

Supporting Information

Entropy Effect in Temperature-Regulated Nickel-Catalyzed Regiodivergent Alkene Hydroalkylation

Deguang Liu,^a Jia-Wang Wang,^b Xi Lu,^{*,a} and Yao Fu^{*,a}

^a Department of Applied Chemistry, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei
230026, China

^b School of Plant Protection, Anhui Agricultural University, Hefei 230036, China

E-mails: luxi@mail.ustc.edu.cn (X. Lu); fuyao@ustc.edu.cn (Y. Fu)

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Computational Methods

All calculations were performed with Gaussian 16, Rev. C01.¹ Unless specified otherwise, geometry optimizations were computed with default convergence thresholds and without symmetry constraints using the PBE0² density functional, augmented with Grimme's D3 empirical dispersion term at 298K.³ The def2-SVP⁴ basis set (including related effective core potential) was employed on all atoms. Frequency analysis was performed at the same level of theory with the geometry optimization to confirm that the optimized structures are local minima or transition states, and to gain the thermal correction to Gibbs free energy. Single-point energy calculations were conducted based on the optimized structures at the PBE0-D3/def2-TZVP level. The solvent effects were taken into account in all calculations by employing the SMD⁵ (*N,N*-Dimethylacetamide) solvation model. The intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC)⁶ calculations were performed to ensure that the transition state connects the correct reactants and products. The geometries of the optimized structures are drawn with CYLview.⁷ The free energy data at different temperatures are based on the data obtained above at 298 K, and then used Shermo 2.3.4⁸, Multiwfn⁹ and GoodVibes¹⁰ (<https://github.com/patonlab/GoodVibes>) to obtained.

Thermodynamic data for Ni-H generation

Hydrosilane can convert Ni-X (X=Br, I, etc.) species into the corresponding Ni-H species. This conversion will become thermodynamically favorable with the aid of K_3PO_4 . The corresponding results are displayed in Figure S1.

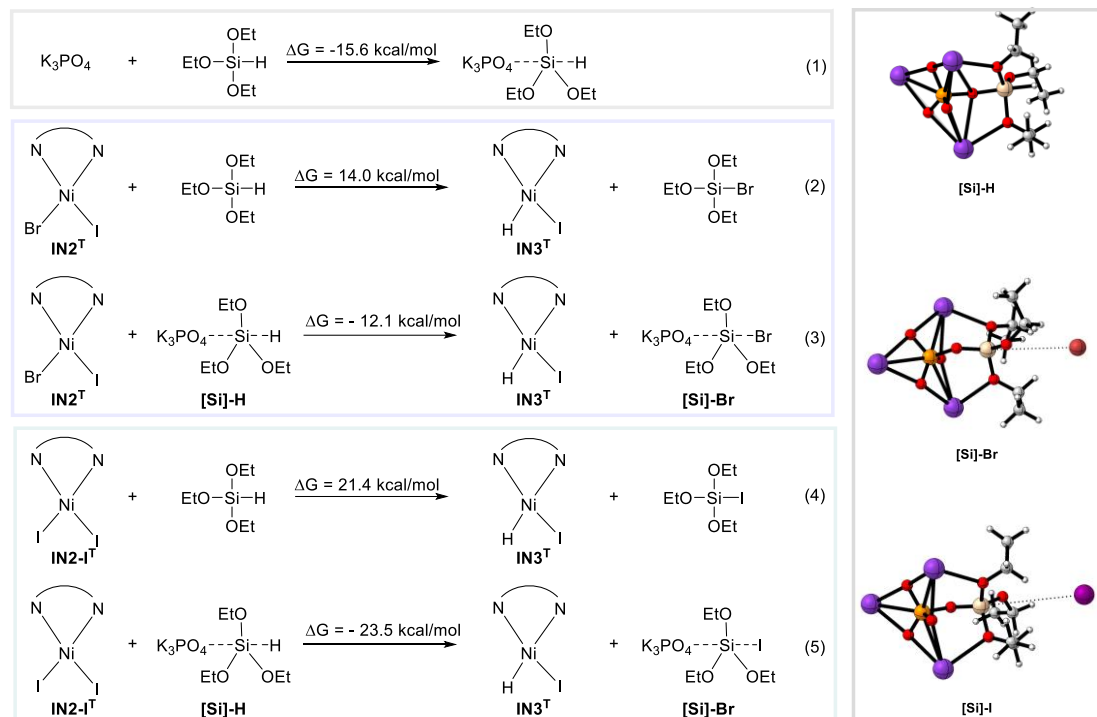


Figure S1. Gibbs free energy profiles of the formation to Ni-H species (298 K).

Gibbs free energy profiles at 273 K.

For clarity, the Gibbs free energy profile of Ni/bisoxazoline catalyzed hydroalkylation at 273 K was also indicated separately in Figure S2. Of these, the processes from **TS3** to **IN7** are also labeled, which are performed prior to the selectivity determination step.

