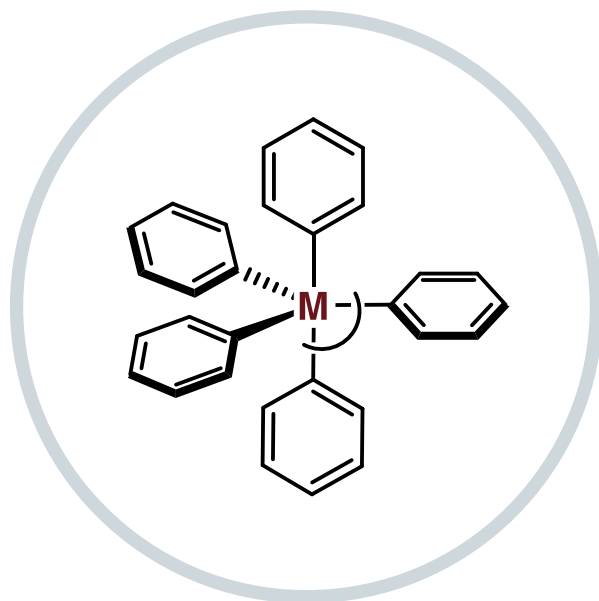


*Ligand-coupling on hypervalent species:
Transition metal chemistry without the metal*



Literature Presentation

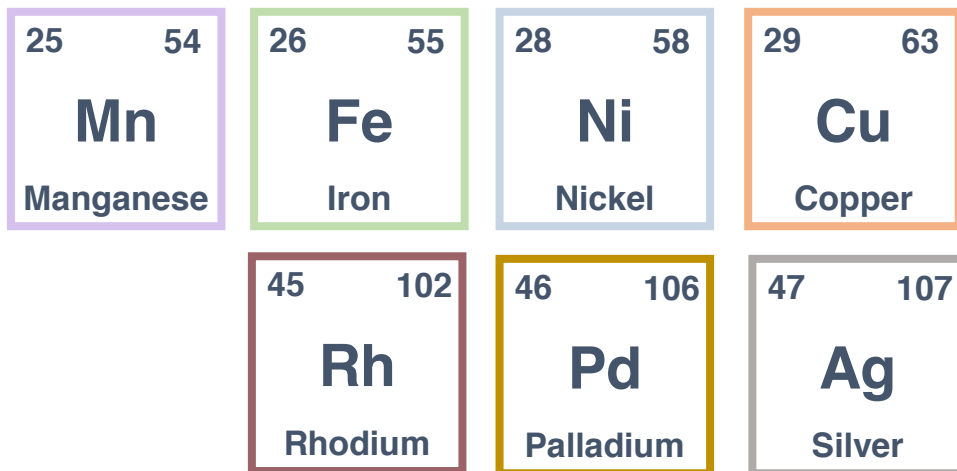
05 April 2023

Benjamin T. Boyle

MacMillan Group
Princeton University

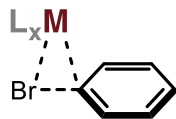
Transition metal cross-couplings have transformed chemical synthesis

Transition metals have enabled elusive bond formations

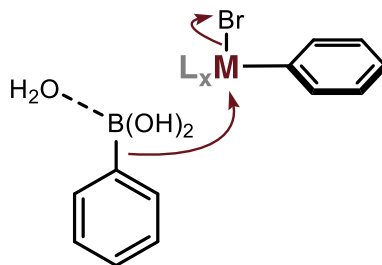


2010 Nobel prize in chemistry

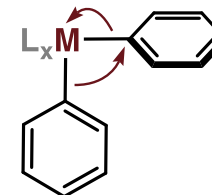
Fundamental processes:



Oxidative addition



Transmetalation



Reductive elimination

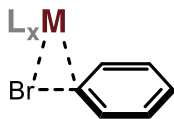
Transition metal cross-couplings have transformed chemical synthesis

Transition metals have enabled elusive bond formations

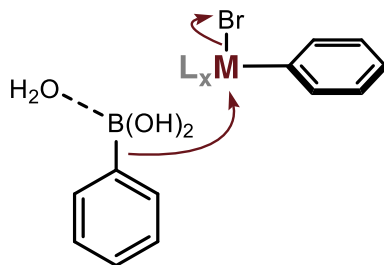
... but can we mimic this reactivity with main group elements



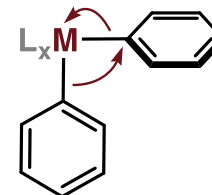
Fundamental processes:



Oxidative addition

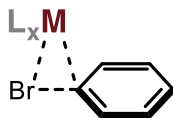


Transmetalation



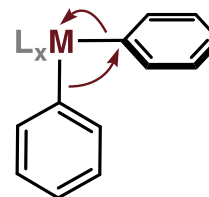
Reductive elimination

Transition metal chemistry relies on d-orbital participation



Oxidative addition

- Oxidation state increase of +2
- Increase in valence electrons
Decrease in d-electrons



Reductive elimination

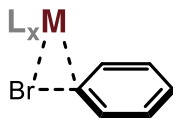
- Oxidation state decrease of -2
- Decrease in valence electrons
Increase in d-electrons

“The difference between the **common occurrence of oxidative addition in transition metal chemistry** and the **rare occurrence of this process in organic chemistry** contributes to the distinction between the reactivity of transition metal complexes and (organic) molecules.”

“Reductive elimination is the reverse of oxidative addition.”

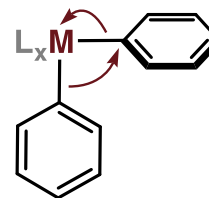
Organotransition Metal Chemistry – From Bonding to Catalysis
John F. Hartwig

Transition metal chemistry relies on d-orbital participation



Oxidative addition

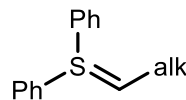
- Oxidation state increase of +2
- Increase in valence electrons
Decrease in d-electrons



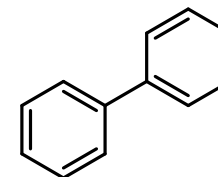
Reductive elimination

- Oxidation state decrease of -2
- Decrease in valence electrons
Increase in d-electrons

Various groups: 1960s



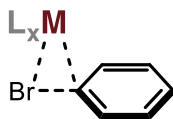
ylide product



aryl dimerization

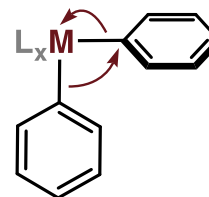
18	32
S	
Sulfur	

Transition metal chemistry relies on d-orbital participation



Oxidative addition

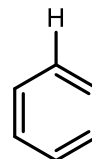
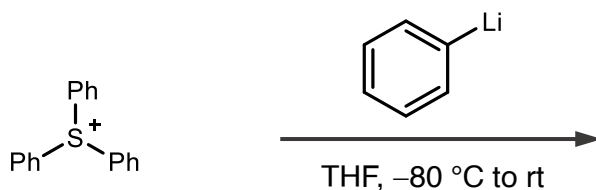
- Oxidation state increase of +2
- Increase in valence electrons
Decrease in d-electrons



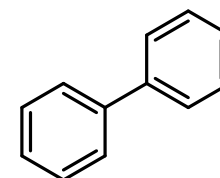
Reductive elimination

- Oxidation state decrease of -2
- Decrease in valence electrons
Increase in d-electrons

Various groups: 1960s



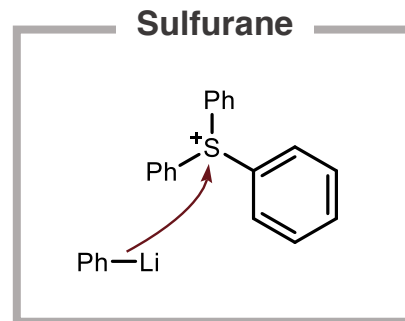
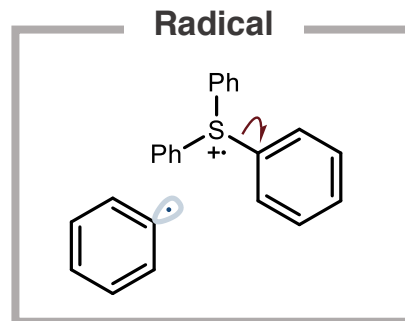
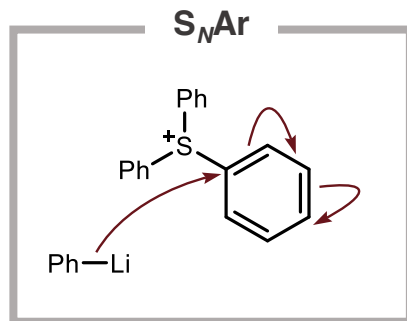
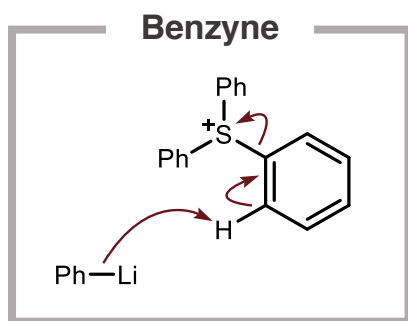
protonation



aryl dimerization
>99% yield

18	32
S	
Sulfur	

The curious case of triaryl sulfonium salts



Why are we observing aryl dimerization and what is the mechanism for its formation?

Trost: 1971

Single isomers obtained when using substituted aryls



Evidence against benzyne

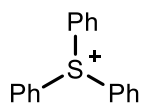
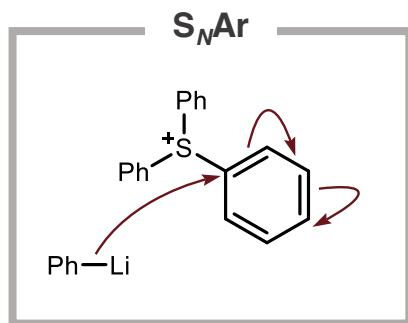
Retention of stereochemistry



Evidence against radical

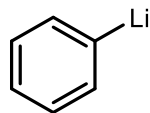
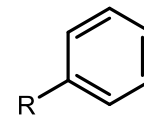
18	32
S	
Sulfur	

The curious case of triaryl sulfonium salts



Organolithium

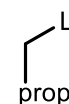
THF, -80 °C to rt



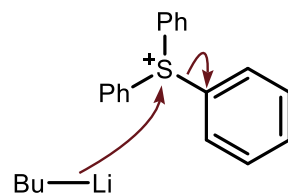
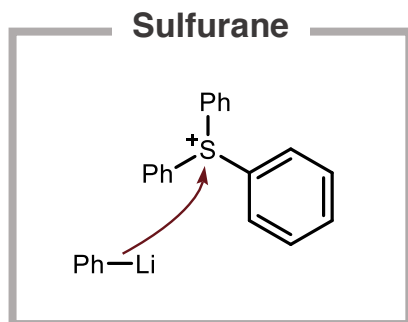
100% Ph-Ph



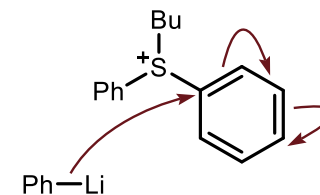
100% vinyl-Ph



50% Ph-Ph
0% Butyl-Ph

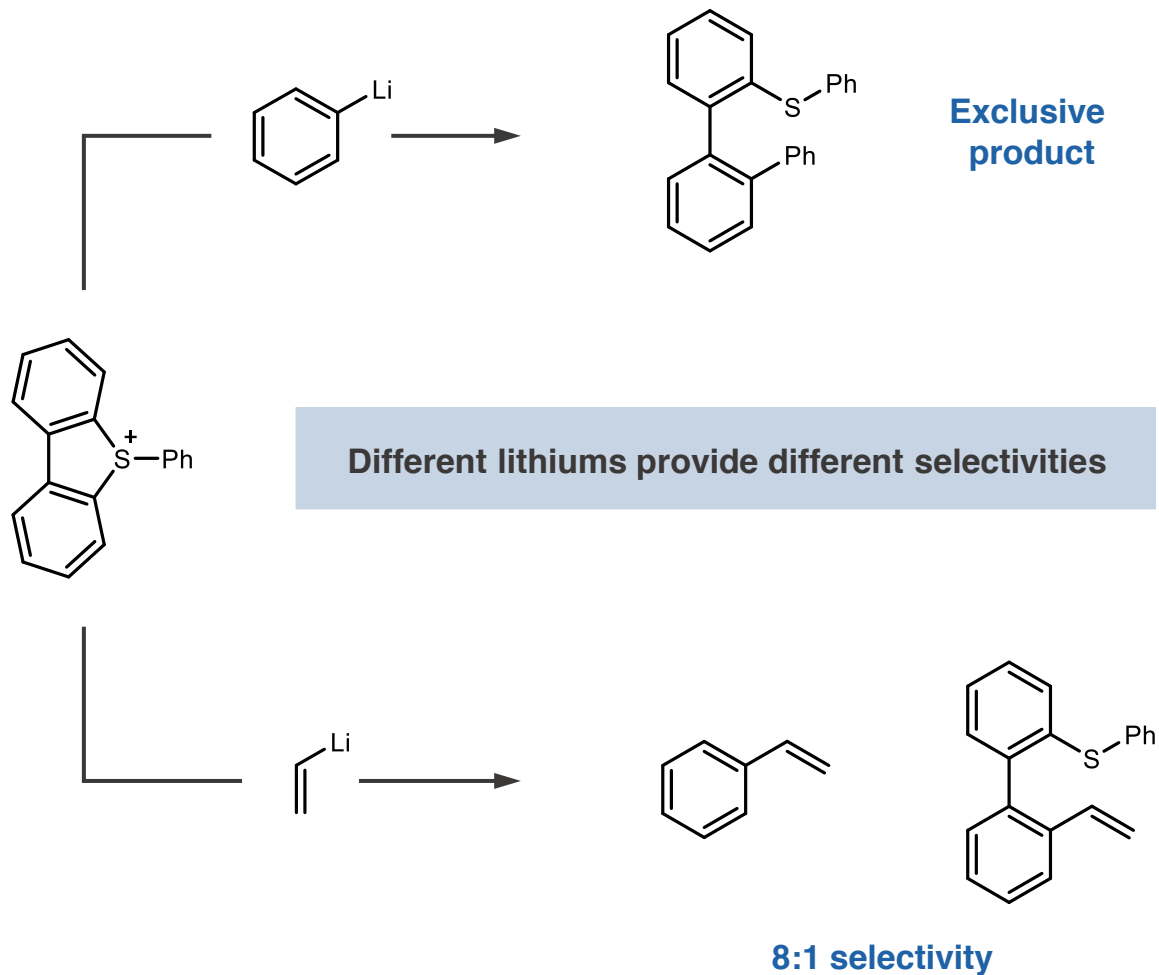
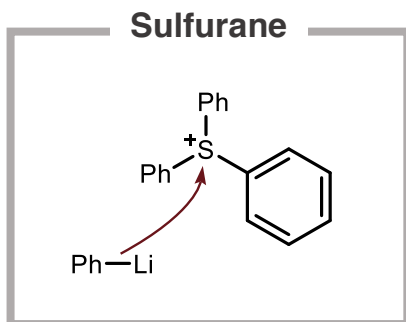
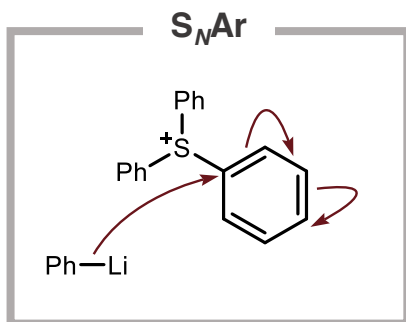


