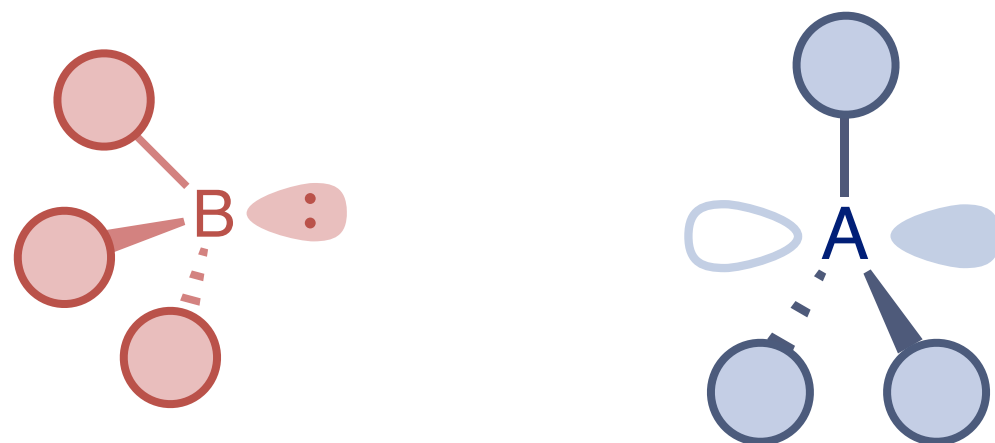


# Frustrated Lewis Acid-Base Pair



**Lit Talk, MacMillan lab**

Mar 12th, 2024

Alina Chen

# Acid-Base Chemistry in Daily Life

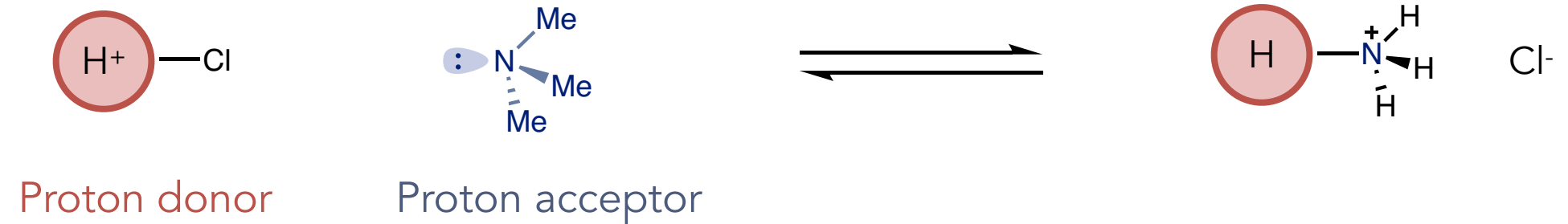


# The Evolution of Acid & Base Definitions

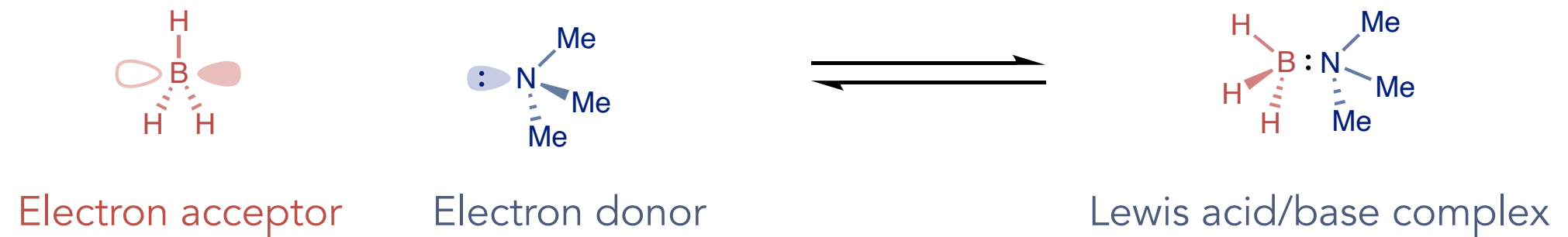
Arrhenius Acid/Base



Brønsted Acid/Base



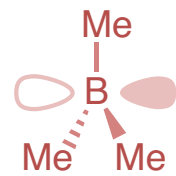
Lewis Acid/Base



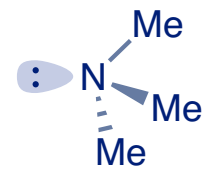


# Frustrated Lewis Acid-Base Pairs

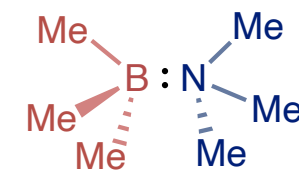
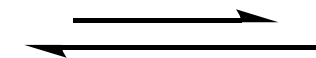
Lewis Acid/Base



Electron acceptor



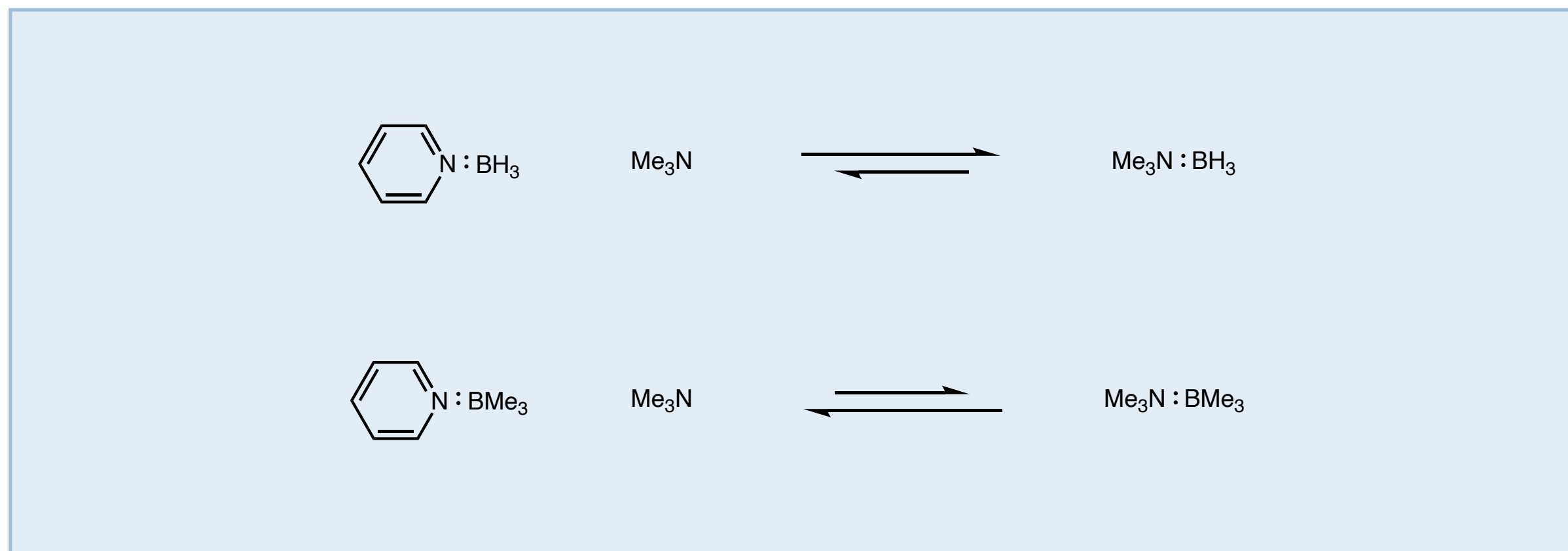
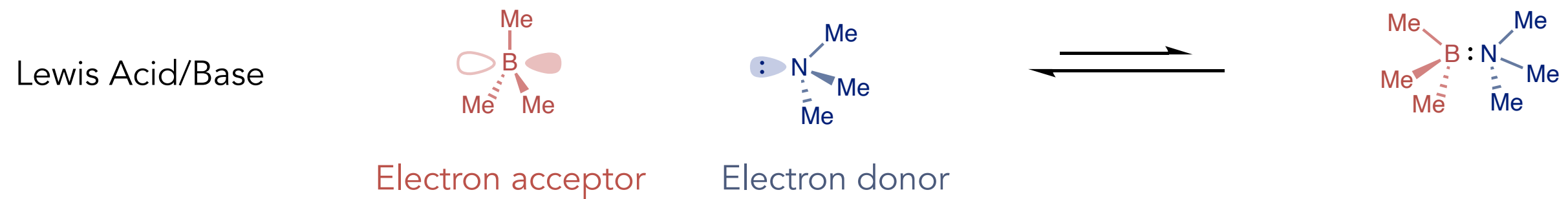
Electron donor



Lewis Acid/Base pairs that could not form stable dative bonds due to steric repulsion or orbital energy mismatch are called FLPs



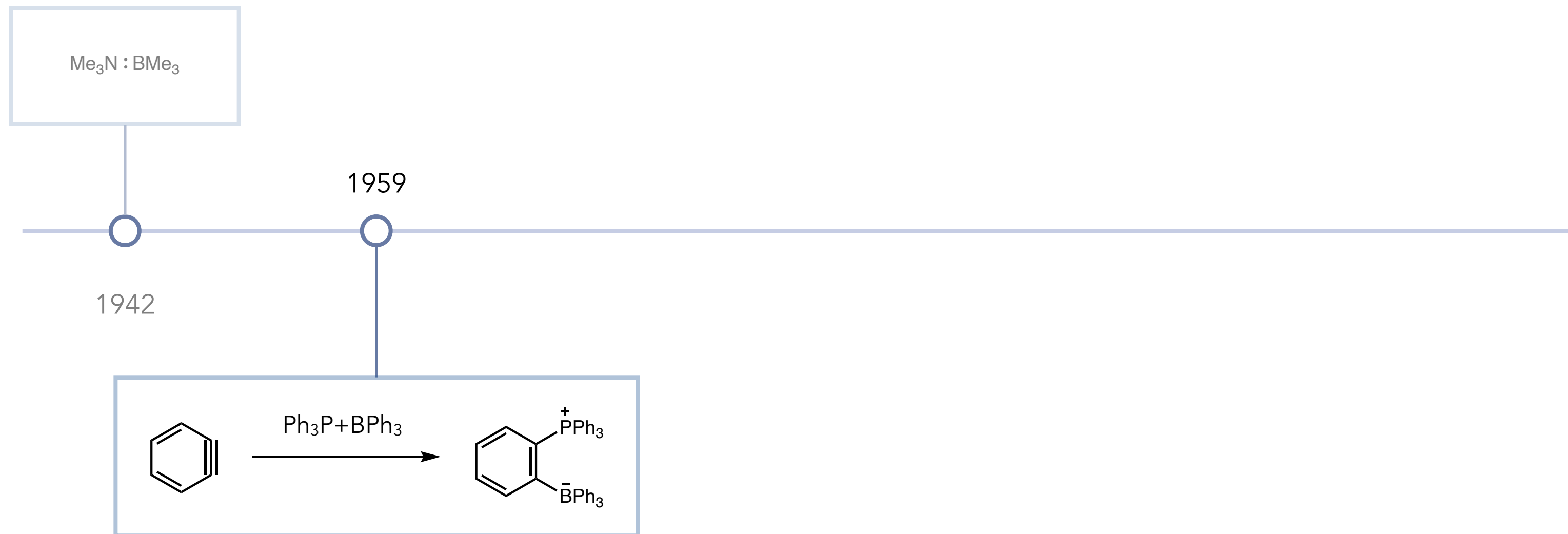
# Frustrated Lewis Acid-Base Pairs



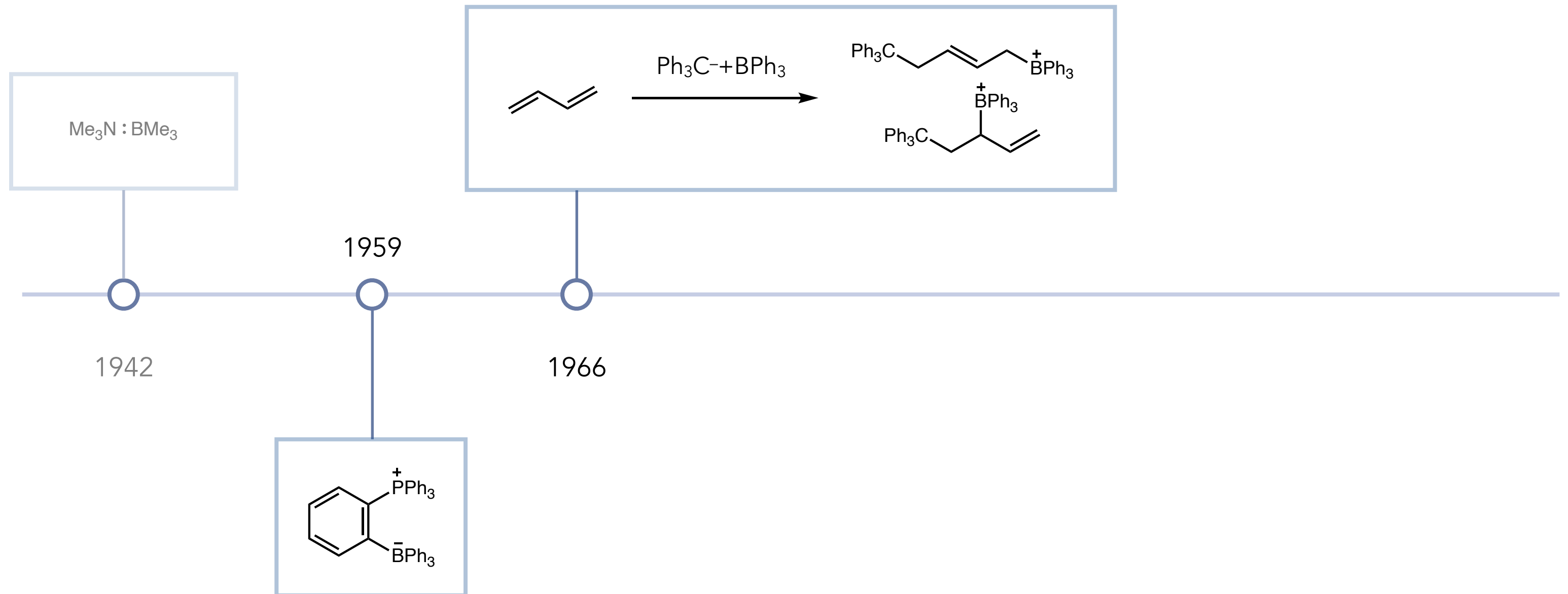
# The Discovery & Development of Frustrated Lewis Pairs



# The Discovery & Development of Frustrated Lewis Pairs

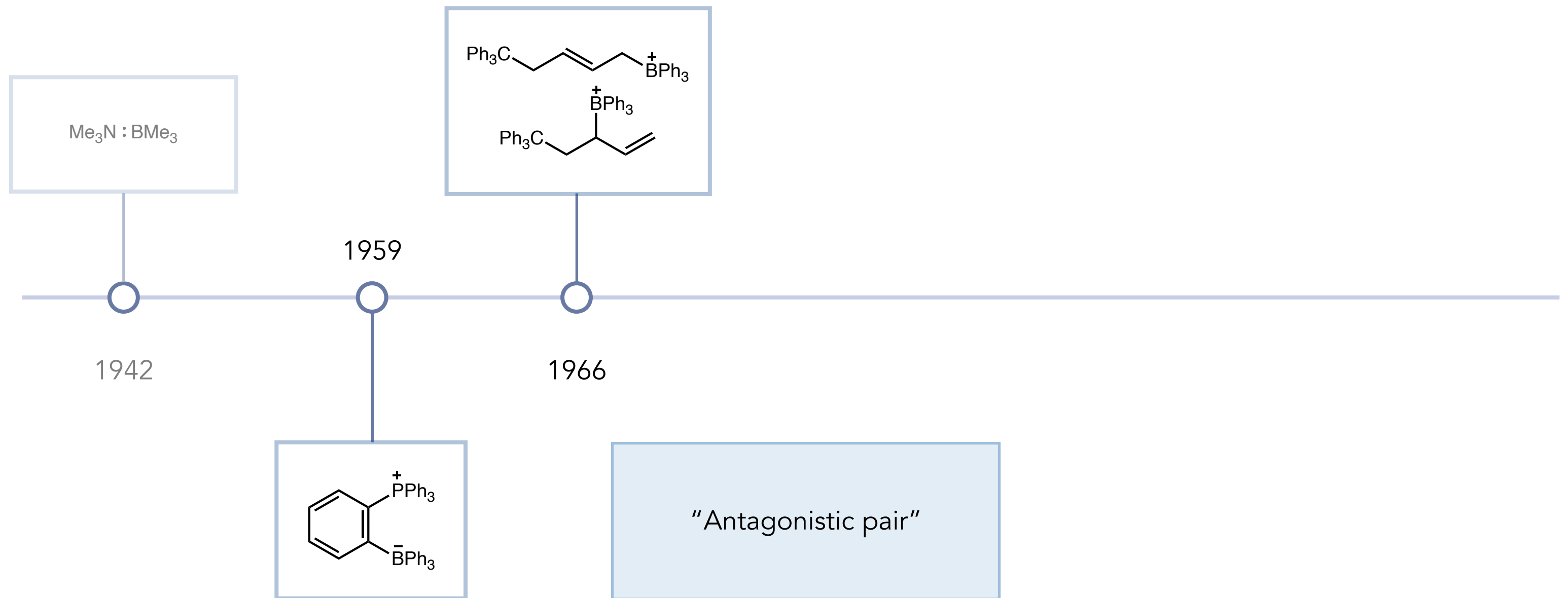


# The Discovery & Development of Frustrated Lewis Pairs

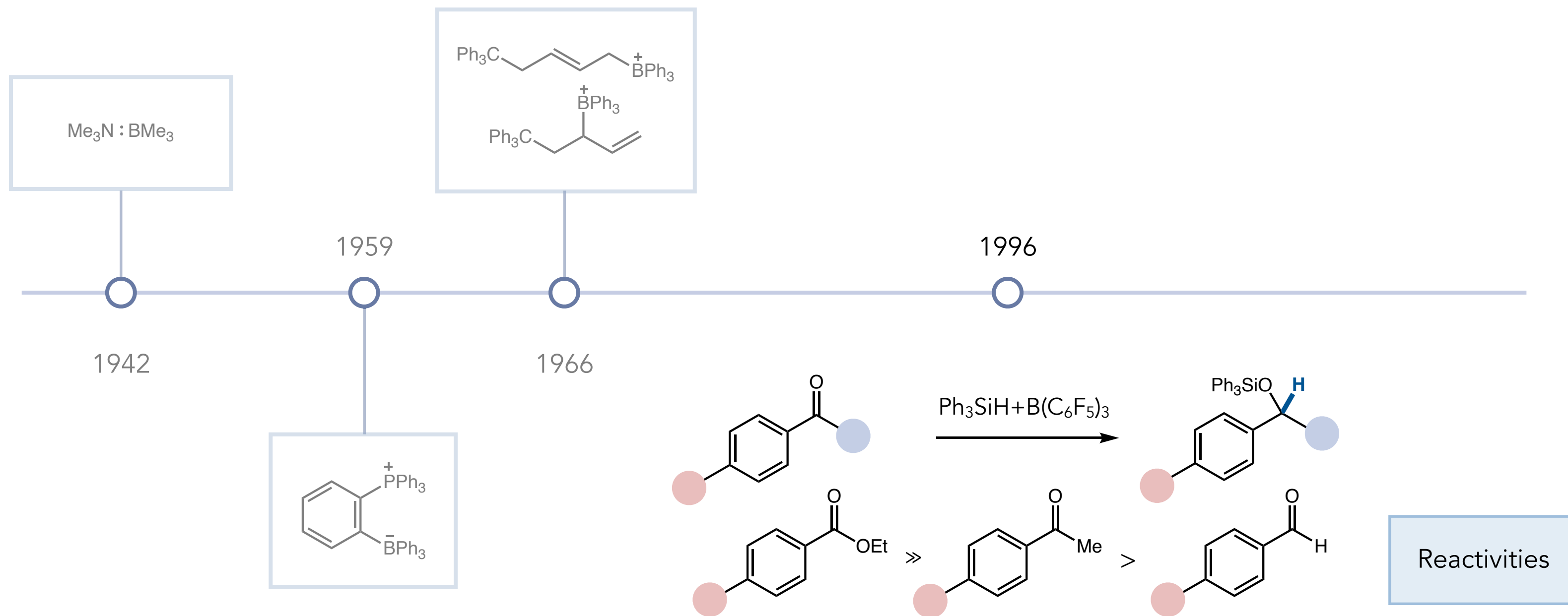




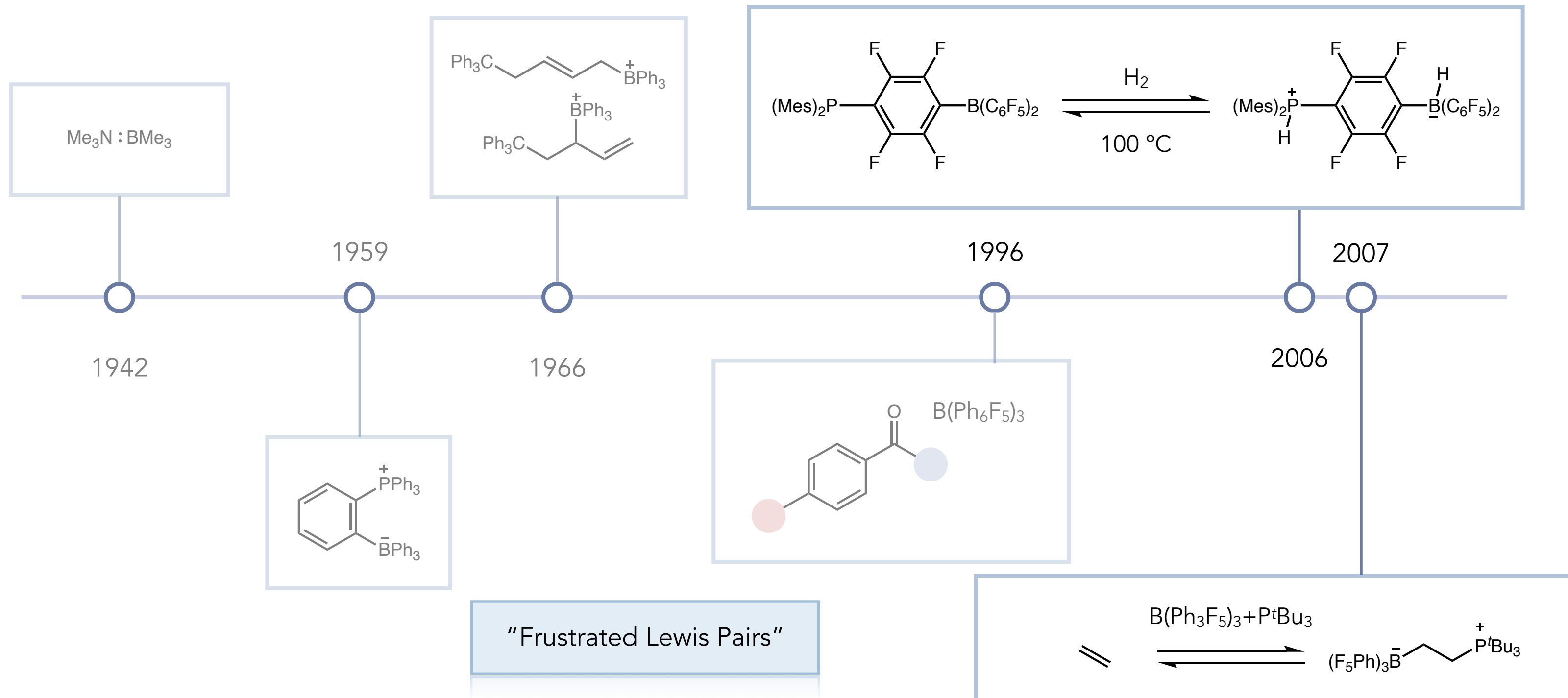
# The Discovery & Development of Frustrated Lewis Pairs