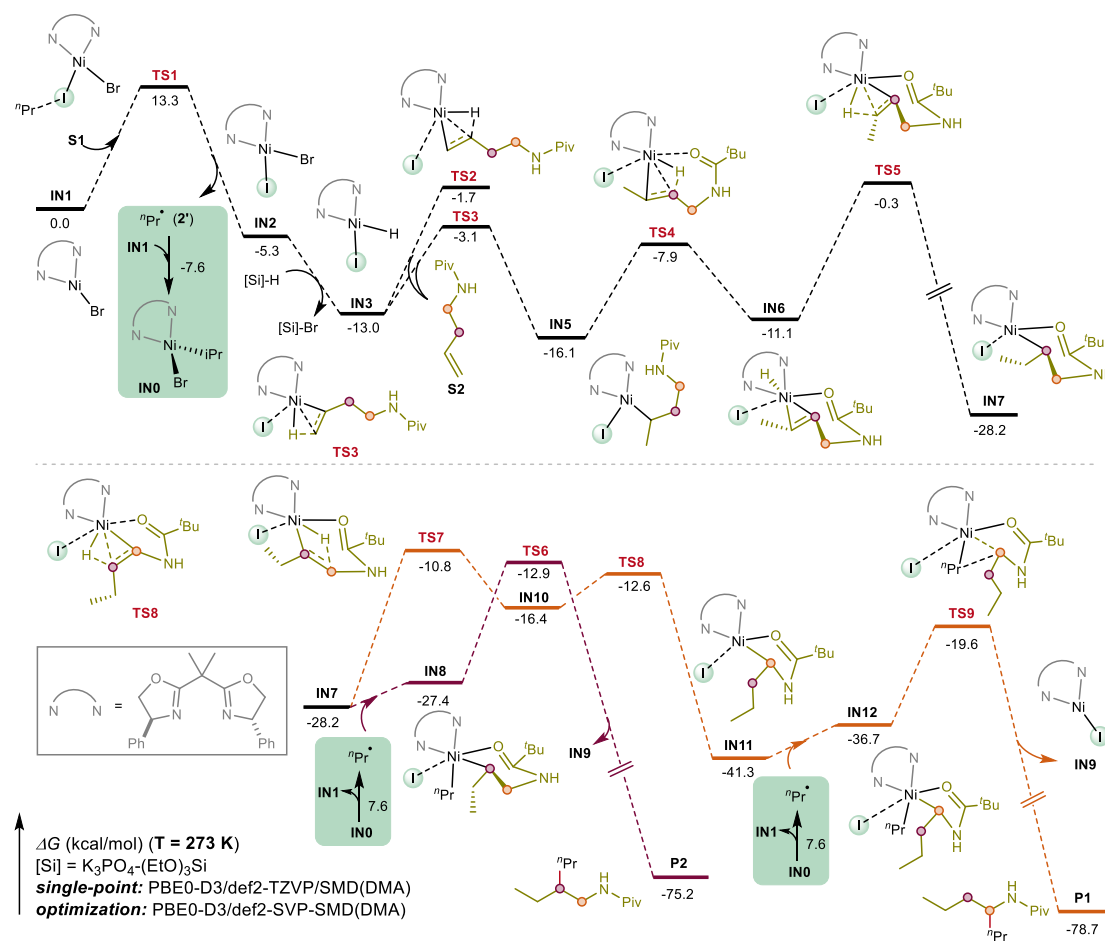


Figure S2. Gibbs free energy profiles of Ni/bisoxazoline catalyzed hydroalkylation at 273 K.

Gibbs free energy profiles at 373 K.

For clarity, the Gibbs free energy profile of Ni/bisoxazoline catalyzed hydroalkylation at 373 K was indicated separately in Figure S3, where the reaction does preferentially undergo an α -H activation step, ultimately yielding the α -alkylated species.

