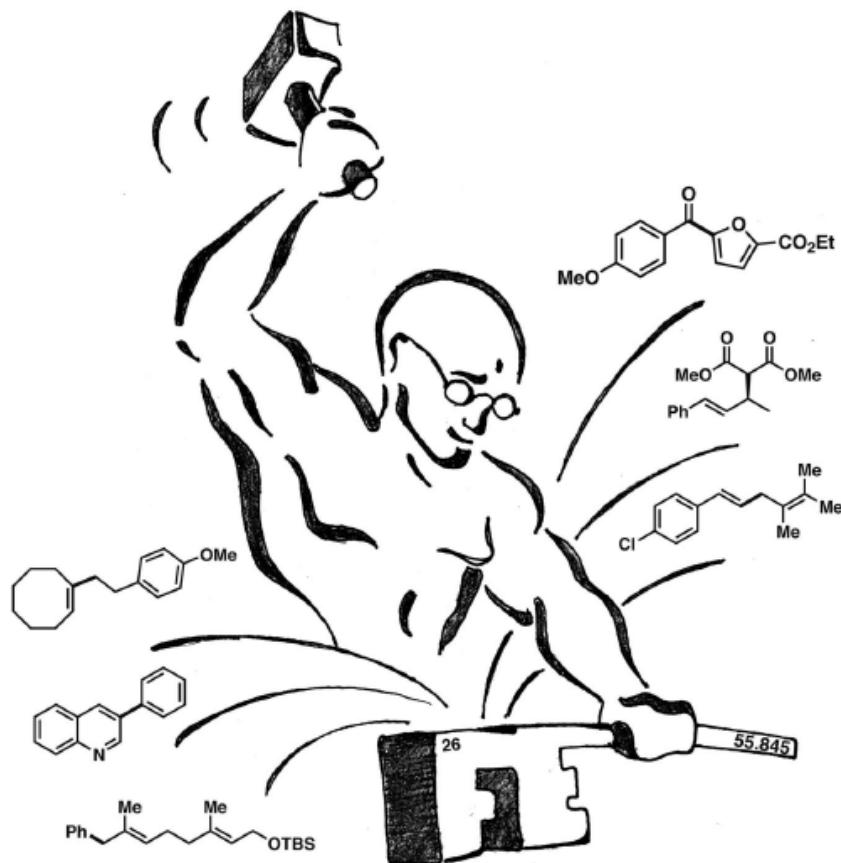


Recent Developments in Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling



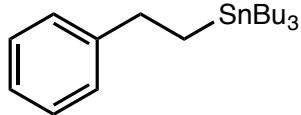
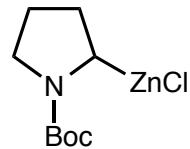
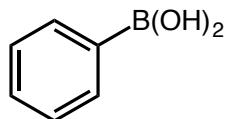
Artwork by von Wangelin design (Rostock, Germany)

Jack Terrett
MacMillan Group Meeting
March 15th, 2016

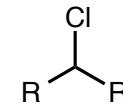
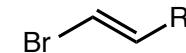
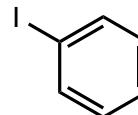
Transition Metal-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

- One of the most fundamental class of reactions in organic synthesis for C–C bond formation

organometallic nucleophiles



organometallic electrophiles



- 2010 Nobel Prize awarded in this area: Heck, Negishi, and Suzuki



Metal-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

- One of the most fundamental reactions in organic synthesis for C–C bond formation

diverse nucleophile handles

Mg = Kumada

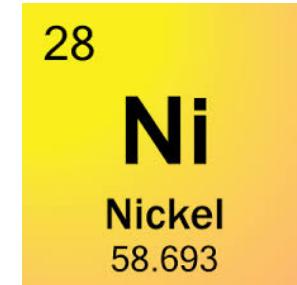
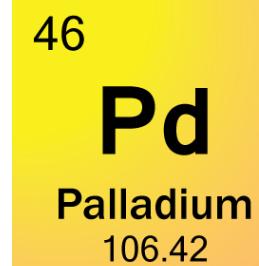
Zn = Negishi

B = Suzuki-Miyaura

Sn = Stille

Si = Hiyama

transition metal catalysts



What about iron catalysis?

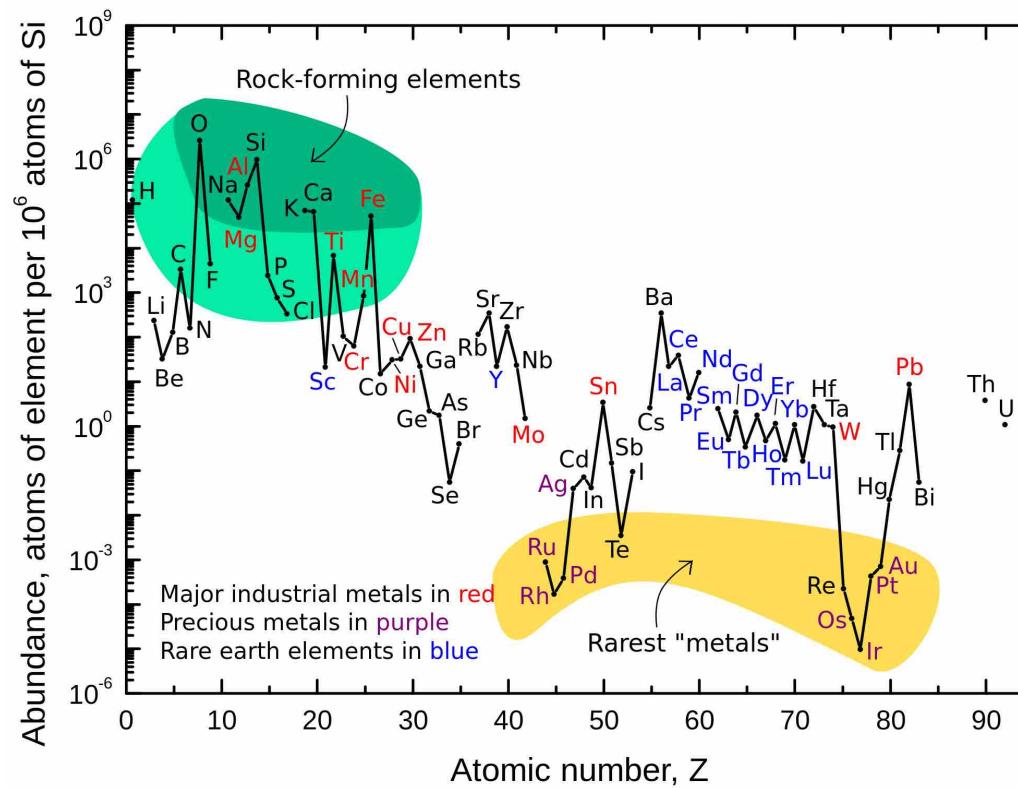


Why Iron Catalysis?

- Compared to palladium and nickel, iron has many beneficial characteristics

Iron is second most abundant metal in the Earth's crust

4.7 wt% vs. 1×10^{-6} wt% for Pd



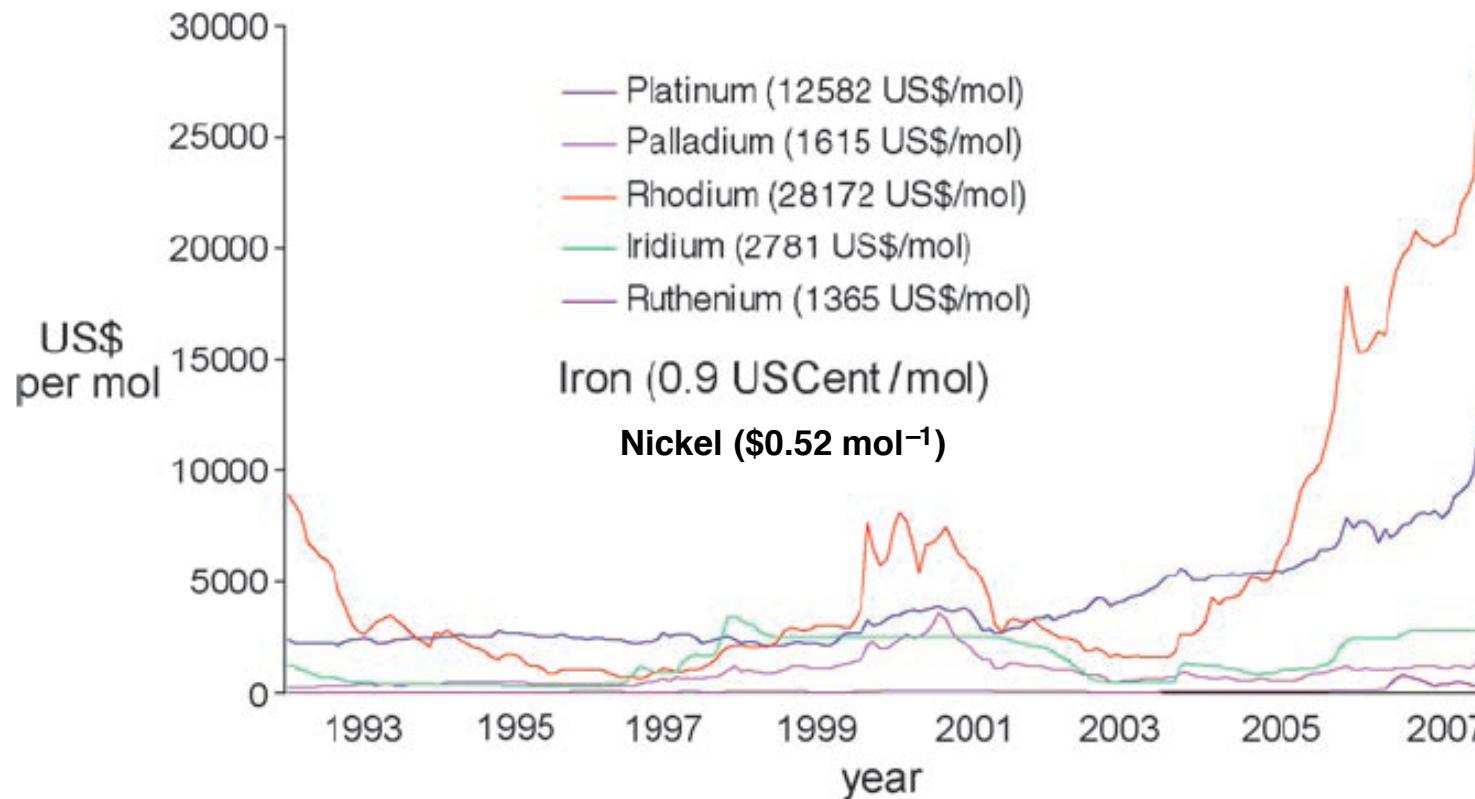
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abundance_of_the_chemical_elements

Renner, H.; Schmuckler, G. *Metals and their compounds in the environment.*, ed. E Merian, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, 1991.

Why Iron Catalysis?

- Compared to palladium and nickel, iron has many beneficial characteristics

Iron is far more inexpensive than palladium



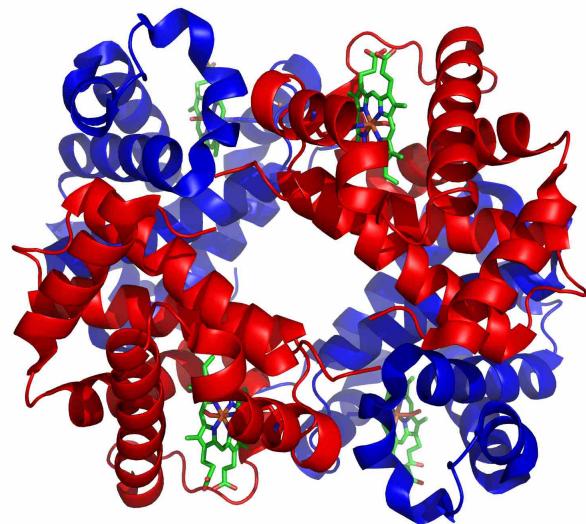
<http://www.icmj.com/current-metal-prices.php>

Enthaler, S.; Junge, K.; Beller, M. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 3317.

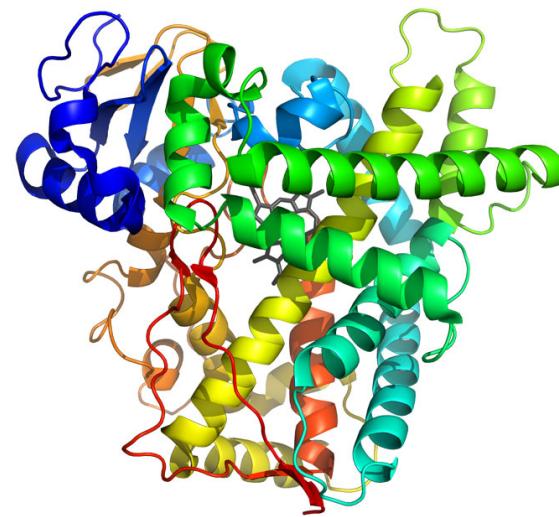
Why Iron Catalysis?

- Compared to palladium and nickel, iron has many beneficial characteristics

Iron is relatively non-toxic compared to palladium and nickel



Haemoglobin



Cytochrome P450

Iron is present in a large number of biological systems, notably metalloproteins

Why Iron Catalysis?

- Compared to palladium and nickel, iron has many beneficial characteristics

1) Abundance: Iron is second most abundant metal in the Earth's crust

2) Cost: Iron is far more inexpensive than palladium

3) Toxicity: Iron is relatively non-toxic compared to palladium and nickel

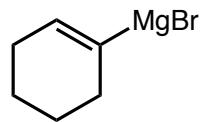
4) Reactivity!

Can we discover new reactivity that is unique to iron catalysis?

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

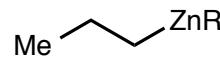


Kumada Coupling



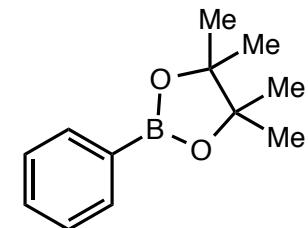
Grignard reagents

Negishi Coupling



organozincs

Suzuki Coupling

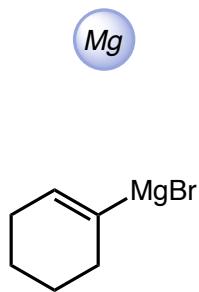


organoboron

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

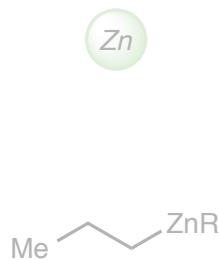


Kumada Coupling



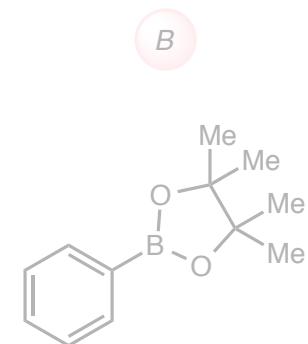
Grignard reagents

Negishi Coupling



organozincs

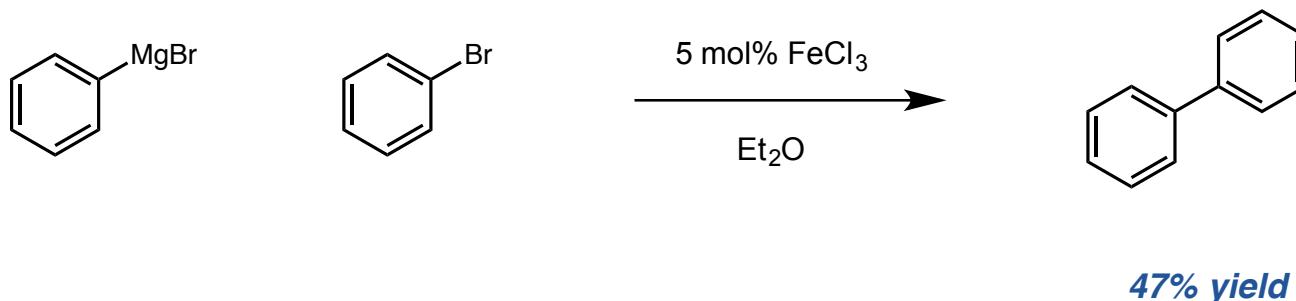
Suzuki Coupling



organoboron

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

- First report of iron-mediated cross-coupling came from Kharasch and Fields in 1941

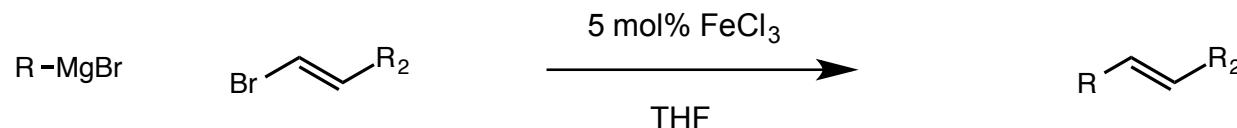


- Reactivity is observed in the presence of $CoCl_2$, $FeCl_3$, $MnCl_2$, and $NiCl_2$
- Kharasch proposes that the metallic halide gets reduced to a lower oxidation state by the Grignard reagent

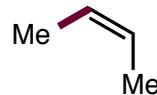
It was another 30 years until the field really got started.