Ligand
exchange

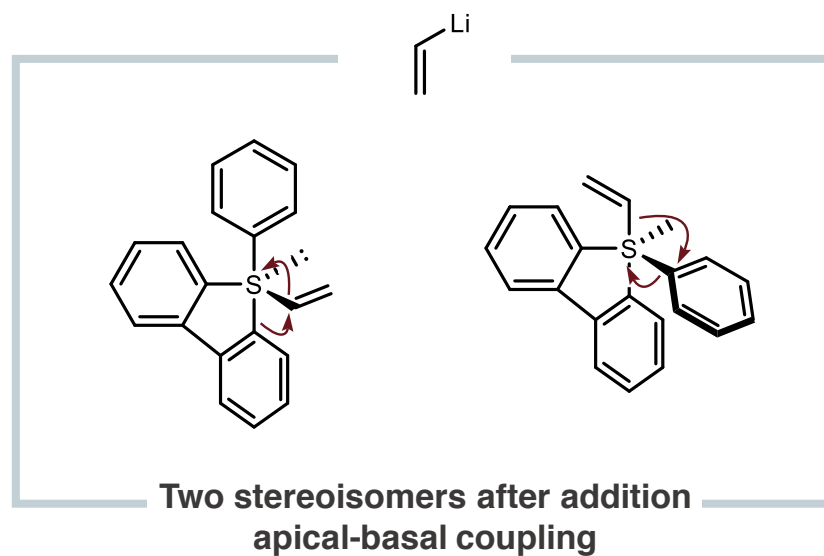
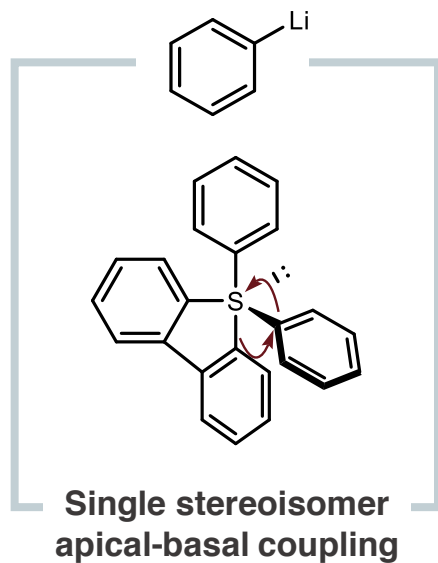


Potential for ligand exchange means we can't rule out S_NAr pathway

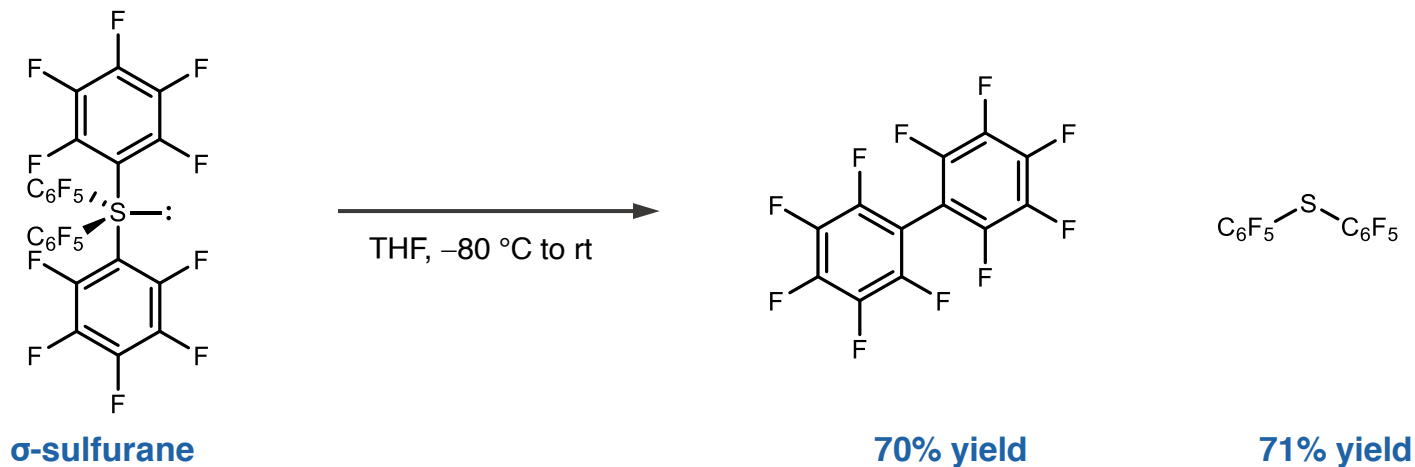
The curious case of triaryl sulfonium salts



Direct evidence for reductive coupling at sulfur



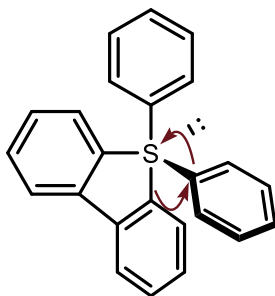
Sheppard: 1971 Direct evidence for reductive coupling at sulfur



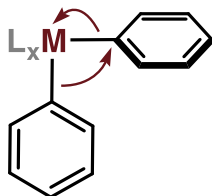
Sheppard, W. A.. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1971**, 93, 5597

LaRochelle, R. W.; Trost, B. M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1971**, 93, 6077.

Ligand-coupling and reductive elimination



Sulfurane coupling



Reductive elimination

Sulfurane coupling and reductive elimination show remarkable mechanistic similarities

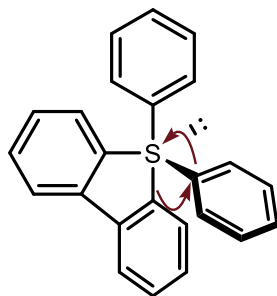
Coupling mechanism was expanded beyond sulfur and termed “ligand-coupling” around 1985 by Shigeru Oae

“In organometallic chemistry, the terms “reductive elimination” and “oxidative addition” have been used to describe many chemical phenomena... **most of these reactions can be understood in terms of ligand coupling.**”

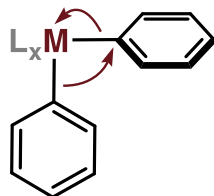
Ligand-coupling Reactions of Hypervalent Species

Shigeru Oae

Ligand-coupling and reductive elimination



Sulfurane coupling



Reductive elimination

Sulfurane coupling and reductive elimination show remarkable mechanistic similarities

Coupling mechanism was expanded beyond sulfur and termed “ligand-coupling” around 1985 by Shigeru Oae

“(Ligand-coupling reaction) is a new type of reaction and is different from widely used reductive elimination, and is unique and specific for hypervalent compounds in general”

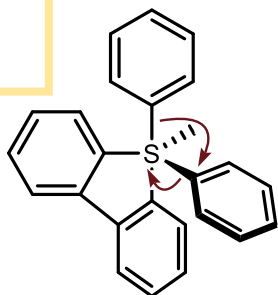
Organo Main Group Chemistry
Kin-Ya Akiba

Ligand-coupling and reductive elimination

18 32

S

Sulfur

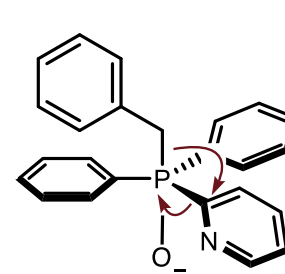
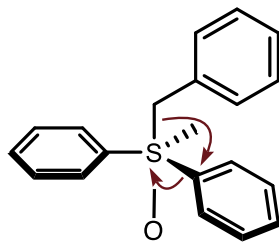


Sulfurane coupling

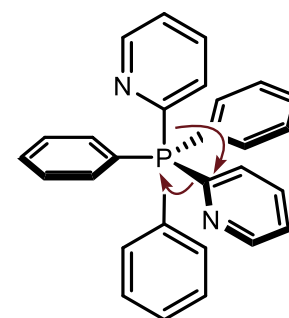
15 30

P

Phosphorus



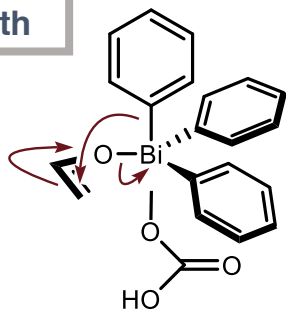
Phosphorane coupling



83 208

Bi

Bismuth

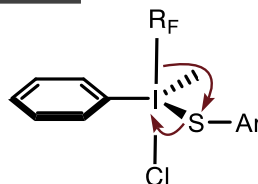


Bismuthorane coupling

53 126

I

Iodine



Iodane coupling

14 28

Si

Silicon

52 127

Te

Tellurium

33 74

As

Arsenic

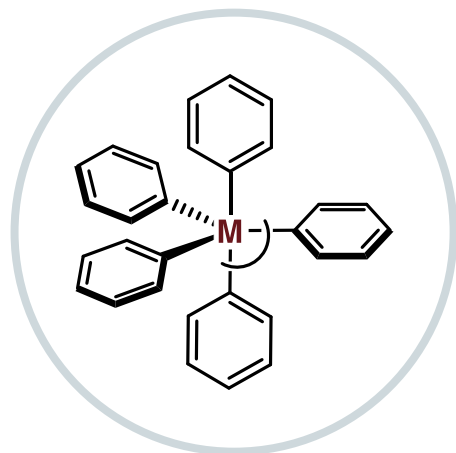
50 118

Sn

Tin

Additional Elements demonstrated
to undergo ligand-coupling

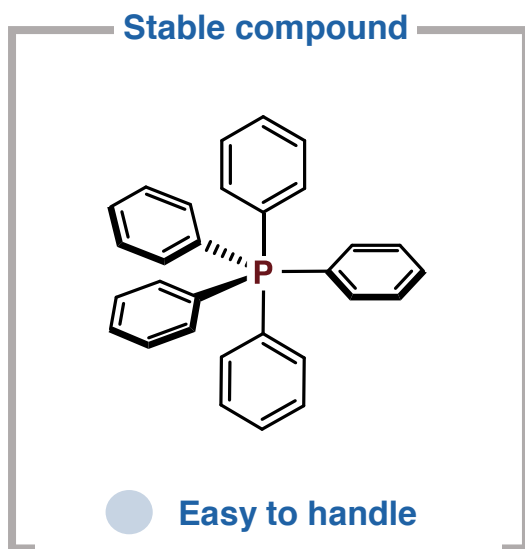
Ligand-coupling is distinct from reductive elimination



- Limited to main-group elements
- Requires hypervalency of central atom
- Concerted coupling process
- Allowed couplings are element and geometry dependent

Accessing hypervalent scaffolds

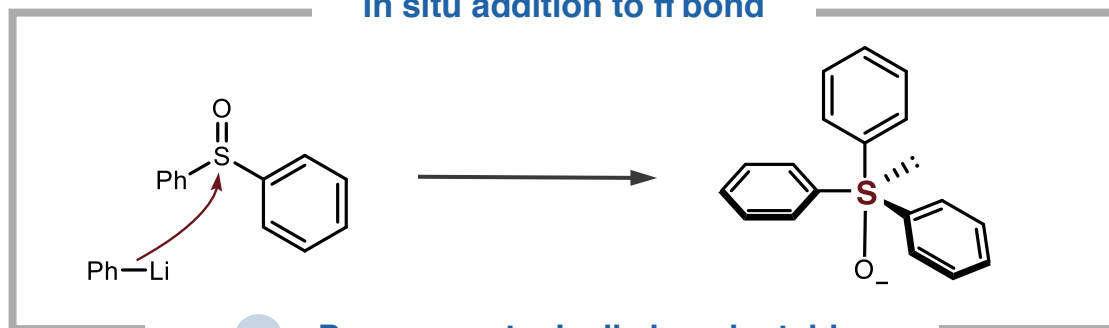
Hypervalent structures for ligand-coupling are accessed three ways



