# Lanthanides in Organic Synthesis

Heathcock / MacMillan Seminar

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- I. Properties of the lanthanides
- II. Lanthanide metals
- III. Divalent lanthanides
- IV. Trivalent lanthanides
- V. Tetravalent lanthanides
- VI. Enantioselective processes



Reviews: Molander *Chem. Rev.* **1992**, *92*, 29 Imamoto, <u>Lanthanides in Organic Synthesis</u>, 1994.

### Oxidation States of the Lanthanides

- Most stable oxidation state of the lanthanides is +3
- For dipositive lanthanides  $Sm^{2+}$  (f<sup>6</sup>, nearly halffilled),  $Eu^{2+}$  (f<sup>7</sup>, half-filled), and  $Yb^{2+}$  (f<sup>14</sup>, filled) are known with relative stability in H<sub>2</sub>O being  $Eu^{2+} >> Yb^{2+} >> Sm^{2+}$
- Ce<sup>4+</sup> (f<sup>0</sup>) is the only tetrapositive lanthanide stable in water



	La	5d <sup>1</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Ce	4f <sup>1</sup> 5d <sup>1</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Pr	4f <sup>3</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Nd	4f <sup>4</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Pm	4f <sup>5</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Sm	4f <sup>6</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Eu	4f <sup>7</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Gd	4f <sup>7</sup> 5d <sup>1</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Tb	4f <sup>9</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Dy	4f <sup>10</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Ho	4f <sup>11</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Er	4f <sup>12</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Tm	4f <sup>13</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Yb	4f <sup>14</sup> 6s <sup>2</sup>
	Lu	4f145d16s2

- Ionization energies reflect relative energies of the 4f, 5d, 6s orbitals
- 6s electrons are removed first, hence first two ionization energies for all lanthanides are essentially the same
- Third ionization usually results from removal of an electron from the 5d orbital
  - Fourth ionization energy reflects successive electron occupation of 4f orbitals

### Properties of the Lanthanide lons



- Upon ionization, f-orbitals are greatly contracted towards the nucleus effectively eliminates covalent bonding interaction with ligands
- Highly ionic ligand-metal interaction \_\_\_\_\_ no need for orbital overlap
- Coordination geometries defined by electrostatic and steric considerations



- Due to ineffective shielding of the 4f electrons increased effective nuclear charge
- Ionic radii larger than those of d-block elements, can accomodate up to 9 to 12 ligands



### Organocerium Reagents

Addition to Carbonyls

Barbier Reactions





Even easily enolizable ketones undergo addition in excellent yields

Organocerium compounds can be prepared from the corresponding organolithium or organomagnesium compounds

#### **Reformatsky Reactions**



Fukuzawa J. Org.Chem. 1990, 55, 1628.

Imamoto Tetrahedron Lett. 1984, 25, 4233.

### Lanthanide Metals: Sm<sup>0</sup>

**Cyclopropanation of Allylic Alcohols** 



### Lanthanide Metals: Reductions

**Dissolving Metal Reductions Using Yb** 



Similar to Birch reduction with alkali metal, however avoids strongly basic hydroxide upon workup

White J. Org. Chem. 1978, 43, 4555.

Hydrogenation Using Lanthanide Alloys



### Divalent Lanthanides: Samarium Iodide

Reduction of  $\alpha$ -Substituted Ketones and Esters



 $\alpha$ -Halo, sulfoxides, sulfones, and  $\alpha$ -oxygenated ketones are reduced

Primary iodides, esters, and ketones are unaffected

J. Org. Chem. 1986,51, 1135



**E** Reduction of optically active epoxy ketones gives  $\beta$ -hydroxy ketones without loss of optical purity

## Divalent Lanthanides: Samarium Iodide

#### **Intramolecular Barbier Reactions**



 $\frac{2 \text{ eq. Sml}_2, \text{ cat. Fe(DMB)}_3}{\text{THF / -78 °C to rt}}$ 



Molander J. Org. Chem. 1991, 56, 4112.

### Divalent Lanthanides: Samarium Iodide

Intramolecular Reformatsky Reactions





additive	time	yield	d.r.
none	4 h	57%	1.3:1
HMPA	1 min	89%	4.9:1

Inanaga Tetrahedron Lett. 1986, 27, 5763.

HMPA dramatically improves reaction rate and yield.

Diastereoselectivity is improved when γ-disubstituted lactones are formed

### Trivalent Lanthanides: Luche Reduction

Selective 1,2 Reduction of  $\alpha$ -Enones



### Trivalent Lanthanides: Reduction of Ketones

Selective Reduction of Ketones in the Presence of Aldehydes



Eliminates need for three step protection-reduction-deprotection scheme

**Rationale** 



Hemiketal or Ketal formation is ruled out because similar results (within 5%) were obtained with MeOH and iPrOH

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### anides: Reduction of Ketones

#### ans-Tischenko Reduction

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by  $\beta\text{-hydroxy}$  stereocenter dominates  $\alpha\text{-methyl}$  stereocenter



Evans J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1990, 112, 6447.



Uenishi Tetrahedron Lett., 1991, 32, 5097.

### Trivalent Lanthanides: Hetero-Diels-Alder





Uenishi Tetrahedron Lett., 1991, 32, 5097.



Jankowski, J. Chem. Soc. , Chem. Comm. 1987, 676.

### Enantioselective Reactions

Yb(III) BINOL Hetero-Diels-Alder





### Enantioselective Reactions

**Miscellaneous Reactions** 



### Summary

- Lanthanide metals are useful for reduction of functional groups and for carbon-carbon bond forming reactions
- Europium, Samarium, and Ytterbium can form relatively stable divalent states. Europium is stable enough to exist in water. Sml<sub>2</sub> is the most widely employed Ln(II) and is used for one electron reductive reactions
- Trivalent lanthanides are hard Lewis acids with high oxophilicity and as such are employed in several highly selective reactions (Luche reduction, hetero-Diels-Alder)
- f-orbital electrons are imperfect shielders and so Ln(III) have their f-orbitals greatly contracted towards the nucleus. This effectively eliminates covalent bonding interactions with ligands and therefore lanthanide-ligand geometries are largely determined by steric considerations. Asymmetric lanthanide promoted processes are therefore less straightforward than those using main group or d-block elements
- Ce(IV) is the only tetrapositive lanthanide which is stable in water and to date is the only synthetically useful Ln(IV) with applications in the oxidation of functional groups such as alcohols and phenol ethers.
- Note: Scandium (3d<sup>1</sup>) and Yttrium (4d<sup>1</sup>) have similar properties to those of the lanthanides and are often treated as lanthanides