# The Discovery & Development of Frustrated Lewis Pairs

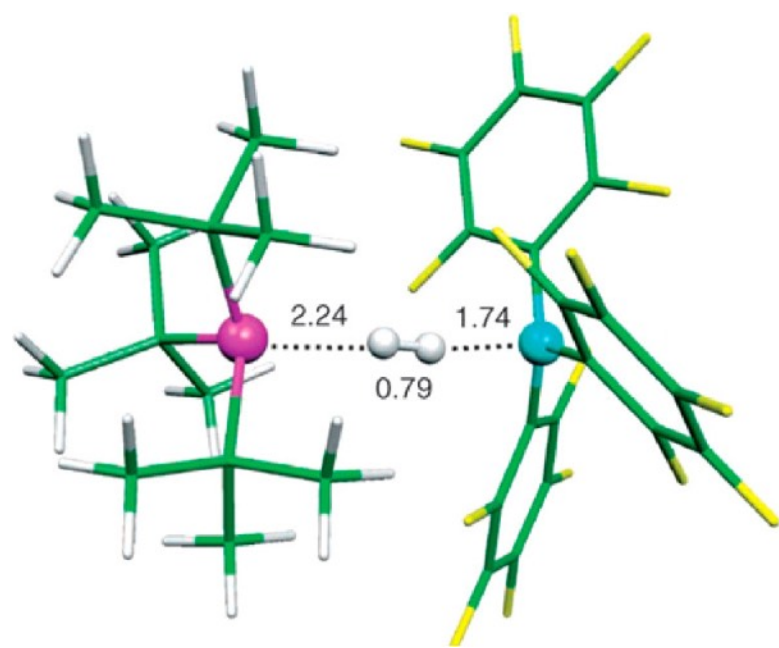


# The Discovery & Development of Frustrated Lewis Pairs

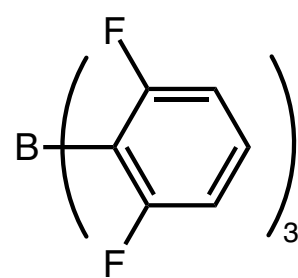
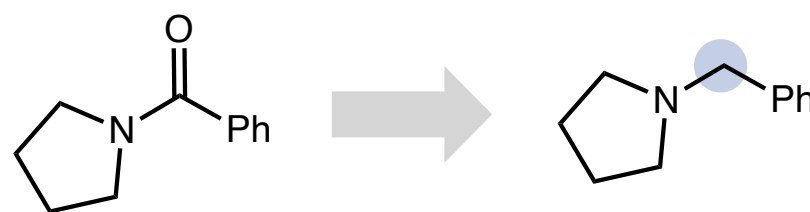


# The Discovery & Development of Frustrated Lewis Pairs

## Mechanism & Proof of Concept

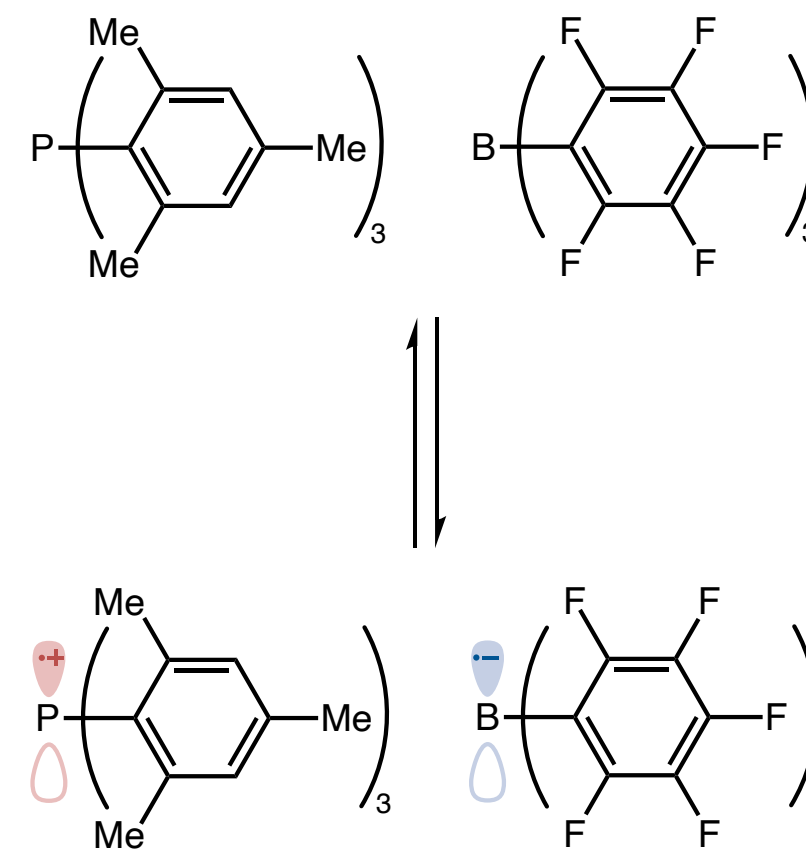


## Application in Organic Reactions



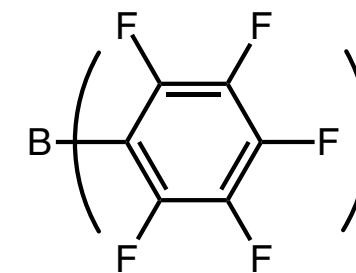
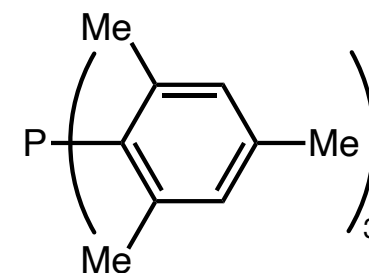
catalyst

## Redefining FLP & FRP



# Insight Into FLP Adducts

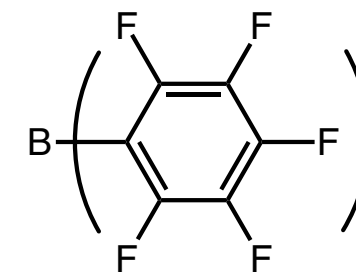
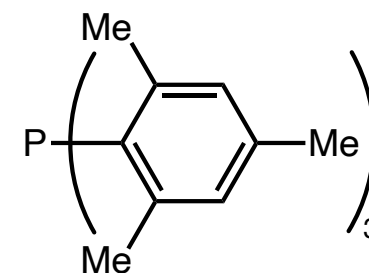
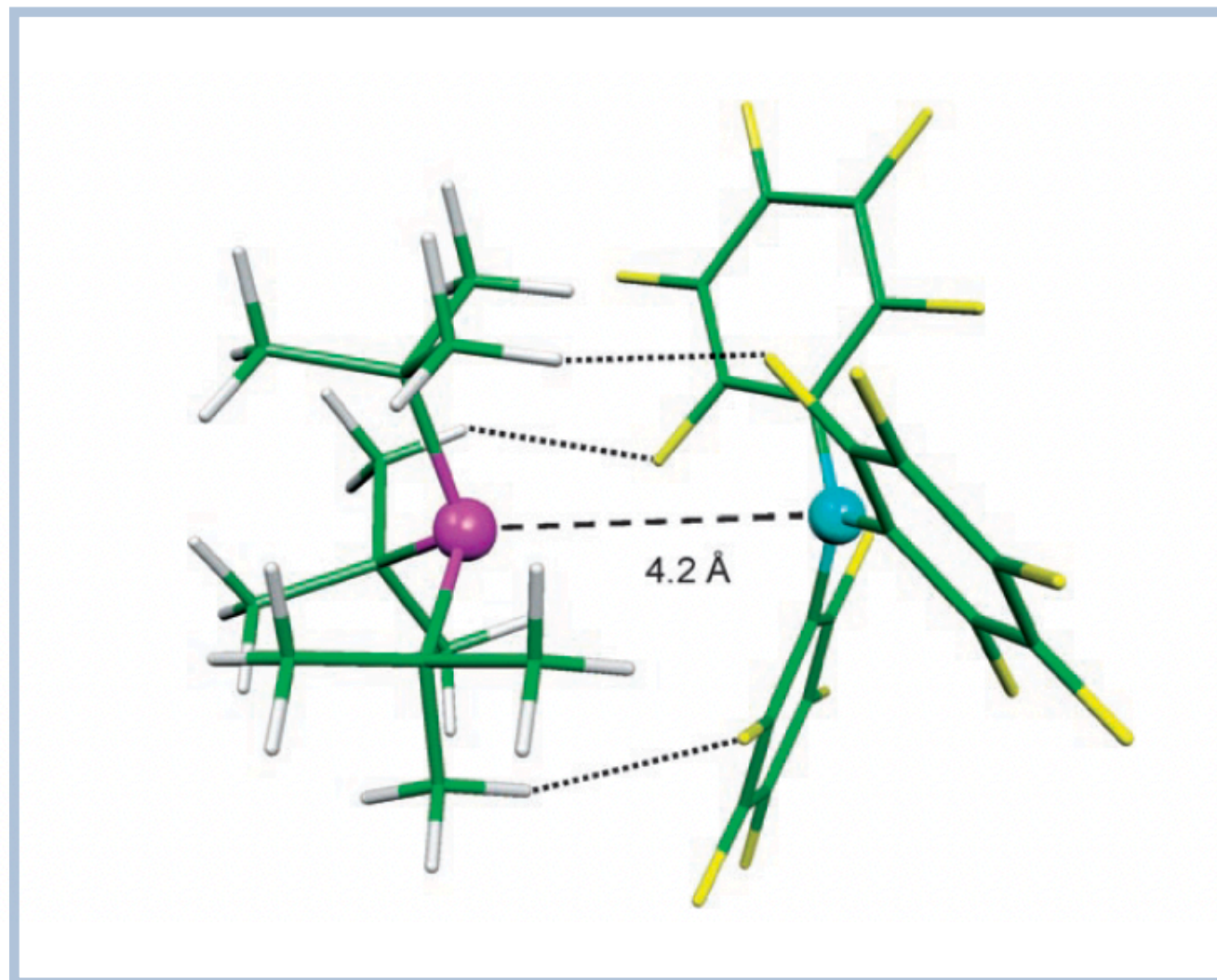
Lewis Acid/Base pairs that could not form stable dative bonds due to steric repulsion or orbital energy mismatch are called FLPs



No detection of Lewis Acid/Base pairs by  
NMR at 25 °C or -50 °C



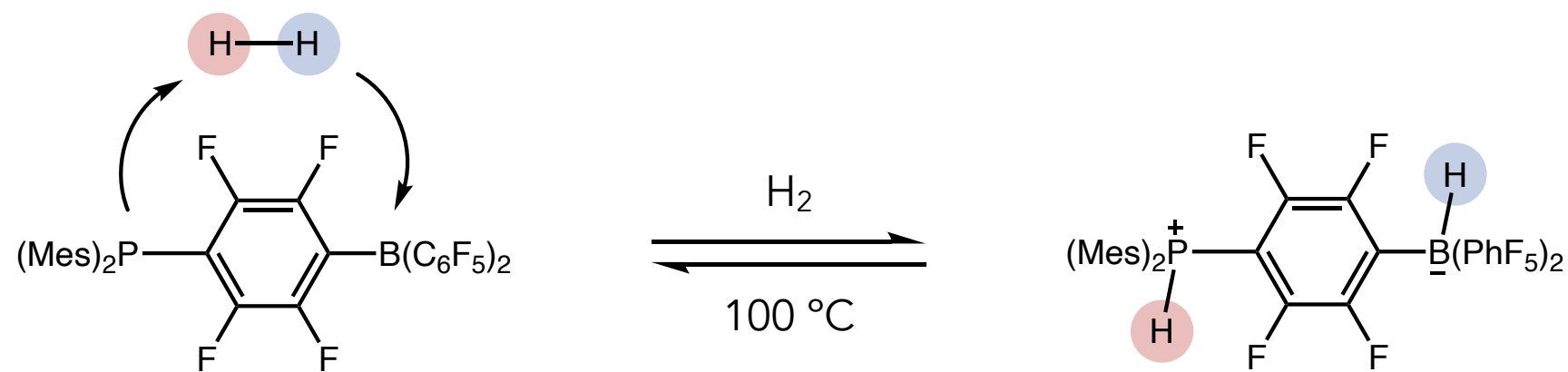
# Insight Into FLP Adducts



No detection of Lewis Acid/Base pairs by  
NMR at 25 °C or -50 °C

Van der Waals' interactions  
 $\Delta E = -11.5 \text{ kcal/mol}$

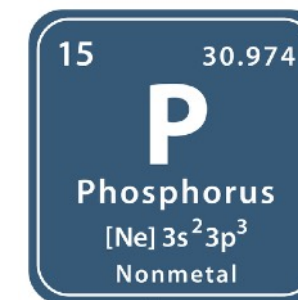
# FLP: Enzyme Mimetic



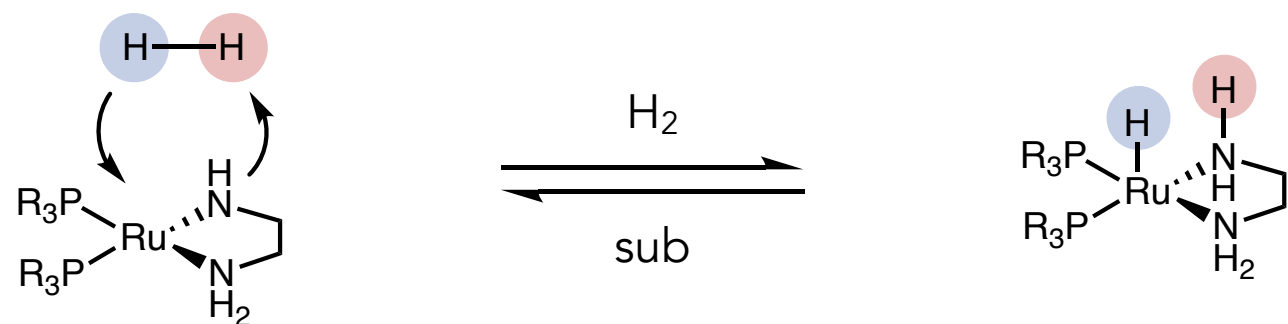
Group III



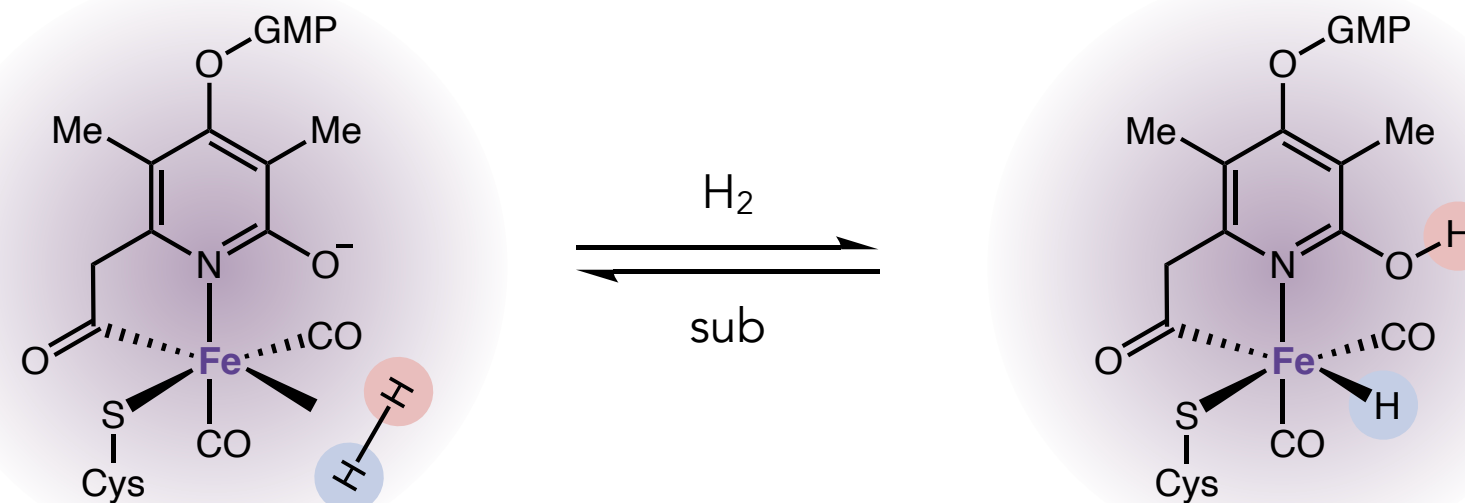
Group V



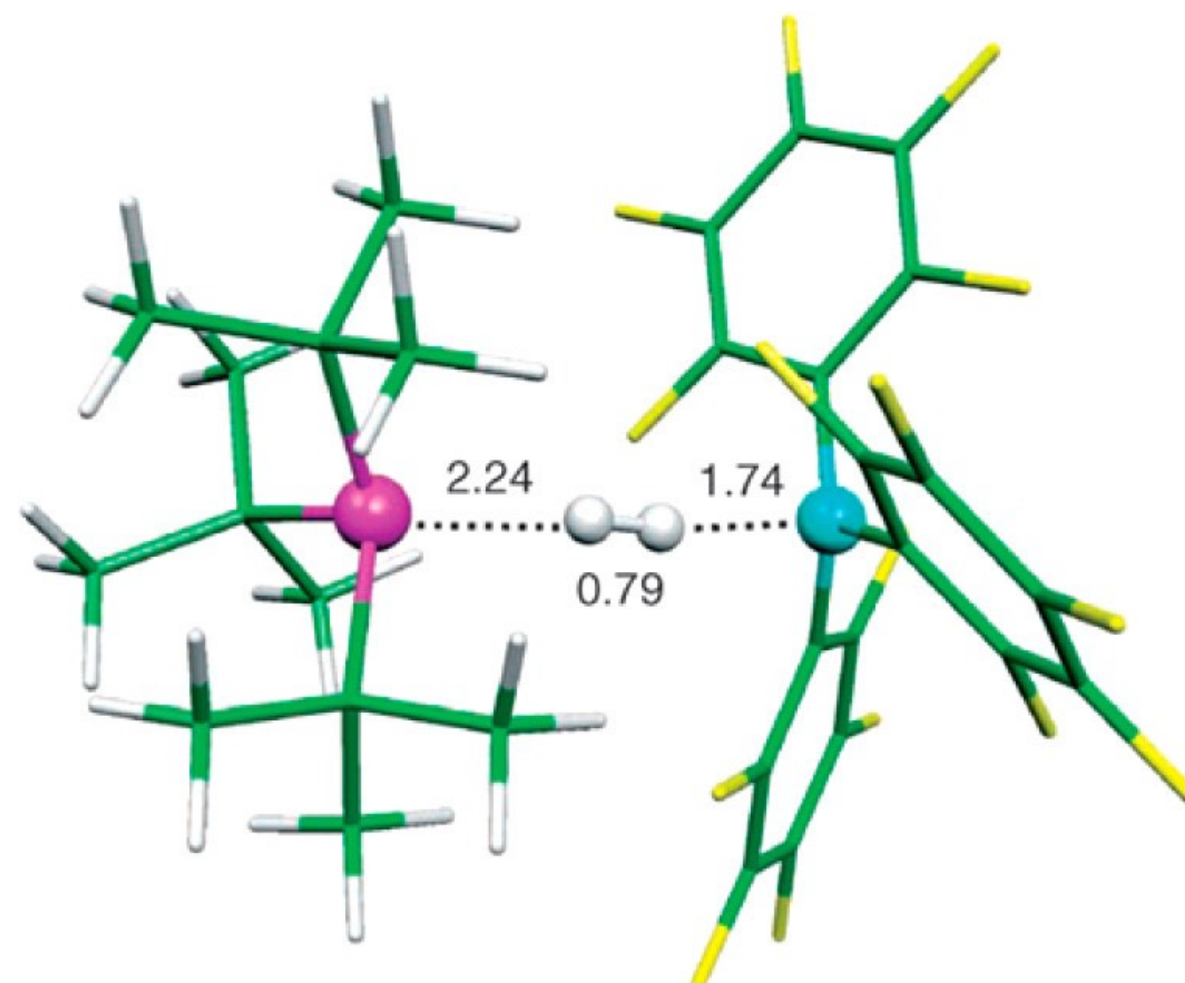
## Transition Metal Catalysis



## Enzymatic Catalysis



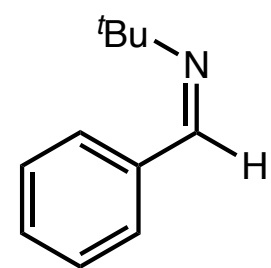
# Mechanistic Studies For H<sub>2</sub> Splitting



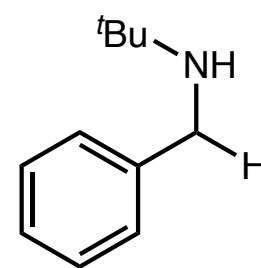
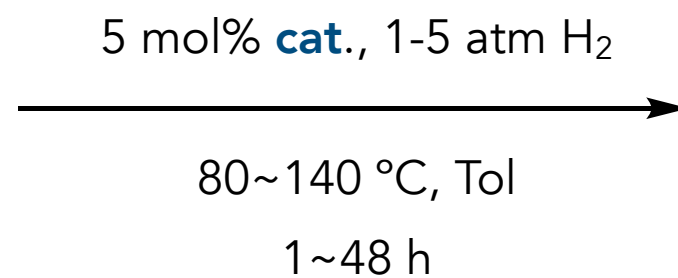
$$\Delta G_{TS}^* = 10 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

Van der Waals' interactions maintained

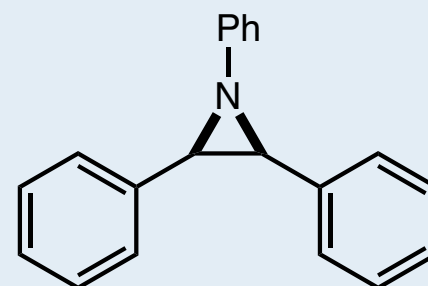
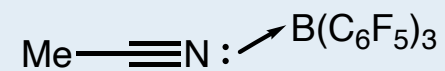
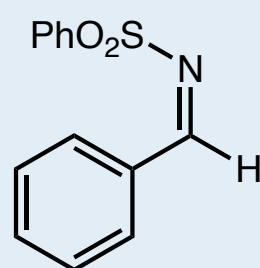
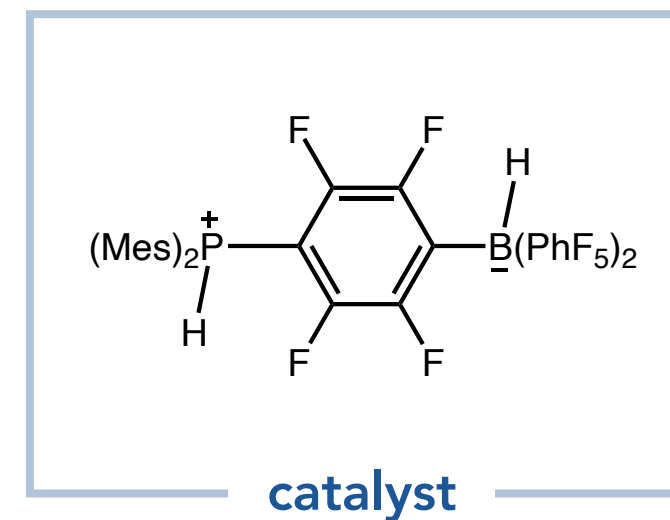
# Hydrogenation of Imines With FLP



Imines

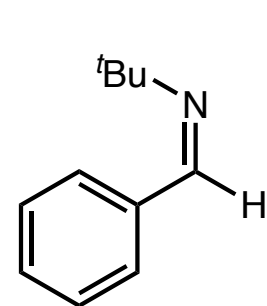


Amines  
57~99%



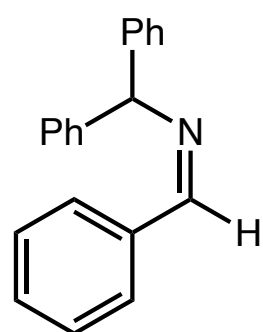
10 examples

# Mechanistic Insights into Hydrogenation of Imines



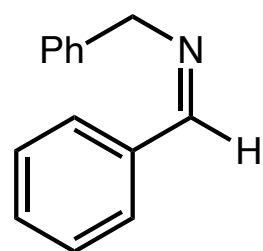
80 °C, 1 h  
98% yield

>



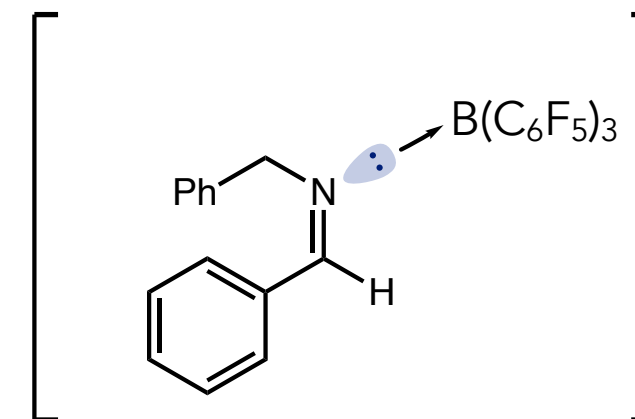
140 °C, 1 h  
88% yield

»