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

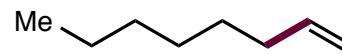
■ Kochi reported the coupling of alkenyl halides with Grignard reagents in 1971



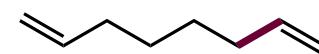
>95% yield



>95% yield



83% yield



64% yield

(*trans* reacts ~15 times faster than *cis*)

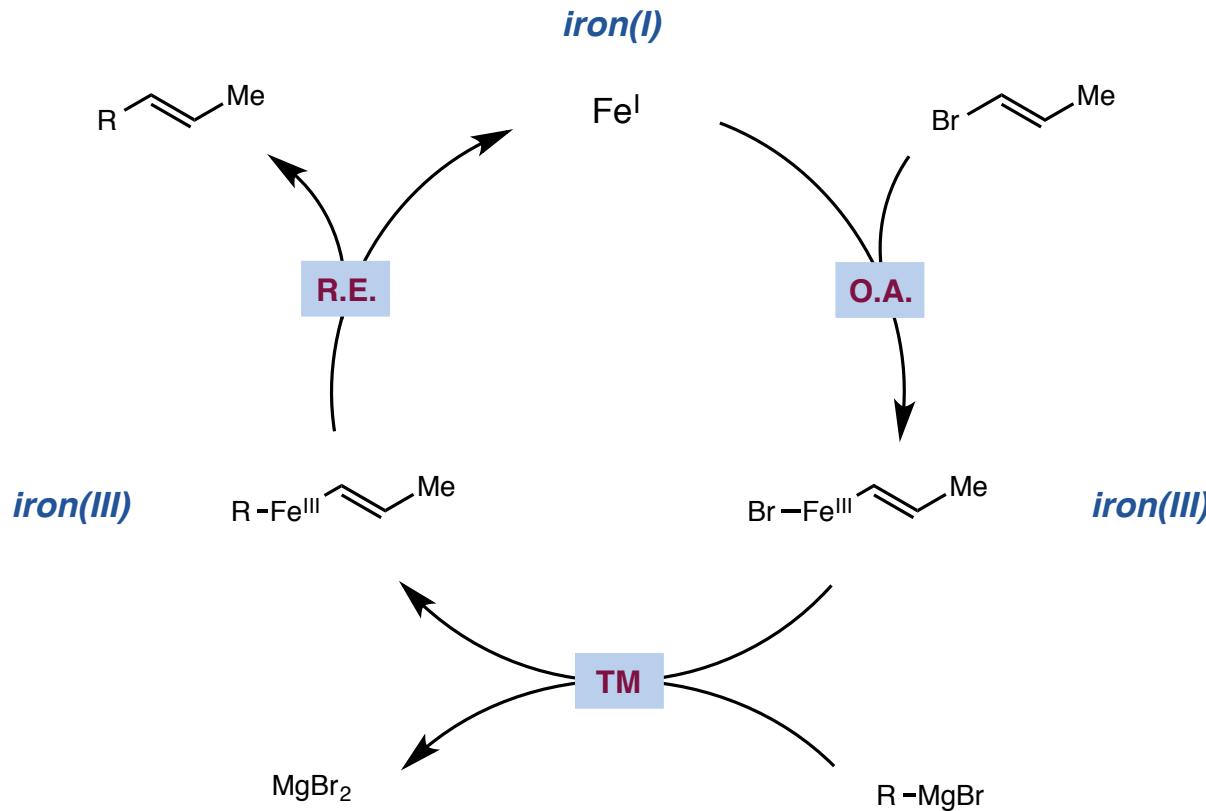
coupling of alkenyl halides occurs stereospecifically

Tamura, M.; Kochi, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1971**, *93*, 1487.

Tamura, M.; Kochi, J. *Synthesis* **1971**, *1971*, 303.

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

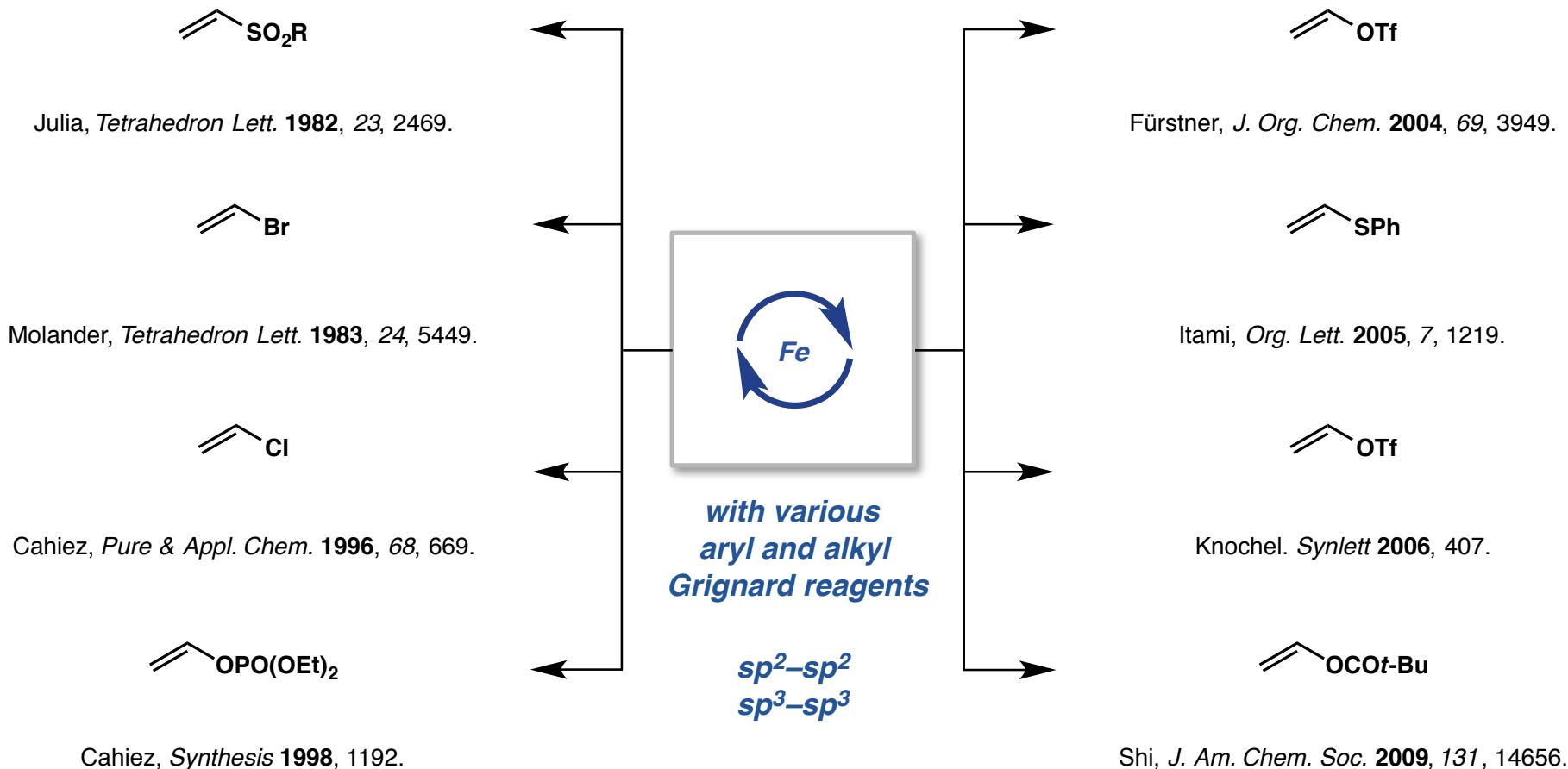
■ Kochi proposed an Fe(I)/(III) mechanistic cycle



active Fe(I) formed by reduction of Fe(III) precatalyst by Grignard reagent

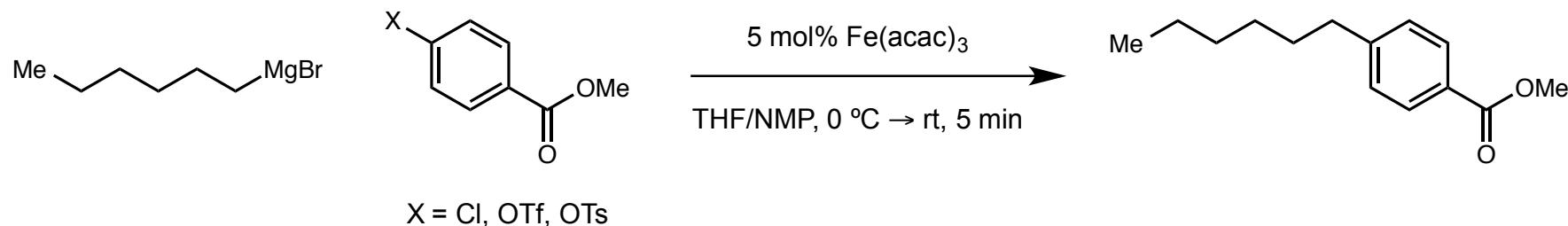
Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ Following Kochi's report, Fe-catalyzed couplings with alkenyl electrophiles developed rapidly



Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ Fürstner reported first coupling of aryl electrophiles with Grignard reagents in 2002



X	Product	ArH	
I	27%	46%	
Br	38%	50%	<i>arene reduction possibly due to a radical decomposition pathway</i>
Cl	>95%	0%	
OTf	>95%	0%	<i>effectiveness of Ar–Cl is suggestive of Fe(–II) active catalyst for oxidative addition</i>
OTs	>95%	0%	

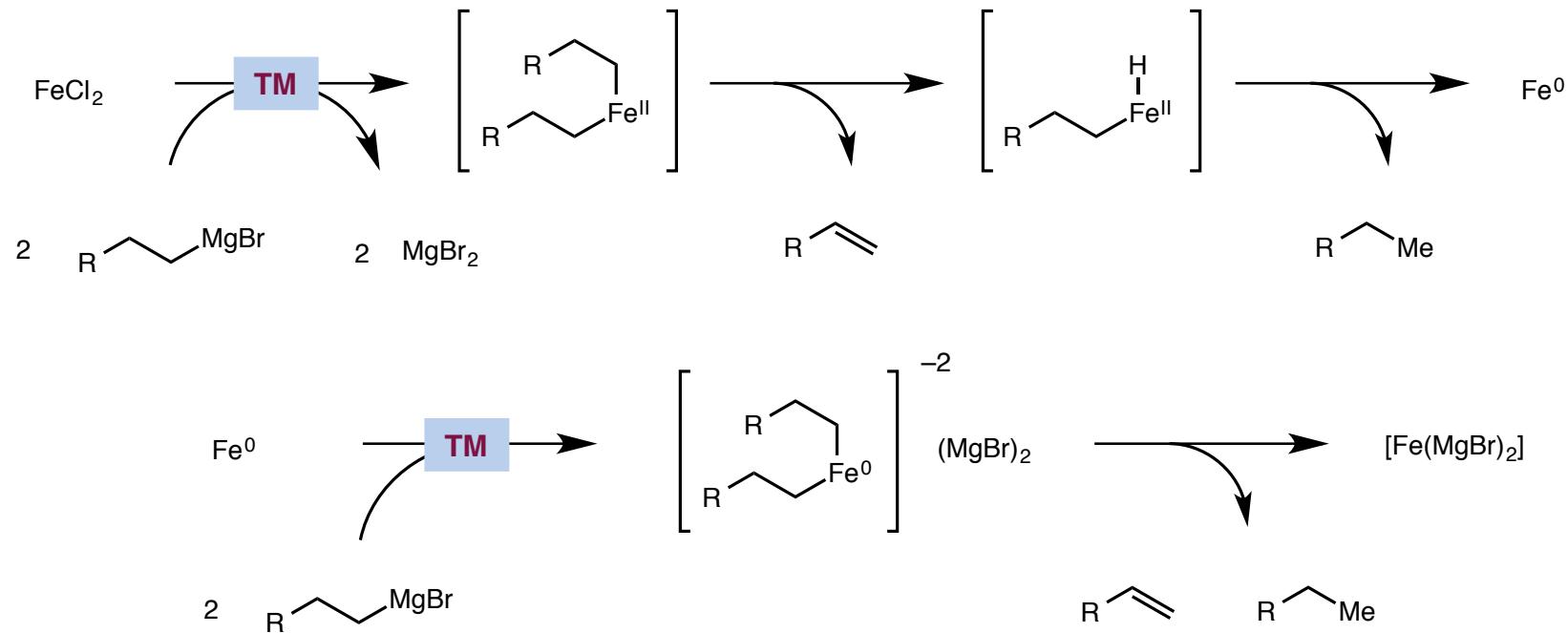
Fürstner, A.; Leitner, A. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 609.

Fürstner, A.; Leitner, A.; Mendez, M.; Krause, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 13856.

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ Fürstner proposed a Fe(–II)/(0) mechanistic cycle

[Fe(MgX)₂] active catalyst is prepared in situ from FeCl₂ and 4 equiv. RMgBr

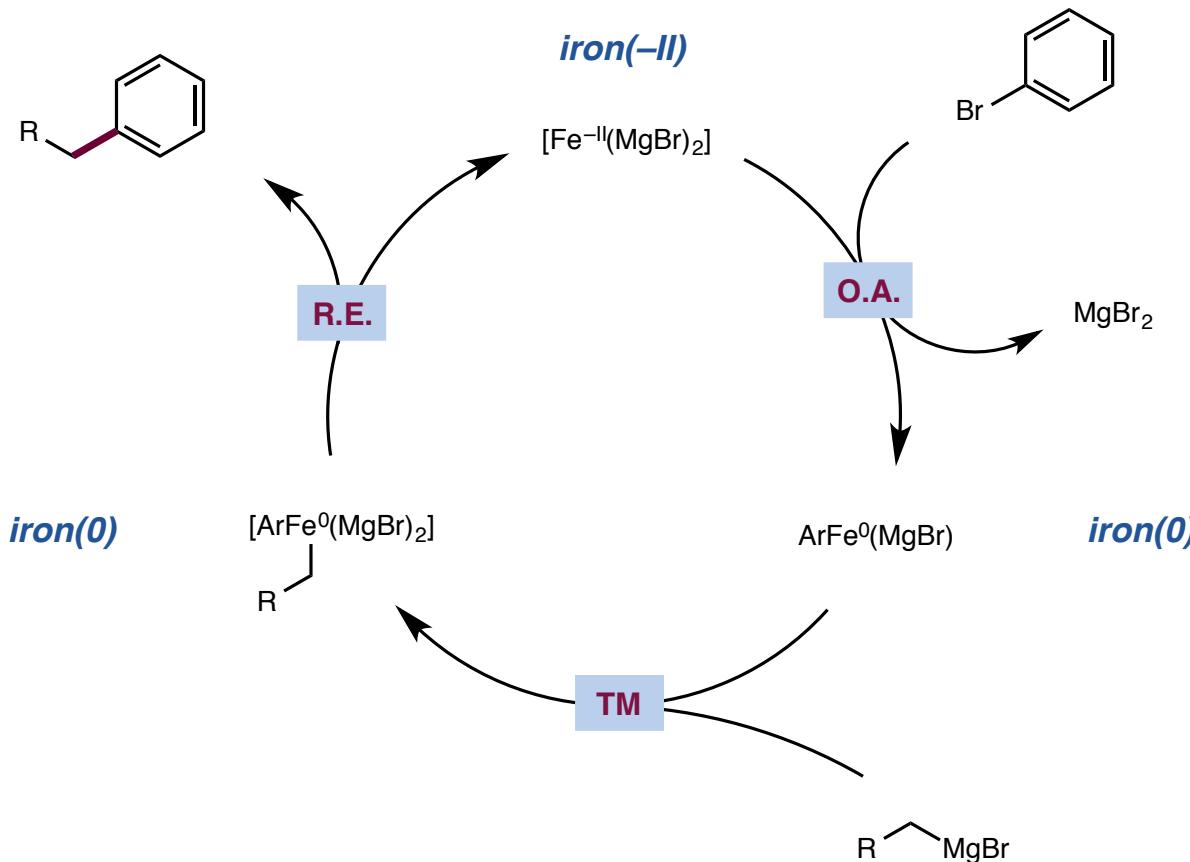


Fürstner, A.; Leitner, A. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 609.

Fürstner, A.; Leitner, A.; Mendez, M.; Krause, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 13856.

