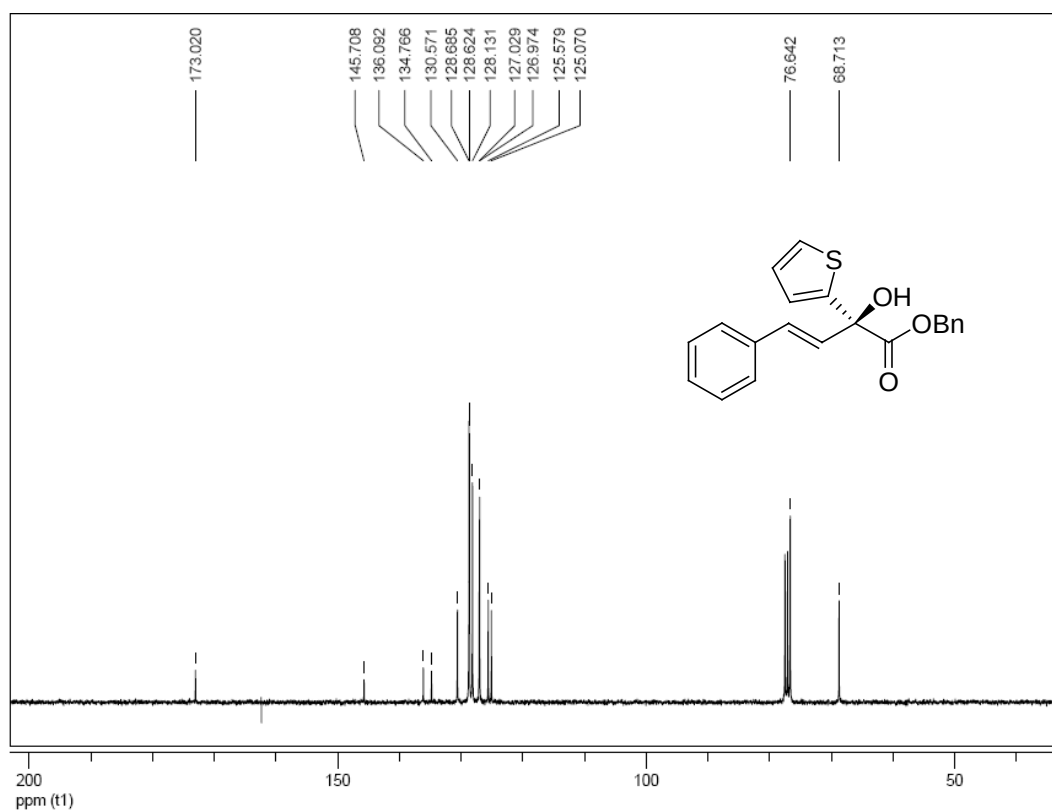
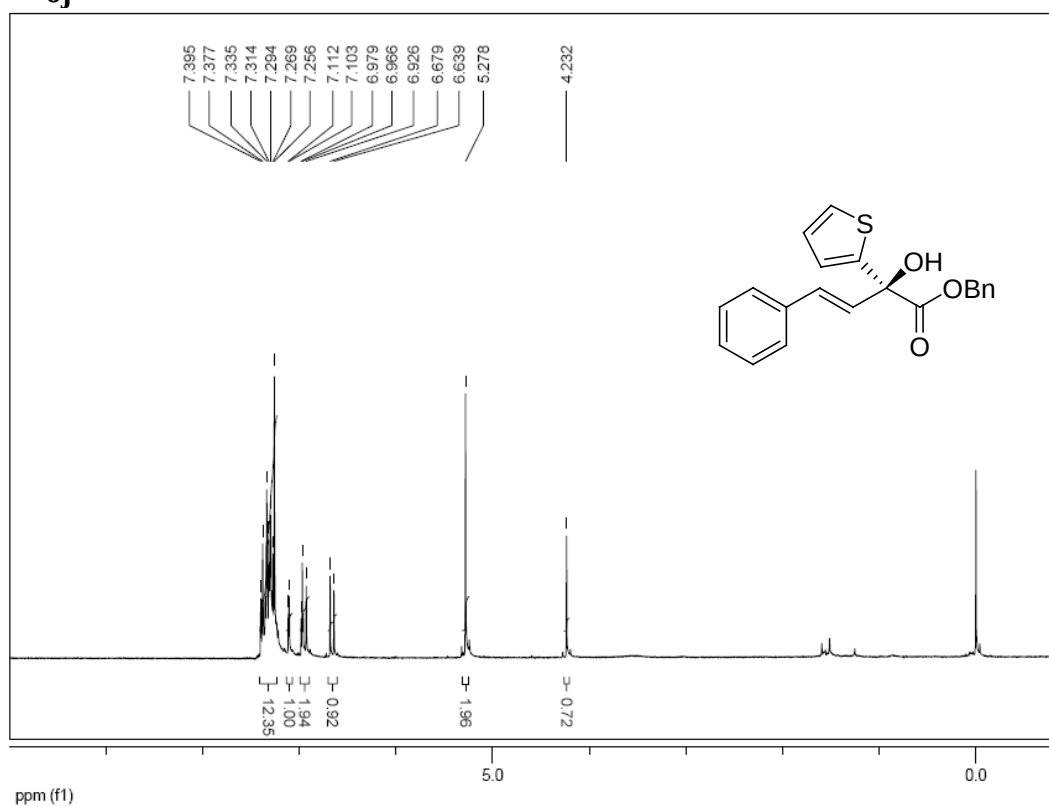
6h



6i



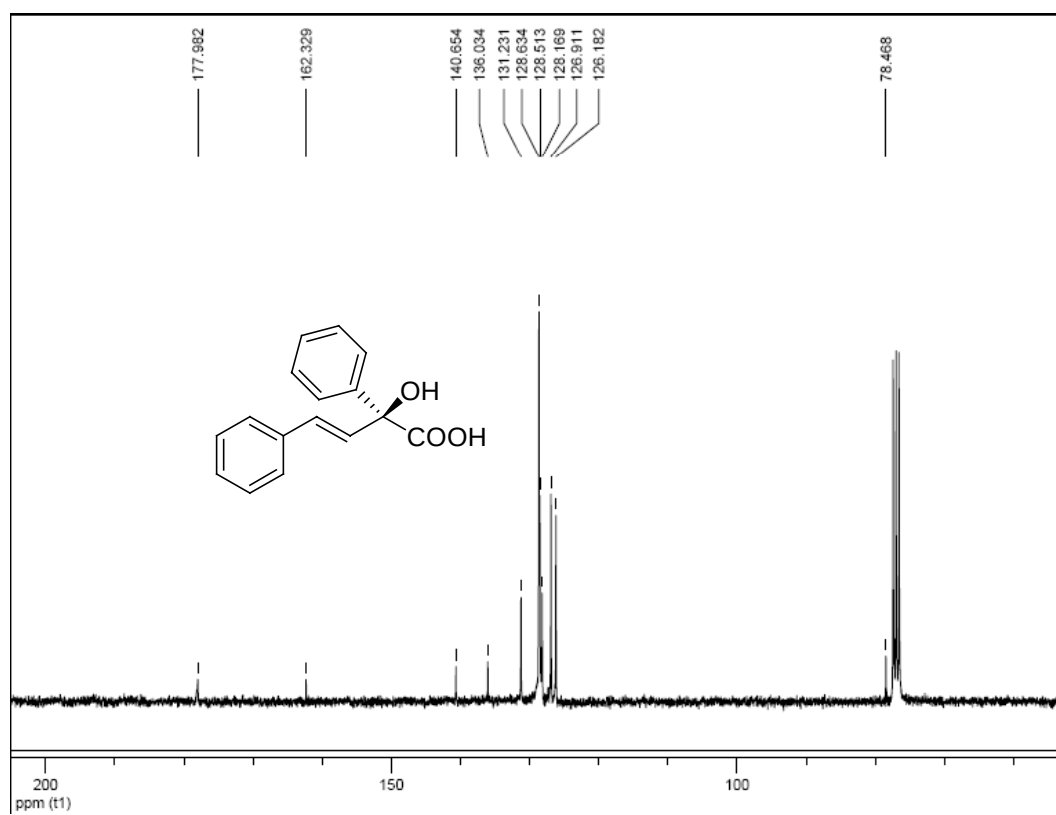
6j



Chemical structure: O=C(O)[C@H](O)/C=C/c1ccccc1

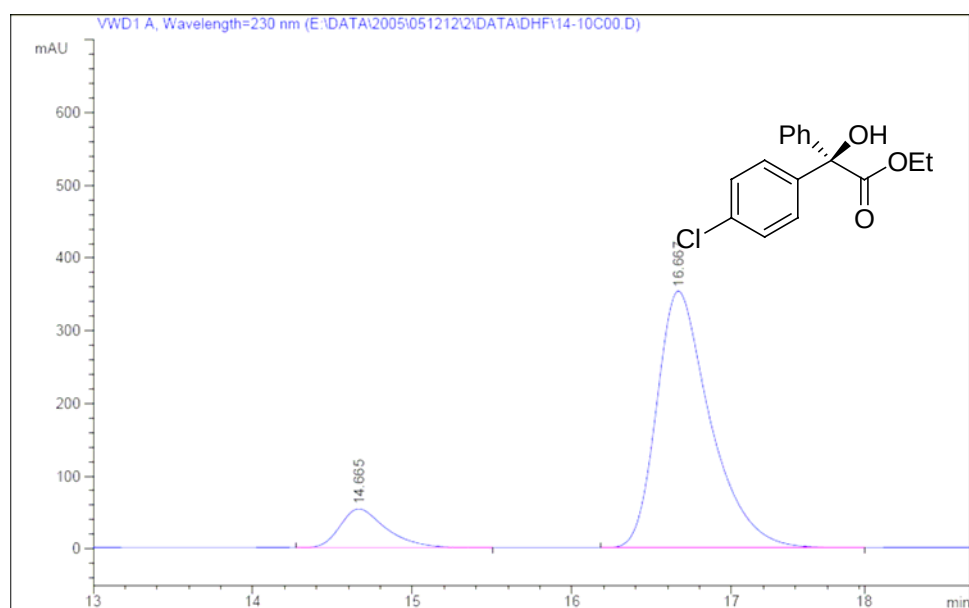
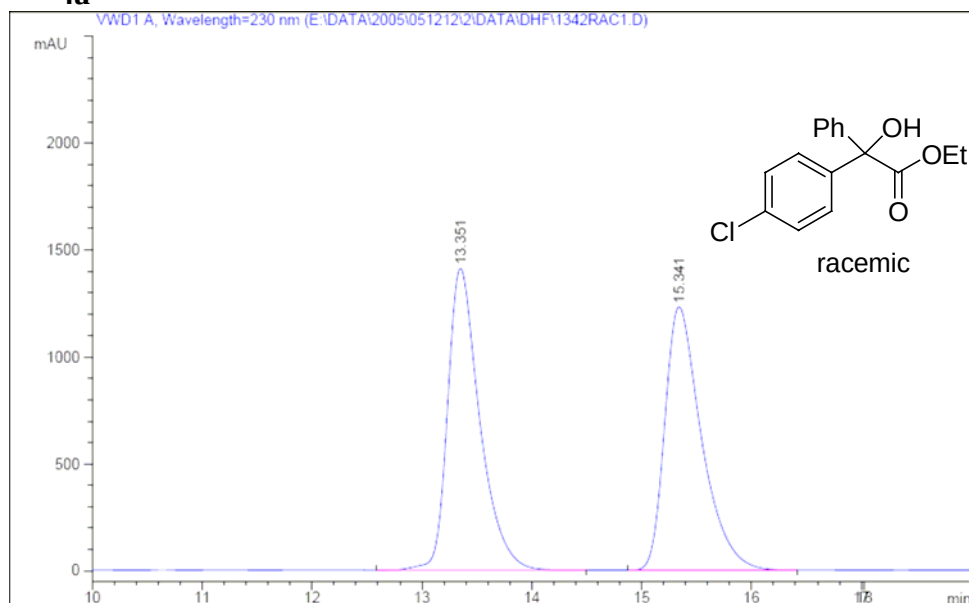
¹H NMR spectrum (ppm (f1)) showing peaks and integration values:

Chemical Shift (ppm)	Integration
7.612	2.54
7.594	
7.449	
7.430	
7.406	
7.389	
7.370	
7.351	
7.330	
7.311	
7.284	1.00
7.265	
7.256	
6.997	
6.957	1.00
6.768	
6.729	
10.87	10.87