● Easy to handle

● Harsh conditions to trigger ligand-coupling

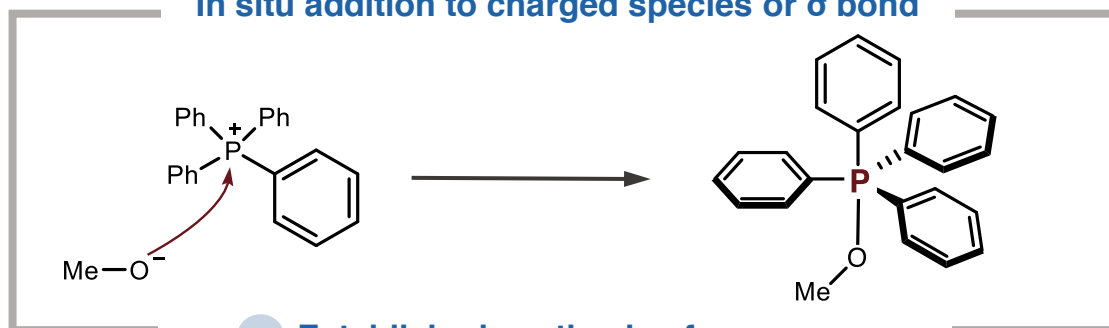
In situ addition to π bond



● Precursors typically bench stable

● Organometallic reagents often required

In situ addition to charged species or σ bond



● Established synthesis of precursors

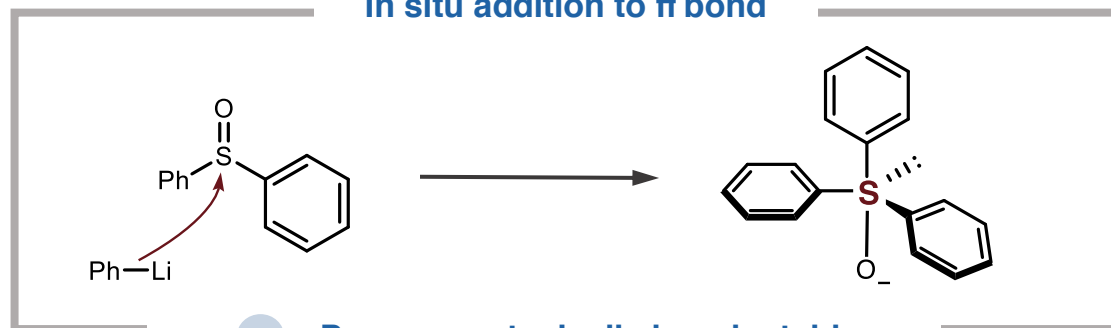
● Alkoxide addition leads to complications in coupling

Accessing hypervalent scaffolds

Hypervalent structures for ligand-coupling are accessed three ways

Two synthetically useful strategies

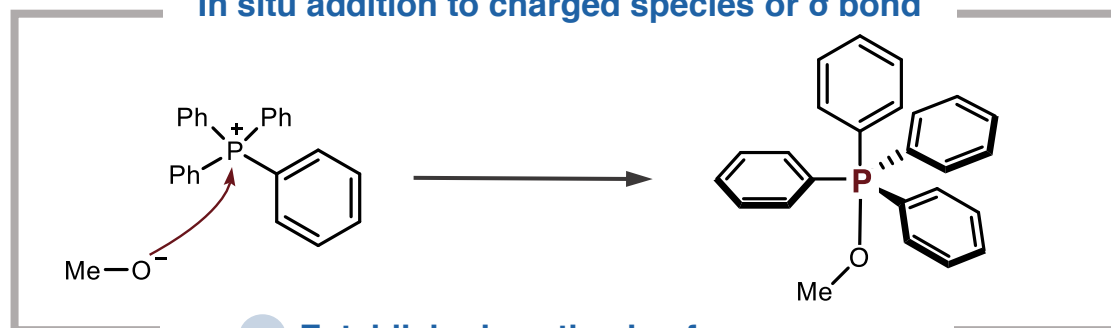
In situ addition to π bond



Precursors typically bench stable

Organometallic reagents often required

In situ addition to charged species or σ bond



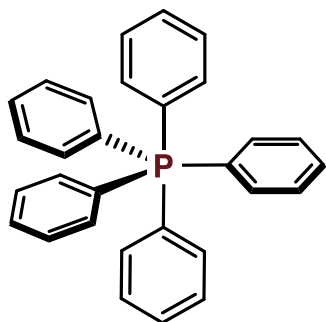
Established synthesis of precursors

Alkoxide addition leads to complications in coupling

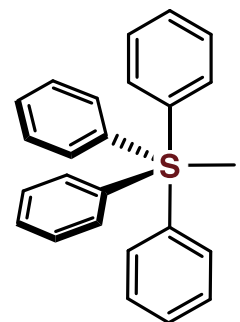
Hypervalency is the key to ligand-coupling

Hypervalent molecules: formal violation of the octet rule for bonding

3d orbitals are not involved in valence expansion



PPh₅
Pentaphenylphosphorane
“10 valence electrons”



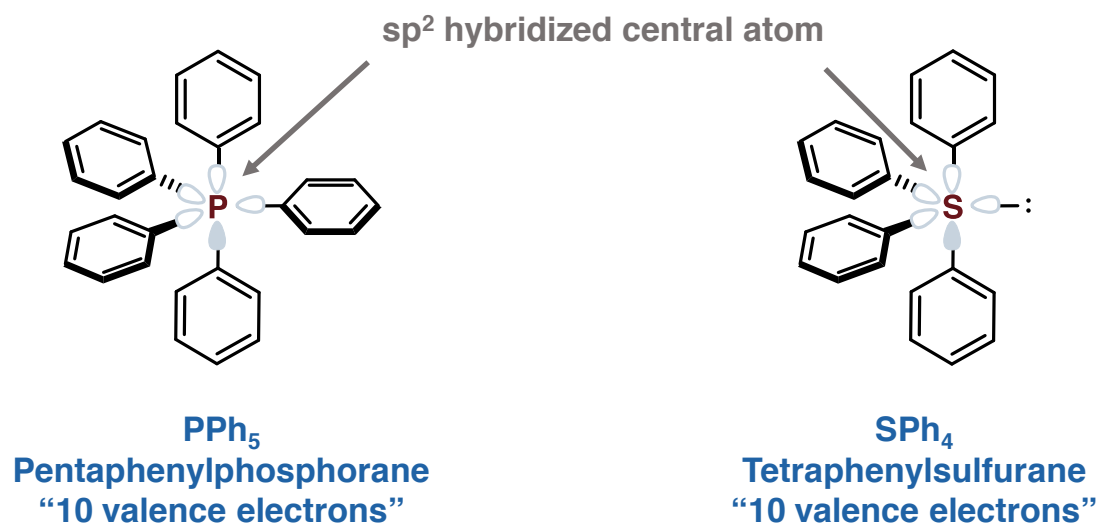
SPh₄
Tetraphenylsulfurane
“10 valence electrons”

“Far too often have **3d orbitals been invoked as a kind of theoretical *deus ex machina*** to account for facts apparently otherwise inexplicable”

Molecular Orbital Theory of Pentacoordinate Phosphorus
Roald Hoffmann

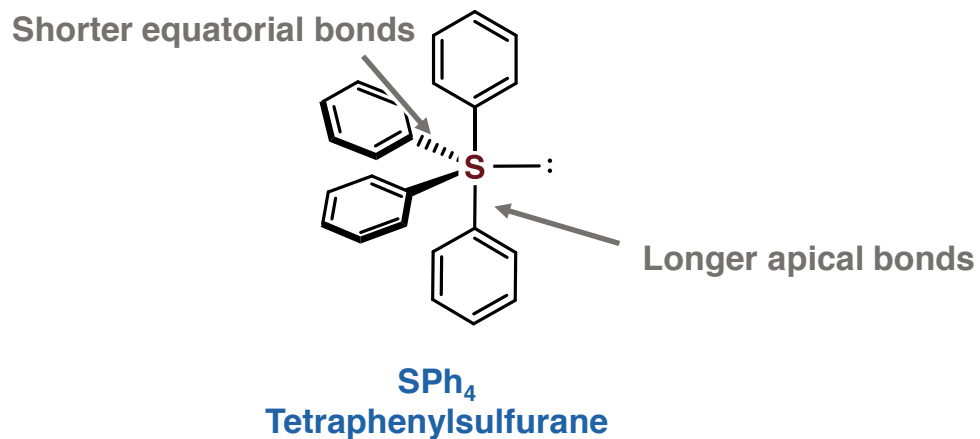
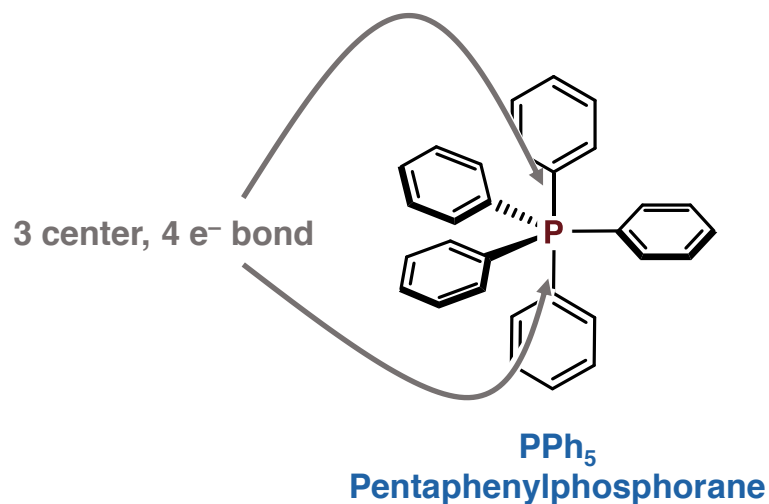
Hypervalency is the key to ligand-coupling

Hypervalent molecules: formal violation of the octet rule for bonding



Hypervalency is the key to ligand-coupling

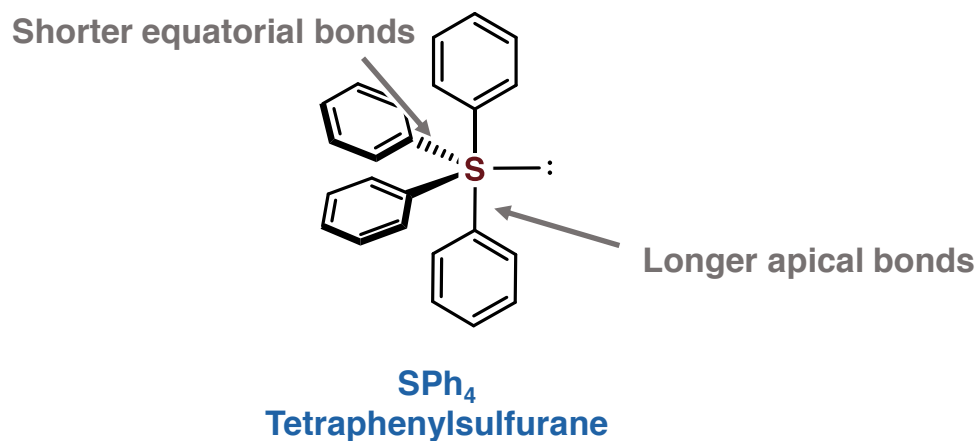
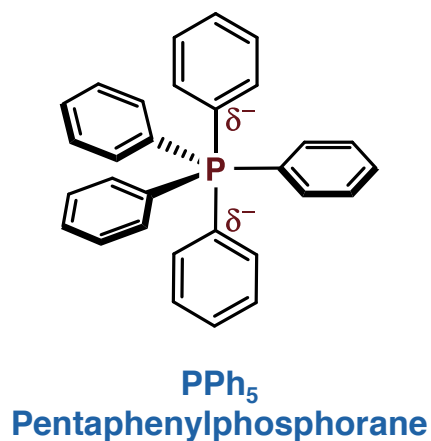
Hypervalent molecules: formal violation of the octet rule for bonding



Apical bond described as distinct from equatorial bonds

Hypervalency is the key to ligand-coupling

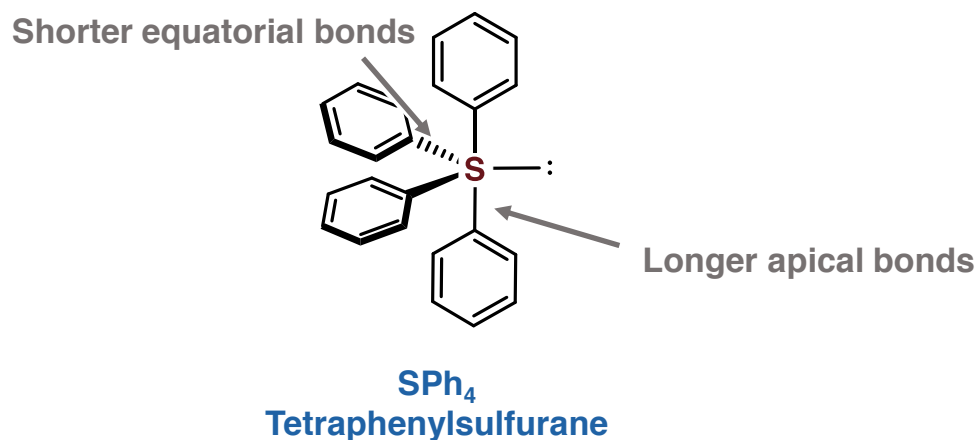
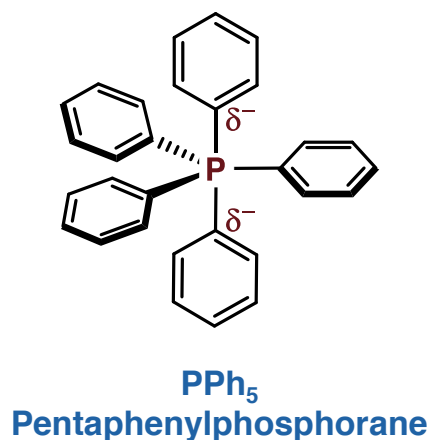
Hypervalent molecules: formal violation of the octet rule for bonding



Apical bond described as distinct from equatorial bonds... and polarized in comparison

Hypervalency is the key to ligand-coupling

Hypervalent molecules: formal violation of the octet rule for bonding



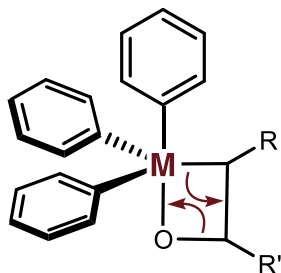
Apical bond described as distinct from equatorial bonds... and polarized in comparison

Return to normal valency through extrusion of one pair of electrons provides ligand-coupling driving force in the forward direction

Hypervalent molecules have three reactivity pathways

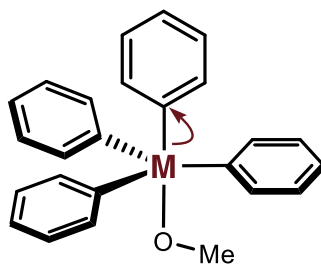
Three pathways can occur to return to normal valency

