Bo-Xiao Tang,* Xiao-Niu Fang, Ren-Yun Kuang, Rong-Hua Hu, Ji-Wei Wang, Ping Li, Xiao-hang Li

School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, The Key Laboratory of Coordination Chemistry of Jiangxi Province, and Institute of Applied Chemistry, Jinggangshan University, Ji'an, 343009, P. R. of China Fax +86(796)8110 676; E-mail: 520tangboxiao@163.com

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Abstract: A novel method was developed for Heck reaction of olefins and arylboronic acids using a ligand-free $PdCl_2$ catalyst to afford the coupling products with excellent regio- and stereoselectivity. It is noteworthy that the $PdCl_2/CuSO_4/K_2CO_3/TBAB/H_2O$ system can be recovered and used for three cycles directly.

Key words: ligand-free, reusability, PdCl₂, Heck reaction, arylboronic acids

Transition-metal-catalyzed Heck reaction is an extremely powerful tool for C-C bond formation and has been widely utilized in the synthesis of valuable intermediates, biologically active agents, and functional organic materials.¹ Among them, Heck reaction of olefins and boron reagents has received considerable attention using various oxidant systems.² In recent years, Rh- and Pd-catalyzed Heck coupling reactions of arylboronic acids have been particularly attractive under organic solvent/H₂O conditions. Lautens,³ Zou,⁴ Michelet,⁵ and their co-workers reported Rh-catalyzed Heck coupling of arylboronic acids with olefins in the presence of phosphine ligands. Similarly, SiO₂-Rh(0)- and LDH-Rh(0)-catalyzed Heck-type reactions of arylboronic acids were also reported by Trivedi et al. using a toluene– $H_2O(5:1)$ system (Scheme 1, equation 1).⁶ In 2011, Minnaard and co-workers reported that Pd(OAc)₂/BIAN ligand is an excellent catalyst for the base-free oxidative Heck reaction of arylboronic acids under MeOH–H₂O (9:1) conditions (Scheme 1, equation 2).⁷

From an economical as well as environmental point of view, it is highly desirable to design a ligand-free and green heterogeneous system for this elegant cross-coupling reaction. We have been engaged for a long time in a program devoted to reusable ionic liquid system.⁸ Therefore, we aimed to develop an efficient green solvent system for Pd-catalyzed Heck reaction of arylboronic acids using a reusable procedure that is simple and easy to operate. Herein, we report a novel Heck-type cross-coupling reaction of olefins and arylboronic acids using a ligand-free palladium catalyst under reusable TBAB (*n*-Bu₄NBr)/H₂O conditions (Scheme 1, equation 3).

We began our investigation by studying the Heck-type coupling reaction of phenylboronic acid (1a) with *tert*-bu-

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Scheme 1 Rh- and Pd-catalyzed Heck coupling reactions of arylboronic acids under organic solvent/H₂O conditions

tyl acrylate (2a) in the presence of 5 mol% PdCl₂ as a catalyst under various reaction conditions (Table 1). As shown in Table 1, a range of aqueous media including TBAF (tetrabutylammonium fluoride)/H₂O, EMIB (1-ethyl-3-methyl imidazolium bromide)/H₂O, EMPB (1-ethyl-1-methyl piperidine bromide)/H₂O, and EPB (N-ethylpyridinium bromide)/H₂O were screened; however, the yields of the target product **3a** were all less than 30% (Table 1, entries 1–4). To our delight, the Heck-type reaction exhibited high catalytic activity in the presence of TBAB/H₂O (entry 5, the product 3a is an *E*-alkene). Subsequently, a series of oxidants were evaluated, and CuSO₄ was found to provide higher yield than Cu(OAc)₂, TBHP, AgOAc, CuCl₂ (entries 5-9). Using 1.5 and 2.5 equivalents of CuSO₄, 73% and 29% yield of 3a could be obtained, respectively (entries 10, 11). Product 3a was

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Table 1 Screening Conditions for Heck-Type Reaction between tert-Butyl Acrylate and Phenylboronic Acida

^a Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.6 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), $PdCl_2$ (5 mol%), oxidant (2 equiv), base (2 equiv), ionic liquid (0.5 g)/H₂O (0.5 g) = 1:1, 10 h, 85 °C, air.