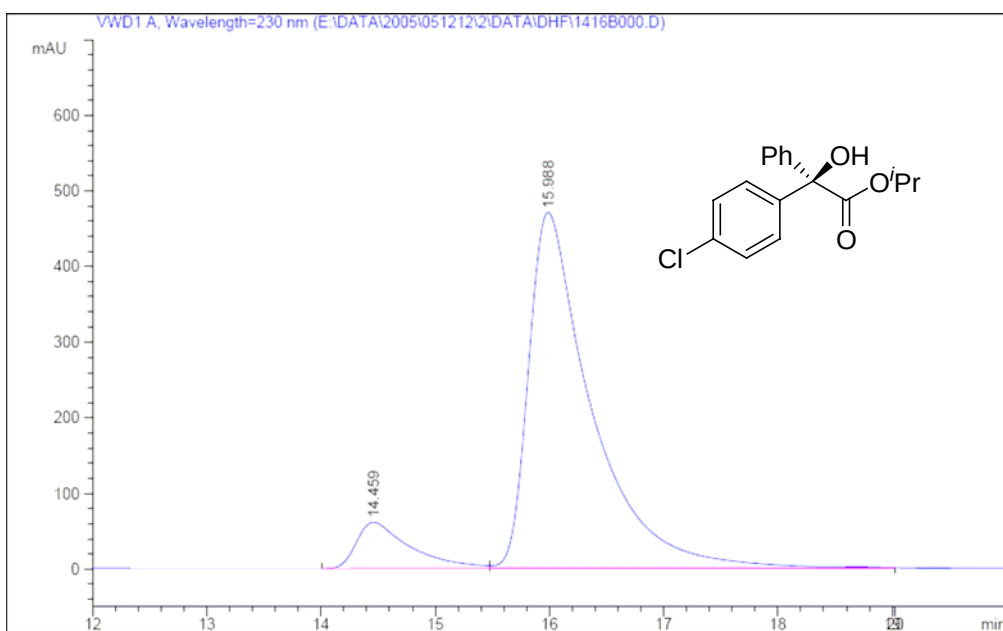
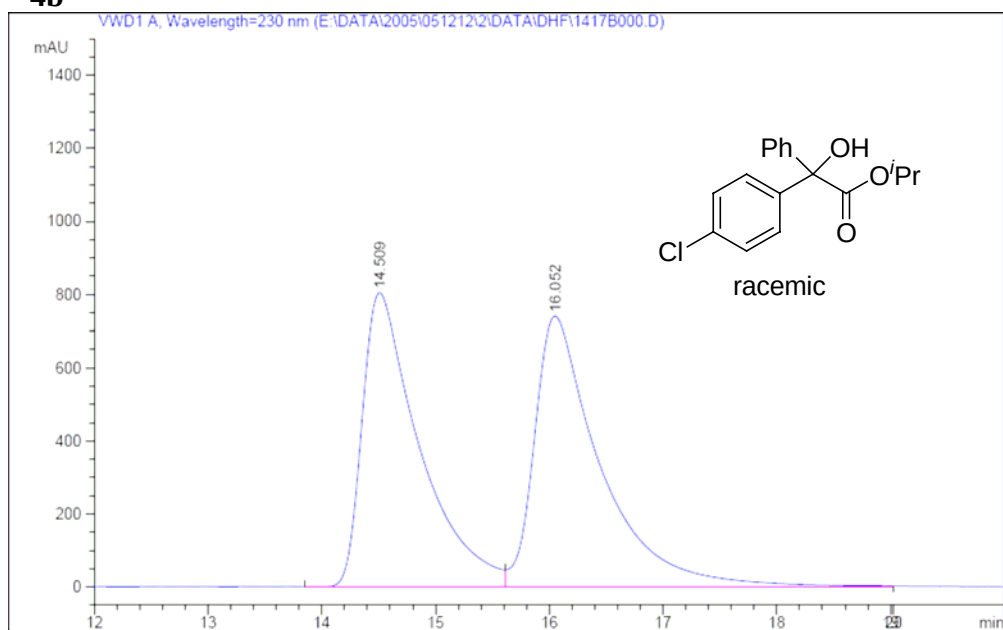
(H) HPLC Charts of Products

4a



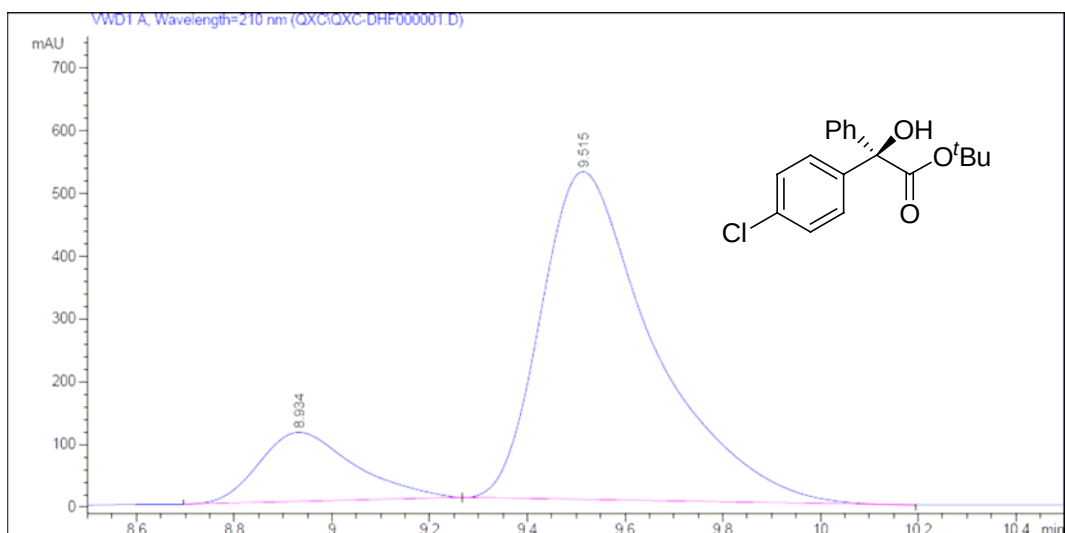
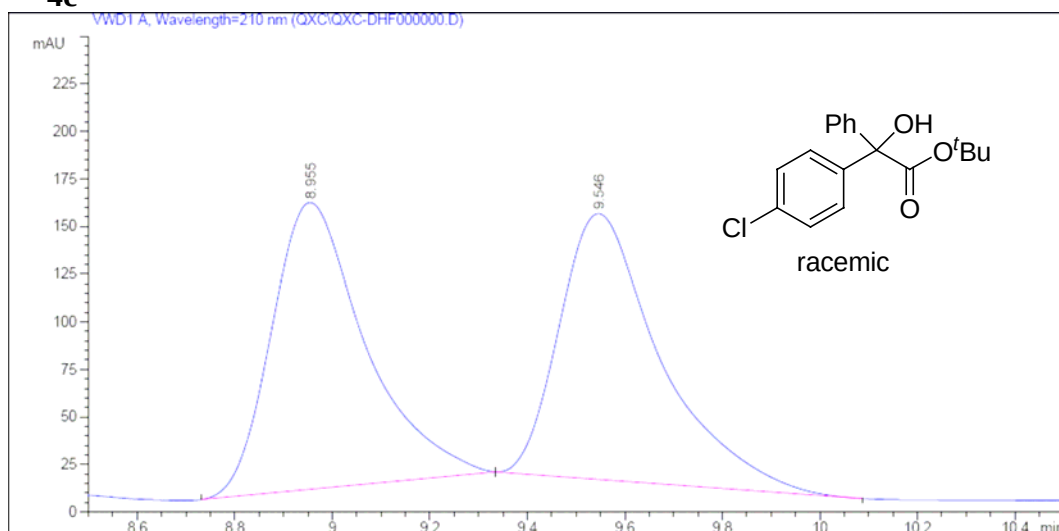
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	14.665	VP	0.3006	1085.81836	53.56576	11.6297
2	16.667	BB	0.3483	8250.76465	353.13992	88.3703

4b



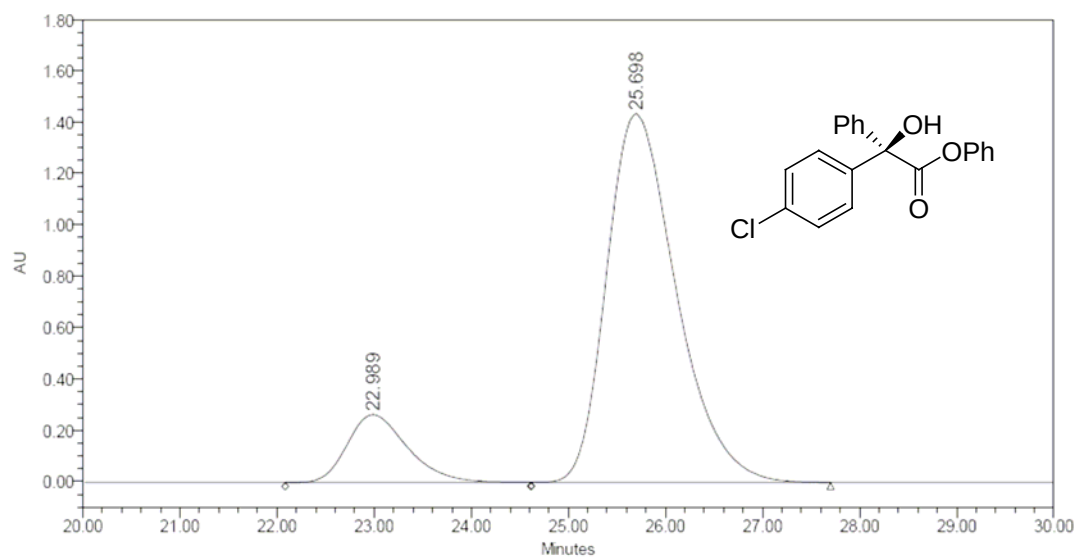
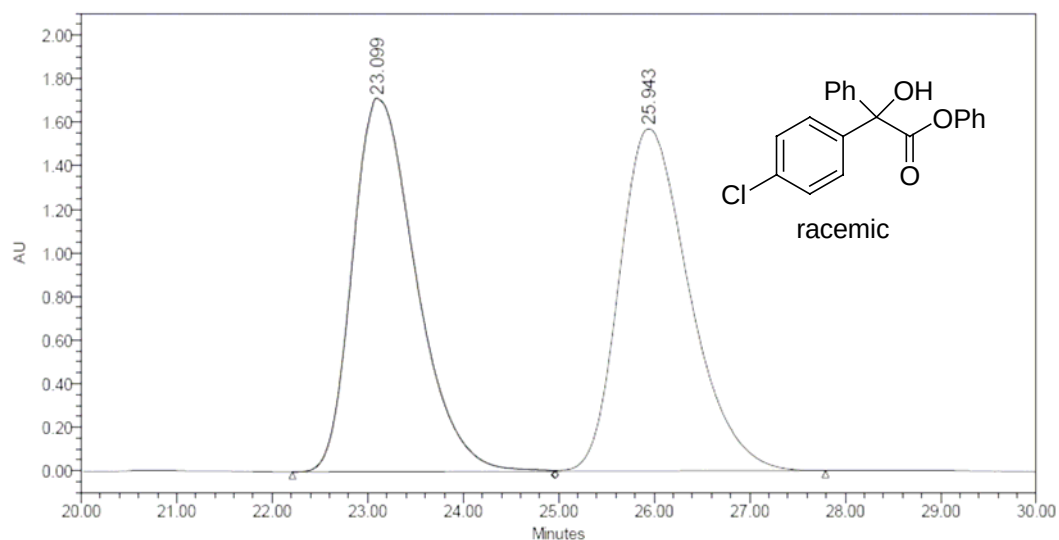
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	14.459	PV	0.4659	2009.80017	61.47454	9.9234
2	15.988	VB	0.5509	1.82433e4	470.98737	90.0766