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ Fürstner proposed a Fe(-II)/(0) mechanistic cycle

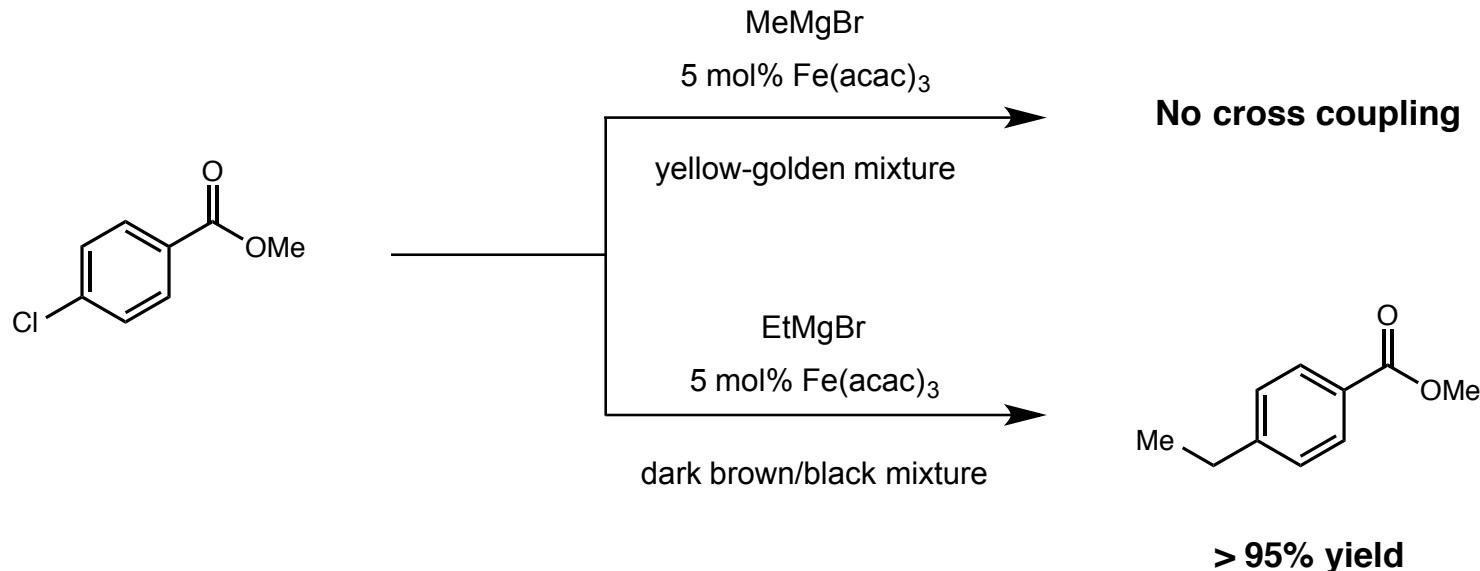


Fürstner, A.; Leitner, A. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 609.

Fürstner, A.; Leitner, A.; Mendez, M.; Krause, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 13856.

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ Cross-coupling shuts down in when MeMgBr is employed



supports proposed active Fe(-II) catalyst as β -hydride elimination is required

in the presence of Fe(0), no reactivity is observed - restored upon addition of excess Grignard

Fürstner, A.; Leitner, A. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2002**, *41*, 609.

Fürstner, A.; Leitner, A.; Mendez, M.; Krause, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2002**, *124*, 13856.

Fürstner, A.; Martin, R.; Krause, H.; Seidel, G.; Goddard, R.; Lehmann, C. W. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2008**, *130*, 8773.

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ In 2004, Nakamura, Hayashi, and Fürstner report coupling of alkyl halides with aryl Grignards

Nakamura

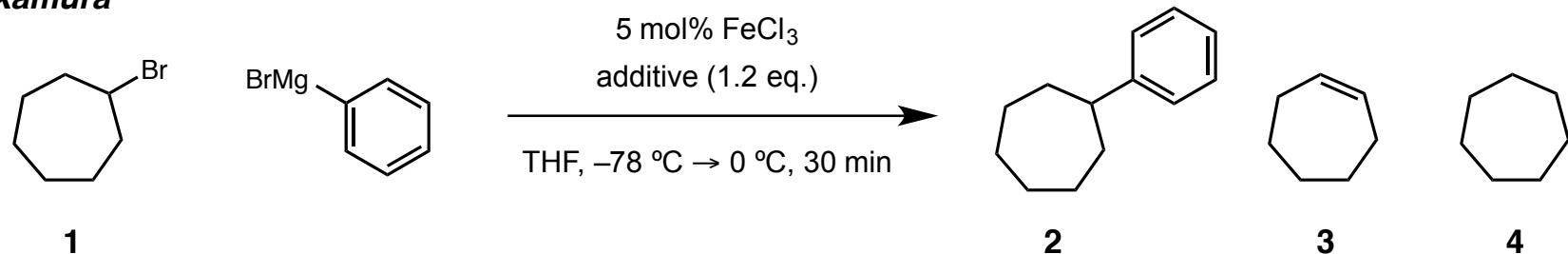
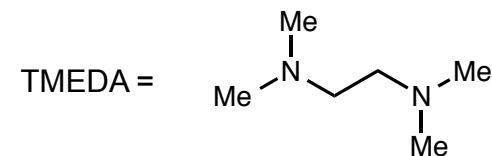


Table 1. Effect of Additives on the Product Selectivity and Yield

entry	additive	% yield ^a				
		2	3	4	1	Ph-Ph
1	none	5	79	0	4	6
2	Et_3N	3	78	0	11	5
3	<i>N</i> -methyl morpholine	8	72	0	4	5
4	DABCO	20	2	0	75	3
5	NMP	15	3	trace	79	4
6	TMEDA	71	19	3	trace	10

bidentate TMEDA ligand suppressed competing β -hydride elimination



Nakamura, M.; Matsuo, K.; Ito, S.; Nakamura, E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, 126, 3686.

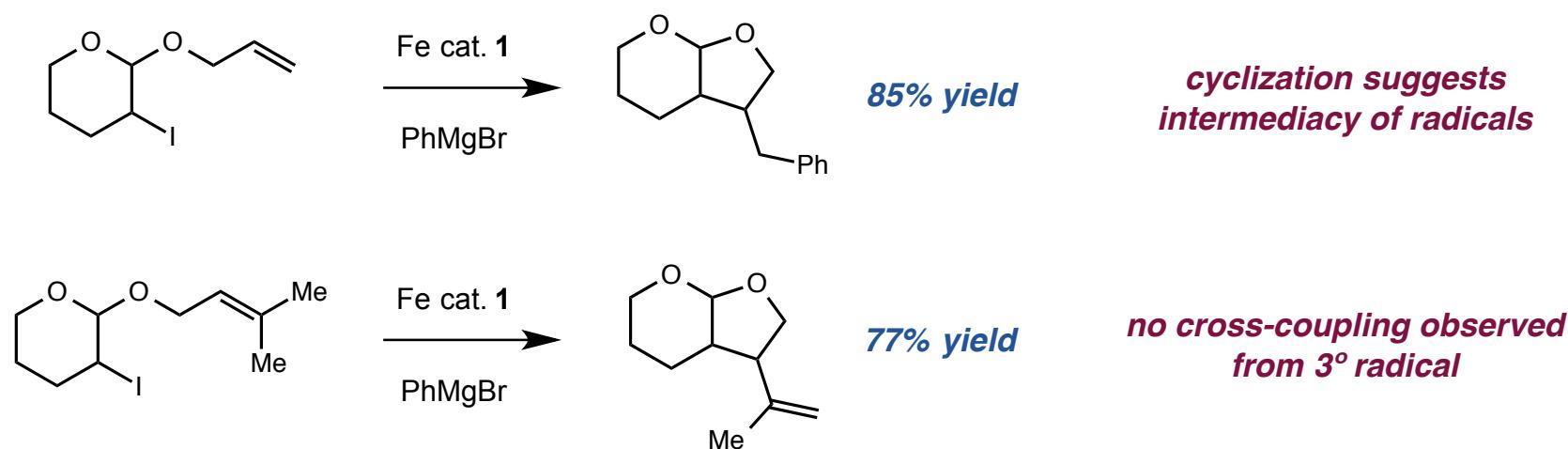
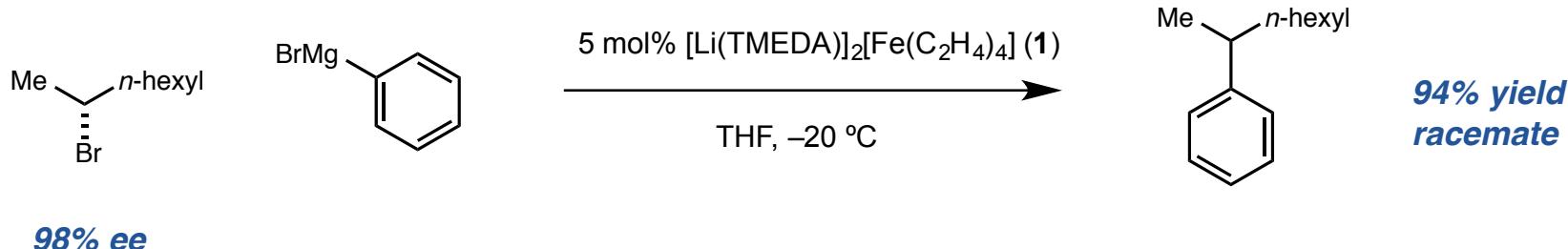
Nagano, T.; Hayashi, T. *Org. Lett.* **2004**, 6, 1297.

Fürstner, A.; Martin, R. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, 43, 3955.

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ Nakamura and Fürstner propose a radical-based mechanism

Fürstner



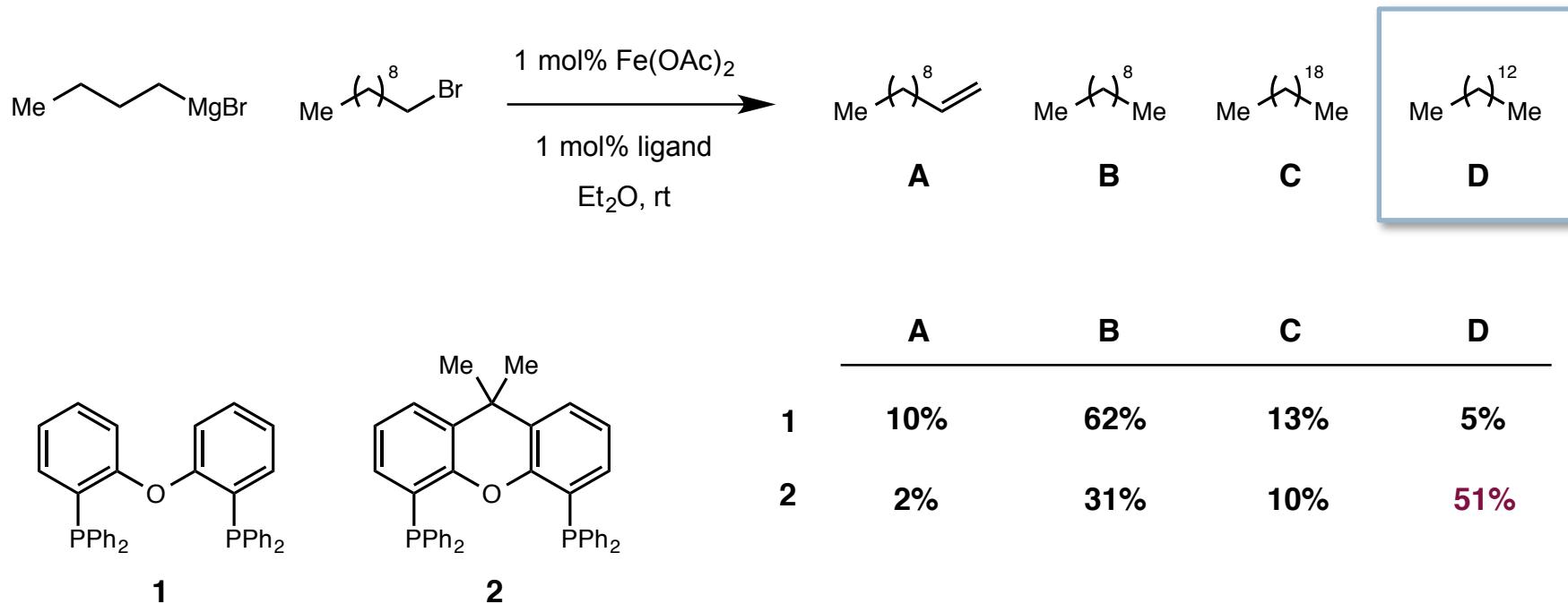
Nakamura, M.; Matsuo, K.; Ito, S.; Nakamura, E. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, *126*, 3686.

Fürstner, A.; Martin, R. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2004**, *43*, 3955.

Iron-Catalyzed Kumada Cross-Coupling

■ Chai demonstrated the first sp^3 – sp^3 coupling using Fe catalysis

■ One of the greatest challenges is overcoming competing homocoupling and β -hydride elimination

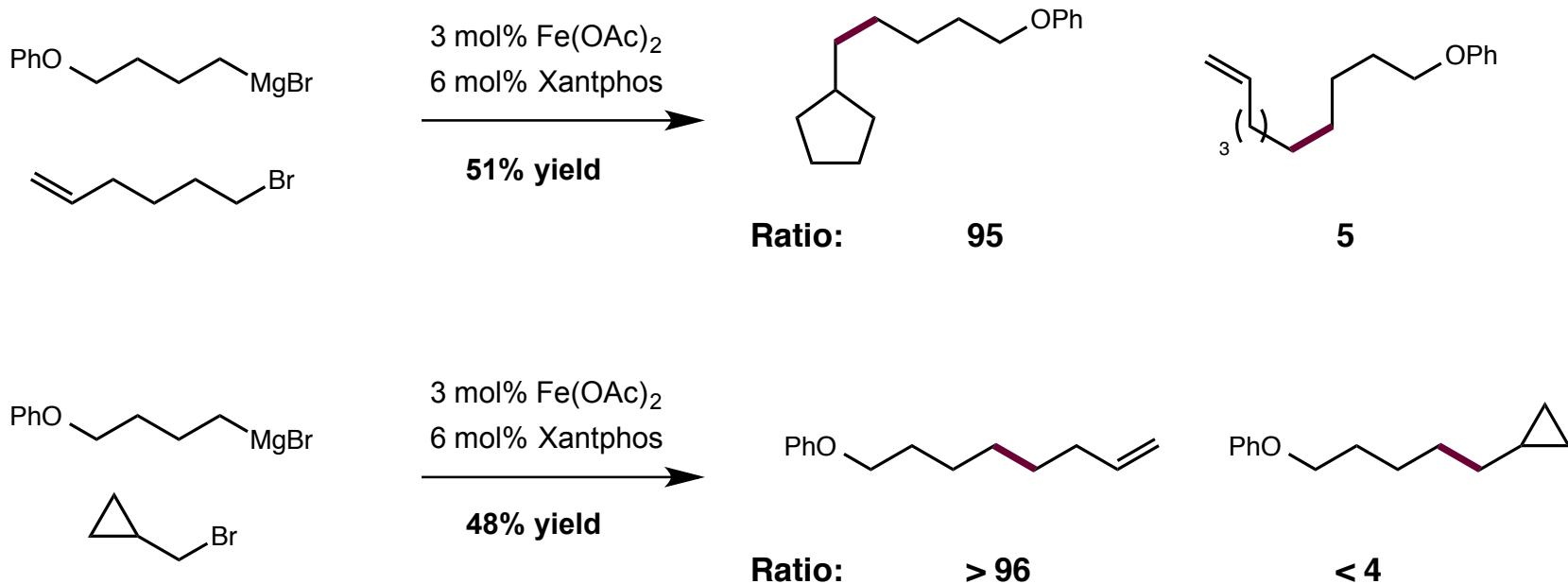


use of Xantphos (2) reduced byproduct formation

Iron-Catalyzed Kumada Cross-Coupling

■ Chai demonstrated the first sp^3 – sp^3 coupling using Fe catalysis

■ A radical mechanism is proposed for this sp^3 – sp^3 Kumada coupling



results suggest alkyl radicals are formed from the corresponding alkyl halides

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ Von Wangelin accomplished an iron-catalyzed cross electrophile coupling

■ Domino iron catalysis: iron-catalyzed Grignard formation followed by cross-coupling

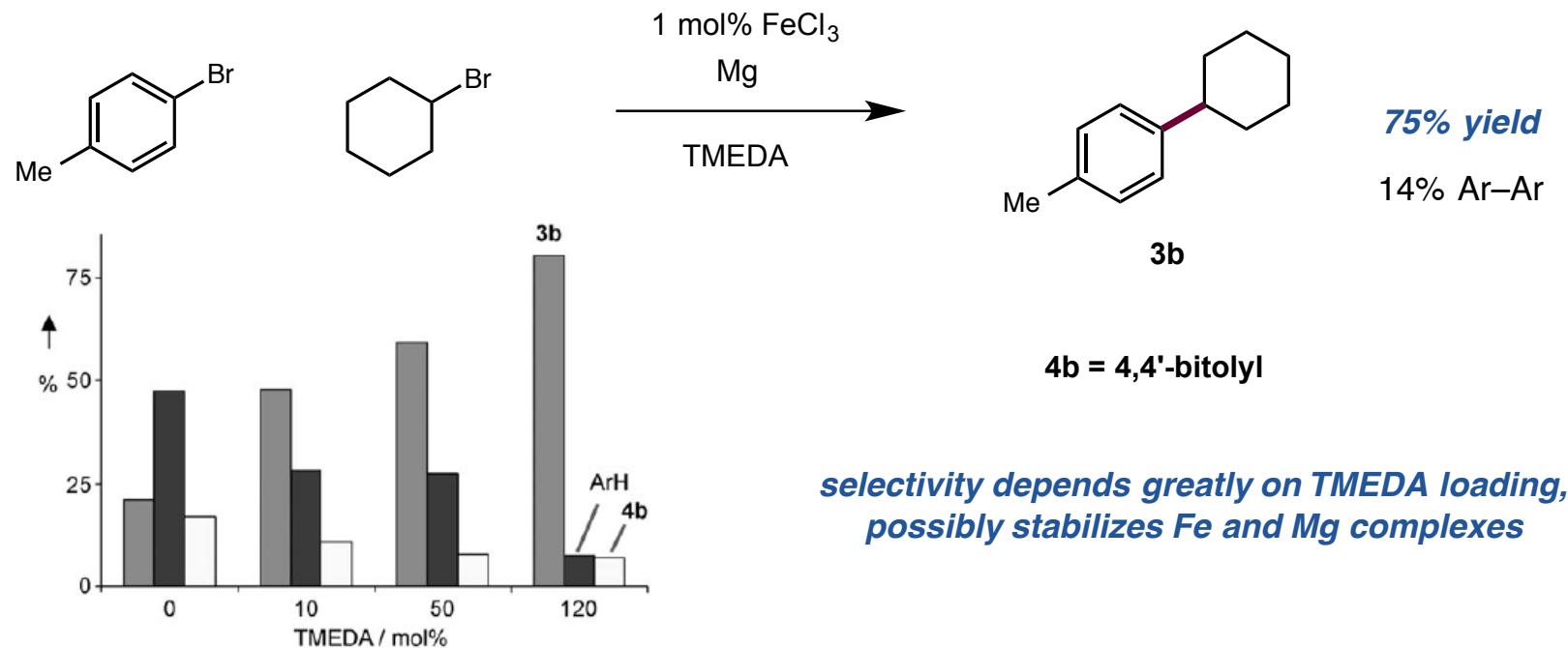


Figure 1. TMEDA dependence of the model system *p*-tolyl bromide (1a) and *n*-dodecyl bromide (2b). ArH = toluene.