^b Isolated yield.

^c TBHP = *tert*-butyl hydroperoxide.

^d CuSO₄ (1.5 equiv).

^e CuSO₄ (2.5 equiv).

^f CuSO₄ (1.5 equiv), O_2 .

 g TBAB/H₂O = 7:3.

^h TBAB/ $H_2O = 3:7$.

obtained in 69% yield using 1.5 equivalents of $CuSO_4/O_2$ (entry 12). The ratio of TBAB and H₂O were then investigated; the target product **3a** could be isolated in 73% and 76% yield with a TBAB/H₂O ratio of 7:3 and 3:7, respectively (entries 13, 14). Finally, comparison of the different bases indicated that K₂CO₃ was superior to KOAc, NaOH,

and Cs_2CO_3 (entries 9, 15–17). Only a trace amount of the target product **3a** was observed without base (entry 18).

The palladium-catalyzed coupling reaction of arylboronic acids 1 with olefins 2 were conducted under optimized conditions, and the results are summarized in Table 2. Various olefins with phenylboronic acid (1a) were trans-

formed into the corresponding products **3** ranging from 36-81% yields (Table 2, entries 1–5). Electronic effect of the substrates **2** seemed to have a distinction in the yields. For example, the yields of *n*-hexyl acrylate (**2c**) (81%) and acrylamide (**2d**) (66%) implied that there was discrimination between different electron-withdrawing functional groups (entries 2, 3). Allyl phenyl ether (**2e**) and styrene (**2f**) also affected the coupling reaction (entries 4, 5). All the alkenes afforded the target products exclusively with *E*-configuration.

 Table 2
 Ligand-Free PdCl₂-Catalyzed Heck-Type Reaction of Arylboronic Acids^a



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Table 2Ligand-Free $PdCl_2$ -Catalyzed Heck-Type Reaction of Aryl-
boronic Acids^a (continued)



^a Reaction conditions: **1** (0.6 mmol), **2** (0.4 mmol), PdCl₂ (5 mol%), CuSO₄ (0.8 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.8 mmol), TBAB (0.5 g)/H₂O (0.5 g) = 1:1, air, 85 °C.

^b Isolated yield.

^c Amount of **1b** used: 0.2 mmol.

We were also pleased to observe that the Heck-type reaction of tert-butyl acrylate (2a) with various boron reagents proceeded well to give the target products in moderate to excellent yields under the standard conditions (Table 2, entries 6-15). Reaction of 2,4,6-triphenyl-1,3,5,2,4,6-trioxatriborinane (1b; 0.2 mmol) with 2a provided the product in 85% yield (entry 6). A variety of arylboronic acids 1f,g, having electron-donating groups on the aromatic ring were examined in the presence of TBAB/H2O. The results demonstrated that several functional groups, such as dimethylamino and propoxy groups, were tolerated well under the standard conditions (entries 10, 11). Some ortho-substituted phenylboronic acids were also examined, and less amount of product was obtained in view of steric hindrance effect (entries 7, 8). Reactions with electron-deficient phenylboronic acids 1h, 1i, and 1j also proceed smoothly (entries 12-14). When naphthalen-2vlboronic acid (1k) was used, the desired product was obtained in 62% yield (entry 15). All the coupling products **3** were in the *E*-isomeric form.