4c



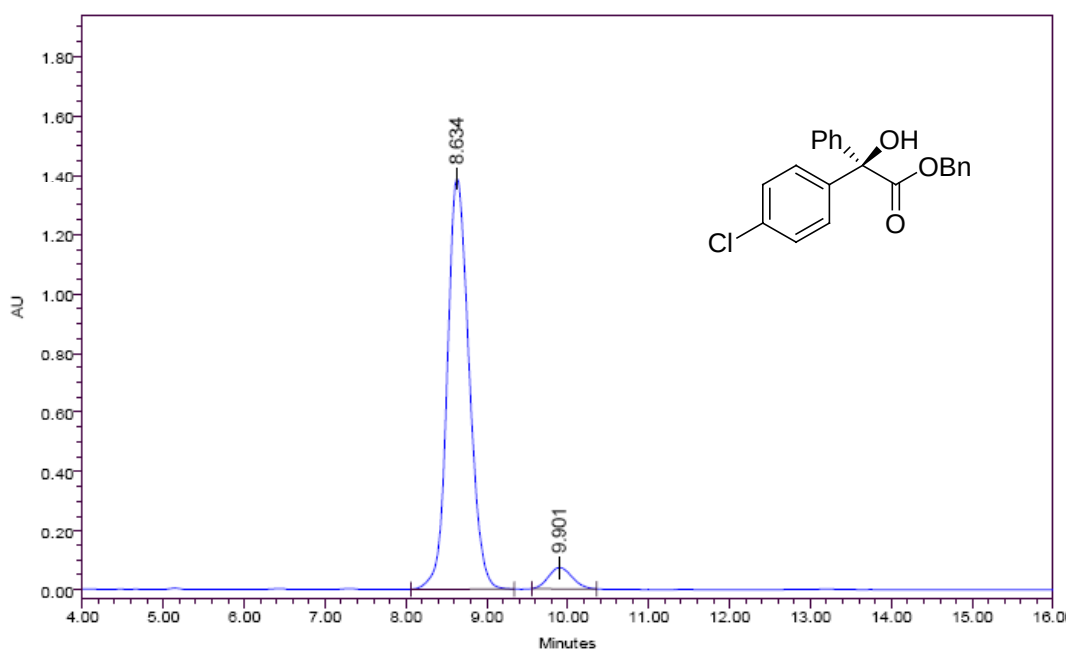
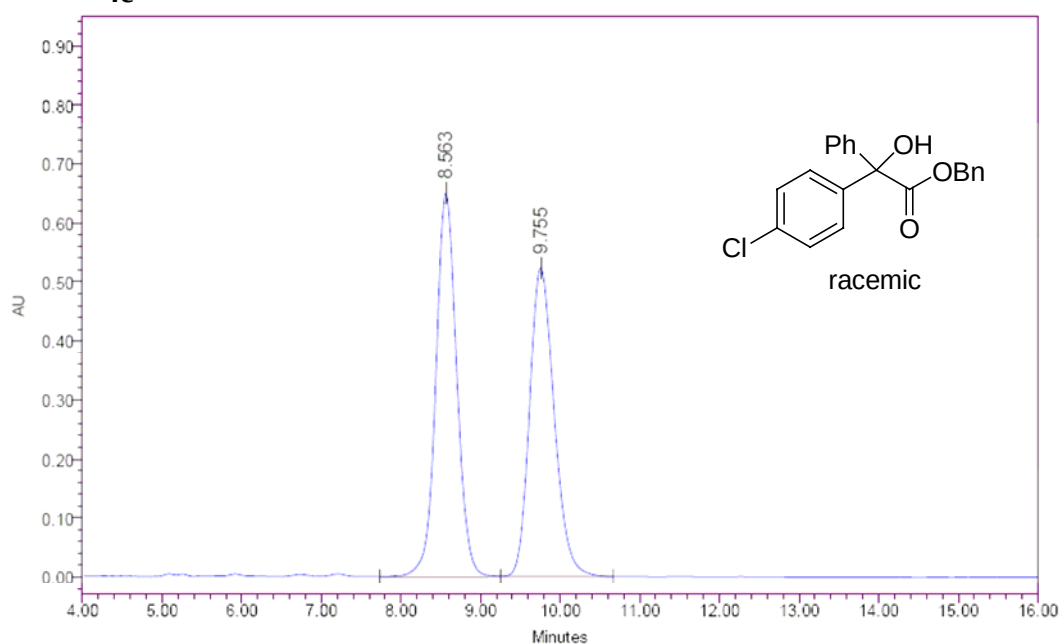
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area %	Name
1	8.934	BB	0.2044	1486.10938	15.1032	?
2	9.515	BB	0.2392	8353.61035	84.8968	?

4d



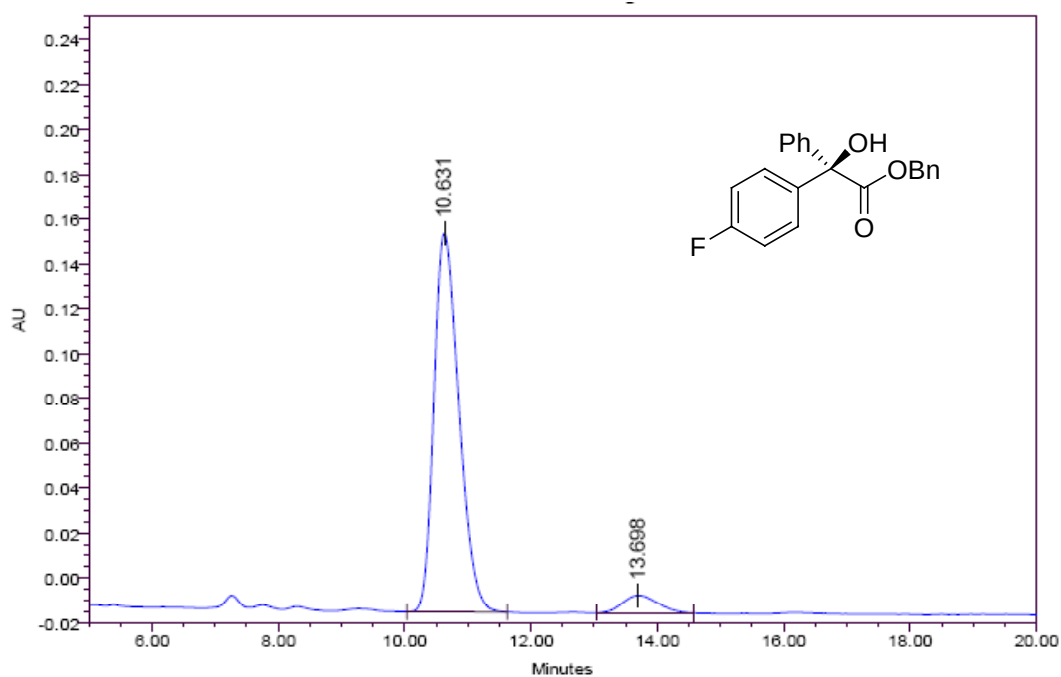
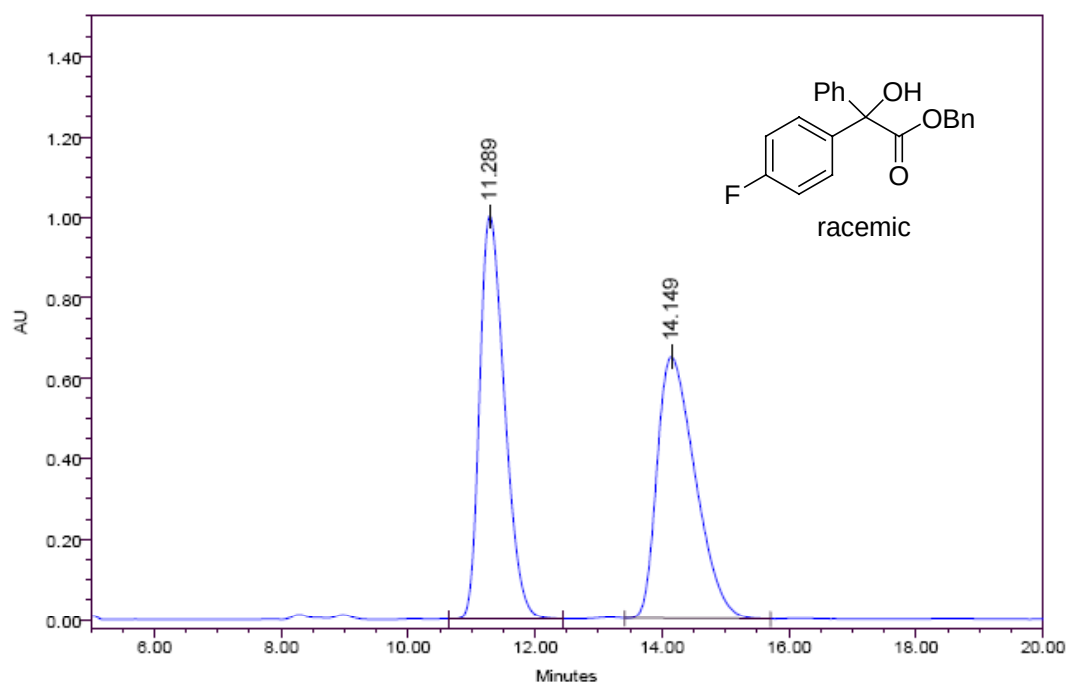
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	22.989	11545024	13.88	265467
2	25.698	71613850	86.12	1436630

4e



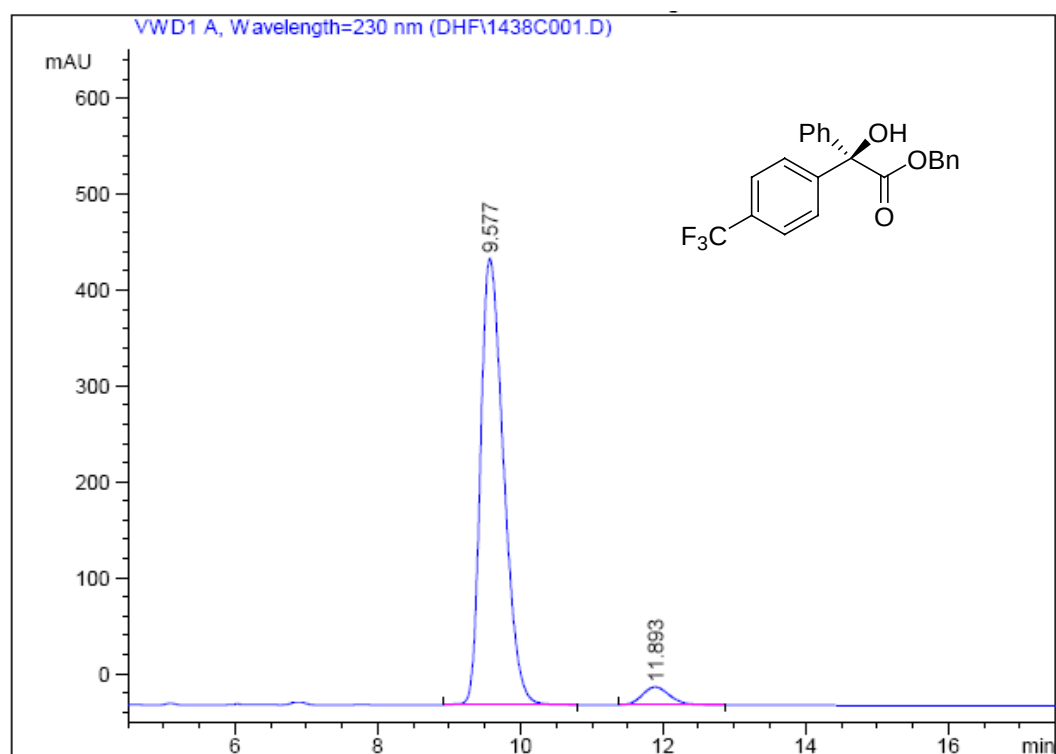
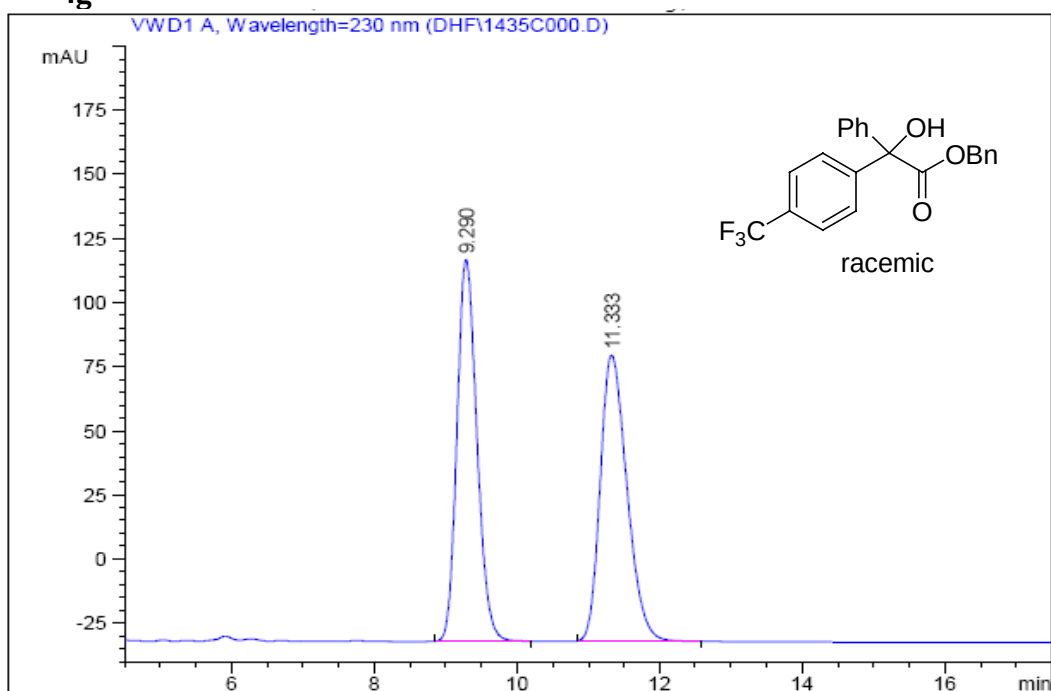
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	8.634	25908344	94.74	1389907
2	9.901	1437584	5.26	70947