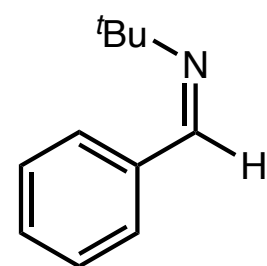


120 °C, 48 h  
5% yield

Decreasing sterics

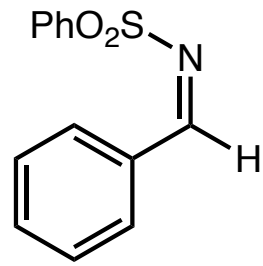


120 °C, 46 h  
57% yield



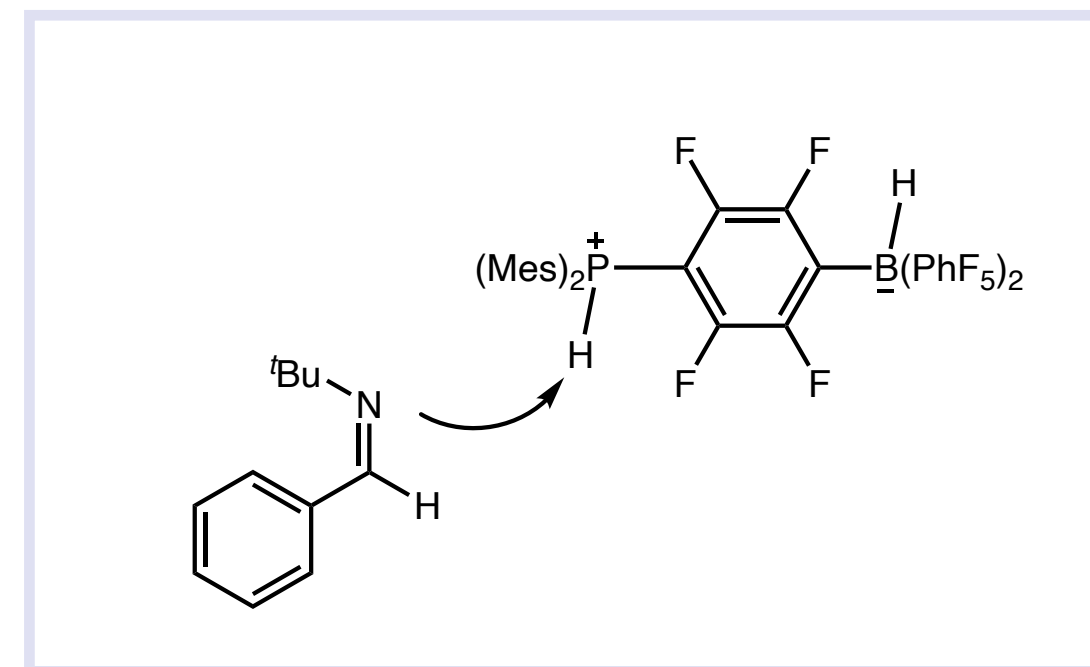
80 °C, 1 h  
98% yield

>



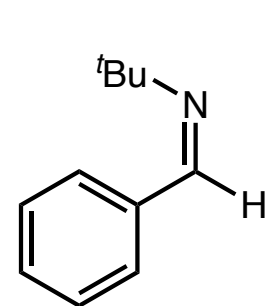
120 °C, 16 h  
87% yield

Decreasing basicity



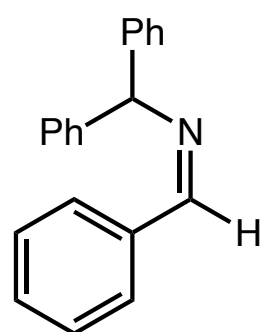


# Mechanistic Insights into Hydrogenation of Imines



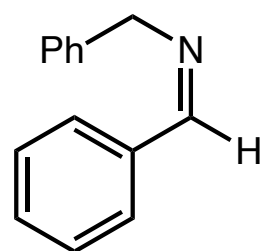
80 °C, 1 h  
98% yield

>



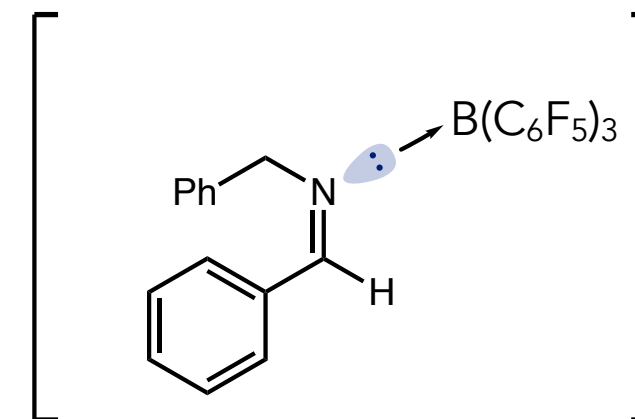
140 °C, 1 h  
88% yield

»

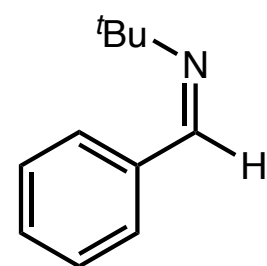


120 °C, 48 h  
5% yield

Decreasing sterics

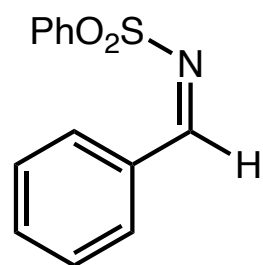


120 °C, 46 h  
57% yield



80 °C, 1 h  
98% yield

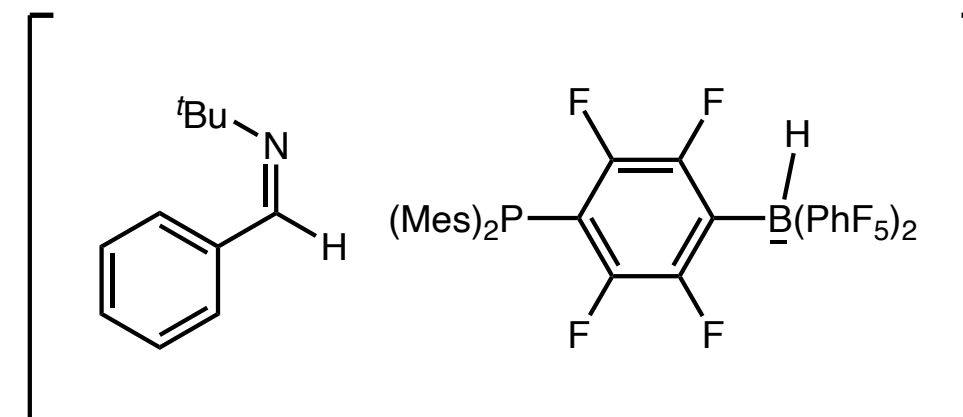
>



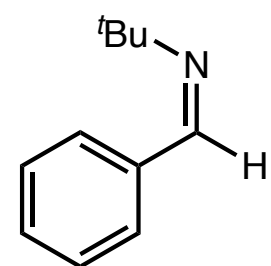
120 °C, 16 h  
87% yield

Decreasing basicity

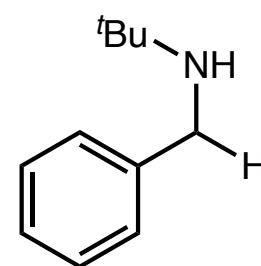
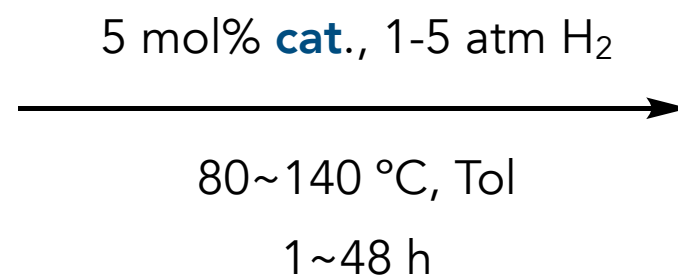
No reaction after 24 h at 120 °C



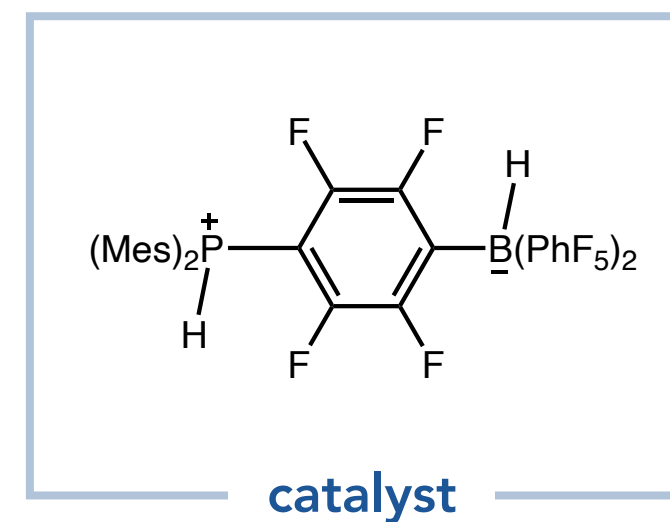
# Mechanistic Insights into Hydrogenation of Imines



Imines

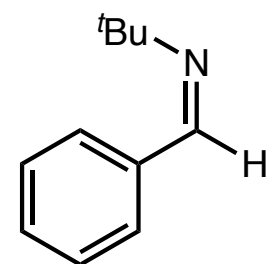


Amines  
57~99%



*Favors more sterically encumbered, basic imines*

# Hydrogenation of Imines With FLP

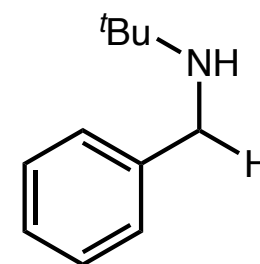


Imines

5 mol% **cat.**, 1-5 atm H<sub>2</sub>

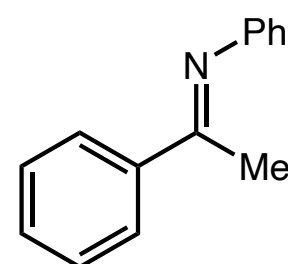
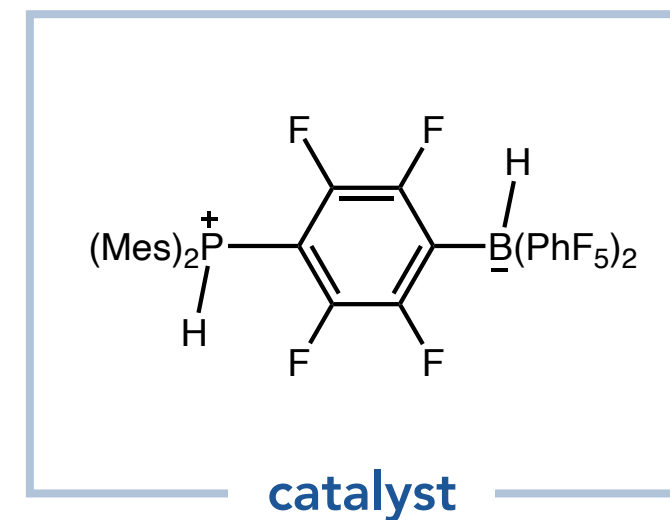
80~140 °C, Tol

1~48 h



Amines

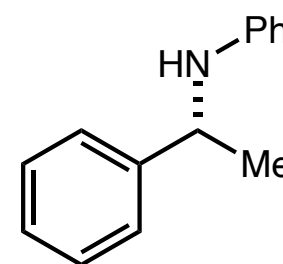
57~99%



Imines

5 mol% **cat.**, 25 bar H<sub>2</sub>

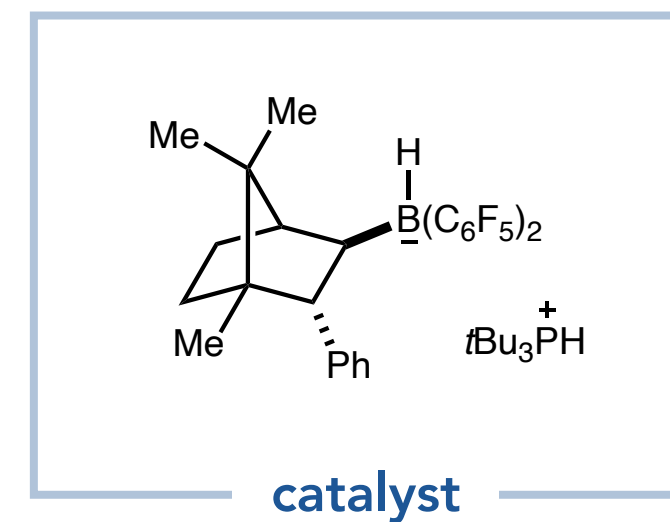
Tol, 65 °C, 15h



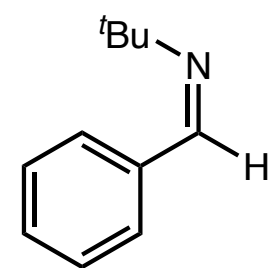
37~99% yield

74~83% ee

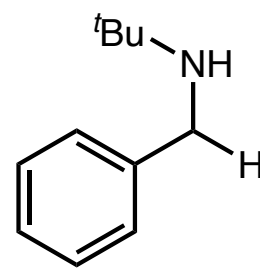
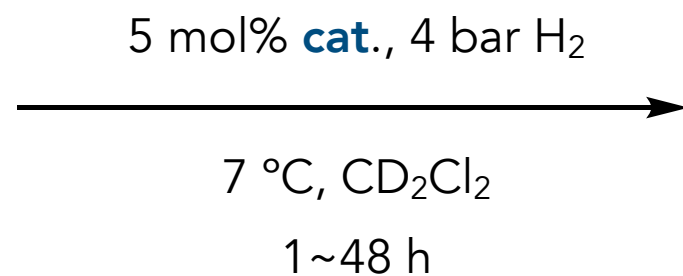
**7 examples**



# SAR Studies: An Effort to Broaden the Scope



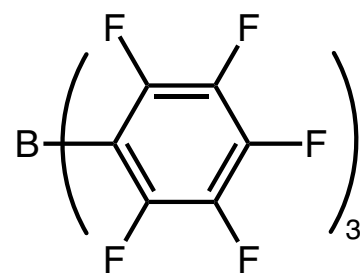
Imines



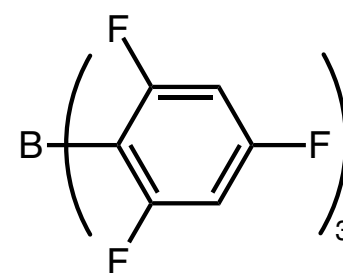
Amines

*Problem: Strong LA has low functional group tolerance for basic moieties*

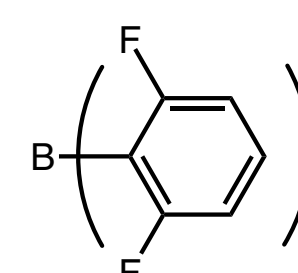
*Decreasing electrophilicity*



1.408



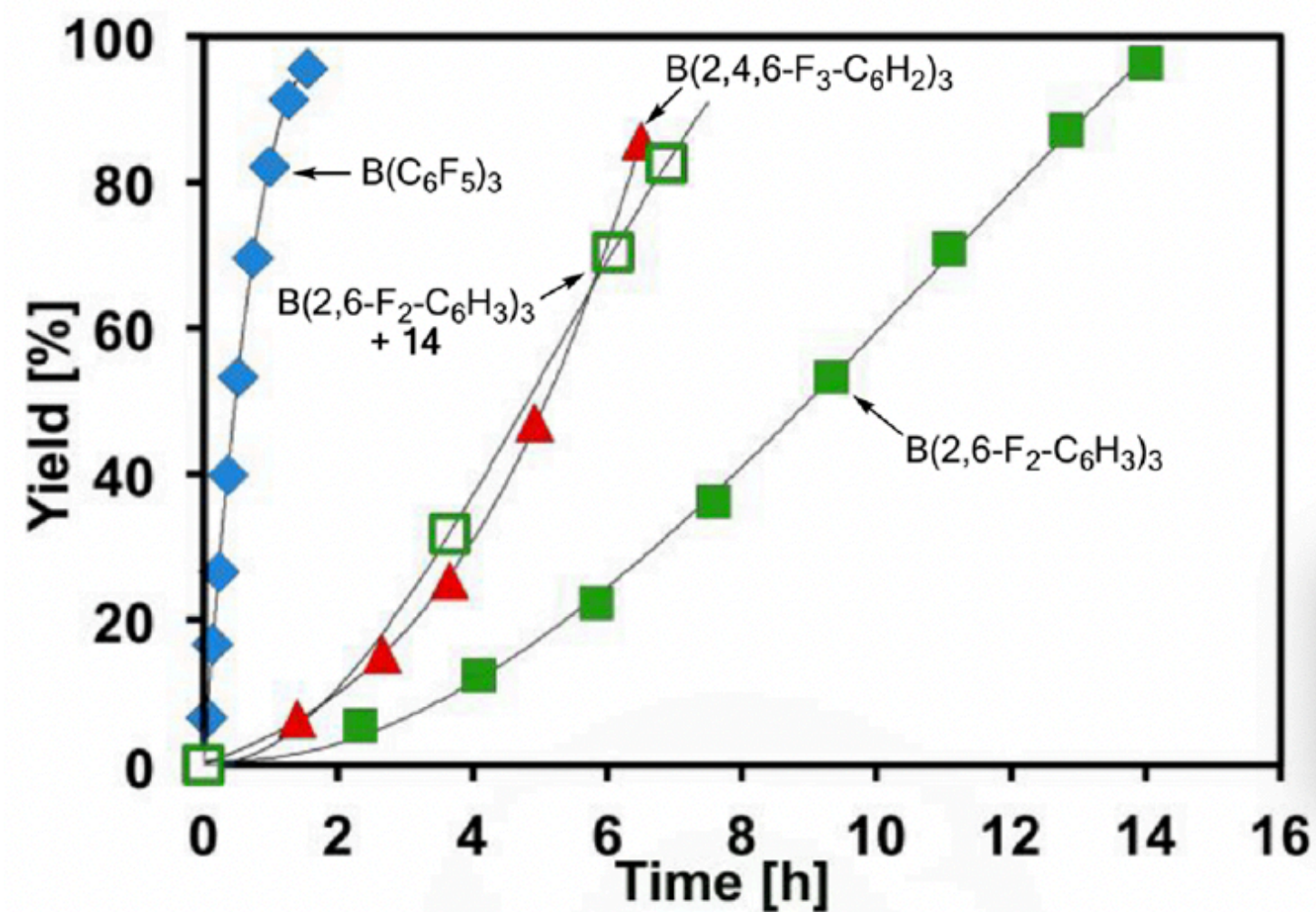
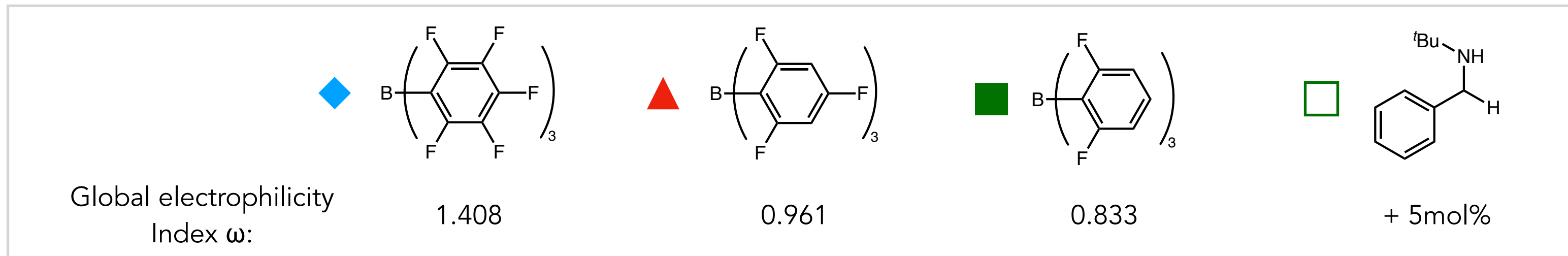
0.961



0.833

Global electrophilicity  
Index  $\omega$ :

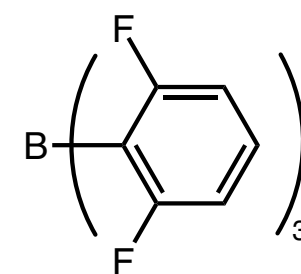
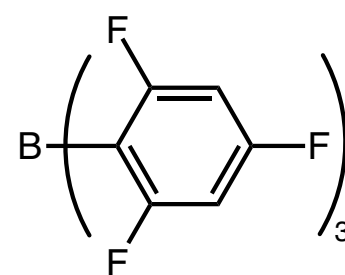
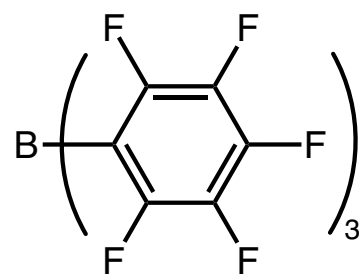
# The Role of Product As A Lewis Base



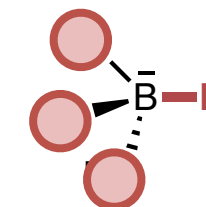
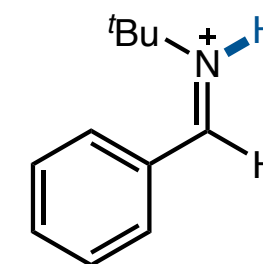
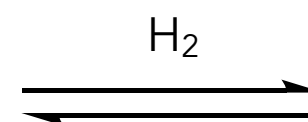
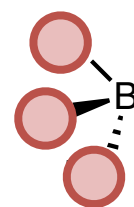
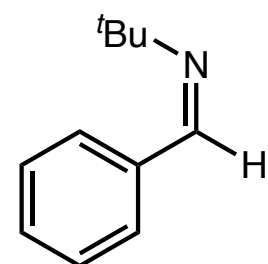
- No bases is needed
- The more acidic the LA, the faster the reaction
- The reaction is auto induced catalytic
- With additional cat. LB, sluggish reactions can be improved



# Relative Rate of SM and Pdt As A LB

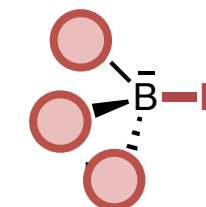
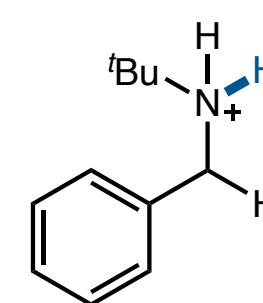
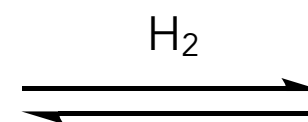
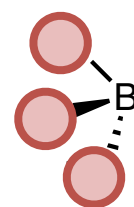
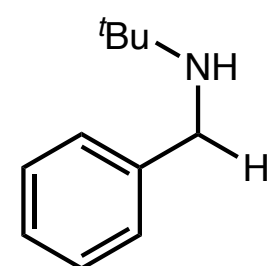


k1



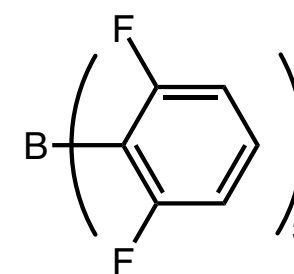
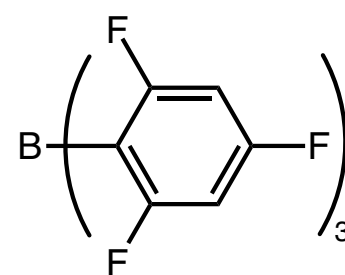
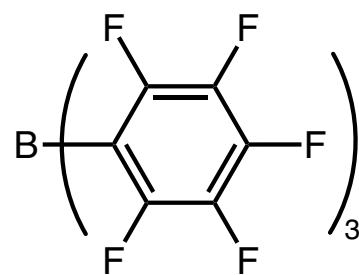
*SM as a LB*