*selectivity depends greatly on TMEDA loading,
possibly stabilizes Fe and Mg complexes*

increased TMEDA = slower formation of Grignard reagent

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ Von Wangelin accomplished an iron-catalyzed cross electrophile coupling

- The intermediacy of both Grignard species (aryl and alkyl) is proposed
- Formation of both Grignard species is accelerated in the presence of FeCl_3

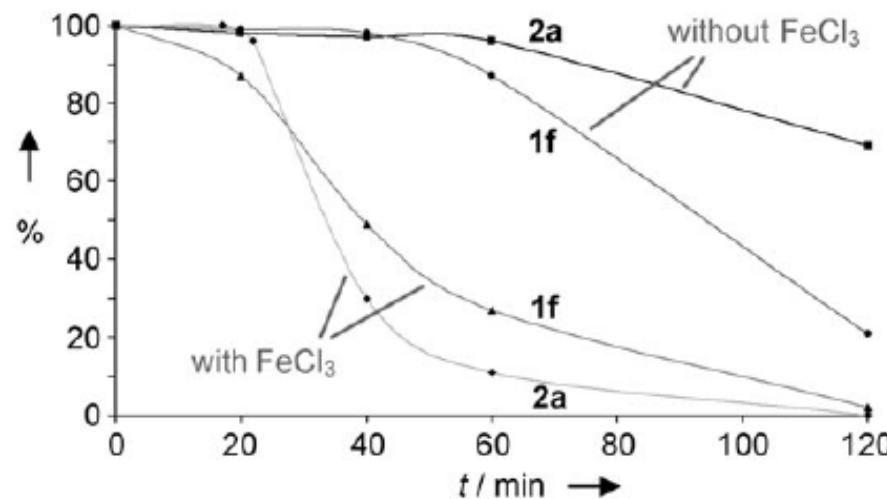
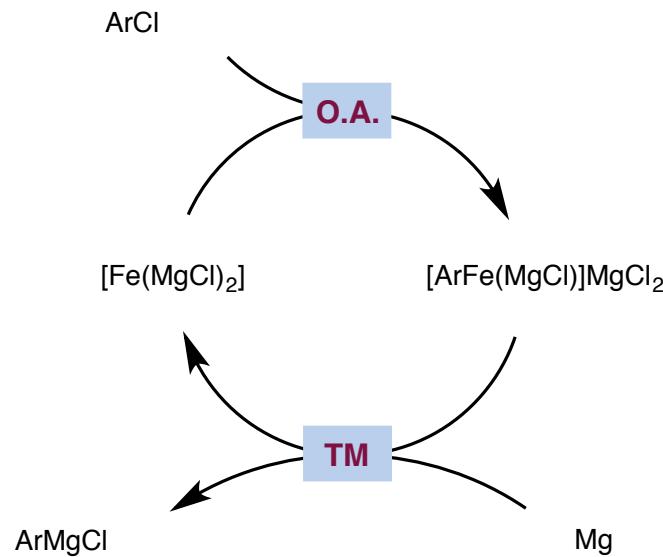


Figure 2. Iron-catalyzed Grignard formation from 1-bromonaphthalene (**1 f**) and cyclohexyl bromide (**2 a**).

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ Von Wangelin accomplished an iron-catalyzed cross electrophile coupling

- The intermediacy of both Grignard species (aryl and alkyl) is proposed
- Formation of both Grignard species is accelerated in the presence of FeCl_3
- Bogdanovic has shown that $[\text{Fe}(\text{MgX})_2]$ catalyzes formation of Grignards from aryl halides and Mg



Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ Von Wangelin accomplished an iron-catalyzed cross electrophile coupling

- The intermediacy of both Grignard species (aryl and alkyl) is proposed
- Formation of Grignard reagent appears to be rate-determining step

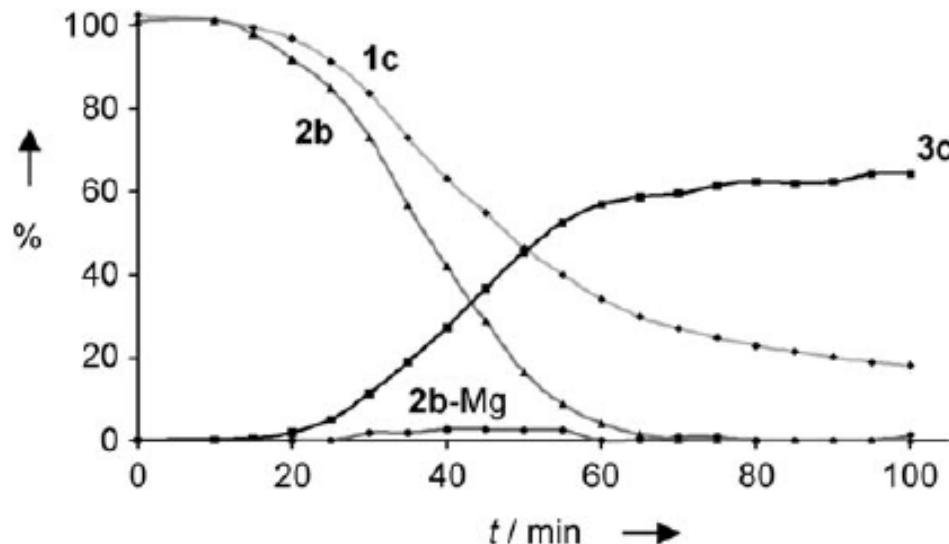
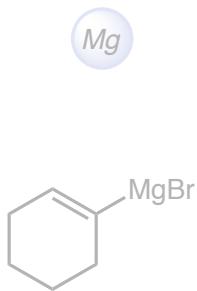


Figure 3. Concentration–time plots for the model reaction of 4-*tert*-butylbromobenzene (**1c**) and dodecyl bromide (**2b**) with intermediate **2b**–Mg.

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

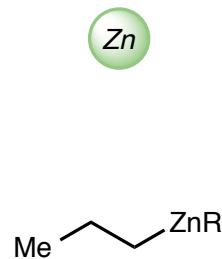


Kumada Coupling



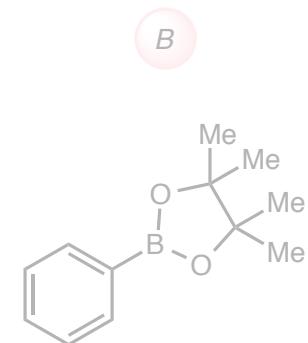
Grignard reagents

Negishi Coupling



organozincs

Suzuki Coupling

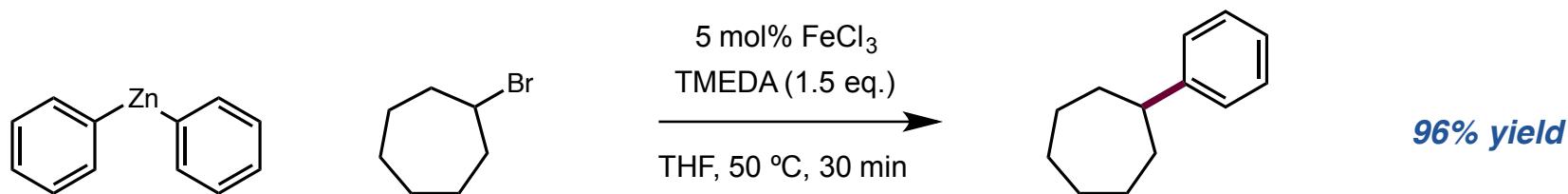


organoboron

Iron-Catalyzed Negishi Cross-Coupling

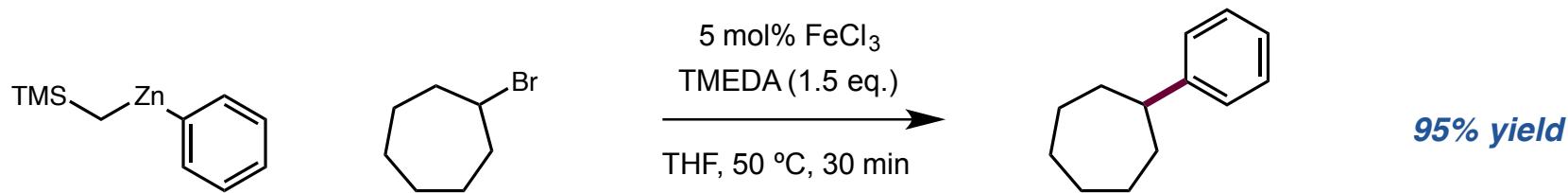
■ Nakamura extended iron-catalyzed cross coupling to organozincs for milder protocol

■ Diorganozinc nucleophile was effective, but still required a magnesium salt



organozinc is prepared in situ from aryl Grignard and ZnCl_2

avoids the need for slow addition of Grignard reagent due to slower transmetalation of zinc to iron

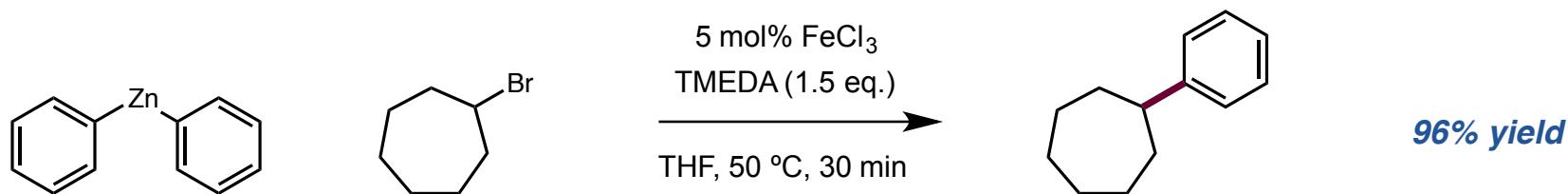


use of TMSCH_2 non-transferable ligand improves substrate economy

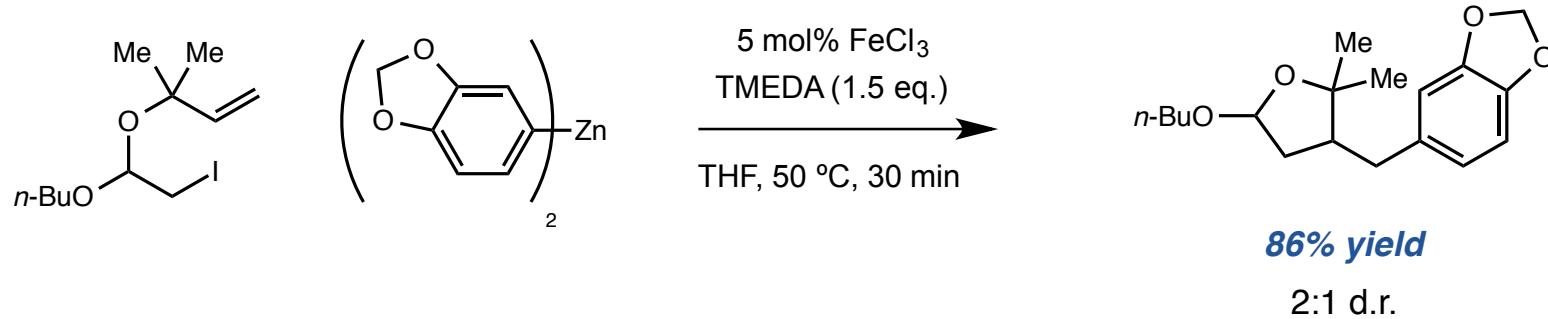
Iron-Catalyzed Negishi Cross-Coupling

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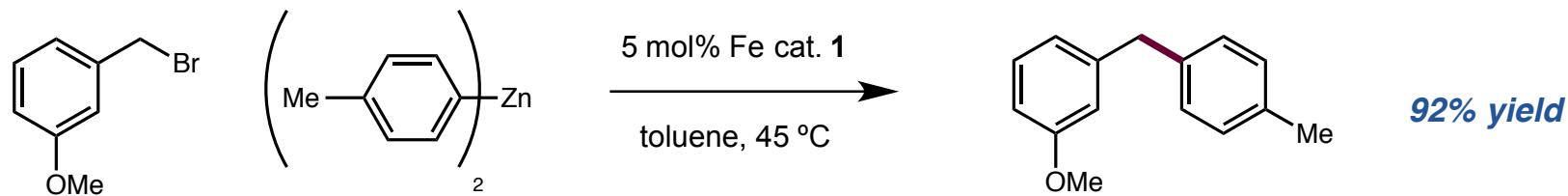
■ Radical-based mechanisms are also proposed in this Negishi coupling



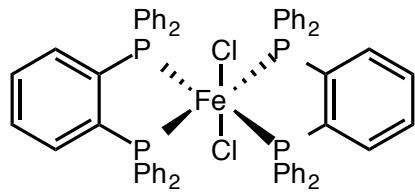
Iron-Catalyzed Negishi Cross-Coupling

■ Bedford demonstrated iron-phosphine complexes as suitable Negishi catalysts

■ Benzyl halide and phosphate electrophiles couple with diarylzincs

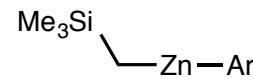


Fe cat. 1

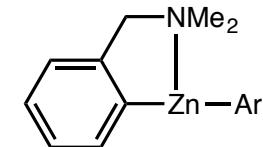


organozinc reagents

ArZnCl



50% yield

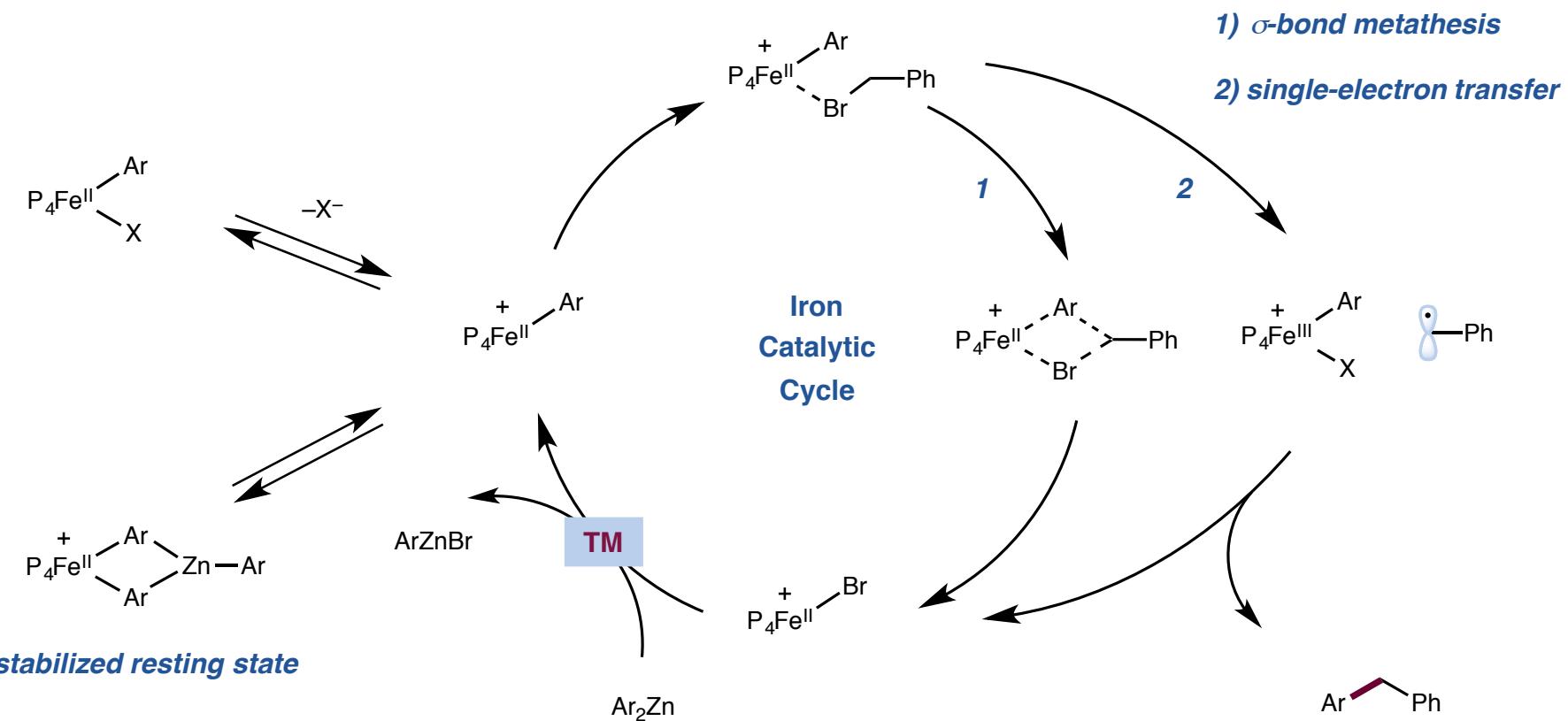


74% yield

89% yield

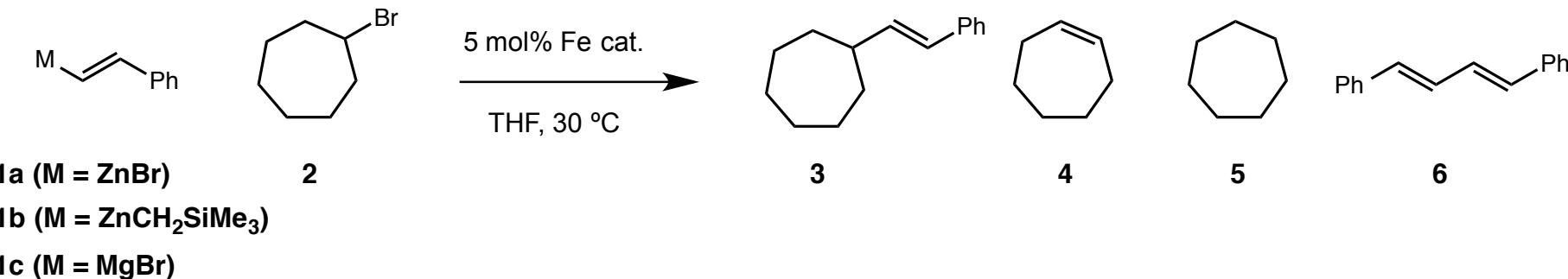
Iron-Catalyzed Negishi Cross-Coupling

■ Bedford proposed a cationic Fe(II) catalytic cycle with two possible pathways



Iron-Catalyzed Negishi Cross-Coupling

■ In 2009, Nakamura reported a stereospecific vinylation of alkyl halides with alkenyl zincks