4f



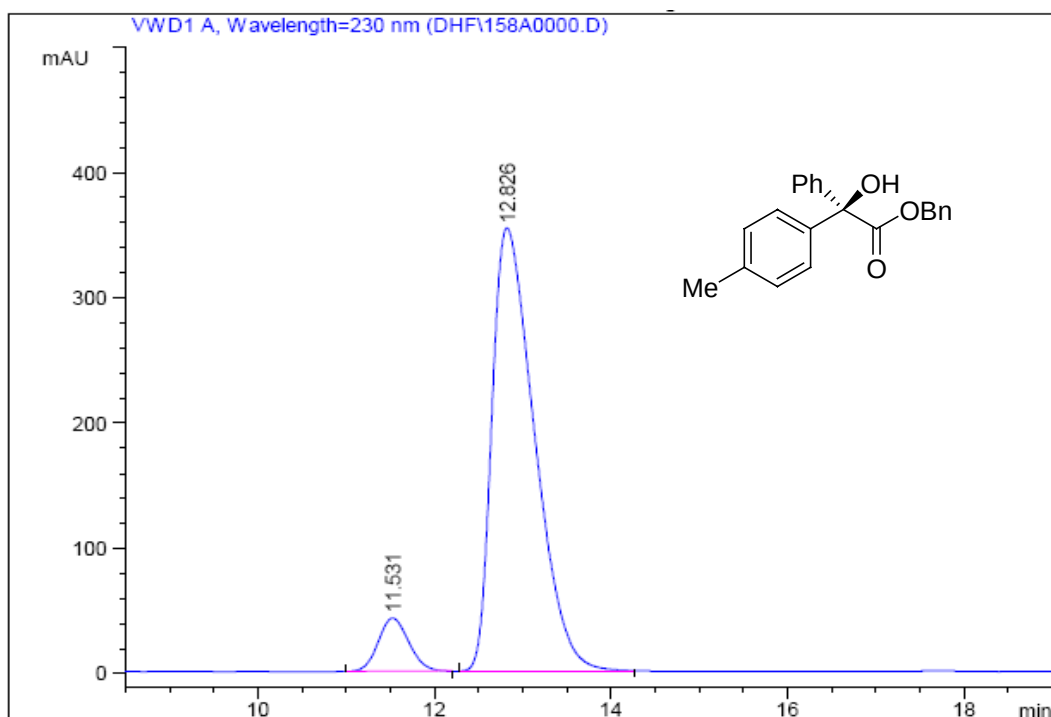
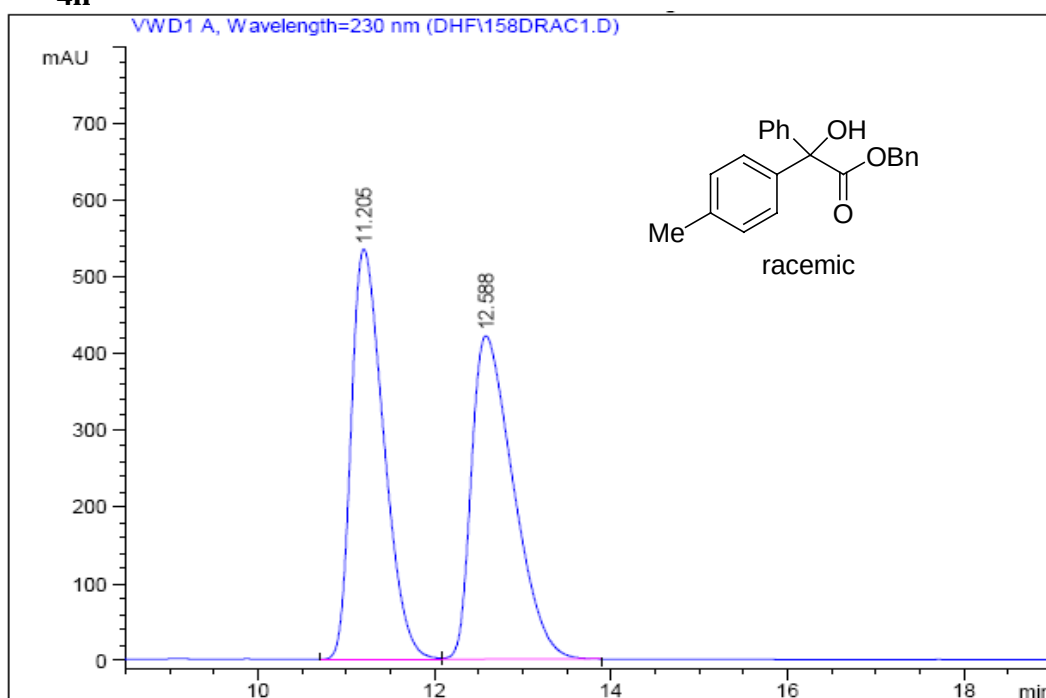
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	10.631	4631552	93.77	168886
2	13.698	307641	6.23	7898

4g



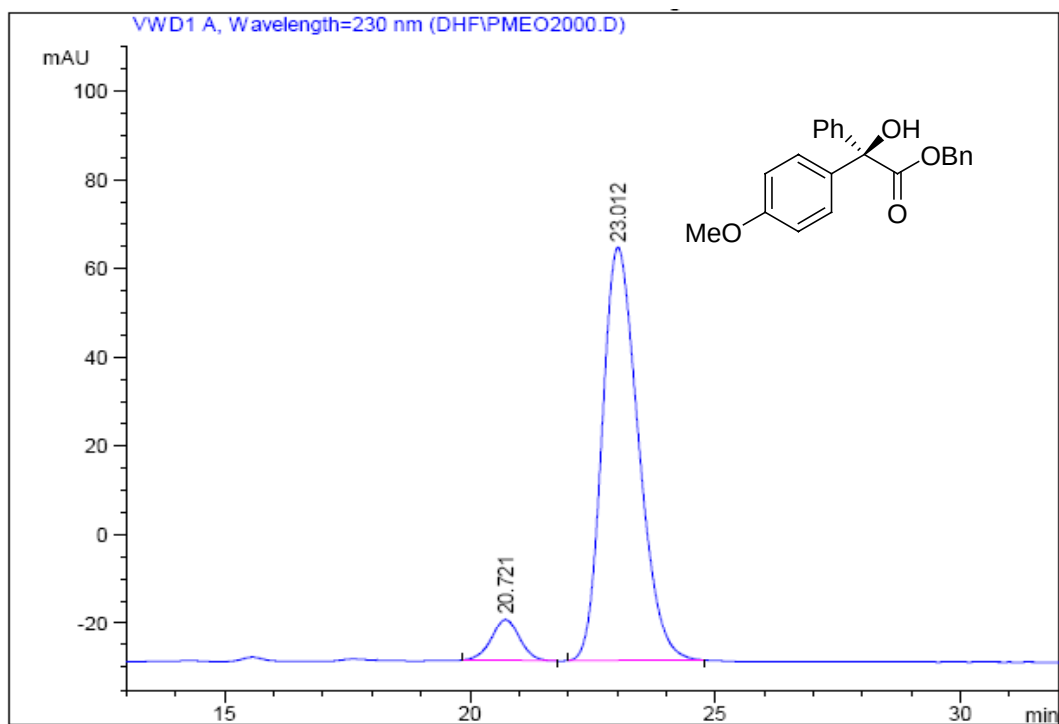
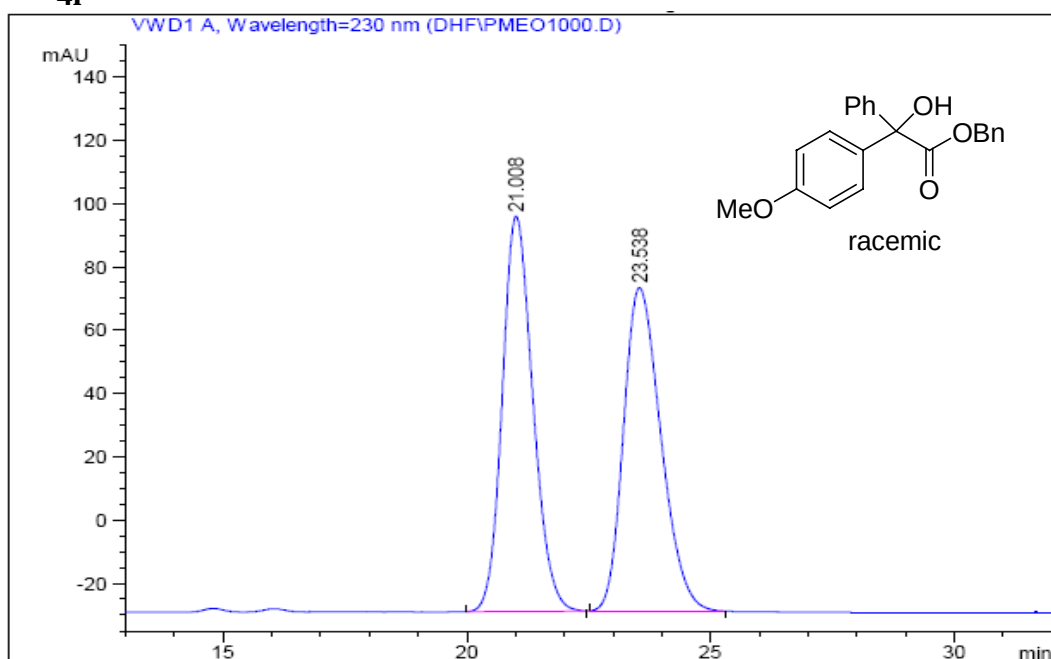
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	9.577	BB	0.3485	1.04086e4	464.96619	95.3298
2	11.893	BB	0.4197	509.92255	18.72203	4.6702

4h



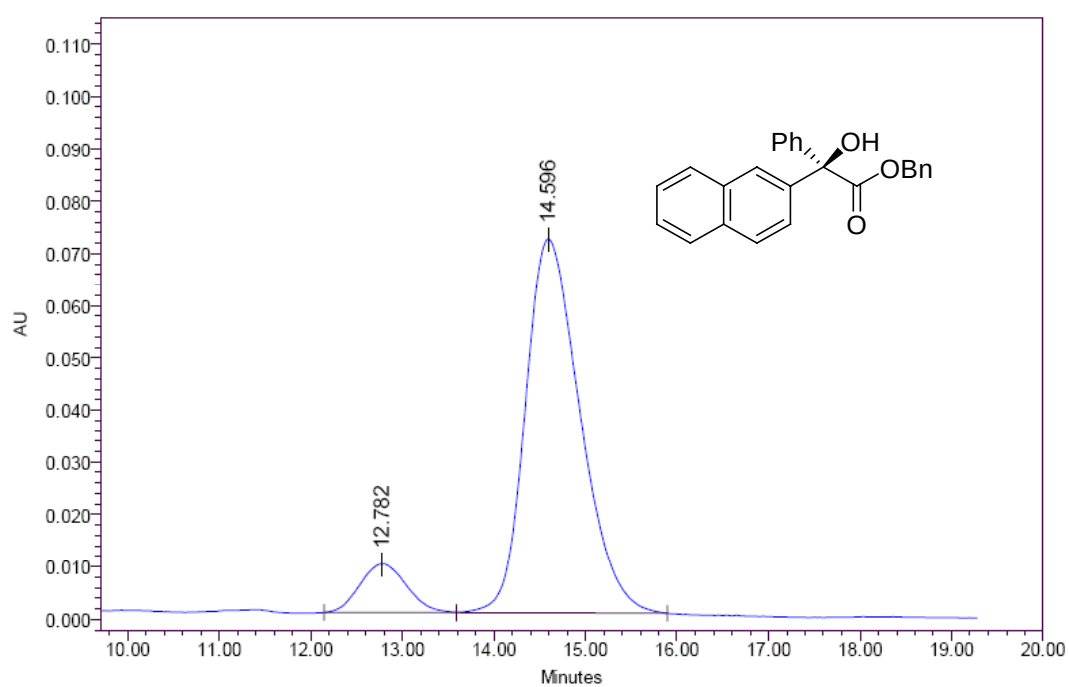
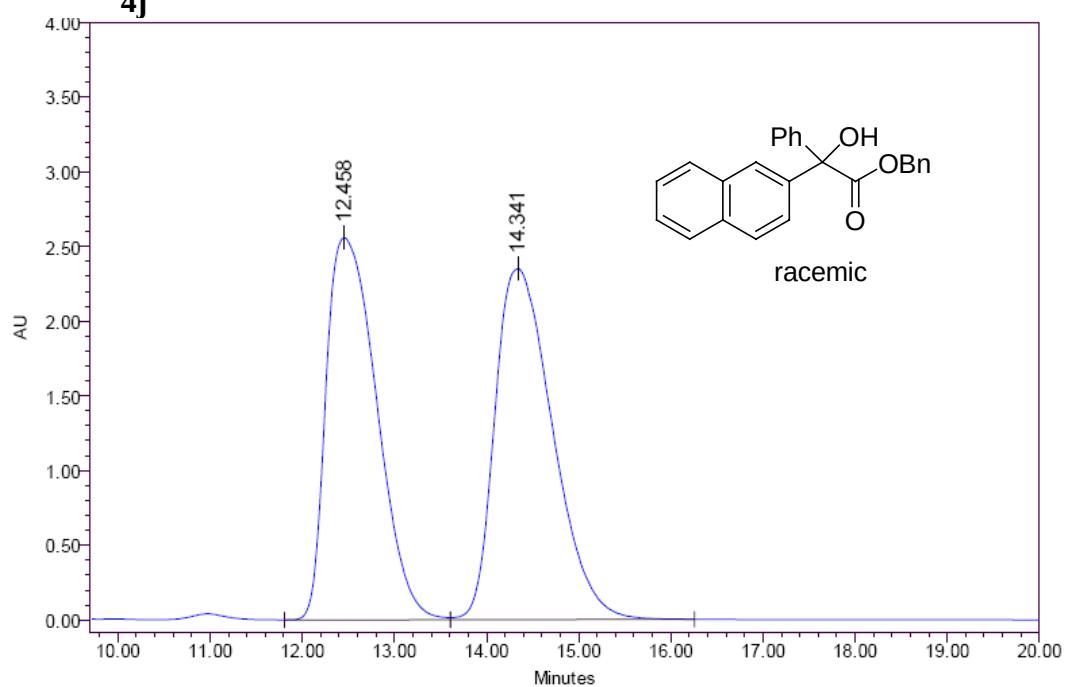
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	11.531	BB	0.3757	1029.21069	42.50277	8.0291
2	12.826	BB	0.5157	1.17893e4	353.57678	91.9709