Next the reusability of $PdCl_2/CuSO_4/K_2CO_3/TBAB/H_2O$ system in the Heck-type reaction of **1a** and **2a** was studied (Table 3). After initial coupling experimentation, the reaction mixture was extracted with hexane–ethyl acetate, and the $PdCl_2/CuSO_4/K_2CO_3/TBAB/H_2O$ system was then evaporated under vacuum and cooled. The recovered Heck-type reaction system was employed in the next run by charging with **1a** and **2a**. The results of three runs showed that the yield of the target product **3a** decreased significantly after each cycle (run 1, 89%; run 2, 72%; run 3, 61%).

Table 3Reusability of $PdCl_2/CuSO_4/K_2CO_3/TBAB/H_2O$ System inthe Heck-Type Reaction of Phenylboronic Acid (1a) with *tert*-ButylAcrylate (2a)



		1 ^b	10	89	
1a	2a	2°	13	72	
		3°	16	61	

^a Isolated yield.

^b Reaction conditions: **1a** (0.6 mmol), **2a** (0.4 mmol), PdCl₂ (5 mol%), CuSO₄ (0.8 mmol), K₂CO₃ (0.8 mmol), TBAB (0.5 g)/H₂O (0.5 g) = 1:1, air, 85 °C.

^c Amounts present: 1a (0.6 mmol), 2a (0.4 mmol).

In summary, we have developed a novel ligand-free $PdCl_2$ -catalyzed method for Heck-type coupling of arylboronic acids under TBAB/H₂O conditions. The scope of the catalytic system is well documented in the Heck-type reaction of various arylboronic acids and alkenes to afford the coupling products with excellent regio- and stereoselectivity. It is noteworthy that the $PdCl_2/CuSO_4/K_2CO_3/TBAB/H_2O$ system can be recovered and used for three cycles directly. Studies to broaden the scope of the catalytic system are currently underway.

Starting materials and other reagents were obtained from commercial suppliers and used without further purification. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 400 and 100 MHz on a Bruker ARX400 spectrometer. Melting points were recorded in capillary tubes heated slowly in paraffin oil and are uncorrected. IR and LRMS data were recorded on a Thermo Nicolet AVATAR 370 and a Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010, respectively.

Heck-Type Reaction; *tert*-Butyl (*E*)-3-Phenylpropenoate (3a);^{9a} Typical Procedure

To a Schlenk tube were added phenylboronic acid (**1a**; 73.2 mg, 0.6 mmol), *tert*-butyl acrylate (**2a**; 51.2 mg, 0.4 mmol), $PdCl_2$ (3.6 mg, 5 mol%), $CuSO_4$ (127.1 mg, 0.8 mmol), K_2CO_3 (110.4 mg, 0.8 mmol), TBAB (0.5 g), and H_2O (0.5 g). Then, the tube was charged with air, and the reaction mixture was stirred at 85 °C (oil bath temp) for 10 h until complete consumption of the starting material

as monitored by TLC (hexane–EtOAc, 30:1). After completion of the reaction, the mixture was cooled to r.t., diluted with Et₂O (15 mL), washed with sat. NaCl solution (2×5 mL), dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ (2 g), and transferred to a round-bottom flask. The organic extract was concentrated under vacuum, and the resulting residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography (hexane–EtOAc) to afford the desired product **3a**; yield: 73.2 mg (90%); colorless oil.

IR (film): 1708, 1638, 1329, 1151 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.61 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.52–7.48 (m, 2 H), 7.38–7.34 (m, 3 H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.54 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.3, 143.5, 134.5, 129.9, 128.7, 127.9, 120.0, 80.4, 28.1.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 204 (M⁺, 15), 147 (M⁺ - t-Bu, 100).

Ethyl (*E*)-Cinnamate (3b)^{9a}

Yield: 49.3 mg (70%); colorless oil.

IR (film): 1713, 1638, 1311, 1177 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.71 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.54– 7.51 (m, 2 H), 7.39–7.36 (m, 3 H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.29 (q, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 1.36 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.8, 144.5, 134.3, 130.2, 128.8, 128.0, 118.1, 60.5, 14.3.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 176 (M⁺, 33), 131 (M⁺ – OC₂H₅, 100).