k2



*pdt as a LB*

# Relative Rate of SM and Pdt As A LB

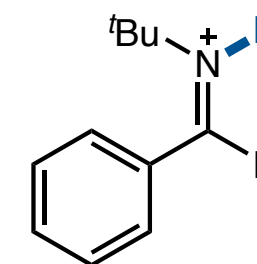


k1

$$\Delta G^* \text{ (kcal/mol)} = 21.4 \pm 13.9$$

$$\Delta G^* \text{ (kcal/mol)} = 24.1 \pm 3.5$$

$$\Delta G^* \text{ (kcal/mol)} = 24.5 \pm 4.0$$

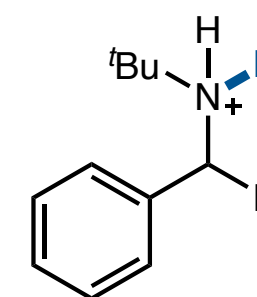


k2

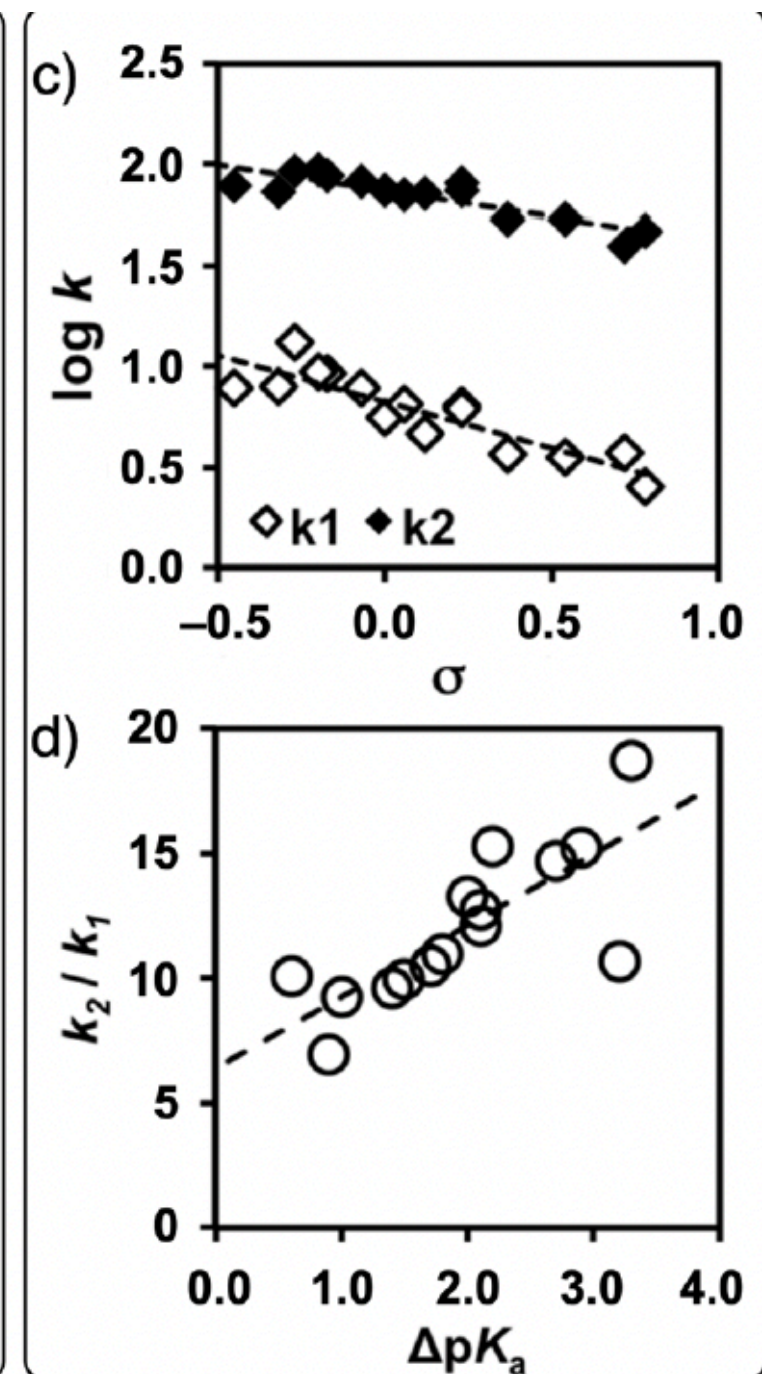
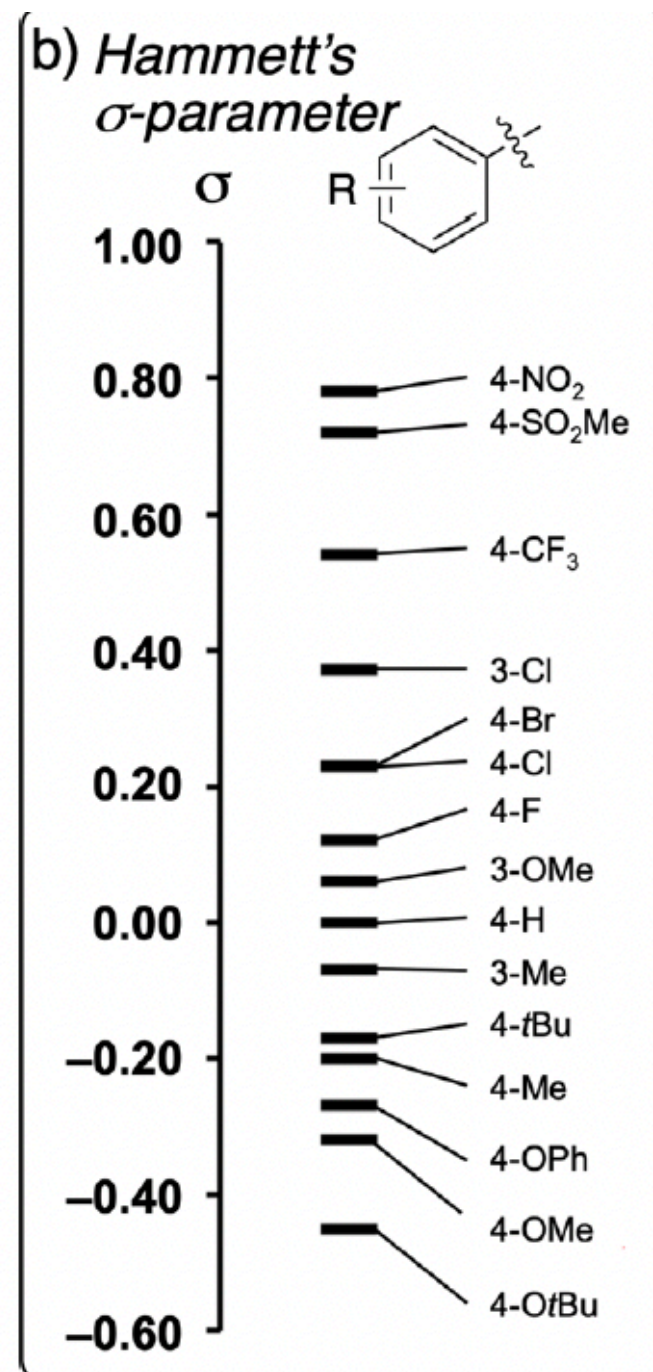
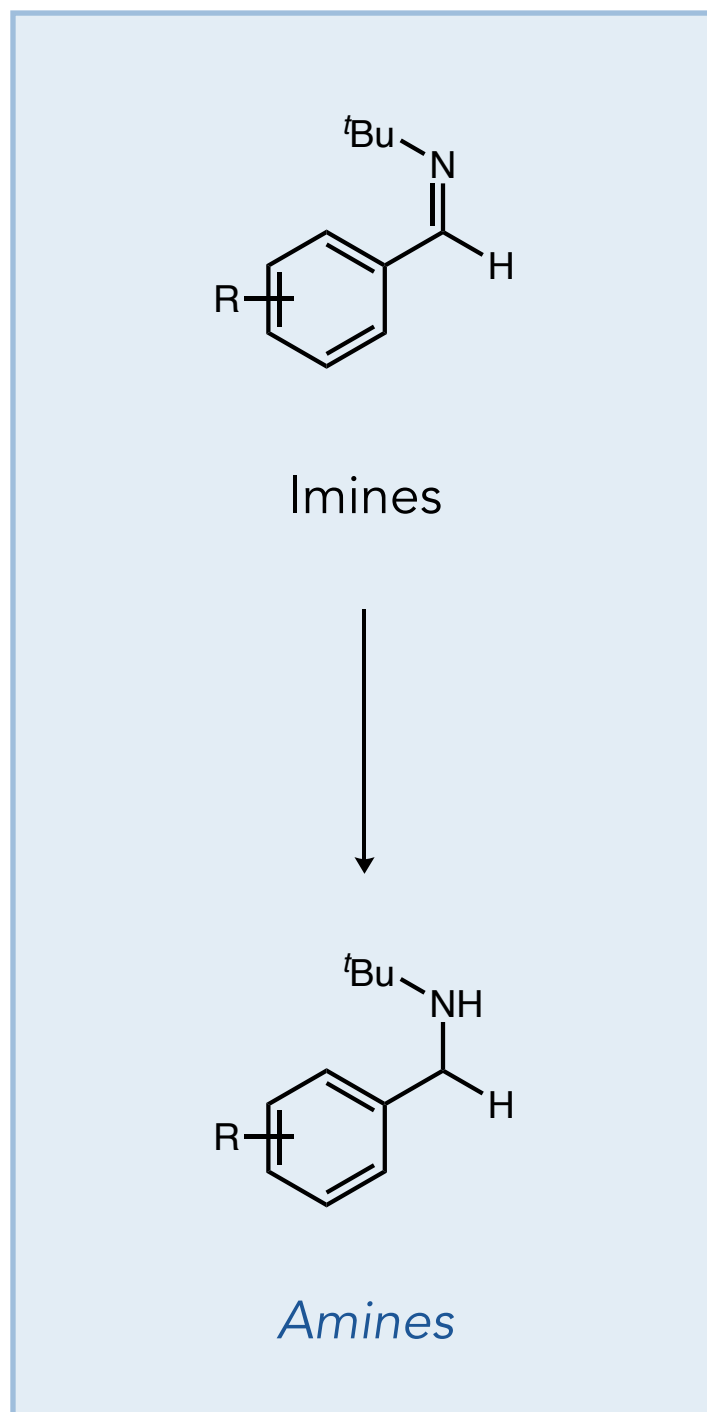
$$\Delta G^* \text{ (kcal/mol)} = 20.1 \pm 23.7$$

$$\Delta G^* \text{ (kcal/mol)} = 22.5 \pm 2.5$$

$$\Delta G^* \text{ (kcal/mol)} = 22.7 \pm 2.3$$



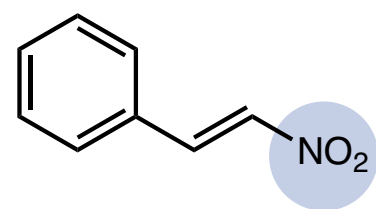
# The Role of Product As A Lewis Base



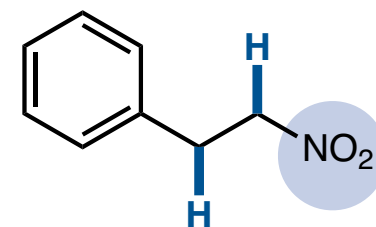
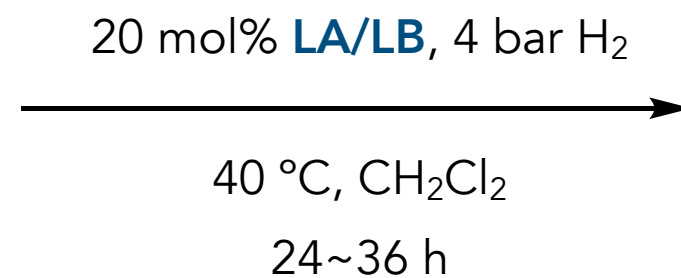
- Electron rich substrates reacts faster

- Higher  $pK_a$  of product favors  $k_2$

# Hydrogenation of Nitroalkenes



Nitroalkenes

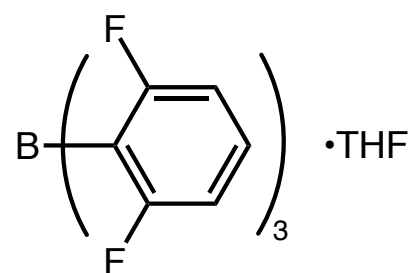


Hydrogenated *pdt*

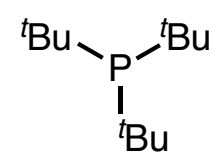
Contains coordinating basic moieties



Needs weaker LA



**LA**

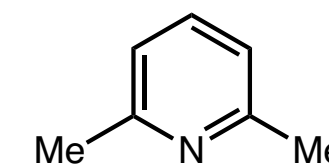


No *pdt*

P-H bond too strong

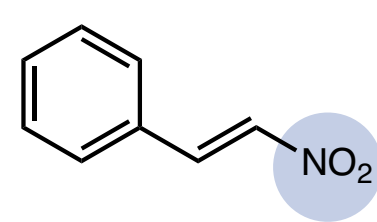
Slow proton transfer

**LB**

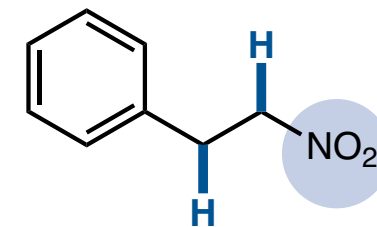
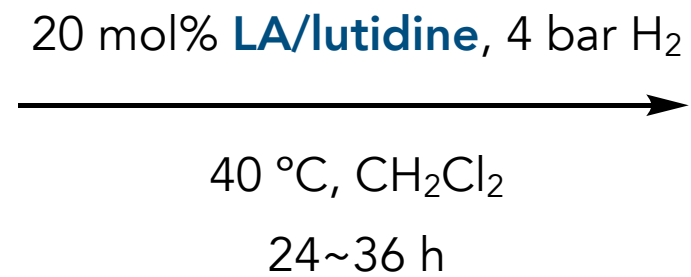


>95% yield

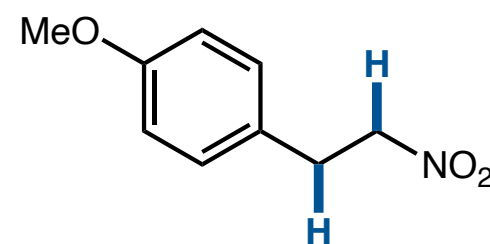
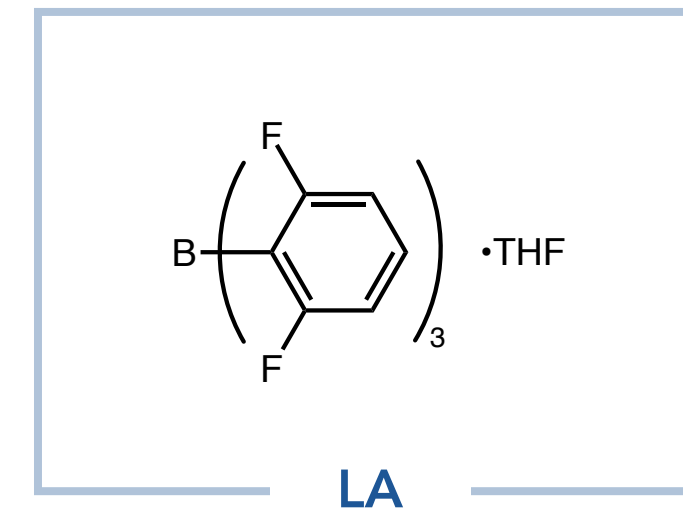
# Hydrogenation of Nitroalkenes



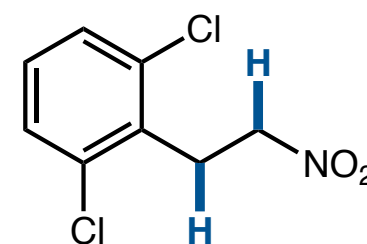
Nitroalkenes



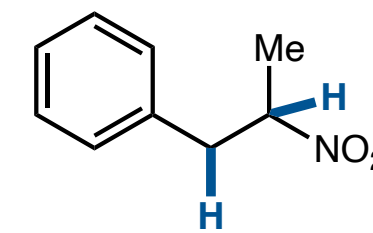
Hydrogenated *pdt*



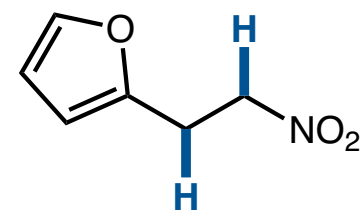
>95% yield



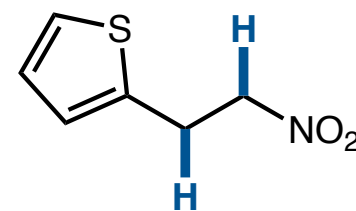
95% yield



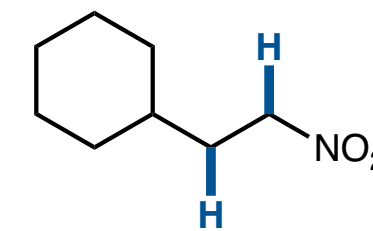
94% yield



89% yield

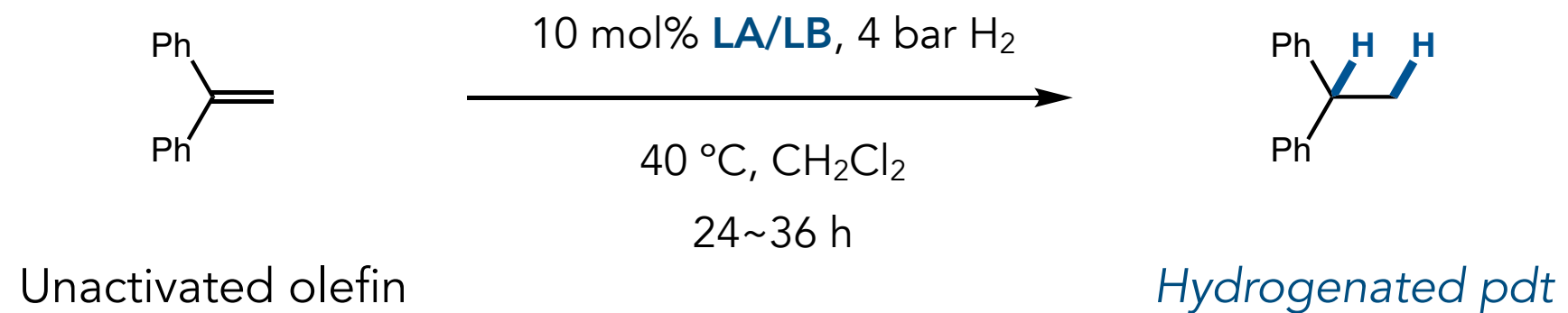


94% yield



>95% yield

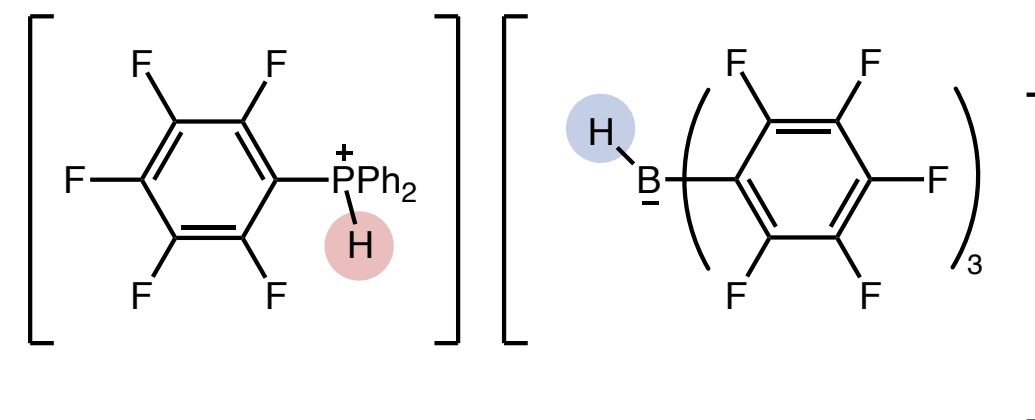
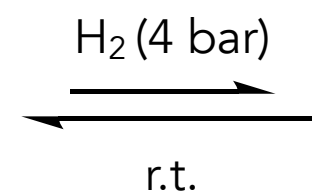
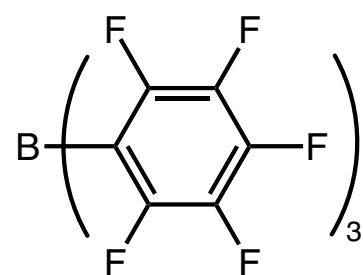
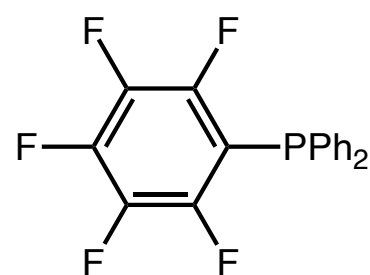
# Hydrogenation of Unactivated Olefins



*Low electrophilicity, low basicity*

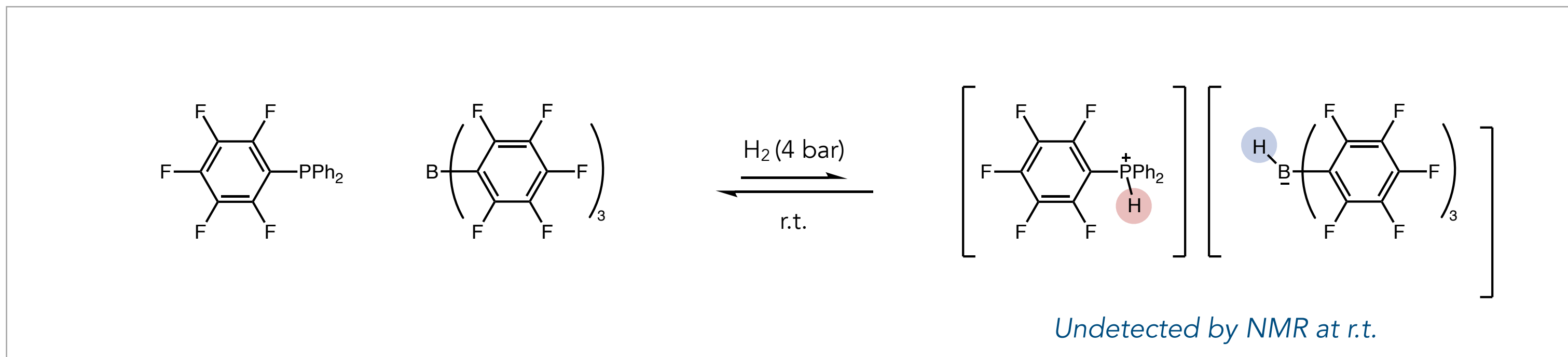
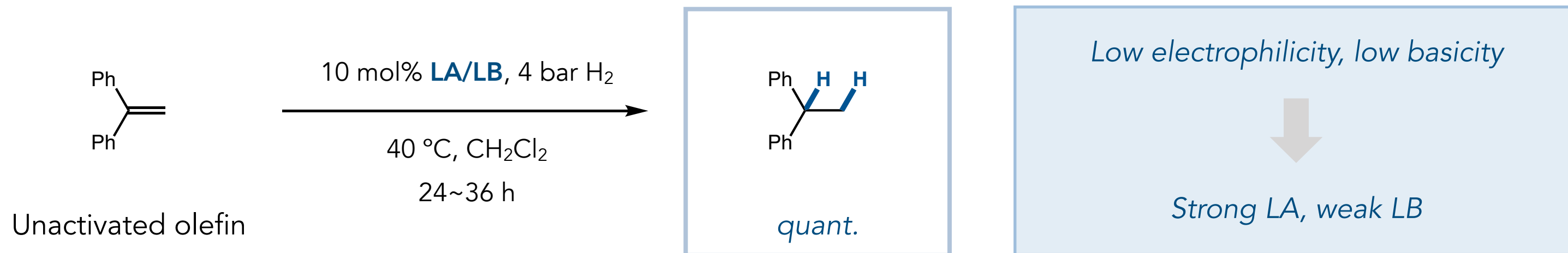


*Strong LA, weak LB*



*Undetected by NMR at r.t.*

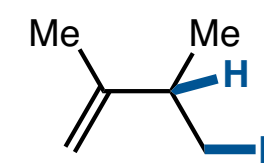
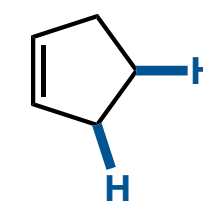
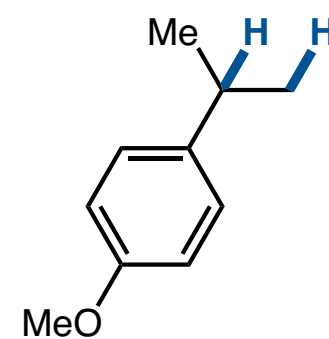
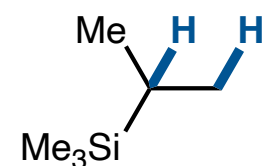
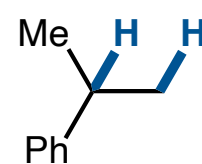
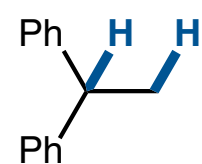
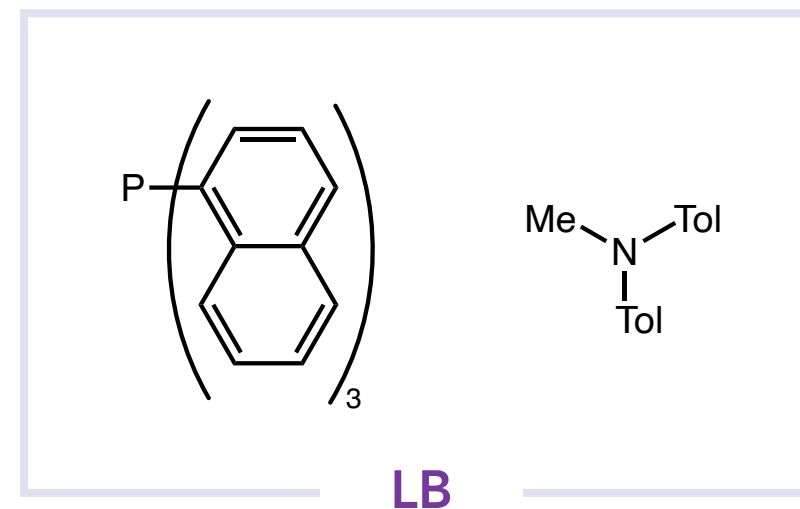
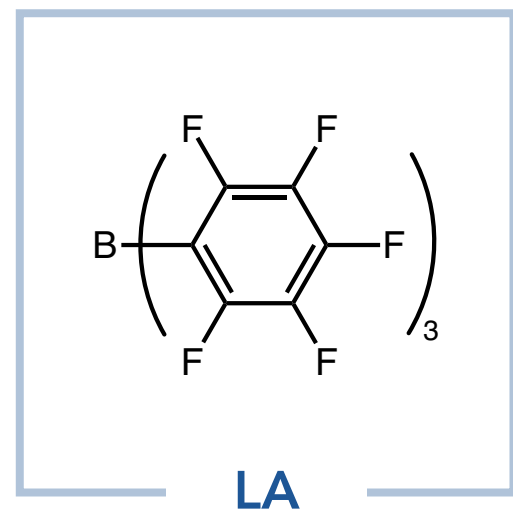
# Hydrogenation of Unactivated Olefins