4i



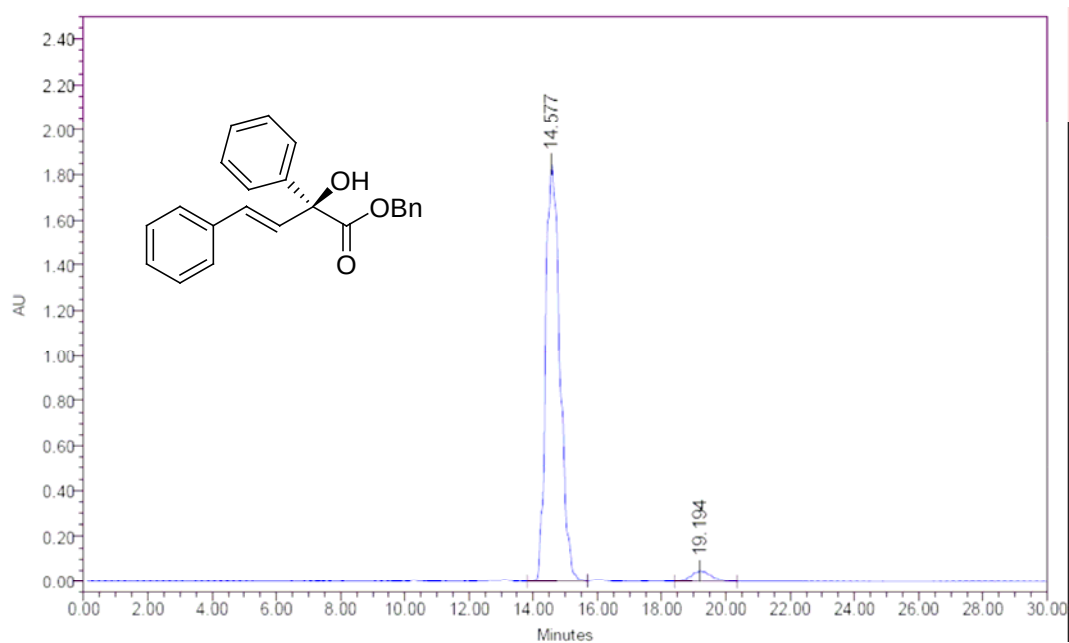
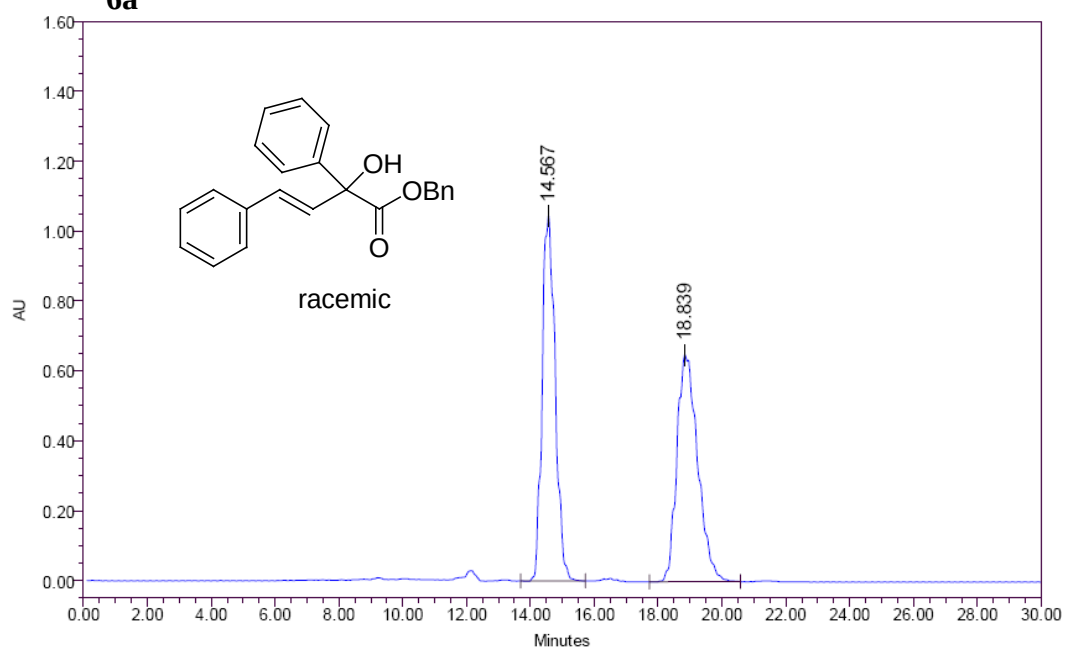
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU	Area *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	20.721	BP	0.6112	373.80383		9.27995	7.2445
2	23.012	BB	0.7786	4786.02393		93.13619	92.7555

4j



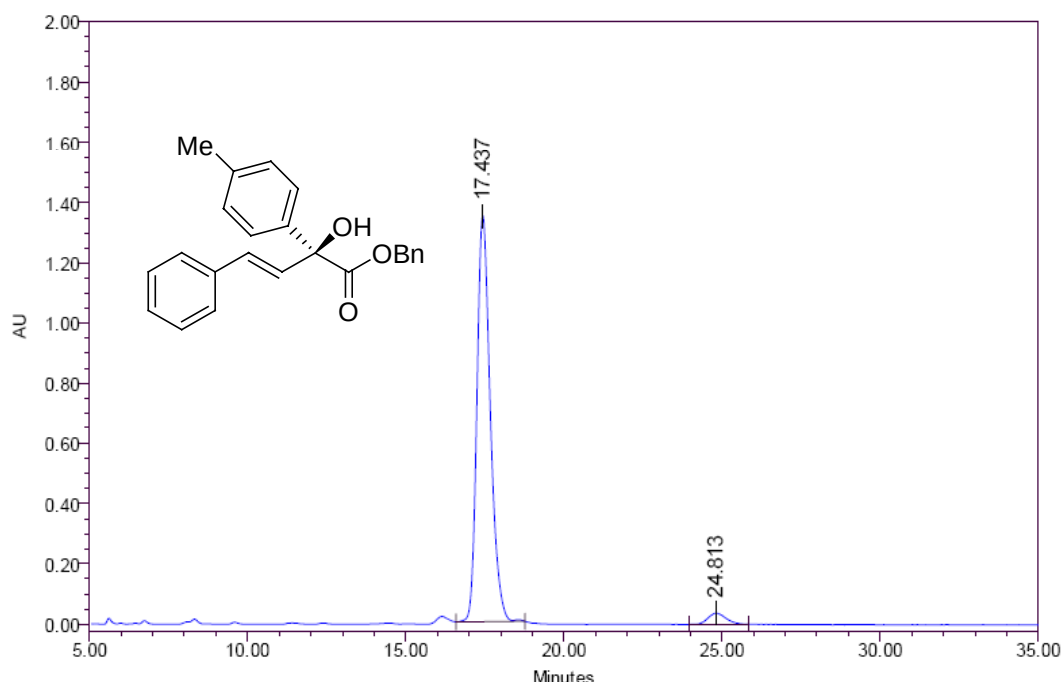
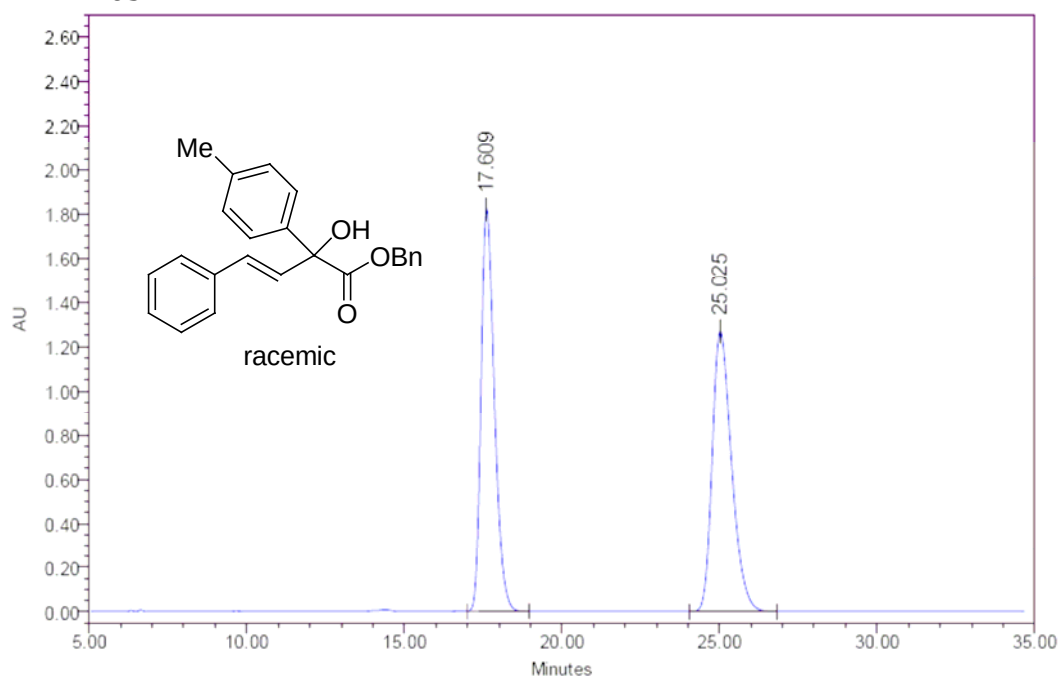
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	12.782	326890	9.92	9228
2	14.596	2967044	90.08	71587

6a



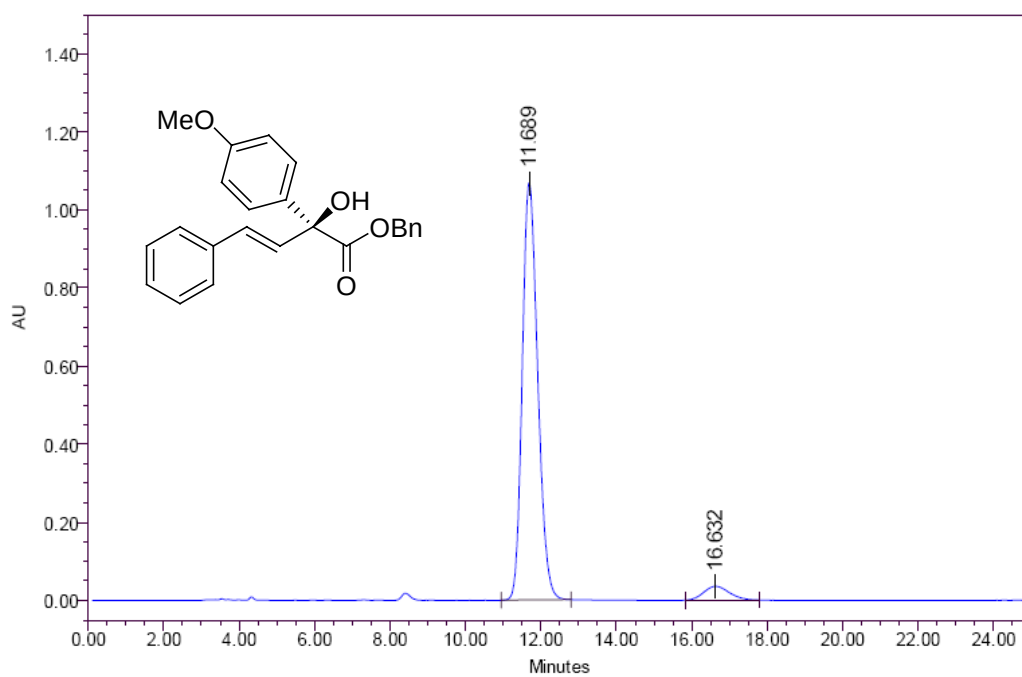
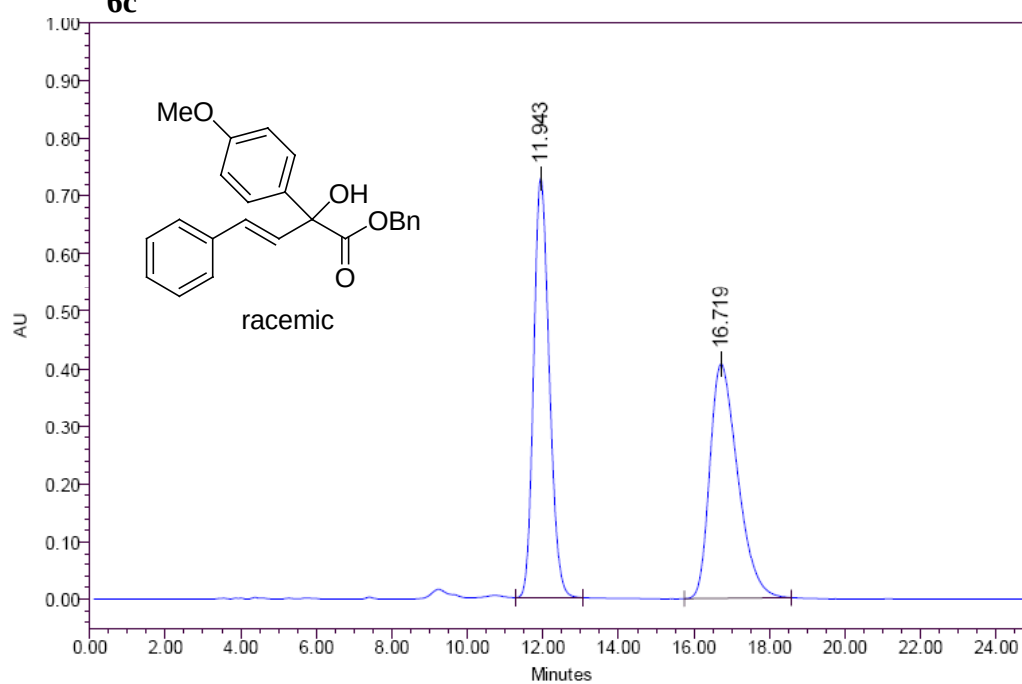
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	14.577	56617869	96.47	1845985
2	19.194	2070938	3.53	47937