Hexyl (*E*)-Cinnamate (3c)

Yield: 75.1 mg (81%); colorless oil.

IR (film): 1714, 1638, 1310, 1170 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.71 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.54–7.52 (m, 2 H), 7.39–7.37 (m, 3 H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 4.22 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 1.74–1.67 (m, 2 H), 1.42–1.31 (m, 6 H), 0.92–0.89 (m, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 167.1, 144.5, 134.3, 130.2, 128.8, 128.0, 118.1, 64.7, 31.4, 28.6, 25.6, 22.5, 14.0.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 232 (M⁺, 3), 131 (M⁺ – OC₆H₁₃, 25), 117 (100).

(E)-Cinnamamide (3d)^{2b}

Yield: 38.6 mg (66%); pale yellow solid; mp 132–133 °C.

IR (KBr): 3375, 3173, 1662, 1608, 1399 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.68 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.54– 7.51 (m, 2 H), 7.39–7.38 (m, 3 H), 6.50 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 5.85 (br, 2 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 167.8, 142.5, 134.4, 130.0, 128.8, 127.9, 119.3.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 147 (M⁺, 46), 146 (M⁺ – H, 100), 131 (M⁺ – NH₂, 48).

(E)-1-(3-Phenoxyprop-1-enyl)benzene (3e)^{9b}

Yield: 30.2 mg (36%); white solid; mp 61–62 °C.

IR (KBr): 3436, 1593, 1495, 1238 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.34– 7.21 (m, 5 H), 6.97 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 3 H), 6.74 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.45–6.40 (m, 1 H), 4.69 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 158.5, 136.4, 132.9, 129.5, 128.5, 127.8, 126.5, 124.4, 120.8, 114.7, 68.4.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 210 (M⁺, 5), 117 (M⁺ – OC₆H₅, 100).

(*E*)-1,2-Diphenylethene (3f)^{9a}

Yield: 44.5 mg (62%); white solid; mp 122–123 °C.

IR (KBr): 3445, 1384, 765, 693 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.51 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 4 H), 7.37 (t, J = 7.6 Hz, 4 H), 7.27 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.10 (s, 2 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 137.2, 128.6, 128.5, 127.6, 126.5. LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 180 (M⁺, 100).

tert-Butyl (E)-3-(3,4-Dimethylphenyl)acrylate (3g)

Yield: 73.3 mg (79%); colorless oil.

IR (film): 1705, 1635, 1322, 1151 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.56 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.28 (s, 1 H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.13 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.35 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.26 (s, 6 H), 1.53 (m, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.6, 143.7, 139.0, 137.0, 132.2, 130.0, 129.1, 125.5, 118.7, 80.2, 28.1, 19.8, 19.7.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 232 (M⁺, 19), 176 (100).

tert-Butyl (E)-3-(2,3-Dimethylphenyl)acrylate (3h)

Yield: 64.1 mg (69%); colorless oil.

IR (film): 1710, 1632, 1317, 1152 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.92 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.09 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.03 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 6.19 (d, *J* = 15.6 Hz, 1 H), 2.23 (s, 3 H), 2.22 (s, 3 H), 1.46 (m, 9 H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.5, 142.2, 137.2, 135.9, 133.8, 131.2, 125.6, 124.3, 121.4, 80.4, 28.1, 20.6, 15.3.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): *m/z* (%) = 232 (M⁺, 23), 176 (100).

tert-Butyl (E)-3-(3-Fluoro-4-methylphenyl)acrylate (3i)

Yield: 71.8 mg (76%); colorless oil.

IR (film): 1708, 1639, 1324, 1150 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.53 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.35–7.31 (m, 2 H), 7.02 (t, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 6.30 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.28 (s, 3 H), 1.53 (m, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.3, 163.5 (d, J = 247.9 Hz), 142.5, 131.1 (d, J = 5.6 Hz), 130.5 (d, J = 3.6 Hz), 127.2 (d, J = 8.6 Hz), 125.5 (d, J = 17.9 Hz), 119.5 (d, J = 2.2 Hz), 115.6 (d, J = 22.9 Hz), 80.4, 28.1, 14.5 (d, J = 3.5 Hz).