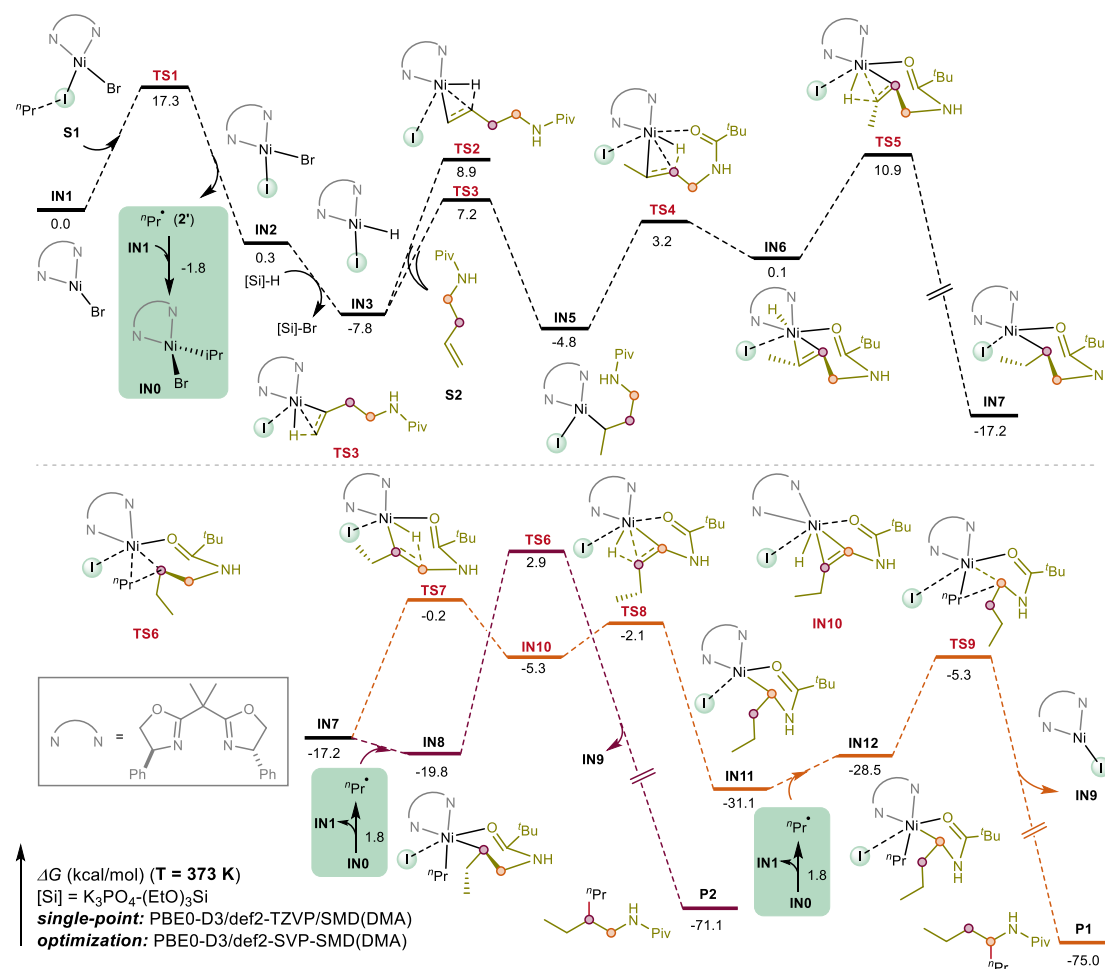


Figure S3. Gibbs free energy profiles of Ni/bisoxazoline catalyzed hydroalkylation at 373 K.

Gibbs free energy profiles from IN9 to IN3.

With caution, we tested the energy profile when starting from IN9 (unlike IN1, iodine replaces bromine as the starting species) to get the same hydrometallation precursor IN3, and the results are shown below. The results are similar to the Br case and suggest that the difference in halide does not change any reactivity.

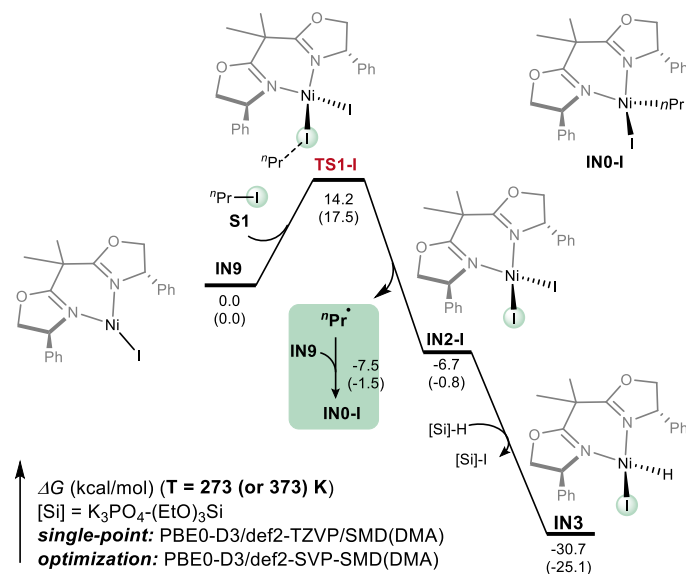


Figure S4. Gibbs free energy profiles from IN9 to the hydrometallation precursor IN3 at 273 K, the data for 373K are in brackets.

Coordination Exchange

In the manuscript, a radical transfer strategy between **IN0** and **IN7** or **IN11** has been proposed, but we had no direct experimental evidence that such a disproportionation step necessarily occurs ($\text{IN0}^{\text{III}} + \text{IN7}^{\text{III}} \rightarrow \text{IN8}^{\text{III}} + \text{IN1}^{\text{I}}$). Therefore, the other potential solutions such as the form of ligand exchange are also worth investigating. For the sake of rigor, we also compared the case where charge transfer occurs simultaneously with the ligand exchange, and the related results are shown in Figure S2. It is apparent that both neutral and ionic ligand exchange steps are thermodynamically unfavorable and the subsequent reductive elimination is relatively challenging. Therefore, we consider that this exchange between the alkyl radicals in **IN0** and the iodide ions in **IN7** or **IN11** were unreasonable due to the unfavorable thermodynamics and kinetics of the subsequent reductive elimination.