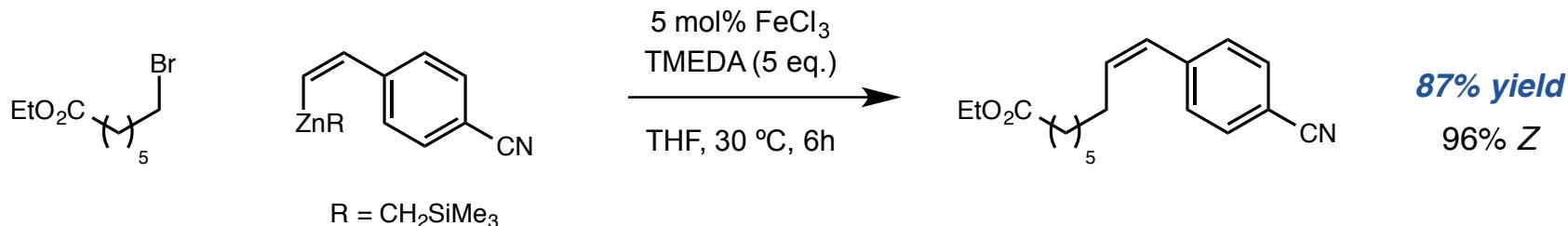
entry ^a	RM ^b	iron salt	additive (X equiv)	yield (%) ^c			RSM ^d (%) ^c	
				3 ^e	4	5	2	6 (mmol)
1	1a	FeCl ₃	none	8	< 1	1	70	0.05
2	1b	FeCl ₃	none	25	4	17	0	0.12
3	1b	FeCl ₃	TMEDA (1.5)	56	4	13	0	0.11
4	1b	FeCl ₃	TMEDA (3.0)	91	< 1	3	0	0.10
5	1b	FeCl ₃	TMEDA (3.5)	95	< 1	3	0	0.08
6	1b	Fe(acac) ₃	TMEDA (3.5)	85	0	3	10	0.06
7	1b	FeCl ₂	TMEDA (3.5)	97	< 1	3	0	0.05
8 ^f	1c	FeCl ₃	TMEDA (3.5)	35	12	4	35	0.02

excess TMEDA was necessary to ensure coordination of Fe in presence of Zn and Mg

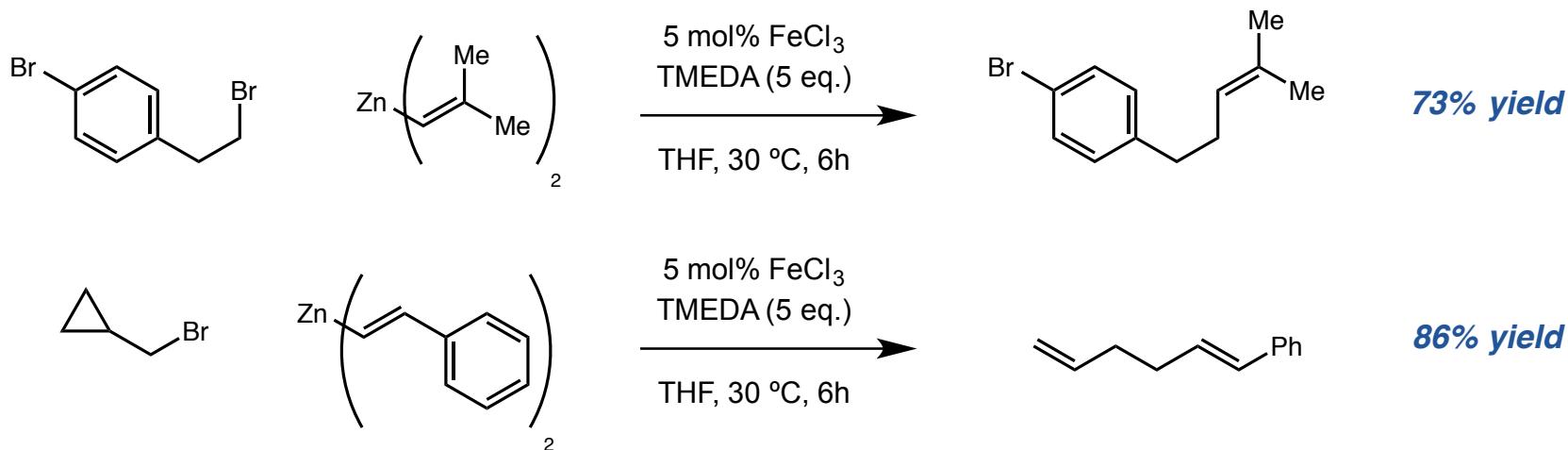
Iron-Catalyzed Negishi Cross-Coupling

■ In 2009, Nakamura reported a stereospecific vinylation of alkyl halides with alkenyl zincks

■ Cross-coupling occurs with retention of olefin stereochemistry



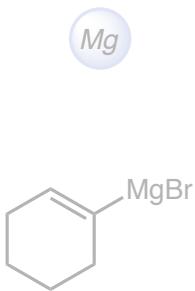
■ Experiments support existence of radical intermediates



Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

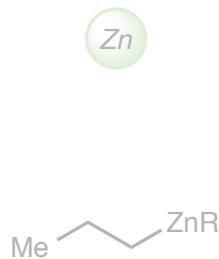


Kumada Coupling



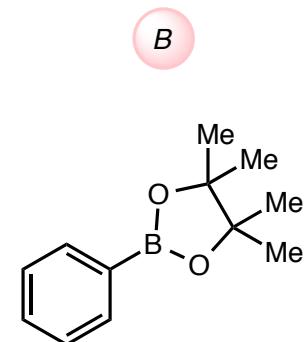
Grignard reagents

Negishi Coupling



organozincs

Suzuki Coupling



organoboron

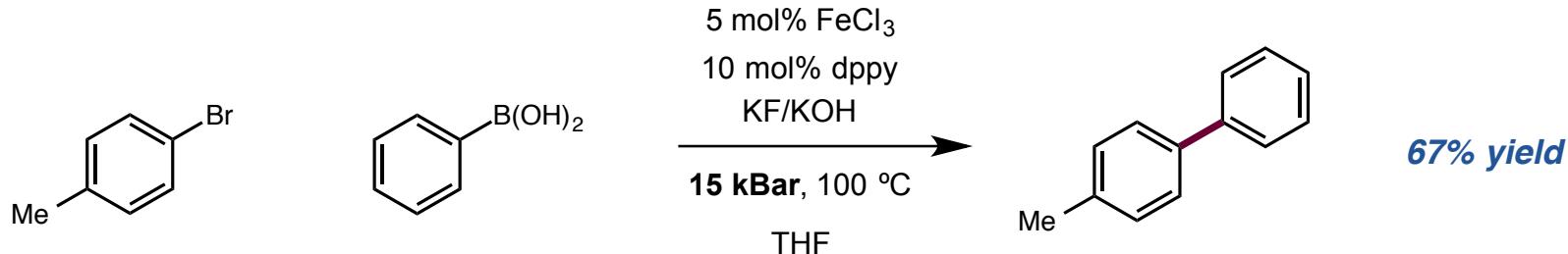
*"the iron-catalyzed Suzuki reaction...
...represents something of a 'holy grail' in coupling chemistry"*

- R. B. Bedford and M. Nakamura, 2009

Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

- First Fe-catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura coupling was reported by Young in 2008

- Elevated pressure (15 kBar) enables biaryl coupling



high pressure is presumably assisting reduction of FeCl_3 down to low-valent active state

Guo, Y.; Young, D. J.; Hor, T. S. A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2008**, *49*, 5620.

- Two additional publications proposed Fe-catalyzed Suzuki couplings to make biaryls (at ambient pressure)

Kylmala, T.; Valkonen, A.; Rissanen, K.; Xu., Y.; Franzen, R. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2009**, *50*, 5692.

Bezier, D.; Darcel, C. *Adv. Synth. Catal.* **2010**, *352*, 1081.

both publications were later retracted due to irreproducibility issues

Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

■ Joint study by Bedford and Nakamura determined trace Pd responsible for reactivity

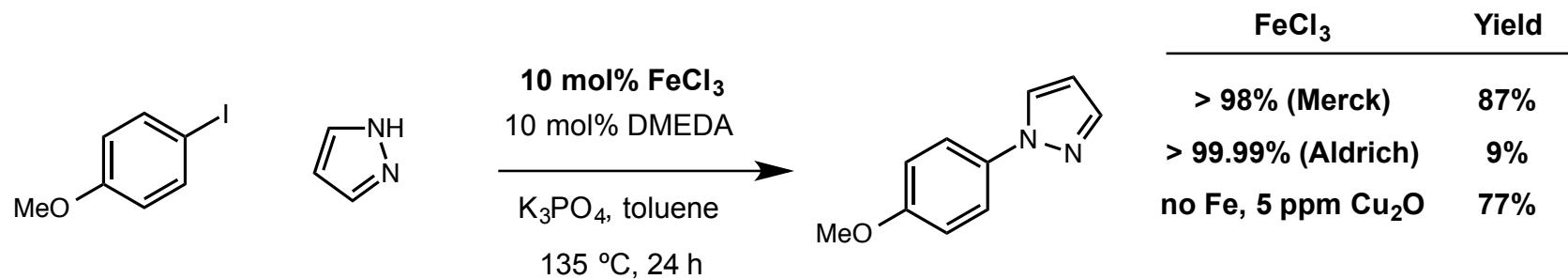
- Biaryl coupling could not be reproduced with a range of iron catalysts
- Coupling was observed with ppb levels of Pd, therefore Pd contamination likely

"the iron-catalyzed Suzuki biaryl coupling reaction appears to be, for the moment at least, out of reach"

Bedford, R. B.; Nakamura, M.; Gower, N. J.; Haddow, M. F.; Hall, M. A.; Huwe, M.; Hashimoto, T.; Okopie, R. A. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2009**, *50*, 6110.

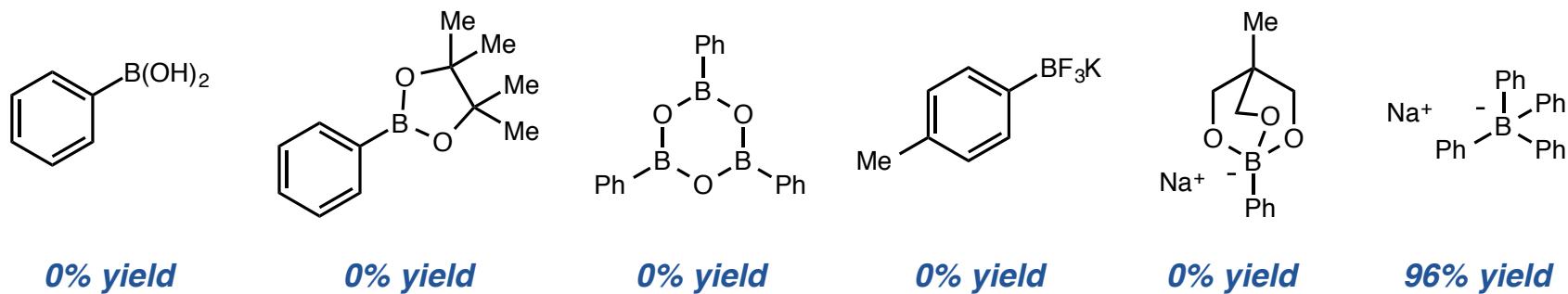
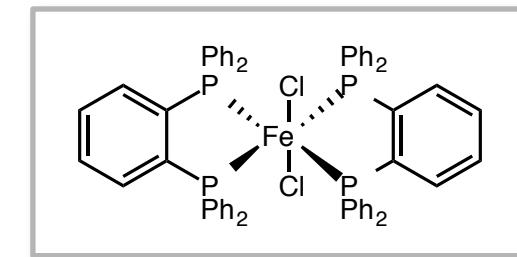
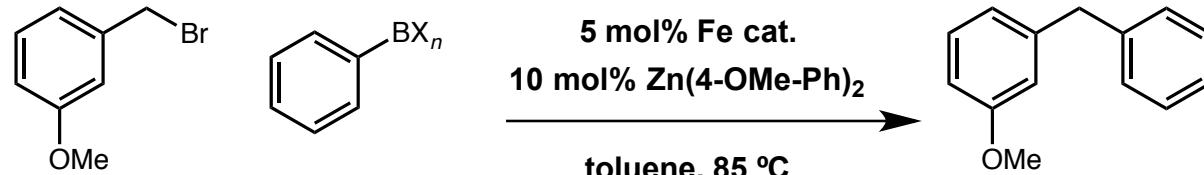
■ Buchwald and Bolm made similar observations in the Fe-catalyzed C–N coupling

- Commercial Fe catalysts contained trace Cu, resulting in false activity



Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

■ Bedford employed a mixed Fe–Zn catalytic system to access organoboron nucleophiles

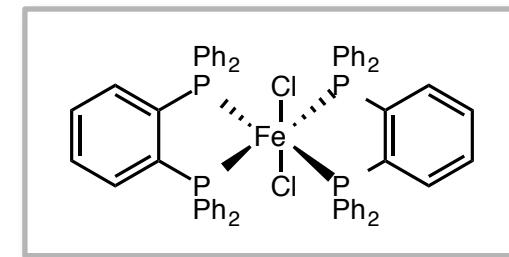
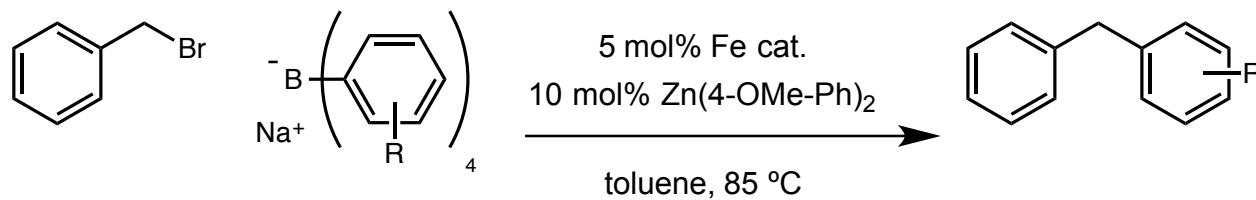


no incorporation of Zn aryl groups into product

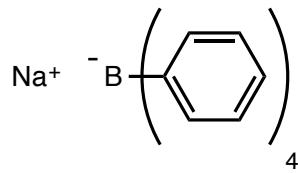
diaryl zinc is likely consumed during reductive activation of Fe catalyst

Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

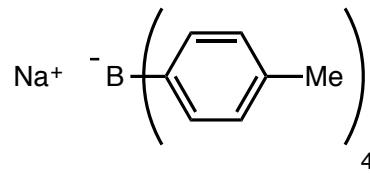
■ Bedford employed a mixed Fe–Zn catalytic system to access organoboron nucleophiles