Self-decomposition



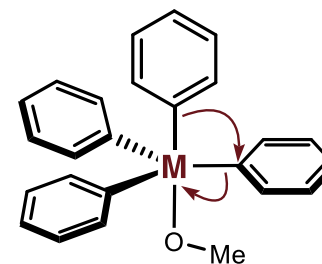
Wittig reaction pathway

Ligand-exchange



S_N2 -like outcome

Ligand-coupling

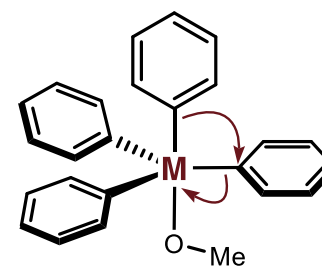


Reductive coupling

Hypervalent molecules have three reactivity pathways

Three pathways can occur to return to normal valency

Ligand-coupling

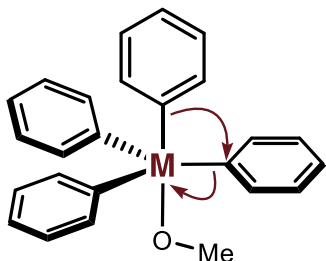


Reductive coupling

Hypervalent molecules have three reactivity pathways

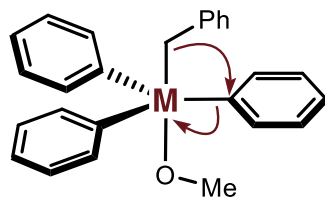
Ligand-coupling can occur through four mechanistic pathways

Ipsso-ipso couplings



Homocoupling/Similar
polarity: LC_H

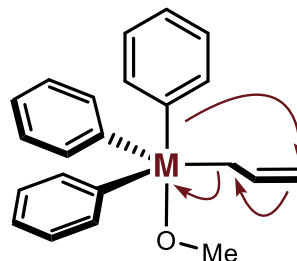
■ Synchronous
pathway



Heterocoupling/Different
polarity: LC_N

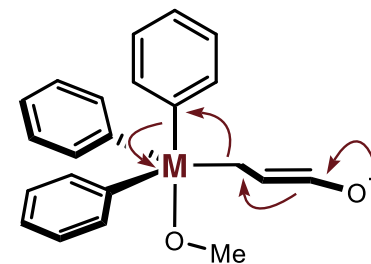
■ Asynchronous
pathway

Ipsso-allyl couplings



$S_{N2'}$ type process: LC_N

■ Standard polarity

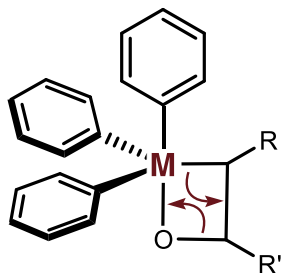


Apical electrophile: LC_E

■ Unusual equatorial
nucleophile

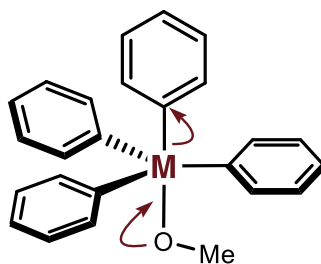
Hypervalent molecules have three reactivity pathways

Self-decomposition



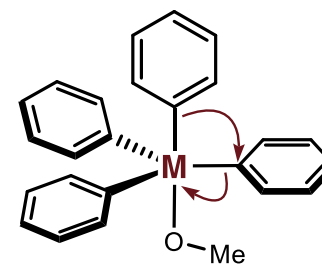
Wittig reaction pathway

Ligand-exchange



S_N2 -like outcome

Ligand-coupling

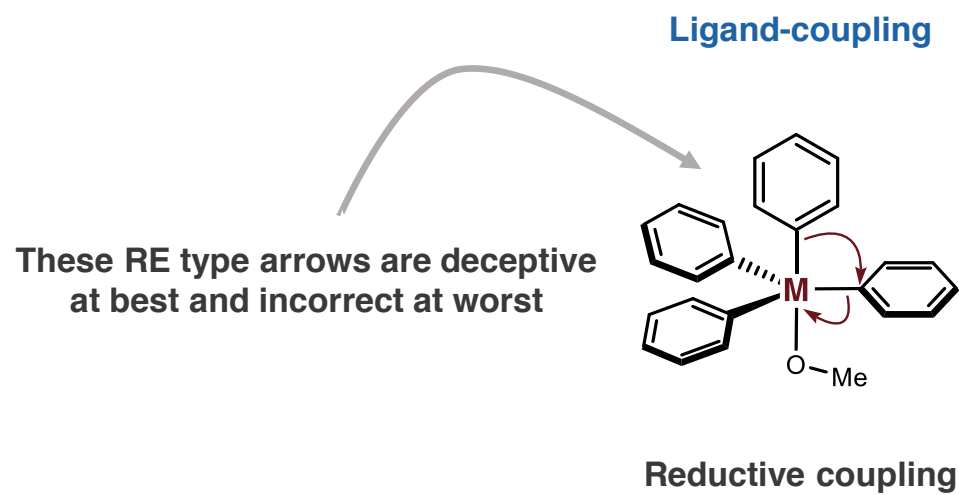


Reductive coupling

Two pathways compete directly with each other

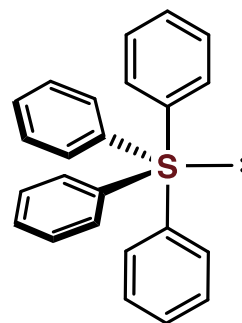
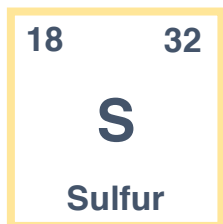
How can we tune this reactivity?

Geometry impacts the couplings available

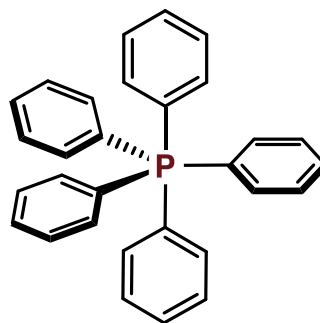
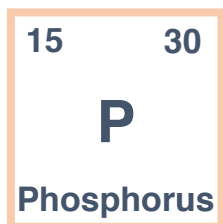


Geometry impacts the couplings available

Like transition metals, ligands position around the central atom plays a role in couplings



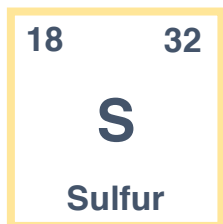
D3h



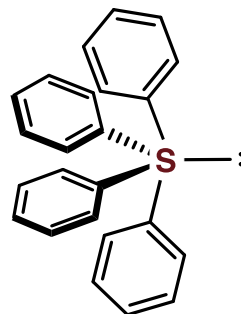
D3h

Geometry impacts the couplings available

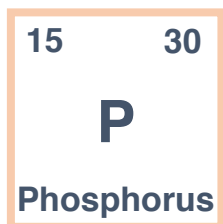
Like transition metals, ligands orientation around the central atom plays a role in couplings



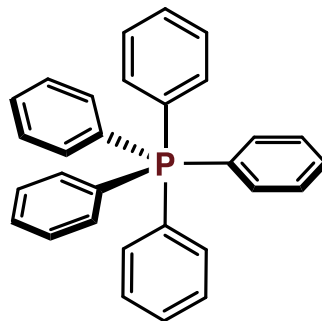
*distorted trigonal
bipyramidal:*



C_{4v}



*trigonal
bipyramidal:*



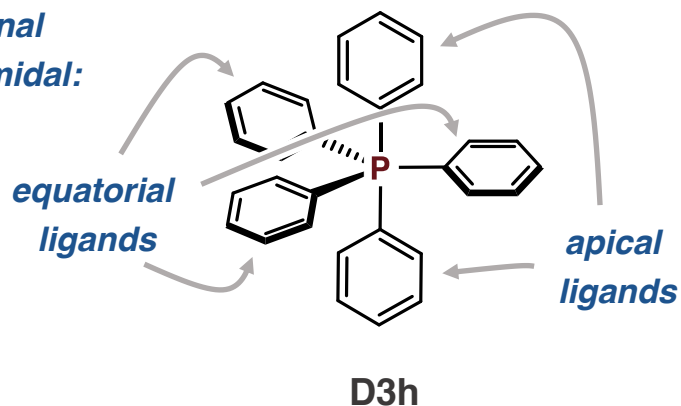
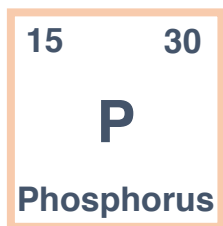
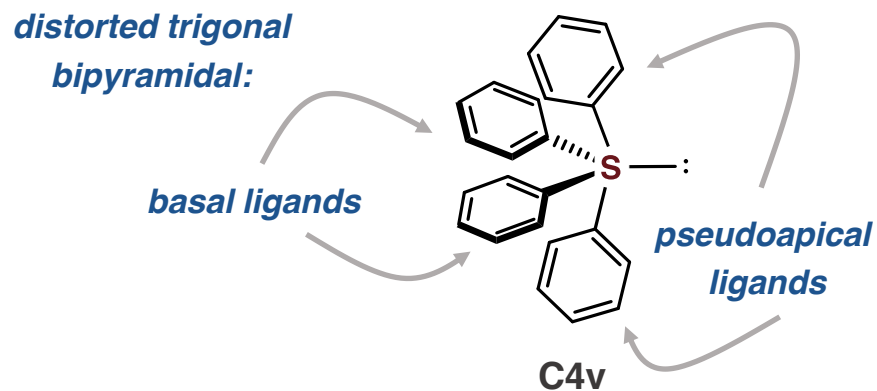
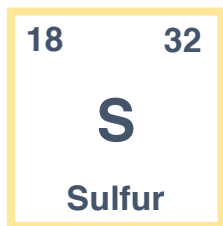
D_{3h}

Trost, B. M.; Arndt, H. C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1973**, 95, 5288.

Hoffmann, R.; Howell, J. M.; Muetterties, E. L. J. Am. Chem. Soc. **1972**, 94, 3047.

Geometry impacts the couplings available

Like transition metals, ligands orientation around the central atom plays a role in couplings

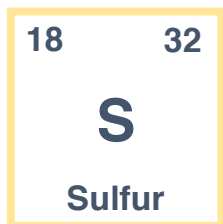


Trost, B. M.; Arndt, H. C. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1973, 95, 5288.

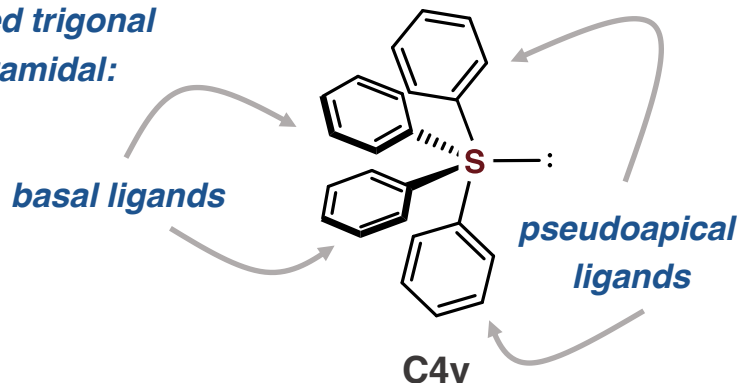
Hoffmann, R.; Howell, J. M.; Muetterties, E. L. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1972, 94, 3047.

Geometry impacts the couplings available

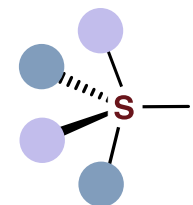
Like transition metals, ligands orientation around the central atom plays a role in couplings



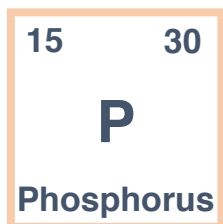
distorted trigonal bipyramidal:



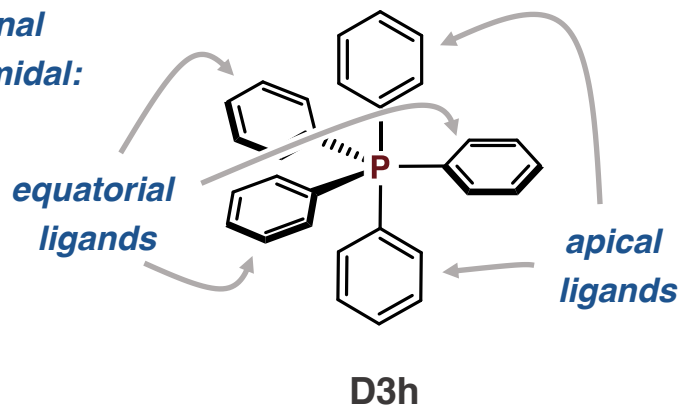
Orbital overlap



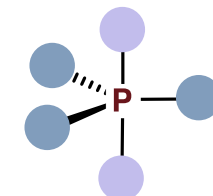
WH Allowed coupling:
Apical-basal



trigonal bipyramidal:



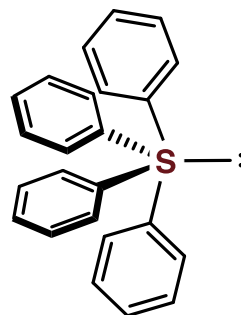
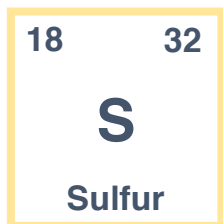
Orbital overlap



WH Allowed coupling:
Apical-apical
Equatorial-equatorial

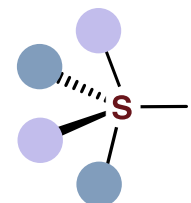
The rules are more like guidelines anyways...

Presence of π orbitals allows for “forbidden” ligand-couplings to occur

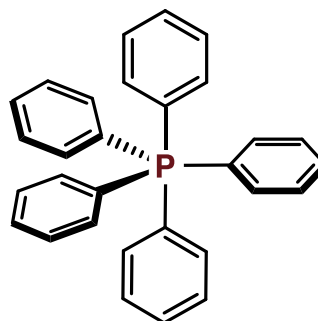
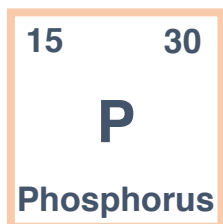


C_{4v}

Orbital overlap

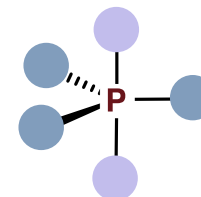


WH Allowed coupling:
Apical-basal



D_{3h}

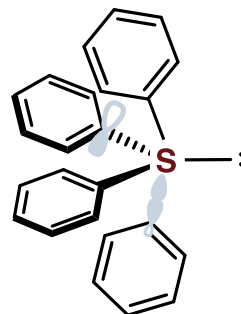
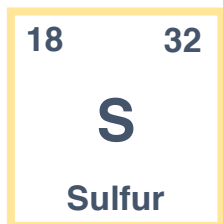
Orbital overlap



WH Allowed coupling:
Apical-apical
Equatorial-equatorial

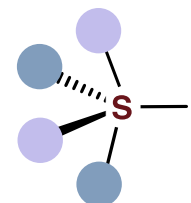
The rules are more like guidelines anyways...