6b



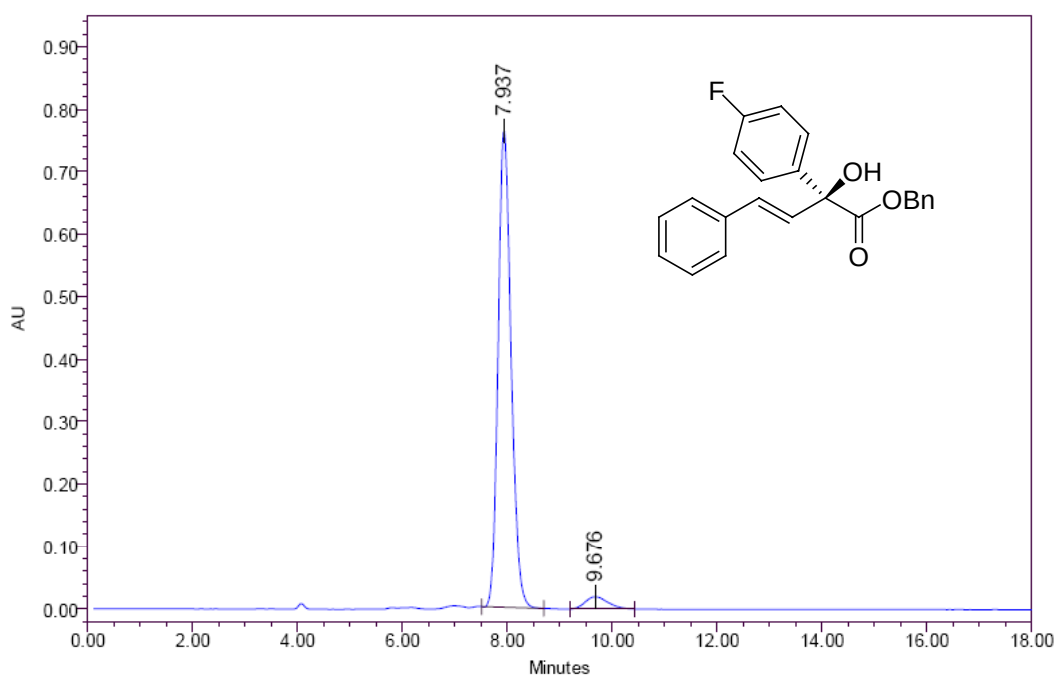
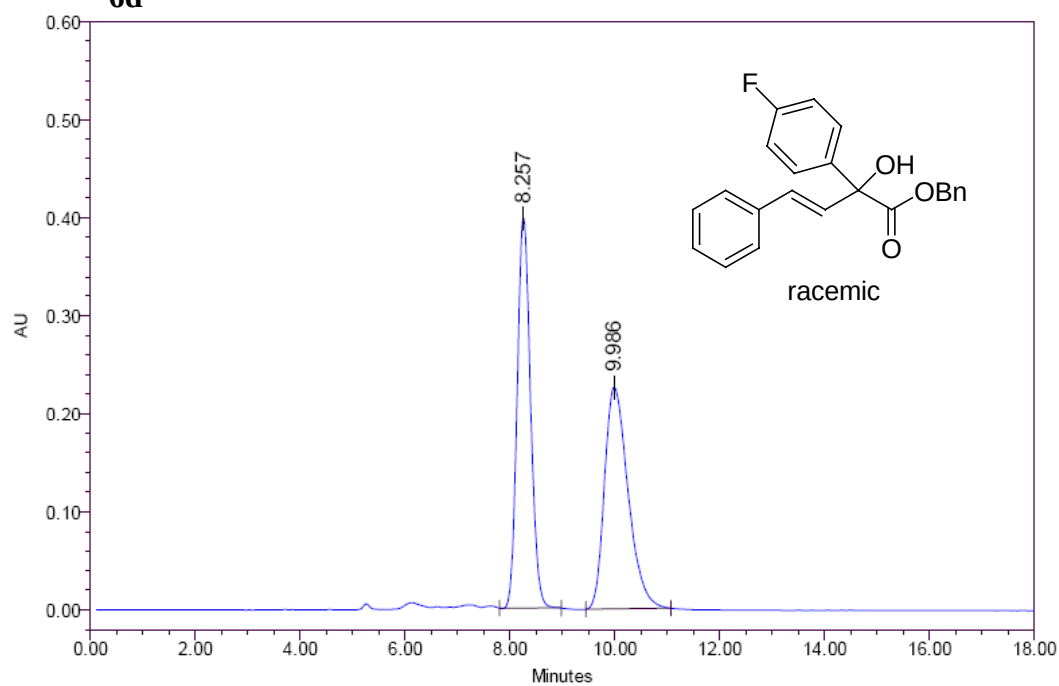
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	17.437	39472822	96.32	1346732
2	24.813	1506353	3.68	36732

6c



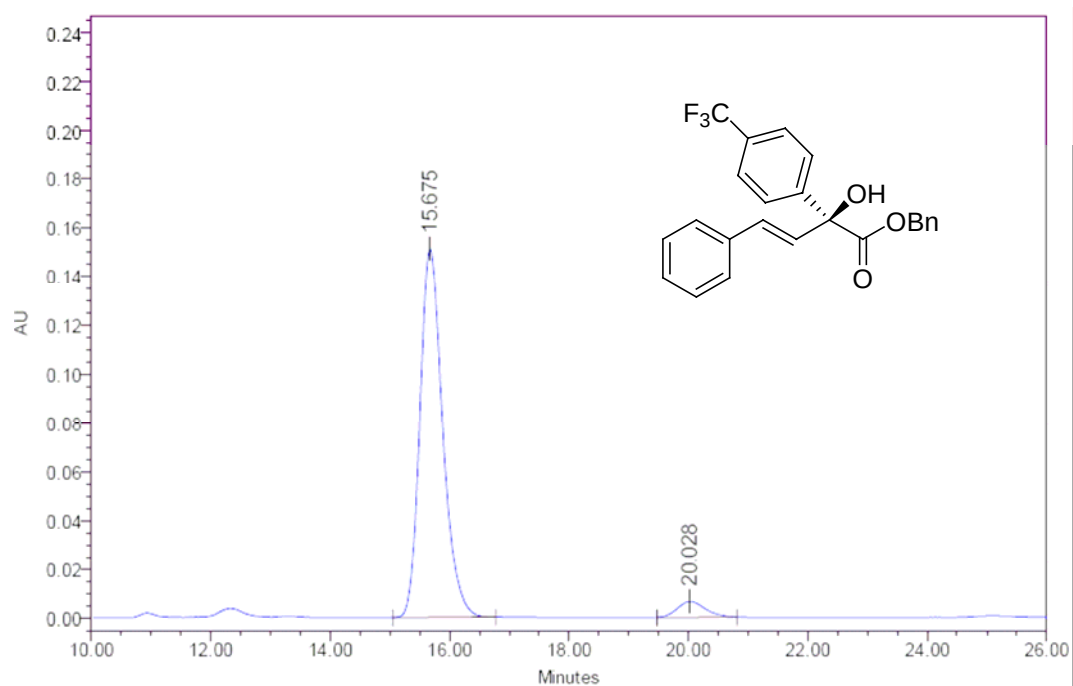
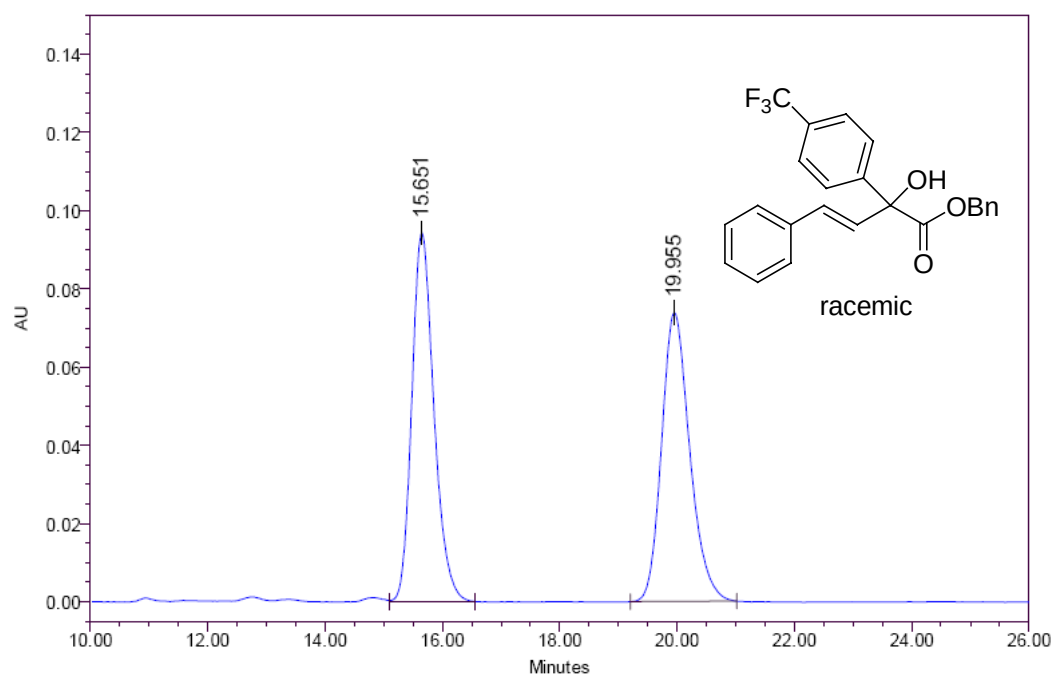
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	11.689	30282408	94.87	1067338
2	16.632	1638589	5.13	34757