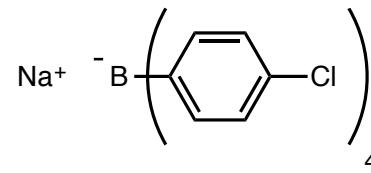
Limited nucleophile scope:



91% yield



trace yield



96% yield

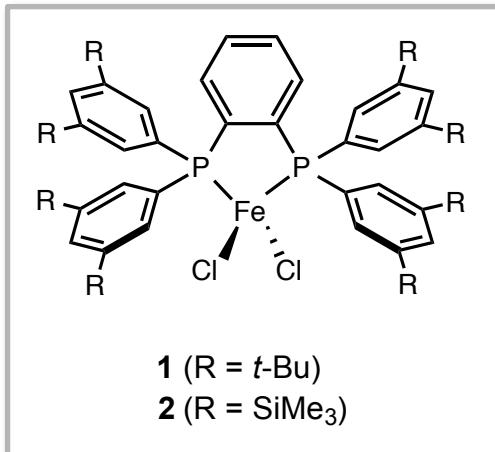
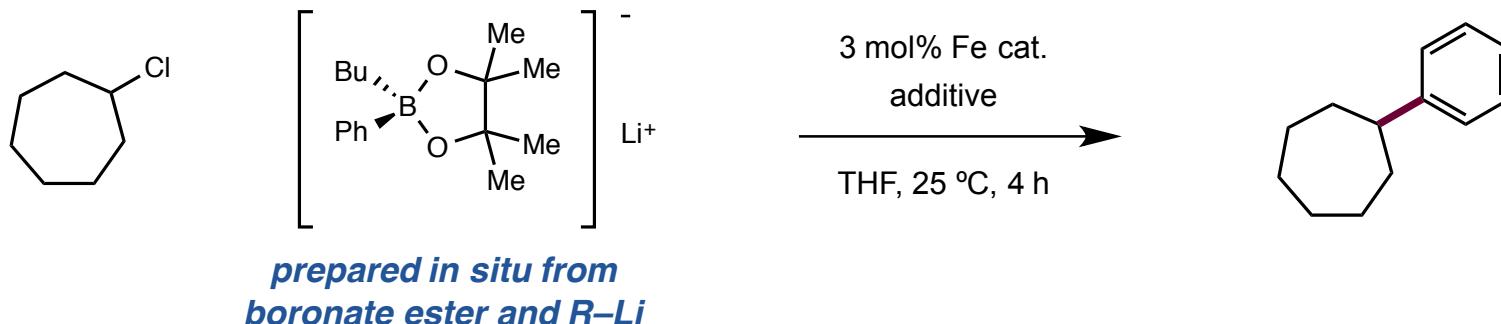
Mechanistic Considerations:

Zn co-catalyst likely plays a role in boron transmetalation with Fe center via arylzinc intermediate

Bedford proposes an Fe(I) oxidation state for the active catalyst

Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

■ Nakamura reported Suzuki coupling with aryl boronates using novel diphosphine ligands

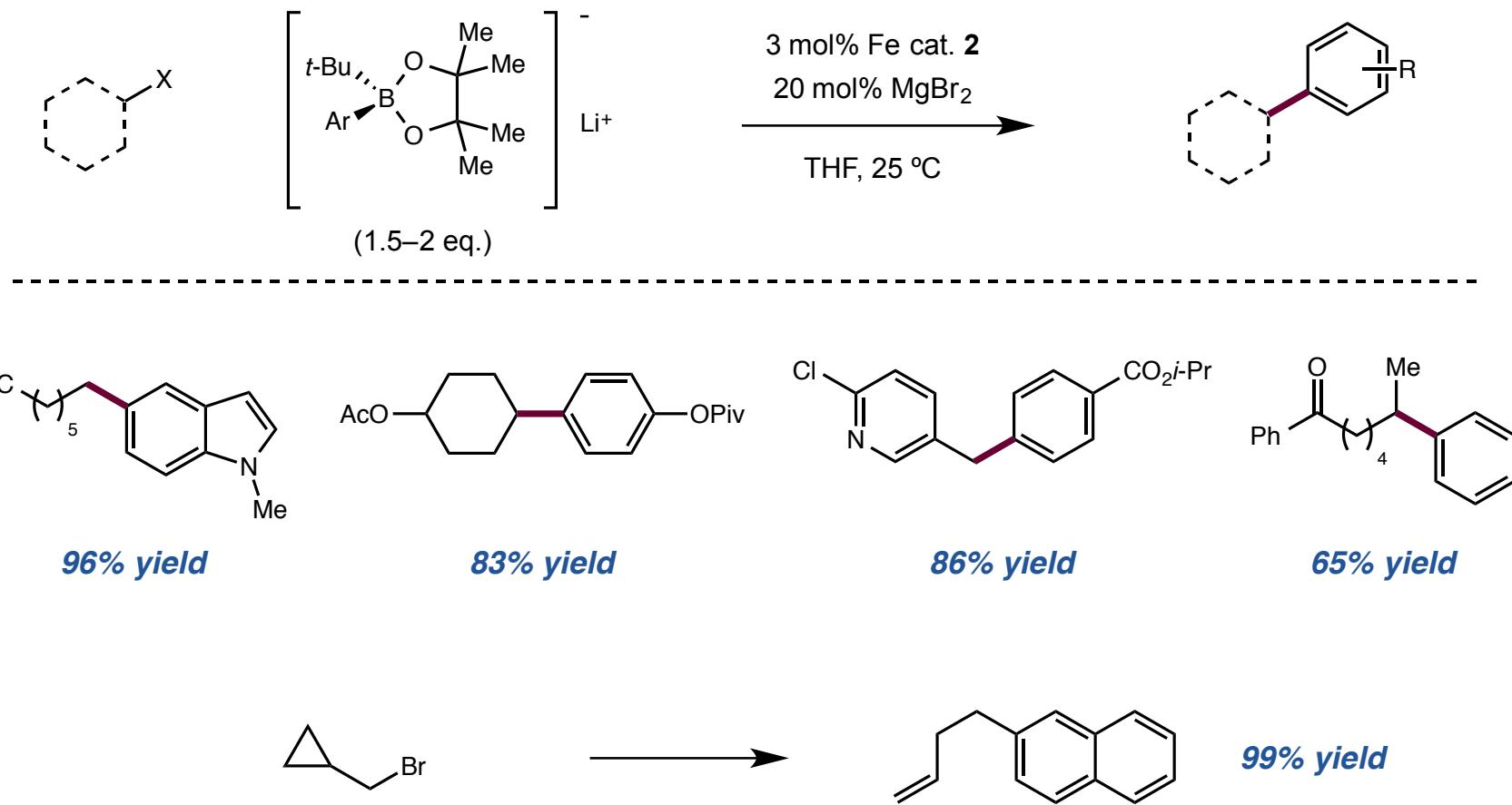


entry ^a	catalyst (3 mol %)	additive (mol %)	yield (%) ^b	recovery (%) ^b
1	FeCl_3	TMEDA (200)	0	>99
2	FeCl_3	TMEDA (200) + MgBr_2 (20)	0	>99
3	$\text{FeCl}_2(\text{dppbz})_2$	none	0	>98
4	$\text{FeCl}_2(\text{dppbz})_2$	MgBr_2 (20)	14	83
5	complex 1	MgBr_2 (20)	93	0
6	complex 2	MgBr_2 (20)	91	0
7	complex 2	none	0	>99

bulky diphosphine ligand prevents formation of coordinatively saturated octahedral Fe complex

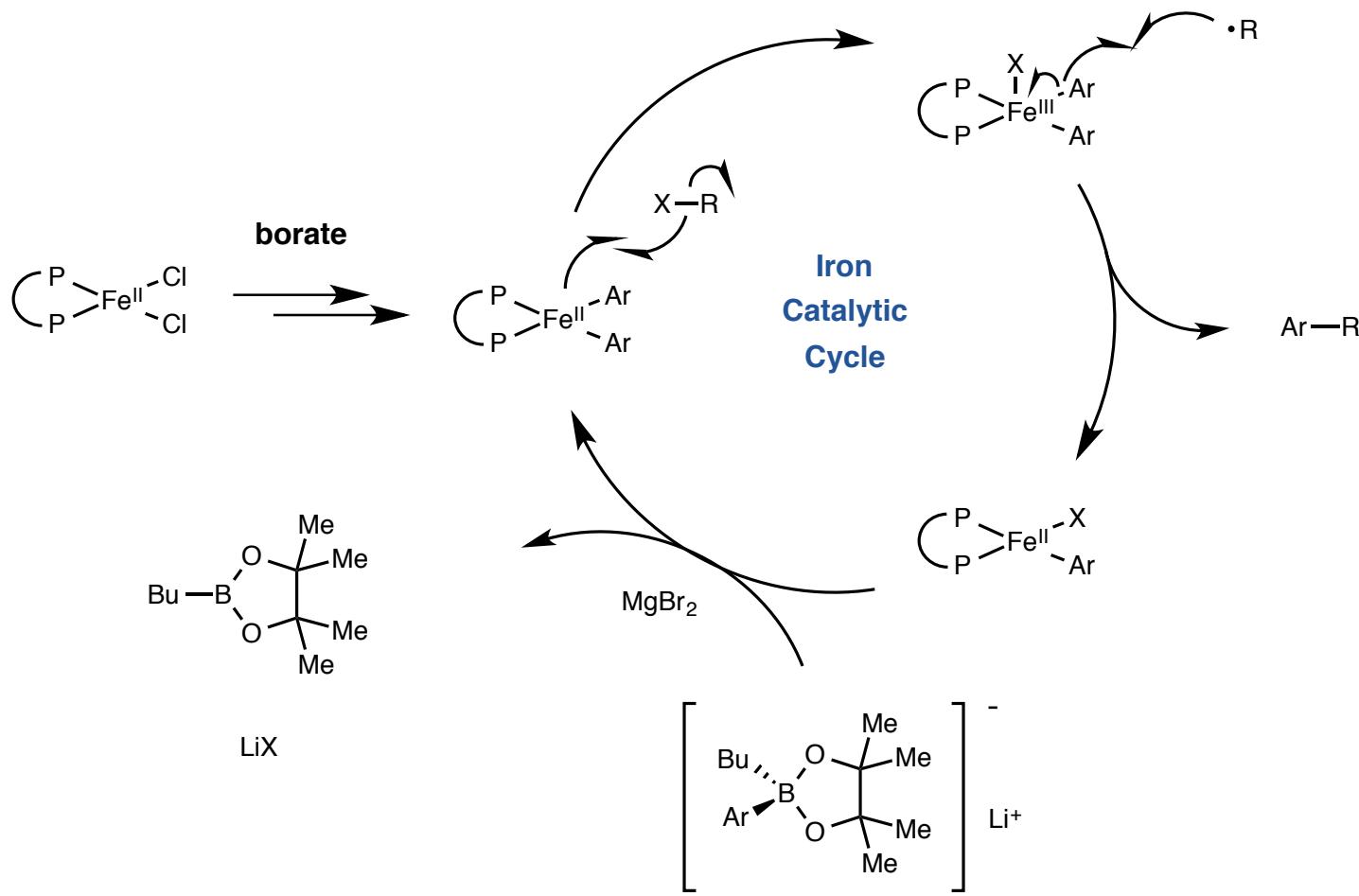
Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

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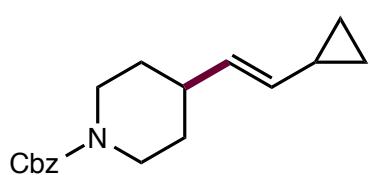
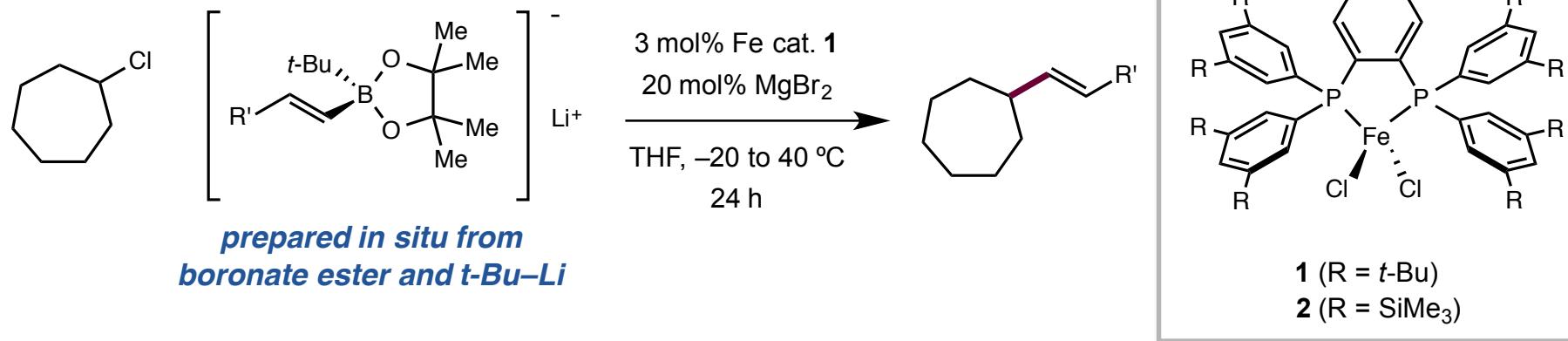
Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

■ Nakamura proposes an Fe(II)/(III) cycle



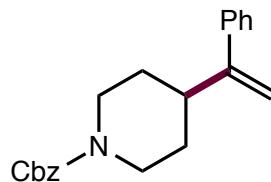
Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

■ Nakamura extended this catalytic platform to vinylation

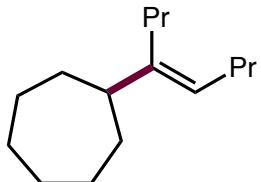


85% yield

>99% E

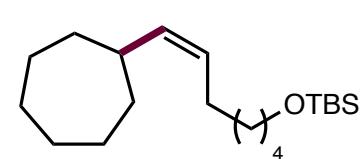


77% yield



58% yield

>99% E



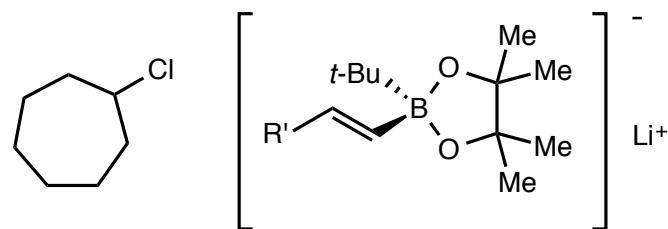
93% yield

>99% Z

vinylation proceeds with retention of olefin stereochemistry

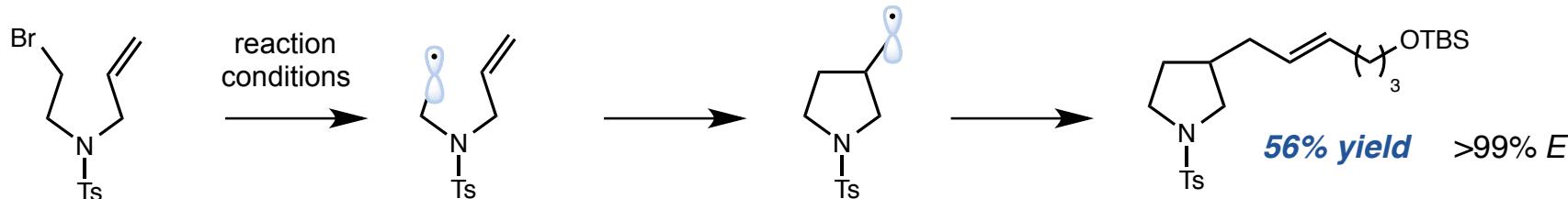
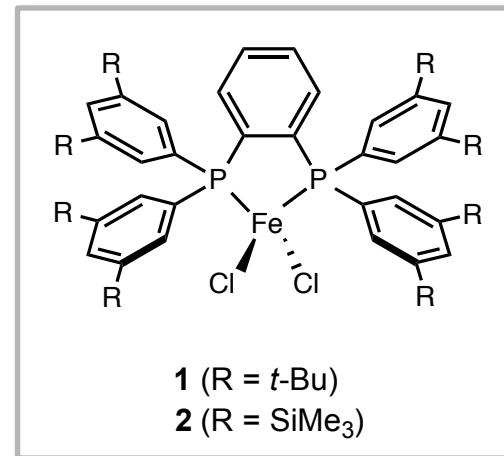
Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

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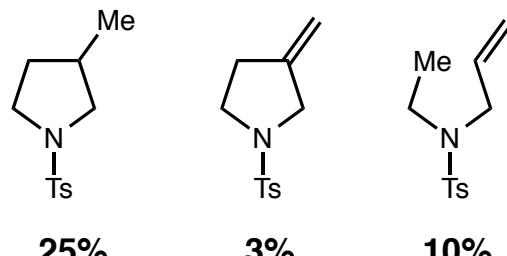


*prepared in situ from
boronate ester and t-Bu-Li*

3 mol% Fe cat. 1
20 mol% $MgBr_2$
THF, -20 to 40 °C
24 h

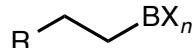
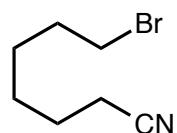