Presence of π orbitals allows for “forbidden” ligand-couplings to occur

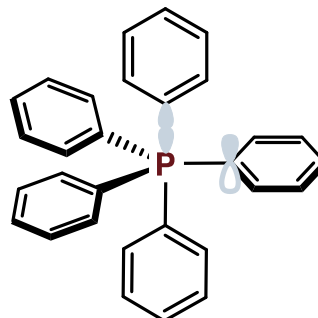
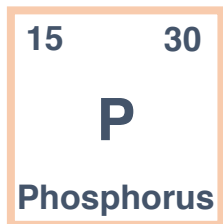


C_{4v}

Orbital overlap

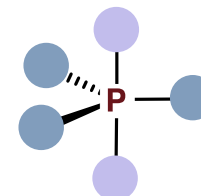


WH Allowed coupling:
Apical-basal



D_{3h}

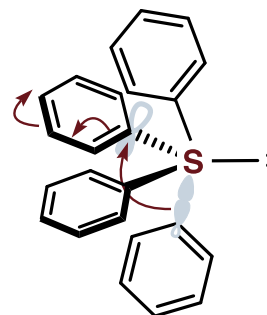
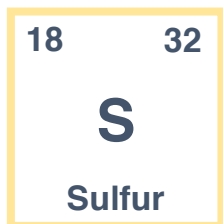
Orbital overlap



WH Allowed coupling:
Apical-apical
Equatorial-equatorial

The rules are more like guidelines anyways...

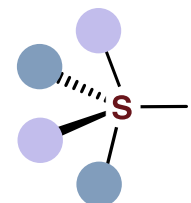
Presence of π orbitals allows for “forbidden” ligand-couplings to occur



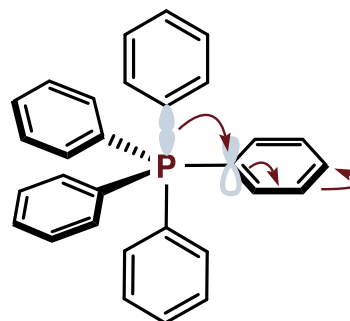
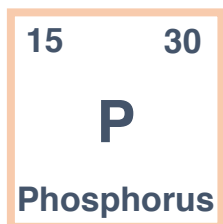
C_{4v}

**Asynchronous coupling
via Meisenheimer-like
intermediate**

Orbital overlap

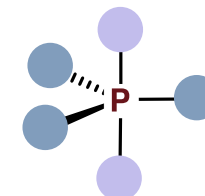


**WH Allowed coupling:
Apical-basal**



D_{3h}

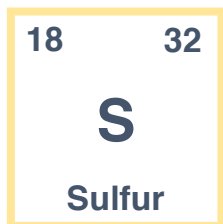
Orbital overlap



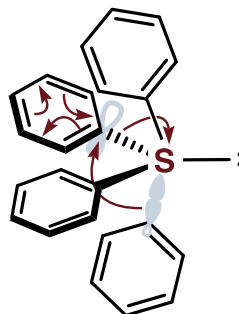
**WH Allowed coupling:
Apical-apical
Equatorial-equatorial**

The rules are more like guidelines anyways...

Presence of π orbitals allows for “forbidden” ligand-couplings to occur



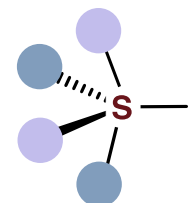
WH forbidden coupling:
Trans Apical-basal



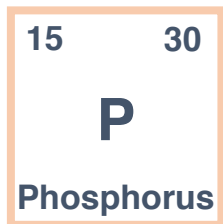
C_{4v}

Asynchronous coupling
via Meisenheimer-like
intermediate

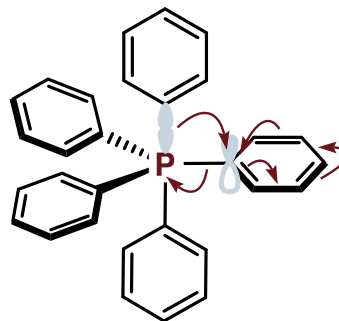
Orbital overlap



WH Allowed coupling:
Apical-basal

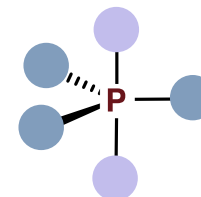


WH forbidden coupling:
Apical-equatorial



D_{3h}

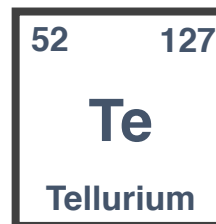
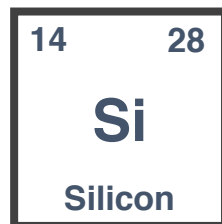
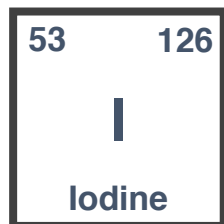
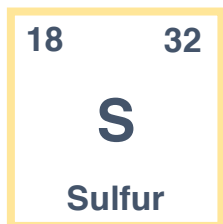
Orbital overlap



WH Allowed coupling:
Apical-apical
Equatorial-equatorial

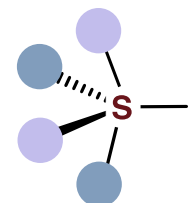
Geometry impacts the couplings available

Like transition metals, ligands orientation around the central atom plays a role in couplings



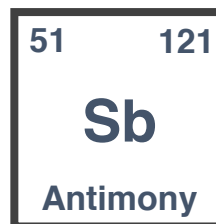
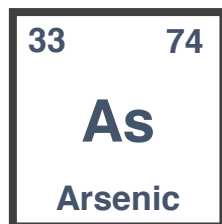
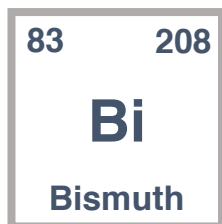
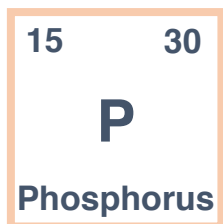
Lone pair containing (distorted C_{4v})

Orbital overlap

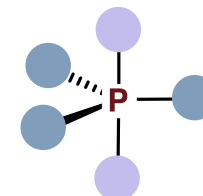


Allowed coupling:
Apical-basal

Non-lone pair containing (D_{3h})



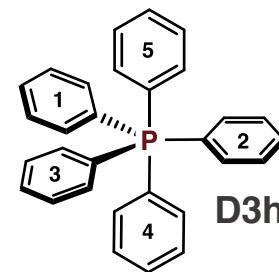
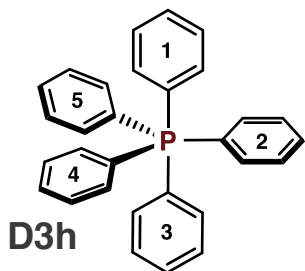
Orbital overlap



Allowed coupling:
Apical-apical
Equatorial-equatorial

Ligands on hypervalent species are not frozen in a single position

Ligands can “migrate” between positions on hypervalent species



Orientation for ligands can be manipulated through two rotation processes:

Berry pseudorotation and turnstile processes

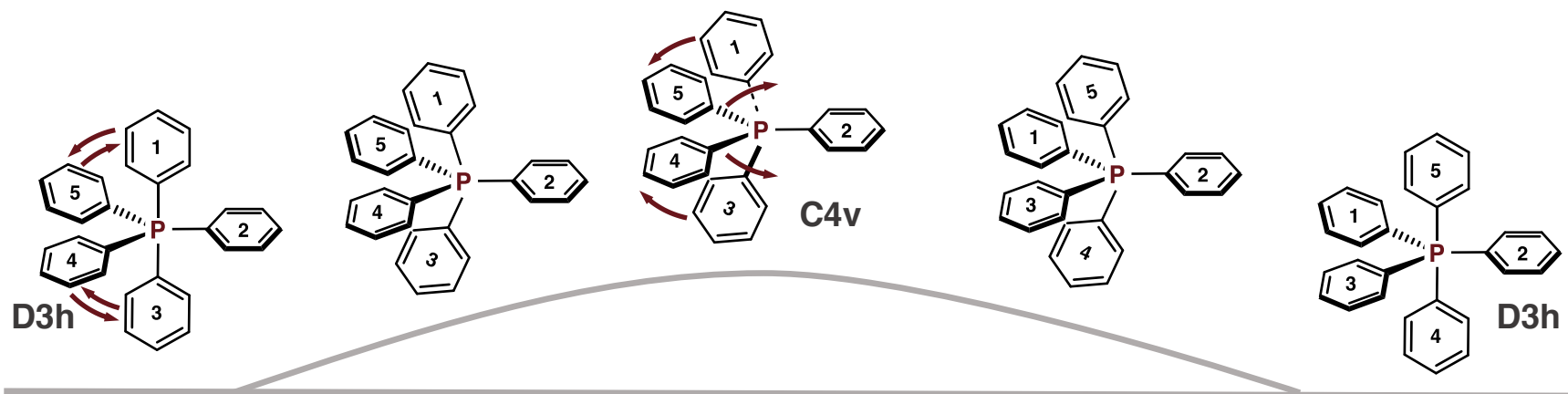
Ligands on hypervalent species are not frozen in a single position

Berry pseudorotation ψ :

allows for apical and equatorial ligands to interconvert

Low barriers of <3 kcal/mol but goes through molecular geometry rearrangement

Does not actually involve rotational motion



Orientation for ligands can be manipulated through two rotation processes:

Berry pseudorotation and turnstile processes

Ligands on hypervalent species are not frozen in a single position

Turnstile rotation:

allows for apical and equatorial ligands to interconvert

Higher barriers (5-10 kcal/mol) and viewed as less likely to occur

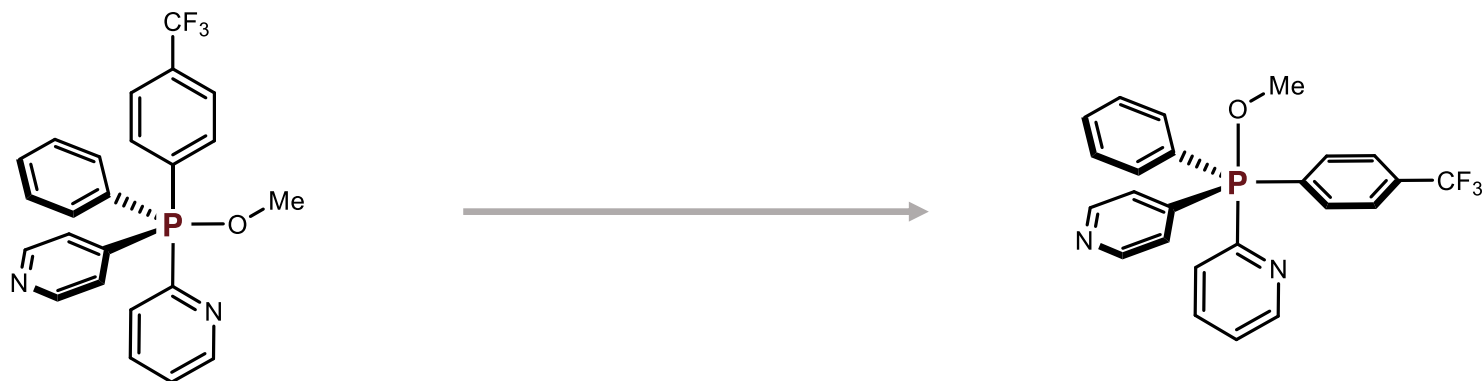
Occurs through physical rotation of pentacoordinated molecule



Orientation for ligands can be manipulated through two rotation processes:

Berry pseudorotation and turnstile processes

Rotation has important considerations for coupling selectivity

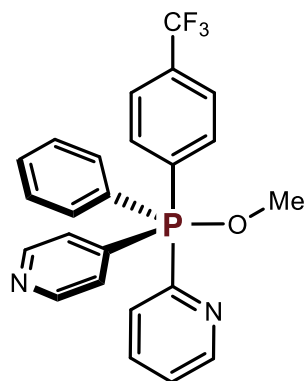


What is the most stable form of this phosphorane?

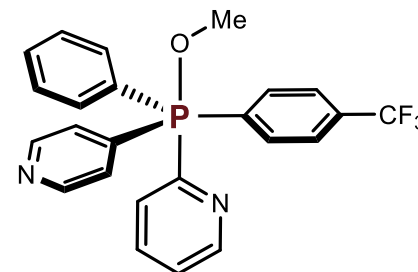
Equatophilicity: more electron rich and π ligands favor equatorial positions

Apicophilicity: more electron-withdrawing groups favor apical positions

Rotation has important considerations for coupling selectivity



What is the most stable form of this phosphorane?

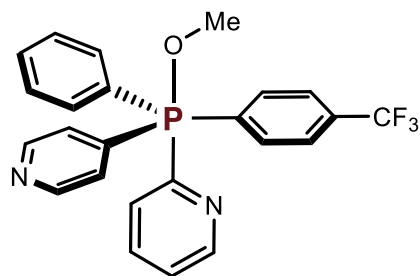


What would we expect to be the ligand-coupling products?

Equatophilicity: more electron rich and π ligands favor equatorial positions

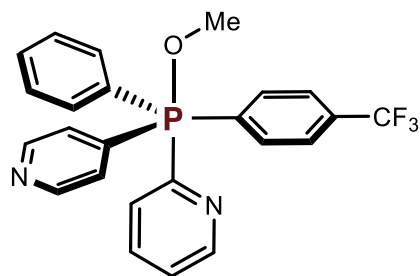
Apicophilicity: more electron-withdrawing groups favor apical positions

Rotation has important considerations for coupling selectivity

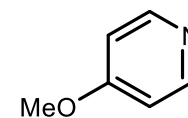
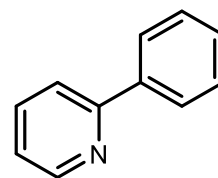
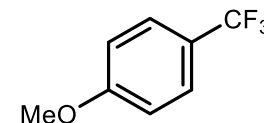
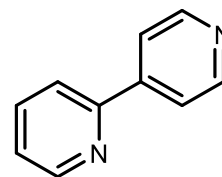
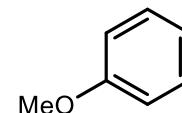
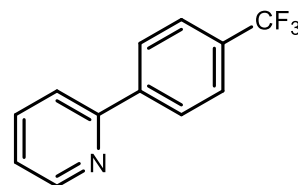


What would we expect to be the ligand-coupling products?