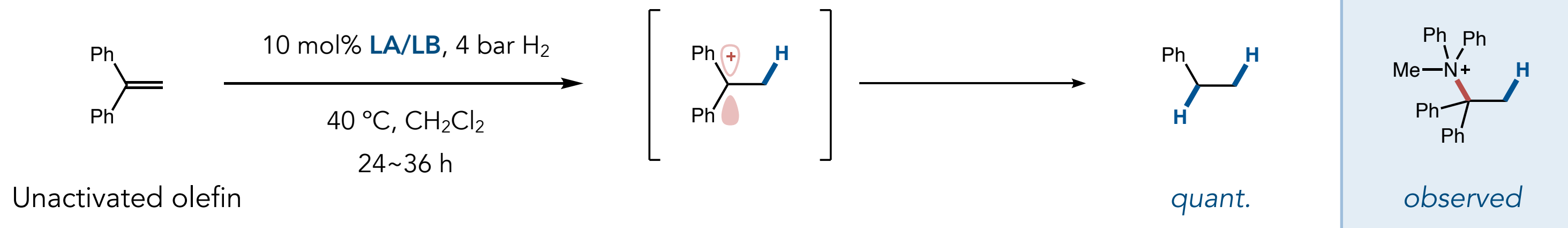
*FLP reactivity can be driven by Le Chatlier's Principle*



# Hydrogenation of Unactivated Olefins



# Hydrogenation of Unactivated Olefins



- *For less activated olefins, protonation step is rate limiting*



*Weaker LB is needed*

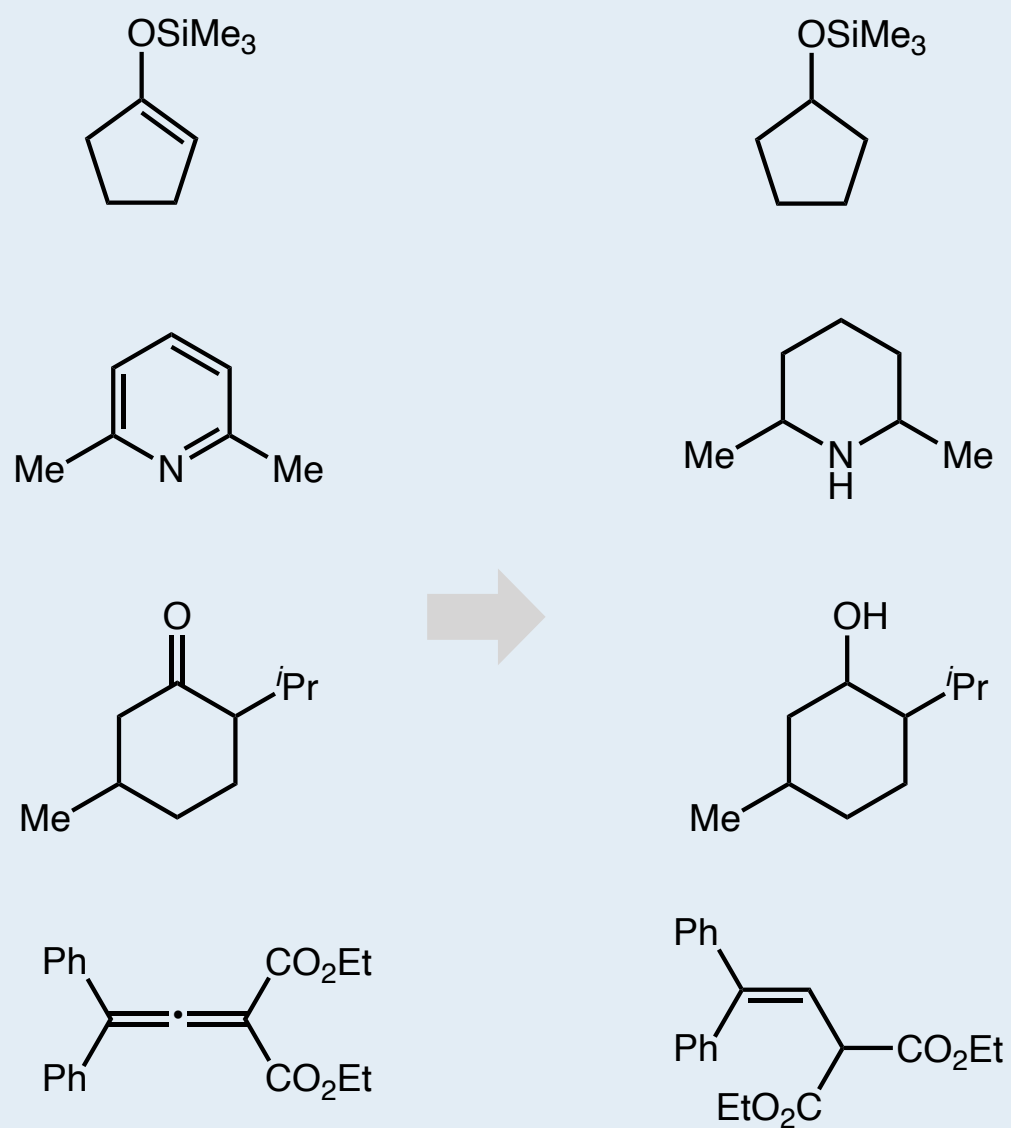
- *For slightly more activated olefins, H<sub>2</sub> splitting is rate limiting*



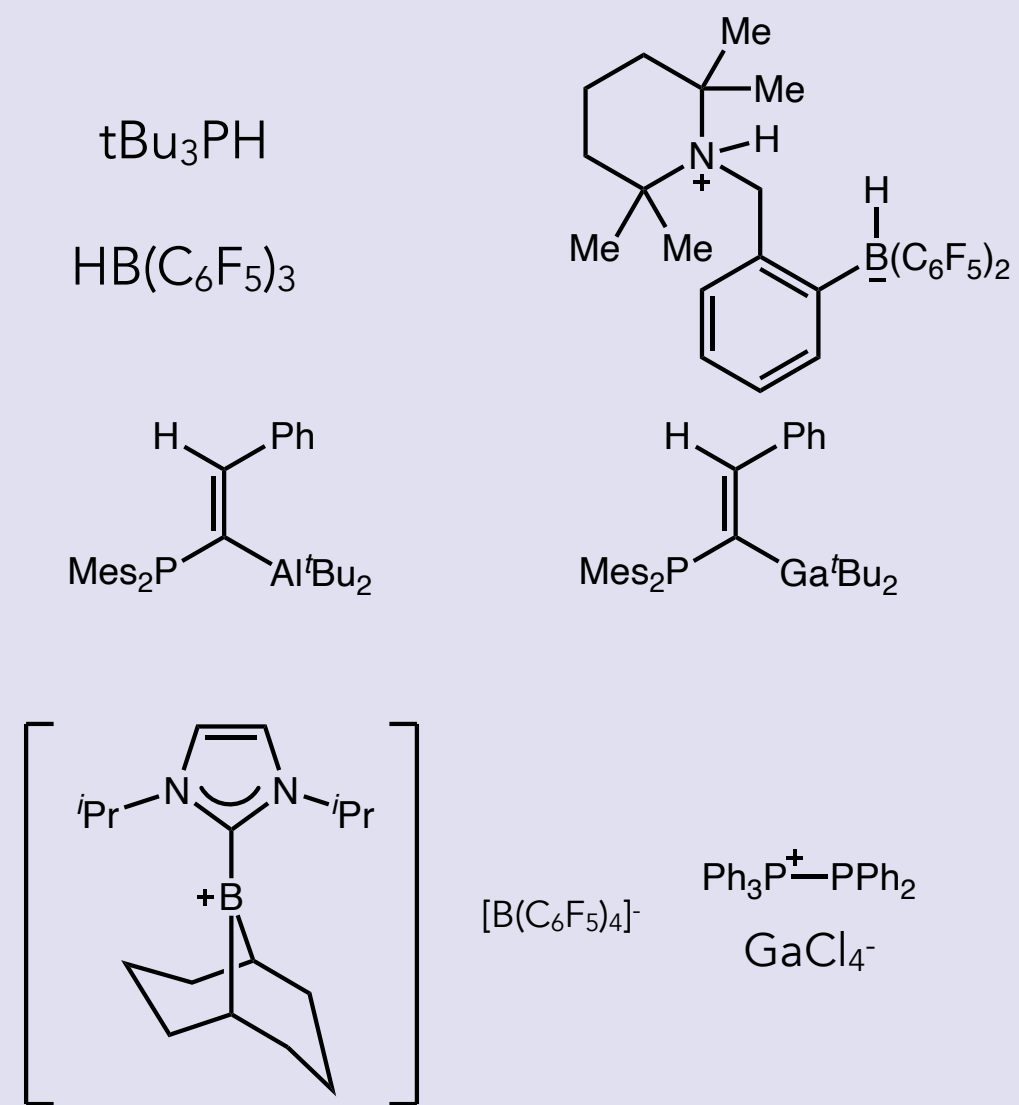
*Stronger LB is needed*

# Exploring Substrate Scope With Different FLPs

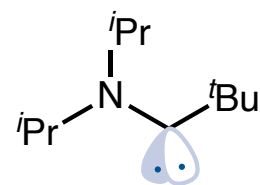
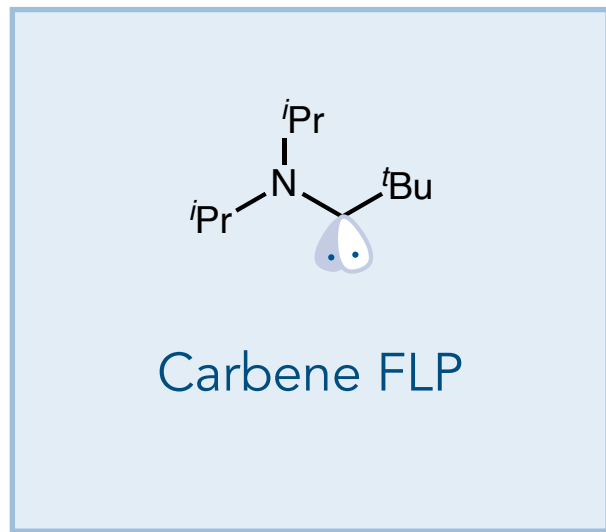
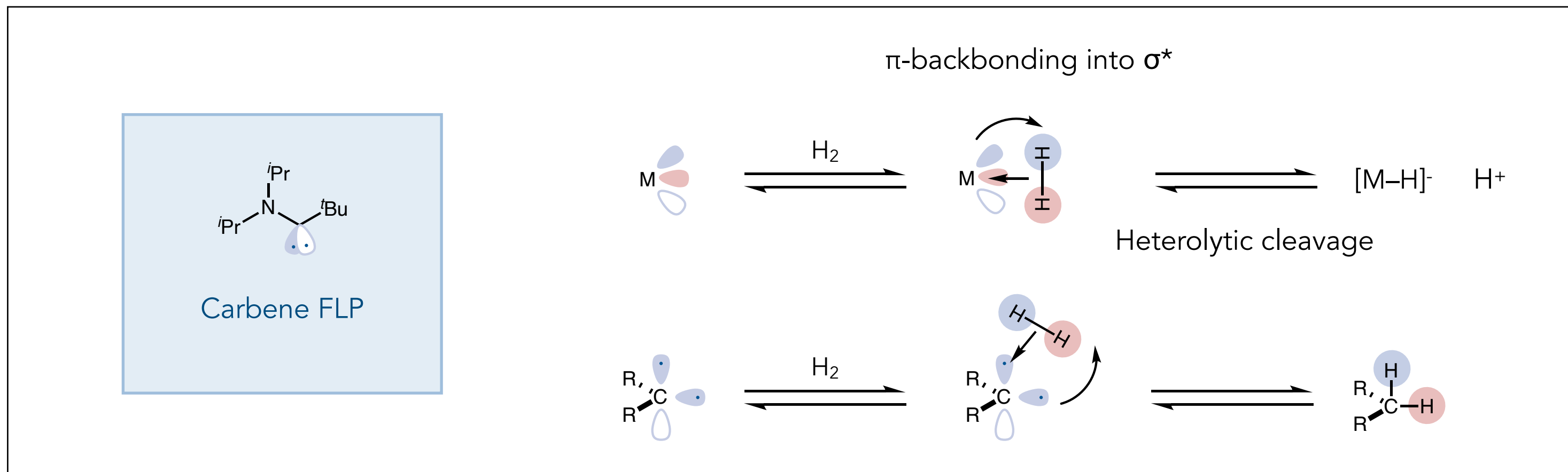
## Reduction of Various substrates



## Diversifying FLPs

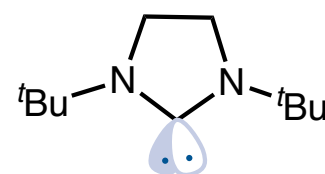


# Uncommon FLPs: Singlet Carbenes



$$-(E_s - E_T) = 33.3 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

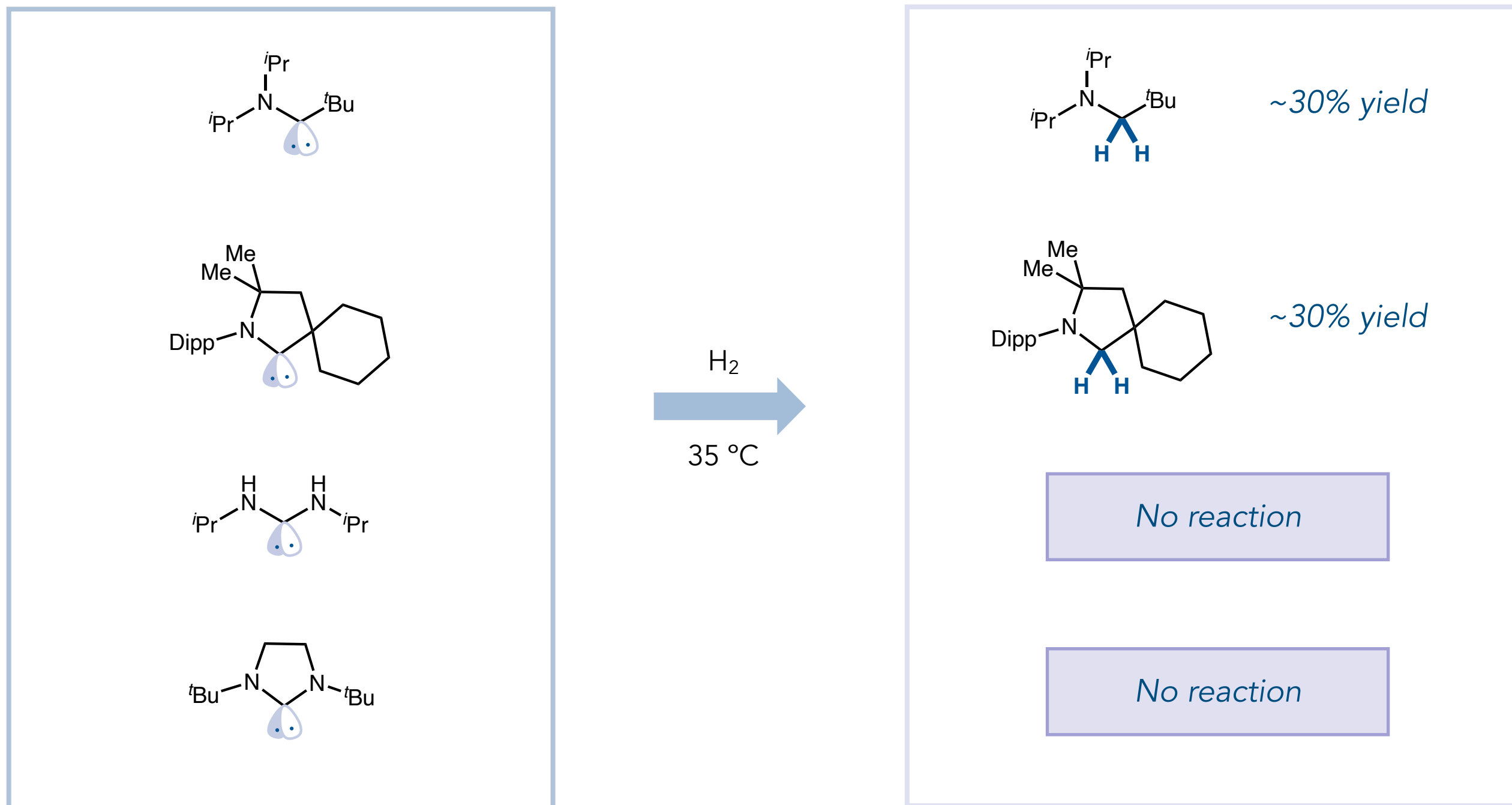
$$\Delta E(\text{H}_2)^* = 22.1 \text{ kcal/mol}$$



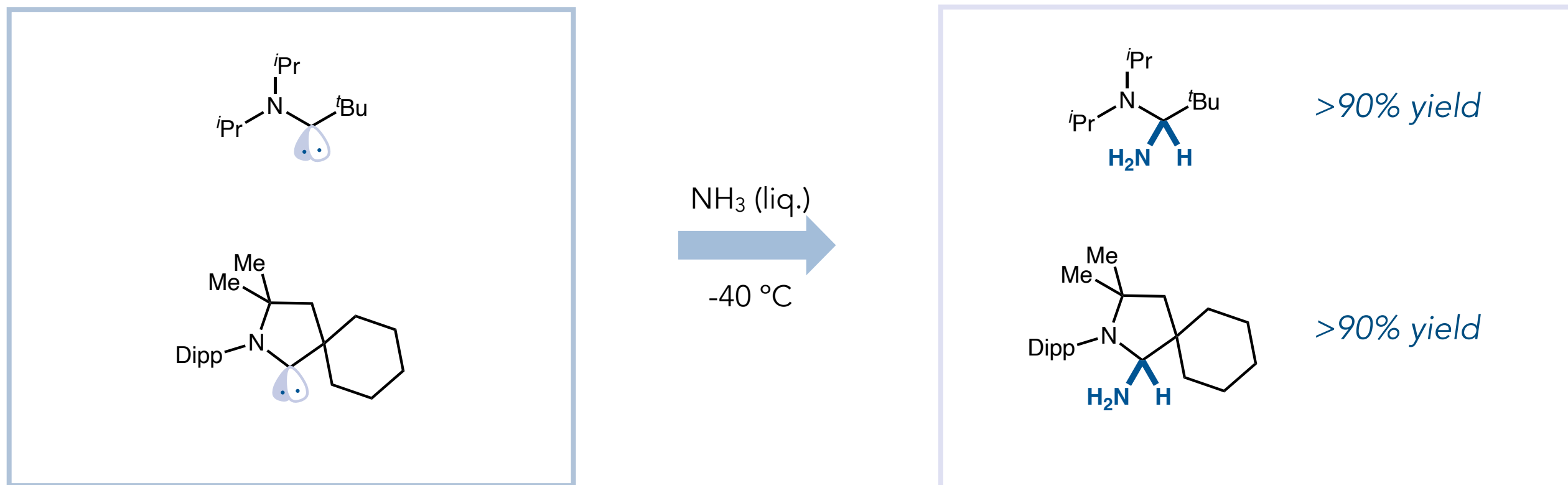
$$-(E_s - E_T) = 68.1 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

$$\Delta E(\text{H}_2)^* = 35.9 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

# Uncommon FLPs: Singlet Carbenes



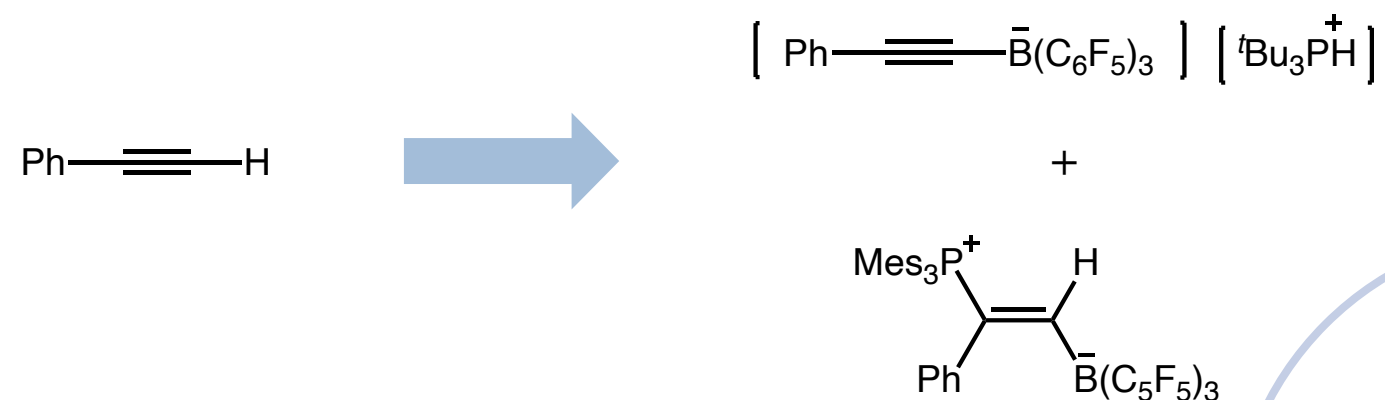
# Uncommon FLPs: Singlet Carbenes



Unique reactivity couldn't achieve using transition metal catalysis

# Exploring FPL Reactivities

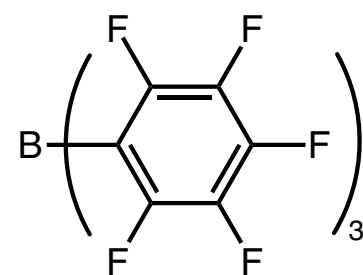
Alkyne addition



CO<sub>2</sub> capture

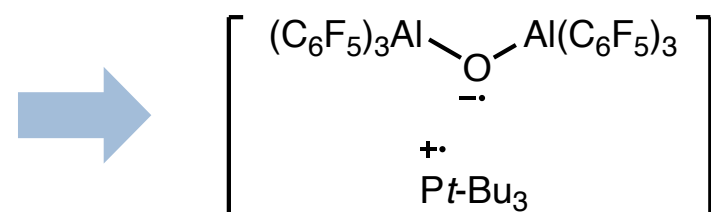
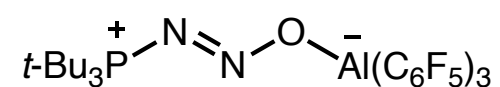


Potentially useful for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction



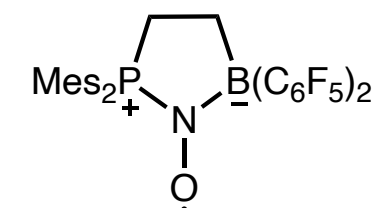
P<sup>t</sup>Bu<sub>3</sub>

N<sub>2</sub>O



Potential HAT reagent

NO

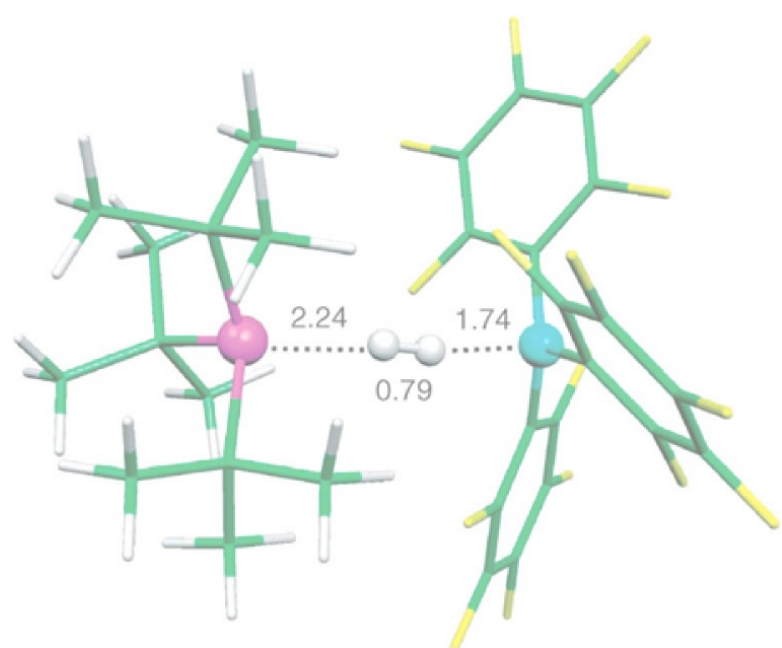


Potential HAT reagent

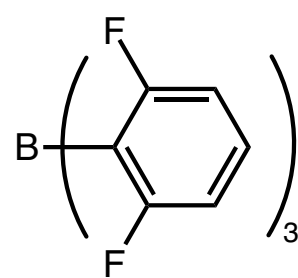
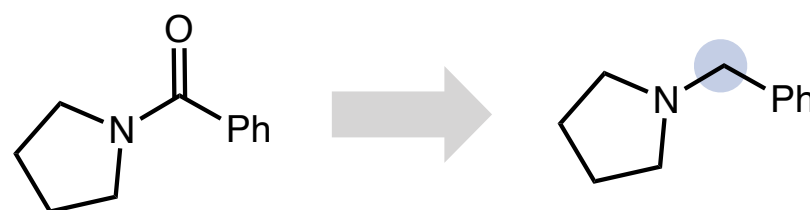