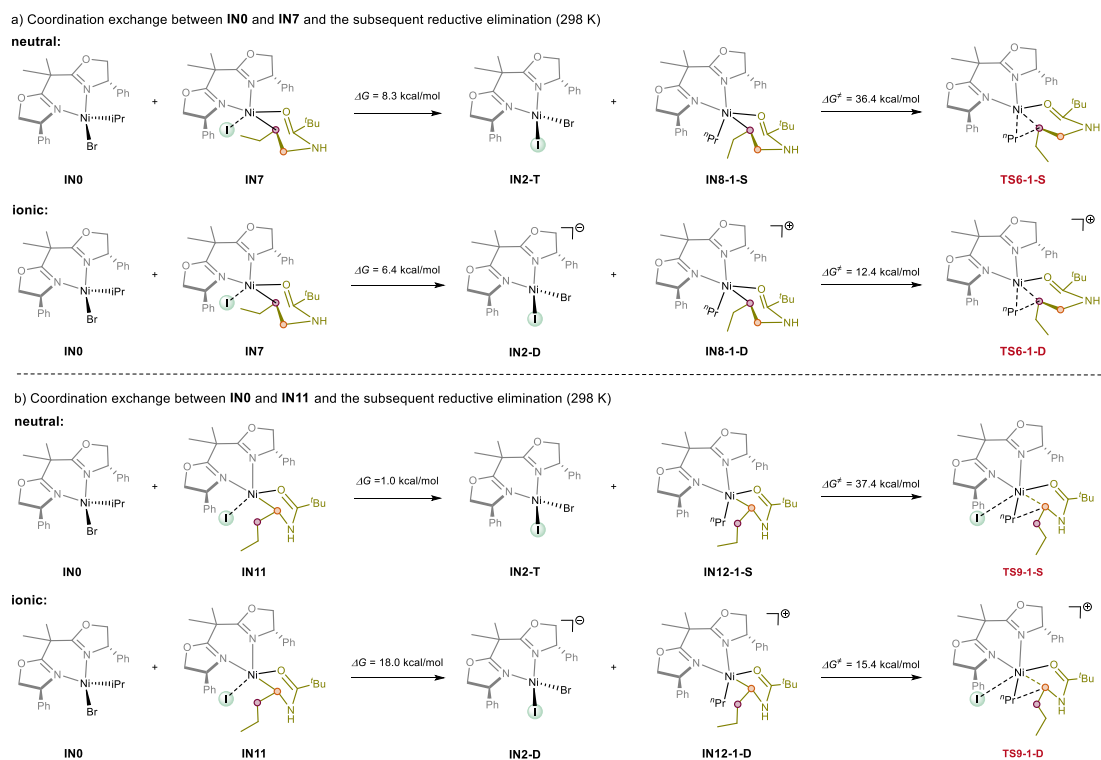


Figure S5. Coordination exchange between **IN0** and **IN7** or **IN11**.

Electronic effect analysis

In order to thoroughly explore the competitive mechanism of the reductive elimination and α -H activation steps, we performed a detailed calculative analysis of the involved transition states and intermediates (Figure 6). Firstly, for Ni-H migration (α -H activation & hydrometallation *II*), it was always exothermic over the simulated temperature range (from **IN7** to **IN11**). This indicated that the step is thermodynamically driven and consistent with the experimental conclusion that increased temperature favors α -H activation (Figure 6a). Then, with the intention of investigating the effects of electronic and steric properties besides entropic effects induced with temperature, the distortion/interaction energy analysis was carried out to characterize the differences between **TS6** and **TS7** (Figure 6b).¹¹ In this scenario, we disassembled the transition state structures into three parts (displayed as different colors). The electronic energy barrier (ΔE^\ddagger) was divided into the distortion energy (ΔE_{dist}) of the three fragments to reach their transition state geometries and the interaction energy (ΔE_{int}) between the fragments as shown in eq. 1.

$$\Delta E^\ddagger = \Delta E_{dist} + \Delta E_{int} \quad (eq. 1)$$

Since the *n*Pr fragment is not available in **TS7**, we assume that the fragment is freestanding. Namely, for **TS7**, the distortion and interaction energies brought out by this fragment are both zero. The correlation results indicated that **TS7** possesses a higher amide fragment distortion, which might mainly originate from the C-H bond cleavage in the α -H activation step. Therefore, we suggest that the advantage of reductive elimination at low temperatures (273 K) arises from the smaller amide fragment distortion, which is also consistent with the difficulty of α -H activation. Subsequently, we also performed the energy decomposition analysis (EDA) of the key transition states of the two reductive elimination steps (**TS6** and **TS9**), the identical steps bring comparability to the analysis.