6d



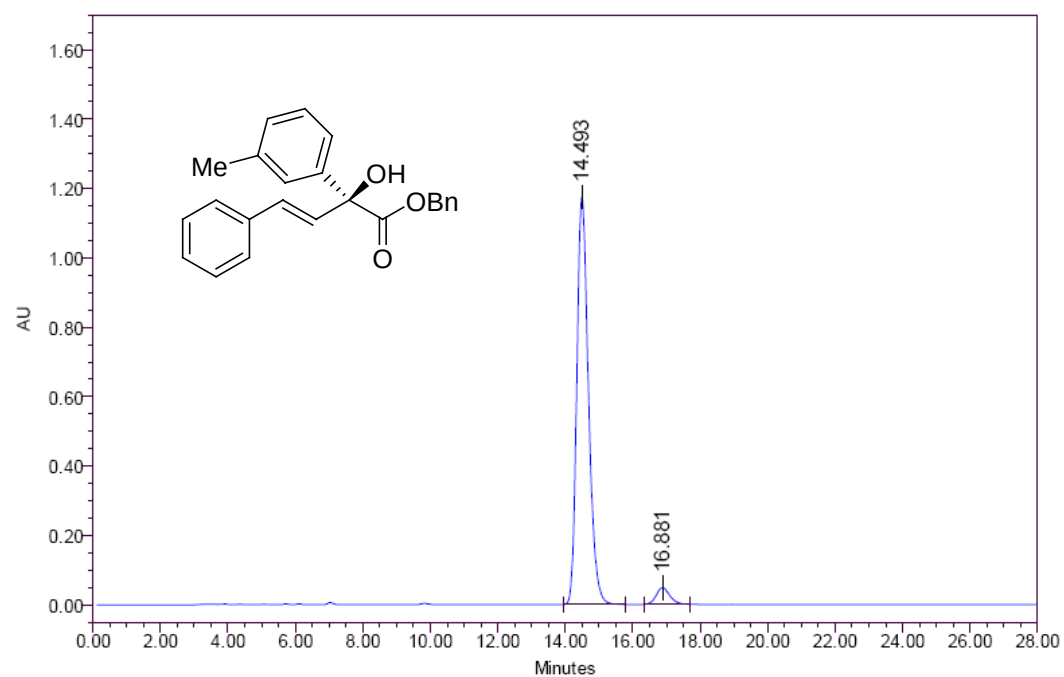
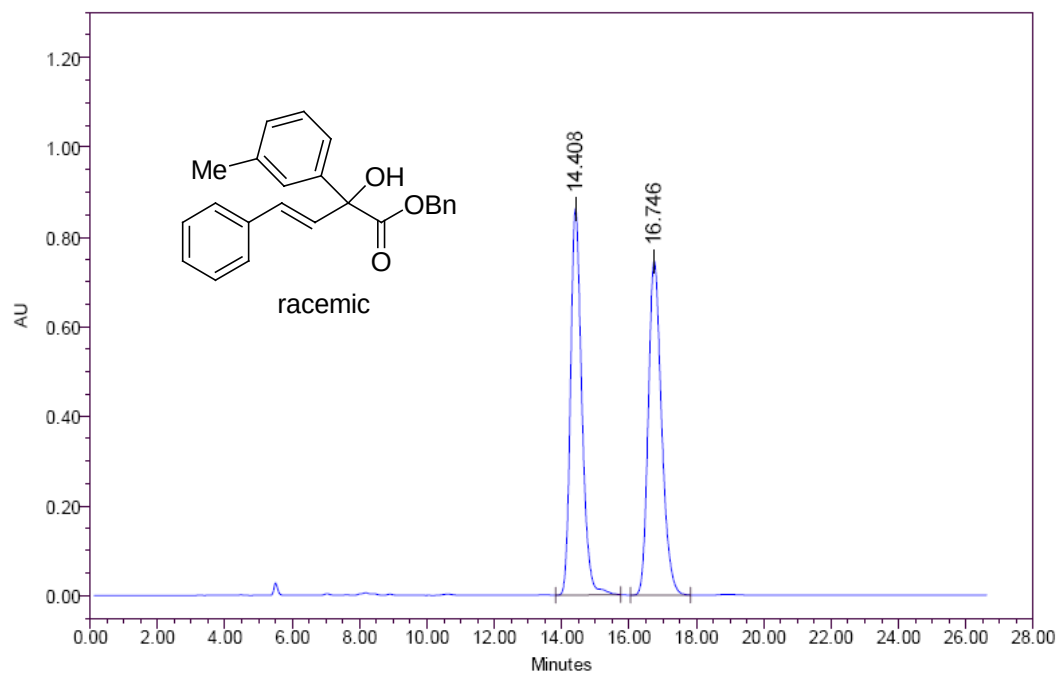
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	7.937	13151779	95.75	764655
2	9.676	584095	4.25	19523

6e



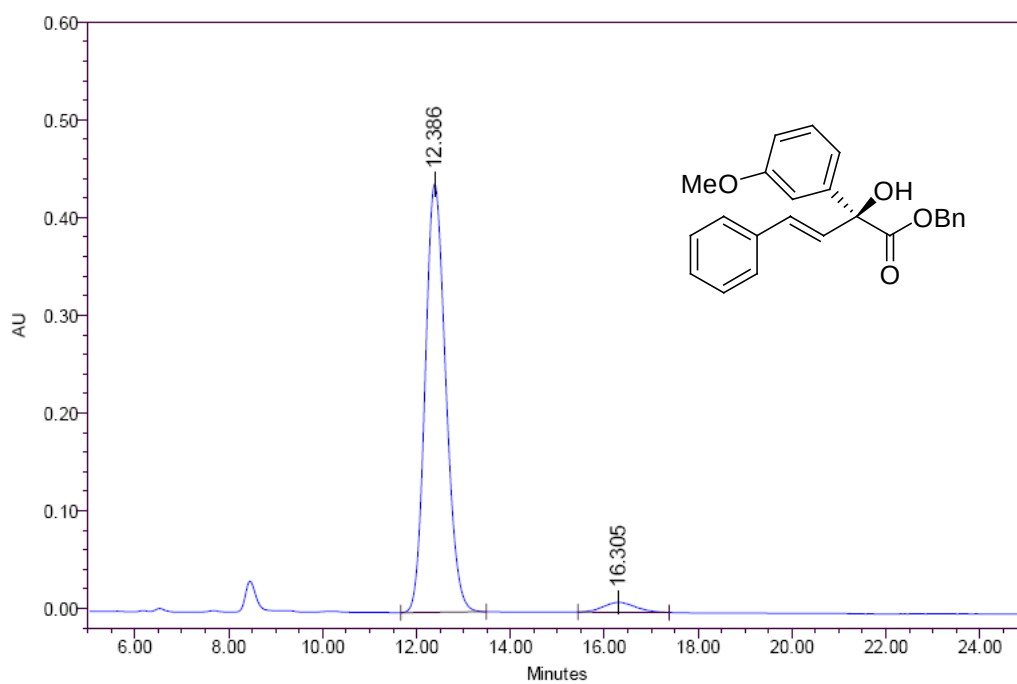
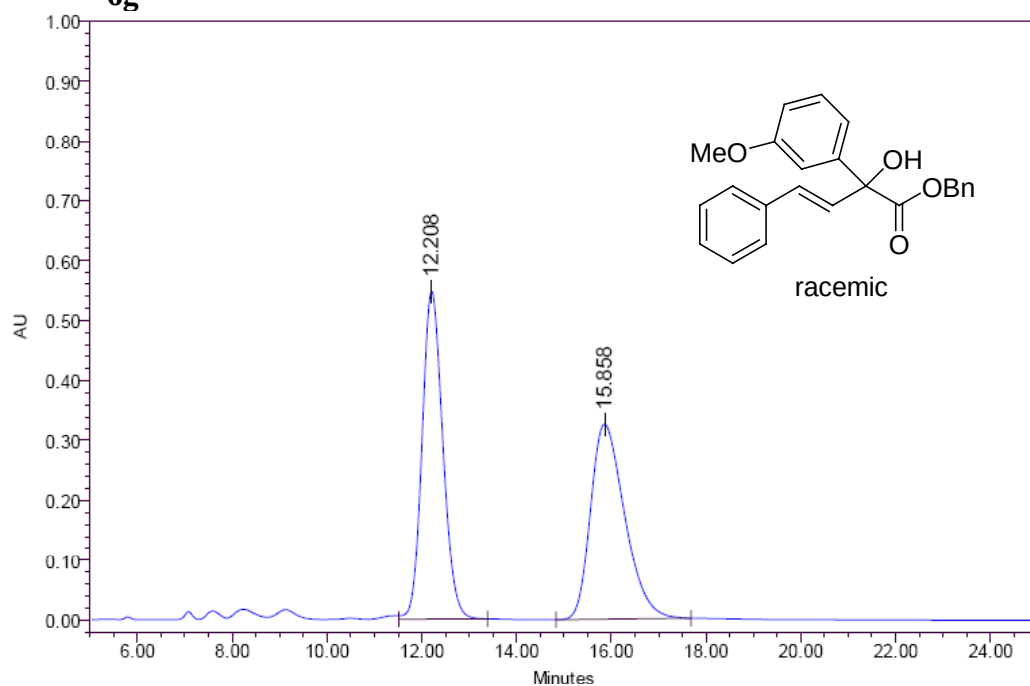
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	15.675	4008664	94.99	151205
2	20.028	211564	5.01	6482

6f



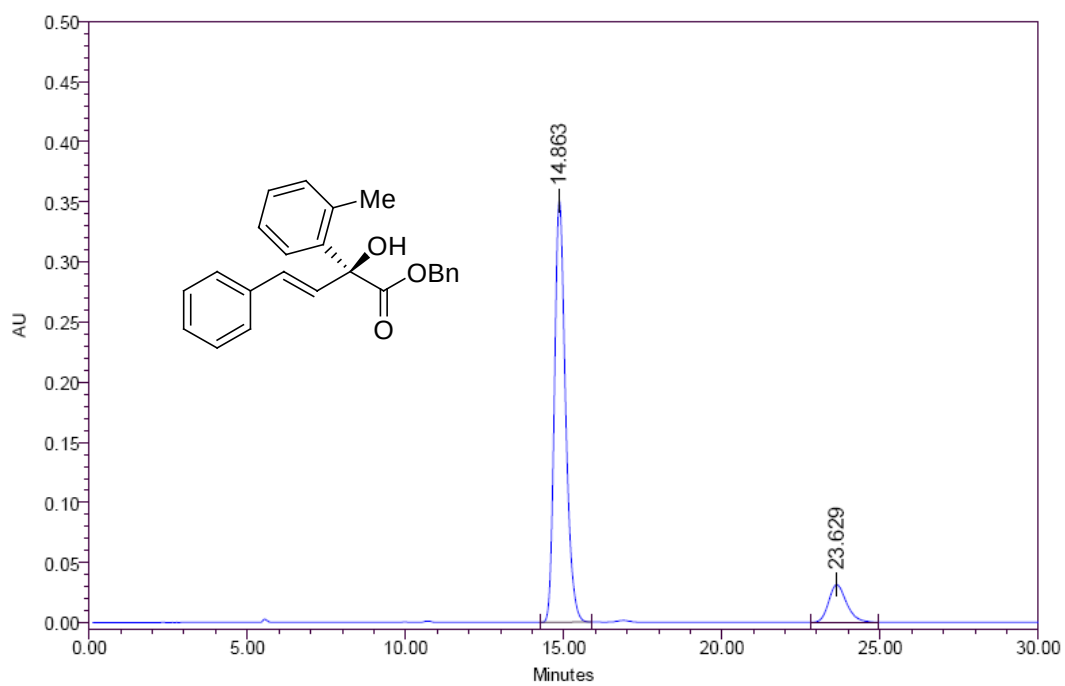
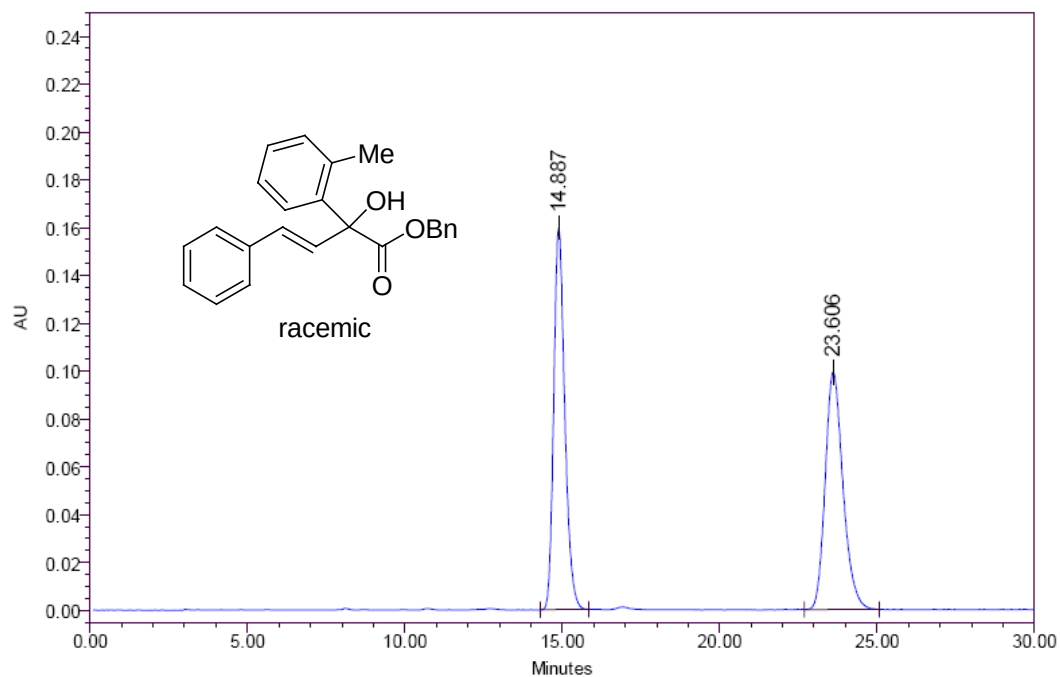
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	14.493	28140146	95.48	1175357
2	16.881	1331139	4.52	47887