# The Discovery & Development of Frustrated Lewis Pairs

## Mechanism & proof of Concept

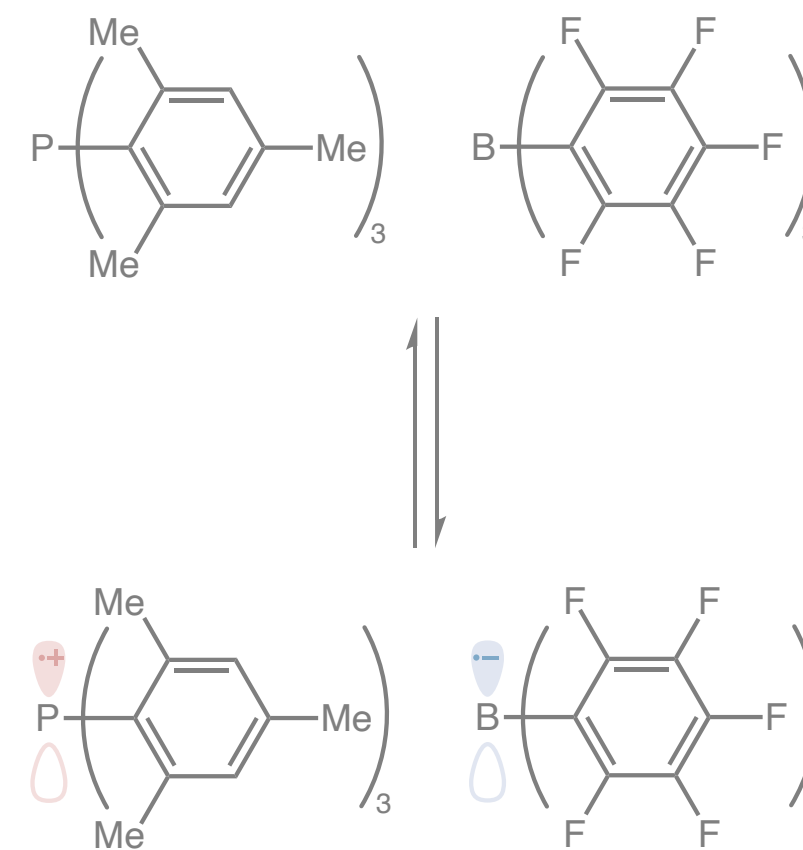


## Application in Organic Reactions

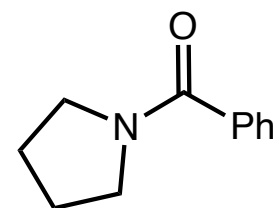


catalyst

## Redefining FLP & FRP



# Amide Reduction With FLPs



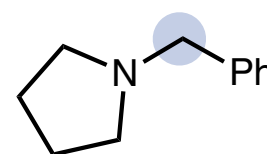
Amide

1.5 eq. (COCl)<sub>2</sub>, 2 mol% **cat.**

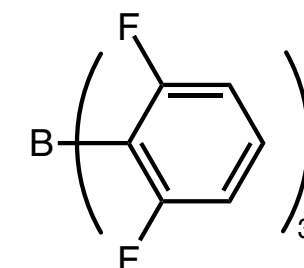


H<sub>2</sub> (80 bar), CHCl<sub>3</sub>

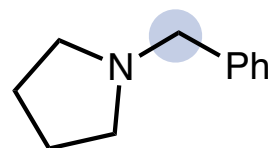
40~70 °C, 22~48 h



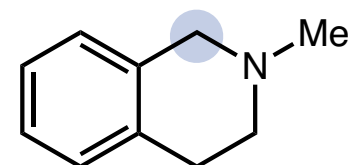
Amine



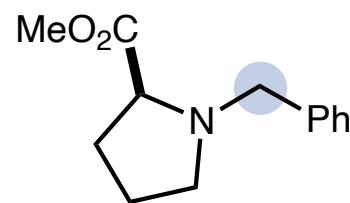
**catalyst**



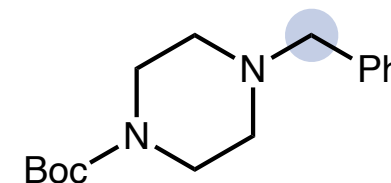
99% yield



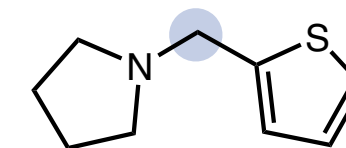
78% yield



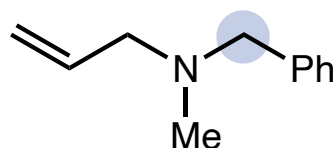
62% yield, 93% ee



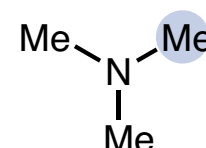
70% yield



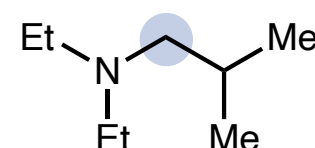
96% yield



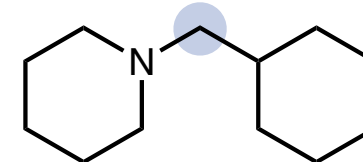
87% yield



94% yield

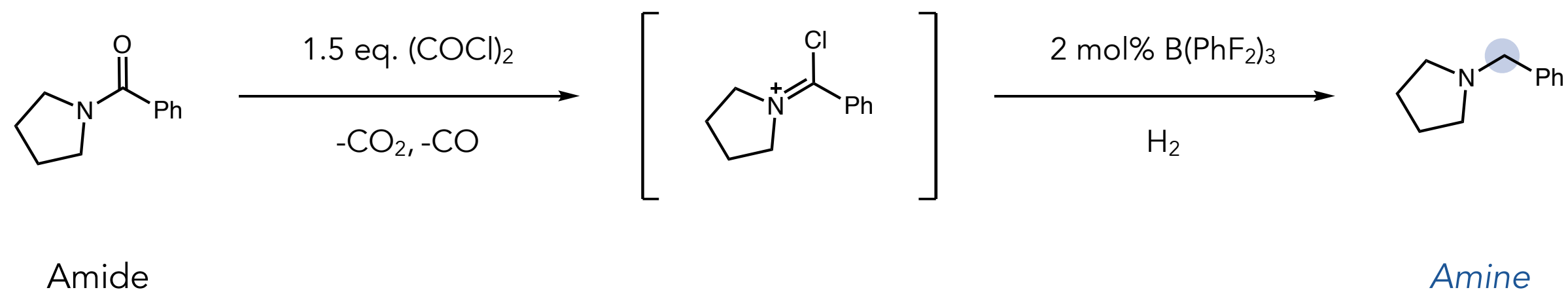


76% yield



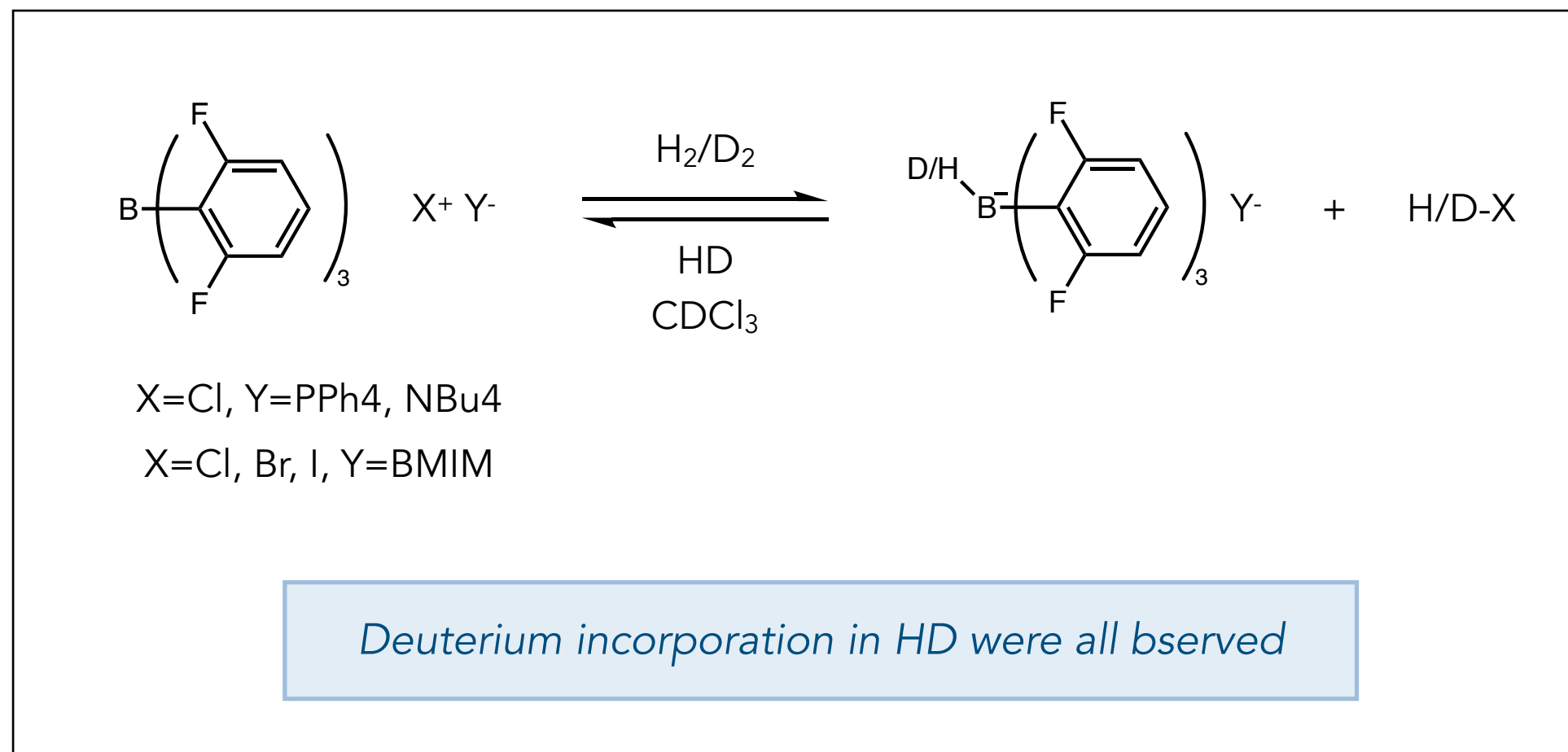
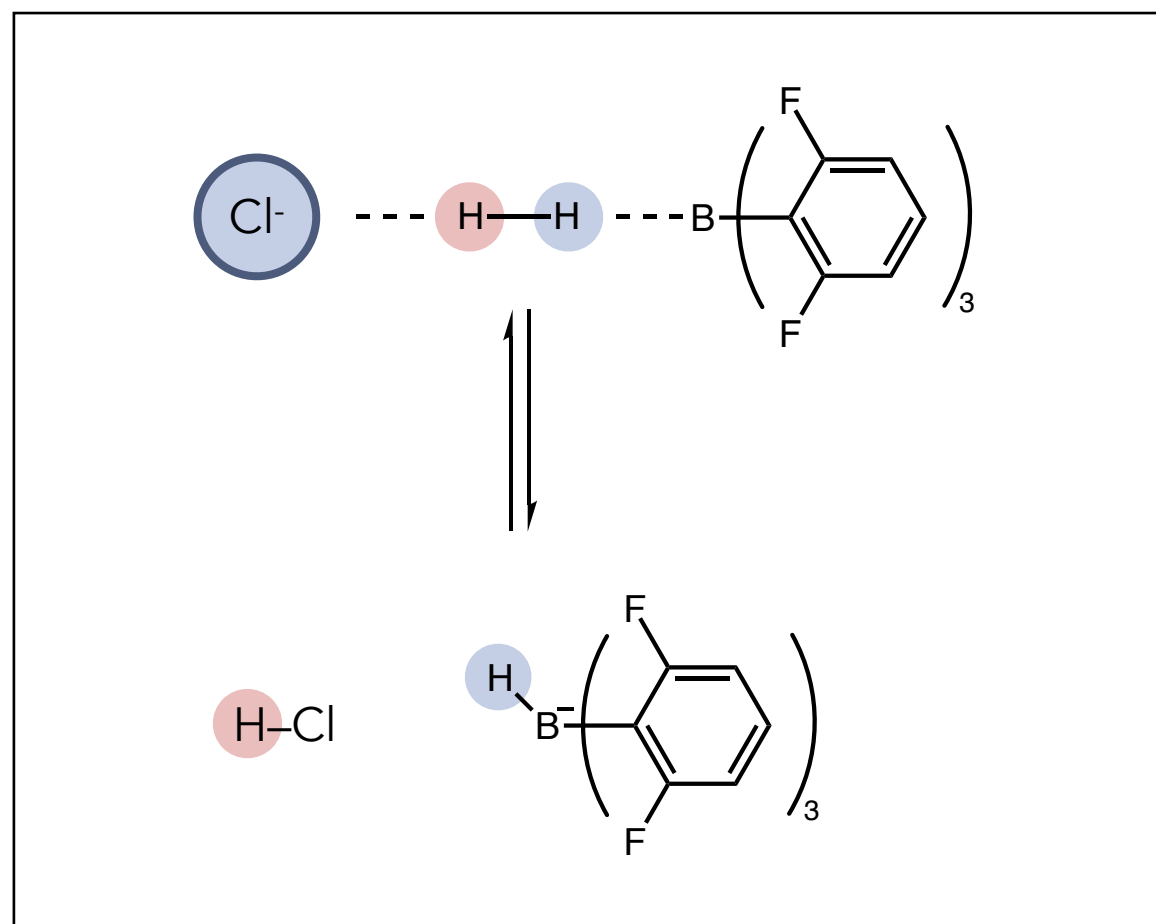
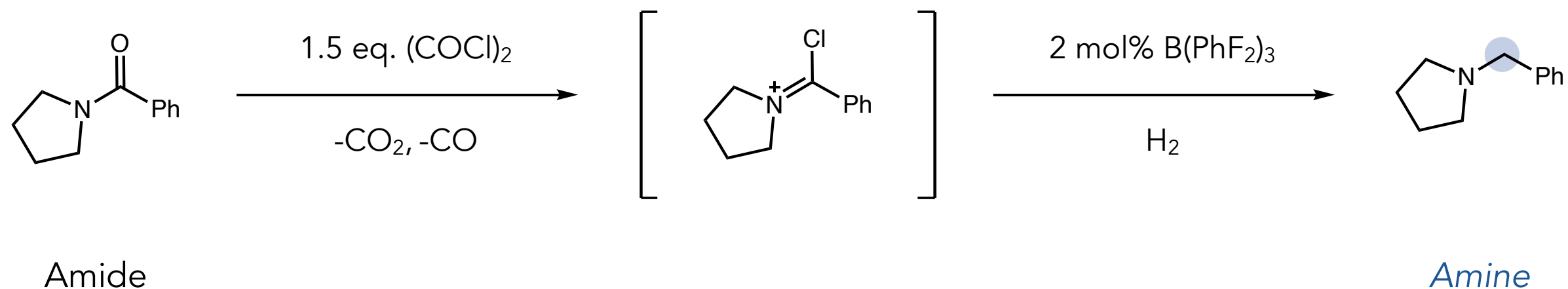
82% yield

# Amide Reduction With FLPs

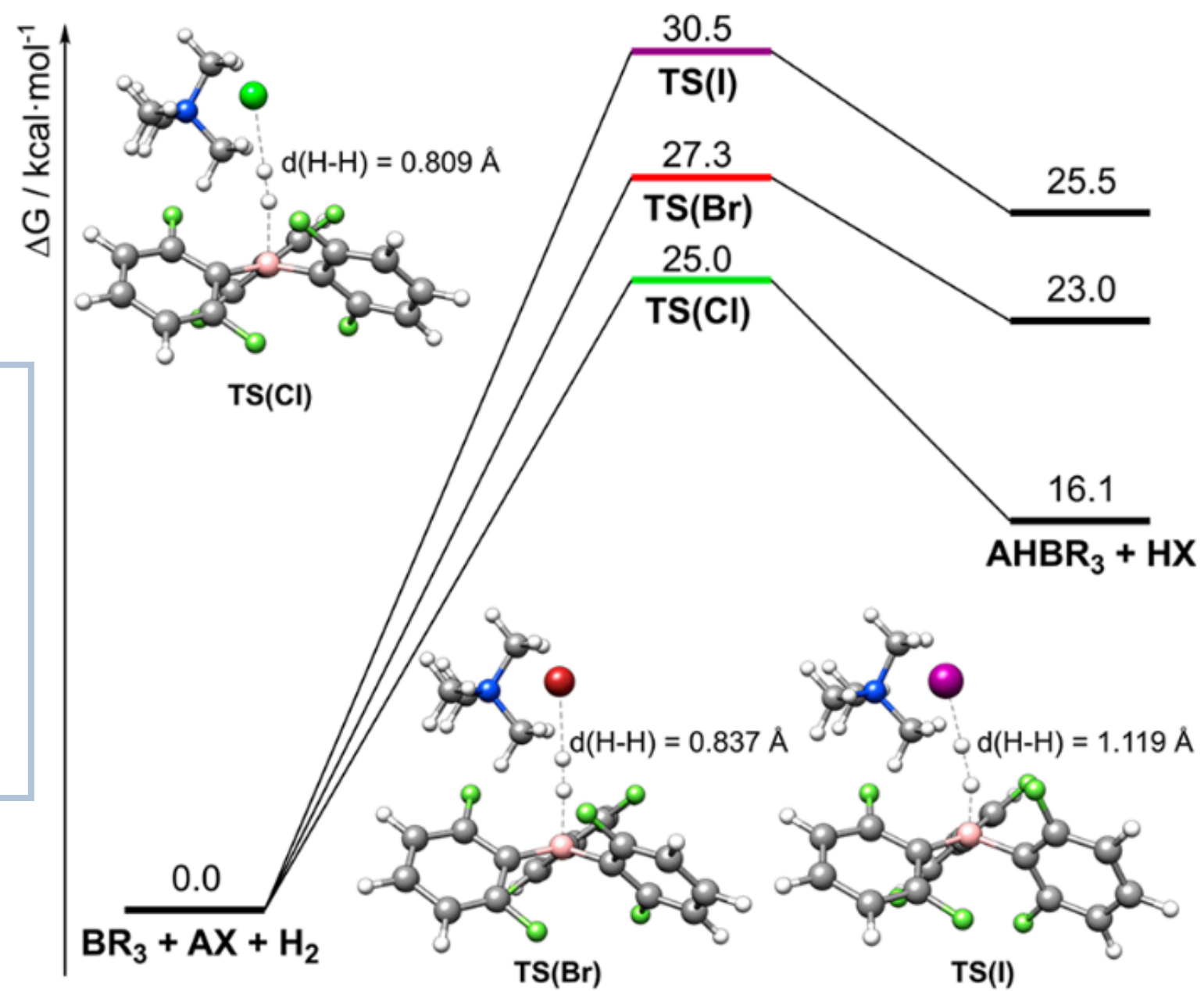
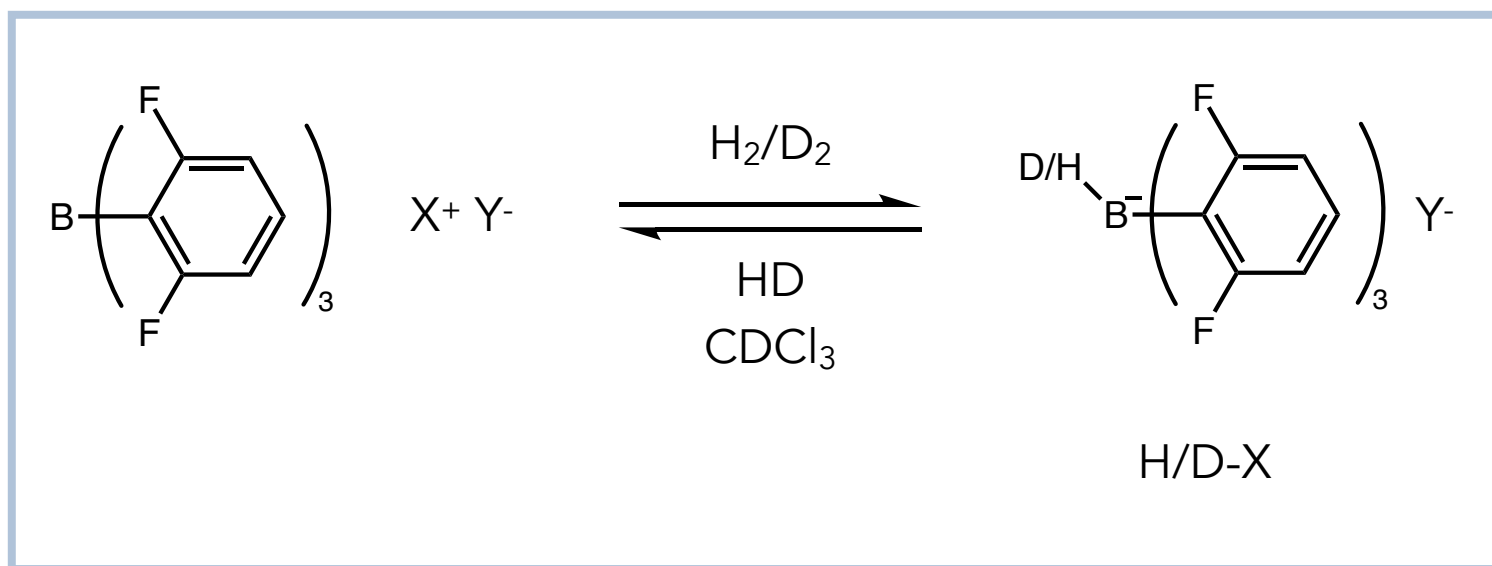


*What's serving the Lewis base?*

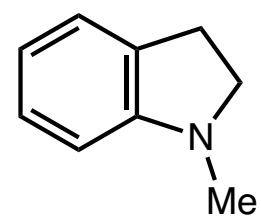
# Chlorine Anion As A Lewis Base



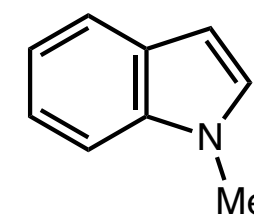
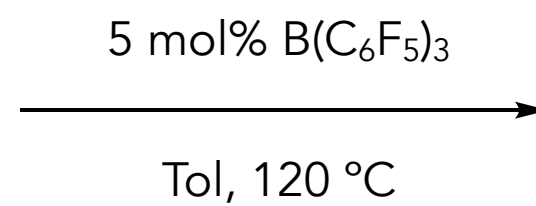
# Chlorine Anion As A Lewis Base



# Dehydrogenation With FLPs

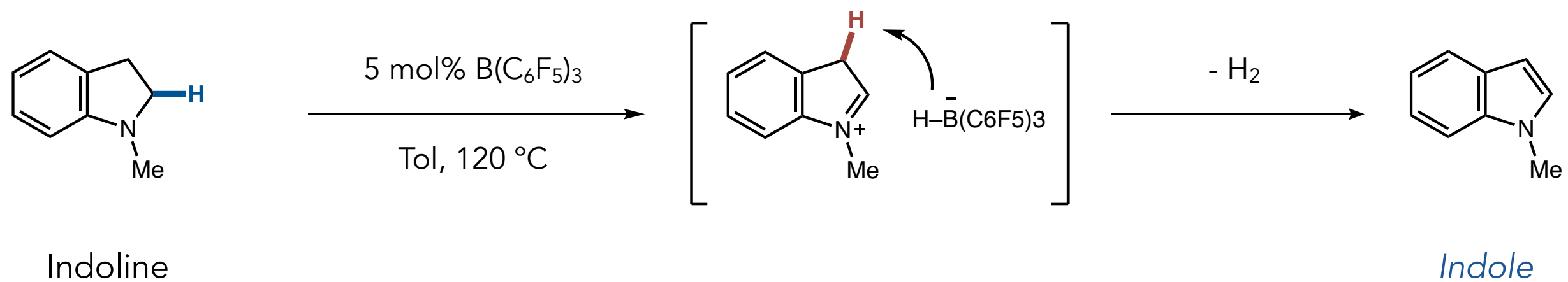


Indoline



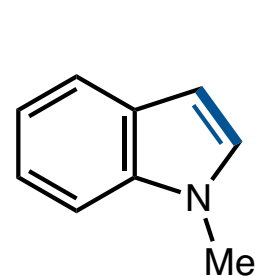
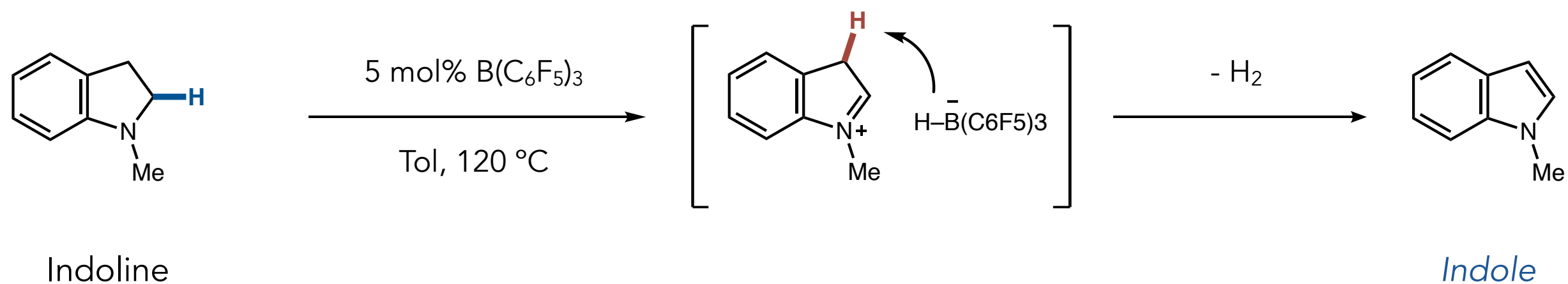
*Indole*