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 236 (M⁺, 14), 180 (M⁺ - t-Bu, 100).

tert-Butyl (E)-3-[4-(Dimethylamino)phenyl]acrylate(3j)^{2b}

Yield: 78.1 mg (79%); pale yellow solid; mp 80-82 °C.

IR (KBr): 1697, 1600, 1530, 1141 cm⁻¹

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.55 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.65 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.18 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 2.99 (s, 6 H), 1.53 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 167.2, 151.4, 144.0, 129.5, 122.2, 114.3, 111.6, 79.7, 40.1, 28.2.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 247 (M⁺, 35), 191 (M⁺ - t-Bu, 100).

tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(4-Propoxyphenyl)acrylate (3k)

Yield: 87.8 mg (84%); pale yellow solid; mp 62-64 °C.

IR (KBr): 1701, 1604, 1250, 1151 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.56 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.89 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.26 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 3.96–3.91 (m, 2 H), 1.85–1.77 (m, 2 H), 1.53 (s, 9 H), 1.07–1.02 (s, 3 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.7, 160.6, 143.3, 129.5, 127.6, 117.3, 114.6, 80.1, 69.5, 28.2, 22.4, 10.5.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 262 (M⁺, 24), 164 (100).

tert-Butyl (E)-3-(4-Formylphenyl)acrylate (3l)

Yield: 60.3 mg (65%); pale yellow solid; mp 100–102 °C. IP (KPr): 2717, 1703, 1628, 1151 cm^{-1}

IR (KBr): 2717, 1703, 1638, 1151 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 10.03 (s, 1 H), 7.90 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.67 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.63 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.51 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.55 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 191.5, 165.7, 141.8, 140.4, 136.9, 130.1, 128.3, 123.4, 81.0, 28.1.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 232 (M⁺, 8), 176 (100).

tert-Butyl (E)-3-(4-Carbamoylphenyl)acrylate (3m)

Yield: 69.2 mg (70%); pale yellow solid; mp 196–198 °C.

IR (KBr): 1679, 1621, 1387, 1157 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.61–7.54 (m, 3 H), 6.46 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 6.23 (br, 2 H), 1.54 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 168.7, 166.8, 142.0, 138.1, 128.6, 128.1, 127.9, 122.3, 80.9, 28.1.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 247 (M⁺, 8), 175 (100).

tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(3-Chlorophenyl)acrylate (3n) Yield: 55.3 mg (58%); colorless oil.

IR (film): 1709, 1639, 1319, 1152 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.53 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.83 (s, 1 H), 7.38–7.27 (m, 3 H), 6.39 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.53 (m, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 165.9, 141.9, 136.5, 134.8, 130.1, 129.9, 127.7, 126.2, 121.6, 80.8, 28.2.

LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 238 (M⁺, 9), 240 (M⁺ + 2, 3), 182 (M⁺ - *t*-Bu, 100).

tert-Butyl (*E*)-3-(Naphthalen-2-yl)acrylate (30)

Yield: 63.2 mg (62%); pale yellow solid; mp 61–63 °C.

IR (KBr): 1706, 1636, 1366, 1145 cm⁻¹.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 7.80 (d, *J* = 19.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.74–7.68 (m, 3 H), 7.64 (s, 1 H), 7.57–7.54 (m, 1 H), 7.42–7.15 (m, 2 H), 6.42 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 1.47 (s, 9 H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ = 166.5, 143.7, 134.1, 133.3, 132.1, 129.7, 128.6, 128.5, 127.8, 127.1, 126.7, 123.6, 120.3, 80.6, 28.3. LRMS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 254 (M⁺, 23), 182 (100).

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