Rotation has important considerations for coupling selectivity



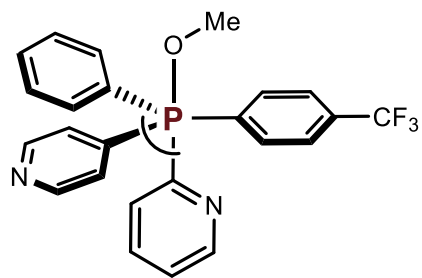
Possible coupling outcomes:



What would we expect to be the ligand-coupling products?

Equatorial selectivity can be rationalized by ability to stabilize charge buildup over transition state

Coupling selectivity is governed by electronic effects



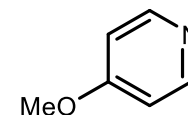
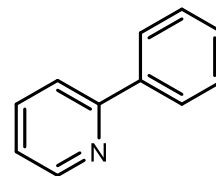
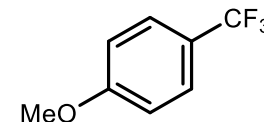
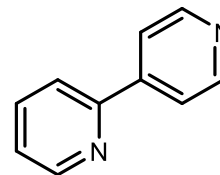
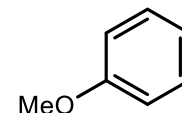
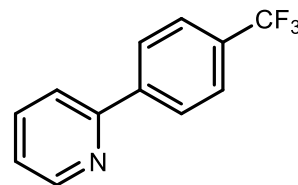
What would we expect to be the ligand-coupling products?

Equatorial selectivity can be rationalized by ability to stabilize charge buildup over transition state

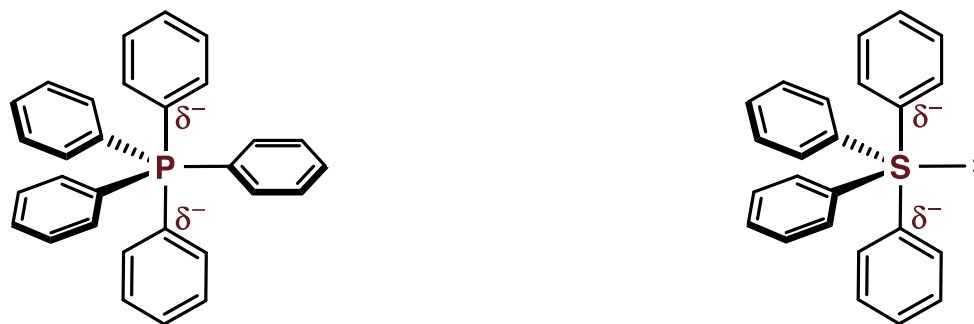
Why do we not observe C-O coupling products?

Exclusive product

Possible coupling outcomes:



Coupling selectivity is governed by stereoelectronic effects



In symmetrical hypervalent structures, apical ligands share bond lengths and polarization

Coupling selectivity is governed by stereoelectronic effects



In symmetrical hypervalent structures, apical ligands share bond lengths and polarization

How does reactivity change when one apical ligand is differed?

Coupling selectivity is governed by stereoelectronic effects

Need to consider influence of apical ligands on each other (trans influence)

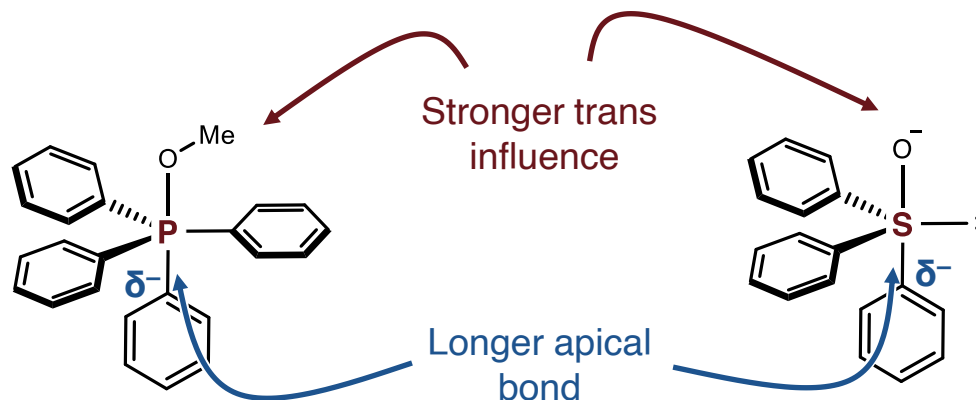


In symmetrical hypervalent structures, apical ligands share bond lengths and polarization

How does reactivity change when one apical ligand is differed?

Coupling selectivity is governed by stereoelectronic effects

Need to consider influence of apical ligands on each other (trans influence)

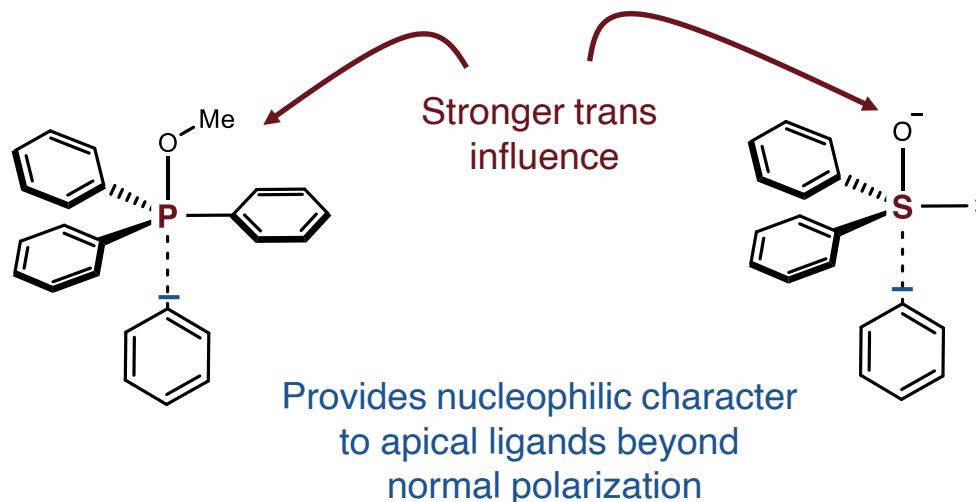


In symmetrical hypervalent structures, apical ligands share bond lengths and polarization

How does reactivity change when one apical ligand is differed?

Coupling selectivity is governed by stereoelectronic effects

Need to consider influence of apical ligands on each other (trans influence)

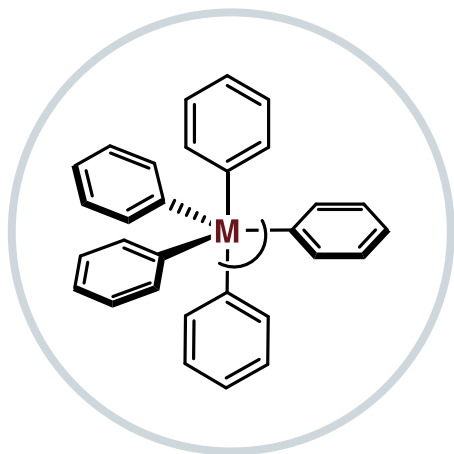


In symmetrical hypervalent structures, apical ligands share bond lengths and polarization

How does reactivity change when one apical ligand is differed?

Trans affect leads to undesired ligand exchange if dissociation outcompetes ligand coupling

Ligand-coupling reactivity summary



- Limited to main-group elements
- Requires hypervalency of central atom
- Concerted coupling process
- Allowed couplings are element and geometry dependent

■ Driving force = return to normal valency

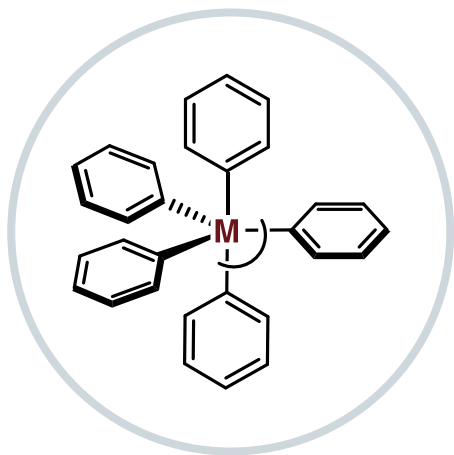
■ “Concerted” process can be asynchronous, enabling WH forbidden couplings

■ (Pseudo)rotation processes play a role in orientation of ligands

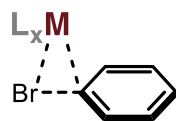
■ Kinetic and thermodynamic trans affects lead to selective coupling of single apical ligand

■ Both apical and equatorial partners need to be able to accept electron density over the reaction

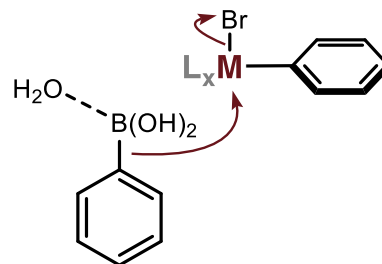
Where does ligand-coupling find use?



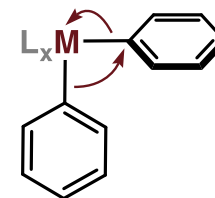
Fundamental processes:



Oxidative addition



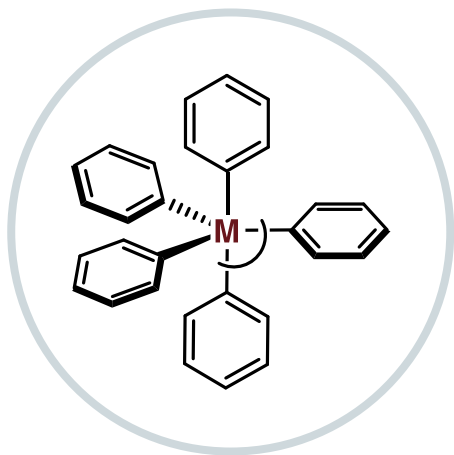
Transmetalation



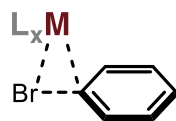
Reductive elimination

To understand the applications of ligand-coupling, we need to look at oxidative addition/transmetalation

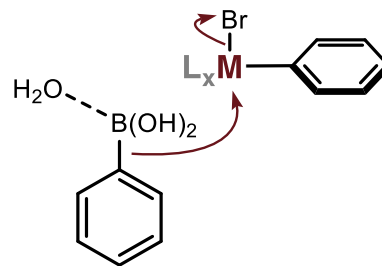
Where does ligand-coupling find use?



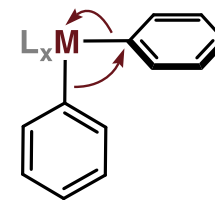
Fundamental processes:



Oxidative addition



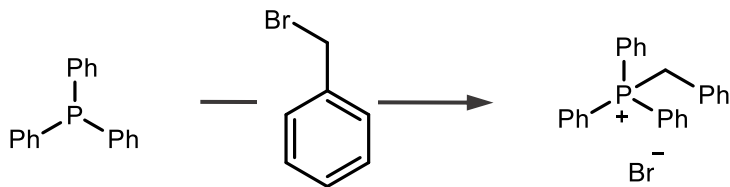
Transmetalation



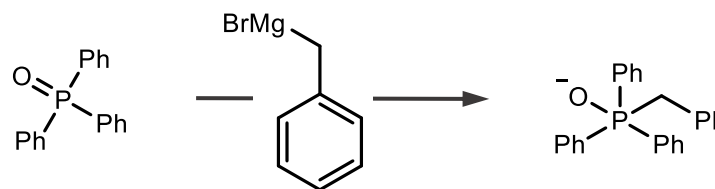
Reductive elimination

To understand the applications of ligand-coupling, we need to look at oxidative addition/transmetalation

Oxidative ligation aka S_N2 or S_NAr



"Transmetalation"



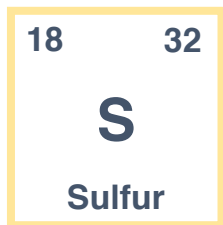
Commentary on ligand coupling elements

Ligand coupling advantages

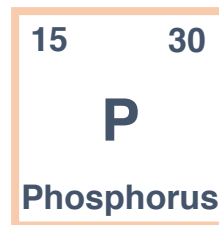
- Coupling selectivity easy to understand
- Lewis basic groups tolerated
- Tunable process
- Metal-free

Ligand coupling Challenges

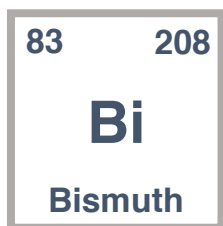
- Limited coupling scopes
- Starting material synthesis
- Stoichiometric coupling
- Metal-free



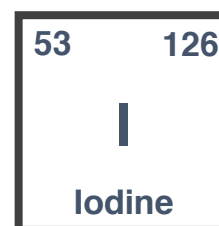
- High product yields
- Challenging unactivated sp^2 systems amenable
- Typically uses organometallics
- Starting material synthesis



- Starting material synthesis
- Ease of phosphorane formation
- Ligand exchange problematic
- Product formation can be low yielding



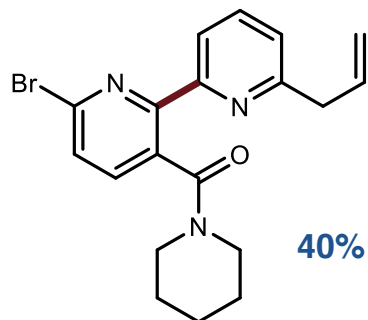
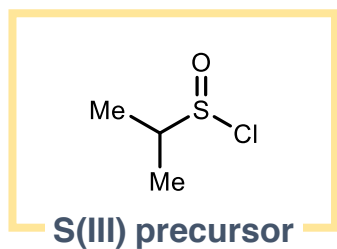
- Unique reactivity
- Most “metal” like
- Starting material synthesis