# Dehydrogenation With FLPs

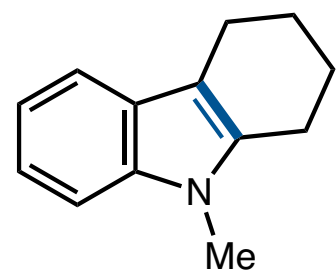




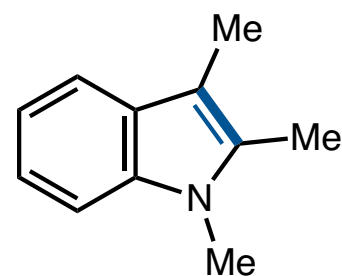
# Dehydrogenation With FLPs



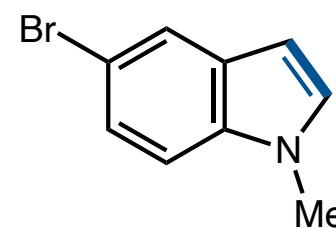
94% yield



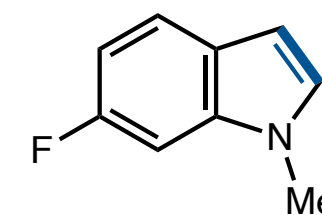
93% yield



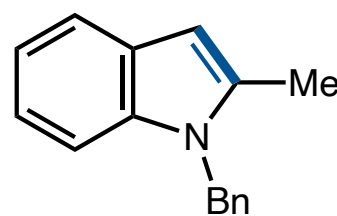
94% yield



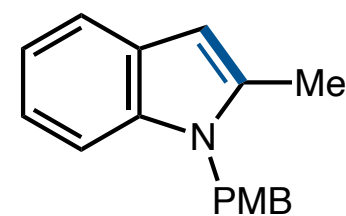
82% yield



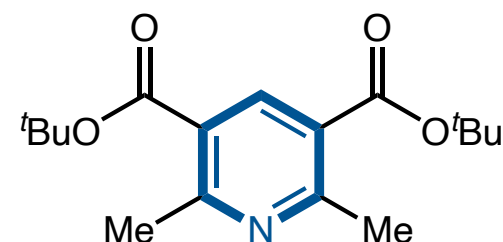
59% yield



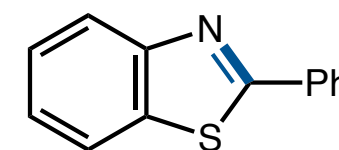
86% yield



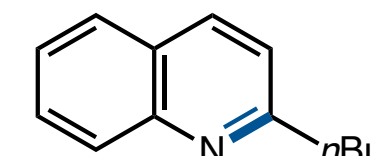
51% yield



50% yield

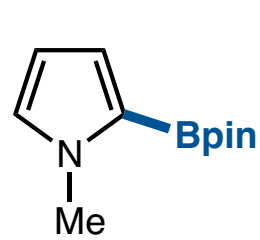
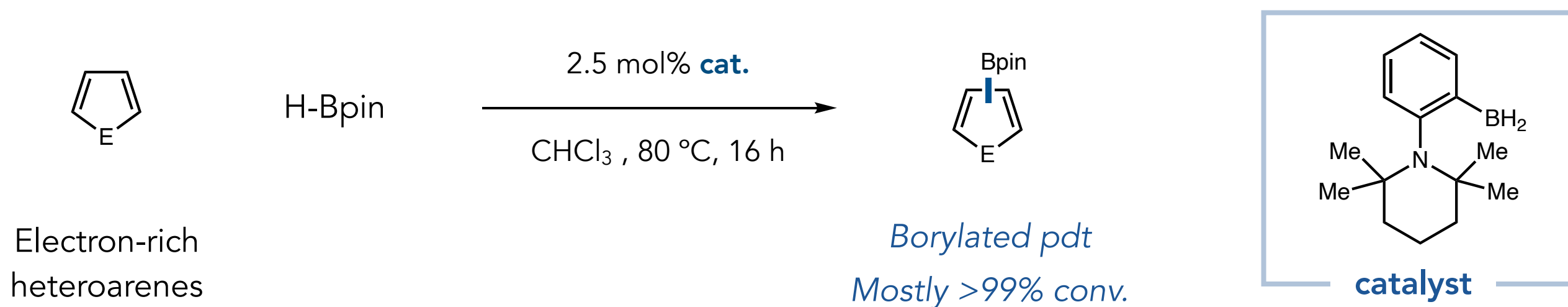


48% yield

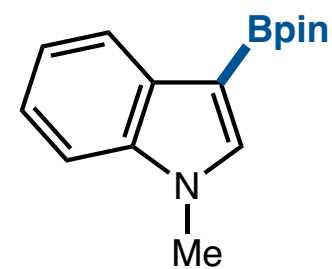
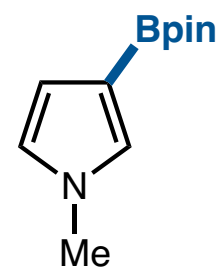


93% yield

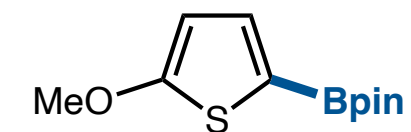
# Borylation of Electron-Rich Heteroarenes



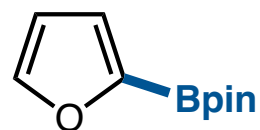
93% yield  
93:7 r.r.



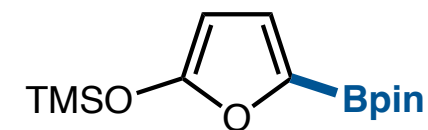
85% yield



85% yield

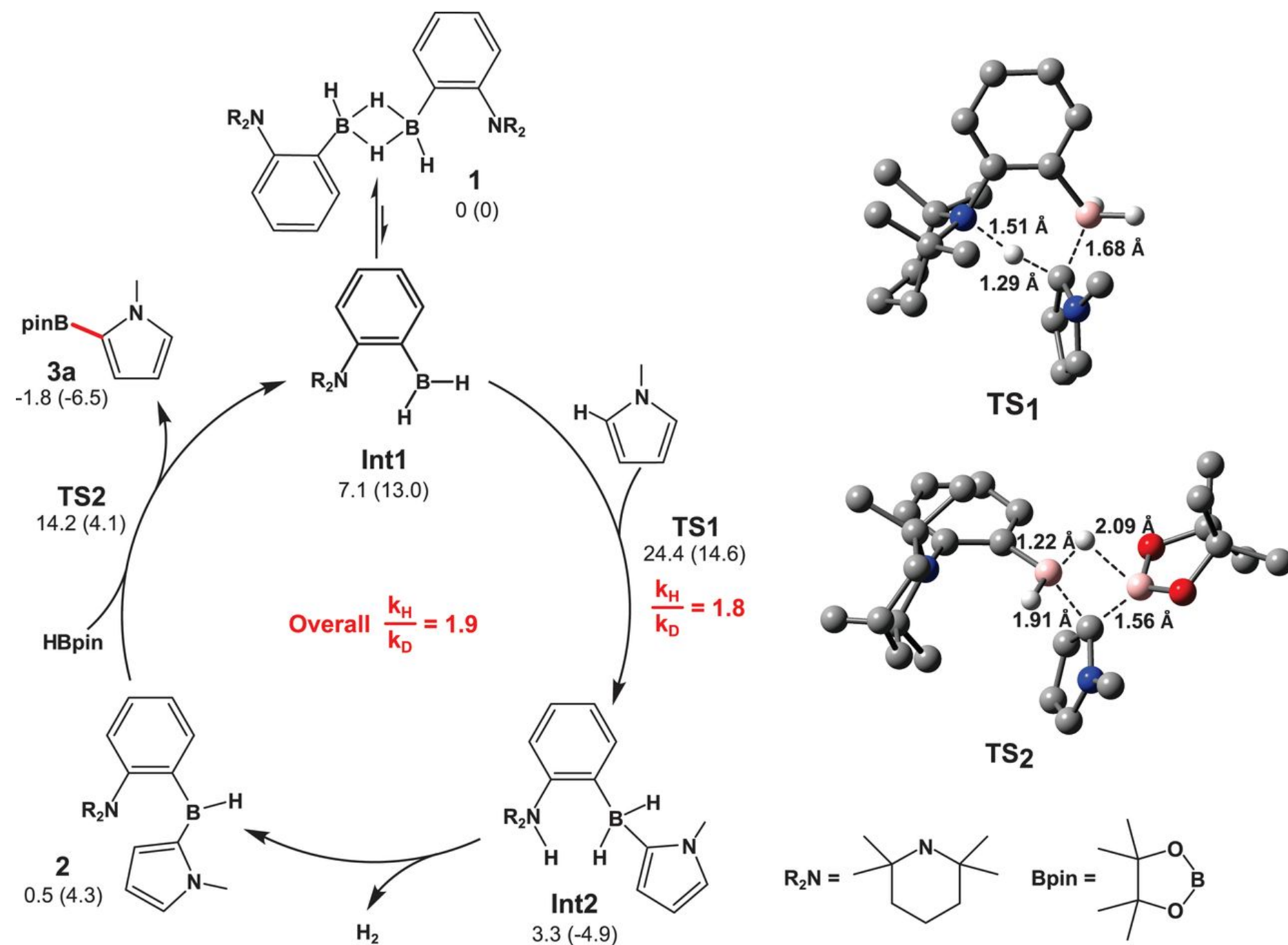


81% yield



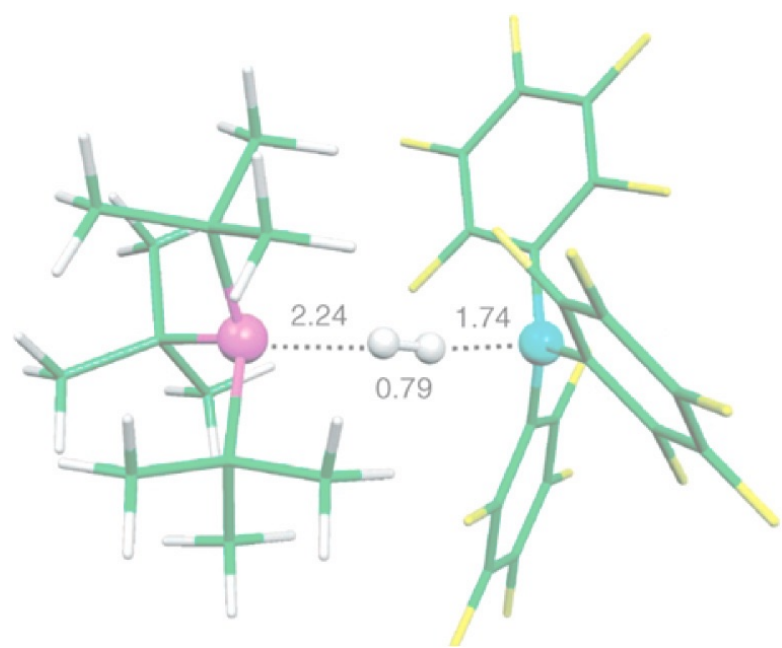
84% yield

# Borylation of Electron-Rich Heteroarenes

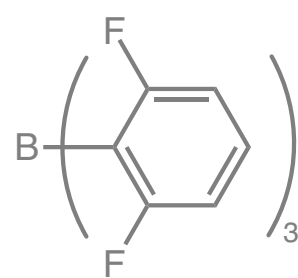


# The Discovery & Development of Frustrated Lewis Pairs

## Mechanism & proof of Concept

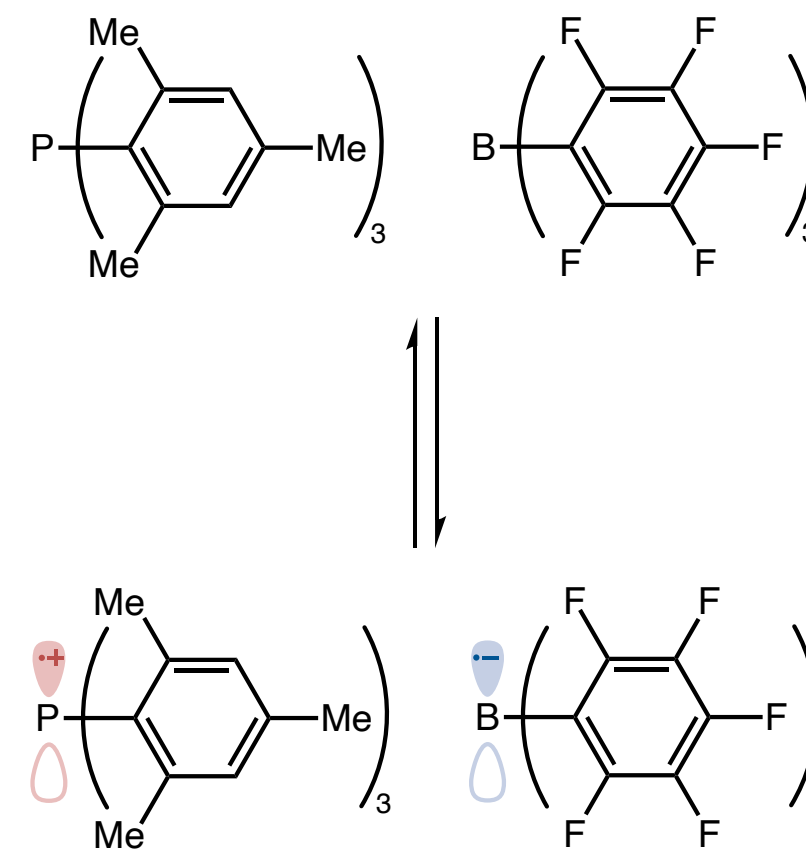


## Application in Organic Reactions

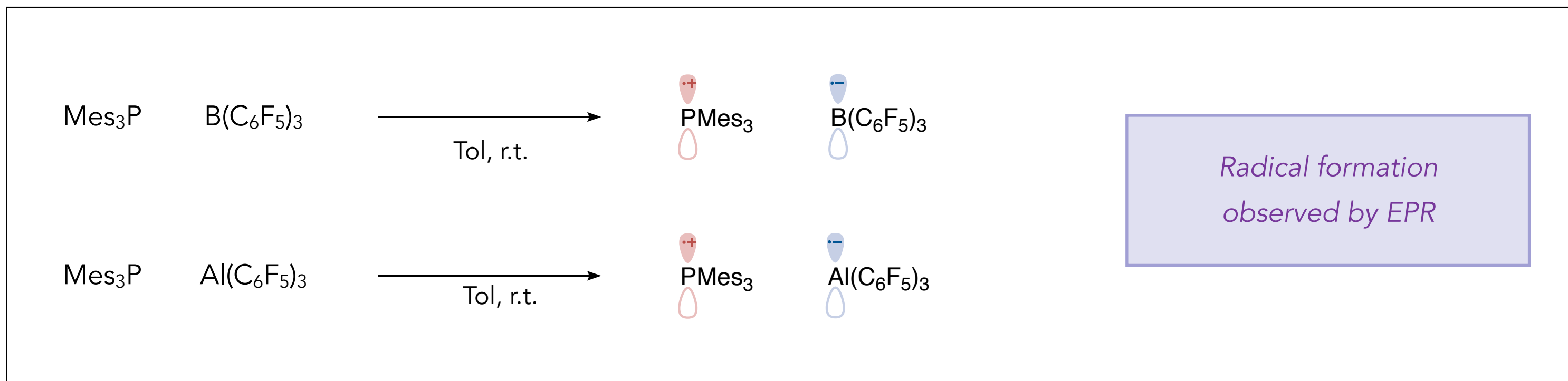
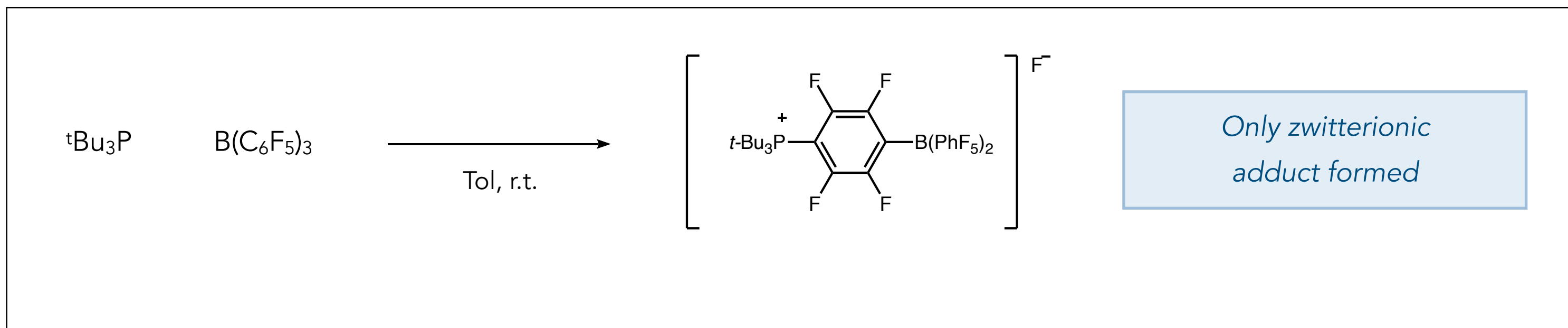


catalyst

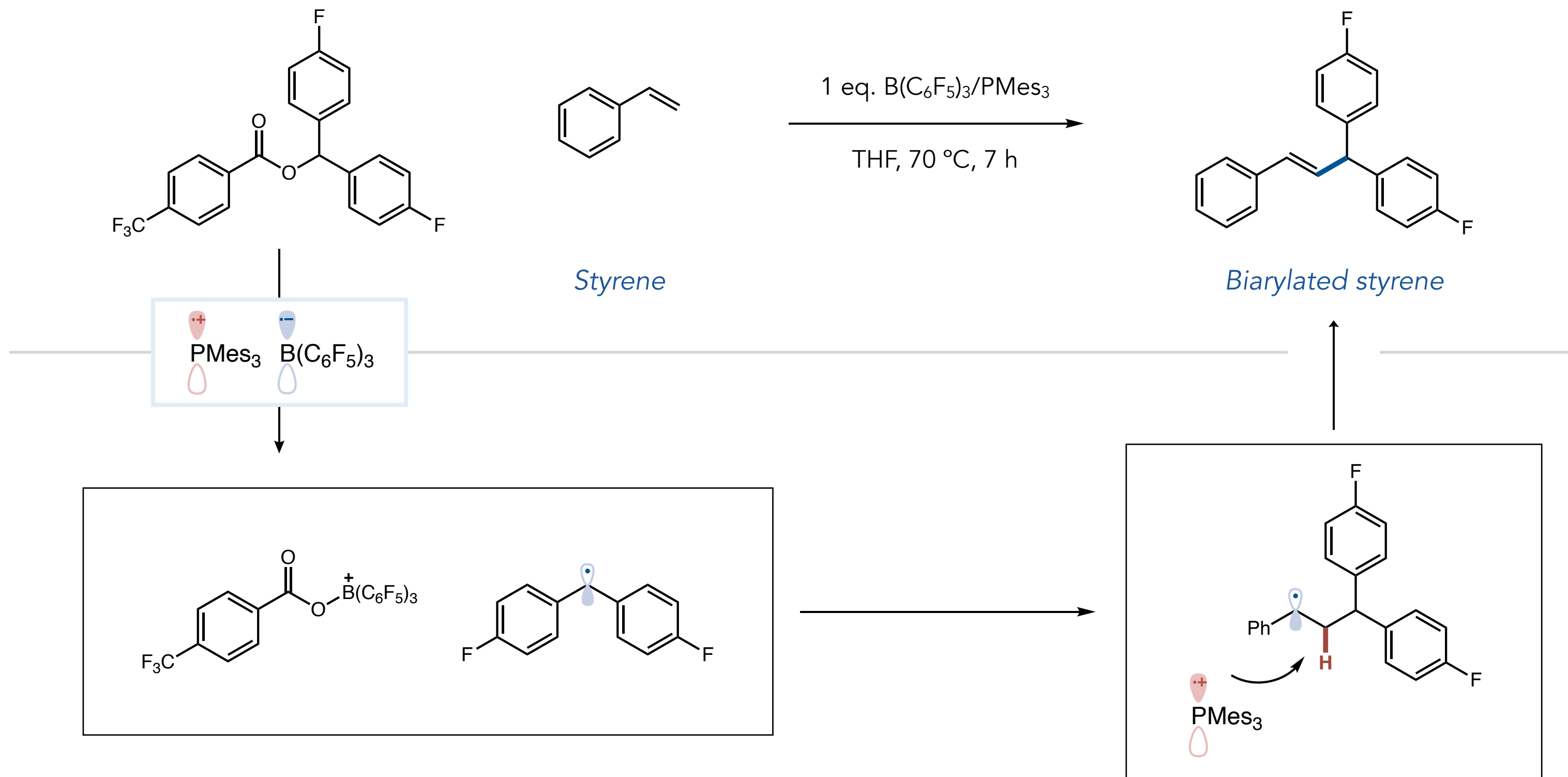
## Redefining FLP & FRP



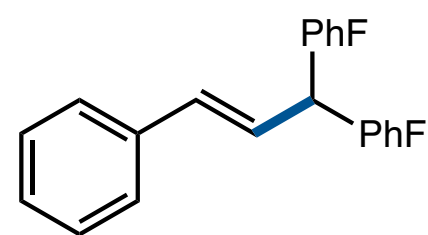
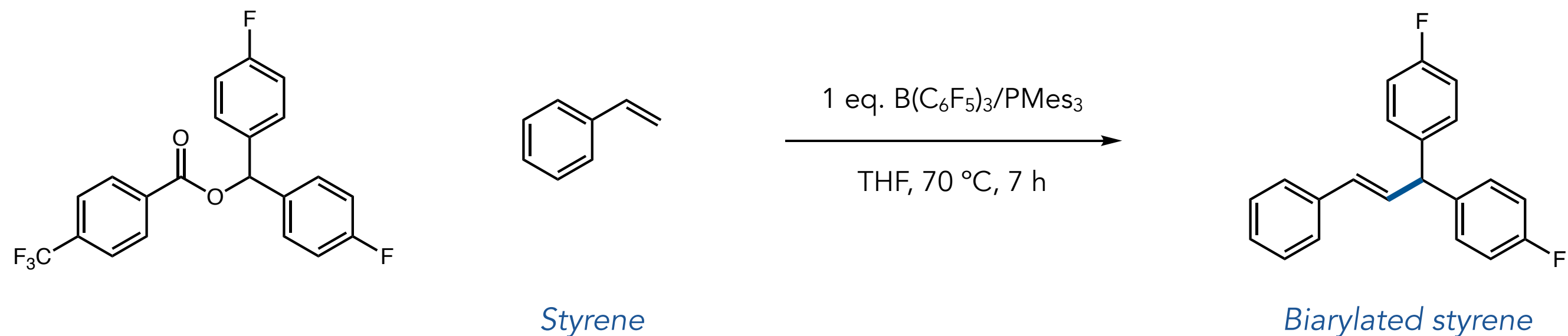
# Radical Generation From FLP