6g



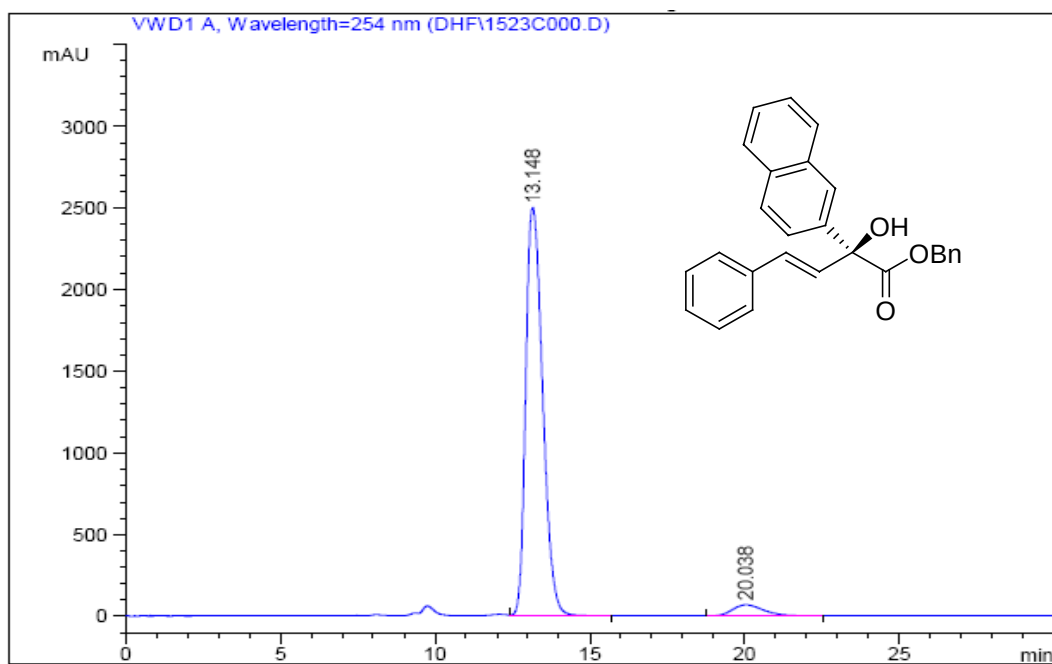
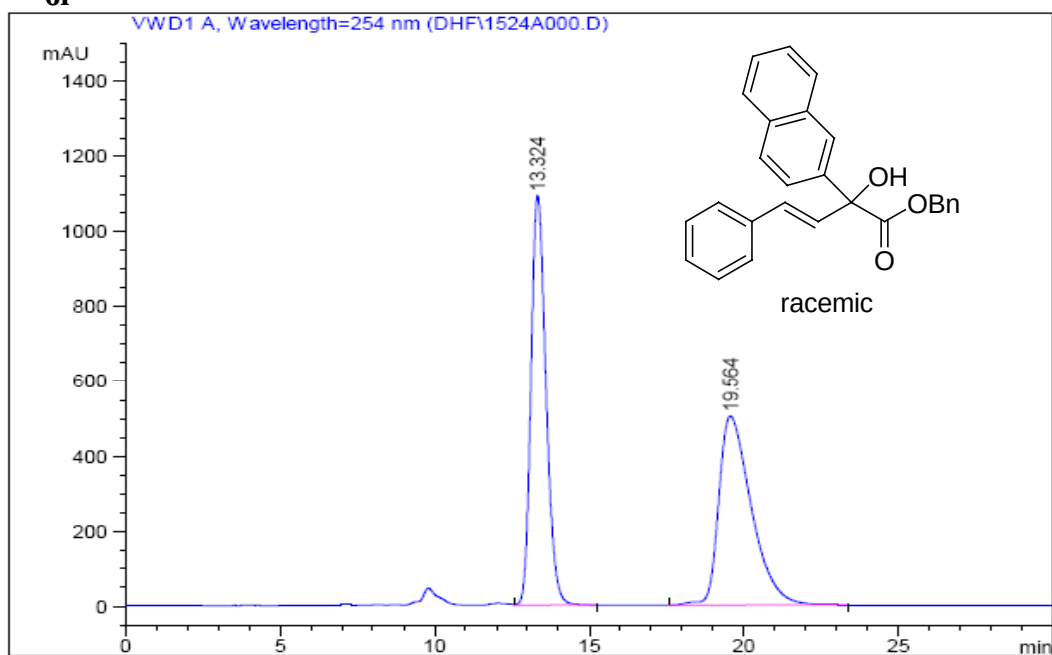
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	12.386	13306961	96.47	438279
2	16.305	487047	3.53	10105

6h



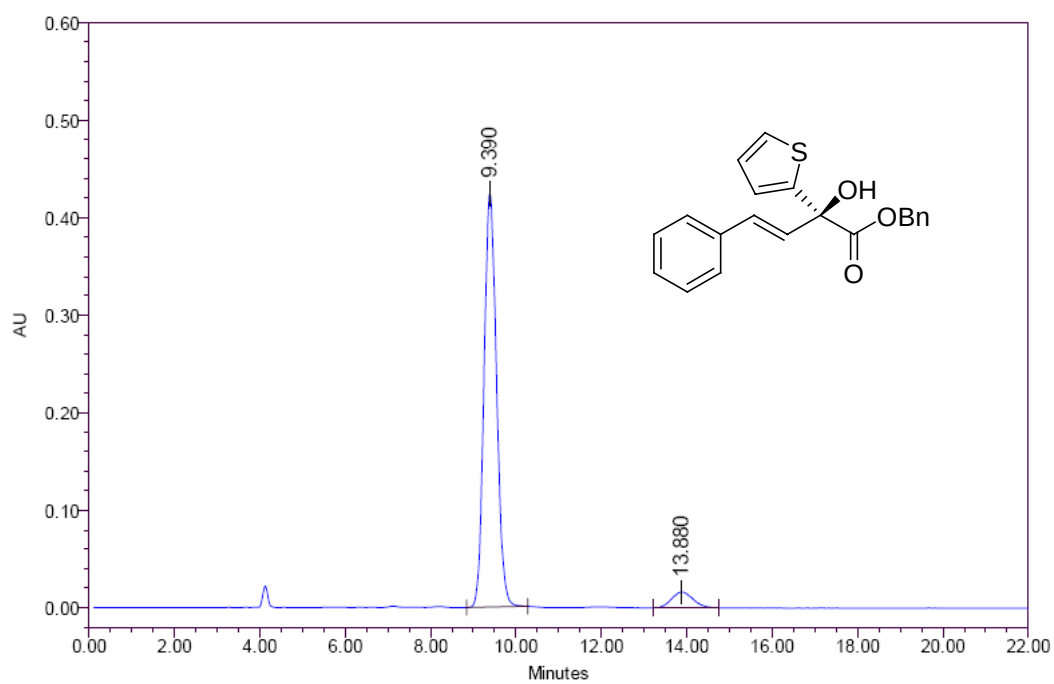
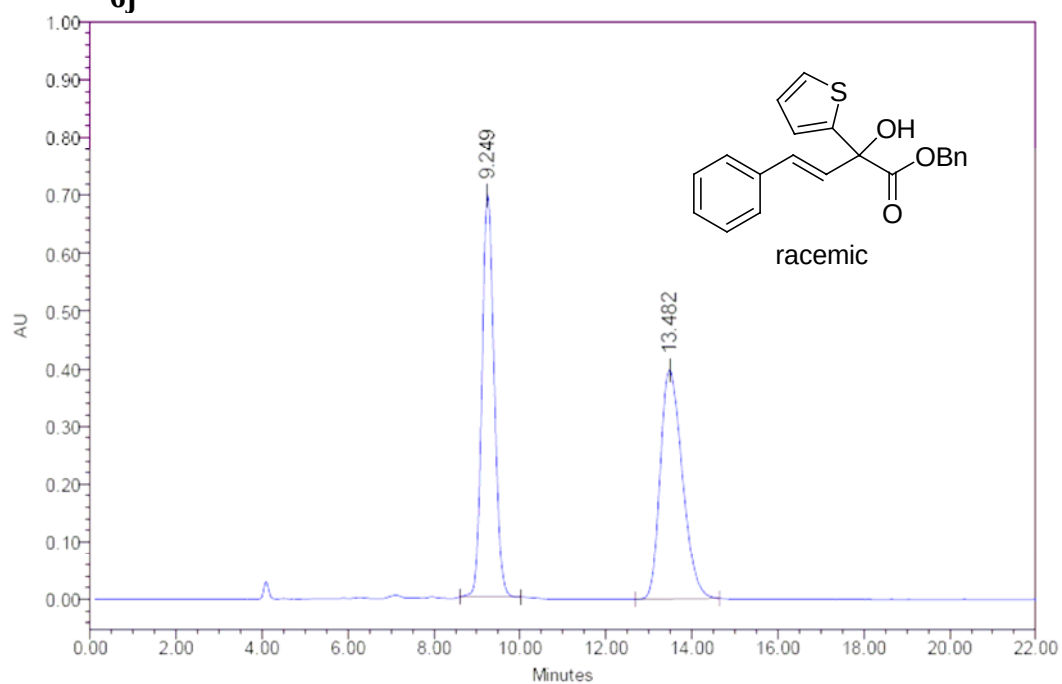
	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	14.863	8562278	87.54	350612
2	23.629	1218717	12.46	31181

6i



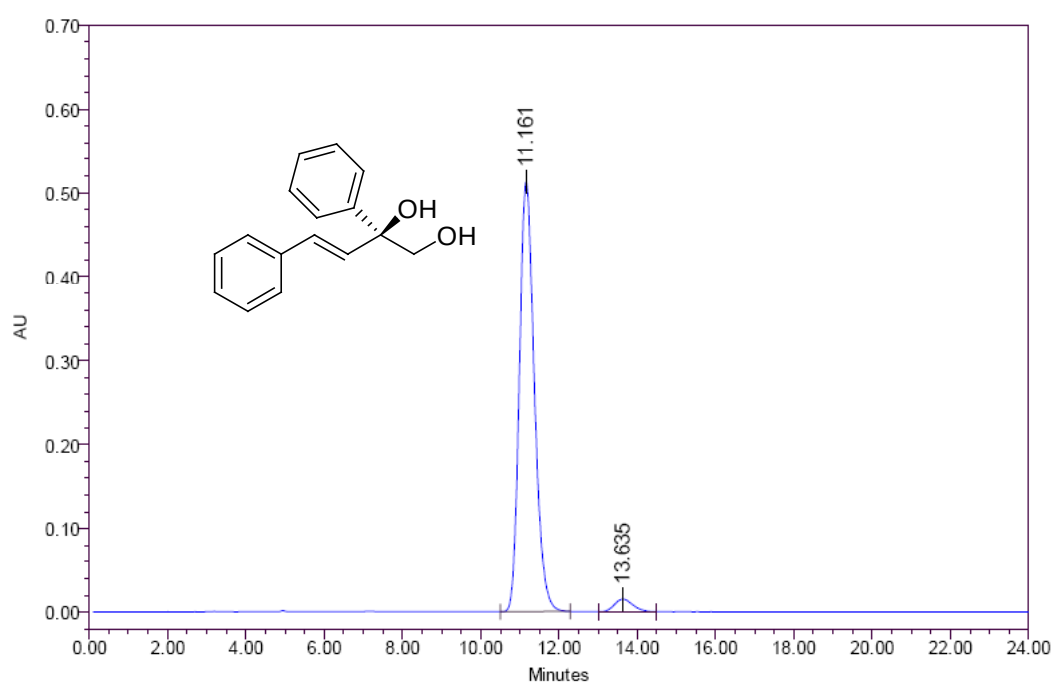
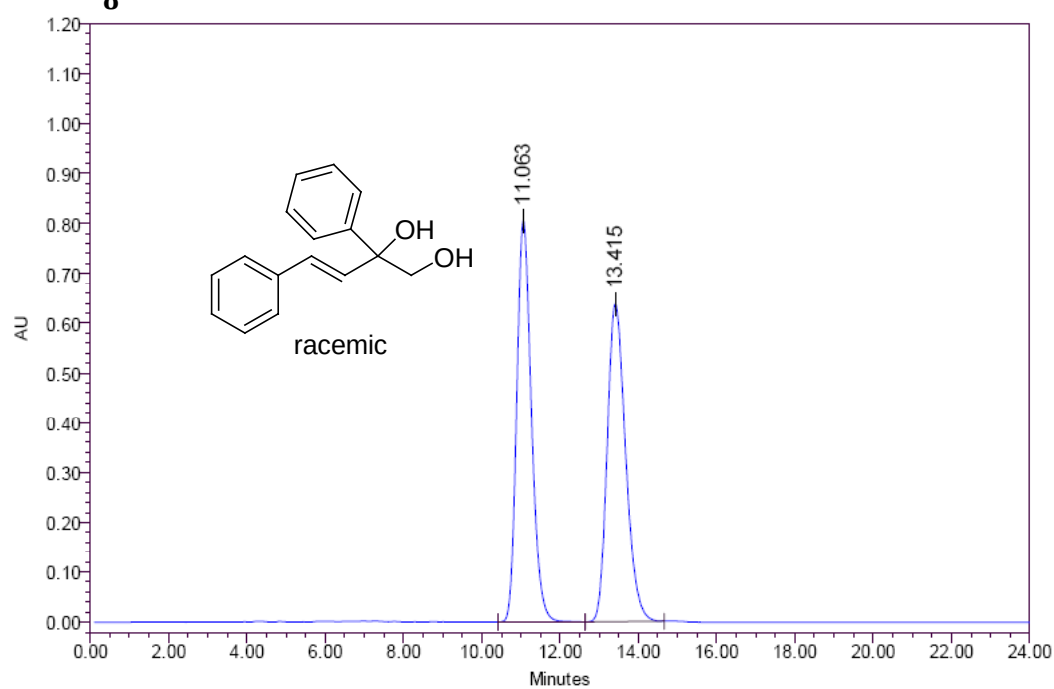
Peak #	RetTime [min]	Type	Width [min]	Area mAU *s	Height [mAU]	Area %
1	13.148	VB	0.6001	9.53997e4	2496.90869	95.2660
2	20.038	BB	1.0770	4740.66064	67.26950	4.7340

6j



	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	9.390	8626002	93.89	424186
2	13.880	561473	6.11	16065

8



	RT	Area	% Area	Height
1	11.161	13634518	96.49	512373
2	13.635	495749	3.51	15002