Fe(II) abstracts Br• resulting in 5-exo cyclization and coupling

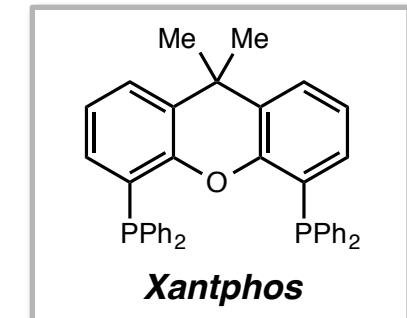
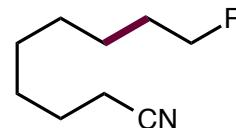


Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

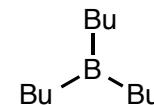
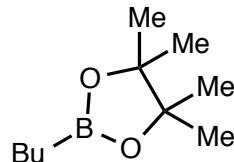
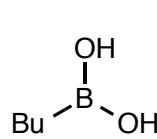
■ In 2012, Nakamura reported the first iron-catalyzed sp^3 – sp^3 Suzuki–Miyaura cross-coupling



3 mol% Fe(acac)₃
6 mol% Xantphos
RMgX or RLi activator
THF, 25 °C



Nucleophile



Activator

both RMgX and RLi

0% yield

n-BuMgCl

85% yield

n-BuLi

0% yield

t-BuMgCl

0% yield

MeMgBr

8% yield*

i-PrMgCl

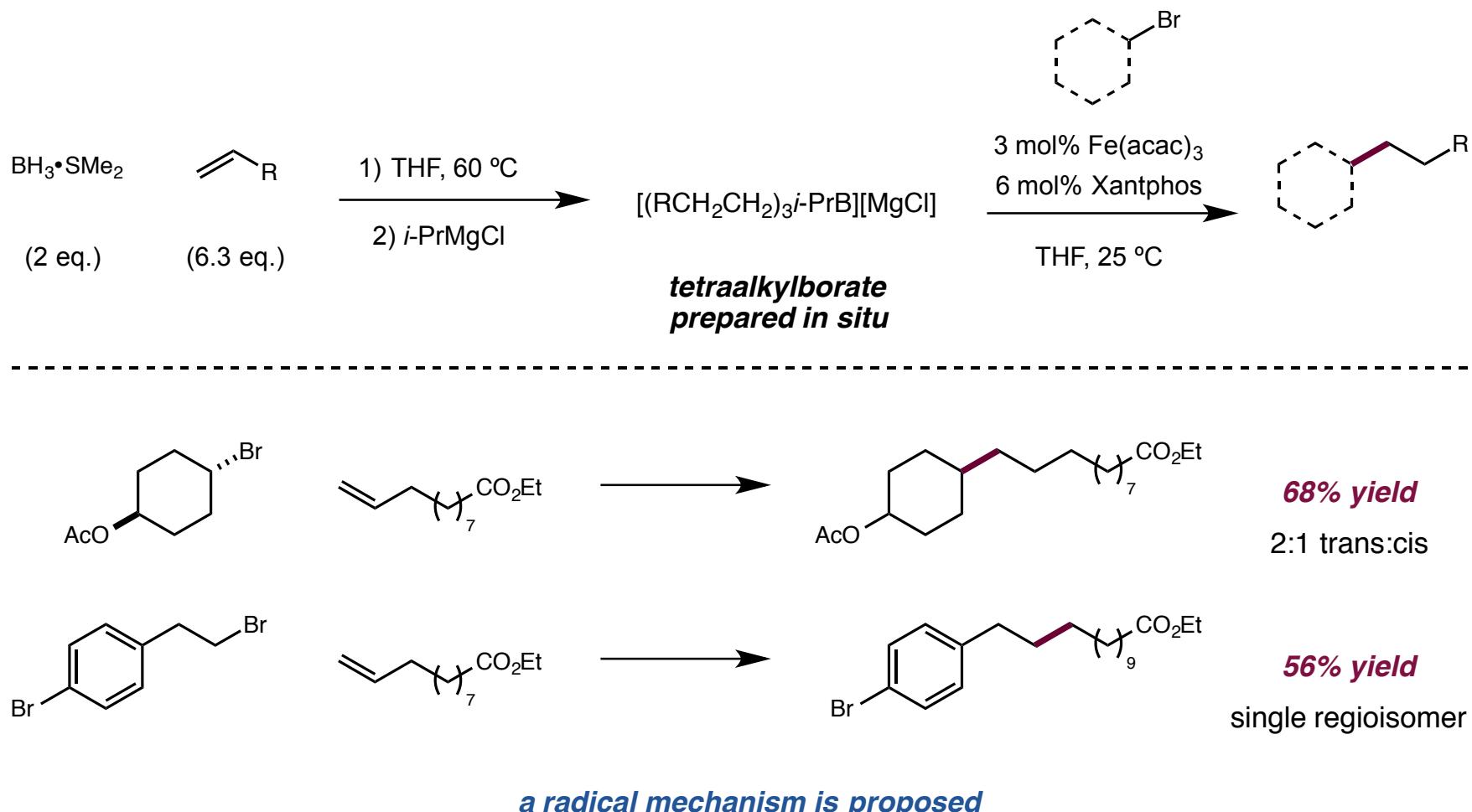
82% yield

*competing Me group transmetallation = 73% methylated product

rate of alkyl group transfer in transmetallation: Me > 1° alkyl > 2° alkyl

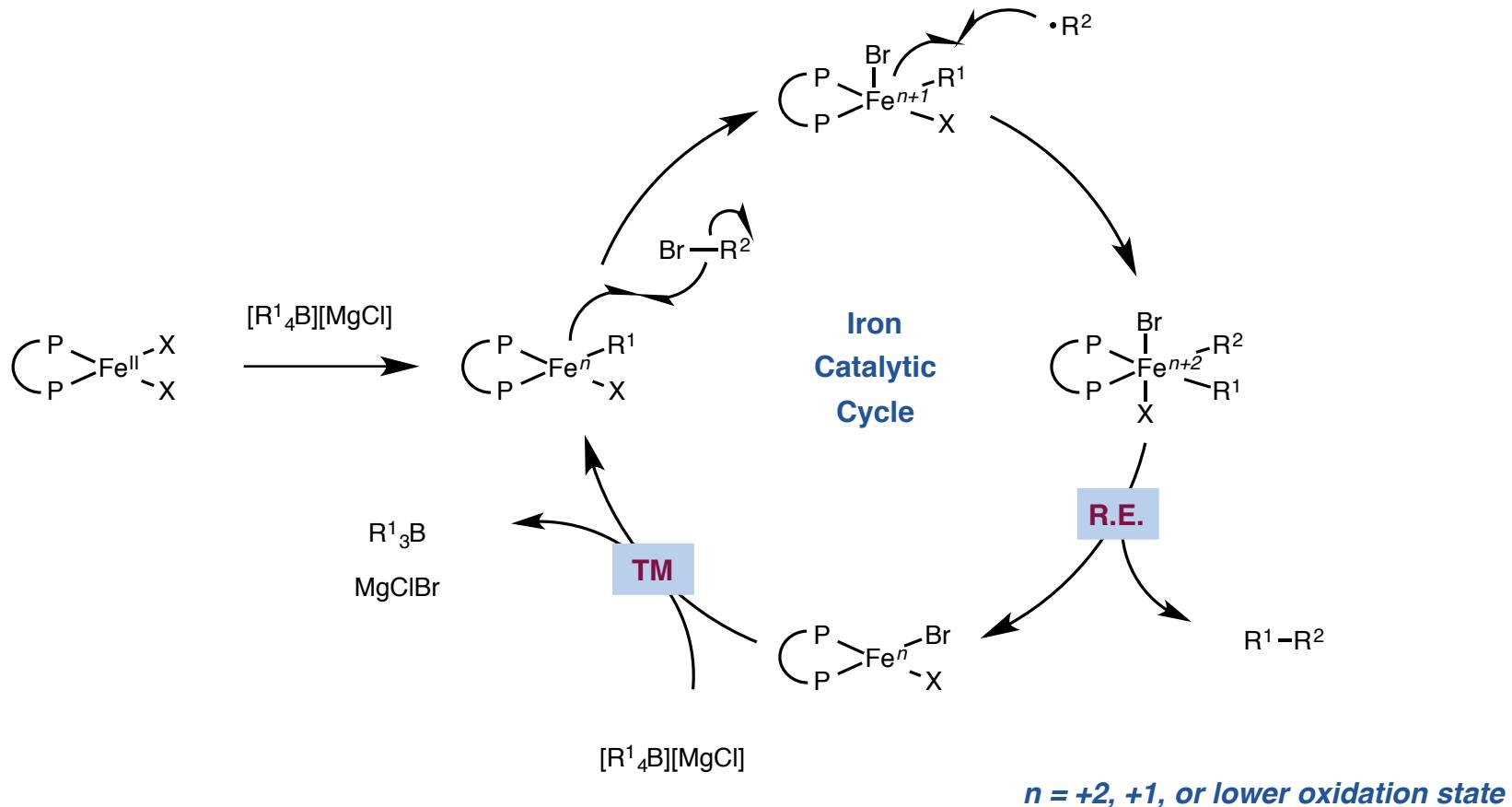
Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

■ To expand nucleophile scope, Nakamura prepared tetraalkylborates *in situ* via hydroboration



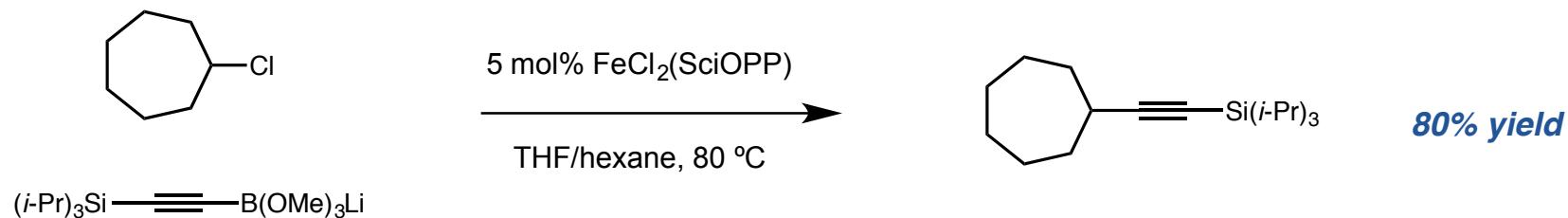
Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

■ Nakamura proposes radical-based mechanism



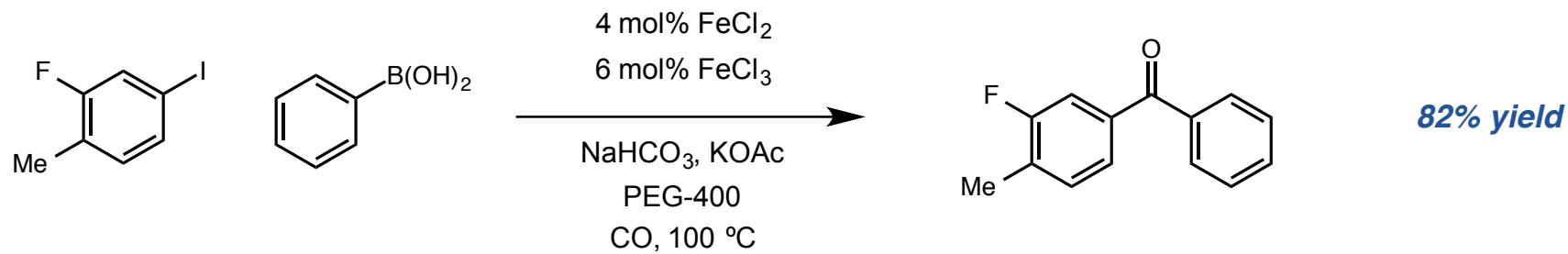
Iron-Catalyzed Suzuki–Miyaura Cross-Coupling

■ Nakamura has also reported Fe-catalyzed Suzuki alkynylation



Nakagawa, N.; Hatakeyama, T.; Nakamura, M. *Chem. Lett.* **2015**, 44, 486.

■ Han reported an Fe-catalyzed carbonylative Suzuki coupling to make bisaryl ketones



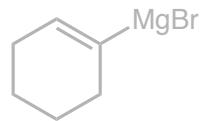
$\text{Fe}_m(\text{CO})_n$ generated *in situ* is active catalyst

Zhong, Y.; Han, W. *Chem. Commun.* **2014**, 50, 3874.

Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

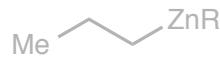


Kumada Coupling



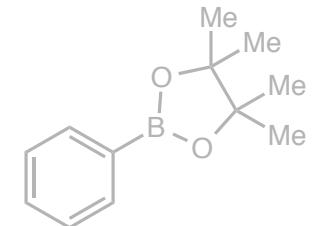
Grignard reagents

Negishi Coupling



organozincs

Suzuki Coupling

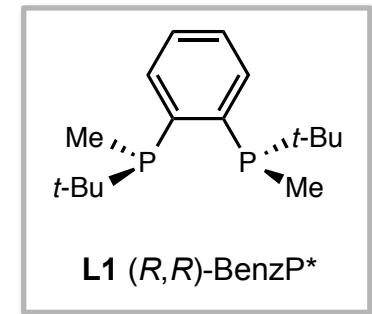
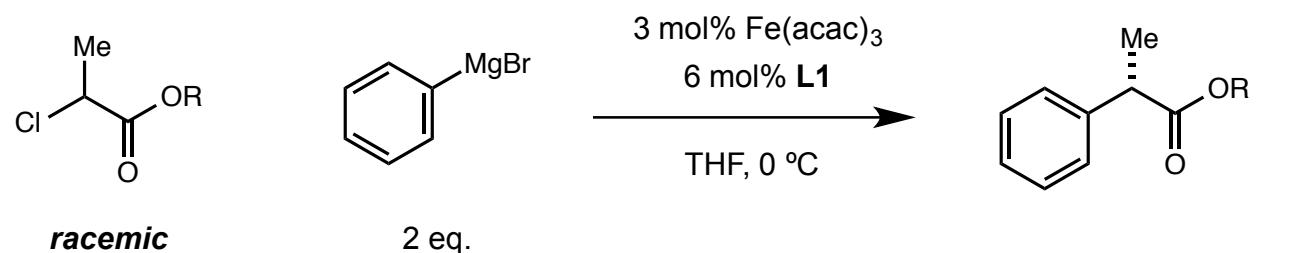


organoboron

What about asymmetric catalysis?

Asymmetric Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ In 2015, Nakamura reported the first asymmetric Fe-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction

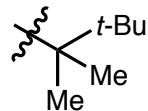


$\text{R} = t\text{-Bu}$ 91% yield, 87:13 er

$\text{R} = i\text{-Pr}$ 75% yield, 83:17 er

$\text{R} = \text{Et}$ 40% yield, 82:18 er

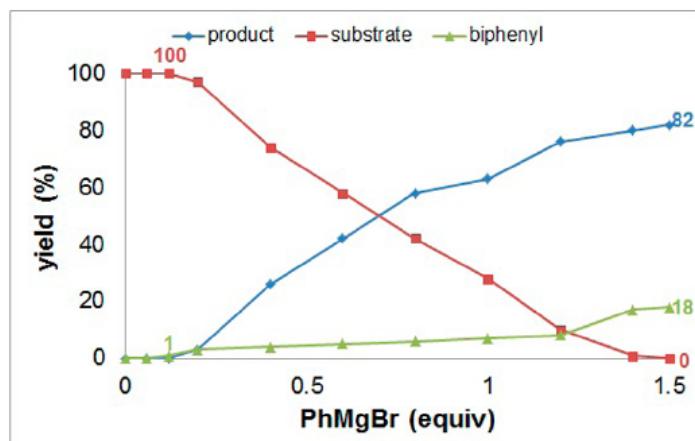
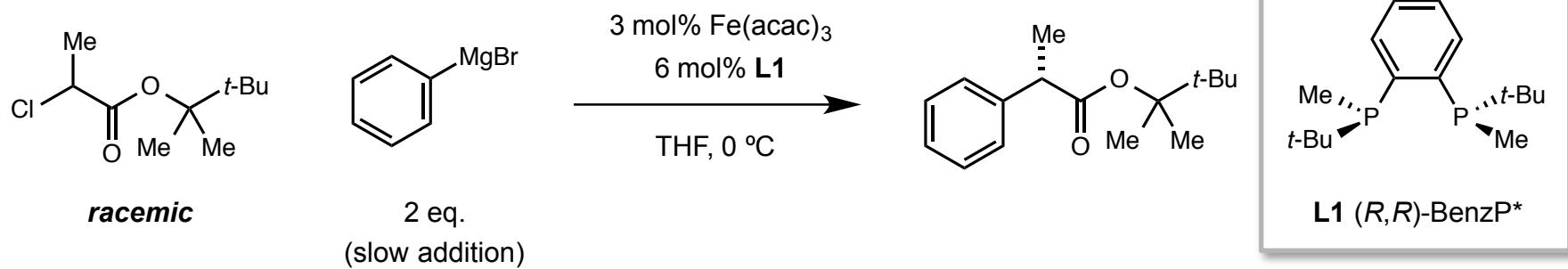
$\text{R} = \text{theptyl}$ 82% yield, 90:10 er



*slow addition of Grignard and avoiding strongly coordinating solvents (DMPU, NMP) improved er
this helped to ensure the Fe catalyst was constantly ligated to the chiral ligand*