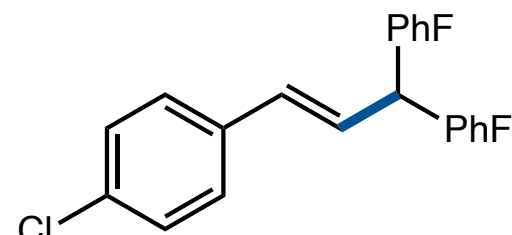
# Borylation of Styrenes Using FRP



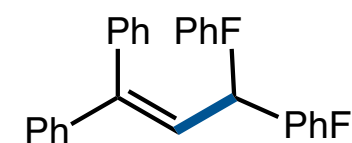
# Borylation of Styrenes Using FRP



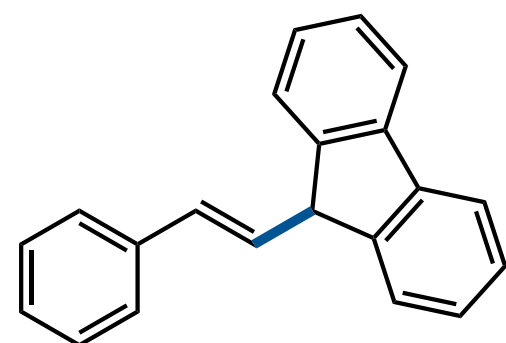
52% yield



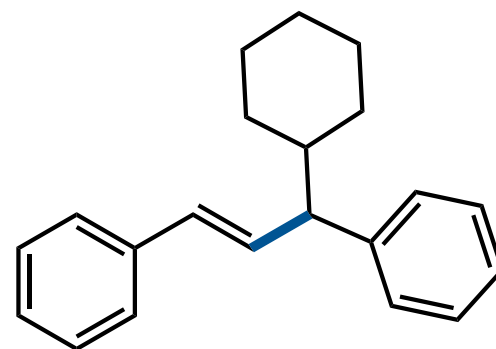
41% yield



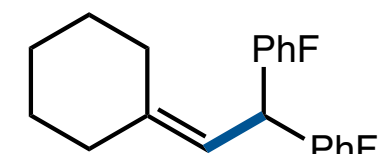
71% yield



67% yield



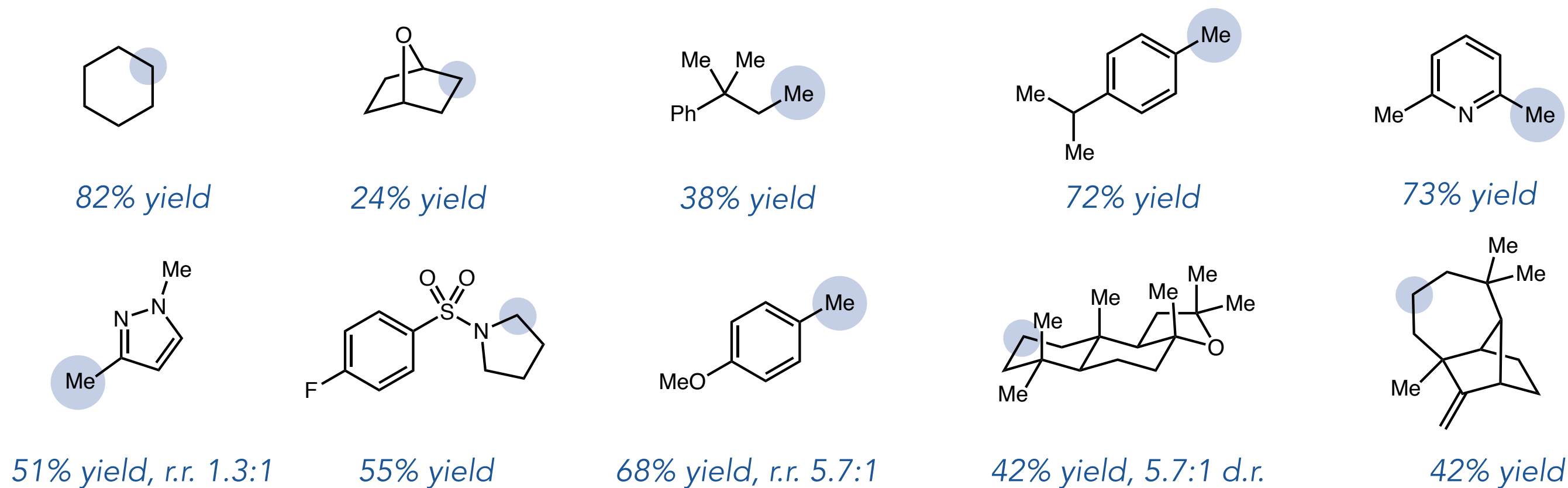
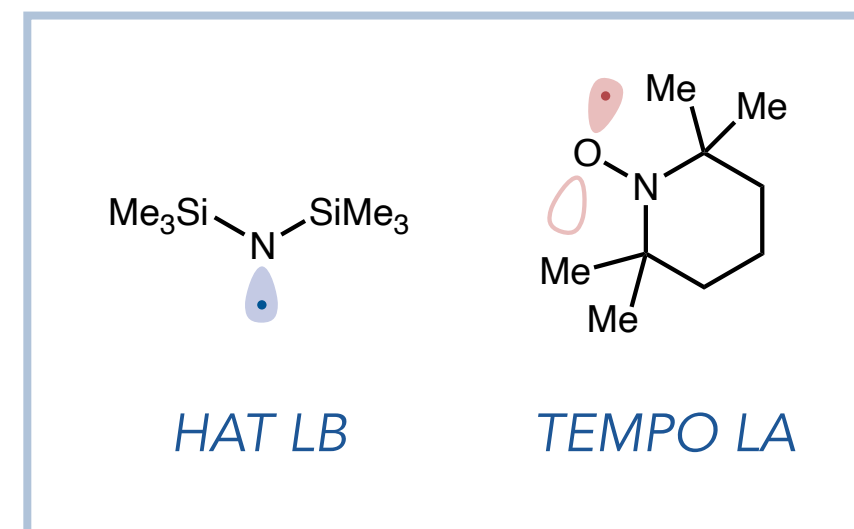
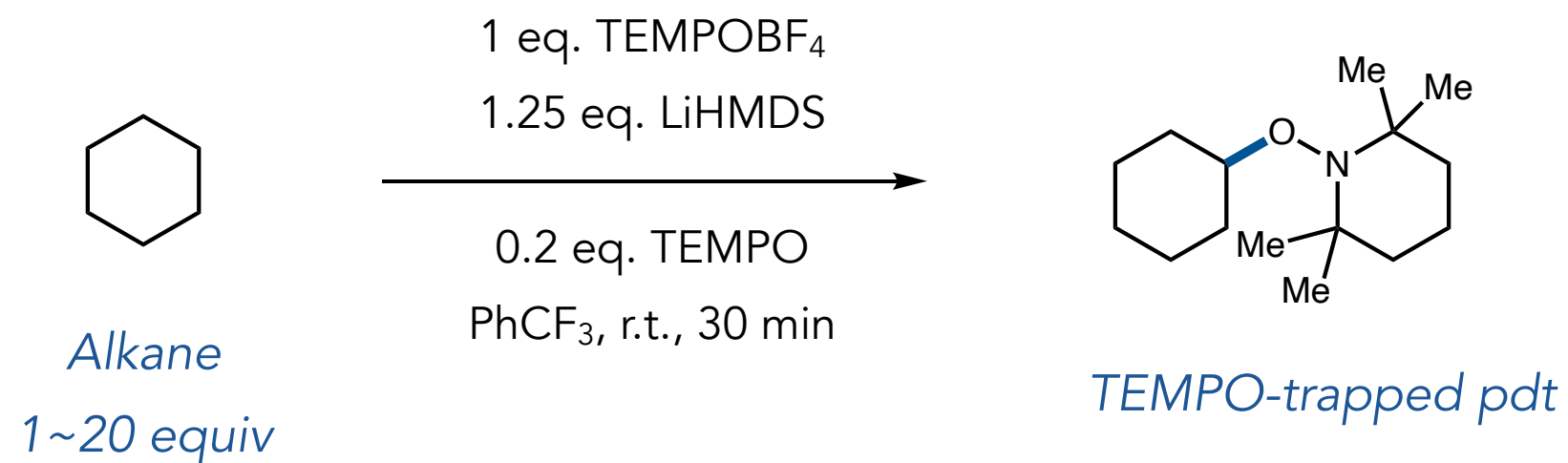
63% yield



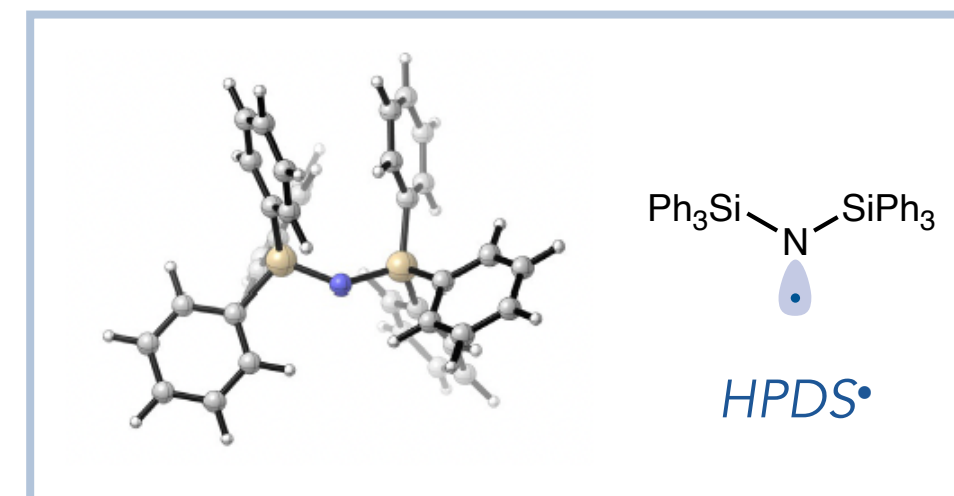
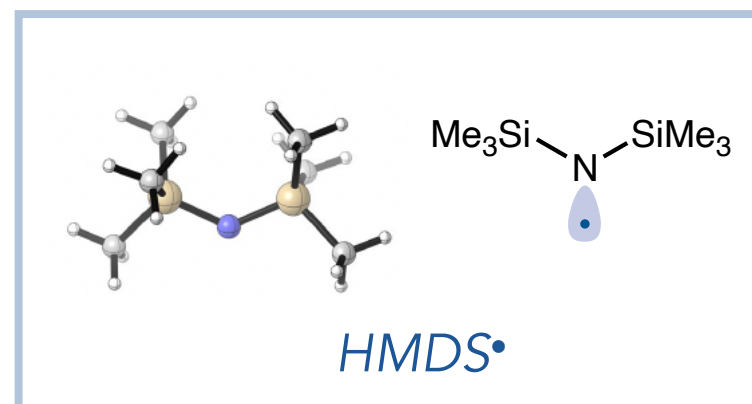
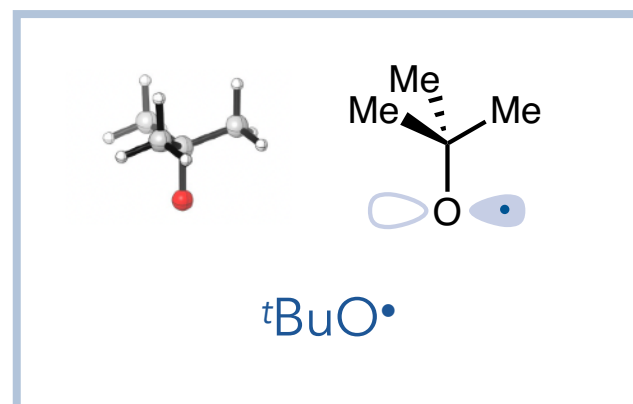
55% yield



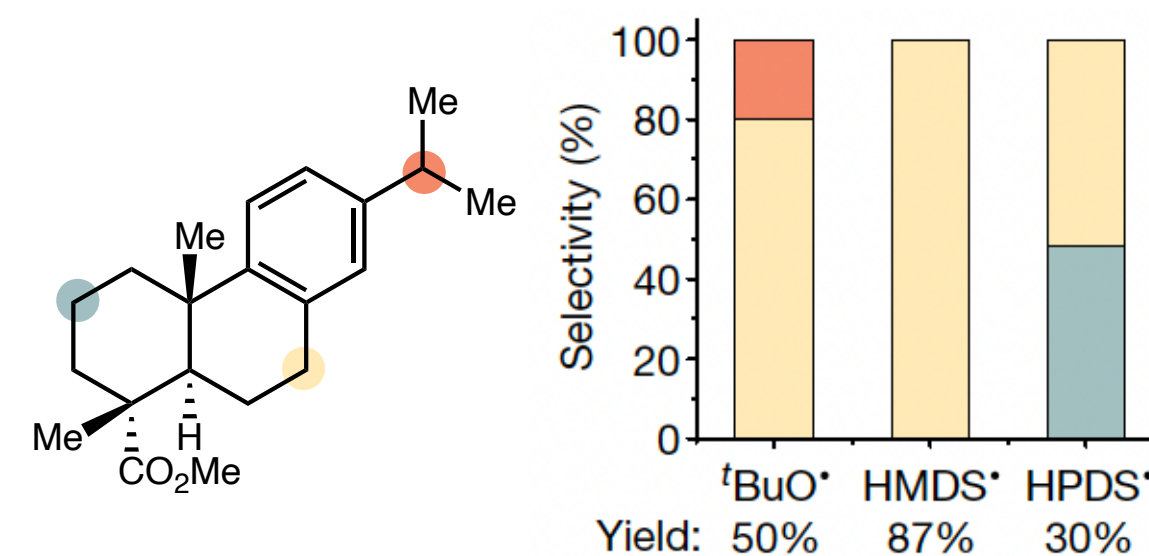
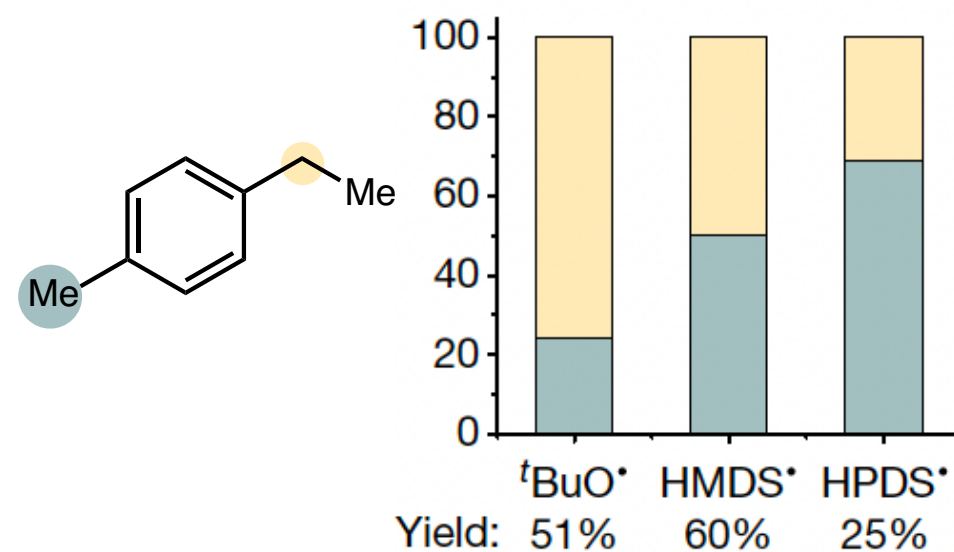
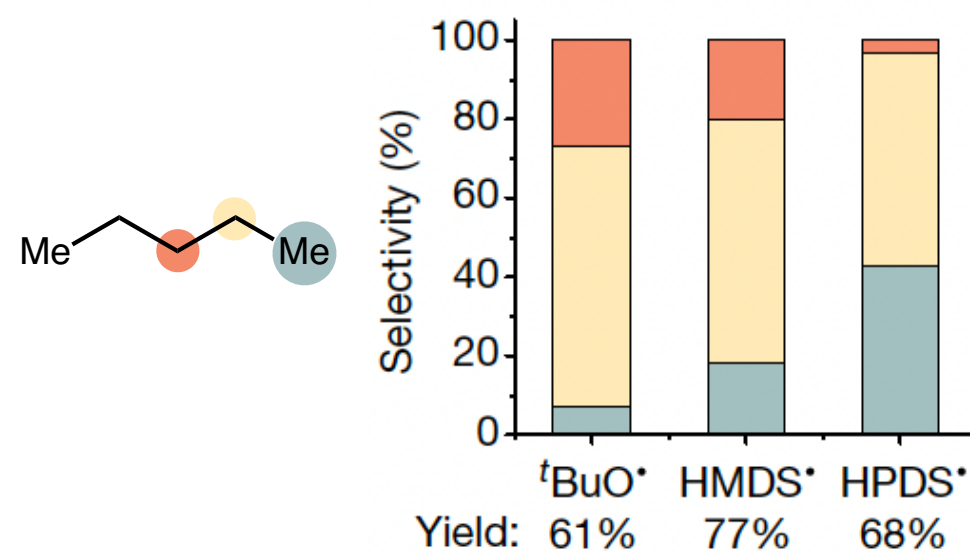
# C-H Activation Using FRP



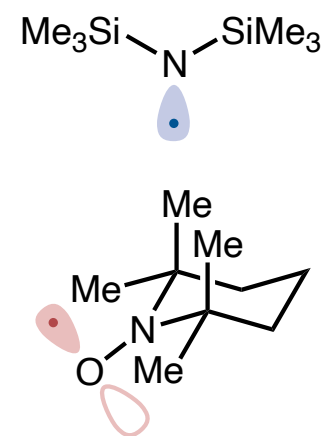
# Probing C–H Selectivity



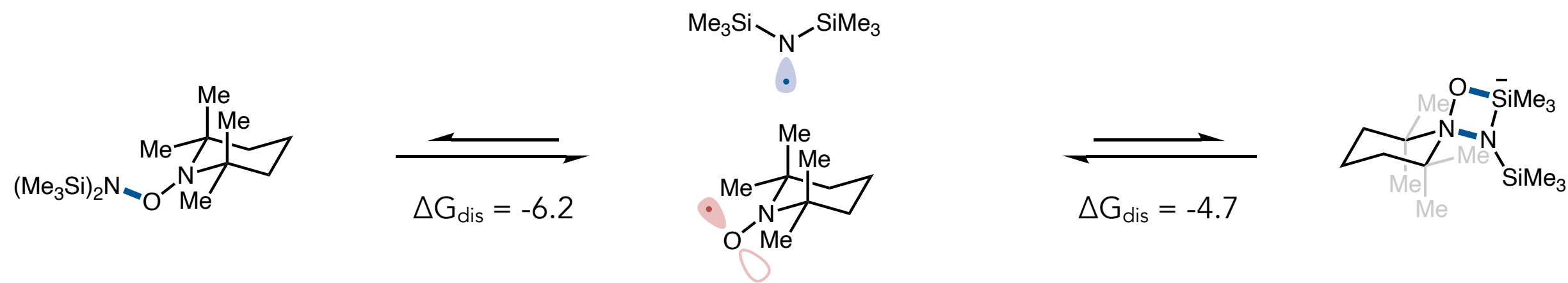
Increasing steric bulk, increasing selectivity



# Redefining FRP

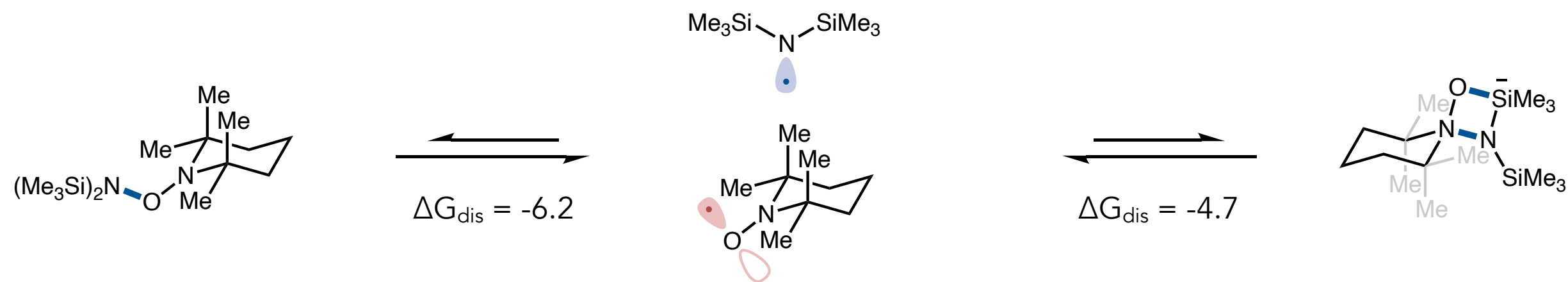


# Redefining FRP



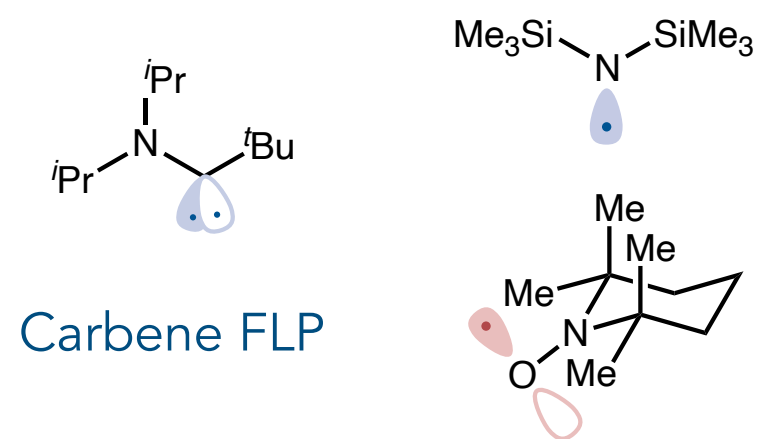
"One difference between well-known frustrated Lewis pairs (FLPs) and the relatively new 'FRPs', is that the Lewis pairs must have a tendency to associate through polar effects [although a full bond cannot be made], so that they likely travel together as a real pair, whereas the pairs of radicals formed here would diffuse freely... If 'FRP' is retained as a title, future developments would see molecular oxygen called a frustrated gas? and TEMPO as a frustrated reagent??"

# Redefining FRP

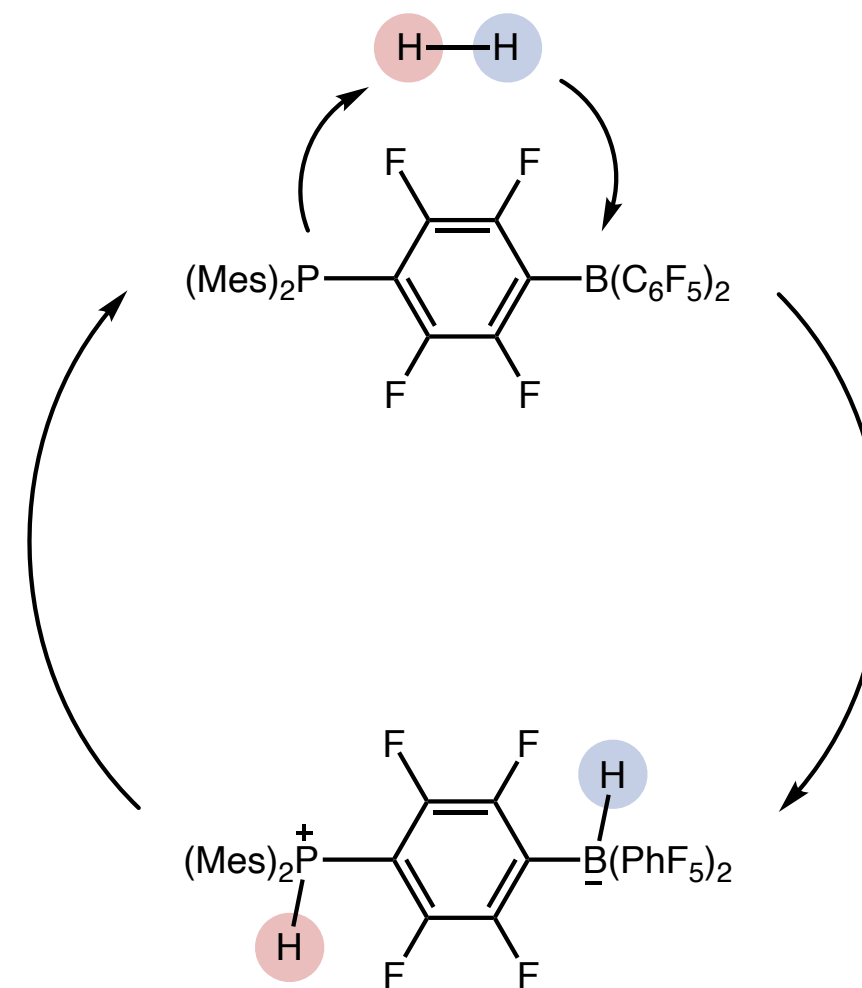


“... the disilylaminyll and tert-butoxyl radical in our FRPs are transient species generated from closed-shell ground state HMDS<sup>-</sup> and tBuO<sup>-</sup>. In addition, as described above and similarly to FLPs, the two radicals in an FRP in our case display orthogonal properties and reactivities, and can synergistically achieve desired bond activation. If there is a system where two molecules of O<sub>2</sub> or two molecules of TEMPO<sup>•</sup> could act in synergy to react with a reaction substrate, then they would also be referred to as FRPs in that context per our definition.”

# Future Directions



Carbene FLP



- Exploring different FLP & FRP complexes
  - Functional group tolerance

- Catalytic turnover rate
- Air/moisture sensitivity

Questions?