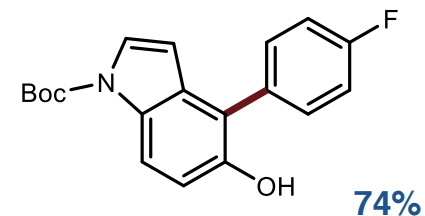
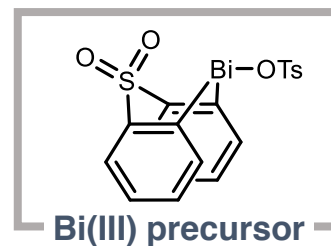
- Expanded coupling possibilities
- Underexplored
- Side reactivities

Ligand-coupling in recent literature

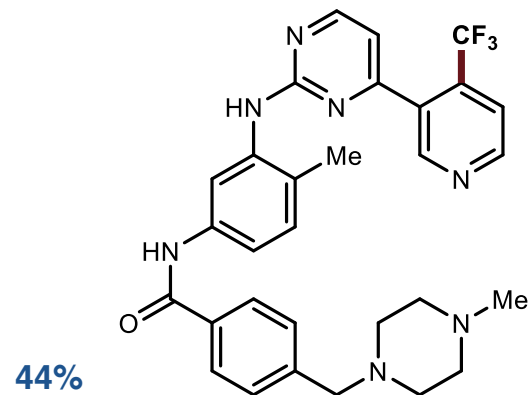
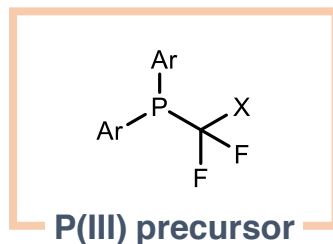
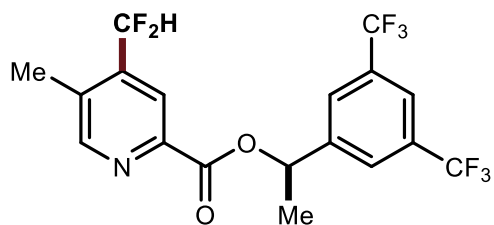
Heterobiaryl synthesis: Qin – ACIE 2020



Phenol arylation: Bell – Nat. Chem. 2020



Di/Trifluoromethylation: McNally – Nature 2020



Jurrat, M.; Maggi, L.; Lewis, W.; Ball, L. T. *Nat. Chem.* **2020**, 12, 260.

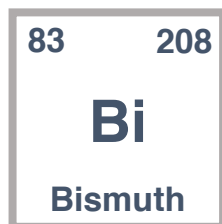
Zhou, M.; Tsien, J.; Qin, T. *Ange. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2020**, 59, 7372.

Zhang, X.; Nottingham, K. G.; Patel, C.; Alegre-Requena, J. V.; Levy, J. N.; Paton, R. S.; McNally, A. *Nature* **2021**, 594, 217.

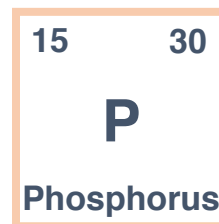
Ligand-coupling catalysis

Is catalysis possible through a ligand-coupling process?

Ligand-coupling catalysis



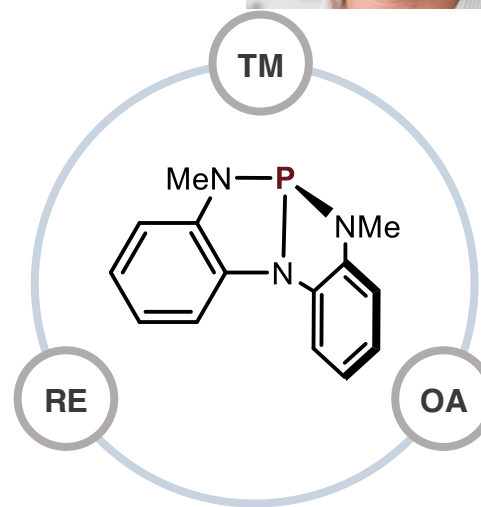
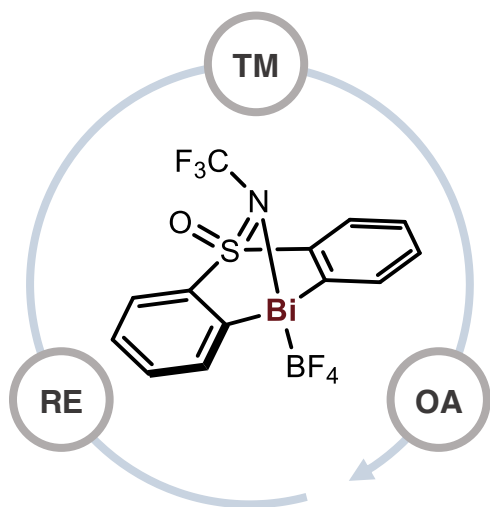
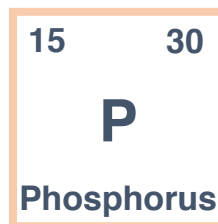
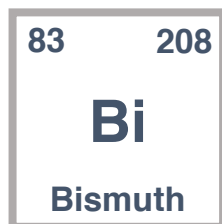
**Josep Cornella: Max-Planck
Bismuth catalysis research area**



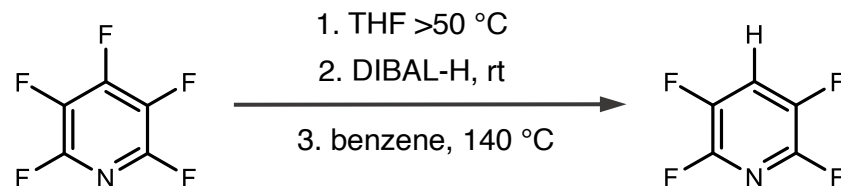
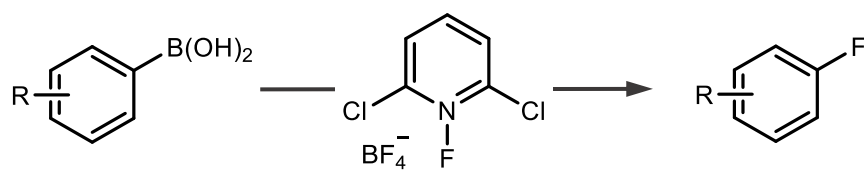
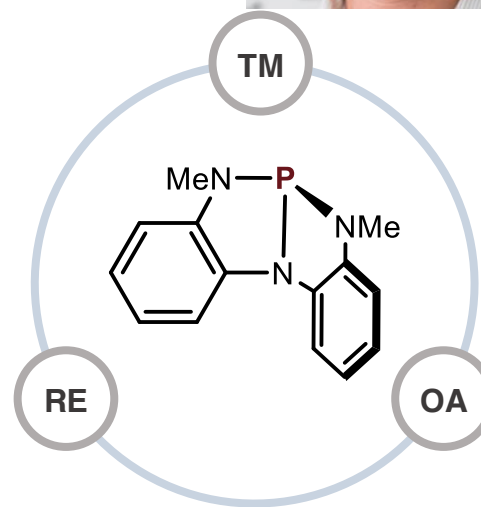
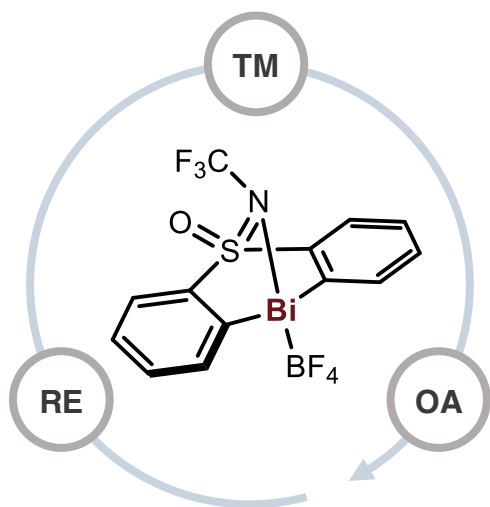
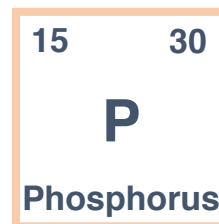
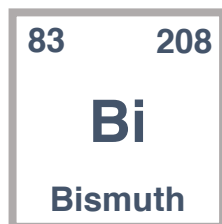
**Alex Radosevich: MIT
Phosphorus catalysis research area**

Is catalysis possible through a ligand-coupling process?

Ligand-coupling catalysis



Ligand-coupling catalysis



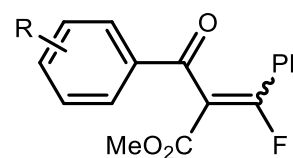
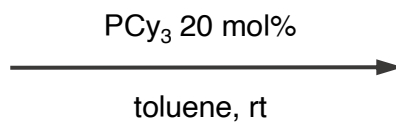
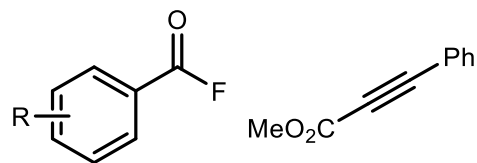
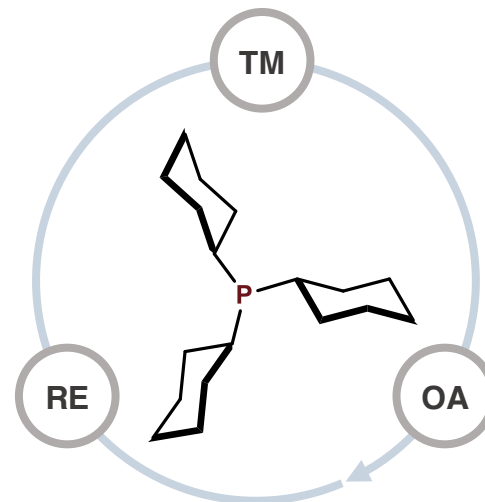
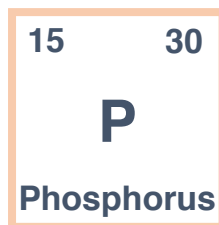
Planas, O.; Wang, F.; Leutzsch, M.; Cornella, J. *Science* **2020**, 367, 313.

Lim, S.; Radosevich, A. T. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2020**, 142, 16188.

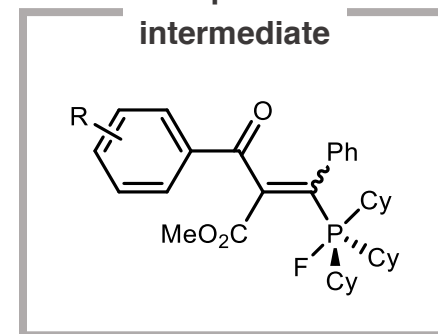
Ligand-coupling catalysis...



Mamoru Tobisu: Rikkyo University
Phosphorus catalysis research area



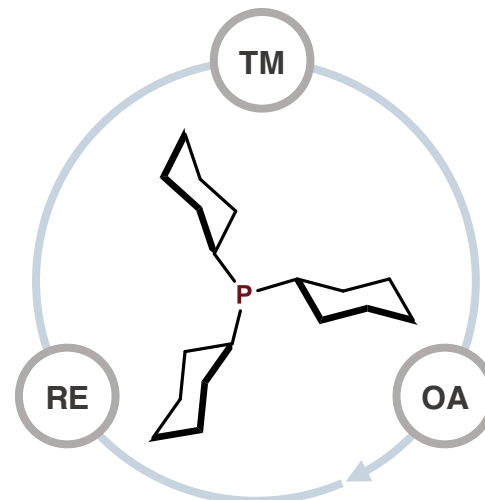
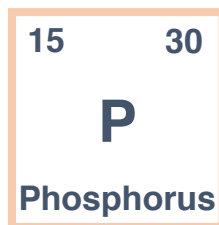
Phosphorane intermediate



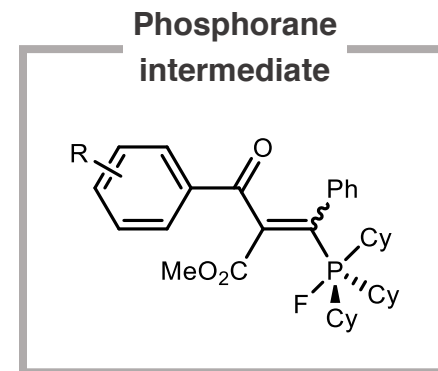
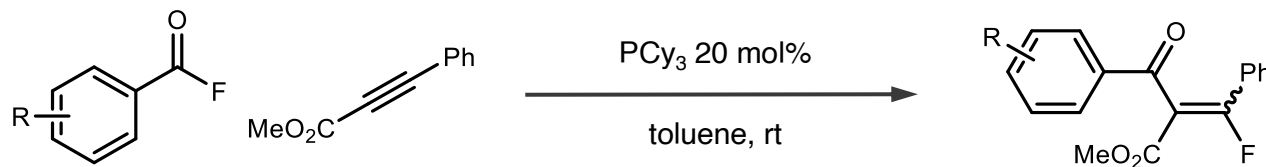
Ligand-coupling catalysis... or is it?