Incidentally, both of them are almost uniformly affected by temperature, which hints at the plausibility of analyzing the electronic energies directly. Drawing on the torsion/interaction energy analysis, and with the *sobEDA* program,¹² the interaction energy (ΔE_{int}) is dissected into six parts: electrostatics (ΔE_{els}), exchange interaction (ΔE_{ex}), DFT correlation (ΔE_{DFTc}), Pauli repulsion (ΔE_{rep}), orbital interaction (ΔE_{orb}) and dispersion correction (ΔE_{dc}) according to the following eq. 2:

$$\Delta E_{int} = \Delta E_{els} + \Delta E_{ex} + \Delta E_{DFTc} + \Delta E_{rep} + \Delta E_{orb} + \Delta E_{dc} \quad (eq. 2)$$

Referring to the strategy of Liu et al.,¹³ these energies were combined according to the eq. 3:

$$\Delta E^{\ddagger} = \underbrace{\Delta E_{dist} + \Delta E_{rep}}_{\text{steric effects } (\Delta E_{steric})} + \underbrace{\Delta E_{els} + \Delta E_{orb}}_{\text{electronic effects } (\Delta E_{elec})} + \underbrace{\Delta E_{dc} + \Delta E_{DFTc}}_{\text{coulomb correlation } (\Delta E_c)} \quad (eq. 3)$$

The EDA results displayed in Figure 6c suggest that the lower energy of **TS9** is mainly due to more favorable steric effects (ΔE_{steric}). Among the steric effects, Pauli repulsion (ΔE_{rep}) is the dominant element, which hints at more favorable inter-fragment electronic steric repulsion energies for the reductive elimination of the transition state with the five-membered Ni-amide structure. In addition, we also examined the coordination environments of Ni center in the involved transition state via the *SambVca 2.1* program,¹⁴ and the corresponding results are displayed in Figure 6d. Generally, the buried volume of the transition state of the reductive elimination step is smaller than that of the Ni-H migration step. This is consistent with the results in Figure 6b, suggesting a steric advantage. Wherein, the smaller buried volume of **TS9** (vs **TS6**) is also consistent with the more favorable steric effects (ΔE_{steric}) in Figure 6c. This is mainly reflected in the SW quadrant, where steric resistance is mainly derived from amide fragments.

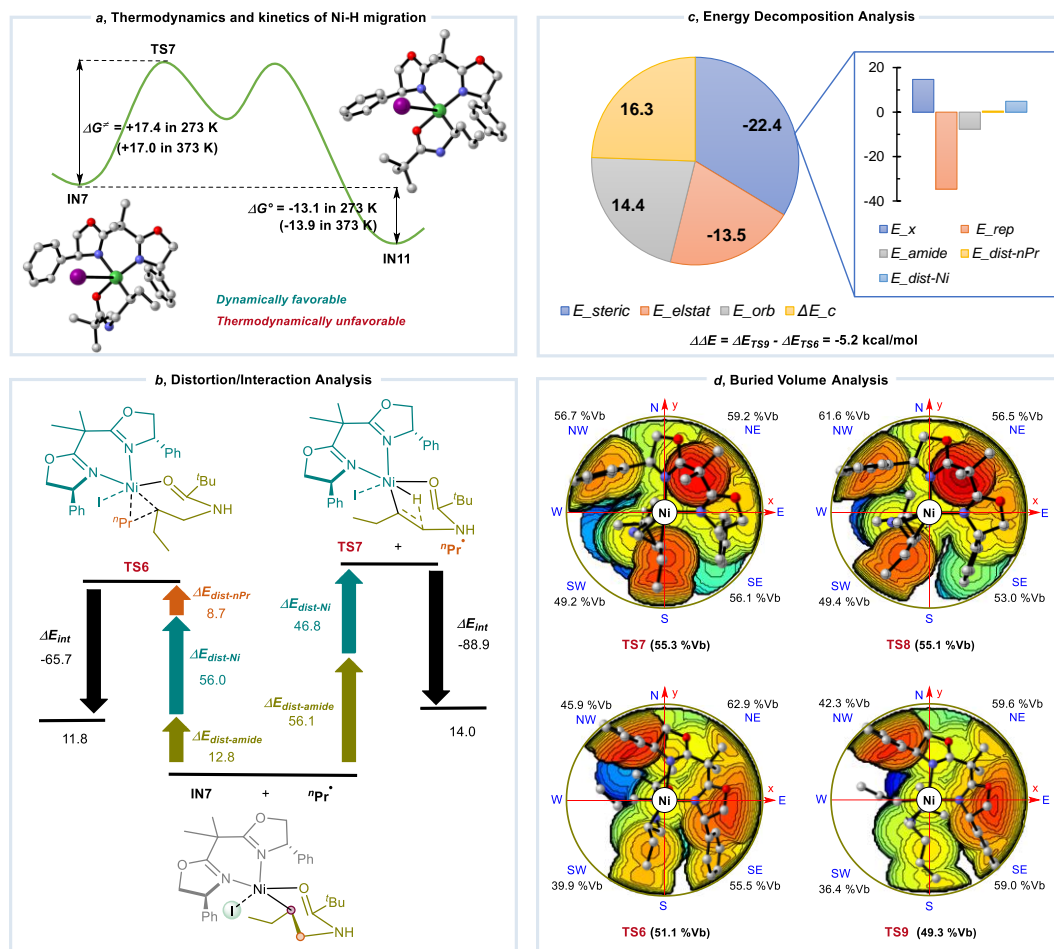


Figure S6. Decomposition analysis of the selectivity determining step.