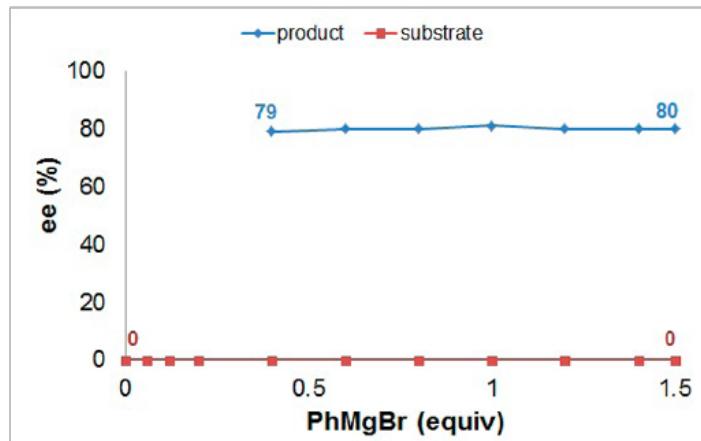
Asymmetric Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ In 2015, Nakamura reported the first asymmetric Fe-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction



no coupling until 0.12 eq. PhMgBr has been added

PhMgBr reduces Fe catalyst to Fe(II) state

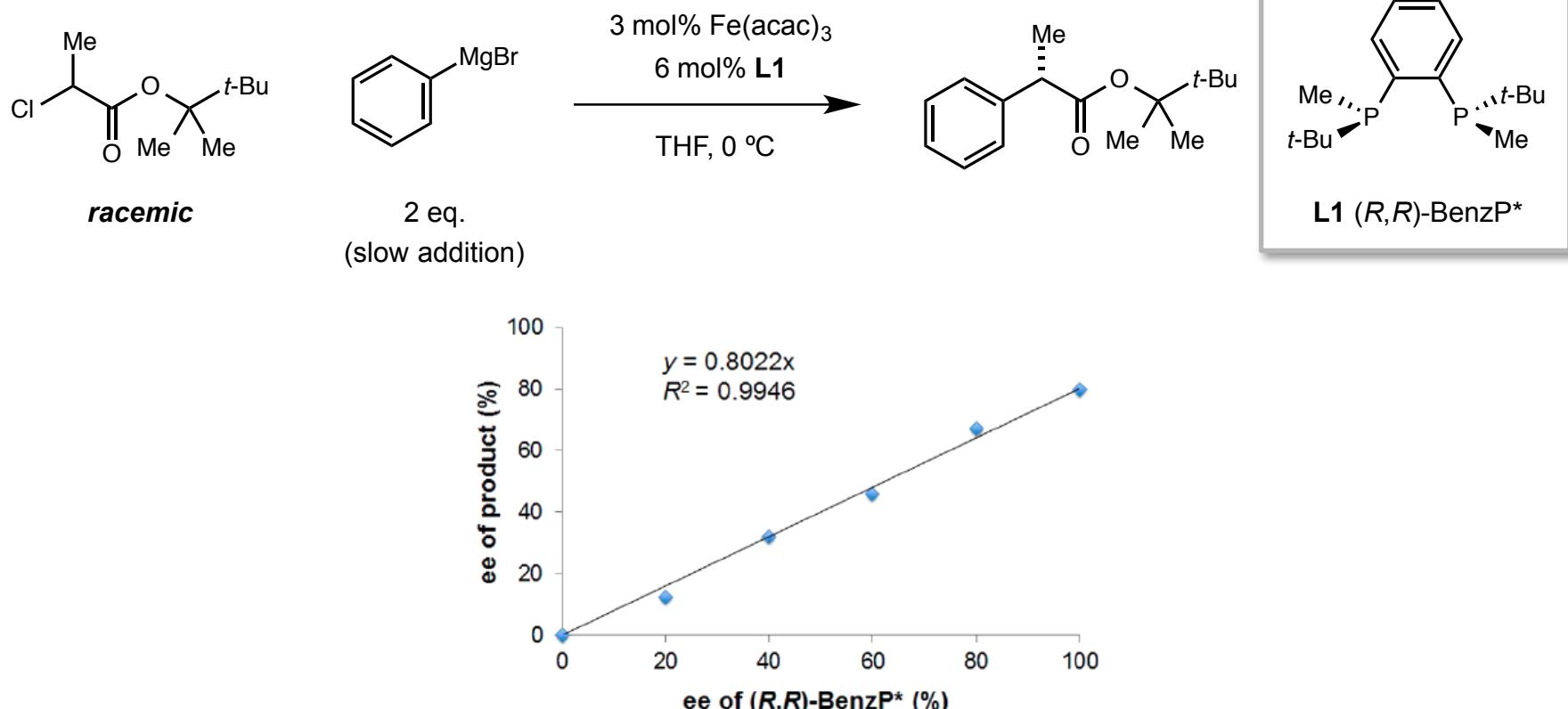


no kinetic resolution of substrate

C–C bond formation is selectivity-determining step

Asymmetric Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

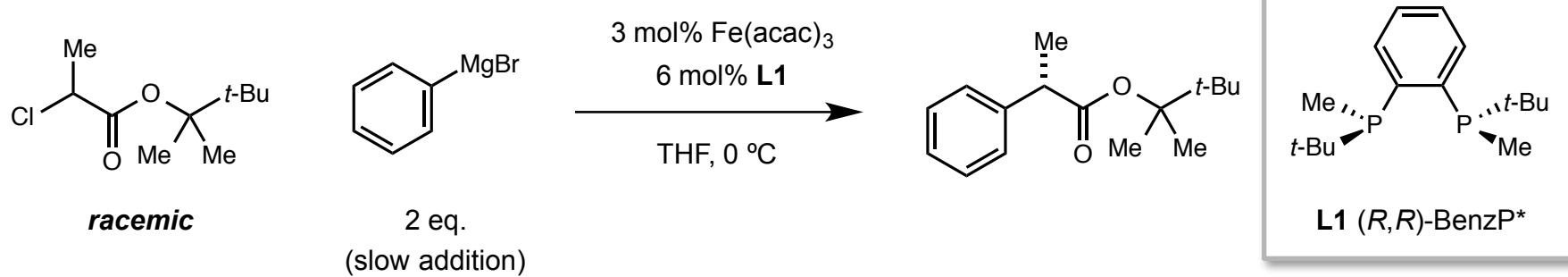
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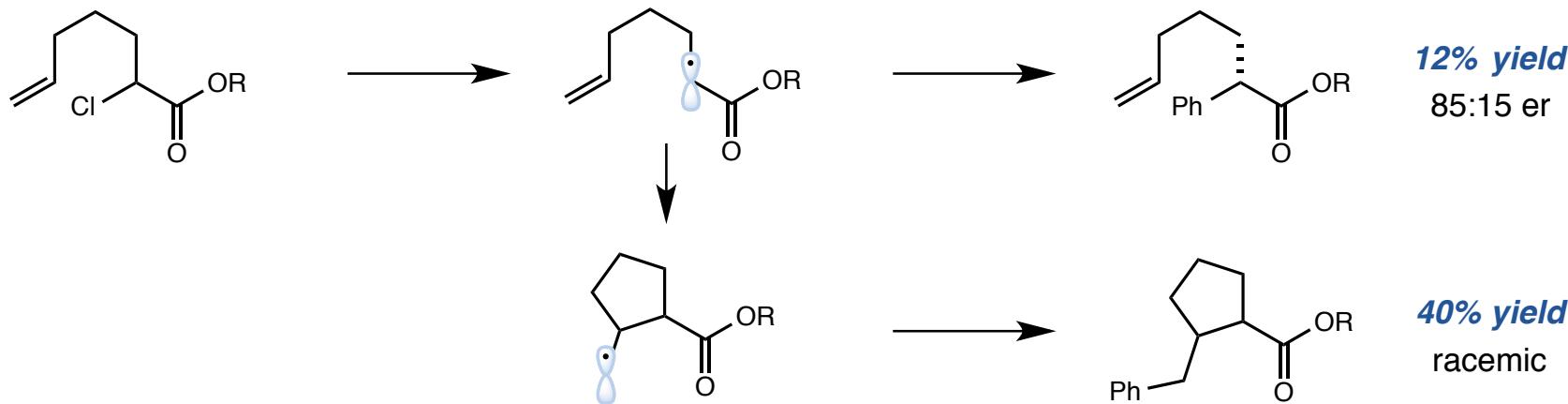
ee of product directly proportional to ee of chiral ligand
enantioselectivity determined by chiral phosphine–iron complex

Asymmetric Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

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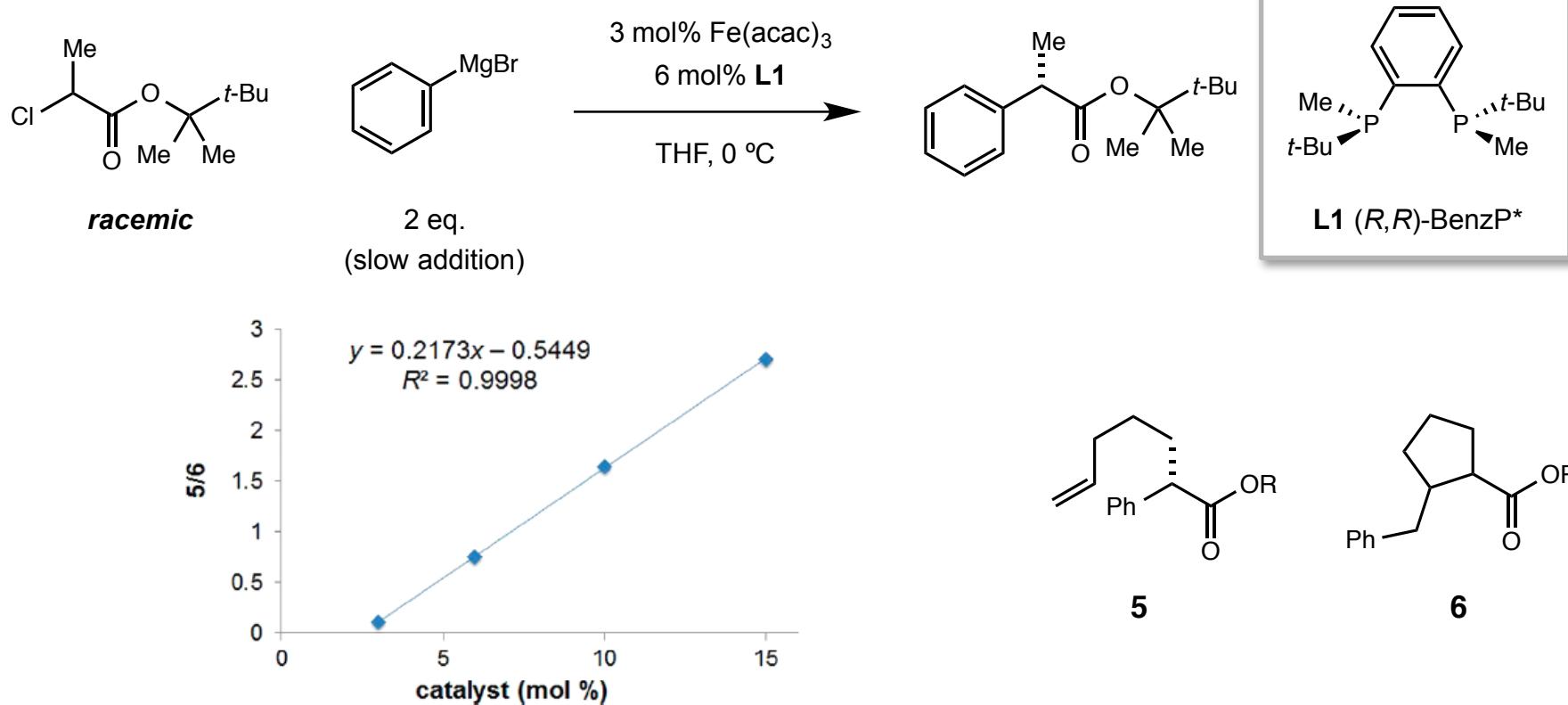


Radical probe experiment:



Asymmetric Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

■ In 2015, Nakamura reported the first asymmetric Fe-catalyzed cross-coupling reaction

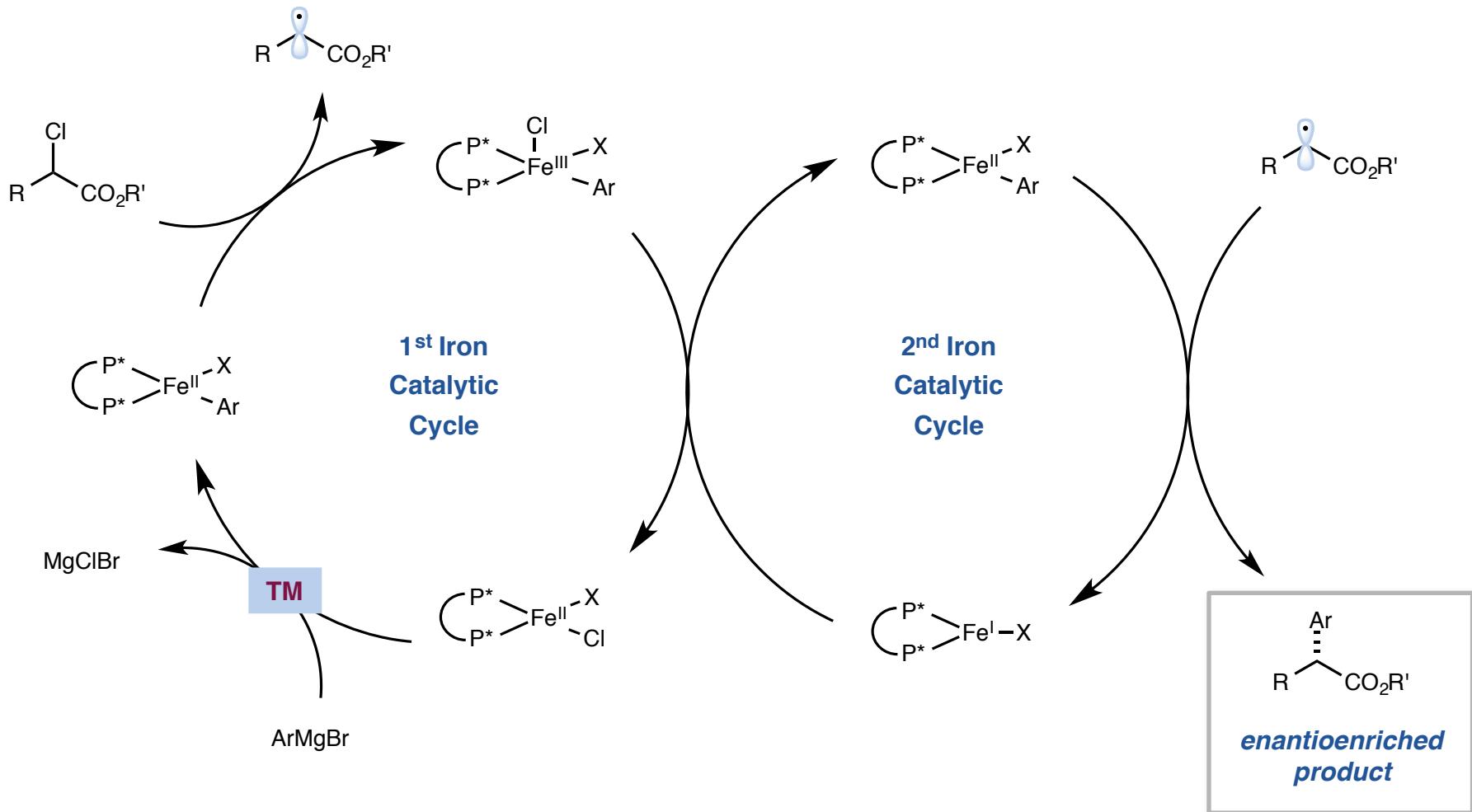


1st order relationship between ratio of 5/6 and catalyst loading

alkyl radical intermediate escapes solvent cage, cyclizes, and then undergoes arylation with 2nd iron catalyst

Asymmetric Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

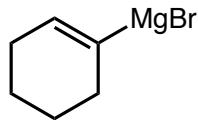
■ Nakamura proposes a bimetallic out-of-cage mechanism



Iron-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling

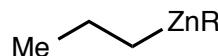


Kumada Coupling



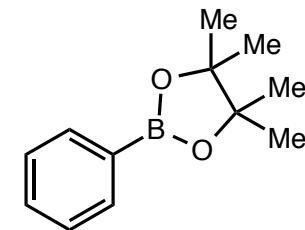
Grignard reagents

Negishi Coupling



organozincs

Suzuki Coupling



organoboron

Useful Reviews

Sherry, B. D.; Fürstner, A. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2008**, *41*, 1500.

Czaplik, W. M.; Mayer, M.; Cvengros, J.; von Wangelin, A. *J. ChemSusChem* **2009**, *2*, 396.

Jana, R.; Pathak, T. P.; Sigman, M. S. *Chem. Rev.* **2011**, *111*, 1417.

Bauer, I.; Knölker, H.-J.. *Chem. Rev.* **2015**, *115*, 3170.

Bedford, R. B. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **2015**, *48*, 1485.

Cassani, C.; Bergonzini, G.; Wallentin, C.-J. *ACS Catal.* **2016**, *6*, 1640.