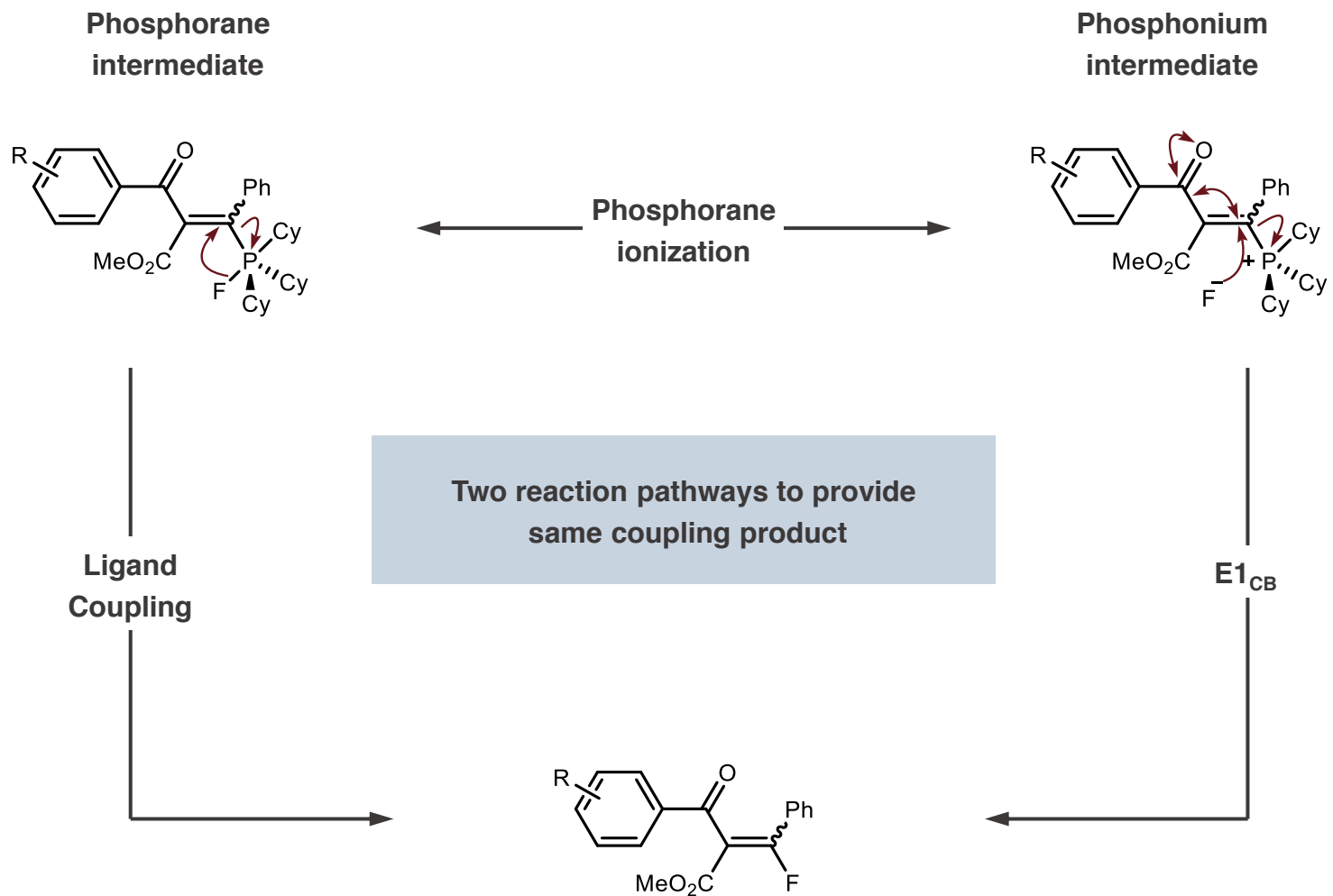
Mamoru Tobisu: Rikkyo University
Phosphorus catalysis research area



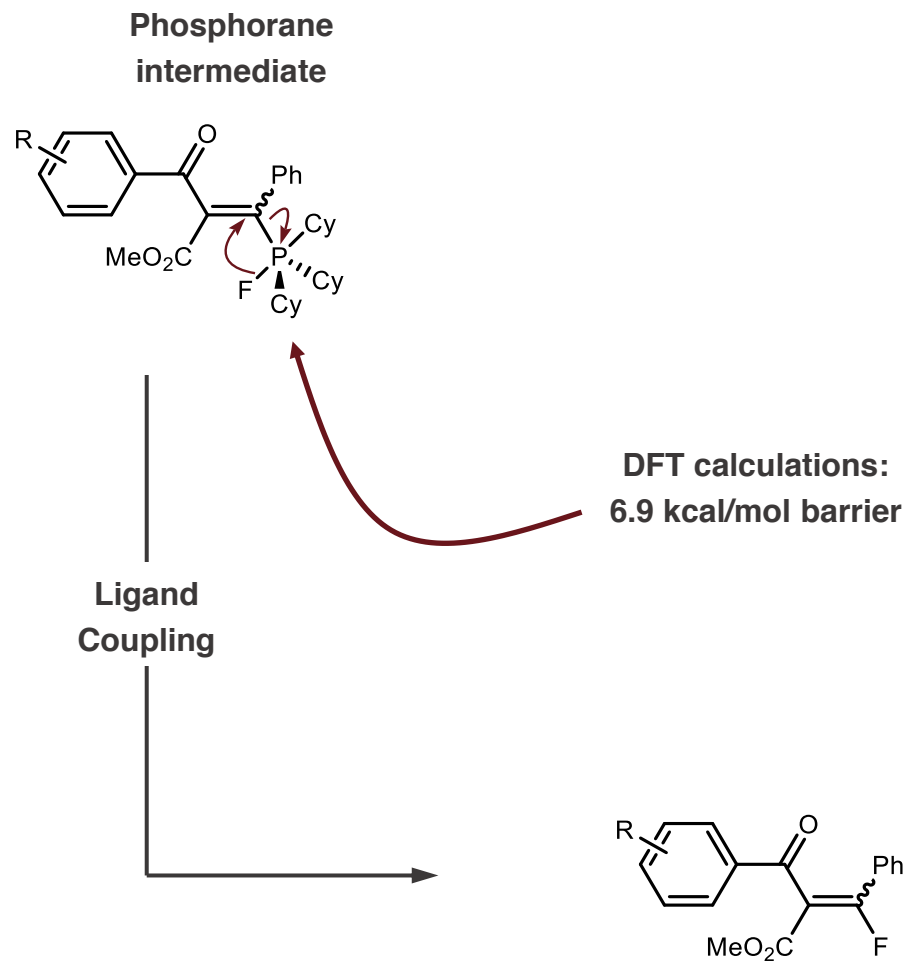
Ligand-coupling catalysis is complicated
by alternate reaction pathways



Ligand-coupling catalysis... or is it?

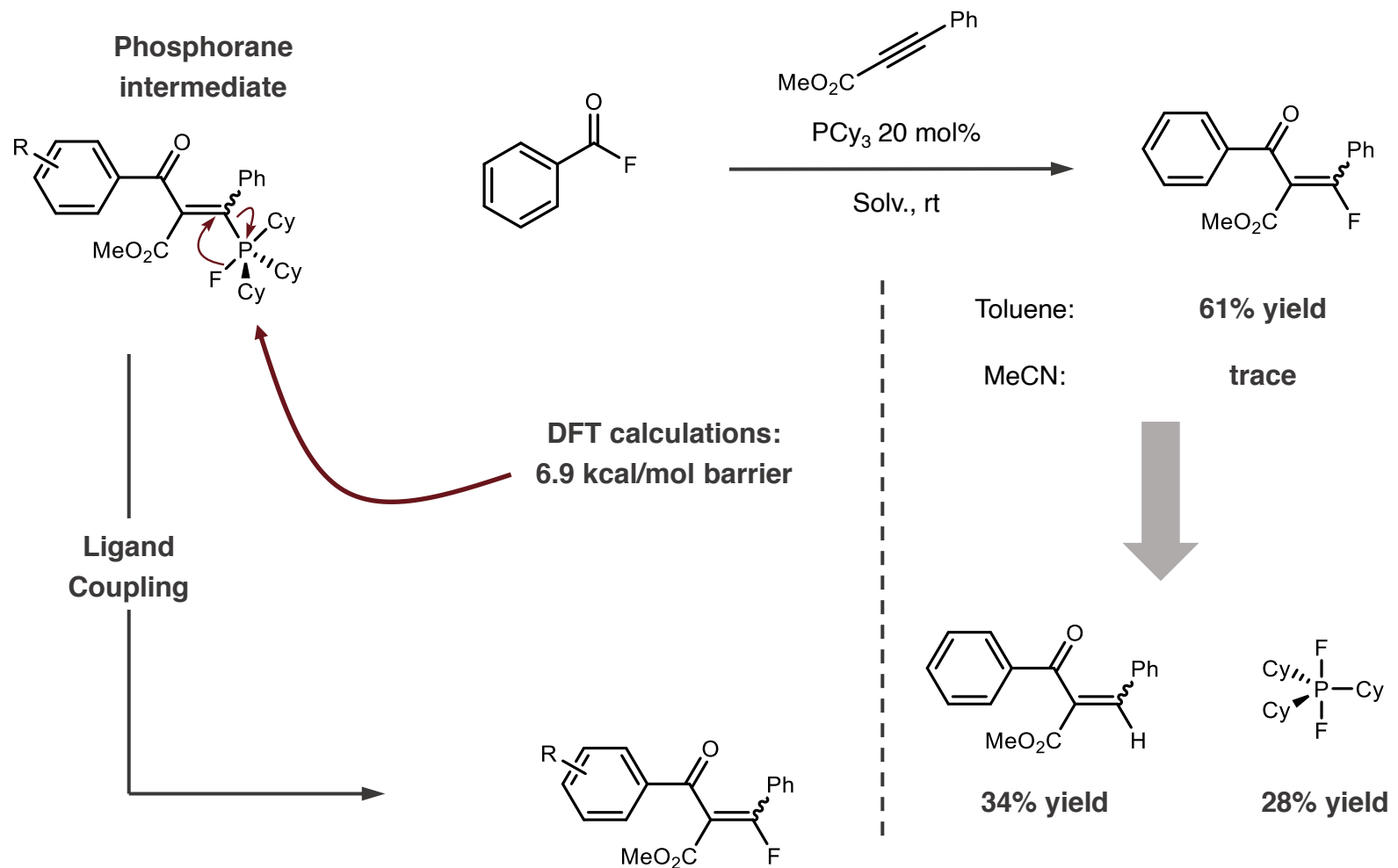


Ligand-coupling catalysis... or is it?



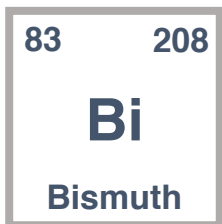
$\Delta G_{\omega B97XD/6-31+G(d,p)}$ with PCM(toluene)

Ligand-coupling catalysis... or is it?

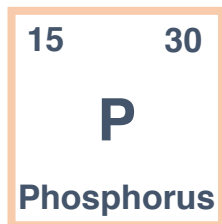


$\Delta G_{\omega B97XD/6-31+G(d,p)}$ with PCM(toluene)

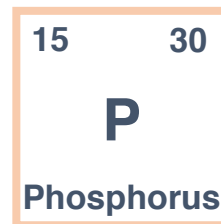
Ligand-coupling catalysis



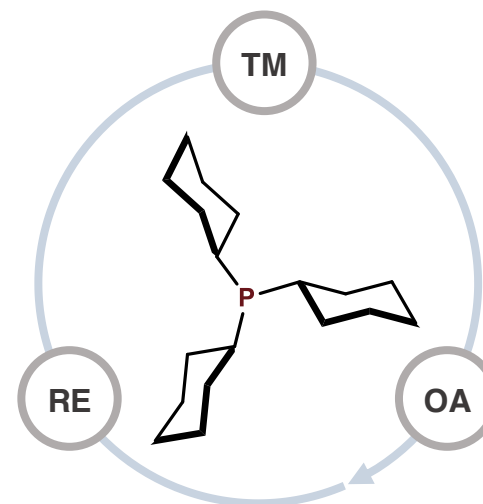
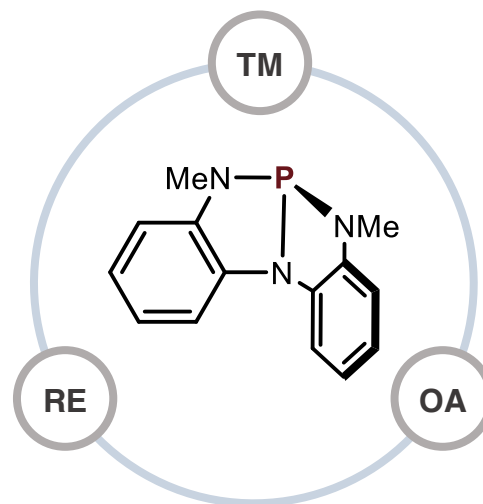
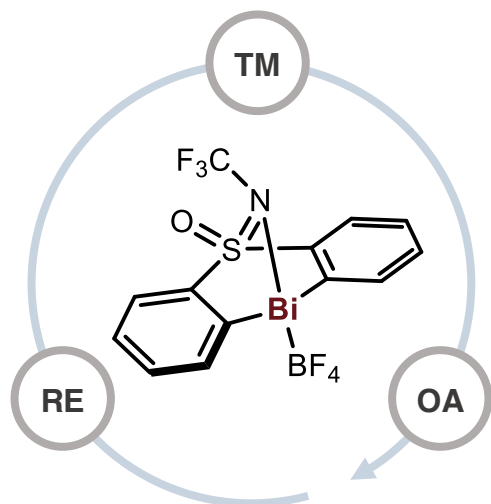
Josep Cornella: Max-Planck
Bismuth catalysis research area



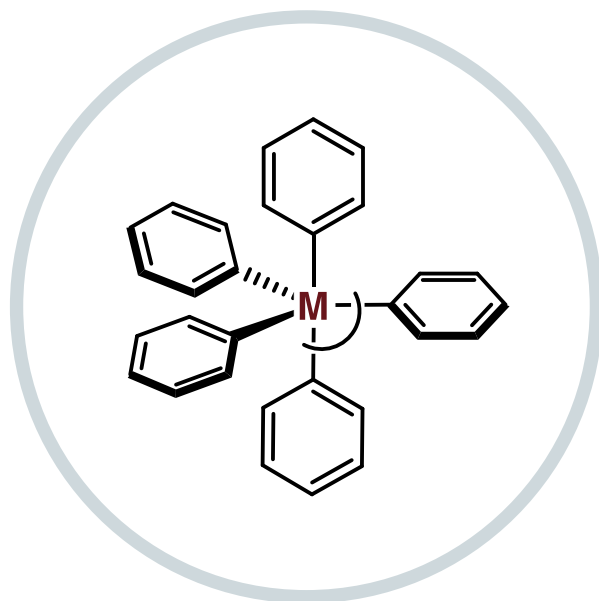
Alex Radosevich: MIT
Phosphorus catalysis research area



Mamoru Tobisu: Rikkyo University
Phosphorus catalysis research area



*Ligand-coupling on hypervalent species:
Transition metal chemistry without the metal*



Questions?