The Distortion/Interaction Analysis

With reference to the scenario proposed by Houk et al.,^{11b} we performed the fragmentation of the relevant transition states, as shown in Figure S3. Therein, the energy is calculated at the level of PBE0-D3/def2-TZVP. As the *nPr* fragment is missing in **TS7**, we additionally introduced the free *nPr* radical as a counting that does not interact with any of the other two fragments. Of course, the fragment itself does not have a distortion energy.

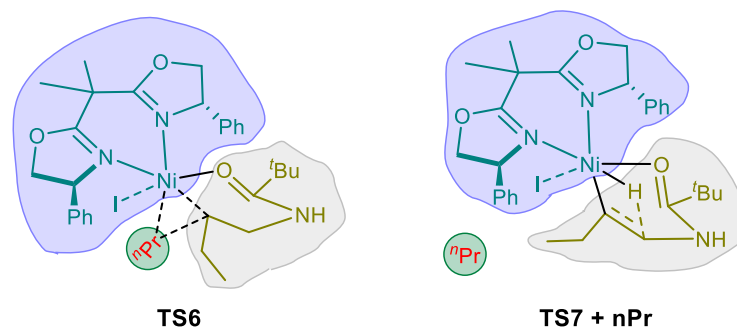


Figure S7. Fragmentation schemes in distortion/interaction energy analysis

The Energy Decomposition Analysis

The energy decomposition analysis (EDA) was carried out with the sobEDA¹² and Multiwfn⁹ program, with the computational level PBE0-D3/def2-TZVP. The relevant operation steps and some input information are shown below:

Operation steps:

- (1) Put *sobEDA.sh* in any directory and add executable permissions to it with the command `chmod +x [file path]`;
- (2) Modify the settings in *sobEDA.sh* appropriately according to the actual situation;
- (3) Save the structure of the whole system as *system.xyz* and put it in the current directory;
- (4) Create *fragment.txt* in the current directory, and define the atomic number, net charge, and spin multiplicity of each fragment in it;
- (5) Create *template.gjf* in the current directory as a template file for *sobEDA.sh* to generate Gaussian input files;
- (6) Enter the path to the sobEDA.sh script to start it.

After sobEDA.sh is started, it will automatically invoke Gaussian and Multiwfn to calculate, extract and process the data, and finally output the result on the screen.

The input information for the template.gjf:

```
#p PBE1PBE/def2TZVP EM=GD3 ExtraLinks=L608 nosymm
```

opted geometry

0 2

[geometry]

-13 5

The Buried Volume Analysis

The buried volume analysis was carried out with the Sambvca2.1¹⁴ program (<https://www.molnac.unisa.it/OMtools/sambvca2.1/index.html>). The specific operation is as follows:

After loading the structure, the Ni atom was centered, the Ni-P bond was the x-axis direction, and the direction perpendicular to the ligand plane was defined as the z-axis (actually the direction via the Ni-I bond). In the subsequent parameterization, the atomic radius was chosen as Bondi radii, Sphere radius was set to 5.0, and default values were used for all other parameters.

Thermodynamic Correction

Shermo⁸ and Gaussian¹ programs were used to calculate molecular thermodynamic data at different temperatures as follows:

1. Edit the *settings.ini* file in the Shermo directory with the text editor and change the value after E= to the electronic energy of the structure.
2. Set the value after T= to the target temperature, which represents the temperature at which the analysis will be performed.
3. Set the prt vib value in *settings.ini* to -1 to output the results to *vibcontri.txt* in the current directory.

The above process was carried out via a python script written to enable batch calculations and data manipulation.

We performed a comprehensive calculation of the thermal correction to ΔG per 10 K gradient over the range 283 K to 373 K. The relevant data are displayed in Table S1, and these data distributions help us to understand the trends in reaction selectivity accompanying changes in temperature.

Table S1. Thermal correction to Gibbs Free Energy at different temperatures

File Name	283 K	293 K	303 K	313 K	323 K
S1	0.0653	0.0640	0.0628	0.0616	0.0603
S2	0.2105	0.2087	0.2068	0.2049	0.2030
nPr	0.0628	0.0617	0.0606	0.0595	0.0584
P1	0.3126	0.3104	0.3082	0.3059	0.3035
P2	0.3151	0.3130	0.3108	0.3086	0.3063
IN0	0.4335	0.4304	0.4273	0.4241	0.4209
IN1	0.3390	0.3361	0.3331	0.3301	0.3271
IN2	0.3384	0.3354	0.3323	0.3291	0.3259
IN3	0.3494	0.3466	0.3437	0.3407	0.3377
IN4	0.5903	0.5864	0.5825	0.5785	0.5745
IN5	0.5932	0.5895	0.5857	0.5818	0.5779

IN6	0.5895	0.5857	0.5819	0.5780	0.5740
IN7	0.5921	0.5883	0.5844	0.5805	0.5765
IN8	0.6790	0.6748	0.6705	0.6662	0.6617
IN9	0.3393	0.3364	0.3335	0.3305	0.3275
IN10	0.5872	0.5835	0.5796	0.5757	0.5717
IN11	0.5881	0.5841	0.5801	0.5761	0.5719
IN12	0.6794	0.6753	0.6710	0.6667	0.6623
[Si]-Br	0.1741	0.1710	0.1678	0.1646	0.1614
[Si]-H	0.1858	0.1830	0.1801	0.1772	0.1742
TS1	0.4225	0.4190	0.4155	0.4119	0.4082
TS2	0.5849	0.5811	0.5772	0.5732	0.5691
TS3	0.5837	0.5799	0.5759	0.5719	0.5678
TS4	0.5872	0.5835	0.5796	0.5757	0.5717
TS5	0.5883	0.5845	0.5807	0.5768	0.5728
TS6	0.6794	0.6753	0.6711	0.6668	0.6624
TS7	0.5846	0.5808	0.5769	0.5729	0.5688
TS8	0.5844	0.5805	0.5766	0.5726	0.5685
TS9	0.6775	0.6733	0.6690	0.6646	0.6601

continued

File Name	333 K	343 K	353 K	363 K	373 K
S1	0.0590	0.0577	0.0564	0.0551	0.0538
S2	0.2010	0.1990	0.1970	0.1950	0.1929
nPr	0.0573	0.0561	0.0550	0.0538	0.0526
P1	0.3012	0.2988	0.2963	0.2939	0.2914
P2	0.3040	0.3017	0.2993	0.2969	0.2945
IN0	0.4176	0.4143	0.4108	0.4074	0.4038
IN1	0.3240	0.3209	0.3177	0.3144	0.3111
IN2	0.3226	0.3193	0.3159	0.3125	0.3090
IN3	0.3347	0.3316	0.3284	0.3252	0.3220
IN4	0.5703	0.5661	0.5618	0.5574	0.5530
IN5	0.5738	0.5697	0.5655	0.5612	0.5569

IN6	0.5700	0.5658	0.5616	0.5573	0.5529
IN7	0.5724	0.5682	0.5640	0.5596	0.5552
IN8	0.6572	0.6526	0.6479	0.6431	0.6382
IN9	0.3244	0.3212	0.3180	0.3148	0.3115
IN10	0.5676	0.5635	0.5592	0.5549	0.5505
IN11	0.5677	0.5634	0.5590	0.5545	0.5499
IN12	0.6577	0.6531	0.6484	0.6437	0.6388
[Si]-Br	0.1581	0.1547	0.1513	0.1479	0.1444
[Si]-H	0.1712	0.1681	0.1650	0.1619	0.1587
TS1	0.4045	0.4007	0.3968	0.3929	0.3889
TS2	0.5649	0.5607	0.5564	0.5520	0.5475
TS3	0.5636	0.5593	0.5550	0.5506	0.5461
TS4	0.5676	0.5634	0.5592	0.5548	0.5504
TS5	0.5688	0.5646	0.5604	0.5561	0.5518
TS6	0.6580	0.6534	0.6488	0.6440	0.6392
TS7	0.5646	0.5604	0.5561	0.5517	0.5472
TS8	0.5644	0.5601	0.5558	0.5514	0.5469
TS9	0.6555	0.6509	0.6461	0.6413	0.6364

Calculated Energies

$$G_{sol} = \Delta E_{sol} + G_{corr}$$

E_{sol} refers to the single point energy involved with solvent effects by PBE0-D3/def2-TZVP/SMD (*N,N*-Dimethylacetamide).

G_{corr} refers to the thermal correction to the Gibbs free energy calculated at PBE0-D3/def2-SVP/SMD (*N,N*-Dimethylacetamide) level of theory.

G_{sol} refers to the sum of the solvation single point energy and the thermal correction to the Gibbs free energy.

Table S2 presented the raw computational data (298 K) for the relevant structures involved in the manuscript, with the superscript S, D, T and Q denoting the singlet, doublet, triplet, and quartet states, respectively.

Table S2. The G_{corr} , E_{sol} and G_{sol} of Optimized Structures

Number	G_{corr} (Hartree)	E_{sol} (Hartree)	G_{sol} (kcal/mol)
IN0A^D	0.6605	-3182.0012	-1996321.19
IN0B^D	0.4230	-7847.0161	-4923810.96
IN0B^Q	0.4136	-7846.9987	-4923805.95
IN0^S	0.4289	-5273.1095	-3308656.69
IN0^T	0.4223	-5273.1148	-3308664.12
IN10^S	0.5812	-3361.9742	-2109305.71
IN11^S	0.5822	-3362.0153	-2109325.34
IN11^S	0.5822	-3362.0153	-2109330.90
IN12-1^D	0.6800	-3182.5002	-1996622.03
IN12-1^Q	0.6675	-3182.4631	-1996606.65
IN12-1^S	0.6735	-3182.6158	-1996698.70
IN12-1^T	0.6688	-3182.5942	-1996688.11
IN12^D	0.6732	-3480.4101	-2183567.66
IN12^D	0.6732	-3480.4101	-2183567.66
IN1A^S	0.5739	-3063.5887	-1922070.60
IN1B^S	0.3360	-7728.6182	-4849569.77
IN1B^T	0.3332	-7728.6296	-4849578.62

IN1^D	0.3346	-5154.7035	-3234414.93
IN1^Q	0.3324	-5154.6323	-3234371.66
IN2^D	0.3327	-5452.6095	-3421355.00
IN2^Q	0.3305	-5452.5541	-3421321.54
IN2^S	0.3402	-5452.4893	-3421274.83
IN2^T	0.3338	-5452.4945	-3421282.06
IN3^S	0.3451	-2879.1393	-1806470.38
IN3^T	0.3402	-2879.1410	-1806474.62
IN7^S	0.5864	-3361.9984	-2109317.63
IN8-1^D	0.6791	-3182.4966	-1996620.35
IN8-1^Q	0.6728	-3182.4635	-1996603.57
IN8-1^S	0.6767	-3182.6073	-1996691.35
IN8-1^T	0.6691	-3182.5874	-1996683.64
IN8^D	0.6727	-3480.4070	-2183566.03
IN9^D	0.3350	-2878.5706	-1806119.90
nPr	0.0612	-118.3632	-74235.60
[Si]-Br	0.1694	-5768.1245	-3619446.06
[Si]-H	0.1815	-3194.7577	-2004626.58
P1	0.3093	-601.8809	-377491.81
P2	0.3119	-601.8778	-377488.28
S1	0.0634	-416.1607	-261110.57
S2	0.2077	-482.8037	-302833.52
TS1^D	0.4165	-5570.8607	-3495506.07
TS3^S	0.5783	-3361.9502	-2109292.46
TS3^T	0.5767	-3361.9426	-2109288.71
TS6-1^D	0.6790	-3182.4766	-1996607.90
TS6-1^S	0.6738	-3182.5463	-1996654.91
TS6-1^T	0.6721	-3182.5211	-1996640.11
TS6^D	0.6743	-3480.3806	-2183548.39
TS7^S	0.5787	-3361.9567	-2109300.75
TS8^S	0.5774	-3361.9569	-2109303.15
TS9-1^D	0.6766	-3182.4721	-1996606.61

TS9-1^Q	0.6742	-3182.4139	-1996571.58
TS9-1^S	0.6698	-3182.5525	-1996661.27
TS9-1^T	0.6717	-3182.5252	-1996643.00
TS9^D	0.6694	-3480.3819	-2183552.30

Selectivity Data

Experimentally relevant data covered in the manuscript are displayed in the Table S3, with original data from previous reports.¹⁵

Table S3. The values of α -selectivity and β -selectivity in the experiment (kcal/mol)

T(K)	α-Selectivity	β-Selectivity	<i>r.r</i> value	$\Delta\Delta G_{\text{experimental}}$
283	7.28	75.72	0.10	-2.59
293	18.51	68.49	0.27	-1.47
303	35.32	53.68	0.66	-0.49
313	45.37	43.63	1.04	0.05
323	78.06	13.94	5.60	2.07
333	87.94	6.06	14.51	3.27
343	91.88	2.12	43.34	4.69
353	93.56	1.44	64.97	5.27
363	94.84	1.16	81.76	5.65

Table S4 lists the data for the relevant calculations involved in the manuscript, which include $\Delta\Delta G$ in the linear fit, and enthalpy and entropy at the corresponding temperatures. From the data, it is apparent that there is a small change in $\Delta\Delta H$ and a large change in $T\Delta\Delta S$, with this item dominating the trend of $\Delta\Delta G$.

Table S4. The values of α -selectivity and β -selectivity in the experiment

T(K)	$\Delta\Delta G$	$\Delta\Delta H$	$\Delta\Delta S$	$-T\Delta\Delta S$
273	-2.11	-16.08	-0.05	13.97
283	-1.60	-16.12	-0.05	14.52
293	-1.08	-16.15	-0.05	15.07

303	-0.57	-16.18	-0.05	15.61
313	-0.05	-16.22	-0.05	16.16
323	0.46	-16.25	-0.05	16.71
333	0.98	-16.28	-0.05	17.26
343	1.50	-16.31	-0.05	17.81
353	2.02	-16.34	-0.05	18.36
363	2.54	-16.37	-0.05	18.91
373	3.06	-16.40	-0.05	19.46

Reference

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